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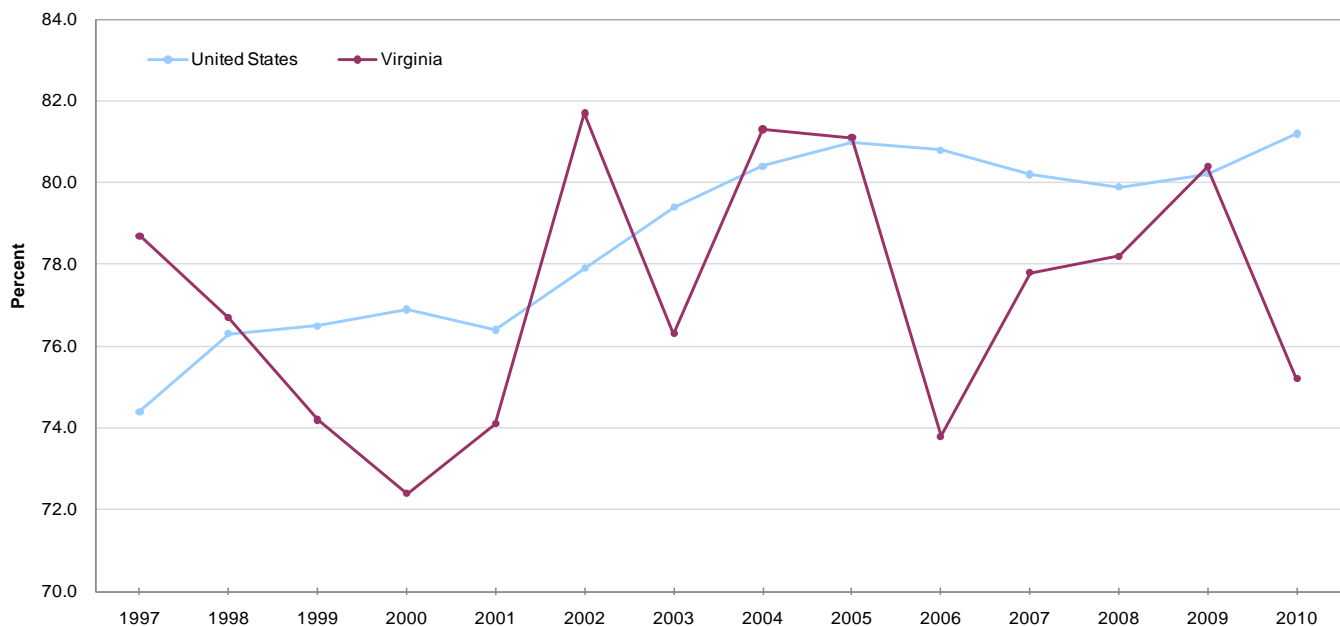
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WOMEN’S EARNINGS IN VIRGINIA – 2010

In 2010, Virginia women who were full-time wage and salary workers had median weekly earnings of \$719 or 75.2 percent of the \$956 median weekly earnings for their male counterparts, the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics reported today. Sheila Watkins, the Bureau’s regional commissioner, noted that the women’s-to-men’s earnings ratio in Virginia fell 5.2 percentage points in 2010. Nationwide, women earned \$669 or 81.2 percent of the \$824 median for men. (See table 1. Earnings in this report do not control for many factors that can be significant in explaining earnings differences.)

In Virginia, the ratio of women’s to men’s earnings has fluctuated considerably since 1997, ranging from a low of 72.4 percent in 2000 to a high of 81.7 percent just two years later. The ratio in 2010 was almost 7 percentage points lower than the high reached in 2002. (See chart 1.)

Chart 1. Women’s earnings as a percent of men’s, full-time wage and salary workers, United States and Virginia, 1997-2010 annual averages



Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics

Among the 50 states, median weekly earnings of women in full-time wage and salary positions in 2010 ranged from \$530 in Arkansas to \$835 in Connecticut. States with the highest wages for women were located along the Northeastern coastline. In addition to Connecticut, Massachusetts and New Jersey also had wages above \$800, and Maryland was close at \$798. (See table 1 and chart 2.)

Across the nation, median weekly earnings for men were lowest in Arkansas at \$640 and highest in Connecticut at \$1,101, the same pattern that emerged for women. Five of the six states with wages above \$950 (Connecticut, Massachusetts, New Jersey, New Hampshire, and Virginia) were located along or close to the east coast. The sole exception was on the west coast—Washington.

The ratio of female-to-male earnings in 2010 varied across the nation, ranging from 68.8 percent in West Virginia to 91.3 percent in Delaware. Of the eight states with the highest ratios, 85 percent or higher, seven were either in the Northeast or along the border with Mexico, the only exception being North Carolina. (See chart 3.) The differences among the states reflect, in part, variation in the occupations and industries found in each state and in the age composition of each state's labor force. In addition, comparisons by sex are on a broad level and do not control for factors such as educational attainment, which can be significant in explaining earnings differences.

For more information on the median weekly earnings of women and men, see Bureau of Labor Statistics Report 1031, "Highlights of Women's Earnings in 2010," issued in July 2011; copies are available on the Internet at www.bls.gov/cps/cpswom2010.pdf or by calling the Mid-Atlantic Information Office at (215) 597-3282 from 8:30 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. and 1:00 p.m. to 3:30 p.m. ET. Information in this release is also available to sensory impaired individuals. Voice phone: (202) 691- 5200; Federal Relay Service: 1-800-877-8339.

Technical Note

The estimates in this report were obtained from the Current Population Survey (CPS), which provides a wide range of information on the labor force, employment, and unemployment. This survey is conducted monthly for the Bureau of Labor Statistics by the U.S. Census Bureau, using a national sample of about 60,000 households, with coverage in all 50 states and the District of Columbia. The earnings data are collected from one-fourth of the CPS monthly sample.

Statistics based on the CPS data are subject to both sampling and nonsampling error. The differences among data for the states reflect, in part, variations in the occupation, industry, and age composition of each state's labor force. In addition, sampling error for the state estimates is considerably larger than it is for the national data.

The principal definitions used in connection with the earnings series in this release are described below.

Usual weekly earnings. Data represent earnings before taxes and other deductions and include any overtime pay, commissions, or tips usually received (at the main job in the case of multiple jobholders.)

Median weekly earnings. The median is the amount which divides a given earnings distribution into two equal groups, one having earnings above the median and the other having earnings below the median.

Wage and salary workers. Workers who receive wages, salaries, commissions, tips, payment in kind, or piece rates. The group includes employees in both the private and public sectors but, for the purposes of the earnings series, excludes all self-employed persons, regardless of whether or not their businesses are incorporated.

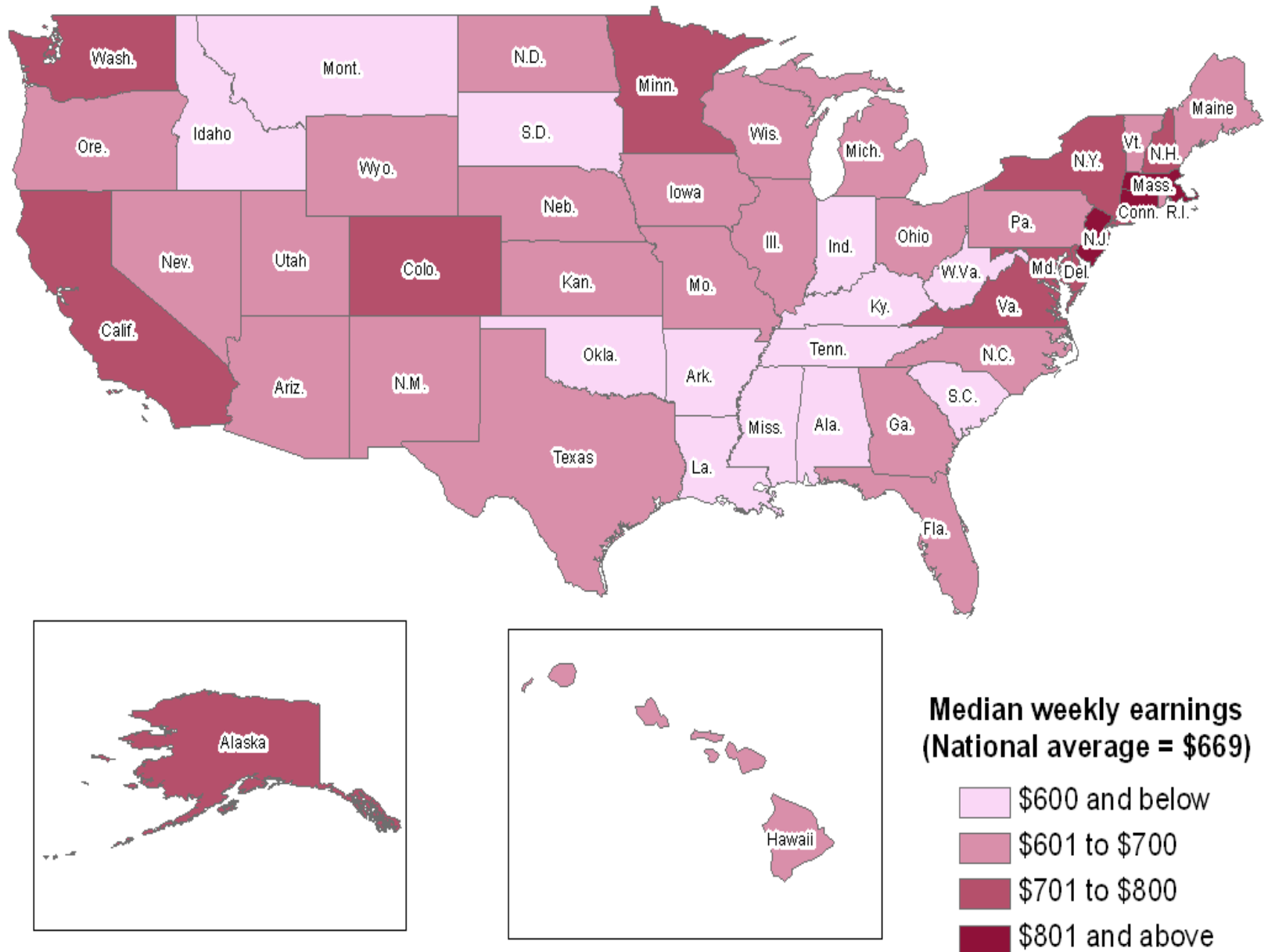
Full-time worker. Workers who usually work 35 hours or more per week at their sole or principal job.

Table 1. Median usual weekly earnings of full-time wage and salary workers, by state and sex, 2010 annual averages

State	Both sexes			Women			Men			Women's earnings as percent of men's
	Number of workers (thousands)	Median weekly earnings	Standard error of median	Number of workers (thousands)	Median weekly earnings	Standard error of median	Number of workers (thousands)	Median weekly earnings	Standard error of median	
United States	99,531	\$747	\$2	44,472	\$669	\$3	55,059	\$824	\$3	81.2
Alabama	1,478	661	20	678	597	18	800	709	20	84.2
Alaska	241	827	18	107	705	20	134	948	28	74.4
Arizona	2,028	723	11	878	667	17	1,150	767	16	87.0
Arkansas	911	594	9	416	530	14	496	640	18	82.8
California	10,999	793	8	4,712	747	9	6,287	840	13	88.9
Colorado	1,727	823	15	728	719	14	998	925	22	77.7
Connecticut	1,195	976	24	524	835	32	672	1,101	56	75.8
Delaware	293	760	16	137	735	16	156	805	30	91.3
District of Columbia	259	1,014	21	131	965	20	128	1,103	58	87.5
Florida	5,804	717	8	2,735	647	8	3,069	773	11	83.7
Georgia	3,198	725	14	1,458	637	13	1,740	822	27	77.5
Hawaii	401	732	16	185	658	15	216	797	22	82.6
Idaho	445	666	12	181	585	14	264	754	20	77.6
Illinois	4,264	771	10	1,865	678	13	2,399	872	14	77.8
Indiana	2,030	693	15	869	598	13	1,160	772	22	77.5
Iowa	1,056	700	14	481	622	13	575	786	23	79.1
Kansas	970	689	16	439	611	12	531	763	18	80.1
Kentucky	1,301	650	15	596	581	11	705	743	19	78.2
Louisiana	1,436	682	23	646	582	12	790	834	20	69.8
Maine	406	722	15	189	637	19	217	810	30	78.6
Maryland	2,148	867	19	1,006	798	43	1,142	932	32	85.6
Massachusetts	2,193	946	15	982	832	19	1,212	1,033	23	80.5
Michigan	2,848	768	11	1,290	684	14	1,558	857	23	79.8
Minnesota	1,856	823	17	819	749	18	1,037	903	23	82.9
Mississippi	854	618	11	406	564	18	449	693	20	81.4
Missouri	1,977	725	16	926	616	12	1,051	819	22	75.2
Montana	280	658	16	128	553	18	152	730	19	75.8
Nebraska	652	688	13	304	621	14	348	748	18	83.0
Nevada	811	687	12	359	614	8	452	751	14	81.8
New Hampshire	486	848	16	213	745	16	273	966	27	77.1
New Jersey	3,074	895	17	1,352	824	16	1,722	972	19	84.8
New Mexico	606	688	17	270	605	15	336	780	25	77.6
New York	6,602	798	10	3,062	747	7	3,540	861	11	86.8
North Carolina	3,049	671	12	1,418	622	10	1,630	728	17	85.4
North Dakota	249	689	13	112	603	13	137	764	16	78.9
Ohio	3,679	732	8	1,668	645	11	2,012	817	16	78.9
Oklahoma	1,202	661	12	542	579	12	660	746	23	77.6
Oregon	1,129	754	17	468	659	22	661	828	29	79.6
Pennsylvania	4,171	751	7	1,835	664	11	2,336	822	15	80.8
Rhode Island	335	805	22	152	700	26	183	930	30	75.3
South Carolina	1,416	664	10	679	586	16	737	752	19	77.9
South Dakota	280	651	12	131	598	10	149	716	17	83.5
Tennessee	2,001	639	15	926	589	15	1,076	715	26	82.4
Texas	8,381	665	8	3,575	611	7	4,806	714	10	85.6
Utah	853	717	9	324	620	12	528	841	26	73.7
Vermont	217	754	14	102	696	22	116	807	18	86.2
Virginia	2,892	831	18	1,351	719	18	1,540	956	21	75.2
Washington	2,193	870	18	938	748	16	1,255	978	22	76.5
West Virginia	566	705	15	244	572	17	321	832	27	68.8
Wisconsin	1,894	761	12	856	684	17	1,037	826	18	82.8
Wyoming	197	776	15	81	616	14	116	891	17	69.1

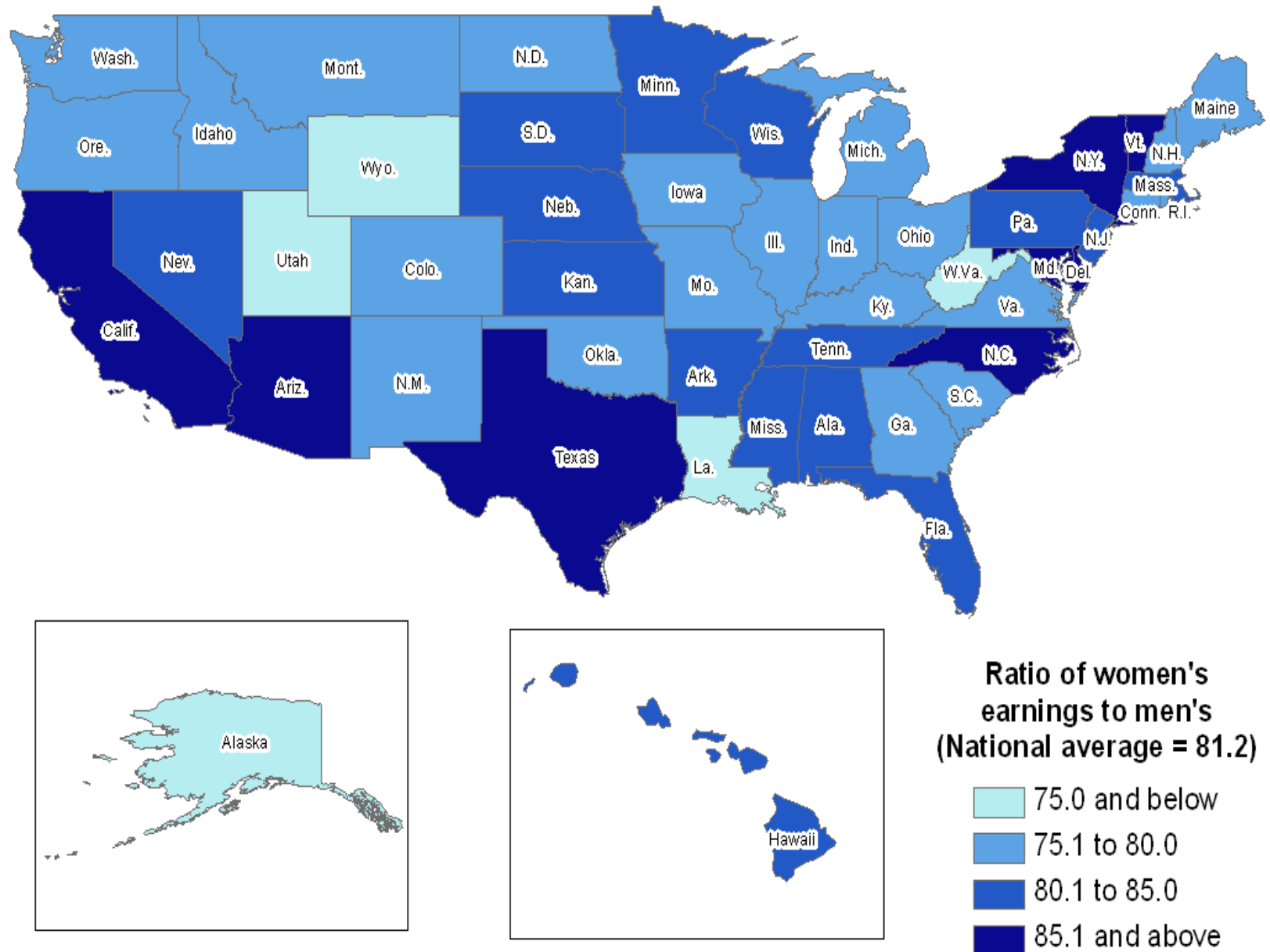
Note: Data refer to persons 16 years and older.

Chart 2. Women's median usual weekly earnings of full-time wage and salary workers, by state, 2010 annual averages



Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics

Chart 3. Women's earnings as a percent of men's, full-time wage and salary workers, by state, 2010



Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics