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# **A Profile of Government Employment**

## **Beartooth Region**

Selected Geographies:

Big Horn County, MT; Carbon County, MT; Stillwater County, MT; Sweet Grass County, MT; Yellowstone County, MT; Montana

Benchmark Geographies:

U.S.

Produced by  
**Economic Profile System**  
**EPS**

December 6, 2018

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## About the Economic Profile System (EPS)

EPS is a free, easy-to-use software application that produces detailed socioeconomic reports of counties, states, and regions, including custom aggregations.

EPS uses published statistics from federal data sources, including Bureau of Economic Analysis and Bureau of the Census, U.S. Department of Commerce; and Bureau of Labor Statistics, U.S. Department of Labor.

The Bureau of Land Management and Forest Service have made significant financial and intellectual contributions to the operation and content of EPS.

See [headwaterseconomics.org/EPS](http://headwaterseconomics.org/EPS) for more information about the other tools and capabilities of EPS.

For technical questions, contact Patty Gude at [eps@headwaterseconomics.org](mailto:eps@headwaterseconomics.org), or 406-599-7425.



**Headwaters Economics** is an independent, nonprofit research group. Our mission is to improve community development and land management decisions in the West.



[www.blm.gov](http://www.blm.gov)

**The Bureau of Land Management**, an agency within the U.S. Department of the Interior, administers 249.8 million acres of America's public lands, located primarily in 12 Western States. It is the mission of the Bureau of Land Management to sustain the health, diversity, and productivity of the public lands for the use and enjoyment of present and future generations.



[www.fs.fed.us](http://www.fs.fed.us)

**The Forest Service**, an agency of the U.S. Department of Agriculture, administers national forests and grasslands encompassing 193 million acres. The Forest Service's mission is to achieve quality land management under the "sustainable multiple-use management concept" to meet the diverse needs of people while protecting the resource. Significant intellectual, conceptual, and content contributions were provided by the following individuals: Dr. Pat Reed, Dr. Jessica Montag, Doug Smith, M.S., Fred Clark, M.S., Dr. Susan A. Winter, and Dr. Ashley Goldhor-Wilcock.

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**Note to Users:**

This is one of fourteen reports that can be created and downloaded from EPS Web. You may want to run another EPS report for either a different geography or topic. Topics include land use, demographics, specific industry sectors, the role of non-labor income, the wildland-urban interface, the role of amenities in economic development, and payments to county governments from federal lands. Throughout the reports, references to online resources are indicated in parentheses. These resources are provided as hyperlinks on each report's final page. The EPS reports are downloadable as Excel, PDF, and Word documents. For further information and to download reports, go to:

[headwaterseconomics.org/eps](http://headwaterseconomics.org/eps)

How large is government employment?

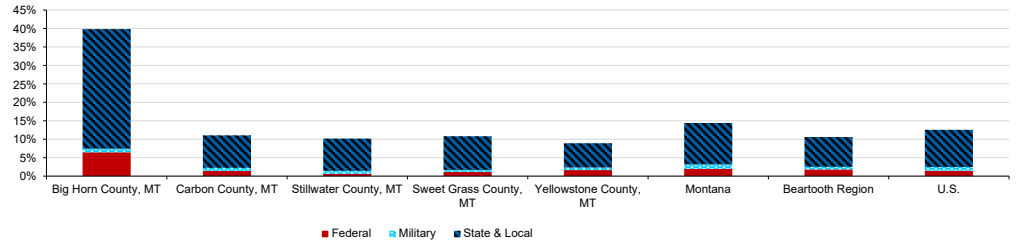
This page describes the number and percent of government jobs by type (federal, military, and state and local) relative to all jobs in the rest of the economy. It also shows aggregate government employment trends.

Employment in Government, 2016

	Big Horn County, MT	Carbon County, MT	Stillwater County, MT	Sweet Grass County, MT	Yellowstone County, MT	Montana	Beartooth Region	U.S.
<b>Total Employment</b>	6,229	5,627	5,231	2,803	109,252	669,432	129,142	193,668,400
<b>Government</b>	2,481	622	532	303	9,738	96,382	13,676	24,300,000
Federal	402	79	33	31	1,790	13,326	2,335	2,852,000
Military	60	47	42	16	746	7,836	911	1,927,000
State & Local	2,019	496	457	256	7,202	75,220	10,430	19,521,000
<b>Private Sector</b>	3,748	5,005	4,699	2,500	99,514	573,050	115,466	169,368,400
<b>Percent of Total</b>								
Government	39.8%	11.1%	10.2%	10.8%	8.9%	14.4%	10.6%	12.5%
Federal	6.5%	1.4%	0.6%	1.1%	1.6%	2.0%	1.8%	1.5%
Military	1.0%	0.8%	0.8%	0.6%	0.7%	1.2%	0.7%	1.0%
State & Local	32.4%	8.8%	8.7%	9.1%	6.6%	11.2%	8.1%	10.1%
Private Sector	60.2%	88.9%	89.8%	89.2%	91.1%	85.6%	89.4%	87.5%

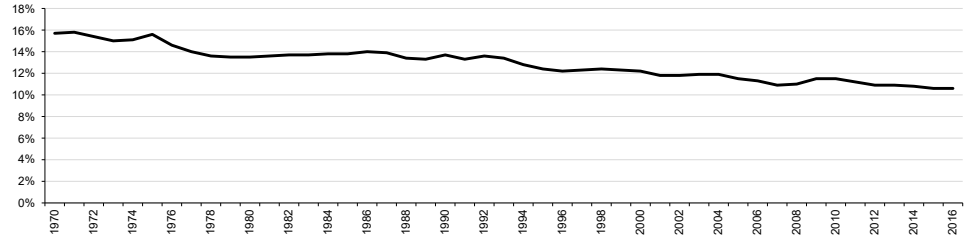
- In 2016, Big Horn County, MT had the largest percent of total jobs in government (39.8%), and Yellowstone County, MT had the smallest (8.9%).
- In 2016, state & local government was the largest government sector in the Beartooth Region (8.1% of total jobs), and military was the smallest (0.7% of total jobs).

Percent of Total Jobs in Government, 2016



- In 1970, government jobs represented 15.7 percent of total employment. By 2016, government jobs had decreased to 10.6 percent of total employment.

Percent of Total Jobs in Government, Beartooth Region



## Study Guide and Supplemental Information

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### How large is government employment?

#### What do we measure on this page?

This page describes the number and percent of government jobs by type (federal, military, and state and local) relative to all jobs in the rest of the economy. It also shows aggregate government employment trends.

#### Why is it important?

Government employment is often an important component of the overall mix of jobs in a place. This can be especially true of rural economies.

Changes in government employment tend to track population trends. Local government often accounts for the majority of job growth in the government sector as additional services are demanded by a growing population.

An increase in federal employment may be associated with a specific federal installation, such as a military base or research facility. The 2001 reclassification of tribal government and enterprises from the private sector to state and local government may also be responsible for an increase in state and local government employment in some counties.

#### Methods

Classification of tribal governments: In 2001, the Bureau of Economic Analysis (and the Bureau of Labor Statistics) started counting tribal employees as part of local government. Previously, they were included in the relevant private industries. For example, employees of casinos owned by tribes were counted in the North American Industry Classification System subsector "Amusement, Gambling and Recreation Industries" before 2001, but are now shown as part of local government employment.

Because of this shift in classification, it is possible for there to be a jump in the level of local government employment from 2000 to 2001. This is most likely the case in areas with a significant tribal presence.

#### Additional Resources

For more information on how the Bureau of Economic Analysis classifies tribal government, see: [bea.gov/scb/pdf/2009/05%20May/0509\\_lapi.pdf](https://www.bea.gov/scb/pdf/2009/05%20May/0509_lapi.pdf) (1).

To see if a selected geography has a reservation or significant tribal population, see the [EPS Land Use and Demographics reports](#).

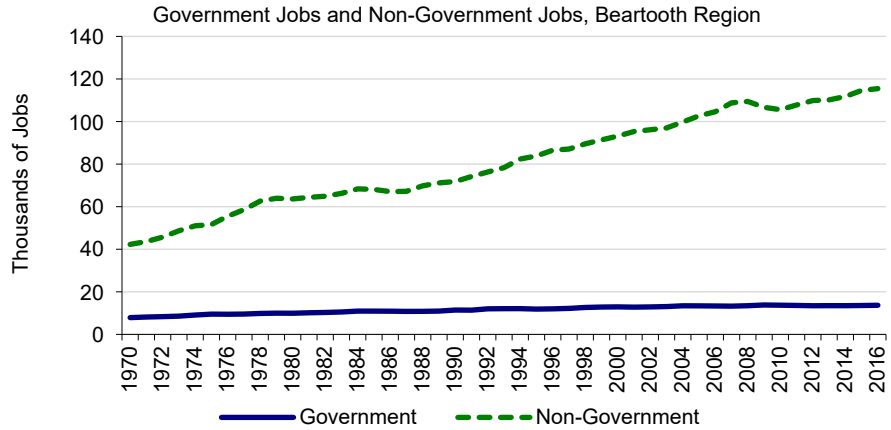
#### Data Sources

U.S. Department of Commerce. 2017. Bureau of Economic Analysis, Regional Economic Accounts, Washington, D.C.

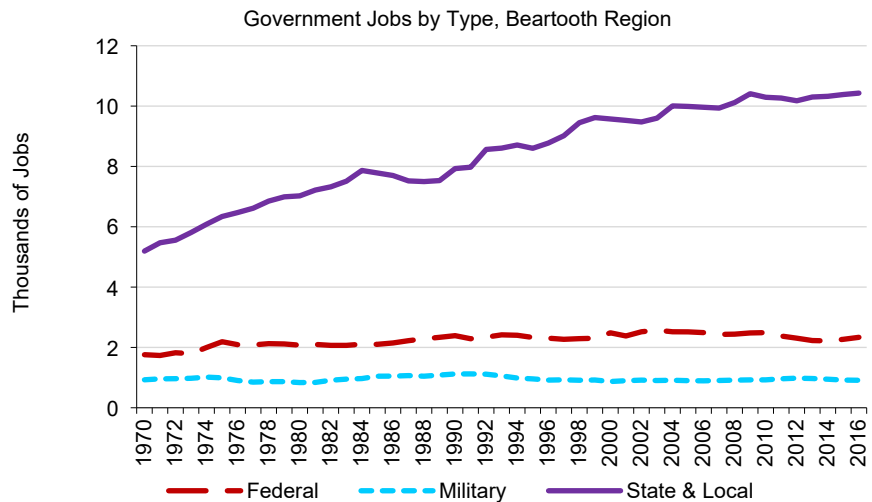
**How has government employment changed over time?**

This page describes trends in government employment by number and type, and on a per capita basis.

- From 1970 to 2016, government employment grew from 7,879 to 13,676 jobs, an increase of 74 percent.
- From 1970 to 2016, non-government employment grew from 42,282 to 115,466 jobs, an increase of 173 percent.



- From 1970 to 2016, state and local employment grew from 5,193 to 10,430 jobs, an increase of 101 percent.
- From 1970 to 2016, military employment shrank from 927 to 911 jobs, a decrease of 2 percent.
- From 1970 to 2016, federal civilian employment grew from 1,759 to 2,335 jobs, an increase of 33 percent.



- From 1970 to 2016, government employment per 1000 people shrank from 70 to 70 jobs, a decrease of percent.



## Study Guide and Supplemental Information

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### How has government employment changed over time?

#### What do we measure on this page?

This page describes trends in government employment by number and type, and on a per capita basis.

#### Why is it important?

Government employment is often an important component of the overall mix of jobs in a place. This can be especially true of rural economies and/or where significant government facilities are located.

Changes in government employment tend to track population trends. Local government often accounts for the majority of job growth in the government sector as additional services are demanded by a growing population. The bottom chart Government Jobs per 1000 People shows government employment on a per capita basis. An upward sloped line indicates that government employment is growing faster than population change, while a downward sloped line indicates that government is declining faster than population change.

An increase in federal employment may be associated with a specific federal installation, such as a military base or research facility. The 2001 reclassification of tribal government and enterprises from the private sector to state and local government may also be responsible for an increase in state and local government employment in some geographies.

#### Methods

Classification of tribal governments: In 2001, the Bureau of Economic Analysis (and the Bureau of Labor Statistics) started counting tribal employees as part of local government. Previously, they were included in the relevant private industries. For example, employees of casinos owned by tribes were counted in the North American Industry Classification System subsector "Amusement, Gambling and Recreation Industries" before 2001, but are now shown as part of local government employment.

Because of this shift in classification, it is possible for there to be a jump in the level of local government employment from 2000 to 2001. This is most likely the case in areas with a significant tribal presence.

#### Additional Resources

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To see if a selected geography has a reservation or significant tribal population, see the [EPS Land Use and Demographics reports](#)

#### Data Sources

U.S. Department of Commerce. 2017. Bureau of Economic Analysis, Regional Economic Accounts, Washington, D.C.

**How large are government earnings?**

This page describes labor earnings from government employment by type (federal, military, and state and local) compared to the rest of the economy. It also shows aggregate government earnings trends.

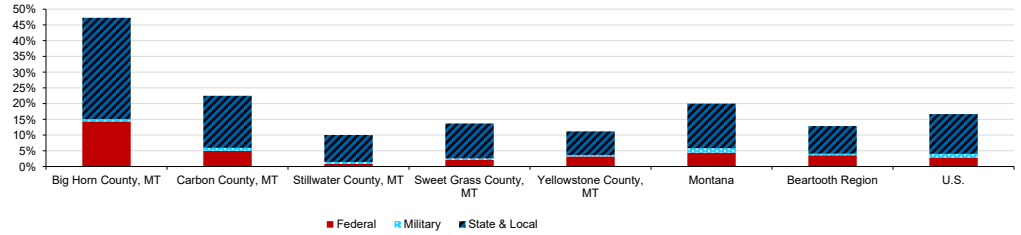
**Labor Earnings from Government Jobs, 2016 (Thousands of 2017 \$s)**

	Big Horn County, MT	Carbon County, MT	Stillwater County, MT	Sweet Grass County, MT	Yellowstone County, MT	Montana	Beartooth Region	U.S.
Labor Earnings (\$1000)	\$266,415	\$148,055	\$258,548	\$105,444	\$5,880,884	\$29,837,302	\$6,659,345	\$11,542,172,525
Government	\$125,908	\$33,285	\$25,871	\$14,427	\$656,655	\$5,963,248	\$856,145	\$1,923,017,817
Federal	\$38,184	\$7,316	\$2,388	\$2,208	\$188,657	\$1,314,893	\$238,755	\$330,816,261
Military	\$1,876	\$1,477	\$1,320	\$507	\$26,040	\$418,550	\$31,220	\$134,079,766
State & Local	\$85,848	\$24,491	\$22,163	\$11,711	\$441,958	\$4,229,805	\$586,170	\$1,458,121,790
Private Sector	\$140,507	\$114,771	\$232,677	\$91,017	\$5,224,228	\$23,874,054	\$5,803,200	\$9,619,154,708

**Percent of Total**

Government	47.3%	22.5%	10.0%	13.7%	11.2%	20.0%	12.9%	16.7%
Federal	14.3%	4.9%	0.9%	2.1%	3.2%	4.4%	3.6%	2.9%
Military	0.7%	1.0%	0.5%	0.5%	0.4%	1.4%	0.5%	1.2%
State & Local	32.2%	16.5%	8.6%	11.1%	7.5%	14.2%	8.8%	12.6%
Private Sector	52.7%	77.5%	90.0%	86.3%	88.8%	80.0%	87.1%	83.3%

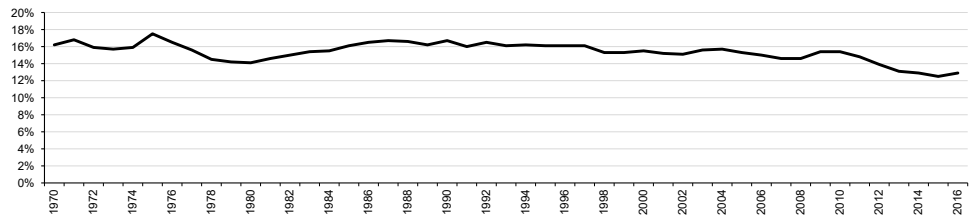
Percent of Total Labor Earnings from Government Jobs, 2016



In 2016, Big Horn County, MT had the largest percent of labor earnings from government employment (47.3%), and Stillwater County, MT had the smallest (10%).

In 2016, state & local government was the largest source of government related personal income in the Beartooth Region (8.8%), and military was the smallest (0.5%).

Percent of Total Labor Earnings from Government Jobs, Beartooth Region



In 1970, government personal income represented 16 percent of labor earnings. By 2016, government personal income had decreased to 13 percent of labor earnings.



## Study Guide and Supplemental Information

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### How large are government earnings?

#### What do we measure on this page?

This page describes labor earnings from government employment by type (federal, military, and state and local) compared to the rest of the economy. It also shows aggregate government earnings trends.

#### Why is it important?

Government employment can be a major source of earnings, particularly in rural areas, or where significant government facilities are located, such as military bases, prisons, or research facilities. Government jobs often pay high wages and offer good benefits.

However, government jobs and the income they provide can be uncertain as the decline in timber-related government jobs or a military base closing in some communities have shown. On the other hand, new government employment associated with increased recreation or new facilities can be a boon to local economies. Despite changes in the makeup of federal government jobs, they provide wages and benefits that can serve as a buffer against the impacts of national recessions.

#### Methods

Unlike some other industry-specific EPS reports, which primarily provide information on employment by industry, this report also provides information on personal income earned by people working in the government sector. This is possible because unlike industry income data that is often not disclosed to avoid revealing proprietary information, government income data is universally available from the Bureau of Economic Analysis (Industry-specific EPS reports use County Business Patterns data because there are fewer disclosure problems.)

#### Additional Resources

State and local government is typically the largest part of government employment. The U.S. Census of Governments provides detailed survey data on local government employment and payroll. Data specific to local government is available at: [census.gov/govs/apes/index.html](https://www.census.gov/govs/apes/index.html) (2).

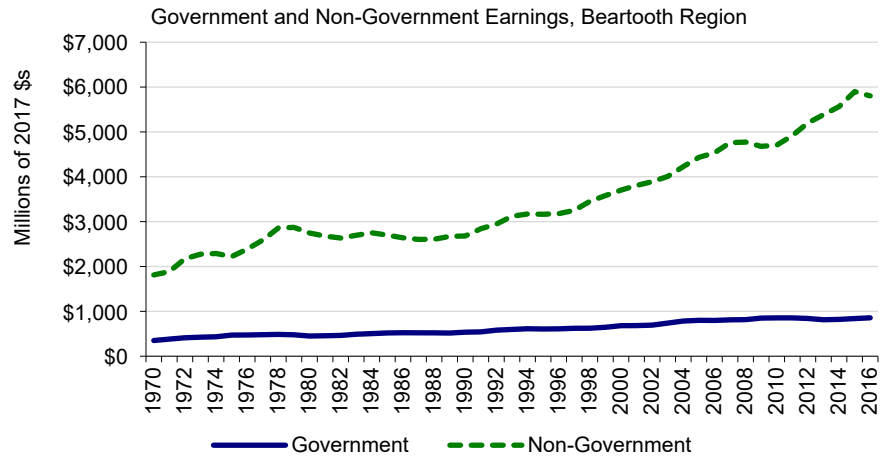
#### Data Sources

U.S. Department of Commerce. 2017. Bureau of Economic Analysis, Regional Economic Accounts, Washington, D.C.

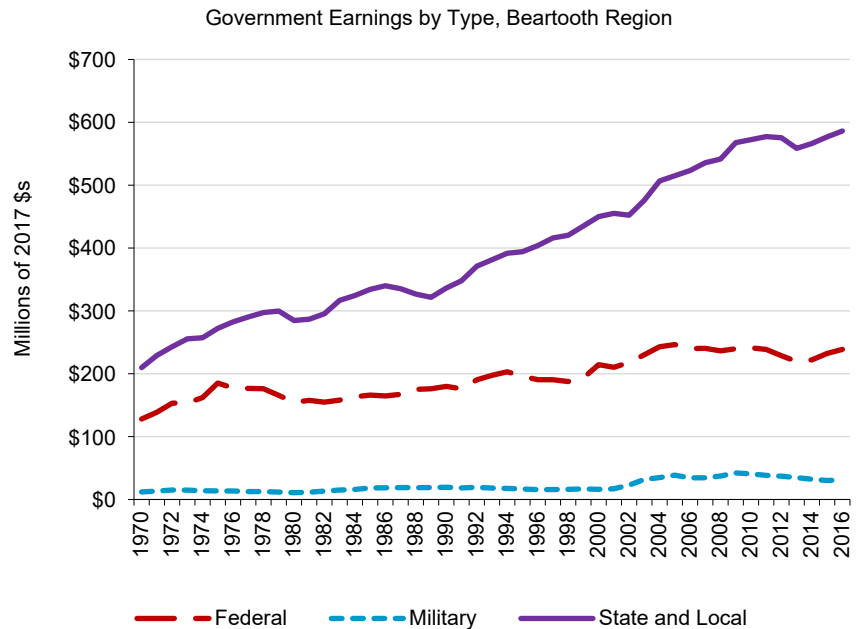
**How have government earnings changed over time?**

This page describes trends in labor earnings from government employment compared to labor earnings from non-government employment. It also shows trends in labor earnings from government employment by type (federal, military, and state and local).

- From 1970 to 2016, government labor earnings grew from \$349.81 million to \$856.15 million, an increase of 145 percent.
- From 1970 to 2016, non-government labor earnings grew from \$1,811.89 million to \$5,803.20 million, an increase of 220 percent.



- From 1970 to 2016, state and local government labor earnings grew from \$209.75 million to \$586.17 million, an increase of 179 percent.
- From 1970 to 2016, military labor earnings grew from \$12.00 million to \$31.22 million, an increase of 160 percent.
- From 1970 to 2016, federal civilian government labor earnings grew from \$128.00 million to \$238.76 million, an increase of 87 percent.



## Study Guide and Supplemental Information

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### How have government earnings changed over time?

#### What do we measure on this page?

This page describes trends in labor earnings from government employment compared to labor earnings from non-government employment. It also shows trends in labor earnings from government employment by type (federal, military, and state and local).

#### Why is it important?

Government can be a major source of labor earnings, particularly in rural areas, or where significant government facilities are located, such as military bases, prisons, or research facilities. Government jobs often pay high wages and offer good benefits.

Understanding the change in government labor earnings over time and the components of government labor earnings offers insight into the role of government as an economic sector. It may be that labor earnings from government employment is relatively stable, or it may be growing or declining in absolute or relative terms. It is often the case that trends in federal, military, and state and local government employment and labor earnings are different from one another.

#### Additional Resources

State and local government is typically the largest part of government employment. The U.S. Census of Governments provides detailed survey data on local government employment and payroll. Data specific to local government is available at: [census.gov/govs/apes/index.html](https://www.census.gov/govs/apes/index.html) (2).

#### Data Sources

U.S. Department of Commerce. 2017. Bureau of Economic Analysis, Regional Economic Accounts, Washington, D.C.

**How do government wages compare to wages in other sectors?**

This page describes wages (in real terms) from employment in government by type compared to wages from employment in non-government sectors. It also describes the employment share in each category. These are shown together to illustrate where the high and low wage occupations are located (by geography and industry) and whether there are many or few people in each category.

**Average Annual Wages, 2017 (2017 \$s)**

	Big Horn County, MT	Carbon County, MT	Stillwater County, MT	Sweet Grass County, MT	Yellowstone County, MT	Montana	Beartooth Region	U.S.
<b>Total Private &amp; Public</b>	\$41,240	\$34,102	\$60,475	\$49,585	\$46,291	\$42,045	\$46,224	\$55,390
<b>Government</b>	\$38,167	\$39,780	\$36,102	\$35,128	\$53,508	\$47,208	\$49,210	\$55,686
Federal Government	\$65,823	\$66,783	\$46,809	\$52,802	\$77,197	\$68,647	\$74,152	\$80,432
State Government	\$50,205	\$66,300	\$49,212	\$73,540	\$45,180	\$49,426	\$45,777	\$58,802
Local Government	\$31,074	\$34,363	\$34,492	\$29,973	\$48,209	\$40,140	\$42,810	\$49,720
<b>Total Private</b>	\$44,068	\$32,605	\$64,987	\$52,138	\$45,426	\$40,891	\$45,781	\$55,338
<b>Non-Services</b>	\$70,242	\$48,858	\$90,779	\$80,033	\$61,220	\$52,728	\$65,584	\$63,961
Natural Resources and Mining	\$71,770	\$61,311	na	\$96,281	\$70,366	\$64,779	\$75,845	\$56,859
Ag., Forestry, Fishing, Hunting	\$31,918	\$57,636	\$35,570	na	\$49,613	\$38,984	\$46,419	\$34,464
Mining	\$82,121	\$75,276	na	na	\$90,004	\$87,831	\$84,968	\$102,130
Construction	na	\$43,781	na	\$32,660	\$55,038	\$50,370	\$54,290	\$60,735
Manufacturing (Incl. Forest Prod.)	na	\$32,561	\$39,606	\$36,945	\$68,164	\$48,758	\$65,346	\$66,840
<b>Services</b>	\$31,535	\$28,572	\$31,527	\$26,591	\$43,003	\$38,658	\$42,026	\$53,530
Trade, Transportation, Utilities	\$34,229	\$35,964	\$31,299	\$32,220	\$41,950	\$38,067	\$41,389	\$46,151
Information	\$32,870	\$24,544	\$71,831	\$15,845	\$51,537	\$51,904	\$50,595	\$105,722
Financial Activities	\$35,988	\$53,412	\$37,267	\$41,494	\$63,075	\$56,708	\$61,842	\$92,923
Professional and Business	\$36,507	\$34,894	\$60,706	\$38,673	\$51,378	\$50,921	\$50,936	\$72,525
Education and Health	\$39,581	\$35,388	\$31,714	\$27,157	\$55,347	\$46,171	\$53,968	\$49,201
Leisure and Hospitality	\$17,432	\$17,696	\$16,689	\$15,734	\$18,806	\$18,625	\$18,616	\$23,188
Other Services	\$24,227	\$19,660	\$22,733	\$25,305	\$28,995	\$29,178	\$28,560	\$37,320
Unclassified	\$0	\$39,070	\$0	\$0	\$73,080	\$73,872	\$58,200	\$55,887

**Percent of Total Employment, 2017**

	Big Horn County, MT	Carbon County, MT	Stillwater County, MT	Sweet Grass County, MT	Yellowstone County, MT	Montana	Beartooth Region	U.S.
<b>Government</b>	47.7%	20.9%	15.5%	15.0%	10.7%	18.3%	12.9%	14.9%
Federal Government	9.3%	2.8%	1.1%	1.7%	2.2%	2.9%	2.5%	1.9%
State Government	0.7%	0.7%	0.8%	0.9%	2.0%	5.1%	1.8%	3.2%
Local Government	37.7%	17.4%	13.7%	12.4%	6.6%	10.3%	8.7%	9.8%
<b>Total Private</b>	52.2%	79.1%	84.4%	85.0%	89.3%	81.7%	87.1%	85.1%
<b>Non-Services</b>	16.9%	15.7%	47.7%	40.6%	11.9%	13.0%	13.9%	14.7%
Natural Resources and Mining	15.9%	6.1%	na	30.0%	0.9%	2.6%	2.2%	1.3%
Ag., Forestry, Fishing, Hunting	3.3%	4.8%	1.7%	na	0.4%	1.2%	0.7%	0.9%
Mining	12.6%	1.3%	na	na	0.5%	1.4%	1.0%	0.4%
Construction	na	7.2%	na	5.7%	6.4%	6.0%	5.9%	4.8%
Manufacturing (Incl. Forest Prod.)	na	2.4%	7.7%	4.9%	4.6%	4.3%	4.4%	8.6%
<b>Services</b>	35.3%	63.4%	36.7%	44.4%	77.4%	68.8%	73.2%	70.3%
Trade, Transportation, Utilities	12.4%	14.0%	11.6%	11.3%	24.2%	19.8%	22.8%	18.9%
Information	0.4%	1.1%	0.6%	0.9%	1.4%	1.4%	1.3%	1.9%
Financial Activities	2.0%	3.0%	1.3%	3.5%	4.9%	4.6%	4.6%	5.6%
Professional and Business	2.9%	6.1%	4.0%	3.2%	10.8%	8.9%	10.0%	14.1%
Education and Health	8.3%	11.5%	8.5%	7.9%	17.8%	15.9%	16.7%	15.4%
Leisure and Hospitality	8.4%	24.3%	8.7%	13.5%	13.9%	14.1%	13.8%	11.1%
Other Services	0.8%	3.2%	2.0%	4.3%	4.3%	3.9%	4.0%	3.1%
Unclassified	0.0%	0.3%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.1%	0.0%	0.2%

Data Sources: U.S. Department of Labor. 2018. Bureau of Labor Statistics, Quarterly Census of Employment and Wages, Washington, D.C.

How do government wages compare to wages in other sectors?

**What do we measure on this page?**

This page describes wages (in real terms) from employment in government by type compared to wages from employment in non-government sectors. It also describes the employment share in each category. These are shown together to illustrate where the high and low wage occupations are located (by geography and industry) and whether there are many or few people in each category.

The tables on this page and figures in the following section of this report display average annual wages and employment share side-by-side to show which industries pay the highest salaries, and the relative significance of each employment category.

**Why is it important?**

Government employment can be an important economic sector and generally pays relatively high wages, especially in rural areas. However, there are often disparities between wages at different levels of government (federal, state, and local) and between geographies. The tables on this page show wages and employment levels at different levels of government and for the private sectors for comparison.

**Methods**

The wage and employment data on this page are from the Bureau of Labor Statistics, which does not report data for proprietors or the value of benefits and uses slightly different industry categories than those shown on the initial pages of this report.

In addition, the Bureau of Labor Statistics categorizes types of government differently than the Bureau of Economic Analysis used elsewhere in this report. The Bureau of Labor Statistics reports government jobs and wages by federal, state and local breakouts. The Bureau of Economic Analysis reports government jobs and personal income by federal, military, and state local breakouts.

Depending on the geographies selected, some data may not be available due to disclosure restrictions.

Some data are withheld by the federal government to avoid the disclosure of potentially confidential information. Occasionally, one or more data values underlying the data aggregations shown on this page are non-disclosed. When this occurs, the values are indicated with tildes (~).

**Additional Resources**

For more information on how the Bureau of Labor Statistics classifies tribal government, see: [bls.gov/cew/cewbultn01.htm#2d](https://bls.gov/cew/cewbultn01.htm#2d) (3).

To see if a selected geography has a reservation or significant tribal population, see the EPS-HDT Land Use and Demographics reports.

**Data Sources**

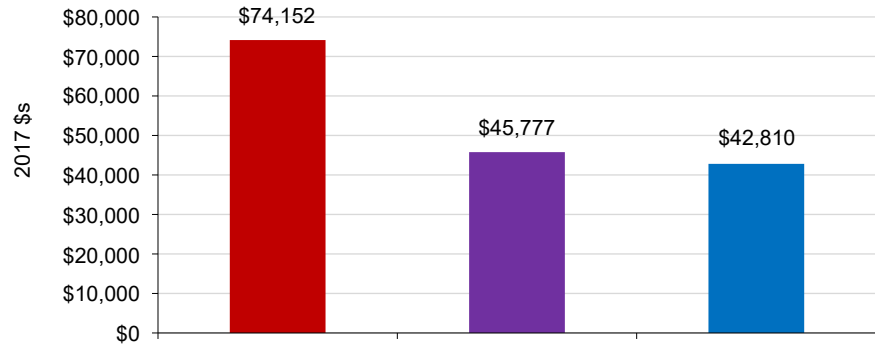
U.S. Department of Labor. 2018. Bureau of Labor Statistics, Quarterly Census of Employment and Wages, Washington, D.C.

**How many government jobs are there and what wages do they pay?**

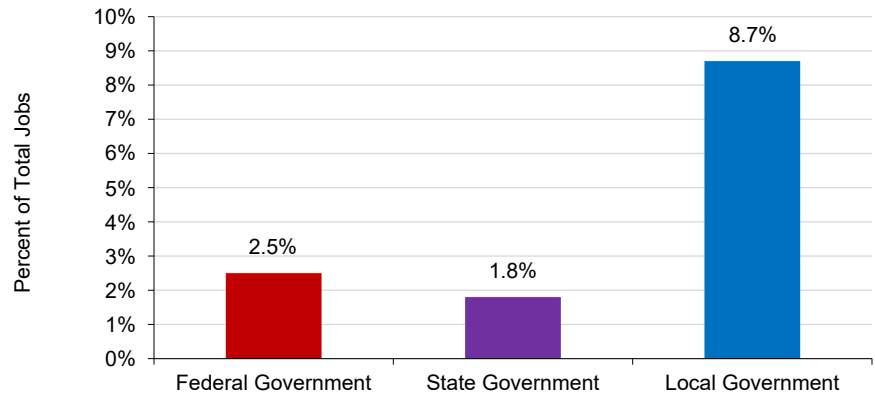
This page describes average wages (in real terms) per employee by federal, state and local governments, and the share of total employment by these same three levels of government. Comparing wages and jobs side by side shows which government sectors pay the highest salaries on average, and the relative significance of each category.

Avg. Annual Wages & Percent of Total Employment in Government by Type, Beartooth Region, 2017

- In 2017, federal government paid the highest wages of the government sectors (\$74,152) followed by state government (\$45,777) and local government (\$42,810).



- In 2017, local government employed the most people of the government sectors (8.7% of total jobs), followed by federal government (2.5% of total jobs), and state government (1.8% of total jobs).

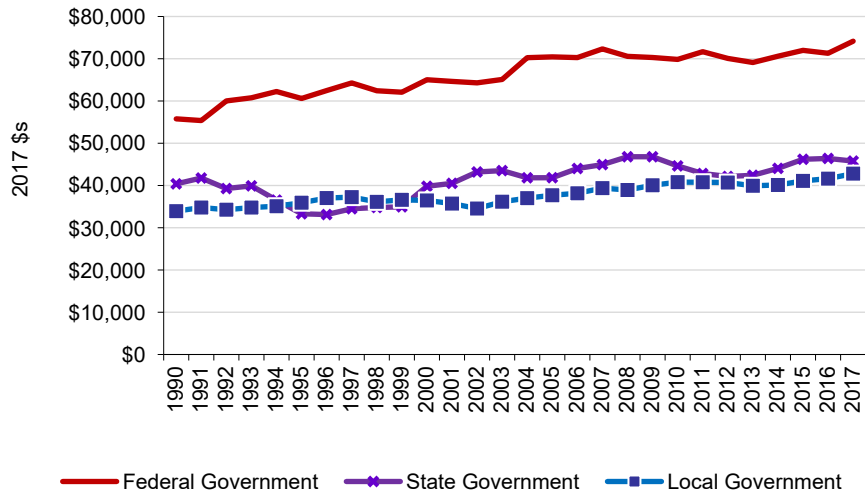


- From 1990 to 2017, federal government average annual wages grew from \$55,773 to \$74,152, increase of 33 percent.

- From 1990 to 2017, state government average annual wages grew from \$40,385 to \$45,777, increase of 13 percent.

- From 1990 to 2017, local government average annual wages grew from \$33,927 to \$42,810, increase of 26 percent.

Avg. Annual Wages in Government, Beartooth Region



Data Sources: U.S. Department of Labor. 2018. Bureau of Labor Statistics, Quarterly Census of Employment and Wages, Washington, D.C.

## Study Guide and Supplemental Information

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### How many government jobs are there and what wages do they pay?

#### What do we measure on this page?

This page describes average wages (in real terms) per employee by federal, state and local governments, and the share of total employment by these same three levels of government. Comparing wages and jobs side by side shows which government sectors pay the highest salaries on average, and the relative significance of each category.

#### Why is it important?

Government employment can be an important economic sector and generally pays relatively high wages, especially in rural areas. However, there are often disparities between wages at different levels of government (federal, state, and local) and between geographies. The bar charts on this page show wages and employment levels at different levels of government. The line graph shows how wages adjusted for inflation in government by type have changed over time.

#### Methods

The wage and employment data on this page are from the Bureau of Labor Statistics, which does not report data for proprietors or the value of benefits and uses slightly different industry categories than those shown on the initial pages of this report.

In addition, the Bureau of Labor Statistics categorizes types of government differently than the Bureau of Economic Analysis used elsewhere in this report. The Bureau of Labor Statistics reports government jobs and wages by federal, state and local breakouts. The Bureau of Economic Analysis reports government jobs and personal income by federal, military, and state local breakouts.

Bureau of Labor Statistics data begin in 1990. Data shown earlier in this report from the Bureau of Economic Analysis is available continuously from 1970. Depending on the geographies selected, some data may not be available due to disclosure restrictions.

#### Additional Resources

For more information on how the Bureau of Labor Statistics classifies tribal government, see: [bls.gov/cew/cewbultn01.htm#2d](https://bls.gov/cew/cewbultn01.htm#2d) (3).

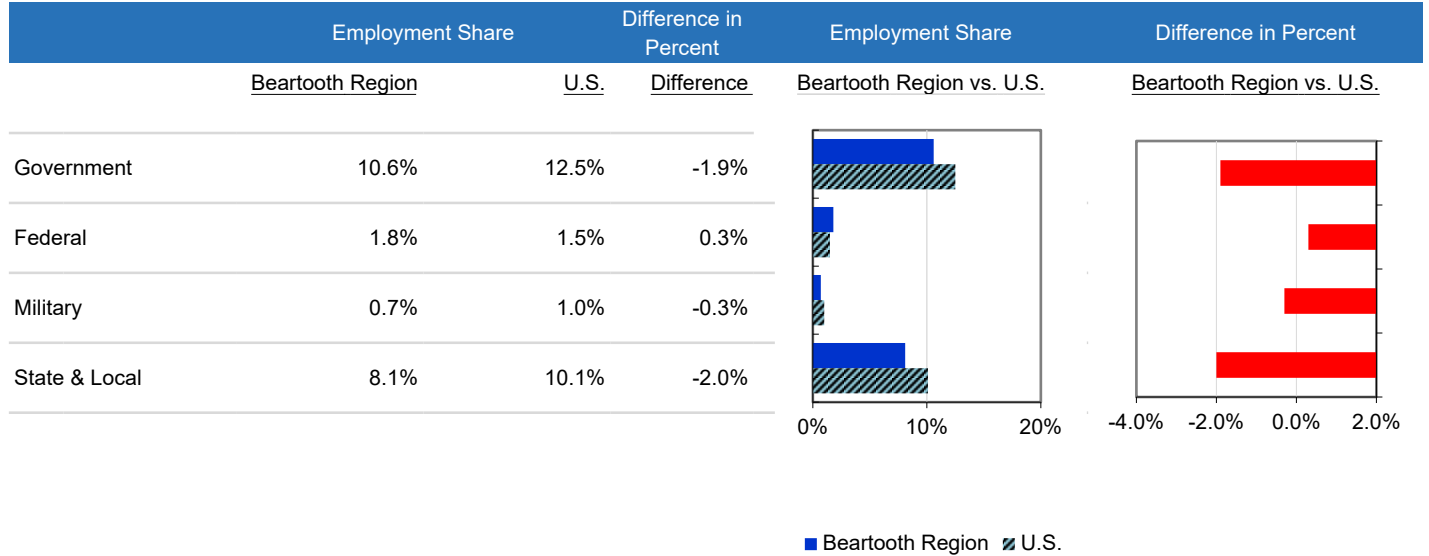
#### Data Sources

U.S. Department of Labor. 2018. Bureau of Labor Statistics, Quarterly Census of Employment and Wages, Washington, D.C.

**How do government wages compare to wages in other sectors?**

This page describes how the region is specialized (or under-specialized) in government employment. The figure illustrates the difference between the region and the U.S. by comparing government jobs as a share of total employment.

**Percent of Total Jobs in Government, Beartooth Region vs. U.S., 2016**



- In 2016, federal government employment as a percent of total employment was 0.3 percent larger in the Beartooth Region than in the U.S.
- In 2016, military employment as a percent of total employment was -0.3 percent smaller in the Beartooth Region than in the U.S.
- In 2016, state and local government employment as a percent of total employment was -2 percent smaller in the Beartooth Region than in the U.S.



## Study Guide and Supplemental Information

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### How do government wages compare to wages in other sectors?

#### What do we measure on this page?

This page describes how the region is specialized (or under-specialized) in government employment. The figure illustrates the difference between the region and the U.S. by comparing government jobs as a share of total employment.

The use of the term "benchmark" in this report should not be construed as having the same meaning as in the National Forest Management Act (NFMA).

#### Why is it important?

Government can be a major employer, particularly in rural areas, or where significant government facilities are located, such as Forest Service and Bureau of Land Management offices, military bases, prisons, or research facilities. Government jobs often pay high wages and offer good benefits. Government jobs can also be important when they bring money into the area from outside. For example, Forest Service and Bureau of Land Management offices, as well as federally funded research institutions and military bases, can bring significant dollars into the local economy by employing local people at relatively high wages. In this sense, government can be part of the basic (or base) economy of a place.

#### Additional Resources

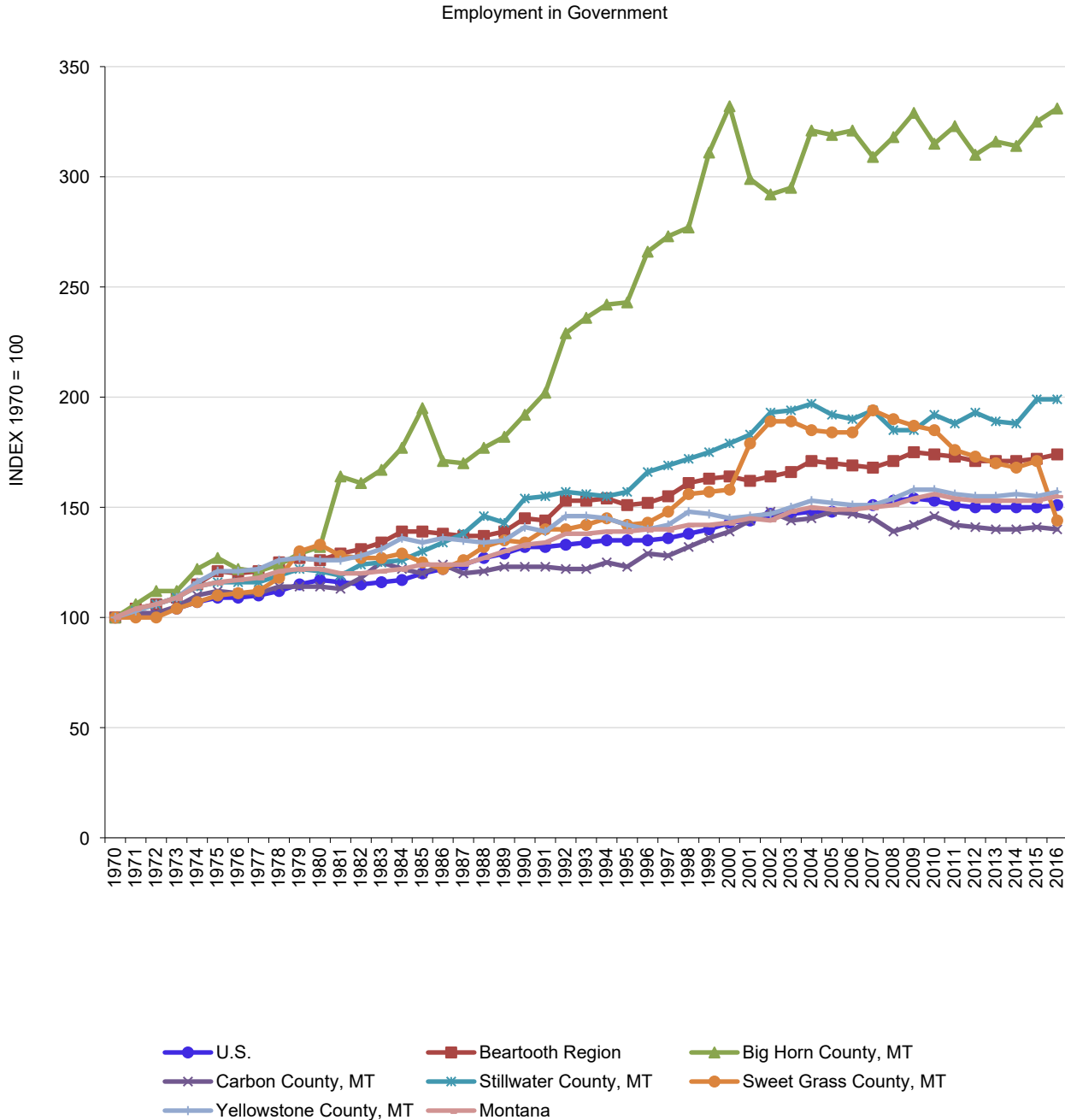
State and local government is typically the largest part of government employment. The U.S. Census of Governments provides detailed survey data on local government employment and payroll. Data specific to local government is available from: [census.gov/govs/apes/index.html](https://www.census.gov/govs/apes/index.html) (2).

#### Data Sources

U.S. Department of Commerce. 2017. Bureau of Economic Analysis, Regional Economic Accounts, Washington, D.C.

**How does government employment compare across geographies?**

This page compares the change in government employment for the geographies selected and the U.S. The information is indexed (1970=100) so that data from geographies with different size economies can be compared and to make it easier to understand the relative rate of growth or decline of government employment over time.



- From 1998 to 2016, Big Horn County, MT had the fastest rate of change in government employment, and Beartooth Region had the slowest.

## Study Guide and Supplemental Information

### How does government employment compare across geographies?

#### What do we measure on this page?

This page compares the change in government employment for the geographies selected and the U.S. The information is indexed (1970=100) so that data from geographies with different size economies can be compared and to make it easier to understand the relative rate of growth or decline of government employment over time.

Index: Indexed numbers are compared with a base value. In the line chart, employment in 1970 is the base value, and is set to 100. The employment values for subsequent years are expressed as 100 times the ratio to the base value. The indexing used in the line chart enables easier comparisons between geographies over time.

The use of the term "benchmark" in this report should not be construed as having the same meaning as in the National Forest Management Act (NFMA).

Note: if many geographies are selected, it may be difficult to read the figure on this page.

#### Why is it important?

Not all counties have attracted or lost government employment at the same rate. An indexed chart makes it clear where the rate of government-related growth or decline has been the fastest. Lines above 100 indicate absolute growth while those below 100 show absolute decline. The steeper the curve the faster the rate of change.

This line chart can also be used to examine whether there are differences in volatility (i.e., year-to-year fluctuations) of growth or decline between geographies.

#### Additional Resources

Local government is typically the largest part of government employment. The U.S. Census of Governments provides detailed survey data on local government employment and payroll. Data specific to local government is available at: [census.gov/govs/apes/index.html](https://www.census.gov/govs/apes/index.html) (2).

In addition to the employment and personal income benefits described in this EPS profile, counties with federal public lands also receive fiscal benefits in the form of Payments in Lieu of Taxes (PILT) and revenue sharing payments (for example, these may include Forest Service payments through the Secure Rural Schools and Community Self-Determination Act and/or BLM Taylor Grazing Act payments). For information on federal payments to state and local government, see the EPS Federal Land Payments report at [headwaterseconomics.org/eps](https://www.headwaterseconomics.org/eps) (4). The EPS Federal Land Payments report documents PILT and revenue sharing payments, with special emphasis on the relative importance of federal land payments to county government in the context of total county government revenue from all sources (e.g., property taxes, user charges, and other sources of intergovernmental revenue).

#### Data Sources

U.S. Department of Commerce. 2017. Bureau of Economic Analysis, Regional Economic Accounts, Washington, D.C.

## Data Sources

The EPS Measures report uses published statistics from government sources that are available to the public and cover the entire country. All data used in EPS can be readily verified by going to the original source. The contact information for databases used in this profile is:

- **Regional Economic Information System**

Bureau of Economic Analysis, U.S. Department of Commerce  
<http://bea.gov/bea/regional/data.htm>  
Tel. 202-606-9600

- **Quarterly Census of Employment and Wages**

Bureau of Labor Statistics, U.S. Department of Labor  
<http://www.bls.gov/cew>  
Tel. 202-691-6567

## Methods

EPS core approaches: EPS is designed to focus on long-term trends across a range of important measures. Trend analysis provides a more comprehensive view of changes than spot data for select years. We encourage users to focus on major trends rather than absolute numbers. EPS displays detailed industry-level data to show changes in the composition of the economy over time and the mix of industries at points in time. EPS employs cross-sectional benchmarking, comparing smaller geographies such as counties to larger regions, states, and the nation, to give a sense of relative performance. EPS allows users to aggregate data for multiple geographies, such as multi-county regions, to accommodate a flexible range of user-defined areas of interest and to allow for more sophisticated cross-sectional comparisons.

Adjusting dollar figures for inflation: Because a dollar in the past was worth more than a dollar today, data reported in current dollar terms should be adjusted for inflation. The U.S. Department of Commerce reports personal income figures in terms of current dollars. All income data in EPS are adjusted to real (or constant) dollars using the Consumer Price Index. Figures are adjusted to the latest date for which the annual Consumer Price Index is available.

Data gaps and estimation: Some data are withheld by the federal government to avoid the disclosure of potentially confidential information. Headwaters Economics uses supplemental data from the U.S. Department of Commerce to estimate these data gaps. These are indicated in italics in tables. Documentation explaining methods developed by Headwaters Economics for estimating disclosure gaps is available at [headwaterseconomics.org/eps](http://headwaterseconomics.org/eps).

# Links to Additional Resources

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## For more information about EPS see:

[headwaterseconomics.org/EPS](http://headwaterseconomics.org/EPS)

## Web pages listed under Additional Resources include:

Throughout this report, references to on-line resources are indicated with italicized numbers in parentheses. These resources are provided as hyperlinks here.

- 1 [www.bea.gov/scb/pdf/2009/05%20May/0509\\_lapi.pdf](http://www.bea.gov/scb/pdf/2009/05%20May/0509_lapi.pdf)
- 2 [www.census.gov/govs/apes/index.html](http://www.census.gov/govs/apes/index.html)
- 3 [www.bls.gov/cew/cewbultn01.htm#2d](http://www.bls.gov/cew/cewbultn01.htm#2d)
- 4 [headwaterseconomics.org/eps](http://headwaterseconomics.org/eps)