



For Release: Wednesday, September 16, 2020

20-1698-ATL

SOUTHEAST INFORMATION OFFICE: Atlanta, Ga.

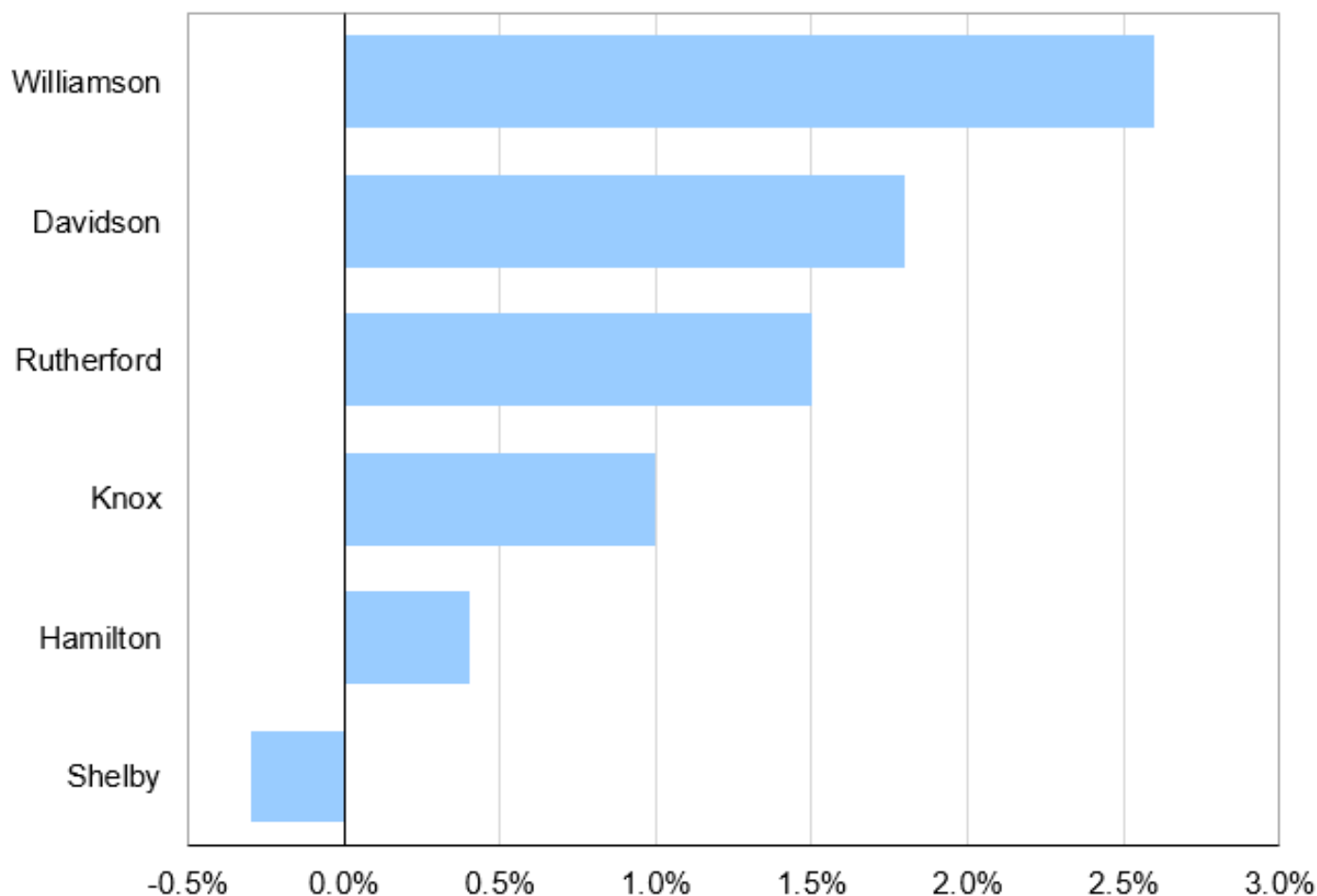
Technical information: (404) 893-4222 BLSInfoAtlanta@bls.gov www.bls.gov/regions/southeast

Media contact: (404) 893-4220

County Employment and Wages in Tennessee — First Quarter 2020

Employment rose in 5 of Tennessee's 6 large counties from March 2019 to March 2020, the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics reported today. (Large counties are those with annual average employment levels of 75,000 or more in 2019.) Regional Commissioner Janet S. Rankin noted that employment gains ranged from 2.6 percent in Williamson County to 0.4 percent in Hamilton County. (See [chart 1](#) and [table 1](#).)

Chart 1. Over-the-year percent change in covered employment among the largest counties in Tennessee, March 2020



Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics.

Employment in the U.S. (as measured by the QCEW program) increased 0.4 percent over the year with 202 of the 357 largest U.S. counties reporting increases. St. Johns, FL, had the largest percentage increase in the country, up 3.7 percent over the year. Ector, TX, had the largest over-the-year percentage decrease in employment with a loss of 5.5 percent.

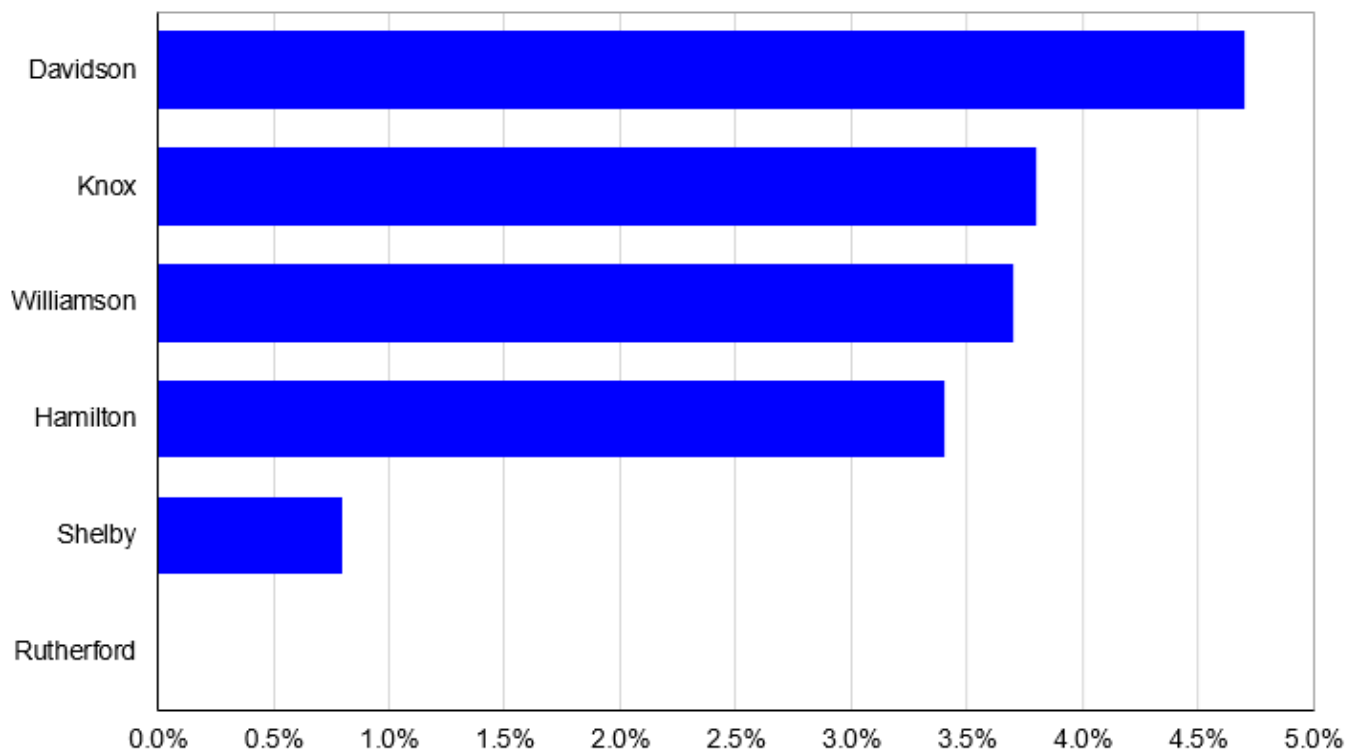
Among the six largest counties in Tennessee, employment was highest in Davidson County (513,200) in March 2020. Within Davidson County's private industry, health care and social assistance accounted for the largest employment. Together, Tennessee's six large counties accounted for 57.1 percent of total employment within the state. Nationwide, the 357 largest counties made up 73.7 percent of total U.S. employment.

Employment and wage levels (but not over-the-year changes) are also available for the 89 counties in Tennessee with employment below 75,000. Wage levels in 88 of the 89 smaller counties were below the national average in the first quarter of 2020. (See [table 2.](#))

Large county wage changes

Among Tennessee's six large counties, five reported average weekly wage gains from the first quarter of 2019 to the first quarter of 2020. (See [chart 2.](#)) Four counties had rates of wage gains that were above the national rate of 3.3 percent, with the largest gain in Davidson (+4.7 percent).

Chart 2. Over-the-year percent change in covered average weekly wages among the largest counties in Tennessee, first quarter 2020



Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics.

Among the 357 largest counties in the United States, 335 had over-the-year wage increases. McLean, IL, had the largest percentage wage increase (+13.3 percent). Twenty large counties had wage declines during the period. Peoria, IL, had the largest over-the-year percentage decrease (-12.8 percent).

Large county average weekly wages

Weekly wages in 2 of the 6 large counties in Tennessee were above the national average of \$1,222 in the first quarter of 2020. Average weekly wages in both of these counties ranked among the top 100 nationwide: Williamson (\$1,449, 44th), and Davidson (\$1,282, 68th).

Among the largest U.S. counties, 92 reported average weekly wages above the U.S. average in the first quarter of 2020. New York, NY, had the highest average weekly wage at \$3,270. Average weekly wages were below the national average in 265 counties. At \$666 a week, Cameron, TX, had the lowest average weekly wage.

Average weekly wages in Tennessee's smaller counties

Among the 89 smaller counties in Tennessee—those with employment below 75,000—Roane (\$1,390) reported an average weekly wage above the national average of \$1,222. Hancock County (\$539) reported the lowest average weekly wage in the state.

When all 95 counties in Tennessee were considered, 31 reported average weekly wages of less than \$700, 33 had wages from \$700 to \$799, 16 had wages from \$800 to \$899, and 15 had average weekly wages of \$900 or higher. (See [chart 3](#).)

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 2019 edition of this publication was published in September 2020. Tables and additional content from the 2019 edition of *Employment and Wages Annual Averages Online* are available at www.bls.gov/cew/publications/employment-and-wages-annual-averages/2019/home.htm. The 2019 edition of *Employment and Wages Annual Averages Online* will be available in 2021.

The County Employment and Wages release for second quarter 2020 is scheduled to be released on Wednesday, November 18, 2020. The County Employment and Wages full data update for second quarter 2020 is scheduled to be released on Wednesday, December 2, 2020.

QCEW Data and Response Impacted by the COVID-19 Pandemic

Beginning with this release of first quarter 2020 data, the Quarterly Census of Employment and Wages (QCEW) program will publish response rate tables for establishments, employment, and total quarterly wages. Tables for the first quarter of 2020 are available at www.bls.gov/covid19/county-employment-and-wages-covid-19-impact-first-quarter-2020.htm. For more information about the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic on QCEW data, please visit www.bls.gov/covid19/effects-of-covid-19-pandemic-on-county-employment-and-wages-data.htm.

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 individuals with sensory impairments 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 six largest counties in Tennessee, first quarter 2020

Area	Establishments, first quarter 2020 (thousands)	Employment			Average weekly wage ⁽¹⁾			
		March 2020 (thousands)	Percent change, March 2019-20 ⁽²⁾	National ranking by percent change ⁽³⁾	First quarter 2020	National ranking by level ⁽³⁾	Percent change, first quarter 2019-20 ⁽²⁾	National ranking by percent change ⁽³⁾
United States ⁽⁴⁾	10,447.2	147,088.9	0.4	--	\$1,222	--	3.3	--
Tennessee	171.2	3,033.5	1.0	--	1,027	29	3.1	27
Davidson	25.4	513.2	1.8	41	1,282	68	4.7	42
Hamilton	10.6	206.8	0.4	158	1,031	193	3.4	150
Knox	13.4	241.4	1.0	91	989	225	3.8	114
Rutherford	6.3	134.4	1.5	54	947	264	0.0	336
Shelby	21.6	495.5	-0.3	240	1,117	140	0.8	312
Williamson	10.0	140.6	2.6	12	1,449	44	3.7	121

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 Tennessee, first quarter 2020

Area	Employment March 2020	Average weekly wage(1)
United States(2)	147,088,945	\$1,222
Tennessee	3,033,537	1,027
Anderson	40,219	1,188
Bedford	16,182	767
Benton	4,121	666
Bledsoe	2,171	700
Blount	50,816	920
Bradley	43,169	833
Campbell	9,134	690
Cannon	2,379	666
Carroll	6,579	628
Carter	11,634	692
Cheatham	8,775	905
Chester	3,636	666
Claiborne	9,138	708
Clay	1,300	576
Cocke	7,310	693
Coffee	26,284	876
Crockett	3,633	921
Cumberland	17,635	668
Davidson	513,228	1,282
Decatur	3,384	727
De Kalb	5,551	745
Dickson	17,769	758
Dyer	15,161	798
Fayette	7,863	871
Fentress	5,166	604
Franklin	11,568	756
Gibson	14,136	731
Giles	9,928	763
Grainger	3,946	756
Greene	24,514	768
Grundy	2,167	567
Hamblen	32,250	782
Hamilton	206,803	1,031
Hancock	943	539
Hardeman	6,893	771
Hardin	7,929	863
Hawkins	12,303	817
Haywood	4,816	789
Henderson	7,968	687
Henry	11,371	745
Hickman	3,738	762
Houston	1,502	625
Humphreys	5,877	944
Jackson	1,418	663
Jefferson	13,308	809
Johnson	4,303	789
Knox	241,386	989
Lake	1,526	696
Lauderdale	6,855	772
Lawrence	10,921	718
Lewis	2,857	598
Lincoln	9,109	725
Loudon	17,109	852
McMinn	19,306	841
McNairy	5,569	656

Note: See footnotes at end of table.

Table 2. Covered employment and wages in the United States and all counties in Tennessee, first quarter 2020 - Continued

Area	Employment March 2020	Average weekly wage ⁽¹⁾
Macon.....	4,902	645
Madison.....	59,174	845
Marion	7,555	740
Marshall.....	9,613	794
Maury	37,698	979
Meigs.....	2,186	780
Monroe	14,508	743
Montgomery	57,108	786
Moore	2,458	847
Morgan	3,074	716
Obion.....	10,993	723
Overton.....	5,038	692
Perry.....	1,763	602
Pickett.....	949	577
Polk	2,103	652
Putnam	37,997	756
Rhea	10,967	879
Roane.....	19,739	1,390
Robertson.....	21,567	769
Rutherford	134,426	947
Scott	5,596	605
Sequatchie	3,139	633
Sevier	48,160	619
Shelby	495,455	1,117
Smith	5,091	833
Stewart	2,811	975
Sullivan.....	68,974	955
Sumner.....	56,622	858
Tipton.....	11,607	758
Trousdale.....	1,833	787
Unicoi	4,734	880
Union	2,564	695
Van Buren.....	776	621
Warren.....	12,850	750
Washington.....	61,391	815
Wayne	3,869	661
Weakley.....	11,111	660
White	7,279	676
Williamson	140,645	1,449
Wilson.....	49,943	828

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, first quarter 2020

State	Establishments, first quarter 2020 (thousands)	Employment		Average weekly wage ⁽¹⁾			
		March 2020 (thousands)	Percent change, March 2019-20	First quarter 2020	National ranking by level	Percent change, first quarter 2019-20	National ranking by percent change
United States ⁽²⁾	10,447.2	147,088.9	0.4	\$1,222	--	3.3	--
Alabama	132.6	1,983.8	0.3	974	36	3.2	23
Alaska	22.6	312.8	-0.1	1,130	19	2.1	44
Arizona	170.4	2,957.2	1.9	1,098	22	4.4	1
Arkansas	93.6	1,220.5	0.2	922	45	3.0	29
California	1,631.1	17,570.5	0.8	1,459	5	4.2	3
Colorado	214.5	2,725.2	1.2	1,284	9	4.3	2
Connecticut	124.1	1,639.4	-0.7	1,510	4	1.5	48
Delaware	34.6	443.7	-0.3	1,251	11	1.7	45
District of Columbia	42.3	778.1	0.6	1,994	1	3.8	14
Florida	740.5	8,975.1	0.8	1,051	25	3.6	18
Georgia	301.5	4,522.2	0.9	1,159	17	3.4	19
Hawaii	45.4	655.5	-1.0	1,033	27	3.0	29
Idaho	66.8	755.2	3.1	864	50	4.2	3
Illinois	381.5	5,872.9	-0.7	1,302	8	2.3	41
Indiana	171.1	3,028.5	-1.0	994	33	3.2	23
Iowa	104.8	1,523.4	-0.2	978	35	3.7	16
Kansas	89.8	1,383.3	0.2	969	37	3.2	23
Kentucky	124.0	1,884.9	0.1	943	43	2.5	38
Louisiana	137.4	1,897.0	-1.3	969	37	1.7	45
Maine	53.9	601.0	0.1	955	40	4.0	11
Maryland	175.7	2,661.5	-0.4	1,277	10	4.1	8
Massachusetts	263.3	3,565.1	-0.2	1,605	3	3.0	29
Michigan	267.0	4,281.4	-0.6	1,103	20	2.3	41
Minnesota	183.9	2,838.2	-0.1	1,235	12	2.7	35
Mississippi	73.9	1,128.1	-0.2	801	51	2.8	34
Missouri	214.8	2,795.7	0.3	1,016	31	3.0	29
Montana	50.6	465.2	1.5	869	49	3.1	27
Nebraska	72.3	972.4	0.8	956	39	4.1	8
Nevada	86.1	1,410.8	1.3	1,033	27	4.2	3
New Hampshire	54.3	657.0	0.2	1,194	15	3.3	20
New Jersey	285.8	4,052.7	0.4	1,455	6	3.9	13
New Mexico	64.0	835.6	0.9	923	44	3.7	16
New York	657.2	9,415.7	-0.3	1,693	2	3.3	20
North Carolina	296.0	4,501.1	0.9	1,094	23	4.1	8
North Dakota	32.2	414.3	0.0	1,046	26	2.4	39
Ohio	304.4	5,349.6	-0.3	1,063	24	2.9	33
Oklahoma	112.8	1,598.0	-1.3	949	42	-0.5	51
Oregon	162.4	1,938.9	0.7	1,103	20	4.2	3
Pennsylvania	363.5	5,851.3	0.0	1,177	16	2.7	35
Rhode Island	39.5	473.9	-0.2	1,132	18	2.7	35
South Carolina	142.7	2,112.8	0.1	922	45	2.2	43
South Dakota	34.7	420.6	0.4	901	48	4.2	3
Tennessee	171.2	3,033.5	1.0	1,027	29	3.1	27
Texas	725.7	12,626.2	1.2	1,232	14	2.4	39
Utah	109.8	1,526.8	1.8	1,026	30	3.2	23
Vermont	26.1	303.9	-1.8	980	34	3.3	20
Virginia	282.9	3,921.0	0.6	1,233	13	4.0	11
Washington	255.6	3,427.3	1.7	1,414	7	3.8	14
West Virginia	51.2	674.9	-1.8	904	47	0.9	49
Wisconsin	178.2	2,836.5	-0.2	1,008	32	1.7	45
Wyoming	27.2	268.5	-0.5	955	40	0.6	50
Puerto Rico	47.5	886.4	1.0	551	(3)	0.0	(3)
Virgin Islands	3.3	40.1	5.7	1,046	(3)	6.3	(3)

Note: See footnotes at end of table.

Footnotes:

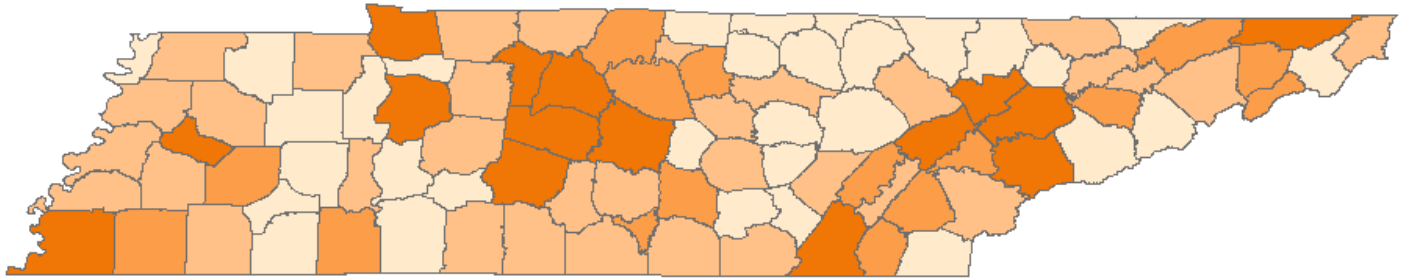
(1) Average weekly wages were calculated using unrounded data.

(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 3. Average weekly wages by county in Tennessee, first quarter 2020



Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics.

Average Weekly Wages

(U.S. average wage = \$1,222)

- \$900 or higher
- \$800 - \$899
- \$700 - \$799
- \$699 or lower