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COUNTY EMPLOYMENT AND WAGES IN DELAWARE – FOURTH QUARTER 2010

Employment and Average Weekly Wages Increased in New Castle County

From December 2009 to December 2010, employment in Delaware's only large county, New Castle, increased 1.1 percent, 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.) Sheila Watkins, the Bureau's regional commissioner, noted that New Castle County gained jobs at a rate faster than the national increase of 0.9 percent over the year.

Employment increased in 220 of the 326 largest U.S. counties from December 2009. Elkhart, Ind., had the largest percentage increase, with a gain of 5.2 percent over the year. Benton, Wash., had the next-largest percentage increase (5.0 percent), followed by the counties of Peoria, Ill., and Washington, Pa. (4.0 percent each). Employment fell in 83 large counties during this period. Manatee, Fla., experienced the largest over-the-year percentage decrease in employment (-4.0 percent), followed by San Joaquin, Calif. (-2.5 percent).

New Castle County's employment in December 2010 was 267,700 and accounted for 66.1 percent of Delaware's total employment. Nationwide, the 326 large counties accounted for 70.9 percent of total U.S. employment, which stood at 129.5 million in December 2010. These 326 counties had a net job growth of 704,131 over the year, accounting for 61.8 percent of the overall U.S. employment increase.

The average weekly wage in New Castle County grew 4.9 percent from the fourth quarter of 2009 to the fourth quarter of 2010. This increase placed New Castle County in the top tenth of the large counties in the U.S. for wage growth (29th). Over the year, the national average weekly wage rose by 3.0 percent. Olmsted, Minn., led the nation in average weekly wage growth with an increase of 31.9 percent from the fourth quarter of 2009. Santa Clara, Calif., was second at 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).

In addition to being among the nation's wage growth leaders, New Castle County's average weekly wage of \$1,123 ranked in the top fifth among the largest counties (48th). Delaware's largest county exceeded the U.S. average weekly wage of \$971 in the fourth quarter of 2010 by 15.7 percent.

Average weekly wages were higher than the national average in 102 of the largest 326 U.S. counties. Santa Clara, Calif., held the top position among the highest-paid large counties with a 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). (See table 1.) There were 223 counties with an average weekly wage below the national average in the fourth quarter of 2010. The lowest average weekly wage was reported in Horry, S.C. (\$585), followed by the counties of Cameron, Texas (\$610); Hidalgo, Texas (\$611); and Webb, Texas, and Yakima, Wash. (\$653 each).

Average Weekly Wages in Delaware's Smaller Counties

Employment and wage levels (but not over-the-year changes) are also available for the two counties in Delaware with employment below 75,000. Both Kent (\$772) and Sussex (\$718) Counties had average weekly wages at least 20 percent below the national average. (See table A and chart 1).

Table A. Covered¹ employment and wages in the United States and all of the counties in Delaware, fourth quarter 2010²

Area	Employment December 2010 (thousands)	Average weekly wage ³
United States ⁴	129,451.6	\$971
Delaware	404.9	1,003
Kent	61.0	772
New Castle	267.7	1,123
Sussex	67.4	718

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.

Additional statistics and other information

QCEW data for states have been included in this release in table 2. For additional information about quarterly employment and wages data, please read the Technical Note or visit the QCEW Web site at www.bls.gov/cew/.

An annual bulletin, *Employment and Wages Annual Averages*, 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. This web-only publication has replaced the annual print bulletin, *Employment and Wages Annual Averages*. The March 2010 issue of this annual bulletin was the final one to be issued on paper.

Information in this release will be made available to sensory impaired individuals upon request. Voice phone: 202-691-5200; TDD message referral phone number: 1-800-877-8339.

For personal assistance or further information on the Quarterly Census of Employment and Wages Program, as well as other Bureau programs, contact the Mid-Atlantic Information Office at 215-597-3282 from 8:30 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. and 1:00 p.m. to 3:30 p.m. ET.

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. Covered¹ employment and wages in the top 10 large counties ranked by average weekly wage, fourth quarter 2010²

Area	Employment	Average weekly wage ³			
	December 2010 (thousands)	Average weekly wage	National ranking by level ⁴	Percent change, 2009-10 ⁵	National ranking by percent change ⁴
United States ⁶	129,451.6	\$971	--	3.0	--
Santa Clara, Calif.	862.3	1,943	1	14.4	2
New York, N.Y.	2335.9	1,929	2	2.5	152
Washington, D.C.	698.5	1,688	3	4.5	38
Fairfield, Conn.	407.4	1,668	4	3.9	59
Arlington, Va.	166.0	1,668	4	4.8	32
Suffolk, Mass.	580.1	1,651	6	4.4	41
San Francisco, Calif.	557.9	1,573	7	1.7	220
San Mateo, Calif.	323.5	1,564	8	5.8	12
Fairfax, Va.	585.9	1,541	9	3.6	80
Somerset, N.J.	168.0	1,448	10	2.8	133

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

² Data are preliminary.

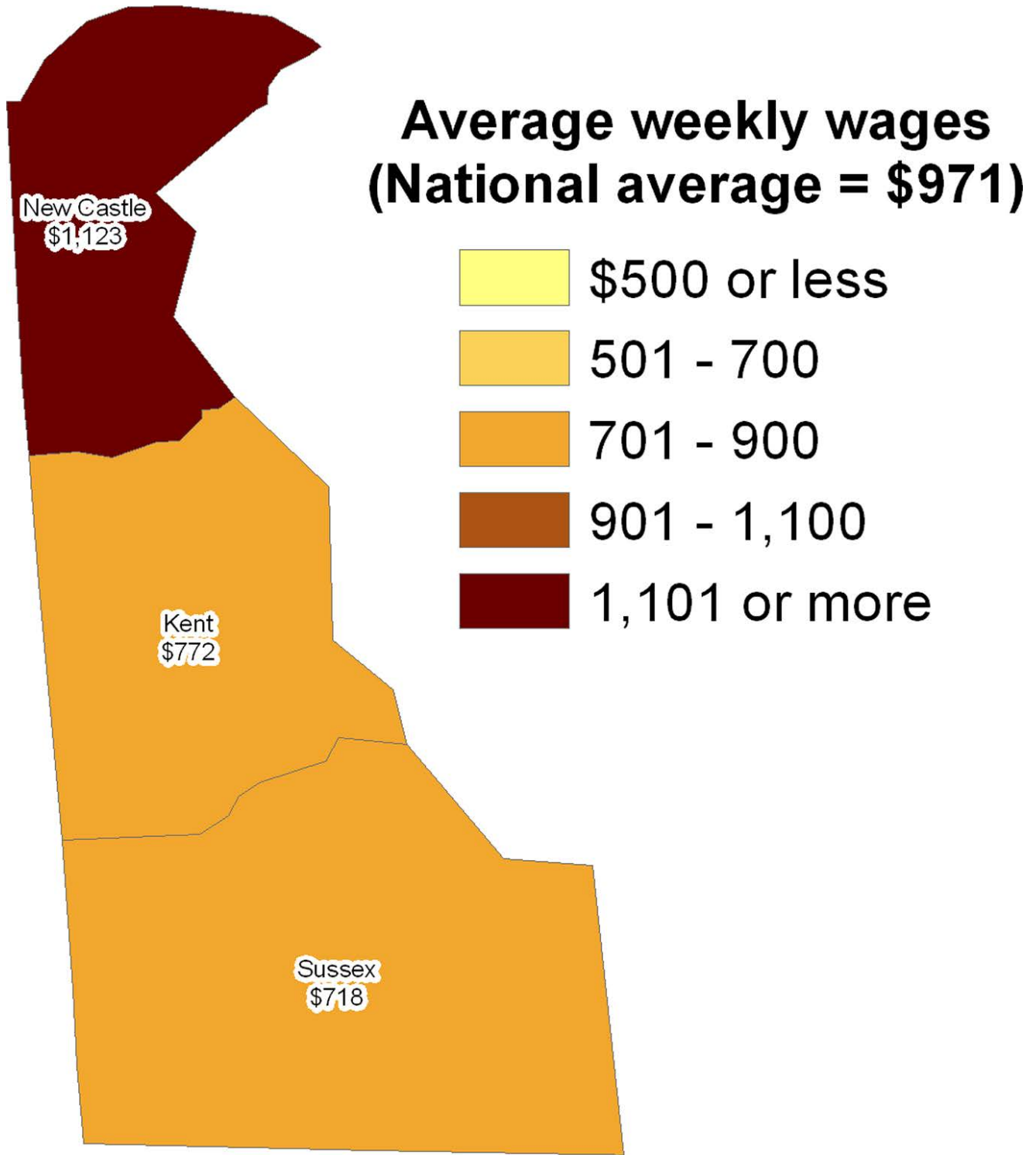
³ Average weekly wages were calculated using unrounded data.

⁴ Ranking does not include the county of San Juan, Puerto Rico.

⁵ Percent changes were computed from quarterly employment and pay data adjusted for any noneconomic county reclassifications.

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

Chart 1. Average weekly wages by county in Delaware, fourth quarter 2010¹



¹ Data are preliminary

Table 2. Covered¹ employment and wages by state, fourth quarter 2010²

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.

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

⁵Data not included in the national ranking.