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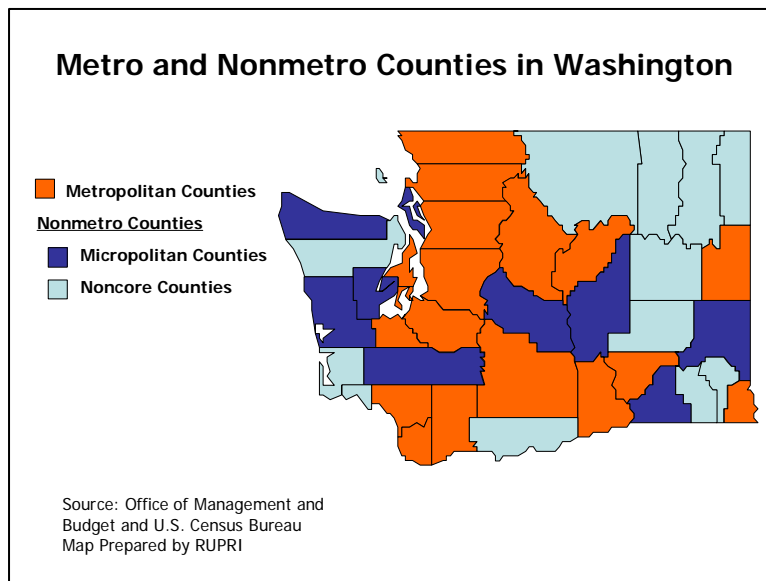
Demographic and Economic Profile

Washington

Updated July 2006

Metro and Nonmetro Counties in Washington

Based on the most recent listing of core based statistical areas by the Office of Management and Budget (December 2005), 17 counties in Washington are part of metropolitan areas, and 9 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 13 counties in Washington are considered noncore counties. Using these classifications and the population estimates for 2005, 87.5 percent of Washington residents live in metropolitan areas, 8.9 percent live in micropolitan areas, and 3.6 percent live in noncore areas.

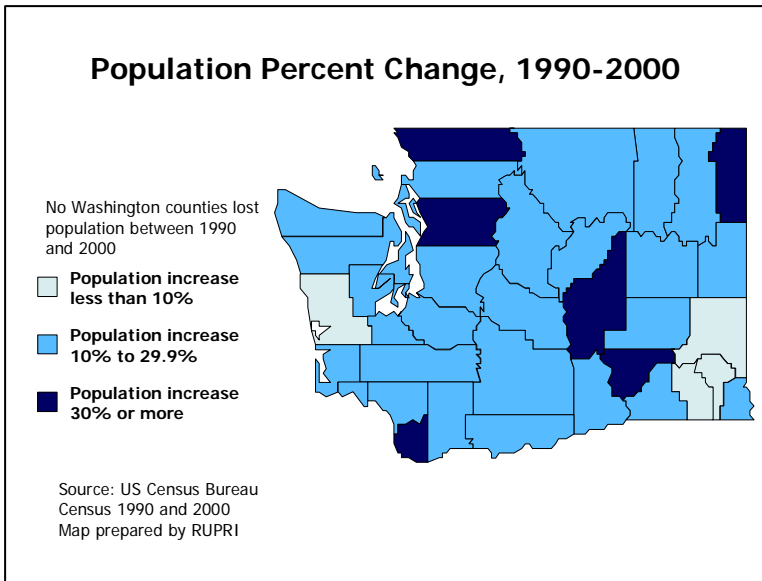


Population

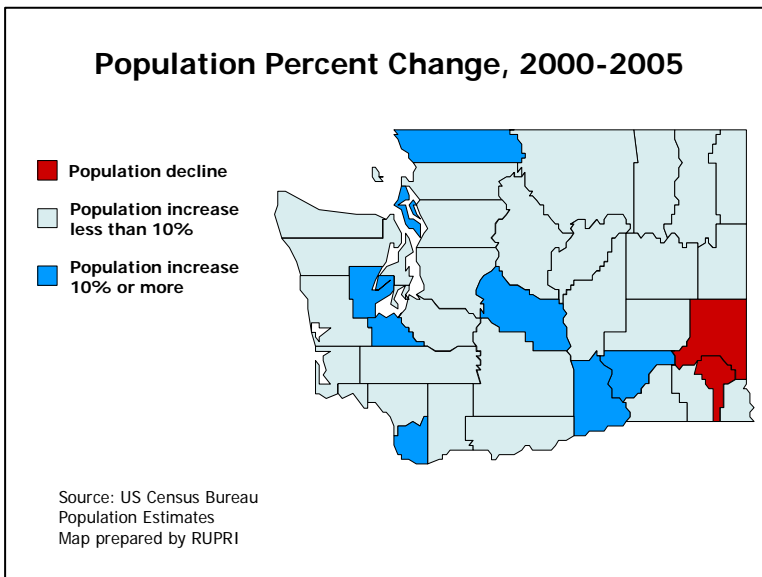
Washington's population in July of 2005 was 6,287,759, up 6.7 percent from the 2000 Census. During the 1990s, the population in Washington increased by 21.1 percent. Nationally, population increased 13.1 percent during the 1990s, and 5.3 percent from April 2000 to July 2005. The population growth in Washington's metropolitan areas outpaced the micropolitan areas during the 1990s, but during 2000 to 2005, growth in micropolitan areas outpaced other areas.

Percent Change in Population		
Area:	1990-2000	2000-2005
U.S.	13.1%	5.3%
Washington	21.1%	6.7%
Metropolitan	21.5%	6.7%
Nonmetropolitan	18.6%	6.3%
Micropolitan	17.5%	7.1%
Noncore	21.5%	4.1%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau



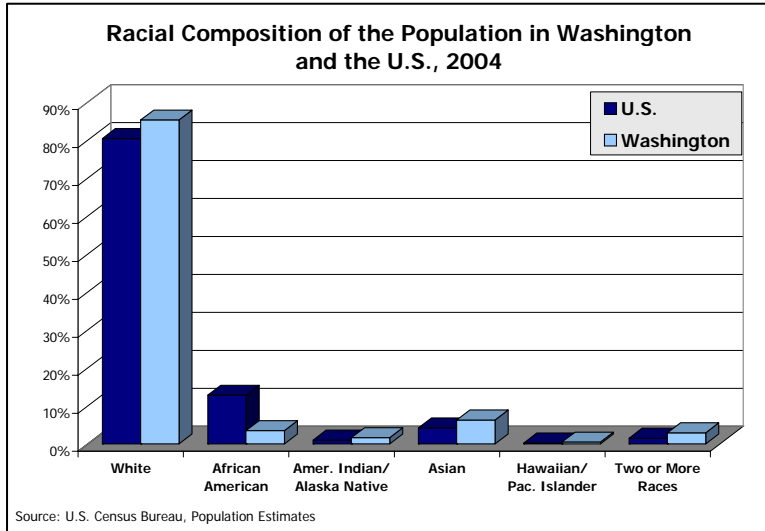
No counties in Washington lost population during the 1990s. The fastest growth during this time period was in Clark County in the Portland-Vancouver-Beavertown Metropolitan Area, with a population increase of 45.0 percent.



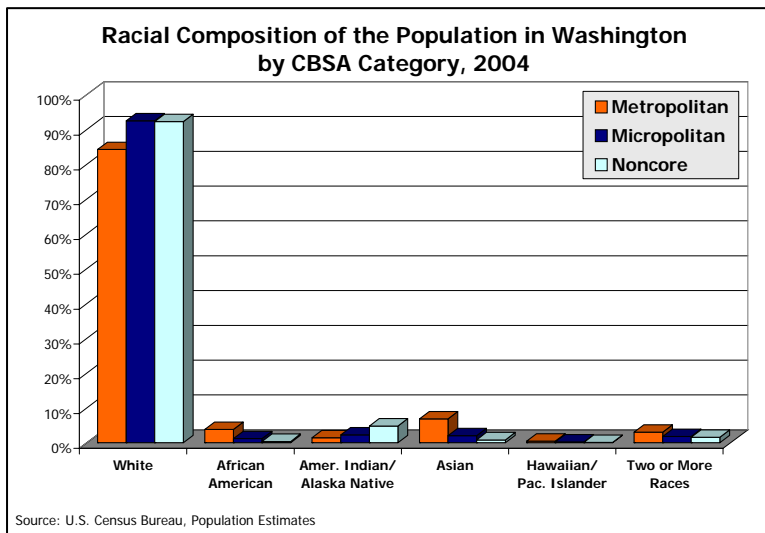
From 2000 to 2005, only two counties in Washington lost population, both of them nonmetro. The fastest growth during this time was in Franklin County in the Kennewick-Richland-Pasco Metropolitan Area.

Race / Ethnicity

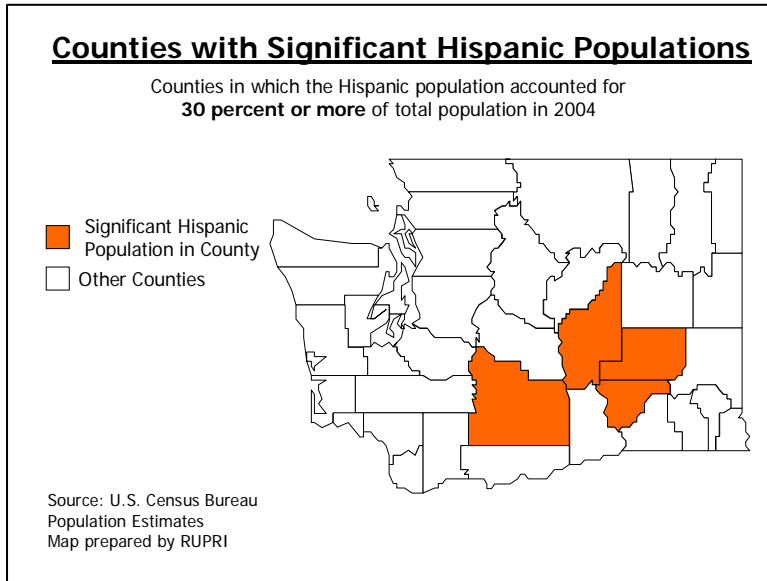
The population in Washington is 85.3 percent white and 3.5 percent African American. Nationally, the population is 80.4 percent white and 12.8 percent African American (2004 Census Bureau population estimates). Asians make up 6.3 percent of Washington's population, compared to 4.2 percent of the total U.S. population.



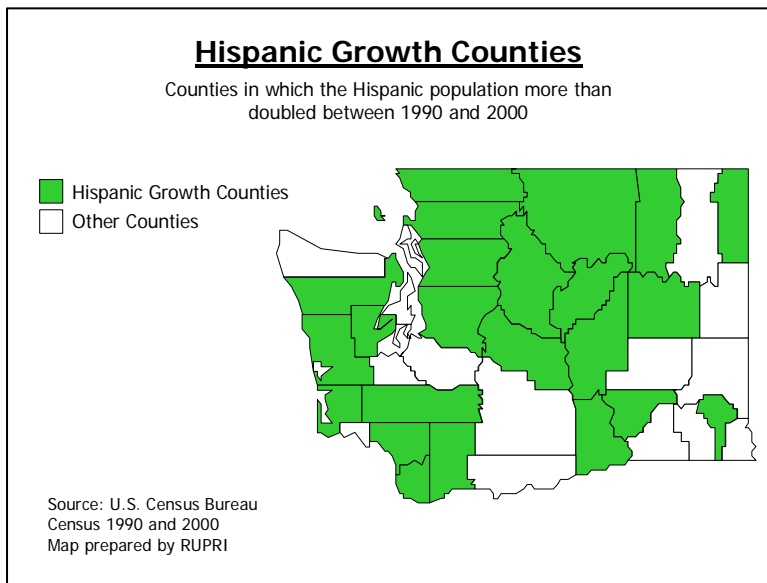
Within Washington, the metropolitan population is 84.2 percent white and 3.9 percent African American. The micropolitan population is 92.5 percent white and 1.2 percent African American, and the noncore population is 92.3 percent white and 0.4 percent African American. Asians make up 6.9 percent of the metropolitan population, 2.0 percent of the micropolitan population, and 0.8 percent of the noncore populations.



People of Hispanic origin make up 8.5 percent of Washington’s population, compared to 14.1 percent of the total U.S. population. Hispanics make up 8.3 percent of metropolitan population, 10.2 percent of micropolitan population, and 8.8 percent of the noncore population in Washington. People of Hispanic origin make up a significant portion of total population (over 30 percent) in four Washington Counties: Adams County (49.6%), Franklin County (48.8%), Yakima County (38.6%), and Grant County (33.0%).

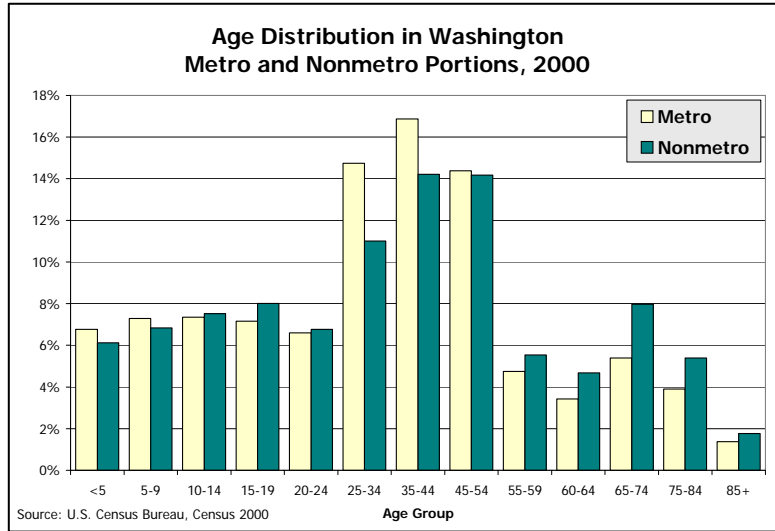


Several areas have experienced significant growth in the Hispanic population over the past decade and a half. The map below shows the counties in which the Hispanic population more than doubled during the 1990s.



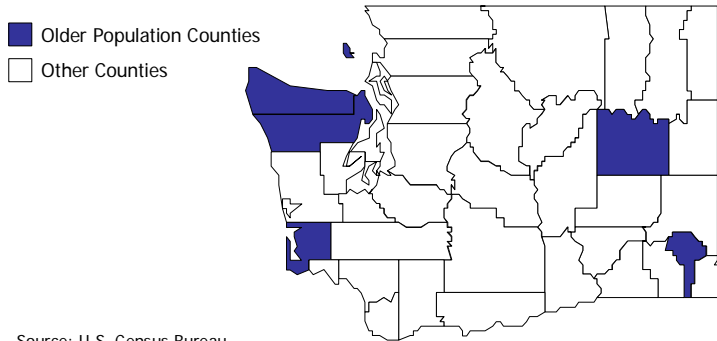
Age

The chart to the right shows the distribution of the metro and nonmetro populations in Washington. The percent of the population in the 25 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.



Older Population Counties

Counties in which 20% or more of the total population was 65 or older in 2004

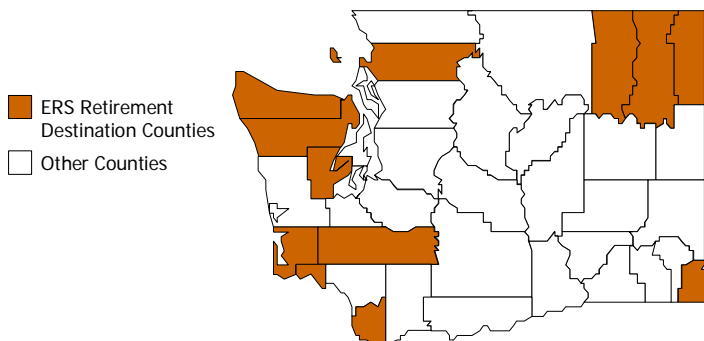


Source: U.S. Census Bureau
Population Estimates
Map prepared by RUPRI

Many rural areas have experienced an aging of their populations, in some cases due to the immigration of retirees, and in other cases due to the outmigration of youth and an aging-in-place of residents. In six Washington counties (all nonmetro) over 20 percent of the population is age 65 or over.

ERS County Typology: Retirement Destination Counties

"number of residents 60 and older grew by 15 percent or more between 1990 and 2000 due to immigration" (ERS, USDA)

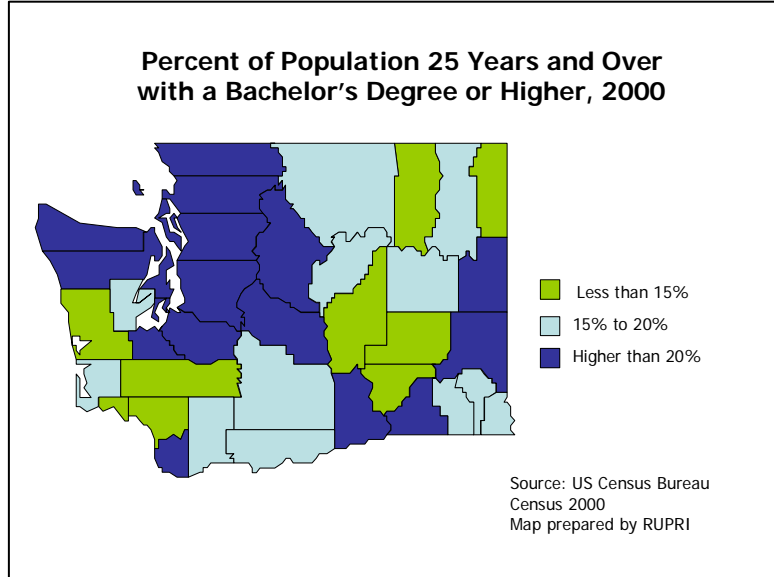


Source: Economic Research Service, USDA
Map prepared by RUPRI

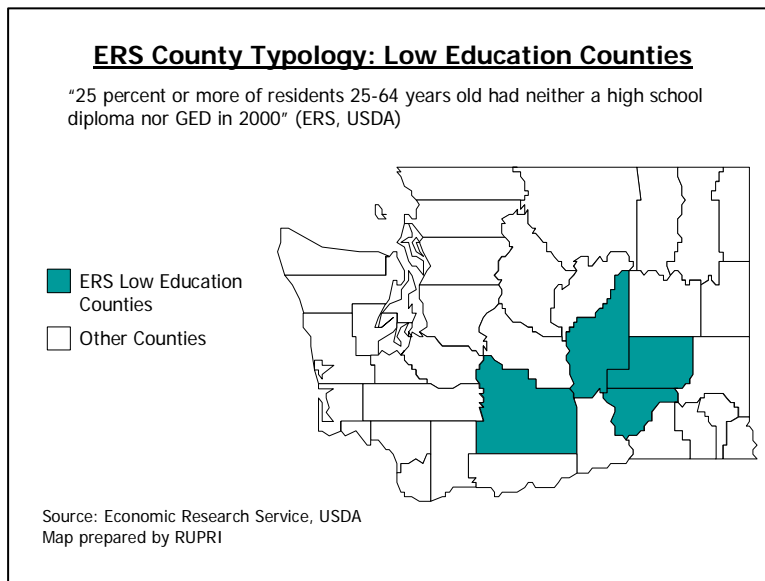
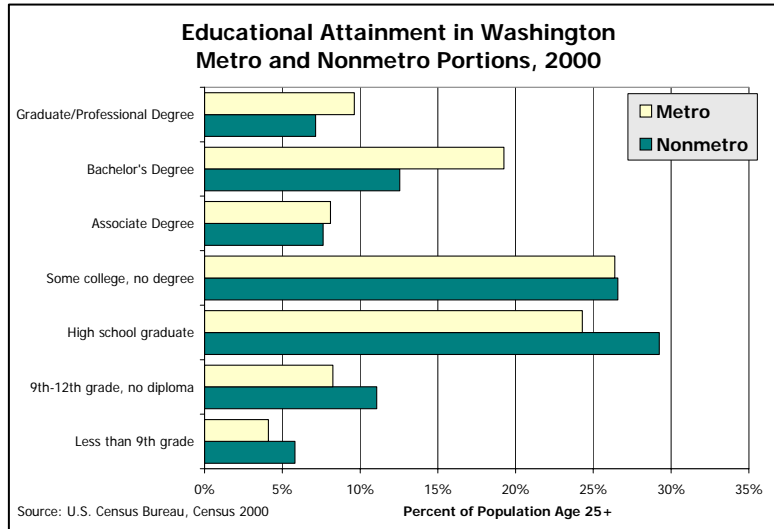
The Economic Research Service, USDA, classifies counties as retirement destination counties based on population change due to immigration. In Washington, 13 counties are classified as retirement destination counties (3 metro and 10 nonmetro counties).

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 27.7 percent in Washington. In metro areas of Washington, this percentage is 28.9 percent, compared to 19.7 percent in nonmetro areas.



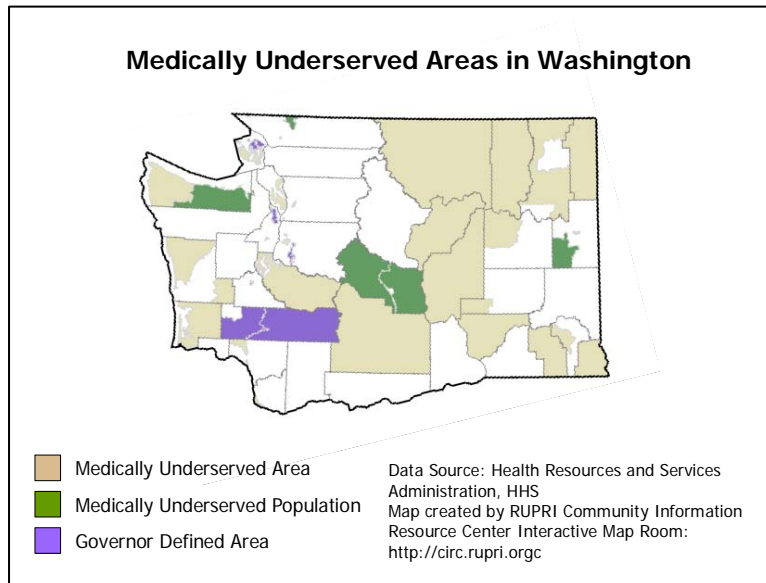
The chart to the right compares the educational attainment of Washington's metro and nonmetro populations. The percent of the population with high educational attainment (B.S. degree or higher) is greater in the metro areas, while the percent of the population with low educational attainment (high school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



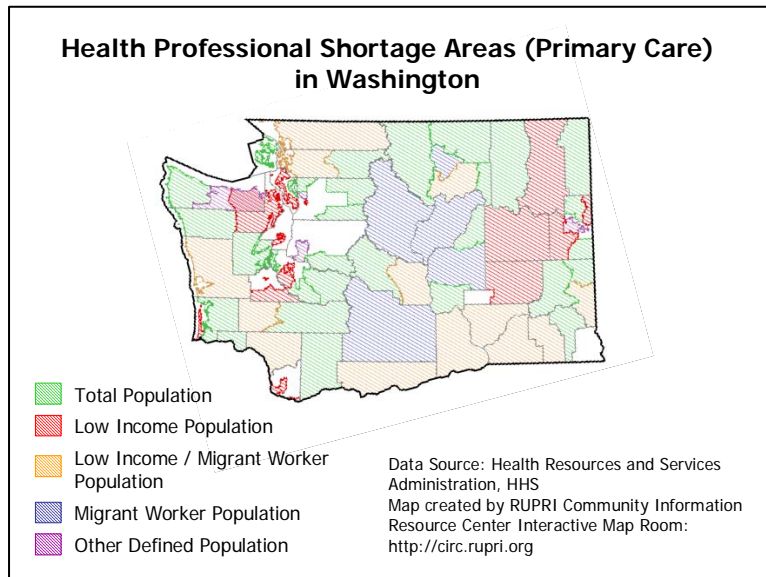
The Economic Research Service classifies counties as low education counties if "25 percent or more of residents 25-64 years old had neither a high school diploma nor GED in 2000." In Washington, four counties are classified as low education counties.

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

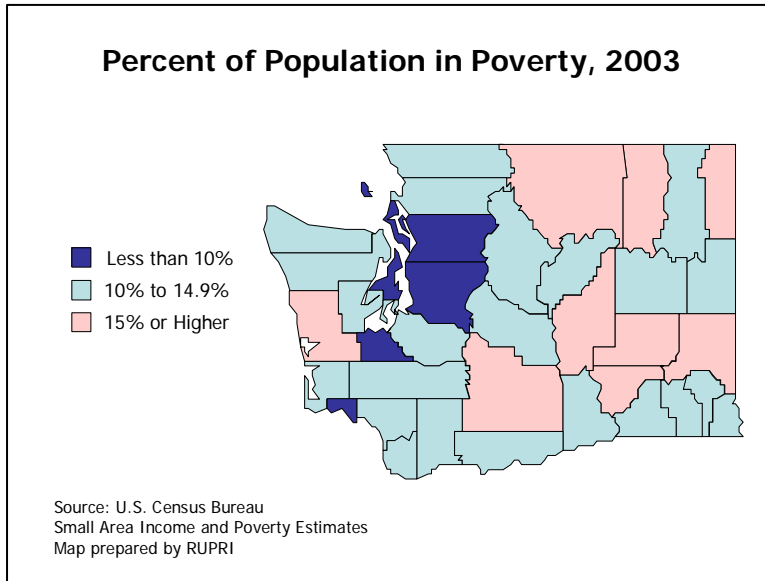


Health Professional Shortage Areas (HPSAs) are those areas that “may have shortages of primary medical care, dental or mental health providers and may be urban or rural areas, population groups, or medical or other public facilities” (Health Resources and Services Administration, HHS). Within Washington,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



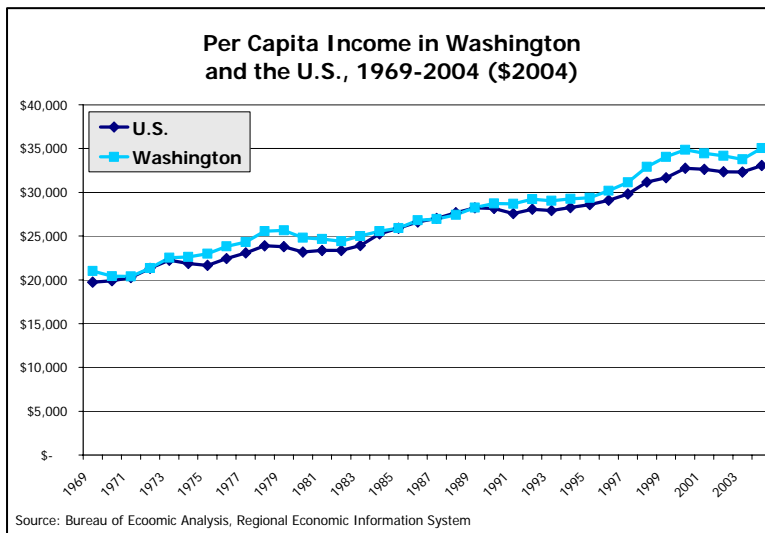
Poverty

The poverty rate in Washington in 2003 was 11.0 percent, compared to 12.5 percent for the U.S. (Census Bureau estimates). Within Washington, the 2003 poverty rate ranged from 8.3 percent in Island County to 18.7 percent in Okanogan County.

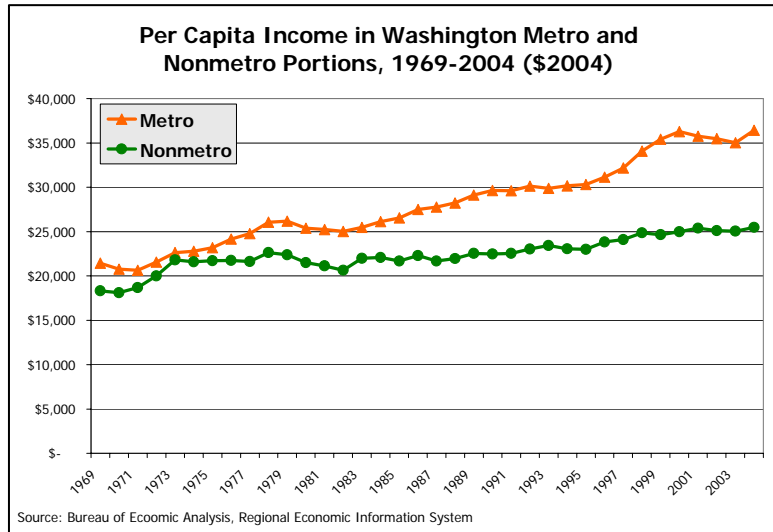


Per Capita Income

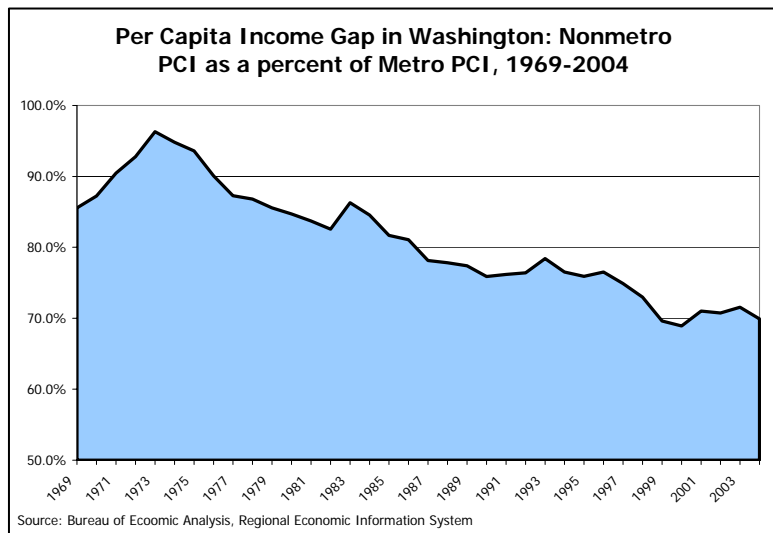
Per capita income trends in Washington have closely matched national trends over the past several decades. In 2004, per capita income was \$35,041 in Washington, and \$33,050 in the U.S.



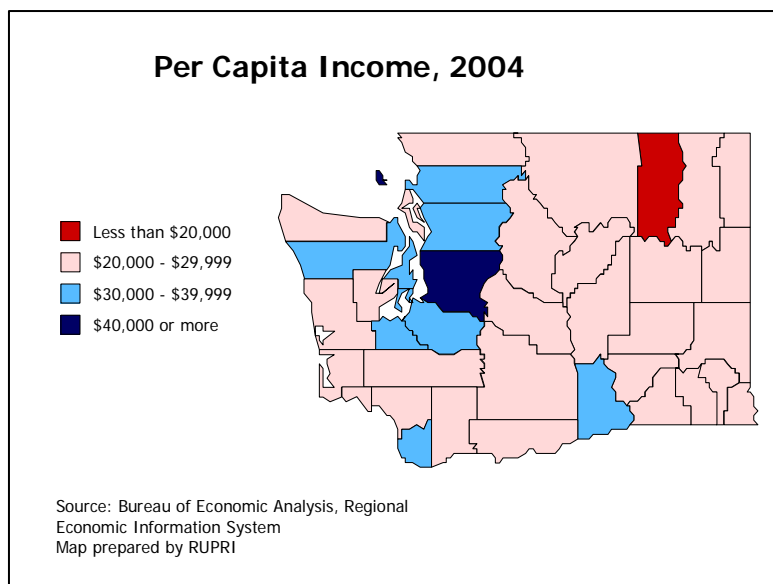
Nonmetro per capita income in Washington has lagged behind metro per capita income over the past several decades. In 2004, metro per capita income in Washington was \$36,415, compared to \$25,459 in nonmetro areas.



The per capita income gap is measured with nonmetro per capita income as a percent of metro per capita income. In Washington, the gap was at its largest in 2000 and at its smallest in 1973. In 2004, nonmetro per capita income was 69.9 percent of metro per capita income.

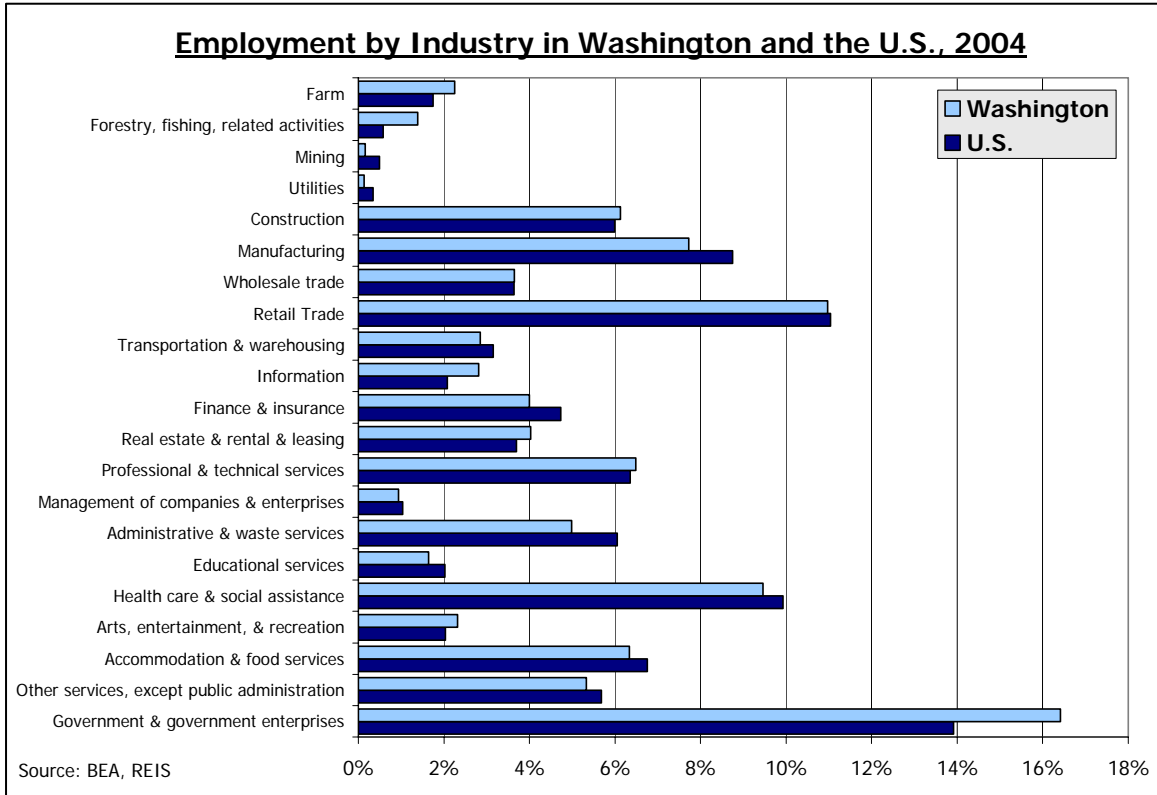


Within Washington, 2004 per capita income ranged from \$19,336 in Ferry County to \$49,286 in King County.

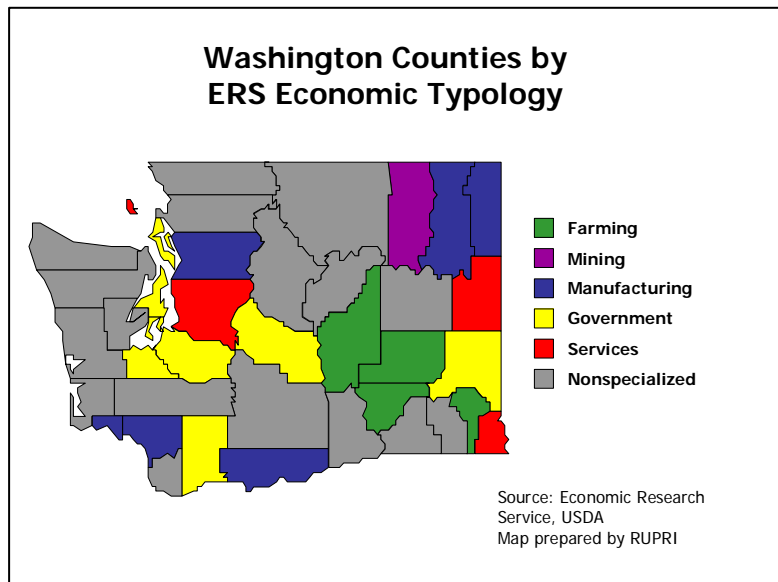


Employment Structure

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

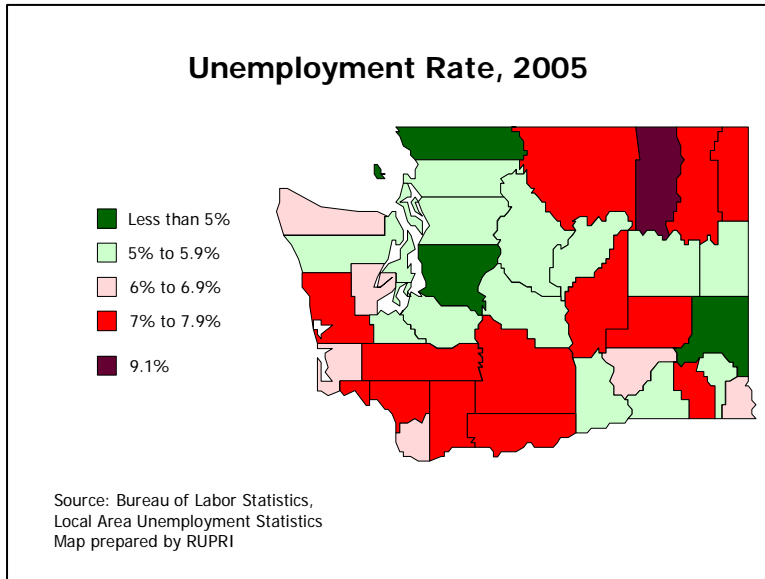


The ERS Economic Typology classifies counties into one of five industry categories of specialization or as nonspecialized. The map to the right shows the classification of Washington counties by this typology, illustrating the diversity across the state.

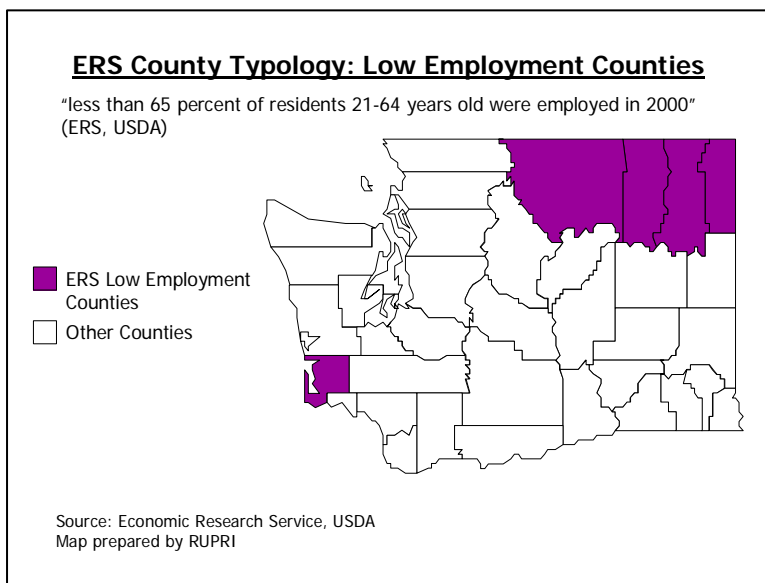


Unemployment

The unemployment rate in Washington in 2005 was 5.5 percent, compared to 5.1 percent for the U.S. Within Washington, the 2005 unemployment rate ranged from 4.1 percent in San Juan County to 9.1 percent in Ferry County.

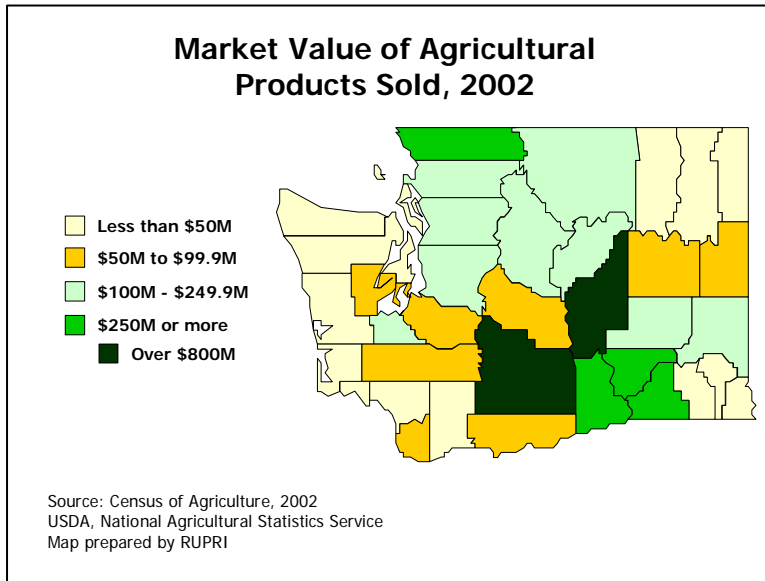


The Economic Research Service classifies counties as low employment counties if “less than 65 percent of residents 21-64 years old were employed in 2000.” In Washington, five counties are classified as low employment counties.

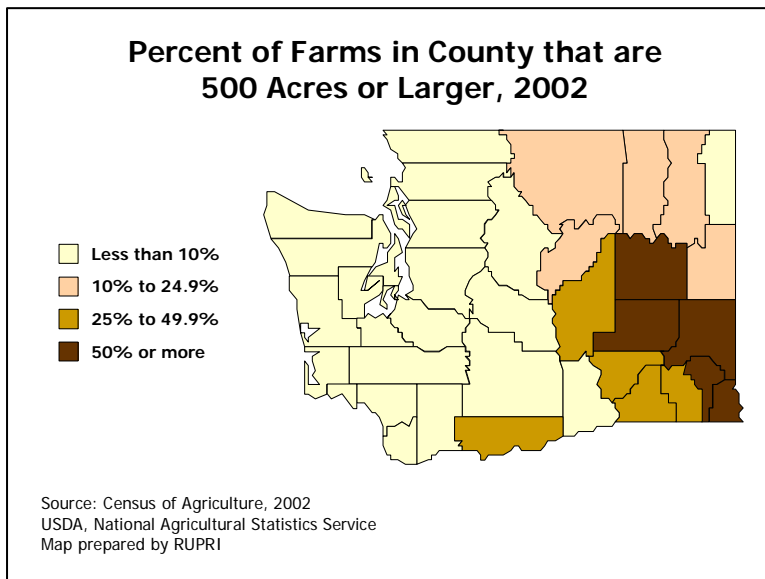


Agriculture

Agriculture is an important industry in Washington, and four counties are classified by the Economic Research Service as farming dependent (see map on page 10). The map below shows the value of agricultural products sold in 2002 for Washington counties. In 15 counties the value was over \$100 million. In Yakima and Grant Counties, the value was over \$800 million.

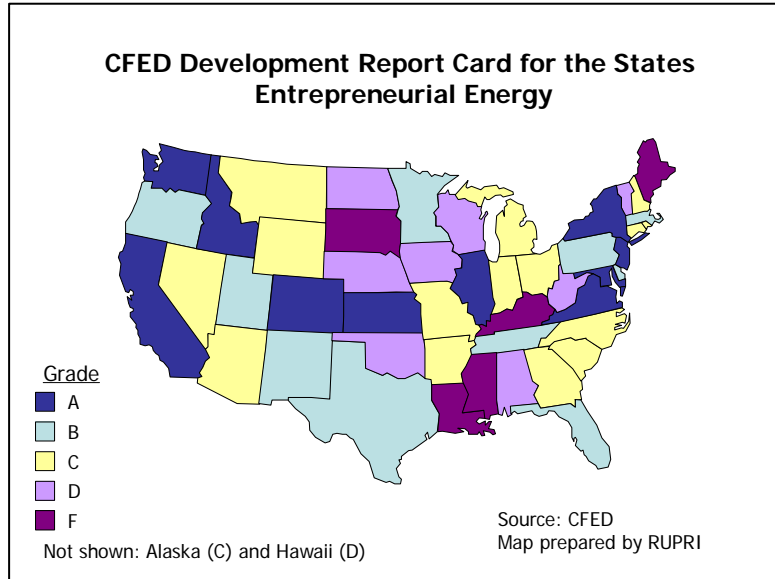


Average farm size in Washington is 426 acres, and 12.8 percent of farms in the state are 500 acres or larger. In five Washington counties, over half of the farms are 500 acres or larger.

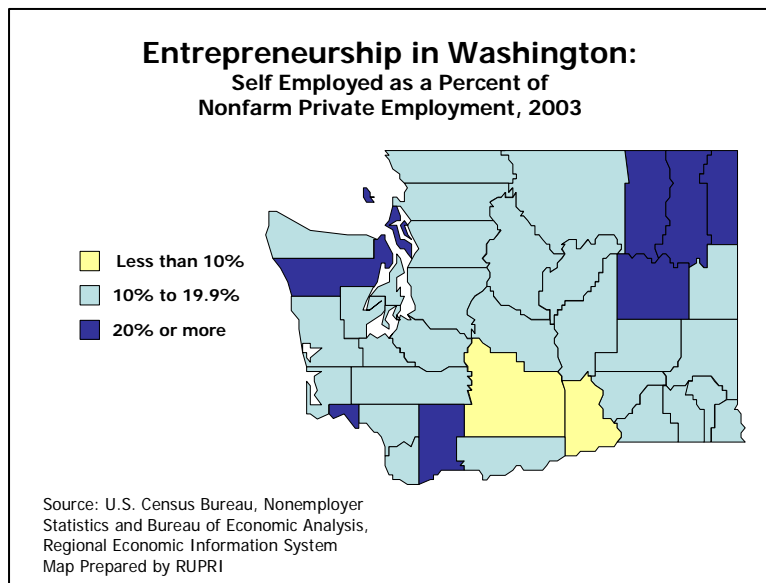


Entrepreneurship

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. Washington’s ranking is “A”.

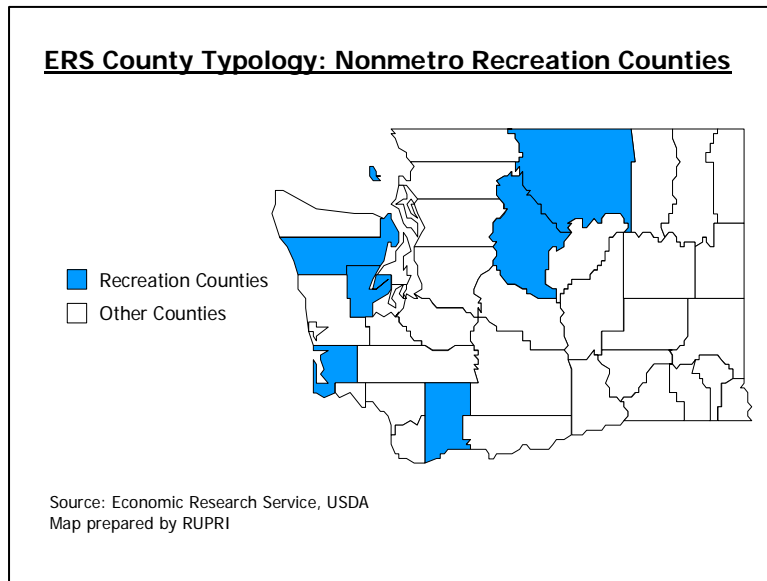


As mentioned, county level indicators of entrepreneurship are difficult to ascertain, but a good indicator is the proportion of workers that are self employed. The map below shows self employed workers as a percent of nonfarm private employment in the county.



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 seven are located in Washington. Counties that were nonmetro in 1993 or 2003 are classified. Chelan and Skamania Counties were nonmetro in the 1993 classifications.



Data Sources and References

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<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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