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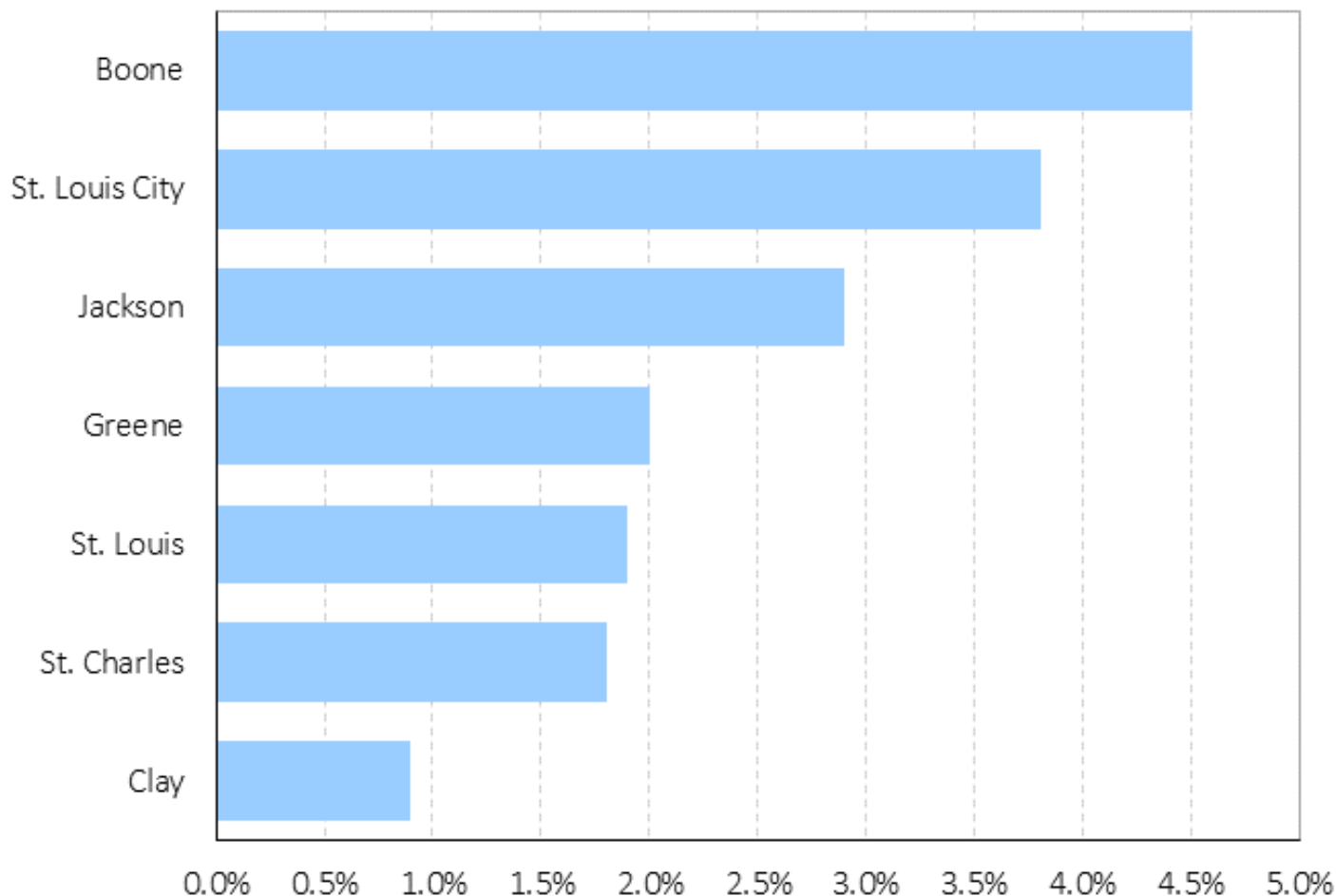
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County Employment and Wages in Missouri — Third Quarter 2021

Employment rose in all seven of the largest counties in Missouri from September 2020 to September 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. The independent city of St. Louis has been designated as a county-equivalent entity for the Quarterly Census of Employment and Wages program.) Regional Commissioner Michael Hirniak noted that Boone County and St. Louis City had the largest over-the-year increases in employment at 4.5 percent and 3.8 percent, respectively. (See [chart 1](#) and [table 1](#).)

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



Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics.

National employment increased 4.4 percent over the year, with 332 of the 343 largest U.S. counties reporting gains. Honolulu, HI, had the largest over-the-year increase in employment with a gain of 13.3 percent. Jefferson, LA, had the largest over-the-year percentage decrease in employment with a loss of 3.2 percent.

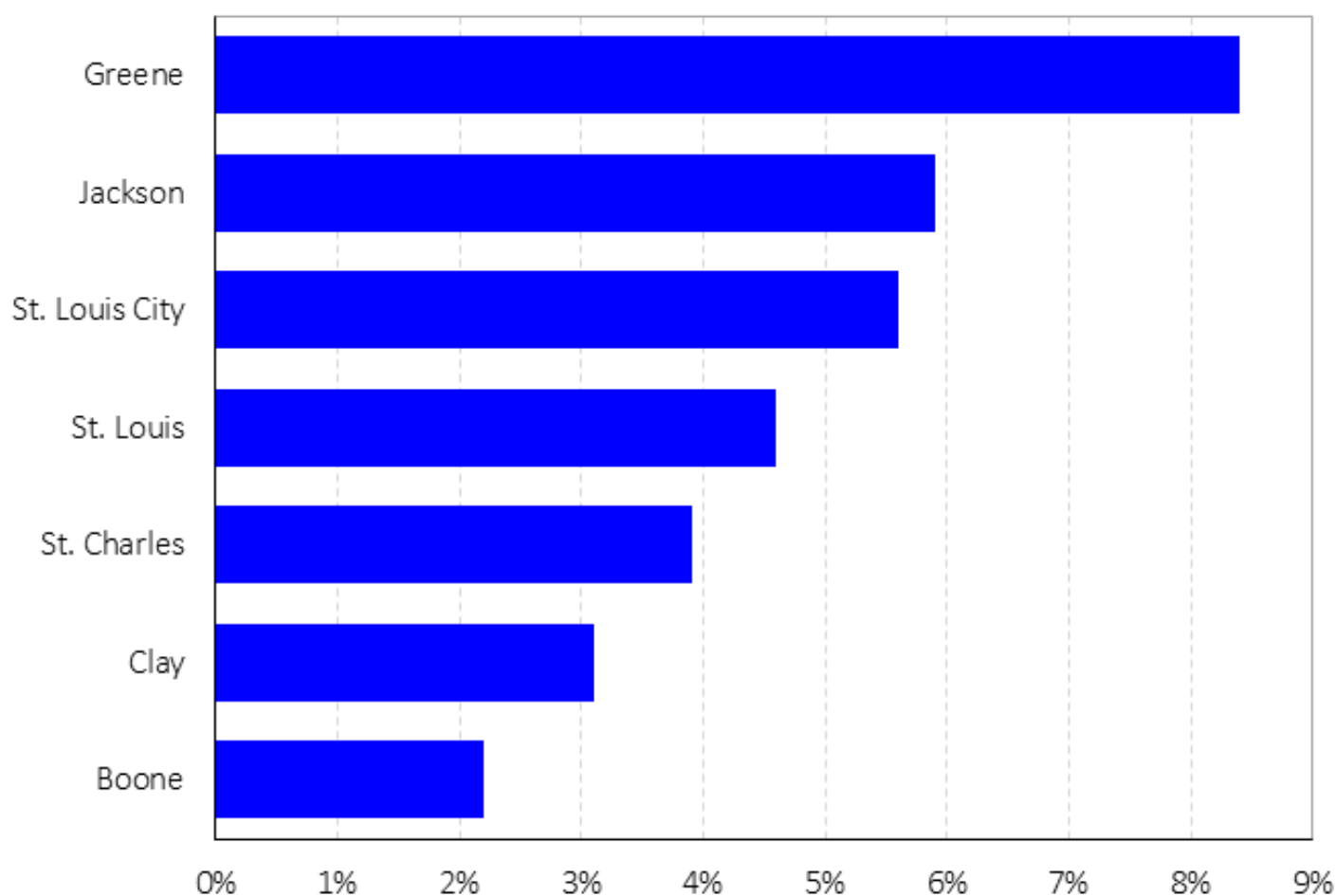
Among the seven largest counties in Missouri, employment was highest in St. Louis County (577,400) in September 2021. Within St. Louis County's private industry, health care and social assistance accounted for the largest employment. Together, the seven largest Missouri counties accounted for 60.9 percent 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 108 counties in Missouri with employment below 75,000. Wage levels in all 108 smaller counties were below the national average of \$1,251 in the third quarter of 2021. (See [table 2](#).)

Large county wage changes

All seven large Missouri counties reported average weekly wage gains from the third quarter of 2020 to the third quarter of 2021. (See [chart 2](#).) Greene County (+8.4 percent) had a rate of wage gain that was above the national rate of 6.7 percent. Wages in Jackson County increased by 5.9 percent and in St. Louis City by 5.6 percent. Over-the-year wage gains among Missouri's other four large counties ranged from 4.6 percent to 2.2 percent.

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



Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics.

Among the 343 largest counties in the United States, 333 had over-the-year wage increases. San Mateo, CA, had the largest percentage wage increase (+27.2 percent). Union, NJ, had the largest over-the-year percentage decrease (-1.2 percent).

Large county average weekly wages

St. Louis City, with average weekly wages of \$1,279, was the only county in Missouri to record wages above the national average of \$1,251 in the third quarter of 2021. Average weekly wages in St. Louis City (\$1,279, 79th) and St. Louis County (\$1,249, 86th) ranked among the top 100 nationwide.

Among the largest U.S. counties, 85 reported average weekly wages above the U.S. average in the third quarter of 2021. San Mateo, CA, had the highest average weekly wage at \$3,710. Average weekly wages were at or below the national average in the remaining 258 counties. At \$756 a week, Cameron, TX, had the lowest average weekly wage.

Average weekly wages in Missouri's smaller counties

Among the 108 smaller counties in Missouri—those with employment below 75,000—Platte (\$1,000) reported the highest average weekly wage in the state. Worth County (\$495) reported the lowest average weekly wage in the state.

When all 115 counties in Missouri were considered, 30 reported average weekly wages of less than \$674, 39 registered wages from \$675 to \$774, 30 had wages from \$775 to \$874 and 16 had average weekly wages of \$875 or higher. (See [chart 3.](#)) The higher-paying counties were located in and around the major metropolitan areas. The lowest paying counties were mainly located in the south part of the state.

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 fourth quarter 2021 is scheduled to be released on Wednesday, May 25, 2022.

The County Employment and Wages full data update for fourth quarter 2021 is scheduled to be released on Wednesday, June 8, 2022.

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; Telecommunications Relay Service: 7-1-1.

Table 1. Covered establishments, employment, and wages in the United States and the seven largest counties in Missouri, third quarter 2021

| Area | Establishments, third quarter (thousands) | Employment | | | Average weekly wage ⁽¹⁾ | | | |
|------------------------------------|---|----------------------------------|--|--|------------------------------------|--|---|--|
| | | September 2021 (thousands) | Percent change, September 2020–21 ⁽²⁾ | National ranking by percent change ⁽³⁾ | Third quarter 2021 | National ranking by level ⁽³⁾ | Percent change, third quarter 2020–21 ⁽²⁾ | National ranking by percent change ⁽³⁾ |
| United States ⁽⁴⁾ | 11,021.4 | 144,863.9 | 4.4 | -- | \$1,251 | -- | 6.7 | -- |
| Missouri | 223.9 | 2,760.3 | 2.9 | -- | 1,055 | 31 | 6.0 | 26 |
| Boone | 5.4 | 95.3 | 4.5 | 92 | 1,031 | 251 | 2.2 | 317 |
| Clay | 6.3 | 103.5 | 0.9 | 316 | 1,031 | 251 | 3.1 | 300 |
| Greene | 10.0 | 168.3 | 2.0 | 263 | 971 | 302 | 8.4 | 35 |
| Jackson | 23.8 | 362.8 | 2.9 | 204 | 1,200 | 114 | 5.9 | 146 |
| St. Charles..... | 10.4 | 154.2 | 1.8 | 278 | 958 | 310 | 3.9 | 266 |
| St. Louis | 42.7 | 577.4 | 1.9 | 267 | 1,249 | 86 | 4.6 | 229 |
| St. Louis City | 15.2 | 218.3 | 3.8 | 141 | 1,279 | 79 | 5.6 | 168 |

(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 establishments, employment, and wages in the United States and all counties in Missouri, third quarter 2021

| Area | Establishments | Employment September 2021 | Average weekly wage (1) |
|-------------------|----------------|---------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| United States (2) | 11,021,414 | 144,863,915 | \$1,251 |
| Missouri | 223,918 | 2,760,342 | 1,055 |
| Adair | 677 | 9,413 | 727 |
| Andrew | 535 | 2,850 | 689 |
| Atchison | 226 | 1,678 | 739 |
| Audrain | 629 | 8,333 | 775 |
| Barry | 922 | 13,861 | 819 |
| Barton | 330 | 3,313 | 722 |
| Bates | 458 | 3,584 | 713 |
| Benton | 572 | 3,632 | 670 |
| Bollinger | 243 | 1,777 | 640 |
| Boone | 5,392 | 95,315 | 1,031 |
| Buchanan | 2,464 | 44,686 | 988 |
| Butler | 1,569 | 18,286 | 769 |
| Caldwell | 226 | 1,921 | 692 |
| Callaway | 881 | 14,694 | 938 |
| Camden | 1,688 | 17,303 | 798 |
| Cape Girardeau | 2,899 | 40,107 | 894 |
| Carroll | 308 | 2,338 | 737 |
| Carter | 241 | 1,547 | 593 |
| Cass | 2,407 | 28,439 | 821 |
| Cedar | 350 | 3,179 | 624 |
| Chariton | 282 | 1,871 | 699 |
| Christian | 2,166 | 18,697 | 732 |
| Clark | 179 | 1,420 | 600 |
| Clay | 6,262 | 103,537 | 1,031 |
| Clinton | 451 | 4,209 | 789 |
| Cole | 2,414 | 51,234 | 906 |
| Cooper | 477 | 4,573 | 709 |
| Crawford | 660 | 6,743 | 767 |
| Dade | 185 | 1,680 | 687 |
| Dallas | 407 | 2,603 | 557 |
| Daviess | 265 | 1,633 | 602 |
| De Kalb | 265 | 2,732 | 738 |
| Dent | 558 | 3,806 | 705 |
| Douglas | 245 | 2,390 | 620 |
| Dunklin | 1,469 | 8,647 | 603 |
| Franklin | 3,069 | 37,703 | 886 |
| Gasconade | 488 | 5,293 | 668 |
| Gentry | 230 | 2,097 | 779 |
| Greene | 10,013 | 168,293 | 971 |
| Grundy | 287 | 2,837 | 688 |
| Harrison | 284 | 2,428 | 672 |
| Henry | 687 | 7,566 | 835 |
| Hickory | 192 | 1,424 | 622 |
| Holt | 188 | 1,188 | 754 |
| Howard | 223 | 2,456 | 629 |
| Howell | 1,369 | 14,982 | 736 |
| Iron | 596 | 3,311 | 788 |
| Jackson | 23,816 | 362,839 | 1,200 |
| Jasper | 3,500 | 57,418 | 844 |
| Jefferson | 4,476 | 47,206 | 826 |
| Johnson | 1,190 | 15,465 | 780 |
| Knox | 113 | 879 | 637 |
| Laclede | 852 | 13,494 | 783 |

Note: See footnotes at end of table.

Table 2. Covered establishments, employment, and wages in the United States and all counties in Missouri, third quarter 2021 - Continued

| Area | Establishments | Employment September 2021 | Average weekly wage (1) |
|---------------------|----------------|---------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| Lafayette..... | 876 | 8,646 | 696 |
| Lawrence..... | 916 | 8,456 | 762 |
| Lewis..... | 240 | 2,377 | 743 |
| Lincoln..... | 1,136 | 11,940 | 842 |
| Linn..... | 381 | 3,789 | 758 |
| Livingston..... | 467 | 6,157 | 730 |
| McDonald..... | 436 | 6,760 | 806 |
| Macon..... | 416 | 4,850 | 716 |
| Madison..... | 346 | 3,676 | 664 |
| Maries..... | 158 | 1,299 | 748 |
| Marion..... | 972 | 12,852 | 830 |
| Mercer..... | 103 | 1,554 | 817 |
| Miller..... | 726 | 7,750 | 717 |
| Mississippi..... | 459 | 3,231 | 682 |
| Moniteau..... | 363 | 4,228 | 800 |
| Monroe..... | 249 | 1,755 | 658 |
| Montgomery..... | 311 | 3,077 | 776 |
| Morgan..... | 600 | 4,866 | 640 |
| New Madrid..... | 856 | 7,412 | 787 |
| Newton..... | 1,501 | 20,272 | 913 |
| Nodaway..... | 594 | 8,028 | 741 |
| Oregon..... | 260 | 2,186 | 548 |
| Osage..... | 282 | 4,095 | 827 |
| Ozark..... | 216 | 1,495 | 536 |
| Pemiscot..... | 862 | 5,060 | 632 |
| Perry..... | 583 | 8,982 | 839 |
| Pettis..... | 1,310 | 18,749 | 802 |
| Phelps..... | 1,214 | 18,571 | 850 |
| Pike..... | 490 | 5,199 | 728 |
| Platte..... | 2,926 | 43,171 | 1,000 |
| Polk..... | 756 | 9,458 | 766 |
| Pulaski..... | 852 | 13,011 | 844 |
| Putnam..... | 130 | 879 | 635 |
| Ralls..... | 254 | 3,521 | 918 |
| Randolph..... | 652 | 9,484 | 808 |
| Ray..... | 444 | 4,042 | 760 |
| Reynolds..... | 262 | 1,882 | 749 |
| Ripley..... | 634 | 2,762 | 505 |
| St. Charles..... | 10,415 | 154,219 | 958 |
| St. Clair..... | 217 | 1,607 | 613 |
| Ste. Genevieve..... | 476 | 5,845 | 904 |
| St. Francois..... | 1,727 | 22,288 | 686 |
| St. Louis..... | 42,698 | 577,426 | 1,249 |
| Saline..... | 642 | 8,647 | 787 |
| Schuyler..... | 98 | 578 | 595 |
| Scotland..... | 144 | 1,122 | 723 |
| Scott..... | 1,369 | 15,798 | 809 |
| Shannon..... | 228 | 1,552 | 572 |
| Shelby..... | 194 | 1,756 | 712 |
| Stoddard..... | 915 | 10,380 | 776 |
| Stone..... | 800 | 6,957 | 653 |
| Sullivan..... | 160 | 2,279 | 857 |
| Taney..... | 2,066 | 28,533 | 699 |
| Texas..... | 603 | 5,585 | 674 |
| Vernon..... | 713 | 6,801 | 768 |

Note: See footnotes at end of table.

Table 2. Covered establishments, employment, and wages in the United States and all counties in Missouri, third quarter 2021 - Continued

| Area | Establishments | Employment September 2021 | Average weekly wage (1) |
|----------------------|----------------|---------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| Warren | 699 | 7,752 | 822 |
| Washington..... | 688 | 4,887 | 633 |
| Wayne | 420 | 2,158 | 591 |
| Webster | 851 | 8,580 | 744 |
| Worth | 72 | 403 | 495 |
| Wright | 522 | 4,345 | 708 |
| St. Louis City | 15,195 | 218,314 | 1,279 |

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

Table 3. Covered establishments, employment, and wages by state, third quarter 2021

| State | Establishments, third quarter (thousands) | Employment | | Average weekly wage ⁽¹⁾ | | | |
|------------------------------|---|----------------------------------|--|------------------------------------|---------------------------------|--|---|
| | | September 2021 (thousands) | Percent change, September 2020–21 | Third quarter 2021 | National ranking by level | Percent change, third quarter 2020–21 | National ranking by percent change |
| United States ⁽²⁾ | 11,021.4 | 144,863.9 | 4.4 | \$1,251 | -- | 6.7 | -- |
| Alabama | 139.8 | 1,955.3 | 2.6 | 1,030 | 36 | 5.3 | 37 |
| Alaska | 24.0 | 316.9 | 4.6 | 1,205 | 16 | 3.4 | 50 |
| Arizona | 184.5 | 2,926.3 | 4.6 | 1,167 | 19 | 7.0 | 13 |
| Arkansas | 97.4 | 1,212.9 | 2.9 | 963 | 47 | 7.8 | 6 |
| California | 1,679.6 | 17,208.7 | 6.6 | 1,576 | 4 | 7.7 | 8 |
| Colorado | 231.8 | 2,723.4 | 4.8 | 1,322 | 9 | 7.0 | 13 |
| Connecticut | 132.0 | 1,605.1 | 2.9 | 1,401 | 6 | 5.7 | 31 |
| Delaware | 35.9 | 439.7 | 2.1 | 1,198 | 18 | 4.4 | 45 |
| District of Columbia | 45.4 | 736.1 | 3.1 | 2,042 | 1 | 4.1 | 46 |
| Florida | 808.4 | 8,910.9 | 7.0 | 1,120 | 25 | 8.7 | 3 |
| Georgia | 343.9 | 4,491.4 | 4.9 | 1,158 | 20 | 6.8 | 17 |
| Hawaii | 49.2 | 592.8 | 16.6 | 1,150 | 22 | 3.3 | 51 |
| Idaho | 79.2 | 804.0 | 5.3 | 953 | 50 | 7.8 | 6 |
| Illinois | 398.4 | 5,751.2 | 3.3 | 1,274 | 11 | 6.3 | 22 |
| Indiana | 178.9 | 3,020.6 | 2.6 | 1,032 | 34 | 7.4 | 10 |
| Iowa | 106.8 | 1,509.6 | 2.2 | 1,015 | 39 | 4.9 | 43 |
| Kansas | 92.1 | 1,349.3 | 1.7 | 997 | 40 | 4.7 | 44 |
| Kentucky | 134.3 | 1,869.0 | 3.4 | 989 | 43 | 5.8 | 28 |
| Louisiana | 144.2 | 1,772.7 | 1.7 | 1,021 | 37 | 5.4 | 36 |
| Maine | 58.5 | 619.9 | 3.6 | 1,031 | 35 | 6.7 | 18 |
| Maryland | 178.1 | 2,604.6 | 3.9 | 1,314 | 10 | 3.5 | 49 |
| Massachusetts | 281.4 | 3,501.0 | 5.5 | 1,593 | 2 | 7.0 | 13 |
| Michigan | 271.3 | 4,181.4 | 3.6 | 1,154 | 21 | 5.3 | 37 |
| Minnesota | 186.9 | 2,780.5 | 2.7 | 1,249 | 13 | 6.1 | 24 |
| Mississippi | 77.3 | 1,122.2 | 2.6 | 859 | 51 | 6.3 | 22 |
| Missouri | 223.9 | 2,760.3 | 2.9 | 1,055 | 31 | 6.0 | 26 |
| Montana | 57.0 | 487.5 | 4.4 | 963 | 47 | 6.5 | 21 |
| Nebraska | 75.6 | 964.6 | 1.4 | 1,017 | 38 | 5.5 | 35 |
| Nevada | 96.0 | 1,389.5 | 10.8 | 1,135 | 23 | 8.3 | 5 |
| New Hampshire | 60.0 | 654.6 | 3.3 | 1,349 | 8 | 15.0 | 1 |
| New Jersey | 304.1 | 3,977.2 | 5.1 | 1,384 | 7 | 4.1 | 46 |
| New Mexico | 64.8 | 806.2 | 4.2 | 997 | 40 | 5.6 | 32 |
| New York | 671.2 | 8,922.4 | 4.4 | 1,534 | 5 | 6.1 | 24 |
| North Carolina | 318.4 | 4,516.4 | 4.5 | 1,112 | 26 | 7.1 | 11 |
| North Dakota | 33.0 | 407.2 | 2.2 | 1,076 | 30 | 5.1 | 40 |
| Ohio | 315.7 | 5,248.0 | 2.2 | 1,098 | 28 | 5.6 | 32 |
| Oklahoma | 116.4 | 1,576.6 | 1.8 | 966 | 45 | 5.6 | 32 |
| Oregon | 171.2 | 1,909.5 | 3.7 | 1,220 | 15 | 9.6 | 2 |
| Pennsylvania | 375.4 | 5,685.4 | 3.2 | 1,205 | 16 | 5.8 | 28 |
| Rhode Island | 43.2 | 474.1 | 4.8 | 1,131 | 24 | 3.6 | 48 |
| South Carolina | 152.9 | 2,086.0 | 2.8 | 988 | 44 | 6.9 | 16 |
| South Dakota | 37.0 | 435.6 | 3.1 | 965 | 46 | 5.1 | 40 |
| Tennessee | 187.7 | 3,044.1 | 4.2 | 1,111 | 27 | 8.7 | 3 |
| Texas | 770.0 | 12,613.1 | 5.6 | 1,227 | 14 | 6.7 | 18 |
| Utah | 123.1 | 1,594.7 | 5.0 | 1,087 | 29 | 7.1 | 11 |
| Vermont | 28.1 | 293.5 | 2.7 | 1,055 | 31 | 5.8 | 28 |
| Virginia | 299.2 | 3,845.3 | 2.9 | 1,264 | 12 | 5.3 | 37 |
| Washington | 266.6 | 3,415.2 | 4.4 | 1,578 | 3 | 6.6 | 20 |
| West Virginia | 53.6 | 664.2 | 2.7 | 960 | 49 | 5.0 | 42 |
| Wisconsin | 189.5 | 2,815.9 | 2.3 | 1,049 | 33 | 7.5 | 9 |
| Wyoming | 28.7 | 271.1 | 2.5 | 995 | 42 | 6.0 | 26 |
| Puerto Rico | 47.9 | 887.9 | 6.5 | 568 | (3) | 4.0 | (3) |
| Virgin Islands | 3.6 | 34.5 | 1.9 | 956 | (3) | -5.4 | (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 Missouri, third quarter 2021

