The Western Rural Development Center’s COVID-19 Series continues with this latest publication showing those U.S. counties potentially more threatened by economic downturn related to the employment industries hardest hit by the pandemic within their county.

"It is apparent that some parts of the country are more vulnerable than others. Specifically, counties in the West tend to be more vulnerable than counties in other parts of the country. It is also apparent that rural counties are more vulnerable than urban counties. This is because urban economies tend to be more diverse. The obvious exception is Clark County (Las Vegas), Nevada that is very dependent on the travel and tourism industries. We see that 35% of U.S. residents live in counties with medium or high vulnerability."