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County Employment and Wages in South Carolina — Third Quarter 2014

Employment increased in all seven of South Carolina's large counties from September 2013 to September 2014, the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics reported today. (Large counties are those with 2013 annual average employment levels of 75,000 or more.) Regional Commissioner Janet S. Rankin noted that Charleston County had the largest increase, up 4.3 percent, followed by the counties of Greenville and York, each up 3.9 percent. (See [table 1.](#))

Nationally, employment advanced 2.0 percent from September 2013 to September 2014 as 306 of the 339 largest U.S. counties registered increases. Weld, Colo., recorded the largest percentage increase in the country, up 8.8 percent over the year. Atlantic, N.J., registered the largest percentage employment decline, down 4.0 percent.

Among the seven largest counties in South Carolina, employment was highest in Greenville County (248,300) in September 2014. Two other counties, Charleston (228,900) and Richland (209,900), had employment levels above 200,000. Together, the seven largest South Carolina counties accounted for 58.8 percent of total employment within the state. Nationwide, the 339 largest counties made up 71.8 percent of total U.S. employment.

From the third quarter of 2013 to the third quarter of 2014, Spartanburg County recorded the fastest rate of increase in average weekly wages among the large counties in South Carolina, registering a gain of 3.9 percent. (See [table 1.](#)) Greenville County recorded the highest average weekly wage among the state's large counties at \$841 per week, followed by Charleston County at \$837. Nationally, the average weekly wage increased 2.9 percent over the year, growing to \$949 in the third quarter of 2014.

Employment and wage levels (but not over-the-year changes) are also available for the 39 counties in South Carolina with employment levels below 75,000. With the exception of Fairfield County (\$1,075), wage levels in all of these smaller counties were below the national average in September 2014. (See [table 2.](#))

Large county wage changes

Two large counties in South Carolina recorded over-the-year wage advances that were greater than the national average increase of 2.9 percent in the third quarter of 2014. Spartanburg County's 3.9-percent wage increase ranked 44th among the 339 largest counties in the nation and York County's 3.3-percent increase ranked 81st. The state's remaining five large counties recorded wage increases ranging from 2.8 to 2.5 percent. (See [table 1.](#))

Nationally, 328 of the 339 largest counties registered over-the-year wage increases. Olmsted, Minn., had the largest wage gain, up 11.1 percent from the third quarter of 2013. San Francisco, Calif., was second with a wage increase of 8.6 percent, followed by the counties of Santa Clara, Calif. (7.4 percent), and San Mateo, Calif., and Brazoria, Texas (7.1 percent each).

Among the largest U.S. counties, 10 experienced over-the-year wage decreases. Collier, Fla., had the largest wage decrease with a loss of 3.9 percent. Dane, Wis., had the second largest decrease in average weekly wages, down 2.2 percent from the third quarter of 2013, followed by Williamson, Texas. (-0.8 percent), Hamilton, Ind. (-0.7 percent), and Shawnee, Kan. (-0.4 percent).

Large county average weekly wages

Greenville and Charleston Counties, with average weekly wages of \$841 and \$837, respectively, placed in the middle third of the national ranking among the 339 largest U.S. counties in the third quarter of 2014. Average weekly wages in South Carolina's five other large counties placed in the bottom third of the national ranking. (See [table 1](#).)

Nationally, 99 large counties registered average weekly wages above the U.S. average of \$949 in the third quarter of 2014. Santa Clara, Calif., held the top position among the highest-paid large counties with an average weekly wage of \$2,012. San Mateo, Calif., was second at \$1,824, followed by New York, N.Y. (\$1,733), San Francisco Calif. (\$1,685) and Washington, D.C. (\$1,631).

Seventy percent of the largest U.S. counties (237) reported weekly wages below the national average. Horry County, S.C., reported the lowest wage (\$580), followed by the counties of Cameron, Texas (\$603), Hidalgo, Texas (\$616), Marion, Fla. (\$644) and Pasco, Fla. (\$650).

Average weekly wages in South Carolina's smaller counties

Among the 39 counties in South Carolina – those with employment below 75,000 – Fairfield (\$1,075) was the only county to report an average weekly wage above the \$949 national average. Dillon County reported the lowest weekly wage among all the counties in the state, averaging \$554 in the third quarter of 2014. (See [table 2](#).)

When all 46 counties in South Carolina were considered, 7 reported average weekly wages under \$600, 26 reported wages from \$600-\$749, 12 had wages from \$750-\$899, and 1 had wages above \$900. (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 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 2014 edition of *Employment and Wages Annual Averages Online* will be available in September 2015.

The County Employment and Wages release for fourth quarter 2014 is scheduled to be released on Wednesday, June 17, 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 137.7 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 7 largest counties in South Carolina, third quarter 2014

Area	Employment			Average Weekly Wage ⁽¹⁾			
	September 2014 (thousands)	Percent change, September 2013-14 ⁽²⁾	National ranking by percent change ⁽³⁾	Average weekly wage	National ranking by level ⁽³⁾	Percent change, third quarter 2013-14 ⁽²⁾	National ranking by percent change ⁽³⁾
United States ⁽⁴⁾	137,724.1	2.0	--	\$949	--	2.9	--
South Carolina.....	1,902.7	2.4	--	768	45	2.4	33
Charleston, S.C.	228.9	4.3	24	837	202	2.8	129
Greenville, S.C.	248.3	3.9	36	841	199	2.6	154
Horry, S.C.	118.3	3.3	61	580	339	2.7	140
Lexington, S.C.	107.9	3.2	65	728	320	2.8	129
Richland, S.C.	209.9	2.1	137	815	235	2.5	165
Spartanburg, S.C.	124.1	2.9	83	795	257	3.9	44
York, S.C.	81.6	3.9	36	752	300	3.3	81

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 South Carolina, 3rd quarter 2014

Area	Employment September 2014	Average Weekly Wage ⁽¹⁾
United States ⁽²⁾	137,724,117	\$949
South Carolina	1,902,730	768
Abbeville	5,518	681
Aiken	56,581	879
Allendale	2,730	755
Anderson	61,549	676
Bamberg	3,962	621
Barnwell	5,458	598
Beaufort	60,496	651
Berkeley	43,484	834
Calhoun	4,303	760
Charleston	228,856	837
Cherokee	19,015	635
Chester	8,119	721
Chesterfield	14,143	671
Clarendon	6,955	568
Colleton	10,772	572
Darlington	19,599	788
Dillon	8,266	554
Dorchester	30,982	652
Edgefield	6,086	652
Fairfield	9,467	1,075
Florence	60,431	714
Georgetown	22,738	692
Greenville	248,319	841
Greenwood	28,642	701
Hampton	4,644	680
Horry	118,267	580
Jasper	7,721	666
Kershaw	17,455	695
Lancaster	20,776	783
Laurens	20,501	694
Lee	3,325	631
Lexington	107,886	728
McCormick	1,642	616
Marion	6,492	585
Marlboro	6,823	727
Newberry	14,038	635
Oconee	23,460	810
Orangeburg	28,332	665
Pickens	34,435	718
Richland	209,850	815
Saluda	4,642	576
Spartanburg	124,077	795
Sumter	36,135	654
Union	7,089	627
Williamsburg	9,233	661
York	81,584	752

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 2014

State	Employment		Average weekly wage ⁽¹⁾			
	September 2014 (thousands)	Percent change, September 2013-14	Average weekly wage	National ranking by level	Percent change, third quarter 2013-14	National ranking by percent change
United States ⁽²⁾	137,724.1	2.0	\$949	--	2.9	--
Alabama	1,871.2	1.3	815	34	2.5	30
Alaska	344.7	-0.1	1,019	9	3.0	19
Arizona	2,539.6	1.8	876	24	2.0	40
Arkansas	1,170.9	1.3	737	47	1.8	44
California	16,013.4	3.1	1,095	5	3.7	7
Colorado	2,443.0	3.7	982	12	3.0	19
Connecticut	1,663.2	0.8	1,124	4	1.4	49
Delaware	426.1	1.9	961	16	2.2	37
District of Columbia	732.9	0.8	1,631	1	4.5	2
Florida	7,748.4	3.3	826	32	2.1	38
Georgia.....	4,059.0	3.4	891	21	2.8	23
Hawaii.....	625.1	0.9	870	25	3.9	4
Idaho	658.4	2.1	721	50	2.6	26
Illinois	5,807.4	1.2	982	12	2.5	30
Indiana.....	2,924.7	1.4	799	39	1.9	42
Iowa	1,528.8	1.1	800	38	3.6	10
Kansas	1,363.1	1.2	794	40	2.3	35
Kentucky.....	1,827.8	1.8	781	42	2.5	30
Louisiana	1,928.3	1.7	852	27	3.1	16
Maine.....	604.5	0.3	754	46	2.6	26
Maryland.....	2,574.5	1.1	1,042	8	3.1	16
Massachusetts	3,386.7	1.8	1,164	2	3.0	19
Michigan	4,141.0	1.7	896	19	2.4	33
Minnesota.....	2,757.9	1.1	965	15	2.9	22
Mississippi.....	1,105.0	0.5	697	51	1.3	50
Missouri.....	2,686.4	1.0	828	31	2.7	25
Montana	449.5	0.7	732	49	3.7	7
Nebraska	950.0	1.1	779	43	1.8	44
Nevada	1,215.8	4.0	840	28	0.5	51
New Hampshire.....	633.5	1.4	927	18	3.6	10
New Jersey.....	3,880.4	0.8	1,087	6	1.7	47
New Mexico.....	804.0	1.1	786	41	2.6	26
New York	8,902.1	2.0	1,145	3	3.2	15
North Carolina	4,085.5	1.9	839	29	2.8	23
North Dakota	455.9	4.3	977	14	6.1	1
Ohio	5,219.1	1.4	863	26	3.1	16
Oklahoma	1,592.3	1.0	826	32	3.6	10
Oregon	1,752.8	2.4	887	22	3.6	10
Pennsylvania.....	5,676.2	1.0	937	17	2.6	26
Rhode Island	471.8	1.4	895	20	1.8	44
South Carolina.....	1,902.7	2.4	768	45	2.4	33
South Dakota.....	415.8	1.7	733	48	3.7	7
Tennessee.....	2,775.5	2.4	837	30	2.1	38
Texas	11,433.6	3.1	988	11	3.8	6
Utah	1,304.7	3.1	803	37	1.5	48
Vermont.....	306.5	1.2	805	36	2.3	35
Virginia.....	3,667.9	0.6	989	10	2.0	40
Washington.....	3,112.8	3.2	1,087	6	3.9	4
West Virginia	709.3	-0.2	778	44	3.5	14
Wisconsin.....	2,783.1	1.1	808	35	1.9	42
Wyoming	291.3	1.7	877	23	4.4	3
Puerto Rico.....	896.7	-1.5	505	(3)	0.8	(3)
Virgin Islands.....	37.5	-1.0	720	(3)	2.0	(3)

