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County Employment and Wages in Indiana — First Quarter 2017

Employment rose in all eight of the large counties in Indiana from March 2016 to March 2017, 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 2016 annual average employment.) Assistant Commissioner for Regional Operations Charlene Peiffer noted that Elkhart County had the largest increase, up 3.3 percent, followed by the counties of Hamilton (2.7 percent), and Vanderburgh (1.4 percent). (See table 1.)

Nationally, employment advanced 1.6 percent from March 2016 to March 2017 as 299 of the 346 largest U.S. counties registered increases. York, S.C., had the largest percentage increase with a gain of 6.8 percent over the year. Kanawha, W.Va., had the largest over-the-year percentage decrease in employment among the largest counties in the U.S., with a loss of 2.7 percent.

Among the eight largest counties in Indiana, employment was highest in Marion County (588,300). Two other counties, Lake (185,100) and Allen (182,700), had employment levels above 150,000. Together, the eight largest Indiana counties accounted for 51.5 percent of total employment within the state. Nationwide, the 346 largest counties made up 72.8 percent of total U.S. employment in March 2017.

Average weekly wages increased in all of the eight large counties in Indiana from the first quarter of 2016 to the first quarter of 2017. Elkhart County had the largest percentage increase in average weekly wages, up 15.1 percent. (See table 1.) Marion County recorded the highest average weekly wage among the state's large counties at $1,157, followed by Hamilton County at $1,093. Nationally, the average weekly wage increased 6.6 percent over the year to $1,111 in the first quarter of 2017.

Employment and wage levels (but not over-the-year changes) are also available for the 84 counties in Indiana with employment levels below 75,000. Excluding Martin County ($1,292), all of these smaller counties had average weekly wages below the national average. (See table 2.)

Large county wage changes

As noted, average weekly wages rose in all of Indiana's large counties from the first quarter of 2016 to the first quarter of 2017. Wage gains in four of the state's large counties placed in the top 100 of the national ranking—Elkhart (15.1 percent, 2nd), Vanderburgh (8.4 percent, 45th), Marion (8.2 percent, 54th), and Allen (7.3 percent, 98th).

Nationally, 345 of the 346 largest counties had over-the-year increases in average weekly wages. McLean, Ill., had the largest wage gain, up 27.8 percent from the first quarter of 2016. Peoria, Ill., had the only percentage decrease in average weekly wages (-1.1 percent).

Large county average weekly wages

Marion County's average weekly wage of $1,157 was the highest among the state's large counties and ranked 72nd among the 346 largest U.S. counties. No other large county in Indiana had an average weekly wage that exceeded the national average of $1,111. Hamilton County ($1,093, 106th) was the only other large county in Indiana to report an average weekly wage above $1,000. St. Joseph ($824) reported the lowest average weekly wage among the state's large counties and ranked 304th nationwide.

Nationwide, 94 large counties had average weekly wages at or above the U.S. average of $1,111 in the first quarter of 2017. New York, N.Y., recorded the highest average weekly wage at $2,954, followed by Santa Clara, Calif., at $2,450. Rounding out the top five were San Mateo, Calif. ($2,385); San Francisco, Calif. ($2,264); and Somerset, N.J. ($2,026).

Average weekly wages in Indiana's smaller counties

Among the 84 counties in Indiana with employment below 75,000, only Martin County ($1,292) had an average weekly wage above the national average of $1,111. Average weekly wages in Brown ($491) and Starke ($543) Counties were the lowest in the state. (See table 2.)

When all 92 counties in Indiana were considered, all but 2 had wages below the national average. Eleven reported average weekly wages less than $650, 37 had wage from $650 to $749, 23 reported wages from $750 to $849, and 21 had wages of $850 or higher. (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 2016 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 2017 version of the national news release. Tables and additional content from *Employment and Wages Annual Averages 2016* are now available online at https://www.bls.gov/cew/cewbultn16.htm. The 2017 edition of *Employment and Wages Annual Averages Online* will be available in September 2018.

The County Employment and Wages release for second quarter 2017 is scheduled to be released on Tuesday, December 5, 2017.

Industry Changes

Beginning with this release, the QCEW program now uses the 2017 version of the North American Industry Classification System (NAICS) as the basis for the assignment and tabulation of economic data by industry. For more information on the change to NAICS, please see the Federal Register notice at www.census.gov/eos/www/naics/federal_register_notices/notices/fr08au16.pdf. For information on the use of the 2017 version of NAICS in QCEW, see www.bls.gov/cew/naics2017.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 9.9 million employer reports cover 142.3 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) 877-8339.

Table 1. Covered employment and wages in the United States and the 8 largest counties in Indiana, first quarter 2017

Area	Employment			Average weekly wage [1]			
	March 2017 (thousands)	Percent change, March 2016-17 [2]	National ranking by percent change [3]	Average weekly wage	National ranking by level [3]	Percent change, first quarter 2016-17 [2]	National ranking by percent change [3]
United States [4]	142,309.2	1.6	--	$1,111	--	6.6	--
Indiana	2,985.8	1.2	--	918	32	7.6	7
Allen, Ind.	182.7	1.2	201	895	242	7.3	98
Elkhart, Ind.	130.9	3.3	31	977	172	15.1	2
Hamilton, Ind.	137.5	2.7	73	1,093	106	6.4	170
Lake, Ind.	185.1	0.7	248	898	240	5.8	215
Marion, Ind.	588.3	0.6	259	1,157	72	8.2	54
St. Joseph, Ind.	122.4	0.4	274	824	304	5.0	267
Tippecanoe, Ind.	83.2	1.3	190	914	219	5.2	255
Vanderburgh, Ind.	107.1	1.4	181	863	273	8.4	45

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 Indiana, first quarter 2017

Area	Employment March 2017	Average weekly wage(1)
United States(2)	142,309,185	$1,111
Indiana	2,985,799	918
Adams	13,548	690
Allen	182,655	895
Bartholomew	50,910	1,060
Benton	2,273	710
Blackford	3,306	685
Boone	27,443	771
Brown	2,854	491
Carroll	5,058	680
Cass	14,612	686
Clark	53,421	779
Clay	7,536	665
Clinton	10,708	768
Crawford	1,942	590
Daviess	11,417	662
Dearborn	14,321	700
Decatur	13,811	875
De Kalb	21,630	901
Delaware	45,800	736
Dubois	28,718	785
Elkhart	130,928	977
Fayette	6,319	648
Floyd	29,507	780
Fountain	4,519	667
Franklin	4,196	640
Fulton	6,134	696
Gibson	20,379	977
Grant	26,799	758
Greene	6,185	643
Hamilton	137,533	1,093
Hancock	22,760	952
Harrison	10,219	685
Hendricks	66,560	713
Henry	13,353	661
Howard	39,517	997
Huntington	13,837	709
Jackson	21,085	835
Jasper	11,967	755
Jay	7,387	680
Jefferson	12,367	740
Jennings	7,149	717
Johnson	52,198	713
Knox	17,206	745
Kosciusko	37,478	1,007
La Porte	39,792	744
Lagrange	13,292	807
Lake	185,140	898
Lawrence	13,361	761
Madison	39,520	717
Marion	588,289	1,157
Marshall	18,938	711
Martin	7,039	1,292
Miami	9,443	688
Monroe	62,119	879
Montgomery	15,329	821
Morgan	16,780	750

Note: See footnotes at end of table.

Table 2. Covered employment and wages in the United States and all counties in Indiana, first quarter 2017 - Continued

Area	Employment March 2017	Average weekly wage(1)
Newton	3,234	698
Noble	17,930	745
Ohio	1,404	702
Orange	7,704	614
Owen	4,575	878
Parke	3,112	586
Perry	6,420	753
Pike	3,271	1,013
Porter	58,524	840
Posey	8,229	1,075
Pulaski	4,452	835
Putnam	13,569	706
Randolph	6,582	678
Ripley	12,354	799
Rush	4,860	717
St. Joseph	122,402	824
Scott	8,164	684
Shelby	18,107	813
Spencer	6,060	844
Starke	4,465	543
Steuben	15,503	665
Sullivan	5,680	724
Switzerland	2,027	644
Tippecanoe	83,200	914
Tipton	4,376	792
Union	1,231	603
Vanderburgh	107,075	863
Vermillion	4,356	976
Vigo	48,218	785
Wabash	12,407	690
Warren	1,781	769
Warrick	15,746	887
Washington	6,214	635
Wayne	29,877	735
Wells	10,745	717
White	8,631	700
Whitley	12,296	794

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 2017

State	Employment		Average weekly wage [1]			
	March 2017 (thousands)	Percent change, March 2016-17	Average weekly wage	National ranking by level	Percent change, first quarter 2016-17	National ranking by percent change
United States [2]	142,309.2	1.6	$1,111	--	6.6	--
Alabama	1,928.9	1.4	893	36	6.2	35
Alaska	312.8	-1.8	1,061	18	3.9	50
Arizona	2,743.0	2.4	991	21	8.1	4
Arkansas	1,199.9	0.7	859	45	8.5	3
California	16,831.4	2.3	1,295	6	7.6	7
Colorado	2,573.2	2.3	1,136	12	7.5	10
Connecticut	1,651.5	0.1	1,417	4	4.0	49
Delaware	433.2	0.8	1,185	9	10.7	1
District of Columbia	760.7	1.2	1,885	1	7.0	16
Florida	8,532.6	2.8	949	27	7.2	13
Georgia	4,317.1	2.7	1,068	17	6.1	37
Hawaii	653.6	0.9	954	25	6.8	22
Idaho	690.4	3.0	775	50	7.0	16
Illinois	5,842.0	0.5	1,195	8	6.3	34
Indiana	2,985.8	1.2	918	32	7.6	7
Iowa	1,518.3	0.0	899	35	6.5	30
Kansas	1,368.0	0.4	888	38	6.7	25
Kentucky	1,864.1	1.1	879	41	6.9	18
Louisiana	1,901.3	-0.5	906	33	5.5	43
Maine	586.7	1.0	860	44	7.2	13
Maryland	2,626.0	1.2	1,171	10	5.8	42
Massachusetts	3,464.0	1.1	1,428	3	7.7	6
Michigan	4,230.6	1.7	1,041	20	6.8	22
Minnesota	2,806.4	2.1	1,149	11	7.9	5
Mississippi	1,122.9	0.1	750	51	5.3	46
Missouri	2,767.0	1.4	930	31	5.9	38
Montana	451.5	1.4	800	49	6.5	30
Nebraska	960.7	0.4	868	42	6.4	33
Nevada	1,311.6	3.8	932	30	6.9	18
New Hampshire	643.2	1.2	1,070	16	7.3	11
New Jersey	3,955.1	1.5	1,333	5	5.0	47
New Mexico	803.3	0.2	838	46	5.9	38
New York	9,159.3	1.3	1,541	2	5.9	38
North Carolina	4,287.0	1.8	991	21	6.9	18
North Dakota	405.7	-1.0	953	26	5.0	47
Ohio	5,278.3	0.8	976	24	6.7	25
Oklahoma	1,563.9	-1.0	883	39	5.9	38
Oregon	1,855.0	2.5	984	23	5.4	45
Pennsylvania	5,712.3	0.8	1,078	15	6.5	30
Rhode Island	465.4	0.3	1,055	19	7.2	13
South Carolina	2,017.9	2.2	864	43	7.3	11
South Dakota	413.4	0.7	819	48	6.2	35
Tennessee	2,906.2	1.8	945	28	6.7	25
Texas	11,924.5	1.7	1,124	14	5.5	43
Utah	1,411.3	3.1	905	34	6.6	29
Vermont	305.6	0.2	889	37	6.7	25
Virginia	3,796.3	1.4	1,129	13	6.9	18
Washington	3,225.9	2.6	1,215	7	8.6	2
West Virginia	678.2	-0.8	837	47	7.6	7
Wisconsin	2,803.7	1.1	933	29	6.8	22
Wyoming	262.4	-2.3	880	40	3.3	51
Puerto Rico	887.7	-0.9	526	[3]	1.2	[3]
Virgin Islands	38.7	0.0	797	[3]	3.1	[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.
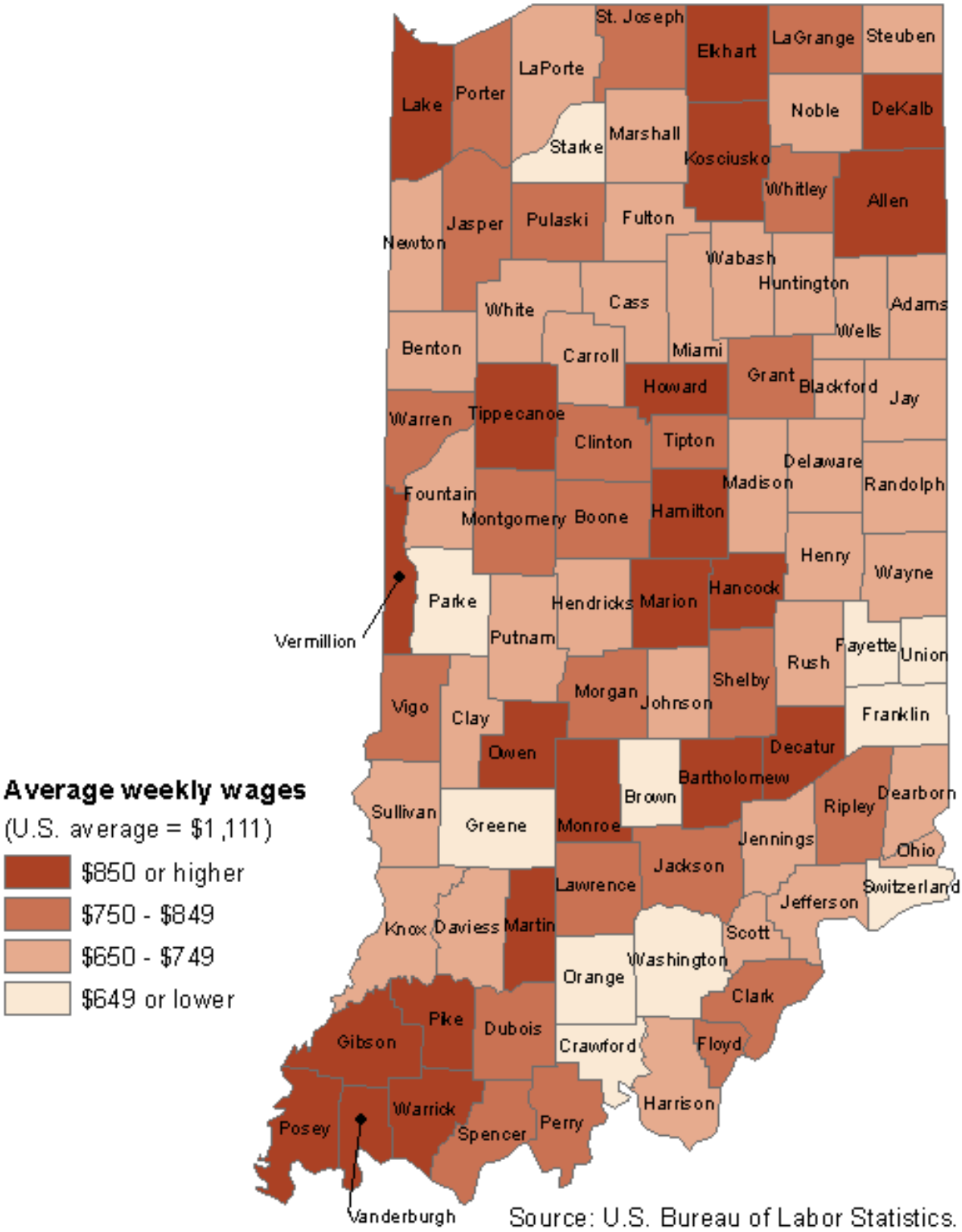
Chart 1. Average weekly wages by county in Indiana, first quarter 2017