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County Employment and Wages in Illinois – Fourth Quarter 2013

Eight of Illinois' 13 large counties reported employment increases from December 2012 to December 2013, 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 2012 annual average employment.) Regional Commissioner Charlene Peiffer noted that three of the state's large counties experienced over-the-year employment gains above the national increase of 1.8 percent.

Nationally, employment increased in 292 of the 334 largest U.S. counties. Weld, Colo., recorded the largest percentage increase in the country, up 6.0 percent over the year. St. Clair, Ill., registered the largest percentage employment decline, down 3.1 percent.

Among the 13 largest counties in Illinois, employment was highest in Cook County (2,463,300) in December 2013. Two other large counties, Du Page (596,000) and Lake (330,700), had employment levels of more than 300,000. Collectively, Illinois' 13 large counties accounted for 80.2 percent of the state's employment with Cook County alone accounting for 42.8 percent. Nationwide, the 334 largest counties made up 71.7 percent of total U.S. employment.

Average weekly wages rose in 10 of 13 large counties in Illinois from the fourth quarter of 2012 to the fourth quarter of 2013. Lake County had the highest average weekly wage in the state at $1,289, followed by Du Page ($1,180), and Cook ($1,174) Counties. (See table 1.) Nationally, the average weekly wage was unchanged over the year, remaining at $1,000 in the fourth quarter of 2013.

Employment and wage levels (but not over-the-year changes) are also available for the 89 counties in Illinois with employment below 75,000. Eighty-five of these smaller counties had average weekly wages below the national average. (See table 2.)

Large county wage changes

Ten of Illinois' 13 large counties recorded wage gains from the fourth quarter of 2012 to the fourth quarter of 2013. (See table 1.) Champaign, Winnebago, and Madison Counties experienced the state's largest wage increases, ranking 27th, 41st, and 43rd, respectively, among the nation's 334 largest counties.

Nationally, 185 of the 334 largest counties registered over-the-year wage increases. Santa Cruz, Calif., had the largest wage gain, up 6.5 percent from the fourth quarter of 2012. Ada, Idaho, was second with a wage increase of 6.4 percent, followed by the counties of Washington, Ore. (5.9 percent), and Union, N.J. (5.2 percent).

Among the large U.S. counties, 140 experienced over-the-year wage decreases. Douglas, Colo., had the largest wage decrease with a loss of 29.7 percent. San Mateo, Calif., had the second largest decrease in average weekly wages, down 15.8 percent from the fourth quarter 2012, followed by Virginia Beach City, Va. (-10.0 percent), McHenry, Ill. (-8.8 percent), and Shawnee, Kan. (-5.1 percent).

Large county average weekly wages

Average weekly wages in 3 of Illinois' 13 large counties were above the national average of $1,000 in the fourth quarter of 2013 and ranked among the top 50 nationwide--Lake ($1,289, 22nd), Du Page ($1,180, 41st), and Cook ($1,174, 42nd). St. Claire ($779) reported the lowest average weekly wage among the state's large counties and ranked 293rd nationwide.

Nationally, 98 large counties registered average weekly wages above the U.S. average of $1,000 in the fourth quarter of 2013. San Mateo, Calif., held the top position among the highest-paid large counties with an average weekly wage of $2,724. New York, N.Y., was second at $2,041, followed by Santa Clara, Calif. ($1,972).

Seventy percent of the largest U.S. counties (235) reported weekly wages below the national average. Horry, S.C., reported the lowest wage ($587), followed by the Texas counties of Cameron ($598) and Hidalgo ($620). Wages in these lowest-ranked counties were less than a quarter of the average weekly wage reported for the highest-ranked county, San Mateo, Calif.

Average weekly wages in Illinois' smaller counties

Eight-five of the 89 counties in Illinois with employment below 75,000 had average weekly wages lower than the national average of $1,000. The exceptions were Rock Island ($1,247), Tazewell ($1,103), De Witt ($1,090), and Grundy ($1,029). Calhoun reported the lowest weekly wage among all Illinois counties, averaging $470 in the fourth quarter of 2013. (See table 2.)

When all 102 counties in Illinois were considered, all but 7 had wages below the national average of $1,000. Two counties reported average weekly wages below $550, 22 reported wages from $550 to $649, 37 had wages from $650 to $749, 23 had wages from $750 to $849, and 18 had wages above $850. (See chart 1.)

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. The 2012 edition of this publication contains selected data produced by Business Employment Dynamics (BED) on job gains and losses, as well as selected data from the first quarter 2013 version of the national news release. Tables and additional content from *Employment and Wages Annual Averages 2012* are now available online at https://www.bls.gov/cew/publications/employment-and-wages-annual-averages/2012/home.htm. The 2013 edition of *Employment and Wages Annual Averages Online* will be available later in September 2014.

Information in this release will be made available to sensory impaired individuals upon request. Voice phone: 202-691-5200; Federal Relay Service: 1-800-877-8339.

The County Employment and Wages release for first quarter 2015 is scheduled to be released on Thursday, September 17, 2015.

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 9.3 million employer reports cover 136.1 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 (see Technical Note below) 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 employment and wages in the United States and the 13 largest counties in Illinois, fourth quarter 2013

Area	Employment			Average weekly wage [1]			
	December 2013 (thousands)	Percent change, December 2012-13 [2]	National ranking by percent change [3]	Average weekly wage	National ranking by level [3]	Percent change, fourth quarter 2012-13 [2]	National ranking by percent change [3]
United States [4]	136,129.4	1.8	--	$1,000	--	0.0	--
Illinois	5,758.9	1.0	--	1,060	8	0.2	27
Champaign, Ill.	89.0	0.7	230	827	252	2.7	27
Cook, Ill.	2,463.3	1.1	200	1,174	42	-1.0	253
Du Page, Ill.	596.0	1.2	188	1,180	41	1.5	69
Kane, Ill.	203.9	1.9	130	876	198	1.2	91
Lake, Ill.	330.7	1.2	188	1,289	22	0.3	160
Madison, Ill.	95.4	-0.4	308	822	260	2.1	43
McHenry, Ill.	95.1	1.9	130	825	254	-8.8	331
McLean, Ill.	85.2	-0.7	317	956	135	1.1	95
Peoria, Ill.	101.8	-2.2	332	935	151	0.5	141
Sangamon, Ill.	126.8	0.6	239	999	100	1.6	64
St. Clair, Ill.	92.2	-3.1	334	779	293	-0.3	214
Will, Ill.	214.6	3.1	59	860	218	1.3	83
Winnebago, Ill.	124.6	-0.1	296	849	231	2.2	41

Footnotes:
(1) Average weekly wages were calculated using unrounded data.
(2) Percent changes were computed from quarterly 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: Covered employment and wages includes workers covered by Unemployment Insurance (UI) and Unemployment Compensation for Federal Employees (UCFE) programs. Data are preliminary.

Table 2. Covered [1] employment and wages in the United States and all counties in Illinois, fourth quarter 2013 [2]

Area	Employment December 2013	Average weekly wage [3]
United States [4]	136,129,407	$1,000
Illinois	5,758,892	1,060
Adams	32,938	782
Alexander	1,378	640
Bond	4,703	644
Boone	16,540	838
Brown	3,707	852
Bureau	11,459	717
Calhoun	783	470
Carroll	4,033	630
Cass	5,638	676
Champaign	88,964	827
Christian	10,768	686
Clark	4,611	624
Clay	4,987	673
Clinton	12,107	681
Coles	23,015	683
Cook	2,463,282	1,174
Crawford	7,894	829
Cumberland	2,324	647
De Kalb	36,366	756
De Witt	5,239	1,090
Douglas	7,145	714
Du Page	596,015	1,180
Edgar	6,655	736
Edwards	2,204	726
Effingham	20,272	719
Fayette	5,608	642
Ford	4,548	753
Franklin	8,365	601
Fulton	8,070	614
Gallatin	1,061	722
Greene	2,558	566
Grundy	17,167	1,029
Hamilton	1,869	743
Hancock	3,953	646
Hardin	902	643
Henderson	1,139	529
Henry	14,082	697
Iroquois	8,260	607
Jackson	25,204	775
Jasper	2,046	698
Jefferson	19,073	772
Jersey	4,612	617
Jo Daviess	7,676	633
Johnson	2,317	852
Kane	203,874	876
Kankakee	44,525	741
Kendall	25,749	738
Knox	19,377	639
La Salle	42,954	800
Lake	330,705	1,289
Lawrence	4,407	737
Lee	12,918	785
Livingston	13,869	808
Logan	8,888	745

Note: See footnotes at end of table.

Table 2. Covered [1] employment and wages in the United States and all counties in Illinois, fourth quarter 2013 [2] - Continued

Area	Employment December 2013	Average weekly wage [3]
Macon	48,609	891
Macoupin	9,938	656
Madison	95,374	822
Marion	12,816	699
Marshall	2,961	708
Mason	3,102	689
Massac	3,381	788
McDonough	11,548	710
McHenry	95,141	825
McLean	85,200	956
Menard	1,843	605
Mercer	2,978	659
Monroe	8,207	650
Montgomery	8,718	766
Morgan	14,576	724
Moultrie	4,603	685
Ogle	15,057	850
Peoria	101,806	935
Perry	4,818	688
Piatt	3,264	656
Pike	4,137	563
Pope	572	566
Pulaski	1,418	761
Putnam	1,676	823
Randolph	12,276	766
Richland	6,127	631
Rock Island	74,273	1,247
Saline	8,473	747
Sangamon	126,764	999
Schuyler	1,936	864
Scott	1,038	659
Shelby	4,589	589
St. Clair	92,198	779
Stark	1,362	693
Stephenson	17,267	768
Tazewell	56,915	1,103
Union	4,764	654
Vermilion	27,312	764
Wabash	3,254	724
Warren	6,346	605
Washington	5,579	853
Wayne	4,200	622
White	4,430	740
Whiteside	20,788	659
Will	214,591	860
Williamson	26,005	744
Winnebago	124,625	849
Woodford	10,735	756

Footnotes:
(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.

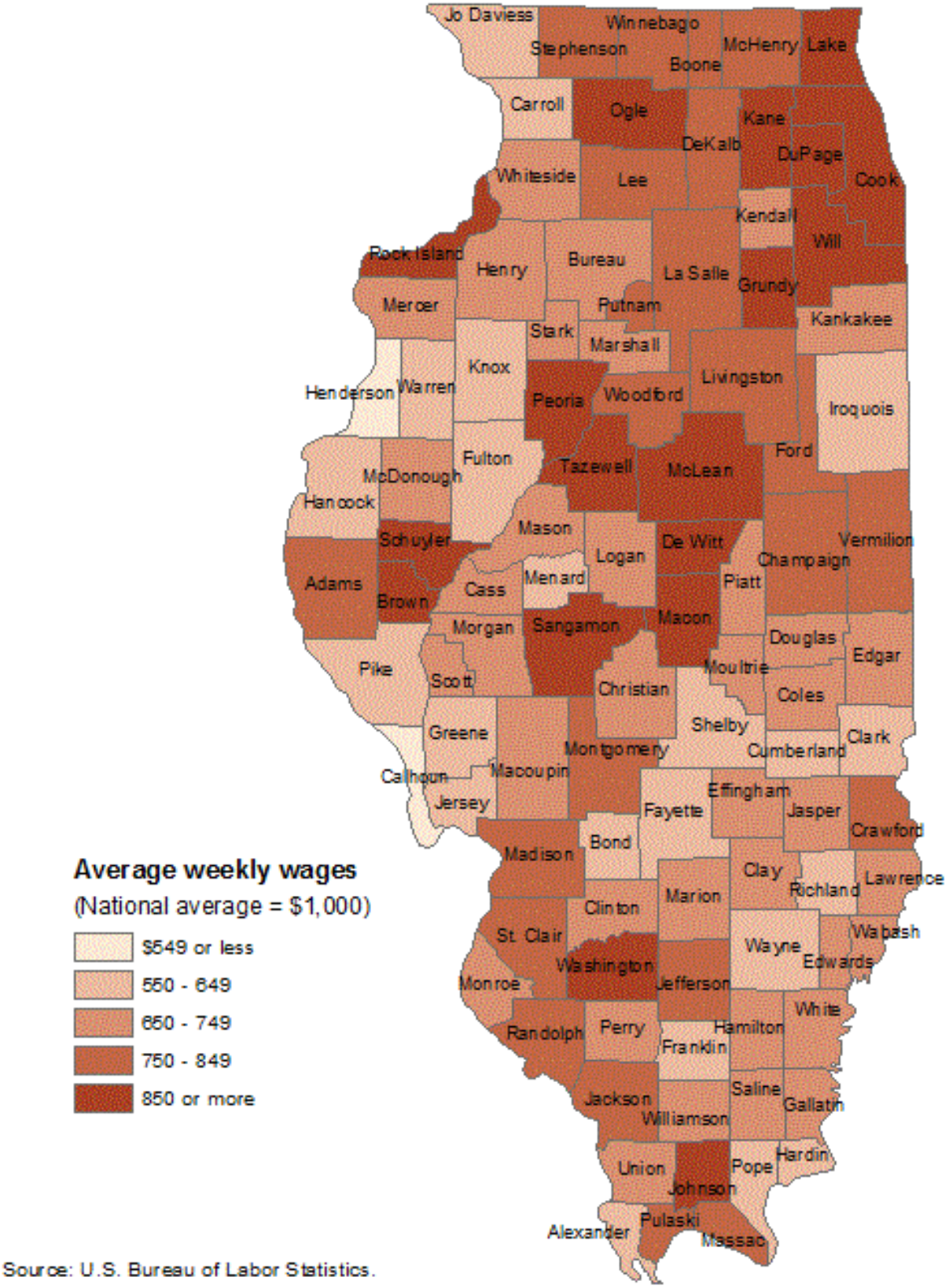
Table 3. Covered employment and wages by state, fourth quarter 2013

State	Employment		Average weekly wage [1]			
	December 2013 (thousands)	Percent change, December 2012-13	Average weekly wage	National ranking by level	Percent change, fourth quarter 2012-13	National ranking by percent change
United States [2]	136,129.4	1.8	$1,000	--	0.0	--
Alabama	1,866.5	1.0	851	34	-0.5	39
Alaska	315.1	0.0	1,022	14	1.6	7
Arizona	2,571.0	2.4	906	23	-0.5	39
Arkansas	1,154.3	-0.5	771	47	0.4	22
California	15,650.3	2.8	1,175	6	-0.9	43
Colorado	2,383.9	3.1	1,023	13	-0.9	43
Connecticut	1,661.2	0.3	1,238	4	-1.3	49
Delaware	419.6	1.8	1,035	9	-0.6	41
District of Columbia	727.3	0.6	1,638	1	-3.9	51
Florida	7,739.5	2.7	883	29	0.2	27
Georgia	3,986.9	2.5	924	21	-0.1	32
Hawaii	632.9	1.7	871	30	0.3	25
Idaho	634.5	2.6	754	50	3.0	2
Illinois	5,758.9	1.0	1,060	8	0.2	27
Indiana	2,896.9	1.6	814	40	-0.2	35
Iowa	1,510.9	1.4	834	38	1.6	7
Kansas	1,359.5	1.6	832	39	-0.4	38
Kentucky	1,818.0	1.2	804	42	0.2	27
Louisiana	1,911.6	0.9	889	26	0.5	20
Maine	586.8	0.8	786	46	1.7	5
Maryland	2,555.1	0.4	1,076	7	-0.9	43
Massachusetts	3,332.9	1.5	1,258	3	0.8	17
Michigan	4,072.4	2.0	952	20	-0.2	35
Minnesota	2,720.6	1.7	988	16	0.3	25
Mississippi	1,108.1	1.1	729	51	1.3	11
Missouri	2,670.4	1.1	861	32	-0.2	35
Montana	440.0	1.3	760	48	0.4	22
Nebraska	944.3	1.4	796	43	-0.1	32
Nevada	1,180.5	3.0	884	28	0.7	18
New Hampshire	629.3	1.4	1,017	15	-0.8	42
New Jersey	3,887.5	1.2	1,186	5	1.1	14
New Mexico	796.2	-0.1	814	40	1.4	10
New York	8,888.6	1.7	1,266	2	-1.1	48
North Carolina	4,045.5	1.9	860	33	0.7	18
North Dakota	435.0	3.3	980	17	3.8	1
Ohio	5,175.4	1.4	887	27	0.0	30
Oklahoma	1,581.3	0.6	851	34	-0.1	32
Oregon	1,699.6	2.5	894	25	2.6	3
Pennsylvania	5,650.3	0.4	976	18	0.4	22
Rhode Island	462.7	1.4	960	19	1.5	9
South Carolina	1,875.8	2.3	793	44	1.0	15
South Dakota	407.1	1.3	759	49	1.3	11
Tennessee	2,758.3	1.8	895	24	-0.9	43
Texas	11,246.3	2.6	1,027	12	0.0	30
Utah	1,284.7	3.1	836	37	-0.9	43
Vermont	308.5	0.6	848	36	2.3	4
Virginia	3,670.0	0.1	1,028	11	-1.3	49
Washington	2,976.0	2.5	1,034	10	1.7	5
West Virginia	710.1	-0.6	792	45	0.5	20
Wisconsin	2,751.8	1.0	865	31	1.2	13
Wyoming	279.2	0.6	917	22	1.0	15
Puerto Rico	958.3	-2.3	551	[3]	0.2	[3]
Virgin Islands	38.5	-3.6	754	[3]	2.4	[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: Covered employment and wages includes workers covered by Unemployment Insurance (UI) and Unemployment Compensation for Federal Employees (UCFE) programs. Data are preliminary.

Chart 1. Average weekly wages by county in Illinois, fourth quarter 2013



Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics.