

Local Area Personal Income for 2009

By David G. Lenze

PERSONAL income in the United States fell in 2009, the first annual decrease in the 41-year time span covered by BEA's local area personal income statistics.¹ The 1.7 percent national decline is a weighted average of personal income declines in 1,740 counties, growth in 1,312 counties, and no change in 58 counties. In 2009, county personal income growth ranged from 189 percent in Slope County, ND, to -46 percent in Sully County, SD, with growth slowing in all but 95 of the nation's 3,113 counties.² Inflation, as measured by the national price index for personal consumption expenditures, was 0.2 percent in 2009.

In contrast to the decline in 2009, U.S. personal income grew 4.0 percent in 2008. County personal income growth ranged from 65 percent in Cavalier County, ND, to -38 percent in Slope County. Inflation was 3.3 percent in 2008.

The county personal income estimates presented in this article complete the successively more detailed series of data releases depicting the geographic distribution of the nation's personal income for 2009. A national estimate was released in January 2010, state estimates were released in March 2010, and metropolitan statistical area (MSA) estimates were released in August 2010. The county estimates provide the first glimpse of property income and transfer receipts in nonmetropolitan counties in 2009 and a more detailed look at the distribution of economic activity and sources of income within multicounty MSAs.³

This article discusses the patterns and sources of personal income growth and decline in 2009 with an emphasis on nonmetropolitan counties. It also takes

an in-depth look at several components of personal income, such as earnings in the oil and gas extraction industry (especially in western North Dakota), homeowner assistance payments (in the Gulf Coast counties of Louisiana and Mississippi), and countercyclical income transfers. The article concludes with a statistical portrait of four newly organized counties in Alaska and a discussion of the source data used to prepare the estimates. A box discusses alternative measures of county employment and wages.

Nonmetropolitan Counties in 2009

Nonmetropolitan counties tend to be sparsely populated areas with a strong presence of industries that specialize in the acquisition and use of natural resources—activities such as farming and mining.

For statistical purposes, nonmetropolitan counties are those counties that are not part of an MSA. As defined by the Office of Management and Budget, an MSA has at least one urbanized area of 50,000 or more residents plus adjacent territory that has a high degree of social and economic integration with the core as measured by commuting ties. MSAs are defined in terms of whole counties. By these criteria, BEA publishes data for 2,032 nonmetropolitan counties and 1,081 metropolitan counties in the United States.

Although the population of nonmetropolitan counties in 2009 ranged as high as 193,000 (in Sussex County, DE), population was less than 50,000 in almost 90 percent of the counties and as few as 45 in Loving County, TX. Personal income ranged from \$6.8 million in Loving County to \$9.5 billion in Litchfield County, CT, and was less than \$1.8 billion in 90 percent of the counties. Wage and salary employment was less than 22,000 in 90 percent of the nonmetropolitan counties.

Overall, the nonmetropolitan share of the nation's earnings in natural resources in 2009 was much larger than its share of the nation's earnings in other industries. Nonmetropolitan counties accounted for 10 percent of U.S. earnings, but they accounted for 34 percent of national earnings in the natural resources sector (table A). The nonmetropolitan share of manufacturing earnings (15 percent), government earnings (14 percent), and transportation earnings (13 percent) are also relatively high. In contrast, relatively little,

1. Personal income is the sum of net earnings by place of residence, property income, and personal current transfer receipts. Net earnings is the sum of wage and salary disbursements, supplements to wages and salaries, and proprietors' income less contributions for government social insurance plus an adjustment to put place-of-work data on a place-of-residence basis.

2. Data for 2009 are available for 3,113 of the 3,143 counties identified by Federal Information Processing Standards (FIPS) codes. BEA combines some small counties (mostly in Virginia but also in Hawaii) with larger nearby counties. Because of recent reorganizations of Alaskan boroughs and census areas, 2008 data for three counties (Wrangell City and Borough, Petersburg Census Area, and Prince of Wales-Hyder Census Area) are not available for calculating percent change for 2008–2009. Data for another two areas (Skagway Borough and Hoonah-Angoon Census Area) are unavailable for counting the number of counties with an acceleration or deceleration in personal income growth.

3. Estimates of county compensation for 2009 were released in December 2010.

about 4 percent, of earnings in the information and professional services industries comes from nonmetropolitan counties. Those activities were concentrated in metropolitan counties.

Growth and decline in 2008 and 2009

In 2009, the personal income decline in the nonmetropolitan portion of the United States was much smaller than in the metropolitan portion. On average, personal income fell 0.6 percent in nonmetropolitan counties and 1.9 percent in metropolitan counties (table B). In 2008, these counties grew 5.8 percent and 3.8 percent, respectively.

The milder personal income loss in nonmetropolitan counties can be accounted for by different rates of change and relative importance of the three major components of personal income (net earnings by place of residence, property income, and personal current transfer receipts). The decline in net earnings accounted for 2.7 percentage points of the personal in-

come decline in the metropolitan portion of the county and 2.5 percentage points in the nonmetropolitan portion. The decline in property income (dividends, interest, and rent) accounted for 1.2 percentage points of the decline in personal income in the metropolitan portion but only 0.8 percentage point in the nonmetropolitan portion. The declines in these two components of personal income were softened by rising personal current transfer receipts. Transfers added 1.9 percentage points to personal income growth in metropolitan counties and 2.8 percentage points in nonmetropolitan counties.

Another way to understand the milder personal income loss in nonmetropolitan counties is to compare the dollar change in the major components of personal income. In nonmetropolitan counties, the \$44 billion increase in transfer receipts (which include unemployment compensation and social security benefits) more than offset the \$40 billion net earnings decline in 2009 (table B). In contrast, in metropolitan counties the \$209 billion increase in transfers was insufficient to offset the \$287 billion decline in net earnings.

Table A. Industrial Structure of Metropolitan and Nonmetropolitan Portions of the United States for 2009

	Earnings by place of work (billions of dollars)		Industry's share of area's total earnings (percent)		Non-metropolitan share of national earnings (percent)
	Metro-politan	Non-metropolitan	Metro-politan	Non-metropolitan	
Natural resources ¹	143.4	74.2	1.8	8.1	34.1
Construction.....	425.8	52.0	5.4	5.7	10.9
Manufacturing.....	766.7	133.5	9.7	14.5	14.8
Wholesale and retail trade.....	873.4	100.2	11.1	10.9	10.3
Transportation, warehousing, and utilities.....	318.8	48.9	4.0	5.3	13.3
Information.....	289.2	10.7	3.7	1.2	3.6
Finance and insurance.....	580.0	28.2	7.3	3.1	4.6
Real estate and rental and leasing.....	141.9	10.1	1.8	1.1	6.6
Professional and business services ²	1,353.2	62.5	17.1	6.8	4.4
Education, health care, and social assistance.....	1,005.5	107.2	12.7	11.7	9.6
Leisure, hospitality, and other ³	602.9	76.1	7.6	8.3	11.2
Government and government enterprises.....	1,390.4	216.2	17.6	23.5	13.5
Local.....	703.3	123.1	8.9	13.4	14.9
Total.....	7,891.3	919.9	100.0	100.0	10.4

1. Consists of farm; forestry, fishing, and related activities; and mining.
 2. Consists of professional and technical services; management of companies and enterprises; and administrative and waste services.
 3. Consists of arts, entertainment and recreation; accommodation and food services; and other services, except public administration.

Growth and decline by industry

Nonmetropolitan counties distinguished themselves from metropolitan counties not only by the industrial composition of their earnings losses but also by the percentage of counties that continued to grow during the recession in 2009:

- Almost all of the earnings losses in nonmetropolitan counties (\$36 billion out a total of \$38 billion loss) were in farming, construction, and manufacturing (table C). In metropolitan areas, those three industries accounted for about half of the total earnings losses (\$160 billion of \$306 billion).
- Personal income grew in 889 (or 44 percent of) nonmetropolitan counties, while personal income grew in only 39 percent of metropolitan counties.

Some insight into the resilience of personal income growth in these counties during the recession is provided

Table B. Personal Income Change by Component for U.S. Metropolitan and Nonmetropolitan Portions

	Percent change				Contribution to percent change in personal income			Dollar change (millions)			
	Personal income	Net earnings ¹	Dividends, interest, and rent	Transfer receipts	(percentage points)			Personal income	Net earnings ¹	Dividends, interest, and rent	Transfer receipts
					Net earnings ¹	Dividends, interest, and rent	Transfer receipts				
2008-2009											
United States.....	-1.7	-4.0	-5.9	13.4	-2.6	-1.1	2.0	-212,064	-327,165	-137,302	252,403
Metropolitan portion.....	-1.9	-4.0	-6.1	13.7	-2.7	-1.2	1.9	-202,796	-287,188	-124,351	208,743
Nonmetropolitan portion.....	-0.6	-4.3	-4.5	12.3	-2.5	-0.8	2.8	-9,268	-39,977	-12,951	43,660
2007-2008											
United States.....	4.0	2.3	5.9	9.4	1.6	1.1	1.4	479,663	187,541	130,553	161,569
Metropolitan portion.....	3.8	2.2	5.6	9.6	1.5	1.0	1.3	394,089	153,555	107,520	133,014
Nonmetropolitan portion.....	5.8	3.8	8.8	8.8	2.3	1.6	1.9	85,574	33,986	23,033	28,555

1. Earnings by place of work net of contributions for government social insurance and net of the residence adjustment.

by an examination of specific sources of personal income: earnings of workers in the private nonfarm sector, earnings of government employees, farm income, and transfer receipts.⁴ In 224 of the counties with personal income growth, private nonfarm earnings grew. In another 112 counties, growth in government earnings offset declines in the private nonfarm sector so that total nonfarm earnings grew. In another 500 counties, growth in transfer receipts offset declines in nonfarm earnings.

Swings in farm income from 2008 to 2009 were large in many counties. Farming accounted for the bulk of the growth in 12 of the 20 nonmetropolitan counties with the largest percentage increases in personal income (the top 1 percent of nonmetropolitan counties) and for the bulk of the decline in 18 of the 20 nonmetropolitan counties with the largest percentage declines in personal income. The extreme personal income growth rates of Slope County, ND, (up 189 percent) and Sully County, SD, (down 47 percent) illustrate the magnitude of the variability of farm income.

Selected Components of Personal Income

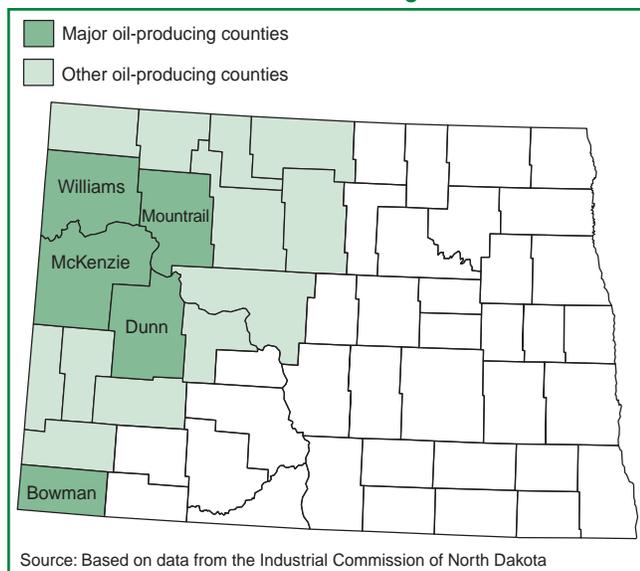
Oil and gas extraction

Earnings in the oil and gas extraction industry fell 12 percent nationally in 2009 but were still above the level of 2007. This decline was associated with a drop in oil prices from \$93.05 per barrel in 2008 to \$58.42 per barrel in 2009.⁵ The decline was widespread across the country with the notable exceptions of Alaska and

4. Farm income is farm earnings less employer contributions for government social insurance.

5. Average annual oil price calculated from the Weekly United States Spot Price FOB Weighted by Estimated Import Volume from the Energy Information Administration.

Chart 1. North Dakota Oil-Producing Counties



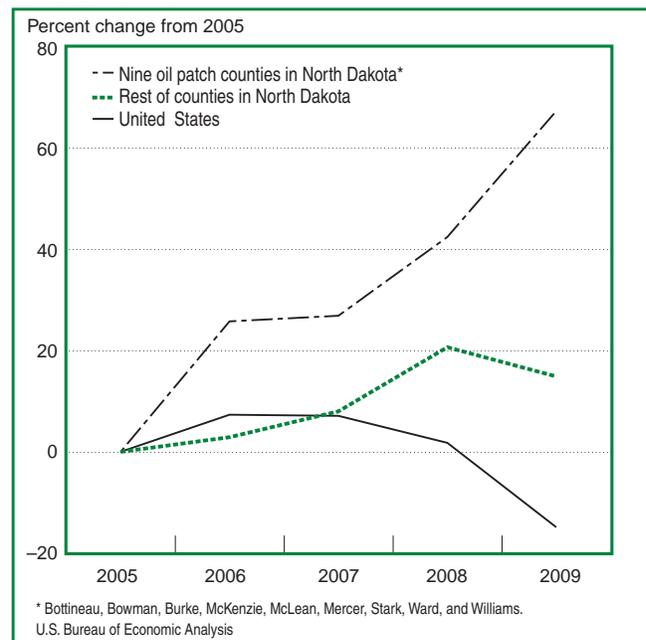
North Dakota. Earnings increased 5.6 percent in Alaska and 1.2 percent in North Dakota.

The case of North Dakota is particularly interesting because the industry in that state has recently begun developing the Bakken shale formation. The U.S. Geological Survey recently estimated that the Bakken formation contains up to 4.3 billion barrels of technically recoverable oil and industry experts think that could make North Dakota's oil production second only to Texas in a few years. In 2009, the Industrial Commission of North Dakota reported oil production in 17 western counties (the "oil patch") with about 85 percent of the oil produced in just five counties: Bowman, Dunn, McKenzie, Mountrail, and Williams (chart 1).

Earnings in the oil and gas extraction industry in North Dakota were \$127 million in 2009. Far larger, given the early stage of development of the industry, were the \$385 million of earnings in support activities for mining. In addition, development of the Bakken formation requires the services of the construction industry. Construction earnings were up 17 percent in 2009 in nine oil patch counties at the same time that construction earnings were down 4.8 percent in the rest of North Dakota and were down 16 percent for the nation (chart 2).⁶

6. Construction earnings are not disclosed in 1 or more years from 2005–2009 for 8 of the 17 oil patch counties in North Dakota. The earnings statistics in this paragraph are merely suggestive of the ripple effects of the development of the Bakken formation on the other industries in this region of North Dakota. A comprehensive examination of the economic impact of drilling for oil is possible with BEA's Regional Input-Output Modeling System (RIMS II).

Chart 2. Construction Earnings in North Dakota and the United States



Countercyclical income transfers

In many nonmetropolitan counties, legislated income transfers intended to combat the weak economy were an important part of personal income growth in 2009, as they were in 2008; however, the regional distribution of the transfers was different in each year. The American Recovery and Reinvestment Act provided income transfers of \$12.5 billion to nonmetropolitan counties in 2009, most of which were directed toward unemployed workers.⁷ In contrast, the Economic Stimulus Act of 2008 provided income transfers of \$5.6 billion targeted towards lower income persons in the form of income tax rebates.

Homeowner assistance payments

The 2007–2009 local area personal income estimates for Louisiana and Mississippi reflect the receipt of federal payments to rebuild residences destroyed or damaged by Hurricanes Katrina and Rita in 2005. These payments, arising from homeowner assistance programs initiated at the end of 2006, are counted as part of the property income component (dividends, interest, and rent) of personal income.⁸ The bulk of the payments were received by persons living in counties on or near the coast. In 2009, the amounts distributed declined in most Louisiana and Mississippi counties.

Construction earnings in the primary counties receiving the assistance began falling in 2009 but are still 38 percent above 2005 in Mississippi and 36 percent above 2005 in Louisiana.⁹ In contrast, construction earnings in all other U.S. counties are 16 percent below 2005 (chart 3).

Data for Newly Organized Areas

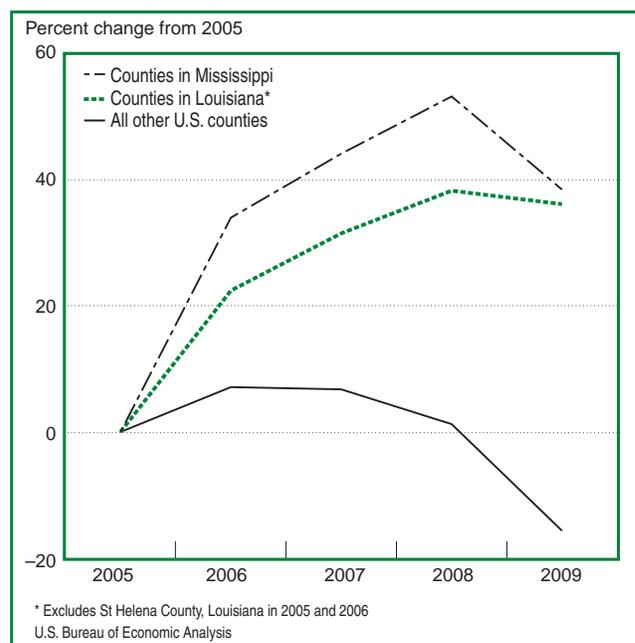
Wrangell City and Borough was incorporated on June 1, 2008, as Alaska's 18th organized borough. Unlike most of the lower 48 states, Alaska is subdivided politically into boroughs that cover the entire state. Eighteen of these

boroughs are organized, and one is unorganized. For statistical purposes, BEA and other federal agencies subdivide the unorganized borough into 11 census areas. Most of Wrangell had been part of the Wrangell-Petersburg

Table C. Percent Change and Dollar Change in Earnings by Place of Work for Metropolitan and Nonmetropolitan Portions of the United States for 2009

	Percent change from preceding year		Dollar change in earnings (billions of dollars)	
	Metro-politan	Nonmetro-politan	Metro-politan	Nonmetro-politan
Farm, forestry, fishing, and related activities	-6.9	-18.1	-3.5	-10.2
Mining	-12.9	-11.3	-14.3	-3.6
Oil and gas extraction	-12.6	-10.4	-10.0	-0.9
Mining, except oil and gas	-10.2	-3.7	-1.0	-0.4
Support activities for mining	-15.4	-19.0	-3.2	-2.3
Utilities	1.4	4.8	0.9	0.6
Construction	-16.5	-16.0	-84.2	-9.9
Manufacturing	-8.6	-10.5	-72.1	-15.6
Durable goods manufacturing	-10.8	-14.5	-58.8	-13.1
Nondurable goods manufacturing	-4.5	-4.2	-13.3	-2.5
Wholesale trade	-6.7	-3.4	-29.7	-1.1
Retail trade	-5.3	-3.2	-25.4	-2.3
Transportation and warehousing	-5.3	-5.1	-14.1	-2.0
Information	-4.4	-3.3	-13.4	-0.4
Finance and insurance	-7.8	-0.9	-49.4	-0.3
Real estate and rental and leasing	-4.5	-5.8	-6.7	-0.6
Professional, scientific, and technical services	-3.0	-1.1	-26.6	-0.4
Management of companies and enterprises	-4.5	-1.8	-9.4	-0.1
Administrative and waste services	-8.3	-7.9	-27.4	-1.7
Educational services	4.7	3.9	6.0	0.3
Health care and social assistance	4.2	3.9	35.4	3.7
Arts, entertainment, and recreation	-3.5	-6.1	-3.3	-0.4
Accommodation and food services	-3.1	-1.5	-7.3	-0.4
Other services, except public administration	-2.1	-1.9	-6.0	-0.8
Government and government enterprises	3.3	3.3	44.4	6.9
Federal, civilian	4.8	4.5	12.3	1.2
Military	7.5	8.2	10.6	1.5
State	2.0	1.5	5.1	0.7
Local	2.4	2.9	16.3	3.5
Total	-3.7	-4.0	-306.2	-38.3

Chart 3. Construction Earnings in Primary Counties Receiving Homeowner Assistance Payments and All Other U.S. Counties



7. The estimate for 2009 also includes a small amount of transfers provided under the Economic Stimulus Act of 2008.

8. Louisiana's Road Home Program and Mississippi's Homeowner Assistance Program are special housing programs financed through Community Development Block Grants from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development. In personal income, this assistance is treated as a housing subsidy, a component of the rental income of persons, rather than as a transfer receipt, because owner-occupied housing is regarded as a household enterprise. A profit (net rental income) is imputed to these enterprises and defined as space rent plus subsidies less various expenses, such as net interest and taxes. County estimates of the homeowner assistance payments were based on data obtained from the state agencies administering the programs. For a detailed derivation of rental income of persons, see lines 133–140 in table 7.12 in the national income and product accounts on BEA's Web site.

9. In Louisiana, these counties are Allen, Ascension, Beauregard, Calcasieu, Cameron, East Baton Rouge, Iberia, Jefferson, Jefferson Davis, Orleans, Plaquemines, Pointe Coupee, St. Bernard, St. Charles, St. Helena, St. James, St. John the Baptist, St. Tammany, Tangipahoa, Terrebonne, Vermilion, and Washington. In Mississippi, these counties are Hancock, Harrison, and Jackson.

Census Area. The remainder of that census area was re-named the Petersburg Census Area (chart 4). In addition, a small part of the new Wrangell borough is from the old Prince of Wales-Outer Ketchikan Census Area. The old Prince of Wales-Outer Ketchikan Census Area also lost some territory annexed by the Ketchikan Gateway Borough and as a consequence, has been renamed Prince of Wales-Hyder Census Area.

The new borough is relatively small compared with the average nonmetropolitan county in the United States (table D). In 2009, it had a population of 2,147 (compared with an average 24,435), 868 jobs (9,155), and personal income of \$76 million (\$767 million). Although its per capita income \$35,197 was higher than that of the average nonmetropolitan county (\$31,402), average compensation per worker was lower: \$41,285 compared with \$42,854.

Unlike nonmetropolitan counties in the lower 48 states, Wrangell had no farm earnings in 2009. Its government sector was large, accounting for 45 percent of earnings. In the average nonmetropolitan county, the government sector accounted for 24 percent of earnings, about half as much as in Wrangell.

Starting with data for 2009, BEA will publish separate estimates for (1) Wrangell City and Borough, (2) Petersburg Census Area, and (3) Prince of Wales-Hyder Census Area. For earlier years, data only for Wrangell-Petersburg Census Area and Prince of Wales-Outer Ketchikan Census Area are available.

Source Data

The primary 2009 county-level data used by BEA to prepare the estimates of local area personal income presented in this article were wage and salary data from the Bureau of Labor Statistics, benefits paid by the Social Security Administration, and Medicaid payments from state departments of social services. In addition, tabulations of 2008 federal income tax returns

Chart 4. Southeast Alaska



from the Internal Revenue Service were used, primarily for dividends, interest, and proprietors' income.¹⁰

Farm cash receipts, government payments, crop production, and livestock inventories by county for 2009 from the Department of Agriculture were used in the estimation of local area farm income.

Number of personnel by county for 2009 from the Department of Defense was used to estimate military earnings.

New 2009 county-level data from the Consolidated Federal Funds Report and Federal Assistance Award Data System were used to prepare estimates of some components of personal current transfer receipts.

Because current county-level Medicare benefits were not available, prior year estimates were extrapolated to 2009 using the change in county Medicare enrollment and forced to sum to the state total. In addition, state estimates of a few small components of personal income were allocated to counties on the basis of 2009 population data from the Census Bureau.

10. For complete details about the estimation methodology and data sources, see *Local Area Personal Income and Employment Methodology* on BEA's Web site.

Table D. Select Economic and Demographic Statistics for Four Reorganized Alaskan Counties, 2009

	Ketchikan Gateway Borough	Prince of Wales-Hyder Census Area	Wrangell City and Borough	Petersburg Census Area	United States, Average Nonmetropolitan County ¹
Personal income (millions of dollars).....	674.3	158.3	75.6	164.5	767.3
Population (persons).....	13,005	5,560	2,147	3,773	24,435
Per capita personal income (dollars).....	51,850	28,479	35,197	43,606	31,402
Compensation (millions of dollars).....	420.3	90.0	35.8	78.9	392.3
Wage and salary employment (jobs).....	7,708	1,871	868	1,716	9,155
Average compensation per job (dollars)....	54,531	48,089	41,285	45,998	42,854
Job to population ratio.....	0.593	0.337	0.404	0.455	0.375
Earnings by industry (percent of total)					
Farm.....	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	4.0
Forestry, fishing, and related activities.....	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	1.0
Mining.....	(D)	(D)	(L)	(D)	3.1
Utilities.....	0.0	(D)	(L)	(D)	1.3
Construction.....	5.4	3.9	2.4	1.9	5.7
Manufacturing.....	6.0	3.6	(D)	13.7	14.5
Wholesale trade.....	1.5	(L)	(D)	(D)	3.5
Retail trade.....	8.2	6.8	7.5	5.6	7.4
Transportation and warehousing.....	8.5	(D)	(D)	2.2	4.0
Information.....	1.0	2.3	2.0	1.4	1.2
Finance and insurance.....	3.2	(D)	(D)	2.3	3.1
Real estate and rental and leasing.....	1.3	(D)	(D)	0.5	1.1
Professional, scientific, and technical services.....	(D)	(D)	(D)	1.4	3.8
Management of companies and enterprises.....	(D)	0.0	0.0	(D)	0.9
Administrative and waste services.....	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	2.2
Educational services.....	0.4	0.1	(L)	(D)	0.9
Health care and social assistance.....	10.1	4.9	(D)	(D)	10.7
Arts, entertainment, and recreation.....	4.8	0.7	(D)	0.4	0.7
Accommodation and food services.....	3.7	3.6	(D)	2.2	3.2
Other services, except public administration.....	2.0	1.9	2.4	2.2	4.4
Government and government enterprises.....	34.8	51.4	45.1	37.0	23.5
Federal, civilian.....	5.5	8.5	11.4	10.3	3.1
Military.....	6.2	2.0	1.8	3.6	2.2
State and local.....	23.1	40.9	31.9	23.1	18.2

(D) Data are suppressed to avoid the disclosure of confidential information but are included in total earnings.
 (L) Less than \$50,000, but the estimate is included in total earnings.
 1. The statistics for the average nonmetropolitan county are calculated from the estimates of the U.S. nonmetropolitan portion. That portion is the sum of 2,032 counties.

Alternative Measures of County Employment and Wages

Three widely used measures of county employment and wages by place of work are (1) employment and payroll in the *County Business Patterns* (CBP) series from the Census Bureau, (2) employment and wages from the Quarterly Census of Employment and Wages (QCEW) program from the Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS), and (3) wage and salary disbursements and employment from the Bureau of Economic Analysis (BEA). These measures differ in source data and coverage.

The CBP data are derived from Census Bureau business establishment surveys and federal administrative records. The QCEW data are tabulations of monthly employment and quarterly wages of workers who are covered by state unemployment insurance programs or by the unemployment insurance program for federal employees.¹ The BEA estimates of employment and wages are primarily derived from the BLS data; the estimates for industries that are either not covered or not fully covered in the QCEW are also based on supplemental data from other agencies, such as the Department of Defense, the U.S. Department of Agriculture, and the Railroad Retirement Board.

The coverage of the Census Bureau data differs from that of the BLS data primarily because the Census Bureau data exclude most government employees and because the BLS data cover civilian government employees.² The CBP data also exclude several private industries that are partly covered by the QCEW: crop and animal production; rail transportation; insurance and employee benefit funds; trusts, estates, and agency accounts; and private households. However, the CBP data cover the employees of educational institutions, membership organizations, and small nonprofit organizations in other industries more completely than the BLS data.³ In addition, the Census Bureau reports employment only for the month of March; the BLS employment data are quarterly and annual averages of monthly data.

In 2001, both BLS and BEA began to include employees of Indian tribal councils in local government. These employees were previously included in the relevant private industries.⁴ In the Census Bureau data, these employees are still classified in private industries.

BEA estimates of employment and wages differ from the BLS data because BEA adjusts the estimates to account for

1. The QCEW data account for 93 percent of BEA's wages and salaries.

2. The Census Bureau data cover only those government employees who work in government hospitals, federally chartered savings institutions and credit unions, liquor stores, and wholesale liquor establishments, and university publishers. The BLS data in most states exclude state and local elected officials, members of the judiciary, state national and air national guardsmen, temporary emergency employees, and employees in policy and advisory positions.

3. The BLS data do not cover certain religious elementary and secondary schools, because a Supreme Court decision exempts some of these schools from unemployment compensation taxes. The BLS data also exclude college students (and their spouses) who are employed by the school in which they are enrolled and student nurses and interns who are employed by hospitals as part of their training. In half of the states, the BLS data only include nonprofit organizations with four or more employees during 20 weeks in a calendar year.

4. For example, employees of casinos owned by tribal councils were included in "Amusement, Gambling, and Recreation Industries."

employment and wages that are not covered or that are not fully covered by the unemployment insurance programs. BEA adds estimates of employment and wages to the BLS data to bridge small gaps in coverage for nonprofit organizations that do not participate in the unemployment insurance program (in several industries), for students and their spouses employed by colleges or universities, for elected officials and members of the judiciary, for interns employed by hospitals and by social service agencies, and for insurance agents classified as statutory employees. In addition, BEA uses supplemental source data to estimate most, or all, of the employment and wages for the following: farms, farm labor contractors and crew leaders, private households, private elementary and secondary schools, religious membership organizations, rail transportation, and military. BEA also adjusts for employment and wages subject to unemployment insurance, but not reported by employers. Other adjustments to wages include estimates for unreported tips, judicial fees paid to jurors and witnesses, compensation of prison inmates, and marriage and license fees paid to justices of the peace.⁵

The Census Bureau released 2008 data for total employment and payrolls for counties on its Web site on July 29, 2010. BLS released county data on total employment and average weekly pay for 2009 on its Web site on July 7, 2010. BEA released preliminary estimates for 2009 and revised estimates for 2007–2008 of total wage employment and total wage and salary disbursements for counties on its Web site on December 21, 2010.

5. For a detailed description of the sources and methods used to prepare the estimates, go to www.bea.gov/regional/methods.cfm.

National Estimates of Wages and Salaries in the BEA County Estimates and Payrolls and Wages From the Census Bureau and BLS

[Billions of dollars]

	2007	2008	2009
Total payroll, Census Bureau	5,027.0	5,131.0	n.a.
Plus: Differences in coverage:			
Civilian government wages, BLS ¹	951.2	996.6	n.a.
Other differences, net ²	39.9	14.6	n.a.
Equals: Total wages, BLS	6,018.1	6,142.2	5,859.2
Plus: Adjustments by BEA:			
For unreported wages and unreported tips on employment tax returns...	95.7	91.4	89.2
For wages and salaries not covered or not fully covered by unemployment insurance:			
Private	188.9	198.5	192.9
Government	113.2	121.3	126.8
Other adjustments ³	-1.4	-1.9	-1.4
Equals: Wage and salary disbursements, BEA ⁴	6,414.5	6,551.4	6,266.7

1. BLS wages were adjusted to remove the wages of Indian tribal councils because these data were already included in the Census Bureau's total payroll data.

2. Includes differences of coverage in private education, membership organizations, and government.

3. Consists of adjustments to the wage and salary estimates to remove employees of U.S. companies stationed overseas and to reflect updates to QCEW data.

4. The national total of county estimates of wage and salary disbursements consists of the earnings of persons who live in the United States and of foreign residents working in the United States. The BEA regional total differs from the national estimate; see the box "Personal income in the NIPAs and State Personal Income," SURVEY OF CURRENT BUSINESS 90 (October 2010): 104.

NOTE: Details may not equal totals because of rounding.
n.a. Not available

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The estimates of nonfarm wages and salaries and supplements to wages and salaries were prepared by the Regional Compensation Branch under the supervision of John A. Rusinko, Chief. Major responsibilities were assigned to Elizabeth P. Cologer, Tina C. Highfill, John D. Laffman, Nathan D. Patterson, and James M. Scott. Contributing staff members were Peter Battikha, Michael L. Berry, Susan P. Den Herder, Alexander I. Dumer, Terence J. Fallon, Michael W. Jadoo, Russell C. Lusher, Paul K. Medzerian, Nathaniel R. Milhous, Michael A. Reid, Ross A. Stepp, and Thomas M. Wiederhold.

The estimates of nonfarm proprietors' income, property income, personal current transfer receipts, contributions for government social insurance, and the adjustment for residence were prepared by the Regional

Income Branch under the supervision of Mauricio Ortiz, Chief. Major responsibilities were assigned to Toan A. Ly, Brian J. Maisano, Lisa C. Ninomiya, and James P. Stehle. Contributing staff members were Suet M. Boudhraa, Carla R. Jenkins, W. Timothy McKeel, Linda M. Morey, Anand N. Seeram, Joseph L. Stauffer, and Troy P. Watson.

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Data Availability

This article presents summary estimates of personal income and per capita personal income for 2007–2009. More detailed estimates for 1969–2009 are also available.

The following annual estimates for counties, metropolitan statistical areas, micropolitan statistical areas, metropolitan divisions, combined statistical areas, and BEA economic areas are available at www.bea.gov/regional/reis/:

- Personal income, per capita personal income, and population for 1969–2009
- County income and employment summary (featuring the derivation of personal income, including nonfarm personal income, and employment totals for a continuous time series) for 1969–2009
- Compensation of employees by industry by North American Industry Classification System (NAICS) subsectors for 2001–2009 and by Standard Industrial Classification System (SIC) two-digit industries for 1998–2000
- Personal income by major source and earnings by NAICS subsectors for 2001–2009 and by SIC two-digit industries for 1969–2000
- Full-time and part-time employment by NAICS sectors for 2001–2009 and by SIC division-level industries for 1969–2000
- Regional economic profiles (featuring a selection of personal income and employment data) for 1969–2009
- Personal current transfer receipts by major program for 1969–2009
- Farm income and expenses (including the major categories of gross receipts and expenses for all farms and for measures of farm income) for 1969–2009
- The counties with the highest and lowest per capita personal incomes in 2009
- Total wage and salary disbursements, total wage and salary employment, and average wage and salary disbursements per job for 1969–2009
- Gross commuters' earnings flows for 1990–2009
- BEARFACTS, a narrative about an area's personal income that uses current estimates, growth rates, and a breakdown of the sources of personal income

The local area personal income estimates are also available through the members of the BEA User Group, which consists of state agencies and universities that help BEA to disseminate the estimates in their states. For a list of the BEA User Group on BEA's Web site, go to www.bea.gov/regional/docs/usergrp.cfm.

For more information, call BEA's Regional Economic Information System at 202–606–5360, fax 202–606–5322, or e-mail reis@bea.gov.

Tables 1 through 3 follow.