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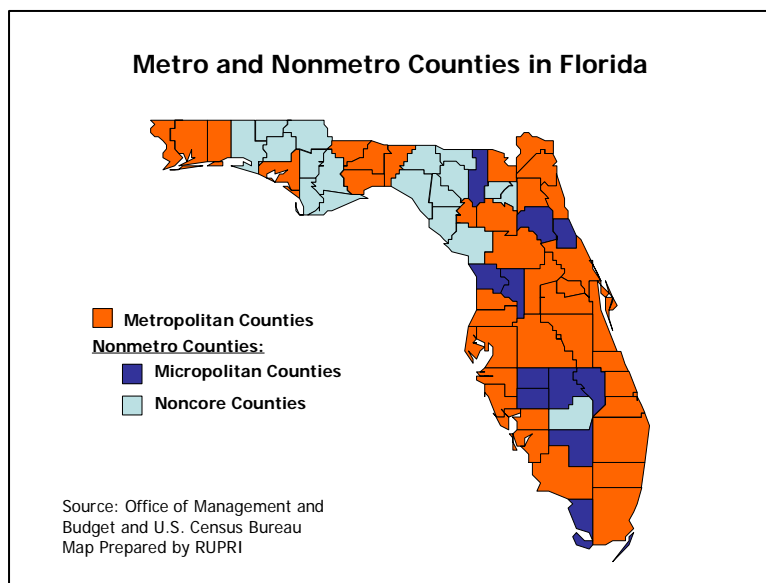
## Demographic and Economic Profile

# Florida

Updated May 2006

### Metro and Nonmetro Counties in Florida

Based on the most recent listing of core based statistical areas by the Office of Management and Budget (December 2005), 38 counties in Florida are part of metropolitan areas, and 11 counties are part of micropolitan areas. The micropolitan category defines counties that include an urban area with a population of 10,000 to 49,999 plus surrounding counties that are linked through commuting ties. These areas often represent important economic and trade centers in rural areas. The remaining 18 counties in Florida are considered noncore counties. Using these classifications and the population estimates for 2005, 93.7 percent of Florida residents live in metropolitan areas, 4.1 percent live in micropolitan areas, and 2.2 percent live in noncore areas.

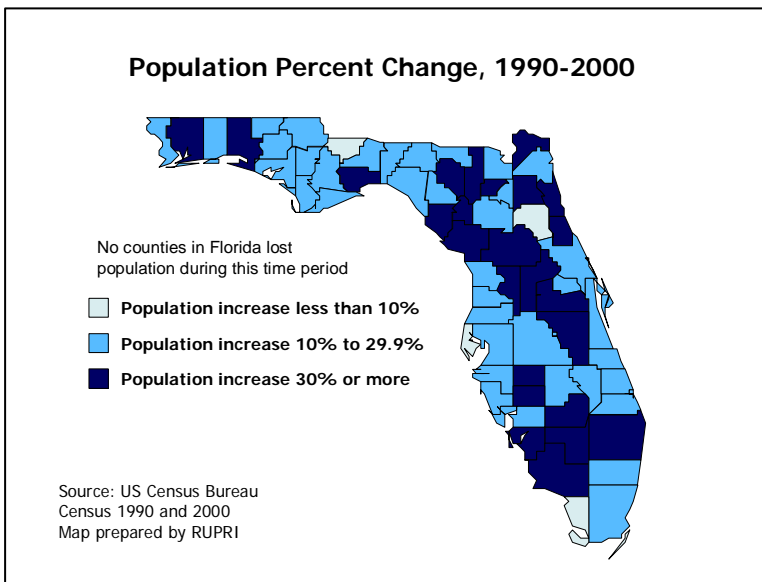


## Population

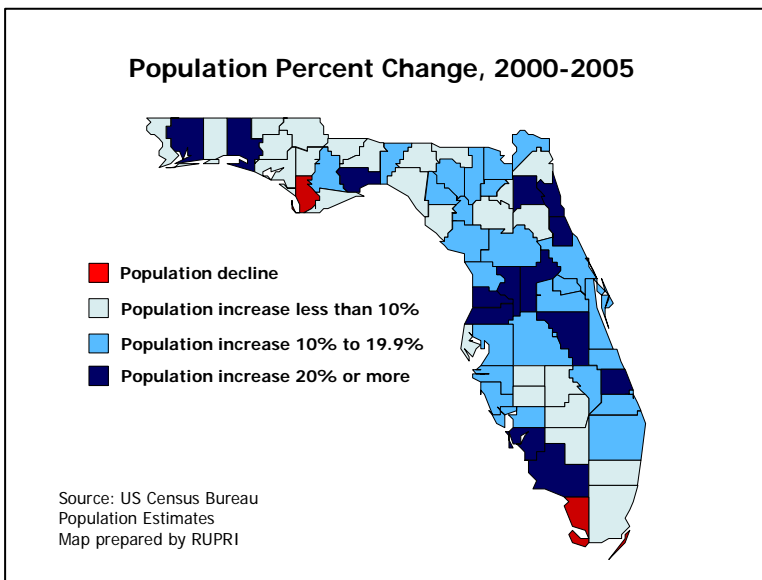
Florida's population in 2005 was 17,789,864, up 11.3 percent from the 2000 Census. During the 1990s, population in Florida grew by 23.5 percent. Nationally, population increased 13.1 percent during the 1990s, and 5.3 percent from April 2000 to July 2005. Population growth in both micropolitan and noncore areas outpaced the metropolitan areas during the 1990s. From 2000 to 2005, the fastest growth was again in the micropolitan areas, but noncore areas lagged behind.

Percent Change in Population		
Area:	1990-2000	2000-2005
<b>U.S.</b>	<b>13.1%</b>	<b>5.3%</b>
<b>Florida</b>	<b>23.5%</b>	<b>11.3%</b>
Metropolitan	23.4%	11.3%
Nonmetropolitan	26.3%	10.9%
Micropolitan	27.6%	12.5%
Noncore	24.0%	8.1%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau



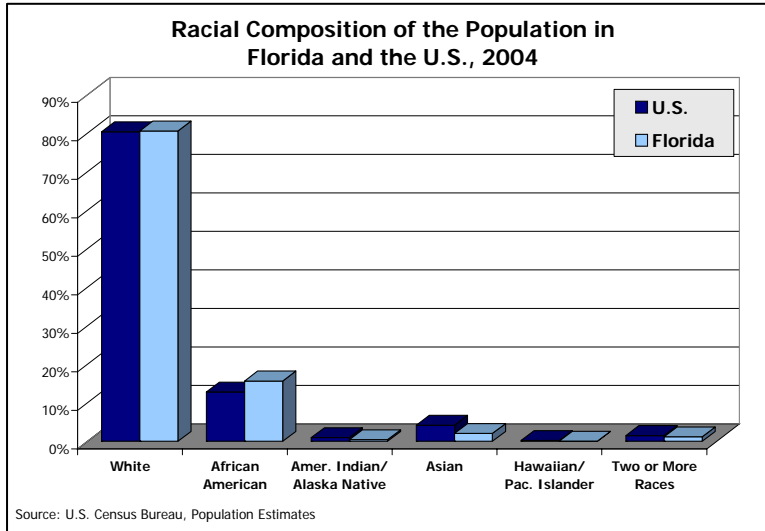
No counties in Florida lost population during the 1990s, and 5 counties had population gains over 50 percent. The fastest growth was in Flagler County in the Palm Coast Micropolitan Area.



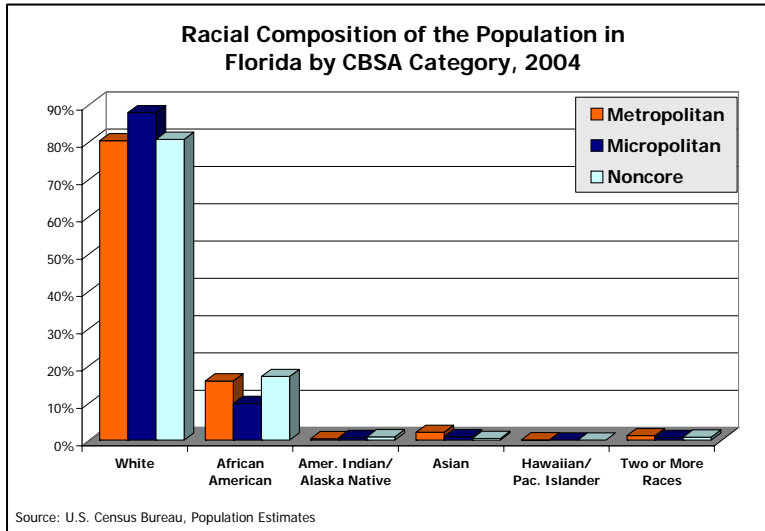
From 2000 to 2005, only two counties in Florida lost population, both of them nonmetro. During this time period, the fastest growth was again in Flagler County.

## Race / Ethnicity

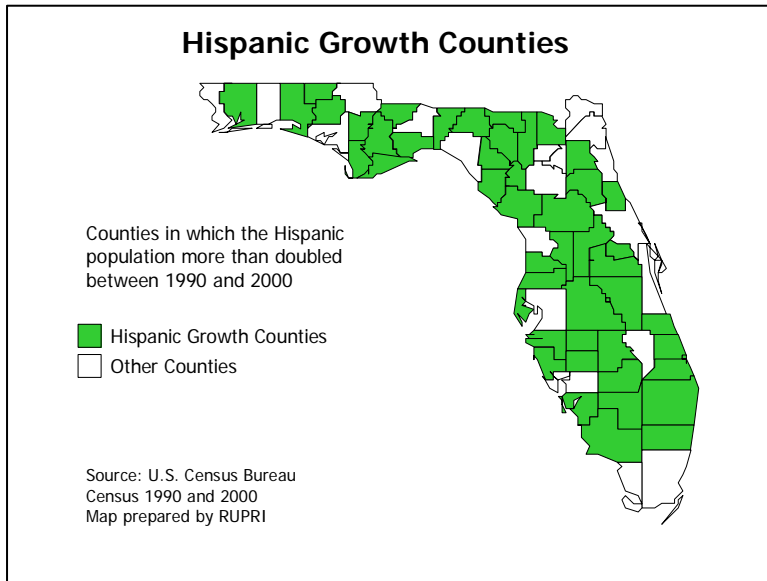
The population of Florida is 80.6 percent white and 15.7 percent African American. Nationally, the population is 80.4 percent white and 12.8 percent African American (2004 Census Bureau population estimates).



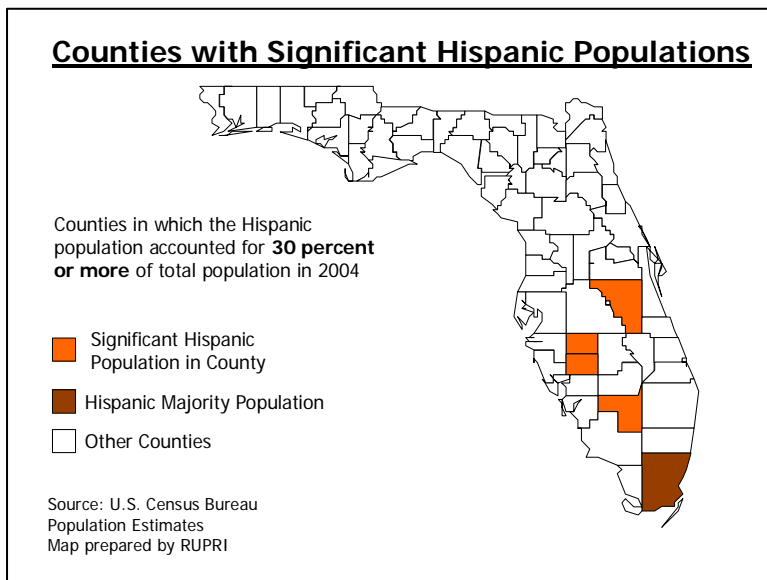
Within Florida, the metropolitan population is 80.3 percent white and 15.9 percent African American. The micropolitan population is 87.8 percent white and 9.9 percent African American, and the noncore population is 80.6 percent white and 17.1 percent African American. In Gadsden County (a metro county in the Tallahassee area), African Americans account for the majority of total population (56.9 %).



People of Hispanic origin make up 19.0 percent of Florida’s population, compared to 14.1 percent of the total U.S. population. Within Florida, people of Hispanic origin make up 19.6 percent of the metropolitan population, 13.4 percent of the micropolitan population, and 4.2 percent of the noncore population. Many areas have experienced significant growth in Hispanic populations over the past decade. The map below shows the counties in which the Hispanic population more than doubled during the 1990s.

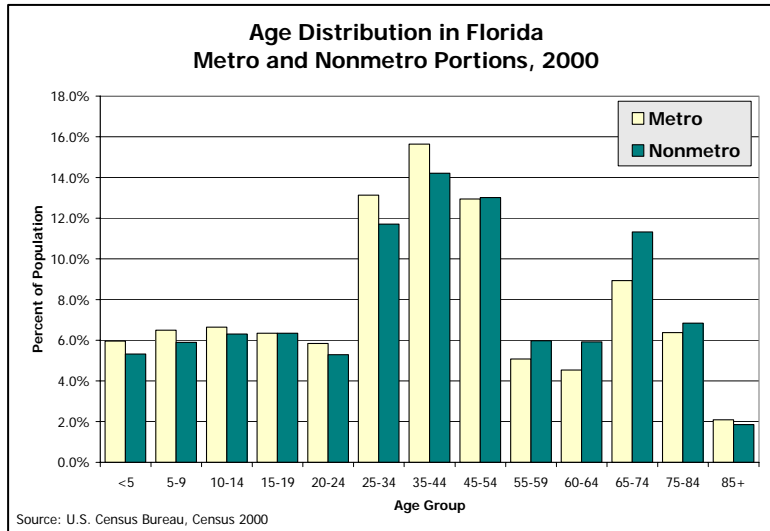


Though in many cases the percent changes above represent small numbers and proportions of total population, the Hispanic population does account for a significant portion of total population in several Florida counties. The map below shows the counties in which the Hispanic population accounts for 30 percent of more of total population. In Miami-Dade County, people of Hispanic origin make up the majority of the total population (60.1%).

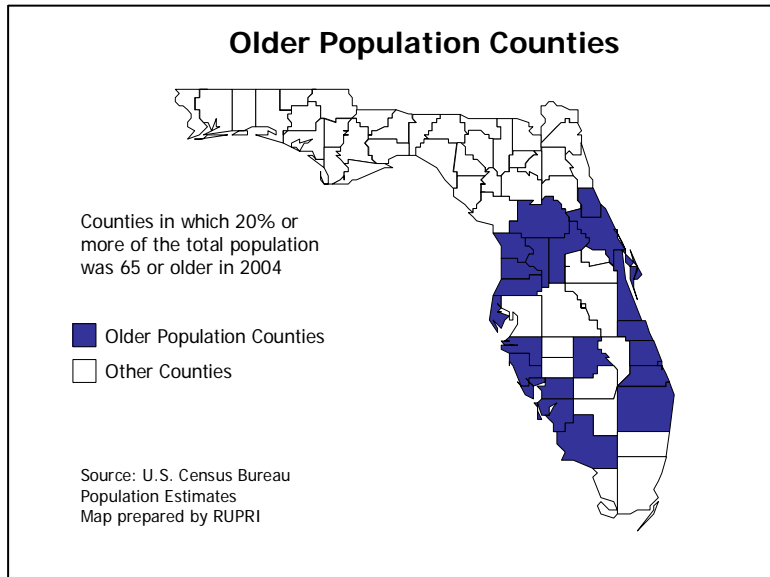


## Age

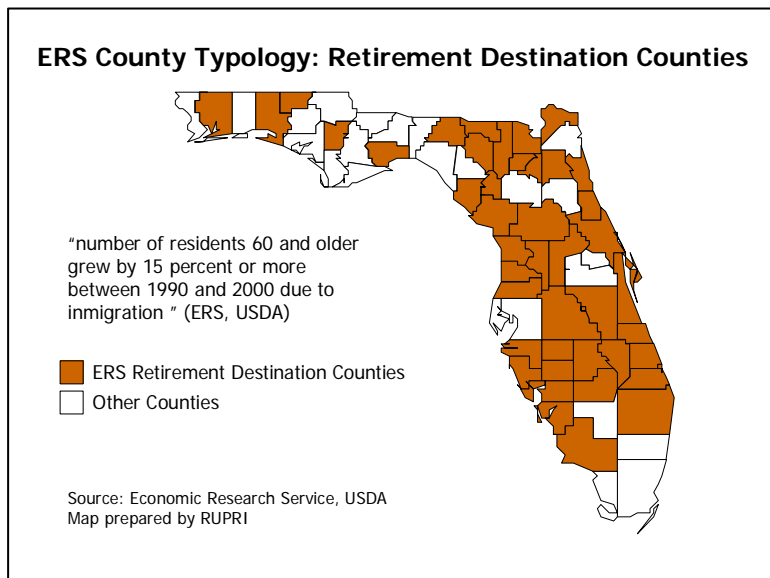
The age distribution of the metro and nonmetro populations in Florida is shown in the chart to the right. The percent of the population in the 20 to 44 age groups is higher in the metro areas, while the percent of the population in the 55 to 84 age groups is higher in the nonmetro areas.



In several Florida counties, the population age 65 and over represents a significant portion of total population. In the 20 counties shown to the right, the population age 65 and over accounts for over 20 percent of total population.

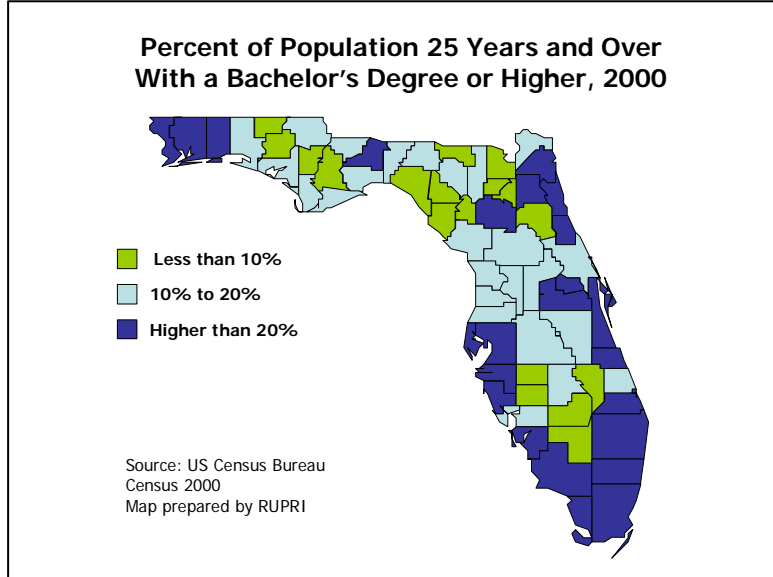


The Economic Research Service classifies counties as retirement destination counties based on population change due to in-migration. Not surprisingly, 43 counties in Florida are classified as retirement destination counties, 24 metro and 19 nonmetro counties.

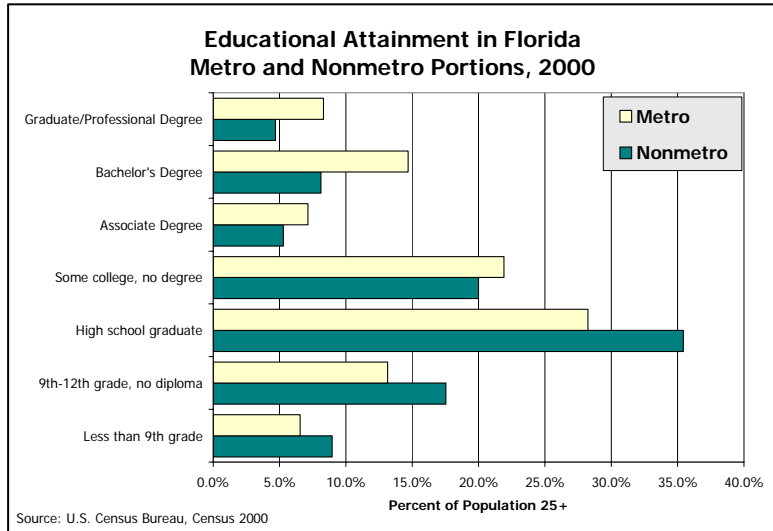


## Educational Attainment

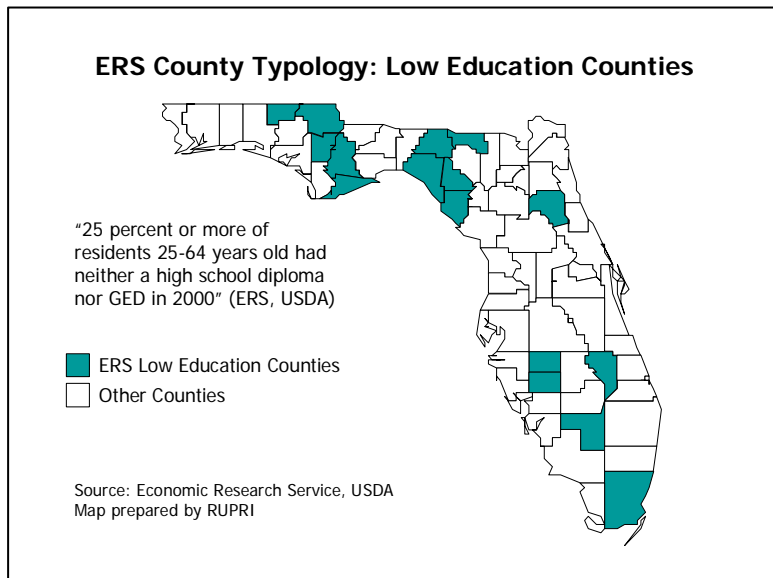
The percent of the population age 25 and over that has earned a Bachelor's degree or higher is 24.4 percent in the U.S. and 22.3 percent in Florida. In metro areas of Florida, this percentage is 23.0 percent, compared to only 12.8 percent in nonmetro areas.



The chart to the right compares the educational attainment of Florida's metro and nonmetro populations. The percent of the population with high educational attainment (B.S. degree or higher) is greater in the metro areas, while the percent of the population with low educational attainment (high school degree or lower) is greater in the nonmetro areas.

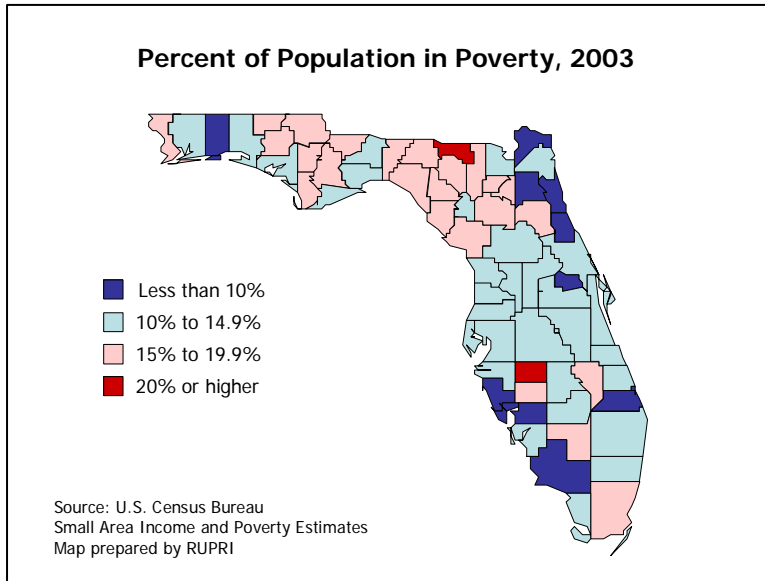


The Economic Research Service classifies counties as low education counties if "25 percent or more of residents 25-64 years old had neither a high school diploma nor GED in 2000." In Florida, 16 counties are classified as low education counties, most of them (15) nonmetro.

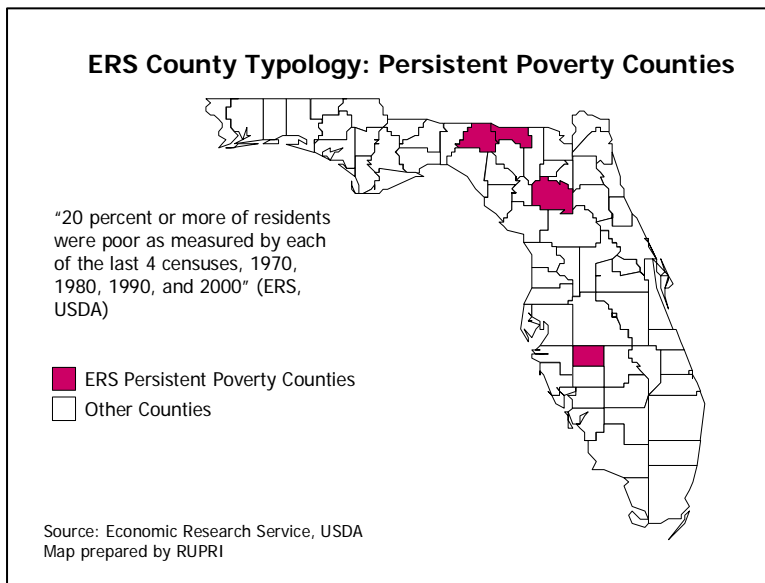


## Poverty

The poverty rate in Florida in 2003 was 13.0 percent, compared to 12.5 percent for the U.S. (Census Bureau estimates). The poverty rates in Florida counties ranged from 7.4 percent in Clay County to 21.8 percent in Hamilton County.

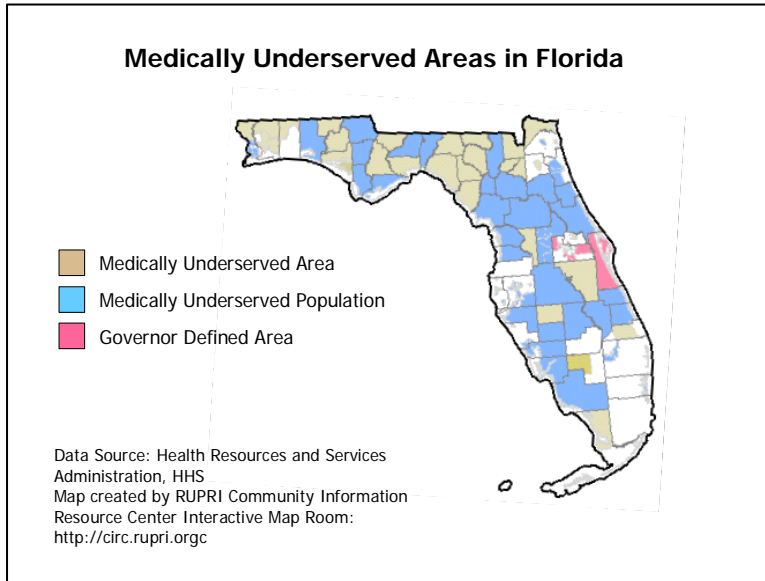


The Economic Research Service classifies counties as persistent poverty counties if they experienced poverty rates of 20 percent or higher in each Census from 1970 through 2000. Nationally, there are 386 persistent poverty counties, and 4 are located in Florida.

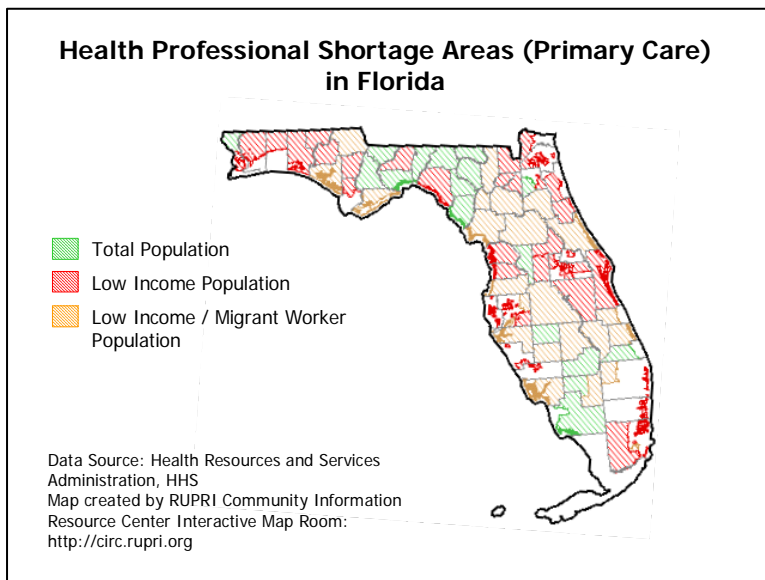


## Health Care Services

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 Florida, several areas of the state are considered medically underserved, shown in the map below.

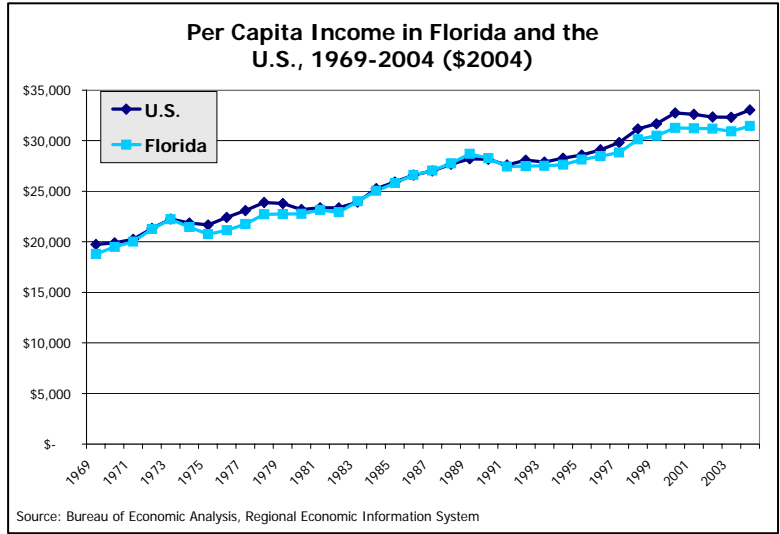


Health Professional Shortage Areas (HPSAs) are those areas that “may have shortages of primary medical care, dental or mental health providers and may be urban or rural areas, population groups, or medical or other public facilities” (Health Resources and Services Administration, HHS). Within Florida, several areas in the state are designated as primary care HPSAs for the total, low income, or migrant worker populations.

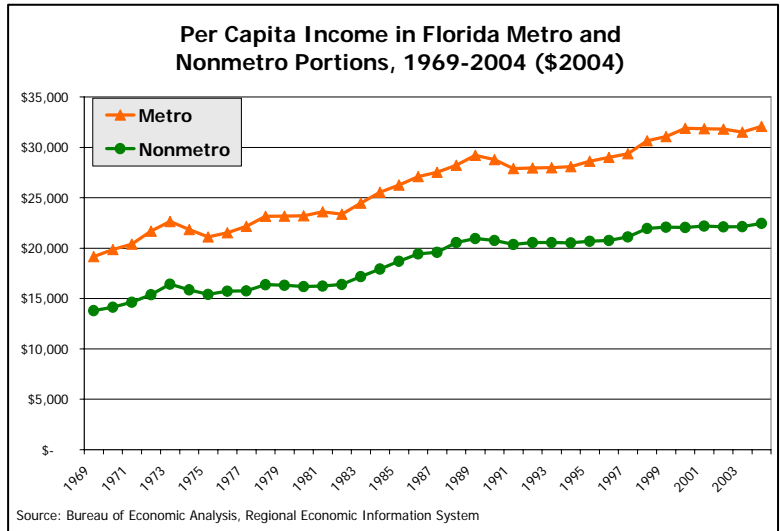


## Per Capita Income

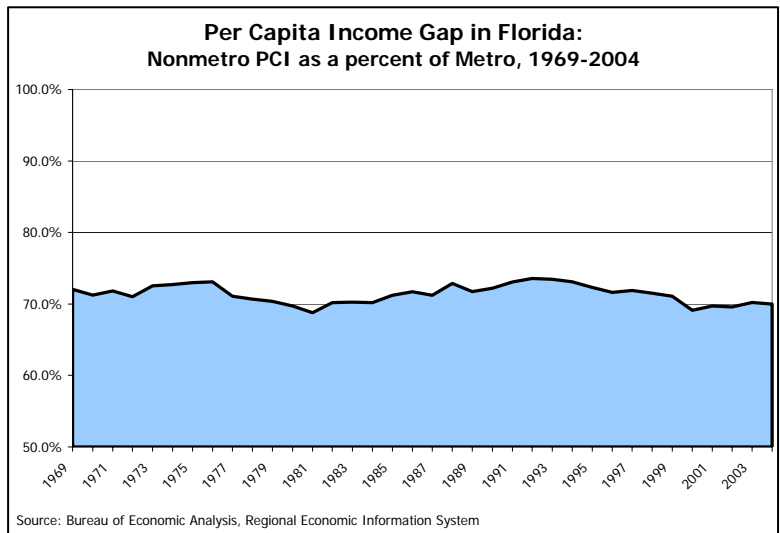
Florida's per capita income has followed similar trends to the nation over past several decades. In 2004, per capita income in Florida was \$31,469, compared to \$33,050 for the nation.



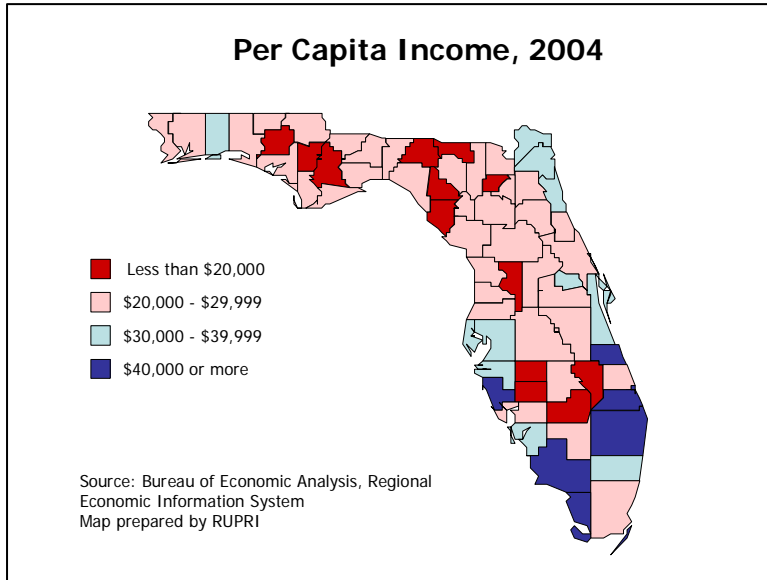
Nonmetro per capita income has lagged behind metro throughout the past several decades. In 2004, metro per capita income was \$32,072, compared to \$22,449 in nonmetro areas.



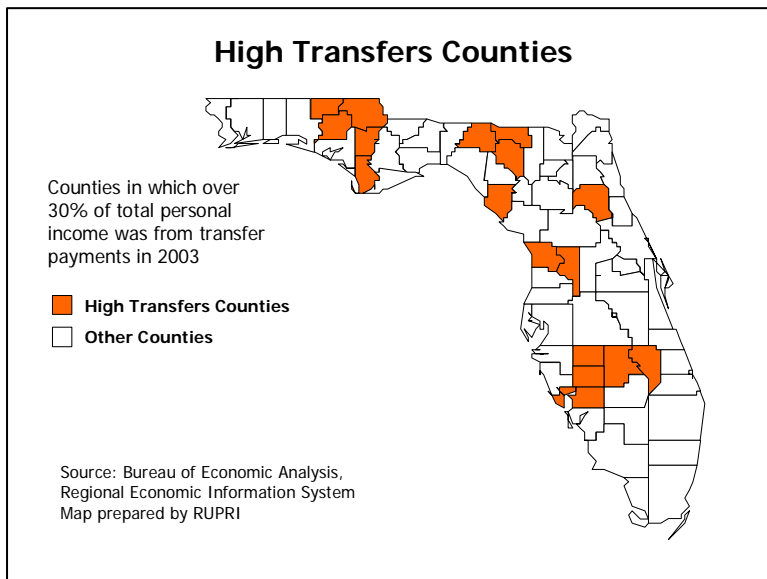
The per capita income gap is measured with nonmetro per capita income as a percent of metro per capita income. In Florida, the gap has remained relatively steady over the past several decades. In 2004, nonmetro per capita income was 70 percent of metro per capita income.



Within Florida, per capita income ranged from \$14,535 in Union County to \$44,518 in Palm Beach County. Thirteen counties in Florida, all nonmetro, had per capita income less than \$20,000 in 2004, and six counties had per capita income over \$40,000 (5 metro, 1 nonmetro).

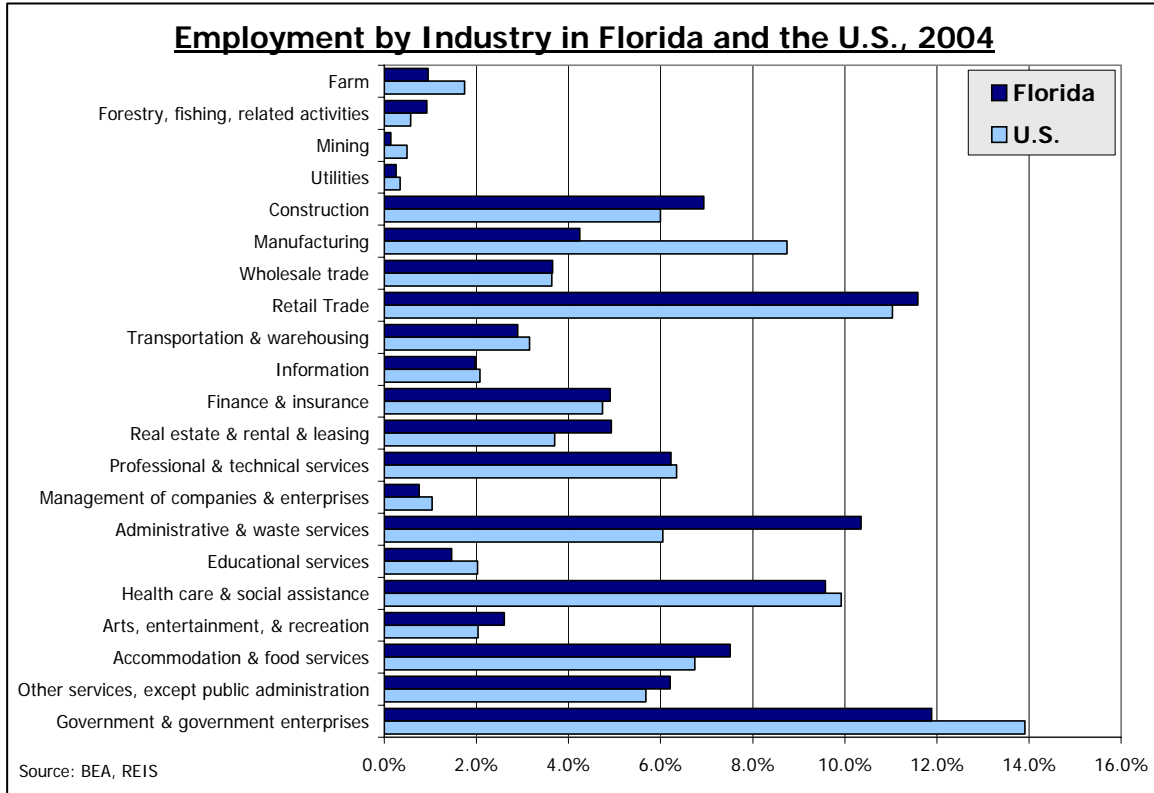


Transfer payments include retirement and disability payments, social security benefits, public assistance, and medical benefits. In Florida, 17 counties incomes' rely heavily on transfer payments. In these counties, shown in the map below, transfer payments account for over 30 percent of total personal income in the county. Most of these counties (16) are nonmetro.

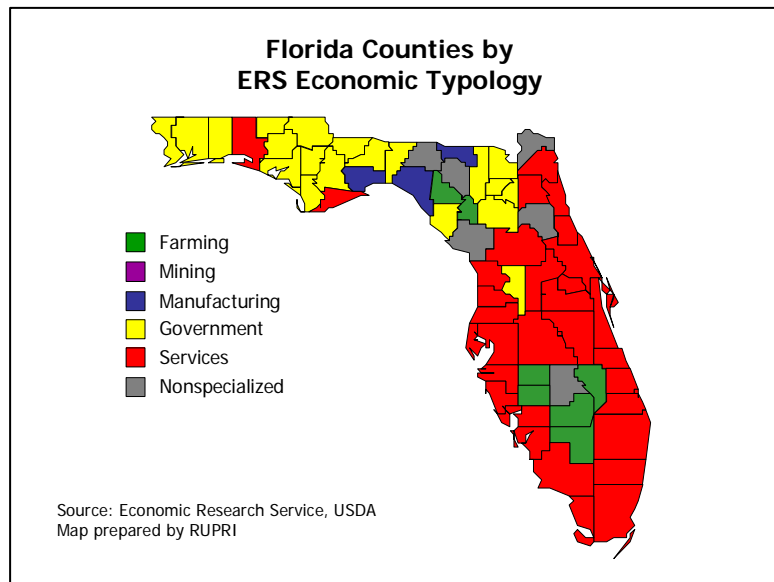


## Employment Structure

In 2004, government and government enterprises accounted for the largest shares of total employment both in Florida (11.9%) and the U.S. (13.9%). Retail trade was the second largest employment sector, accounting for 11.6 percent of Florida employment and 11.0 percent of total U.S. employment.

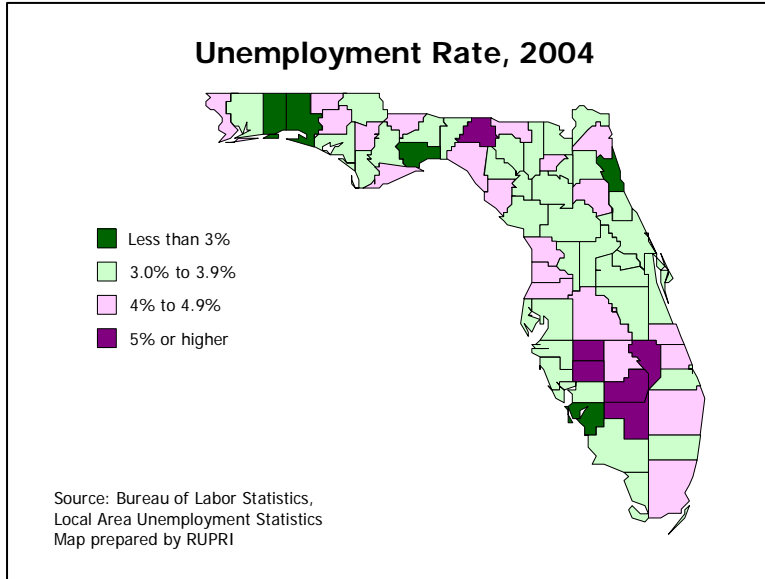


The ERS Economic Typology classifies counties into one of five industry categories of specialization or as nonspecialized. The map to the right shows the classification of Florida counties by this typology, illustrating the importance of services and government to the state's economy.

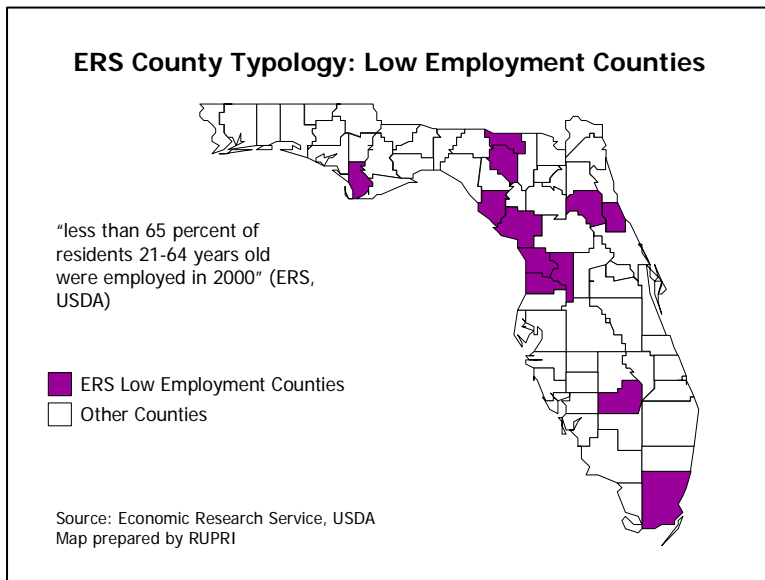


## Unemployment

In 2005, the unemployment rate in Florida was 3.8 percent, compared to 5.1 percent for the nation. Within Florida, the unemployment rate ranged from 2.7 percent in Wakulla County to 7.7 percent in Hendry County.

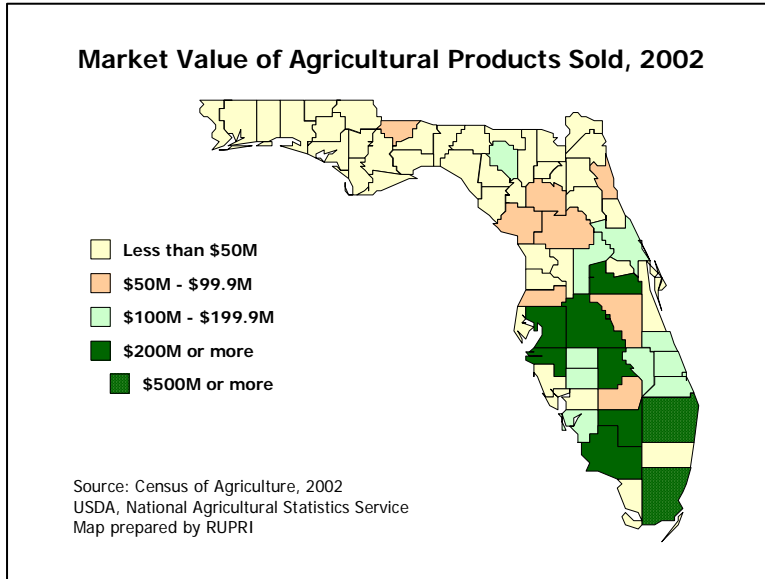


The Economic Research Service classifies counties as low employment counties if “less than 65 percent of residents 21 to 64 years old were employed in 2000.” Twelve counties in Florida are classified as low employment counties, 2 metro and 10 nonmetro counties.

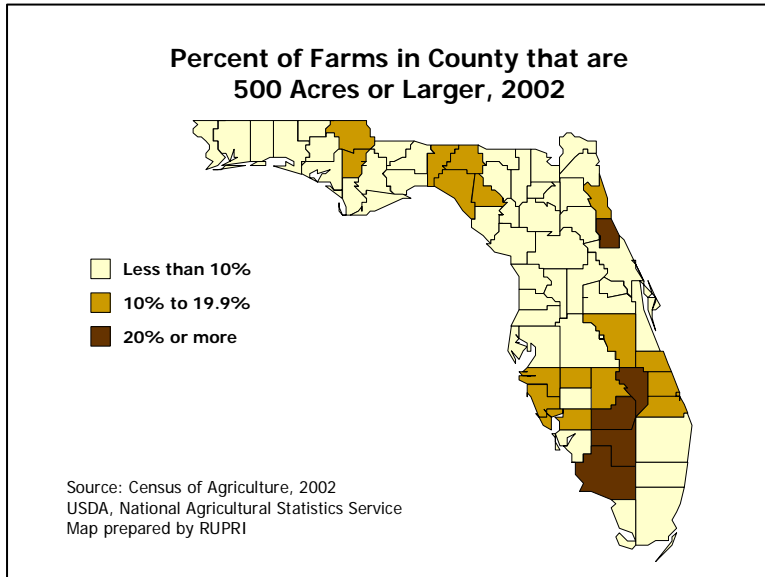


## Agriculture

Agriculture is an important industry in many parts of Florida. Seven counties are classified by the Economic Research Service as farming dependent (see map on page 11). The map below shows the value of agricultural products sold in 2002 for Florida counties. In Palm Beach and Miami-Dade Counties, the value was over \$500 million.

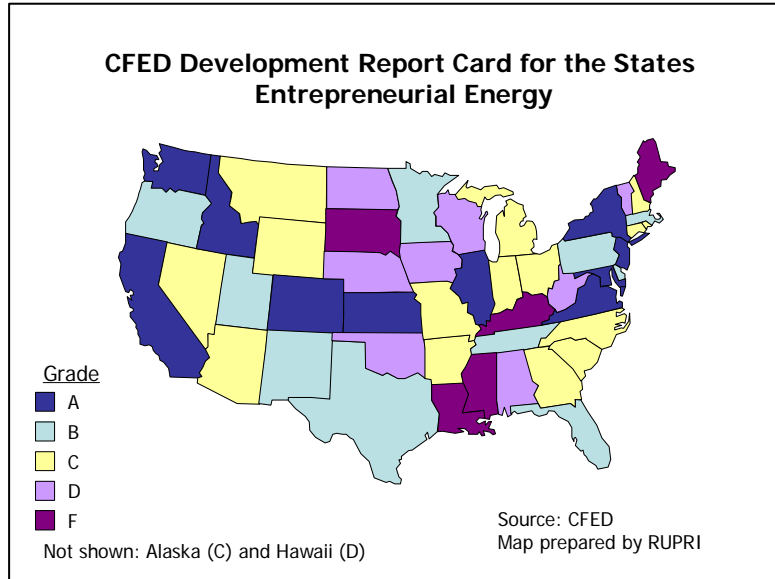


Average farm size in Florida is 236 acres, and 6.8 percent of the farms are 500 acres or larger.

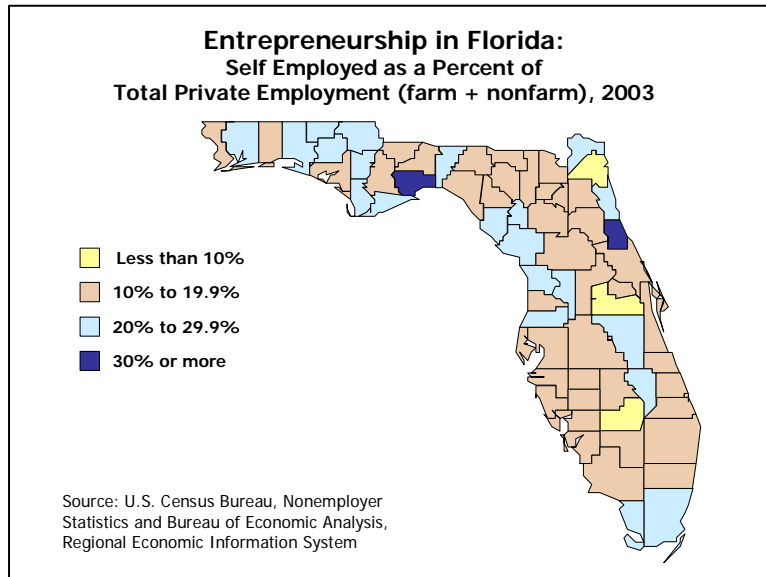


## Entrepreneurship

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 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. Florida’s rating on this indicator is “B.”

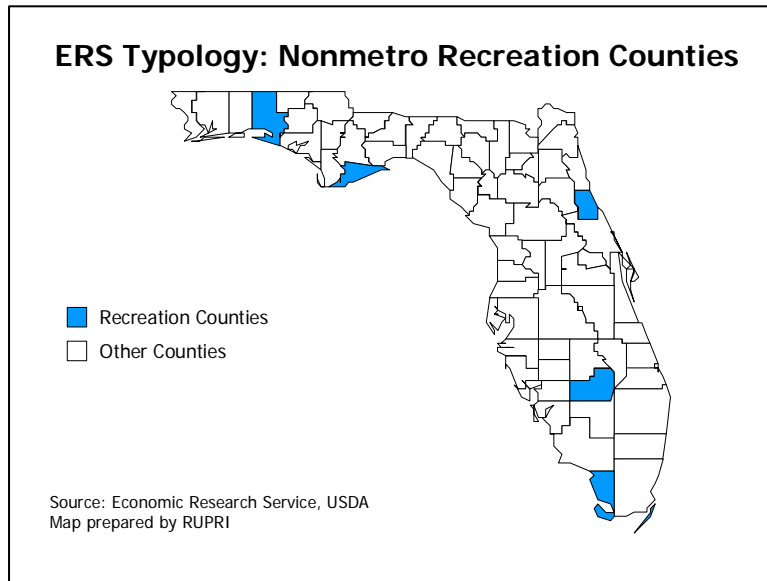


As mentioned, county level indicators of entrepreneurship are difficult to ascertain, but a good indicator is the proportion of nonfarm private employees that are self employed. The map below shows self employed workers as a percent of nonfarm private employment in the county.



## 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. Nationally, 334 counties are classified as nonmetro recreation counties, and five are located in Florida.



## **Data Sources and References**

**Bureau of Economic Analysis, Regional Economic Information System**

<http://www.bea.gov/beat/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](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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