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## COUNTY EMPLOYMENT AND WAGES IN IDAHO FIRST QUARTER 2011

Employment rose in Idaho's only large county, Ada, 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.) Regional Commissioner Richard J. Holden noted that employment in Ada County was up 0.4 percent from March a year ago, a rate lower than the national increase of 1.3 percent. (See table 1.)

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

Ada County employment was 190,000 in March 2011, and accounted for 32.2 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 Ada County was \$773 in the first quarter of 2011, an increase of 4.9 percent from the first quarter of 2010. Nationally, the average weekly wage rose 5.2 percent over the year to \$935 in the first quarter of 2011. (See table 1.)

Employment and wage levels (but not over-the-year changes) are also available for 43 counties in Idaho with employment below 75,000. Average weekly wages in these counties ranged from \$1,400 to \$366 during the first quarter of 2011. (See table 2.)

### Large County Wage Changes

Ada County's 4.9-percent wage gain ranked it in the top third nationally among large counties at 99<sup>th</sup>. Of the 322 largest counties in the U.S., 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**

Ada County's \$773 weekly wage placed it in the lower third of the national ranking at 218<sup>th</sup> among the 322 largest counties in the first quarter of 2011. 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).

## **Average Weekly Wages in Idaho's Smaller Counties**

All but one of the 43 counties in Idaho with employment below 75,000 had average weekly wages lower than the national average of \$935. Butte County's average weekly wage of \$1,400 was the only county in the state with wages above the national average. (See table 2.)

When all 44 counties in Idaho were considered, Butte and Clark were the only counties with an average weekly wage of \$800 or more. Three counties--Ada, Caribou, and Custer--had average weekly wages from \$700 to \$799. Seven counties reported average weekly wages from \$600 to \$699, 23 reported wages from \$500 to \$599, and 9 had wages below \$500.

## **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/>.

*Employment and Wages Annual Averages Online* features comprehensive information by detailed industry on establishments, employment, and wages for the nation and all states. The 2009 edition of this publication, which was published in March 2011, 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. This web-only publication has replaced the print version of the annual bulletin, *Employment and Wages Annual Averages*. Tables and additional content from *Employment and Wages Annual Averages Online, 2009* are now available online at [www.bls.gov/cew/cewbultn09.htm](http://www.bls.gov/cew/cewbultn09.htm). The 2010 edition of *Employment and Wages Annual Averages Online* will be available later in 2011.

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 West Information Office in San Francisco at 415-625-2270.

### **Industry Changes to Quarterly Census of Employment and Wages Data**

Beginning with the Quarterly Census of Employment and Wages data presented in this release, the Bureau of Labor Statistics is introducing the 2012 version of the North American Industry Classification System as the basis for the assignment and tabulation of economic data by industry. For more information on the impact of the change, please see [www.bls.gov/cew/naics2012.htm](http://www.bls.gov/cew/naics2012.htm).

### **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 covered 127.8 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/](http://www.bls.gov/cew/); however, data in QCEW press releases have been revised and may not match the data contained on the BLS 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 one large county in Idaho, 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	--
Idaho	590.3	-0.1	--	659	48	4.1	31
Ada, Idaho	190.0	0.4	216	773	218	4.9	99

[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.

[7] Data do not meet BLS or State agency disclosure standards.

**Table 2. Covered employment and wages in the United States and all counties in Idaho, first quarter 2011**

Area	Employment March 2011	Average Weekly Wage (3)
<b>United States (4)</b>	127850997	\$935
<b>Idaho</b>	590338	659
<b>Ada</b>	189968	773
<b>Adams</b>	847	528
<b>Bannock</b>	30243	594
<b>Bear Lake</b>	1622	432
<b>Benewah</b>	3187	601
<b>Bingham</b>	14066	586
<b>Blaine</b>	11235	653
<b>Boise</b>	1640	366
<b>Bonner</b>	12175	560
<b>Bonneville</b>	41790	595
<b>Boundary</b>	3175	560
<b>Butte</b>	8578	1400
<b>Camas</b>	384	590
<b>Canyon</b>	50193	575
<b>Caribou</b>	2929	795
<b>Cassia</b>	9545	539
<b>Clark</b>	457	814
<b>Clearwater</b>	2651	579
<b>Custer</b>	1497	734
<b>Elmore</b>	6135	542
<b>Franklin</b>	2940	425
<b>Fremont</b>	2493	538
<b>Gem</b>	2949	489
<b>Gooding</b>	5780	603
<b>Idaho</b>	3969	563
<b>Jefferson</b>	5224	460
<b>Jerome</b>	8163	561
<b>Kootenai</b>	49470	604
<b>Latah</b>	12402	566
<b>Lemhi</b>	2161	494
<b>Lewis</b>	1408	487
<b>Lincoln</b>	1371	544
<b>Madison</b>	11498	520
<b>Minidoka</b>	6286	552
<b>Nez Perce</b>	19815	662
<b>Oneida</b>	978	433
<b>Owyhee</b>	2680	533
<b>Payette</b>	5740	584
<b>Power</b>	3028	659
<b>Shoshone</b>	4360	692
<b>Teton</b>	2261	550
<b>Twin Falls</b>	32011	540
<b>Valley</b>	3309	538
<b>Washington</b>	2739	474

Footnotes

(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.

[SOURCE: Quarterly Census of Employment and Wages](#)

**Table 3. Covered (1) employment and wages by state, first quarter 2011**

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.

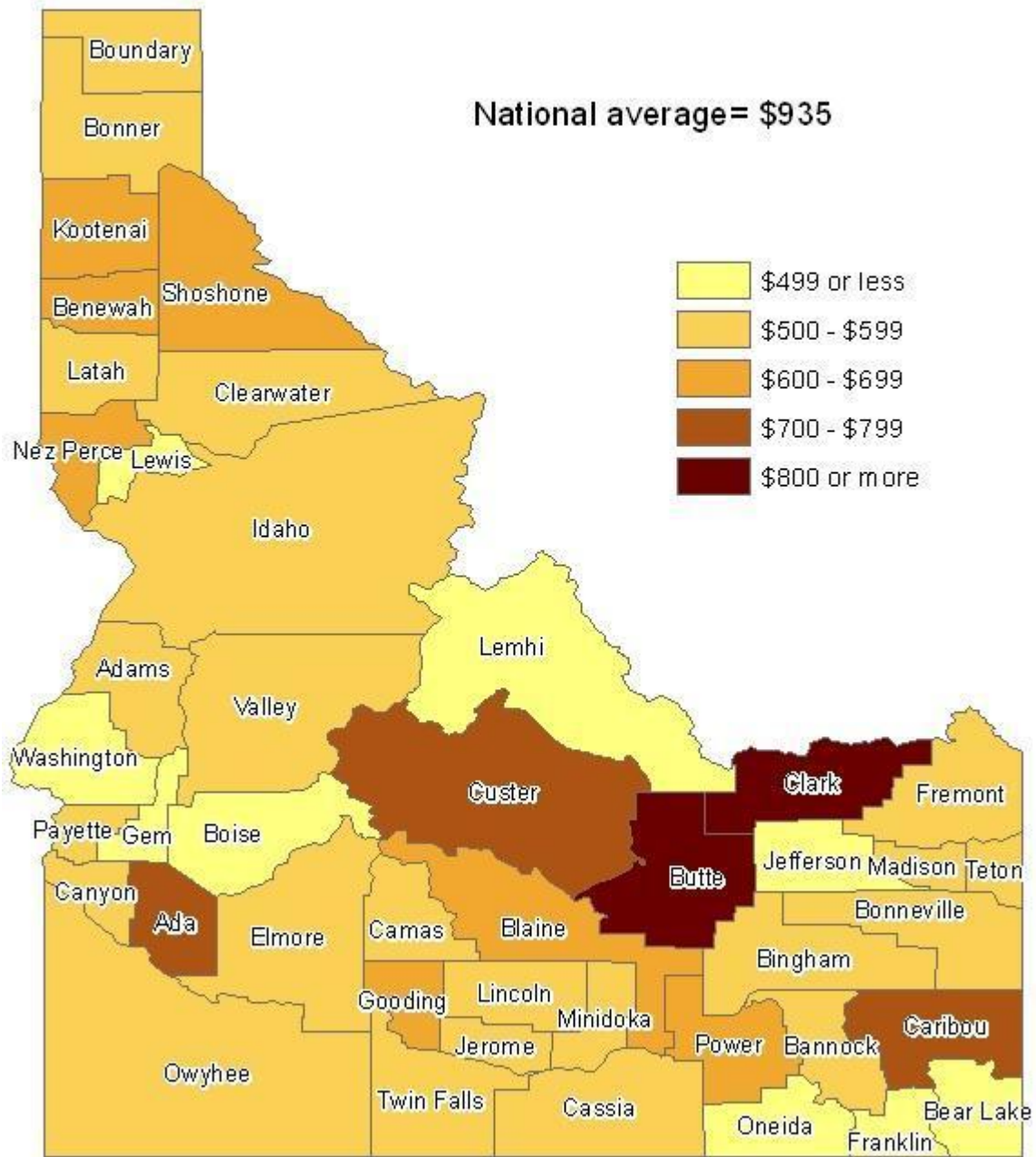
(3) Average weekly wages were calculated using unrounded data.

(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 Idaho, first quarter 2011

## Average Weekly Wages



Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics