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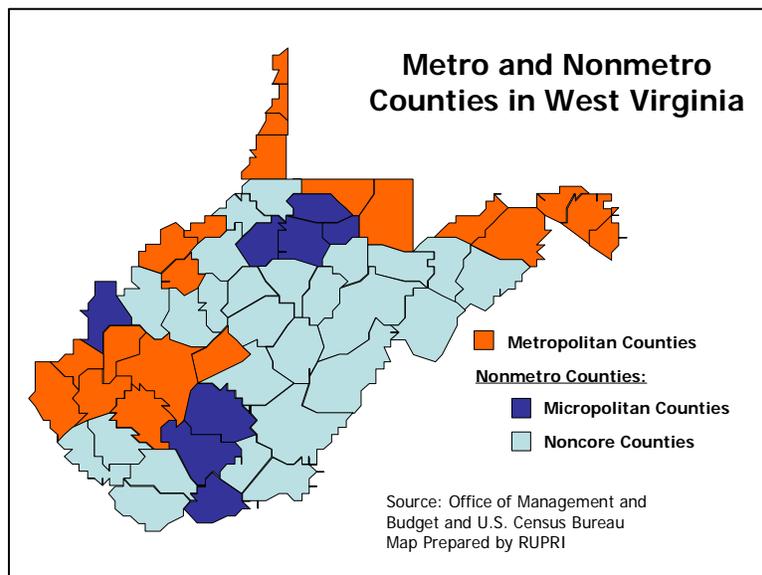
Demographic and Economic Profile

West Virginia

Updated June 2006

Metro and Nonmetro Counties in West Virginia

Based on the most recent listing of core based statistical areas by the Office of Management and Budget (December 2005), 21 counties in West Virginia are part of metropolitan areas, and 8 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 26 counties in West Virginia are considered noncore counties. Using these classifications and the population estimates for 2005, 55.1 percent of West Virginia residents live in metropolitan areas, 19.9 percent live in micropolitan areas, and 25.0 percent live in noncore areas.

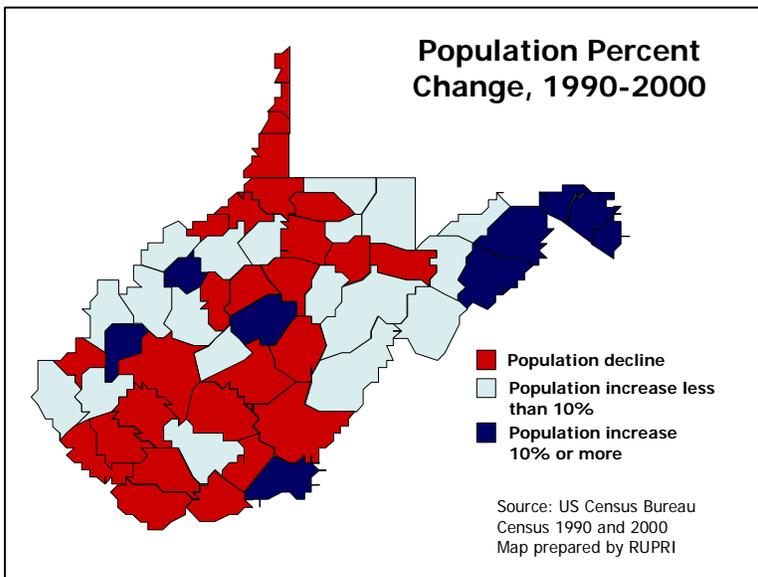


Population

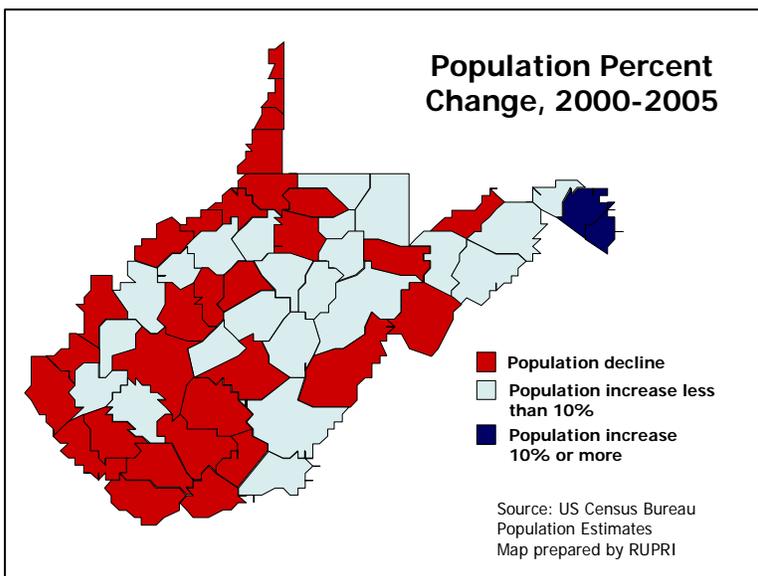
West Virginia's population in 2005 was 1,816,856, up 0.5 percent from the 2000 Census. During the 1990s, the population in West Virginia increased 0.8 percent. Nationally, population increased 13.1 percent during the 1990s and 5.3 percent from April 2000 to July 2005. Population growth in West Virginia's metro areas has outpaced the nonmetro areas in both time periods, and noncore counties lost population in both time periods.

Percent Change in Population		
Area:	1990-2000	2000-2005
U.S.	13.1%	5.3%
West Virginia	0.8%	0.5%
Metropolitan	3.4%	1.7%
Nonmetropolitan	-0.2%	-1.0%
Micro-politan	0.2%	-0.7%
Noncore	-3.7%	-1.3%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau

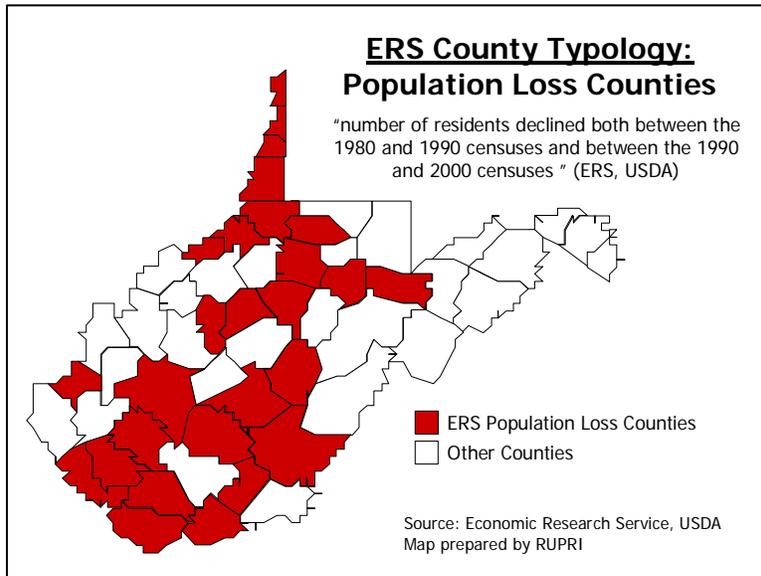


During the 1990s, 27 counties in West Virginia lost population (8 metro and 19 nonmetro counties). Four counties had population gains of 20 percent or more, all of them metro. The highest growth during the 1990s was in Berkeley County (28.1%) and Morgan County (23.2%), both in the Hagerstown-Martinsburg metropolitan area.



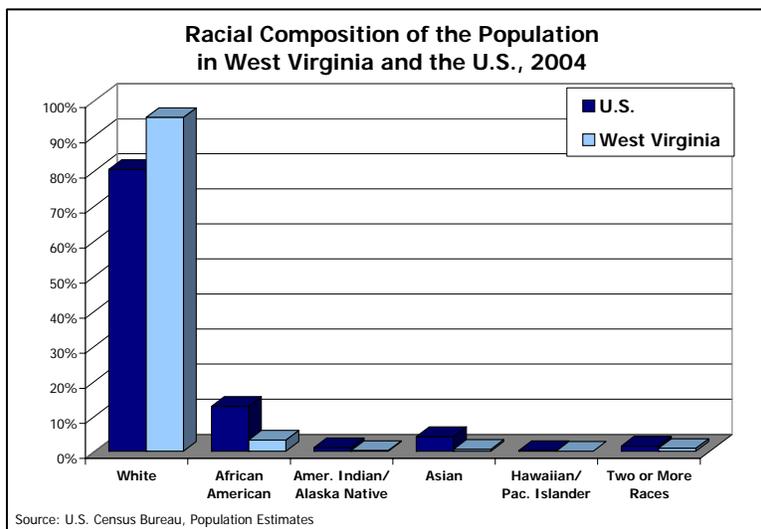
From 2000 to 2005, 30 counties in West Virginia lost population (10 metro and 20 nonmetro counties). Only 2 counties, both metro, had population gains of 10 percent or more. The highest growth during this time period was again in Berkeley County (23.0%).

The Economic Research Service, USDA, classifies counties as population loss counties if the population declined from 1980 to 1990 and from 1990 to 2000. In West Virginia, 27 counties are classified as population loss counties, 8 metro and 19 nonmetro counties.

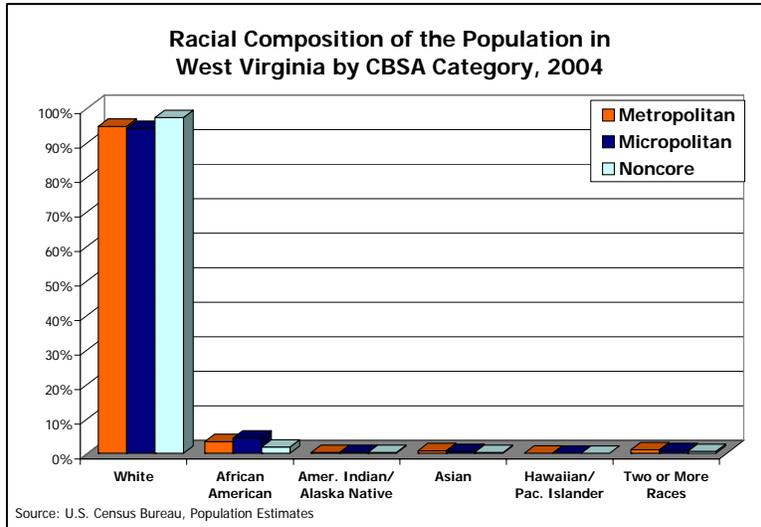


Race / Ethnicity

The population in West Virginia is 95.2 percent white and 3.2 percent African American. Nationally, the population is 80.4 percent white and 12.8 percent African American (2004 Census Bureau population estimates).



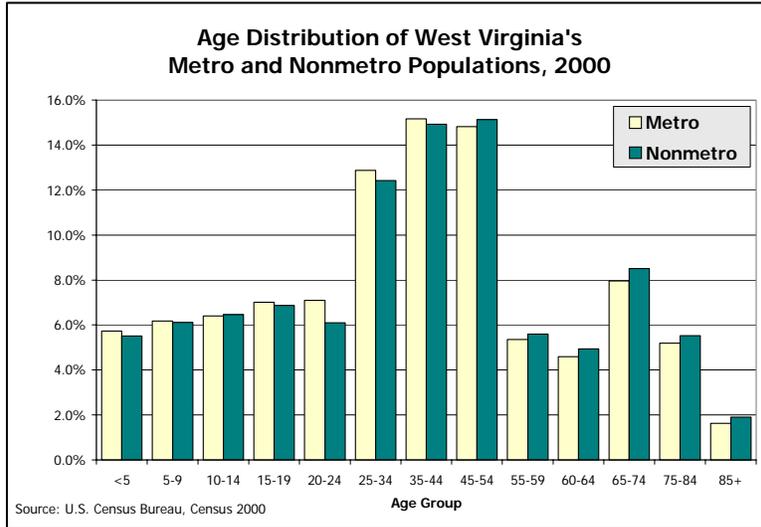
Within West Virginia, the metropolitan population is 94.7 percent white and 3.4 percent African American. The micropolitan population is 94.1 percent white and 4.4 percent African American, and the noncore population is 97.2 percent white and 1.8 percent African American.



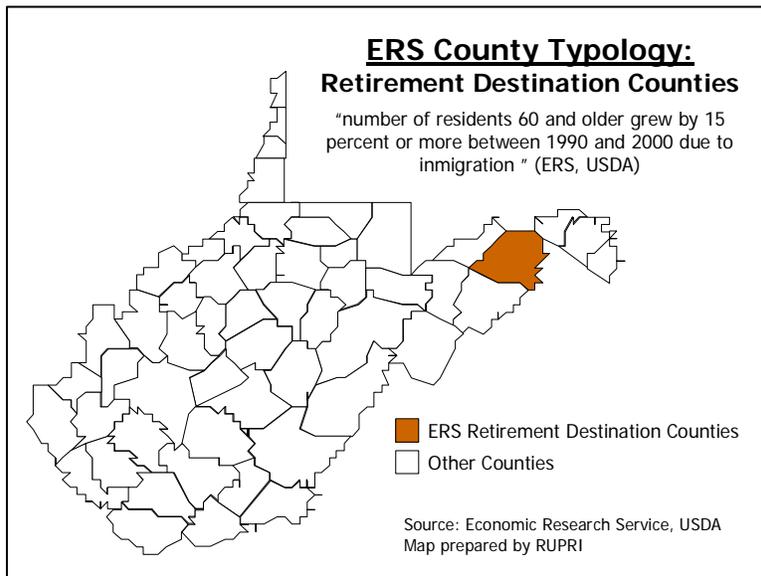
People of Hispanic origin make up 0.8 percent of West Virginia’s population, compared to 14.1 percent of the total U.S. population. Within West Virginia, Hispanics make up 0.9 percent of the metropolitan population, 0.8 percent of the micropolitan population, and 0.6 percent of the noncore population. Though many areas have experienced significant increases in the Hispanic population over the past decade, the Hispanic population did not account for a significant portion of total population in any county in 2004.

Age

The age distribution of the metro and nonmetro populations in West Virginia is shown in the chart below. The percent of the population in the 20 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.

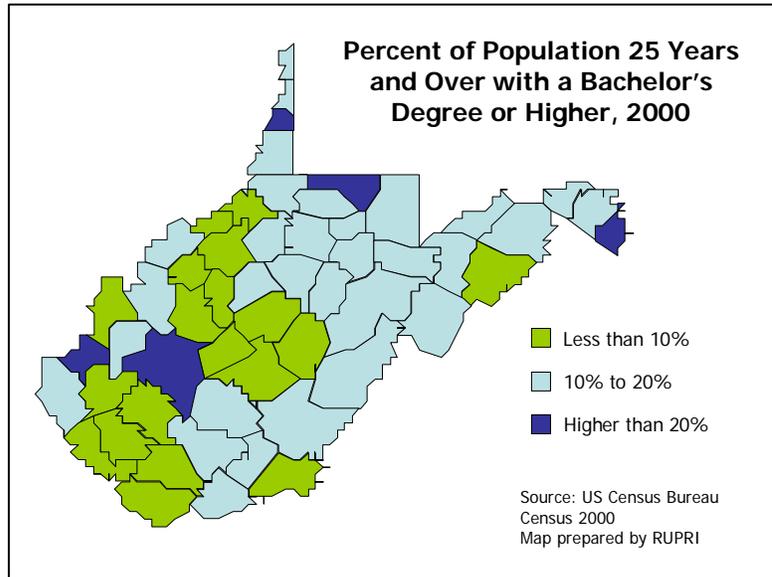


The Economic Research Service classifies counties as retirement destination counties based on population change due to in-migration. One county in West Virginia (Hampshire County) is classified as a retirement destination county.

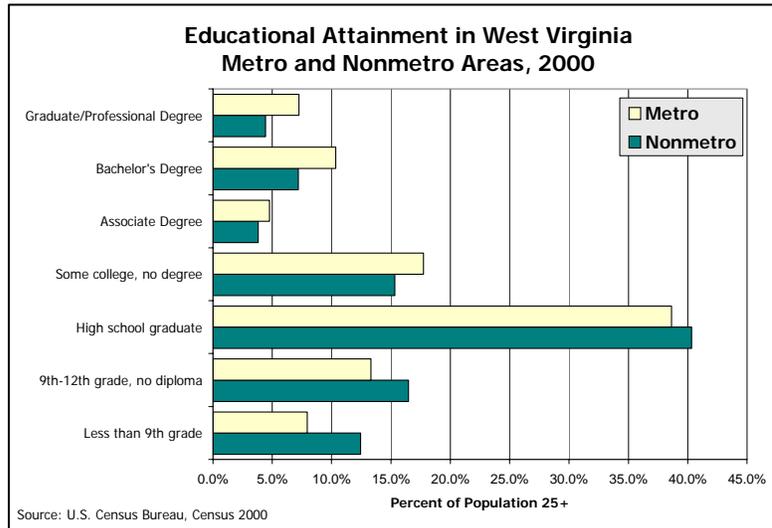


Educational Attainment

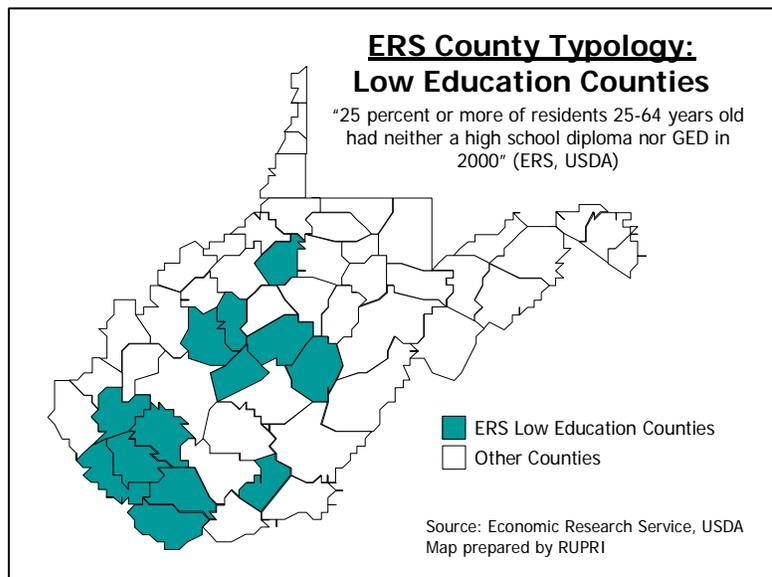
The percent of the population age 25 and over that has earned a Bachelor's degree or higher is 24.4 percent in the U.S. and 14.8 percent in West Virginia. In metro areas of West Virginia, this percentage is 17.6 percent, compared to only 11.6 percent in nonmetro areas. In only five counties (all metro) did over 20 percent of the population age 25 and over have a B.S. degree or higher.



The chart to the right compares the educational attainment of West Virginia'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.

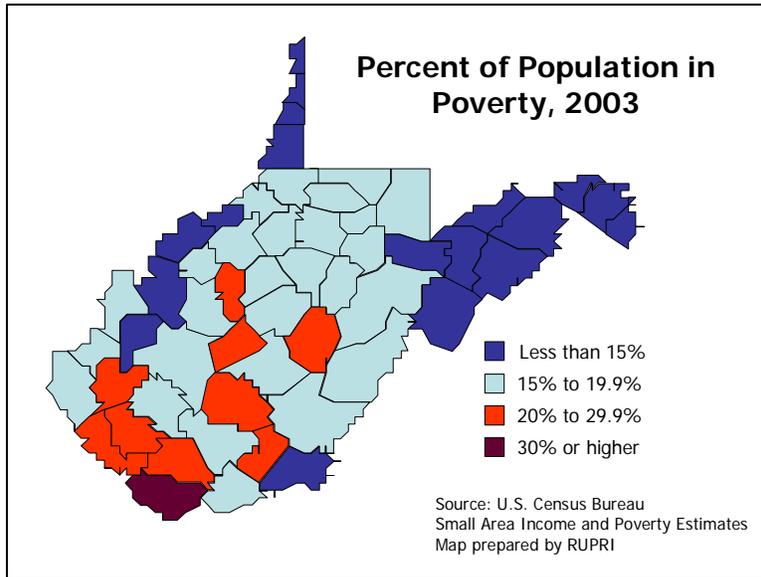


The Economic Research Service classifies counties as low education counties if "25 percent or more of residents 25-64 years old had neither a high school diploma nor GED in 2000." In West Virginia, 13 counties are classified as low education counties (3 metro and 10 nonmetro counties).

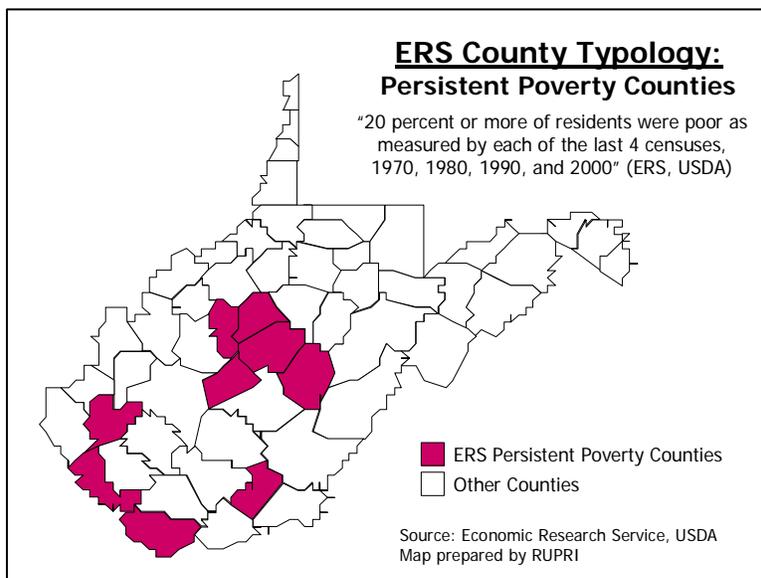


Poverty

The poverty rate in West Virginia in 2003 was 16.3 percent, compared to 12.5 percent for the U.S. (Census Bureau estimates). The poverty rate in West Virginia counties ranged from 9.3 percent in Jefferson County to 32.4 percent in McDowell County.

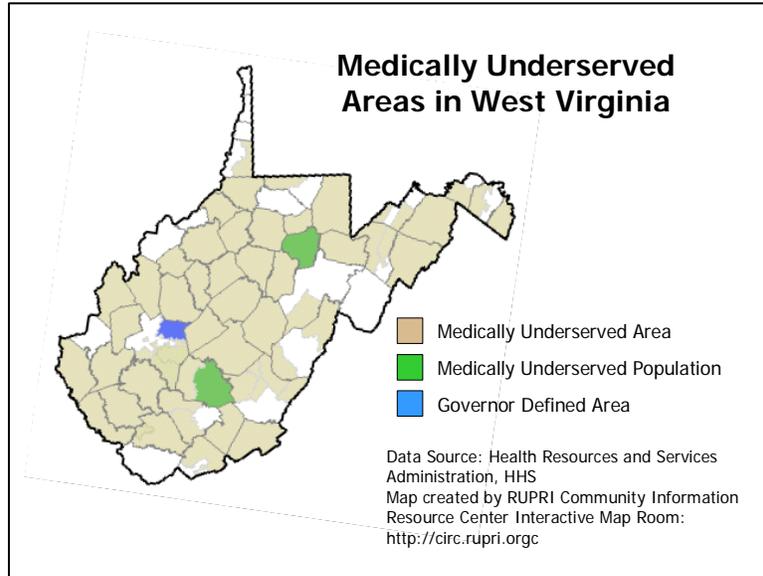


The Economic Research Service classifies counties as persistent poverty counties if the poverty rate was 20 percent or higher in the 1970, 1980, 1990, and 2000 Census. Nationally, 386 counties are classified as persistent poverty counties, and 9 are located in West Virginia (2 metro and 7 nonmetro counties).

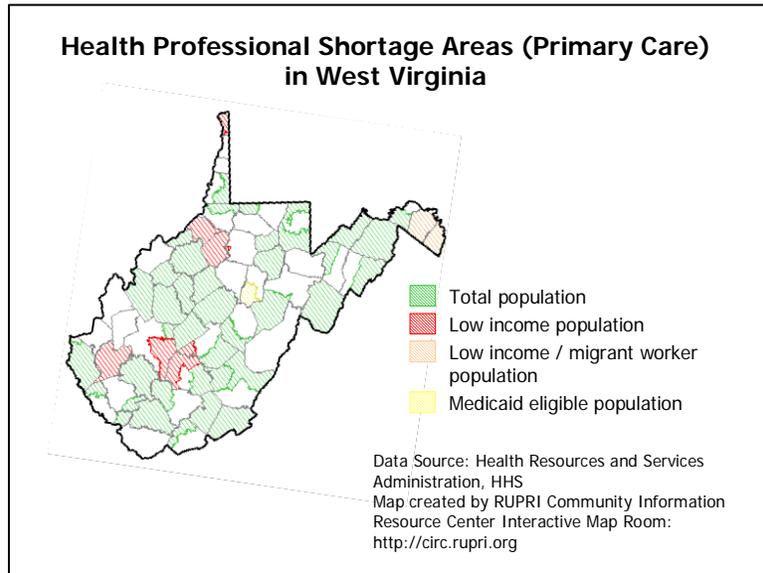


Health Services

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

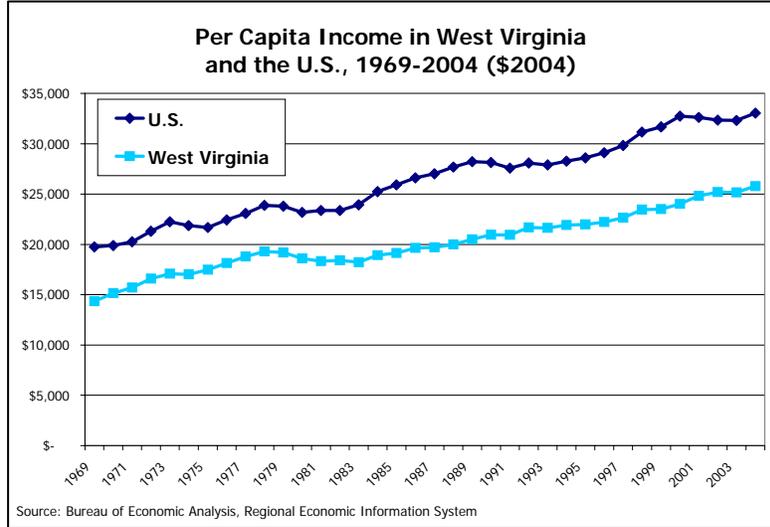


Health Professional Shortage Areas (HPSAs) are those areas that “may have shortages of primary medical care, dental or mental health providers and may be urban or rural areas, population groups, or medical or other public facilities” (Health Resources and Services Administration, HHS). Within West Virginia,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

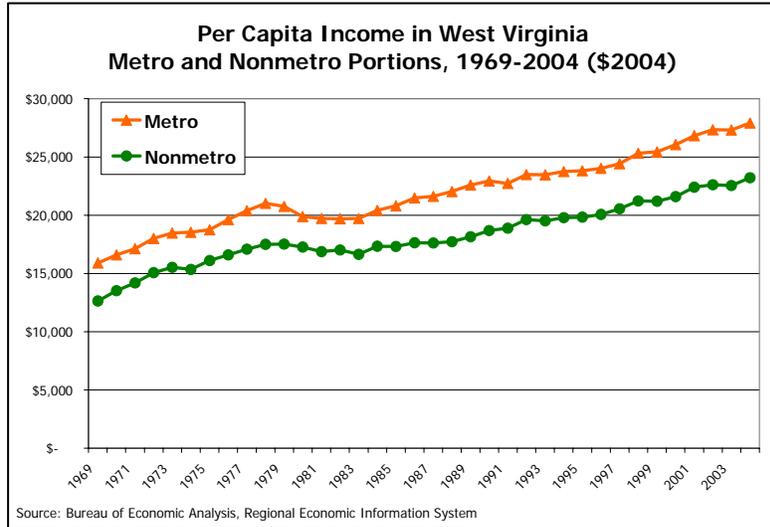


Per Capita Income

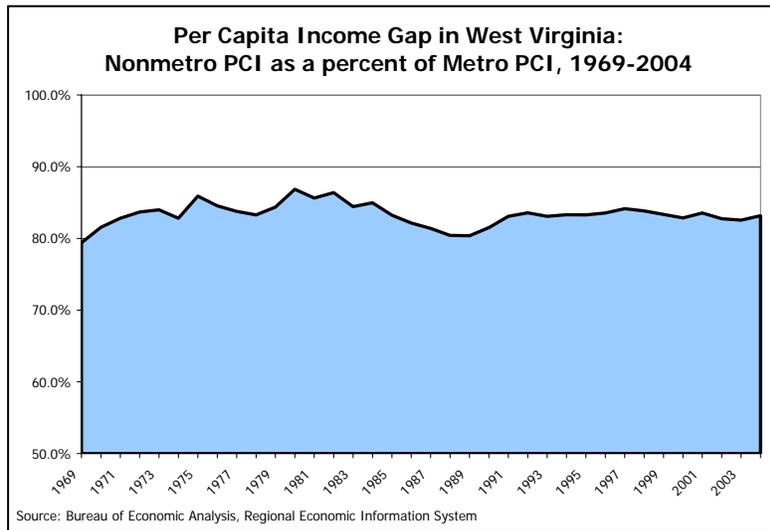
Per capita income in West Virginia has lagged behind the nation over the past several decades. In 2004, per capita income in West Virginia was \$25,792, compared to \$33,050 for the U.S.



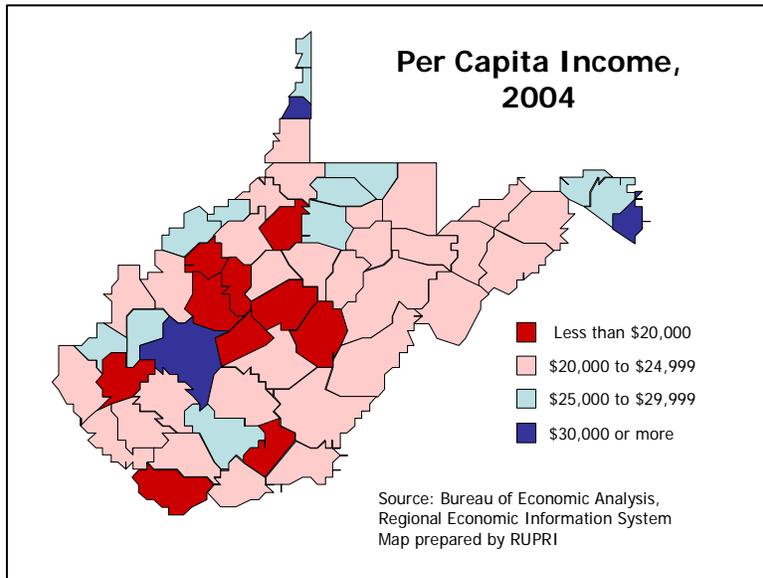
Nonmetro per capita income in West Virginia has lagged behind metro throughout the past several decades. In 2004, metro per capita income was \$27,912, compared to \$23,208 in nonmetro areas.



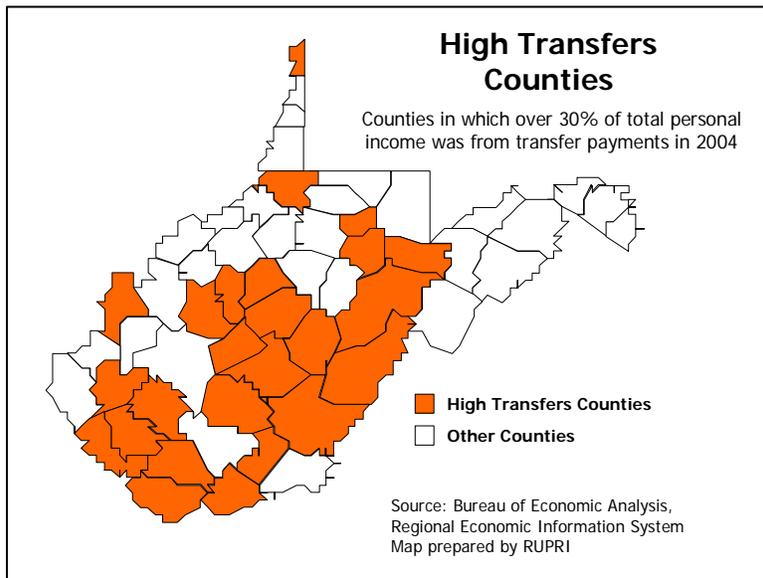
The per capita income gap is measured with nonmetro per capita income as a percent of metro per capita income. In West Virginia, the gap was at its highest in 1969, and at its lowest in 1980. In 2004, nonmetro per capita income was 83.1 percent of metro per capita income.



Within West Virginia, 2004 per capita income ranged from \$15,992 in Clay County to \$34,208 in Kanawha County. Ten counties in West Virginia had per capita income less than \$20,000 in 2004, and only 3 counties had per capita income over \$30,000.

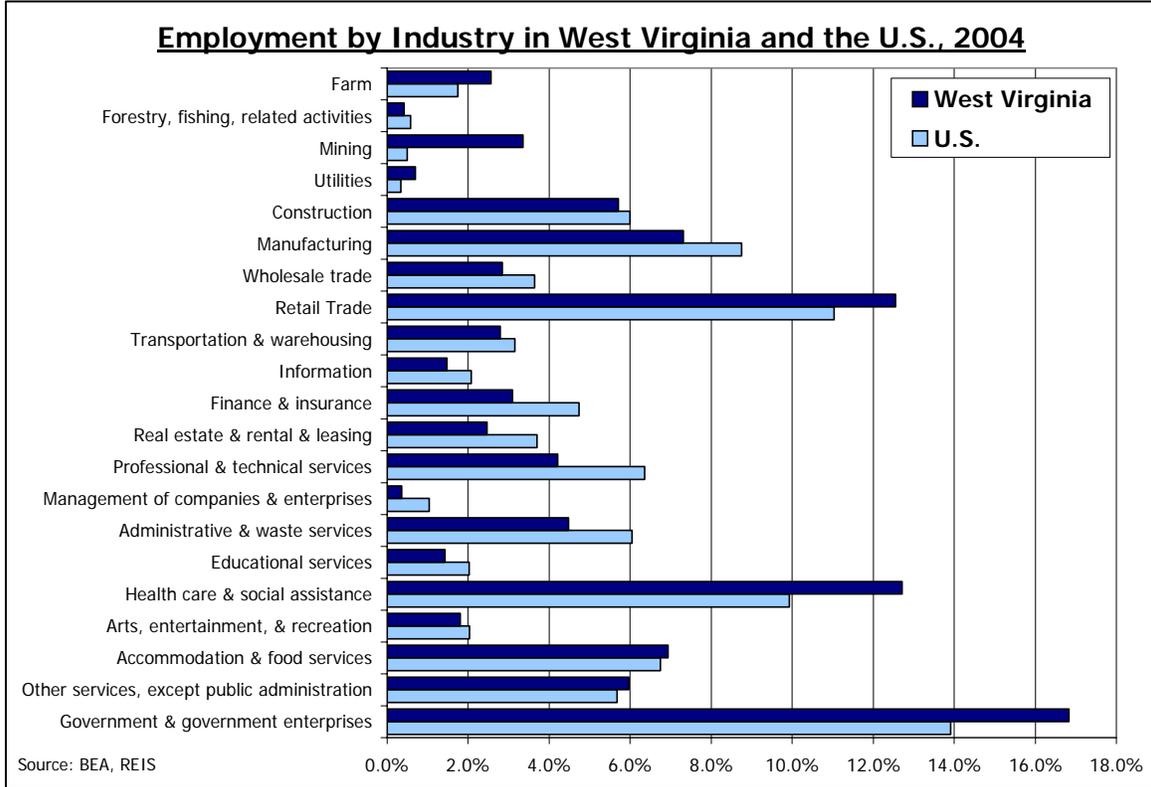


Transfer payments include retirement and disability payments, social security benefits, public assistance, and medical benefits. In West Virginia, 25 counties' incomes rely significantly on transfer payment. In these counties, shown in the map below, transfer payments account for over 30 percent of total personal income in the county. In McDowell County, over 50 percent of total personal income is from transfer payments.

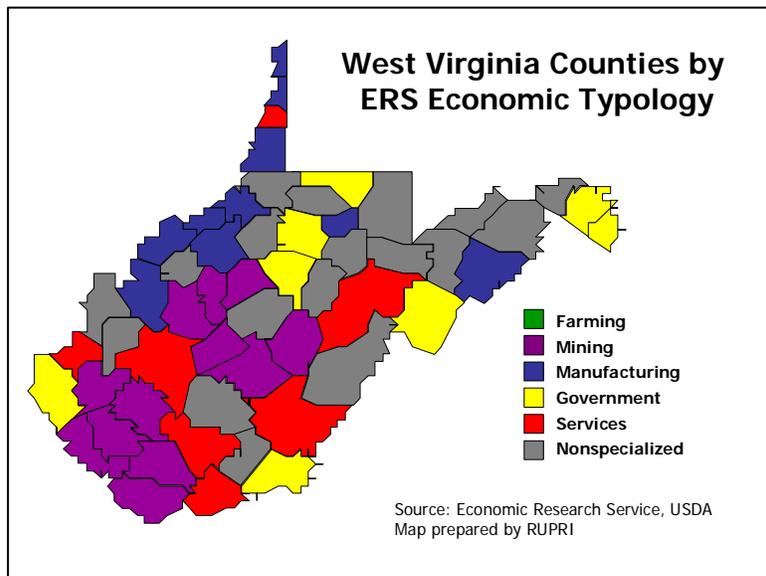


Employment Structure

In 2004, government and government enterprises accounted for the largest share of employment in West Virginia (16.8%) and the U.S. (13.9%). Health care and social assistance made up the second largest employment sector in West Virginia (12.7%).

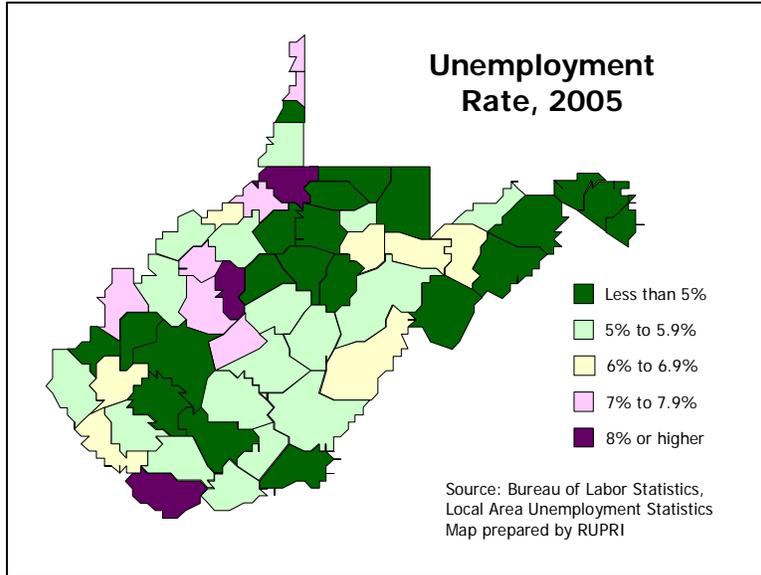


The ERS Economic Typology classifies counties into one of five industry categories of specialization or as nonspecialized. The map to the right shows the classification of West Virginia counties by this typology, illustrating the importance of mining in many parts of the state.

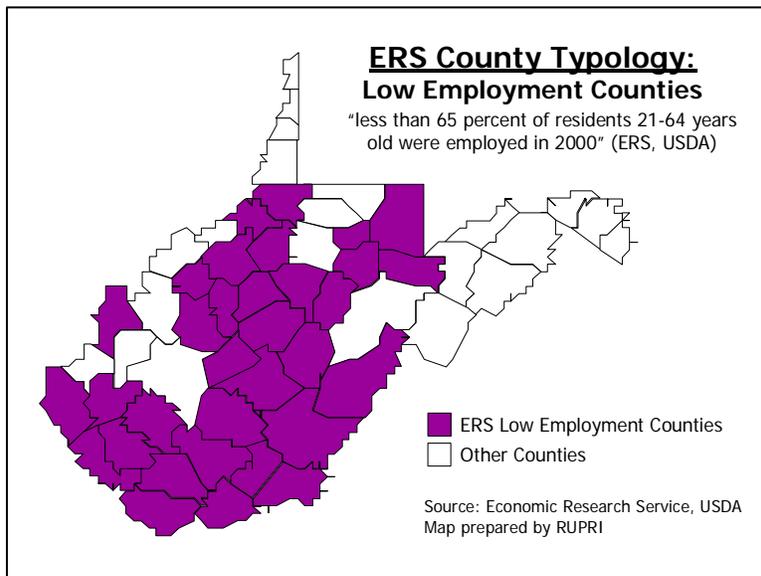


Unemployment

In 2005 the unemployment rate in West Virginia was 5.0 percent, compared to 5.1 percent for the nation. Within West Virginia, the unemployment rate ranged from 3.0 percent in Jefferson County to 9.2 percent in Wetzel County.

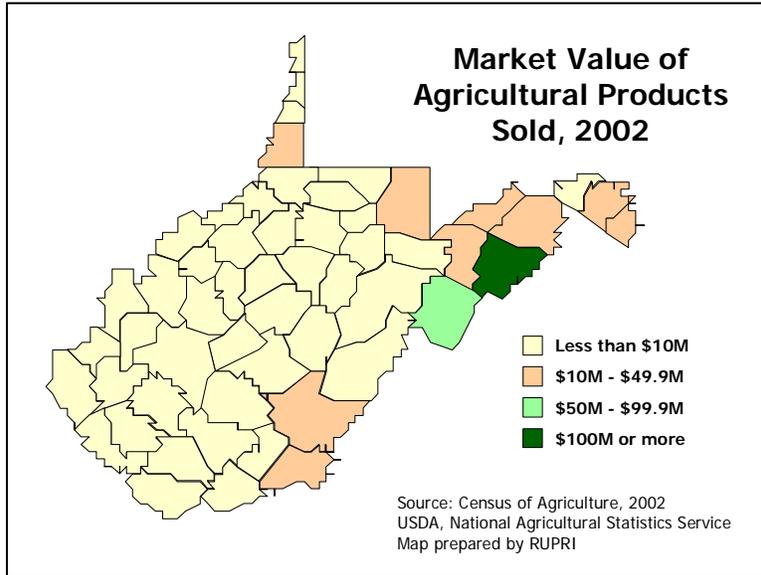


The Economic Research Service classifies counties as low employment counties if “less than 65 percent of residents 21-64 years old were employed in 2000.” In West Virginia, 33 counties are classified as low employment counties, 6 metro and 27 nonmetro counties).

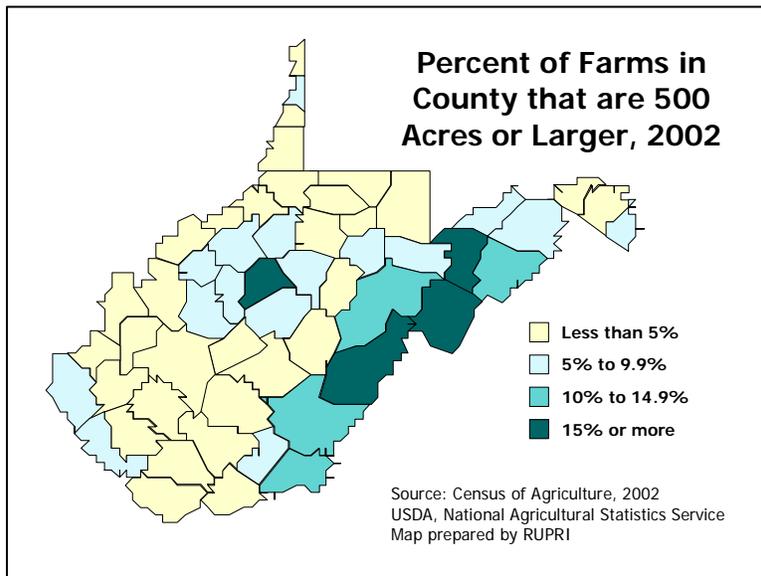


Agriculture

Though agriculture is not the dominant industry in West Virginia, it does represent an important part of the economy in several parts of the state. The map below shows the value of agricultural products sold in 2002 for West Virginia Counties. In Hardy County, the value of agricultural products was over \$100 million.

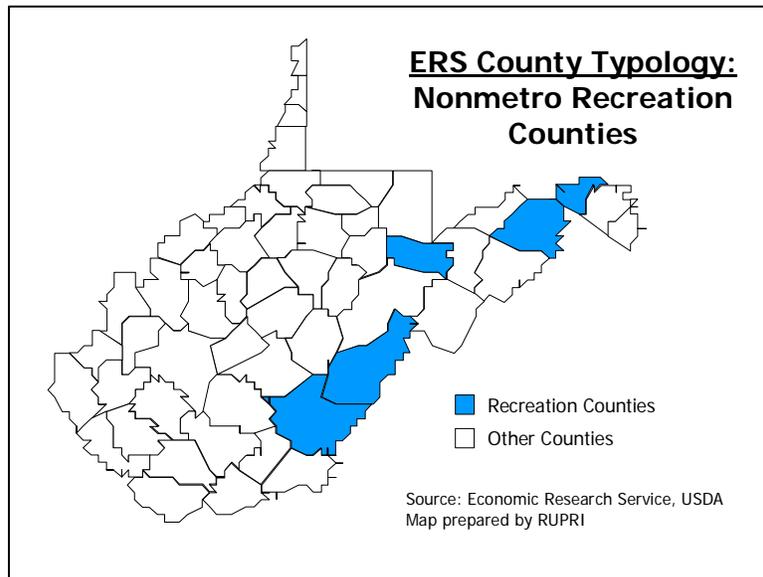


Average farm size in West Virginia is 172 acres, and 6.3 percent of the farms are 500 acres or larger.



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 five are located in West Virginia. Counties that were nonmetro in 1993 *or* in 2003 are classified. Morgan and Hampshire counties were nonmetro in 1993, but changed to metro for the 2003 classifications.



Data Sources and References

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

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<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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