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## **County Employment and Wages in Wisconsin — Third Quarter 2019**

Employment rose in 2 of the 7 largest counties in Wisconsin from September 2018 to September 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.) Assistant Commissioner for Regional Operations Charlene Peiffer noted that employment increased 1.8 percent over the year in Dane County and 0.4 percent in Waukesha County. (See [table 1.](#))

Nationally, employment increased 1.1 percent over the year with 283 of the 355 largest U.S. counties reporting increases. New Hanover, NC, had the largest percentage increase in the country, up 5.8 percent over the year. Bay, FL, had the largest over-the-year percentage decrease in employment with a loss of 5.9 percent.

Among the seven largest counties in Wisconsin, employment was highest in Milwaukee County (488,200) in September 2019, followed by Dane (342,300) and Waukesha (246,300). Together, the seven largest Wisconsin counties accounted for 52.3 percent of total employment within the state. Nationwide, the 355 largest counties made up 73.4 percent of total U.S. employment.

All seven large Wisconsin counties reported average weekly wage gains from the third quarter of 2018 to the third quarter of 2019, with the largest gain in Winnebago County (3.4 percent). Dane County had the highest average weekly wage among the state's largest counties at \$1,062. Nationally, the average weekly wage increased 3.6 percent from a year ago to \$1,093 in the third quarter of 2019.

Employment and wage levels (but not over-the-year changes) are also available for the 65 counties in Wisconsin with employment below 75,000. Wage levels in all of these smaller counties were below the national average in September 2019. (See [table 2.](#))

### **Large county wage changes**

The 3.4-percent annual average weekly wage gain in Winnebago County tied for 182nd among the nation's 355 largest counties in the third quarter of 2019. Over-the-year wage gains among Wisconsin's other six large counties ranged from 3.2 percent to 1.2 percent.

Nationally, 350 of the 355 largest counties had over-the-year wage increases. Boulder, CO, had the largest percentage wage increase (+18.4 percent). The remaining five large counties registered wage declines during the period. Linn, IA, had the largest over-the-year percentage decrease (-2.6 percent).

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

Weekly wages in the state's seven large counties were all below the national average of \$1,093 in the third quarter of 2019. Average weekly wages in Dane County (\$1,062) ranked 118th nationwide. The average weekly wage in Waukesha County (\$1,054) and Milwaukee County (\$1,008) ranked 127th and 164th, respectively.

Nationally, 98 large counties reported average weekly wages above the U.S. average in the third quarter of 2019. Santa Clara, CA, had the highest average weekly wage at \$2,447. Average weekly wages were below the national average in 257 counties. At \$659 a week, Cameron, TX, had the lowest average weekly wage.

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

All 65 smaller counties in Wisconsin—those with employment below 75,000—reported average weekly wages below the national average of \$1,093. Among these smaller counties, Sheboygan posted the highest weekly wage, \$925, followed by Marathon (\$919), Ozaukee (\$911), Eau Claire (\$904) and Wood (\$895). Florence County reported the lowest average wage in the state at \$552 per week, followed by Iron County at \$585 per week.

When all 72 counties in Wisconsin were considered, 16 reported average weekly wages of less than \$700, 29 registered wages from \$700 to \$799, 16 had wages from \$800 to \$899, and 11 had average weekly wages of \$900 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](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 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](http://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.

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**The County Employment and Wages release for fourth quarter 2019 is scheduled to be released on Wednesday, May 20, 2020. The County Employment and Wages full data update for fourth quarter 2019 is scheduled to be released on Wednesday, June 3, 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/](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 7 largest counties in Wisconsin, third quarter 2019**

Area	Employment			Average weekly wage <sup>(1)</sup>			
	September 2019 (thousands)	Percent change, September 2018-19 <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 2018-19 <sup>(2)</sup>	National ranking by percent change <sup>(3)</sup>
United States <sup>(4)</sup> .....	148,556.5	1.1	--	\$1,093	--	3.6	--
Wisconsin.....	2,893.8	0.1	--	929	33	3.1	37
Brown.....	159.1	-0.6	321	947	212	3.2	202
Dane.....	342.3	1.8	84	1,062	118	3.2	202
Milwaukee.....	488.2	-0.5	314	1,008	164	3.0	227
Outagamie.....	108.7	-0.3	304	917	252	2.2	288
Racine.....	75.5	-0.3	304	910	261	1.2	336
Waukesha.....	246.3	0.4	238	1,054	127	3.1	212
Winnebago.....	92.7	-0.1	294	968	191	3.4	182

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 2019**

Area	Employment September 2019	Average weekly wage(1)
United States(2)	148,556,525	\$1,093
Wisconsin	2,893,841	929
Adams	4,682	714
Ashland	8,198	766
Barron	22,119	776
Bayfield	4,491	618
Brown	159,133	947
Buffalo	3,921	743
Burnett	4,642	663
Calumet	14,325	780
Chippewa	24,797	825
Clark	11,091	747
Columbia	23,029	790
Crawford	7,301	682
Dane	342,319	1,062
Dodge	36,030	866
Door	14,907	664
Douglas	15,864	769
Dunn	17,515	785
Eau Claire	58,477	904
Florence	1,044	552
Fond du Lac	47,913	863
Forest	3,244	733
Grant	17,896	704
Green	15,728	795
Green Lake	6,130	730
Iowa	10,383	810
Iron	1,699	585
Jackson	8,900	849
Jefferson	33,318	777
Juneau	9,470	765
Kenosha	67,070	814
Kewaunee	6,832	767
La Crosse	69,391	884
Lafayette	4,347	718
Langlade	7,412	691
Lincoln	10,928	808
Manitowoc	33,720	811
Marathon	71,682	919
Marinette	18,339	784
Marquette	4,095	673
Menominee	2,039	633
Milwaukee	488,167	1,008
Monroe	21,053	824
Oconto	9,150	700
Oneida	16,250	802
Outagamie	108,713	917
Ozaukee	42,938	911
Pepin	2,292	713
Pierce	10,438	698
Polk	15,862	717
Portage	34,192	824
Price	5,269	722
Racine	75,475	910
Richland	5,857	704
Rock	67,769	883
Rusk	4,905	675

Note: See footnotes at end of table.

**Table 2. Covered employment and wages in the United States and all counties in Wisconsin, third quarter 2019 - Continued**

Area	Employment September 2019	Average weekly wage(1)
St. Croix.....	34,447	813
Sauk .....	37,446	767
Sawyer .....	7,228	694
Shawano .....	12,764	656
Sheboygan .....	61,759	925
Taylor.....	8,123	740
Trempealeau .....	13,896	796
Vernon .....	8,800	707
Vilas.....	8,418	634
Walworth.....	42,793	739
Washburn .....	5,904	698
Washington.....	56,784	871
Waukesha.....	246,265	1,054
Waupaca .....	19,583	737
Waushara .....	6,310	661
Winnebago .....	92,676	968
Wood .....	39,184	895

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 2019**

State	Employment		Average weekly wage <sup>(1)</sup>			
	September 2019 (thousands)	Percent change, September 2018-19	Average weekly wage	National ranking by level	Percent change, third quarter 2018-19	National ranking by percent change
United States <sup>(2)</sup>	148,556.5	1.1	\$1,093	--	3.6	--
Alabama	1,989.5	1.1	919	36	3.8	18
Alaska	338.0	1.2	1,105	14	3.7	21
Arizona	2,913.4	2.6	1,018	22	4.5	4
Arkansas	1,222.8	0.0	841	49	3.8	18
California	17,713.1	1.4	1,309	5	3.8	18
Colorado	2,749.0	2.4	1,170	8	6.1	1
Connecticut	1,676.6	-0.3	1,236	6	2.3	50
Delaware	453.2	1.1	1,078	15	3.3	32
District of Columbia	776.4	0.6	1,851	1	2.5	49
Florida	8,838.2	1.7	955	29	3.4	27
Georgia	4,509.7	1.4	1,026	20	3.4	27
Hawaii	654.1	-0.3	1,012	23	3.9	15
Idaho	765.2	2.9	838	50	4.1	10
Illinois	6,023.1	0.0	1,125	10	3.6	23
Indiana	3,083.5	0.3	914	37	3.5	26
Iowa	1,556.9	0.1	914	37	3.0	39
Kansas	1,395.9	0.4	893	43	2.9	43
Kentucky	1,910.8	0.7	884	45	3.4	27
Louisiana	1,913.5	-0.3	923	35	2.6	47
Maine	632.6	0.9	887	44	4.2	7
Maryland	2,696.9	0.2	1,169	9	3.6	23
Massachusetts	3,642.5	0.9	1,359	2	4.2	7
Michigan	4,375.8	0.2	1,021	21	3.0	39
Minnesota	2,917.8	0.4	1,107	13	3.0	39
Mississippi	1,135.8	0.1	768	51	2.7	46
Missouri	2,826.5	0.6	942	31	3.9	15
Montana	478.9	1.2	848	48	3.9	15
Nebraska	984.7	0.3	908	39	4.0	13
Nevada	1,412.2	2.1	973	26	4.1	10
New Hampshire	667.9	0.8	1,075	16	3.4	27
New Jersey	4,104.0	0.9	1,217	7	3.0	39
New Mexico	842.1	1.7	899	40	5.1	2
New York	9,575.4	1.1	1,314	4	3.3	32
North Carolina	4,501.3	2.2	972	27	3.6	23
North Dakota	428.4	0.9	1,028	19	3.3	32
Ohio	5,443.3	0.3	976	25	3.1	37
Oklahoma	1,628.8	0.5	897	41	2.6	47
Oregon	1,970.7	1.4	1,037	18	3.2	35
Pennsylvania	5,947.9	0.8	1,064	17	3.2	35
Rhode Island	491.3	0.6	991	24	2.8	44
South Carolina	2,132.4	2.2	866	46	3.7	21
South Dakota	433.4	0.4	855	47	3.4	27
Tennessee	3,060.8	1.9	966	28	2.8	44
Texas	12,603.2	2.1	1,109	12	4.1	10
Utah	1,535.2	2.8	954	30	4.8	3
Vermont	311.0	0.0	927	34	4.3	5
Virginia	3,931.4	1.0	1,125	10	4.0	13
Washington	3,489.8	2.1	1,335	3	4.3	5
West Virginia	694.4	-1.8	897	41	0.3	51
Wisconsin	2,893.8	0.1	929	33	3.1	37
Wyoming	283.1	1.5	942	31	4.2	7
Puerto Rico	878.9	1.9	528	(3)	-0.8	(3)
Virgin Islands	37.8	9.6	1,012	(3)	12.8	(3)

Note: See footnotes at end of table.

