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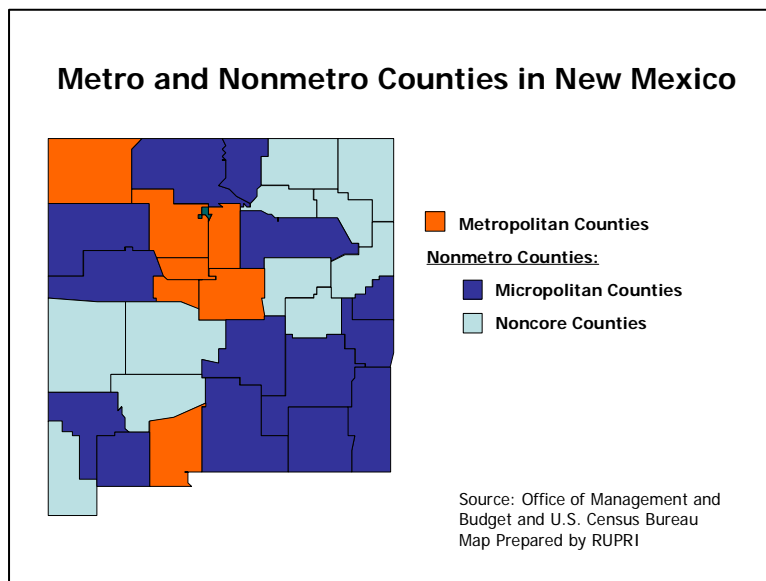
Demographic and Economic Profile

New Mexico

Updated June 2006

Metro and Nonmetro Counties in New Mexico

Based on the most recent listing of core based statistical areas by the Office of Management and Budget (December 2005), 7 counties in New Mexico are part of metropolitan areas, and 15 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 11 counties in New Mexico are considered noncore counties. Using these classifications and the population estimates for 2005, 65.1 percent of New Mexico residents live in metropolitan areas, 29.8 percent live in micropolitan areas, and 5.2 percent live in noncore areas.¹



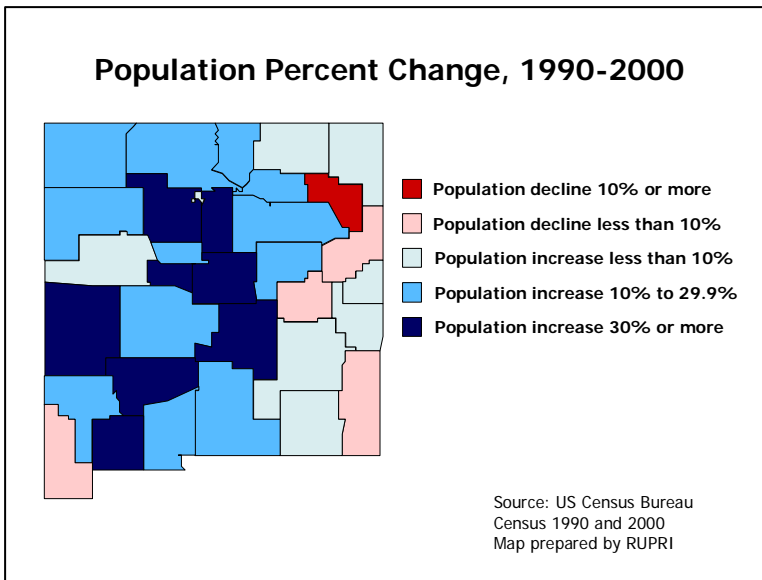
¹ Ruidoso NM Micropolitan Area is a newly classified micropolitan are with the December 2005 classifications, and includes Lincoln County, NM. These 2005 designations are used throughout this report.

Population

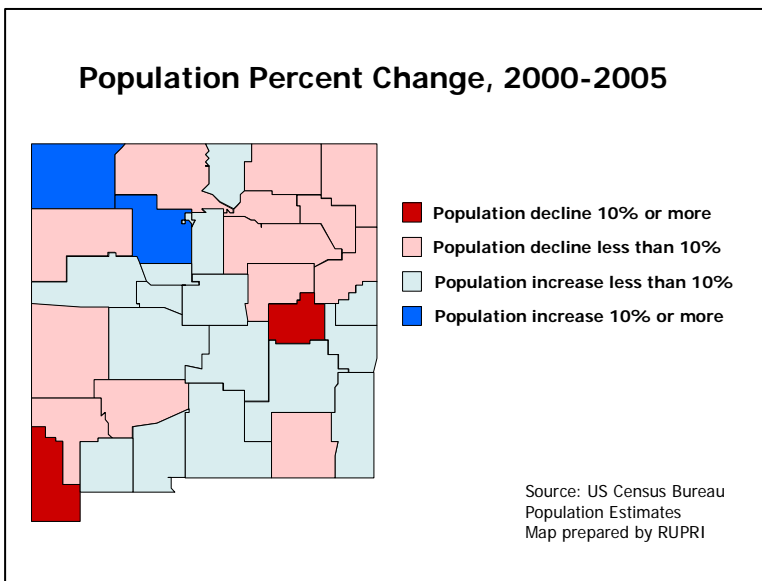
New Mexico's population in 2005 was 1,928,384, up 6.0 percent from the 2000 Census. During the 1990s, the population in New Mexico increased by 20.1 percent. Nationally, population increased 13.1 percent during the 1990s, and 5.3 percent from April 2000 to July 2005. The population growth in metropolitan areas in New Mexico outpaced the nonmetropolitan areas in both time periods, and noncore counties lost population during the 2000 to 2005 period.

Percent Change in Population		
Area:	1990-2000	2000-2005
U.S.	13.1%	5.3%
New Mexico	20.1%	6.0%
Metropolitan	24.0%	9.3%
Nonmetropolitan	13.9%	0.3%
Micropolitan	14.0%	1.0%
Noncore	13.1%	-4.4%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau

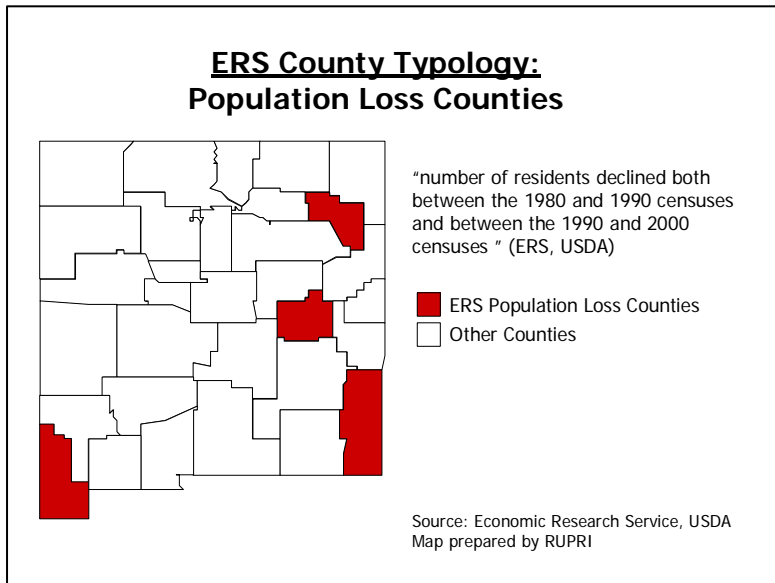


Five counties in New Mexico (all nonmetro) lost population during the 1990s. The fastest growth was in Tarrant County in the Albuquerque metropolitan area with a population increase of 64.4 percent during the 1990s.



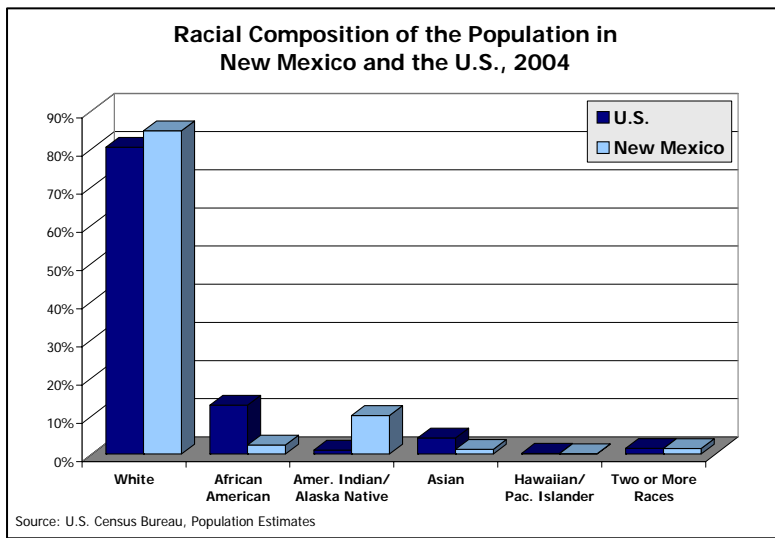
From 2000 to 2005, 15 counties in New Mexico lost population, all of them nonmetro counties. The fastest growth during this time period was in Sandoval County in the Albuquerque metropolitan area, with a population increase of 18.6 percent.

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 New Mexico, four counties, all nonmetro, are classified as population loss counties.

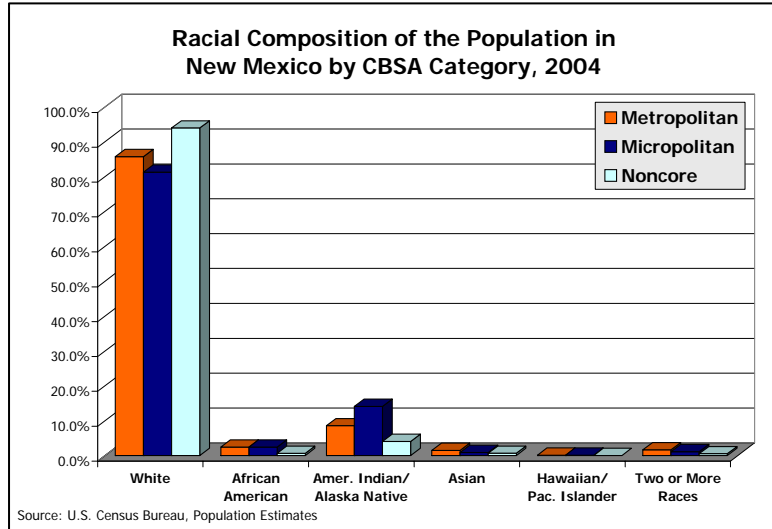


Race / Ethnicity

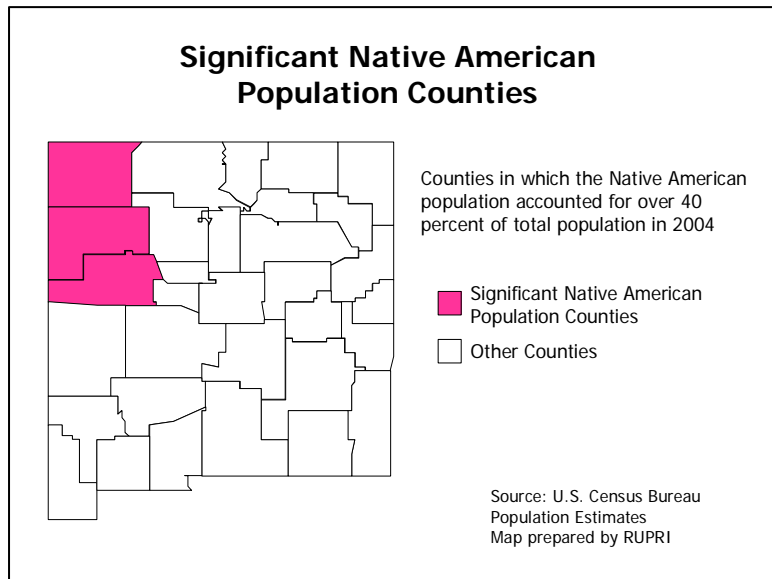
The population in New Mexico is 84.7 percent white and 2.4 percent African American. Nationally, the population is 80.4 percent white and 12.8 percent African American (2004 Census Bureau population estimates). Native Americans make up 10.1 percent of New Mexico’s population, compared to 1.0 percent of the total U.S. population.



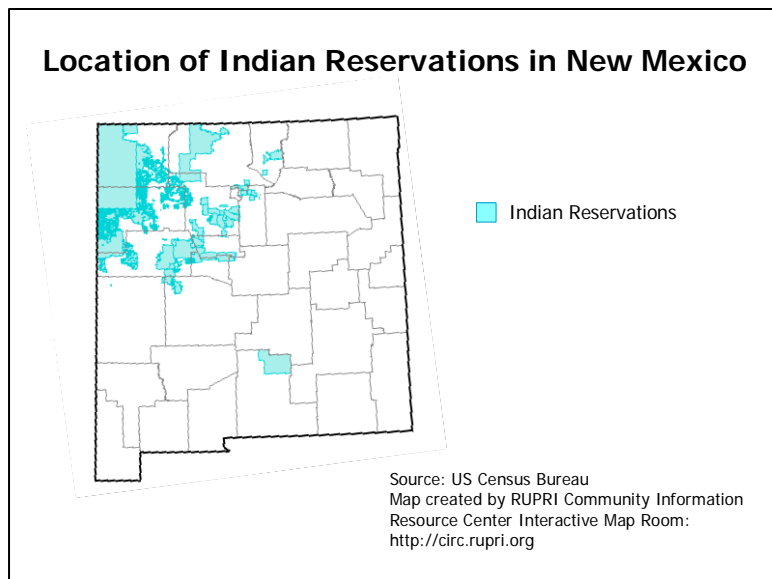
Within New Mexico, the metropolitan population is 85.8 percent white and 2.4 percent African American. The micropolitan population is 81.3 percent white and 2.4 percent African American, and the noncore population is 93.9 percent white and 0.7 percent African American.



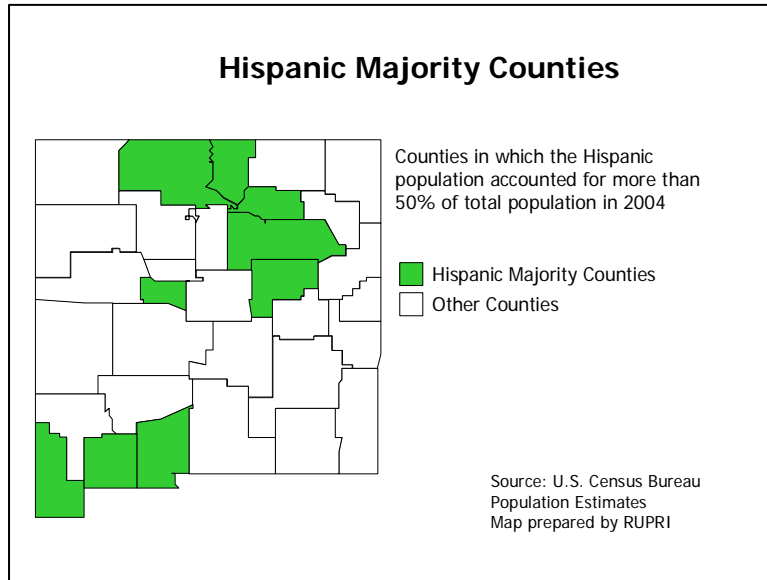
Native Americans make up 8.5 percent of the metropolitan population, 14.1 percent of the micropolitan population and 4.1 percent of the noncore population. Native Americans account for a significant portion of total population in three New Mexico counties: McKinley (76.1%), Cibola (40.6%), and San Juan (40.1%).



The map to the right shows the location of Indian Reservations within New Mexico.

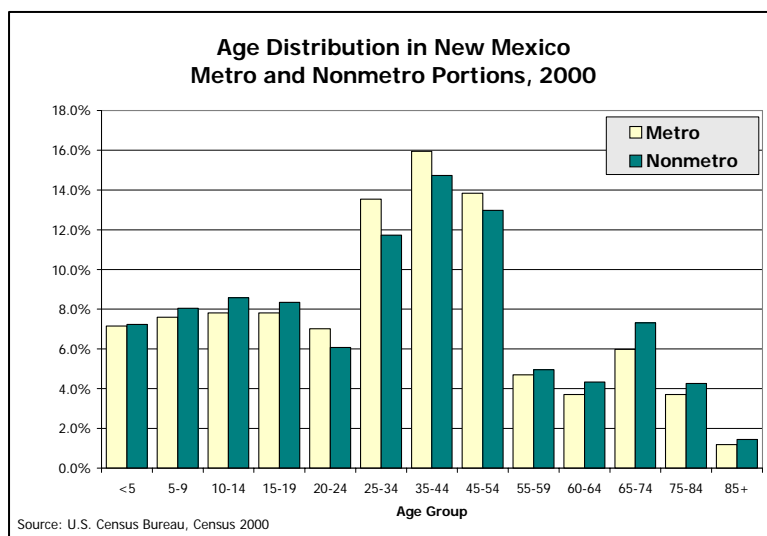


People of Hispanic origin make up 43.3 percent of New Mexico’s population, compared to 14.1 percent of the total U.S. population. Within New Mexico, people of Hispanic origin make up 44.3 percent of the metropolitan population, 40.9 percent of the micropolitan population, and 45.6 percent of the noncore population. In nine New Mexico counties, people of Hispanic origin make up a majority of the total population.

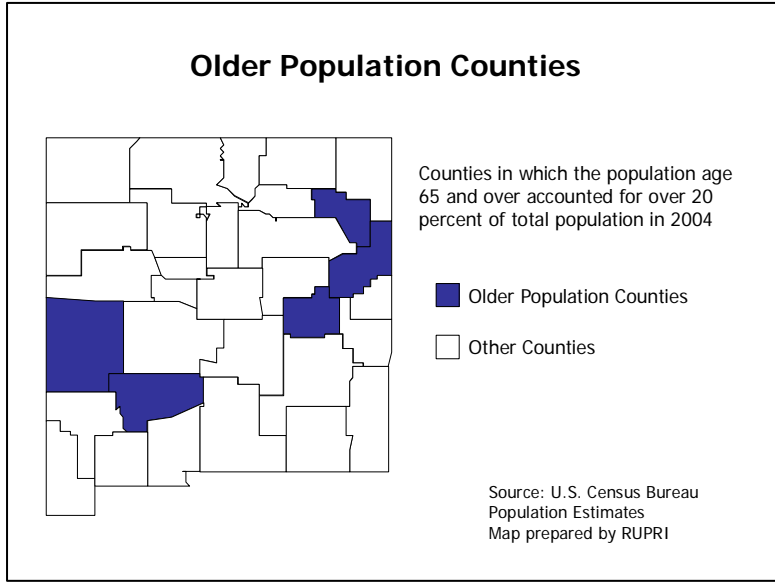


Age

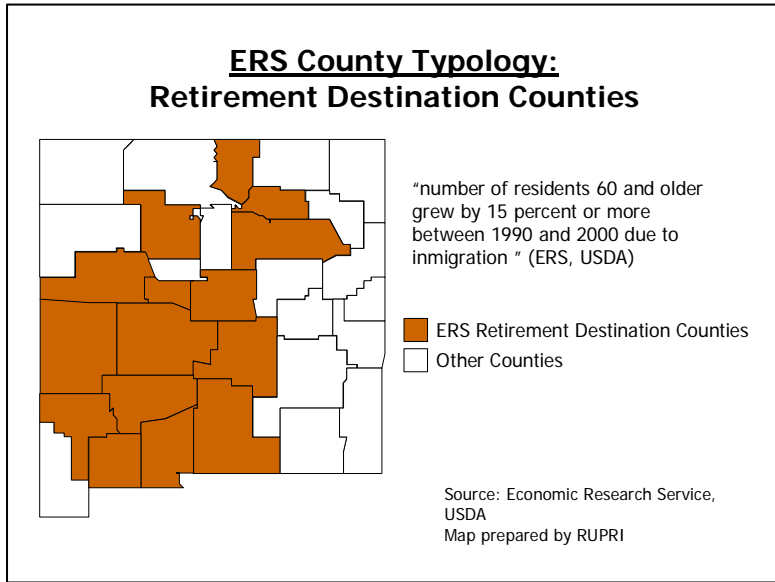
The age distribution of the metro and nonmetro population in New Mexico is shown in the chart below. The percent of the population in the 20-44 age groups is greater in the metro areas, while the percent of the population age 55 and over is greater in the nonmetro areas.



Many rural areas experience 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. Five New Mexico counties have a significant portion of total population over the age of 65. These counties, all nonmetro, are shown in the map below.

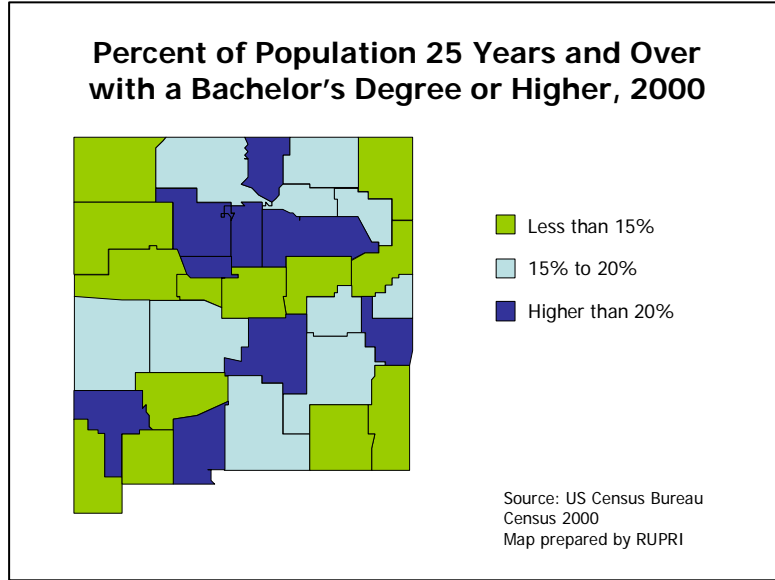


The Economic Research Service classifies counties as retirement destination counties based on population change due to immigration. In New Mexico, 15 counties are classified as retirement destination counties (4 metro and 11 nonmetro counties).

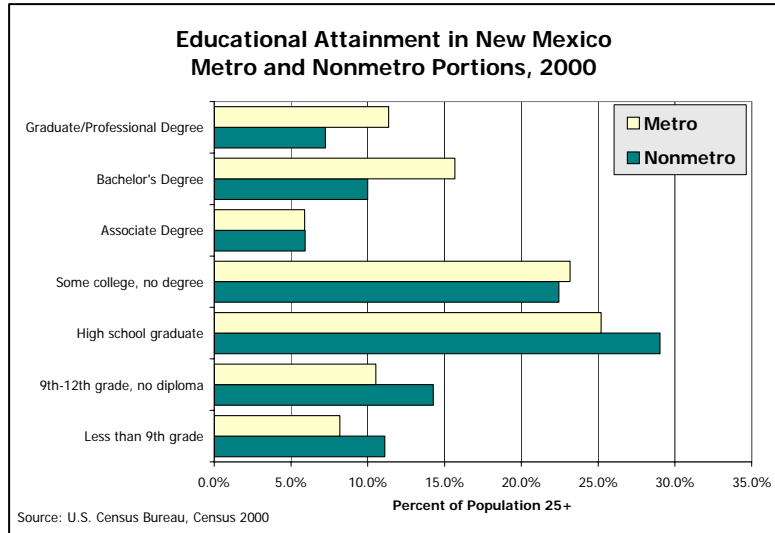


Educational Attainment

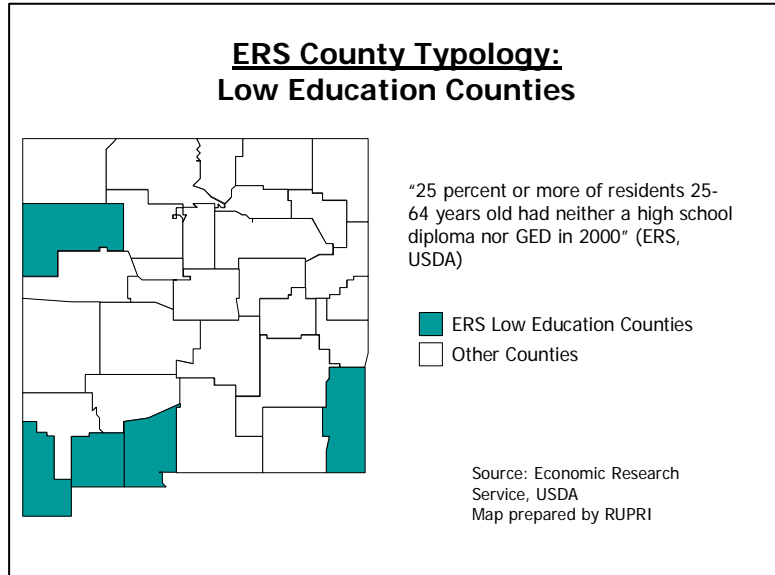
The percent of the population age 25 and over that has earned a Bachelor's Degree or higher is 24.4 percent in the U.S. and 23.5 percent in New Mexico. In metro areas of New Mexico, this percentage is 27.0 percent, compared to 17.2 percent in nonmetro areas.



The chart to the right compares the educational attainment of New Mexico'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, while the percent of the population with low educational attainment (high school degree or lower) is greater in the nonmetro areas.

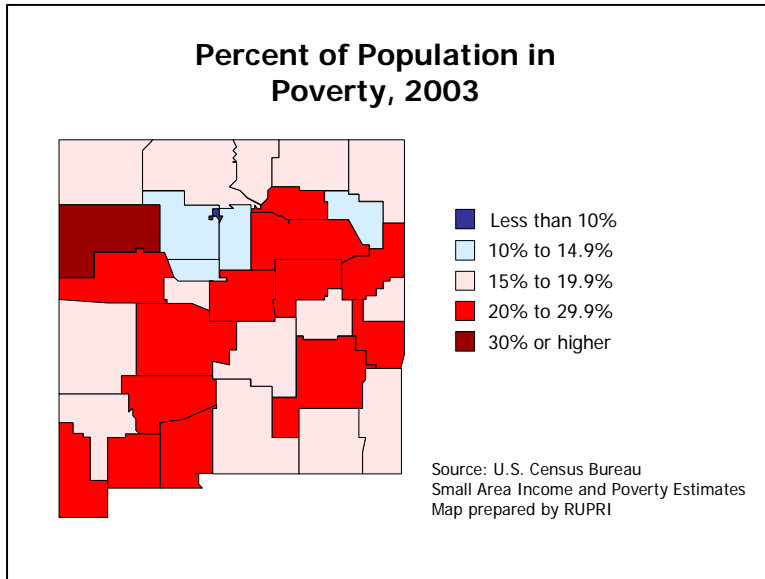


The Economic Research Service classifies counties as low education counties if "25 percent or more of residents 25-64 years old had neither a high school diploma nor GED in 2000." In New Mexico, 5 counties are classified as low education counties.

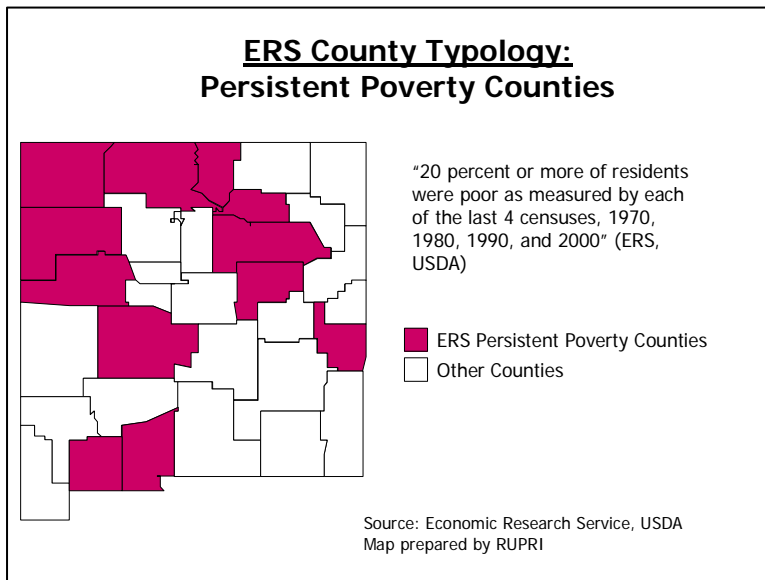


Poverty

The poverty rate in New Mexico in 2003 was 17.7 percent, compared to 12.5 percent for the U.S. (Census Bureau estimates). The poverty rate in New Mexico counties ranged from 3.0 percent in Los Alamos County to 30.6 percent in McKinley County.

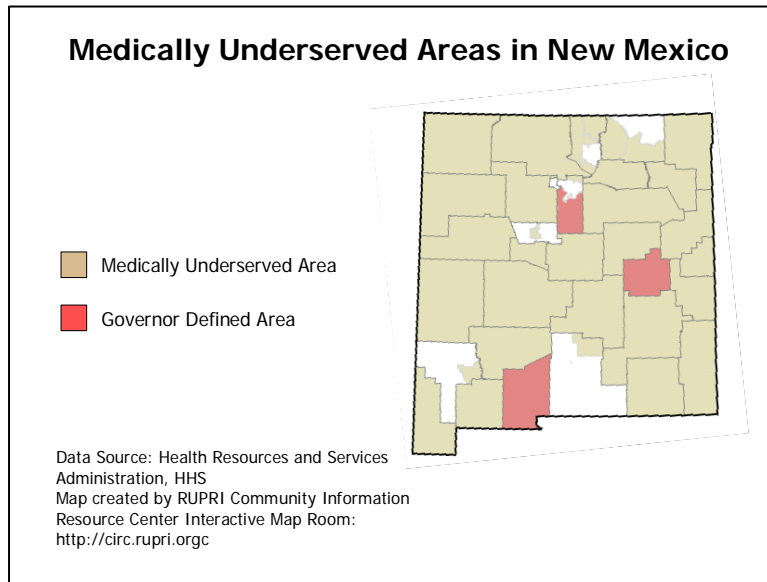


The Economic Research Service classifies counties as persistent poverty counties if they had poverty rates of 20 percent or higher in each Census from 1970 through 2000. There are 386 persistent poverty counties in the U.S., and 12 are located in New Mexico.

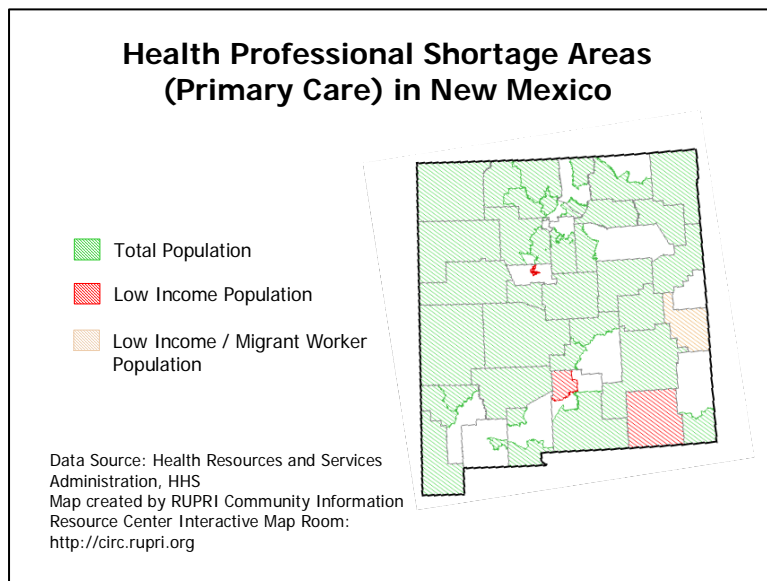


Health Services

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 New Mexico, many areas of the state are considered medically underserved, shown in the map below.

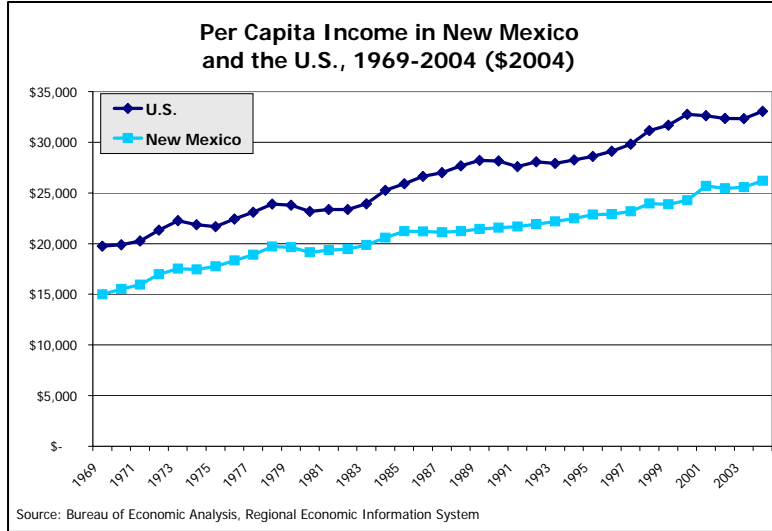


Health Professional Shortage Areas (HPSAs) are those areas that “may have shortages of primary medical care, dental or mental health providers and may be urban or rural areas, population groups, or medical or other public facilities” (Health Resources and Services Administration, HHS). Within New Mexico,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

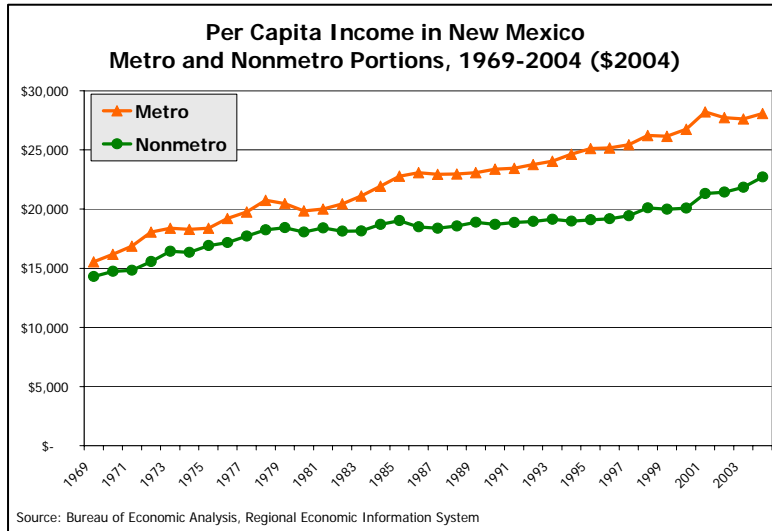


Per Capita Income

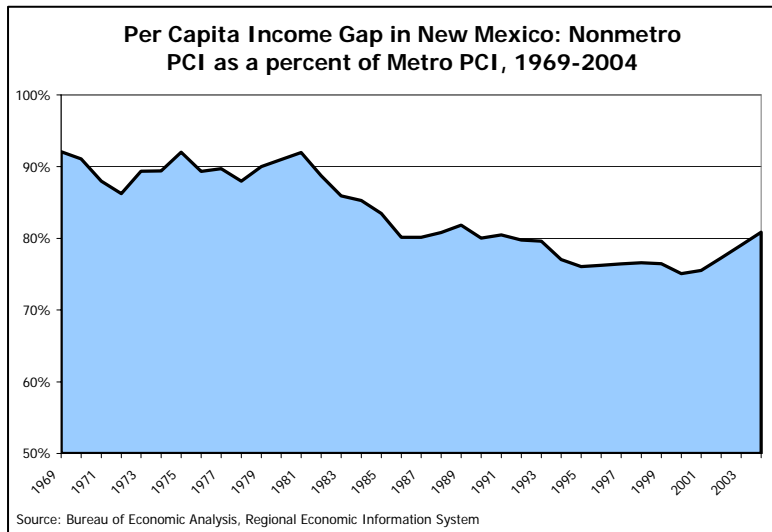
Per capita income in New Mexico has lagged behind the nation over the past several decades. In 2004, per capita income in New Mexico was \$26,184, compared to \$33,050 for the U.S.



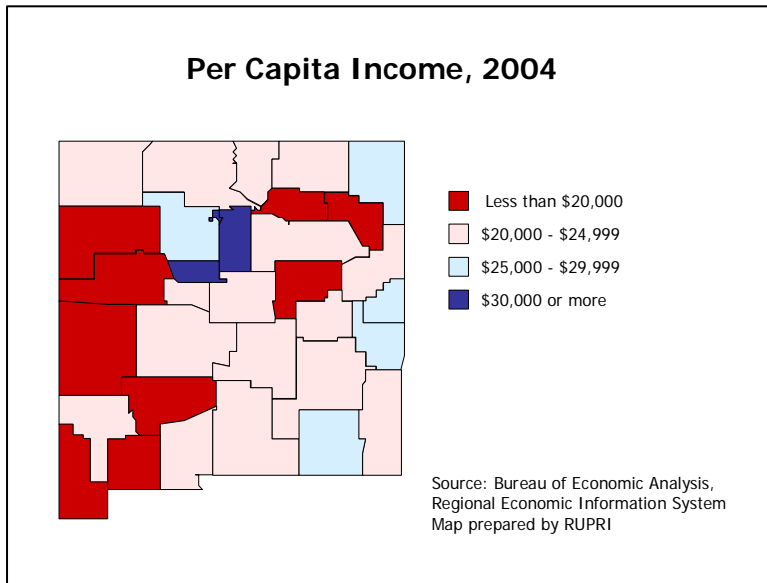
Nonmetro per capita income in New Mexico has lagged behind metro over the past several decades. In 2004, metro per capita income was \$28,083, compared to \$22,710 in nonmetro areas.



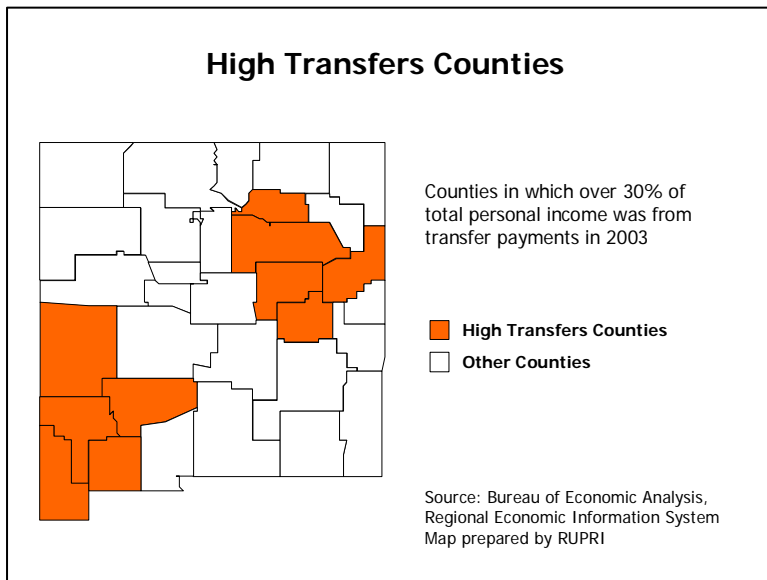
The per capita income gap is measured with nonmetro per capita income as a percent of metro per capita income. In New Mexico, the gap was at its smallest in 1969 and at its largest in 2000. In 2004, nonmetro per capita income was 80.9 percent of metro per capita income.



Within New Mexico, 2004 per capita income ranged from \$15,709 in Guadalupe County to \$51,027 in Los Alamos County. Nine counties in New Mexico, all nonmetro, had per capita income less than \$20,000 in 2004.

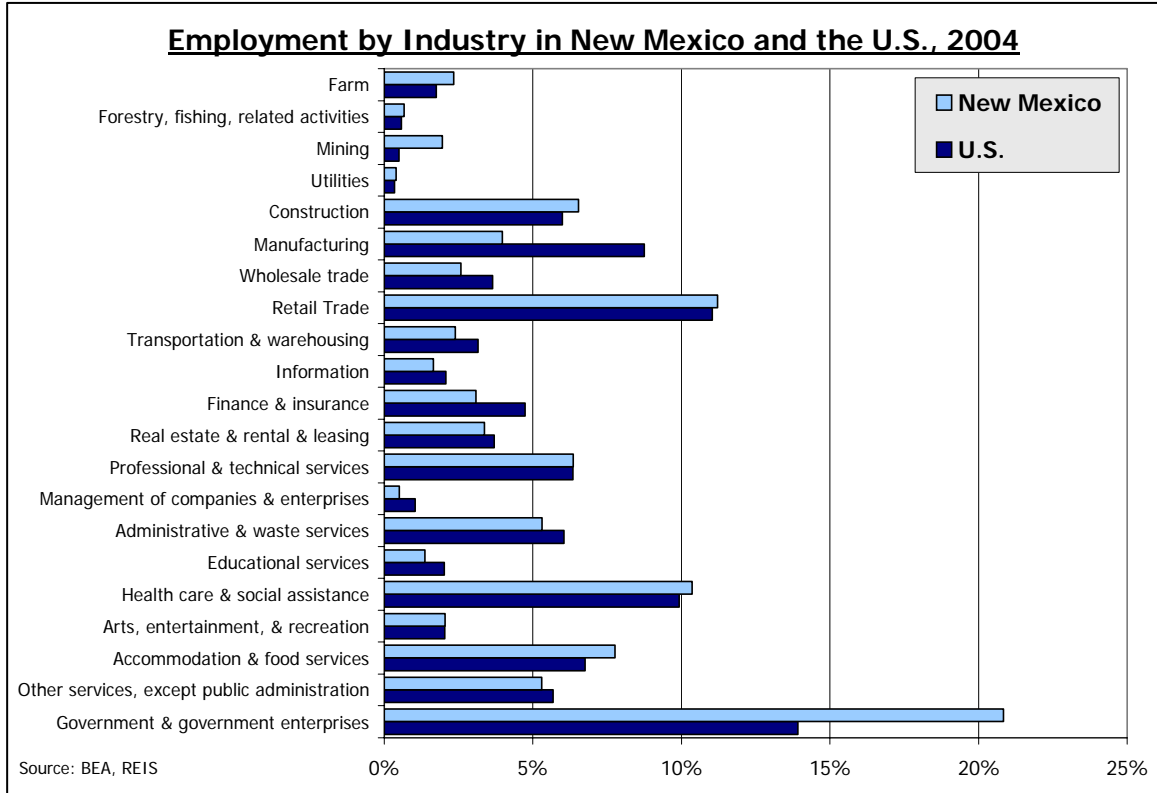


Transfer payments include retirement and disability payments, social security benefits, public assistance, and medical benefits. In New Mexico, 10 counties' incomes rely significantly on transfer payments. In these counties, shown in the map below, transfer payments account for over 30 percent of total personal income in the county.

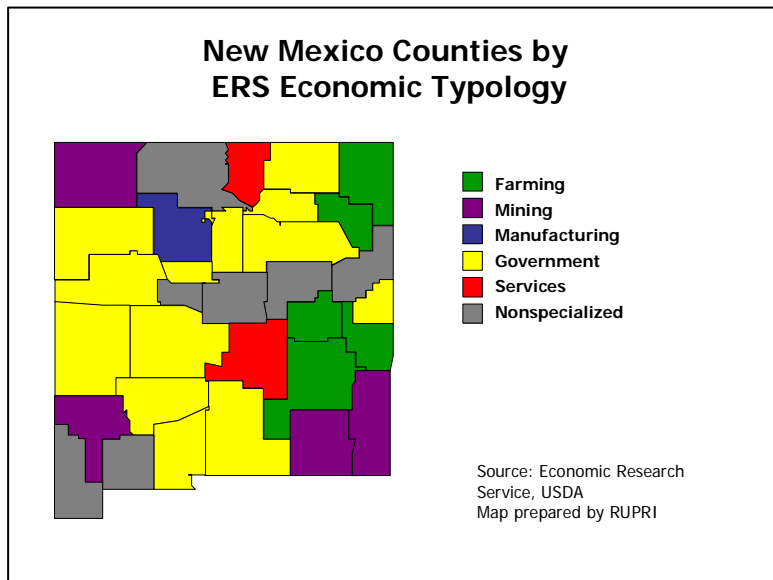


Employment Structure

In 2004, government and government enterprises accounted for the largest shares of employment in New Mexico (20.8%) and the U.S. (13.9%). Retail trade was the second largest employment sector both in New Mexico (11.2%) and the U.S. (11.0%).

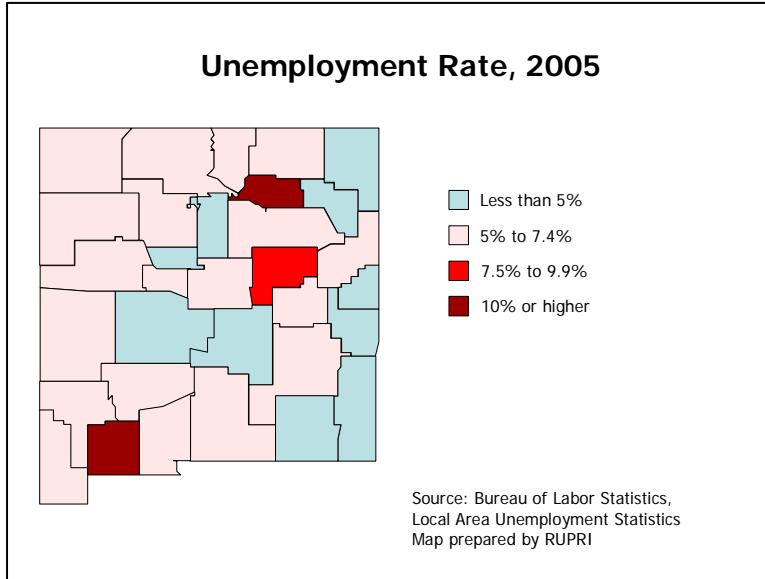


The ERS Economic Typology classifies counties into one of five industry categories of specialization or as nonspecialized. The map to the right shows the classification of New Mexico counties by this typology, illustrating the diversity across the state.

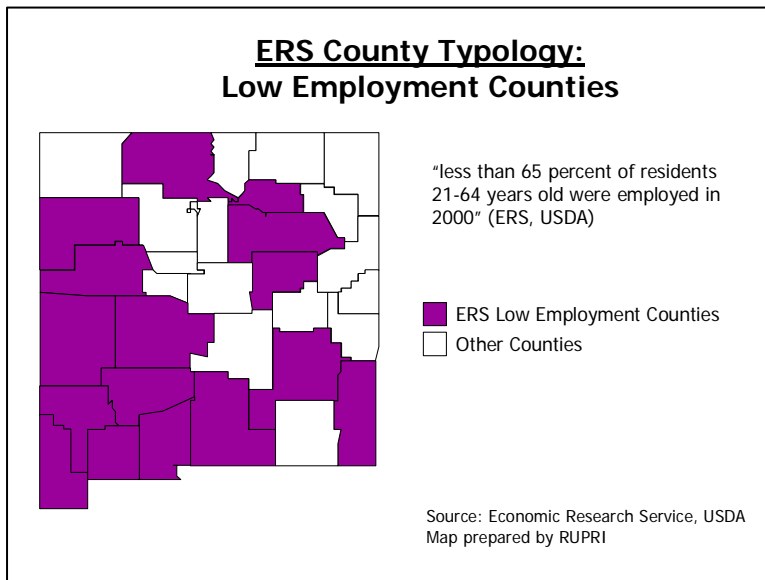


Unemployment

In 2005 the unemployment rate in New Mexico was 5.3 percent, compared to 5.1 percent for the nation. Within New Mexico, the unemployment rate ranged from 2.8 percent in Los Alamos County to 13.1 percent in Luna County.

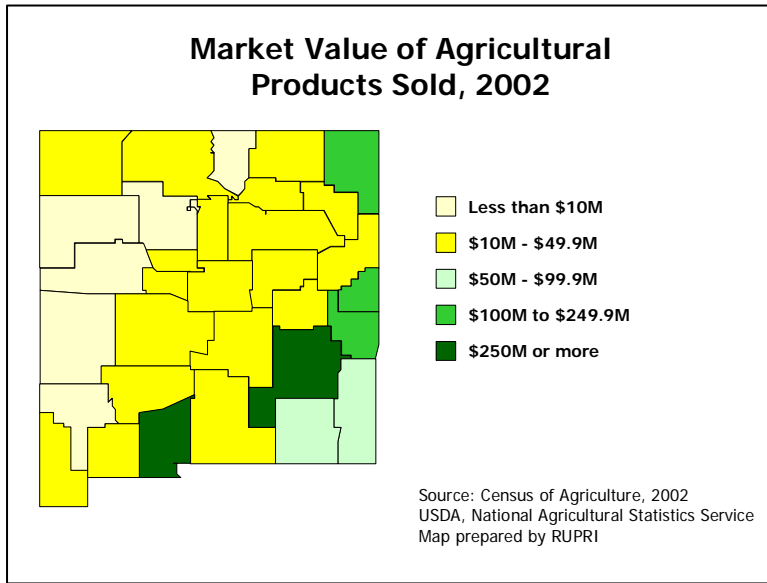


The Economic Research Service classifies counties as low employment counties if “less than 65 percent of residents 21-64 years old were employed in 2000.” In New Mexico, 16 counties are classified as low employment counties.

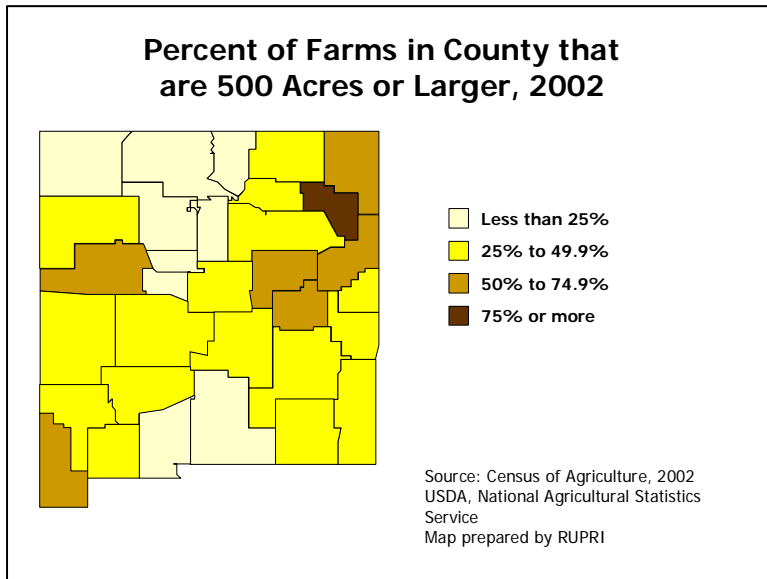


Agriculture

Agriculture is an important industry in New Mexico, and 5 counties are classified by the Economic Research Service as farming dependent (see map on page 12). The map below shows the value of agricultural products sold in 2002 for New Mexico counties. In 5 counties the value was over \$100 million, and in 2 counties the value was over \$250 million.

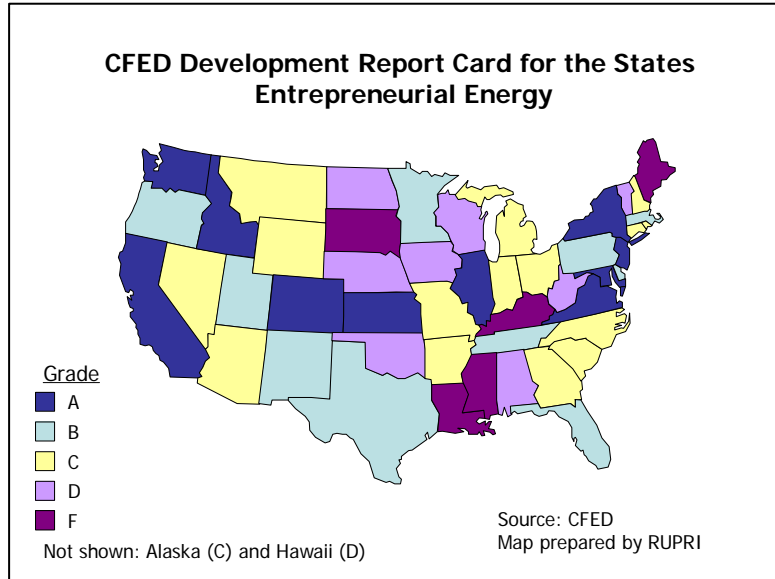


Average farm size in New Mexico is 2,954 acres, and 28.8 percent of farms are 500 acres or larger. In 7 counties, farms of 500 acres or more make up over half of all farms in the county.

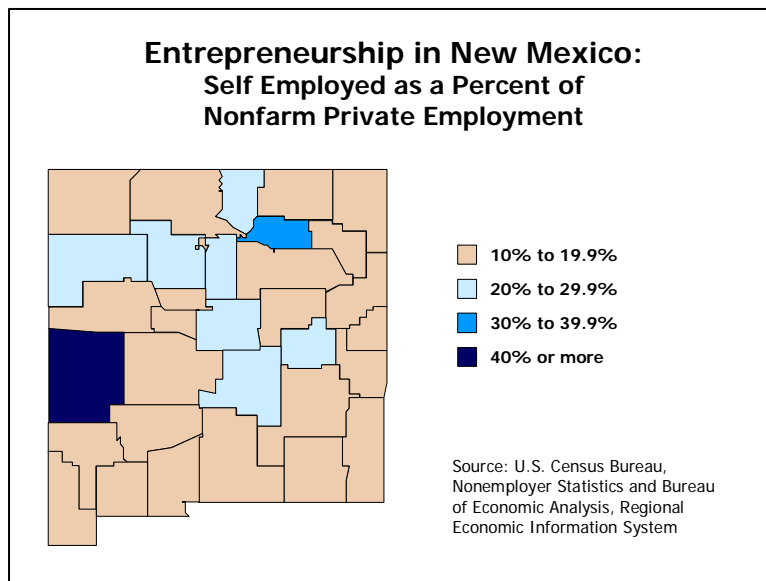


Entrepreneurship

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. New Mexico’s ranking is “B”.

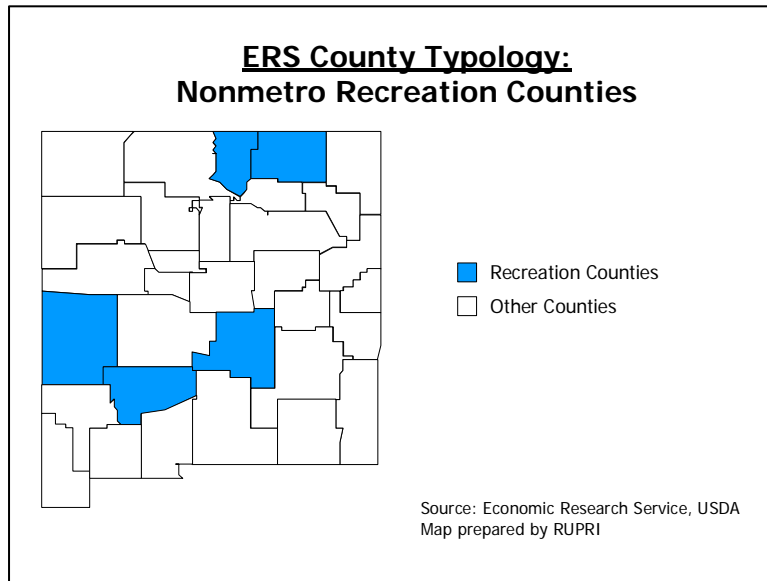


As mentioned, county level indicators of entrepreneurship are difficult to ascertain, but a good indicator is the proportion of workers that are self employed. The map below shows self employed workers as a percent of nonfarm private employment in the county.



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 5 are located in New Mexico.



Data Sources and References

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Bureau of Labor Statistics, Local Area Unemployment Statistics

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<http://www.bhpr.hrsa.gov/shortage/>

National Agricultural Statistics Service, USDA.

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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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