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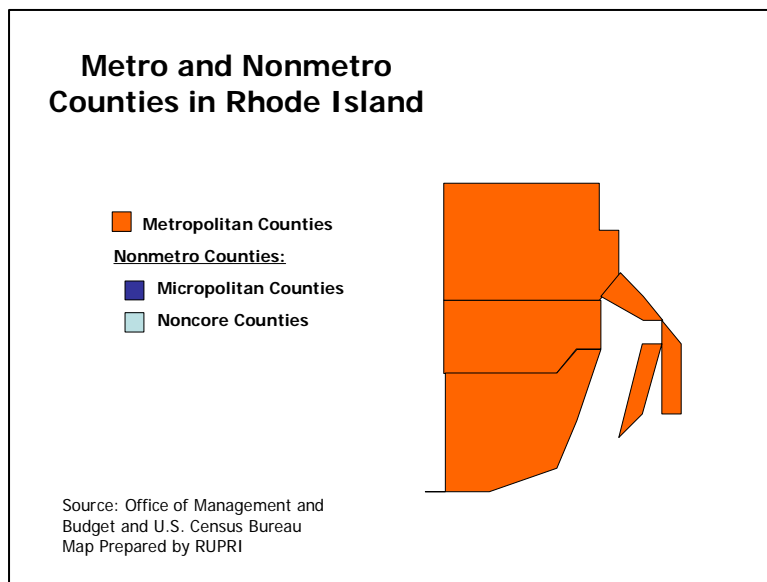
Demographic and Economic Profile

Rhode Island

Updated December 2006

Metro and Nonmetro Counties in Rhode Island

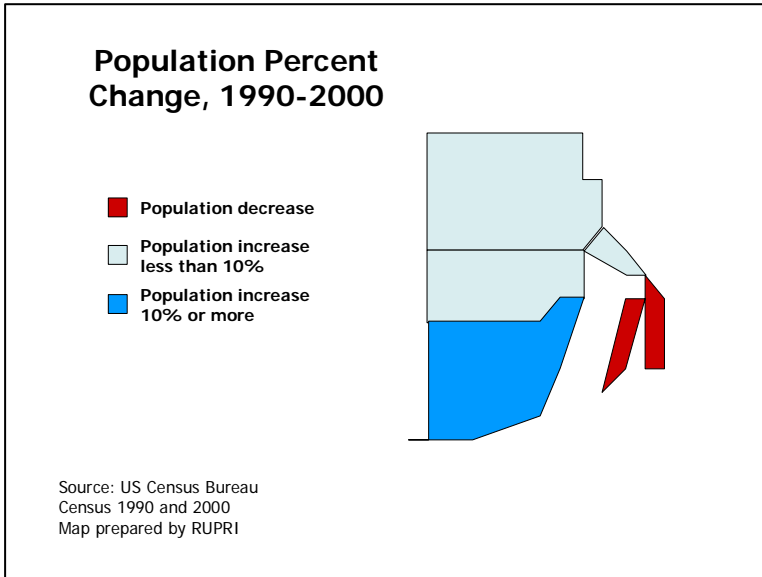
Based on the most recent listing of core based statistical areas by the Office of Management and Budget, all 5 counties in Rhode Island are part of the Providence-New Bedford-Fall River Metropolitan Area¹.



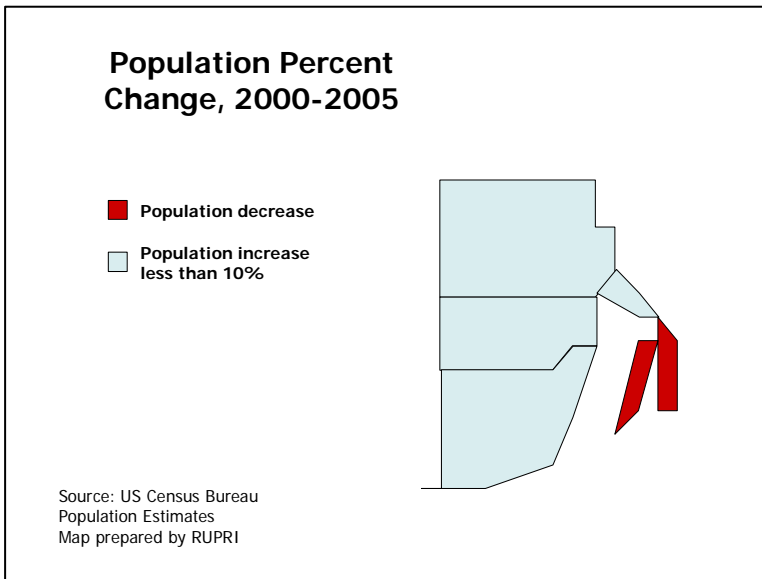
¹ Because Rhode Island has only metropolitan counties, no metropolitan-nonmetropolitan comparisons are possible in this report.

Population

Rhode Island's population in July of 2005 was 1,076,189, up 2.7 percent from the 2000 Census (Census Bureau population estimates). During the 1990s, the population in Rhode Island increased by 4.5 percent. Nationally, population increased 13.1 percent during the 1990s, and 5.3 percent from April 2000 to July 2005.



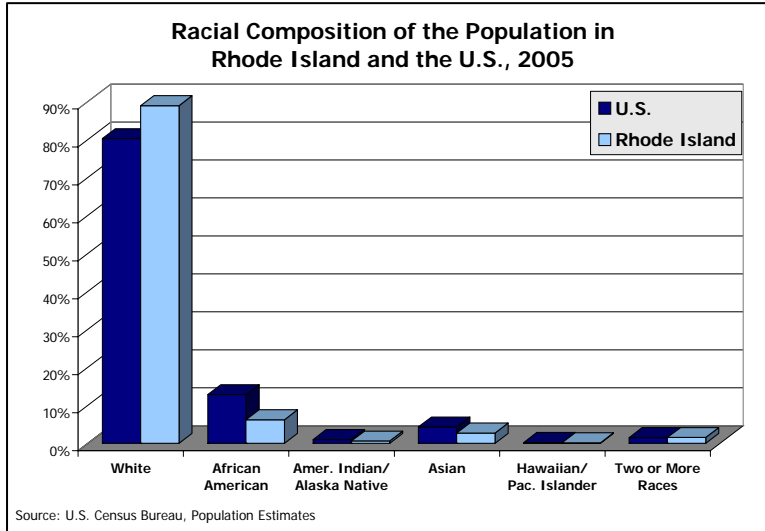
Only one county in Rhode Island lost population during the 1990s - Newport County. The fastest growth during this time period was in Washington County, with a population increase of 12.3 percent during the decade.



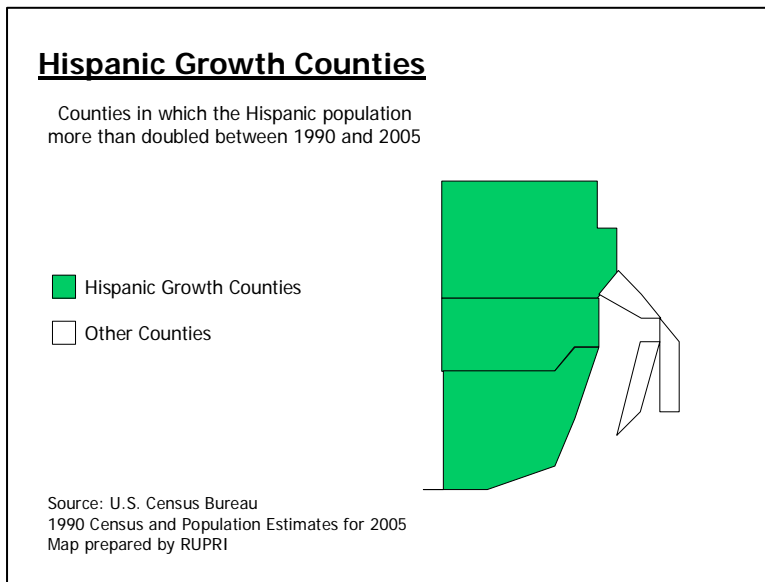
From 2000 to 2005, Newport County was again the only county to lose population. The fastest growth during this time was in Bristol County, with a population increase of 4.1 percent.

Race / Ethnicity

The population in Rhode Island is 88.9 percent white and 6.2 percent African American. Nationally, the population is 80.2 percent white and 12.8 percent African American (2005 Census Bureau population estimates).

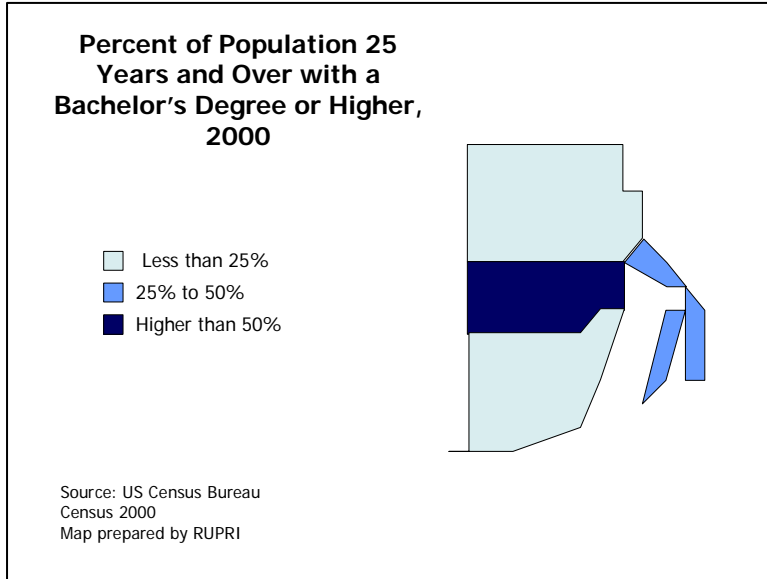


People of Hispanic origin make up 10.7 percent of Rhode Island's population, and 14.4 percent of the total U.S. population. Many areas have experienced significant increases in the Hispanic population over the past decade and a half. In three Rhode Island counties, the Hispanic population more than doubled during this time - these counties are shown in the map below. However, the Hispanic population accounted for a small portion (less than 5%) of total population in all counties except for Providence County, which is 16.5 percent Hispanic.



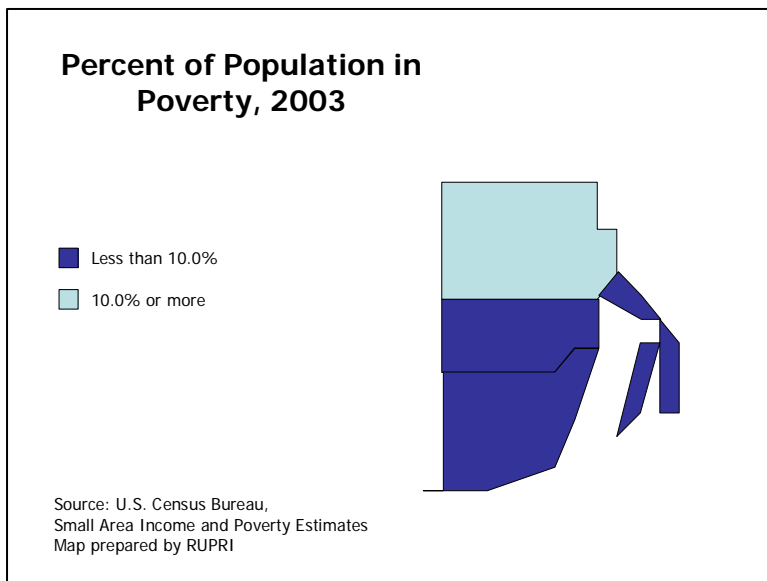
Educational Attainment

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 28.3 percent in Rhode Island. In Kent County, over half of the population has earned a B.S. degree or higher.



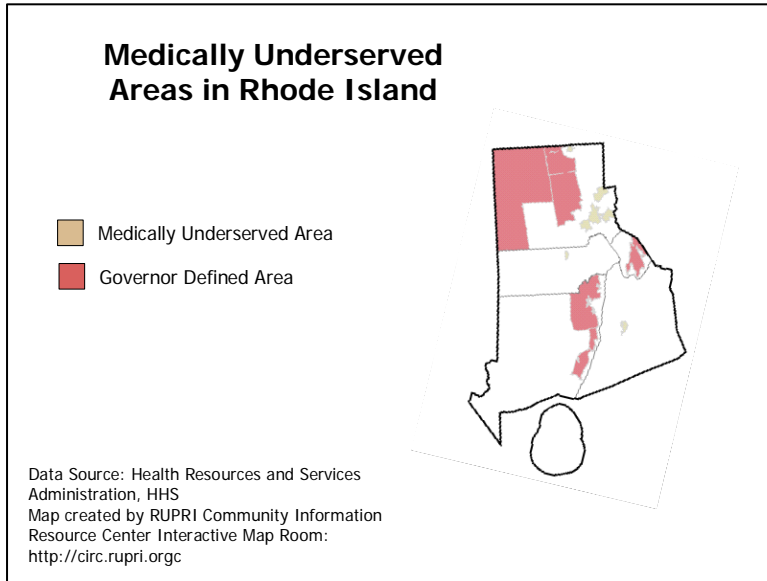
Poverty

The poverty rate in Rhode Island in 2003 was 11.3 percent, based on Census Bureau estimates. Nationally, the poverty rate for 2003 was 12.5 percent. Within Rhode Island, the 2003 poverty rate ranged from 6.1 percent in Washington County to 14.4 percent in Providence County.

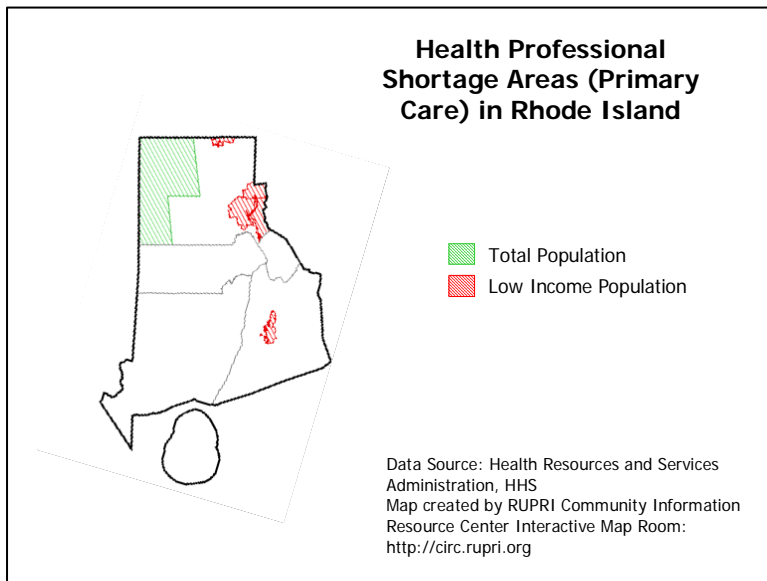


Health Services

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

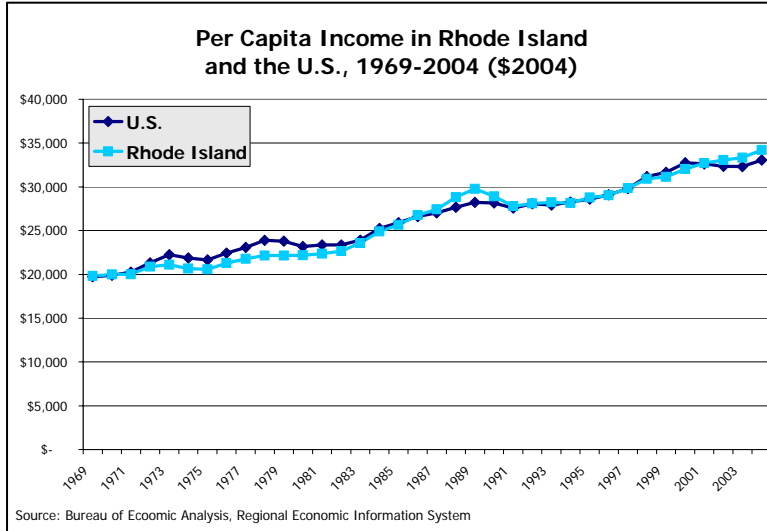


Health Professional Shortage Areas (HPSAs) are those areas that “may have shortages of primary medical care, dental or mental health providers and may be urban or rural areas, population groups, or medical or other public facilities” (Health Resources and Services Administration, HHS). Within Rhode Island,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

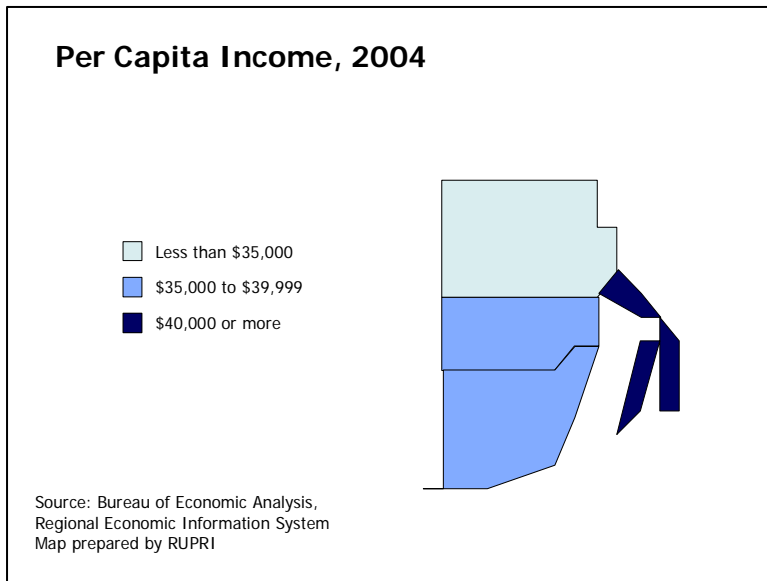


Per Capita Income

Per capita income trends in Rhode Island have closely matched national trends over the past several decades. In 2004, per capita income in Rhode Island was \$34,207, compared to \$33,050 for the U.S.

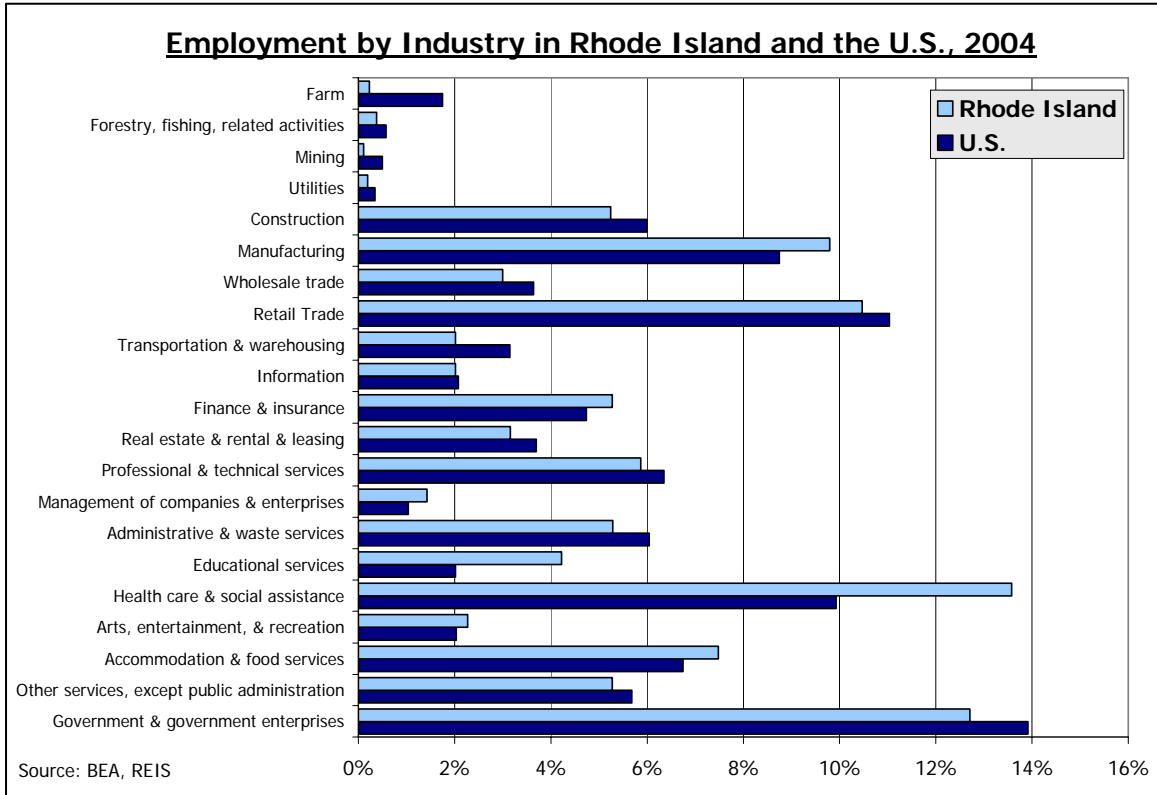


Within Rhode Island, 2004 per capita income ranged from \$31,259 in Providence County to \$41,728 in Bristol County.

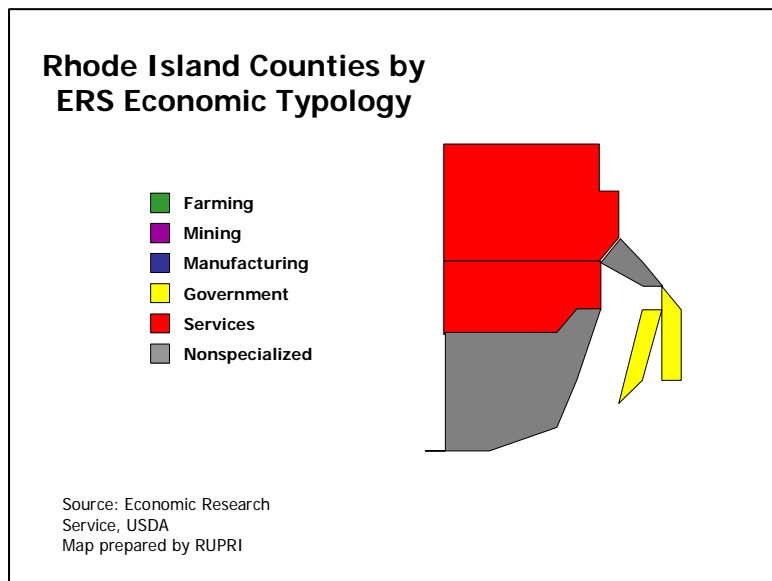


Employment

In 2004, health care and social assistance accounted for the largest share of employment in Rhode Island (13.6%). Nationally, government and government enterprises accounted for the largest share of employment (13.9%). Government and government enterprises was the second largest employment sector in Rhode Island (12.7%).



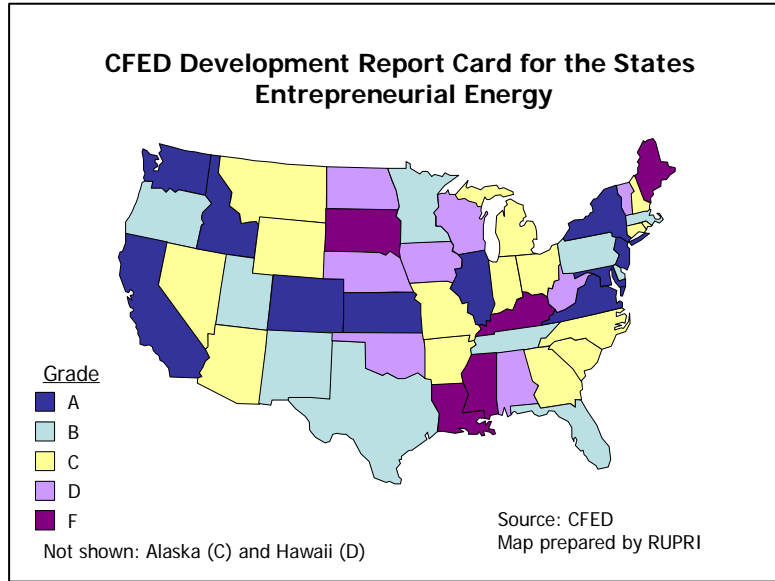
The ERS Economic Typology classifies counties into one of five industry categories of specialization or as nonspecialized. The map to the right shows the classification of Rhode Island counties by this typology.



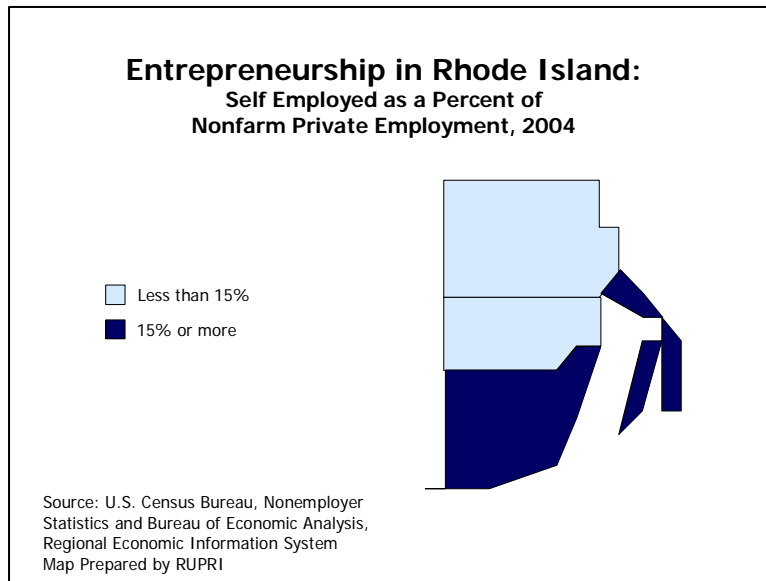
Entrepreneurship

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 2004 *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. Rhode Island’s ranking is “C”.

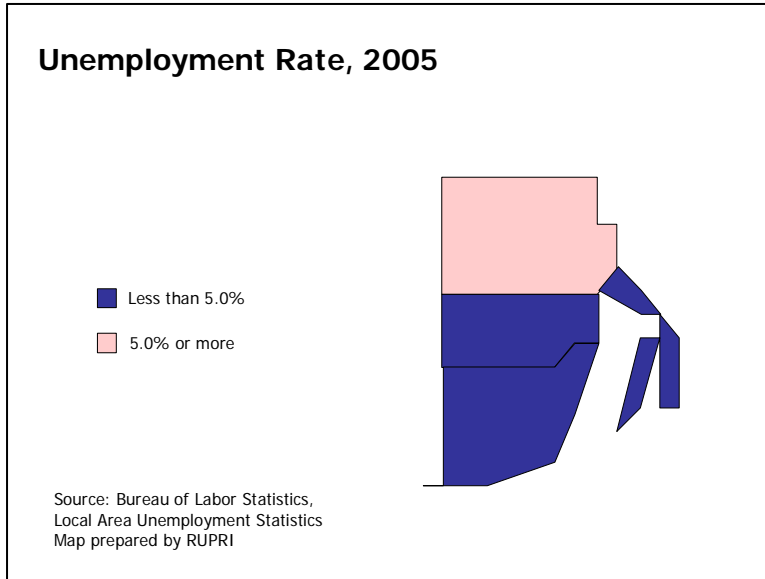


As mentioned, county level indicators of entrepreneurship are difficult to ascertain, but a good indicator is the proportion of workers that are self employed. The map below shows self employed workers as a percent of nonfarm private employment in the county.



Unemployment

The 2005 unemployment rate in Rhode Island was 5.0 percent, compared to 5.1 percent for the U.S. Within Rhode Island, the unemployment rate ranged from 4.1 percent in Washington County to 5.5 percent in Providence County.



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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