

Correction: Low-Wage Occupations in El Paso

In "Low-Wage Occupations Remain a Hallmark of El Paso Economy," which appeared in the last issue of *Crossroads* (Issue 1, 2007), two tables contained errors that did not affect the article's conclusions.

In Table 1, wages and salaries per worker were inadvertently shown rather than per capita income. The new figures do not change El Paso's low ranking due to an income level near two-thirds of the U.S. average, nor is

the city's ranking improved by adjustments for the cost of living.

Table 2 contained errors in the calculation of income growth for El Paso, McAllen and Albuquerque. El Paso's growth in real wages per worker was significantly stronger than indicated in the earlier calculations, matching the U.S. However, growth in real wages per worker in El Paso continued to lag its peer cities—including Albuquerque and McAllen.

Table 1
Per Capita Income Among El Paso's Peer Cities, 2005

			Adjusted for cost of living	
	Per capita income (dollars)	Rank	Per capita income (dollars)	Rank
Sarasota, Fla.	41,577	1	39,335	1
Raleigh, N.C.	35,624	2	37,979	3
Tulsa, Okla.	34,685	3	38,241	2
Little Rock, Ark.	32,770	4	34,386	5
Greensboro, N.C.	31,464	5	*	*
Knoxville, Tenn.	30,898	6	35,312	4
Albuquerque, N.M.	30,884	7	31,938	7
Charleston, S.C.	30,844	8	31,831	8
Columbia, S.C.	30,810	9	32,397	6
Baton Rouge, La.	29,654	10	29,044	10
Greenville, S.C.	29,464	11	30,982	9
El Paso, Texas	23,256	12	26,043	11
McAllen, Texas	16,359	13	19,686	12

*ACCRA data unavailable in 2005.

SOURCES: Bureau of Economic Analysis; Council for Community and Economic Research, ACCRA Cost of Living Index; Bureau of Labor Statistics; authors' calculations.

Table 2
Increases in Real Wages, Salaries and Benefits per Worker, 1999–2005

	U.S. metros	Peer cities	El Paso	McAllen	Albuquerque
Real wages per worker 1999	\$47,387	\$38,702	\$34,287	\$28,773	\$39,839
Real wages per worker 2005	\$51,877	\$42,533	\$37,440	\$30,761	\$43,810
Percent of U.S. average 2005	100	82.0	72.2	59.3	84.4
Annual percentage increase					
Nominal wages	4.5	4.9	4.6	8.9	5.4
– Inflation	2.2	2.2	2.2	2.2	2.3
= Real wages	2.3	2.7	2.4	6.8	3.1
– Employment	.5	.9	.7	4.6	1.2
= Real wages per worker	1.7	1.9	1.7	2.2	2.0

NOTES: Real wages are in 2005 dollars; percentage changes may not add up due to rounding.

SOURCES: Bureau of Economic Analysis; Bureau of Labor Statistics; authors' calculations.

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