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COUNTY EMPLOYMENT AND WAGES IN OHIO – FIRST QUARTER 2011

All 11 of the largest counties in Ohio reported employment increases from March 2010 to March 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.) Lorain County had the largest gain, up 2.5 percent, followed by Stark County, up 2.2 percent. Regional Commissioner Charlene Peiffer noted that 5 of the state's 11 large counties experienced over-the-year employment gains greater than the national increase of 1.3 percent.

Nationally, employment grew 1.3 percent during this 12-month period, as 256 of the 322 large counties nationwide gained jobs. Elkhart County, Ind., experienced the largest percentage increase in employment, up 6.2 percent over the year, while Sacramento, Calif., had the largest employment decrease with a loss of 1.6 percent.

Among the 11 largest counties in Ohio, employment was highest in Cuyahoga County (675,400) in March 2011, followed by Franklin County (644,100). Three other counties—Hamilton (478,500), Summit (248,900), and Montgomery (238,900)—had employment levels of more than 200,000. Collectively, Ohio's 11 large counties accounted for 62.5 percent of total employment within the state. Nationwide, the 322 largest counties made up 70.7 percent of total U.S. employment, which stood at 127.9 million in March 2011.

The average weekly wage in Stark County rose 9.7 percent from the first quarter of 2010 to the first quarter of 2011, the largest increase among Ohio's large counties. Hamilton County had the highest average weekly wage at \$992, followed by Cuyahoga (\$953) and Franklin (\$920). (See table 1.) Nationally, the average weekly wage rose 5.2 percent over the year to \$935 in the first quarter of 2011.

Employment and wage levels (but not over-the-year changes) are also available for the 77 counties in Ohio with employment below 75,000. With the exceptions of Delaware (\$995) and Union (\$967) Counties, all of these smaller counties had average weekly wages below the national average. (See table 2.)

Large county wage changes

Four of Ohio's large counties recorded wage growth above the national increase of 5.2 percent from the first quarter of 2010 to the first quarter of 2011. (See table 1.) Stark County experienced the state's largest average weekly wage increase of 9.7 percent, ranking 8th in the nation and was in the top 10th

percentile for wage increases. Also in the top 10th percentile was Cuyahoga County's 7.4 percent increase which ranked 26th in the nation. This was followed by Lorain County (7.0 percent, ranked 35th) and Lucas County (5.9 percent, ranked 64th), both of which were in the top 20th percentile for wage increases nationwide.

Of the 322 largest counties, 315 had over-the-year increases in average weekly wages. Peoria, Ill., led the nation in average weekly wage growth with an increase of 18.9 percent from the first quarter of 2010. Santa Clara, Calif., was second with a gain of 12.4 percent, followed by the counties of Macomb, Mich. (12.0 percent), Clayton, Ga. (11.9 percent), and Wayne, Mich. (11.3 percent).

Nationwide, three large counties recorded decreases in average weekly wages over the year. Williamson, Texas, had the largest decrease in wages with a decline of 3.8 percent from the first quarter of 2010. Smaller declines were reported in Hudson, N.J. (-1.5 percent) and Durham, N.C. (-0.5 percent).

Large county average weekly wages

Average weekly wages in two of Ohio's eleven large counties were above the national average of \$935 in the first quarter of 2011. As noted, Hamilton County (\$992) had the highest average weekly wage in the state, ranking 66th among the 322 largest counties in the United States. This was followed by Cuyahoga County with average weekly wages of \$953 in March 2011. Mahoning County (\$632) reported the lowest average weekly wage among Ohio's largest counties and ranked 311th nationwide.

Nationwide, 94 large counties registered weekly wages above the U.S. average of \$935 in the first quarter of 2011. New York, N.Y., held the top position among the highest-paid large counties with an average weekly wage of \$2,634. Fairfield, Conn., was second at \$1,888, followed by the counties of Somerset, N.J. (\$1,867), Santa Clara, Calif. (\$1,863), and San Francisco, Calif. (\$1,723).

More than two-thirds of the largest U.S. counties (228) reported weekly wages below the national average. Horry County, S.C. reported the lowest wage (\$534), followed by the counties of Cameron, Texas (\$546), Hidalgo, Texas (\$556), Lake, Fla. (\$586), and Webb, Texas (\$590). Wages in these lowest-ranked counties were less than one-fourth of the average weekly wage reported for the highest-ranked county, New York.

Average weekly wages in Ohio's smaller counties

Except for Delaware (\$995) and Union (\$967), all 77 counties in Ohio with employment below 75,000 had average weekly wages lower than the national average of \$935. Delaware County had the highest average weekly wage when all 88 counties, large and small, were considered. Among the smaller counties, Greene County had the third highest average weekly wage at \$891 while Holmes County had the lowest at \$514. (See table 2.)

When all 88 counties in Ohio were considered, all but 4 had wages below the national average of \$935. Twenty reported average weekly wages below \$600, 39 reported wages from \$600 to \$699, 21 reported wages from \$700 to \$799, and 8 reported wages of \$800 or more. (See chart 1.)

Additional statistics and other information

QCEW 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 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. Tables and additional content from the 2009 Employment and Wages Annual Bulletin are now available online at www.bls.gov/cew/cewbultn09.htm. 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.

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 Midwest Information Office at 312-353-1880 from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. ET.

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 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 11 largest counties in Ohio, first quarter 2011 (2)

Area	Employment			Average weekly wage (3)			
	March 2011 (thousands)	Percent change, March 2010-11 (4)	National ranking by percent change (5)	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	--
Ohio	4,870.6	1.4	--	819	23	4.6	19
Butler, Ohio	136.5	0.4	216	781	208	0.5	314
Cuyahoga, Ohio	675.4	0.5	206	953	88	7.4	26
Franklin, Ohio	644.1	1.4	118	920	104	4.4	134
Hamilton, Ohio	478.5	0.8	180	992	66	4.1	157
Lake, Ohio	90.9	0.4	216	774	216	3.6	188
Lorain, Ohio	91.3	2.5	35	750	240	7.0	35
Lucas, Ohio	196.4	1.5	106	793	196	5.9	64
Mahoning, Ohio	94.5	1.7	86	632	311	4.6	116
Montgomery, Ohio	238.9	0.8	180	782	207	3.3	213
Stark, Ohio	148.5	2.2	53	703	286	9.7	8
Summit, Ohio	248.9	0.3	229	841	153	2.2	279

(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 Ohio, first quarter 2011 (2)

Area	Employment March 2011	Average weekly wage (3)	Area	Employment March 2011	Average weekly wage (3)
United States (4)	127,850,997	\$935	Lawrence	12,465	\$532
Ohio	4,870,626	819	Licking	50,715	674
Adams	5,855	616	Logan	17,290	716
Allen	48,927	713	Lorain	91,280	750
Ashland	16,759	629	Lucas	196,356	793
Ashtabula	29,560	622	Madison	13,324	678
Athens	19,459	676	Mahoning	94,495	632
Auglaize	18,142	642	Marion	24,188	667
Belmont	22,166	610	Medina	55,189	675
Brown	8,065	604	Meigs	3,514	517
Butler	136,530	781	Mercer	17,162	578
Carroll	5,483	550	Miami	37,600	678
Champaign	9,130	644	Monroe	3,471	719
Clark	47,867	630	Montgomery	238,857	782
Clermont	51,085	711	Morgan	2,343	575
Clinton	15,772	698	Morrow	4,550	567
Columbiana	29,161	573	Muskingum	31,312	609
Coshocton	10,346	653	Noble	2,956	555
Crawford	13,012	620	Ottawa	11,731	775
Cuyahoga	675,393	953	Paulding	4,698	614
Darke	16,589	621	Perry	5,790	589
Defiance	14,961	716	Pickaway	13,778	735
Delaware	72,786	995	Pike	8,751	812
Erie	33,594	675	Portage	49,880	721
Fairfield	38,890	604	Preble	9,796	589
Fayette	10,702	573	Putnam	10,832	565
Franklin	644,052	920	Richland	50,511	605
Fulton	16,683	629	Ross	25,438	738
Gallia	10,941	643	Sandusky	24,946	620
Geauga	30,543	711	Scioto	23,258	626
Greene	67,050	891	Seneca	18,501	584
Guernsey	13,242	623	Shelby	24,388	757
Hamilton	478,491	992	Stark	148,503	703
Hancock	39,904	758	Summit	248,920	841
Hardin	7,810	616	Trumbull	69,474	731
Harrison	3,168	573	Tuscarawas	33,002	579
Henry	10,546	638	Union	25,566	967
Highland	9,893	567	Van Wert	9,689	632
Hocking	6,370	560	Vinton	2,217	578
Holmes	16,502	514	Warren	71,210	791
Huron	19,373	630	Washington	23,536	681
Jackson	10,398	577	Wayne	41,226	668
Jefferson	21,483	658	Williams	15,394	665
Knox	18,650	691	Wood	55,849	767
Lake	90,913	774	Wyandot	7,772	611

(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, first quarter 2011 (2)

State	Employment		Average weekly wage (3)			
	March 2011 (thousands)	Percent change, March 2010-11	Average weekly wage	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
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.

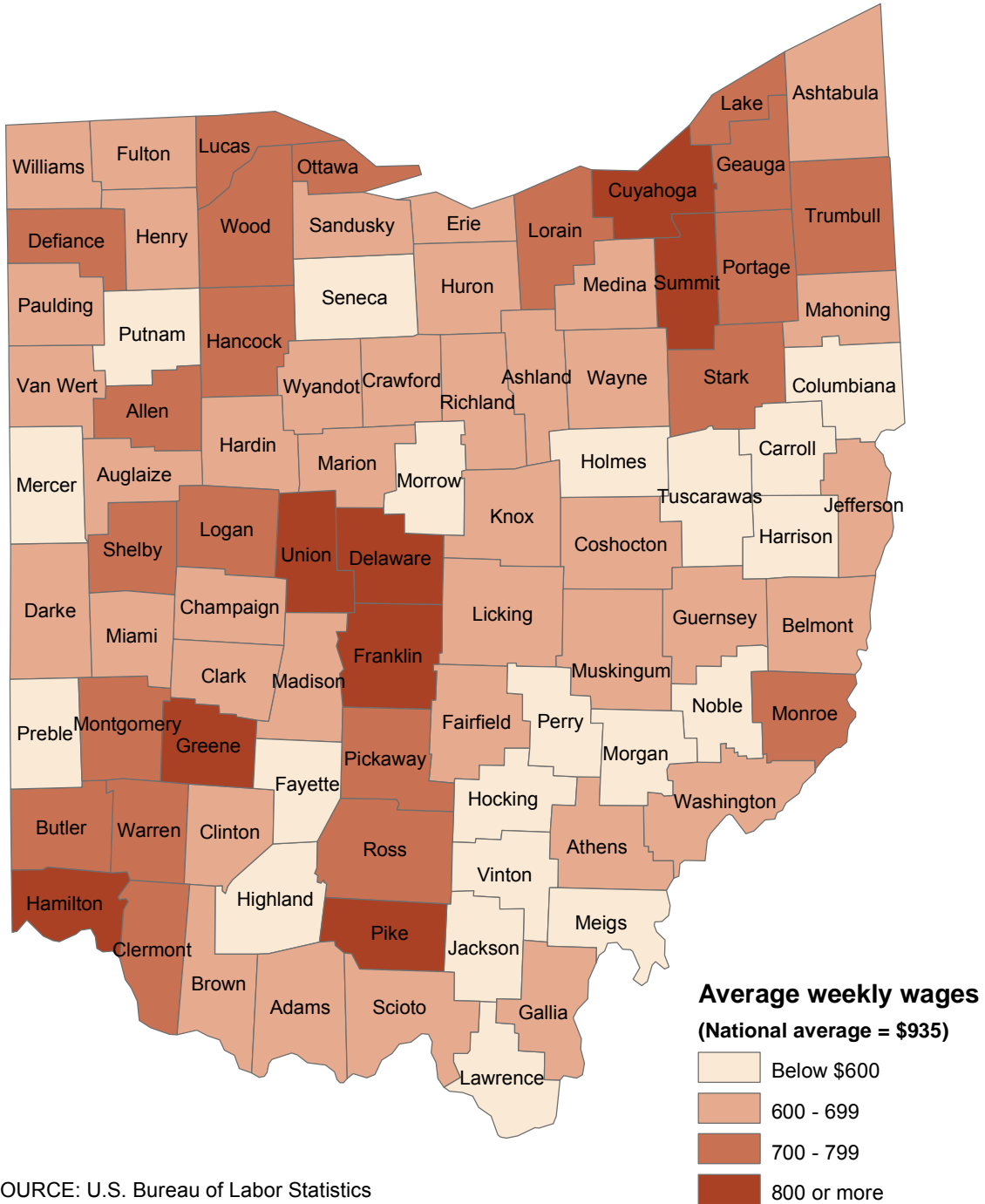
(2) Data are preliminary.

(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 1. Average weekly wages by county in Ohio, first quarter 2011



SOURCE: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics