

# Income Levels Rise for Second Consecutive Year

## Description of Indicator

This indicator measures per capita income levels and income growth. Total personal income includes wages and salaries, proprietor income, property income, and transfer payments, such as pensions and unemployment insurance. Figures are not adjusted for inflation.

## Why is it Important?

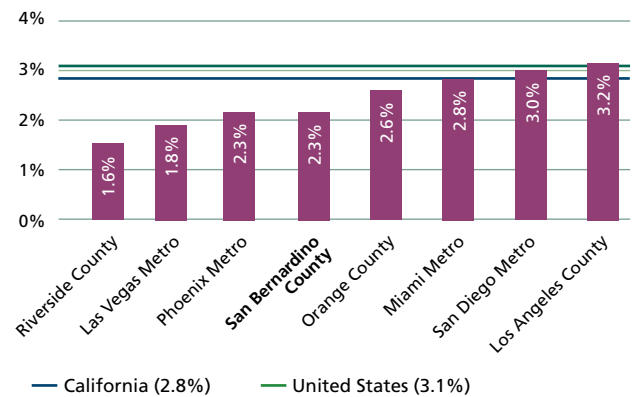
Per capita income reflects the economic health of a region. It signals whether or not a region is generating wealth faster than population growth. A high per capita income relative to the cost of living signals greater discretionary income for the purchase of goods and services. This contributes to overall economic strength and a sense of material wellbeing when residents have the financial resources needed to survive and prosper. Residents may prioritize quality of life factors such as a lower cost of living and affordable housing over a higher income.

## How is San Bernardino County Doing?

San Bernardino County's average income level rose slightly:

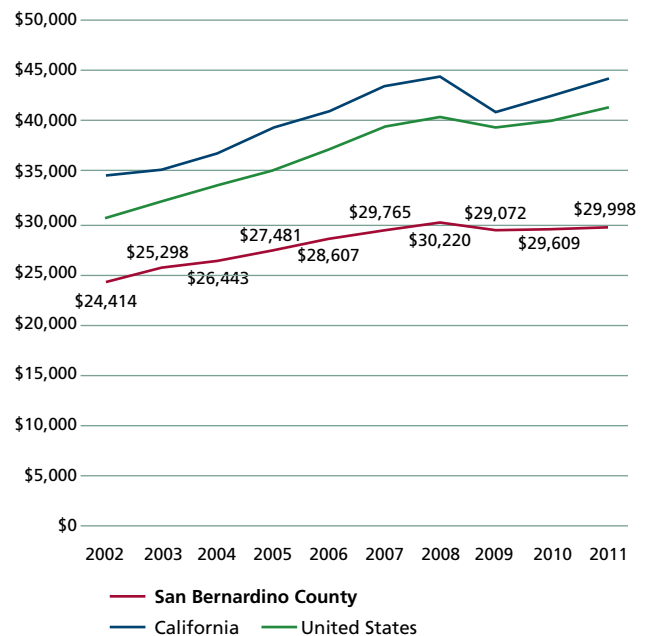
- In 2011, San Bernardino County's per capita income was \$29,998, up 1.3% from \$29,609 in 2010. This income level (\$29,998) is lower than the state and national averages and all peers compared except for Riverside County.
- Between 2002 and 2011, San Bernardino County posted per capita income growth of 2.3%, higher than Riverside and Las Vegas, the same as Phoenix, but lower than other regions compared and the state and national averages.
- Over this same 10-year period, the average inflation rate was 2.0%. The rate of inflation should be taken into account when interpreting these income growth percentages.<sup>1</sup>
- San Bernardino County's cost of living is lower than many other Southern California counties, so lower relative per capita income does not necessarily translate to lower purchasing power.

Per Capita Income Average Annual Percent Change  
Regional Comparison, 2002-2011



Source: U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis ([www.bea.gov](http://www.bea.gov))

Per Capita Income  
San Bernardino County, California, and United States, 2002-2011



Source: U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis ([www.bea.gov](http://www.bea.gov))

<sup>1</sup> U.S. Dept. of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics, Consumer Price Index.

**Connecting the Dots** .....  
Per Capita Income is one factor that influences Academic Performance.