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County Employment and Wages in Florida – Third Quarter 2018

Employment increased in each of Florida's 24 large counties from September 2017 to September 2018, the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics reported today. (Large counties are defined as those with 2017 average annual employment levels of 75,000 or more.) Regional Commissioner Janet S. Rankin noted that 3 counties in Florida ranked among the top 5 in the national ranking by percent increase in employment. (See table 1.)

Nationally, employment advanced 1.6 percent from September 2017 to September 2018 as 295 of the 349 largest U.S. counties registered increases. Midland, TX, had the largest over-the-year increase in employment with a gain of 11.9 percent. New Hanover, NC, had the largest over-the-year percentage decrease in employment with a loss of 2.0 percent.

Among the 24 largest counties in Florida, employment was highest in Miami-Dade (1,142,100) in September 2018, while Bay County had the smallest employment level (79,600). Together, Florida's large counties accounted for 86.8 percent of total employment within the state. Nationwide, the 349 largest counties made up 73.0 percent of total U.S. employment, which stood at 146.8 million in September 2018.

Each of Florida's 24 large counties had over-the-year wage increases with the largest gain in Seminole County (5.9 percent). Hillsborough County had the highest average weekly wage among the state's largest counties ($1,009), followed by Miami-Dade ($1,001). Nationally, the average weekly wage increased to $1,055, a 3.3 percent increase over the year. (See table 1.)

Employment and wage levels (but not over-the-year changes) are also available for the 43 counties in Florida with 2017 average annual employment levels below 75,000. Average weekly wages in these counties ranged from $827 to $588. (See table 2.)

Large county wage changes

Among Florida's 24 largest counties, average weekly wage increases in Seminole (5.9 percent, 13th) and Osceola (5.1 percent, 23rd) were in the top tenth of the national ranking. Average weekly wage growth in Florida's other 22 large counties ranged from 3.9 to 1.3 percent.

Nationally, 336 of the 349 largest counties had over-the-year increases in average weekly wages in the third quarter of 2018. Chatham, GA, had the largest over-the-year wage gain at 8.5 percent, followed by King, WA (7.9 percent).

Of the 349 largest U.S. counties, 11 had over-the-year decreases in average weekly wages. Elkhart, IN, had the largest percentage decrease in average weekly wages (-4.2 percent), followed by Union, NJ (-3.7 percent).

Large county average weekly wages

Average weekly wages in five of Florida's large counties placed in the top half of the national ranking in the third quarter of 2018. However, no large county in Florida had an average weekly wage above the national average of $1,055. (See table 1.)

Nationally, 94 large counties had average weekly wages above the U.S. average of $1,055 in the third quarter of 2018. Santa Clara, CA, had the highest average weekly wage at $2,460, followed by San Mateo, CA ($2,363), and San Francisco, CA ($2,097).

Among the largest U.S. counties, 255 had weekly wages below the national average in the third quarter of 2018. Cameron, TX, had the lowest wage ($632), followed by Horry, SC ($635), and Hidalgo, TX ($662).

Average weekly wages in Florida's smaller counties

All 43 counties in Florida with employment below 75,000 had average weekly wages lower than the national average of $1,055. Among these counties, St. Johns had the highest average weekly wage at $827. Holmes County reported the lowest weekly wage among all counties in the state, averaging $588 in the third quarter of 2018. (See table 2.)

When all 67 counties in Florida were considered, 9 had average weekly wages below $650, 30 had wages from $650-$749, 15 had wages from $750-$849, 8 had wages from $850 to $949, and 5 had wages above $950. (See chart 1.)

Additional statistics and other information

Quarterly 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 2017 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 2018 version of the national news release. Tables and additional content from *Employment and Wages Annual Averages 2017* are now available online at www.bls.gov/cew/cewbultn17.htm. The 2018 edition of *Employment and Wages Annual Averages Online* will be available in September 2019.

The County Employment and Wages release for fourth quarter 2018 is scheduled to be released on Wednesday, May 22, 2019. The County Employment and Wages full data update for fourth quarter 2018 is scheduled to be released on Wednesday, June 5, 2019.

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 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 24 largest counties in Florida, third quarter 2018

Area	Employment			Average weekly wage [1]			
	September 2018 (thousands)	Percent change, September 2017-18 [2]	National ranking by percent change [3]	Average weekly wage	National ranking by level [3]	Percent change, third quarter 2017-18 [2]	National ranking by percent change [3]
United States [4]	146,824.1	1.6	--	$1,055	--	3.3	--
Florida	8,690.7	4.6	--	924	29	3.1	25
Alachua, Fla.	132.7	2.3	72	911	223	3.4	122
Bay, Fla.	79.6	2.6	62	757	336	3.7	95
Brevard, Fla.	215.6	6.6	4	938	191	3.9	73
Broward, Fla.	811.3	3.9	22	966	172	3.0	163
Collier, Fla.	142.6	10.5	2	884	254	2.9	169
Duval, Fla.	515.6	3.4	38	976	165	2.5	215
Escambia, Fla.	136.0	2.3	72	820	313	2.2	259
Hillsborough, Fla.	685.5	3.5	33	1,009	132	3.3	128
Lake, Fla.	99.0	5.0	9	717	343	3.3	128
Lee, Fla.	258.6	7.8	3	824	311	1.9	280
Leon, Fla.	151.6	3.5	33	863	275	1.3	312
Manatee, Fla.	122.0	4.9	12	804	324	1.5	304
Marion, Fla.	103.1	3.6	30	711	344	2.3	241
Miami-Dade, Fla.	1,142.1	3.9	22	1,001	138	1.8	283
Okaloosa, Fla.	84.2	1.1	168	843	292	3.2	141
Orange, Fla.	850.5	4.6	15	931	194	3.9	73
Osceola, Fla.	95.3	4.9	12	707	345	5.1	23
Palm Beach, Fla.	599.1	4.0	20	986	155	3.6	101
Pasco, Fla.	121.2	5.2	8	728	341	2.0	272
Pinellas, Fla.	434.0	3.5	33	902	234	2.5	215
Polk, Fla.	221.5	5.0	9	801	325	3.0	163
Sarasota, Fla.	168.7	4.3	18	866	273	2.7	196
Seminole, Fla.	195.5	5.0	9	916	212	5.9	13
Volusia, Fla.	174.0	4.3	18	744	339	3.6	101

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 Florida, third quarter 2018

Area	Employment September 2018	Average Weekly Wage(1)
United States(2)	146,824,093	$1,055
Florida	8,690,689	924
Alachua	132,701	911
Baker	7,730	635
Bay	79,612	757
Bradford	6,679	711
Brevard	215,583	938
Broward	811,306	966
Calhoun	2,914	606
Charlotte	46,788	730
Citrus	32,571	703
Clay	52,768	723
Collier	142,644	884
Columbia	24,234	714
De Soto	8,799	666
Dixie	2,764	746
Duval	515,555	976
Escambia	136,029	820
Flagler	23,499	653
Franklin	3,408	590
Gadsden	13,914	697
Gilchrist	3,482	618
Glades	1,727	767
Gulf	3,757	671
Hamilton	3,104	802
Hardee	6,540	697
Hendry	11,499	705
Hernando	44,098	696
Highlands	27,147	664
Hillsborough	685,464	1,009
Holmes	3,397	588
Indian River	51,675	777
Jackson	14,810	670
Jefferson	2,534	641
Lafayette	1,296	619
Lake	98,976	717
Lee	258,558	824
Leon	151,640	863
Levy	8,937	610
Liberty	1,885	733
Madison	4,363	613
Manatee	122,011	804
Marion	103,118	711
Martin	67,517	776
Miami-Dade	1,142,066	1,001
Monroe	39,178	802
Nassau	23,130	766
Okaloosa	84,214	843
Okeechobee	11,381	687
Orange	850,532	931
Osceola	95,288	707
Palm Beach	599,135	986
Pasco	121,190	728
Pinellas	434,016	902
Polk	221,460	801
Putnam	16,429	711
St. Johns	76,857	827

Note: See footnotes at end of table.

Table 2. Covered employment and wages in the United States and all counties in Florida, third quarter 2018 - Continued

Area	Employment September 2018	Average Weekly Wage(1)
St. Lucie	77,256	778
Santa Rosa	38,768	694
Sarasota	168,695	866
Seminole	195,450	916
Sumter	29,563	775
Suwannee	11,439	662
Taylor	6,553	739
Union	3,385	744
Volusia	173,950	744
Wakulla	5,805	680
Walton	26,296	730
Washington	6,087	665

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.

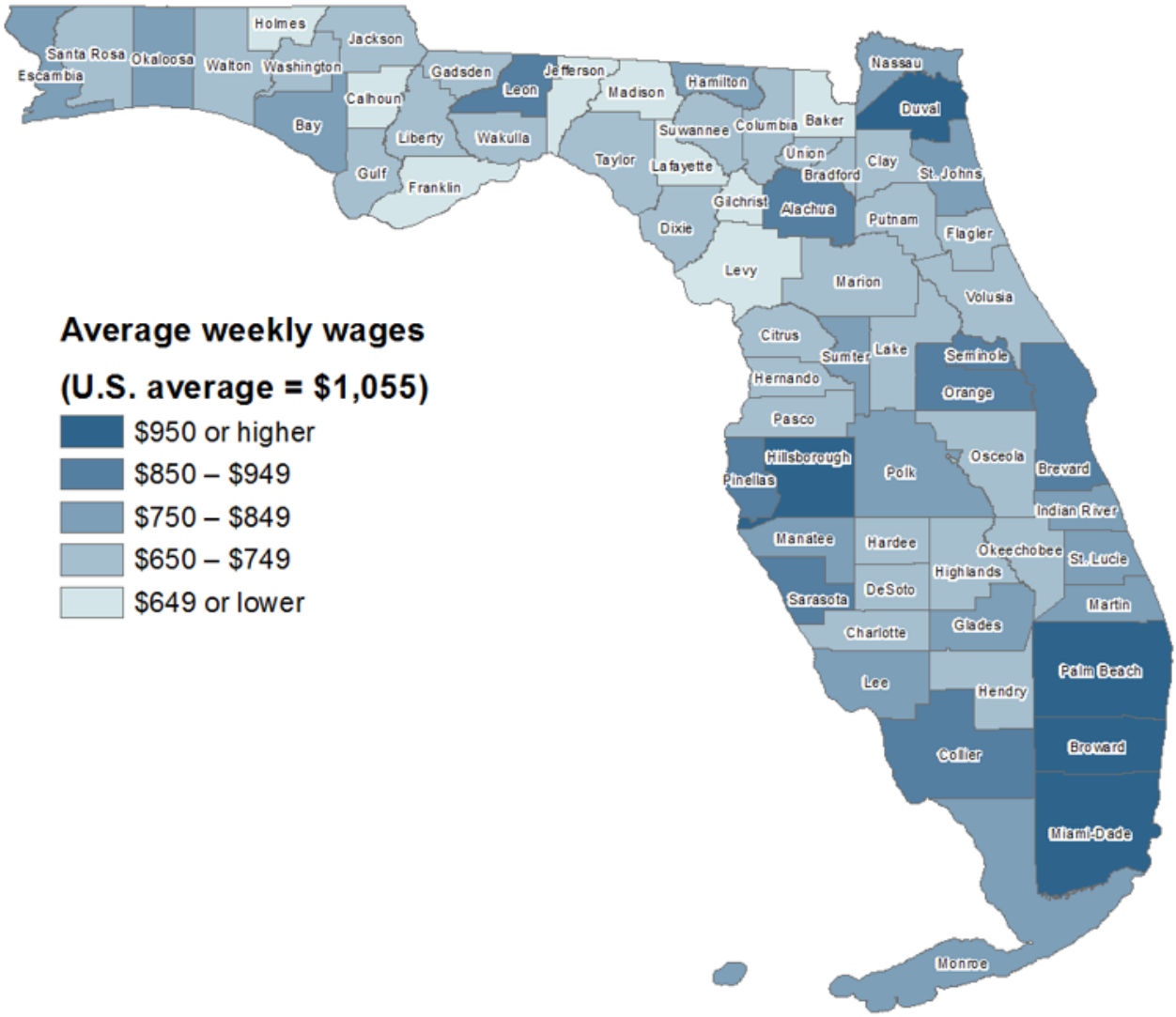
Table 3. Covered employment and wages by state, third quarter 2018

State	Employment		Average weekly wage [1]			
	September 2018 (thousands)	Percent change, September 2017-18	Average weekly wage	National ranking by level	Percent change, third quarter 2017-18	National ranking by percent change
United States [2]	146,824.1	1.6	$1,055	--	3.3	--
Alabama	1,966.0	1.2	885	38	3.1	25
Alaska	334.0	-0.4	1,065	13	3.7	12
Arizona	2,838.6	2.8	974	23	2.9	31
Arkansas	1,222.1	0.7	811	49	2.9	31
California	17,457.5	1.8	1,260	5	3.8	9
Colorado	2,684.0	2.1	1,104	9	3.5	18
Connecticut	1,681.5	0.3	1,209	6	2.5	41
Delaware	447.8	0.6	1,046	15	2.4	42
District of Columbia	770.7	0.7	1,807	1	2.8	36
Florida	8,690.7	4.6	924	29	3.1	25
Georgia	4,448.8	2.3	993	20	3.3	21
Hawaii	654.7	0.0	975	22	2.4	42
Idaho	743.5	3.0	805	50	3.2	23
Illinois	6,029.2	0.8	1,087	10	3.0	28
Indiana	3,072.3	0.9	883	39	2.4	42
Iowa	1,555.0	0.6	887	37	3.7	12
Kansas	1,390.4	1.0	867	42	3.5	18
Kentucky	1,898.7	0.5	855	43	2.2	47
Louisiana	1,915.4	0.5	901	33	3.7	12
Maine	626.5	0.6	851	45	3.7	12
Maryland	2,683.9	0.7	1,130	8	2.4	42
Massachusetts	3,598.1	0.7	1,305	2	3.2	23
Michigan	4,366.5	0.8	991	21	2.8	36
Minnesota	2,904.3	0.8	1,074	12	4.2	5
Mississippi	1,133.7	0.2	754	51	3.4	20
Missouri	2,812.0	0.4	907	31	3.3	21
Montana	473.3	1.0	815	48	2.8	36
Nebraska	980.3	0.6	873	41	2.8	36
Nevada	1,382.9	3.4	936	28	2.4	42
New Hampshire	662.3	0.5	1,040	16	1.7	49
New Jersey	4,072.6	0.8	1,181	7	2.1	48
New Mexico	826.2	1.2	855	43	3.9	7
New York	9,467.5	1.4	1,272	4	4.2	5
North Carolina	4,398.0	1.1	938	26	3.8	9
North Dakota	424.3	1.1	995	19	4.4	3
Ohio	5,424.4	0.7	947	25	2.9	31
Oklahoma	1,616.8	1.2	874	40	3.6	16
Oregon	1,939.8	1.5	1,005	18	3.8	9
Pennsylvania	5,894.8	1.0	1,031	17	3.0	28
Rhode Island	489.4	1.0	963	24	-1.3	51
South Carolina	2,088.2	2.8	834	46	0.8	50
South Dakota	431.5	1.3	827	47	3.0	28
Tennessee	3,005.6	1.7	938	26	3.9	7
Texas	12,327.0	2.6	1,064	14	3.1	25
Utah	1,494.4	3.4	911	30	3.6	16
Vermont	310.9	0.0	892	36	2.6	40
Virginia	3,889.6	1.1	1,082	11	2.9	31
Washington	3,425.6	2.4	1,280	3	6.2	2
West Virginia	706.0	1.7	894	35	8.1	1
Wisconsin	2,888.9	0.7	901	33	2.9	31
Wyoming	278.2	0.6	905	32	4.3	4
Puerto Rico	862.5	0.2	534	[3]	5.3	[3]
Virgin Islands	33.4	-8.0	888	[3]	18.6	[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 Florida, third quarter 2018



Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics.