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Technical information: Martin Kohli (646) 264-3620 • BLSInfoNY@bls.gov • www.bls.gov/ro2
Media contact: Michael L. Dolfman (212) 337-2500

EMPLOYMENT AND WAGES IN NEW YORK CITY – FIRST QUARTER 2011 Manhattan’s Wage Increase Exceeds Nation’s

Average weekly wages in New York County, more commonly known as the borough of Manhattan, rose 9.2 percent over the year in the first quarter of 2011, the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics reported today. Regional Commissioner Michael L. Dolfman noted that of the five boroughs that make up New York City, only Manhattan’s wage increase exceeded the national average of 5.2 percent. (See chart 1.)

Manhattan’s wages grew to \$2,634, the highest average among the nation’s largest counties, those with 75,000 or more jobs. Queens led the remaining four New York City boroughs with a weekly wage of \$844, which was 10 percent below the national average of \$935.

The largest employment gain among the City’s boroughs was in Brooklyn (Kings County), up 3.7 percent. (See table 1.) Nationally, employment grew by 1.3 percent from March 2010 to March 2011. (See chart 2.)

Chart 1. Wage change in the five counties in New York City, first quarter 2010-11

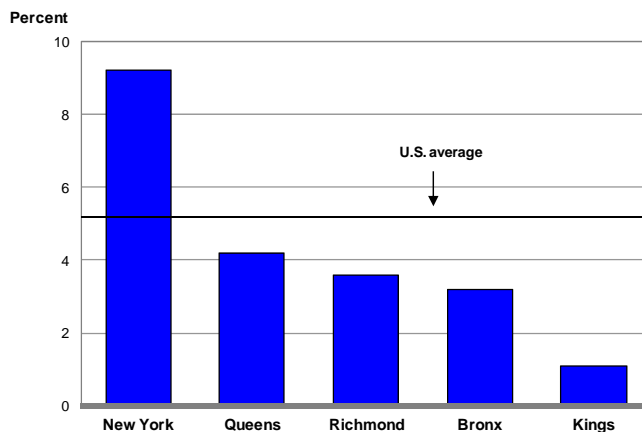
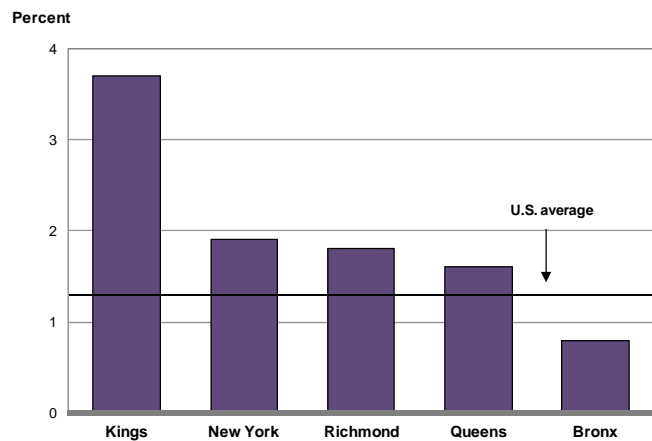


Chart 2. Employment change in the five counties of New York City, March 2010-11



Round-the-clock recorded messages for the **Consumer Price Index** and a variety of other **Bureau of Labor Statistics** data are available by dialing the **New York-New Jersey Information Office’s** main telephone number: **(646) 264-3600**. For recorded messages, press ‘2’.

Over-the-year wage changes

In the first quarter of 2011, Manhattan 9.2-percent wage increase ranked 10th among the nation's 322 largest counties. Queens had the second largest increase in New York City, 4.2 percent, but ranked only 148th nationally. Brooklyn logged the smallest over-the-year wage increase in the City, 1.1 percent, and ranked 307th among the 322 large counties.

Manhattan's overall increase was primarily attributable to total wage gains in financial activities (\$5,287.0 million). Average weekly wages in financial activities rose 12.3 percent over the year. Information also recorded large over-the-year gains, 11.4 percent. Strong gains were reported in manufacturing (9.1 percent) and leisure and hospitality (8.1 percent). Construction and government, at 4.1 percent each and professional and business services, at 3.5 percent, reported the smallest over-the-year increases. Nonetheless, with the exception of professional and business services, all of the borough's industry groupings outpaced corresponding national growth rates.

Nationally, the largest increase in average weekly wages, 10.2 percent, occurred in financial activities; followed by natural resources and mining and information, at 9.7 percent each.

Among the 322 largest U.S. counties, 315 posted gains in average wages over the year; 3 experienced declines. The largest wage gain occurred in Peoria, Ill., 18.9 percent. At the other end of the spectrum, Williamson, Texas, recorded the largest decline, 3.8 percent. Hudson, N.J., part of the greater New York metropolitan area, experienced the second largest decline, 1.5 percent.

Average weekly wages

Manhattan's average weekly wage during the first quarter of 2011 was nearly three times the national average—\$2,634 compared to \$935—while no other county in New York City had an average weekly wage above that of the nation. Richmond and Kings were the lowest paying counties, with average wages below \$800 per week. (See chart 3.)

Within Manhattan, the financial activities supersector had the highest first-quarter average weekly wage, \$8,684. (See table 2.) Information had the next highest average wage (\$2,751), followed by natural resources and mining (\$2,745), and professional and business services (\$2,512). Leisure and hospitality had the lowest average wage of the industry supersectors, \$762. Even so, wages in every supersector in Manhattan were higher than their respective national industry averages.

Among the 322 largest counties in the nation, Fairfield, Conn., trailed Manhattan with the second highest average weekly wage, \$1,888, followed by Somerset, N.J. (\$1,867). Four of the 10 counties with the highest wages in the nation were located in the greater New York area (New York, N.Y., Fairfield, Conn., Somerset, N.J., Hudson, N.J.), while the rest were located in or around the San Francisco area, the Washington, D.C. area, and the Boston area.

Employment

From March 2010 to March 2011, all of the five counties which make up New York City gained jobs. Employment in Brooklyn increased by 3.7 percent, ranking 11th among the nation's 322 large counties in over-the-year employment growth. Brooklyn's job expansion occurred primarily in education and health services. Manhattan employment rose by 1.9 percent, with job gains concentrated in leisure and hospitality (6.7 percent), professional and business services (2.9 percent), and financial activities (2.6 percent). Richmond's employment grew 1.8 percent, followed by Queens, at 1.6 percent. The Bronx posted the smallest over-the-year employment gain, 0.8 percent.

Nationally, employment increased in 256 of the 322 largest U.S. counties. Elkhart, Ind., posted the largest over-the-year growth rate (6.2 percent). Employment declined in 53 of the nation's large counties, led by Sacramento, Calif., with a loss of 1.6 percent.

Additional statistics and other information

Quarterly data for states have been included in this release in table 3. For additional information about quarterly employment and wages data, please read the Technical Note or visit the QCEW Web site at www.bls.gov/cew/.

An annual bulletin, *Employment and Wages Annual Averages*, features comprehensive information by detailed industry on establishments, employment, and wages for the nation and all states. The 2009 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 first quarter 2010 version of the national news release. This web-only publication has replaced the annual print bulletin, *Employment and Wages Annual Averages*. The March 2010 issue of this annual bulletin was the final one to be issued on paper. Tables and additional content from the 2009 Employment and Wages Annual Bulletin are now available online at www.bls.gov/cew/cewbultn09.htm.

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 program, as well as other Bureau programs, contact the New York-New Jersey Information Office at (646) 264-3600 from 9:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. and 1:30 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. ET.

County employment and wage data for the second quarter 2011 are scheduled to be released on Tuesday, January 10, 2012.

Technical note

Average weekly wage data by county are compiled under the Quarterly Census of Employment and Wages (QCEW) program, also known as the ES-202 program. The data are derived from summaries of employment and total pay of workers covered by state and federal unemployment insurance (UI) legislation and provided by State Workforce Agencies (SWAs). The 9.1 million employer reports cover 127.9 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. The result is then divided by 13, the number of weeks in a quarter. It is to be noted, therefore, that over-the-year wage changes for geographic areas may reflect shifts in the composition of employment by industry, occupation, and such other factors as hours of work. Thus, wages may vary among counties, metropolitan areas, or states for reasons other than changes in the average wage level. Data for all states, Metropolitan Statistical Areas (MSAs), counties, and the nation are available on the BLS website at www.bls.gov/cew/; however, data in QCEW press releases have been revised and may not match the data contained on the Bureau's website.

QCEW data are not designed as a time series. QCEW data are simply the sums of individual establishment records reflecting the number of establishments that exist in a county or industry at a point in time. Establishments can move in or out of a county or industry for a number of reasons—some reflecting economic events, others reflecting administrative changes.

The preliminary QCEW data presented in this release may differ from data released by the individual states as well as from the data presented on the BLS website. These potential differences result from the states' continuing receipt, review, and editing of UI data over time. On the other hand, differences between data in this release and the data found on the BLS website 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. Covered¹ employment and wages in the United States, New York State, and five counties of New York City, first quarter 2011²

Area	Employment		Average weekly wage ³			
	March 2011 (thousands)	Percent change, March 2010-11 ⁴	Average weekly wage	National ranking by level ⁵	Percent change, first quarter 2010-11 ⁴	National ranking by percent change ⁵
United States ⁶	127,851.0	1.3	\$935	--	5.2	--
New York State	8,336.5	1.2	1,368	--	6.7	--
Bronx	234.1	0.8	818	171	3.2	219
Kings	503.9	3.7	725	269	1.1	307
New York	2,304.1	1.9	2,634	1	9.2	10
Queens	494.0	1.6	844	150	4.2	148
Richmond	90.8	1.8	758	233	3.6	188

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

⁵ Ranking does not include the county of San Juan, Puerto Rico.

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

Table 2. Covered¹ employment and wages in the United States and New York County, first quarter, 2011²

Area	Employment		Average weekly wage ³	
	March 2011 (thousands)	Percent change, March 2010-11 ⁴	Average weekly wage	Percent change, first quarter 2010-11 ⁴
United States ⁵	127,851.0	1.3	\$ 935	5.2
Private industry	106,054.4	1.8	941	5.7
Natural resources and mining	1,701.7	5.3	1,116	9.7
Construction	5,137.6	-0.9	917	2.6
Manufacturing	11,556.7	1.9	1,164	7.8
Trade, transportation, and utilities	24,316.5	1.3	766	5.5
Information	2,659.8	-1.8	1,609	9.7
Financial activities	7,354.6	-0.3	1,886	10.2
Professional and business services	16,972.0	4.1	1,212	5.1
Education and health services	18,941.2	1.9	793	3.1
Leisure and hospitality	12,842.6	2.3	363	2.8
Other services	4,349.8	1.2	559	3.5
Government	21,796.6	-1.3	902	2.0
New York, NY	2,304.1	1.9	2,634	9.2
Private industry	1,865.2	3.0	2,995	8.9
Natural resources and mining	0.2	25.6	2,745	22.8
Construction	29.7	-2.5	1,609	4.1
Manufacturing	25.6	-1.3	1,644	9.1
Trade, transportation, and utilities	234.7	3.2	1,252	6.5
Information	131.8	1.1	2,751	11.4
Financial activities	351.8	2.6	8,684	12.3
Professional and business services	460.8	2.9	2,512	3.5
Education and health services	302.8	0.7	1,065	5.1
Leisure and hospitality	232.3	6.7	762	8.1
Other services	87.4	2.1	1,270	7.2
Government	438.9	-2.3	1,095	4.1

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 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.

Table 3. Covered¹ employment and wages by state, first quarter 2011²

State	Employment		Average weekly wage	Average weekly wage ³		
	March 2011 (thousands)	Percent change, March 2010-11		National ranking by level	Percent change, first quarter 2010-11	National ranking by percent change
United States ⁴	127,851.0	1.3	\$935	--	5.2	--
Alabama	1,808.5	0.3	766	34	4.2	30
Alaska	310.1	2.0	912	15	3.8	36
Arizona	2,392.1	0.7	837	21	4.9	17
Arkansas	1,133.5	0.3	715	47	6.1	6
California	14,413.8	1.2	1,066	6	6.2	5
Colorado	2,179.8	1.3	952	11	4.4	27
Connecticut	1,589.2	1.4	1,282	3	6.3	4
Delaware	396.0	2.1	1,026	7	5.7	11
District of Columbia	702.3	2.5	1,540	1	2.4	51
Florida	7,235.9	1.2	794	28	3.8	36
Georgia	3,771.0	1.4	885	17	5.7	11
Hawaii	593.8	1.2	790	30	3.1	47
Idaho	590.3	-0.1	659	48	4.1	31
Illinois	5,472.4	1.2	1,003	9	6.0	7
Indiana	2,717.1	1.9	772	33	4.5	22
Iowa	1,419.3	0.6	738	40	4.5	22
Kansas	1,293.3	0.6	748	36	4.0	33
Kentucky	1,715.6	1.5	737	42	3.7	40
Louisiana	1,841.3	0.9	798	27	4.5	22
Maine	558.6	0.1	723	43	4.8	18
Maryland	2,452.1	1.3	1,010	8	3.6	41
Massachusetts	3,116.5	1.2	1,159	5	5.8	10
Michigan	3,757.7	2.2	872	19	7.1	2
Minnesota	2,530.7	1.4	935	14	6.0	7
Mississippi	1,074.8	0.6	650	51	3.2	46
Missouri	2,562.3	0.3	786	31	3.0	49
Montana	412.2	0.4	656	50	3.6	41
Nebraska	886.2	0.7	721	46	3.9	35
Nevada	1,102.6	0.4	802	26	3.0	49
New Hampshire	596.3	1.1	876	18	5.2	15
New Jersey	3,701.1	0.0	1,160	4	3.5	43
New Mexico	776.5	-0.1	738	40	3.1	47
New York	8,336.5	1.2	1,368	2	6.7	3
North Carolina	3,809.6	1.6	825	22	4.3	29
North Dakota	364.5	5.0	748	36	9.5	1
Ohio	4,870.6	1.4	819	23	4.6	19
Oklahoma	1,491.5	1.0	739	39	5.3	13
Oregon	1,590.3	1.3	812	24	4.6	19
Pennsylvania	5,459.3	1.5	896	16	4.6	19
Rhode Island	438.1	0.1	863	20	3.4	44

See footnotes at end of table.

Table 3. Covered¹ employment and wages by state, first quarter 2011²--Continued

State	Employment		Average weekly wage	Average weekly wage ³		
	March 2011 (thousands)	Percent change, March 2010-11		National ranking by level	Percent change, first quarter 2010-11	National ranking by percent change
South Carolina	1,767.2	1.4	722	45	4.5	22
South Dakota	382.3	1.3	659	48	4.1	31
Tennessee	2,575.9	1.7	793	29	3.8	36
Texas	10,324.3	2.2	946	13	5.9	9
Utah	1,156.9	2.0	753	35	3.4	44
Vermont	291.9	0.9	741	38	3.8	36
Virginia	3,539.9	1.5	968	10	4.0	33
Washington	2,785.3	1.2	947	12	5.2	15
West Virginia	689.3	1.0	723	43	4.5	22
Wisconsin	2,609.5	1.6	779	32	5.3	13
Wyoming	265.2	1.0	808	25	4.4	27
Puerto Rico	923.0	-2.6	500	(⁵)	0.8	(⁵)
Virgin Islands	45.1	0.4	738	(⁵)	1.0	(⁵)

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

² Data are preliminary.

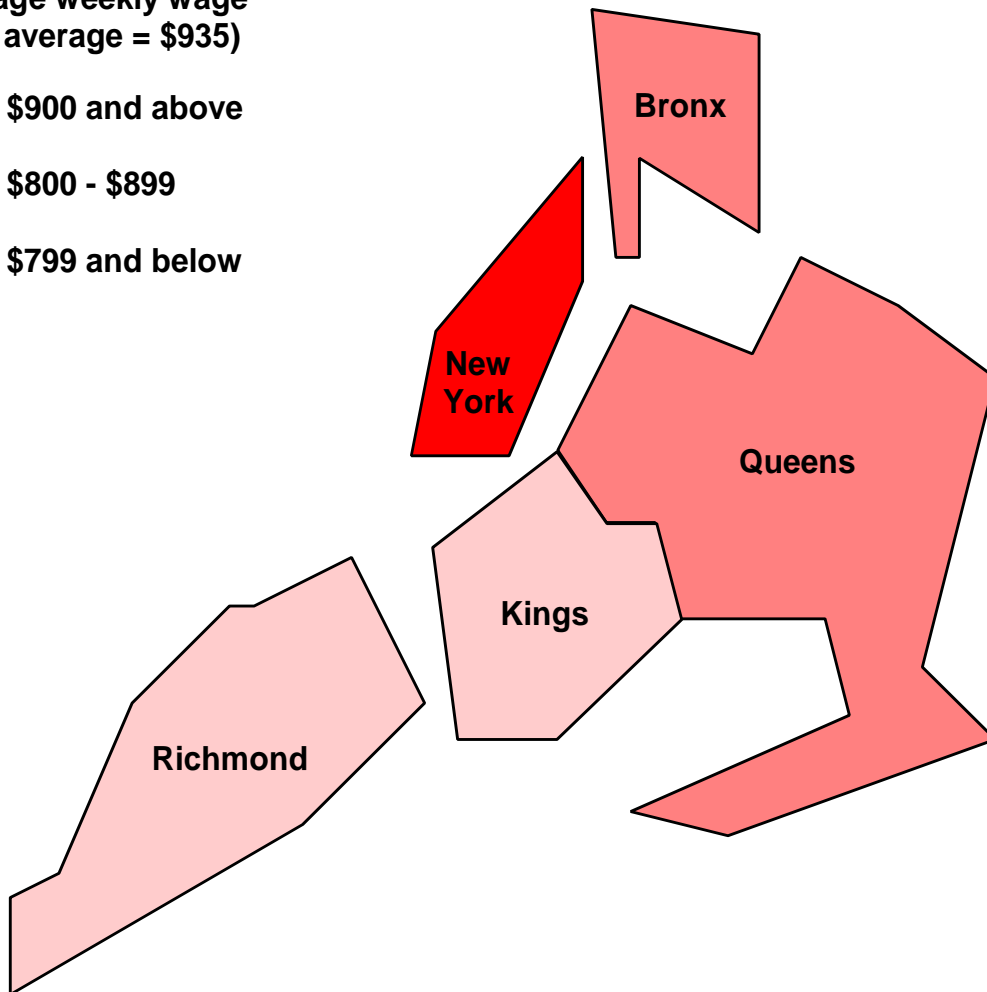
³ Average weekly wages were calculated using unrounded data.

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

⁵ Data not included in the national ranking.

Chart 3. Average weekly wages, five counties in New York City, first quarter 2011

Average weekly wage
(U.S. average = \$935)



Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics, October 2011