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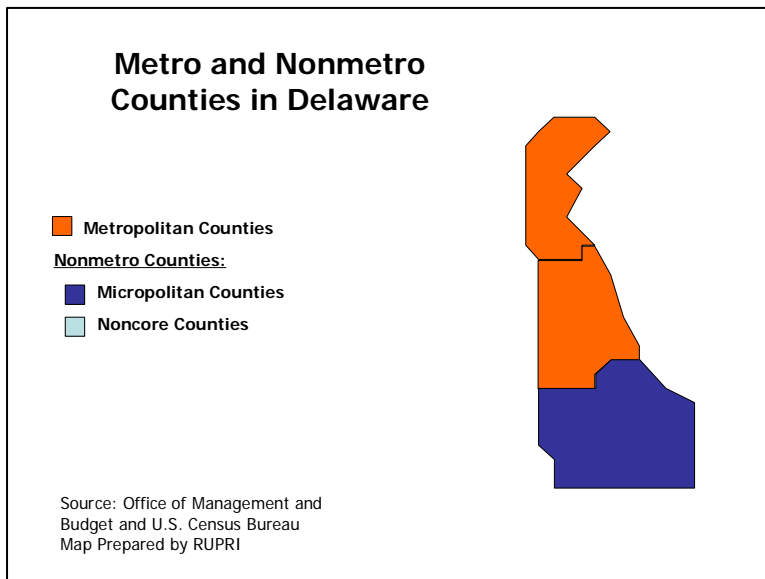
Demographic and Economic Profile

Delaware

Updated December 2006

Metro and Nonmetro Counties in Delaware

Based on the most recent listing of core based statistical areas by the Office of Management and Budget (December 2005), two counties in Delaware represent metropolitan areas, and one county is a micropolitan area¹. Using these classifications and the population estimates for 2005, 79.1 percent of Delaware residents live in metropolitan areas, and 20.9 percent live in the micropolitan area.



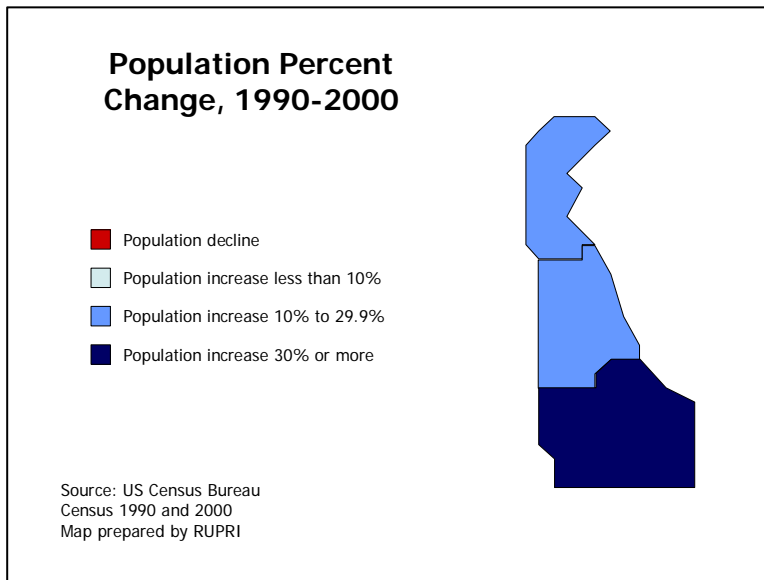
¹ In this report, the term nonmetropolitan will refer to the micropolitan portion of Delaware. Delaware has no noncore counties.

Population

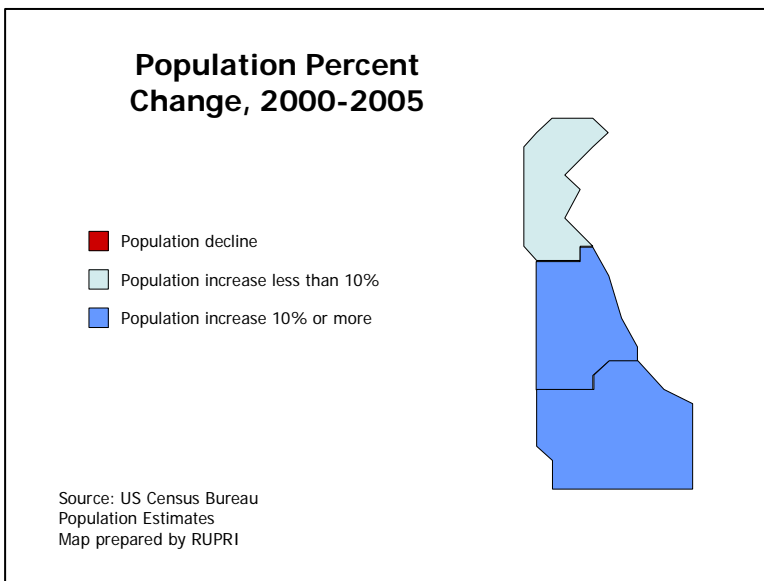
Delaware's population in July of 2005 was 843,524, up 7.6 percent from the 2000 Census (Census Bureau population estimates). During the 1990s, the population in Delaware increased by 17.6 percent. Nationally, population increased 13.1 percent during the 1990s, and 5.3 percent from April 2000 to July 2005. The population growth in Delaware's micropolitan county (Sussex County) outpaced the metropolitan areas during both time periods.

Percent Change in Population		
Area:	1990-2000	2000-2005
U.S.	13.1%	5.3%
Delaware	17.6%	7.6%
Metropolitan	13.5%	6.4%
Nonmetropolitan	38.3%	12.7%
Micropolitan	38.3%	12.7%
Noncore	n/a	n/a

Source: U.S. Census Bureau



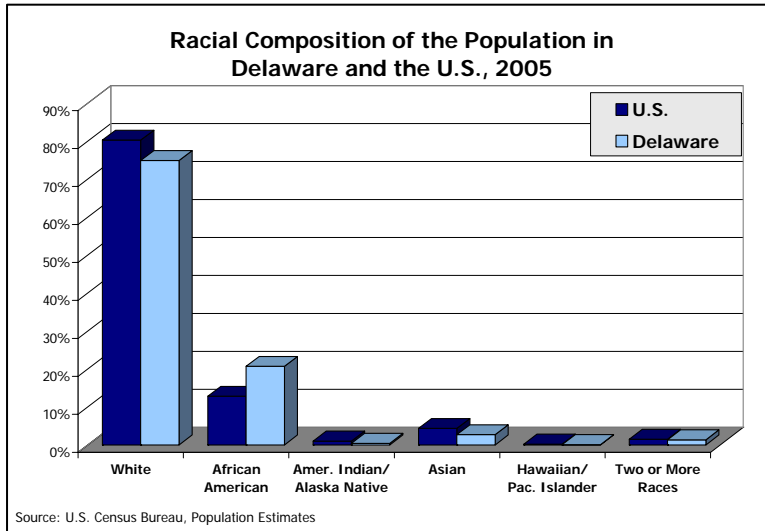
No counties in Delaware lost population during the 1990s. The fastest growth was in Sussex County, representing the Seaford Micropolitan Area, with a population increase of 38.3 percent.



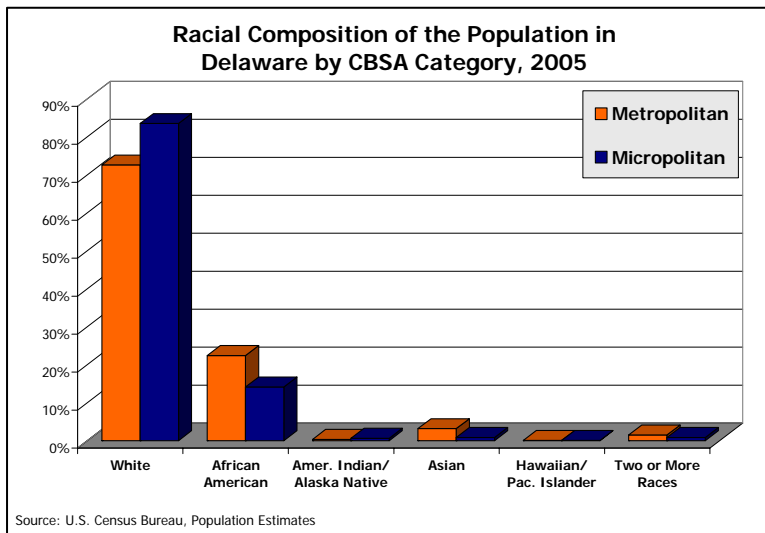
From 2000 to 2005, no counties in Delaware lost population. The fastest growth during this time was in Kent County, representing the Dover Metropolitan Area, with a population increase of 13.6 percent.

Race / Ethnicity

The population in Delaware is 74.9 percent white and 20.7 percent African American. Nationally, the population is 80.2 percent white and 12.8 percent African American (2005 Census Bureau population estimates).



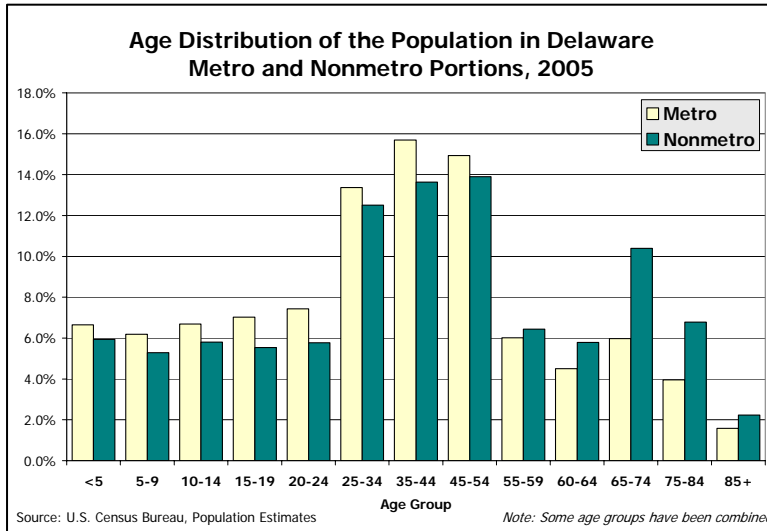
Within Delaware, the metropolitan population is 72.6 percent white and 22.4 percent African American. The micropolitan population is 83.5 percent white and 14.1 percent African American.



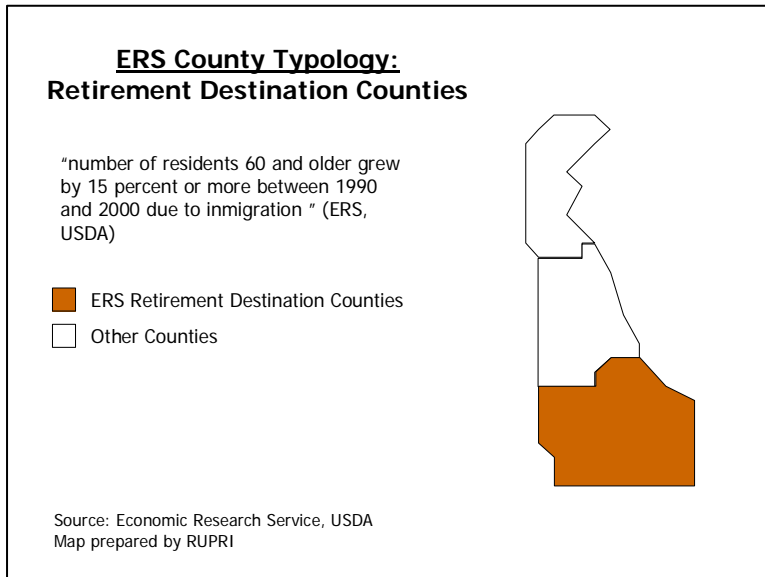
People of Hispanic origin make up 6.0 percent of Delaware's population, compared to 14.4 percent of the total U.S. population. Although the Hispanic population has increased in all Delaware counties over the past decade and a half, the population still represents a relatively small portion of total population.

Age

The chart below shows the age distribution of the metropolitan and nonmetropolitan population in Delaware. As shown, the percent of the population age 65 and over is greater in the nonmetro portion.

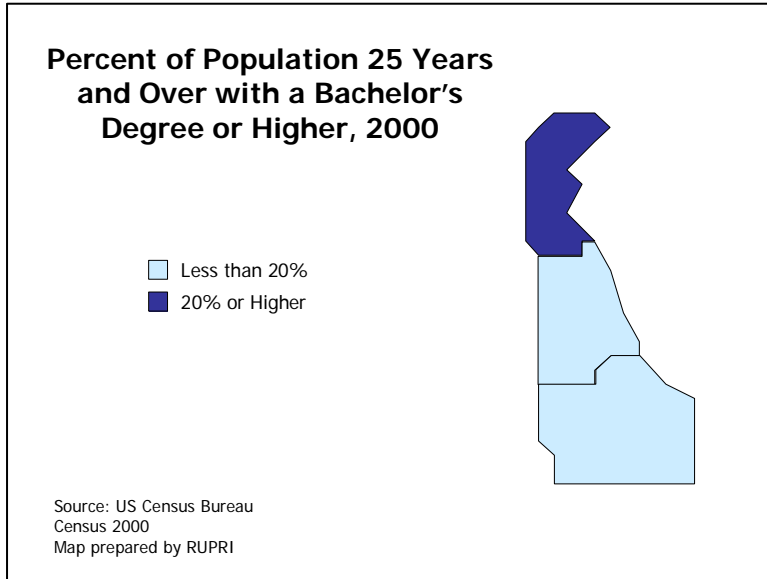


The Economic Research Service, USDA, classifies counties as retirement destination counties based on population change due to immigration. Sussex County is classified as a retirement destination county.

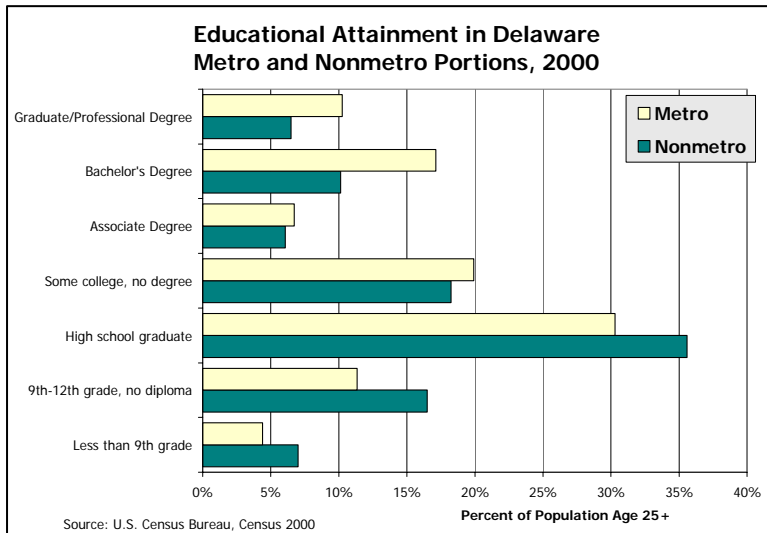


Educational Attainment

The percent of the population age 25 and over that has earned a Bachelor's Degree or higher is 24.4 percent in the U.S. and 25.0 percent in Delaware. In the metro counties of Delaware, this statistic is 27.4 percent, compared to only 16.6 percent in the nonmetro county.

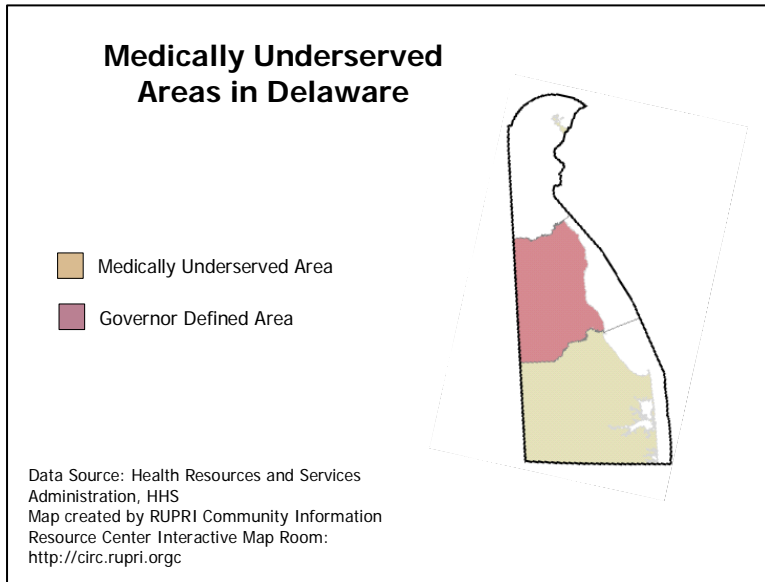


The chart below compares the educational attainment of Delaware's metro and nonmetro populations. The percent of the population with high educational attainment is greater in the metro areas, while the percent of the population with low educational attainment is greater in the nonmetro area.

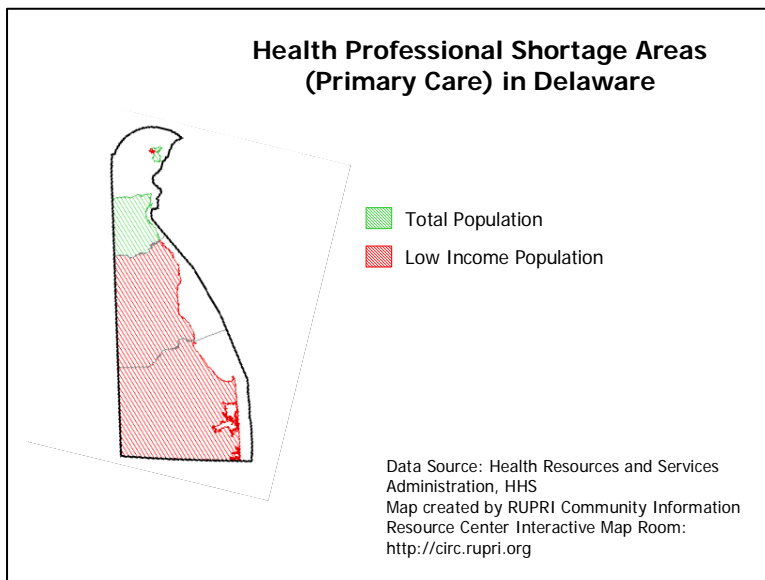


Health Services

The designation of areas or populations as medically underserved is based on an index of four variables - the ratio of primary care physicians per 1,000 population, the infant mortality rate, the percent of the population with incomes below the poverty level, and the percent of the population age 65 and over (Health Resources and Services Administration, HHS). Within Delaware, several areas of the state are considered medically underserved, shown in the map below.

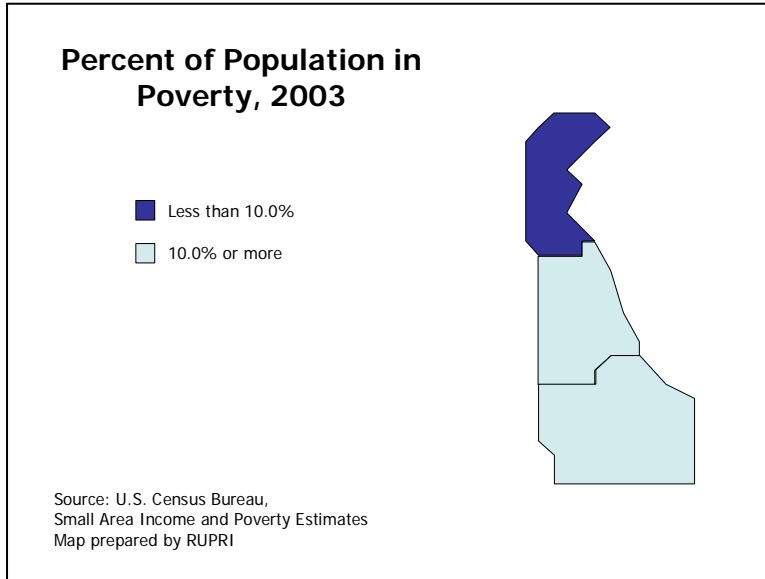


Health Professional Shortage Areas (HPSAs) are those areas that “may have shortages of primary medical care, dental or mental health providers and may be urban or rural areas, population groups, or medical or other public facilities” (Health Resources and Services Administration, HHS). Within Delaware, several areas in the state are designated as primary care HPSAs, shown in the map below.



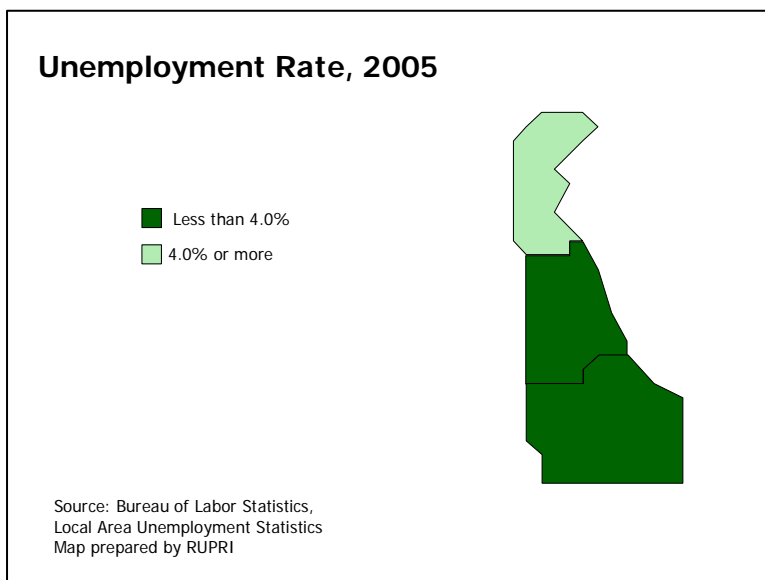
Poverty

The poverty rate in Delaware in 2003 was 9.0 percent, based on Census Bureau estimates. Nationally, the poverty rate for 2003 was 12.5 percent. Within Delaware, the poverty rate ranged from 8.3 percent in New Castle County to 10.7 percent in Kent County.



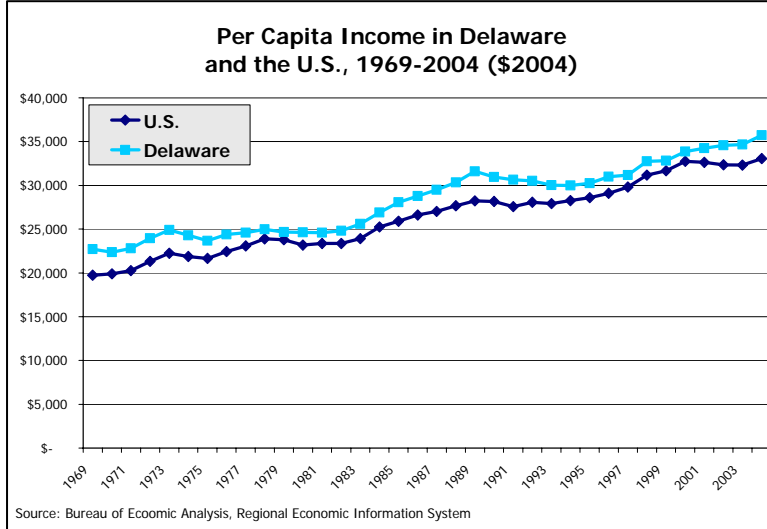
Unemployment

The 2005 unemployment rate in Delaware was 4.2 percent, compared to 5.1 percent for the U.S. Within Delaware, the unemployment rate ranged from 3.7 percent in Kent and Sussex Counties to 4.5 percent in New Castle County.

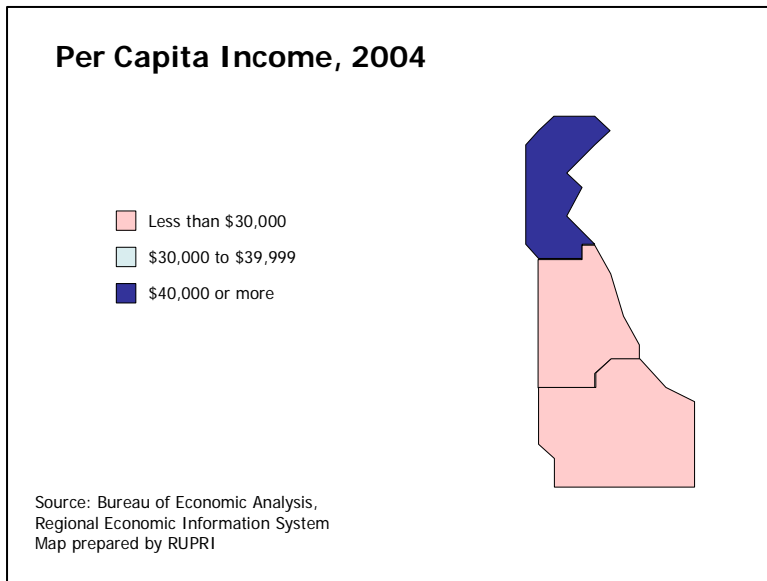


Per Capita Income

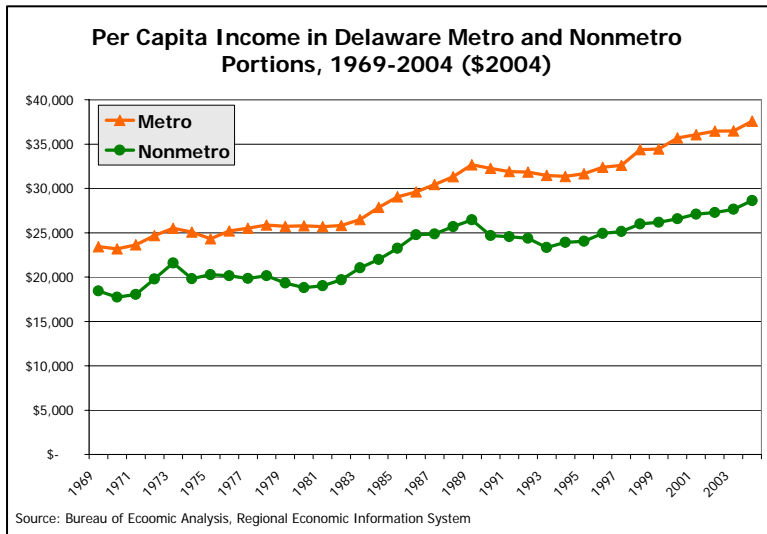
Per capita income trends in Delaware have matched national trends over the past several decades, with Delaware's income slightly exceeding the national income. In 2004, per capita income in Delaware was \$35,728, compared to \$33,050 for the U.S.



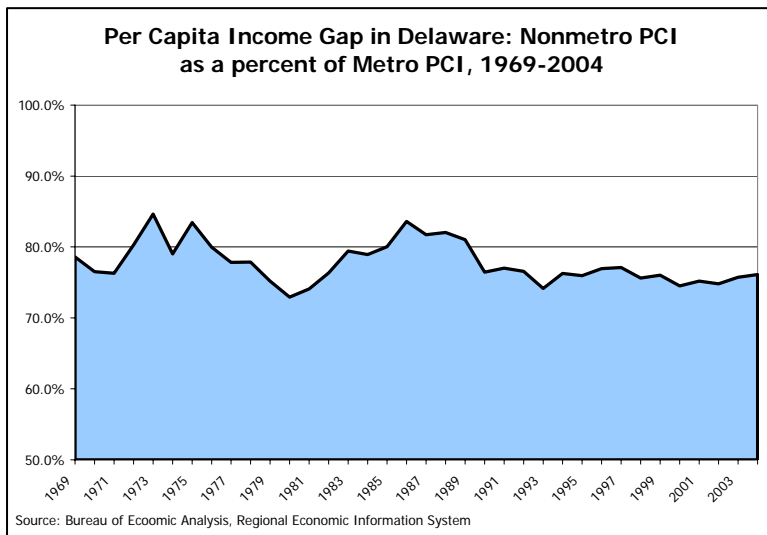
Within Delaware, 2004 per capita income ranged from \$27,292 in Kent County to \$40,354 in New Castle County.



Nonmetro per capita income in Delaware has lagged behind metro per capita income over the past several decades. In 2004, metro per capita income was \$37,592, compared to \$28,609 in the nonmetro county.

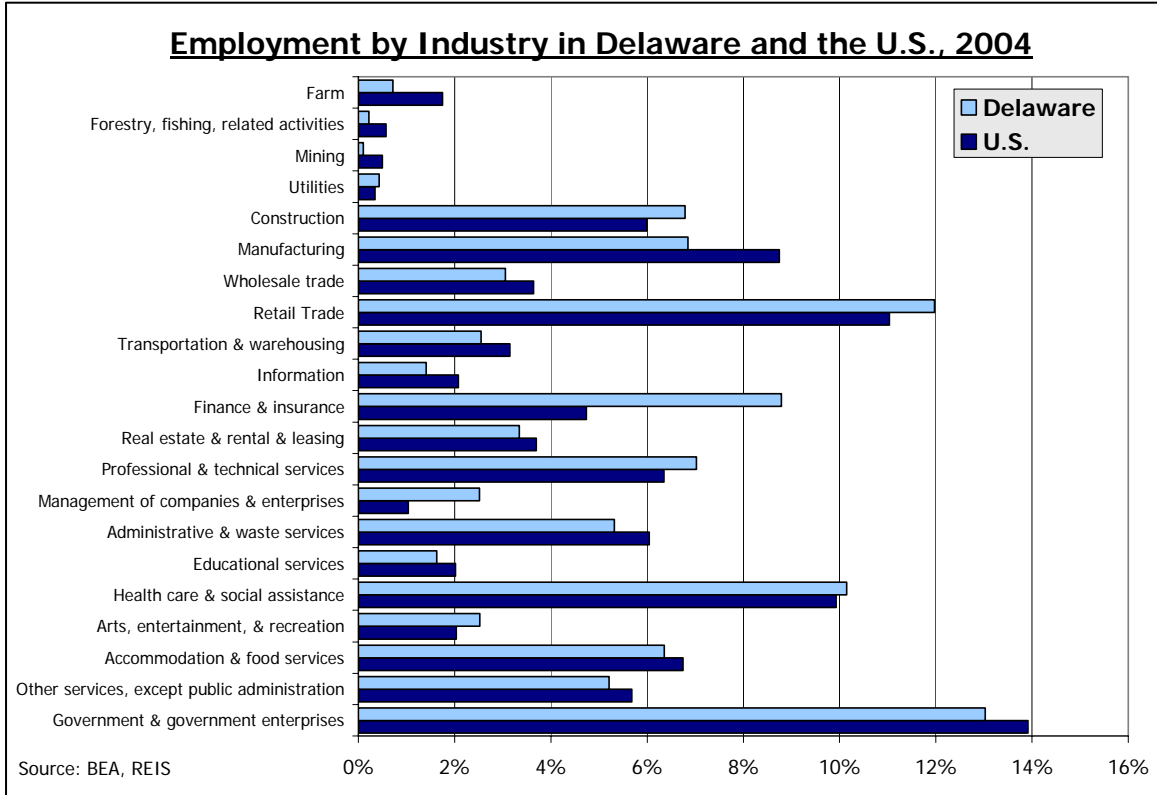


The per capita income gap is measured with nonmetro per capita income as a percent of metro per capita income. In Delaware, nonmetro per capita income is 76.1 percent of metro per capita income.

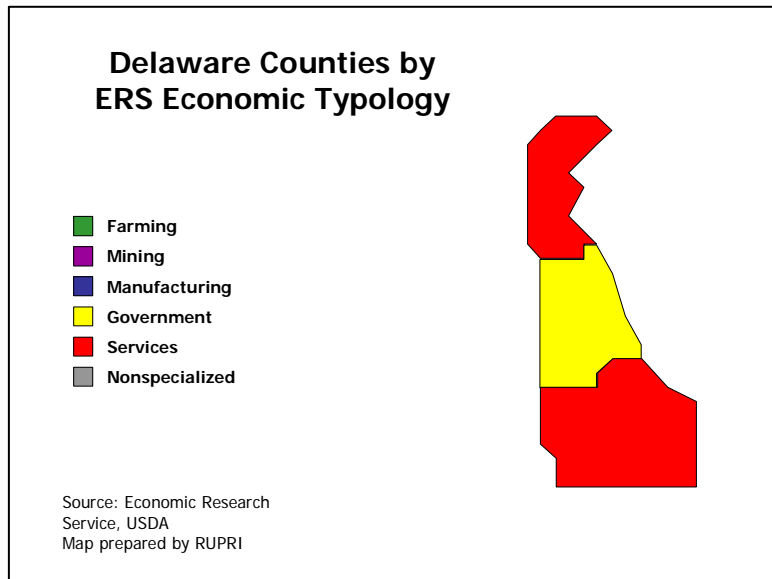


Employment

In 2004, government and government enterprises accounted for the largest shares of employment both in Delaware (13.0%) and the U.S. (13.9%). Retail trade was the second largest employment sector in both Delaware (12.0%) and the U.S. (11.0%).



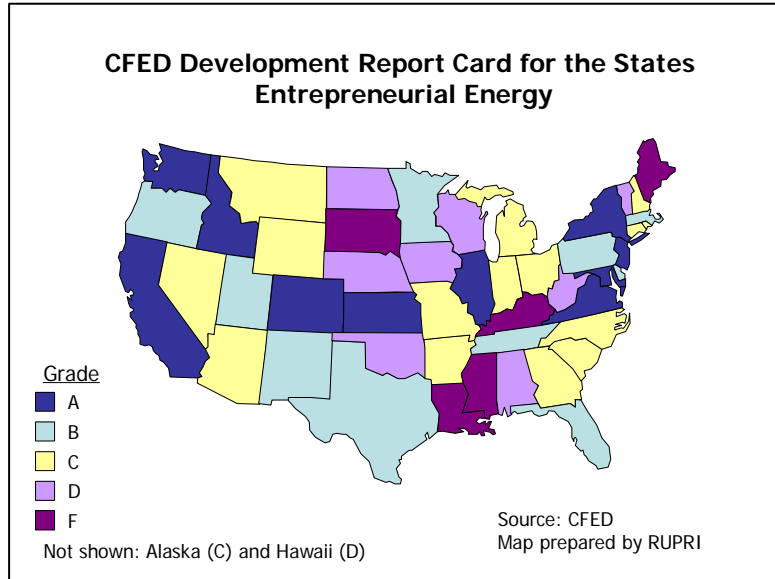
The ERS Economic Typology classifies counties into one of five industry categories of specialization or as nonspecialized. The map to the right shows the classification of Delaware counties by this typology.



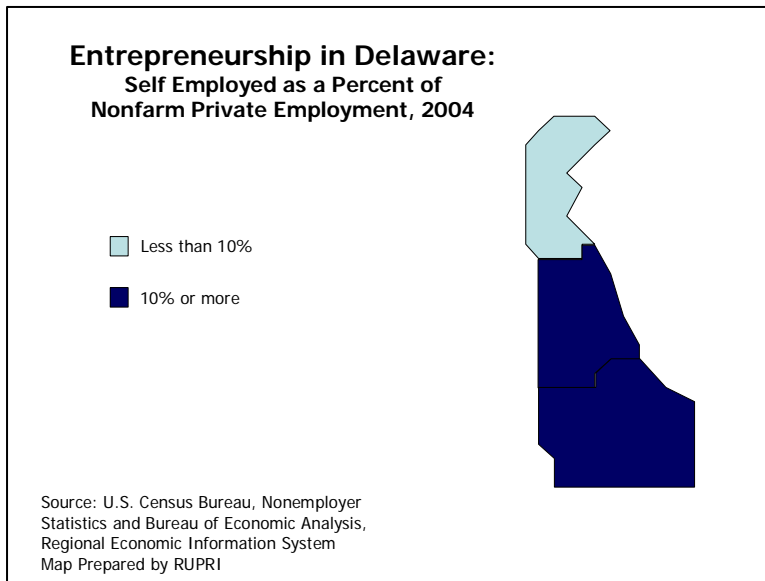
Entrepreneurship

Entrepreneurship is an important component to economic development today. Unfortunately, data that allow us to measure entrepreneurial activity and trends is difficult to ascertain, particularly at the county level. The 2004 *CFED Development Report Card for the States* rates each state on its entrepreneurial energy, “evaluating the extent to which new firms are generated and whether they

are contributing to employment growth.” While this is a state-level ranking, it provides useful insight as to how a state is performing. Delaware’s ranking is “B”.

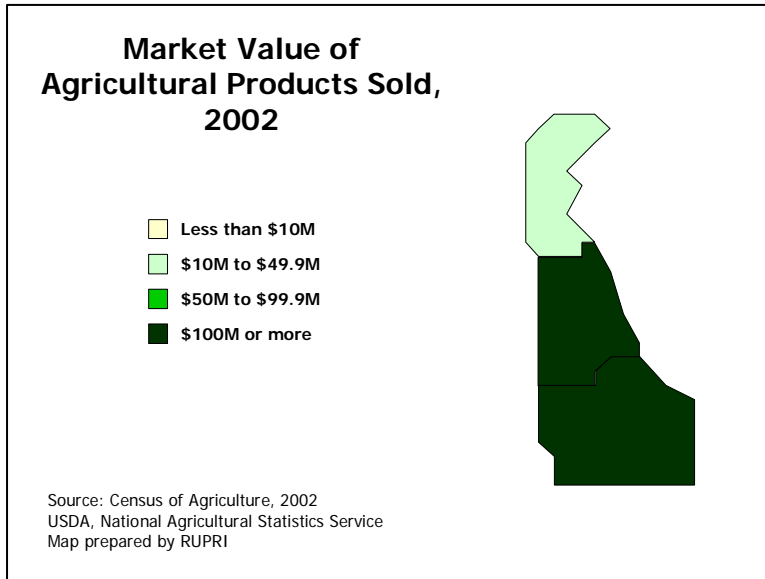


As mentioned, county level indicators of entrepreneurship are difficult to ascertain, but a good indicator is the proportion of workers that are self employed. The map below shows self employed workers as a percent of nonfarm private employment in the county.



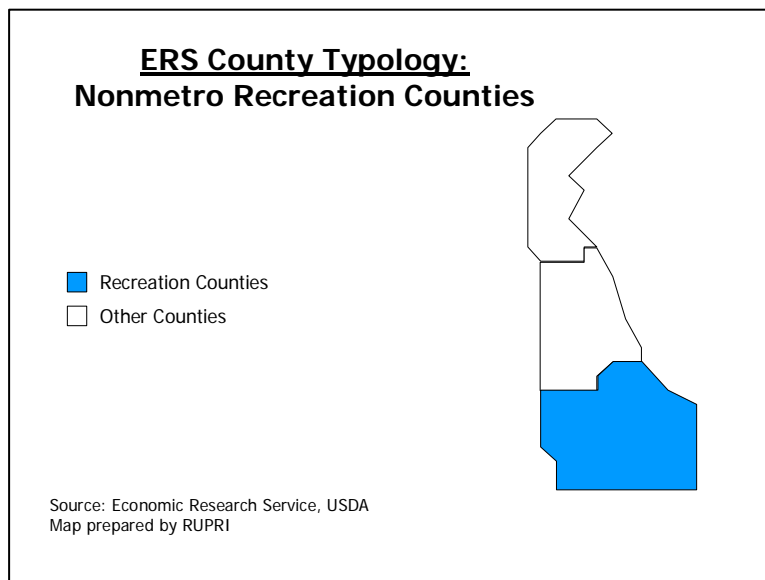
Agriculture

Agriculture is an important part of the economy in Delaware. The map below shows the value of agricultural products sold in 2002 for Delaware counties. In Kent County the value was \$128 million and in Sussex County the value was over \$460 million.



Nonmetro Recreation Counties

The Economic Research Service's classification of nonmetro recreation counties captures the recreational opportunities and development in many rural parts of the nation. The classification is based on a number of factors, including employment and income derived from recreation-related activities, seasonal housing units within the county, and receipts from hotels and motels. In Delaware, Sussex County is classified as a recreation county.



Data Sources and References

Bureau of Economic Analysis, Regional Economic Information System

<http://www.bea.gov/ea/regional/reis/>

Bureau of Labor Statistics, Local Area Unemployment Statistics

<http://www.bls.gov/lau/home.htm>

CFED Development Report Card for the States

<http://drc.cfed.org/>

Economic Research Service, USDA, 2004 County Typology

<http://www.ers.usda.gov/Briefing/Rurality/Typology/>

Health Resources and Services Administration, Department of Health and Human Services, Designations of Health Professional Shortage Areas and Medically Underserved Areas and Populations

<http://www.bhpr.hrsa.gov/shortage/>

National Agricultural Statistics Service, USDA.

2002 Census of Agriculture

http://www.nass.usda.gov/Census_of_Agriculture/index.asp

Office of Management and Budget, Statistical Area Definitions and Guidance on Their Uses

<http://www.whitehouse.gov/omb/bulletins/fy05/b05-02.html>

RUPRI Community Information Resource Center Interactive Map Room

<http://circ.rupri.org/>

U.S. Census Bureau

Census 2000

<http://www.census.gov/main/www/cen2000.html>

Population Estimates

<http://www.census.gov/popest/estimates.php>

Metropolitan and Micropolitan Area Classifications

<http://www.census.gov/population/www/estimates/metrodef.html>

Nonemployer Statistics

<http://www.census.gov/epcd/nonemployer/>

Small Area Income and Poverty Estimates

<http://www.census.gov/hhes/www/saibe/saibe.html>

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