

County unemployment rates, 1990-1999

In general, the national trend that was noted for the state-level unemployment rate maps also is visible at the county level: increasing levels of joblessness through 1992 owing to recession, followed by widespread declines through the remainder of the decade due to the long expansion.

For some counties, the effects of neither recession nor expansion are visible because rates held within the highest or lowest range for most of the decade. Counties experiencing persistently high rates of unemployment can be observed in the following areas:

- *Mexican Border.* Several counties along the Mexican border, stretching from California to the southern tip of Texas, registered unemployment rates above 10 percent throughout the decade.
- *California Valley.* Between Kern and Stanislaus Counties in the Central Valley of California, seven counties experienced unemployment rates in excess of 10 percent in each year of the 1990s. Travelling north, Colusa, Glenn, Sutter, Yuba, Siskiyou and Trinity Counties also registered high rates throughout the 1990s.
- *Mississippi Delta.* Along the Mississippi River, parishes in eastern Louisiana and counties in eastern Arkansas and western Mississippi registered high rates of unemployment in the late 1990s, despite expansion in the rest of the Nation.

- *Appalachia.* Several counties in West Virginia, the southwestern portion of Virginia, and eastern Kentucky experienced unemployment rates in excess of 10 percent throughout the 1990s, as the continued decline of the mining industry contributed to stubbornly high rates of joblessness.

In contrast, other areas reported consistently low levels of unemployment throughout the decade:

- Most of counties of Kansas and Nebraska registered rates of 3 percent or below year after year, along with many counties of South Dakota and a few counties in northwestern Iowa
- Beginning in the mid-1990s, numerous counties in the Boston-Washington corridor began to register very low unemployment rates.

There are generally low unemployment rates in state capitals and in university towns with large student populations, though the national maps show only some of these clearly. Dane County, WI; Franklin County, OH; Leon County, FL; and Travis County, TX, contain both state capitals and large universities, and enjoyed low unemployment throughout the 1990s.

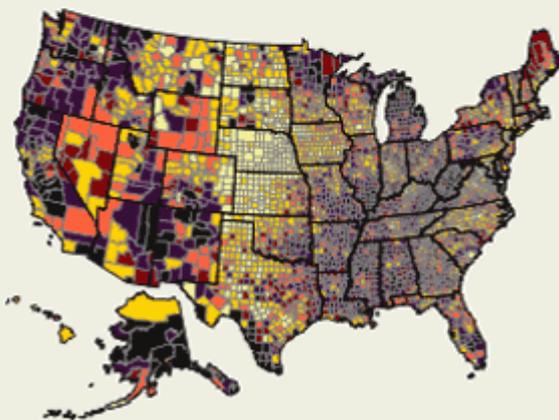


Unemployment rates by county, 1990-1999

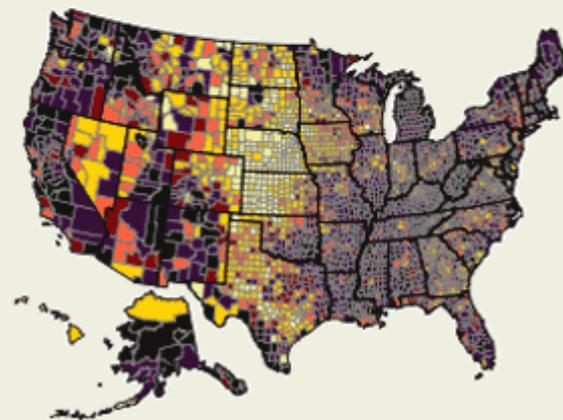
Data from the county level provide an even more focused view of the rise and fall of local labor markets. As the recession of 1991-92 took hold of the country, high rates of unemployment are especially visible in the West and in a band running from the eastern Great Lakes to the Mississippi delta.

As the decade came to a close, even after an extremely long expansion, stubborn areas of joblessness linger near the Pacific and in the Northwest. In contrast, the eastern sections of the country contend only with isolated pockets of chronic unemployment.

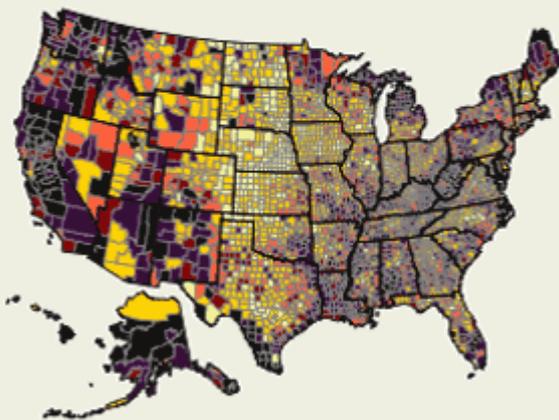
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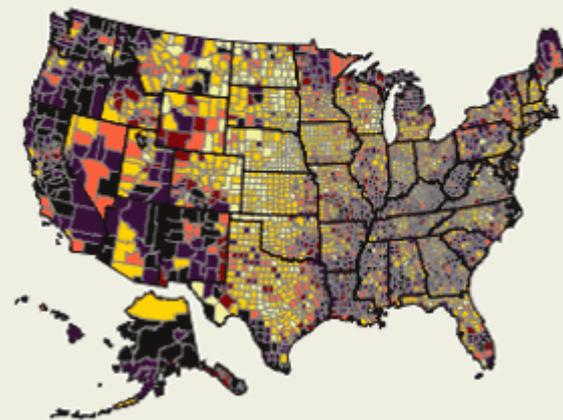
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○ 10.0% or more

○ 7.0% - 9.9%

○ 6.0% - 6.9%

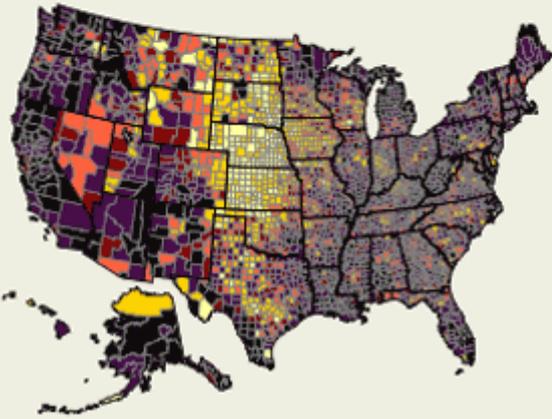
○ 5.0% - 5.9%

○ 4.0% - 4.9%

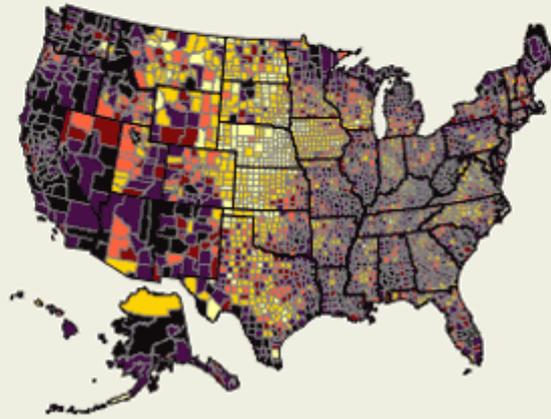
○ 3.0% - 3.9%

○ less than 3.0%

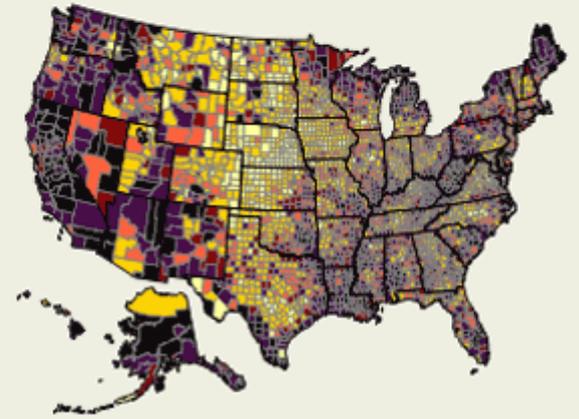
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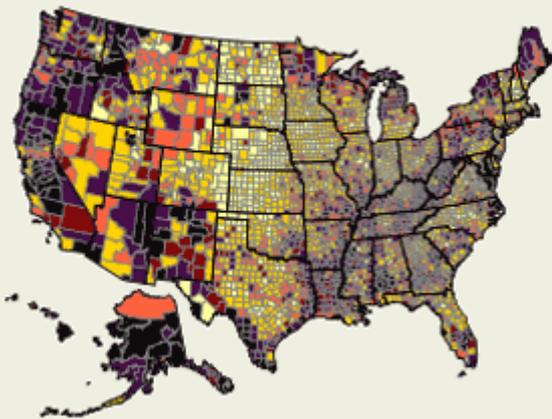
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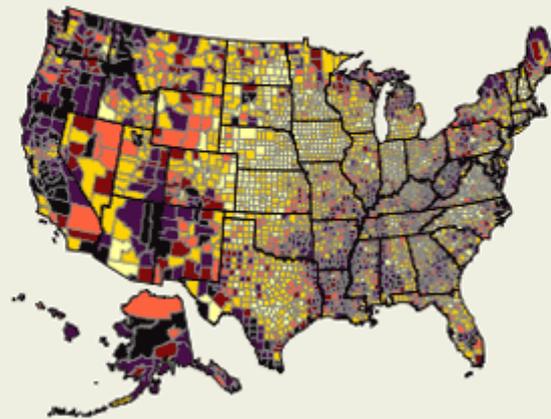
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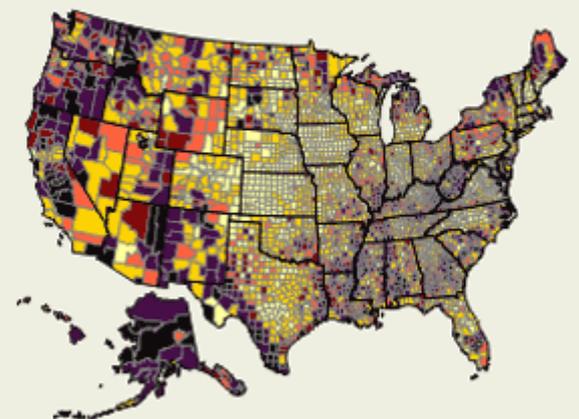
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Administrative uses of data from the Local Area Unemployment Statistics program

Nearly \$24 billion in Federal funds were allocated in fiscal year 2000 from programs that use these data. Listed below are the Federal agencies that incorporate LAUS estimates into allocation formulas or qualifying criteria for their respective programs:

■ Department of Commerce

- Economic Development Administration
- Public Works Program
- Economic Adjustment Program

■ Department of Labor

- Employment and Training Administration (DOL-ETA)
- Employment Service
- Economic Dislocation and Worker Adjustment Assistance Act (EDWAA)
- Workforce Investment Act
- Federal-State Extended Unemployment Compensation Program
- Labor Surplus Areas

■ Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA)

- Emergency Food and Shelter Program

■ Department of Agriculture

- Temporary Emergency Food Assistance Program
- Food Stamps

■ Department of Justice

- Immigration and Naturalization Act of 1990 (IMMACT)

■ Department of Defense

- Procurement Technical Assistance (PTA) Cooperative Agreement Program

■ Department of Health and Human Services

- Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF)
- Community Food and Nutrition Program

■ Department of the Treasury

- Bank Enterprise Award Program
- Community Adjustment and Investment Program

■ Appalachian Regional Commission

- Non-Highway Program

■ Small Business Administration

- Historically Underutilized Business Zones (HUBZones)