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## **County Employment and Wages in Florida – Third Quarter 2017**

Employment increased in 11 of Florida's 24 large counties from September 2016 to September 2017, the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics reported today. (Large counties are defined as those with 2016 average annual employment levels of 75,000 or more.) Regional Commissioner Janet S. Rankin noted that employment increases ranged from 2.0 percent in Osceola County to 0.2 percent in Pinellas County. (See [table 1](#).)

Nationally, employment advanced 1.0 percent from September 2016 to September 2017 as 283 of the 346 largest U.S. counties registered increases. Midland, Texas, had the largest percentage increase in the country, up 10.4 percent over the year. Collier, Fla., had the largest over-the-year percentage decrease in employment among the largest counties in the U.S., with a loss of 5.2 percent.

Among the 24 largest counties in Florida, employment was highest in Miami-Dade County (1,092,600) in September 2017, while Bay County had the smallest employment level (77,500). Together, Florida's large counties accounted for about 86.9 percent of total employment within the state. Nationwide, the 346 largest counties made up 72.7 percent of total U.S. employment, which stood at 144.5 million in September 2017.

Nineteen of Florida's 24 large counties had over-the-year wage decreases in September 2017, with the largest loss in Okaloosa County (-4.3 percent). Miami-Dade County had the highest average weekly wage among the state's largest counties (\$984), followed by Hillsborough (\$976), Duval and Palm Beach Counties (\$951 each), and Broward County (\$941). Nationally, the average weekly wage decreased 0.6 percent over the year to \$1,021 in the third quarter of 2017. (See [table 1](#).)

Employment and wage levels (but not over-the-year changes) are also available for the 43 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 2017. (See [table 2](#).)

### **Large county wage changes**

As noted, 19 Florida large counties had over-the-year wage declines in September 2017. Average weekly wage losses ranged from 4.3 percent in Okaloosa County to 0.1 percent in both Miami-Dade and Pasco Counties. Four large counties in Florida had over-the-year increases in average weekly wages. Leon County had the largest wage increase (0.8 percent), followed by Sarasota County (0.5 percent).

Nationally, 265 of the 346 largest counties registered over-the-year decreases in average weekly wages. Mercer, N.J., had the largest wage decline, down 8.8 percent from the third quarter of 2016, followed by Wyandotte, Kan. (-6.0 percent).

Among the largest U.S. counties, 71 experienced an over-the-year increase in average weekly wages. Midland, Texas, had the largest percentage increase in average weekly wages (8.4 percent), followed by Union, N.J (8.2 percent); Elkhart, Ind. (6.5 percent); Forsyth, N.C. (5.3 percent); and Maui + Kalawao, Hawaii (4.6 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 2017. However, average weekly wages in these five counties were below the national average of \$1,021. The four large counties with the lowest average weekly wages in the state—Osceola (\$689, 342<sup>nd</sup>), Lake (\$692, 341<sup>st</sup>), Marion (\$695, 340<sup>th</sup>), and Pasco (\$717, 337<sup>th</sup>) — ranked among the 10 lowest in the United States.

Nationally, 96 large counties had average weekly wages above the U.S. average of \$1,021 in the third quarter of 2017. Santa Clara, Calif., had the highest average weekly wage at \$2,320, followed by San Mateo, Calif. (\$2,123); and San Francisco, Calif. (\$1,954).

Among the largest U.S. counties, 250 had weekly wages below the national average in the third quarter of 2017. Cameron, Texas had the lowest wage (\$612), followed by Horry, S.C. (\$633); and Hidalgo, Texas (\$649).

### **Average weekly wages in Florida's smaller counties**

All 43 counties in Florida with employment below 75,000 had average weekly wages lower than the national average of \$1,021. Among these counties, St. Johns County had the highest average weekly wage at \$830. Calhoun County reported the lowest weekly wage among all counties in the state, averaging \$551 in the third quarter of 2017. (See [table 2](#).)

When all 67 counties in Florida were considered, 3 reported average weekly wages below \$600, 27 had wages from \$600-\$699, 20 had wages from \$700-\$799, 11 had wages from \$800 to \$899, and 6 had wages above \$900. (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 [www.bls.gov/cew](http://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 2016 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 2017 version of the national news release. Tables and additional content from *Employment and Wages Annual Averages 2016* are now available online at [www.bls.gov/cew/publications/employment-and-wages-annual-averages/2016/home.htm](http://www.bls.gov/cew/publications/employment-and-wages-annual-averages/2016/home.htm). The 2017 edition of *Employment and Wages Annual Averages Online* will be available in September 2018.

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**The County Employment and Wages release for fourth quarter 2017 is scheduled to be released on Wednesday, May 23, 2018.**

## **QCEW Publication Acceleration and Conversion to Two Data Releases**

The national QCEW publication process is accelerating for a more timely release. Beginning with the national fourth quarter 2017 release, QCEW data will be published in two parts. The current County Employment and Wages news release and associated data will be accelerated and published first. The full QCEW data release will occur two weeks later, accompanied by a data release notice.

### **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 9.9 million employer reports cover 144.5 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/](http://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 24 largest counties in Florida, third quarter 2017**

Area	Employment			Average weekly wage <sup>(1)</sup>			
	September 2017 (thousands)	Percent change, September 2016-17 <sup>(2)</sup>	National ranking by percent change <sup>(3)</sup>	Average weekly wage	National ranking by level <sup>(3)</sup>	Percent change, third quarter 2016-17 <sup>(2)</sup>	National ranking by percent change <sup>(3)</sup>
United States <sup>(4)</sup> .....	144,464.4	1.0	--	\$1,021	--	-0.6	--
Florida .....	8,305.8	-0.2	--	896	29	-1.1	31
Alachua, Fla. ....	129.1	0.6	209	881	224	0.0	72
Bay, Fla. ....	77.5	0.3	244	729	335	-3.6	326
Brevard, Fla. ....	201.6	-1.1	329	902	197	-3.0	311
Broward, Fla. ....	778.9	-0.7	314	941	169	-1.1	168
Collier, Fla. ....	128.3	-5.2	346	857	253	-1.6	217
Duval, Fla. ....	498.6	1.3	114	951	158	-1.7	231
Escambia, Fla. ....	133.7	1.2	132	802	307	-0.6	121
Hillsborough, Fla. ....	662.5	-0.5	306	976	133	-1.8	237
Lake, Fla. ....	93.8	-0.5	306	692	341	-3.5	323
Lee, Fla. ....	239.7	-2.8	345	810	300	0.1	64
Leon, Fla. ....	146.8	-1.5	334	852	260	0.8	38
Manatee, Fla. ....	116.1	-0.1	287	793	312	-3.2	316
Marion, Fla. ....	99.0	-0.1	287	695	340	-3.2	316
Miami-Dade, Fla. ....	1,092.6	-1.7	337	984	128	-0.1	82
Okaloosa, Fla. ....	82.9	0.7	192	819	294	-4.3	340
Orange, Fla. ....	811.7	1.3	114	895	207	-1.4	195
Osceola, Fla. ....	90.6	2.0	60	689	342	-2.5	285
Palm Beach, Fla. ....	576.0	-1.0	328	951	158	-2.4	281
Pasco, Fla. ....	115.0	0.9	167	717	337	-0.1	82
Pinellas, Fla. ....	418.2	0.2	259	881	224	-1.9	245
Polk, Fla. ....	211.4	1.2	132	777	324	-0.8	142
Sarasota, Fla. ....	161.5	-0.8	321	841	275	0.5	52
Seminole, Fla. ....	185.3	0.4	233	866	241	0.1	64
Volusia, Fla. ....	166.8	-0.7	314	720	336	-1.0	156

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 2017**

Area	Employment September 2017	Average Weekly Wage(1)
United States(2) .....	144,464,425	\$1,021
Florida .....	8,305,778	896
Alachua .....	129,053	881
Baker .....	7,571	629
Bay .....	77,494	729
Bradford.....	6,611	675
Brevard.....	201,644	902
Broward.....	778,914	941
Calhoun.....	2,766	551
Charlotte.....	44,496	710
Citrus.....	31,680	684
Clay.....	50,405	705
Collier.....	128,342	857
Columbia.....	23,597	700
De Soto.....	8,439	663
Dixie.....	2,685	674
Duval.....	498,632	951
Escambia.....	133,677	802
Flagler.....	22,875	631
Franklin.....	3,370	577
Gadsden.....	12,979	679
Gilchrist.....	3,554	628
Glades.....	1,514	798
Gulf.....	3,772	658
Hamilton.....	2,985	778
Hardee.....	6,504	706
Hendry.....	10,745	682
Hernando.....	42,146	668
Highlands.....	26,385	645
Hillsborough.....	662,464	976
Holmes.....	3,315	601
Indian River.....	48,833	761
Jackson.....	14,301	655
Jefferson.....	2,491	637
Lafayette.....	1,365	602
Lake.....	93,846	692
Lee.....	239,659	810
Leon.....	146,802	852
Levy.....	8,900	582
Liberty.....	1,877	666
Madison.....	4,255	614
Manatee.....	116,082	793
Marion.....	98,959	695
Martin.....	64,368	756
Miami-Dade.....	1,092,565	984
Monroe.....	34,466	766
Nassau.....	22,000	737
Okaloosa.....	82,868	819
Okeechobee.....	10,879	685
Orange.....	811,698	895
Osceola.....	90,603	689
Palm Beach.....	575,992	951
Pasco.....	115,020	717
Pinellas.....	418,211	881
Polk.....	211,363	777
Putnam.....	16,006	690
St. Johns.....	72,301	830

Note: See footnotes at end of table.

**Table 2. Covered employment and wages in the United States and all counties in Florida, third quarter 2017 - Continued**

Area	Employment September 2017	Average Weekly Wage(1)
St. Lucie .....	72,506	755
Santa Rosa.....	36,993	676
Sarasota .....	161,531	841
Seminole .....	185,257	866
Sumter.....	27,632	764
Suwannee .....	11,122	642
Taylor.....	6,650	731
Union .....	3,625	712
Volusia.....	166,793	720
Wakulla.....	5,607	662
Walton .....	25,591	706
Washington.....	5,772	653

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 2017**

State	Employment		Average weekly wage <sup>(1)</sup>			
	September 2017 (thousands)	Percent change, September 2016-17	Average weekly wage	National ranking by level	Percent change, third quarter 2016-17	National ranking by percent change
United States <sup>(2)</sup> .....	144,464.4	1.0	\$1,021	--	-0.6	--
Alabama .....	1,941.1	0.8	859	37	-1.3	38
Alaska .....	335.4	-0.7	1,025	15	-2.8	50
Arizona .....	2,760.1	2.4	948	24	-0.2	10
Arkansas .....	1,213.0	0.6	788	49	-0.6	19
California .....	17,153.4	1.7	1,215	4	0.5	4
Colorado .....	2,625.9	1.9	1,067	9	0.5	4
Connecticut .....	1,676.3	0.1	1,179	6	-2.2	47
Delaware .....	443.0	0.4	1,026	14	0.4	6
District of Columbia .....	764.7	0.7	1,759	1	1.3	2
Florida .....	8,305.8	-0.2	896	29	-1.1	31
Georgia .....	4,343.5	1.3	961	21	-0.9	27
Hawaii .....	652.5	0.4	953	22	-0.3	13
Idaho .....	722.3	2.7	778	50	-0.5	16
Illinois .....	5,969.6	0.5	1,057	10	-0.3	13
Indiana .....	3,044.0	0.6	861	36	-0.6	19
Iowa .....	1,546.1	-0.2	855	38	-2.2	47
Kansas .....	1,376.4	-0.1	839	41	-2.1	46
Kentucky .....	1,890.4	0.5	837	42	-2.4	49
Louisiana .....	1,904.3	-0.1	869	33	-1.7	42
Maine .....	621.9	0.7	821	46	-0.5	16
Maryland .....	2,661.8	0.5	1,105	8	-1.7	42
Massachusetts .....	3,568.0	0.9	1,265	2	-0.9	27
Michigan .....	4,334.3	0.9	964	20	-1.1	31
Minnesota .....	2,883.0	1.1	1,030	13	-2.0	45
Mississippi .....	1,129.1	-0.1	729	51	-1.4	39
Missouri .....	2,805.8	0.9	878	31	-1.2	34
Montana .....	468.6	0.9	793	48	0.1	8
Nebraska .....	973.3	-0.2	850	39	-0.8	23
Nevada .....	1,337.7	2.9	914	26	-3.8	51
New Hampshire .....	659.1	0.6	1,022	16	-0.4	15
New Jersey .....	4,043.6	1.1	1,156	7	-1.5	41
New Mexico .....	816.0	0.3	823	45	-0.8	23
New York .....	9,329.8	1.2	1,219	3	-0.2	10
North Carolina .....	4,348.0	1.3	904	27	-0.7	21
North Dakota .....	419.2	-1.0	953	22	-1.2	34
Ohio .....	5,383.6	0.6	920	25	-0.8	23
Oklahoma .....	1,593.3	0.7	843	40	-1.2	34
Oregon .....	1,905.3	1.8	969	19	-0.1	9
Pennsylvania .....	5,836.5	1.0	1,002	17	-1.1	31
Rhode Island .....	484.5	0.8	973	18	-1.8	44
South Carolina .....	2,027.2	0.8	828	43	-0.5	16
South Dakota .....	426.2	0.4	803	47	-0.7	21
Tennessee .....	2,953.3	1.1	903	28	-1.2	34
Texas .....	12,008.9	1.4	1,032	12	-1.0	29
Utah .....	1,444.1	2.6	879	30	-0.2	10
Vermont .....	310.3	0.1	869	33	-1.4	39
Virginia .....	3,843.6	1.0	1,053	11	-0.8	23
Washington .....	3,343.4	2.0	1,208	5	1.7	1
West Virginia .....	694.0	0.2	826	44	1.1	3
Wisconsin .....	2,866.9	0.5	876	32	-1.0	29
Wyoming .....	276.2	0.3	868	35	0.3	7
Puerto Rico .....	862.8	-3.1	509	(3)	-2.7	(3)
Virgin Islands .....	36.9	-1.1	763	(3)	-1.9	(3)

Note: See footnotes at end of table.

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

(3) Data not included in the national ranking.

**Chart 1. Average weekly wages by county in Florida, third quarter 2017**

