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COUNTY EMPLOYMENT AND WAGES: FOURTH QUARTER 2005

In December 2005, Lee County, Fla., 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. Lee County, which includes Fort Myers, experienced an over-the-year employment gain of 9.2 percent, compared with national job growth of 1.7 percent. Orleans County (New Orleans), La., had the largest over-the-year gain in average weekly wages in the fourth quarter of 2005, with an increase of 28.7 percent. The increase in Orleans County was related to the effects of Hurricane Katrina, discussed in some detail below. The U.S. average weekly wage increased by 1.5 percent over the same time span.

Of the 322 largest counties in the United States, as measured by 2004 annual average employment, 133 had over-the-year percentage growth in employment above the national average in December 2005, and 176 experienced changes below the national average. (See chart 1.) Average weekly wages grew faster than the national average in 127 of the largest U.S. counties, while the percent change in average weekly wages was below the national average in 183 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 8.7 million employer

Hurricanes Katrina and Rita

The measures of employment and wages reported in this news release reflect the impact of both Hurricanes Katrina and Rita and ongoing labor market trends. The effects of Hurricane Katrina, which hit the Gulf Coast on August 29, 2005, were first reflected in the September QCEW employment counts and the wage totals for the third quarter of 2005. The impact of this catastrophic storm in parts of Louisiana and Mississippi continue to be reflected in monthly employment and quarterly wage totals in the fourth quarter of 2005. Modifications to QCEW nonresponse adjustment methods were made for both the third and fourth quarters of 2005 to better reflect the impact of the hurricane in parts of Louisiana and Mississippi. Hurricane Rita made landfall on September 24, after the September reference period. Nonresponse adjustment methods were modified for the fourth quarter of 2005 to reflect the impact of this hurricane in parts of Louisiana. For more information, see the QCEW section of the Katrina coverage on the BLS Web site at <http://www.bls.gov/katrina/qcewquestions.htm>.

Table A. Top 10 large counties ranked by December 2005 employment, December 2004-05 employment growth, and December 2004-05 percent growth in employment

Employment in large counties					
December 2005 employment (thousands)		Growth in employment, December 2004-05 (thousands)		Percent growth in employment, December 2004-05	
U.S.	133,834.6	U.S.	2,275.4	U.S.	1.7
Los Angeles, Calif.	4,196.5	Maricopa, Ariz.	97.4	Lee, Fla.	9.2
Cook, Ill.	2,547.4	Los Angeles, Calif.	73.4	Kern, Calif.	8.6
New York, N.Y.	2,310.7	Harris, Texas	69.7	Pasco, Fla.	7.9
Harris, Texas	1,919.8	Clark, Nev.	56.2	Seminole, Fla.	7.8
Maricopa, Ariz.	1,784.8	New York, N.Y.	44.2	Clark, Nev.	6.7
Orange, Calif.	1,507.7	Dallas, Texas	39.3	Montgomery, Texas	6.6
Dallas, Texas	1,457.5	King, Wash.	37.5	Lake, Fla.	6.5
San Diego, Calif.	1,315.8	Broward, Fla.	30.7	Maricopa, Ariz.	5.8
King, Wash.	1,145.1	Orange, Fla.	28.9	Webb, Texas	5.7
Miami-Dade, Fla.	1,022.1	Orange, Calif.	28.4	Collier, Fla.	5.6
				East Baton Rouge, La.	5.6

reports cover 133.8 million full- and part-time workers. The attached tables and charts contain data for the nation and for the 322 U.S. counties with annual average employment levels of 75,000 or more in 2004. December 2005 employment and 2005 fourth-quarter average weekly wages for all states are provided in table 4 of this release. Final data for all states, metropolitan statistical areas, counties, and the nation through the fourth quarter of 2004 are available on the BLS Web site at <http://www.bls.gov/cew/>. Preliminary data for the fourth quarter of 2005 and revised data for the first, second, and third quarters of 2005 will be available in July on the BLS Web site.

Large County Employment

In December 2005, national employment, as measured by the QCEW program, was 133.8 million, up by 1.7 percent from December 2004. The 322 U.S. counties with 75,000 or more employees accounted for 70.8 percent of total U.S. covered employment and 76.9 percent of total covered wages. These 322 counties had a net job gain of 1,500,400 over the year, accounting for 65.9 percent of the U.S. employment increase. Employment increased in 250 of the large counties from December 2004 to December 2005. Lee, Fla., had the largest over-the-year percentage increase in employment (9.2 percent). Kern, Calif., had the next largest increase, 8.6 percent, followed by the counties of Pasco, Fla. (7.9 percent), Seminole, Fla. (7.8 percent), and Clark, Nev. (6.7 percent). (See table 1.)

Employment declined in 56 counties from December 2004 to December 2005. The largest percentage decline in employment was in Orleans County, La. (-39.3 percent), followed by the counties of Harrison, Miss. (-20.2 percent), and Jefferson, La. (-17.0 percent). Employment losses in these three Gulf Coast counties reflected the devastation caused by Hurricane Katrina. Stark, Ohio, had the next largest employment decline (-1.8 percent), followed by Saginaw, Mich. (-1.5 percent).

The largest gains in employment from December 2004 to December 2005 were recorded in the counties of Maricopa, Ariz. (97,400), Los Angeles, Calif. (73,400), Harris, Texas (69,700), Clark, Nev. (56,200), and New York, N.Y. (44,200). (See table A.)

Table B. Top 10 large counties ranked by fourth quarter 2005 average weekly wages, fourth quarter 2004-05 growth in average weekly wages, and fourth quarter 2004-05 percent growth in average weekly wages

Average weekly wage in large counties					
Average weekly wage, fourth quarter 2005		Growth in average weekly wage, fourth quarter 2004-05		Percent growth in average weekly wage, fourth quarter 2004-05	
U.S.	\$825	U.S.	\$12	U.S.	1.5
New York, N.Y.	\$1,684	Orleans, La.	\$216	Orleans, La.	28.7
Fairfield, Conn.	1,496	Jefferson, La.	113	Harrison, Miss.	18.9
Santa Clara, Calif.	1,490	Harrison, Miss.	108	Jefferson, La.	16.2
Suffolk, Mass.	1,412	San Francisco, Calif.	96	York, Pa.	10.8
San Francisco, Calif.	1,378	New Castle, Del.	88	New Castle, Del.	9.0
San Mateo, Calif.	1,365	Fulton, Ga.	80	Fulton, Ga.	7.6
Washington, D.C.	1,354	York, Pa.	76	San Francisco, Calif.	7.5
Arlington, Va.	1,345	Marin, Calif.	71	Collier, Fla.	7.4
Somerset, N.J.	1,296	New York, N.Y.	69	Baltimore City, Md.	7.1
Fairfax, Va.	1,247	Baltimore City, Md.	66	Marin, Calif.	6.7
				Lake, Fla.	6.7

The largest declines in employment occurred in the Katrina-affected counties of Orleans, La. (-96,800), Jefferson, La. (-36,900), and Harrison, Miss. (-18,200), followed by the counties of Wayne, Mich. (-11,400), and Oakland, Mich. (-5,700).

Hurricane Rita affected the Texas-Louisiana border counties. However, the damage was not as extensive as with Hurricane Katrina. Despite the effects of Hurricane Rita, Calcasieu County, La., posted a small over-the-year gain in employment (1,125) in December 2005—1.3 percent. Prior to Hurricane Rita, Calcasieu had posted strong over-the-year employment growth in both June and September, 5.2 and 4.7 percent, respectively.

The evacuation, due to Hurricane Katrina, of a large part of the New Orleans area population to other parts of the state likely led to changes in the employment situation in those counties in the third and fourth quarters of 2005. For example, East Baton Rouge County, La., saw a significant employment gain of 5.6 percent over the year ending in December, which followed a year-over-year gain of 4.8 percent in September, as contrasted with over-the-year growth of 2.0 percent in June 2005, 3 months before the hurricane. The pattern of job growth was similar in Lafayette, La., which posted an over-the-year gain of 5.5 percent in December and 6.2 percent in September, after a gain of only 2.6 percent in June 2005.

Large County Average Weekly Wages

The national average weekly wage in the fourth quarter of 2005 was \$825. Average weekly wages were higher than the national average in 105 of the largest 322 U.S. counties. New York County, N.Y., held the top position among the highest-paid large counties with an average weekly wage of \$1,684. Fairfield, Conn., was second with an average weekly wage of \$1,496, followed by Santa Clara, Calif. (\$1,490), Suffolk, Mass. (\$1,412), and San Francisco, Calif. (\$1,378). (See table B.)

There were 217 counties with an average weekly wage below the national average in the fourth quarter of 2005. The lowest average weekly wages were reported in Cameron County, Texas (\$506), followed by the counties of Hidalgo, Texas (\$512), Webb, Texas (\$548), Yakima, Wash. (\$552), and Horry, S.C. (\$556). (See table 1.)

