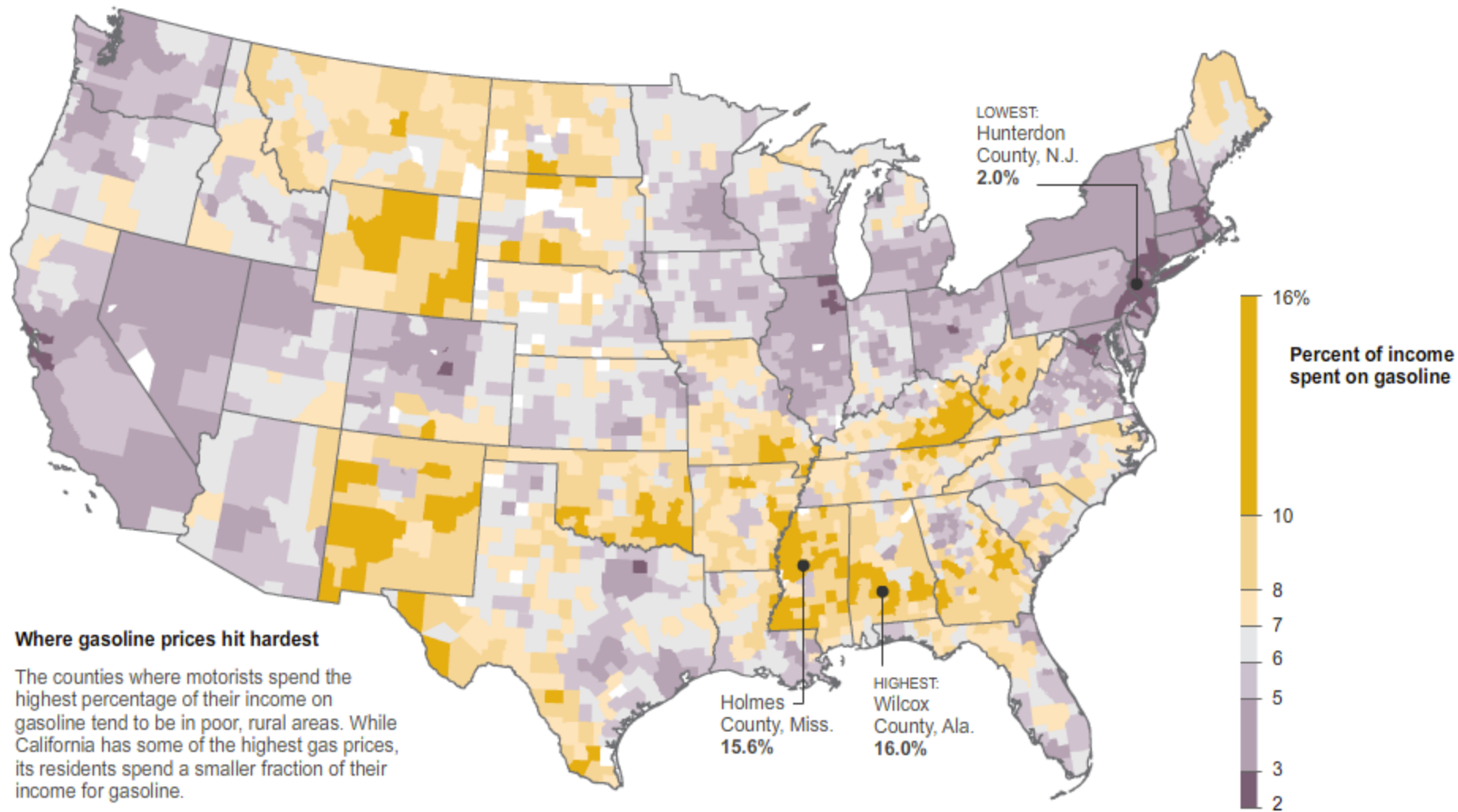


# Public Transportation Investment: Spurring Local Economies and Preparing for Higher Gas Prices

March 13, 2011

# Rural and Small Town America: Growing Needs and Dwindling Resources

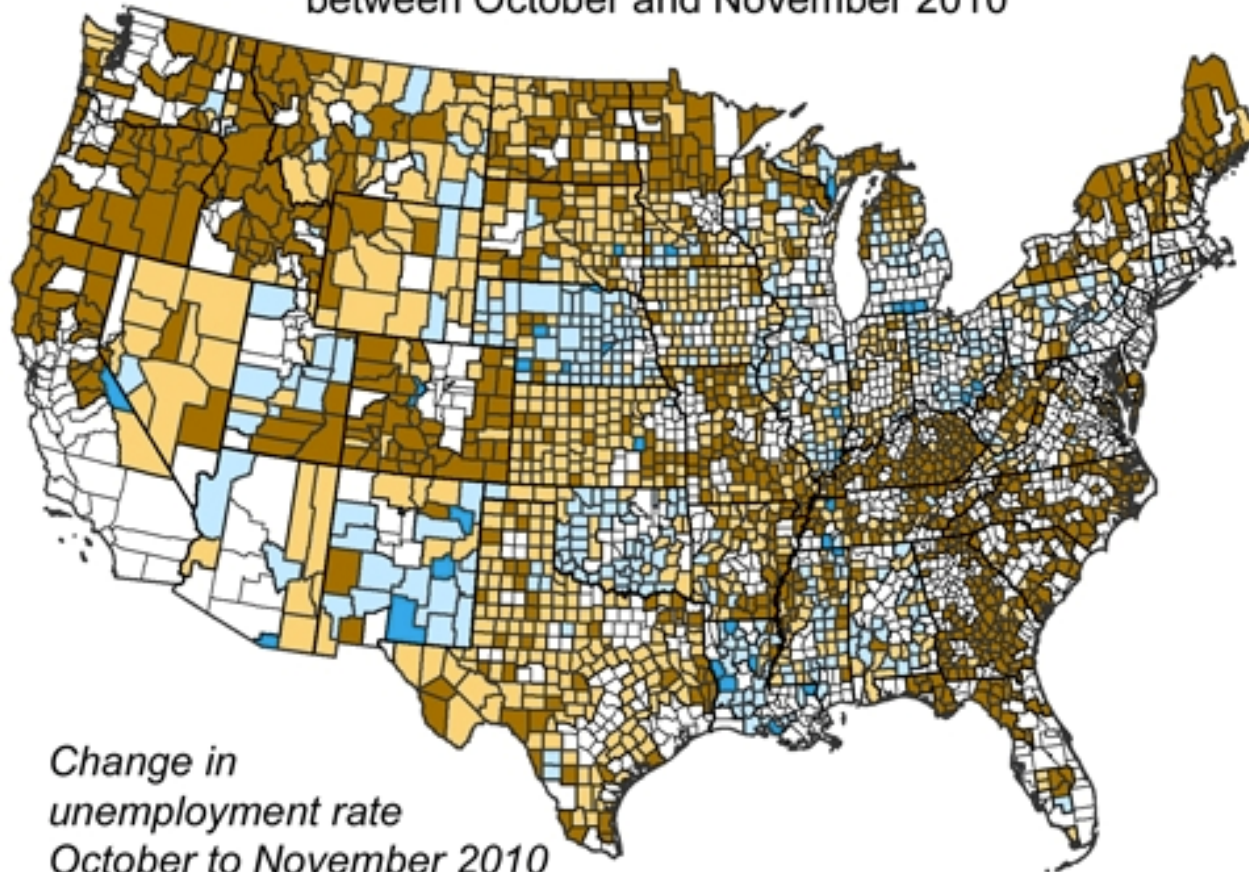
- Gas prices disproportionately impact rural and small town areas
- Unemployment is still rising in rural America
- The population shift is away from rural America







Source: New York Times

# Rural Unemployment Rising in November

Most rural counties see rise in unemployment  
between October and November 2010

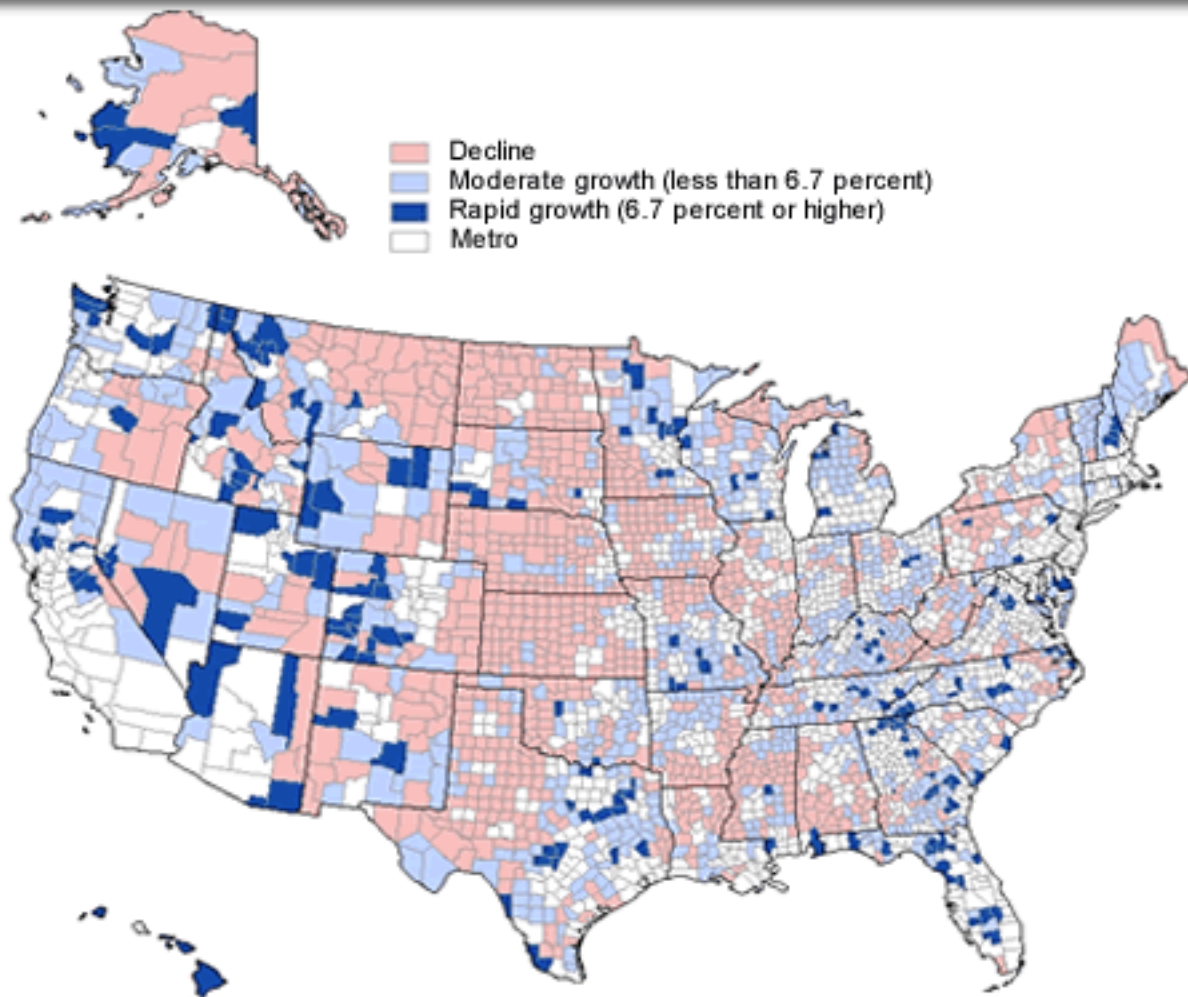


*Change in  
unemployment rate  
October to November 2010*

-  Unemployment rate rising (more than .5)
-  Unemployment rate rising (less than .5)
-  Unemployment rate falling (less than .5)
-  Unemployment rate falling (more than .5)

Source:  
BLS

## Nonmetro population change, 2000-05



Source: USDA, ERS using data from the U.S. Census Bureau.

# The Keys to Rural and Small-Town Transportation Economic Development

- Connectivity
- Livability
- Health Care and Employment Outcomes



# Discussion Examples

- Spearfish, South Dakota
- Menominee Tribe (Wisconsin)
- Fitchburg, Massachusetts
- Normal, Illinois