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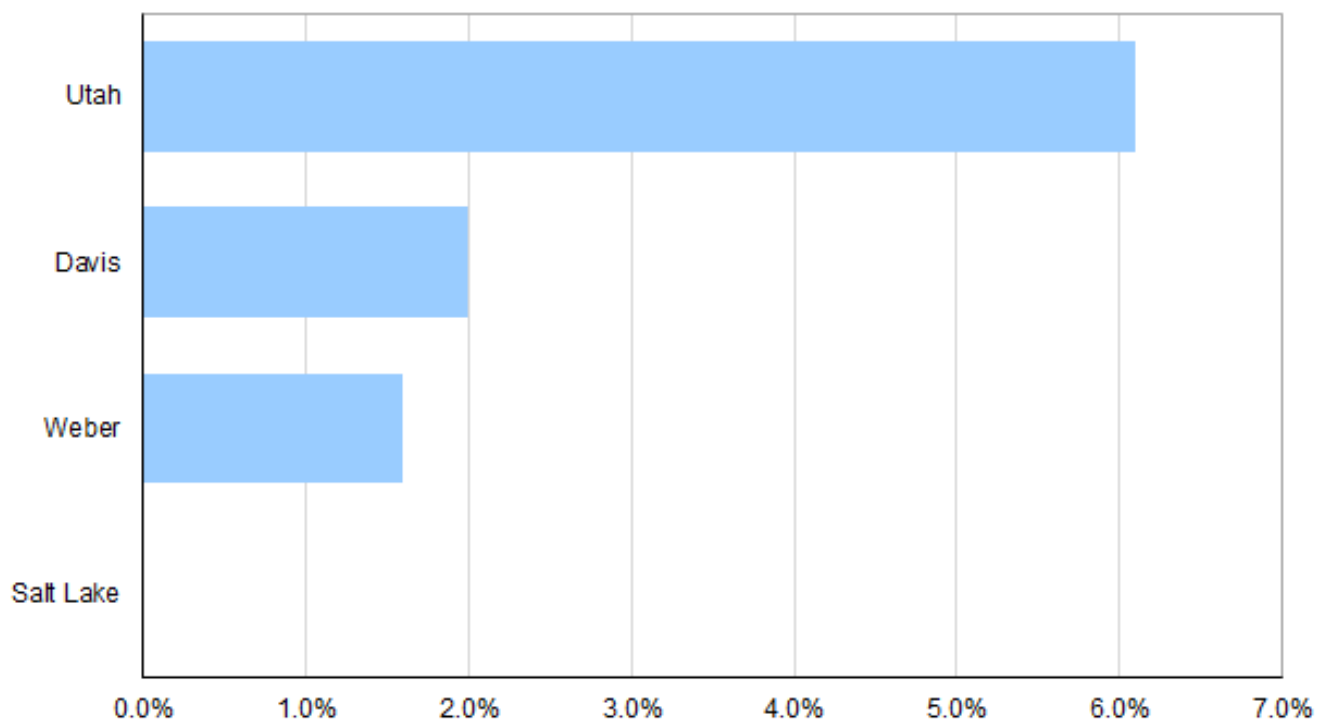
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County Employment and Wages in Utah — First Quarter 2021

Employment rose in 3 of the 4 largest counties in Utah from March 2020 to March 2021, the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics reported today. (Large counties are those with annual average employment levels of 75,000 or more in 2020.) Regional Commissioner Michael Hirniak noted that Utah County had the largest over-the-year percent increase in employment at 6.1 percent. (See [chart 1](#) and [table 1](#).)

Chart 1. Over-the-year percent change in covered employment among the largest counties in Utah, March 2021



Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics.

National employment decreased 4.5 percent over the year, with 324 of the 343 largest U.S. counties reporting declines. Calcasieu, LA, had the largest over-the-year decrease in employment with a loss of 14.9 percent. Utah, UT, experienced the largest over-the-year percentage increase in employment with a gain of 6.1 percent.

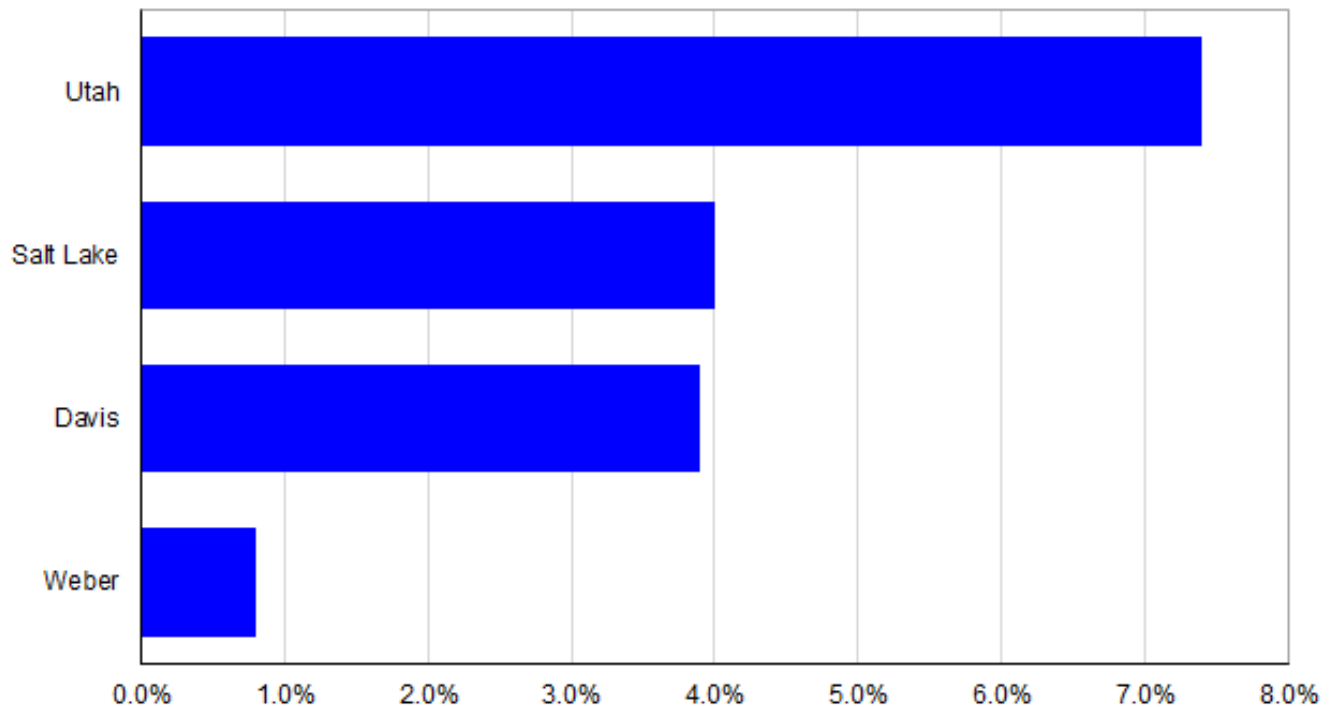
Among the four largest counties in Utah, employment was highest in Salt Lake County (723,500) in March 2021. Within Salt Lake County's private industry, retail trade accounted for the largest employment. Together, the four largest Utah counties accounted for 79.5 percent of total employment within the state. Nationwide, the 343 largest counties made up 72.3 percent of total U.S. employment.

Employment and wage levels (but not over-the-year changes) are also available for the 25 counties in Utah with employment below 75,000. Wage levels in all 25 smaller counties were below the national average in the first quarter of 2021. (See [table 2](#).)

Large county wage changes

All four large Utah counties reported average weekly wage gains from the first quarter of 2020 to the first quarter of 2021. (See [chart 2](#).) Utah County (+7.4 percent) had a rate of wage gain that was above the national rate of 5.6 percent.

Chart 2. Over-the-year percent change in covered average weekly wages among the largest counties in Utah, first quarter 2021



Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics.

Among the 343 largest counties in the United States, 312 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 resulted in higher average weekly wages for the industry and the nation. San Francisco, CA, had the largest percentage wage increase (+33.9 percent). Clayton, GA, had the largest over-the-year percentage decrease (-14.2 percent).

Large county average weekly wages

Weekly wages in all four of the largest counties in Utah were below the national average of \$1,289 in the first quarter of 2021. Average weekly wages in Salt Lake County (\$1,234) ranked 104th among the 343 largest counties nationwide. In the three remaining large counties, average weekly wages ranged from \$1,062 to \$869 and placed in the bottom half of the national ranking.

Among the largest U.S. counties, 84 reported average weekly wages above the U.S. average in the first quarter of 2021. New York, NY, had the highest average weekly wage at \$3,967. Average weekly wages were below the national average in the remaining 259 counties. At \$685 a week, Cameron, TX, had the lowest average weekly wage.

Average weekly wages in Utah's smaller counties

Among the 25 smaller counties in Utah —those with employment below 75,000— all reported weekly wages below the national average of \$1,289 in the first quarter of 2021. Summit (\$993) reported the highest average weekly wage among the small counties. Piute County reported the lowest average weekly wage in the state at \$560.

When all 29 counties in Utah were considered, 5 reported average weekly wages of \$699 or less, 16 registered wages from \$700 to \$849, 6 had wages from \$850 to \$999, and 2 recorded average wages of \$1,000 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. This publication is typically published in September of the following year of the reference period or shortly after the QCEW first quarter full data update. The *Employment and Wages Annual Averages Online* is available at www.bls.gov/cew/publications/employment-and-wages-annual-averages/.

The County Employment and Wages release for second quarter 2021 is scheduled to be released on Wednesday, November 17, 2021.

The County Employment and Wages full data update for second quarter 2021 is scheduled to be released on Wednesday, December 1, 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. 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 four largest counties in Utah, first quarter 2021

Area	Establishments, first quarter 2021 (thousands)	Employment			Average weekly wage ⁽¹⁾			
		March 2021 (thousands)	Percent change, March 2020–21 ⁽²⁾	National ranking by percent change ⁽³⁾	First quarter 2021	National ranking by level ⁽³⁾	Percent change, first quarter 2020–21 ⁽²⁾	National ranking by percent change ⁽³⁾
United States ⁽⁴⁾	10,755.4	140,455.8	-4.5	--	\$1,289	--	5.6	--
Utah.....	117.3	1,548.8	1.5	--	1,065	29	3.7	30
Davis	9.5	134.8	2.0	3	959	273	3.9	183
Salt Lake	53.5	723.5	0.0	10	1,234	104	4.0	178
Utah.....	19.5	263.2	6.1	1	1,062	195	7.4	49
Weber.....	6.8	110.1	1.6	4	869	325	0.8	304

(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 Utah, first quarter 2021

Area	Employment March 2021	Average weekly wage ⁽¹⁾
United States ⁽²⁾	140,455,819	\$1,289
Utah	1,548,810	1,065
Beaver	2,833	666
Box Elder	21,723	808
Cache	61,129	790
Carbon	8,265	818
Daggett	346	733
Davis	134,829	959
Duchesne	7,443	889
Emery	3,323	807
Garfield	2,038	809
Grand	6,038	702
Iron	21,108	701
Juab	3,984	723
Kane	3,565	728
Millard	4,816	781
Morgan	2,740	927
Piute	281	560
Rich	737	645
Salt Lake	723,481	1,234
San Juan	3,789	779
Sanpete	8,510	669
Sevier	9,101	723
Summit	28,617	993
Tooele	18,808	845
Uintah	12,066	803
Utah	263,216	1,062
Wasatch	10,458	906
Washington	74,460	741
Wayne	1,036	695
Weber	110,070	869

(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, first quarter 2021

State	Establishments, first quarter 2021 (thousands)	Employment		Average weekly wage ⁽¹⁾			
		March 2021 (thousands)	Percent change, March 2020–21	First quarter 2021	National ranking by level	Percent change, first quarter 2020–21	National ranking by percent change
United States ⁽²⁾	10,755.4	140,455.8	-4.5	\$1,289	--	5.6	--
Alabama	135.9	1,924.3	-3.0	996	37	2.5	40
Alaska	23.3	295.0	-5.5	1,125	23	-0.6	48
Arizona	176.5	2,894.2	-2.3	1,150	21	4.8	17
Arkansas	95.3	1,194.2	-2.0	957	43	3.7	30
California	1,651.4	16,507.7	-5.9	1,623	4	11.3	1
Colorado	224.7	2,634.7	-3.5	1,335	10	4.1	25
Connecticut	128.3	1,550.5	-5.4	1,575	5	4.7	19
Delaware	35.2	425.6	-4.1	1,264	13	1.6	44
District of Columbia	44.0	708.1	-9.0	2,166	1	8.7	4
Florida	780.8	8,701.9	-3.1	1,104	24	5.1	13
Georgia.....	329.2	4,393.8	-2.6	1,198	17	3.6	33
Hawaii.....	48.0	564.4	-14.1	1,091	26	5.7	9
Idaho	74.2	768.6	1.9	906	50	4.9	15
Illinois	390.0	5,559.6	-5.5	1,387	8	6.7	7
Indiana.....	176.2	2,956.4	-2.5	1,026	34	3.3	37
Iowa	105.1	1,473.6	-3.3	1,004	35	2.6	39
Kansas	90.4	1,335.4	-3.3	986	39	1.9	43
Kentucky.....	130.7	1,835.2	-2.5	965	41	2.3	42
Louisiana	141.5	1,787.6	-5.9	977	40	1.0	46
Maine.....	56.2	585.0	-2.8	1,000	36	4.7	19
Maryland.....	174.3	2,522.1	-5.0	1,386	9	8.5	5
Massachusetts	271.2	3,334.9	-6.6	1,732	3	7.8	6
Michigan	267.5	4,026.6	-5.9	1,155	20	4.8	17
Minnesota	189.7	2,695.4	-5.1	1,290	11	4.6	22
Mississippi	75.3	1,098.4	-2.5	811	51	1.1	45
Missouri	221.8	2,705.5	-3.0	1,055	30	3.7	30
Montana	53.2	465.2	0.1	915	48	5.4	10
Nebraska	73.4	944.7	-2.8	990	38	3.6	33
Nevada	92.8	1,291.5	-8.4	1,080	27	4.7	19
New Hampshire	56.8	631.8	-3.9	1,258	15	5.4	10
New Jersey.....	297.0	3,818.6	-5.5	1,533	7	5.3	12
New Mexico	65.2	774.5	-7.4	958	42	3.8	28
New York	664.6	8,587.8	-8.7	1,869	2	10.4	2
North Carolina	302.7	4,423.2	-1.7	1,137	22	4.1	25
North Dakota	32.3	388.7	-6.1	1,037	32	-0.9	51
Ohio	310.1	5,136.8	-3.9	1,098	25	3.3	37
Oklahoma	114.4	1,549.7	-3.7	939	46	-0.8	50
Oregon	169.4	1,841.9	-5.2	1,172	18	6.4	8
Pennsylvania	369.7	5,531.3	-5.4	1,226	16	4.3	23
Rhode Island	41.2	447.8	-5.6	1,171	19	3.4	35
South Carolina.....	150.1	2,056.2	-2.6	957	43	3.8	28
South Dakota.....	35.6	417.1	-0.9	932	47	3.4	35
Tennessee	180.2	2,968.7	-2.1	1,077	28	5.0	14
Texas	750.1	12,216.7	-3.4	1,261	14	2.4	41
Utah	117.3	1,548.8	1.5	1,065	29	3.7	30
Vermont.....	27.0	283.7	-6.9	1,028	33	4.9	15
Virginia.....	291.3	3,765.8	-3.9	1,285	12	4.2	24
Washington.....	261.2	3,252.0	-5.1	1,540	6	9.1	3
West Virginia	52.3	648.6	-3.8	911	49	0.8	47
Wisconsin	183.1	2,730.0	-3.7	1,047	31	3.9	27
Wyoming	27.8	255.9	-4.6	953	45	-0.6	48
Puerto Rico.....	47.1	856.5	-3.1	562	(3)	2.0	(3)
Virgin Islands.....	3.6	34.7	-14.0	961	(3)	-8.0	(3)

Note: See footnotes at end of table.

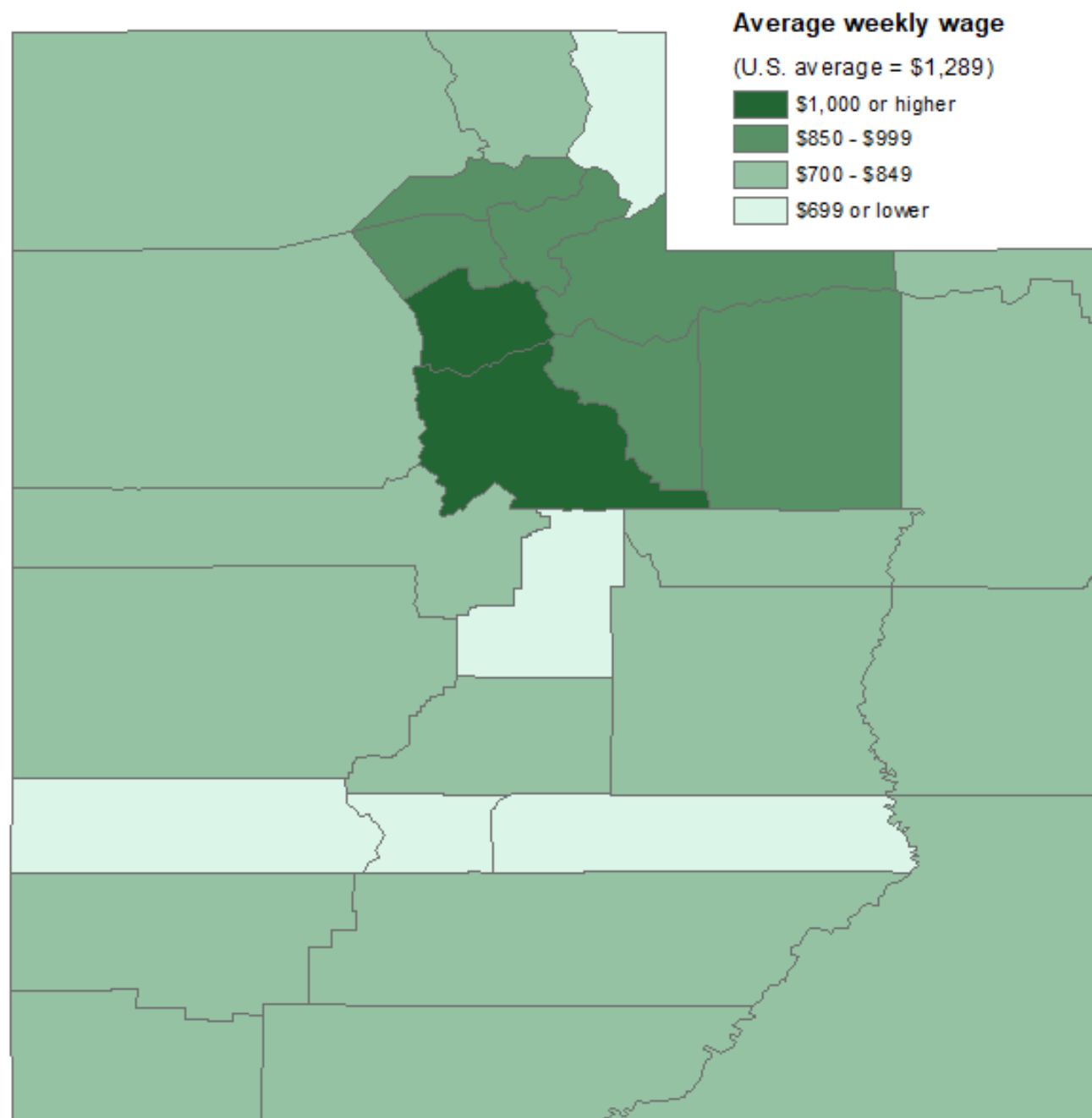
(1) Average weekly wages were calculated using unrounded data.

(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 Utah, first quarter 2021



Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics.