

How Is Rural America Changing?

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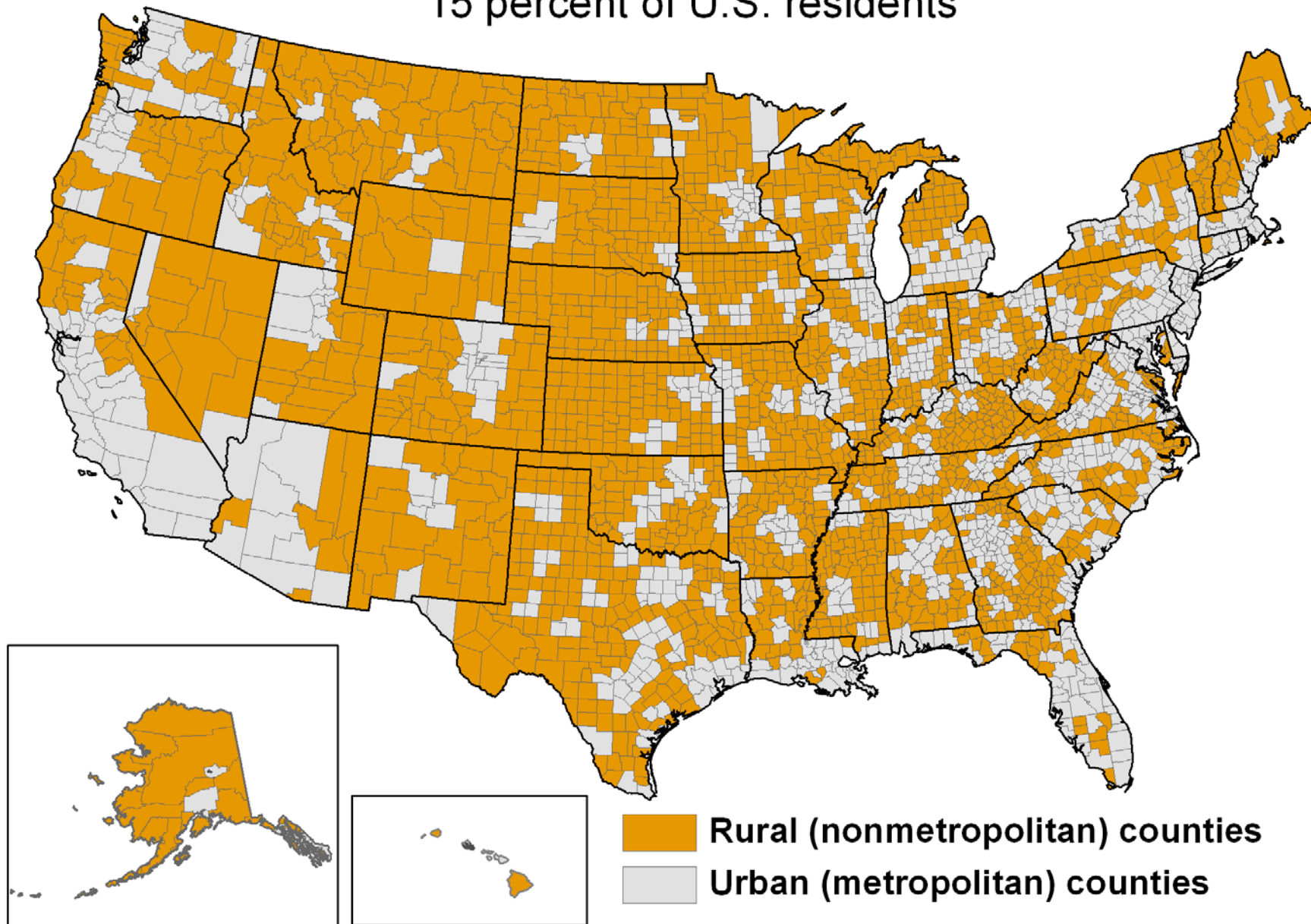
C-SPAN
America by the Numbers
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Highlights from recent releases on rural population trends

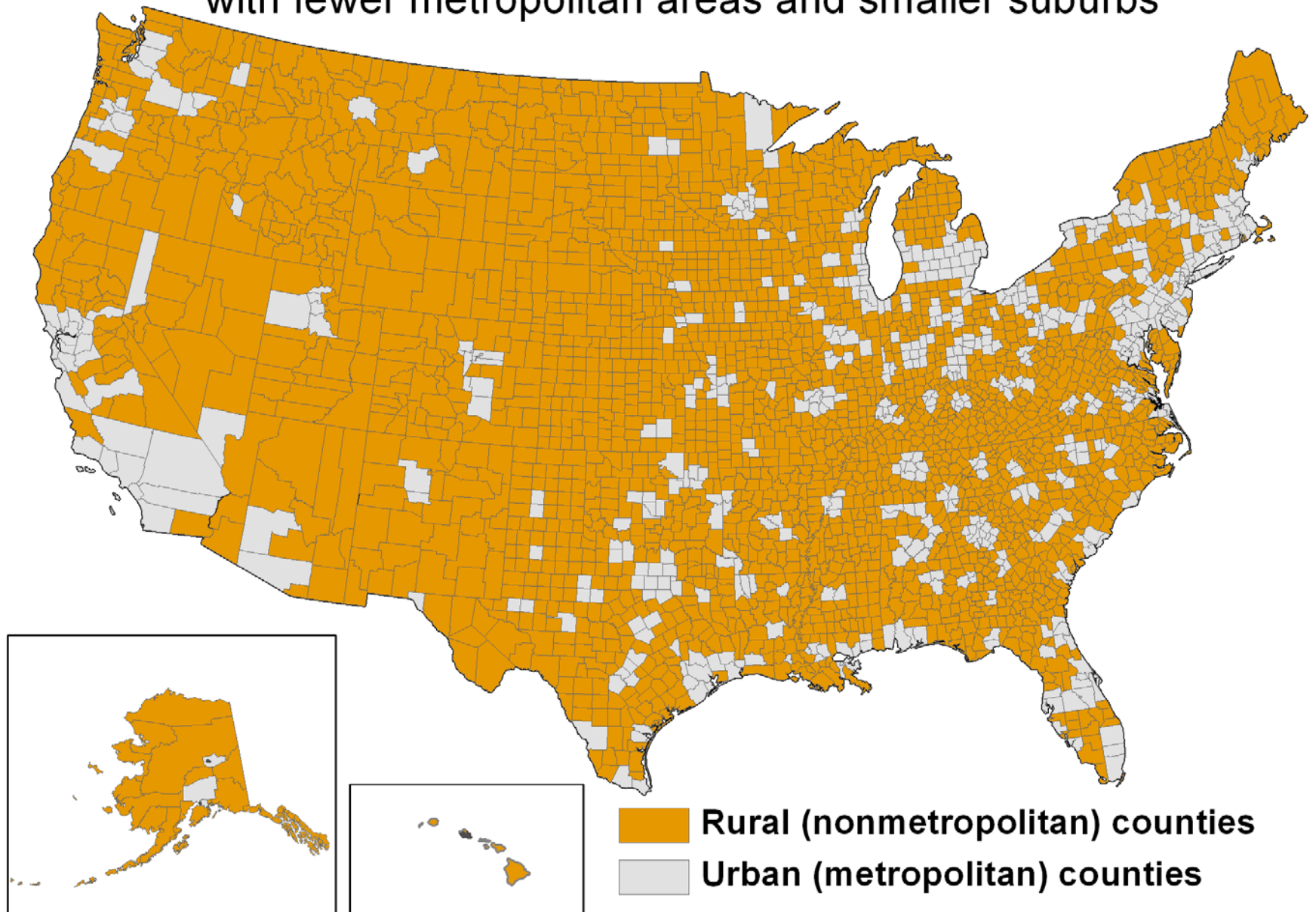
- Rural counties include 46.2 million people (15 percent of the U.S. population) spread across 72 percent of U.S. land area.
- Between 2010 and 2012, rural counties as a whole declined in population for the first time.
- Suburban and exurban growth slowed dramatically, affecting overall population trends in both urban and rural areas.
- Population growth in rural areas with recreation-based economies slowed in response to the housing-market crisis and the recession.

Rural counties cover 72 percent of U.S. land area and include 15 percent of U.S. residents



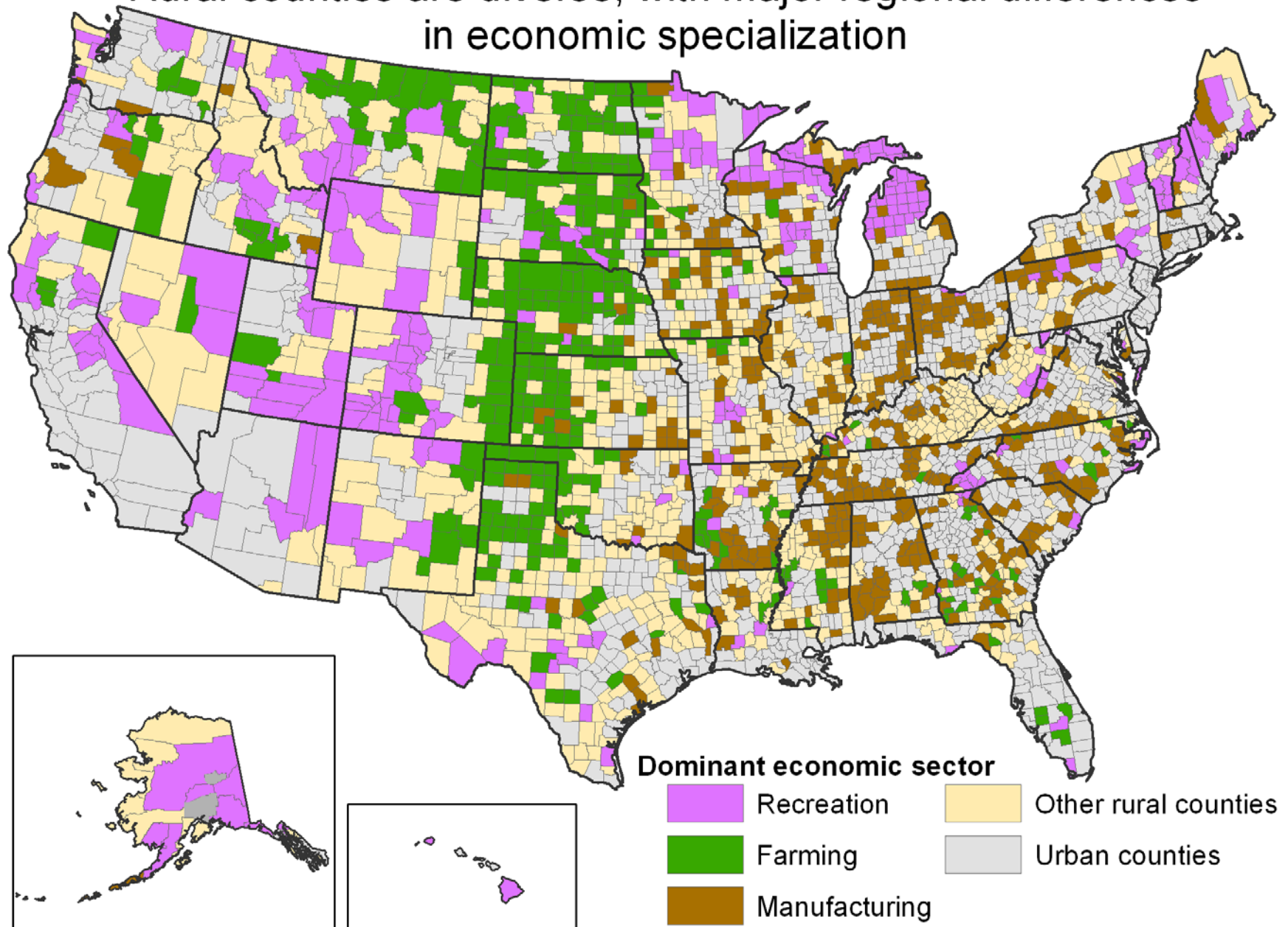
Source: USDA, Economic Research Service, using OMB Metropolitan Area definitions released in February, 2013.

Urban America was much smaller in 1970,
with fewer metropolitan areas and smaller suburbs



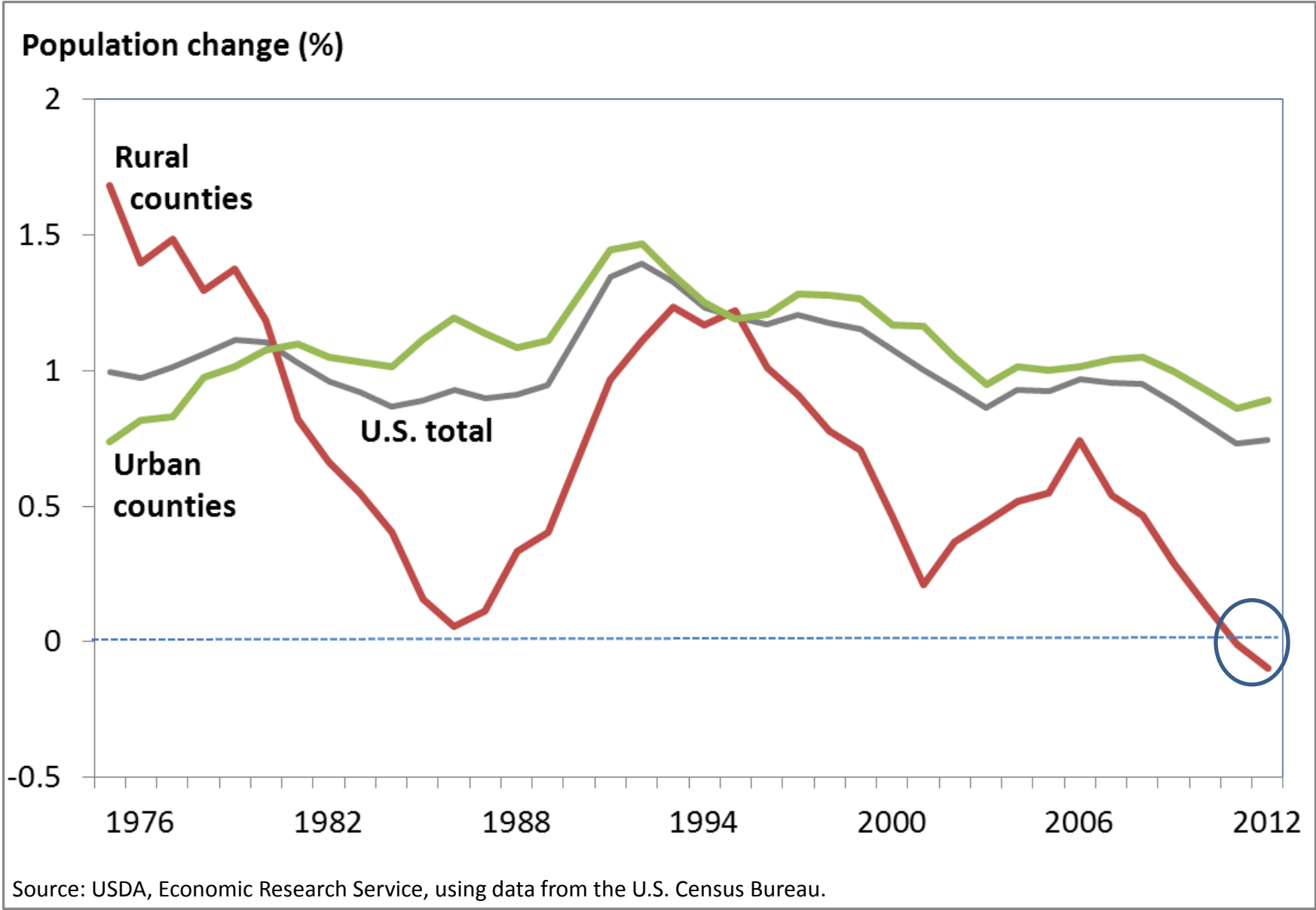
Source: USDA, Economic Research Service, using OMB Metropolitan Area definitions released in June, 1974.

Rural counties are diverse, with major regional differences in economic specialization

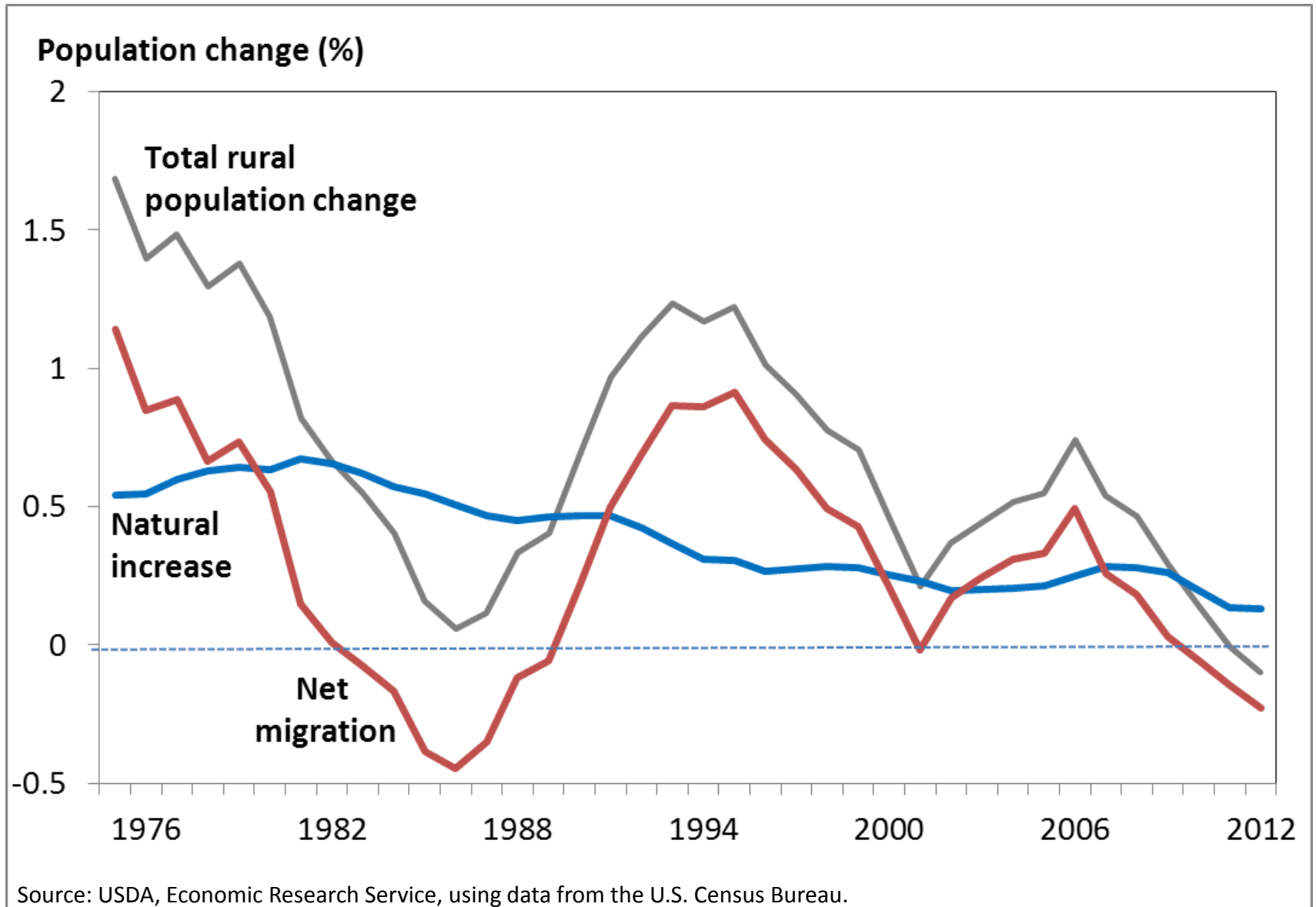


Source: USDA, Economic Research Service, using data from the Bureau of Economic Analysis and the U.S. Census Bureau.

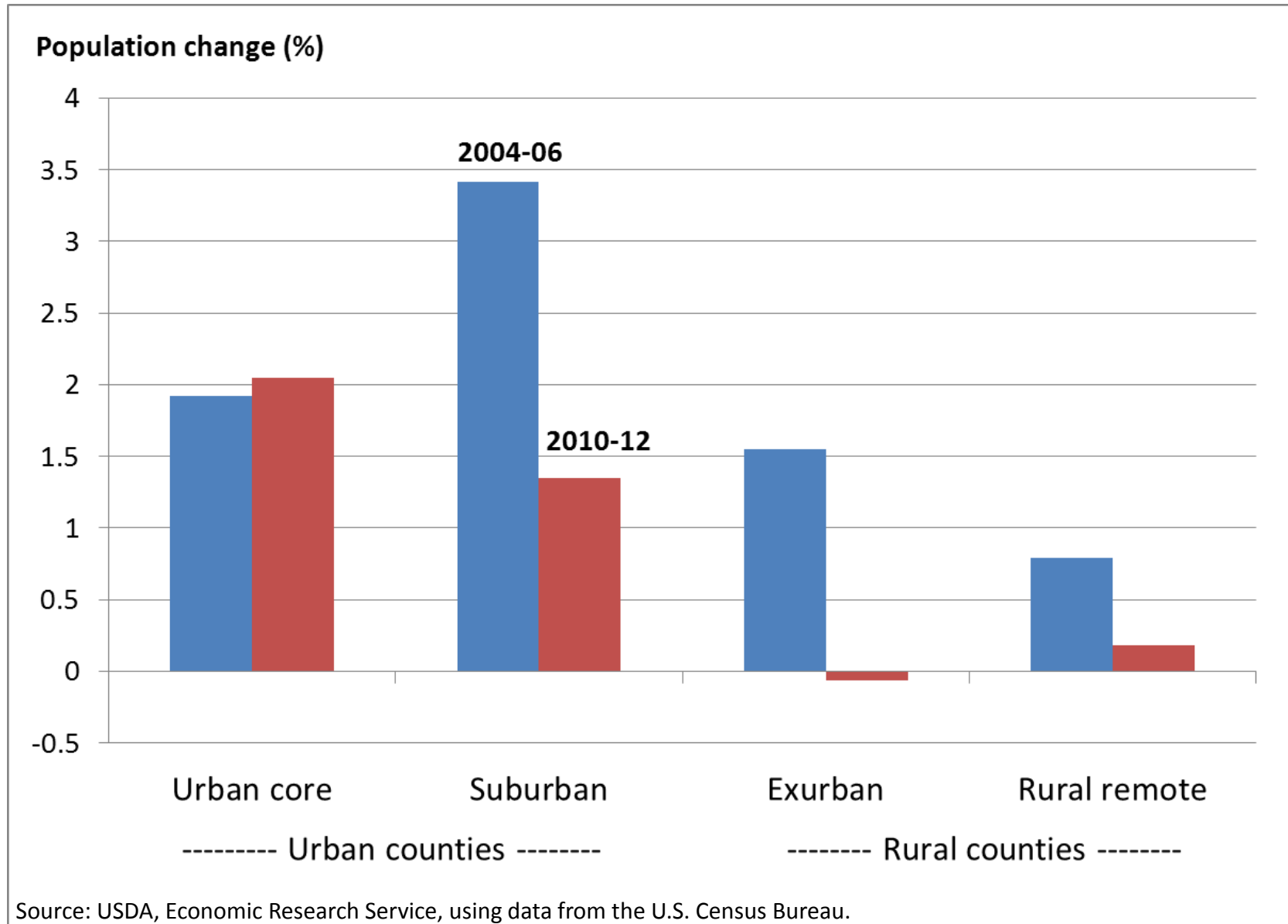
For the first time, rural counties as a whole are declining in population



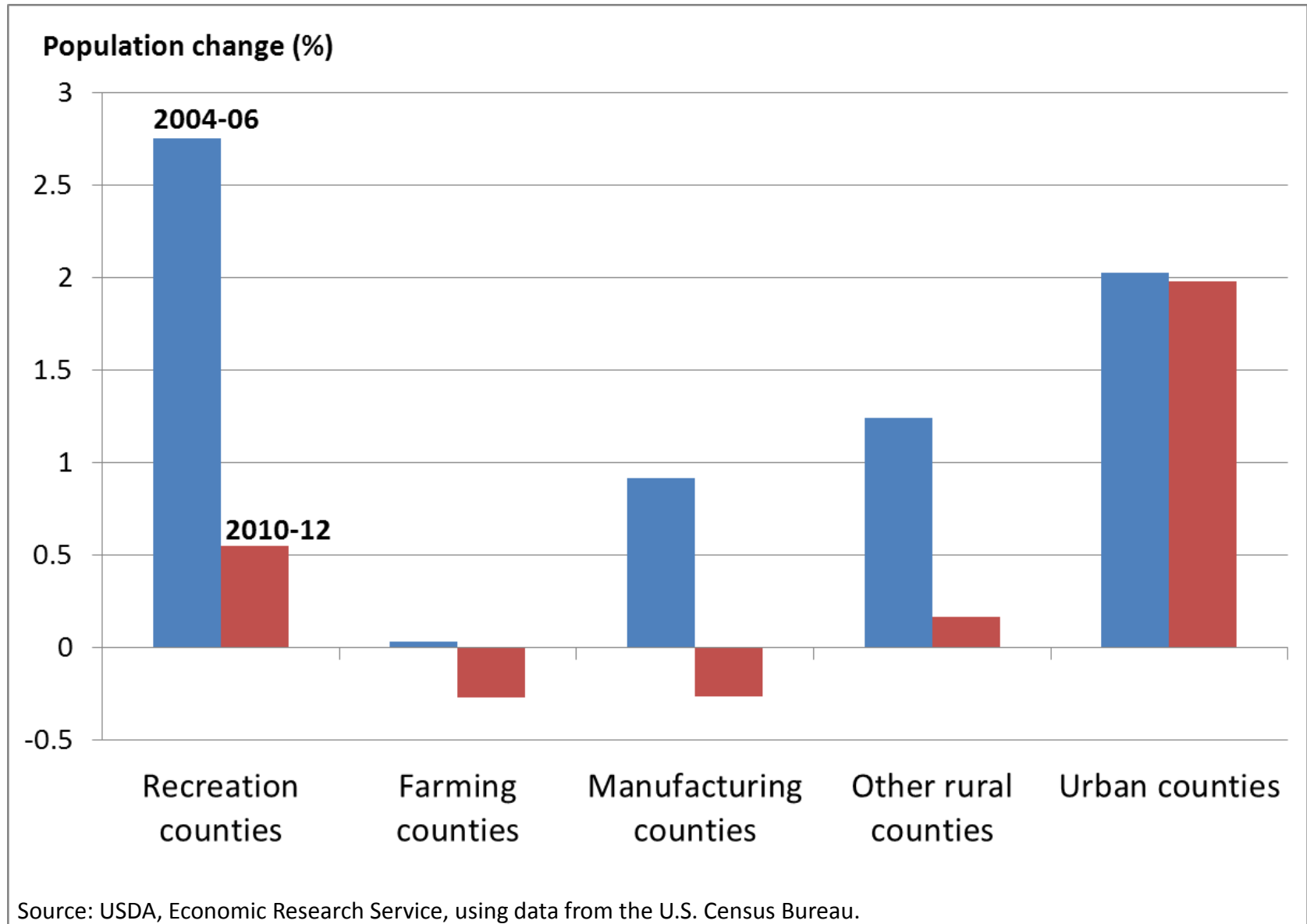
Population growth from natural change (births minus deaths) has steadily declined in rural counties



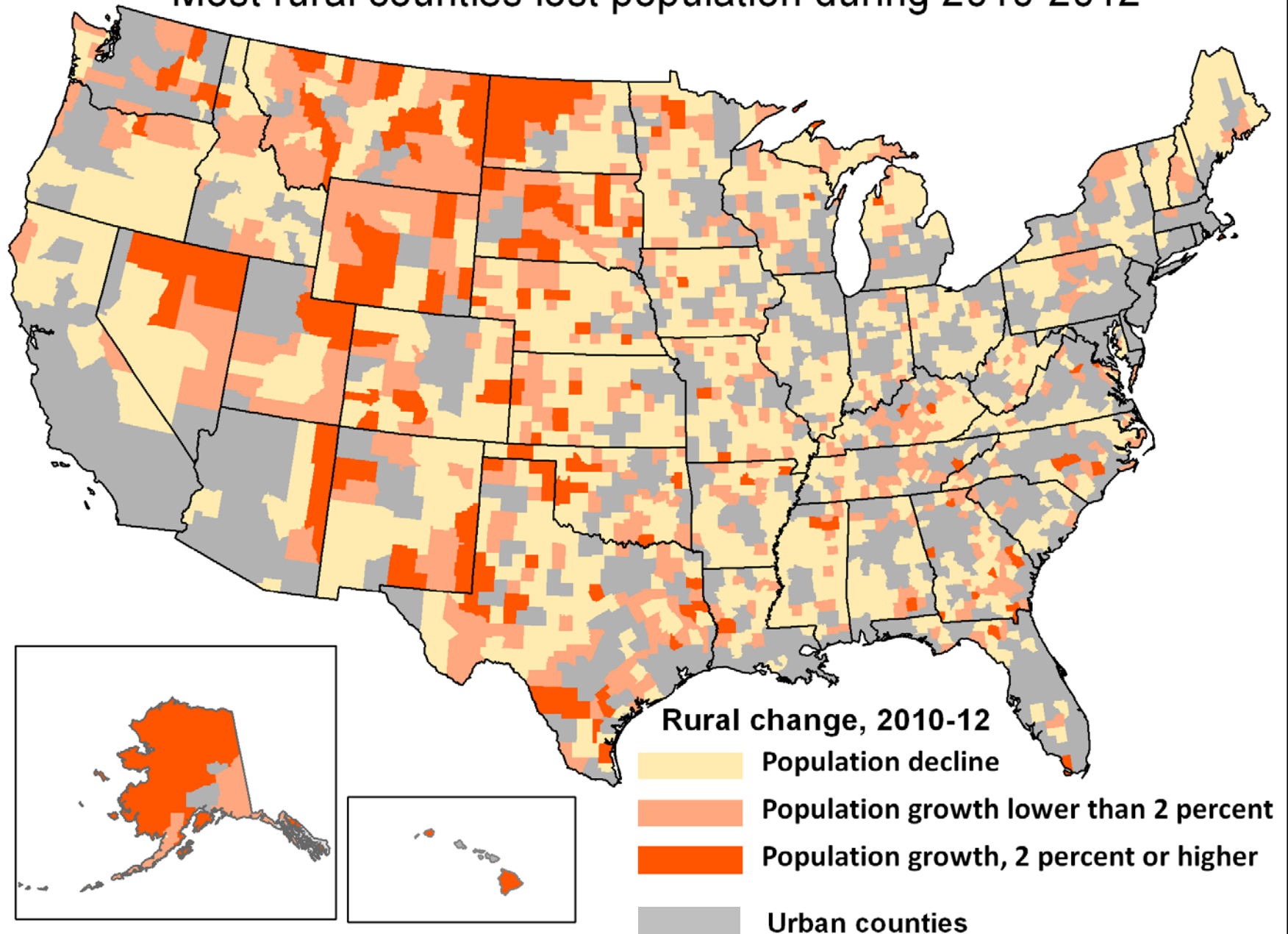
A dramatic slowdown in suburban and exurban development has contributed to rural population loss



