More than half of the large counties experienced average weekly wage growth equal to or greater than the U.S. average rate of -2.4 percent.

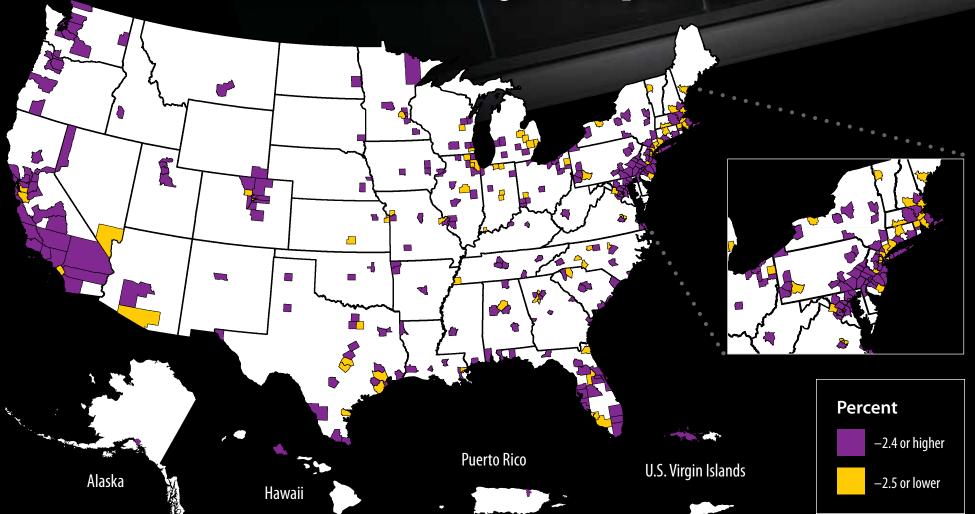
Large counties were more likely to experience a positive—or less than -2.4 percent—change in average weekly wages.

Counties with large declines were mostly found in the eastern half of the United States.



FIGURE 5 Percent change in average weekly wage in counties with 75,000 or more employees, first quarter 2008–2009

(United States average = -2.5 percent)



NOTE: The following counties had fewer than 75,000 employees in 2008, but are included because they are the largest county in their State or territory: Laramie, Wyoming and St. Thomas, U.S. Virgin Islands.

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