

# Rural Workforce Data and Research at ERS

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ETA Vision 2030 Workforce Convening  
May 16-18, 2023



# Rural Workforce Resources at ERS

- Reference materials
  - ERS topic pages provide descriptive analyses of socioeconomic conditions in rural America
  - State Fact Sheets provide state-level urban and rural summary statistics
- Data
  - Area classifications help determine rural status
  - County-level data used to describe the socioeconomic conditions in an area
- Research
  - ERS publications examining contemporary rural workforce issues



# Reference Materials





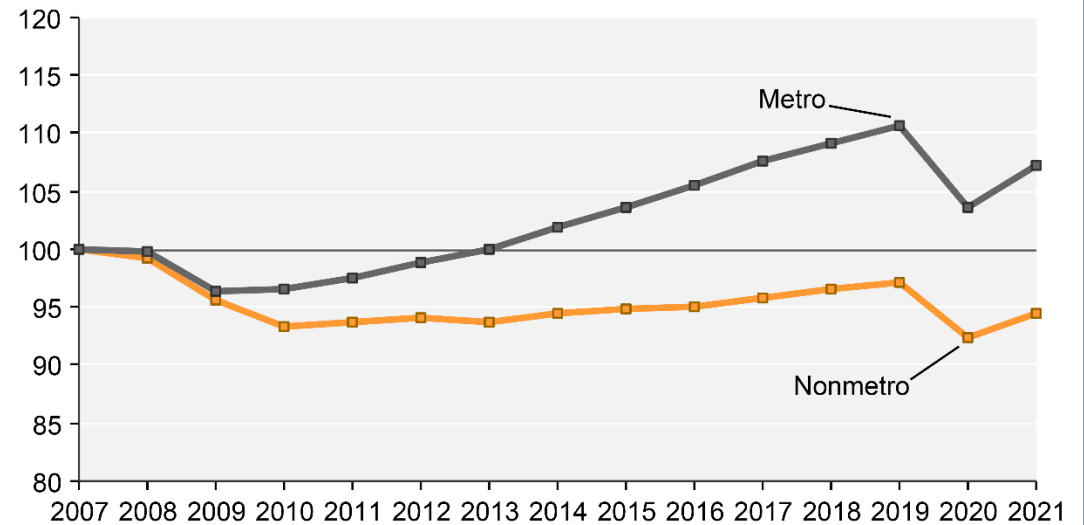
## Rural Employment and Unemployment

- Topic page provides an overview of employment trends in rural and urban U.S. counties from 2007 to 2021.
  - Employment change
  - Unemployment rate
  - Labor force participation rate

<https://www.ers.usda.gov/topics/rural-economy-population/employment-education/rural-employment-and-unemployment/>

### U.S. employment in metro and nonmetro areas, 2007–21

Percent of 2007 employment (2007=100)



Note: Employment is based on annual average total employment by county; metro and nonmetro designations are based on the 2013 definition of metropolitan counties, as determined by the U.S. Office of Management and Budget.

Source: USDA, Economic Research Service using data from the U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics, Local Area Unemployment Statistics program (April 15, 2022 release).



# State Fact Sheets

## State Fact Sheets: Alabama

### Population, Income, Food Insecurity, Education, and Employment

- State total and rural/urban area reference statistics on:
  - Population
  - Income
  - Poverty
  - Education
  - Employment/unemployment
- Also includes:
  - Farm characteristics
  - Farm financial indicators
  - Top commodities, exports, and counties

Population		Rural*	Urban*	Total
Year				
1980		1,100,514	2,793,511	3,894,025
1990		1,088,766	2,951,623	4,040,389
2000		1,162,344	3,284,863	4,447,207
2010		1,171,340	3,608,396	4,779,736
2020		1,146,765	3,877,514	5,024,279
2021		1,144,375	3,895,502	5,039,877
Income		Rural*	Urban*	Total
Per-capita income				
2019		36,844	46,151	43,996
2020		39,275	48,632	46,479
	Percent change	6.6	5.4	5.6
Earnings per job				
2019		43,504	53,999	51,964
2020		45,657	57,367	55,085
	Percent change	4.9	6.2	6.0
Poverty rate (percent)				
1979		22.7	17.4	18.9
1989		22.4	16.8	18.3
1999		19.4	14.9	16.1
2020		17.5	14.1	14.9

<https://www.ers.usda.gov/data-products/state-fact-sheets/>



# Data

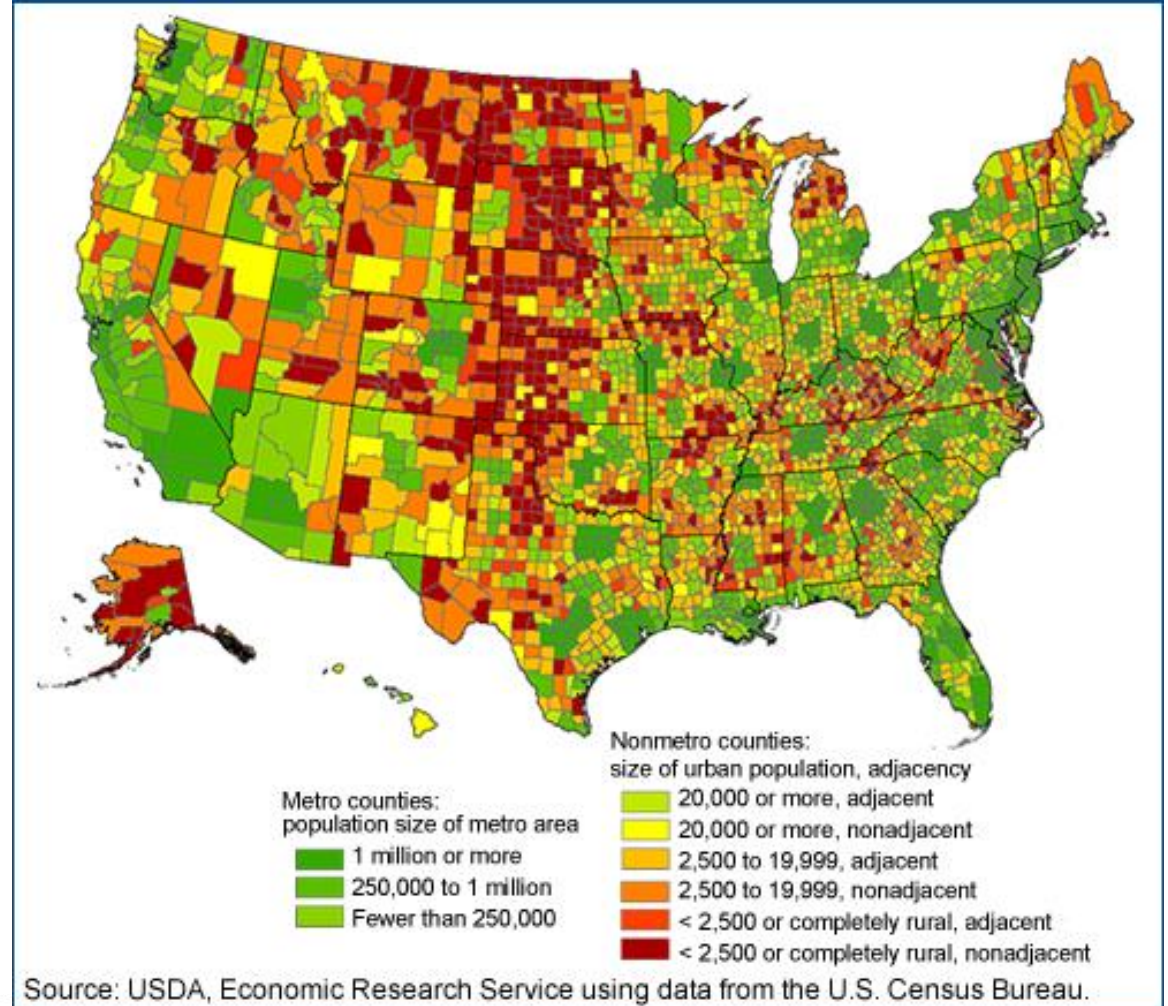


# ERS Rural Classifications

- County-level classifications of 'rural'
  - Rural-urban continuum codes
  - Urban-influence codes
- ZIP Code area or census tract-level classifications of 'rural'
  - Rural-urban commuting areas (both ZIP Code areas and census tract level)
  - Frontier and remote area codes (ZIP Code areas only)

<https://www.ers.usda.gov/topics/rural-economy-population/rural-classifications/>

2013 Rural-Urban Continuum Codes

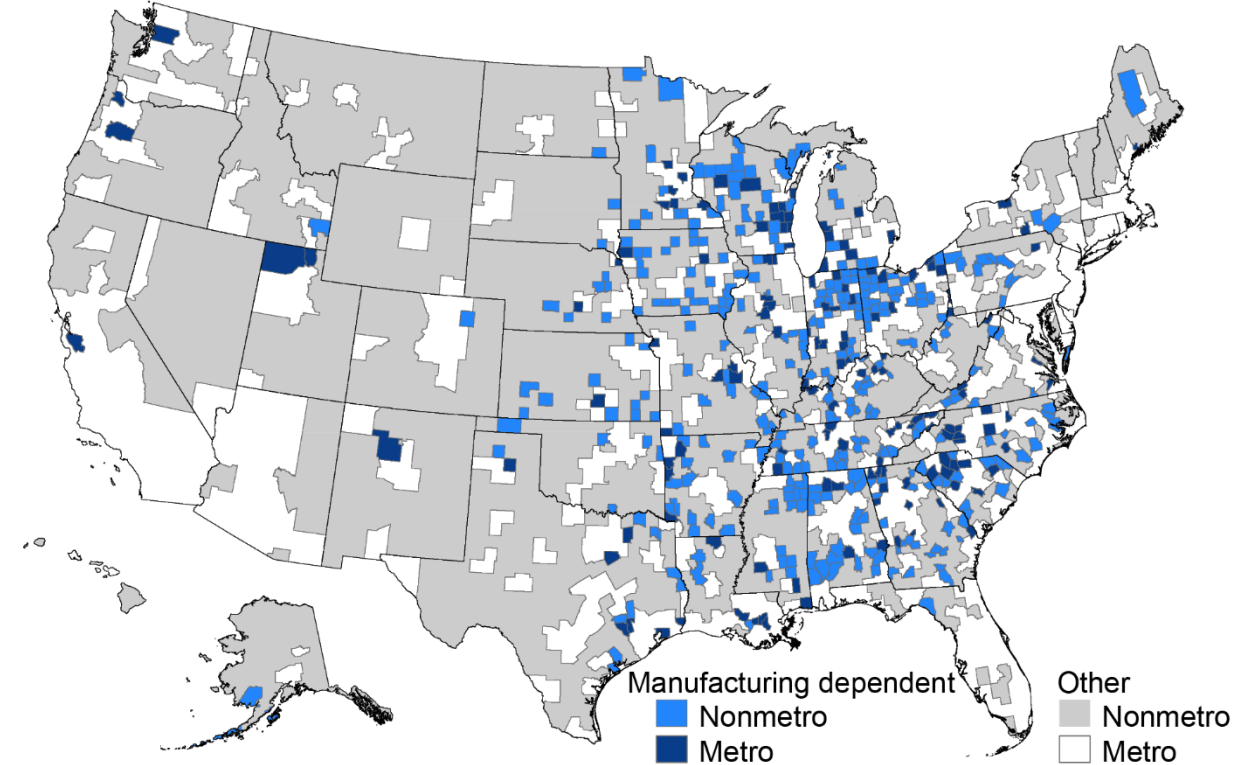


# ERS County Economic Types

## Manufacturing-dependent counties, 2015 edition

- Classify counties based primarily on the concentration of earnings and employment in a single industry.
  - Farming dependent
  - Mining dependent
  - Manufacturing dependent
  - Government dependent
  - Recreation dependent
  - Nonspecialized
- Codes available in ERS' County Typology Codes download file

<https://www.ers.usda.gov/data-products/county-typology-codes/>



Manufacturing-dependent counties are those where 23 percent or more of the county's average annual labor and proprietors' earnings were derived from manufacturing, or 16 percent or more of jobs were in manufacturing, as measured by 2010-12 Bureau of Economic Analysis, Local Area Personal Income and Employment data. Note that county boundaries are drawn for the manufacturing-dependent counties only. Map revised May 2017; see errata for details. Source: USDA, Economic Research Service using data from Bureau of Economic Analysis.





# County-level Data Sets

- ERS compiles the latest statistics on the measures below and provides maps and data for U.S. States and counties, including Puerto Rico when available.
  - Unemployment and median household income
  - Poverty
  - Educational attainment
  - Population

FIPS	Name	Unemployment Rate (percent)										Median Household Income (2020)	% of State Median HH Income
		2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021			
01000	Alabama	7.3	6.7	6.1	5.9	4.5	3.9	3.2	6.5	3.4	\$53,958	100.0%	
01001	Autauga County, AL	6.3	5.8	5.2	5.1	4.0	3.6	2.9	5.4	2.8	\$67,565	125.2%	
01003	Baldwin County, AL	6.7	6.1	5.6	5.4	4.2	3.6	2.9	6.2	3.0	\$71,135	131.8%	
01005	Barbour County, AL	10.4	10.5	8.9	8.4	6.0	5.1	4.0	7.8	5.7	\$38,866	72.0%	
01007	Bibb County, AL	8.0	7.2	6.7	6.5	4.5	4.0	3.2	7.3	3.5	\$50,907	94.3%	
01009	Blount County, AL	6.4	6.1	5.4	5.4	4.1	3.5	2.8	4.6	2.4	\$55,203	102.3%	
01011	Bullock County, AL	9.5	8.8	8.0	6.9	5.0	4.6	3.9	6.0	4.0	\$33,124	61.4%	
01013	Butler County, AL	10.4	8.5	7.6	6.9	5.6	4.7	3.9	9.6	5.3	\$42,268	78.3%	
01015	Calhoun County, AL	8.9	7.9	7.1	6.6	5.1	4.6	3.7	7.8	4.1	\$50,259	93.1%	
01017	Chambers County, AL	8.1	6.7	6.1	5.5	4.2	3.9	3.1	7.5	3.7	\$39,318	72.9%	
01019	Cherokee County, AL	6.7	5.8	5.5	5.1	4.2	3.5	3.0	5.1	2.5	\$50,388	93.4%	
01021	Chilton County, AL	6.7	6.2	5.7	5.5	4.2	3.6	2.9	5.5	2.9	\$52,693	97.7%	
01023	Choctaw County, AL	9.4	9.0	9.2	8.5	6.5	5.4	4.9	7.4	4.4	\$41,649	77.2%	
01025	Clarke County, AL	14.0	12.1	11.8	10.9	8.7	7.4	6.0	9.9	6.0	\$44,178	81.9%	
01027	Clay County, AL	8.5	7.1	6.2	6.0	4.4	3.8	3.1	4.5	2.7	\$44,763	83.0%	
01029	Cleburne County, AL	7.8	6.6	6.1	6.0	4.6	4.2	3.3	5.1	2.6	\$50,134	92.9%	

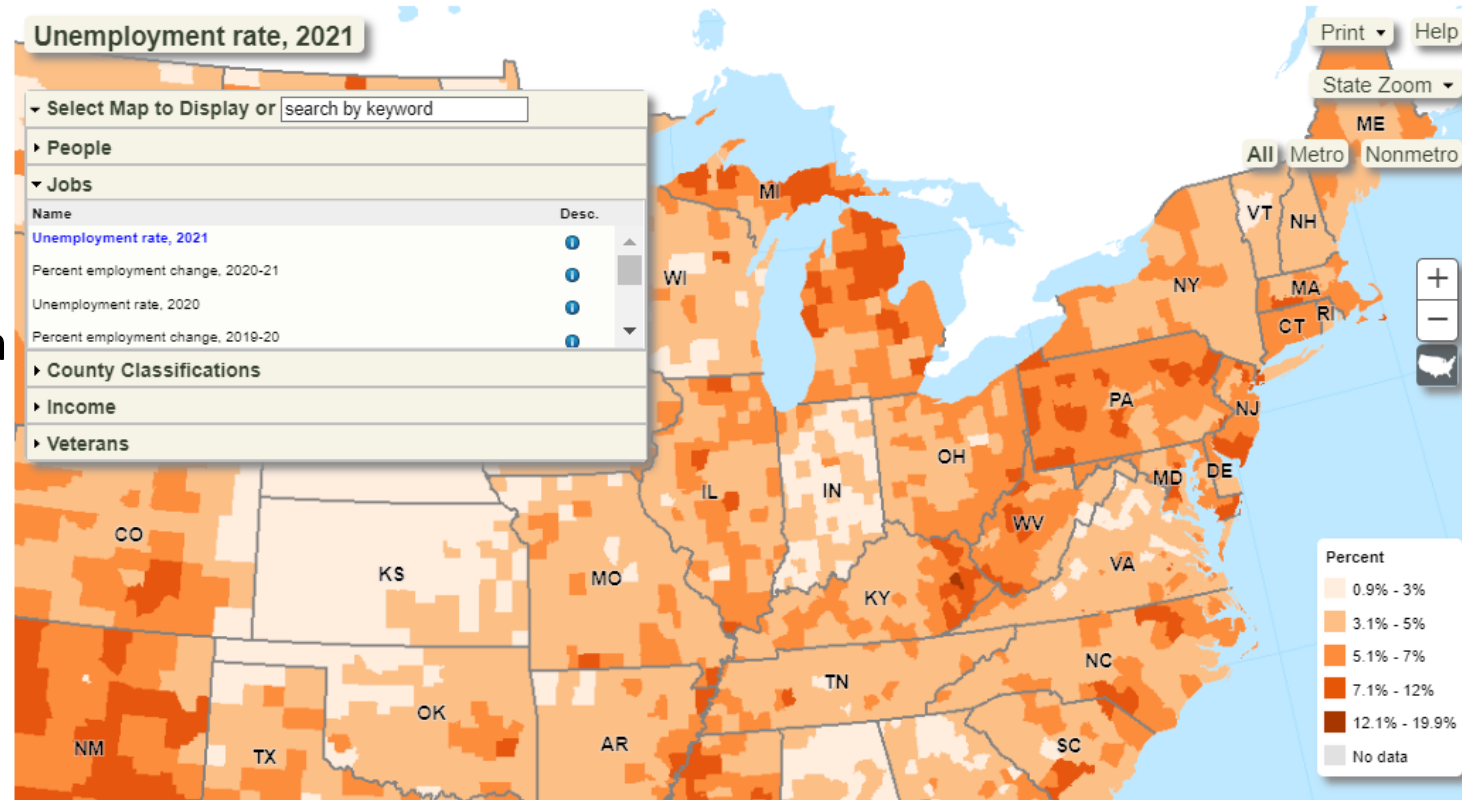
<https://www.ers.usda.gov/data-products/county-level-data-sets/>



# Atlas of Rural and Small-Town America

- Interactive county-level map of recent and historical data from the Census Bureau, BLS, and ERS
  - Decennial Census, American Community Survey, and Population Estimates Program
  - BLS Local Area Unemployment Statistics
  - ERS County Typology Codes
  - Rural/urban county designations
- Includes a downloadable data file and map printing options

Go to the Atlas



<https://www.ers.usda.gov/data-products/atlas-of-rural-and-small-town-america/go-to-the-atlas.aspx>



# Research



## Linkages Between Rural Community Capitals and Healthcare Provision: A Survey of Small Rural Towns in Three U.S. Regions

John Pender, Maria Kuhns, Cindy Yu, Janice Larson, and Shirley Huck



### Focus:

- How can rural communities attract and retain healthcare professionals?

### Main Findings:

- Many types of community capitals were important for recruiting and retaining healthcare professionals in the small rural towns in the study, including:
  - **Social capital**—the value of personal and professional relationships—widely viewed as important and often the most important factor
  - **Human capital**, reflected in the quality of schools and healthcare professionals, and **physical capital** (such as the availability and quality of housing, medical facilities, and equipment), also commonly cited, though less than social capital
  - **Natural amenities and outdoor recreation opportunities** cited by nearly half of healthcare professionals as important, though seldom most important factor
  - **Other workforce issues** (community's needs, financial rewards, workloads, effects of location on spouse or partner) also often cited

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# The H-2A Temporary Agricultural Worker Program in 2020

Marcelo Castillo, Philip Martin, and Zachariah Rutledge



## Focus:

### *The H-2A agricultural worker program*

- Allows U.S. agricultural employers who anticipate too few workers to fill seasonal farm jobs by employing guest workers.

## Key Findings:

- The number of jobs certified to be filled with H-2A workers increased from around **75,000 in FY 2010** to around **275,000 in FY 2020**.
- Nationally, the average H-2A contract offered 24 weeks and 39.3 hours per week at an average hourly wage of \$13.
- Farm labor contractors (FLCs) accounted for 44 percent of H-2A jobs certified in FY 2020, with most jobs certified to FLCs in Florida and California, although some FLCs based in one State may employ H-2A workers in other States.

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# Health Care Access Among Self-Employed Workers in Nonmetropolitan Counties

Elizabeth A. Dobis and Jessica E. Todd



## Focus:

- Comparison of health insurance coverage and medical expenditures between self-employed workers and workers employed by private industry and governments, as well as their households and families, in metropolitan (metro) and nonmetropolitan (nonmetro) counties between 2018 and 2020.

## Key Findings:

- Health insurance coverage rates and sources differed more by age and by whether workers were self-employed than by whether workers lived in a metro or nonmetro location.
- Differences in uninsured rates between self-employed working-age adults and those employed by government or private industry persisted throughout the COVID-19 pandemic in 2020, but uninsured rates were higher at the beginning of the pandemic in April and May of 2020 than in 2018.

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2022 Edition

# Rural America

at a Glance

By James C. Davis, Anil Rupasingha, John Cromartie, and Austin Sanders

## What is this series?

- One of ERS's premier publications produced annually since 2002.
- Provides an overview of rural America with topics including, but not limited to population, demographics, labor/workforce, and education.

## 2022 Edition:

- Focus on how the composition of the rural labor force changed because of shifts in the industry structure of rural America.

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Economic Research Service  
Economic Information Bulletin Number 246  
November 2022



# Rural America at a Glance

2022 Edition

By James C. Davis, Anil Rupasingha, John Cromartie, and Austin Sanders



## Key Findings:

- The nonmetro working-age population declined by 4.9 percent during the 2010–20 decade and continued to decline during the first year and a half of the COVID-19 pandemic
- Rural America has become more economically diverse over time
  - Rural tradable goods industries, such as agriculture and manufacturing, increased output and labor productivity while experiencing decreased employment
  - Employment increased in health care, hospitality, and other service industries
- The rural workforce has become more racially and ethnically diverse
  - Following the Great Recession and prior to the COVID-19 pandemic, non-White races and Hispanic workers became an increasing share of the rural workforce
  - Between 2012 and 2019, employment growth rates were higher for non-White races and Hispanic workers together as a group than for White non-Hispanic workers in every rural industry except for agriculture





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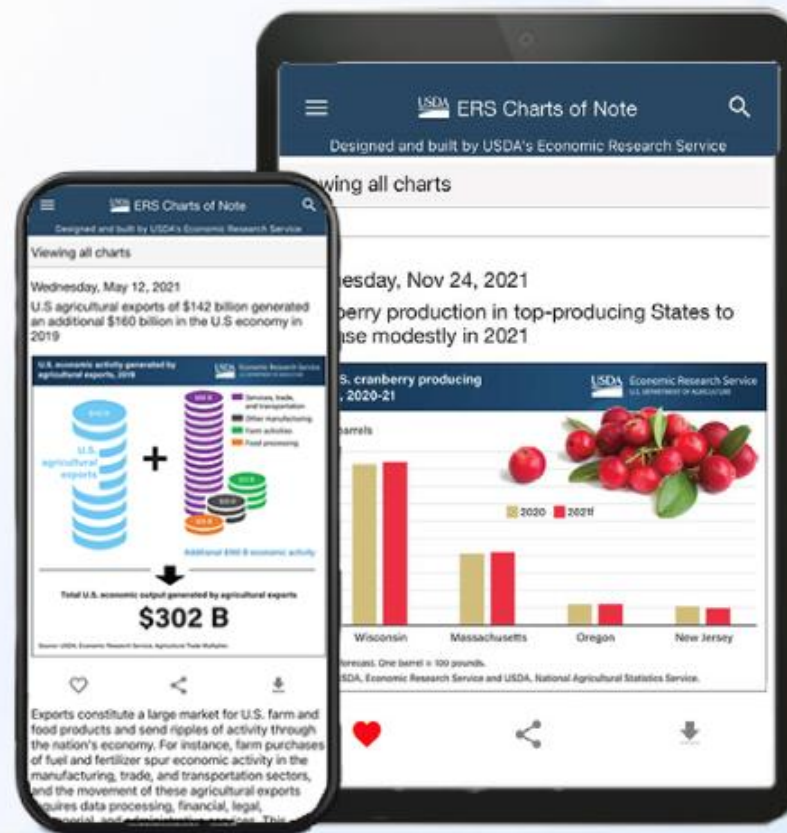
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# CHARTS of NOTE

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# Thank you!

## Questions?

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