



rural policy research institute



Prepared for the
Agriculture Chairs Summit

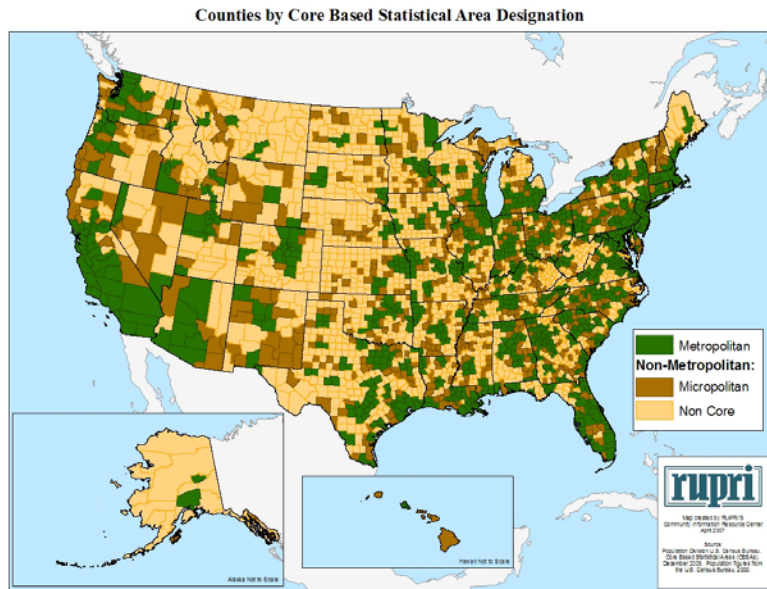
St. Louis, Missouri
January 18-20, 2008

<http://www.rupri.org>

Introduction

This report summarizes some key demographic and economic indicators in the United States, with a particular emphasis on nonmetropolitan areas within each state. Nonmetropolitan areas are based on county boundaries. These county designations, referred to as Core Based Statistical Areas, are defined by the Office of Management and Budget, which classify counties as metropolitan, micropolitan, or noncore.

Metropolitan areas have a core county with an urbanized area of 50,000 or more population, plus adjacent counties linked through commuting ties. Micropolitan areas have a core county with an urban cluster of 10,000 to 49,999 population, plus adjacent counties linked through commuting ties. All other counties are considered noncore counties. Collectively, micropolitan and noncore counties are considered nonmetropolitan.



The Census defines areas as urban or rural, and these definitions are at a sub-county geography. Urban areas (referred to as urbanized areas and urban clusters) are defined by the Census Bureau as "core census block groups or blocks that have a population density of at least 1,000 people per square mile and surrounding census blocks that have an overall density of at least 500 people per square mile." Any territory not defined as urban is rural. Counties, then, contain both urban and rural areas. There are rural areas within metropolitan counties and urban areas within nonmetropolitan counties.

The nonmetropolitan population should not be equated with the rural population. In fact, more rural residents live in metropolitan counties than in micropolitan and noncore counties combined (see table).

Distribution of Population			
	Urban	Rural	Total
Metropolitan	202,403,216	30,176,724	232,579,940
Non-metropolitan:			
Micropolitan	15,231,742	14,299,972	29,531,714
Noncore	4,723,351	14,586,901	19,310,252
Total	222,358,309	59,063,597	281,421,906

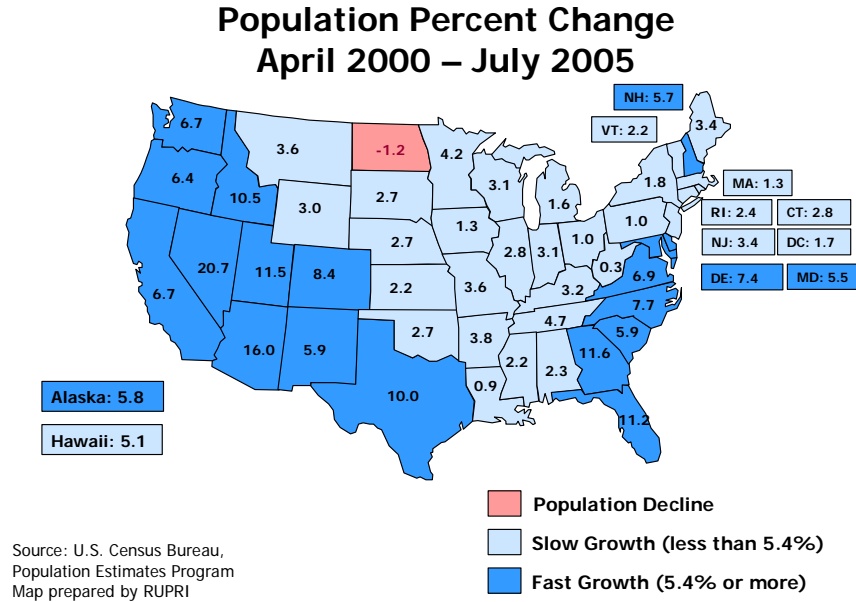
*Population figures from the 2000 Census.
Core Based Statistical Area status as of December 2005.*

However, because most data sources are available at the county level, this report utilizes nonmetropolitan counties as a representation of rural America.

Population Change

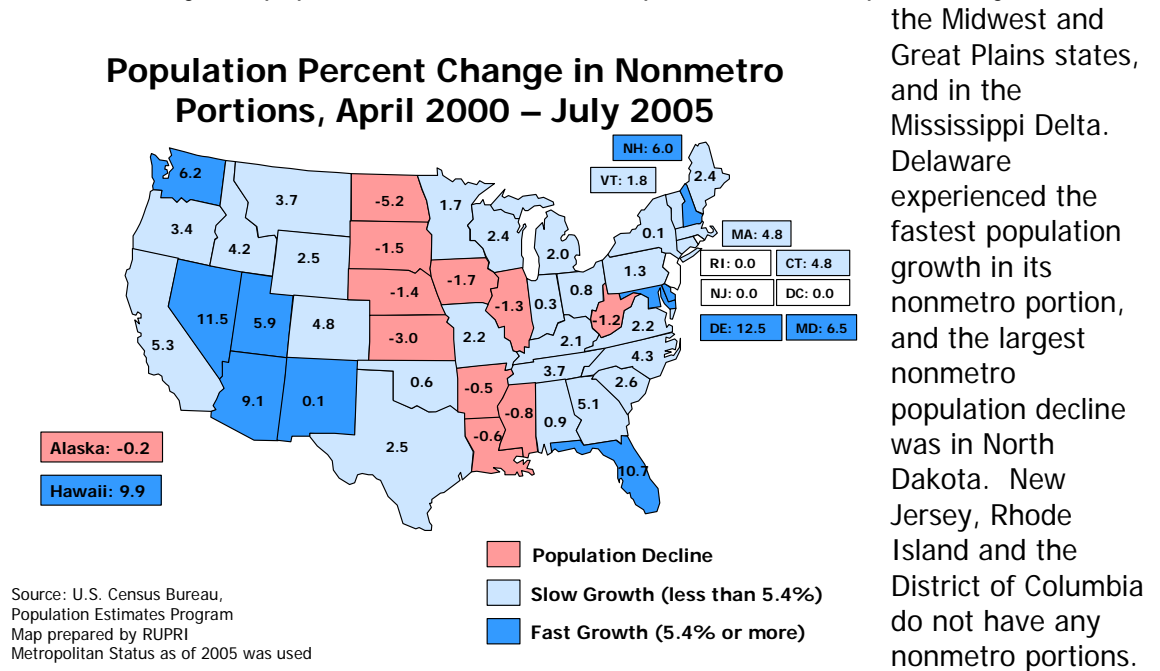
In the States

Between the 2000 Census and July of 2005, the United States population increased 5.4 percent. The map to the right shows the population change by state for this time period. Only North Dakota lost population during this time, and the fastest population growth was in Nevada.



In Nonmetro Areas

The map below shows the population change in the **nonmetropolitan portion** of each state from the 2000 Census to July 2005. Several states in which the population grew overall actually lost population in their nonmetro portions. This is particularly evident in the Midwest and Great Plains states, and in the Mississippi Delta.

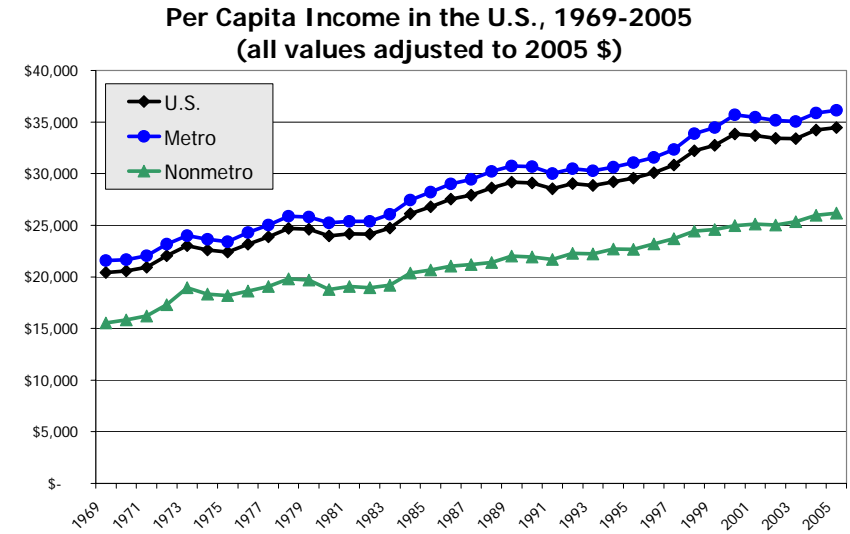


the Midwest and Great Plains states, and in the Mississippi Delta. Delaware experienced the fastest population growth in its nonmetro portion, and the largest nonmetro population decline was in North Dakota. New Jersey, Rhode Island and the District of Columbia do not have any nonmetro portions.

Per Capita Income

The National Picture

Per capita income in the U.S. in 2005 was \$34,471. In metro areas per capita income was \$36,140, compared to only \$26,161 in nonmetro areas. As is apparent in the chart, trends in per capita income over time in the U.S., metro, and nonmetro areas have followed similar trends, with metro income exceeding the U.S. figure and nonmetro income lagging somewhat behind.

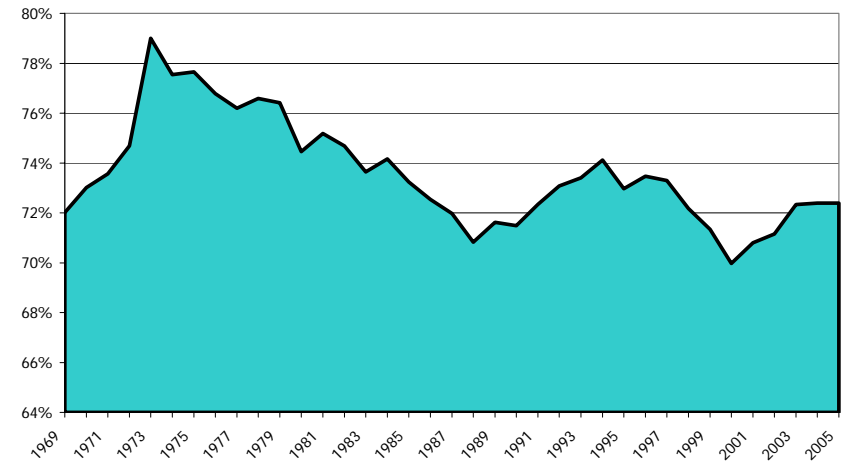


Source: Bureau of Economic Analysis

The Nonmetro Per Capita Income Gap

Nonmetro income has lagged behind metro income over the past several decades. The

The Per Capita Income Gap: Nonmetro PCI as a Percent of Metro PCI, 1969-2005



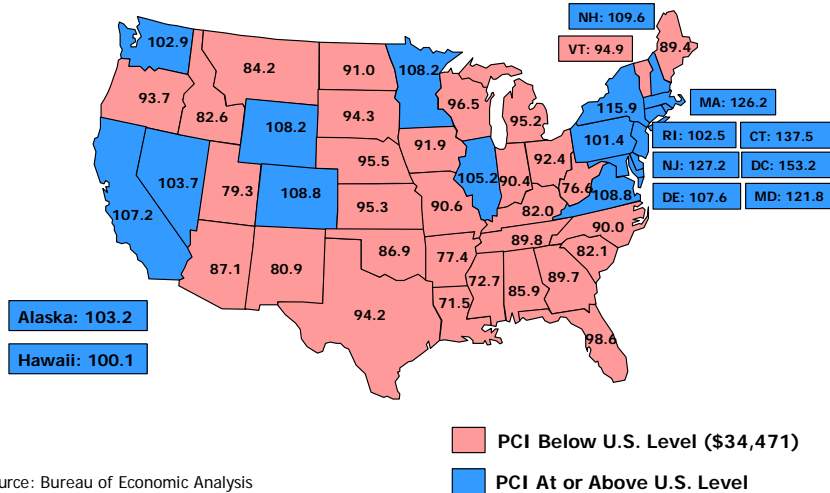
Source: Bureau of Economic Analysis

per capita income gap is measured with nonmetro per capita income as a percent of metro per capita income. In 2005, nonmetro per capita income was 72.4 percent of metro per capita income. The gap has persisted over time, reaching its largest in 2000 when nonmetro income was only 70 percent of metro income.

In the States

Per capita income in the U.S. in 2005 was \$34,471. The map to the right shows each state's per capita income as a percentage of the U.S. figure. Among the states, 2005 per capita income ranged from \$24,664 in Louisiana to \$52,811 in the District of Columbia. Per capita income exceeded the national level in 19 states plus the District of Columbia, and was below the U.S. level in 31 states.

State Per Capita Income as a Percent of National Per Capita Income, 2005

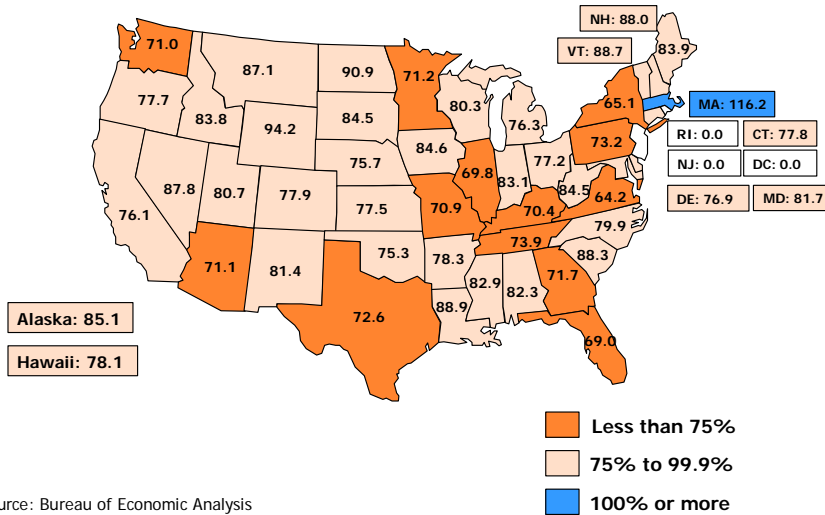


Source: Bureau of Economic Analysis
Map prepared by RUPRI

In Nonmetro Areas

Nationally, nonmetro per capita income was 72.4 percent of metro per capita income. The map to the right shows nonmetro per capita income as a percent of metro per capita income in each state. The value ranged from 64.2 percent in Virginia, to 116.2 percent in Massachusetts.

The Per Capita Income Gap, 2005: Nonmetro PCI as a Percent of Metro PCI



Source: Bureau of Economic Analysis
Map prepared by RUPRI

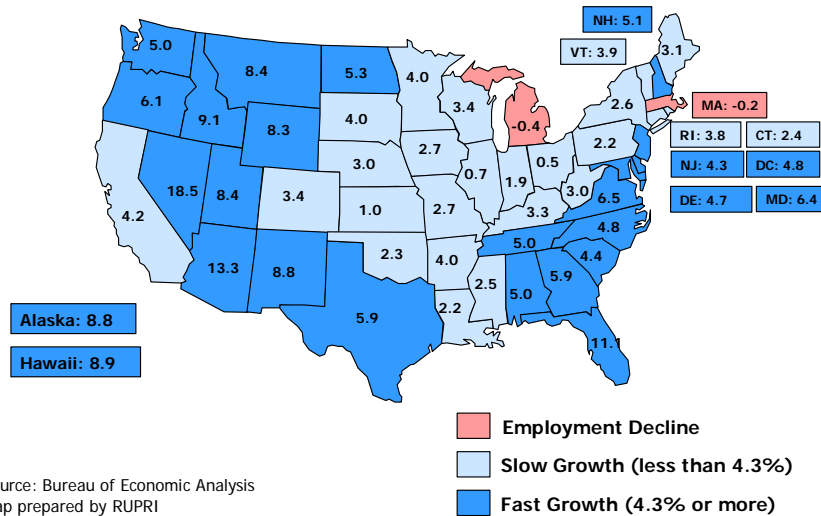
percent in Massachusetts. Nonmetro per capita income was less than 75 percent of metro income in 13 states. Massachusetts is the only state in which nonmetro income exceeded metro income. New Jersey, Rhode Island and the District of Columbia do not have any nonmetro portions.

Employment Change

In the States

Total employment in the U.S. increased by 4.3 percent from 2001 to 2005. The map to the right shows total employment change during this time in each state. Only two states had declines in total employment - Michigan and Massachusetts. The largest employment gain was in Nevada.

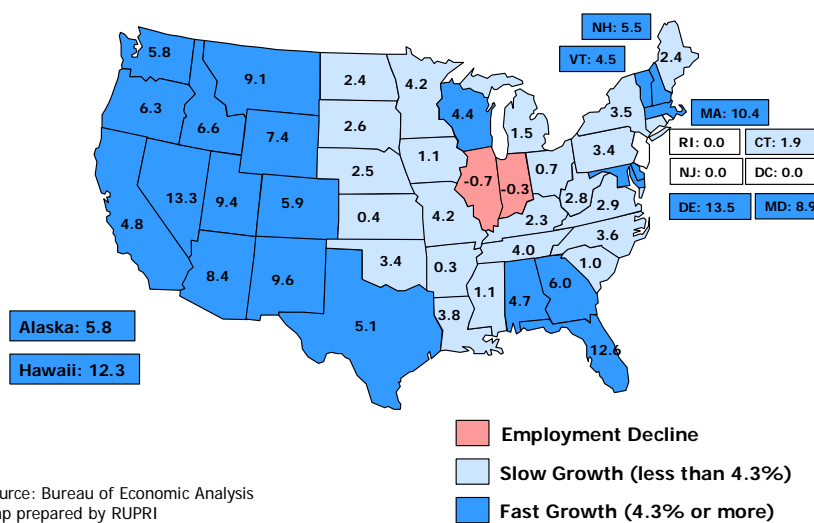
Total Employment Percent Change by State, 2001-2005



In Nonmetro Areas

The map below shows employment change in the nonmetro portion of each state. Only two states experienced employment declines in their nonmetro portions - Illinois and Indiana.

Nonmetro Employment Percent Change by State, 2001-2005



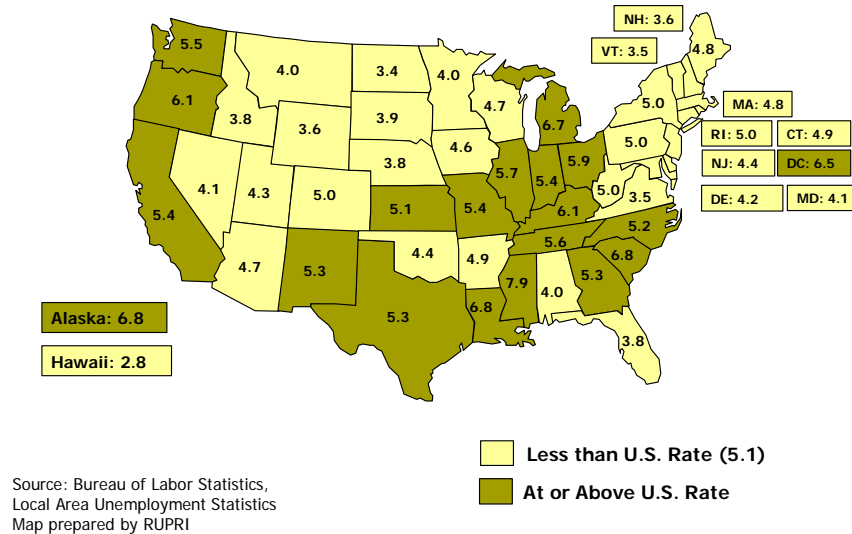
The largest employment gains were in nonmetro Delaware. While Massachusetts and Michigan experienced overall employment losses, their nonmetro portions experienced growth. New Jersey, Rhode Island and the District of Columbia do not have any nonmetro portions.

Unemployment Rates

In the States

In 2005, the unemployment rate in the U.S. was 5.1 percent. The map to the right shows each state's unemployment rate, which ranged from 2.8 percent in Hawaii to 7.9 percent in Mississippi. The unemployment rate was lower than the U.S. rate in 31 states, and higher than the U.S. rate in 19 states and the District of Columbia.

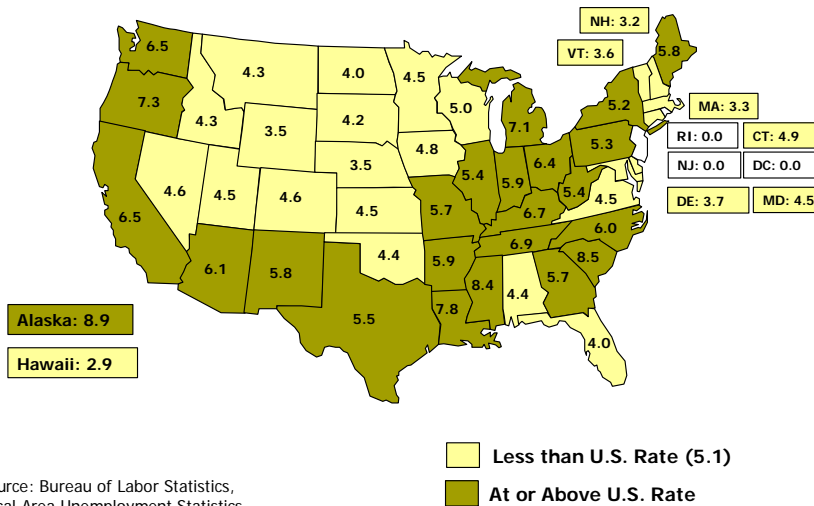
State Unemployment Rates, 2005



In Nonmetro Areas

The map below shows the unemployment rate in the nonmetro portion of each state in 2005. The nonmetro unemployment rate ranged from 2.9 percent in Hawaii to 8.9 percent in Alaska. In 39 states the nonmetro unemployment rate exceeded the state's total unemployment rate.

Nonmetro Unemployment Rates, 2005



The nonmetro unemployment rate ranged from 2.9 percent in Hawaii to 8.9 percent in Alaska. In 39 states the nonmetro unemployment rate exceeded the state's total unemployment rate. New Jersey, Rhode Island and the District of Columbia do not have any nonmetro portions.

Data Sources

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>

Office of Management and Budget, Statistical Area Definitions and Guidance on Their Uses

<http://www.whitehouse.gov/omb/bulletins/fy05/b05-02.html>

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>

Contact

For questions or comments regarding this report, please contact:

Kathleen K. Miller

Program Director

Rural Policy Research Institute

Truman School of Public Affairs

University of Missouri-Columbia

234 Middlebush Hall

Columbia, MO 65211

(573) 882-5098 Voice

[573] 884-5310 FAX

miller@rupri.org

<http://www.rupri.org>