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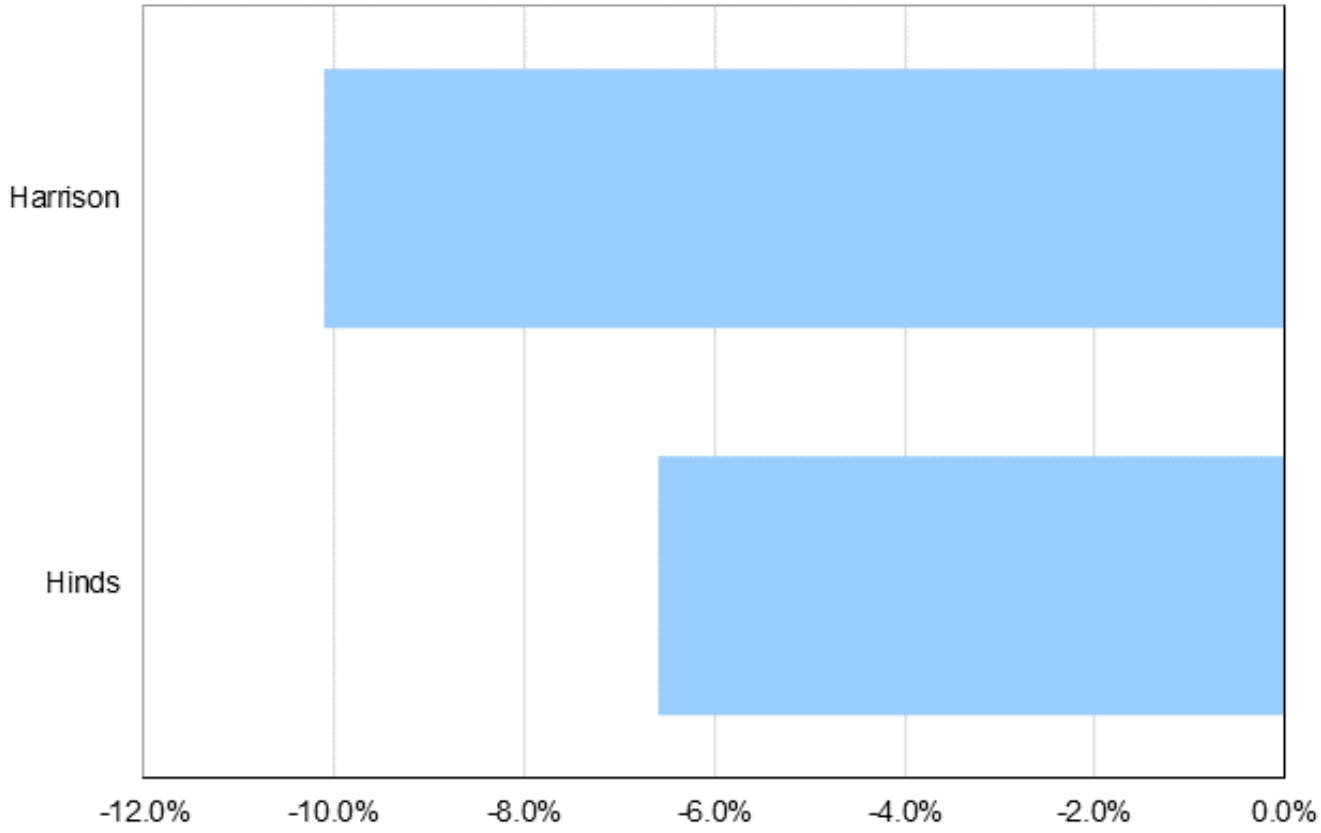
County Employment and Wages in Mississippi — Second Quarter 2020

Employment decreased in Mississippi's two largest counties from June 2019 to June 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 Harrison County had the larger over-the-year decrease in employment with a loss of 10.1 percent. (See chart 1 and table 1.)

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



Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics.

National employment decreased 9.4 percent over the year, with all of the 357 largest U.S. counties reporting declines. Atlantic, NJ, had the largest over-the-year decrease in employment with a loss of 34.2 percent.

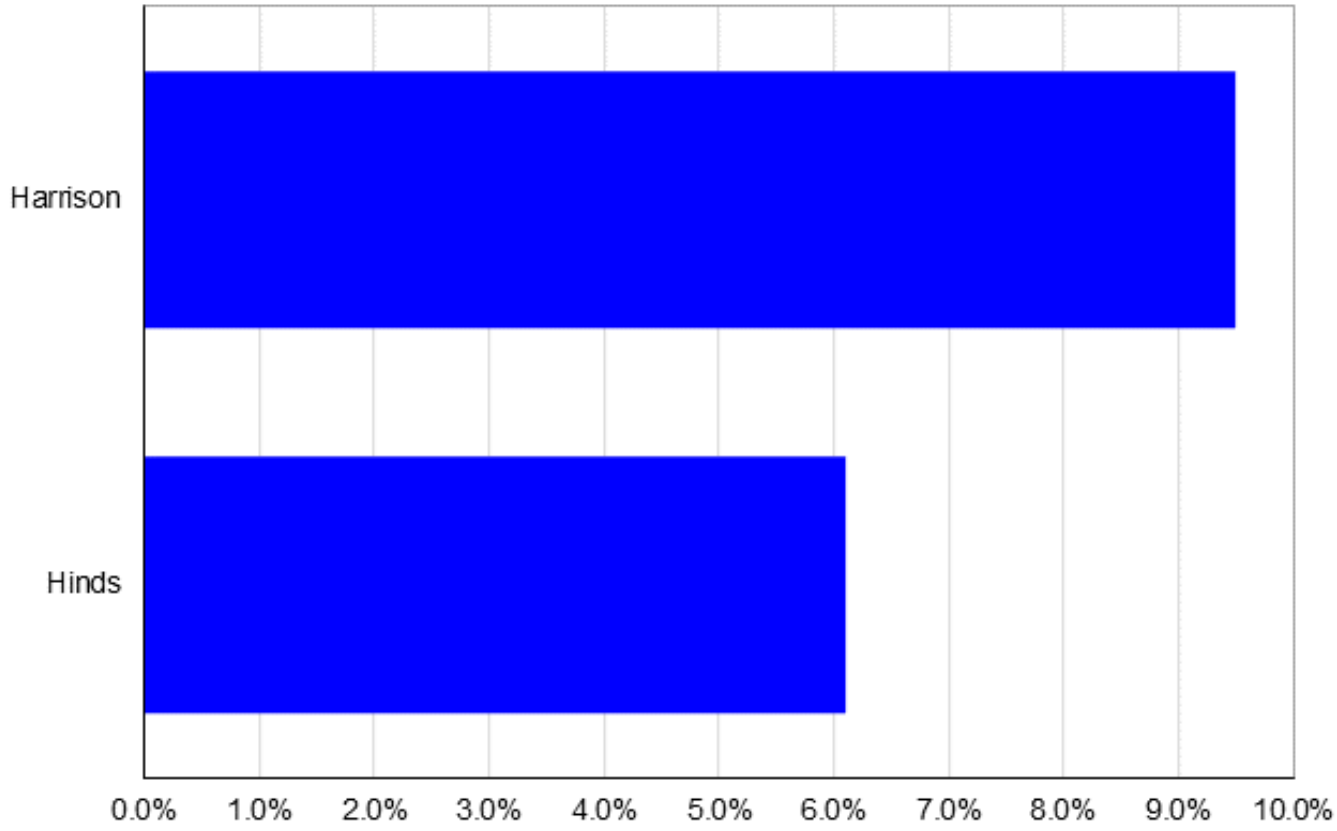
Among Mississippi's two large counties, employment was higher in Hinds (111,600) in June 2020. Together, Hinds and Harrison Counties accounted for 17.9 percent of total employment within the state. Nationwide, the 357 largest counties made up 72.9 percent of total U.S. employment.

Employment and wage levels (but not over-the-year changes) are also available for the 80 counties in Mississippi with employment below 75,000. Wage levels in 79 of the 80 smaller counties were below the national average in the second quarter of 2020. (See table 2.)

Large county wage changes

Average weekly wages increased in both of Mississippi's largest counties from the second quarter of 2019 to the second quarter of 2020. (See chart 2.) Harrison County (+9.5 percent) had a rate of wage gain that was above the national rate of 8.6 percent. (See table 1.)

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



Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics.

Among the 357 largest counties in the United States, 352 had over-the-year wage increases. The increases in average weekly wages largely reflect substantial employment loss among lower-paid industries. Atlantic, NJ, had the largest percentage wage increase (+22.5 percent). Five large counties had wage declines during the period. Ector, TX, had the largest over-the-year percentage decrease (-6.6 percent).

Large county average weekly wages

Average weekly wages in Hinds County ($925) and Harrison County ($818) were below the U.S. average of $1,188 and ranked 305th and 348th nationwide, respectively, in the second quarter of 2020.

Among the largest U.S. counties, 101 reported average weekly wages above the U.S. average in the second quarter of 2020. Santa Clara, CA, had the highest average weekly wage at $3,045. Average weekly wages were at or below the national average in 256 counties. At $698 a week, Cameron, TX, had the lowest average weekly wage.

Average weekly wages in Mississippi's smaller counties

Among the 80 counties in Mississippi—those with employment below 75,000—Claiborne ($1,282) had an average weekly wage above the national average of $1,188. Issaquena County ($441) had the lowest average weekly wage in the state.

When all 82 counties in Mississippi were considered, 4 had average weekly wages below $600, 32 had wages from $600 to $699, 25 had wages from $700 to $799, 17 had wages from $800 to $899, and 4 had wages of $900 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 third quarter 2020 is scheduled to be released on Wednesday, February 24, 2021. The County Employment and Wages full data update for third quarter 2020 is scheduled to be released on Tuesday, March 9, 2021.

Coronavirus (COVID-19) Pandemic Impact on Second Quarter 2020 QCEW Data

Response rate tables for the second quarter of 2020 are available at www.bls.gov/covid19/county-employment-and-wages-covid-19-impact-second-quarter-2020.htm. For more information about the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic on QCEW data, see www.bls.gov/covid19/effects-of-covid-19-pandemic-on-county-employment-and-wages-data.htm.

Special Notice: Imputation Methodology Improvements

QCEW implemented improvements to imputation methodology, effective with second quarter 2020 processing. For more information on QCEW imputation methodology and the impact of the improved methods, see www.bls.gov/cew/additional-resources/imputation-methodology.htm.

Special Notice: **Business Response Survey**

The U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics has developed new data on how U.S. businesses changed their operations and employment since the onset of the novel coronavirus through September 2020. Data for the Business Response Survey to the Coronavirus Pandemic were released on December 7, 2020. For more information, please visit: www.bls.gov/brs/.

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 two largest counties in Mississippi, second quarter 2020

Area	Establishments, second quarter 2020 (thousands)	Employment			Average weekly wage [1]			
		June 2020 (thousands)	Percent change, June 2019–20 [2]	National ranking by percent change [3]	Second quarter 2020	National ranking by level [3]	Percent change, second quarter 2019–20 [2]	National ranking by percent change [3]
United States [4]	10,451.0	135,114.4	-9.4	--	$1,188	--	8.6	--
Mississippi	73.8	1,063.1	-6.4	--	812	51	5.9	42
Harrison	4.6	78.9	-10.1	214	818	348	9.5	116
Hinds	5.6	111.6	-6.6	86	925	305	6.1	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 Mississippi, second quarter 2020

Area	Employment June 2020	Average weekly wage(1)
United States(2)	135,114,354	$1,188
Mississippi	1,063,102	812
Adams	9,038	740
Alcorn	13,109	716
Amite	1,743	787
Attala	4,426	698
Benton	922	688
Bolivar	9,861	748
Calhoun	3,041	619
Carroll	1,082	632
Chickasaw	4,878	698
Choctaw	2,043	860
Claiborne	3,280	1,282
Clarke	2,728	681
Clay	4,994	736
Coahoma	7,033	707
Copiah	6,262	657
Covington	5,715	735
De Soto	62,305	733
Forrest	37,748	803
Franklin	1,483	846
George	4,940	687
Greene	1,836	640
Grenada	9,900	693
Hancock	13,629	1,046
Harrison	78,901	818
Hinds	111,593	925
Holmes	2,981	743
Humphreys	2,123	585
Issaquena	188	441
Itawamba	5,607	707
Jackson	46,874	974
Jasper	4,034	824
Jefferson	894	672
Jefferson Davis	1,411	710
Jones	25,872	765
Kemper	1,615	670
Lafayette	21,747	809
Lamar	18,067	693
Lauderdale	30,319	774
Lawrence	2,405	827
Leake	5,057	649
Lee	50,934	787
Leflore	13,778	699
Lincoln	11,707	767
Lowndes	23,079	867
Madison	49,965	894
Marion	7,758	759
Marshall	8,195	848
Monroe	9,301	791
Montgomery	2,231	606
Neshoba	11,373	658
Newton	4,956	702
Noxubee	2,362	701
Oktibbeha	18,863	801
Panola	9,825	745

Note: See footnotes at end of table.

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

Area	Employment June 2020	Average weekly wage(1)
Pearl River	10,216	694
Perry	2,178	812
Pike	14,454	670
Pontotoc	11,784	657
Prentiss	7,117	681
Quitman	922	600
Rankin	59,542	845
Scott	12,683	721
Sharkey	1,083	587
Simpson	6,908	580
Smith	2,188	853
Stone	4,548	676
Sunflower	7,944	660
Tallahatchie	2,598	705
Tate	5,284	665
Tippah	6,230	685
Tishomingo	6,126	678
Tunica	5,269	656
Union	10,641	838
Walthall	2,315	600
Warren	18,571	895
Washington	15,496	702
Wayne	4,749	696
Webster	1,856	675
Wilkinson	1,514	651
Winston	4,608	713
Yalobusha	2,675	713
Yazoo	6,079	850

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, second quarter 2020

State	Establishments, second quarter 2020 (thousands)	Employment		Average weekly wage [1]			
		June 2020 (thousands)	Percent change, June 2019–20	Second quarter 2020	National ranking by level	Percent change, second quarter 2019–20	National ranking by percent change
United States [2]	10,451.0	135,114.4	-9.4	$1,188	--	8.6	--
Alabama	131.2	1,868.7	-6.4	964	40	5.9	42
Alaska	22.7	296.2	-12.7	1,195	14	11.2	11
Arizona	170.7	2,708.4	-5.1	1,090	22	7.9	30
Arkansas	93.0	1,156.5	-5.5	924	47	7.3	33
California	1,633.1	15,911.2	-10.2	1,468	4	10.9	12
Colorado	216.4	2,545.9	-8.0	1,226	9	8.7	25
Connecticut	123.4	1,483.6	-12.3	1,407	6	11.3	9
Delaware	34.5	416.0	-9.3	1,156	17	9.0	22
District of Columbia	41.7	701.8	-10.0	1,987	1	11.7	7
Florida	738.0	8,113.8	-7.1	1,032	28	6.6	40
Georgia	307.2	4,196.0	-7.0	1,075	23	5.7	44
Hawaii	45.9	524.9	-20.1	1,108	21	12.0	6
Idaho	67.9	748.3	-2.3	882	50	7.6	32
Illinois	379.6	5,391.8	-11.3	1,218	10	8.6	26
Indiana	171.6	2,865.7	-7.3	960	41	5.6	45
Iowa	104.7	1,458.8	-8.0	978	36	8.4	27
Kansas	90.0	1,306.0	-7.0	969	38	7.1	34
Kentucky	125.4	1,754.0	-8.2	970	37	6.4	41
Louisiana	137.8	1,710.1	-11.0	985	34	6.7	39
Maine	53.8	572.5	-10.8	980	35	12.3	5
Maryland	175.8	2,430.3	-11.2	1,305	8	10.7	13
Massachusetts	263.1	3,178.8	-14.3	1,570	2	14.0	1
Michigan	268.5	3,850.9	-12.9	1,114	20	9.5	16
Minnesota	185.4	2,644.6	-10.5	1,200	13	9.0	22
Mississippi	73.8	1,063.1	-6.4	812	51	5.9	42
Missouri	215.9	2,622.2	-7.5	1,015	32	7.1	34
Montana	51.5	459.5	-4.9	919	48	9.1	19
Nebraska	72.9	932.3	-6.0	960	41	8.0	28
Nevada	85.9	1,191.6	-15.4	1,048	26	9.1	19
New Hampshire	54.8	605.4	-10.5	1,215	12	11.5	8
New Jersey	284.1	3,570.3	-14.6	1,376	7	11.3	9
New Mexico	62.4	757.0	-9.4	958	43	7.8	31
New York	652.0	8,142.6	-15.9	1,520	3	12.8	4
North Carolina	296.2	4,205.4	-6.9	1,038	27	6.9	37
North Dakota	32.4	390.1	-9.7	1,061	24	3.3	51
Ohio	302.3	5,049.8	-8.0	1,031	29	7.0	36
Oklahoma	112.1	1,521.3	-6.3	940	44	4.4	49
Oregon	160.9	1,789.3	-9.6	1,143	19	10.3	15
Pennsylvania	362.8	5,314.5	-11.1	1,170	16	9.2	18
Rhode Island	39.5	429.3	-13.2	1,172	15	13.1	3
South Carolina	144.4	1,991.0	-7.2	928	46	6.9	37
South Dakota	34.7	415.9	-5.9	912	49	9.0	22
Tennessee	171.1	2,847.2	-6.6	1,016	31	5.3	46
Texas	727.4	11,807.1	-6.3	1,156	17	5.0	47
Utah	111.6	1,474.8	-3.0	1,017	30	9.1	19
Vermont	26.1	271.8	-13.6	1,055	25	13.6	2
Virginia	283.3	3,635.2	-8.8	1,218	10	9.4	17
Washington	253.8	3,207.1	-8.4	1,424	5	10.6	14
West Virginia	51.3	634.9	-9.4	933	45	4.9	48
Wisconsin	179.2	2,690.0	-8.7	1,014	33	8.0	28
Wyoming	27.2	260.5	-9.6	965	39	3.7	50
Puerto Rico	46.1	798.7	-7.9	556	[3]	4.7	[3]

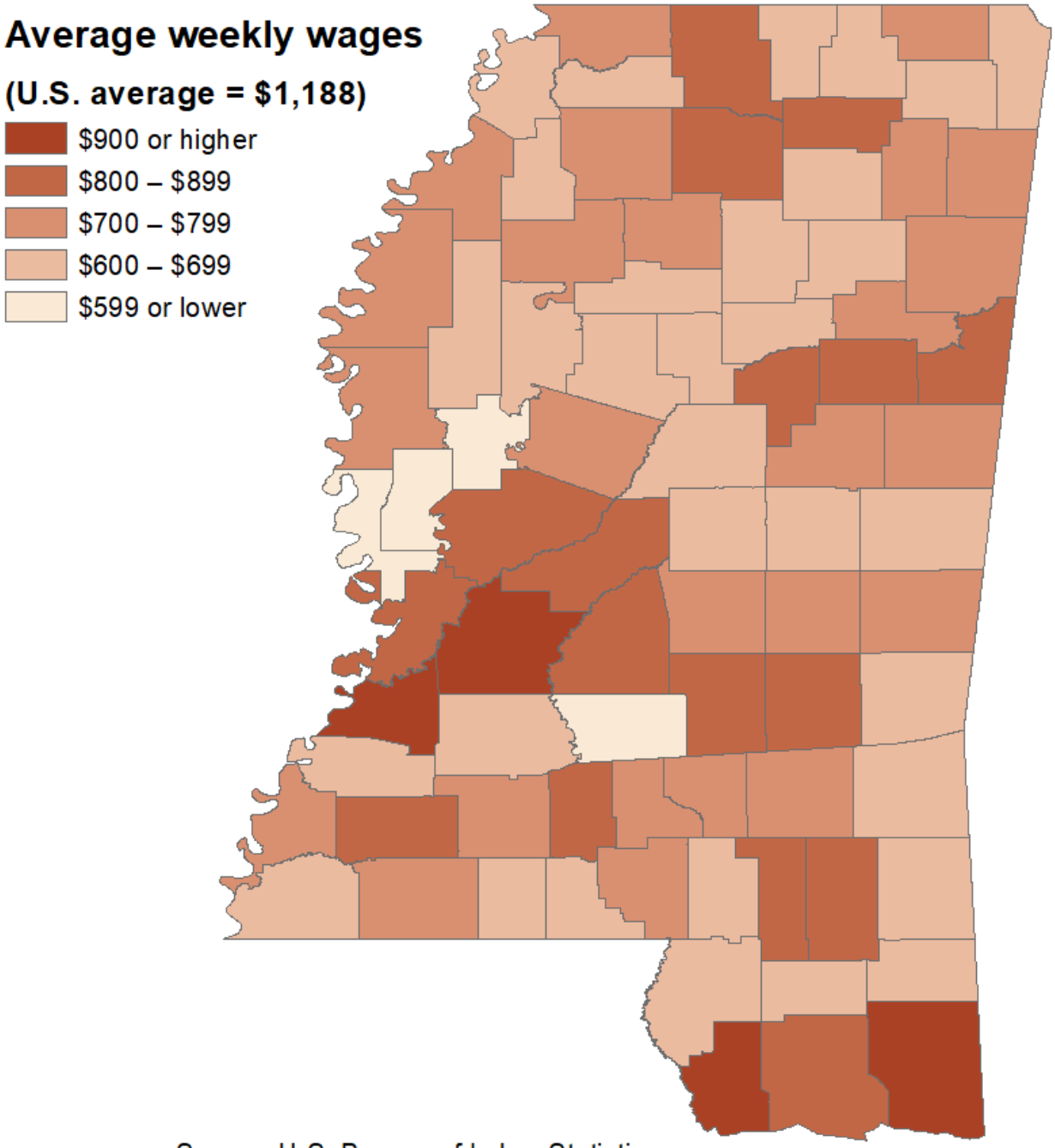
Note: See footnotes at end of table.

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

State	Establishments, second quarter 2020 (thousands)	Employment		Average weekly wage [1]			
		June 2020 (thousands)	Percent change, June 2019–20	Second quarter 2020	National ranking by level	Percent change, second quarter 2019–20	National ranking by percent change
Virgin Islands	3.4	35.4	-7.0	1,016	[3]	6.9	[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 Mississippi, second quarter 2020



Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics.