



**For Release: Friday, March 24, 2017**

**17-212-CHI**

MIDWEST INFORMATION OFFICE: Chicago, Ill.

Technical information: (312) 353-1880 BLSInfoChicago@bls.gov [www.bls.gov/regions/midwest](http://www.bls.gov/regions/midwest)

Media contact: (312) 353-1138

## **County Employment and Wages in Wisconsin — Third Quarter 2016**

Wisconsin's six large counties had employment increases from September 2015 to September 2016, the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics reported today. (Large counties are defined as those with 2015 annual average employment levels of 75,000 or more.) Dane County had the largest increase, up 2.6 percent, followed by Winnebago County, up 2.0 percent. Assistant Commissioner for Regional Operations Charlene Peiffer noted that the employment gains in four of the state's large counties were less than the national increase of 1.7 percent. (See [table 1.](#))

Among the six large counties in Wisconsin, employment was highest in Milwaukee (487,000) in September 2016, followed by Dane (330,700), and Waukesha (239,000). Each of the three other counties—Brown, Outagamie, and Winnebago—had employment levels of less than 155,000. Collectively, Wisconsin's six large counties accounted for 49.5 percent of total employment within the state. Nationwide, the 344 largest counties made up 72.5 percent of total U.S. employment.

The average weekly wage in Dane County rose 10.1 percent from the third quarter of 2015 to the third quarter of 2016, the largest increase among Wisconsin's large counties, followed by Brown and Waukesha Counties at 6.7 percent and 5.2 percent, respectively. Dane County had the highest average weekly wage in the state at \$1,032, followed by Waukesha County at \$1,006 and Milwaukee County at \$970. (See [table 1.](#)) Nationally, the average weekly wage rose 5.4 percent over the year to \$1,027 in the third quarter of 2016.

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**

Two of Wisconsin's six large counties recorded wage gains greater than the national increase of 5.4 percent from the third quarter of 2015 to the third quarter of 2016. (See [table 1.](#)) As noted, Dane County had the state's largest average weekly wage increase, up 10.1 percent, and ranked seventh among the 344 largest U.S. counties. The over-the-year wage gain in Brown County, at 6.7 percent, ranked 79<sup>th</sup> nationally. The four remaining counties had average weekly wage increases ranging from 5.2 to 4.4 percent.

Nationally, 339 of the 344 largest counties registered over-the-year wage increases. Clark, Nev., had the largest wage gain, up 12.2 percent from the third quarter of 2015. Manatee, Fla., was second with a wage increase of 10.7 percent, followed by Hillsborough, N.H. (10.4 percent); and Boone, Ky., and Elkhart, Ind. (10.3 percent each).

Among the largest U.S. counties, five experienced over-the-year wage decreases. Rockland, N.Y., had the largest wage decrease with a loss of 14.9 percent. Lafayette, La., had the second largest decrease in average weekly wages, down 3.4 percent from the third quarter 2015, followed by Benton, Ark. (-2.0 percent); Lake, Ill. (-0.9 percent); and Midland, Texas (-0.3 percent).

### **Large county average weekly wages**

Average weekly wages in five of Wisconsin's six largest counties were below the national average of \$1,027 in the third quarter of 2016. As noted, Dane County (\$1,032) had the highest average weekly wage in the state, ranking 98<sup>th</sup> among the 344 largest U.S. counties. Waukesha (\$1,006) and Milwaukee (\$970) Counties placed 118<sup>th</sup> and 153<sup>rd</sup>, 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 at or above the U.S. average (\$1,027) in 103 of the 344 largest counties in the third quarter of 2016. Santa Clara, Calif., recorded the highest average weekly wage at \$2,260, followed by San Mateo, Calif. (\$2,098); San Francisco, Calif. (\$1,892); New York, N.Y. (\$1,879); and Washington, D.C. (\$1,728).

Among the largest U.S. counties, 241 had weekly wages below the national average in the third quarter of 2016. Horry County, S.C. (\$632) reported the lowest wage, followed by Cameron, Texas (\$636); Hidalgo, Texas (\$654); and Webb, Texas (\$680).

### **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 \$896. Florence County had the lowest weekly wage at \$528, followed by Bayfield at \$542. (See [table 2](#).)

When all 72 counties in Wisconsin were considered, 14 reported average weekly wages of \$649 or lower, 29 had wages from \$650 to \$749, 18 had wages from \$750 to \$849, and 11 had wages of \$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](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 2015 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 2016 version of the national news release. Tables and additional content from *Employment and Wages Annual Averages 2015* are now available online at [www.bls.gov/cew/publications/employment-and-wages-annual-averages/2015/home.htm](http://www.bls.gov/cew/publications/employment-and-wages-annual-averages/2015/home.htm). The 2016 edition of *Employment and Wages Annual Averages Online* will be available in September 2017.

---

**The County Employment and Wages release for fourth quarter 2016 is scheduled to be released on Wednesday, June 7, 2017.**

## 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 9.8 million employer reports cover 142.9 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 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 6 largest counties in Wisconsin, third quarter 2016**

Area	Employment			Average weekly wage <sup>(1)</sup>			
	September 2016 (thousands)	Percent change, September 2015-16 <sup>(2)</sup>	National ranking by percent change <sup>(3)</sup>	Average weekly wage	National ranking by level <sup>(3)</sup>	Percent change, third quarter 2015-16 <sup>(2)</sup>	National ranking by percent change <sup>(3)</sup>
United States <sup>(4)</sup> .....	142,940.5	1.7	--	\$1,027	--	5.4	--
Wisconsin.....	2,850.1	1.0	--	885	31	6.2	14
Brown, Wis. ....	154.6	1.5	195	904	211	6.7	79
Dane, Wis.....	330.7	2.6	96	1,032	98	10.1	7
Milwaukee, Wis. ....	487.0	0.5	283	970	153	4.5	254
Outagamie, Wis.....	107.0	1.4	203	875	242	4.8	233
Waukesha, Wis.....	239.0	0.4	292	1,006	118	5.2	205
Winnebago, Wis. ....	93.1	2.0	142	924	190	4.4	262

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 2016**

Area	Employment September 2016	Average weekly wage(1)
United States(2) .....	142,940,452	\$1,027
Wisconsin .....	2,850,076	885
Adams .....	4,846	668
Ashland .....	8,194	702
Barron .....	21,826	721
Bayfield .....	4,393	542
Brown .....	154,590	904
Buffalo .....	3,772	691
Burnett .....	4,674	608
Calumet .....	13,917	728
Chippewa .....	24,974	740
Clark .....	10,980	700
Columbia .....	22,412	755
Crawford .....	7,648	658
Dane .....	330,667	1,032
Dodge .....	35,585	826
Door .....	14,827	634
Douglas .....	15,622	758
Dunn .....	17,467	765
Eau Claire .....	57,117	832
Florence .....	1,018	528
Fond du Lac .....	46,985	848
Forest .....	3,156	684
Grant .....	17,729	691
Green .....	15,794	707
Green Lake .....	6,467	721
Iowa .....	10,091	720
Iron .....	1,690	586
Jackson .....	8,763	765
Jefferson .....	32,479	746
Juneau .....	9,301	735
Kenosha .....	64,414	780
Kewaunee .....	7,164	728
La Crosse .....	69,196	818
Lafayette .....	4,109	657
Langlade .....	7,495	659
Lincoln .....	10,984	779
Manitowoc .....	33,586	816
Marathon .....	70,777	856
Marinette .....	18,438	772
Marquette .....	3,860	632
Menominee .....	2,053	578
Milwaukee .....	487,048	970
Monroe .....	20,471	760
Oconto .....	9,203	646
Oneida .....	16,873	751
Outagamie .....	107,012	875
Ozaukee .....	43,337	853
Pepin .....	2,305	696
Pierce .....	10,086	670
Polk .....	16,259	723
Portage .....	34,464	806
Price .....	5,649	734
Racine .....	74,621	896
Richland .....	5,963	670
Rock .....	65,067	841
Rusk .....	5,131	660

Note: See footnotes at end of table.

**Table 2. Covered employment and wages in the United States and all counties in Wisconsin, third quarter 2016 - Continued**

Area	Employment September 2016	Average weekly wage <sup>(1)</sup>
St. Croix.....	33,560	757
Sauk .....	36,340	731
Sawyer .....	7,054	642
Shawano .....	12,690	619
Sheboygan .....	60,703	886
Taylor .....	8,095	713
Trempealeau .....	14,569	737
Vernon .....	9,039	648
Vilas.....	7,957	592
Walworth.....	41,557	720
Washburn .....	5,912	640
Washington.....	54,518	825
Waukesha.....	238,963	1,006
Waupaca .....	20,225	693
Waushara .....	6,247	623
Winnebago .....	93,145	924
Wood .....	38,288	864

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, third quarter 2016**

State	Employment		Average weekly wage <sup>(1)</sup>			
	September 2016 (thousands)	Percent change, September 2015-16	Average weekly wage	National ranking by level	Percent change, third quarter 2015-16	National ranking by percent change
United States <sup>(2)</sup> .....	142,940.5	1.7	\$1,027	--	5.4	--
Alabama .....	1,923.8	1.5	870	36	4.9	38
Alaska .....	337.4	-2.6	1,055	12	1.2	49
Arizona .....	2,695.5	3.1	950	24	6.9	5
Arkansas .....	1,205.4	1.0	794	48	5.2	32
California .....	16,871.1	2.4	1,210	4	6.7	8
Colorado .....	2,576.5	2.6	1,062	10	5.6	23
Connecticut .....	1,674.2	0.3	1,204	5	5.0	34
Delaware .....	440.7	0.8	1,022	16	5.6	23
District of Columbia .....	759.2	1.7	1,728	1	3.8	45
Florida .....	8,320.2	3.7	905	29	6.2	14
Georgia.....	4,290.4	2.9	969	21	5.9	18
Hawaii.....	648.4	1.8	956	23	6.7	8
Idaho .....	703.7	3.5	782	50	6.3	12
Illinois .....	5,933.6	0.6	1,062	10	4.4	40
Indiana.....	3,025.9	1.8	866	37	5.9	18
Iowa .....	1,548.6	0.8	873	35	6.2	14
Kansas .....	1,377.2	0.5	857	39	5.9	18
Kentucky.....	1,880.2	1.5	857	39	6.5	10
Louisiana .....	1,908.8	-0.9	883	32	2.9	48
Maine.....	616.2	0.9	825	45	5.9	18
Maryland.....	2,648.1	1.4	1,124	8	5.3	30
Massachusetts .....	3,522.9	2.0	1,277	2	6.8	7
Michigan .....	4,292.2	2.1	976	19	5.9	18
Minnesota.....	2,849.5	1.6	1,053	13	6.4	11
Mississippi.....	1,126.9	0.7	739	51	4.7	39
Missouri .....	2,782.1	1.6	888	30	5.0	34
Montana .....	464.5	1.5	792	49	4.3	41
Nebraska .....	973.9	0.9	857	39	5.5	26
Nevada .....	1,300.7	3.8	949	25	10.1	1
New Hampshire.....	655.0	1.8	1,027	15	7.9	2
New Jersey.....	4,000.0	1.8	1,173	7	5.0	34
New Mexico .....	811.5	0.2	830	44	4.0	43
New York .....	9,216.6	1.6	1,222	3	3.5	46
North Carolina .....	4,290.3	2.3	909	28	5.3	30
North Dakota .....	423.2	-3.4	964	22	0.7	50
Ohio .....	5,347.3	1.1	924	26	5.4	27
Oklahoma .....	1,578.7	-1.3	854	42	3.5	46
Oregon .....	1,866.5	2.6	970	20	5.2	32
Pennsylvania .....	5,776.7	1.0	1,013	17	5.4	27
Rhode Island .....	481.1	0.8	990	18	7.6	3
South Carolina.....	2,008.6	2.5	832	43	5.6	23
South Dakota.....	424.2	1.1	809	47	7.0	4
Tennessee .....	2,918.8	2.5	912	27	5.4	27
Texas .....	11,830.7	1.3	1,042	14	4.3	41
Utah .....	1,407.4	3.8	881	33	6.3	12
Vermont.....	309.9	0.5	880	34	6.2	14
Virginia.....	3,801.0	1.0	1,063	9	5.0	34
Washington.....	3,278.9	3.0	1,188	6	6.9	5
West Virginia .....	691.5	-1.6	816	46	3.9	44
Wisconsin .....	2,850.1	1.0	885	31	6.2	14
Wyoming .....	274.8	-4.7	865	38	0.0	51
Puerto Rico.....	888.2	-0.4	524	(3)	2.3	(3)
Virgin Islands.....	37.4	1.4	778	(3)	5.9	(3)

Note: See footnotes at end of table.

Footnotes:

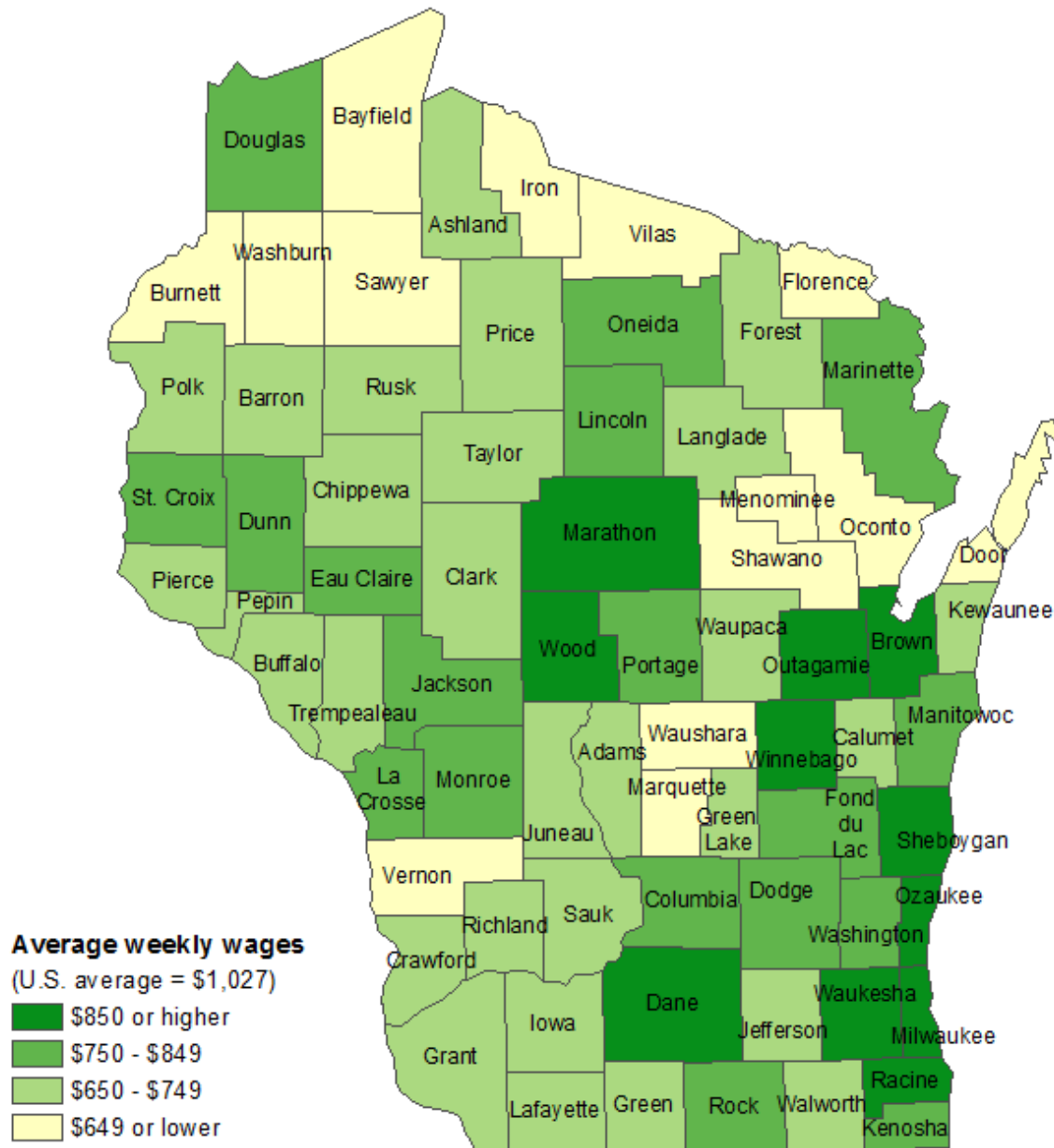
(1) Average weekly wages were calculated using unrounded data.

(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 Wisconsin, third quarter 2016**



Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics.



