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COUNTY EMPLOYMENT AND WAGES: FOURTH QUARTER 2004

In December 2004, Rutherford County, Tenn., had the largest over-the-year percentage increase in employment among the largest counties in the U.S., according to preliminary data released today by the Bureau of Labor Statistics of the U.S. Department of Labor. Rutherford County experienced an over-the-year employment gain of 8.9 percent, compared with national job growth of 1.7 percent. Williamson County, Texas, had the largest over-the-year gain in average weekly wages in the fourth quarter of 2004, with an increase of 17.8 percent. The U.S. average weekly wage increased by 5.7 percent over the same time span.

Of the 317 largest counties in the United States, as measured by 2003 employment, 150 had over-the-year percentage growth in jobs above the national average in December 2004, and 153 experienced changes below the national average. (See chart 1.) Average weekly wages grew faster than the national average in 133 of the largest U.S. counties, while the percent change in average weekly wages was below the national average in 177 counties. (See chart 2.)

The employment and 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 reports submitted by every employer subject to unemployment insurance (UI) laws. The 8.5 million employer reports cover 131.6 million full- and part-time workers. The attached tables and charts contain data for the nation and for the 317 U.S. counties with annual average employment levels of 75,000 or more in 2003. In addition, data for San Juan, Puerto Rico, are provided, but not used in calculating U.S. averages, or in the analysis in the text. (See Technical Note.) December 2004 employment and 2004 fourth-quarter average weekly wages for all states are provided in table 4 of this release. Data for all states, metropolitan statistical areas, counties, and the nation through the third quarter of 2004 are available on the BLS Web site at <http://www.bls.gov/cew/>. Preliminary data for the fourth quarter of 2004 and revised data for the first, second, and third quarters of 2004 will be available in July on the BLS Web site.

QCEW-Based Regional News Releases

Several BLS regional offices have recently begun issuing QCEW-based news releases targeted to local users and media markets. For links to these releases, see <http://www.bls.gov/cew/cewregional.htm>.

Table A. Top 10 counties ranked by December 2004 employment, December 2003-04 employment change, and December 2003-04 percent change in employment

Employment in large counties					
December 2004 employment (thousands)		Net change in employment, December 2003-04 (thousands)		Percent change in employment, December 2003-04	
U.S.	131,560.7	U.S.	2,198.4	U.S.	1.7
Los Angeles, Calif.	4,123.1	Maricopa, Ariz.	75.7	Rutherford, Tenn.	8.9
Cook, Ill.	2,529.3	Clark, Nev.	58.9	Manatee, Fla.	8.7
New York, N.Y.	2,266.8	Los Angeles, Calif.	58.5	Clark, Nev.	7.5
Harris, Texas	1,861.3	Riverside, Calif.	40.6	Riverside, Calif.	7.4
Maricopa, Ariz.	1,696.8	Hillsborough, Fla.	30.8	Loudoun, Va.	6.9
Orange, Calif.	1,464.8	Orange, Calif.	28.9	Prince William, Va.	6.6
Dallas, Texas	1,458.4	Orange, Fla.	27.2	Lee, Fla.	6.1
San Diego, Calif.	1,296.9	Dallas, Texas	26.1	Marion, Fla.	6.0
King, Wash.	1,117.2	Fairfax, Va.	25.4	Sarasota, Fla.	5.8
Miami-Dade, Fla.	1,007.1	Broward, Fla.	24.8	Hamilton, Ind.	5.8

Large County Employment

In December 2004, national employment, as measured by the QCEW program, was 131.6 million, up 1.7 percent from December 2003. The 317 largest U.S. counties accounted for 70.6 percent of total U.S. covered employment and 76.7 percent of total covered wages. These 317 counties had a net job gain of 1,543,850 over the year, accounting for 70.2 percent of the U.S. employment increase. Employment rose in 270 of the large counties from December 2003 to December 2004. Rutherford County, Tenn., had the largest over-the-year percentage gain (8.9 percent). Manatee, Fla., had the next largest increase, 8.7 percent, followed by Clark, Nev. (7.5 percent), Riverside, Calif. (7.4 percent), and Loudoun, Va. (6.9 percent). (See table 1.)

Employment declined in 38 counties from December 2003 to December 2004. The largest percentage decline was in McLean, Ill. (-2.9 percent), followed by Trumbull, Ohio (-1.8 percent), Wayne, Mich. (-1.5 percent), Saginaw, Mich. (-1.4 percent), and Okaloosa, Fla., Madison, Ill., and Ingham, Mich. (-1.3 percent each).

The largest gains in employment from December 2003 to December 2004 were recorded in Maricopa, Ariz. (75,700), Clark, Nev. (58,900), Los Angeles, Calif. (58,500), Riverside, Calif. (40,600), and Hillsborough, Fla. (30,800). (See table A.)

The largest declines in employment occurred in Wayne, Mich. (-12,600), followed by Allegheny, Pa. (-3,900), Montgomery, Ohio (-2,900), Orleans, La. (-2,800), and McLean, Ill. (-2,500).

Large County Average Weekly Wages

The national average weekly wage in the fourth quarter of 2004 was \$812. Average weekly wages were higher than the national average in 110 of the largest 317 U.S. counties. New York County, N.Y., held the top position among the highest-paid large counties with an average weekly wage of \$1,608. Santa Clara,

Table B. Top 10 counties ranked by fourth quarter 2004 average weekly wages, fourth quarter 2003-04 change in average weekly wages, and fourth quarter 2003-04 percent change in average weekly wages

Average weekly wage in large counties					
Average weekly wage, fourth quarter 2004		Change in average weekly wage, fourth quarter 2003-04		Percent change in average weekly wage, fourth quarter 2003-04	
U.S.	\$812	U.S.	\$44	U.S.	5.7
New York, N.Y.	\$1,608	Williamson, Texas	\$135	Williamson, Texas	17.8
Santa Clara, Calif.	1,460	Santa Clara, Calif.	127	Rock Island, Ill.	14.8
Fairfield, Conn.	1,430	New York, N.Y.	125	Ventura, Calif.	12.6
Suffolk, Mass.	1,363	Fairfield, Conn.	120	Henrico, Va.	12.5
San Mateo, Calif.	1,324	Rock Island, Ill.	116	St. Louis, Minn.	11.0
Washington, D.C.	1,305	Suffolk, Mass.	116	Washington, Ark.	10.6
Arlington, Va.	1,291	Ventura, Calif.	102	Hennepin, Minn.	9.6
San Francisco, Calif.	1,274	San Mateo, Calif.	101	Santa Clara, Calif.	9.5
Fairfax, Va.	1,239	Henrico, Va.	96	Suffolk, Mass.	9.3
Somerset, N.J.	1,235	Essex, N.J.	93	Rockingham, N.H.	9.3
				Essex, N.J.	9.3

Calif., was second with an average weekly wage of \$1,460, followed by Fairfield, Conn. (\$1,430), Suffolk, Mass. (\$1,363), and San Mateo, Calif. (\$1,324). (See table B.)

There were 204 counties with an average weekly wage below the national average in the fourth quarter of 2004. The lowest average weekly wages were reported in Cameron, Texas (\$500), followed by Hidalgo, Texas (\$504), Webb, Texas (\$540), Yakima, Wash. (\$541), and Horry, S.C. (\$558). (See table 1.)

From the fourth quarter 2003 to the fourth quarter 2004, the national average weekly wage rose by 5.7 percent. Among the largest counties, Williamson, Texas, led the nation in growth in average weekly wages, with an increase of 17.8 percent from the fourth quarter of 2003. Rock Island, Ill., was second with 14.8 percent growth, followed by Ventura, Calif. (12.6 percent), Henrico, Va. (12.5 percent), and St. Louis, Minn. (11.0 percent).

No counties experienced over-the-year declines in average weekly wages. Kalamazoo, Mich., had the smallest increase in average weekly wages, 0.5 percent, followed by Richmond, N.Y. (0.7 percent), Genesee and Macomb, Mich. (0.9 percent each), and Ingham, Mich. (1.0 percent).

Ten Largest U.S. Counties

Of the 10 largest U.S. counties (based on 2003 employment levels), 9 reported increases in employment, while 1 remained constant from December 2003 to December 2004. Maricopa, Ariz., experienced the fastest growth in employment among the 10 largest counties, with a 4.7 percent increase. Within Maricopa County, employment rose in every industry group except information. The largest gains were in construction (12.9 percent) and education and health services (7.0 percent). (See table 2.) Miami-Dade, Fla., had the next largest increase in employment, 2.4 percent, followed by Orange, Calif. (2.0 percent). The smallest employment gains occurred in New York, N.Y. (0.9 percent) and Harris, Texas (1.3 percent). The only county of the ten largest counties in the United States that did not have an increase in employment was Cook County, Ill., whose employment remained constant.

All of the 10 largest U.S. counties saw over-the-year increases in average weekly wages. New York, N.Y., had the fastest growth in wages among the top 10 counties, 8.4 percent. Within New York County, wages increased the most in natural resources and mining (26.1 percent) and financial activities (14.0 percent). Harris, Texas, was second in wage growth, increasing by 7.8 percent, followed by Orange, Calif., with a gain of 7.1 percent. The smallest wage gains among the 10 largest counties occurred in King, Wash. (3.8 percent), followed by Dallas, Texas (5.1 percent) and Maricopa, Ariz. (5.7 percent).

Largest County by State

Table 3 shows December 2004 employment and the 2004 fourth-quarter average weekly wage in the largest county in each state. (This table includes two counties—Yellowstone, Mont., and Laramie, Wyo.—that have employment levels below 75,000.) The employment levels in these counties in December 2004 ranged from approximately 4.1 million in Los Angeles, Calif., to 39,500 in Laramie, Wyo. The highest average weekly wage of these counties was in New York, N.Y. (\$1,608), while the lowest average weekly wage was in Laramie, Wyo. (\$630).

Technical Note

These data are the product of a federal-state cooperative program, 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 summaries are a result of the administration of state unemployment insurance programs that require most employers to pay quarterly taxes based on the employment and wages of workers covered by UI. Data for 2004 are preliminary and subject to revision.

For purposes of this release, large counties are defined as having employment levels of 75,000 or greater. Each year, these large counties are selected on the basis of the preliminary annual average of employment for the previous year. The 318

counties discussed in this release were derived using 2003 preliminary annual averages of employment. These counties will be included in all 2004 quarterly releases. The counties in table 2 are selected and sorted each year based on the annual average employment from the preceding year.

The preliminary QCEW data presented in this release may differ from data released by the individual states. These potential differences result from the states' continuing receipt of UI data over time and ongoing review and editing. The individual states determine their data release timetables.

Differences between QCEW, BED, and CES employment measures

The Bureau publishes three different establishment-based employment measures for any given quarter. Each of these

Summary of Major Differences between QCEW, BED, and CES Employment Measures

	QCEW	BED	CES
Source	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Count of UI administrative records submitted by 8.5 million establishments 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Count of longitudinally-linked UI administrative records submitted by 6.5 million private-sector employers 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sample survey: 400,000 establishments
Coverage	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> UI and UCFE coverage, including all employers subject to state and federal UI laws 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> UI coverage, excluding government, private households, and establishments with zero employment 	Nonfarm wage and salary jobs: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> UI coverage, excluding agriculture, private households, and self-employed workers Other employment, including railroads, religious organizations, and other non-UI-covered jobs
Publication frequency	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Quarterly - 7 months after the end of each quarter 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Quarterly - 8 months after the end of each quarter 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Monthly - Usually first Friday of following month
Use of UI file	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Directly summarizes and publishes each new quarter of UI data 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Links each new UI quarter to longitudinal database and directly summarizes gross job gains and losses 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Uses UI file as a sampling frame and annually realigns (benchmarks) sample estimates to first quarter UI levels
Principal products	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provides a quarterly and annual universe count of establishments, employment, and wages at the county, MSA, state, and national levels by detailed industry 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provides quarterly employer dynamics data on establishment openings, closings, expansions, and contractions at the national level Future expansions will include data at the county, MSA, and state level and by size of establishment 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provides current monthly estimates of employment, hours, and earnings at the MSA, state, and national level by industry
Principal uses	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Major uses include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Detailed locality data Periodic universe counts for benchmarking sample survey estimates Sample frame for BLS establishment surveys 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Major uses include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Business cycle analysis Analysis of employer dynamics underlying economic expansions and contractions Future: Employment expansion and contraction by size of establishment 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Major uses include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Principal national economic indicator Official time series for employment change measures Input into other major economic indicators
Program Web sites	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> www.bls.gov/cew/ 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> www.bls.gov/bdm/ 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> www.bls.gov/ces/

measures—QCEW, Business Employment Dynamics (BED), and Current Employment Statistics (CES)—makes use of the quarterly UI employment reports in producing data; however, each measure has a somewhat different universe coverage, estimation procedure, and publication product.

Differences in coverage and estimation methods can result in somewhat different measures of over-the-quarter employment change. It is important to understand program differences and the intended uses of the program products. (See table on the previous page.) Additional information on each program can be obtained from the program Web sites shown in the table on the previous page.

Coverage

Employment and wage data for workers covered by state UI laws and for federal civilian workers covered by the Unemployment Compensation for Federal Employees (UCFE) program are compiled from quarterly contribution reports submitted to the SWAs by employers. In addition to the quarterly contribution reports, employers who operate multiple establishments within a state complete a questionnaire, called the “Multiple Worksite Report,” which provides detailed information on the location and industry of each of their establishments. The employment and wage data included in this release are derived from microdata summaries of more than 8 million employer reports of employment and wages submitted by states to the BLS. These reports are based on place of employment rather than place of residence.

UI and UCFE coverage is broad and basically comparable from state to state. In 2003, UI and UCFE programs covered workers in 127.8 million jobs. The estimated 122.9 million workers in these jobs (after adjustment for multiple jobholders) represented 96.6 percent of civilian wage and salary employment. Covered workers received \$4.826 trillion in pay, representing 94.6 percent of the wage and salary component of personal income and 43.9 percent of the gross domestic product.

Major exclusions from UI coverage include self-employed workers, most agricultural workers on small farms, all members of the Armed Forces, elected officials in most states, most employees of railroads, some domestic workers, most student workers at schools, and employees of certain small nonprofit organizations.

State and federal UI laws change periodically. These changes may have an impact on the employment and wages reported by employers covered under the UI program. Coverage changes may affect the over-the-year comparisons presented in this news release. Effective January 1, 2004, the Washington Employment Security Department no longer includes as covered wages an employee’s income attributable to the transfer of shares of stock to the employee. This change in wage coverage pertains to all establishments in Washington State and contributes significantly to over-the-year changes in wages in the state in 2004.

Concepts and methodology

Monthly employment is based on the number of workers who worked during or received pay for the pay period including the 12th of the month. With few exceptions, all employees of covered firms are reported, including production and sales workers, corporation officials, executives, supervisory personnel, and clerical workers. Workers on paid vacations and part-time workers also are included.

Average weekly wage values are calculated by dividing quarterly total wages by the average of the three monthly employment levels (all employees, as described above) and dividing the result by 13, for the 13 weeks in the quarter. These calculations are made using unrounded employment and wage values. The average wage values that can be calculated using rounded data from the BLS database may differ from the averages reported. Included in the quarterly wage data are non-wage cash payments such as bonuses, the cash value of meals and lodging when supplied, tips and other gratuities, and, in some states, employer contributions to certain deferred compensation plans such as 401(k) plans and stock options.

Average weekly wages are affected by the ratio of full-time to part-time workers as well as the number of individuals in high-paying and low-paying occupations and the incidence of pay periods within a quarter. When comparing average weekly wage levels between industries and/or states, these factors should be taken into consideration.

Federal government pay levels are subject to periodic, sometimes large, fluctuations due to a calendar effect that consists of some quarters having more pay periods than others. Most federal employees are paid on a biweekly pay schedule. As a result of this schedule, in some quarters, federal wages contain payments for six pay periods, while in other quarters their wages include payments for seven pay periods. Over-the-year comparisons of average weekly wages may reflect this calendar effect. Higher growth in average weekly wages may be attributed, in part, to a comparison of quarterly wages for the current year, which include seven pay periods, with year-ago wages that reflect only six pay periods. An opposite effect will occur when wages in the current period, which contain six pay periods, are compared with year-ago wages that include seven pay periods. The effect on over-the-year pay comparisons can be pronounced in federal government due to the uniform nature of federal payroll processing. This pattern may exist in private sector pay, however, because there are more pay period types (weekly, biweekly, semimonthly, monthly) it is less pronounced. The effect is most visible in counties with large concentrations of federal employment.

In order to ensure the highest possible quality of data, states verify with employers and update, if necessary, the industry, location, and ownership classification of all establishments on a 3-year cycle. Changes in establishment classification codes resulting from this process are introduced with the data reported for the first quarter of the year. Changes resulting from improved employer reporting also are introduced in the first quarter.

QCEW data are not designed as a time series. QCEW data are simply the sums of individual establishment records and reflect 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. For example, economic change would come from a firm relocating into the county; administrative change would come from a company correcting its county designation.

The over-the-year changes of employment and wages presented in this release have been adjusted to account for most of the administrative corrections made to the underlying establishment reports. This is done by modifying the prior-year levels used to calculate the over-the-year changes. Percent changes are calculated using an adjusted version of the final 2003 quarterly data as the base data. The adjusted prior-year levels used to calculate the over-the-year percent change in employment and wages are not published. These adjusted prior-year levels do not match the unadjusted data maintained on the BLS Web site. Over-the-year change calculations based on data from the Web site, or from data published in prior BLS news releases, may differ substantially from the over-the-year changes presented in this news release.

The adjusted data used to calculate the over-the-year change measures presented in this release account for most of the administrative changes—those occurring when employers update the industry, location, and ownership information of their establishments. The most common adjustments for administrative change are the result of updated information about the county location of individual establishments.

The adjusted data do not account for administrative changes caused by (1) multi-unit employers who start reporting for each individual establishment rather than as a single entity and (2) the classification of establishments previously reported in the unknown county or unknown industry categories.

The adjusted data used to calculate the over-the-year change measures presented in any County Employment and Wages news release are valid for comparisons between the starting and

ending points (a 12-month period) used in that particular release. Comparisons may not be valid for any time period other than the one featured in a release even if the changes were calculated using adjusted data.

County definitions are assigned according to Federal Information Processing Standards Publications (FIPS PUBS) as issued by the National Institute of Standards and Technology, after approval by the Secretary of Commerce pursuant to Section 5131 of the Information Technology Management Reform Act of 1996 and the Computer Security Act of 1987, Public Law 104-106. Areas shown as counties include those designated as independent cities in some jurisdictions and, in Alaska, those designated as census areas where counties have not been created. County data also are presented for the New England states for comparative purposes even though townships are the more common designation used in New England (and New Jersey). The regions referred to in this release are defined as census regions.

Additional statistics and other information

An annual bulletin, *Employment and Wages*, features comprehensive information by detailed industry on establishments, employment, and wages for the nation and all states. *Employment and Wages Annual Averages, 2003* is available for sale from the BLS Publications Sales Center, P.O. Box 2145, Chicago, Illinois 60690, telephone 312-353-1880. The 2003 bulletin is now available in a portable document format (PDF) on the BLS Web site at <http://www.bls.gov/cew/cewbultn03.htm>.

News releases on quarterly measures of gross job flows also are available upon request from the Division of Administrative Statistics and Labor Turnover (Business Employment Dynamics), telephone 202-691-6467; (<http://www.bls.gov/bdm/>); (e-mail: BDMInfo@bls.gov).

Information in this release will be made available to sensory impaired individuals upon request. Voice phone: 202-691-5200; TDD message referral phone number: 1-800-877-8339.

Table 1. Covered¹ establishments, employment, and wages in the 318 largest counties, fourth quarter 2004²

County ³	Establishments, fourth quarter 2004 (thousands)	Employment			Average weekly wage ⁵		
		December 2004 (thousands)	Percent change, December 2003-04 ⁴	Ranking by percent change	Average weekly wage	Percent change, fourth quarter 2003-04 ⁴	Ranking by percent change
United States ⁶	8,487.6	131,560.7	1.7	-	\$812	5.7	-
Jefferson, AL	18.8	373.6	0.0	272	833	9.2	12
Madison, AL	8.0	167.1	3.6	46	847	3.2	284
Mobile, AL	9.7	165.5	2.3	104	669	7.0	66
Montgomery, AL	6.6	133.2	2.1	114	721	3.4	276
Tuscaloosa, AL	4.2	79.8	3.2	60	713	8.7	17
Anchorage Borough, AK	7.7	142.2	1.4	178	830	5.2	166
Maricopa, AZ	80.4	1,696.8	4.7	23	801	5.7	134
Pima, AZ	17.6	348.9	3.4	53	701	4.8	193
Benton, AR	4.6	87.2	4.8	21	726	6.9	73
Pulaski, AR	13.4	245.7	1.2	189	757	5.6	139
Washington, AR	5.2	87.8	2.7	82	668	10.6	6
Alameda, CA	48.1	676.3	-0.2	281	1,056	7.4	49
Contra Costa, CA	27.6	344.4	1.2	189	1,010	8.4	20
Fresno, CA	29.0	332.3	2.1	114	651	6.0	117
Kern, CA	16.0	252.9	3.1	67	684	6.0	117
Los Angeles, CA	366.8	4,123.1	1.4	178	959	6.1	110
Marin, CA	11.8	112.6	1.6	160	1,062	6.0	117
Monterey, CA	11.9	149.8	-0.2	281	701	4.0	247
Orange, CA	90.3	1,464.8	2.0	121	938	7.1	60
Placer, CA	9.5	132.3	5.0	17	791	8.2	27
Riverside, CA	38.9	590.8	7.4	4	677	4.6	206
Sacramento, CA	47.2	608.3	1.6	160	866	3.8	256
San Bernardino, CA	42.6	621.9	3.8	38	711	4.6	206
San Diego, CA	87.2	1,296.9	1.9	127	872	6.5	89
San Francisco, CA	43.3	528.7	-0.4	293	1,274	7.8	34
San Joaquin, CA	16.0	216.5	3.7	41	705	4.1	243
San Luis Obispo, CA	8.7	98.3	0.2	259	674	6.6	84
San Mateo, CA	22.9	333.7	0.7	226	1,324	8.3	24
Santa Barbara, CA	13.2	172.7	-0.5	294	786	8.7	17
Santa Clara, CA	52.8	861.6	1.0	203	1,460	9.5	8
Santa Cruz, CA	8.4	92.2	2.9	75	767	6.1	110
Solano, CA	9.6	126.4	0.7	226	753	7.0	66
Sonoma, CA	17.3	190.2	0.5	243	796	6.4	97
Stanislaus, CA	13.2	168.2	2.3	104	666	4.6	206
Tulare, CA	8.6	133.2	0.4	248	577	7.1	60
Ventura, CA	20.7	305.3	1.2	189	913	12.6	3
Yolo, CA	5.1	95.7	1.7	151	758	7.7	38
Adams, CO	8.7	143.0	1.9	127	781	7.0	66
Arapahoe, CO	18.9	271.9	0.8	218	983	7.4	49
Boulder, CO	11.9	155.5	3.4	53	959	3.8	256
Denver, CO	24.5	429.1	1.7	151	990	5.9	123
El Paso, CO	16.1	239.3	2.2	108	742	5.2	166
Jefferson, CO	18.1	207.0	1.4	178	825	5.2	166
Larimer, CO	9.3	122.9	1.8	135	733	3.2	284
Fairfield, CT	31.9	418.0	0.6	235	1,430	9.2	12
Hartford, CT	24.4	487.7	0.9	209	1,016	7.4	49
New Haven, CT	22.1	368.4	1.6	160	885	2.9	289
New London, CT	6.7	129.9	0.8	218	847	3.3	279
New Castle, DE	19.5	286.5	0.9	209	980	6.9	73
Washington, DC	30.3	659.6	0.6	235	1,305	5.5	146

See footnotes at end of table.

Table 1. Covered¹ establishments, employment, and wages in the 318 largest counties, fourth quarter 2004² — Continued

County ³	Establishments, fourth quarter 2004 (thousands)	Employment			Average weekly wage ⁵		
		December 2004 (thousands)	Percent change, December 2003-04 ⁴	Ranking by percent change	Average weekly wage	Percent change, fourth quarter 2003-04 ⁴	Ranking by percent change
Alachua, FL	6.1	127.8	3.2	60	\$619	4.4	219
Brevard, FL	12.9	198.2	3.3	57	780	8.9	15
Broward, FL	59.2	716.6	3.6	46	802	7.5	47
Collier, FL	10.9	129.5	5.0	17	741	5.3	159
Duval, FL	23.3	447.8	3.6	46	800	5.5	146
Escambia, FL	7.5	126.3	3.6	46	649	8.3	24
Hillsborough, FL	32.5	631.7	5.1	16	776	5.4	151
Lee, FL	15.9	207.2	6.1	7	708	8.8	16
Leon, FL	7.5	148.0	2.9	75	690	4.1	243
Manatee, FL	7.6	129.8	8.7	2	628	6.6	84
Marion, FL	6.9	94.2	6.0	8	607	5.6	139
Miami-Dade, FL	83.2	1,007.1	2.4	95	822	6.3	105
Okaloosa, FL	5.6	79.7	-1.3	307	640	7.7	38
Orange, FL	30.8	645.0	4.4	30	757	6.5	89
Palm Beach, FL	44.6	547.5	4.7	23	815	4.8	193
Pasco, FL	7.8	87.9	5.6	12	586	3.5	272
Pinellas, FL	29.2	445.2	3.1	67	720	4.2	238
Polk, FL	10.9	198.4	4.0	36	643	3.9	252
Sarasota, FL	13.7	161.1	5.8	9	706	7.1	60
Seminole, FL	12.5	159.7	5.7	11	745	8.1	30
Volusia, FL	12.4	158.1	4.3	32	620	5.6	139
Bibb, GA	4.7	87.1	0.1	267	670	3.7	263
Chatham, GA	7.2	131.0	3.7	41	685	6.7	76
Clayton, GA	4.4	107.6	(7)	-	830	6.4	97
Cobb, GA	20.1	306.3	0.8	218	880	3.5	272
De Kalb, GA	17.1	294.6	0.8	218	875	5.4	151
Fulton, GA	37.8	745.4	3.2	60	1,055	5.8	129
Gwinnett, GA	21.8	312.0	3.4	53	848	3.3	279
Muscogee, GA	4.7	97.6	-0.2	281	625	4.2	238
Richmond, GA	4.8	105.7	-0.2	281	678	6.1	110
Honolulu, HI	23.4	441.3	3.3	57	756	7.2	58
Ada, ID	13.4	193.4	4.8	21	742	8.2	27
Champaign, IL	4.0	91.2	0.8	218	672	2.0	304
Cook, IL	127.7	2,529.3	0.0	272	985	6.7	76
Du Page, IL	33.1	584.3	1.2	189	975	5.9	123
Kane, IL	11.3	203.0	1.1	198	763	6.1	110
Lake, IL	19.3	324.3	1.7	151	1,032	5.7	134
McHenry, IL	7.6	96.7	3.2	60	737	5.7	134
McLean, IL	3.4	83.5	-2.9	313	796	5.0	178
Madison, IL	5.7	93.9	-1.3	307	694	4.2	238
Peoria, IL	4.6	100.0	2.2	108	787	5.6	139
Rock Island, IL	3.4	78.0	0.9	209	902	14.8	2
St. Clair, IL	5.1	92.6	-1.2	306	646	7.0	66
Sangamon, IL	5.1	130.2	-0.2	281	772	2.8	293
Will, IL	11.0	163.1	2.4	95	769	4.9	186
Winnebago, IL	6.6	137.9	0.7	226	702	4.3	227
Allen, IN	8.7	180.7	0.4	248	712	5.0	178
Elkhart, IN	4.8	124.4	5.4	14	712	3.8	256
Hamilton, IN	6.3	91.2	5.8	9	833	6.4	97
Lake, IN	9.9	194.6	1.5	172	733	6.4	97

See footnotes at end of table.

Table 1. Covered¹ establishments, employment, and wages in the 318 largest counties, fourth quarter 2004² — Continued

County ³	Establishments, fourth quarter 2004 (thousands)	Employment			Average weekly wage ⁵		
		December 2004 (thousands)	Percent change, December 2003-04 ⁴	Ranking by percent change	Average weekly wage	Percent change, fourth quarter 2003-04 ⁴	Ranking by percent change
Marion, IN	23.8	586.8	1.6	160	\$833	4.1	243
St. Joseph, IN	6.0	127.2	1.8	135	684	1.9	306
Vanderburgh, IN	4.8	108.4	0.2	259	684	2.9	289
Linn, IA	6.1	118.2	2.1	114	791	8.2	27
Polk, IA	14.3	264.0	1.8	135	817	7.5	47
Scott, IA	5.1	87.7	2.4	95	684	6.0	117
Johnson, KS	19.0	300.7	2.4	95	841	7.3	54
Sedgwick, KS	11.7	245.0	1.9	127	730	4.4	219
Shawnee, KS	4.7	95.0	-0.5	294	683	6.7	76
Fayette, KY	8.9	167.8	0.4	248	741	6.5	89
Jefferson, KY	21.9	424.3	0.9	209	807	6.5	89
Caddo, LA	7.1	123.0	1.6	160	673	3.9	252
Calcasieu, LA	4.6	83.6	1.3	185	664	5.9	123
East Baton Rouge, LA	13.1	250.1	1.8	135	688	4.2	238
Jefferson, LA	14.0	215.5	0.3	255	687	6.0	117
Lafayette, LA	7.6	121.5	-0.1	276	715	5.8	129
Orleans, LA	12.6	247.7	-1.1	305	753	5.5	146
Cumberland, ME	12.3	173.4	0.8	218	769	7.1	60
Anne Arundel, MD	13.8	218.2	2.5	91	839	4.9	186
Baltimore, MD	21.0	374.0	2.7	82	854	6.4	97
Frederick, MD	5.6	91.7	3.0	71	765	5.5	146
Howard, MD	8.1	141.1	0.3	255	952	8.3	24
Montgomery, MD	31.9	458.2	1.2	189	1,067	6.3	105
Prince Georges, MD	15.3	319.2	1.9	127	865	4.6	206
Baltimore City, MD	14.2	358.8	-0.6	298	929	6.2	108
Barnstable, MA	9.3	88.8	0.8	218	724	4.8	193
Bristol, MA	15.5	221.4	0.4	248	726	3.6	270
Essex, MA	21.0	294.5	-0.3	288	865	2.6	296
Hampden, MA	14.3	201.8	1.3	185	749	2.9	289
Middlesex, MA	48.7	791.6	0.1	267	1,146	5.4	151
Norfolk, MA	22.1	320.1	0.2	259	1,007	4.6	206
Plymouth, MA	13.8	176.3	2.4	95	799	4.3	227
Suffolk, MA	22.5	564.1	0.5	243	1,363	9.3	9
Worcester, MA	20.6	319.6	0.0	272	830	3.5	272
Genesee, MI	8.5	156.5	-0.3	288	801	0.9	313
Ingham, MI	6.9	168.2	-1.3	307	773	1.0	312
Kalamazoo, MI	5.5	116.4	-0.1	276	737	0.5	316
Kent, MI	14.5	339.6	0.7	226	778	4.7	198
Macomb, MI	17.9	327.6	0.5	243	897	0.9	313
Oakland, MI	41.0	724.8	-0.1	276	1,007	2.3	300
Ottawa, MI	5.7	111.4	1.5	172	739	2.2	302
Saginaw, MI	4.5	90.7	-1.4	310	753	1.1	311
Washtenaw, MI	8.1	199.6	1.1	198	904	1.8	307
Wayne, MI	34.6	804.2	-1.5	311	950	3.7	263
Anoka, MN	7.5	113.8	1.8	135	812	7.8	34
Dakota, MN	9.9	170.5	1.8	135	822	7.7	38
Hennepin, MN	41.0	840.1	1.5	172	1,049	9.6	7
Olmsted, MN	3.3	87.5	0.8	218	792	3.8	256
Ramsey, MN	15.0	330.7	1.0	203	917	5.0	178
St. Louis, MN	5.7	94.9	2.0	121	689	11.0	5

See footnotes at end of table.

Table 1. Covered¹ establishments, employment, and wages in the 318 largest counties, fourth quarter 2004² — Continued

County ³	Establishments, fourth quarter 2004 (thousands)	Employment			Average weekly wage ⁵		
		December 2004 (thousands)	Percent change, December 2003-04 ⁴	Ranking by percent change	Average weekly wage	Percent change, fourth quarter 2003-04 ⁴	Ranking by percent change
Stearns, MN	4.2	79.2	2.4	95	\$665	5.1	174
Harrison, MS	4.6	90.1	0.6	235	572	5.3	159
Hinds, MS	6.6	130.2	-1.0	303	713	4.9	186
Boone, MO	4.3	79.3	2.8	79	627	4.7	198
Clay, MO	4.9	86.3	-0.2	281	752	4.9	186
Greene, MO	8.0	148.4	2.0	121	617	4.8	193
Jackson, MO	18.7	367.2	0.6	235	816	4.5	213
St. Charles, MO	7.4	116.3	(7)	-	694	4.4	219
St. Louis, MO	33.8	626.2	0.6	235	863	5.2	166
St. Louis City, MO	8.2	223.1	(7)	-	888	6.5	89
Douglas, NE	15.0	312.1	0.3	255	757	7.4	49
Lancaster, NE	7.6	153.7	1.9	127	656	4.0	247
Clark, NV	40.0	839.0	7.5	3	770	7.7	38
Washoe, NV	12.8	211.1	5.5	13	769	3.9	252
Hillsborough, NH	12.3	197.7	0.9	209	933	6.4	97
Rockingham, NH	10.7	136.6	2.2	108	873	9.3	9
Atlantic, NJ	6.6	145.5	0.9	209	742	5.8	129
Bergen, NJ	34.4	456.5	0.2	259	1,067	3.7	263
Burlington, NJ	11.2	203.2	1.8	135	864	5.0	178
Camden, NJ	13.4	213.8	3.7	41	863	3.0	288
Essex, NJ	21.5	366.1	0.4	248	1,090	9.3	9
Gloucester, NJ	6.1	103.0	4.0	36	760	6.1	110
Hudson, NJ	14.0	238.4	0.5	243	1,054	6.7	76
Mercer, NJ	10.8	222.4	-0.5	294	1,064	7.6	44
Middlesex, NJ	20.7	399.1	1.2	189	1,046	5.9	123
Monmouth, NJ	20.0	257.7	2.8	79	910	2.6	296
Morris, NJ	17.8	285.1	0.2	259	1,221	7.0	66
Ocean, NJ	11.5	144.3	1.9	127	744	7.7	38
Passaic, NJ	12.5	181.0	1.6	160	899	5.6	139
Somerset, NJ	10.0	169.1	-0.6	298	1,235	4.7	198
Union, NJ	15.0	235.4	(7)	-	1,066	(7)	-
Bernalillo, NM	16.4	318.6	1.9	127	727	5.2	166
Albany, NY	9.6	232.0	-0.2	281	817	2.0	304
Bronx, NY	15.4	219.4	1.4	178	769	3.5	272
Broome, NY	4.4	95.9	0.7	226	624	1.3	310
Dutchess, NY	7.9	120.0	2.2	108	809	4.3	227
Erie, NY	23.3	464.6	0.7	226	713	4.5	213
Kings, NY	42.1	458.1	1.8	135	735	3.7	263
Monroe, NY	17.7	388.6	0.4	248	780	4.3	227
Nassau, NY	50.9	614.8	0.9	209	924	2.7	295
New York, NY	112.9	2,266.8	0.9	209	1,608	8.4	20
Oneida, NY	5.3	111.6	2.2	108	627	4.7	198
Onondaga, NY	12.6	250.8	1.2	189	768	4.6	206
Orange, NY	9.3	130.2	2.1	114	696	4.5	213
Queens, NY	40.3	484.6	1.2	189	817	2.3	300
Richmond, NY	8.1	91.3	1.2	189	733	0.7	315
Rockland, NY	9.4	115.2	1.6	160	864	3.7	263
Suffolk, NY	47.8	611.3	1.1	198	878	4.8	193
Westchester, NY	35.4	421.6	1.8	135	1,101	6.2	108
Buncombe, NC	6.9	109.3	2.5	91	650	5.7	134

See footnotes at end of table.

Table 1. Covered¹ establishments, employment, and wages in the 318 largest counties, fourth quarter 2004² — Continued

County ³	Establishments, fourth quarter 2004 (thousands)	Employment			Average weekly wage ⁵		
		December 2004 (thousands)	Percent change, December 2003-04 ⁴	Ranking by percent change	Average weekly wage	Percent change, fourth quarter 2003-04 ⁴	Ranking by percent change
Catawba, NC	4.3	88.1	1.4	178	\$630	2.9	289
Cumberland, NC	5.7	113.9	2.9	75	604	4.5	213
Durham, NC	6.1	169.8	2.3	104	1,025	7.2	58
Forsyth, NC	8.4	179.5	1.6	160	764	4.5	213
Guilford, NC	13.7	271.4	2.4	95	739	4.7	198
Mecklenburg, NC	27.4	519.3	2.1	114	948	8.1	30
New Hanover, NC	6.4	93.4	4.5	29	655	3.8	256
Wake, NC	23.6	400.5	3.6	46	817	4.5	213
Cass, ND	5.5	90.4	4.3	32	687	9.0	14
Butler, OH	6.9	134.7	1.0	203	740	7.6	44
Cuyahoga, OH	38.3	764.3	0.2	259	864	7.6	44
Franklin, OH	29.3	698.3	0.6	235	808	5.6	139
Hamilton, OH	24.6	549.3	0.6	235	872	4.9	186
Lake, OH	6.7	99.7	0.3	255	687	7.3	54
Lorain, OH	6.2	102.0	0.6	235	714	5.6	139
Lucas, OH	10.8	228.2	-0.6	298	746	4.3	227
Mahoning, OH	6.4	106.5	0.7	226	624	7.4	49
Montgomery, OH	13.2	286.1	-1.0	303	780	3.7	263
Stark, OH	9.2	168.8	1.4	178	649	6.7	76
Summit, OH	14.8	270.1	1.3	185	784	8.4	20
Trumbull, OH	4.8	84.1	-1.8	312	746	2.2	302
Oklahoma, OK	21.9	411.7	1.6	160	698	4.0	247
Tulsa, OK	18.3	327.6	2.6	88	731	7.3	54
Clackamas, OR	11.6	141.5	3.6	46	752	5.0	178
Jackson, OR	6.3	82.2	3.2	60	597	4.4	219
Lane, OR	10.4	143.4	3.8	38	643	4.4	219
Marion, OR	8.6	129.8	3.0	71	628	2.4	298
Multnomah, OR	25.6	429.6	1.7	151	815	4.2	238
Washington, OR	14.7	231.3	4.4	30	906	1.6	308
Allegheny, PA	35.6	691.6	-0.6	298	848	5.7	134
Berks, PA	9.0	166.2	2.6	88	730	3.7	263
Bucks, PA	20.3	259.3	1.8	135	800	4.0	247
Chester, PA	14.7	228.3	1.8	135	1,049	8.4	20
Cumberland, PA	5.7	126.9	1.4	178	756	5.4	151
Dauphin, PA	7.0	177.1	2.7	82	809	7.0	66
Delaware, PA	13.6	212.1	0.1	267	875	4.7	198
Erie, PA	7.2	128.2	2.0	121	645	5.4	151
Lackawanna, PA	5.8	100.4	1.8	135	636	7.3	54
Lancaster, PA	11.7	227.9	2.1	114	712	5.0	178
Lehigh, PA	8.4	174.9	0.9	209	826	5.0	178
Luzerne, PA	8.0	142.3	-0.5	294	647	6.1	110
Montgomery, PA	27.4	488.3	0.1	267	1,016	8.1	30
Northampton, PA	6.2	92.7	1.6	160	719	5.4	151
Philadelphia, PA	28.8	638.7	-0.1	276	971	7.1	60
Westmoreland, PA	9.4	137.5	3.3	57	656	6.5	89
York, PA	8.7	171.7	3.0	71	706	5.5	146
Kent, RI	5.6	83.2	1.0	203	724	4.0	247
Providence, RI	17.9	289.8	-0.3	288	784	2.8	293
Charleston, SC	11.9	196.2	3.7	41	666	4.7	198
Greenville, SC	12.3	227.1	1.7	151	719	5.3	159

See footnotes at end of table.

Table 1. Covered¹ establishments, employment, and wages in the 318 largest counties, fourth quarter 2004² — Continued

County ³	Establishments, fourth quarter 2004 (thousands)	Employment			Average weekly wage ⁵		
		December 2004 (thousands)	Percent change, December 2003-04 ⁴	Ranking by percent change	Average weekly wage	Percent change, fourth quarter 2003-04 ⁴	Ranking by percent change
Horry, SC	8.0	102.0	4.9	19	\$558	6.5	89
Lexington, SC	5.6	87.6	1.7	151	635	6.9	73
Richland, SC	9.6	210.9	1.7	151	697	5.3	159
Spartanburg, SC	6.3	116.9	0.2	259	694	3.4	276
Minnehaha, SD	6.0	110.3	1.6	160	663	3.3	279
Davidson, TN	17.9	439.2	2.1	114	828	5.9	123
Hamilton, TN	8.3	194.9	1.7	151	706	3.2	284
Knox, TN	10.4	221.1	3.2	60	707	4.4	219
Rutherford, TN	3.7	94.2	8.9	1	748	4.9	186
Shelby, TN	19.7	505.5	1.1	198	838	5.4	151
Bell, TX	4.2	93.9	4.1	34	602	5.8	129
Bexar, TX	30.0	663.1	0.1	267	721	7.0	66
Brazoria, TX	4.1	77.4	1.7	151	753	5.3	159
Brazos, TX	3.5	79.2	1.5	172	566	5.4	151
Cameron, TX	6.1	116.7	0.7	226	500	4.4	219
Collin, TX	13.0	217.9	(7)	-	893	(7)	-
Dallas, TX	68.3	1,458.4	1.8	135	1,001	5.1	174
Denton, TX	8.7	138.5	3.4	53	700	6.5	89
El Paso, TX	12.5	255.9	0.7	226	579	5.3	159
Fort Bend, TX	6.6	103.7	4.6	27	806	5.1	174
Galveston, TX	4.8	88.2	1.6	160	690	3.6	270
Harris, TX	90.8	1,861.3	1.3	185	978	7.8	34
Hidalgo, TX	9.5	194.9	4.1	34	504	3.3	279
Jefferson, TX	5.8	117.8	-0.3	288	771	6.6	84
Lubbock, TX	6.5	119.7	2.6	88	603	5.2	166
McLennan, TX	4.7	98.8	1.0	203	633	4.3	227
Montgomery, TX	6.4	94.8	5.4	14	737	3.4	276
Nueces, TX	8.0	144.9	1.1	198	681	6.6	84
Potter, TX	3.9	77.2	0.0	272	628	5.2	166
Smith, TX	4.9	88.3	2.0	121	701	6.4	97
Tarrant, TX	34.0	708.8	1.9	127	827	4.3	227
Travis, TX	25.3	525.5	3.2	60	923	6.7	76
Webb, TX	4.3	79.9	2.5	91	540	4.9	186
Williamson, TX	5.2	88.9	4.7	23	893	17.8	1
Davis, UT	6.5	94.3	3.8	38	642	4.7	198
Salt Lake, UT	35.8	535.9	2.8	79	743	6.0	117
Utah, UT	11.6	154.3	4.6	27	615	4.4	219
Weber, UT	5.5	88.7	1.8	135	593	3.3	279
Chittenden, VT	5.7	97.0	1.5	172	780	1.4	309
Arlington, VA	7.1	158.2	2.9	75	1,291	7.7	38
Chesterfield, VA	6.8	115.5	2.3	104	752	7.9	33
Fairfax, VA	30.0	561.3	4.7	23	1,239	6.7	76
Henrico, VA	8.3	172.2	2.5	91	864	12.5	4
Loudoun, VA	6.4	118.1	6.9	5	1,035	5.1	174
Prince William, VA	6.1	99.0	6.6	6	732	5.8	129
Alexandria City, VA	5.7	94.8	2.7	82	1,049	6.6	84
Chesapeake City, VA	4.9	94.8	2.7	82	644	6.3	105
Newport News City, VA	3.7	99.5	2.2	108	736	5.9	123
Norfolk City, VA	5.6	145.6	0.2	259	782	4.3	227
Richmond City, VA	7.0	160.6	1.8	135	914	6.4	97

See footnotes at end of table.

Table 1. Covered¹ establishments, employment, and wages in the 318 largest counties, fourth quarter 2004² — Continued

County ³	Establishments, fourth quarter 2004 (thousands)	Employment			Average weekly wage ⁵		
		December 2004 (thousands)	Percent change, December 2003-04 ⁴	Ranking by percent change	Average weekly wage	Percent change, fourth quarter 2003-04 ⁴	Ranking by percent change
Virginia Beach City, VA	10.7	176.0	3.1	67	\$643	6.1	110
Clark, WA	10.6	123.4	4.9	19	714	5.3	159
King, WA	78.2	1,117.2	1.8	135	973	3.8	256
Kitsap, WA	6.2	81.6	3.0	71	692	2.4	298
Pierce, WA	19.9	254.8	3.5	52	699	4.3	227
Snohomish, WA	16.2	215.5	3.7	41	787	4.1	243
Spokane, WA	14.8	196.2	2.7	82	630	4.3	227
Thurston, WA	6.3	91.8	1.5	172	696	3.9	252
Yakima, WA	8.4	87.5	2.0	121	541	4.6	206
Kanawha, WV	6.2	108.5	-0.8	302	689	5.0	178
Brown, WI	6.7	147.6	0.4	248	772	8.6	19
Dane, WI	13.7	298.4	2.4	95	770	3.1	287
Milwaukee, WI	21.7	499.7	-0.3	288	824	6.7	76
Outagamie, WI	5.0	101.6	3.1	67	705	5.2	166
Racine, WI	4.3	76.7	0.5	243	815	7.1	60
Waukesha, WI	13.3	231.0	2.4	95	821	3.8	256
Winnebago, WI	3.9	87.3	-0.1	276	798	7.8	34
San Juan, PR	13.6	338.0	1.0	203	535	4.3	227

¹ Includes workers covered by Unemployment Insurance (UI) and Unemployment Compensation for Federal Employees (UCFE) programs. These 317 U.S. counties comprise 70.6 percent of the total covered workers in the U.S.

² Data are preliminary.

³ Includes areas not officially designated as counties. See Technical Note.

⁴ Percent changes were computed from quarterly employment and pay data adjusted for noneconomic county reclassifications. See Technical Note.

⁵ Average weekly wages were calculated using unrounded data.

⁶ Totals for the United States do not include data for Puerto Rico or the Virgin Islands.

⁷ Data do not meet BLS or State agency disclosure standards.

Table 2. Covered¹ establishments, employment, and wages in the ten largest counties, fourth quarter 2004²

County by NAICS supersector	Establishments, fourth quarter 2004 (thousands)	Employment		Average weekly wage ⁴	
		December 2004 (thousands)	Percent change, December 2003-04 ³	Average weekly wage	Percent change, fourth quarter 2003-04 ³
United States ⁵	8,487.6	131,560.7	1.7	\$812	5.7
Private industry	8,215.2	110,295.2	1.9	816	6.0
Natural resources and mining	123.0	1,592.9	2.1	758	7.8
Construction	828.7	6,999.3	4.6	865	3.2
Manufacturing	369.7	14,281.7	-0.1	985	4.3
Trade, transportation, and utilities	1,860.9	26,305.1	1.3	704	5.9
Information	143.3	3,102.1	-1.9	1,239	8.7
Financial activities	792.7	7,985.2	1.4	1,238	8.6
Professional and business services	1,349.9	16,664.6	3.4	1,016	7.3
Education and health services	751.5	16,374.2	2.4	773	5.6
Leisure and hospitality	684.3	12,363.1	2.6	346	3.3
Other services	1,100.4	4,288.3	0.2	518	4.6
Government	272.4	21,265.6	0.6	794	4.9
Los Angeles, CA	366.8	4,123.1	1.4	959	6.1
Private industry	363.0	3,539.4	1.9	960	6.8
Natural resources and mining	0.6	10.7	1.4	1,277	37.5
Construction	13.1	142.0	7.1	939	6.5
Manufacturing	17.0	476.8	-1.6	959	6.8
Trade, transportation, and utilities	53.4	810.9	2.4	782	6.5
Information	8.9	221.7	7.9	1,720	8.4
Financial activities	23.1	238.9	0.9	1,363	8.9
Professional and business services	40.0	576.4	2.0	1,132	7.6
Education and health services	26.9	463.2	1.5	870	5.7
Leisure and hospitality	25.8	378.0	2.1	782	0.9
Other services	153.9	219.8	-0.3	442	4.2
Government	3.8	583.7	-1.0	957	2.9
Cook, IL	127.7	2,529.3	0.0	985	6.7
Private industry	126.4	2,214.5	0.2	992	6.7
Natural resources and mining	0.1	1.3	6.9	1,124	14.5
Construction	10.8	94.5	-2.2	1,191	1.4
Manufacturing	7.5	256.8	-1.7	1,039	7.0
Trade, transportation, and utilities	26.6	495.1	0.0	803	6.8
Information	2.5	62.6	-2.2	1,317	11.8
Financial activities	14.2	217.3	-0.2	1,579	6.9
Professional and business services	26.1	412.7	2.0	1,307	7.7
Education and health services	12.6	357.8	1.5	832	5.3
Leisure and hospitality	10.7	217.4	-0.2	390	4.3
Other services	12.7	94.2	-0.9	695	5.8
Government	1.2	314.8	-1.8	939	7.6
New York, NY	112.9	2,266.8	0.9	1,608	8.4
Private industry	112.7	1,815.5	1.2	1,760	8.1
Natural resources and mining	0.0	0.1	-5.9	1,536	26.1
Construction	2.1	28.7	0.0	1,591	1.8
Manufacturing	3.3	45.0	-1.8	1,437	13.0
Trade, transportation, and utilities	21.8	248.0	2.1	1,180	0.9
Information	4.2	129.6	-1.6	1,839	4.2
Financial activities	16.9	353.1	0.6	3,468	14.0
Professional and business services	22.5	443.8	1.9	1,826	6.5
Education and health services	8.0	278.5	1.6	956	4.3
Leisure and hospitality	10.3	194.9	1.8	834	6.4
Other services	16.1	83.6	0.5	910	3.5
Government	0.2	451.3	-0.4	998	9.4

See footnotes at end of table.

Table 2. Covered¹ establishments, employment, and wages in the ten largest counties, fourth quarter 2004² — Continued

County by NAICS supersector	Establishments, fourth quarter 2004 (thousands)	Employment		Average weekly wage ⁴	
		December 2004 (thousands)	Percent change, December 2003-04 ³	Average weekly wage	Percent change, fourth quarter 2003-04 ³
Harris, TX	90.8	1,861.3	1.3	\$978	7.8
Private industry	90.4	1,620.7	1.8	999	7.5
Natural resources and mining	1.3	64.7	2.9	2,400	9.5
Construction	6.3	133.2	-1.8	938	2.4
Manufacturing	4.6	164.3	0.9	1,223	10.6
Trade, transportation, and utilities	21.2	406.8	1.5	870	6.0
Information	1.4	33.3	-3.0	1,161	6.1
Financial activities	9.8	115.1	2.2	1,257	6.7
Professional and business services	17.3	291.7	3.6	1,168	8.4
Education and health services	9.2	191.7	1.7	879	8.7
Leisure and hospitality	6.8	159.2	2.4	356	6.6
Other services	10.5	56.4	0.3	557	4.1
Government	0.5	240.5	-2.0	839	10.2
Maricopa, AZ	80.4	1,696.8	4.7	801	5.7
Private industry	79.9	1,472.4	5.1	800	5.8
Natural resources and mining	0.5	10.6	6.9	632	17.0
Construction	8.3	148.5	12.9	819	5.1
Manufacturing	3.2	130.0	1.9	1,071	2.0
Trade, transportation, and utilities	18.3	350.6	4.3	757	5.7
Information	1.5	34.2	-7.6	952	8.8
Financial activities	9.7	139.6	4.3	1,024	9.9
Professional and business services	17.7	278.8	6.8	833	7.1
Education and health services	7.9	172.2	7.0	879	4.5
Leisure and hospitality	5.8	160.2	2.8	370	1.9
Other services	5.5	44.5	0.1	539	8.0
Government	0.5	224.4	2.2	807	5.4
Dallas, TX	68.3	1,458.4	1.8	1,001	5.1
Private industry	67.9	1,299.8	1.9	1,021	5.1
Natural resources and mining	0.5	6.6	2.6	2,429	-11.6
Construction	4.4	75.7	3.6	921	2.0
Manufacturing	3.4	145.0	2.1	1,136	6.3
Trade, transportation, and utilities	15.6	319.1	0.9	950	6.7
Information	1.8	58.7	-4.7	1,350	5.1
Financial activities	8.7	142.0	1.6	1,304	7.0
Professional and business services	13.9	250.4	3.8	1,188	2.5
Education and health services	6.3	132.9	2.6	956	7.5
Leisure and hospitality	5.2	126.2	1.7	455	5.3
Other services	6.6	39.8	-2.5	611	4.4
Government	0.5	158.6	1.5	831	3.9
Orange, CA	90.3	1,464.8	2.0	938	7.1
Private industry	88.9	1,335.9	2.5	942	7.3
Natural resources and mining	0.2	6.0	-1.7	594	1.9
Construction	6.7	91.7	4.6	1,019	5.9
Manufacturing	5.9	184.2	0.7	1,093	5.9
Trade, transportation, and utilities	17.2	280.7	2.2	858	5.9
Information	1.4	33.2	-2.0	1,235	7.9
Financial activities	10.1	140.1	8.2	1,520	11.7
Professional and business services	17.5	259.6	1.5	1,020	8.1
Education and health services	9.3	130.3	2.3	876	3.4
Leisure and hospitality	6.7	162.3	1.7	366	2.5
Other services	13.7	47.3	3.2	547	4.2
Government	1.4	128.9	-2.7	897	4.8

See footnotes at end of table.

Table 2. Covered¹ establishments, employment, and wages in the ten largest counties, fourth quarter 2004² — Continued

County by NAICS supersector	Establishments, fourth quarter 2004 (thousands)	Employment		Average weekly wage ⁴	
		December 2004 (thousands)	Percent change, December 2003-04 ³	Average weekly wage	Percent change, fourth quarter 2003-04 ³
San Diego, CA	87.2	1,296.9	1.9	\$872	6.5
Private industry	85.8	1,077.4	2.1	865	6.7
Natural resources and mining	0.9	11.1	0.6	551	10.2
Construction	6.7	89.3	10.2	949	9.1
Manufacturing	3.5	105.4	0.5	1,134	1.3
Trade, transportation, and utilities	14.1	224.3	2.7	693	6.5
Information	1.3	37.6	2.0	1,881	18.0
Financial activities	9.1	80.7	0.3	1,152	7.6
Professional and business services	15.0	209.1	1.5	1,065	6.5
Education and health services	7.6	120.9	-0.3	833	6.7
Leisure and hospitality	6.6	145.7	1.4	369	5.1
Other services	21.0	53.1	3.4	461	3.6
Government	1.4	219.5	0.5	905	5.5
King, WA	78.2	1,117.2	1.8	973	3.8
Private industry	77.7	960.4	1.9	987	4.3
Natural resources and mining	0.4	2.9	4.3	1,216	9.3
Construction	6.3	56.8	5.5	954	3.7
Manufacturing	2.6	102.7	0.7	1,189	1.4
Trade, transportation, and utilities	14.9	227.2	1.4	859	6.3
Information	1.5	68.5	-1.4	1,946	5.9
Financial activities	6.3	76.5	-0.3	1,157	3.7
Professional and business services	12.1	164.2	4.8	1,195	3.1
Education and health services	6.0	113.0	4.1	785	5.7
Leisure and hospitality	5.5	102.9	2.8	416	3.2
Other services	22.0	45.7	-4.6	508	10.4
Government	0.5	156.8	1.1	887	0.6
Miami-Dade, FL	83.2	1,007.1	2.4	822	6.3
Private industry	82.9	853.9	2.9	800	6.4
Natural resources and mining	0.5	10.4	2.1	453	8.6
Construction	5.2	43.7	7.2	845	6.3
Manufacturing	2.8	49.7	-0.7	722	3.9
Trade, transportation, and utilities	23.9	249.3	0.8	747	6.4
Information	1.8	26.8	-3.8	1,116	11.2
Financial activities	8.9	68.6	3.8	1,161	7.7
Professional and business services	16.6	142.2	7.3	1,024	6.4
Education and health services	8.2	126.0	1.8	794	4.3
Leisure and hospitality	5.6	98.1	4.6	452	3.4
Other services	7.7	35.1	0.4	480	6.4
Government	0.3	153.2	0.1	947	7.5

¹ Includes workers covered by Unemployment Insurance (UI) and Unemployment Compensation for Federal Employees (UCFE) programs.

² Data are preliminary.

³ Percent changes were computed from quarterly employment and pay data adjusted for noneconomic county reclassifications. See Technical Note.

⁴ Average weekly wages were calculated using unrounded data.

⁵ Totals for the United States do not include data for Puerto Rico or the Virgin Islands.

Table 3. Covered¹ establishments, employment, and wages in the largest county by state, fourth quarter 2004²

County ³	Establishments, fourth quarter 2004 (thousands)	Employment		Average weekly wage ⁵	
		December 2004 (thousands)	Percent change, December 2003-04 ⁴	Average weekly wage	Percent change, fourth quarter 2003-04 ⁴
United States ⁶	8,487.6	131,560.7	1.7	\$812	5.7
Jefferson, AL	18.8	373.6	0.0	833	9.2
Anchorage Borough, AK	7.7	142.2	1.4	830	5.2
Maricopa, AZ	80.4	1,696.8	4.7	801	5.7
Pulaski, AR	13.4	245.7	1.2	757	5.6
Los Angeles, CA	366.8	4,123.1	1.4	959	6.1
Denver, CO	24.5	429.1	1.7	990	5.9
Hartford, CT	24.4	487.7	0.9	1,016	7.4
New Castle, DE	19.5	286.5	0.9	980	6.9
Washington, DC	30.3	659.6	0.6	1,305	5.5
Miami-Dade, FL	83.2	1,007.1	2.4	822	6.3
Fulton, GA	37.8	745.4	3.2	1,055	5.8
Honolulu, HI	23.4	441.3	3.3	756	7.2
Ada, ID	13.4	193.4	4.8	742	8.2
Cook, IL	127.7	2,529.3	0.0	985	6.7
Marion, IN	23.8	586.8	1.6	833	4.1
Polk, IA	14.3	264.0	1.8	817	7.5
Johnson, KS	19.0	300.7	2.4	841	7.3
Jefferson, KY	21.9	424.3	0.9	807	6.5
Orleans, LA	12.6	247.7	-1.1	753	5.5
Cumberland, ME	12.3	173.4	0.8	769	7.1
Montgomery, MD	31.9	458.2	1.2	1,067	6.3
Middlesex, MA	48.7	791.6	0.1	1,146	5.4
Wayne, MI	34.6	804.2	-1.5	950	3.7
Hennepin, MN	41.0	840.1	1.5	1,049	9.6
Hinds, MS	6.6	130.2	-1.0	713	4.9
St. Louis, MO	33.8	626.2	0.6	863	5.2
Yellowstone, MT	5.5	71.8	3.9	637	4.8
Douglas, NE	15.0	312.1	0.3	757	7.4
Clark, NV	40.0	839.0	7.5	770	7.7
Hillsborough, NH	12.3	197.7	0.9	933	6.4
Bergen, NJ	34.4	456.5	0.2	1,067	3.7
Bernalillo, NM	16.4	318.6	1.9	727	5.2
New York, NY	112.9	2,266.8	0.9	1,608	8.4
Mecklenburg, NC	27.4	519.3	2.1	948	8.1
Cass, ND	5.5	90.4	4.3	687	9.0
Cuyahoga, OH	38.3	764.3	0.2	864	7.6
Oklahoma, OK	21.9	411.7	1.6	698	4.0
Multnomah, OR	25.6	429.6	1.7	815	4.2
Allegheny, PA	35.6	691.6	-0.6	848	5.7
Providence, RI	17.9	289.8	-0.3	784	2.8
Greenville, SC	12.3	227.1	1.7	719	5.3
Minnehaha, SD	6.0	110.3	1.6	663	3.3
Shelby, TN	19.7	505.5	1.1	838	5.4
Harris, TX	90.8	1,861.3	1.3	978	7.8
Salt Lake, UT	35.8	535.9	2.8	743	6.0
Chittenden, VT	5.7	97.0	1.5	780	1.4
Fairfax, VA	30.0	561.3	4.7	1,239	6.7
King, WA	78.2	1,117.2	1.8	973	3.8
Kanawha, WV	6.2	108.5	-0.8	689	5.0
Milwaukee, WI	21.7	499.7	-0.3	824	6.7

See footnotes at end of table.

Table 3. Covered¹ establishments, employment, and wages in the largest county by state, fourth quarter 2004² — Continued

County ³	Establishments, fourth quarter 2004 (thousands)	Employment		Average weekly wage ⁵	
		December 2004 (thousands)	Percent change, December 2003-04 ⁴	Average weekly wage	Percent change, fourth quarter 2003-04 ⁴
Laramie, WY	2.9	39.5	-0.1	\$630	5.5
San Juan, PR	13.6	338.0	1.0	535	4.3
St. Thomas, VI	1.7	22.9	-3.4	628	5.7

¹ Includes workers covered by Unemployment Insurance (UI) and Unemployment Compensation for Federal Employees (UCFE) programs.

² Data are preliminary.

³ Includes areas not officially designated as counties. See Technical Note.

⁴ Percent changes were computed from quarterly employment and pay data adjusted for noneconomic county reclassifications. See Technical Note.

⁵ Average weekly wages were calculated using unrounded data.

⁶ Totals for the United States do not include data for Puerto Rico or the Virgin Islands.

Table 4. Covered¹ establishments, employment, and wages by state, fourth quarter 2004²

State	Establishments, fourth quarter 2004 (thousands)	Employment		Average weekly wage ³	
		December 2004 (thousands)	Percent change, December 2003-04	Average weekly wage	Percent change, fourth quarter 2003-04
United States ⁴	8,487.6	131,560.7	1.7	\$812	5.7
Alabama	116.0	1,882.0	2.3	695	5.8
Alaska	20.2	288.4	2.1	780	4.4
Arizona	127.6	2,459.0	4.4	752	5.9
Arkansas	77.0	1,149.1	1.4	623	6.0
California	1,229.4	15,163.8	1.7	928	6.7
Colorado	164.3	2,181.7	2.2	830	5.9
Connecticut	109.6	1,663.8	1.0	1,056	6.3
Delaware	29.5	418.0	2.1	883	7.0
District of Columbia	30.3	659.6	0.6	1,305	5.5
Florida	534.2	7,729.7	3.7	736	6.5
Georgia	253.0	3,916.5	2.1	772	5.0
Hawaii	35.9	603.0	3.3	723	6.6
Idaho	50.3	597.8	3.6	618	6.6
Illinois	331.3	5,773.7	0.6	877	6.0
Indiana	152.8	2,883.9	1.1	706	4.6
Iowa	91.8	1,441.9	1.6	667	6.5
Kansas	82.8	1,317.5	1.5	668	5.9
Kentucky	107.9	1,761.9	1.2	679	5.3
Louisiana	117.1	1,890.3	0.7	658	4.9
Maine	51.1	600.9	0.9	661	4.8
Maryland	156.9	2,506.0	1.7	879	5.8
Massachusetts	212.9	3,169.2	0.4	1,007	5.6
Michigan	253.7	4,348.5	-0.3	835	3.3
Minnesota	159.5	2,635.3	1.6	835	7.5
Mississippi	66.9	1,116.7	0.8	586	4.8
Missouri	168.8	2,670.4	1.4	709	4.9
Montana	41.7	409.3	3.2	572	4.2
Nebraska	55.8	891.8	0.9	648	5.7
Nevada	64.6	1,186.1	6.7	768	6.5
New Hampshire	47.7	624.0	1.4	840	6.5
New Jersey	269.2	3,964.7	1.1	1,001	5.7
New Mexico	50.0	773.2	2.2	645	5.0
New York	556.7	8,466.9	1.0	1,016	5.8
North Carolina	230.7	3,844.9	2.3	714	5.2
North Dakota	24.4	326.2	2.7	599	6.4
Ohio	289.0	5,350.3	0.5	754	5.9
Oklahoma	93.1	1,458.8	2.2	627	5.0
Oregon	120.8	1,623.5	2.8	719	3.5
Pennsylvania	332.5	5,573.2	0.9	796	6.0
Rhode Island	35.4	482.6	0.4	765	3.5
South Carolina	114.4	1,811.0	2.0	655	5.0
South Dakota	28.8	371.2	1.6	581	3.9
Tennessee	130.7	2,704.3	2.3	728	5.5
Texas	514.2	9,479.9	1.9	800	6.1
Utah	79.5	1,100.6	3.3	664	5.2
Vermont	24.6	304.7	1.1	676	2.3
Virginia	208.1	3,568.2	2.7	841	6.9
Washington	215.4	2,718.0	2.5	790	4.1
West Virginia	48.0	695.4	1.4	620	5.6
Wisconsin	158.7	2,755.2	1.4	719	5.4

See footnotes at end of table.

Table 4. Covered¹ establishments, employment, and wages by state, fourth quarter 2004² — Continued

State	Establishments, fourth quarter 2004 (thousands)	Employment		Average weekly wage ³	
		December 2004 (thousands)	Percent change, December 2003-04	Average weekly wage	Percent change, fourth quarter 2003-04
Wyoming	22.6	247.9	2.6	\$641	4.1
Puerto Rico	53.5	1,098.0	1.9	468	3.8
Virgin Islands	3.2	43.7	1.0	670	6.3

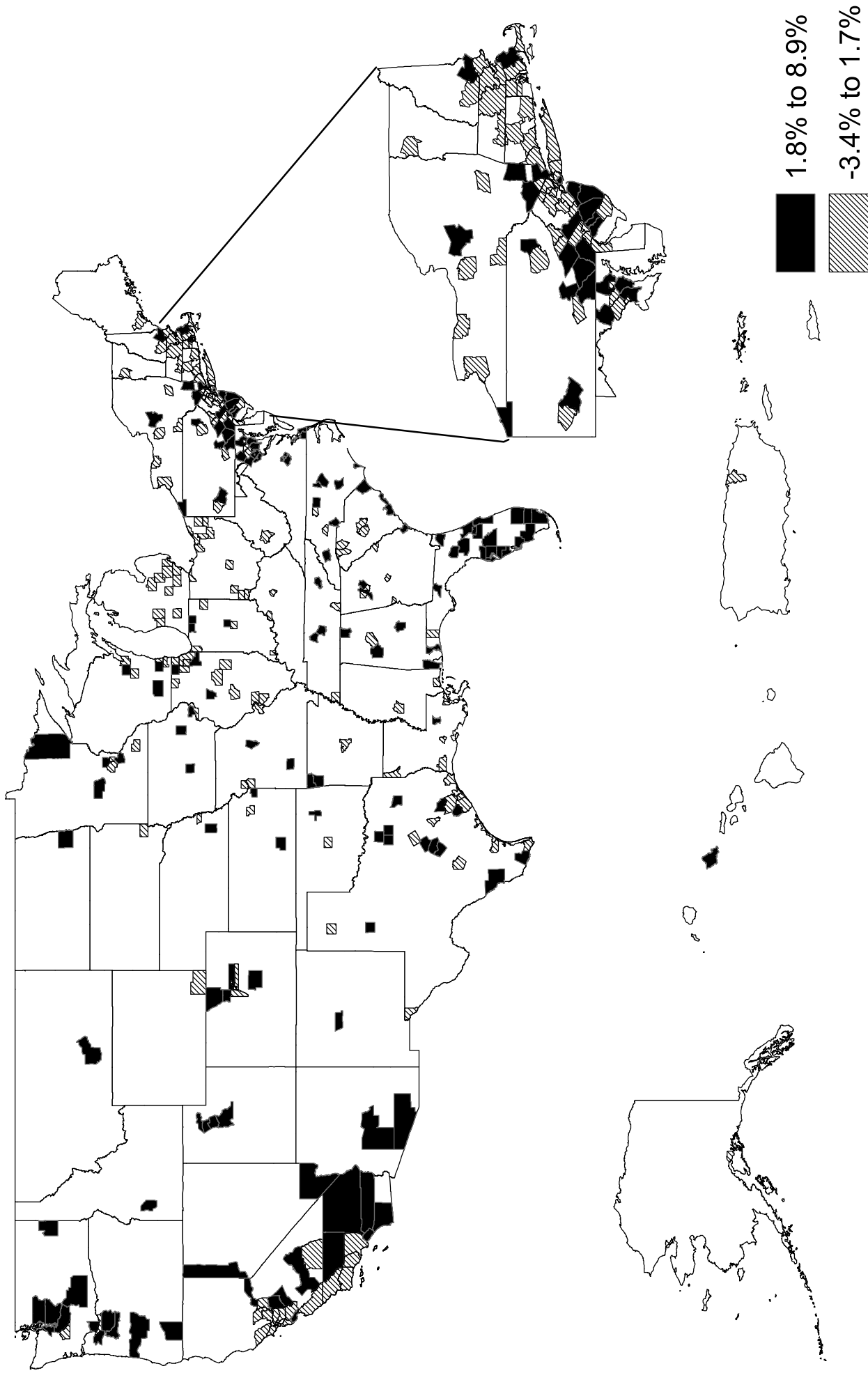
¹ Includes workers covered by Unemployment Insurance (UI) and Unemployment Compensation for Federal Employees (UCFE) programs.

² Data are preliminary.

³ Average weekly wages were calculated using unrounded data.

⁴ Totals for the United States do not include data for Puerto Rico or the Virgin Islands.

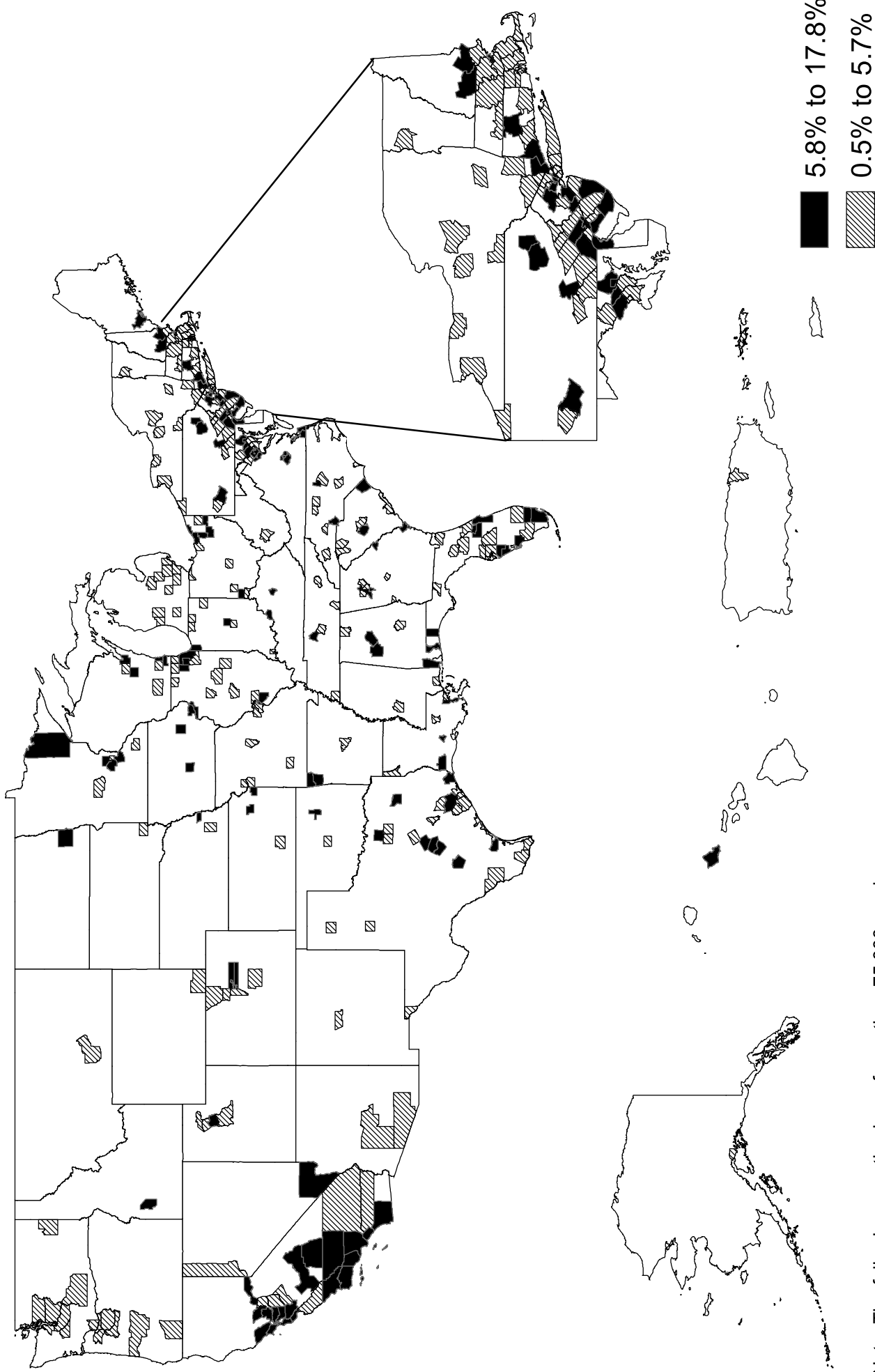
Chart 1. Percent change in employment in counties with 75,000 employees or more, December 2003–04 (U.S. Average = 1.7%)



Note: The following counties have fewer than 75,000 employees but are included because they are the largest county in their state or territory: Laramie, Wyo., Yellowstone, Mont., and St. Thomas, V.I.

Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics
July 2005

Chart 2. Percent change in average weekly wage in counties with 75,000 employees or more, fourth quarter 2003–04 (U.S. Average = 5.7%)



Note: The following counties have fewer than 75,000 employees but are included because they are the largest county in their state or territory: Laramie, Wyo., Yellowstone, Mont., and St. Thomas, V.I.