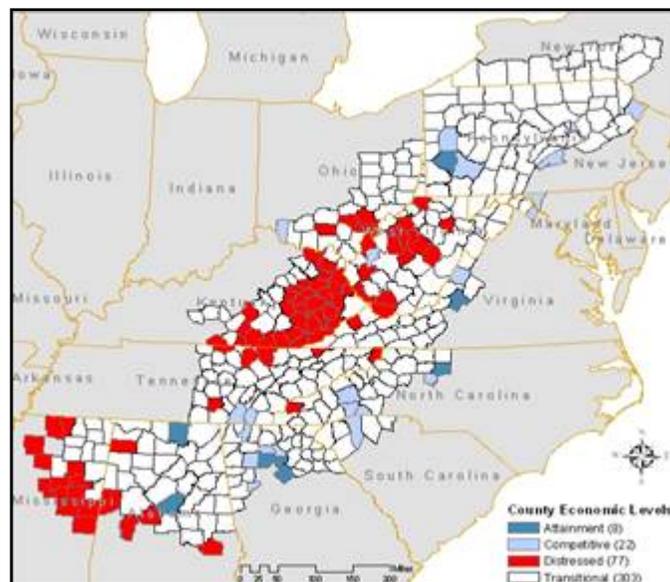


Sources of Regional Growth in Non-Metro Appalachia

Vol. 2. Case Studies of Local Economic Development Growth Processes



Prepared for the Appalachian Regional Commission

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SOURCES OF GROWTH PROJECT

The *Sources of Growth* project is part of a series of research efforts funded by the Appalachian Regional Commission to improve our understanding of factors affecting economic growth in rural and distressed areas. As stated in the Volume 1 Introduction, “the starting premise of this project is to go beyond the theory of comparative advantage to understand more concretely the multiple paths that an area can pursue in successfully enhancing job and income creation, and the effects of spatial linkages among communities in shaping these options. It is in this context that one can understand how communities may build on natural resources, cultural resources, human resources, local amenities, institutional facilities or location advantages. Furthermore, certain developmental path dependencies may shape the direction of economic growth may involve manufacturing or supply chain development, resource extraction or tourism development, educational development or trade center development.” This research is intended to provide a basis of information that can ultimately be useful for enhancing the effectiveness of policies and tools aimed at improving the region’s economic development.

This is Volume 2 in a series of reports prepared as part of this project:

- ***Executive Summary*** –synthesis of findings from all work products related to the study’s four main research components.
- ***Volume 1, Project Background and Prior Research on Economic Growth Paths*** – study objectives, characteristics of non-metro Appalachian counties, classification of economic development growth paths, and a synopsis of white paper findings on theory relating to economic development growth paths.
- ***Volume 2, Case Studies of Local Economic Development Growth Processes*** – findings related to growth paths as observed for selected case studies covering manufacturing industry specialization clusters, supply chain-based development, tourism-based development, advanced technology development, and diversification from resource-based economies.
- ***Volume 3, Empirical Studies of Spatial Economic Relationships*** – findings from a series of econometric modeling and GIS-based analyses, focusing on roles of spatial adjacency, market access and transportation in determining economic growth and development of trade centers.
- ***Volume 4, Tools for Economic Development & Study Conclusions*** – description of new and updated tools available to ARC and its Local Development Districts to assess economic development opportunities and potential directions for economic growth.
- ***Appendices*** – (A) Spatial Analysis of Economic Health, (B) Economic Analysis of Hub-Spoke Relationships, (C) White Papers on Economic Growth Theories, (D) Literature Review of Empirical Studies on Spatial Influences in Economic Development.

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Altogether, the Sources of Growth project involved a team of researchers including:

- Economic Development Research Group, Inc. (EDRG) – Lisa Petraglia (Project Director), Glen Weisbrod and Teresa Lynch, with research support from Tyler Comings and Brett Piercy;
- Regional Technology Strategies, Inc. (RTS) –Stuart Rosenfeld, Phil Psilos and Dan Broun;
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