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County Employment and Wages in Idaho – First Quarter 2019

Idaho's only large county, Ada, had an employment increase of 2.9 percent from March 2018 to March 2019, the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics reported today. (Large counties are those with annual average employment levels of 75,000 or more in 2018.) Assistant Commissioner for Regional Operations Richard Holden noted that the rate of employment growth in Ada County was faster-paced than the national increase of 1.4 percent. (See [table 1.](#))

Employment increased in 298 of the 355 largest U.S. counties from March 2018 to March 2019. Midland, TX, had the largest percentage increase, up 5.8 percent over the year. Bay, FL, had the largest over-the-year percentage decrease in employment with a loss of 5.9 percent.

Employment in Ada County was 248,700 in March 2019, accounting for one-third of the total employment in Idaho. Nationwide, the 355 largest counties made up 73.5 percent of total U.S. employment.

Employment and wage levels (but not over-the-year changes) are also available for the 43 counties in Idaho with employment below 75,000. Average weekly wages were below the national average in 42 of the 43 smaller counties in the first quarter of 2019. (See [table 2.](#))

Large county wage changes

From the first quarter of 2018 to the first quarter of 2019, the average weekly wage in Ada County increased 2.5 percent, ranking it 176th among the 355 largest U.S. counties. Nationally, the average weekly wage increased 2.8 percent. (See [table 1.](#))

Nationally, 325 of the 355 largest counties had over-the-year increases in average weekly wages. San Francisco, CA, had the largest over-the-year wage gain at 10.2 percent from the first quarter of 2018.

Among the largest U.S. counties, 28 experienced over-the-year decreases in average weekly wages. Elkhart, IN, had the largest percentage decrease in average weekly wages with a decline of 7.6 percent

Large county average weekly wages

Ada County's \$967 average weekly wage ranked in the bottom half of the 355 largest U.S. counties. Nationally, the average weekly wage was \$1,184 in the first quarter of 2019.

Nationally, 92 large counties registered average weekly wages above the U.S. average of \$1,184 in the first quarter of 2019. New York, NY, held the top position with an average weekly wage of \$3,153, followed by San Francisco, CA (\$2,759), and Santa Clara, CA (\$2,758).

Among the largest U.S. counties, 263 reported average weekly wages below the national average. The lowest weekly wages were Cameron, TX (\$648), followed by Horry, SC (\$652) and Hidalgo, TX (\$662).

Average weekly wages in Idaho's smaller counties

Among the 43 counties in Idaho with employment below 75,000, only Butte County (\$1,792) had an average weekly wage above the national average of \$1,184. Boise County reported the lowest average weekly wage in the state, averaging \$481 in the first quarter of 2019. (See [table 2](#).)

When all 44 counties in Idaho were considered, 5 reported average weekly wages under \$600, 17 reported wages from \$600 to \$699, 15 had wages from \$700 to \$799, 3 had wages from \$800 to \$899, and 4 had wages at \$900 or above. (See [chart 1](#).)

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 2018 edition of this publication contains selected data produced by Business Employment Dynamics (BED) on job gains and losses, as well as selected data from the first quarter 2019 version of the national news release. Tables and additional content from *Employment and Wages Annual Averages 2018* are now available online at www.bls.gov/cew/publications/employment-and-wages-annual-averages/2018/home.htm.

The County Employment and Wages release for second quarter 2019 is scheduled to be released on Wednesday, November 20, 2019.

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.

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 sensory impaired individuals 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 largest county in Idaho, first quarter 2019

Area	Employment			Average weekly wage ⁽¹⁾			
	March 2019 (thousands)	Percent change, March 2018-19 ⁽²⁾	National ranking by percent change ⁽³⁾	Average weekly wage	National ranking by level ⁽³⁾	Percent change, first quarter 2018-19 ⁽²⁾	National ranking by percent change ⁽³⁾
United States ⁽⁴⁾	146,497.6	1.4	--	\$1,184	--	2.8	--
Idaho	732.3	2.7	--	828	50	2.3	34
Ada, Idaho	248.7	2.9	30	967	216	2.5	176

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 Idaho, first quarter 2019

Area	Employment March 2019	Average Weekly Wage(1)
United States(2)	146,497,599	\$1,184
Idaho	732,325	828
Ada	248,654	967
Adams	889	737
Bannock	33,812	701
Bear Lake	1,631	566
Benewah	3,338	779
Bingham	15,068	686
Blaine	12,689	804
Boise	1,789	481
Bonner	13,979	691
Bonneville	52,311	767
Boundary	3,434	753
Butte	8,039	1,792
Camas	377	952
Canyon	69,607	703
Caribou	3,524	1,039
Cassia	11,169	703
Clark	323	879
Clearwater	2,489	699
Custer	1,250	635
Elmore	6,928	647
Franklin	3,548	585
Fremont	2,726	684
Gem	3,717	645
Gooding	5,660	748
Idaho	4,153	685
Jefferson	6,816	622
Jerome	10,353	731
Kootenai	60,864	762
Latah	13,684	695
Lemhi	2,320	716
Lewis	1,636	602
Lincoln	1,623	716
Madison	15,512	583
Minidoka	8,006	713
Nez Perce	20,682	815
Oneida	1,164	530
Owyhee	3,060	651
Payette	6,323	708
Power	3,223	774
Shoshone	4,539	673
Teton	3,116	695
Twin Falls	39,252	685
Valley	4,641	696
Washington	2,623	624

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 2019

State	Employment		Average weekly wage ⁽¹⁾			
	March 2019 (thousands)	Percent change, March 2018-19	Average weekly wage	National ranking by level	Percent change, first quarter 2018-19	National ranking by percent change
United States ⁽²⁾	146,497.6	1.4	\$1,184	--	2.8	--
Alabama	1,978.0	1.6	944	38	2.5	32
Alaska	312.4	0.3	1,108	18	3.3	9
Arizona	2,895.1	2.5	1,056	22	3.0	21
Arkansas	1,218.5	0.7	896	45	2.2	38
California	17,436.4	1.8	1,401	5	3.8	4
Colorado	2,690.3	1.9	1,231	9	4.8	2
Connecticut	1,650.6	0.0	1,487	4	2.3	34
Delaware	444.1	1.3	1,199	13	-0.1	51
District of Columbia	773.5	0.5	1,921	1	0.2	49
Florida	8,894.3	2.1	1,015	26	2.7	25
Georgia.....	4,488.6	2.1	1,121	17	2.6	28
Hawaii.....	658.1	-0.4	1,006	27	3.4	8
Idaho	732.3	2.7	828	50	2.3	34
Illinois	5,912.0	0.1	1,275	8	2.7	25
Indiana.....	3,059.1	1.2	963	33	0.9	48
Iowa	1,527.1	0.1	942	39	2.3	34
Kansas	1,379.3	0.6	940	40	3.2	12
Kentucky.....	1,882.6	0.6	920	41	2.2	38
Louisiana	1,916.8	-0.1	954	34	2.5	32
Maine.....	599.8	1.2	919	42	3.1	16
Maryland.....	2,670.3	0.9	1,228	10	1.7	45
Massachusetts	3,558.1	1.1	1,561	3	3.5	7
Michigan	4,307.4	0.6	1,078	20	0.1	50
Minnesota	2,840.8	0.5	1,203	12	2.3	34
Mississippi	1,129.8	0.4	779	51	1.8	43
Missouri	2,788.4	0.5	986	31	2.6	28
Montana	458.8	0.9	844	49	3.1	16
Nebraska	965.6	0.1	917	43	2.2	38
Nevada	1,392.2	3.0	992	29	1.5	47
New Hampshire.....	656.2	1.2	1,156	15	3.1	16
New Jersey.....	4,040.2	1.3	1,399	6	1.7	45
New Mexico	825.4	1.3	890	47	3.2	12
New York	9,453.5	1.5	1,639	2	2.6	28
North Carolina	4,458.5	2.0	1,054	23	3.2	12
North Dakota	414.3	1.5	1,021	25	3.3	9
Ohio	5,363.2	0.7	1,035	24	3.0	21
Oklahoma	1,617.0	1.1	953	35	4.3	3
Oregon	1,921.9	1.3	1,060	21	3.3	9
Pennsylvania	5,850.3	1.1	1,146	16	2.8	24
Rhode Island	474.7	0.8	1,104	19	1.8	43
South Carolina.....	2,110.0	2.0	901	44	3.0	21
South Dakota.....	419.0	0.4	865	48	2.7	25
Tennessee	3,004.2	2.0	996	28	1.9	42
Texas	12,455.6	2.2	1,204	11	3.1	16
Utah	1,501.4	3.0	978	32	3.1	16
Vermont.....	309.1	0.4	950	36	3.7	5
Virginia.....	3,896.9	1.2	1,186	14	2.1	41
Washington.....	3,371.1	1.8	1,368	7	4.9	1
West Virginia	687.1	0.3	896	45	3.2	12
Wisconsin	2,838.9	0.1	992	29	2.6	28
Wyoming	269.0	1.9	948	37	3.7	5
Puerto Rico.....	875.8	2.2	553	(3)	-2.1	(3)
Virgin Islands.....	36.6	9.6	966	(3)	-1.0	(3)

Note: See footnotes at end of table.

Footnotes:

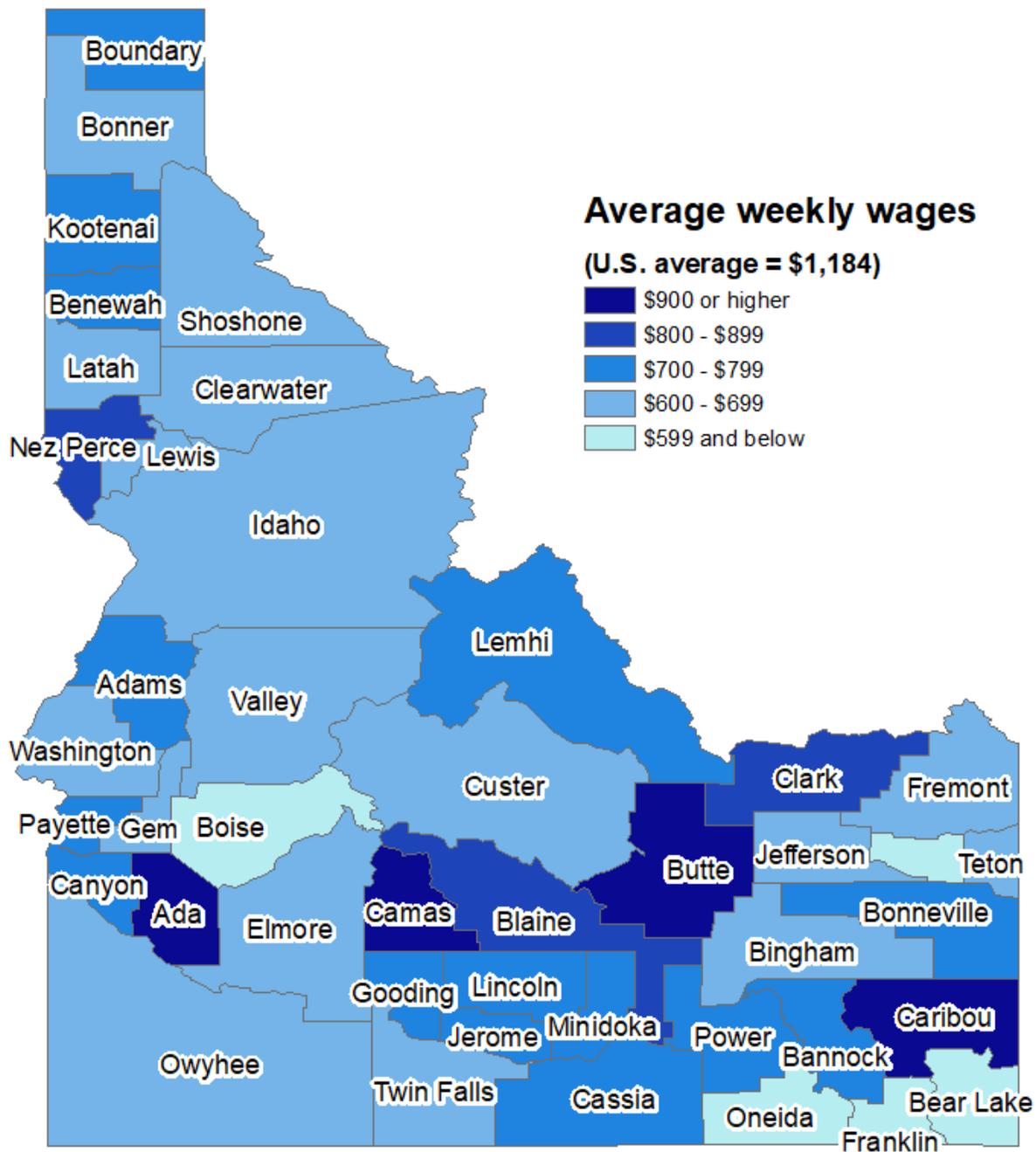
(1) Average weekly wages were calculated using unrounded data.

(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 1. Average weekly wages by county in Idaho, first quarter 2019



Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics.