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County Employment and Wages in Mississippi — Second Quarter 2013

Employment declined in both of Mississippi's large counties from June 2012 to June 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 2011 annual average employment.) Regional Commissioner Janet S. Rankin noted that Harrison County experienced the larger decrease, down 0.4 percent, and Hinds County registered a 0.1-percent decline. (See [table 1](#).)

Nationally, employment rose 1.6 percent during the 12-month period, as 288 of the 334 largest U.S. counties added jobs. Fort Bend, Texas, posted the largest over-the-year percentage increase with a gain of 7.0 percent. Atlantic, N.J., had the largest over-the-year decrease in employment with a loss of 4.5 percent.

Among Mississippi's two largest counties, employment was higher in Hinds (120,300) in June 2013. Together, Hinds and Harrison Counties accounted for 18.6 percent of total employment within the state. Nationwide, the 334 largest counties made up 71.4 percent of total U.S. employment, which stood at 135.1 million in June 2013.

Large county wage changes

Hinds County posted a 1.8-percent wage gain from the second quarter of 2012 to the second quarter of 2013 and Harrison County posted a 1.7-percent increase. Over-the-year wage growth in both counties placed in the middle of the national ranking at 159th and 170th, respectively. Average weekly wages increased 2.1 percent nationwide from the second quarter of 2012. (See [table 1](#).)

Nationwide, 304 large counties experienced growth in average weekly wages. Union, N.J., ranked first with an increase of 8.1 percent from the second quarter of 2012. San Mateo, Calif., ranked second with a gain of 8.0 percent, followed by the counties of Williamson, Tenn. (7.8 percent), Rockingham, N.H. (6.9 percent), and Dane, Wis. (6.0 percent).

Among the 334 largest U.S. counties, 18 experienced over-the-year decreases in average weekly wages. Davidson, Tenn., had the largest decrease in the nation (-2.2 percent), followed by the county of Whatcom, Wash. (-1.5 percent). Washington, Ore., and Shelby, Tenn., tied for the third largest percentage decrease (-1.3 percent). Two counties, El Paso, Colo., and Wyandotte, Kan., tied for the fifth largest percentage decrease (-1.1 percent).

Large county average weekly wages

Average weekly wages in both Hinds County (\$811) and Harrison County (\$677) were below the U.S. average of \$921 and placed in the bottom half of the national ranking in the second quarter of 2013. The average weekly wage in Hinds County ranked 203rd and Harrison County's average weekly wage ranked 323rd. (See [table 1.](#))

Nationally, average weekly wages were higher than average in 107 of the 334 largest counties. Santa Clara, Calif., recorded the highest average weekly wage at \$1,810. New York, N.Y., was second with an average weekly wage of \$1,675, followed by San Mateo, Calif. (\$1,632), Washington D.C. (\$1,575), and Arlington, Va. (\$1,525).

There were 227 large counties with an average weekly wage below the U.S. average in the second quarter of 2013. Horry, S.C. (\$537) reported the lowest wage, followed by the counties of Cameron, Texas (\$572), Hidalgo, Texas (\$592), Yakima, Wash. (\$629), and Lake, Fla. (\$633).

Average weekly wages in Mississippi's smaller counties

Employment and wage levels (but not over-the-year changes) are also available for the 80 counties in Mississippi with employment below 75,000. Among the smaller counties in Mississippi, all but one had an average weekly wage below the national average of \$921. The lone exception was Kemper (\$924). (See [table 2.](#)) Issaquena County reported the lowest weekly wage among all the counties in the state, averaging \$423 in the second quarter of 2013.

When all 82 counties in Mississippi were considered, 3 reported average weekly wages under \$500, 38 reported wages from \$500-\$599, 28 had wages from \$600-\$699, 8 had wages from \$700-\$799, and 5 had wages above \$800. (See [chart 1.](#))

Additional statistics and other information

Quarterly 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 2012 edition of this publication contains selected data produced by the 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 Online Annual Averages 2012* are now available 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 Service: 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 2 largest counties in Mississippi, second quarter 2013 ⁽²⁾

Area	Employment			Average Weekly Wage ⁽³⁾			
	June 2013 (thousands)	Percent change, June 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⁾	135,094.0	1.6	--	\$921	--	2.1	--
Mississippi.....	1,094.9	0.7	--	691	49	1.5	41
Harrison, Miss.	83.7	-0.4	310	677	323	1.7	170
Hinds, Miss.	120.3	-0.1	298	811	203	1.8	159

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 data for Puerto Rico or the Virgin Islands.
- (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 counties in Mississippi, 2nd quarter 2013 ⁽²⁾

Area	Employment June 2013	Average weekly wage ⁽³⁾
United States ⁽⁴⁾	135,093,963	\$921
Mississippi	1,094,941	691
Adams	10,827	622
Alcorn	13,210	612
Amite	1,589	573
Attala	4,673	548
Benton	1,360	566
Bolivar	11,744	605
Calhoun	3,379	534
Carroll	1,075	531
Chickasaw	6,070	558
Choctaw	2,098	716
Claiborne	3,058	897
Clarke	3,019	591
Clay	5,040	649
Coahoma	8,334	620
Copiah	7,133	589
Covington	5,099	567
De Soto	47,154	615
Forrest	36,540	700
Franklin.....	1,648	654
George	4,473	589
Greene	2,078	538
Grenada	9,865	585
Hancock	13,379	884
Harrison	83,718	677
Hinds	120,290	811
Holmes	3,547	561
Humphreys	2,830	447
Issaquena	191	423
Itawamba	5,668	597
Jackson	49,632	882
Jasper	4,135	660
Jefferson.....	1,237	583
Jefferson Davis.....	1,493	589
Jones	28,150	675
Kemper	5,292	924
Lafayette.....	19,280	698
Lamar	17,690	526
Lauderdale	33,587	665
Lawrence.....	2,446	789
Leake.....	5,053	520
Lee	51,021	678
Leflore	13,678	603
Lincoln	11,175	629
Lowndes	26,073	761
Madison	48,788	791
Marion	7,452	623
Marshall.....	5,564	632
Monroe	9,037	675
Montgomery	2,556	529
Neshoba	12,647	637
Newton	5,896	572
Noxubee	2,428	515
Oktibbeha	18,623	641
Panola	10,652	620

Note: See footnotes at end of table.

Table 2. Covered ⁽¹⁾ employment and wages in the United States and all counties in Mississippi, 2nd quarter 2013 ⁽²⁾ - Continued

Area	Employment June 2013	Average weekly wage ⁽³⁾
Pearl River.....	9,797	595
Perry.....	2,054	710
Pike.....	14,565	580
Pontotoc.....	11,332	572
Prentiss.....	6,944	554
Quitman.....	1,172	499
Rankin.....	56,896	693
Scott.....	12,815	570
Sharkey.....	1,272	510
Simpson.....	7,372	519
Smith.....	2,681	668
Stone.....	3,917	594
Sunflower.....	8,857	542
Tallahatchie.....	2,699	506
Tate.....	5,397	601
Tippah.....	5,643	586
Tishomingo.....	5,423	561
Tunica.....	11,097	544
Union.....	9,947	738
Walthall.....	2,548	536
Warren.....	20,727	739
Washington.....	17,465	611
Wayne.....	4,820	633
Webster.....	1,999	526
Wilkinson.....	2,021	566
Winston.....	4,496	623
Yalobusha.....	3,000	572
Yazoo.....	6,173	682

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, second quarter 2013 ⁽²⁾

State	Employment		Average weekly wage ⁽³⁾			
	June 2013 (thousands)	Percent change, June 2012-13	Average weekly wage	National ranking by level	Percent change, second quarter 2012-13	National ranking by percent change
United States ⁽⁴⁾	135,094.0	1.6	\$921	--	2.1	--
Alabama	1,859.5	0.9	794	35	1.4	44
Alaska	342.6	-0.1	970	9	1.6	37
Arizona	2,438.1	1.8	877	20	1.7	32
Arkansas	1,150.4	-0.6	734	46	2.4	10
California	15,485.8	2.4	1,048	6	2.0	21
Colorado	2,359.4	2.9	933	14	1.6	37
Connecticut	1,666.3	1.0	1,128	3	1.5	41
Delaware	417.8	1.8	966	12	2.0	21
District of Columbia	725.0	0.9	1,575	1	2.1	19
Florida	7,402.0	2.4	822	29	2.0	21
Georgia.....	3,917.2	1.7	867	22	2.2	17
Hawaii.....	617.0	1.9	823	28	1.6	37
Idaho	642.7	2.7	683	51	1.9	28
Illinois	5,750.0	0.8	971	8	1.9	28
Indiana.....	2,863.4	1.1	776	42	1.7	32
Iowa	1,523.9	1.3	757	43	2.0	21
Kansas	1,350.0	1.2	779	41	2.1	19
Kentucky.....	1,790.6	0.6	782	38	1.3	46
Louisiana	1,894.7	0.9	824	27	2.4	10
Maine.....	604.4	0.4	732	47	1.8	30
Maryland.....	2,570.3	0.9	1,005	7	1.4	44
Massachusetts	3,352.7	1.3	1,131	2	2.0	21
Michigan	4,073.7	2.2	875	21	2.0	21
Minnesota.....	2,745.2	1.9	929	15	2.4	10
Mississippi	1,094.9	0.7	691	49	1.5	41
Missouri	2,668.2	1.2	803	33	1.6	37
Montana	448.4	1.5	717	48	2.4	10
Nebraska	941.0	0.9	737	45	2.6	7
Nevada	1,168.3	2.3	829	26	1.7	32
New Hampshire.....	629.1	0.8	916	17	2.9	4
New Jersey.....	3,917.5	1.0	1,084	5	2.6	7
New Mexico.....	795.0	0.4	781	39	-0.3	51
New York	8,804.9	1.1	1,118	4	2.0	21
North Carolina	3,985.1	1.7	808	31	2.5	9
North Dakota	433.7	3.2	887	18	3.7	1
Ohio.....	5,162.3	1.1	830	25	1.7	32
Oklahoma	1,560.7	0.9	794	35	3.5	2
Oregon	1,708.0	2.5	848	23	1.3	46
Pennsylvania.....	5,665.9	0.3	918	16	2.8	5
Rhode Island.....	465.5	1.0	880	19	2.3	16
South Carolina.....	1,864.9	1.8	747	44	1.5	41
South Dakota.....	417.0	1.0	689	50	1.8	30
Tennessee	2,709.3	1.5	820	30	0.5	49
Texas	11,078.8	2.7	944	13	2.4	10
Utah.....	1,259.7	2.8	783	37	2.2	17
Vermont.....	303.1	0.3	808	31	2.7	6
Virginia.....	3,685.4	0.7	968	11	1.7	32
Washington.....	3,013.3	2.2	969	10	2.4	10
West Virginia	713.1	-0.1	781	39	0.6	48
Wisconsin.....	2,768.2	0.6	801	34	3.0	3
Wyoming	290.4	0.4	845	24	0.5	49
Puerto Rico.....	926.1	-1.1	503	(5)	1.0	(5)

Note: See footnotes at end of table.

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

State	Employment		Average weekly wage ⁽³⁾			
	June 2013 (thousands)	Percent change, June 2012-13	Average weekly wage	National ranking by level	Percent change, second quarter 2012-13	National ranking by percent change
Virgin Islands.....	38.9	-3.0	706	(5)	-13.8	(5)

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.

