

NEWS RELEASE

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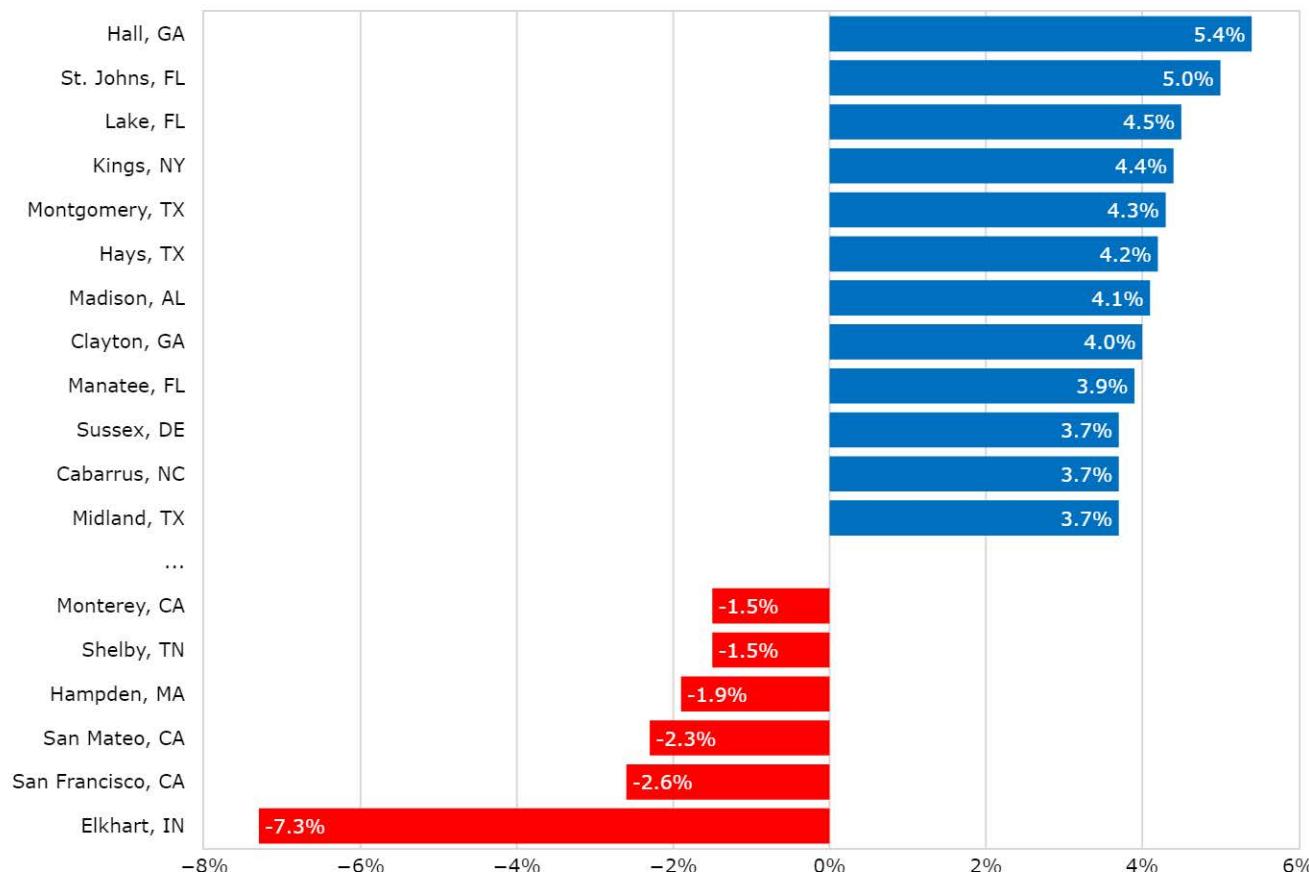
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COUNTY EMPLOYMENT AND WAGES – THIRD QUARTER 2023

From September 2022 to September 2023, employment increased in 309 of the 360 largest U.S. counties, the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics reported today. In September 2023, national employment increased to 153.8 million, a 1.5-percent increase over the year, as measured by the Quarterly Census of Employment and Wages (QCEW) program. Hall, GA, had the largest over-the-year increase in employment, with a gain of 5.4 percent. Employment data in this release are presented for September 2023, and average weekly wage data are presented for third quarter 2023.

Among the 360 largest counties, 169 had over-the-year increases in average weekly wages. In the third quarter of 2023, average weekly wages for the nation increased to \$1,334, a 0.1-percent increase over the year. Clayton, GA, had the largest third quarter over-the-year wage gain at 7.7 percent. (See table 1.)

Chart 1. Percent change in employment, September 2022 to September 2023, by largest gains and losses



Large County Employment in September 2023

Hall, GA, had the largest over-the-year percentage increase in employment (+5.4 percent). Within Hall, the largest employment increase occurred in manufacturing, which rose by 1,954 (+8.6 percent).

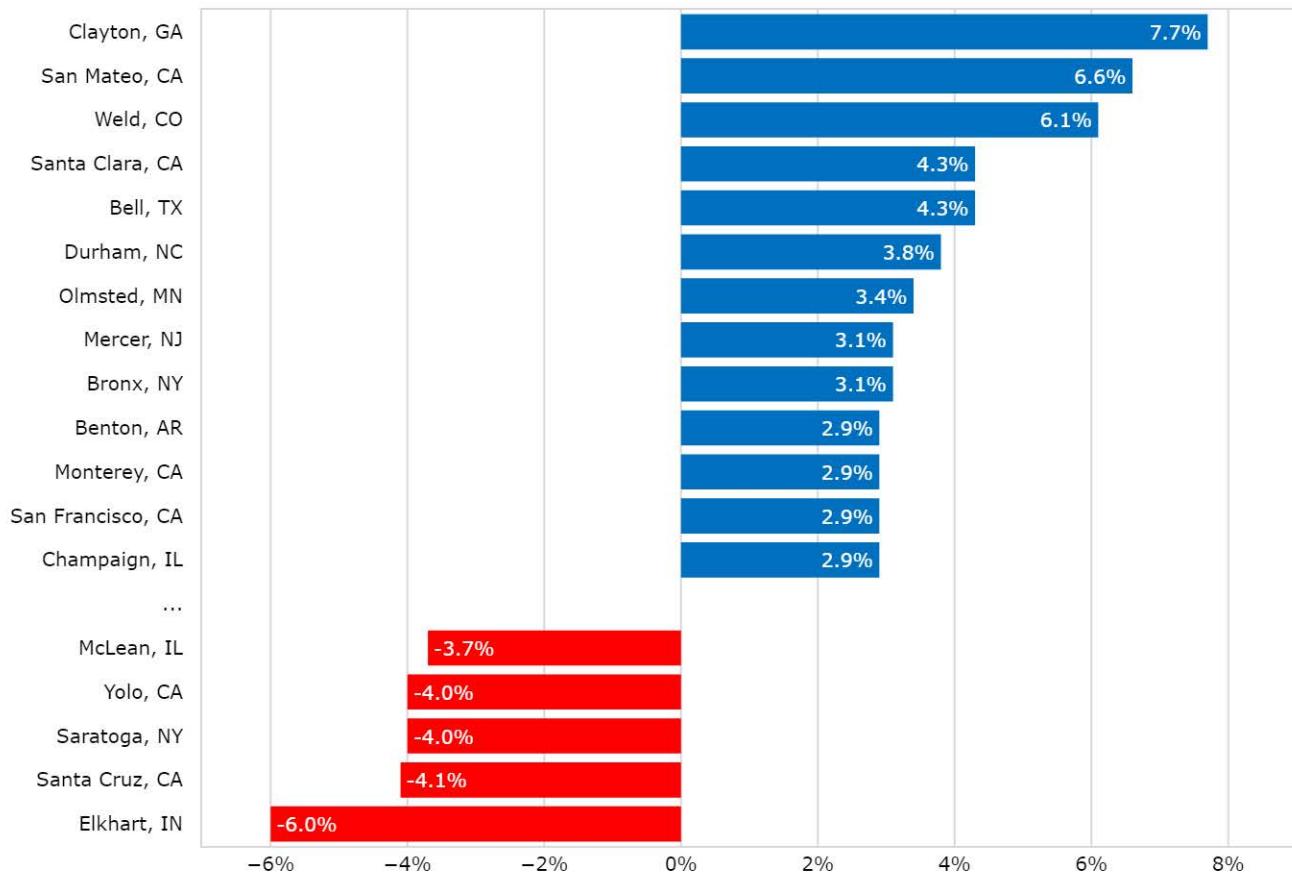
Elkhart, IN, had the largest over-the-year percentage decrease in employment (-7.3 percent). Within Elkhart, the largest employment decrease occurred in manufacturing, which fell by 10,144 (-13.8 percent).

Large County Average Weekly Wage in Third Quarter 2023

Clayton, GA, had the largest over-the-year percentage increase in average weekly wages (+7.7 percent). Within Clayton, an average weekly wage gain of \$141 (+10.0 percent) in trade, transportation, and utilities made the largest contribution to the county's increase in average weekly wages.

Elkhart, IN, had the largest over-the-year percentage decrease in average weekly wages (-6.0 percent). Within Elkhart, an average weekly wage loss of \$91 (-7.6 percent) in manufacturing made the largest contribution to the county's decrease in average weekly wages.

Chart 2. Percent change in average weekly wage, third quarter 2022 to third quarter 2023, by largest gains and losses



Ten Largest Counties

Nine of the 10 largest counties had over-the-year percentage increases in employment. In September 2023, Harris, TX, had the largest over-the-year employment percentage gain (+2.7 percent). Within Harris, education and health services had the largest employment increase and rose by 16,206 (+5.1 percent). (See table 2.)

Four of the 10 largest counties had over-the-year percentage increases in average weekly wages. In the third quarter of 2023, King, WA, experienced the largest over-the-year percentage gain in average weekly wages (+1.8 percent). Within King, professional and business services had the largest impact, with an average weekly wage increase of \$140 (+5.1 percent).

For More Information

The tables and charts included in this release contain data for the nation and for the 360 U.S. counties with annual average employment levels of 75,000 or more in 2022. September 2023 employment and third quarter 2023 average weekly wages for all states are provided in table 3 of this release.

Over-the-year changes of employment and wages presented in this news release are adjusted and may differ from unadjusted data used in BLS data tools and interactive charts. More information is available in the QCEW Technical Note at www.bls.gov/cew/news-release-technical-note.htm.

QCEW reporting rates tables are available at www.bls.gov/cew/reporting-rates/.

The most current news release on quarterly measures of gross job flows is available from QCEW Business Employment Dynamics at www.bls.gov/news.release/pdf/cewbd.pdf.

Several BLS regional offices issue QCEW news releases targeted to local data users. Links to these releases are available at www.bls.gov/cew/regional-resources.htm.

QCEW data are available in the Census Business Builder suite of web tools assisting business owners and regional analysts in data-driven decision making at www.census.gov/data/data-tools/cbb.html.

The QCEW news release schedule is available at www.bls.gov/cew/release-calendar.htm.

If you are deaf, hard of hearing, or have a speech disability, please dial 7-1-1 to access telecommunications relay services.

The County Employment and Wages full data update for third quarter 2023 is scheduled to be released on Wednesday, March 6, 2024, at 10:00 a.m. (ET).

The County Employment and Wages news release for fourth quarter 2023 is scheduled to be released on Wednesday, May 22, 2024, at 10:00 a.m. (ET).

Table 1. Covered establishments, employment, and wages in the 361 largest counties, third quarter 2023 - Continued

County ¹	Establishments, third quarter 2023 (thousands)	Employment			Average weekly wage ²		
		September 2023 (thousands)	Percent change, September 2022-23 ³	Ranking by percent change	Third quarter 2023	Percent change, third quarter 2022-23 ³	Ranking by percent change
Thurston, WA.....	8.7	128.3	2.5	54	\$1,321	1.9	30
Whatcom, WA.....	7.5	93.7	0.7	239	1,159	0.4	129
Yakima, WA.....	6.4	124.6	0.7	239	956	1.8	34
Kanawha, WV.....	6.3	97.1	2.3	68	1,089	-0.5	207
Brown, WI.....	7.5	156.0	-0.2	318	1,126	-2.0	307
Dane, WI.....	17.6	355.8	2.0	95	1,331	0.5	122
Milwaukee, WI.....	29.2	469.5	-0.1	315	1,216	-1.1	259
Outagamie, WI.....	5.9	107.7	0.7	239	1,129	1.4	51
Waukesha, WI.....	14.3	247.8	0.8	227	1,218	-2.4	323
Winnebago, WI.....	4.2	92.5	-0.4	329	1,140	-1.3	277
San Juan, PR.....	12.7	257.7	4.1	(6)	760	2.2	(6)

¹ Includes areas not officially designated as counties. See Technical Note.

² Average weekly wages were calculated using unrounded data.

³ Percent changes were computed from employment and pay data adjusted for noneconomic county reclassifications. See Technical Note.

⁴ Totals for the United States do not include data for Puerto Rico or the Virgin Islands.

⁵ Data do not meet BLS or state agency disclosure standards.

⁶ This county was not included in the U.S. rankings.

Note: Data are preliminary. Includes workers covered by Unemployment Insurance (UI) and Unemployment Compensation for Federal Employees (UCFE) programs. These 360 U.S. counties comprise 72.9 percent of the total covered workers in the U.S.

Table 3. Covered establishments, employment, and wages by state, third quarter 2023 - Continued

State	Establishments, third quarter 2023 (thousands)	Employment		Average weekly wage ¹	
		September 2023 (thousands)	Percent change, September 2022-23	Third quarter 2023	Percent change, third quarter 2022-23
Wyoming.....	30.6	285.2	2.1	\$1,111	2.4
Puerto Rico.....	53.6	940.2	1.6	633	2.8
Virgin Islands.....	3.8	35.1	1.9	953	-4.0

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. Includes workers covered by Unemployment Insurance (UI) and Unemployment Compensation for Federal Employees (UCFE) programs.