

“Wanted: Jobs 2.0 in the Rural Southeast,” by Charles Davidson, staff writer for *EconSouth*

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Discussion questions

1. How did Franklin Delano Roosevelt’s programs change the economy of the 1930s South? What main type of economy did the South have at the time? What other factors contributed to economic development in the South during this time?
2. How do the economies of rural areas compare to those of metro areas? What factors continue to hold back rural economic growth?
3. How do rural areas compare to metro areas in terms of poverty, unemployment, and earnings? Why do rural areas that are closer to metro areas tend to fare better than more remote areas?
4. Why have rural areas lagged behind metro areas in terms of education and industrial strategy?
5. Why do the rural poor not simply migrate to better opportunities in urban areas? According to Lionel “Bo” Beaulieu, why would rural migration not necessarily help the plight of poor rural residents?
6. Are rural residents likely to become entrepreneurs, or nonfarm proprietors? In general, why do rural entrepreneurs tend to earn less than workers in wage and salary jobs?
7. What factors contribute to the lack of “intellectual infrastructure” in rural areas? Do you think that this type of infrastructure is as important to economic growth as capital infrastructure (such roads, broadband,)? Why or why not? (See the sidebar on rural broadband.)

Related links

[White House Rural Council](#)

[Rural America at a Glance, 2012 Edition: USDA Economic Research Service](#)

[Rural Policy Research Institute](#)

[Everyday Economics: Entrepreneurs: Dallas Fed](#)

[Entrepreneurship SMART lessons: Dallas Fed](#)

[Great Depression Curriculum Lesson 4: Dealing with the Great Depression: St. Louis Fed](#)

[Great Depression Online Course: St. Louis Fed](#)

[GeoFRED Mapping Tool for geographical economic data](#)