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COUNTY EMPLOYMENT AND WAGES
Fourth Quarter 2011

From December 2010 to December 2011, **employment** increased in 266 of the 322 largest U.S. counties, the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics reported today. Kern, Calif., posted the largest increase, with a gain of 5.3 percent over the year, compared with national job growth of 1.4 percent. Within Kern, the largest employment increase occurred in natural resources and mining, which gained 8,896 jobs over the year (16.7 percent). Benton, Wash., experienced the largest over-the-year decrease in employment among the largest counties in the U.S. with a loss of 3.4 percent.

The U.S. **average weekly wage** decreased over the year by 1.7 percent to \$955 in the fourth quarter of 2011. This is one of only five declines in the history of the series which dates back to 1978. (See Technical Note.) This is the only quarter in which the average weekly wage decline occurred while employment grew over the year and total wages decreased (-0.5 percent). Smaller bonus payments in the fourth quarter of 2011 contributed to the decrease in the average weekly wage. In contrast, the average weekly wage declines posted in the first two quarters of 2009 resulted from significant declines in both employment and wages. During this period, total wage declines were 5.0 percent or more, while employment losses were above 3.0 percent. In the fourth quarter of 2011, Olmsted, Minn., had the largest over-the-year decrease in average weekly wages with a loss of 21.3 percent. Within Olmsted, a total wage decline of \$287.3 million (-29.1 percent) in the education and health services industry had the largest impact on the county's decrease in average weekly wages.

Chart 1. Large counties ranked by percent increase in employment, December 2010-11
(U.S. average = 1.4 percent)

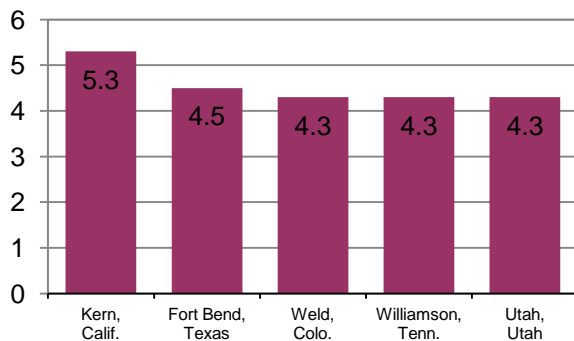


Chart 2. Large counties ranked by percent decrease in average weekly wages, fourth quarter 2010-11
(U.S. average = -1.7 percent)

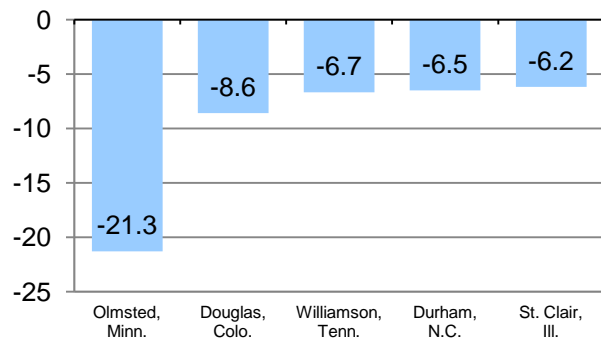


Table A. Large counties ranked by December 2011 employment, December 2010-11 employment increase, and December 2010-11 percent increase in employment

Employment in large counties					
December 2011 employment (thousands)		Increase in employment, December 2010-11 (thousands)		Percent increase in employment, December 2010-11	
United States	131,254.2	United States	1,782.4	United States	1.4
Los Angeles, Calif.	3,953.7	Harris, Texas	62.7	Kern, Calif.	5.3
Cook, Ill.	2,413.1	New York, N.Y.	51.9	Fort Bend, Texas	4.5
New York, N.Y.	2,387.3	Maricopa, Ariz.	41.6	Weld, Colo.	4.3
Harris, Texas	2,081.7	Dallas, Texas	32.2	Williamson, Tenn.	4.3
Maricopa, Ariz.	1,683.7	Cook, Ill.	31.1	Utah, Utah	4.3
Dallas, Texas	1,460.4	Los Angeles, Calif.	27.5	Washington, Pa.	4.0
Orange, Calif.	1,390.2	King, Wash.	26.9	Rutherford, Tenn.	4.0
San Diego, Calif.	1,264.2	Hennepin, Minn.	23.4	Montgomery, Texas	4.0
King, Wash.	1,156.6	Oakland, Mich.	22.2	Harford, Md.	3.9
Miami-Dade, Fla.	996.2	Miami-Dade, Fla.	21.1	Webb, Texas	3.9

Tulsa, Okla., experienced the largest increase in average weekly wages with a gain of 8.6 percent over the year. County employment and wage data are compiled under the Quarterly Census of Employment and Wages (QCEW) program.

Large County Employment

In December 2011, **national employment**, as measured by the QCEW program, was 131.3 million, up by 1.4 percent or 1.8 million jobs, from December 2010. The 322 U.S. counties with 75,000 or more jobs accounted for 70.7 percent of total U.S. employment and 76.4 percent of total wages. These 322 counties had a net job growth of 1.2 million over the year, accounting for 68.8 percent of the overall U.S. employment increase. (See chart 3.)

Kern, Calif., had the largest percentage increase in employment among the largest U.S. counties (5.3 percent). The five counties with the largest increases in employment level were Harris, Texas; New York, N.Y.; Maricopa, Ariz.; Dallas, Texas; and Cook, Ill. These counties had a combined over-the-year gain of 219,500, or 12.3 percent of the overall employment increase for the U.S.

Employment declined in 46 of the large counties from December 2010 to December 2011. Benton, Wash., had the largest over-the-year percentage decrease in employment (-3.4 percent). Within Benton, professional and business services was the largest contributor to the decrease in employment with a loss of 2,280 jobs (-9.5 percent). St. Clair, Ill., had the second largest employment decrease, followed by Jackson, Ore.; Frederick, Md.; and Monmouth, N.J. (See table 1.)

Table B. Large counties ranked by fourth quarter 2011 average weekly wages, fourth quarter 2010-11 decrease in average weekly wages, and fourth quarter 2010-11 percent decrease in average weekly wages

Average weekly wage in large counties					
Average weekly wage, fourth quarter 2011		Decrease in average weekly wage, fourth quarter 2010-11		Percent decrease in average weekly wage, fourth quarter 2010-11	
United States	\$955	United States	-\$17	United States	-1.7
New York, N.Y.	\$1,889	Olmsted, Minn.	-\$279	Olmsted, Minn.	-21.3
Santa Clara, Calif.	1,836	Santa Clara, Calif.	-111	Douglas, Colo.	-8.6
Washington, D.C.	1,668	Douglas, Colo.	-100	Williamson, Tenn.	-6.7
Suffolk, Mass.	1,599	Durham, N.C.	-84	Durham, N.C.	-6.5
San Francisco, Calif.	1,597	Arlington, Va.	-84	St. Clair, Ill.	-6.2
Arlington, Va.	1,591	Fairfield, Conn.	-77	Kitsap, Wash.	-6.0
Fairfield, Conn.	1,589	Williamson, Tenn.	-75	Santa Clara, Calif.	-5.7
San Mateo, Calif.	1,556	Somerset, N.J.	-74	Vanderburgh, Ind.	-5.6
Fairfax, Va.	1,519	Loudoun, Va.	-60	Williamson, Texas	-5.3
Alexandria City, Va.	1,434	Denver, Colo.	-59	Somerset, N.J.	-5.0
				Arlington, Va.	-5.0
				Loudoun, Va.	-5.0

Large County Average Weekly Wages

Average weekly wages for the nation decreased by 1.7 percent during the year ending in the fourth quarter of 2011. Among the 322 largest counties, 282 had over-the-year declines in average weekly wages. (See chart 4.) Olmsted, Minn., had the largest wage loss among the largest U.S. counties (-21.3 percent). This decline reflects a return to normal pay in 2011 following a big payout in education and health services in the fourth quarter of 2010.

Of the 322 largest counties, 36 experienced over-the-year increases in average weekly wages. Tulsa, Okla., had the largest average weekly wage increase with a gain of 8.6 percent. An acquisition within professional and business services resulted in large payouts in the fourth quarter of 2011, which significantly boosted the county's average weekly wage. Total wages in this industry in Tulsa increased by \$219.4 million (33.3 percent) over the year. Harford, Md., had the second largest increase in average weekly wages, followed by Lake, Ohio; Snohomish, Wash.; and Westmoreland, Pa. (See table 1.)

Ten Largest U.S. Counties

All of the 10 largest counties experienced over-the-year percentage increases in **employment** in December 2011. Harris, Texas, experienced the largest gain in employment (3.1 percent). Within Harris, professional and business services had the largest over-the-year level increase among all private industry groups with a gain of 16,195 jobs (5.0 percent). Orange, Calif., had the smallest percent increase in employment among the 10 largest counties. (See table 2.)

Eight of the 10 largest U.S. counties had an over-the-year decrease in **average weekly wages**. San Diego, Calif., experienced the largest decrease in average weekly wages with a loss of 3.6 percent,

largely due to significant total wage declines over the year in financial activities (-\$226.6 million or -17.3 percent). King, Wash., had the largest average weekly wage increase.

For More Information

The tables and charts included in this release contain data for the nation and for the 322 U.S. counties with annual average employment levels of 75,000 or more in 2010. December 2011 employment and 2011 fourth quarter average weekly wages for all states are provided in table 3 of this release.

The employment and wage data by county are compiled under the 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 9.2 million employer reports cover 131.3 million full- and part-time workers. For additional information about the quarterly employment and wages data, please read the Technical Note. Data for the fourth quarter of 2011 will be available later at <http://www.bls.gov/cew/>. Additional information about the QCEW data may be obtained by calling (202) 691-6567.

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>.

The County Employment and Wages release for first quarter 2012 is scheduled to be released on Thursday, September 27, 2012.

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. QCEW data in this release are based on the 2012 North American Industry Classification System. Data for 2011 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 2010 preliminary annual averages of employment. For 2011 data, four counties, Okaloosa, Fla., Rock Island, Ill., St. Tammany, La., and Potter, Texas, which were published in the 2010 releases, will be excluded from this and future 2011 releases because their 2010 annual average employment levels were less than 75,000.

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 9.1 million establishments in first quarter of 2011 	<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: 486,000 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 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – 7 months after the end of each quarter 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Quarterly <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – 8 months after the end of each quarter 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Monthly <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – 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, and at the state private-sector total level Future expansions will include data with greater industry detail and data at the county and MSA 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/

No counties have been added to the publication tables. 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 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.) Additional information on each program can be obtained from the program Web sites shown in the table.

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 submitted by four major federal payroll processing centers on behalf of all federal agencies, with the exception of a few agencies which still report directly to the individual SWA. 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. QCEW employment and wage data are derived from microdata summaries of 9.0 million employer reports of employment and wages submitted by states to the BLS in 2010. These reports are based on place of employment rather than place of residence.

UI and UCFE coverage is broad and has been basically comparable from state to state since 1978, when the 1976 amendments to the Federal Unemployment Tax Act became effective, expanding coverage to include most State and local government employees. In 2010, UI and UCFE programs covered workers in 127.8 million jobs. The estimated 123.2 million workers in these jobs (after adjustment for multiple jobholders) represented 95.3 percent of civilian wage and salary employment. Covered workers received \$5.976 trillion in pay, representing 93.3 percent of the wage and salary component of personal income and 41.1 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 employ-

ers covered under the UI program. Coverage changes may affect the over-the-year comparisons presented in this news release.

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 4-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 2010 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. Beginning with the first quarter of 2008, adjusted data 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

Employment and Wages Annual Averages Online features comprehensive information by detailed industry on establishments, employment, and wages for the nation and all states. The 2010 edition of this publication, which was published in November 2011, contains selected data produced by Business Employment Dynamics (BED) on job gains and losses, as well as selected data from the first quarter 2011 version of this news release. Tables and additional content from *Employment and Wages Annual Averages 2010* are now available online at <http://www.bls.gov/cew/cewbultn10.htm>. The 2011 edition of *Employment and Wages Annual Averages Online* will be available later in 2012.

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 2011²

County ³	Establishments, fourth quarter 2011 (thousands)	Employment			Average weekly wage ⁴		
		December 2011 (thousands)	Percent change, December 2010-11 ⁵	Ranking by percent change	Fourth quarter 2011	Percent change, fourth quarter 2010-11 ⁵	Ranking by percent change
United States ⁶	9,178.6	131,254.2	1.4	—	\$955	-1.7	—
Jefferson, AL	17.7	334.7	0.9	172	964	-0.8	80
Madison, AL	8.9	179.1	-0.5	291	1,077	-0.6	67
Mobile, AL	9.8	165.6	-0.9	306	876	1.9	9
Montgomery, AL	6.3	128.5	-0.7	303	877	0.5	28
Tuscaloosa, AL	4.2	84.5	1.0	156	828	-0.4	55
Anchorage Borough, AK	8.3	152.1	1.6	97	1,015	-1.2	109
Maricopa, AZ	96.1	1,683.7	2.5	42	929	-1.0	95
Pima, AZ	19.0	348.9	0.1	256	828	-1.9	167
Benton, AR	5.5	95.8	2.0	78	869	2.7	6
Pulaski, AR	15.1	246.5	0.3	238	869	-0.5	58
Washington, AR	5.6	92.3	1.9	83	828	(7)	—
Alameda, CA	57.5	641.2	1.6	97	1,212	-3.8	280
Contra Costa, CA	30.6	319.5	0.7	191	1,139	-2.9	240
Fresno, CA	31.5	329.2	0.6	205	751	-1.8	157
Kern, CA	18.3	285.2	5.3	1	826	-0.8	80
Los Angeles, CA	447.9	3,953.7	0.7	191	1,124	-3.2	258
Marin, CA	12.0	105.1	2.3	52	1,181	-1.1	105
Monterey, CA	13.2	147.5	2.1	70	799	-2.9	240
Orange, CA	106.1	1,390.2	0.6	205	1,080	-3.1	254
Placer, CA	11.1	128.0	2.1	70	935	-2.7	232
Riverside, CA	51.3	565.1	0.6	205	759	-1.6	137
Sacramento, CA	55.1	575.4	-0.2	283	1,042	-1.4	121
San Bernardino, CA	52.6	609.6	0.2	248	811	-1.6	137
San Diego, CA	102.3	1,264.2	1.0	156	1,041	-3.6	275
San Francisco, CA	56.7	572.3	3.3	20	1,597	0.8	24
San Joaquin, CA	17.9	200.0	0.9	172	799	-3.0	247
San Luis Obispo, CA	9.9	100.0	1.1	144	798	-2.0	176
San Mateo, CA	24.9	333.9	2.5	42	1,556	0.1	36
Santa Barbara, CA	14.8	173.6	2.5	42	894	-2.6	224
Santa Clara, CA	64.3	883.0	2.3	52	1,836	-5.7	313
Santa Cruz, CA	9.3	86.1	-0.9	306	860	-0.2	45
Solano, CA	10.3	120.7	0.5	222	925	-3.6	275
Sonoma, CA	19.4	177.9	0.6	205	895	-3.0	247
Stanislaus, CA	15.4	158.2	0.7	191	775	-2.1	185
Tulare, CA	9.6	140.4	0.9	172	669	-0.6	67
Ventura, CA	24.5	301.5	0.6	205	954	-3.1	254
Yolo, CA	6.2	87.7	0.8	179	922	-4.9	307
Adams, CO	8.8	156.3	1.2	130	860	-2.4	212
Arapahoe, CO	18.7	282.8	3.3	20	1,108	-1.4	121
Boulder, CO	12.9	158.8	2.6	38	1,114	-0.6	67
Denver, CO	25.4	429.3	2.2	63	1,162	-4.8	305
Douglas, CO	9.4	93.5	2.9	30	1,065	-8.6	318
El Paso, CO	16.7	236.5	1.0	156	870	-2.1	185
Jefferson, CO	17.7	208.0	2.0	78	976	-3.9	283
Larimer, CO	10.0	130.2	2.5	42	857	-0.1	38
Weld, CO	5.8	83.2	4.3	3	808	-1.5	126
Fairfield, CT	32.5	412.7	1.5	109	1,589	-4.6	300
Hartford, CT	25.4	495.5	0.7	191	1,145	-2.5	220
New Haven, CT	22.3	356.3	1.0	156	1,006	-3.2	258
New London, CT	6.9	123.5	-1.1	311	953	-0.4	55

See footnotes at end of table.

Table 1. Covered¹ establishments, employment, and wages in the 323 largest counties, fourth quarter 2011²—Continued

County ³	Establishments, fourth quarter 2011 (thousands)	Employment			Average weekly wage ⁴		
		December 2011 (thousands)	Percent change, December 2010-11 ⁵	Ranking by percent change	Fourth quarter 2011	Percent change, fourth quarter 2010-11 ⁵	Ranking by percent change
New Castle, DE	17.1	270.4	0.8	179	\$1,102	-1.6	137
Washington, DC	36.4	708.0	1.3	119	1,668	-1.2	109
Alachua, FL	6.5	116.1	0.2	248	825	-1.2	109
Brevard, FL	14.4	189.6	0.3	238	863	-4.7	303
Broward, FL	63.1	701.2	0.8	179	891	-3.4	267
Collier, FL	11.7	122.9	2.1	70	809	-4.3	294
Duval, FL	26.9	444.1	0.5	222	900	-4.1	289
Escambia, FL	7.8	120.2	0.0	267	765	-0.9	88
Hillsborough, FL	37.5	587.1	1.3	119	920	-2.3	202
Lake, FL	7.2	80.0	0.6	205	649	-1.5	126
Lee, FL	18.5	201.1	1.1	144	761	-2.1	185
Leon, FL	8.2	138.9	-0.6	298	807	-2.7	232
Manatee, FL	9.2	107.3	3.3	20	736	-0.8	80
Marion, FL	7.9	89.9	-0.6	298	672	-1.0	95
Miami-Dade, FL	87.8	996.2	2.2	63	939	-2.5	220
Orange, FL	35.9	672.5	2.0	78	828	-4.1	289
Palm Beach, FL	49.4	511.7	2.4	48	931	-4.8	305
Pasco, FL	9.9	100.0	-0.1	275	666	-2.8	238
Pinellas, FL	30.6	382.4	0.6	205	884	-1.6	137
Polk, FL	12.4	192.7	-1.5	314	718	-0.8	80
Sarasota, FL	14.4	137.5	2.1	70	800	-1.8	157
Seminole, FL	13.8	157.2	1.1	144	781	-2.1	185
Volusia, FL	13.2	149.9	-0.1	275	673	-2.3	202
Bibb, GA	4.6	80.6	1.3	119	742	-2.2	195
Chatham, GA	7.7	131.2	1.1	144	806	-1.9	167
Clayton, GA	4.3	102.0	0.0	267	823	-0.5	58
Cobb, GA	21.1	297.0	1.9	83	975	-3.1	254
De Kalb, GA	17.8	278.6	1.2	130	979	-1.0	95
Fulton, GA	41.2	735.5	1.8	89	1,238	-3.9	283
Gwinnett, GA	24.0	305.4	1.6	97	922	-2.6	224
Muscogee, GA	4.7	94.1	1.1	144	761	-2.6	224
Richmond, GA	4.7	98.9	0.2	248	804	-2.1	185
Honolulu, HI	24.6	446.3	1.2	130	882	-1.5	126
Ada, ID	13.9	197.7	2.4	48	833	-4.0	286
Champaign, IL	4.2	87.4	-0.5	291	786	-0.6	67
Cook, IL	147.3	2,413.1	1.3	119	1,122	-2.9	240
Du Page, IL	37.0	570.9	2.2	63	1,112	-1.1	105
Kane, IL	13.3	192.5	0.2	248	863	-0.9	88
Lake, IL	21.9	313.6	0.1	256	1,208	-4.5	298
McHenry, IL	8.6	92.4	-0.6	298	820	0.6	26
McLean, IL	3.8	86.2	0.3	238	937	1.5	11
Madison, IL	6.0	94.9	-0.7	303	791	-1.5	126
Peoria, IL	4.7	102.6	0.4	231	926	0.3	32
St. Clair, IL	5.6	96.6	-2.9	319	796	-6.2	315
Sangamon, IL	5.3	130.5	0.8	179	956	-0.1	38
Will, IL	14.9	201.4	1.1	144	827	-4.4	296
Winnebago, IL	6.8	125.8	0.1	256	815	-1.5	126
Allen, IN	9.0	174.6	1.0	156	775	-0.9	88
Elkhart, IN	4.9	104.6	3.8	11	717	-2.4	212
Hamilton, IN	8.4	112.9	3.4	19	877	-4.2	292

See footnotes at end of table.

Table 1. Covered¹ establishments, employment, and wages in the 323 largest counties, fourth quarter 2011²—Continued

County ³	Establishments, fourth quarter 2011 (thousands)	Employment			Average weekly wage ⁴		
		December 2011 (thousands)	Percent change, December 2010-11 ⁵	Ranking by percent change	Fourth quarter 2011	Percent change, fourth quarter 2010-11 ⁵	Ranking by percent change
Lake, IN	10.4	188.4	2.1	70	\$868	0.7	25
Marion, IN	23.9	558.9	1.7	94	948	-1.9	167
St. Joseph, IN	6.0	117.7	1.5	109	763	-4.5	298
Vanderburgh, IN	4.9	107.0	2.0	78	786	-5.6	312
Linn, IA	6.2	126.8	0.6	205	942	1.5	11
Polk, IA	14.7	270.2	1.8	89	940	-3.2	258
Scott, IA	5.2	87.8	1.6	97	799	-0.2	45
Johnson, KS	22.0	308.0	2.4	48	985	-1.0	95
Sedgwick, KS	12.7	240.9	0.2	248	877	-2.6	224
Shawnee, KS	5.0	94.9	-0.3	286	789	-1.6	137
Wyandotte, KS	3.4	81.6	1.0	156	875	-2.1	185
Fayette, KY	9.3	179.5	(7)	—	836	-1.9	167
Jefferson, KY	22.0	420.1	0.5	222	915	-1.0	95
Caddo, LA	7.4	122.3	0.0	267	812	-0.5	58
Calcasieu, LA	4.8	82.0	-0.5	291	817	0.6	26
East Baton Rouge, LA	14.4	257.9	1.1	144	888	-3.0	247
Jefferson, LA	13.6	193.9	-0.9	306	896	-1.9	167
Lafayette, LA	8.9	136.2	2.7	33	951	-0.2	45
Orleans, LA	10.9	177.1	2.6	38	987	-4.6	300
Cumberland, ME	12.6	171.1	0.7	191	865	-1.1	105
Anne Arundel, MD	14.3	235.4	2.8	32	1,025	-2.3	202
Baltimore, MD	20.8	366.8	0.5	222	988	-3.4	267
Frederick, MD	6.1	91.5	-2.0	317	943	-2.5	220
Harford, MD	5.5	86.0	3.9	9	996	5.8	2
Howard, MD	8.9	153.4	2.2	63	1,159	-2.4	212
Montgomery, MD	32.4	456.5	1.0	156	1,324	-0.5	58
Prince Georges, MD	15.3	303.4	-0.4	288	1,009	-2.6	224
Baltimore City, MD	13.7	332.1	0.8	179	1,114	-3.6	275
Barnstable, MA	9.3	83.2	0.1	256	828	-1.3	119
Bristol, MA	16.5	212.3	0.3	238	856	-0.5	58
Essex, MA	22.2	302.5	1.4	115	1,024	-1.8	157
Hampden, MA	15.5	197.2	0.5	222	864	-2.0	176
Middlesex, MA	50.6	824.0	1.0	156	1,376	-3.0	247
Norfolk, MA	24.2	323.8	1.2	130	1,159	-2.1	185
Plymouth, MA	14.4	173.9	0.6	205	903	-1.2	109
Suffolk, MA	23.9	593.5	2.2	63	1,599	-2.9	240
Worcester, MA	22.0	319.5	1.3	119	965	-0.2	45
Genesee, MI	7.1	130.3	0.9	172	829	-0.1	38
Ingham, MI	6.2	155.2	0.1	256	899	-3.2	258
Kalamazoo, MI	5.2	108.3	0.4	231	862	-2.0	176
Kent, MI	13.6	327.8	3.6	14	854	-1.7	151
Macomb, MI	16.6	287.4	2.0	78	999	1.1	19
Oakland, MI	36.6	650.0	3.5	17	1,104	-1.6	137
Ottawa, MI	5.4	105.0	3.6	14	833	-0.6	67
Saginaw, MI	4.0	83.4	2.3	52	786	-1.5	126
Washtenaw, MI	7.8	194.9	0.5	222	993	-1.6	137
Wayne, MI	30.4	684.9	2.3	52	1,075	1.2	16
Anoka, MN	7.2	109.4	3.1	24	867	-3.1	254
Dakota, MN	9.7	171.5	1.2	130	900	-4.7	303
Hennepin, MN	43.6	842.8	2.9	30	1,157	-4.6	300
Olmsted, MN	3.4	89.0	2.1	70	1,032	-21.3	319

See footnotes at end of table.

Table 1. Covered¹ establishments, employment, and wages in the 323 largest counties, fourth quarter 2011²—Continued

County ³	Establishments, fourth quarter 2011 (thousands)	Employment			Average weekly wage ⁴		
		December 2011 (thousands)	Percent change, December 2010-11 ⁵	Ranking by percent change	Fourth quarter 2011	Percent change, fourth quarter 2010-11 ⁵	Ranking by percent change
Ramsey, MN	13.9	321.3	1.8	89	\$1,027	-3.9	283
St. Louis, MN	5.6	93.3	-0.1	275	772	-1.2	109
Stearns, MN	4.3	80.6	2.3	52	756	-0.5	58
Harrison, MS	4.5	82.5	0.0	267	685	-3.5	274
Hinds, MS	6.1	122.8	0.1	256	828	-2.2	195
Boone, MO	4.5	85.4	3.5	17	732	-1.2	109
Clay, MO	5.0	89.4	0.0	267	884	-0.1	38
Greene, MO	8.0	151.8	2.5	42	709	-2.6	224
Jackson, MO	18.4	344.0	0.5	222	961	-2.0	176
St. Charles, MO	8.2	125.4	2.3	52	746	-1.2	109
St. Louis, MO	32.0	569.5	0.4	231	1,017	-2.9	240
St. Louis City, MO	9.1	218.9	1.3	119	1,029	-1.5	126
Yellowstone, MT	6.0	77.5	2.7	33	803	-0.1	38
Douglas, NE	16.1	315.7	0.1	256	858	-2.6	224
Lancaster, NE	8.3	156.2	1.2	130	763	-0.9	88
Clark, NV	47.8	807.9	1.2	130	841	-3.4	267
Washoe, NV	13.7	186.3	-0.3	286	860	-1.8	157
Hillsborough, NH	11.9	190.7	0.7	191	1,093	-0.1	38
Rockingham, NH	10.6	135.3	0.9	172	923	-2.3	202
Atlantic, NJ	6.7	131.8	0.2	248	827	-0.2	45
Bergen, NJ	33.4	435.4	0.7	191	1,198	-2.4	212
Burlington, NJ	11.1	193.0	-0.5	291	1,020	-2.1	185
Camden, NJ	12.3	197.3	0.6	205	987	-4.0	286
Essex, NJ	20.8	343.9	0.3	238	1,178	-4.2	292
Gloucester, NJ	6.2	97.9	-0.9	306	853	-1.3	119
Hudson, NJ	13.9	233.6	0.1	256	1,268	-1.1	105
Mercer, NJ	11.1	229.2	0.7	191	1,260	-2.2	195
Middlesex, NJ	21.8	384.7	0.7	191	1,146	-2.3	202
Monmouth, NJ	20.1	242.1	-1.6	316	1,005	-3.0	247
Morris, NJ	17.4	271.6	-0.2	283	1,400	-1.5	126
Ocean, NJ	12.2	145.6	1.1	144	797	-3.7	278
Passaic, NJ	12.3	175.4	1.4	115	1,024	2.4	7
Somerset, NJ	10.1	171.3	0.7	191	1,393	-5.0	308
Union, NJ	14.5	221.6	0.8	179	1,222	1.0	21
Bernalillo, NM	17.8	310.2	-0.8	305	829	-2.7	232
Albany, NY	10.0	220.1	-0.1	275	957	-2.2	195
Bronx, NY	16.9	235.6	-0.1	275	908	(7)	-
Broome, NY	4.5	90.9	-0.5	291	749	-1.6	137
Dutchess, NY	8.2	113.2	0.6	205	956	-1.4	121
Erie, NY	23.7	459.4	0.4	231	828	-1.0	95
Kings, NY	52.0	518.8	2.3	52	806	-3.4	267
Monroe, NY	18.2	379.7	1.7	94	887	-0.6	67
Nassau, NY	52.7	603.4	1.3	119	1,110	-0.9	88
New York, NY	122.0	2,387.3	2.2	63	1,889	-2.3	202
Oneida, NY	5.2	106.9	-1.5	314	749	-1.7	151
Onondaga, NY	12.9	243.1	0.0	267	879	-1.6	137
Orange, NY	9.9	133.3	0.6	205	806	-1.6	137
Queens, NY	46.4	512.3	2.3	52	916	-2.4	212
Richmond, NY	9.0	93.7	1.2	130	814	-3.3	263
Rockland, NY	9.9	116.7	1.3	119	991	-4.3	294
Suffolk, NY	50.6	621.7	0.7	191	1,056	-0.8	80

See footnotes at end of table.

Table 1. Covered¹ establishments, employment, and wages in the 323 largest counties, fourth quarter 2011²—Continued

County ³	Establishments, fourth quarter 2011 (thousands)	Employment			Average weekly wage ⁴		
		December 2011 (thousands)	Percent change, December 2010-11 ⁵	Ranking by percent change	Fourth quarter 2011	Percent change, fourth quarter 2010-11 ⁵	Ranking by percent change
Westchester, NY	36.0	410.2	0.8	179	\$1,278	-4.1	289
Buncombe, NC	8.0	113.0	0.8	179	734	-1.5	126
Catawba, NC	4.4	79.2	1.0	156	730	-0.3	54
Cumberland, NC	6.3	120.2	0.8	179	771	0.5	28
Durham, NC	7.3	182.4	1.6	97	1,205	-6.5	316
Forsyth, NC	9.0	174.4	1.2	130	853	-3.4	267
Guilford, NC	14.2	265.3	1.1	144	819	-2.4	212
Mecklenburg, NC	32.8	565.5	3.1	24	1,047	-3.3	263
New Hanover, NC	7.4	96.6	1.1	144	790	-1.9	167
Wake, NC	29.6	447.9	2.1	70	945	-1.6	137
Cass, ND	6.1	105.0	3.7	12	830	0.4	30
Butler, OH	7.4	141.4	0.6	205	821	-1.8	157
Cuyahoga, OH	36.1	695.8	0.9	172	971	-1.9	167
Franklin, OH	29.8	669.6	2.3	52	932	-0.6	67
Hamilton, OH	23.4	490.7	1.2	130	1,032	-1.4	121
Lake, OH	6.5	94.8	1.3	119	842	4.9	3
Lorain, OH	6.1	95.0	2.1	70	797	1.1	19
Lucas, OH	10.3	203.6	1.2	130	837	-1.2	109
Mahoning, OH	6.1	98.1	0.7	191	693	-1.8	157
Montgomery, OH	12.2	244.3	0.8	179	841	-2.0	176
Stark, OH	8.8	153.9	1.5	109	730	-1.6	137
Summit, OH	14.4	257.3	0.3	238	858	-1.7	151
Oklahoma, OK	24.7	426.4	1.6	97	902	-0.2	45
Tulsa, OK	20.3	333.4	1.0	156	963	8.6	1
Clackamas, OR	12.7	140.1	1.3	119	862	-0.6	67
Jackson, OR	6.6	75.8	-2.6	318	689	-1.7	151
Lane, OR	10.8	136.8	0.8	179	738	-0.9	88
Marion, OR	9.4	128.8	-0.6	298	734	-1.2	109
Multnomah, OR	29.4	437.7	1.8	89	969	-1.0	95
Washington, OR	16.3	248.0	2.7	33	1,085	1.4	14
Allegheny, PA	35.5	685.4	1.2	130	1,011	-1.9	167
Berks, PA	9.0	164.8	0.6	205	851	-2.0	176
Bucks, PA	19.9	252.3	0.5	222	929	-2.3	202
Butler, PA	4.9	82.6	1.9	83	856	-0.1	38
Chester, PA	15.2	238.6	0.1	256	1,284	1.3	15
Cumberland, PA	6.1	124.4	0.9	172	843	-4.0	286
Dauphin, PA	7.5	174.8	-0.4	288	917	-3.8	280
Delaware, PA	13.7	210.3	0.1	256	1,003	-0.9	88
Erie, PA	7.8	125.4	1.2	130	761	0.9	22
Lackawanna, PA	5.9	97.8	-1.2	312	718	-3.0	247
Lancaster, PA	12.7	219.5	-0.1	275	787	-2.7	232
Lehigh, PA	8.6	177.9	1.1	144	938	-2.4	212
Luzerne, PA	7.8	140.7	0.7	191	723	-3.0	247
Montgomery, PA	27.3	467.3	0.1	256	1,173	-2.2	195
Northampton, PA	6.5	100.7	1.0	156	833	-2.0	176
Philadelphia, PA	34.8	632.6	-0.6	298	1,133	-2.2	195
Washington, PA	5.7	85.5	4.0	6	900	2.0	8
Westmoreland, PA	9.5	131.8	-0.1	275	803	2.9	5
York, PA	9.2	171.3	0.3	238	808	-3.3	263
Providence, RI	17.3	270.0	-0.1	275	964	-1.6	137
Charleston, SC	11.8	213.3	2.7	33	829	-1.2	109

See footnotes at end of table.

Table 1. Covered¹ establishments, employment, and wages in the 323 largest counties, fourth quarter 2011²—Continued

County ³	Establishments, fourth quarter 2011 (thousands)	Employment			Average weekly wage ⁴		
		December 2011 (thousands)	Percent change, December 2010-11 ⁵	Ranking by percent change	Fourth quarter 2011	Percent change, fourth quarter 2010-11 ⁵	Ranking by percent change
Greenville, SC	12.2	235.1	3.0	28	\$814	-3.8	280
Horry, SC	7.6	101.9	0.2	248	569	-2.7	232
Lexington, SC	5.5	97.9	2.7	33	712	-1.4	121
Richland, SC	8.9	204.1	0.4	231	827	-0.7	77
Spartanburg, SC	5.8	114.0	1.0	156	817	-0.2	45
Minnehaha, SD	6.6	115.3	1.5	109	814	0.9	22
Davidson, TN	18.1	429.9	2.3	52	1,022	-2.9	240
Hamilton, TN	8.4	185.2	1.1	144	861	-0.2	45
Knox, TN	10.7	222.1	1.9	83	842	-0.7	77
Rutherford, TN	4.4	100.3	4.0	6	841	-2.2	195
Shelby, TN	18.9	475.9	1.8	89	968	-3.7	278
Williamson, TN	6.1	95.1	4.3	3	1,050	-6.7	317
Bell, TX	4.8	108.1	1.5	109	773	1.2	16
Bexar, TX	34.7	741.7	1.6	97	863	-0.2	45
Brazoria, TX	4.9	89.6	1.6	97	909	1.5	11
Brazos, TX	4.0	87.2	-1.4	313	707	-1.0	95
Cameron, TX	6.4	126.8	0.0	267	597	-1.8	157
Collin, TX	18.9	302.4	2.6	38	1,085	0.0	37
Dallas, TX	69.1	1,460.4	2.3	52	1,148	-2.0	176
Denton, TX	11.3	184.1	3.7	12	831	-1.0	95
El Paso, TX	14.0	277.0	0.3	238	674	-2.3	202
Fort Bend, TX	9.6	140.7	4.5	2	954	-2.7	232
Galveston, TX	5.4	96.1	1.3	119	869	-0.5	58
Harris, TX	102.9	2,081.7	3.1	24	1,239	0.2	34
Hidalgo, TX	11.3	229.0	1.4	115	601	-1.6	137
Jefferson, TX	5.9	124.0	1.6	97	966	1.2	16
Lubbock, TX	7.1	125.6	-0.2	283	717	-3.4	267
McLennan, TX	4.9	100.7	0.4	231	773	-2.4	212
Montgomery, TX	9.0	137.9	4.0	6	910	-1.8	157
Nueces, TX	7.9	154.2	1.2	130	841	1.6	10
Smith, TX	5.6	94.1	0.6	205	817	-1.7	151
Tarrant, TX	38.3	775.2	2.2	63	933	-4.4	296
Travis, TX	31.4	591.6	3.1	24	1,080	0.2	34
Webb, TX	4.9	91.5	3.9	9	651	-0.5	58
Williamson, TX	7.8	130.5	1.9	83	914	-5.3	311
Davis, UT	7.3	106.4	(⁷)	-	771	(⁷)	-
Salt Lake, UT	37.7	582.3	2.6	38	896	-2.9	240
Utah, UT	13.0	174.1	4.3	3	760	-0.8	80
Weber, UT	5.5	89.8	1.4	115	703	-2.1	185
Chittenden, VT	6.0	98.4	3.0	28	943	-1.8	157
Arlington, VA	8.4	168.4	0.3	238	1,591	-5.0	308
Chesterfield, VA	7.7	116.6	1.6	97	852	-2.5	220
Fairfax, VA	34.9	592.7	1.7	94	1,519	-1.5	126
Henrico, VA	10.0	175.5	1.0	156	939	-2.0	176
Loudoun, VA	9.9	139.8	2.5	42	1,136	-5.0	308
Prince William, VA	7.9	110.9	3.2	23	848	-2.8	238
Alexandria City, VA	6.3	96.0	0.6	205	1,434	0.4	30
Chesapeake City, VA	5.7	96.4	0.2	248	751	-0.7	77
Newport News City, VA	3.8	98.1	1.9	83	876	-1.7	151
Norfolk City, VA	5.6	139.6	0.8	179	933	-2.6	224
Richmond City, VA	7.3	150.3	1.6	97	1,027	-3.3	263

See footnotes at end of table.

Table 1. Covered¹ establishments, employment, and wages in the 323 largest counties, fourth quarter 2011²—Continued

County ³	Establishments, fourth quarter 2011 (thousands)	Employment			Average weekly wage ⁴		
		December 2011 (thousands)	Percent change, December 2010-11 ⁵	Ranking by percent change	Fourth quarter 2011	Percent change, fourth quarter 2010-11 ⁵	Ranking by percent change
Virginia Beach City, VA	11.4	162.6	0.5	222	\$763	-0.8	80
Benton, WA	5.6	77.5	-3.4	320	991	-3.2	258
Clark, WA	13.3	129.0	1.0	156	844	-2.3	202
King, WA	82.0	1,156.6	2.4	48	1,220	0.3	32
Kitsap, WA	6.6	81.0	-0.5	291	836	-6.0	314
Pierce, WA	21.4	261.8	0.0	267	842	-1.8	157
Snohomish, WA	18.9	252.1	3.6	14	1,001	3.0	4
Spokane, WA	15.7	198.1	0.4	231	783	-0.6	67
Thurston, WA	7.3	96.3	-0.9	306	831	-2.1	185
Whatcom, WA	6.9	79.3	1.0	156	773	-0.5	58
Yakima, WA	8.8	93.9	1.5	109	648	-0.8	80
Kanawha, WV	6.0	106.6	1.6	97	834	-1.0	95
Brown, WI	6.5	146.4	0.3	238	851	-1.5	126
Dane, WI	14.0	304.5	1.0	156	907	-2.3	202
Milwaukee, WI	22.5	472.9	-0.4	288	942	-3.4	267
Outagamie, WI	5.0	102.1	0.6	205	797	-0.4	55
Waukesha, WI	12.6	224.7	0.7	191	940	-0.6	67
Winnebago, WI	3.7	89.6	-0.5	291	885	-1.9	167
San Juan, PR	11.3	272.5	0.7	(⁸)	655	-1.8	(⁸)

¹ Includes workers covered by Unemployment Insurance (UI) and Unemployment Compensation for Federal Employees (UCFE) programs. These 322 large U.S. counties comprise 70.7 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 Average weekly wages were calculated using unrounded data.

⁵ Percent changes were computed from quarterly employment and pay data adjusted for noneconomic county reclassifications. See Technical Note.

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 10 largest counties, fourth quarter 2011²

County by NAICS supersector	Establishments, fourth quarter 2011 (thousands)	Employment		Average weekly wage ³	
		December 2011 (thousands)	Percent change, December 2010-11 ⁴	Fourth quarter 2011	Percent change, fourth quarter 2010-11 ⁴
United States ⁵	9,178.6	131,254.2	1.4	\$955	-1.7
Private industry	8,881.5	109,730.2	1.9	957	-1.6
Natural resources and mining	129.2	1,848.4	7.0	1,082	1.9
Construction	762.3	5,466.3	1.3	1,050	-0.9
Manufacturing	337.4	11,789.5	1.9	1,169	-3.1
Trade, transportation, and utilities	1,880.8	25,771.9	1.7	796	-1.2
Information	144.0	2,684.6	-1.1	1,500	-0.9
Financial activities	811.1	7,470.7	0.5	1,462	-1.7
Professional and business services	1,580.3	17,615.4	3.0	1,266	-1.8
Education and health services	916.6	19,305.0	1.9	904	-2.2
Leisure and hospitality	762.3	13,143.3	2.2	404	-1.2
Other services	1,342.4	4,414.6	1.1	600	-0.7
Government	297.1	21,523.9	-1.4	944	-2.0
Los Angeles, CA	447.9	3,953.7	0.7	1,124	-3.2
Private industry	442.3	3,398.7	1.2	1,117	-3.5
Natural resources and mining	0.4	9.5	3.4	1,413	-21.6
Construction	12.3	106.5	3.5	1,113	-2.8
Manufacturing	12.7	363.9	-1.6	1,140	-4.6
Trade, transportation, and utilities	50.7	774.0	1.5	867	-1.5
Information	8.4	193.0	-4.0	2,077	-6.5
Financial activities	22.0	211.6	0.0	1,536	-3.3
Professional and business services	42.0	556.7	2.1	1,401	-5.7
Education and health services	29.3	520.9	2.0	1,053	-1.0
Leisure and hospitality	27.2	401.2	2.4	911	-2.8
Other services	212.4	239.1	-1.7	458	-3.6
Government	5.6	555.0	-2.0	1,166	-1.2
Cook, IL	147.3	2,413.1	1.3	1,122	-2.9
Private industry	145.9	2,115.1	1.6	1,124	-3.1
Natural resources and mining	0.1	0.8	-2.0	1,111	-2.9
Construction	12.3	61.6	1.2	1,402	-1.3
Manufacturing	6.6	194.3	-0.4	1,201	-3.7
Trade, transportation, and utilities	28.6	456.8	1.3	858	-3.3
Information	2.6	51.6	-0.6	1,571	0.4
Financial activities	15.6	185.1	-1.6	2,013	1.0
Professional and business services	31.1	425.6	3.2	1,483	-6.1
Education and health services	15.5	408.0	1.8	961	-1.3
Leisure and hospitality	13.0	232.9	3.1	459	-2.1
Other services	16.2	95.4	1.8	804	-1.7
Government	1.4	298.0	-0.7	1,109	-1.8
New York, NY	122.0	2,387.3	2.2	1,889	-2.3
Private industry	121.8	1,950.0	2.9	2,071	-2.9
Natural resources and mining	0.0	0.1	-13.2	1,666	-49.8
Construction	2.1	30.2	-0.1	1,951	-2.7
Manufacturing	2.4	25.9	-0.4	1,783	-7.9
Trade, transportation, and utilities	20.9	259.6	3.8	1,347	-0.4
Information	4.3	140.3	4.5	2,315	2.3
Financial activities	19.0	356.4	0.9	4,092	-3.4
Professional and business services	25.3	481.6	3.3	2,263	-3.7
Education and health services	9.3	307.3	1.4	1,198	-0.7
Leisure and hospitality	12.9	250.9	4.7	883	-3.9
Other services	18.9	90.9	2.1	1,113	-0.6
Government	0.3	437.3	-0.8	1,088	-0.5

See footnotes at end of table.

Table 2. Covered¹ establishments, employment, and wages in the 10 largest counties, fourth quarter 2011²—Continued

County by NAICS supersector	Establishments, fourth quarter 2011 (thousands)	Employment		Average weekly wage ³	
		December 2011 (thousands)	Percent change, December 2010-11 ⁴	Fourth quarter 2011	Percent change, fourth quarter 2010-11 ⁴
Harris, TX	102.9	2,081.7	3.1	\$1,239	0.2
Private industry	102.3	1,827.4	4.1	1,273	0.1
Natural resources and mining	1.7	85.8	12.0	3,219	0.7
Construction	6.5	134.6	2.2	1,235	0.7
Manufacturing	4.5	183.5	7.4	1,555	-1.8
Trade, transportation, and utilities	23.0	446.8	3.5	1,104	0.4
Information	1.3	27.9	-1.6	1,393	-2.5
Financial activities	10.6	112.8	0.4	1,548	-0.6
Professional and business services	20.5	341.3	5.0	1,568	-0.9
Education and health services	11.6	248.7	3.0	959	-1.6
Leisure and hospitality	8.4	183.6	3.7	416	-1.0
Other services	13.7	61.5	2.3	682	0.4
Government	0.6	254.3	-3.5	996	-0.8
Maricopa, AZ	96.1	1,683.7	2.5	929	-1.0
Private industry	95.4	1,469.8	3.0	932	-1.0
Natural resources and mining	0.5	8.1	4.3	919	10.5
Construction	8.4	81.8	2.5	976	-1.4
Manufacturing	3.2	110.0	1.3	1,285	-3.3
Trade, transportation, and utilities	22.2	353.5	3.5	896	4.4
Information	1.6	27.3	1.2	1,230	-3.9
Financial activities	11.2	141.5	5.4	1,122	-1.2
Professional and business services	22.8	277.4	2.3	1,022	-1.6
Education and health services	10.6	246.9	3.6	987	-4.3
Leisure and hospitality	7.4	176.0	2.7	432	-2.5
Other services	6.7	46.8	0.7	611	-1.9
Government	0.7	213.9	-0.8	906	-1.4
Dallas, TX	69.1	1,460.4	2.3	1,148	-2.0
Private industry	68.6	1,297.1	3.1	1,164	-2.2
Natural resources and mining	0.6	9.9	10.2	4,425	7.9
Construction	4.0	67.0	0.6	1,100	-2.1
Manufacturing	2.8	114.9	1.1	1,324	-4.6
Trade, transportation, and utilities	15.0	297.7	3.4	1,012	-2.7
Information	1.6	45.9	0.9	1,605	-2.1
Financial activities	8.6	141.7	3.2	1,483	-0.3
Professional and business services	15.2	277.9	4.1	1,384	-2.1
Education and health services	7.4	170.4	2.4	1,038	-4.2
Leisure and hospitality	5.8	131.1	4.3	497	-3.7
Other services	7.2	39.8	3.4	702	0.1
Government	0.5	163.3	-4.2	1,022	-1.2
Orange, CA	106.1	1,390.2	0.6	1,080	-3.1
Private industry	104.7	1,254.0	1.3	1,086	-3.0
Natural resources and mining	0.2	3.3	-4.1	699	-3.7
Construction	6.2	69.5	1.3	1,180	-4.6
Manufacturing	4.8	153.8	0.6	1,291	-4.4
Trade, transportation, and utilities	15.9	254.7	0.5	985	-3.4
Information	1.2	23.4	-2.8	1,504	-7.3
Financial activities	9.6	106.3	0.3	1,878	-0.1
Professional and business services	18.6	251.3	0.6	1,260	-3.5
Education and health services	10.4	160.6	1.9	1,034	-1.6
Leisure and hospitality	7.2	175.7	3.3	413	-2.1
Other services	22.4	48.3	-0.5	565	1.1
Government	1.4	136.2	(⁶)	1,030	(⁶)

See footnotes at end of table.

Table 2. Covered¹ establishments, employment, and wages in the 10 largest counties, fourth quarter 2011²—Continued

County by NAICS supersector	Establishments, fourth quarter 2011 (thousands)	Employment		Average weekly wage ³	
		December 2011 (thousands)	Percent change, December 2010-11 ⁴	Fourth quarter 2011	Percent change, fourth quarter 2010-11 ⁴
San Diego, CA	102.3	1,264.2	1.0	\$1,041	-3.6
Private industry	100.9	1,046.5	1.5	1,029	-3.3
Natural resources and mining	0.7	10.4	3.3	574	-2.2
Construction	6.0	54.8	0.6	1,135	-3.2
Manufacturing	2.9	93.1	-0.2	1,448	-2.0
Trade, transportation, and utilities	13.4	210.8	1.5	785	-3.1
Information	1.2	24.3	-2.4	1,605	0.4
Financial activities	8.4	68.3	0.4	1,222	-17.5
Professional and business services	16.2	215.2	1.3	1,524	-1.5
Education and health services	8.5	149.4	2.2	1,009	-0.9
Leisure and hospitality	7.0	155.6	1.5	441	-0.5
Other services	29.4	57.9	(⁶)	519	-2.1
Government	1.4	217.7	-1.6	1,095	-5.3
King, WA	82.0	1,156.6	2.4	1,220	0.3
Private industry	81.4	1,000.4	2.9	1,229	0.2
Natural resources and mining	0.4	2.7	13.5	1,487	-1.5
Construction	5.5	46.3	1.1	1,265	1.6
Manufacturing	2.2	101.5	4.5	1,520	2.1
Trade, transportation, and utilities	14.5	217.3	3.1	1,028	0.3
Information	1.8	80.0	1.4	2,213	5.1
Financial activities	6.2	64.5	-1.4	1,454	-0.5
Professional and business services	13.8	185.9	3.8	1,596	-2.2
Education and health services	7.2	137.5	3.2	989	-1.3
Leisure and hospitality	6.4	111.6	4.0	477	-0.2
Other services	23.5	53.0	1.4	587	-2.3
Government	0.6	156.3	-0.6	1,162	0.5
Miami-Dade, FL	87.8	996.2	2.2	939	-2.5
Private industry	87.5	856.1	3.0	909	-2.8
Natural resources and mining	0.5	9.1	-1.5	594	14.2
Construction	4.9	29.2	-6.0	917	-5.0
Manufacturing	2.6	35.9	1.2	897	-2.6
Trade, transportation, and utilities	25.1	259.8	3.9	813	-4.0
Information	1.4	17.4	-0.4	1,371	-4.2
Financial activities	9.0	63.3	2.9	1,385	-2.2
Professional and business services	18.2	131.3	3.8	1,229	-5.5
Education and health services	9.8	156.4	2.1	925	1.1
Leisure and hospitality	6.6	115.0	3.9	536	0.2
Other services	7.8	37.2	4.2	568	-3.2
Government	0.4	140.1	-2.8	1,117	-0.4

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

² Data are preliminary. Counties selected are based on 2010 annual average employment.

³ Average weekly wages were calculated using unrounded data.

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

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. Covered ¹ establishments, employment, and wages by state, fourth quarter 2011 ²

State	Establishments, fourth quarter 2011 (thousands)	Employment		Average weekly wage ³	
		December 2011 (thousands)	Percent change, December 2010-11	Fourth quarter 2011	Percent change, fourth quarter 2010-11
United States ⁴	9,178.6	131,254.2	1.4	\$955	-1.7
Alabama	116.7	1,828.3	0.2	832	-0.8
Alaska	21.8	311.3	1.6	982	-0.5
Arizona	146.6	2,458.4	1.7	882	-1.1
Arkansas	84.8	1,157.1	0.9	736	-1.2
California	1,417.5	14,731.8	1.3	1,100	-2.7
Colorado	169.6	2,250.1	2.1	975	-2.6
Connecticut	110.7	1,642.0	0.9	1,188	-3.1
Delaware	27.7	405.9	0.4	984	-1.6
District of Columbia	36.4	708.0	1.3	1,668	-1.2
Florida	602.0	7,364.1	1.4	847	-2.8
Georgia	268.9	3,826.9	1.0	885	-2.2
Hawaii	38.5	607.0	1.4	845	-1.5
Idaho	54.0	606.4	0.8	717	-2.2
Illinois	388.2	5,635.9	1.1	1,013	-2.1
Indiana	160.4	2,799.2	2.0	789	-1.9
Iowa	93.9	1,464.2	1.1	793	-0.8
Kansas	88.4	1,320.1	0.7	800	-1.5
Kentucky	108.0	1,770.2	1.3	786	-1.0
Louisiana	124.8	1,870.8	1.0	850	-1.7
Maine	49.2	580.9	0.4	755	-1.8
Maryland	162.2	2,516.4	1.1	1,058	-2.0
Massachusetts	227.5	3,230.8	1.3	1,192	-2.1
Michigan	242.3	3,911.8	2.4	933	-0.5
Minnesota	168.6	2,636.4	2.1	936	-3.9
Mississippi	69.3	1,083.8	0.3	699	-1.1
Missouri	175.7	2,617.0	0.8	825	-1.7
Montana	42.2	426.7	1.8	727	0.7
Nebraska	61.2	910.5	0.8	762	-1.3
Nevada	72.1	1,124.1	0.8	852	-3.2
New Hampshire	48.8	615.4	0.9	971	-0.7
New Jersey	264.8	3,811.6	0.6	1,138	-2.1
New Mexico	55.5	784.3	-0.3	799	-2.2
New York	599.5	8,618.4	1.4	1,197	-1.8
North Carolina	257.5	3,885.9	1.3	824	-2.0
North Dakota	28.1	397.0	7.6	871	7.7
Ohio	289.3	5,027.6	1.3	855	-1.3
Oklahoma	103.4	1,530.0	1.3	817	2.6
Oregon	132.3	1,629.8	1.2	850	-0.2
Pennsylvania	351.0	5,595.1	0.7	936	-1.6
Rhode Island	35.0	451.9	0.1	919	-2.1
South Carolina	111.3	1,796.1	1.3	763	-1.5
South Dakota	31.4	397.0	1.5	724	1.4
Tennessee	139.6	2,654.9	2.1	858	-2.3
Texas	588.0	10,607.9	2.4	973	-0.3
Utah	85.5	1,202.8	2.8	806	-2.5
Vermont	24.4	303.9	1.3	809	-0.5
Virginia	237.4	3,625.0	1.3	1,004	-2.4
Washington	231.9	2,843.6	1.4	979	-0.2
West Virginia	49.1	714.0	2.2	776	-0.3
Wisconsin	160.5	2,689.6	0.7	817	-2.4

See footnotes at end of table.

Table 3. Covered ¹ establishments, employment, and wages by state, fourth quarter 2011 ²—Continued

State	Establishments, fourth quarter 2011 (thousands)	Employment		Average weekly wage ³	
		December 2011 (thousands)	Percent change, December 2010-11	Fourth quarter 2011	Percent change, fourth quarter 2010-11
Wyoming	25.3	276.9	2.3	\$876	0.6
Puerto Rico	48.2	960.9	0.1	552	-1.1
Virgin Islands	3.6	43.2	-4.0	772	-3.4

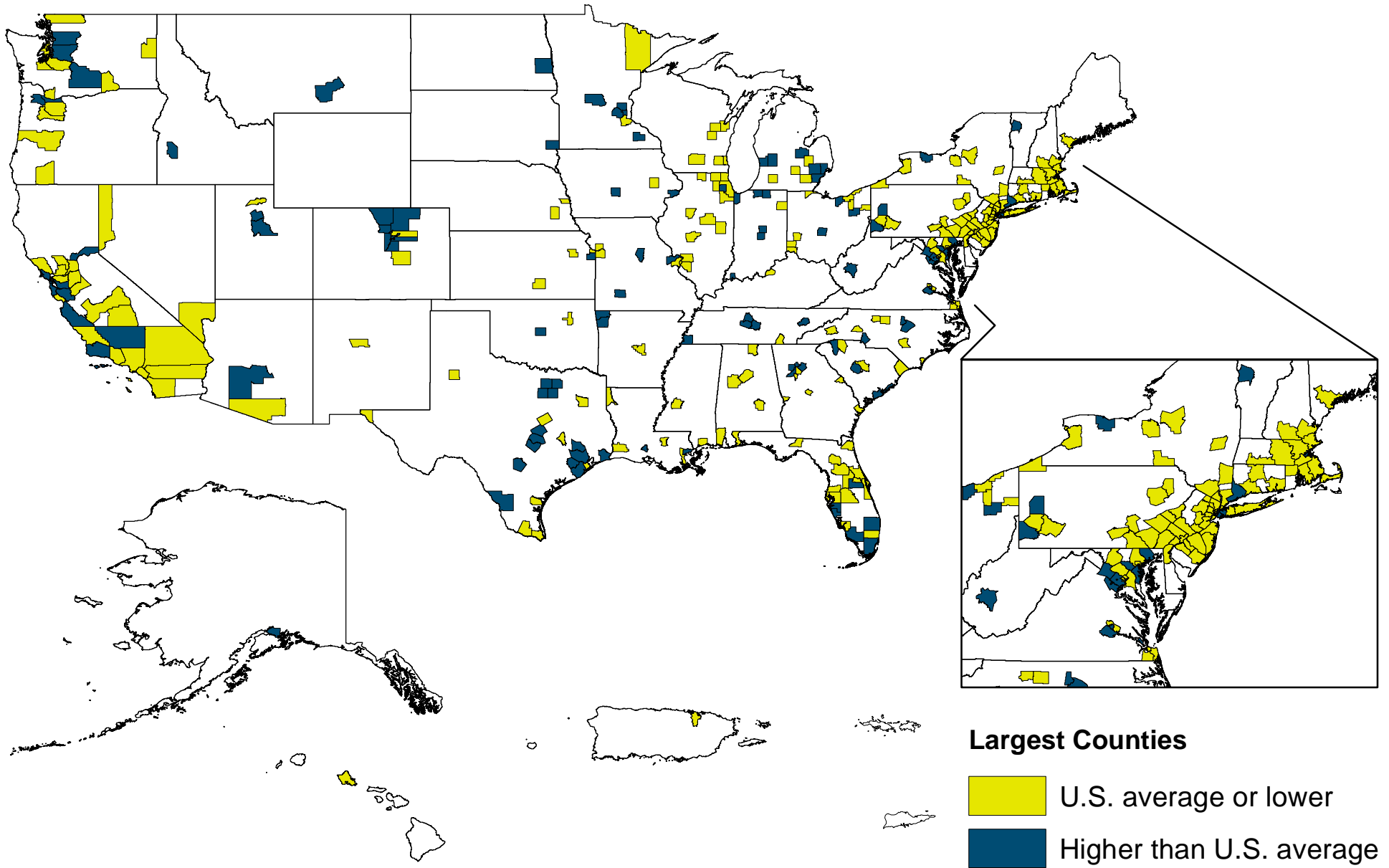
¹ Includes workers covered by Unemployment Insurance (UI) and Unemployment Compensation for Federal Employees (UCFE) programs.

² Data are preliminary.

³ Average weekly wages were calculated using unrounded data.

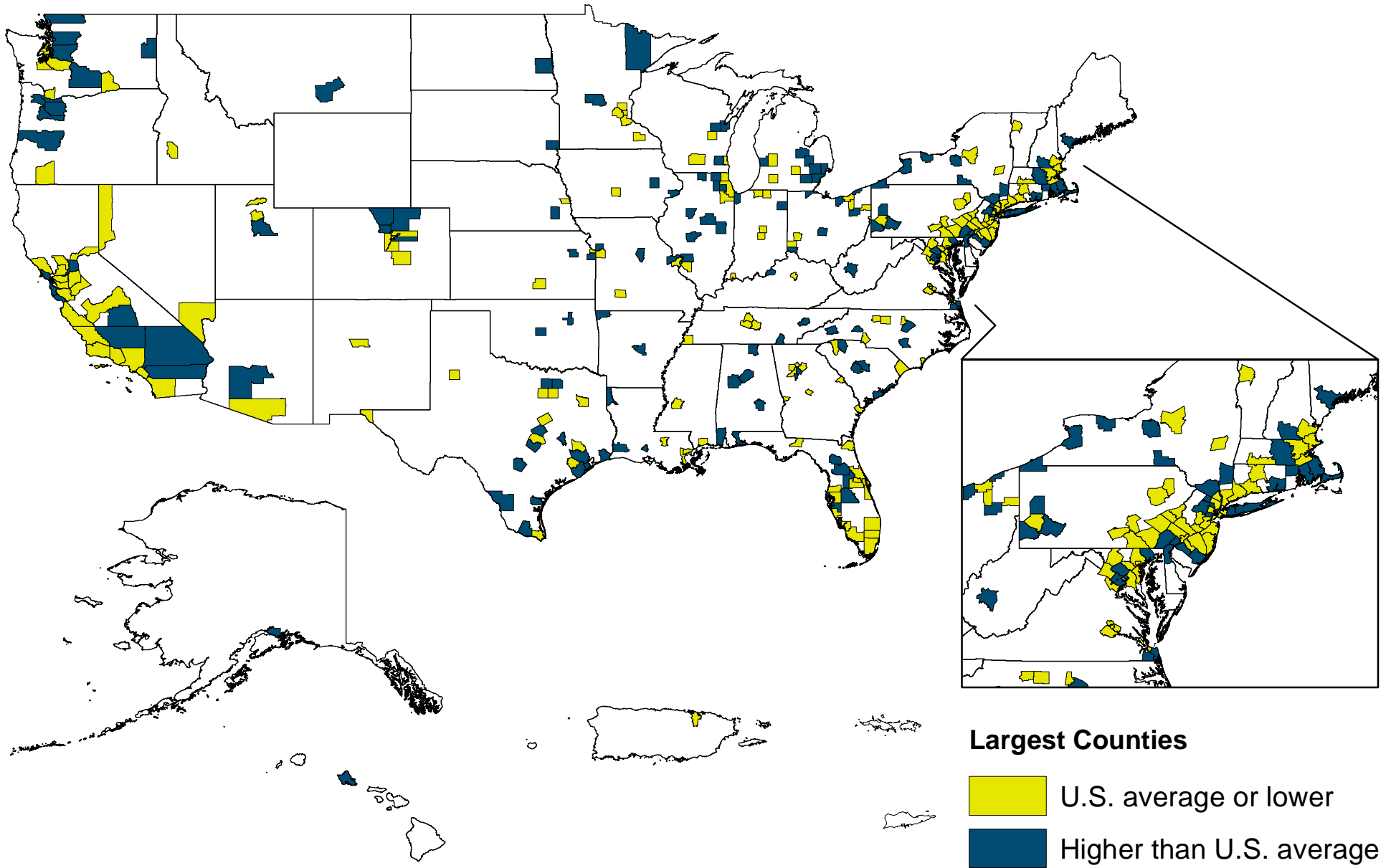
⁴ Totals for the United States do not include data for Puerto Rico or the Virgin Islands.

Chart 3. Percent change in employment in counties with 75,000 or more employees, December 2010-11 (U.S. average = 1.4 percent)



Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics
June 2012

Chart 4. Percent change in average weekly wage in counties with 75,000 or more employees, fourth quarter 2010-11 (U.S. average = -1.7 percent)



Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics
June 2012