



For Release: Thursday, July 03, 2014

14-1268-PHI

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County Employment and Wages in Delaware - Fourth Quarter 2013

New Castle County's Employment Increased; Wages Declined Over the Year

From December 2012 to December 2013, employment in Delaware's only large county, New Castle, increased 1.8 percent, 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 2012 annual average employment.) Sheila Watkins, the Bureau's regional commissioner, noted that New Castle County gained jobs at the same rate as the nation over the year and ranked in the top half of all 334 large counties nationwide (139th) for job growth.

Employment increased in 292 of the 334 largest U.S. counties from December 2012. Weld, Colo., had the largest percentage increase, with a gain of 6.0 percent over the year. Lee, Fla., had the next-largest percentage increase (5.5 percent), followed by the counties of Sonoma, Calif., and Douglas, Colo. (5.2 percent each). Employment fell in 39 large counties during this period. St. Clair, Ill., experienced the largest over-the-year percentage decrease in employment (-3.1 percent), followed by Peoria, Ill., and Broome, N.Y. (-2.2 percent each).

New Castle County's employment in December 2013 was 277,400 and accounted for about two-thirds of Delaware's total employment. Nationwide, the 334 large counties accounted for 71.7 percent of total U.S. employment, which stood at 136.1 million in December 2013. These 334 counties had a net job growth of 2.3 million over the year, accounting for 76.2 percent of the overall U.S. employment increase.

The average weekly wage in New Castle County decreased 1.2 percent from the fourth quarter of 2012 to the fourth quarter of 2013, ranking it 265th among the large counties in the U.S. for wage change. Over the year, the national average weekly wage was unchanged. Santa Cruz, Calif., had the fastest wage increase among the largest U.S. counties (6.5 percent). Douglas, Colo., had the largest average wage decrease, down 29.7 percent from the fourth quarter of 2012.

New Castle County's average weekly wage of \$1,160 ranked 48th among the 334 largest counties. Delaware's largest county exceeded the U.S. average weekly wage of \$1,000 in the fourth quarter of 2013 by 16.0 percent.

Average weekly wages were higher than the national average in 98 of the largest 334 U.S. counties. San Mateo, Calif., held the top position among the highest-paid large counties with a wage of \$2,724. New York, N.Y., was second at \$2,041, followed by Santa Clara, Calif. (\$1,972). (See [table 1.](#)) There were 235 counties with an average weekly wage below the national average in the fourth quarter of 2013. The lowest average weekly wage was reported in Horry, S.C. (\$587), followed by the counties of Cameron, Texas (\$598); and Hidalgo, Texas (\$620).

Average Weekly Wages in Delaware's Smaller Counties

Employment and wage levels (but not over-the-year changes) are also available for the two counties in Delaware with employment below 75,000. Both Kent (\$782) and Sussex (\$728) had average weekly wages more than 20 percent below the national average. (See [table A](#) and [chart 1](#)).

Table A. Covered⁽¹⁾ employment and wages in the United States and all of the counties in Delaware, fourth quarter 2013⁽²⁾

Area	Employment December 2013 (thousands)	Average weekly wage ⁽³⁾
United States ⁽⁴⁾	136,129.4	\$1,000
Delaware	419.6	1,035
Kent.....	65.1	782
New Castle	277.4	1,160
Sussex.....	67.2	728

Footnotes:

(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.

Additional statistics and other information

QCEW data for states have been included in this release in [table 2](#). 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/.

Employment and Wages Annual Averages Online features comprehensive information by detailed industry on establishments, employment, and wages for the nation and all states. The 2012 edition of this publication contains selected data produced by Business Employment Dynamics (BED) on job gains and losses, as well as selected data from the first quarter 2013 version of the national news release. Tables and additional content from *Employment and Wages Annual Averages 2012* are now available online at www.bls.gov/cew/publications/employment-and-wages-annual-averages/2012/home.htm. The 2013 edition of *Employment and Wages Annual Averages Online* will be available in September 2014.

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.

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 9.3 million employer reports cover 136.1 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. Covered⁽¹⁾ employment and wages in the top 10 counties ranked by average weekly wage, fourth quarter 2013⁽²⁾

Area	Employment	Average weekly wage ⁽³⁾			
	December 2013 (thousands)	Fourth quarter 2013	National ranking by level ⁽⁴⁾	Percent change, 2012-13 ⁽⁵⁾	National ranking by percent change ⁽⁴⁾
United States ⁽⁶⁾	136,129.4	\$1,000	--	0.0	--
San Mateo, Calif.	366.1	2,724	1	-15.8	333
New York, N.Y.	2,500.2	2,041	2	-3.3	325
Santa Clara, Calif.	965.7	1,972	3	3.4	17
San Francisco, Calif.	630.5	1,753	4	3.0	19
Suffolk, Mass.	614.3	1,741	5	0.6	134
Fairfield, Conn.	420.0	1,653	6	-3.3	325
Washington, D.C.	727.3	1,638	7	-3.9	328
Arlington, Va.	165.9	1,588	8	-2.4	311
Fairfax, Va.	588.4	1,558	9	-2.0	305
Morris, N.J.	283.3	1,553	10	5.0	6

Footnotes:

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

(2) Data are preliminary.

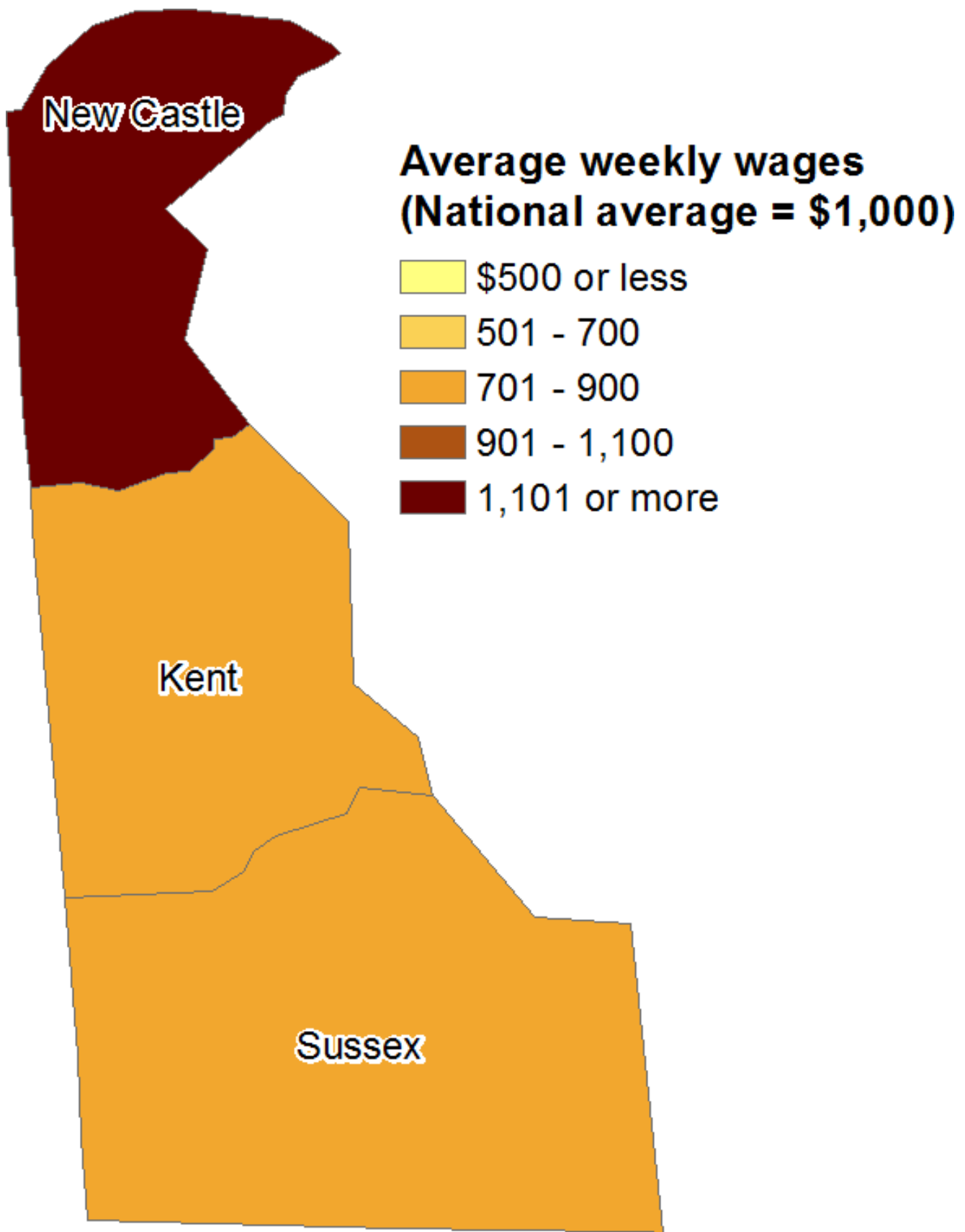
(3) Average weekly wages were calculated using unrounded data.

(4) Ranking does not include the county of San Juan, Puerto Rico.

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

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

Chart 1. Average weekly wages by county in Delaware, fourth quarter 2013



Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics.
Data are preliminary.

Table 2. Covered⁽¹⁾ employment and wages by state, fourth quarter 2013⁽²⁾

State	Employment		Average weekly wage ⁽³⁾			
	December 2013 (thousands)	Percent change, December 2012-13	Fourth quarter 2012 ⁽³⁾	National ranking by level	Percent change, fourth quarter 2012-13	National ranking by percent change
United States ⁽⁴⁾	136,129.4	1.8	\$1,000	--	0.0	--
Alabama	1,866.5	1.0	851	34	-0.5	39
Alaska	315.1	0.0	1,022	14	1.6	7
Arizona	2,571.0	2.4	906	23	-0.5	39
Arkansas	1,154.3	-0.5	771	47	0.4	22
California	15,650.3	2.8	1,175	6	-0.9	43
Colorado	2,383.9	3.1	1,023	13	-0.9	43
Connecticut	1,661.2	0.3	1,238	4	-1.3	49
Delaware	419.6	1.8	1,035	9	-0.6	41
District of Columbia	727.3	0.6	1,638	1	-3.9	51
Florida	7,739.5	2.7	883	29	0.2	27
Georgia	3,986.9	2.5	924	21	-0.1	32
Hawaii	632.9	1.7	871	30	0.3	25
Idaho	634.5	2.6	754	50	3.0	2
Illinois	5,758.9	1.0	1,060	8	0.2	27
Indiana	2,896.9	1.6	814	40	-0.2	35
Iowa	1,510.9	1.4	834	38	1.6	7
Kansas	1,359.5	1.6	832	39	-0.4	38
Kentucky	1,818.0	1.2	804	42	0.2	27
Louisiana	1,911.6	0.9	889	26	0.5	20
Maine	586.8	0.8	786	46	1.7	5
Maryland	2,555.1	0.4	1,076	7	-0.9	43
Massachusetts	3,332.9	1.5	1,258	3	0.8	17
Michigan	4,072.4	2.0	952	20	-0.2	35
Minnesota	2,720.6	1.7	988	16	0.3	25
Mississippi	1,108.1	1.1	729	51	1.3	11
Missouri	2,670.4	1.1	861	32	-0.2	35
Montana	440.0	1.3	760	48	0.4	22
Nebraska	944.3	1.4	796	43	-0.1	32
Nevada	1,180.5	3.0	884	28	0.7	18
New Hampshire	629.3	1.4	1,017	15	-0.8	42
New Jersey	3,887.5	1.2	1,186	5	1.1	14
New Mexico	796.2	-0.1	814	40	1.4	10
New York	8,888.6	1.7	1,266	2	-1.1	48
North Carolina	4,045.5	1.9	860	33	0.7	18
North Dakota	435.0	3.3	980	17	3.8	1
Ohio	5,175.4	1.4	887	27	0.0	30
Oklahoma	1,581.3	0.6	851	34	-0.1	32
Oregon	1,699.6	2.5	894	25	2.6	3
Pennsylvania	5,650.3	0.4	976	18	0.4	22
Rhode Island	462.7	1.4	960	19	1.5	9
South Carolina	1,875.8	2.3	793	44	1.0	15
South Dakota	407.1	1.3	759	49	1.3	11
Tennessee	2,758.3	1.8	895	24	-0.9	43
Texas	11,246.3	2.6	1,027	12	0.0	30
Utah	1,284.7	3.1	836	37	-0.9	43
Vermont	308.5	0.6	848	36	2.3	4
Virginia	3,670.0	0.1	1,028	11	-1.3	49
Washington	2,976.0	2.5	1,034	10	1.7	5
West Virginia	710.1	-0.6	792	45	0.5	20
Wisconsin	2,751.8	1.0	865	31	1.2	13
Wyoming	279.2	0.6	917	22	1.0	15
Puerto Rico	958.3	-2.3	551	(3)	0.2	(3)
Virgin Islands	38.5	-3.6	754	(3)	2.4	(3)

Note: See footnotes at end of table.

Footnotes:

- (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.