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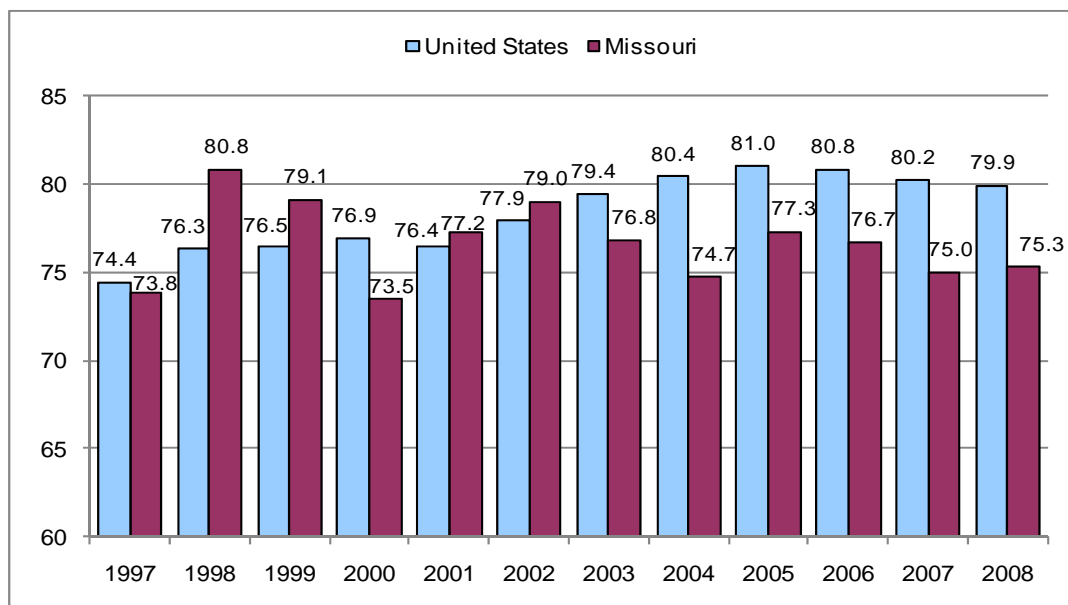
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WOMEN'S EARNINGS IN MISSOURI - 2008

In 2008, women who were full-time wage and salary workers in Missouri had median weekly earnings of \$586, or 75 percent of the \$778 median for their male counterparts, the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics reported today. Regional Commissioner Stanley W. Suchman noted that the ratio reported in Missouri in 2008 was below the peak ratio of nearly 81 percent in 1998.

Nationwide, women earned \$638, or approximately 80 percent of the \$798 median for men in 2008. At the national level, the ratio of women's to men's earnings has narrowed from 62 percent in 1979, the first year for which comparable earnings data are available. After a gradual rise in the 1980s and 1990s, the ratio peaked at 81 percent in 2005 and 2006. The women's-to-men's earnings ratio in Missouri has been below the national ratio since 2003. (See chart 1.) Readers should note that the comparisons of earnings in this report are on a broad level and do not control for many factors that can be significant in explaining earnings differences.

Chart 1. Women's earnings as a percent of men's, full-time wage and salary workers, United States and Missouri, 1997 - 2008 annual averages



Nationally, the median weekly earnings of women in full-time wage and salary positions ranged from \$510 in Mississippi to \$866 in the District of Columbia. (See chart 2.) Within the Midwest region of the country, of which Missouri is 1 of 12 states, only Minnesota reported wages above the national average for women and Michigan reported wages that equaled the national average for women.¹

Across the nation, median weekly earnings for men were lowest in Arkansas at \$640. Men in Connecticut received the highest wage at \$1,057. (See chart 3.) In the Midwest, Minnesota, Michigan, Illinois, Kansas, and Indiana reported earnings above the national average for men. With median wages above \$875, Minnesota had the highest wages for men in the Midwest.

The ratio of female-to-male earnings in 2008 varied across the nation, ranging from 68 percent in Wyoming to 92 percent in the District of Columbia. (See table 1.) Within the Midwest region, only three states exceeded the national ratio of 80 percent—Iowa, Minnesota, and South Dakota. 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, sampling error for the state estimates is considerably larger than it is for the national data. Comparisons of state estimates should be made with caution.

For more information on the median weekly earnings of women and men, see Bureau of Labor Statistics Report 1017, "Highlights of Women's Earnings in 2008," issued July 2009; copies are available on the Internet at www.bls.gov/cps/cpswom2008.pdf or by calling the Mountain-Plains Information Office at (816) 285-7000. 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. Statistics based on the CPS data are subject to both sampling and nonsampling error. 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.

¹ The United States is composed of four geographic regions: Northeast, Midwest, South, and West. The Midwest region includes Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri, Nebraska, North Dakota, Ohio, South Dakota, and Wisconsin.

Table 1. Median usual weekly earnings of full-time wage and salary workers, by State and sex, 2008 annual averages

State	Both sexes			Women		
	Number of workers (in thousands)	Median weekly earnings	Standard error of median	Number of workers (in thousands)	Median weekly earnings	Standard error of median
UNITED STATES.....	106,648	\$722	\$2	47,209	\$638	\$2
Alabama.....	1,582	638	14	722	561	20
Alaska.....	240	847	16	104	719	16
Arizona.....	2,139	714	11	919	657	12
Arkansas.....	981	602	9	453	556	38
California.....	12,167	794	8	5,085	738	10
Colorado.....	1,874	784	14	797	693	15
Connecticut.....	1,272	935	21	565	772	24
Delaware.....	329	742	12	153	656	16
District of Columbia.....	261	896	22	133	866	16
Florida.....	6,425	685	7	3,004	616	5
Georgia.....	3,506	723	13	1,591	635	15
Hawaii.....	458	723	14	204	652	20
Idaho.....	481	658	13	196	560	14
Illinois.....	4,639	732	8	2,032	634	11
Indiana.....	2,351	696	13	1,046	615	13
Iowa.....	1,137	697	13	503	619	12
Kansas.....	1,027	694	15	448	589	12
Kentucky.....	1,376	645	16	602	551	18
Louisiana.....	1,496	654	11	700	565	24
Maine.....	441	691	13	196	607	13
Maryland.....	2,207	851	19	1,055	774	21
Massachusetts.....	2,311	897	15	1,038	762	15
Michigan.....	3,187	748	10	1,363	638	13
Minnesota.....	1,884	794	17	829	717	18
Mississippi.....	913	603	10	429	510	10
Missouri.....	2,135	668	14	981	586	11
Montana.....	297	639	11	132	528	15
Nebraska.....	673	662	12	296	583	13
Nevada.....	1,027	688	13	440	614	9
New Hampshire.....	501	808	20	222	689	24
New Jersey.....	3,222	824	14	1,441	726	13
New Mexico.....	666	672	13	295	606	9
New York.....	6,811	751	6	3,134	687	10
North Carolina.....	3,225	639	11	1,472	586	10
North Dakota.....	243	643	12	112	547	19
Ohio.....	4,008	701	9	1,786	614	7
Oklahoma.....	1,318	647	11	590	551	27
Oregon.....	1,221	715	15	510	633	12
Pennsylvania.....	4,435	735	7	2,016	642	9
Rhode Island.....	361	775	20	160	679	21
South Carolina.....	1,489	637	12	682	576	15
South Dakota.....	295	621	8	135	568	15
Tennessee.....	2,121	636	13	969	583	12
Texas.....	8,558	639	7	3,582	586	7
Utah.....	930	700	12	353	594	11
Vermont.....	220	690	15	97	625	15
Virginia.....	3,002	758	12	1,381	674	18
Washington.....	2,329	822	18	981	709	18
West Virginia.....	615	636	16	264	546	17
Wisconsin.....	2,062	706	12	931	624	11
Wyoming.....	197	748	15	80	599	13

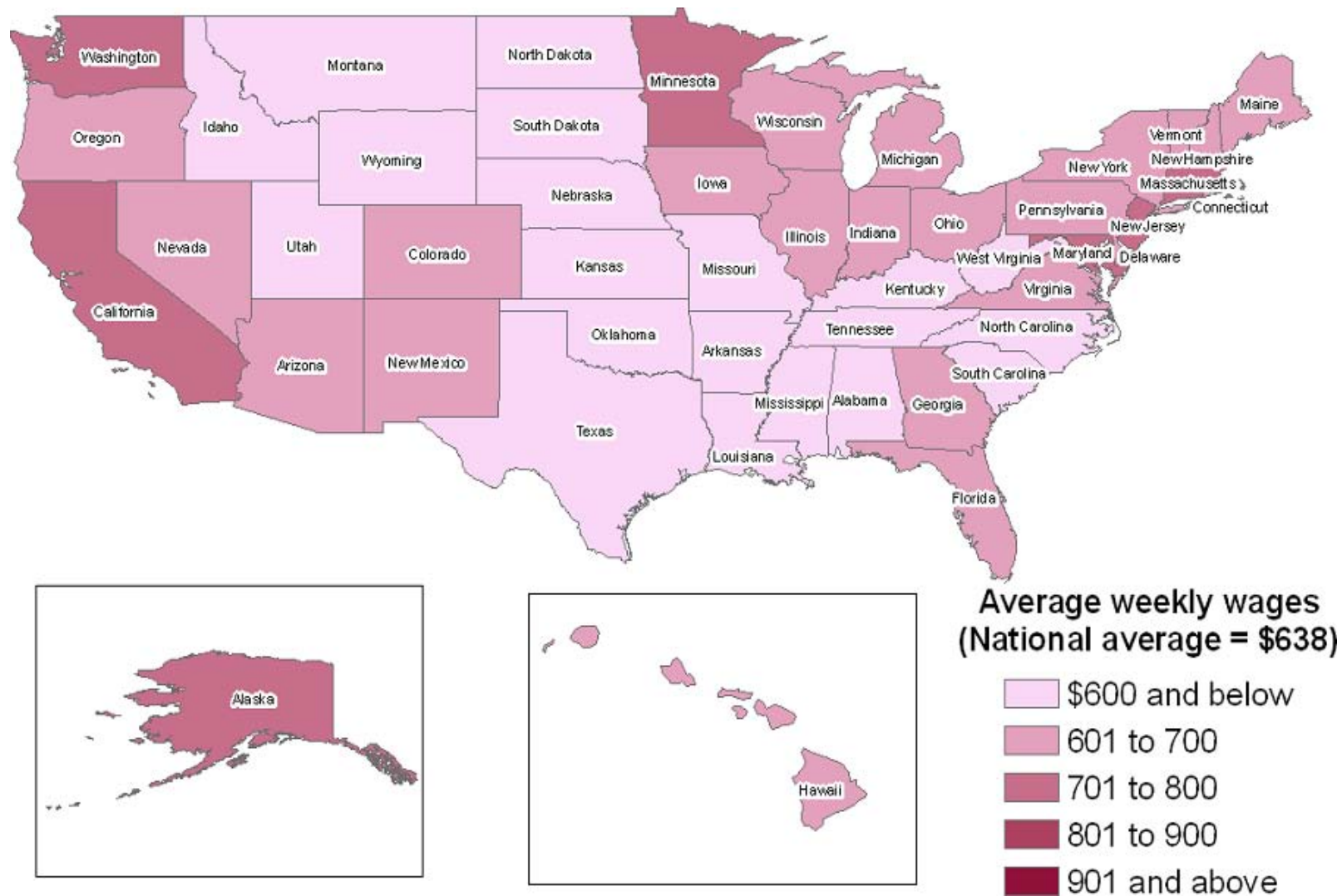
See note at end of table.

Table 1. Median usual weekly earnings of full-time wage and salary workers, by State and sex, 2008 annual averages—Continued

State	Men			Women's earnings as percent of men's
	Number of workers (in thousands)	Median weekly earnings	Standard error of median	
UNITED STATES.....	59,439	\$798	\$3	79.9
Alabama.....	860	720	18	77.9
Alaska.....	136	970	23	74.1
Arizona.....	1,220	774	20	84.9
Arkansas.....	528	640	23	86.9
California.....	7,082	852	16	86.6
Colorado.....	1,077	878	23	78.9
Connecticut.....	707	1,057	32	73.0
Delaware.....	176	821	24	79.9
District of Columbia.....	128	939	24	92.2
Florida.....	3,422	754	9	81.7
Georgia.....	1,914	821	24	77.3
Hawaii.....	254	785	28	83.1
Idaho.....	286	736	19	76.1
Illinois.....	2,607	814	17	77.9
Indiana.....	1,305	807	23	76.2
Iowa.....	634	762	12	81.2
Kansas.....	579	808	26	72.9
Kentucky.....	774	719	16	76.6
Louisiana.....	796	777	32	72.7
Maine.....	245	764	21	79.5
Maryland.....	1,152	926	27	83.6
Massachusetts.....	1,273	1,003	16	76.0
Michigan.....	1,824	862	18	74.0
Minnesota.....	1,054	884	19	81.1
Mississippi.....	484	680	19	75.0
Missouri.....	1,154	778	17	75.3
Montana.....	165	715	13	73.8
Nebraska.....	377	737	17	79.1
Nevada.....	588	766	14	80.2
New Hampshire.....	278	945	20	72.9
New Jersey.....	1,782	942	13	77.1
New Mexico.....	372	749	16	80.9
New York.....	3,677	820	12	83.8
North Carolina.....	1,753	704	14	83.2
North Dakota.....	131	721	16	75.9
Ohio.....	2,221	776	12	79.1
Oklahoma.....	728	727	15	75.8
Oregon.....	711	795	23	79.6
Pennsylvania.....	2,419	815	14	78.8
Rhode Island.....	202	863	23	78.7
South Carolina.....	807	716	15	80.4
South Dakota.....	160	692	17	82.1
Tennessee.....	1,153	716	21	81.4
Texas.....	4,976	697	9	84.1
Utah.....	577	818	20	72.6
Vermont.....	123	761	24	82.1
Virginia.....	1,621	862	24	78.2
Washington.....	1,348	915	21	77.5
West Virginia.....	352	739	21	73.9
Wisconsin.....	1,131	787	18	79.3
Wyoming.....	117	883	18	67.8

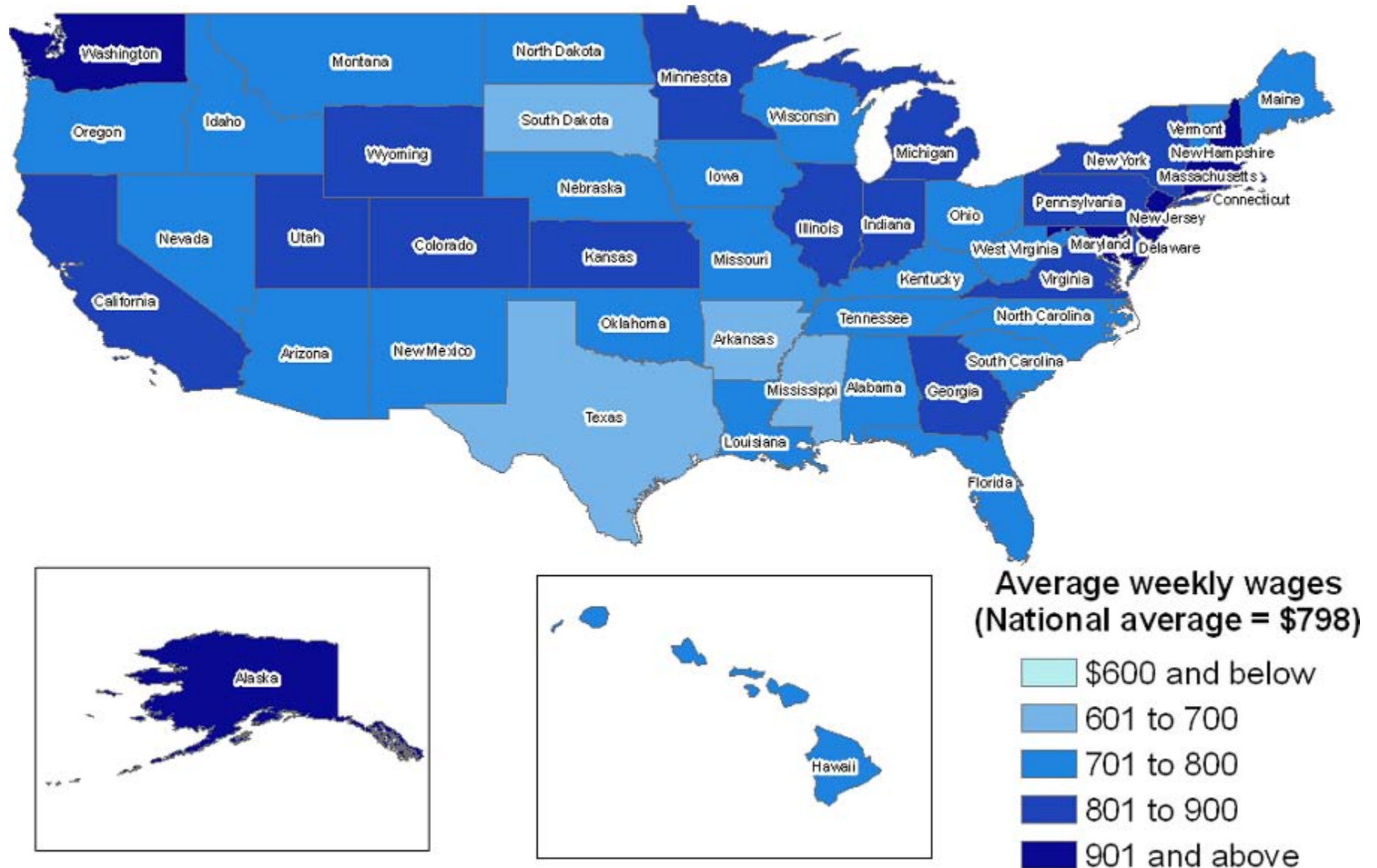
NOTE: Data refer to persons 16 years and older.

Chart 2. Women’s median usual weekly earnings of full-time wage and salary workers, by State, 2008 annual averages



Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, Current Population Survey

Chart 3. Men's median usual weekly earnings of full-time wage and salary workers, by State, 2008 annual averages



Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, Current Population Survey