



NEWS RELEASE



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COUNTY EMPLOYMENT AND WAGES IN VERMONT – FOURTH QUARTER 2010

Employment in Vermont's only large county, Chittenden, increased 2.0 percent from December 2009 to December 2010, the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics reported today. (Large counties are defined as those with employment of 75,000 or more as measured by 2009 annual average employment.) Regional Commissioner Denis M. McSweeney noted that the employment gain in Chittenden ranked 35th among the 326 large counties in the nation, and exceeded the national increase of 0.9 percent.

Nationally, employment increased in 220 of the 326 largest counties from December 2009 to December 2010. Elkhart, Ind., experienced the largest percentage increase with a gain of 5.2 percent over the year. Manatee, Fla., posted the largest over-the-year decrease in employment with a loss of 4.0 percent.

Employment in Chittenden County was 95,269 in December 2010, accounting for 31.8 percent of employment statewide. Nationwide, the 326 largest counties accounted for 70.9 percent of total U.S. employment.

The average weekly wage in Chittenden County rose 2.1 percent from the fourth quarter of 2009 to the fourth quarter of 2010 to \$961. (See table 1.) Nationally, the average weekly wage rose 3.0 percent over the year to \$971.

Employment and wage levels (but not over-the-year changes) are also available for the 13 counties in Vermont with employment below 75,000. All 13 smaller counties in Vermont had average weekly wages below the national average. (See table 2.)

Large County Wage Changes

Chittenden County's 2.1-percent wage growth from the fourth quarter of 2009 to the fourth quarter of 2010 placed 192th nationally. (See table 1.) Nationwide, 294 of the 326 largest counties had over-the-year increases in average weekly wages from the fourth quarter of 2009. Olmsted, Minn., had the largest wage gain in the nation, 31.9 percent. Santa Clara, Calif., was second with a gain of 14.4 percent, followed by the counties of Williamson, Tenn. (9.0 percent), Rock Island, Ill. (8.1 percent), and Lake, Ind. (7.6 percent).

Among the large counties nationwide, 23 experienced over-the-year wage decreases. Union, N.J., had the largest wage decline with a loss of 2.8 percent over the year. Montgomery, Ala., and Montgomery,

Pa., had the second largest percent decline, followed by Collin, Texas, Benton Ark., and Williamson, Texas.

Large County Average Weekly Wages

The average weekly wage in Chittenden County placed in the upper half (112th) among the 326 largest U.S. counties in the fourth quarter of 2010. The county's \$961 average weekly wage was \$10 below the national average.

Among the highest-paid large U.S. counties, Santa Clara, Calif., held the top position with an average weekly wage of \$1,943. New York, N.Y., was second at \$1,929, followed by Washington, D.C. (\$1,688), and Fairfield, Conn., and Arlington, Va. (\$1,668 each).

Horry, S.C. (\$585) reported the lowest wage nationwide, followed by the counties of Cameron and Hidalgo, Texas (\$610 and \$611, respectively). Wages in the lowest-ranked county, Horry, were less than one third of the average weekly wage reported for the highest-ranked county, Santa Clara, Calif.

Average Weekly Wages in Vermont's Smaller Counties

The 13 counties in Vermont with employment below 75,000 had average weekly wages lower than the national average of \$971. Among these smaller counties, Washington had the highest wage (\$837) followed by Franklin (\$788). Essex reported the lowest weekly wage, averaging \$613 in the fourth quarter of 2010.

When all 14 counties in Vermont are considered, 5 reported average weekly wages under \$699, 7 had wages from \$700 to \$799, and 2 had wages of \$800 or more. The lowest paid counties, those with wages below \$699, were generally located in the northeastern part of the State. (See chart 1.)

Additional Statistics and other Information

QCEW data for states has been included in this release in table 3. For additional information about quarterly employment and wages data, please read the Technical Note or visit the QCEW Web site at <http://www.bls.gov/cew/>.

An annual bulletin, *Employment and Wages*, features comprehensive information by detailed industry on establishments, employment, and wages for the nation and all states. The 2009 edition of this bulletin contains selected data produced by Business Employment Dynamics (BED) on job gains and losses, as well as selected data from the first quarter 2010 version of the national news release. Tables and additional content from the 2009 Employment and Wages Annual Bulletin are now available online at www.bls.gov/cew/cewbultn09.htm.

Information in this release will be made available to sensory impaired individuals upon request. Voice phone: (617) 565-2072; Federal Relay Services: 1-800-877-8339.

For personal assistance or further information on the QCEW program, as well as other Bureau programs, contact the New England Information Office at (617) 565-2327. This release is available in PDF and HTML format on the New England BLS Web site at www.bls.gov/ro1/vtqcew.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 9.1 million employer reports cover 129.5 million full- and part-time workers. 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.

Table 1. Covered [1] employment and wages in the United States and the largest county in Vermont, fourth quarter 2010(2)

Area	Employment			Average Weekly Wage [3]			
	December 2010 (thousands)	Percent change, December 2009-10 [4]	National ranking by percent change [5]	Average weekly wage	National ranking by level [5]	Percent change, fourth quarter 2009-10 [4]	National ranking by percent change [5]
United States [6]	129,451.60	0.9	--	\$971	--	3.0	--
Vermont	299.3	0.9	--	814	36	1.1	50
Chittenden	95.3	2.0	35	961	112	2.1	192

[1] Includes workers covered by Unemployment Insurance (UI) and Unemployment Compensation

[2] Data are preliminary.

[3] Average weekly wages were calculated using unrounded data.

[4] Percent changes were computed from quarterly employment and pay data adjusted for

[5] Ranking does not include the county of San Juan, Puerto Rico.

[6] Totals for the United States do not include data for Puerto Rico or the Virgin Islands.

Table 2. Covered[1] employment and wages in the United States and all counties in Vermont, fourth quarter 2010[2]

Area	Employment December 2010	Average Weekly Wage [3]
United States [4]	129,451,603	\$971
Vermont--Statewide	299,323	814
Addison	13,622	758
Bennington	17,043	770
Caledonia	11,063	727
Chittenden	95,269	961
Essex	1,149	613
Franklin	16,220	788
Grand Isle	1,088	645
Lamoille	11,312	654
Orange	7,428	693
Orleans	9,849	653
Rutland	28,781	724
Washington	32,261	837
Windham	22,798	746
Windsor	23,382	782

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

[2] Data are preliminary.

[3] Average weekly wages were calculated using unrounded data.

[4] Percent changes were computed from quarterly employment and pay data adjusted for noneconomic county reclassifications.

Table 3. Covered [1] employment and wages by state, fourth quarter 2010 [2]

State	Employment		Average weekly wage [3]			
	December 2010 (thousands)	Percent change, December 2009-10	Average weekly wage	National ranking by level	Percent change, fourth quarter 2009-10	National ranking by percent change
United States [4]	129,451.6	0.9	\$971	--	3.0	--
Alabama	1,823.8	0.3	839	31	2.4	36
Alaska	306.6	1.4	987	12	2.9	24
Arizona	2,417.0	0.5	892	21	1.4	47
Arkansas	1,143.4	0.5	738	47	1.8	42
California	14,561.6	0.6	1,128	6	5.0	2
Colorado	2,203.9	0.9	1,001	11	3.7	10
Connecticut	1,628.6	0.5	1,226	2	2.8	28
Delaware	404.9	1.5	1,003	10	4.4	7
District of Columbia	698.5	1.6	1,688	1	4.5	5
Florida	7,258.9	0.7	871	25	1.8	42
Georgia	3,790.7	0.7	906	20	3.4	16
Hawaii	598.0	0.8	859	28	1.9	41
Idaho	601.7	-0.4	733	48	3.5	12
Illinois	5,573.7	0.9	1,035	8	2.9	24
Indiana	2,743.6	1.2	804	39	2.9	24
Iowa	1,446.1	0.6	797	40	3.4	16
Kansas	1,311.7	0.2	812	37	2.5	35
Kentucky	1,747.7	1.3	794	42	1.7	44
Louisiana	1,849.5	0.3	863	27	3.5	12
Maine	578.3	-0.1	769	46	1.3	48
Maryland	2,488.6	1.0	1,080	7	2.7	32
Massachusetts	3,188.2	1.4	1,217	4	3.3	19
Michigan	3,817.3	1.3	938	19	2.7	32
Minnesota	2,579.6	0.6	974	16	5.0	2
Mississippi	1,081.6	0.4	706	51	1.3	48
Missouri	2,596.8	-0.1	839	31	2.8	28
Montana	419.5	0.1	721	49	3.6	11
Nebraska	902.9	0.7	772	45	2.0	39
Nevada	1,114.5	-0.8	880	22	0.6	51
New Hampshire	610.0	0.6	978	14	2.1	37
New Jersey	3,792.0	-0.2	1,161	5	1.5	46
New Mexico	786.7	-0.1	817	35	2.8	28
New York	8,507.7	1.0	1,219	3	2.1	37
North Carolina	3,831.7	0.7	840	30	2.7	32
North Dakota	368.8	4.3	809	38	7.6	1
Ohio	4,963.5	1.1	865	26	3.0	23
Oklahoma	1,506.9	1.2	797	40	4.5	5
Oregon	1,609.4	1.0	852	29	2.8	28
Pennsylvania	5,547.3	1.3	951	17	2.0	39
Rhode Island	450.8	0.5	940	18	3.1	22
South Carolina	1,770.6	1.2	775	44	1.6	45
South Dakota	391.1	1.4	714	50	3.8	9
Tennessee	2,599.4	1.1	878	23	3.5	12
Texas	10,352.8	2.0	977	15	3.4	16
Utah	1,170.2	1.1	827	34	3.9	8
Vermont	299.3	0.9	814	36	1.1	50
Virginia	3,578.5	0.8	1,028	9	3.3	19
Washington	2,803.1	1.0	981	13	2.9	24
West Virginia	698.0	0.6	778	43	3.5	12
Wisconsin	2,665.9	1.1	836	33	3.2	21
Wyoming	270.5	1.3	872	24	4.9	4
Puerto Rico	956.7	-2.3	559	[5]	1.5	[5]
Virgin Islands	44.9	2.0	805	[5]	8.3	[5]

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

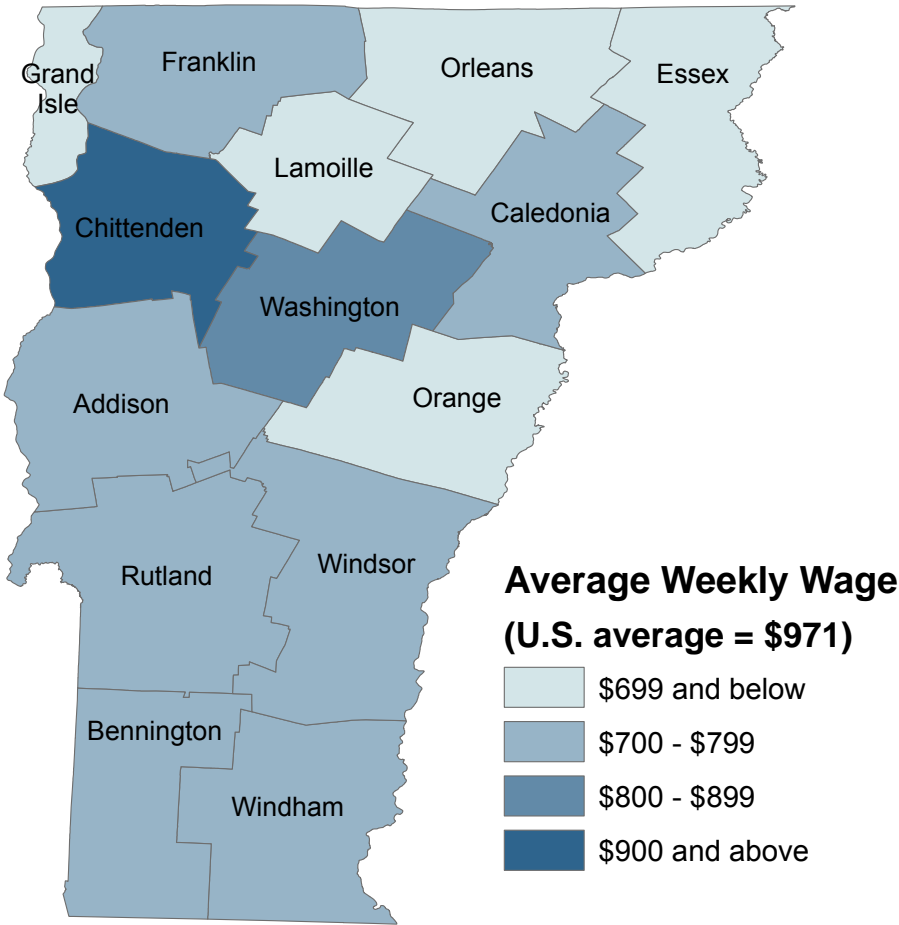
[2] Data are preliminary.

[3] Average weekly wages were calculated using unrounded data.

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

[5] Data not included in the national ranking.

Chart 1. Average weekly wages by county in Vermont, fourth quarter 2010



Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics, July 2010