Rapid population growth in rural recreation counties has been interrupted

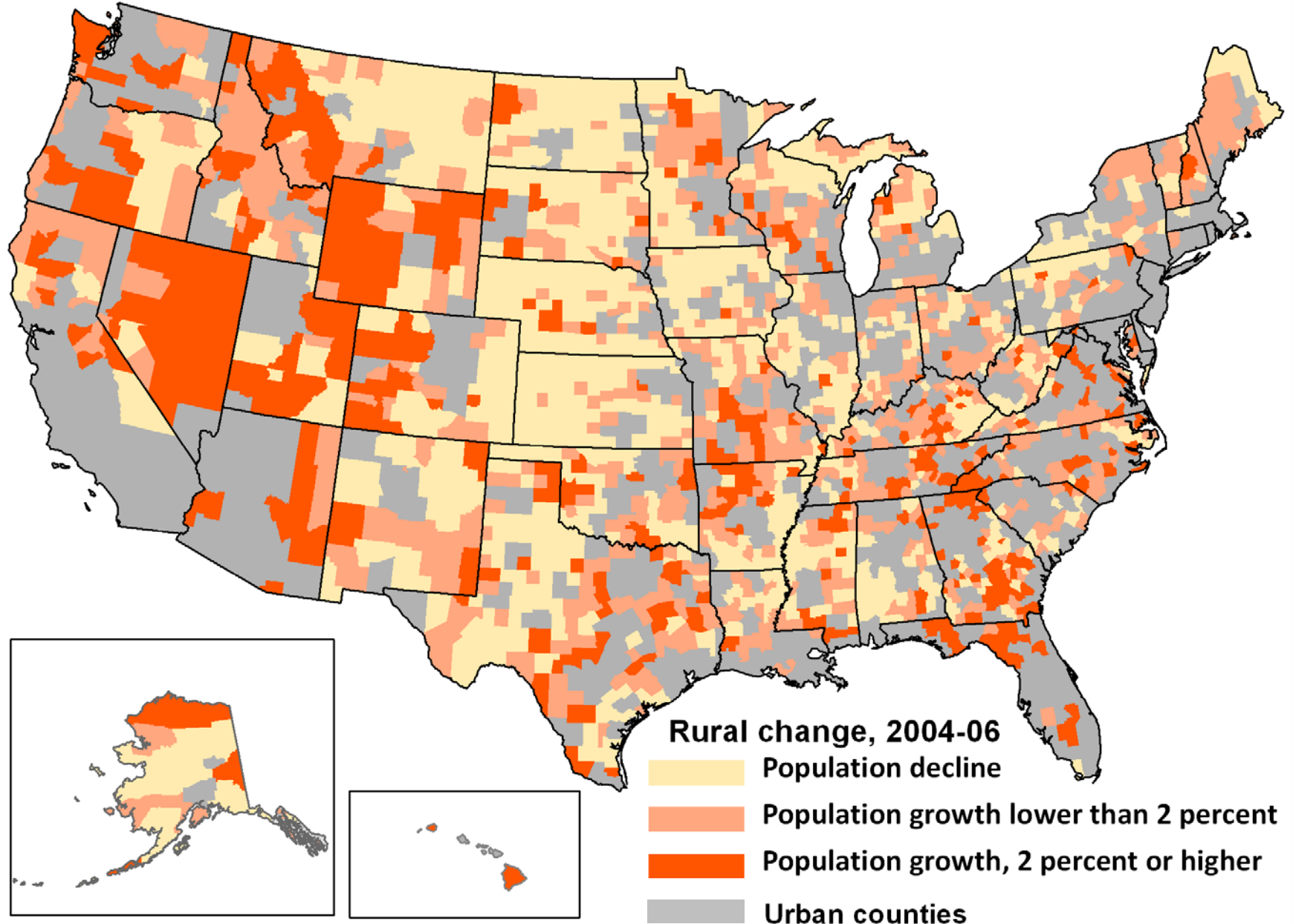


Most rural counties lost population during 2010-2012



Source: USDA, Economic Research Service, using data from the U.S. Census Bureau.

Population change during 2004-06 reflects historic patterns



Source: USDA, Economic Research Service, using data from the U.S. Census Bureau.