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WESTERN INFORMATION OFFICE: San Francisco, Calif.

Technical information: (415) 625-2270 BLSinfoSF@bls.gov www.bls.gov/regions/west

Media contact: (415) 625-2270

## **County Employment and Wages in Alaska – Second Quarter 2020**

Employment decreased 10.5 percent in Alaska's only large county, Anchorage Municipality, from June 2019 to June 2020, the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics reported today. (Large counties are defined as those with employment of 75,000 or greater as measured by 2019 annual average employment.) Assistant Commissioner for Regional Operations Richard Holden noted that in June 2020, Anchorage Municipality's employment totaled 133,900 and accounted for 45.2 percent of total employment within the state. (See [table 1.](#))

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.

Employment and wage levels (but not over-the-year changes) are also available for the 29 boroughs in Alaska with employment below 75,000. Wage levels in 23 of the 29 smaller counties were below the national average in the second quarter of 2020. (See [table 2.](#))

### **Large county wage changes**

Anchorage Municipality's 11.1-percent wage gain from the second quarter of 2019 to the second quarter of 2020 was above the national rate of 8.6 percent and ranked 76<sup>th</sup> nationally. 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**

Anchorage Municipality's \$1,262 average weekly wage ranked 72<sup>nd</sup> nationwide in the second quarter of 2020. Among the largest U.S. counties, 101 reported average weekly wages above the U.S. average of \$1,188 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 Alaska's smaller counties**

Alaska additionally consists of 16 smaller boroughs, 12 census areas, and 1 municipality, each of which is considered a county level equivalent. Twenty-four of the 29 counties in Alaska with employment below 75,000 had average weekly wages lower than the national average of \$1,188. The exceptions were North

Slope Borough (\$2,105), Southeast Fairbanks Census Area (\$1,461), Northwest Arctic Borough (\$1,422), Chugach Census Area (\$1,264), and Nome Census Area (\$1,211). The Kusilvak Census Area reported the lowest weekly wage among the smaller counties, averaging \$774. (See [table 2](#).)

When all 30 counties in Alaska were considered, 3 had wages below \$800. Six counties had average weekly wages ranging from \$800 to \$899, 6 had wages from \$900 to \$999, and 15 had wages of \$1,000 or more. (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](http://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 2020 edition of this publication was published in September 2020. Tables and additional content from the 2020 edition of *Employment and Wages Annual Averages Online* are available at [www.bls.gov/cew/publications/employment-and-wages-annual-averages/2019/home.htm](http://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.

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**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](http://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](http://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](http://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/](http://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](http://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 largest county in Alaska, second quarter 2020**

Area	Establishments, second quarter 2020 (thousands)	Employment			Average weekly wage <sup>(1)</sup>			
		June 2020 (thousands)	Percent change, June 2019–20 <sup>(2)</sup>	National ranking by percent change <sup>(3)</sup>	Second quarter 2020	National ranking by level <sup>(3)</sup>	Percent change, second quarter 2019–20 <sup>(2)</sup>	National ranking by percent change <sup>(3)</sup>
United States <sup>(4)</sup> .....	10,451.0	135,114.4	-9.4	--	\$1,188	--	8.6	--
Alaska.....	22.7	296.2	-12.7	--	1,195	14	11.2	11
Anchorage Municipality.....	8.3	133.9	-10.5	226	1,262	72	11.1	76

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 Alaska, second quarter 2020**

Area	Employment June 2020	Average weekly wage(1)
United States(2)	135,114,354	\$1,188
Alaska	296,220	1,195
Aleutian East Borough	2,623	898
Aleutian West Census Area	3,177	1,184
Anchorage Municipality	133,889	1,262
Bethel Census Area	6,656	909
Bristol Bay Borough	2,633	847
Chugach Census Area	3,701	1,264
Copper River Census Area	1,070	1,043
Denali Borough	1,148	1,165
Dillingham Census Area	2,224	1,027
Fairbanks North Star Borough	33,597	1,106
Haines Borough	827	778
Hoonah-Angoon Census Area	728	834
Juneau Borough	14,723	1,187
Kenai Peninsula Borough	18,813	1,111
Ketchikan Gateway Borough	6,305	1,063
Kodiak Island Borough	6,045	911
Kusilvak Census Area	1,579	777
Lake and Peninsula Borough	1,115	778
Mantanuska-Susitna Borough	24,000	944
Nome Census Area	3,634	1,211
North Slope Borough	9,983	2,105
Northwest Arctic Borough	2,769	1,422
Petersburg Census Area	1,308	859
Prince of Wales-Hyder Census Area	2,241	933
Sitka Borough	3,627	1,047
Skagway Municipality	490	917
Southeast Fairbanks Census Area	2,505	1,461
Wrangell City and Borough	787	864
Yakutat Borough	310	990
Yukon-Koyukuk Census Area	2,054	870

## 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 <sup>(1)</sup>			
		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 <sup>(2)</sup> .....	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 <sup>(1)</sup>			
		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 1. Average weekly wages by county in Alaska, second quarter 2020**

Area	Employment June 2020	Average weekly wage
Aleutian East Borough.....	2,623	\$898
Aleutian West Census Area.....	3,177	1,184
Anchorage Borough.....	133,889	1,262
Bethel Census Area.....	6,656	909
Bristol Bay Borough.....	2,633	847
Chugach Census Area.....	3,701	1,264
Copper River Census Area.....	1,070	1,043
Denali Borough.....	1,148	1,165
Dillingham Census Area.....	2,224	1,027
Fairbanks North Star Borough.....	33,597	1,106
Haines Borough.....	827	778
Hoonah-Angoon Census Area.....	728	834
Juneau Borough.....	14,723	1,187
Kenai Peninsula Borough.....	18,813	1,111
Ketchikan Gateway Borough.....	6,305	1,063
Kodiak Island Borough.....	6,045	911
Kusilvak Census Area.....	1,579	777
Lake and Peninsula Borough.....	1,115	778
Mantanuska-Susitna Borough.....	24,000	944
Nome Census Area.....	3,634	1,211
North Slope Borough.....	9,983	2,105
Northwest Arctic Borough.....	2,769	1,422
Petersburg Census Area.....	1,308	859
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Sitka Borough.....	3,627	1,047
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Southeast Fairbanks Census Area.....	2,505	1,461
Wrangell City and Borough.....	787	864
Yakutat Borough.....	310	990
Yukon-Koyukuk Census Area.....	2,054	870