Contemporary rural policy challenges—demographic change

Population and regeneration strategies:
- Ageing
- Youth and migration
- Poverty and regeneration

The case of the United States
- Regional differences are important

Judy Stallmann
University of Missouri
ICRPS-Scotland, 2009
Population

- Decline in the midsection
- All reasons contribute to decline
  - Low natural increase
  - Outmigration
  - Deaths of the elderly
- Growth in number of Hispanics attracted to packing plants, food processing or tourism
- African Americans remain concentrated in the South and urban areas
- No specific re-population policies


Source: Economic Research Service, USDA
Nonmetro natural increase in population, 1990-99

Source: Calculated by ERS using data from the U.S. Census Bureau.
Nonmetro net migration, 1990-99

Source: Calculated by ERS using data from the U.S. Census Bureau.
Nonmetro change in the population age 65 and over, 1990-99

Percent change
- No growth or decline
- Modest growth (less than 10.6%)
- Rapid growth
- Metro counties

Source: Calculated by ERS using data from the U.S. Census Bureau.
Blacks as a percent of the total population, 1990

Blacks as a percent of the total population, 2000

Source: Calculated by ERS using data from the 1990 Census of Population.

Source: Calculated by ERS using data from the 2000 Census of Population.
Rural incomes and employment

- Rural incomes lower than urban
- Rural education lower than urban
- Rural poverty exceeds urban poverty
- Persistent poverty counties
Real earnings per nonfarm job, 1990-2005
2005 dollars

Note: Metro and nonmetro definitions are based on the June 2003 Metropolitan area classification. Source: Prepared by ERS based on data from Bureau of Economic Analysis.
Educational attainment, 1980-2000

Low-wage employment share by metro status, 1979-2006

Note: Data are imputed for 1984, 1994, and 2004 due to change in metro/nonmetro definitions. Source: Calculated by ERS using data from the Current Population Survey.
Metro and nonmetro poverty rates, 1959-2006

Percent

http://thes.wordpress.com/2009/02/12/us-unemployment-map/
Poverty rates by education level, 2006 (persons age 25+)

Percent in poverty

Nonmetro | Metro
---|---
Less than high school graduate | 24.7 | 22.5
High school graduate | 11.6 | 10.4
Some college | 8.3 | 7.3
Bachelor degree or more | 4.4 | 3.5

Poverty rates by region and metro status, 2006

Persistent Poverty Counties, 1970-2000

Persistent poverty counties—20 percent or more residents were poor as measured by each of the last four censuses, 1970, 1980, 1990, and 2000.

Source: Economic Research Service, USDA.
Regeneration

- Ethanol
- Tourism (including retirement migration)
- The mailbox economy
- Entrepreneurship
- Broadband access
- Urban Fringe
  - Commuting
  - Concern with loss of farmland and use conflicts with urban neighbors (dust, smell, noise)
NBB map of 105 biodiesel plants in February 2007

http://www.seco.cpa.state.tx.us/re_biodiesel.htm
Natural amenities scale

Standard deviations from mean
- Over 3 - High amenities
- 2 to 3
- 1 to 2
- 0 to 1
- 0 to -1
- -1 to -2
- Over -2 - Low amenities

Sources of government transfer payments to individuals in nonmetro America, 2005

Income maintenance programs account for less than 11 percent of the $276 billion in government transfers to nonmetro residents

*Consists largely of general assistance, refugee assistance, foster home care and adoption assistance, earned income tax credits, and energy assistance.

Note: Metro and nonmetro definitions are based on the June 2003 Metropolitan area classification. Source: Prepared by the Economic Research Service using data from the Bureau of Economic Analysis.
Retirement Destination Counties, 2000

Retirement destination counties—number of residents 65 and older grew by 15 percent or more between 1990 and 2000 due to immigration.

Source: Economic Research Service, USDA.
Figure 7: Proprietor Employment by RUCC

Source: The Northeast Regional Center for Rural Development
Figure 1: Non-farm Proprietor Jobs as a Percent of All Jobs, 1969-2000, non-metro only

Source: The Northeast Regional Center for Rural Development

Shaded areas represent national recessions (NBER)
Figure 5: Ratio of Average Nonfarm Proprietor Earnings to Average Wage and Salary Earnings: 2000

Source: The Northeast Regional Center for Rural Development
Figure 2: Nonfarm Proprietor Jobs as a Percent of All Nonfarm Jobs: 1998-2000

Source: The Northeast Regional Center for Rural Development

Figure 3: Nonfarm Proprietorships as a Percent of All Nonfarm Jobs: 1970-1972

Source: The Northeast Regional Center for Rural Development
Percent of Internet households with dial-up service by income and residence, 2003

Percent of total

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Income Range</th>
<th>Metro</th>
<th>Nonmetro</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Less than $25,000</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>$25,000 to $49,999</td>
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<td>$50,000 to $74,999</td>
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<td>$75,000 and over</td>
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</tbody>
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Market Penetration of Rural Broadband Internet Access: Percent of Internet Users With Broadband Access, 2003

http://www.ers.usda.gov/Briefing/Telecom/distributionservices.htm
Average commute times in nonmetro counties, 2000

Longest commutes are in mountainous areas and in counties near metro areas

Source: Calculated by ERS using Census Bureau data.