



For Release: Friday, March 19, 2021

21-502-ATL

SOUTHEAST INFORMATION OFFICE: Atlanta, Ga.

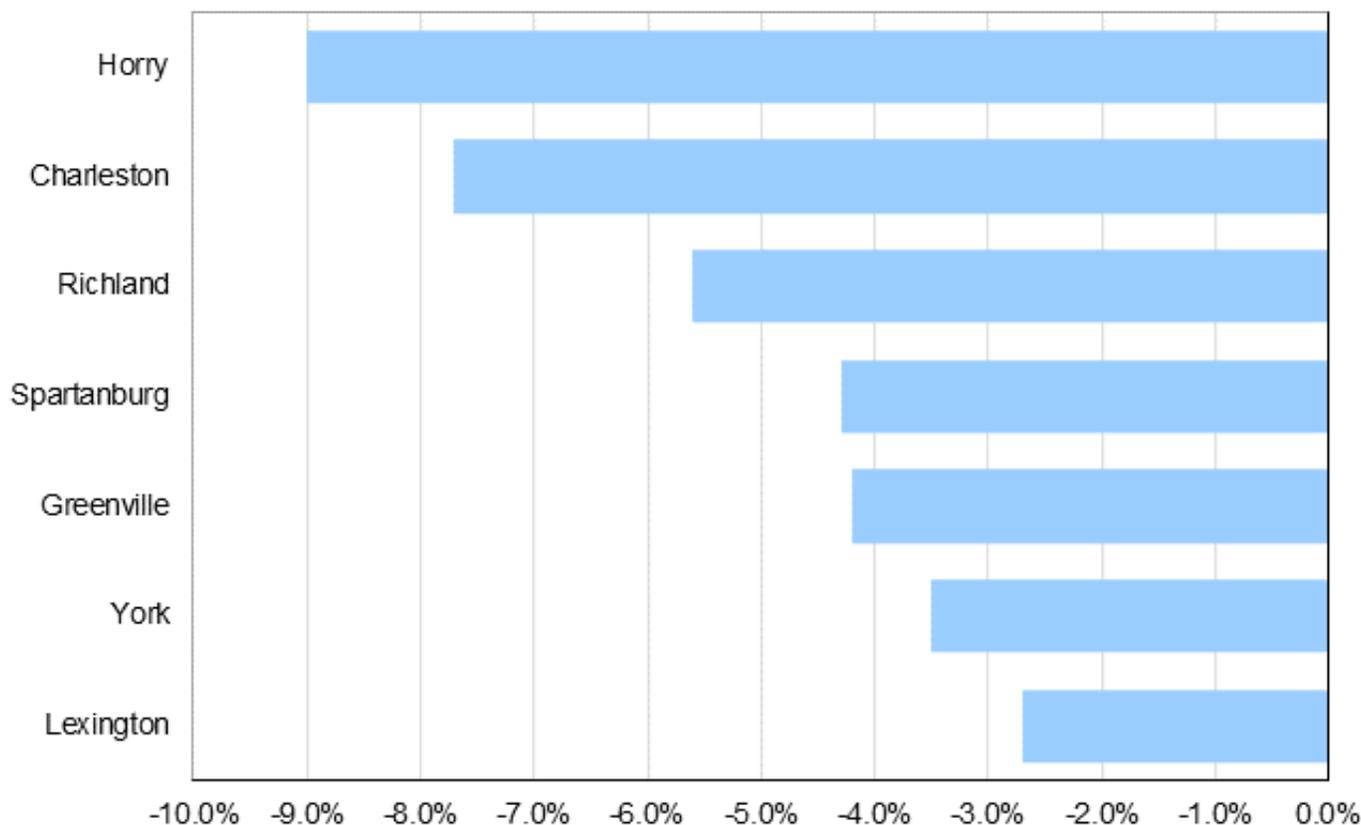
Technical information: (404) 893-4222 BLSInfoAtlanta@bls.gov www.bls.gov/regions/southeast

Media contact: (404) 893-4220

County Employment and Wages in South Carolina – Third Quarter 2020

Employment declined in all of South Carolina’s seven largest counties from September 2019 to September 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.) Regional Commissioner Janet S. Rankin noted that employment decreases ranged from 9.0 percent in Horry County to 2.7 percent in Lexington County. (See [chart 1](#) and [table 1](#).)

Chart 1. Over-the-year percent change in covered employment among the largest counties in South Carolina, September 2020



Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics.

National employment decreased 6.8 percent over the year, with 355 of the 357 largest U.S. counties reporting declines. Maui + Kalawao, HI, had the largest over-the-year decrease in employment with a loss of 35.4 percent. Utah, UT, experienced the largest over-the-year percentage increase in employment with a gain of 1.9 percent.

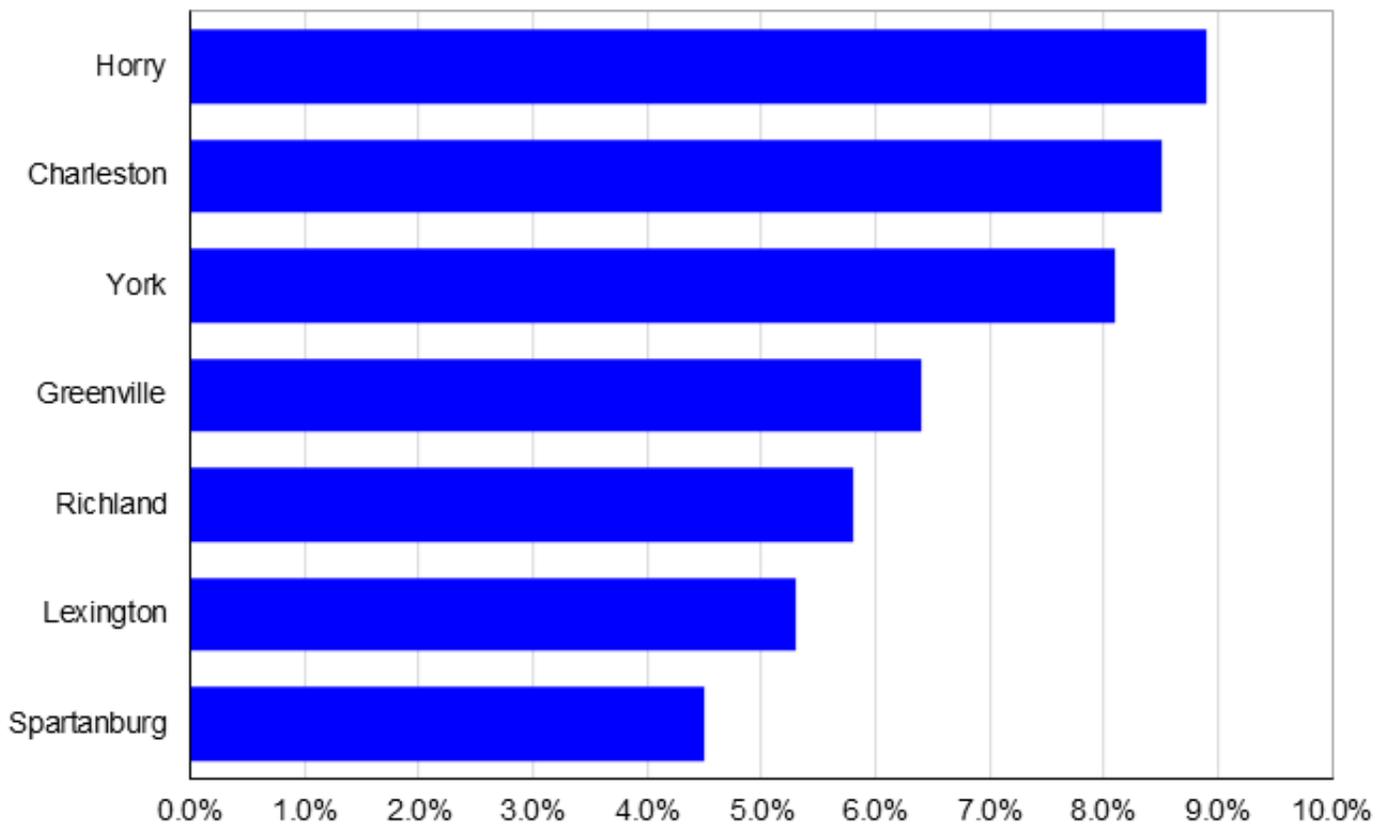
Among the seven largest counties in South Carolina, employment was highest in Greenville County (265,200) in September 2020. Within Greenville County’s private industry, administrative and waste services accounted for the largest employment. Together, the seven largest South Carolina counties accounted for 59.3 percent of total employment within the state. Nationwide, the 357 largest counties made up 72.9 percent of total U.S. employment.

Employment and wage levels (but not over-the-year changes) are also available for the 39 counties in South Carolina with employment below 75,000. Wage levels in all 39 smaller counties were below the national average in the third quarter of 2020. (See [table 2.](#))

Large county wage changes

All seven large South Carolina counties reported average weekly wage gains from the third quarter of 2019 to the third quarter of 2020. (See [chart 2.](#)) Three counties had rates of wage gains that were above the national rate of 7.4 percent. Horry County had the largest gain (+8.9 percent), followed by Charleston County (+8.5 percent) and York County (+8.1 percent). Over-the-year wage gains among South Carolina’s other four large counties ranged from 6.4 percent to 4.5 percent.

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



Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics.

Among the 357 largest counties in the United States, 350 had over-the-year wage increases. Nationally, the increases in average weekly wages largely reflect substantial employment loss among lower-paid industries. Employment declines occurring in some higher-paid industries also feature significant wage increases. San Mateo, CA, had the largest percentage wage increase (+23.2 percent). Seven large counties had wage declines during the period. Ector, TX, had the largest over-the-year percentage decrease (-11.0 percent).

Large county average weekly wages

Average weekly wages in all seven of South Carolina's largest counties were below the national average of \$1,173 in the third quarter of 2020. Average weekly wages in South Carolina's large counties ranged from \$1,047 in Charleston County to \$721 in Horry County.

Among the largest U.S. counties, 96 reported average weekly wages above the U.S. average in the third quarter of 2020. San Mateo, CA, had the highest average weekly wage at \$2,922. Average weekly wages were at or below the national average in 261 counties. At \$697 a week, Cameron, TX, had the lowest average weekly wage.

Average weekly wages in South Carolina's smaller counties

All 39 smaller counties in South Carolina—those with employment below 75,000—had average weekly wages below the national average of \$1,173. Among these smaller counties, Berkeley had the highest average weekly wage at \$1,015. Clarendon County (\$608) reported the lowest average weekly wage in the state.

When all 46 counties in South Carolina were considered, 6 reported average weekly wages of less than \$700, 17 registered wages from \$700 to \$799, 14 had wages from \$800 to \$899, and 9 had average weekly wages of \$900 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 2019 edition of this publication was published in September 2020. Tables and additional content from the 2019 edition of *Employment and Wages Annual Averages Online* are available at www.bls.gov/cew/publications/employment-and-wages-annual-averages/2019/home.htm. The 2020 edition of *Employment and Wages Annual Averages Online* will be available in September 2021.

The County Employment and Wages release for fourth quarter 2020 is scheduled to be released on Wednesday, May 19, 2021 at 10:00 a.m. (ET). The County Employment and Wages full data update for fourth quarter 2020 is scheduled to be released on Wednesday, June 2, 2021 at 10:00 a.m. (ET).

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 seven largest counties in South Carolina, third quarter 2020

Area	Establishments, third quarter 2020 (thousands)	Employment			Average weekly wage ⁽¹⁾			
		September 2020 (thousands)	Percent change, September 2019–20 ⁽²⁾	National ranking by percent change ⁽³⁾	Third quarter 2020	National ranking by level ⁽³⁾	Percent change, third quarter 2019–20 ⁽²⁾	National ranking by percent change ⁽³⁾
United States ⁽⁴⁾	10,561.3	138,549.5	-6.8	--	\$1,173	--	7.4	--
South Carolina.....	146.6	2,022.9	-5.2	--	924	44	6.7	23
Charleston.....	17.9	239.2	-7.7	226	1,047	189	8.5	95
Greenville.....	16.1	265.2	-4.2	64	969	258	6.4	227
Horry.....	10.2	123.9	-9.0	287	721	355	8.9	80
Lexington.....	7.4	118.3	-2.7	29	887	327	5.3	282
Richland.....	11.1	210.9	-5.6	127	971	255	5.8	259
Spartanburg.....	7.0	144.6	-4.3	68	929	301	4.5	309
York.....	6.9	97.2	-3.5	44	952	273	8.1	125

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 South Carolina, third quarter 2020

Area	Employment September 2020	Average weekly wage(1)
United States(2)	138,549,503	\$1,173
South Carolina.....	2,022,853	924
Abbeville.....	5,232	786
Aiken.....	58,222	1,010
Allendale.....	2,569	846
Anderson.....	64,269	838
Bamberg.....	3,291	724
Barnwell.....	4,848	685
Beaufort.....	64,404	821
Berkeley.....	54,380	1,015
Calhoun.....	4,563	872
Charleston.....	239,198	1,047
Cherokee.....	19,643	743
Chester.....	9,466	823
Chesterfield.....	14,167	767
Clarendon.....	6,629	608
Colleton.....	10,131	704
Darlington.....	19,501	892
Dillon.....	9,113	653
Dorchester.....	34,327	795
Edgefield.....	5,115	787
Fairfield.....	5,278	959
Florence.....	63,477	803
Georgetown.....	23,754	815
Greenville.....	265,180	969
Greenwood.....	27,741	826
Hampton.....	4,412	764
Horry.....	123,856	721
Jasper.....	9,594	789
Kershaw.....	16,846	763
Lancaster.....	25,291	977
Laurens.....	19,986	823
Lee.....	3,773	732
Lexington.....	118,250	887
McCormick.....	1,558	687
Marion.....	7,186	651
Marlboro.....	6,558	786
Newberry.....	14,313	762
Oconee.....	23,559	868
Orangeburg.....	26,925	803
Pickens.....	35,103	895
Richland.....	210,869	971
Saluda.....	4,862	683
Spartanburg.....	144,554	929
Sumter.....	34,936	794
Union.....	7,498	795
Williamsburg.....	8,371	770
York.....	97,165	952

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 2020

State	Establishments, third quarter 2020 (thousands)	Employment		Average weekly wage ⁽¹⁾			
		September 2020 (thousands)	Percent change, September 2019–20	Third quarter 2020	National ranking by level	Percent change, third quarter 2019–20	National ranking by percent change
United States ⁽²⁾	10,561.3	138,549.5	-6.8	\$1,173	--	7.4	--
Alabama.....	132.2	1,902.4	-4.5	978	33	6.4	27
Alaska.....	22.9	302.6	-10.7	1,165	14	5.4	42
Arizona.....	174.1	2,797.1	-4.2	1,091	22	7.3	17
Arkansas.....	93.6	1,180.1	-3.4	892	49	6.1	31
California.....	1,643.8	16,096.8	-9.2	1,466	4	12.0	1
Colorado.....	220.1	2,597.2	-5.6	1,235	9	5.6	38
Connecticut.....	125.4	1,555.6	-7.3	1,328	7	7.4	15
Delaware.....	34.9	428.8	-5.6	1,150	15	6.8	21
District of Columbia.....	43.3	713.7	-8.1	1,962	1	6.1	31
Florida.....	749.1	8,329.7	-5.8	1,029	27	8.0	11
Georgia.....	313.0	4,282.1	-5.2	1,084	23	5.8	35
Hawaii.....	46.5	507.5	-22.9	1,114	18	10.3	4
Idaho.....	70.7	763.7	-0.2	884	50	5.5	41
Illinois.....	385.9	5,558.5	-7.8	1,199	11	6.8	21
Indiana.....	172.4	2,941.8	-4.7	961	39	5.3	43
Iowa.....	105.1	1,475.0	-5.2	969	36	6.0	34
Kansas.....	89.2	1,325.4	-5.0	952	40	6.6	24
Kentucky.....	128.0	1,807.1	-5.5	935	43	5.8	35
Louisiana.....	139.5	1,734.6	-9.6	970	35	5.2	45
Maine.....	54.4	597.3	-5.9	966	37	9.0	9
Maryland.....	172.4	2,496.6	-7.6	1,277	8	9.5	7
Massachusetts.....	265.1	3,314.8	-9.4	1,488	2	9.7	6
Michigan.....	266.9	4,035.9	-7.9	1,096	20	7.5	14
Minnesota.....	183.1	2,703.3	-7.4	1,178	12	6.4	27
Mississippi.....	74.9	1,092.4	-4.0	810	51	5.6	38
Missouri.....	218.8	2,681.7	-5.1	995	32	5.6	38
Montana.....	53.0	466.9	-2.5	904	48	6.6	24
Nebraska.....	73.7	949.9	-3.8	964	38	6.4	27
Nevada.....	87.9	1,251.0	-11.6	1,048	24	7.8	13
New Hampshire.....	56.1	634.2	-5.2	1,171	13	8.9	10
New Jersey.....	289.3	3,778.4	-8.0	1,331	6	9.5	7
New Mexico.....	63.1	771.9	-8.6	944	41	5.1	46
New York.....	657.6	8,547.7	-10.8	1,446	5	10.0	5
North Carolina.....	301.4	4,308.2	-4.4	1,039	26	6.9	20
North Dakota.....	32.5	398.2	-7.0	1,025	28	-0.3	50
Ohio.....	305.7	5,136.8	-5.6	1,040	25	6.6	24
Oklahoma.....	112.4	1,538.5	-5.7	917	46	2.3	48
Oregon.....	164.6	1,837.3	-7.0	1,113	19	7.4	15
Pennsylvania.....	366.5	5,501.0	-7.6	1,139	17	7.0	19
Rhode Island.....	40.1	452.5	-8.0	1,092	21	10.4	3
South Carolina.....	146.6	2,022.9	-5.2	924	44	6.7	23
South Dakota.....	35.2	422.3	-2.6	918	45	7.2	18
Tennessee.....	173.6	2,918.1	-4.6	1,022	29	5.8	35
Texas.....	733.1	11,926.8	-5.5	1,150	15	3.8	47
Utah.....	114.3	1,518.2	-1.0	1,015	30	6.1	31
Vermont.....	26.4	283.9	-8.6	1,001	31	7.9	12
Virginia.....	285.7	3,737.0	-5.0	1,201	10	6.4	27
Washington.....	256.6	3,266.2	-6.3	1,482	3	11.0	2
West Virginia.....	51.7	649.1	-6.7	913	47	1.8	49
Wisconsin.....	181.2	2,746.6	-5.2	977	34	5.3	43
Wyoming.....	27.5	264.0	-6.8	939	42	-0.4	51
Puerto Rico.....	45.7	831.6	-5.3	547	(3)	3.4	(3)
Virgin Islands.....	3.4	33.9	-13.0	1,019	(3)	-0.5	(3)

Note: See footnotes at end of table.

Footnotes:

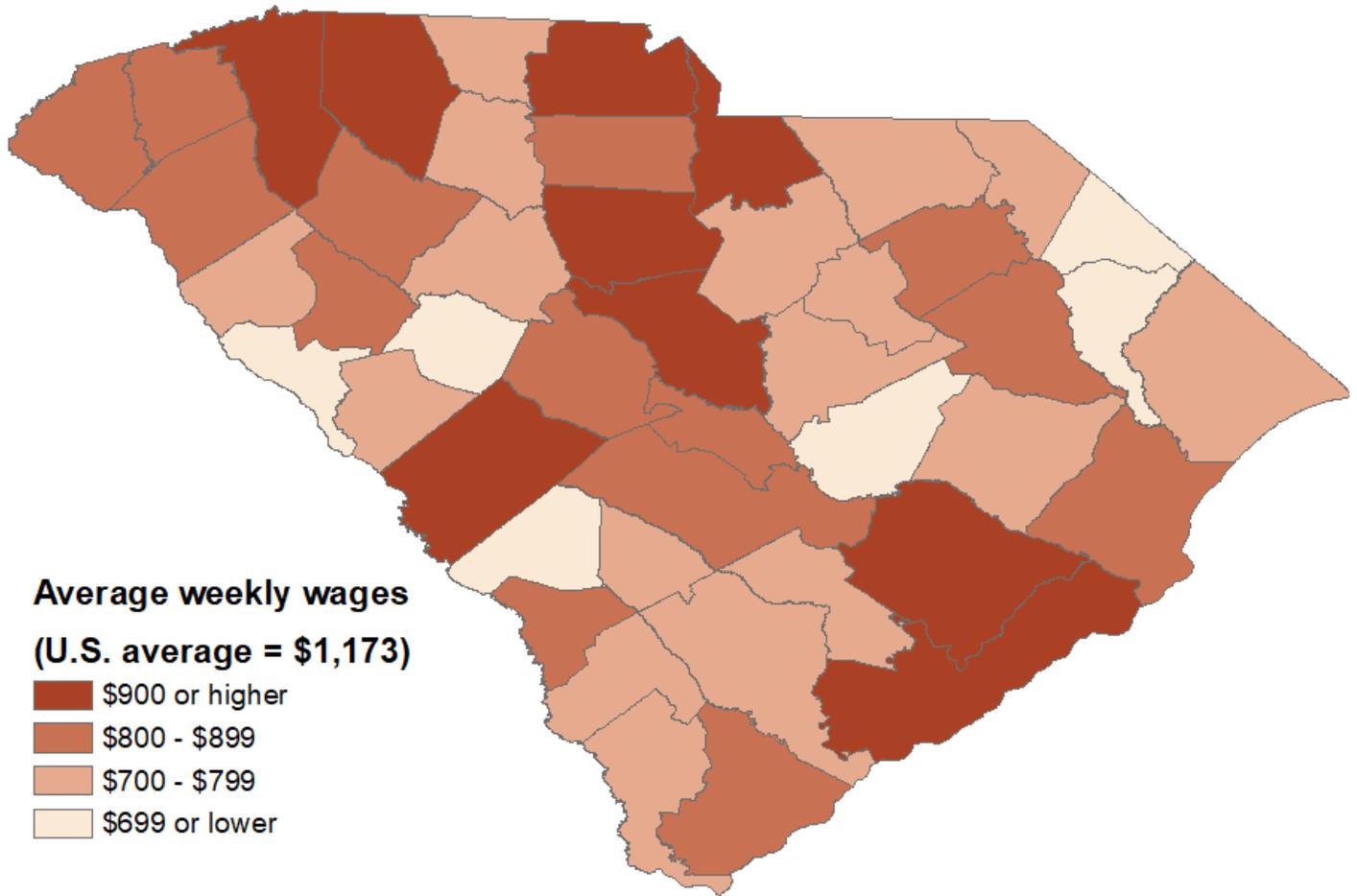
(1) Average weekly wages were calculated using unrounded data.

(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 South Carolina, third quarter 2020



Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics.