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County Employment and Wages in Oregon – Fourth Quarter 2020

Employment declined in Oregon's seven largest counties from December 2019 to December 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 Chris Rosenlund noted that Multnomah County (-11.0 percent) had the largest over-the-year employment loss among the seven largest counties in the state. (See [table 1.](#))

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

County	Percent change, December 2020
Multnomah.....	-11.0
Clackamas.....	-8.4
Lane	-8.4
Washington.....	-6.7
Jackson	-6.3
Deschutes	-6.0
Marion	-5.6

National employment decreased 6.1 percent over the year, with 352 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 22.8 percent. Utah, UT, experienced the largest over-the-year percentage increase in employment with a gain of 3.8 percent.

Among the largest counties in Oregon, Multnomah had the highest employment (471,400) in December 2020. Within Multnomah County's private industry, health and social services accounted for the largest employment. Together, the seven largest counties accounted for 75.6 percent of Oregon's total employment. Nationwide, the 357 largest counties made up 73.1 percent of total U.S. employment.

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

Large county wage changes

All seven large Oregon counties reported average weekly wage gains from the fourth quarter of 2019 to the fourth quarter of 2020. (See [chart 2.](#)) Five counties had rates of wage gains that were above the national rate of 13.0 percent, ranging from 16.9 percent in Deschutes County to 13.4 percent in Clackamas County. Over-the-year wage gains among Oregon's other two large counties were 12.7 percent in Jackson County and 11.8 percent in Marion County.

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

County	Percent change, fourth quarter 2020
Deschutes	16.9
Washington.....	16.4
Multnomah.....	15.3
Lane	14.8
Clackamas.....	13.4
Jackson	12.7
Marion	11.8

Among the 357 largest counties in the United States, 356 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 results in higher average weekly wages for the industry and the nation. San Francisco, CA, had the largest percentage wage increase (+44.3 percent). Ector, TX, had the only over-the-year percentage decrease (-7.5 percent).

Large county average weekly wages

Weekly wages in 2 of the state's 7 large counties were above the national average of \$1,339 in the fourth quarter of 2020. Average weekly wages in Washington County (\$1,641) and Multnomah County (\$1,440) ranked 24th and 60th, respectively, among the largest counties in the nation. Average weekly wages in the state's remaining five large counties ranged from \$1,260 to \$1,009 in the fourth quarter of 2020.

Among the largest U.S. counties, 89 reported average weekly wages above the U.S. average in the fourth quarter of 2020. Santa Clara, CA, had the highest average weekly wage at \$3,690. Average weekly wages were below the national average in the remaining 268 counties. At \$760 a week, Cameron, TX, had the lowest average weekly wage.

Average weekly wages in Oregon's smaller counties

All of the 29 smaller counties in Oregon—those with employment below 75,000—had average weekly wages below the national average of \$1,339. Morrow County had the highest wage (\$1,281), followed by Benton (\$1,232). Wheeler County (\$640) had the lowest weekly wage in the state.

When all 36 counties in Oregon were considered, 14 had average weekly wages of \$899 or lower, 8 reported wages from \$900 to \$999, 5 had wages from \$1,000 to \$1,099, 4 had wages from \$1,100 to \$1,199, and 5 had wages of \$1,200 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. 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 first quarter 2021 is scheduled to be released on Wednesday, August 18, 2021. The County Employment and Wages full data update for first quarter 2021 is scheduled to be released on Wednesday, September 1, 2021.

QCEW Imputation Issue Caused by Pandemic-Related Challenges

In the spring of 2020, BLS modified its imputation process for QCEW to be more responsive to current economic conditions. While continuing work to improve this process, BLS made an unintended data processing error. This error affected data for the second, third, and fourth quarters of 2020. BLS has analyzed this issue and has determined that the impact on QCEW employment was negligible at the statewide level. In smaller areas and industries, revisions may be larger than usual. Wage data were not affected. Following the usual QCEW practice, these data will be revised and corrected with the full data update on September 1, 2021.

For more information on QCEW imputation methodology, see www.bls.gov/cew/additional-resources/imputation-methodology.htm.

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 seven largest counties in Oregon, fourth quarter 2020

Area	Establishments, fourth quarter 2020 (thousands)	Employment			Average weekly wage ⁽¹⁾			
		December 2020 (thousands)	Percent change, December 2019–20 ⁽²⁾	National ranking by percent change ⁽³⁾	Fourth quarter 2020	National ranking by level ⁽³⁾	Percent change, fourth quarter 2019–20 ⁽²⁾	National ranking by percent change ⁽³⁾
United States ⁽⁴⁾	10,675.8	140,881.3	-6.1	--	\$1,339	--	13.0	--
Oregon	167.3	1,824.3	-7.5	--	1,256	20	14.2	13
Clackamas.....	16.3	157.9	-8.4	279	1,260	133	13.4	120
Deschutes	10.1	81.4	-6.0	174	1,130	225	16.9	22
Jackson	8.1	86.5	-6.3	191	1,009	319	12.7	161
Lane	13.3	146.2	-8.4	279	1,054	285	14.8	59
Marion	11.9	151.2	-5.6	154	1,100	250	11.8	205
Multnomah.....	38.3	471.4	-11.0	342	1,440	60	15.3	47
Washington.....	21.2	285.1	-6.7	212	1,641	24	16.4	30

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 Oregon, fourth quarter 2020

Area	Employment December 2020	Average weekly wage(1)
United States(2)	140,881,253	\$1,339
Oregon	1,824,327	1,256
Baker	5,473	839
Benton	35,305	1,232
Clackamas	157,891	1,260
Clatsop	17,351	868
Columbia	11,182	932
Coos	22,575	919
Crook	6,410	1,114
Curry	6,308	807
Deschutes	81,370	1,130
Douglas	37,459	949
Gilliam	966	1,115
Grant	2,351	870
Harney	2,507	812
Hood River	12,901	935
Jackson	86,463	1,009
Jefferson	6,619	923
Josephine	27,958	875
Klamath	21,965	897
Lake	2,482	896
Lane	146,203	1,054
Lincoln	16,606	879
Linn	45,431	990
Malheur	12,534	830
Marion	151,170	1,100
Morrow	5,827	1,281
Multnomah	471,429	1,440
Polk	19,894	883
Sherman	923	1,095
Tillamook	9,196	918
Umatilla	29,866	946
Union	9,841	885
Wallowa	2,504	817
Wasco	10,381	1,004
Washington	285,129	1,641
Wheeler	295	640
Yamhill	34,337	1,003

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, fourth quarter 2020

State	Establishments, fourth quarter 2020 (thousands)	Employment		Average weekly wage ⁽¹⁾			
		December 2020 (thousands)	Percent change, December 2019–20	Fourth quarter 2020	National ranking by level	Percent change, fourth quarter 2019–20	National ranking by percent change
United States ⁽²⁾	10,675.8	140,881.3	-6.1	\$1,339	--	13.0	--
Alabama	134.6	1,951.2	-2.9	1,096	35	11.4	36
Alaska	23.1	290.1	-6.4	1,260	17	10.6	44
Arizona	173.9	2,908.7	-3.3	1,214	22	14.6	9
Arkansas	94.6	1,194.8	-3.2	999	49	11.4	36
California	1,660.2	16,380.1	-8.3	1,724	3	18.5	1
Colorado	219.6	2,613.7	-5.7	1,378	10	12.3	25
Connecticut	126.8	1,578.4	-6.5	1,551	6	12.2	27
Delaware	35.1	432.9	-5.2	1,262	16	11.3	38
District of Columbia	43.8	713.0	-8.9	2,293	1	15.2	6
Florida	765.4	8,642.8	-5.0	1,180	24	13.1	17
Georgia.....	319.7	4,405.9	-4.0	1,208	23	10.9	42
Hawaii.....	47.3	561.1	-16.1	1,219	21	16.0	4
Idaho	71.8	763.5	0.8	1,034	47	12.8	21
Illinois	386.3	5,573.8	-7.8	1,378	10	13.0	18
Indiana.....	173.1	2,985.1	-4.0	1,076	39	11.2	39
Iowa.....	105.6	1,494.3	-4.3	1,099	34	11.6	32
Kansas	89.9	1,346.9	-4.5	1,070	40	11.5	34
Kentucky.....	130.4	1,839.6	-4.8	1,057	42	10.8	43
Louisiana	140.8	1,796.9	-7.0	1,078	38	8.6	48
Maine.....	55.4	594.3	-4.3	1,092	36	14.5	10
Maryland.....	174.5	2,546.1	-6.7	1,445	8	13.6	16
Massachusetts	266.7	3,365.8	-8.3	1,766	2	17.0	3
Michigan	265.3	3,998.2	-8.9	1,257	19	12.8	21
Minnesota.....	186.4	2,684.1	-7.9	1,322	13	12.3	25
Mississippi	76.1	1,119.1	-2.4	901	51	10.4	45
Missouri	221.5	2,724.4	-4.3	1,127	33	11.6	32
Montana	54.6	467.4	-1.4	1,035	45	12.7	23
Nebraska	72.5	962.7	-2.9	1,079	37	11.5	34
Nevada	90.2	1,283.1	-10.7	1,178	25	14.4	11
New Hampshire.....	57.1	637.3	-5.2	1,406	9	17.9	2
New Jersey.....	291.0	3,860.5	-7.2	1,517	7	13.9	15
New Mexico	64.8	767.1	-9.5	1,052	43	11.8	29
New York	662.4	8,693.4	-10.3	1,712	4	14.2	13
North Carolina	301.7	4,431.0	-2.7	1,152	29	11.2	39
North Dakota	32.6	394.4	-7.1	1,136	31	4.7	50
Ohio.....	307.3	5,199.9	-5.1	1,161	27	12.0	28
Oklahoma	113.6	1,569.1	-4.4	1,013	48	7.3	49
Oregon	167.3	1,824.3	-7.5	1,256	20	14.2	13
Pennsylvania	370.5	5,549.4	-7.4	1,287	15	12.6	24
Rhode Island	40.7	449.6	-8.3	1,259	18	14.7	7
South Carolina.....	149.2	2,074.4	-3.5	1,035	45	11.1	41
South Dakota.....	35.5	422.8	-1.9	1,048	44	14.4	11
Tennessee	176.2	3,002.5	-2.7	1,172	26	11.7	30
Texas	743.1	12,251.1	-4.3	1,294	14	9.0	47
Utah.....	117.9	1,557.8	0.6	1,154	28	12.9	20
Vermont.....	26.6	286.1	-8.9	1,133	32	14.7	7
Virginia.....	289.8	3,796.1	-4.7	1,360	12	13.0	18
Washington.....	259.7	3,219.7	-6.8	1,589	5	16.0	4
West Virginia	51.9	654.1	-5.3	997	50	10.3	46
Wisconsin	184.2	2,762.5	-4.8	1,140	30	11.7	30
Wyoming	27.7	260.2	-5.3	1,061	41	4.6	51
Puerto Rico.....	46.0	873.8	-4.0	621	(3)	8.0	(3)

Note: See footnotes at end of table.

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

State	Establishments, fourth quarter 2020 (thousands)	Employment		Average weekly wage ⁽¹⁾			
		December 2020 (thousands)	Percent change, December 2019–20	Fourth quarter 2020	National ranking by level	Percent change, fourth quarter 2019–20	National ranking by percent change
Virgin Islands	3.5	35.3	-11.5	1,057	(3)	-1.3	(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 Oregon, fourth quarter 2020

Area	Average Weekly Wage ⁽¹⁾
United States ⁽²⁾	\$1,339
Baker	839
Benton	1,232
Clackamas	1,260
Clatsop	868
Columbia	932
Coos	919
Crook	1,114
Curry	807
Deschutes	1,130
Douglas	949
Gilliam	1,115
Grant	870
Harney	812
Hood River	935
Jackson	1,009
Jefferson	923
Josephine	875
Klamath	897
Lake	896
Lane	1,054
Lincoln	879
Linn	990
Malheur	830
Marion	1,100
Morrow	1,281
Multnomah	1,440
Polk	883
Sherman	1,095
Tillamook	918
Umatilla	946
Union	885
Wallowa	817
Wasco	1,004
Washington	1,641
Wheeler	640
Yamhill	1,003

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.