

The State of Madison

Week 2: Government transfer payments

QUESTIONS? Contact Professor Bill Pinkovitz of the UW-Extension at bill.pinkovitz@ces.uwex.edu.

Economic Snapshot is a weekly feature provided by the



Dane County is lowest in government transfer payments

Last week, we said net earnings generate about 70 percent of all personal income in the eight-county Thrive Region. The remainder is comprised of dividends, interest, net rent and transfer payments to individuals.

In 2007, transfer payments to individuals from government accounted for 11.5 percent of all personal income in the region. Government transfer payments include retirement, disability and medical benefits, income maintenance, unemployment insurance compensation, veterans' benefits, and federal education and training assistance.

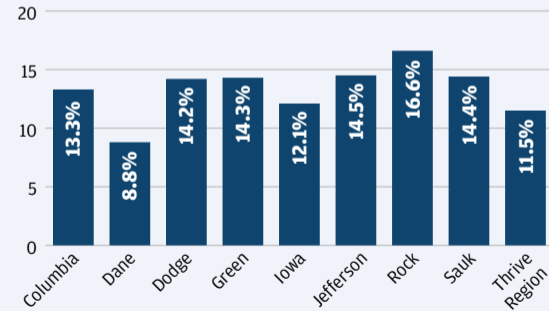
Retirement and disability benefits (mostly monthly Social Security payments) ac-

counted for 44.8 percent of all government transfer payments to individuals in the region. Medicare ranked second at 23.7 percent, followed by Public Assistance Medical Benefits (primarily Medicaid) at 16.8 percent. Income maintenance, including family assistance, supplemental security income and food stamps equaled 7.5 percent. The remaining 7.1 percent included unemployment insurance compensation, veterans' benefits and federal education and training assistance.

The following chart includes total government transfer payments to individuals as a percentage of total personal income for each county in the region.

Government transfer payments as a percentage of total personal income, 2007

By county



Source: Table CA35, Bureau of Economic Analysis, <http://bea.gov/regional/reis/>

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