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County Employment and Wages in Michigan — Fourth Quarter 2019

Employment rose in 7 of Michigan's 10 large counties from December 2018 to December 2019, the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics reported today. (Large counties are those with annual average employment levels of 75,000 or more in 2018.) Acting Regional Commissioner Julie Wilson noted that employment increased 1.4 percent over the year in Washtenaw County, 1.1 percent in Ottawa County, and 0.9 percent in both Genesee and Ingham Counties. (See [table 1](#).)

Nationally, employment increased 1.2 percent over the year with 285 of the 355 largest U.S. counties reporting increases. Cleveland, OK, had the largest percentage increase in the country, up 5.8 percent over the year. Ector, TX, had the largest over-the-year percentage decrease in employment with a loss of 4.2 percent.

Among the 10 largest counties in Michigan, employment was highest in Oakland County (753,000) and Wayne County (746,100) in December 2019. Kent and Macomb Counties had employment levels of 414,000 and 334,100, respectively. Together, the 10 largest Michigan counties accounted for 70.7 percent of total employment within the state. Nationwide, the 355 largest counties made up 73.7 percent of total U.S. employment.

All 10 large Michigan counties reported average weekly wage gains from the fourth quarter of 2018 to the fourth quarter of 2019, with the fastest rates of increase in Genesee and Ingham Counties, up 7.5 percent and 4.6 percent, respectively. In Wayne County, average weekly wages increased 4.1 percent. Oakland County had the highest average weekly wage among the state's largest counties at \$1,311. Nationally, the average weekly wage increased 3.5 percent from a year ago to \$1,185 in the fourth quarter of 2019.

Employment and wage levels (but not over-the-year changes) are also available for the 73 counties in Michigan with employment below 75,000. Wage levels in all of these smaller counties were below the national average in December 2019. (See [table 2](#).)

Large county wage changes

The 7.5-percent annual average weekly wage gain in Genesee County ranked 10th among the nation's 355 largest counties in the fourth quarter of 2019. Wage increases in Ingham and Wayne Counties also ranked in the top 100 of the nation's large counties at 60th and 98th, respectively. Two other counties, Kent (3.7 percent) and Oakland (3.6 percent), had wage gains that were higher than the national rate of 3.5 percent. The remaining large counties had over-the-year wage gains that placed in the bottom half of the ranking.

Nationally, 341 of the 355 largest counties had over-the-year wage increases. Santa Cruz, CA, had the largest percentage wage increase (20.7 percent). The remaining 14 large counties had wage declines during the period. Linn, IA, had the largest over-the-year percentage decrease (-7.1 percent).

Large county average weekly wages

Weekly wages in 3 of the state's 10 large counties were above the national average of \$1,185 in the fourth quarter of 2019. Average weekly wages in Oakland County (\$1,311), Wayne County (\$1,264), and Washtenaw County (\$1,204) ranked 53rd, 64th, and 82nd, respectively, in the top quarter of the national ranking. The average weekly wage in Saginaw County (\$943) ranked 287th among 355 largest U.S. counties.

Nationally, 93 large counties reported average weekly wages at or above the U.S. average in the fourth quarter of 2019. Santa Clara, CA, had the highest average weekly wage at \$2,825. Average weekly wages were below the national average in 262 counties. At \$701 a week, Cameron, TX, had the lowest average weekly wage.

Average weekly wages in Michigan's smaller counties

All 73 smaller counties in Michigan—those with employment below 75,000—reported average weekly wages below the national average of \$1,185. Among these smaller counties, Midland posted the highest weekly wage, \$1,167, followed by Kalkaska (\$1,055), Calhoun (\$1,033), and Jackson (\$1,024). Keweenaw County reported the lowest average wage in the state at \$584 per week, followed by Ontonagon County at \$603 per week.

When all 83 counties in Michigan were considered, 2 reported average weekly wages of less than \$650, 9 registered wages from \$650 to \$749, 33 had wages from \$750 to \$849, 19 had wages from \$850 to \$949, and 20 reported average weekly wages of \$950 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 2018 edition of this publication, which was published in September 2019, contains selected data produced by Business Employment Dynamics (BED) on job gains and losses, as well as selected data from the first quarter 2019 version of this news release. Tables and additional content from the 2018 edition of *Employment and Wages Annual Averages Online* are now available at www.bls.gov/cew/publications/employment-and-wages-annual-averages/2018/home.htm. The 2019 edition of *Employment and Wages Annual Averages Online* will be available in September 2020.

The County Employment and Wages release for first quarter 2020 is scheduled to be released on Wednesday, August 19, 2020. The County Employment and Wages full data update for first quarter 2020 is scheduled to be released on Wednesday, September 2, 2020.

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 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 10 largest counties in Michigan, fourth quarter 2019

Area	Employment			Average weekly wage ⁽¹⁾			
	December 2019 (thousands)	Percent change, December 2018-19 ⁽²⁾	National ranking by percent change ⁽³⁾	Average weekly wage	National ranking by level ⁽³⁾	Percent change, fourth quarter 2018-19 ⁽²⁾	National ranking by percent change ⁽³⁾
United States ⁽⁴⁾	149,857.1	1.2	--	\$1,185	--	3.5	--
Michigan	4,385.3	0.4	--	1,115	18	3.4	22
Genesee	139.0	0.9	184	987	245	7.5	10
Ingham	155.6	0.9	184	1,126	131	4.6	60
Kalamazoo	121.5	-0.6	322	1,052	186	0.8	336
Kent	414.0	0.4	241	1,026	207	3.7	133
Macomb	334.1	0.7	204	1,147	118	3.2	181
Oakland	753.0	-0.1	295	1,311	53	3.6	140
Ottawa	128.6	1.1	160	1,002	228	1.7	304
Saginaw	84.9	-0.4	305	943	287	2.4	255
Washtenaw	224.0	1.4	132	1,204	82	2.6	234
Wayne	746.1	0.7	204	1,264	64	4.1	98

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. 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 Michigan, fourth quarter 2019

Area	Employment December 2019	Average weekly wage(1)
United States(2)	149,857,130	\$1,185
Michigan	4,385,295	1,115
Alcona	1,762	768
Alger	2,327	848
Allegan	39,706	988
Alpena	11,370	861
Antrim	5,017	698
Arenac	4,258	777
Baraga	2,914	879
Barry	12,650	841
Bay	34,483	881
Benzie	4,164	732
Berrien	60,321	963
Branch	14,378	860
Calhoun	54,282	1,033
Cass	9,312	846
Charlevoix	9,979	905
Cheboygan	5,673	731
Chippewa	12,341	806
Clare	6,406	815
Clinton	16,400	924
Crawford	4,106	845
Delta	13,775	807
Dickinson	13,398	977
Eaton	42,350	1,009
Emmet	18,290	878
Genesee	139,015	987
Gladwin	3,931	786
Gogebic	5,423	759
Grand Traverse	50,278	945
Gratiot	12,753	977
Hillsdale	12,640	891
Houghton	11,557	855
Huron	11,040	827
Ingham	155,558	1,126
Ionia	21,748	734
Iosco	7,770	864
Iron	3,663	792
Isabella	28,472	806
Jackson	57,148	1,024
Kalamazoo	121,466	1,052
Kalkaska	4,090	1,055
Kent	414,045	1,026
Keweenaw	367	584
Lake	1,817	735
Lapeer	20,796	827
Leelanau	6,052	790
Lenawee	25,497	860
Livingston	63,474	953
Luce	1,758	805
Mackinac	3,292	778
Macomb	334,132	1,147
Manistee	6,963	841
Marquette	26,682	885
Mason	9,997	846
Mecosta	13,600	793

Note: See footnotes at end of table.

Table 2. Covered employment and wages in the United States and all counties in Michigan, fourth quarter 2019 - Continued

Area	Employment December 2019	Average weekly wage ⁽¹⁾
Menominee.....	7,235	750
Midland.....	37,146	1,167
Missaukee.....	3,419	781
Monroe.....	39,912	992
Montcalm.....	16,255	821
Montmorency.....	1,990	721
Muskegon.....	61,731	895
Newaygo.....	12,150	810
Oakland.....	752,992	1,311
Oceana.....	6,153	768
Ogemaw.....	5,548	678
Ontonagon.....	1,303	603
Osceola.....	7,445	914
Oscoda.....	1,494	696
Otsego.....	10,103	849
Ottawa.....	128,646	1,002
Presque Isle.....	2,611	782
Roscommon.....	5,137	695
Saginaw.....	84,873	943
St. Clair.....	44,674	942
St. Joseph.....	23,018	778
Sanilac.....	10,400	767
Schoolcraft.....	2,551	879
Shiawassee.....	15,675	837
Tuscola.....	11,828	848
Van Buren.....	20,989	857
Washtenaw.....	223,992	1,204
Wayne.....	746,070	1,264
Wexford.....	14,112	816

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, fourth quarter 2019

State	Employment		Average weekly wage ⁽¹⁾			
	December 2019 (thousands)	Percent change, December 2018-19	Average weekly wage	National ranking by level	Percent change, fourth quarter 2018-19	National ranking by percent change
United States ⁽²⁾	149,857.1	1.2	\$1,185	--	3.5	--
Alabama	2,007.9	1.0	985	36	2.6	39
Alaska	309.9	0.6	1,139	16	3.2	27
Arizona	2,999.8	2.7	1,059	23	4.1	7
Arkansas	1,232.9	0.5	898	50	3.2	27
California	17,836.3	1.5	1,457	4	4.7	4
Colorado	2,772.6	2.2	1,227	9	4.0	8
Connecticut	1,687.4	-0.7	1,383	5	3.8	11
Delaware	455.3	0.8	1,136	17	2.6	39
District of Columbia	782.5	0.8	1,992	1	2.5	42
Florida	9,085.5	2.0	1,044	26	3.6	14
Georgia	4,576.1	1.7	1,090	21	3.6	14
Hawaii	665.1	-0.8	1,053	24	3.5	17
Idaho	756.9	3.1	918	46	3.1	32
Illinois	6,043.5	0.2	1,221	10	2.7	38
Indiana	3,106.0	0.6	969	38	3.0	34
Iowa	1,560.4	0.1	984	37	1.9	47
Kansas	1,410.7	0.6	959	40	3.5	17
Kentucky	1,928.3	0.8	955	41	3.2	27
Louisiana	1,927.7	-0.5	993	34	2.5	42
Maine	620.2	0.7	955	41	5.3	2
Maryland	2,728.1	0.9	1,271	8	3.5	17
Massachusetts	3,660.8	0.9	1,511	2	3.8	11
Michigan	4,385.3	0.4	1,115	18	3.4	22
Minnesota	2,912.8	0.4	1,177	14	3.2	27
Mississippi	1,145.0	0.0	818	51	3.2	27
Missouri	2,846.2	0.9	1,010	32	3.0	34
Montana	474.1	1.1	918	46	3.4	22
Nebraska	990.9	0.7	969	38	4.2	6
Nevada	1,435.5	2.7	1,030	29	2.4	45
New Hampshire	671.3	0.8	1,192	12	2.9	37
New Jersey	4,157.4	0.8	1,332	7	2.5	42
New Mexico	844.0	1.5	942	44	4.0	8
New York	9,691.0	0.8	1,499	3	3.7	13
North Carolina	4,546.9	1.9	1,036	28	2.4	45
North Dakota	424.6	0.5	1,085	22	2.6	39
Ohio	5,477.2	0.5	1,037	27	3.1	32
Oklahoma	1,639.4	0.3	945	43	1.4	49
Oregon	1,969.3	1.6	1,100	19	4.6	5
Pennsylvania	5,985.9	0.8	1,143	15	3.6	14
Rhode Island	489.8	0.6	1,099	20	1.1	50
South Carolina	2,144.8	1.2	931	45	4.0	8
South Dakota	430.7	0.6	916	48	3.5	17
Tennessee	3,085.4	1.6	1,047	25	1.6	48
Texas	12,793.0	2.0	1,187	13	3.4	22
Utah	1,547.8	2.5	1,022	30	5.0	3
Vermont	314.0	-0.4	987	35	3.5	17
Virginia	3,978.7	1.2	1,204	11	3.4	22
Washington	3,457.7	2.2	1,370	6	6.4	1
West Virginia	690.3	-2.0	904	49	-1.4	51
Wisconsin	2,898.0	0.2	1,022	30	3.3	26
Wyoming	276.3	1.4	1,007	33	3.0	34
Puerto Rico	910.7	1.5	575	(3)	-0.2	(3)
Virgin Islands	39.2	10.8	1,065	(3)	13.5	(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. Includes workers covered by Unemployment Insurance (UI) and Unemployment Compensation for Federal Employees (UCFE) programs.

Chart 1. Average weekly wages by county in Michigan, fourth quarter 2019

