



NEWS RELEASE



MOUNTAIN-PLAINS INFORMATION OFFICE
Kansas City, Mo.

For release: Wednesday, April 4, 2012

12-648-KAN

Contact information : (816) 285-7002 • BLSInfoKansasCity@bls.gov • www.bls.gov/ro7

COUNTY EMPLOYMENT AND WAGES IN MISSOURI – THIRD QUARTER 2011

Employment rose in six of the seven largest counties in Missouri from September 2010 to September 2011, the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) reported today. (Large counties are defined as those with employment of 75,000 or more as measured by 2010 annual average employment. The independent city of St. Louis has been designated a county by the Quarterly Census of Employment and Wages program.) Regional Commissioner Stanley W. Suchman noted that Boone County reported the largest increase at 2.4 percent followed by Greene County, 1.6 percent, and St. Charles County, 1.5 percent.

Nationally, employment grew 1.6 percent, as 271 of the 322 large counties added jobs from September 2010 to September 2011. Williamson County, Tenn., posted the largest percentage increase, with a gain of 5.4 percent over the year. Frederick County, Md., experienced the largest over-the-year decrease in employment with a loss of 2.6 percent.

Among the seven largest counties in Missouri, employment was highest in St. Louis County (564,300) in September 2011. Two other counties, Jackson and St. Louis City, had employment levels exceeding 200,000. Together, Missouri's seven large counties accounted for roughly 60.2 percent of total employment within the State. Nationwide, the 322 largest counties made up 70.5 percent of total U.S. employment.

Average weekly wages rose in all but one of the large counties in Missouri from the third quarter of 2010 to the third quarter of 2011. Wages in St. Louis City rose 7.3 percent, the largest increase among Missouri's large counties and well above the 5.3-percent increase for the nation. St. Louis City also had the highest average weekly wage among the largest counties in the State at \$1,013, followed by the counties of St. Louis (\$970) and Jackson (\$925). Average weekly wages in all three of these counties exceeded the national average of \$916. Greene County recorded the lowest average weekly wage among the seven large counties at \$714. (See table 1.)

Employment and wage levels (but not over-the-year changes) are also available for the 108 counties in Missouri with employment below 75,000. All of these smaller counties had average weekly wages below the national average. (See table 2.)

Large county wage changes

Six out of the seven large counties in Missouri recorded wage growth from the third quarter of 2010 to the third quarter of 2011; three grew faster than the U.S. average of 5.3 percent. (See table 1.) As mentioned, St. Louis City had the largest wage gain at 7.3 percent, placing 36th in the national ranking. St. Louis County's average weekly wage rose 6.4 percent over the year, ranking 59th while Jackson County's 6.0 percent increase ranked 78th. Clay County (-2.3 percent) was one of only three counties nationwide to register a decline in average weekly wages. The loss was led by a decline in manufacturing wages due to an acquisition that boosted wages in the third quarter of 2010.

Among the 322 largest counties, 315 had over-the-year increases in average weekly wages. Lake County, Ohio, had the largest wage gain among the largest U.S. counties (17.1 percent). Santa Clara, Calif., had the second largest increase (11.7 percent), followed by Oklahoma, Okla., (11.5 percent). Clay County, Mo., had the largest wage decline with a loss of 2.3 percent over the year.

Large county average weekly wages

Two of the State's large counties had average weekly wages that placed in the top 100 among the 322 largest counties in the United States in the third quarter of 2011. Average wages in St. Louis City (\$1,013) and St. Louis County (\$970) ranked 57th and 75th, respectively. Jackson County's average weekly wage of \$925 was also above the national average of \$916 and ranked 102nd. The average weekly wages in Missouri's four other large counties were below average with Greene County ranking among the lowest 10 percent in the nation.

Nationally, average weekly wages were higher than average in 109 of the 322 largest U.S. counties. Santa Clara, Calif., held the top position among the highest-paid large counties with an average weekly wage of \$1,857. New York, N.Y., was second at \$1,647, followed by Arlington, Va. (\$1,550), Washington, D.C. (\$1,527), and San Francisco, Calif. (\$1,457).

Among the 212 large counties with an average weekly wage below the U.S. average in the third quarter of 2011, 2 had wages below \$600. Horry, S.C. (\$561) reported the lowest wage, followed by Cameron County, Texas (\$591).

Average weekly wages in Missouri's smaller counties

Of the 108 counties in Missouri with employment below 75,000, Platte County recorded the highest average weekly wage at \$732. Shannon County reported weekly wages below \$400 and was the lowest among all of the counties in the State. (See table 2.)

When all 115 counties in Missouri were considered, all but 3 had wages below the national average of \$916. Thirty-one reported average weekly wages under \$500, 48 reported wages from \$500 to \$599, 24 had wages from \$600 to \$699, and 12 had wages of \$700 and above. (See chart 1.) Of the twelve counties with wages of \$700 or higher, half were located in the major metropolitan areas of Kansas City and St. Louis.

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/.

Employment and Wages Annual Averages Online features comprehensive information by detailed industry on establishments, employment, and wages for the nation and all states. The 2010 edition of this publication, which was published in November 2011, contains selected data produced by Business Employment Dynamics (BED) on job gains and losses, as well as selected data from the first quarter 2011 version of the national news release. Tables and additional content from *Employment and Wages Annual Averages 2010* are now available online at www.bls.gov/cew/cewbultn10.htm. The 2011 edition of *Employment and Wages Annual Averages Online* will be available later in 2012.

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 Mountain-Plains Information Office in Kansas City at (816) 285-7000.

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 7 largest counties in Missouri, third quarter 2011 [2]

Area	Employment			Average Weekly Wage [3]			
	September 2011 (thousands)	Percent change, September 2010-11 [4]	National ranking by percent change [5]	Average weekly wage	National ranking by level [5]	Percent change, third quarter 2010-11 [4]	National ranking by percent change [5]
United States [6]	130,524.7	1.6	--	\$916	--	5.3	--
Missouri	2,610.3	0.6	--	804	32	5.2	24
Boone, Mo.	84.4	2.4	69	733	287	4.3	204
Clay, Mo.	90.2	0.9	193	844	173	-2.3	318
Greene, Mo.	149.4	1.6	128	714	301	4.4	197
Jackson, Mo.	340.4	-0.4	296	925	102	6.0	78
St. Charles, Mo.	124.4	1.5	134	731	289	4.4	197
St. Louis City, Mo.	219.1	0.6	216	1,013	57	7.3	36
St. Louis, Mo.	564.3	0.4	236	970	75	6.4	59

[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 Missouri, third quarter 2011(2)

Area	Employment September 2011	Average weekly wage (3)	Area	Employment September 2011	Average weekly wage (3)
United States (4)	130,524,677	\$916			
Missouri	2,610,285	804	Lincoln	10,300	\$635
Adair	9,895	539	Linn	3,868	581
Andrew	2,544	509	Livingston	5,879	574
Atchison	1,653	496	McDonald	6,996	523
Audrain	9,308	612	Macon	4,830	536
Barry	14,581	649	Madison	3,373	512
Barton	3,452	521	Maries	1,399	583
Bates	3,512	512	Marion	14,132	634
Benton	3,541	488	Mercer	1,798	573
Bollinger	1,774	428	Miller	5,820	543
Boone	84,392	733	Mississippi	3,983	503
Buchanan	45,674	724	Moniteau	4,188	519
Butler	18,999	603	Monroe	1,821	514
Caldwell	1,513	546	Montgomery	2,946	540
Callaway	14,029	683	Morgan	3,920	463
Camden	16,659	536	New Madrid	7,333	679
Cape Girardeau	39,777	709	Newton	19,451	687
Carroll	2,304	553	Nodaway	8,050	600
Carter	1,619	435	Oregon	2,307	404
Cass	22,891	595	Osage	3,237	530
Cedar	3,499	486	Ozark	1,538	415
Chariton	2,080	588	Pemiscot	6,184	541
Christian	14,584	554	Perry	9,123	612
Clark	1,450	459	Pettis	19,094	603
Clay	90,165	844	Phelps	17,443	647
Clinton	4,035	543	Pike	5,983	553
Cole	52,329	717	Platte	39,509	732
Cooper	5,499	568	Polk	7,506	633
Crawford	6,536	599	Pulaski	14,793	654
Dade	1,729	469	Putnam	1,011	465
Dallas	2,377	455	Ralls	2,599	635
Davies	1,541	473	Randolph	9,623	611
De Kalb	3,280	536	Ray	3,981	586
Dent	4,086	544	Reynolds	1,543	455
Douglas	2,396	449	Ripley	3,128	443
Dunklin	10,068	446	St. Charles	124,401	731
Franklin	35,655	670	St. Clair	1,747	453
Gasconade	5,096	529	Ste. Genevieve	5,587	724
Gentry	2,253	473	St. Francois	22,426	541
Greene	149,426	714	St. Louis	564,322	970
Grundy	3,535	588	Saline	8,902	601
Harrison	2,549	468	Schuyler	686	488
Henry	7,210	597	Scotland	1,190	507
Hickory	1,068	458	Scott	14,943	589
Holt	1,242	515	Shannon	1,288	391
Howard	2,275	484	Shelby	1,873	496
Howell	14,775	568	Stoddard	10,546	543
Iron	3,481	684	Stone	5,154	464
Jackson	340,414	925	Sullivan	2,483	563
Jasper	56,173	676	Taney	29,739	517
Jefferson	46,351	619	Texas	6,002	516
Johnson	15,213	620	Vernon	6,965	620
Knox	1,098	471	Warren	6,757	591
Laclede	12,109	579	Washington	4,937	494
Lafayette	8,965	512	Wayne	2,763	440
Lawrence	8,560	584	Webster	6,349	547
Lewis	2,602	608	Worth	343	416
			Wright	4,721	485
			St. Louis City	219,079	1,013

(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, third quarter 2011 (2)

State	Employment		Average weekly wage (3)			
	September 2011 (thousands)	Percent change, September 2010-11	Average weekly wage	National ranking by level	Percent change, third quarter 2010-11	National ranking by percent change
United States (4)	130,524.7	1.6	\$916	--	5.3	--
Alabama	1,823.2	0.5	803	33	3.7	48
Alaska	341.5	2.1	963	10	4.0	42
Arizona	2,391.6	2.1	860	21	4.9	27
Arkansas	1,151.0	0.4	715	47	4.5	36
California	14,686.3	1.5	1,051	6	6.8	3
Colorado	2,234.4	2.3	948	13	5.6	13
Connecticut	1,626.5	0.9	1,118	2	4.7	31
Delaware	406.1	0.2	949	12	5.4	19
District of Columbia	708.1	2.1	1,527	1	3.9	45
Florida	7,167.5	1.7	812	30	4.2	40
Georgia	3,799.6	1.3	867	20	5.3	20
Hawaii	593.6	1.2	836	23	4.0	42
Idaho	623.8	1.1	697	48	4.7	31
Illinois	5,629.1	1.6	958	11	4.6	35
Indiana	2,797.5	2.1	785	35	5.8	9
Iowa	1,466.9	1.6	760	42	5.6	13
Kansas	1,311.7	1.1	772	40	5.6	13
Kentucky	1,757.4	1.7	764	41	4.8	28
Louisiana	1,852.3	0.9	821	27	3.9	45
Maine	595.6	0.9	734	46	2.9	51
Maryland	2,497.6	1.1	1,023	7	5.9	8
Massachusetts	3,227.8	1.8	1,114	3	4.1	41
Michigan	3,920.5	2.4	876	18	4.4	37
Minnesota	2,642.8	2.5	916	15	4.8	28
Mississippi	1,081.3	0.1	681	51	4.4	37
Missouri	2,610.3	0.6	804	32	5.2	24
Montana	433.9	1.3	687	49	6.2	4
Nebraska	905.0	0.5	747	43	5.7	11
Nevada	1,122.0	1.3	845	22	3.8	47
New Hampshire	613.2	0.7	903	17	5.6	13
New Jersey	3,774.1	0.6	1,069	5	4.3	39
New Mexico	788.7	0.4	779	37	4.7	31
New York	8,511.6	1.7	1,099	4	4.0	42
North Carolina	3,863.6	1.3	809	31	5.3	20
North Dakota	390.8	6.7	820	28	12.9	1
Ohio	5,015.3	1.4	834	25	5.6	13
Oklahoma	1,518.5	1.8	785	35	8.3	2
Oregon	1,645.0	1.4	835	24	5.7	11
Pennsylvania	5,550.9	0.9	912	16	6.2	4
Rhode Island	456.8	0.3	871	19	5.3	20
South Carolina	1,789.9	1.4	746	44	4.8	28
South Dakota	398.9	1.3	684	50	3.6	49
Tennessee	2,631.4	2.1	819	29	5.3	20
Texas	10,480.4	2.7	931	14	6.2	4
Utah	1,192.9	2.9	779	37	5.1	25
Vermont	297.0	0.8	778	39	3.3	50
Virginia	3,602.5	1.6	974	9	4.7	31
Washington	2,905.4	1.7	1,011	8	6.1	7
West Virginia	710.8	1.6	742	45	5.8	9
Wisconsin	2,697.9	1.4	792	34	5.6	13
Wyoming	284.0	1.6	832	26	5.1	25
Puerto Rico	910.3	-0.2	506	(5)	1.2	(5)
Virgin Islands	42.7	-1.5	718	(5)	-5.2	(5)

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

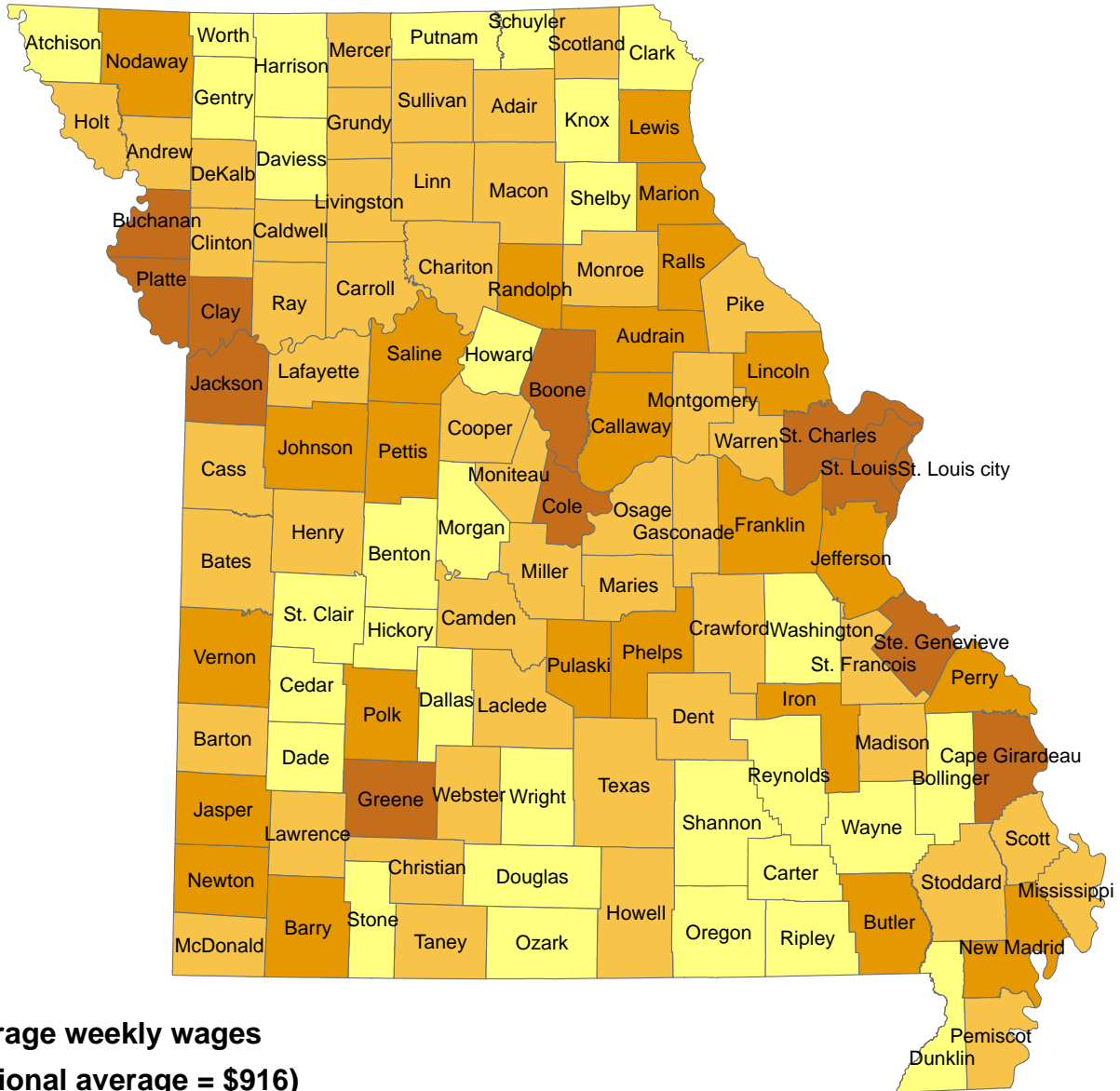
(2) Data are preliminary.

(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 for counties in Missouri, third quarter 2011



Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics