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## **County Employment and Wages in Maryland – Second Quarter 2015**

### **Average Weekly Wage in Montgomery County Ranks 17th in the Nation**

Employment rose in all eight large counties in Maryland from June 2014 to June 2015, 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 2014 annual average employment.) Sheila Watkins, the Bureau's regional commissioner, noted that Frederick County recorded the largest employment gain, up 2.4 percent over the year. Prince George's County and Baltimore City recorded the smallest gains, at 0.8 percent each.

Nationally, employment rose 2.0 percent during this 12-month period as 319 of the largest 342 U.S. counties gained jobs. Utah, Utah, posted the largest employment gain, rising 7.5 percent over the year. Ector, Texas, had the largest over-the-year percentage decrease in employment with a loss of 4.2 percent.

Among the eight largest counties in Maryland, employment was highest in Montgomery County (466,628) in June 2015. Three other counties—Baltimore, Baltimore City, and Prince George's—had employment levels exceeding 300,000. Together, Maryland's large counties accounted for 80.1 percent of total employment within the state. Nationwide, the 342 largest counties made up 72.1 percent of total U.S. employment.

Howard County recorded the fastest over-the-year wage growth among Maryland's eight large counties, rising 3.5 percent from the second quarter of 2014 to the second quarter of 2015, followed by Montgomery County at 3.2 percent. Montgomery County reported the highest average weekly wage among the state's large counties at \$1,287. Four other counties had weekly wages above \$1,000—Howard (\$1,175), Baltimore City (\$1,094), Anne Arundel (\$1,021), and Prince George's (\$1,002). (See [table 1.](#)) Nationally, the average weekly wage rose 3.0 percent over the year to \$968 in the second quarter of 2015.

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 2014 to the second quarter of 2015, Howard and Montgomery Counties were the only large counties in Maryland to record a wage increase greater than the national gain of 3.0 percent; Anne Arundel County and Baltimore City had wage gains greater than 2.0 percent. Prince George's County recorded the lowest wage increase at 0.8 percent. No large county in Maryland recorded an over-the-year wage decrease. (See [table 1.](#))

Among the 342 largest counties nationwide, 323 had over-the-year increases in average weekly wages. Ventura, Calif., had the largest wage gain, up 15.2 percent. Santa Clara, Calif., was second with a gain of 11.3 percent, followed by Forsyth, N.C., at 10.9 percent.

Only 16 large counties nationwide experienced over-the-year declines in average weekly wages, led by Olmstead, Minn., with a loss of 5.2 percent. Ector, Texas, had the second-largest decline at 5.1 percent, followed by Midland, Texas (-3.2 percent); Hillsborough, N.H. (-2.6 percent); and Lorain, Ohio (-2.1 percent).

### **Large county average weekly wages**

Average weekly wages in 5 of Maryland's 8 large counties were above the U.S. average of \$968, led by Montgomery County (\$1,287), which ranked 17<sup>th</sup> for wage level among the 342 largest U.S. counties in the second quarter of 2015. Two other Maryland counties placed in the top 50 nationwide for wage level—Howard (\$1,175, 32<sup>nd</sup>) and Baltimore City (\$1,094, 48<sup>th</sup>). Anne Arundel and Prince George's Counties ranked 74<sup>th</sup> and 84<sup>th</sup>, respectively. The average weekly wages in Maryland's three 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 weekly wage of \$1,182. Worcester County reported the lowest weekly wage in the state, averaging \$558 in the second quarter of 2015. (See [table 2](#).)

When all 24 counties in Maryland were considered, 18 had wages below the national average of \$968. Five 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 located in the Baltimore metropolitan area, while one was located in the Washington, D.C., metropolitan area. Three of the five 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/](http://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 2013 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 2014 version of the national news release. Tables and additional content from *Employment and Wages Annual Averages 2013* are now available online at [www.bls.gov/cew/publications/employment-and-wages-annual-averages/2013/home.htm](http://www.bls.gov/cew/publications/employment-and-wages-annual-averages/2013/home.htm). The 2014 edition of *Employment and Wages Annual Averages Online* will be available later in 2015.

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 9.6 million employer reports cover 140.6 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/](http://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 employment and wages in the United States and the 8 largest counties in Maryland, second quarter 2015**

Area	Employment			Average weekly wage <sup>(1)</sup>			
	June 2015 (thousands)	Percent change, June 2014-15 <sup>(2)</sup>	National ranking by percent change <sup>(3)</sup>	Average weekly wage	National ranking by level <sup>(3)</sup>	Percent change, second quarter 2014-15 <sup>(2)</sup>	National ranking by percent change <sup>(3)</sup>
United States <sup>(4)</sup> .....	140,594.9	2.0	--	\$968	--	3.0	--
Maryland.....	2,631.3	1.4	--	1,046	7	2.6	23
Anne Arundel, Md. ....	263.1	1.4	220	1,021	74	2.8	132
Baltimore City, Md. ....	335.0	0.8	275	1,094	48	2.4	180
Baltimore, Md. ....	374.1	1.3	226	952	118	1.2	289
Frederick, Md. ....	100.1	2.4	130	911	152	1.2	289
Harford, Md. ....	91.3	0.9	265	959	107	1.7	252
Howard, Md. ....	167.2	1.8	172	1,175	32	3.5	75
Montgomery, Md.....	466.6	1.0	256	1,287	17	3.2	96
Prince George's, Md.....	311.1	0.8	275	1,002	84	0.8	307

Footnotes:

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

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

(3) Ranking does not include data for Puerto Rico or the Virgin Islands.

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

NOTE: Data are preliminary. Covered employment and wages includes workers covered by Unemployment Insurance (UI) and Unemployment Compensation for Federal Employees (UCFE) programs.

**Table 2. Covered employment and wages in the United States and all of the counties in Maryland, second quarter 2015**

Area	Employment June 2015 (thousands)	Average weekly wage <sup>(1)</sup>
United States <sup>(2)</sup> .....	140,594,927	\$968
Maryland.....	2,631,332	1,046
Allegany.....	29,088	681
Anne Arundel.....	263,130	1,021
Baltimore County.....	374,103	952
Baltimore City.....	335,021	1,094
Calvert.....	23,201	838
Caroline.....	9,418	738
Carroll.....	57,504	778
Cecil.....	31,591	864
Charles.....	42,442	791
Dorchester.....	11,541	703
Frederick.....	100,110	911
Garrett.....	12,101	621
Harford.....	91,299	959
Howard.....	167,244	1,175
Kent.....	8,583	681
Montgomery.....	466,628	1,287
Prince George's.....	311,090	1,002
Queen Anne's.....	14,929	693
St. Mary's.....	43,648	1,182
Somerset.....	6,940	767
Talbot.....	19,483	724
Washington.....	67,948	755
Wicomico.....	45,580	814
Worcester.....	30,250	558

Footnotes:

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

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

NOTE: Covered employment and wages include workers covered by Unemployment Insurance (UI) and Unemployment Compensation for Federal Employees (UCFE) programs. Data are preliminary.

**Table 3. Covered employment and wages by state, second quarter 2015**

State	Employment		Average weekly wage <sup>(1)</sup>			
	June 2015 (thousands)	Percent change, June 2014-15	Average weekly wage	National ranking by level	Percent change, second quarter 2014-15	National ranking by percent change
United States <sup>(2)</sup> .....	140,594.9	2.0	\$968	--	3.0	--
Alabama .....	1,899.3	1.3	819	37	1.6	41
Alaska .....	346.6	0.4	1,028	8	2.4	30
Arizona .....	2,549.9	2.5	904	21	1.8	39
Arkansas .....	1,184.6	1.7	762	47	2.1	35
California .....	16,338.9	2.8	1,131	5	5.5	1
Colorado .....	2,517.1	3.2	989	13	3.0	13
Connecticut .....	1,693.1	0.9	1,177	4	2.0	38
Delaware .....	439.1	2.2	991	12	1.5	42
District of Columbia .....	745.1	1.8	1,599	1	1.8	39
Florida .....	7,907.7	3.6	861	28	2.6	23
Georgia .....	4,167.8	3.4	903	22	2.4	30
Hawaii .....	635.9	1.6	876	24	3.8	6
Idaho .....	678.5	2.9	713	50	2.3	33
Illinois .....	5,925.5	1.5	1,015	10	2.6	23
Indiana .....	2,966.0	1.7	811	40	3.4	7
Iowa .....	1,561.2	0.9	802	43	2.8	18
Kansas .....	1,382.1	0.7	819	37	2.8	18
Kentucky .....	1,850.5	1.7	822	35	3.0	13
Louisiana .....	1,930.6	0.5	850	30	0.8	47
Maine .....	615.8	0.8	768	46	2.9	16
Maryland .....	2,631.3	1.4	1,046	7	2.6	23
Massachusetts .....	3,488.3	2.1	1,211	2	4.7	2
Michigan .....	4,225.0	1.5	916	20	2.1	35
Minnesota .....	2,826.3	1.5	977	15	3.2	8
Mississippi .....	1,114.7	1.1	709	51	0.6	48
Missouri .....	2,746.6	1.7	842	32	2.8	18
Montana .....	461.5	1.8	754	48	2.7	21
Nebraska .....	968.7	1.2	787	44	4.1	3
Nevada .....	1,248.1	3.2	855	29	2.6	23
New Hampshire .....	647.7	1.5	967	16	1.3	46
New Jersey .....	4,000.2	1.5	1,126	6	2.6	23
New Mexico .....	808.4	0.8	805	41	1.4	44
New York .....	9,136.9	1.9	1,180	3	3.1	9
North Carolina .....	4,185.6	2.6	850	30	3.9	4
North Dakota .....	445.0	-1.8	939	18	0.3	50
Ohio .....	5,308.1	1.4	865	26	2.4	30
Oklahoma .....	1,591.5	0.6	818	39	0.5	49
Oregon .....	1,810.4	3.4	899	23	3.0	13
Pennsylvania .....	5,763.9	0.8	958	17	2.7	21
Rhode Island .....	480.0	1.5	925	19	2.9	16
South Carolina .....	1,963.5	2.5	782	45	2.1	35
South Dakota .....	428.6	1.3	740	49	3.9	4
Tennessee .....	2,832.1	2.8	863	27	3.1	9
Texas .....	11,689.4	2.4	988	14	1.5	42
Utah .....	1,345.9	3.9	821	36	3.1	9
Vermont .....	309.3	0.6	831	34	2.2	34
Virginia .....	3,767.2	1.7	1,000	11	2.5	29
Washington .....	3,197.6	3.3	1,026	9	3.1	9
West Virginia .....	706.5	-0.8	803	42	1.4	44
Wisconsin .....	2,839.8	1.0	836	33	2.6	23
Wyoming .....	291.5	-1.5	869	25	-0.1	51
Puerto Rico .....	884.6	-1.4	513	(3)	2.0	(3)

Note: See footnotes at end of table.

**Table 3. Covered employment and wages by state, second quarter 2015 - Continued**

State	Employment		Average weekly wage <sup>(1)</sup>			
	June 2015 (thousands)	Percent change, June 2014-15	Average weekly wage	National ranking by level	Percent change, second quarter 2014-15	National ranking by percent change
Virgin Islands .....	37.9	0.1	748	(3)	2.2	(3)

Footnotes:

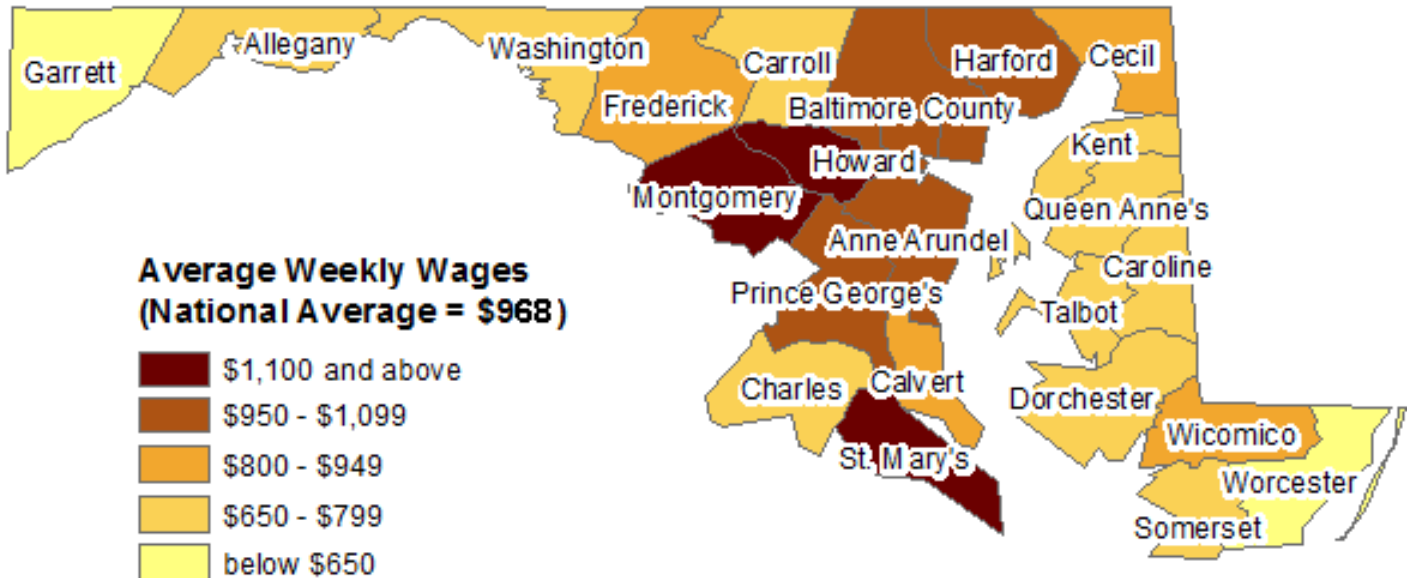
(1) Average weekly wages were calculated using unrounded data.

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

(3) Data not included in the national ranking.

NOTE: Data are preliminary. Covered employment and wages includes workers covered by Unemployment Insurance (UI) and Unemployment Compensation for Federal Employees (UCFE) programs.

**Chart 1. Average weekly wages by county in Maryland, second quarter 2015**



NOTE: Data are preliminary.

SOURCE: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics.