

For Release: Tuesday, May 06, 2014

14-776-PHI

MID-ATLANTIC INFORMATION OFFICE: Philadelphia, Pa.

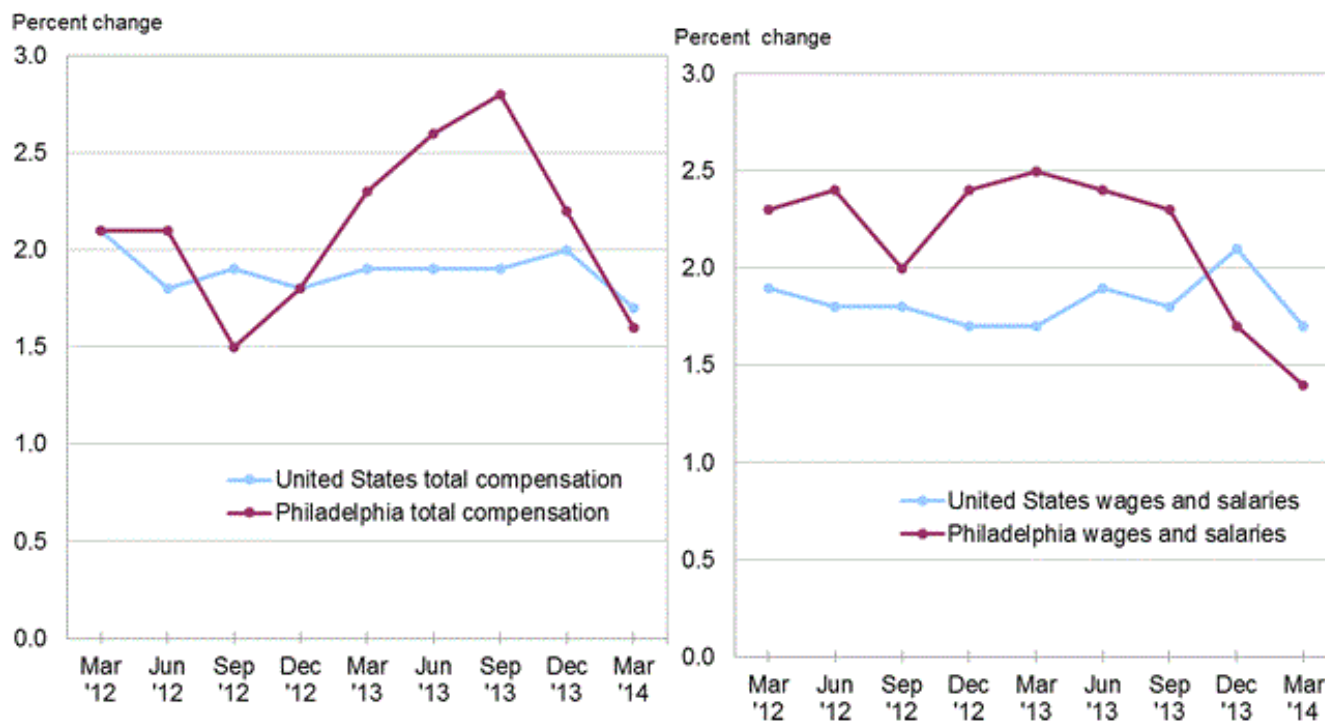
Technical information: (215) 597-3282 • BLSInfoPhiladelphia@bls.gov • /ro3

Media contact: (215) 861-5600 • BLSMediaPhiladelphia@bls.gov

## Changing Compensation Costs in the Philadelphia Metropolitan Area - March 2014

Total compensation costs for private industry workers increased 1.6 percent in the Philadelphia-Camden-Vineland, Pa.-N.J.-Del.-Md., metropolitan area for the year ended March 2014, the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics reported today. Sheila Watkins, the Bureau's regional commissioner, noted that one year ago, Philadelphia experienced an annual gain of 2.3 percent in total compensation costs. Locally, wages and salaries, the largest component of total compensation costs, advanced at a 1.4-percent pace for the 12-month period ended March 2014. Nationwide, total compensation costs rose 1.7 percent, and wages and salaries, also 1.7 percent, over the year. (See [chart 1](#) and [table 1](#).)

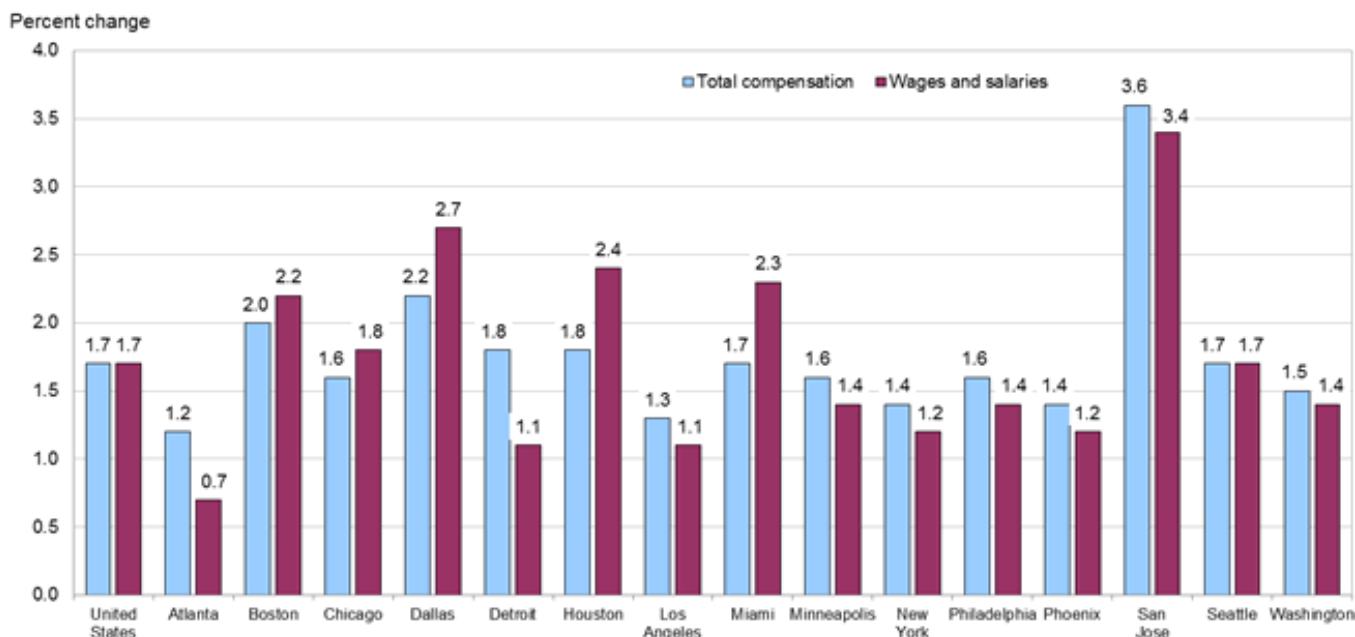
**Chart 1. Twelve-month percent changes in the Employment Cost Index for total compensation and for wages and salaries, private industry workers, United States and the Philadelphia area, not seasonally adjusted, March 2012 to March 2014**



Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics.

Philadelphia is 1 of 15 metropolitan areas in the United States, and 1 of 3 areas in the Northeast region of the country, for which locality compensation cost data are now available. Philadelphia's over-the-year increase of 1.6 percent in total compensation ranked 8th (tied with Chicago and Minneapolis) of the 15 published areas in March 2014. Among the other areas, percent changes in total compensation ranged from 3.6 percent in San Jose to 1.2 percent in Atlanta from March 2013 to March 2014. With an increase of 1.4 percent, Philadelphia also ranked 8th, (tied with Minneapolis and Washington) in wage and salary gains over the year. Growth rates in wages and salaries among the other metropolitan areas ranged from 3.4 percent in San Jose to 0.7 percent in Atlanta. (See [chart 2](#).)

**Chart 2. Percent change in the Employment Cost Index for total compensation and for wages and salaries, private industry workers, United States and localities, not seasonally adjusted, March 2013 to March 2014**



Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics.

When compared with the two other Northeastern metropolitan areas, the annual increase in total compensation costs in Philadelphia in March 2014 (1.6 percent) was below the gain in Boston (2.0 percent), but above that in New York (1.4 percent). Similarly, Philadelphia's 1.4-percent gain in wages and salaries over this 12-month period was below Boston's 2.2 percent, but exceeded the 1.2-percent advance in New York. (See [table 2](#).)

Locality compensation costs are part of the national Employment Cost Index (ECI), which measures quarterly changes in total compensation costs, including wages, salaries and employer costs for employee benefits. In addition to the 15 locality estimates provided in this release, ECI data for the nation, 4 geographical regions, and 9 geographical divisions are available. (Geographical definitions for the metropolitan areas mentioned in this release are included in the Technical Note..)

In addition to the geographic data, a comprehensive national report is available that provides data by industry, occupational group, and union status, as well as for both private, and state and local government employees. The ECI for the nation, regions, and divisions for June 2014 will be released on Thursday, July 31, 2014, at 8:30 a.m. (ET). Information from the Employment Cost Index program is available to sensory impaired individuals upon request. Voice phone: (202) 691-5200, Federal Relay Service: (800) 877-8339.

**Corrections to ECI Data Series** Some Employment Cost Index data from September 2012 through March 2013 were corrected on June 26, 2013. (Seasonally adjusted estimates were subject to corrections back to March 2008.) For further information see: [www.bls.gov/bls/eci\\_corrections\\_043013.htm](http://www.bls.gov/bls/eci_corrections_043013.htm)

### Technical Note

The Employment Cost Index (ECI) is a measure of the change in the cost of labor, free from the influence of employment shifts among occupations and industries. The total compensation series includes changes in wages and salaries and employer costs for employee benefits.

Wages and salaries are defined as straight-time average hourly earnings or, for workers not paid on an hourly basis, straight-time earnings divided by the corresponding hours. Straight-time wage and salary rates are total earnings before payroll deductions, excluding premium pay for overtime, work on weekends and holidays, and shift differentials. Production bonuses, incentive earnings, commission payments, and cost-of-living adjustments are included in straight-time earnings, whereas nonproduction bonuses (such as Christmas or year-end bonuses) are excluded. Also excluded are such items as payments-in-kind, free room and board, and tips.

### Selection of areas

Based on available resources and the existing ECI sample, it was determined that estimates would be published for 14 metropolitan areas. Since the ECI sample sizes by area are directly related to area employment, the areas with the largest private industry employment as of the year 2000 were selected. For each of these areas, 12-month percent changes and associated standard areas were computed for the periods since December 2006. (Note: The Seattle-Tacoma-Olympia area was added to the list in September 2009 to make a total of 15 metropolitan areas.)

### The metropolitan area definitions of the 15 published localities are listed below.

**Atlanta-Sandy Springs-Gainesville, Ga.-Ala. Combined Statistical Area (CSA)** includes Barrow, Bartow, Butts, Carroll, Cherokee, Clayton, Cobb, Coweta, Dawson, DeKalb, Douglas, Fayette, Forsyth, Fulton, Gwinnett, Hall, Haralson, Heard, Henry, Jasper, Lamar, Meriwether, Newton, Paulding, Pickens, Pike, Polk, Rockdale, Spalding, Troup, Upson, and Walton Counties in Georgia and Chambers County in Alabama.

**Boston-Worcester-Manchester, Mass.-N.H. CSA** includes Essex, Middlesex, Norfolk, Plymouth, Suffolk, and Worcester Counties in Massachusetts and Belknap, Hillsborough, Merrimack, Rockingham, and Strafford Counties in New Hampshire.

**Chicago-Naperville-Michigan City, Ill.-Ind.-Wis. CSA** includes Cook, DeKalb, DuPage, Grundy, Kane, Kankakee, Kendall, Lake, McHenry, and Will Counties in Illinois; Jasper, Lake, LaPorte, Newton, and Porter Counties in Indiana; and Kenosha County in Wisconsin.

**Dallas-Fort Worth, Texas CSA** includes Collin, Cooke, Dallas, Delta, Denton, Ellis, Henderson, Hood, Hunt, Johnson, Kaufman, Palo Pinto, Parker, Rockwall, Somervell, Tarrant, and Wise Counties in Texas.

**Detroit-Warren-Flint, Mich. CSA** includes Genesee, Lapeer, Livingston, Macomb, Monroe, Oakland, St. Clair, Washtenaw, and Wayne Counties in Michigan.

**Houston-Baytown-Huntsville, Texas CSA** includes Austin, Brazoria, Chambers, Fort Bend, Galveston, Harris, Liberty, Matagorda, Montgomery, San Jacinto, Walker, and Waller Counties in Texas.

**Los Angeles-Long Beach-Riverside, Calif. CSA** includes Los Angeles, Orange, Riverside, San Bernardino, and Ventura Counties in California.

**Miami-Fort Lauderdale-Pompano Beach, Fla. Metropolitan Statistical Area (MSA)** includes Broward, Miami-Dade, and Palm Beach Counties in Florida.

**Minneapolis-St. Paul-St. Cloud, Minn.-Wis. CSA** includes Anoka, Benton, Carver, Chisago, Dakota, Goodhue, Hennepin, Isanti, McLeod, Ramsey, Rice, Scott, Sherburne, Stearns, Washington, and Wright Counties in Minnesota and Pierce and St. Croix Counties in Wisconsin.

**New York-Newark-Bridgeport, N.Y.-N.J.-Conn.-Pa. CSA** includes Bronx, Dutchess, Kings, Nassau, New York, Orange, Putnam, Queens, Richmond, Rockland, Suffolk, Ulster, and Westchester Counties in New York; Bergen, Essex, Hudson, Hunterdon, Mercer, Middlesex, Monmouth, Morris, Ocean, Passaic, Somerset, Sussex, and Union Counties in New Jersey; Fairfield, Litchfield, and New Haven Counties in Connecticut; and Pike County in Pennsylvania.

**Philadelphia-Camden-Vineland, Pa.-N.J.-Del.-Md. CSA** includes Bucks, Chester, Delaware, Montgomery, and Philadelphia Counties in Pennsylvania; Burlington, Camden, Cumberland, Gloucester, and Salem Counties in New Jersey; New Castle County in Delaware; and Cecil County in Maryland.

**Phoenix-Mesa-Scottsdale, Ariz. MSA** includes Maricopa and Pinal Counties in Arizona.

**San Jose-San Francisco-Oakland, Calif. CSA** includes Alameda, Contra Costa, Marin, Napa, San Benito, San Francisco, San Mateo, Santa Clara, Santa Cruz, Solano and Sonoma Counties in California.

**Seattle-Tacoma-Olympia, Wash. CSA** includes Island, King, Kitsap, Mason, Pierce, Snohomish, and Thurston Counties in Washington.

**Washington-Baltimore-Northern Virginia, D.C.-Md.-Va.-W.Va. CSA** includes the District of Columbia; Baltimore City and Anne Arundel, Baltimore, Calvert, Carroll, Charles, Frederick, Harford, Howard, Montgomery, Prince George's, Queen Anne's, and St. Mary's Counties in Maryland; Alexandria, Fairfax, Falls Church, Fredericksburg, Manassas, Manassas Park, and Winchester Cities and Arlington, Clarke, Fairfax, Fauquier, Frederick, Loudoun, Prince William, Spotsylvania, Stafford, and Warren Counties in Virginia; and Hampshire and Jefferson Counties in West Virginia.

**Definitions of the four geographic regions of the country are noted below.**

**Northeast:** Connecticut, Maine, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New York, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, and Vermont.

**South:** Alabama, Arkansas, Delaware, the District of Columbia, Florida, Georgia, Kentucky, Louisiana, Maryland, Mississippi, North Carolina, Oklahoma, South Carolina, Tennessee, Texas, Virginia, and West Virginia.

**Midwest:** Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri, Nebraska, North Dakota, Ohio, South Dakota, and Wisconsin.

**West:** Alaska, Arizona, California, Colorado, Hawaii, Idaho, Montana, Nevada, New Mexico, Oregon, Utah, Washington, and Wyoming.

**Table 1. Employment Cost Index for compensation and for wages and salaries, private industry workers, United States, Northeast region, and the Philadelphia area, not seasonally adjusted**

Area	Total compensation 12-month percent changes for period ended—				Wages and salaries 12-month percent changes for period ended—			
	March	June	September	December	March	June	September	December
<b>United States</b>								
2010.....	1.6	1.9	2.0	2.1	1.5	1.6	1.6	1.8
2011.....	2.0	2.3	2.1	2.2	1.6	1.7	1.7	1.6
2012.....	2.1	1.8	1.9	1.8	1.9	1.8	1.8	1.7
2013.....	1.9	1.9	1.9	2.0	1.7	1.9	1.8	2.1
2014.....	1.7				1.7			
<b>Northeast</b>								
2010.....	1.8	2.3	2.2	2.3	1.6	2.1	1.9	2.1
2011.....	2.3	2.3	2.3	2.2	1.8	1.8	1.8	1.7
2012.....	1.8	1.6	1.6	1.5	1.8	1.6	1.6	1.5
2013.....	1.9	2.0	1.8	2.0	1.6	1.7	1.7	1.8
2014.....	1.5				1.5			
<b>Philadelphia-Camden-Vineland</b>								
2010.....	1.4	2.3	2.4	2.4	0.6	1.4	1.4	1.4
2011.....	2.8	2.1	2.8	2.8	1.9	1.4	2.2	2.3
2012.....	2.1	2.1	1.5	1.8	2.3	2.4	2.0	2.4
2013.....	2.3	2.6	2.8	2.2	2.5	2.4	2.3	1.7
2014.....	1.6				1.4			

**Table 2. Employment Cost Index for compensation and for wages and salaries, private industry workers, United States, geographical regions, and localities, not seasonally adjusted**

Area	Total compensation			Wages and salaries		
	12-month percent changes for period ended—			12-month percent changes for period ended—		
	March 2013	December 2013	March 2014	March 2013	December 2013	March 2014
United States .....	1.9	2.0	1.7	1.7	2.1	1.7
Northeast.....	1.9	2.0	1.5	1.6	1.8	1.5
Boston-Worcester-Manchester.....	1.6	2.0	2.0	1.5	2.2	2.2
New York-Newark-Bridgeport.....	2.2	1.8	1.4	1.7	1.3	1.2
Philadelphia-Camden-Vineland.....	2.3	2.2	1.6	2.5	1.7	1.4
South.....	2.2	2.0	1.7	2.3	2.0	1.7
Atlanta-Sandy Springs-Gainesville.....	4.3	2.0	1.2	4.1	1.5	0.7
Dallas-Fort Worth.....	1.6	3.3	2.2	1.8	3.5	2.7
Houston-Baytown-Huntsville.....	2.0	2.0	1.8	2.1	2.3	2.4
Miami-Fort Lauderdale-Pompano Beach.....	1.9	1.9	1.7	1.8	2.4	2.3
Washington-Baltimore-Northern Virginia.....	2.2	1.7	1.5	2.2	1.8	1.4
Midwest.....	1.5	1.6	1.7	1.5	1.8	1.6
Chicago-Naperville-Michigan City.....	1.7	1.6	1.6	1.4	2.2	1.8
Detroit-Warren-Flint.....	1.9	1.7	1.8	2.5	2.0	1.1
Minneapolis-St. Paul-St. Cloud.....	1.4	2.0	1.6	1.2	1.6	1.4
West.....	1.6	2.4	2.1	1.5	2.4	2.0
Los Angeles-Long Beach-Riverside.....	2.0	1.7	1.3	1.7	1.7	1.1
Phoenix-Mesa-Scottsdale.....	0.9	1.5	1.4	2.1	2.0	1.2
San Jose-San Francisco-Oakland.....	2.7	2.6	3.6	2.8	2.4	3.4
Seattle-Tacoma-Olympia.....	3.3	1.7	1.7	2.1	1.8	1.7