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County Employment and Wages in West Virginia – Third Quarter 2021

Employment rose in West Virginia's only large county 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 employment in Kanawha County increased 1.6 percent over the year. (See [table 1](#).)

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.

Employment in Kanawha County was at 91,300 in September 2021. Within Kanawha County's private industry, health care and social assistance accounted for the largest employment. Kanawha County accounted for 13.7 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 54 counties in West Virginia with employment below 75,000. Wage levels in all of the smaller counties were below the national average of \$1,251 in the third quarter of 2021. (See [table 2](#).)

Large county wage changes

Average weekly wages in Kanawha County increased 4.8 percent from the third quarter of 2020 to the third quarter of 2021, below the national rate of 6.7 percent.

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 Kanawha County, at \$1,038, were above the national average of \$1,251 in the third quarter of 2021. Average weekly wages in the county ranked 242nd among the 343 largest counties.

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 West Virginia's smaller counties

Among the 54 smaller counties in West Virginia—those with employment below 75,000—Monongalia County (\$1,147) and Marshall County (\$1,124) reported the highest weekly wages in the state. Clay County (\$518) and Pendleton County (\$586) reported the lowest average weekly wages in the state.

When all 55 counties in West Virginia were considered, 6 reported average weekly wages of less than \$700, 12 had wages from \$700 to \$799, 16 registered wages from \$800 to \$899, 13 had wages from \$900 to \$999, and 8 had average weekly wages of \$1,000 or higher.

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. 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/.

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. 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 largest county in West Virginia, third quarter 2021

Area	Establishments, third quarter (thousands)	Employment			Average weekly wage ⁽¹⁾			
		September 2021 (thousands)	Percent change, September 2020–21 ⁽²⁾	National ranking by percent change ⁽³⁾	Third quarter 2021	National ranking by level ⁽³⁾	Percent change, third quarter 2020–21 ⁽²⁾	National ranking by percent change ⁽³⁾
United States ⁽⁴⁾	11,021.4	144,863.9	4.4	--	\$1,251	--	6.7	--
West Virginia	53.6	664.2	2.7	--	960	49	5.0	42
Kanawha	5.7	91.3	1.6	290	1,038	242	4.8	216

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 West Virginia, third quarter 2021

Area	Establishments	Employment September 2021	Average weekly wage (1)
United States (2)	11,021,414	144,863,915	\$1,251
West Virginia	53,563	664,189	960
Barbour	324	3,763	888
Berkeley	2,209	36,385	944
Boone	385	4,384	878
Braxton	347	3,544	729
Brooke	495	7,169	883
Cabell	2,766	50,205	956
Calhoun	140	1,182	954
Clay	156	1,325	518
Doddridge	121	1,476	1,013
Fayette	1,005	10,290	745
Gilmer	156	1,750	810
Grant	301	3,281	837
Greenbrier	1,183	11,951	781
Hampshire	459	3,786	666
Hancock	666	8,686	845
Hardy	356	5,461	769
Harrison	2,083	35,058	1,055
Jackson	618	7,832	1,011
Jefferson	1,258	15,276	1,018
Kanawha	5,683	91,252	1,038
Lewis	489	5,205	906
Lincoln	281	2,246	647
Logan	855	9,690	926
McDowell	349	3,941	921
Marion	1,399	16,580	870
Marshall	576	10,141	1,124
Mason	410	5,599	914
Mercer	1,430	17,884	821
Mineral	536	8,008	850
Mingo	508	3,969	728
Monongalia	2,841	56,318	1,147
Monroe	253	1,868	810
Morgan	280	2,899	666
Nicholas	754	6,815	779
Ohio	1,446	26,709	929
Pendleton	203	1,520	586
Pleasants	179	2,369	976
Pocahontas	292	2,957	671
Preston	720	7,254	849
Putnam	1,490	19,704	1,036
Raleigh	2,220	30,334	893
Randolph	858	10,508	776
Ritchie	244	3,057	871
Roane	313	2,860	784
Summers	226	2,238	707
Taylor	291	3,133	906
Tucker	237	2,550	737
Tyler	146	1,751	959
Upshur	726	7,264	807
Wayne	591	7,878	925
Webster	215	1,547	702
Wetzel	404	4,344	771
Wirt	95	936	880

Note: See footnotes at end of table.

Table 2. Covered establishments, employment, and wages in the United States and all counties in West Virginia, third quarter 2021 - Continued

Area	Establishments	Employment September 2021	Average weekly wage (1)
Wood	2,206	33,718	910
Wyoming	420	4,532	843

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 ⁽¹⁾			
		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 ⁽²⁾	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.