



NEWS RELEASE



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COUNTY EMPLOYMENT AND WAGES IN KENTUCKY – FIRST QUARTER 2011

Employment rose in Kentucky's two large counties 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 Janet S. Rankin noted that employment increased 1.7 percent in Fayette County and 1.3 percent in Jefferson County. (See table 1.)

Nationally, employment increased 1.3 percent during the 12-month period, as 256 of the 322 large U.S. counties gained jobs. Elkhart, Ind., posted the largest percentage increase with a gain of 6.2 percent over the year. Sacramento, Calif., experienced the largest over-the-year percentage decrease in employment with a loss of 1.6 percent.

In the two large counties in Kentucky, employment was higher in Jefferson County (407,900) in March 2011. Together, Kentucky's large counties accounted for 33.7 percent 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 Fayette County rose 6.0 percent to \$811 from the first quarter of 2010 to the first quarter of 2011. While average weekly wages were higher in Jefferson, at \$873, the over-the-year wage growth of 3.4 percent was smaller. Nationally, the average weekly wage increased 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 the 118 counties with employment levels below 75,000 in Kentucky. Average weekly wages in these counties ranged from \$1,104 to \$452. (See table 2.)

Large county wage changes

As noted, average weekly wages increased in both of Kentucky's large counties from the first quarter of 2010 to the first quarter of 2011. Fayette County's 6.0-percent wage growth ranked 60th among the nation's 322 large counties. Jefferson County's 3.4-percent wage growth ranked 200th. (See table 1.)

Nationwide, 315 large counties experienced growth in average weekly wages. Peoria, Ill., ranked first with an over-the-year increase of 18.9 percent. Santa Clara, Calif., had the second largest increase (12.4

percent), followed by the counties of Macomb, Mich. (12.0 percent), Clayton, Ga. (11.9 percent), and Wayne, Mich. (11.3 percent).

Among the 322 largest counties, 3 had over-the-year decreases in average weekly wages in the first quarter of 2011. Williamson, Texas, had the largest decrease in the nation (-3.8 percent), followed by the counties of Hudson, N.J. (-1.5 percent), and Durham, N.C. (-0.5 percent).

Large county average weekly wages

Average weekly wages in the state's two large counties were below the U.S. average of \$935. Even so, the average weekly wage in Jefferson (\$873) and Fayette (\$811) placed in the middle-third of the national ranking, at 137th and 179th, respectively. (See table 1.)

Nationally, average weekly wages were higher than average in 94 of the 322 largest counties. New York, N.Y., recorded the highest average weekly wage at \$2,634, followed by Fairfield, Conn., at \$1,888. Rounding out the top five were Somerset, N.J. (\$1,867), Santa Clara, Calif. (\$1,863) and San Francisco, Calif. (\$1,723).

There were 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, followed by the counties of Cameron, Texas (\$546), Hidalgo, Texas (\$556), Lake, Fla. (\$586), and Webb, Texas (\$590).

Average weekly wages in Kentucky's smaller counties

Among the 118 counties in Kentucky with employment below 75,000, 2 registered an average weekly wage above the national average of \$935. Hancock County (\$1,104) reported the highest weekly wage among the smaller counties, followed by the counties of Ballard (\$1,023), Carroll (\$902), and Mercer (\$850). Carlisle County reported the lowest weekly wage among all 118 counties in the state, averaging \$452 in the first quarter of 2011. (See table 2.)

When all 120 counties in Kentucky were considered, 15 reported average weekly wages under \$500, 49 had wages from \$500 to \$599, 29 reported wages from \$600 to \$699, 18 had wages from \$700 to \$799, and 9 had wages at or 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 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 2009 edition of this bulletin contains selected data produced by the 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 annual print bulletin, *Employment and Wages Annual Averages*. The March 2010 issue of this annual bulletin was the final one to be issued on paper. Tables and additional content from the 2009 Employment and Wages Annual Bulletin are now available online at www.bls.gov/cew/cewbultn09.htm.

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 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 2 largest counties in Kentucky, 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	--
Kentucky	1,715.6	1.5	--	737	42	3.7	40
Fayette, Ky.	169.5	1.7	86	811	179	6.0	60
Jefferson, Ky.	407.9	1.3	132	873	137	3.4	200

(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 Kentucky, first quarter 2011 (2)

Area	Employment March 2011	Average weekly wage (3)	Area	Employment March 2011	Average weekly wage (3)
United States (4)	127,850,997	\$935	Kenton	61,470	\$830
			Knott	3,435	797
Kentucky	1,715,641	737	Knox	8,221	547
Adair	4,627	498	Larue	2,594	479
Allen	4,165	578	Laurel	22,692	605
Anderson	4,240	619	Lawrence	3,341	601
Ballard	2,610	1,023	Lee	1,833	518
Barren	16,099	604	Leslie	2,137	716
Bath	1,662	512	Letcher	5,976	738
Bell	8,840	561	Lewis	2,023	477
Boone	72,399	765	Lincoln	4,427	537
Bourbon	6,810	658	Livingston	2,538	658
Boyd	26,807	772	Logan	7,988	695
Boyle	13,775	657	Lyon	2,106	521
Bracken	1,294	554	McCracken	37,498	715
Breathitt	3,149	593	McCreary	2,994	578
Breckinridge	3,222	523	McLean	1,900	517
Bullitt	17,379	586	Madison	30,651	630
Butler	2,503	566	Magoffin	2,203	521
Caldwell	4,102	553	Marion	7,097	601
Calloway	15,461	565	Marshall	10,315	798
Campbell	27,251	673	Martin	3,088	752
Carlisle	809	452	Mason	8,328	624
Carroll	6,039	902	Meade	4,387	582
Carter	6,269	534	Menifee	951	490
Casey	3,563	469	Mercer	5,748	850
Christian	30,434	688	Metcalfe	1,755	580
Clark	12,084	671	Monroe	2,898	493
Clay	4,044	599	Montgomery	10,224	583
Clinton	3,823	496	Morgan	3,027	557
Crittenden	1,987	494	Muhlenberg	9,263	702
Cumberland	1,585	507	Nelson	13,438	608
Daviess	42,958	639	Nicholas	969	464
Edmonson	1,471	531	Ohio	7,531	587
Elliott	861	511	Oldham	13,613	670
Estill	2,195	541	Owen	1,680	642
Fayette	169,509	811	Owsley	670	505
Fleming	2,882	541	Pendleton	2,286	618
Floyd	11,510	674	Perry	13,151	752
Franklin	29,473	756	Pike	23,970	757
Fulton	2,644	597	Powell	2,363	513
Gallatin	2,141	780	Pulaski	24,472	554
Garrard	2,091	521	Robertson	277	454
Grant	4,825	561	Rockcastle	3,328	518
Graves	10,952	570	Rowan	9,951	567
Grayson	7,264	518	Russell	6,105	541
Green	1,786	494	Scott	20,966	820
Greenup	7,710	596	Shelby	12,571	650
Hancock	3,958	1,104	Simpson	7,666	605
Hardin	44,414	687	Spencer	1,653	543
Harlan	8,450	754	Taylor	10,745	502
Harrison	4,744	715	Todd	2,254	488
Hart	4,507	541	Trigg	3,243	538
Henderson	18,655	684	Trimble	1,047	842
Henry	3,005	607	Union	6,396	722
Hickman	1,083	489	Warren	55,459	677
Hopkins	17,570	737	Washington	2,900	608
Jackson	2,308	510	Wayne	5,110	525
Jefferson	407,877	873	Webster	3,062	740
Jessamine	14,839	623	Whitley	11,796	595
Johnson	5,877	571	Wolfe	1,206	473
			Woodford	8,646	693

(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.

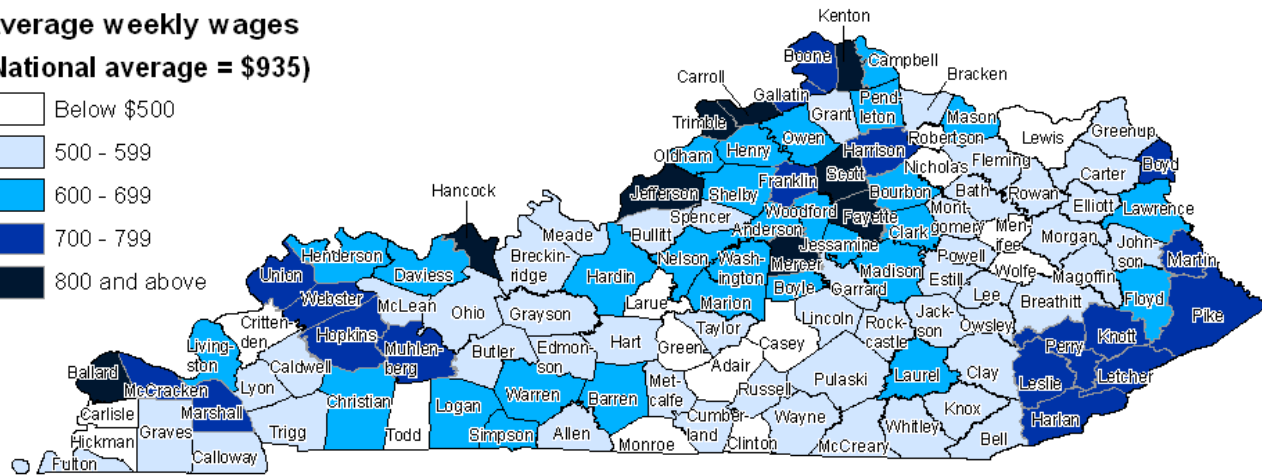
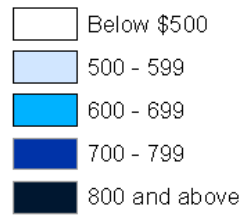
(3) Average weekly wages were calculated using unrounded data.

(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 by county in Kentucky, first quarter 2011

Average weekly wages
(National average = \$935)



Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics