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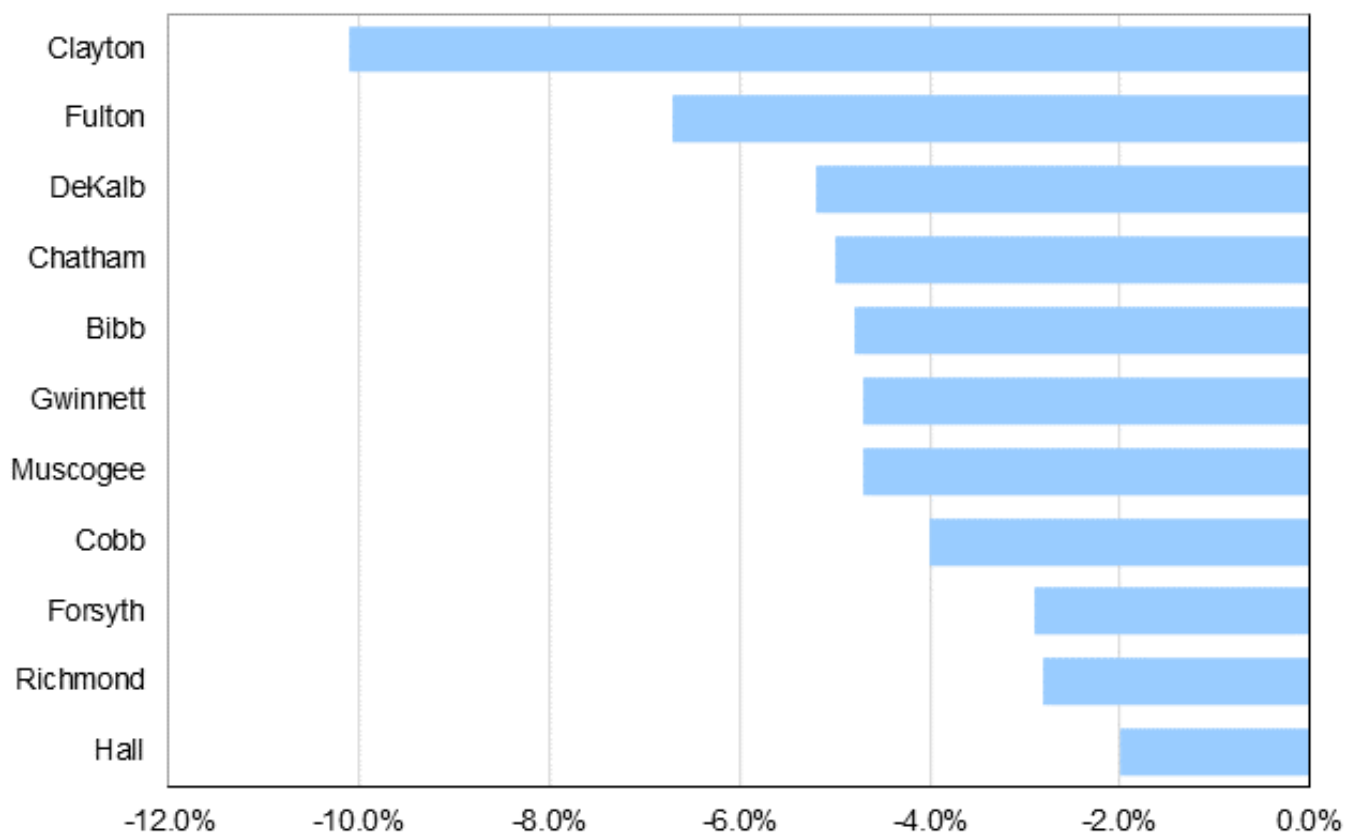
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County Employment and Wages in Georgia — Fourth Quarter 2020

Employment declined in all of Georgia's 11 largest counties from December 2019 to December 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 decreases ranged from 10.1 percent in Clayton County to 2.0 percent in Hall County. (See [chart 1](#) and [table 1](#).)

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



Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics.

National employment decreased 6.1 percent over the year, with 352 of the 357 largest U.S. counties reporting declines. Maui + Kalawao, HI, had the largest over-the-year decrease in employment with a loss of 22.8 percent. Utah, UT, experienced the largest over-the-year percentage increase in employment with a gain of 3.8 percent.

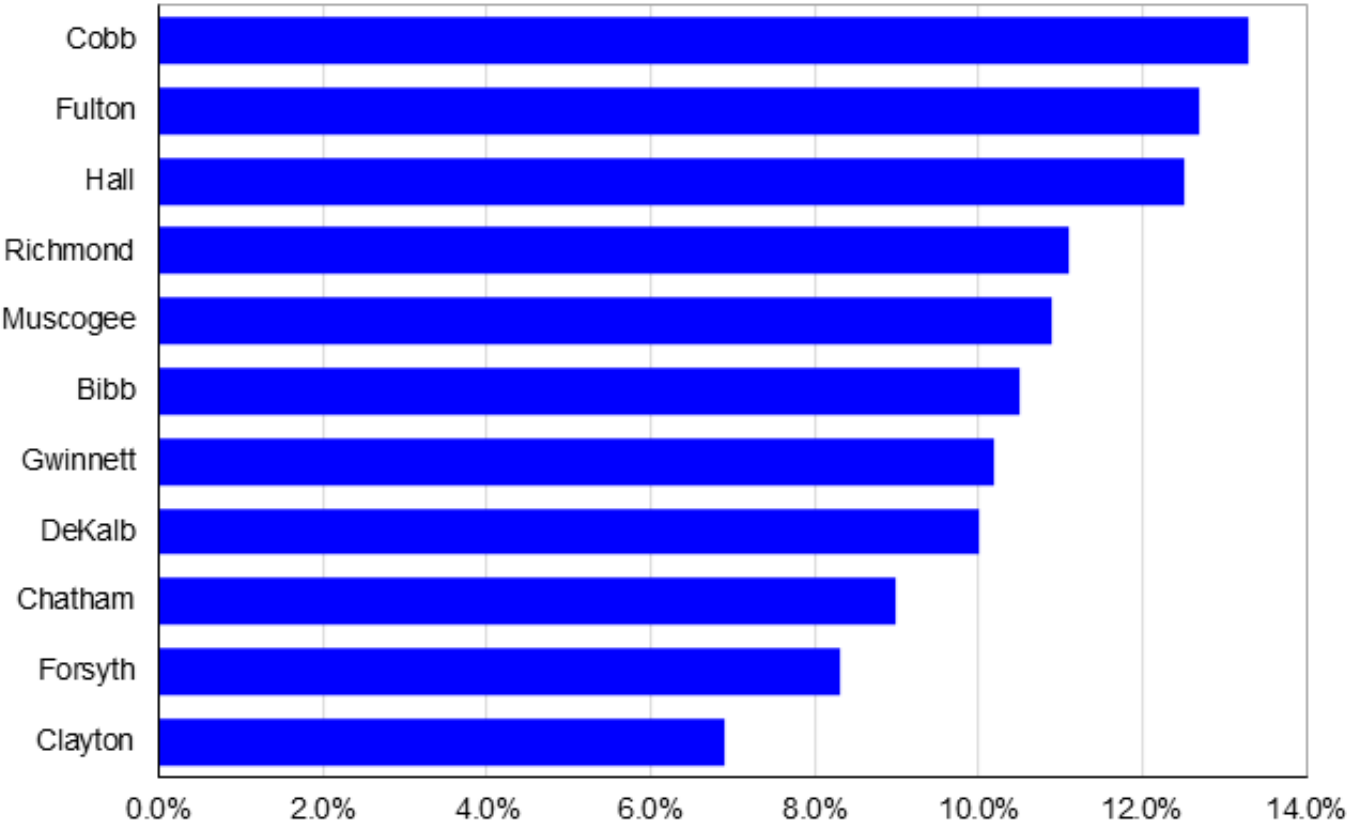
Among the 11 largest counties in Georgia, employment was highest in Fulton County (858,500) in December 2020. Within Fulton County’s private industry, professional and technical services accounted for the largest employment. Together, the 11 largest Georgia counties accounted for 58.6 percent of total employment within the state. Nationwide, the 357 largest counties made up 73.1 percent of total U.S. employment.

Employment and wage levels (but not over-the-year changes) are also available for the 148 counties in Georgia with employment below 75,000. Wage levels in 147 of the 148 smaller counties were below the national average in the fourth quarter of 2020. (See [table 2](#).)

Large county wage changes

All 11 large Georgia counties reported average weekly wage gains from the fourth quarter of 2019 to the fourth quarter of 2020. (See [chart 2](#).) Gwinnett County had the largest wage gain at 13.3 percent, followed by Fulton County (+12.7 percent) and Hall County (+12.5 percent). Over-the-year wage gains among Georgia’s other eight large counties ranged from 11.1 percent to 6.9 percent.

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



Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics.

Among the 357 largest counties in the United States, 356 had over-the-year wage increases. Nationally, across most industries, increases in average weekly wages reflect substantial employment declines combined with wage increases. The lowest paying industry, leisure and hospitality, had the largest employment loss, which results in higher average weekly wages for the industry and the nation. San Francisco, CA, had the largest percentage wage increase (+44.3 percent). Ector, TX, had the only over-the-year percentage decrease (-7.5 percent).

Large county average weekly wages

Weekly wages in the 2 of the 11 largest counties in Georgia were above the national average of \$1,339 in the fourth quarter of 2020. Average weekly wages in these two counties ranked among the top 100 nationwide: Fulton (\$1,707, 18th) and Cobb (\$1,357, 85th).

Among the largest U.S. counties, 89 reported average weekly wages above the U.S. average in the fourth quarter of 2020. Santa Clara, CA, had the highest average weekly wage at \$3,690. Average weekly wages were below the national average in the remaining 268 counties. At \$760 a week, Cameron, TX, had the lowest average weekly wage.

Average weekly wages in Georgia's smaller counties

Among the 148 smaller counties in Georgia—those with employment below 75,000—Burke County (\$1,851) had an average weekly wage above the national average of \$1,339. Montgomery County (\$626) had the lowest average weekly wage in the state.

When all 159 counties in Georgia were considered, 56 reported average weekly wages of \$799 or lower, 54 had wages from \$800 to \$899, 30 had wages from \$900 to \$999, 11 had wages from \$1,000 to \$1,099, and 8 had wages of \$1,100 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 2020 edition of *Employment and Wages Annual Averages Online* will be available in September 2021.

The County Employment and Wages release for first quarter 2021 is scheduled to be released on Wednesday, August 18, 2021, at 10:00 a.m. (ET). The County Employment and Wages full data update for first quarter 2021 is scheduled to be released on Wednesday, September 1, 2021, at 10:00 a.m. (ET).

QCEW Imputation Issue Caused by Pandemic-Related Challenges

In the spring of 2020, BLS modified its imputation process for QCEW to be more responsive to current economic conditions. While continuing work to improve this process, BLS made an unintended data processing error. This error affected data for the second, third, and fourth quarters of 2020. BLS has analyzed this issue and has determined that the impact on QCEW employment was negligible at the statewide level. In smaller areas and industries, revisions may be larger than usual. Wage data were not affected. Following the usual QCEW practice, these data will be revised and corrected with the full data update on September 1, 2021.

For more information on QCEW imputation methodology, see www.bls.gov/cew/additional-resources/imputation-methodology.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 11 largest counties in Georgia, fourth quarter 2020

Area	Establishments, fourth quarter 2020 (thousands)	Employment			Average weekly wage ⁽¹⁾			
		December 2020 (thousands)	Percent change, December 2019–20 ⁽²⁾	National ranking by percent change ⁽³⁾	Fourth quarter 2020	National ranking by level ⁽³⁾	Percent change, fourth quarter 2019–20 ⁽²⁾	National ranking by percent change ⁽³⁾
United States ⁽⁴⁾	10,675.8	140,881.3	-6.1	--	\$1,339	--	13.0	--
Georgia.....	319.7	4,405.9	-4.0	--	1,208	23	10.9	42
Bibb	4.6	80.2	-4.8	120	980	331	10.5	266
Chatham	9.0	157.7	-5.0	127	1,043	297	9.0	319
Clayton	4.5	113.4	-10.1	330	1,169	195	6.9	341
Cobb	24.6	365.4	-4.0	83	1,357	85	13.3	127
DeKalb	20.0	291.9	-5.2	138	1,285	118	10.0	291
Forsyth	6.6	76.2	-2.9	54	1,135	219	8.3	327
Fulton	49.7	858.5	-6.7	212	1,707	18	12.7	161
Gwinnett	28.4	352.8	-4.7	114	1,204	169	10.2	282
Hall	5.0	90.2	-2.0	25	1,157	204	12.5	174
Muscogee	4.8	91.9	-4.7	114	967	337	10.9	255
Richmond	4.8	102.2	-2.8	49	1,047	292	11.1	242

Footnotes:

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

(2) Percent changes were computed from 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 2020

Area	Employment December 2020	Average weekly wage(1)
United States(2)	140,881,253	\$1,339
Georgia	4,405,924	1,208
Appling	6,755	1,068
Atkinson	2,329	807
Bacon	3,608	832
Baker	445	731
Baldwin	14,848	746
Banks	4,203	750
Barrow	20,420	933
Bartow	40,760	977
Ben Hill	5,341	756
Berrien	3,599	748
Bibb	80,213	980
Bleckley	2,516	723
Brantley	2,608	767
Brooks	3,265	838
Bryan	9,003	824
Bulloch	25,584	824
Burke	13,916	1,851
Butts	7,229	874
Calhoun	1,097	724
Camden	14,491	976
Candler	3,185	665
Carroll	41,097	984
Catoosa	15,220	814
Charlton	1,946	846
Chatham	157,697	1,043
Chattahoochee	2,314	989
Chattooga	4,958	737
Cherokee	66,737	975
Clarke	67,465	1,049
Clay	672	680
Clayton	113,417	1,169
Clinch	2,381	819
Cobb	365,402	1,357
Coffee	17,119	798
Colquitt	14,836	820
Columbia	36,668	900
Cook	4,327	766
Coweta	41,329	937
Crawford	1,215	709
Crisp	8,353	809
Dade	3,851	783
Dawson	9,083	749
Decatur	8,066	804
De Kalb	291,852	1,285
Dodge	4,679	683
Dooly	3,263	825
Dougherty	46,272	954
Douglas	43,139	949
Early	3,996	989
Echols	673	823
Effingham	10,700	917
Elbert	5,604	815
Emanuel	6,793	822
Evans	4,584	682
Fannin	6,359	772

Note: See footnotes at end of table.

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

Area	Employment December 2020	Average weekly wage(1)
Fayette	44,916	1,014
Floyd.....	38,516	960
Forsyth	76,168	1,135
Franklin.....	8,027	790
Fulton	858,525	1,707
Gilmer	6,989	721
Glascocock.....	401	634
Glynn	36,734	969
Gordon	23,397	965
Grady.....	6,015	854
Greene	6,187	886
Gwinnett	352,835	1,204
Habersham.....	13,180	834
Hall	90,226	1,157
Hancock	1,372	749
Haralson	7,339	915
Harris	5,281	822
Hart.....	6,527	808
Heard.....	2,065	1,028
Henry	68,994	895
Houston	62,412	1,033
Irwin	1,981	798
Jackson	35,983	832
Jasper.....	2,305	771
Jeff Davis.....	4,206	792
Jefferson.....	4,704	868
Jenkins	1,418	738
Johnson.....	1,399	688
Jones	3,975	842
Lamar	3,674	866
Lanier	1,347	712
Laurens	18,996	889
Lee	6,923	825
Liberty.....	18,291	937
Lincoln	1,298	726
Long	1,054	690
Lowndes	48,787	842
Lumpkin.....	7,368	843
McDuffie.....	6,809	823
McIntosh.....	1,616	717
Macon.....	2,691	894
Madison.....	3,560	740
Marion	1,113	684
Meriwether.....	4,283	841
Miller.....	1,713	919
Mitchell	6,493	786
Monroe	7,575	852
Montgomery	1,679	626
Morgan	7,728	861
Murray	7,569	830
Muscogee.....	91,865	967
Newton	26,274	964
Oconee.....	13,468	1,017
Oglethorpe.....	1,813	793
Paulding	25,872	842
Peach	9,817	845

Note: See footnotes at end of table.

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

Area	Employment December 2020	Average weekly wage ⁽¹⁾
Pickens	7,584	1,047
Pierce	4,298	757
Pike	3,020	815
Polk	10,996	856
Pulaski	2,655	849
Putnam	5,711	805
Quitman	335	679
Rabun	5,210	724
Randolph	1,707	784
Richmond	102,161	1,047
Rockdale	32,556	1,086
Schley	981	766
Screven	2,970	721
Seminole	2,323	912
Spalding	22,026	836
Stephens	8,313	870
Stewart	1,434	991
Sumter	10,210	848
Talbot	713	799
Taliaferro	191	684
Tattnall	5,650	834
Taylor	1,480	902
Telfair	2,228	700
Terrell	1,779	845
Thomas	19,718	989
Tift	20,941	901
Toombs	11,925	770
Towns	3,310	744
Treutlen	1,031	747
Troup	38,773	995
Turner	1,895	771
Twiggs	1,815	811
Union	6,975	829
Upson	6,467	825
Walker	13,364	821
Walton	23,209	1,000
Ware	15,131	768
Warren	1,434	918
Washington	6,034	842
Wayne	8,112	929
Webster	523	777
Wheeler	1,032	787
White	8,892	739
Whitfield	54,760	974
Wilcox	1,099	736
Wilkes	2,495	807
Wilkinson	3,528	873
Worth	2,833	781

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 2020

State	Establishments, fourth quarter 2020 (thousands)	Employment		Average weekly wage ⁽¹⁾			
		December 2020 (thousands)	Percent change, December 2019–20	Fourth quarter 2020	National ranking by level	Percent change, fourth quarter 2019–20	National ranking by percent change
United States ⁽²⁾	10,675.8	140,881.3	-6.1	\$1,339	--	13.0	--
Alabama	134.6	1,951.2	-2.9	1,096	35	11.4	36
Alaska	23.1	290.1	-6.4	1,260	17	10.6	44
Arizona	173.9	2,908.7	-3.3	1,214	22	14.6	9
Arkansas	94.6	1,194.8	-3.2	999	49	11.4	36
California	1,660.2	16,380.1	-8.3	1,724	3	18.5	1
Colorado	219.6	2,613.7	-5.7	1,378	10	12.3	25
Connecticut	126.8	1,578.4	-6.5	1,551	6	12.2	27
Delaware	35.1	432.9	-5.2	1,262	16	11.3	38
District of Columbia	43.8	713.0	-8.9	2,293	1	15.2	6
Florida	765.4	8,642.8	-5.0	1,180	24	13.1	17
Georgia	319.7	4,405.9	-4.0	1,208	23	10.9	42
Hawaii	47.3	561.1	-16.1	1,219	21	16.0	4
Idaho	71.8	763.5	0.8	1,034	47	12.8	21
Illinois	386.3	5,573.8	-7.8	1,378	10	13.0	18
Indiana	173.1	2,985.1	-4.0	1,076	39	11.2	39
Iowa	105.6	1,494.3	-4.3	1,099	34	11.6	32
Kansas	89.9	1,346.9	-4.5	1,070	40	11.5	34
Kentucky	130.4	1,839.6	-4.8	1,057	42	10.8	43
Louisiana	140.8	1,796.9	-7.0	1,078	38	8.6	48
Maine	55.4	594.3	-4.3	1,092	36	14.5	10
Maryland	174.5	2,546.1	-6.7	1,445	8	13.6	16
Massachusetts	266.7	3,365.8	-8.3	1,766	2	17.0	3
Michigan	265.3	3,998.2	-8.9	1,257	19	12.8	21
Minnesota	186.4	2,684.1	-7.9	1,322	13	12.3	25
Mississippi	76.1	1,119.1	-2.4	901	51	10.4	45
Missouri	221.5	2,724.4	-4.3	1,127	33	11.6	32
Montana	54.6	467.4	-1.4	1,035	45	12.7	23
Nebraska	72.5	962.7	-2.9	1,079	37	11.5	34
Nevada	90.2	1,283.1	-10.7	1,178	25	14.4	11
New Hampshire	57.1	637.3	-5.2	1,406	9	17.9	2
New Jersey	291.0	3,860.5	-7.2	1,517	7	13.9	15
New Mexico	64.8	767.1	-9.5	1,052	43	11.8	29
New York	662.4	8,693.4	-10.3	1,712	4	14.2	13
North Carolina	301.7	4,431.0	-2.7	1,152	29	11.2	39
North Dakota	32.6	394.4	-7.1	1,136	31	4.7	50
Ohio	307.3	5,199.9	-5.1	1,161	27	12.0	28
Oklahoma	113.6	1,569.1	-4.4	1,013	48	7.3	49
Oregon	167.3	1,824.3	-7.5	1,256	20	14.2	13
Pennsylvania	370.5	5,549.4	-7.4	1,287	15	12.6	24
Rhode Island	40.7	449.6	-8.3	1,259	18	14.7	7
South Carolina	149.2	2,074.4	-3.5	1,035	45	11.1	41
South Dakota	35.5	422.8	-1.9	1,048	44	14.4	11
Tennessee	176.2	3,002.5	-2.7	1,172	26	11.7	30
Texas	743.1	12,251.1	-4.3	1,294	14	9.0	47
Utah	117.9	1,557.8	0.6	1,154	28	12.9	20
Vermont	26.6	286.1	-8.9	1,133	32	14.7	7
Virginia	289.8	3,796.1	-4.7	1,360	12	13.0	18
Washington	259.7	3,219.7	-6.8	1,589	5	16.0	4
West Virginia	51.9	654.1	-5.3	997	50	10.3	46
Wisconsin	184.2	2,762.5	-4.8	1,140	30	11.7	30
Wyoming	27.7	260.2	-5.3	1,061	41	4.6	51
Puerto Rico	46.0	873.8	-4.0	621	(3)	8.0	(3)

Note: See footnotes at end of table.

Table 3. Covered employment and wages by state, fourth quarter 2020 - Continued

State	Establishments, fourth quarter 2020 (thousands)	Employment		Average weekly wage ⁽¹⁾			
		December 2020 (thousands)	Percent change, December 2019–20	Fourth quarter 2020	National ranking by level	Percent change, fourth quarter 2019–20	National ranking by percent change
Virgin Islands.....	3.5	35.3	-11.5	1,057	(3)	-1.3	(3)

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 Georgia, fourth quarter 2020

