

# NEWS

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BUREAU OF LABOR STATISTICS



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## **COUNTY EMPLOYMENT AND WAGES IN FLORIDA: THIRD QUARTER 2007** **Duval County has highest average wage and fastest wage growth in Florida**

The average weekly wage in Duval County increased 6.7 percent over the year, the largest advance among Florida's 22 counties with 75,000 or more jobs as measured by 2006 annual average employment, the Bureau of Labor Statistics of the U.S. Department of Labor reported today. Palm Beach County's 6.3-percent wage growth was the second fastest in the State. Duval County also had the highest average weekly wage level in Florida at \$833, followed by Miami-Dade County (\$826) and Palm Beach County (\$807). All three of these counties were located along Florida's Atlantic coast. Regional Commissioner Janet S. Rankin noted that among the State's large counties, 4 recorded wage growth above the national rate of 4.3 percent and only 2 had wages above the national average of \$818. (See table 1.)

Among the 22 largest counties in Florida, employment was highest in Miami-Dade County (1,012,400) and lowest in Lake County (82,900) in September 2007. Only two of Florida's large counties—Alachua and Orange—recorded employment gains greater than the 0.9 national average from September 2006 to September 2007. In fact, 15 of the State's large counties recorded a decline in employment, ranging from -5.4 percent in Collier County to -0.1 percent in Escambia County.

### **County Wage Levels**

Only 2 of Florida's 22 largest counties—Duval and Miami-Dade—registered an average weekly wage higher than the national average. These two counties fell into the top half of the national ranking among the nation's 328 large counties placing them 98<sup>th</sup> and 109<sup>th</sup>, respectively. Four other counties in the State also ranked in the top half: Palm Beach (\$807/122<sup>nd</sup>), Hillsborough (\$778/149<sup>th</sup>), Broward (\$774/153<sup>rd</sup>), and Brevard (\$771/156<sup>th</sup>). (See table 2.) At the other end of the spectrum, four of Florida's large counties ranked among the lowest in the nation, with wages at least 25 percent below the national average: Lake (\$595/318<sup>th</sup>), Volusia and Marion (\$594/319<sup>th</sup> each), and Pasco (\$584/323<sup>rd</sup>). Nationwide, only five counties had wages lower than Pasco County: Webb, Hidalgo, and Cameron, all in Texas, Yakima, Wash.; and Horry, S.C. Overall, 215 of the largest counties nationwide recorded an average weekly wage below the national level.

Average weekly wages were higher than the nationwide average in 112 of the largest 328 U.S. counties. Santa Clara, Calif., recorded the highest average weekly wage at \$1,585. New York County, N.Y., ranked second at \$1,544, followed by Washington, D.C. (\$1,376), Arlington, Va. (\$1,364), and San Mateo, Calif. (\$1,322). Three of the top 10 counties with the highest wages in the U.S. were located in the greater New York metropolitan area (New York, N.Y., Fairfield, Conn., and Somerset, N.J.), 3 were located in or around the San Francisco, California area (Santa Clara, San Mateo, and San Francisco), and 3 were located in the Washington, D.C. metropolitan area (Arlington, Va., Washington, D.C., and Fairfax, Va.). Rounding out the top 10 was Suffolk County, Mass., part of the Boston metropolitan area.

### **County Wage Changes**

Four counties in Florida had over-the-year wage growth that ranked in the top quarter among the nation's 328 largest counties—Duval (6.7 percent/18<sup>th</sup>), Palm Beach (6.3/27<sup>th</sup>), Okaloosa (5.0/67<sup>th</sup>), and Brevard (4.8/79<sup>th</sup>). Five other counties—Seminole, Marion, Alachua, Polk, and Lake—had wage growth of less than 2.0 percent. Only one county in the State, Pasco, experienced a decline in wages from the third quarter of 2006 to the third quarter of 2007, down 0.5 percent, placing it 308<sup>th</sup> in the national ranking.

Among the 328 large counties in the nation, Clayton County, Ga., led the nation in wage growth with an increase of 23.9 percent from the third quarter of 2006. Muscogee, Ga., was second with 12.1 percent growth, followed by the counties of Santa Clara, Calif. (11.8 percent), Rock Island, Ill. (11.5 percent), and Davidson, Tenn. (9.1 percent). Overall, 101 of the largest counties had a wage increase that exceeded the national growth rate of 4.3 percent.

Ten of the nation's largest counties experienced a decrease in wages in the third quarter of 2007. Trumbull County, Ohio, recorded the largest decline, down 10.6 percent over the past year, followed by Vanderburgh, Ind. (-6.1 percent), Genesee, Mich. (-4.0 percent), Saginaw, Mich. (-3.1) percent, and Montgomery, Ohio (-3.0 percent).

### **State Average Weekly Wages**

At the state level, the average weekly wage in Florida grew 4.1 percent from the third quarter of 2006 to the third quarter of 2007, placing it in the middle of the national ranking at 25<sup>th</sup>. The states with the fastest wage growth were Washington (6.7 percent), Connecticut (6.6 percent), and New York (6.1 percent). (See table 2.) Only Rhode Island experienced a decline in wages over the year, down 0.1 percent.

Florida's average weekly wage of \$741 was 10 percent below the national average. This placed the State in the middle of the national ranking at 26<sup>th</sup> among the 50 states and the District of Columbia. (See table 2.) Florida's average weekly wage was lower than neighboring Georgia's (\$782/21<sup>st</sup>), but higher than Alabama's (\$707/32<sup>nd</sup>).

The five highest wage levels in the country were the District of Columbia (\$1,376), Connecticut (\$1,021), New York (1,009), Massachusetts (\$1,002), and New Jersey (\$965).

Average weekly wages in the top five were at least 18 percent above the national average. At the other end of the scale, three states reported wages at least 75 percent below that for the nation: Montana (\$608), Mississippi (\$607), and South Dakota (\$598). (See table 2.)

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 employers subject to state and federal unemployment insurance (UI) laws. The 9.0 million employer reports cover 136.2 million full- and part-time workers. The average weekly wage values are calculated by dividing quarterly total wages by the average of the three monthly employment levels of those covered by UI programs; this result is then divided by 13, the number of weeks in a quarter. It is to be noted, therefore, that over-the-year wage changes for geographic areas may reflect shifts in the composition of employment by industry, occupation, and such other factors as hours of work. Thus, wages may vary among counties, metropolitan areas, or States for reasons other than changes in the average wage level. Data for all states, Metropolitan Statistical Areas (MSAs), counties, and the nation are available on the BLS Web site at [www.bls.gov/cew](http://www.bls.gov/cew); however, data in QCEW press releases have been revised (see Technical Note below) and may not match the data contained on the Bureau's Web site.

### **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 2006 edition of this bulletin will contain selected data produced by the Business Employment dynamics (BED) on job gains and losses, as well as selected data from the first quarter 2007 version of this news release. As with the 2005 edition, this edition includes the data on a CD for enhanced access and usability with the printed booklet containing selected graphic representation of QCEW data; the data tables themselves are published exclusively in electronic formats as PDFs. *Employment and Wages Annual Averages, 2006* is available for sale from the United States Government Printing Office, Superintendent of Documents, P.O. Box 371954, Pittsburgh, PA, 15250 or by calling 1-866-512-1800. Also, the 2006 bulletin is available in a portable document format (PDF) on the BLS Web site at [www.bls.gov/cew/cewbultn06.htm](http://www.bls.gov/cew/cewbultn06.htm). In addition, the quarterly press release, County Employment and Wages, presents employment and wage data for the largest counties in the U.S. and is available at [www.bls.gov/cew](http://www.bls.gov/cew).

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.

For personal assistance or further information on the Quarterly Census of Employment and Wages data, as well as other Bureau data, contact the Southeast Information Office at 404-893-4222 from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. and 1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. ET.

QCEW-based news releases issued by other regional offices have been placed at one convenient Web site location, [www.bls.gov/cew/cewregional.htm](http://www.bls.gov/cew/cewregional.htm).

### **TECHNICAL NOTE**

QCEW data are the sums of individual establishment records reflecting the number of establishments that exist in a county or industry at a point in time. For this reason, county and industry data are not designed to be used as a time series.

The preliminary QCEW data presented in this release may differ from data released by the individual states as well as from the data presented on the BLS Web site. The potential differences result from several causes. Differences between BLS and state published data may be due to the continuing receipt, review and editing of UI data over time. On the other hand, differences between data in this release and the data found on the BLS Web site are the result of adjustments made to improve over-the-year comparisons. Specifically, these adjustments account for administrative (noneconomic) changes such as a correction to a previously reported location or industry classification. Adjusting for these administrative changes allows users to more accurately assess changes of an economic nature (such as a firm moving from one county to another or changing its primary economic activity) over a 12-month period. Currently, adjusted data are available only from BLS press releases.

**Table 1. Covered (1) employment and wages in the United States and the 22 largest counties in Florida, third quarter 2007(2)**

Area	Employment		Average Weekly Wage (3)			
	September 2007 (thousands)	Percent change, third quarter 2006-07 (5)	Average weekly wage	National ranking by level (4)	Percent change, third quarter 2006-07 (5)	National ranking by percent change (4)
United States (6)	136,246.9	0.9	\$818	--	4.3	--
Florida	7,879.9	-0.9	741	26	4.1	25
Alachua, Fla.	128.8	1.7	689	264	1.6	279
Brevard, Fla.	201.6	-2.5	771	156	4.8	79
Broward, Fla.	747.5	-0.4	774	153	2.8	223
Collier, Fla.	124.0	-5.4	748	183	3.5	177
Duval, Fla.	465.1	0.4	833	98	6.7	18
Escambia, Fla.	130.8	-0.1	649	300	3.5	177
Hillsborough, Fla.	639.0	0.0	778	149	2.5	240
Lake, Fla.	82.9	0.3	595	318	1.0	292
Lee, Fla.	215.4	-3.7	703	243	2.0	267
Leon, Fla.	146.3	-0.2	724	209	4.3	102
Manatee, Fla.	121.7	-4.2	653	295	2.7	228
Marion, Fla.	101.5	-2.3	594	319	1.7	274
Miami-Dade, Fla.	1,012.4	0.4	826	109	4.3	102
Okaloosa, Fla.	81.9	-2.8	675	275	5.0	67
Orange, Fla.	686.4	1.0	756	169	3.8	140
Palm Beach, Fla.	547.0	0.1	807	122	6.3	27
Pasco, Fla.	99.2	-0.9	584	323	-0.5	308
Pinellas, Fla.	434.4	-2.1	709	234	4.3	102
Polk, Fla.	202.2	-1.3	655	294	1.2	288
Sarasota, Fla.	151.6	-4.3	701	247	3.7	149
Seminole, Fla.	177.8	-0.6	708	237	1.7	274
Volusia, Fla.	165.1	-1.4	594	319	2.4	248

(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) Ranking does not include the county of San Juan, Puerto Rico.

(5) Percent changes were computed from quarterly employment and pay data adjusted for noneconomic county reclassifications.

(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. Covered (1) employment and wages by state, third quarter 2007(2)**

State	Employment		Average weekly wage (3)			
	September 2007 (thousands)	Percent change, third quarter 2006-07	Average weekly wage	National ranking by level	Percent change, third quarter 2006-07	National ranking by percent change
United States (4)	136,246.9	0.9	\$818	-	4.3	-
Alabama	1,959.0	1.1	707	32	3.7	37
Alaska	327.3	0.7	840	13	5.4	9
Arizona	2,644.9	0.5	783	20	4.1	25
Arkansas	1,184.5	0.3	629	46	4.1	25
California	15,755.0	0.7	932	6	4.5	18
Colorado	2,314.3	2.4	844	12	3.2	42
Connecticut	1,696.9	1.0	1,021	2	6.6	2
Delaware	425.2	0.1	860	10	1.2	50
District of Columbia	679.0	0.6	1,376	1	5.3	12
Florida	7,879.9	-0.9	741	26	4.1	25
Georgia	4,089.4	1.2	782	21	4.1	25
Hawaii	624.4	0.3	760	22	5.4	9
Idaho	675.5	2.2	634	45	3.4	41
Illinois	5,917.6	0.6	866	9	4.0	32
Indiana	2,937.4	0.5	702	34	2.2	49
Iowa	1,494.5	0.9	668	40	4.2	22
Kansas	1,368.7	1.7	680	38	2.7	46
Kentucky	1,814.3	1.0	676	39	3.0	44
Louisiana	1,880.8	2.7	716	31	4.5	18
Maine	615.3	0.7	660	44	3.9	35
Maryland	2,563.7	0.7	892	7	4.1	25
Massachusetts	3,261.0	1.0	1,002	4	5.5	5
Michigan	4,218.2	-1.4	808	16	2.4	48
Minnesota	2,713.3	0.9	822	15	4.6	16
Mississippi	1,142.2	0.6	607	50	3.8	36
Missouri	2,746.7	0.8	719	29	4.2	22
Montana	446.1	2.7	608	49	4.6	16
Nebraska	922.7	1.7	666	41	5.4	9
Nevada	1,286.4	-0.1	792	19	5.5	5
New Hampshire	637.2	0.3	799	18	3.2	42
New Jersey	3,985.2	0.1	965	5	3.7	37
New Mexico	830.4	0.8	682	37	4.1	25
New York	8,585.3	1.3	1,009	3	6.1	3
North Carolina	4,104.1	2.4	719	29	3.5	40
North Dakota	347.4	1.5	621	48	5.8	4
Ohio	5,331.9	-0.2	745	25	2.8	45
Oklahoma	1,548.2	1.8	666	41	5.5	5
Oregon	1,751.7	1.2	750	24	4.2	22
Pennsylvania	5,673.4	0.5	802	17	4.4	20
Rhode Island	486.1	-1.0	759	23	-0.1	51
South Carolina	1,904.7	1.7	664	43	3.6	39
South Dakota	397.5	2.0	598	51	4.7	15
Tennessee	2,774.4	0.5	728	28	4.3	21
Texas	10,304.9	2.9	825	14	5.0	13
Utah	1,231.6	3.6	696	36	5.5	5
Vermont	305.2	-0.2	699	35	4.0	32
Virginia	3,686.6	1.0	857	11	5.0	13
Washington	2,976.5	2.1	878	8	6.7	1
West Virginia	713.8	0.3	623	47	4.0	32
Wisconsin	2,802.3	-0.1	705	33	2.6	47
Wyoming	284.3	3.6	734	27	4.1	25
Puerto Rico	1,008.0	-1.1	453	(5)	2.5	(5)
Virgin Islands	45.0	0.7	682	(5)	-0.3	(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.

(5) Data not included in the national ranking.