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County Employment and Wages in Florida – Third Quarter 2015

Employment increased in all 23 of Florida's large counties from September 2014 to September 2015, 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 2014 annual average employment.) Regional Commissioner Janet S. Rankin noted that employment increases ranged from 5.5 percent in Lee County to 0.2 percent in Leon County. (See table 1.)

Nationally, employment advanced 1.9 percent from September 2014 to September 2015 as 312 of the 342 largest U.S. counties registered increases. Williamson, Tenn., recorded the largest percentage increase, up 6.5 percent over the year. Ector, Texas, had the largest over-the-year percentage decrease in employment among the largest counties in the U.S., with a loss of 8.3 percent.

Among the 23 largest counties in Florida, employment was highest in Miami-Dade County (1,076,100) in September 2015, while Okaloosa County had the smallest employment level (80,200). Together, Florida's large counties accounted for 86.1 percent of total employment within the state. Nationwide, the 342 largest counties made up 72.2 percent of total U.S. employment, which stood at 140.4 million in September 2015.

All of Florida's 23 large counties posted over-the-year wage increases in September 2015. The counties of Miami-Dade and Palm Beach had the highest average weekly wages among the state's largest counties at $924 each, followed by Hillsborough County ($914) and Duval County ($909). Nationally, the average weekly wage rose 2.6 percent over the year to $974 in the third quarter of 2015. (See table 1.)

Employment and wage levels (but not over-the-year changes) are also available for the 44 counties in Florida with employment below 75,000. All of these smaller counties had average weekly wages below the national average in the third quarter of 2015. (See table 2.)

Large county wage changes

Average weekly wages increased in each of the 23 largest counties in Florida from the third quarter of 2014 to the third quarter of 2015. The wage gains in four of the state's large counties placed in the top tenth of the national ranking—Volusia (5.0 percent, 11th), Manatee (4.8 percent, 13th), Okaloosa (4.7 percent, 19th) and Pasco (4.5 percent, 25th). (See table 1.)

Nationally, 319 of the 342 largest counties registered over-the-year wage increases. Rockland, N.Y., had the largest wage gain, up 24.9 percent from the third quarter of 2014. Lake, Ill., was second with a wage increase of 11.7 percent, followed by Onondaga, N.Y. (6.5 percent), Washington, Ore. (6.4 percent), and the counties of Marin and Santa Cruz, Calif. (6.1 percent each).

Of the 342 largest counties, 20 experienced over-the-year decreases in average weekly wages. Midland, Texas, had the largest percentage decrease in average weekly wages, with a loss of 6.7 percent. Ector, Texas, had the second largest decrease in average weekly wages (-4.9 percent), followed by Lafayette, La. (-3.2 percent); Stark, Ohio (-2.1 percent); and Gregg, Texas (-1.5 percent).

Large county average weekly wages

Average weekly wages in five of Florida's large counties placed in the top half of the national ranking in the third quarter of 2015. However, none of these counties had an average weekly wage above the national average of $974. In contrast, the four large counties with the lowest average weekly wages in the state–Marion ($658, 338th), Osceola ($671, 337th), Pasco ($676, 336th), and Lake ($680, 334th)–ranked among the 10 lowest in the United States.

Nationwide, average weekly wages were above the U.S. average ($974) in 100 of the 342 largest counties in the third quarter of 2015. Santa Clara, Calif., recorded the highest average weekly wage at $2,090, followed by San Mateo, Calif. ($1,894), New York, N.Y. ($1,829), San Francisco, Calif. ($1,712), and Washington, D.C. ($1,667).

Among the largest U.S. counties, 242 had weekly wages below the national average in the third quarter of 2015. Horry County, S.C. ($598), reported the lowest wage, followed by the counties of Cameron, Texas ($615); Hidalgo, Texas ($624); Marion, Fla. and Webb, Texas ($658 each).

Average weekly wages in Florida's smaller counties

All 44 counties in Florida with employment below 75,000 had average weekly wages lower than the national average of $974. Among these counties, Martin County had the highest average weekly wage at $744. Lafayette County reported the lowest weekly wage among all counties in the state, averaging $548 in the third quarter of 2015. (See table 2.)

When all 67 counties in Florida were considered, 9 reported average weekly wages below $600, 30 had wages from $600-$699, 16 had wages from $700-$799, 8 had wages from $800 to $899, and 4 reported 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 2014 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 2015 version of the national news release. Tables and additional content from *Employment and Wages Annual Averages 2014* are now available online at https://www.bls.gov/cew/cewbultn14.htm. The 2015 edition of *Employment and Wages Annual Averages Online* will be available in September 2016.

The County Employment and Wages release for fourth quarter 2015 is scheduled to be released on Wednesday, June 8, 2016.

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 9.6 million employer reports cover 140.4 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 23 largest counties in Florida, third quarter 2015

Area	Employment			Average weekly wage [1]			
	September 2015 (thousands)	Percent change, September 2014-15 [2]	National ranking by percent change [3]	Average weekly wage	National ranking by level [3]	Percent change, third quarter 2014-15 [2]	National ranking by percent change [3]
United States [4]	140,442.2	1.9	--	$974	--	2.6	--
Florida	8,023.2	3.5	--	852	31	3.1	10
Alachua, Fla.	124.4	1.9	162	805	271	2.0	228
Brevard, Fla.	193.9	1.9	162	873	194	2.5	165
Broward, Fla.	759.7	2.4	128	898	171	3.3	82
Collier, Fla.	128.7	4.0	32	815	257	1.2	286
Duval, Fla.	474.0	3.6	49	909	167	2.0	228
Escambia, Fla.	126.6	1.5	204	760	313	3.5	72
Hillsborough, Fla.	641.6	3.6	49	914	158	2.0	228
Lake, Fla.	90.2	4.0	32	680	334	3.7	60
Lee, Fla.	236.2	5.5	5	766	307	3.1	104
Leon, Fla.	142.4	0.2	307	795	279	2.4	178
Manatee, Fla.	111.9	4.4	18	740	322	4.8	13
Marion, Fla.	96.4	1.3	217	658	338	2.0	228
Miami-Dade, Fla.	1,076.1	2.8	104	924	148	3.9	47
Okaloosa, Fla.	80.2	2.1	145	816	254	4.7	19
Orange, Fla.	765.8	4.0	32	854	211	4.1	37
Osceola, Fla.	85.1	5.4	6	671	337	2.8	138
Palm Beach, Fla.	559.3	3.6	49	924	148	2.2	204
Pasco, Fla.	109.2	3.1	89	676	336	4.5	25
Pinellas, Fla.	407.8	2.8	104	846	218	2.3	193
Polk, Fla.	203.5	3.7	45	740	322	1.5	265
Sarasota, Fla.	158.1	3.6	49	777	296	3.2	91
Seminole, Fla.	174.9	3.6	49	803	273	3.2	91
Volusia, Fla.	160.7	3.0	95	697	332	5.0	11

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 Florida, third quarter 2015

Area	Employment September 2015	Average Weekly Wage [1]
United States [2]	140,442,224	$974
Florida	8,023,168	852
Alachua	124,380	805
Baker	7,188	582
Bay	76,507	716
Bradford	6,512	660
Brevard	193,914	873
Broward	759,706	898
Calhoun	2,832	565
Charlotte	44,068	654
Citrus	31,624	663
Clay	48,049	665
Collier	128,730	815
Columbia	23,845	675
De Soto	8,101	648
Dixie	2,671	590
Duval	474,022	909
Escambia	126,563	760
Flagler	21,205	605
Franklin	3,328	565
Gadsden	12,731	620
Gilchrist	3,373	587
Glades	1,403	718
Gulf	3,690	636
Hamilton	3,169	707
Hardee	6,667	652
Hendry	10,226	667
Hernando	39,926	614
Highlands	25,645	619
Hillsborough	641,631	914
Holmes	3,197	553
Indian River	47,317	717
Jackson	14,261	616
Jefferson	2,462	608
Lafayette	1,463	548
Lake	90,198	680
Lee	236,226	766
Leon	142,415	795
Levy	8,526	561
Liberty	1,877	623
Madison	4,291	605
Manatee	111,889	740
Marion	96,414	658
Martin	61,935	744
Miami-Dade	1,076,121	924
Monroe	39,855	725
Nassau	19,976	740
Okaloosa	80,210	816
Okeechobee	10,724	671
Orange	765,825	854
Osceola	85,147	671
Palm Beach	559,308	924
Pasco	109,208	676
Pinellas	407,841	846
Polk	203,516	740
Putnam	16,125	672
St. Johns	66,854	731

Note: See footnotes at end of table.

Table 2. Covered employment and wages in the United States and all counties in Florida, third quarter 2015 - Continued

Area	Employment September 2015	Average Weekly Wage [1]
St. Lucie	70,246	724
Santa Rosa	34,874	624
Sarasota	158,111	777
Seminole	174,893	803
Sumter	26,016	698
Suwannee	11,282	579
Taylor	6,620	703
Union	3,646	618
Volusia	160,736	697
Wakulla	5,405	612
Walton	23,121	641
Washington	5,620	612

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 2015

State	Employment		Average weekly wage [1]			
	September 2015 (thousands)	Percent change, September 2014-15	Average weekly wage	National ranking by level	Percent change, third quarter 2014-15	National ranking by percent change
United States [2]	140,442.2	1.9	$974	--	2.6	--
Alabama	1,893.6	1.2	830	34	1.8	40
Alaska	346.4	0.4	1,041	9	2.2	34
Arizona	2,613.9	2.9	889	24	1.5	42
Arkansas	1,193.4	1.9	756	48	2.6	22
California	16,474.4	3.0	1,134	5	3.4	6
Colorado	2,513.0	2.9	1,006	12	2.4	30
Connecticut	1,668.3	0.2	1,147	4	2.0	38
Delaware	436.3	2.1	963	15	0.3	48
District of Columbia	743.6	1.4	1,667	1	2.3	33
Florida	8,023.2	3.5	852	31	3.1	10
Georgia	4,171.1	2.8	916	22	2.8	19
Hawaii	635.4	1.4	896	23	3.1	10
Idaho	680.3	3.3	736	50	2.1	37
Illinois	5,888.6	1.3	1,020	10	3.9	3
Indiana	2,971.7	1.6	818	39	2.4	30
Iowa	1,535.9	0.4	823	38	3.0	14
Kansas	1,370.9	0.6	809	41	1.8	40
Kentucky	1,852.5	1.4	804	42	2.9	18
Louisiana	1,926.3	-0.2	858	30	0.7	47
Maine	609.7	0.7	779	46	3.3	7
Maryland	2,607.8	1.3	1,067	8	2.4	30
Massachusetts	3,446.9	1.4	1,197	2	3.0	14
Michigan	4,203.0	1.6	921	20	2.7	20
Minnesota	2,800.7	1.4	990	14	2.6	22
Mississippi	1,118.9	1.2	706	51	1.3	43
Missouri	2,737.9	1.9	846	32	2.2	34
Montana	457.9	1.9	759	47	3.7	4
Nebraska	964.0	1.4	811	40	4.2	2
Nevada	1,254.5	3.2	862	29	2.5	27
New Hampshire	642.8	1.5	952	18	2.7	20
New Jersey	3,933.9	1.4	1,116	6	2.6	22
New Mexico	809.2	0.6	798	43	1.3	43
New York	9,065.4	1.8	1,180	3	3.1	10
North Carolina	4,194.1	2.5	863	28	3.0	14
North Dakota	438.0	-3.8	956	17	-2.3	51
Ohio	5,282.7	1.2	878	25	1.9	39
Oklahoma	1,598.0	0.2	825	37	0.0	49
Oregon	1,812.8	3.0	924	19	4.4	1
Pennsylvania	5,722.1	0.8	961	16	2.5	27
Rhode Island	477.4	1.2	919	21	2.6	22
South Carolina	1,959.7	2.9	788	44	2.6	22
South Dakota	419.5	0.9	756	48	3.1	10
Tennessee	2,850.6	2.7	864	27	3.2	8
Texas	11,681.0	2.1	999	13	1.1	45
Utah	1,353.9	3.7	829	35	3.2	8
Vermont	308.2	0.5	829	35	3.0	14
Virginia	3,759.7	2.5	1,014	11	2.5	27
Washington	3,187.6	2.5	1,111	7	2.2	34
West Virginia	702.4	-1.1	785	45	0.9	46
Wisconsin	2,815.7	0.9	834	33	3.5	5
Wyoming	287.4	-1.5	866	26	-1.1	50
Puerto Rico	891.1	-0.7	512	[3]	1.4	[3]
Virgin Islands	36.8	-2.1	738	[3]	2.1	[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.
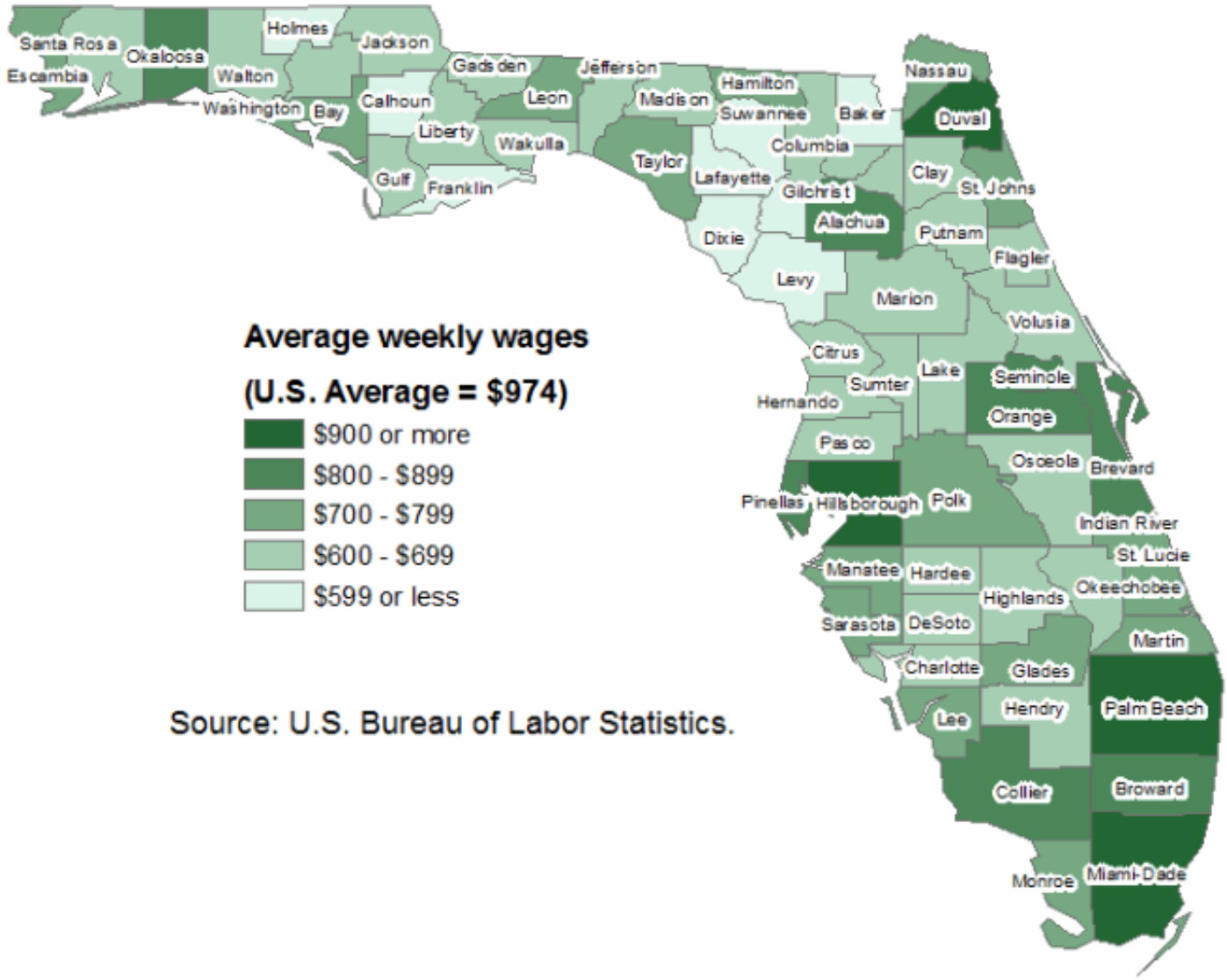
Chart 1. Average weekly wages by county in Florida, third quarter 2015