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Demographic and Economic Profile

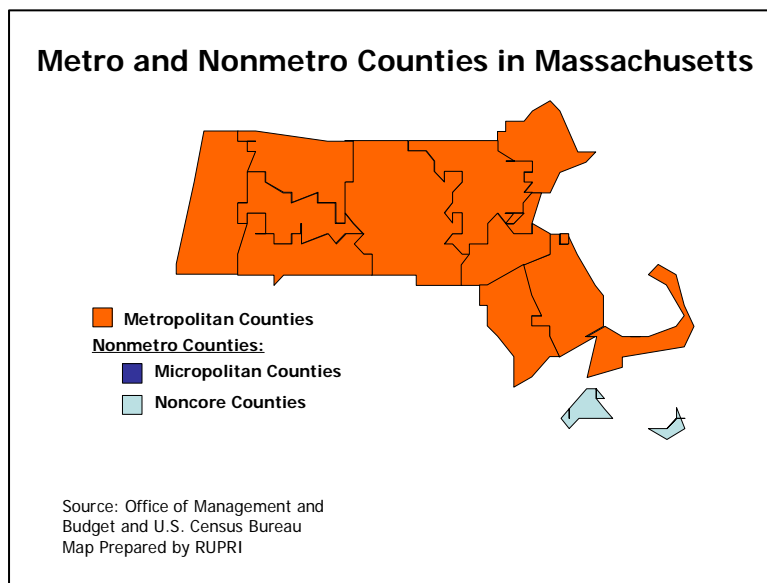
Massachusetts

Updated June 2006

Metro and Nonmetro Counties in Massachusetts

Based on the most recent listing of core based statistical areas by the Office of Management and Budget (December 2005), 12 counties in Massachusetts are part of metropolitan areas. Two counties in Massachusetts are nonmetropolitan, and both are classified as noncore counties.

Using these classifications and the population estimates for 2005, 99.6 percent of Massachusetts residents live in metropolitan areas, and 0.4 percent live in noncore areas.

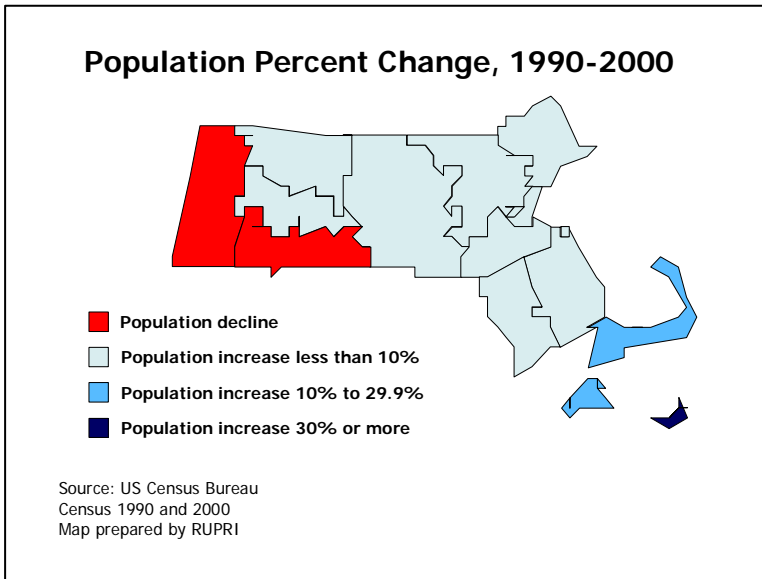


Population

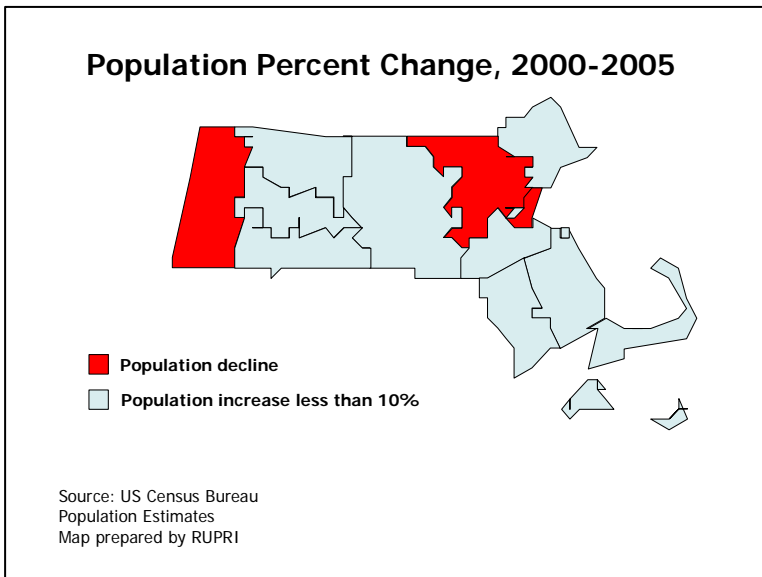
Massachusetts's population in 2005 was 6,398,743, up 0.8 percent from the 2000 Census. During the 1990s, the population in Massachusetts increased 5.5 percent. Nationally, population increased 13.1 percent during the 1990s, and 5.3 percent from April 2000 to July 2005. Population growth in the noncore counties outpaced the metropolitan counties in Massachusetts.

Percent Change in Population		
Area:	1990-2000	2000-2005
U.S.	13.1%	5.3%
Massachusetts	5.5%	0.8%
Metropolitan	5.4%	0.8%
Nonmetropolitan	38.8%	5.1%
Micropolitan	n/a	n/a
Noncore	38.8%	5.1%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau

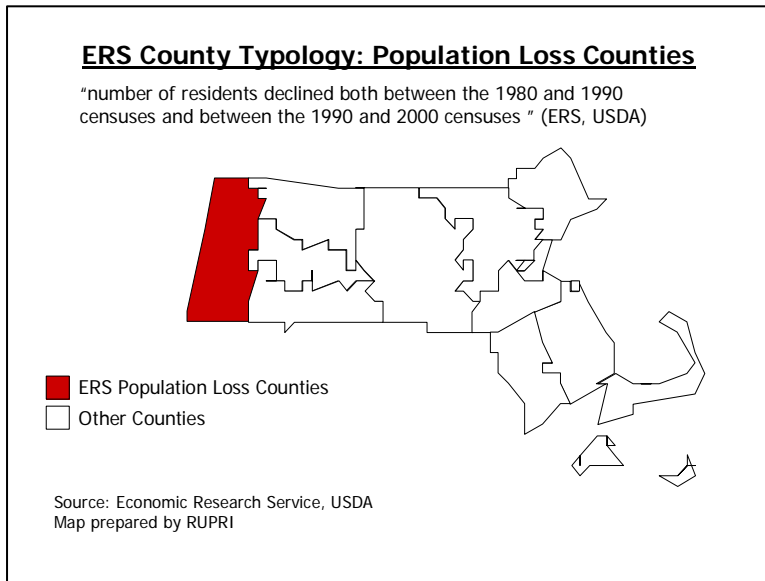


During the 1990s, two counties in Massachusetts lost population. The fastest growth during this time was in Nantucket County, a noncore county, which increased 58.3 percent during the 1990s.



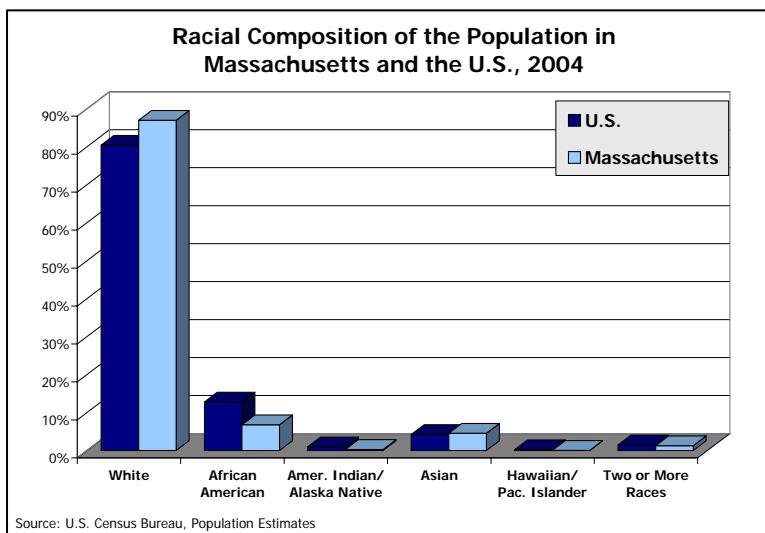
From 2000 to 2005, three counties in Massachusetts lost population. The fastest rate of growth was again in Nantucket County (6.8%).

The Economic Research Service, USDA, classifies counties as population loss counties if the population declined from 1980 to 1990 and from 1990 to 2000. In Massachusetts, Berkshire County is classified as a population loss county.

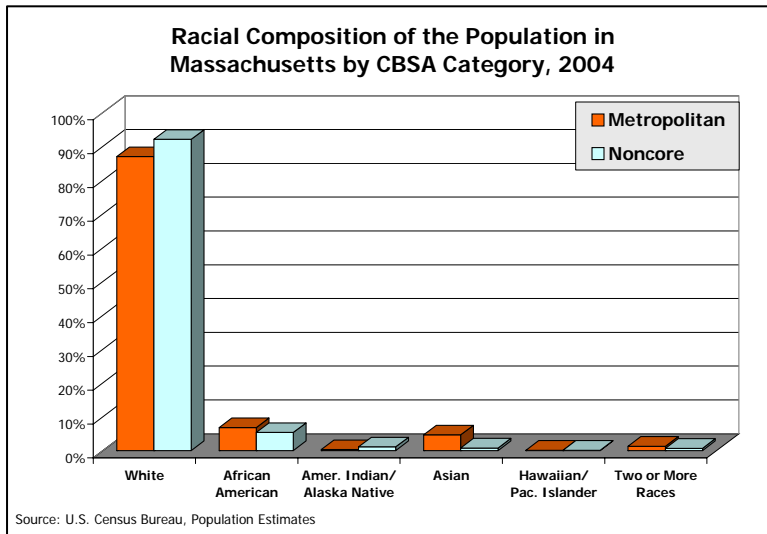


Race / Ethnicity

The population in Massachusetts is 87.0 percent white and 6.8 percent African American. Nationally, the population is 80.4 percent white and 12.8 percent African American (Census Bureau estimates).



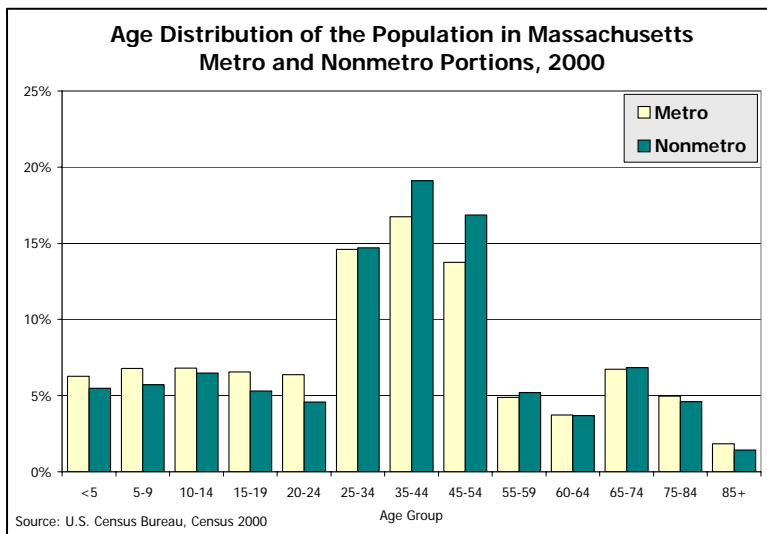
Within Massachusetts, the metropolitan population is 87.0 percent white and 6.8 percent African American. The noncore population is 92.1 percent white and 5.3 percent African American.



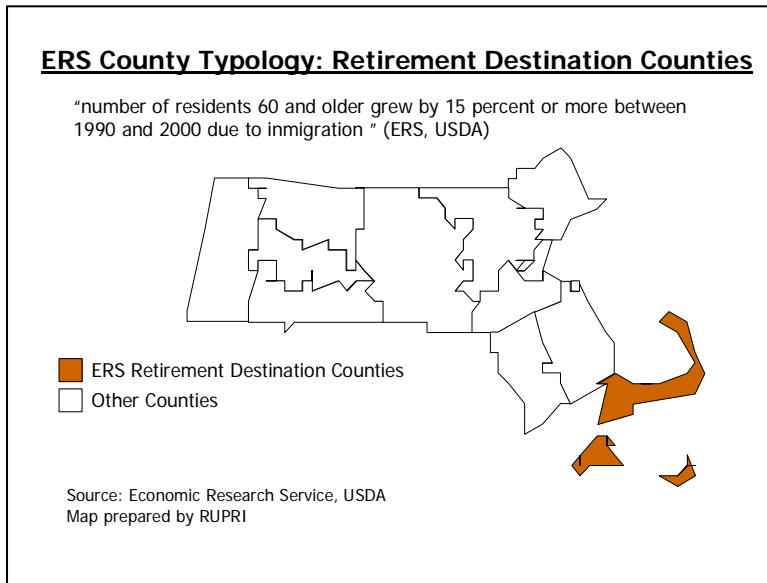
People of Hispanic origin make up 7.7 percent of Massachusetts’s population, compared to 14.1 percent of the total U.S. population. The metropolitan population is 7.7 percent Hispanic, and the noncore population is 2.2 percent Hispanic.

Age

The age distribution of the metro and nonmetro population in Massachusetts is shown in the chart below. The percent of the population in the 44 to 54 age groups is greater in the nonmetro areas, and the percent of the population in the oldest groups is greater in the metro areas.

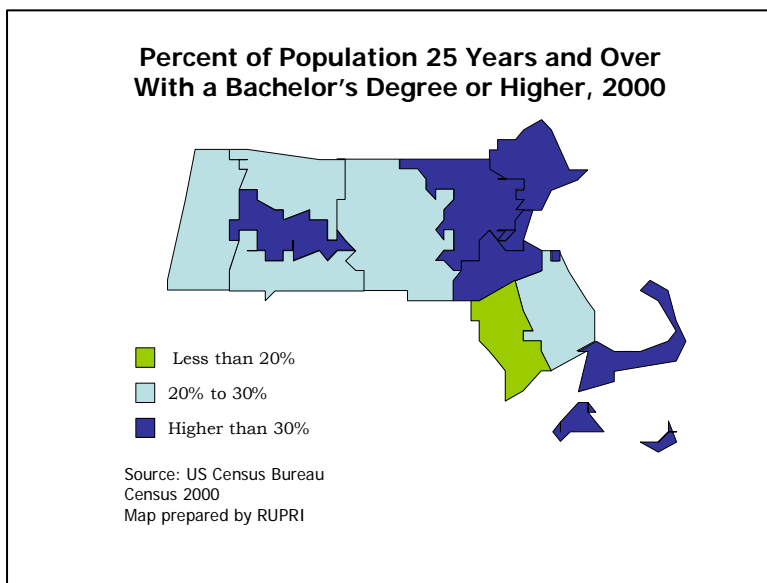


The Economic Research Service classifies counties as retirement destination counties based on population change due to immigration. Three counties in Massachusetts are classified as retirement destination counties.

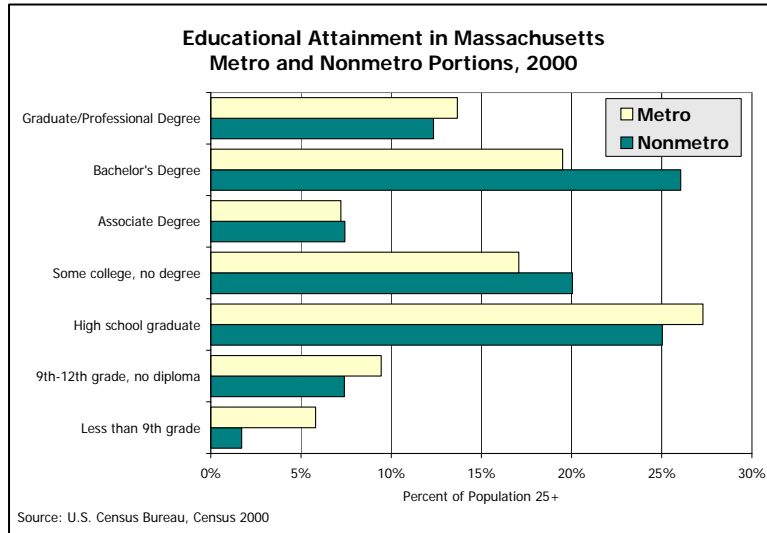


Educational Attainment

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 33.2 percent in Massachusetts. In only one county did less than 20 percent of the population age 25 and over have a Bachelor's degree or higher.

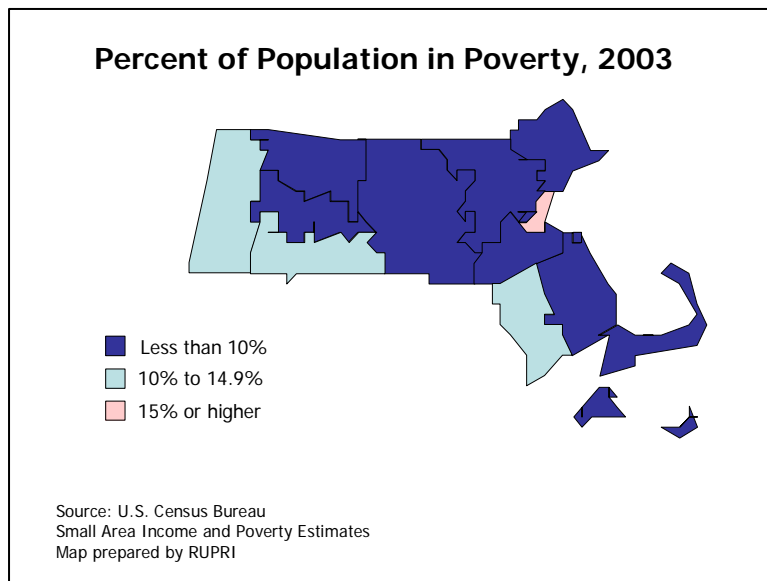


The chart below compares the educational attainment of Massachusetts's metro and nonmetro populations.



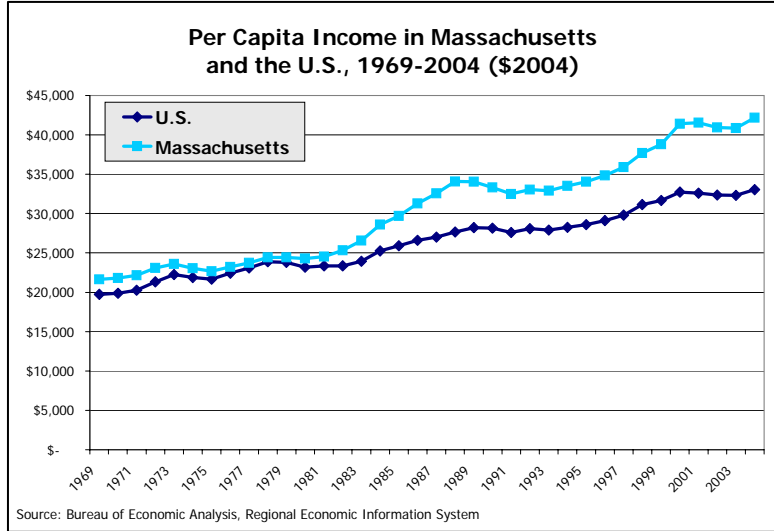
Poverty

The poverty rate in Massachusetts in 2003 was 9.5 percent, compared to 12.5 percent for the U.S. (Census Bureau estimates). The poverty rate in Massachusetts counties ranged from 5.1 percent in Nantucket County to 15.9 percent in Suffolk County.

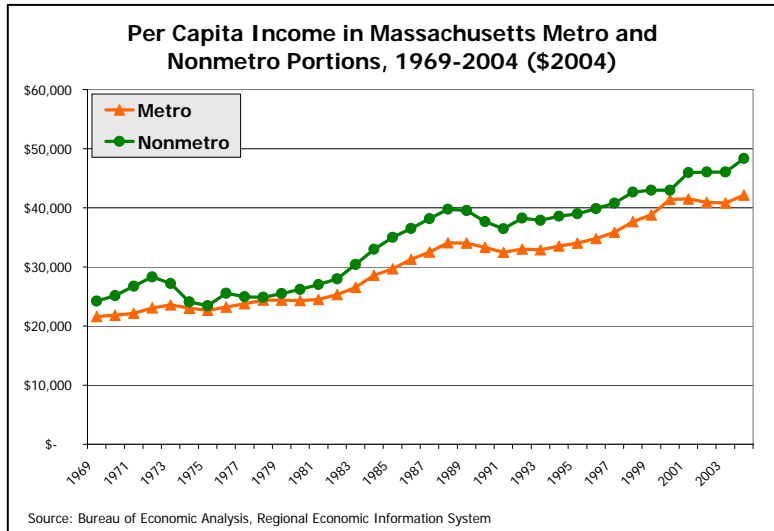


Per Capita Income

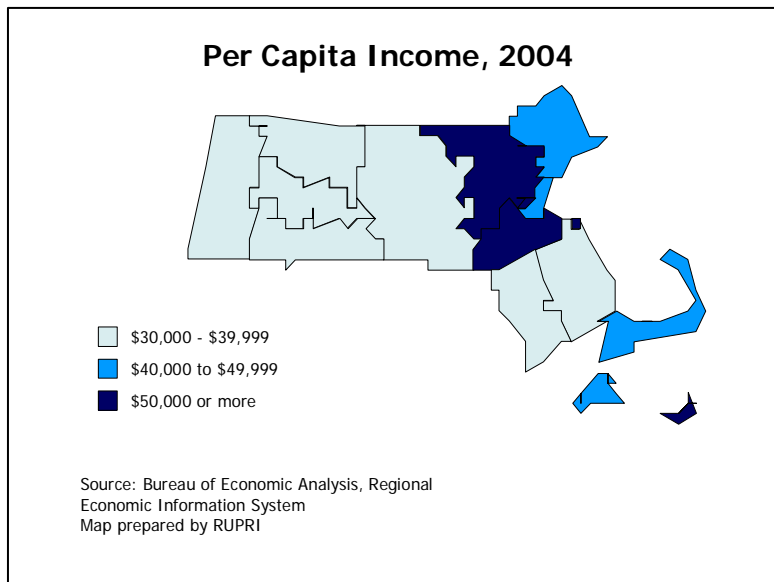
Per capita income in Massachusetts has exceeded the national per capita income over the past several decades. In 2004, per capita income in Massachusetts was \$42,176, compared to \$33,050 for the nation.



Nonmetro per capita income has exceeded metro per capita income in Massachusetts over the past several decades. In 2004, metro per capita income was \$42,151, compared to \$48,344 in nonmetro areas.

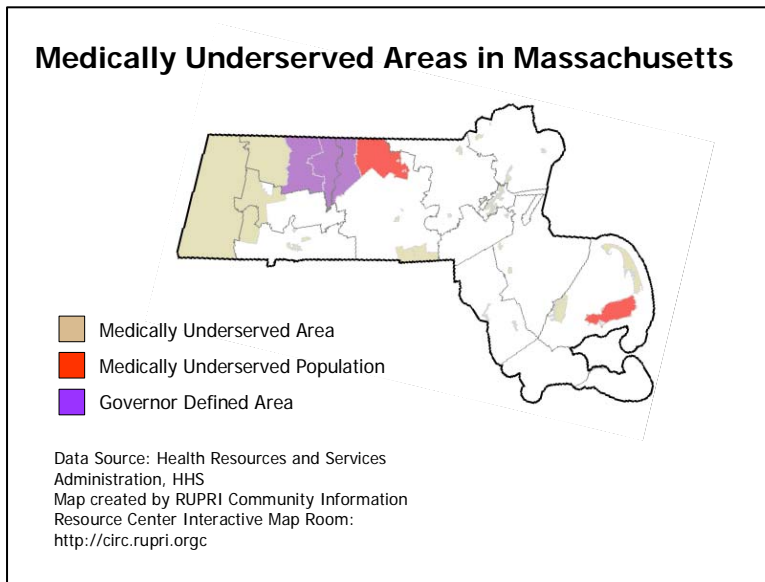


Per capita income in Massachusetts counties ranged from \$30,934 in Hampshire County to \$54,037 in Nantucket County.

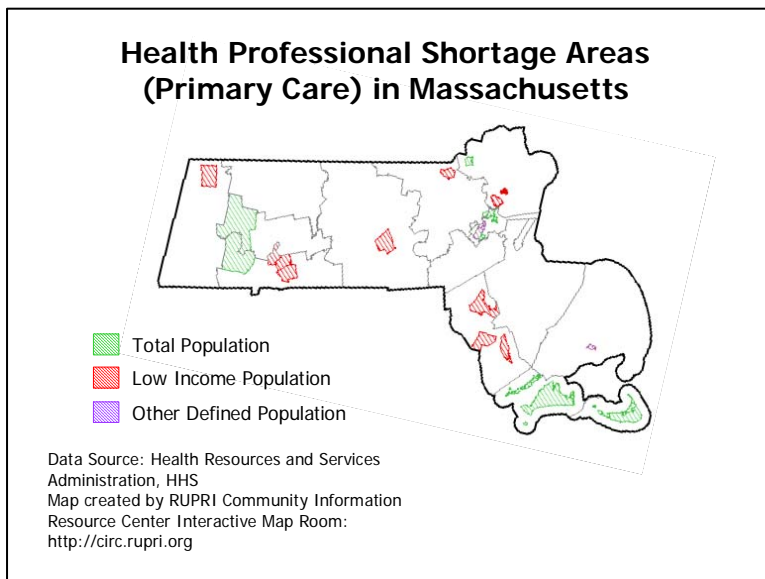


Health Services

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

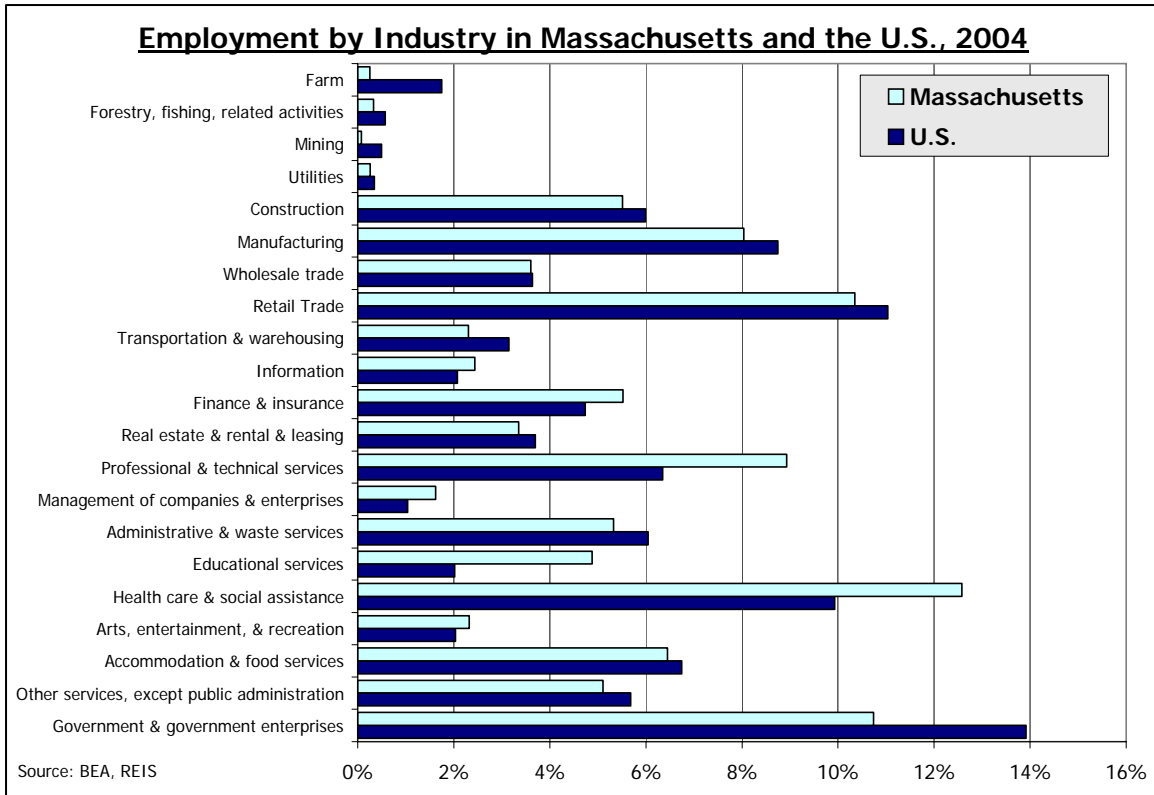


Health Professional Shortage Areas (HPSAs) are those areas that “may have shortages of primary medical care, dental or mental health providers and may be urban or rural areas, population groups, or medical or other public facilities” (Health Resources and Services Administration, HHS). Within Massachusetts,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

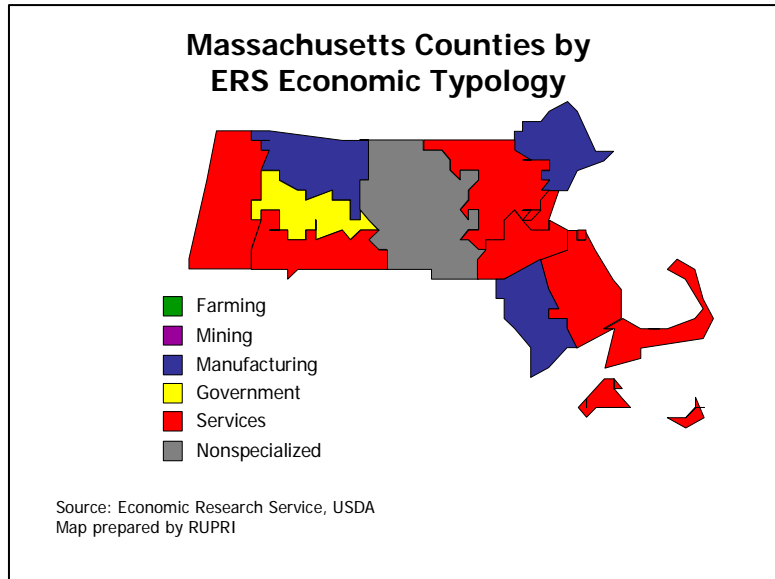


Employment Structure

In 2004, the largest share of employment in Massachusetts was in the health care and social assistance sector, accounting for 12.6 percent of total employment. Nationally, government and government enterprises was the largest employment sector (13.9%).

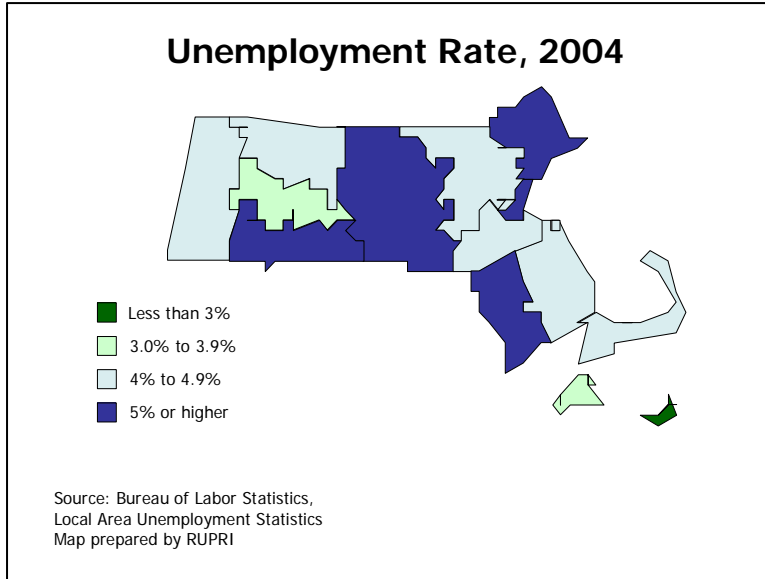


The ERS Economic Typology classifies counties into one of five industry categories of specialization or as nonspecialized. The map to the right shows the classification of Massachusetts counties by this typology, illustrating the importance of services to the state.



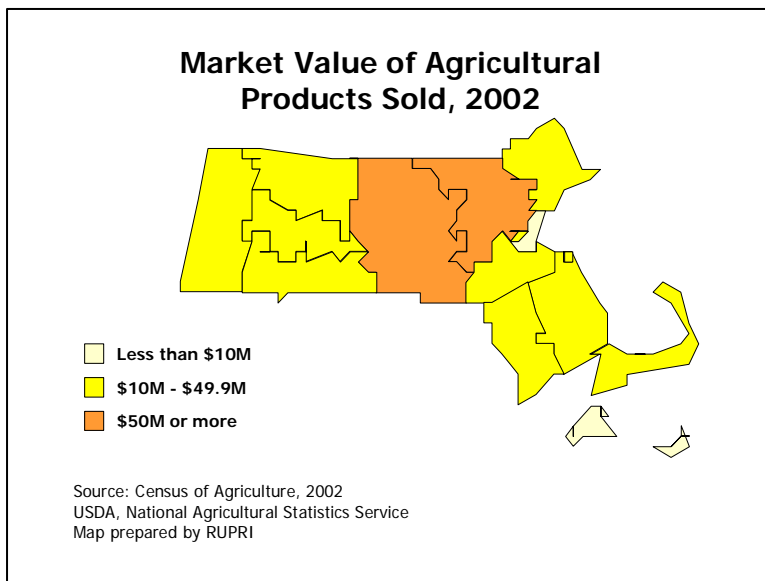
Unemployment

In 2005 the unemployment rate in Massachusetts was 4.8 percent, compared to 5.1 percent for the nation. Within Massachusetts, the unemployment rate ranged from 2.4 percent in Nantucket County to 5.9 percent in Bristol County.



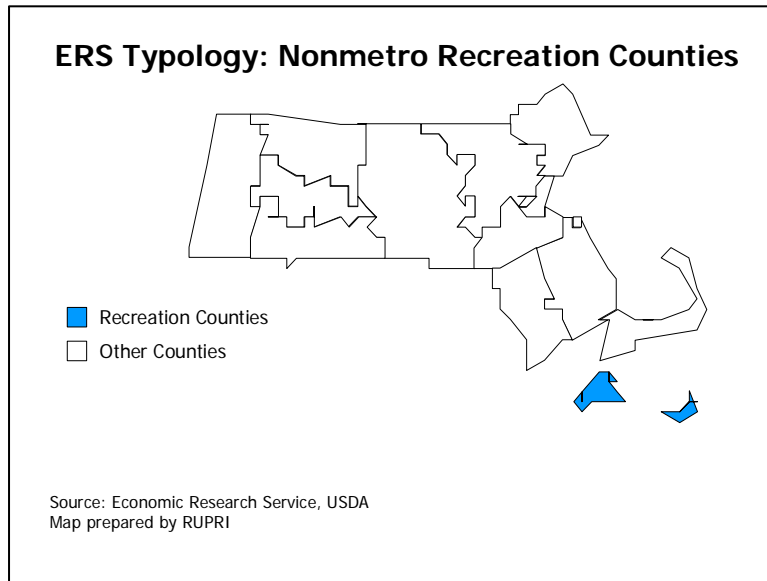
Agriculture

Though agriculture is not the dominant industry in Massachusetts, it makes an important economic contribution in several parts of the state. The map below shows the value of agricultural products sold in 2002 for Massachusetts counties. The value exceeded \$50 million in two counties.



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 Massachusetts.



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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