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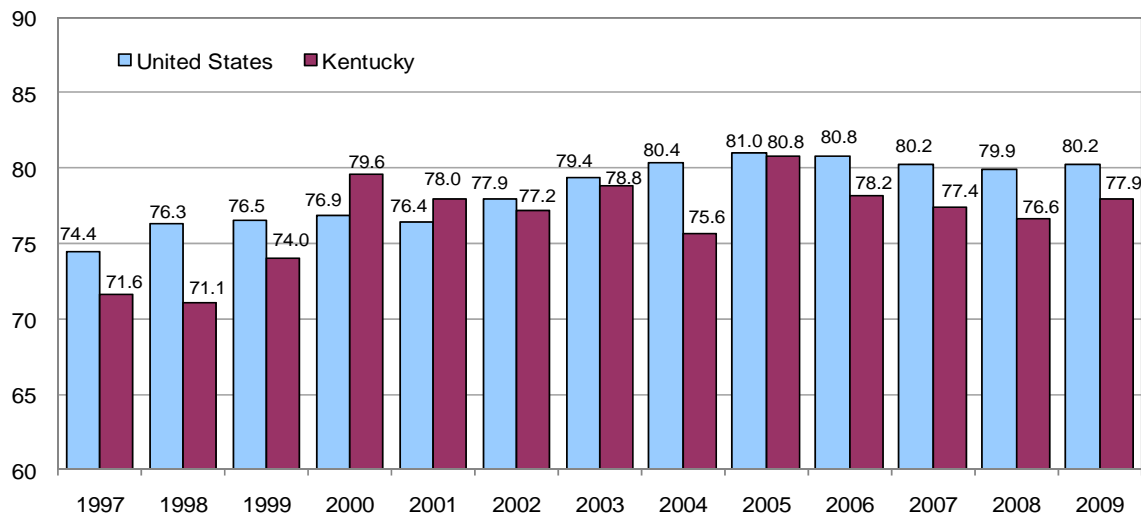
Technical information: (404) 893-4222 • BLSinfoAtlanta@bls.gov • www.bls.gov/ro4  
Media contact: (404) 893-4220

### WOMEN'S EARNINGS IN KENTUCKY – 2009

In 2009, women who were full-time wage and salary workers in Kentucky had median weekly earnings of \$567, or about 78 percent of the \$728 median for their male counterparts, the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics reported today. Regional Commissioner Janet S. Rankin noted that the ratio reported in Kentucky in 2009 was below the peak ratio of 81 percent in 2005 but above the ratios reported in 2007 and 2008.

Nationwide, women earned \$657, or approximately 80 percent of the \$819 median for men in 2009. At the national level, the ratio of women's to men's earnings has narrowed from 62 percent in 1979, the first year for which comparable earnings data are available. After a gradual rise in the 1980s, 1990s, and early 2000s, the ratio peaked at 81 percent in 2005 and 2006. With the exception of 2000 and 2001, the women's-to-men's earnings ratio in Kentucky remained below that of the nation from 1997 to 2009. (See chart 1. Readers should note that the comparisons of earnings in this report are on a broad level and do not control for many factors that can be significant in explaining earnings differences.)

**Chart 1. Women's earnings as a percent of men's, full-time wage and salary workers, United States and Kentucky, 1997-2009 annual averages**



Nationally, the median weekly earnings of women in full-time wage and salary positions ranged from \$518 in Louisiana to \$938 in the District of Columbia. Within the South<sup>1</sup> region of the country, of which Kentucky is 1 of 17 states, the District of Columbia, Maryland, Virginia, Delaware, and Georgia reported wages above the national median wage for women. The District of Columbia, Maryland, and Virginia, with median wages above \$700, had the highest wages for women in the South. (See chart 2.)

Across the nation, median weekly earnings for men were lowest in Arkansas at \$620, while men in Connecticut received the highest wage at \$1,099. In the South, the District of Columbia, Maryland, Virginia, and Delaware reported earnings above the national median wage for men. With median wages above \$900, the District of Columbia and Maryland had the highest wages for men in the South. (See chart 3.)

The ratio of female-to-male earnings in 2009 varied across the nation, ranging from 65 percent in Louisiana to 97 percent in the District of Columbia. Within the South region, 10 states exceeded the national ratio of 80 percent, while 6 other states fell below, and 1 had a ratio equal to that for the nation. The differences among the states reflect, in part, variation in the occupations and industries found in each state and in the age composition of each state's labor force. In addition, sampling error for the state estimates is considerably larger than it is for the national data; thus, comparisons of state estimates should be made with caution. (See table 1.)

For more information on the median weekly earnings of women and men, see Bureau of Labor Statistics Report 1025, "Highlights of Women's Earnings in 2009," issued June 2010; copies are available on the Internet at [www.bls.gov/cps/cpswom2009.pdf](http://www.bls.gov/cps/cpswom2009.pdf) or by calling the Southeast Information Office at (404) 893-4222. Information in this release is also available to sensory impaired individuals. Voice phone: (202) 691-5200; Federal Relay Service: 1-800-877-8339.

### **Technical Note**

The estimates in this report were obtained from the Current Population Survey (CPS), which provides a wide range of information on the labor force, employment, and unemployment. Statistics based on the CPS data are subject to both sampling and nonsampling error. Sampling error for the state estimates is considerably larger than it is for the national data.

The principal definitions used in connection with the earnings series in this release are described below.

*Usual weekly earnings.* Data represent earnings before taxes and other deductions and include any overtime pay, commissions, or tips usually received (at the main job in the case of multiple jobholders).

*Median weekly earnings.* The median is the amount which divides a given earnings distribution into two equal groups, one having earnings above the median and the other having earnings below the median.

*Wage and salary workers.* Workers who receive wages, salaries, commissions, tips, payment in kind, or piece rates. The group includes employees in both the private and public sectors but, for the purposes of the earnings series, excludes all self-employed persons, regardless of whether or not their businesses are incorporated.

*Full-time worker.* Workers who usually work 35 hours or more per week at their sole or principal job.

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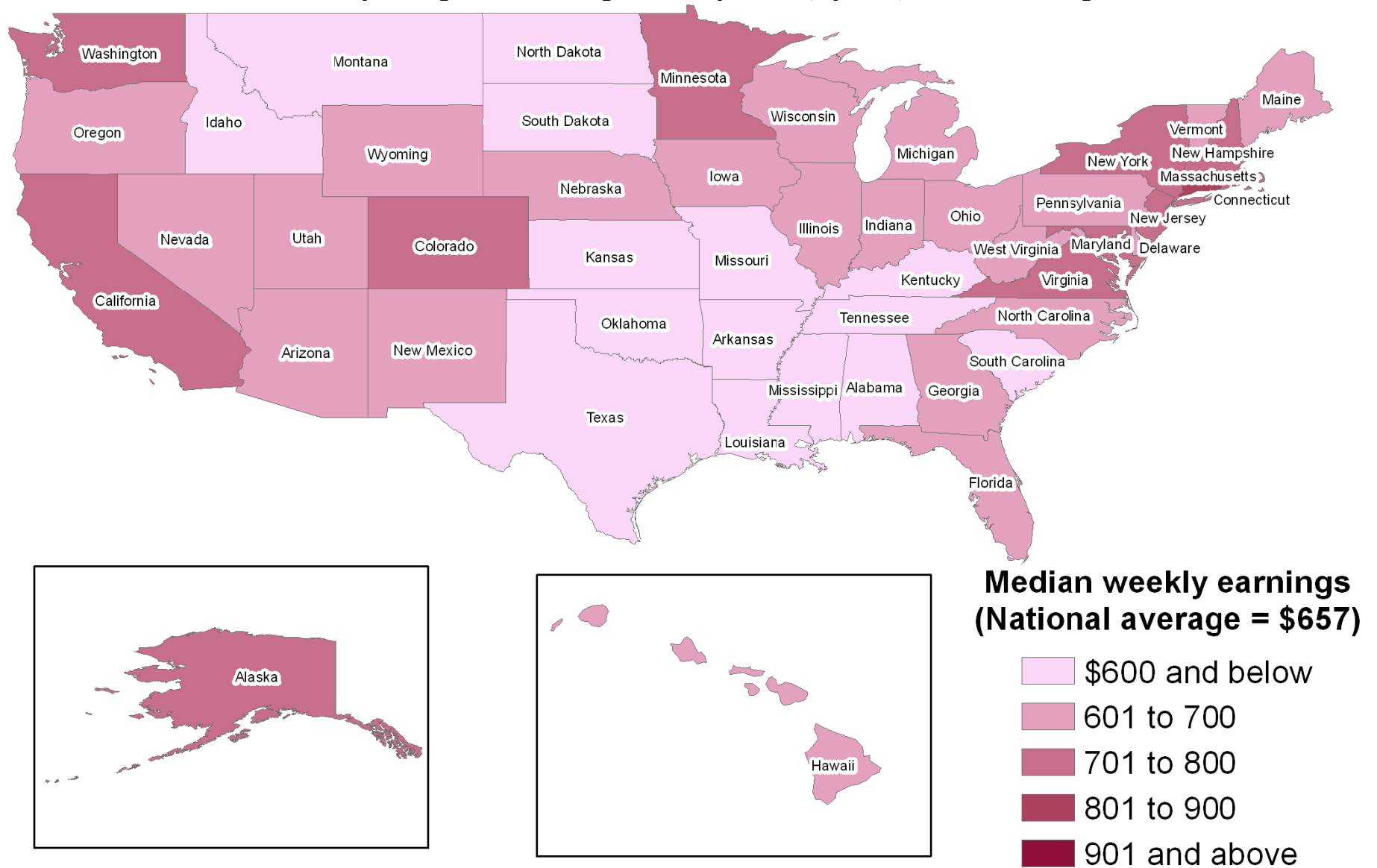
<sup>1</sup> The United States is composed of four geographic regions: Northeast, Midwest, South, and West. The South region includes Alabama, Arkansas, Delaware, District of Columbia, Florida, Georgia, Kentucky, Louisiana, Maryland, Mississippi, North Carolina, Oklahoma, South Carolina, Tennessee, Texas, Virginia, and West Virginia.

**Table 1. Median usual weekly earnings of full-time wage and salary workers, by State and sex, 2009 annual averages**

State	Both sexes			Women			Men			Women's earnings as percent of men's
	Number of workers (thousands)	Median weekly earnings	Standard error of median	Number of workers (thousands)	Median weekly earnings	Standard error of median	Number of workers (thousands)	Median weekly earnings	Standard error of median	
United States	99,820	\$739	\$2	44,712	\$657	\$2	55,108	\$819	\$3	80.2
Alabama	1,462	683	16	654	596	12	808	800	22	74.5
Alaska	236	879	21	102	729	19	134	1,009	21	72.2
Arizona	1,999	735	14	894	654	23	1,105	860	28	76.0
Arkansas	912	596	8	408	547	24	504	620	10	88.2
California	11,233	803	7	4,743	753	8	6,490	849	14	88.7
Colorado	1,762	797	16	749	723	18	1,013	873	21	82.8
Connecticut	1,200	965	23	536	824	30	664	1,099	36	75.0
Delaware	305	754	15	147	699	19	158	825	26	84.7
District of Columbia	245	952	14	123	938	17	122	972	37	96.5
Florida	5,775	704	8	2,760	626	7	3,014	772	11	81.1
Georgia	3,267	732	10	1,494	664	18	1,773	789	28	84.2
Hawaii	423	696	13	192	620	12	231	761	19	81.5
Idaho	444	653	13	185	578	16	259	724	16	79.8
Illinois	4,307	746	8	1,918	636	13	2,388	851	18	74.7
Indiana	2,048	714	15	928	627	14	1,120	796	21	78.8
Iowa	1,066	713	15	479	625	17	587	777	19	80.4
Kansas	979	685	16	434	591	15	546	786	25	75.2
Kentucky	1,305	654	13	571	567	19	734	728	19	77.9
Louisiana	1,491	650	15	695	518	13	796	797	30	65.0
Maine	411	712	15	185	623	16	226	798	21	78.1
Maryland	2,158	857	17	1,036	797	28	1,122	913	22	87.3
Massachusetts	2,190	945	12	985	797	24	1,205	1,044	22	76.3
Michigan	2,841	771	13	1,256	658	11	1,585	895	14	73.5
Minnesota	1,823	801	16	823	733	14	1,000	877	23	83.6
Mississippi	854	595	11	411	521	12	444	655	20	79.5
Missouri	2,038	681	15	974	596	12	1,064	773	18	77.1
Montana	290	626	12	135	549	16	155	710	14	77.3
Nebraska	650	688	13	296	607	15	355	752	15	80.7
Nevada	912	706	13	394	635	12	518	787	23	80.7
New Hampshire	483	839	20	215	716	20	268	966	20	74.1
New Jersey	3,076	886	13	1,375	761	11	1,701	994	22	76.6
New Mexico	603	694	16	275	618	14	329	793	27	77.9
New York	6,579	782	9	3,010	720	11	3,568	858	12	83.9
North Carolina	3,056	661	11	1,408	617	9	1,648	698	14	88.4
North Dakota	239	676	14	107	570	14	132	757	12	75.3
Ohio	3,656	707	8	1,622	623	10	2,034	784	13	79.5
Oklahoma	1,216	625	10	563	591	9	653	678	19	87.2
Oregon	1,098	740	17	485	652	18	614	849	30	76.8
Pennsylvania	4,098	740	8	1,862	654	9	2,235	825	13	79.3
Rhode Island	326	789	19	149	701	20	177	901	34	77.8
South Carolina	1,354	648	10	652	581	16	702	724	19	80.2
South Dakota	276	628	10	130	567	12	146	698	13	81.2
Tennessee	1,945	637	16	949	580	11	996	735	21	78.9
Texas	8,274	661	8	3,453	596	7	4,821	732	10	81.4
Utah	891	714	10	351	608	12	541	809	16	75.2
Vermont	219	745	16	101	668	21	118	816	22	81.9
Virginia	2,913	775	15	1,347	705	18	1,566	877	30	80.4
Washington	2,249	844	16	975	726	19	1,274	959	33	75.7
West Virginia	577	684	14	243	603	13	334	753	20	80.1
Wisconsin	1,877	744	9	858	660	16	1,019	831	19	79.4
Wyoming	191	785	14	78	616	14	113	917	22	67.2

Note: Data refer to persons 16 years and older.

**Chart 2. Women's median usual weekly earnings of full-time wage and salary workers, by State, 2009 annual averages**



Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, Current Population Survey

