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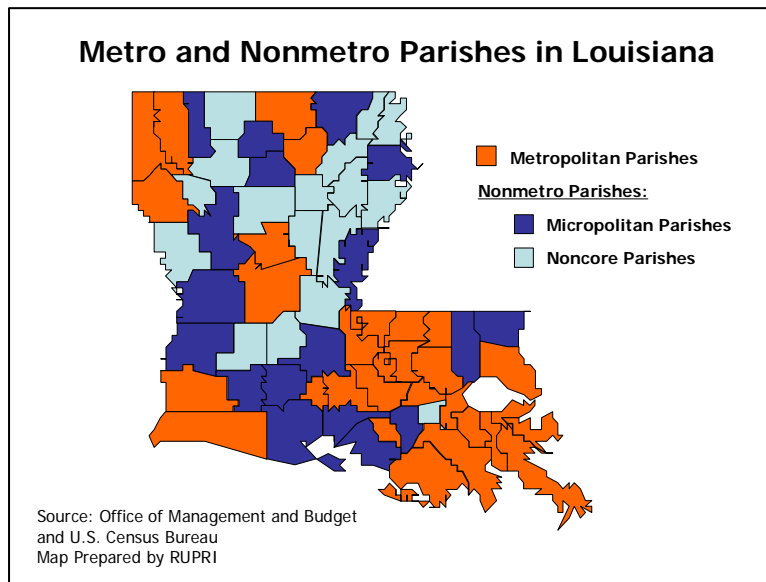
Demographic and Economic Profile

Louisiana

Updated July 2006

Metro and Nonmetro Parishes in Louisiana

Based on the most recent listing of core based statistical areas by the Office of Management and Budget (December 2005), 29 parishes in Louisiana are part of metropolitan areas, and 18 parishes 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 17 parishes in Louisiana are considered noncore areas. Using these classifications and the population estimates for 2005, 75.1 percent of Louisiana residents live in metropolitan areas, 18.1 percent live in micropolitan areas, and 6.8 percent live in noncore areas.

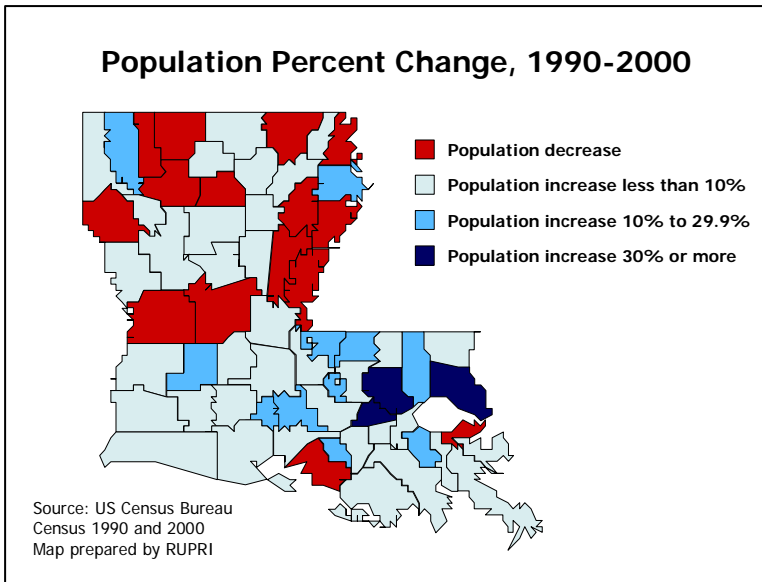


Population

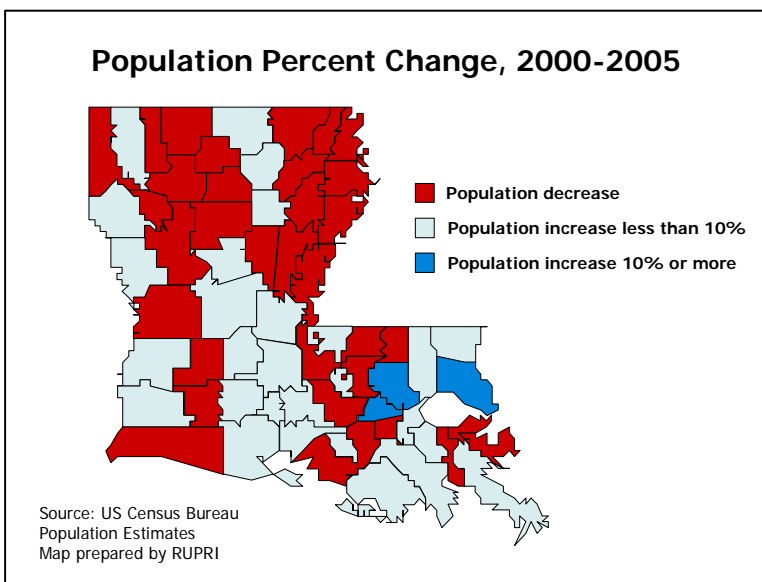
Louisiana's population in July of 2005 was 4,523,623, up 1.2 percent from the 2000 Census. During the 1990s, the population in Louisiana increased by 5.9 percent. Nationally, population increased 13.1 percent during the 1990s, and 5.3 percent from April 2000 to July 2005. The population growth in metro areas of Louisiana outpaced the nonmetro areas, and the noncore areas lost population during the 2000 to 2005 period.

Percent Change in Population		
Area:	1990-2000	2000-2005
U.S.	13.1%	5.3%
Louisiana	5.9%	1.2%
Metropolitan	6.8%	1.7%
Nonmetropolitan	3.3%	-0.2%
Micropolitan	3.4%	0.3%
Noncore	3.0%	-1.6%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau

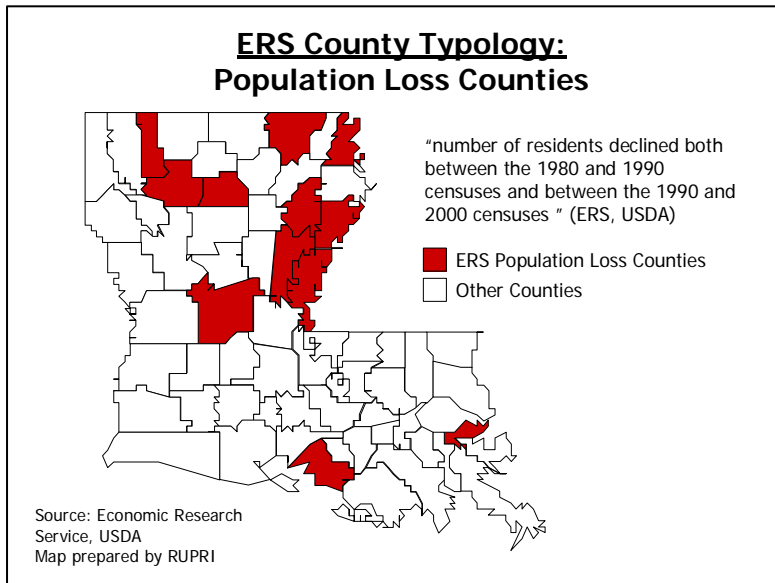


During the 1990s, 15 parishes in Louisiana lost population, all but three of them nonmetro. The fastest growth was in St. Tammany Parish in the New Orleans-Metairie-Kenner Metropolitan Area, with a population increase of 32.4 percent during the 1990s.



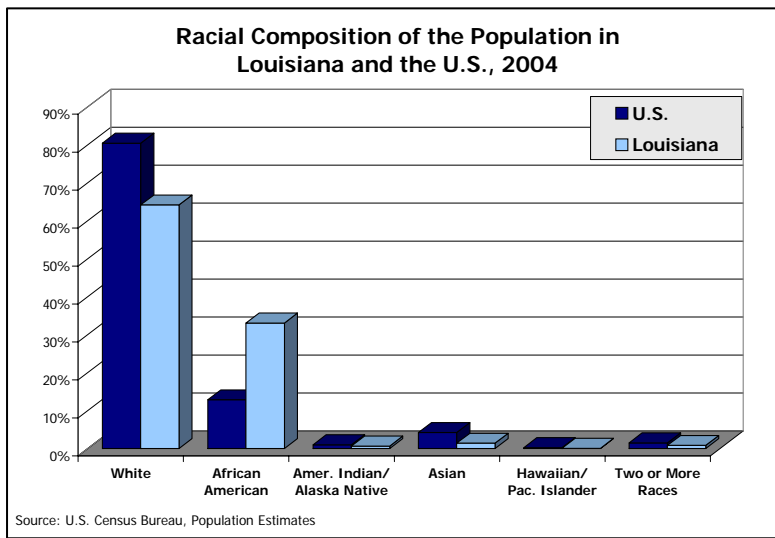
From 2000 to 2005, 34 parishes in Louisiana lost population (10 metro and 24 nonmetro parishes). The fastest growth during this time was in Livingston County in the Baton Rouge Metropolitan Area with a population increase of 19.0 percent.

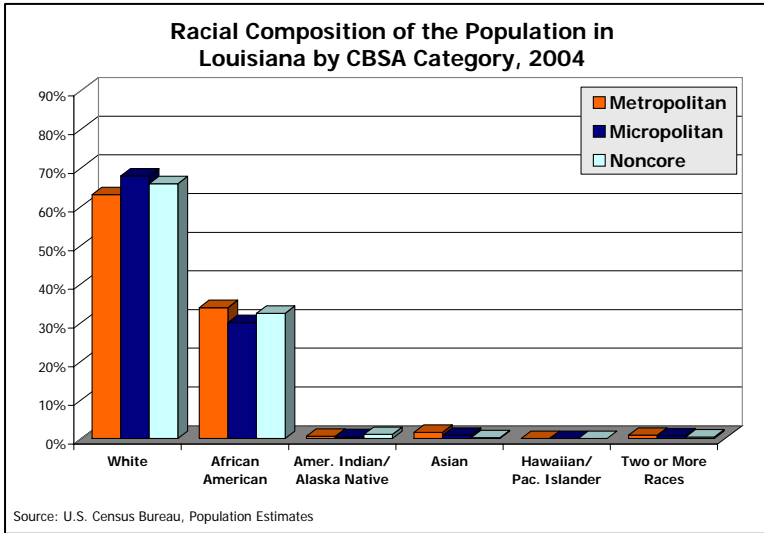
The Economic Research Service, USDA, classifies counties as population loss counties if they lost population from 1980 to 1990 and from 1990 to 2000. In Louisiana, 12 parishes are classified as population loss counties (2 metro and 10 nonmetro parishes).



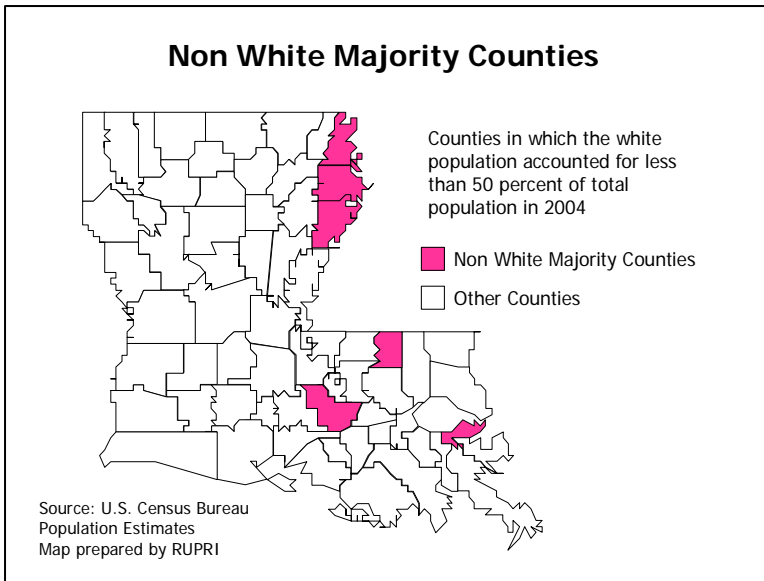
Race / Ethnicity

The population in Louisiana is 64.1 percent white and 33.0 percent African American. Nationally, the population is 80.4 percent white and 12.8 percent African American (2004 Census Bureau population estimates).

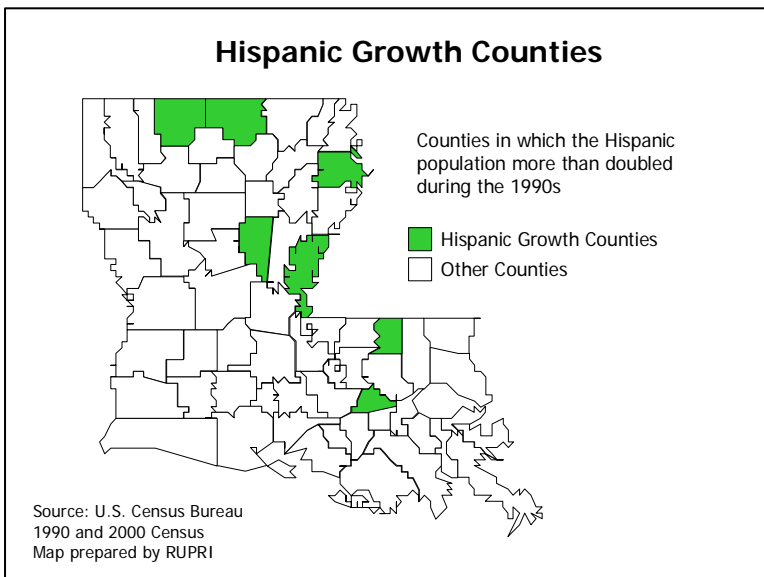




Within Louisiana, the metropolitan population is 63.1 percent white and 33.8 percent African American. The micropolitan population is 67.9 percent white and 30.0 percent African American, and the noncore population is 65.9 percent white and 32.4 percent African American.



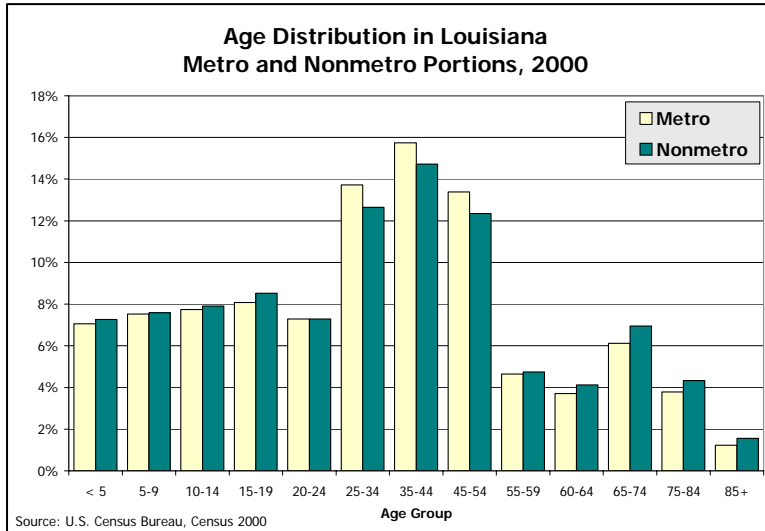
Six Louisiana parishes have a non-white majority population; that is, the white population accounts for less than 50 percent of total population. In most of these parishes, African Americans account for the majority of population. In Iberville Parish, no race accounts for a majority of population (white is 49.2% and African American is 49.9%).



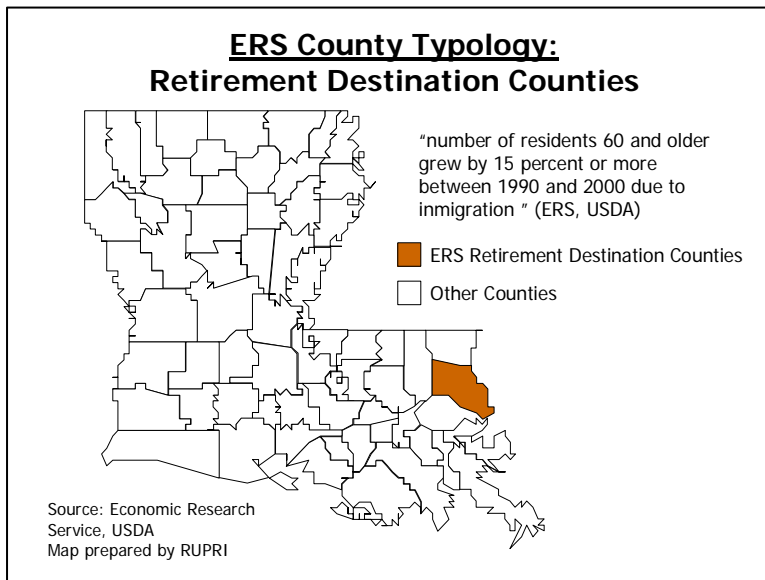
People of Hispanic origin make up 2.8 percent of Louisiana's population, and 14.1 percent of the total U.S. population. Many areas have experienced significant growth in the Hispanic population over the past decade and a half. The map to the right shows the counties in which the Hispanic population more than doubled during the 1990s.

Age

The age distribution of the metro and nonmetro population in Louisiana is shown in the chart below. The percent of the population in the 25 to 44 age groups is greater in the metro areas, while the percent of the population age 65 and over is greater in the nonmetro areas.

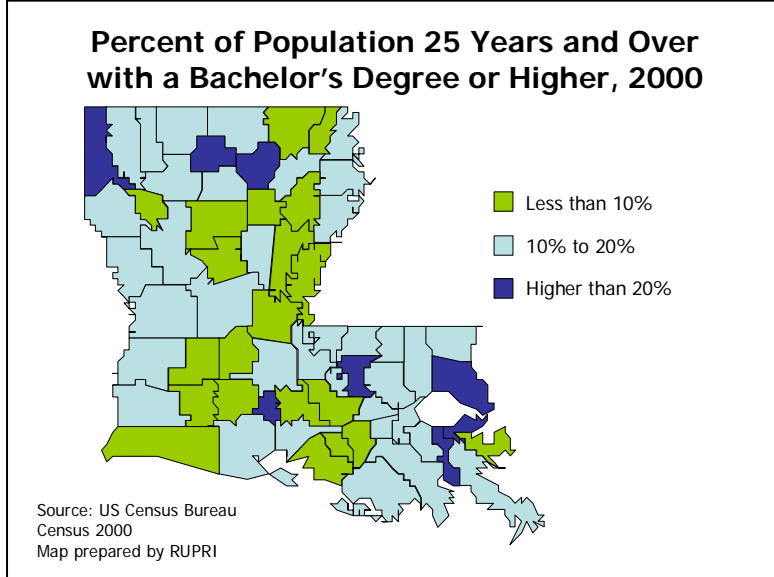


The Economic Research Service classifies counties as retirement destination counties based on population change due to immigration. In Louisiana, St. Tammany Parish is classified as a retirement destination county.

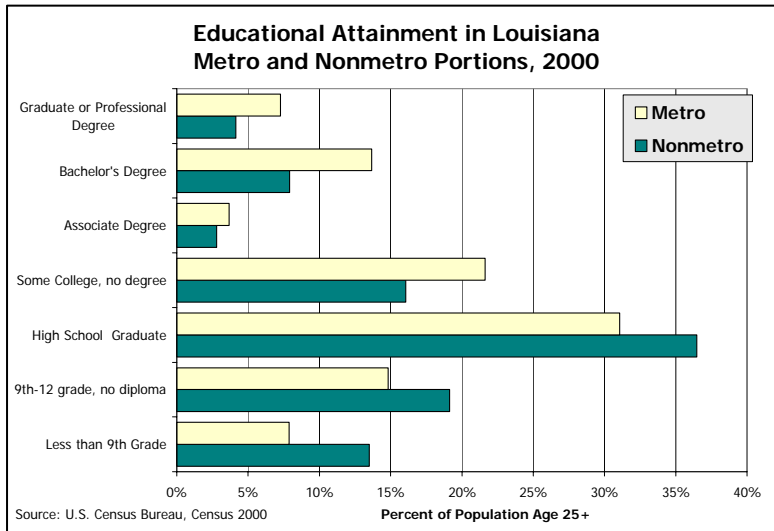


Educational Attainment

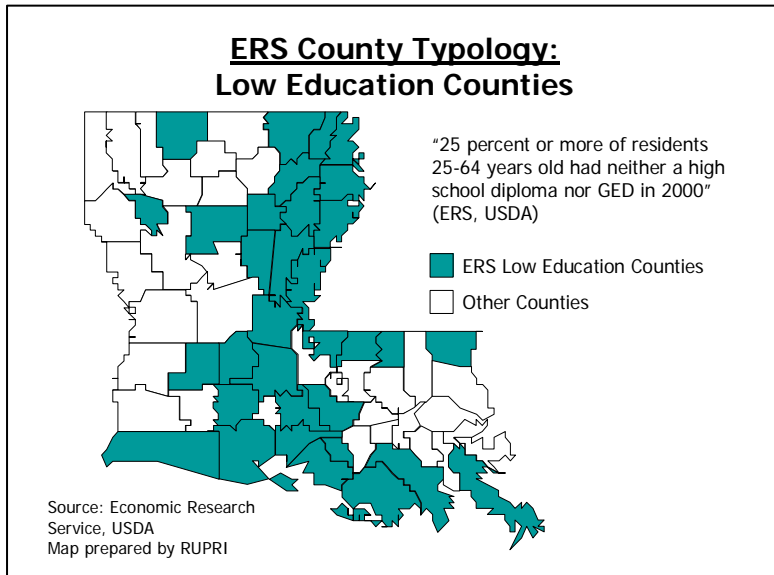
The percent of the population age 25 and over that has earned a Bachelor's Degree or higher is 24.4 percent in the U.S. and 18.7 percent in Louisiana. In metro areas of Louisiana, this percentage is 20.9 percent, compared to only 12.1 percent in nonmetro areas.



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

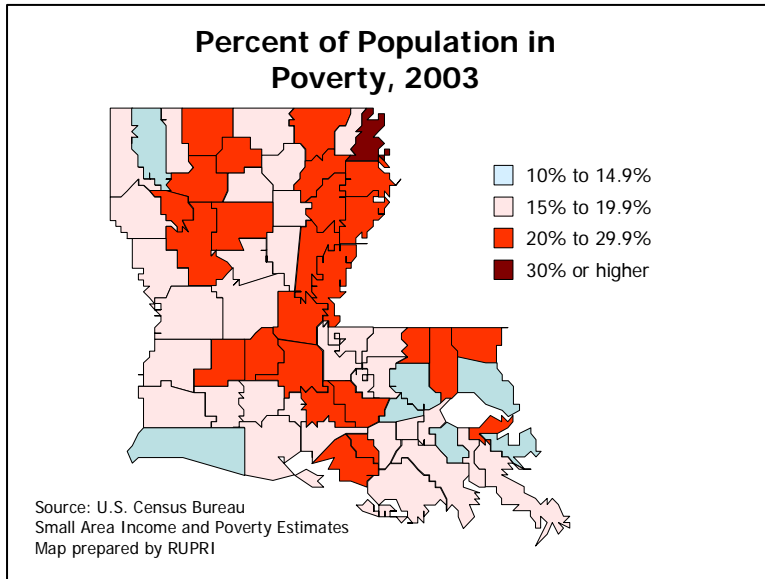


The Economic Research Service classifies counties as low education counties if “25 percent or more of residents 25-64 years old had neither a high school diploma nor GED in 2000.” In Louisiana, 33 parishes (9 metro and 24 nonmetro) are classified as low education counties.

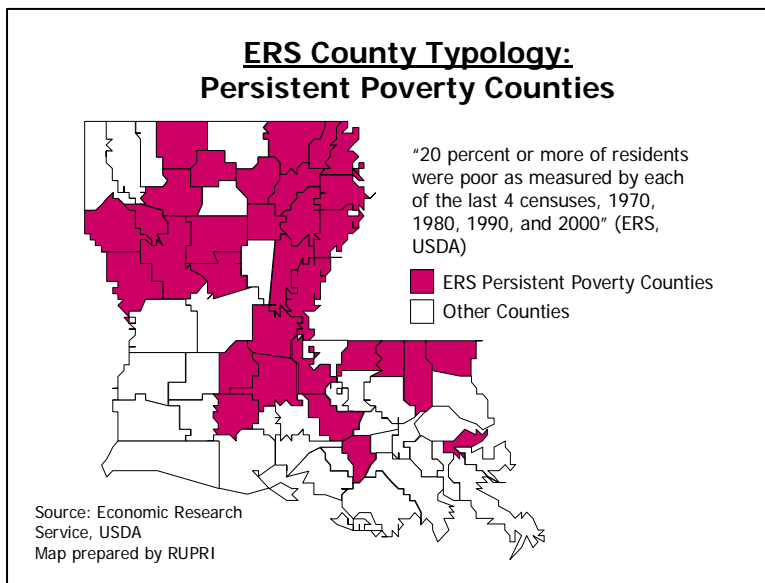


Poverty

The poverty rate in Louisiana in 2003 was 18.1 percent, compared to 12.5 percent for the U.S. (Census Bureau estimates). Within Louisiana, the 2003 poverty rate ranged from 10.5 in St. Tammany Parish to 33.9 percent in East Carroll Parish.

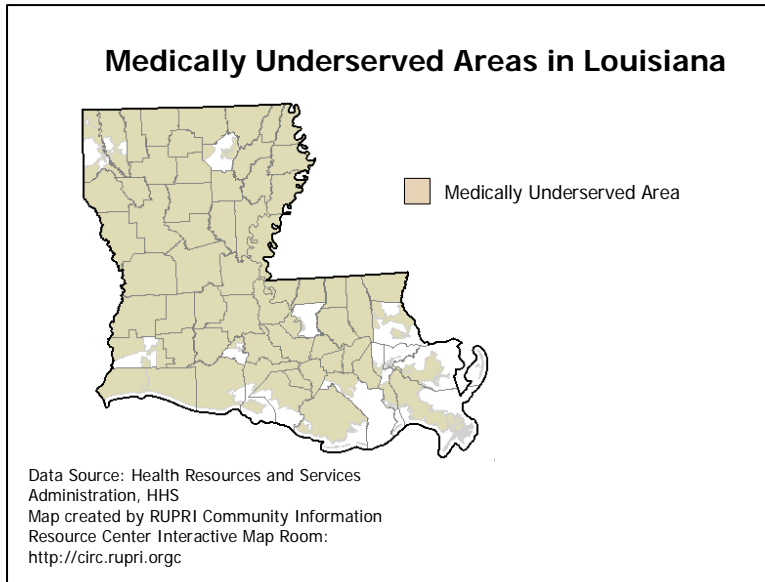


The Economic Research Service classifies counties as persistent poverty counties if they experienced poverty rates of 20 percent or higher in each census from 1970 through 2000. There are 386 persistent poverty counties in the U.S., and 32 are located in Louisiana (8 metro and 24 nonmetro parishes).

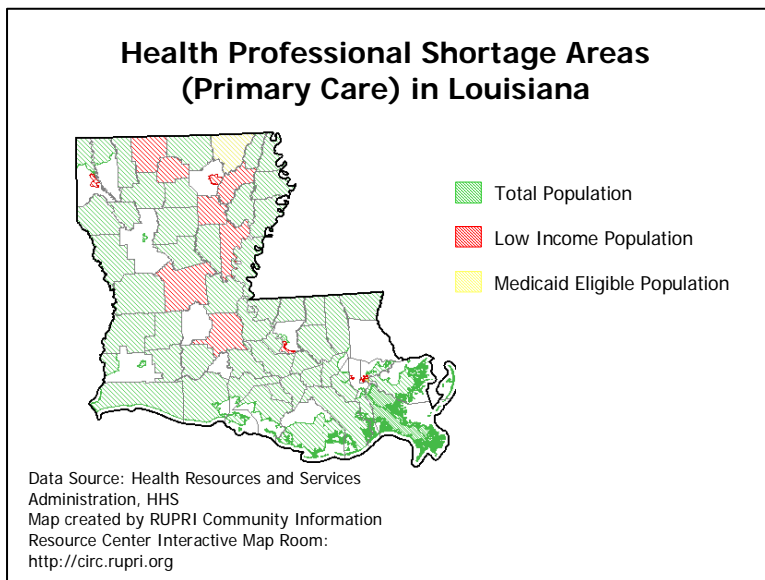


Health Services

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 Louisiana, many areas of the state are considered medically underserved, shown in the map below.

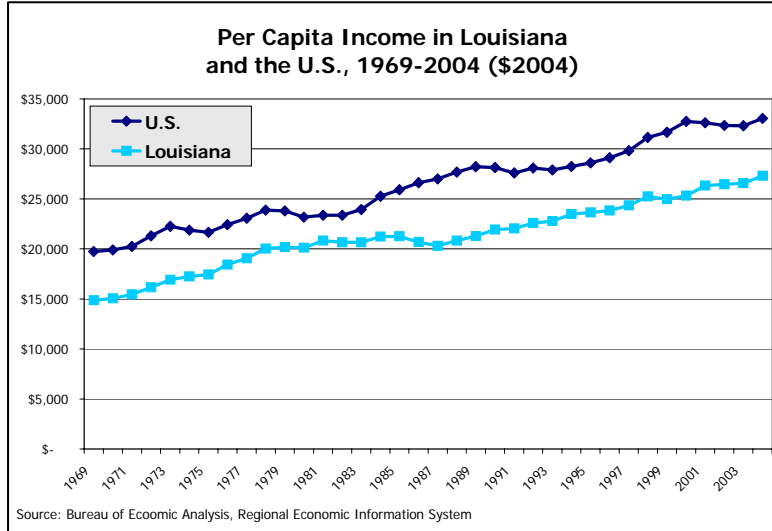


Health Professional Shortage Areas (HPSAs) are those areas that “may have shortages of primary medical care, dental or mental health providers and may be urban or rural areas, population groups, or medical or other public facilities” (Health Resources and Services Administration, HHS). Within Louisiana,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

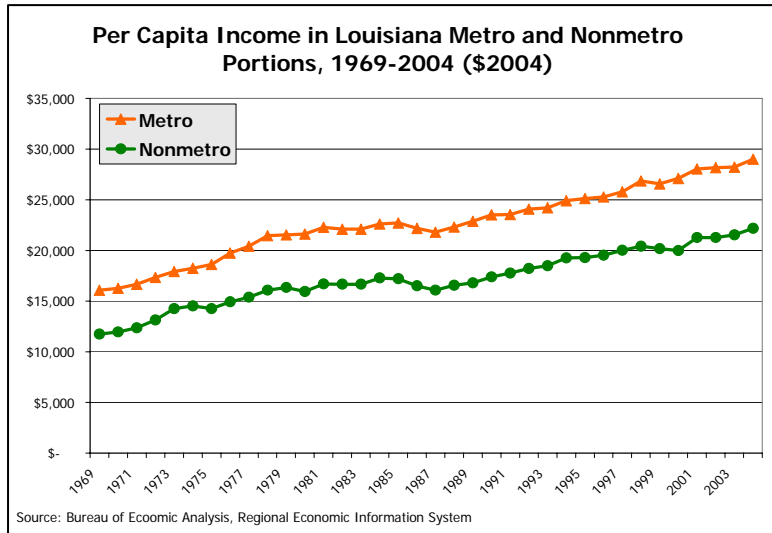


Per Capita Income

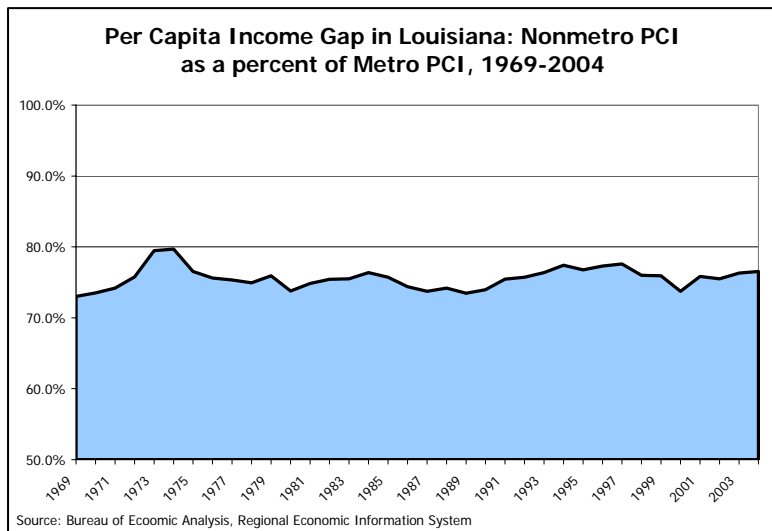
Per capita income trends in Louisiana have mirrored national trends, with Louisiana's income lagging behind over the past several decades. In 2004, per capita income in Louisiana was \$27,297, compared to \$33,050 for the U.S.



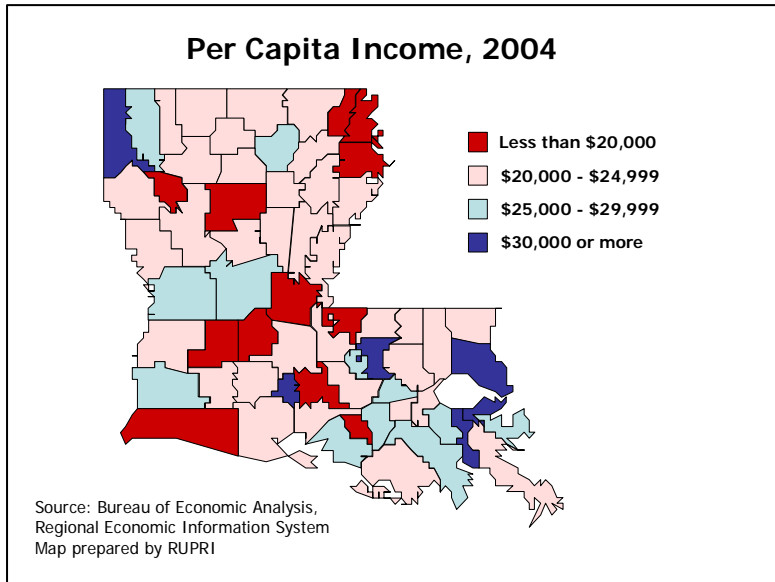
Nonmetro per capita income in Louisiana has lagged behind metro per capita income over the past several decades. In 2004, metro per capita income was \$28,994, compared to \$22,192 in nonmetro areas.



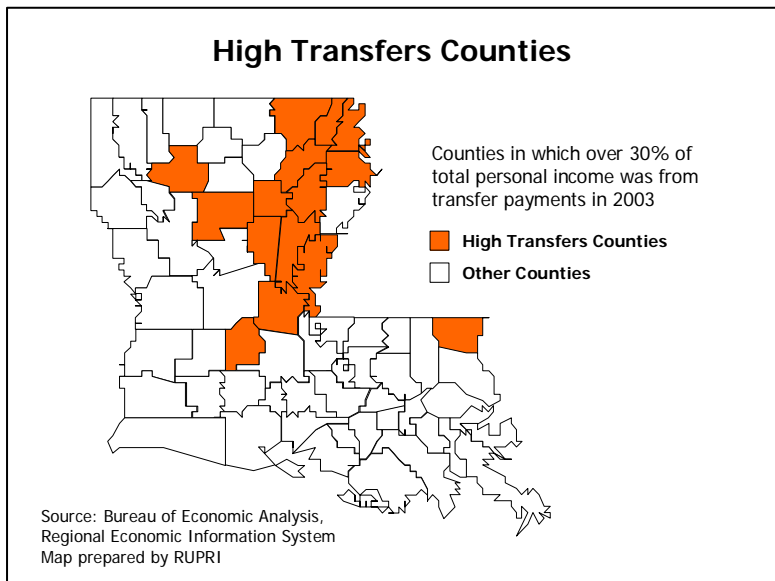
The per capita income gap is measured with nonmetro per capita income as a percent of metro per capita income. In Louisiana, the gap was at its largest in 1969 and at its smallest in 1974. In 2004, nonmetro per capita income was 76.5 percent of metro per capita income.



Within Louisiana, 2004 per capita income ranged from \$18,248 in West Feliciana Parish to \$32,886 in St. Tammany Parish. Eleven parishes (3 metro and 8 nonmetro) had per capita income less than \$20,000 in 2004.

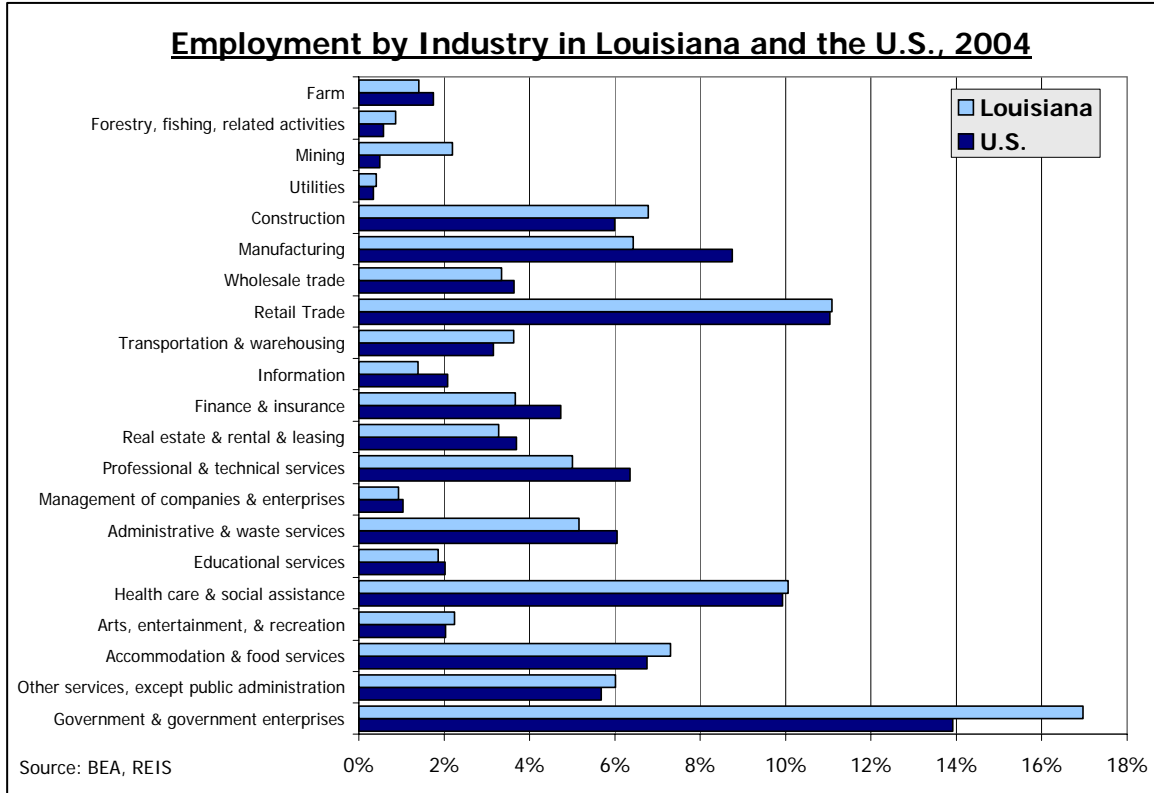


Transfer payments include retirement and disability payments, social security benefits, public assistance, and medical benefits. In Louisiana, 15 parishes incomes' rely heavily on transfer payments. In these parishes, shown in the map below, transfer payments account for over 30 percent of total personal income in the parish. All of these parishes are nonmetro.

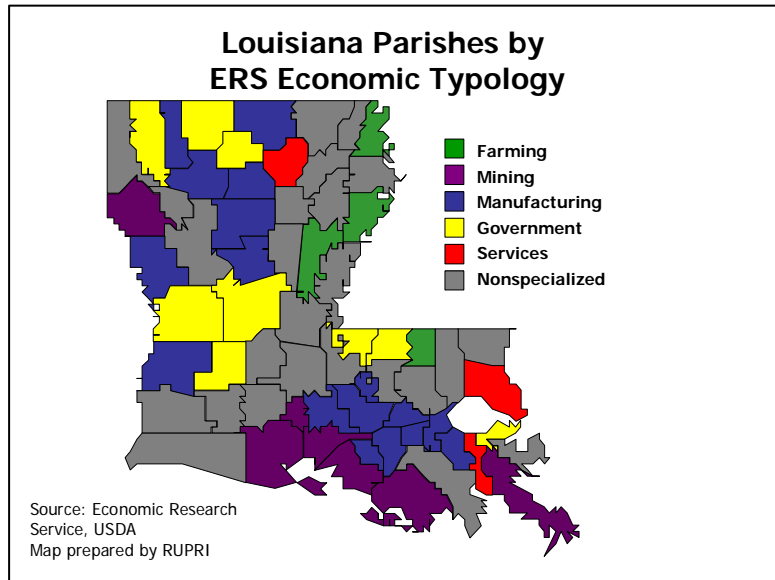


Employment Structure

In 2004, government and government enterprises accounted for the largest shares of employment in Louisiana (17.0%) and the U.S. (13.9%). Retail trade was the second largest employment sector in both Louisiana (11.1%) and the U.S. (11.0%).

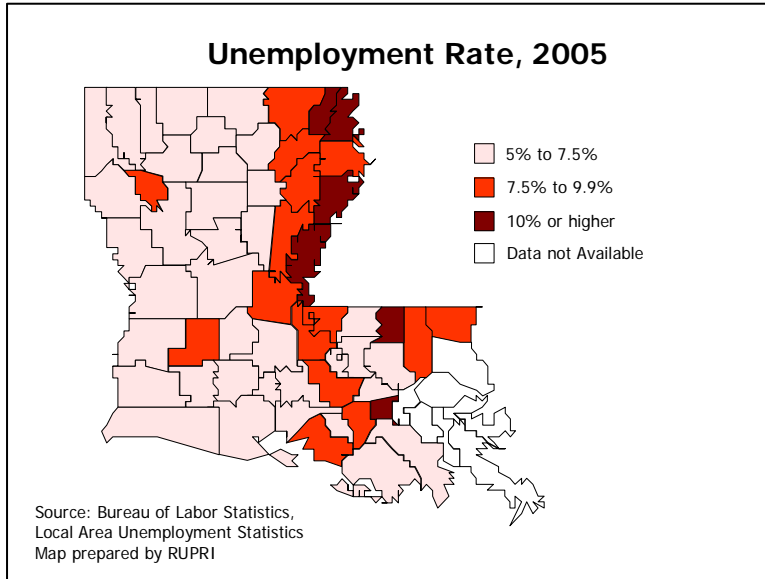


The ERS Economic Typology classifies counties into one of five industry categories of specialization or as nonspecialized. The map to the right shows the classification of Louisiana parishes by this typology, illustrating the diversity across the state.

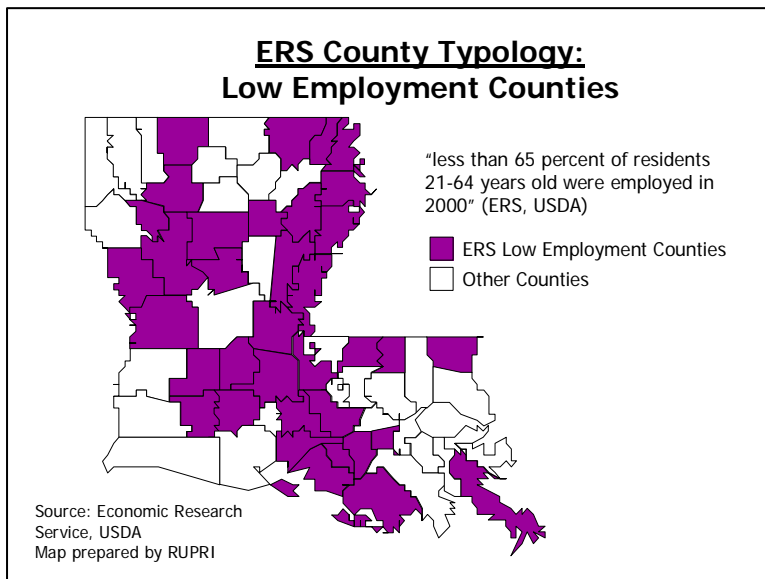


Unemployment

The unemployment rate in Louisiana in 2005 was 7.1 percent, compared to 5.1 percent for the U.S. Within Louisiana, the 2005 unemployment rate ranged from 5.2 percent in Lafayette Parish to 13.7 percent in St. Helena Parish. (This statistic was not available for seven parishes that were affected by Hurricane Katrina).

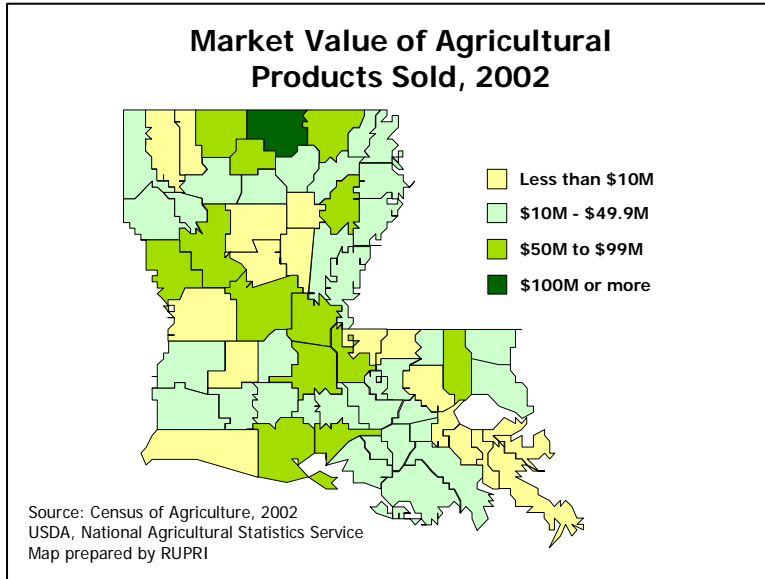


The Economic Research Service classifies counties as low employment counties if “less than 65 percent of residents 21-64 years old were employed in 2000.” In Louisiana, 35 parishes (8 metro and 27 nonmetro) are classified as low employment counties.

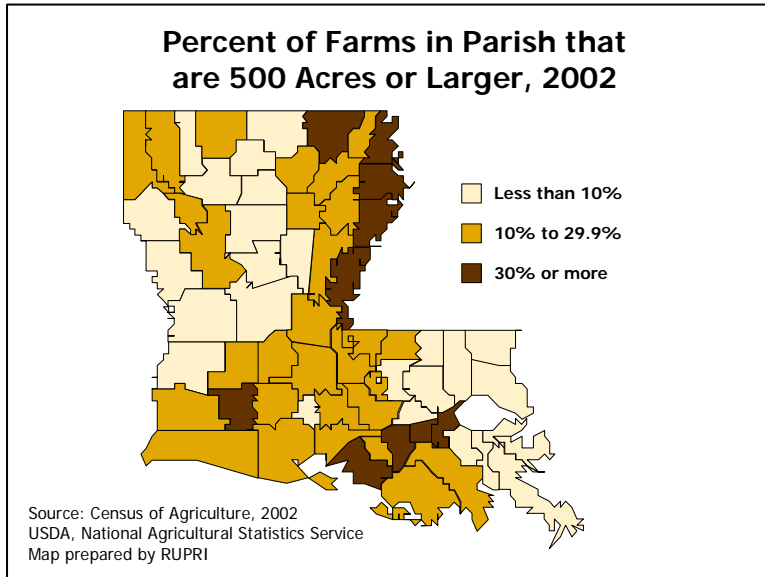


Agriculture

Agriculture is an important industry in several parts of Louisiana, and four parishes 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 Louisiana parishes. In Union Parish, the value was over \$100 million.

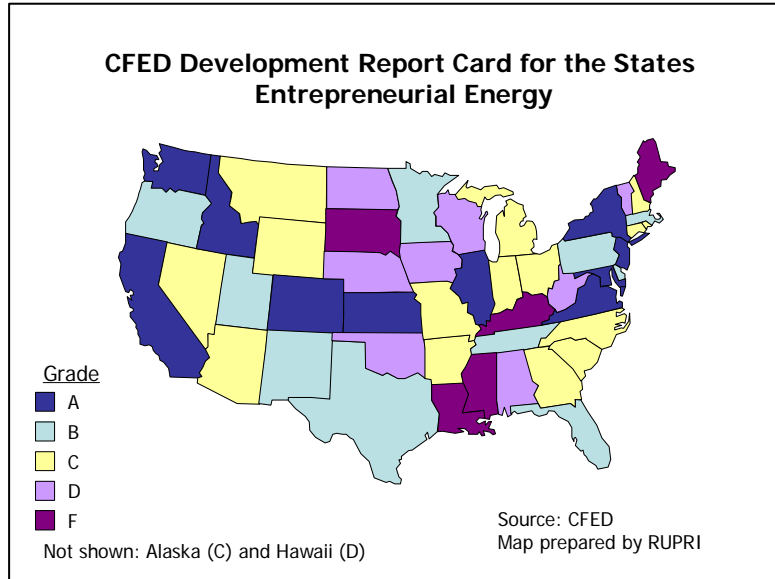


Average farm size in Louisiana is 286 acres, and 13.9 percent of farms in the state are 500 acres or larger.

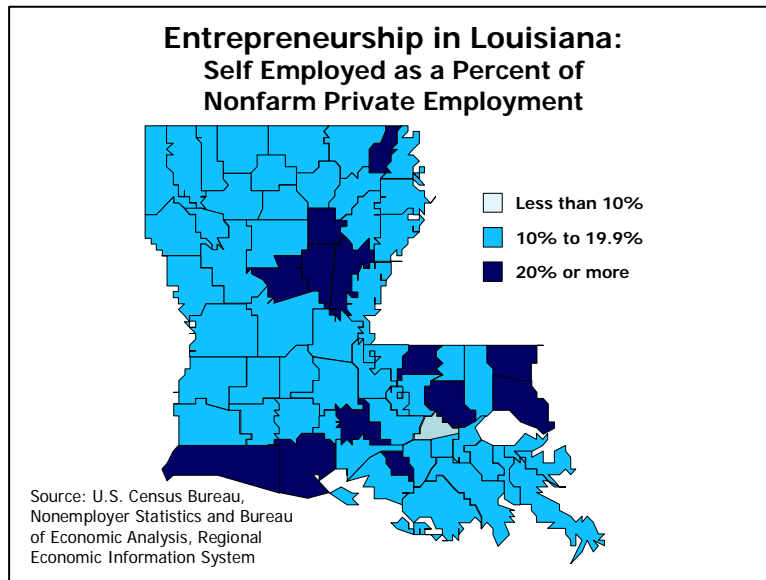


Entrepreneurship

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. Louisiana’s ranking shows room for improvement.

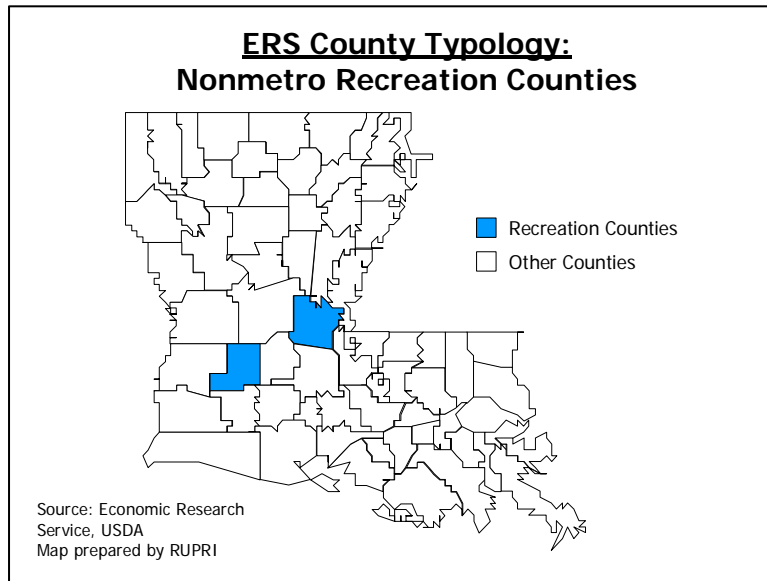


As mentioned, county level indicators of entrepreneurship are difficult to ascertain, but a good indicator is the proportion of workers that are self employed. The map below shows self employed workers as a percent of nonfarm private employment in the parish.



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. Nationally, 334 counties are classified as nonmetro recreation counties, and two are located in Louisiana.



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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