

Subscribe | Bookmark Us



Welcome **Angela Peacock**
[Edit](#) | [Help](#) | [Logout](#)

Wednesday, August 12, 2009 10:45 a.m.

Change location » Little Rock, AR Weather: 81° F | Partly Cloudy

[Home](#) [News](#) [Business](#) [Entertainment](#) [Sports](#) [Photo & Video](#) [Features](#) [Contact Us](#) [Targeted Publications](#) [Classifieds](#) [Jobs](#) [Real Estate](#) [Auto](#)

[Arkansas](#) [Stock Market](#) [Today's Newspaper](#) [Extras](#) [Business Wire](#) [Tech Wire](#) [Video](#)

Search: Enter search terms and select a search location [Stories](#) [Archives](#) [Classifieds](#) [Stocks](#) [Google](#)

[Get email updates](#)

[Home](#) / [Daily Newspaper Sections](#) / [Business*](#) /

Gain in per-capita income slows in LR

BY DAVID SMITH

- [E-MAIL STORY](#)
- [PRINT STORY](#)
- [IPOD FRIENDLY](#)

LITTLE ROCK — Little Rock's per-capita income slowed dramatically last year,

failing to keep pace with inflation, the U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis said Thursday.

Income grew at 1.2 percent in Little Rock last year. The government statistics are not adjusted for inflation, which was 3.8 percent last year, said Michael Pakko, state economic forecaster and chief economist for the University of Arkansas at Little Rock's Institute for Economic Advancement.

Little Rock's per-capita income was about \$38,200 last year, 96th in the country and only slightly higher than the \$37,700 in 2007. The city's average income grew by 7.5 percent in 2007.

Per-capita income is the total income of residents in a given area divided by the population of the area.

Per-capita income growth also fell below the inflation rate in three other Arkansas metro areas.

The Fayetteville-Springdale-Rogers area's per-capita income grew 2.6 percent last year to about \$32,400, compared with about \$31,600 in 2007.

Fort Smith's average income grew 3.2 percent to about \$30,100 last year, compared with about \$29,200 in 2007.

Hot Springs' per-capita income grew 3.6 percent to about \$32,900 from about \$31,800 in 2007.

The growth rate last year for per-capita income ranged from 4.7 percent in Texarkana to Little Rock's 1.2 percent. In 2007, the state's seven metropolitan areas had per-capita income growth ranging from 7.5 percent in Little Rock to 4.2 percent in Fort Smith, compared with 2006.

One factor that contributed to the big increase in Little Rock's per-capita income growth in 2007 was a large total of bonuses paid to executives of Alltel Corp. after the telecommunication company was sold, agreed Kathy Deck, director of the Center for Business and Economic Research at the University of Arkansas in Fayetteville, and John Shelnut, who is the administrator for economic analysis and tax research for the state's Department of Finance and Administration.

Little Rock-based Alltel first was sold to two private equity companies and later was purchased by Verizon Wireless.

Also to explain the capital city's drop from best to worst in Arkansas income growth over the two-year period, Shelnut said Little Rock's population grew at a slightly higher rate last year than in 2007. That would have caused the per-capita income to drop slightly, he said.

And sometimes big swings just have to do with the way the numbers are reported, Deck said.

"You tend to notice over the years that [the statistics] are not necessarily consistent year to year," Deck said.

Every metro area in the state grew at a slower pace last year than in 2007.

"It's not surprising, of course, that we saw a decline in the growth rate from the previous year," Pakko, the economic forecaster, said. "Of course, 2008 was a recession year. But it



ADVERTISEMENT

topJobs
www.jobsarkansas.com

Bookkeeper Needed
BOOKKEEPER NEEDED for CPA firm, tax return prepara ...
Little Rock, AR
[19237626]

MEDICAL ASSISTANT
EASTERN COLLEGE OF HEALTH VOCATIONS
501-568-0211 N ...
AR
[19071718]

RN-Inpatient Rehab
Sparks We're Still Hiring! Sparks is looking for R ...
AR
[19186977]

Asst. General Mgr
ASSISTANT GENERAL MANAGER The Clarksville Light ...
Clarksville, AR
[19189897]

Insurance
\$\$\$ ATTENTION All Medicare/Senior Market Licensed ...
Little Rock, AR
[19189871]

Bookkeeper
ACCOUNTING Hill Place Apartments seeks a professi ...
Fayetteville, AR
[19189926]

Structural Concrete
STRUCTURAL CONCRETE Experience Only Redstone Con ...
Little Rock, AR
[19189863]

CDL Drivers
Join An Industry Leader! Excellent opportunity awa ...
AR
[19187014]

Sales
ATTENTION \$725.00 per week to start Large outlet ...
Jacksonville, AR
[19189885]

sales
Arkansas' Largest and Growing furniture company ne ...
AR
[19186957]

[View All >](#)
topJobs

AUTOarkansas

HOMESarkansas

JOBSarkansas

FOCUSphotos

Arkansaslife

syncweekly

GAScheck prices

Events Calendar
August

Sun.	Mon.	Tues.	Wed.	Thurs.	Fri.	Sat.
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31					

[Search Events](#)

Per capita income

The average income per person in Arkansas. Annual metropolitan area figures are based on 2008 per capita income.

Area	2008	2007	Change
Little Rock	\$38,200	\$37,700	1.2%
Hot Springs	\$32,900	\$31,800	3.6%
Fayetteville	\$32,400	\$31,600	2.6%
Springdale	\$32,400	\$31,600	2.6%
Fort Smith	\$30,100	\$29,200	3.2%
Jacksonville	\$29,200	\$28,500	2.5%
Texarkana	\$29,200	\$28,500	2.5%
Arkansas	\$29,200	\$28,500	2.5%

U.S. average for 2008: \$38,500

Source: U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis

Per capita income

is encouraging to see consistent positive growth across the state.”

Still, it is important that the state and its major cities keep pace with the country’s average per-capita income, Deck said. For years, a goal of the state’s Arkansas Economic Development Commission has been to raise the state’s per-capita income to the national average.

Per-capita income across Arkansas lags behind the country, Deck said. No metropolitan area in the state reached the level of the national average per-capita income of about \$38,600 last year.

“It is critical that we grow at rates better than the national average if we’re ever going to catch up,” she said. “So certainly this is not good news.”

Jeff Collins, an economist with Streetsmart Data Services near Fayetteville, noted that the inflation rate is a national rate and that some areas of the country aren’t doing so badly, including Arkansas.

Even though energy prices in Arkansas are similar to national prices, there have been declines in housing prices in Arkansas. The state’s unemployment rate also is better than most areas of the country, Collins said. He said the inflation rate in Arkansas is probably lower than the national rate.

“What that means to me is that we’re probably not faring any worse than anybody else and in some ways we may be faring a little bit better,” Collins said.

The Bureau of Economic Analysis said the U.S. metropolitan areas with the highest per-capita incomes were Bridgeport, Conn., at \$82,266; Naples, Fla., at \$64,349; San Francisco with \$61,747; Sebastian, Fla., at \$61,274; and San Jose, Calif., at \$58,802.

The cities with the lowest per-capita income among the nation’s 366 metropolitan statistical areas were McAllen, Texas, at \$19,377; Brownsville, Texas, at \$20,798; Provo, Utah, at \$21,758; Laredo, Texas, at \$22,346; and Logan, Utah, at \$23,655.

In Arkansas, Pine Bluff had the lowest per-capita income in 2008 among the seven metropolitan areas. It ranked 348th nationally, at \$27,014.

This article was published August 7, 2009 at 4:18 a.m.
Business, Pages 27, 32 on 08/07/2009

Comments

To report abuse or misuse of this area please hit the "Suggest Removal" link in the comment to alert our online managers. [Click here to post a comment](#). Read our [Terms of Use policy](#).

POST A COMMENT

[Change your screen name](#)

Screen name: **cber_walton.uark.edu** (Log out)

Comment:

Preview comment

More stories --

[Home / Daily Newspaper Sections / Business*](#)



SITE INDEX

NEWS

- Arkansas
- Today's Newspaper
- Extras
- Obituaries
- Opinion / Letters
- Religion
- National
- Politics
- World
- Offbeat
- Living Green
- Archives
- Sister Papers
- E-mail Updates
- Weather

BUSINESS

- Business
- Today's Newspaper
- Business wire
- Tech wire

- [Submit a Hole in One](#)
- AP Sports
- College Basketball
- College Football
- Pro Baseball
- Pro Football
- Pro Golf
- Pro Tennis
- NASCAR

ENTERTAINMENT

- Entertainment
- Weekend
- Events Calendar
- Movies
- Movie Finder
- Music
- Dining Out
- Restaurant Finder
- Today's Newspaper
- Travel
- Book Bytes
- Entertainment wire

- Community Photos
- Databases
- Blogs
- Polls
- Support Groups & Clubs
- Arkansas Links
- AP Photos
- AP Videos

COMMUNITY NEWS

- Tri-Lakes Edition
- River Valley & Ozark Edition
- Three Rivers Edition

SUBMISSIONS

- Honors & Achievements
- Bridal, engagements & anniversaries
- Calendar Events
- Support & Club meetings
- Letters to the Editor
- Submit a Hole in One
- News Tips

CONTACT

- Forgotten Password?
- Advertising
- Corporate
- Newspaper Staff
- Website Staff
- Newspaper Delivery
- FAQ

TARGETED PUBLICATIONS

- Sync
- Capture Arkansas
- Arkansas Life
- HerStyle
- Special Sections
- Taking New Patients
- Where We Live
- Downtown Little Rock
- Spelling Bee

PROMOTIONS

- Bridal Show

SPORTS

- [Arkansas Sports](#)
- [Today's Newspaper](#)
- [Razorbacks](#)
- [LR Marathon](#)
- [High School News](#)
- [High School Football](#)
- [Recruiting Guy Blog](#)

- [Comics](#)
- [Online games](#)
- [Sudoku](#)
- [TV listings](#)

WEB EXTRAS

- [Video](#)
- [Photos for purchase](#)
- [Staff Galleries](#)

SPECIAL FEATURES

- [Features list](#)
- [Inauguration](#)
- [Previous News Features](#)
- [A Soldier's Wife](#)
- [War Casualties](#)
- [Central High: A Look Back](#)
- [Democrat-Gazette History](#)

- [Contests](#)
- [Democrat-Gazette Store](#)

CLASSIFIEDS

- [Classifieds](#)
- [Jobs](#)
- [Real Estate](#)
- [Auto](#)

ADVERTISING

- [Advertise with us](#)

Copyright © 2009, Arkansas Democrat-Gazette, Inc.

All rights reserved.

This document may not be reprinted without the express written permission of Arkansas Democrat-Gazette, Inc.

Material from the Associated Press is Copyright © 2009, Associated Press and may not be published, broadcast, rewritten, or redistributed. Associated Press text, photo, graphic, audio and/or video material shall not be published, broadcast, rewritten for broadcast or publication or redistributed directly or indirectly in any medium. Neither these AP materials nor any portion thereof may be stored in a computer except for personal and noncommercial use. The AP will not be held liable for any delays, inaccuracies, errors or omissions therefrom or in the transmission or delivery of all or any part thereof or for any damages arising from any of the foregoing. All rights reserved.



[Home](#) | [News](#) | [Daily Newspaper](#) | [Entertainment](#) | [Sports](#) | [Photos](#) | [Videos](#) | [Weather](#) | [Classifieds](#) | [Auto](#) | [Real Estate](#) | [JobsArkansas](#) | [Help](#) | [Terms of Use](#)