

# How we use Census Bureau data on state & local taxes

Presentation to the Association of Public Data Users

*Webinar: Statistics of Governments  
Taxes: More Than Just Income and Sales*

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# Sources of tax revenue data

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- Census: Comprehensive, Detailed, Annual and quarterly, some unit-of-govt info available
- Other significant sources
  - Rockefeller Institute – quarterly, available somewhat sooner, less rigorous collection, less comprehensive
  - NASBO – some forecast info; forecasting errors
  - Tax Policy Center
  - SOI – federal taxable income components by state

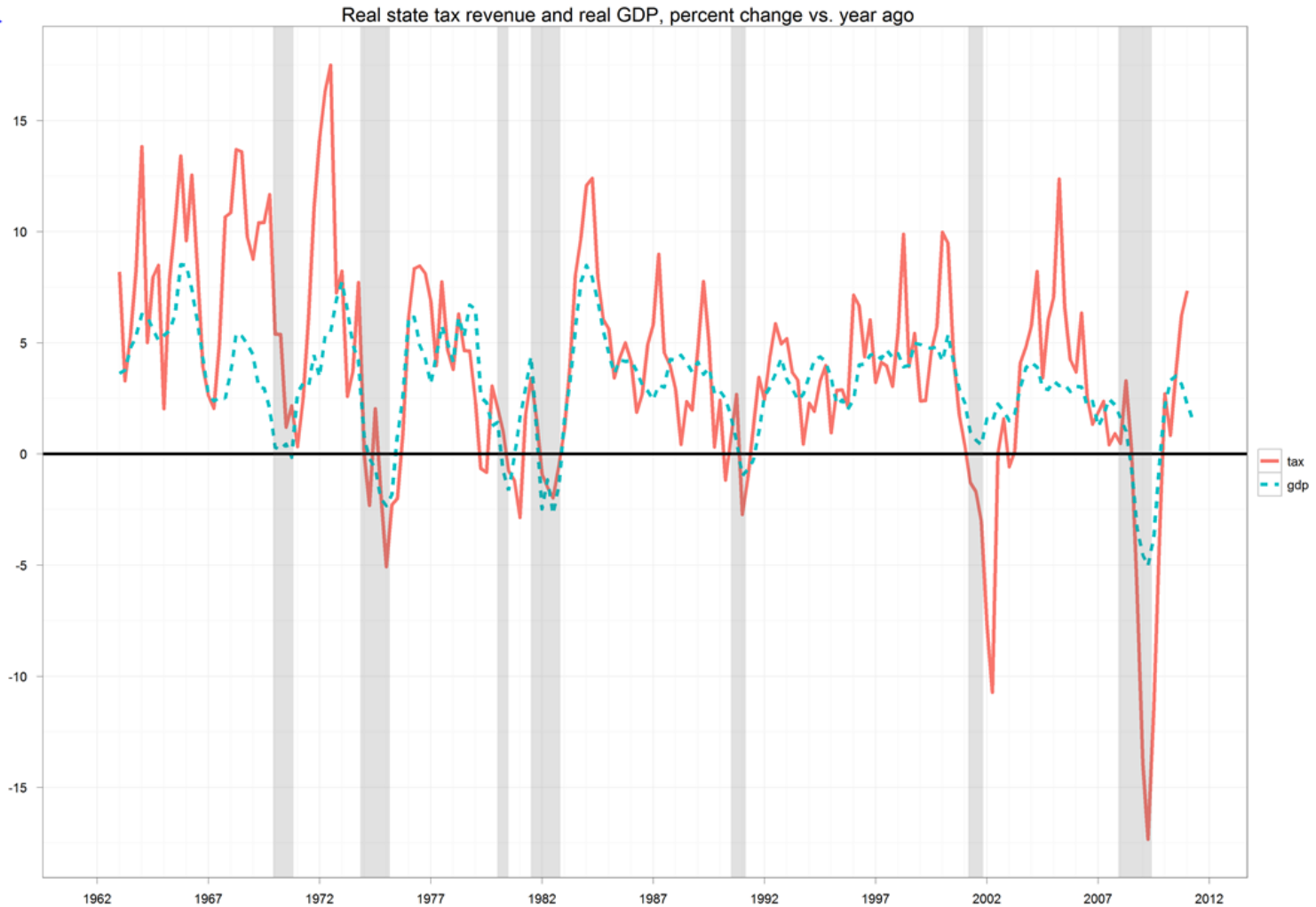
# Describing tax structure in US

States rely heavily on income and sales taxes.  
Locals rely heavily on property tax. Much variation

State and local government revenue in fiscal year 2008					
	State	Local		State	Local
	(\$ billions)			(% share)	
General revenue	1,514	1,401			
Own-source revenue	1,068	877			
Taxes	782	549		100.0%	100.0%
Individual income tax	278	26		35.6%	4.8%
General sales tax	241	63		30.8%	11.6%
Selective sales taxes	118	27		15.0%	4.9%
Corporate income taxes	51	7		6.5%	1.3%
Property tax	13	397		1.6%	72.3%
All other taxes	81	28		10.4%	5.2%
Source: U.S. Bureau of the Census					

# Describing relationship to economy

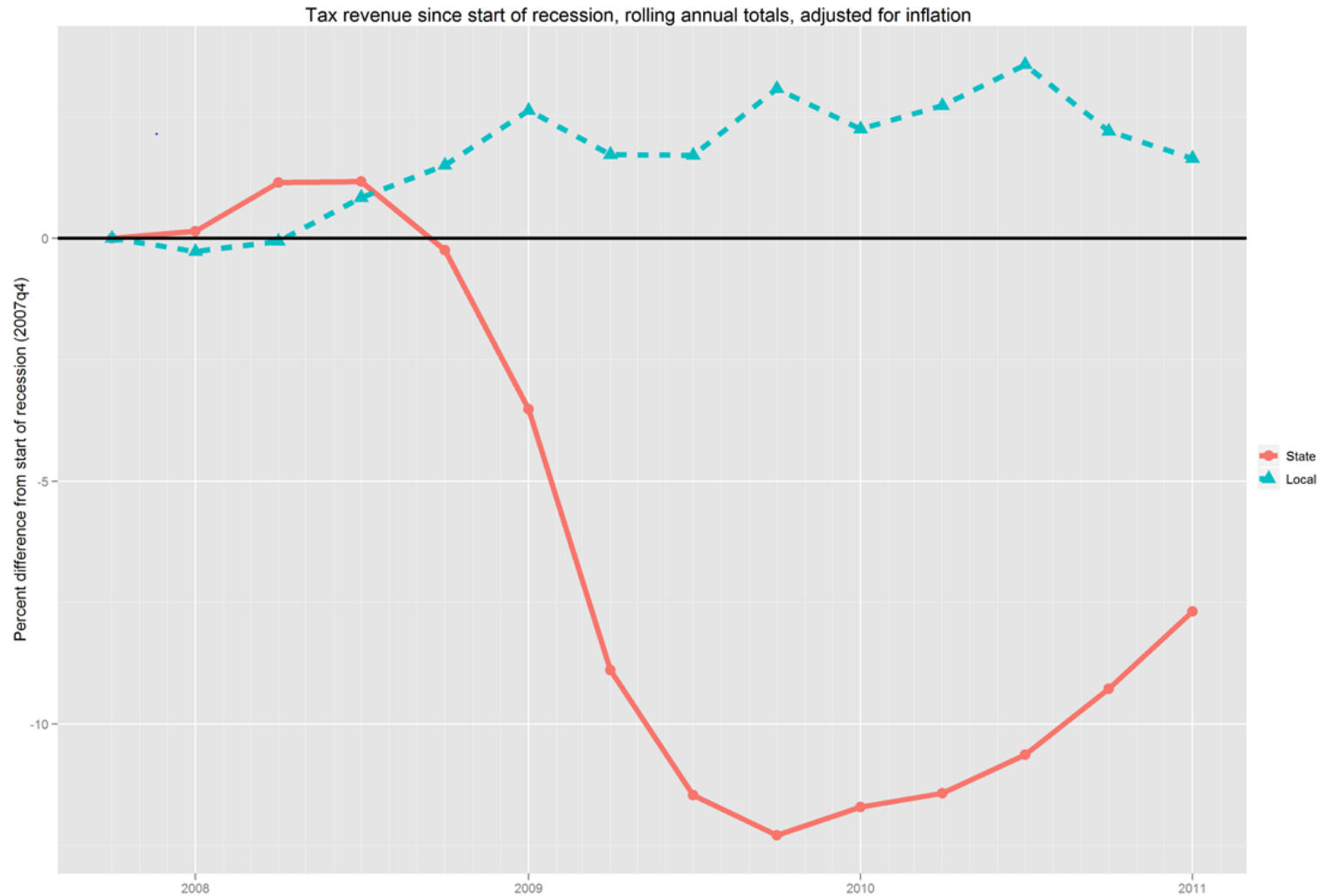
Worst state government tax declines in 5+ decades  
- worse than 2001 recession, worse than economy suggests -



Sources: Bureau of the Census, Bureau of Economic Analysis

# Examining levels of government

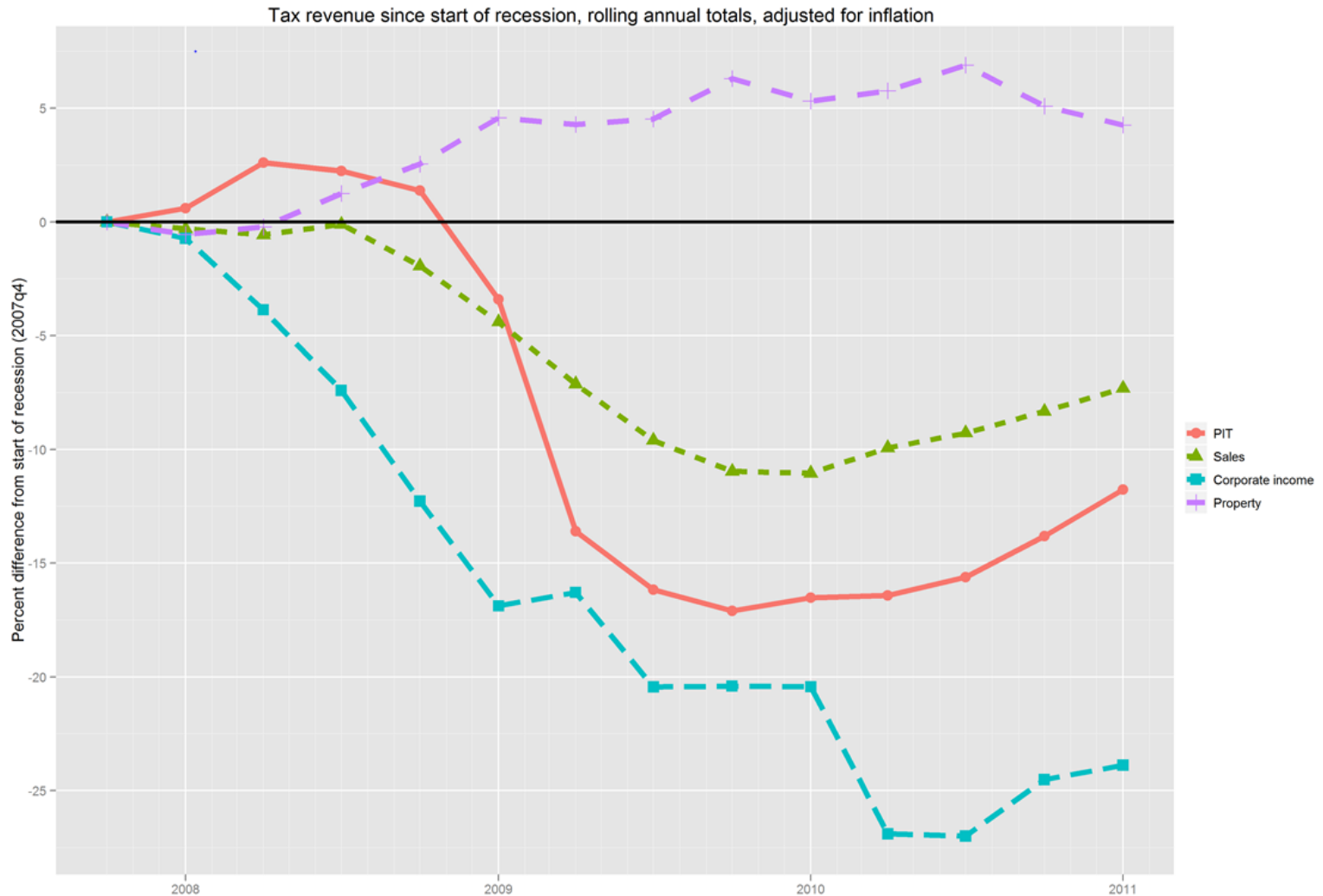
State tax revenue hit much harder than local, but some local weakening



Sources: Bureau of the Census and Bureau of Economic Analysis

# Examining individual taxes

State income, sales, and corporate taxes fell sharply  
Local property taxes have been more stable (nationally)



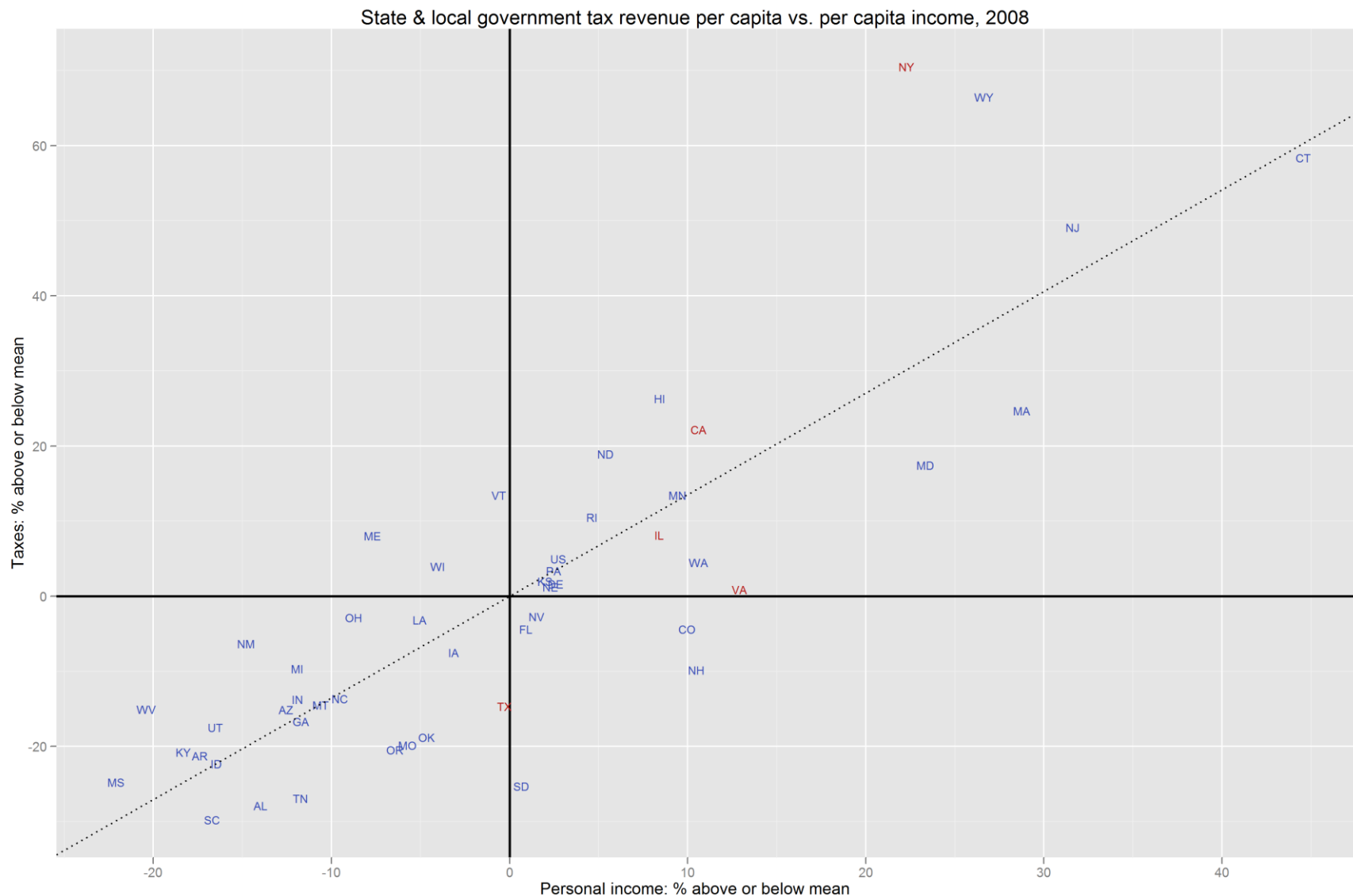
Sources: Bureau of the Census and Bureau of Economic Analysis

# Examining how states fared in/after recession

## It's a long way back

Percent change in state government tax revenue since start of recession, adjusted for inflation			
Year ending March 2011 vs. year ending December 2007			
Sum of states		(7.7)	
Louisiana	(25.3)	Kansas	(8.1)
South Carolina	(24.1)	California	(7.9)
Georgia	(20.5)	Maryland	(6.8)
Idaho	(18.1)	Indiana	(6.5)
Utah	(17.6)	New Hampshire	(6.1)
Florida	(16.8)	Mississippi	(5.5)
New Jersey	(15.7)	Connecticut	(4.6)
Arizona	(15.0)	Massachusetts	(4.3)
Hawaii	(14.0)	Texas	(3.8)
Oklahoma	(13.9)	Arkansas	(3.6)
Alaska	(13.4)	Kentucky	(2.8)
New Mexico	(13.2)	Pennsylvania	(2.6)
Nebraska	(12.3)	South Dakota	(2.1)
Virginia	(12.3)	Minnesota	(1.4)
Montana	(11.9)	Illinois	(1.0)
Colorado	(11.7)	Wisconsin	(0.7)
Missouri	(11.5)	Wyoming	(0.4)
Alabama	(11.1)	New York	(0.3)
Washington	(10.3)	Maine	0.1
Nevada	(10.3)	Vermont	0.4
Rhode Island	(9.5)	West Virginia	0.8
Michigan	(9.4)	Iowa	1.7
Tennessee	(9.0)	Oregon	8.9
North Carolina	(8.8)	Delaware	13.0
Ohio	(8.6)	North Dakota	62.9
Source: U.S. Bureau of the Census and Rockefeller Institute of Government			

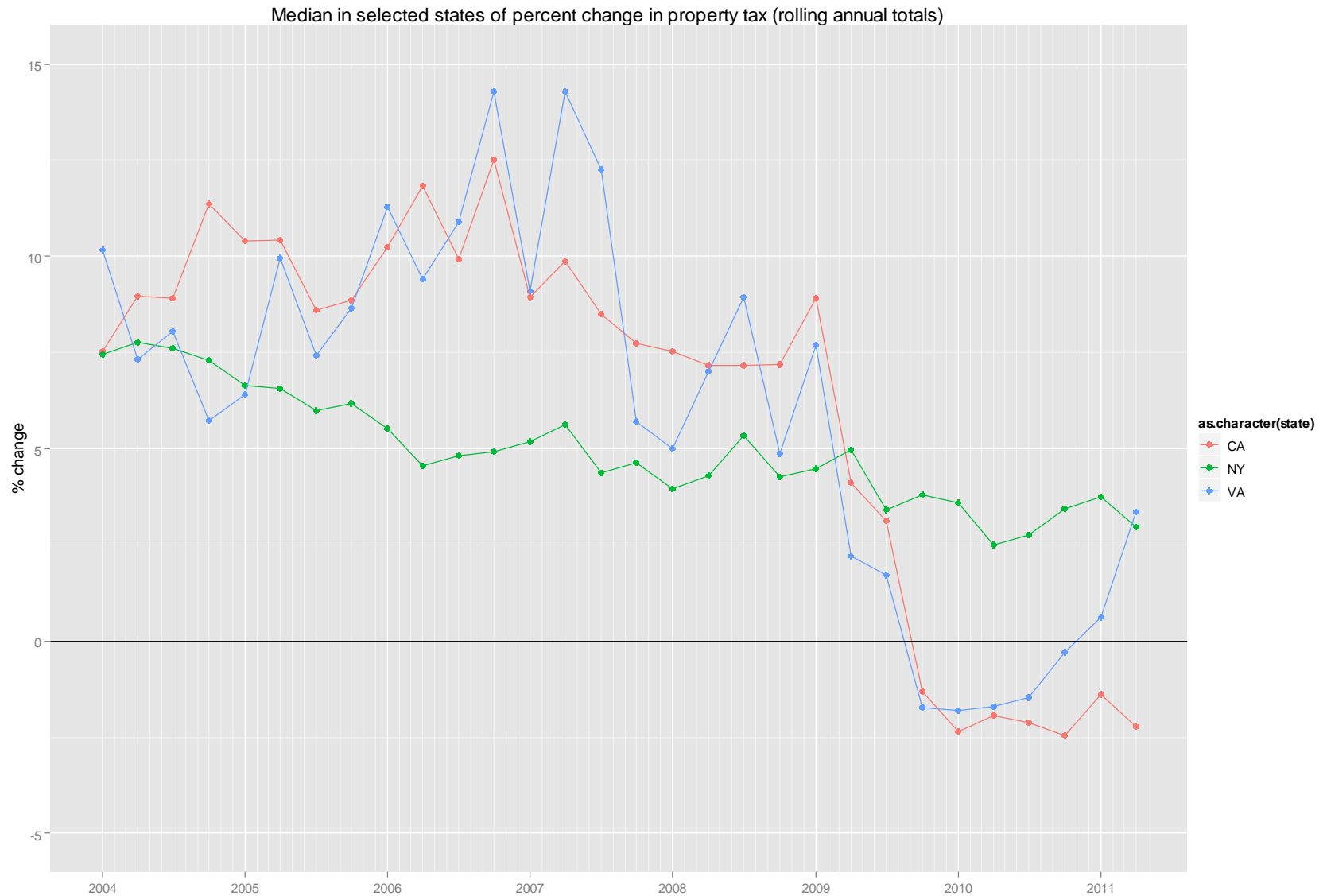
# Comparing tax levels across states



Sources: Bureau of the Census and Bureau of Economic Analysis  
NOTE: Alaska and DC excluded as outliers



# Aggregating data across individual units



CAUTION: Data adjusted by author. Census Bureau not responsible for these data!

# Analyzing individual units

## Exploring history: Property taxes and housing busts

