

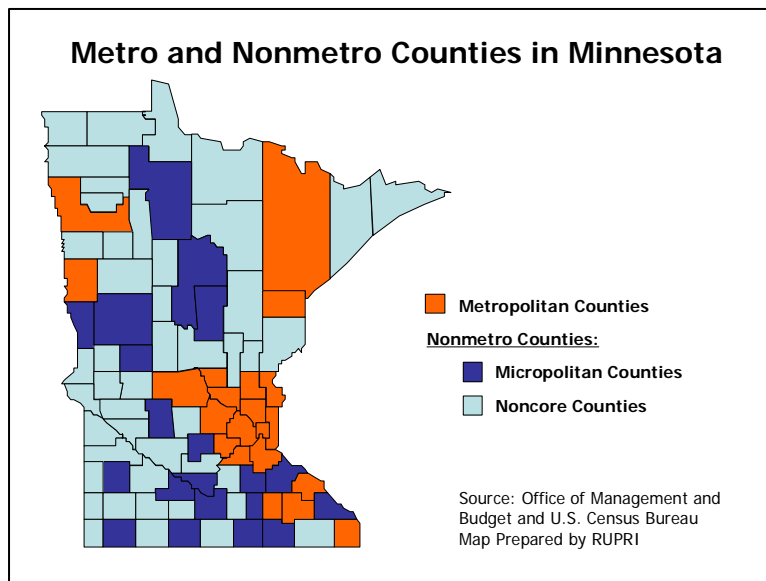


rural policy research institute

Demographic and Economic Profile *Minnesota* Updated July 2006

Metro and Nonmetro Counties in Minnesota

Based on the most recent listing of core based statistical areas by the Office of Management and Budget (December 2005), 21 counties in Minnesota are part of metropolitan areas, and 20 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 46 counties in Minnesota are considered noncore counties. Using these classifications and the population estimates for 2005, 72.5 percent of Minnesota residents live in metropolitan areas, 14.7 percent live in micropolitan areas, and 12.8 percent live in noncore areas.

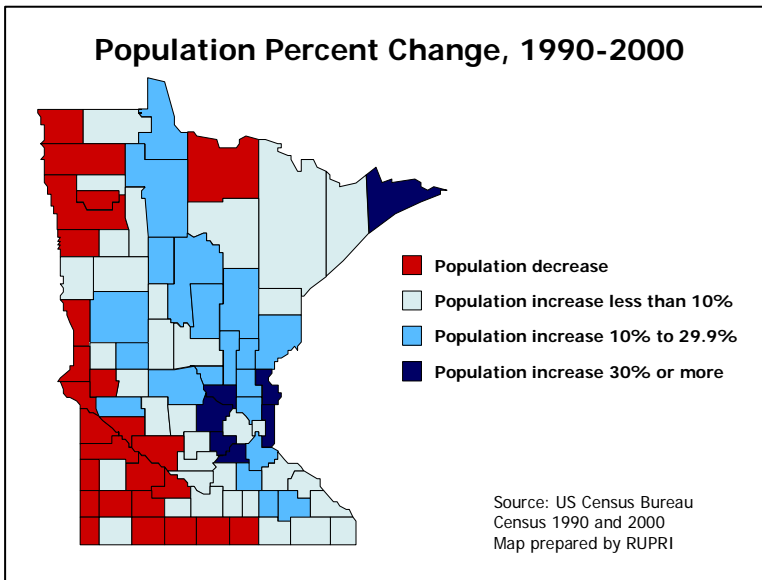


Population

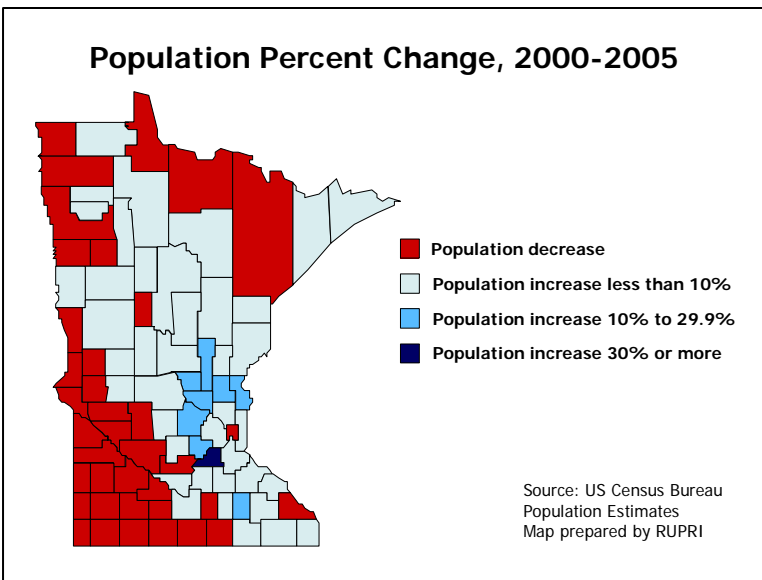
Minnesota's population in 2005 was 5,132,799, up 4.3 percent from the 2000 Census. During the 1990s, the population in Minnesota increased by 12.4 percent. Nationally, population increased 13.1 percent during the 1990s, and 5.3 percent from April 2000 to July 2005. The population growth in metro areas of Minnesota outpaced the nonmetro areas in both time periods.

Percent Change in Population		
Area:	1990-2000	2000-2005
U.S.	13.1%	5.3%
Minnesota	12.4%	4.3%
Metropolitan	14.9%	5.3%
Nonmetropolitan	6.6%	1.9%
Micropolitan	8.5%	2.9%
Noncore	4.5%	0.8%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau

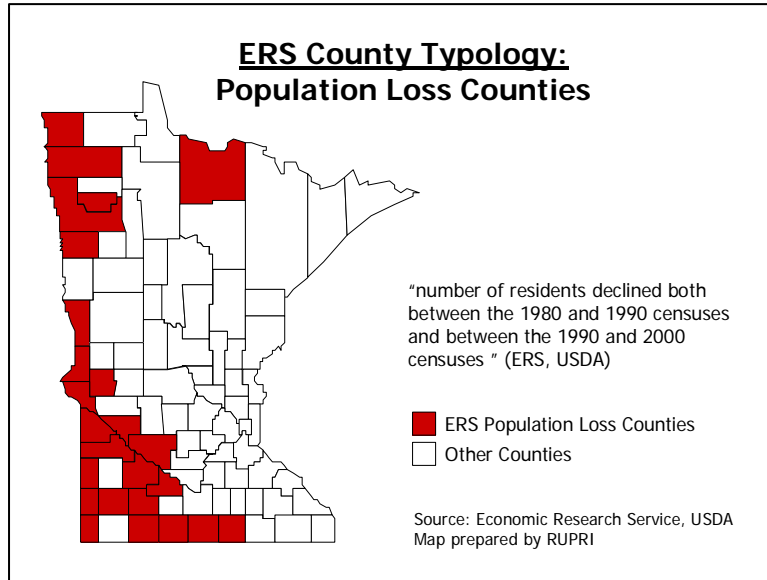


During the 1990s, 25 counties in Minnesota lost population, all but one of them nonmetro. The fastest growth during this time was in Scott County (54.7% increase) and Sherburne County (53.6% increase), both in the Minneapolis-St. Paul-Bloomington Metropolitan Area.



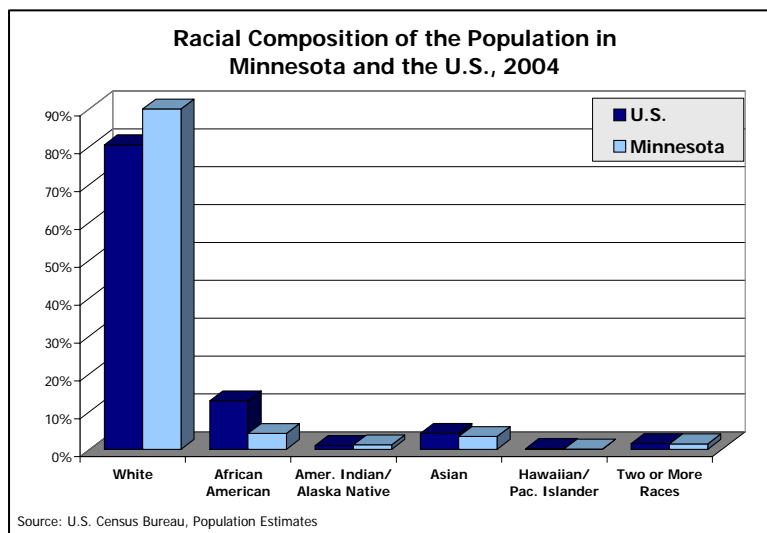
From 2000 to 2005, 38 counties in Minnesota lost population, all but three of them nonmetro. The fastest growth during this time was again in Scott County, with a population increase of 33.9 percent during this time period.

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 Minnesota, 25 counties are classified as population loss counties. All but one of these counties are nonmetro.

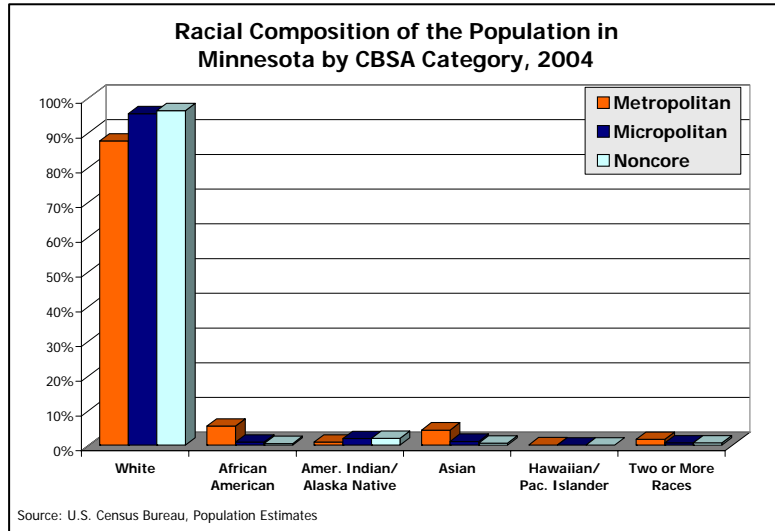


Race / Ethnicity

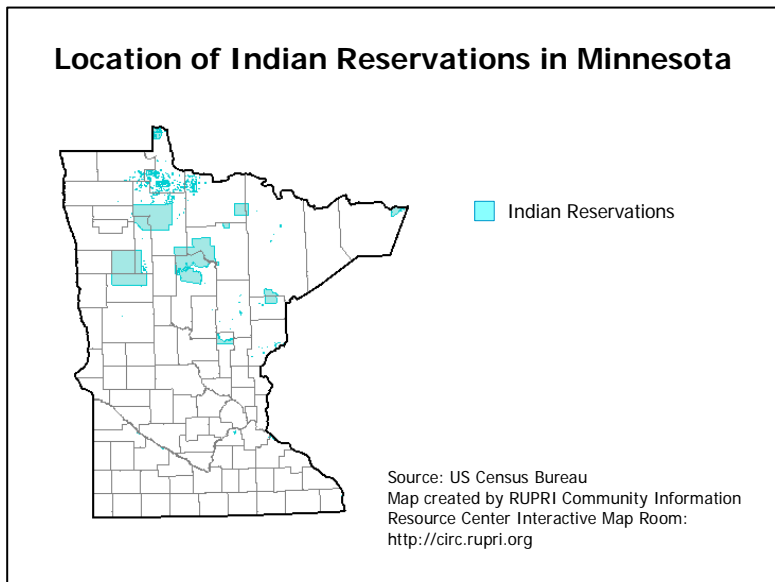
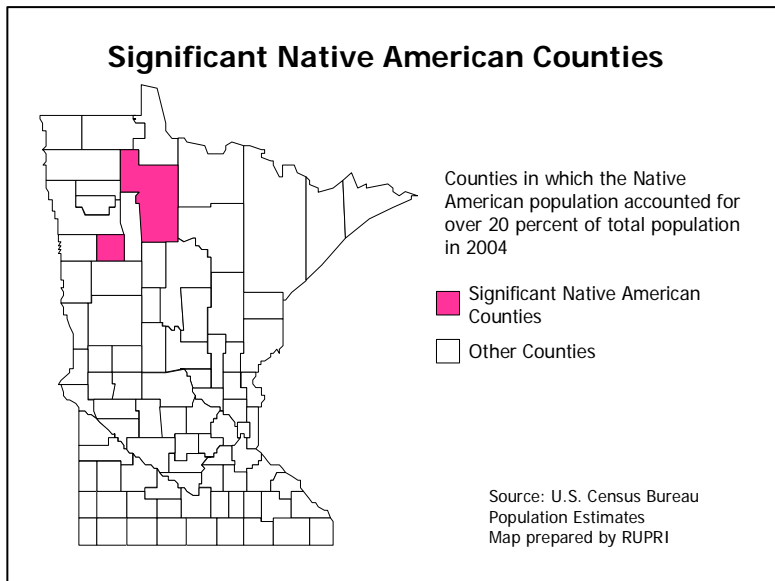
The population in Minnesota is 89.9 percent white and 4.1 percent African American. Nationally, the population is 80.4 percent white and 12.8 percent African American (2004 Census Bureau population estimates).



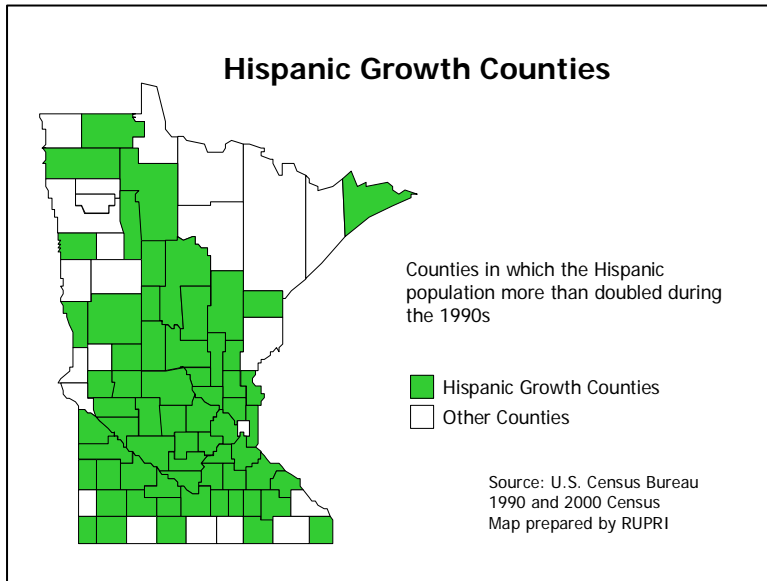
Within Minnesota, the metropolitan population is 87.6 percent white and 5.5 percent African American. The micropolitan population is 95.4 percent white and 0.9 percent African American, and the noncore population is 96.3 percent white and 0.5 percent African American.



Native Americans make up 1.2 percent of Minnesota’s population, compared to 1.0 percent of the total U.S. population. In two Minnesota counties, Native Americans make up a significant portion (over 20%) of total population. These counties (Mahnomon and Beltrami Counties) are shown in the map to the right. The map below shows the location of Indian reservations in Minnesota.

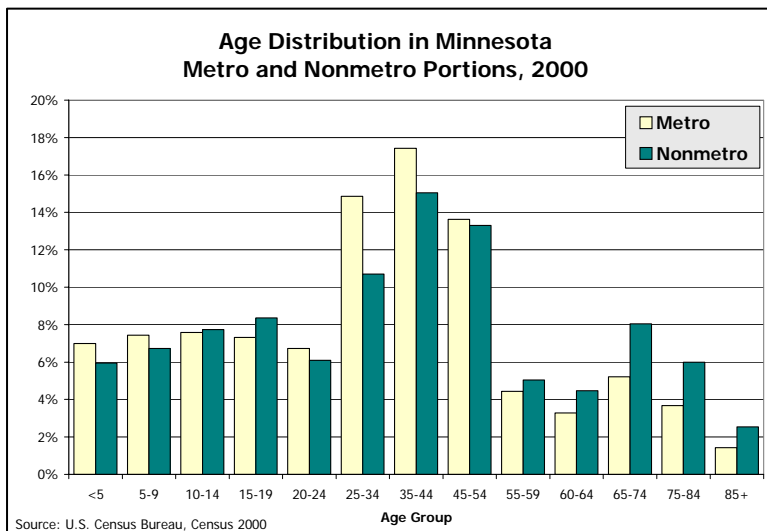


People of Hispanic origin make up 3.5 percent of Minnesota’s population, and 14.1 percent of the total U.S. population. Many areas have experienced significant growth in the Hispanic population over the past decade and a half. The map below shows the counties in which the Hispanic population more than doubled during the 1990s. These usually represent small numbers and portions of total populations. In only two Minnesota counties did the Hispanic population account for over 10 percent of total population in 2004: Watonwan County (17.1%) and Nobles County (13.4%).

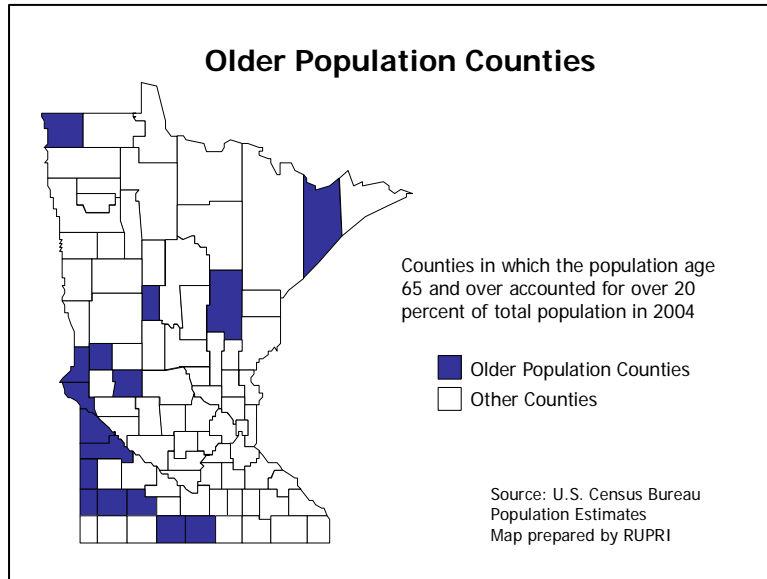


Age

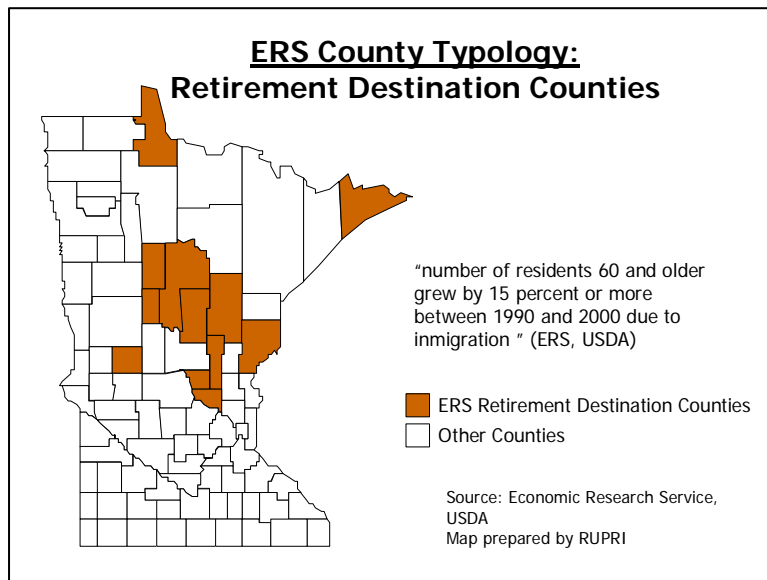
The age distribution of the metro and nonmetro population in Minnesota is shown in the chart below. The percent of the population in the 20 to 44 age groups is greater in the metro areas, while the percent of the population age 55 and over is greater in the nonmetro areas.



Many rural areas have experienced an aging of their populations over time, in some cases due to immigration of retirees and in other cases due to outmigration of younger populations and an aging-in-place of residents. In Minnesota, there are 16 counties (all nonmetro) in which the population age 65 and over accounts for over 20 percent of total population.

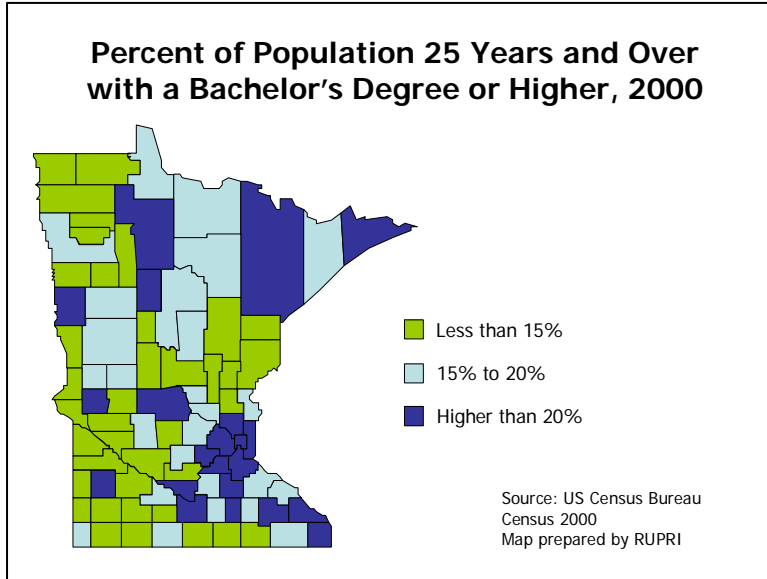


The Economic Research Service classifies counties as retirement destination counties based on population change due to immigration. In Minnesota, 12 counties are classified as retirement destination counties (2 metro and 10 nonmetro counties).

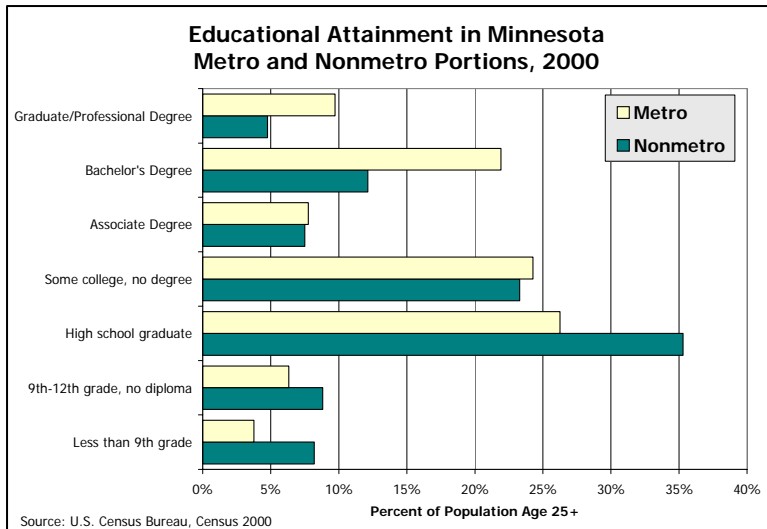


Educational Attainment

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 27.4 percent in Minnesota. In metro areas of Minnesota, this percentage is 31.6 percent, compared to 16.9 percent in nonmetro areas.

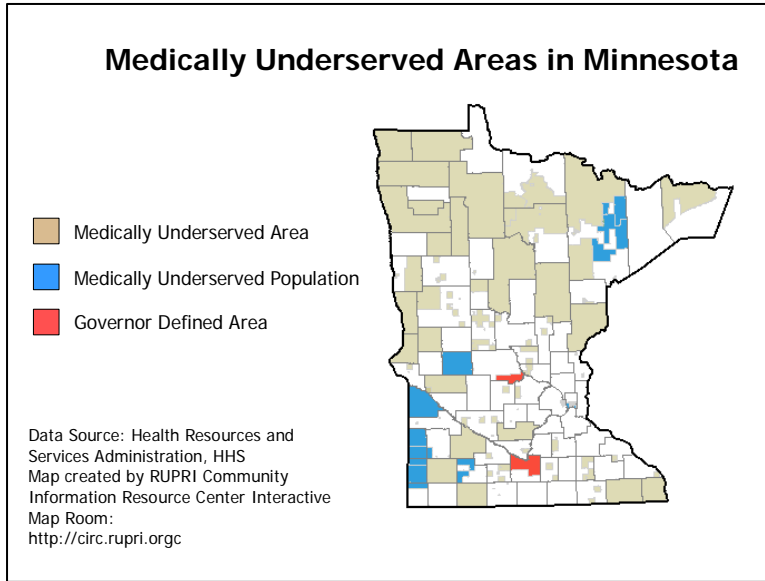


The chart below compares the educational attainment of Minnesota's metro and nonmetro populations. The percent of the population with high educational attainment (B.S. or higher) is greater in the metro areas, while the percent of the population with lower educational attainment (high school degree or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

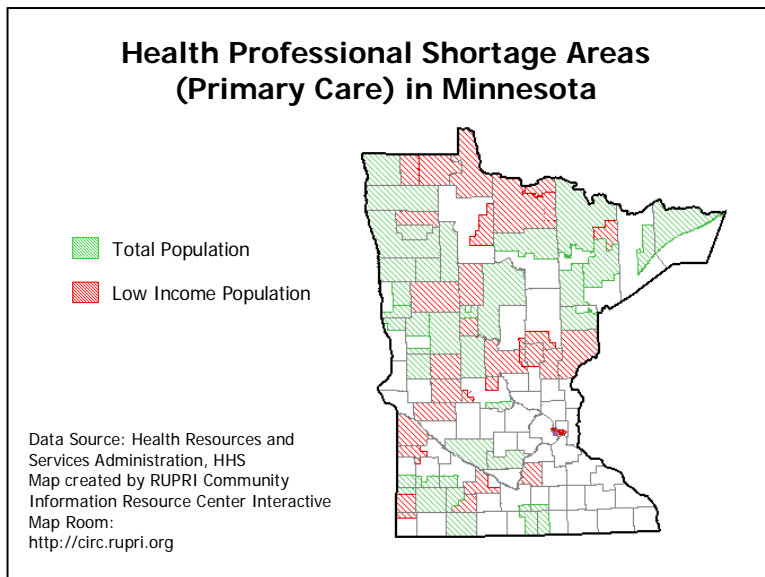


Health Services

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

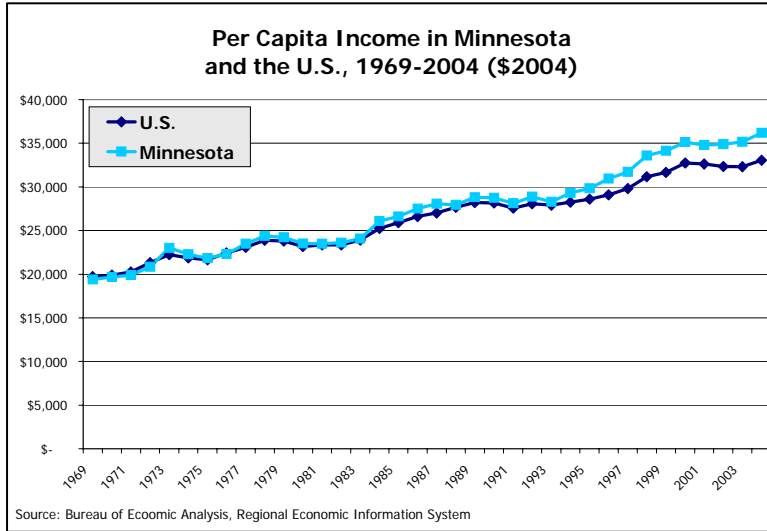


Health Professional Shortage Areas (HPSAs) are those areas that “may have shortages of primary medical care, dental or mental health providers and may be urban or rural areas, population groups, or medical or other public facilities” (Health Resources and Services Administration, HHS). Within Minnesota,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

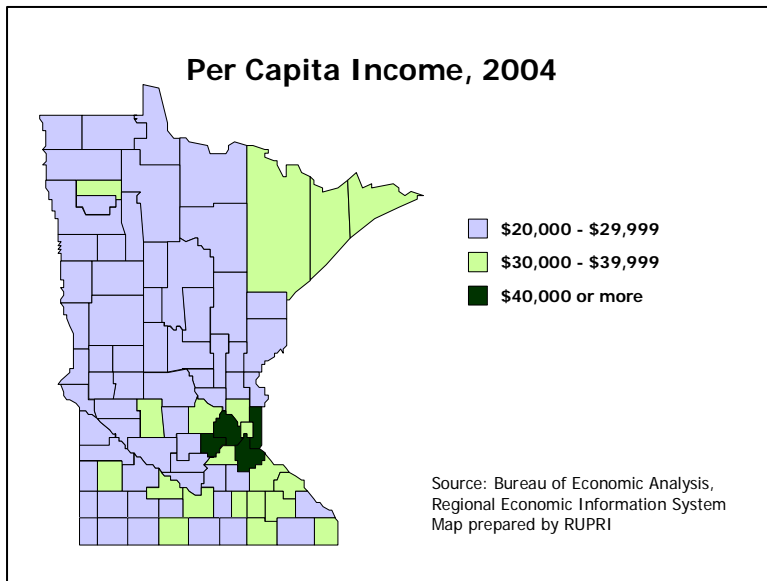


Per Capita Income

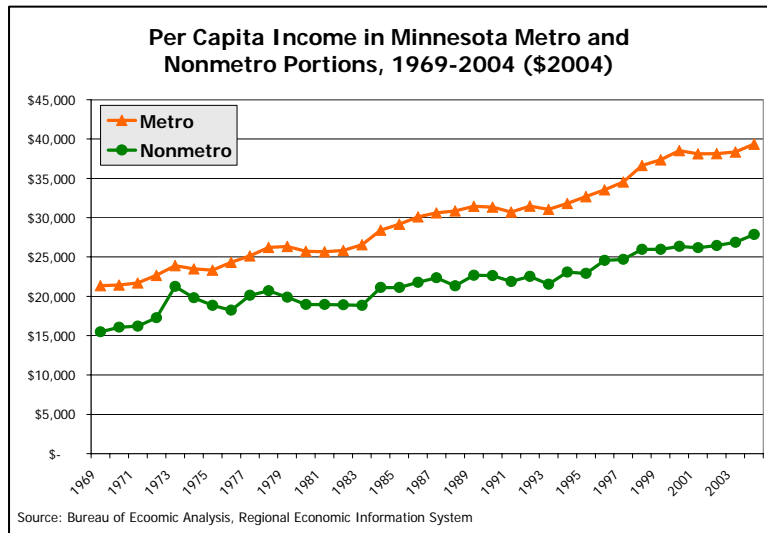
Per capita income trends in Minnesota have closely matched national trends over the past several decades, with Minnesota's income exceeding national figures in recent years. In 2004, per capita income in Minnesota was \$36,184, compared to \$33,050 for the U.S.



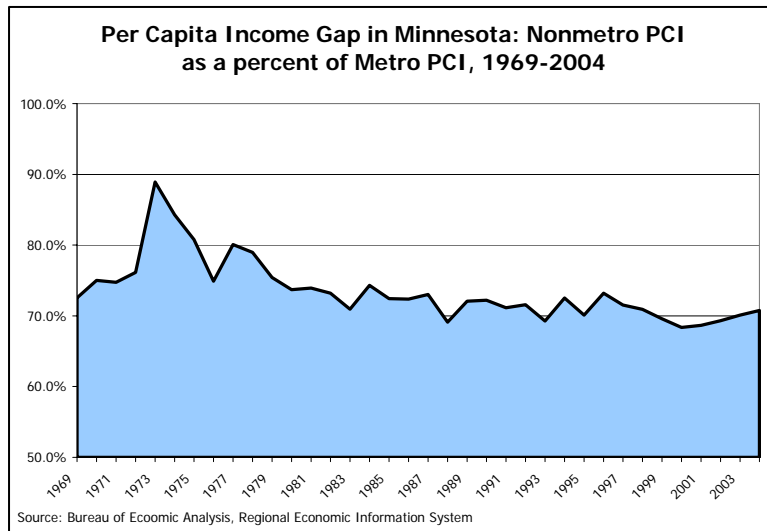
Within Minnesota, 2004 per capita income ranged from \$21,318 in Mahanomen County to \$48,045 in Hennepin County. The highest incomes were in four counties in the Minneapolis-St. Paul-Bloomington Metropolitan Area.



Nonmetro per capita income in Minnesota has lagged behind metro per capita income over the past several decades. In 2004, metro per capita income was \$39,361, compared to \$27,852 in nonmetro areas.

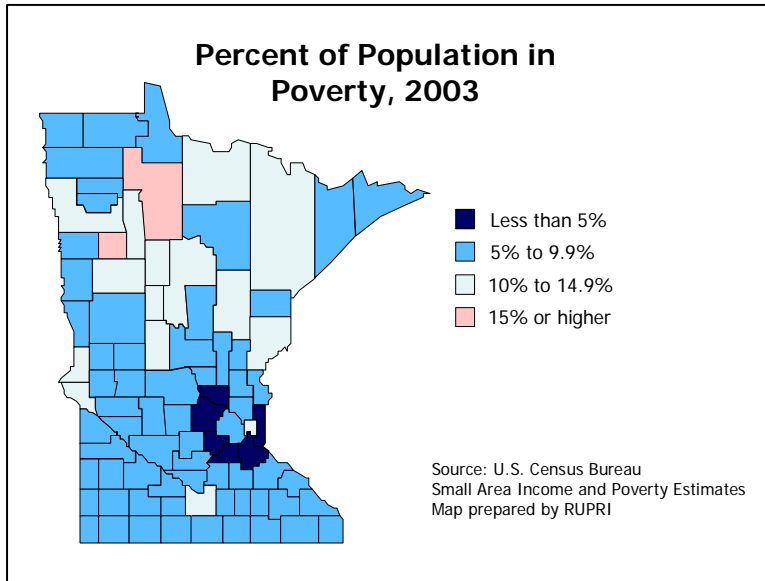


The per capita income gap is measured with nonmetro per capita income as a percent of metro per capita income. In Minnesota, the gap was at its smallest in 1973 and at its largest in 2000. In 2004, nonmetro per capita income was 70.8 percent of metro per capita income.



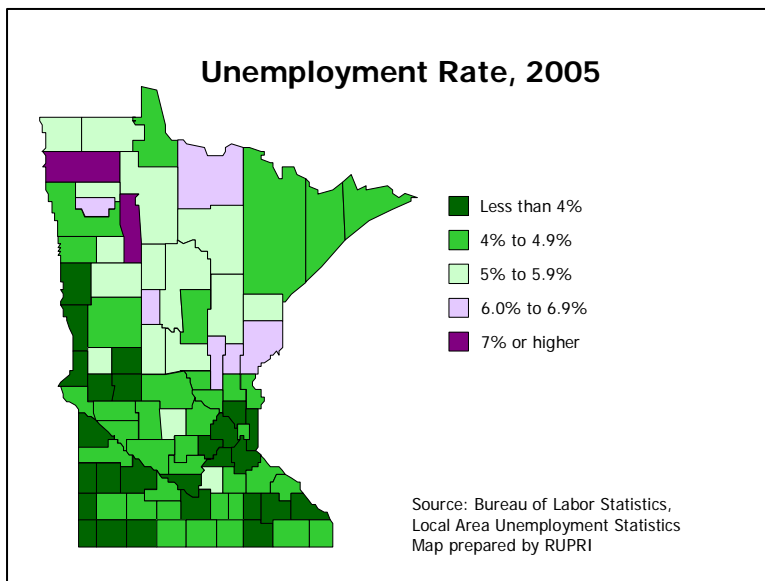
Poverty

The poverty rate in Minnesota in 2003 was 8.0 percent, compared to 12.5 percent for the U.S. (Census Bureau estimates). Within Minnesota, the 2003 poverty rate ranged from 3.8 percent in Scott County to 15.2 percent in Beltrami County.



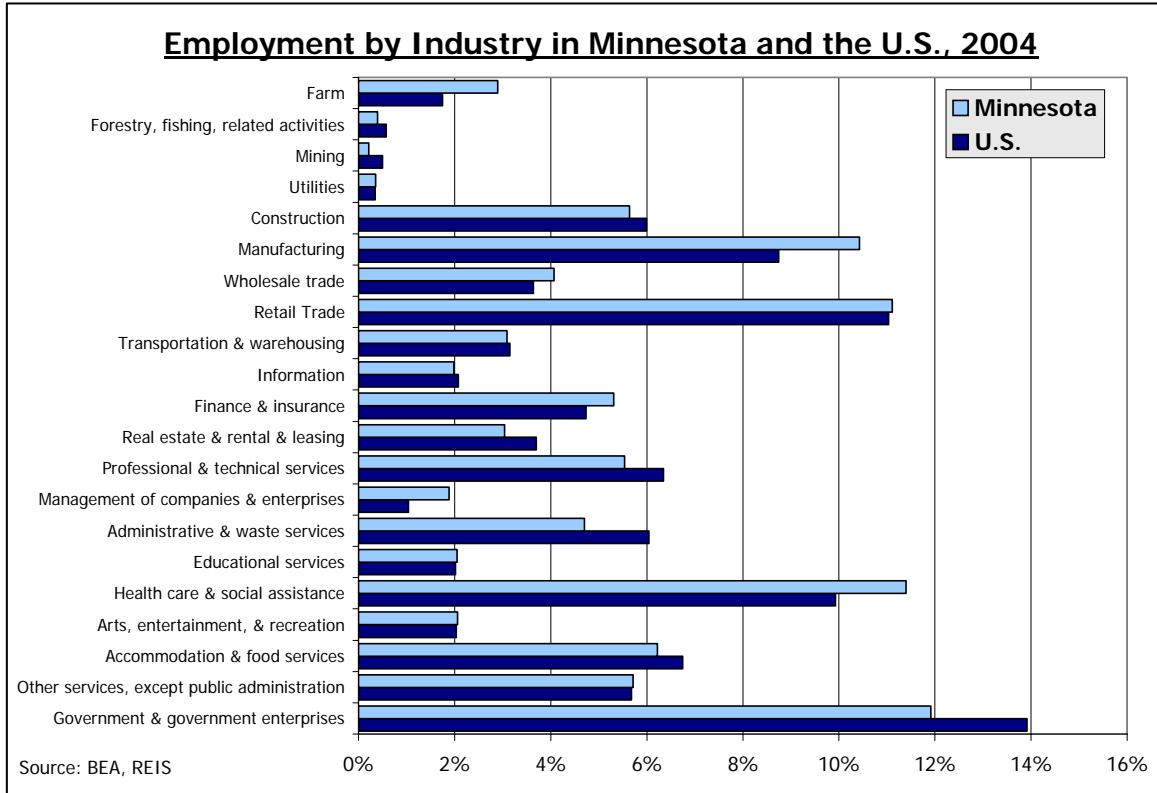
Unemployment

The unemployment rate in Minnesota in 2005 was 4.0 percent, compared to 5.1 percent for the U.S. Within Minnesota, the 2005 unemployment rate ranged from 3.0 percent in Rock County to 9.9 percent in Clearwater County.

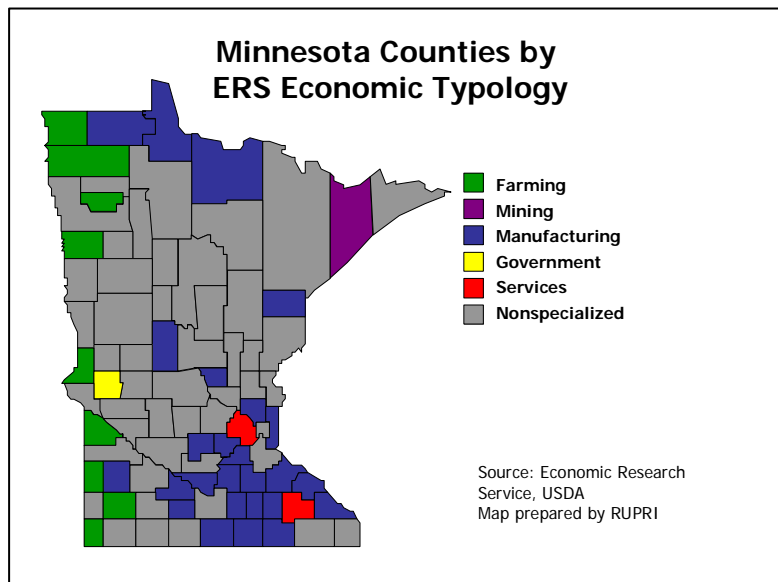


Employment Structure

In 2004, government and government enterprises accounted for the largest shares of employment in Minnesota (11.9%) and the U.S. (13.9%). Health care and social assistance was the second largest employment sector in Minnesota (11.4%), while retail trade was the second largest sector in the U.S. (11.0%).

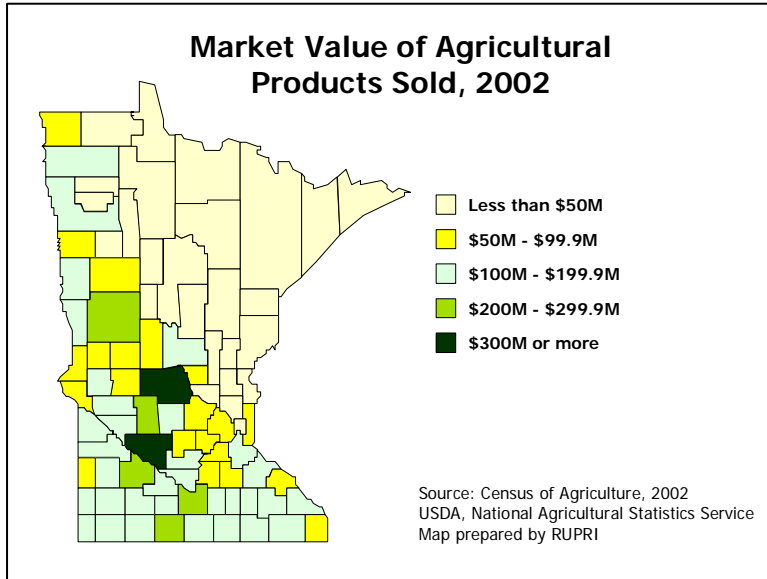


The ERS Economic Typology classifies counties into one of five industry categories of specialization or as nonspecialized. The map to the right shows the classification of Minnesota counties by this typology, illustrating the importance of manufacturing in many parts of the state, and of farming in the western part of the state.

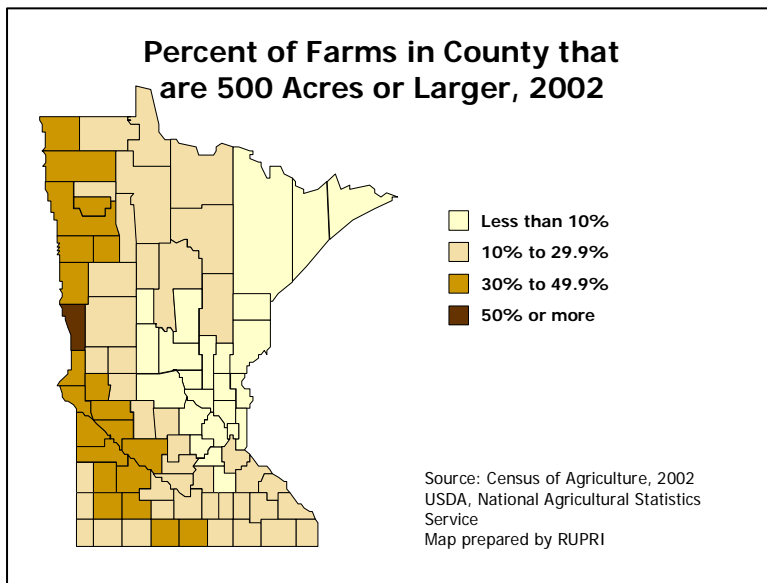


Agriculture

Agriculture is an important industry in many parts of Minnesota, and 10 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 Minnesota counties. In Renville and Stearns Counties, the value was over \$300 million.

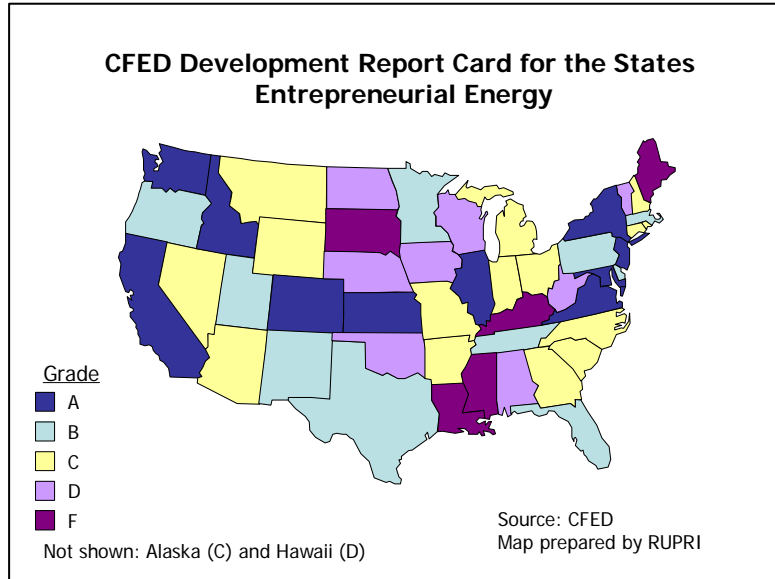


Average farm size in Minnesota is 340 acres, and 19 percent of farms in the state are 500 acres or larger. In Wilkin County, over half of the farms are 500 acres or larger.

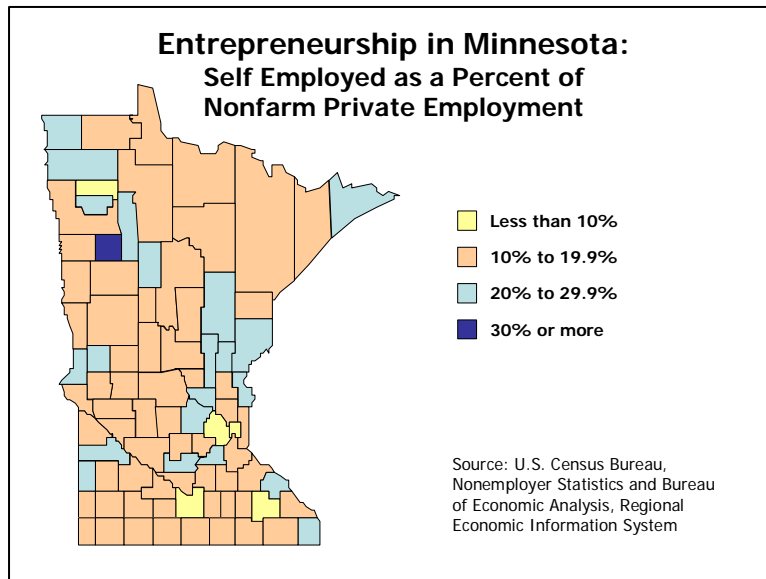


Entrepreneurship

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. Minnesota’s ranking is “B”.

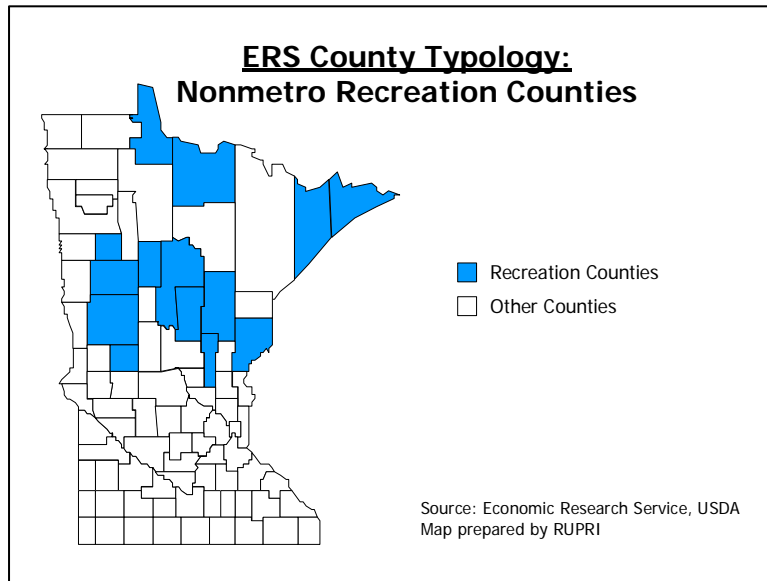


As mentioned, county level indicators of entrepreneurship are difficult to ascertain, but a good indicator is the proportion of workers that are self employed. The map below shows self employed workers as a percent of nonfarm private employment in the county.



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 14 are located in Minnesota.



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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