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County Employment and Wages in West Virginia – Third Quarter 2013

Employment Down, but Average Weekly Wages Rise Over the Year in Kanawha County

Employment decreased 1.0 percent in West Virginia's only large county, Kanawha, from September 2012 to September 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.) Nationally, employment increased 1.7 percent, as 286 of the 334 largest U.S. counties gained jobs. Sheila Watkins, the Bureau's regional commissioner, noted that Kanawha County was in the bottom 10th of the large counties for employment growth, ranking 322nd.

Across the nation, Fort Bend, Texas, posted the largest percentage increase in employment with a gain of 6.0 percent over the year. Peoria, Ill., experienced the largest over-the-year decrease in employment among the largest U.S. counties with a loss of 3.7 percent.

Employment in Kanawha County stood at 104,000 in September 2013 and accounted for 14.6 percent of West Virginia's total employment. Nationwide, the 334 largest counties made up 71.4 percent of total U.S. employment.

The average weekly wage in Kanawha County increased 1.8 percent from the third quarter of 2012 to the third quarter of 2013. Kanawha County placed near the middle of the national ranking for wage growth (146th) and close to the national average weekly wage increase of 1.9 percent.

Among the 334 largest counties nationwide, 291 recorded growth in average weekly wages. San Mateo, Calif., led the nation with a wage increase of 9.9 percent from the third quarter of 2012. Dane, Wis., had the second largest increase, 9.3 percent, followed by Collier, Fla., at 8.0 percent. Of the 334 largest counties, 40 experienced declines in average weekly wages. Pinellas, Fla., had the largest over-the-year wage decline with a loss of 4.3 percent. Rockland, N.Y., had the second largest decrease at 4.1 percent.

Kanawha County had an average weekly wage of \$804—\$118 below the national average of \$922 in the third quarter of 2013. Among the 232 counties with average weekly wages below the national average, Horry, S.C. (\$564) reported the lowest wage, followed by the counties of Cameron, Texas (\$587) and Hidalgo, Texas (\$595).

Average weekly wages were higher than the national average in 101 of the 334 largest U.S. counties. Santa Clara, Calif., held the top position among the highest-paid large counties with an average weekly wage of \$1,868. San Mateo, Calif., was second with an average weekly wage of \$1,698 followed by New York, N.Y. (\$1,667); Washington, D.C. (\$1,560); and San Francisco, Calif. (\$1,549). (See [table 1.](#))

Average weekly wages in West Virginia's smaller counties

Employment and wage levels (but not over-the-year changes) are also available for the 54 counties in West Virginia with employment below 75,000. Average weekly wages in all 54 counties were below the national average of \$922. Among the smaller counties, Marshall County posted the highest average weekly wage in the state (\$892). The lowest weekly wage was in Wirt County, at \$452. (See [table 2](#).)

When all 55 counties were considered, 11 had wages of \$600 or less, and 19 had wages from \$601 to \$700. Another 15 counties had wages from \$701 to \$800 and 10 counties had wages greater than \$800. (See [chart 1](#).)

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 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 bulletin, which was published in September 2013, contains selected data produced by Business Employment Dynamics (BED) on job gains and losses, as well as selected data from the first quarter 2012 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* 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; 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 9.3 million employer reports cover 135.0 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 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 large counties ranked by average weekly wage and Kanawha, W.Va., third quarter 2013⁽²⁾

Area	Employment			Average weekly wage ⁽³⁾			
	September 2013 (thousands)	Percent change, September 2012-13 ⁽⁴⁾	National ranking by percent change ⁽⁵⁾	Average weekly wage	Ranking by level	Percent change, third quarter 2012-13 ⁽⁴⁾	National ranking by percent change ⁽⁵⁾
United States ⁽⁶⁾	134,957.5	1.7	--	\$922	--	1.9	--
Santa Clara, Calif.	947.2	4.1	20	1,868	1	4	17
San Mateo Calif.	357.9	3.7	25	1,698	2	9.9	1
New York, N.Y.	2,424.5	1.4	174	1,667	3	2.6	70
Washington, D.C.	726.2	1.5	162	1,560	4	3	48
San Francisco, Calif.	616.0	3.4	37	1,549	5	4.8	10
Arlington, Va.	164.9	-1.0	322	1,478	6	-1	318
Fairfax, Va.	586.1	-0.2	295	1,434	7	1.8	146
Suffolk, Mass.	606.9	1.5	162	1,429	8	2.1	108
Fairfield, Conn.	415.9	1.5	162	1,377	9	0.2	275
King, Wash.	1,212.3	3.7	25	1,376	10	1.6	172
Kanawha, W.Va.	104.0	-1.0	322	804	222	1.8	146

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) 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.

Table 2. Covered⁽¹⁾ employment and wages in the United States and all of the counties in West Virginia, third quarter 2013⁽²⁾

Area	Employment September 2013 (thousands)	Average weekly wage ⁽³⁾
United States ⁽⁴⁾	134,957,500	\$922
West Virginia	710,261	751
Barbour	3,583	643
Berkeley	31,442	742
Boone	7,138	885
Braxton	3,876	583
Brooke	8,180	655
Cabell	51,415	731
Calhoun	1,456	725
Clay	1,496	554
Doddridge.....	1,313	692
Fayette	11,798	639
Gilmer	2,233	694
Grant	3,687	705
Greenbrier	13,569	607
Hampshire	4,236	550
Hancock	10,543	641
Hardy	5,781	558
Harrison	35,486	836
Jackson	7,973	677
Jefferson.....	14,968	639
Kanawha	103,966	804
Lewis	7,202	845
Lincoln	3,249	746
Logan	11,206	796
McDowell.....	5,679	855
Marion	20,291	776
Marshall.....	11,665	892
Mason	6,195	713
Mercer	20,570	647
Mineral.....	7,868	725
Mingo	6,659	830
Monongalia	54,783	825
Monroe	2,004	623
Morgan	2,733	547
Nicholas.....	8,065	661
Ohio	29,706	660
Pendleton	1,591	549
Pleasants.....	2,781	800
Pocahontas	2,981	550
Preston	7,040	706
Putnam	20,022	821
Raleigh	33,187	734
Randolph.....	11,817	602
Ritchie	3,331	644
Roane	3,136	606
Summers	2,198	512
Taylor	3,233	614
Tucker.....	2,452	525
Tyler.....	2,403	782
Upshur.....	7,934	681
Wayne	9,597	753
Webster	2,024	696
Wetzel.....	4,786	560
Wirt	649	452

Note: See footnotes at end of table.

Table 2. Covered⁽¹⁾ employment and wages in the United States and all of the counties in West Virginia, third quarter 2013⁽²⁾ - Continued

Area	Employment September 2013 (thousands)	Average weekly wage ⁽³⁾
Wood	38,162	705
Wyoming	5,140	808

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.

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

State	Employment		Average weekly wage ⁽³⁾			
	September 2013 (thousands)	Percent change, September 2012-13	Average weekly wage	National ranking by level	Percent change, third quarter 2012-13	National ranking by percent change
United States ⁽⁴⁾	134,957.5	1.7	\$922	--	1.9	--
Alabama	1,847.6	0.8	794	34	1.3	43
Alaska	345.0	0.4	990	9	3.0	7
Arizona	2,490.9	2.2	859	22	1.5	36
Arkansas	1,156.5	0.1	723	47	2.1	21
California	15,526.4	2.7	1,057	6	2.1	21
Colorado	2,355.7	3.1	952	12	1.7	31
Connecticut	1,650.3	0.7	1,109	3	1.9	28
Delaware	416.8	2.1	941	14	2.1	21
District of Columbia	726.2	1.5	1,560	1	3.0	7
Florida	7,501.8	2.6	808	31	1.1	46
Georgia	3,928.2	2.3	867	21	1.5	36
Hawaii	617.7	1.7	839	25	1.6	33
Idaho	644.7	2.3	703	50	2.3	19
Illinois	5,731.7	0.7	959	11	1.5	36
Indiana	2,883.6	1.2	784	38	1.6	33
Iowa	1,512.0	1.5	772	40	2.1	21
Kansas	1,347.6	1.8	776	39	2.0	26
Kentucky	1,794.5	1.0	760	43	1.1	46
Louisiana	1,893.4	1.4	827	28	2.9	10
Maine	601.5	0.7	735	46	1.8	30
Maryland	2,546.4	0.6	1,011	8	0.4	51
Massachusetts	3,318.3	1.2	1,131	2	2.6	11
Michigan	4,069.7	2.1	875	20	1.5	36
Minnesota	2,724.2	1.7	938	15	2.6	11
Mississippi	1,099.1	0.8	688	51	2.5	15
Missouri	2,661.0	1.3	805	32	1.4	40
Montana	446.7	1.2	705	49	2.3	19
Nebraska	937.5	1.3	766	41	3.4	3
Nevada	1,169.4	2.5	836	27	2.0	26
New Hampshire	624.5	0.6	895	18	2.4	17
New Jersey	3,851.9	1.2	1,068	5	1.3	43
New Mexico	793.7	0.5	766	41	0.7	49
New York	8,724.8	1.3	1,108	4	1.7	31
North Carolina	4,006.4	1.7	817	30	1.4	40
North Dakota	436.7	3.4	921	16	5.5	1
Ohio	5,147.5	1.4	837	26	1.2	45
Oklahoma	1,572.6	1.4	797	33	2.4	17
Oregon	1,709.8	2.4	856	23	2.6	11
Pennsylvania	5,622.4	0.3	913	17	1.6	33
Rhode Island	465.2	1.3	878	19	2.6	11
South Carolina	1,859.3	2.3	751	44	1.9	28
South Dakota	408.9	0.9	706	48	3.4	3
Tennessee	2,712.8	1.5	819	29	0.6	50
Texas	11,091.9	2.8	952	12	2.5	15
Utah	1,265.5	2.9	791	36	3.1	6
Vermont	302.5	0.0	788	37	3.4	3
Virginia	3,650.1	0.6	971	10	1.1	46
Washington	3,017.9	2.4	1,044	7	2.1	21
West Virginia	710.3	-0.7	751	44	3.7	2
Wisconsin	2,752.7	1.1	793	35	3.0	7
Wyoming	286.1	0.2	840	24	1.4	40
Puerto Rico	910.9	-2.5	501	(5)	-0.6	(5)
Virgin Islands	37.9	-1.9	706	(5)	-0.6	(5)

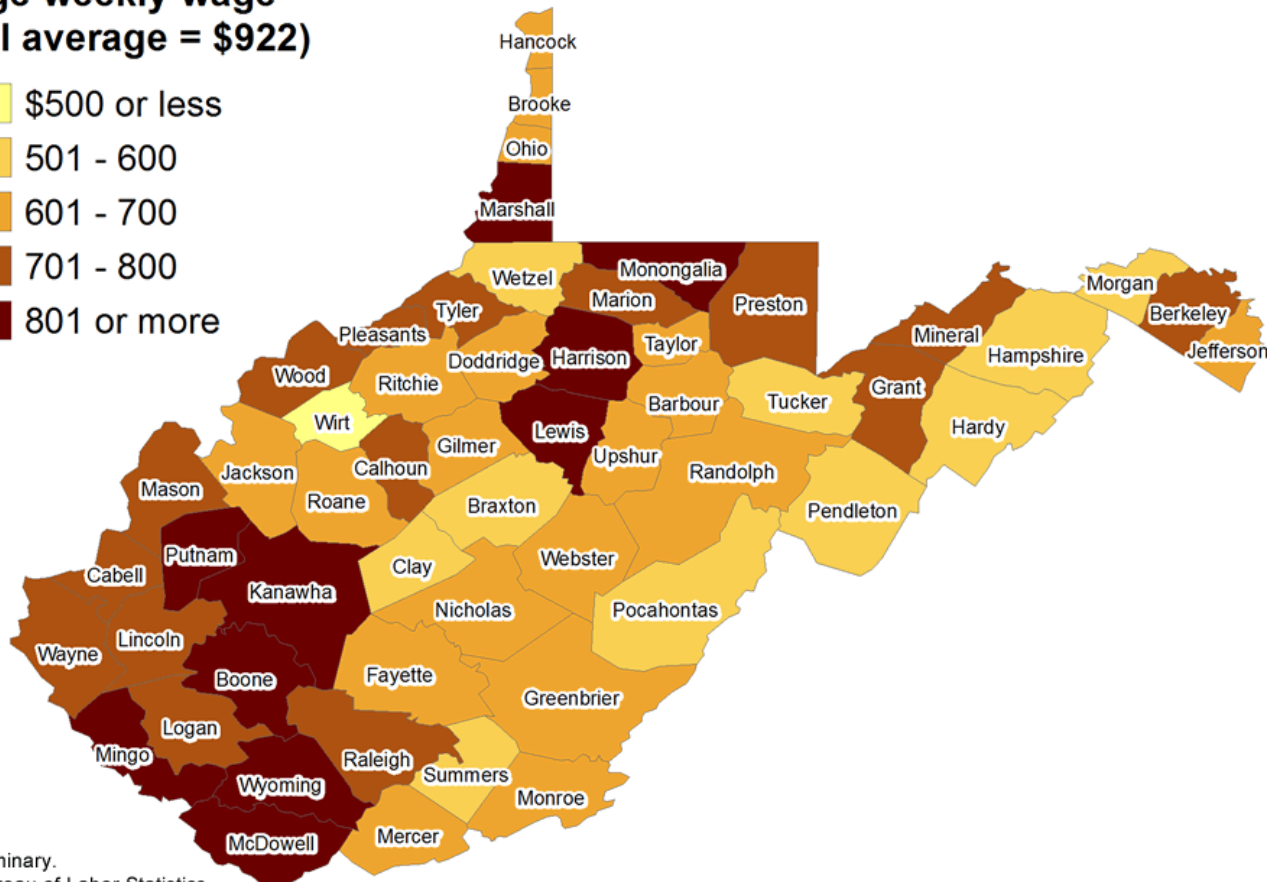
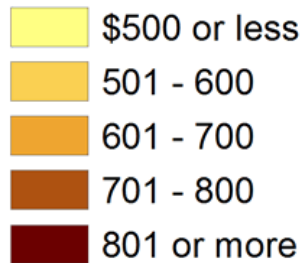
Note: See footnotes at end of table.

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.

Chart 1. Average weekly wages by county in West Virginia, third quarter 2013¹

**Average weekly wage
(National average = \$922)**



¹ Data are preliminary.
Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics.