

News Release

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Gross Domestic Product for the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, 2020

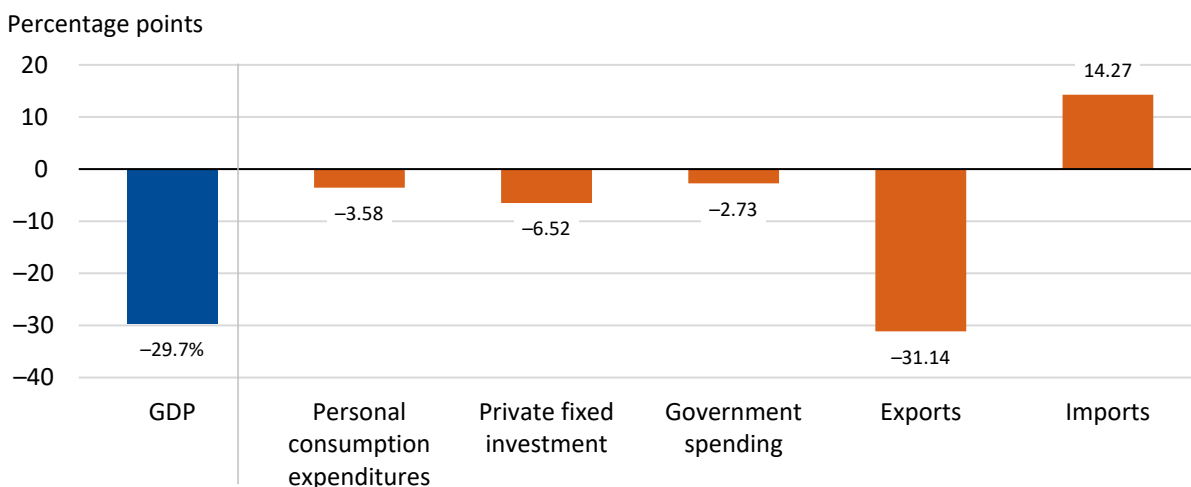
Gross Domestic Product by Industry and Compensation by Industry, 2019

Real gross domestic product (GDP) for the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (CNMI) decreased 29.7 percent in 2020 after decreasing 11.3 percent in 2019 (table 1.3), according to statistics released today by the U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis (BEA). These statistics were developed under the Statistical Improvement Program funded by the Office of Insular Affairs (OIA) of the U.S. Department of the Interior.

GDP for 2020

The decrease in real GDP reflected decreases in exports of goods and services, private fixed investment, personal consumption expenditures, and government spending (table 1.4). Imports, a subtraction item in the calculation of GDP, also decreased.

Chart 1. CNMI: Contributions to the Percent Change in Real GDP, 2020



Note. The chart shows the percent change of total real GDP and the contributions (in percentage points) of each major component to that change. For example, personal consumption expenditures accounted for 3.58 percentage points of the 29.7 percent decrease in real GDP in 2020. Imports are a subtraction item; thus, a decrease in imports results in a positive contribution to GDP.

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Coronavirus (COVID–19) Impact on the 2020 CNMI GDP Estimate

The CNMI economy was substantially affected by the COVID–19 pandemic due to its effects on spending by consumers, visitors, businesses, and governments. The U.S. government passed several laws to support and sustain businesses and individuals through the pandemic. Expenditures funded by the various federal grants and transfer payments are reflected in the GDP estimates. However, the full effects of the pandemic cannot be quantified in BEA’s statistics for the CNMI, because the impacts are generally embedded in source data and cannot be separately identified.

Exports of goods and services decreased 74.4 percent (table 1.3). The decrease in exports was largely accounted for by exports of services, which consists primarily of visitor spending, including on casino gambling. Statistics published by the [CNMI government](#) showed that the number of visitor arrivals to the CNMI decreased 81.7 percent, reflecting effects of the COVID–19 pandemic. According to publicly available financial statements, revenues from casino gambling decreased over 95 percent.

Private fixed investment decreased 42.7 percent (table 1.3), reflecting a decline in spending on structures and equipment. Private sector construction activity, including the development of a casino resort on Saipan, decreased substantially in 2020.

Personal consumption expenditures decreased 6.2 percent (table 1.3), reflecting declines in spending on both goods and services. Businesses throughout the CNMI operated at a reduced capacity due to the COVID–19 pandemic.

Government spending decreased 6.0 percent (table 1.3), reflecting a decline in federal government spending. Federal government spending decreased 43.0 percent (table 1.3) after being elevated in 2019 to support recovery activities following Typhoon Yutu.

GDP by industry and compensation by industry for 2019

In 2019, real GDP decreased 11.3 percent. The newly available GDP by industry data, which are released on a 1-year lag, reveal that the private sector was the primary source of decline in real GDP in 2019 (table 2.5).

The **private sector** decreased 12.4 percent (table 2.4), reflecting a decline in accommodations, food services, and amusements. According to publicly available financial statements, revenues from casino gambling dropped over 80 percent in 2019. Additionally, data from the [CNMI government](#) show that visitor arrivals declined in 2019.

The **government sector** decreased 7.2 percent (table 2.4), reflecting a decline in territorial government due primarily to higher operating losses of government utilities in the aftermath of Typhoon Yutu.

Total compensation decreased from \$721 million in 2018 to \$700 million in 2019 (table 2.6). The \$21 million decrease reflected a decline in private-sector compensation. The largest contributor to the decline was accommodations, food services, and amusements.

Updates to CNMI GDP and Its Components

Estimates for 2018–2019 that were released on April 6, 2021, have been revised to incorporate updates to source data, including the following:

- Tabulations of business revenues data provided by the CNMI Department of Finance,
- Data for revenue tonnage of exports from the CNMI Central Statistics Division,
- Financial statements for the CNMI government and its independent agencies, and
- Federal government contract obligations data from the U.S. General Services Administration Federal Procurement Data System.

The revised estimates exhibit a pattern of inflation-adjusted GDP growth similar to the previously published estimates (table 1.7).

Due to lags in the availability of data for various components of GDP, the statistics presented today for 2020 are preliminary estimates. For example, as of mid-January 2023, the CNMI government's fiscal year 2020 audited financial statements were unavailable. BEA used draft versions of these financial statements to prepare estimates of government spending. As additional source data become available, BEA will incorporate the information and will release updated estimates once a year.

For more information on the data sources underlying these estimates, see [*Summary of Methodologies: Gross Domestic Product for American Samoa, the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, Guam, and the U.S. Virgin Islands*](#).

Next release: fall 2023

Gross Domestic Product for the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, 2021
CNMI GDP by Industry and Compensation by Industry, 2020

Additional Information

Resources

- Stay informed about BEA developments by reading [The BEA Wire](#), signing up for BEA's [email subscription service](#), or following BEA on Twitter [@BEA_News](#).
- Historical time series for gross domestic product for the U.S. territories can be accessed at [BEA's website](#).
- For more on BEA statistics, see our online journal, the [Survey of Current Business](#).
- For upcoming economic indicators, see BEA's [news release schedule](#).

Definitions

Gross domestic product (GDP) is the value of the goods and services produced by the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (CNMI) economy less the value of the goods and services used up in production. GDP is also equal to the sum of personal consumption expenditures, private fixed investment, change in private inventories, net exports of goods and services, and government consumption expenditures and gross investment.

Personal consumption expenditures measures the goods and services purchased by “persons”—that is, by households and by nonprofit institutions serving households—who are resident in CNMI.

Private fixed investment measures spending by CNMI private businesses, nonprofit institutions, and households on structures and equipment that are used in the production of goods and services.

Net exports of goods and services is the difference between exports of goods and services and imports of goods and services. Exports measures the portion of total CNMI production of goods and services that is provided to

the rest of the world. Imports measures the portion of total CNMI expenditures that is accounted for by goods and services provided by the rest of the world.

Government consumption expenditures and gross investment, or “government spending,” measures the portion of GDP that is accounted for by the government sector. Government consumption expenditures consists of spending by government to produce and provide services to the public. Gross investment consists of spending by government for fixed assets that directly benefit the public or that assist government agencies in their production activities.

Gross domestic income (GDI) is the sum of incomes earned and costs incurred in the production of GDP. In national economic accounting, GDP and GDI are conceptually equal.

Current-dollar estimates are valued in the prices of the period when the transactions occurred—that is, at “market value” (also referred to as “nominal estimates” or as “current-price estimates”).

Real values are inflation-adjusted estimates—that is, estimates that exclude the effects of price changes.

Statistical conventions

Quantities (or “real” volume measures) and prices are expressed as index numbers with a specified reference year equal to 100 (currently 2012). Quantity and price indexes are calculated using a Fisher chain-weighted formula that incorporates weights from two adjacent years. “Real” dollar series are calculated by multiplying the quantity index by the current-dollar value in the reference year and then dividing by 100.

Chained-dollar values are not additive, because the relative weights for a given period differ from those of the reference year.

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Table 1.1. Gross Domestic Product

[Millions of dollars]

Line		2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018 ^r	2019 ^r	2020 ^p
1	Gross domestic product	746	772	832	910	1,230	1,560	1,301	1,181	858
2	Personal consumption expenditures	460	490	525	529	571	654	679	687	644
3	Goods.....	399	412	433	428	435	490	483	466	328
4	Durable goods.....	143	153	164	169	173	192	190	183	142
5	Nondurable goods.....	256	260	269	259	262	298	293	283	185
6	Services.....	418	456	507	563	992	1,215	822	672	424
7	Net foreign travel.....	-357	-378	-414	-461	-855	-1,051	-626	-451	-108
8	Private fixed investment	79	88	112	192	398	379	222	183	105
9	Net exports of goods and services.....	-98	-123	-123	-153	-116	112	-95	-235	-408
10	Exports	379	402	437	482	882	1,081	660	500	128
11	Goods	16	17	15	13	19	23	26	41	16
12	Services	364	385	422	469	863	1,059	634	459	112
13	Imports	478	525	560	635	998	969	754	735	536
14	Goods	409	449	477	488	636	621	598	601	443
15	Services	69	76	82	147	362	348	157	133	94
16	Government consumption expenditures and gross investment	305	317	318	342	376	415	495	546	517
17	Federal.....	21	20	22	28	24	26	52	77	44
18	Territorial.....	284	297	296	314	352	390	443	469	472

r Revised

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Note. Detail may not add to total because of rounding.

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Table 1.2. Real Gross Domestic Product

[Millions of chained (2012) dollars]

Line		2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018 ^r	2019 ^r	2020 ^p
1	Gross domestic product.....	746	766	798	825	1,066	1,313	1,060	940	661
2	Personal consumption expenditures	460	497	533	555	595	662	670	674	632
3	Goods.....	399	415	425	430	437	476	456	436	306
4	Durable goods.....	143	154	162	175	177	187	181	171	133
5	Nondurable goods.....	256	261	263	256	260	289	275	265	173
6	Services.....	418	454	497	558	953	1,148	757	619	390
7	Net foreign travel.....	-357	-371	-390	-433	-774	-935	-540	-388	-92
8	Private fixed investment	79	88	111	191	392	361	202	164	94
9	Net exports of goods and services.....	-98	-128	-145	-248	-320	-98	-221	-348	-486
10	Exports	379	395	411	453	804	968	576	434	111
11	Goods	16	17	15	13	20	23	26	40	16
12	Services	364	378	397	439	783	944	551	397	96
13	Imports	478	523	556	701	1,124	1,067	796	783	597
14	Goods	409	448	477	555	749	710	654	666	516
15	Services	69	75	79	142	344	327	142	120	85
16	Government consumption expenditures and gross investment	305	309	300	320	349	369	412	444	418
17	Federal.....	21	19	21	27	23	23	45	66	38
18	Territorial.....	284	290	279	293	326	346	368	380	381

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Table 1.3. Percent Change from Preceding Year in Real Gross Domestic Product

[Percent]

Line		2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018 ^r	2019 ^r	2020 ^p
1	Gross domestic product	2.7	4.2	3.3	29.3	23.2	-19.3	-11.3	-29.7
2	Personal consumption expenditures	8.1	7.2	4.2	7.2	11.2	1.1	0.7	-6.2
3	Goods.....	3.9	2.5	1.1	1.6	9.0	-4.2	-4.4	-29.8
4	Durable goods.....	7.3	5.2	7.8	1.7	5.4	-3.1	-5.5	-22.2
5	Nondurable goods.....	2.0	1.0	-2.9	1.5	11.4	-4.9	-3.7	-34.7
6	Services.....	8.6	9.5	12.4	70.7	20.5	-34.0	-18.3	-36.9
7	Net foreign travel.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
8	Private fixed investment	11.1	26.8	72.0	104.6	-7.9	-43.9	-19.0	-42.7
9	Net exports of goods and services.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
10	Exports	4.1	4.1	10.1	77.5	20.5	-40.6	-24.5	-74.4
11	Goods	6.9	-11.7	-9.0	48.2	16.5	11.8	57.4	-59.9
12	Services	4.0	4.8	10.7	78.3	20.6	-41.7	-27.9	-75.7
13	Imports	9.4	6.4	26.0	60.4	-5.1	-25.4	-1.7	-23.7
14	Goods	9.5	6.5	16.4	34.9	-5.2	-7.9	1.8	-22.5
15	Services	9.0	6.3	78.4	142.7	-4.9	-56.7	-15.1	-29.0
16	Government consumption expenditures and gross investment	1.4	-2.8	6.5	9.0	5.9	11.7	7.8	-6.0
17	Federal.....	-6.4	7.9	26.5	-14.1	2.4	93.1	45.8	-43.0
18	Territorial.....	1.9	-3.5	5.0	11.0	6.2	6.4	3.3	0.1

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Table 1.4. Contributions to Percent Change in Real Gross Domestic Product

Line		2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018 ^r	2019 ^r	2020 ^p
	Percent change:								
1	Gross domestic product	2.7	4.2	3.3	29.3	23.2	-19.3	-11.3	-29.7
	Percentage points:								
2	Personal consumption expenditures	4.91	4.48	2.54	4.12	5.21	0.46	0.36	-3.58
3	Goods.....	2.07	1.34	0.55	0.73	3.18	-1.31	-1.63	-11.62
4	Durable goods.....	1.39	1.02	1.47	0.30	0.77	-0.38	-0.80	-3.38
5	Nondurable goods.....	0.68	0.32	-0.92	0.43	2.42	-0.93	-0.83	-8.23
6	Services.....	4.79	5.56	7.31	43.51	16.37	-26.40	-11.47	-20.75
7	Net foreign travel.....	-1.95	-2.42	-5.32	-40.13	-14.34	28.18	13.46	28.79
8	Private fixed investment	1.17	3.01	9.40	21.67	-2.56	-10.74	-3.24	-6.52
9	Net exports of goods and services.....	-3.92	-2.16	-11.03	0.16	18.69	-12.20	-11.37	-16.88
10	Exports	2.09	2.16	5.16	40.81	14.59	-28.00	-12.34	-31.14
11	Goods	0.14	-0.25	-0.16	0.68	0.25	0.17	1.13	-2.04
12	Services	1.95	2.41	5.32	40.13	14.33	-28.17	-13.47	-29.10
13	Imports	-6.01	-4.31	-16.19	-40.65	4.10	15.80	0.97	14.27
14	Goods	-5.18	-3.70	-8.65	-17.98	2.68	3.15	-0.83	11.04
15	Services	-0.83	-0.61	-7.54	-22.67	1.42	12.65	1.81	3.22
16	Government consumption expenditures and gross investment	0.57	-1.15	2.42	3.31	1.81	3.17	2.95	-2.73
17	Federal.....	-0.18	0.20	0.69	-0.43	0.05	1.54	1.82	-2.78
18	Territorial.....	0.75	-1.35	1.73	3.74	1.77	1.63	1.13	0.05

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Table 1.5. Percent Change from Preceding Year in Prices for Gross Domestic Product and Price Indexes for Gross Domestic Product

Line		2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018 ^r	2019 ^r	2020 ^p
Percent										
1	Gross domestic product	1.4	0.7	3.4	5.9	4.6	3.0	3.3	2.3	3.3
2	Personal consumption expenditures	0.9	-1.4	0.0	-3.3	0.7	2.9	2.7	0.5	0.0
Index numbers, 2012=100										
3	Gross domestic product	100.0	100.7	104.2	110.3	115.4	118.8	122.8	125.7	129.8
4	Personal consumption expenditures	100.0	98.6	98.6	95.3	96.0	98.7	101.4	101.8	101.8

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Table 1.6. Gross Domestic Income

[Millions of dollars]

Line		2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018 ^r	2019 ^r	2020 ^p
1	Gross domestic income.....	746	772	832	910	1,230	1,560	1,301	1,181	858
2	Compensation of employees.....	415	433	471	499	584	661	721	700	567
3	Taxes on production and imports less subsidies.....	102	121	153	165	229	244	205	170	115
4	Gross operating surplus.....	229	218	208	246	417	655	375	311	176

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Note. Detail may not add to total because of rounding.

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Table 1.7. Revisions to Percent Change in Real Gross Domestic Product

Line		2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018 ^r	2019 ^r
Percent change:								
1	Revised.....	2.7	4.2	3.3	29.3	23.2	-19.3	-11.3
2	Previously published.....	2.7	4.2	3.3	29.3	23.2	-19.3	-11.2
Percentage points:								
3	Revision.....	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	-0.1

r Revised

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Table 2.1. Value Added by Industry

[Millions of dollars]

Line		2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018 ^r	2019
1	Gross domestic product	746	772	832	910	1,230	1,560	1,301	1,181
2	Private industries.....	559	574	629	696	1,004	1,299	1,018	912
3	Manufacturing.....	12	11	16	20	23	19	21	27
4	Wholesale and retail trade.....	157	172	182	193	205	220	239	255
5	Accommodations, food services, and amusements.....	114	131	144	180	437	691	385	249
6	Other private.....	276	260	287	302	339	369	373	381
7	Government.....	187	198	203	214	226	261	283	269
8	Federal.....	14	14	14	15	16	17	17	20
9	Territorial.....	173	184	189	199	210	244	266	249

r Revised

Note. Detail may not add to total because of rounding.

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Table 2.2. Value Added by Industry as a Percentage of Gross Domestic Product

[Percent]

Line		2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018 ^r	2019
1	Gross domestic product	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100
2	Private industries.....	75	74	76	76	82	83	78	77
3	Manufacturing.....	2	1	2	2	2	1	2	2
4	Wholesale and retail trade.....	21	22	22	21	17	14	18	22
5	Accommodations, food services, and amusements.....	15	17	17	20	36	44	30	21
6	Other private.....	37	34	34	33	28	24	29	32
7	Government.....	25	26	24	24	18	17	22	23
8	Federal.....	2	2	2	2	1	1	1	2
9	Territorial.....	23	24	23	22	17	16	20	21

r Revised

Note. Detail may not add to total because of rounding.

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Table 2.3. Real Value Added by Industry

[Millions of chained (2012) dollars]

Line		2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018 ^r	2019
1	Gross domestic product	746	766	798	825	1,066	1,313	1,060	940
2	Private industries.....	559	574	606	629	860	1,084	831	727
3	Manufacturing.....	12	11	15	19	22	18	19	25
4	Wholesale and retail trade.....	157	170	179	187	199	209	218	225
5	Accommodations, food services, and amusements.....	114	128	136	163	366	572	309	193
6	Other private.....	276	264	275	260	270	279	283	286
7	Government.....	187	193	193	195	204	226	226	210
8	Federal.....	14	14	13	14	15	15	15	16
9	Territorial.....	173	179	179	181	189	211	211	193

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Table 2.4. Percent Changes in Real Value Added by Industry

[Percent]

Line		2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018 ^r	2019
1	Gross domestic product	2.7	4.2	3.3	29.3	23.2	-19.3	-11.3
2	Private industries.....	2.6	5.6	3.9	36.7	26.0	-23.3	-12.4
3	Manufacturing.....	-4.1	35.7	24.1	16.2	-16.4	4.3	33.0
4	Wholesale and retail trade.....	8.3	5.3	4.4	6.5	5.0	4.2	3.3
5	Accommodations, food services, and amusements.....	12.0	6.6	19.8	124.3	56.0	-45.9	-37.5
6	Other private.....	-4.4	4.1	-5.3	3.8	3.3	1.4	1.0
7	Government.....	3.2	-0.1	1.4	4.3	10.8	0.1	-7.2
8	Federal.....	-1.6	-3.4	5.0	4.4	1.7	-0.4	11.3
9	Territorial.....	3.6	0.2	1.2	4.3	11.5	0.1	-8.4

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Table 2.5. Contributions to Percent Change in Real Gross Domestic Product by Industry

Line		2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018 ^r	2019
	Percent change:							
1	Gross domestic product.....	2.7	4.2	3.3	29.3	23.2	-19.3	-11.3
	Percentage points:							
2	Private industries.....	1.93	4.20	2.92	28.22	21.17	-19.35	-9.71
3	Manufacturing.....	-0.06	0.52	0.44	0.34	-0.30	0.05	0.52
4	Wholesale and retail trade.....	1.75	1.16	0.93	1.34	0.84	0.59	0.61
5	Accommodations, food services, and amusements.....	1.85	1.12	3.41	25.24	19.72	-20.31	-11.13
6	Other private.....	-1.60	1.41	-1.86	1.29	0.91	0.32	0.29
7	Government.....	0.80	-0.02	0.35	0.99	2.00	0.02	-1.58
8	Federal.....	-0.03	-0.06	0.08	0.07	0.02	0.00	0.15
9	Territorial.....	0.83	0.04	0.27	0.92	1.98	0.02	-1.73

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Note. Percentage-point contributions do not sum to the percent change in real gross domestic product (GDP) because of rounding and differences in source data used to estimate GDP by industry and the expenditures measure of real GDP.

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Table 2.6. Compensation of Employees by Industry

[Millions of dollars]

Line		2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018 ^r	2019
1	Total compensation.....	415	433	471	499	584	661	721	700
2	Private industries.....	252	267	299	313	387	441	465	425
3	Manufacturing.....	8	6	6	9	10	9	9	12
4	Wholesale and retail trade.....	63	67	70	73	76	80	88	94
5	Accommodations, food services, and amusements.....	64	73	80	105	160	198	213	173
6	Other private.....	119	121	143	126	140	155	156	147
7	Government.....	162	165	171	186	197	220	255	275
8	Federal.....	14	14	14	15	16	16	17	19
9	Territorial.....	148	152	158	171	182	203	238	256

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Note. Detail may not add to total because of rounding.

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