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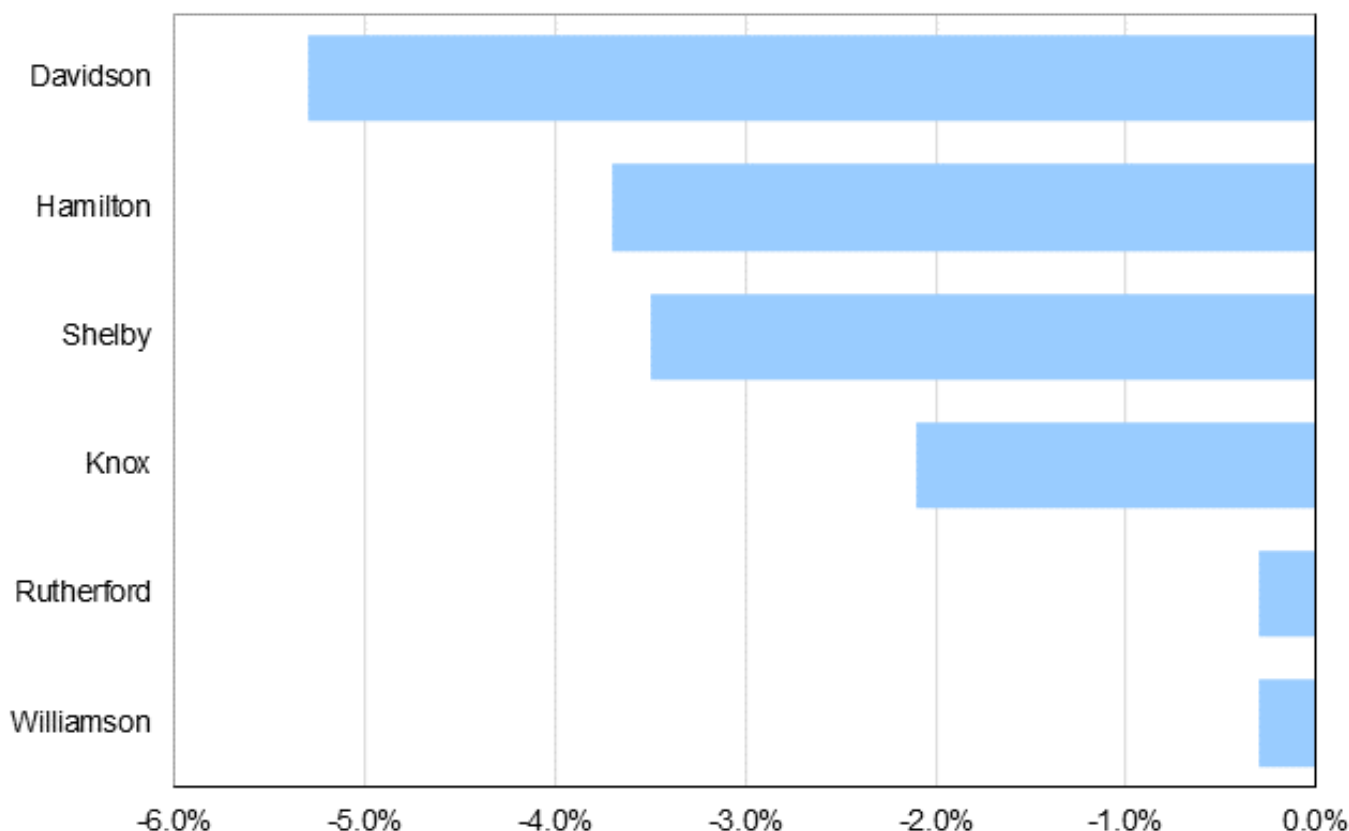
Technical information: (404) 893-4222 BLSInfoAtlanta@bls.gov www.bls.gov/regions/southeast

Media contact: (404) 893-4220

County Employment and Wages in Tennessee — First Quarter 2021

Employment fell in Tennessee's six largest counties from March 2020 to March 2021, the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics reported today. (Large counties are those with annual average employment levels of 75,000 or more in 2020.) Regional Commissioner Janet S. Rankin noted that Davidson County had the largest over-the-year decrease in employment at 5.3 percent. (See [chart 1](#) and [table 1](#).)

Chart 1. Over-the-year percent change in covered employment among the largest counties in Tennessee, March 2021



Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics.

National employment decreased 4.5 percent over the year, with 324 of the 343 largest U.S. counties reporting declines. Calcasieu, LA, had the largest over-the-year percentage decrease in employment with a loss of 14.9 percent. Utah, UT, experienced the largest over-the-year percentage increase in employment with a gain of 6.1 percent.

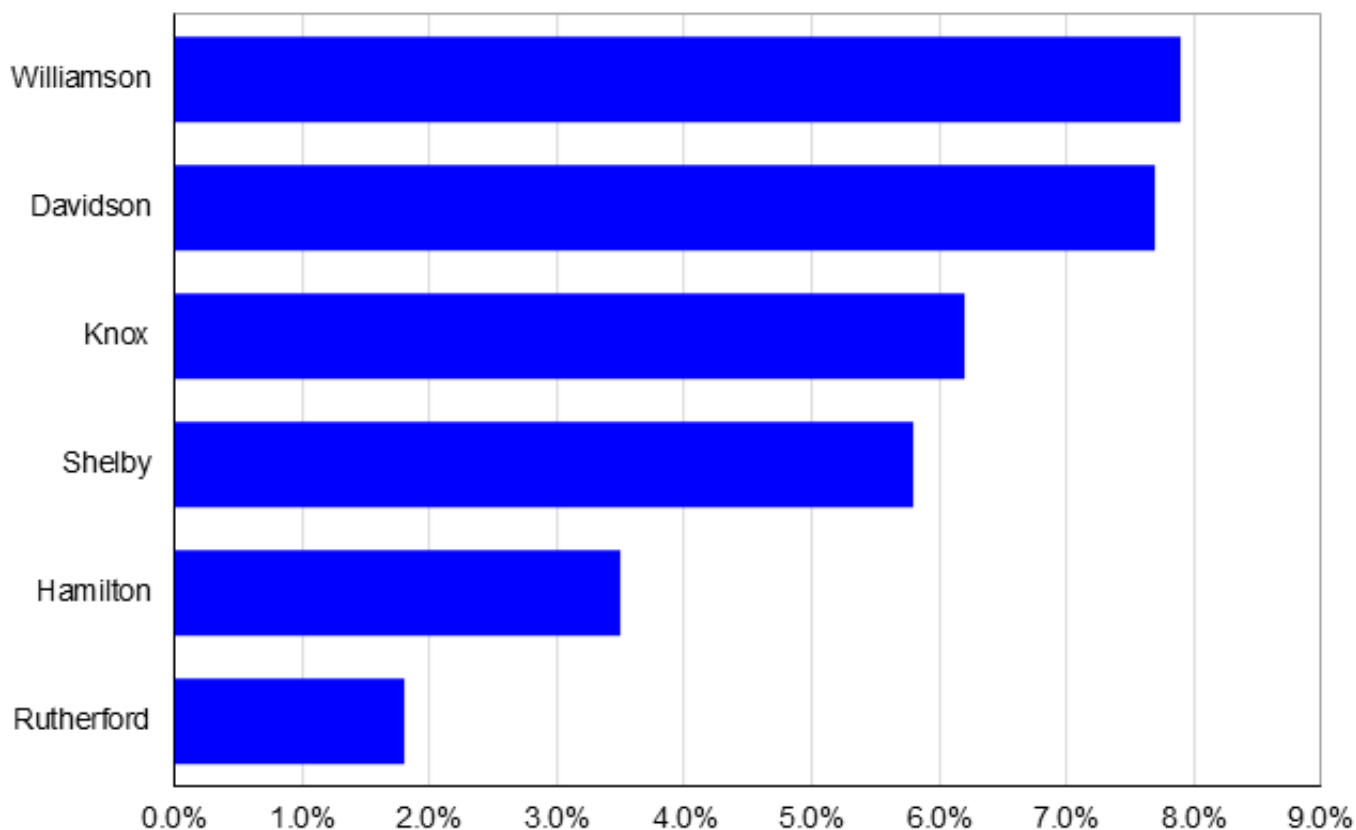
Among the six largest counties in Tennessee, employment was highest in Davidson County (484,600) in March 2021. Within Davidson County’s private industry, health care and social assistance accounted for the largest employment. Together, the six largest Tennessee counties accounted for 56.3 percent of total employment within the state. Nationwide, the 343 largest counties made up 72.3 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 2021. (See [table 2.](#))

Large county wage changes

All six large Tennessee counties reported average weekly wage gains from the first quarter of 2020 to the first quarter of 2021. (See [chart 2.](#)) Four counties had rates of wage gains that were above the national rate of 5.6 percent. Williamson County had the largest gain (+7.9 percent), followed by Davidson County (+7.7 percent).

Chart 2. Over-the-year percent change in covered average weekly wages among the largest counties in Tennessee, first quarter 2021



Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics.

Among the 343 largest counties in the United States, 312 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 resulted in higher average weekly wages for the industry and the nation. San Francisco, CA, had the largest percentage wage increase (+33.9 percent). Clayton, GA, had the largest over-the-year percentage decrease (-14.2 percent).

Large county average weekly wages

Weekly wages in 2 of the 6 largest counties in Tennessee were above the national average of \$1,289 in the first quarter of 2021. Average weekly wages in each of these counties ranked among the top 100 nationwide: Williamson (\$1,562, 37th) and Davidson (\$1,378, 61st).

Among the largest U.S. counties, 84 reported average weekly wages above the U.S. average in the first quarter of 2021. New York, NY, had the highest average weekly wage at \$3,967. Average weekly wages were below the national average in the remaining 259 counties. At \$685 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 (\$1,403) reported an average weekly wage above the national average of \$1,289. Hancock County (\$535) reported the lowest average weekly wage in the state.

When all 95 counties in Tennessee were considered, 22 reported average weekly wages of less than \$700, 38 registered wages from \$700 to \$799, 18 had wages from \$800 to \$899, 9 had wages from \$900 to \$999, and 8 had average weekly wages of \$1,000 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. This publication is typically published in September of the following year of the reference period or shortly after the QCEW first quarter full data update. The *Employment and Wages Annual Averages Online* is available at www.bls.gov/cew/publications/employment-and-wages-annual-averages/.

The County Employment and Wages release for second quarter 2021 is scheduled to be released on Wednesday, November 17, 2021, at 10:00 a.m. (ET). The County Employment and Wages full data update for second quarter 2021 is scheduled to be released on Wednesday, December 1, 2021, at 10:00 a.m. (ET).

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 2021

Area	Establishments, first quarter 2021 (thousands)	Employment			Average weekly wage ⁽¹⁾			
		March 2021 (thousands)	Percent change, March 2020–21 ⁽²⁾	National ranking by percent change ⁽³⁾	First quarter 2021	National ranking by level ⁽³⁾	Percent change, first quarter 2020–21 ⁽²⁾	National ranking by percent change ⁽³⁾
United States ⁽⁴⁾	10,755.4	140,455.8	-4.5	--	\$1,289	--	5.6	--
Tennessee	180.2	2,968.7	-2.1	--	1,077	28	5.0	14
Davidson	27.2	484.6	-5.3	198	1,378	61	7.7	43
Hamilton	11.1	199.8	-3.7	111	1,067	191	3.5	208
Knox	14.0	235.7	-2.1	49	1,049	205	6.2	81
Rutherford	6.7	133.5	-0.3	14	968	265	1.8	279
Shelby	22.2	477.3	-3.5	100	1,181	129	5.8	91
Williamson	10.8	139.7	-0.3	14	1,562	37	7.9	41

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 Tennessee, first quarter 2021

Area	Employment March 2021	Average weekly wage(1)
United States(2)	140,455,819	\$1,289
Tennessee	2,968,669	1,077
Anderson	40,265	1,196
Bedford	16,099	778
Benton	4,068	719
Bledsoe	2,109	721
Blount	50,052	955
Bradley	42,652	854
Campbell	9,123	682
Cannon	2,421	688
Carroll	6,228	659
Carter	11,549	701
Cheatham	8,955	924
Chester	3,837	695
Claiborne	8,858	714
Clay	1,292	591
Cocke	7,264	708
Coffee	25,396	898
Crockett	3,680	872
Cumberland	16,954	694
Davidson	484,578	1,378
Decatur	3,118	741
De Kalb	5,657	740
Dickson	17,771	766
Dyer	14,990	840
Fayette	8,117	905
Fentress	5,162	606
Franklin	10,836	773
Gibson	14,199	743
Giles	9,620	775
Grainger	4,026	793
Greene	24,253	766
Grundy	2,093	573
Hamblen	31,721	792
Hamilton	199,750	1,067
Hancock	981	535
Hardeman	6,381	763
Hardin	7,835	844
Hawkins	11,972	824
Haywood	4,898	838
Henderson	7,768	798
Henry	11,540	732
Hickman	3,897	749
Houston	1,434	620
Humphreys	5,606	940
Jackson	1,458	701
Jefferson	13,455	804
Johnson	4,415	763
Knox	235,705	1,049
Lake	1,516	696
Lauderdale	6,736	784
Lawrence	10,947	725
Lewis	2,959	608
Lincoln	9,107	742
Loudon	17,119	872
McMinn	18,164	843
McNairy	5,128	694

Note: See footnotes at end of table.

Table 2. Covered employment and wages in the United States and all counties in Tennessee, first quarter 2021 - Continued

Area	Employment March 2021	Average weekly wage ⁽¹⁾
Macon.....	4,879	666
Madison.....	58,283	864
Marion	7,619	764
Marshall.....	9,380	811
Maury	36,245	984
Meigs.....	2,186	818
Monroe	14,456	762
Montgomery	56,815	783
Moore	2,229	876
Morgan	3,084	705
Obion.....	10,984	733
Overton.....	5,005	716
Perry.....	1,575	609
Pickett.....	931	574
Polk	2,081	673
Putnam	38,020	762
Rhea	10,905	919
Roane.....	19,432	1,403
Robertson.....	21,782	798
Rutherford	133,547	968
Scott	5,397	605
Sequatchie	3,116	670
Sevier	46,791	640
Shelby	477,270	1,181
Smith	5,134	801
Stewart	2,778	997
Sullivan.....	66,386	1,060
Sumner.....	57,224	878
Tipton.....	12,103	755
Trousdale.....	1,851	782
Unicoi	4,788	945
Union	2,459	721
Van Buren.....	751	685
Warren.....	12,499	769
Washington.....	61,329	852
Wayne	3,729	723
Weakley.....	10,910	694
White	6,917	753
Williamson	139,694	1,562
Wilson.....	53,542	849

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 2021

State	Establishments, first quarter 2021 (thousands)	Employment		Average weekly wage ⁽¹⁾			
		March 2021 (thousands)	Percent change, March 2020–21	First quarter 2021	National ranking by level	Percent change, first quarter 2020–21	National ranking by percent change
United States ⁽²⁾	10,755.4	140,455.8	-4.5	\$1,289	--	5.6	--
Alabama	135.9	1,924.3	-3.0	996	37	2.5	40
Alaska	23.3	295.0	-5.5	1,125	23	-0.6	48
Arizona	176.5	2,894.2	-2.3	1,150	21	4.8	17
Arkansas	95.3	1,194.2	-2.0	957	43	3.7	30
California	1,651.4	16,507.7	-5.9	1,623	4	11.3	1
Colorado	224.7	2,634.7	-3.5	1,335	10	4.1	25
Connecticut	128.3	1,550.5	-5.4	1,575	5	4.7	19
Delaware	35.2	425.6	-4.1	1,264	13	1.6	44
District of Columbia	44.0	708.1	-9.0	2,166	1	8.7	4
Florida	780.8	8,701.9	-3.1	1,104	24	5.1	13
Georgia.....	329.2	4,393.8	-2.6	1,198	17	3.6	33
Hawaii.....	48.0	564.4	-14.1	1,091	26	5.7	9
Idaho	74.2	768.6	1.9	906	50	4.9	15
Illinois	390.0	5,559.6	-5.5	1,387	8	6.7	7
Indiana.....	176.2	2,956.4	-2.5	1,026	34	3.3	37
Iowa	105.1	1,473.6	-3.3	1,004	35	2.6	39
Kansas	90.4	1,335.4	-3.3	986	39	1.9	43
Kentucky.....	130.7	1,835.2	-2.5	965	41	2.3	42
Louisiana	141.5	1,787.6	-5.9	977	40	1.0	46
Maine.....	56.2	585.0	-2.8	1,000	36	4.7	19
Maryland.....	174.3	2,522.1	-5.0	1,386	9	8.5	5
Massachusetts	271.2	3,334.9	-6.6	1,732	3	7.8	6
Michigan	267.5	4,026.6	-5.9	1,155	20	4.8	17
Minnesota	189.7	2,695.4	-5.1	1,290	11	4.6	22
Mississippi	75.3	1,098.4	-2.5	811	51	1.1	45
Missouri	221.8	2,705.5	-3.0	1,055	30	3.7	30
Montana	53.2	465.2	0.1	915	48	5.4	10
Nebraska	73.4	944.7	-2.8	990	38	3.6	33
Nevada	92.8	1,291.5	-8.4	1,080	27	4.7	19
New Hampshire	56.8	631.8	-3.9	1,258	15	5.4	10
New Jersey.....	297.0	3,818.6	-5.5	1,533	7	5.3	12
New Mexico	65.2	774.5	-7.4	958	42	3.8	28
New York	664.6	8,587.8	-8.7	1,869	2	10.4	2
North Carolina	302.7	4,423.2	-1.7	1,137	22	4.1	25
North Dakota	32.3	388.7	-6.1	1,037	32	-0.9	51
Ohio	310.1	5,136.8	-3.9	1,098	25	3.3	37
Oklahoma	114.4	1,549.7	-3.7	939	46	-0.8	50
Oregon	169.4	1,841.9	-5.2	1,172	18	6.4	8
Pennsylvania	369.7	5,531.3	-5.4	1,226	16	4.3	23
Rhode Island	41.2	447.8	-5.6	1,171	19	3.4	35
South Carolina.....	150.1	2,056.2	-2.6	957	43	3.8	28
South Dakota.....	35.6	417.1	-0.9	932	47	3.4	35
Tennessee	180.2	2,968.7	-2.1	1,077	28	5.0	14
Texas	750.1	12,216.7	-3.4	1,261	14	2.4	41
Utah	117.3	1,548.8	1.5	1,065	29	3.7	30
Vermont.....	27.0	283.7	-6.9	1,028	33	4.9	15
Virginia.....	291.3	3,765.8	-3.9	1,285	12	4.2	24
Washington.....	261.2	3,252.0	-5.1	1,540	6	9.1	3
West Virginia	52.3	648.6	-3.8	911	49	0.8	47
Wisconsin	183.1	2,730.0	-3.7	1,047	31	3.9	27
Wyoming	27.8	255.9	-4.6	953	45	-0.6	48
Puerto Rico.....	47.1	856.5	-3.1	562	(3)	2.0	(3)
Virgin Islands.....	3.6	34.7	-14.0	961	(3)	-8.0	(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 2021

