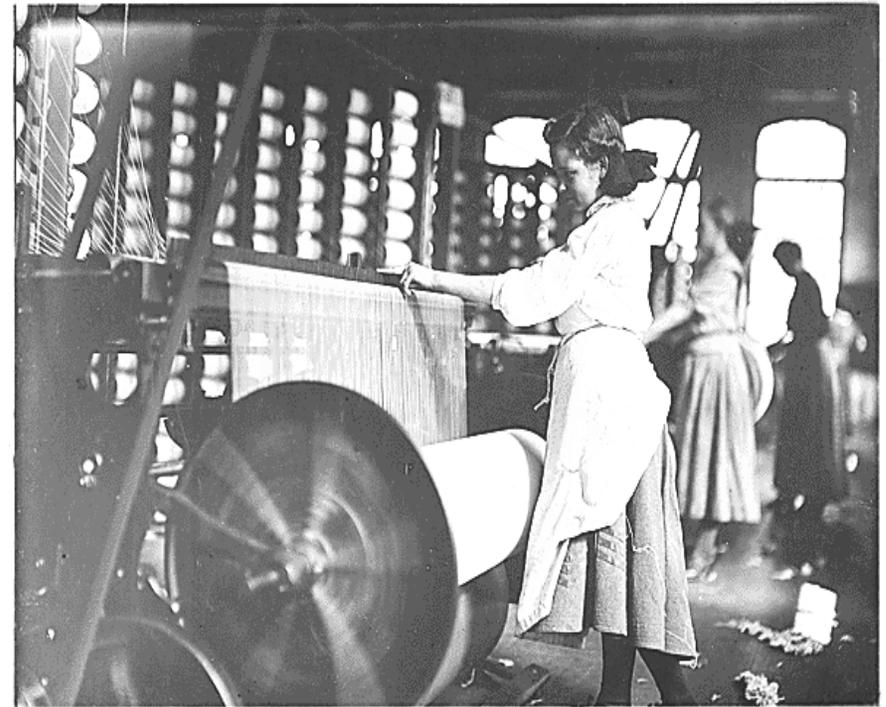


Panel IV: Rural Issues & Poverty

Federal Reserve Bank of Atlanta

New Orleans Branch

September 19, 2008



ECONOMIC & COMMUNITY
DEVELOPMENT INSTITUTE

Auburn University & Alabama Cooperative Extension System



Joe A. Sumners, Ph.D., Director

Human Infrastructure

It is not the duty, nor is it to the interest of the State, to educate its entire population beyond the primaries. Universal experience teaches that if a boy, without regard to his color, be educated beyond this point, he declines ever to work another day in the sun.”

-- Alabama Governor William C. Oates,
1894

Human Infrastructure

Alabama per pupil expenditures on education as a percentage of the national average:

1890	28%
1900	17%
1910	33%
1920	39%
1930	43%
1940	37%
2008	81%

Alabama's New Economy

Projected fast-growing occupations by 2014:

(Alabama Department of Industrial Relations)

- ✓ Medical scientists
- ✓ Computer software engineers
- ✓ Physician assistants
- ✓ Biochemists and biophysicists
- ✓ Home health aides
- ✓ Network systems and data communications analysts
- ✓ Aircraft mechanics and service technicians
- ✓ Medical assistants



Top Issues Facing Alabama



1. Education and education funding
2. Availability of qualified workers
3. Economic development / sustaining growth
4. Fuel and energy costs
5. Competence in government

-- Alabama Business Leaders Confidence Index Survey, Panelists Quick Poll (August 2006); Center for Business and Economic Research, The University of Alabama

Two Alabamas

Alabama Commerce Commission (2000):

“Clearly, there are two Alabamas, one urban and one rural. The first is enjoying relative success, although there are deeply distressed pockets within our urban areas. The second, for the most part, is making little or no progress and continues to keep Alabama from being recognized as a successful competitor.”

Rural counties have:

- a greater percentage of population over 65 years of age
- Higher unemployment
- Lower median family incomes
- Lower percentages of high school graduates
- Lower average ACT and SAT scores

BEYOND THE INTERSTATE:



by

Larry Lee and
Joe A. Summers



AUBURN UNIVERSITY



ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT INSTITUTE

The Crisis in Rural Alabama

CROSSROADS and CONNECTIONS



by
Joe A. Summers
and Larry Lee



AUBURN UNIVERSITY



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Strategies for Rural Alabama

Available at <http://www.auburn.edu/ecdi>

Economic Vitality Index: Ranking Alabama Counties

(population change, educational attainment, income, and employment)

- | | | |
|-----------------------|------------------------|------------------------|
| 1. Shelby (metro) | 15. Blount (metro) | 29. Cleburne (rural) |
| 2. Baldwin (micro) | 16. Montgomery (metro) | 30. DeKalb (micro) |
| 3. Madison (metro) | 17. Chilton (metro) | 31. Jackson (micro) |
| 4. Autauga (metro) | 18. Jefferson (metro) | 32. Bibb (metro) |
| 5. Elmore (metro) | 19. Lauderdale (metro) | 33. Covington (rural) |
| 6. Lee (metro) | 20. Calhoun (metro) | 34. Tallapoosa (micro) |
| 7. St. Clair (metro) | 21. Colbert (metro) | 35. Walker (metro) |
| 8. Limestone (metro) | 22. Cherokee (rural) | 36. Geneva (metro) |
| 9. Tuscaloosa (metro) | 23. Mobile (metro) | 37. Randolph (rural) |
| 10. Houston (metro) | 24. Talladega (micro) | 38. Lawrence (metro) |
| 11. Coffee (micro) | 25. Etowah (metro) | 39. Washington (rural) |
| 12. Marshall (micro) | 26. Henry (metro) | 40. Crenshaw (rural) |
| 13. Morgan (metro) | 27. Pike (micro) | 41. Fayette (rural) |
| 14. Cullman (micro) | 28. Dale (micro) | 42. Marengo (rural) |

Alabama County Economic Vitality Index

(population change, educational attainment, income, and employment)

- | | |
|----------------------|----------------------|
| 43. Franklin (rural) | 56. Lowndes (metro) |
| 44. Clay (rural) | 57. Macon (micro) |
| 45. Escambia (rural) | 58. Greene (metro) |
| 46. Russell (rural) | 59. Conecuh (rural) |
| 47. Monroe (rural) | 60. Chambers (micro) |
| 48. Hale (metro) | 61. Lamar (rural) |
| 49. Marion (rural) | 62. Dallas (micro) |
| 50. Winston (rural) | 63. Choctaw (rural) |
| 51. Clarke (rural) | 64. Wilcox (rural) |
| 52. Pickens (rural) | 65. Sumter (rural) |
| 53. Butler (rural) | 66. Bullock (rural) |
| 54. Barbour (micro) | 67. Perry (rural) |
| 55. Coosa (micro) | |



County Economic Vitality Index: Population Change

	1990-2000	2000-2006
Average County	10%	1%
Metro	14%	5%
Micro	10%	1%
Rural	4%	-3%

County Economic Vitality Index: Educational Attainment (2000)

	HS Graduation	BS or More
Average County	70%	14%
Metro	73%	17%
Micro	70%	14%
Rural	66%	10%

County Economic Vitality Index:

Income (2004)

	Median HH Income	Poverty
All Counties	\$32,402	18%
Metro	\$36,352	16%
Micro	\$31,927	18%
Rural	\$28,089	20%

County Economic Vitality Index: Employment

	Job Change (2000-06)	Unemployment (2006)
Average County	.05%	4.3%
Metro	3.8%	3.7%
Micro	-0.7%	4.3%
Rural	-3.8%	4.9%

Alabama Rural Roundtable

June 16, 2006, Auburn University

“Priorities for Strengthening
the Future of Rural Alabama”

1. Leadership & Citizen Participation
(civic infrastructure)
2. Workforce Development & Education
(human infrastructure)
3. Infrastructure & Communications Technology
(physical infrastructure)

Civic Infrastructure

A strong economy requires a strong community.

- Economic development requires a foundation upon which to build.
- Roads, water, gas, electricity and sewers are necessary for economic growth – *physical infrastructure*.
- At least as important is the community's *civic infrastructure* of strong local leadership, vital community institutions, public involvement, and a community mindset of pride and optimism.



WELCOME
TO

UNIONTOWN





DEMOPOLIS

CITY OF THE PEOPLE

FOUNDED 1817

Success Strategies for Small Towns: The 5 Ps

1. PERSPECTIVE

- ✓ Understand the big picture.
- ✓ Focus on community development before economic development.

2. PEOPLE

- ✓ Engage citizens; focus on quantity of leaders.
- ✓ Engage young people.

3. PLANNING

- ✓ Inventory community assets.
- ✓ Create a shared vision.
- ✓ Plan and don't stop planning.
- ✓ Work the plan.

4. PARTNERSHIPS

- ✓ Build connections among stakeholders; work together.
- ✓ Partner with neighbors.

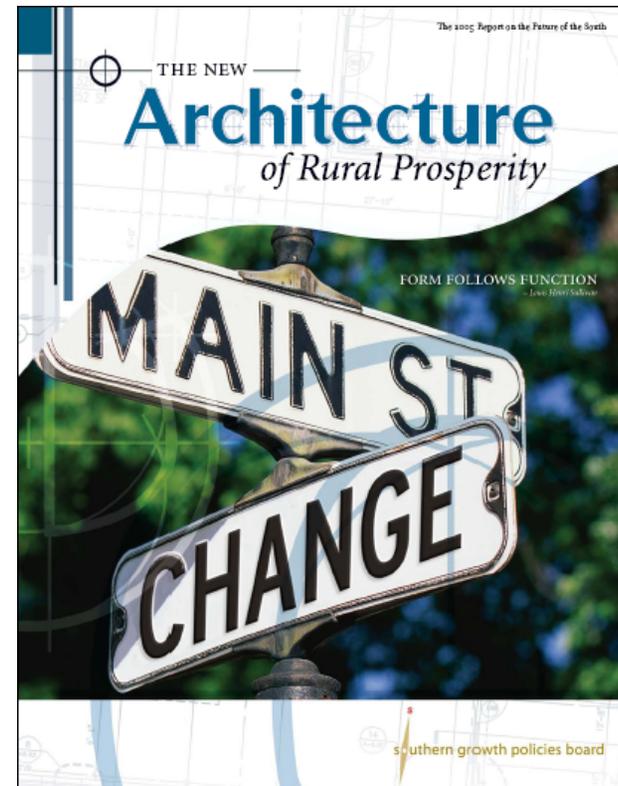
5. PERSISTENCE

- ✓ Don't give up.

Southern Growth Policies Board

<http://www.southern.org>

The New Architecture of Rural Prosperity: 2005 Report on the Future of the South

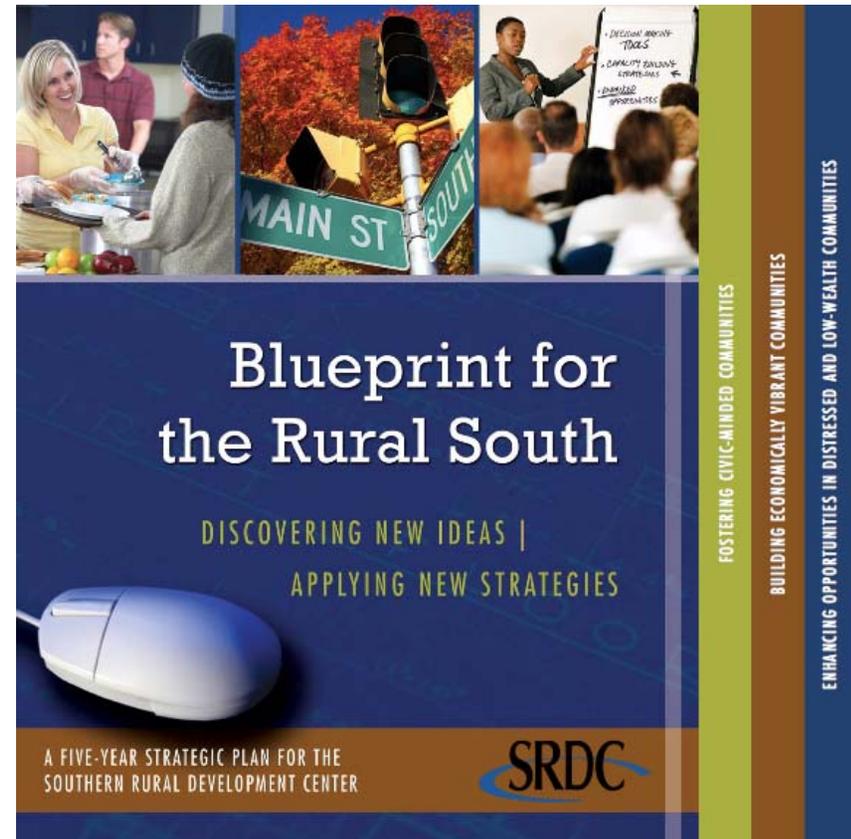


<http://www.southern.org/pubs/architecturereport2005/finalreport.pdf>

Southern Rural Development Center

<http://srdc.msstate.edu>

*Blueprint for the
Rural South:
Discovering New Ideas /
Applying New Strategies*



Available online at:

<http://www.southern.org/pubs/architecturereport2005/finalreport.pdf>



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