

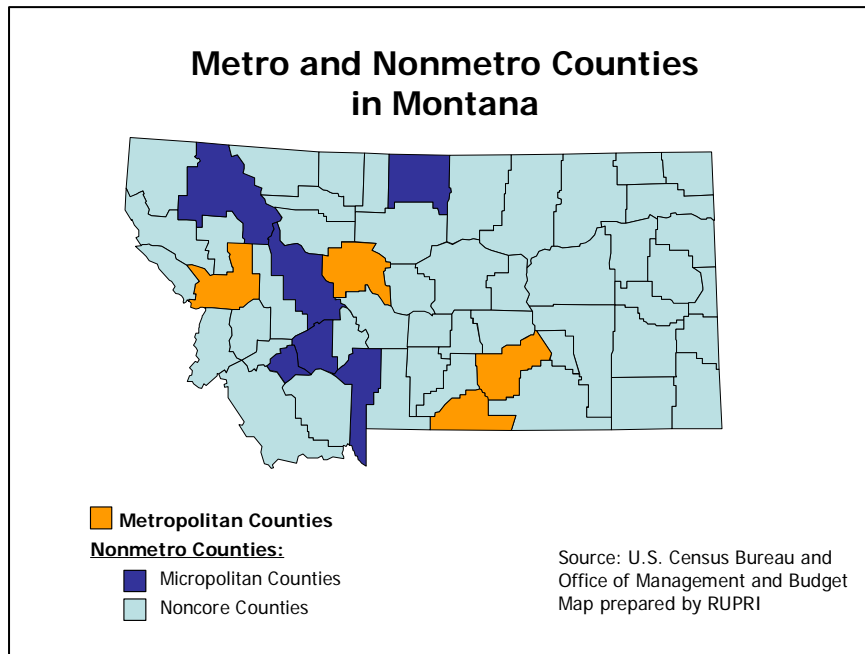
Demographic and Economic Profile

Montana

Updated May 2006

Metro and Nonmetro Counties in Montana

Based on the most recent listing of core based statistical areas by the Office of Management and Budget (December 2005), 4 counties in Montana are part of metropolitan statistical areas, and 6 counties are part of micropolitan areas. The micropolitan category 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 46 counties in Montana are considered noncore counties. Using these classifications and the population estimates for 2005, 34.9 percent of Montana residents live in metropolitan areas, 30.0 percent live in micropolitan areas, and 35.2 percent live in noncore areas.

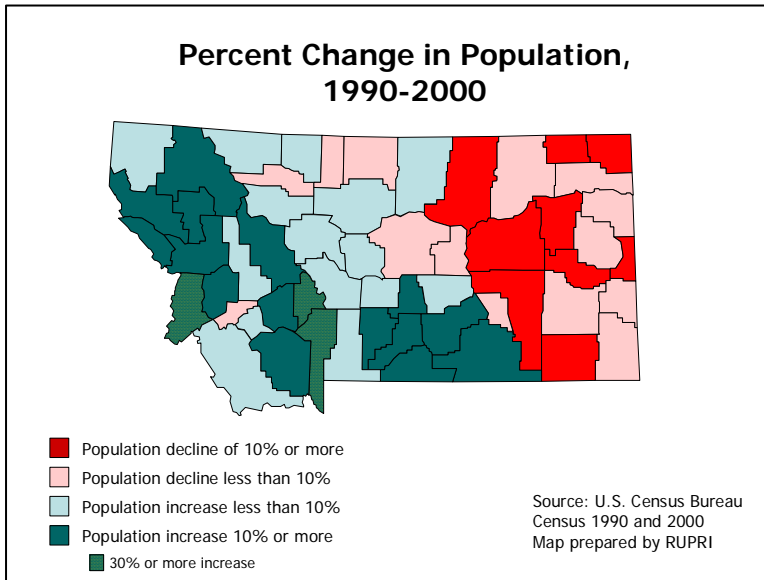


Population

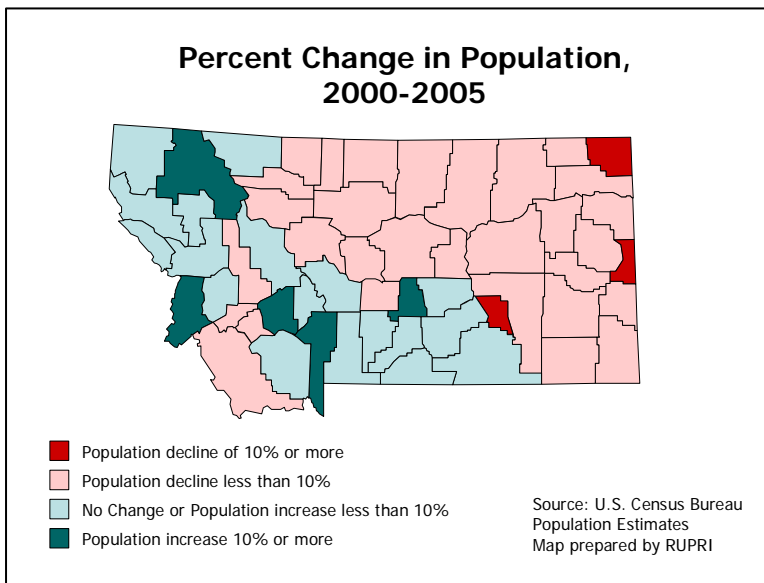
Montana's population in 2005 was 935,670, up 3.7 percent from the 2000 Census. During the 1990s, the population in Montana grew by 12.9 percent. Nationally, population increased 13.1 percent during the 1990s, and 5.3 percent from April 2000 to July 2005. Within Montana, population growth in the micropolitan areas exceeded growth in the metropolitan and noncore areas during both time periods.

Percent Change in Population		
Area:	1990-2000	2000-2005
U.S.	13.1%	5.3%
Montana	12.9%	3.7%
Metropolitan	13.4%	3.6%
Nonmetropolitan	12.7%	3.8%
Micropolitan	19.7%	8.1%
Noncore	7.7%	0.4%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau

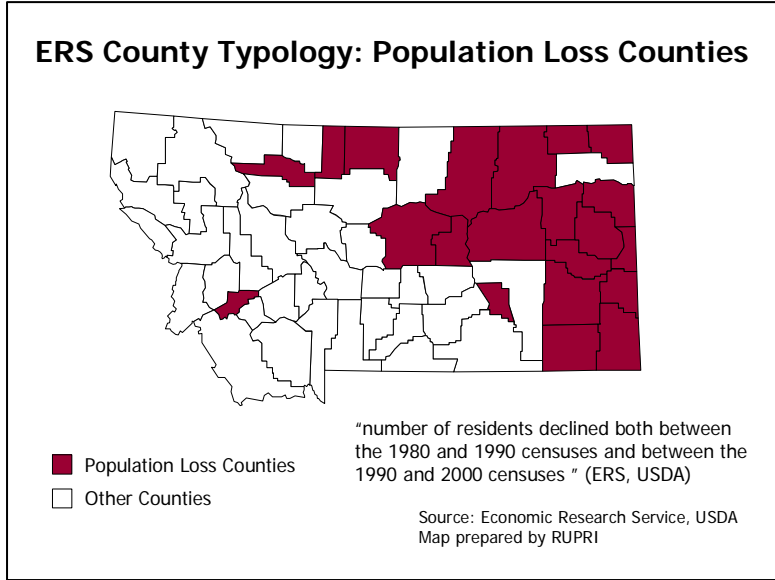


Twenty three counties in Montana lost population during the 1990s, all nonmetro counties. The largest population losses were in eastern Montana. Three counties experienced population gains over 30 percent during the 1990s, and all were nonmetro counties in the southwestern part of the state (Broadwater, Gallatin and Ravalli Counties)



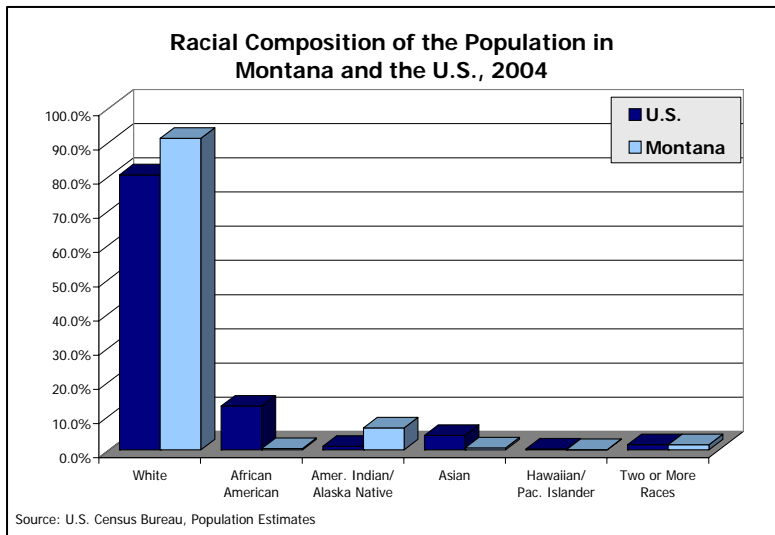
Between the 2000 Census and July 2005, 33 counties in Montana lost population - 1 metropolitan and 32 nonmetropolitan counties. The fastest growing county during this period was Gallatin County, which is the Bozeman, MT Micropolitan Area, growing 15.3 percent during this time period.

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 Montana, 21 counties are classified as population loss counties, all of them nonmetropolitan, and most of them in the eastern part of the state.

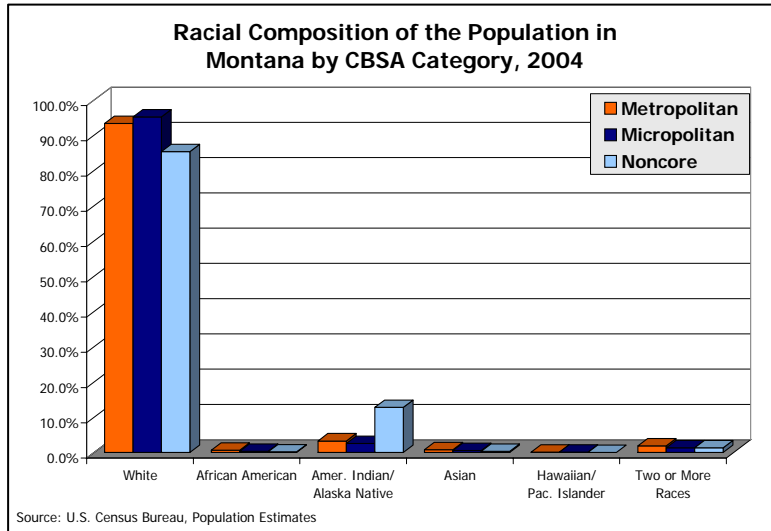


Race / Ethnicity

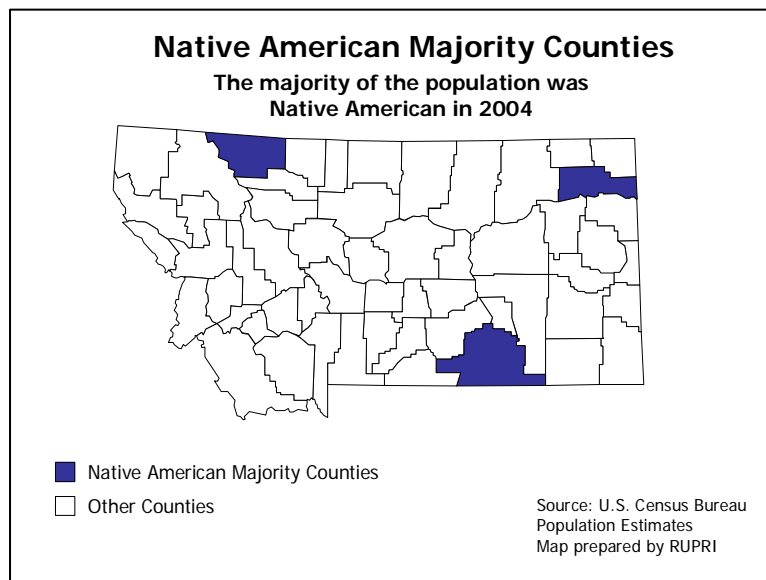
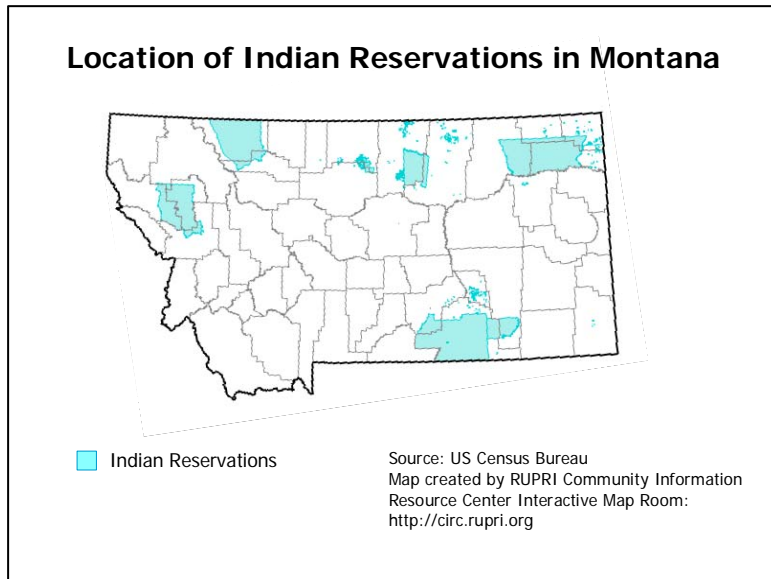
The population of Montana is 91.1 percent white and 0.4 percent African American. Nationally, the population is 80.4 percent white and 12.8 percent African American. Native Americans make up 6.4 percent of Montana’s population, compared to 1.0 percent of the total U.S. population. People of Hispanic origin make up 2.4 percent of Montana’s population, compared to 14.1 percent of the total U.S. population.



Within Montana, the metro population is 93.4 percent white and 3.3 percent Native American. The micropolitan population is 95.3 percent white and 2.6 percent Native American. The noncore population is 85.4 percent white and 12.8 percent Native American.

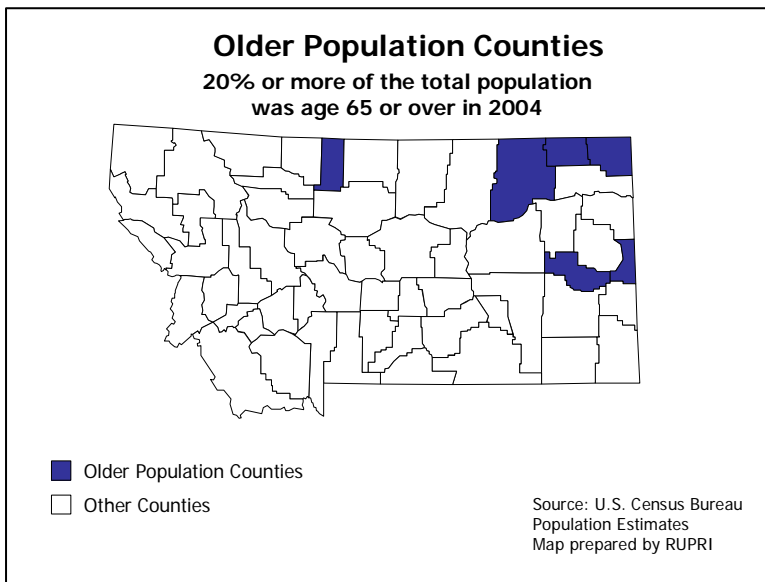
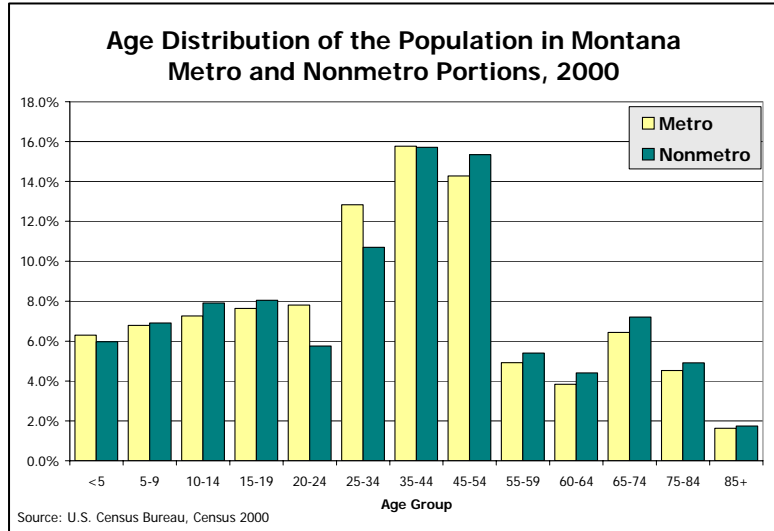


The map to the right shows the location of Indian Reservations within the state of Montana. In three Montana counties, Native Americans make up the majority of the population (Big Horn, Glacier, and Roosevelt Counties). Those counties are shown in the map below.

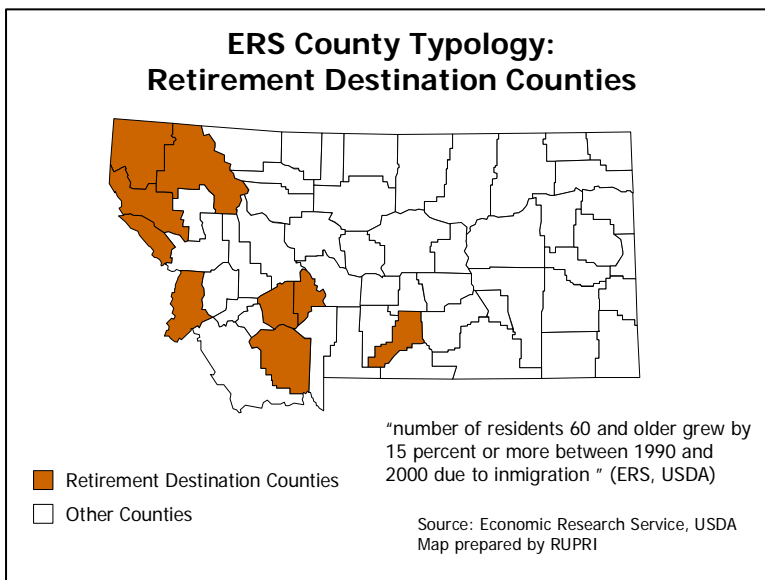


Age

The age distribution of the metro and nonmetro population in Montana is shown in the chart to the right. The percent of the population in the 20 to 34 age groups is higher in the metro areas, while the percent of the population age 45 and over is higher in the nonmetro areas.



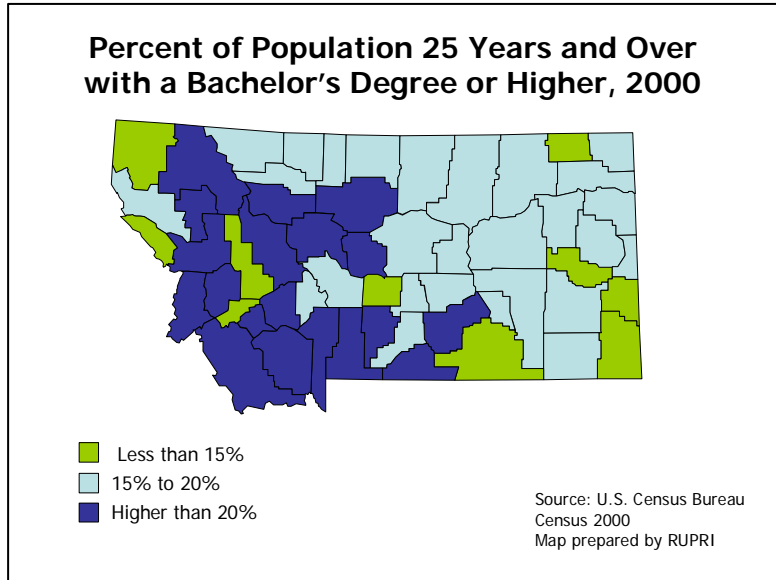
In several Montana counties the population age 65 and over accounts for 20 percent or more of the total population. These counties are all nonmetro, and most of them are located in the eastern part of the state.



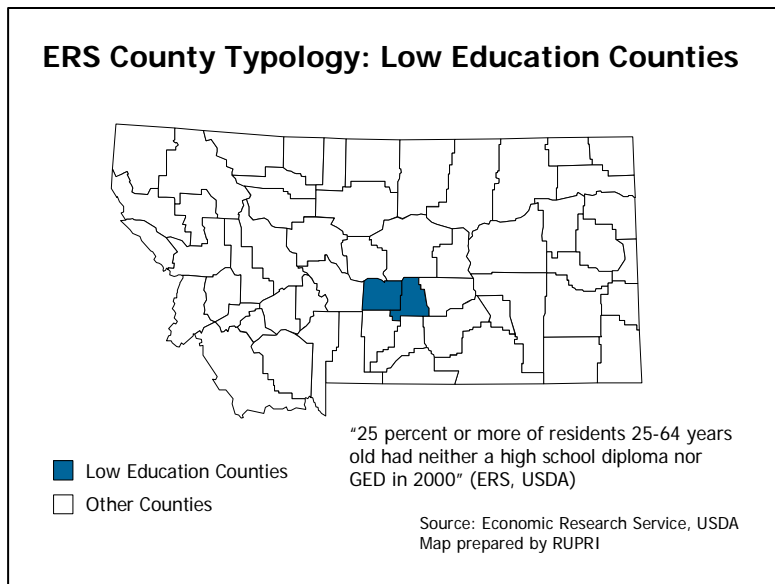
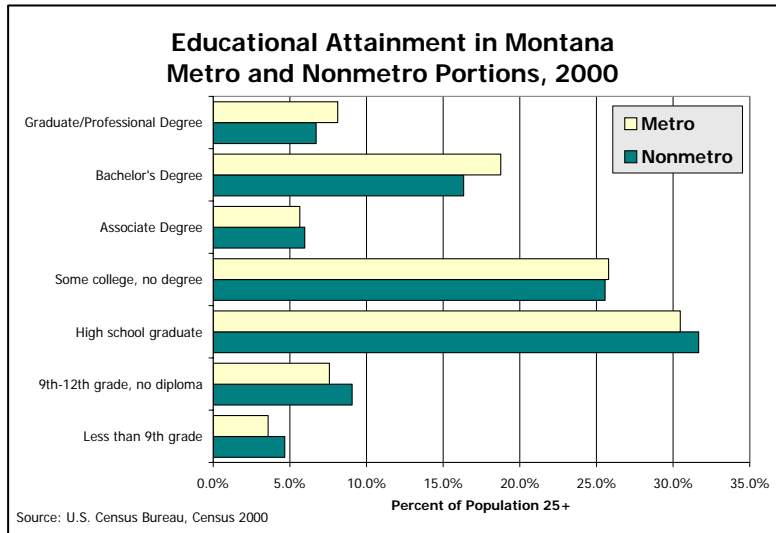
In addition, several counties are destination counties for the retirement aged population. ERS classifies counties as retirement destination counties if the “number of residents 60 and older grew by 15 percent or more between 1990 and 2000 due to immigration.” In Montana, 9 counties, all nonmetro, are 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 both the U.S. and in Montana. Over 20 percent of the population had a Bachelor's degree in 20 Montana counties (all 4 metro counties, all 6 micropolitan counties, and 10 noncore counties).



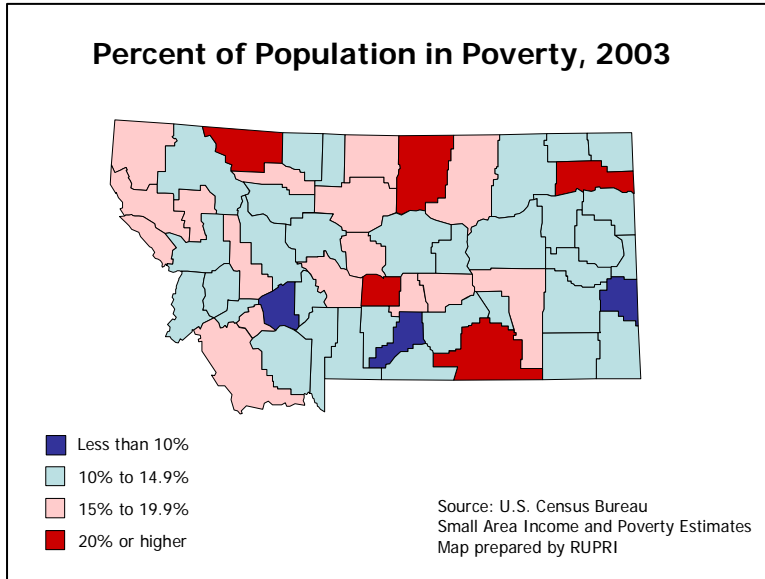
The chart to the right compares the educational attainment of Montana's metro and nonmetro populations. The percent of the population with high educational attainment (Bachelor's degree or higher) is greater in the metro areas, while the percent of population with low educational attainment (high school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



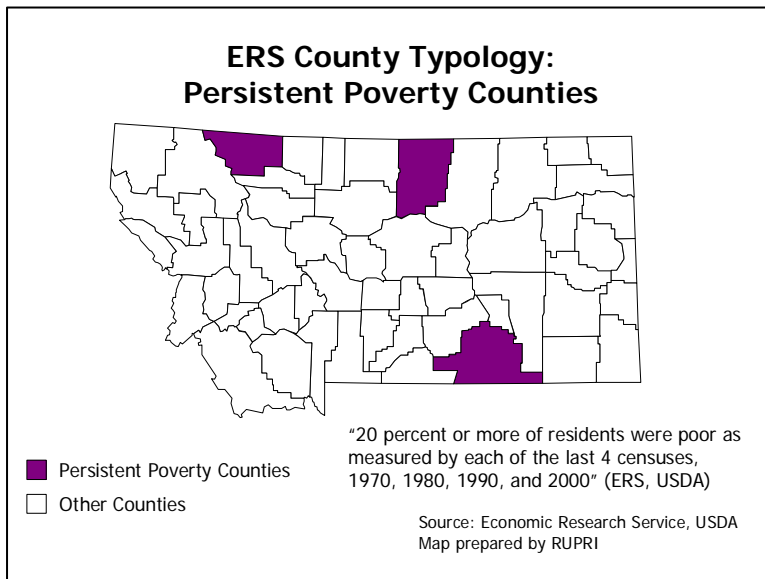
ERS classifies counties as low education counties if "25 percent or more of residents 25 to 64 year old had neither a high school diploma nor GED in 2000." In Montana, two counties are classified as low education counties - Wheatland and Golden Valley Counties, both nonmetro.

Poverty

In 2003 the poverty rate was 12.5 percent in the U.S. and 14.2 percent in Montana (Census Bureau estimates). The poverty rate in Montana counties ranged from 9.2 percent in Jefferson County to 26.2 percent in Roosevelt County. Five Montana counties had poverty rates exceeding 20 percent in 2003, all of them nonmetro.

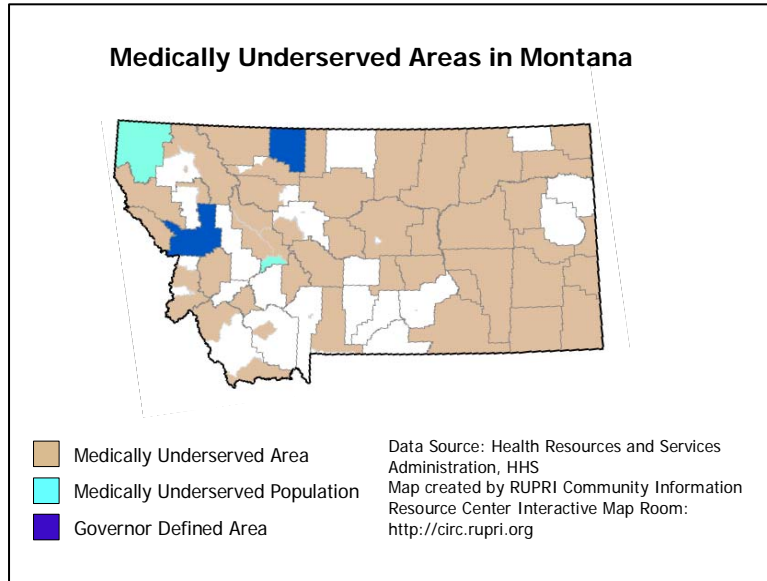


ERS defines persistent poverty counties as those counties with poverty rates of 20 percent or more in each decennial census from 1970 through 2000. Nationally, 386 counties are persistent poverty counties, and three are located in Montana. All three Montana persistent poverty counties are nonmetro (Glacier, Blaine, and Big Horn Counties).

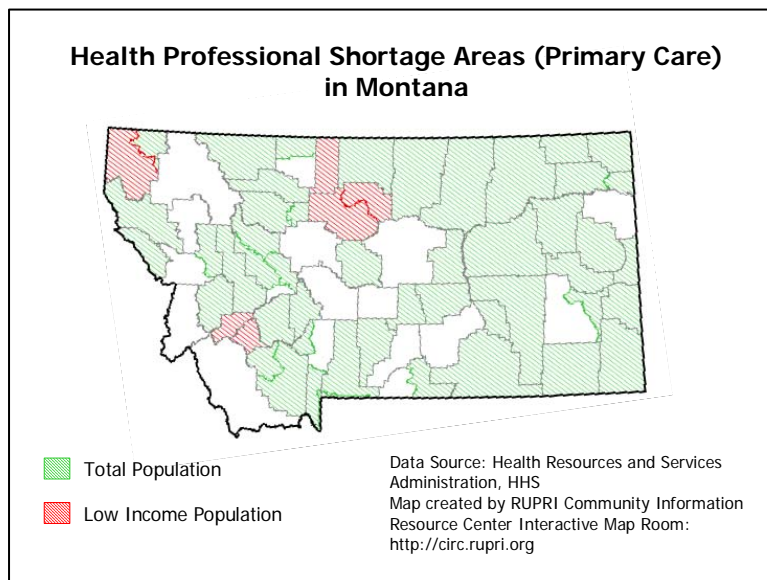


Health Care Services

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 Montana, much of the state is considered medically underserved, shown in the map below.

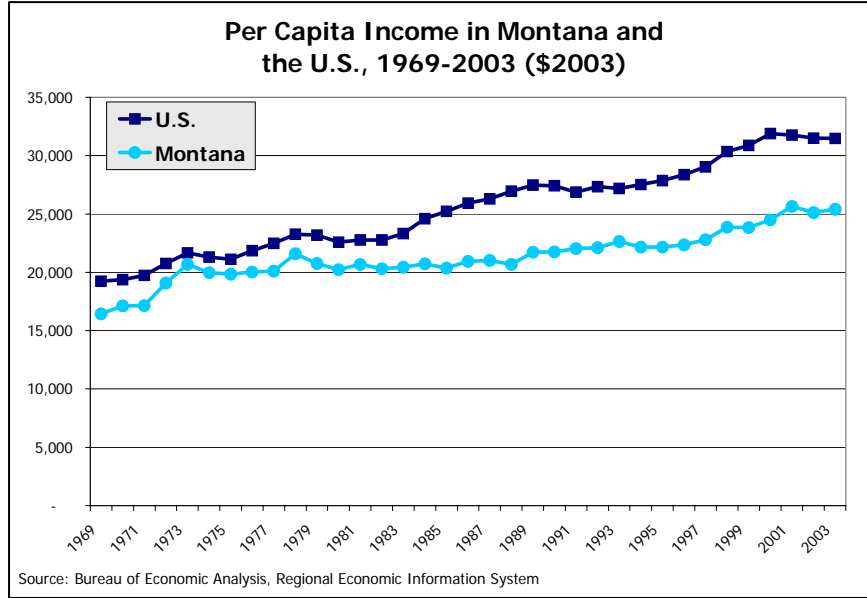


Health Professional Shortage Areas (HPSAs) are those areas that “have shortages of primary medical care, dental or mental health providers and may be urban or rural areas, population groups, or medical or other public facilities” (Health Resources and Services Administration, HHS). Within Montana, many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

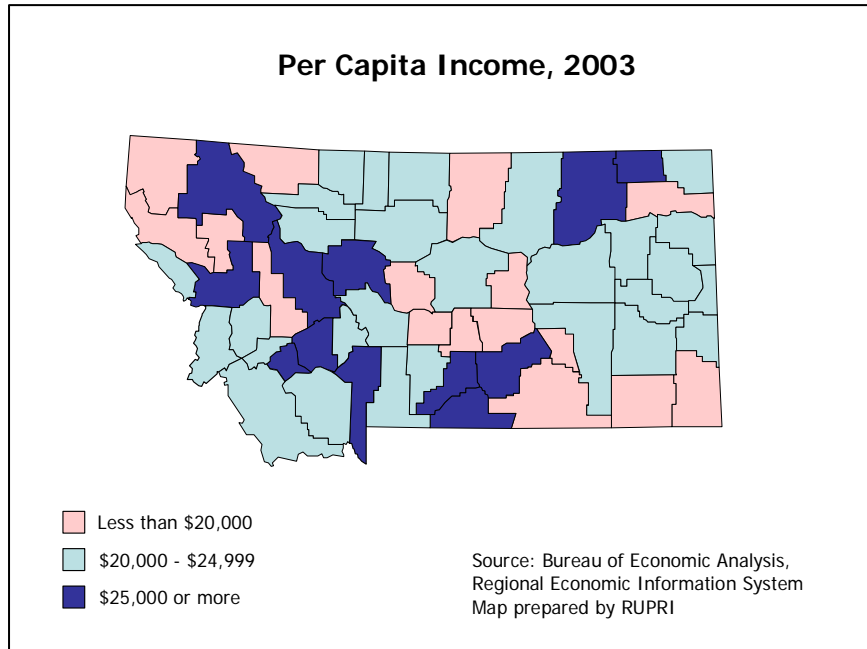


Per Capita Income

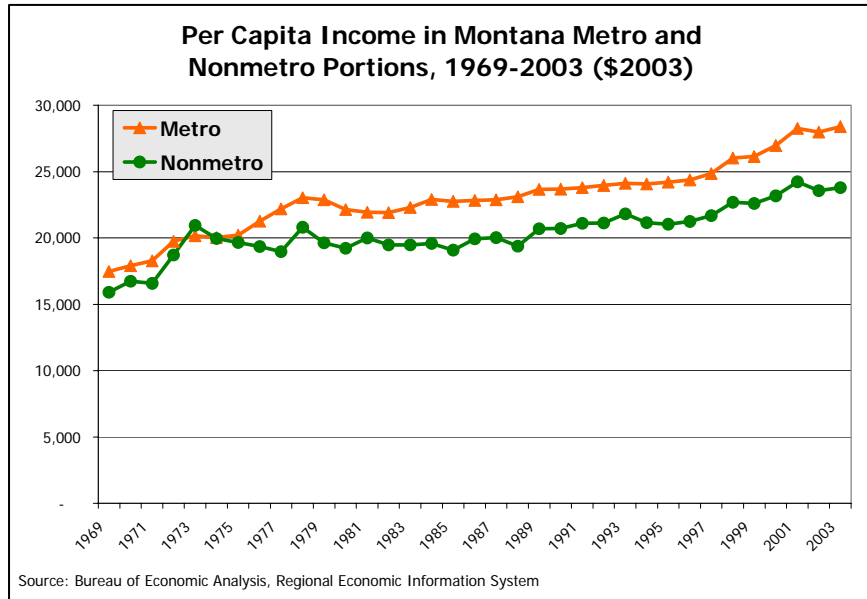
Montana's per capita income has lagged behind the nation, with the gap widening somewhat since the mid 1980s. In 2003, per capita income in Montana was \$25,406, compared to \$31,472 for the U.S.



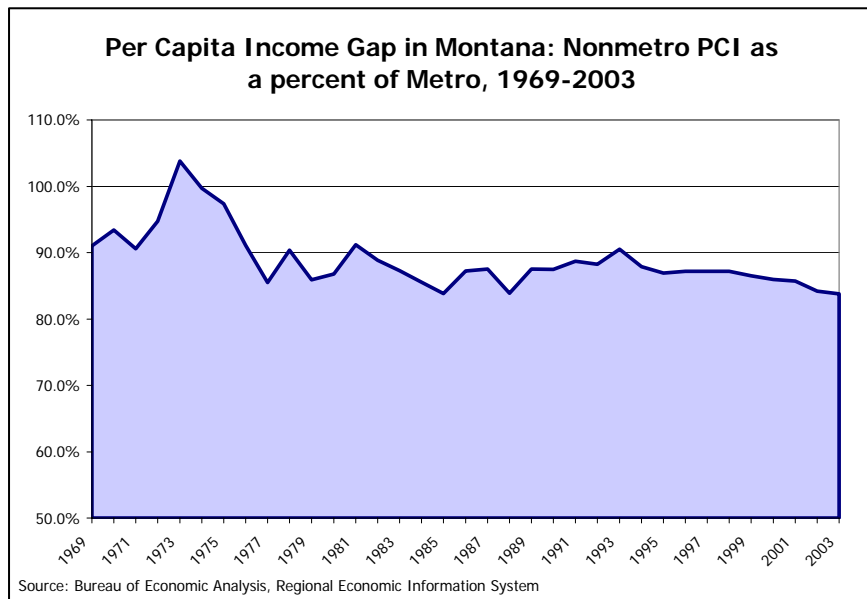
Within Montana, 2003 per capita income ranged from \$16,136 in Blaine County to \$29,421 in Yellowstone County. Sixteen counties, all nonmetro, had per capita income less than \$20,000 in 2003. Twelve counties (4 metro and 8 nonmetro) had per capita income exceeding \$25,000 in 2003.



Nonmetro per capita income in Montana has lagged behind metro through much of the past several decades, with the exception of 1973. In 2003, metro per capita income was \$28,395, compared to \$23,796 in nonmetro areas.

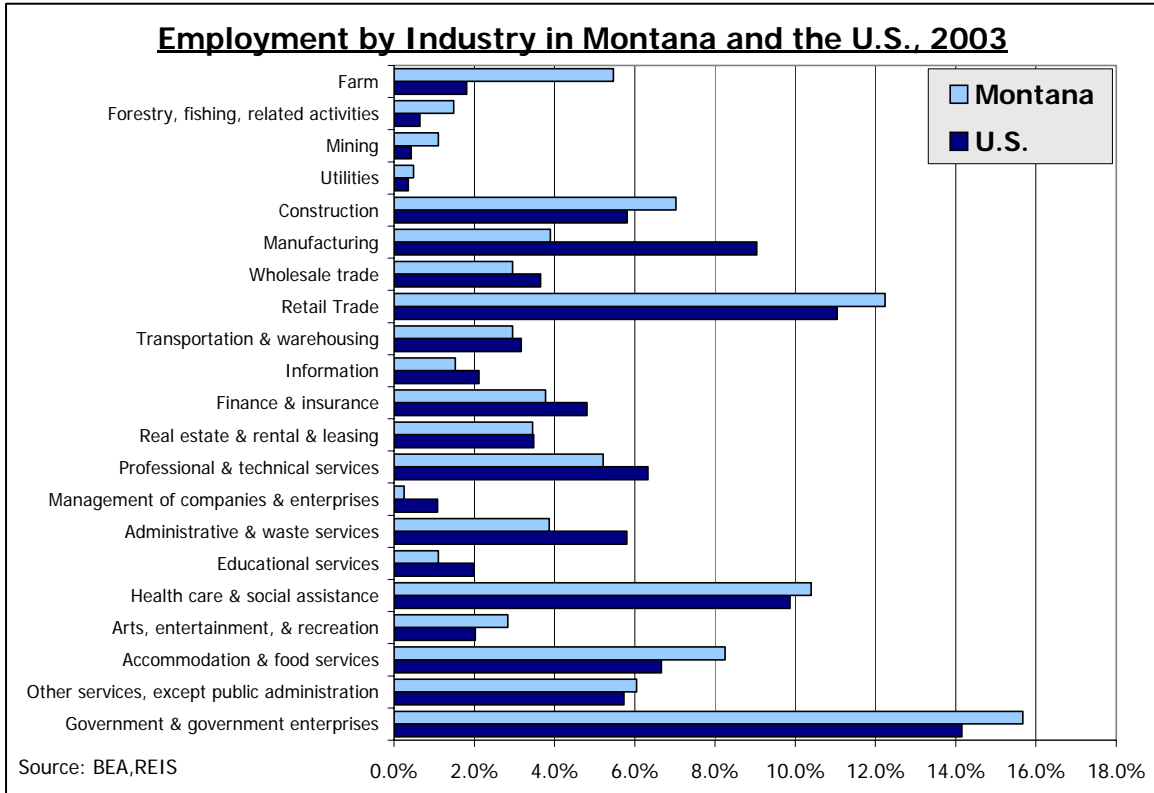


The per capita income gap between metro and nonmetro areas is measured with nonmetro per capita income as a percent of metro. In 1973 the nonmetro per capita income exceeded metro per capita income, but the gap has widened since that time. In recent years, the gap has continued to widen - from 90.5 percent in 1993 to 83.8 percent in 2003.

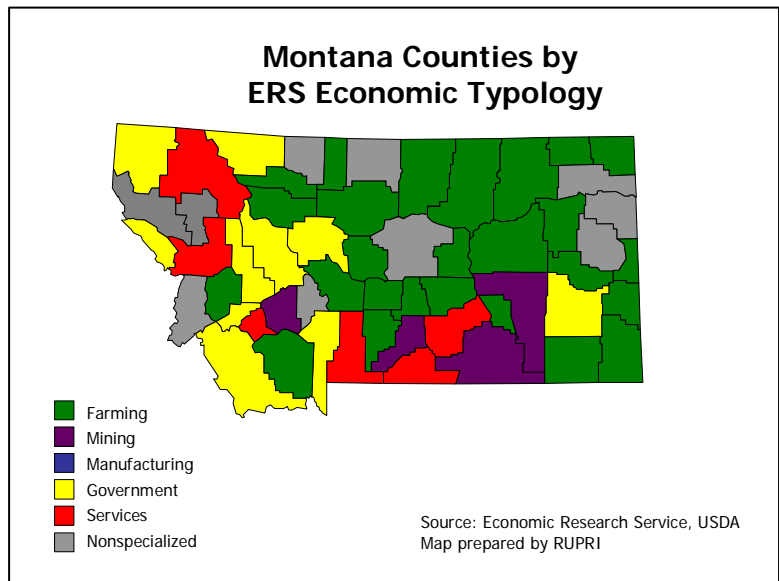


Employment Structure

In 2003, government and government enterprises accounted for the largest shares of total employment both in Montana (15.7%) and the U.S. (14.2%). Retail trade was the second largest employment sector, accounting for 12.2 percent of Montana employment and 11.0 percent of the U.S. employment.

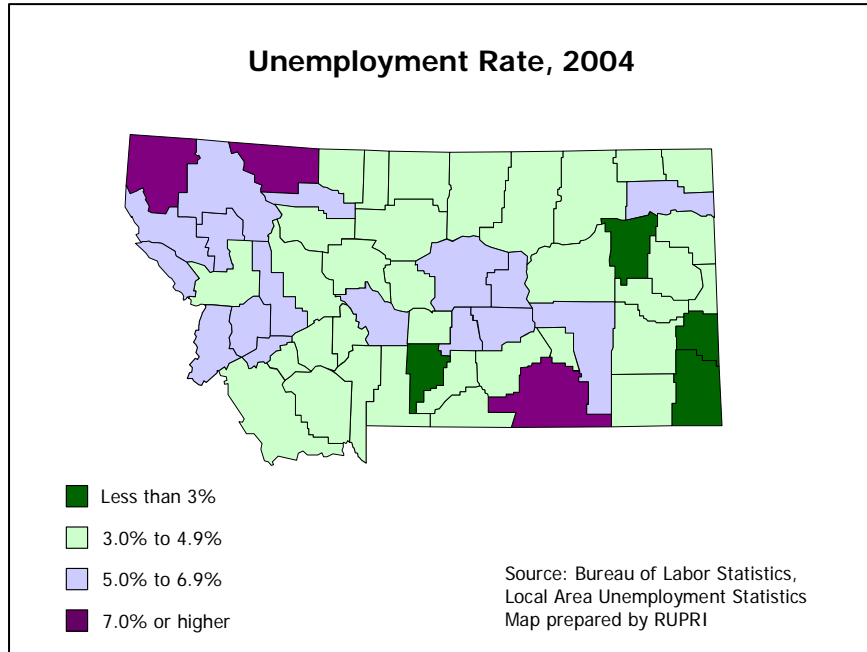


The ERS economic typology classifies counties into one of five industry categories of specialization or as nonspecialized. The map to the right shows the classification of Montana counties by this typology. The map illustrates the importance of farming in much of the state, as well as government, mining and services in several areas.

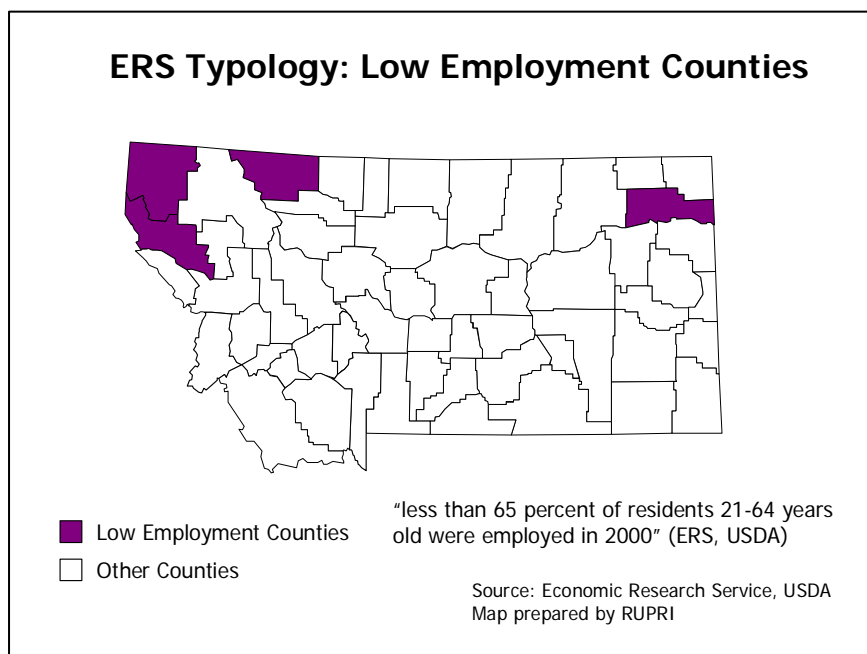


Unemployment

In 2004 the unemployment rate in Montana was 4.4 percent, compared to 5.5 percent for the U.S. Within Montana, the unemployment rate ranged from 2.1 percent in Sweet Grass County to 9.7 percent in Lincoln County.

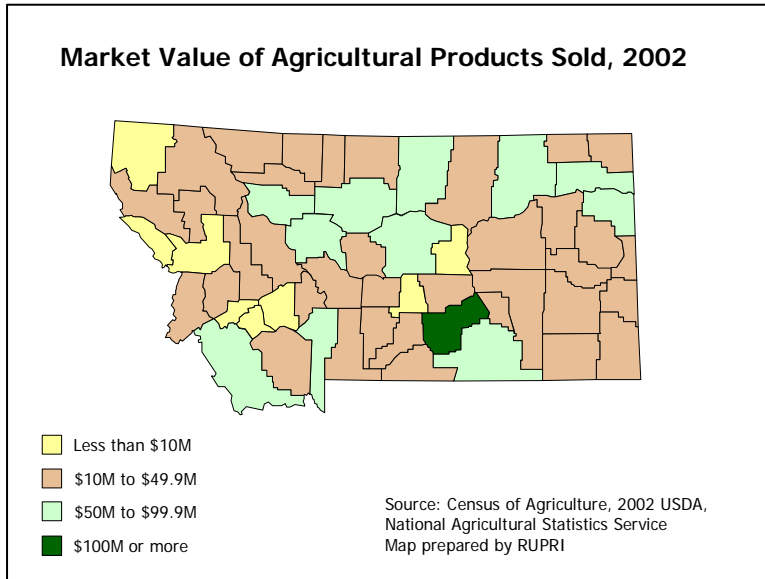


ERS classifies counties as low employment counties if fewer than 65 percent of the residents aged 21 to 64 were employed in 2000. In Montana, 4 counties (all nonmetro) are classified as low employment counties - Glacier, Lincoln, Roosevelt, and Sanders Counties.

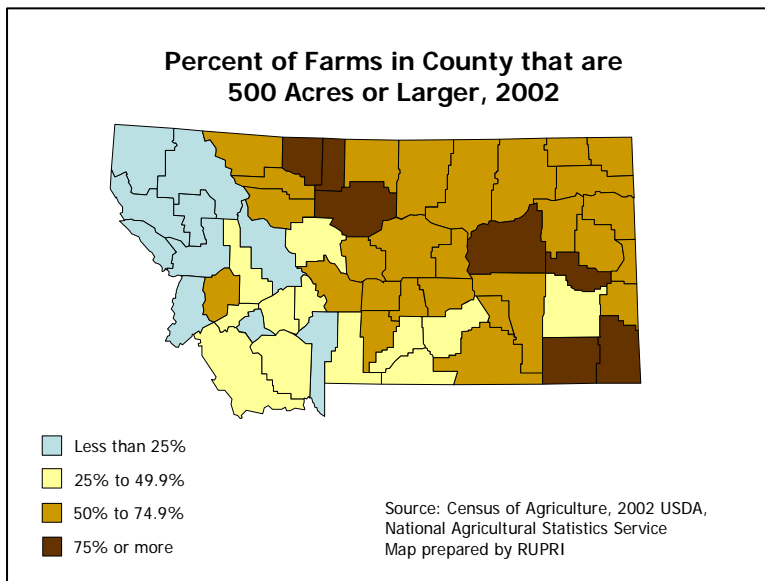


Agriculture

Agriculture is an important industry in many parts of the state. Twenty-six 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 Montana counties. One county (Yellowstone) had sales of over \$100 million in 2002.



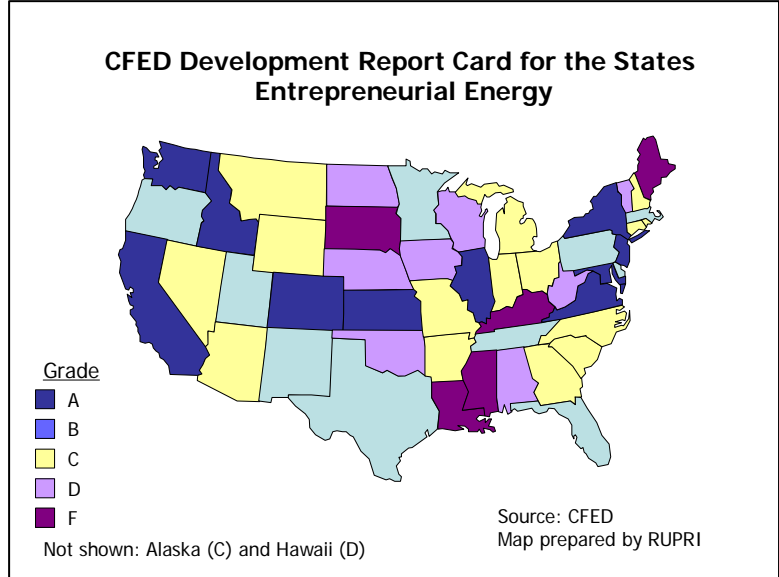
Average farm size in Montana is 2,139 acres, and over 46 percent of farms in the state are larger than 500 acres. The map below shows the percent of farms in each county that are larger than 500 acres.



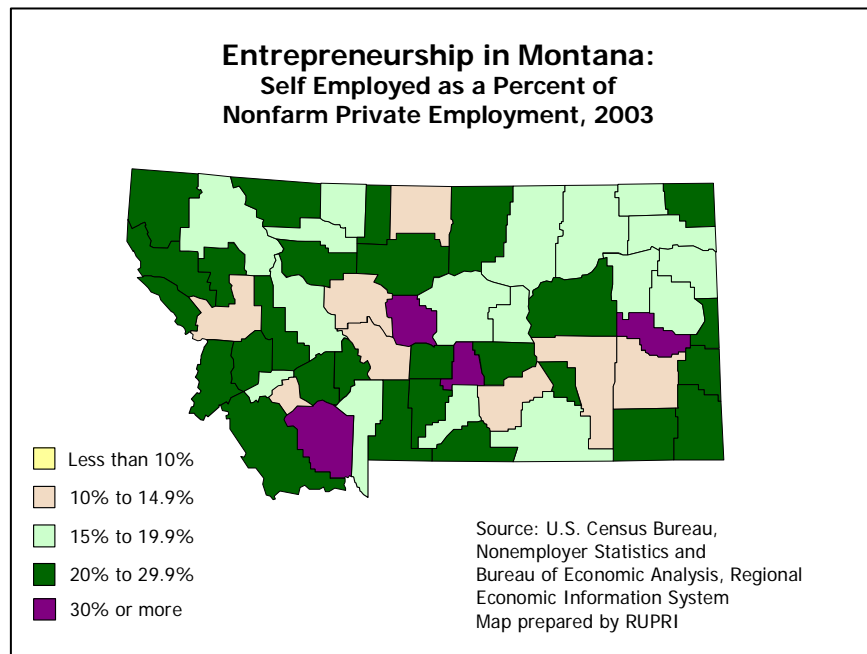
Entrepreneurship

Entrepreneurship is an important component to economic development today.

Unfortunately, data that allows us to measure entrepreneurship 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. Montana receives a grade of “C” on this indicator, more favorable than nearby Great Plains states, but less favorable than Washington and Idaho, each receiving grades of “A.”

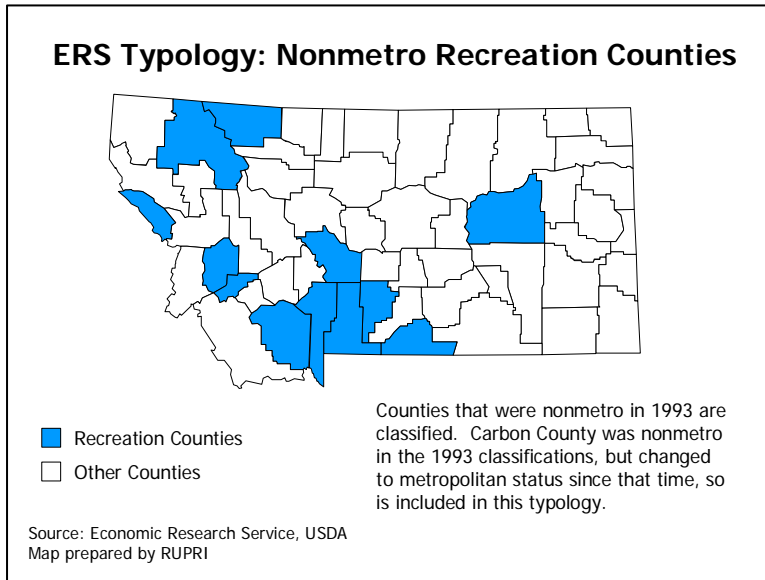


As mentioned, county level indicators are difficult to ascertain, but one good indicator of entrepreneurial activity is the proportion of workers that are self employed. The map below show self employed workers as a portion of nonfarm private employment in the county.



Recreation Counties

The Economic Research Service developed a classification for nonmetropolitan recreation counties, to capture 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 (those counties nonmetro either in 1993 or 2003 are classified), and are concentrated in the Mountain West, Upper Great Lakes, and New England. In Montana, 12 counties are classified as nonmetro recreation counties. Carbon County was a nonmetro county in the 1993 classifications so is included.



Data Sources and References

Bureau of Economic Analysis, Regional Economic Information System

<http://www.bea.gov/beat/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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