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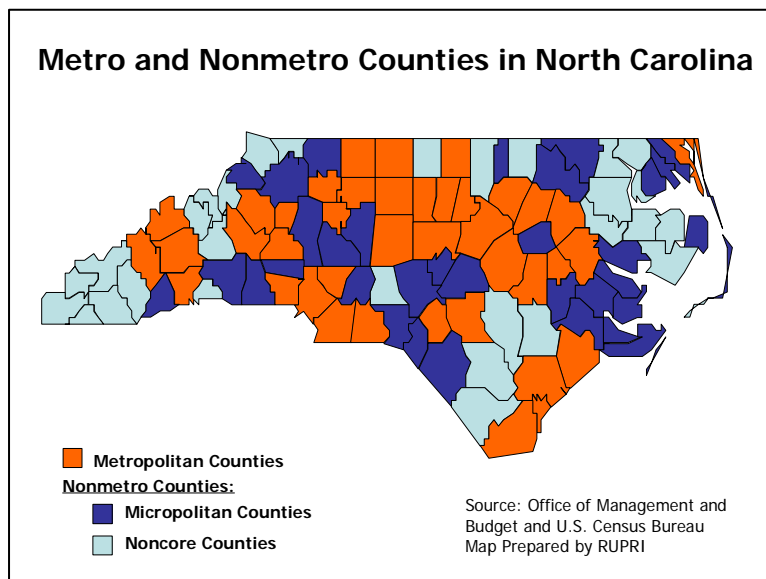
## Demographic and Economic Profile

# North Carolina

Updated June 2006

### Metro and Nonmetro Counties in North Carolina

Based on the most recent listing of core based statistical areas by the Office of Management and Budget (December 2005), 40 counties in North Carolina are part of metropolitan areas, and 31 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 29 counties in North Carolina are considered noncore counties. Using these classifications and the population estimates for 2005, 69.2 percent of North Carolina residents live in metropolitan areas, 22.5 percent live in micropolitan areas, and 8.3 percent live in noncore areas.

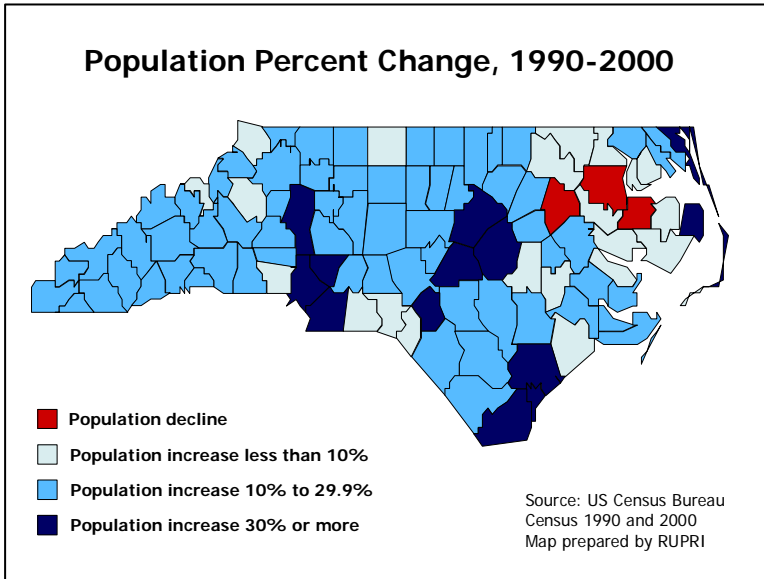


## Population

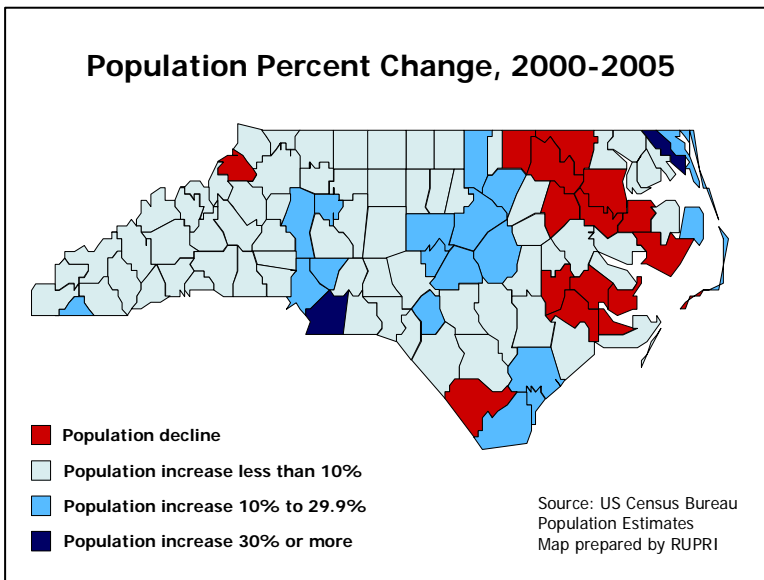
North Carolina's population in 2005 was 8,683,242, up 7.9 percent from the 2000 Census. During the 1990s, the population in North Carolina increased by 21.4 percent. Nationally, population increased 13.1 percent during the 1990s, and 5.3 percent from April 2000 to July 2005. The population growth in metro areas of North Carolina outpaced the nonmetro areas in both time periods.

Percent Change in Population		
Area:	1990-2000	2000-2005
<b>U.S.</b>	<b>13.1%</b>	<b>5.3%</b>
<b>North Carolina</b>	<b>21.4%</b>	<b>7.9%</b>
Metropolitan	24.3%	9.6%
Nonmetropolitan	15.6%	4.3%
Micropolitan	15.7%	4.7%
Noncore	15.5%	3.3%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau

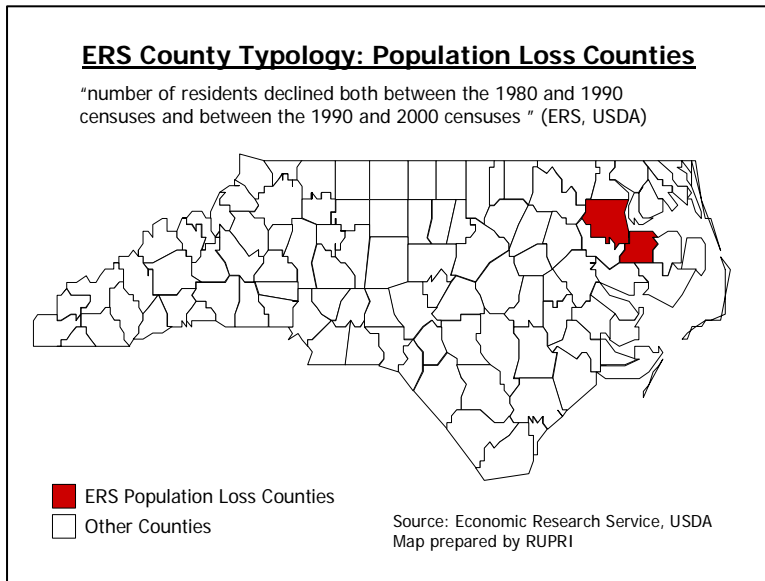


During the 1990s, only three counties in North Carolina lost population. The fastest growth during this time was in Johnson County in the Raleigh-Cary Metropolitan Area, with a population increase of 50 percent during the 1990s.



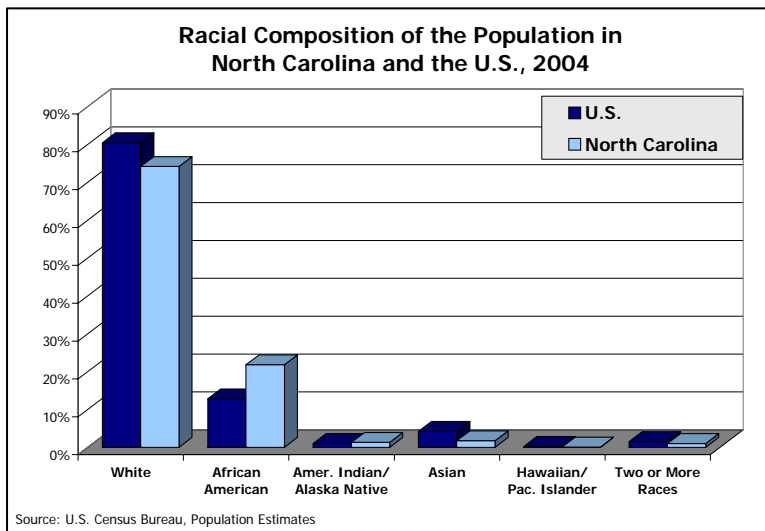
From 2000 to 2005, 14 counties in North Carolina lost population; most of them (13) were nonmetro. The fastest growth in this time period was in Union County in the Charlotte-Gastonia-Concord Metropolitan Area (31.6% increase) and in Camden County in the Elizabeth City Micropolitan Area (30.2% increase).

The Economic Research Service, USDA, classifies counties as population loss counties if they experienced population loss from 1980 to 1990 and from 1990 to 2000. In North Carolina, only two counties are classified as population loss counties.



### Race / Ethnicity

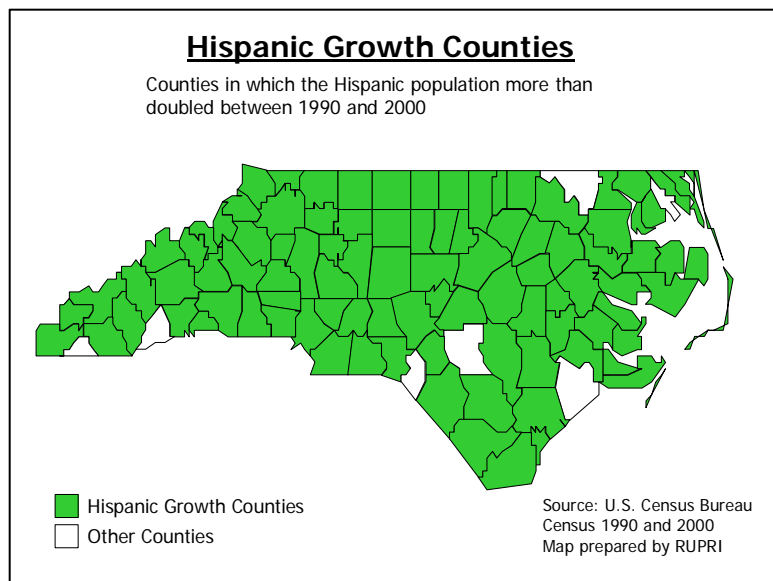
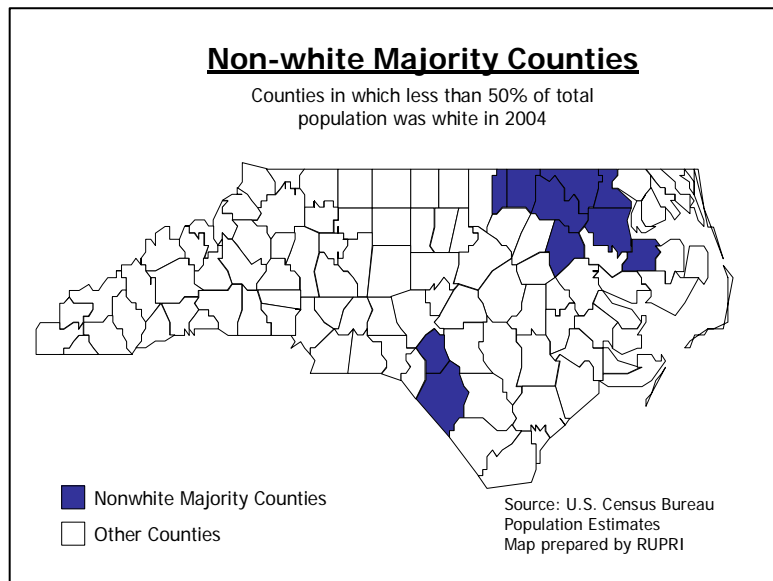
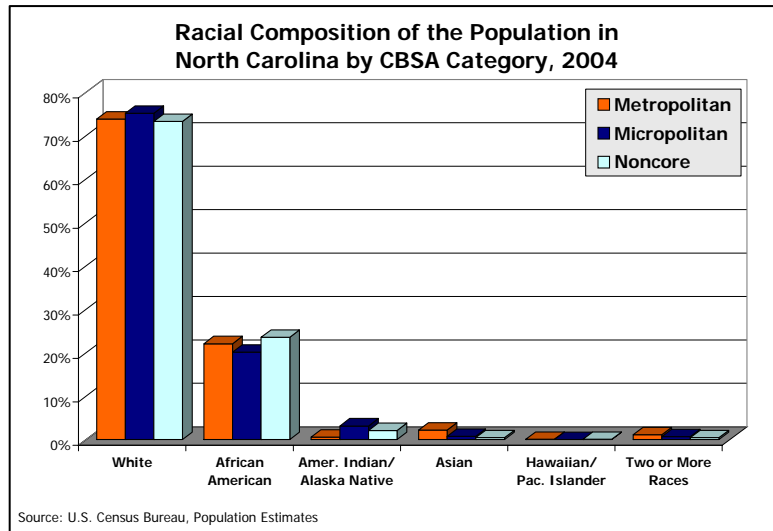
The population in North Carolina is 74.1 percent white and 21.8 percent African American. Nationally, the population is 80.4 percent white and 12.8 percent African American (2004 Census Bureau estimates).



Within North Carolina the metropolitan population is 73.9 percent white and 22.1 percent African American. The micropolitan population is 75.2 percent white and 20.1 percent African American, and the noncore population is 73.3 percent white and 23.6 percent African American.

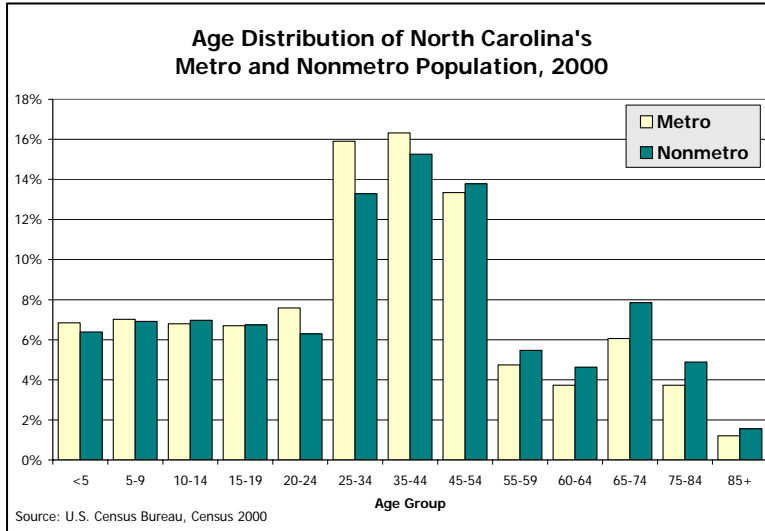
Ten North Carolina counties have a non-white majority population. In most of these counties, African Americans account for a large portion of the total population. In Robeson County, Native Americans make up 38.2 percent of the total population, and in Hoke County, Native Americans make up 10.5 percent of the total population.

People of Hispanic origin make up 6.1 percent of North Carolina's population, compared to 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 to the right shows the counties in which the Hispanic population more than doubled during the 1990s. These percentages often represent small portions of total population. In only seven North Carolina counties did the Hispanic population account for over 10 percent of total population in 2004.

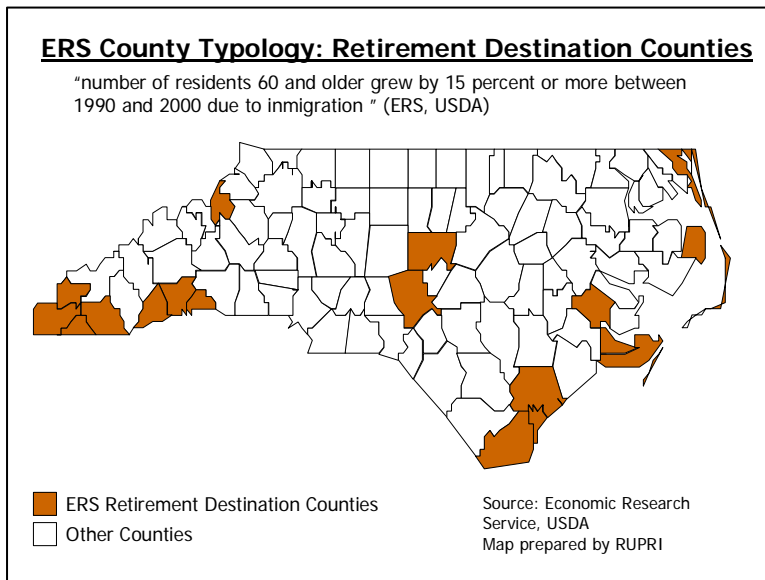


## Age

The age distribution of the metro and nonmetro population in North Carolina 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.

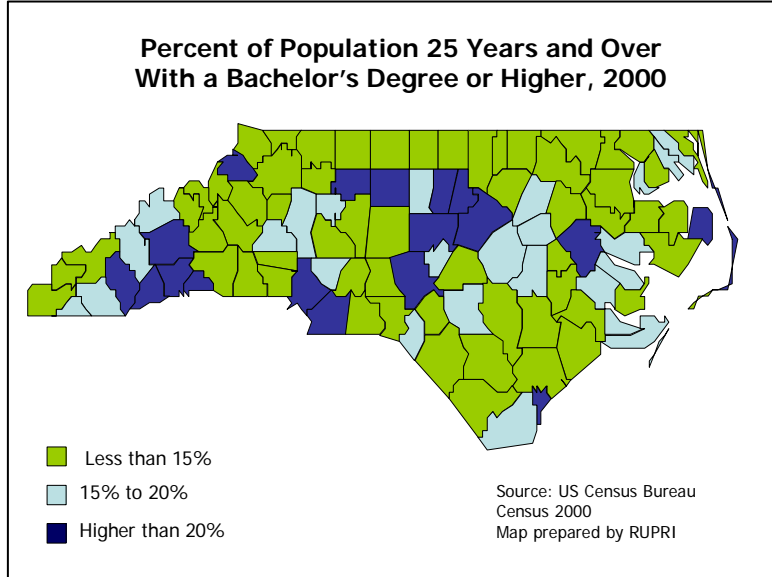


The Economic Research Service classifies counties as retirement destination counties based on population change due to immigration. In North Carolina, 17 counties are classified as retirement destination counties.

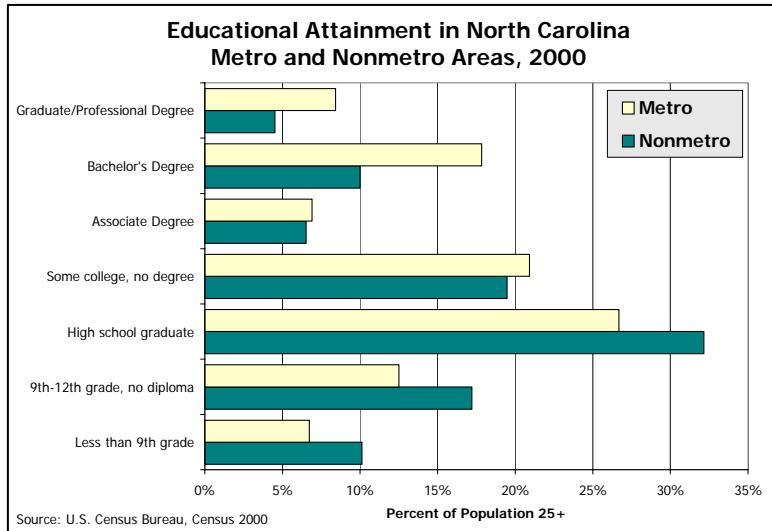


## Educational Attainment

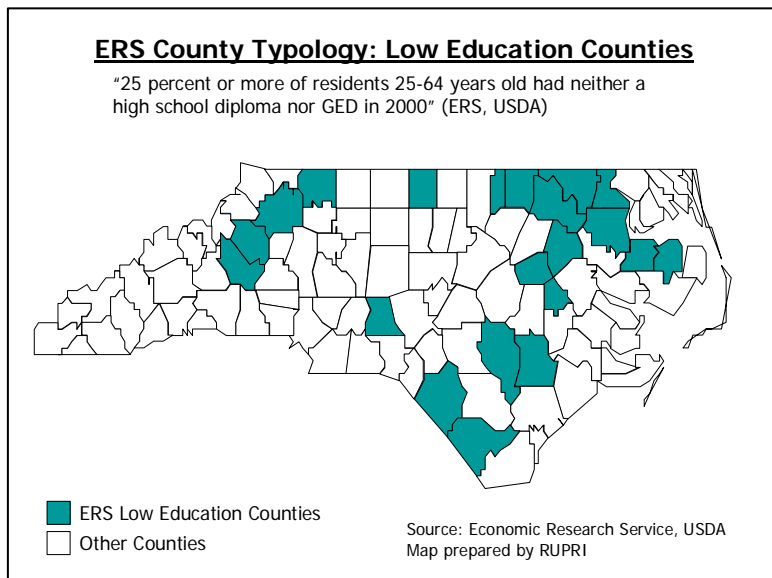
The percent of the population age 25 and over that has earned a Bachelor's Degree or higher is 24.4 percent in the U.S. and 22.5 percent in North Carolina. In metro areas of North Carolina, this percentage is 26.3 percent, compared to only 14.5 percent in nonmetro areas.



The chart to the right compares the educational attainment of North Carolina'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.

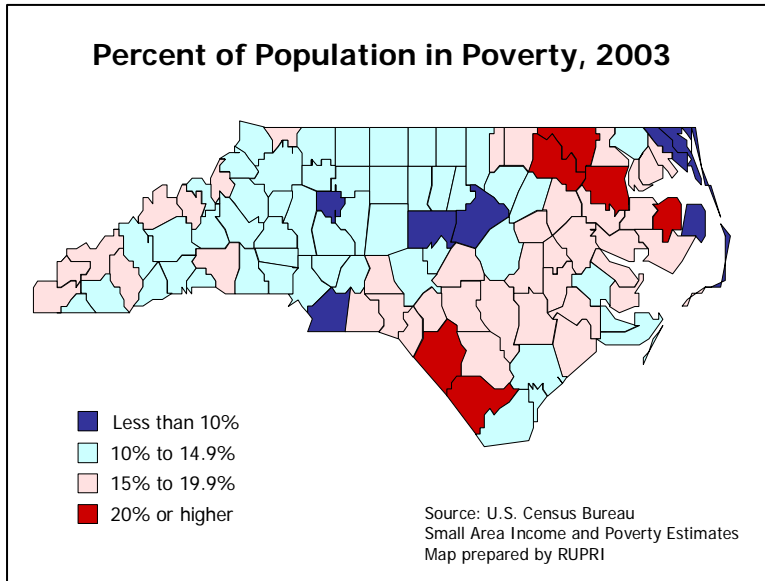


The Economic Research Service classifies counties as low employment counties if "25 percent or more of residents 25-64 years old had neither a high school diploma nor GED in 2000." In North Carolina, 21 counties are classified as low education counties; the majority of them (17) are nonmetro.

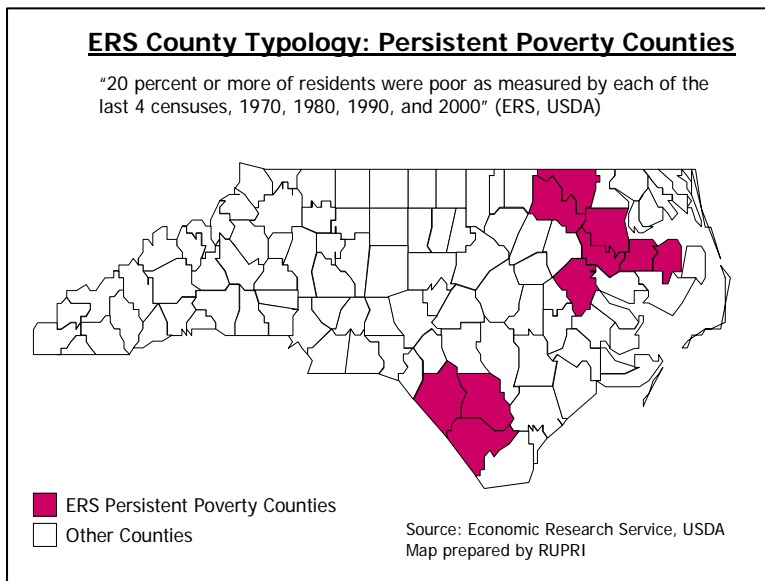


## Poverty

The poverty rate in North Carolina in 2003 was 13.4 percent, compared to 12.5 percent for the U.S. (Census Bureau estimates). The poverty rate in North Carolina counties ranged from 7.9 percent in Dare County to 22.4 percent in Robeson County.

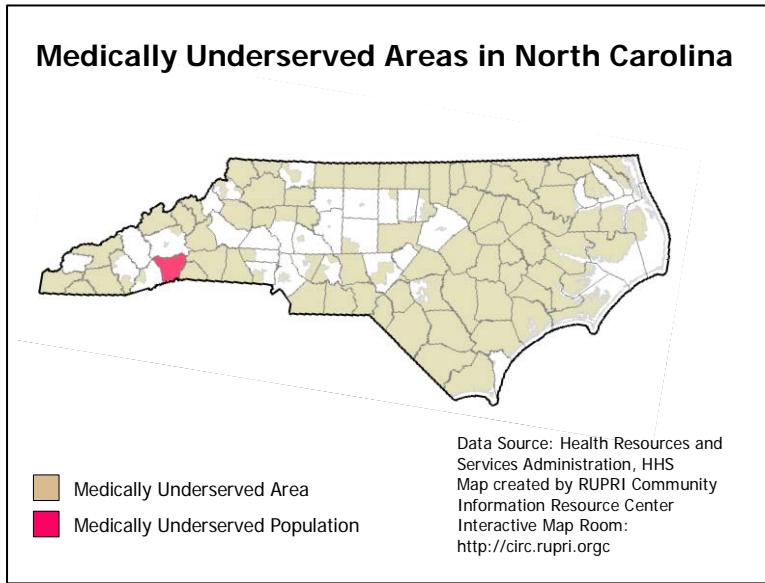


The Economic Research Service classifies counties as persistent poverty counties if they experienced poverty rates of 20 percent or higher in each Census from 1970 through 2000. There are 386 persistent poverty counties in the U.S., and 10 are located in North Carolina (1 metro and 9 nonmetro counties).

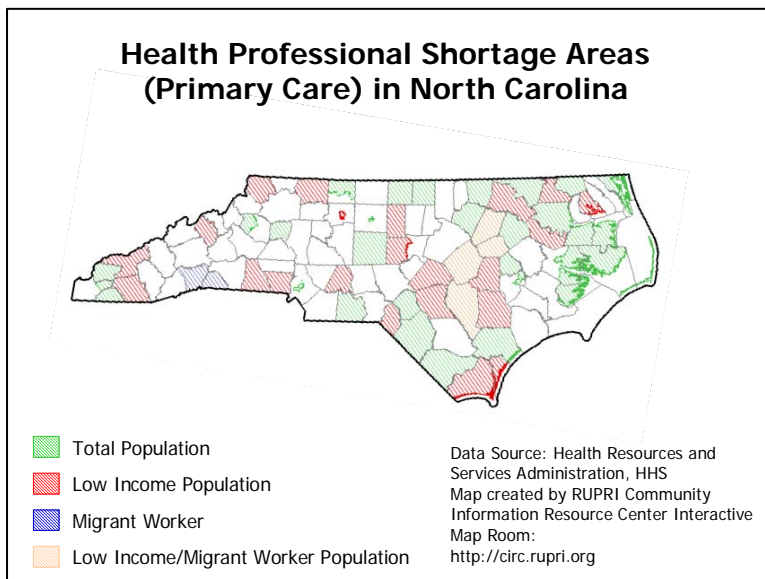


## Health Services

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 North Carolina, many areas of the state are considered medically underserved, shown in the map below.

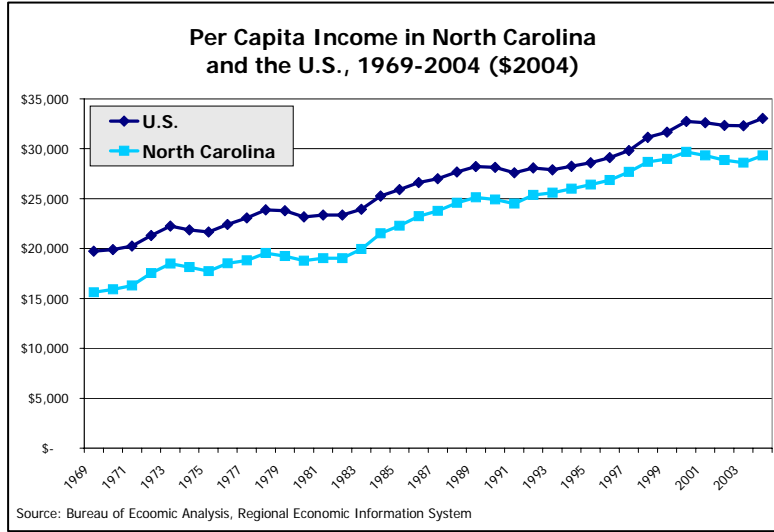


Health Professional Shortage Areas (HPSAs) are those areas that “may have shortages of primary medical care, dental or mental health providers and may be urban or rural areas, population groups, or medical or other public facilities” (Health Resources and Services Administration, HHS). Within North Carolina,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

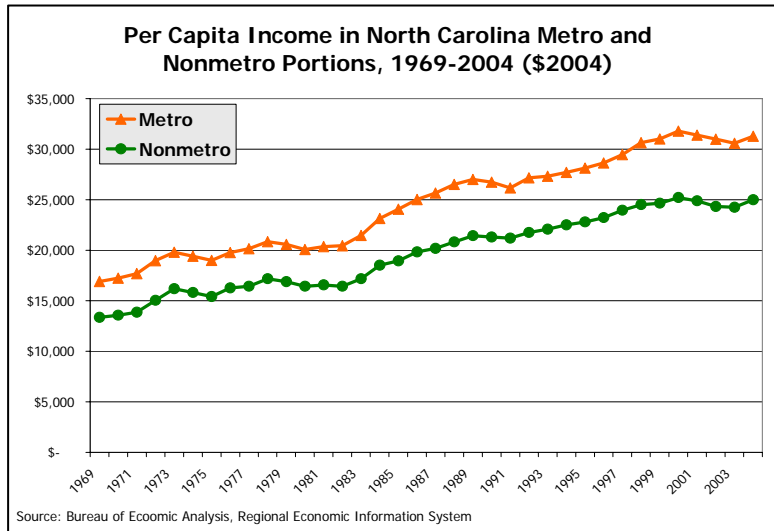


## Per Capita Income

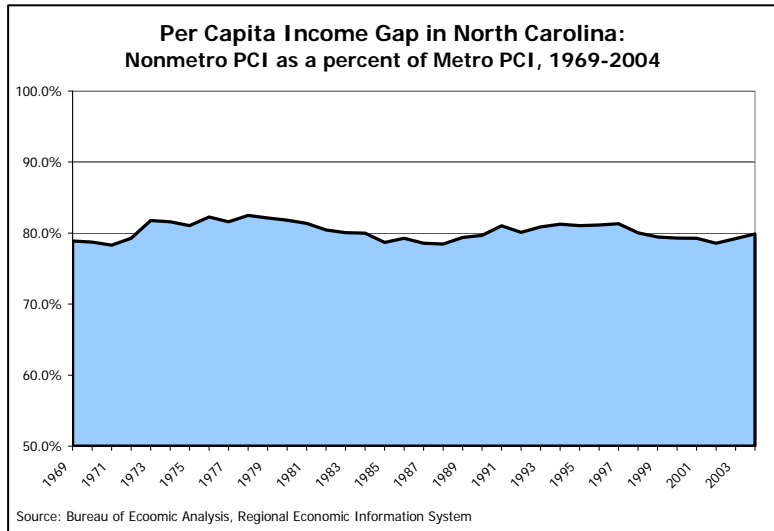
Per capita income in North Carolina has lagged slightly behind the nation over the past several decades. In 2004, per capita income in North Carolina was \$29,322 compared to \$33,050 for the nation.



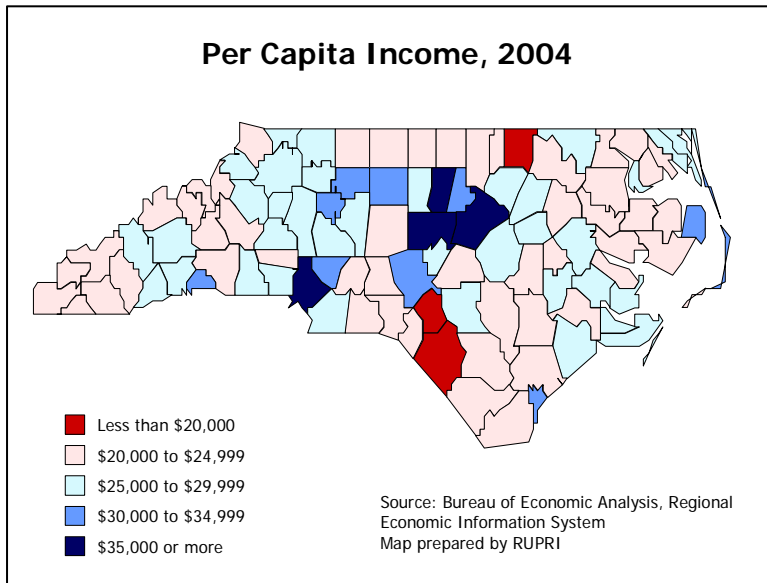
Per capita income in nonmetro areas of North Carolina has lagged behind metro areas over the past several decades. In 2004, metro per capita income was \$31,275, compared to \$24,986 in nonmetro areas.



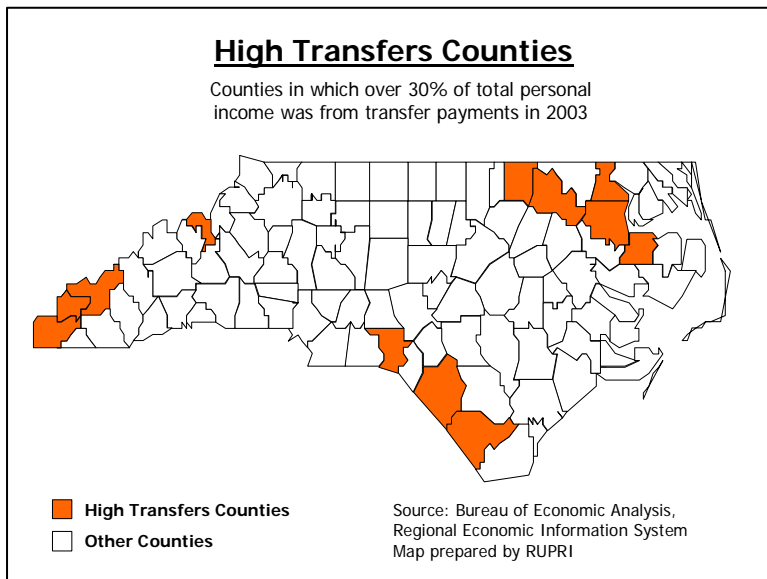
The per capita income gap is measured with nonmetro per capita income as a percent of metro per capita income. In North Carolina the gap was at its largest in 1971 and at its smallest in 1978. In 2004, nonmetro per capita income was 79.9 percent of metro per capita income.



Within North Carolina, 2004 per capita income ranged from \$18,817 in Hoke County to \$40,416 in Mecklenburg County. Three counties in North Carolina had per capita income less than \$20,000 in 2004.

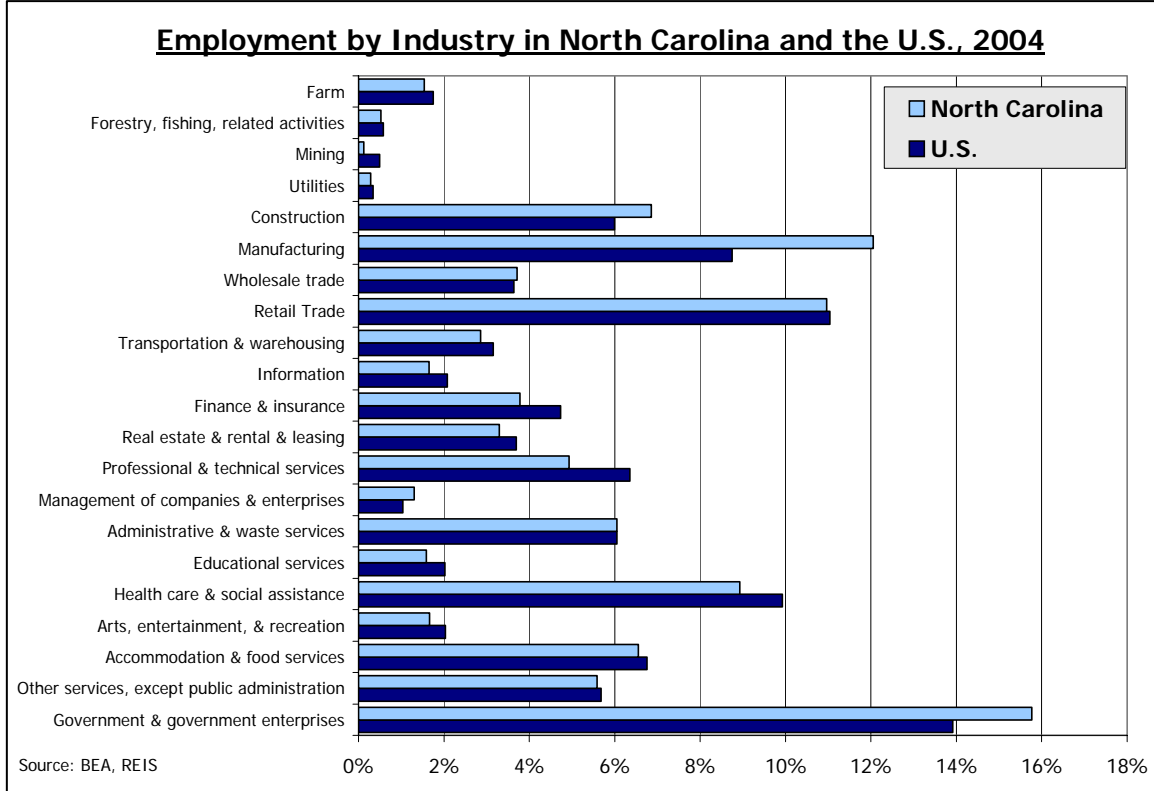


Transfer payments include retirement and disability payments, social security benefits, public assistance, and medical benefits. In North Carolina, 12 counties' incomes rely significantly on transfer payments. In these counties, shown in the map below, transfer payments account for over 30 percent of total personal income in the county.

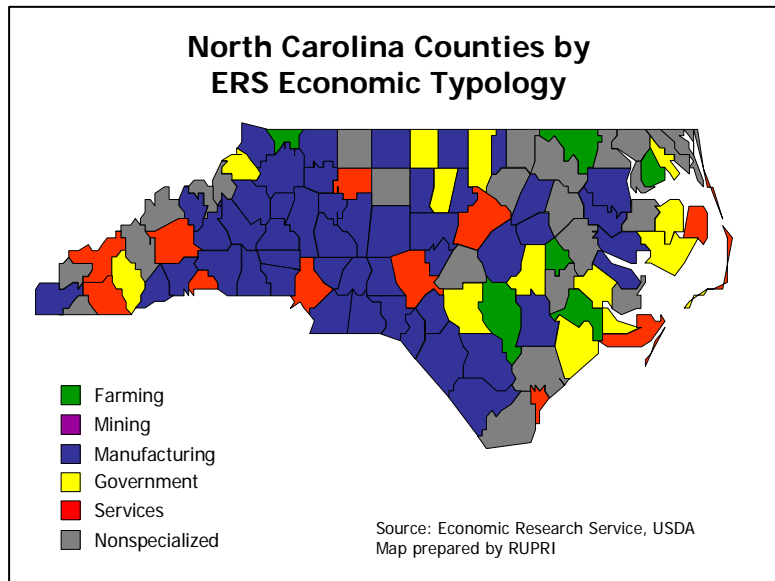


## Employment Structure

In 2004, government and government enterprises accounted for the largest shares of employment in North Carolina (15.8%) and the U.S. (13.9%). In North Carolina, manufacturing was the second largest employment sector (12.1%).

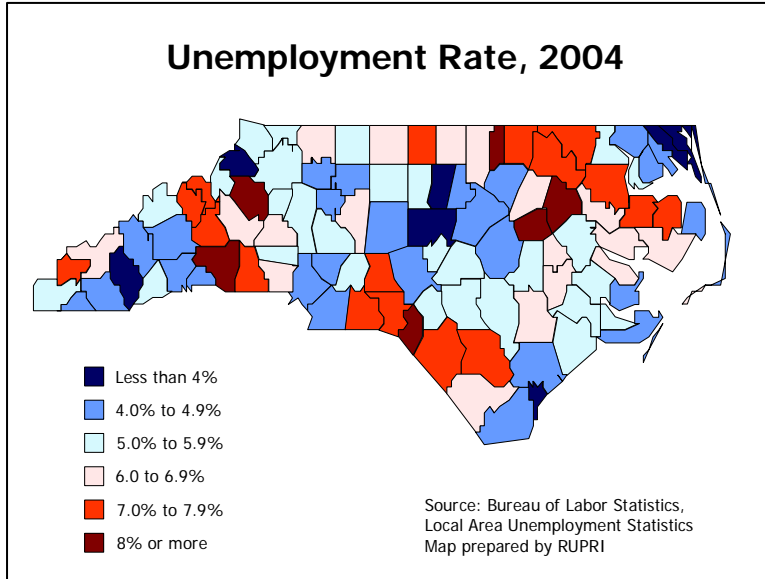


The ERS Economic Typology classifies counties into one of five industry categories of specialization or as nonspecialized. The map to the right shows the classification of North Carolina counties by this typology, illustrating the importance of manufacturing in the state.

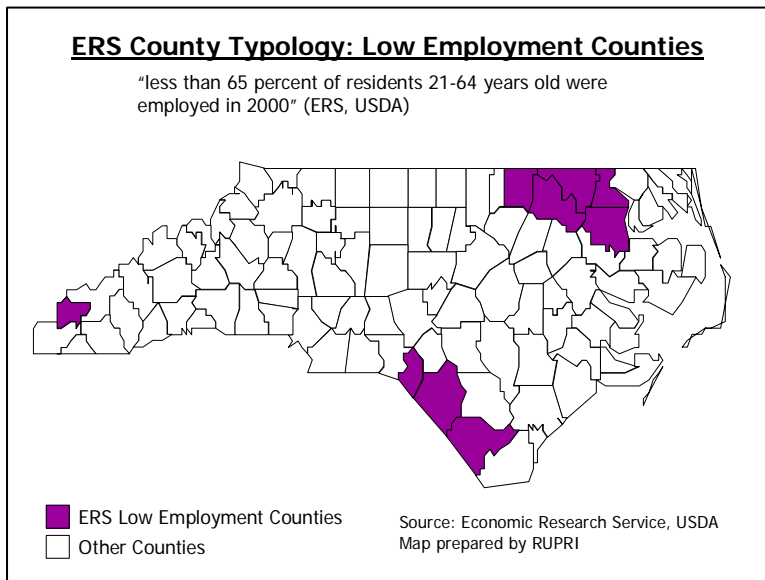


## Unemployment

The unemployment rate in North Carolina in 2005 was 5.2, compared to 5.1 percent for the U.S. Within North Carolina, the 2005 unemployment rate ranged from 3.0 in Currituck County to 9.9 percent in Scotland County.

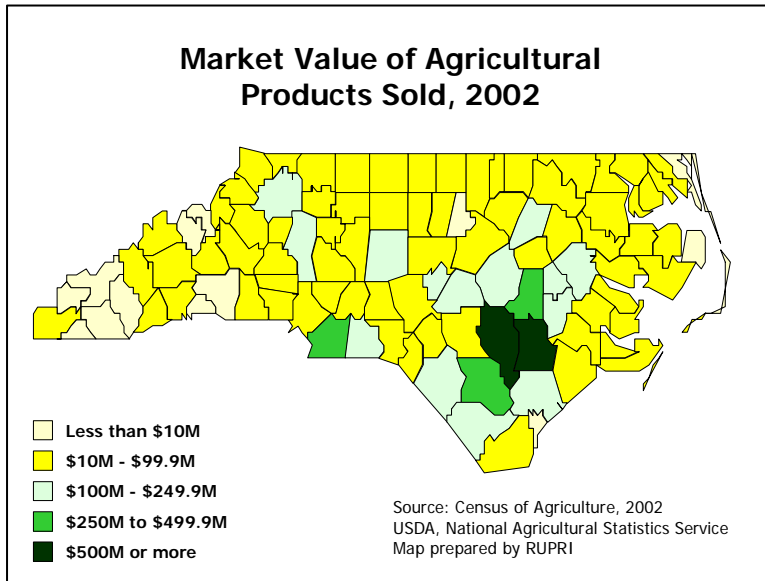


The Economic Research Service classifies counties as low employment counties if “less than 65 percent of residents 21-64 years old were employed in 2000.” In North Carolina, 9 counties are classified as low employment counties.

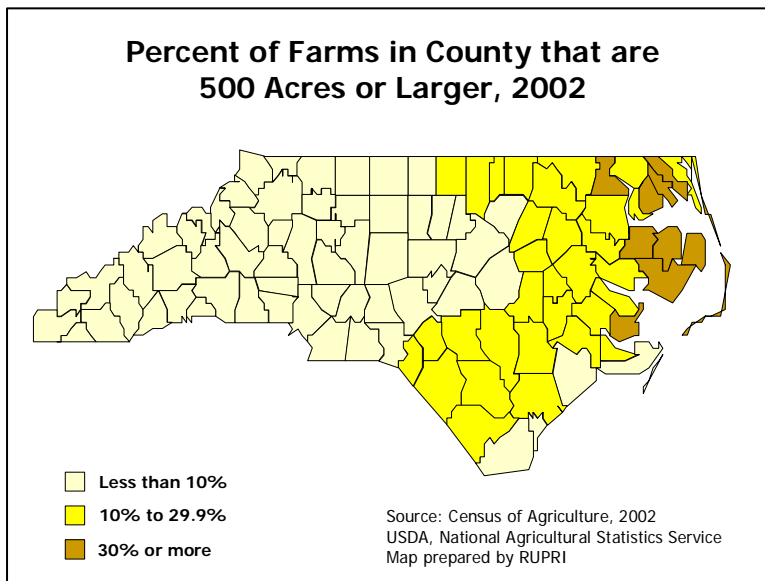


## Agriculture

Agriculture is an important industry in several parts of North Carolina, and six counties are classified as farming dependent by the Economic Research Service (see map on page 11). The map below shows the value of agricultural products sold in 2002 for North Carolina counties. In 19 counties the value was over \$100 million, and in Sampson and Duplin Counties the value was over \$500 million.



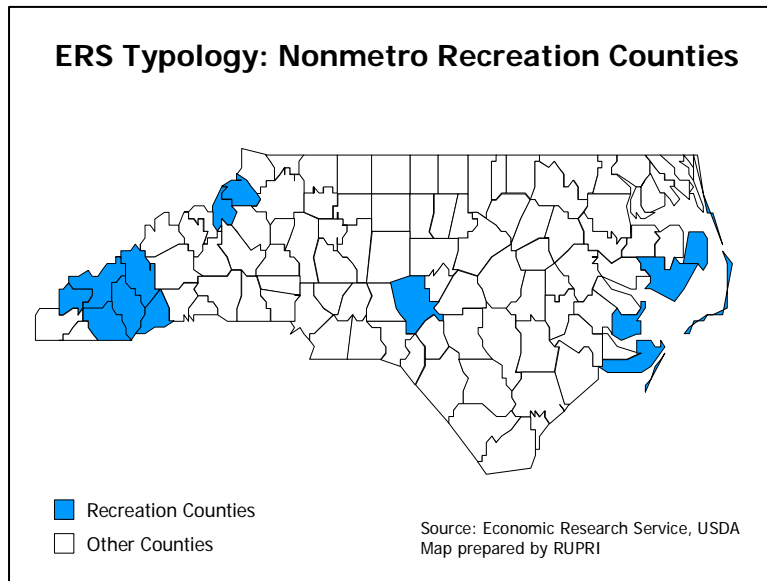
Average farm size in North Carolina is 168 acres, and only 7.2 percent of farms are 500 acres or larger.





## 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 13 are located in North Carolina. Counties that were nonmetro in 1993 or in 2003 are classified. Haywood County was a nonmetro county in the 1993 classifications.



## **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](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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