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## **County Employment and Wages in Vermont – Third Quarter 2020**

Employment fell in Vermont's only large county, Chittenden, from September 2019 to September 2020, the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics reported today. (Large counties are those with annual average employment levels of 75,000 or more in 2019.) Regional Commissioner William J. Sibley noted that Chittenden's over-the-year employment change (-8.7 percent) ranked 282<sup>nd</sup> among the 357 large U.S. counties.

National employment decreased 6.8 percent over the year, with 355 of the 357 largest U.S. counties reporting declines. Maui + Kalawao, HI, had the largest over-the-year decrease in employment with a loss of 35.4 percent. Utah, UT, experienced the largest over-the-year percentage increase in employment with a gain of 1.9 percent.

Employment in Chittenden County stood at 94,564 in September 2020 and accounted for 33.3 percent of total employment within the state. Within Chittenden County's private industry, health care and social assistance accounted for the largest employment. Nationwide, the 357 largest counties made up 72.9 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 of these smaller counties had average weekly wages below the national average. (See table 2.)

### **Large County Wage Changes**

The 6.2-percent wage increase in Chittenden County ranked 240<sup>th</sup> among the 357 largest U.S. counties in the third quarter of 2020. Average weekly wages for the nation increased 7.4 percent over the year.

Among the 357 largest counties in the United States, 350 had over-the-year wage increases. Nationally, the increases in average weekly wages largely reflect substantial employment loss among lower-paid industries. Employment declines occurring in some higher-paid industries also feature significant wage increases. San Mateo, CA, had the largest percentage wage increase (+23.2 percent). Seven large counties had wage declines during the period. Ector, TX, had the largest over-the-year percentage decrease (-11.0 percent).

### **Large County Average Weekly Wages**

Chittenden County's average weekly wage of \$1,132 was below the U.S. average (\$1,173) and ranked 120<sup>th</sup> among the 357 large U.S. counties in the third quarter of 2020. Nationally, 96 large counties reported average weekly wages above the U.S. average in the third quarter of 2020. San Mateo, CA, had the highest average weekly wage at \$2,922. Average weekly wages were at or below the national average in 261 counties. At \$697 a week, Cameron, TX, had the lowest average weekly wage.

### **Average Weekly Wages in Vermont's Smaller Counties**

All 13 counties in Vermont with employment below 75,000 had average weekly wages lower than the national average of \$1,173. Washington (\$1,077) reported the highest average weekly wage among the small counties in the state. Grand Isle (\$740) and Essex (\$765) reported the lowest weekly wages.

When all 14 counties in Vermont were considered, all had weekly wages that were lower than the national average, two reported average weekly wages of less than \$799, five registered wages from \$800 to \$899, five had wages from \$900 to \$999, and two had averages weekly wages of \$1,000 or higher. (See chart 1.)

### **Additional Statistics and other Information**

QCEW data for states has 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).

*Employment and Wages Annual Averages Online* features comprehensive information by detailed industry on establishments, employment, and wages for the nation and all states. The 2019 edition of this publication was published in September 2020. Tables and additional content from the 2019 edition of *Employment and Wages Annual Averages Online* are available at [www.bls.gov/cew/publications/employment-and-wages-annual-averages/2019/home.htm](http://www.bls.gov/cew/publications/employment-and-wages-annual-averages/2019/home.htm). The 2020 edition of *Employment and Wages Annual Averages Online* will be available in September 2021.

The County Employment and Wages release for fourth quarter 2020 is scheduled to be released on Wednesday, May 19, 2021.

The County Employment and Wages full data update for fourth quarter 2020 is scheduled to be released on Wednesday, June 2, 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/](http://www.bls.gov/cew/). However, data in QCEW press releases have been revised

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 sensory impaired individuals 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 largest county in Vermont, third quarter 2020**

Area	Establishments, third quarter 2020 (thousands)	Employment			Average weekly wage <sup>(1)</sup>			
		September 2020 (thousands)	Percent change, September 2019–20 <sup>(2)</sup>	National ranking by percent change <sup>(3)</sup>	Third quarter 2020	National ranking by level <sup>(3)</sup>	Percent change, third quarter 2019–20 <sup>(2)</sup>	National ranking by percent change <sup>(3)</sup>
United States <sup>(4)</sup> .....	10,561.3	138,549.5	-6.8	--	\$1,173	--	7.4	--
Vermont.....	26.4	283.9	-8.6	--	1,001	31	7.9	12
Chittenden.....	7.3	94.6	-8.7	282	1,132	120	6.2	240

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, 3rd quarter 2020**

Area	Employment September 2020	Average Weekly Wage(1)
United States(2) .....	138,549,503	\$1,173
Vermont .....	283,949	1,001
Addison .....	13,932	968
Bennington .....	15,474	898
Caledonia .....	10,004	856
Chittenden .....	94,564	1,132
Essex .....	1,039	765
Franklin .....	17,090	950
Grand Isle .....	1,254	740
Lamoille .....	10,274	852
Orange .....	7,023	856
Orleans .....	9,877	822
Rutland .....	23,817	901
Washington .....	31,229	1,077
Windham .....	18,209	940
Windsor .....	21,319	982

## 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, third quarter 2020**

State	Establishments, third quarter 2020 (thousands)	Employment		Average weekly wage <sup>(1)</sup>			
		September 2020 (thousands)	Percent change, September 2019–20	Third quarter 2020	National ranking by level	Percent change, third quarter 2019–20	National ranking by percent change
United States <sup>(2)</sup> .....	10,561.3	138,549.5	-6.8	\$1,173	--	7.4	--
Alabama.....	132.2	1,902.4	-4.5	978	33	6.4	27
Alaska.....	22.9	302.6	-10.7	1,165	14	5.4	42
Arizona.....	174.1	2,797.1	-4.2	1,091	22	7.3	17
Arkansas.....	93.6	1,180.1	-3.4	892	49	6.1	31
California.....	1,643.8	16,096.8	-9.2	1,466	4	12.0	1
Colorado.....	220.1	2,597.2	-5.6	1,235	9	5.6	38
Connecticut.....	125.4	1,555.6	-7.3	1,328	7	7.4	15
Delaware.....	34.9	428.8	-5.6	1,150	15	6.8	21
District of Columbia.....	43.3	713.7	-8.1	1,962	1	6.1	31
Florida.....	749.1	8,329.7	-5.8	1,029	27	8.0	11
Georgia.....	313.0	4,282.1	-5.2	1,084	23	5.8	35
Hawaii.....	46.5	507.5	-22.9	1,114	18	10.3	4
Idaho.....	70.7	763.7	-0.2	884	50	5.5	41
Illinois.....	385.9	5,558.5	-7.8	1,199	11	6.8	21
Indiana.....	172.4	2,941.8	-4.7	961	39	5.3	43
Iowa.....	105.1	1,475.0	-5.2	969	36	6.0	34
Kansas.....	89.2	1,325.4	-5.0	952	40	6.6	24
Kentucky.....	128.0	1,807.1	-5.5	935	43	5.8	35
Louisiana.....	139.5	1,734.6	-9.6	970	35	5.2	45
Maine.....	54.4	597.3	-5.9	966	37	9.0	9
Maryland.....	172.4	2,496.6	-7.6	1,277	8	9.5	7
Massachusetts.....	265.1	3,314.8	-9.4	1,488	2	9.7	6
Michigan.....	266.9	4,035.9	-7.9	1,096	20	7.5	14
Minnesota.....	183.1	2,703.3	-7.4	1,178	12	6.4	27
Mississippi.....	74.9	1,092.4	-4.0	810	51	5.6	38
Missouri.....	218.8	2,681.7	-5.1	995	32	5.6	38
Montana.....	53.0	466.9	-2.5	904	48	6.6	24
Nebraska.....	73.7	949.9	-3.8	964	38	6.4	27
Nevada.....	87.9	1,251.0	-11.6	1,048	24	7.8	13
New Hampshire.....	56.1	634.2	-5.2	1,171	13	8.9	10
New Jersey.....	289.3	3,778.4	-8.0	1,331	6	9.5	7
New Mexico.....	63.1	771.9	-8.6	944	41	5.1	46
New York.....	657.6	8,547.7	-10.8	1,446	5	10.0	5
North Carolina.....	301.4	4,308.2	-4.4	1,039	26	6.9	20
North Dakota.....	32.5	398.2	-7.0	1,025	28	-0.3	50
Ohio.....	305.7	5,136.8	-5.6	1,040	25	6.6	24
Oklahoma.....	112.4	1,538.5	-5.7	917	46	2.3	48
Oregon.....	164.6	1,837.3	-7.0	1,113	19	7.4	15
Pennsylvania.....	366.5	5,501.0	-7.6	1,139	17	7.0	19
Rhode Island.....	40.1	452.5	-8.0	1,092	21	10.4	3
South Carolina.....	146.6	2,022.9	-5.2	924	44	6.7	23
South Dakota.....	35.2	422.3	-2.6	918	45	7.2	18
Tennessee.....	173.6	2,918.1	-4.6	1,022	29	5.8	35
Texas.....	733.1	11,926.8	-5.5	1,150	15	3.8	47
Utah.....	114.3	1,518.2	-1.0	1,015	30	6.1	31
Vermont.....	26.4	283.9	-8.6	1,001	31	7.9	12
Virginia.....	285.7	3,737.0	-5.0	1,201	10	6.4	27
Washington.....	256.6	3,266.2	-6.3	1,482	3	11.0	2
West Virginia.....	51.7	649.1	-6.7	913	47	1.8	49
Wisconsin.....	181.2	2,746.6	-5.2	977	34	5.3	43
Wyoming.....	27.5	264.0	-6.8	939	42	-0.4	51
Puerto Rico.....	45.7	831.6	-5.3	547	(3)	3.4	(3)
Virgin Islands.....	3.4	33.9	-13.0	1,019	(3)	-0.5	(3)

Note: See footnotes at end of table.

Footnotes:

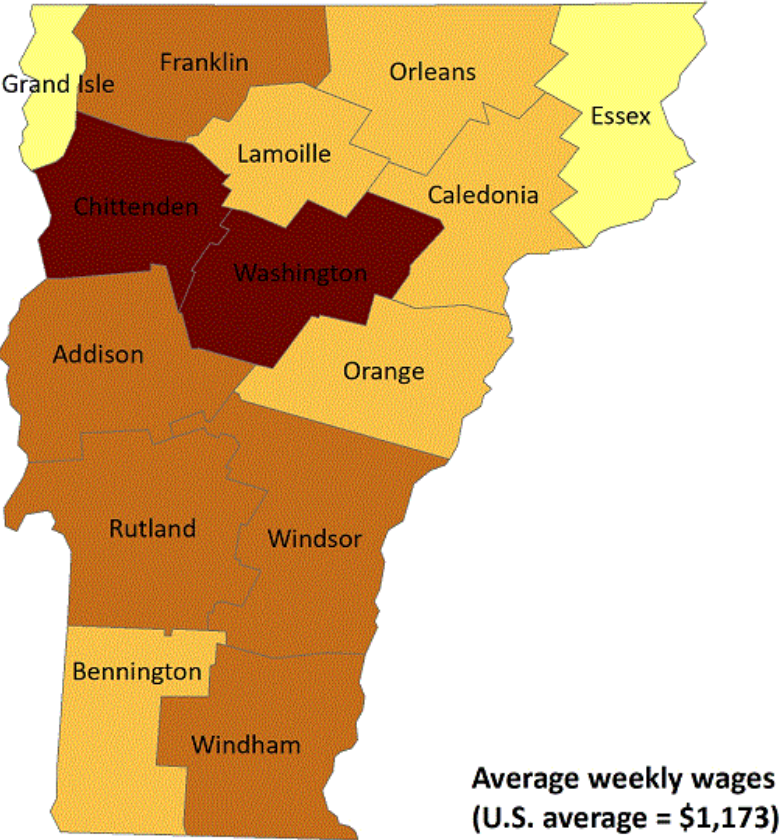
(1) Average weekly wages were calculated using unrounded data.

(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, third quarter 2020



**Average weekly wages  
(U.S. average = \$1,173)**

- Dark brown: \$1000 or higher
- Medium brown: \$900 - \$999
- Light brown: \$800 - \$899
- Yellow: \$799 or lower

Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics.