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COUNTY EMPLOYMENT AND WAGES IN WISCONSIN – THIRD QUARTER 2011

All six large counties in Wisconsin reported employment increases 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.) Dane County had the largest employment increase, up 2.1 percent, followed by Waukesha and Winnebago Counties, up 1.8 percent and 1.2 percent, respectively. Regional Commissioner Charlene Peiffer noted that Dane and Waukesha Counties posted employment increases greater than the national increase of 1.6 percent.

Among the six large counties in Wisconsin, employment was highest in Milwaukee County (473,000) in September 2011, followed by Dane (301,300), and Waukesha (225,400). The three other counties—Brown, Outagamie, and Winnebago—had employment levels of less than 150,000. Collectively, Wisconsin's six large counties accounted for 49.6 percent of total employment within the state. Nationwide, the 322 largest counties made up 70.5 percent of U.S. employment, which stood at 130.5 million in September 2011.

The average weekly wage in Milwaukee County rose 7.4 percent from the third quarter of 2010 to the third quarter of 2011, the largest increase among Wisconsin's large counties. Milwaukee County also had the highest average weekly wage in the state at \$917, followed by Waukesha (\$901) and Dane (\$880). (See table 1.) Nationally, the average weekly wage rose 5.3 percent over the year to \$916 in the third quarter of 2011.

Employment and wage levels (but not over-the-year changes) are also available for the 66 counties in Wisconsin 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

Two of Wisconsin's large counties recorded wage growth above the national increase of 5.3 percent from the third quarter of 2010 to the third quarter of 2011. (See table 1.) Milwaukee County's 7.4-percent wage gain ranked 32nd in the nation and Brown County's 6.6-percent gain ranked 52nd. Conversely, three out of four counties with wage increases below the national average placed in the bottom half of the national ranking--Waukesha (4.8 percent, 164th), Outagamie (4.5 percent, 192nd), and Winnebago (4.3 percent, 204th).

Among the 322 largest U.S. counties, 315 had over-the-year increases in average weekly wages. Lake County, Ohio, had the largest wage gain (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

Average weekly wages in five of Wisconsin's six large counties were below the national average of \$916 in the third quarter of 2011. As noted, Milwaukee County (\$917) had the highest average weekly wage in the state, ranking 107th among the 322 largest counties across the nation, followed by Waukesha (\$901) and Dane (\$880) which placed 121st and 139th, respectively. Outagamie (\$770) reported the lowest average weekly wage among the state's largest counties and ranked 255th nationwide.

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 Wisconsin's smaller counties

Of the 66 counties in Wisconsin with employment below 75,000, Wood County had the highest average weekly wage at \$860. Florence County had the lowest weekly wage at \$419. (See table 2.)

When all 72 counties in Wisconsin were considered, 2 reported average weekly wages less than \$500, 18 had wages from \$500 to \$599, 28 reported wages from \$600 to \$699, 17 had wages from \$700 to \$799, and 7 had wages of \$800 or more. (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/.

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 Midwest Information Office in Chicago at (312) 353-1880 from 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. CT.

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 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 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 6 largest counties in Wisconsin, 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)	130,525	1.6	--	\$916	--	5.3	--
Wisconsin	2,697.90	1.4	--	792	34	5.6	13
Brown, Wis.	145.6	0.6	216	823	196	6.6	52
Dane, Wis.	301.3	2.1	83	880	139	5.0	147
Milwaukee, Wis.	473.0	0.9	193	917	107	7.4	32
Outagamie, Wis.	101.6	0.9	193	770	255	4.5	192
Waukesha, Wis.	225.4	1.8	109	901	121	4.8	164
Winnebago, Wis.	90.5	1.2	158	825	193	4.3	204

(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 Wisconsin, 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	Manitowoc	33,945	\$729
Wisconsin	2,697,889	792	Marathon	65,296	747
Adams	4,901	572	Marinette	19,068	675
Ashland	8,193	634	Marquette	3,744	546
Barron	20,425	601	Menominee	2,138	607
Bayfield	4,281	483	Milwaukee	472,951	917
Brown	145,639	823	Monroe	19,894	673
Buffalo	4,305	623	Oconto	8,631	566
Burnett	4,721	538	Oneida	16,490	626
Calumet	12,266	662	Outagamie	101,559	770
Chippewa	22,820	645	Ozaukee	38,781	781
Clark	9,966	602	Pepin	2,225	595
Columbia	20,767	655	Pierce	9,684	632
Crawford	7,937	545	Polk	14,725	659
Dane	301,340	880	Portage	32,334	707
Dodge	33,851	731	Price	5,696	613
Door	13,719	534	Racine	73,024	839
Douglas	15,552	669	Richland	5,993	614
Dunn	15,856	692	Rock	58,756	745
Eau Claire	55,506	707	Rusk	4,628	540
Florence	956	419	St. Croix	29,691	659
Fond Du Lac	44,214	736	Sauk	37,401	622
Forest	3,155	571	Sawyer	6,862	549
Grant	16,986	603	Shawano	12,541	529
Green	14,404	642	Sheboygan	57,047	761
Green Lake	6,932	710	Taylor	8,053	604
Iowa	10,311	664	Trempealeau	13,651	658
Iron	1,674	515	Vernon	8,462	563
Jackson	8,438	712	Vilas	7,575	520
Jefferson	32,916	665	Walworth	39,044	654
Juneau	9,032	642	Washburn	5,584	557
Kenosha	52,784	726	Washington	50,351	758
Kewaunee	7,558	721	Waukesha	225,385	901
La Crosse	65,813	723	Waupaca	20,014	633
Lafayette	3,819	532	Waushara	6,598	562
Langlade	7,566	592	Winnebago	90,490	825
Lincoln	10,152	701	Wood	42,570	860

(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.

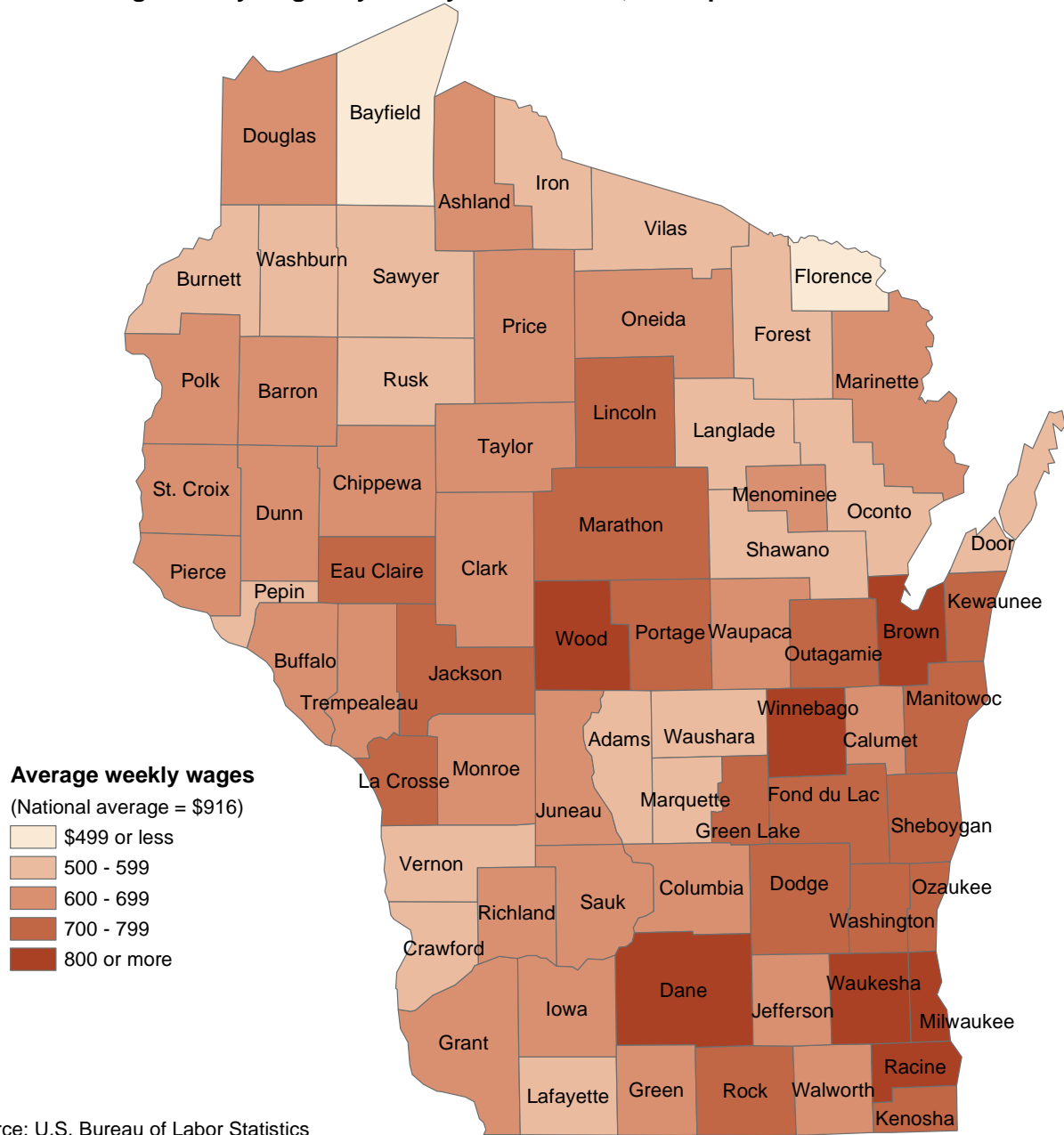
(2) Data are preliminary.

(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 by county in Wisconsin, third quarter 2011



Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics