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County Employment and Wages in Missouri – Third Quarter 2015

Employment rose in all seven large counties in Missouri from September 2014 to September 2015, 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 2014 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 5.1 percent followed by St. Charles, 4.8 percent. These two counties registered employment gains that exceeded the national average of 1.9 percent.

Nationally, employment increased in 312 of the 342 largest U.S. counties from September 2014 to September 2015. Williamson, Tenn., posted the largest percentage increase with a gain of 6.5 percent over the year. Ector, Texas, had the largest over-the-year percentage decrease in employment among the largest counties in the U.S. with a loss of 8.3 percent.

Among the seven largest counties in Missouri, employment was highest in St. Louis (593,300) in September 2015. Jackson County and St. Louis City also had employment levels exceeding 200,000. Together, Missouri's seven large counties accounted for 61.2 percent of total employment within the state. Nationwide, the 342 largest counties made up 72.2 percent of total U.S. employment.

Average weekly wages increased in all seven large counties in Missouri from the third quarter of 2014 to the third quarter of 2015. Wages in Greene County experienced the largest growth (3.9 percent), followed by Boone (3.7 percent) and Clay (3.0 percent). Nationally, average weekly wages increased 2.6 percent. St. Louis City had the highest average weekly wage among the largest counties in the state at \$1,045, followed by St. Louis (\$1,004) and Jackson (\$989). Average weekly wages in these three counties exceeded the national average of \$974. Greene County recorded the lowest average weekly wage at \$753. (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 2014 to the third quarter of 2015, with 3 counties posting wage increases greater than the U.S. average of 2.6 percent. (See [table 1](#).) Greene County had the largest wage gain (3.9 percent), placing 47th in the national ranking, followed by

Boone (3.7 percent, 60th) and Clay (3.0 percent, 117th). Jackson County's wage growth of 2.6 percent matched the national average, and placed 154th. St. Louis City (1.6 percent, 259th), St. Charles (1.2 percent, 286th), and St. Louis (0.9 percent, 305th) placed in the bottom quarter of the national ranking.

Among the 342 largest counties in the U.S., 319 had over-the-year increases in average weekly wages in the third quarter of 2015. Rockland, N.Y., ranked first in average weekly wage growth with an increase of 24.9 percent. Twenty of the 342 largest counties experienced over-the-year decreases in average weekly wages. Midland, Texas, had the largest percentage decline in average weekly wages with a loss of 6.7 percent.

Large county average weekly wages

Three of the state's large counties had average weekly wage levels that placed in the top 100 of the 342 largest U.S. counties in the third quarter of 2015. Average weekly wages in St. Louis City (\$1,045) and St. Louis County (\$1,004) ranked 72nd and 84th, respectively. Jackson County's average weekly wage of \$989 was also above the national average of \$974 and ranked 91st. Wage levels in Missouri's four other large counties were below the national average, and placed in the bottom half of the national ranking.

Nationally, weekly wages were higher than the average of \$974 in 100 of the 342 largest U.S. counties. Santa Clara, Calif., held the top position among the highest-paid large counties with an average weekly wage of \$2,090, followed by San Mateo, Calif. (\$1,894), and New York, N.Y. (\$1,829). Among the 242 large counties with an average weekly wage below the U.S. average in the third quarter of 2015, Horry, S.C. (\$598), 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 \$821. Ozark County reported the lowest weekly wage in the state at \$411 in the third quarter of 2015. (See [table 2](#).)

When all 115 counties in Missouri were considered, 60 reported average weekly wages of \$599 or less, 43 reported wages from \$600 to \$749, 9 had wages from \$750 to \$899, and 3 had wages of \$900 or higher. (See [chart 1](#).) Of the 12 counties with wages of \$750 or higher, half 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 2014 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 2015 version of the national news release. Tables and additional content from the 2014 edition of *Employment and Wages Annual Averages Online* are now available at www.bls.gov/cew/publications/employment-and-wages-annual-averages/2014/home.htm. The 2015 edition of *Employment and Wages Annual Averages Online* will be available in September 2016.

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 2015 is scheduled to be released on Wednesday, June 8, 2016.

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 9.6 million employer reports cover 140.4 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 2015

Area	Employment			Average weekly wage ⁽¹⁾			
	September 2015 (thousands)	Percent change, September 2014-15 ⁽²⁾	National ranking by percent change ⁽³⁾	Average weekly wage	National ranking by level ⁽³⁾	Percent change, third quarter 2014-15 ⁽²⁾	National ranking by percent change ⁽³⁾
United States ⁽⁴⁾	140,442.2	1.9	--	\$974	--	2.6	--
Missouri.....	2,737.9	1.9	--	846	32	2.2	34
Boone, Mo.	92.5	1.8	172	795	279	3.7	60
Clay, Mo.....	99.2	5.1	9	856	208	3.0	117
Greene, Mo.	162.0	1.1	227	753	316	3.9	47
Jackson, Mo.	358.0	2.0	151	989	91	2.6	154
St. Charles, Mo.....	141.2	4.8	12	774	301	1.2	286
St. Louis City, Mo.....	228.3	1.9	162	1,045	72	1.6	259
St. Louis, Mo.	593.3	1.6	192	1,004	84	0.9	305

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 2015

Area	Employment September 2015	Average Weekly Wage ⁽¹⁾
United States ⁽²⁾	140,442,224	\$974
Missouri	2,737,871	846
Adair	9,738	605
Andrew	2,491	555
Atchison	1,638	531
Audrain	9,530	640
Barry	13,878	705
Barton	3,246	528
Bates	3,649	556
Benton	3,531	521
Bollinger	1,847	462
Boone	92,494	795
Buchanan	47,029	778
Butler	19,059	611
Caldwell	1,655	559
Callaway	14,504	734
Camden	17,282	555
Cape Girardeau	40,528	733
Carroll	2,407	571
Carter	1,467	495
Cass	25,650	615
Cedar	3,253	499
Chariton	1,905	575
Christian	16,785	559
Clark	1,413	471
Clay	99,239	856
Clinton	3,920	583
Cole	52,053	753
Cooper	5,063	596
Crawford	6,739	655
Dade	1,718	530
Dallas	2,521	465
Daviess	1,551	496
De Kalb	3,257	579
Dent	3,797	522
Douglas	2,232	479
Dunklin	10,065	478
Franklin	38,001	734
Gasconade	5,350	541
Gentry	2,219	605
Greene	161,959	753
Grundy	3,540	609
Harrison	2,590	509
Henry	7,524	707
Hickory	1,285	478
Holt	1,316	583
Howard	2,666	503
Howell	15,160	610
Iron	3,822	740
Jackson	358,043	989
Jasper	60,448	710
Jefferson	46,983	644
Johnson	15,589	635
Knox	1,090	490
Laclede	12,980	603
Lafayette	8,755	572
Lawrence	9,090	627

Note: See footnotes at end of table.

Table 2. Covered employment and wages in the United States and all counties in Missouri, 3rd quarter 2015 - Continued

Area	Employment September 2015	Average Weekly Wage ⁽¹⁾
Lewis	2,684	626
Lincoln	11,237	670
Linn	3,798	599
Livingston	6,055	608
McDonald	7,035	602
Macon	4,900	581
Madison	3,657	514
Maries	1,239	564
Marion	13,565	627
Mercer	1,782	641
Miller	6,625	595
Mississippi	4,116	550
Moniteau	4,215	575
Monroe	2,093	568
Montgomery	2,844	592
Morgan	4,388	502
New Madrid	7,617	713
Newton	17,191	630
Nodaway	7,918	601
Oregon	2,356	445
Osage	3,529	609
Ozark	1,603	411
Pemiscot	5,946	567
Perry	9,477	681
Pettis	19,603	606
Phelps	18,017	699
Pike	6,049	603
Platte	40,952	821
Polk	7,956	640
Pulaski	13,177	663
Putnam	1,030	537
Ralls	3,522	787
Randolph	9,548	664
Ray	4,342	625
Reynolds	1,720	447
Ripley	2,838	437
St. Charles	141,156	774
St. Clair	1,657	474
Ste. Genevieve	5,474	758
St. Francois	22,936	568
St. Louis	593,299	1,004
Saline	8,920	617
Schuyler	640	502
Scotland	1,188	536
Scott	15,368	631
Shannon	1,471	416
Shelby	1,750	504
Stoddard	10,284	609
Stone	5,836	536
Sullivan	2,399	670
Taney	30,096	557
Texas	5,727	543
Vernon	7,006	645
Warren	7,155	650
Washington	5,217	507
Wayne	2,807	431

Note: See footnotes at end of table.

Table 2. Covered employment and wages in the United States and all counties in Missouri, 3rd quarter 2015 - Continued

Area	Employment September 2015	Average Weekly Wage ⁽¹⁾
Webster	6,797	589
Worth	353	461
Wright	4,239	543
St. Louis City	228,269	1,045

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 2015

State	Employment		Average weekly wage ⁽¹⁾			
	September 2015 (thousands)	Percent change, September 2014-15	Average weekly wage	National ranking by level	Percent change, third quarter 2014-15	National ranking by percent change
United States ⁽²⁾	140,442.2	1.9	\$974	--	2.6	--
Alabama	1,893.6	1.2	830	34	1.8	40
Alaska	346.4	0.4	1,041	9	2.2	34
Arizona	2,613.9	2.9	889	24	1.5	42
Arkansas	1,193.4	1.9	756	48	2.6	22
California	16,474.4	3.0	1,134	5	3.4	6
Colorado	2,513.0	2.9	1,006	12	2.4	30
Connecticut	1,668.3	0.2	1,147	4	2.0	38
Delaware	436.3	2.1	963	15	0.3	48
District of Columbia	743.6	1.4	1,667	1	2.3	33
Florida	8,023.2	3.5	852	31	3.1	10
Georgia	4,171.1	2.8	916	22	2.8	19
Hawaii	635.4	1.4	896	23	3.1	10
Idaho	680.3	3.3	736	50	2.1	37
Illinois	5,888.6	1.3	1,020	10	3.9	3
Indiana	2,971.7	1.6	818	39	2.4	30
Iowa	1,535.9	0.4	823	38	3.0	14
Kansas	1,370.9	0.6	809	41	1.8	40
Kentucky	1,852.5	1.4	804	42	2.9	18
Louisiana	1,926.3	-0.2	858	30	0.7	47
Maine	609.7	0.7	779	46	3.3	7
Maryland	2,607.8	1.3	1,067	8	2.4	30
Massachusetts	3,446.9	1.4	1,197	2	3.0	14
Michigan	4,203.0	1.6	921	20	2.7	20
Minnesota	2,800.7	1.4	990	14	2.6	22
Mississippi	1,118.9	1.2	706	51	1.3	43
Missouri	2,737.9	1.9	846	32	2.2	34
Montana	457.9	1.9	759	47	3.7	4
Nebraska	964.0	1.4	811	40	4.2	2
Nevada	1,254.5	3.2	862	29	2.5	27
New Hampshire	642.8	1.5	952	18	2.7	20
New Jersey	3,933.9	1.4	1,116	6	2.6	22
New Mexico	809.2	0.6	798	43	1.3	43
New York	9,065.4	1.8	1,180	3	3.1	10
North Carolina	4,194.1	2.5	863	28	3.0	14
North Dakota	438.0	-3.8	956	17	-2.3	51
Ohio	5,282.7	1.2	878	25	1.9	39
Oklahoma	1,598.0	0.2	825	37	0.0	49
Oregon	1,812.8	3.0	924	19	4.4	1
Pennsylvania	5,722.1	0.8	961	16	2.5	27
Rhode Island	477.4	1.2	919	21	2.6	22
South Carolina	1,959.7	2.9	788	44	2.6	22
South Dakota	419.5	0.9	756	48	3.1	10
Tennessee	2,850.6	2.7	864	27	3.2	8
Texas	11,681.0	2.1	999	13	1.1	45
Utah	1,353.9	3.7	829	35	3.2	8
Vermont	308.2	0.5	829	35	3.0	14
Virginia	3,759.7	2.5	1,014	11	2.5	27
Washington	3,187.6	2.5	1,111	7	2.2	34
West Virginia	702.4	-1.1	785	45	0.9	46
Wisconsin	2,815.7	0.9	834	33	3.5	5
Wyoming	287.4	-1.5	866	26	-1.1	50
Puerto Rico	891.1	-0.7	512	(3)	1.4	(3)
Virgin Islands	36.8	-2.1	738	(3)	2.1	(3)

Note: See footnotes at end of table.

Footnotes:

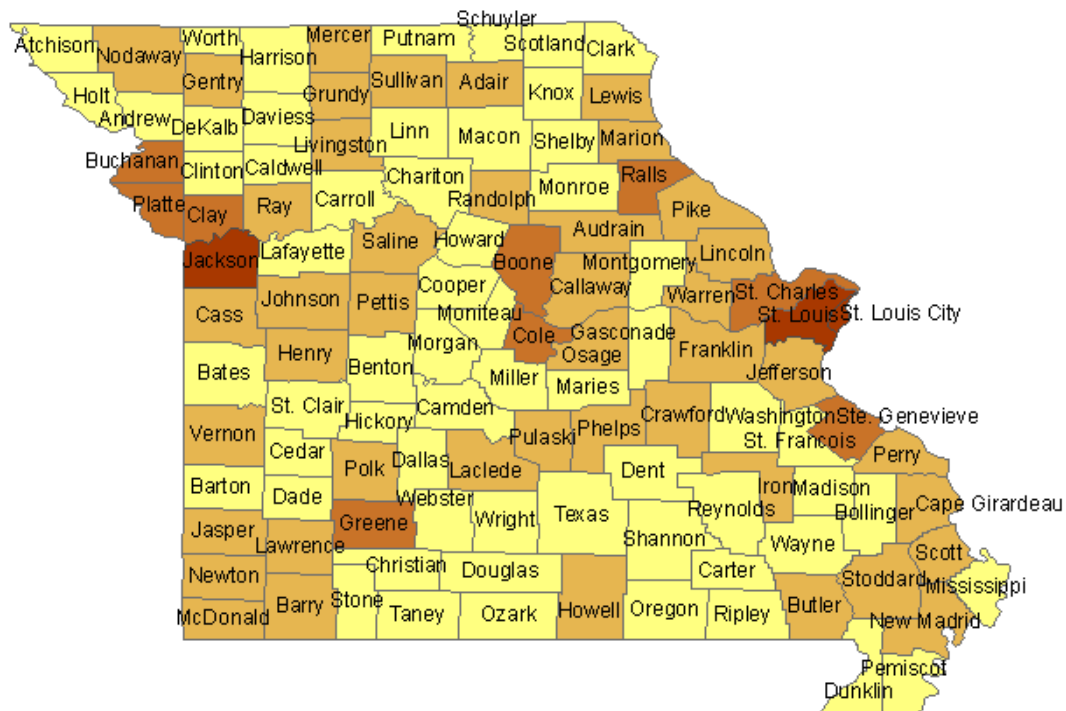
(1) Average weekly wages were calculated using unrounded data.

(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.

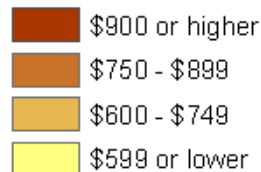
Note: Data are preliminary. Covered employment and wages includes workers covered by Unemployment Insurance (UI) and Unemployment Compensation for Federal Employees (UCFE) programs.

Chart 1. Average weekly wages by county in Missouri, third quarter 2015



Average weekly wages

U.S. average = \$974



Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics.