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County Employment and Wages in Missouri – Third Quarter 2014

Employment rose in 6 of the 7 largest counties in Missouri from September 2013 to September 2014, the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) reported today. (Large counties are defined as those with employment of 75,000 or more as measured by 2013 annual average employment. The independent city of St. Louis has been designated as a county by the Quarterly Census of Employment and Wages program.) Regional Commissioner Stanley W. Suchman noted that Clay County reported the largest increase at 4.1 percent followed by Greene, 2.3 percent. These two counties registered employment gains that exceeded the national average of 2.0 percent.

Nationally, employment increased in 306 of the 339 largest U.S. counties from September 2013 to September 2014. Weld, Colo., posted the largest increase with a gain of 8.8 percent over the year. Atlantic, N.J., had the largest over-the-year decrease in employment with a loss of 4.0 percent.

Among the seven largest counties in Missouri, employment was highest in St. Louis County (582,500) in September 2014. Jackson County and St. Louis City also had employment levels exceeding 200,000. Together, Missouri's seven large counties accounted for 60.9 percent of total employment within the state. Nationwide, the 339 largest counties made up 71.8 percent of total U.S. employment.

Average weekly wages increased in all seven large counties in Missouri from the third quarter of 2013 to the third quarter of 2014. Wages in St. Charles County experienced the largest growth (4.8 percent), followed by St. Louis (3.7 percent) and St. Louis City (3.1 percent). Nationally, average weekly wages increased 2.9 percent. St. Louis City had the highest average weekly wage among the largest counties in the state at $1,031, followed by St. Louis ($993) and Jackson ($961). Average weekly wages in these three counties exceeded the national average of $949. Greene County recorded the lowest average weekly wage at $725. (See table 1.)

Employment and wage levels (but not over-the-year changes) are also available for the 108 counties in Missouri 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

As mentioned, the 7 large counties in Missouri recorded wage gains from the third quarter of 2013 to the third quarter of 2014, with 3 counties posting increases greater than the U.S. average of 2.9 percent. (See table 1.) St. Charles County had the largest wage gain (4.8 percent), placing 19th in the national ranking, followed by St. Louis (3.7 percent, 55th) and St. Louis City (3.1 percent, 103rd). Of the remaining large counties in Missouri,

Boone registered wage growth of 1.9 percent and placed 244th in the national ranking followed by Greene (1.8 percent, 257th), and Jackson (1.7 percent, 264th). Wages in Clay grew 0.4 percent, placing it near the bottom (323rd).

Among the 339 largest counties in the U.S., 328 had over-the-year increases in average weekly wages in the third quarter of 2014. Olmsted, Minn., ranked first in average weekly wage growth with an increase of 11.1 percent. Collier, Fla., had the largest percentage decrease in average weekly wages, with a loss of 3.9 percent.

Large county average weekly wages

Three of the state's large counties had average weekly wage levels that placed in the top 100 among the 339 largest counties in the United States in the third quarter of 2014. Average wages in St. Louis City ($1,031) and St. Louis County ($993) ranked 63rd and 77th, respectively. Jackson County's average weekly wage of $961 was also above the national average of $949 and ranked 89th. The wage levels in Missouri's four other large counties were below average and placed in the bottom half of the national ranking.

Nationally, weekly wages were higher than the average of $949 in 99 of the 339 largest U.S. counties. Santa Clara, Calif., held the top position among the highest-paid large counties with an average weekly wage of $2,012, followed by San Mateo, Calif. ($1,824) and New York, N.Y. ($1,733). Among the 237 large counties with an average weekly wage below the U.S. average in the third quarter of 2014, Horry, S.C. ($580) reported the lowest wage.

Average weekly wages in Missouri's smaller counties

Of the 108 counties in Missouri with employment below 75,000, Platte County recorded the highest average weekly wage at $800 followed by Ralls at $785. Shannon County reported the lowest weekly wage in the state with an average of $381 in the third quarter of 2014. (See table 2.)

When all 115 counties in Missouri were considered, all but 3 had wages below the national average of $949. Seventy-two reported average weekly wages under $600, 34 reported wages from $600 to $749, 6 had wages from $750 to $899, and 3 had wages of $900 and above. (See chart 1.) Of the 9 counties with wages of $750 or higher, 6 were located in the major metropolitan areas of Kansas City and St. Louis.

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/.

Employment and Wages Annual Averages Online features comprehensive information by detailed industry on establishments, employment, and wages for the nation and all states. The 2013 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 2014 version of the national news release. Tables and additional content from *Employment and Wages Annual Averages 2013* are now available online at www.bls.gov/cew/publications/employment-and-wages-annual-averages/2013/home.htm. The 2014 edition of *Employment and Wages Annual Averages Online* will be available in September 2015.

Information in this release will be made available to sensory impaired individuals upon request. Voice phone: 202-691-5200; Federal Relay Service: 1-800-877-8339.

The County Employment and Wages release for fourth quarter 2014 is scheduled to be released on Wednesday, June 17, 2015.

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 9.4 million employer reports cover 137.7 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/; 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.

Table 1. Covered employment and wages in the United States and the 7 largest counties in Missouri, third quarter 2014

Area	Employment			Average Weekly Wage [1]			
	September 2014 (thousands)	Percent change, September 2013-14 [2]	National ranking by percent change [3]	Average weekly wage	National ranking by level [3]	Percent change, third quarter 2013-14 [2]	National ranking by percent change [3]
United States [4]	137,724.1	2.0	--	$949	--	2.9	--
Missouri	2,686.4	1.0	--	828	31	2.7	25
Boone, Mo.	91.0	1.5	171	764	287	1.9	244
Clay, Mo.	95.0	4.1	29	838	201	0.4	323
Greene, Mo.	159.6	2.3	119	725	321	1.8	257
Jackson, Mo.	349.2	0.0	307	961	89	1.7	264
St. Charles, Mo.	133.6	1.4	184	763	291	4.8	19
St. Louis City, Mo.	224.7	1.1	212	1,031	63	3.1	103
St. Louis, Mo.	582.5	1.1	212	993	77	3.7	55

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 Missouri, 3rd quarter 2014

Area	Employment September 2014	Average Weekly Wage [1]
United States [2]	137,724,117	$949
Missouri	2,686,363	828
Adair	9,811	574
Andrew	2,469	534
Atchison	1,671	525
Audrain	9,360	629
Barry	13,602	735
Barton	3,377	516
Bates	3,596	542
Benton	3,463	506
Bollinger	1,859	452
Boone	90,966	764
Buchanan	46,490	753
Butler	19,223	595
Caldwell	1,586	553
Callaway	14,358	712
Camden	16,869	528
Cape Girardeau	40,164	717
Carroll	2,412	558
Carter	1,468	454
Cass	24,454	600
Cedar	3,176	496
Chariton	1,877	553
Christian	16,323	558
Clark	1,549	457
Clay	94,978	838
Clinton	3,869	572
Cole	51,555	739
Cooper	5,158	579
Crawford	6,485	656
Dade	1,686	504
Dallas	2,485	437
Daviess	1,511	485
De Kalb	3,359	571
Dent	3,835	509
Douglas	2,102	483
Dunklin	10,196	467
Franklin	37,157	704
Gasconade	5,350	534
Gentry	2,223	531
Greene	159,572	725
Grundy	3,455	617
Harrison	2,534	503
Henry	7,585	676
Hickory	1,247	452
Holt	1,294	556
Howard	2,626	463
Howell	15,051	590
Iron	3,864	730
Jackson	349,231	961
Jasper	58,875	700
Jefferson	46,794	621
Johnson	15,094	622
Knox	1,111	468
Laclede	12,639	590
Lafayette	8,609	559
Lawrence	8,800	622

Note: See footnotes at end of table.

Table 2. Covered employment and wages in the United States and all counties in Missouri, 3rd quarter 2014 - Continued

Area	Employment September 2014	Average Weekly Wage [1]
Lewis	2,699	543
Lincoln	11,001	645
Linn	3,823	584
Livingston	6,135	603
McDonald	7,131	571
Macon	4,835	573
Madison	3,641	525
Maries	1,296	521
Marion	13,453	618
Mercer	1,701	643
Miller	6,538	573
Mississippi	4,260	520
Moniteau	4,036	554
Monroe	2,019	535
Montgomery	2,847	566
Morgan	4,113	472
New Madrid	7,377	699
Newton	17,786	616
Nodaway	7,795	585
Oregon	2,358	424
Osage	3,582	568
Ozark	1,520	400
Pemiscot	5,970	546
Perry	9,752	657
Pettis	19,462	599
Phelps	17,520	684
Pike	6,069	555
Platte	40,774	800
Polk	7,830	629
Pulaski	13,315	646
Putnam	1,041	515
Ralls	3,548	785
Randolph	9,652	657
Ray	4,049	601
Reynolds	1,712	431
Ripley	3,083	423
St. Charles	133,560	763
St. Clair	1,712	478
Ste. Genevieve	5,439	738
St. Francois	22,699	549
St. Louis	582,530	993
Saline	8,892	602
Schuyler	600	495
Scotland	1,199	540
Scott	15,043	607
Shannon	1,469	381
Shelby	1,724	487
Stoddard	10,154	593
Stone	5,158	517
Sullivan	2,352	608
Taney	29,045	539
Texas	5,771	531
Vernon	7,044	634
Warren	6,948	623
Washington	5,060	508
Wayne	2,662	412

Note: See footnotes at end of table.

Table 2. Covered employment and wages in the United States and all counties in Missouri, 3rd quarter 2014 - Continued

Area	Employment September 2014	Average Weekly Wage [1]
Webster	6,645	569
Worth	430	474
Wright	4,279	522
St. Louis City	224,732	1,031

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.

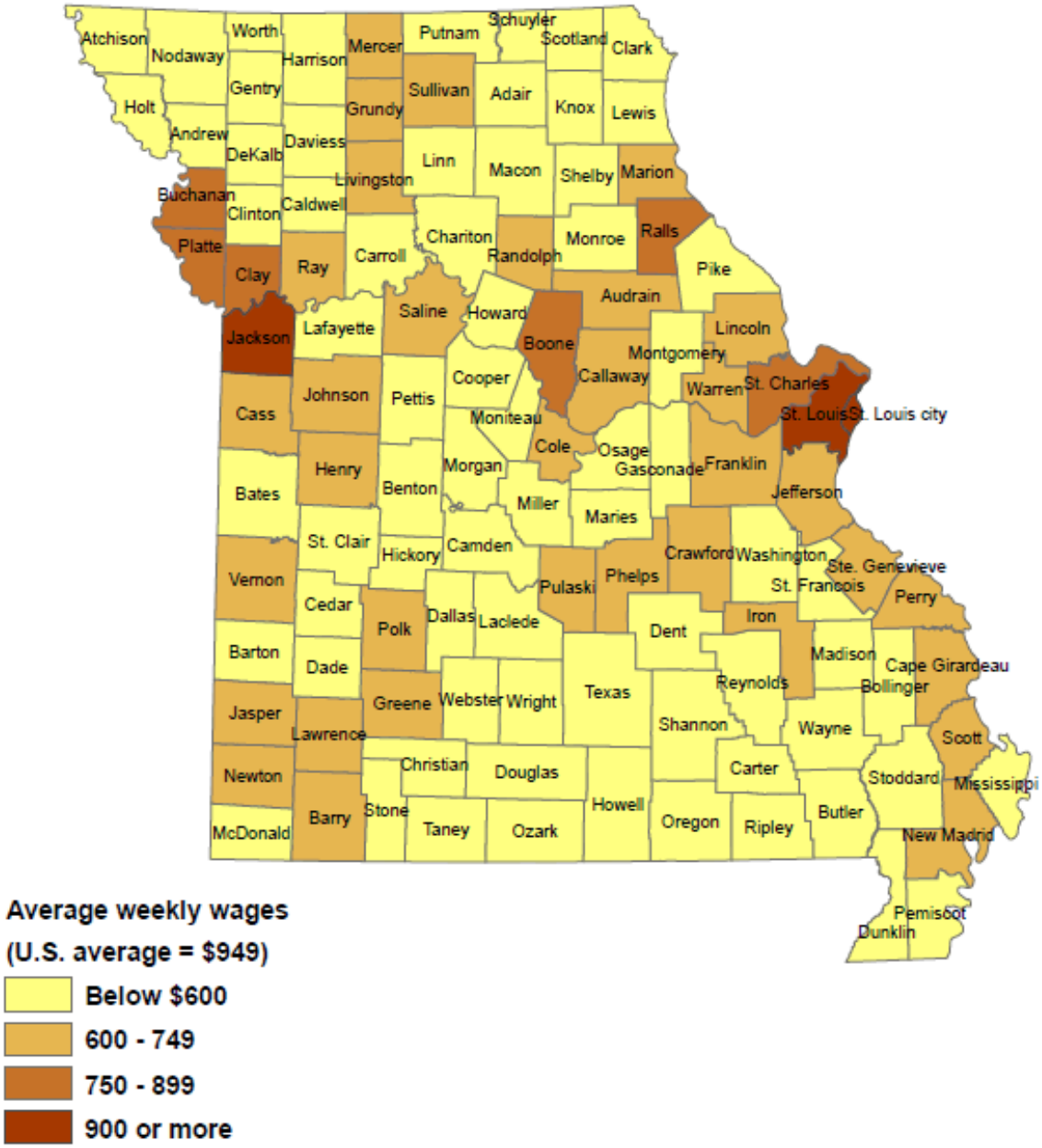
Table 3. Covered employment and wages by state, third quarter 2014

State	Employment		Average weekly wage [1]			
	September 2014 (thousands)	Percent change, September 2013-14	Average weekly wage	National ranking by level	Percent change, third quarter 2013-14	National ranking by percent change
United States [2]	137,724.1	2.0	$949	--	2.9	--
Alabama	1,871.2	1.3	815	34	2.5	30
Alaska	344.7	-0.1	1,019	9	3.0	19
Arizona	2,539.6	1.8	876	24	2.0	40
Arkansas	1,170.9	1.3	737	47	1.8	44
California	16,013.4	3.1	1,095	5	3.7	7
Colorado	2,443.0	3.7	982	12	3.0	19
Connecticut	1,663.2	0.8	1,124	4	1.4	49
Delaware	426.1	1.9	961	16	2.2	37
District of Columbia	732.9	0.8	1,631	1	4.5	2
Florida	7,748.4	3.3	826	32	2.1	38
Georgia	4,059.0	3.4	891	21	2.8	23
Hawaii	625.1	0.9	870	25	3.9	4
Idaho	658.4	2.1	721	50	2.6	26
Illinois	5,807.4	1.2	982	12	2.5	30
Indiana	2,924.7	1.4	799	39	1.9	42
Iowa	1,528.8	1.1	800	38	3.6	10
Kansas	1,363.1	1.2	794	40	2.3	35
Kentucky	1,827.8	1.8	781	42	2.5	30
Louisiana	1,928.3	1.7	852	27	3.1	16
Maine	604.5	0.3	754	46	2.6	26
Maryland	2,574.5	1.1	1,042	8	3.1	16
Massachusetts	3,386.7	1.8	1,164	2	3.0	19
Michigan	4,141.0	1.7	896	19	2.4	33
Minnesota	2,757.9	1.1	965	15	2.9	22
Mississippi	1,105.0	0.5	697	51	1.3	50
Missouri	2,686.4	1.0	828	31	2.7	25
Montana	449.5	0.7	732	49	3.7	7
Nebraska	950.0	1.1	779	43	1.8	44
Nevada	1,215.8	4.0	840	28	0.5	51
New Hampshire	633.5	1.4	927	18	3.6	10
New Jersey	3,880.4	0.8	1,087	6	1.7	47
New Mexico	804.0	1.1	786	41	2.6	26
New York	8,902.1	2.0	1,145	3	3.2	15
North Carolina	4,085.5	1.9	839	29	2.8	23
North Dakota	455.9	4.3	977	14	6.1	1
Ohio	5,219.1	1.4	863	26	3.1	16
Oklahoma	1,592.3	1.0	826	32	3.6	10
Oregon	1,752.8	2.4	887	22	3.6	10
Pennsylvania	5,676.2	1.0	937	17	2.6	26
Rhode Island	471.8	1.4	895	20	1.8	44
South Carolina	1,902.7	2.4	768	45	2.4	33
South Dakota	415.8	1.7	733	48	3.7	7
Tennessee	2,775.5	2.4	837	30	2.1	38
Texas	11,433.6	3.1	988	11	3.8	6
Utah	1,304.7	3.1	803	37	1.5	48
Vermont	306.5	1.2	805	36	2.3	35
Virginia	3,667.9	0.6	989	10	2.0	40
Washington	3,112.8	3.2	1,087	6	3.9	4
West Virginia	709.3	-0.2	778	44	3.5	14
Wisconsin	2,783.1	1.1	808	35	1.9	42
Wyoming	291.3	1.7	877	23	4.4	3
Puerto Rico	896.7	-1.5	505	[3]	0.8	[3]
Virgin Islands	37.5	-1.0	720	[3]	2.0	[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 for counties in Missouri, third quarter 2014



Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics.