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County Employment and Wages in Illinois — Fourth Quarter 2014

Nine of Illinois' 13 large counties reported employment increases from December 2013 to December 2014, 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 2013 annual average employment.) Regional Commissioner Charlene Peiffer noted that Madison County had the largest increase in employment at 2.1 percent, followed closely by Sangamon County's 2.0-percent growth. Three counties experienced employment declines of less than 1.0-percent-McLean, Peoria, and Lake. (See table 1.)

Nationally, employment advanced 2.2 percent from December 2013 to December 2014 as 319 of the 339 largest U.S. counties registered increases. Weld, Colo., and Midland, Texas, had the largest percentage increases, with gains of 8.0 percent each over the year. Atlantic, N.J., had the largest over-the-year percentage decrease in employment, with a loss of 5.0 percent.

Among the 13 largest counties in Illinois, employment was highest in Cook County (2,512,500) in December 2014. Two other large counties, Du Page (608,000) and Lake (331,400), had employment levels of more than 300,000. Collectively, Illinois' 13 large counties accounted for 80.4 percent of the state's employment with Cook County alone accounting for 43.0 percent. Nationwide, the 339 largest counties made up 72.1 percent of total U.S. employment.

From the fourth quarter of 2013 to the fourth quarter of 2014, all large counties in the state experienced wage increases. Champaign County recorded the fastest rate of increase in average weekly wages, registering a gain of 5.2 percent. (See table 1.) Lake County had the highest average weekly wage in the state at $1,341, followed by Cook ($1,209) and Du Page ($1,178) Counties. Nationally, the average weekly wage was $1,035, up 3.5 percent from a year ago.

Employment and wage levels (but not over-the-year changes) are also available for the 89 counties in Illinois with employment levels below 75,000. With the exception of Rock Island County ($1,251) and Tazewell County ($1,105), wage levels in all of these smaller counties were below the national average in the fourth quarter of 2014. (See table 2.)

Large county wage changes

As noted, average weekly wages in all of the 13 large counties in Illinois increased from the fourth quarter of 2013 to the fourth quarter of 2014. Champaign's 5.2-percent wage gain ranked 41st and Kane County's 4.5-percent wage gain ranked 73rd among the 339 largest U.S. counties. Over-the-year wage increases in two other large counties in the state also ranked in the top-half nationwide-Will (3.7 percent, 143rd) and Madison (3.5 percent, 168th). (See table 1.)

Nationally, 332 of the 339 largest counties registered over-the-year increases in average weekly wages. Benton, Ark., had the largest wage gain, up 9.9 percent from the fourth quarter of 2013. Washington, Pa., was second with a wage increase of 9.2 percent, followed by the counties of Midland, Texas (9.0 percent), Brazoria, Texas (8.9 percent), and Douglas, Colo. (8.8 percent).

Of the 339 largest U.S. counties, 7 experienced over-the-year decreases in average weekly wages. San Mateo, Calif., had the largest percentage decrease in average weekly wages, with a loss of 20.4 percent from the fourth quarter 2013. Olmsted, Minn., had the second largest percentage decrease in average weekly wages with a loss of 5.5 percent, followed by Morris, N.J. (-2.9 percent); Rockland, N.Y. (-1.3 percent); and Camden, N.J., and Butler, Pa. (-0.8 percent each).

Large county average weekly wages

Average weekly wages in 3 of Illinois' 13 large counties were above the national average of $1,035 in the fourth quarter of 2014 and ranked in the top 20 percent nationwide-Lake ($1,341, 19th), Cook ($1,209, 47th), and Du Page ($1,178, 51st). St. Clair ($799) reported the lowest average weekly wage among the state's large counties and ranked 306th nationwide.

Nationally, 95 large counties registered average weekly wages above the U.S. average of $1,035 in the fourth quarter of 2014. San Mateo, Calif., held the top position with an average weekly wage of $2,166. New York, N.Y., was second at $2,138, followed by Santa Clara, Calif. ($2,114), Suffolk Mass. ($1,856), and San Francisco, Calif. ($1,850).

Seventy-two percent of the largest U.S. counties (244) reported weekly wages below the national average. Horry County, S.C., reported the lowest wage ($610), followed by the Texas counties of Cameron ($621) and Hidalgo ($641), and the Florida counties of Osceola ($687) and Lake ($691).

Average weekly wages in Illinois' smaller counties

Among the counties with employment below 75,000, Rock Island ($1,251), and Tazewell ($1,105) had average weekly wages above the national average of $1,035. Calhoun County reported the lowest weekly wage in the state, averaging $485 in the fourth quarter of 2014. (See table 2.)

When the 102 counties in Illinois were considered, all but 5 had wages below the national average of $1,035. Five counties reported average weekly wages less than $600, 30 reported wages from $600 to $699, 31 had wages from $700 to $799, 23 had wages from $800 to $899, and 13 had wages of $900 or more. (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 2013 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 2014 version of the national news release. Tables and additional content from *Employment and Wages Annual Averages 2013* are now available online at https://www.bls.gov/cew/publications/employment-and-wages-annual-averages/2013/home.htm. The 2014 edition of *Employment and Wages Annual Averages Online* will be available in September 2015.

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 9.5 million employer reports cover 139.2 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.

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

Table 1. Covered employment and wages in the United States and the 13 largest counties in Illinois, fourth quarter 2014

Area	Employment			Average weekly wage [1]			
	December 2014 (thousands)	Percent change, December 2013-14 [2]	National ranking by percent change [3]	Average weekly wage	National ranking by level [3]	Percent change, fourth quarter 2013-14 [2]	National ranking by percent change [3]
United States [4]	139,204.8	2.2	--	$1,035	--	3.5	--
Illinois	5,844.1	1.4	--	1,089	8	2.8	42
Champaign, Ill.	89.7	0.5	291	868	247	5.2	41
Cook, Ill.	2,512.5	1.6	197	1,209	47	3.2	199
Du Page, Ill.	608.0	1.7	183	1,178	51	0.3	329
Kane, Ill.	205.6	0.3	303	912	200	4.5	73
Lake, Ill.	331.4	-0.6	335	1,341	19	2.8	231
Madison, Ill.	97.9	2.1	151	848	263	3.5	168
McHenry, Ill.	95.8	0.0	320	847	264	2.5	248
McLean, Ill.	84.4	-0.9	336	968	150	1.3	313
Peoria, Ill.	100.7	-0.9	336	954	161	1.8	300
Sangamon, Ill.	129.9	2.0	158	1,019	111	0.8	325
St. Clair, Ill.	93.8	1.3	223	799	306	2.4	258
Will, Ill.	219.3	1.1	236	895	214	3.7	143
Winnebago, Ill.	127.6	1.1	236	874	238	3.4	179

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: 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 employment and wages in the United States and all counties in Illinois, fourth quarter 2014

Area	Employment December 2014	Average weekly wage [1]
United States [2]	139,204,840	$1,035
Illinois	5,844,090	1,089
Adams	32,822	790
Alexander	1,284	673
Bond	4,741	679
Boone	17,212	896
Brown	3,919	858
Bureau	11,243	757
Calhoun	778	485
Carroll	4,051	671
Cass	5,738	679
Champaign	89,743	868
Christian	10,717	709
Clark	4,725	656
Clay	5,150	686
Clinton	12,354	713
Coles	24,010	700
Cook	2,512,521	1,209
Crawford	7,877	846
Cumberland	2,542	664
De Kalb	37,010	782
De Witt	5,307	1,014
Douglas	7,207	752
Du Page	608,012	1,178
Edgar	6,940	767
Edwards	2,361	800
Effingham	21,124	747
Fayette	5,433	625
Ford	4,505	737
Franklin	8,103	638
Fulton	8,209	616
Gallatin	1,073	767
Greene	2,469	605
Grundy	18,512	1,034
Hamilton	2,158	854
Hancock	3,947	614
Hardin	886	586
Henderson	1,146	574
Henry	14,030	725
Iroquois	8,079	633
Jackson	25,563	794
Jasper	1,966	756
Jefferson	19,320	803
Jersey	4,704	624
Jo Daviess	7,665	665
Johnson	2,322	837
Kane	205,637	912
Kankakee	43,612	810
Kendall	26,517	756
Knox	19,614	647
La Salle	43,779	827
Lake	331,437	1,341
Lawrence	4,515	807
Lee	13,438	812
Livingston	14,044	855
Logan	9,046	773
Macon	49,289	956

Note: See footnotes at end of table.

Table 2. Covered employment and wages in the United States and all counties in Illinois, fourth quarter 2014 - Continued

Area	Employment December 2014	Average weekly wage [1]
Macoupin	10,122	682
Madison	97,938	848
Marion	13,072	707
Marshall	3,086	894
Mason	3,253	697
Massac	3,336	867
McDonough	11,753	731
McHenry	95,809	847
McLean	84,442	968
Menard	1,930	597
Mercer	3,102	632
Monroe	7,933	683
Montgomery	8,547	749
Morgan	14,713	712
Moultrie	4,790	724
Ogle	15,772	876
Peoria	100,694	954
Perry	4,982	699
Piatt	3,307	666
Pike	4,289	614
Pope	546	597
Pulaski	1,452	769
Putnam	1,689	878
Randolph	12,082	768
Richland	5,932	686
Rock Island	72,974	1,251
Saline	8,520	775
Sangamon	129,908	1,019
Schuyler	1,946	923
Scott	1,065	727
Shelby	4,628	612
St. Clair	93,804	799
Stark	1,298	699
Stephenson	17,056	805
Tazewell	58,110	1,105
Union	4,738	675
Vermilion	28,808	786
Wabash	3,268	758
Warren	6,381	648
Washington	5,784	883
Wayne	4,124	634
White	4,380	742
Whiteside	21,103	689
Will	219,269	895
Williamson	27,050	774
Winnebago	127,644	874
Woodford	11,055	787

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

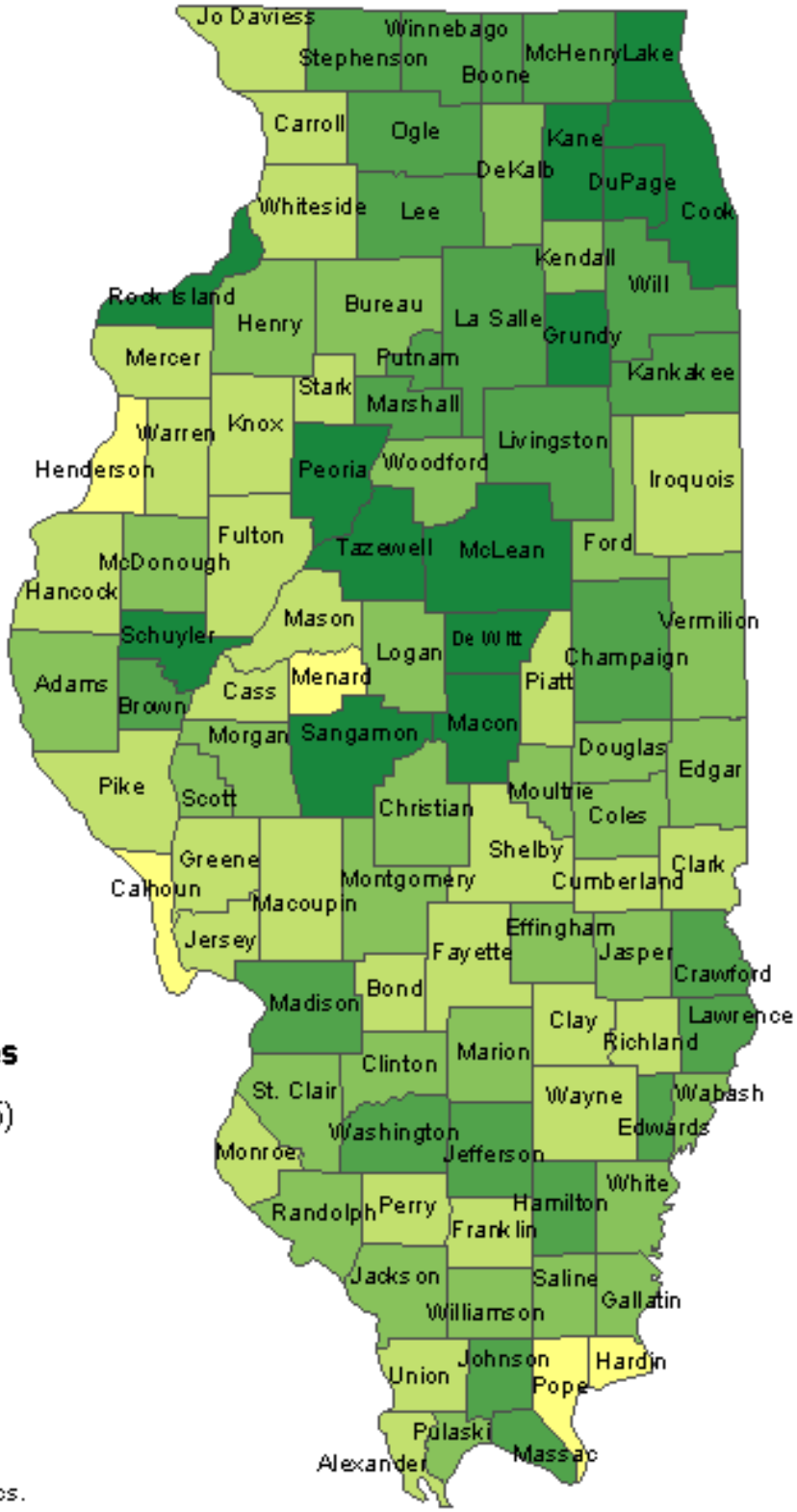
Table 3. Covered employment and wages by state, fourth quarter 2014

State	Employment		Average weekly wage [1]			
	December 2014 (thousands)	Percent change, December 2013-14	Average weekly wage	National ranking by level	Percent change, fourth quarter 2013-14	National ranking by percent change
United States [2]	139,204.8	2.2	$1,035	--	3.5	--
Alabama	1,891.4	1.3	881	35	3.5	31
Alaska	317.6	0.8	1,063	13	4.0	20
Arizona	2,630.8	2.2	926	25	2.3	47
Arkansas	1,180.5	2.2	807	47	4.5	5
California	16,068.5	2.6	1,209	6	2.9	41
Colorado	2,478.0	3.9	1,066	12	4.1	17
Connecticut	1,681.2	1.2	1,278	4	2.7	45
Delaware	433.0	2.9	1,049	16	1.5	51
District of Columbia	736.9	0.9	1,696	1	3.7	28
Florida	8,009.6	3.5	911	28	3.1	40
Georgia	4,131.9	3.7	958	21	3.8	25
Hawaii	638.3	0.7	908	29	4.2	15
Idaho	650.7	2.5	782	50	4.0	20
Illinois	5,844.1	1.4	1,089	8	2.8	42
Indiana	2,946.5	1.7	846	41	3.9	22
Iowa	1,527.6	1.1	870	38	4.3	11
Kansas	1,377.2	1.3	855	39	2.6	46
Kentucky	1,852.2	1.8	836	43	4.1	17
Louisiana	1,954.0	2.1	923	26	3.8	25
Maine	592.7	0.9	826	44	5.1	4
Maryland	2,590.3	1.3	1,113	7	3.5	31
Massachusetts	3,415.6	2.2	1,315	3	4.5	5
Michigan	4,158.9	2.1	984	20	3.3	37
Minnesota	2,762.9	1.4	1,024	17	3.6	30
Mississippi	1,118.6	1.0	747	51	2.3	47
Missouri	2,709.8	1.5	891	32	3.4	34
Montana	442.2	0.5	794	48	4.5	5
Nebraska	958.1	1.4	837	42	5.2	3
Nevada	1,229.6	4.2	899	30	1.6	50
New Hampshire	638.0	1.4	1,081	10	6.3	2
New Jersey	3,933.6	1.3	1,211	5	2.0	49
New Mexico	808.4	1.3	850	40	4.4	10
New York	9,067.6	2.0	1,321	2	4.3	11
North Carolina	4,141.8	2.4	890	33	3.4	34
North Dakota	454.8	4.5	1,050	15	7.1	1
Ohio	5,264.3	1.6	922	27	3.9	22
Oklahoma	1,614.3	2.1	876	36	2.8	42
Oregon	1,755.4	3.2	928	23	3.8	25
Pennsylvania	5,716.5	1.2	1,013	18	3.7	28
Rhode Island	471.5	1.9	1,003	19	4.5	5
South Carolina	1,931.4	2.9	817	46	3.2	39
South Dakota	412.5	1.3	791	49	4.2	15
Tennessee	2,822.1	2.4	927	24	3.5	31
Texas	11,662.7	3.7	1,070	11	4.3	11
Utah	1,324.2	3.0	872	37	4.3	11
Vermont	311.0	0.7	882	34	4.1	17
Virginia	3,691.4	0.6	1,057	14	2.8	42
Washington	3,069.7	3.2	1,082	9	4.5	5
West Virginia	712.0	0.1	818	45	3.3	37
Wisconsin	2,789.3	1.3	894	31	3.4	34
Wyoming	283.6	1.5	952	22	3.9	22
Puerto Rico	944.2	-1.5	556	[3]	0.7	[3]
Virgin Islands	38.5	-0.3	746	[3]	-1.2	[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.

Chart 1. Average weekly wages by county in Illinois, fourth quarter 2014



Average weekly wages

(National average = $1,035)

- $599 or less
- $600 - $699
- $700 - $799
- $800 - $899
- $900 or more

Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics.