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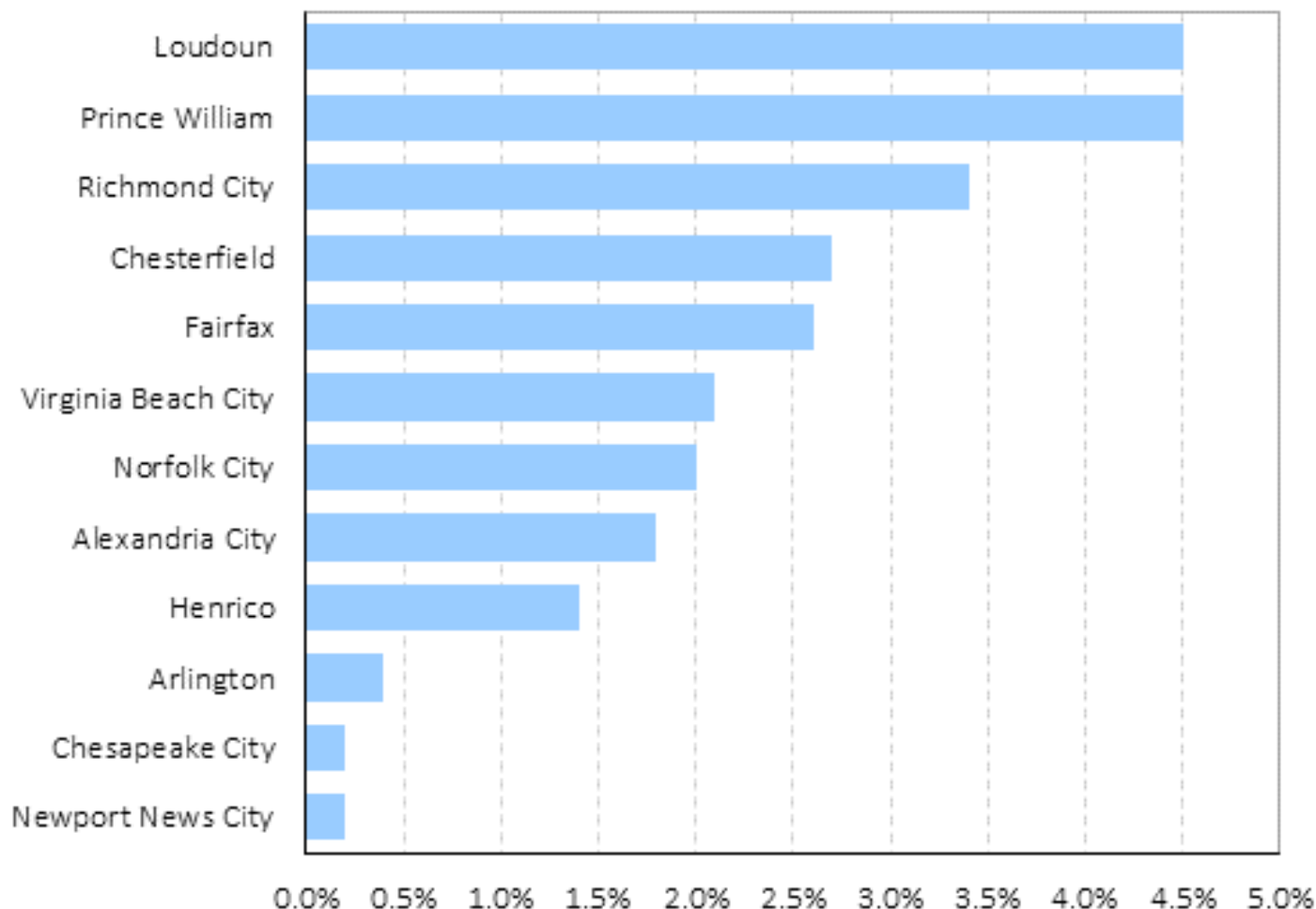
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## County Employment and Wages in Virginia— Third Quarter 2021

Employment rose in the 12 largest counties in Virginia from September 2020 to September 2021, the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics reported today. (Large counties are those with annual average employment levels of 75,000 or more in 2020.) Regional Commissioner Alexandra Hall Bovee noted that Loudoun County and Prince William County had the largest over-the-year increases in employment, both at 4.5 percent. (See [chart 1](#) and [table 1](#).)

**Chart 1. Over-the-year percent change in covered employment among the largest counties in Virginia, September 2021**



Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics.

National employment increased 4.4 percent over the year, with 332 of the 343 largest U.S. counties reporting gains. Honolulu, HI, had the largest over-the-year increase in employment with a gain of 13.3 percent. Jefferson, LA, had the largest over-the-year percentage decrease in employment with a loss of 3.2 percent.

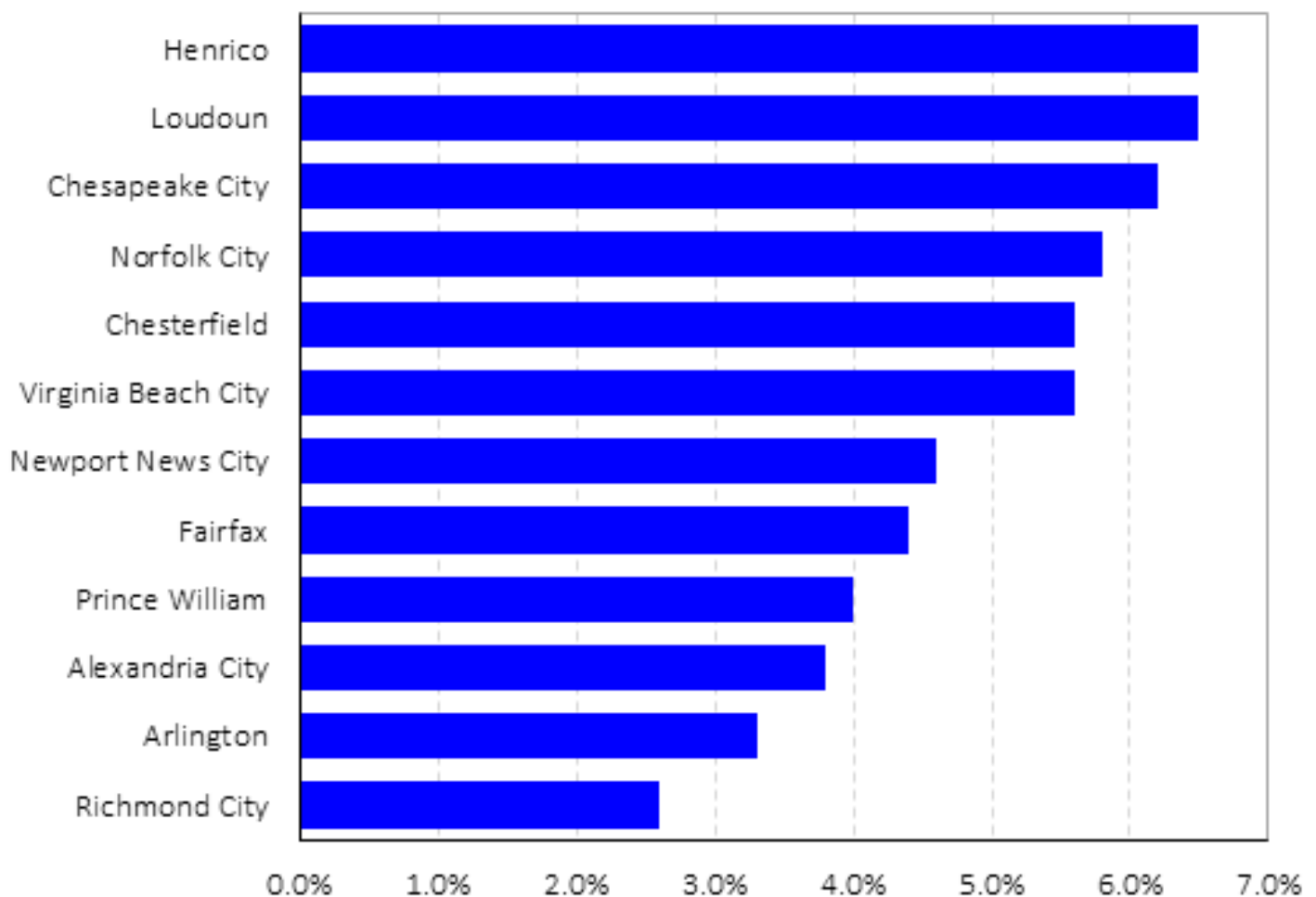
Among the 12 largest counties in Virginia, employment was highest in Fairfax County (608,100) in September 2021. Within Fairfax County’s private industry, professional and technical services accounted for the largest employment. Together, the 12 largest Virginia counties accounted for 55.6 percent of total employment within the state. Nationwide, the 343 largest counties made up 72.3 percent of total U.S. employment.

Employment and wage levels (but not over-the-year changes) are also available for the 121 counties in Virginia with employment below 75,000. Wage levels in 116 of the 121 smaller counties were below the national average of \$1,251 in the third quarter of 2021. (See [table 2.](#))

### Large county wage changes

All 12 large Virginia counties reported average weekly wage gains from the third quarter of 2020 to the third quarter of 2021. (See [chart 2.](#)) Henrico and Loudoun Counties had the largest gain at 6.5 percent each, followed by Chesapeake City at 6.2 percent. Over-the-year wage gains among Virginia’s other nine large counties ranged from 5.8 percent to 2.6 percent.

**Chart 2. Over-the-year percent change in covered average weekly wages among the largest counties in Virginia, third quarter 2021**



Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics.

Among the 343 largest counties in the United States, 333 had over-the-year wage increases. San Mateo, CA, had the largest percentage wage increase (+27.2 percent). Union, NJ, had the largest over-the-year percentage decrease (-1.2 percent).

### **Large county average weekly wages**

Weekly wages in 5 of the 12 largest counties in Virginia were above the national average of \$1,251 in the third quarter of 2021. Average weekly wages in four of these counties ranked among the top 50 nationwide: Arlington (\$1,907, 9<sup>th</sup>), Fairfax (\$1,846, 10<sup>th</sup>), Alexandria City (\$1,603, 19<sup>th</sup>) and Loudoun (\$1,417, 39<sup>th</sup>).

Among the largest U.S. counties, 85 reported average weekly wages above the U.S. average in the second quarter of 2021. San Mateo, CA, had the highest average weekly wage at \$3,710. Average weekly wages were at or below the national average in the remaining 258 counties. At \$756 a week, Cameron, TX, had the lowest average weekly wage.

### **Average weekly wages in Virginia's smaller counties**

Among the 121 smaller counties in Virginia—those with employment below 75,000—5 counties reported an average weekly wage above the national average of \$1,251. Goochland County (\$2,026) had the highest average weekly wage in the state. Grayson County (\$609) reported the lowest average weekly wage in the state.

When all 133 counties in Virginia were considered, 26 reported average weekly wages of less than \$750, 36 registered wages from \$750 to \$849, 21 had wages from \$850 to \$949, 23 had wages from \$950 to \$1,049 and 27 had average weekly wages of \$1,050 or higher.

### **Additional statistics and other information**

QCEW data for states have been included in this release in [table 3](#). For additional information about quarterly employment and wages data, please read the [Technical Note](#) or visit [www.bls.gov/cew](http://www.bls.gov/cew).

*Employment and Wages Annual Averages Online* features comprehensive information by detailed industry on establishments, employment, and wages for the nation and all states. This publication is typically published in September of the following year of the reference period or shortly after the QCEW first quarter full data update. The *Employment and Wages Annual Averages Online* is available at [www.bls.gov/cew/publications/employment-and-wages-annual-averages/](http://www.bls.gov/cew/publications/employment-and-wages-annual-averages/).

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**The County Employment and Wages release for fourth quarter 2021 is scheduled to be released on Wednesday, May 25, 2022. The County Employment and Wages full data update for fourth quarter 2021 is scheduled to be released on Wednesday, June 8, 2022.**

### **Technical Note**

Average weekly wage data by county are compiled under the Quarterly Census of Employment and Wages (QCEW) program, also known as the ES-202 program. The data are derived from summaries of employment and total pay of workers covered by state and federal unemployment insurance (UI) legislation and provided by State Workforce Agencies (SWAs). The average weekly wage values are calculated by dividing quarterly total wages by the average of the three monthly employment levels of those covered by UI programs. The result is then divided by 13, the number of weeks in a quarter. It is to be noted, therefore, that over-the-year wage changes for geographic areas may reflect shifts in the composition of employment by industry,

occupation, and such other factors as hours of work. Thus, wages may vary among counties, metropolitan areas, or states for reasons other than changes in the average wage level. Data for all states, Metropolitan Statistical Areas (MSAs), counties, and the nation are available on the BLS web site at [www.bls.gov/cew](http://www.bls.gov/cew). However, data in QCEW press releases have been revised and may not match the data contained on the Bureau's web site.

QCEW data are not designed as a time series. QCEW data are simply the sums of individual establishment records reflecting the number of establishments that exist in a county or industry at a point in time. Establishments can move in or out of a county or industry for a number of reasons—some reflecting economic events, others reflecting administrative changes.

The preliminary QCEW data presented in this release may differ from data released by the individual states as well as from the data presented on the BLS web site. These potential differences result from the states' continuing receipt, review and editing of UI data over time. On the other hand, differences between data in this release and the data found on the BLS web site are the result of adjustments made to improve over-the-year comparisons. Specifically, these adjustments account for administrative (noneconomic) changes such as a correction to a previously reported location or industry classification. Adjusting for these administrative changes allows users to more accurately assess changes of an economic nature (such as a firm moving from one county to another or changing its primary economic activity) over a 12-month period. Currently, adjusted data are available only from BLS press releases.

Information in this release will be made available to individuals with sensory impairments upon request. Voice phone: (202) 691-5200; Telecommunications Relay Service: 7-1-1.

**Table 1. Covered establishments, employment, and wages in the United States and the 12 largest counties in Virginia, third quarter 2021**

Area	Establishments, third quarter (thousands)	Employment			Average weekly wage <sup>(1)</sup>			
		September 2021 (thousands)	Percent change, September 2020–21 <sup>(2)</sup>	National ranking by percent change <sup>(3)</sup>	Third quarter 2021	National ranking by level <sup>(3)</sup>	Percent change, third quarter 2020–21 <sup>(2)</sup>	National ranking by percent change <sup>(3)</sup>
United States <sup>(4)</sup> .....	11,021.4	144,863.9	4.4	--	\$1,251	--	6.7	--
Virginia.....	299.2	3,845.3	2.9	--	1,264	12	5.3	37
Arlington .....	9.5	172.6	0.4	325	1,907	9	3.3	292
Chesterfield .....	9.9	135.1	2.7	216	1,021	256	5.6	168
Fairfax .....	38.0	608.1	2.6	222	1,846	10	4.4	244
Henrico .....	12.2	181.3	1.4	299	1,156	151	6.5	106
Loudoun .....	13.6	172.6	4.5	92	1,417	39	6.5	106
Prince William.....	10.0	130.5	4.5	92	1,088	195	4.0	262
Alexandria City .....	6.4	84.2	1.8	278	1,603	19	3.8	274
Chesapeake City .....	6.5	99.2	0.2	327	973	299	6.2	130
Newport News City.....	4.2	99.4	0.2	327	1,119	172	4.6	229
Norfolk City .....	6.2	133.9	2.0	263	1,192	121	5.8	156
Richmond City .....	8.3	151.1	3.4	170	1,334	61	2.6	309
Virginia Beach City .....	13.0	171.4	2.1	256	944	313	5.6	168

Footnotes:

(1) Average weekly wages were calculated using unrounded data.

(2) Percent changes were computed from employment and pay data adjusted for noneconomic county reclassifications.

(3) Ranking does not include data for Puerto Rico or the Virgin Islands.

(4) Totals for the United States do not include data for Puerto Rico or the Virgin Islands.

Note: Data are preliminary. Covered employment and wages includes workers covered by Unemployment Insurance (UI) and Unemployment Compensation for Federal Employees (UCFE) programs.

**Table 2. Covered establishments, employment, and wages in the United States and all counties in Virginia, third quarter 2021**

Area	Establishments	Employment September 2021	Average weekly wage (1)
United States (2)	11,021,414	144,863,915	\$1,251
Virginia	299,224	3,845,272	1,264
Accomack	1,062	11,635	916
Albemarle	3,911	56,636	1,167
Alleghany	376	3,403	725
Amelia	398	2,454	805
Amherst	782	7,489	822
Appomattox	481	3,267	696
Arlington	9,459	172,569	1,907
Augusta	1,993	27,561	1,009
Bath	178	1,882	966
Bedford	2,298	18,229	785
Bland	120	1,789	883
Botetourt	915	10,655	897
Brunswick	583	3,095	773
Buchanan	526	5,605	993
Buckingham	445	2,967	769
Campbell	1,527	17,250	967
Caroline	624	5,372	892
Carroll	624	5,967	690
Charles City	226	1,626	930
Charlotte	347	3,058	768
Chesterfield	9,865	135,086	1,021
Clarke	465	3,687	896
Craig	124	723	738
Culpeper	1,542	15,825	966
Cumberland	237	1,279	724
Dickenson	324	3,444	886
Dinwiddie	490	8,679	1,076
Essex	367	3,439	735
Fairfax	38,031	608,141	1,846
Fauquier	2,515	21,670	1,094
Floyd	478	3,539	650
Fluvanna	638	4,348	876
Franklin	1,537	15,143	796
Frederick	1,988	34,817	1,018
Giles	386	5,814	1,102
Gloucester	1,022	9,469	799
Goochland	867	19,214	2,026
Grayson	377	3,179	609
Greene	520	3,673	761
Greensville	226	4,170	956
Halifax	1,051	11,363	817
Hanover	3,913	54,025	935
Henrico	12,168	181,294	1,156
Henry	1,692	15,504	722
Highland	98	449	643
Isle of Wight	902	10,239	981
James City	2,037	28,297	896
King and Queen	171	1,104	812
King George	634	12,763	1,509
King William	443	3,826	943
Lancaster	502	4,324	794
Lee	536	4,128	717
Loudoun	13,628	172,618	1,417

Note: See footnotes at end of table.

**Table 2. Covered establishments, employment, and wages in the United States and all counties in Virginia, third quarter 2021 - Continued**

Area	Establishments	Employment September 2021	Average weekly wage (1)
Louisa .....	1,034	10,146	956
Lunenburg .....	329	2,196	749
Madison .....	360	3,101	766
Mathews .....	222	1,426	676
Mecklenburg .....	1,090	10,811	798
Middlesex .....	377	3,207	753
Montgomery .....	2,388	42,208	1,085
Nelson .....	551	3,686	756
New Kent .....	533	5,236	822
Northampton .....	587	4,410	707
Northumberland .....	374	2,507	1,003
Nottoway .....	448	5,406	874
Orange .....	970	9,570	856
Page .....	601	5,526	728
Patrick .....	535	4,018	673
Pittsylvania .....	1,431	12,322	794
Powhatan .....	861	7,473	862
Prince Edward .....	736	8,698	825
Prince George .....	669	14,371	1,139
Prince William .....	9,997	130,501	1,088
Pulaski .....	843	13,929	860
Rappahannock .....	278	1,527	819
Richmond .....	249	2,689	820
Roanoke .....	2,606	37,252	915
Rockbridge .....	533	5,940	710
Rockingham .....	1,942	33,884	971
Russell .....	579	6,246	793
Scott .....	422	4,631	711
Shenandoah .....	1,181	13,060	838
Smyth .....	901	12,277	768
Southampton .....	357	3,455	795
Spotsylvania .....	3,300	35,601	932
Stafford .....	3,082	44,935	1,150
Surry .....	137	1,948	1,370
Sussex .....	263	3,081	891
Tazewell .....	1,033	13,607	733
Warren .....	1,122	13,333	877
Washington .....	1,504	18,784	788
Westmoreland .....	433	3,303	712
Wise .....	850	11,113	763
Wythe .....	910	11,112	782
York .....	1,658	20,092	848
Alexandria City .....	6,394	84,233	1,603
Bristol City .....	610	9,108	771
Buena Vista City .....	141	1,921	774
Charlottesville City .....	2,508	38,256	1,158
Chesapeake City .....	6,486	99,211	973
Colonial Heights City .....	751	9,705	731
Covington City .....	276	3,707	981
Danville City .....	1,887	23,680	835
Emporia City .....	285	3,276	665
Fairfax City .....	1,751	18,817	1,189
Falls Church City .....	1,038	11,441	1,495
Franklin City .....	331	3,813	653
Fredericksburg City .....	1,694	23,138	1,031

Note: See footnotes at end of table.

**Table 2. Covered establishments, employment, and wages in the United States and all counties in Virginia, third quarter 2021 - Continued**

Area	Establishments	Employment September 2021	Average weekly wage (1)
Galax City .....	411	5,434	679
Hampton City .....	3,020	49,771	1,042
Harrisonburg City .....	1,746	30,254	899
Hopewell City .....	537	7,338	1,163
Lexington City .....	296	4,352	1,009
Lynchburg City .....	2,736	48,711	950
Manassas City .....	1,571	23,178	1,398
Manassas Park City .....	322	4,028	999
Martinsville City .....	980	8,877	722
Newport News City .....	4,209	99,414	1,119
Norfolk City .....	6,223	133,903	1,192
Norton City .....	231	3,124	752
Petersburg City .....	986	11,787	820
Poquoson City .....	261	1,706	715
Portsmouth City .....	1,871	42,890	1,130
Radford City .....	352	6,049	1,001
Richmond City .....	8,313	151,127	1,334
Roanoke City .....	3,441	62,613	997
Salem City .....	1,047	18,636	1,037
Staunton City .....	910	10,952	798
Suffolk City .....	1,989	33,347	1,083
Virginia Beach City .....	12,969	171,427	944
Waynesboro City .....	756	8,831	805
Williamsburg City .....	538	11,362	1,036
Winchester City .....	1,516	24,359	1,112

Footnotes:

(1) Average weekly wages were calculated using unrounded data.

(2) Totals for the United States do not include data for Puerto Rico or the Virgin Islands.

Note: Data are preliminary. Covered employment and wages includes workers covered by Unemployment Insurance (UI) and Unemployment Compensation for Federal Employees (UCFE) programs.



**Table 3. Covered establishments, employment, and wages by state, third quarter 2021**

State	Establishments, third quarter (thousands)	Employment		Average weekly wage <sup>(1)</sup>			
		September 2021 (thousands)	Percent change, September 2020–21	Third quarter 2021	National ranking by level	Percent change, third quarter 2020–21	National ranking by percent change
United States <sup>(2)</sup> .....	11,021.4	144,863.9	4.4	\$1,251	--	6.7	--
Alabama.....	139.8	1,955.3	2.6	1,030	36	5.3	37
Alaska.....	24.0	316.9	4.6	1,205	16	3.4	50
Arizona.....	184.5	2,926.3	4.6	1,167	19	7.0	13
Arkansas.....	97.4	1,212.9	2.9	963	47	7.8	6
California.....	1,679.6	17,208.7	6.6	1,576	4	7.7	8
Colorado.....	231.8	2,723.4	4.8	1,322	9	7.0	13
Connecticut.....	132.0	1,605.1	2.9	1,401	6	5.7	31
Delaware.....	35.9	439.7	2.1	1,198	18	4.4	45
District of Columbia.....	45.4	736.1	3.1	2,042	1	4.1	46
Florida.....	808.4	8,910.9	7.0	1,120	25	8.7	3
Georgia.....	343.9	4,491.4	4.9	1,158	20	6.8	17
Hawaii.....	49.2	592.8	16.6	1,150	22	3.3	51
Idaho.....	79.2	804.0	5.3	953	50	7.8	6
Illinois.....	398.4	5,751.2	3.3	1,274	11	6.3	22
Indiana.....	178.9	3,020.6	2.6	1,032	34	7.4	10
Iowa.....	106.8	1,509.6	2.2	1,015	39	4.9	43
Kansas.....	92.1	1,349.3	1.7	997	40	4.7	44
Kentucky.....	134.3	1,869.0	3.4	989	43	5.8	28
Louisiana.....	144.2	1,772.7	1.7	1,021	37	5.4	36
Maine.....	58.5	619.9	3.6	1,031	35	6.7	18
Maryland.....	178.1	2,604.6	3.9	1,314	10	3.5	49
Massachusetts.....	281.4	3,501.0	5.5	1,593	2	7.0	13
Michigan.....	271.3	4,181.4	3.6	1,154	21	5.3	37
Minnesota.....	186.9	2,780.5	2.7	1,249	13	6.1	24
Mississippi.....	77.3	1,122.2	2.6	859	51	6.3	22
Missouri.....	223.9	2,760.3	2.9	1,055	31	6.0	26
Montana.....	57.0	487.5	4.4	963	47	6.5	21
Nebraska.....	75.6	964.6	1.4	1,017	38	5.5	35
Nevada.....	96.0	1,389.5	10.8	1,135	23	8.3	5
New Hampshire.....	60.0	654.6	3.3	1,349	8	15.0	1
New Jersey.....	304.1	3,977.2	5.1	1,384	7	4.1	46
New Mexico.....	64.8	806.2	4.2	997	40	5.6	32
New York.....	671.2	8,922.4	4.4	1,534	5	6.1	24
North Carolina.....	318.4	4,516.4	4.5	1,112	26	7.1	11
North Dakota.....	33.0	407.2	2.2	1,076	30	5.1	40
Ohio.....	315.7	5,248.0	2.2	1,098	28	5.6	32
Oklahoma.....	116.4	1,576.6	1.8	966	45	5.6	32
Oregon.....	171.2	1,909.5	3.7	1,220	15	9.6	2
Pennsylvania.....	375.4	5,685.4	3.2	1,205	16	5.8	28
Rhode Island.....	43.2	474.1	4.8	1,131	24	3.6	48
South Carolina.....	152.9	2,086.0	2.8	988	44	6.9	16
South Dakota.....	37.0	435.6	3.1	965	46	5.1	40
Tennessee.....	187.7	3,044.1	4.2	1,111	27	8.7	3
Texas.....	770.0	12,613.1	5.6	1,227	14	6.7	18
Utah.....	123.1	1,594.7	5.0	1,087	29	7.1	11
Vermont.....	28.1	293.5	2.7	1,055	31	5.8	28
Virginia.....	299.2	3,845.3	2.9	1,264	12	5.3	37
Washington.....	266.6	3,415.2	4.4	1,578	3	6.6	20
West Virginia.....	53.6	664.2	2.7	960	49	5.0	42
Wisconsin.....	189.5	2,815.9	2.3	1,049	33	7.5	9
Wyoming.....	28.7	271.1	2.5	995	42	6.0	26
Puerto Rico.....	47.9	887.9	6.5	568	(3)	4.0	(3)
Virgin Islands.....	3.6	34.5	1.9	956	(3)	-5.4	(3)

Note: See footnotes at end of table.

Footnotes:

(1) Average weekly wages were calculated using unrounded data.

(2) Totals for the United States do not include data for Puerto Rico or the Virgin Islands.

(3) Data not included in the national ranking.

Note: Data are preliminary. Covered employment and wages includes workers covered by Unemployment Insurance (UI) and Unemployment Compensation for Federal Employees (UCFE) programs.