Professional and business services are an integral part of the modern economy. CEDBR has conducted a service gap analysis for every county in Kansas, comparing the sales and employment of the professional, scientific, technical, and other services sectors in each county to their peer counties in Kansas\(^1\). Service gap analysis is useful to identify individual service sectors that are underserved in localities.

Below is a map of the business services sales peer ratio for Kansas counties. The ratio is constructed as the total services sales\(^2\) in each county, divided by the average services sales of their peer counties, in terms of population. A ratio larger than 100 indicates that a county has more services sector sales than its peers, while a ratio less than 100 indicates that a county has less services sector sales than its peers.

- The Kansas counties with the highest ratios of total services sales to their peers were Marshall County, Osborne County, and Johnson County.
- The counties with the lowest ratios were Leavenworth County and McPherson County.
- 16 Kansas counties have a services sales ratio between 100 and 125 percent, while 21 Kansas counties have a services sales ratio between 75 and 100 percent. The median services sales ratio for all Kansas counties is 80.9 percent. 10 Kansas counties have a services sales ratio above 150 percent, indicating a very robust business services cluster in each of those counties.
- For Kansas counties with a population between 5,000 and 50,000 people, the median services sales ratio is 84.7 percent.
- For Kansas counties with a population below 5,000 people, the median business services sales ratio is 67.6 percent, suggesting that most low population Kansas counties have relatively low levels of services, as compared to their peers. Osborne County is the county with a population under 5,000 with the highest service sales ratio to peers.
- Among the ten highest population counties in Kansas, four of them have business services sales ratios over 100 percent: Johnson, Sedgwick, Wyandotte, and Saline County.

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\(^1\) Peer counties were determined using 2013 U.S. Census population estimates. The ten peer counties for each county are the five counties ranked just below and five counties ranked just above the given county in terms of population. Service sector establishment were identified as firms with the 2-digit NAICS industry identification codes of 54 and 81.

\(^2\) County-level sales are calculated from the National Establishment Time Series (NETS) database, which contains 2013 sales estimates for all business establishments within each county.
More information on retail and service gaps in Kansas can be found online at CEDBR’s website, gap.cedbr.org. Detailed 4 digit NAICS code retail and service gap data for individual counties can be purchased from CEDBR.

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