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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 Vermont — Fourth Quarter 2014

Employment in Vermont's only large county, Chittenden, increased 1.3 percent from December 2013 to December 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 the average weekly wage in Chittenden County rose 3.9 percent from the fourth quarter of 2013 to the fourth quarter of 2014, to \$1,032. (See [table 1](#).)

Nationally, employment increased 2.2 percent from December 2013 to December 2014, as 319 of the 339 largest counties registered increases. Weld, Colo., and Midland, Texas, had the largest percentage increases, each with gains of 8.0 percent over the year. Atlantic, N.J., had the largest over-the-year decrease in employment among the large U.S. counties with a loss of 5.0 percent.

Employment in Chittenden County was 101,554 in December 2014, accounting for 32.6 percent of employment statewide. Nationwide, the 339 largest counties accounted for 72.1 percent of total U.S. employment.

Employment and wage levels (but not over-the-year changes) are also available for the 13 counties in Vermont with employment below 75,000. All 13 smaller counties in Vermont had average weekly wages below the national average. (See [table 2](#).)

Large County Wage Changes

Chittenden County's 3.9-percent wage increase from the fourth quarter of 2013 to the fourth quarter of 2014 placed 125th across all large counties. (See [table 1](#).) Nationally, the average weekly wage increased 3.5 percent over the year to \$1,035 in the fourth quarter of 2014. Nationwide, 332 of the 339 largest counties had over-the-year gains in average weekly wages from the fourth quarter of 2013. Benton, Ark., had the largest wage gain in the nation, up 9.9 percent.

Of the 339 largest counties, 7 experienced over-the-year decreases in average weekly wages. San Mateo, Calif., had the largest average weekly wage decrease with a loss of 20.4 percent.

Large County Average Weekly Wages

The average weekly wage in Chittenden County placed in the top-third (99th) among the 339 largest U.S. counties in the fourth quarter of 2014. The county's \$1,032 average weekly wage was close to the U.S. average of \$1,035.

Among the highest-paid large U.S. counties, San Mateo, Calif., held the top position with an average weekly wage of \$2,166. New York, N.Y., was second with an average weekly wage of \$2,138, followed by Santa Clara, Calif. (\$2,114), and Suffolk, Mass. (\$1,856).

Horry, S.C., reported the lowest wage nationwide (\$610), followed by the Texas counties of Cameron (\$621) and Hidalgo, Texas (\$641). Wages in the lowest-ranked county, Horry, were less than one-third of the average weekly wage reported for the highest-ranked county, San Mateo, Calif.

Average Weekly Wages in Vermont's Smaller Counties

The 13 counties in Vermont with employment below 75,000 had average weekly wages lower than the national average of \$1,035. Among these smaller counties, Washington had the highest wage (\$934) followed by Franklin (\$844). Grand Isle reported the lowest weekly wage, averaging \$662 in the fourth quarter of 2014. (See [table 2.](#))

When all 14 counties in Vermont are considered, 3 reported average weekly wages under \$699, 4 had wages from \$700 to \$799, 5 had wages from \$800 to \$899, and 2 had wages of \$900 or more. The lowest-paid counties, those with wages below \$699, were generally located in the northern part of the state. (See [chart 1.](#))

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 Averages 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/publications/employment-and-wages-annual-averages/2013/home.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 9.5 million employer reports cover 139.2 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 largest county in Vermont, fourth quarter 2014

Area	Employment			Average Weekly Wage ⁽¹⁾			
	December 2014 (thousands)	Percent change, December 2013-14 ⁽²⁾	National ranking by percent change ⁽³⁾	Average weekly wage	National ranking by level ⁽³⁾	Percent change, fourth quarter 2013-14 ⁽²⁾	National ranking by percent change ⁽³⁾
United States ⁽⁴⁾	139,204.8	2.2	--	\$1,035	--	3.5	--
Vermont.....	311.0	0.7	--	882	34	4.1	17
Chittenden, Vt.....	101.6	1.3	223	1,032	99	3.9	125

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 Vermont, fourth quarter 2014

Area	Employment December 2014	Average Weekly Wage ⁽¹⁾
United States ⁽²⁾	139,204,840	\$1,035
Vermont.....	311,039	882
Addison.....	14,532	821
Bennington.....	16,969	839
Caledonia.....	10,863	753
Chittenden.....	101,554	1,032
Essex.....	1,037	692
Franklin.....	17,220	844
Grand Isle.....	1,059	662
Lamoille.....	12,214	710
Orange.....	7,736	752
Orleans.....	10,843	695
Rutland.....	28,515	798
Washington.....	33,417	934
Windham.....	23,327	810
Windsor.....	23,725	843

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, fourth quarter 2014

Area	Employment		Average weekly wage ⁽¹⁾			
	December 2014 (thousands)	Percent change, December 2013-14 ⁽²⁾	Average weekly wage	National ranking by level	Percent change, fourth quarter 2013-14 ⁽²⁾	National ranking by percent change
United States ⁽²⁾	139,204.8	2.2	\$1,035	--	3.5	--
Alabama.....	1,891.4	1.3	881	35	3.5	31
Alaska.....	317.6	0.8	1,063	13	4.0	20
Arizona.....	2,630.8	2.2	926	25	2.3	47
Arkansas.....	1,180.5	2.2	807	47	4.5	5
California.....	16,068.5	2.6	1,209	6	2.9	41
Colorado.....	2,478.0	3.9	1,066	12	4.1	17
Connecticut.....	1,681.2	1.2	1,278	4	2.7	45
Delaware.....	433.0	2.9	1,049	16	1.5	51
District of Columbia.....	736.9	0.9	1,696	1	3.7	28
Florida.....	8,009.6	3.5	911	28	3.1	40
Georgia.....	4,131.9	3.7	958	21	3.8	25
Hawaii.....	638.3	0.7	908	29	4.2	15
Idaho.....	650.7	2.5	782	50	4.0	20
Illinois.....	5,844.1	1.4	1,089	8	2.8	42
Indiana.....	2,946.5	1.7	846	41	3.9	22
Iowa.....	1,527.6	1.1	870	38	4.3	11
Kansas.....	1,377.2	1.3	855	39	2.6	46
Kentucky.....	1,852.2	1.8	836	43	4.1	17
Louisiana.....	1,954.0	2.1	923	26	3.8	25
Maine.....	592.7	0.9	826	44	5.1	4
Maryland.....	2,590.3	1.3	1,113	7	3.5	31
Massachusetts.....	3,415.6	2.2	1,315	3	4.5	5
Michigan.....	4,158.9	2.1	984	20	3.3	37
Minnesota.....	2,762.9	1.4	1,024	17	3.6	30
Mississippi.....	1,118.6	1.0	747	51	2.3	47
Missouri.....	2,709.8	1.5	891	32	3.4	34
Montana.....	442.2	0.5	794	48	4.5	5
Nebraska.....	958.1	1.4	837	42	5.2	3
Nevada.....	1,229.6	4.2	899	30	1.6	50
New Hampshire.....	638.0	1.4	1,081	10	6.3	2
New Jersey.....	3,933.6	1.3	1,211	5	2.0	49
New Mexico.....	808.4	1.3	850	40	4.4	10
New York.....	9,067.6	2.0	1,321	2	4.3	11
North Carolina.....	4,141.8	2.4	890	33	3.4	34
North Dakota.....	454.8	4.5	1,050	15	7.1	1
Ohio.....	5,264.3	1.6	922	27	3.9	22
Oklahoma.....	1,614.3	2.1	876	36	2.8	42
Oregon.....	1,755.4	3.2	928	23	3.8	25
Pennsylvania.....	5,716.5	1.2	1,013	18	3.7	28
Rhode Island.....	471.5	1.9	1,003	19	4.5	5
South Carolina.....	1,931.4	2.9	817	46	3.2	39
South Dakota.....	412.5	1.3	791	49	4.2	15
Tennessee.....	2,822.1	2.4	927	24	3.5	31
Texas.....	11,662.7	3.7	1,070	11	4.3	11
Utah.....	1,324.2	3.0	872	37	4.3	11
Vermont.....	311.0	0.7	882	34	4.1	17
Virginia.....	3,691.4	0.6	1,057	14	2.8	42
Washington.....	3,069.7	3.2	1,082	9	4.5	5
West Virginia.....	712.0	0.1	818	45	3.3	37
Wisconsin.....	2,789.3	1.3	894	31	3.4	34
Wyoming.....	283.6	1.5	952	22	3.9	22
Puerto Rico.....	944.2	-1.5	556	(3)	0.7	(3)
Virgin Islands.....	38.5	-0.3	746	(3)	-1.2	(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 Vermont, fourth quarter 2014

