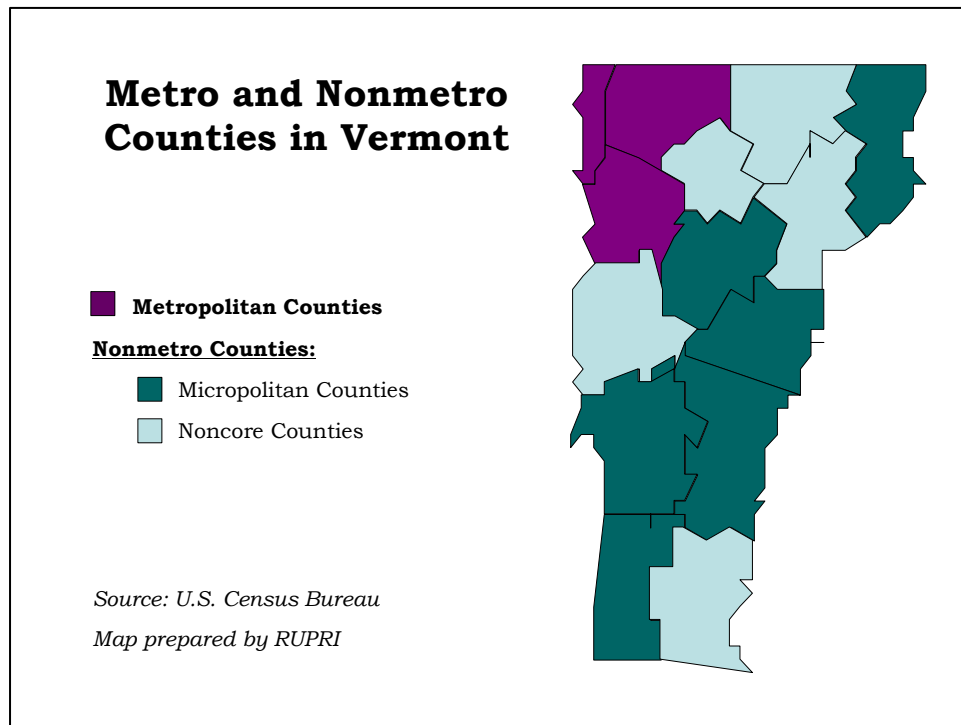


Demographic and Economic Profile

Vermont

Metro and Nonmetro Counties in Vermont

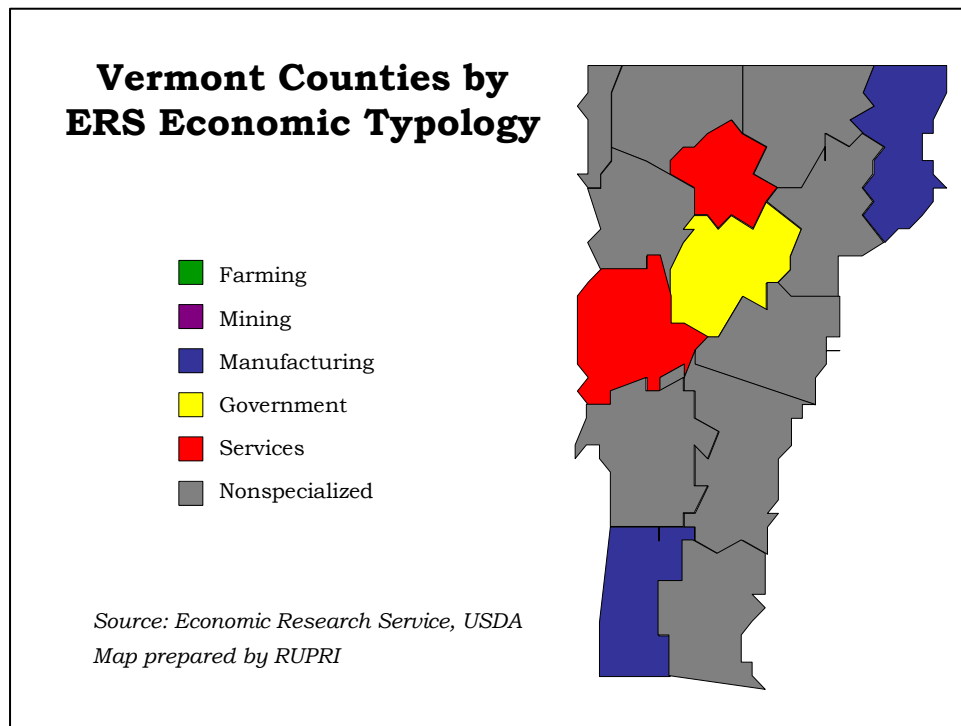
Three of Vermont's counties are part of metropolitan statistical areas. Six counties are part of micropolitan areas. Micropolitan is a new category that includes an urban area with a population of 10,000 to 49,999 and surrounding counties that are linked through commuting ties. The remaining five counties are considered noncore counties. Nearly 33 percent of Vermont's population resides in metropolitan areas, 41.2 percent reside in micropolitan areas, and 26.2 percent reside in noncore areas.



Economic Research Service Typology Classification

The Economic Research Service, USDA, has recently developed an updated classification system for counties, based on their economic specialization. Counties are identified as dependent on farming, mining, manufacturing, government, services, or as nonspecialized. The thresholds are based on the percent of labor and proprietors' earnings derived from that industry during 1998-2000 and in the case of farming the percent of employed residents in farming occupations.¹

The map below shows the classification of Vermont's counties by the ERS Economic Typology.

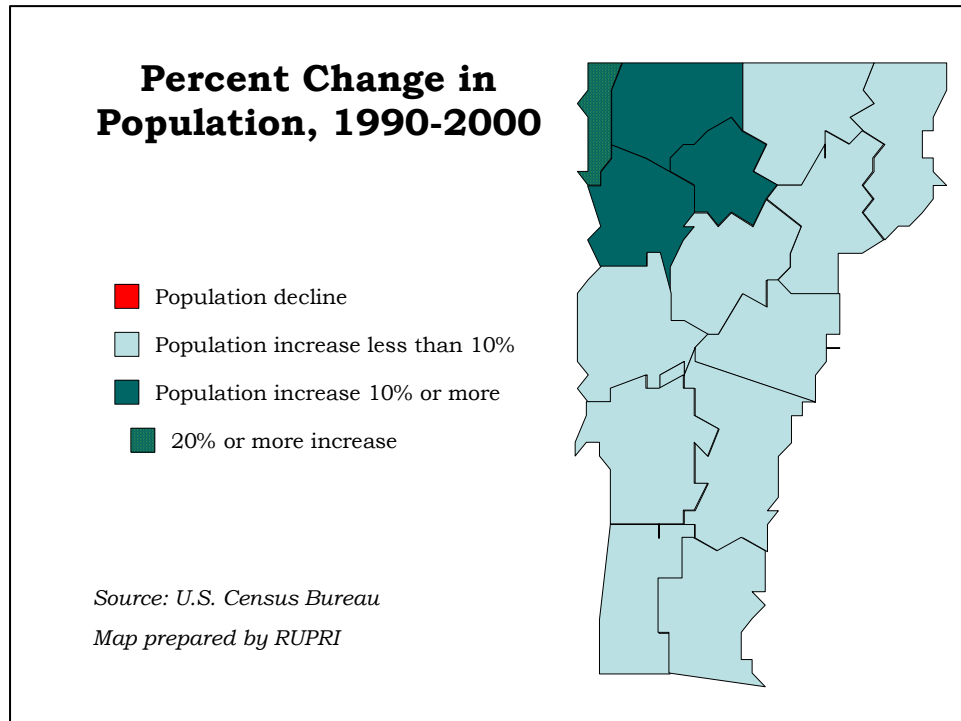


¹ Source: Economic Research Service, USDA. <http://www.ers.usda.gov/Briefing/Rurality/Typology/>.

Population

Vermont's population in 2000 was 608,827, up 8.2 percent from 1990. Nationally, population increased 13.1 percent during the 1990s. The population change in metro counties (based on new classifications) was an increase of 12.3 percent. Nonmetro counties experienced a population increase of 6.3 percent during the 1990s.

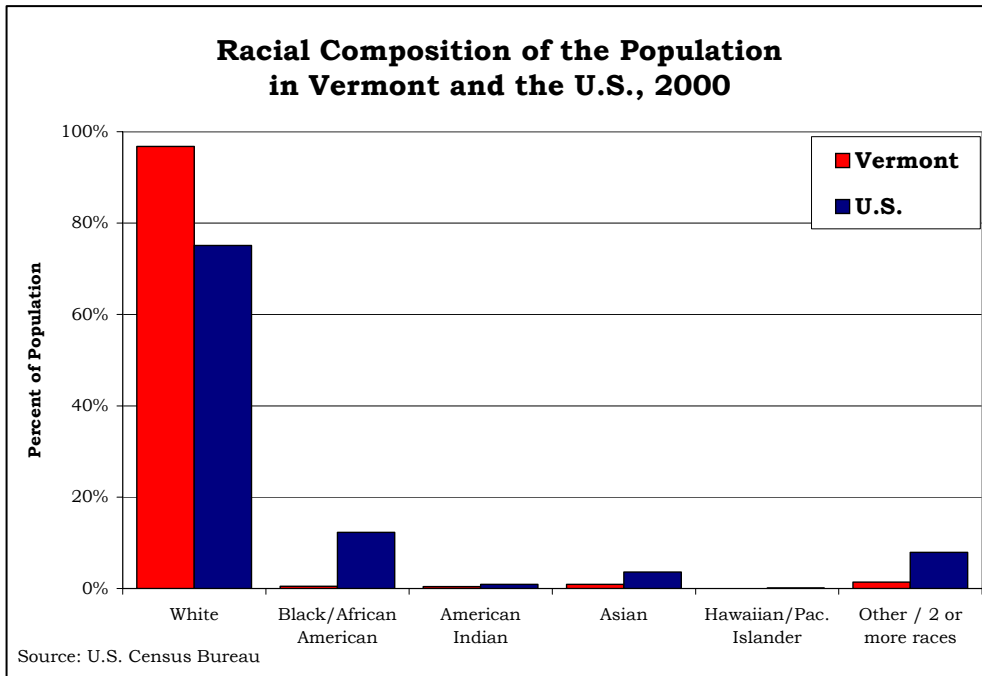
No counties in Vermont lost population during the 1990s. One county (Grand Isle County) experienced a population increase over 20 percent during the 1990s.



Race / Ethnicity

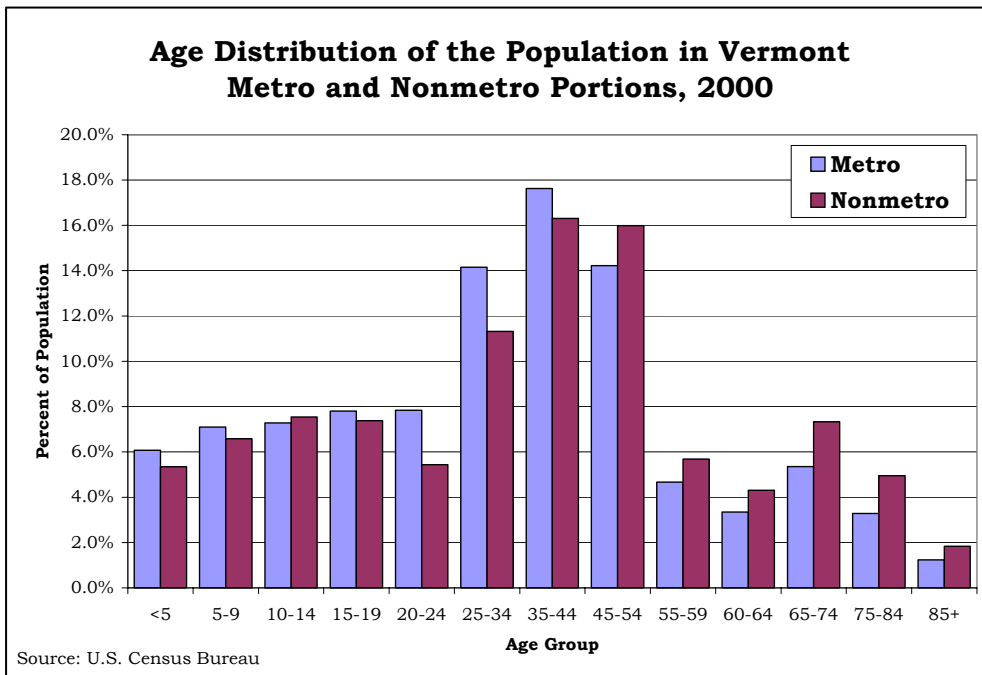
The population of Vermont is 96.8 percent white and 0.5 percent African American. Nationally, the population is 75.1 percent white and 12.3 percent African American. People of Hispanic origin make up 0.9 percent of Vermont's population, compared to 12.5 percent of the total U.S. population.

Within Vermont, the metro population is 95.4 percent white and 0.7 percent African American. The nonmetro population is 97.4 percent white and 0.4 percent African American. People of Hispanic origin make up 0.9 percent of the metro population and 0.9 percent of the nonmetro population in Vermont.



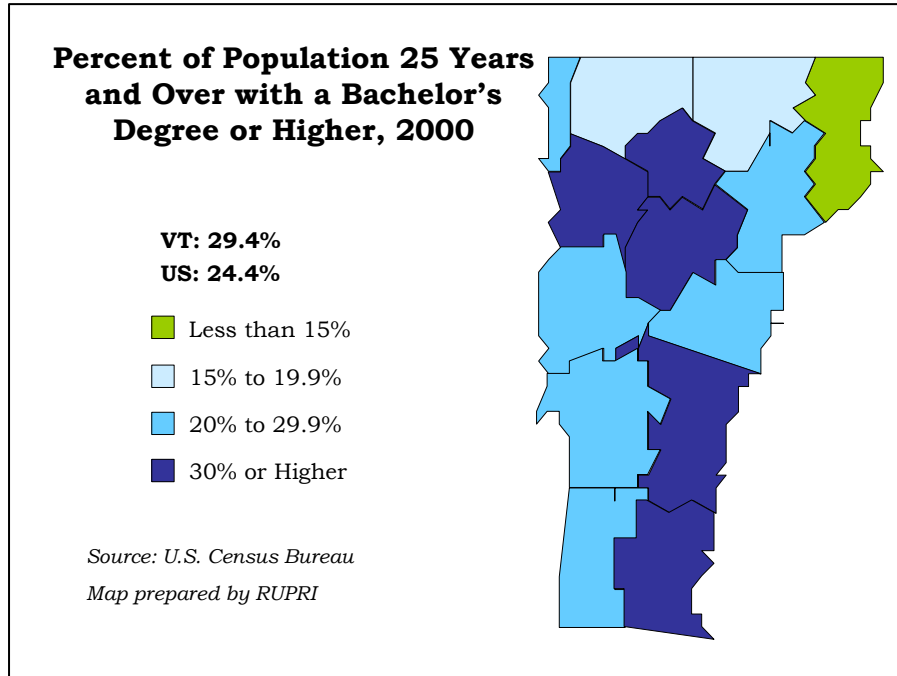
Age Distribution

The age distribution of the metro and nonmetro populations in Vermont is shown in the following chart. The percent of the population in the age 20 to 44 age groups is higher in the metro areas, while the percent of the population age 45 and over is higher in the nonmetro areas.

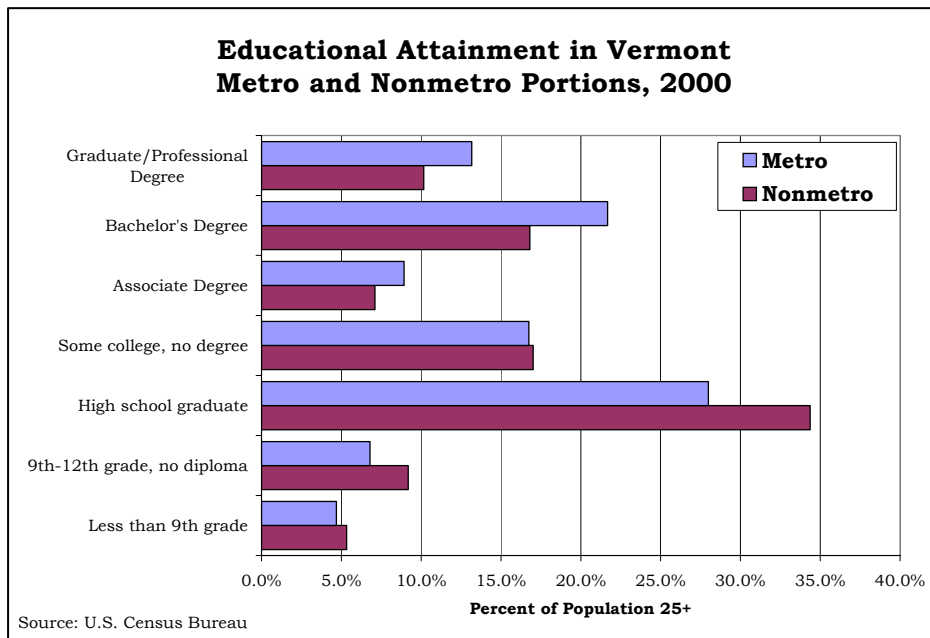


Educational Attainment

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 29.4 percent in Vermont.

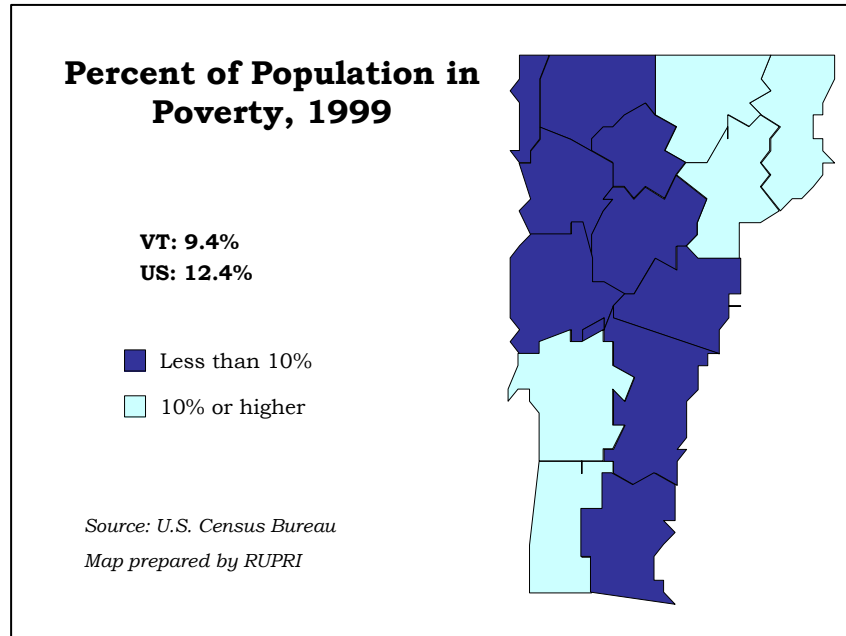


The chart below compares the educational attainment of Vermont's metro and nonmetro populations. The percent of the population with high educational attainment (Bachelor's degree or higher) is greater in the metro areas, while the percent with lower educational attainment (high school degree or lower) is greater in the nonmetro areas.

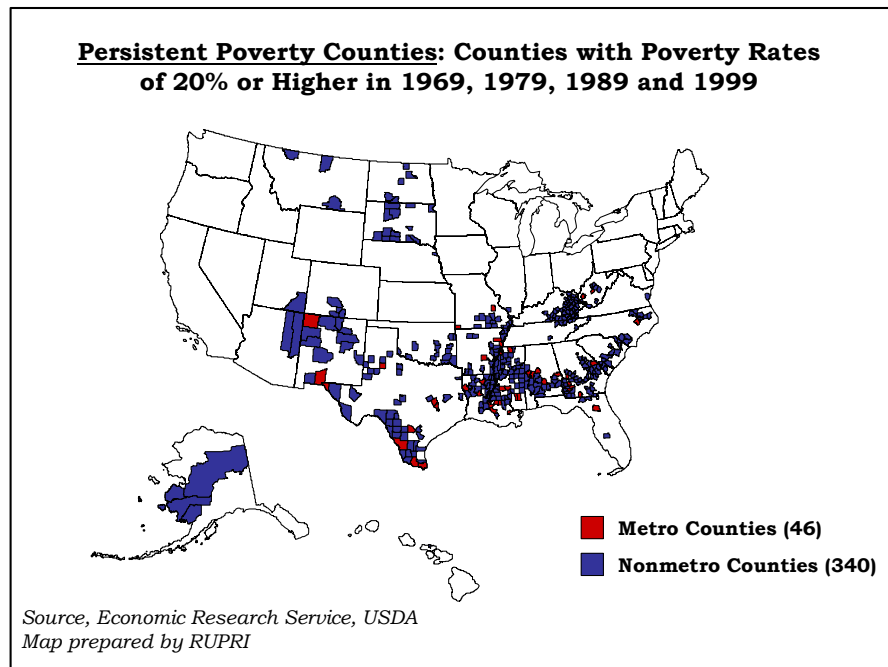


Poverty

The U.S. poverty rate in 1999 (from Census 2000) was 12.4 percent. In Vermont, the poverty rate was 9.4 percent. The poverty rate in Vermont counties ranged from 7.6 percent (Grand Isle County) to 14.1 percent (Orleans County).

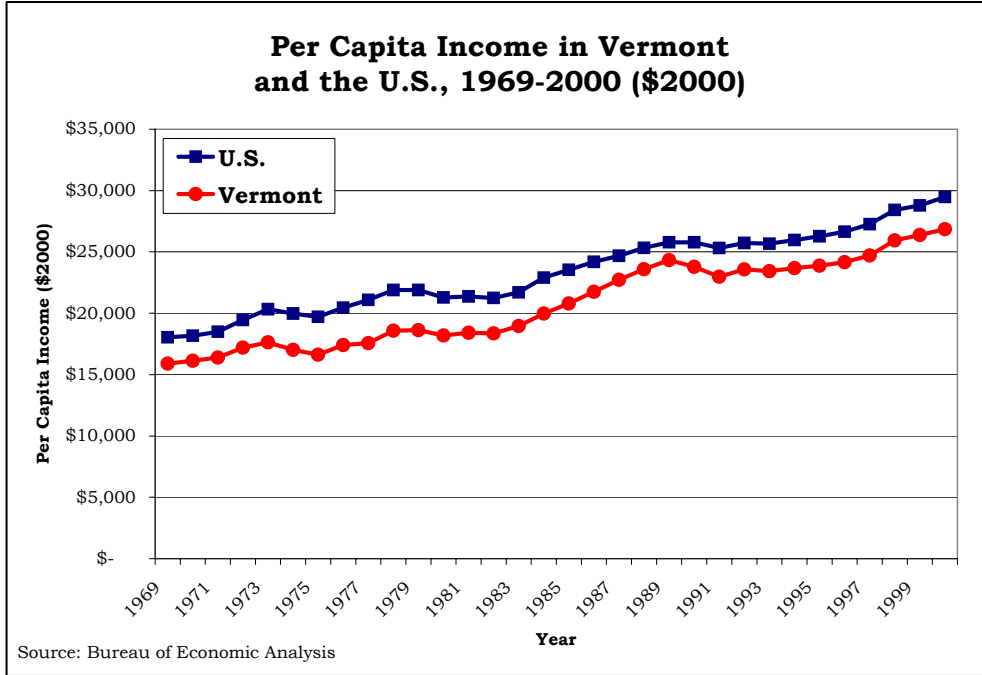


The Economic Research Service, USDA, defines persistent poverty counties as those with poverty rates of 20 percent or higher in 1969, 1979, 1989, and 1999. The map below shows the location of the 386 persistent poverty counties in the U.S. No counties in Vermont are classified as persistent poverty counties.

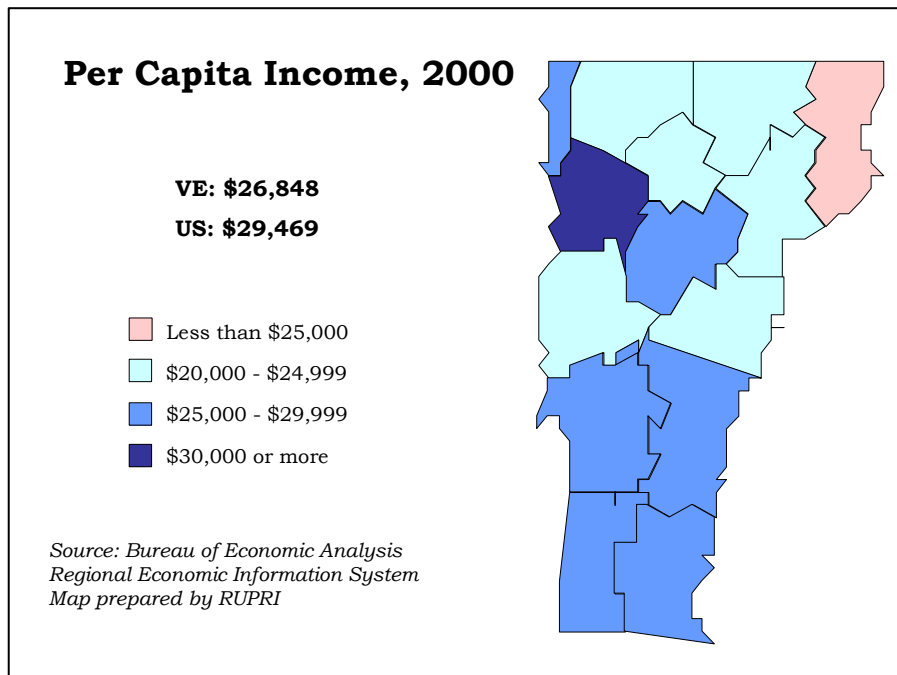


Per Capita Income

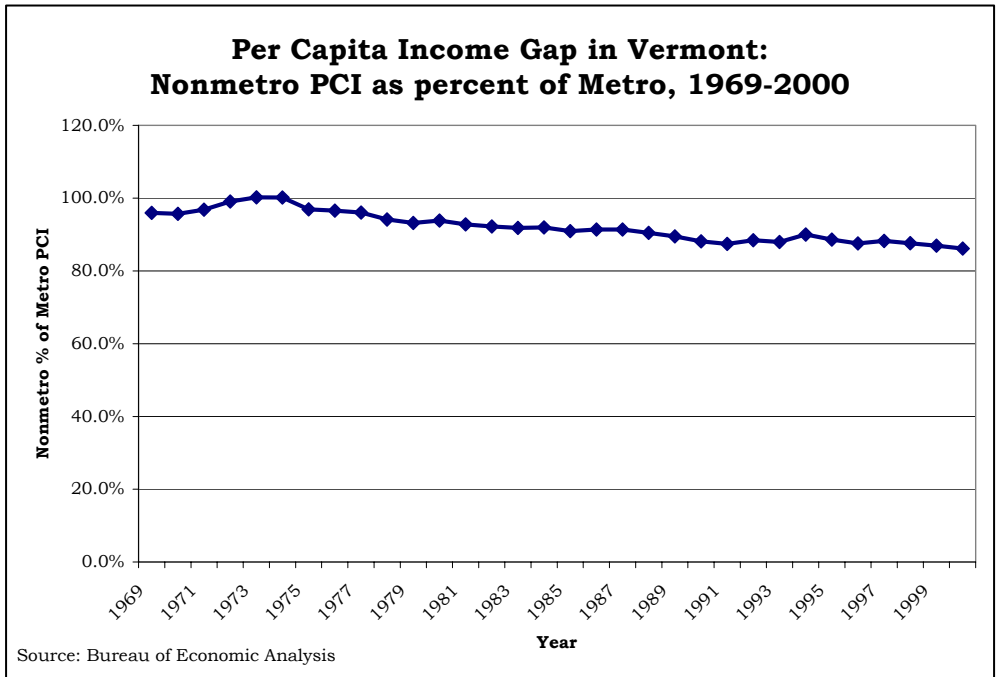
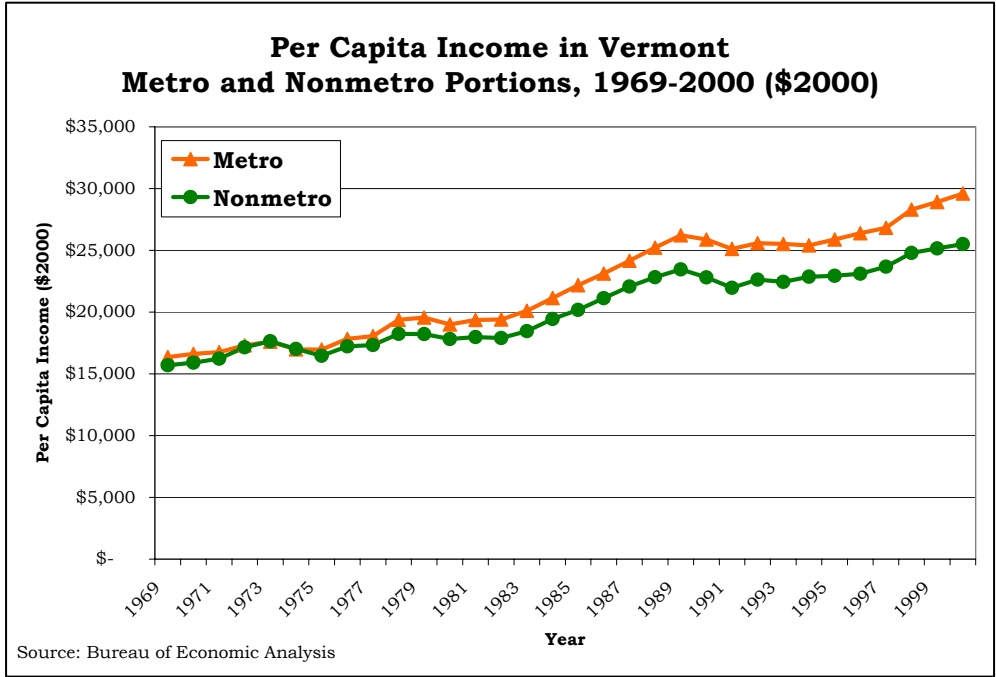
Trends in per capita income in Vermont have closely mirrored national trends over the past several decades, with Vermont's income lagging slightly behind. In 2000, per capita income in Vermont was \$26,848, compared to \$29,469 for the nation.



Within Vermont, one county had per capita income less than \$20,000 in 2000, and one county had per capita income exceeding \$30,000 in 2000.

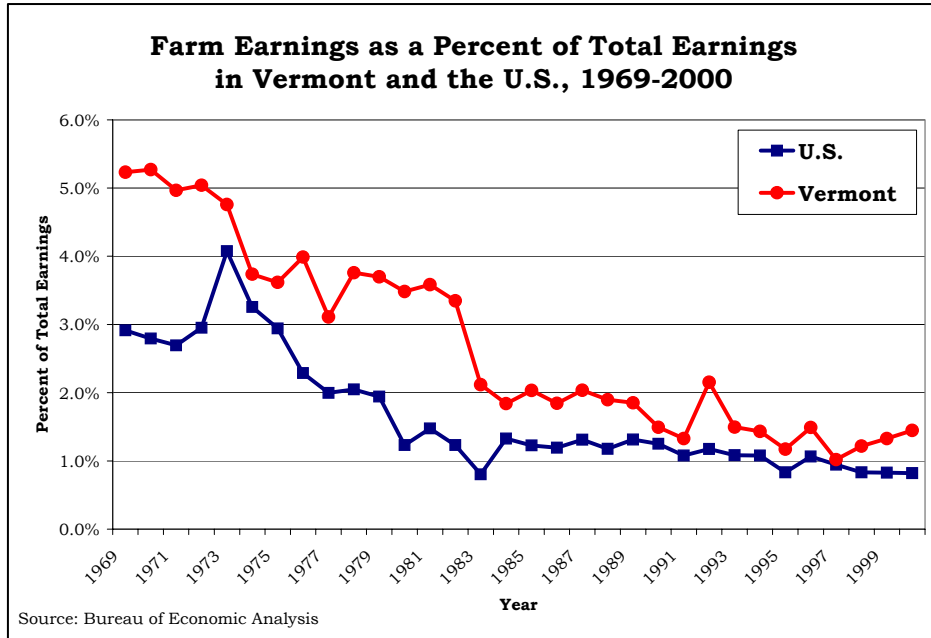


With the exception of two years (1973 and 1974), nonmetro per capita income in Vermont has lagged slightly behind metro over the past several decades. In 2000 metro per capita income was \$29,611, compared to \$25,506 in nonmetro areas. The income gap between metro and nonmetro areas (measured with nonmetro income as a percent of metro) has increased since the early 1970s.

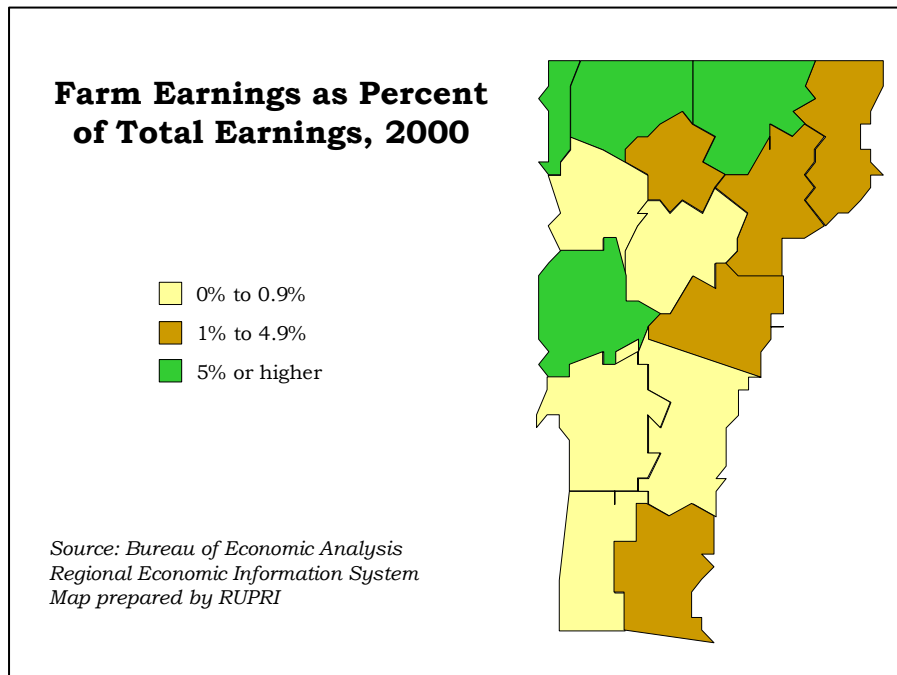


Farm Earnings

Farm earnings as a percent of total earnings in Vermont have followed similar trends to the nation, with Vermont's percentages exceeding the national percentages over the past several decades.

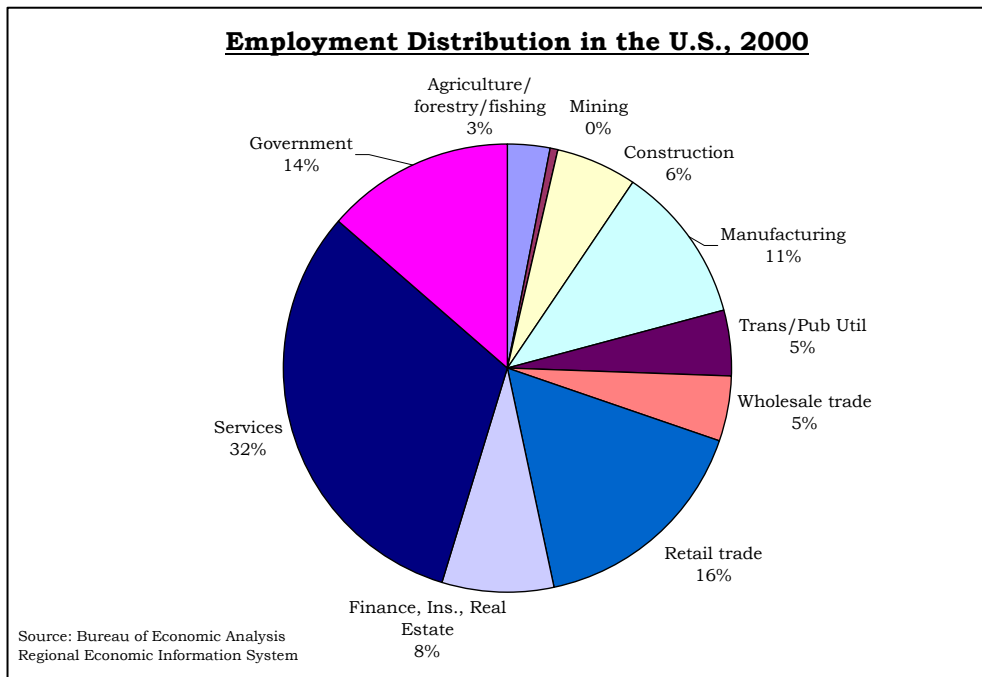
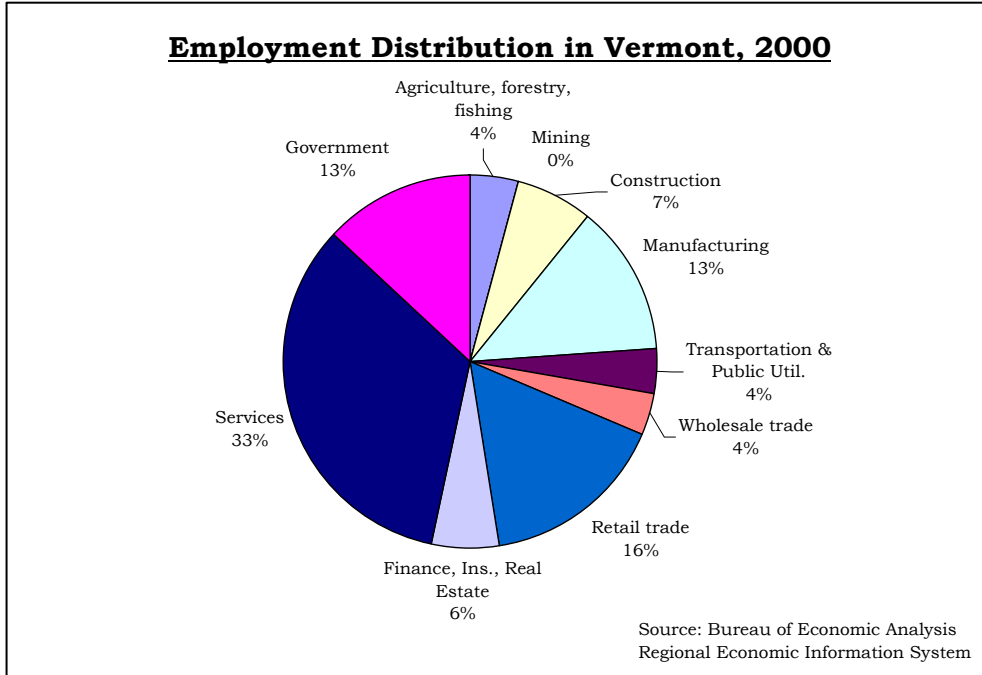


Within Vermont, farming accounted for over five percent of total earnings in four counties in 2000: Addison, Franklin, Orleans, and Grand Isle Counties.



Employment Distribution

Services and retail trade accounted for the largest portions of total employment in both Vermont and the U.S. in 2000. In Vermont, government and manufacturing each accounted for 13 percent of total employment.



Data Sources

Bureau of Economic Analysis, Regional Economic Information System
www.bea.gov

Economic Research Service, USDA
www.ers.usda.gov

U.S. Census Bureau
www.census.gov

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