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MID-ATLANTIC INFORMATION OFFICE: Philadelphia, Pa.

Technical information: (215) 597-3282 BLSInfoPhiladelphia@bls.gov [www.bls.gov/regions/mid-atlantic](http://www.bls.gov/regions/mid-atlantic)

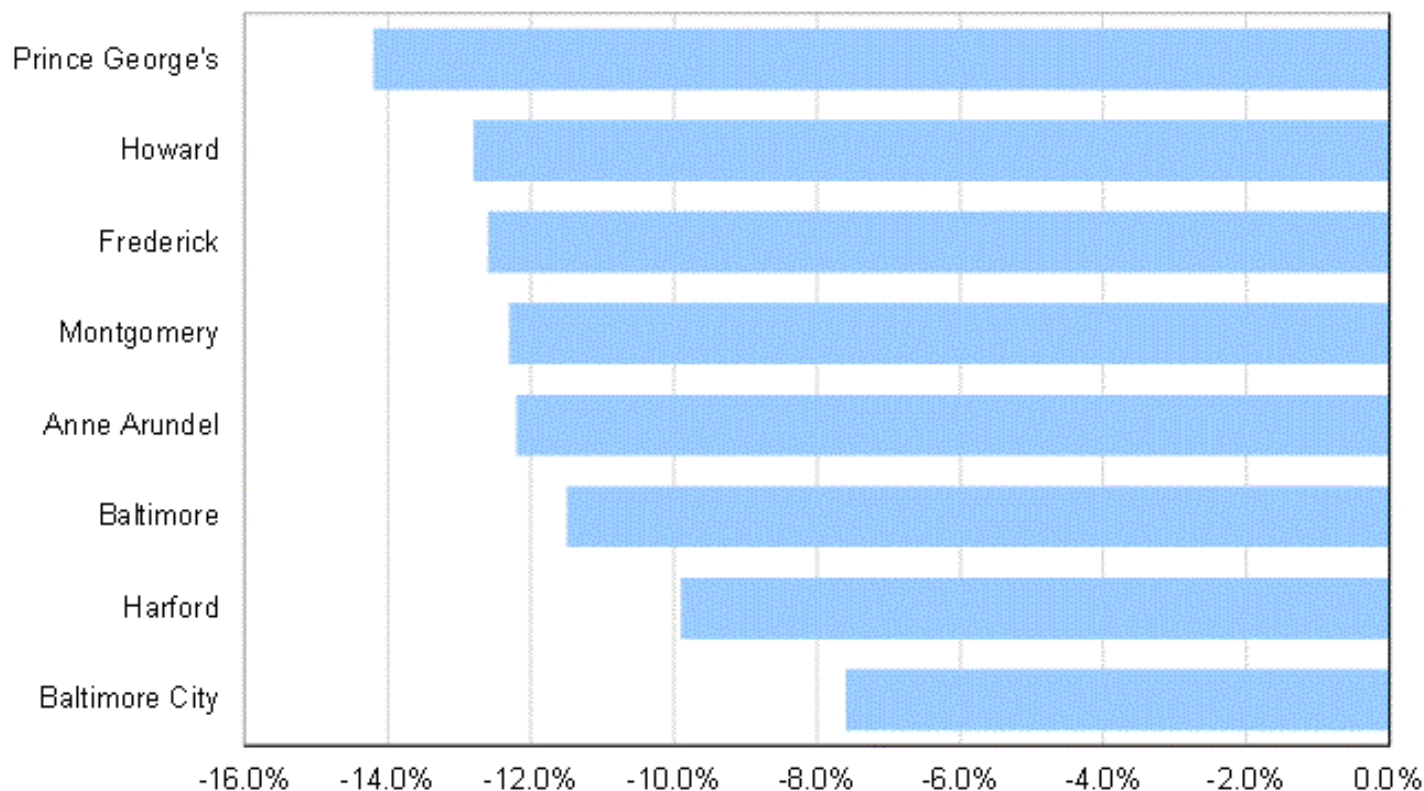
Media contact: (215) 861-5600 BLSMediaPhiladelphia@bls.gov

## County Employment and Wages in Maryland – Second Quarter 2020

### All large counties in Maryland had average weekly wage increases over the year

Employment decreased in all eight large counties in Maryland from June 2019 to June 2020, the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics reported today. (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 Prince George's County had the largest employment decline, down 14.2 percent over the year. (See [chart 1](#) and [table 1](#).)

Chart 1. Over-the-year percent change in covered employment among the largest counties in Maryland, June 2020



Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics.

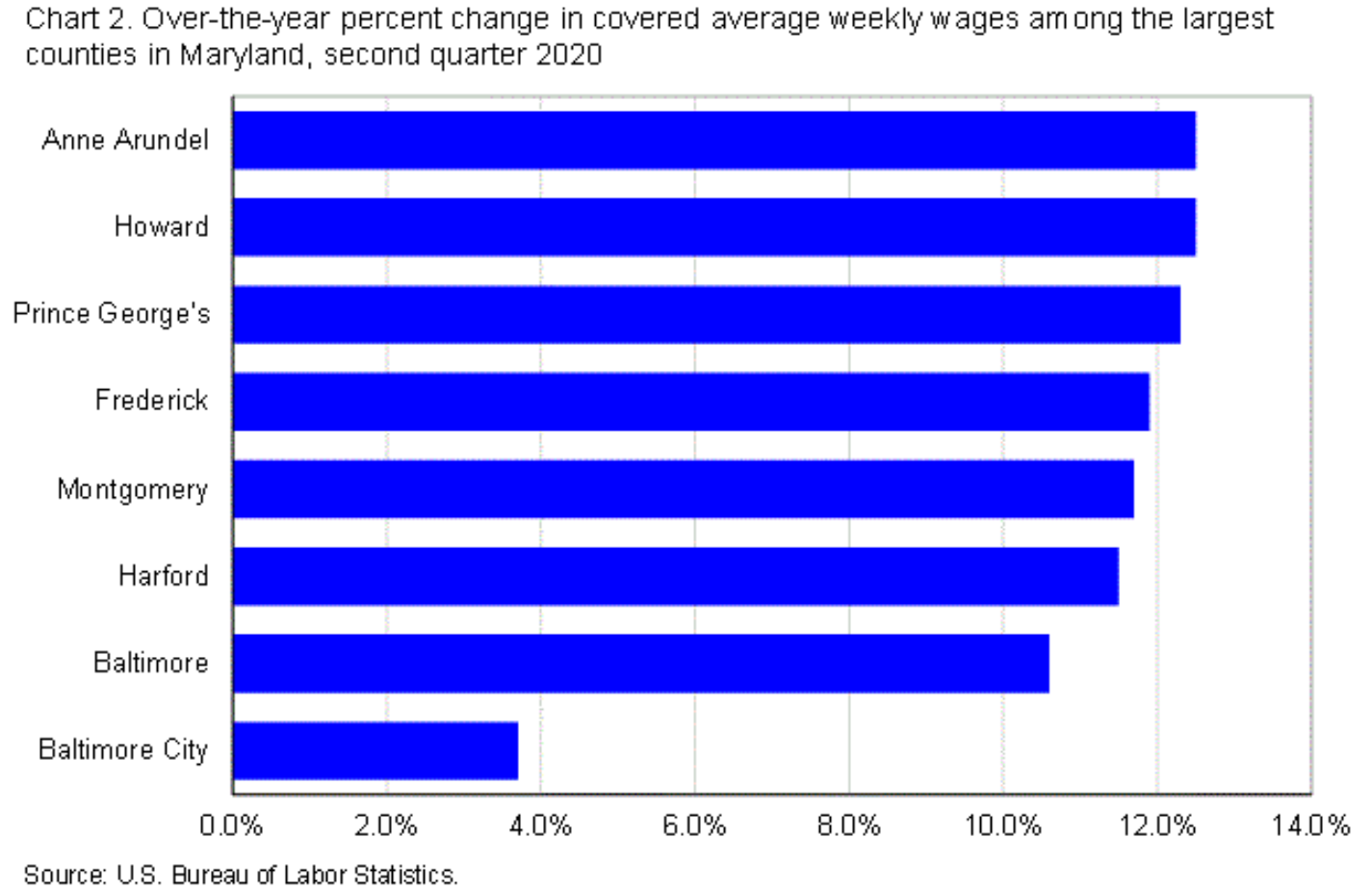
National employment decreased 9.4 percent over the year, with all of the 357 largest U.S. counties reporting declines. Atlantic, NJ, had the largest over-the-year decrease in employment with a loss of 34.2 percent.

Among the eight largest counties in Maryland, employment was highest in Montgomery County (420,800) in June 2020. Baltimore County and Baltimore City had employment levels exceeding 300,000. Together, Maryland’s largest counties accounted for 80.0 percent of total employment within the state. Nationwide, the 357 largest counties made up 72.9 percent of total U.S. employment.

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**

All eight large Maryland counties reported average weekly wage gains from the second quarter of 2019 to the second quarter of 2020. (See [chart 2](#).) Seven counties had rates of wage gains that were above the national rate of 8.6 percent. Anne Arundel and Howard Counties has the largest gains (+12.5 percent each), followed by Prince George’s (+12.3 percent). Baltimore City had the smallest wage gain at 3.7 percent over the year.



Among the 357 largest U.S. counties, 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**

Weekly wages in 6 of Maryland's 8 large counties were above the U.S. average of \$1,188 in the second quarter of 2020. Average weekly wages in Montgomery (\$1,590, 18th) and Howard (\$1,490, 25th) ranked among the top 50 nationwide.

Among the largest U.S. counties, 101 reported average weekly wages above the U.S. average in the second quarter of 2020. Santa Clara, CA, had the highest average weekly wage at \$3,045. Average weekly wages were at or below the national average in 256 counties. At \$698 a week, Cameron, TX, had the lowest average weekly wage.

### **Average weekly 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 County with average weekly wages of \$1,483. Worcester County reported the lowest weekly wage in the state, averaging \$738 in the second quarter of 2020. (See [table 2.](#))

When all 24 counties in Maryland were considered, 17 had wages below the national average of \$1,188. (See [chart 3.](#))

### **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 [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.

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**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](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.

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 United States and the eight largest counties in Maryland, second quarter 2020**

Area	Establishments, second quarter 2020 (thousands)	Employment			Average weekly wage <sup>(1)</sup>			
		June 2020 (thousands)	Percent change, June 2019–20 <sup>(2)</sup>	National ranking by percent change <sup>(3)</sup>	Second quarter 2020	National ranking by level <sup>(3)</sup>	Percent change, second quarter 2019–20 <sup>(2)</sup>	National ranking by percent change <sup>(3)</sup>
United States <sup>(4)</sup> .....	10,451.0	135,114.4	-9.4	--	\$1,188	--	8.6	--
Maryland.....	175.8	2,430.3	-11.2	--	1,305	8	10.7	13
Anne Arundel.....	15.5	246.2	-12.2	272	1,309	59	12.5	33
Baltimore City.....	13.8	319.3	-7.6	126	1,329	53	3.7	333
Baltimore.....	21.2	340.4	-11.5	256	1,194	98	10.6	88
Frederick.....	6.6	94.0	-12.6	283	1,108	156	11.9	46
Harford.....	5.9	87.1	-9.9	202	1,161	117	11.5	59
Howard.....	10.2	154.6	-12.8	288	1,490	25	12.5	33
Montgomery.....	33.0	420.8	-12.3	274	1,590	18	11.7	52
Prince George's.....	16.4	280.6	-14.2	315	1,275	70	12.3	39

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 counties in Maryland, 2nd quarter 2020**

Area	Employment June 2020	Average weekly wage <sup>(1)</sup>
United States <sup>(2)</sup> .....	135,114,354	\$1,188
Maryland.....	2,430,347	1,305
Allegany.....	25,098	868
Anne Arundel.....	246,239	1,309
Baltimore County.....	340,434	1,194
Baltimore City.....	319,253	1,329
Calvert.....	20,482	1,006
Caroline.....	9,174	896
Carroll.....	52,749	941
Cecil.....	32,612	1,078
Charles.....	36,927	1,000
Dorchester.....	11,496	870
Frederick.....	94,028	1,108
Garrett.....	11,050	752
Harford.....	87,139	1,161
Howard.....	154,640	1,490
Kent.....	7,072	874
Montgomery.....	420,797	1,590
Prince George's.....	280,586	1,275
Queen Anne's.....	14,073	901
St. Mary's.....	44,757	1,483
Somerset.....	5,985	1,020
Talbot.....	15,775	894
Washington.....	58,630	926
Wicomico.....	41,009	972
Worcester.....	25,241	738

**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: Includes 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 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 3. 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.

**Chart 3. Average weekly wages by county in Maryland, second quarter 2020**