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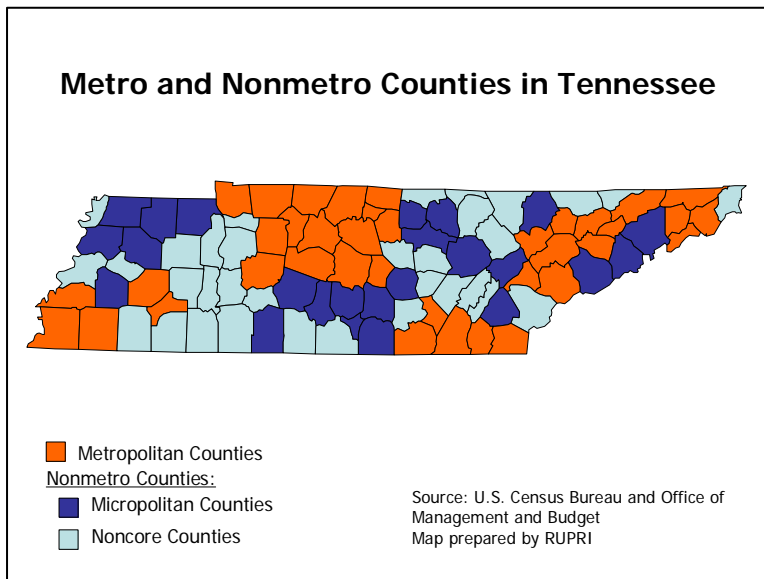
Demographic and Economic Profile

Tennessee

Updated September 2006

Metro and Nonmetro Counties in Tennessee

Based on the most recent listing of core based statistical areas by the Office of Management and Budget (December 2005), 38 counties in Tennessee are part of metropolitan areas, and 24 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 33 counties in Tennessee are considered noncore counties. Using these classifications and the population estimates for 2005, 72.7 percent of Tennessee residents live in metropolitan areas, 16.8 percent live in micropolitan areas, and 10.5 percent live in noncore areas.

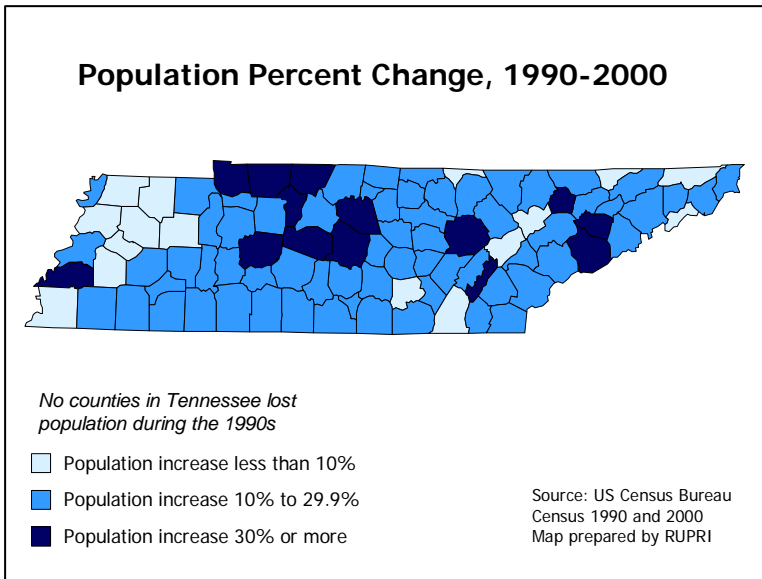


Population

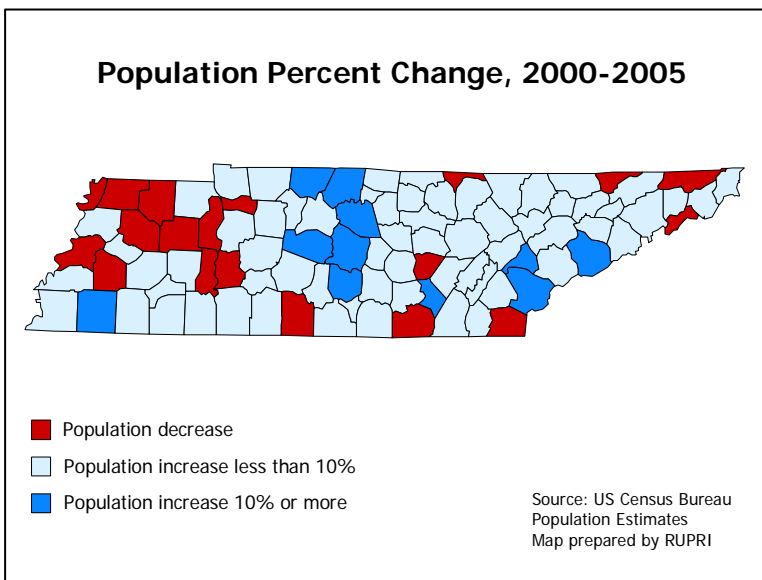
Tennessee's population in July of 2005 was 5,962,959, up 4.8 percent from the 2000 Census. During the 1990s, the population in Tennessee increased by 16.7 percent. Nationally, population increased 13.1 percent during the 1990s and 5.3 percent from April 2000 to July 2005. The population growth in Tennessee's metro areas slightly outpaced the nonmetro areas during both time periods.

Percent Change in Population		
Area:	1990-2000	2000-2005
U.S.	13.1%	5.3%
Tennessee	16.7%	4.8%
Metropolitan	16.8%	5.2%
Nonmetropolitan	16.2%	3.8%
Micropolitan	16.6%	4.7%
Noncore	15.6%	2.4%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau



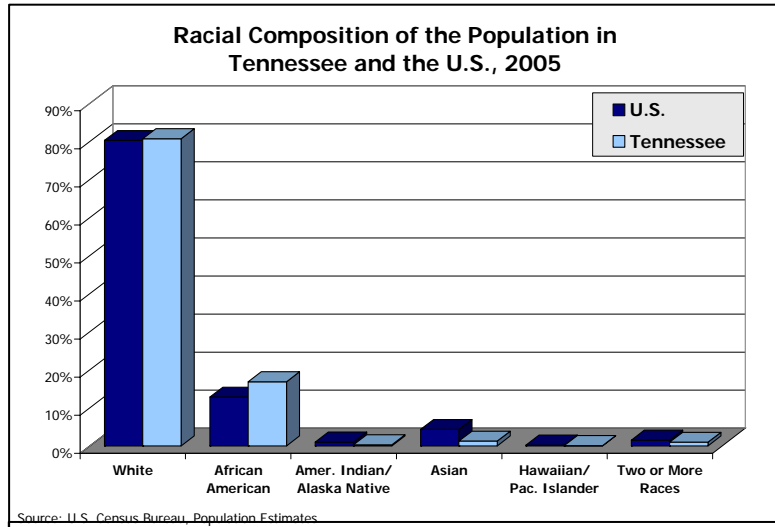
No counties in Tennessee lost population during the 1990s. The fastest growth was in two counties in the Nashville-Davidson-Murfreesboro Metropolitan Area - Williamson County (56.3%) and Rutherford County (53.5%).



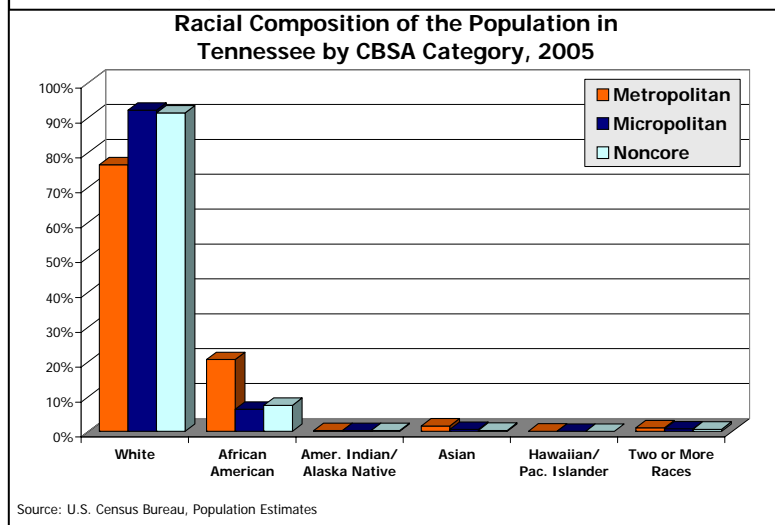
From 2000 to 2005, 19 counties in Tennessee lost population - 4 metro and 15 nonmetro counties. Only one county (Williamson County) had a population increase of over 20 percent during this time period (21.3%).

Race / Ethnicity

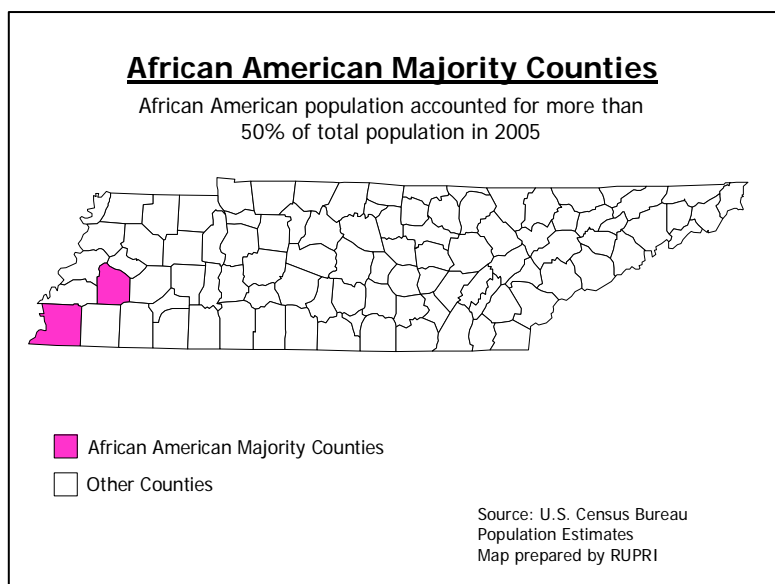
The population in Tennessee is 80.7 percent white and 16.8 percent African American. Nationally, the population is 80.2 percent white and 12.8 percent African American (2005 Census Bureau population estimates).



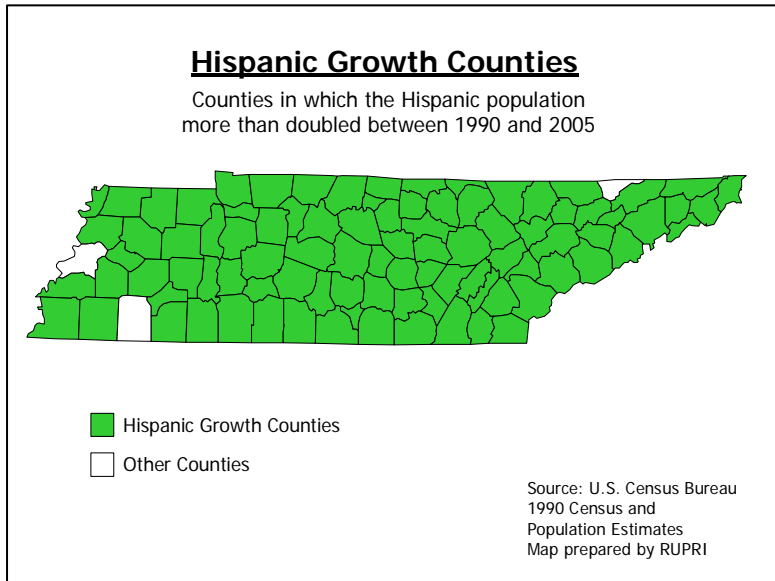
Within Tennessee, the metropolitan population is 76.5 percent white and 20.6 percent African American. The micropolitan population is 92.1 percent white and 6.3 percent African American, and the noncore population is 91.4 percent white and 7.5 percent African American.



In two Tennessee counties, the African American population accounts for a majority of total population: Shelby County in the Memphis Metropolitan Area and Haywood County representing the Brownsville Micropolitan Area.

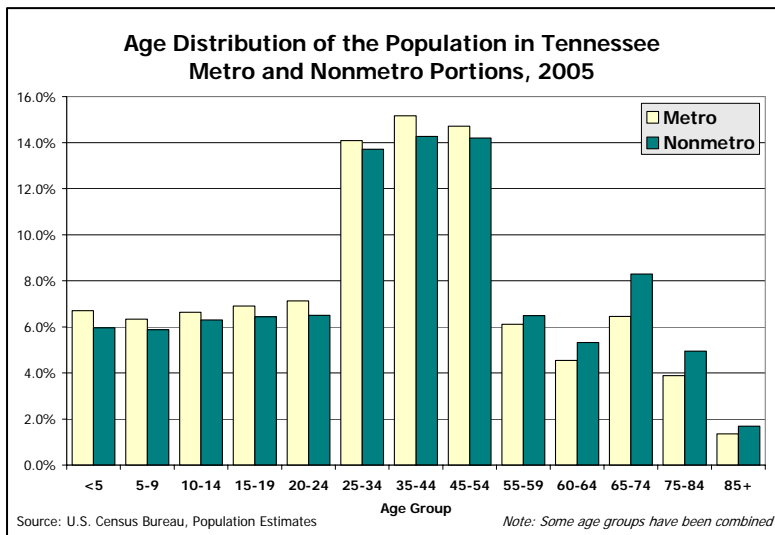


People of Hispanic origin make up 3.0 percent of Tennessee’s population, compared to 14.4 percent of the total U.S. population. Many areas have experienced a significant increase in their Hispanic populations over the past decade and a half. In Tennessee the Hispanic population more than doubled in all but three counties during this time. These numbers still represent small portions of total population, though. In only one Tennessee county (Bedford County) did the Hispanic population account for over 10 percent of total population in 2005.

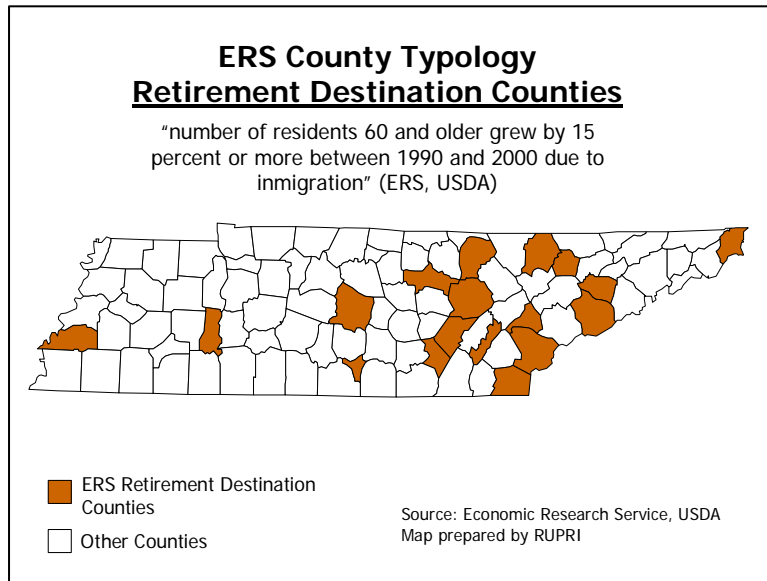


Age

The chart below shows the age distribution of the metro and nonmetro populations in Tennessee. 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 greater in the nonmetro areas.

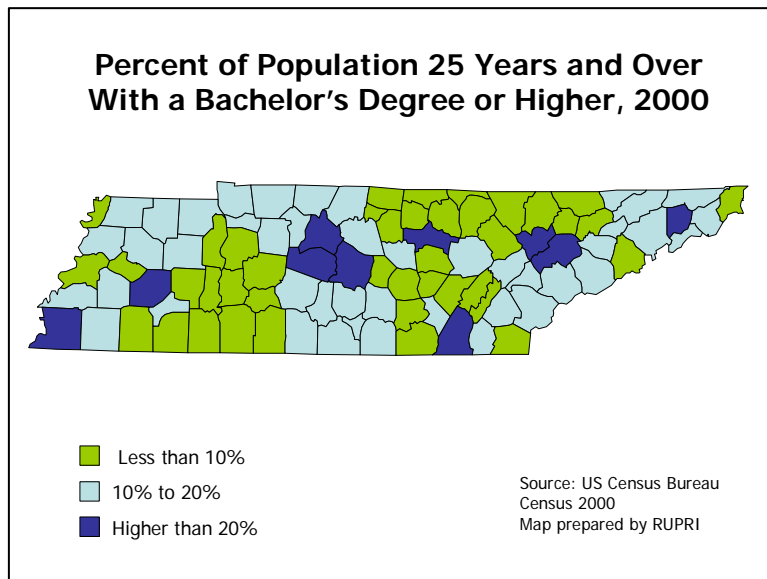


The Economic Research Service, USDA, classifies counties as retirement destination counties based on population change due to immigration. In Tennessee, 18 counties are classified as retirement destination counties - 7 metro and 11 nonmetro counties.

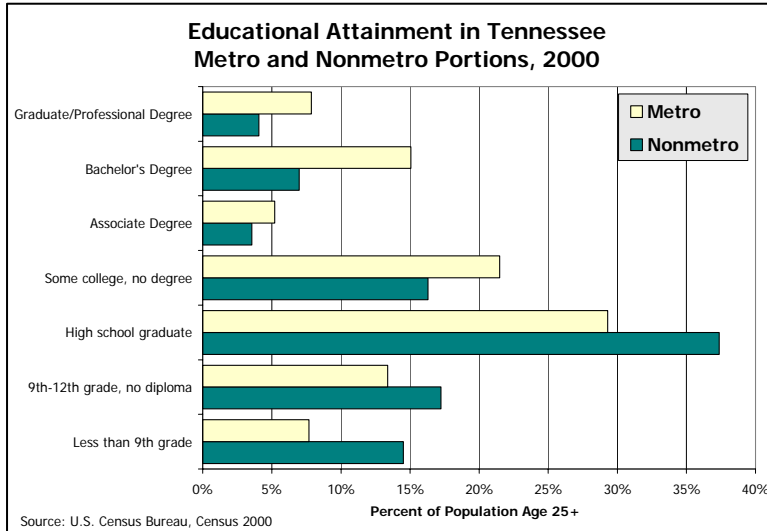


Educational Attainment

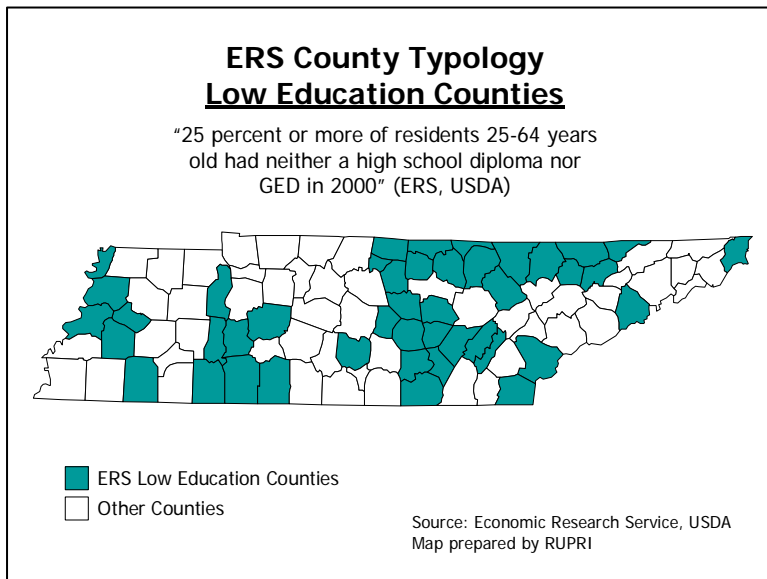
The percent of the population age 25 and over that has earned a Bachelor's Degree or higher is 24.4 percent in the U.S. and 19.6 percent in Tennessee. In metro areas of Tennessee, this percentage is 22.9 percent, compared to only 11.0 percent in nonmetro areas.



The chart below compares the educational attainment of Tennessee’s metro and nonmetro populations. The percent of the population with high educational attainment (B.S. 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.

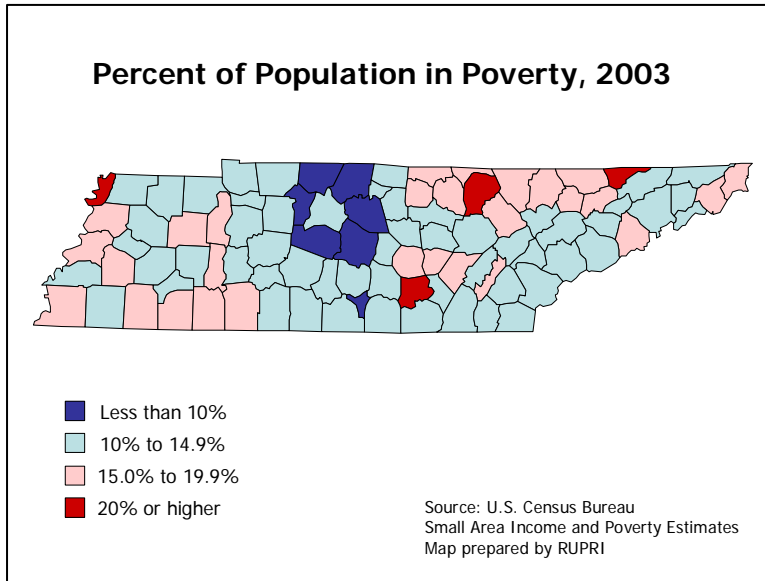


The Economic Research Service classifies counties as low education counties if “25 percent or more of residents 25-64 years old had neither a high school diploma nor GED in 2000.” In Tennessee, 44 counties are classified as low education counties - 10 metro and 34 nonmetro counties.

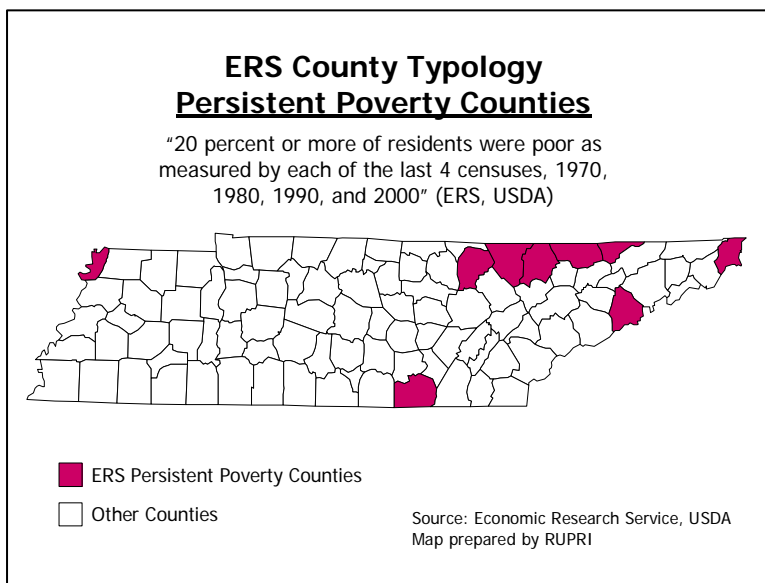


Poverty

The poverty rate in Tennessee in 2003 was 13.5 percent, compared to 12.5 percent for the U.S. (Census Bureau estimates). Within Tennessee, the 2003 poverty rate ranged from 5.1 percent in Williamson County to 26.3 percent in Lake County.

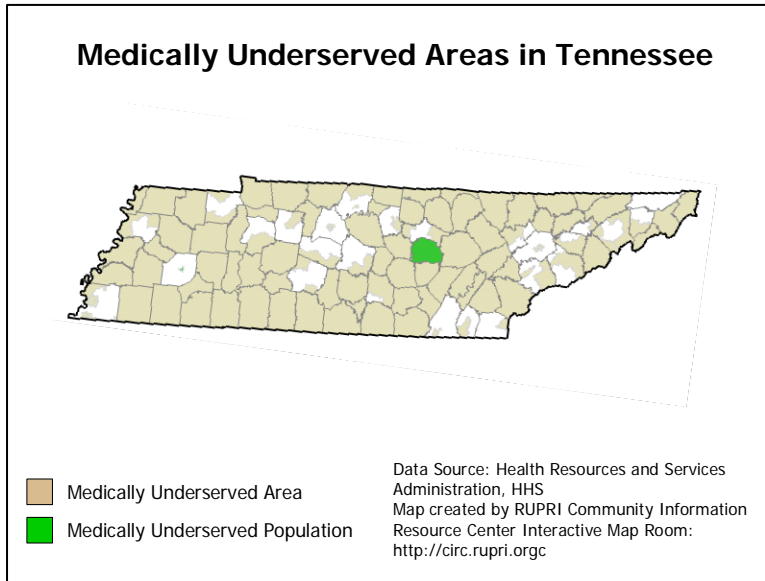


The Economic Research Service classifies counties as persistent poverty counties if they experienced poverty rates of 20 percent or higher in each decennial census from 1970 through 2000. There are 386 persistent poverty counties in the U.S., and nine are located in Tennessee. All nine persistent poverty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

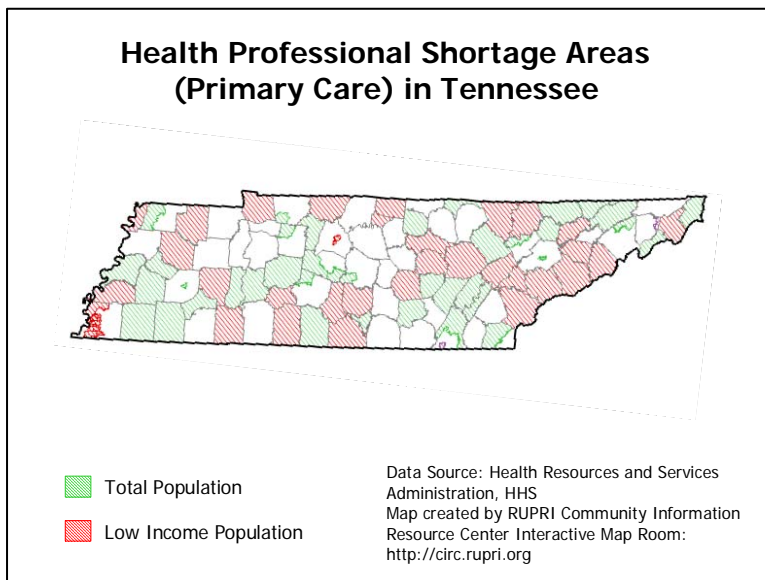


Health Services

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

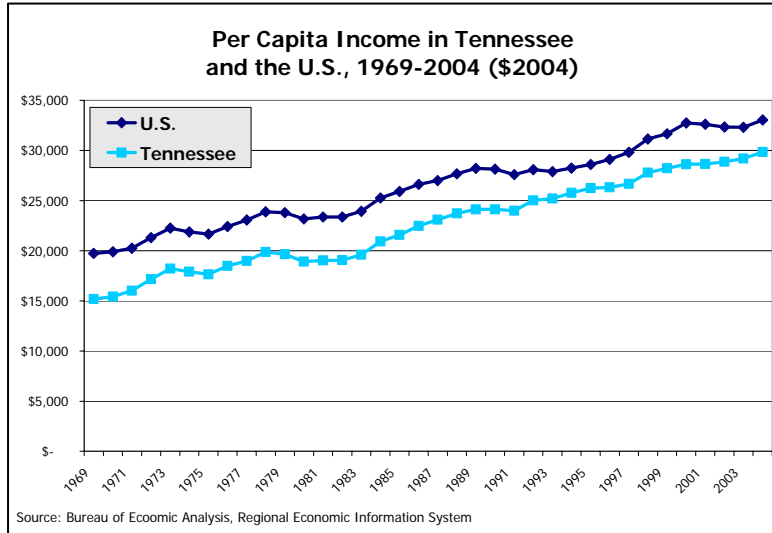


Health Professional Shortage Areas (HPSAs) are those areas that “may have shortages of primary medical care, dental or mental health providers and may be urban or rural areas, population groups, or medical or other public facilities” (Health Resources and Services Administration, HHS). Within Tennessee,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

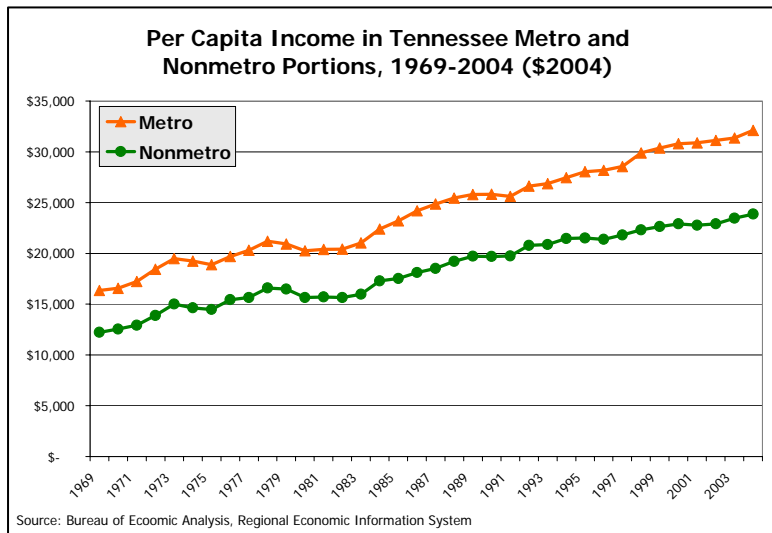


Per Capita Income

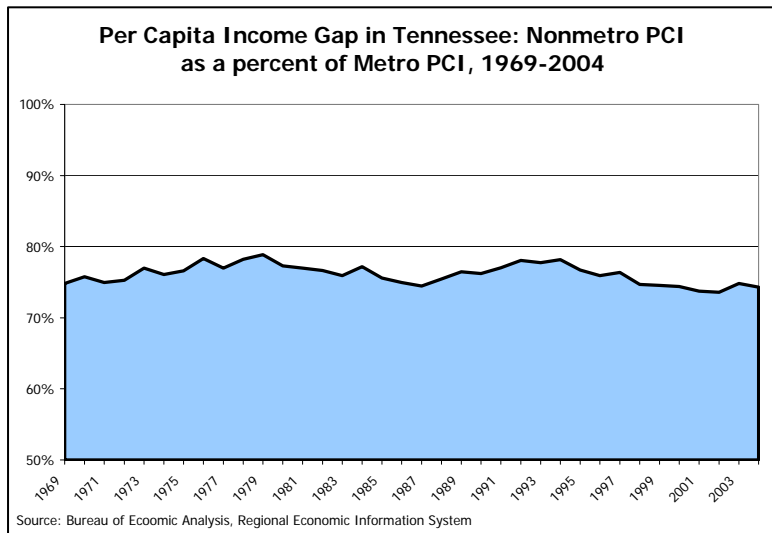
Per capita income trends in Tennessee have mirrored national trends, with Tennessee's income lagging behind the national income over the past several decades. In 2004, per capita income in Tennessee was \$29,844, compared to \$33,050 for the U.S.



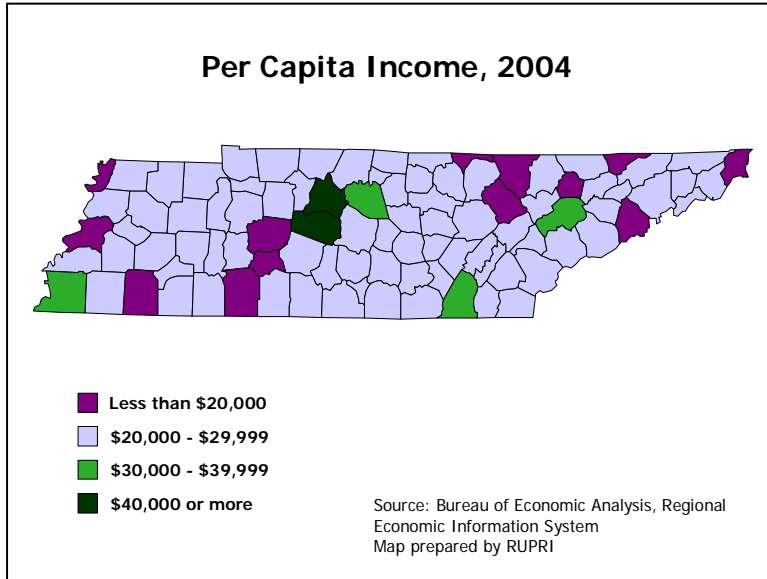
Within Tennessee, nonmetro per capita income has lagged behind metro per capita income over the past several decades. In 2004, metro per capita income was \$32,098, compared to \$23,856 in nonmetro areas.



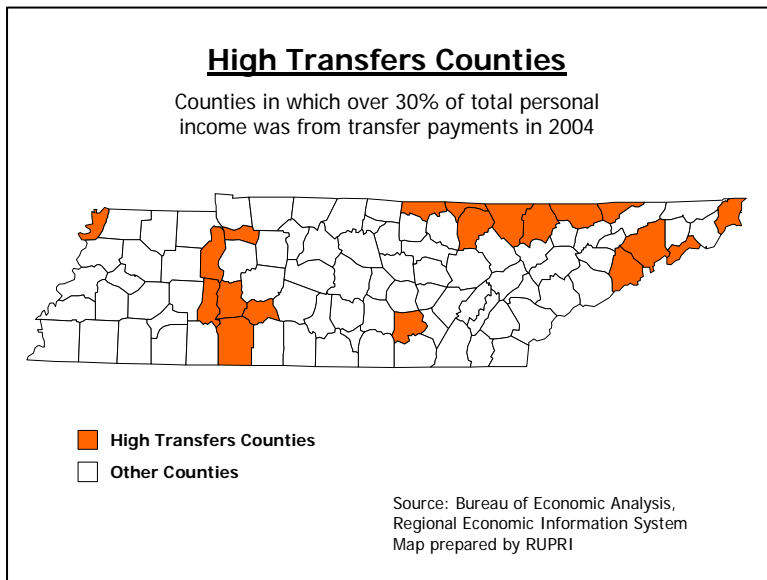
The per capita income gap is measured with nonmetro per capita income as a percent of metro per capita income. In Tennessee, the gap was at its smallest in 1979 and at its largest in 2002. In 2004, nonmetro per capita income was 74.3 percent of metro per capita income.



Within Tennessee, 2004 per capita income ranged from \$14,885 in Hancock County to \$44,298 in Williamson County. Thirteen counties in Tennessee (2 metro and 11 nonmetro) had per capita income less than \$20,000 in 2004, and 2 counties (both metro) had per capita income over \$40,000 in 2004.

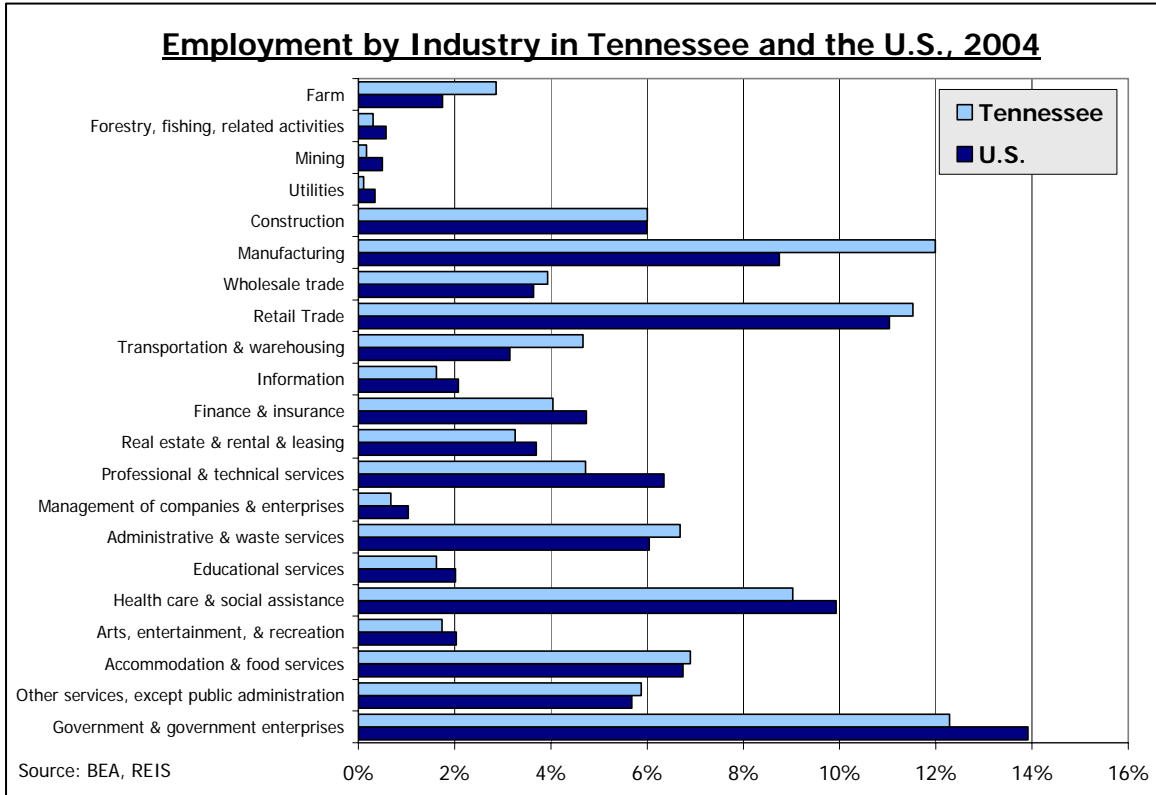


Transfer payments include retirement and disability payments, social security benefits, public assistance, and medical benefits. In Tennessee, 19 counties' incomes rely significantly on transfer payments. In these counties (1 metro and 18 nonmetro), transfer payments account for over 30 percent of total personal income in the county.

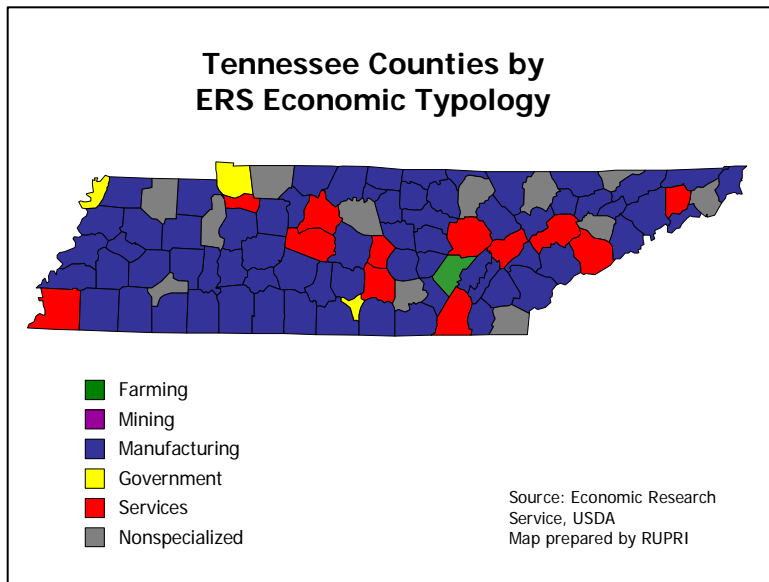


Employment

In 2004, government and government enterprises accounted for the largest shares of employment in Tennessee (12.3%) and the U.S. (13.9%). Manufacturing was the second largest employment sector in Tennessee (12.0%), and in the U.S. retail trade was the second largest employment sector (11.0%)

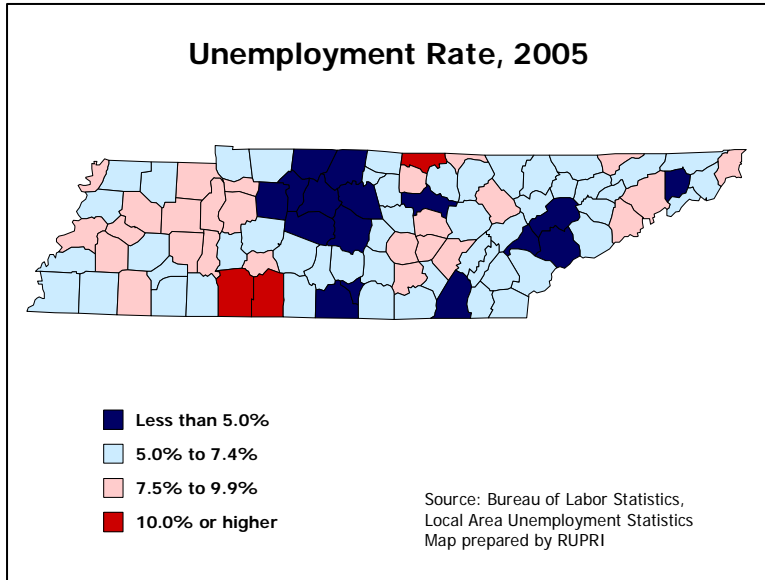


The ERS Economic Typology classifies counties into one of five industry categories of specialization or as nonspecialized. The map to the right shows the classification of Tennessee counties by this typology, illustrating the importance of manufacturing throughout the state.

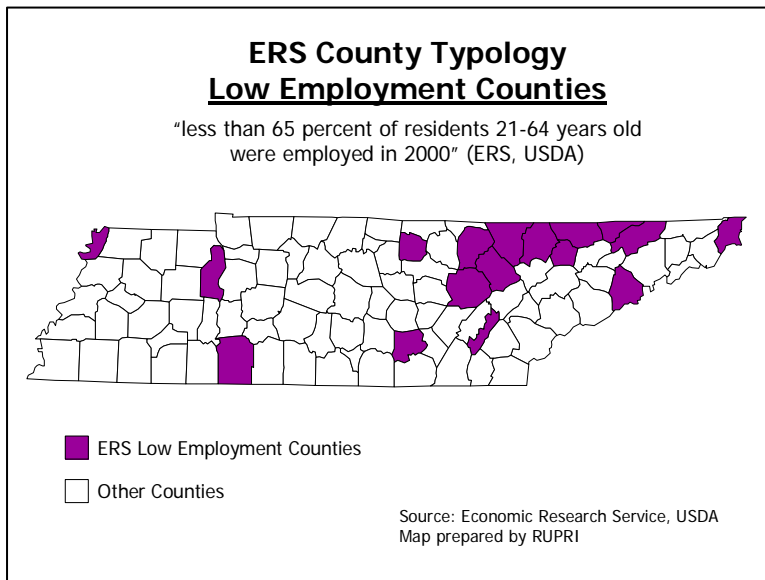


Unemployment

The unemployment rate in Tennessee in 2005 was 5.6 percent, compared to 5.1 percent nationally. Within Tennessee, the unemployment rate ranged from 3.5 percent in Williamson County to 12.3 percent in Wayne County.

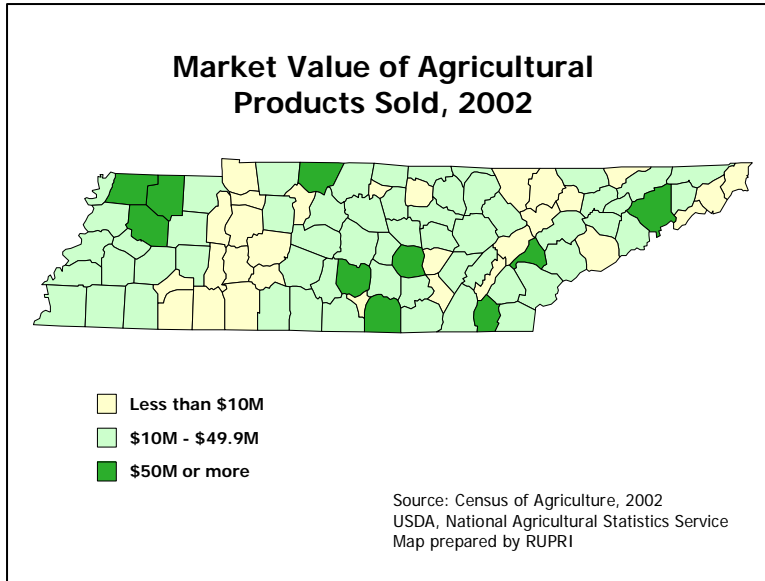


The Economic Research Service classifies counties as low employment counties if “less than 65 percent of residents 21-64 years old were employed in 2000.” In Tennessee, 17 counties (2 metro and 15 nonmetro) are classified as low employment counties.

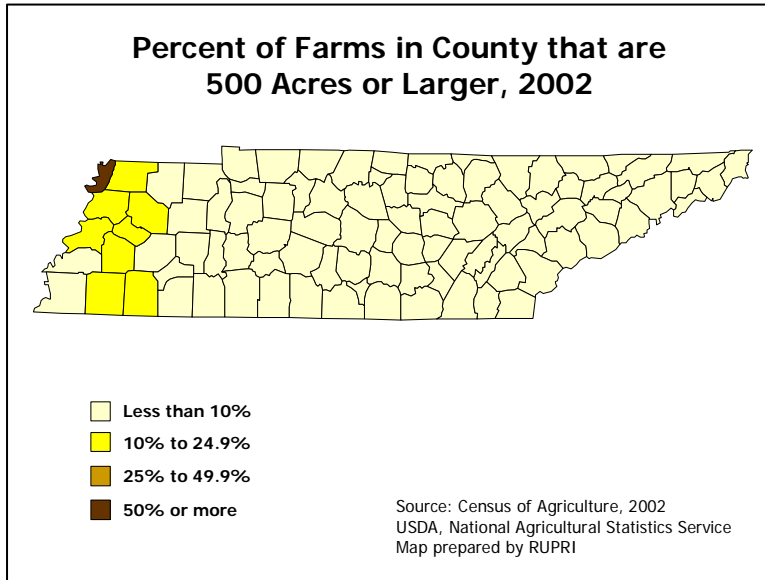


Agriculture

Agriculture is an important part of the economy in several parts of Tennessee, and Bledsoe County is 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 in Tennessee counties.

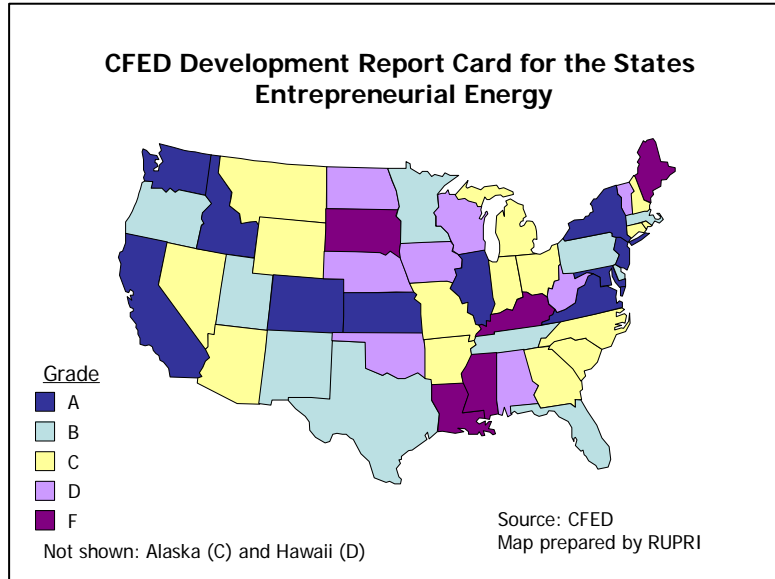


Average farm size in Tennessee is 133 acres, and 4.3 percent of farms in the state are 500 acres or larger. In Lake County, over half the farms are 500 acres or larger.

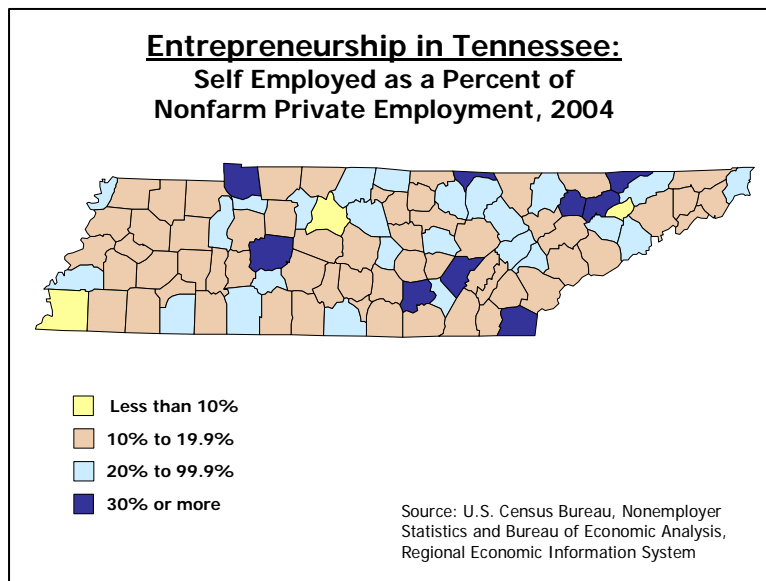


Entrepreneurship

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 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. Tennessee’s ranking is “B”.



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

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

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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