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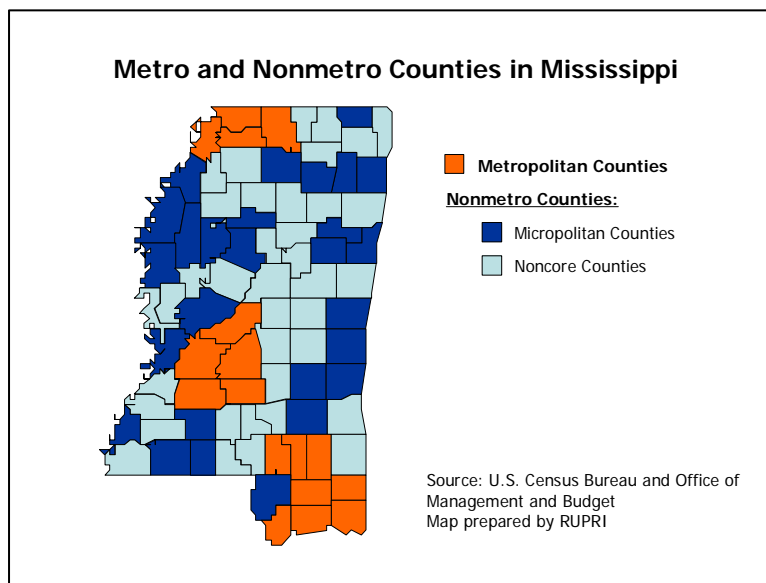
Demographic and Economic Profile

Mississippi

Updated May 2006

Metro and Nonmetro Counties in Mississippi

Based on the most recent listing of core based statistical areas by the Office of Management and Budget (December 2005), 17 counties in Mississippi are part of metropolitan statistical areas, and 27 counties are part of micropolitan areas. The micropolitan classification defines counties that were previously included in the nonmetropolitan category, and 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 38 counties in Mississippi are considered noncore counties. Using these classifications and the population estimates for 2005, 43.7 percent of Mississippi residents live in metropolitan areas, 34.1 percent live in micropolitan areas, and 22.2 live in noncore areas.

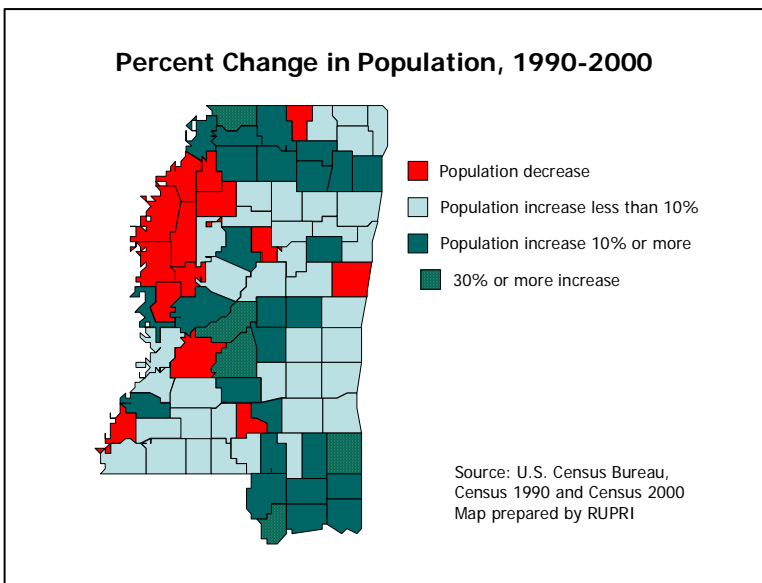


Population

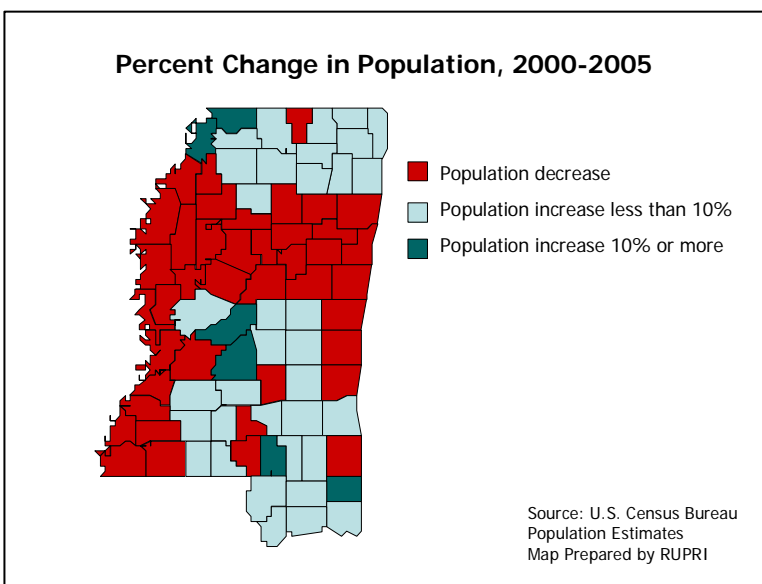
Mississippi's population in July 2005 was 2,921,088 up 2.7 percent from the 2000 Census. During the 1990s, the population Mississippi grew by 10.5 percent. Nationally, population increased 13.1 percent during the 1990s and 5.3 percent from April 2000 to July 2005. Within Mississippi, metro population growth has outpaced nonmetropolitan during both time periods, and nonmetro areas lost population during the 2000-2005 period.

Percent Change in Population		
Area:	1990-2000	2000-2005
U.S.	13.1%	5.3%
Mississippi	10.5%	2.7%
Metropolitan	16.6%	6.9%
Nonmetropolitan	6.4%	-0.6%
Micropolitan	6.0%	0.02%
Noncore	7.0%	-0.3%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau

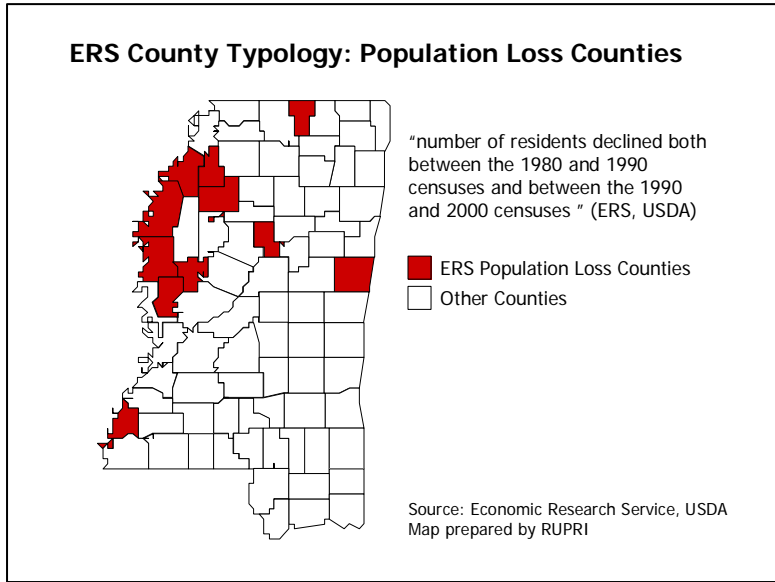


Fourteen counties in Mississippi lost population during the 1990s, one metro and 13 nonmetro counties. Five counties had population gains over 30 percent, four metro and one nonmetro county.



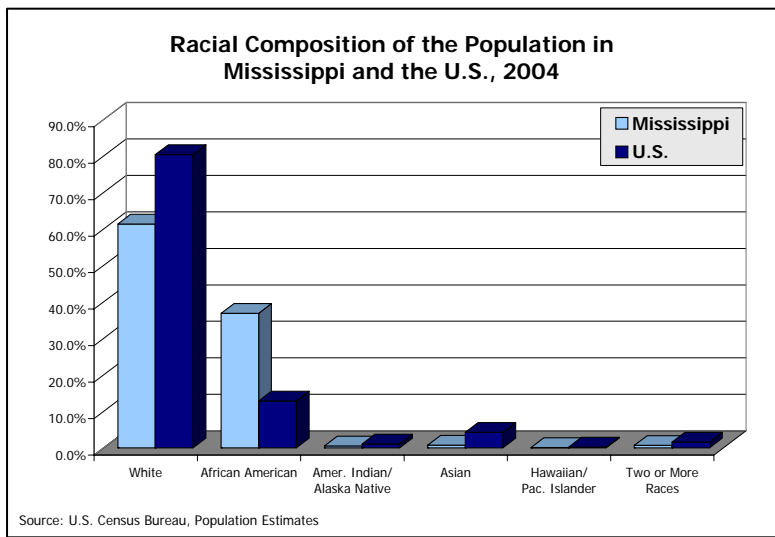
Between the 2000 Census and July 2005, 41 counties in Mississippi lost population, and almost all of them (40) were nonmetropolitan. Six counties, all of them metro, experienced population growth of 10 percent or more. The highest gain was in DeSoto County in the Memphis Metropolitan Area, with population increasing 27.8 percent over the time period.

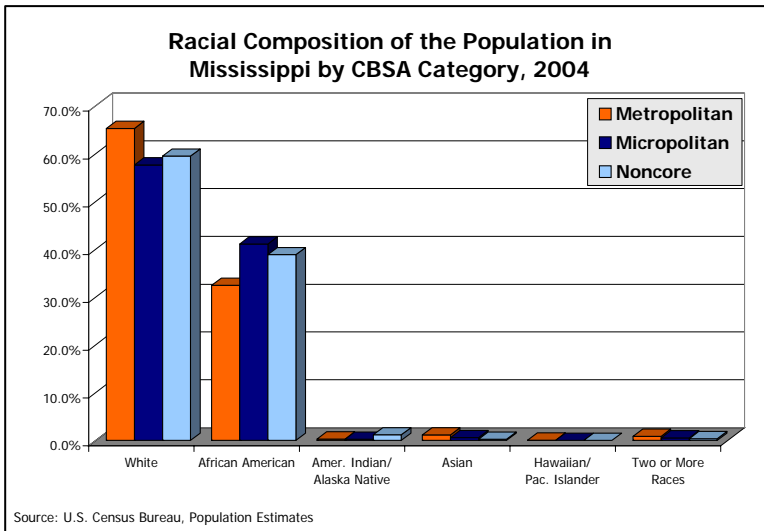
The Economic Research Service, USDA, classifies counties as population loss counties if the population declined between the 1980 and 1990 censuses *and* between the 1990 and 2000 censuses. In Mississippi, 11 counties, all nonmetro, are classified as population loss counties.



Race / Ethnicity

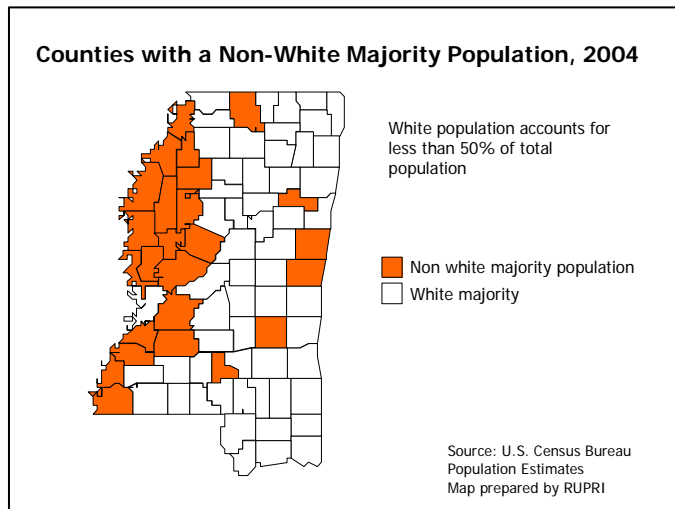
The population of Mississippi is 61.3 percent white and 36.8 percent African American (2004 Census Bureau population estimates data). Nationally, the population is 80.4 percent white and 12.8 percent African American. People of Hispanic origin make up 1.7 percent of Mississippi's population, compared to 14.1 percent of the total U.S. population.



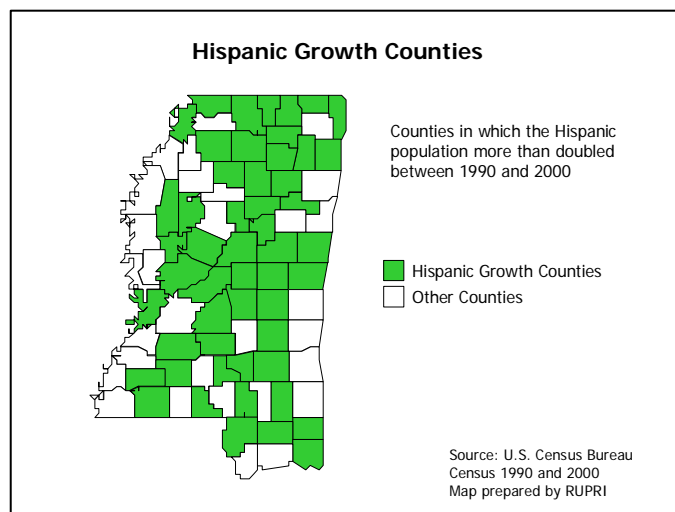


Within Mississippi, the metro population is 65.2 percent white and 32.4 percent African American. The micropolitan population is 57.6 percent white and 41.1 percent African American, and the noncore population is 59.4 percent white and 38.8 percent African American.

In 25 Mississippi counties, the nonwhite population constituted the majority of total population in 2004. The majority of these counties (21) are nonmetro counties.

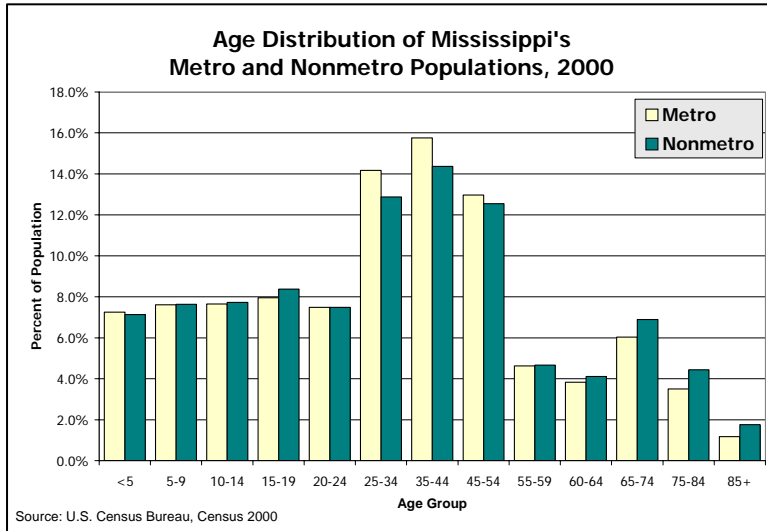


While people of Hispanic origin make up a small percentage of Mississippi's total population, many parts of the state did experience significant growth in the Hispanic population during the 1990s. The map to the right shows the 51 counties in which the population of Hispanic origin more than doubled during the decade. As stated, the Hispanic population accounts for a small portion of total population in Mississippi. In only two counties did the Hispanic population account for more than 5.0 percent of total population in 2004 - Yazoo County (5.0 %) and Scott County (6.6 %).

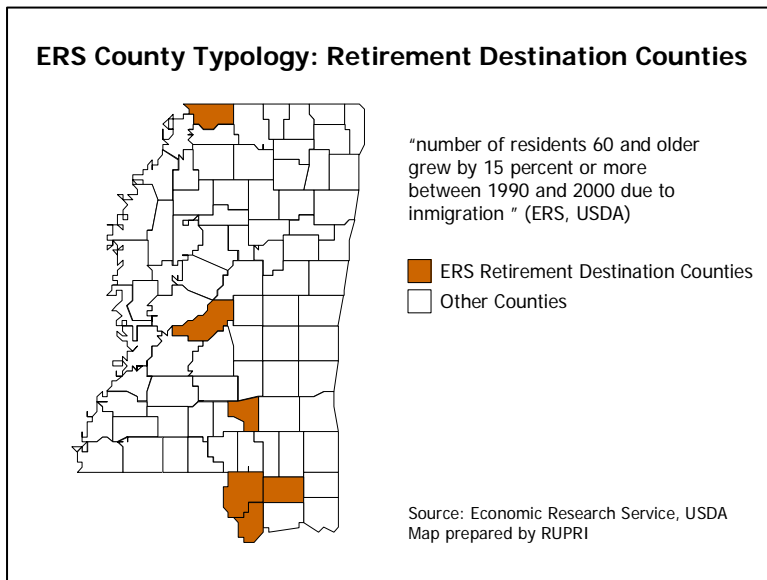


Age

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

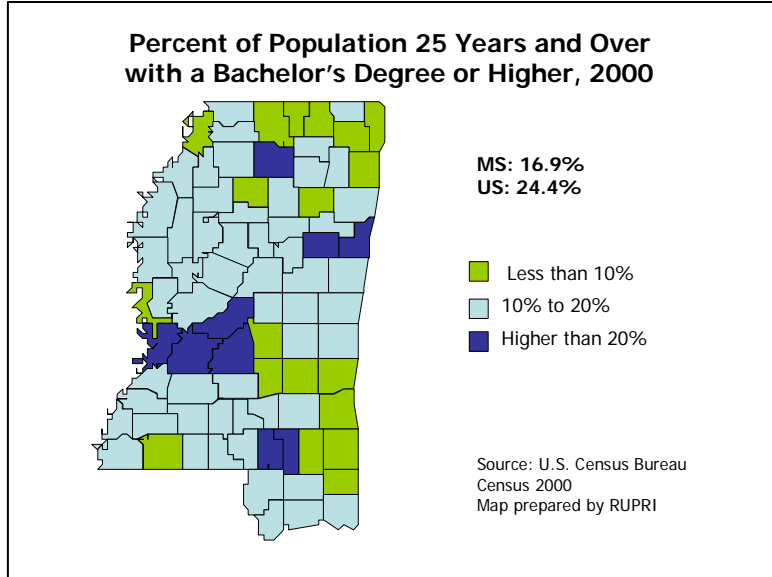


Counties are classified by the Economic Research Service as retirement destination counties if the “number of residents 60 and older grew by 15 percent or more between 1990 and 2000 due to immigration.” In Mississippi, six counties are classified as retirement destination counties, four metro and two nonmetro counties.

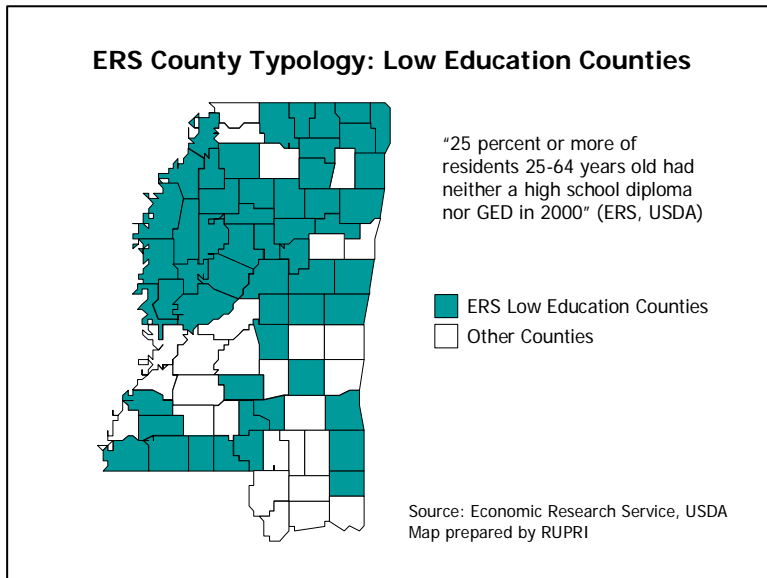
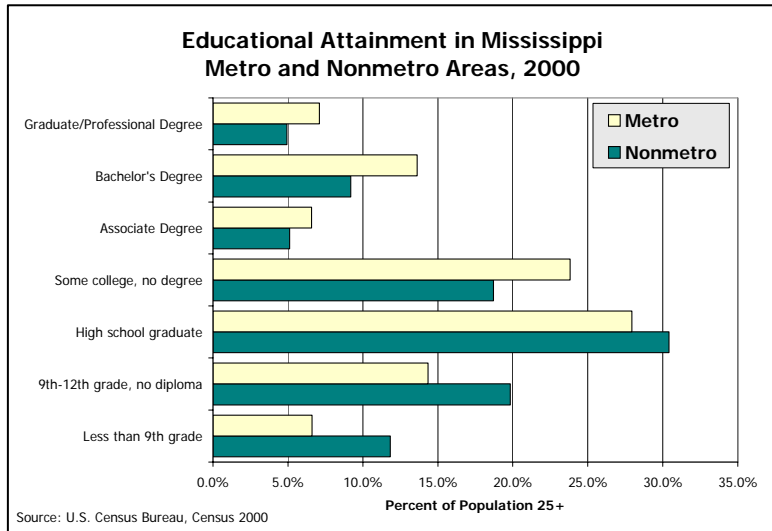


Educational Attainment

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 16.9 percent in Mississippi. In only 9 counties did more than 20 percent of the population age 25 and over have a B.S. degree or higher - 5 metro and 4 nonmetro counties.



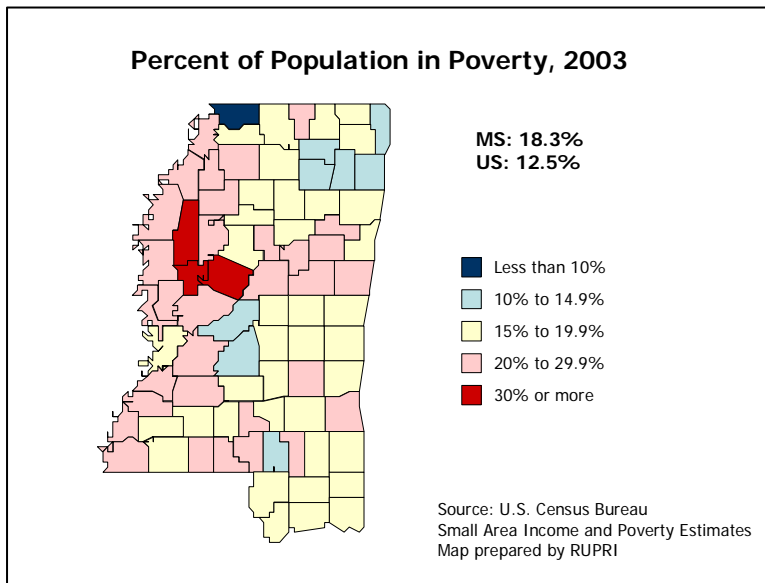
The chart to the right compares the educational attainment of Mississippi's metro and nonmetro populations. The percent of the population with high educational attainment (college degree or higher) is greater in metro areas, while the percent of the population with lower educational attainment (high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



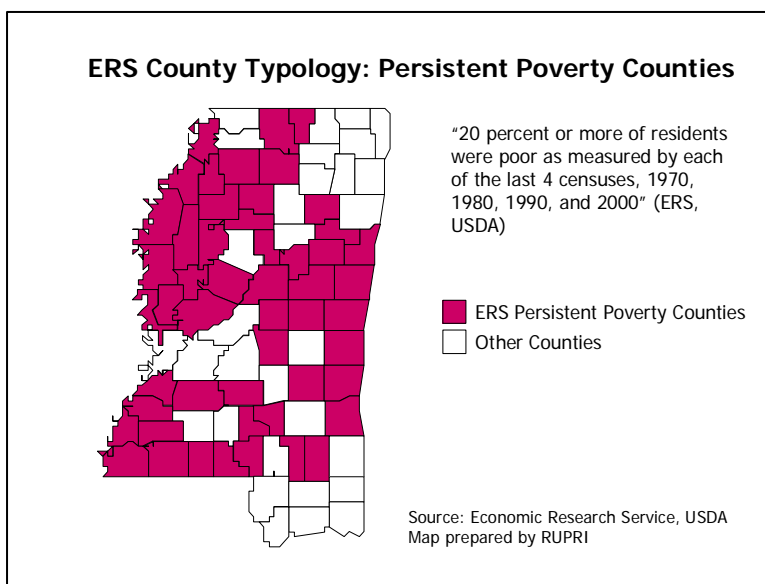
ERS classifies counties as low education counties if "25 percent or more of residents 25 to 64 years old had neither a high school diploma nor GED in 2000." In Mississippi, 54 counties are classified as low education counties, 50 of them nonmetropolitan.

Poverty

In 2003 the poverty rate was 12.5 percent in the U.S. and 18.3 percent in Mississippi (Census Bureau estimates). The poverty rate in Mississippi counties ranged from 8.6 percent in DeSoto County to 32.2 percent in Holmes County. Thirty-five counties in Mississippi had poverty rates exceeding 30 percent in 2003, 4 metro and 31 nonmetro counties. Three counties, all nonmetro, had poverty rates exceeding 30 percent in 2003.

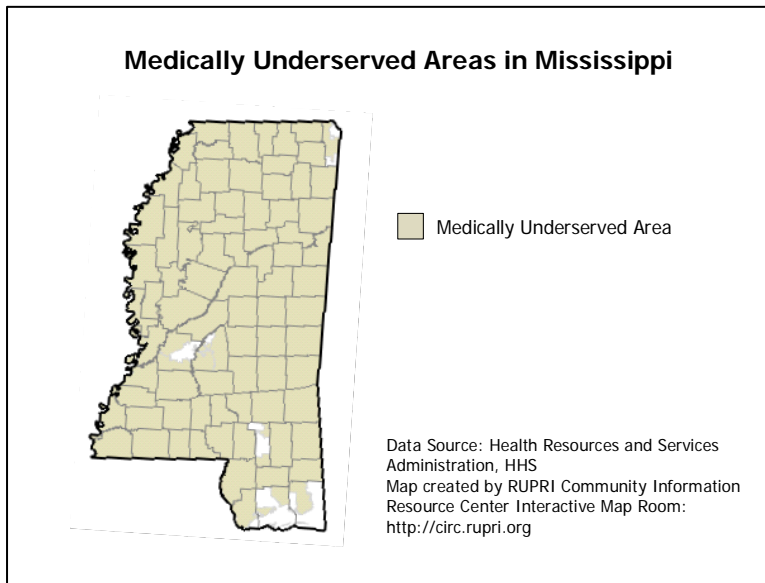


ERS defines persistent poverty counties as those counties with poverty rates of 20 percent or more in each decennial census from 1970 through 2000. Nationally, 386 counties are persistent poverty counties, and 51 of them are located in Mississippi. Of the 51 persistent poverty counties in Mississippi, 45 are nonmetro counties.

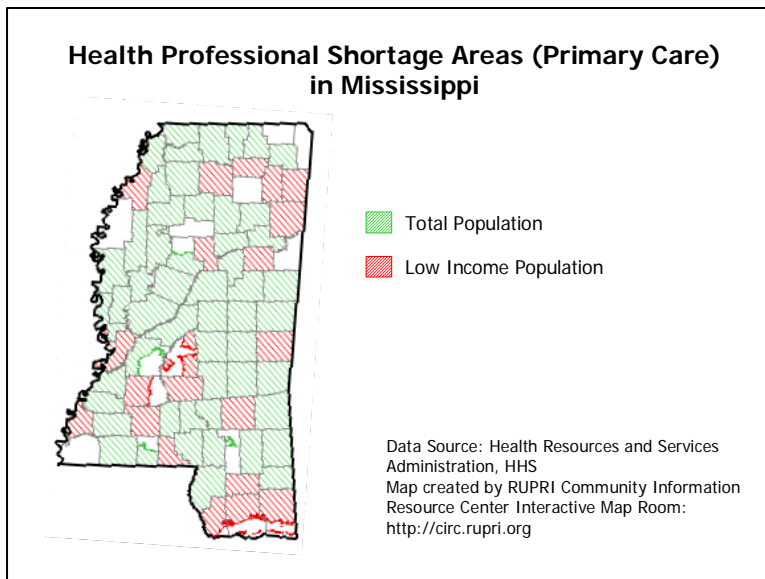


Health Care Services

The designation of areas or populations as medically underserved is based on an index of four variables - the ratio of primary medical 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 Mississippi, much of the state is considered medically underserved, shown in the map below.

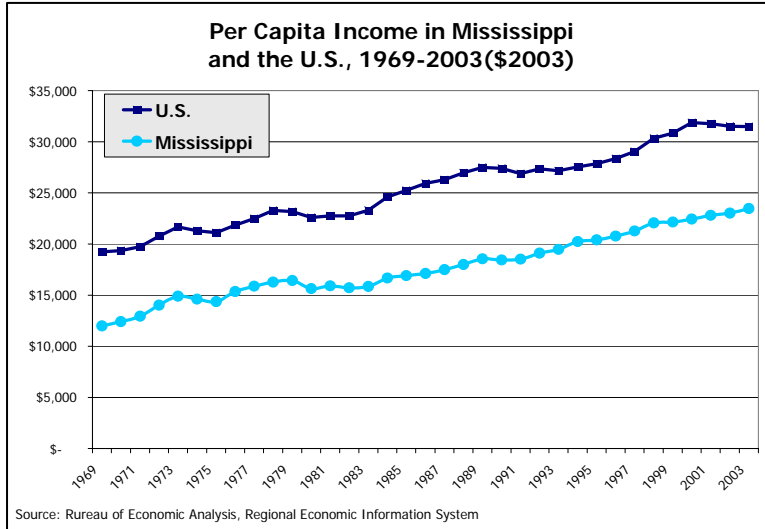


Health Professional Shortage Areas (HPSAs) are those areas that “have shortages of primary medical care, dental or mental health providers and may be urban or rural areas, population groups, or medical or other public facilities” (Health Resources and Services Administration, HHS). Within Mississippi,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

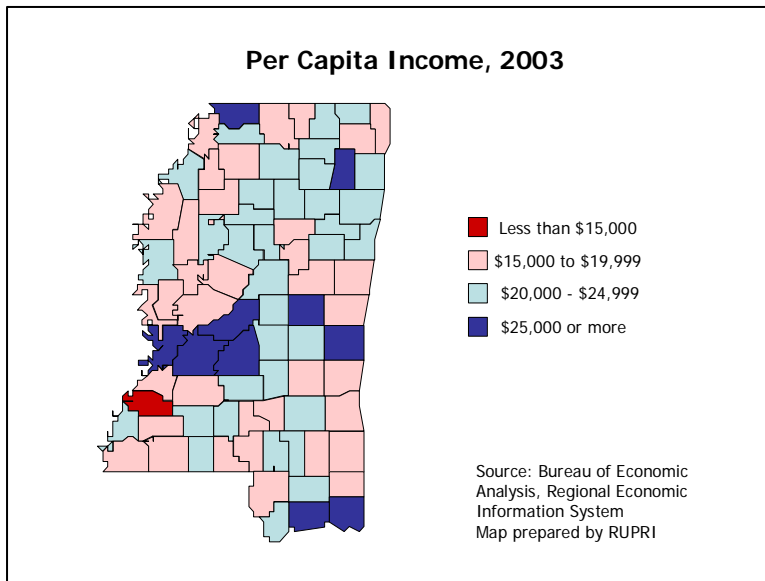


Per Capita Income

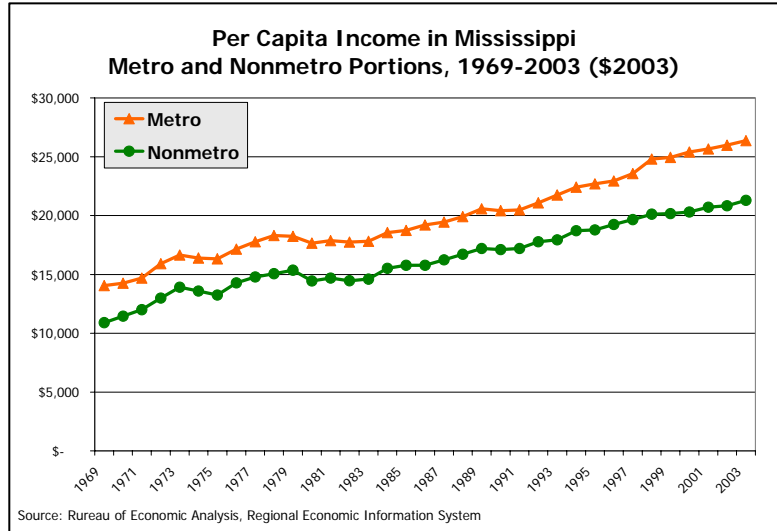
Mississippi's per capita income has lagged behind the nation throughout the past several decades. In 2003, per capita income in Mississippi was \$23,466, only 75 percent of the national per capita income of \$31,472.



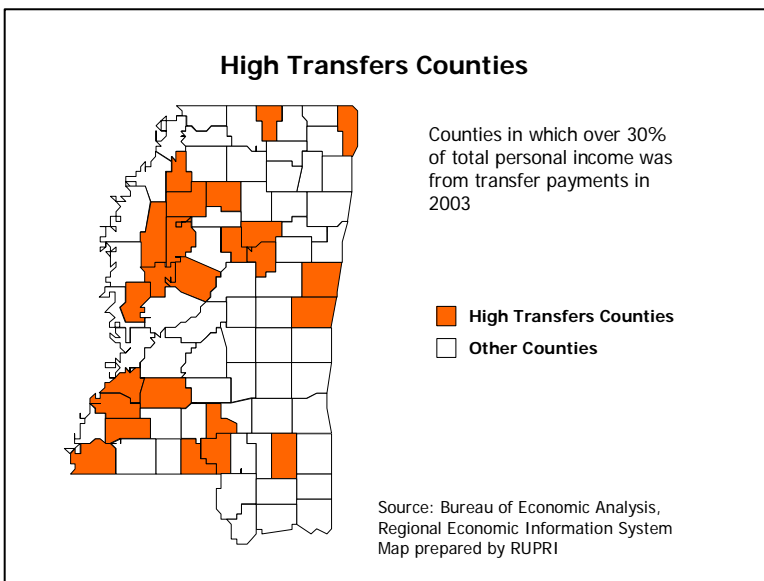
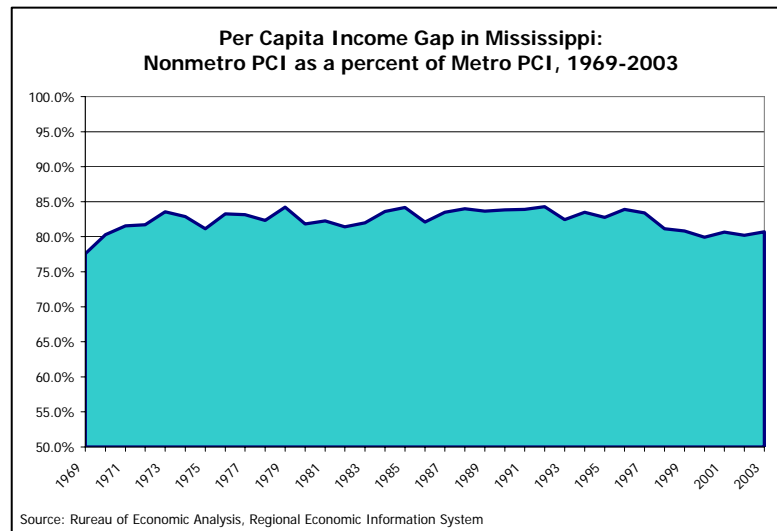
Within Mississippi, 37 counties, most of them nonmetro counties (32), had per capita income less than \$20,000 in 2003. The highest per capita income (\$36,451) was in Madison County in the Jackson Metropolitan Area.



Nonmetro per capita income in Mississippi has lagged behind metro through the past several decades. In 2003, metro per capita income was \$26,364, compared to \$21,283 in nonmetro areas.



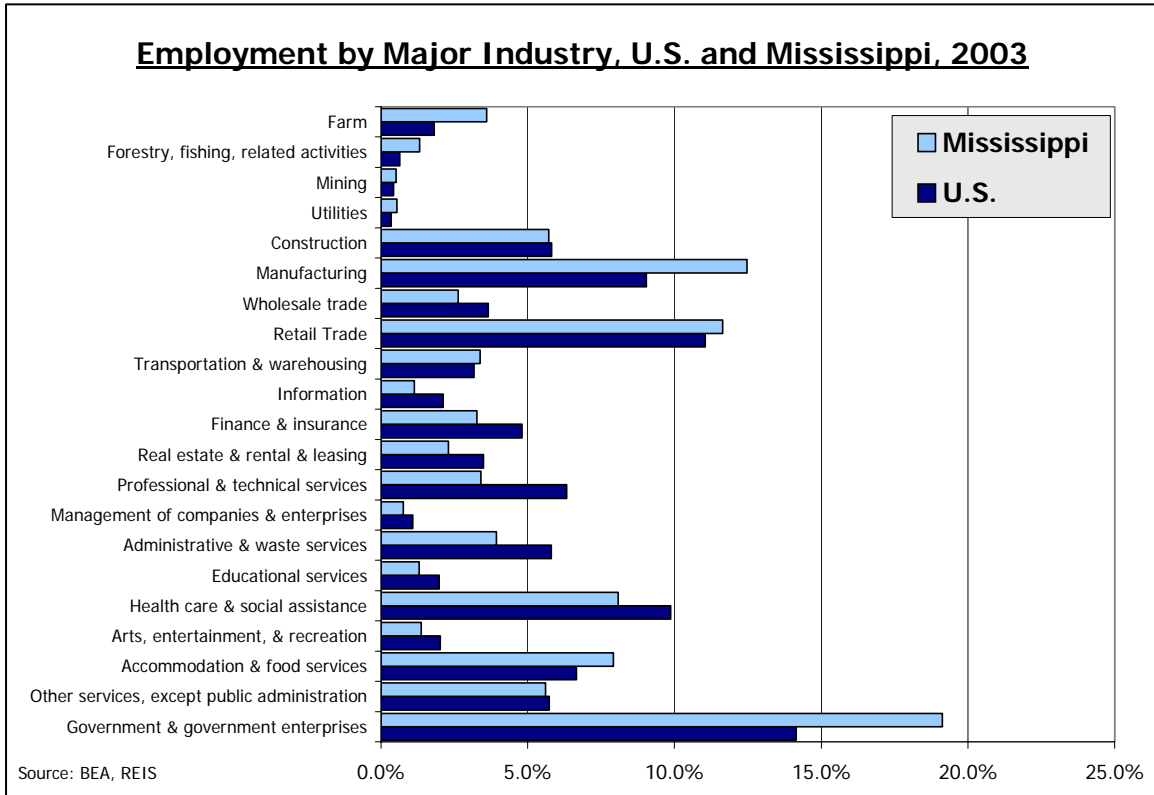
The per capita income gap between metro and nonmetro areas (measured with nonmetro income as a percent of metro) has remained steady after increasing during the late 1990s. In 2003, nonmetro per capita income was 80.7 percent of metro per capita income.



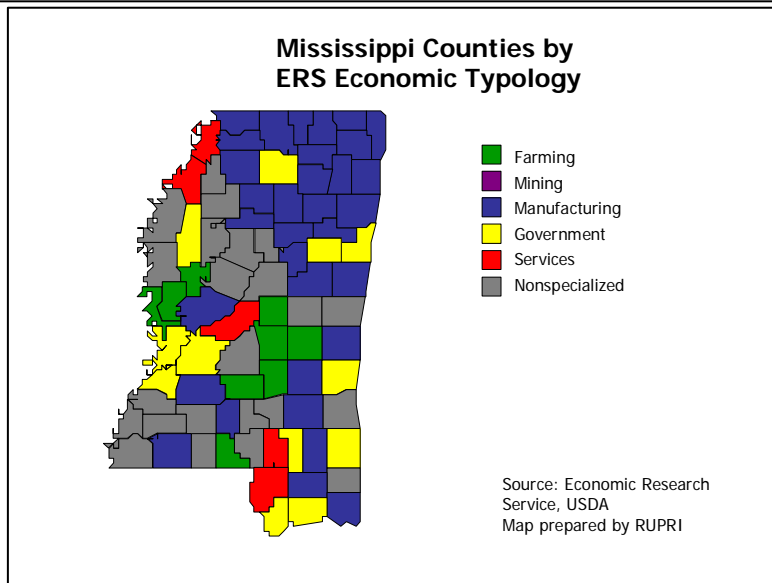
Within Mississippi, there are several counties in which a large portion of total personal income is derived from transfer payments. Transfer payments include retirement and disability payments, social security benefits, public assistance, and medical benefits. In 24 counties, over 30 percent of total personal income was from transfer payment - 22 of these counties are nonmetro.

Employment by Industry

In 2003, government and government enterprises accounted for the largest shares of total employment both in Mississippi (19.1%) and the U.S. (14.2%). Manufacturing made up the second largest sector in Mississippi in 2003, accounting for 12.5 percent of total employment.

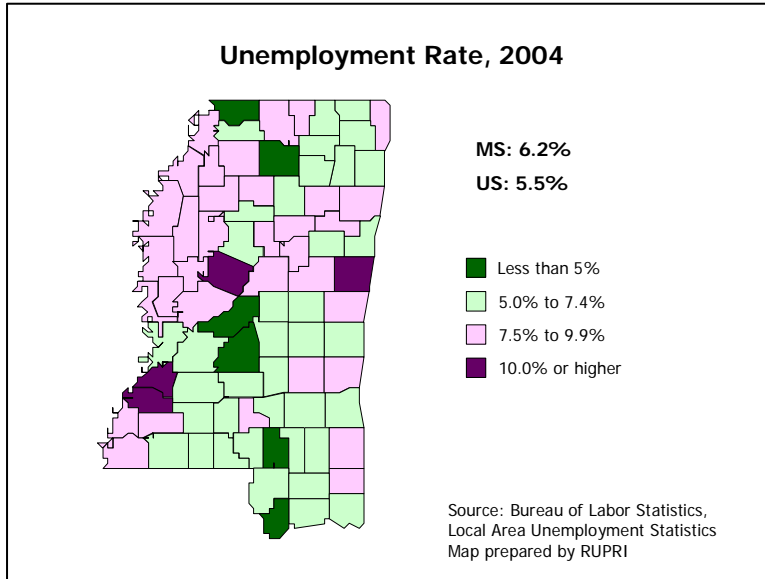


The ERS economic typology classifies counties into one of five industry categories of specialization or as nonspecialized. The map to the right shows the classification of Mississippi's counties by this typology. The map illustrates the manufacturing specialization throughout much of the state, particularly the northeast.

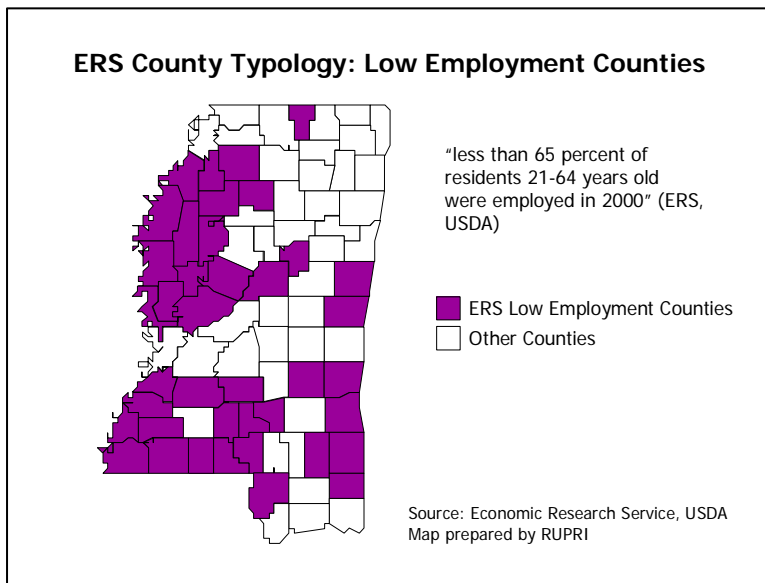


Unemployment

In 2004 the unemployment rate for Mississippi was 6.2 percent, compared to 5.5 percent for the U.S. Within Mississippi, the unemployment rate ranged from 3.5 percent in DeSoto County to 13.2 percent in Jefferson County. Four counties (all nonmetro) had unemployment rates higher than 10 percent in 2004.

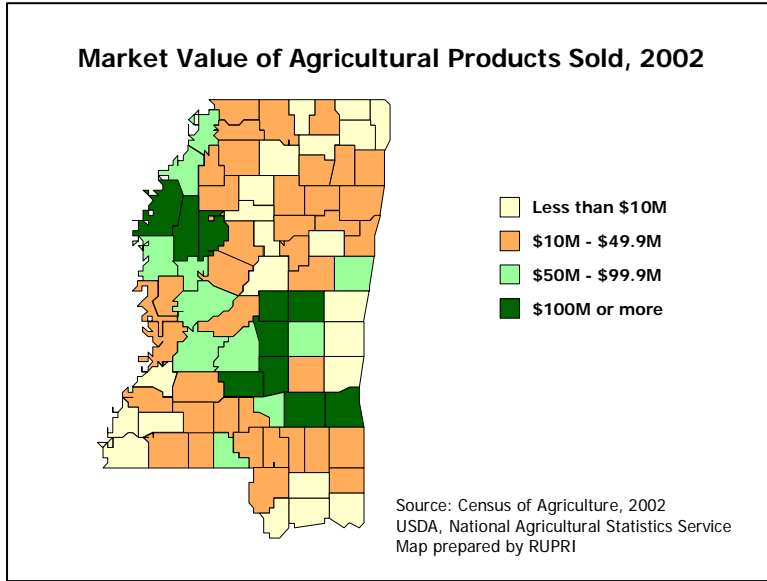


ERS classifies counties as low employment counties if fewer than 65 percent of the population aged 21 to 64 were employed in 2000. In Mississippi, 40 counties are classified as low employment counties - the majority of them are nonmetro (36)

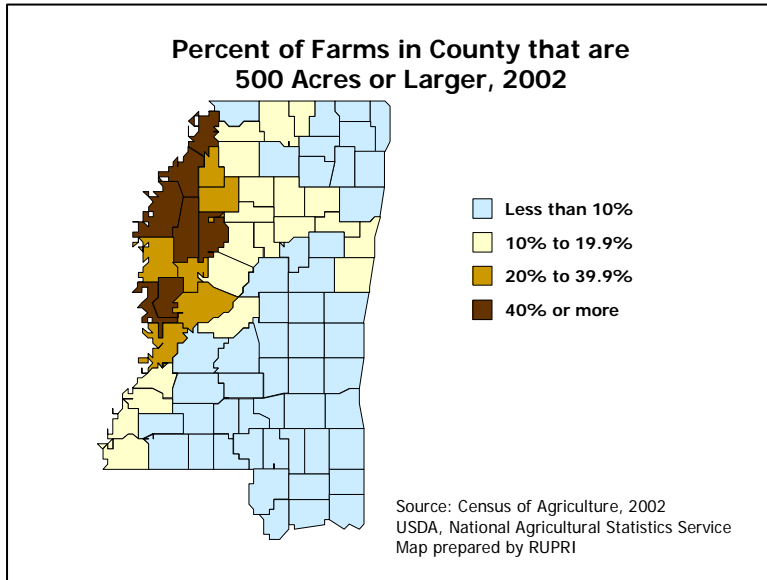


Agriculture

Agriculture is an important industry in many parts of the state. Nine 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 Mississippi counties. Ten counties had sales of over \$100 million in 2002.

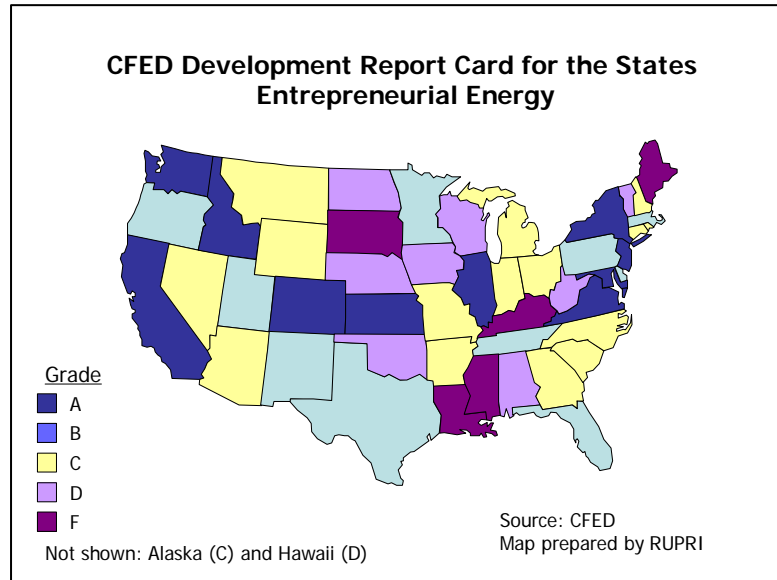


Average farm size in Mississippi is 263 acres, and 9.9 percent of farms are 500 acres or larger. The largest farms in Mississippi are in the eastern part of the state along the Mississippi River.

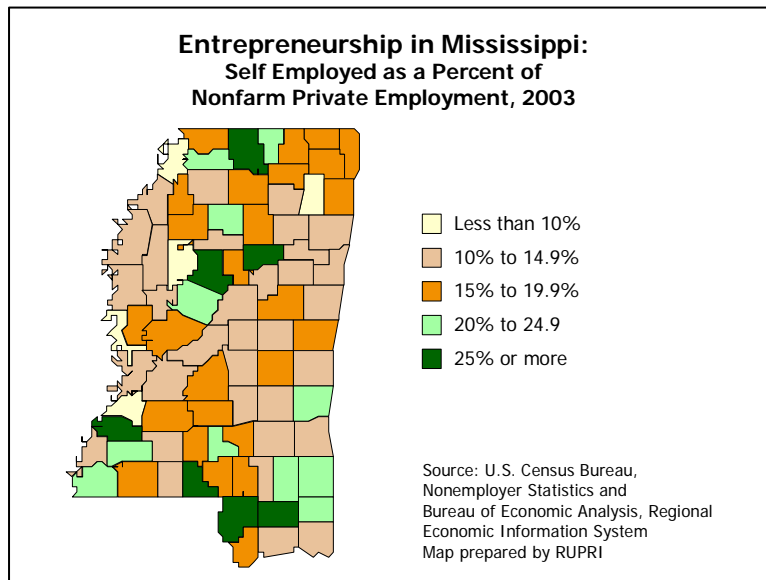


Entrepreneurship

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* 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. Mississippi’s rank on this indicator shows room for improvement.



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



Data Sources and References

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<http://www.bea.gov/ea/regional/reis/>

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Economic Research Service, USDA, 2004 County Typology

<http://www.ers.usda.gov/Briefing/Rurality/Typology/>

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<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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