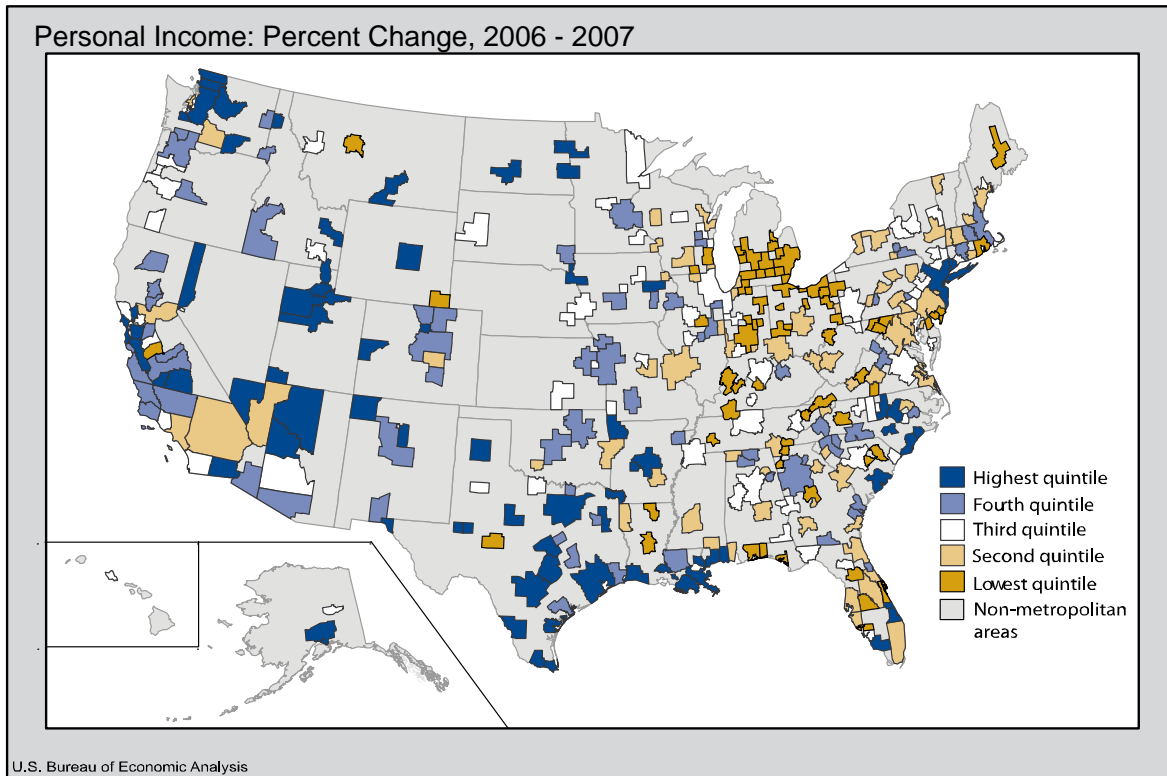


PERSONAL INCOME FOR METROPOLITAN AREAS, 2007

Personal income growth slowed in 2007 in most of the nation's metropolitan statistical areas (MSAs), according to estimates released today by the U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis. On average, MSA personal income grew 6.2% in 2007, down from 6.8% in 2006. Personal income growth slowed in 208 MSAs, increased in 144, and remained unchanged in 11 MSAs.



Personal income in the three fastest growing MSAs, Gulfport, MS; New Orleans, LA; and Pascagoula, MS, was boosted by federal payments to rebuild residences destroyed or damaged by Hurricane Katrina in 2005. These payments, arising from homeowner assistance programs initiated at the end of December 2006, are counted as part of the property income component of personal income.

In five of the next ten fastest growing MSAs (Odessa, TX; Grand Junction, CO; Midland, TX; Casper, WY; and Houston, TX), the oil and gas extraction industry provided a bigger contribution to growth than any other industry. In addition, transportation services in support of offshore oil and gas platforms was largely responsible for Houma, LA's ranking among the top ten.