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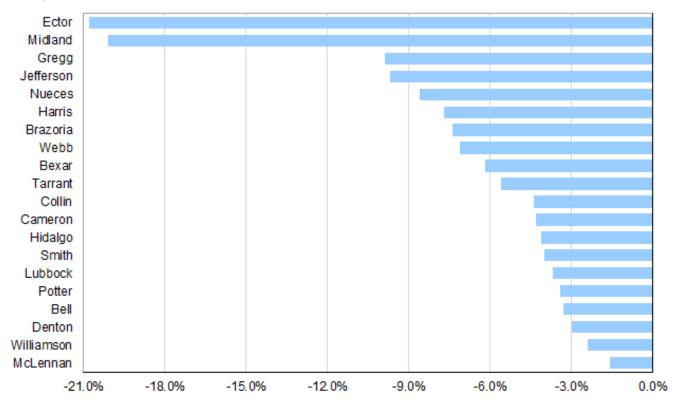
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County Employment and Wages in Texas – Third Quarter 2020

Employment fell in the 27 largest counties in Texas from September 2019 to September 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 Michael Hirniak noted that Ector County (-20.8 percent) and Midland County (-20.1 percent) had the largest over-the-year declines in Texas employment. The Ector and Midland rates of job loss ranked 355th and 353rd, respectively, among the 357 large U.S. counties. (See chart 1 and table 1.)

Chart 1. Over-the-year percent change in covered employment among selected large counties in Texas, September 2020



Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics.

National employment decreased 6.8 percent over the year, with 355 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 35.4 percent. Utah, UT, experienced the largest over-the-year percentage increase in employment with a gain of 1.9 percent.

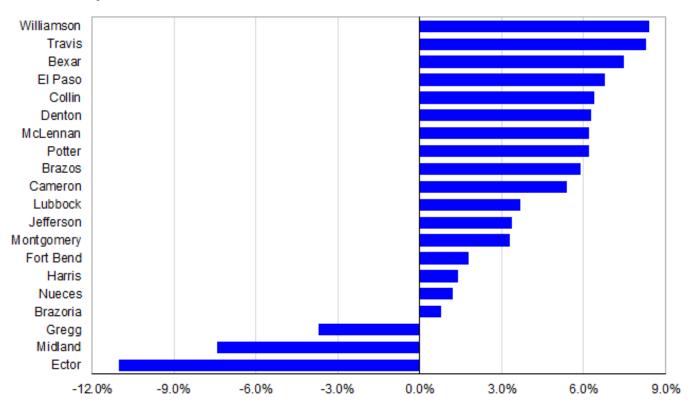
Among the 27 largest counties in Texas, employment was highest in Harris County (2,171,800) in September 2020, followed by Dallas County (1,653,800). Three other counties (Tarrant, Bexar, and Travis) had employment levels exceeding 700,000. Together, the 27 largest Texas counties accounted for 80.7 percent 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 227 counties in Texas with employment below 75,000 in 2019. Wage levels in 218 of the 227 smaller counties were below the national average in the third quarter of 2020. (See table 2.)

Large county wage changes

Among the 27 large Texas counties, 24 reported average weekly wage gains from the third quarter 2019 to the third quarter 2020. (See chart 2.) Three counties had wage gains that were above the national rate of 7.4 percent. Williamson County had the largest gain (+8.4 percent), followed by Travis County (+8.3 percent), and Bexar County (+7.5 percent). Three large Texas counties had loses during the period: Ector (-11.0 percent), Midland (-7.4 percent), and Gregg (-3.7 percent). Over-the-year wage gains among the other 21 large Texas counties ranged from 6.8 percent to 0.8 percent.

Chart 2. Over-the-year percent change in covered average weekly wages among selected large counties in Texas, third quarter 2020



Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics.

Among the 357 largest counties in the United States, 350 had over-the-year wage increases. Nationally, the increases in average weekly wages largely reflect substantial employment loss among lower-paid industries. Employment declines occurring in some higher-paid industries also feature significant wage increases. San Mateo, CA, had the largest percentage wage increase (+23.2 percent). Seven large counties had wage declines during the period. Ector, TX, had the largest over-the-year percentage decrease (-11.0 percent).

Large county average weekly wages

Weekly wages in 6 of the 27 largest counties in Texas were above the national average of \$1,173 in the third quarter of 2020. Average weekly wages in five of these counties ranked among the top 50 nationwide: Travis (\$1,427, 28th), Collin and Midland (each at \$1,358, 38th), Dallas (\$1,355, 40th), and Harris (\$1,336, 43rd). Rounding out the top six Texas counties was Williamson (\$1,236, 76th.)

Texas also had a number of low-paying large counties. Three of the four lowest-paying large counties in the nation were located along the Texas-Mexico border: Cameron (\$697, 357th), Hidalgo (\$713, 356th), and Webb (\$742, 354th). Other Texas counties with low national rankings included El Paso (\$814, 348th), Brazos (\$864, 339th), Gregg (\$882, 329th), and Lubbock (\$892, 325th).

Among the largest U.S. counties, 96 reported average weekly wages above the U.S. average in the third quarter of 2020. San Mateo, CA, had the highest average weekly wage at \$2,922. Average weekly wages were at or below the national average in 261 counties. At \$697 a week, Cameron, TX, had the lowest average weekly wage.

Average weekly wages in smaller Texas counties

Among the 227 smaller counties in Texas—those with employment below 75,000—only Carson (\$1,704) reported an average weekly wage above the national average of \$1,173. Delta County (\$519) reported the lowest average weekly wage in the state.

When all 254 counties in Texas were considered, all but 15 had wages below the national average. Eighteen counties reported average weekly wages under \$700, 116 registered wages from \$700 to \$849, 75 had wages from \$850 to \$999, 27 had wages from \$1,000 to \$1,149, and 18 had wages of \$1,150 or higher. (See chart 3.) The counties with the highest average weekly wages were concentrated around the larger metropolitan areas of Dallas, Houston, and Austin, as well as the smaller areas of Midland, Odessa, and Amarillo. Lower-paying counties tended to be located in the agricultural areas of central Texas, the Texas Panhandle, and along the Texas-Mexico border.

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 fourth quarter 2020 is scheduled to be released on Wednesday, May 19, 2021.

The County Employment and Wages full data update for fourth quarter 2020 is scheduled to be released on Wednesday, June 2, 2021.

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 27 largest counties in Texas, third quarter 2020

			Employment			Average wee	ekly wage (1)	National ranking by percent				
Area	Establishments, third quarter 2020 (thousands)	September 2020 (thousands)	Percent change, September 2019–20	National ranking by percent change (3)	Third quarter 2020	National ranking by level ⁽³⁾	Percent change, third quarter 2019–20	ranking				
United States (4)	10,561.3	138,549.5	-6.8		\$1,173		7.4					
Texas	733.1	11,926.8	-5.5		1,150	15	3.8	47				
Bell	5.9	117.5	-3.3	39	955	271	4.1	321				
Bexar	43.8	824.8	-6.2	169	1,036	194	7.5	156				
Brazoria	6.3	108.8	-7.4	217	1,100	151	0.8	348				
Brazos	4.9	103.6	-4.8	84	864	339	5.9	254				
Cameron	6.6	135.5	-4.3	68	697	357	5.4	276				
Collin	29.0	423.0	-4.4	71	1,358	38	6.4	227				
Dallas	80.6	1,653.8	-4.6	78	1,355	40	4.1	321				
Denton	17.0	257.3	-3.0	35	1,026	203	6.3	233				
Ector	4.2	65.2	-20.8	355	1,094	157	-11.0	357				
El Paso	15.7	299.5	-5.0	94	814	348	6.8	202				
Fort Bend	15.4	187.8	-4.7	82	995	233	1.8	345				
Galveston	6.5	104.7	-5.2	105	1,010	219	5.0	294				
Gregg	4.3	68.9	-9.9	320	882	329	-3.7	352				
Harris	119.8	2,171.8	-7.7	226	1,336	43	1.4	346				
Hidalgo	12.9	253.4	-4.1	58	713	356	4.2	316				
Jefferson	5.8	111.2	-9.7	313	1,096	155	3.4	331				
Lubbock	8.0	136.6	-3.7	48	892	325	3.7	327				
McLennan	5.6	112.1	-1.6	8	947	280	6.2	240				
Midland	6.2	87.5	-20.1	353	1,358	38	-7.4	356				
Montgomery	12.9	184.5	-5.5	125	1,113	142	3.3	332				
Nueces	8.4	149.4	-8.6	276	950	277	1.2	347				
Potter	4.0	74.4	-3.4	43	944	286	6.2	240				
Smith	6.5	101.0	-4.0	55	928	302	4.3	314				
Tarrant	46.6	877.1	-5.6	127	1,116	136	4.3	314				
Travis	45.6	745.6	-4.6	78	1,427	28	8.3	111				
Webb	5.6	95.4	-7.1	208	742	354	3.9	324				
Williamson	12.6	179.0	-2.4	21	1,236	76	8.4	103				

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

Note: Data are preliminary. Covered employment and wages includes workers covered by Unemployment Insurance (UI) and Unemployment Compensation for Federal Employees (UCFE) programs.

⁽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.

Table 2. Covered employment and wages in the United States and all counties in Texas, third quarter 2020

Area	Employment September 2020	Average weekly wage(1)		
nited States(2)	138,549,503	\$1,173		
Texas	11,926,833	1,150		
Anderson	19,620	898		
Andrews	6,759	1,262		
Angelina	33,587	808		
Aransas	5,292	779		
Archer	1,578	756		
Armstrong	414	751		
Atascosa	12,119	904		
Austin	10,573	959		
Bailey	2,486	787		
Bandera	3,292	736		
	18,457			
Bastrop	•	819		
Baylor	1,427	730		
Bee	8,284	729		
Bell	117,495	955		
Bexar	824,842	1,036		
Blanco	3,471	1,006		
Borden	299	806		
Bosque	3,720	833		
Bowie	40,419	827		
Brazoria	108,788	1,100		
Brazos	103,645	864		
Brewster	3,813	867		
Briscoe	323	638		
Brooks	2,490	844		
Brown	14,760	754		
Burleson	4,324	942		
	14,845			
Burnet	·	880		
Caldwell	8,707	779		
Calhoun	12,717	1,422		
Callahan	2,428	847		
Cameron	135,498	697		
Camp	3,736	798		
Carson	5,171	1,704		
Cass	7,510	759		
Castro	2,537	756		
Chambers	16,058	1,201		
Cherokee	14,186	722		
Childress	2,686	713		
Clay	1,517	768		
Cochran	667	798		
Coke	656	897		
Coleman	1,968	655		
Collin	422,961	1,358		
Collingsworth	764	812		
<u> </u>	6,714			
Colorado	•	839		
Comal	57,977	915		
Comanche	3,871	734		
Concho	881	833		
Cooke	13,587	875		
Coryell	15,270	846		
Cottle	457	845		
Crane	1,079	1,030		
Crockett	1,320	822		
Crosby	1,192	714		

Note: See footnotes at end of table.

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

Area	Employment September 2020	Average weekly wage(1)	
Culberson	1,295	1,132	
Dallam	4,364	909	
Dallas	1,653,775	1,355	
Dawson	4,007	793	
De Witt	7,093	823	
Deaf Smith	7,836	885	
Delta	1,015	519	
Denton	257,341	1,026	
Dickens	440	715	
Dimmit	5,225	1,010	
Donley	857	684	
Duval	3,196	713	
Eastland	6,462	875	
	65,166	1,094	
Ector	·	*	
Edwards	683	985	
El Paso	299,513	814	
Ellis	52,456	907	
Erath	15,809	747	
Falls	3,040	771	
Fannin	8,012	790	
Fayette	8,585	850	
Fisher	789	859	
Floyd	1,500	713	
Foard	364	608	
Fort Bend	187,797	995	
Franklin	3,325	923	
Freestone	4,393	803	
Frio	6,554	919	
Gaines	6,138	965	
Galveston	104,691	1,010	
Garza	1,637	786	
Gillespie	10,493	805	
Glasscock	568	951	
		834	
Goliad	1,254		
Gonzales	7,323	852	
Gray	6,972	940	
Grayson	46,616	881	
Gregg	68,921	882	
Grimes	6,868	989	
Guadalupe	41,897	889	
Hale	11,074	779	
Hall	769	584	
Hamilton	2,694	761	
Hansford	1,932	863	
Hardeman	1,274	747	
Hardin	12,653	868	
Harris	2,171,804	1,336	
Harrison	21,995	939	
Hartley	2,650	832	
Haskell	1,915	732	
	71,489	856	
Hays	I		
Hemphill	1,648	999	
Henderson	17,593	753	
Hidalgo	253,447	713	
Hill	9,692	847	

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

Area	Employment September 2020	Average weekly wage(1)	
Hockley	8,187	960	
Hood	15,322	82	
Hopkins	12,693	785	
Houston	6,676	993	
Howard	12,043	970	
Hudspeth	1,441	1,159	
Hunt	27,386	92	
Hutchinson	7,698	1,159	
Irion	800	1,01	
Jack	2,348	97	
Jackson	5,618	87	
Jasper	9,033	79	
Jeff Davis	803	78	
Jefferson	111,232	1,09	
Jim Hogg	1,584	77	
Jim Wells	13,416	74	
Johnson	48,566	92	
Jones	3,019	77	
Karnes	5,868	1,05	
Kaufman	32,342	87	
Kendall	16,453	1,01	
Kenedy	354	1,29	
Kent	279	74	
Kerr	17,346	86	
Kimble	1,212	69	
King	161	83	
Kinney	947	91	
Kleberg	11,292	78	
_	1,075	83	
Knox	2,675		
La Salle	·	1,07 84	
Lamar	21,099		
Lamb	3,973	83	
Lampasas	4,590	73	
Lavaca	5,247	80	
Lee	6,696	99	
Leon	4,700	99	
Liberty	17,405	87	
Limestone	7,447	82	
Lipscomb	1,254	96	
Live Oak	3,469	1,09	
Llano	4,649	78	
Loving	144	1,20	
Lubbock	136,585	89	
Lynn	1,446	93	
Madison	4,129	79	
Marion	1,973	65	
Martin	1,990	1,01	
Mason	999	68	
Matagorda	9,989	1,02	
Maverick	17,028	68	
McCulloch	2,371	74	
McLennan	112,140	94	
McMullen	454	1,06	
Medina	10,040	76	
Menard	440	54	

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

Area	Employment September 2020	Average weekly wage(1)	
Midland	87,473	1,358	
Milam	5,173	795	
Mills	1,310	712	
Mitchell	1,926	787	
Montague	4,488	736	
Montgomery	184,456	1,113	
Moore	11,127	940	
Morris	3,139	813	
Motley	280	624	
Nacogdoches	21,640	782	
Navarro	16,204	786	
Newton	1,230	774	
Nolan	6,349	869	
Nueces	149,412	950	
Ochiltree	4,035	835	
Oldham	935	883	
Orange	21,155	1,064	
Palo Pinto	7,923	864	
Panola	7,222	855	
Parker	33,227	910	
Parmer	6,037	995	
Pecos	5,695	922	
Polk	11,519	824	
Potter	74,383	944	
Presidio	1,997	845	
Rains	2,041	673	
Randall	32,886	850	
Reagan	1,712	1,252	
Real	761	546	
Red River	2,778	748	
	5,973		
Reeves	2,159	1,165	
Refugio	·	760	
Roberts	263	906	
Robertson	4,264	898	
Rockwall	32,130	885	
Runnels	2,783	754	
Rusk	12,341	832	
Sabine	2,508	751	
San Augustine	1,693	823	
San Jacinto	2,161	720	
San Patricio	18,839	1,001	
San Saba	1,441	714	
Schleicher	657	951	
Scurry	5,564	1,036	
Shackelford	1,136	973	
Shelby	8,398	797	
Sherman	1,049	901	
Smith	101,041	928	
Somervell	3,256	1,145	
Starr	14,340	626	
Stephens	3,151	786	
Sterling	489	834	
Stonewall	481	776	
Sutton	1,361	1,033	
Swisher	1,803	727	

Note: See footnotes at end of table.

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

Area	Employment September 2020	Average weekly wage(1)	
Tarrant	877,059	1,116	
Taylor	61,820	871	
Terrell	281	886	
Terry	3,220	773	
Throckmorton	379	604	
Titus	16,397	768	
Tom Green	45,225	878	
Travis	745,581	1,427	
Trinity	2,243	694	
Tyler	3,993	746	
Upshur	7,139	768	
Upton	1,796	1,380	
Uvalde	9,389	740	
Val Verde	17,797	743	
Van Zandt	11,221	714	
Victoria	35,264	885	
Walker	24,508	835	
Waller	21,042	863	
Ward	4,429	1,084	
Washington	15,165	815	
Webb	95,391	742	
Wharton	15,408	832	
Wheeler	1,892	849	
Wichita	51,299	816	
Wilbarger	5,746	745	
Willacy	3,630	785	
Williamson	179,037	1,236	
Wilson	8,497	794	
Winkler	3,039	1,307	
Wise	19,344	912	
Wood	10,397	755	
Yoakum	2,909	1,093	
Young	6,386	819	
Zapata	2,537	831	
Zavala	2,212	778	

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

Note: Covered employment and wages includes workers covered by Unemployment Insurance (UI) and Unemployment Compensation for Federal Employees (UCFE) programs. Data are preliminary.

⁽²⁾ Totals for the United States do not include data for Puerto Rico or the Virgin Islands.

Table 3. Covered employment and wages by state, third quarter 2020

	Establishments,	Emplo	yment	Average weekly wage (1)			
State	third quarter 2020 (thousands)	September 2020 (thousands)	Percent change, September 2019–20	Third quarter 2020	National ranking by level	Percent change, third quarter 2019–20	National ranking by percent change
Jnited States (2)	10,561.3	138,549.5	-6.8	\$1,173		7.4	
Alabama	132.2	1,902.4	-4.5	978	33	6.4	27
Alaska	22.9	302.6	-10.7	1,165	14	5.4	42
Arizona	174.1	2,797.1	-4.2	1,091	22	7.3	17
Arkansas	93.6	1,180.1	-3.4	892	49	6.1	31
California	1,643.8	16,096.8	-9.2	1,466	4	12.0	1
Colorado	220.1	2,597.2	-5.6	1,235	9	5.6	38
Connecticut	125.4	1,555.6	-7.3	1,328	7	7.4	15
Delaware	34.9	428.8	-5.6	1,150	15	6.8	21
District of Columbia	43.3	713.7	-8.1	1,962	1	6.1	31
Florida	749.1	8,329.7	-5.8	1,029	27	8.0	11
Georgia	313.0	4,282.1	-5.2	1,084	23	5.8	35
Hawaii	46.5	507.5	-22.9	1,114	18	10.3	4
Idaho	70.7	763.7	-0.2	884	50	5.5	41
Illinois	385.9	5,558.5	-7.8	1,199	11	6.8	21
Indiana	172.4	2,941.8	-4.7	961	39	5.3	43
lowa	105.1	1,475.0	-5.2	969	36	6.0	34
Kansas	89.2	1,325.4	-5.0	952	40	6.6	24
Kentucky	128.0	1,807.1	-5.5	935	43	5.8	35
Louisiana	139.5	1,734.6	-9.6	970	35	5.2	45
Maine	54.4	597.3	-5.9	966	37	9.0	g
Maryland	172.4	2,496.6	-7.6	1,277	8	9.5	7
Massachusetts	265.1	3,314.8	-9.4	1,488	2	9.7	6
Michigan	266.9	4,035.9	-7.9	1,096	20	7.5	14
Minnesota	183.1	2,703.3	-7.4	1,178	12	6.4	27
Mississippi	74.9	1,092.4	-4.0	810	51	5.6	38
Missouri	218.8	2,681.7	-5.1	995	32	5.6	38
Montana	53.0	466.9	-2.5	904	48	6.6	24
Nebraska	73.7	949.9	-3.8	964	38	6.4	27
Nevada	87.9	1,251.0	-11.6	1,048	24	7.8	13
New Hampshire		634.2	-5.2	1,171	13	8.9	10
New Jersey		3,778.4	-8.0	1,331	6	9.5	7
New Mexico	63.1	771.9	-8.6	944	41	5.1	46
New York	657.6	8,547.7	-10.8	1,446	5	10.0	5
North Carolina	301.4	4,308.2	-4.4	1,039	26	6.9	20
North Dakota	32.5	398.2	-7.0	1,025	28	-0.3	50
Ohio	305.7	5,136.8	-5.6	1,040	25	6.6	24
Oklahoma	112.4	1,538.5	-5.7	917	46	2.3	48
Oregon		1,837.3	-7.0	1,113	19	7.4	15
Pennsylvania		5,501.0	-7.6	1,139	17	7.0	19
Rhode Island		452.5	-8.0	1,092	21	10.4	3
South Carolina	146.6	2,022.9	-5.2	924	44	6.7	23
South Dakota	35.2	422.3	-2.6	918	45	7.2	18
Tennessee	173.6	2,918.1	-4.6	1,022	29	5.8	35
Texas	733.1	11,926.8	-5.5	1,150	15	3.8	47
Utah	114.3	1,518.2	-1.0	1,015	30	6.1	31
Vermont	26.4	283.9	-8.6	1,013	31	7.9	12
		3,737.0	-5.0	1,201	10	6.4	27
Virginia				•			
Washington		3,266.2	-6.3	1,482	3	11.0	2
West Virginia		649.1	-6.7	913	47	1.8	49
Wisconsin		2,746.6	-5.2	977	34	5.3	43
Wyoming		264.0	-6.8	939	42	-0.4	51
Puerto Rico		831.6	-5.3	547	(3)	3.4	(3)
Virgin Islands	3.4	33.9	-13.0	1,019	(3)	-0.5	(3)

Note: See footnotes at end of table.

- (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 Texas, third quarter 2020

