



rural policy research institute

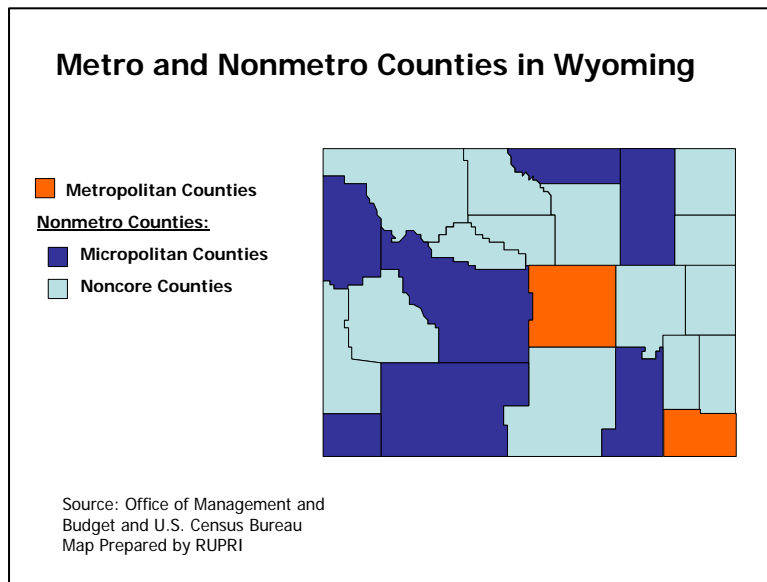
Demographic and Economic Profile

Wyoming

Updated October 2006

Metro and Nonmetro Counties in Wyoming

Based on the most recent listing of core based statistical areas by the Office of Management and Budget, 2 counties in Wyoming are part of metropolitan areas, and 7 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 14 counties in Wyoming are considered noncore counties. Using these classifications and the population estimates for 2005, 30.4 percent of Wyoming residents live in metropolitan areas, 41.1 percent live in micropolitan areas, and 28.5 percent live in noncore areas.

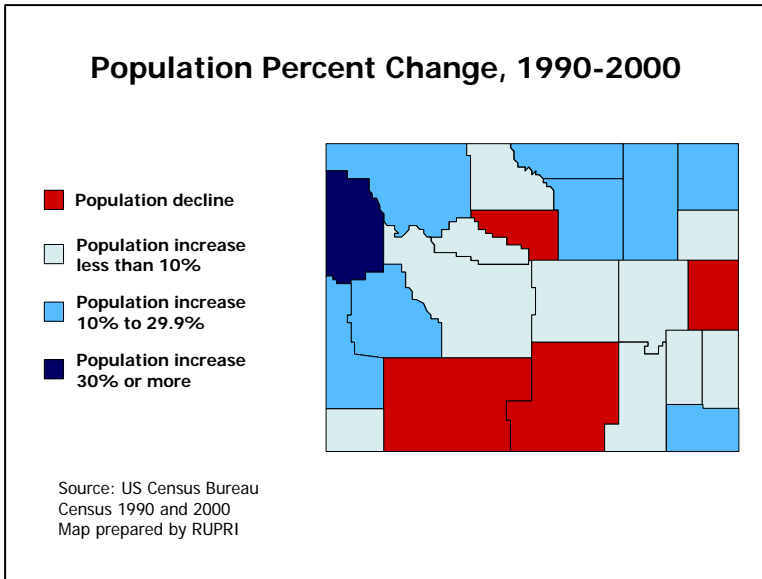


Population

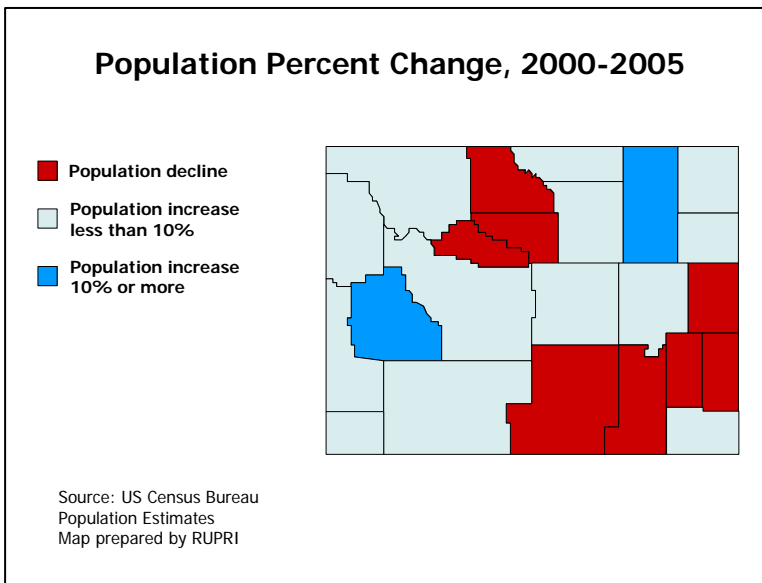
Wyoming's population in July of 2005 was 509,294, up 3.1 percent from the 2000 Census. During the 1990s, the population in Wyoming increased 8.9 percent. Nationally, population increased 13.1 percent during the 1990s and 5.3 percent from April 2000 to July 2005. The population growth in Wyoming metropolitan areas outpaced the nonmetropolitan areas in both time periods.

| Percent Change in Population | | |
|------------------------------|--------------|-------------|
| Area: | 1990-2000 | 2000-2005 |
| U.S. | 13.1% | 5.3% |
| Wyoming | 8.9% | 3.1% |
| Metropolitan | 10.2% | 4.6% |
| Nonmetropolitan | 8.3% | 2.5% |
| Micropolitan | 9.5% | 2.7% |
| Noncore | 6.6% | 2.3% |

Source: U.S. Census Bureau

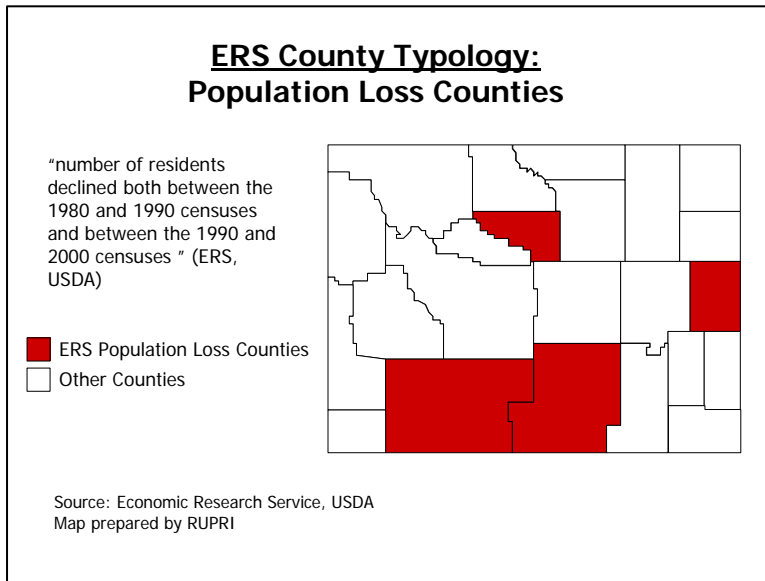


During the 1990s, 4 counties in Wyoming lost population, all of them nonmetro. The fastest growth in this time period was in Teton County in the Jackson Micropolitan Area, with a population increase of 63.3 percent over the decade.



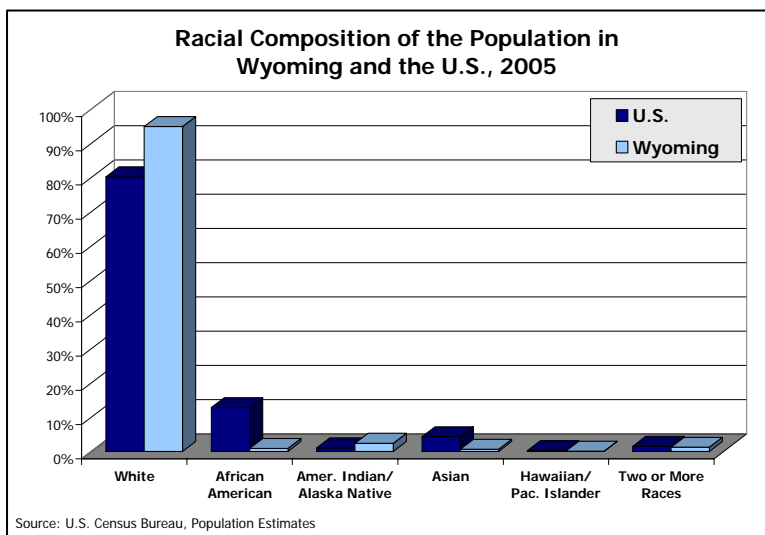
From 2000 to 2005, 8 counties in Wyoming lost population, all of them nonmetro. The fastest growth during this time period was in Sublette County, a noncore county, with a population increase of 17.0 percent during the time period.

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 Wyoming, 4 counties, all nonmetro, are classified as population loss counties.

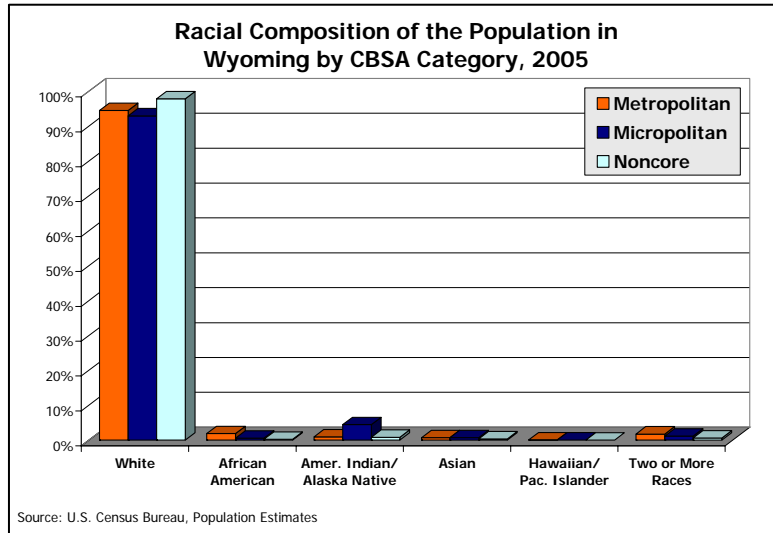


Race / Ethnicity

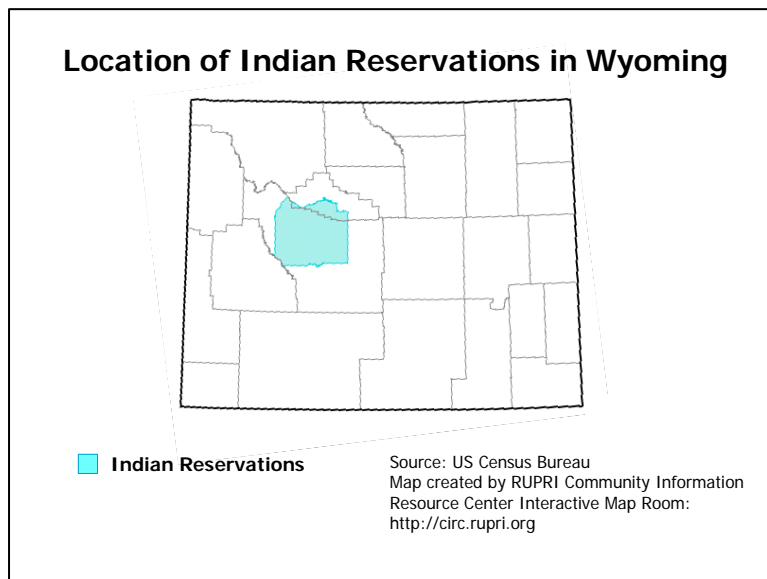
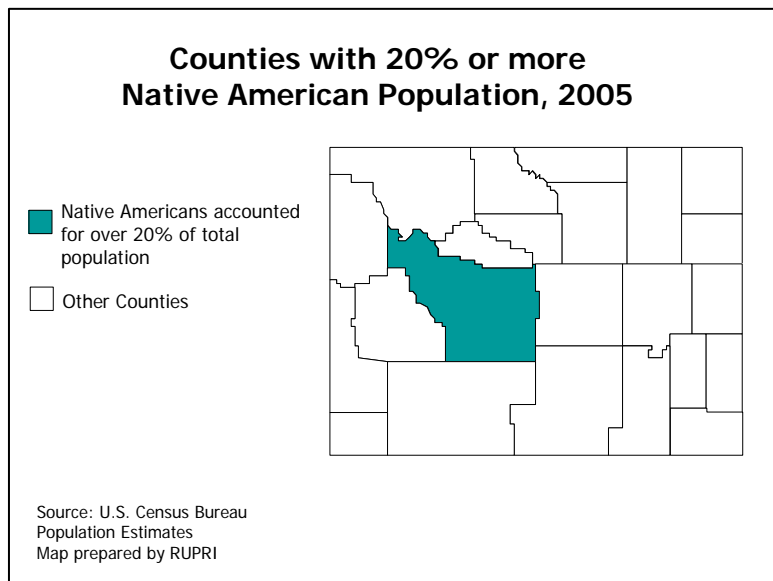
The population in Wyoming is 94.8 percent white, 0.9 percent African American, and 2.4 percent Native American. Nationally, the population is 80.2 percent white, 12.8 percent African American, and 1.0 percent Native American (2005 Census Bureau population estimates).



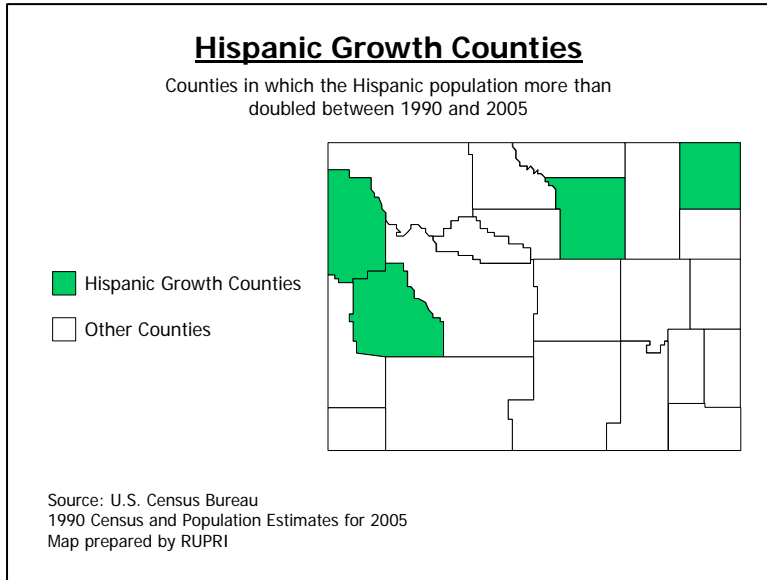
Within Wyoming, the metropolitan population is 94.5 percent white, 1.9 percent African American, and 1.0 percent Native American. The micropolitan population is 93.0 percent white, 0.6 percent African American, and 4.5 percent Native American. The noncore population is 97.9 percent white, 0.3 percent African American, and 0.8 percent Native American.



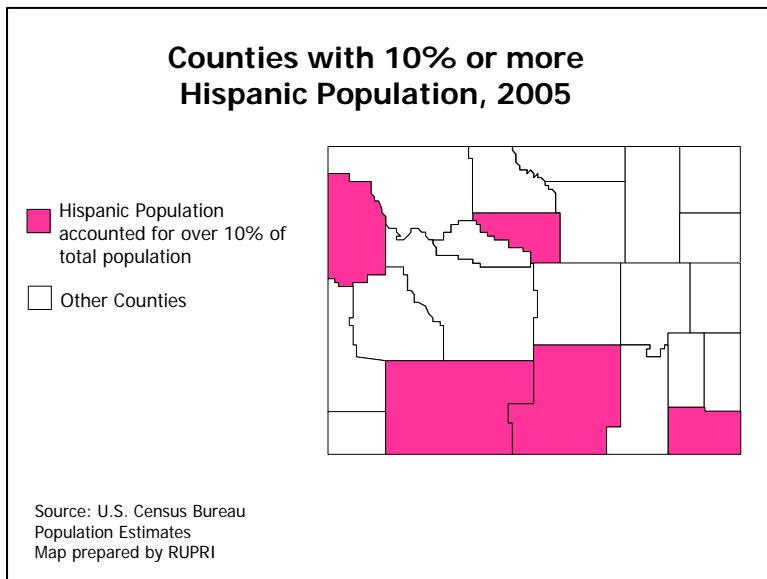
Native Americans make up a significant portion of total population in Fremont County (20.6%), shown in the map to the right. The map below shows the location of Indian Reservations in Wyoming.



People of Hispanic origin make up 6.7 percent of Wyoming’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 Wyoming, the Hispanic population more than doubled in 4 counties from 1990 to 2005.

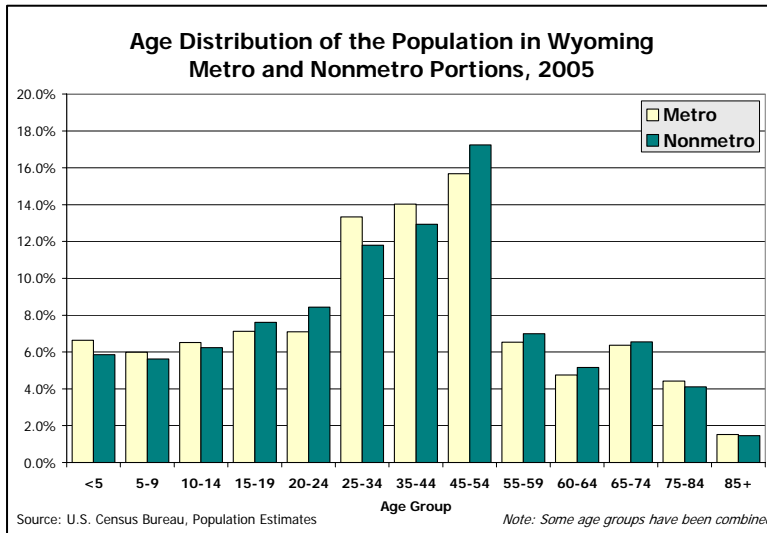


The Hispanic population accounts for over 10 percent of total population in 5 Wyoming Counties: Carbon (13.0%), Washakie (12.3%), Laramie (10.9%), Sweetwater (10.5%), and Teton (10.3%).

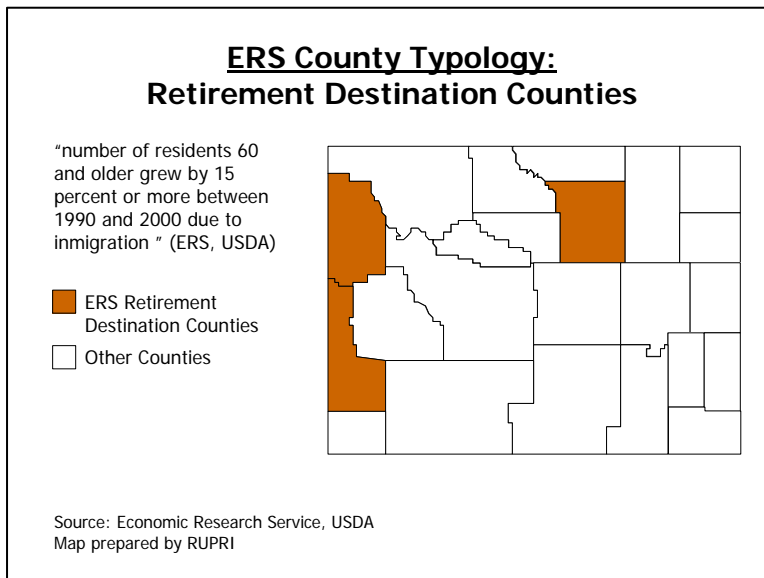


Age

The chart below shows the age distribution of the metro and nonmetro populations in Wyoming. The percent of the population in the 25 to 44 age groups is higher in the metropolitan areas, while the percent of population in the 45 to 74 age groups is higher in the nonmetropolitan areas.

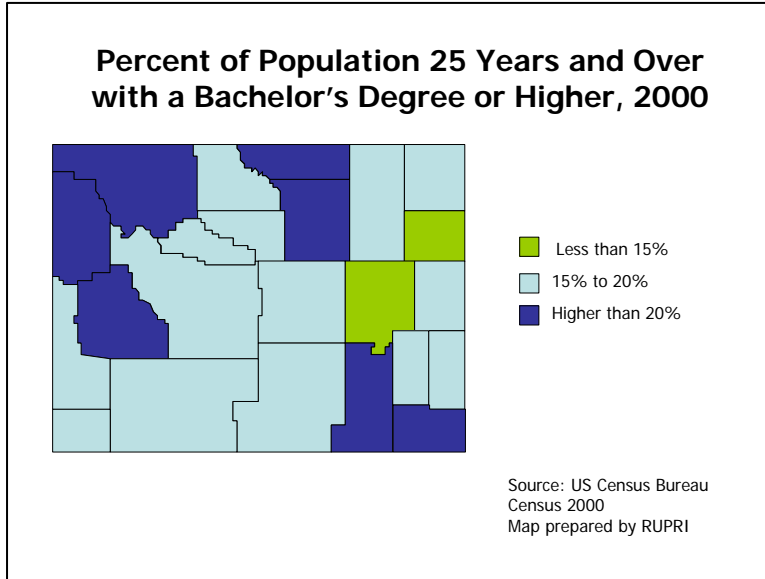


The Economic Research Service classifies counties as retirement destination counties based on population change due to immigration. In Wyoming, 3 counties, all nonmetro, are classified as retirement destination counties.

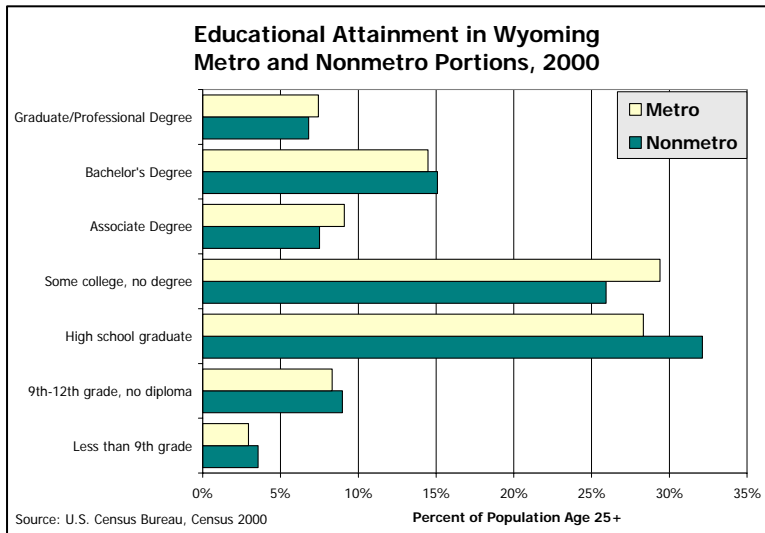


Educational Attainment

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 21.9 percent in Wyoming. In both metro and nonmetro areas of Wyoming, this percentage is 21.9 percent.

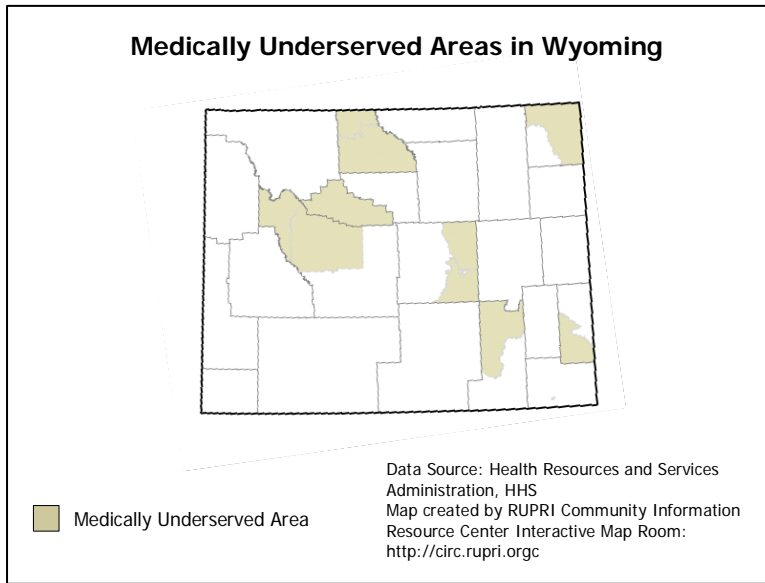


The chart below compares the educational attainment of Wyoming's metro and nonmetro populations. The percent of the population with lower educational attainment (high school degree or lower) is greater in the nonmetro areas. The percent of the population with the highest educational attainment (graduate/professional degree) is higher in the metro areas.

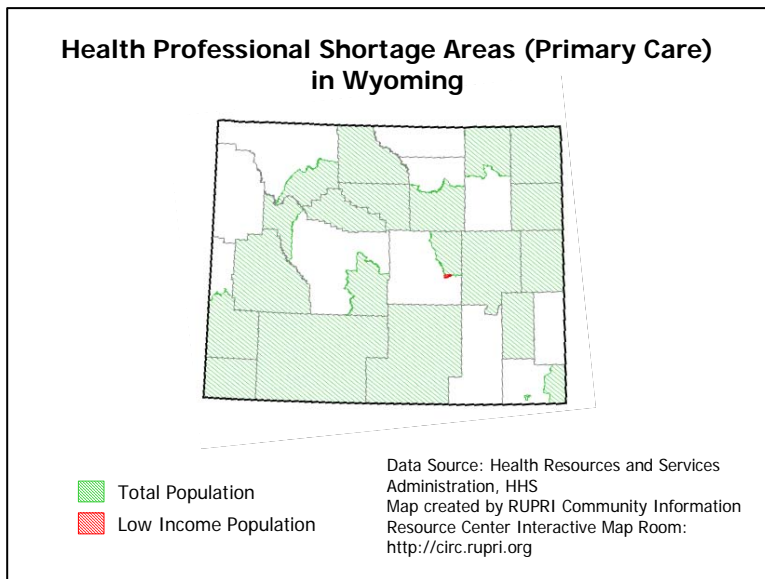


Health Services

The designation of areas or populations as medically underserved is based on an index of four variables - the ratio of primary medical 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 or over (Health Resources and Services Administration, HHS). Within Wyoming, many portions of the state are classified as medically underserved areas, illustrated in the map below.

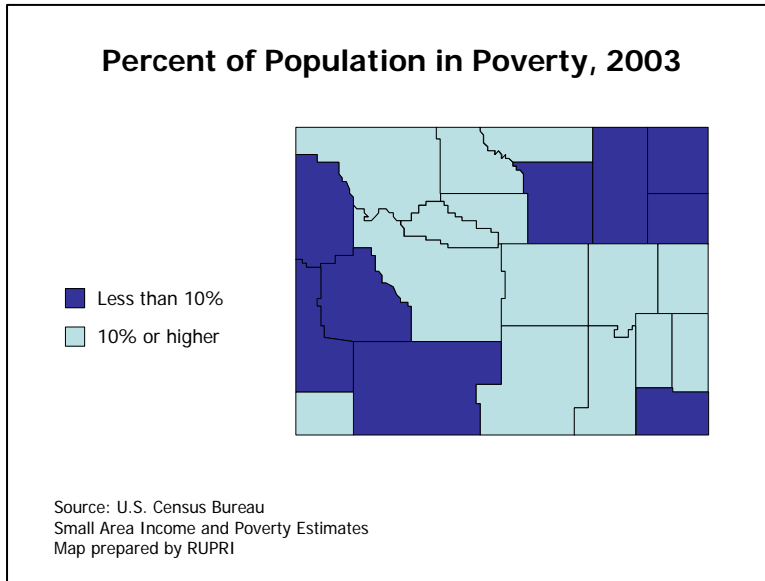


Health Professional Shortage Areas (HPSAs) are those areas that may “have shortages of primary medical care, dental or mental health providers and may be urban or rural areas, population groups, or medical or other public facilities.” (Health Resources and Services Administration, HHS). Within Wyoming,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



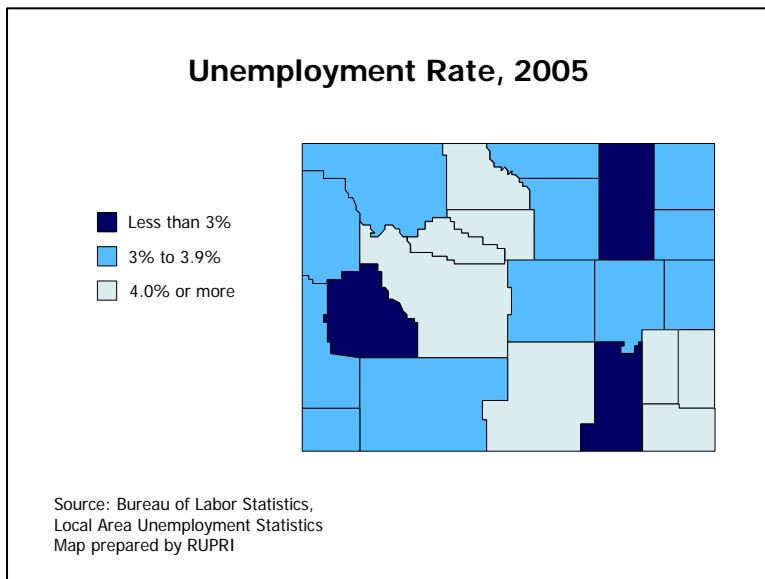
Poverty

The poverty rate in Wyoming in 2003 was 10.8 percent, compared to 12.5 percent for the U.S. (Census Bureau estimates). Within Wyoming, the 2003 poverty rate ranged from 5.6 percent in Teton County to 14.6 percent in Goshen County.



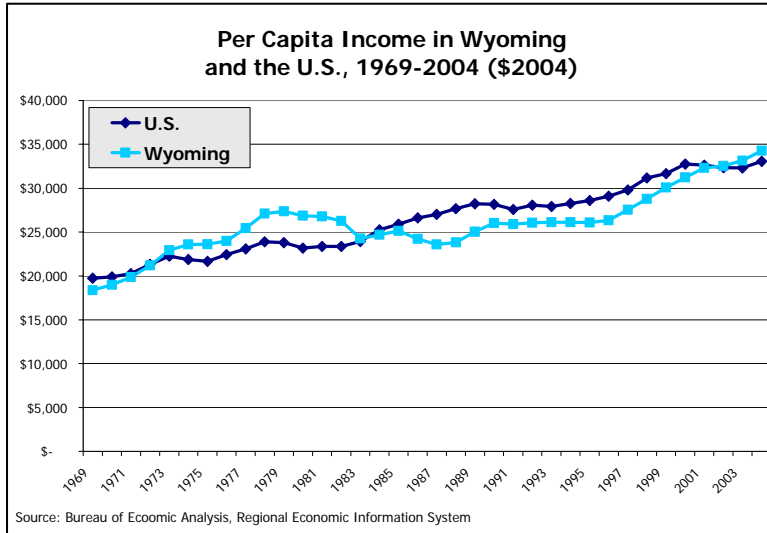
Unemployment

The unemployment rate in Wyoming in 2005 was 3.6 percent, compared to 5.1 percent nationally. Within Wyoming, the unemployment rate ranged from 1.8 percent in Sublette County to 4.8 percent in Platte County.

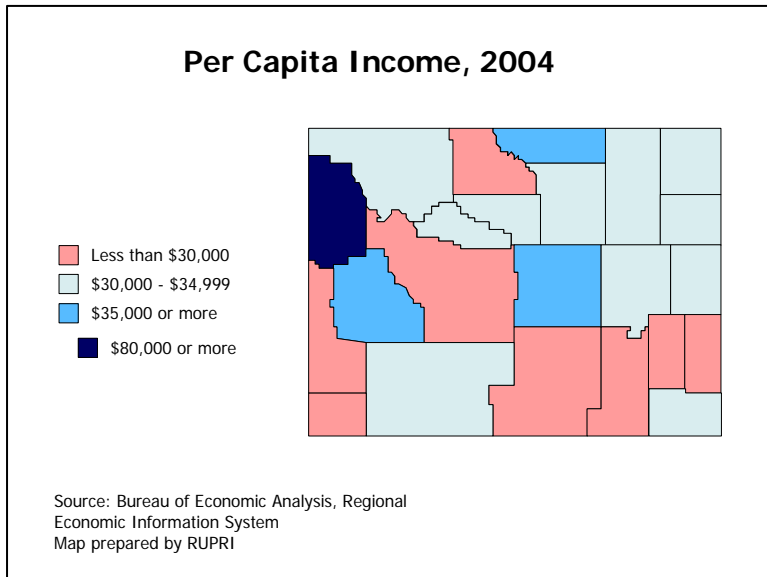


Per Capita Income

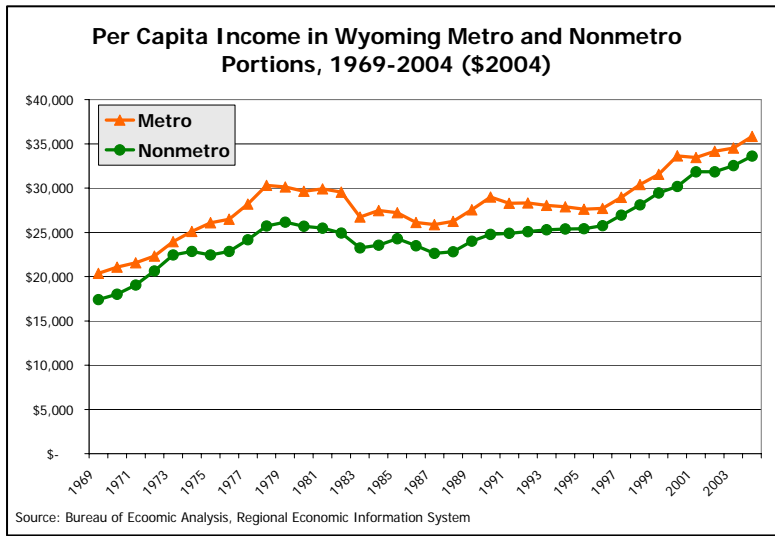
Per capita income trends in Wyoming have matched national trends over the past several decades, with Wyoming's income exceeding the national income from 1973 through 1983, and from 2002 to 2004. In 2004, per capita income in Wyoming was \$34,279, compared to \$33,050 for the U.S.



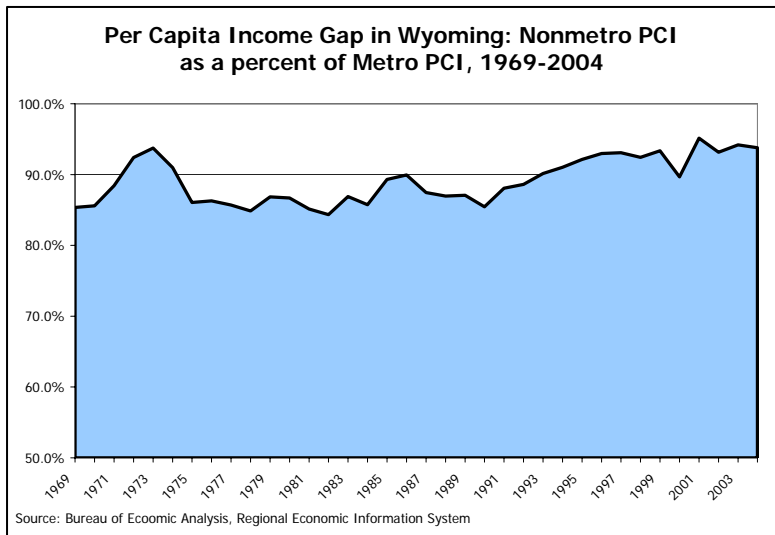
Within Wyoming, 2004 per capita income ranged from \$24,132 in Big Horn County to \$81,231 in Teton County.



Nonmetro per capita income in Wyoming has lagged slightly behind metro per capita income over the past several decades. In 2004, metro per capita income was \$35,832, compared to \$33,599 in nonmetro areas.

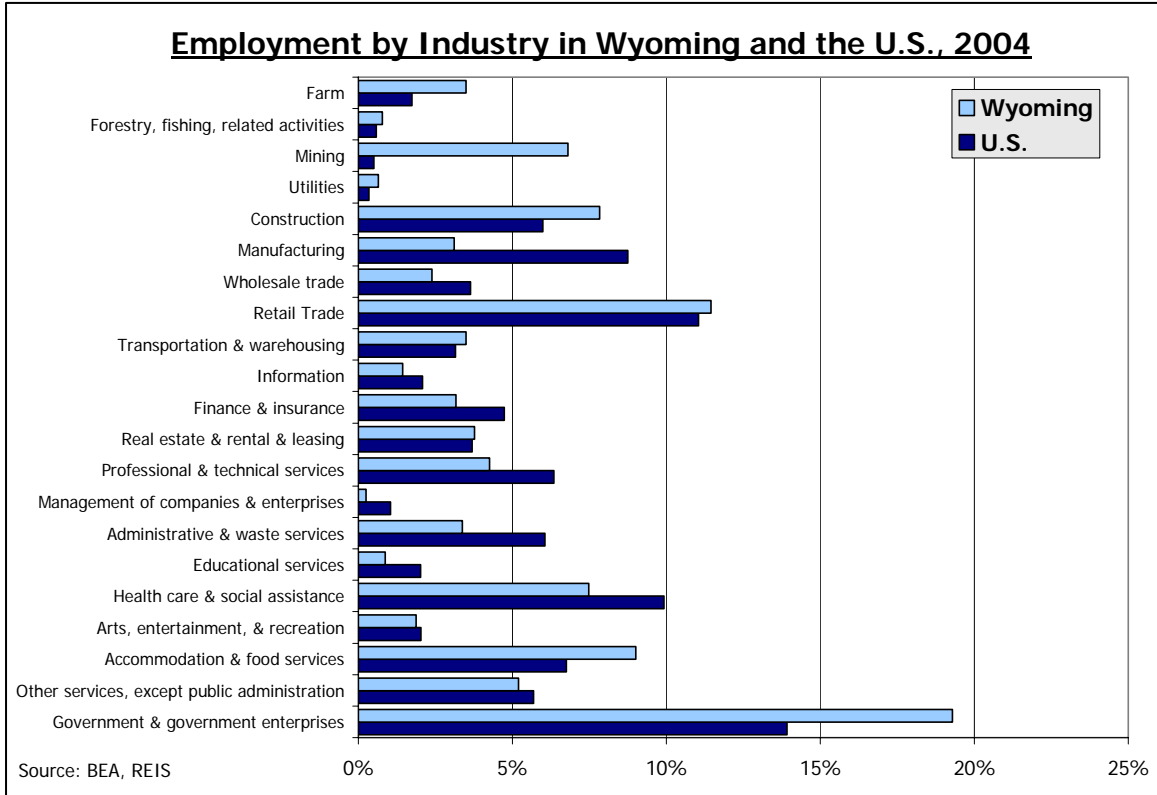


The per capita income gap is measured with nonmetro per capita income as a percent of metro per capita income. In Wyoming, the gap was at its largest in 1982 and at its smallest in 2001. In 2004, nonmetro per capita income was 93.8 percent of metro per capita income.

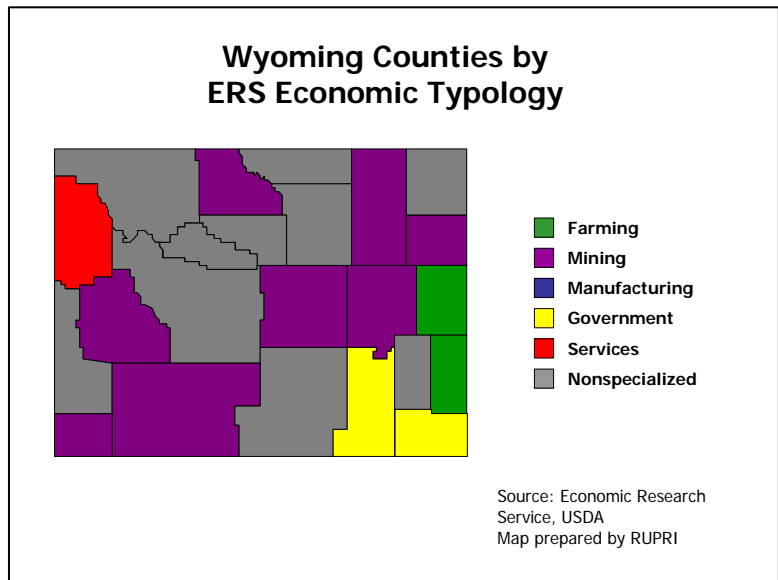


Employment

In 2004, government and government enterprises accounted for the largest shares of employment in Wyoming (19.3%) and the U.S. (13.9%). Retail trade was the second largest employment sector in both Wyoming (11.4%) and the U.S. (11.0%).

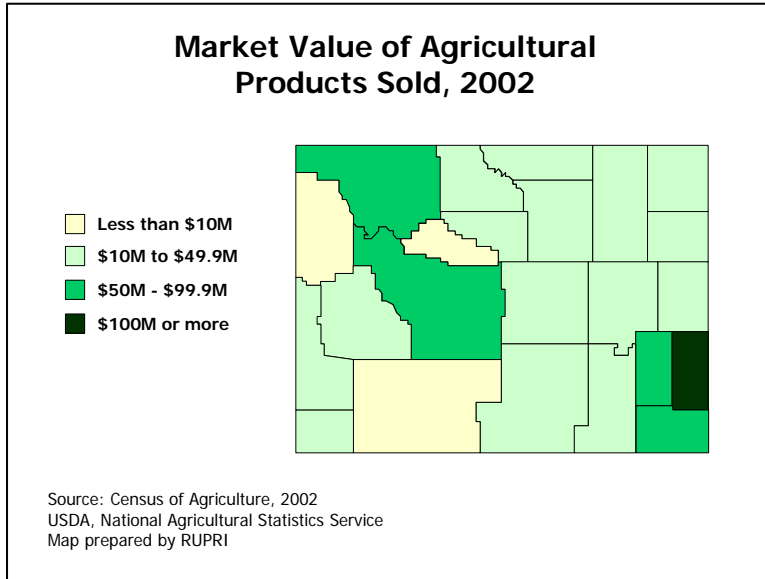


The ERS Economic Typology classifies counties into one of five industry categories of specialization or as nonspecialized. The map to the right shows the classification of Wyoming counties by this typology, illustrating the importance of mining throughout the state.

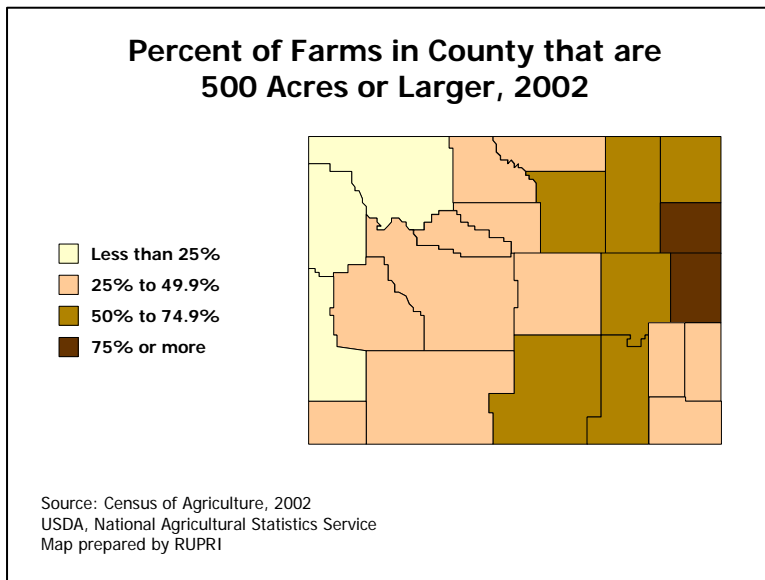


Agriculture

Agriculture is an important industry in several parts of Wyoming, and two counties are classified by the Economic Research Service as farming dependent (see map on previous page). The map below shows the value of agricultural products sold in 2002 in Wyoming counties. In Goshen County, the value was over \$100 million.



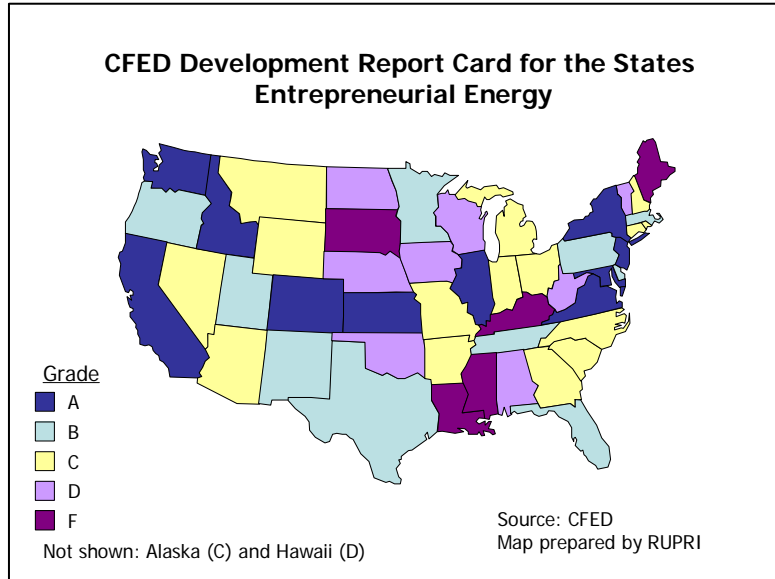
Average farm size in Wyoming is 3,651 acres, and 44.5 percent of the farms are 500 acres or larger. Over 25 percent of farms in the state are 2,000 acres or larger.



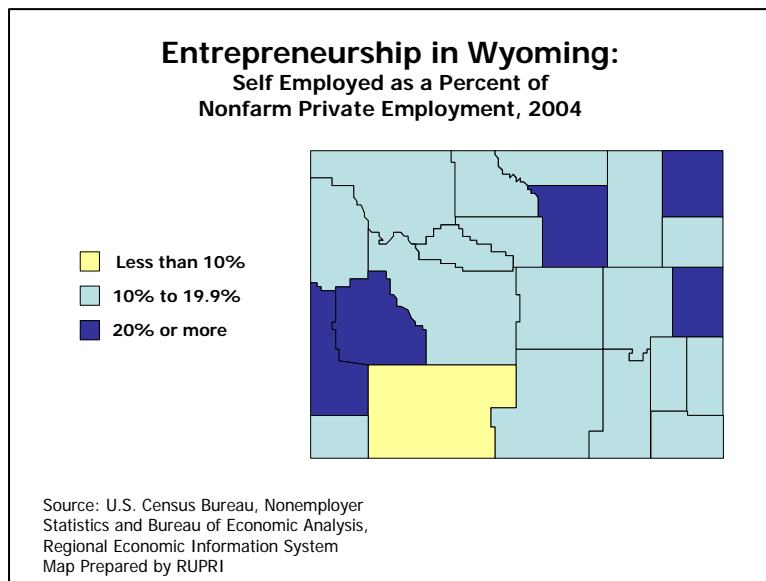
Entrepreneurship

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. Wyoming’s ranking is “C”.

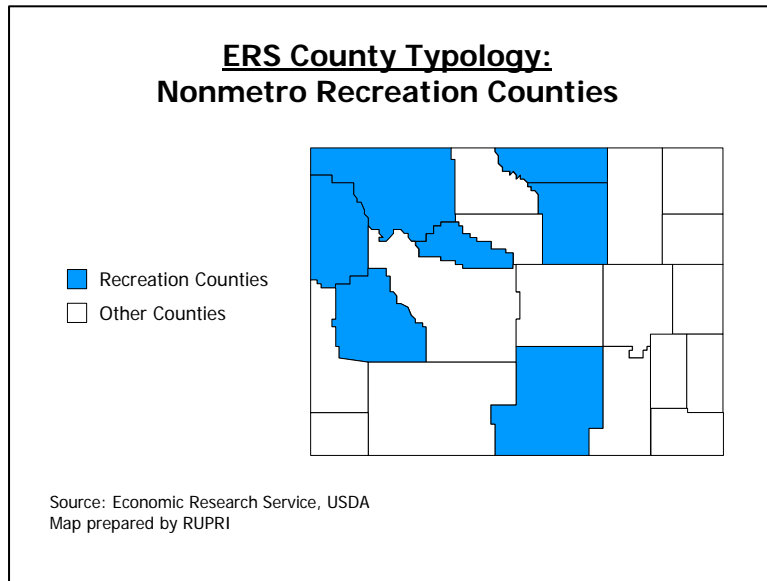


As mentioned, county level indicators of entrepreneurship are difficult to ascertain, but a good indicator is the proportion of workers that are self employed. The map below shows self employed workers as a percent of nonfarm private employment in the county.



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 7 are located in Wyoming.



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>

For Comments and Questions on this Report:

Kathleen K. Miller
RUPRI Program Director
(573) 882-5098
miller@rupri.org

Contact RUPRI

Rural Policy Research Institute
Truman School of Public Affairs
University of Missouri-Columbia
214 Middlebush Hall
Columbia, MO 65211
(573) 882-0316 Voice
[573] 884=5310 FAX

<http://www.rupri.org>