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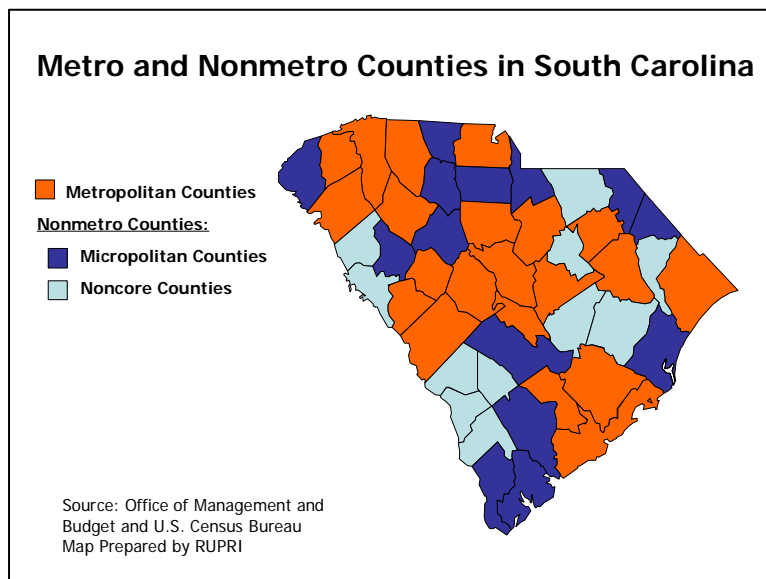
Demographic and Economic Profile

South Carolina

Updated October 2006

Metro and Nonmetro Counties in South Carolina

Based on the most recent listing of core based statistical areas by the Office of Management and Budget, 21 counties in South Carolina are part of metropolitan areas, and 14 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 South Carolina are considered noncore counties. Using these classifications and the population estimates for 2005, 75.6 percent of South Carolina residents live in metropolitan areas, 18.0 percent live in micropolitan areas and 6.5 percent live in noncore areas.

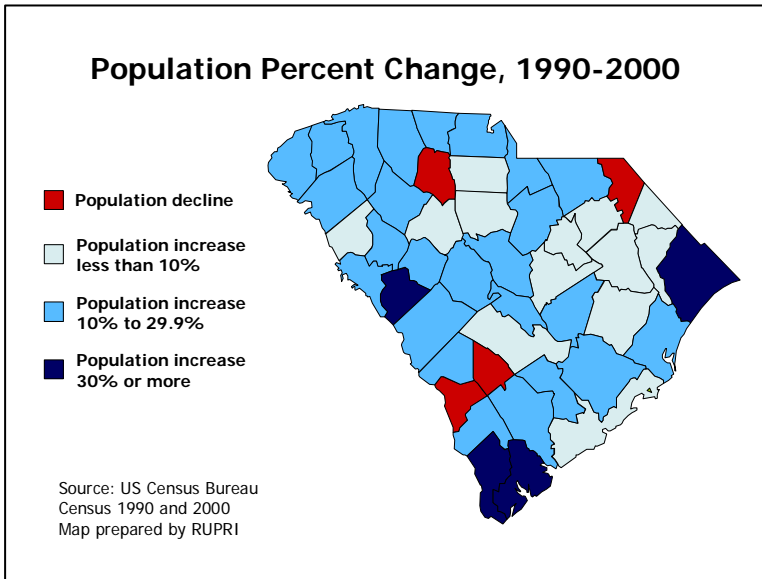


Population

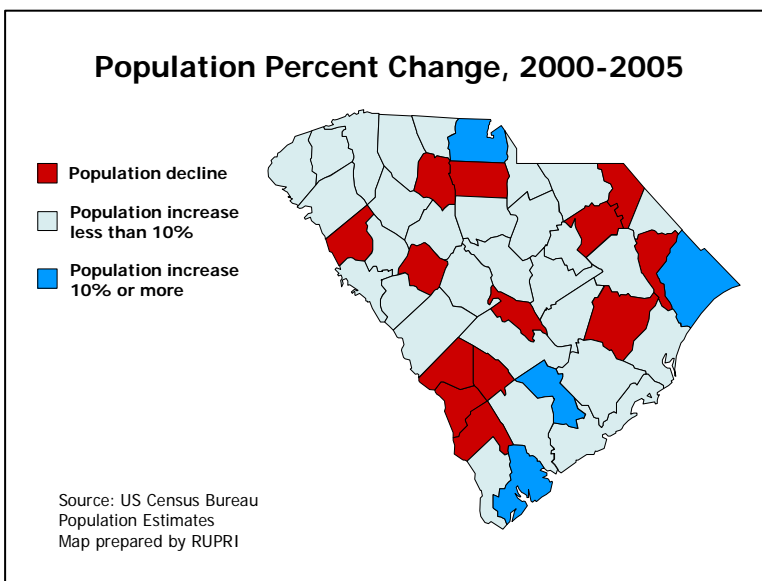
South Carolina's population in July of 2005 was 4,255,083, up 6.1 percent from the 2000 Census. During the 1990s, the population in South Carolina increased 15.1 percent. Nationally, population increased 13.1 percent during the 1990s and 5.3 percent from April 2000 to July 2005. The population growth in South Carolina metropolitan areas outpaced the nonmetropolitan areas in both time periods.

Percent Change in Population		
Area:	1990-2000	2000-2005
U.S.	13.1%	5.3%
South Carolina	15.1%	6.1%
Metropolitan	15.8%	7.1%
Nonmetropolitan	13.0%	3.0%
Micropolitan	14.9%	4.3%
Noncore	8.2%	-0.5%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau

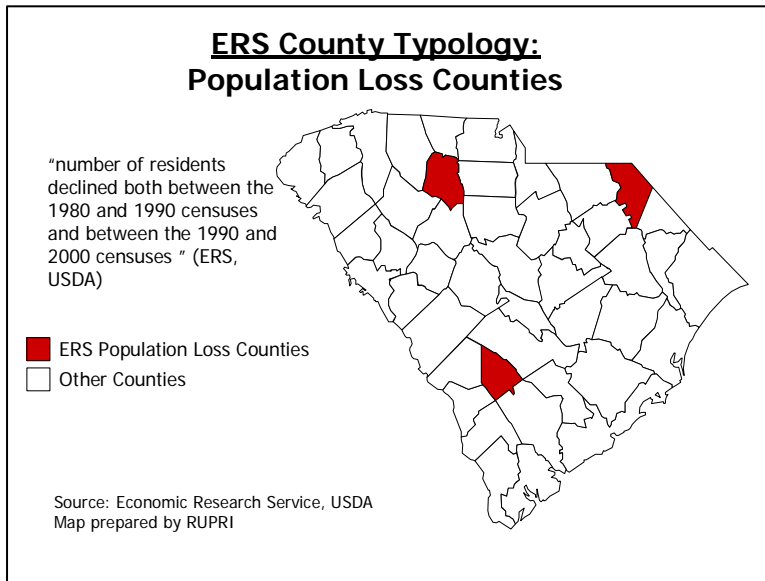


During the 1990s, 4 counties in South Carolina lost population, all of them nonmetro. The fastest growth during this time period was in Beaufort County in the Hilton Head Island-Beaufort Micropolitan Area, with a population increase of 39.9 percent during the decade.



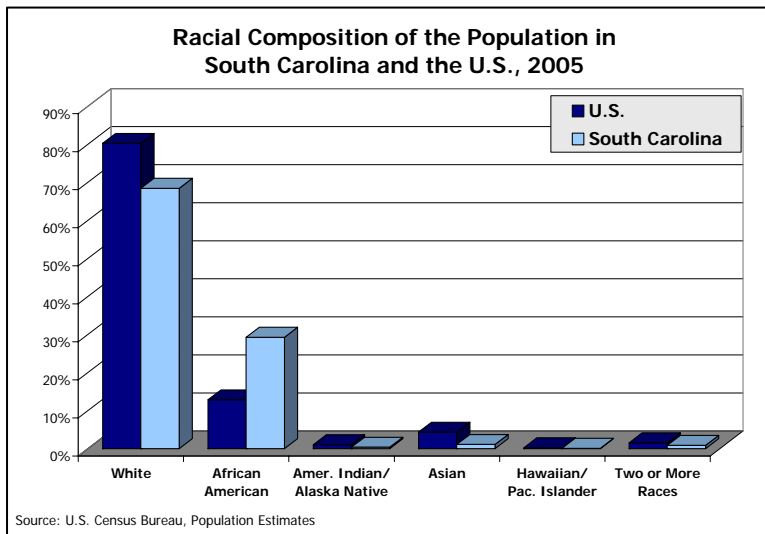
From 2000 to 2005, 13 counties in South Carolina lost population, 3 metro and 10 nonmetro counties. The fastest growth during this time period was in Dorchester County in the Charleston-North Charleston Metropolitan Area, with a population increase of 17.1 percent during the time period.

The Economic Research Service, USDA, classifies counties as population loss counties if they lost population between 1980 and 1990, and between 1990 and 2000. In South Carolina, 3 counties, all nonmetro, are classified as population loss counties.

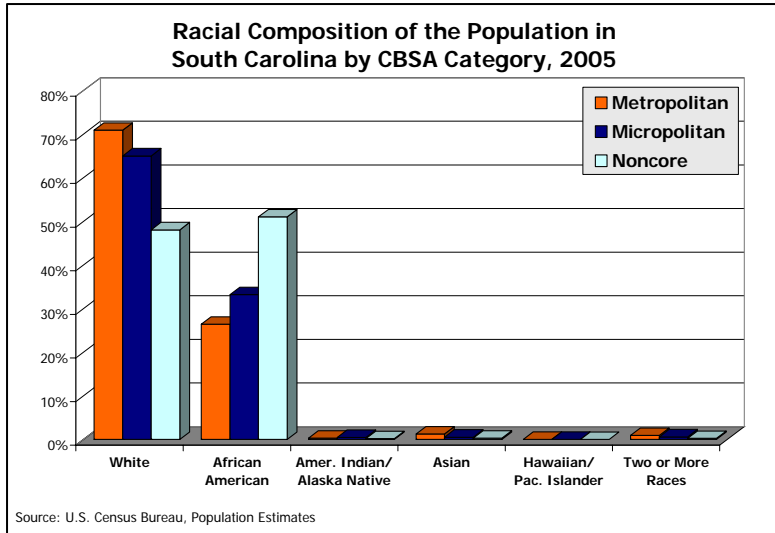


Race / Ethnicity

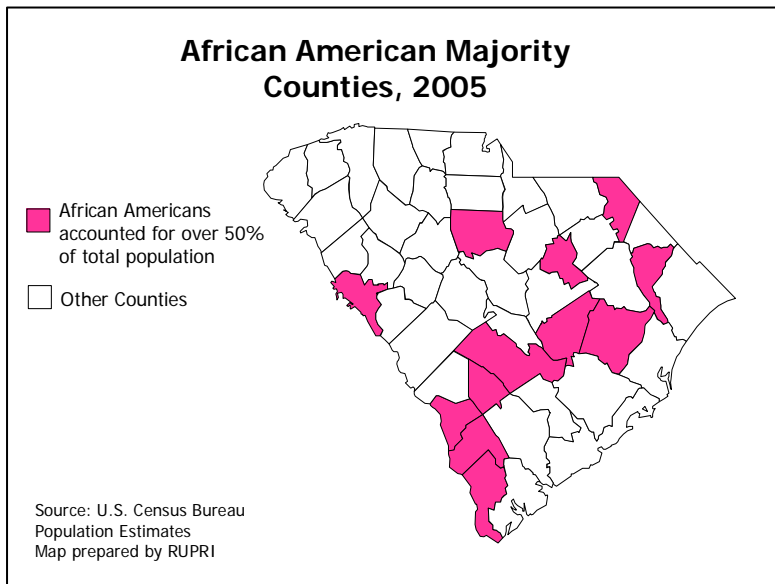
The population in South Carolina is 68.4 percent white and 29.2 percent African American. Nationally, the population is 80.2 percent white and 12.8 percent African American (2005 Census Bureau population estimates).



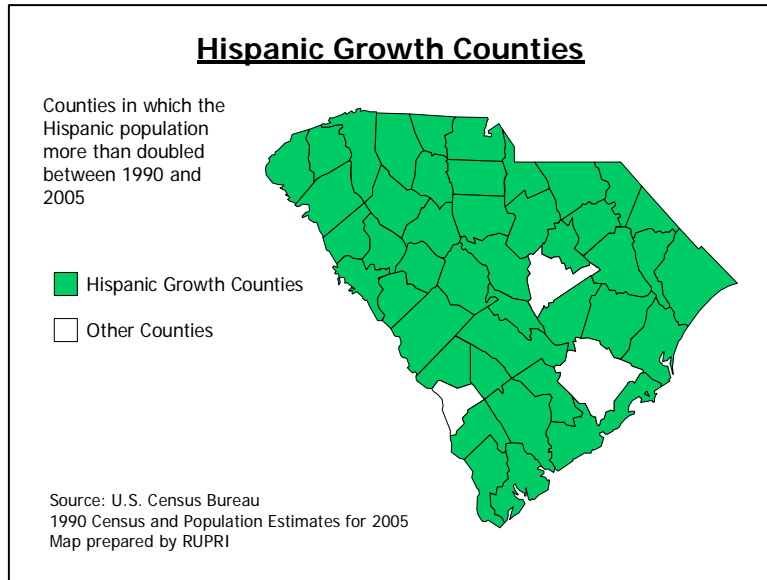
Within South Carolina, the metropolitan population is 70.9 percent white and 26.4 percent African American. The micropolitan population is 65.1 percent white and 33.3 percent African American, and the noncore population is 48.1 percent white and 51.1 percent African American.



In 12 South Carolina counties, African Americans make up a majority of total population. Of these 12 counties, 1 is metro and 11 are nonmetro.

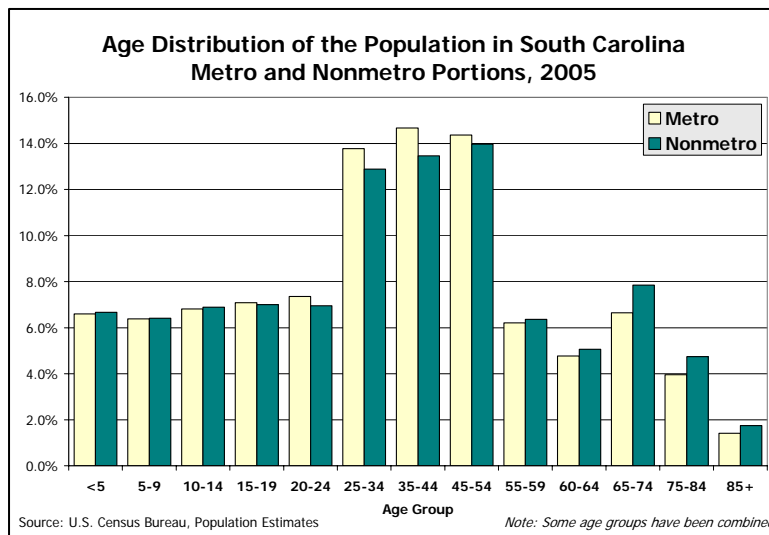


People of Hispanic origin make up 3.3 percent of South Carolina’s population. Many areas have experienced significant growth in the Hispanic population over the past decade and a half. In all but 3 South Carolina counties, the Hispanic population more than doubled between 1990 and 2005. However, in only one county did the Hispanic population account for over 10 percent of total population (Saluda County, 12.5%).

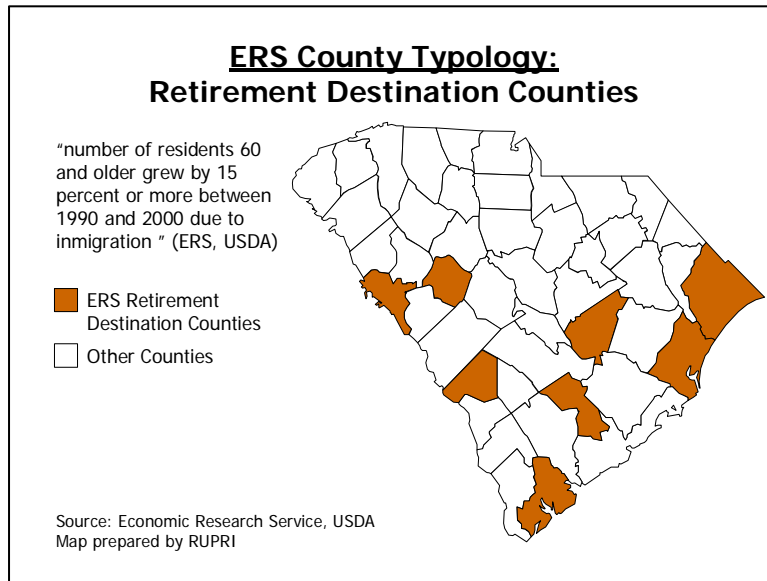


Age

The chart below shows the age distribution of the metro and nonmetro populations in South Carolina. The percent of the population in the 20 to 54 age groups is higher in the metro areas, while the percent of the population age 55 and over is higher in the nonmetro areas.

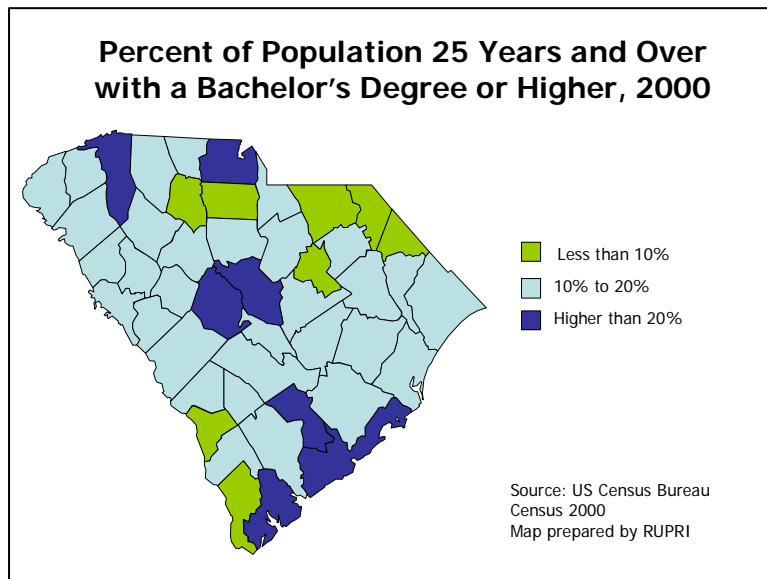


The Economic Research Service classifies counties as retirement destination counties based on population change due to immigration. In South Carolina, 8 counties are classified as retirement destination counties, 3 metro and 5 nonmetro counties.

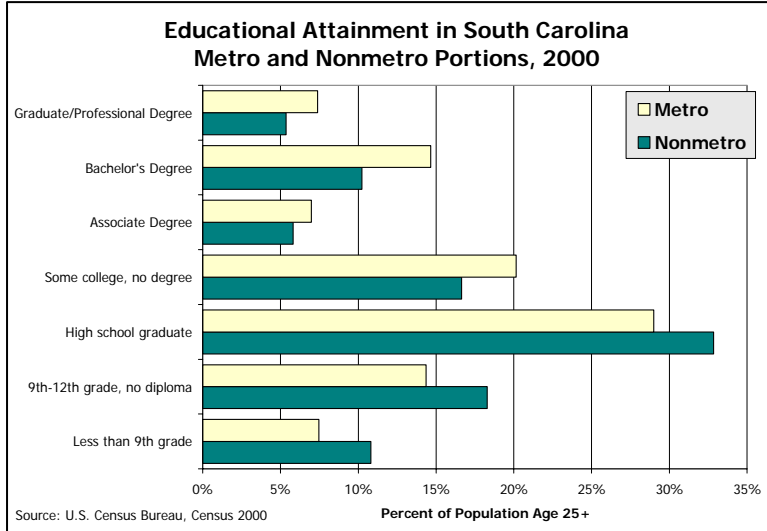


Educational Attainment

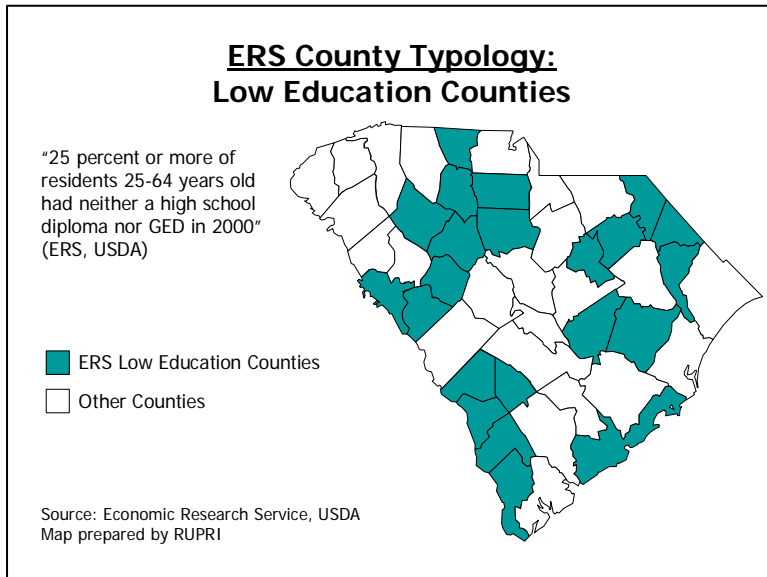
The percent of the population age 25 and over that has earned a Bachelor’s Degree or higher is 24.4 percent in the U.S. and 20.4 percent in South Carolina. In metro areas of South Carolina, this percentage is 22.0 percent, compared to only 15.6 percent in nonmetro areas.



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

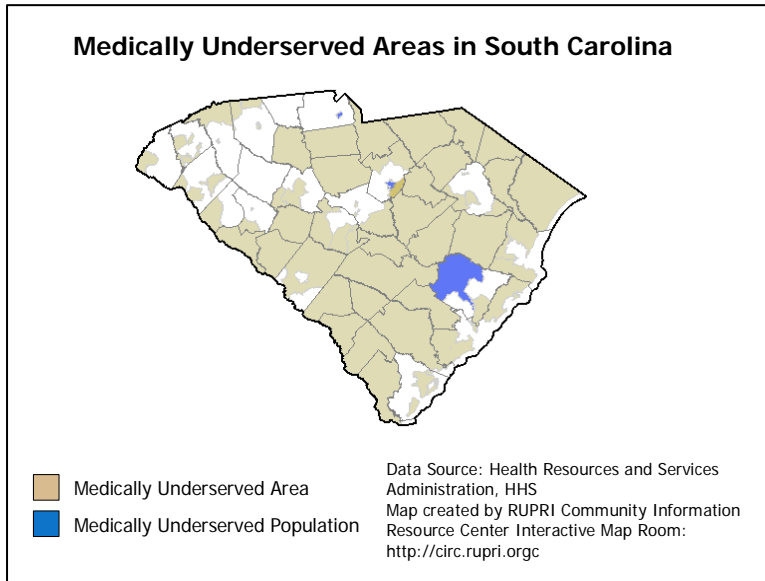


The Economic Research Service classifies counties as low education counties if “25 percent or more of residents 25-64 years old had neither a high school diploma nor GED in 2000.” In South Carolina, 22 counties are classified as low education counties, 5 metro and 17 nonmetro counties.

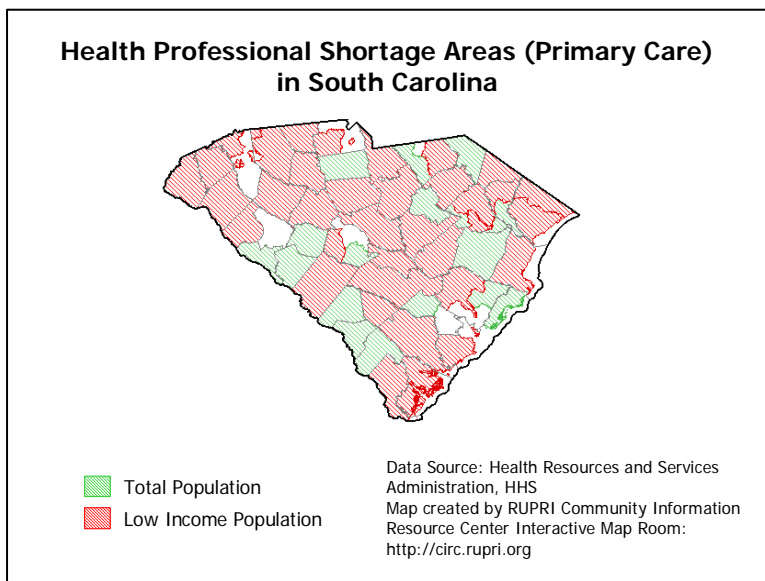


Health Services

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

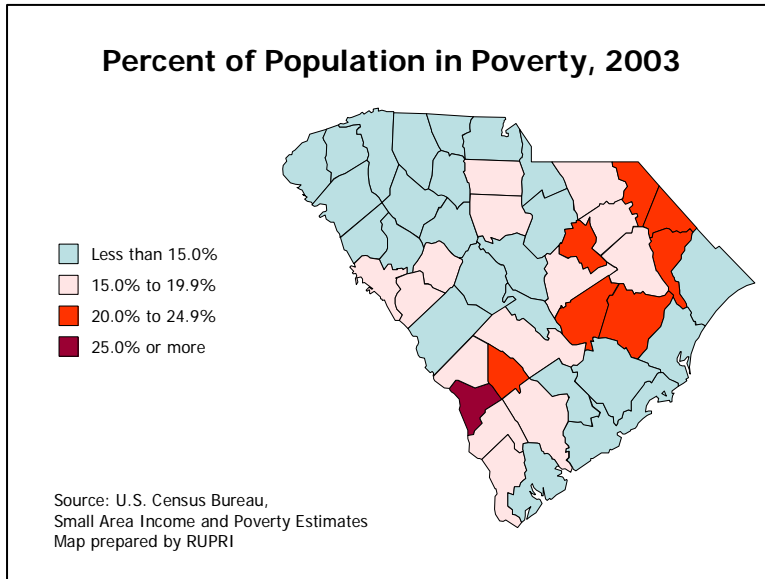


Health Professional Shortage Areas (HPSAs) are those areas that “may have shortages of primary medical care, dental or mental health providers and may be urban or rural areas, population groups, or medical or other public facilities” (Health Resources and Services Administration, HHS). Within South Carolina,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

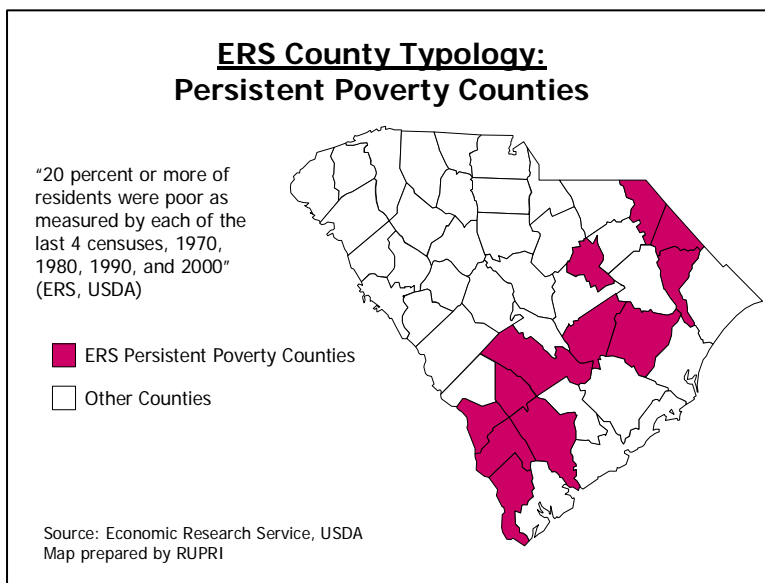


Poverty

The poverty rate in South Carolina in 2003 was 13.8 percent, compared to 12.5 percent for the U.S. (Census Bureau estimates). Within South Carolina, the 2003 poverty rate ranged from 10.5 percent in Lexington County to 28.4 percent in Allendale County.

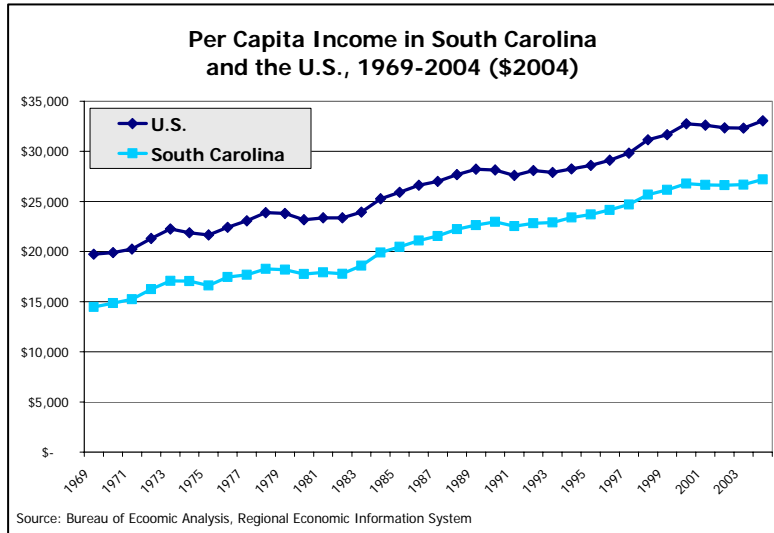


The Economic Research Service classifies counties as persistent poverty counties if they experienced poverty rates of 20 percent or higher in each census from 1970 through 2000. Nationally, there are 386 persistent poverty counties, and 12 are located in South Carolina. All 12 South Carolina persistent poverty counties are nonmetro.

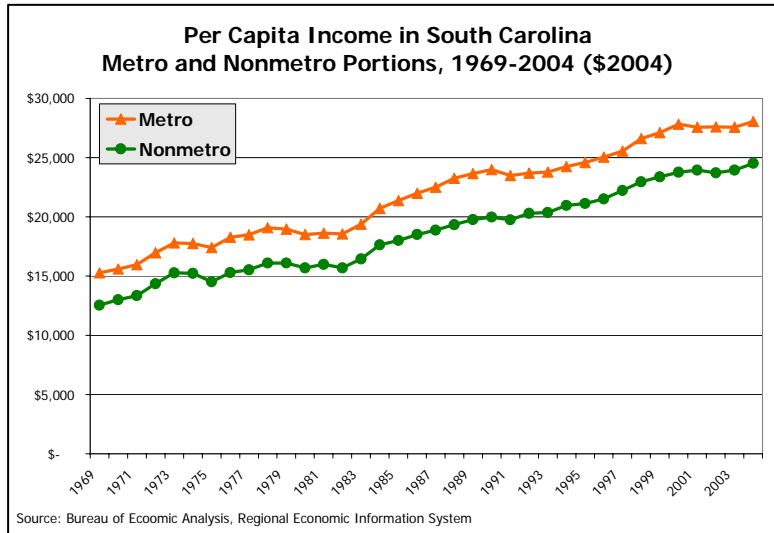


Per Capita Income

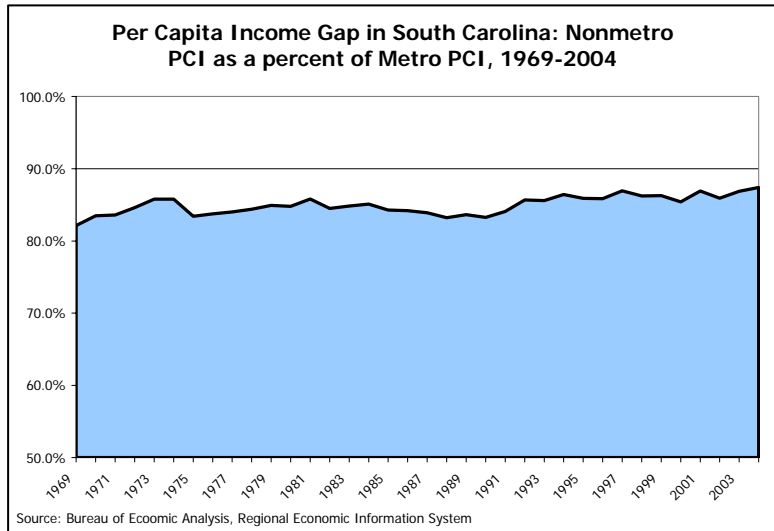
Per capita income in South Carolina has lagged behind national per capita income over the past several decades. In 2004, per capita income in South Carolina was \$27,185, compared to \$33,050 for the U.S.



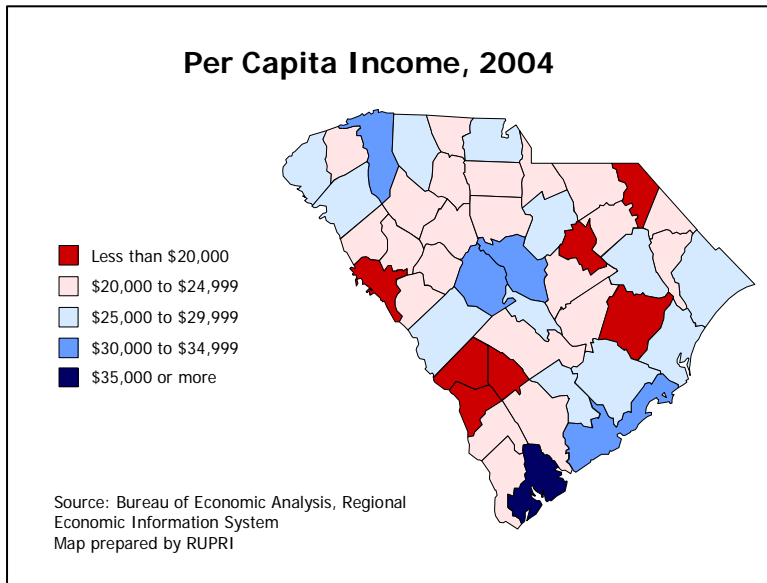
Nonmetro per capita income in South Carolina has lagged behind metro per capita income over the past several decades. In 2004, metro per capita income was \$28,056, compared to \$24,524 in nonmetro areas.



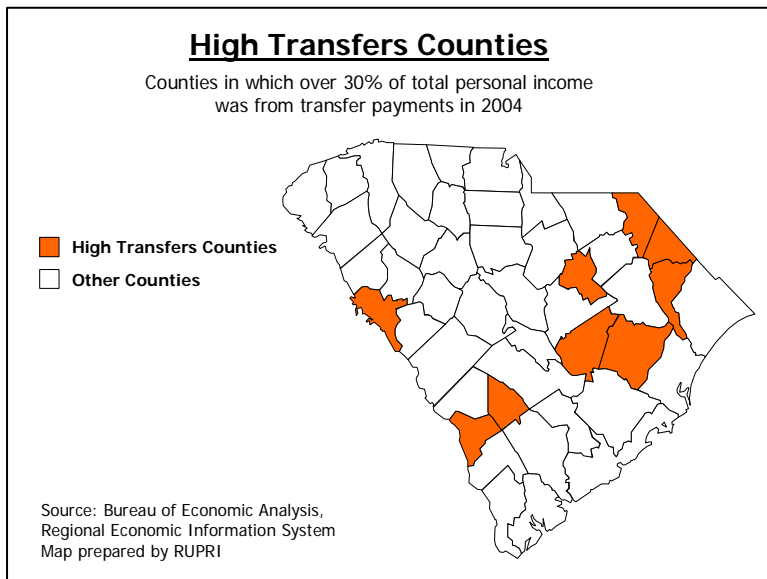
The per capita income gap is measured with nonmetro per capita income as a percent of metro per capita income. In South Carolina, the gap has remained relatively steady over the past several decades. In 2004, nonmetro per capita income was 87.4 percent of metro per capita income.



Within South Carolina, 2004 per capita income ranged from \$17,991 in Allendale County to \$36,570 in Beaufort County. Seven counties in South Carolina, all nonmetro, had per capita income less than \$20,000 in 2004.

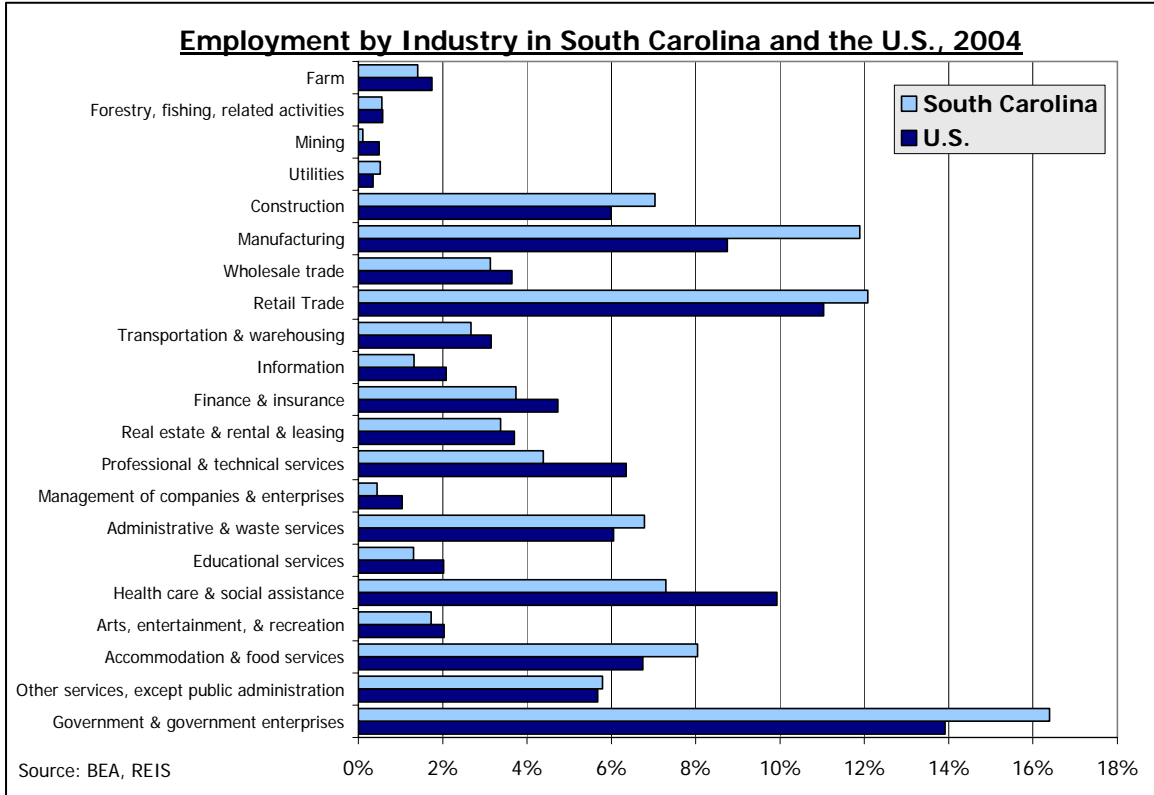


Transfer payments include retirement and disability payments, social security benefits, public assistance, and medical benefits. In South Carolina, 9 counties' incomes rely significantly on transfer payments. In these counties, all nonmetro, transfer payments account for over 30 percent of total personal income in the county.

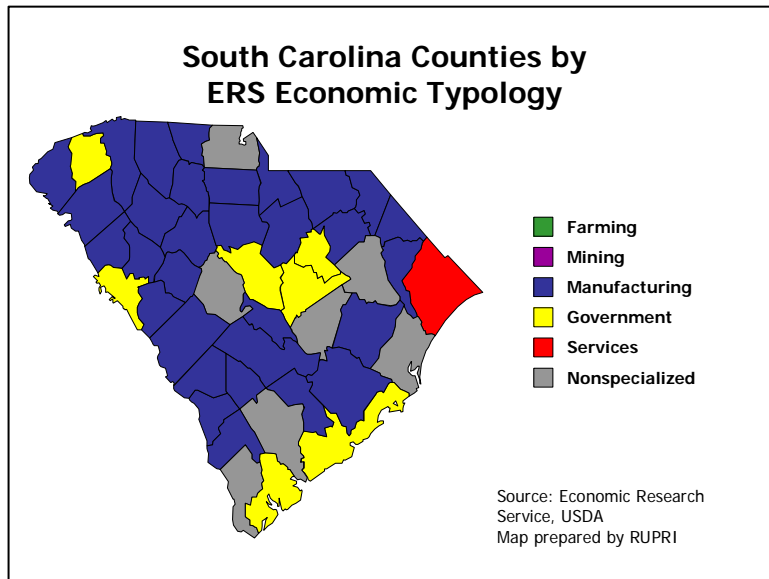


Employment

In 2004, government and government enterprises accounted for the largest shares of employment in South Carolina (16.4%) and the U.S. (13.9%). Retail trade was the second largest employment sector in both South Carolina (12.1%) and the U.S. (11.0%).

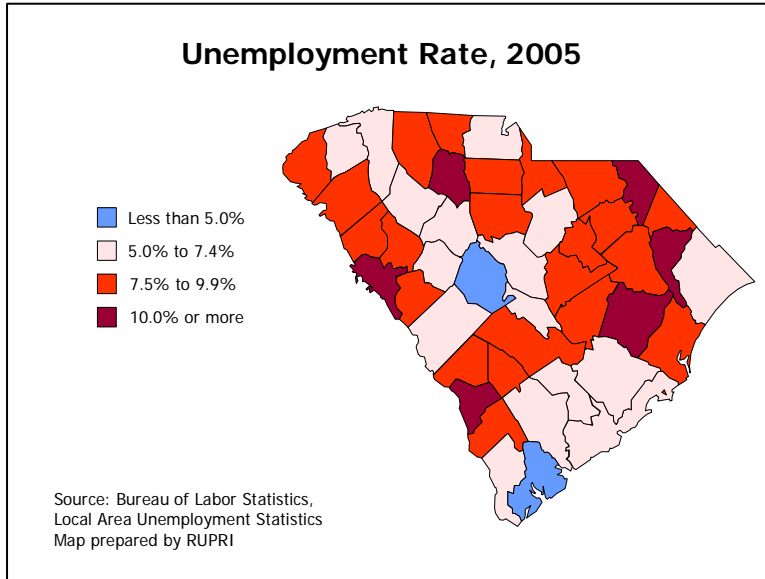


The ERS Economic Typology classifies counties into one of five industry categories of specialization or as nonspecialized. The map to the right shows the classification of South Carolina counties by this typology, illustrating the importance of manufacturing throughout the state.

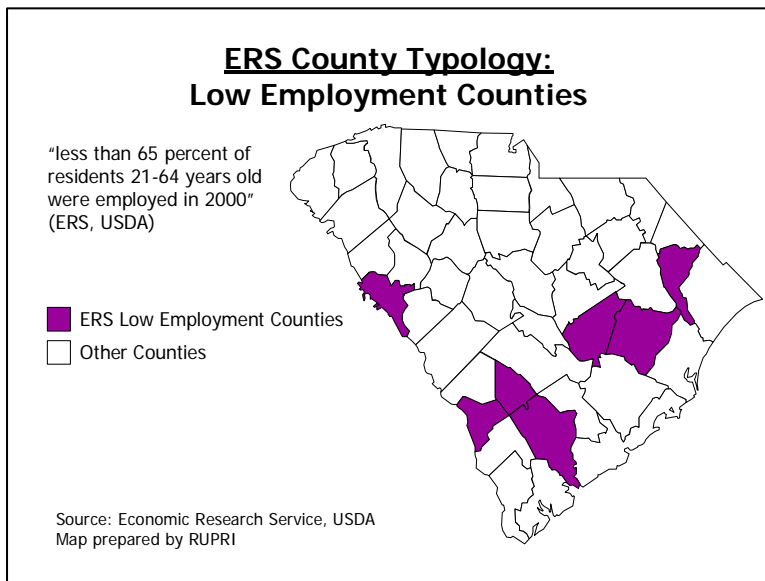


Unemployment

The unemployment rate in South Carolina in 2005 was 6.8 percent, compared to 5.1 percent nationally. Within South Carolina, the unemployment rate ranged from 4.5 percent in Beaufort County to 13.8 percent in Marion County. The unemployment rate exceeded 10 percent in 10 South Carolina counties, all nonmetro.

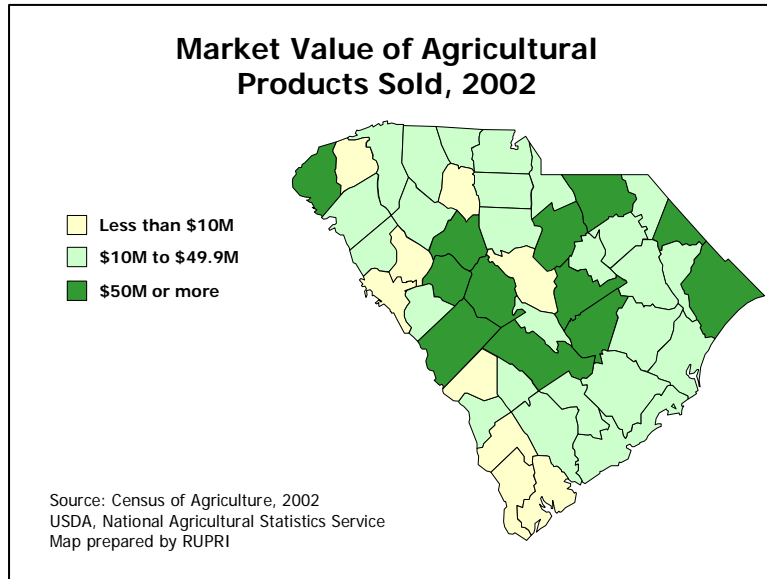


The Economic Research Service classifies counties as low employment counties if “less than 65 percent of residents 21-64 years old were employed in 2000.” In South Carolina, 7 counties, all nonmetro, are classified as low employment counties.

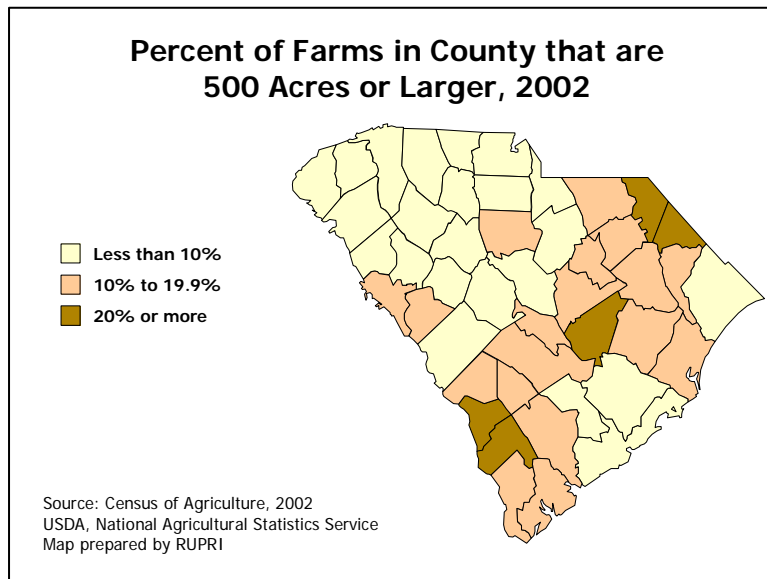


Agriculture

Agriculture plays an important role in South Carolina's economy. The map below shows the value of agricultural products sold in 2002 in South Carolina counties. In 12 counties the value was over \$50 million.



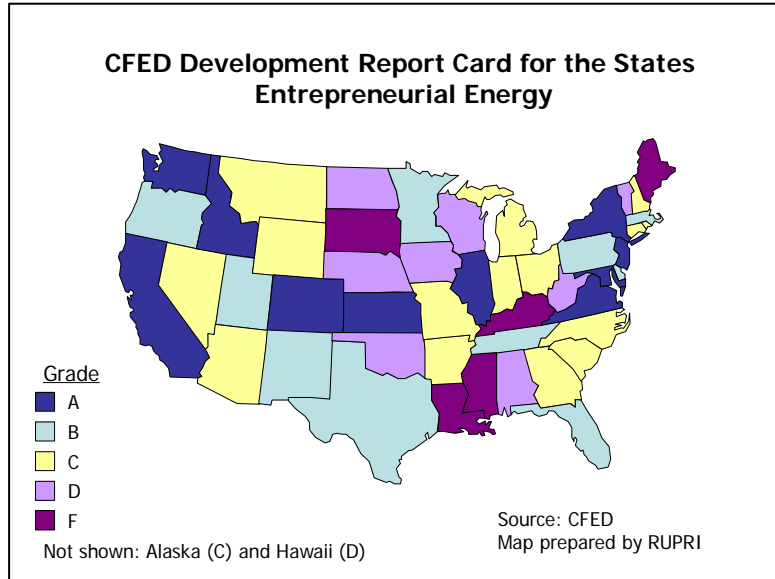
Average farm size in South Carolina is 197 acres, and 8.3 percent of farms in the state are 500 acres or larger.



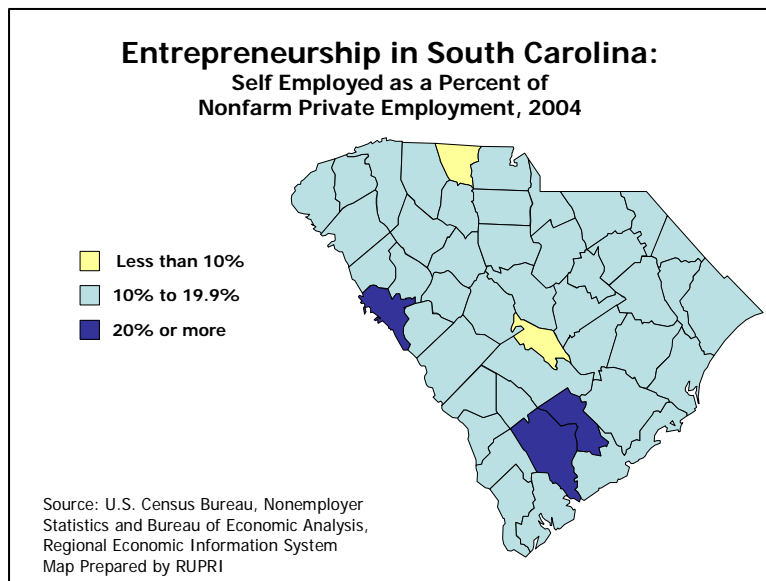
Entrepreneurship

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 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. South Carolina’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.



Data Sources and References

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<http://www.bea.gov/ea/regional/reis/>

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<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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