

News Release

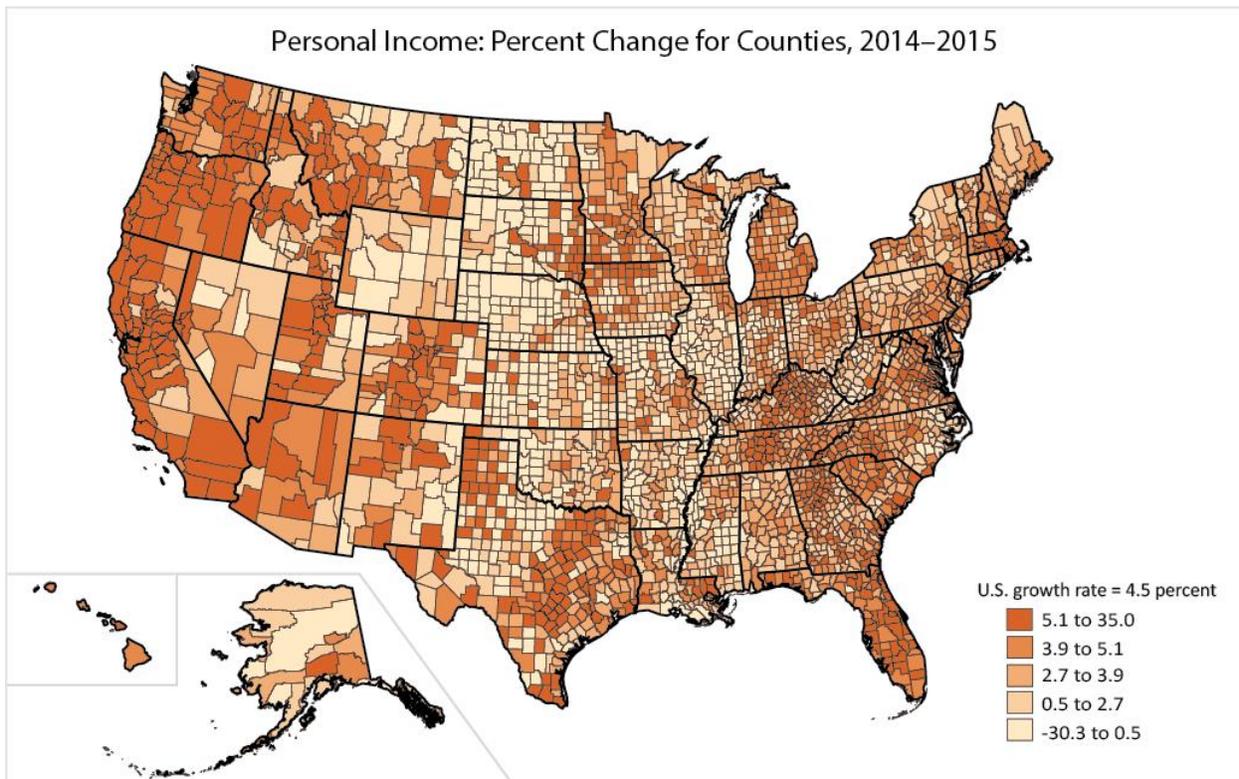
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Local Area Personal Income: 2015

Personal income grew in 2015 in 2,552 counties, fell in 548, and was unchanged in 13, according to estimates released today by the U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis. On average, personal income rose 4.7 percent in 2015 in the metropolitan portion of the United States and rose 2.7 percent in the nonmetropolitan portion. Personal income growth in 2015 ranged from -30.3 percent in Sully County, South Dakota to 35.0 percent in Loving County, Texas.



U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis

Personal income is the income received by, or on behalf of, all persons from all sources: from participation as laborers in production, from owning a home or unincorporated business, from the ownership of financial assets, and from government and business in the form of transfer receipts. It includes income from domestic sources as well as from the rest of the world.

Personal income is the income that is available to persons for consumption expenditures, taxes, interest payments, transfer payments to governments and the rest of the world, or for saving. Personal income for 2015 ranged from \$3.6 million in Loving County, Texas to \$544.3 billion in Los Angeles County, California.

Per capita personal income—personal income divided by population—is a useful metric for making comparisons of the level of personal income across counties. Table 1 presents estimates of per capita personal income by state and county. In 2015, it ranged from \$16,007 in Wheeler County, Georgia to \$194,861 in Teton County, Wyoming.

The county personal income estimates released today continue the successively more detailed series of data releases from the Bureau of Economic Analysis (BEA) depicting the geographic distribution of the nation's personal income for 2015. National estimates of personal income for 2015 were released in January 2016, followed by preliminary state personal income estimates in March. The personal income estimates released today provide the first glimpse of personal income for 2015 in counties and metropolitan statistical areas. The geographic picture will be completed with the release of real personal income for states and metropolitan areas in June 2017.

Updates to Local Area Personal Income

In addition to today's release of 2015 local area personal income, BEA released revised statistics for the 1998 to 2014 period. Revisions were made to incorporate the results of the annual revision of the national income and product accounts (NIPAs), the annual revision of the state personal income accounts, and to incorporate local area source data that are more complete and more detailed than those previously available. In addition, this year's revision introduced two major methodological improvements affecting nonfarm proprietors' income that were discussed in the March, July, and October 2016 issues of the *Survey of Current Business*: (1) improved geocoding and editing of source data from IRS Form 1065 (Partnership Returns) and Schedule C of Form 1040 (Sole Proprietor Returns), and (2) an improved method of allocating national control totals to states and counties. A complete presentation and discussion of the data and revisions will be provided in the December 2016 issue of the *Survey of Current Business*.

Next release: June 22, 2017 at 8:30 A.M. EDT
Real Personal Income for States and Metropolitan Areas, 2015

Additional Information

Resources

- Stay informed about BEA developments by reading the BEA [blog](#), signing up for BEA's [email subscription service](#), or following BEA on Twitter [@BEA_News](#).
- Historical time series for these estimates can be accessed in BEA's [Interactive Data Application](#).
- Access BEA data by registering for BEA's Data [Application Programming Interface](#) (API).
- For more on BEA's statistics, see our monthly online journal, the [Survey of Current Business](#).
- BEA's [2016 news release schedule](#).
- BEA's [2017 news release schedule](#).
- BEA Regional Facts ([BEARFACTS](#)), a narrative summary of personal income, per capita personal income, and components of income for counties, metropolitan statistical areas, and states.
- Complete information on the sources and methods for the estimation of [BEA's Local Area Personal Income and Employment](#).

Definitions

Personal income is the income received by, or on behalf of, all persons from all sources: from participation as laborers in production, from owning a home or business, from the ownership of financial assets, and from government and business in the form of transfers. It includes income from domestic sources as well as the rest of world. It does not include realized or unrealized capital gains or losses.

Per capita personal income is calculated as the total personal income of the residents of a given area divided by the population of the area. In computing per capita

personal income, BEA uses Census Bureau mid-year population estimates.

Personal income is measured before the deduction of personal income taxes and other personal taxes and is reported in current dollars (no adjustment is made for price changes).

The estimate of personal income for the United States is the sum of the state estimates and the estimate for the District of Columbia; it differs slightly from the estimate of personal income in the national income and product accounts (NIPAs) because of differences in coverage, in the methodologies used to prepare the estimates, and in the timing of the availability of source data.

Uses of Local Area Personal Income Statistics

Local area personal income statistics provide a framework for analyzing current economic conditions in local economies and can serve as a basis for decision making. For example, they can be used:

- in economic models to project tax revenues and the demand for public utilities and services,
- to determine areas for locating, expanding, and closing businesses,
- to analyze the economic impact of disasters, and
- to determine whether an area has sufficient income to undertake and support specific projects and activities to encourage economic development.

List of News Release Tables

Table 1. Per Capita Personal Income by County, 2013 - 2015

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	Per capita personal income ¹				Percent change from preceding period ²				Per capita personal income ¹				Percent change from preceding period ²		
	Dollars			Rank in State	Percent change		Rank in State		Dollars			Rank in State	Percent change		Rank in State
	2013	2014	2015	2015	2014	2015	2015		2013	2014	2015	2015	2014	2015	2015
Polk	38,377	40,266	41,777	42	4.9	3.8	25	Wyoming	52,677	56,004	56,081	--	6.3	0.1	--
Portage	37,794	39,824	41,434	43	5.4	4.0	13	Albany	37,290	37,750	39,052	22	1.2	3.4	4
Price	39,616	42,173	43,128	28	6.5	2.3	58	Big Horn	35,820	36,952	36,964	23	3.2	0.0	15
Racine	40,407	41,999	43,486	27	3.9	3.5	28	Campbell	51,474	55,196	54,653	5	7.2	-1.0	18
Richland	35,440	37,126	37,838	58	4.8	1.9	64	Carbon	45,902	48,013	49,787	8	4.6	3.7	3
Rock	38,349	38,470	40,026	50	0.3	4.0	12	Converse	49,987	54,506	55,012	4	9.0	0.9	11
Rusk	31,739	34,667	35,984	68	9.2	3.8	23	Crook	44,892	45,522	44,121	16	1.4	-3.1	20
St. Croix	43,932	46,538	48,392	7	5.9	4.0	18	Fremont	40,410	40,918	41,019	19	1.3	0.2	13
Sauk	40,248	41,960	43,763	24	4.3	4.3	9	Goshen	39,555	40,649	42,346	18	2.8	4.2	2
Sawyer	38,775	39,626	40,778	47	2.2	2.9	47	Hot Springs	45,024	48,491	51,418	6	7.7	6.0	1
Shawano	35,292	36,500	37,167	61	3.4	1.8	65	Johnson	42,936	45,534	44,439	15	6.1	-2.4	19
Sheboygan	42,953	45,175	45,896	13	5.2	1.6	67	Laramie	48,439	49,140	49,796	7	1.4	1.3	10
Taylor	33,690	35,249	35,931	69	4.6	1.9	63	Lincoln	38,585	38,417	39,683	21	-0.4	3.3	5
Trempealeau	39,706	41,023	42,272	37	3.3	3.0	45	Natrona	63,291	71,378	68,692	2	12.8	-3.8	22
Vernon	34,824	36,283	37,057	63	4.2	2.1	60	Niobrara	44,763	49,802	46,341	12	11.3	-6.9	23
Vilas	41,249	47,320	49,212	6	14.7	4.0	17	Park	46,289	47,804	48,692	10	3.3	1.9	9
Walworth	39,446	40,814	42,446	35	3.5	4.0	16	Platte	41,447	44,336	45,275	13	7.0	2.1	7
Washburn	40,340	42,341	43,727	26	5.0	3.3	41	Sheridan	49,278	53,539	55,089	3	8.6	2.9	6
Washington	48,202	49,463	51,110	5	2.6	3.3	37	Sublette	49,878	50,732	48,881	9	1.7	-3.6	21
Waukesha	59,265	61,645	63,995	2	4.0	3.8	21	Sweetwater	46,982	48,247	48,681	11	2.7	0.9	12
Waupaca	39,984	41,226	42,216	38	3.1	2.4	56	Teton	176,046	195,632	194,861	1	11.1	-0.4	16
Waushara	36,023	37,306	38,620	54	3.6	3.5	30	Uinta	41,101	40,975	41,005	20	-0.3	0.1	14
Winnebago	39,247	40,892	42,399	36	4.2	3.7	26	Washakie	40,664	42,604	43,460	17	4.8	2.0	8
Wood	38,637	40,362	41,883	40	4.5	3.8	24	Weston	42,427	45,363	44,997	14	6.9	-0.8	17

1. Per capita personal income was computed using Census Bureau midyear population estimates. Estimates reflect county population estimates available as of March 2016.

2. Percent change was calculated from unrounded data.

3. Virginia combination areas consist of one or two independent cities with populations of less than 100,000 combined with an adjacent county. The county name appears first, followed by the city name(s). Separate estimates for the jurisdictions making up the combination areas are not available.

Source: U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis