



## NEWS RELEASE



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### County Employment and Wages in South Dakota – Second Quarter 2013

North Dakota's only large county, Cass, reported an average weekly wage of \$861 in the third quarter of 2013, 4.0 percent higher than one year ago, 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 preliminary annual averages of employment.) Nationally, the average weekly wage increased 1.9 percent over the year to \$922 in the third quarter of 2013. Regional Commissioner Charlene Peiffer noted that though Cass County's wages were below the U.S. average, ten of the state's smaller counties, those with employment below 75,000, reported wages above that for the nation. (See [tables 1](#) and [2](#).)

Employment in Cass County increased 2.7 percent from September 2012 to September 2013. Cass County's employment level of 111,300 accounted for 25.5 percent of total employment within the state. Nationally, employment rose 1.7 percent during this 12-month period, as 286 of the 334 largest U.S. counties gained jobs. Nationwide, the 334 largest counties made up 71.4 percent of total U.S. employment.

Employment and wage levels (but not over-the-year changes) are also available for the 52 smaller counties in North Dakota. Average weekly wages varied widely across the state, with nine having wages above \$1,000 and two reporting wages under \$550. (See [table 2](#).)

#### Large county wage changes

Cass County's 4.0-percent wage growth from the third quarter of 2012 to the third quarter of 2013 ranked 17th nationally. (See [table 1](#).) 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

Cass County's \$861 average wage placed in the top half among the 334 large counties, ranking 164th. 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.

#### **Average weekly wages in North Dakota's smaller counties**

Forty-two of the 52 counties in North Dakota with employment below 75,000 had average weekly wages lower than the national average of \$922. Ten small counties had above-average wages, all located in the western portion of the state. The highest wage was reported in Williams County at \$1,493, followed by McKenzie (\$1,386) and Slope (\$1,362). Logan County reported the lowest wage in the state, averaging \$500 in the third quarter of 2013. (See [table 2](#).)

When all 53 counties in North Dakota were considered, 2 reported average weekly wages under \$550, 13 had wages from \$550 to \$649, 18 reported wages from \$650 to \$749, 4 reported wages from \$750 to \$849, and 16 had wages of \$850 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/](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 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/cewbultn12.htm](http://www.bls.gov/cew/cewbultn12.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.

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#### 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 see [www.bls.gov/cew/dataguide.htm](http://www.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/](http://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 largest county in North Dakota, third quarter 2013 (2)AreaEmploymentAverage weekly wage (3)September 2013 (thousands)Percent change, September 2012-13 (4)National ranking by percent change (5)Average weekly wageNational ranking by level (5)Percent change, third quarter 2012-13 (4)National ranking by percent change (5)

United States (6)134,957.51.7--\$922--1.9--

North Dakota436.73.4--921165.51

Cass, N.D.111.32.7688611644.017

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 North Dakota, third quarter 2013 (2)AreaEmployment September 2013Average weekly wage (3)

United States (4)134,957,493\$922

North Dakota436,708921

Adams984670

Barnes5,034652

Benson2,203724

Billings745687

Bottineau2,725778

Bowman1,957891

Burke1,0371,092

Burleigh56,756862

Cass111,299861

Cavalier1,530733

Dickey2,136617

Divide1,033933

Dunn3,2561,331

Eddy768601

Emmons993587

Foster1,648698

Golden Valley729683

Grand Forks40,667763

Grant594593

Griggs1,014626

Hettinger724653  
Kidder671623  
LaMoure1,444642  
Logan634500  
McHenry1,390726  
McIntosh1,147560  
McKenzie9,9151,386  
McLean3,657854  
Mercer5,0301,155  
Morton10,855766  
Mountrail7,4071,255  
Nelson1,122590  
Oliver8351,265  
Pembina3,975785  
Pierce1,780688  
Ramsey5,941704  
Ransom2,151588  
Renville854919  
Richland8,086711  
Rolette4,530616  
Sargent2,716699  
Sheridan263505  
Sioux1,720731

Slope2601,362

Stark22,0111,173

Steele637734

Stutsman11,245715

Towner796598

Traill3,497696

Walsh5,610660

Ward36,322910

Wells1,706552

Williams38,7881,493

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)StateEmploymentAverage weekly wage (3)September 2013 (thousands)Percent change, September 2012-13Average weekly wageNational ranking by levelPercent change, third quarter 2012-13National ranking by percent change

United States (4)134,957.51.7\$922--1.9--

Alabama1,847.60.8794341.343

Alaska345.00.499093.07

Arizona2,490.92.2859221.536

Arkansas1,156.50.1723472.121

California15,526.42.71,05762.121

Colorado2,355.73.1952121.731

Connecticut1,650.30.71,10931.928

Delaware416.82.1941142.121

District of Columbia726.21.51,56013.07

Florida7,501.82.6808311.146

Georgia3,928.22.3867211.536

Hawaii617.71.7839251.633

Idaho644.72.3703502.319

Illinois5,731.70.7959111.536

Indiana2,883.61.2784381.633

Iowa1,512.01.5772402.121

Kansas1,347.61.8776392.026

Kentucky1,794.51.0760431.146

Louisiana1,893.41.4827282.910

Maine601.50.7735461.830

Maryland2,546.40.61,01180.451



Massachusetts3,318.31.21,13122.611

Michigan4,069.72.1875201.536

Minnesota2,724.21.7938152.611

Mississippi1,099.10.8688512.515

Missouri2,661.01.3805321.440

Montana446.71.2705492.319

Nebraska937.51.3766413.43

Nevada1,169.42.5836272.026

New Hampshire624.50.6895182.417

New Jersey3,851.91.21,06851.343

New Mexico793.70.5766410.749

New York8,724.81.31,10841.731

North Carolina4,006.41.7817301.440

North Dakota436.73.4921165.51

Ohio5,147.51.4837261.245

Oklahoma1,572.61.4797332.417

Oregon1,709.82.4856232.611

Pennsylvania5,622.40.3913171.633

Rhode Island465.21.3878192.611

South Carolina1,859.32.3751441.928

South Dakota408.90.9706483.43

Tennessee2,712.81.5819290.650

Texas11,091.92.8952122.515

Utah1,265.52.9791363.16

Vermont302.50.0788373.43

Virginia3,650.10.6971101.146

Washington3,017.92.41,04472.121

West Virginia710.3-0.7751443.72

Wisconsin2,752.71.1793353.07

Wyoming286.10.2840241.440

Puerto Rico910.9-2.5501(5)-0.6(5)

Virgin Islands37.9-1.9706(5)-0.6(5)

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.