



NEWS RELEASE



MOUNTAIN-PLAINS INFORMATION OFFICE
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COUNTY EMPLOYMENT AND WAGES IN UTAH – FIRST QUARTER 2011

Employment rose in two of the four largest counties in Utah from March 2010 to March 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.) Regional Commissioner Stanley W. Suchman noted that Utah County experienced the fastest growth, up 3.1 percent over the year, followed by Salt Lake County (1.7 percent). Both of these counties registered employment gains exceeding the national average of 1.3 percent.

Nationally, employment increased in 256 of the 322 large counties from March 2010 to March 2011. Elkhart County, Ind., experienced the largest percentage increase, with a gain of 6.2 percent over the year. Sacramento, Calif., posted the largest over-the-year decrease in employment with a loss of 1.6 percent.

Among the four largest counties in Utah, employment was highest in Salt Lake County (559,500) and lowest in Weber (87,900). Together, the four largest counties accounted for 78.9 percent of total employment within the state. Nationwide, the 322 large counties made up 70.7 percent of total U.S. employment.

All of Utah's four large counties experienced wage growth from the first quarter of 2010 to the first quarter of 2011. However, none registered a wage gain above the 5.2-percent increase for the nation. Salt Lake County recorded the fastest rate of wage growth (3.8 percent), followed closely by Utah County (3.7 percent). Salt Lake County also recorded the highest average weekly wage among Utah's large counties (\$856), though it was well below the national average of \$935. (See table 1.)

Employment and wage levels (but not over-the-year changes) are also available for the 25 counties in Utah 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

As mentioned, Salt Lake County had the largest wage gain at 3.8 percent, placing 180th in the national ranking and Utah, at 3.7 percent, ranked 183rd. (See table 1.) Average wages in Weber and Davis Counties grew 2.4 and 2.3 percent, respectively, and ranked 272nd and 276th.

Among the 322 largest counties in the U.S., 315 had over-the-year increases in average weekly wages in the first quarter of 2011. Peoria, Ill., ranked first in average weekly wage growth with an increase of 18.9 percent. Williamson, Texas, had the largest wage decline with a loss of 3.8 percent over the year.

Large county average weekly wages

At \$856, Salt Lake County ranked 142nd among the 322 largest counties in the United States in the first quarter of 2011. The three remaining large counties in Utah had average weekly wages that placed them in the bottom quartile of the national ranking—Davis (\$704, 285th); Utah (\$681, 298th); and Weber (\$642, 310th).

Nationally, weekly wages were higher than average in 94 of the 322 largest U.S. counties. 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 Somerset, N.J. (\$1,867), and Santa Clara, Calif. (\$1,863). Among the 228 large counties with an average weekly wage below the U.S. average in the first quarter of 2011, Horry, S.C. (\$534) reported the lowest wage.

Average weekly wages in Utah's smaller counties

Each of the 25 counties in Utah with employment below 75,000 had average weekly wages lower than the national average of \$935. Uintah County's wage of \$852 was the highest among the small counties, while Rich's wage was the lowest (\$453). (See table 2.)

When all 29 counties in Utah were considered, 15 reported average weekly wages under \$600, 6 reported wages from \$600 to \$699, 4 posted wages from \$700 to \$799, and 4 had wages above \$800. (See chart 1.) Most of the counties with average weekly wages above \$600 were located in the northern half of the state while counties with wages under \$600 were predominantly located in the southern half.

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 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. 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 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 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 4 largest counties in Utah, 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	--
Utah	1,156.9	2.0	--	753	35	3.4	44
Davis, Utah	100.8	[7]	--	704	285	2.3	276
Salt Lake, Utah	559.5	1.7	86	856	142	3.8	180
Utah, Utah	164.9	3.1	17	681	298	3.7	183
Weber, Utah	87.9	-0.1	264	642	310	2.4	272

[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 (1) employment and wages in the United States and all counties in Utah, first quarter 2011(2)

Area	Employment March 2011	Average weekly wage (3)
United States (4)	127,850,997	\$935
Utah	1,156,893	753
Beaver	2,537	554
Box Elder	16,579	733
Cache	46,778	583
Carbon	8,999	720
Daggett	336	602
Davis	100,810	704
Duchesne	7,636	827
Emery	3,738	825
Garfield	1,813	499
Grand	4,275	517
Iron	14,636	516
Juab	2,980	536
Kane	2,674	505
Millard	4,404	645
Morgan	1,838	699
Piute	261	463
Rich	498	453
Salt Lake	559,529	856
San Juan	4,057	590
Sanpete	6,405	496
Sevier	7,740	551
Summit	24,796	612
Tooele	15,892	799
Uintah	13,756	852
Utah	164,908	681
Wasatch	5,675	557
Washington	44,583	556
Wayne	899	503
Weber	87,861	642

(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.

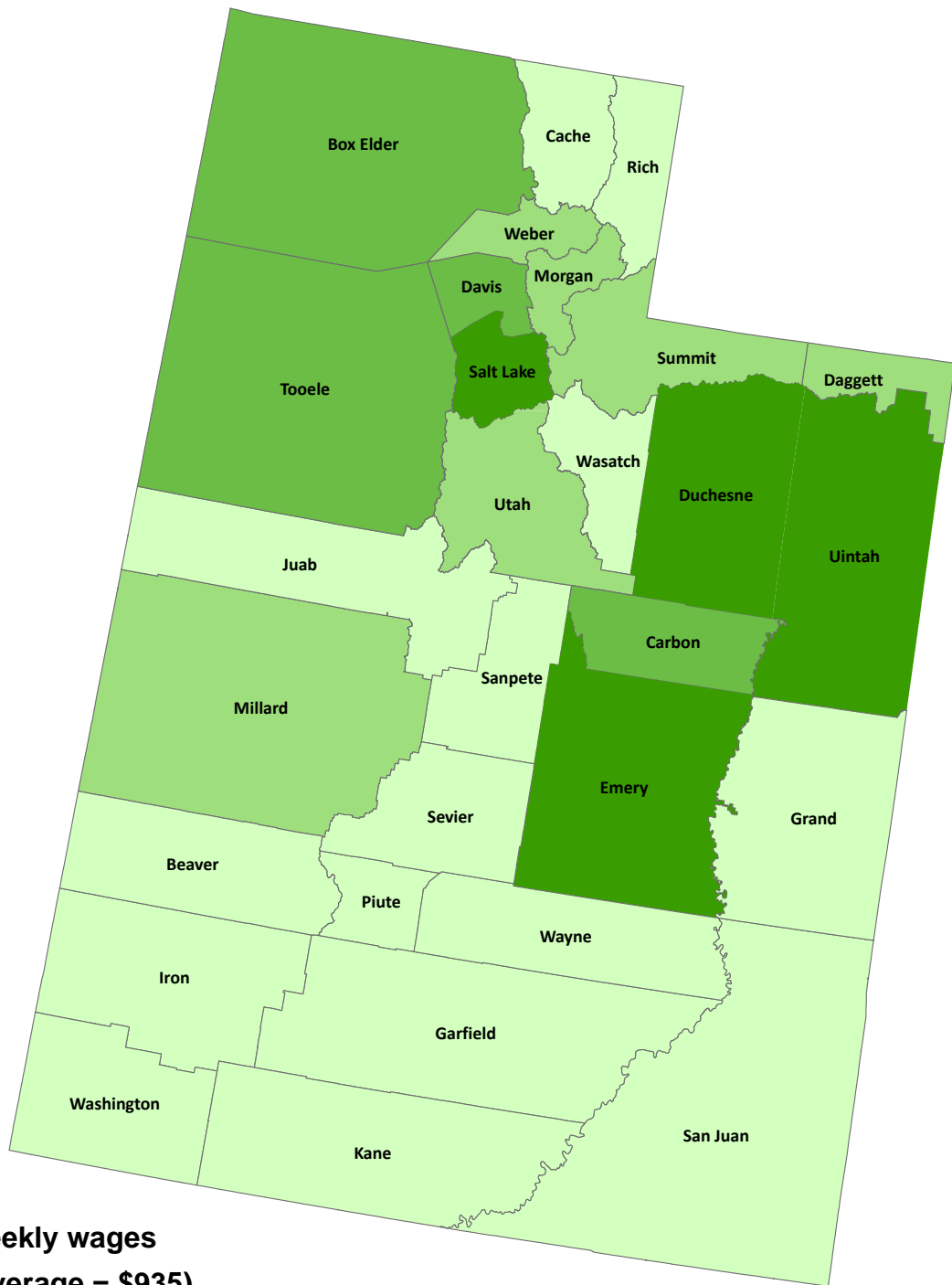
(2) Data are preliminary.

(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 for counties in Utah, first quarter 2011



Average weekly wages
(National average = \$935)

- Below \$600
- 600 - 699
- 700 - 799
- 800 or more