The retail sector comprises businesses engaged in selling merchandise to the general public—the final step in the distribution of these goods and services. Examples include grocery, department and specialty stores, gas stations, and restaurants, among others.

### 2010 Retail Sector Employment Characteristics*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>KY State</th>
<th>Pennyrile Area Development District</th>
<th>Lyon County</th>
<th>Age Breakdown within County</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Employment in the Retail Sector in 2010</td>
<td>205,562</td>
<td>8,372</td>
<td>194</td>
<td>44 113 37</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Retail Share of Employment across All Sectors in 2010</td>
<td>10.7%</td>
<td>10.0%</td>
<td>9.2%</td>
<td>13.5% 9.1% 9.6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>New Hires in the Retail Sector in 2010</td>
<td>134,835</td>
<td>4,175</td>
<td>39</td>
<td>40 76 n/a</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Retail Share of New Hires across All Sectors in 2010</td>
<td>13.9%</td>
<td>8.3%</td>
<td>2.9%</td>
<td>7.3% 10.4% n/a</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Change in Retail Employment in 2010</td>
<td>286</td>
<td>-313</td>
<td>-4</td>
<td>n/a n/a n/a</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Average Annual Earnings per Employee</td>
<td>$26,124</td>
<td>$24,540</td>
<td>$21,480</td>
<td>$10,683 $23,242 $30,470</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*For detailed descriptions of data in this table visit http://www2.ca.uky.edu/CEDIK/data_profiles/retail_sector

### Percent of County Establishments Classified as Retail in 2012

- 8% - 14%
- 14% - 17%
- 17% - 20%
- 20% - 26%

### Retail Sector Jobs and Sales over Time

Source: Woods & Poole, 2010

*Source: US Census Longitudinal Employer-Household Dynamics, 2010

*For detailed descriptions of data in this table visit http://www2.ca.uky.edu/CEDIK/data_profiles/retail_sector

→ In 2010, 6.9% of county sales and 9.2% of county jobs were attributable to the retail sector.
Trade Area Capture: This measure estimates the number of retail shoppers drawn to a county per year. Not surprisingly, urban counties have more shoppers, and thus, higher trade area captures.

State sales tax for KY is 6%, with no local tax. Except for VA and WV, the other neighboring states have a higher combined average sales tax rate (state + local).

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>State sales tax</th>
<th>Local sales tax range</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>IL 6.25%</td>
<td>0.00% - 4.25%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IN 7.00%</td>
<td>0.00%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>KY 6.00%</td>
<td>0.00%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MO 4.225%</td>
<td>0.50% - 6.625%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>OH 5.50%</td>
<td>0.00% - 2.25%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TN 7.00%</td>
<td>1.50% - 2.75%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>VA 4.00%</td>
<td>1.00% - 1.50%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>WV 6.00%</td>
<td>0.00% - 1.00%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Trade Area Capture for the Retail Sector

Pull Factor Analysis: By dividing a county’s trade area capture by its population, a pull factor measures a county’s ability to attract shoppers in the retail sector. If the pull factor is less than 1, its own residents are shopping in other counties. If greater than 1, the county is pulling in retail shoppers from other counties.

Pull Factors by Retail Subsector

The data for this Profile was prepared by the Community and Economic Development Initiative of Kentucky (CEDIK) at the University of Kentucky. For questions on the data contained in this profile, contact James E. Allen IV, Research Director, at 859.257.7272 x253 or james.allen4@uky.edu.

Special thanks to Simona Balazs, CEDIK Research Assistant, for her work on this profile.
Prepared by: James Allen, CEDIK Research Director

CEDIK’s Retail Sector Profile is comprised of four sections. Page one is a description of “Retail Sector Trends,” “2010 Retail Sector Employment Characteristics,” and “Retail Establishments.” Page two showcases “Trade Area Capture and Pull Factors” for the retail sector. In an effort to provide as much data as possible on two pages, precise definitions of some measures were not included. Thus, questions may arise including: What does this number represent exactly? How can I interpret this? This short overview provides additional clarification to the meaning of the selected measures in the profile.

1. Retail Sector Trends

Both a table and a figure make up the profile’s first section regarding trends in the retail sector, and each uses different data to describe how the retail sector has changed in your county over time. The table on the left showcases two numbers: the percent change in number of retail jobs and the percent change in amount of retail sales, covering the years 2002 to 2010. This measure is meant to suggest an overall decline or increase in the actual number of retail jobs or annual retail sales in your county. However, what is not shown was whether this change was gradual, sudden, significant, or inconclusive. For example, was this change the result of a clear increase or decline in retail or nothing more than one might expect from normal year-to-year volatility? This table does not answer that question, but it helps identify the overall trend.

The Retail Sector profile figure on the right side of the page charts out retail’s share of total jobs and sales in the county over time. In other words, of all the jobs held or sales generated in the county, what percentage is attributable to the retail sector? This measure is meant to highlight the relative importance of the retail sector to your county’s economy and how that has changed over time. If the retail share has increased over time, this implies that the retail sector is either growing faster than the rest of the economy or shrinking slower than the rest. Using the percentage change given in the left table and the overall trend of the retail share in the figure, the chart below may help to interpret how together these two measures can explain recent changes in the retail sector relative to rest of the economy (described in the table as simply “economy”).

2. 2010 Retail Sector Employment Characteristics

Data represented in the table comes from the Quarterly Workforce Indicators compiled and published by the U.S. Census, which takes a snapshot of employment across various sectors and demographic distributions. The Census reports these snapshots quarterly, though CEDIK wanted to present data that represent the entirety of the calendar year 2010. Thus, to utilize this table, one must understand how Census defines these measures and how CEDIK aggregated them across all quarters.

Census defines employment as the sum of workers per business who were employed at the beginning of a quarter and received wages in the previous quarter. Employment is defined by the receipt of wages, so it can be full-time, part-time, long-term, or temporary. Further, because employment is recounted quarterly, someone employed all year with one employer will be counted four times. For this reason, CEDIK took the average of retail employment across the four quarters of 2010; this is the number reported in the table. However, one limitation is that those working with more than one retail employer in a given quarter are counted twice—one for each position. The retail share of employment is simply the 2010 quarterly average of employment in the retail sector (just defined above) divided by 2010 quarterly average of employment across all sectors.

Next, Census defines new hires as the total number of workers who started receiving wages in a given quarter from an employer whom they had not worked for in the past year. Again, because hiring is defined by a receipt of wages, the hire could be fired either twenty years or two days later and be counted equally. Every quarter begins anew, so CEDIK calculated the total number of new hires for 2010 as the sum of quarterly new hires. This measure should NOT be interpreted as the number of new jobs created because many jobs, especially in retail, have relatively quick turnover rates.

How measures of employment and new hires are defined may produce results that seem counterintuitive, such as if the table reports more new hires than workers employed. To understand how this may happen, consider the following example. First, Chloe graduated from the University of Kentucky over the summer of 2010 and looked for a job to launch her career in the 3rd quarter. After an unsuccessful month, she started work as a grocer clerk to pay the bills. Two weeks later, and still in the same quarter, she landed a morning manager position at a retail outlet and quickly quit her grocer position. Thus, when employment was calculated for the 4th quarter, she was counted. Since employment is averaged across all four quarters, Chloe only adds .25 to county employment, but she will add 2 to new hires since she received wages from two new employers in the quarter.
2010. If many county residents face similar circumstances—which are feasible among younger age groups—this may result in new hires outnumbering workers employed.

To calculate the change in retail employment for 2010, CEDIK took the difference between retail employment from the beginning of quarter one in 2011 and the beginning of quarter one in 2010. A positive number represents the total number of additional workers who are considered employed one year later, and vice versa. In principle, this number should be equal to the total number of hires in 2010 (new hires plus any rehired by the same employer within a year) minus total separations. Therefore, this measure helps to provide some perspective to the reported number of new hires in 2010.

Average annual earnings are the sum of the Census’s average quarterly earnings, which are only estimated for full-quarter employees. Thus, reported average earnings may include part-time wages, but not those who were hired or separated in that quarter. This measure provides some indication of the quality of retail jobs and how this might differ across age groups.

Finally, CEDIK has manipulated the Census data to breakdown each measure into three age groups within the county: those 24 and under, those 55 and older, and those in between. The measures are defined in the same way for the age breakdown, except that the result only applies to those within a particular age group. Unfortunately, data was not available for spaces marked “n/a”.

References:

3. Retail Establishments

Retail establishments are featured in the profile’s third section, which maps an interesting pattern in the percentage of county establishments classified as retail across Kentucky. This percentage could vary for many reasons, including economic diversification, prevalence of tourism, strong interest in retail entrepreneurship, or a smaller manufacturing/industrial economy. Below the map, county-specific information is provided, including the number of retail sector establishments, the number of establishments per 1,000 people, and state averages. In many counties, retail establishments and their accessibility to local residents is a good portion of what characterizes the community.

4. Trade Area Capture (TAC) and Pull Factors

Trade Area Capture (TAC) is used to estimate the number of customers who have shopped in a given area (e.g., county or state) within a one-year period. Specifically, it is calculated by dividing annual retail sales for that area by the state average of annual per capita spending on retail goods and services, which is further adjusted by a ratio of local-to-state per capita income (where applicable) to account for differences in average incomes. In other words, TAC is the ratio of total retail sales to the average amount of money that a retail shopper spends—adjusting for income differences—and thus estimates the number of shoppers for that area. Therefore, it is not surprising that Kentucky’s more urban counties, which have higher populations, also have higher TACs (see map). One caveat is that the TAC assumes that local residents purchase goods and services at the same rate as the average state resident, though it allows for their average incomes to vary.

Pull Factors take retail analysis to the next level by dividing TAC by the local population. Thus, if the estimated number of shoppers for that area (i.e., TAC) is greater than the local population, the Pull Factor will be greater than one, and vice versa. In the Pull Factor table, CEDIK has calculated the Pull Factors for each retail subsector at the county-, Area Development District-, and state-level. Subsectors are also ranked by the greatest percentage of total retail sales in the county.

How can these figures be interpreted? A Pull Factor may be greater than one for two reasons: 1) most often, the local area is attracting retail customers from outside its boundaries, and/or 2) local residents are spending more on retail than the average state resident. Conversely, if a Pull Factor is less than one then the reverse is true; the local area is losing retail shoppers to outside business, the residents are spending less than the state average, or both. Finally, a Pull Factor equal to a value of one indicates a balance of trade where purchases by local residents outside local boundaries are matched by sales made to non-local shoppers.

In addition to thinking about your county’s retail subsectors when interpreting this table, it is also important to remember county commuting patterns and tourism. Both have a high potential for bringing in or sending out significant numbers of people for reasons completely unrelated to retail shopping. However, while working or travelling in a county other than where they reside, people are likely to purchase gas, eat at restaurants, buy gifts or clothes, etc. In other words, Pull Factors are not merely an indication of the strength or potential of the retail sector, but also how much the county is relied upon by its residents and outsiders for their retail shopping needs.

References:

Still have questions?
If you have further questions regarding the data in this profile, please contact CEDIK Research Director James Allen at (859) 257-7272 x253.