Note: See footnotes at end of table.

Footnotes:

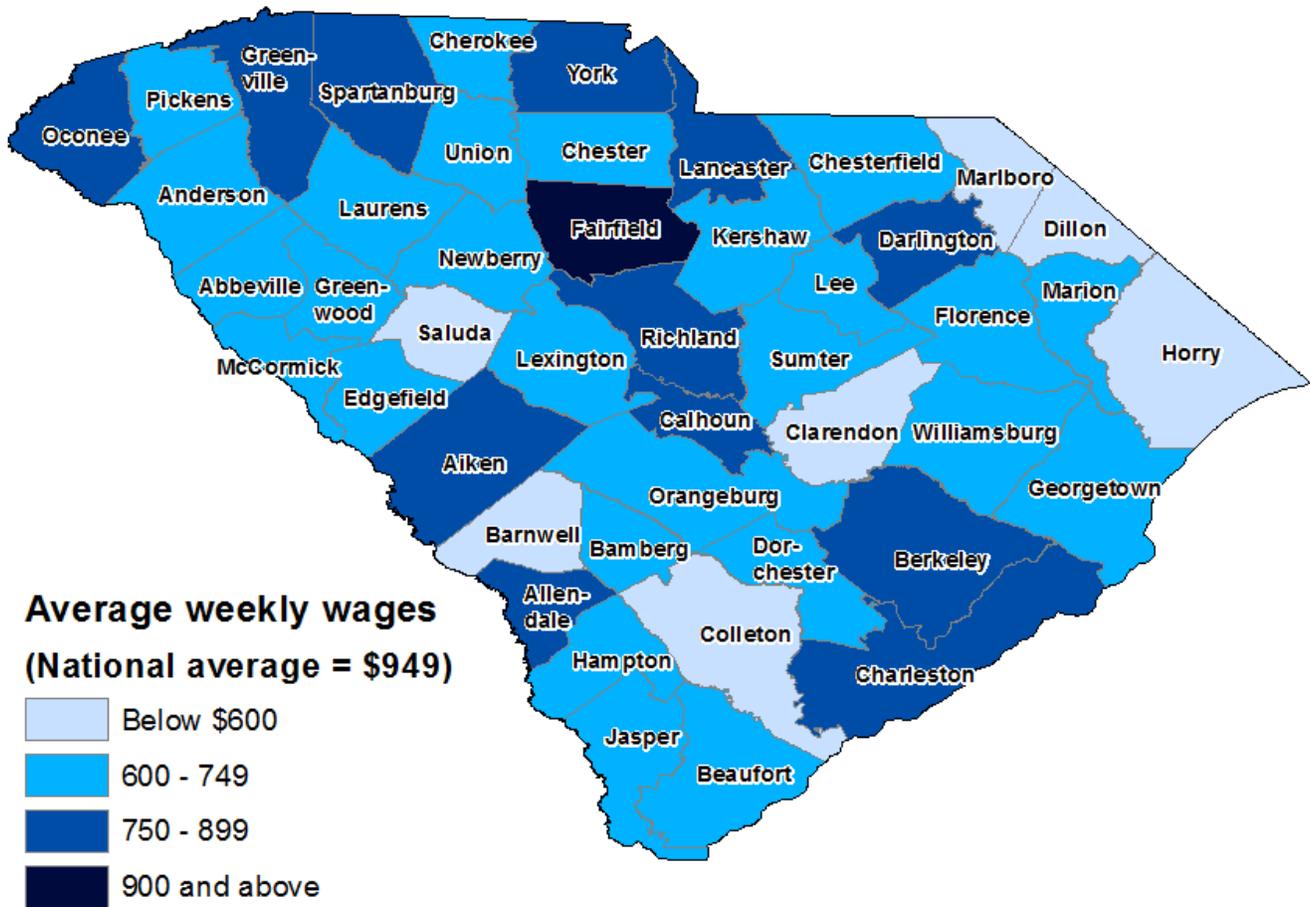
(1) Average weekly wages were calculated using unrounded data.

(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 South Carolina, third quarter 2014



Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics.