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County Employment and Wages in Wisconsin — Third Quarter 2015

Five of the six large counties in Wisconsin had employment increases from September 2014 to September 2015, 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 2014 annual average employment.) Dane County had the largest increase, up 1.8 percent, followed by Outagamie and Waukesha Counties, up 1.3 percent each. Assistant Commissioner for Regional Operations Charlene Peiffer noted that the employment gains in the state's five large counties were less than the national increase of 1.9 percent. (See table 1.)

Among the six large counties in Wisconsin, employment was highest in Milwaukee (484,900) in September 2015, followed by Dane (322,800), and Waukesha (237,000). Each of the three other counties—Brown, Outagamie, and Winnebago—had employment levels of less than 153,000. Collectively, Wisconsin's six large counties accounted for 49.5 percent of total employment within the state. Nationwide, the 342 largest counties made up 72.2 percent of total U.S. employment.

The average weekly wage in Dane County rose 4.6 percent from the third quarter of 2014 to the third quarter of 2015, the largest increase among Wisconsin's large counties, followed by Brown and Waukesha Counties at 3.8 percent each. Waukesha County had the highest average weekly wage in the state at \$953, followed by Dane County at \$938 and Milwaukee County at \$925. (See table 1.) Nationally, the average weekly wage rose 2.6 percent over the year to \$974 in the third quarter of 2015.

Employment and wage levels (but not over-the-year changes) are also available for the 66 counties in Wisconsin with employment below 75,000. All of these smaller counties had average weekly wages below the national average. (See table 2.)

Large county wage changes

All of Wisconsin's large counties recorded wage gains greater than the national increase of 2.6 percent from the third quarter of 2014 to the third quarter of 2015. (See table 1.) As noted, Dane County had the state's largest average weekly wage increase, up 4.6 percent, and ranked 24th among the 342 largest U.S. counties. The over-the-year wage gains in Brown and Waukesha Counties, at 3.8 percent each, ranked 53rd nationally. The three remaining counties had average weekly wage increases ranging from 3.3 to 2.8 percent, ranking in the top-half nationwide.

Nationally, 319 of the 342 largest counties registered over-the-year wage increases. Rockland, N.Y., had the largest wage gain, up 24.9 percent from the third quarter of 2014. Lake, Ill., was second with a wage increase of 11.7 percent, followed by Onondaga, N.Y. (6.5 percent); Washington, Ore. (6.4 percent); and Marin, Calif.; and Santa Cruz, Calif. (6.1 percent each).

Among the largest U.S. counties, 20 experienced over-the-year wage decreases. Midland, Texas, had the largest wage decrease with a loss of 6.7 percent. Ector, Texas, had the second largest decrease in average weekly wages, down 4.9 percent from the third quarter 2014, followed by Lafayette, La. (-3.2 percent); Stark, Ohio (-2.1 percent); and Gregg, Texas (-1.5 percent).

Large county average weekly wages

Average weekly wages in Wisconsin's six largest counties were below the national average of \$974 in the third quarter of 2015. As noted, Waukesha County (\$953) had the highest average weekly wage in the state, ranking 114th among the 342 largest U.S. counties, followed by Dane (\$938) and Milwaukee (\$925) which placed 126th and 147th, respectively. The state's remaining large counties had average weekly wages that placed in the bottom half of the national ranking.

Nationwide, average weekly wages were above the U.S. average (\$974) in 100 of the 342 largest counties in the third quarter of 2015. Santa Clara, Calif., recorded the highest average weekly wage at \$2,090, followed by San Mateo, Calif. (\$1,894); New York, N.Y. (\$1,829); San Francisco, Calif. (\$1,712); and Washington, D.C. (\$1,667).

Among the largest U.S. counties, 242 had weekly wages below the national average in the third quarter of 2015. Horry County, S.C. (\$598), reported the lowest wage, followed by Cameron, Texas (\$615); Hidalgo, Texas (\$624); Webb, Texas (\$658); and Marion, Fla. (\$658).

Average weekly wages in Wisconsin's smaller counties

Of the 66 counties in Wisconsin with employment below 75,000, Racine County had the highest average weekly wage at \$846. Florence County had the lowest weekly wage at \$490, followed by Bayfield at \$525. (See table 2.)

When all 72 counties in Wisconsin were considered, 22 reported average weekly wages of \$649 or lower, 29 had wages from \$650 to \$749, 16 had wages from \$750 to \$849, and 5 had wages from \$850 or higher. (See chart 1.)

Additional statistics and other information

Quarterly 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 the QCEW Web site at 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 2014 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 2015 version of the national news release. Tables and additional content from Employment and Wages Annual Averages 2014 are now available online at www.bls.gov/cew/publications/employment-and-wages-annual-averages/2014/home.htm. The 2015 edition of Employment and Wages Annual Averages Online will be available in September 2016.

The County Employment and Wages release for fourth quarter 2015 is scheduled to be released on Wednesday, June 8, 2016.

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 9.6 million employer reports cover 140.4 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 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 sensory impaired individuals upon request. Voice phone: (202) 691-5200; Federal Relay Service: (800) 877-8342.

Table 1. Covered employment and wages in the United States and the 6 largest counties in Wisconsin, third quarter 2015

| | Employment | | | Average weekly wage (1) | | | |
|-------------------|----------------------------------|---|---|---------------------------|-------------------------------|---|---|
| Area | September 2015 (thousands) | Percent change, September 2014-15 ⁽²⁾ | National ranking by percent change (3) | Average weekly wage | National ranking by level (3) | Percent change, third quarter 2014-15 ⁽²⁾ | National ranking by percent change (3) |
| United States (4) | 140,442.2 | 1.9 | | \$974 | | 2.6 | |
| Wisconsin | 2,815.7 | 0.9 | | 834 | 33 | 3.5 | 5 |
| Brown, Wis | 152.3 | 1.0 | 231 | 856 | 208 | 3.8 | 53 |
| Dane, Wis | 322.8 | 1.8 | 172 | 938 | 126 | 4.6 | 24 |
| Milwaukee, Wis | 484.9 | 0.0 | 313 | 925 | 147 | 2.8 | 138 |
| Outagamie, Wis | 105.4 | 1.3 | 217 | 835 | 232 | 3.3 | 82 |
| Waukesha, Wis | 237.0 | 1.3 | 217 | 953 | 114 | 3.8 | 53 |
| Winnebago, Wis | 90.6 | 0.7 | 266 | 888 | 177 | 3.1 | 104 |

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 Wisconsin, third quarter 2015

| United States | Area | Employment September 2015 | Average weekly wage (1) |
|--|-------------|---------------------------|-------------------------|
| Wisconsin. 2,815,728 639 Adams 4,728 639 Ashland 8,118 679 Bayfield. 4,524 525 Brown 152,348 868 Brown 152,348 868 Burnett 4,734 375 Surnett 13,472 965 Chippewa 24,628 71,22 Chippewa 22,953 71,00 Chippewa 22,953 71,00 Clurk 10,944 667 Columbia 21,953 71,00 Crawford 7,621 622 Dane 33,024 784 Doop 33,034 784 Doop 14,863 591 Dorn 17,000 72,52 Eurollare 9,000 72,52 Dun 17,000 72,52 Eurollare 9,000 72,52 Eurollare 9,000 72,52 Florest 5,661 780 | | | |
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| Ashland 8.118 6.79 Bayfield 21.950 672 Bayfield 4.324 525 Brown 152.348 86.86 Burnett 4.734 37.72 Burnett 13.472 695 Culurde 13.472 695 Chippewa 24.628 71.21 Chippewa 24.628 71.22 Chippewa 22.1953 77.01 Columbia 21.963 77.02 Columbia 22.1953 77.01 Columbia 35.024 784 Dane 322.755 938 Dane 32.2755 938 Dorge 35.024 784 Dorge 14.863 561 Dorge 15.702 71.75 Dorge 15.702 71.75 Dorge 40.708 80.71 Dorn 17.002 72.5 Forest 55.551 779 Forest 15.744 680 <td></td> <td>· · · · </td> <td></td> | | · · · · | |
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| Brown | Barron | • | 672 |
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| Burnett 4,734 575 Calumett 13,472 695 Chippewa 24,628 712 Clark 10,844 667 Columbia 21,955 3710 Crawford 7,021 622 Dane 35,024 784 Door 14,863 591 Door 14,863 591 Door 14,863 591 Durn 15,702 715 Durn 17,020 725 Eau Claffe 66,651 780 Florence 978 490 Florence 978 490 Florence 46,708 807 Forest 1,1570 653 Grant 17,610 647 Green Lake 8,649 755 lows 10,477 708 forest 15,794 680 Green Lake 8,649 755 lows 10,477 728 <td< td=""><td>Brown</td><td>152,348</td><td>856</td></td<> | Brown | 152,348 | 856 |
| Calumet 13,472 695 Chippewa 24,628 712 Culr. 10,944 667 Columbia 21,953 710 Crawford 322,755 938 Bodge 35,024 784 Dorg 14,863 591 Dougles 15,702 715 Dun 17,002 725 Eau Claire 56,851 780 Florence 979 490 Ford du Lac 46,708 807 Forest 3,155 663 Grant 17,610 647 Green 15,704 680 Green 15,704 680 Green Lake 6,849 755 Iowa 10,477 708 Brown 10,477 708 Green Lake 6,849 755 Iowa 10,477 708 Iron 1,653 675 Jackson 9,797 741 | Buffalo | 3,752 | 660 |
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| Columbia 21,953 710 Crawford 7,821 622 Dane 322,755 938 Dodge 35,024 784 Dord 18,302 715 Douglas 15,702 715 Dunn 17,020 725 Eau Claire 56,651 780 Florence 979 480 Florence 979 480 Fored du Lac 46,708 807 Forest 3,155 633 Grant 17,740 647 Green Lake 6,849 650 Green Lake 6,849 650 Green Lake 6,849 755 Low 10,477 708 Iron 1,653 375 Jackson 8,797 741 Jefreson 32,808 710 Juneau 9,195 692 Kewaune 6,997 690 La Crosse 68,286 760 | Chippewa | 24,628 | 712 |
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| Ozaukee 42,076 808 Pepin 2,303 667 Pierce 9,976 617 Polk 16,103 662 Portage 34,148 756 Price 5,702 696 Racine 73,921 846 Richland 5,984 647 Rock 64,818 780 | | | 835 |
| Pepin 2,303 667 Pierce 9,976 617 Polk 16,103 662 Portage 34,148 756 Price 5,702 696 Racine 73,921 846 Richland 5,984 647 Rock 64,818 780 | - | | 808 |
| Polk 16,103 662 Portage 34,148 756 Price 5,702 696 Racine 73,921 846 Richland 5,984 647 Rock 64,818 780 | | 2,303 | 667 |
| Polk 16,103 662 Portage 34,148 756 Price 5,702 696 Racine 73,921 846 Richland 5,984 647 Rock 64,818 780 | · | · | 617 |
| Portage 34,148 756 Price 5,702 696 Racine 73,921 846 Richland 5,984 647 Rock 64,818 780 | | | 662 |
| Price 5,702 696 Racine 73,921 846 Richland 5,984 647 Rock 64,818 780 | | | 756 |
| Richland 5,984 647 Rock 64,818 780 | - | | 696 |
| Rock | Racine | 73,921 | 846 |
| | Richland | 5,984 | 647 |
| Rusk | Rock | 64,818 | 780 |
| | Rusk | 5,145 | 619 |

Table 2. Covered employment and wages in the United States and all counties in Wisconsin, third quarter 2015 - Continued

| Area | Employment September 2015 | Average weekly wage (1) | |
|-------------|---------------------------|-------------------------|--|
| St. Croix | 33,274 | 714 | |
| Sauk | 37,444 | 675 | |
| Sawyer | 6,839 | 611 | |
| Shawano | 12,665 | 595 | |
| Sheboygan | 59,515 | 813 | |
| Taylor | 7,871 | 679 | |
| Trempealeau | 14,486 | 714 | |
| Vernon | 8,831 | 611 | |
| Vilas | 8,163 | 573 | |
| Walworth | 40,725 | 667 | |
| Washburn | 5,970 | 609 | |
| Washington | 53,808 | 802 | |
| Waukesha | 237,042 | 953 | |
| Waupaca | 20,219 | 661 | |
| Waushara | 6,291 | 596 | |
| Winnebago | 90,598 | 888 | |
| Wood | 37,206 | 785 | |

Footnotes:

Note: Data are preliminary. Includes workers covered by Unemployment Insurance (UI) and Unemployment Compensation for Federal Employees (UCFE) programs.

⁽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.

Table 3. Covered employment and wages by state, third quarter 2015

| | Emplo | yment | Average weekly wage (1) | | | |
|----------------------|----------------------------------|--|-------------------------|---------------------------|--|---|
| State | September 2015 (thousands) | Percent change, September 2014-15 | Average weekly wage | National ranking by level | Percent change, third quarter 2014-15 | National ranking by percent change |
| Jnited States (2) | 140,442.2 | 1.9 | \$974 | | 2.6 | |
| Alabama | 1,893.6 | 1.2 | 830 | 34 | 1.8 | 40 |
| Alaska | 346.4 | 0.4 | 1,041 | 9 | 2.2 | 34 |
| Arizona | 2,613.9 | 2.9 | 889 | 24 | 1.5 | 42 |
| Arkansas | 1,193.4 | 1.9 | 756 | 48 | 2.6 | 22 |
| California | 16,474.4 | 3.0 | 1,134 | 5 | 3.4 | 6 |
| Colorado | 2,513.0 | 2.9 | 1,006 | 12 | 2.4 | 30 |
| Connecticut | 1,668.3 | 0.2 | 1,147 | 4 | 2.0 | 38 |
| Delaware | 436.3 | 2.1 | 963 | 15 | 0.3 | 48 |
| District of Columbia | 743.6 | 1.4 | 1,667 | 1 | 2.3 | 33 |
| Florida | 8,023.2 | 3.5 | 852 | 31 | 3.1 | 10 |
| Georgia | 4,171.1 | 2.8 | 916 | 22 | 2.8 | 19 |
| Hawaii | 635.4 | 1.4 | 896 | 23 | 3.1 | 10 |
| Idaho | 680.3 | 3.3 | 736 | 50 | 2.1 | 37 |
| Illinois | 5,888.6 | 1.3 | 1,020 | 10 | 3.9 | 31 |
| Indiana | 2,971.7 | 1.6 | 818 | 39 | 2.4 | 30 |
| lowa | 1,535.9 | 0.4 | 823 | 38 | 3.0 | 14 |
| | | | 809 | | | 40 |
| Kansas | 1,370.9 | 0.6 | | 41 | 1.8 | |
| Kentucky | 1,852.5 | 1.4 | 804 | 42 | 2.9 | 18 |
| Louisiana | 1,926.3 | -0.2 | 858 | 30 | 0.7 | 47 |
| Maine | 609.7 | 0.7 | 779 | 46 | 3.3 | |
| Maryland | 2,607.8 | 1.3 | 1,067 | 8 | 2.4 | 30 |
| Massachusetts | 3,446.9 | 1.4 | 1,197 | 2 | 3.0 | 14 |
| Michigan | 4,203.0 | 1.6 | 921 | 20 | 2.7 | 20 |
| Minnesota | 2,800.7 | 1.4 | 990 | 14 | 2.6 | 22 |
| Mississippi | 1,118.9 | 1.2 | 706 | 51 | 1.3 | 43 |
| Missouri | 2,737.9 | 1.9 | 846 | 32 | 2.2 | 34 |
| Montana | 457.9 | 1.9 | 759 | 47 | 3.7 | 4 |
| Nebraska | 964.0 | 1.4 | 811 | 40 | 4.2 | 2 |
| Nevada | 1,254.5 | 3.2 | 862 | 29 | 2.5 | 2 |
| New Hampshire | 642.8 | 1.5 | 952 | 18 | 2.7 | 20 |
| New Jersey | 3,933.9 | 1.4 | 1,116 | 6 | 2.6 | 22 |
| New Mexico | 809.2 | 0.6 | 798 | 43 | 1.3 | 43 |
| New York | 9,065.4 | 1.8 | 1,180 | 3 | 3.1 | 10 |
| North Carolina | 4,194.1 | 2.5 | 863 | 28 | 3.0 | 14 |
| North Dakota | 438.0 | -3.8 | 956 | 17 | -2.3 | 5′ |
| Ohio | 5,282.7 | 1.2 | 878 | 25 | 1.9 | 39 |
| Oklahoma | 1,598.0 | 0.2 | 825 | 37 | 0.0 | 49 |
| Oregon | 1,812.8 | 3.0 | 924 | 19 | 4.4 | |
| Pennsylvania | 5,722.1 | 0.8 | 961 | 16 | 2.5 | 27 |
| Rhode Island | 477.4 | 1.2 | 919 | 21 | 2.6 | 22 |
| South Carolina | 1,959.7 | 2.9 | 788 | 44 | 2.6 | 22 |
| South Dakota | 419.5 | 0.9 | 756 | 48 | 3.1 | 10 |
| Tennessee | 2,850.6 | 2.7 | 864 | 27 | 3.2 | |
| Texas | 11,681.0 | 2.1 | 999 | 13 | 1.1 | 45 |
| Utah | 1,353.9 | 3.7 | 829 | 35 | 3.2 | |
| | · ' | | | | | |
| Vermont | 308.2 | 0.5 | 829 | 35 | 3.0 | 14 |
| Virginia | 3,759.7 | 2.5 | 1,014 | 11 | 2.5 | 27 |
| Washington | 3,187.6 | 2.5 | 1,111 | 7 | 2.2 | 34 |
| West Virginia | 702.4 | -1.1 | 785 | 45 | 0.9 | 46 |
| Wisconsin | 2,815.7 | 0.9 | 834 | 33 | 3.5 | Ę |
| Wyoming | 287.4 | -1.5 | 866 | 26 | -1.1 | 50 |
| Puerto Rico | 891.1 | -0.7 | 512 | (3) | 1.4 | (3 |
| Virgin Islands | 36.8 | -2.1 | 738 | (3) | 2.1 | (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.

Bayfield Douglas Iron Ashland Vilas Washburh. Florence Sawyer Burnett Oneida Price Forest Marinette Polk Rusk Barron Lincoln Langlade Taylor Chippewa St. Croix Menominee Dunn. Oconto Marathon Ďoò Shawano Pierce Eau Claire Clark Pepin Kew√aunee Waupada Wood Buffalo Portage Outagamie Jackson Trempealèau Manito/voc Waushara Calumet ,Adam\$ La Monroe Marquette Fond rosse Green du Juneau Lake Sheboygan Lac. Vernon Ozaukee Columbia Sauk Richland Washington Average weekly wages ¢rawforb (U.S. average = \$974)Dane \$850 or higher Towa leffersor Milwaukee \$750 - \$849 Grant Racine \$650 - \$749 Lafayette Green Rock Walworth \$649 or lower Kenosha

Chart 1. Average weekly wages by county in Wisconsin, third quarter 2015

Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics.