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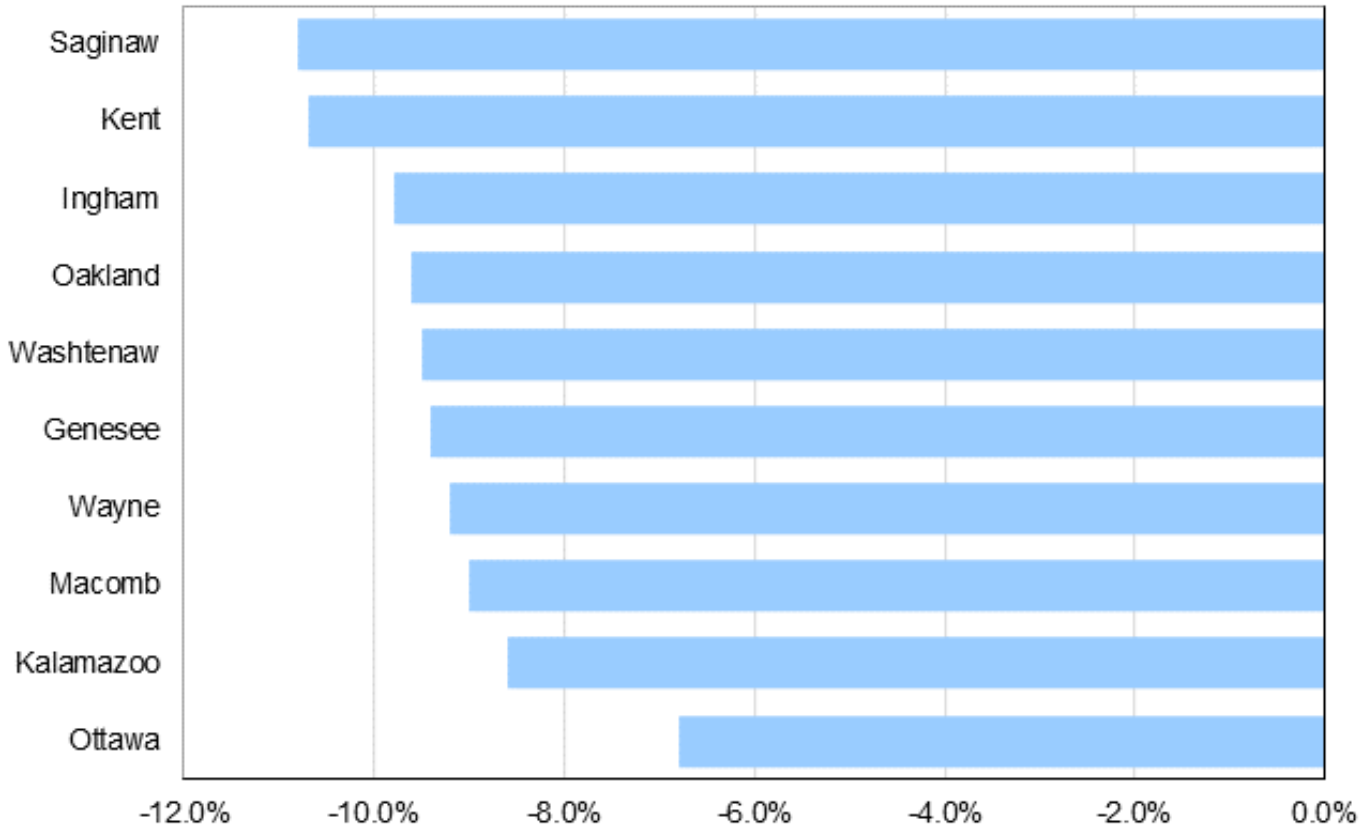
County Employment and Wages in Michigan — Fourth Quarter 2020

Employment fell in the 10 largest counties in Michigan from December 2019 to December 2020, the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics reported today. (Large counties are those with annual average employment levels of 75,000 or more in 2019.) Regional Commissioner Jason Palmer noted that Saginaw County and Kent County had the largest over-the-year decreases in employment at 10.8 percent and 10.7 percent, respectively. (See chart 1 and table 1.)

Chart 1. Over-the-year percent change in covered employment among the largest counties in Michigan, December 2020



Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics.

National employment decreased 6.1 percent over the year, with 352 of the 357 largest U.S. counties reporting declines. Maui + Kalawao, HI, had the largest over-the-year decrease in employment with a loss of 22.8 percent. Utah, UT, experienced the largest over-the-year percentage increase in employment with a gain of 3.8 percent.

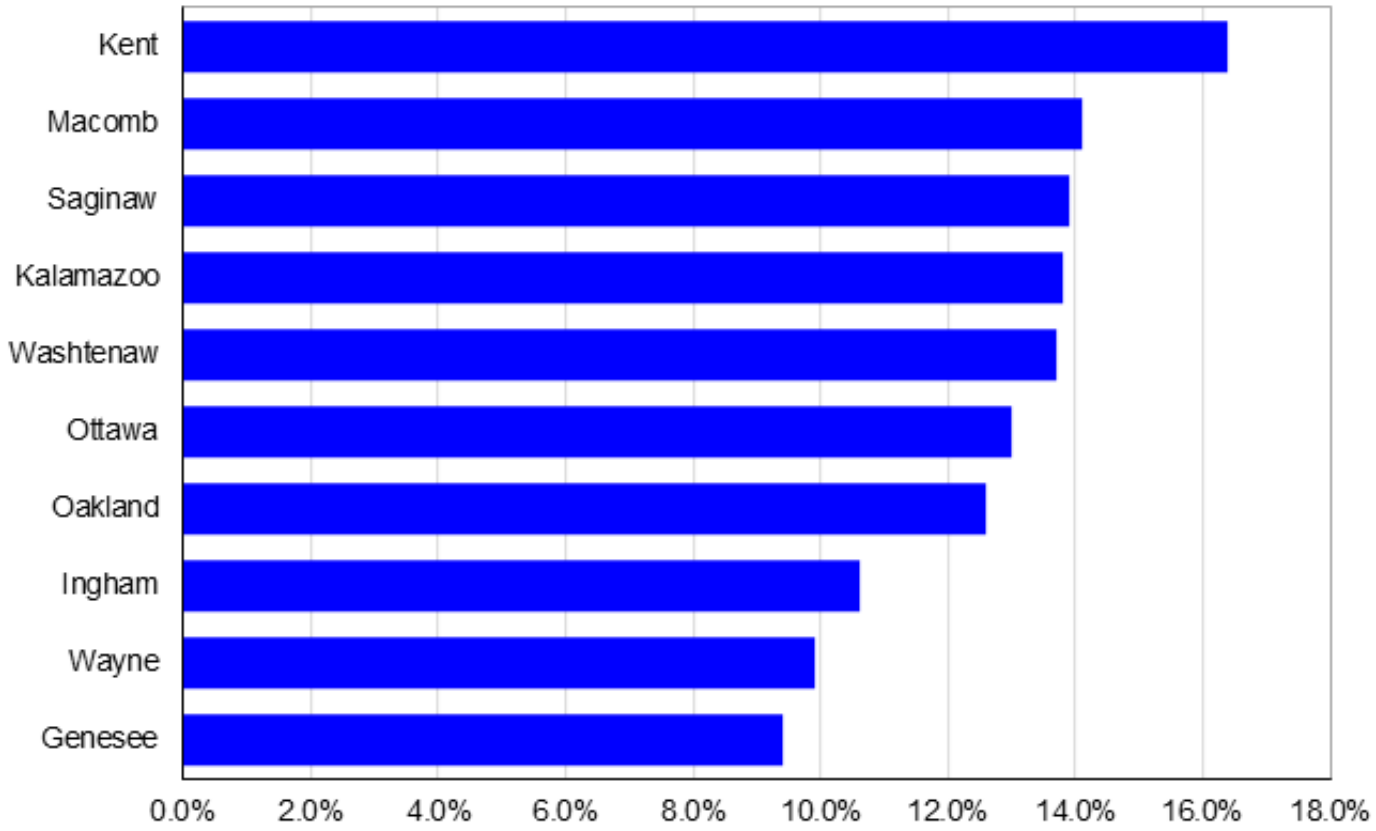
Among the 10 largest counties in Michigan, employment was highest in Oakland County (682,000) in December 2020. Within Oakland County's private industry, professional and technical services accounted for the largest employment. Together, the 10 largest Michigan counties accounted for 70.3 percent of total employment within the state. Nationwide, the 357 largest counties made up 73.1 percent of total U.S. employment.

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 the smaller counties were below the national average in the fourth quarter of 2020. (See table 2.)

Large county wage changes

All 10 large Michigan counties reported average weekly wage gains from the fourth quarter of 2019 to the fourth quarter of 2020. (See chart 2.) Six counties had rates of wage gains that were at or above the national rate of 13.0 percent, with the largest gain Kent County had (+16.4 percent). Over-the-year wage gains among Michigan's four other large counties ranged from 12.6 percent to 9.4 percent.

Chart 2. Over-the-year percent change in covered average weekly wages among the largest counties in Michigan, fourth quarter 2020



Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics.

Among the 357 largest counties in the United States, 356 had over-the-year wage increases. Nationally, across most industries, increases in average weekly wages reflect substantial employment declines combined with wage increases. The lowest paying industry, leisure and hospitality, had the largest employment loss, which results in higher average weekly wages for the industry and the nation. San Francisco, CA, had the largest percentage wage increase (+44.3 percent). Ector, TX, had the only over-the-year percentage decrease (-7.5 percent).

Large county average weekly wages

Weekly wages in the 3 of the 10 largest counties in Michigan were above the national average of $1,339 in the fourth quarter of 2020. Average weekly wages in these three counties ranked among the top 100 nationwide: Oakland ($1,473, 54th), Wayne ($1,391, 69th), and Washtenaw ($1,365, 79th).

Among the largest U.S. counties, 89 reported average weekly wages above the U.S. average in the fourth quarter of 2020. Santa Clara, CA, had the highest average weekly wage at $3,690. Average weekly wages were below the national average in the remaining 268 counties. At $760 a week, Cameron, TX, had the lowest average weekly wage.

Average weekly wages in Michigan's smaller counties

Among the 73 smaller counties in Michigan—those with employment below 75,000—Midland ($1,333) reported the highest average weekly wage in the state, below the national average of $1,339. Keweenaw ($680) reported the lowest average weekly wage in the state.

When all 83 counties in Michigan were considered, 10 reported average weekly wages of less than $850, 26 registered wages from $850 to $949, 21 had wages from $950 to $1,049, and 26 had average weekly wages of $1,050 or higher. (See chart 3.)

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 2019 edition of this publication was published in September 2020. Tables and additional content from the 2019 edition of *Employment and Wages Annual Averages Online* are available at www.bls.gov/cew/publications/employment-and-wages-annual-averages/2019/home.htm. The 2020 edition of *Employment and Wages Annual Averages Online* will be available in September 2021.

The County Employment and Wages release for first quarter 2021 is scheduled to be released on Wednesday, August 18, 2021. The County Employment and Wages full data update for first quarter 2021 is scheduled to be released on Wednesday, September 1, 2021.

QCEW Imputation Issue Caused by Pandemic-Related Challenges

In the spring of 2020, BLS modified its imputation process for QCEW to be more responsive to current economic conditions. While continuing work to improve this process, BLS made an unintended data processing error. This error affected data for the second, third, and fourth quarters of 2020. BLS has analyzed this issue and has determined that the impact on QCEW employment was negligible at the statewide level. In smaller areas and industries, revisions may be larger than usual. Wage data were not affected. Following the usual QCEW practice, these data will be revised and corrected with the full data update on September 1, 2021.

For more information on QCEW imputation methodology, see www.bls.gov/cew/additional-resources/imputation-methodology.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 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 individuals with sensory impairments 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 2020

Area	Establishments, fourth quarter 2020 (thousands)	Employment			Average weekly wage [1]			
		December 2020 (thousands)	Percent change, December 2019–20 [2]	National ranking by percent change [3]	Fourth quarter 2020	National ranking by level [3]	Percent change, fourth quarter 2019–20 [2]	National ranking by percent change [3]
United States [4]	10,675.8	140,881.3	-6.1	--	$1,339	--	13.0	--
Michigan	265.3	3,998.2	-8.9	--	1,257	19	12.8	21
Genesee	7.2	124.1	-9.4	317	1,073	271	9.4	309
Ingham	6.5	139.7	-9.8	326	1,252	138	10.6	264
Kalamazoo	5.8	112.7	-8.6	288	1,190	179	13.8	100
Kent	16.2	371.1	-10.7	339	1,194	175	16.4	30
Macomb	18.9	306.0	-9.0	301	1,308	107	14.1	84
Oakland	42.5	682.0	-9.6	320	1,473	54	12.6	170
Ottawa	6.3	120.0	-6.8	218	1,133	220	13.0	140
Saginaw	4.0	76.0	-10.8	340	1,076	268	13.9	94
Washtenaw	9.2	203.3	-9.5	318	1,365	79	13.7	105
Wayne	34.9	676.4	-9.2	310	1,391	69	9.9	295

Footnotes:
(1) Average weekly wages were calculated using unrounded data.
(2) Percent changes were computed from 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 Michigan, fourth quarter 2020

Area	Employment December 2020	Average weekly wage(1)
United States(2)	140,881,253	$1,339
Michigan	3,998,223	1,257
Alcona	1,641	864
Alger	2,076	991
Allegan	36,478	1,123
Alpena	10,660	994
Antrim	4,475	784
Arenac	3,657	882
Baraga	2,669	965
Barry	11,422	1,030
Bay	31,400	1,064
Benzie	3,791	805
Berrien	54,485	1,085
Branch	13,542	977
Calhoun	50,129	1,186
Cass	8,249	993
Charlevoix	8,823	1,045
Cheboygan	4,917	848
Chippewa	11,382	910
Clare	5,980	920
Clinton	15,972	1,027
Crawford	3,769	959
Delta	12,706	909
Dickinson	12,720	1,090
Eaton	39,973	1,080
Emmet	16,562	979
Genesee	124,106	1,073
Gladwin	3,834	844
Gogebic	4,737	885
Grand Traverse	45,332	1,103
Gratiot	12,287	1,077
Hillsdale	11,576	987
Houghton	10,686	995
Huron	10,219	938
Ingham	139,701	1,252
Ionia	18,898	867
Iosco	6,900	1,105
Iron	3,246	852
Isabella	25,500	932
Jackson	53,367	1,134
Kalamazoo	112,689	1,190
Kalkaska	3,921	1,141
Kent	371,093	1,194
Keweenaw	332	680
Lake	1,668	876
Lapeer	19,768	920
Leelanau	5,208	903
Lenawee	23,203	985
Livingston	58,901	1,068
Luce	1,535	893
Mackinac	3,060	864
Macomb	305,974	1,308
Manistee	6,087	943
Marquette	24,006	995
Mason	9,178	963
Mecosta	12,023	947

Note: See footnotes at end of table.

Table 2. Covered employment and wages in the United States and all counties in Michigan, fourth quarter 2020 - Continued

Area	Employment December 2020	Average weekly wage(1)
Menominee	6,517	853
Midland	34,098	1,333
Missaukee	3,437	855
Monroe	36,054	1,144
Montcalm	14,977	907
Montmorency	2,008	822
Muskegon	56,367	982
Newaygo	11,210	896
Oakland	681,972	1,473
Oceana	5,651	859
Ogemaw	5,424	792
Ontonagon	1,218	691
Osceola	7,235	1,002
Oscoda	1,144	733
Otsego	9,531	980
Ottawa	120,042	1,133
Presque Isle	2,377	940
Roscommon	4,709	826
Saginaw	76,004	1,076
St. Clair	41,497	1,100
St. Joseph	19,790	926
Sanilac	9,695	879
Schoolcraft	2,332	995
Shiawassee	14,159	954
Tuscola	10,809	967
Van Buren	18,901	1,140
Washtenaw	203,266	1,365
Wayne	676,435	1,391
Wexford	12,837	949

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 2020

State	Establishments, fourth quarter 2020 (thousands)	Employment		Average weekly wage [1]			
		December 2020 (thousands)	Percent change, December 2019–20	Fourth quarter 2020	National ranking by level	Percent change, fourth quarter 2019–20	National ranking by percent change
United States [2]	10,675.8	140,881.3	-6.1	$1,339	--	13.0	--
Alabama	134.6	1,951.2	-2.9	1,096	35	11.4	36
Alaska	23.1	290.1	-6.4	1,260	17	10.6	44
Arizona	173.9	2,908.7	-3.3	1,214	22	14.6	9
Arkansas	94.6	1,194.8	-3.2	999	49	11.4	36
California	1,660.2	16,380.1	-8.3	1,724	3	18.5	1
Colorado	219.6	2,613.7	-5.7	1,378	10	12.3	25
Connecticut	126.8	1,578.4	-6.5	1,551	6	12.2	27
Delaware	35.1	432.9	-5.2	1,262	16	11.3	38
District of Columbia	43.8	713.0	-8.9	2,293	1	15.2	6
Florida	765.4	8,642.8	-5.0	1,180	24	13.1	17
Georgia	319.7	4,405.9	-4.0	1,208	23	10.9	42
Hawaii	47.3	561.1	-16.1	1,219	21	16.0	4
Idaho	71.8	763.5	0.8	1,034	47	12.8	21
Illinois	386.3	5,573.8	-7.8	1,378	10	13.0	18
Indiana	173.1	2,985.1	-4.0	1,076	39	11.2	39
Iowa	105.6	1,494.3	-4.3	1,099	34	11.6	32
Kansas	89.9	1,346.9	-4.5	1,070	40	11.5	34
Kentucky	130.4	1,839.6	-4.8	1,057	42	10.8	43
Louisiana	140.8	1,796.9	-7.0	1,078	38	8.6	48
Maine	55.4	594.3	-4.3	1,092	36	14.5	10
Maryland	174.5	2,546.1	-6.7	1,445	8	13.6	16
Massachusetts	266.7	3,365.8	-8.3	1,766	2	17.0	3
Michigan	265.3	3,998.2	-8.9	1,257	19	12.8	21
Minnesota	186.4	2,684.1	-7.9	1,322	13	12.3	25
Mississippi	76.1	1,119.1	-2.4	901	51	10.4	45
Missouri	221.5	2,724.4	-4.3	1,127	33	11.6	32
Montana	54.6	467.4	-1.4	1,035	45	12.7	23
Nebraska	72.5	962.7	-2.9	1,079	37	11.5	34
Nevada	90.2	1,283.1	-10.7	1,178	25	14.4	11
New Hampshire	57.1	637.3	-5.2	1,406	9	17.9	2
New Jersey	291.0	3,860.5	-7.2	1,517	7	13.9	15
New Mexico	64.8	767.1	-9.5	1,052	43	11.8	29
New York	662.4	8,693.4	-10.3	1,712	4	14.2	13
North Carolina	301.7	4,431.0	-2.7	1,152	29	11.2	39
North Dakota	32.6	394.4	-7.1	1,136	31	4.7	50
Ohio	307.3	5,199.9	-5.1	1,161	27	12.0	28
Oklahoma	113.6	1,569.1	-4.4	1,013	48	7.3	49
Oregon	167.3	1,824.3	-7.5	1,256	20	14.2	13
Pennsylvania	370.5	5,549.4	-7.4	1,287	15	12.6	24
Rhode Island	40.7	449.6	-8.3	1,259	18	14.7	7
South Carolina	149.2	2,074.4	-3.5	1,035	45	11.1	41
South Dakota	35.5	422.8	-1.9	1,048	44	14.4	11
Tennessee	176.2	3,002.5	-2.7	1,172	26	11.7	30
Texas	743.1	12,251.1	-4.3	1,294	14	9.0	47
Utah	117.9	1,557.8	0.6	1,154	28	12.9	20
Vermont	26.6	286.1	-8.9	1,133	32	14.7	7
Virginia	289.8	3,796.1	-4.7	1,360	12	13.0	18
Washington	259.7	3,219.7	-6.8	1,589	5	16.0	4
West Virginia	51.9	654.1	-5.3	997	50	10.3	46
Wisconsin	184.2	2,762.5	-4.8	1,140	30	11.7	30
Wyoming	27.7	260.2	-5.3	1,061	41	4.6	51
Puerto Rico	46.0	873.8	-4.0	621	[3]	8.0	[3]

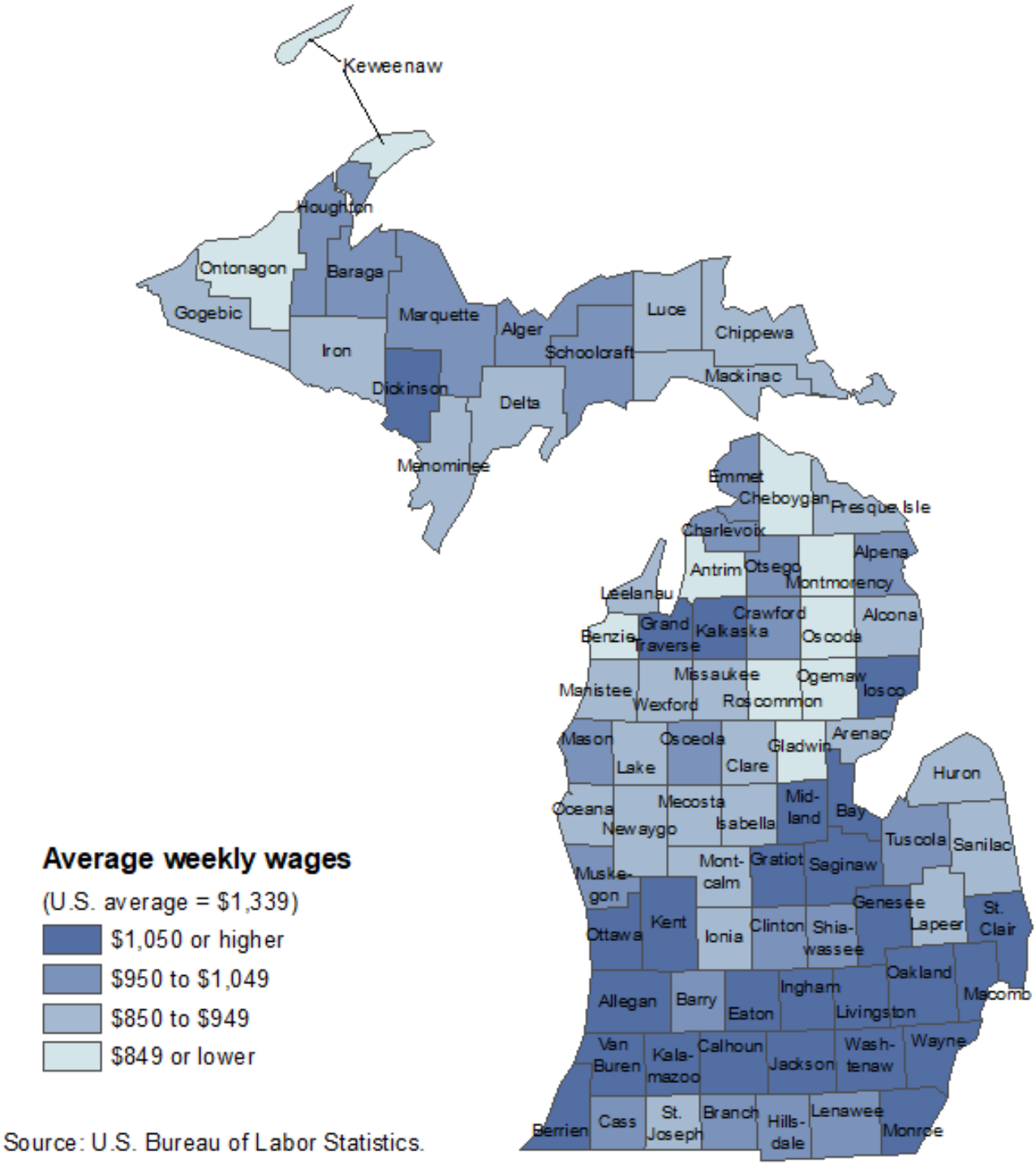
Note: See footnotes at end of table.

Table 3. Covered employment and wages by state, fourth quarter 2020 - Continued

State	Establishments, fourth quarter 2020 (thousands)	Employment		Average weekly wage [1]			
		December 2020 (thousands)	Percent change, December 2019–20	Fourth quarter 2020	National ranking by level	Percent change, fourth quarter 2019–20	National ranking by percent change
Virgin Islands	3.5	35.3	-11.5	1,057	[3]	-1.3	[3]

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 3. Average weekly wages by county in Michigan, fourth quarter 2020



Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics.