NEWS RELEASE
BUREAU OF LABOR STATISTICS
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF LABOR

For Release: Wednesday, April 16, 2014 **14-610-CHI**

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County Employment and Wages in Minnesota – Third Quarter 2013

All seven large counties in Minnesota reported employment increases from September 2012 to September 2013, 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 2012 annual average employment.) Anoka County had the largest increase, up 3.1 percent followed by Dakota, up 2.4 percent. Employment in Hennepin and Stearns Counties rose 1.9 percent and 1.8 percent, respectively. Regional Commissioner Charlene Peiffer noted that these same four large counties experienced over-the-year rates of employment growth above the 1.7 percent national increase.

Among the seven largest counties in Minnesota, employment was highest in Hennepin (860,000) in September 2013, followed by Ramsey (325,000). Two other counties—Dakota and Anoka—had employment levels of more than 100,000. Collectively, Minnesota's seven large counties accounted for 64.3 percent of total employment within the state. Nationwide, the 334 largest counties made up 71.4 percent of total U.S. employment.

The average weekly wage in Anoka County rose 4.0 percent from the third quarter of 2012 to the third quarter of 2013, the largest increase among Minnesota's large counties. Hennepin County had the highest average weekly wage in the state at $1,162, followed by Ramsey ($1,028) and Olmsted ($972). (See table 1.) Nationally, the average weekly wage rose 1.9 percent over the year to $922 in the third quarter of 2013.

Employment and wage levels (but not over-the-year changes) are also available for the 80 counties in Minnesota with employment below 75,000. Of these 80, only Faribault County ($984) had average weekly wages above the national average. (See table 2.)

Large county wage changes

All seven of Minnesota's large counties recorded wage increases greater than or equal to the national increase of 1.9 percent from the third quarter of 2012 to the third quarter of 2013. (See table 1.) As noted, Anoka County experienced the state's largest average weekly wage increase, up 4.0 percent. This was followed by Ramsey (3.7 percent) and Stearns (2.7 percent). Dakota and St. Louis had the smallest wage increases among Minnesota's large counties, up 1.9 percent each.

Among the 334 largest U.S. counties, 291 had over-the-year increases in average weekly wages. San Mateo, Calif., had the largest increase with a gain of 9.9 percent. Dane, Wis., was second with wage growth of 9.3 percent, followed by Collier, Fla. (8.0 percent). Wage decreases were recorded in 40 large counties nationwide; Pinellas, Fla., experienced the largest over-the-year wage loss at 4.3 percent.

Large county average weekly wages

Average weekly wages in three of Minnesota's seven large counties were above the national average of $922 in the third quarter of 2013. As noted, Hennepin County ($1,162) had the highest average weekly wage in the state, ranking 23rd among the 334 largest U.S. counties, followed by Ramsey ($1,028) and Olmsted ($972) which placed 53rd and 74th respectively. Stearns ($750) reported the lowest average weekly wage among the state's largest counties and ranked 280th nationwide.

Nationally, weekly wages were higher than the U.S. average in 101 of the largest counties in the country. Santa Clara, Calif., held the top position among the highest-paid large counties with an average weekly wage of $1,868. San Mateo, Calif., was second at $1,698, followed by New York, N.Y. ($1,667), Washington, D.C. ($1,560), and San Francisco, Calif. ($1,549).

Of the largest counties in the United States, 232, or more than two-thirds, reported average weekly wages below the national average in the third quarter of 2013. The lowest wage was reported in Horry, S.C., at $564 per week. Pasco, Fla. ($635), joined the Texas counties of Cameron, Hidalgo, and Webb among the bottom five. Wages in these five lowest-ranked counties were about one-third or less of the average weekly wage in the highest-ranked county, Santa Clara, Calif.

Average weekly wages in Minnesota's smaller counties

Among the 80 smaller counties in the state (those with employment below 75,000), Faribault County had the highest average weekly wage at $984 and was the only smaller county to have wages greater than the $922 national average. Cass County had the lowest weekly wage among the smaller counties at $511. (See table 2.)

When all 87 counties in Minnesota were considered, all but 4 had wages below the national average of $922. Sixteen reported average weekly wages under $600, 37 had wages from $600 to $699, 25 reported wages from $700 to $799, 4 reported wages from $800 to $899, and 5 had wages of $900 or more. (See chart 1.)

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. The 2012 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 2013 version of the national news release. Tables and additional content from *Employment and Wages Annual Averages 2012* are now available online at www.bls.gov/cew/publications/employment-and-wages-annual-averages/2012/home.htm. The 2013 edition of *Employment and Wages Annual Averages Online* will be available later in September 2014.

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.

Changes to QCEW Data Files

BLS discontinued its ftp service on February 28, 2014. As part of this transition, the QCEW data file collection was substantially reorganized and improved. For more information seewww.bls.gov/cew/dataguide.htm.

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 9.3 million employer reports cover 135.0 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/; however, data in QCEW press releases have been revised (see Technical Note below) 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 [1] employment and wages in the United States and the 7 largest counties in Minnesota, third quarter 2013 [2]

Area	Employment			Average weekly wage [3]			
	September 2013 (thousands)	Percent change, September 2012-13 [4]	National ranking by percent change [5]	Average weekly wage	National ranking by level [5]	Percent change, third quarter 2012-13 [4]	National ranking by percent change [5]
United States [6]	134,957.5	1.7	--	$922	--	1.9	--
Minnesota	2,724.2	1.7	--	938	15	2.6	11
Anoka, Minn.	116.4	3.1	54	906	117	4.0	17
Dakota, Minn.	178.9	2.4	90	892	136	1.9	138
Hennepin, Minn.	860.0	1.9	130	1,162	23	2.5	77
Olmsted, Minn.	92.0	0.1	279	972	74	2.1	108
Ramsey, Minn.	325.0	1.1	203	1,028	53	3.7	26
St. Louis, Minn.	96.4	1.1	203	793	241	1.9	138
Stearns, Minn.	82.6	1.8	140	750	280	2.7	65

Footnotes:
(1) Includes workers covered by Unemployment Insurance (UI) and Unemployment Compensation for Federal Employees (UCFE) programs.
(2) Data are preliminary.
(3) Average weekly wages were calculated using unrounded data.
(4) Percent changes were computed from quarterly employment and pay data adjusted for noneconomic county reclassifications.
(5) Ranking does not include data for Puerto Rico or the Virgin Islands.
(6) Totals for the United States do not include data for Puerto Rico or the Virgin Islands.

Table 2. Covered [1] employment and wages in the United States and all counties in Minnesota, third quarter 2013 [2]

Area	Employment September 2013	Average weekly wage [3]
United States [4]	134,957,493	$922
Minnesota	2,724,179	938
Aitkin	3,770	589
Anoka	116,439	906
Becker	13,786	636
Beltrami	18,521	701
Benton	17,034	678
Big Stone	1,816	628
Blue Earth	38,006	725
Brown	13,945	692
Carlton	13,403	717
Carver	35,097	875
Cass	10,437	511
Chippewa	5,802	616
Chisago	14,226	677
Clay	18,577	658
Clearwater	2,670	640
Cook	3,138	533
Cottonwood	4,908	594
Crow Wing	28,317	641
Dakota	178,936	892
Dodge	5,513	735
Douglas	18,012	709
Faribault	5,109	984
Fillmore	6,238	555
Freeborn	12,138	668
Goodhue	21,805	759
Grant	1,879	659
Hennepin	860,043	1,162
Houston	5,053	555
Hubbard	6,173	609
Isanti	11,058	694
Itasca	15,938	721
Jackson	5,721	670
Kanabec	3,769	687
Kandiyohi	23,056	654
Kittson	1,486	654
Koochiching	5,106	743
Lac qui Parle	2,324	575
Lake	4,458	757
Lake of the Woods	1,507	527
Le Sueur	8,519	677
Lincoln	1,728	588
Lyon	15,153	711
McLeod	17,537	741
Mahnomen	2,004	600
Marshall	2,427	701
Martin	8,388	719
Meeker	6,878	625
Mille Lacs	9,591	614
Morrison	10,965	600
Mower	16,307	762
Murray	3,030	602
Nicollet	14,027	673
Nobles	10,201	668
Norman	1,676	592

Note: See footnotes at end of table.

Table 2. Covered [1] employment and wages in the United States and all counties in Minnesota, third quarter 2013 [2] - Continued

Area	Employment September 2013	Average weekly wage [3]
Olmsted	91,970	972
Otter Tail	22,506	643
Pennington	10,138	853
Pine	8,332	535
Pipestone	4,345	583
Polk	12,132	654
Pope	4,129	721
Ramsey	324,951	1,028
Red Lake	1,029	558
Redwood	6,400	589
Renville	5,720	666
Rice	23,199	742
Rock	3,457	615
Roseau	8,807	784
St. Louis	96,395	793
Scott	43,413	843
Sherburne	25,779	735
Sibley	4,268	641
Stearns	82,600	750
Steele	22,060	703
Stevens	5,325	737
Swift	3,520	667
Todd	6,220	619
Traverse	1,077	564
Wabasha	7,160	604
Wadena	5,722	687
Waseca	7,199	733
Washington	76,410	758
Watonwan	3,879	575
Wilkin	2,099	677
Winona	24,946	688
Wright	38,415	704
Yellow Medicine	4,211	619

Footnotes
(1) Includes workers covered by Unemployment Insurance (UI) and Unemployment Compensation for Federal Employees (UCFE) programs.
(2) Data are preliminary.
(3) Average weekly wages were calculated using unrounded data.
(4) Totals for the United States do not include data for Puerto Rico or the Virgin Islands.

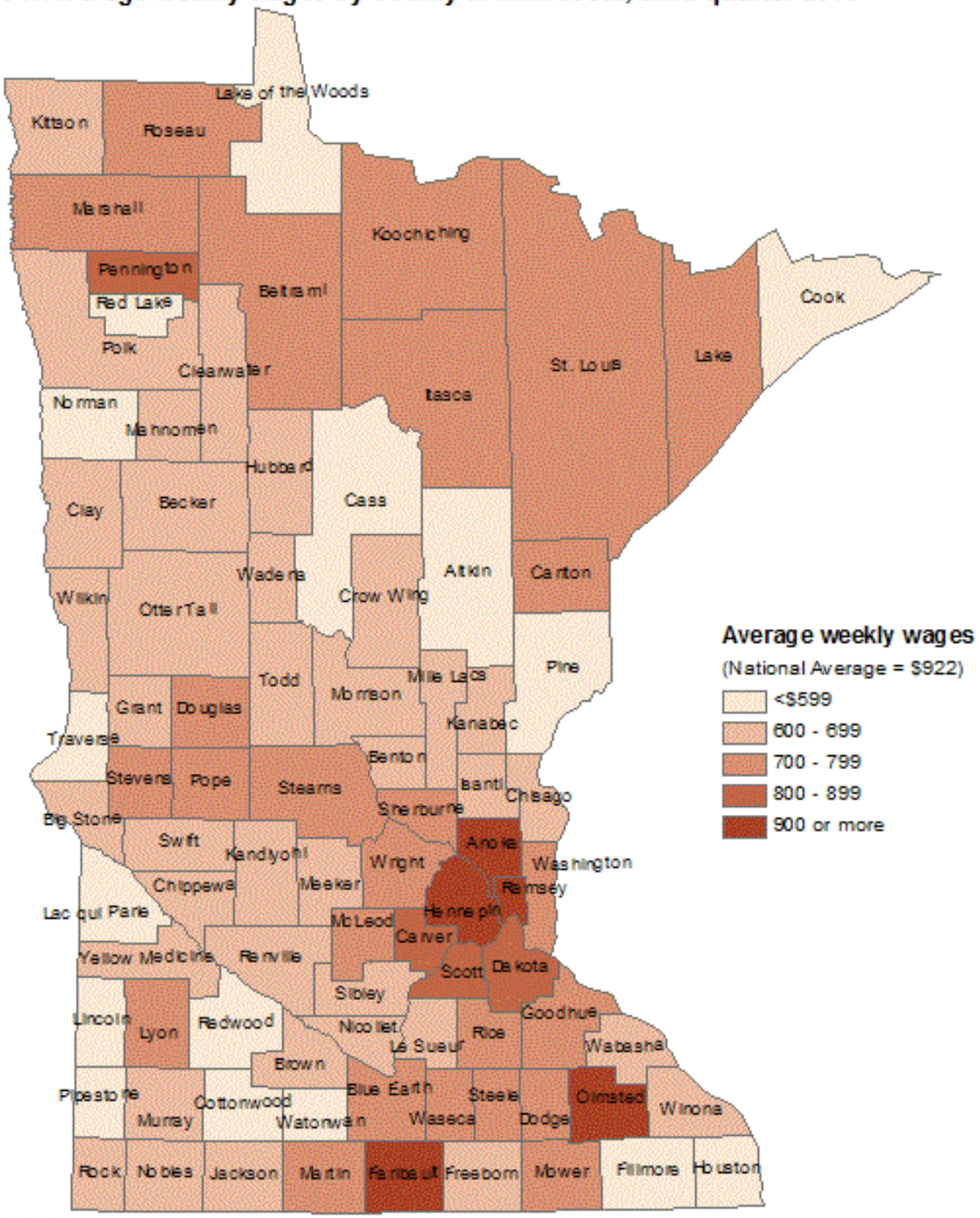
Table 3. Covered [1] employment and wages by state, third quarter 2013 [2]

State	Employment		Average weekly wage [3]			
	September 2013 (thousands)	Percent change, September 2012-13	Average weekly wage	National ranking by level	Percent change, third quarter 2012-13	National ranking by percent change
United States [4]	134,957.5	1.7	$922	--	1.9	--
Alabama	1,847.6	0.8	794	34	1.3	43
Alaska	345.0	0.4	990	9	3.0	7
Arizona	2,490.9	2.2	859	22	1.5	36
Arkansas	1,156.5	0.1	723	47	2.1	21
California	15,526.4	2.7	1,057	6	2.1	21
Colorado	2,355.7	3.1	952	12	1.7	31
Connecticut	1,650.3	0.7	1,109	3	1.9	28
Delaware	416.8	2.1	941	14	2.1	21
District of Columbia	726.2	1.5	1,560	1	3.0	7
Florida	7,501.8	2.6	808	31	1.1	46
Georgia	3,928.2	2.3	867	21	1.5	36
Hawaii	617.7	1.7	839	25	1.6	33
Idaho	644.7	2.3	703	50	2.3	19
Illinois	5,731.7	0.7	959	11	1.5	36
Indiana	2,883.6	1.2	784	38	1.6	33
Iowa	1,512.0	1.5	772	40	2.1	21
Kansas	1,347.6	1.8	776	39	2.0	26
Kentucky	1,794.5	1.0	760	43	1.1	46
Louisiana	1,893.4	1.4	827	28	2.9	10
Maine	601.5	0.7	735	46	1.8	30
Maryland	2,546.4	0.6	1,011	8	0.4	51
Massachusetts	3,318.3	1.2	1,131	2	2.6	11
Michigan	4,069.7	2.1	875	20	1.5	36
Minnesota	2,724.2	1.7	938	15	2.6	11
Mississippi	1,099.1	0.8	688	51	2.5	15
Missouri	2,661.0	1.3	805	32	1.4	40
Montana	446.7	1.2	705	49	2.3	19
Nebraska	937.5	1.3	766	41	3.4	3
Nevada	1,169.4	2.5	836	27	2.0	26
New Hampshire	624.5	0.6	895	18	2.4	17
New Jersey	3,851.9	1.2	1,068	5	1.3	43
New Mexico	793.7	0.5	766	41	0.7	49
New York	8,724.8	1.3	1,108	4	1.7	31
North Carolina	4,006.4	1.7	817	30	1.4	40
North Dakota	436.7	3.4	921	16	5.5	1
Ohio	5,147.5	1.4	837	26	1.2	45
Oklahoma	1,572.6	1.4	797	33	2.4	17
Oregon	1,709.8	2.4	856	23	2.6	11
Pennsylvania	5,622.4	0.3	913	17	1.6	33
Rhode Island	465.2	1.3	878	19	2.6	11
South Carolina	1,859.3	2.3	751	44	1.9	28
South Dakota	408.9	0.9	706	48	3.4	3
Tennessee	2,712.8	1.5	819	29	0.6	50
Texas	11,091.9	2.8	952	12	2.5	15
Utah	1,265.5	2.9	791	36	3.1	6
Vermont	302.5	0.0	788	37	3.4	3
Virginia	3,650.1	0.6	971	10	1.1	46
Washington	3,017.9	2.4	1,044	7	2.1	21
West Virginia	710.3	-0.7	751	44	3.7	2
Wisconsin	2,752.7	1.1	793	35	3.0	7
Wyoming	286.1	0.2	840	24	1.4	40
Puerto Rico	910.9	-2.5	501	[5]	-0.6	[5]
Virgin Islands	37.9	-1.9	706	[5]	-0.6	[5]

Note: See footnotes at end of table.

Footnotes:
(1) Includes workers covered by Unemployment Insurance (UI) and Unemployment Compensation for Federal Employees (UCFE) programs.
(2) Data are preliminary.
(3) Average weekly wages were calculated using unrounded data.
(4) Totals for the United States do not include data for Puerto Rico or the Virgin Islands.
(5) Data not included in the national ranking.

Chart 1. Average weekly wages by county in Minnesota, third quarter 2013



Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics.