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County Employment and Wages in Puerto Rico — Third Quarter 2020

Employment in Puerto Rico’s only large county, the municipio of San Juan, decreased 7.3 percent from September 2019 to September 2020, the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics reported today. (Large counties are defined as those with 2019 annual average employment of 75,000 or more.) Chief Regional Economist Martin Kohli noted that in September 2020, San Juan’s employment level of 223,600 accounted for 26.9 percent of total employment in the commonwealth. (See [table 1.](#))

National employment decreased 6.8 percent over the year, with 355 of the 357 largest U.S. counties (not including San Juan) 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.

The average weekly wage in San Juan was \$669 in the third quarter of 2020, a 4.7-percent increase over the year. In the United States, the average weekly wage increased 7.4 percent to \$1,173. 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 featured significant wage increases. San Mateo, CA, had the largest percentage wage increase (+23.2 percent). Ector, TX, had the largest over-the-year percentage decrease (-11.0 percent).

Employment and wage levels (but not over-the-year changes) are also available for the 77 municipios in Puerto Rico with employment below 75,000. All 77 municipios had wages below the U.S. average of \$1,173. (See [table 2.](#)) Juncos, located on the eastern part of the island, had the highest average weekly wage at \$912. Two small municipios, located in the northern part of the island, had average weekly wages above \$600—Guaynabo (\$678) and Aguadilla (\$611). Twenty-six municipios had average weekly wages below \$400, with the lowest wages reported in Cabo Rojo (\$326), Moca (\$311), and Las Marías (\$295). (See [chart 1.](#))

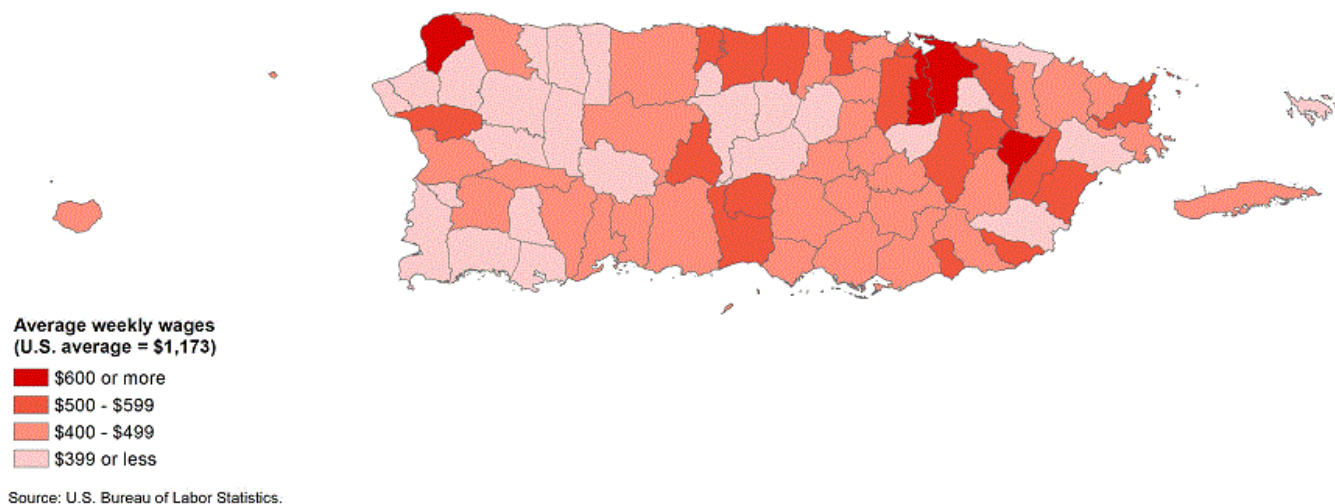
Additional statistics and other information

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 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, which was published in September 2020. Tables and additional content from the 2019 edition of *Employment*

and Wages Annual Averages Online are now available at 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.

Chart 1. Average weekly wages by county in Puerto Rico, third quarter 2020



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. 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; Federal Relay Service: (800) 877-8339.

Table 1. Covered employment and wages in the United States, Puerto Rico, and San Juan, third quarter 2020

Area	Establishments, third quarter 2020 (thousands)	Employment		Average weekly wage ⁽¹⁾	
		September 2020 (thousands)	Percent change, September 2019–20 ⁽²⁾	Third quarter 2020	Percent change, third quarter 2019–20 ⁽²⁾
United States ⁽³⁾	10,561.3	138,549.5	-6.8	\$1,173	7.4
Puerto Rico.....	45.7	831.6	-5.3	547	3.4
San Juan	10.8	223.6	-7.3	669	4.7

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) Totals for the United States do not include data for Puerto Rico or the Virgin Islands.

Table 2. Covered employment and wages in the United States and all counties in Puerto Rico, third quarter 2020

Area	Employment September 2020	Average weekly wage(1)
United States(2)	138,549,503	\$1,173
Puerto Rico	831,563	547
Adjuntas	1,636	337
Aguada	4,114	374
Aguadilla	17,541	611
Aguas Buenas	1,709	395
Aibonito	5,750	486
Añasco	4,776	530
Arecibo	19,872	495
Arroyo	2,478	514
Barceloneta	9,591	568
Barranquitas	2,856	422
Bayamón	49,936	501
Cabo Rojo	5,528	326
Caguas	42,892	506
Camuy	3,760	364
Canóvanas	4,831	470
Carolina	40,486	512
Cataño	10,156	590
Cayey	9,170	499
Ceiba	1,358	426
Ciales	1,515	396
Cidra	5,589	498
Coamo	3,261	401
Comerio	1,641	416
Corozal	3,453	392
Culebra	378	369
Dorado	8,788	526
Fajardo	8,438	511
Florida	1,032	367
Guánica	2,395	328
Guayama	9,952	490
Guayanilla	2,346	419
Guaynabo	49,560	678
Gurabo	6,937	563
Hatillo	8,506	387
Hormigueros	2,598	375
Humacao	14,802	538
Isabela	5,600	436
Jayuya	2,819	503
Juana Diaz	6,124	520
Juncos	7,473	912
Lajas	3,321	343
Lares	3,956	353
Las Marías	1,167	295
Las Piedras	6,604	578
Loiza	1,603	397
Luquillo	1,851	405
Manati	13,290	574
Maricao	1,366	426
Maunabo	1,259	539
Mayaguez	27,736	480
Moca	4,560	311
Morovis	2,242	379
Naguabo	2,366	392
Naranjito	3,275	428

Note: See footnotes at end of table.

Table 2. Covered employment and wages in the United States and all counties in Puerto Rico, third quarter 2020 - Continued

Area	Employment September 2020	Average weekly wage(1)
Orocovis	3,167	371
Patillas	1,453	471
Peñuelas	2,498	419
Ponce	42,555	472
Quebradillas	2,194	369
Rincón	1,740	379
Rio Grande	4,457	429
Sabana Grande	3,289	369
Salinas	3,320	482
San Germán	7,093	427
San Juan	223,610	669
San Lorenzo	3,473	412
San Sebastian	4,826	358
Santa Isabel	5,689	411
Toa Alta	3,720	415
Toa Baja	12,321	462
Trujillo Alto	10,037	365
Utuaado	3,518	401
Vega Alta	4,306	465
Vega Baja	7,574	515
Vieques	1,226	442
Villalba	3,265	532
Yabucoa	2,611	383
Yauco	5,474	418

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 ⁽¹⁾			
		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 ⁽²⁾	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.