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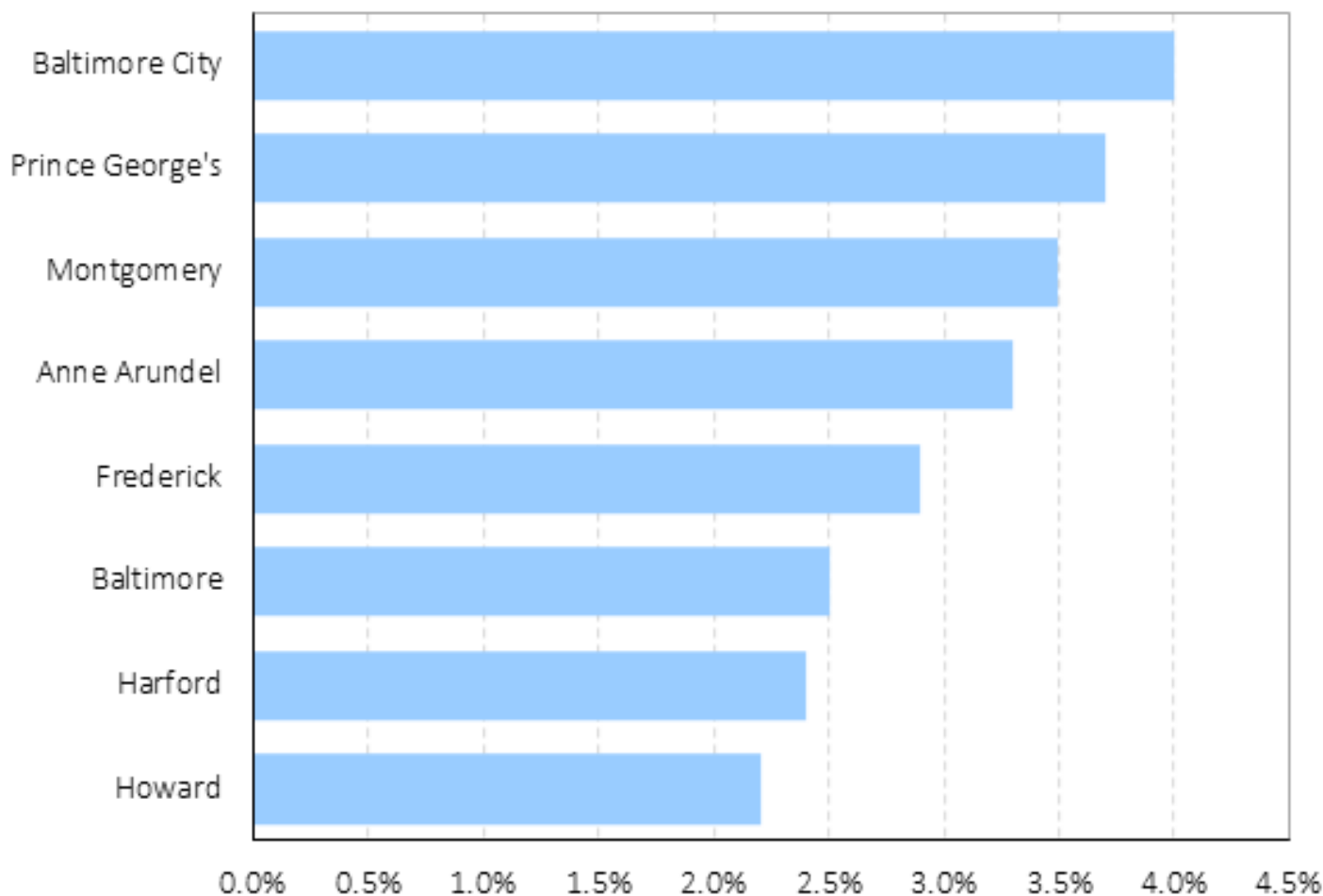
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## County Employment and Wages in Maryland — Third Quarter 2021

Employment rose in all eight large counties in Maryland from September 2020 to September 2021, the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics reported today. (Large counties are those with annual average employment levels of 75,000 or more in 2020.) Regional Commissioner Alexandra Hall Bovee noted that Baltimore City had the largest over-the-year increase in employment at 4.0 percent. (See [chart 1](#) and [table 1](#).)

**Chart 1. Over-the-year percent change in covered employment among the largest counties in Maryland, September 2021**



Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics.

National employment increased 4.4 percent over the year, with 332 of the 343 largest U.S. counties reporting gains. Honolulu, HI, had the largest over-the-year increase in employment with a gain of 13.3 percent. Jefferson, LA, had the largest over-the-year percentage decrease in employment with a loss of 3.2 percent.

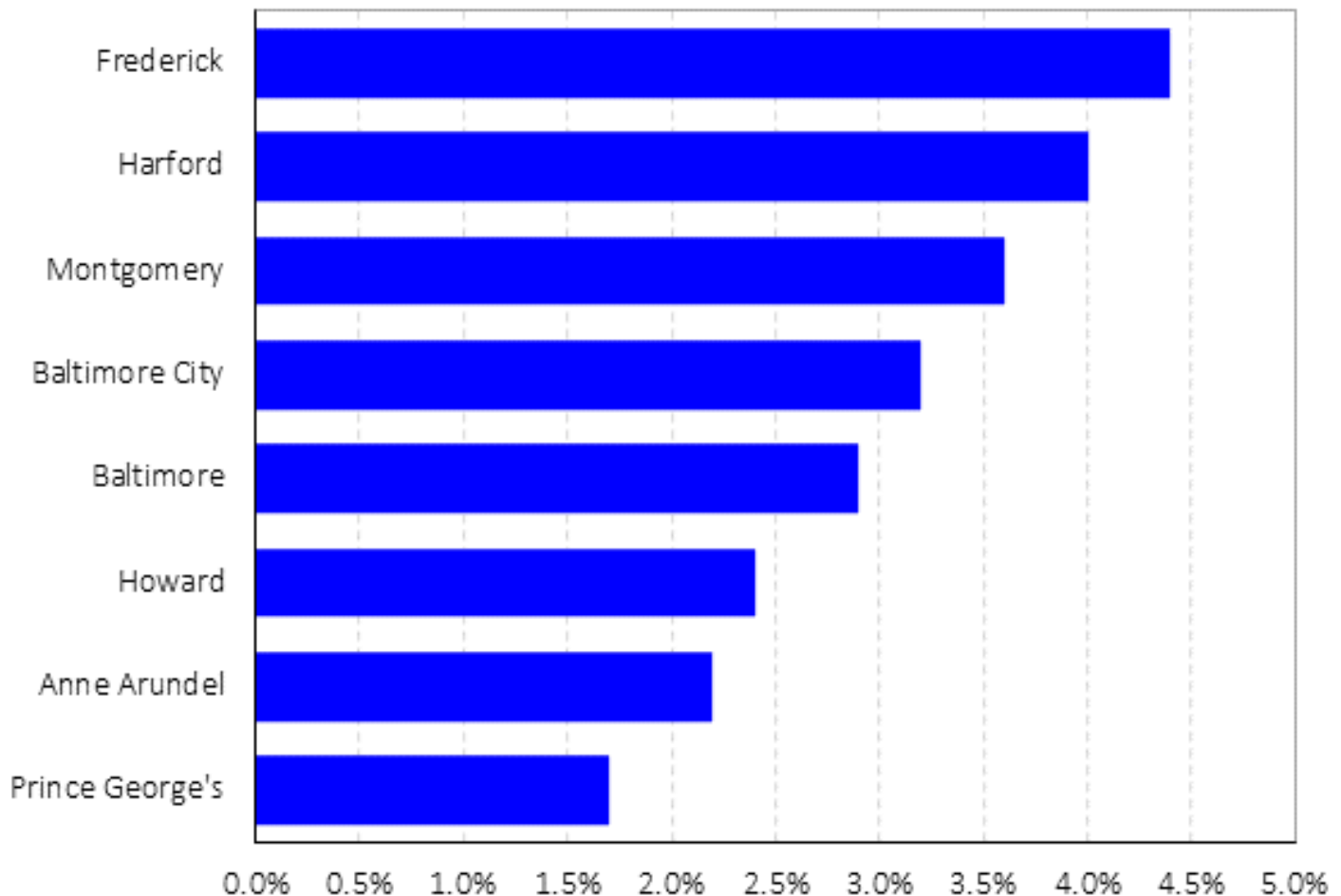
Among the eight largest counties in Maryland, employment was highest in Montgomery County (451,100) in September 2021. Within Montgomery County’s private industry, professional and technical services accounted for the largest employment. Together, the eight largest Maryland counties accounted for 79.5 percent of total employment within the state. Nationwide, the 343 largest counties made up 72.3 percent of total U.S. employment.

Employment and wage levels (but not over-the-year changes) are also available for the 16 counties in Maryland with employment below 75,000. Wage levels in 15 of the 16 smaller counties were below the national average of \$1,251 in the third quarter of 2021. (See [table 2.](#))

### Large county wage changes

All eight large Maryland counties reported average weekly wage gains from the third quarter of 2020 to the third quarter of 2021. (See [chart 2.](#)) Frederick County had the largest gain (+4.4 percent), followed by Harford County (+4.0 percent). Over-the-year wage gains among Maryland’s other six large counties ranged from 3.6 percent to 1.7 percent.

**Chart 2. Over-the-year percent change in covered average weekly wages among the largest counties in Maryland, third quarter 2021**



Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics.

Among the 343 largest counties in the United States, 333 had over-the-year wage increases. San Mateo, CA, had the largest percentage wage increase (+27.2 percent). Union, NJ, had the largest over-the-year percentage decrease (-1.2 percent).

### Large county average weekly wages

Weekly wages in 4 of the 8 largest counties in Maryland were above the national average of \$1,251 in the third quarter of 2021. Average weekly wages in two of these counties ranked among the top 50 nationwide: Montgomery County (\$1,591, 20<sup>th</sup>) and Howard County (\$1,550, 26<sup>th</sup>).

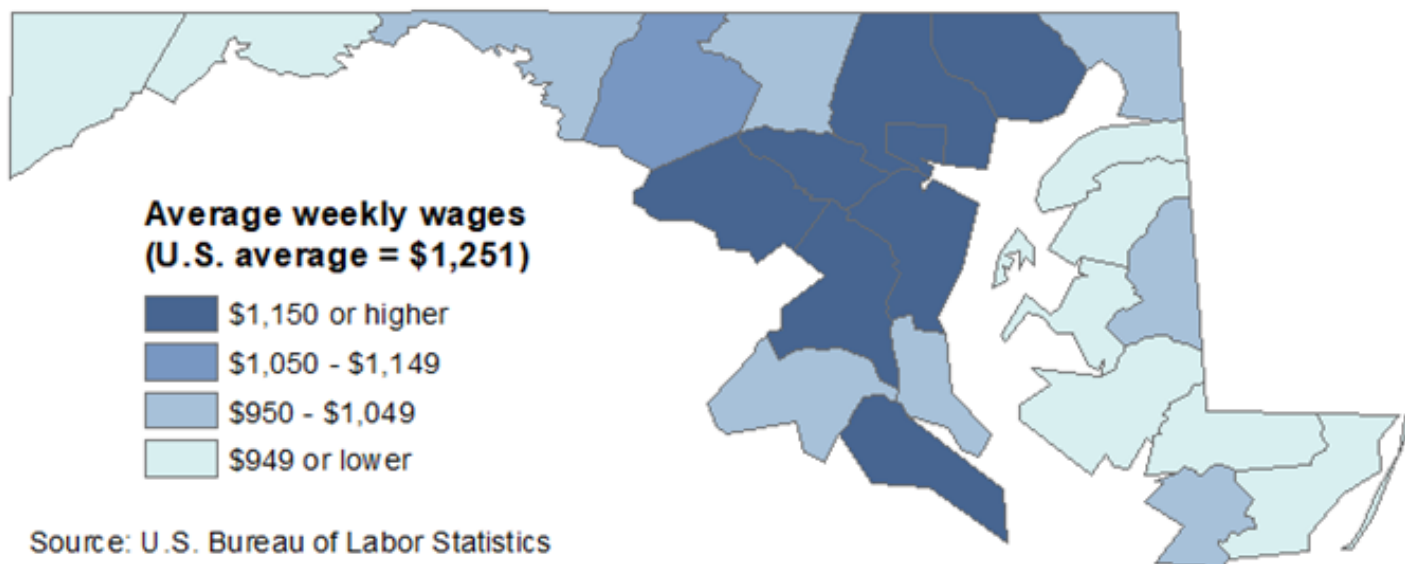
Among the largest U.S. counties, 85 reported average weekly wages above the U.S. average in the third quarter of 2021. San Mateo, CA, had the highest average weekly wage at \$3,710. Average weekly wages were at or below the national average in the remaining 258 counties. At \$756 a week, Cameron, TX, had the lowest average weekly wage.

### Average weekly wages in Maryland's smaller counties

Among the 16 smaller counties in Maryland—those with employment below 75,000—St. Mary's County (\$1,412) reported an average weekly wage above the national average. Worcester County (\$778) reported the lowest average weekly wage in the state.

When all 24 counties in Maryland were considered, 8 reported average weekly wages of less than \$950, 7 registered wages from \$950 to \$1,049, and 9 had average weekly wages of \$1,150 or higher. (See [chart 3](#).)

**Chart 3. Average weekly wages by county in Maryland, third quarter 2021**



### 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. This publication is typically published in September of the following year of the reference period or shortly after the QCEW first quarter full data update. The *Employment and Wages Annual Averages Online* is available at [www.bls.gov/cew/publications/employment-and-wages-annual-averages/](http://www.bls.gov/cew/publications/employment-and-wages-annual-averages/).

**The County Employment and Wages release for fourth quarter 2021 is scheduled to be released on Wednesday, May 25, 2022. The County Employment and Wages full data update for fourth quarter 2021 is scheduled to be released on Wednesday, June 8, 2022.**

### **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; Telecommunications Relay Service: 7-1-1.

**Table 1. Covered establishments, employment, and wages in the United States and the eight largest counties in Maryland, third quarter 2021**

Area	Establishments, third quarter (thousands)	Employment			Average weekly wage <sup>(1)</sup>			
		September 2021 (thousands)	Percent change, September 2020–21 <sup>(2)</sup>	National ranking by percent change <sup>(3)</sup>	Third quarter 2021	National ranking by level <sup>(3)</sup>	Percent change, third quarter 2020–21 <sup>(2)</sup>	National ranking by percent change <sup>(3)</sup>
United States <sup>(4)</sup> .....	11,021.4	144,863.9	4.4	--	\$1,251	--	6.7	--
Maryland.....	178.1	2,604.6	3.9	--	1,314	10	3.5	49
Anne Arundel.....	15.5	261.1	3.3	173	1,296	74	2.2	317
Baltimore.....	21.3	358.8	2.5	227	1,183	127	2.9	306
Frederick.....	6.7	100.8	2.9	204	1,133	164	4.4	244
Harford.....	5.9	92.0	2.4	234	1,181	128	4.0	262
Howard.....	10.3	164.0	2.2	252	1,550	26	2.4	315
Montgomery.....	33.1	451.1	3.5	161	1,591	20	3.6	279
Prince George's.....	16.4	305.2	3.7	149	1,236	94	1.7	322
Baltimore City.....	13.6	338.3	4.0	129	1,375	52	3.2	295

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 establishments, employment, and wages in the United States and all counties in Maryland, third quarter 2021**

Area	Establishments	Employment September 2021	Average weekly wage (1)
United States (2)	11,021,414	144,863,915	\$1,251
Maryland	178,057	2,604,555	1,314
Allegany	1,504	26,797	853
Anne Arundel	15,455	261,130	1,296
Baltimore County	21,284	358,846	1,183
Calvert	1,856	21,488	1,036
Caroline	681	9,652	981
Carroll	4,494	55,510	966
Cecil	1,897	33,199	1,047
Charles	2,928	39,500	1,014
Dorchester	743	12,398	851
Frederick	6,651	100,787	1,133
Garrett	980	12,032	784
Harford	5,884	92,018	1,181
Howard	10,270	164,014	1,550
Kent	717	7,570	878
Montgomery	33,078	451,138	1,591
Prince George's	16,404	305,224	1,236
Queen Anne's	1,491	14,857	946
St. Mary's	2,202	46,739	1,412
Somerset	458	6,301	1,005
Talbot	1,533	16,714	931
Washington	3,455	61,827	964
Wicomico	2,574	44,453	939
Worcester	2,225	26,536	778
Baltimore City	13,562	338,281	1,375

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

**Table 3. Covered establishments, employment, and wages by state, third quarter 2021**

State	Establishments, third quarter (thousands)	Employment		Average weekly wage <sup>(1)</sup>			
		September 2021 (thousands)	Percent change, September 2020–21	Third quarter 2021	National ranking by level	Percent change, third quarter 2020–21	National ranking by percent change
United States <sup>(2)</sup> .....	11,021.4	144,863.9	4.4	\$1,251	--	6.7	--
Alabama.....	139.8	1,955.3	2.6	1,030	36	5.3	37
Alaska.....	24.0	316.9	4.6	1,205	16	3.4	50
Arizona.....	184.5	2,926.3	4.6	1,167	19	7.0	13
Arkansas.....	97.4	1,212.9	2.9	963	47	7.8	6
California.....	1,679.6	17,208.7	6.6	1,576	4	7.7	8
Colorado.....	231.8	2,723.4	4.8	1,322	9	7.0	13
Connecticut.....	132.0	1,605.1	2.9	1,401	6	5.7	31
Delaware.....	35.9	439.7	2.1	1,198	18	4.4	45
District of Columbia.....	45.4	736.1	3.1	2,042	1	4.1	46
Florida.....	808.4	8,910.9	7.0	1,120	25	8.7	3
Georgia.....	343.9	4,491.4	4.9	1,158	20	6.8	17
Hawaii.....	49.2	592.8	16.6	1,150	22	3.3	51
Idaho.....	79.2	804.0	5.3	953	50	7.8	6
Illinois.....	398.4	5,751.2	3.3	1,274	11	6.3	22
Indiana.....	178.9	3,020.6	2.6	1,032	34	7.4	10
Iowa.....	106.8	1,509.6	2.2	1,015	39	4.9	43
Kansas.....	92.1	1,349.3	1.7	997	40	4.7	44
Kentucky.....	134.3	1,869.0	3.4	989	43	5.8	28
Louisiana.....	144.2	1,772.7	1.7	1,021	37	5.4	36
Maine.....	58.5	619.9	3.6	1,031	35	6.7	18
Maryland.....	178.1	2,604.6	3.9	1,314	10	3.5	49
Massachusetts.....	281.4	3,501.0	5.5	1,593	2	7.0	13
Michigan.....	271.3	4,181.4	3.6	1,154	21	5.3	37
Minnesota.....	186.9	2,780.5	2.7	1,249	13	6.1	24
Mississippi.....	77.3	1,122.2	2.6	859	51	6.3	22
Missouri.....	223.9	2,760.3	2.9	1,055	31	6.0	26
Montana.....	57.0	487.5	4.4	963	47	6.5	21
Nebraska.....	75.6	964.6	1.4	1,017	38	5.5	35
Nevada.....	96.0	1,389.5	10.8	1,135	23	8.3	5
New Hampshire.....	60.0	654.6	3.3	1,349	8	15.0	1
New Jersey.....	304.1	3,977.2	5.1	1,384	7	4.1	46
New Mexico.....	64.8	806.2	4.2	997	40	5.6	32
New York.....	671.2	8,922.4	4.4	1,534	5	6.1	24
North Carolina.....	318.4	4,516.4	4.5	1,112	26	7.1	11
North Dakota.....	33.0	407.2	2.2	1,076	30	5.1	40
Ohio.....	315.7	5,248.0	2.2	1,098	28	5.6	32
Oklahoma.....	116.4	1,576.6	1.8	966	45	5.6	32
Oregon.....	171.2	1,909.5	3.7	1,220	15	9.6	2
Pennsylvania.....	375.4	5,685.4	3.2	1,205	16	5.8	28
Rhode Island.....	43.2	474.1	4.8	1,131	24	3.6	48
South Carolina.....	152.9	2,086.0	2.8	988	44	6.9	16
South Dakota.....	37.0	435.6	3.1	965	46	5.1	40
Tennessee.....	187.7	3,044.1	4.2	1,111	27	8.7	3
Texas.....	770.0	12,613.1	5.6	1,227	14	6.7	18
Utah.....	123.1	1,594.7	5.0	1,087	29	7.1	11
Vermont.....	28.1	293.5	2.7	1,055	31	5.8	28
Virginia.....	299.2	3,845.3	2.9	1,264	12	5.3	37
Washington.....	266.6	3,415.2	4.4	1,578	3	6.6	20
West Virginia.....	53.6	664.2	2.7	960	49	5.0	42
Wisconsin.....	189.5	2,815.9	2.3	1,049	33	7.5	9
Wyoming.....	28.7	271.1	2.5	995	42	6.0	26
Puerto Rico.....	47.9	887.9	6.5	568	(3)	4.0	(3)
Virgin Islands.....	3.6	34.5	1.9	956	(3)	-5.4	(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.