



# NEWS RELEASE



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## COUNTY EMPLOYMENT AND WAGES IN FLORIDA – THIRD QUARTER 2011

Employment increased in 15 of the 21 large counties in Florida from September 2010 to September 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 Janet S. Rankin noted that employment advances ranged from 0.2 percent in Escambia County to 3.7 percent in Collier County. Five of Florida's large counties had over-the-year employment decreases of 0.5 percent or less. (See table 1.)

Nationally, employment rose 1.6 percent during the 12-month period as 271 of the 322 largest U.S. counties gained jobs. Williamson, Tenn., posted the largest over-the-year percentage increase with a gain of 5.4 percent, while Frederick, Md., experienced the largest employment decline at 2.6 percent.

Among the 21 largest counties in Florida, employment was highest in Miami-Dade County (970,300) in September 2011. Two other counties—Broward and Orange—had employment levels exceeding 600,000. Together, Florida's 21 large counties accounted for 84.2 percent of total employment within the state. (See table 1.) Nationwide, the 322 largest counties made up 70.5 percent of total U.S. employment, which stood at 130.5 million in September 2011.

The average weekly wage in Brevard County rose 6.6 percent from the third quarter of 2010 to the third quarter of 2011, the largest increase among Florida's 21 large counties. Four other large counties experienced wage growth of at least 5.0 percent—Pinellas (5.8 percent), Seminole (5.6 percent), Escambia (5.2 percent), and Hillsborough (5.1 percent). Brevard County had the highest average weekly wage in the State among the 21 largest counties at \$893, followed by the counties of Hillsborough (\$885), Miami-Dade (\$880), Palm Beach (\$876), and Duval (\$869). Nationally, the average weekly wage advanced 5.3 percent over the year to \$916 in the third quarter of 2011. (See table 1.)

Employment and wage levels (but not over-the-year changes) are also available for the 46 counties in Florida with employment levels below 75,000. All of these smaller counties had average weekly wages below the national average in the third quarter of 2011. (See table 2.)

## **Large county wage changes**

Average weekly wages increased in 19 of the 21 largest counties in Florida from the third quarter of 2010 to the third quarter of 2011. Brevard County's 6.6-percent wage growth ranked 52<sup>th</sup> among the nation's 322 largest counties. Four other counties placed in the top half of the rankings—Pinellas (5.8 percent, 90<sup>th</sup>), Seminole (5.6 percent, 101<sup>st</sup>), Escambia (5.2 percent, 130<sup>th</sup>), and Hillsborough (5.1 percent, 139<sup>th</sup>). (See table 1.)

Nationwide, 315 large counties experienced growth in average weekly wages. Lake, Ohio, ranked first with an increase of 17.1 percent from the third quarter of 2010. Santa Clara, Calif., ranked second with a gain of 11.7 percent, followed by the counties of Oklahoma, Okla. (11.5 percent), Williamson, Texas (10.2 percent), and Sacramento, Calif. (9.8 percent).

Among the 322 largest counties, 3 experienced over-the-year decreases in average weekly wages. Clay, Mo., had the largest decrease in the nation (-2.3 percent), followed by the counties of Alachua, Fla. (-0.8 percent) and Leon, Fla. (-0.1 percent).

## **Large county average weekly wages**

Average weekly wages in 6 of Florida's 21 largest counties place in the top half of the national ranking among the 322 largest counties in the third quarter of 2011. However, none of these counties had an average weekly wage above the national average of \$916. The four counties with the lowest average weekly wages in the state—Marion (\$634, 316<sup>th</sup>), Pasco (\$636, 315<sup>th</sup>), Lake (\$638, 314<sup>th</sup>), and Volusia (\$650, 313<sup>th</sup>)—placed among the 10 lowest in the United States. (See table 1.)

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

There were 212 large counties with an average weekly wage below the U.S. average in the third quarter of 2011. Horry, S.C. (\$561), reported the lowest wage, followed by the counties of Cameron, Texas (\$591), Hidalgo, Texas (\$602), Yakima, Wash. (\$619), and Webb, Texas (\$629).

## **Average weekly wages in Florida's smaller counties**

All 46 of Florida's counties with employment below 75,000 had average weekly wages lower than the national average of \$916. Okaloosa County led all small counties with an average weekly wage of \$762. Holmes County reported the lowest weekly wage among all counties in the State, averaging \$494 in the third quarter of 2011. (See table 2.)

When all 67 counties in Florida were considered, 19 reported average weekly wages under \$600, including 1 under \$500, 24 reported wages from \$600 to \$699, 16 had wages from \$700 to \$799, and 8 had wages above \$800. (See chart 1.)

## **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/>.

An annual bulletin, *Employment and Wages*, features comprehensive information by detailed industry on establishments, employment, and wages for the nation and all states. The 2010 edition of this bulletin, which was published in November 2011, contains selected data produced by the 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 the Employment and Wages Annual Averages 2010 are now available online at [www.bls.gov/cew/cewbultn10.htm](http://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 Southeast Information Office in Atlanta at 404-893-4222.

### **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/](http://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 21 largest counties in Florida, 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	--
Florida	7,167.5	1.7	--	812	30	4.2	40
Alachua, Fla.	115.8	0.3	249	761	262	-0.8	317
Brevard, Fla.	186.2	-0.3	293	893	129	6.6	52
Broward, Fla.	683.4	0.9	193	861	159	4.4	197
Collier, Fla.	110.1	3.7	13	787	238	3.8	235
Duval, Fla.	436.7	0.6	216	869	151	4.6	184
Escambia, Fla.	119.6	0.2	261	730	291	5.2	130
Hillsborough, Fla.	569.7	1.7	121	885	135	5.1	139
Lake, Fla.	78.4	1.4	143	638	314	3.2	267
Lee, Fla.	194.1	3.4	24	737	282	3.9	230
Leon, Fla.	137.4	-0.5	301	759	264	-0.1	316
Manatee, Fla.	99.7	2.2	77	721	295	4.8	164
Marion, Fla.	88.5	-0.2	288	634	316	4.3	204
Miami-Dade, Fla.	970.3	2.9	42	880	139	3.3	262
Orange, Fla.	662.0	2.9	42	811	212	3.8	235
Palm Beach, Fla.	487.5	1.9	100	876	144	4.4	197
Pasco, Fla.	97.3	0.4	236	636	315	4.3	204
Pinellas, Fla.	376.0	-0.2	288	805	217	5.8	90
Polk, Fla.	186.0	-0.2	288	712	304	1.9	308
Sarasota, Fla.	132.3	2.3	72	745	277	3.8	235
Seminole, Fla.	153.9	0.0	272	753	273	5.6	101
Volusia, Fla.	149.1	0.3	249	650	313	2.0	306

(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 Florida, 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			
Florida	7,167,549	812	Lafayette	1,723	\$512
			Lake	78,408	638
			Lee	194,058	737
Alachua	115,845	761	Leon	137,375	759
Baker	6,692	555	Levy	8,149	528
Bay	70,659	693	Liberty	1,989	645
Bradford	6,903	588	Madison	4,157	553
Brevard	186,211	893	Manatee	99,736	721
Broward	683,440	861	Marion	88,539	634
Calhoun	2,942	506	Martin	54,422	740
Charlotte	39,522	632	Miami-Dade	970,286	880
Citrus	31,002	674	Monroe	34,511	732
Clay	41,993	628	Nassau	18,012	704
Collier	110,123	787	Okaloosa	76,933	762
Columbia	20,923	643	Okeechobee	10,203	608
De Soto	7,765	617	Orange	661,975	811
Dixie	2,423	514	Osceola	73,142	632
Duval	436,692	869	Palm Beach	487,465	876
Escambia	119,594	730	Pasco	97,261	636
Flagler	18,498	592	Pinellas	375,956	805
Franklin	3,363	530	Polk	186,020	712
Gadsden	12,440	605	Putnam	17,236	671
Gilchrist	3,013	570	St. Johns	54,667	690
Glades	1,545	724	St. Lucie	63,889	692
Gulf	3,479	575	Santa Rosa	32,406	605
Hamilton	3,238	741	Sarasota	132,274	745
Hardee	6,950	595	Seminole	153,932	753
Hendry	10,155	605	Sumter	21,976	660
Hernando	36,229	607	Suwannee	10,856	548
Highlands	25,325	582	Taylor	6,631	736
Hillsborough	569,691	885	Union	3,765	611
Holmes	3,346	494	Volusia	149,118	650
Indian River	43,983	674	Wakulla	5,131	577
Jackson	14,091	604	Walton	19,687	597
Jefferson	2,522	538	Washington	5,990	583

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

**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 in Florida, third quarter 2011

