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## County Employment And Wages In Maine — Third Quarter 2014

Maine's only large county, Cumberland, reported an employment gain of 0.8 percent from September 2013 to September 2014, 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 2013 annual average employment.) Regional Commissioner Deborah A. Brown noted that Cumberland's employment gain ranked 248<sup>th</sup> among the 339 large U.S. counties.

Nationally, employment increased 2.0 percent from September 2013 to September 2014, as 306 of the 339 largest U.S. counties gained jobs. The largest over-the-year percentage increase in employment was recorded in Weld, Colo. (8.8 percent); Atlantic, N.J., experienced the largest over-the-year decrease (-4.0 percent).

Employment in Cumberland County stood at 174,781 in September 2014 and accounted for 28.9 percent of total employment within the state. Nationwide, the 339 largest counties made up 71.8 percent of total U.S. employment.

The average weekly wage in Cumberland County increased 2.3 percent to \$832 from the third quarter of 2013 to the third quarter of 2014. (See [table 1](#).) Nationally, the average weekly wage increased 2.9 percent over the year to \$949.

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 2.3-percent wage gain in Cumberland County ranked 194<sup>th</sup> among the 339 largest U.S. counties. Across the country, 328 large counties experienced over-the-year increases in average weekly wages in the third quarter of 2014. Olmstead, Minn., had the largest over-the-year increase in average weekly wages with a gain of 11.1 percent in the third quarter of 2014.

Of the 339 largest U.S. counties, 10 experienced decreases in average weekly wages. Collier, Fla., had the largest percentage decrease in average weekly wage, with a loss of 3.9 percent. Dane, Wis., had the second largest percentage decrease in average weekly wages, followed by Williamson, Texas; Hamilton, Ind.; and Shawnee, Kan.

## Large County Average Weekly Wages

Cumberland County's average weekly wage of \$832 placed in the middle-third of the national ranking at 207<sup>th</sup> in the third quarter of 2014. Average weekly wages were equal to or greater than the national average of \$949 in 102 of the largest U.S. counties. Santa Clara, Calif., was the highest-paid large county with an average weekly wage of \$2,012. San Mateo, Calif., was second with an average weekly wage of \$1,824, followed by New York, N.Y. (\$1,733), and San Francisco, Calif. (\$1,685).

Among the 237 counties with average weekly wages below the national average, Horry, S.C. (\$580), reported the lowest wage, followed by the counties of Cameron, Texas (\$603), Hidalgo, Texas (\$616), Marion, Fla. (\$644), and Pasco, Fla. (\$650).

## 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 \$949. Sagadahoc reported the highest average weekly wage of any county in Maine, at \$884 per week. Lincoln reported the lowest weekly wage in the state, averaging \$600, followed by Piscataquis at \$608.

When all 16 counties in Maine were considered, all had weekly wages that were lower than the national average. Five reported wages of \$649 or less, nine had wages from \$650 to \$749, one had wages from \$750 to \$849, and one had wages of \$850 or more. (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](http://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 2013 edition of this publication, which was published in September 2014, 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/cewbultn13.htm](http://www.bls.gov/cew/cewbultn13.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 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 9.4 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/](http://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 largest county in Maine, third quarter 2014**

Area	Employment			Average Weekly Wage <sup>(1)</sup>			
	September 2014 (thousands)	Percent change, September 2013-14 <sup>(2)</sup>	National ranking by percent change <sup>(3)</sup>	Average weekly wage	National ranking by level <sup>(3)</sup>	Percent change, second quarter 2013-14 <sup>(2)</sup>	National ranking by percent change <sup>(3)</sup>
United States <sup>(4)</sup> .....	137,724.1	2.0	--	\$949	--	2.9	--
Maine.....	604.5	0.3	--	754	46	2.6	26
Cumberland, Maine.....	174.8	0.8	248	832	207	2.3	194

<sup>(1)</sup> Average weekly wages were calculated using unrounded data.

<sup>(2)</sup> Percent changes were computed from quarterly employment and pay data adjusted for noneconomic county reclassifications.

<sup>(3)</sup> Ranking does not include data for Puerto Rico or the Virgin Islands.

<sup>(4)</sup> 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 of the counties in Maine, third quarter 2014**

Area	Employment September 2014	Average Weekly Wage (1)
United States (2) .....	137,724,117	\$949
Maine.....	604,479	754
Androscoggin.....	48,933	735
Arroostook.....	28,139	658
Cumberland.....	174,781	832
Franklin.....	10,597	674
Hancock.....	24,748	665
Kennebec.....	59,654	748
Knox.....	17,928	637
Lincoln.....	11,905	600
Oxford.....	16,711	650
Penobscot.....	70,247	716
Piscataquis.....	5,716	608
Sagadahoc.....	15,516	884
Somerset.....	17,511	696
Waldo.....	11,705	647
Washington.....	10,338	642
York.....	70,601	746

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

State	Employment		Average weekly wage <sup>(1)</sup>			
	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 <sup>(2)</sup>	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

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

State	Employment		Average weekly wage <sup>(1)</sup>			
	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
Puerto Rico.....	896.7	-1.5	505	(3)	0.8	(3)
Virgin Islands.....	37.5	-1.0	720	(3)	2.0	(3)

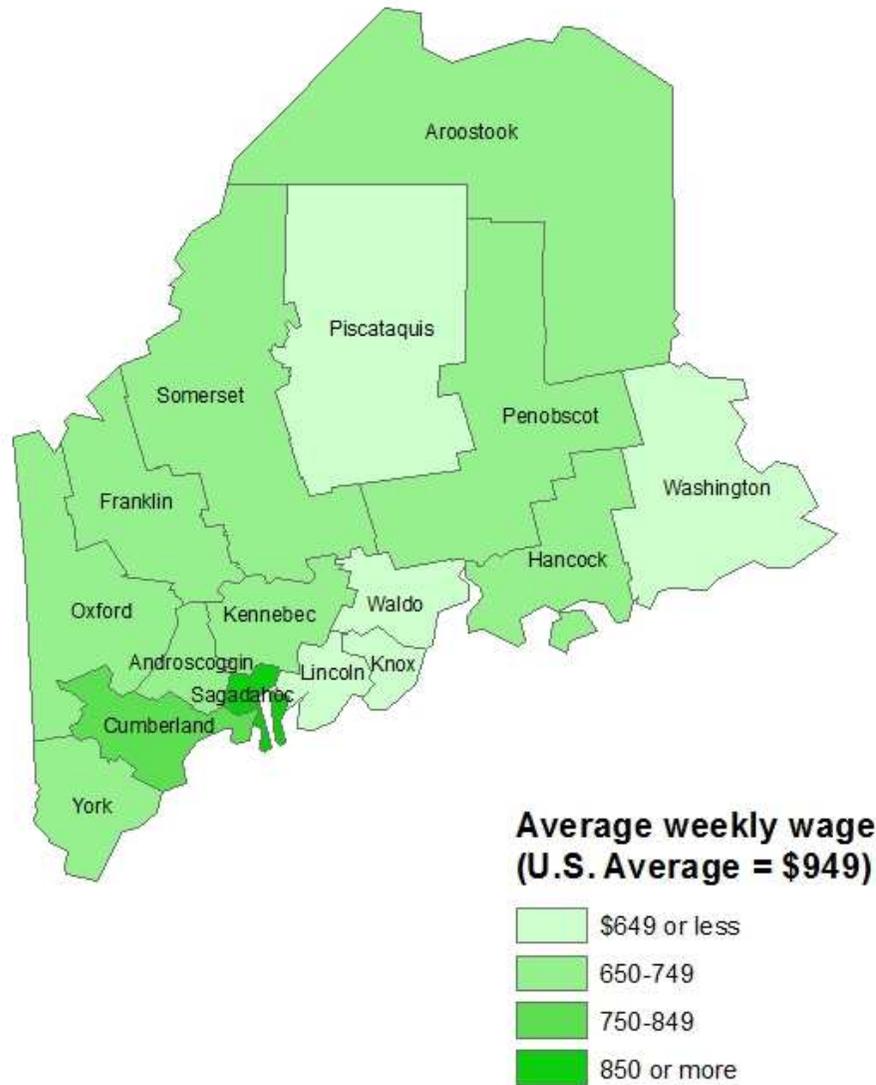
<sup>(1)</sup> Average weekly wages were calculated using unrounded data.

<sup>(2)</sup> Totals for the United States do not include data for Puerto Rico or the Virgin Islands.

<sup>(3)</sup> 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 Maine, third quarter 2014



Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics.