Over the year, the national average weekly wage rose by 1.5 percent. Among the largest counties, Orleans, La., led the nation in growth in average weekly wages, with an increase of 28.7 percent from the fourth quarter of 2004. Harrison, Miss., was second with 18.9 percent growth, followed by the counties of Jefferson, La. (16.2 percent), York, Pa. (10.8 percent), and New Castle, Del. (9.0 percent). The high average weekly wage growth rates for Orleans, Harrison, and Jefferson Counties were related to the disproportionate job and pay losses in lower-paid industries due to the impact of Hurricane Katrina.

Seventy-two counties experienced over-the-year declines in average weekly wages. Clayton, Ga., and Williamson, Texas, had the largest decrease, -8.6 percent each, followed by the counties of Trumbull, Ohio (-5.8 percent), Brown, Wis. (-5.1 percent), and Anoka, Minn. (-4.7 percent).

Ten Largest U.S. Counties

Of the 10 largest U.S. counties (based on 2004 annual average employment levels), all reported increases in employment from December 2004 to December 2005. Maricopa County, Ariz., experienced the fastest growth in employment among the largest counties, with a 5.8 percent increase. Within Maricopa County, employment rose in every industry group except natural resources and mining. The largest gains were in construction (13.6 percent) and financial activities (7.3 percent). Harris, Texas, had the next largest increase in employment, 3.8 percent, followed by King, Wash. (3.4 percent). The smallest employment gains occurred in Cook County, Ill., and San Diego, Calif. (0.9 percent each), followed by Los Angeles, Calif. (1.8 percent). (See table 2.)

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 10 largest counties, increasing by 4.3 percent. Within New York County, average weekly wages increased the most in natural resources and mining (175.4 percent), a very small sector. Increases in professional and business services (4.8 percent), however, had a larger impact on the county's wage growth. Harris, Texas, was second in wage growth, increasing by 3.8 percent, followed by Dallas County, Texas (3.4 percent). The smallest wage gains among the 10 largest counties occurred in Los Angeles, Calif. (0.3 percent), followed by King, Wash. (1.1 percent), and Cook County, Ill. (1.4 percent).

Largest County by State

Table 3 shows December 2005 employment and the 2005 fourth quarter average weekly wage in the largest county in each state, which is based on 2004 annual average employment levels. (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 2005 ranged from approximately 4.2 million in Los Angeles County, Calif., to 41,300 in Laramie County, Wyo. The highest average weekly wage of these counties was in New York, N.Y. (\$1,684), while the lowest average weekly wage was in Laramie, Wyo. (\$647).

For More Information

For additional information about the quarterly employment and wages data, please read the Technical Note or visit the QCEW Web site at <http://www.bls.gov/cew/>. Additional information about the QCEW data also may be obtained by e-mailing QCEWinfo@bls.gov or by calling (202) 691-6567.

Regional Quarterly Census of Employment and Wages News Releases

Several BLS regional offices are issuing QCEW news releases targeted to local data users. For links to these releases, see <http://www.bls.gov/cew/cewregional.htm>.

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 2005 are preliminary and subject to revision.

For purposes of this release, large counties are defined as having employment levels of 75,000 or greater. In addition, data for San Juan, Puerto Rico, are provided, but not used in calculating U.S. averages, rankings, or in the analysis in the

text. Each year, these large counties are selected on the basis of the preliminary annual average of employment for the previous year. The 323 counties presented in this release were derived using 2004 preliminary annual averages of employment. All of the 318 counties that were published in the 2004 releases are included in the 2005 releases. The following counties grew enough in 2004 to be included in the 2005 releases: Lake, Fla., Wyandotte, Kan., Harford, Md., Washington, Pa., and Whatcom, Wash. These counties will be included in all 2005 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

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 8.6 million establishments 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Count of longitudinally-linked UI administrative records submitted by 6.7 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 by NAICS supersectors and by size of firm Future expansions will include data at the county, MSA, and state level 	<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 Analysis of employment expansion and contraction by size of firm 	<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/

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 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 employment change over time. 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 are compiled from quarterly contribution reports submitted to the SWAs by employers. For federal civilian workers covered by the Unemployment Compensation for Federal Employees (UCFE) program, employment and wage data are compiled from quarterly reports that are sent to the appropriate SWA by the specific federal agency. 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 2004, UI and UCFE programs covered workers in 129.3 million jobs. The estimated 124.4 million workers in these jobs (after adjustment for multiple jobholders) represented 96.6 percent of civilian wage and salary employment. Covered workers received \$5.088 trillion in pay, representing 94.4 percent of the wage and salary component of personal income and 43.4 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. Beginning with the first quarter of 2005, Oregon implemented a change in their state UI laws. This change extended UI coverage to providers of home care for the elderly. These providers are now considered state workers for purposes of UI benefits.

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. Over-the-year comparisons of average weekly wages may reflect fluctuations in average monthly employment and/or total quarterly wages between the current quarter and prior year levels.

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. For instance, the average weekly wage of the work force could increase significantly when there is a large decline in the number of employees that had been receiving below-average wages. Wages may include payments to workers not present in the employment counts because they did not work during the pay period including the 12th of the month. When comparing average weekly wage levels between industries, states, or quarters, 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 2004 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. Included in these adjustments are administrative changes involving the classification of establishments that were previously reported in the unknown or statewide county or unknown industry categories. The adjusted data do not account for administrative

changes caused by multi-unit employers who start reporting for each individual establishment rather than as a single entity.

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. The 2004 edition of this bulletin contains selected data produced by Business Employment Dynamics (BED) on job gains and losses, as well as selected data from the fourth quarter 2004 version of this news release. *Employment and Wages Annual Averages, 2004* is now available for sale from the United States Government Printing Office, Superintendent of Documents, P.O. Box 371954, Pittsburgh, PA 15250, telephone 866-512-1800, outside of Washington, D.C. Within Washington, D.C., the telephone number is 202-512-1800. The fax number is 202-512-2104. Also, the 2004 bulletin is available in a portable document format (PDF) on the BLS Web site at <http://www.bls.gov/cew/cewbultn04.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 323 largest counties, fourth quarter 2005²

County ³	Establishments, fourth quarter 2005 (thousands)	Employment			Average weekly wage ⁵		
		December 2005 (thousands)	Percent change, December 2004-05 ⁴	Ranking by percent change	Average weekly wage	Percent change, fourth quarter 2004-05 ⁴	Ranking by percent change
United States ⁶	8,690.4	133,834.6	1.7	-	\$825	1.5	-
Jefferson, AL	18.9	375.8	0.8	202	836	0.5	221
Madison, AL	8.3	172.2	2.8	81	844	-0.4	260
Mobile, AL	9.9	171.1	3.4	61	712	6.6	12
Montgomery, AL	6.7	138.5	4.0	49	725	0.6	209
Tuscaloosa, AL	4.3	82.9	4.2	43	740	3.9	32
Anchorage Borough, AK	7.9	144.0	1.1	170	837	0.8	189
Maricopa, AZ	86.1	1,784.8	5.8	8	818	2.1	94
Pima, AZ	18.7	364.2	3.1	70	717	2.4	80
Benton, AR	4.9	91.5	4.7	26	743	2.3	87
Pulaski, AR	13.7	248.7	1.2	164	749	-1.1	284
Washington, AR	5.4	91.9	4.4	29	685	2.4	80
Alameda, CA	48.0	683.1	0.5	222	1,052	-0.5	264
Contra Costa, CA	27.5	344.5	-0.4	282	1,010	0.0	248
Fresno, CA	29.1	345.3	4.0	49	662	1.5	128
Kern, CA	16.7	275.1	8.6	2	683	-0.1	249
Los Angeles, CA	378.7	4,196.5	1.8	128	966	0.3	234
Marin, CA	11.6	111.4	-0.1	260	1,133	6.7	10
Monterey, CA	11.9	150.9	0.2	235	720	2.9	59
Orange, CA	91.7	1,507.7	1.9	123	964	2.6	68
Placer, CA	9.9	134.7	2.4	99	810	1.8	107
Riverside, CA	40.7	625.2	4.3	35	683	0.9	179
Sacramento, CA	48.6	629.0	2.4	99	894	3.5	42
San Bernardino, CA	44.0	654.3	4.4	29	718	0.8	189
San Diego, CA	88.9	1,315.8	0.9	192	890	1.8	107
San Francisco, CA	43.5	538.1	1.9	123	1,378	7.5	7
San Joaquin, CA	16.4	218.5	1.0	180	718	1.6	119
San Luis Obispo, CA	8.7	100.4	1.9	123	690	1.5	128
San Mateo, CA	22.7	333.1	-0.4	282	1,365	3.5	42
Santa Barbara, CA	13.2	179.0	3.3	65	798	1.4	138
Santa Clara, CA	53.7	877.2	1.7	134	1,490	1.8	107
Santa Cruz, CA	8.5	91.9	0.1	241	738	-4.4	314
Solano, CA	9.6	131.2	2.7	86	765	1.5	128
Sonoma, CA	17.4	191.4	0.4	225	821	2.8	61
Stanislaus, CA	13.5	172.6	2.5	95	691	3.1	53
Tulare, CA	8.6	140.6	4.7	26	583	1.6	119
Ventura, CA	20.9	318.3	2.7	86	892	-1.5	288
Yolo, CA	5.3	98.4	1.8	128	729	-4.3	313
Adams, CO	9.0	150.5	4.0	49	776	-0.4	260
Arapahoe, CO	19.3	274.7	1.4	152	974	-0.9	280
Boulder, CO	12.3	156.5	1.3	156	971	1.8	107
Denver, CO	24.9	431.6	1.8	128	1,003	0.9	179
El Paso, CO	16.7	244.3	2.3	104	750	1.4	138
Jefferson, CO	18.5	209.0	1.1	170	817	-0.8	275
Larimer, CO	9.8	125.1	1.6	140	755	3.0	55
Fairfield, CT	32.3	420.6	0.9	192	1,496	4.3	25
Hartford, CT	24.6	493.5	1.3	156	1,033	1.5	128
New Haven, CT	22.1	366.4	-0.4	282	895	1.0	170
New London, CT	6.7	130.1	0.1	241	842	-0.7	271
New Castle, DE	19.5	286.6	0.0	251	1,068	9.0	5
Washington, DC	30.9	673.5	1.0	180	1,354	4.9	17

See footnotes at end of table.

Table 1. Covered¹ establishments, employment, and wages in the 323 largest counties, fourth quarter 2005² — Continued

County ³	Establishments, fourth quarter 2005 (thousands)	Employment			Average weekly wage ⁵		
		December 2005 (thousands)	Percent change, December 2004-05 ⁴	Ranking by percent change	Average weekly wage	Percent change, fourth quarter 2004-05 ⁴	Ranking by percent change
Alachua, FL	6.3	125.1	(7)	-	\$656	(7)	-
Brevard, FL	14.0	207.3	5.0	18	777	0.5	221
Broward, FL	62.3	752.1	4.3	35	813	1.0	170
Collier, FL	12.0	136.8	5.6	10	801	7.4	8
Duval, FL	24.9	462.3	4.2	43	816	1.2	154
Escambia, FL	7.7	128.8	2.4	99	675	3.7	36
Hillsborough, FL	35.1	643.8	2.7	86	781	0.6	209
Lake, FL	6.5	83.4	6.5	7	669	6.7	10
Lee, FL	17.9	223.6	9.2	1	733	2.8	61
Leon, FL	7.8	147.6	-0.7	297	708	0.9	179
Manatee, FL	8.3	130.8	1.1	170	642	2.4	80
Marion, FL	7.6	101.5	(7)	-	613	1.7	114
Miami-Dade, FL	84.4	1,022.1	2.1	113	833	1.5	128
Okaloosa, FL	6.1	83.6	(7)	-	666	(7)	-
Orange, FL	33.4	675.4	4.5	28	766	0.9	179
Palm Beach, FL	47.9	565.1	3.1	70	826	0.9	179
Pasco, FL	8.8	96.5	7.9	3	600	-0.2	251
Pinellas, FL	30.9	446.6	0.6	216	730	1.1	162
Polk, FL	12.0	211.8	5.0	18	660	2.6	68
Sarasota, FL	14.9	164.3	2.6	91	740	4.2	27
Seminole, FL	13.8	174.3	7.8	4	777	3.7	36
Volusia, FL	13.5	166.0	4.8	22	611	-1.6	291
Bibb, GA	4.8	86.6	-1.3	308	682	1.8	107
Chatham, GA	7.3	132.6	0.6	216	718	4.7	19
Clayton, GA	4.4	111.0	3.0	77	758	-8.6	319
Cobb, GA	20.3	318.9	4.2	43	885	0.6	209
De Kalb, GA	17.0	295.2	0.5	222	864	-0.3	253
Fulton, GA	38.3	757.1	1.7	134	1,139	7.6	6
Gwinnett, GA	22.5	323.5	3.4	61	862	0.9	179
Muscogee, GA	4.8	98.7	0.7	210	647	3.7	36
Richmond, GA	4.9	107.0	1.2	164	677	0.4	228
Honolulu, HI	23.9	452.5	2.3	104	763	0.9	179
Ada, ID	14.2	203.5	5.4	14	751	1.2	154
Champaign, IL	4.0	91.6	0.8	202	679	0.6	209
Cook, IL	132.3	2,547.4	0.9	192	1,000	1.4	138
Du Page, IL	34.0	591.4	0.6	216	967	-0.7	271
Kane, IL	11.8	207.6	1.6	140	776	1.7	114
Lake, IL	19.8	325.3	0.0	251	1,025	-0.6	267
McHenry, IL	7.9	98.9	2.2	109	746	1.8	107
McLean, IL	3.5	85.6	2.5	95	761	-4.4	314
Madison, IL	5.8	93.8	-0.3	273	718	3.3	49
Peoria, IL	4.6	100.9	1.2	164	800	1.4	138
Rock Island, IL	3.4	79.4	1.6	140	908	0.6	209
St. Clair, IL	5.2	95.0	1.0	180	664	2.8	61
Sangamon, IL	5.2	131.5	0.7	210	788	2.1	94
Will, IL	11.9	173.7	4.3	35	773	0.5	221
Winnebago, IL	6.8	137.1	-1.0	302	707	1.0	170
Allen, IN	8.8	183.7	1.2	164	704	-0.8	275
Elkhart, IN	4.8	127.8	3.1	70	730	2.1	94
Hamilton, IN	6.8	98.0	4.8	22	823	-2.0	298

See footnotes at end of table.

Table 1. Covered¹ establishments, employment, and wages in the 323 largest counties, fourth quarter 2005² — Continued

County ³	Establishments, fourth quarter 2005 (thousands)	Employment			Average weekly wage ⁵		
		December 2005 (thousands)	Percent change, December 2004-05 ⁴	Ranking by percent change	Average weekly wage	Percent change, fourth quarter 2004-05 ⁴	Ranking by percent change
Lake, IN	10.0	196.1	0.9	192	\$716	-2.3	301
Marion, IN	23.5	585.3	0.1	241	839	0.8	189
St. Joseph, IN	6.0	126.8	-0.1	260	689	0.6	209
Vanderburgh, IN	4.8	110.1	1.5	145	682	-0.3	253
Linn, IA	6.1	119.6	0.8	202	802	1.5	128
Polk, IA	14.2	267.6	1.7	134	828	1.2	154
Scott, IA	5.1	89.7	2.3	104	684	0.1	239
Johnson, KS	19.6	306.7	2.3	104	846	0.5	221
Sedgwick, KS	12.0	247.9	0.8	202	746	2.6	68
Shawnee, KS	4.8	94.4	-0.6	291	691	1.0	170
Wyandotte, KS	3.2	78.1	1.4	152	782	-0.5	264
Fayette, KY	8.9	172.3	1.7	134	757	1.3	147
Jefferson, KY	22.1	429.5	0.8	202	798	-1.5	288
Caddo, LA	7.2	126.2	3.2	69	689	1.6	119
Calcasieu, LA	4.8	84.7	1.3	156	697	4.7	19
East Baton Rouge, LA	13.5	262.2	5.6	10	711	3.5	42
Jefferson, LA	14.3	179.5	-17.0	313	812	16.2	3
Lafayette, LA	8.0	127.7	5.5	12	754	4.7	19
Orleans, LA	12.6	149.5	-39.3	315	968	28.7	1
Cumberland, ME	11.8	173.7	-0.3	273	749	-2.3	301
Anne Arundel, MD	14.2	227.0	2.0	116	853	2.4	80
Baltimore, MD	21.3	378.9	1.5	145	872	1.3	147
Frederick, MD	5.8	92.5	0.3	233	779	1.6	119
Harford, MD	5.5	82.7	2.2	109	742	-0.8	275
Howard, MD	8.3	141.3	1.7	134	962	0.1	239
Montgomery, MD	32.5	467.9	1.6	140	1,109	4.0	31
Prince Georges, MD	15.5	318.2	-0.1	260	897	3.8	33
Baltimore City, MD	14.0	353.0	-0.7	297	992	7.1	9
Barnstable, MA	9.2	88.4	0.0	251	730	0.8	189
Bristol, MA	15.5	223.1	0.1	241	737	1.4	138
Essex, MA	20.5	298.4	0.8	202	885	2.3	87
Hampden, MA	14.2	201.3	-0.4	282	758	1.2	154
Middlesex, MA	47.3	803.7	1.3	156	1,158	1.0	170
Norfolk, MA	21.6	323.7	0.9	192	1,013	0.6	209
Plymouth, MA	13.7	178.6	0.7	210	804	0.2	235
Suffolk, MA	21.7	572.6	1.3	156	1,412	3.7	36
Worcester, MA	20.5	322.1	0.1	241	831	0.5	221
Genesee, MI	8.3	151.1	(7)	-	771	-3.3	309
Ingham, MI	7.1	162.3	(7)	-	789	2.9	59
Kalamazoo, MI	5.5	117.8	1.0	180	741	0.8	189
Kent, MI	14.5	346.1	1.8	128	770	-1.2	286
Macomb, MI	18.1	332.1	0.4	225	890	-0.6	267
Oakland, MI	40.5	721.7	-0.8	299	1,018	0.8	189
Ottawa, MI	5.8	112.6	1.1	170	744	0.8	189
Saginaw, MI	4.5	89.4	-1.5	311	747	-0.8	275
Washtenaw, MI	8.1	197.0	-1.1	304	915	1.1	162
Wayne, MI	34.0	793.6	-1.4	309	951	0.2	235
Anoka, MN	8.0	116.7	1.8	128	774	-4.7	316
Dakota, MN	10.6	174.2	1.1	170	807	-1.8	295
Hennepin, MN	42.9	850.6	1.3	156	1,013	-3.4	310

See footnotes at end of table.

Table 1. Covered¹ establishments, employment, and wages in the 323 largest counties, fourth quarter 2005² — Continued

County ³	Establishments, fourth quarter 2005 (thousands)	Employment			Average weekly wage ⁵		
		December 2005 (thousands)	Percent change, December 2004-05 ⁴	Ranking by percent change	Average weekly wage	Percent change, fourth quarter 2004-05 ⁴	Ranking by percent change
Olmsted, MN	3.6	89.4	1.2	164	\$811	1.0	170
Ramsey, MN	15.8	334.5	1.1	170	884	-3.5	311
St. Louis, MN	6.0	96.0	1.3	156	674	-2.3	301
Stearns, MN	4.5	79.6	1.9	123	640	-3.2	308
Harrison, MS	4.5	72.2	-20.2	314	680	18.9	2
Hinds, MS	6.5	128.6	-0.6	291	736	3.2	51
Boone, MO	4.4	81.7	3.0	77	626	-0.3	253
Clay, MO	5.0	88.0	1.5	145	755	0.1	239
Greene, MO	8.1	153.3	3.5	60	626	1.5	128
Jackson, MO	18.8	367.3	0.7	210	839	2.6	68
St. Charles, MO	7.7	119.1	2.0	116	706	1.1	162
St. Louis, MO	34.0	627.5	0.3	233	887	3.0	55
St. Louis City, MO	8.1	223.2	0.5	222	897	1.6	119
Douglas, NE	15.4	314.7	1.0	180	789	4.2	27
Lancaster, NE	7.8	154.5	0.9	192	662	1.1	162
Clark, NV	43.3	895.6	6.7	5	771	0.1	239
Washoe, NV	13.5	217.6	2.9	79	782	1.7	114
Hillsborough, NH	12.3	200.3	1.0	180	949	1.9	103
Rockingham, NH	10.9	138.6	1.1	170	860	-1.5	288
Atlantic, NJ	6.7	145.5	-0.3	273	749	0.7	203
Bergen, NJ	34.3	456.2	0.1	241	1,072	0.5	221
Burlington, NJ	11.3	203.7	0.1	241	878	1.3	147
Camden, NJ	13.5	212.9	-0.2	269	892	3.1	53
Essex, NJ	21.4	364.8	0.0	251	1,069	-1.7	293
Gloucester, NJ	6.3	106.9	3.3	65	766	0.9	179
Hudson, NJ	14.1	239.0	-0.2	269	1,068	0.8	189
Mercer, NJ	10.9	227.6	2.4	99	1,085	1.9	103
Middlesex, NJ	20.9	396.8	-0.3	273	1,043	-0.6	267
Monmouth, NJ	20.3	258.1	0.4	225	925	1.2	154
Morris, NJ	17.9	288.0	-0.1	260	1,239	1.7	114
Ocean, NJ	11.7	146.9	2.1	113	745	0.7	203
Passaic, NJ	12.5	180.2	0.9	192	893	-0.4	260
Somerset, NJ	10.1	174.8	3.3	65	1,296	4.5	22
Union, NJ	14.8	229.5	(7)	-	1,078	0.7	203
Bernalillo, NM	16.7	326.5	2.3	104	731	0.4	228
Albany, NY	9.7	231.6	-0.5	288	826	0.6	209
Bronx, NY	15.7	224.5	1.7	134	780	0.9	179
Broome, NY	4.5	96.1	-0.1	260	631	1.1	162
Dutchess, NY	8.1	119.4	-0.9	300	823	1.6	119
Erie, NY	23.3	461.3	-1.0	302	708	-0.7	271
Kings, NY	43.0	464.1	1.1	170	741	0.8	189
Monroe, NY	17.7	390.5	0.8	202	785	0.8	189
Nassau, NY	51.7	613.4	0.1	241	953	3.0	55
New York, NY	114.8	2,310.7	2.0	116	1,684	4.3	25
Oneida, NY	5.3	110.0	(7)	-	633	0.6	209
Onondaga, NY	12.7	253.1	0.2	235	770	0.8	189
Orange, NY	9.6	130.9	-0.1	260	708	0.9	179
Queens, NY	41.1	487.0	1.0	180	822	0.7	203
Richmond, NY	8.3	91.6	-0.3	273	738	0.4	228
Rockland, NY	9.5	115.0	-0.1	260	873	1.3	147

See footnotes at end of table.

Table 1. Covered¹ establishments, employment, and wages in the 323 largest counties, fourth quarter 2005² — Continued

County ³	Establishments, fourth quarter 2005 (thousands)	Employment			Average weekly wage ⁵		
		December 2005 (thousands)	Percent change, December 2004-05 ⁴	Ranking by percent change	Average weekly wage	Percent change, fourth quarter 2004-05 ⁴	Ranking by percent change
Suffolk, NY	48.8	617.5	0.2	235	\$894	1.5	128
Westchester, NY	35.9	420.7	-0.3	273	1,173	5.4	14
Buncombe, NC	7.2	110.6	0.4	225	658	1.2	154
Catawba, NC	4.4	87.6	-0.6	291	638	-0.3	253
Cumberland, NC	5.8	116.6	1.6	140	620	2.5	75
Durham, NC	6.3	172.3	1.5	145	1,015	-1.2	286
Forsyth, NC	8.6	184.0	2.2	109	754	-2.2	300
Guilford, NC	13.7	275.5	1.1	170	743	0.4	228
Mecklenburg, NC	28.2	533.2	2.5	95	932	-1.6	291
New Hanover, NC	6.7	98.5	5.1	17	683	4.4	23
Wake, NC	24.4	416.9	4.3	35	828	1.5	128
Cass, ND	5.8	92.9	2.6	91	691	0.1	239
Butler, OH	7.0	139.5	2.2	109	734	-0.9	280
Cuyahoga, OH	38.0	756.8	-0.6	291	855	-0.6	267
Franklin, OH	29.1	693.9	0.4	225	806	0.1	239
Hamilton, OH	24.5	547.2	-0.1	260	895	2.8	61
Lake, OH	6.9	100.8	0.4	225	692	-0.1	249
Lorain, OH	6.2	101.8	-1.1	304	702	-1.8	295
Lucas, OH	10.9	229.2	-0.2	269	730	-2.0	298
Mahoning, OH	6.4	107.3	0.7	210	624	0.2	235
Montgomery, OH	13.1	280.8	-1.4	309	777	-0.5	264
Stark, OH	9.2	166.5	-1.8	312	649	-0.3	253
Summit, OH	14.9	274.6	1.0	180	767	-2.5	305
Trumbull, OH	4.8	84.3	-0.5	288	704	-5.8	318
Oklahoma, OK	22.6	420.6	1.4	152	713	2.3	87
Tulsa, OK	18.7	339.4	3.9	52	744	1.6	119
Clackamas, OR	12.2	147.4	4.4	29	761	1.2	154
Jackson, OR	6.5	85.5	3.9	52	602	1.2	154
Lane, OR	10.7	149.7	4.4	29	656	2.2	90
Marion, OR	9.0	134.6	3.4	61	638	1.4	138
Multnomah, OR	26.4	438.8	2.5	95	822	1.0	170
Washington, OR	15.4	242.7	4.3	35	904	-0.8	275
Allegheny, PA	34.8	687.7	0.0	251	858	0.8	189
Berks, PA	9.0	167.4	1.3	156	725	-1.0	283
Bucks, PA	19.7	264.5	1.4	152	807	0.7	203
Chester, PA	15.0	235.3	1.9	123	1,062	0.5	221
Cumberland, PA	5.8	125.9	-0.6	291	754	0.1	239
Dauphin, PA	7.1	177.9	0.8	202	785	-3.1	307
Delaware, PA	13.7	211.7	0.0	251	892	2.2	90
Erie, PA	7.1	127.9	-0.3	273	646	0.2	235
Lackawanna, PA	5.7	101.3	0.9	192	648	1.7	114
Lancaster, PA	12.0	229.8	0.6	216	712	0.1	239
Lehigh, PA	8.2	176.2	0.7	210	820	-0.7	271
Luzerne, PA	7.9	142.9	-0.2	269	650	0.8	189
Montgomery, PA	27.7	491.3	1.5	145	1,024	1.1	162
Northampton, PA	6.2	95.2	1.5	145	723	0.4	228
Philadelphia, PA	29.0	640.6	0.2	235	962	-0.9	280
Washington, PA	5.3	75.9	0.0	251	700	1.0	170
Westmoreland, PA	9.5	139.4	0.4	225	635	-1.9	297
York, PA	8.8	175.5	2.0	116	781	10.8	4

See footnotes at end of table.

Table 1. Covered¹ establishments, employment, and wages in the 323 largest counties, fourth quarter 2005² — Continued

County ³	Establishments, fourth quarter 2005 (thousands)	Employment			Average weekly wage ⁵		
		December 2005 (thousands)	Percent change, December 2004-05 ⁴	Ranking by percent change	Average weekly wage	Percent change, fourth quarter 2004-05 ⁴	Ranking by percent change
Kent, RI	5.7	83.5	0.0	251	\$735	1.4	138
Providence, RI	18.2	289.9	0.1	241	813	3.4	46
Charleston, SC	12.6	199.5	1.8	128	703	5.2	16
Greenville, SC	12.7	229.8	1.0	180	725	0.8	189
Horry, SC	8.6	105.6	3.7	57	556	-0.2	251
Lexington, SC	5.9	90.2	2.0	116	628	-1.1	284
Richland, SC	9.8	210.1	0.0	251	696	-0.3	253
Spartanburg, SC	6.4	116.1	-1.1	304	700	1.3	147
Minnehaha, SD	6.1	113.0	3.1	70	678	2.4	80
Davidson, TN	18.0	453.2	2.9	79	835	0.7	203
Hamilton, TN	8.4	194.6	0.1	241	724	2.5	75
Knox, TN	10.5	222.2	1.0	180	729	3.0	55
Rutherford, TN	3.8	97.4	3.6	59	730	-2.4	304
Shelby, TN	19.8	509.2	0.9	192	848	1.8	107
Bell, TX	4.3	94.9	2.7	86	616	2.7	66
Bexar, TX	30.5	687.8	4.2	43	744	3.6	40
Brazoria, TX	4.3	81.8	4.4	29	757	2.2	90
Brazos, TX	3.6	83.4	4.4	29	588	2.6	68
Cameron, TX	6.2	118.5	2.0	116	506	1.4	138
Collin, TX	14.6	255.2	5.4	14	964	1.4	138
Dallas, TX	66.5	1,457.5	2.8	81	1,033	3.4	46
Denton, TX	9.4	154.3	5.3	16	725	2.0	99
El Paso, TX	12.9	263.7	2.8	81	575	-0.3	253
Fort Bend, TX	7.3	114.1	4.8	22	854	2.2	90
Galveston, TX	4.9	89.2	3.1	70	723	4.9	17
Harris, TX	91.1	1,919.8	3.8	55	1,014	3.8	33
Hidalgo, TX	9.8	204.3	4.2	43	512	1.6	119
Jefferson, TX	5.8	120.5	4.3	35	815	5.4	14
Lubbock, TX	6.5	121.3	2.1	113	619	2.5	75
McLennan, TX	4.8	102.7	1.1	170	647	0.6	209
Montgomery, TX	7.1	107.4	6.6	6	781	4.4	23
Nueces, TX	8.1	148.3	2.0	116	687	1.5	128
Potter, TX	3.7	71.9	-0.3	273	667	3.3	49
Smith, TX	5.0	91.7	2.8	81	723	3.6	40
Tarrant, TX	34.9	730.8	2.8	81	827	1.6	119
Travis, TX	25.7	538.9	3.7	57	935	0.6	209
Webb, TX	4.5	84.3	5.7	9	548	1.9	103
Williamson, TX	6.0	104.4	5.5	12	807	-8.6	319
Davis, UT	6.9	97.8	3.8	55	670	4.2	27
Salt Lake, UT	37.7	558.0	4.3	35	769	3.4	46
Utah, UT	12.3	161.9	4.9	20	629	2.1	94
Weber, UT	5.6	89.5	1.0	180	607	2.4	80
Chittenden, VT	5.8	95.8	-1.1	304	789	1.0	170
Arlington, VA	7.3	156.5	-0.1	260	1,345	4.2	27
Chesterfield, VA	6.9	117.7	2.6	91	753	1.3	147
Fairfax, VA	31.3	578.9	3.1	70	1,247	0.4	228
Henrico, VA	8.6	174.2	0.4	225	887	2.8	61
Loudoun, VA	7.2	124.5	4.1	48	1,059	2.7	66
Prince William, VA	6.4	103.6	4.3	35	749	2.6	68
Alexandria City, VA	5.9	94.9	0.2	235	1,077	2.4	80

See footnotes at end of table.

Table 1. Covered¹ establishments, employment, and wages in the 323 largest counties, fourth quarter 2005² — Continued

County ³	Establishments, fourth quarter 2005 (thousands)	Employment			Average weekly wage ⁵		
		December 2005 (thousands)	Percent change, December 2004-05 ⁴	Ranking by percent change	Average weekly wage	Percent change, fourth quarter 2004-05 ⁴	Ranking by percent change
Chesapeake City, VA	5.2	97.6	2.6	91	\$660	2.6	68
Newport News City, VA	3.9	99.5	0.6	216	737	-0.4	260
Norfolk City, VA	5.7	144.5	-0.9	300	807	3.5	42
Richmond City, VA	7.0	162.0	1.2	164	940	3.2	51
Virginia Beach City, VA	11.1	178.0	1.5	145	658	2.0	99
Clark, WA	11.0	128.8	4.9	20	734	2.5	75
King, WA	76.3	1,145.1	3.4	61	985	1.1	162
Kitsap, WA	6.4	83.7	2.4	99	733	6.4	13
Pierce, WA	19.8	264.3	3.3	65	711	2.0	99
Snohomish, WA	16.5	227.5	4.8	22	815	3.8	33
Spokane, WA	14.7	201.3	2.7	86	643	1.1	162
Thurston, WA	6.4	95.1	3.1	70	709	1.9	103
Whatcom, WA	6.6	79.9	3.9	52	613	2.5	75
Yakima, WA	7.8	87.2	-0.5	288	552	2.0	99
Kanawha, WV	6.1	108.2	-0.6	291	699	1.3	147
Brown, WI	6.8	149.2	0.9	192	732	-5.1	317
Dane, WI	14.2	302.8	1.0	180	756	-1.7	293
Milwaukee, WI	21.9	497.8	-0.4	282	833	0.6	209
Outagamie, WI	5.0	101.2	-0.3	273	722	2.1	94
Racine, WI	4.3	76.6	-0.4	282	783	-3.9	312
Waukesha, WI	13.5	233.2	0.2	235	826	0.1	239
Winnebago, WI	3.9	88.5	0.6	216	776	-2.9	306
San Juan, PR	14.5	330.1	-2.0	(⁶)	549	3.0	(⁶)

¹ Includes workers covered by Unemployment Insurance (UI) and Unemployment Compensation for Federal Employees (UCFE) programs. These 322 U.S. counties comprise 70.8 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.

⁸ This county was not included in the U.S. rankings.

Table 2. Covered¹ establishments, employment, and wages in the ten largest counties, fourth quarter 2005²

County by NAICS supersector	Establishments, fourth quarter 2005 (thousands)	Employment		Average weekly wage ⁴	
		December 2005 (thousands)	Percent change, December 2004-05 ³	Average weekly wage	Percent change, fourth quarter 2004-05 ³
United States ⁵	8,690.4	133,834.6	1.7	\$825	1.5
Private industry	8,413.4	112,417.0	1.9	829	1.6
Natural resources and mining	123.4	1,650.4	3.7	802	5.7
Construction	857.7	7,396.7	5.4	892	3.2
Manufacturing	365.1	14,199.1	-0.6	991	0.6
Trade, transportation, and utilities	1,876.6	26,693.7	1.4	707	0.4
Information	142.6	3,077.0	-0.6	1,246	0.5
Financial activities	825.4	8,155.9	2.1	1,280	3.3
Professional and business services	1,390.3	17,256.9	3.5	1,039	2.1
Education and health services	775.0	16,754.9	2.3	782	1.0
Leisure and hospitality	697.1	12,547.1	1.4	353	2.0
Other services	1,121.1	4,336.1	0.9	525	1.4
Government	277.1	21,417.6	0.7	807	1.5
Los Angeles, CA	378.7	4,196.5	1.8	966	0.3
Private industry	374.9	3,609.5	1.9	967	0.4
Natural resources and mining	0.5	10.4	-2.0	911	-29.0
Construction	13.5	154.5	8.7	961	2.6
Manufacturing	16.1	466.4	-2.3	966	0.9
Trade, transportation, and utilities	53.1	833.5	2.5	781	-0.3
Information	8.7	211.8	-2.6	1,765	-0.3
Financial activities	23.7	248.8	2.8	1,412	3.2
Professional and business services	40.5	592.5	2.9	1,141	0.6
Education and health services	27.4	466.7	0.3	885	1.7
Leisure and hospitality	26.1	385.1	2.0	799	1.9
Other services	165.0	239.2	9.1	427	-3.0
Government	3.8	587.1	0.9	964	0.3
Cook, IL	132.3	2,547.4	0.9	1,000	1.4
Private industry	131.1	2,234.1	1.1	1,009	1.7
Natural resources and mining	0.1	1.4	9.4	1,091	1.9
Construction	11.4	92.5	-1.0	1,238	4.0
Manufacturing	7.5	252.1	-1.9	1,029	-0.6
Trade, transportation, and utilities	27.2	494.5	0.2	802	-0.1
Information	2.5	60.2	-2.8	1,341	0.8
Financial activities	14.8	220.2	1.5	1,639	3.8
Professional and business services	27.2	430.3	3.9	1,328	1.2
Education and health services	13.0	361.1	1.1	849	1.8
Leisure and hospitality	11.1	221.9	2.5	406	5.2
Other services	13.2	95.2	-0.5	696	1.6
Government	1.2	313.3	-0.7	936	-0.3
New York, NY	114.8	2,310.7	2.0	1,684	4.3
Private industry	114.6	1,860.6	2.3	1,840	4.2
Natural resources and mining	0.0	0.1	0.0	4,005	175.4
Construction	2.1	29.9	2.5	1,621	2.5
Manufacturing	3.1	41.7	-6.7	1,393	-2.4
Trade, transportation, and utilities	21.3	253.5	1.8	1,234	4.6
Information	4.1	131.4	1.2	1,947	4.5
Financial activities	17.3	365.3	2.9	3,632	4.7
Professional and business services	22.6	459.4	1.9	1,910	4.8
Education and health services	8.1	281.6	2.2	997	3.2
Leisure and hospitality	10.4	200.3	1.5	826	-0.8
Other services	16.5	85.8	2.1	944	4.2
Government	0.2	450.1	0.7	1,044	4.1

See footnotes at end of table.

Table 2. Covered¹ establishments, employment, and wages in the ten largest counties, fourth quarter 2005² — Continued

County by NAICS supersector	Establishments, fourth quarter 2005 (thousands)	Employment		Average weekly wage ⁴	
		December 2005 (thousands)	Percent change, December 2004-05 ³	Average weekly wage	Percent change, fourth quarter 2004-05 ³
Harris, TX	91.1	1,919.8	3.8	\$1,014	3.8
Private industry	90.7	1,669.7	4.0	1,040	4.2
Natural resources and mining	1.3	68.0	5.5	2,693	13.3
Construction	6.2	135.5	3.9	974	6.4
Manufacturing	4.5	170.4	4.0	1,262	2.8
Trade, transportation, and utilities	21.0	416.5	3.3	885	1.8
Information	1.3	31.8	-4.3	1,191	3.9
Financial activities	9.9	117.8	2.4	1,323	5.3
Professional and business services	17.7	309.8	7.2	1,213	3.6
Education and health services	9.4	199.4	3.4	869	-1.4
Leisure and hospitality	6.8	160.9	1.7	365	2.2
Other services	10.6	55.2	0.9	579	3.0
Government	0.4	250.1	2.5	840	0.7
Maricopa, AZ	86.1	1,784.8	5.8	818	2.1
Private industry	85.5	1,571.9	6.5	821	2.6
Natural resources and mining	0.5	8.9	-1.7	704	6.2
Construction	8.8	170.7	13.6	860	5.1
Manufacturing	3.3	134.5	2.6	1,103	3.4
Trade, transportation, and utilities	18.9	370.4	5.6	765	1.2
Information	1.4	32.9	0.8	939	-3.2
Financial activities	10.4	150.0	7.3	1,087	6.3
Professional and business services	18.6	300.6	6.4	845	1.6
Education and health services	8.3	180.9	5.1	893	1.6
Leisure and hospitality	6.1	171.0	5.4	383	3.2
Other services	6.0	46.4	3.3	563	3.7
Government	0.6	212.8	0.9	796	-1.6
Orange, CA	91.7	1,507.7	1.9	964	2.6
Private industry	90.3	1,375.1	2.2	971	2.8
Natural resources and mining	0.2	5.2	8.7	612	-6.6
Construction	6.8	105.8	11.4	1,042	2.5
Manufacturing	5.7	181.8	-1.7	1,123	1.5
Trade, transportation, and utilities	17.2	285.5	1.2	856	-0.2
Information	1.4	32.1	-2.6	1,248	0.9
Financial activities	10.5	144.7	2.9	1,641	8.0
Professional and business services	18.0	272.3	3.5	1,050	2.0
Education and health services	9.4	132.2	1.6	894	1.6
Leisure and hospitality	6.8	166.5	1.5	379	4.4
Other services	14.3	48.8	2.6	574	4.4
Government	1.4	132.6	-0.8	899	1.1
Dallas, TX	66.5	1,457.5	2.8	1,033	3.4
Private industry	66.1	1,296.2	2.9	1,053	3.3
Natural resources and mining	0.5	7.5	7.1	3,177	14.3
Construction	4.3	77.3	5.1	969	6.6
Manufacturing	3.3	147.7	1.7	1,101	-2.6
Trade, transportation, and utilities	14.8	312.1	1.3	1,001	8.2
Information	1.7	53.8	-0.2	1,311	-1.9
Financial activities	8.4	138.6	2.4	1,368	3.4
Professional and business services	13.8	259.7	7.4	1,209	0.8
Education and health services	6.2	134.9	1.5	980	2.9
Leisure and hospitality	5.1	122.3	0.2	473	2.6
Other services	6.5	39.0	0.1	638	3.2
Government	0.4	161.3	1.9	868	4.2

See footnotes at end of table.

Table 2. Covered¹ establishments, employment, and wages in the ten largest counties, fourth quarter 2005² — Continued

County by NAICS supersector	Establishments, fourth quarter 2005 (thousands)	Employment		Average weekly wage ⁴	
		December 2005 (thousands)	Percent change, December 2004-05 ³	Average weekly wage	Percent change, fourth quarter 2004-05 ³
San Diego, CA	88.9	1,315.8	0.9	\$890	1.8
Private industry	87.5	1,096.1	1.1	881	1.5
Natural resources and mining	0.8	11.2	3.2	567	4.0
Construction	6.9	92.9	3.3	960	0.6
Manufacturing	3.4	103.2	-1.0	1,169	3.5
Trade, transportation, and utilities	14.2	230.2	2.1	686	-1.0
Information	1.3	37.3	-0.5	1,990	4.7
Financial activities	9.4	84.5	1.2	1,211	5.4
Professional and business services	15.2	209.7	-0.6	1,081	0.7
Education and health services	7.7	121.8	0.1	854	2.4
Leisure and hospitality	6.7	149.6	2.8	382	3.5
Other services	21.8	55.6	1.5	474	0.2
Government	1.4	219.7	0.2	931	2.6
King, WA	76.3	1,145.1	3.4	985	1.1
Private industry	75.8	993.2	4.0	994	0.8
Natural resources and mining	0.4	2.9	7.0	1,200	-0.5
Construction	6.5	63.1	11.8	970	1.7
Manufacturing	2.6	108.6	5.7	1,297	8.9
Trade, transportation, and utilities	14.8	227.2	1.3	853	-0.2
Information	1.6	70.8	2.6	1,775	-8.0
Financial activities	6.5	76.1	0.8	1,236	7.3
Professional and business services	12.2	175.4	7.4	1,182	-1.3
Education and health services	6.2	117.2	3.3	782	0.3
Leisure and hospitality	5.8	106.6	4.8	413	-0.7
Other services	19.2	45.2	-1.3	534	5.3
Government	0.5	152.0	-0.5	925	2.4
Miami-Dade, FL	84.4	1,022.1	2.1	833	1.5
Private industry	84.1	869.1	2.5	817	2.6
Natural resources and mining	0.5	9.6	-7.9	482	6.9
Construction	5.6	47.5	10.8	901	7.0
Manufacturing	2.7	48.3	-2.3	747	3.3
Trade, transportation, and utilities	23.6	253.0	1.4	761	2.0
Information	1.8	22.9	(⁶)	1,190	(⁶)
Financial activities	9.7	71.0	4.2	1,212	3.9
Professional and business services	16.8	149.3	5.9	1,018	0.9
Education and health services	8.5	128.8	2.2	807	1.5
Leisure and hospitality	5.7	99.0	0.3	450	0.0
Other services	7.7	35.7	1.4	482	0.6
Government	0.3	153.0	0.1	927	-3.0

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.

⁶ Data do not meet BLS or State agency disclosure standards.

Table 3. Covered¹ establishments, employment, and wages in the largest county by state, fourth quarter 2005²

County ³	Establishments, fourth quarter 2005 (thousands)	Employment		Average weekly wage ⁵	
		December 2005 (thousands)	Percent change, December 2004-05 ⁴	Average weekly wage	Percent change, fourth quarter 2004-05 ⁴
United States ⁶	8,690.4	133,834.6	1.7	\$825	1.5
Jefferson, AL	18.9	375.8	0.8	836	0.5
Anchorage Borough, AK	7.9	144.0	1.1	837	0.8
Maricopa, AZ	86.1	1,784.8	5.8	818	2.1
Pulaski, AR	13.7	248.7	1.2	749	-1.1
Los Angeles, CA	378.7	4,196.5	1.8	966	0.3
Denver, CO	24.9	431.6	1.8	1,003	0.9
Hartford, CT	24.6	493.5	1.3	1,033	1.5
New Castle, DE	19.5	286.6	0.0	1,068	9.0
Washington, DC	30.9	673.5	1.0	1,354	4.9
Miami-Dade, FL	84.4	1,022.1	2.1	833	1.5
Fulton, GA	38.3	757.1	1.7	1,139	7.6
Honolulu, HI	23.9	452.5	2.3	763	0.9
Ada, ID	14.2	203.5	5.4	751	1.2
Cook, IL	132.3	2,547.4	0.9	1,000	1.4
Marion, IN	23.5	585.3	0.1	839	0.8
Polk, IA	14.2	267.6	1.7	828	1.2
Johnson, KS	19.6	306.7	2.3	846	0.5
Jefferson, KY	22.1	429.5	0.8	798	-1.5
Orleans, LA	12.6	149.5	-39.3	968	28.7
Cumberland, ME	11.8	173.7	-0.3	749	-2.3
Montgomery, MD	32.5	467.9	1.6	1,109	4.0
Middlesex, MA	47.3	803.7	1.3	1,158	1.0
Wayne, MI	34.0	793.6	-1.4	951	0.2
Hennepin, MN	42.9	850.6	1.3	1,013	-3.4
Hinds, MS	6.5	128.6	-0.6	736	3.2
St. Louis, MO	34.0	627.5	0.3	887	3.0
Yellowstone, MT	5.4	73.8	2.4	650	1.9
Douglas, NE	15.4	314.7	1.0	789	4.2
Clark, NV	43.3	895.6	6.7	771	0.1
Hillsborough, NH	12.3	200.3	1.0	949	1.9
Bergen, NJ	34.3	456.2	0.1	1,072	0.5
Bernalillo, NM	16.7	326.5	2.3	731	0.4
New York, NY	114.8	2,310.7	2.0	1,684	4.3
Mecklenburg, NC	28.2	533.2	2.5	932	-1.6
Cass, ND	5.8	92.9	2.6	691	0.1
Cuyahoga, OH	38.0	756.8	-0.6	855	-0.6
Oklahoma, OK	22.6	420.6	1.4	713	2.3
Multnomah, OR	26.4	438.8	2.5	822	1.0
Allegheny, PA	34.8	687.7	0.0	858	0.8
Providence, RI	18.2	289.9	0.1	813	3.4
Greenville, SC	12.7	229.8	1.0	725	0.8
Minnehaha, SD	6.1	113.0	3.1	678	2.4
Shelby, TN	19.8	509.2	0.9	848	1.8
Harris, TX	91.1	1,919.8	3.8	1,014	3.8
Salt Lake, UT	37.7	558.0	4.3	769	3.4
Chittenden, VT	5.8	95.8	-1.1	789	1.0
Fairfax, VA	31.3	578.9	3.1	1,247	0.4
King, WA	76.3	1,145.1	3.4	985	1.1
Kanawha, WV	6.1	108.2	-0.6	699	1.3
Milwaukee, WI	21.9	497.8	-0.4	833	0.6

See footnotes at end of table.

Table 3. Covered¹ establishments, employment, and wages in the largest county by state, fourth quarter 2005² — Continued

County ³	Establishments, fourth quarter 2005 (thousands)	Employment		Average weekly wage ⁵	
		December 2005 (thousands)	Percent change, December 2004-05 ⁴	Average weekly wage	Percent change, fourth quarter 2004-05 ⁴
Laramie, WY	3.0	41.3	4.0	\$647	2.7
San Juan, PR	14.5	330.1	-2.0	549	3.0
St. Thomas, VI	1.8	23.5	1.6	625	-1.3

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 2005²

State	Establishments, fourth quarter 2005 (thousands)	Employment		Average weekly wage ³	
		December 2005 (thousands)	Percent change, December 2004-05	Average weekly wage	Percent change, fourth quarter 2004-05
United States ⁴	8,690.4	133,834.6	1.7	\$825	1.5
Alabama	117.9	1,929.6	2.5	706	1.6
Alaska	20.7	291.8	1.3	793	1.5
Arizona	139.3	2,596.6	5.4	769	2.5
Arkansas	78.3	1,168.4	1.8	633	1.6
California	1,261.8	15,515.7	2.4	944	1.6
Colorado	170.1	2,234.8	2.4	835	0.5
Connecticut	110.8	1,671.0	0.6	1,080	2.2
Delaware	29.6	422.9	1.1	937	6.2
District of Columbia	30.9	673.5	1.0	1,354	4.9
Florida	573.6	7,999.0	3.5	752	1.9
Georgia	258.9	4,007.3	2.5	794	2.7
Hawaii	36.8	619.6	2.7	736	1.8
Idaho	53.1	625.5	4.6	628	1.6
Illinois	342.9	5,830.1	1.0	887	1.1
Indiana	154.2	2,906.4	0.8	705	-0.1
Iowa	91.8	1,465.0	1.6	672	0.7
Kansas	84.1	1,325.6	0.7	680	1.6
Kentucky	107.3	1,783.6	1.2	682	0.1
Louisiana	120.9	1,783.8	-5.5	710	7.4
Maine	48.7	598.2	-0.6	662	0.3
Maryland	160.1	2,540.2	1.3	910	3.5
Massachusetts	208.4	3,206.4	0.9	1,026	2.0
Michigan	255.9	4,320.9	-0.6	835	0.0
Minnesota	168.5	2,687.5	1.8	808	-3.2
Mississippi	68.2	1,114.5	-0.2	614	4.6
Missouri	171.6	2,700.9	1.2	723	2.0
Montana	40.6	418.9	2.4	591	3.3
Nebraska	57.4	900.2	0.9	663	2.3
Nevada	68.8	1,253.2	5.7	775	0.9
New Hampshire	48.1	630.8	1.0	848	1.1
New Jersey	274.0	3,988.9	0.9	1,011	0.8
New Mexico	51.1	793.2	2.5	658	2.0
New York	564.7	8,531.8	0.8	1,048	2.9
North Carolina	236.1	3,916.7	1.7	718	0.4
North Dakota	25.1	332.7	2.0	614	2.3
Ohio	289.9	5,359.4	0.2	751	-0.4
Oklahoma	94.9	1,502.5	2.8	642	2.4
Oregon	125.6	1,686.0	3.8	728	1.3
Pennsylvania	332.4	5,619.5	0.8	801	0.6
Rhode Island	35.7	483.6	0.3	787	2.7
South Carolina	120.9	1,830.0	1.0	666	1.7
South Dakota	29.4	378.6	2.0	589	1.4
Tennessee	133.4	2,742.6	1.5	736	1.2
Texas	525.4	9,821.7	3.5	823	3.0
Utah	84.0	1,149.3	4.4	687	3.5
Vermont	24.7	308.1	1.1	684	1.0
Virginia	216.0	3,637.5	1.9	855	1.7
Washington	213.4	2,794.2	3.0	804	1.8
West Virginia	48.0	704.3	1.2	627	1.1
Wisconsin	163.1	2,773.4	0.6	713	-0.8

See footnotes at end of table.

Table 4. Covered¹ establishments, employment, and wages by state, fourth quarter 2005² — Continued

State	Establishments, fourth quarter 2005 (thousands)	Employment		Average weekly wage ³	
		December 2005 (thousands)	Percent change, December 2004-05	Average weekly wage	Percent change, fourth quarter 2004-05
Wyoming	23.2	258.4	4.1	\$678	5.8
Puerto Rico	57.8	1,093.7	-0.5	474	1.7
Virgin Islands	3.5	44.9	2.0	664	0.5

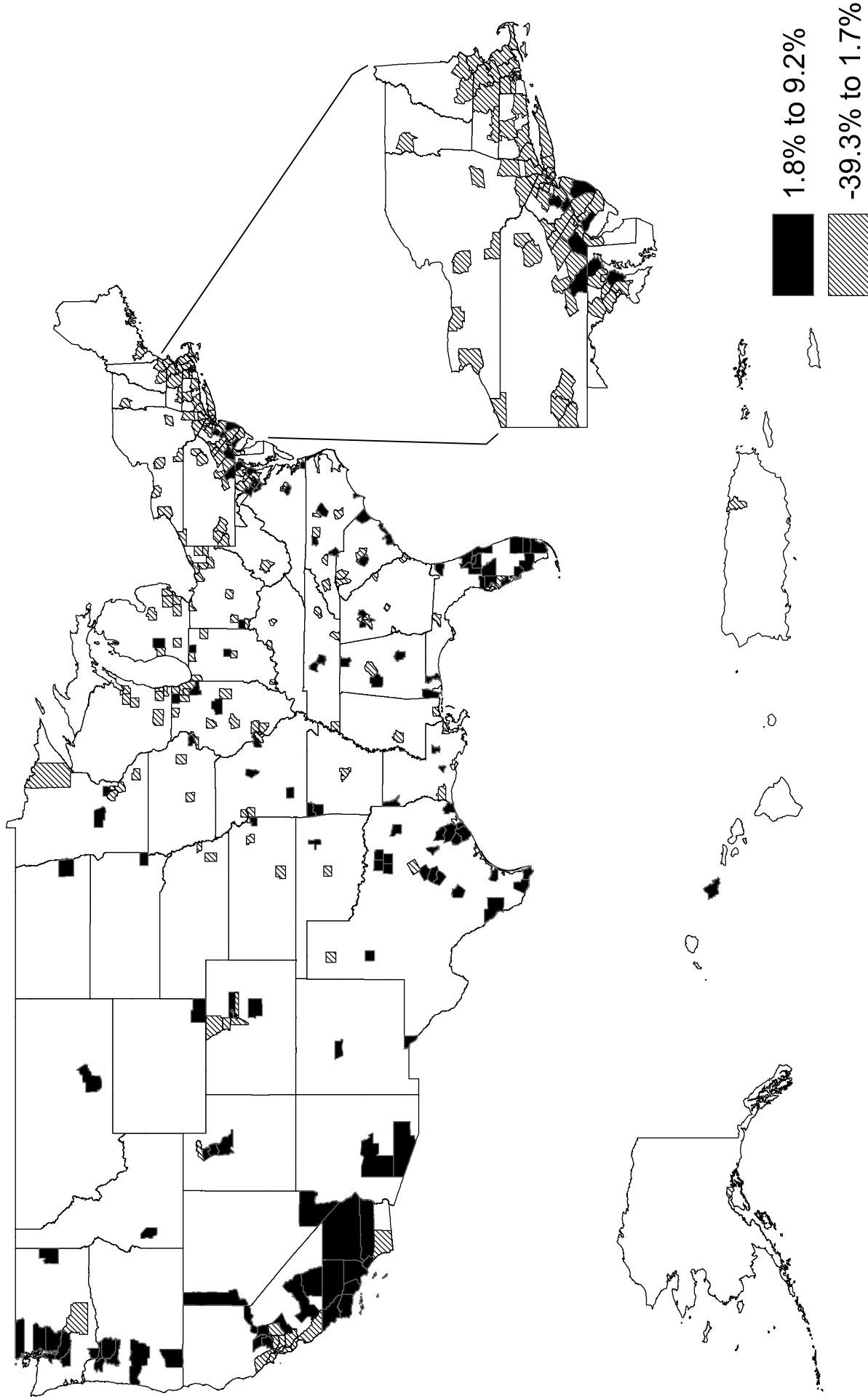
¹ Includes workers covered by Unemployment Insurance (UI) and Unemployment Compensation for Federal Employees (UCFE) programs.

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.

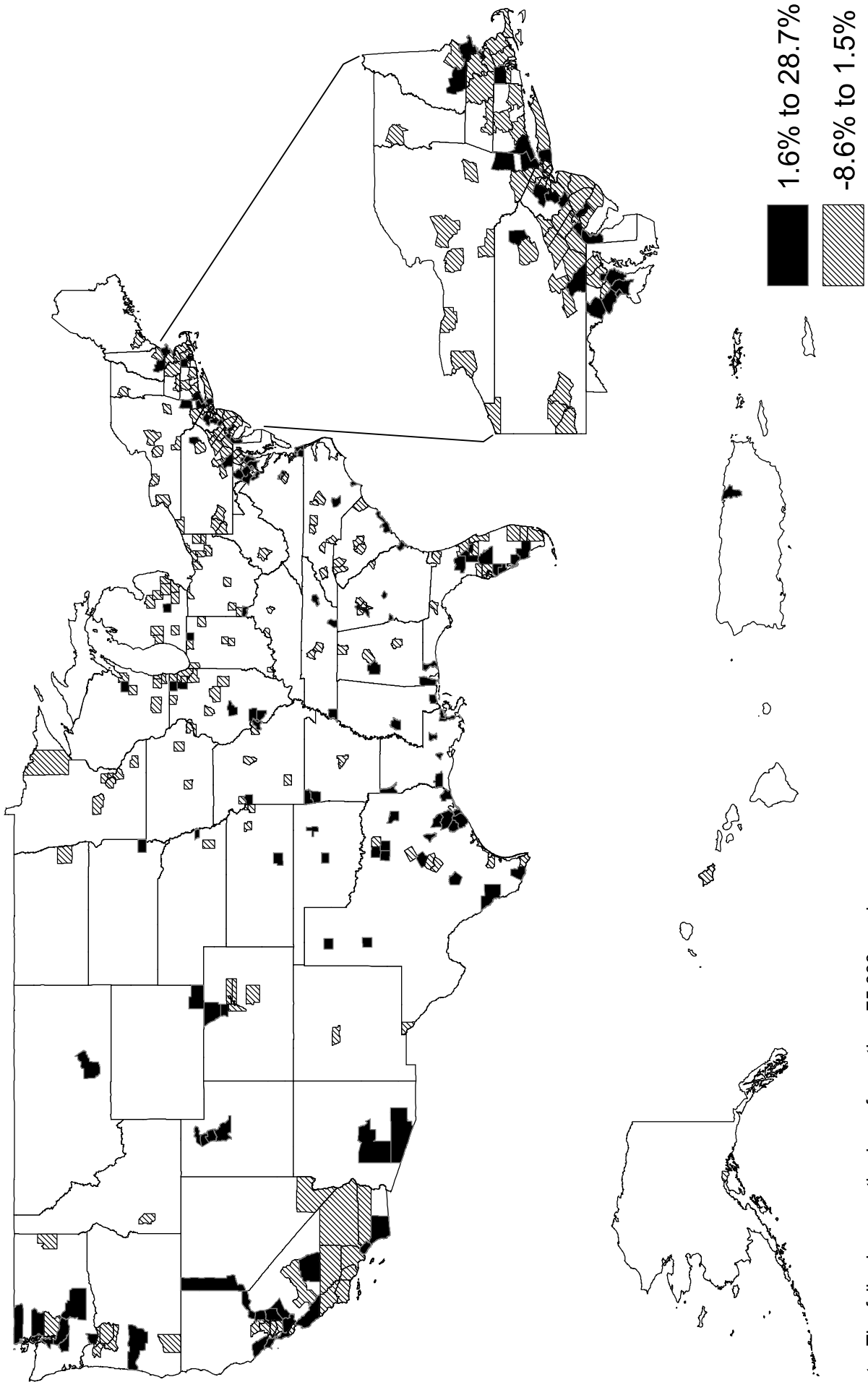
Chart 1. Percent change in employment in counties with 75,000 employees or more, December 2004–05 (U.S. Average = 1.7%)



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 2006

Chart 2. Percent change in average weekly wage in counties with 75,000 employees or more, fourth quarter 2004–05 (U.S. Average = 1.5%)



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 2006