

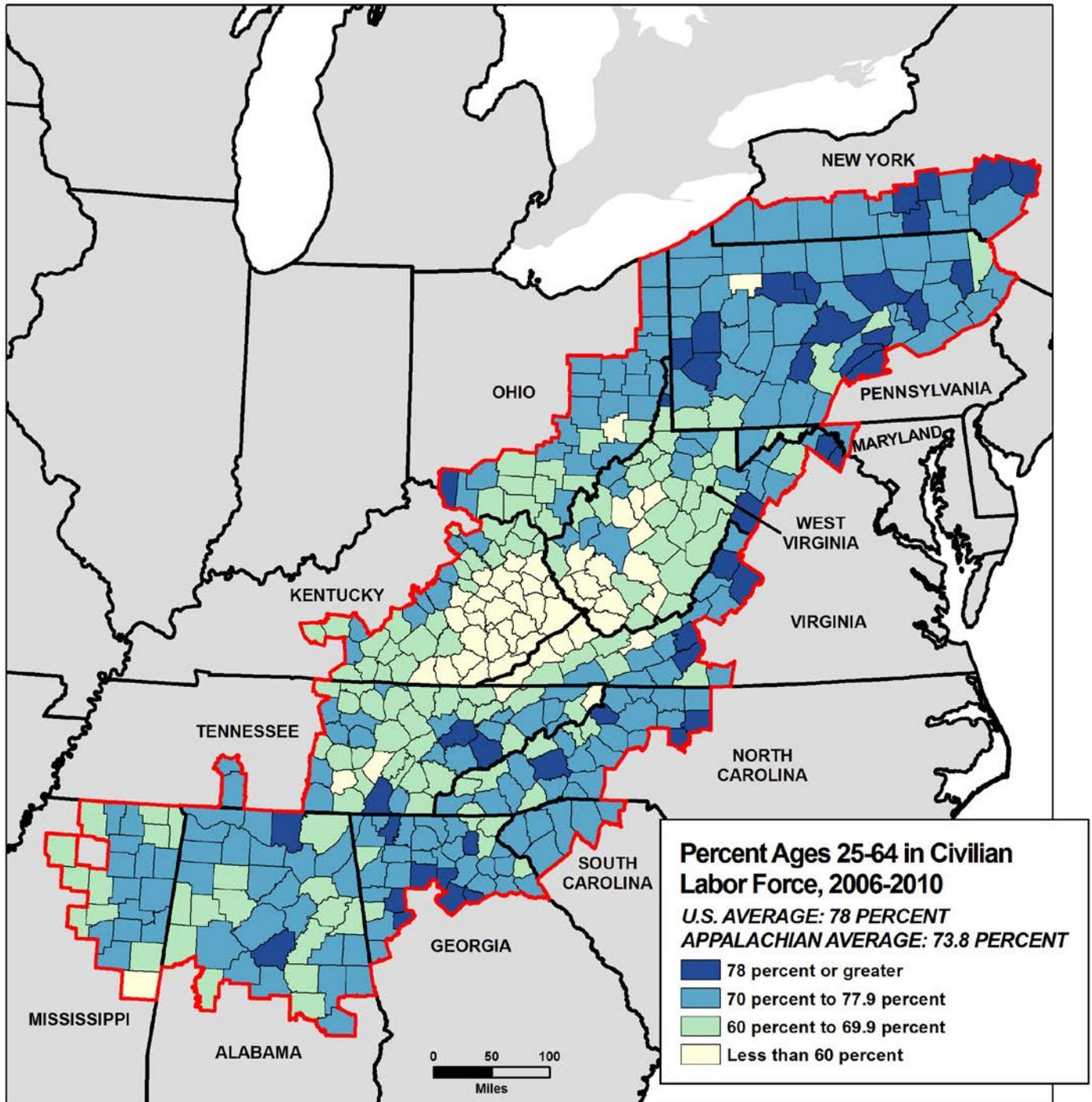
CHAPTER 6: LABOR FORCE, EMPLOYMENT, AND UNEMPLOYMENT

Table 6.1: Labor Force, Employment, and Unemployment Status of Persons Ages 25 to 64 in the Appalachian Region, 2006-2010

Labor Force, Employment, and Unemployment	Total Number of Civilian Persons Ages 25-64	Total Persons Ages 25-64 in Civilian Labor Force		Employment Rate (Pct. of Civ. Labor Force)	Unemployment Rate (Pct. of Civ. Labor Force)
		Number	Percent		
United States	160,279,913	125,059,841	78.0	93.6	6.4
Appalachian Region	13,192,595	9,739,072	73.8	93.5	6.5
Subregions					
Northern Appalachia	4,368,636	3,327,765	76.2	94.0	6.0
North Central Appalachia	1,280,143	897,106	70.1	93.6	6.4
Central Appalachia	1,033,570	629,652	60.9	92.7	7.3
South Central Appalachia	2,455,374	1,828,354	74.5	93.2	6.8
Southern Appalachia	4,054,872	3,056,195	75.4	93.1	6.9
County Types					
Large Metros (pop. 1 million +)	3,072,080	2,404,360	78.3	93.8	6.2
Small Metros (pop. <1 million)	5,278,032	3,958,075	75.0	93.7	6.3
Nonmetro, Adjacent to Large Metros	876,426	641,945	73.2	92.7	7.3
Nonmetro, Adjacent to Small Metros	2,639,644	1,869,045	70.8	93.1	6.9
Rural (nonmetro, not adj. to a metro)	1,326,413	865,647	65.3	93.0	7.0
Alabama	2,460,381	1,795,541	73.0	93.3	6.7
Appalachian Alabama	1,598,737	1,173,264	73.4	93.4	6.6
Non-Appalachian Alabama	861,644	622,277	72.2	93.0	7.0
Georgia	5,044,598	3,885,641	77.0	92.9	7.1
Appalachian Georgia	1,538,404	1,204,310	78.3	93.2	6.8
Non-Appalachian Georgia	3,506,194	2,681,331	76.5	92.8	7.2
Kentucky	2,285,459	1,646,112	72.0	93.3	6.7
Appalachian Kentucky	633,913	387,669	61.2	92.4	7.6
Non-Appalachian Kentucky	1,651,546	1,258,443	76.2	93.6	6.4
Maryland	3,090,221	2,544,633	82.3	94.9	5.1
Appalachian Maryland	133,115	98,757	74.2	94.3	5.7
Non-Appalachian Maryland	2,957,106	2,445,876	82.7	95.0	5.0
Mississippi	1,498,956	1,081,871	72.2	92.8	7.2
Appalachian Mississippi	315,464	224,494	71.2	92.0	8.0
Non-Appalachian Mississippi	1,183,492	857,377	72.4	93.0	7.0
New York	10,345,420	8,073,348	78.0	93.9	6.1
Appalachian New York	538,263	415,935	77.3	94.2	5.8
Non-Appalachian New York	9,807,157	7,657,413	78.1	93.9	6.1
North Carolina	4,907,180	3,798,065	77.4	92.8	7.2
Appalachian North Carolina	883,332	668,156	75.6	93.1	6.9
Non-Appalachian North Carolina	4,023,848	3,129,909	77.8	92.8	7.2
Ohio	6,062,474	4,748,169	78.3	93.0	7.0
Appalachian Ohio	1,071,044	778,313	72.7	92.3	7.7
Non-Appalachian Ohio	4,991,430	3,969,856	79.5	93.1	6.9
Pennsylvania	6,624,247	5,187,953	78.3	94.2	5.8
Appalachian Pennsylvania	3,027,152	2,316,165	76.5	94.3	5.7
Non-Appalachian Pennsylvania	3,597,095	2,871,788	79.8	94.2	5.8
South Carolina	2,367,502	1,786,074	75.4	92.4	7.6
Appalachian South Carolina	602,267	454,127	75.4	92.5	7.5
Non-Appalachian South Carolina	1,765,235	1,331,947	75.5	92.4	7.6
Tennessee	3,328,784	2,505,009	75.3	93.0	7.0
Appalachian Tennessee	1,461,699	1,064,453	72.8	93.0	7.0
Non-Appalachian Tennessee	1,867,085	1,440,556	77.2	92.9	7.1
Virginia	4,198,913	3,334,756	79.4	95.5	4.5
Appalachian Virginia	399,290	278,040	69.6	94.0	6.0
Non-Appalachian Virginia	3,799,623	3,056,716	80.4	95.6	4.4
West Virginia (entire state)	989,915	675,389	68.2	94.4	5.6

Data Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2006-2010 American Community Survey.

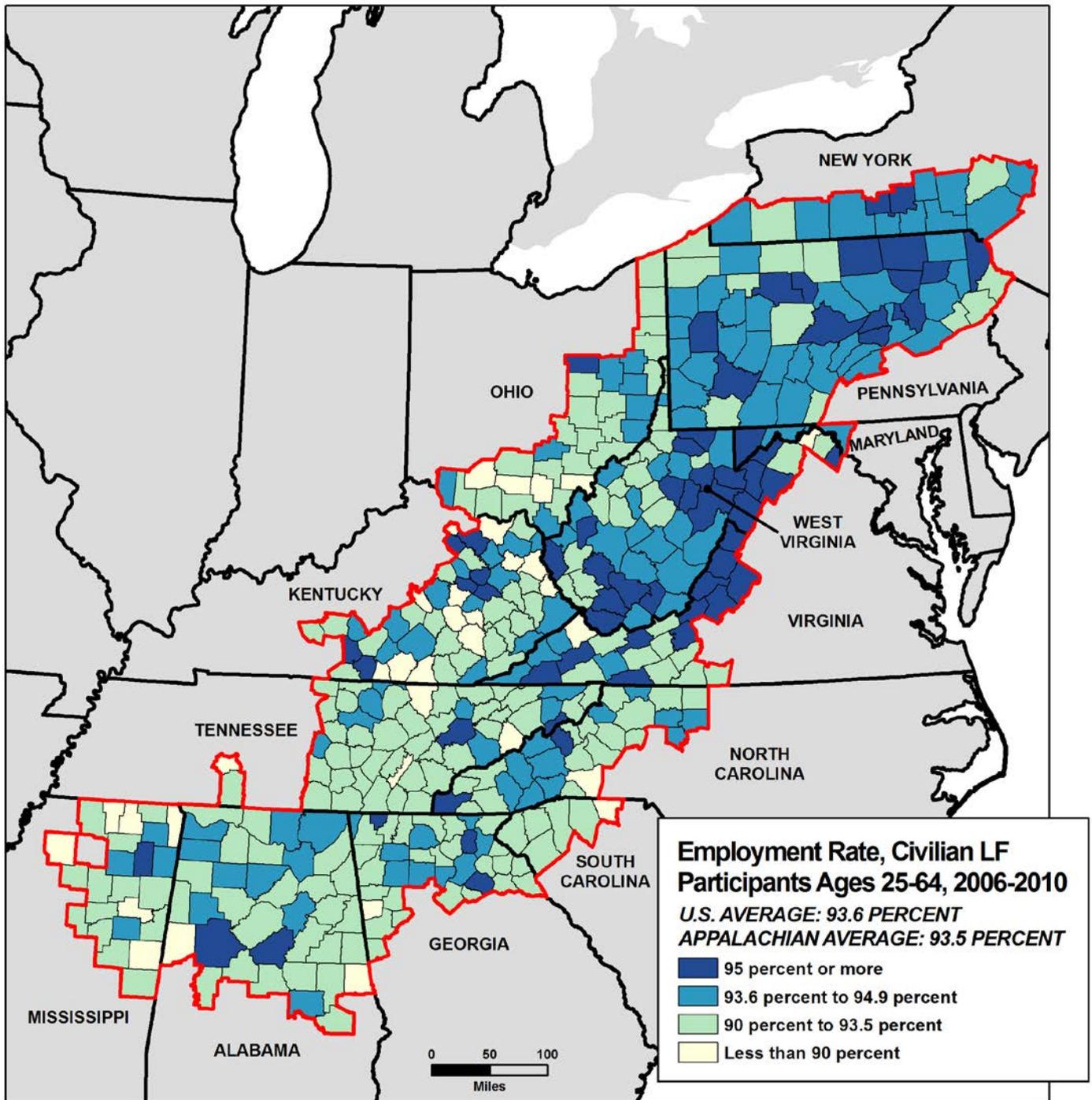
Figure 6.1: Percent of Persons Ages 25 to 64 in the Appalachian Region Who Are In the Labor Force, 2006-2010



Map Title: Percent of Persons Ages 25 to 64 in the Appalachian Region Who Are In the Labor Force, 2006-2010
 Data Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2006-2010 American Community Survey.

In the 2006-2010 period (a period of both economic growth and decline), nearly 74 percent of Appalachia’s civilians in the prime working ages (ages 25 to 64) were in the civilian labor force, slightly below the U.S. average of 78 percent. In 44 Appalachian counties (scattered throughout the region), the share was above the national average; two-thirds of those counties were in metropolitan areas. On the other hand, there were 49 counties where less than 60 percent of 25-to-64-year-olds were in the civilian labor force, a full 18 percentage points below the national average. Nearly all of these counties were outside of metropolitan areas, with three-fourths in central Appalachia. Indeed, just 61 percent of working-age residents in central Appalachia were in the labor force. And there are signs of a possible connection between educational attainment and labor force participation. For example, in most of the counties with labor force participation rates matching or exceeding the U.S. average, the share of working-age adults with at least a high school diploma was also at or above the national average.

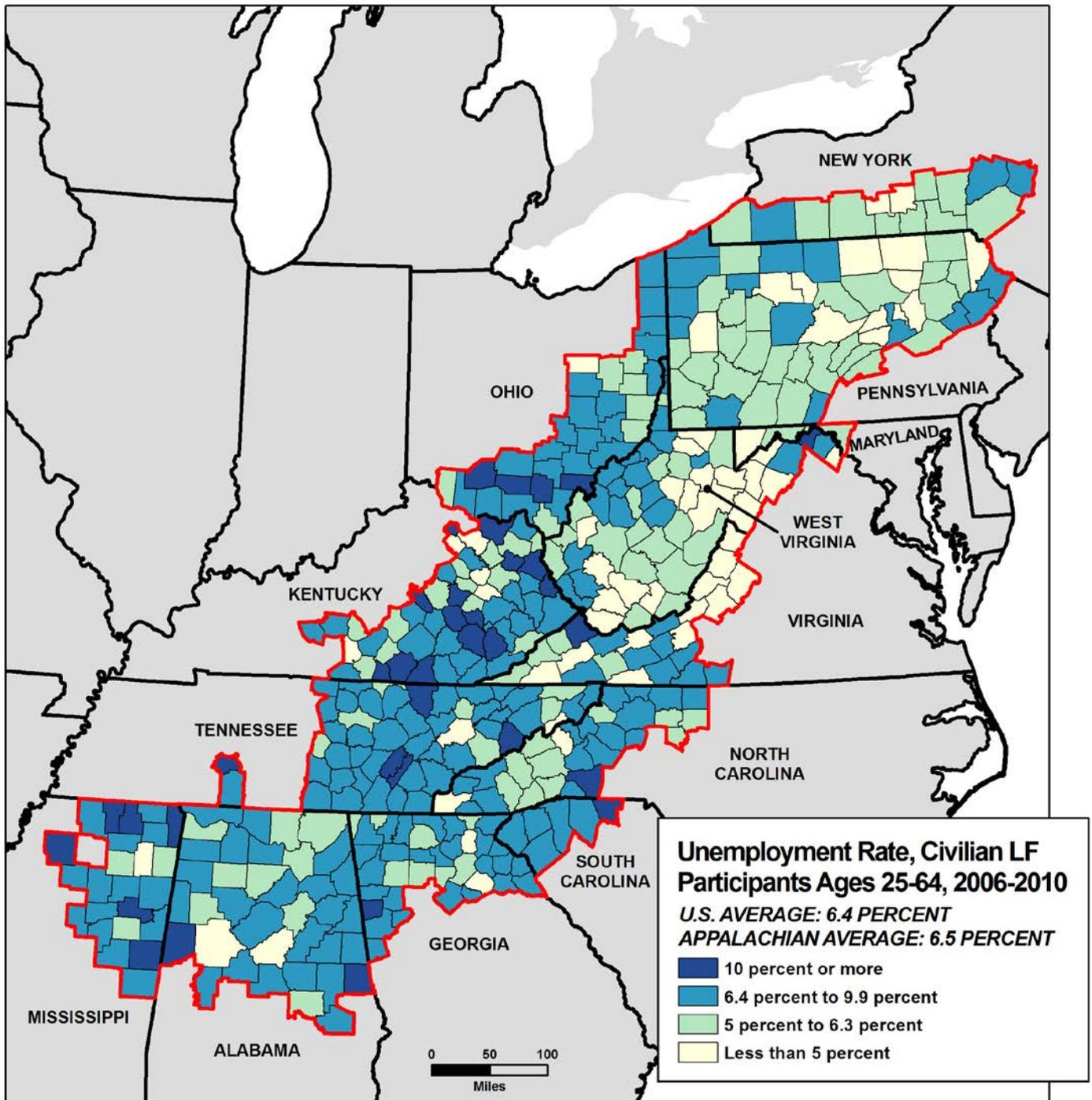
Figure 6.2: Employment Rate for Civilian Labor Force Participants Ages 25 to 64 in the Appalachian Region, 2006-2010



Map Title: Employment Rate for Civilian Labor Force Participants Ages 25 to 64 in the Appalachian Region, 2006-2010
 Data Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2006-2010 American Community Survey.

Among members of the civilian labor force ages 25 to 64, the employment rate in Appalachia during the 2006-2010 period (which incorporates not only the recent recession, but also years of economic growth) was almost identical to the national average. Although there were only slight differences among subregions and urban/rural county types, there was some variation among the counties. In nearly half of Appalachian counties, the employment rate matched or exceeded the national average, with about one in six counties having employment rates of at least 95 percent. Yet in 34 counties in the region, employment among 25-to-64-year-olds was less than 90 percent. Nearly all of these counties were outside metropolitan areas.

Figure 6.3: Unemployment Rate for Civilian Labor Force Participants Ages 25 to 64 in the Appalachian Region, 2006-2010



Map Title: Unemployment Rate for Civilian Labor Force Participants Ages 25 to 64 in the Appalachian Region, 2006-2010
 Data Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2006-2010 American Community Survey.

Although unemployment in the Appalachian region among persons ages 25 to 64 was just above the national average during the 2006-2010 period, it was at least 10 percent in 36 counties. All but two of these counties were outside metropolitan areas, and nearly half were in central Appalachia. At the other end of the spectrum, unemployment was below 5 percent in 59 Appalachian counties; these were more evenly distributed among urban/rural types and subregions. There are indications of a connection between unemployment and educational attainment: In 25 of the 36 Appalachian counties with double-digit unemployment, less than four-fifths of 25-to-64-year-olds had a high school diploma or more. It is important to note that unemployment during the 2006-2010 period reflects not just patterns during the 2007-2009 economic downturn and post-recession recovery, but also patterns during the years of pre-recession economic growth.