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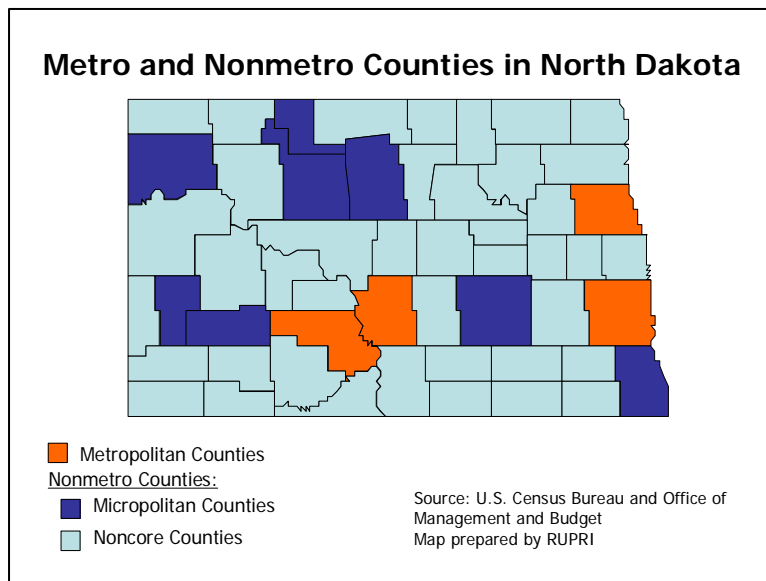
## Demographic and Economic Profile

# North Dakota

Updated June 2006

### Metro and Nonmetro Counties in North Dakota

Based on the most recent listing of core based statistical areas by the Office of Management and Budget (December 2005), 4 counties in North Dakota are part of metropolitan areas, and 8 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 41 counties in North Dakota are considered noncore counties. Using these classifications and the population estimates for 2005, 46.5 percent of North Dakota residents live in metropolitan areas, 22.6 percent live in micropolitan areas, and 30.8 percent live in noncore areas.

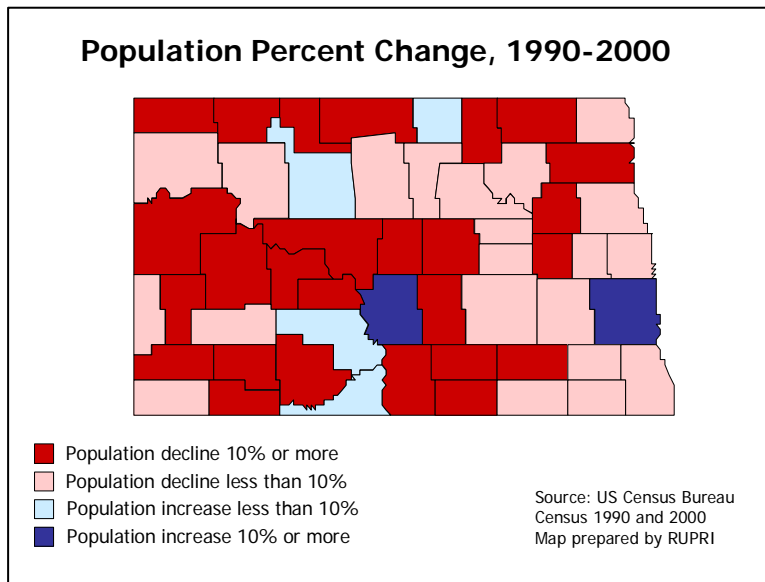


## Population

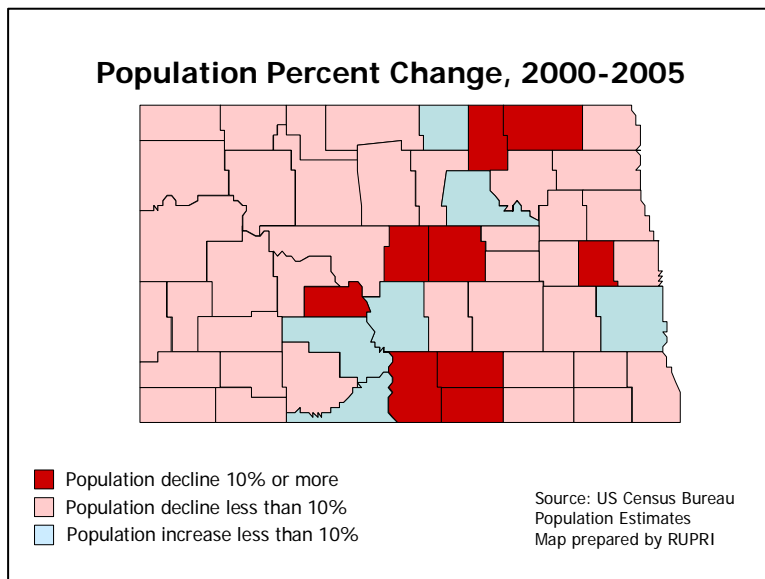
North Dakota's population in 2005 was 636,677, down 0.9 percent from the 2000 Census. During the 1990s, the population in North Dakota increased by 0.5 percent. Nationally, population increased 13.1 percent during the 1990s, and 5.3 percent from April 2000 to July 2005. Population increased in metropolitan parts of North Dakota during both time periods, while the nonmetropolitan areas lost population.

Percent Change in Population		
Area:	1990-2000	2000-2005
<b>U.S.</b>	<b>13.1%</b>	<b>5.3%</b>
<b>North Dakota</b>	<b>0.5%</b>	<b>-0.9%</b>
Metropolitan	10.3%	4.3%
Nonmetropolitan	-6.1%	-5.0%
Micropolitan	-1.6%	-4.3%
Noncore	-9.1%	-5.5%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau

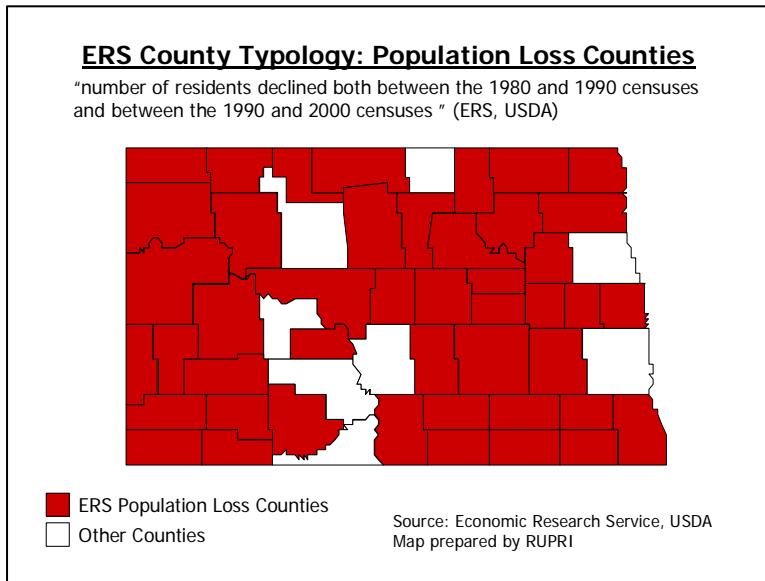


During the 1990s, 47 counties in North Dakota lost population, all but one of them nonmetropolitan. The fastest growth during this time was in Cass County in the Fargo Metropolitan Area, with a population increase of 19.7 percent during the 1990s.



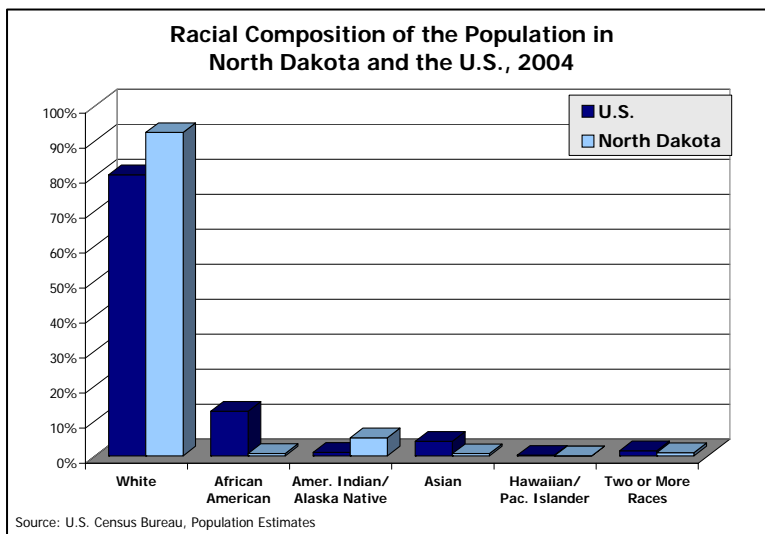
From 2000 to 2005, 47 counties in North Dakota lost population, all but one of them nonmetropolitan. Again, the fastest growth was in Cass County, increasing 6.4 percent during this time period.

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 North Dakota, 45 counties, all nonmetropolitan, are classified as population loss counties.



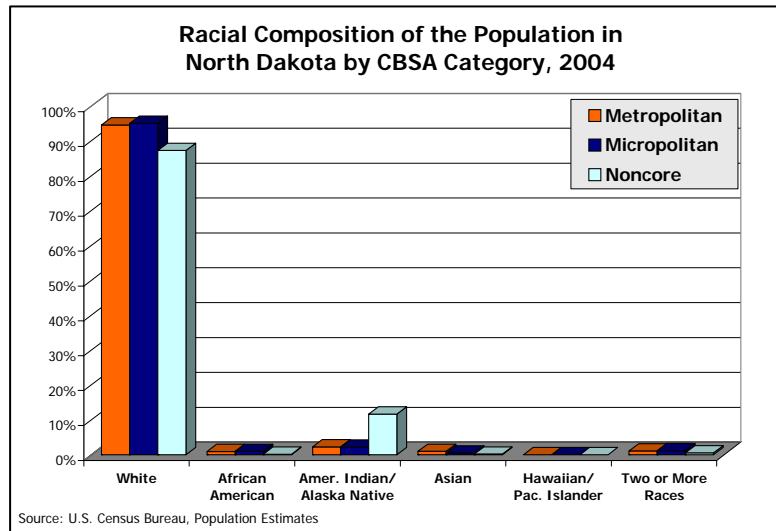
### Race / Ethnicity

The population in North Dakota is 92.4 percent white and 0.7 percent African American. Nationally, the population is 80.4 percent white and 12.8 percent African American (2004 Census Bureau estimates). Native Americans make up 5.2 percent of North Dakota's population, compared to 1.0 percent of the total U.S. population.

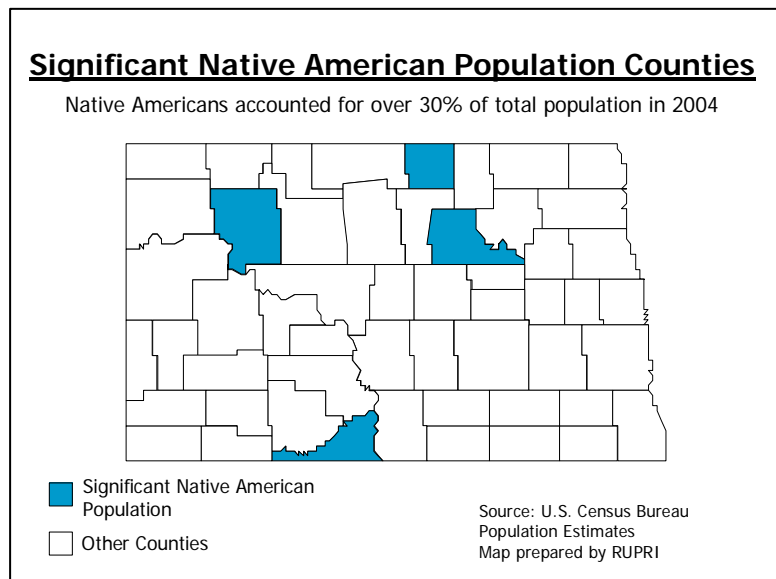


People of Hispanic origin make up 1.5 percent of North Dakota's population, compared to 14.1 percent of the total U.S. population.

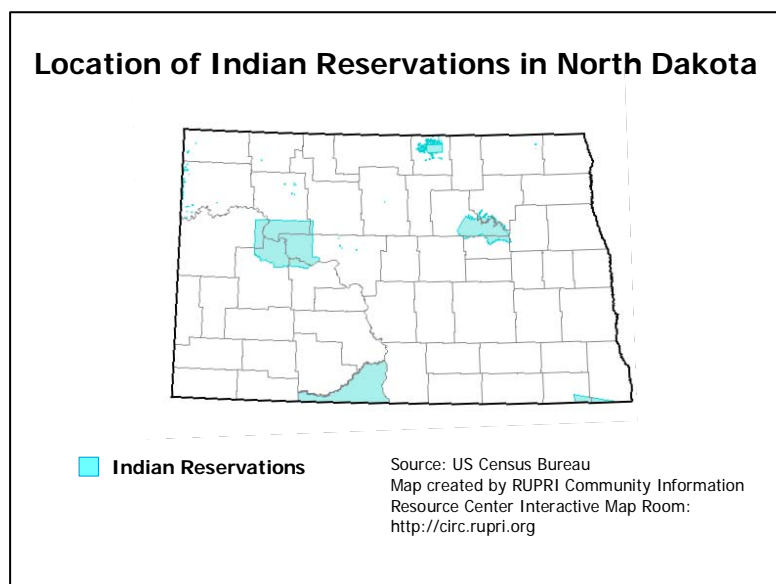
Within North Dakota, the metropolitan population is 94.6 percent white and 0.9 percent African American. The micropolitan population is 95.1 percent white and 1.0 percent African American, and the noncore population is 87.3 percent white and 0.2 percent African American.



Native Americans make up 2.3 percent of the metropolitan population, 2.2 percent of the micropolitan population, and 11.7 percent of the noncore population. In four counties, shown in the map to the right, Native Americans account for a significant portion (over 30%) of total population. In Sioux and Rolette Counties, Native Americans make up more than 70 percent of total population.

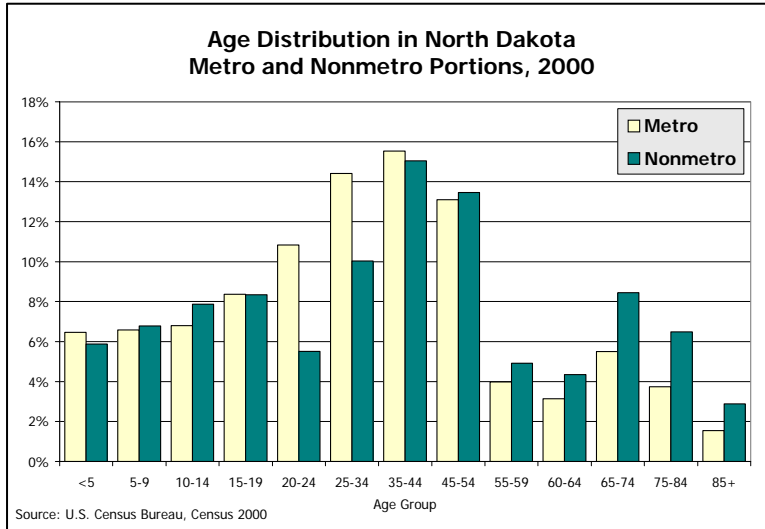


The map to the right shows the location of Indian Reservations in North Dakota.

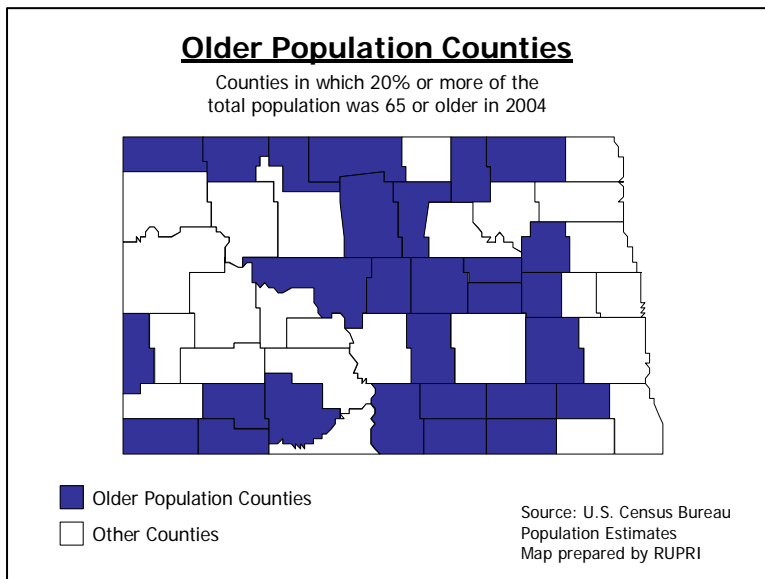


## Age

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

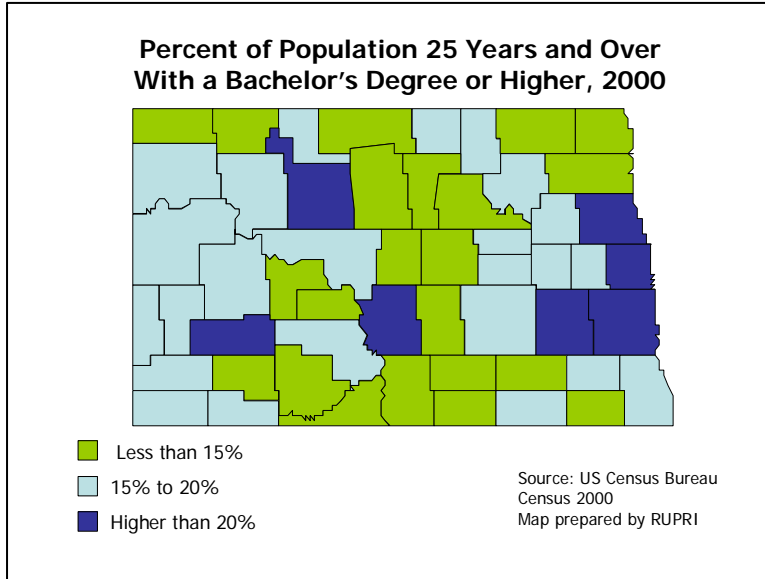


Many rural areas experience an aging of their populations over time, in some cases due to immigration of retirees and in other cases due to outmigration of younger populations and an aging-in-place of residents. In 28 North Dakota counties the population age 65 and over accounts for a significant portion (20% or more) of total population. These counties, all nonmetro, are shown in the map below.

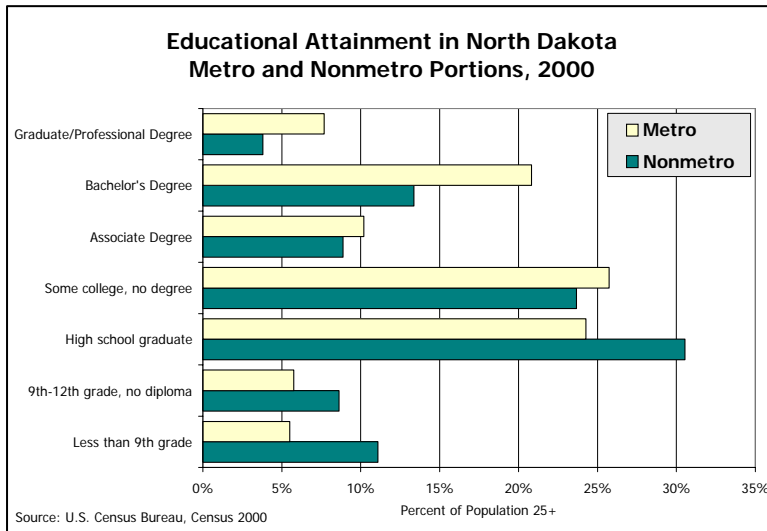


## Educational Attainment

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 22.0 percent in North Dakota. In metro areas of North Dakota, this percentage is 28.5, compared to 17.2 percent in nonmetro areas.

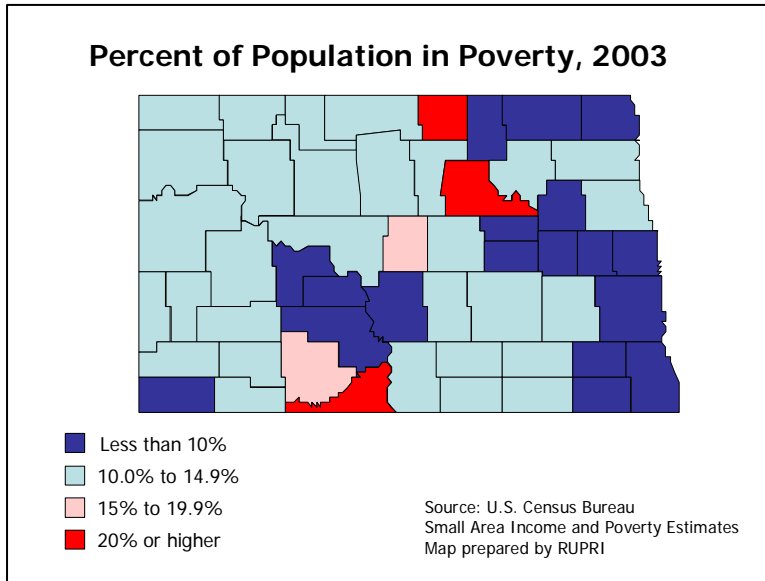


The chart below compares the educational attainment of North Dakota's metro and nonmetro populations. The percent of the population with high educational attainment (B.S. degree or higher) is greater in the metro areas, while the percent of the population with low educational attainment (high school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

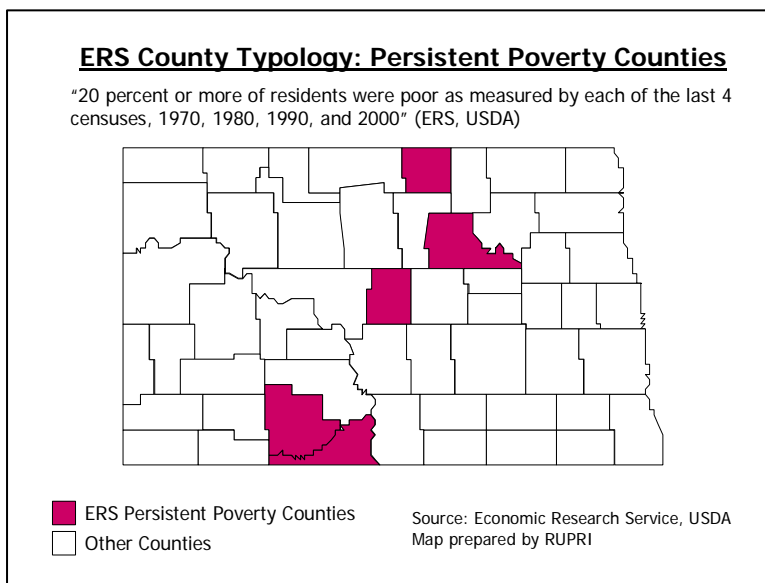


## Poverty

The poverty rate in North Dakota in 2003 was 10.5 percent, compared to 12.5 percent for the U.S. (Census Bureau estimates). The poverty rate in North Dakota counties ranged from 7.0 percent in Steele County to 25.7 percent in Sioux County.

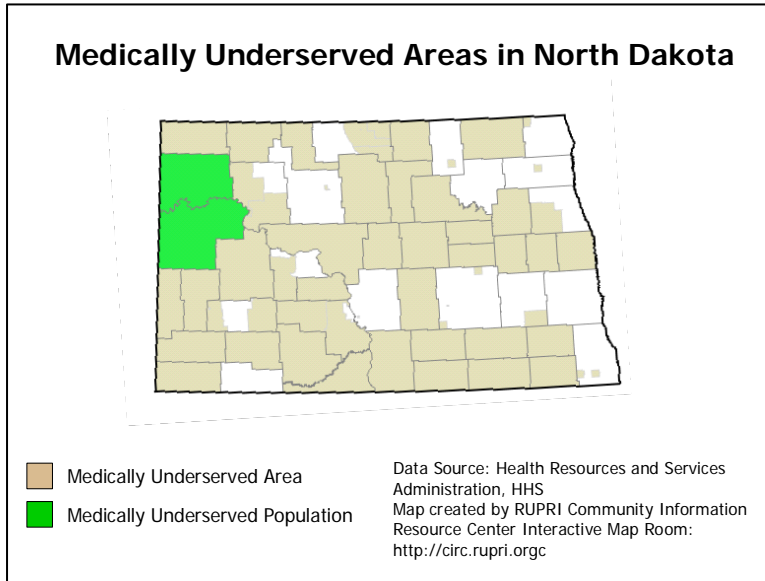


The Economic Research Service classifies counties as persistent poverty counties if they experienced poverty rates of 20 percent or higher in each Census from 1970 through 2000. There are 386 persistent poverty counties in the U.S., and 5 are located in North Dakota. All 5 North Dakota persistent poverty counties are nonmetro.

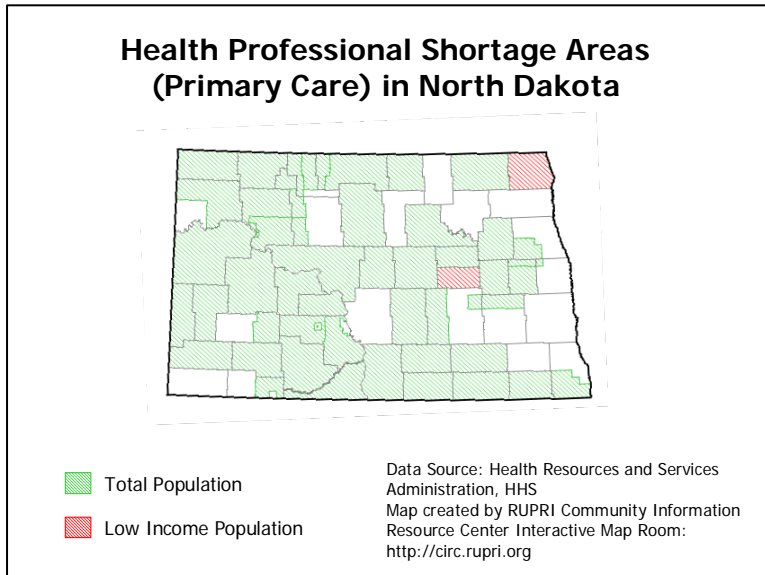


## Health Services

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

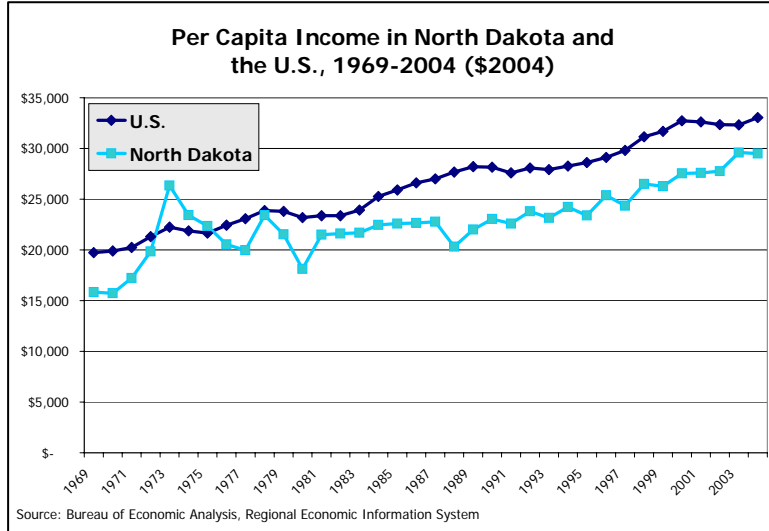


Health Professional Shortage Areas (HPSAs) are those areas that “may have shortages of primary medical care, dental or mental health providers and may be urban or rural areas, population groups, or medical or other public facilities” (Health Resources and Services Administration, HHS). Within North Dakota,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

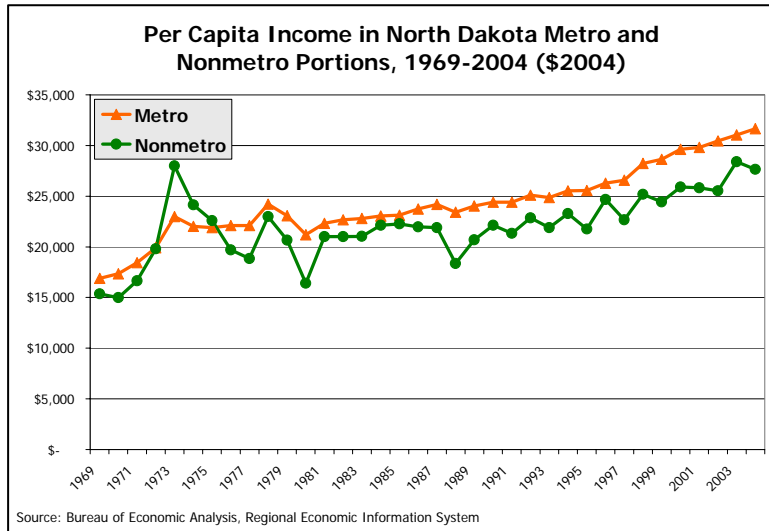


## Per Capita Income

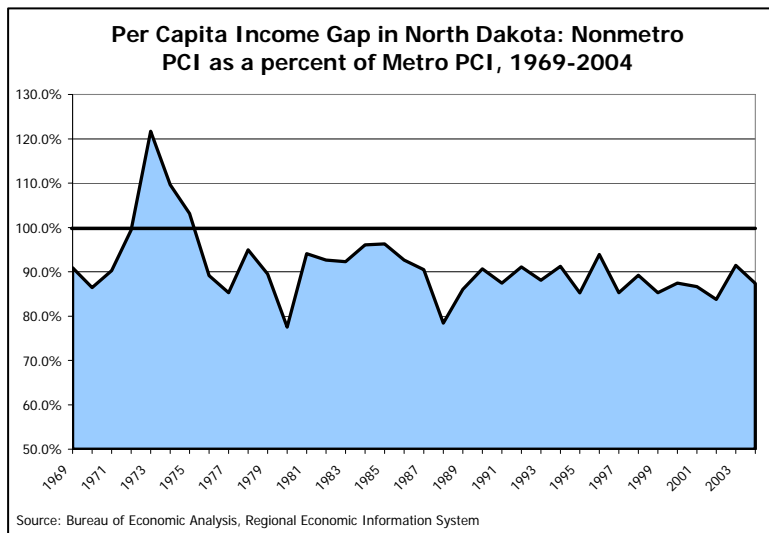
Per capita income in North Dakota has lagged behind the nation for most of the past several decades, with the exception of 1973 through 1975. In 2004, per capita income in North Dakota was \$29,494, compared to \$33,050 for the U.S.



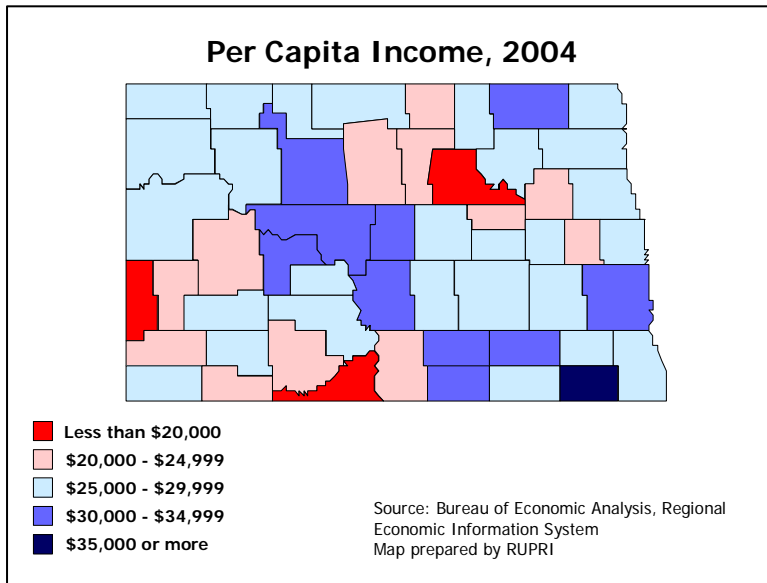
Nonmetro per capita income in North Dakota has lagged behind metro throughout most of the past several decades, with the exception of 1973 through 1975. In 2004, metro per capita income was \$31,648 compared to \$27,651 in nonmetro areas.



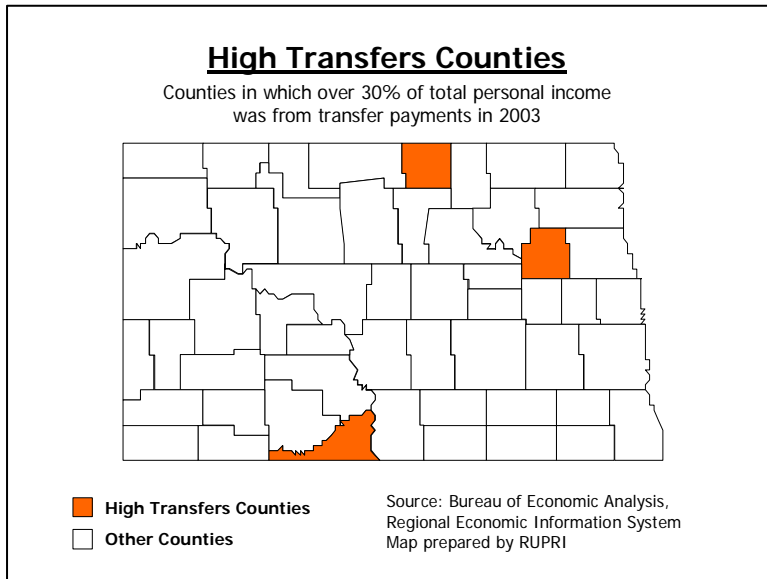
The per capita income gap is measured with nonmetro per capita income as a percent of metro per capita income. In North Dakota, nonmetro per capita income exceeded metro per capita income from 1973 through 1975. The gap was at its largest in 1980. In 2004, nonmetro per capita income was 87.4 percent of metro per capita income.



Within North Dakota, 2004 per capita income ranged from \$16,448 in Sioux County to \$36,217 in Sargent County. Three counties in North Dakota had per capita income less than \$20,000 in 2004, all of them nonmetro.

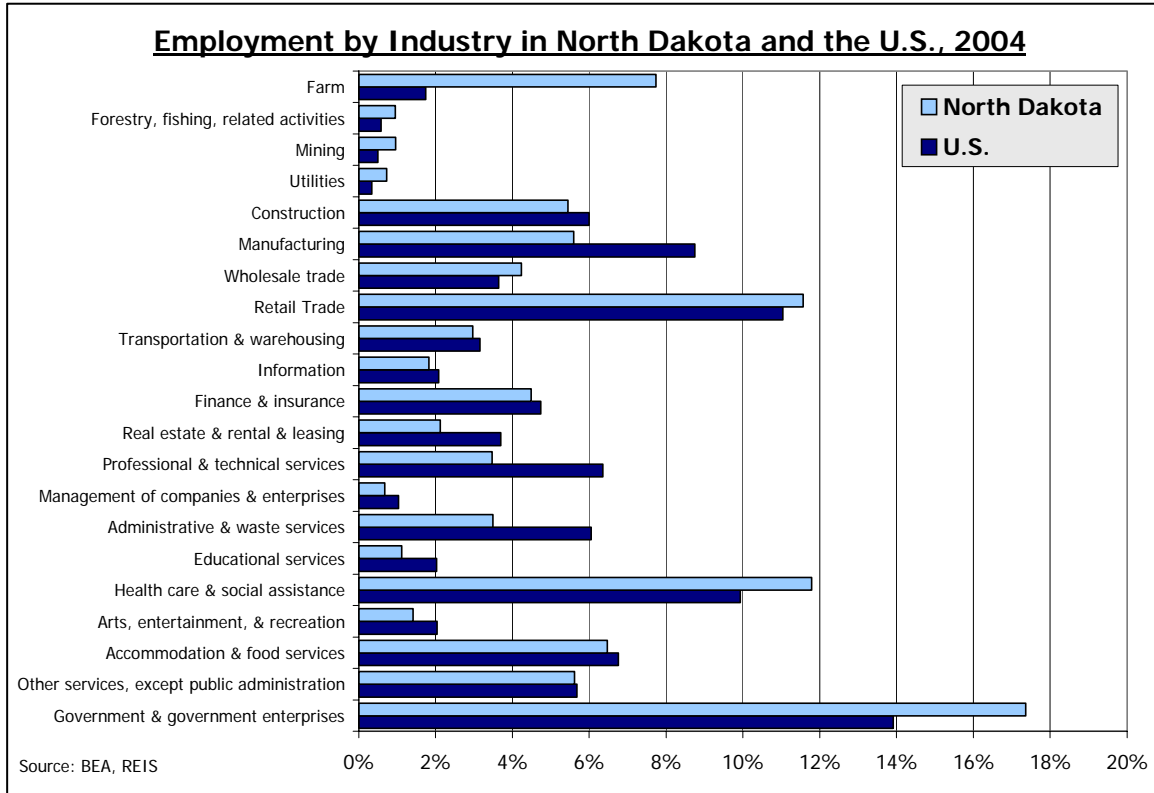


Transfer payments include retirement and disability payments, social security benefits, public assistance, and medical benefits. In North Dakota, three counties' incomes rely significantly on transfer payments. In these counties, shown in the map below, transfer payments account for over 30 percent of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

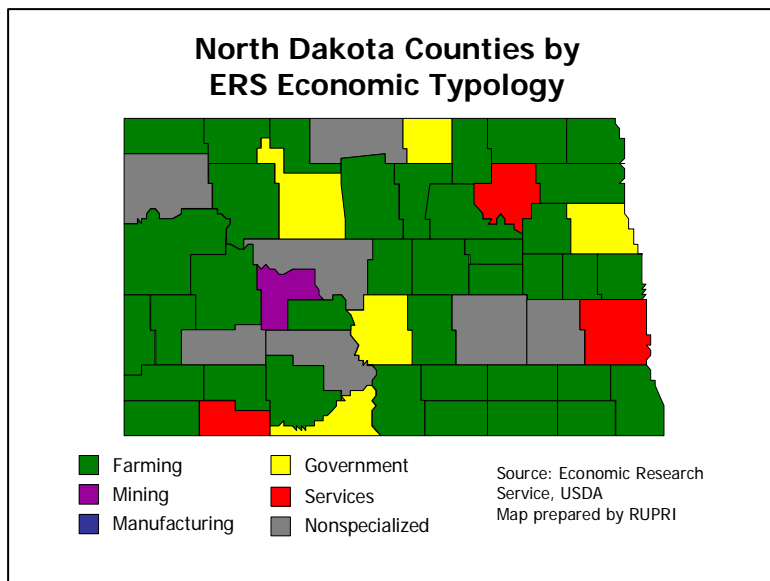


## Employment Structure

In 2004, government and government enterprises accounted for the largest shares of employment in North Dakota (17.4%) and the U.S. (13.9%). Health care and social assistance was the second largest employment sector in North Dakota, accounting for 11.8 percent of total employment.

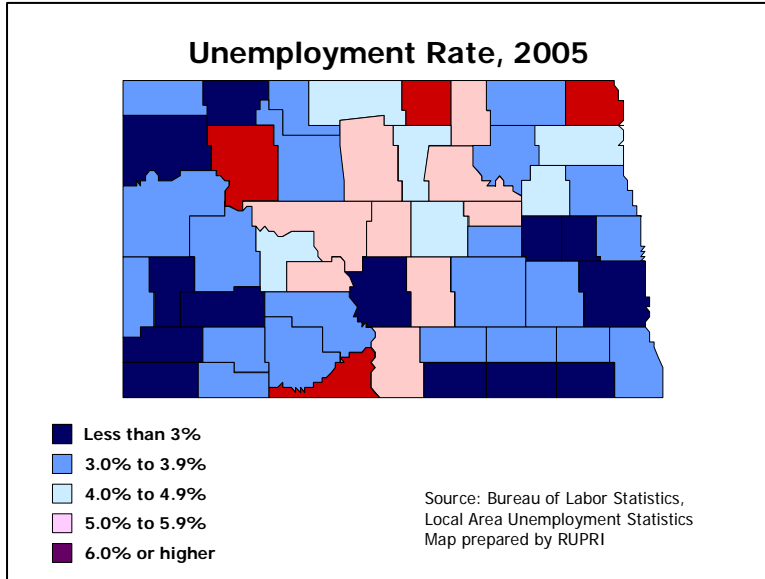


The ERS Economic Typology classifies counties into one of five industry categories of specialization or as nonspecialized. The map to the right shows the classification of North Dakota counties by this typology, illustrating the importance of farming to the state.

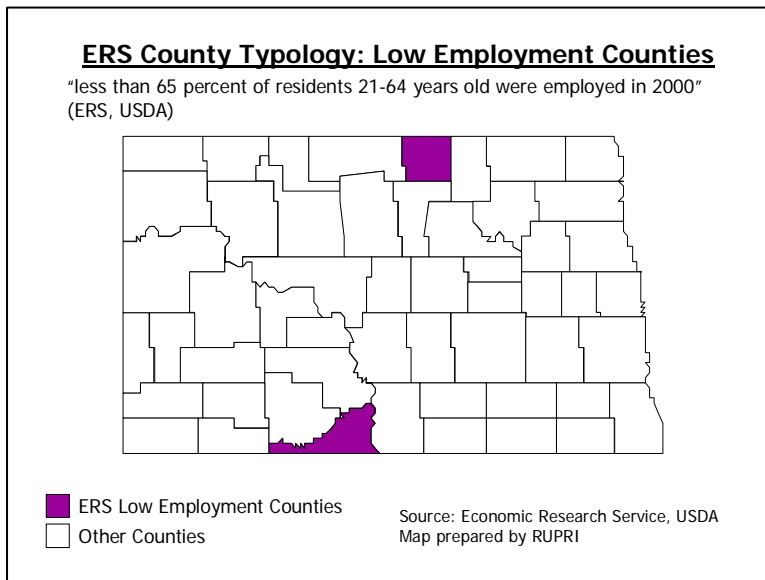


## Unemployment

In 2005 the unemployment rate in North Dakota was 3.4 percent, compared to 5.1 percent for the nation. Within North Dakota, the unemployment rate ranged from 2.3 percent in Williams County to 9.5 percent in Rolette County.

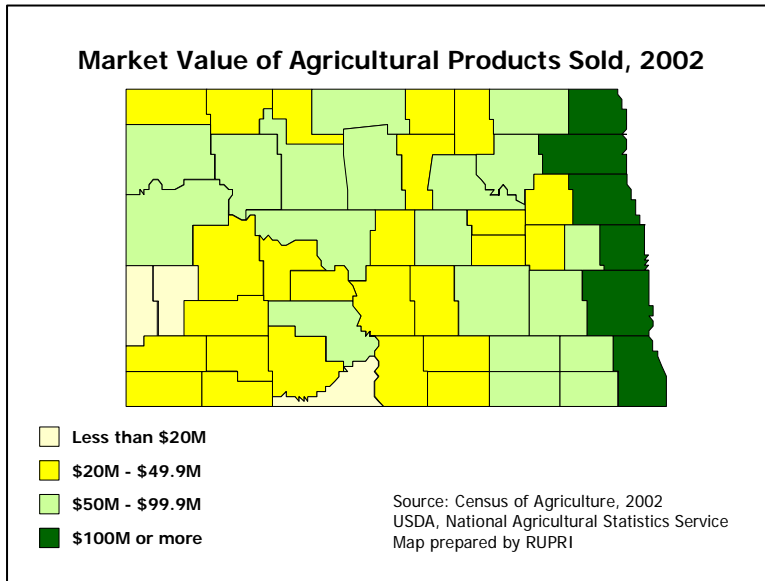


The Economic Research Service classifies counties as low employment counties if “less than 65 percent of residents 21-64 years old were employed in 2000.” In North Dakota, two counties, both nonmetro, are classified as low employment counties.

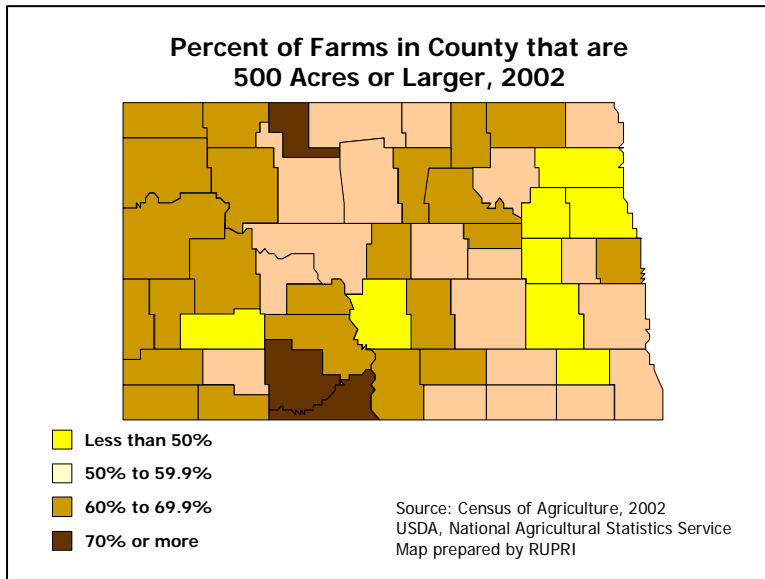


## Agriculture

Agriculture is an important industry in North Dakota, and 37 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 North Dakota counties. In six counties the value was over \$100 million, and in two counties (Richland and Cass) the value was over \$200 million.

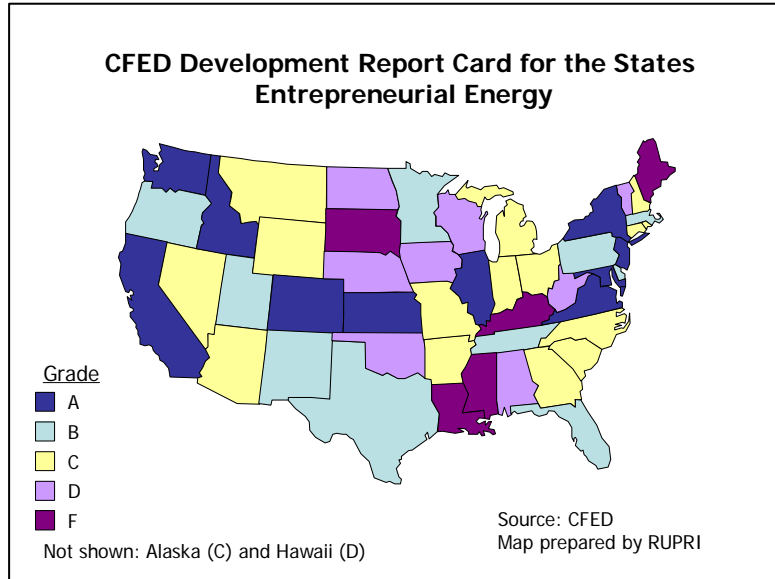


Average farm size in North Dakota is 1,283 acres, and 56.8 percent of farms are 500 acres or larger. In only 8 counties were fewer than half the farms 500 acres or more, and in three counties over 70 percent of the farms were 500 acres or larger.

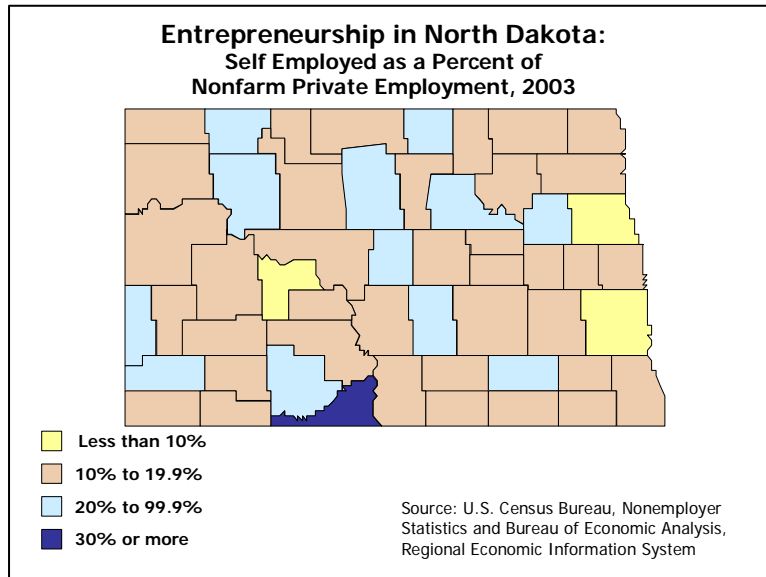


## Entrepreneurship

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. North Dakota’s ranking is “D”.

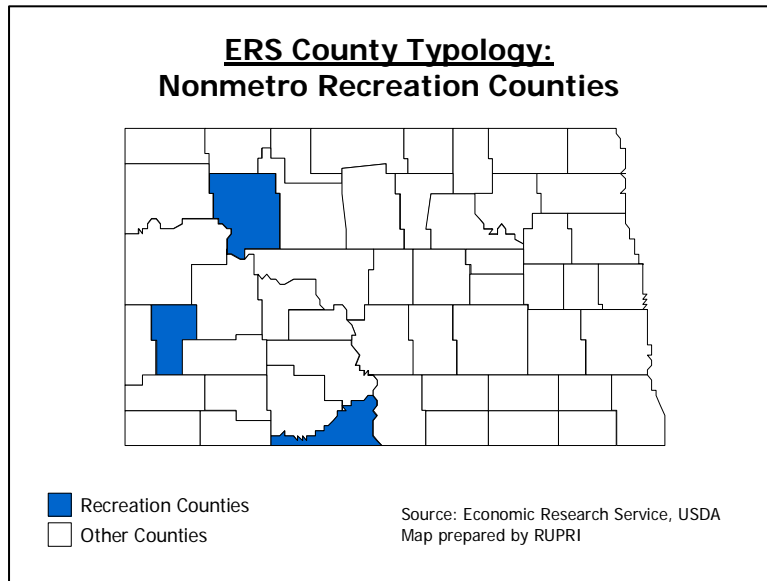


As mentioned, county level indicators of entrepreneurship are difficult to ascertain, but a good indicator is the proportion of workers that are self employed. The map below shows self employed workers as a percent of nonfarm private employment in the county. In Sioux County, self employed account for 41.0 percent of nonfarm private employment.



## 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 three are located in North Dakota.



## **Data Sources and References**

**Bureau of Economic Analysis, Regional Economic Information System**

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