



# CRC Notes

## PUBLIC SCHOOL TEACHER PAY RELATIVE TO PERSONAL INCOME IN MICHIGAN

According to the latest estimates from the National Education Association (NEA), public school teachers in Michigan are among the highest paid in the country. With an estimated average annual salary of \$49,168 in the 1995-96 school year, Michigan public school teachers were paid, on average, nearly 130 percent of the national average of \$37,846. According to NEA estimates, Michigan placed third nationally, trailing only Connecticut (\$50,400) and Alaska (\$49,620) in average teacher salary in the 1995-96 school year.

Rankings of this nature, however, do not take into account the wide variations in personal income among the states and the relationship between teacher pay and state personal income. Per capita personal income is often used to measure the ability of a state to support

government services. It should be noted, however, that per capita personal income is simply total state personal income divided by the total population, which is not equivalent to average earnings.

To demonstrate how average teacher pay compares to a state's underlying economic base (personal income), CRC calculated an index whereby average teacher pay is divided by per capita personal income among the 50 states and the District of Columbia (See Table). Using this index, Michigan ranked first nationally in the 1995-96 school year with a 208.8 percent average teacher pay/personal income index, or 42.7 percentage points higher than the national average of 166.1 percent.

While the 1995-96 school year marks the sixth con-

**Average Teacher Pay\*/Per Capita Personal Income Index  
1995-96 School Year and 1995 Calendar Year**

State	Average Teacher Pay 1995-96	Per Capita Pers. Inc. 1995	Index	State	Average Teacher Pay 1995-96	Per Capita Pers. Inc. 1995	Index
1 MICHIGAN	\$ 49,168	\$ 23,551	208.8	26 Massachusetts	\$ 43,756	\$ 26,994	162.1
2 Alaska	49,620	24,182	205.2	27 Georgia	34,307	21,278	161.2
3 Pennsylvania	46,916	23,279	201.5	28 Washington	38,025	23,639	160.9
4 Oregon	39,650	21,736	182.4	29 Idaho	30,891	19,264	160.4
5 Rhode Island	42,160	23,310	180.9	30 Maine	32,869	20,527	160.1
6 New York	48,115	26,782	179.7	31 Minnesota	36,937	23,118	159.8
7 West Virginia	32,155	17,915	179.5	32 Oklahoma	28,909	18,152	159.3
8 California	42,516	23,699	179.4	33 Arizona	32,484	20,421	159.1
9 Kentucky	33,108	18,612	177.9	34 Maryland	41,215	25,927	159.0
10 Indiana	37,805	21,273	177.7	35 Montana	29,364	18,482	158.9
11 Wisconsin	38,571	21,839	176.6	36 Texas	32,000	20,654	154.9
12 Vermont	36,295	20,927	173.4	37 Missouri	33,341	21,627	154.2
13 Ohio	37,835	22,021	171.8	38 Iowa	32,376	21,012	154.1
14 Arkansas	29,322	17,429	168.2	39 Colorado	35,364	23,449	150.8
15 South Carolina	31,568	18,788	168.0	40 North Carolina	30,564	20,604	148.3
15 Delaware	40,533	24,124	168.0	41 Wyoming	31,571	21,321	148.1
17 Mississippi	27,689	16,531	167.5	42 Virginia	34,687	23,597	147.0
18 Utah	30,452	18,223	167.1	43 Florida	33,320	22,916	145.4
19 Alabama	31,307	18,781	166.7	44 Nebraska	31,496	21,703	145.1
20 Connecticut	50,400	30,303	166.3	45 Hawaii	35,807	24,738	144.7
<b>U.S. AVG.</b>	<b>37,846</b>	<b>22,788</b>	<b>166.1</b>	46 Nevada	36,167	25,013	144.6
21 New Jersey	47,910	28,858	166.0	47 North Dakota	26,969	18,663	144.5
22 Illinois	41,008	24,763	165.6	48 Louisiana	26,800	18,827	142.3
23 Tennessee	33,451	20,376	164.2	48 New Hampshire	35,792	25,151	142.3
24 Kansas	35,518	21,825	162.7	50 D.C.	43,700	32,274	135.4
25 New Mexico	29,349	18,055	162.6	51 South Dakota	26,346	19,506	135.1

\*Includes full-time, part-time, and substitute teachers.

Source: National Education Association; U.S. Department of Commerce, Bureau of Economic Analysis; CRC Calculations.

### Citizens Research Council of Michigan

secutive year that Michigan has led the nation in this index, it also marks the third consecutive year the average teacher pay/per capita personal income index has declined in Michigan (See Chart). This is not to say, however, that average teacher pay in Michigan has declined in recent years. In fact, since the 1993-94 school year, average teacher pay in Michigan has increased nearly \$4,000, from \$45,186 to \$49,168 in the 1995-96 school year. Rather, the recent decline in the

average teacher pay/personal income index can be attributed to the fact that the growth rate in per capita personal income has outpaced the growth rate in average teacher pay. Since the 1993-94 school year, per capita personal income in Michigan has increased at an average annual rate of 6.9 percent compared to 4.3 percent in average teacher pay, the result of which has been a decline in the average teacher pay/per capita personal income index.

