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## **County Employment and Wages in Washington, DC — Second Quarter 2020** **Average weekly wages ranked 6th in the Nation**

The average weekly wage in Washington, DC, increased 11.7 percent from the second quarter of 2019 to the second quarter of 2020, the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics reported today. Nationally, the average weekly wage rose 8.6 percent over the year. (Large counties are those with annual average employment levels of 75,000 or more in 2019.) Maureen McDevitt Greene, the Bureau's acting regional commissioner, noted that the average weekly wage in Washington, DC, ranked sixth-highest in the nation in the second quarter of 2020, at \$1,987. (See [table 1.](#)) Nationally, weekly wages averaged \$1,188.

Washington, DC, employment declined 10.0 percent over the year, to 701,700 in June 2020. Nationally, employment declined 9.4 percent over the 12-month period. The rate of employment change in Washington, DC, ranked 211<sup>th</sup> among the nation's 357 largest counties.

### **Large county wage changes**

Over the year, the 11.7-percent wage growth in Washington, DC, ranked 52<sup>nd</sup> among the 357 largest U.S. counties. Among the 357 largest counties in the United States, 352 had over-the-year wage increases. The increases in average weekly wages largely reflect substantial employment loss among lower-paid industries. Atlantic, NJ, had the largest percentage wage increase (+22.5 percent). Five large counties had wage declines during the period. Ector, TX, had the largest over-the-year percentage decrease (-6.6 percent).

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

Nationally, average weekly wages were higher than the U.S. average in 101 of the 357 largest counties. Santa Clara, CA, had the highest average weekly wage at \$3,045. San Mateo, CA, was second with an average weekly wage of \$2,812. There were 255 large counties with an average weekly wage below the national average in the second quarter of 2020. The lowest average weekly wage was in Cameron, TX (\$698).

### **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 [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 2019 edition of this publication was published in September 2020. Tables and additional content from the 2019 edition of *Employment and Wages Annual Averages Online* are available at [www.bls.gov/cew/publications/employment-and-wages-annual-averages/2019/home.htm](http://www.bls.gov/cew/publications/employment-and-wages-annual-averages/2019/home.htm). The 2020 edition of *Employment and Wages Annual Averages Online* will be available in September 2021.

**The County Employment and Wages release for third quarter 2020 is scheduled to be released on Wednesday, February 24, 2021. The County Employment and Wages full data update for third quarter 2020 is scheduled to be released on Tuesday, March 9, 2021.**

### **Coronavirus (COVID-19) Pandemic Impact on Second Quarter 2020 QCEW Data**

Response rate tables for the second quarter of 2020 are available at [www.bls.gov/covid19/county-employment-and-wages-covid-19-impact-second-quarter-2020.htm](http://www.bls.gov/covid19/county-employment-and-wages-covid-19-impact-second-quarter-2020.htm). For more information about the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic on QCEW data, see [www.bls.gov/covid19/effects-of-covid-19-pandemic-on-county-employment-and-wages-data.htm](http://www.bls.gov/covid19/effects-of-covid-19-pandemic-on-county-employment-and-wages-data.htm).

### **Special Notice: Imputation Methodology Improvements**

QCEW implemented improvements to imputation methodology, effective with second quarter 2020 processing. For more information on QCEW imputation methodology and the impact of the improved methods, see [www.bls.gov/cew/additional-resources/imputation-methodology.htm](http://www.bls.gov/cew/additional-resources/imputation-methodology.htm).

### **Special Notice: Business Response Survey**

The U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics has developed new data on how U.S. businesses changed their operations and employment since the onset of the novel coronavirus through September 2020. Data for the Business Response Survey to the Coronavirus Pandemic are scheduled to be released on December 7, 2020 at 11:00 AM Eastern. For more information, please visit: [www.bls.gov/brs/](http://www.bls.gov/brs/).

### **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 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/publications/employment-and-wages-annual-averages/2019/home.htm](http://www.bls.gov/cew/publications/employment-and-wages-annual-averages/2019/home.htm); 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.

Information in this release will be made available to individuals with sensory impairments upon request. Voice phone: (202) 691-5200; Federal Relay Service: (800) 877-8339.

**Table 1. Covered employment and wages in the top 10 counties ranked by average weekly wage, second quarter 2020**

Area	Employment		Average weekly wage <sup>(1)</sup>			
	June 2020 (thousands)	Percent change, June 2019-20 <sup>(2)</sup>	Average weekly wage	National Ranking by level	Percent change, second quarter 2019-20 <sup>(2)</sup>	National Ranking by percent change
United States <sup>(3)</sup> .....	135,114.4	-9.4	\$1,188	--	8.6	--
Santa Clara, CA .....	1,022.00	-9.1	3,045	1	16.5	6
San Mateo, CA .....	372.7	-10.6	2,812	2	18.1	4
San Francisco, CA .....	663.4	-12.8	2,643	3	8.6	156
New York, NY .....	2,048.70	-18.8	2,427	4	14.9	11
Suffolk, MA .....	611.3	-13.6	2,053	5	13.4	21
Washington, DC .....	701.7	-10	1,987	6	11.7	52
King, WA.....	1,312.90	-8.9	1,945	7	13.9	18
Arlington, VA.....	170.3	-8.9	1,926	8	12.2	40
Middlesex, MA.....	835.4	-12.3	1,880	9	14	16
Somerset, NJ.....	169	-13	1,780	10	9.7	109

Footnotes:

(1) Average weekly wages were calculated using unrounded data

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

(3) 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 2. Covered employment and wages by state, second quarter 2020**

State	Establishments, second quarter 2020 (thousands)	Employment		Average weekly wage <sup>(1)</sup>			
		June 2020 (thousands)	Percent change, June 2019– 20	Second quarter 2020	National ranking by level	Percent change, second quarter 2019–20	National ranking by percent change
United States <sup>(2)</sup> .....	10,451.0	135,114.4	-9.4	\$1,188	--	8.6	--
Alabama .....	131.2	1,868.7	-6.4	964	40	5.9	42
Alaska.....	22.7	296.2	-12.7	1,195	14	11.2	11
Arizona .....	170.7	2,708.4	-5.1	1,090	22	7.9	30
Arkansas .....	93.0	1,156.5	-5.5	924	47	7.3	33
California .....	1,633.1	15,911.2	-10.2	1,468	4	10.9	12
Colorado .....	216.4	2,545.9	-8.0	1,226	9	8.7	25
Connecticut .....	123.4	1,483.6	-12.3	1,407	6	11.3	9
Delaware .....	34.5	416.0	-9.3	1,156	17	9.0	22
District of Columbia .....	41.7	701.8	-10.0	1,987	1	11.7	7
Florida .....	738.0	8,113.8	-7.1	1,032	28	6.6	40
Georgia.....	307.2	4,196.0	-7.0	1,075	23	5.7	44
Hawaii.....	45.9	524.9	-20.1	1,108	21	12.0	6
Idaho .....	67.9	748.3	-2.3	882	50	7.6	32
Illinois .....	379.6	5,391.8	-11.3	1,218	10	8.6	26
Indiana.....	171.6	2,865.7	-7.3	960	41	5.6	45
Iowa.....	104.7	1,458.8	-8.0	978	36	8.4	27
Kansas .....	90.0	1,306.0	-7.0	969	38	7.1	34
Kentucky.....	125.4	1,754.0	-8.2	970	37	6.4	41
Louisiana .....	137.8	1,710.1	-11.0	985	34	6.7	39
Maine.....	53.8	572.5	-10.8	980	35	12.3	5
Maryland.....	175.8	2,430.3	-11.2	1,305	8	10.7	13
Massachusetts .....	263.1	3,178.8	-14.3	1,570	2	14.0	1
Michigan .....	268.5	3,850.9	-12.9	1,114	20	9.5	16
Minnesota.....	185.4	2,644.6	-10.5	1,200	13	9.0	22
Mississippi .....	73.8	1,063.1	-6.4	812	51	5.9	42
Missouri .....	215.9	2,622.2	-7.5	1,015	32	7.1	34
Montana .....	51.5	459.5	-4.9	919	48	9.1	19
Nebraska .....	72.9	932.3	-6.0	960	41	8.0	28
Nevada .....	85.9	1,191.6	-15.4	1,048	26	9.1	19
New Hampshire.....	54.8	605.4	-10.5	1,215	12	11.5	8
New Jersey.....	284.1	3,570.3	-14.6	1,376	7	11.3	9
New Mexico.....	62.4	757.0	-9.4	958	43	7.8	31
New York .....	652.0	8,142.6	-15.9	1,520	3	12.8	4
North Carolina .....	296.2	4,205.4	-6.9	1,038	27	6.9	37
North Dakota .....	32.4	390.1	-9.7	1,061	24	3.3	51
Ohio.....	302.3	5,049.8	-8.0	1,031	29	7.0	36
Oklahoma .....	112.1	1,521.3	-6.3	940	44	4.4	49
Oregon .....	160.9	1,789.3	-9.6	1,143	19	10.3	15
Pennsylvania.....	362.8	5,314.5	-11.1	1,170	16	9.2	18
Rhode Island .....	39.5	429.3	-13.2	1,172	15	13.1	3
South Carolina.....	144.4	1,991.0	-7.2	928	46	6.9	37
South Dakota.....	34.7	415.9	-5.9	912	49	9.0	22
Tennessee .....	171.1	2,847.2	-6.6	1,016	31	5.3	46
Texas .....	727.4	11,807.1	-6.3	1,156	17	5.0	47
Utah.....	111.6	1,474.8	-3.0	1,017	30	9.1	19
Vermont.....	26.1	271.8	-13.6	1,055	25	13.6	2
Virginia.....	283.3	3,635.2	-8.8	1,218	10	9.4	17
Washington.....	253.8	3,207.1	-8.4	1,424	5	10.6	14
West Virginia .....	51.3	634.9	-9.4	933	45	4.9	48
Wisconsin .....	179.2	2,690.0	-8.7	1,014	33	8.0	28
Wyoming .....	27.2	260.5	-9.6	965	39	3.7	50
Puerto Rico.....	46.1	798.7	-7.9	556	(3)	4.7	(3)

Note: See footnotes at end of table.

**Table 2. Covered employment and wages by state, second quarter 2020 - Continued**

State	Establishments, second quarter 2020 (thousands)	Employment		Average weekly wage <sup>(1)</sup>			
		June 2020 (thousands)	Percent change, June 2019– 20	Second quarter 2020	National ranking by level	Percent change, second quarter 2019–20	National ranking by percent change
Virgin Islands.....	3.4	35.4	-7.0	1,016	(3)	6.9	(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.