

SCIRPDC Economic Base Analysis

Table 1: Sectors Featured in the Industrial Analysis

Agriculture, forestry, fishing and hunting	Mining, quarrying, and oil and gas extraction
Arts, entertainment, recreation, accommodation, and food services	Other services (except government and government enterprises)
Construction	Retail trade
Educational services, health care, and social assistance	Professional and business services
Finance	Utilities
Government and government enterprises	Transportation and warehousing
Information	Wholesale trade
Manufacturing	

INTRODUCTION

I have only worked with SCIRPDC for about a month, which making this post an exciting opportunity for me to learn about the region’s economic base. The analysis section looks at three types of data in two sections at the County level from the US Bureau of Economic Analysis. The data were either examined “as is”, by comparing counties or industries against one another, or by combining them to perform regional analysis.

Before the data are described, it should be noted that the BEA will occasionally not provide a certain figure to “avoid disclosure of confidential information”. This happens when there are only a

few people working in the industry or place in question, and thus a statistic about it could reveal something about their personal lives. While this did occur with some of the values for this analysis, only a few were affected. Between that and the fact that, by their very nature such figures must be small, there is no cause for concern.

THE DATA

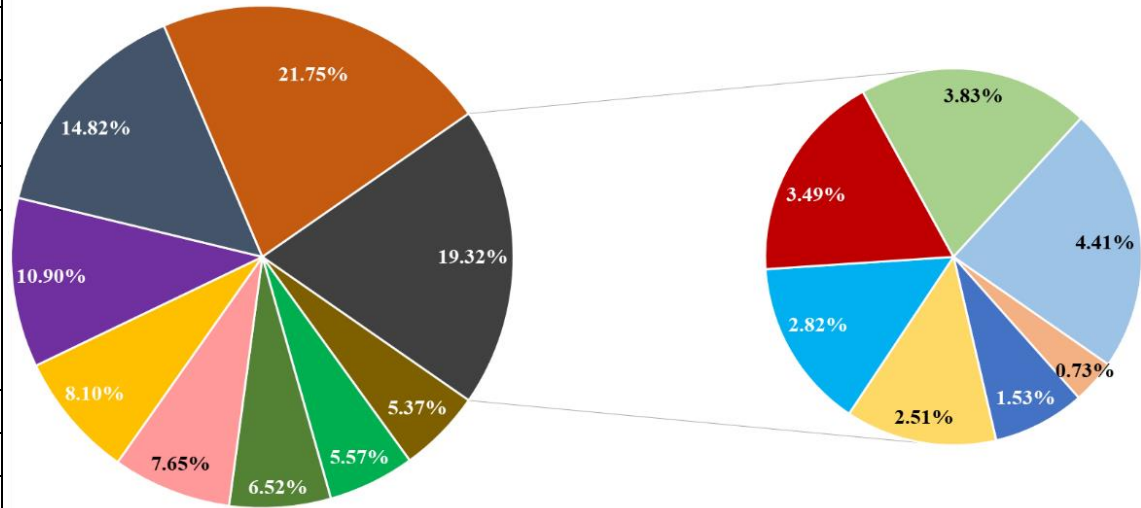
The first dataset is County GDP by Industry in 2001 and 2019. The two periods are analyzed both on their own, and compared then to see what changed between them, with the industries sorted into 15 groups (Table 1). Second is County total employment (i.e., a combination of full and part time jobs) from 2001 – 2019. Third is County total GDP, also from 2001 – 2019.

ANALYSIS

Over the past two decades, the regional economy has become somewhat more service based, even though industrial capacity has increased considerably (chart 1-3, table 2-3). The GDP contribution of each industry in the region (save for one) increased between 123 to 449% between the two periods, for an overall regional GDP growth of 170% (chart 1-3, table 2-3). Although the “ranking” and relative contributions of some industries changed, only one industry, utilities, contracted, contributing almost \$50 million less to the regional GDP than it had in 2001.

Table 2 and Chart 1: SCIRPDC GDP in 2001 by Industry (thousands of current dollars)

Mining, quarrying, and oil and gas extraction	24,189
Agriculture, forestry, fishing and hunting	50,741
Arts, entertainment, recreation, accommodation, and food services	83,102
Professional and business services	93,470
Transportation and warehousing	115,503
Information	126,903
Construction	146,108
Wholesale trade	177,858
Other services (except government and government enterprises)	184,582
Retail trade	215,960
Utilities	253,538
Educational services, health care, and social assistance	268,298
Government and government enterprises	361,121
Finance	490,918
Manufacturing	720,430
Grand Total	3,312,721.00

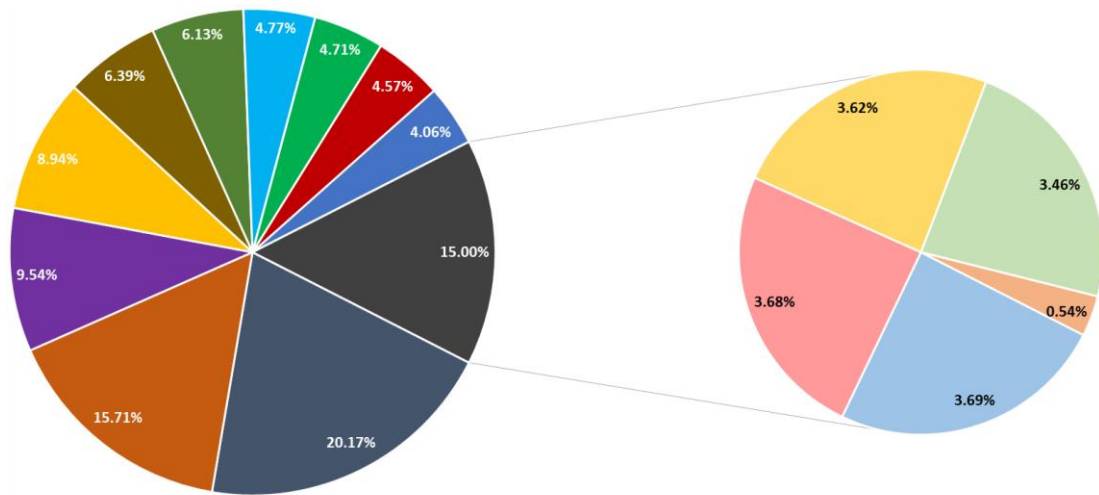


US BEA, November-December 2020

NOTE: Table also serves as a color key for chart 1

Table 3 and Chart 2: SCIRPDC GDP in 2019 by Industry (thousands of current dollars)

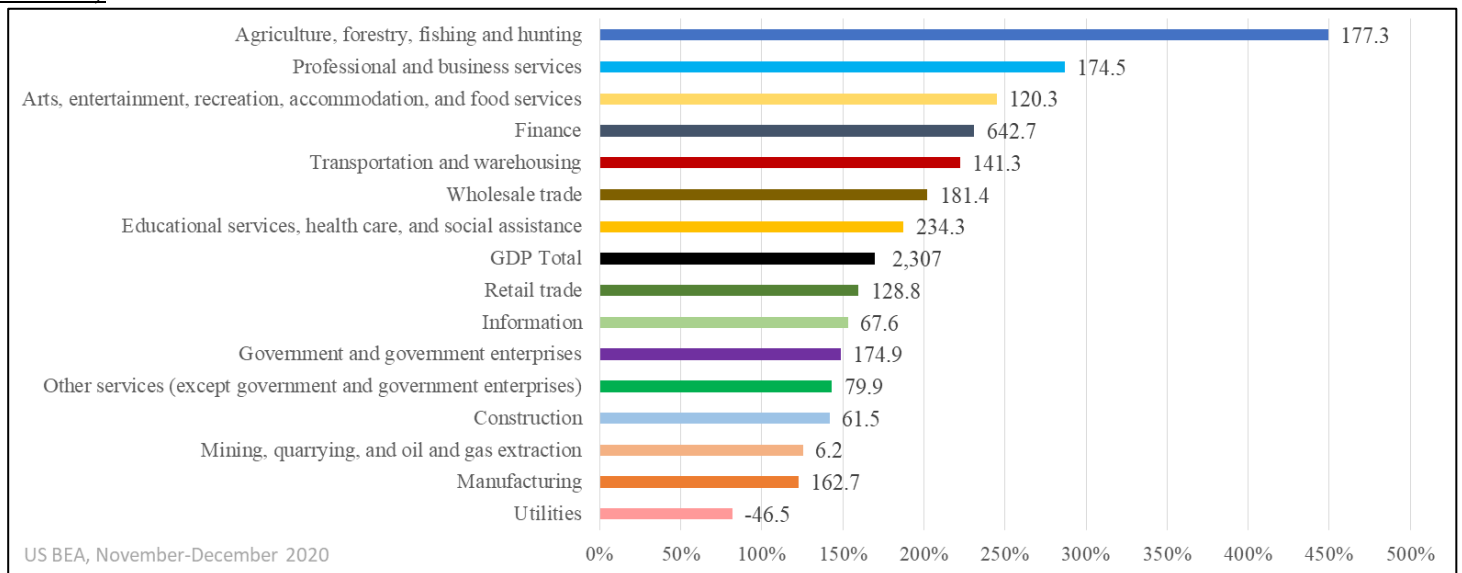
Mining, quarrying, and oil and gas extraction	\$30,356
Information	\$194,523
Arts, entertainment, recreation, accommodation, and food services	\$203,444
Utilities	\$207,083
Construction	\$207,567
Agriculture, forestry, fishing and hunting	\$228,044
Transportation and warehousing	\$256,761
Other services (except government and government enterprises)	\$264,515
Professional and business services	\$268,019
Retail trade	\$344,742
Wholesale trade	\$359,299
Educational services, health care, and social assistance	\$502,642
Government and government enterprises	\$536,028
Manufacturing	\$883,136
Finance	\$1,133,650
Grand Total	\$5,619,809



US BEA, November-December 2020

NOTE: Table also serves as a color key for chart 2

Chart 3: Percentage and Total Change in Regional GDP from 2001-2019 by Industry (Labels in Millions of Current Dollars)



US BEA, November-December 2020

County and Regional Comparison

The economic growth described in the previous section was concentrated in Marion and Effingham, although the other counties have also seen slow and steady growth since 2001 (chart 3). Concurrently, employment throughout the region has been either stagnant or decreasing, meaning that businesses and governments as a whole have been “doing more with less” (chart 3-5). Chart 5 specifically measures this example of economic efficiency, and shows that the most rural county of the five in the SCIRPDC area, Jasper is the clear front runner in the metric. Jasper is efficient compared to other regional entities, even the Chicago area (chart 5-6).

Chart 3: Total Regional and County GDP over Time (thousands of current dollars)

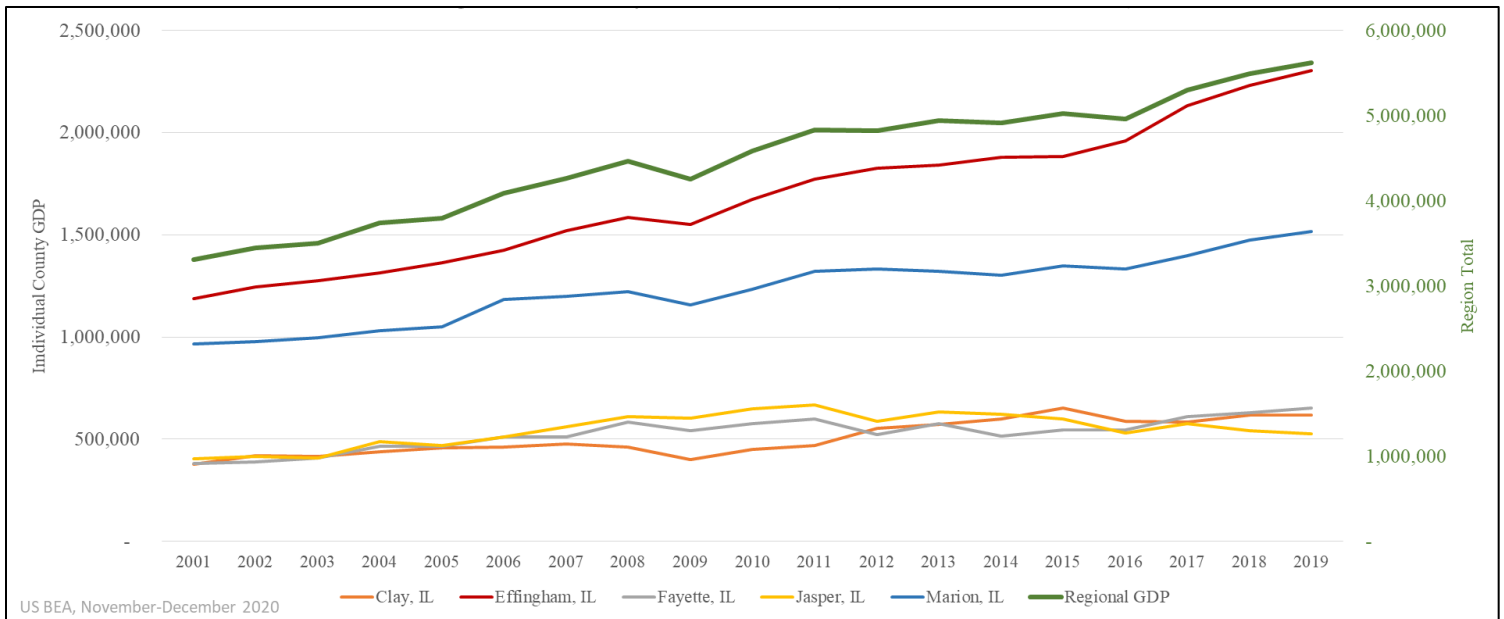


Chart 4: Regional and County Employment over Time

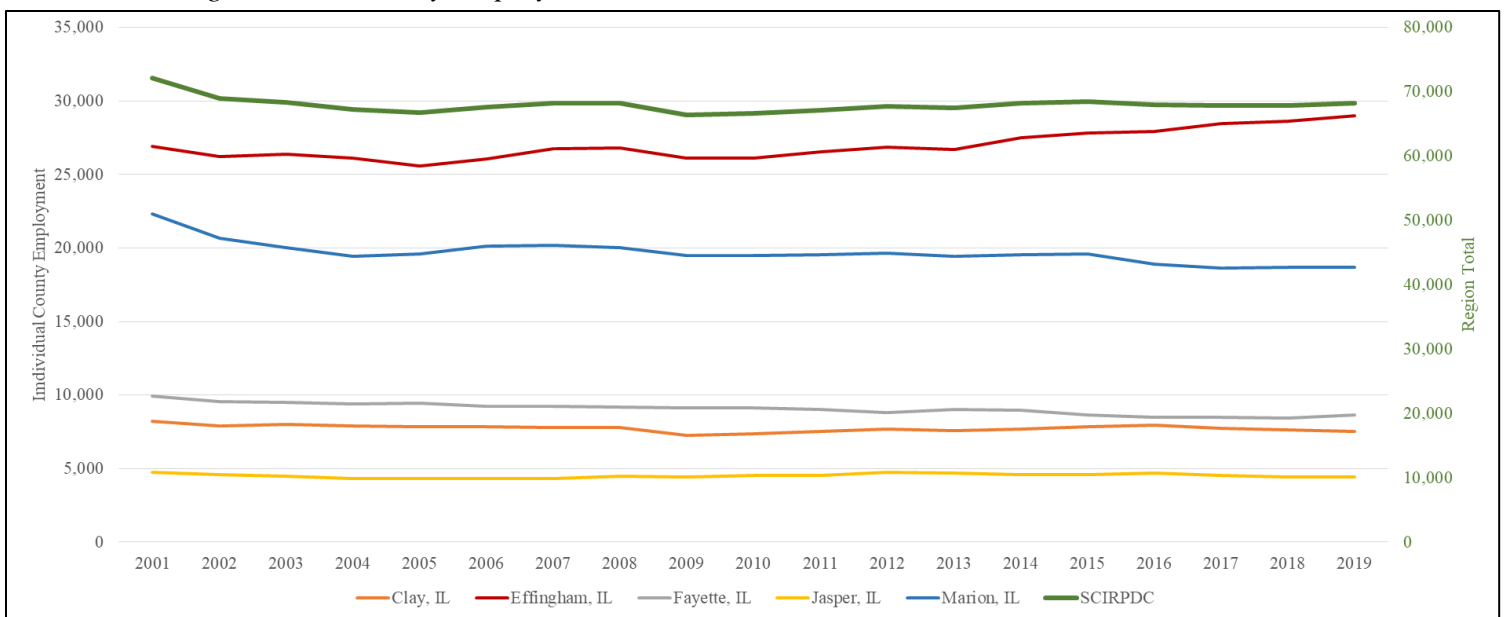


Chart 5: Regional and County GDP Divided by Employment over Time (thousands of current dollars)

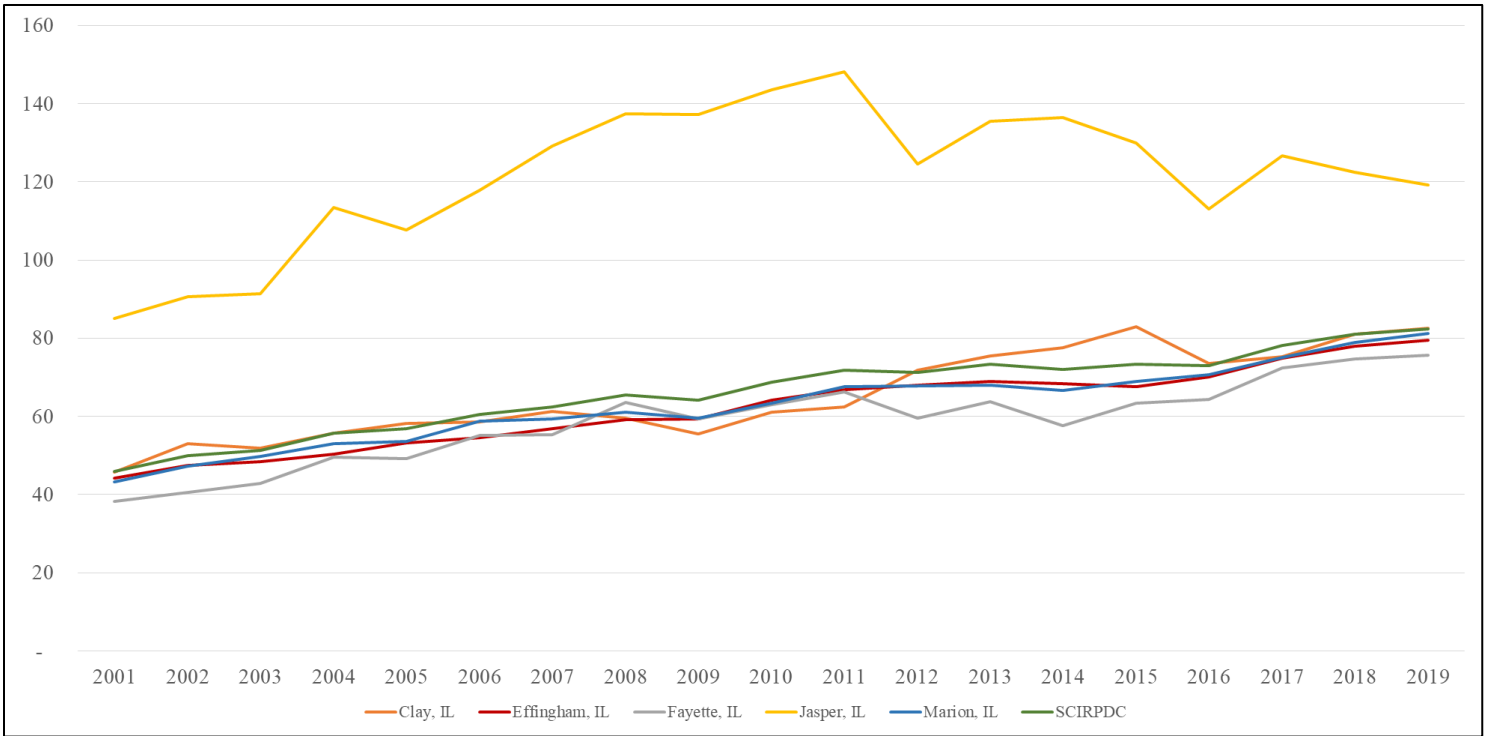
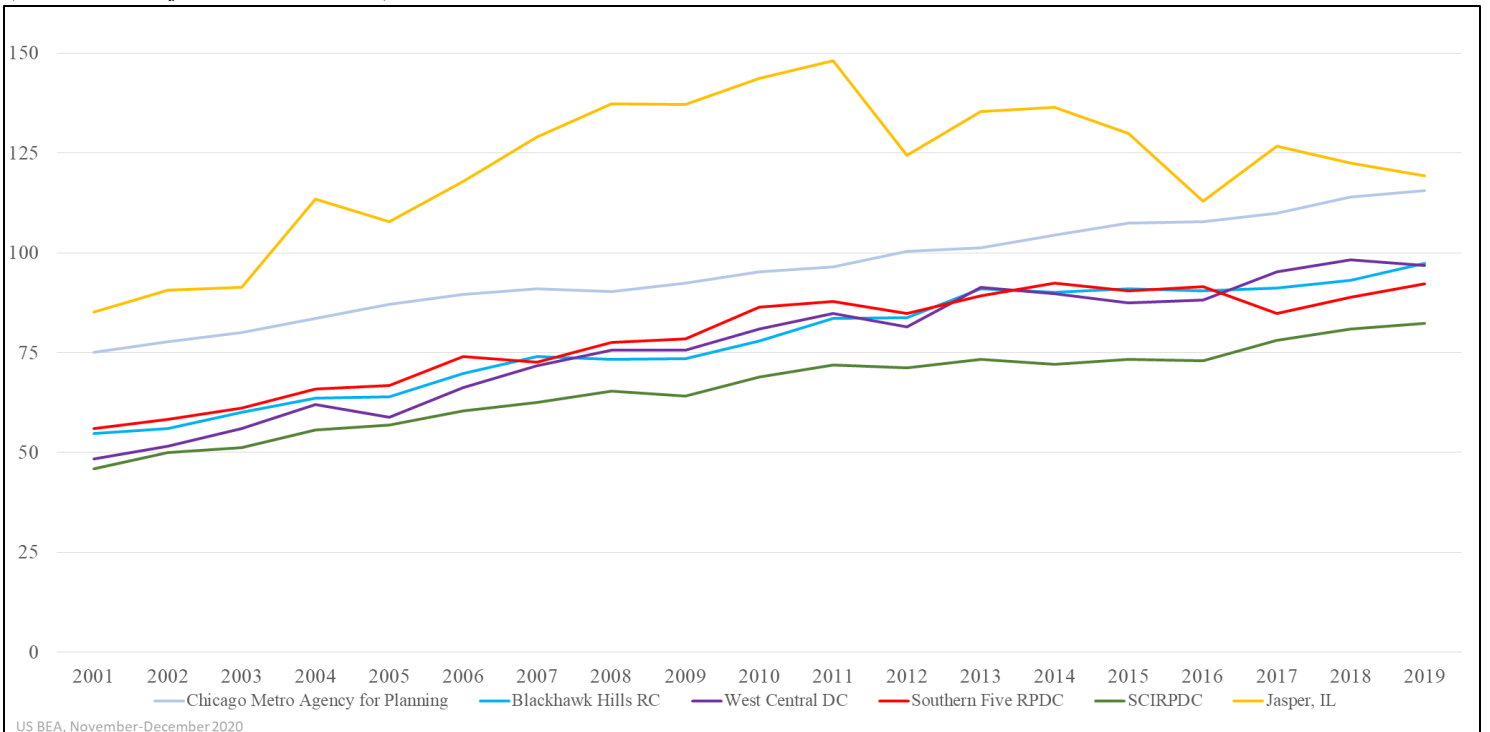


Chart 6: Jasper, SCIRPDC, and other Regional Entities GDP Divided by Employment over Time (thousands of current dollars)



US BEA, November-December 2020

CONCLUSION

In economic development, rural areas are often overlooked in favor of discussing metropolitan ones, but as the analysis has demonstrated, this is a mistake. Successful development makes use of all resources available, and with careful planning, get them where they're needed most.

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