NEWS RELEASE
BUREAU OF LABOR STATISTICS
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF LABOR

For Release: Tuesday, July 02, 2019 **19-952-ATL**

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County Employment and Wages in Georgia – Fourth Quarter 2018

Employment increased in 8 of Georgia's 10 large counties from December 2017 to December 2018, the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics reported today. (Large counties are defined as those with 2017 average annual employment levels of 75,000 or more.) Regional Commissioner Janet S. Rankin noted that employment increases ranged from 2.3 percent in Hall County to 0.1 percent in DeKalb County. (See table 1.)

Nationally, employment advanced 1.5 percent from December 2017 to December 2018 as 296 of the 349 largest U.S. counties had increases. Midland, TX, had the largest over-the-year increase in employment with a gain of 10.0 percent. Bay, FL, had the largest over-the-year decrease in employment with a loss of 5.6 percent.

Among the 10 largest counties in Georgia, employment was highest in Fulton County (889,300) in December 2018, while Bibb County had the smallest employment level (82,900). Together, Georgia's large counties accounted for 57.2 percent of total employment within the state. Nationwide, the 349 largest counties made up 73.2 percent of total U.S. employment, which stood at 148.1 million in December 2018.

Among Georgia's 10 large counties, 9 had over-the-year wage increases in the fourth quarter of 2018 with the largest gain in DeKalb County, up 4.1 percent. Fulton County had the highest average weekly wage among the state's largest counties ($1,480), followed by Cobb County ($1,156). Nationally, the average weekly wage increased 3.2 percent over the year to $1,144. (See table 1.)

Employment and wage levels (but not over-the-year changes) are also available for the 149 counties in Georgia with 2017 average annual employment levels below 75,000. Average weekly wages in these counties ranged from $1,480 to $537. (See table 2.)

Large county wage changes

In the fourth quarter of 2018, average weekly wage gains in three of Georgia's large counties placed in the top half of the national ranking—DeKalb (4.1 percent, 84th), Bibb (3.7 percent, 104th), and Clayton (3.3 percent, 146th). Muscogee County had the only average weekly wage decline among the state's large counties with a loss of 3.7 percent over the year.

Nationally, 332 of the 349 largest counties had over-the-year increases in average weekly wages. Tippecanoe, IN, had the largest over-the-year wage gain at 15.1 percent, followed by Williamson, TN (13.1 percent) and Olmsted, MN (13.0 percent).

Of the 349 largest U.S. counties, 15 had over-the-year wage decreases. Washington, PA, had the largest percentage decrease in average weekly wages (-6.6 percent), followed by Elkhart, IN (-5.0 percent).

Large county average weekly wages
Average weekly wages in 4 of Georgia's 10 large counties placed in the top half of the national ranking in the fourth quarter of 2018. Fulton ($1,480, 18th) and Cobb ($1,156, 86th) had average weekly wages above the U.S. average of $1,144. DeKalb ($1,127) and Gwinnett ($1,068), ranked 103rd and 146th, respectively.

Nationwide, average weekly wages were above the U.S. average ($1,144) in 94 of the 349 largest counties in the fourth quarter of 2018. Santa Clara, CA, had the highest average weekly wage at $2,670, followed by San Francisco, CA ($2,452); San Mateo, CA ($2,410); and New York, NY ($2,400).

Among the largest U.S. counties, 255 had weekly wages below the national average in the fourth quarter of 2018. Hidalgo, TX ($680) reported the lowest wage, followed by the counties of Cameron, TX and Horry, SC ($685 each).

Average weekly wages in Georgia's smaller counties
Among the 149 smaller counties in Georgia – those with 2017 average annual employment levels below 75,000 – only Burke County ($1,480) had an average weekly wage above the national average of $1,144. Taliaferro had the lowest average weekly wage in the state, averaging $537 in the fourth quarter of 2018. (See table 2.)

When all 159 counties in Georgia were considered, 60 reported average weekly wages below $700, 52 had wages from $700 to $799, 33 had wages from $800 to $899, 7 had wages from $900 to $999, and 7 had wages above $1,000. (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 2017 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 2018 version of the national news release. Tables and additional content from *Employment and Wages Annual Averages 2017* are now available online at www.bls.gov/cew/cewbultn17.htm. The 2018 edition of *Employment and Wages Annual Averages Online* will be available in September 2019.

The County Employment and Wages release for first quarter 2019 is scheduled to be released on Wednesday, August 21, 2019. The County Employment and Wages full data update for first quarter 2019 is scheduled to be released on Wednesday, September 4, 2019.

BLS Local Data App Now Available for Android Devices

The BLS Local Data app, first released for iPhones last fall, is now available for Android devices. Search using your current location, a zip code, or a location name to find employment and wage data for detailed industries and occupations. BLS continues to partner with the U.S. Department of Labor's Office of the Chief Information Officer to expand the features and data in the app. For more information please visit: https://beta.bls.gov/labs/blogs/2019/04/17/bls-local-data-app-now-available-for-android-devices/.

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 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 10 largest counties in Georgia, fourth quarter 2018

Area	Employment			Average weekly wage [1]			
	December 2018 (thousands)	Percent change, December 2017-18 [2]	National ranking by percent change [3]	Average weekly wage	National ranking by level [3]	Percent change, fourth quarter 2017-18 [2]	National ranking by percent change [3]
United States [4]	148,061.8	1.5	--	$1,144	--	3.2	--
Georgia	4,499.8	1.8	--	1,053	21	2.4	43
Bibb, GA	82.9	-0.6	335	867	314	3.7	104
Chatham, GA	157.2	1.3	149	933	264	2.5	220
Clayton, GA	124.5	1.5	134	1,024	179	3.3	146
Cobb, Ga.	369.2	1.3	149	1,156	86	2.8	194
DeKalb, GA	303.1	0.1	282	1,127	103	4.1	84
Fulton, GA	889.3	1.9	86	1,480	18	1.7	279
Gwinnett, GA	358.2	0.3	258	1,068	146	2.0	257
Hall, GA	90.0	2.3	54	997	204	2.6	210
Muscogee, GA	95.0	0.9	185	844	325	-3.7	347
Richmond, GA	105.8	-0.3	318	902	295	1.7	279

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 Georgia, fourth quarter 2018

Area	Employment December 2018	Average weekly wage(1)
United States(2)	148,061,773	$1,144
Georgia	4,499,757	1,053
Appling	6,787	813
Atkinson	2,201	711
Bacon	3,687	750
Baker	427	717
Baldwin	15,188	667
Banks	4,508	651
Barrow	19,684	804
Bartow	39,566	881
Ben Hill	5,577	665
Berrien	3,718	653
Bibb	82,941	867
Bleckley	2,673	637
Brantley	2,456	690
Brooks	3,280	695
Bryan	9,030	731
Bulloch	26,328	683
Burke	13,080	1,480
Butts	7,137	728
Calhoun	1,105	669
Camden	14,286	852
Candler	3,166	577
Carroll	41,541	874
Catoosa	15,219	686
Charlton	1,928	727
Chatham	157,183	933
Chattahoochee	2,370	913
Chattooga	6,283	677
Cherokee	62,979	838
Clarke	72,128	897
Clay	494	644
Clayton	124,510	1,024
Clinch	2,168	702
Cobb	369,229	1,156
Coffee	17,729	711
Colquitt	15,013	699
Columbia	35,029	788
Cook	4,400	664
Coweta	40,537	837
Crawford	1,279	673
Crisp	8,253	725
Dade	4,009	728
Dawson	9,727	607
Decatur	9,309	642
De Kalb	303,122	1,127
Dodge	5,186	659
Dooly	3,926	677
Dougherty	48,581	850
Douglas	44,816	800
Early	4,296	891
Echols	681	784
Effingham	10,592	870
Elbert	5,751	696
Emanuel	6,658	662
Evans	4,556	716
Fannin	6,723	674

Note: See footnotes at end of table.

Table 2. Covered employment and wages in the United States and all counties in Georgia, fourth quarter 2018 - Continued

Area	Employment December 2018	Average weekly wage(1)
Fayette	46,109	909
Floyd	39,890	853
Forsyth	76,822	1,021
Franklin	7,972	714
Fulton	889,318	1,480
Gilmer	6,902	613
Glascock	415	539
Glynn	38,352	860
Gordon	22,772	826
Grady	5,943	744
Greene	6,416	753
Gwinnett	358,194	1,068
Habersham	14,742	722
Hall	89,959	997
Hancock	1,501	690
Haralson	6,825	865
Harris	5,727	613
Hart	6,985	752
Heard	2,005	889
Henry	63,718	755
Houston	61,177	918
Irwin	1,966	661
Jackson	29,904	764
Jasper	2,258	639
Jeff Davis	4,208	689
Jefferson	4,933	737
Jenkins	1,349	660
Johnson	1,561	598
Jones	4,080	724
Lamar	3,470	730
Lanier	1,379	661
Laurens	19,108	788
Lee	6,620	695
Liberty	19,075	820
Lincoln	1,260	625
Long	1,037	620
Lowndes	49,867	756
Lumpkin	7,563	728
McDuffie	6,892	709
McIntosh	1,794	617
Macon	2,800	801
Madison	3,293	671
Marion	1,056	641
Meriwether	4,752	745
Miller	1,717	715
Mitchell	6,775	655
Monroe	7,880	786
Montgomery	1,614	612
Morgan	7,235	710
Murray	8,957	709
Muscogee	95,003	844
Newton	25,651	852
Oconee	12,908	817
Oglethorpe	1,649	694
Paulding	24,641	732
Peach	9,437	776

Note: See footnotes at end of table.

Table 2. Covered employment and wages in the United States and all counties in Georgia, fourth quarter 2018 - Continued

Area	Employment December 2018	Average weekly wage(1)
Pickens	8,129	898
Pierce	4,077	700
Pike	3,009	700
Polk	11,177	770
Pulaski	2,815	738
Putnam	5,764	671
Quitman	345	638
Rabun	5,212	617
Randolph	1,947	672
Richmond	105,833	902
Rockdale	32,837	931
Schley	976	736
Screven	3,225	660
Seminole	2,131	775
Spalding	22,293	738
Stephens	9,110	800
Stewart	1,362	883
Sumter	10,798	750
Talbot	822	677
Taliaferro	188	537
Tattnall	5,865	717
Taylor	1,583	770
Telfair	2,906	630
Terrell	2,075	683
Thomas	20,443	862
Tift	20,417	799
Toombs	12,037	666
Towns	3,300	675
Treutlen	1,045	603
Troup	39,434	878
Turner	1,893	646
Twiggs	3,022	765
Union	6,835	748
Upson	6,705	735
Walker	13,231	696
Walton	23,524	874
Ware	15,755	685
Warren	1,554	815
Washington	6,430	742
Wayne	8,059	782
Webster	491	815
Wheeler	1,099	675
White	8,993	641
Whitfield	57,194	873
Wilcox	1,119	584
Wilkes	2,850	700
Wilkinson	3,579	824
Worth	3,184	715

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.

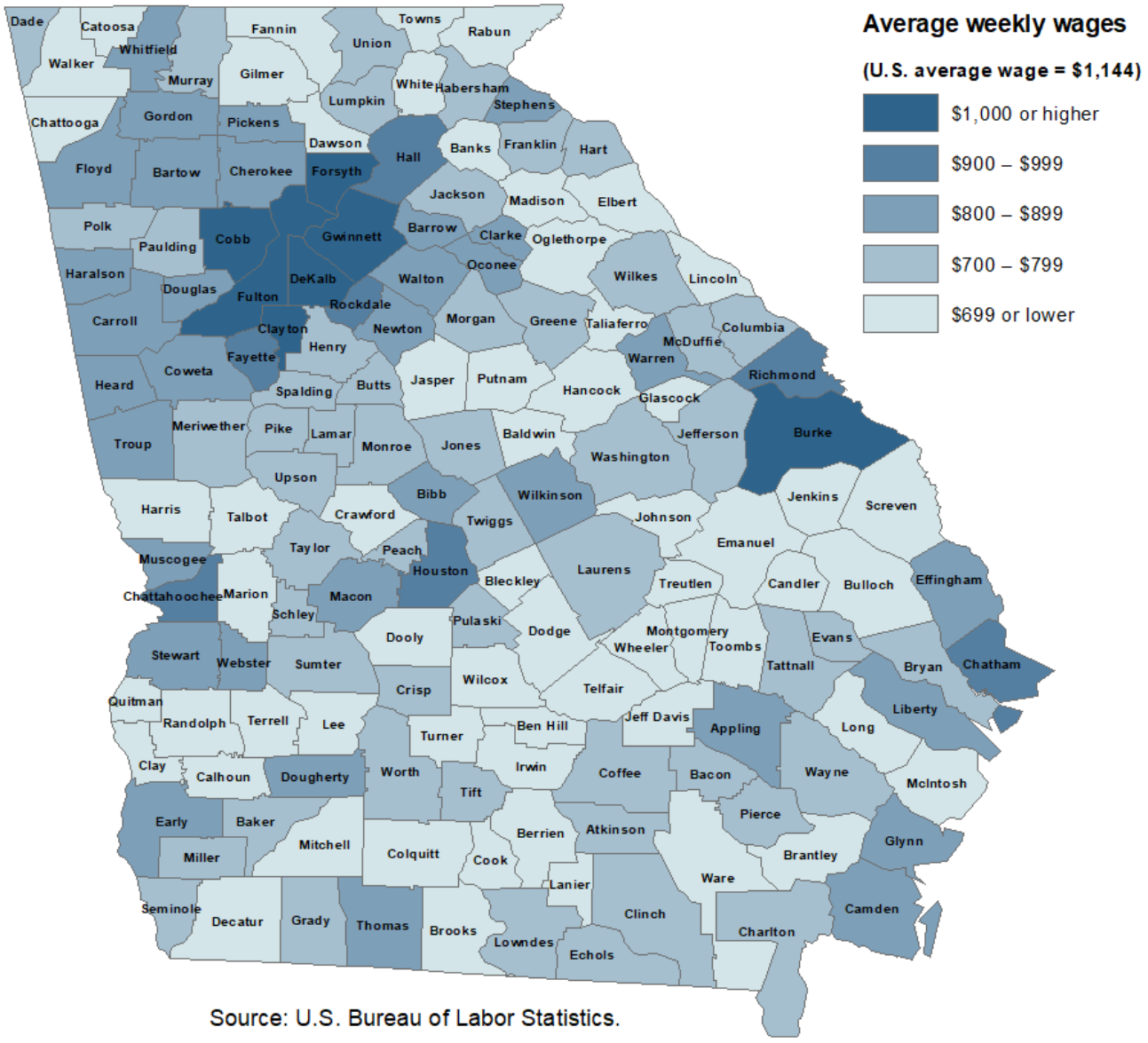
Table 3. Covered employment and wages by state, fourth quarter 2018

State	Employment		Average weekly wage [1]			
	December 2018 (thousands)	Percent change, December 2017-18	Average weekly wage	National ranking by level	Percent change, fourth quarter 2017-18	National ranking by percent change
United States [2]	148,061.8	1.5	$1,144	--	3.2	--
Alabama	1,986.6	1.6	957	36	3.1	33
Alaska	308.3	0.4	1,103	16	4.9	7
Arizona	2,921.1	3.0	1,017	24	4.1	11
Arkansas	1,227.0	0.8	869	50	2.4	43
California	17,556.7	1.7	1,392	4	3.3	26
Colorado	2,713.7	2.2	1,180	10	4.1	11
Connecticut	1,697.9	0.5	1,334	5	1.3	49
Delaware	451.2	1.1	1,107	15	2.4	43
District of Columbia	775.1	0.6	1,943	1	7.3	2
Florida	8,902.7	2.1	1,006	27	3.1	33
Georgia	4,499.8	1.8	1,053	21	2.4	43
Hawaii	669.3	0.6	1,016	25	3.3	26
Idaho	734.4	3.2	890	47	3.6	20
Illinois	6,026.0	0.3	1,189	9	3.3	26
Indiana	3,086.2	0.9	941	38	2.8	37
Iowa	1,558.4	0.5	966	35	3.0	35
Kansas	1,402.2	0.8	927	41	3.7	18
Kentucky	1,914.0	0.3	924	42	3.2	30
Louisiana	1,934.1	0.7	968	34	3.8	15
Maine	618.4	1.3	906	44	2.5	41
Maryland	2,702.5	0.8	1,228	8	1.7	48
Massachusetts	3,620.3	1.0	1,457	2	3.3	26
Michigan	4,366.5	1.0	1,077	19	1.3	49
Minnesota	2,902.3	0.9	1,140	14	3.6	20
Mississippi	1,144.3	0.2	793	51	2.5	41
Missouri	2,821.3	0.5	980	31	3.6	20
Montana	468.8	1.6	888	48	5.2	5
Nebraska	983.0	0.2	930	40	3.2	30
Nevada	1,397.4	3.3	1,006	27	5.3	4
New Hampshire	666.0	0.7	1,158	12	2.3	46
New Jersey	4,125.6	0.8	1,298	6	2.7	38
New Mexico	830.2	1.5	905	45	4.6	9
New York	9,613.2	1.5	1,445	3	1.0	51
North Carolina	4,458.9	1.6	1,013	26	5.1	6
North Dakota	422.3	1.5	1,057	20	4.7	8
Ohio	5,442.9	0.5	1,006	27	3.4	24
Oklahoma	1,632.3	1.5	932	39	4.1	11
Oregon	1,935.8	1.7	1,052	22	3.7	18
Pennsylvania	5,932.5	1.0	1,103	16	2.6	39
Rhode Island	487.2	0.8	1,085	18	2.6	39
South Carolina	2,119.6	2.8	893	46	1.9	47
South Dakota	428.4	1.2	885	49	3.4	24
Tennessee	3,039.8	1.8	1,030	23	3.0	35
Texas	12,531.7	2.5	1,148	13	3.5	23
Utah	1,511.5	3.2	972	33	3.8	15
Vermont	314.2	-0.4	954	37	3.2	30
Virginia	3,927.2	1.1	1,164	11	3.8	15
Washington	3,384.2	2.4	1,292	7	6.3	3
West Virginia	704.2	1.5	917	43	8.3	1
Wisconsin	2,892.3	0.6	989	30	4.0	14
Wyoming	272.1	1.8	978	32	4.4	10
Puerto Rico	896.4	0.8	576	[3]	0.9	[3]
Virgin Islands	34.5	0.5	925	[3]	2.3	[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 Georgia, fourth quarter 2018



Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics.