

County employment change rates, 1990-1999

Employment of workers covered by State and Federal unemployment insurance (UI) programs increased from 108,657,240 in 1990 to 127,042,282 in 1999. The average rate of annual employment growth for the decade was 1.7 percent. Annual growth rates fluctuated significantly, from -1.6 percent in 1991 to 2.9 percent in 1994. There were 3,104 counties for which 1990 and 1999 data could be compared. (Data for 33 counties were unpublished in either 1990 or 1999. Three counties were added during the 1990-99 period.)

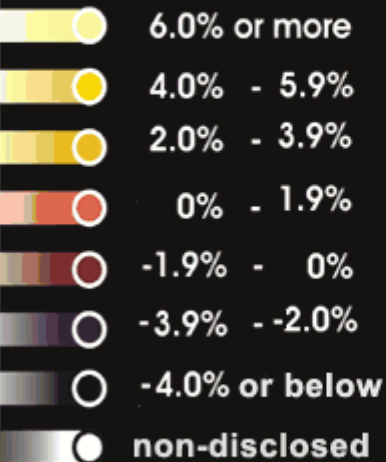
- From 1990 to 1999, rates of employment growth in individual counties ranged widely from a 1,158.1-percent increase in Gilpin County, CO, to an 80.0-percent decrease in Chattahoochee County, GA.
- In 1999, 1,196 counties had employment growth above the national average of 2.3 percent, and 917 counties had equal or slower growth. There were 997 counties with declines in employment. (There are 3,110 counties comparable between 1998 and 1999.)
- In 1999, Jackson County, WI, led the Nation in employment growth (53.6 percent), while Kemper County, MS, reported the largest decline in employment (-23.1 percent).



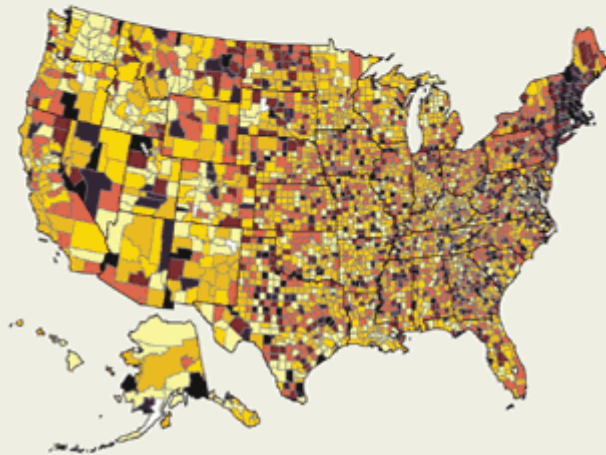
Percent change in employment by county, 1990-1999

While the unemployment rate maps suggest 1992 may have been the point when joblessness was most pervasive, the county-level employment change picture clearly had brightened by then. Observers at the time made much of the notion of a "jobless recovery," but rates of job growth were improving after 1991 and higher rates of growth were increasingly widely diffused through 1994.

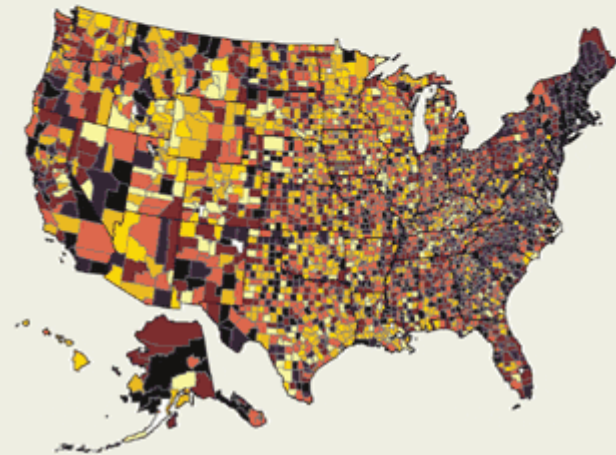
By the end of the decade, even as the unemployment rate reached its lowest point in 30 years, job growth rates had moderated in much of the country. Indeed, visible areas of low growth and even decline had appeared in the Plains and Mountain West.



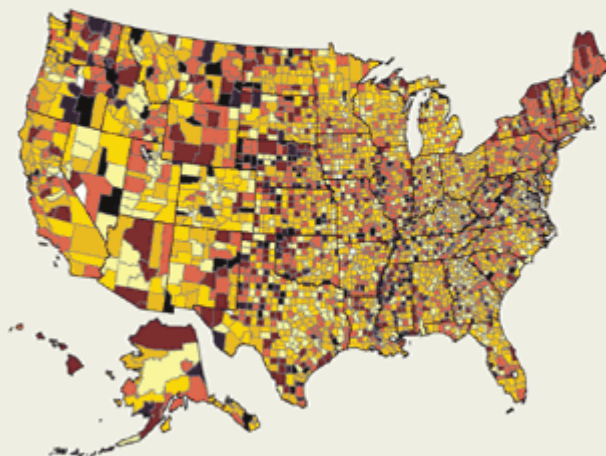
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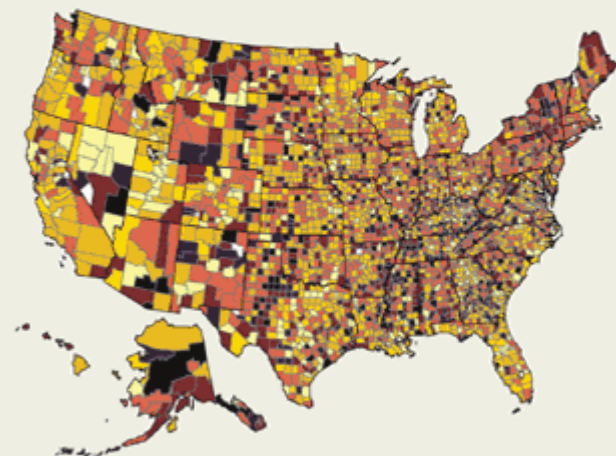
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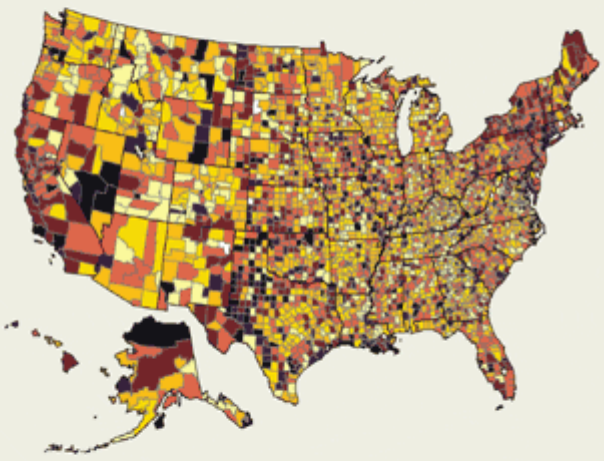
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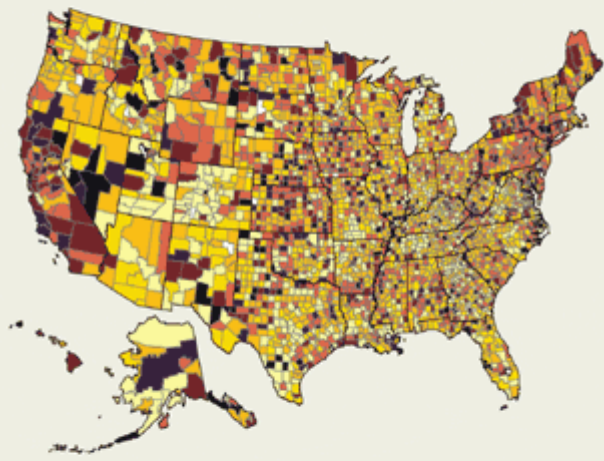
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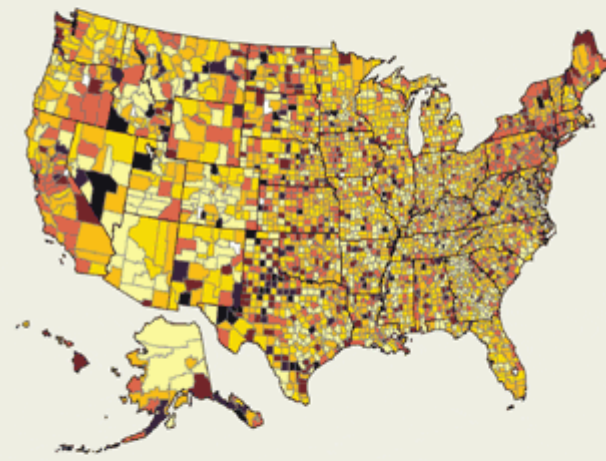
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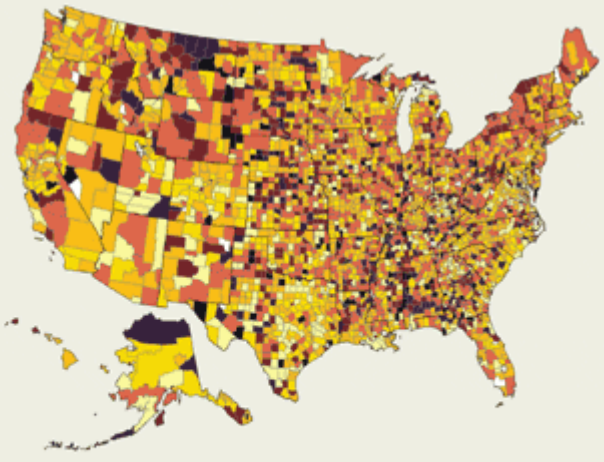
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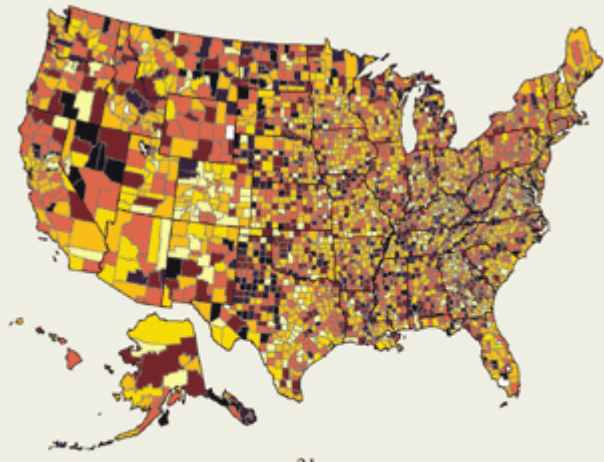
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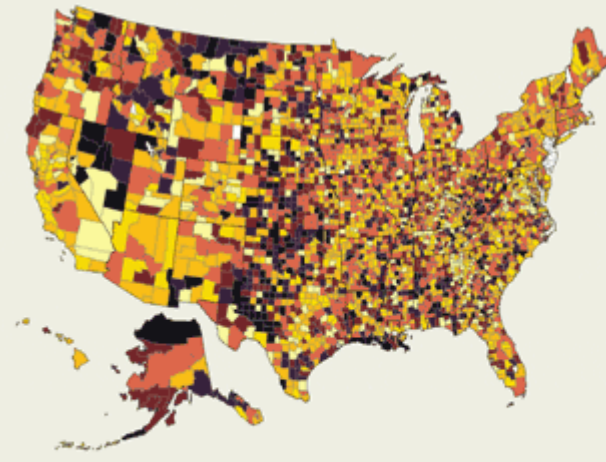
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About the Covered Employment and Wages program

These data are the product of the cooperative Federal-State Covered Employment and Wages, or ES-202, program. The data are derived from summaries of employment and total pay of workers covered by unemployment insurance (UI) legislation and provided by state employment security agencies. The summaries are a byproduct of the administration of state unemployment insurance programs that require most employers to pay quarterly taxes based on the employment and wages of workers covered by UI.

Employment and wage data for workers covered by state UI laws and for Federal civilian workers covered by the Unemployment Compensation for Federal Employees (UCFE) program are compiled from quarterly contribution reports submitted to the state agencies by employers. In addition to the quarterly contribution report, employers who operate multiple establishments within a state complete a questionnaire, called the "Multiple Worksite Report," that provides detailed information on the location and industry of each of their establishments. Average annual employment and pay data included in this release are derived from establishment-level summaries of nearly 7.8 million employer reports of employment and wages submitted by states to the Bureau of Labor Statistics. These reports are based on place of employment rather than place of residence.

UI and UCFE coverage is broad and basically comparable from state to state. In 1999, UI and UCFE programs covered workers in 127 million

jobs. The estimated 122 million workers in these jobs (after adjustment for multiple jobholders) represented 99.0 percent of wage and salary civilian employment. Multiple-jobholder estimates are produced from data gathered in the Current Population Survey (CPS). Covered workers received \$4.232 trillion in pay, representing 94.7 percent of the wage and salary component of personal income and 45.5 percent of the gross domestic product.

Major exclusions from UI coverage include most agricultural workers on small farms, all members of the Armed Forces, elected officials in most states, most employees of railroads, some domestic workers, most student workers at schools, and employees of certain small nonprofit organizations.

Concepts and methodology: Employment and annual pay data by county are compiled from reports submitted by employers subject to state and Federal unemployment insurance laws. Average annual pay is computed by dividing total annual payrolls of employees covered by UI programs by the average monthly number of these employees. The accompanying maps contain all published data for the 3,140 U.S. counties as of 1999. (Some areas defined as counties in this release are not officially designated as counties. Also, counties that do not meet nondisclosure requirements in any year are not shown in the map for that year.)