

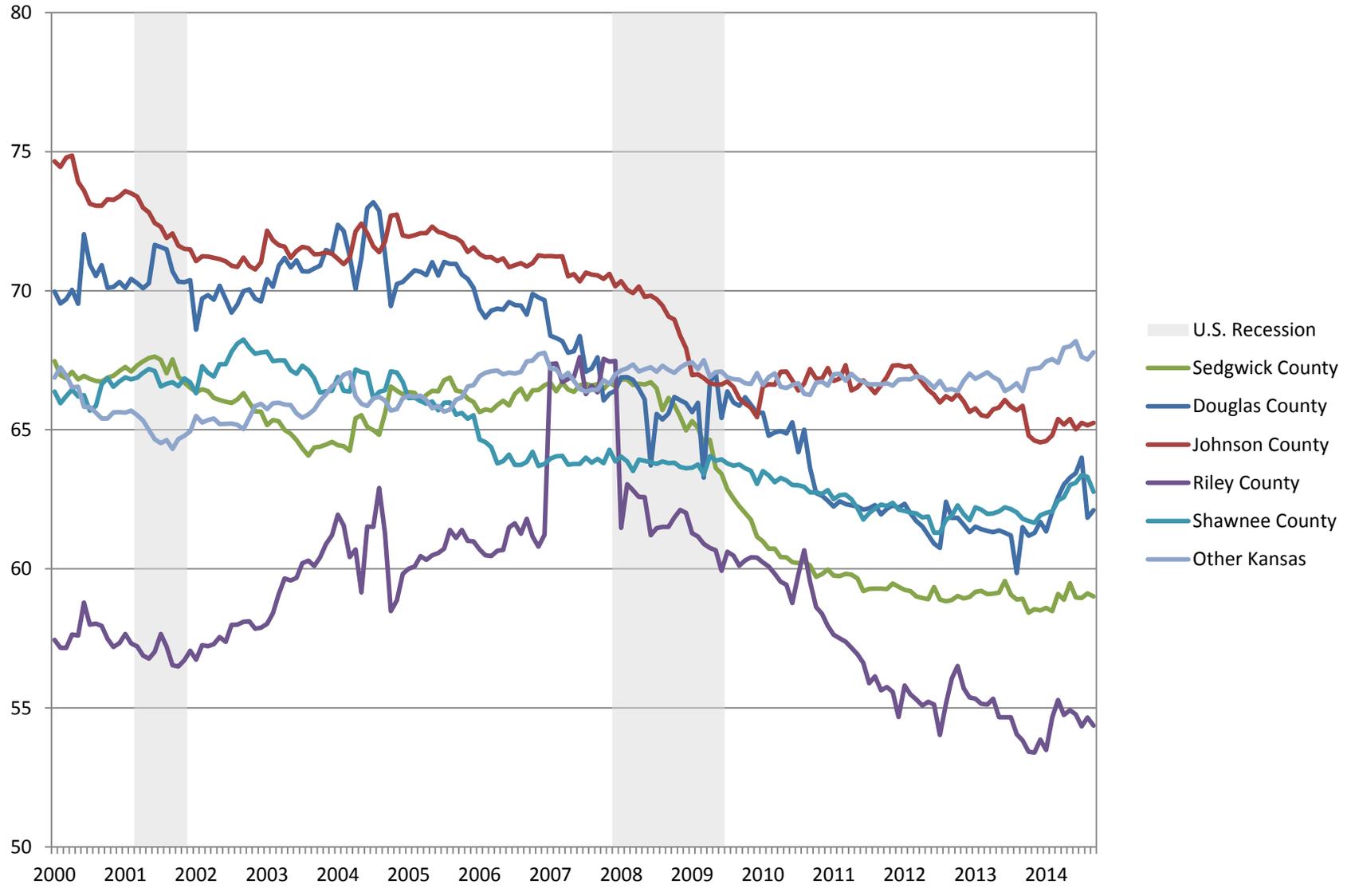
Employment-Population Ratio across Kansas

The employment-population ratio has varied significantly across different areas in Kansas over the last fourteen years. Some counties have seen sharp declines, while others have been slowly growing. The employment-population ratio is a measure of labor market strength; it is calculated by dividing the number of employed workers in an area by the total civilian non-institutionalized population aged 16 and over in that region. Typically, the employment-population ratio will decline in recessionary periods and increase during expansionary periods.

Figure 1, below, presents the employment-population ratio for Sedgwick County, Johnson County, Douglas County, Shawnee County, and an aggregated line for all other Kansas counties. United States recessionary periods are highlighted in grey.

- Sedgwick County's employment-population ratio had the largest drop during the 2008 recession of any population center in Kansas, and the Sedgwick County ratio has remained roughly flat since the 2008 recession.
- Johnson County had the largest decline from 2000 to 2014 in its employment-population ratio, with a long-term decline of almost ten percentage points. The ratio improved slightly at the start of 2014, but has remained flat since then.
- Douglas County experienced a long-term decline in their employment-population ratio from 2005 to 2013 but saw a two percentage point upswing in its ratio in 2014.
- Shawnee County's employment-population ratio was the least affected by the 2008 recession among Kansas's population center. With an increase in 2014, Shawnee County has approached its prerecession employment-population ratio level.
- The rest of Kansas, outside of the major population centers, did not experience a drop in the employment-population ratio during the 2008 recession, unlike each of the major population centers. In 2014, the employment-population ratio for this area rose over a percentage point to its highest level since 2000.

Figure 1: Employment-Population Ratio for Select Kansas Counties



Methodology

The employment-population ratio is calculated by dividing the number of civilian employed workers by the civilian non-institutionalized population, ages 16 and over, in a region. For this study, the source for the number of civilian employed workers is the Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) Local Area Unemployment Statistics (LAUS). The source for the civilian non-institutionalized population data is the U.S. Census Bureau's annual population estimates.