

SCRC Economic Designation of Counties & Isolated Areas

In accordance with 40 U.S.C. § 15702, SCRC will annually assign economic designations to counties and areas within the region. The categories are:

- A. **Distressed Counties** – Those counties that are the most severely and persistently economically distressed and underdeveloped. They also have high rates of poverty, unemployment, or outmigration.
- B. **Transitional Counties** – Those counties that are economically distressed and underdeveloped or have recently suffered high rates of poverty, unemployment, or outmigration.
- C. **Attainment Counties** – Those counties in the region that **are not** designated as distressed or transitional counties under this subsection.
- D. **Isolated Areas of Distress** – Those areas located in counties designated as attainment counties that have high rates of poverty, unemployment, or outmigration.

Methodology

SCRC uses an index-based county economic classification system to identify and monitor the economic status of its counties. The system involves the creation of a national index of county economic status through a comparison of each county's averages for three economic indicators—three-year average unemployment rate, per capita market income, and poverty rate—with national averages. The resulting values are summed and averaged to create a composite index value for each county. Each county in the nation is then ranked, based on its composite index value, with higher values indicating higher levels of distress.

SCRC County Economic Status Designation by National Index Value Rank

