



NEWS RELEASE



For Release: Tuesday, February 04, 2014

14-165-PHI

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County Employment and Wages in Maryland – Second Quarter 2013 Average Wage in Montgomery County Ranks 15th in the Nation

Employment rose in all of the eight large counties in Maryland from June 2012 to June 2013, 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 Anne Arundel County recorded the largest employment gain, up 2.1 percent over the year. Baltimore City and Howard County recorded the smallest gains, up 0.3 percent each.

Nationally, employment rose 1.6 percent during this 12-month period as 288 of the largest 334 U.S. counties gained jobs. Fort Bend, Texas, posted the fastest employment gain, rising 7.0 percent over the year. Atlantic, N.J. had the largest over-the-year percentage decrease in employment (-4.5 percent).

Among the eight largest counties in Maryland, employment was highest in Montgomery County (458,200) in June 2013. Three other counties—Baltimore, Baltimore City, and Prince George's—had employment levels exceeding 300,000. Together, Maryland's large counties accounted for 80.3 percent of total employment within the state. Nationwide, the 334 largest counties made up 71.4 percent of total U.S. employment.

Baltimore City recorded the fastest over-the-year wage growth among Maryland's eight large counties, rising 2.5 percent from the second quarter of 2012 to the second quarter of 2013, followed by Montgomery County at 2.0 percent. Montgomery County reported the highest average weekly wage among the state's large counties at \$1,246. Two other counties had weekly wages above \$1,000—Howard (\$1,114) and Baltimore City (\$1,049). (See [table 1](#).) Nationally, the average weekly wage rose 2.1 percent over the year to \$921 in the second quarter of 2013.

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

From the second quarter of 2012 to the second quarter of 2013, Baltimore City, at 2.5 percent, was the only large county in Maryland to record a wage increase larger than the national advance of 2.1 percent. Four counties had wage advances ranging from 0.6 to 2.0 percent. Frederick County was the only county to record a wage decrease (-0.9 percent), while wages in Prince George's County were unchanged from the second quarter of 2012. (See [table 1](#).)

Among the 334 largest counties nationwide, 304 had over-the-year increases in average weekly wages. Union, N.J., had the largest wage gain, up 8.1 percent from the second quarter of 2012. San Mateo, Calif., was second with 8.0-percent growth, followed by Williamson, Tenn. (7.8 percent).

Only 18 large counties nationwide experienced over-the-year declines in average weekly wages, led by Davidson, Tenn., with a loss of 2.2 percent. Whatcom, Wash. (-1.5 percent), had the second-largest decline, followed by Washington, Ore., and Shelby, Tenn., which tied for the third-largest percentage decrease, down 1.3 percent each. Two counties, El Paso, Colo., and Wyandotte, Kan., each down 1.1 percent, tied for the fifth-largest percent decrease in average weekly wages.

Large county average weekly wages

Average weekly wages in 5 of Maryland's 8 large counties were above the U.S. average of \$921 and placed in the top 75 for wage level among the 328 largest counties in the United States in the second quarter of 2013. Among them, Montgomery ranked 15th nationwide, followed by Howard and Baltimore City at 34th and 50th, respectively. Anne Arundel and Prince George's counties ranked 72nd and 73rd. The average weekly wages in Maryland's remaining large counties all placed in the top half of the national ranking.

Average wages in Maryland's smaller counties

Fifteen of the 16 counties in Maryland with employment under 75,000 had average weekly wages below the national average. The exception was St. Mary's with an average wage of \$1,202. Worcester County reported the lowest weekly wage in the state, averaging \$536 in the second quarter of 2013. (See [table 2](#).)

When all 24 counties in Maryland were considered, 18, or three-quarters, had wages below the national average of \$921. Seven of these reported average weekly wages below \$700. (See [chart 1](#).) Of the six counties with wages above the national average, three (Montgomery, St. Mary's, and Howard) had average weekly wages above \$1,100. Three of the six counties with above-average wages were concentrated in the Baltimore metropolitan area, while two were located in the Washington metropolitan area. Five of the seven 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/.

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/cewbultn12.htm. The 2013 edition of Employment and Wages Annual Averages Online will be available later in 2014.

Information in this release will be made available to sensory impaired individuals upon request. Voice phone: 202-691-5200; Federal Relay Service: 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 9.2 million employer reports cover 135.1 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. Coverage⁽¹⁾ employment and wages in the United States and the 8 largest counties in Maryland, second quarter 201⁽²⁾

Area	Employment			Average Weekly Wage ⁽³⁾			
	June 2013 (thousands)	Percent change, June 2012-13 ⁽⁴⁾	National ranking by percent change ⁽⁵⁾	Average weekly wage	National ranking by level ⁽⁵⁾	Percent change, second quarter 2012-13 ⁽⁴⁾	National ranking by percent change ⁽⁵⁾
United States ⁽⁶⁾	135,094.0	1.6	--	\$921	--	2.1	--
Maryland	2,570.3	0.9	--	1,005	7	1.4	44
Anne Arundel, Md.	255.8	2.1	106	981	72	0.6	281
Baltimore City, Md.	332.2	0.3	266	1,049	50	2.5	85
Baltimore, Md.	364.5	1.0	203	920	108	1.0	248
Frederick, Md.	96.5	0.9	216	880	146	-0.9	324
Harford, Md.	90.1	1.1	191	900	125	(7)	--
Howard, Md.	162.7	0.3	266	1,114	34	1.9	143
Montgomery, Md.	458.2	0.5	244	1,246	15	2.0	133
Prince Georges, Md.	303.3	0.5	244	979	73	0.0	305

(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. Covered⁽¹⁾ employment and wages in the United States and all of the counties in Maryland, second quarter 201⁽²⁾

Area	Employment June 2013 (thousands)	Average weekly wage ⁽³⁾
United States ⁽⁴⁾	135,094.0	\$921
Maryland	2,570.3	1,005
Allegany	29.5	656
Anne Arundel	255.8	981
Baltimore County	364.5	920
Baltimore City	332.2	1,049
Calvert	22.0	777
Caroline	9.6	669
Carroll	57.0	725
Cecil	30.8	801
Charles	41.1	776
Dorchester	11.2	664
Frederick	96.5	880
Garrett	12.0	585
Harford	90.1	900
Howard	162.7	1,114
Kent	8.0	669
Montgomery	458.2	1,246
Prince George's	303.3	979
Queen Anne's	14.3	661
St. Mary's	43.1	1,202
Somerset	6.5	731
Talbot	19.0	709
Washington	67.4	716
Wicomico	44.5	710
Worcester	30.1	536

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

State	Employment		Average weekly wage ⁽³⁾			
	June 2013 (thousands)	Percent change, June 2012-13	Average weekly wage	National ranking by level	Percent change, second quarter 2012-13	National ranking by percent change
United States ⁽⁴⁾	135,094.0	1.6	\$921	--	2.1	--
Alabama	1,859.5	0.9	794	35	1.4	44
Alaska	342.6	-0.1	970	9	1.6	37
Arizona	2,438.1	1.8	877	20	1.7	32
Arkansas	1,150.4	-0.6	734	46	2.4	10
California	15,485.8	2.4	1,048	6	2.0	21
Colorado	2,359.4	2.9	933	14	1.6	37
Connecticut	1,666.3	1.0	1,128	3	1.5	41
Delaware	417.8	1.8	966	12	2.0	21
District of Columbia	725.0	0.9	1,575	1	2.1	19
Florida	7,402.0	2.4	822	29	2.0	21
Georgia	3,917.2	1.7	867	22	2.2	17
Hawaii	617.0	1.9	823	28	1.6	37
Idaho	642.7	2.7	683	51	1.9	28
Illinois	5,750.0	0.8	971	8	1.9	28
Indiana	2,863.4	1.1	776	42	1.7	32
Iowa	1,523.9	1.3	757	43	2.0	21
Kansas	1,350.0	1.2	779	41	2.1	19
Kentucky	1,790.6	0.6	782	38	1.3	46
Louisiana	1,894.7	0.9	824	27	2.4	10
Maine	604.4	0.4	732	47	1.8	30
Maryland	2,570.3	0.9	1,005	7	1.4	44
Massachusetts	3,352.7	1.3	1,131	2	2.0	21
Michigan	4,073.7	2.2	875	21	2.0	21
Minnesota	2,745.2	1.9	929	15	2.4	10
Mississippi	1,094.9	0.7	691	49	1.5	41
Missouri	2,668.2	1.2	803	33	1.6	37
Montana	448.4	1.5	717	48	2.4	10
Nebraska	941.0	0.9	737	45	2.6	7
Nevada	1,168.3	2.3	829	26	1.7	32
New Hampshire	629.1	0.8	916	17	2.9	4
New Jersey	3,917.5	1.0	1,084	5	2.6	7
New Mexico	795.0	0.4	781	39	-0.3	51
New York	8,804.9	1.1	1,118	4	2.0	21
North Carolina	3,985.1	1.7	808	31	2.5	9
North Dakota	433.7	3.2	887	18	3.7	1
Ohio	5,162.3	1.1	830	25	1.7	32
Oklahoma	1,560.7	0.9	794	35	3.5	2
Oregon	1,708.0	2.5	848	23	1.3	46

Note: See footnotes at end of table.

Table 3. Covered⁽¹⁾ employment and wages by state, second quarter 2013⁽²⁾ - Continued

State	Employment		Average weekly wage ⁽³⁾			
	June 2013 (thousands)	Percent change, June 2012-13	Average weekly wage	National ranking by level	Percent change, second quarter 2012-13	National ranking by percent change
Pennsylvania.....	5,665.9	0.3	918	16	2.8	5
Rhode Island.....	465.5	1.0	880	19	2.3	16
South Carolina.....	1,864.9	1.8	747	44	1.5	41
South Dakota.....	417.0	1.0	689	50	1.8	30
Tennessee.....	2,709.3	1.5	820	30	0.5	49
Texas.....	11,078.8	2.7	944	13	2.4	10
Utah.....	1,259.7	2.8	783	37	2.2	17
Vermont.....	303.1	0.3	808	31	2.7	6
Virginia.....	3,685.4	0.7	968	11	1.7	32
Washington.....	3,013.3	2.2	969	10	2.4	10
West Virginia.....	713.1	-0.1	781	39	0.6	48
Wisconsin.....	2,768.2	0.6	801	34	3.0	3
Wyoming.....	290.4	0.4	845	24	0.5	49
Puerto Rico.....	926.1	-1.1	503	(5)	1.0	(5)
Virgin Islands.....	38.9	-3.0	706	(5)	-13.8	(5)

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

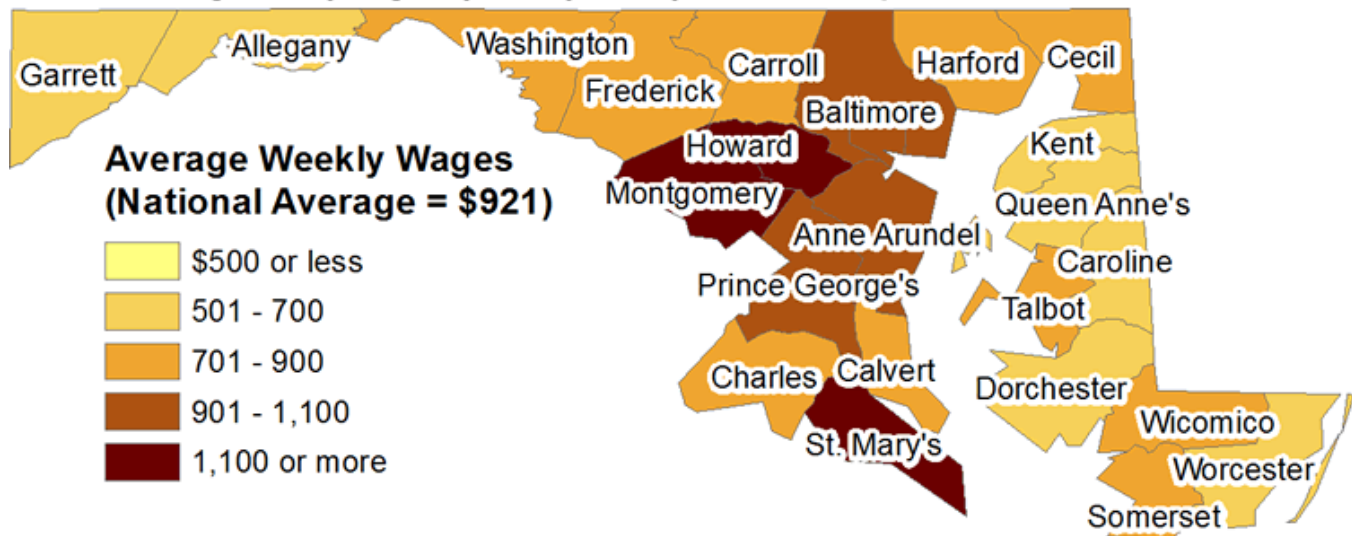
(2) Data are preliminary.

(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 2013¹



¹ Data are preliminary.

Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics.