IOWA PERSONAL INCOME AND WAGE/SALARY INCOME

Overview. Personal income includes wage and salary income and income earned through the operation of farms and other businesses, rent, interest, dividends, and government transfer income (Social Security, unemployment insurance, etc.).

Iowa Wage and Salary Growth. Wage and salary income is a component of overall personal income. Over time, Iowa wage and salary income equals about 50.0% of total personal income. Wage and salary income is not nearly as volatile as overall personal income. Since the end of the last U.S. recession in June 2009, annual Iowa wage and salary income growth has averaged about 3.1%. For the fourth quarter of calendar year (CY) 2019, wage and salary income increased 3.4% compared to the same quarter of CY 2018. Wage and salary income growth for the third quarter of CY 2019 was revised to 0.6%, down from the originally released growth rate of 0.8%.

Iowa Personal Income Growth. Iowa personal income increased 4.1% for the fourth quarter of CY 2019 when compared to the same quarter of CY 2018. Personal income growth for the third quarter of CY 2019 was revised to 2.3%, up from the originally released growth rate of 0.3%. Personal income growth is quite volatile over time, as is evident in Chart 2. In addition to quarterly volatility, reported personal income for Iowa suffers from significant revisions, usually related to changes in estimated farm income.

Farm Proprietor Income. Since 2012, Iowa overall personal income has been growing more slowly than Iowa wage and salary income due to the decline in Iowa farm proprietor income. That income category has declined significantly since reaching all-time highs in CY 2013, reflecting a decline in grain prices since that time. Since the first quarter of CY 2013, Iowa farm proprietor income has fallen from an annualized estimate of $6.380 billion to an annualized estimate of $4.870 billion for the most recent quarter. At its peak in the fourth quarter of CY 2013, farm income equaled 5.8% of Iowa personal income. For the most recent quarter, the percent was 2.9%.

More Data. Additional information can be found on the Legislative Services Agency’s Economic Trends webpage, which includes links to source sites and the underlying data for each Economic Trends indicator.