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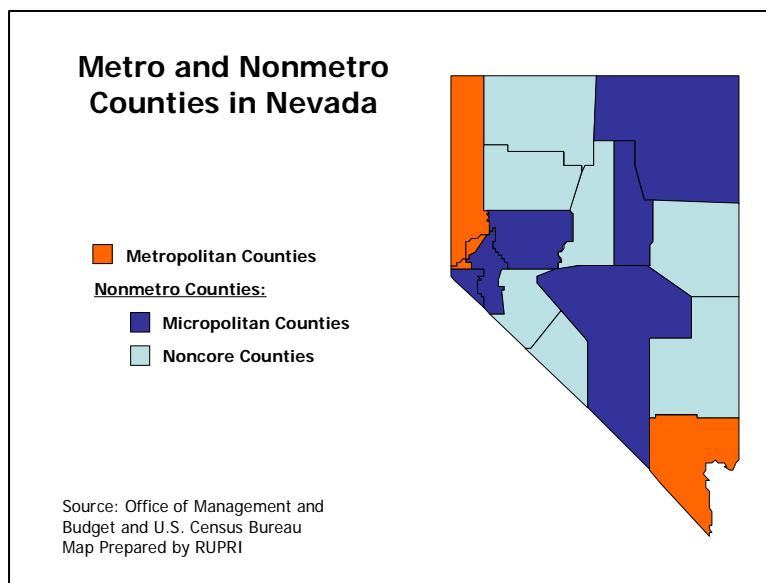
Demographic and Economic Profile

Nevada

Updated May 2006

Metro and Nonmetro Counties in Nevada

Based on the most recent listing of core based statistical areas by the Office of Management and Budget (December 2005), 4 counties in Nevada are part of metropolitan areas, and 6 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 7 counties in Nevada are considered noncore counties. Using these classifications and the population estimates for 2005, 89.5 percent of Nevada residents live in metropolitan areas, 8.6 percent live in micropolitan areas, and 2.0 percent live in noncore areas.¹



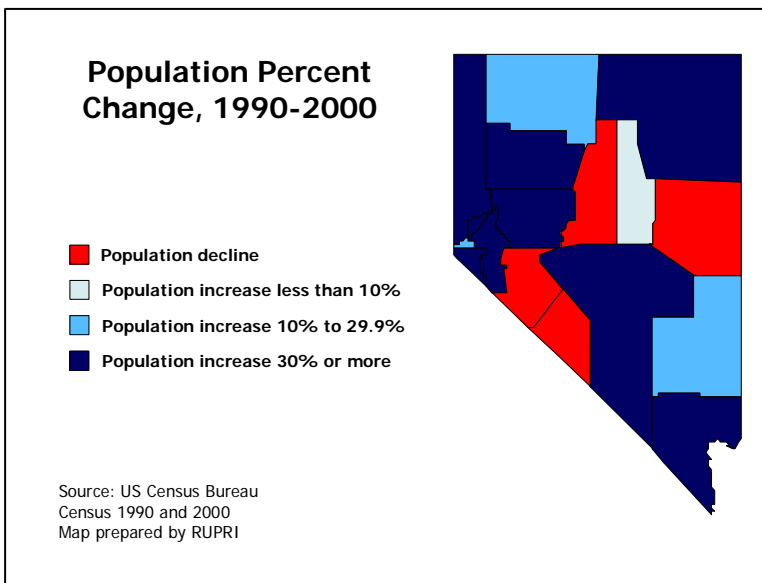
¹ These 2005 core based statistical area definitions are used throughout this report for the metropolitan/nonmetropolitan designations. In these classifications, Lyon County is a newly classified micropolitan county that was previously a noncore county.

Population

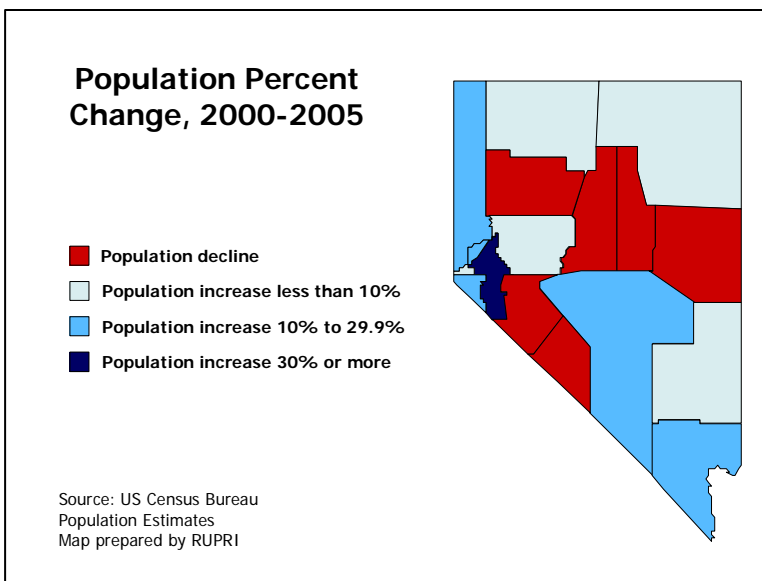
Nevada's population in 2005 was 2,414,807, up 20.8 percent from the 2000 Census. During the 1990s, population in Nevada grew by 66.3 percent. Nationally, population increased 13.1 percent during the 1990s, and 5.3 percent from April 2000 to July 2005. Population growth in Nevada's metropolitan areas has outpaced the micropolitan areas in both time periods, and the noncore areas lost population during the 2000 to 2005 time period.

Percent Change in Population		
Area:	1990-2000	2000-2005
U.S.	13.1%	5.3%
Nevada	66.3%	20.8%
Metropolitan	70.5%	22.0%
Nonmetropolitan	39.6%	11.9%
Micropolitan	51.4%	15.3%
Noncore	8.3%	-0.6%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau



Four counties in Nevada, all noncore counties, lost population during the 1990s. Four counties had population growth of 50 percent or more (1 metro and 3 nonmetro). The fastest growth during this time was in Clark County, in the Las-Vegas-Paradise, NV metropolitan area (85.6%).



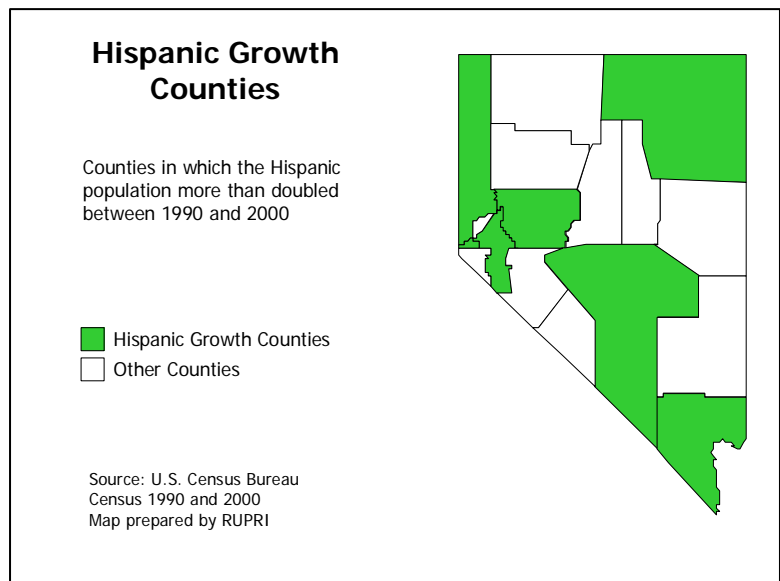
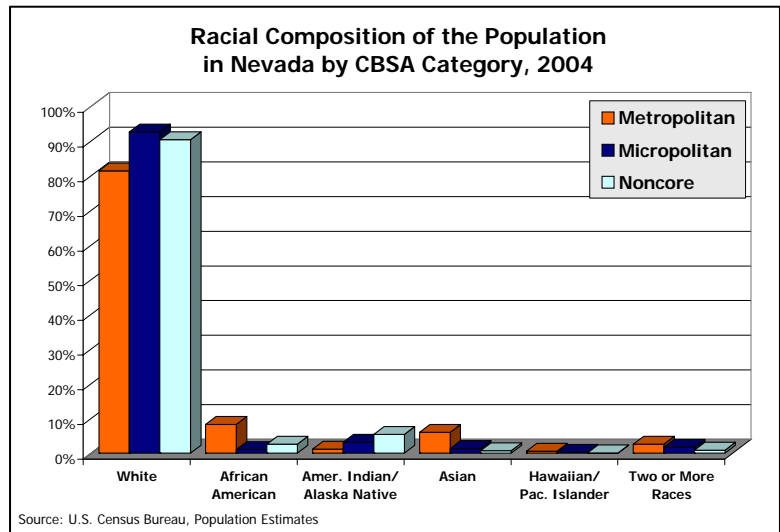
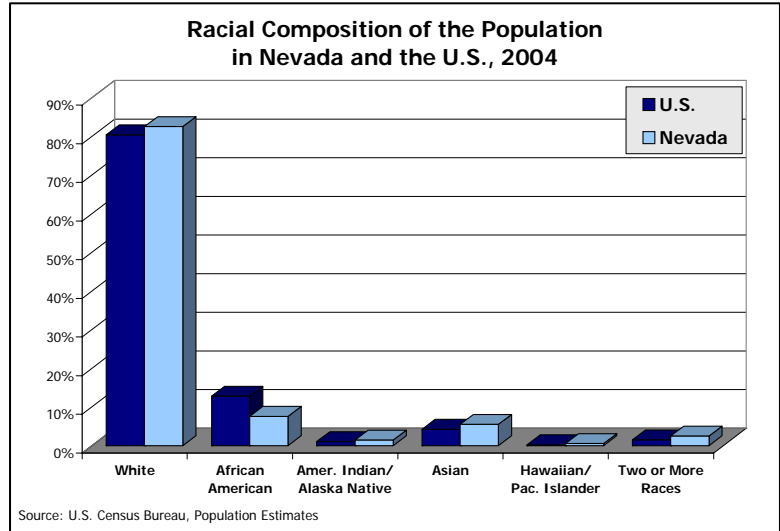
From 2000 to 2005, six counties in Nevada lost population, all of them nonmetropolitan (1 micropolitan and 5 noncore counties). Three counties experienced population growth over 20 percent (2 metro and 2 nonmetro). The fastest growth was in Lyon County, which increased 37.7 percent during this time. Lyon County is a newly classified micropolitan county (Fernley, NV Micropolitan Area).

Race / Ethnicity

The population of Nevada is 82.5 percent white and 7.5 percent African American. Nationally, the population is 80.4 percent white and 12.8 percent African American (2004 Census Bureau population estimates). Asians make up 5.5 percent of Nevada's population, compared to 4.2 percent of the total U.S. population.

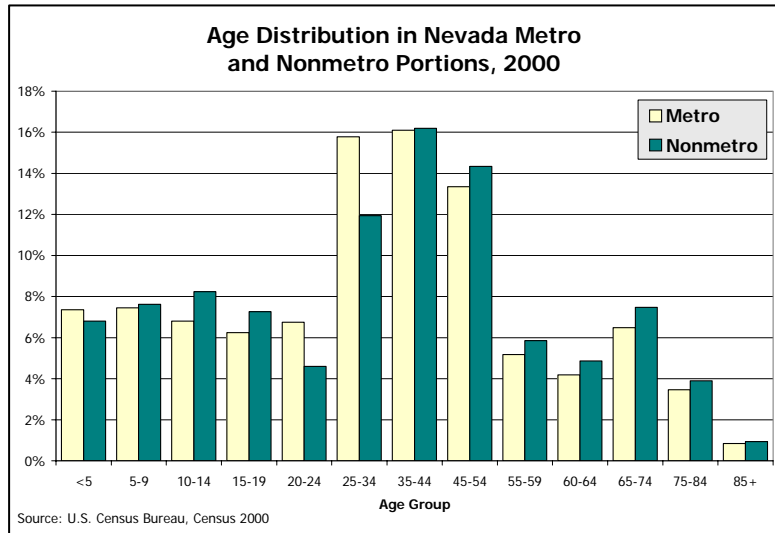
Within Nevada, the metropolitan population is 81.4 percent white and 8.3 percent African American. The micropolitan population is 92.6 percent white and 1.0 percent African American, and the noncore population is 90.4 percent white and 2.6 percent African American.

People of Hispanic origin make up 22.8 percent of Nevada's population, compared to 14.1 percent of the total U.S. population. Within Nevada, Hispanics make up 23.9 percent of the metropolitan population, 12.6 percent of the micropolitan population, and 15.3 percent of the noncore population. The map to the right shows the counties in which the Hispanic population more than doubled during the 1990s. In many cases these percent changes represent small portions of the total population. In two Nevada counties, Hispanics account for over 20 percent of the total population - Clark (25.2%) and Elko (21.3%).

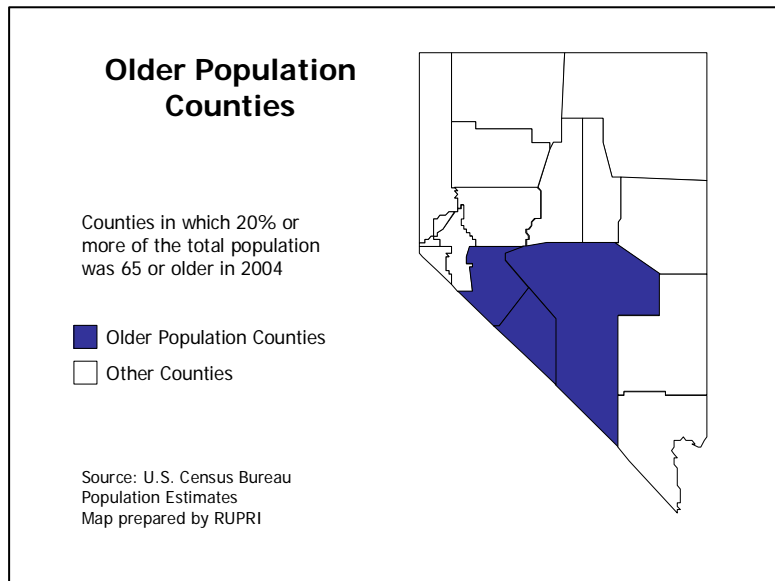


Age

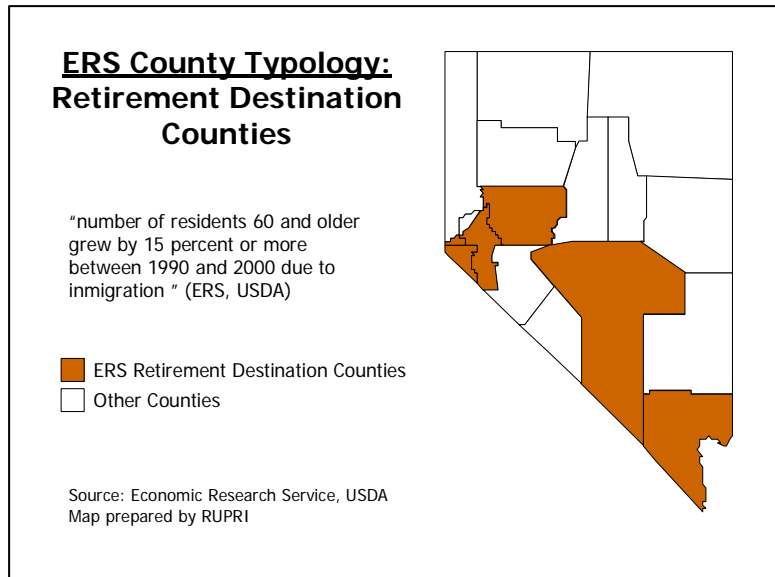
The age distribution of the metro and nonmetro populations in Nevada is shown in the chart to the right. The percent of the population in the 20 to 34 age groups is higher in the metro areas, while the percent of the population in the older age groups is greater in the nonmetro areas.



In the three counties shown to the right, the population age 65 and over accounts for 20 percent or more of total population. All three of these counties are nonmetro.

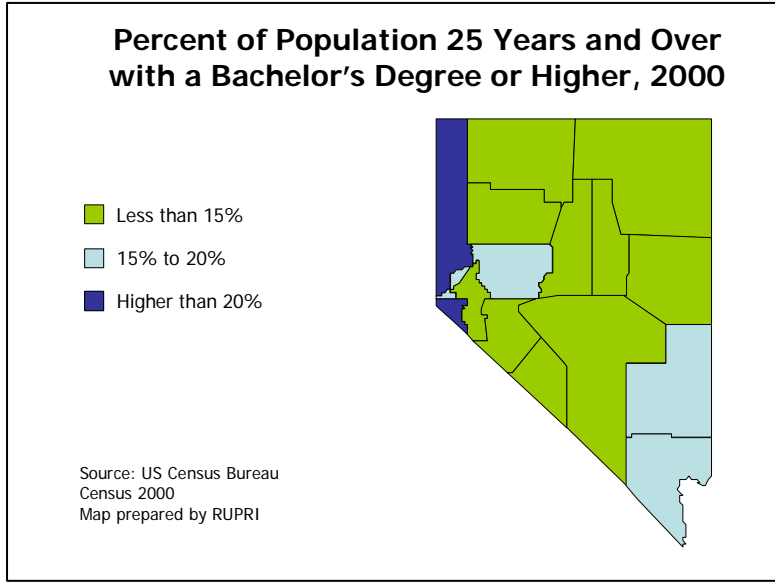


The Economic Research Service classifies counties as retirement destination counties based on population change due to in-migration. Six counties in Nevada area classified as retirement destination counties - 2 metro and 4 nonmetro counties.

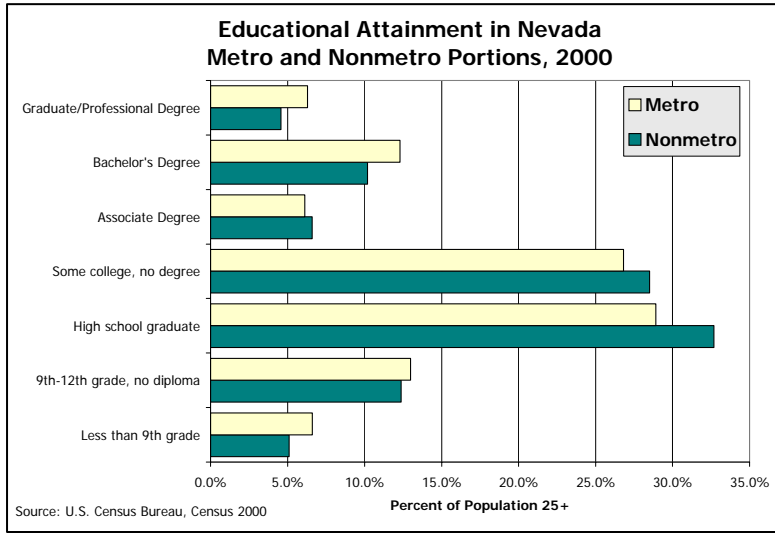


Educational Attainment

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 18.2 percent in Nevada. In metro areas of Nevada, this percentage is 18.6 percent, compared to only 14.8 percent in nonmetro areas.

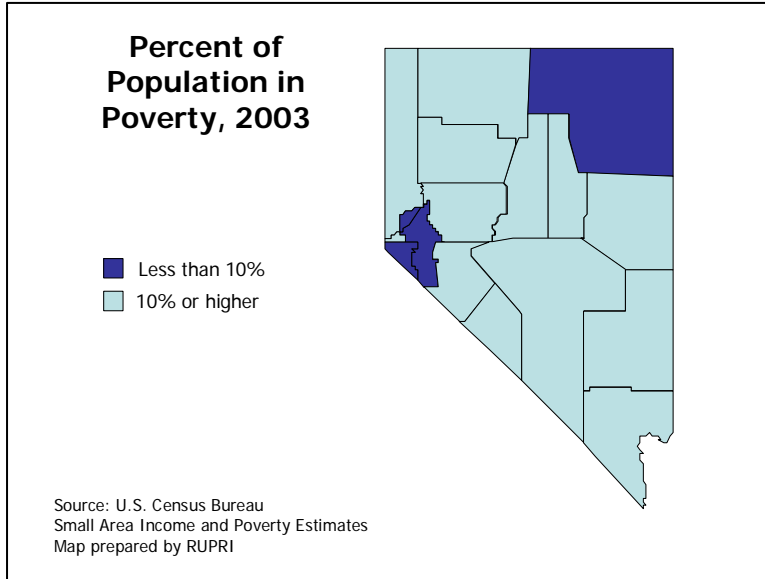


The chart below compares the educational attainment of Nevada's metro and nonmetro populations. The percent of the population with high educational attainment (B.S. degree or higher) is greater in the metro areas. The percent of the population with a high school degree is greater in the nonmetro areas,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



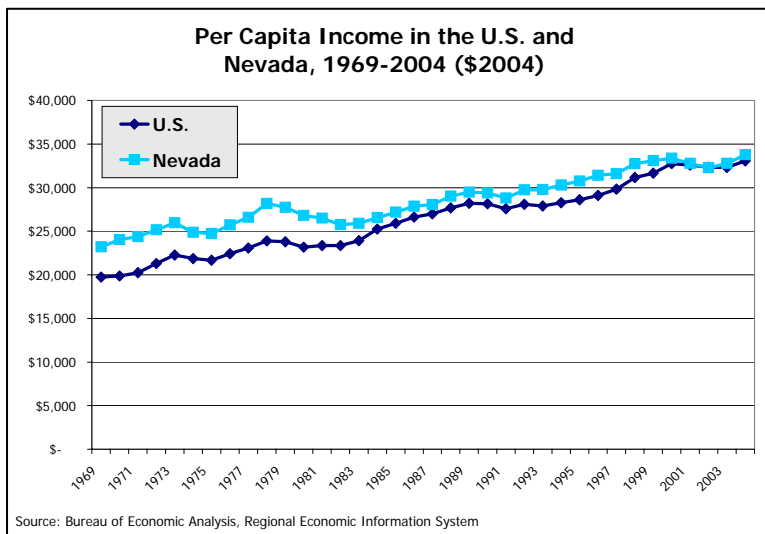
Poverty

The poverty rate in Nevada in 2003 was 11.0 percent, compared to 12.5 percent for the U.S. (Census Bureau estimates). The poverty rates in Nevada counties ranged from 5.2 percent in Storey County to 14.6 percent in Mineral County.

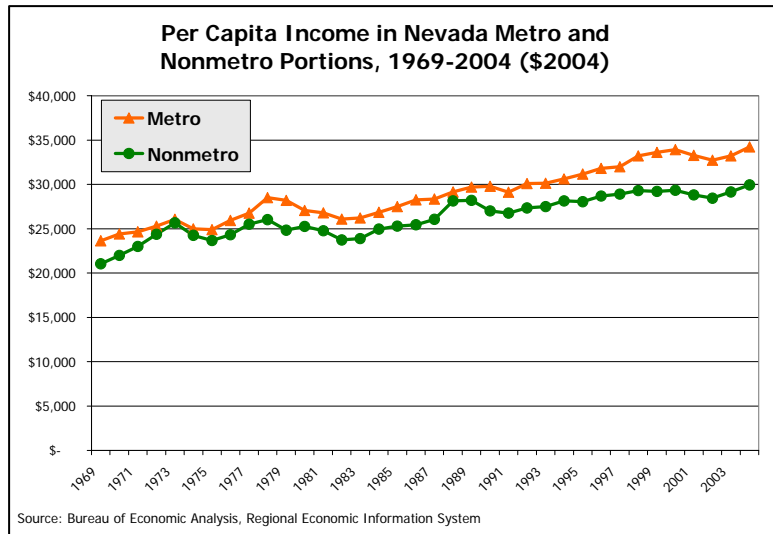


Per Capita Income

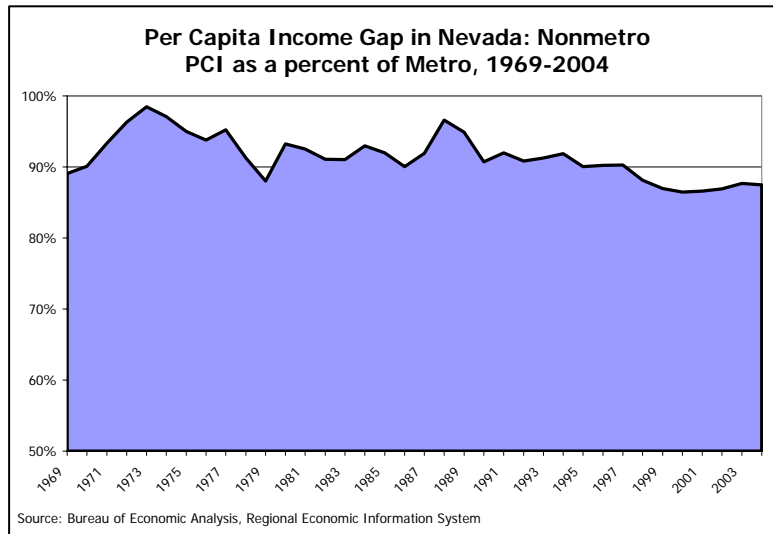
Trends in per capita income in Nevada and the U.S. have been similar over the past several decades, with Nevada's income exceeding the U.S. income in all years except 2002. In 2004, per capita income in Nevada was \$33,787, compared to \$33,050 for the U.S.



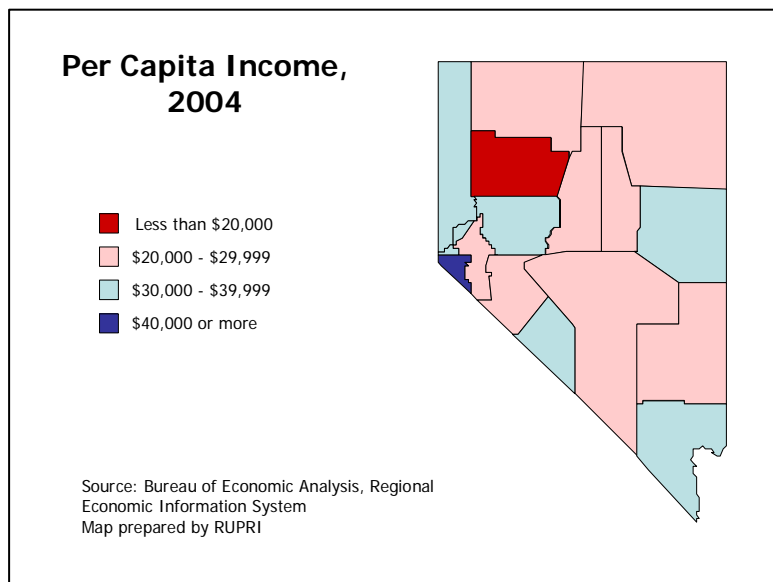
Nonmetro per capita income has lagged slightly behind metro throughout the past several decades in Nevada. In 2004, metro per capita income was \$34,235, compared to \$29,952 in nonmetro areas.



The per capita income gap is measured with nonmetro per capita income as a percent of metro per capita income. In Nevada, the gap was at its lowest in 1973 and at its highest in 2000. In 2004, nonmetro per capita income was 87.5 percent of metro per capita income.

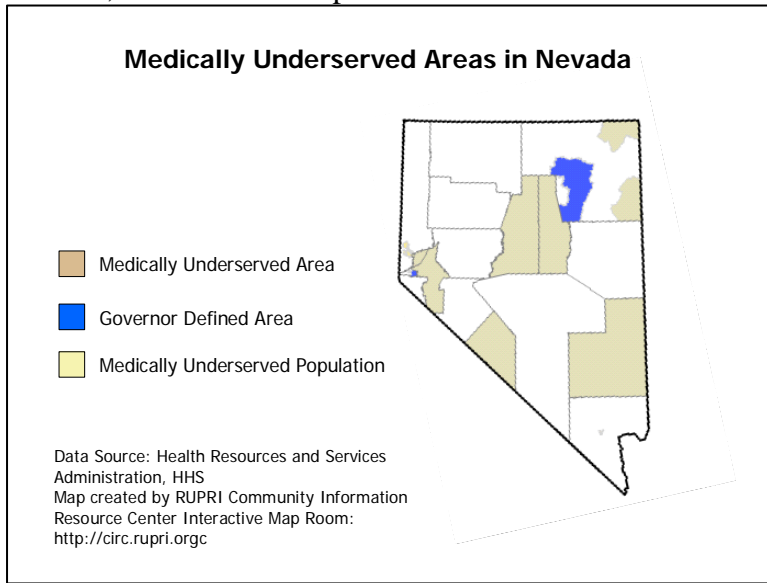


Within Nevada, 2004 per capita income ranged from \$18,320 in Pershing County to \$42,772 in Douglas County.

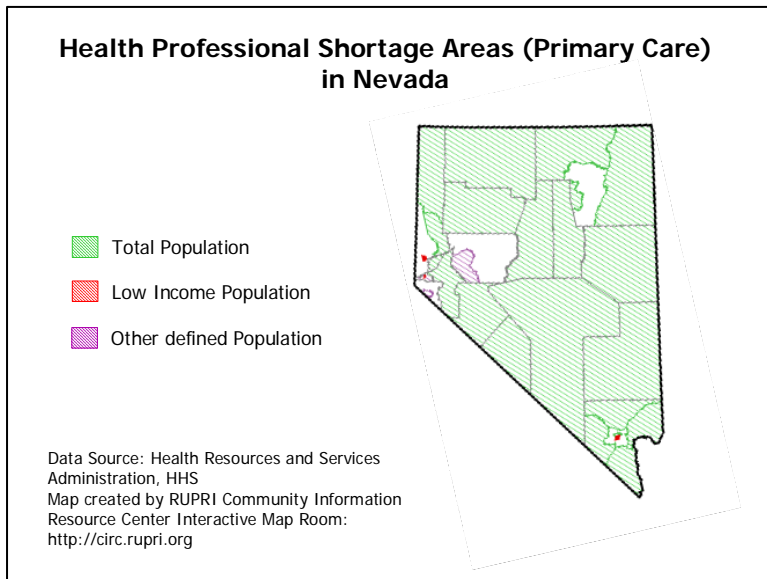


Health Care Services

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

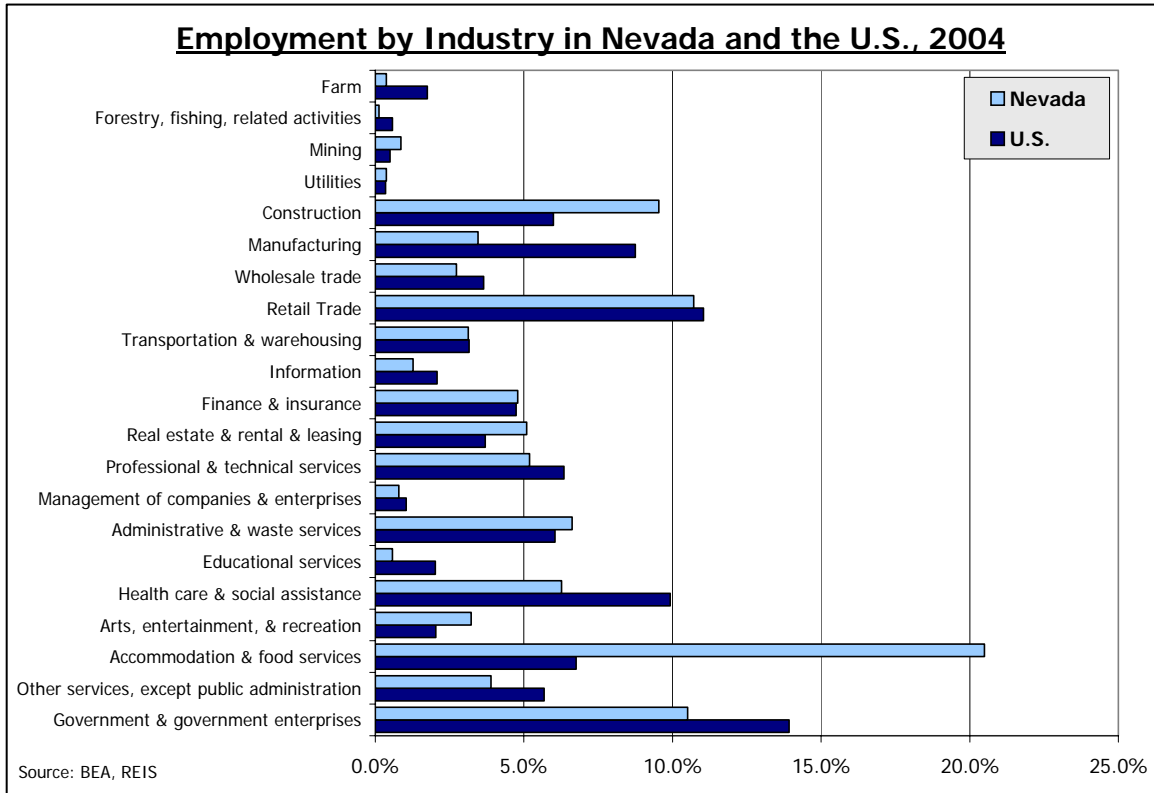


Health Professional Shortage Areas (HPSAs) are those areas that “may have shortages of primary medical care, dental or mental health providers and may be urban or rural areas, population groups, or medical or other public facilities” (Health Resources and Services Administration, HHS). Within Nevada,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

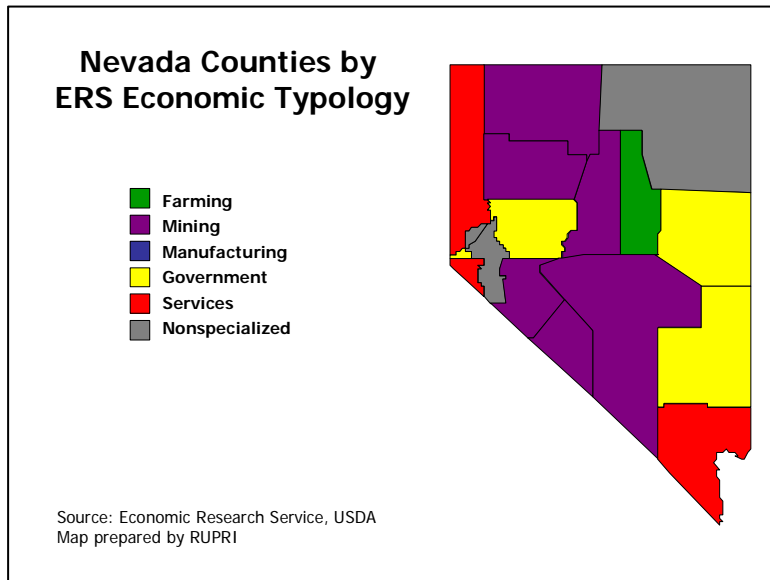


Employment Structure

In 2004, accommodation and food services accounted for the largest share of employment in Nevada (20.5%). In the U.S. the largest employment sector was government and government enterprises (13.9%). Retail trade was the second largest employment sector for both Nevada (10.7%) and the U.S. (11.0%).

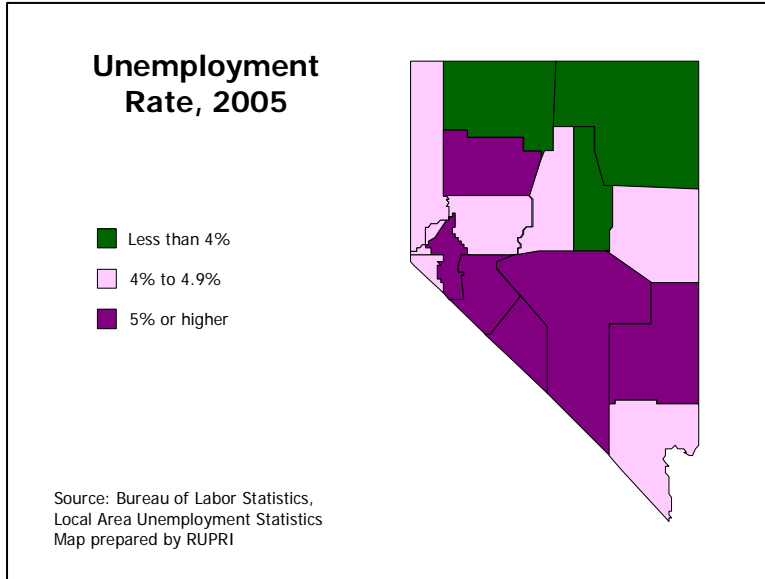


The ERS Economic Typology classifies counties into one of five industry categories of specialization or as nonspecialized. The map to the right shows the classification of Nevada counties by this typology, illustrating the importance of mining in many parts of the state.

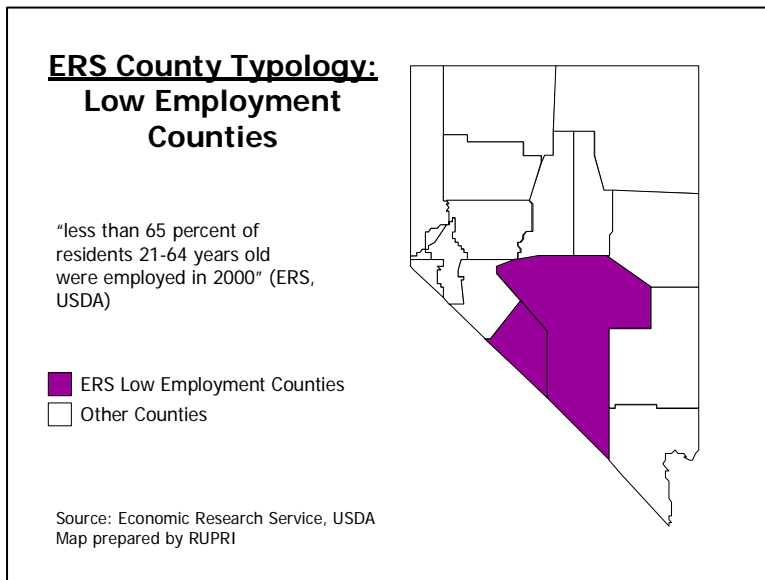


Unemployment

In 2005 the unemployment rate in Nevada was 4.1 percent, compared to 5.1 percent for the nation. Within Nevada, the unemployment rate ranged from 3.8 percent in Eureka County to 5.9 percent in Mineral County.

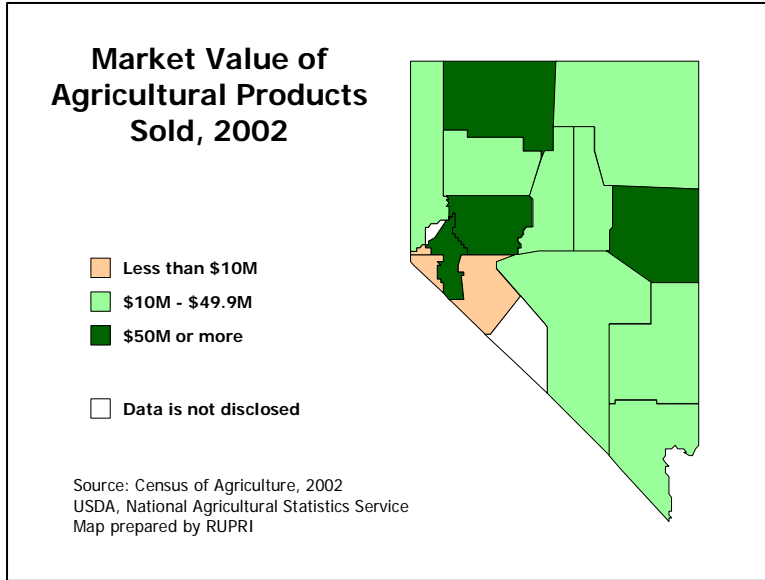


The Economic Research Service classifies counties as low employment counties if “less than 65 percent of residents 21 to 64 years old were employed in 2000.” Two counties in Nevada are classified as low employment counties, both of them nonmetro.

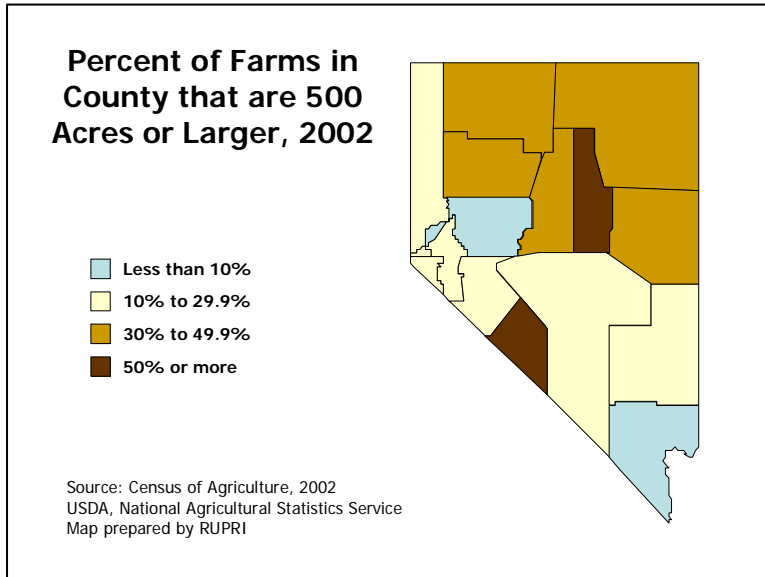


Agriculture

Agriculture is an important industry in many parts of Nevada. Eureka County is classified by the Economic Research Service as farming dependent (see map on page 9). The map below shows the value of agricultural products sold in 2002 for Nevada counties.

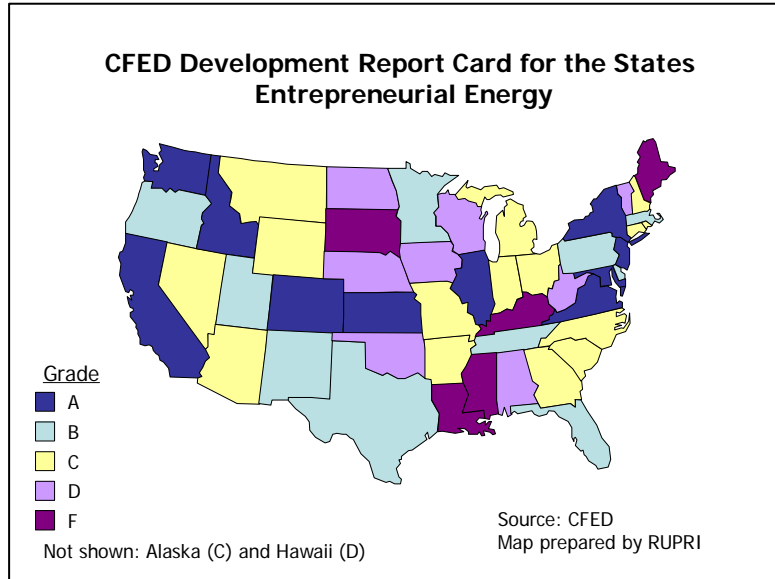


Average farm size in Nevada is 2,118 acres, and 24.2 percent of farms are 500 acres or larger. In Eureka and Esmeralda Counties, over half of the farms are 500 acres or larger.

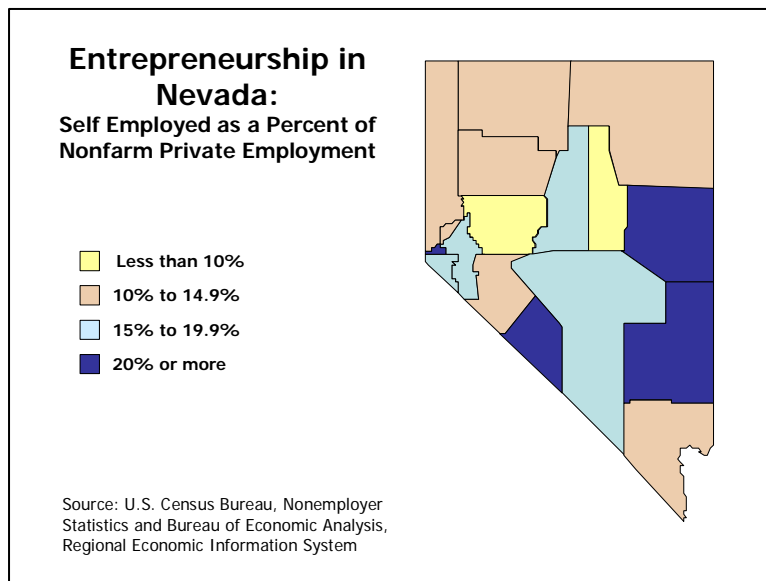


Entrepreneurship

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. Nevada’s rating on this indicator is “C.”

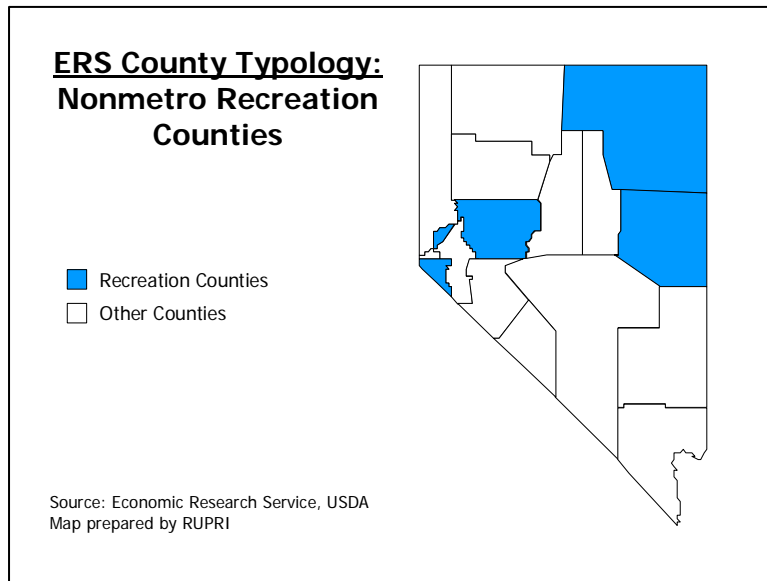


As mentioned, county level indicators of entrepreneurship are difficult to ascertain, but a good indicator is the proportion of workers that are self employed. The map below shows self employed workers as a percent of nonfarm private employment in the county.



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 five are located in Nevada. Counties that were nonmetro in 1993 *or* 2003 are classified. Storey County was a nonmetro county in 1993, but since changed to metro status.



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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