

Retail Trade Analysis Fiscal Year 2019

Maharishi Vedic City

Iowa State University
Department of Economics

Overview

This report examines local retail sales and related economic trends using a variety of historical and peer-based performance measures.

The retail measures are based on sales of goods and services that are subject to Iowa's statewide sales tax, as reported in the Iowa Department of Revenue Annual Sales and Use Tax Report.

Retail sales data have been adjusted for inflation and are stated in Fiscal Year 2019 dollar equivalents, unless otherwise noted. The 2019 fiscal year began July 1, 2018, and ended June 30, 2019.

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Table 1. Maharishi Vedic City Key Retail Indicators

	FY2018	FY2019	% Change
Real total taxable sales (\$)	NA	NA	
Number of reporting firms (annualized)	NA	NA	
Population	1,299	1,297	-0.2% ▶
Average sales per capita (\$)	NA	NA	
Average sales per firm (\$)	NA	NA	

No distinctions are made among residents of households, educational institutions, nursing homes, or other group quarters in the calculation of per capita sales and related indicators.

10-Year Summary of Taxable Retail Sales Statistics

Figure 1 shows the average number of business establishments filing sales tax returns during the year, serving as a rough estimate for the number of local retail establishments.

Figure 1. Number of Reporting Establishments

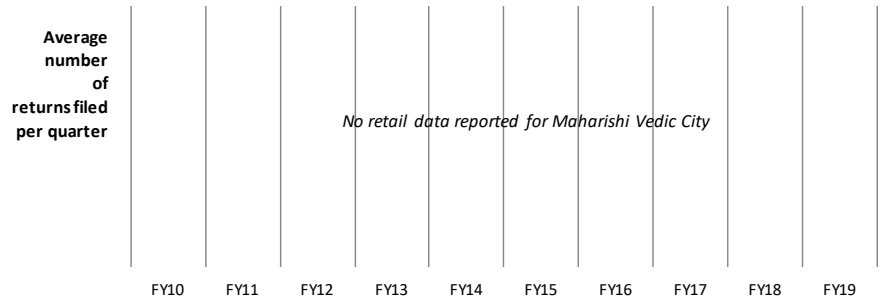


Figure 2 shows the total real, or inflation-adjusted, value of taxable retail sales reported by local businesses.

Figure 2. Real Total Taxable Sales

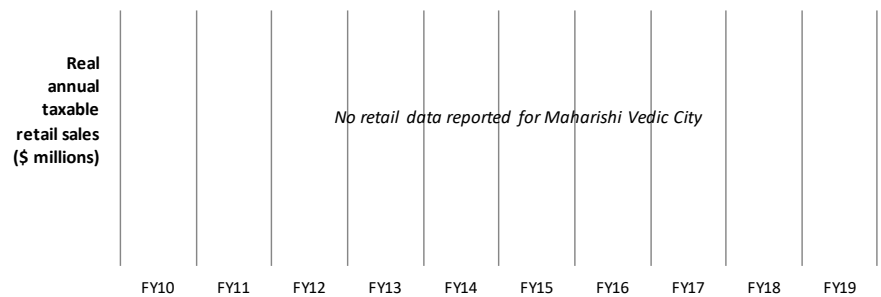
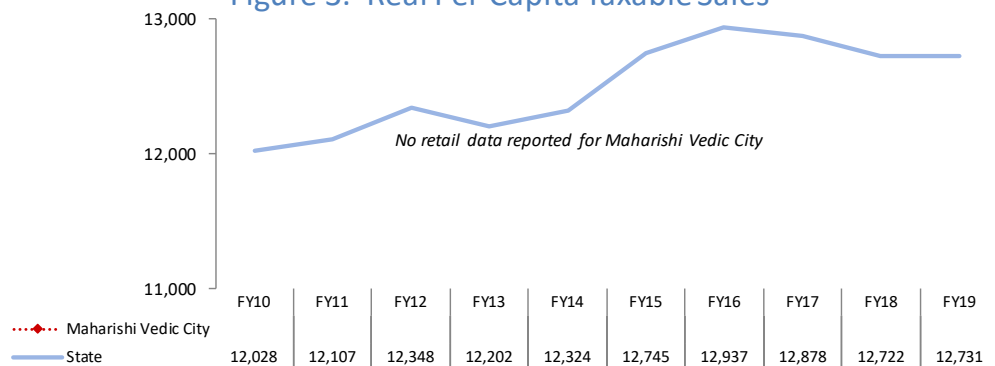


Figure 3 compares local retail sales on a per capita basis to the statewide per capita average.

Figure 3. Real Per Capita Taxable Sales



Historical Trends in Taxable Retail Sales

Table 2. Historical Statistics for Maharishi Vedic City:

Fiscal Year	Reporting Firms	Total Taxable Sales (\$)		Real Average Sales (\$)		Statewide Real Average (\$)	
		Nominal	Real	Per Firm	Per Capita	Per Firm	Per Capita
1976						389,965	11,069
1977						402,043	11,721
1978						396,235	11,985
1979						401,923	12,523
1980						394,146	12,485
1981						350,472	11,327
1982						336,721	10,893
1983						327,385	10,769
1984						320,763	10,683
1985						317,278	10,660
1986						311,144	10,648
1987						329,120	11,110
1988						330,896	11,178
1989						336,241	11,275
1990						340,333	11,379
1991						341,663	11,308
1992						342,012	11,402
1993						342,314	11,543
1994						349,574	11,793
1995						356,788	12,029
1996						357,708	12,294
1997						376,016	12,495
1998						378,426	12,710
1999						404,875	13,239
2000						412,564	13,298
2001						413,506	13,339
2002						415,051	13,184
2003						433,650	13,035
2004						441,149	12,906
2005						439,335	12,830
2006	No retail data reported for Maharishi Vedic City					450,918	12,925
2007						442,237	12,773
2008						442,954	12,887
2009						434,644	12,850
2010						417,088	12,028
2011						432,600	12,107
2012						441,036	12,348
2013						435,402	12,202
2014						452,587	12,324
2015						471,222	12,745
2016						478,872	12,937
2017						478,871	12,878
2018						475,534	12,722
2019						468,399	12,731

Local Economic Trends

Population

Population change is a key factor influencing local retail sales performance. Population gains or losses from year to year directly impact the number of potential shoppers in the region.

In the longer term, population trends also reflect the region's general economic climate. Population growth or stability suggest a more favorable retail environment than population decline, which may signify erosion in the region's economic vitality.

Figure 4 shows annual population estimates for the city, county, and state, expressed as percentages of baseline values from ten years ago.

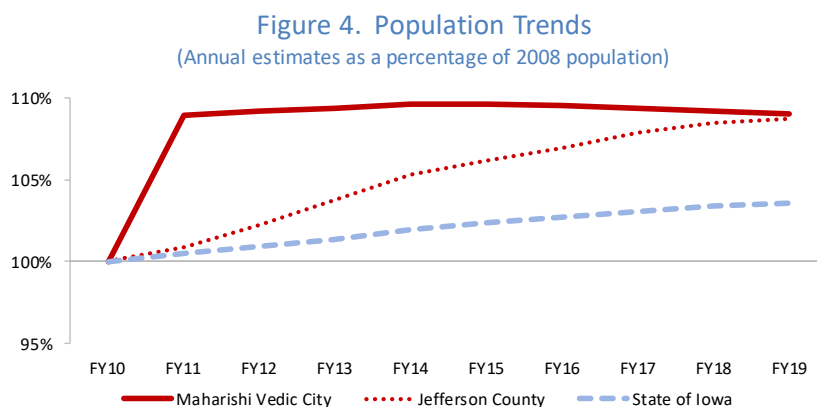
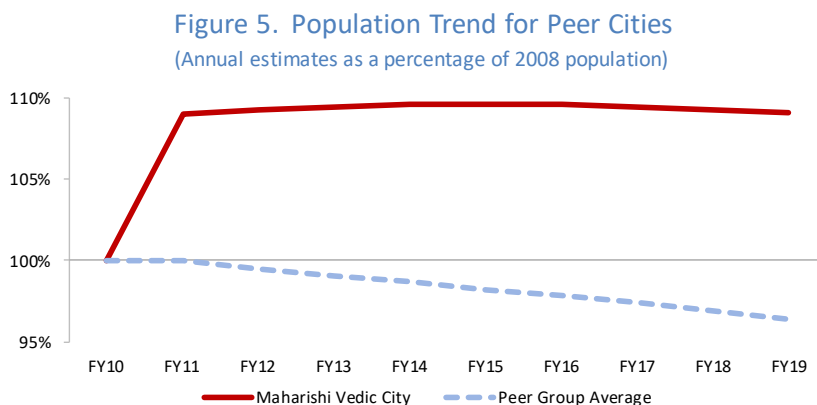


Figure 5 compares the local population trend to the average experience for similarly-sized cities in Iowa. See Pages 23-25 for a listing of Iowa's cities by peer group.



Local Economic Trends (continued)

Employment

Area job growth creates earnings opportunities for current residents and also helps to attract new residents to the region. Conversely, lagging employment growth rates may indicate a decline in the region's competitive strength. Figure 6 shows recent county and state employment trends

Rising or persistently high levels of unemployment may contribute to household economic stress within the region and may ultimately reduce aggregate household spending levels. Figure 7 illustrates recent unemployment rates for the county and state.

Figure 6 shows the 10-year trend in county wage and salary employment on a place of work basis. Each year's employment, which counts full-time and part-time jobs equally, is expressed as a percentage of baseline year employment.

Figure 6. Employment Trends
(Annual employment as a percentage of 2009 employment)

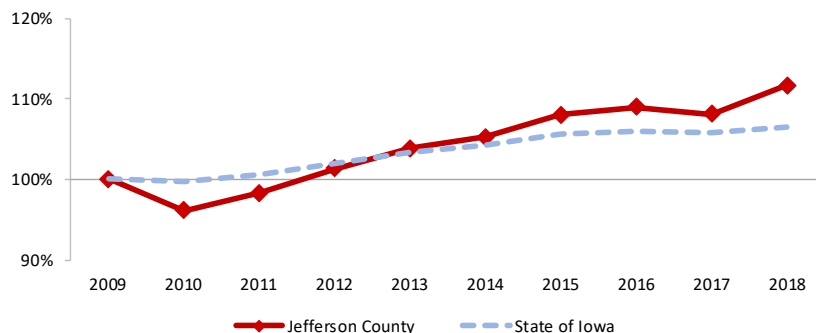
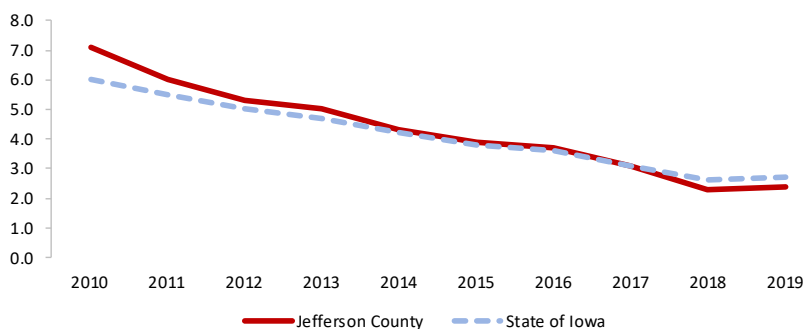


Figure 7 shows recent county and statewide unemployment rate trends. The unemployment rate is defined as the percentage of the resident labor force that is unemployed but actively seeking work.

Figure 7. Unemployment Rate
(Unemployed percentage of the labor force)



Local Economic Trends (continued)

Personal Income

Local income levels influence the amounts and types of retail goods and services that area residents demand. Wages and salaries typically comprise the largest portion of local personal income. Other major sources include proprietors' income, investment income, and transfer payments from governments.

Social Security, food assistance, and other government transfers help to stabilize local income levels. A comparatively high dependence on transfer payments, however, suggests that households with low or fixed incomes comprise a larger than average share of the local customer base.

Figure 8 compares recent average earnings per wage and salary job in the county and the state. The dollar values have been adjusted for inflation.

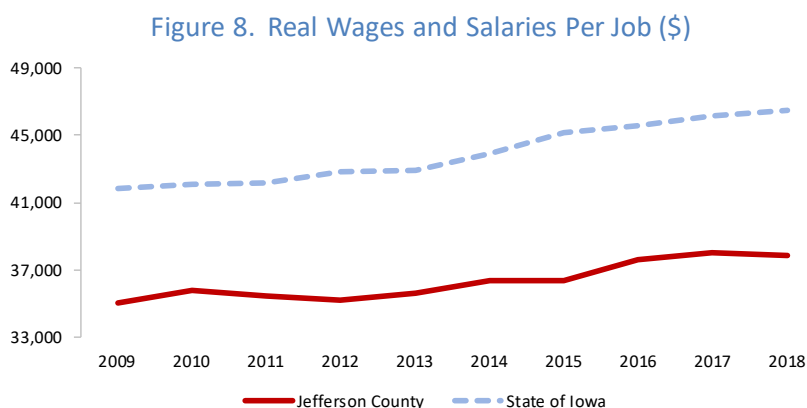
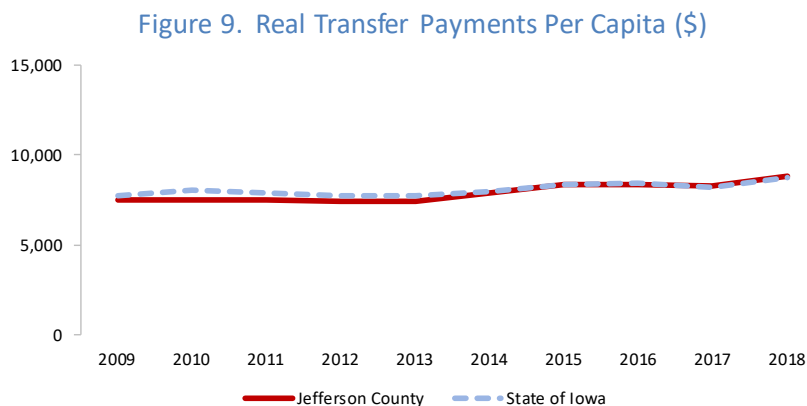


Figure 9 shows average transfer payment receipts by county and state residents. These payments include Social Security, Medicare, Medicaid, unemployment insurance, food assistance, and other income supports.



Local Economic Trends (continued)

Income and Age Distributions

Consumer spending behaviors tend to vary by age, income, and other personal characteristics. If the distribution of local residents by income or age deviate strongly from statewide averages, one might expect local spending patterns to differ from the typical spending patterns of Iowa residents.

Table 3 shows the county's median household income level and estimated poverty rate compared to the state. In counties with a lower median income level, a higher poverty rate, or both, lower-than-average household spending levels may be anticipated locally.

Table 3. Jefferson County Income and Poverty

Median Household Income (\$)	Jefferson	State of Iowa
Estimate	46,715 <	60,071
90% Confidence Interval	41,670 - 51,760	59,230 - 60,920

Poverty Rate (%)	Jefferson	State of Iowa
Estimate	16.3 >	11.2
90% Confidence Interval	13.2 - 19.4	10.9 - 11.5

Table 4 illustrates the percentage distribution of the county's population by age group, relative to the comparable statewide percentages. Strong differences in the regional age distribution likely affect both the mix and levels of retail goods and services demanded by area residents.

Table 4. Jefferson County Age Distribution

Population (% of total)	Jefferson	State of Iowa
Under 5 years	4.3% <	6.3%
Age 5 to 17	11.2% <	16.9%
Age 18 to 24	12.3% >	10.1%
Age 65 years and over	22.4% >	17.1%
Median age	41.7 >	0.0

> Higher than state

< Lower than state

Retail Performance Measures

Peer Group Comparisons

Iowa's 946 cities vary in the level and types of retail activity they can support. In general, retail sector size and diversity tend to increase with community size. Other determining factors include the proximity and size of competing trade centers and the overall population density in the region. Communities that are similar across these dimensions serve as useful benchmarks for gauging local retail performance.

This report assigns all cities in Iowa to peer groups based on their population size and the urbanization characteristics of their host county. **Table 5** contains peer group definitions. The relevant peer group for the city is highlighted in blue (see Pages 23-25 for a complete list of cities by peer group). **Figure 10** compares the average sales performance of all city peer groups during the most recent fiscal year.

Table 5. Peer Group Definitions

Group	City Population Size	Metropolitan Status of the County	Number of Cities	% of State Taxable Sales
Group 1	10,000 or greater	Core county of a metropolitan statistical area (MSA)	21	59.4%
Group 2	10,000 or greater	Non-core MSA county or non-metropolitan county	17	12.0%
Group 3	2,500 to 9,999	Non-metropolitan county	62	12.0%
Group 4	2,500 to 9,999	Metropolitan county	33	5.5%
Group 5N	500 to 2,499	Non-metropolitan county, not adjacent to a MSA	102	2.8%
Group 5A	500 to 2,499	Non-metropolitan county, adjacent to a MSA	117	2.7%
Group 6	500 to 2,499	Metropolitan county	105	2.7%
Group 7	250 to 499	Any county	176	1.0%
Rest of State		Any county		1.8%

Figure 10. Average Sales Per Capita by City Peer Group, FY2019

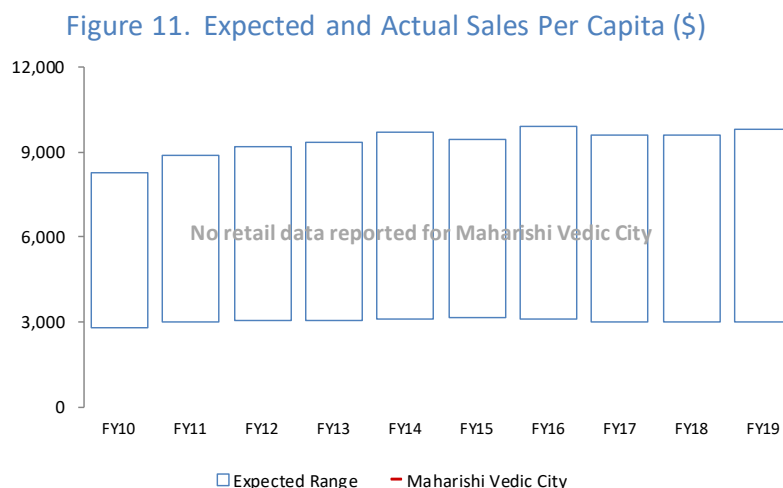


Retail Performance Measures (continued)

This section illustrates how the county's recent per capita sales levels compare to typical and top values among counties in its peer group.

Expected Range for Local Sales Per Capita

Figure 11 compares city sales levels to a range of "expected," or typical, values for peer group cities. The blue rectangles illustrate the range of expected values, defined as any value between the 25th to the 75th percentile values for the peer group in each year. The red dashes show the actual local per capita sales performance.



Peer Group Rankings

Table 6 identifies the top performers in the city's peer group, as measured by sales per capita. Statewide and peer group averages are also provided, along with the city's ranking among its peer cities.

Any cities with per capita sales exceeding two standard deviations above the peer group mean are indicated with an asterisk (*). Their sales levels may be inflated by a retail anomaly that is not replicable in other communities.

Table 6. Per Capita Sales Comparisons

Area Name	FY2019
State of Iowa	\$12,731
Peer group average	7,391
Maharishi Vedic City	NA
<i>Peer Group Top 10</i>	
Batavia	42,668 *
Floyd	34,254 *
Ridgeway	33,304 *
Emerson	29,421 *
Worthington	25,835 *
Ocheyedan	25,549 *
Pacific Junction	23,214 *
Delhi	22,962 *
Breda	22,307 *
Kensett	21,994 *

Retail Performance Measures (continued)

This section introduces three related retail performance measures that are based on a hypothetical “self-sufficiency,” or “break-even” level of sales at which the city satisfies all of the retail needs of its own residents (see definition on Page 17). At the break-even level, any sales lost from residents’ shopping elsewhere are exactly offset by local sales to non-residents.

Trade Surplus or Leakage

Trade surplus or leakage measures the dollar difference between the city’s actual sales and its breakeven sales target. **Table 7** shows inflation-adjusted estimates of local sales surplus or leakage in \$ millions.

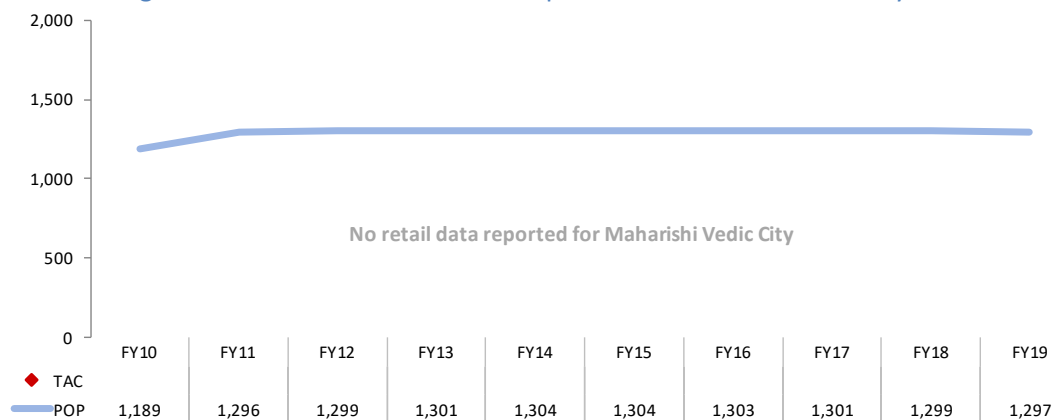
Table 7. Breakeven Analysis

Maharishi Vedic City	FY2010	FY2011	FY2012	FY2013	FY2014	FY2015	FY2016	FY2017	FY2018	FY2019
Statewide average spending per person (\$)	12,028	12,107	12,348	12,202	12,324	12,745	12,937	12,878	12,722	12,731
<i>x local income adjustment</i>	0.96	0.96	0.95	0.95	0.95	0.95	0.95	0.95	0.94	0.94
= Annual retail needs of local residents (\$)	11,519	11,574	11,784	11,624	11,720	12,098	12,258	12,181	12,012	11,998
<i>x City population estimate</i>	1,189	1,296	1,299	1,301	1,304	1,304	1,303	1,301	1,299	1,297
Breakeven sales target (\$ millions)	13.7	15.0	15.3	15.1	15.3	15.8	16.0	15.8	15.6	15.6
City actual sales (\$ millions)	#N/A	#N/A	#N/A	#N/A	#N/A	#N/A	#N/A	#N/A	#N/A	#N/A
Estimated surplus (+) or leakage (-)	No retail data reported for Maharishi Vedic City									

Trade Area Capture

The extent of a city’s “trade area” can be approximated by converting its sales from dollars into annual customer equivalents. If the customer metric exceeds the resident population, the city’s geographic trade area likely extends beyond its borders. If below, the trade area likely overlaps or is subsumed by that of a nearby community. **Figure 12** illustrates the city’s estimated trade area capture (TAC) relative to its population size (POP).

Figure 12. Estimated Trade Area Capture for Maharishi Vedic City



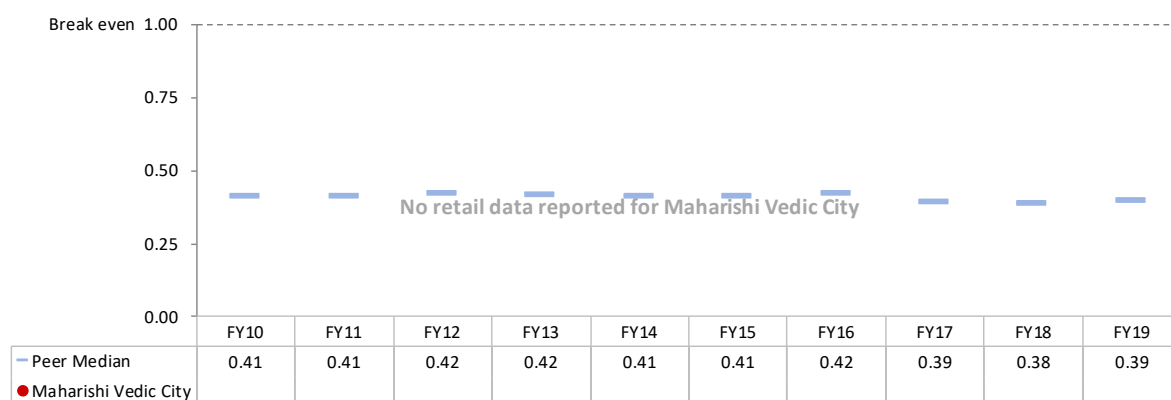
Retail Performance Measures (continued)

The Pull Factor Ratio

A pull factor ratio describes the size of a city's retail customer base in relation to its own population size. The ratio is derived by dividing the estimated trade area capture value by the number of city residents.

Pull factors can vary widely from one city to the next, but they should be somewhat comparable among peer cities. **Figure 13** shows recent trends in pull factor ratios for the city and its peer group. The city's pull factor values are indicated with red circles. The blue dashes indicate the median pull factor for the peer group in each year.

Figure 13. Pull Factor Comparison With Peer Group



Interpreting Pull Factors

= 1.0

A pull factor ratio equal to 1.0 suggests that the city's merchants are just satisfying the retail demands of local residents. This is equivalent to the "break even" sales level where the city is experiencing neither a surplus or leakage of sales.

> 1.0

A pull factor ratio greater than 1.0 suggests that the city's merchants are attracting shoppers from outside the city. For example, a city whose retail customer base is 25 percent larger than its population would have a pull factor of 1.25.

A high pull factor may send a false signal of retail strength. Pull factors may be inflated by the presence of one or more businesses that serve as a regional draw in a particular sales category, even if substantial sales leakage is occurring in other local retail segments.

< 1.0

A pull factor ratio less than 1.0 indicates that the city's retail sector cannot satisfy all of the retail needs of its own residents.

A low pull factor does not necessarily indicate untapped sales potential in the local retail sector. Most small cities should expect to lose at least some fraction of their residents' spending to larger regional trade centers.

Retail Performance Measures (continued)

Sales Performance by Business Group

Areas of strength or weakness in the local retail sector may be evident from the sales levels in specific types of businesses. This section examines county-level sales across 12 broad categories of retail firms (see Table 11 on Pages 21-22 for business group definitions).

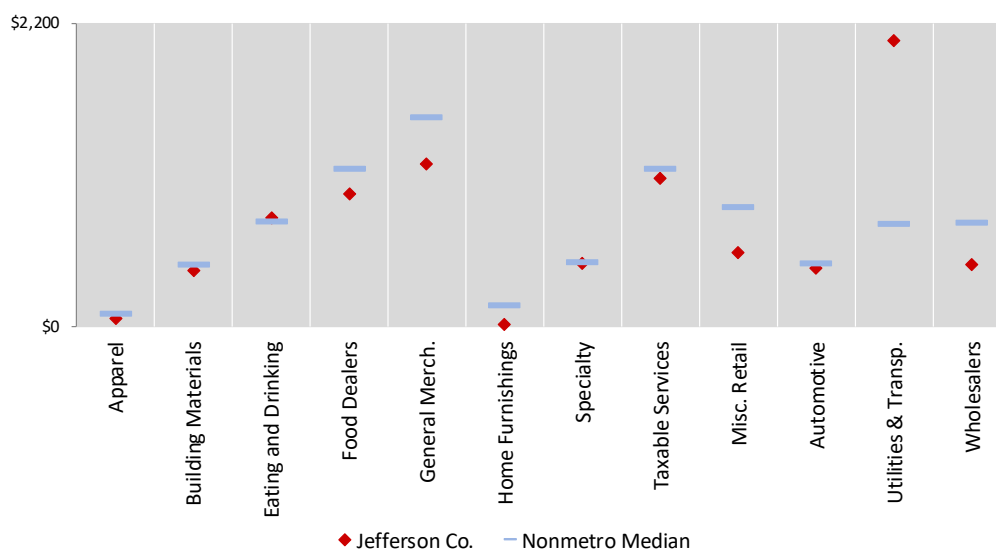
To avoid misinterpreting the data, readers should note the following:

- The tabulations by business group reflect the type of *firm* where a retail transaction occurred, but do not necessarily identify the specific type of *merchandise* that was sold.
- Sales for the Food Dealers group exclude most foods purchased for home consumption. Firms in this group include grocery stores, specialty grocers, and convenience stores. Gasoline stations with convenience stores are also included; however, their gasoline sales are excluded.
- The Automotive group includes auto parts stores, recreational and other motorized vehicle dealers, and new and used car dealers. Sales data for this group exclude automobile sales, which are taxed separately via registration fees.
- The Wholesale group includes wholesale firms that also engage in retail sales. Sales data for this group describe only their retail transactions.

Per Capita Averages by Business Group

Figure 14 compares per capita sales in the county to a group median value for all of Iowa's metropolitan or non-metropolitan counties, whichever applies. The county's data are suppressed for any business groups that did not meet a minimum threshold for number of reporting firms.

Figure 14. Business Group Sales Per Capita



Retail Performance Measures (continued)

Business Group Summary

Table 8 provides multiple measures of county sales by business group, including total taxable sales, the annualized number of reporting firms, and annual averages for sales per firm and sales per person. Benchmark values for the state and peer counties are also provided.

County data are suppressed for any business groups that did not meet a minimum threshold for number of reporting firms.

Table 8. Jefferson County Taxable Sales Summary by Business Group

Business Group Totals and Averages	Jefferson County FY19 Totals		Average Sales Per Firm (\$)	
Type of Firm	Total Taxable Sales (\$)	Reporting Firms	Jefferson County	State of Iowa
Apparel Stores	1,204,719	7	166,168	602,183
Building Materials Stores	7,533,886	13	590,893	2,140,463
Eating and Drinking Establishments	14,435,882	50	291,634	580,536
Food Stores (excluding non-taxable food items)	17,682,563	19	918,575	1,181,511
General Merchandise Stores	21,529,835	6	3,914,515	5,845,838
Home Furnishings Stores	346,748	10	36,500	880,390
Specialty Retail Stores	8,451,511	112	75,798	218,700
Service Establishments	19,673,079	175	112,257	179,277
Miscellaneous Retail Firms	9,783,469	86	113,432	269,736
Automotive and Related Stores	7,793,560	12	649,463	899,706
Utilities and Transportation Services	37,993,095	25	1,550,739	996,708
Retail Sales by Wholesale Firms	8,276,460	24	352,190	942,326

Per Capita Comparisons	Jefferson County Averages (\$)		FY19 Benchmark Values (\$)	
Type of Firm	real average FY16 - FY18	FY19	Non-Metro Median	State of Iowa
Apparel Stores	62	66	85	313
Building Materials Stores	434	412	443	930
Eating and Drinking Establishments	793	790	757	1,436
Food Stores (excluding non-taxable food items)	1,044	968	1,140	1,154
General Merchandise Stores	1,260	1,178	1,510	1,464
Home Furnishings Stores	22	19	152	374
Specialty Retail Stores	490	462	466	979
Service Establishments	1,356	1,076	1,136	1,850
Miscellaneous Retail Firms	605	535	860	1,078
Automotive and Related Stores	448	426	454	649
Utilities and Transportation Services	2,035	2,079	737	1,261
Retail Sales by Wholesale Firms	404	453	751	1,242

Note: **Table 11** on Pages 21-22 lists the specific types of firms in each business group and provides the statewide distribution of tax returns, total sales, and per capita sales by detailed business type.

Regional Competition

This section explores some of the competitive forces at work within the region. First described is the distribution of trade and population within the county. Next, broader regional trade patterns are illustrated using comparative sales measures in nearby cities and counties. Finally, commuting data help to identify sources and destinations of local workers.

County Shares

Figure 15 illustrates the city's contributions as a trade and population center within the county. The city's percentage share of county residents is contrasted with the share of county taxable sales occurring within the city.

Figure 15. Shares of Jefferson County Totals

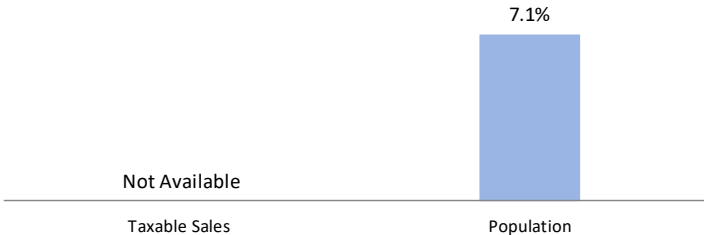


Table 9 lists cities within the county that reported taxable sales activity during the most recent fiscal year.

Values for unincorporated areas and for cities with 10 or fewer sales tax permit-holders are suppressed; however, sales data for those localities are included within the county totals.

Values for any cities marked with an asterisk (*) include neighboring county residents and retailers who fall within the city limits; consequently, the sum of values for all cities listed in Table 7 may exceed the reported totals for the county.

Table 9. Reporting Jurisdictions in Jefferson County

[illegible]

Regional Competition (continued)

Neighboring Area Sales

Regional shopping patterns may be inferred from relative trade levels in surrounding cities and counties.

Figure 16 compares city per capita sales to averages in neighboring communities with 500 or more residents.

The comparison group includes the ten nearest communities as measured from the center of each city. The cities are listed in descending order by their average per capita sales. Population sizes for each city, as of the 2010 Census, are also indicated.

Figure 16. Per Capita Retail Sales (\$)

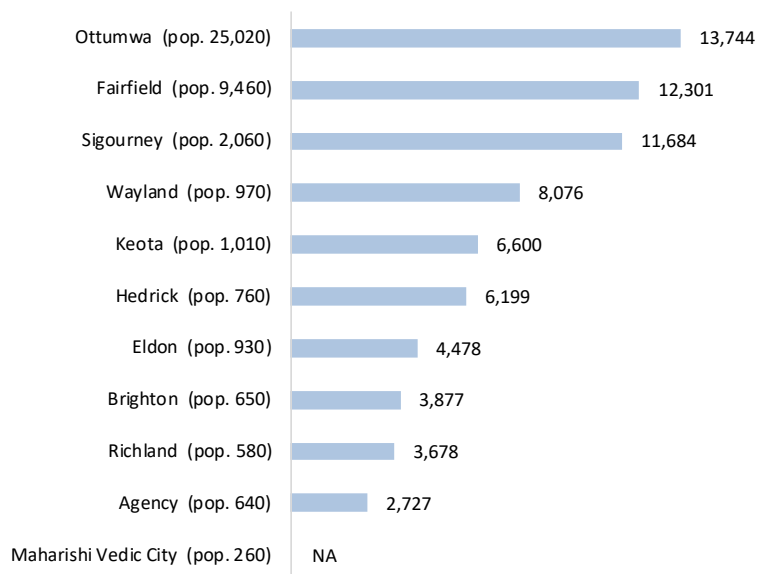


Figure 17 illustrates county retail pull factors (see Page 11 for a definition of pull factors). The counties with a pull factor exceeding 1.0, identified in the map with large blue dots, are likely exerting a strong retail influence on trade centers in neighboring counties. Counties with pull factors below 1.0 are leaking sales on a county-wide basis, but might still contain one or more strong local trade centers.

Figure 17. County Pull Factors



Regional Competition (continued)

Commuting Patterns

The daily exchange of workers with surrounding communities add or subtracts to the city's potential retail customer base. The sources and destinations of commuting flows can reveal regional economic dependencies that influence local retail conditions.

Figure 18 summarizes the estimated daily worker flows to and from the city.

All commuting estimates on this page describe flows of workers in wage and salary jobs only. Self-employed workers are excluded.

Figure 18. Commuting Inflows and Outflows: Maharishi Vedic City

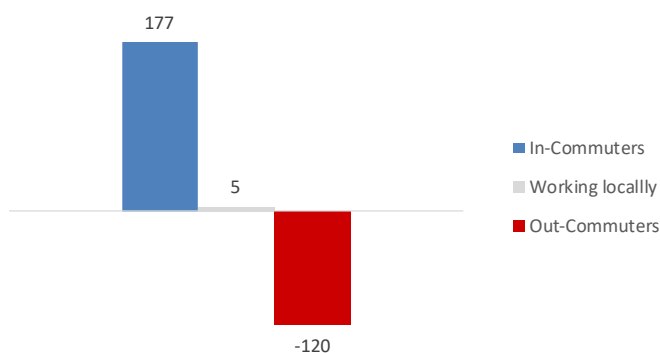


Table 10 shows commuting probabilities for local residents and workers. The table also identifies the top workplace destination for local residents and top city supplying workers to local employers.

Average commuting rates in peer cities are included for comparison.

Table 10. Maharishi Vedic City Commuting Probabilities

	Number	% of total	Peer average
Workplaces of Maharishi Vedic City residents:			
Working within the city	5	4.0%	3.5%
Working elsewhere:	120	96.0%	96.5%
in Fairfield	36	28.8%	
in all other areas	84	67.2%	
Sources for Maharishi Vedic City workers:			
Living within the city	5	2.7%	7.7%
Commuting from elsewhere:	177	97.3%	92.3%
from Fairfield	72	39.6%	
from all other areas	105	57.7%	

Iowa's Retail Sales Tax Reporting

The state of Iowa imposes a six percent tax on the gross receipts from sales of taxable tangible personal property and taxable services.

Retailers file sales tax returns to the Iowa Department of Revenue on a semi-monthly, monthly, quarterly, or annual basis depending on their amount of sales.

The Department of Revenue compiles the data from sales tax returns and publishes quarterly and annual retail sales tax reports that provide the primary source of data for this report.

The state's reporting does not include retail transactions that are exempt from the statewide sales tax. Consequently, this report describes only taxable, not total, retail sales. Several types of exempt activity are listed on the following page.

Occasional anomalies may arise in retail sales data reported at the local level. For example, the locations of specific firms may not precisely align with the administrative jurisdictions used for tax reporting purposes. Such discrepancies may result in under-statement or over-statement of actual local retail sales activity.

When analyzing trends, users should note that changes in Iowa's retail sales tax laws or changes in administrative or accounting practices may affect the comparability of taxable sales data over time.

Other cautions for using taxable sales data to analyze local retail performance are listed at right. Users seeking more detailed information are encouraged to consult the Iowa Department of Revenue's website at <https://tax.iowa.gov/>.

Cautions and Limitations for Interpreting Reported Sales Data

- **Non-Taxable Goods & Services.** Because certain goods and services are exempt from the statewide sales tax, the sales information presented in this report provides only a partial picture of retail and service sector activity in Iowa's communities.
- **E-commerce Sales.** Neither the volume of e-commerce purchases by Iowa residents nor e-commerce sales by Iowa retailers are currently measurable.
- **Large Public Institutions.** The presence of large public institutions such as correctional facilities or universities may distort local sales measures, as their institutional purchases are excluded from taxable sales but their residents are included in local population estimates.
- **Sales or Service Territories.** Sales levels in some cities may be inflated by the administrative presence of firms serving a much larger geographic service territory, such as rural telecommunications and other cable or internet service providers.
- **Non-Disclosure Rules.** To avoid disclosing information traceable to specific firms, the Iowa Department of Revenue only reports data from localities with 10 or more tax returns filed per quarter or 40 returns per year. Sales data for areas below this threshold are grouped into a "remainder of county" value.

Notable Exclusions from Iowa's Retail Sales Tax

The retail data analyzed for this report only capture transactions that are subject to Iowa's statewide sales tax. In general, merchandise goods are taxable unless specifically exempted, whereas services are exempted from the tax unless specifically enumerated by the state.

Following are several types of sales activity that are **not** covered by this report.

Exempt or Excluded Goods. Some of the goods not subject to the sales tax include:

- Certain foods for home consumption
- Prescription drugs and medical devices
- New or used cars and other vehicles, as they are taxed separately under the state's one-time registration fee.
- Gasoline, which is subject to a separate fuel tax

Exempt Services. Unlike tangible goods, services are exempt from tax unless specifically enumerated. Many professional services such as medical and legal services are exempt from the sales tax.

Sales to Tax-Exempt Organizations. Local and state government entities are exempt from the sales tax. Sales to private nonprofit educational institutions for educational purposes are also exempt. Sales from fund-raising activities are exempt from sales tax if the proceeds are used for educational, religious, or charitable purposes.

Internet/Catalog Sales. Prior to 2019, many out-of-state purchases by Iowa residents were untaxed. Iowa implemented regulatory changes on July 1, 2019, to require collection of sales taxes on residents' purchases from firms without a physical presence in Iowa but who generate \$100,000 or more in gross revenues from Iowa sales.

Sales to Agriculture. Sales tax exemptions for agriculture apply to the purchase of feed, seed, fertilizer, farm machinery and equipment, fuels and utilities, and some services.

Utilities. The state has phased out taxes on sales of metered gas, electricity, and fuel used as energy in residential dwellings, apartment units and condominiums. This phase-out was completed by 2006. Specific exemptions for utilities may also apply to certain businesses and industries.

Sales to Manufacturing and Other Industries. The state exempts sales of many goods and services that are used as inputs to industrial processes. Exemptions to manufacturing include purchases of tangible inputs that become an integral part of manufactured goods ultimately sold at retail; fuels, chemicals, and other inputs that are consumed during production processes; industrial machinery, equipment, and some computer equipment; and many services.

The state has created additional exemptions targeted toward specific industries such as wind energy and information technology. See the Iowa Department of Revenue Web site for more detailed information.

More detailed information about Iowa's sales tax is available from the Iowa Department of Revenue at <https://tax.iowa.gov/iowa-sales-and-use-tax-guide>

Definitions of Retail Measures

Retail Sales. This term refers to the reported sales of goods and services that are subject to Iowa's retail sales tax. Iowa's current sales tax rate is 6 percent.

Fiscal Year. Iowa's annual sales tax reports reflect a July 1 - June 30 fiscal year period.

Reporting Firms. This value reflects the average number of tax returns filed each quarter during the year, and it serves as a proxy for the number of local retail firms.

Nominal Sales. Nominal sales are the dollar amounts as reported in the year the transactions actually took place. These values have not been adjusted for inflation.

Real Sales. "Real" dollar values have been standardized to reflect the purchasing power of a dollar in the current fiscal year, thus removing the effects of price inflation.

Business Group Sales. The state reports county-level taxable sales data for 12 business groups. The data reflect the business classification of the firms making the sales, not the specific goods and services that they sold.

Sales Per Firm. Per firm sales are calculated by dividing the annual dollar value of sales by the average number of reporting firms in that year.

Sales Per Capita. Per capita (or "per person") sales are calculated by dividing the dollar value of sales by the estimated population for the subject place. No distinctions are made among residents of households, educational institutions, nursing homes, or other group quarters in the calculation of per capita sales and related indicators.

Expected Per Capita Spending. An expected value for residents' average spending on taxable retail goods and services provides the basis for breakeven sales, trade surplus and leakage, trade area capture, and pull factor values. This measure is sensitive to local income levels. For more information about its derivation, please contact the author.

Self-Sufficiency (or Breakeven) Level of Sales. This hypothetical value describes the amount of sales that would be generated if the city's retailers (1) served only local residents and (2) satisfied all of those residents' retail needs. It is equivalent to the total estimated spending by residents on taxable goods and services purchased anywhere within Iowa. To derive this value, the dollar amount of statewide average per capita spending on taxable goods and services is adjusted up or down by a factor that reflects local income characteristics, and is then multiplied by the city's population size.

Trade Surplus or Leakage. Trade surplus or leakage measures the dollar difference between the city's actual sales and its breakeven sales level.

Trade Area Capture. Trade area capture translates local retail sales from dollars to annual customer equivalents. It is estimated by dividing the city's actual total sales by the expected per capita average spending of residents.

Pull Factor Ratio. A city's pull factor ratio is calculated by dividing its trade area capture measure by its resident population.

Other Data Sources and Notes

Population: Population values in this report describe the estimated, average number of residents during a given fiscal year. The estimates are based on data released annually through the Population Estimates Program, U.S. Census Bureau. The Census Bureau's published estimates, which reflect the population on July 1st of each year, may differ from the average values appearing in this report.

With each of its annual data releases, the U.S. Census Bureau may revise its estimates from prior years. This report incorporates the most recently available estimates and revisions. As a consequence, population-based statistics published in this report may not reconcile with those appearing in earlier retail trade analysis reports. In most cases, the discrepancies are minor.

City-to-County Assignments: The incorporated territory of many Iowa cities crosses the boundaries of two or more counties. For this report, all cities are assigned to the county that contained the greatest percentage of its population in the 2010 Census.

Commuting Flows: Local Employment Dynamics Program, U.S. Census Bureau. These commuting flows describe the place of work and place of residence of wage and salary workers in . Self-employed individuals such as sole proprietors and partners are excluded from these data.

Employment: U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis (annual) and U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics (monthly). Employment includes full-time and part-time wage and salary jobs, with all jobs counted equally.

Unemployment: Local Area Unemployment Statistics, U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics.

Average Wages and Salaries per Job: U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis.

Transfer Payments per Capita: U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis.

Median Household Income and Poverty: Small Area Income and Poverty Estimates, U.S. Census Bureau.

Price Deflators: Except where otherwise noted in this report, the dollar values for all retail sales and personal income data have been adjusted for inflation using the Implicit Price Deflator for Personal Consumption Expenditures published by the U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis.

Table 11. Business Group Definitions (page 1 of 2)

Business Group	Number of Returns	Percent of Returns	Taxable Sales	Per Capita Sales
Apparel Group				
Clothing and Clothing Accessories Stores	5,699	1.7	\$832,931,221	\$264
Shoe Stores	853	0.3	\$153,445,151	\$49
Group Totals	6,552	1.9	\$986,376,372	\$313
Building Materials Group				
Building Material Dealers	1,610	0.5	\$2,123,851,271	\$674
Garden Supply Stores	1,998	0.6	\$413,652,008	\$131
Hardware Stores	1,167	0.3	\$275,998,598	\$88
Mobile Home Dealers	167	0.1	\$6,185,666	\$2
Paint and Glass Stores	535	0.2	\$111,141,666	\$35
Group Totals	5,477	1.6	\$2,930,829,209	\$930
Eating and Drinking Group				
Restaurants, Taverns, and Bars	31,196	9.1	\$4,527,601,584	\$1,436
Group Totals	31,196	8.8	\$4,527,601,584	\$1,436
Food Dealers Group				
Gas Stations/Convenience Stores Selling Gas	6,784	2.0	\$1,752,135,115	\$556
Grocery Stores and Convenience Stores	3,943	1.2	\$1,828,509,396	\$580
Specialized Groceries	1,590	0.5	\$57,522,673	\$18
Group Totals	12,317	3.6	\$3,638,167,184	\$1,154
General Merchandise Group				
Department Stores	648	0.2	\$2,899,566,505	\$920
Miscellaneous Merchandise Stores	2,280	0.7	\$1,701,209,150	\$540
Variety Stores	229	0.1	\$13,051,913	\$4
Group Totals	3,157	0.9	\$4,613,827,568	\$1,464
Home Furnishings And Appliances Group				
Appliances and Entertainment Equipment	2,099	0.6	\$457,528,710	\$145
Furniture Stores	1,523	0.4	\$427,743,342	\$136
Home Furnishing Stores	1,738	0.5	\$294,450,210	\$93
Group Totals	5,360	1.6	\$1,179,722,262	\$374
Miscellaneous Group				
Agricultural Production and Services	14,350	4.2	\$498,975,057	\$158
Apparel and Textile Manufacturers	90	0.0	\$4,682,672	\$1
Carpentry Contractors	1,452	0.4	\$48,745,963	\$15
Electrical Contractors	3,399	1.0	\$170,662,243	\$54
Food Manufacturers	1,001	0.3	\$110,801,520	\$35
Furniture, Wood and Paper Manufacturers	1,167	0.3	\$161,209,518	\$51
General Contractors	5,355	1.6	\$210,022,341	\$67
Industrial Equipment Manufacturers	1,624	0.5	\$398,292,759	\$126
Mining	1,286	0.4	\$197,678,682	\$63
Miscellaneous Manufacturers	2,456	0.7	\$143,299,551	\$45
Non-Metallic Product Manufacturers	1,859	0.5	\$427,390,054	\$136
Other Special Trade Contractors	4,590	1.3	\$325,574,195	\$103
Painting Contractors	2,468	0.7	\$35,623,371	\$11
Plumbing and Heating Contractors	5,150	1.5	\$475,089,413	\$151
Publishers Of Books and Newspapers and Commercial Printers	1,224	0.4	\$76,845,599	\$24
Unclassified	2,936	0.9	\$114,255,295	\$36
Group Totals	50,407	14.7	\$3,399,148,233	\$1,078
Motor Vehicle Group				
Automotive Parts and Accessories	4,810	1.4	\$726,778,297	\$231
New and Used Car Dealers	2,934	0.9	\$1,050,213,464	\$333
Recreational and All Other Motorized Vehicles	1,345	0.4	\$267,365,159	\$85
Group Totals	9,089	2.7	\$2,044,356,920	\$649

Table 11. Business Group Definitions (page 2 of 2)

Business Group	Number of Returns	Percent of Returns	Taxable Sales	Per Capita Sales
Services Group				
Arts and Entertainment	9,287	2.7	\$588,013,185	\$187
Auto Rental and Storage	4,588	1.3	\$363,910,933	\$115
Auto Repair	16,924	4.9	\$1,188,977,539	\$377
Beauty/Barber Shops	26,597	7.8	\$431,857,871	\$137
Education and Athletic Events	1,595	0.5	\$93,381,121	\$30
Electronic and Precision Equipment Repair and Maintenance	1,726	0.5	\$68,393,437	\$22
Employment Services	516	0.2	\$31,618,871	\$10
Finance, Insurance, Real Estate and Leasing	4,756	1.4	\$129,630,650	\$41
Footwear and Leather Repair	119	0.0	\$2,583,168	\$1
Funeral Service and Crematories	1,308	0.4	\$60,651,730	\$19
Hotels and All Other Lodging Places	8,394	2.4	\$1,091,324,582	\$346
Laundry and Floor Cleaning	2,222	0.6	\$111,191,763	\$35
Miscellaneous Repairs	7,700	2.2	\$208,564,402	\$66
Motion Picture and Video Industries	3,168	0.9	\$222,194,199	\$70
Other Business Services	16,221	4.7	\$803,048,154	\$255
Other Personal Services	10,630	3.1	\$280,797,275	\$89
Other Services	8,334	2.4	\$100,880,643	\$32
Photographic Studios	5,125	1.5	\$46,223,501	\$15
Upholstery and Furniture Repair	760	0.2	\$5,715,996	\$2
Watch, Clock, Jewelry Repair	119	0.0	\$1,532,411	\$0
Group Totals	130,089	38.0	\$5,830,491,431	\$1,850
Specialty Retail Stores Group				
Beauty and Health (Includes Pharmacies and Drug Stores)	3,341	1.0	\$507,631,493	\$161
Book and Stationery Stores	1,345	0.4	\$143,675,957	\$46
Direct Sellers	3,921	1.1	\$125,320,447	\$40
Electronic Shopping and Mail Order Houses	950	0.3	\$8,747,952	\$3
Florists	1,410	0.4	\$43,340,942	\$14
Fuel and Ice Dealers	97	0.0	\$7,088,601	\$2
Hobby and Toy	6,767	2.0	\$192,624,816	\$61
Jewelry	1,850	0.5	\$179,477,462	\$57
Liquor Stores	876	0.3	\$81,893,997	\$26
Other Specialty	24,028	7.0	\$1,080,529,487	\$343
Sporting Goods	4,715	1.4	\$519,996,903	\$165
Stationery, Gift, Novelty	2,097	0.6	\$58,036,931	\$18
Used Merchandise Stores	4,086	1.2	\$77,614,478	\$25
Vending Machine Operators	979	0.3	\$61,079,745	\$19
Group Totals	56,462	16.5	\$3,087,059,211	\$979
Utilities and Transportation Group				
Communications	3,999	1.2	\$1,389,786,930	\$441
Electric and Gas	1,483	0.4	\$1,554,356,922	\$493
Transportation and Warehousing	3,698	1.1	\$219,506,021	\$70
Water and Sanitation	6,774	2.0	\$811,721,475	\$258
Group Totals	15,954	4.7	\$3,975,371,348	\$1,261
Wholesale Goods Group				
Apparel, Piece Goods	59	0.0	\$765,837	\$0
Construction Materials	3,380	1.0	\$1,720,950,477	\$546
Farm and Garden Equipment	5,297	1.5	\$1,323,204,283	\$420
Furniture and Home Furnishings	176	0.1	\$83,117,679	\$26
Groceries and Farm Products	601	0.2	\$74,268,333	\$24
Miscellaneous Durable Goods	676	0.2	\$78,105,117	\$25
Miscellaneous Non-Durable Goods	5,921	1.7	\$564,903,295	\$179
Motor Vehicle Parts and Supplies	505	0.1	\$68,870,161	\$22
Group Totals	16,615	4.8	\$3,914,185,182	\$1,242
State Totals	342,675	100.0	\$40,127,136,504	\$12,731

Data Notes (continued)

Table 12. Peer City Groupings and 2010 Population Sizes (page 1 of 3)

1	Altoona.....	14,541	Coralville.....	18,907	Marion.....	34,768
	Ames.....	58,965	Council Bluffs.....	62,230	North Liberty.....	13,374
	Ankeny.....	45,582	Davenport.....	99,685	Sioux City.....	82,684
	Bettendorf.....	33,217	Des Moines.....	203,433	Urbandale.....	39,463
	Cedar Falls.....	39,260	Dubuque.....	57,637	Waterloo.....	68,406
	Cedar Rapids.....	126,326	Iowa City.....	67,862	Waukee.....	13,790
	Clive.....	15,447	Johnston.....	17,278	West Des Moines.....	56,609
2	Boone.....	12,661	Indianola.....	14,782	Oskaloosa.....	11,463
	Burlington.....	25,663	Keokuk.....	10,780	Ottumwa.....	25,023
	Carroll.....	10,103	Marshalltown.....	27,552	Pella.....	10,352
	Clinton.....	26,885	Mason City.....	28,079	Spencer.....	11,233
	Fort Dodge.....	25,206	Muscatine.....	22,886	Storm Lake.....	10,600
	Fort Madison.....	11,051	Newton.....	15,254		
3	Albia.....	3,766	Fairfield.....	9,464	Onawa.....	2,998
	Algona.....	5,560	Forest City.....	4,151	Orange City.....	6,004
	Atlantic.....	7,112	Garner.....	3,129	Osage.....	3,619
	Bloomfield.....	2,640	Grinnell.....	9,218	Osceola.....	4,929
	Camanche.....	4,448	Hampton.....	4,461	Red Oak.....	5,742
	Centerville.....	5,528	Harlan.....	5,106	Rock Rapids.....	2,549
	Chariton.....	4,321	Hawarden.....	2,546	Rock Valley.....	3,354
	Charles City.....	7,652	Humboldt.....	4,690	Sheldon.....	5,188
	Cherokee.....	5,253	Independence.....	5,966	Shenandoah.....	5,150
	Clarinda.....	5,572	Iowa Falls.....	5,238	Sibley.....	2,798
	Clarion.....	2,850	Jefferson.....	4,345	Sioux Center.....	7,048
	Clear Lake.....	7,777	Jesup.....	2,520	Spirit Lake.....	4,840
	Cresco.....	3,868	Knoxville.....	7,313	Tama.....	2,877
	Creston.....	7,834	Madrid.....	2,543	Tipton.....	3,221
	Decorah.....	8,127	Manchester.....	5,179	Waukon.....	3,897
	Denison.....	8,298	Maquoketa.....	6,141	Webster City.....	8,070
	De Witt.....	5,322	Marengo.....	2,528	West Burlington.....	2,968
	Eagle Grove.....	3,583	Milford.....	2,898	West Liberty.....	3,736
	Eldora.....	2,732	Mount Pleasant.....	8,668	Williamsburg.....	3,068
	Emmetsburg.....	3,904	New Hampton.....	3,571	Wilton.....	2,802
	Estherville.....	6,360	Oelwein.....	6,415		
4	Adel.....	3,682	Grimes.....	8,246	Perry.....	7,702
	Anamosa.....	5,533	Grundy Center.....	2,706	Pleasant Hill.....	8,785
	Asbury.....	4,170	Hiawatha.....	7,024	Polk City.....	3,418
	Belle Plaine.....	2,534	Huxley.....	3,317	Robins.....	3,142
	Bondurant.....	3,860	Le Claire.....	3,765	Sergeant Bluff.....	4,227
	Carlisle.....	3,876	Le Mars.....	9,826	Story City.....	3,431
	Carter Lake.....	3,785	Missouri Valley.....	2,838	Vinton.....	5,257
	Dyersville.....	4,058	Monticello.....	3,796	Washington.....	7,266
	Eldridge.....	5,651	Mount Vernon.....	4,506	Waverly.....	9,874
	Evansdale.....	4,751	Nevada.....	6,798	Windsor Heights.....	4,860
	Glenwood.....	5,269	Norwalk.....	8,945	Winterset.....	5,190

Data Notes (continued)

Table 12. Peer City Groupings and 2010 Population Sizes (page 2 of 3)

5N	Agency.....	638	Dakota City.....	843	Ireton.....	609	Montezuma.....	1,462	Rockwell.....	1,039
	Albert City.....	699	Danville.....	934	Kanawha.....	652	Montrose.....	898	Rockwell City....	1,709
	Allerton.....	501	Dayton.....	837	Keosauqua.....	1,006	Moravia.....	665	Rolfe.....	584
	Alta.....	1,883	Donnellson.....	912	Klemme.....	507	Moulton.....	605	Ruthven.....	737
	Alton.....	1,216	Dow City.....	510	Lake City.....	1,727	Mount Ayr.....	1,691	Sac City.....	2,220
	Armstrong.....	926	Dows.....	538	Lake Mills.....	2,100	Newell.....	876	St. Ansgar.....	1,107
	Arnolds Park.....	1,126	Early.....	557	Lake Park.....	1,105	New Sharon.....	1,293	Sanborn.....	1,404
	Badger.....	561	Eddyville.....	1,024	Lakeside.....	596	Nora Springs.....	1,431	Schaller.....	772
	Bancroft.....	732	Eldon.....	927	Lake View.....	1,142	Northwood.....	1,989	Schleswig.....	882
	Bedford.....	1,440	Everly.....	603	Lamoni.....	2,324	Odebolt.....	1,013	Seymour.....	701
	Belmond.....	2,376	Farmington.....	664	Latimer.....	507	Okoboji.....	807	Sheffield.....	1,172
	Boyden.....	707	Fonda.....	631	Laurens.....	1,258	Orleans.....	608	Sioux Rapids.....	775
	Britt.....	2,069	Fremont.....	743	Lenox.....	1,407	Ossian.....	845	Sutherland.....	649
	Brooklyn.....	1,468	Gilmore City.....	504	Leon.....	1,977	Otho.....	542	Swea City.....	536
	Buffalo Center....	905	Glidden.....	1,146	Lovilia.....	538	Paullina.....	1,056	Thompson.....	502
	Burt.....	533	Goldfield.....	635	Manilla.....	776	Pocahontas.....	1,789	Ventura.....	717
	Calmar.....	978	Gowrie.....	1,037	Manly.....	1,323	Pomeroy.....	662	Wall Lake.....	819
	Charter Oak.....	502	Graettinger.....	844	Manning.....	1,500	Primghar.....	909	West Bend.....	785
	Coon Rapids.....	1,305	Hartley.....	1,672	Manson.....	1,690	Riceville.....	785	West Point.....	966
	Corning.....	1,635	Hospers.....	698	Mediapolis.....	1,560	Rockford.....	860	Whittemore.....	504
	Corydon.....	1,585	Hull.....	2,175						
5A	Ackley.....	1,589	Edgewood.....	864	Guttenberg.....	1,919	Melcher-Dallas..	1,288	Shell Rock.....	1,296
	Adair.....	781	Elgin.....	683	Hamburg.....	1,187	Monona.....	1,549	Sidney.....	1,138
	Afton.....	845	Elkader.....	1,273	Hazleton.....	823	Monroe.....	1,830	Sigourney.....	2,059
	Albion.....	505	Elk Horn.....	662	Hedrick.....	764	Morning Sun....	836	Stanton.....	689
	Alden.....	787	Ellsworth.....	531	Holstein.....	1,396	Murray.....	756	Stanwood.....	684
	Allison.....	1,029	Elma.....	546	Hopkinton.....	628	Nashua.....	1,663	State Center.....	1,468
	Anita.....	972	Essex.....	798	Hubbard.....	845	New Albin.....	522	Stratford.....	743
	Aplington.....	1,128	Exira.....	840	Ida Grove.....	2,142	New Hartford....	516	Strawberry Pt....	1,279
	Audubon.....	2,176	Fairbank.....	1,113	Inwood.....	814	New London.....	1,897	Sully.....	821
	Aurelia.....	1,036	Fayette.....	1,338	Jewell Junction..	1,215	North English....	1,041	Tabor.....	1,040
	Battle Creek.....	713	Fontanelle.....	672	Kellogg.....	599	Ogden.....	2,044	Toledo.....	2,341
	Baxter.....	1,101	Fredericksburg...	931	Keota.....	1,009	Parkersburg.....	1,870	Traer.....	1,703
	Bellevue.....	2,191	Fruitland.....	977	Lansing.....	999	Pleasantville.....	1,694	Victor.....	893
	Clarence.....	974	Garnaville.....	745	Larchwood.....	866	Postville.....	2,227	Villisca.....	1,252
	Clarksville.....	1,439	Garwin.....	527	Le Grand.....	938	Prairie City.....	1,680	Wapello.....	2,067
	Clermont.....	632	George.....	1,080	Lime Springs.....	505	Preston.....	1,012	Wayland.....	966
	Colfax.....	2,093	Gilman.....	509	Lowden.....	789	Quasqueton.....	554	West Branch.....	2,322
	Columbus Jctn....	1,899	Gladbrook.....	945	McGregor.....	871	Radcliffe.....	545	West Union.....	2,486
	Delmar.....	525	Grand Junction..	824	Mapleton.....	1,224	Richland.....	584	What Cheer.....	646
	Doon.....	577	Grand Mound...	642	Marcus.....	1,117	Russell.....	554	Wheatland.....	764
	Dumont.....	637	Grandview.....	556	Maynard.....	518	Sabula.....	576	Whiting.....	762
	Durant.....	1,832	Greene.....	1,130	Mechanicsville...	1,146	Scranton.....	557	Winfield.....	1,134
	Dysart.....	1,379	Greenfield.....	1,982	Melbourne.....	830	Shelby.....	641	Winthrop.....	850
	Earlville.....	812	Griswold.....	1,036						

Data Notes (continued)

Table 12. Peer City Groupings and 2010 Population Sizes (page 3 of 3)

6	Ainsworth, 567	Correctionville, 821	Granger, 1,244	Merrill, 755	Redfield, 835	Treynor, 919
	Akron, 1,486	Crescent, 617	Guthrie Center, 1,569	Milo, 775	Reinbeck, 1,664	Tripoli, 1,313
	Alburnett, 673	Dallas Center, 1,623	Hartford, 771	Minden, 599	Remsen, 1,663	Underwood, 917
	Anthon, 565	Denver, 1,780	Hills, 703	Mitchellville, 2,254	Riverside, 993	University Hts, 1,051
	Atkins, 1,670	De Soto, 1,050	Hinton, 928	Moville, 1,618	Roland, 1,284	Urbana, 1,458
	Avoca, 1,506	Dexter, 611	Hudson, 2,282	Neola, 842	Runnells, 507	Van Horne, 682
	Blairstown, 692	Dike, 1,209	Janesville, 930	Newhall, 875	St. Charles, 653	Van Meter, 1,016
	Blue Grass, 1,452	Dunkerton, 852	Kalona, 2,363	Norway, 545	Shellsburg, 983	Walcott, 1,629
	Brighton, 652	Dunlap, 1,042	Keystone, 622	Oakland, 1,527	Shueville, 577	Walford, 1,463
	Buffalo, 1,270	Earlham, 1,450	Kingsley, 1,411	Olin, 698	Slater, 1,489	Walker, 791
	Cambridge, 827	Elkhart, 683	La Porte City, 2,285	Oxford, 807	Sloan, 973	Walnut, 785
	Carson, 812	Elk Run Hts, 1,117	Lawton, 908	Palo, 1,026	Solon, 2,037	Wellman, 1,408
	Cascade, 2,159	Ely, 1,776	Lisbon, 2,152	Panora, 1,124	Springville, 1,074	Wellsburg, 707
	Center Point, 2,421	Epworth, 1,860	Logan, 1,534	Peosta, 1,377	Stuart, 1,648	Woodbine, 1,459
	Central City, 1,257	Fairfax, 2,123	Lone Tree, 1,300	Princeton, 886	Sumner, 2,028	Woodward, 1,024
	Coggon, 658	Farley, 1,537	Long Grove, 808	Raymond, 788	Swisher, 879	Wyoming, 515
	Colo, 876	Gilbert, 1,082	Malvern, 1,142	Readlyn, 808	Tiffin, 1,947	Zearing, 554
	Conrad, 1,108	Gilbertville, 712	Maxwell, 920			
7	Alleman, 432	Colesburg, 404	Galva, 434	Libertyville, 315	Minburn, 365	Rowley, 264
	Alta Vista, 266	Collins, 495	Garrison, 371	Liscomb, 301	Mingo, 302	Royal, 446
	Andrew, 434	Columbus City, 391	Grafton, 252	Little Rock, 459	Modale, 283	Rudd, 369
	Arcadia, 484	Conesville, 432	Granville, 312	Livermore, 384	Mondamin, 402	Ryan, 361
	Arlington, 429	Corwith, 309	Greeley, 256	Lockridge, 268	Mystic, 425	Salem, 383
	Ashton, 458	Coulter, 281	Harcourt, 303	Lohrville, 368	New Market, 415	Salix, 363
	Atalissa, 311	Crawfordsville, 264	Harpers Ferry, 328	Lorimor, 360	New Vienna, 407	Sheldahl, 319
	Auburn, 322	Crystal Lake, 250	Hawkeye, 449	Lost Nation, 446	New Virginia, 489	Spillville, 367
	Bagley, 303	Cumberland, 262	Holland, 282	Low Moor, 288	Nichols, 374	Stacyville, 494
	Batavia, 499	Cumming, 351	Holy Cross, 374	Luana, 269	Ocheyedan, 490	Stanhope, 422
	Bayard, 471	Danbury, 348	Humeston, 494	Lu Verne, 261	Orient, 408	Steamboat Rock, 310
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Iowa State University Department of Economics

For more information about this report, please contact:

Liesl Eathington
175 Heady Hall
Iowa State University
Ames, Iowa 50011

Phone: 515-294-2954
E-mail: leathing@iastate.edu

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Frequently Asked Questions

Are business group sales data available at the city level? Subject to disclosure limitations to protect the confidentiality of local firms, city-level data for up to 12 business groups may be available upon request from the Iowa Department of Revenue.

Why do historical data in this report differ from previously-published ISU retail reports? The underlying population and income data used in this report are subject to backward revision by the U.S. Census Bureau and sister agencies, meaning that historical data are revised as new information becomes available. Any revisions to population and income estimates may result in re-statement of per capita retail sales, pull factors, and related measures for prior years. This report incorporates the most recently-revised statistics, and no effort is made to reconcile the historical data with prior versions of the ISU Retail Trade Analysis reports.

Are the retail sales statistics fully comparable over time? No. Changes to Iowa's statewide sales tax laws have redefined the mix of goods and services comprising taxable sales transactions over time.

At the local level, changes in the geographic or business group assignments of specific firms may also complicate trend analysis. Notably, the Iowa Department of Revenue in FY2014 reassigned more than 10 percent of Iowa's retailers to different business class codes that better reflect their business focus. A significant change was the reclassification of gasoline stations with convenience stores from the automotive and related group to the food dealers group. These reclassifications should be considered when comparing sales by business group before and after FY 2014.

Are the pull factors and other retail measures adjusted for differences in local income? Yes. In calculating local pull factor ratios and estimating trade surplus/leakage values, this report incorporates small area income data available from the American Community Survey (ACS), U.S. Census Bureau. Contact the author for more detailed information about the methodology used for income adjustments.

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