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COUNTY EMPLOYMENT AND WAGES IN MARYLAND – SECOND QUARTER 2010

Employment Gains in Two Counties Rank in Top 50 Nationwide

Employment declined in five of the eight large counties in Maryland from June 2009 to June 2010, the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics reported today. (Large counties are defined as those with employment of 75,000 or more as measured by 2009 annual average employment.) Sheila Watkins, the Bureau's regional commissioner, noted that Prince George's County recorded the largest employment decrease, down 1.6 percent. No other county experienced a decrease greater than 0.5 percent. The largest employment increases were recorded in Howard and Harford counties, which grew by 1.4 and 1.2 percent, respectively.

Nationally, employment fell 0.2 percent during this 12-month period, as 192 of the 326 large counties nationwide lost jobs. The largest over-the-year percentage decline in employment in the nation was recorded in Yolo County, Calif., and Marion County, Fla. (-3.7 percent each). Elkhart County, Ind., experienced the fastest growth (9.3 percent) among the largest counties in the U.S.

Among the eight largest counties in Maryland, employment was highest in Montgomery County (448,300), in June 2010. Three other counties—Baltimore, Baltimore City, and Prince George's—had employment levels exceeding 300,000. Together, Maryland's large counties accounted for 80.1 percent of total employment within the State. Nationwide, the 326 largest counties made up 70.7 percent of total U.S. employment.

Montgomery County recorded the fastest over-the-year wage growth among Maryland's eight large counties, rising 3.8 percent in the second quarter of 2010. Harford County had the second-highest rate of wage growth at 3.2 percent. Montgomery County also reported the highest average weekly wage among the State's large counties at \$1,173, followed by Howard County (\$1,027) and Baltimore City (\$999). (See table 1.) Nationally, the average weekly wage rose 3.0 percent over the year to \$865 in the second quarter of 2010.

Employment and wage levels (but not over-the-year changes) are also available for the 16 counties in Maryland with employment below 75,000. Fifteen of these smaller counties had average weekly wages below the national average. (See table 2.)

Large county wage changes

Two of Maryland's eight large counties recorded wage increases larger than the national advance of 3.0 percent from the second quarter of 2009 to the second quarter of 2010. The wage advances in both of these counties ranked in the top 100 among the 326 largest counties in the U.S., with Montgomery County placing 53rd and Harford County, 95th. Four other large counties in Maryland had wage increases below that of the nation. Only Baltimore City recorded a decline in average weekly wages over the year; this decrease placed 316th among large county wage changes nationwide. (See table 1.)

Among the 326 largest counties in the U.S., 301 experienced growth in average weekly wages. Santa Clara, Calif., had the largest wage gain, up 10.6 percent from the second quarter of 2009. New York, N.Y. was second with 9.0-percent growth, followed by Elkhart, Ind. (7.6 percent), Lake, Ind. (6.9 percent), and Rockingham, N.H. (6.4 percent).

Sixteen large counties had over-the-year decreases in average weekly wages, led by Fort Bend, Texas, with a loss of 1.7 percent over the year. Baltimore City, Md. (-1.6 percent), had the second-largest overall decline among the large counties, followed by St. Charles, Mo. (-1.5 percent), Anoka, Minn. (-1.1 percent), and Calcasieu, La. (-1.0 percent).

Large county average weekly wages

Average weekly wages in 6 of Maryland's 8 large counties were above the U.S. average of \$865; these 6 counties placed in the top third among the 326 largest counties in the United States in the second quarter of 2010. Three of these counties—Montgomery, Howard, and Baltimore City—ranked in the top 50 nationwide; the remaining 3, Prince George's, Anne Arundel, and Baltimore, ranked 59th, 63rd, and 89th, respectively.

The average weekly wages in Maryland's other two large counties, Frederick and Harford, also placed in the top half of the national ranking, at 122nd and 151st, respectively.

Average wages in Maryland's smaller counties

As mentioned, 15 of the 16 counties in Maryland with employment below 75,000 had average weekly wages below the national average. The exception was St. Mary's with an average wage of \$1,130. Worcester County reported the lowest weekly wage in the State, averaging \$515 in the second quarter of 2010. (See table 2.)

When all 24 counties in Maryland were considered, 17 had wages below the national average of \$865. Nine of these reported average weekly wages below \$700. (See chart 1.) Of the seven counties with wages above the national average, six reported wages above \$900, including two (Montgomery and St. Mary's) with average weekly wages above \$1,100. Four of the seven counties with above-average wages were concentrated in the Baltimore metropolitan area, while two were located in the Washington metropolitan area. Six of the nine lower-paid counties, those with wages below \$700, were located on the Delmarva Peninsula.

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 the QCEW Web site at www.bls.gov/cew/.

An annual bulletin, *Employment and Wages*, features comprehensive information by detailed industry on establishments, employment, and wages for the nation and all states. The 2008 edition of this bulletin contains selected data produced by Business Employment Dynamics (BED) on job gains and losses, as well as selected data from the first quarter 2009 version of the news release. Tables and additional content from the 2008 Employment and Wages Annual Bulletin are now available online at www.bls.gov/cew/cewbultn08.htm. These tables present final 2008 annual averages. The tables are included on the CD which accompanies the hardcopy version of the Annual Bulletin. *Employment and Wages Annual Averages, 2008* is available for sale as a chartbook from the United States Government Printing Office, Superintendent of Documents, P.O. Box 371954, Pittsburgh, PA 15250, telephone (866) 512-1800, outside Washington, D.C. Within Washington, D.C., the telephone number is (202) 512-1800. The fax number is (202) 512-2104.

Information in this release will be made available to sensory impaired individuals upon request. Voice phone: 202-691-5200; TDD message referral phone number: 1-800-877-8339.

For personal assistance or further information on the Quarterly Census of Employment and Wages Program, as well as other Bureau programs, contact the Mid-Atlantic Information Office at 215-597-3282 from 8:30 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. and 1:00 p.m. to 3:30 p.m. ET.

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 9.0 million employer reports cover 129.4 million full- and part-time workers. 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/; 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.

Table 1. Covered¹ employment and wages in the United States and the 8 largest counties in Maryland, second quarter 2010²

Area	Employment			Average Weekly Wage ³			
	June 2010 (thousands)	Percent change, June 2009-10 ⁴	National ranking by percent change ⁵	Average weekly wage	National ranking by level ⁵	Percent change, second quarter 2009-10 ⁴	National ranking by percent change ⁵
United States ⁶	129,371.6	-0.2	--	\$865	--	3.0	--
Maryland	2,501.7	0.0	--	957	7	2.5	31
Anne Arundel, Md.	230.8	0.3	95	946	63	(?)	--
Baltimore, Md.	368.0	-0.4	151	894	89	2.4	160
Baltimore City, Md.	328.7	-0.5	158	999	43	-1.6	316
Frederick, Md.	93.3	-0.4	151	851	122	2.9	115
Harford, Md.	82.3	1.2	42	816	151	3.2	95
Howard, Md.	149.7	1.4	34	1,027	37	1.7	226
Montgomery, Md.	448.3	-0.1	125	1,173	15	3.8	53
Prince George's, Md.	303.3	-1.6	267	959	59	2.9	115

¹ Includes workers covered by Unemployment Insurance (UI) and Unemployment Compensation for Federal Employees (UCFE) programs.

² Data are preliminary.

³ Average weekly wages were calculated using unrounded data.

⁴ Percent changes were computed from quarterly employment and pay data adjusted for noneconomic county reclassifications.

⁵ Ranking does not include the county of San Juan, Puerto Rico.

⁶ Totals for the United States do not include data for Puerto Rico or the Virgin Islands.

⁷ Data do not meet BLS or State agency disclosure standards.

Table 2. Covered¹ employment and wages in the United States and all counties in Maryland, second quarter 2010²

Area	Employment June 2010 (thousands)	Average weekly wage ³
United States ⁴	129,371.6	\$865
Maryland	2,501.7	957
Allegany	29.8	632
Anne Arundel	230.8	946
Baltimore County	368.0	894
Baltimore City	328.7	999
Calvert	21.6	757
Caroline	8.8	609
Carroll	55.1	701
Cecil	28.7	768
Charles	41.3	751
Dorchester	11.5	642
Frederick	93.3	851
Garrett	11.9	560
Harford	82.3	816
Howard	149.7	1,027
Kent	8.0	652
Montgomery	448.3	1,173
Prince George's	303.3	959
Queen Anne's	13.7	630
St. Mary's	42.1	1,130
Somerset	6.8	705
Talbot	18.8	665
Washington	64.5	680
Wicomico	44.5	713
Worcester	28.7	515

¹ Includes workers covered by Unemployment Insurance (UI) and Unemployment Compensation for Federal Employees (UCFE) programs.

² Data are preliminary.

³ Average weekly wages were calculated using unrounded data.

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

Table 3. Covered¹ employment and wages by state, second quarter 2010²

State	Employment		Average weekly wage ³			
	June 2010 (thousands)	Percent change, June 2009-10	Average weekly wage	National ranking by level	Percent change, second quarter 2009-10	National ranking by percent change
United States ⁴	129,371.6	-0.2	\$865	--	3.0	--
Alabama	1,831.3	-0.4	750	33	2.3	37
Alaska	330.6	1.2	916	9	2.7	26
Arizona	2,308.7	-1.1	821	20	1.7	47
Arkansas	1,153.7	1.2	684	47	2.5	31
California	14,651.5	-1.0	978	6	3.2	15
Colorado	2,202.5	-0.9	870	13	2.2	39
Connecticut	1,617.8	-1.1	1,075	3	4.0	6
Delaware	404.8	-0.9	876	12	2.1	40
District of Columbia	701.4	2.3	1,506	1	5.7	2
Florida	7,043.4	-0.6	782	25	2.1	40
Georgia	3,767.6	-0.9	812	21	2.5	31
Hawaii	584.0	-1.9	782	25	0.9	50
Idaho	616.6	-1.4	651	50	3.0	20
Illinois	5,574.8	-0.6	910	10	3.1	16
Indiana	2,734.8	1.2	732	38	3.1	16
Iowa	1,459.3	-0.9	709	44	3.4	10
Kansas	1,315.2	-1.1	732	38	1.9	45
Kentucky	1,733.6	0.6	743	35	2.8	24
Louisiana	1,849.1	-0.1	769	29	2.1	40
Maine	591.6	-0.8	699	45	2.6	28
Maryland	2,501.7	0.0	957	7	2.5	31
Massachusetts	3,199.1	0.4	1,060	4	3.1	16
Michigan	3,828.6	0.8	825	19	1.9	45
Minnesota	2,605.5	-0.3	869	14	3.3	11
Mississippi	1,083.7	0.0	652	49	2.0	43
Missouri	2,611.5	-1.1	762	31	1.7	47
Montana	432.0	-0.5	658	48	3.5	9
Nebraska	909.6	-0.3	696	46	3.3	11
Nevada	1,117.7	-2.1	796	22	-0.3	51
New Hampshire	612.4	-0.5	867	15	4.6	4
New Jersey	3,853.2	-0.3	1,028	5	2.6	28
New Mexico	792.1	-0.8	743	35	2.6	28
New York	8,503.4	0.5	1,078	2	5.0	3
North Carolina	3,813.0	-0.5	764	30	3.9	7
North Dakota	363.6	2.0	711	42	6.6	1
Ohio	4,959.0	-0.4	775	28	2.9	23
Oklahoma	1,499.0	-0.3	717	41	3.0	20
Oregon	1,626.2	-0.5	786	24	2.5	31
Pennsylvania	5,552.8	0.6	849	17	2.4	36
Rhode Island	456.5	-0.6	831	18	3.1	16
South Carolina	1,782.5	0.0	710	43	3.6	8
South Dakota	401.5	0.2	631	51	2.8	24
Tennessee	2,583.3	0.7	776	27	3.3	11
Texas	10,245.8	0.7	864	16	3.0	20
Utah	1,159.2	-0.4	733	37	1.4	49
Vermont	291.2	-1.0	756	32	4.3	5
Virginia	3,590.7	0.1	929	8	3.3	11
Washington	2,858.7	-0.9	898	11	2.0	43
West Virginia	700.5	0.4	726	40	2.3	37
Wisconsin	2,684.4	-0.3	746	34	2.5	31
Wyoming	280.9	-1.1	789	23	2.7	26
Puerto Rico	930.6	-2.6	493	(⁵)	1.6	(⁵)
Virgin Islands	43.9	0.7	709	(⁵)	-1.4	(⁵)

¹ Includes workers covered by Unemployment Insurance (UI) and Unemployment Compensation for Federal Employees (UCFE) programs.

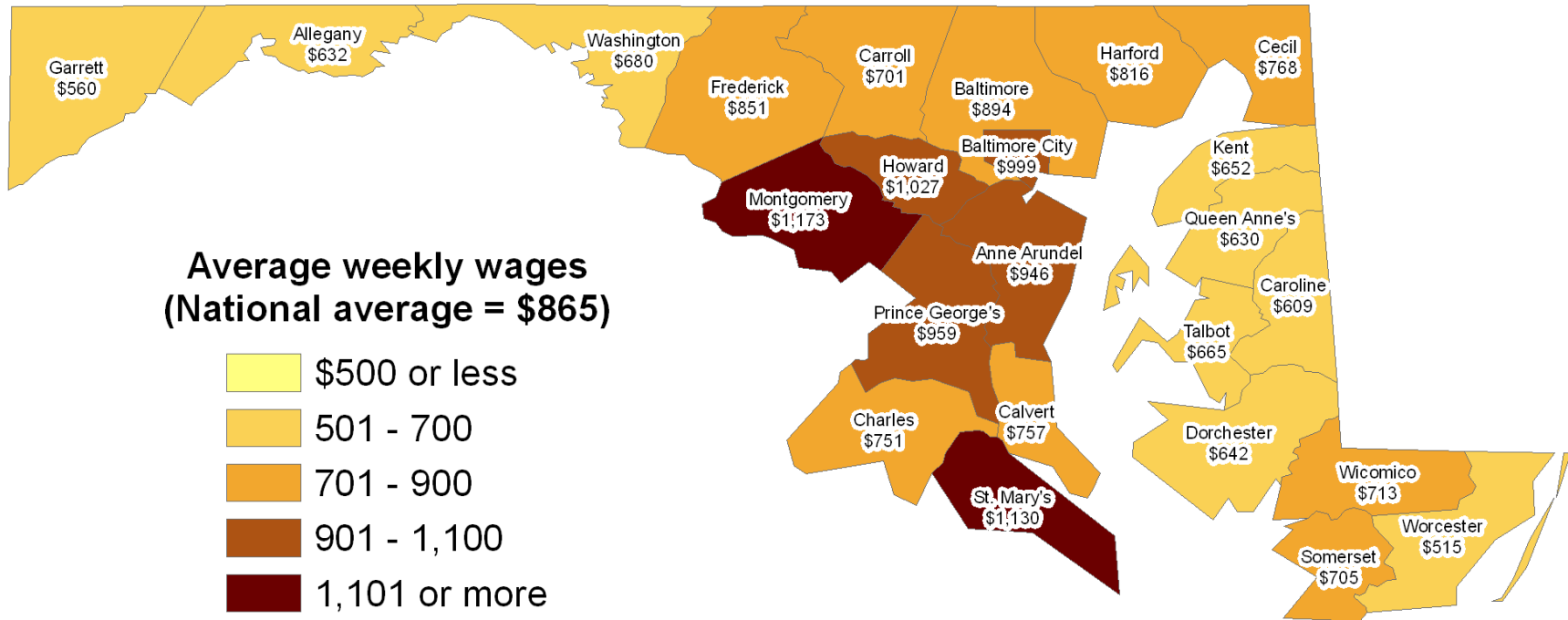
² Data are preliminary.

³ Average weekly wages were calculated using unrounded data.

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

⁵ Data not included in the national ranking.

Chart 1. Average weekly wages by county in Maryland, second quarter 2010¹



¹ Data are preliminary.