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County Employment and Wages in Alabama — Second Quarter 2014

Employment increased in four of Alabama's six largest counties from June 2013 to June 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 Janet S. Rankin noted that employment increases ranged from 2.8 percent in Tuscaloosa County to 0.2 percent in Jefferson County. During this same period, employment declined in Madison and Montgomery Counties, down 0.3 and 0.2 percent, respectively. (See [table 1](#).)

Nationally, employment advanced 2.0 percent from June 2013 to June 2014 as 305 of the 339 largest U.S. counties registered increases. Weld, Colo., recorded the largest percentage increase in the country, up 8.9 percent over the year. Atlantic, N.J., had the largest over-the-year decrease in employment among the largest counties in the U.S. with a loss of 1.6 percent.

Among the six largest counties in Alabama, employment was highest in Jefferson (340,700) in June 2014, while Shelby had the smallest employment (78,900). Together, Alabama's large counties accounted for 52.7 percent of total employment within the state. Nationwide, the 339 largest counties made up 71.8 percent of total U.S. employment, which stood at 137.8 million in June 2014.

All six of Alabama's large counties posted over-the-year wage increases with Shelby County (2.0 percent) experiencing the largest increase. Madison County had the highest average weekly wage among the state's six largest counties at \$1,047. Nationally, the average weekly wage rose 2.1 percent over the year to \$940 in the second quarter of 2014. (See [table 1](#).)

Employment and wage levels (but not over-the-year changes) are also available for the 61 counties in Alabama with employment below 75,000. Among these, Washington (\$1,001) and Dale (\$975) were the only small counties to have an average weekly wage above the national average. (See [table 2](#).)

Large county wage changes

As noted, average weekly wages advanced in all of Alabama's large counties from the second quarter of 2013 to the second quarter of 2014. Shelby's 2.0-percent wage increase ranked 143rd and Montgomery's 1.8-percent gain ranked 167th among the nation's 339 largest counties. Average weekly wage growth in Alabama's four other large counties placed in the bottom half of the national ranking. (See [table 1](#).)

Nationally, 312 of the 339 largest counties registered over-the-year wage increases. Midland, Texas, had the largest wage gain, up 9.0 percent from the second quarter of 2013. Douglas, Colo, was second with a wage increase of 8.8 percent, followed by Hillsborough, N.H. (7.4 percent), and Collier, Fla. (6.8 percent).

Among the largest U.S. counties, 22 experienced over-the-year wage decreases. Williamson, Texas, had the largest wage decrease with a loss of 2.7 percent. Westchester N.Y., had the second largest decrease in average weekly wages, down 1.6 percent from the second quarter 2013, followed by Lake, Ind. (-1.4 percent), and Bibb, Ga. (-1.3 percent).

Large county average weekly wages

Average weekly wages in 3 of Alabama's 6 largest counties placed in the top half of the national ranking among the 339 largest counties in the second quarter of 2014. Madison County (\$1,047, ranked 58th) had the highest average weekly wage in the state, followed by Jefferson (\$931) and Shelby (\$878), ranked 115th and 159th), respectively. Average weekly wages in the remaining three counties placed in the bottom half of the national ranking.

Nationwide, average weekly wages were above the U.S. average (\$940) in 109 of the 339 largest counties in the second quarter of 2014. Santa Clara, Calif., recorded the highest average weekly wage at \$1,886, followed by San Mateo, Calif. (\$1,740) and New York, N.Y. (\$1,732).

Two-thirds of the largest U.S. counties (230) reported average weekly wages below the national average in the second quarter of 2014. The lowest wage was reported in Horry, S.C. (\$548), followed by the Texas counties of Cameron (\$585) and Hidalgo (\$608). Wages in these lowest-ranked counties were less than one-third of the average weekly wage reported for the highest-ranked county, Santa Clara, Calif. (\$1,886).

Average weekly wages in Alabama's smaller counties

Among the 61 counties in Alabama with employment below 75,000, Washington (\$1,001) and Dale (\$975) were the only two counties to report a weekly wage above the national average of \$940. Perry County reported the lowest weekly wage among all counties in the state, averaging \$555 in the second quarter of 2014. (See [table 2.](#))

When all 67 counties in Alabama were considered, 11 reported average weekly wages under \$600, 32 reported wages from \$600-\$699, 13 had wages from \$700-\$799, and 11 had wages at or 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 <https://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 2013 edition of this publication 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 Online Annual Averages 2013* are now available at www.bls.gov/cew/publications/employment-and-wages-annual-averages/2013/home.htm.

The County Employment and Wages release for third quarter 2014 is scheduled to be released on Thursday, March 19, 2015, at 10:00 a.m. (ET).

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 137.8 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.

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 6 largest counties in Alabama, second quarter 2014

Area	Employment			Average Weekly Wage ⁽¹⁾			
	June 2014 (thousands)	Percent change, June 2013-14 ⁽²⁾	National ranking by percent change ⁽³⁾	Average weekly wage	National ranking by level ⁽³⁾	Percent change, second quarter 2013-14 ⁽²⁾	National ranking by percent change ⁽³⁾
United States ⁽⁴⁾	137,776.4	2.0	--	\$940	--	2.1	--
Alabama	1,872.9	0.7	--	806	36	1.6	38
Jefferson, Ala.....	340.7	0.2	297	931	115	1.6	195
Madison, Ala.....	182.7	-0.3	321	1,047	58	1.7	177
Mobile, Ala.....	166.8	1.0	244	809	236	0.7	276
Montgomery, Ala.....	129.7	-0.2	317	798	243	1.8	167
Shelby, Ala.....	78.9	1.8	152	878	159	2.0	143
Tuscaloosa, Ala.....	88.0	2.8	78	800	241	0.4	295

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 Alabama, 2nd quarter 2014

Area	Employment June 2014	Average Weekly Wage ⁽¹⁾
United States ⁽²⁾	137,776,364	\$940
Alabama	1,872,897	806
Autauga	10,552	646
Baldwin	68,217	611
Barbour	8,191	651
Bibb	4,173	694
Blount	8,119	615
Bullock	2,870	618
Butler	7,045	582
Calhoun	43,964	699
Chambers	8,222	620
Cherokee	5,193	601
Chilton	9,299	623
Choctaw	3,458	900
Clarke	8,165	709
Clay	3,772	572
Cleburne	2,372	750
Coffee	14,914	599
Colbert	23,078	762
Conecuh	3,466	650
Coosa	1,283	616
Covington	12,509	622
Crenshaw	3,760	700
Cullman	26,703	659
Dale	16,822	975
Dallas	12,543	653
DeKalb	20,991	628
Elmore	18,972	616
Escambia	12,397	685
Etowah	35,315	645
Fayette	3,748	588
Franklin	9,996	607
Geneva	4,822	556
Greene	1,714	572
Hale	2,710	638
Henry	3,253	674
Houston	46,141	705
Jackson	16,271	649
Jefferson	340,660	931
Lamar	3,243	679
Lauderdale	30,035	595
Lawrence	4,925	860
Lee	53,448	654
Limestone	21,801	794
Lowndes	2,300	812
Macon	4,837	728
Madison	182,703	1,047
Marengo	7,082	705
Marion	9,372	611
Marshall	33,502	624
Mobile	166,804	809
Monroe	6,296	742
Montgomery	129,662	798
Morgan	46,988	771
Perry	2,047	555
Pickens	3,673	656
Pike	13,342	707

Note: See footnotes at end of table.

Table 2. Covered employment and wages in the United States and all counties in Alabama, 2nd quarter 2014 - Continued

Area	Employment June 2014	Average Weekly Wage ⁽¹⁾
Randolph	4,618	580
Russell.....	13,437	646
St. Clair.....	18,194	636
Shelby	78,932	878
Sumter.....	3,097	662
Talladega	28,927	830
Tallapoosa	12,893	591
Tuscaloosa	88,045	800
Walker	18,478	653
Washington.....	3,416	1,001
Wilcox	2,753	764
Winston	7,356	593

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, second quarter 2014

State	Employment		Average weekly wage ⁽¹⁾			
	June 2014 (thousands)	Percent change, June 2013-14	Average weekly wage	National ranking by level	Percent change, second quarter 2013-14	National ranking by percent change
United States ⁽²⁾	137,776.4	2.0	\$940	--	2.1	--
Alabama	1,872.9	0.7	806	36	1.6	38
Alaska.....	344.9	0.5	1,014	8	4.6	2
Arizona	2,486.0	1.9	888	21	1.3	43
Arkansas	1,168.1	1.5	745	47	1.5	41
California	15,905.6	2.8	1,072	6	2.4	15
Colorado.....	2,439.3	3.4	960	14	2.9	8
Connecticut	1,676.6	0.6	1,155	3	2.5	13
Delaware	429.0	2.5	976	11	1.2	44
District of Columbia	732.6	1.0	1,569	1	-0.5	51
Florida	7,628.6	3.1	839	28	2.1	23
Georgia.....	4,036.3	3.1	882	22	1.7	35
Hawaii.....	624.6	1.1	845	26	2.7	10
Idaho	659.2	2.5	697	51	2.2	22
Illinois	5,836.9	1.5	988	10	1.9	32
Indiana.....	2,916.9	1.8	784	42	1.2	44
Iowa.....	1,547.8	1.6	780	43	3.0	7
Kansas	1,372.8	1.7	797	38	2.3	20
Kentucky.....	1,820.8	1.7	798	37	2.0	27
Louisiana	1,921.6	1.4	843	27	2.4	15
Maine.....	610.4	0.8	746	46	2.1	23
Maryland.....	2,594.4	0.9	1,020	7	1.6	38
Massachusetts	3,407.0	1.4	1,158	2	2.4	15
Michigan	4,164.7	2.3	897	20	2.3	20
Minnesota.....	2,782.0	1.3	947	16	1.9	32
Mississippi	1,101.1	0.5	705	50	2.0	27
Missouri	2,703.2	1.3	818	31	1.9	32
Montana	453.4	1.1	734	48	2.4	15
Nebraska	956.2	1.4	756	45	2.7	10
Nevada	1,210.1	3.4	833	30	0.6	50
New Hampshire.....	637.2	1.2	955	15	4.3	3
New Jersey.....	3,944.8	0.8	1,097	5	1.2	44
New Mexico.....	801.0	0.6	794	40	1.7	35
New York	8,965.2	1.8	1,146	4	2.4	15
North Carolina	4,080.7	2.4	818	31	1.2	44
North Dakota	453.0	4.4	936	17	5.5	1
Ohio.....	5,233.8	1.4	846	25	2.1	23
Oklahoma	1,578.0	1.0	816	33	2.6	12
Oregon	1,748.4	2.4	874	23	2.9	8
Pennsylvania.....	5,719.8	1.0	933	18	1.6	38
Rhode Island	472.9	1.6	898	19	2.0	27
South Carolina.....	1,916.4	2.7	765	44	2.5	13
South Dakota.....	422.9	1.4	712	49	3.3	4
Tennessee	2,755.7	1.8	836	29	2.0	27
Texas	11,402.8	3.0	973	13	3.1	5
Utah.....	1,297.5	2.9	796	39	1.7	35
Vermont.....	307.0	1.0	813	35	0.7	49
Virginia.....	3,710.8	0.7	976	11	0.8	48
Washington.....	3,109.6	3.2	990	9	2.1	23
West Virginia	711.3	-0.3	792	41	1.4	42
Wisconsin	2,809.1	1.3	816	33	2.0	27
Wyoming	295.3	1.6	871	24	3.1	5
Puerto Rico.....	897.0	-2.0	504	(3)	0.6	(3)

Note: See footnotes at end of table.

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

State	Employment		Average weekly wage ⁽¹⁾			
	June 2014 (thousands)	Percent change, June 2013-14	Average weekly wage	National ranking by level	Percent change, second quarter 2013-14	National ranking by percent change
Virgin Islands.....	37.8	-2.2	728	(3)	2.8	(3)

Footnotes:

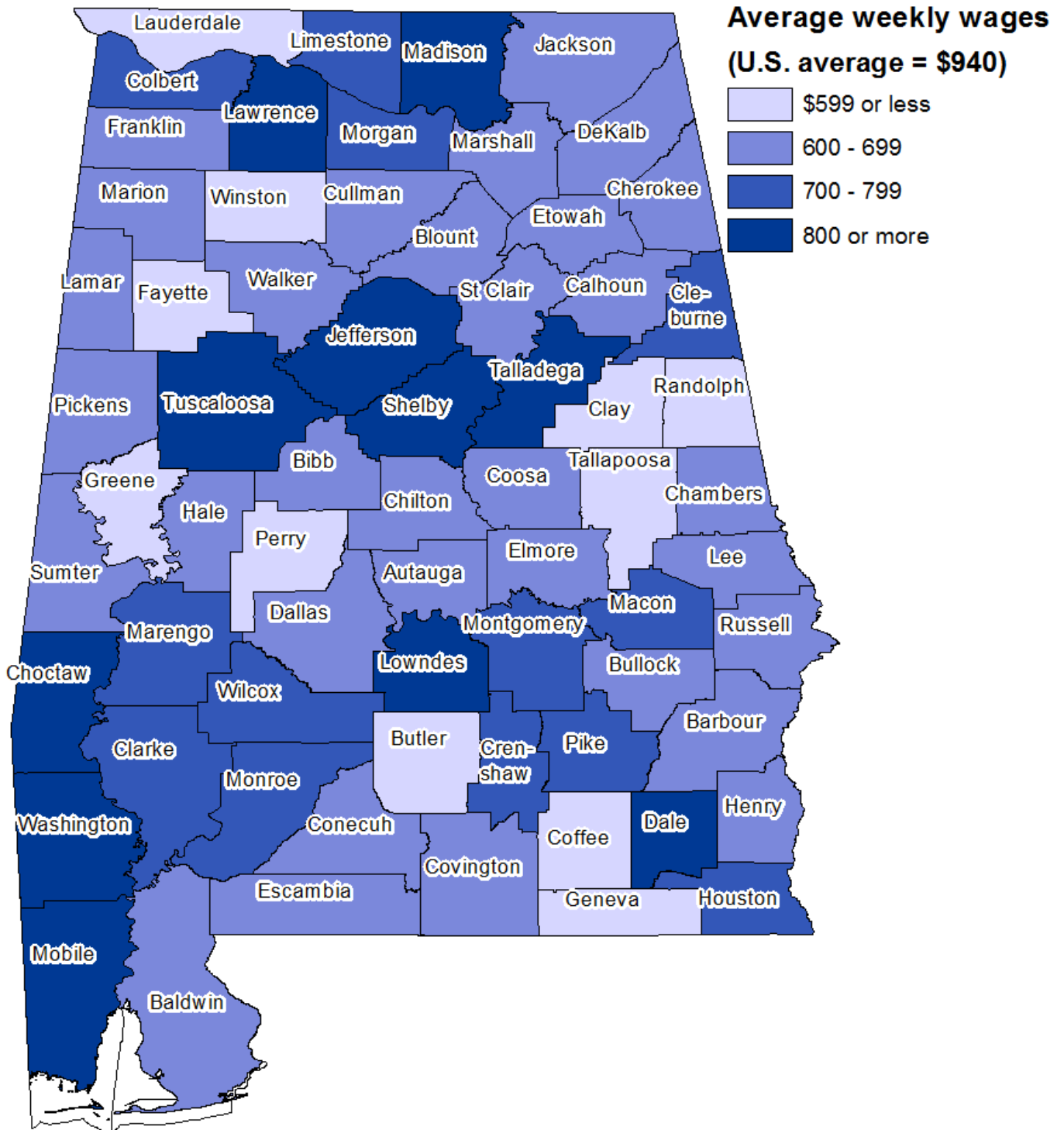
(1) Average weekly wages were calculated using unrounded data.

(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 in Alabama, second quarter 2014



Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics.