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MID-ATLANTIC INFORMATION OFFICE: Philadelphia, Pa.

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

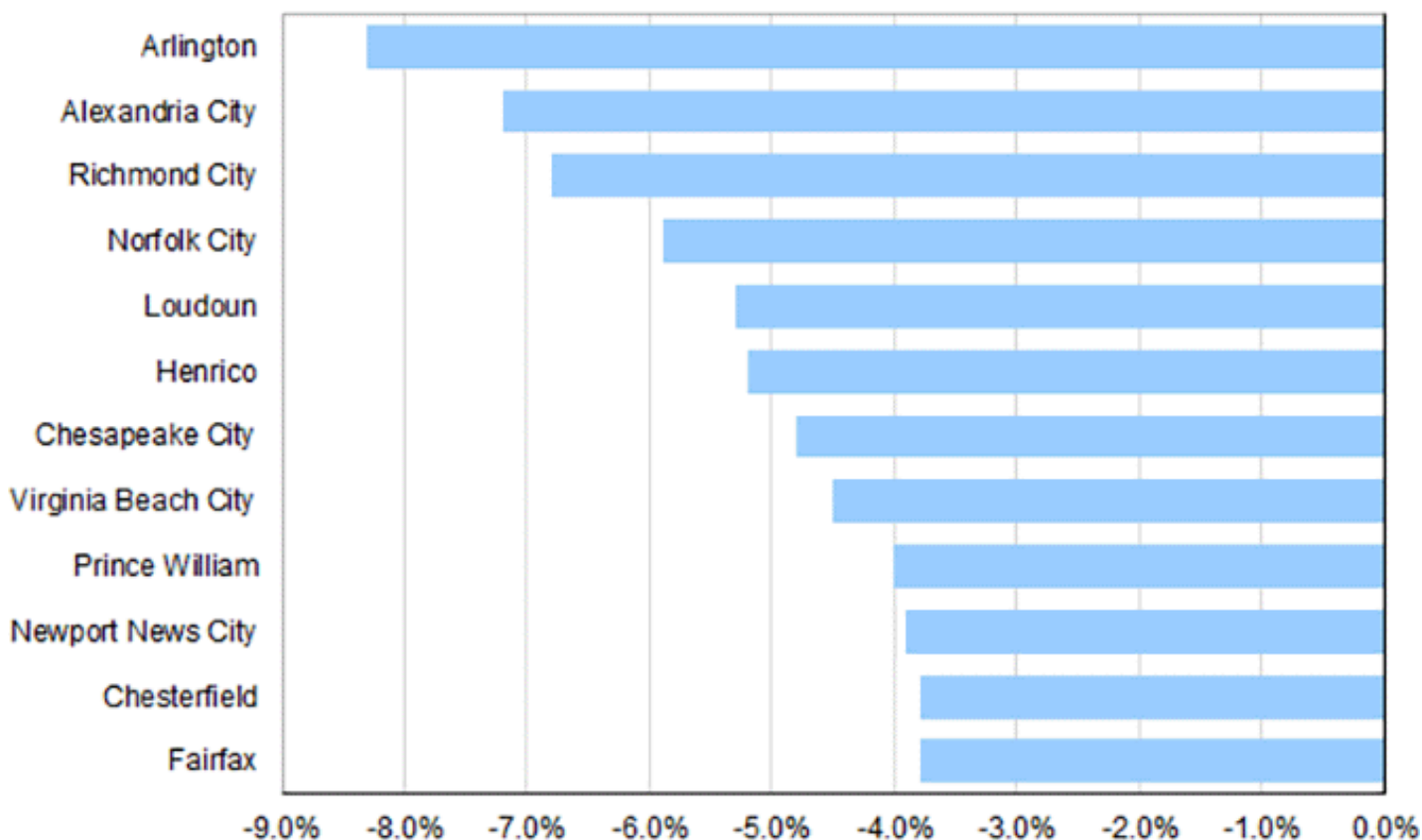
Media contact: (215) 861-5600 BLSMediaPhiladelphia@bls.gov

County Employment and Wages in Virginia – First Quarter 2021

Average weekly wages increased in all 12 largest counties

Employment fell in the 12 largest counties and county equivalents in Virginia from March 2020 to March 2021, the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics reported today. (Large counties are those with annual average employment levels of 75,000 or more in 2020.) Regional Commissioner Alexandra Hall Bovee noted that Arlington County and Alexandria City had the largest over-the-year decreases in employment at 8.3 percent and 7.2 percent, respectively. (See [chart 1](#) and [table 1](#).)

Chart 1. Over-the-year percent change in covered employment among the largest counties in Virginia, March 2021



Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics.

National employment decreased 4.5 percent over the year, with 324 of the 343 largest U.S. counties reporting declines. Calcasieu, LA, had the largest over-the-year decrease in employment with a loss of 14.9 percent.

Utah, UT, experienced the largest over-the-year percentage increase in employment with a gain of 6.1 percent.

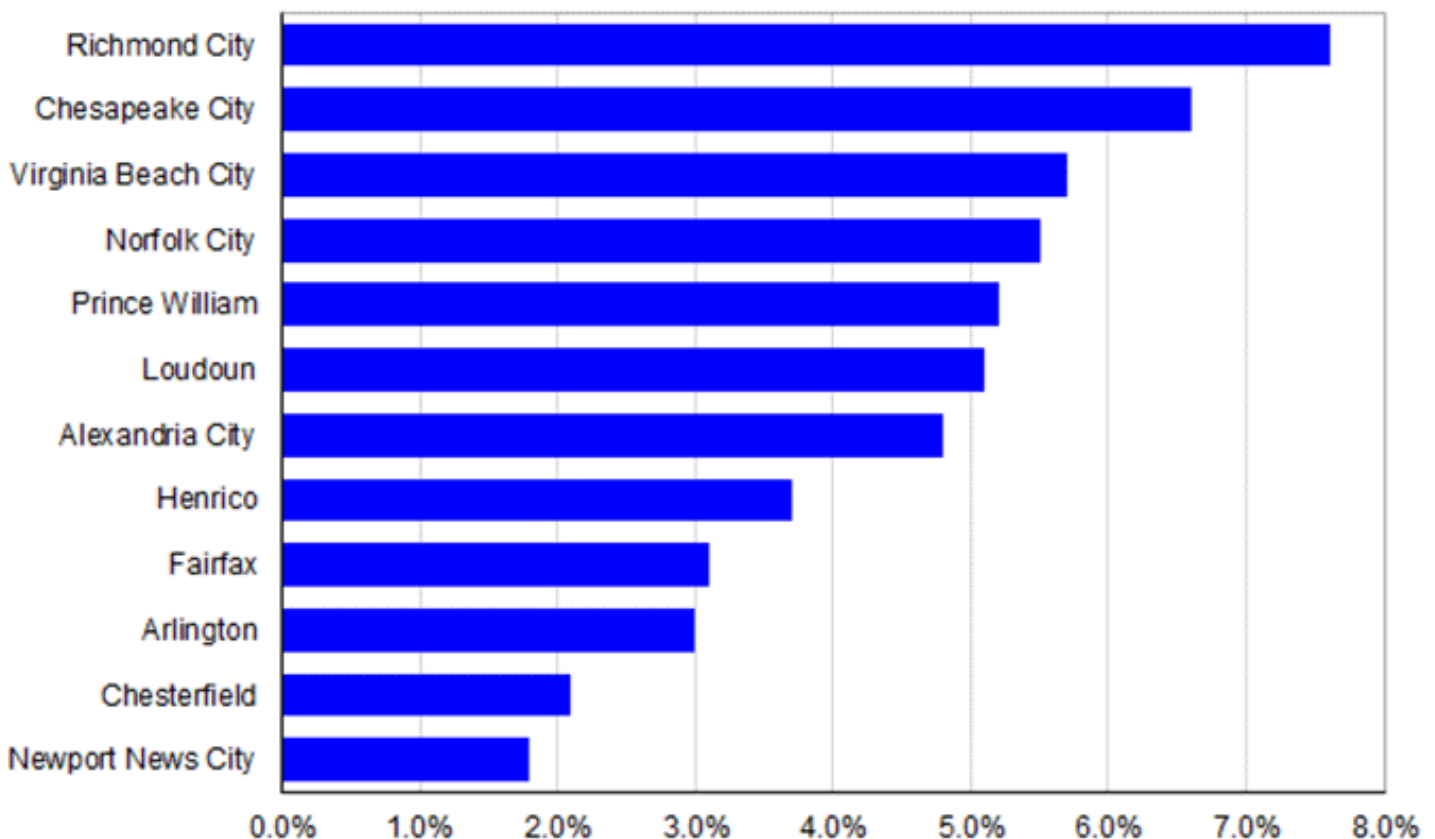
Among the 12 largest counties in Virginia, employment was highest in Fairfax County (594,500) in March 2021. Within Fairfax County's private industry, professional and technical services accounted for the largest employment. Together, the 12 largest Virginia counties accounted for 55.8 percent of total employment within the state. Nationwide, the 343 largest counties made up 72.3 percent of total U.S. employment.

Employment and wage levels (but not over-the-year changes) are also available for the 121 counties in Virginia with employment below 75,000. Wage levels in 114 of the 121 smaller counties were below the national average in the first quarter of 2021. (See [table 2.](#))

Large county wage changes

All 12 large Virginia counties reported average weekly wage gains from the first quarter of 2020 to the first quarter of 2021. (See [chart 2.](#)) Three of these counties had rates of wage gains that were above the national rate of 5.6 percent. Richmond City had the largest gain (+7.6 percent), followed by Chesapeake City (+6.6 percent) and Virginia Beach City (+5.7 percent).

Chart 2. Over-the-year percent change in covered average weekly wages among the largest counties in Virginia, first quarter 2021



Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics.

Among the 343 largest counties in the United States, 312 had over-the-year wage increases. Nationally, across most industries, increases in average weekly wages reflect substantial employment declines combined with wage increases. The lowest paying industry, leisure and hospitality, had the largest employment loss, which resulted in higher average weekly wages for the industry and the nation. San Francisco, CA, had the largest percentage wage increase (+33.9 percent). Clayton, GA, had the largest over-the-year percentage decrease (-14.2 percent).

Large county average weekly wages

Weekly wages in the 5 of the 12 largest counties in Virginia were above the national average of \$1,289 in the first quarter of 2021. Average weekly wages in four of these counties ranked among the top 50 nationwide: Arlington (\$2,077, 12th), Fairfax (\$1,981, 13th), Alexandria City (\$1,575, 36th), and Richmond City (\$1,460, 49th).

Among the largest U.S. counties, 84 reported average weekly wages above the U.S. average in the first quarter of 2021. New York, NY, had the highest average weekly wage at \$3,967. Average weekly wages were below the national average in the remaining 259 counties. At \$685 a week, Cameron, TX, had the lowest average weekly wage.

Average weekly wages in Virginia's smaller counties

Among the 121 smaller counties in Virginia—those with employment below 75,000—7 counties reported an average weekly wage above the national average of \$1,289. Goochland County (\$2,518) reported the highest among the small counties, and the highest average weekly wage in the state. Grayson County (\$585) reported the lowest average weekly wage in the state.

When all 133 counties in Virginia were considered, 44 reported average weekly wages of less than \$750, 29 had wages from \$750 to \$849, 22 had wages from \$850 to \$949, and 38 had average weekly wages of \$950 or higher. (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.

Employment and Wages Annual Averages Online features comprehensive information by detailed industry on establishments, employment, and wages for the nation and all states. This publication is typically published in September of the following year of the reference period or shortly after the QCEW first quarter full data update. The *Employment and Wages Annual Averages Online* is available at www.bls.gov/cew/publications/employment-and-wages-annual-averages/.

The County Employment and Wages release for second quarter 2021 is scheduled to be released on Wednesday, November 17, 2021. The County Employment and Wages full data update for second quarter 2021 is scheduled to be released on Wednesday, December 1, 2021.

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. 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 12 largest counties in Virginia, first quarter 2021

Area	Establishments, first quarter 2021 (thousands)	Employment			Average weekly wage ⁽¹⁾			
		March 2021 (thousands)	Percent change, March 2020–21 ⁽²⁾	National ranking by percent change ⁽³⁾	First quarter 2021	National ranking by level ⁽³⁾	Percent change, first quarter 2020–21 ⁽²⁾	National ranking by percent change ⁽³⁾
United States ⁽⁴⁾	10,755.4	140,455.8	-4.5	--	\$1,289	--	5.6	--
Virginia.....	291.3	3,765.8	-3.9	--	1,285	12	4.2	24
Alexandria City	6.3	82.3	-7.2	287	1,575	36	4.8	136
Arlington	9.4	170.2	-8.3	314	2,077	12	3.0	232
Chesapeake City	6.4	99.6	-4.8	168	951	281	6.6	70
Chesterfield	9.6	131.8	-3.8	117	992	251	2.1	267
Fairfax	37.6	594.5	-3.8	117	1,981	13	3.1	228
Henrico	12.0	181.0	-5.2	193	1,221	108	3.7	191
Loudoun	13.3	166.8	-5.3	198	1,419	56	5.1	120
Newport News City	4.1	100.5	-3.9	125	1,080	179	1.8	279
Norfolk City	6.1	131.9	-5.9	228	1,177	130	5.5	104
Prince William	9.8	126.5	-4.0	129	1,025	225	5.2	117
Richmond City	8.2	147.0	-6.8	274	1,460	49	7.6	46
Virginia Beach City	12.7	167.6	-4.5	155	914	307	5.7	98

Footnotes:

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

(2) Percent changes were computed from 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 Virginia, first quarter 2021

Area	Employment March 2021	Average Weekly Wage(1)
United States(2)	140,455,819	\$1,289
Virginia.....	3,765,848	1,285
Accomack.....	11,762	833
Albemarle	55,461	1,110
Alleghany.....	3,469	709
Amelia	2,500	729
Amherst.....	7,573	738
Appomattox	3,267	633
Arlington	170,181	2,077
Augusta	27,027	928
Bath	1,809	854
Bedford.....	17,747	765
Bland	1,834	873
Botetourt.....	10,579	849
Brunswick.....	3,114	719
Buchanan	5,497	900
Buckingham.....	2,906	758
Campbell	17,020	1,027
Caroline	5,499	808
Carroll.....	5,988	624
Charles City.....	1,546	884
Charlotte	2,750	684
Chesterfield	131,761	992
Clarke	3,565	893
Craig.....	717	774
Culpeper.....	15,560	865
Cumberland.....	1,233	673
Dickenson.....	3,364	770
Dinwiddie.....	8,524	1,002
Essex.....	3,454	716
Fairfax County	594,453	1,981
Fauquier	21,458	1,060
Floyd.....	3,440	616
Fluvanna.....	4,301	830
Franklin.....	14,866	685
Frederick	33,661	1,022
Giles	4,819	873
Gloucester	9,259	735
Goochland	18,647	2,518
Grayson.....	3,187	585
Greene	3,697	701
Greensville	4,219	941
Halifax	11,364	771
Hanover.....	51,155	919
Henrico.....	180,988	1,221
Henry.....	15,369	689
Highland	439	636
Isle of Wight.....	11,004	1,113
James City.....	26,246	869
King and Queen	1,081	778
King George	12,655	1,567
King William.....	3,758	878
Lancaster.....	4,337	762
Lee	3,960	689
Loudoun	166,780	1,419
Louisa.....	9,819	1,031
Lunenburg	2,209	1,885

Note: See footnotes at end of table.

Table 2. Covered employment and wages in the United States and all counties in Virginia, first quarter 2021 - Continued

Area	Employment March 2021	Average Weekly Wage(1)
Madison	3,044	747
Mathews	1,486	598
Mecklenburg	10,832	743
Middlesex	3,104	707
Montgomery	41,110	961
Nelson	3,707	691
New Kent	4,950	770
Northampton	3,941	664
Northumberland	2,266	873
Nottoway	5,439	779
Orange	9,531	789
Page	5,067	691
Patrick	4,046	599
Pittsylvania	12,029	749
Powhatan	7,442	816
Prince Edward	8,658	767
Prince George	14,508	1,049
Prince William	126,501	1,025
Pulaski	13,556	821
Rappahannock	1,411	774
Richmond County	2,685	766
Roanoke County	37,673	863
Rockbridge	5,763	660
Rockingham	32,863	906
Russell	6,407	792
Scott	4,585	693
Shenandoah	13,449	843
Smyth	11,510	711
Southampton	3,410	742
Spotsylvania	34,906	861
Stafford	45,463	1,179
Surry	1,914	1,715
Sussex	3,171	842
Tazewell	13,681	690
Warren	12,893	812
Washington	18,345	742
Westmoreland	3,133	664
Wise	10,699	715
Wythe	10,826	740
York	19,344	782
Alexandria City	82,318	1,575
Bristol City	8,969	717
Buena Vista City	1,919	716
Charlottesville City	36,373	1,224
Chesapeake City	99,570	951
Colonial Heights City	9,669	668
Covington City	3,689	993
Danville City	23,407	755
Emporia City	3,206	610
Fairfax City	18,344	1,310
Falls Church City	11,146	1,422
Franklin City	4,004	620
Fredericksburg City	22,601	977
Galax City	5,401	628
Hampton City	49,576	1,025
Harrisonburg City	29,273	808

Note: See footnotes at end of table.

Table 2. Covered employment and wages in the United States and all counties in Virginia, first quarter 2021 - Continued

Area	Employment March 2021	Average Weekly Wage(1)
Hopewell City	7,326	1,085
Lexington City.....	4,496	893
Lynchburg City.....	48,753	926
Manassas City.....	22,798	1,369
Manassas Park City	3,704	905
Martinsville City	8,793	694
Newport News City.....	100,460	1,080
Norfolk City.....	131,939	1,177
Norton City	3,060	790
Petersburg City.....	11,698	784
Poquoson City	1,714	647
Portsmouth City.....	43,091	1,077
Radford City	5,670	932
Richmond City	146,991	1,460
Roanoke City.....	61,996	979
Salem City	18,540	1,000
Staunton City.....	10,782	747
Suffolk City	32,520	1,155
Virginia Beach City	167,565	914
Waynesboro City.....	8,920	770
Williamsburg City.....	10,750	891
Winchester City	24,633	970

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, first quarter 2021

State	Establishments, first quarter 2021 (thousands)	Employment		Average weekly wage ⁽¹⁾			
		March 2021 (thousands)	Percent change, March 2020–21	First quarter 2021	National ranking by level	Percent change, first quarter 2020–21	National ranking by percent change
United States ⁽²⁾	10,755.4	140,455.8	-4.5	\$1,289	--	5.6	--
Alabama	135.9	1,924.3	-3.0	996	37	2.5	40
Alaska	23.3	295.0	-5.5	1,125	23	-0.6	48
Arizona	176.5	2,894.2	-2.3	1,150	21	4.8	17
Arkansas	95.3	1,194.2	-2.0	957	43	3.7	30
California	1,651.4	16,507.7	-5.9	1,623	4	11.3	1
Colorado	224.7	2,634.7	-3.5	1,335	10	4.1	25
Connecticut	128.3	1,550.5	-5.4	1,575	5	4.7	19
Delaware	35.2	425.6	-4.1	1,264	13	1.6	44
District of Columbia	44.0	708.1	-9.0	2,166	1	8.7	4
Florida	780.8	8,701.9	-3.1	1,104	24	5.1	13
Georgia.....	329.2	4,393.8	-2.6	1,198	17	3.6	33
Hawaii.....	48.0	564.4	-14.1	1,091	26	5.7	9
Idaho	74.2	768.6	1.9	906	50	4.9	15
Illinois	390.0	5,559.6	-5.5	1,387	8	6.7	7
Indiana.....	176.2	2,956.4	-2.5	1,026	34	3.3	37
Iowa	105.1	1,473.6	-3.3	1,004	35	2.6	39
Kansas	90.4	1,335.4	-3.3	986	39	1.9	43
Kentucky.....	130.7	1,835.2	-2.5	965	41	2.3	42
Louisiana	141.5	1,787.6	-5.9	977	40	1.0	46
Maine.....	56.2	585.0	-2.8	1,000	36	4.7	19
Maryland.....	174.3	2,522.1	-5.0	1,386	9	8.5	5
Massachusetts	271.2	3,334.9	-6.6	1,732	3	7.8	6
Michigan	267.5	4,026.6	-5.9	1,155	20	4.8	17
Minnesota	189.7	2,695.4	-5.1	1,290	11	4.6	22
Mississippi	75.3	1,098.4	-2.5	811	51	1.1	45
Missouri	221.8	2,705.5	-3.0	1,055	30	3.7	30
Montana	53.2	465.2	0.1	915	48	5.4	10
Nebraska	73.4	944.7	-2.8	990	38	3.6	33
Nevada	92.8	1,291.5	-8.4	1,080	27	4.7	19
New Hampshire	56.8	631.8	-3.9	1,258	15	5.4	10
New Jersey.....	297.0	3,818.6	-5.5	1,533	7	5.3	12
New Mexico	65.2	774.5	-7.4	958	42	3.8	28
New York	664.6	8,587.8	-8.7	1,869	2	10.4	2
North Carolina	302.7	4,423.2	-1.7	1,137	22	4.1	25
North Dakota	32.3	388.7	-6.1	1,037	32	-0.9	51
Ohio	310.1	5,136.8	-3.9	1,098	25	3.3	37
Oklahoma	114.4	1,549.7	-3.7	939	46	-0.8	50
Oregon	169.4	1,841.9	-5.2	1,172	18	6.4	8
Pennsylvania	369.7	5,531.3	-5.4	1,226	16	4.3	23
Rhode Island	41.2	447.8	-5.6	1,171	19	3.4	35
South Carolina.....	150.1	2,056.2	-2.6	957	43	3.8	28
South Dakota.....	35.6	417.1	-0.9	932	47	3.4	35
Tennessee	180.2	2,968.7	-2.1	1,077	28	5.0	14
Texas	750.1	12,216.7	-3.4	1,261	14	2.4	41
Utah	117.3	1,548.8	1.5	1,065	29	3.7	30
Vermont.....	27.0	283.7	-6.9	1,028	33	4.9	15
Virginia.....	291.3	3,765.8	-3.9	1,285	12	4.2	24
Washington.....	261.2	3,252.0	-5.1	1,540	6	9.1	3
West Virginia	52.3	648.6	-3.8	911	49	0.8	47
Wisconsin	183.1	2,730.0	-3.7	1,047	31	3.9	27
Wyoming	27.8	255.9	-4.6	953	45	-0.6	48
Puerto Rico.....	47.1	856.5	-3.1	562	(3)	2.0	(3)
Virgin Islands.....	3.6	34.7	-14.0	961	(3)	-8.0	(3)

Note: See footnotes at end of table.

Footnotes:

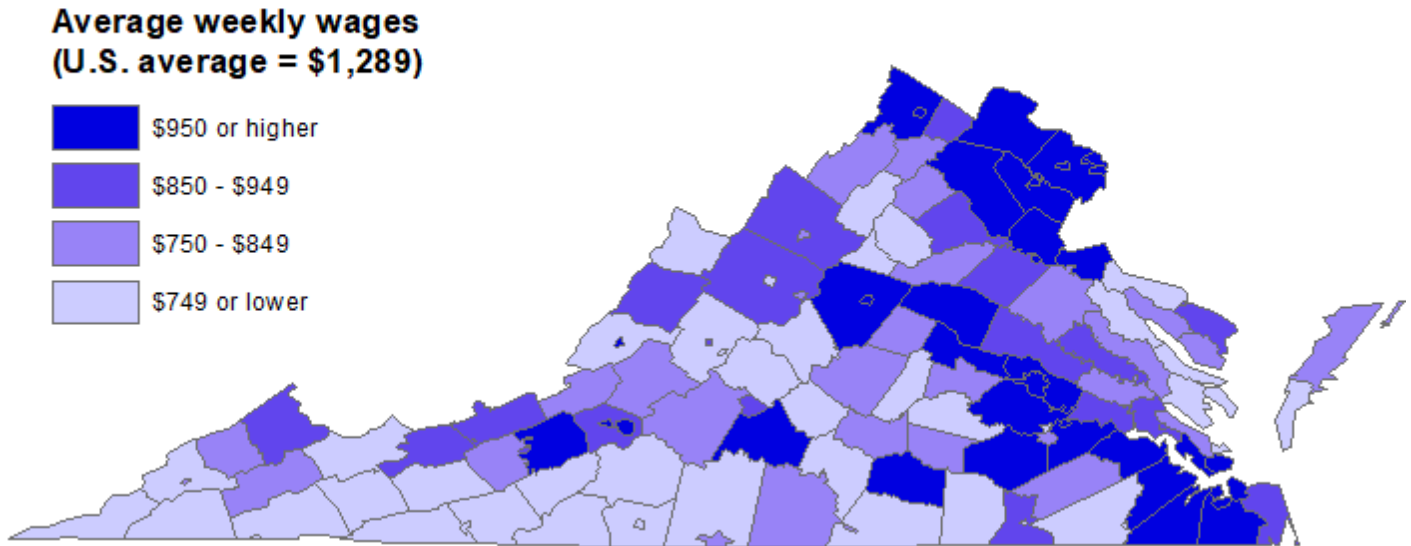
(1) Average weekly wages were calculated using unrounded data.

(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 Virginia, first quarter 2021



Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics.