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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 Illinois — Fourth Quarter 2016

Eight of Illinois' 13 large counties reported employment decreases from December 2015 to December 2016, 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 2015 annual average employment.) Assistant Commissioner for Regional Operations Charlene Peiffer noted that Peoria County had the largest decrease in employment at 2.1 percent, followed by Winnebago (-1.4 percent) and Sangamon (-1.3 percent). Five counties experienced employment increases, including Will County, up 3.1 percent, and Madison County, up 1.7 percent. (See [table 1](#).)

Nationally, employment advanced 1.2 percent from December 2015 to December 2016 with 280 of the 344 largest U.S. counties registering increases. Williamson, Tenn., had the largest percentage increase in the country, up 5.1 percent over the year. Lafayette, La., had the largest percentage employment decline among the large counties, down 5.1 percent.

Among the 13 largest counties in Illinois, employment was highest in Cook County (2,590,200) in December 2016. Two other large counties, Du Page (616,700) and Lake (332,400), had employment levels of more than 300,000. Collectively, Illinois' 13 large counties accounted for 80.8 percent of the state's employment with Cook County alone accounting for 43.6 percent. Nationwide, the 344 largest counties made up 72.8 percent of total U.S. employment.

Average weekly wages in Champaign County increased 3.7 percent from the fourth quarter of 2015 to the fourth quarter of 2016, the only large county in the state with an annual wage gain. (See [table 1](#).) Lake County had the highest average weekly wage in the state at \$1,376, followed by Cook (\$1,250) and Du Page (\$1,209) Counties. Nationally, the average weekly wage decreased 1.5 percent over the year, declining to \$1,067 in the fourth quarter of 2016. This is one of only eight declines in the history of the series, which dates back to 1978.

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. Eighty-six of these smaller counties had average weekly wages below the national average. (See [table 2](#).)

Large county wage changes

Average weekly wages in 12 of the 13 large counties in Illinois decreased from the fourth quarter of 2015 to the fourth quarter of 2016. McLean County's 9.2-percent decrease in average weekly wages was the largest decline among the state's large counties. McLean's over-the-year percentage decrease was also the largest

among the 344 large U.S. counties. Over-the-year wage decreases in three other large counties in the state also ranked in the bottom quartile nationwide: Lake (-4.5 percent, 323rd), Madison (-3.8 percent, 306th), and Sangamon (-3.5 percent, 289th). (See [table 1.](#))

Among the 344 large U.S. counties, 290 had over-the-year wage decreases in the fourth quarter of 2016. As noted, McLean, Ill., had the largest percentage decline in average weekly wages (-9.2 percent). Clay, Mo., had the second largest decrease in average weekly wages, down 8.3 percent, followed by Lafayette, La. (-8.0 percent), and Douglas, Colo. (-6.8 percent).

Forty-eight large U.S. counties experienced over-the-year increases in average weekly wages. Clayton, Ga., had the largest wage gain, up 11.3 percent from the fourth quarter of 2015. Washington, Pa., was second with a wage gain of 4.9 percent, followed by Marin, Calif. (4.3 percent), and Elkhart, Ind. (4.0 percent).

Large county average weekly wages

Average weekly wages in 3 of Illinois' 13 large counties were above the national average of \$1,067 in the fourth quarter of 2016 and ranked in the top 50 nationwide: Lake (\$1,376, 20th), Cook (\$1,250, 40th), and Du Page (\$1,209, 49th). St. Clair (\$830) reported the lowest average weekly wage among the state's large counties and ranked 307th nationwide.

Seventy-one percent of the large U.S. counties (243) reported average weekly wages below the national average of \$1,067. Cameron, Texas, reported the lowest weekly wage (\$640), followed by Hidalgo, Texas (\$648), and Horry, S.C. (\$654).

Nationally, 101 large counties registered average weekly wages at or above the U.S. average in the fourth quarter of 2016. Santa Clara, Calif., held the top position with an average weekly wage of \$2,365. New York, N.Y., was second at \$2,212, followed by San Mateo, Calif., at \$2,098.

Average weekly wages in Illinois' smaller counties

Eighty-six of the 89 counties in Illinois with employment below 75,000 had average weekly wages lower than the national average of \$1,067. The exceptions were Rock Island (\$1,257), Gallatin (\$1,192), and Tazewell (\$1,125). Calhoun County reported the lowest weekly wage in the state, averaging \$505 in the fourth quarter of 2016. (See [table 2.](#))

When the 102 counties in Illinois were considered, all but 6 had wages below the national average of \$1,067. Thirty-four counties reported average weekly wages less than \$700, 30 reported wages from \$700 to \$799, 20 had wages from \$800 to \$899, and 18 had wages of \$900 or higher. (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 2015 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 2016 version of the national news release. Tables and additional content

from *Employment and Wages Annual Averages 2015* are now available online at www.bls.gov/cew/cewbultn15.htm. The 2016 edition of *Employment and Wages Annual Averages Online* will be available in September 2017.

The County Employment and Wages release for first quarter 2017 is scheduled to be released on Wednesday, September 6, 2017.

Upcoming Industry Changes to QCEW Data

Beginning with the release of first quarter 2017 data, the program will switch to the 2017 version of the North American Industry Classification System (NAICS) as the basis for the assignment and tabulation of economic data by industry. For more information on the change, please see the Federal Register notice at www.census.gov/eos/www/naics/federal_register_notices/notices/fr08au16.pdf.

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 9.9 million employer reports cover 143.7 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 2016

Area	Employment			Average weekly wage ⁽¹⁾			
	December 2016 (thousands)	Percent change, December 2015-16 ⁽²⁾	National ranking by percent change ⁽³⁾	Average weekly wage	National ranking by level ⁽³⁾	Percent change, fourth quarter 2015-16 ⁽²⁾	National ranking by percent change ⁽³⁾
United States ⁽⁴⁾	143,749.9	1.2	--	\$1,067	--	-1.5	--
Illinois	5,947.6	0.4	--	1,122	9	-2.0	31
Champaign, Ill.	89.9	-0.8	318	946	190	3.7	5
Cook, Ill.	2,590.2	0.6	230	1,250	40	-1.6	168
DuPage, Ill.	616.7	-0.1	287	1,209	49	-2.6	252
Kane, Ill.	209.9	0.2	264	963	177	-0.9	110
Lake, Ill.	332.4	-0.3	302	1,376	20	-4.5	323
Madison, Ill.	100.5	1.7	130	838	301	-3.8	306
McHenry, Ill.	96.7	0.1	268	891	250	-2.0	198
McLean, Ill.	83.8	-0.7	316	918	222	-9.2	344
Peoria, Ill.	100.2	-2.1	338	990	159	-2.3	233
Sangamon, Ill.	127.6	-1.3	327	1,024	126	-3.5	289
St. Clair, Ill.	94.4	-0.1	287	830	307	-2.0	198
Will, Ill.	236.8	3.1	32	938	205	-2.5	242
Winnebago, Ill.	128.0	-1.4	330	875	265	-2.5	242

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 2016

Area	Employment December 2016	Average weekly wage(1)
United States(2)	143,749,910	\$1,067
Illinois	5,947,623	1,122
Adams	32,605	821
Alexander	1,184	693
Bond	4,687	752
Boone	17,159	911
Brown	4,146	822
Bureau	11,233	790
Calhoun	765	505
Carroll	3,841	683
Cass	5,354	748
Champaign	89,909	946
Christian	10,385	684
Clark	4,734	674
Clay	5,325	693
Clinton	12,113	721
Coles	24,151	708
Cook	2,590,236	1,250
Crawford	6,994	850
Cumberland	2,626	665
De Kalb	37,981	809
De Witt	5,256	944
Douglas	7,600	742
Du Page	616,714	1,209
Edgar	7,489	791
Edwards	2,340	705
Effingham	20,838	758
Fayette	5,171	698
Ford	4,486	757
Franklin	7,995	658
Fulton	8,420	649
Gallatin	1,252	1,192
Greene	2,302	593
Grundy	18,844	1,052
Hamilton	2,089	797
Hancock	3,899	661
Hardin	716	585
Henderson	1,101	552
Henry	14,223	728
Iroquois	7,850	640
Jackson	24,588	740
Jasper	2,002	777
Jefferson	19,755	807
Jersey	4,801	665
Jo Daviess	7,327	678
Johnson	2,332	851
Kane	209,890	963
Kankakee	43,476	804
Kendall	27,770	783
Knox	18,954	663
La Salle	42,616	854
Lake	332,405	1,376
Lawrence	4,543	771
Lee	13,053	832
Livingston	13,783	875
Logan	9,070	769
Macon	49,373	934

Note: See footnotes at end of table.

Table 2. Covered employment and wages in the United States and all counties in Illinois, fourth quarter 2016 - Continued

Area	Employment December 2016	Average weekly wage(1)
Macoupin	10,255	718
Madison	100,501	838
Marion	12,940	716
Marshall	2,938	709
Mason	3,034	651
Massac	3,328	902
McDonough	11,145	696
McHenry	96,738	891
McLean	83,823	918
Menard	1,790	641
Mercer	2,967	633
Monroe	8,184	687
Montgomery	8,781	725
Morgan	14,479	767
Moultrie	4,973	730
Ogle	15,816	857
Peoria	100,172	990
Perry	4,728	735
Piatt	3,293	719
Pike	3,939	641
Pope	578	553
Pulaski	1,449	891
Putnam	1,714	1,018
Randolph	12,565	809
Richland	6,094	699
Rock Island	72,050	1,257
Saline	7,777	718
Sangamon	127,648	1,024
Schuyler	1,492	778
Scott	1,021	668
Shelby	4,713	613
St. Clair	94,430	830
Stark	1,293	723
Stephenson	16,792	814
Tazewell	53,875	1,125
Union	4,973	650
Vermilion	27,080	841
Wabash	3,204	688
Warren	6,437	666
Washington	6,374	867
Wayne	3,727	639
White	4,050	693
Whiteside	21,294	686
Will	236,841	938
Williamson	28,408	759
Winnebago	127,953	875
Woodford	10,152	793

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 2016

State	Employment		Average weekly wage ⁽¹⁾			
	December 2016 (thousands)	Percent change, December 2015-16	Average weekly wage	National ranking by level	Percent change, fourth quarter 2015-16	National ranking by percent change
United States ⁽²⁾	143,749.9	1.2	\$1,067	--	-1.5	--
Alabama	1,932.6	0.7	901	35	-1.3	21
Alaska	310.0	-1.9	1,038	17	-5.2	51
Arizona	2,760.1	2.1	945	25	-2.2	34
Arkansas	1,205.4	0.4	827	47	-1.4	22
California	16,923.3	1.9	1,271	5	-0.3	4
Colorado	2,588.6	2.0	1,086	12	-1.5	24
Connecticut	1,685.5	0.0	1,289	4	-3.4	46
Delaware	441.2	-0.1	1,055	15	-2.9	44
District of Columbia	760.9	0.5	1,763	1	0.6	2
Florida	8,538.9	2.7	942	27	-1.8	28
Georgia.....	4,349.3	2.4	993	20	-0.9	14
Hawaii.....	658.3	0.7	954	24	-0.3	4
Idaho	691.6	3.2	800	50	-0.4	8
Illinois	5,947.6	0.4	1,122	9	-2.0	31
Indiana.....	3,021.7	0.9	883	38	-0.9	14
Iowa	1,542.0	0.1	911	33	-1.0	16
Kansas	1,384.5	0.1	877	39	-2.2	34
Kentucky.....	1,894.2	0.6	874	41	-1.4	22
Louisiana	1,907.4	-1.6	914	32	-2.9	44
Maine.....	602.6	0.8	855	43	-2.1	33
Maryland.....	2,666.7	1.0	1,169	7	-0.4	8
Massachusetts	3,530.4	1.3	1,352	2	-2.4	39
Michigan	4,283.0	1.5	1,026	19	-1.6	25
Minnesota.....	2,839.7	1.2	1,062	14	-1.1	18
Mississippi.....	1,134.0	0.0	756	51	-1.8	28
Missouri.....	2,783.2	0.9	918	31	-1.7	27
Montana	456.5	0.7	822	48	0.5	3
Nebraska	972.4	0.0	876	40	-0.5	10
Nevada	1,307.8	2.7	924	29	-1.2	20
New Hampshire.....	656.9	1.3	1,092	10	-4.1	48
New Jersey.....	4,042.1	1.4	1,239	6	-1.9	30
New Mexico.....	811.4	0.0	844	45	-2.5	41
New York	9,332.5	1.2	1,342	3	-2.3	36
North Carolina	4,326.3	1.8	932	28	-0.7	13
North Dakota	414.4	-3.2	978	21	-4.2	49
Ohio	5,365.6	0.7	943	26	-2.3	36
Oklahoma.....	1,587.7	-1.2	864	42	-3.5	47
Oregon	1,860.7	2.4	970	22	-1.0	16
Pennsylvania.....	5,799.8	0.7	1,039	16	-2.3	36
Rhode Island	478.3	0.0	1,027	18	-1.6	25
South Carolina.....	2,024.3	1.8	855	43	-0.6	12
South Dakota.....	419.9	0.5	828	46	-0.5	10
Tennessee.....	2,947.5	1.8	970	22	-1.1	18
Texas	11,974.7	1.2	1,072	13	-2.5	41
Utah	1,415.1	2.9	910	34	-0.3	4
Vermont.....	312.6	0.1	897	36	-2.4	39
Virginia.....	3,831.6	0.6	1,091	11	-0.3	4
Washington.....	3,227.9	2.8	1,150	8	1.7	1
West Virginia	693.1	-1.6	809	49	-2.5	41
Wisconsin.....	2,842.4	0.5	924	29	-2.0	31
Wyoming	265.8	-3.9	894	37	-4.7	50
Puerto Rico.....	928.2	-0.3	555	(3)	-1.9	(3)
Virgin Islands.....	38.5	0.2	769	(3)	-1.8	(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 2016

