



NEWS RELEASE



SOUTHEAST INFORMATION OFFICE
Atlanta, Ga.

For release: Tuesday, January 31, 2012

12-143-ATL

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COUNTY EMPLOYMENT AND WAGES IN ALABAMA – SECOND QUARTER 2011

Employment declined in three of Alabama's five large counties from June 2010 to June 2011, the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics reported today. (Large counties are defined as those with employment of 75,000 or more as measured by 2010 annual average employment.) Regional Commissioner Janet S. Rankin noted that Montgomery County experienced the largest drop, down 2.8 percent, followed by the counties of Mobile (-1.9 percent) and Madison (-1.3 percent). Employment growth was largest in Tuscaloosa County, up 1.6 percent. (See table 1.)

Nationally, employment rose 0.9 percent during the 12-month period, as employment increased in 215 of the 322 largest U.S. counties. Ottawa, Mich., posted the largest over-the-year percentage increase with a gain of 4.7 percent. Montgomery, Texas, had the next largest increase (4.1 percent), followed by Utah, Utah (4.0 percent). San Joaquin, Calif., experienced the largest employment decline with a loss of 4.0 percent.

Among the five large counties in Alabama, employment was highest in Jefferson (332,400) in June 2011, while Tuscaloosa had the smallest employment base (82,600). Together, Alabama's large counties accounted for 48.7 percent of total employment within the state. Nationwide, the 322 largest counties made up 70.5 percent of total U.S. employment, which stood at 130.5 million in June 2011.

The average weekly wage in Tuscaloosa County rose 4.9 percent from the second quarter of 2010 to the second quarter of 2011, the largest increase among Alabama's five large counties. Alabama's four other large counties posted wage increases of at least 2.3 percent. Average weekly wages for the nation rose 3.0 percent. Madison had the highest average weekly wage among the five largest counties at \$997, followed by Jefferson (\$883). Nationally, the average weekly wage was \$891. (See table 1.)

Employment and wage levels (but not over-the-year changes) are also available for the 62 counties in Alabama with employment below 75,000. Among these, Washington County (\$920) was the only small county to have an average weekly wage above the national average. (See table 2.)

Large county wage changes

Tuscaloosa County's 4.9-percent wage growth from the second quarter of 2010 to the second quarter of 2011 ranked 30th among the 322 largest counties in the U.S. Wage growth in Mobile County (4.0

percent, 65th) and Madison County (3.3 percent, 101st) also placed in the top one-third of the ranking. (See table 1.)

Nationwide, 307 large counties experienced growth in average weekly wages. Williamson, Texas, ranked first with an increase of 18.0 percent from the second quarter of 2010. Middlesex, Mass., ranked second with a gain of 10.2 percent, followed by the counties of Harford, Md. (8.8 percent), Santa Clara, Calif. (8.5 percent), and Butler, Pa. (7.5 percent).

Among the 322 largest counties, 11 experienced over-the-year decreases in average weekly wages. Champaign, Ill., had the largest decrease in the nation (-3.6 percent), followed by the counties of Benton, Ark. (-2.7 percent), Rutherford, Tenn. (-2.2 percent), New York, N.Y. (-1.1 percent), and Elkhart, Ind. (-1.0 percent).

Large county average weekly wages

Average weekly wages in 2 of Alabama's 5 large counties placed in the top half of the national ranking among the 322 largest counties in the United States in the second quarter of 2011. Madison County (\$997) recorded a wage higher than the national average of \$891, ranking 53rd nationwide, while Jefferson County (\$883, 111th) was close to the national average. The average weekly wages in Alabama's three other large counties placed in the bottom half of the national ranking.

Nationally, average weekly wages were higher than average in 107 of the 322 largest counties. Santa Clara, Calif., recorded the highest average weekly wage at \$1,743. New York, N.Y., was second with an average weekly wage of \$1,645, followed by Arlington, Va. (\$1,553), Washington, D.C. (\$1,541), and Fairfield, Conn. (\$1,469).

There were 215 large counties with an average weekly wage below the U.S. average in the second quarter of 2011. Horry, S.C. (\$526), reported the lowest wage, followed by the counties of Hidalgo, Texas (\$571), Cameron, Texas (\$572), Yakima, Wash. (\$610), and Webb, Texas (\$616).

Average weekly wages in Alabama's smaller counties

Among the 62 counties in Alabama with employment below 75,000, Washington (\$920) was the only county with an average weekly wage above the national level of \$891, while Dale County was close to the national average at \$887. (See table 2.) Fayette and Geneva Counties reported the lowest weekly wages among all counties in the state, averaging \$532 each in the second quarter of 2011.

When all 67 counties in Alabama were considered, 21 reported average weekly wages under \$600, 28 reported wages from \$600-\$699, 12 had wages from \$700-\$799, and 6 had wages above \$800. (See chart 1.)

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 <http://www.bls.gov/cew/>.

An annual bulletin, *Employment and Wages*, 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 the 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 Southeast Information Office in Atlanta at 404-893-4222.

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 130.5 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 Web site 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 Web site.

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 Web site. 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 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 5 largest counties in Alabama, second quarter 2011 (2)

Area	Employment			Average Weekly Wage (3)			
	June 2011 (thousands)	Percent change, June 2010-11 (4)	National ranking by percent change (5)	Average weekly wage	National ranking by level (5)	Percent change, second quarter 2010-11 (4)	National ranking by percent change (5)
United States (6)	130,469.9	0.9	--	\$891	--	3.0	--
Alabama	1,824.8	-0.4	--	767	34	2.3	41
Jefferson, Ala.	332.4	0.1	204	883	111	2.3	185
Madison, Ala.	178.8	-1.3	290	997	53	3.3	101
Mobile, Ala.	166.4	-1.9	303	777	223	4.0	65
Montgomery, Ala.	128.0	-2.8	311	779	219	2.6	153
Tuscaloosa, Ala.	82.6	1.6	74	778	221	4.9	30

(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. Covered (1) employment and wages in the United States and all counties in Alabama, second quarter 2011 (2)

Area	Employment June 2011	Average weekly wage (3)	Area	Employment June 2011	Average weekly wage (3)
United States (4)	130,469,924	\$891			
Alabama	1,824,776	767	Hale	2,968	\$580
			Henry	3,241	604
			Houston	46,761	663
Autauga	10,780	604	Jackson	16,199	624
Baldwin	62,810	581	Jefferson	332,449	883
Barbour	9,015	604	Lamar	3,301	618
Bibb	3,970	634	Lauderdale	29,511	574
Blount	8,284	562	Lawrence	5,979	791
Bullock	2,967	579	Lee	48,447	641
Butler	6,487	553	Limestone	20,544	783
Calhoun	46,256	710	Lowndes	2,595	751
Chambers	7,949	574	Macon	4,782	747
Cherokee	5,032	555	Madison	178,755	997
Chilton	8,454	580	Marengo	6,681	648
Choctaw	3,492	813	Marion	9,226	601
Clarke	8,097	636	Marshall	33,522	585
Clay	3,611	552	Mobile	166,388	777
Cleburne	2,362	646	Monroe	6,561	694
Coffee	14,557	568	Montgomery	127,970	779
Colbert	21,538	749	Morgan	46,186	724
Conecuh	3,238	600	Perry	2,187	585
Coosa	1,331	598	Pickens	3,659	604
Covington	12,565	608	Pike	14,033	675
Crenshaw	3,681	626	Randolph	4,405	567
Cullman	25,062	625	Russell	12,865	607
Dale	18,098	887	St. Clair	16,132	600
Dallas	13,434	618	Shelby	71,953	802
DeKalb	19,967	588	Sumter	3,132	638
Elmore	18,041	595	Talladega	26,322	707
Escambia	12,414	646	Tallapoosa	12,337	602
Etowah	34,230	635	Tuscaloosa	82,581	778
Fayette	3,871	532	Walker	18,086	624
Franklin	10,224	582	Washington	3,477	920
Geneva	4,973	532	Wilcox	2,528	704
Greene	1,766	666	Winston	7,169	546

(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.

Table 3. Covered (1) employment and wages by state, second quarter 2011 (2)

State	Employment		Average weekly wage (3)			
	June 2011 (thousands)	Percent change, June 2010-11	Average weekly wage	National ranking by level	Percent change, second quarter 2010-11	National ranking by percent change
United States (4)	130,469.9	0.9	\$891	--	3.0	--
Alabama	1,824.8	-0.4	767	34	2.3	41
Alaska	335.9	1.6	941	9	2.6	27
Arizona	2,336.3	1.1	842	20	2.7	26
Arkansas	1,140.4	-1.3	703	47	2.6	27
California	14,664.6	0.3	1,019	6	4.0	7
Colorado	2,234.7	1.4	900	13	3.4	16
Connecticut	1,630.2	0.8	1,116	3	3.8	9
Delaware	408.4	0.5	926	12	5.9	2
District of Columbia	711.3	1.4	1,541	1	2.4	36
Florida	7,092.3	0.8	802	25	2.6	27
Georgia	3,803.1	1.0	832	21	2.5	32
Hawaii	590.5	0.7	799	26	2.4	36
Idaho	616.6	0.0	667	49	2.3	41
Illinois	5,633.0	1.0	939	10	3.2	17
Indiana	2,769.2	1.3	749	41	2.2	46
Iowa	1,476.9	0.7	726	43	2.5	32
Kansas	1,313.2	-0.1	754	40	2.9	23
Kentucky	1,751.8	0.9	760	38	2.3	41
Louisiana	1,844.3	-0.1	794	28	3.1	18
Maine	593.8	0.3	712	46	1.9	48
Maryland	2,513.5	0.5	987	7	3.1	18
Massachusetts	3,230.4	0.9	1,120	2	5.6	3
Michigan	3,896.9	1.8	845	19	2.4	36
Minnesota	2,645.4	1.4	898	15	3.5	12
Mississippi	1,079.4	-0.6	664	50	1.8	49
Missouri	2,617.7	0.3	774	31	1.6	50
Montana	434.1	0.5	681	48	3.5	12
Nebraska	911.6	0.1	714	45	2.4	36
Nevada	1,123.0	0.5	816	24	2.5	32
New Hampshire	615.2	0.4	888	16	2.4	36
New Jersey	3,836.2	-0.3	1,056	5	2.6	27
New Mexico	788.7	-0.5	763	37	2.8	24
New York	8,575.3	1.0	1,092	4	1.0	51
North Carolina	3,865.9	1.5	783	30	2.5	32
North Dakota	382.4	5.1	769	33	8.2	1
Ohio	5,009.1	0.9	795	27	2.6	27
Oklahoma	1,510.3	0.7	749	41	4.5	5
Oregon	1,637.5	0.7	819	22	4.2	6
Pennsylvania	5,606.5	1.0	875	17	3.1	18
Rhode Island	458.1	0.3	862	18	3.5	12
South Carolina	1,801.6	1.1	726	43	2.3	41
South Dakota	404.8	0.8	656	51	3.8	9
Tennessee	2,616.9	1.3	794	28	2.3	41
Texas	10,462.4	2.1	900	13	4.0	7
Utah	1,183.9	2.0	756	39	3.1	18
Vermont	297.0	1.0	773	32	2.8	24
Virginia	3,619.7	0.9	949	8	2.2	46
Washington	2,875.8	0.6	928	11	3.5	12
West Virginia	702.9	0.3	765	36	5.4	4
Wisconsin	2,712.0	0.9	767	34	3.0	22
Wyoming	284.7	1.2	819	22	3.7	11
Puerto Rico	915.1	-1.4	496	(5)	0.6	(5)
Virgin Islands	44.1	0.6	747	(5)	5.5	(5)

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

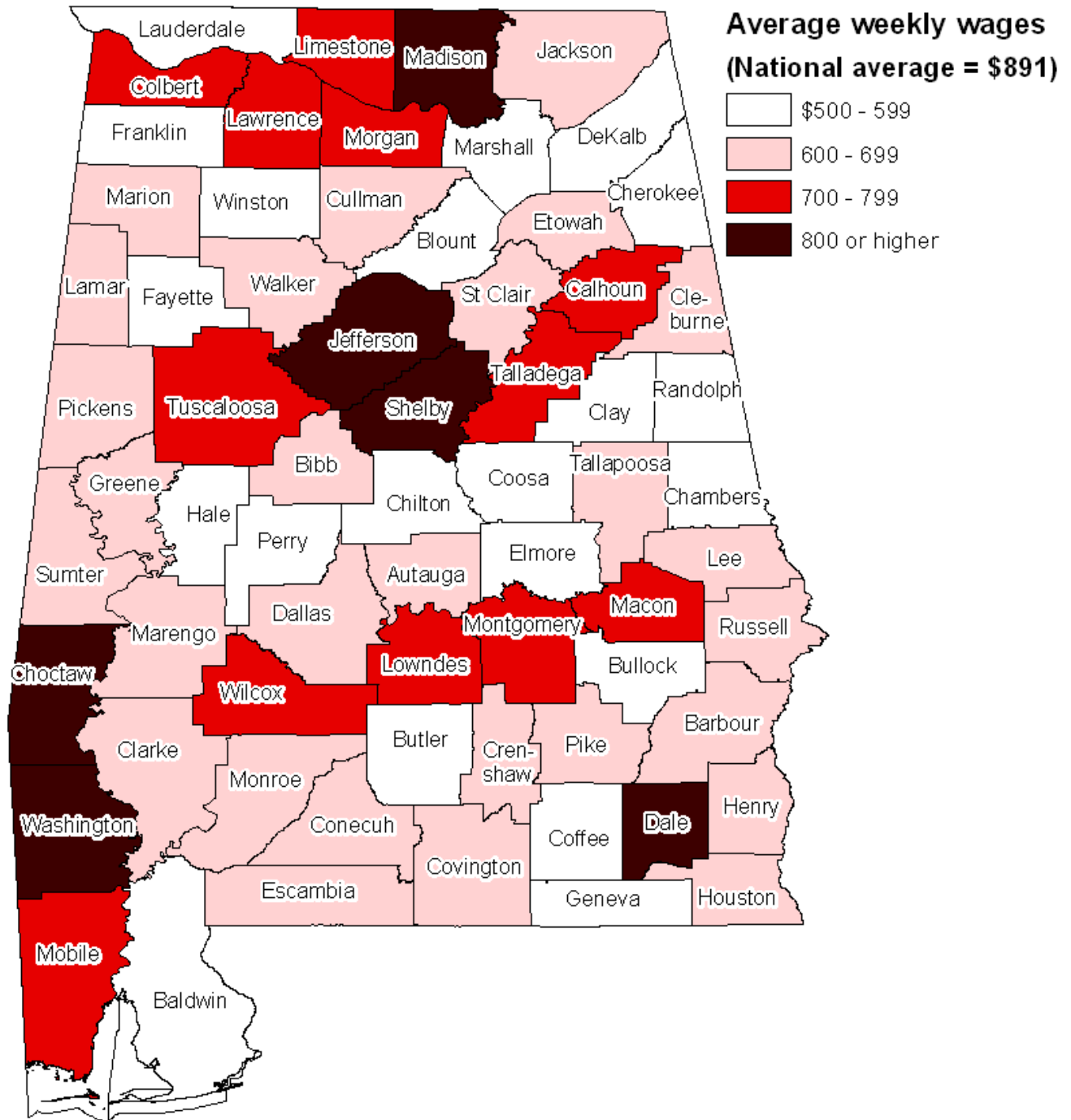
(2) Data are preliminary.

(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 1. Average weekly wages in Alabama, second quarter 2011



Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics