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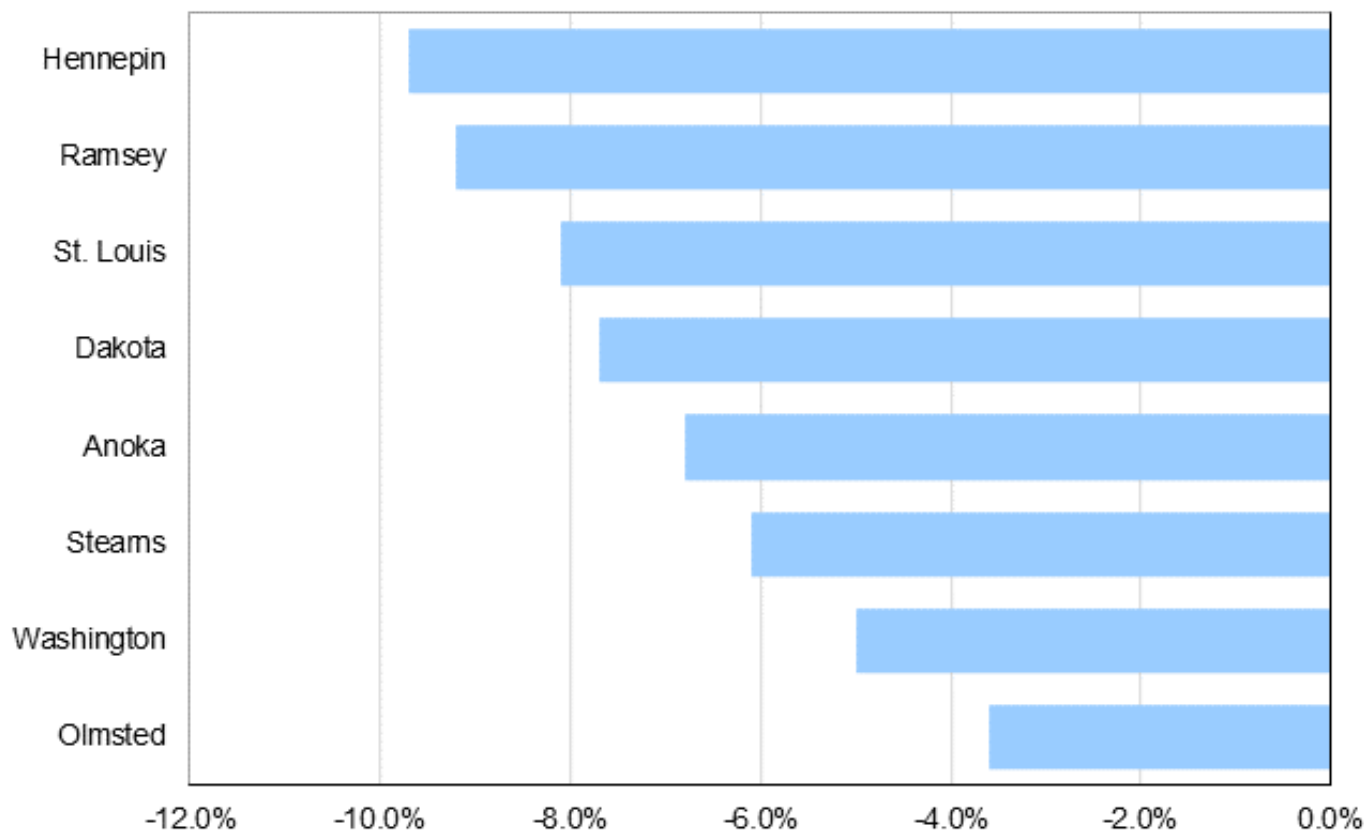
Technical information: (312) 353-1880 BLSInfoChicago@bls.gov [www.bls.gov/regions/midwest](http://www.bls.gov/regions/midwest)

Media contact: (312) 353-1138

## County Employment and Wages in Minnesota — Third Quarter 2020

Employment fell in all eight of the largest counties in Minnesota from September 2019 to September 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 Hennepin County and Ramsey County had the largest over-the-year decreases in employment at 9.7 percent and 9.2 percent, respectively. (See [chart 1](#) and [table 1](#).)

**Chart 1. Over-the-year percent change in covered employment among the largest counties in Minnesota, September 2020**



Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics.

National employment decreased 6.8 percent over the year, with 355 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 35.4 percent. Utah, UT, experienced the largest over-the-year percentage increase in employment with a gain of 1.9 percent.

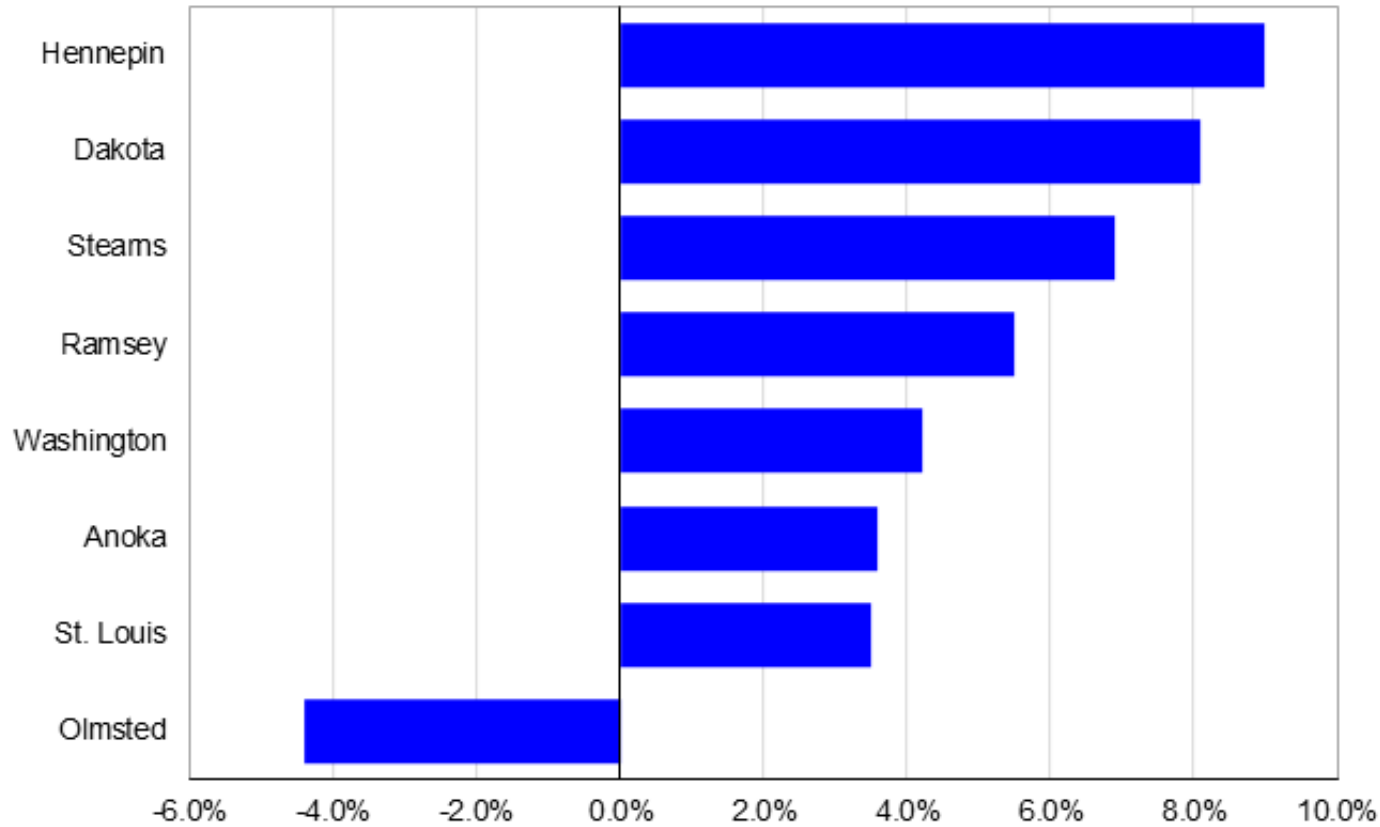
Among the eight largest counties in Minnesota, employment was highest in Hennepin County (849,900) in September 2020. Within Hennepin County’s private industry, health care and social assistance accounted for the largest employment. Together, the eight largest Minnesota counties accounted for 66.8 percent of total employment within the state. Nationwide, the 357 largest counties made up 72.9 percent of total U.S. employment.

Employment and wage levels (but not over-the-year changes) are also available for the 79 counties in Minnesota with employment below 75,000. Wage levels in all of the 79 smaller counties were below the national average in the third quarter of 2020. (See [table 2](#).)

**Large county wage changes**

Seven of the eight large Minnesota counties reported average weekly wage gains from the third quarter of 2019 to the third quarter of 2020. (See [chart 2](#).) Hennepin County (+9.0 percent) and Dakota (+8.1 percent) had wage gains that were above the national rate of 7.4 percent. Olmsted County’s average weekly wages declined 4.4 percent.

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



Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics.

Among the 357 largest counties in the United States, 350 had over-the-year wage increases. Nationally, the increases in average weekly wages largely reflect substantial employment loss among lower-paid industries. Employment declines occurring in some higher-paid industries also feature significant wage increases. San Mateo, CA, had the largest percentage wage increase (+23.2 percent). Seven large counties had wage declines during the period. Ector, TX, had the largest over-the-year percentage decrease (-11.0 percent).

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

Weekly wages in the 3 of the 8 largest counties in Minnesota were above the national average of \$1,173 in the third quarter of 2020. Average weekly wages in these three counties ranked among the top 100 nationwide: Hennepin (\$1,447, 26<sup>th</sup>), Ramsey (\$1,263, 65<sup>th</sup>), and Olmsted (\$1,224, 81<sup>st</sup>).

Among the largest U.S. counties, 96 reported average weekly wages above the U.S. average in the third quarter of 2020. San Mateo, CA, had the highest average weekly wage at \$2,922. Average weekly wages were at or below the national average in 261 counties. At \$697 a week, Cameron, TX, had the lowest average weekly wage.

### **Average weekly wages in Minnesota's smaller counties**

Among the 79 smaller counties in Minnesota—those with employment below 75,000— all reported an average weekly wage below the national average of \$1,173. Carver County (\$1,069) reported the highest average weekly wage in the state, while Fillmore County (\$694) reported the lowest average weekly wage in the state.

When all 87 counties in Minnesota were considered, 13 reported average weekly wages of less than \$750, 27 registered wages from \$750 to \$849, 33 had wages from \$850 to \$949, and 14 had average weekly wages of \$950 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](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 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](http://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.

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**The County Employment and Wages release for fourth quarter 2020 is scheduled to be released on Wednesday, May 19, 2021.**

**The County Employment and Wages full data update for fourth quarter 2020 is scheduled to be released on Wednesday, June 2, 2021.**

### **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](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 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 eight largest counties in Minnesota, third quarter 2020**

Area	Establishments, third quarter 2020 (thousands)	Employment			Average weekly wage <sup>(1)</sup>			
		September 2020 (thousands)	Percent change, September 2019–20 <sup>(2)</sup>	National ranking by percent change <sup>(3)</sup>	Third quarter 2020	National ranking by level <sup>(3)</sup>	Percent change, third quarter 2019–20 <sup>(2)</sup>	National ranking by percent change <sup>(3)</sup>
United States <sup>(4)</sup> .....	10,561.3	138,549.5	-6.8	--	\$1,173	--	7.4	--
Minnesota.....	183.1	2,703.3	-7.4	--	1,178	12	6.4	27
Anoka.....	7.9	121.5	-6.8	199	1,126	126	3.6	328
Dakota.....	10.8	177.0	-7.7	226	1,139	116	8.1	125
Hennepin.....	41.7	849.9	-9.7	313	1,447	26	9.0	75
Olmsted.....	3.8	96.7	-3.6	47	1,224	81	-4.4	354
Ramsey.....	14.3	305.6	-9.2	297	1,263	65	5.5	271
St. Louis.....	5.4	90.1	-8.1	248	947	280	3.5	329
Stearns.....	4.4	81.6	-6.1	165	1,010	219	6.9	196
Washington.....	6.2	84.5	-5.0	94	944	286	4.2	316

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 Minnesota, third quarter 2020**

Area	Employment September 2020	Average weekly wage(1)
United States(2) .....	138,549,503	\$1,173
Minnesota .....	2,703,282	1,178
Aitkin .....	4,197	742
Anoka .....	121,450	1,126
Becker .....	13,896	784
Beltrami .....	20,034	896
Benton .....	17,296	911
Big Stone .....	1,685	803
Blue Earth .....	37,494	930
Brown .....	13,234	869
Carlton .....	12,380	958
Carver .....	37,350	1,069
Cass .....	9,872	729
Chippewa .....	5,375	779
Chisago .....	15,219	937
Clay .....	18,644	874
Clearwater .....	2,616	859
Cook .....	2,723	707
Cottonwood .....	5,405	836
Crow Wing .....	28,673	844
Dakota .....	176,992	1,139
Dodge .....	5,841	988
Douglas .....	18,782	876
Faribault .....	4,395	838
Fillmore .....	6,082	694
Freeborn .....	11,531	833
Goodhue .....	19,892	952
Grant .....	1,848	778
Hennepin .....	849,873	1,447
Houston .....	5,087	703
Hubbard .....	6,165	796
Isanti .....	11,022	828
Itasca .....	15,494	846
Jackson .....	4,870	776
Kanabec .....	3,866	890
Kandiyohi .....	23,658	854
Kittson .....	1,478	732
Koochiching .....	4,183	880
Lac qui Parle .....	2,089	737
Lake .....	3,860	891
Lake of the Woods .....	1,575	747
Le Sueur .....	8,653	914
Lincoln .....	1,498	697
Lyon .....	12,928	943
McLeod .....	15,019	910
Mahnomen .....	1,472	808
Marshall .....	2,348	920
Martin .....	7,859	887
Meeker .....	7,100	838
Mille Lacs .....	8,784	776
Morrison .....	10,648	781
Mower .....	15,946	989
Murray .....	2,889	780
Nicollet .....	14,153	926
Nobles .....	10,085	927
Norman .....	1,526	768
Olmsted .....	96,691	1,224

Note: See footnotes at end of table.

**Table 2. Covered employment and wages in the United States and all counties in Minnesota, third quarter 2020 - Continued**

Area	Employment September 2020	Average weekly wage <sup>(1)</sup>
Otter Tail .....	22,517	810
Pennington .....	9,753	944
Pine .....	7,431	716
Pipestone .....	4,190	789
Polk .....	12,001	872
Pope .....	4,269	858
Ramsey .....	305,578	1,263
Red Lake .....	1,054	727
Redwood .....	5,834	836
Renville .....	5,686	851
Rice .....	24,119	952
Rock .....	3,240	771
Roseau .....	7,477	948
St. Louis .....	90,140	947
Scott .....	52,697	1,037
Sherburne .....	25,749	945
Sibley .....	4,357	879
Stearns .....	81,612	1,010
Steele .....	19,685	908
Stevens .....	5,400	1,001
Swift .....	3,280	790
Todd .....	6,463	849
Traverse .....	1,178	719
Wabasha .....	6,703	785
Wadena .....	5,319	797
Waseca .....	5,906	865
Washington .....	84,514	944
Watonwan .....	4,275	786
Wilkin .....	1,623	941
Winona .....	22,862	889
Wright .....	43,918	920
Yellow Medicine .....	3,816	744

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 2020**

State	Establishments, third quarter 2020 (thousands)	Employment		Average weekly wage <sup>(1)</sup>			
		September 2020 (thousands)	Percent change, September 2019–20	Third quarter 2020	National ranking by level	Percent change, third quarter 2019–20	National ranking by percent change
United States <sup>(2)</sup>	10,561.3	138,549.5	-6.8	\$1,173	--	7.4	--
Alabama	132.2	1,902.4	-4.5	978	33	6.4	27
Alaska	22.9	302.6	-10.7	1,165	14	5.4	42
Arizona	174.1	2,797.1	-4.2	1,091	22	7.3	17
Arkansas	93.6	1,180.1	-3.4	892	49	6.1	31
California	1,643.8	16,096.8	-9.2	1,466	4	12.0	1
Colorado	220.1	2,597.2	-5.6	1,235	9	5.6	38
Connecticut	125.4	1,555.6	-7.3	1,328	7	7.4	15
Delaware	34.9	428.8	-5.6	1,150	15	6.8	21
District of Columbia	43.3	713.7	-8.1	1,962	1	6.1	31
Florida	749.1	8,329.7	-5.8	1,029	27	8.0	11
Georgia	313.0	4,282.1	-5.2	1,084	23	5.8	35
Hawaii	46.5	507.5	-22.9	1,114	18	10.3	4
Idaho	70.7	763.7	-0.2	884	50	5.5	41
Illinois	385.9	5,558.5	-7.8	1,199	11	6.8	21
Indiana	172.4	2,941.8	-4.7	961	39	5.3	43
Iowa	105.1	1,475.0	-5.2	969	36	6.0	34
Kansas	89.2	1,325.4	-5.0	952	40	6.6	24
Kentucky	128.0	1,807.1	-5.5	935	43	5.8	35
Louisiana	139.5	1,734.6	-9.6	970	35	5.2	45
Maine	54.4	597.3	-5.9	966	37	9.0	9
Maryland	172.4	2,496.6	-7.6	1,277	8	9.5	7
Massachusetts	265.1	3,314.8	-9.4	1,488	2	9.7	6
Michigan	266.9	4,035.9	-7.9	1,096	20	7.5	14
Minnesota	183.1	2,703.3	-7.4	1,178	12	6.4	27
Mississippi	74.9	1,092.4	-4.0	810	51	5.6	38
Missouri	218.8	2,681.7	-5.1	995	32	5.6	38
Montana	53.0	466.9	-2.5	904	48	6.6	24
Nebraska	73.7	949.9	-3.8	964	38	6.4	27
Nevada	87.9	1,251.0	-11.6	1,048	24	7.8	13
New Hampshire	56.1	634.2	-5.2	1,171	13	8.9	10
New Jersey	289.3	3,778.4	-8.0	1,331	6	9.5	7
New Mexico	63.1	771.9	-8.6	944	41	5.1	46
New York	657.6	8,547.7	-10.8	1,446	5	10.0	5
North Carolina	301.4	4,308.2	-4.4	1,039	26	6.9	20
North Dakota	32.5	398.2	-7.0	1,025	28	-0.3	50
Ohio	305.7	5,136.8	-5.6	1,040	25	6.6	24
Oklahoma	112.4	1,538.5	-5.7	917	46	2.3	48
Oregon	164.6	1,837.3	-7.0	1,113	19	7.4	15
Pennsylvania	366.5	5,501.0	-7.6	1,139	17	7.0	19
Rhode Island	40.1	452.5	-8.0	1,092	21	10.4	3
South Carolina	146.6	2,022.9	-5.2	924	44	6.7	23
South Dakota	35.2	422.3	-2.6	918	45	7.2	18
Tennessee	173.6	2,918.1	-4.6	1,022	29	5.8	35
Texas	733.1	11,926.8	-5.5	1,150	15	3.8	47
Utah	114.3	1,518.2	-1.0	1,015	30	6.1	31
Vermont	26.4	283.9	-8.6	1,001	31	7.9	12
Virginia	285.7	3,737.0	-5.0	1,201	10	6.4	27
Washington	256.6	3,266.2	-6.3	1,482	3	11.0	2
West Virginia	51.7	649.1	-6.7	913	47	1.8	49
Wisconsin	181.2	2,746.6	-5.2	977	34	5.3	43
Wyoming	27.5	264.0	-6.8	939	42	-0.4	51
Puerto Rico	45.7	831.6	-5.3	547	(3)	3.4	(3)
Virgin Islands	3.4	33.9	-13.0	1,019	(3)	-0.5	(3)

Note: See footnotes at end of table.



Footnotes:

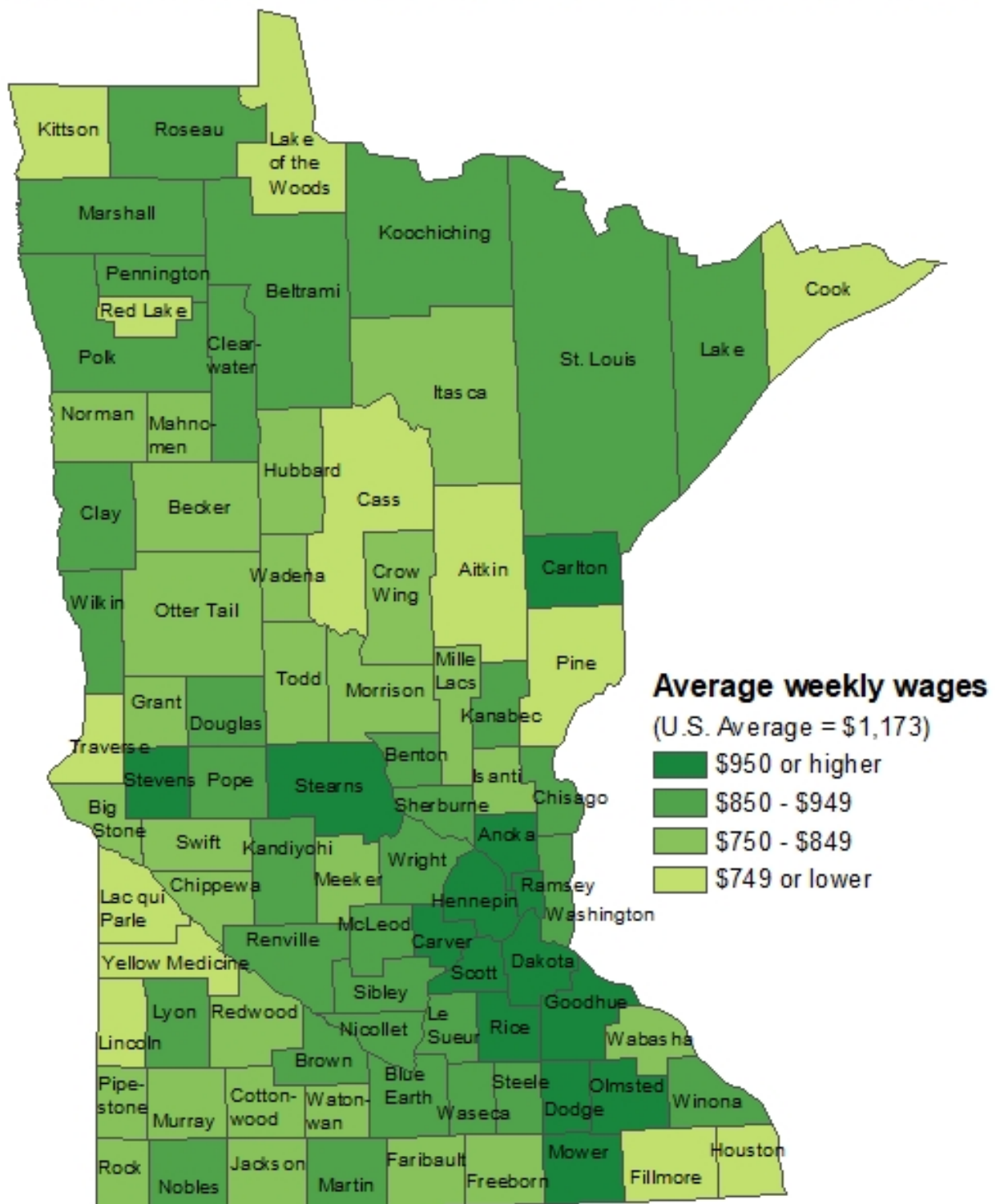
(1) Average weekly wages were calculated using unrounded data.

(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. 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 Minnesota, third quarter 2020**



Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics.