NEWS RELEASE
BUREAU OF LABOR STATISTICS
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF LABOR

For Release: Wednesday, October 14, 2015 15-1844-CHI

MIDWEST INFORMATION OFFICE: Chicago, Ill.
Technical information: (312) 353-1880 BLSInfoChicago@bls.gov www.bls.gov/regions/midwest
Media contact: (312) 353-1138

County Employment and Wages in Indiana — First Quarter 2015

All eight of the large counties in Indiana reported employment gains from March 2014 to March 2015, 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 2014 annual average employment.) Regional Commissioner Charlene Peiffer noted that Hamilton County had the largest increase, up 3.9 percent, followed by the counties of Elkhart (3.6 percent) and Tippecanoe (2.7 percent). (See table 1.)

Nationally, employment advanced 2.1 percent from March 2014 to March 2015 as 323 of the 342 largest U.S. counties registered increases. Utah, Utah, recorded the largest percentage increase in the country, up 6.1 percent over the year. Atlantic, N.J., had the largest over-the-year percentage decrease in employment among the largest counties in the U.S. with a loss of 4.3 percent.

Among the eight largest counties in Indiana, employment was highest in Marion County (575,000). Two other counties, Lake (183,900) and Allen (177,900), had employment levels above 150,000. Together, the eight largest Indiana counties accounted for 51.5 percent of total employment within the state. Nationwide, the 342 largest counties made up 72.3 percent of total U.S. employment, which stood at 137.4 million in March 2015.

From the first quarter of 2014 to the first quarter of 2015, Tippecanoe County recorded the fastest rate of increase in average weekly wages among the eight large counties in Indiana, registering a gain of 4.8 percent. (See table 1.) Marion County recorded the highest average weekly wage among these large counties at $1,071 per week, followed by Hamilton County at $1,027. Nationally, the average weekly wage increased 2.1 percent over the year to $1,048 in the first quarter of 2015.

Employment and wage levels (but not over-the-year changes) are also available for the 84 counties in Indiana with employment levels below 75,000. Excluding the counties of Martin, Bartholomew, and Posey, all of these smaller counties had average weekly wages below the national average. (See table 2.)

Large county wage changes

Tippecanoe County's 4.8-percent rise in average weekly wages from the first quarter of 2014 to the first quarter of 2015 ranked 26th among the nation's 342 largest counties. (See table 1.) Four other large counties in the state recorded increases at or above the national increase of 2.1 percent: Lake (3.6 percent, 45th), Elkhart (3.0 percent, 67th), Vanderburgh (2.2 percent, 127th), and St. Joseph (2.1 percent, 133th). Marion County had the lowest wage increase at 0.8 percent, ranking 266th.

Nationally, 297 of the 342 largest counties registered over-the-year wage increases. Olmsted, Minn., experienced the largest wage gain in the nation, up 11.7 percent from the first quarter of 2014. Washington, Pa., had the second largest increase (10.7 percent), followed by Riverside, Calif. (10.1 percent).

Among the nation's 342 largest counties, 39 experienced over-the-year wage decreases. Snohomish, Wash., had the largest percentage decrease in average weekly wages, with a loss of 4.8 percent. Chester, Pa., had the second largest wage decline (-4.0 percent), followed by Williamson, Texas (-3.1 percent).

Large county average weekly wages

As noted, Marion County ($1,071) had the highest average weekly wage in the state and ranked 82nd among the 342 largest U.S. counties. No other large county in Indiana had an average weekly wage that exceeded the national average of $1,048. Hamilton County ($1,027, 108th) was the only other large county in Indiana to report an average weekly wage above $1,000. St. Joseph ($790) reported the lowest average weekly wage among the state's large counties and ranked 291st nationwide.

In the first quarter of 2015, nearly three-fourths of the largest U.S. counties (248) reported weekly wages below the national average. Horry County, S.C., reported the lowest wage ($583), followed by the Texas counties of Cameron ($593) and Hidalgo ($607).

Among the nation's 342 largest counties, 93 registered weekly wages above the U.S. average. New York, N.Y., held the top position with an average weekly wage of $2,847. Santa Clara, Calif., was second at $2,203, followed by Somerset, N.J. ($2,080), San Francisco, Calif. ($2,070), and San Mateo, Calif. ($2,066). Average wages in the highest-ranked county, New York, N.Y., were nearly five times the average wage in the lowest-ranked county, Horry, S.C. ($583).

Average weekly wages in Indiana's smaller counties

Among the 84 counties in Indiana with employment below 75,000, three counties—Martin ($1,327), Bartholomew ($1,065), and Posey ($1,054)—had average weekly wages above the national average of $1,048. Average weekly wages in Brown ($470) and Ohio ($490) Counties were the lowest in the state. (See table 2.)

When all 92 counties in Indiana were considered, all but 4 had wages below the national average. Ten reported average weekly wages less than $600, 39 had wages from $600 to $699, 24 reported wages from $700 to $799, 11 had wages from $800 to $899, and 8 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 2014 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 2015 version of the national QCEW news release. Tables and additional content from Employment and Wages Annual Averages 2014 are now available online at www.bls.gov/cew/cewbultn14.htm. The 2015 edition of Employment and Wages Annual Averages Online will be available in September 2016.

The County Employment and Wages release for second quarter 2015 is scheduled to be released on Thursday, December 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 137.4 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: 1-800-877-8339.

Table 1. Covered employment and wages in the United States and the 8 largest counties in Indiana, first quarter 2015

Area	Employment			Average weekly wage [1]			
	March 2015 (thousands)	Percent change, March 2014-15 [2]	National ranking by percent change [3]	Average weekly wage	National ranking by level [3]	Percent change, first quarter 2014-15 [2]	National ranking by percent change [3]
United States [4]	137,412.4	2.1	--	$1,048	--	2.1	--
Indiana	2,894.8	1.8	--	857	35	1.4	38
Allen, Ind.	177.9	2.2	150	841	244	1.1	239
Elkhart, Ind.	122.3	3.6	52	834	248	3.0	67
Hamilton, Ind.	128.0	3.9	37	1,027	108	0.9	256
Lake, Ind.	183.9	0.2	314	890	192	3.6	45
Marion, Ind.	575.0	1.9	165	1,071	82	0.8	266
St. Joseph, Ind.	117.6	1.7	186	790	291	2.1	133
Tippecanoe, Ind.	81.4	2.7	112	867	215	4.8	26
Vanderburgh, Ind.	105.2	1.1	243	822	262	2.2	127

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 Indiana, first quarter 2015

Area	Employment March 2015	Average weekly Wage [1]
United States [2]	137,412,381	$1,048
Indiana	2,894,772	857
Adams	13,168	648
Allen	177,936	841
Bartholomew	48,980	1,065
Benton	2,156	678
Blackford	3,184	663
Boone	25,413	744
Brown	2,753	470
Carroll	5,204	603
Cass	14,437	627
Clark	51,025	708
Clay	7,407	613
Clinton	10,726	694
Crawford	1,945	533
Daviess	11,096	604
Dearborn	14,174	675
Decatur	13,472	719
De Kalb	21,024	810
Delaware	44,384	724
Dubois	27,678	739
Elkhart	122,342	834
Fayette	6,288	643
Floyd	28,585	727
Fountain	4,649	594
Franklin	4,532	536
Fulton	6,096	653
Gibson	19,675	851
Grant	27,568	720
Greene	6,312	571
Hamilton	127,987	1,027
Hancock	21,010	850
Harrison	9,897	622
Hendricks	60,504	671
Henry	12,787	590
Howard	38,307	937
Huntington	14,206	638
Jackson	20,272	778
Jasper	11,851	711
Jay	7,371	641
Jefferson	12,400	715
Jennings	7,197	632
Johnson	48,116	661
Knox	17,438	665
Kosciusko	36,672	972
La Porte	39,549	711
Lagrange	12,790	706
Lake	183,890	890
Lawrence	12,502	690
Madison	38,019	655
Marion	574,990	1,071
Marshall	18,923	664
Martin	6,810	1,327
Miami	9,363	667
Monroe	61,181	797
Montgomery	15,627	754
Morgan	14,870	641

Note: See footnotes at end of table.

Table 2. Covered employment and wages in the United States and all counties in Indiana, first quarter 2015 - Continued

Area	Employment March 2015	Average weekly Wage [1]
Newton	3,363	652
Noble	18,639	687
Ohio	1,382	490
Orange	7,373	565
Owen	4,391	797
Parke	2,901	551
Perry	6,391	660
Pike	2,928	953
Porter	58,156	808
Posey	8,056	1,054
Pulaski	4,453	731
Putnam	12,508	644
Randolph	7,341	663
Ripley	11,535	798
Rush	4,823	692
St. Joseph	117,620	790
Scott	7,280	627
Shelby	17,638	751
Spencer	6,131	747
Starke	4,372	531
Steuben	15,312	610
Sullivan	6,255	735
Switzerland	1,987	634
Tippecanoe	81,403	867
Tipton	4,256	729
Union	1,240	603
Vanderburgh	105,221	822
Vermillion	4,251	896
Vigo	48,390	710
Wabash	12,399	654
Warren	1,854	696
Warrick	15,394	834
Washington	5,782	606
Wayne	29,507	668
Wells	10,470	669
White	9,016	673
Whitley	11,987	723

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, first quarter 2015

State	Employment		Average weekly wage [1]			
	March 2015 (thousands)	Percent change, March 2014-15	Average weekly wage	National ranking by level	Percent change, first quarter 2014-15	National ranking by percent change
United States [2]	137,412.4	2.1	$1,048	--	2.1	--
Alabama	1,873.5	1.3	844	39	2.2	19
Alaska	322.2	1.0	1,051	15	2.6	10
Arizona	2,605.6	2.5	926	23	1.0	45
Arkansas	1,166.6	1.3	790	47	0.8	47
California	16,029.5	3.0	1,207	6	3.7	3
Colorado	2,458.0	3.7	1,071	13	2.4	16
Connecticut	1,640.5	0.8	1,382	3	1.5	35
Delaware	422.8	2.5	1,105	9	-0.5	51
District of Columbia	732.6	1.4	1,764	1	3.2	4
Florida	8,018.0	3.6	885	28	1.8	27
Georgia	4,107.0	3.5	989	18	1.7	31
Hawaii	633.7	1.3	881	31	2.8	9
Idaho	650.3	3.1	736	50	2.2	19
Illinois	5,724.6	1.2	1,130	7	2.4	16
Indiana	2,894.8	1.8	857	35	1.4	38
Iowa	1,504.3	1.3	848	37	2.9	7
Kansas	1,357.1	1.0	851	36	1.4	38
Kentucky	1,810.3	1.5	823	41	1.5	35
Louisiana	1,927.1	1.0	885	28	2.0	21
Maine	571.4	0.9	793	45	0.9	46
Maryland	2,540.8	1.2	1,113	8	2.5	12
Massachusetts	3,338.6	1.7	1,341	4	3.2	4
Michigan	4,079.5	1.8	969	21	1.9	24
Minnesota	2,709.2	1.8	1,079	12	4.3	1
Mississippi	1,102.3	0.6	711	51	0.7	48
Missouri	2,678.0	1.7	882	30	1.8	27
Montana	441.0	2.7	750	49	2.6	10
Nebraska	943.1	1.4	818	42	2.5	12
Nevada	1,227.7	3.7	865	34	-0.2	50
New Hampshire	623.5	1.5	982	20	1.2	43
New Jersey	3,834.6	1.4	1,288	5	1.9	24
New Mexico	798.7	1.4	805	43	1.5	35
New York	8,865.0	1.9	1,463	2	0.2	49
North Carolina	4,099.4	2.5	930	22	1.9	24
North Dakota	436.0	1.6	984	19	4.2	2
Ohio	5,144.5	1.4	922	24	1.4	38
Oklahoma	1,592.7	1.3	869	33	2.0	21
Oregon	1,748.7	3.5	919	25	2.9	7
Pennsylvania	5,606.9	0.9	1,031	16	2.4	16
Rhode Island	456.1	1.4	1,008	17	1.2	43
South Carolina	1,919.1	2.5	801	44	1.8	27
South Dakota	406.5	1.5	763	48	3.0	6
Tennessee	2,772.7	2.1	886	27	1.4	38
Texas	11,557.0	2.9	1,089	10	2.5	12
Utah	1,318.8	3.7	845	38	1.7	31
Vermont	303.9	0.9	824	40	2.0	21
Virginia	3,649.3	1.1	1,068	14	1.7	31
Washington	3,064.4	3.2	1,087	11	1.8	27
West Virginia	692.4	-0.3	792	46	1.4	38
Wisconsin	2,734.3	1.5	877	32	2.5	12
Wyoming	277.8	0.8	892	26	1.7	31
Puerto Rico	904.9	-1.1	524	[3]	1.0	[3]
Virgin Islands	38.5	0.0	738	[3]	-0.7	[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.
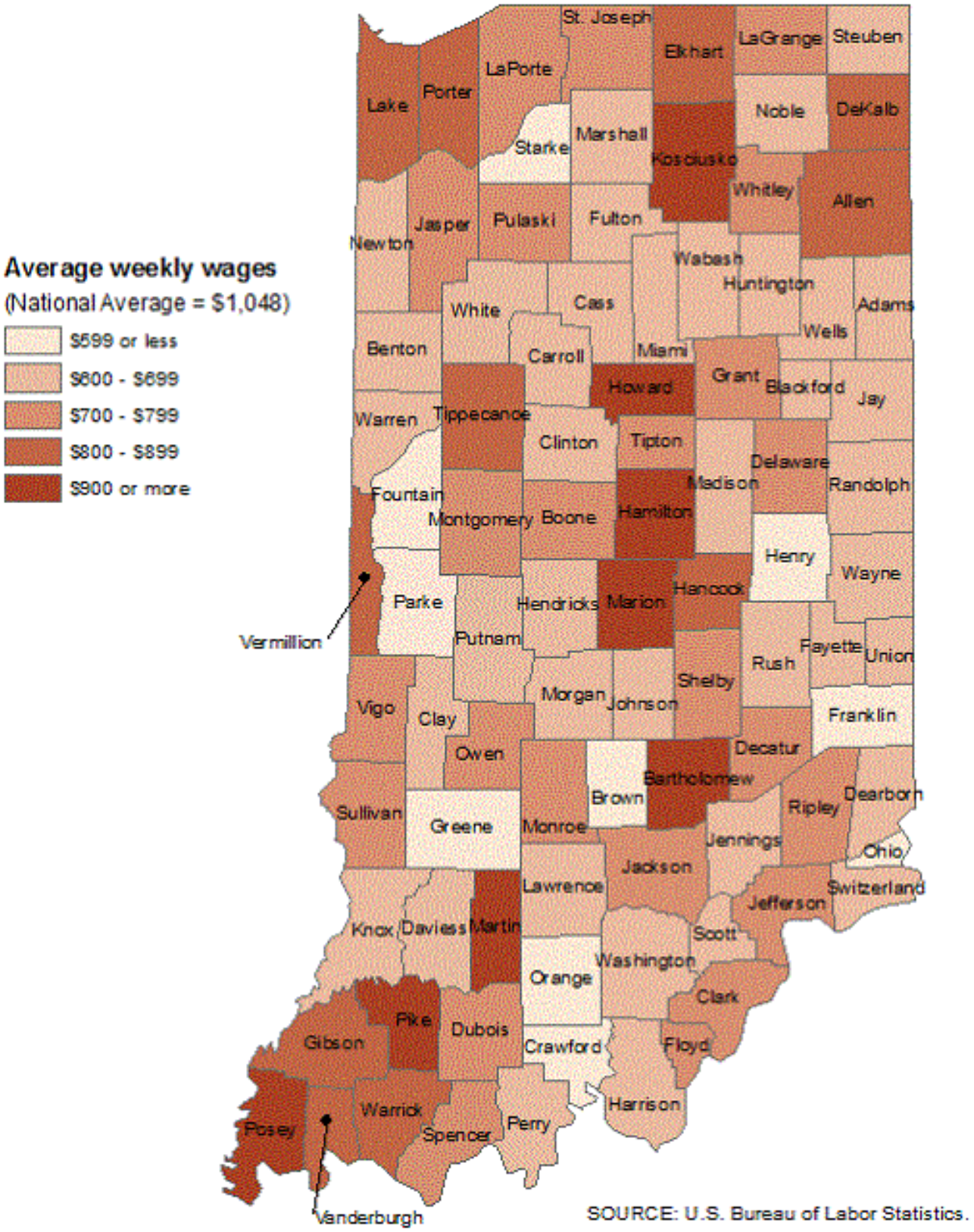
Chart 1. Average weekly wages by county in Indiana, first quarter 2015