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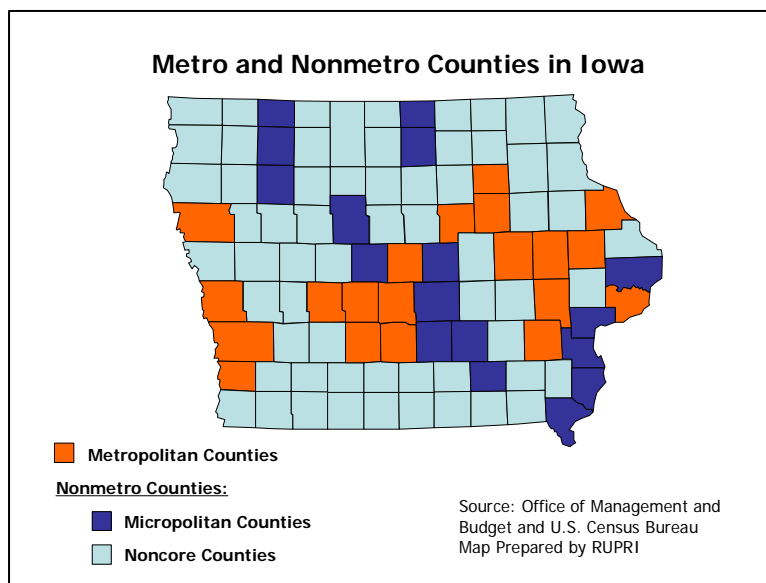
Demographic and Economic Profile

Iowa

Updated May 2006

Metro and Nonmetro Counties in Iowa

Based on the most recent listing of core based statistical areas by the Office of Management and Budget (December 2005), 20 counties are part of metropolitan areas and 17 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 62 counties in Iowa are considered noncore counties. Using these classifications and the population estimates for 2005, 54.8 percent of Iowa residents live in metropolitan areas, 17.6 percent live in micropolitan areas, and 27.6 percent live in noncore areas.

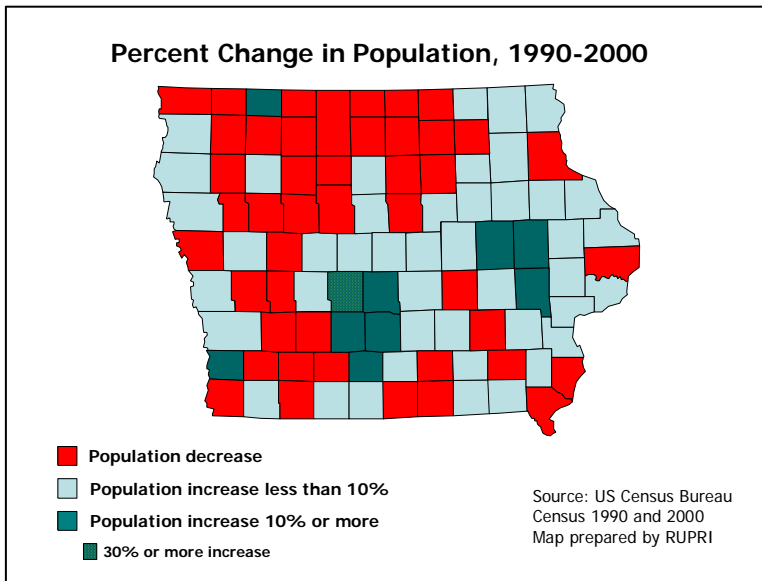


Population

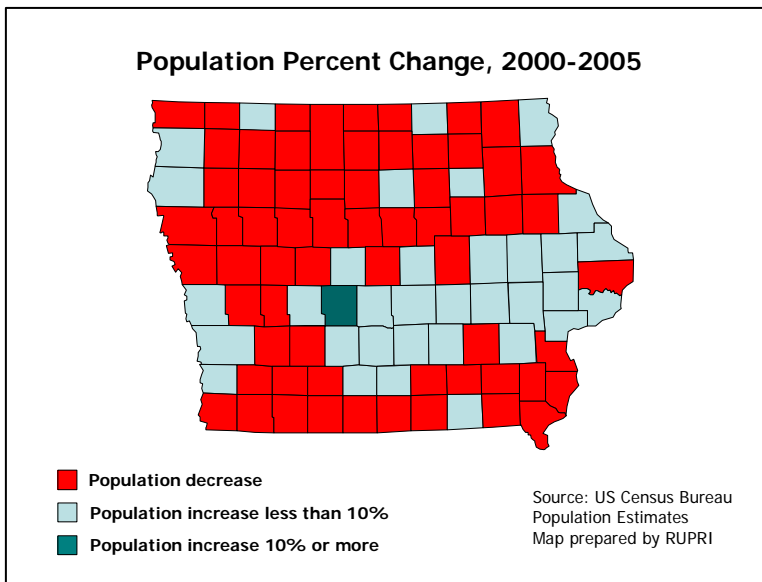
Iowa's population in 2005 was 2,966,334, up 1.3 percent from the 2000 Census. During the 1990s, the population in Iowa grew by 5.4 percent. Nationally, population increased 13.1 percent during the 1990s, and 5.2 percent from April 2000 to July 2005. Within Iowa, population growth in metropolitan areas has outpaced nonmetropolitan areas, and noncore areas lost population during both time periods.

Percent Change in Population		
Area:	1990-2000	2000-2005
U.S.	13.1%	5.3%
Iowa	5.4%	1.3%
Metropolitan	10.0%	3.8%
Nonmetropolitan	0.6%	-1.6%
Micropolitan	1.9%	-0.9%
Noncore	-0.2%	-2.1%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau

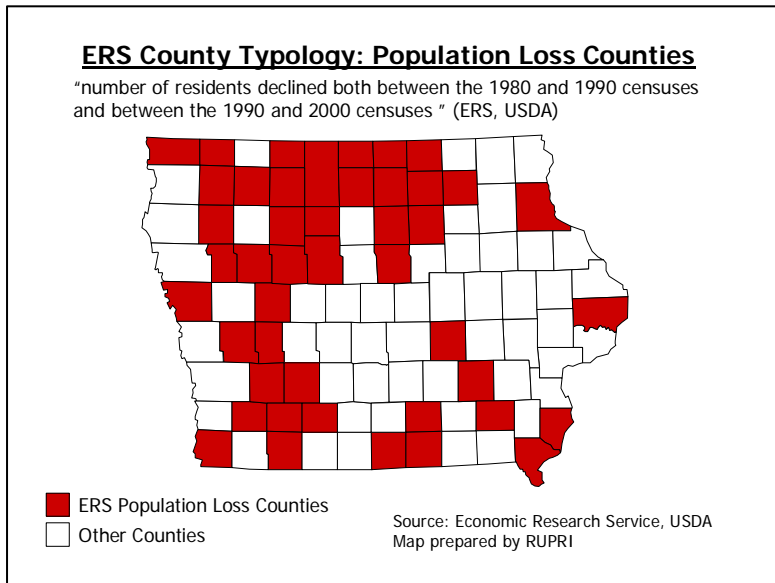


During the 1990s, 45 counties in Iowa lost population during the 1990s, all of them nonmetro. Only one county experienced population growth of 20 percent or more - Dallas County in the Des Moines-West Des Moines Metropolitan Area.



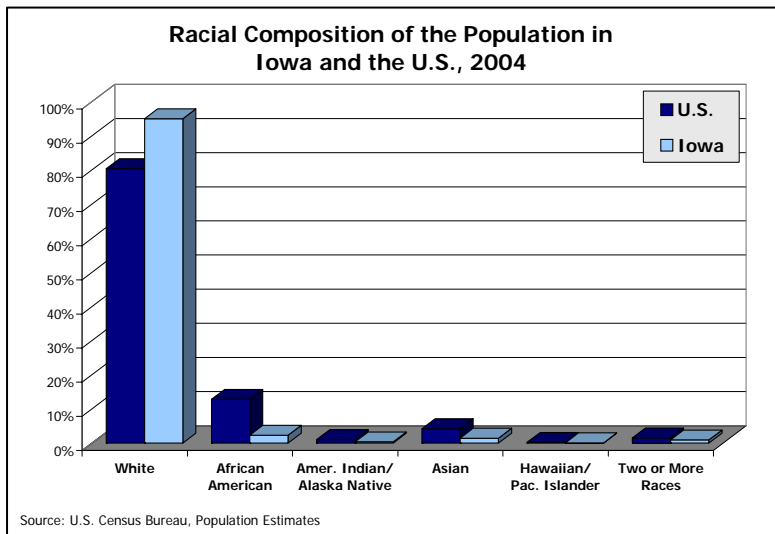
From 2000 to 2005, 64 counties in Iowa lost population, most of them (60) nonmetropolitan counties. The highest rate of growth was again in Dallas County, increasing 21.3 percent during this time period.

The Economic Research Service, USDA, classifies counties as population loss counties if they experienced population losses during the 1980s and the 1990s. In Iowa, 45 counties, all nonmetro, are classified as population loss counties.

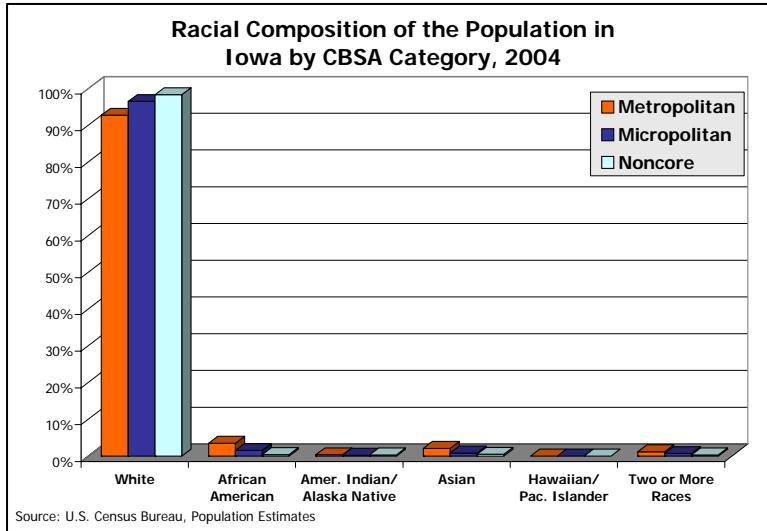


Race / Ethnicity

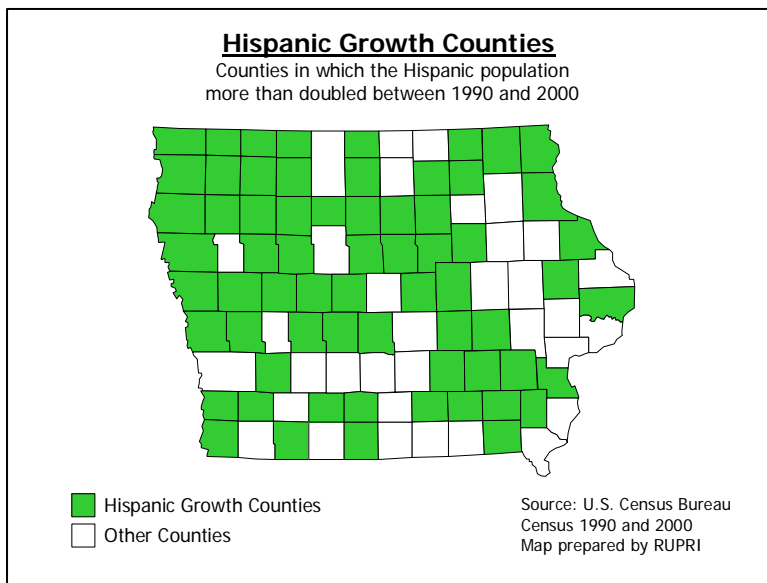
The population of Iowa is 95.0 percent white and 2.3 percent African American. Nationally, the population is 80.4 percent white and 12.8 percent African American (2004 Census Bureau population estimates).



Within Iowa, the metropolitan population is 92.8 percent white and 3.5 percent African American. The micropolitan population is 96.5 percent white and 1.6 percent African American. The noncore population is 98.4 percent white and 0.4 percent African American.

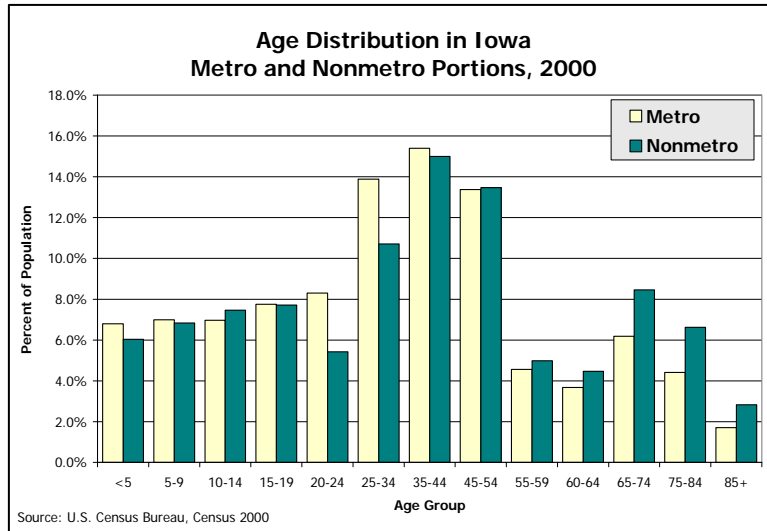


People of Hispanic origin make up 3.5 percent of Iowa’s population, compared to 14.1 percent of the total U.S. population. Within Iowa, people of Hispanic origin make up 3.8 percent of the metropolitan population, 4.7 percent of the micropolitan population, and 2.2 percent of the noncore population. 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 most cases these represent small numbers and portions of the total population, the Hispanic population does account for over 10 percent of total population in six Iowa counties (Woodbury, Marshall, Muscatine, Louisa, Crawford and Buena Vista).

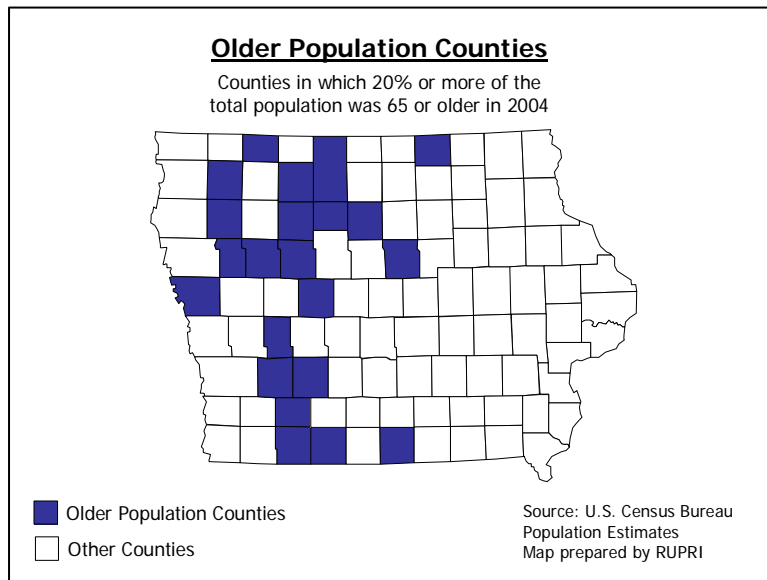


Age

The age distribution of the metro and nonmetro population in Iowa is shown in the chart below. The percent of the population in the 20 to 44 age groups is higher in the metro areas, while the percent of the population age 55 and over is higher in the nonmetro areas.

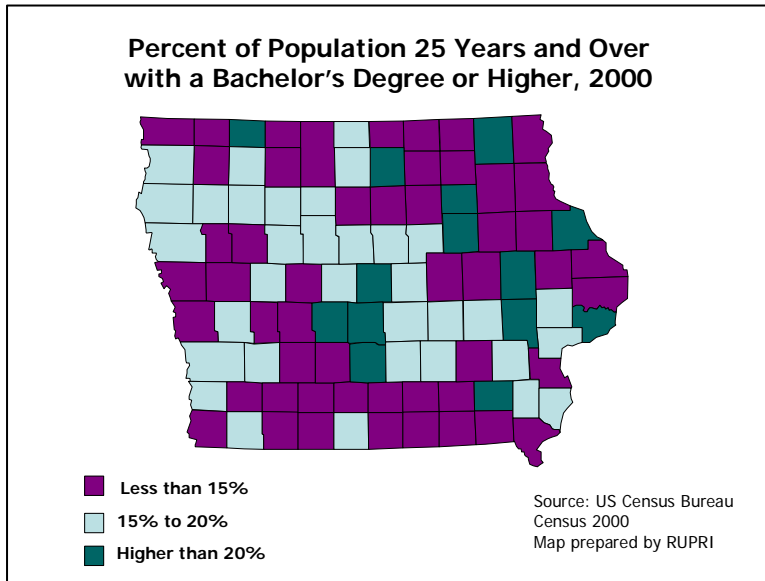


In several Iowa counties the population age 65 and over represents a significant portion of total population. In the 22 counties shown below, the population age 65 and over accounts for over 20 percent of total population. All of these counties are nonmetropolitan.

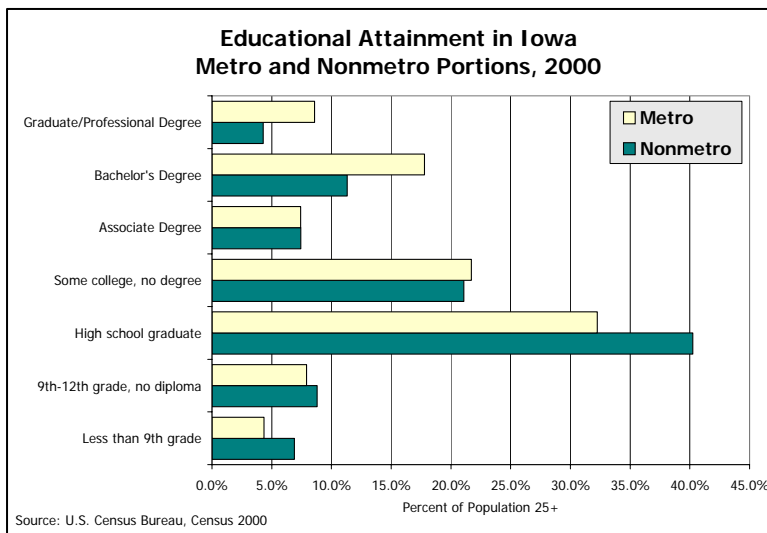


Educational Attainment

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 21.2 percent in Iowa. In metro areas of Iowa, this percentage is 26.4 percent, compared to only 15.6 percent in nonmetro areas. In only 14 counties did over 20 percent of the population earn a B.S. degree or higher - 10 metro and 4 nonmetro counties.

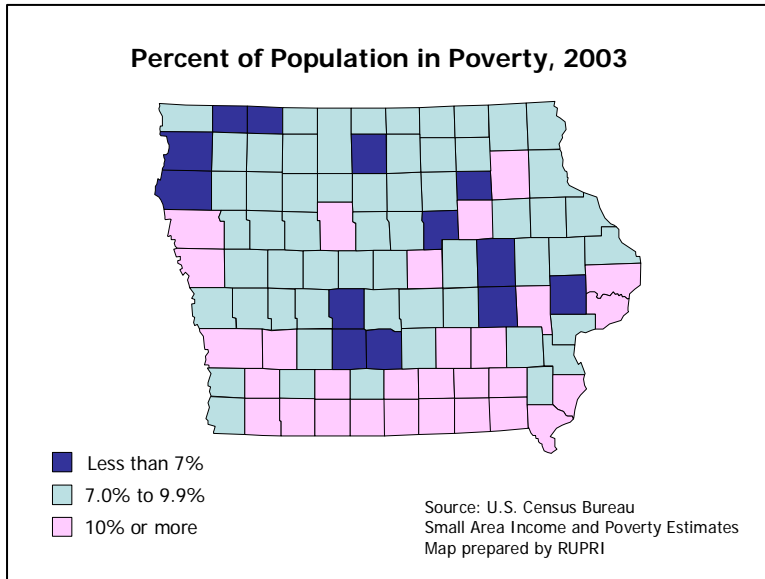


The chart below compares the educational attainment of Iowa's metro and nonmetro populations. The percent of the population with high educational attainment (Bachelor's Degree or higher) is greater in the metro areas, while the percent of the population with low educational attainment (high school degree or lower) is greater in the nonmetro areas.



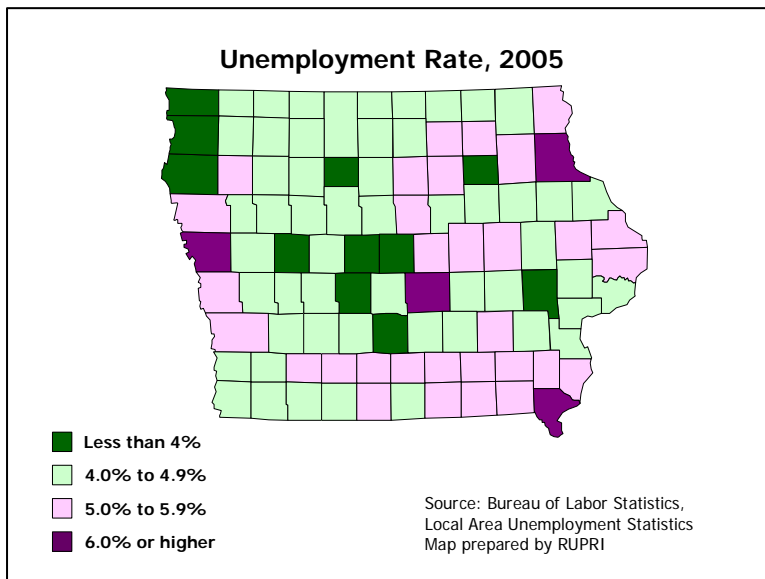
Poverty

The poverty rate in Iowa in 2003 was 9.1 percent, compared to 12.5 percent for the U.S. (Census Bureau estimates). The poverty rates in Iowa counties ranged from 5.2 percent in Dallas County to 14.4 percent in Decatur County.



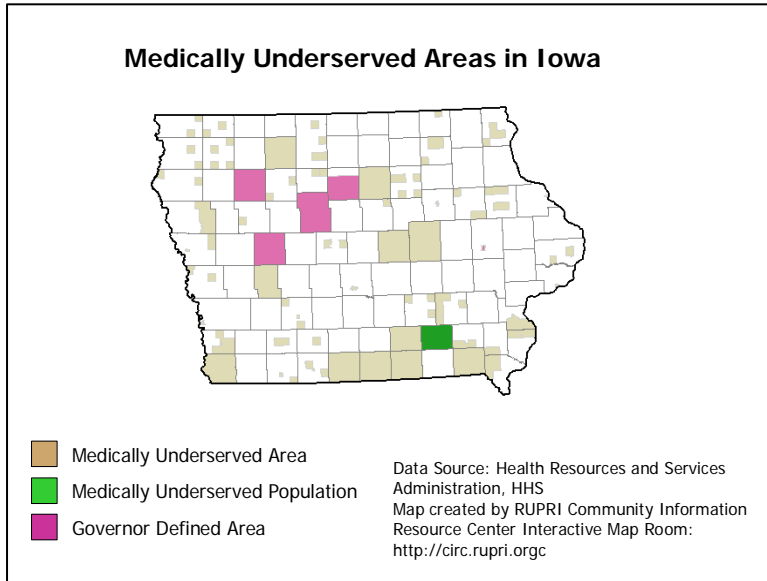
Unemployment

In 2005 the unemployment rate in Iowa was 4.6 percent, compared to 5.1 percent for the nation. Within Iowa, the unemployment rate ranged from 3.0 percent in Sioux County to 7.1 percent in Lee County.

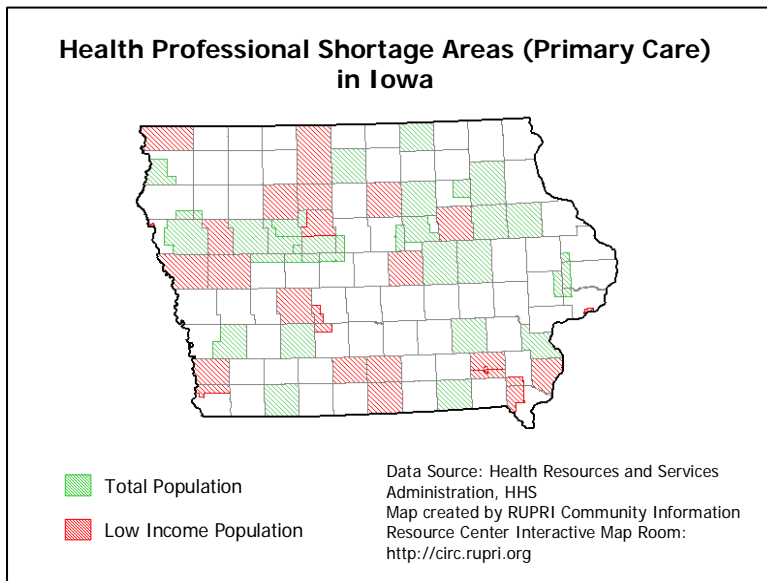


Health Care Services

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

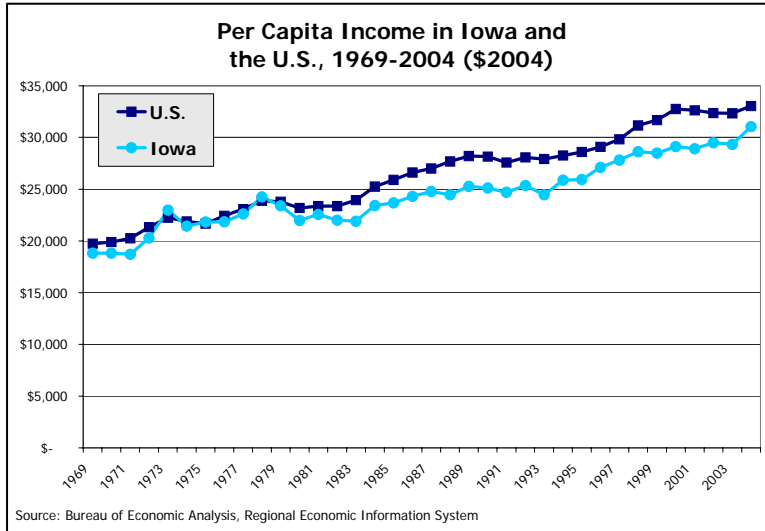


Health Professional Shortage Areas (HPSAs) are those areas that “may have shortages of primary medical care, dental or mental health providers and may be urban or rural areas, population groups, or medical or other public facilities” (Health Resources and Services Administration, HHS). Within Iowa, several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

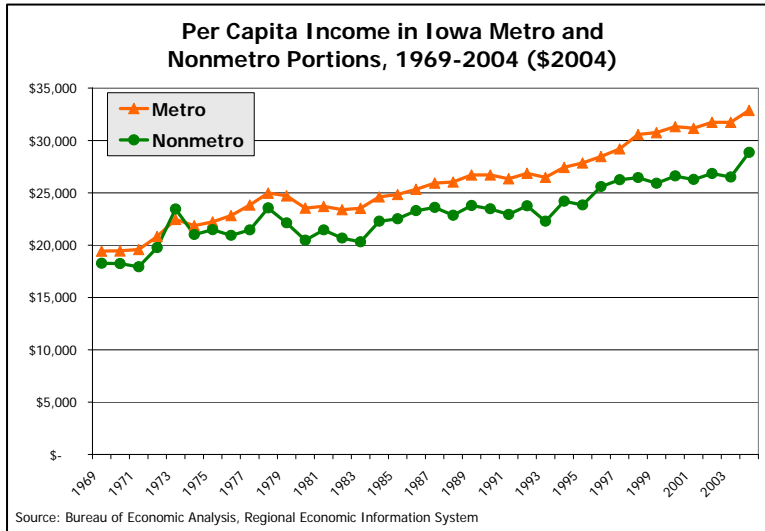


Per Capita Income

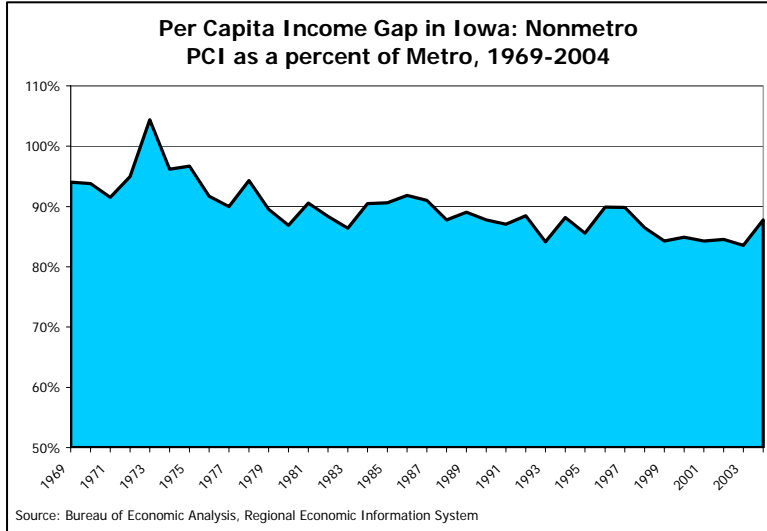
Iowa's per capita income has closely mirrored the nation, with Iowa's income lagging slightly behind over most of the past several decades. In 2004, per capita income in Iowa was \$31,058, compared to \$33,050 for the U.S.



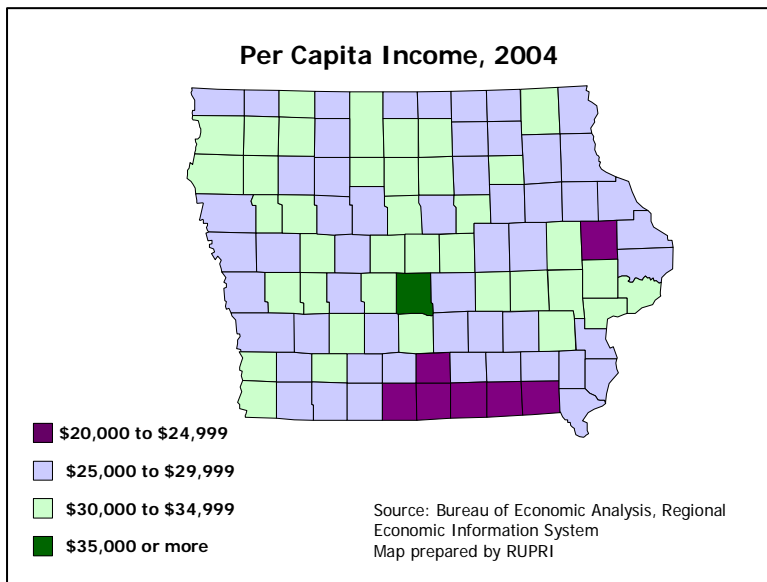
Nonmetro per capita income in Iowa has lagged behind metro through much of the past several decades, with the exception of 1973. In 2004, metro per capita income was \$32,888, compared to \$28,863 in nonmetro areas.



The per capita income gap between metro and nonmetro areas is measured with nonmetro per capita income as a percent of metro. In Iowa, the gap increased during the late 1970s, but has remained relatively steady in recent years. In 2004, nonmetro per capita income was 87.8 percent of metro per capita income.

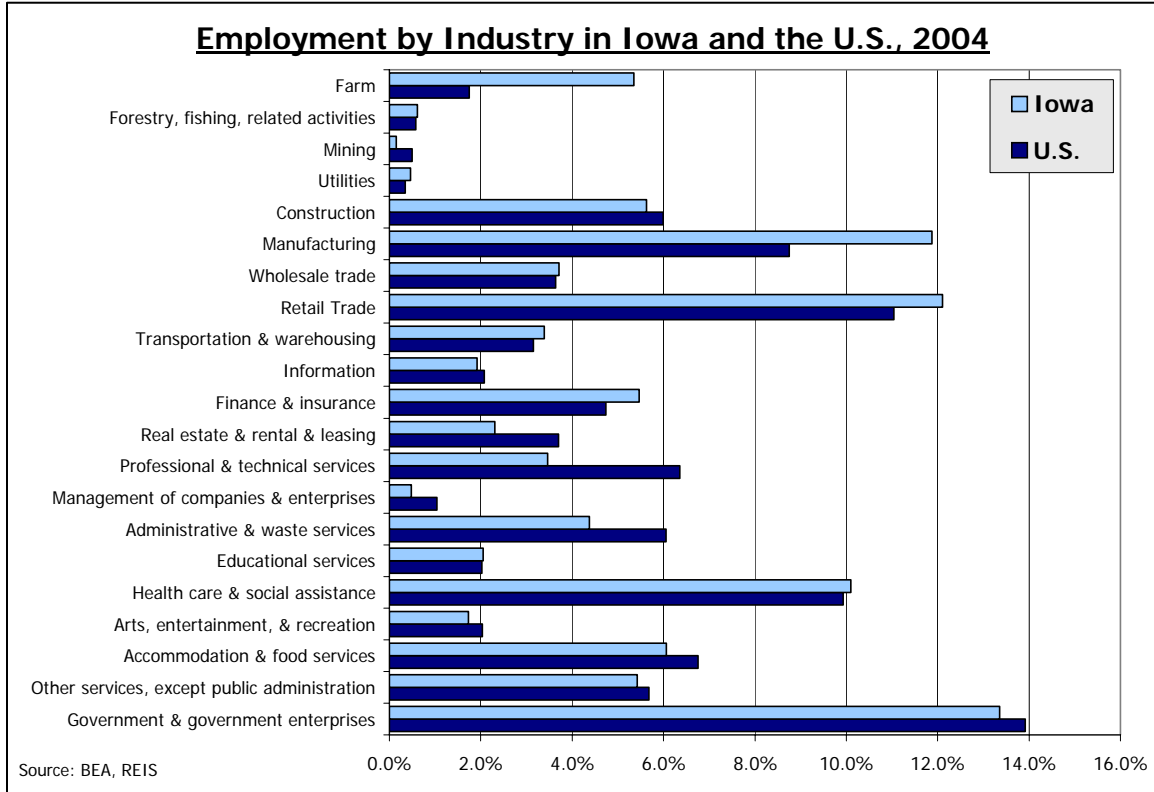


Within Iowa, per capita income in 2004 ranged from \$20,579 in Decatur County to \$37,862 in Polk County.

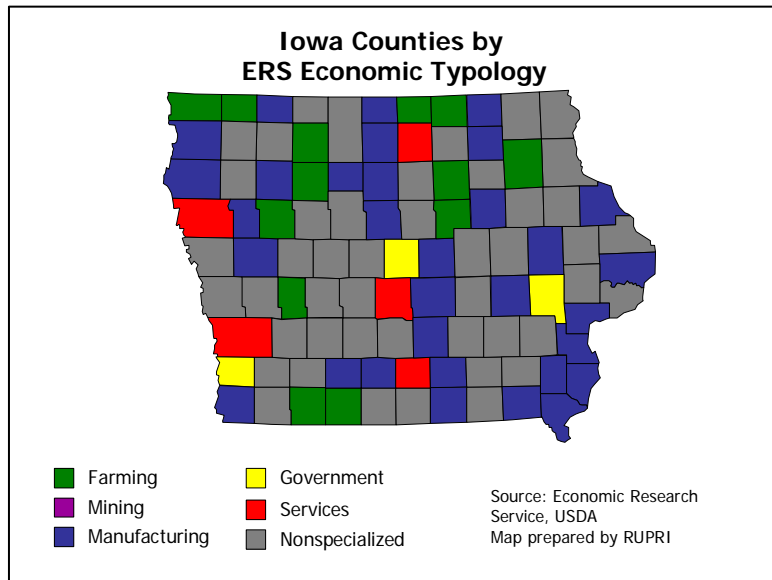


Employment Structure

In 2004, government and government enterprises accounted for the largest shares of total employment both in Iowa (13.4%) and the U.S. (13.9%). Retail trade was the second largest employment sector, accounting for 12.1 percent of Iowa employment and 11.0 percent of total U.S. employment.

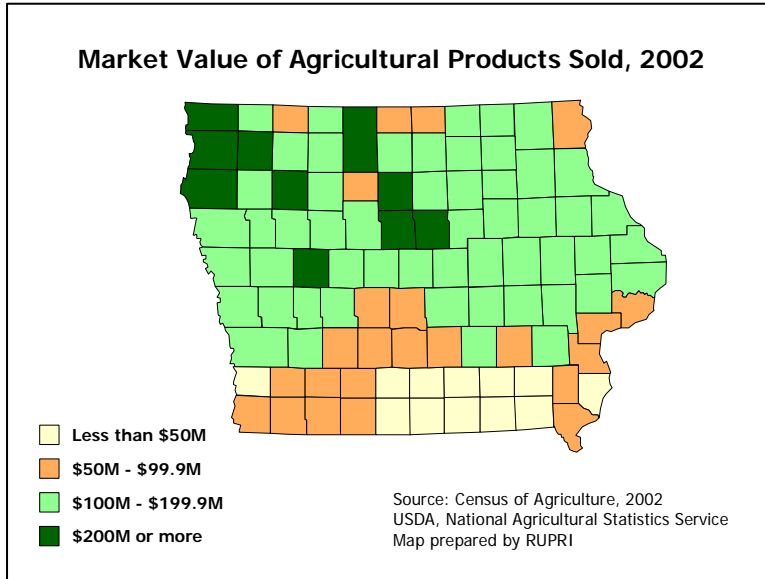


The ERS Economic Typology classifies counties into one of five industry categories of specialization or as nonspecialized. The map to the right shows the classification of Iowa counties by this typology. The map illustrates the diversity of Iowa's economy.

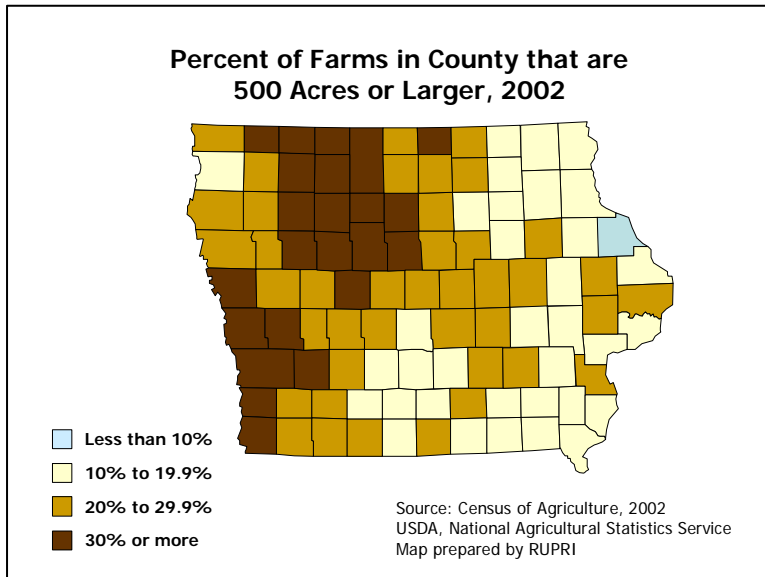


Agriculture

Agriculture is an important industry in many parts of Iowa. Thirteen counties are classified by the Economic Research Service as farming dependent (see map on previous page). The map below shows the value of agricultural products sold in 2002 for Iowa counties.

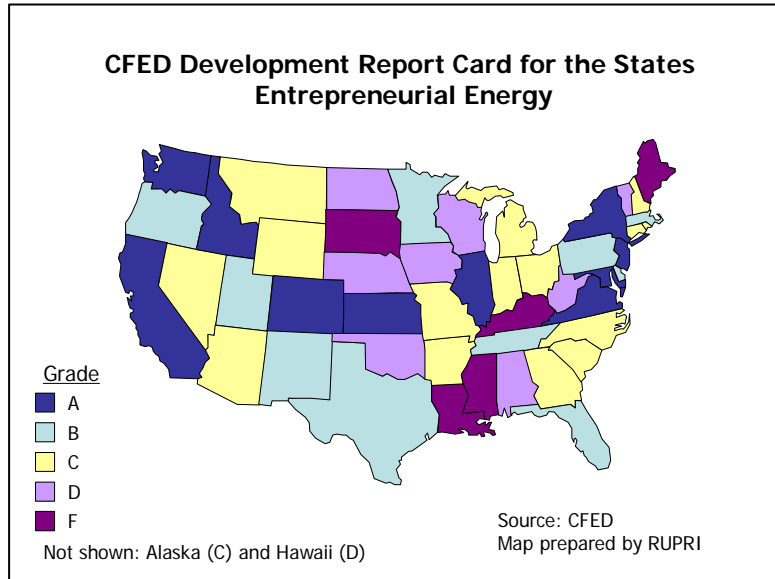


Average farm size in Iowa is 350 acres, and 22.7 percent of farms are 500 acres or larger.

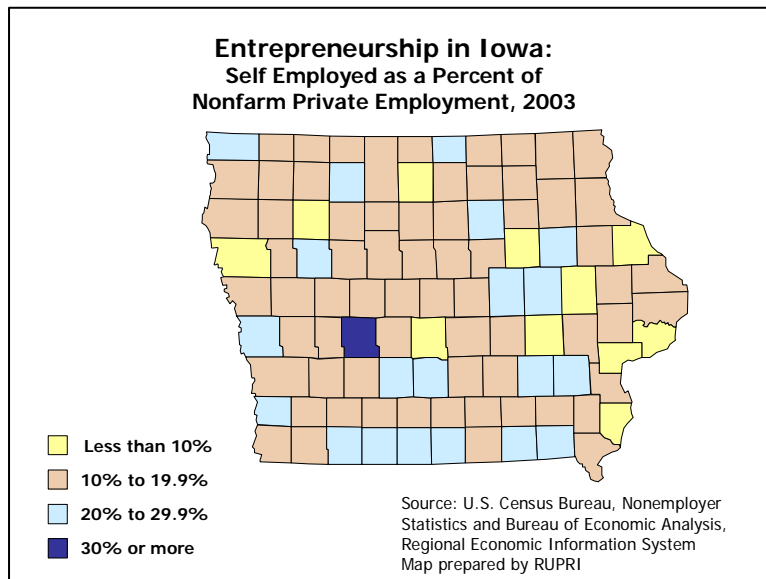


Entrepreneurship

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. Iowa’s rating on this indicator is “D.”

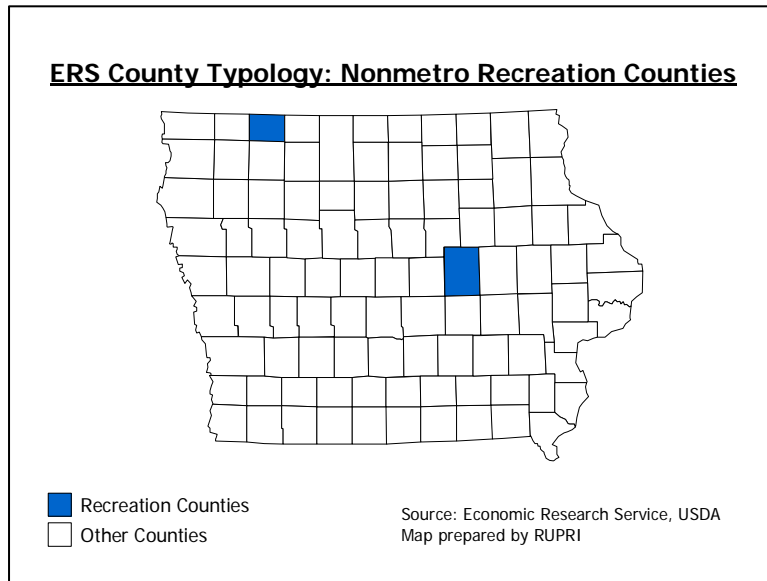


As mentioned, county level indicators of entrepreneurship are difficult to ascertain, but a good indicator is the proportion of workers that are self employed. The map below shows self employed workers as a percent of nonfarm private employment in the county.



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, with two located in Iowa - Dickinson and Tama Counties.



Data Sources and References

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<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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