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Data Show Sluggish Economic Output in Smaller Counties.

For the first time, the Bureau of Economic Analysis has released GDP figures for all of the nation's counties.

Counties with fewer than 100,000 residents were more likely than their larger peers to have seen declines in economic output between two recent years featured in a new federal data set.

The U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis for the first time last week released gross domestic product, or GDP, data for all of the nation's 3,113 counties. The statistics only cover 2012 through 2015. That makes them somewhat dated. But the share of small counties with falling GDP numbers in 2015 is one aspect of the statistics that stands out.

BEA describes the figures as "prototype" statistics, and says it's planning a release with more timely data next December.

In an overview of the data, the bureau breaks counties into three categories, "small," "medium," and "large," based on population.

Continue reading.

Route Fifty

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