

Personal income rises in the Valley — but not by much

By Tim Sheehan

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Personal income in the Valley

The U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis reported Thursday that personal income per capita rose in almost 2,700 U.S. counties between 2012 and 2013. Counties in the central San Joaquin Valley were among those showing increases.

County	2012 income	2013 income	Rank in CA	% growth
Fresno	\$34,539	\$35,635	44 of 58	3.2%
Kings	\$31,926	\$32,635	52 of 58	2.2%
Madera	\$31,334	\$32,287	54 of 58	3.0%
Tulare	\$31,801	\$32,550	53 of 58	2.4%
CALIFORNIA	\$47,505	\$48,434	—	2.0%

Fresno County and other central San Joaquin Valley counties joined a nationwide trend of growing personal income last year, according to data released Thursday by the U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis.

Fresno, Kings, Madera and Tulare counties all registered increases in per capita income — the amount of income for every man, woman and child — between 2012 and 2013. They joined the vast majority of counties across the U.S. where income rose. The federal agency reported that incomes grew in nearly 2,700 counties, fell in 390 and remained flat in 28.

But the Valley counties remain ranked near the bottom among California counties. Fresno County, where per capita income was estimated at \$35,635 in 2013, represented the Valley peak at 44th out of the state's 58 counties. Madera County, with a figure of \$32,287, was 54th.

Personal income is defined by the government as any income received by people from work, from owning a home or business, investments in financial assets such as stocks or bonds, and government aid — essentially any income that a person can use to buy things, pay bills, taxes or interest, or to invest or save. The per capita figure is calculated by dividing the total personal income of all residents in a county by the number of people in the county.

In California, the highest per capita income reported was \$97,124 in Marin County. The lowest was \$30,818 in Del Norte County.

Nationwide, per capital personal income ranged from a high of \$121,632 in New York County in New York to a low of \$17,536 in Telfair County in Georgia.

Contact Tim Sheehan: tsheehan@fresnobee.com, (559) 441-6319 or [@TimSheehanNews](https://twitter.com/TimSheehanNews) on Twitter.

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