

# GNRC

Greater Nashville Regional Council  
501 Union Street, 6<sup>th</sup> Floor  
Nashville, Tennessee 37219-1705

Full GNRC Council Meeting  
Thursday, September 18, 2014 4:00 pm  
Vanderbilt Legends Golf Club  
1500 Legends Club Drive  
Franklin, Tennessee

## MINUTES

### THOSE IN ATTENDANCE:

Rogers Anderson	Williamson County
Kim Ark	Sumner County
Jeff Baines	Lebanon
Robert T. Bibb	Middle Tennessee Industrial Development Association
Ernest Burgess	Rutherford County
Carroll Carman	Trousdale County
Mike Carter	Westmoreland
Betsey Crossley	Brentwood
Carlie Cruse	Senator Corker's Office
Doug Demosi	Rutherford County
Jim Durrett	Montgomery County
Jessica Farlow	Tennessee Central Economic Alliance (formerly Four Lake Authority)
James Fenton	Gallatin
Patrick Flood	Tennessee Dept. of Environment and Conservation
Scott Foster	Hendersonville
Evann Freeman	Senator Alexander's Office
David Gregory	Gallatin
G. C. Hixson	JECDB of Wilson County
Anthony Holt	Sumner County
Randall Hutto	Wilson County
Candy Johnson	Montgomery County
Perry Keenan	Pleasant View
Denise McBride	Tennessee Housing Development Agency
Thomas McCormick	Portland
David McCullough	Cheatham County
Frank McKee	UT/CTAS
Kim McMillan	Clarksville
Ken Moore	Franklin
David Ripple	Clarksville-Montgomery County Regional Planning Commission
Fred D. Rogers	Hendersonville
Bill Terry	TACIR
Chuck Welch	Tennessee Development District Association
Ken Wilber	Portland
Robin Wollaeger	Ashland City
Tauna Blaisdell	GNRC
Patty Cavanah	GNRC
Bryan Collins	GNRC
Sam Edwards	GNRC

Amanda Evilcizer	GNRC
Ron Fults	GNRC
Amanda Giner	GNRC-MADC
Grant Green	GNRC
Angela Hutchison	GNRC
Rachael Ivie	GNRC
Jovia King	GNRC
Norma Powell	GNRC
Tim Roach	GNRC
Matt Von Lunen	GNRC
Gayle Wilson	GNRC

### **CALL TO ORDER**

President Rogers Anderson called the Full GNRC Council Meeting to order at approximately 4:15 p.m. on Thursday, September 18, 2014 at the Vanderbilt Legends Golf Club, 1500 Legends Club Lane, Franklin, Tennessee.

<b><u>ACTION ITEMS</u></b>
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### **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

President Rogers Anderson called for corrections or additions to the minutes of the August 20, 2014 Executive Committee meeting.

Clarksville Mayor Kim McMillan made a motion to approve the minutes as presented. Franklin Mayor Ken Moore seconded the motion. There being no discussion, a vote was taken and the minutes were unanimously approved.

### **FINANCIAL REPORT**

Tauna Blaisdell, Deputy Executive Director of Administration/Operations and Chief Fiscal Officer, presented the financial report for the month ending August 31, 2014. The total expenditures for the month of August were \$374,273.45. The total pass-through for emergency home repairs and aging services were \$7,352.25. The total revenues were \$466,701.40. Ms. Blaisdell reported that 96% of the FY 2015 dues have been paid.

Ms. Blaisdell also presented a revised unaudited report for the year ending June 30, 2014. The total expenditures for FY 2014 were \$9,142,274.70. The total pass-through for emergency home repairs and aging services were \$494,010.84. The total revenues were \$9,290,919.96. FY 2014 information has been given to the auditors.

Hendersonville Mayor Scott Foster made a motion to accept the month ending August 31, 2014 and year ending June 30, 2014 financial reports. Portland Mayor Ken Wilber seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously passed.

### **PROJECT REVIEW**

Tim Roach, Deputy Executive Director of Research, Planning and Development, presented two (2) new projects that were reviewed this reporting period. Staff found no conflict with existing or planned activities and recommended approval.

Hendersonville Mayor Scott Foster made a motion to approve the projects as submitted. Westmoreland Mayor Mike Carter seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously passed.

### **RESOLUTION GNRC 2015-03**

Ron Fults, "GRC Legal Counsel, presented Resolution GNRC 2015-03: Resolution Recommending to the GNRC Full Council an Amendment to the By-Laws of GNRC. This resolution supports the GNRC Executive Committee Resolution GNRC 2014-14 which recommended presentation to the

Greater Nashville Regional Council at their Annual Business Meeting being held on September 18, 2014. A copy of Resolution GNRC 2014-14 with the attached By-Laws pages was made part of the Resolution GRNC 2015-03.

Hendersonville Mayor Scott Foster made a motion to approve Resolution GNRC 2015-03 as presented. Westmoreland Mayor Mike Carter seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously passed.

**RESOLUTION GNRC 2015-04**

Tauna Blaisdell, Deputy Executive Director of Administration/Operations and Chief Fiscal Officer, presented Resolution GNRC 2015-04: A Resolution Revising the FY 2015 Budget of the FY 2015 Annual Work Program. Ms. Blaisdell reported that at the request of the GNRC Finance and Personnel Committee at the previous meeting, she was able to determine that a 2% cost-of-living increase was possible for all employees effective October 1, 2014. Some additional funds/grants have been received since the budget was last passed and some expenses were removed.

Clarksville Mayor Kim McMillan made a motion to approve Resolution GNRC 2015-04 revising the FY 2015 Budget of the FY 2015 Annual Work Program. Wilson County Mayor Randall Hutto seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously passed.

**RESOLUTION GNRC 2015-05**

Tim Roach, Deputy Executive Director of Research, Planning and Development, presented Resolution GNRC 2015-05: Resolution Adopting and Certifying the Updated CEDS. The Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS) is being updated this year as it was completely redone two (2) years ago. This year's CEDS Committee worked very well together and this Draft CEDS document is presently in the Public Comment phase.

Sumner County Executive Anthony Holt made a motion to approve Resolution GNRC 2015-05 as presented. Clarksville Mayor Kim McMillan seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously passed.

**RESOLUTION GNRC 2015-06**

Tim Roach, Deputy Executive Director of Research, Planning and Development, presented Resolution GNRC 2015-06: Resolution Authorizing Preparation and Submission of EDA Applications. This resolution is done annually so that GNRC can submit applications to EDA on behalf of our region's cities and counties.

Westmoreland Mayor Mike Carter made a motion to approve Resolution GNRC 2015-06 as presented. Wilson County Mayor Randall Hutto seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously passed.

**RESEARCH, PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT**

Tim Roach, Deputy Executive Director of Research, Planning and Development, stated there staff has been working with the Rural Planning Organization in recent months. The Community Development Block Grant awards have been announced and Westmoreland for their water lines was the only one to be awarded in the GNRC area. The Cedar Hill application will be reworked and updated for resubmission in the next grant cycle.

**REPORT OF THE NOMINATING COMMITTEE**

Rutherford County Mayor Ernest Burgess reported the Committee had met and made a motion to elect the following officers for the FY 2015 year:

President	Kim McMillan, Mayor of Clarksville
Vice-President	Randall Hutto, Wilson County Mayor
Treasurer	Ken Moore, Mayor of Franklin

Hendersonville Mayor Scott Foster seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved.

President Rogers Anderson gave the Oath of Office to the new incoming officers of the Greater Nashville Regional Council.

**CONFIRMATION VOTE ON THE FY 2015 GNRC EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE**

A report showing the FY 2015 Executive Committee as shown below:

- Serving from Cheatham County:
  - Cheatham **County Mayor David McCullough**, with **Daryl D. Phillips** as Alternate
- Serving from Metro Nashville/Davidson County:
  - **Nashville Vice-Mayor Diane Neighbors**, with Councilman (At-Large) Councilman Anthony Davis, as Alternate
  - **Lonnell Matthews** (Minority Representative)
  - Metro Nashville/Davidson County **Mayor Karl Dean** will continue to serve as Large City Representative, with **Shanna Hughey** as Alternate
- From Dickson County:
  - **County Mayor Bob Rial**, with Donnie Weiss as Alternate
- From Houston County:
  - **County Mayor George E. Clark**, with **Mayor of Erin Paul Bailey** as alternate
- From Humphreys County:
  - **County Mayor Jessie Wallace**, with **Mayor of New Johnsonville Lance Loveless** as alternate
- From Montgomery County:
  - **County Mayor Jim Durrett** with **Jeff Truitt** as alternate
  - **Candy Johnson** (Minority Representative)
- From Robertson County:
  - **County Mayor Howard R. Bradley**, with **Springfield Mayor Billy Paul Carneal** as alternate
- From Rutherford County:
  - **County Mayor Ernest G. Burgess**, with Mayoral Assistant **Jeffrey L. Davidson** as alternate
  - **Darlyn Green** (Minority Representative)
- Small City Representative
  - **Westmoreland Mayor Mike Carter** will serve as Small City Representative, with no Alternate named
- From Stewart County:
  - **County Mayor Rick Joiner**, with **Budget/Finance Director Heather Morgan** as alternate
- From Sumner County:
  - **County Executive Anthony Holt**, with **Kim Ark, Sumner County Grants Administrator** as alternate
- From Trousdale County:
  - **County Executive Carroll Carman**, with **Glenn Haynes** as alternate
  - **Craig Moreland** (Minority Representative)
- From Williamson County:
  - **County Mayor Rogers C. Anderson**, with **County Mayor Assistant Diane Giddens** as alternate

From Wilson County:

- **County Mayor Randall Hutto**, with **Lebanon Mayor Philip Craighead** as alternate

In the coming year, **Williamson County Mayor Rogers Anderson** will serve as **Immediate Past President**

And also continuing to serve as GNRC's Legislative Representatives on the Executive Committee are:

- 1) **State Senator yet to be determined;** and
- 2) **State Representative yet to be determined**

### **OTHER BUSINESS**

President Anderson stated that an article from the Washington Post on "*Where income inequality has fallen the fastest in America*" actually looks at Robertson County, Tennessee and urges everyone to read the attached article.

The 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Legislative Meeting will be held October 21, 2014 at the Montgomery Bell State Park Inn Restaurant from 11:00 am to 1:30 pm with lunch being provided. This meeting was successful last year and members are urged to attend so that the GNRC Legislative Agenda will be reviewed, updated and suggestions for new legislation can be added.

There being no other business, the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

*Patty Cavanah*

Recording Secretary  
Executive Administrative Assistant/Fiscal Assistant  
SHE/pyc

<http://www.washingtonpost.com/news/storyline/wp/2014/09/18/the-most-improved-county-in-america-for-income-equality/>

# Where income inequality has fallen the fastest in America

## What we can learn from the counties that have seen the biggest drop in inequality.

By [Lydia DePillis](#) and [Jeff Guo](#) September 18 at 10:27 AM [Follow @lydiadepillis](#) [Follow @\\_jeffguo](#)

Howard Bradley knows what equality looks like.

The son of a nurse and a firefighter, he grew up in a neighborhood of Springfield, Tenn., characterized by what he calls “genteel poverty”: People didn’t have a lot of money, but they had enough to eat, and their homes were well-kept. Everybody went to the same high school, so the poor and the relatively wealthy did the same homework and competed on the same teams.

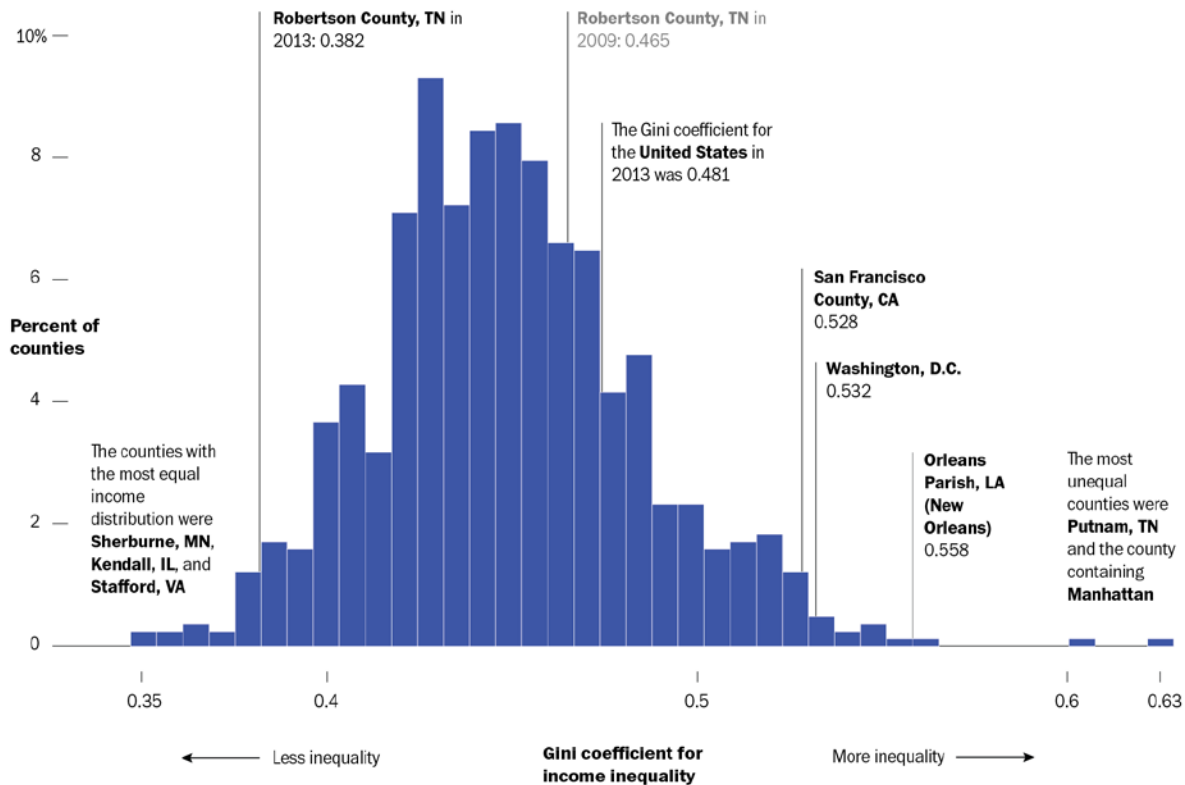
“If everybody’s poor, you don’t feel poor,” says Bradley, 60, who then went on to teach history at that same high school for 26 years. “It was people trying to put on their best face.”

These days, Bradley is the [county mayor of Robertson County](#), where he’s lived all his life. And recently, he’s presided over something of a triumph: the biggest reduction in income inequality over the past five years, among counties with more than 60,000 people, according to data released today by the Census Department. That’s particularly remarkable at a time when the metric used to measure income disparity — known as the [Gini coefficient](#) — has stayed flat for the rest of America, after decades of the rich getting richer while the poor were stuck in place.

To be clear, while Robertson County’s Gini coefficient is also low in relative terms, it isn’t the *most* equal place in the country. That honor belongs to [Sherburne County](#), Minnesota, a 95 percent white jurisdiction sandwiched between Minneapolis and St. Cloud. (The most unequal counties tend to be urban areas that attract the economic elite as well as poor folks who need social services: The top 15 includes San Francisco, Washington D.C., New Orleans, Manhattan and Atlanta).

## The distribution of income inequality in the U.S. among large counties in 2013

This is how the 817 counties with over 60,000 residents in 2013 stack up in terms of their Gini coefficient for income inequality



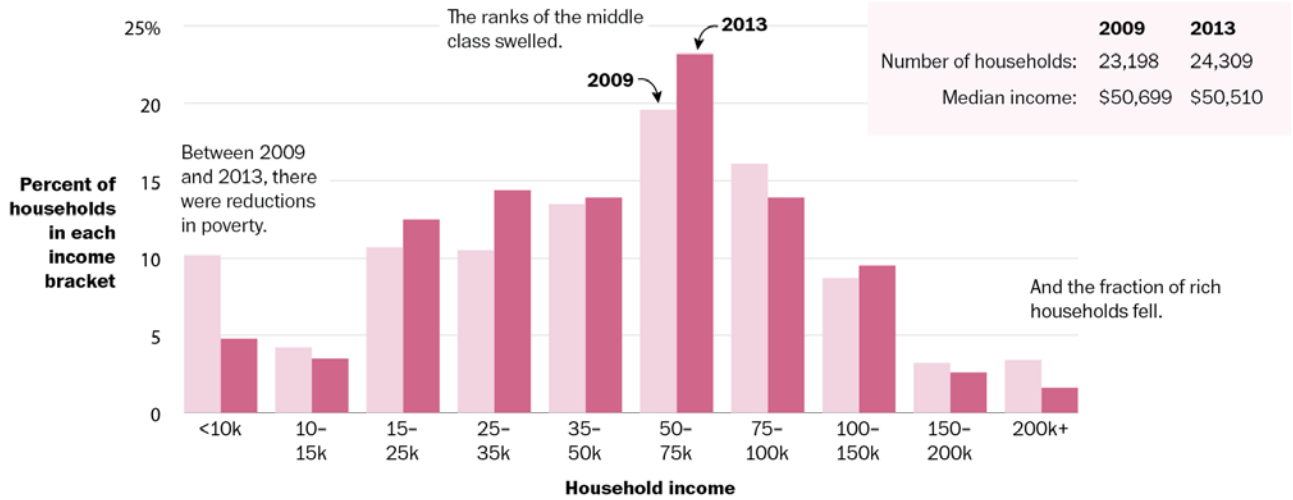
SOURCE: Census Bureau ACS

washingtonpost.com/storyline

Rather, Robertson has seen the biggest narrowing of incomes since the recession, with both a reduction in the number of people making very little money *and* in the number of people making lots of money (the county's population remained almost the same, though it had grown significantly between 2000 and 2010). In the meantime, more people have been making near the median income — which barely budged, hovering around \$50,500.

## How Robertson County in Tennessee conquered income inequality

Between 2009 and 2013, Robertson County had the biggest improvement in income inequality out of all large counties, according to the Census's American Community Survey. Here's what that looks like.



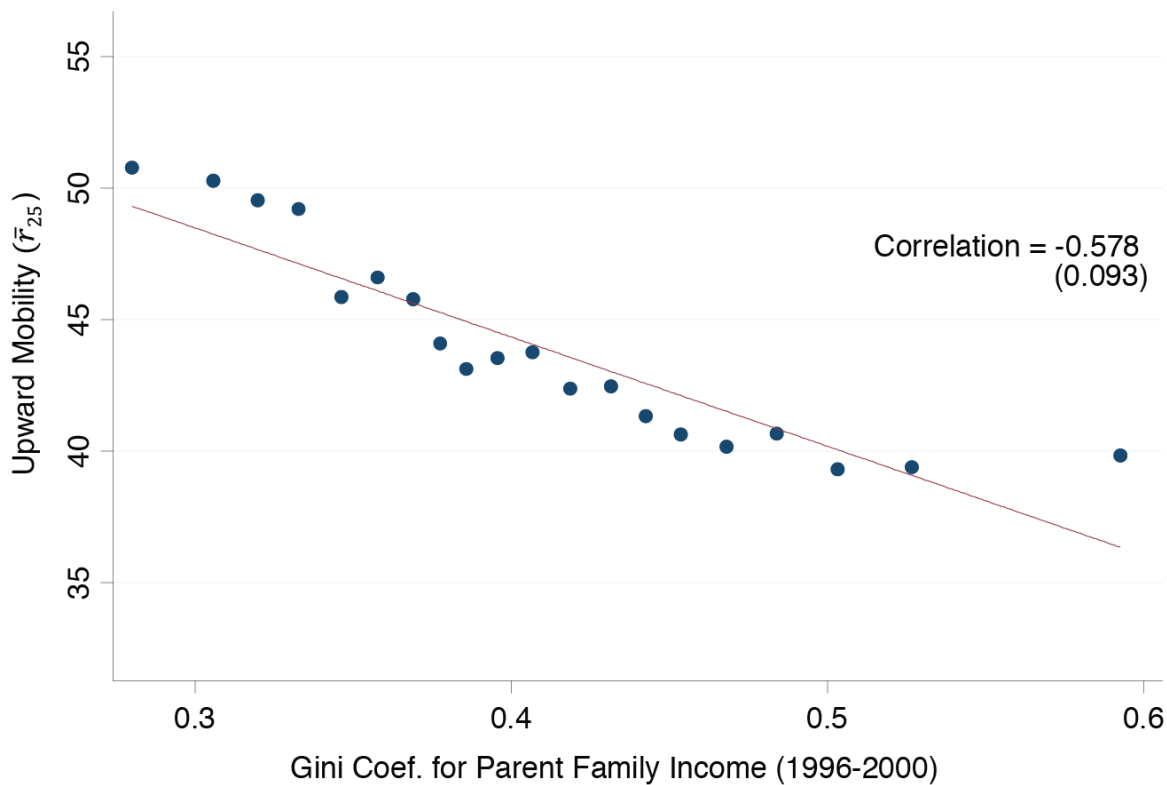
SOURCE: Census Bureau ACS

washingtonpost.com/storyline

Over the long term, equality is correlated with mobility: According to research by Harvard economist Raj Chetty, those who grow up in more equal environments also experience more economic mobility than those faced with strong disparities.



## Upward Mobility vs. Gini Coefficient in Commuting Zones



In places where inequality is low, kids growing up in poor families tend to earn more later in life. SOURCE: “Where is the Land of Opportunity?” by Raj Chetty, Nathaniel Hendren, Patrick Kline, and Emmanuel Saez.

So, what can we learn from Robertson’s middle class resurgence?

Well, the first thing to know is that the income numbers measure people who live *in* a place, not the salaries of the jobs that exist in that place. And Robertson is something of a bedroom community: About 70 percent of residents actually commute to jobs outside the county, Bradley says. You can get more house for your money in Robertson County than you can in Nashville, the economic engine that’s just a 30 minute drive south, so many people choose to live there and commute into downtown.

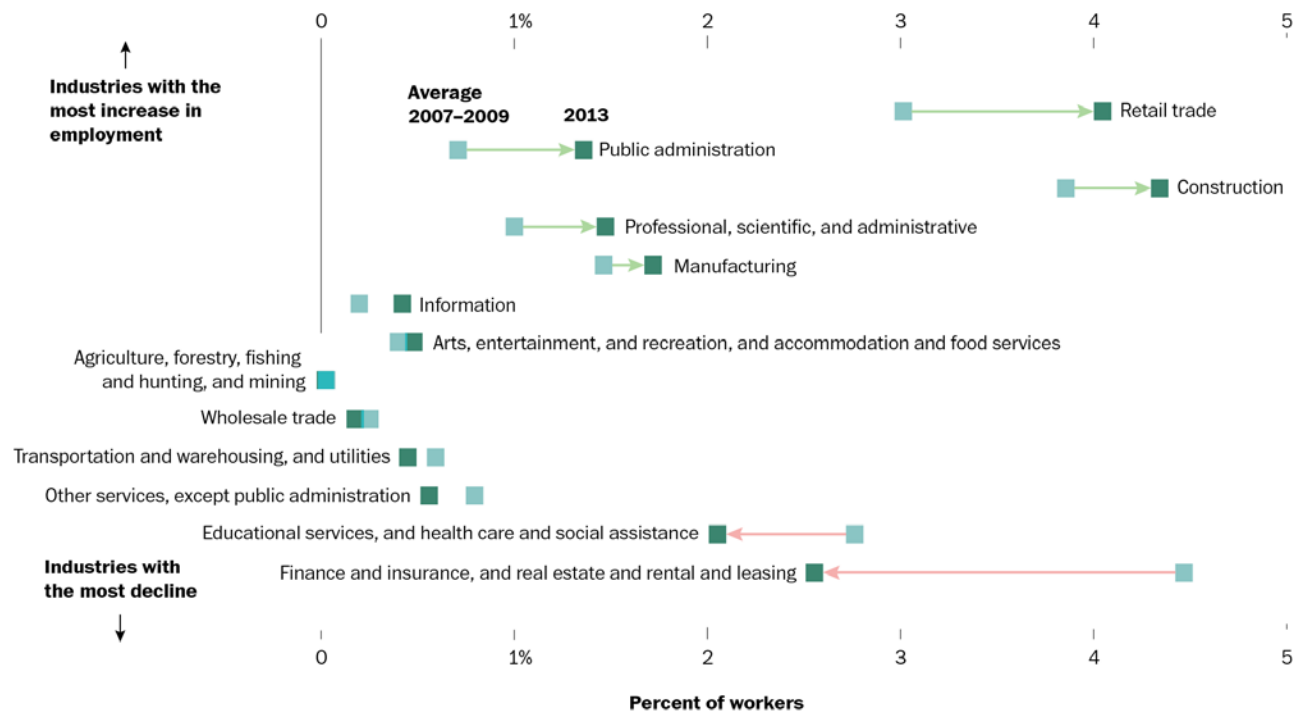
That out-migration might help explain the more than 30 percent drop in the number of high-paying finance and insurance jobs; the city’s banking industry was hit hard during the recession and has only recently [begun to recover](#). It also might have something to do with the increase in construction employment. While Robertson County hasn’t added a huge number of housing units or office buildings, the Nashville area has [cranes and excavators everywhere](#), and needs people to run them.

At the same time, however, Robertson County itself has beefed up employment and incomes. Its large manufacturers — like Electrolux, which makes millions of stoves and refrigerators per year — [have added](#) both line production jobs and better-paying research and development jobs. It’s also benefited from Middle Tennessee’s booming auto manufacturing industry. Although Robertson County itself doesn’t have one of the large plants that came to the area for the low union density and fat incentive packages, it does have some of the suppliers that make the pieces that go into those cars and trucks.

“Virtually everywhere we’ve been, there’s talk of expansion, talk of adding employees,” Bradley says. “If you want to work in Robertson County, you can find a job.”

### How employment shifted in Robertson County, Tennessee

Since the recession, Robertson County saw growth in retail trade, public administration, and construction jobs. Retail trade grew the most, from around 3 percent of the workforce in 2007-2009 to 4 percent in 2013. The finance, insurance and real estate sectors together saw the biggest declines, from 4.5 percent of the workforce in 2007-2009 to 2.6 in 2013.



SOURCE: Census Bureau ACS

washingtonpost.com/storyline

Those [don't necessarily](#) pay very much, like they used to. But they are the kind of job that could keep someone out of poverty’s grip — the only thing that necessarily would, according to Bradley, since there’s been no other concerted poverty reduction effort in Robertson County. It can also fuel the growth of a consumer economy — large stores and restaurants — that in turn employ even more people.

Springfield's historic main square is hopping these days, according to Margot Fosnes, president of the Robertson County Chamber of Commerce.

"I drive down the main road in Springfield on a Friday night and think, 'is anybody eating at home?'" she says. "The restaurants and the parking lots are filled. People are not just surviving. They're eating out, shopping, doing activities."

Manufacturing and construction and retail, however, are not the only ways for a county to bolster its middle class. The county with the second biggest drop in inequality, Monongalia County, WV, has a very [different story to tell](#): The small city of Morgantown is the home of West Virginia University, where enrollment has burgeoned through the recession, especially by out-of-state students. It also has several large federal agencies, including the Bureau of Prisons and the Department of Energy's National Energy Technology Library, as well as two fast-growing hospitals and the generic drug manufacturer Mylan Pharmaceuticals. Finally, it's seen a nice bump in employment from nearby fracking activity, which requires back-office jobs that show up in and around Morgantown.

Those aren't the jobs of the super-rich — the finance and tech zillionaires who gravitate to the coasts. They're just the kind of jobs that yield a comfortable living in the modern service economy, which Morgantown was uniquely well positioned to capture. For its part, Robertson is trying to help more of its residents work closer to home by attracting the back office functions of large corporations, which pay better than manufacturing wages. To that end, it's marketing its low-priced commercial real estate and recently built a community college to pump out more people with degrees in fields like accounting and IT.

And what does it feel like to live in a place that all of a sudden has gotten more equal than it used to be?

It's hard to put your finger on, says Fosnes. Maybe it's something in the small-town community feel, where everyone feels like part of the same social universe, even if they don't know each other personally.

"You sort of have a feeling here that people are all at the same level," she says. "It's more of just a feel than data, but you go to a high school football game on a Friday night and it's not like there are the corporate executives over here and then everyone else."