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NEW ENGLAND INFORMATION OFFICE: Boston, Mass.

Technical information: (617) 565-2327 BLSInfoBoston@bls.gov www.bls.gov/regions/new-england

Media contact: (617) 565-2327 BLSMediaBoston@bls.gov

County Employment And Wages In Maine - Third Quarter 2013

Maine's only large county, Cumberland, reported an employment gain of 0.6 percent from September 2012 to September 2013, the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics reported today. (Large counties are defined as those with employment of 75,000 or more as measured by 2012 annual average employment.) Regional Commissioner Deborah A. Brown noted that Cumberland's employment gain ranked 246th among the 334 large U.S. counties.

Nationally, employment increased 1.7 percent from September 2012 to September 2013, as 286 of the 334 largest U.S. counties gained jobs. The largest over-the-year percentage increase in employment was recorded in Fort Bend, Texas (6.0 percent); Peoria, Ill., experienced the largest over-the-year decrease (-3.7 percent).

Employment in Cumberland County stood at 173,469 in September 2013 and accounted for 28.8 percent of total employment within the state. Nationwide, the 334 largest counties made up 71.4 percent of total U.S. employment.

The average weekly wage in Cumberland County increased 1.6 percent to \$812 from the third quarter of 2012 to the third quarter of 2013. (See [table 1.](#)) Nationally, the average weekly wage increased 1.9 percent over the year to \$922.

Employment and wage levels (but not over-the-year changes) are also available for the 15 counties in Maine 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

The 1.6-percent wage gain in Cumberland County ranked 172nd among the 334 largest U.S. counties. Across the country, 291 large counties experienced over-the-year increases in average weekly wages in the third quarter of 2013. San Mateo, Calif., had the largest over-the-year increase in average weekly wages with a gain of 9.9 percent.

Of the 334 largest U.S. counties, 40 experienced decreases in average weekly wages. Pinellas, Fla., had the largest percentage decrease in average weekly wage, with a loss of 4.3 percent. Rockland, N.Y., had the second largest percentage decrease in average weekly wages, followed by Harford, Md.; Douglas, Colo.; and Mercer, N.J.

Large County Average Weekly Wages

Cumberland County's average weekly wage of \$812 placed in the middle-third of the national ranking at 204th in the third quarter of 2013. Among the 232 counties with average weekly wages below the national average, Horry, S.C. (\$564), reported the lowest wage, followed by the counties of Cameron, Texas (\$587), Hidalgo, Texas (\$595), Pasco, Fla. (\$635), and Webb, Texas, (\$636).

Nationally, average weekly wages were equal to or greater than the national average in 102 of the largest U.S. counties. Santa Clara, Calif., held the top position among the highest-paid large counties with an average weekly wage of \$1,868. San Mateo, Calif., was second with an average weekly wage of \$1,698, followed by New York, N.Y. (\$1,667), and Washington, D.C. (\$1,560).

Average Weekly Wages in Maine's Smaller Counties

All 15 counties in Maine with employment below 75,000 had average weekly wages lower than the national average of \$922. Sagadahoc reported the highest average weekly wage of any county in Maine, at \$882 per week. Lincoln reported the lowest weekly wage in the state, averaging \$574, followed by Piscataquis at \$596.

When all 16 counties in Maine were considered, all had weekly wages that were lower than the national average. Two reported average weekly wages at or below \$599, nine reported wages from \$600 to \$699, three had wages from \$700 to \$799, and two had wages above \$800. (See [chart 1](#) .) The higher paid counties were concentrated along the state's southern Atlantic coastline.

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 the QCEW Web site at www.bls.gov/cew.

An annual bulletin, *Employment and Wages Annual Wages Online*, features comprehensive information by detailed industry on establishments, employment, and wages for the nation and all states. The 2012 edition of this publication, which was published in September 2013, contains selected data produced by Business Employment Dynamics (BED) on job gains and losses, as well as selected data from the first quarter 2013 version of the national news release. Tables and additional content from *Employment and Wages Annual Averages 2012* are now available online at www.bls.gov/cew/publications/employment-and-wages-annual-averages/2012/home.htm The 2013 edition of *Employment and Wages Annual Averages Online* will be available in September 2014.

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

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 9.2 million employer reports cover 135.1 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 ⁽¹⁾ employment and wages in the United States and the largest county in Maine, third quarter 2013 ⁽²⁾

Area	Employment			Average Weekly Wage ⁽³⁾			
	September 2013 (thousands)	Percent change, September 2012-13 ⁽⁴⁾	National ranking by percent change ⁽⁵⁾	Average weekly wage	National ranking by level ⁽⁵⁾	Percent change, second quarter 2012-13 ⁽⁴⁾	National ranking by percent change ⁽⁵⁾
United States ⁽⁶⁾	134,957.5	1.7	--	\$922	--	1.9	--
Maine.....	601.5	0.7	--	735	46	1.8	30
Cumberland.....	173.5	0.6	246	812	204	1.6	172

Footnotes:

- (1) Includes workers covered by Unemployment Insurance (UI) and Unemployment Compensation for Federal Employees (UCFE) programs.
- (2) Data are preliminary.
- (3) Average weekly wages were calculated using unrounded data.
- (4) Percent changes were computed from quarterly employment and pay data adjusted for noneconomic county reclassifications.
- (5) Ranking does not include the county of San Juan, Puerto Rico.
- (6) Totals for the United States do not include data for Puerto Rico or the Virgin Islands.

Table 2. Covered(1) employment and wages in the United States and all of the counties in Maine, third quarter 2013(2)

Area	Employment September 2013	Average Weekly Wage(3)
United States(4)	134,957,493	\$922
Maine.....	601,508	735
Androscoggin	48,415	717
Arroostook	28,593	636
Cumberland.....	173,469	812
Franklin.....	10,613	663
Hancock	24,215	645
Kennebec	59,138	729
Knox	17,952	616
Lincoln	11,962	574
Oxford.....	16,467	639
Penobscot	70,510	697
Piscataquis	5,642	596
Sagadahoc	15,412	882
Somerset	17,491	672
Waldo	11,456	631
Washington.....	10,391	632
York	70,537	722

Footnotes:

- (1) Includes workers covered by Unemployment Insurance (UI) and Unemployment Compensation for Federal Employees (UCFE) programs.
- (2) Data are preliminary.
- (3) Average weekly wages were calculated using unrounded data.
- (4) Totals for the United States do not include data for Puerto Rico or the Virgin Islands.

Table 3. Covered ⁽¹⁾ employment and wages by state, third quarter 2013 ⁽²⁾

State	Employment		Average weekly wage ⁽³⁾			
	September 2013 (thousands)	Percent change, September 2012-13	Average weekly wage	National ranking by level	Percent change, third quarter 2012-13	National ranking by percent change
United States ⁽⁴⁾	134,957.5	1.7	\$922	--	1.9	--
Alabama	1,847.6	0.8	794	34	1.3	43
Alaska	345.0	0.4	990	9	3.0	7
Arizona	2,490.9	2.2	859	22	1.5	36
Arkansas	1,156.5	0.1	723	47	2.1	21
California	15,526.4	2.7	1,057	6	2.1	21
Colorado	2,355.7	3.1	952	12	1.7	31
Connecticut	1,650.3	0.7	1,109	3	1.9	28
Delaware	416.8	2.1	941	14	2.1	21
District of Columbia	726.2	1.5	1,560	1	3.0	7
Florida	7,501.8	2.6	808	31	1.1	46
Georgia	3,928.2	2.3	867	21	1.5	36
Hawaii	617.7	1.7	839	25	1.6	33
Idaho	644.7	2.3	703	50	2.3	19
Illinois	5,731.7	0.7	959	11	1.5	36
Indiana	2,883.6	1.2	784	38	1.6	33
Iowa	1,512.0	1.5	772	40	2.1	21
Kansas	1,347.6	1.8	776	39	2.0	26
Kentucky	1,794.5	1.0	760	43	1.1	46
Louisiana	1,893.4	1.4	827	28	2.9	10
Maine	601.5	0.7	735	46	1.8	30
Maryland	2,546.4	0.6	1,011	8	0.4	51
Massachusetts	3,318.3	1.2	1,131	2	2.6	11
Michigan	4,069.7	2.1	875	20	1.5	36
Minnesota	2,724.2	1.7	938	15	2.6	11
Mississippi	1,099.1	0.8	688	51	2.5	15
Missouri	2,661.0	1.3	805	32	1.4	40
Montana	446.7	1.2	705	49	2.3	19
Nebraska	937.5	1.3	766	41	3.4	3
Nevada	1,169.4	2.5	836	27	2.0	26
New Hampshire	624.5	0.6	895	18	2.4	17
New Jersey	3,851.9	1.2	1,068	5	1.3	43
New Mexico	793.7	0.5	766	41	0.7	49
New York	8,724.8	1.3	1,108	4	1.7	31
North Carolina	4,006.4	1.7	817	30	1.4	40
North Dakota	436.7	3.4	921	16	5.5	1
Ohio	5,147.5	1.4	837	26	1.2	45
Oklahoma	1,572.6	1.4	797	33	2.4	17
Oregon	1,709.8	2.4	856	23	2.6	11
Pennsylvania	5,622.4	0.3	913	17	1.6	33
Rhode Island	465.2	1.3	878	19	2.6	11
South Carolina	1,859.3	2.3	751	44	1.9	28
South Dakota	408.9	0.9	706	48	3.4	3
Tennessee	2,712.8	1.5	819	29	0.6	50
Texas	11,091.9	2.8	952	12	2.5	15
Utah	1,265.5	2.9	791	36	3.1	6
Vermont	302.5	0.0	788	37	3.4	3
Virginia	3,650.1	0.6	971	10	1.1	46
Washington	3,017.9	2.4	1,044	7	2.1	21
West Virginia	710.3	-0.7	751	44	3.7	2
Wisconsin	2,752.7	1.1	793	35	3.0	7
Wyoming	286.1	0.2	840	24	1.4	40
Puerto Rico	910.9	-2.5	501	(5)	-0.6	(5)
Virgin Islands	37.9	-1.9	706	(5)	-0.6	(5)

Note: See footnotes at end of table.

Footnotes:

- (1) Includes workers covered by Unemployment Insurance (UI) and Unemployment Compensation for Federal Employees (UCFE) programs.
- (2) Data are preliminary.
- (3) Average weekly wages were calculated using unrounded data.
- (4) Totals for the United States do not include data for Puerto Rico or the Virgin Islands.
- (5) Data not included in the national ranking.

Chart 1. Average weekly wages by county in Maine, third quarter 2013

