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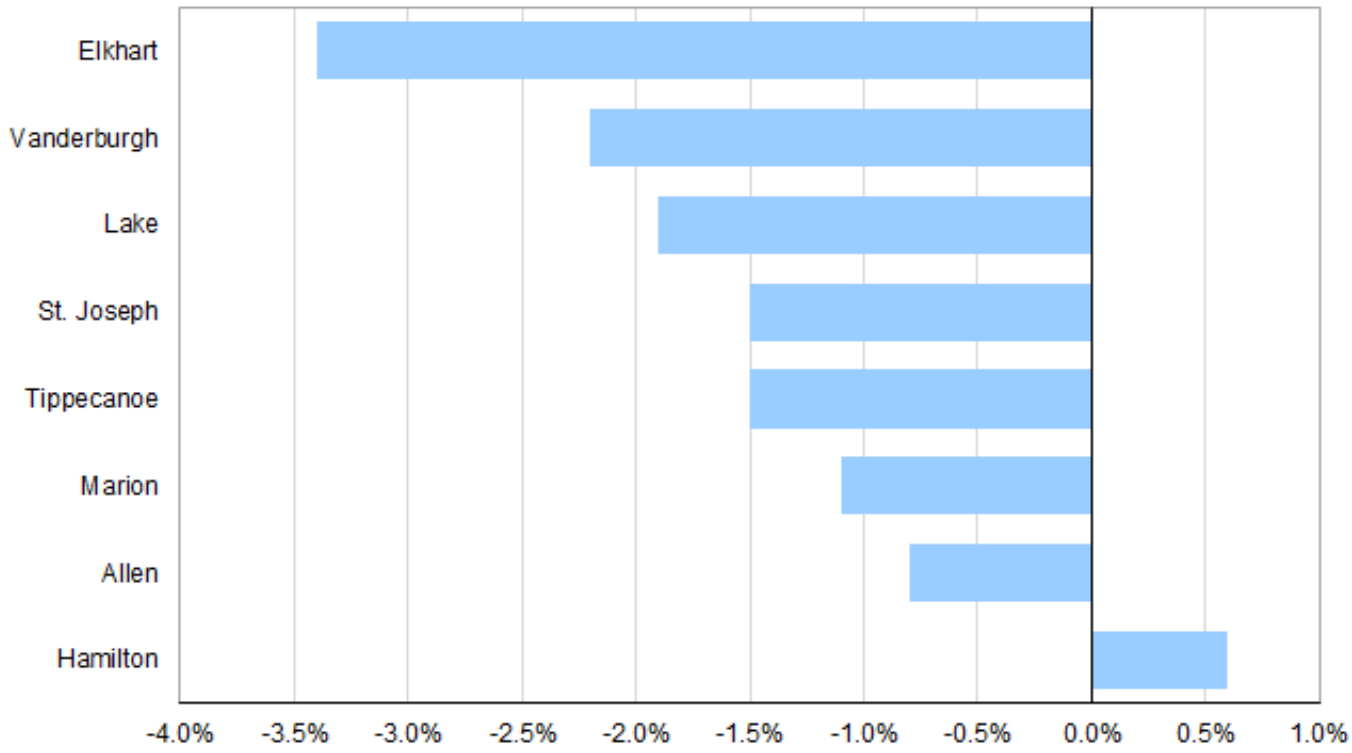
County Employment and Wages in Indiana — First Quarter 2020

Employment fell in seven of the eight largest counties in Indiana from March 2019 to March 2020, the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics reported today. (Large counties are those with annual average employment levels of 75,000 or more in 2019.) Acting Regional Commissioner Bryan Droste noted that Elkhart County had the largest over-the-year decrease in employment at -3.4 percent. (See chart 1 and table 1.)

Chart 1. Over-the-year percent change in covered employment among the largest counties in Indiana, March 2020



Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics.

Employment increased 0.4 percent over the year with 202 of the 357 largest U.S. counties reporting increases. St. Johns, FL, had the largest percentage increase in the country, up 3.7 percent over the year. Ector, TX, had the largest over-the-year percentage decrease in employment with a loss of 5.5 percent.

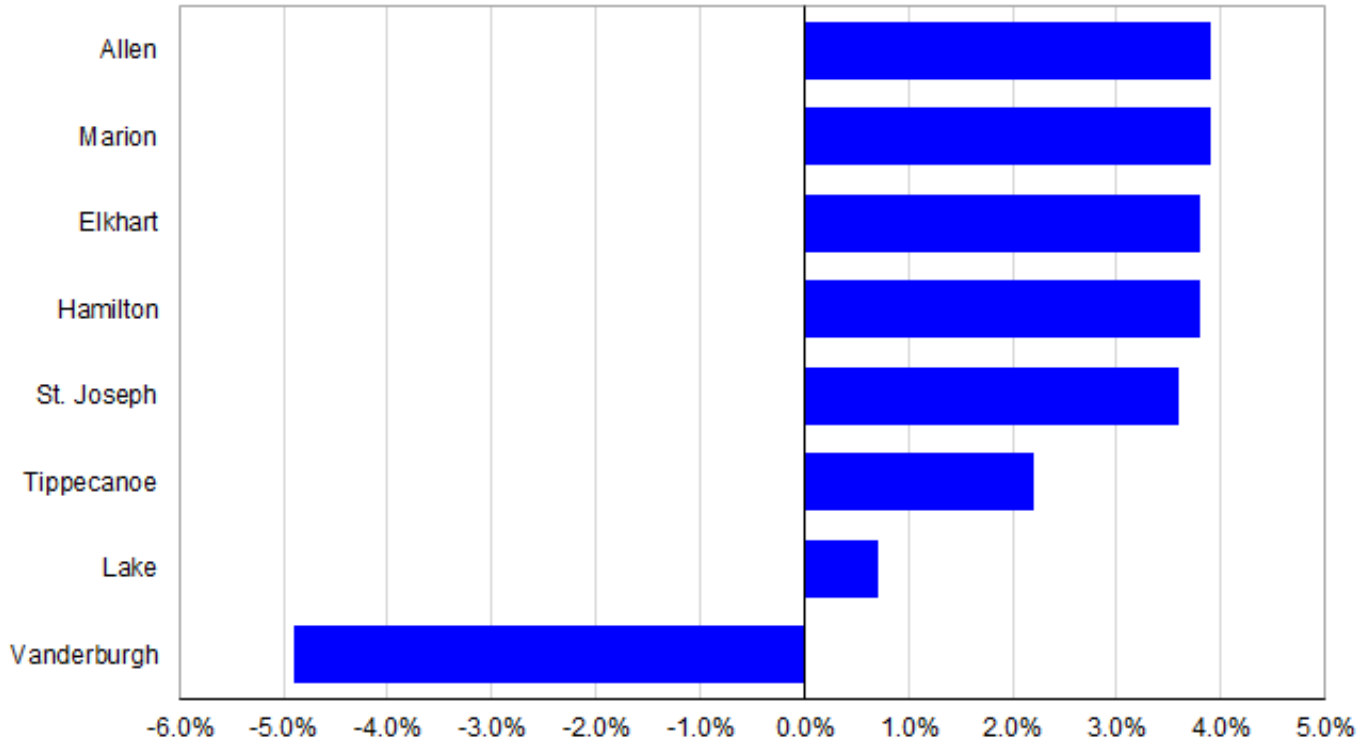
Among the eight largest counties in Indiana, employment was highest in Marion County (592,500) in March 2020. Within Marion County's private industry, health care and social assistance accounted for the largest employment. Together, the eight largest Indiana counties accounted for 51.2 percent of total employment within the state. Nationwide, the 357 largest counties made up 73.7 percent of total U.S. employment.

Employment and wage levels (but not over-the-year changes) are also available for the 84 counties in Indiana with employment below 75,000. Wage levels in 82 of the 84 smaller counties were below the national average in the first quarter of 2020. (See table 2.)

Large county wage changes

Seven of the eight large Indiana counties reported average weekly wage gains from the first quarter of 2019 to the first quarter of 2020. (See chart 2.) Five counties had rates of wage gains that were above the national rate of 3.3 percent. Allen and Marion Counties had the largest gains (+3.9 percent each), followed by Elkhart and Hamilton Counties (+3.8 percent each), and St. Joseph County (+3.6 percent). Over-the-year wage changes among Indiana's other three large counties ranged from 2.2 percent to -4.9 percent.

Chart 2. Over-the-year percent change in covered average weekly wages among the largest counties in Indiana, first quarter 2020



Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics.

Among the 357 largest counties in the United States, 335 had over-the-year wage increases. McLean, IL, had the largest percentage wage increase (+13.3 percent). Twenty large counties had wage declines during the period. Peoria, IL, had the largest over-the-year percentage decrease (-12.8 percent).

Large county average weekly wages

Weekly wages in one of the eight largest counties in Indiana were above the national average of $1,222 in the first quarter of 2020. Marion County's average weekly wage of $1,278 ranked among the top 75 nationwide.

Among the largest U.S. counties, 92 reported average weekly wages above the U.S. average in the first quarter of 2020. New York, NY, had the highest average weekly wage at $3,270. Average weekly wages were below the national average in 265 counties. At $666 a week, Cameron, TX, had the lowest average weekly wage.

Average weekly wages in Indiana's smaller counties
Among the 84 smaller counties in Indiana–those with employment below 75,000–Martin County ($1,309) and Bartholomew County ($1,256) reported an average weekly wage above the national average of $1,222. Brown County ($554) reported the lowest average weekly wage in the state.

When all 92 counties in Indiana were considered, 23 reported average weekly wages of less than $750, 37 registered wages from $750 to $849, 15 had wages from $850 to $949, and 17 had average weekly wages of $950 or higher. (See chart 3.)

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 2018 edition of this publication was published in September 2019. Tables and additional content from the 2018 edition of *Employment and Wages Annual Averages Online* are available at www.bls.gov/cew/publications/employment-and-wages-annual-averages/2018/home.htm. The 2019 edition of *Employment and Wages Annual Averages Online* will be available in September 2020.

The County Employment and Wages release for second quarter 2020 is scheduled to be released on Wednesday, November 18, 2020. The County Employment and Wages full data update for second quarter 2020 is scheduled to be released on Wednesday, December 2, 2020.

QCEW Data and Response Impacted by the COVID-19 Pandemic

Beginning with this release of first quarter 2020 data, the Quarterly Census of Employment and Wages (QCEW) program will publish response rate tables for establishments, employment, and total quarterly wages. Tables for the first quarter of 2020 are available at www.bls.gov/covid19/county-employment-and-wages-covid-19-impact-first-quarter-2020.htm. For more information about the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic on QCEW data, please visit www.bls.gov/covid19/effects-of-covid-19-pandemic-on-county-employment-and-wages-data.htm.

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; Federal Relay Service: (800) 877-8339.

Table 1. Covered employment and wages in the United States and the eight largest counties in Indiana, first quarter 2020

Area	Establishments, first quarter 2020 (thousands)	Employment			Average weekly wage [1]			
		March 2020 (thousands)	Percent change, March 2019-20 [2]	National ranking by percent change [3]	First quarter 2020	National ranking by level [3]	Percent change, first quarter 2019-20 [2]	National ranking by percent change [3]
United States [4]	10,447.2	147,088.9	0.4	--	$1,222	--	3.3	--
Indiana	171.1	3,028.5	-1.0	--	994	33	3.2	23
Allen	9.2	188.2	-0.8	281	974	240	3.9	109
Elkhart	4.8	130.1	-3.4	355	976	238	3.8	114
Hamilton	10.0	143.2	0.6	133	1,167	115	3.8	114
Lake	10.6	183.5	-1.9	340	952	261	0.7	319
Marion	24.9	592.5	-1.1	300	1,278	72	3.9	109
St. Joseph	5.9	122.2	-1.5	329	896	309	3.6	128
Tippecanoe	3.8	85.2	-1.5	329	984	232	2.2	250
Vanderburgh	4.8	106.4	-2.2	350	916	300	-4.9	356

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 2020

Area	Employment March 2020	Average weekly wage(1)
United States(2)	147,088,945	$1,222
Indiana	3,028,516	994
Adams	13,386	761
Allen	188,159	974
Bartholomew	50,878	1,256
Benton	2,332	777
Blackford	2,885	732
Boone	33,448	862
Brown	2,625	554
Carroll	5,657	754
Cass	14,302	735
Clark	54,127	827
Clay	7,780	685
Clinton	11,175	820
Crawford	1,853	681
Daviess	12,272	720
Dearborn	14,340	777
Decatur	14,469	904
De Kalb	21,580	970
Delaware	45,031	822
Dubois	28,647	839
Elkhart	130,143	976
Fayette	5,936	784
Floyd	30,553	838
Fountain	4,687	707
Franklin	4,367	657
Fulton	6,168	748
Gibson	21,319	945
Grant	26,763	796
Greene	6,341	699
Hamilton	143,240	1,167
Hancock	25,720	915
Harrison	10,306	736
Hendricks	73,539	808
Henry	13,077	730
Howard	37,384	1,023
Huntington	13,532	765
Jackson	22,462	961
Jasper	11,746	797
Jay	6,700	749
Jefferson	12,234	802
Jennings	7,538	757
Johnson	56,745	784
Knox	17,239	795
Kosciusko	38,043	1,114
La Porte	39,456	811
Lagrange	13,678	823
Lake	183,516	952
Lawrence	13,634	856
Madison	39,392	781
Marion	592,457	1,278
Marshall	18,171	764
Martin	7,946	1,309
Miami	8,640	754
Monroe	64,768	968
Montgomery	15,016	885
Morgan	15,305	765

Note: See footnotes at end of table.

Table 2. Covered employment and wages in the United States and all counties in Indiana, first quarter 2020 - Continued

Area	Employment March 2020	Average weekly wage(1)
Newton	3,389	725
Noble	18,110	796
Ohio	1,209	601
Orange	7,843	653
Owen	5,116	855
Parke	2,992	635
Perry	6,407	774
Pike	2,680	960
Porter	60,283	875
Posey	8,778	1,200
Pulaski	4,853	906
Putnam	13,372	722
Randolph	6,434	761
Ripley	12,364	835
Rush	4,802	763
St. Joseph	122,187	896
Scott	8,238	770
Shelby	18,042	857
Spencer	6,172	911
Starke	4,086	636
Steuben	15,866	724
Sullivan	5,550	839
Switzerland	1,984	656
Tippecanoe	85,204	984
Tipton	5,301	939
Union	1,223	610
Vanderburgh	106,434	916
Vermillion	4,108	1,025
Vigo	46,724	845
Wabash	11,964	776
Warren	1,876	845
Warrick	16,658	959
Washington	6,010	693
Wayne	29,769	780
Wells	10,553	771
White	9,186	765
Whitley	13,486	871

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.

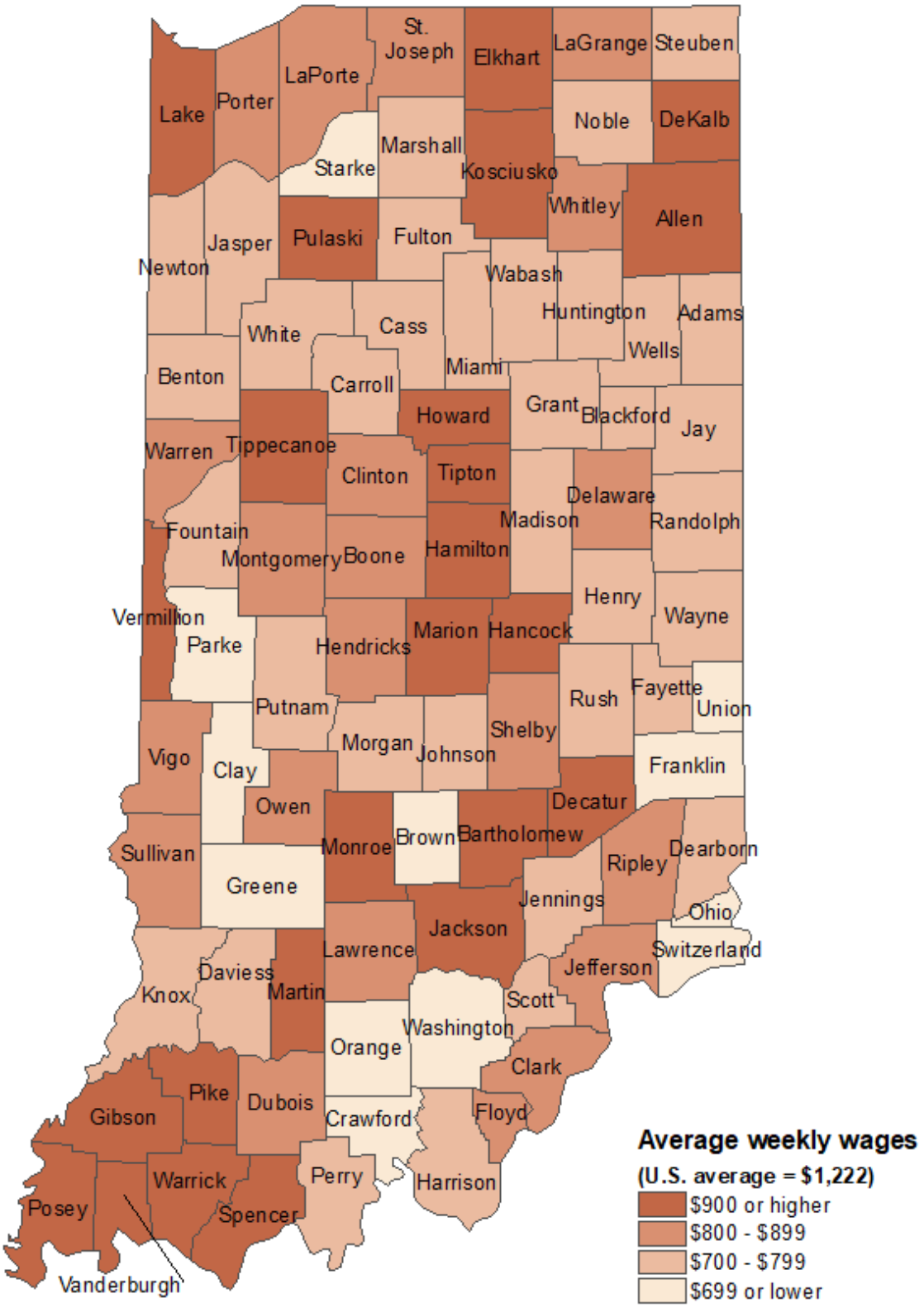
Table 3. Covered employment and wages by state, first quarter 2020

State	Establishments, first quarter 2020 (thousands)	Employment		Average weekly wage [1]			
		March 2020 (thousands)	Percent change, March 2019-20	First quarter 2020	National ranking by level	Percent change, first quarter 2019-20	National ranking by percent change
United States [2]	10,447.2	147,088.9	0.4	$1,222	--	3.3	--
Alabama	132.6	1,983.8	0.3	974	36	3.2	23
Alaska	22.6	312.8	-0.1	1,130	19	2.1	44
Arizona	170.4	2,957.2	1.9	1,098	22	4.4	1
Arkansas	93.6	1,220.5	0.2	922	45	3.0	29
California	1,631.1	17,570.5	0.8	1,459	5	4.2	3
Colorado	214.5	2,725.2	1.2	1,284	9	4.3	2
Connecticut	124.1	1,639.4	-0.7	1,510	4	1.5	48
Delaware	34.6	443.7	-0.3	1,251	11	1.7	45
District of Columbia	42.3	778.1	0.6	1,994	1	3.8	14
Florida	740.5	8,975.1	0.8	1,051	25	3.6	18
Georgia	301.5	4,522.2	0.9	1,159	17	3.4	19
Hawaii	45.4	655.5	-1.0	1,033	27	3.0	29
Idaho	66.8	755.2	3.1	864	50	4.2	3
Illinois	381.5	5,872.9	-0.7	1,302	8	2.3	41
Indiana	171.1	3,028.5	-1.0	994	33	3.2	23
Iowa	104.8	1,523.4	-0.2	978	35	3.7	16
Kansas	89.8	1,383.3	0.2	969	37	3.2	23
Kentucky	124.0	1,884.9	0.1	943	43	2.5	38
Louisiana	137.4	1,897.0	-1.3	969	37	1.7	45
Maine	53.9	601.0	0.1	955	40	4.0	11
Maryland	175.7	2,661.5	-0.4	1,277	10	4.1	8
Massachusetts	263.3	3,565.1	-0.2	1,605	3	3.0	29
Michigan	267.0	4,281.4	-0.6	1,103	20	2.3	41
Minnesota	183.9	2,838.2	-0.1	1,235	12	2.7	35
Mississippi	73.9	1,128.1	-0.2	801	51	2.8	34
Missouri	214.8	2,795.7	0.3	1,016	31	3.0	29
Montana	50.6	465.2	1.5	869	49	3.1	27
Nebraska	72.3	972.4	0.8	956	39	4.1	8
Nevada	86.1	1,410.8	1.3	1,033	27	4.2	3
New Hampshire	54.3	657.0	0.2	1,194	15	3.3	20
New Jersey	285.8	4,052.7	0.4	1,455	6	3.9	13
New Mexico	64.0	835.6	0.9	923	44	3.7	16
New York	657.2	9,415.7	-0.3	1,693	2	3.3	20
North Carolina	296.0	4,501.1	0.9	1,094	23	4.1	8
North Dakota	32.2	414.3	0.0	1,046	26	2.4	39
Ohio	304.4	5,349.6	-0.3	1,063	24	2.9	33
Oklahoma	112.8	1,598.0	-1.3	949	42	-0.5	51
Oregon	162.4	1,938.9	0.7	1,103	20	4.2	3
Pennsylvania	363.5	5,851.3	0.0	1,177	16	2.7	35
Rhode Island	39.5	473.9	-0.2	1,132	18	2.7	35
South Carolina	142.7	2,112.8	0.1	922	45	2.2	43
South Dakota	34.7	420.6	0.4	901	48	4.2	3
Tennessee	171.2	3,033.5	1.0	1,027	29	3.1	27
Texas	725.7	12,626.2	1.2	1,232	14	2.4	39
Utah	109.8	1,526.8	1.8	1,026	30	3.2	23
Vermont	26.1	303.9	-1.8	980	34	3.3	20
Virginia	282.9	3,921.0	0.6	1,233	13	4.0	11
Washington	255.6	3,427.3	1.7	1,414	7	3.8	14
West Virginia	51.2	674.9	-1.8	904	47	0.9	49
Wisconsin	178.2	2,836.5	-0.2	1,008	32	1.7	45
Wyoming	27.2	268.5	-0.5	955	40	0.6	50
Puerto Rico	47.5	886.4	1.0	551	[3]	0.0	[3]
Virgin Islands	3.3	40.1	5.7	1,046	[3]	6.3	[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 3. Average weekly wages by county in Indiana, first quarter 2020



Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics.