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Philadelphia, Pa.

**For release: Monday, October 24, 2011**

PLS – 4840

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## COUNTY EMPLOYMENT AND WAGES IN VIRGINIA – FIRST QUARTER 2011

### Employment growth in Prince William and Loudoun Counties rank among top ten in the nation

Ten of the 12 largest counties in Virginia registered employment increases 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.) Prince William County had the largest employment increase at 4.3 percent, followed by Loudoun County at 4.2 percent and Arlington County at 3.6 percent. Sheila Watkins, the Bureau's regional commissioner, noted that Prince Williams' advance was the third-fastest rate of growth among the nation's 322 largest counties, while Loudoun's growth ranked sixth. Virginia Beach City, Va., recorded the only employment decline among Virginia's large counties, down 0.7 percent.

Nationally, employment rose 1.3 percent during this 12-month period, as 256 of the 322 large counties nationwide gained jobs. The largest over-the-year percentage gain in employment in the nation was recorded in Elkhart County, Ind. at 6.2 percent; Sacramento, Calif., experienced the largest over-the-year percentage decrease in employment, with a loss of 1.6 percent.

Among the 12 largest counties in Virginia, employment was highest in Fairfax County (572,900) in March 2011. No other county in the Commonwealth had employment above 200,000. Together, Virginia's large counties accounted for 56.4 percent of total employment within the Commonwealth. Nationwide, the 322 largest counties made up 70.7 percent of total U.S. employment.

The average weekly wage in Henrico County rose 6.3 percent from the first quarter of 2010 to the first quarter of 2011, the fastest increase among Virginia's 12 largest counties and ranking 51<sup>st</sup> nationwide. Virginia Beach City had the second-highest rate of wage growth at 5.8 percent, followed by Richmond City at 4.9 percent. Arlington County had the highest average weekly wage among the 12 largest counties in the Commonwealth at \$1,549, followed by Fairfax County (\$1,479) and Alexandria City (\$1,226). (See table 1.) Nationally, the average weekly wage rose 5.2 percent over the year to \$935 in the first quarter of 2011.

Employment and wage levels (but not over-the-year changes) are also available for the 122 counties in Virginia with employment below 75,000. All but 7 (Goochland, Surry, King George, Falls Church City, Fairfax City, Manassas City, and Louisa) of these 122 counties had average weekly wages below the national average. (See table 2.)

### Large county wage changes

From the first quarter of 2010 to the first quarter of 2011, 11 of the 12 largest counties in Virginia recorded wage increases. Two of these counties, Henrico (6.3 percent) and Virginia Beach City (5.8 percent), recorded wage gains greater than the national increase of 5.2 percent. Nine other counties had growth rates ranging from 0.8 percent to 4.9 percent.

Of the 322 largest counties nationwide, 315 had over-the-year increases in average weekly wages. Peoria, Ill., led the nation in average weekly wage growth with an increase of 18.9 percent from the first quarter of 2010. Santa Clara, Calif., was second with a gain of 12.4 percent, followed by the counties of Macomb, Mich. (12.0 percent), Clayton, Ga. (11.9 percent), and Wayne, Mich. (11.3 percent).

Nationwide, three large counties recorded decreases in average weekly wages over the year. Williamson, Texas, had the largest decrease in wages with a loss of 3.8 percent from the first quarter of 2010. Smaller declines were reported in Hudson, N.J. (-1.5 percent) and Durham, N.C. (-0.5 percent).

### **Large county average weekly wages**

Average weekly wages in 1 of Virginia's 12 large counties, Arlington, ranked among the top 10 nationwide, placing 7<sup>th</sup> of all 322 large counties. Five other large counties in Virginia—Fairfax, Alexandria City, Loudoun, Richmond City, and Henrico—also had average wages that placed in the top fifth of all large counties. These six counties were the only large counties in Virginia to record wages above the national average.

In two other large counties, Virginia Beach City and Chesapeake City, average weekly wages placed in the bottom fifth of the national ranking at 277<sup>th</sup> and 271<sup>st</sup>, respectively.

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

All but 7 of the 122 counties in Virginia with employment below 75,000 had average weekly wages lower than the national average of \$935. Highland County reported the lowest wage level at \$458. The highest wage among Virginia's 122 small counties was Goochland County's \$1,674, followed by Surry County's \$1,544. (See table 2.)

When all 134 counties in Virginia were considered, 121 had wages below the national average of \$935. Seven reported average weekly wages below \$500, 78 reported wages from \$501 to \$700, 34 had wages from \$701 to \$900, 8 had wages from \$901 to \$1,100, and 7 had wages above \$1,101. Of the 13 counties with above-average wages, 7 were concentrated in the metropolitan area of Washington, D.C. and 4 were located in the Richmond area.

### **Additional statistics and other information**

QCEW 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 Annual Averages*, 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 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. Tables and additional content from the 2009 Employment and Wages Annual Bulletin are now available online at [www.bls.gov/cew/cewbultn09.htm](http://www.bls.gov/cew/cewbultn09.htm). 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.

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 Mid-Atlantic Information Office at 215-597-3282 from 8:30 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. and 1:00 p.m. to 3:30 p.m. ET.

## 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/](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<sup>1</sup> employment and wages in the United States and the 12 largest counties in Virginia, first quarter 2011<sup>2</sup>**

Area	Employment			Average Weekly Wage <sup>3</sup>			
	March 2011 (thousands)	Percent change, March 2010-11 <sup>4</sup>	National ranking by percent change <sup>5</sup>	Average weekly wage	National ranking by level <sup>5</sup>	Percent change, first quarter 2010-11 <sup>4</sup>	National ranking by percent change <sup>5</sup>
United States <sup>6</sup>	127,851.0	1.3	--	\$935	--	5.2	--
Virginia	3,539.9	1.5	--	968	10	4.0	33
Alexandria City, Va.	93.6	[7]	--	1,226	24	[7]	--
Arlington, Va.	166.6	3.6	12	1,549	7	0.8	313
Chesapeake City, Va.	94.0	1.0	158	724	271	4.2	148
Chesterfield, Va.	113.0	0.8	180	830	162	4.1	157
Fairfax, Va.	572.9	2.1	56	1,479	11	4.4	134
Henrico, Va.	171.5	1.2	139	1,027	57	6.3	51
Loudoun, Va.	134.7	4.2	6	1,093	43	2.1	285
Newport News City, Va.	95.3	0.6	196	826	165	4.3	143
Norfolk City, Va.	137.7	0.7	188	861	140	3.6	188
Prince William, Va.	108.3	4.3	3	808	180	1.3	306
Richmond City, Va.	148.5	1.1	148	1,071	49	4.9	99
Virginia Beach City, Va.	159.4	-0.7	290	717	277	5.8	70

<sup>1</sup> Includes workers covered by Unemployment Insurance (UI) and Unemployment Compensation for Federal Employees (UCFE) programs.

<sup>2</sup> Data are preliminary.

<sup>3</sup> Average weekly wages were calculated using unrounded data.

<sup>4</sup> Percent changes were computed from quarterly employment and pay data adjusted for noneconomic county reclassifications.

<sup>5</sup> Ranking does not include the county of San Juan, Puerto Rico.

<sup>6</sup> Totals for the United States do not include data for Puerto Rico or the Virgin Islands.

<sup>7</sup> Data do not meet BLS or State agency disclosure standards.

**Table 2. Covered<sup>1</sup> employment and wages in the United States and all of the counties in Virginia, first quarter 2011<sup>2</sup>**

Area	Employment March 2011	Average weekly wage <sup>3</sup>
United States <sup>4</sup>	127,850,997	\$935
Virginia	3,539,888	968
Accomack	12,269	575
Albemarle	48,431	888
Alleghany	4,192	664
Amelia	2,332	554
Amherst	8,858	604
Appomattox	3,281	515
Arlington	166,588	1,549
Augusta	24,654	700
Bath	2,066	590
Bedford	15,021	609
Bland	1,851	775
Botetourt	8,998	657
Brunswick	4,139	520
Buchanan	8,173	839
Buckingham	3,095	608
Campbell	15,526	771
Caroline	5,290	647
Carroll	6,032	498
Charles City	1,446	665
Charlotte	2,545	507
Chesterfield	113,039	830
Clarke	3,770	686
Craig	651	549
Culpeper	14,640	662
Cumberland	1,239	505
Dickenson	3,715	754
Dinwiddie	7,577	736
Essex	3,888	541
Fairfax County	572,914	1,479
Fauquier	20,082	771
Floyd	2,768	483
Fluvanna	4,137	620
Franklin	12,813	539
Frederick	23,821	733
Giles	4,730	726
Gloucester	9,247	544
Goochland	10,925	1,674
Grayson	2,238	484
Greene	3,470	630

See footnotes at end of table.

**Table 2. Covered<sup>1</sup> employment and wages in the United States and all of the counties in Virginia, first quarter 2011<sup>2</sup> - continued**

Area	Employment March 2011	Average weekly wage <sup>3</sup>
Greensville	4,517	579
Halifax	12,308	583
Hanover	43,543	708
Henrico	171,502	1,027
Henry	12,756	561
Highland	507	458
Isle of Wight	9,691	604
James City	25,670	656
King and Queen	891	686
King George	9,965	1,276
King William	3,299	750
Lancaster	4,487	567
Lee	5,321	574
Loudoun	134,730	1,093
Louisa	7,138	963
Lunenburg	2,483	517
Madison	2,818	567
Mathews	1,474	481
Mecklenburg	12,386	551
Middlesex	3,085	542
Montgomery	39,383	687
Nelson	3,518	503
New Kent	3,452	605
Northampton	4,423	585
Northumberland	2,303	526
Nottoway	5,518	608
Orange	9,014	614
Page	5,254	510
Patrick	4,837	465
Pittsylvania	11,787	535
Powhatan	6,269	737
Prince Edward	8,818	575
Prince George	13,686	875
Prince William	108,343	808
Pulaski	11,514	627
Rappahannock	1,285	811
Richmond County	3,329	545
Roanoke County	34,184	665
Rockbridge	6,030	539
Rockingham	27,712	676
Russell	6,803	638

See footnotes at end of table.

**Table 2. Covered<sup>1</sup> employment and wages in the United States and all of the counties in Virginia, first quarter 2011<sup>2</sup> - continued**

Area	Employment March 2011	Average weekly wage <sup>3</sup>
Scott	4,798	559
Shenandoah	13,171	566
Smyth	11,600	584
Southampton	3,617	573
Spotsylvania	29,565	642
Stafford	33,199	779
Surry	2,276	1,544
Sussex	3,471	583
Tazewell	16,525	609
Warren	11,366	615
Washington	19,532	763
Westmoreland	3,529	510
Wise	16,021	712
Wythe	11,498	540
York	20,575	614
Alexandria City	93,646	1,226
Bedford City	3,238	609
Bristol City	11,843	554
Buena Vista City	2,109	515
Charlottesville City	34,513	806
Chesapeake City	93,963	724
Colonial Heights City	10,312	504
Covington City	3,690	912
Danville City	26,452	604
Emporia City	3,762	491
Fairfax City	19,203	1,047
Falls Church City	12,817	1,175
Franklin City	4,066	550
Fredericksburg City	25,074	695
Galax City	6,369	525
Hampton City	55,247	794
Harrisonburg City	30,362	661
Hopewell City	7,827	901
Lexington City	4,923	665
Lynchburg City	50,026	766
Manassas City	23,994	1,042
Manassas Park City	2,843	770
Martinsville City	11,041	541
Newport News City	95,342	826
Norfolk City	137,679	861
Norton City	4,169	745

See footnotes at end of table.

**Table 2. Covered<sup>1</sup> employment and wages in the United States and all of the counties in Virginia, first quarter 2011<sup>2</sup> - continued**

Area	Employment March 2011	Average weekly wage <sup>3</sup>
Petersburg City	14,365	676
Poquoson City	1,756	521
Portsmouth City	43,274	846
Radford City	6,208	760
Richmond City	148,543	1,071
Roanoke City	65,314	740
Salem City	22,207	806
Staunton City	11,175	550
Suffolk City	24,315	764
Virginia Beach City	159,417	717
Waynesboro City	9,086	628
Williamsburg City	13,222	635
Winchester City	25,046	758

<sup>1</sup> Includes workers covered by Unemployment Insurance (UI) and Unemployment Compensation for Federal Employees (UCFE) programs.

<sup>2</sup> Data are preliminary.

<sup>3</sup> Average weekly wages were calculated using unrounded data.

<sup>4</sup> Totals for the United States do not include data for Puerto Rico or the Virgin Islands.



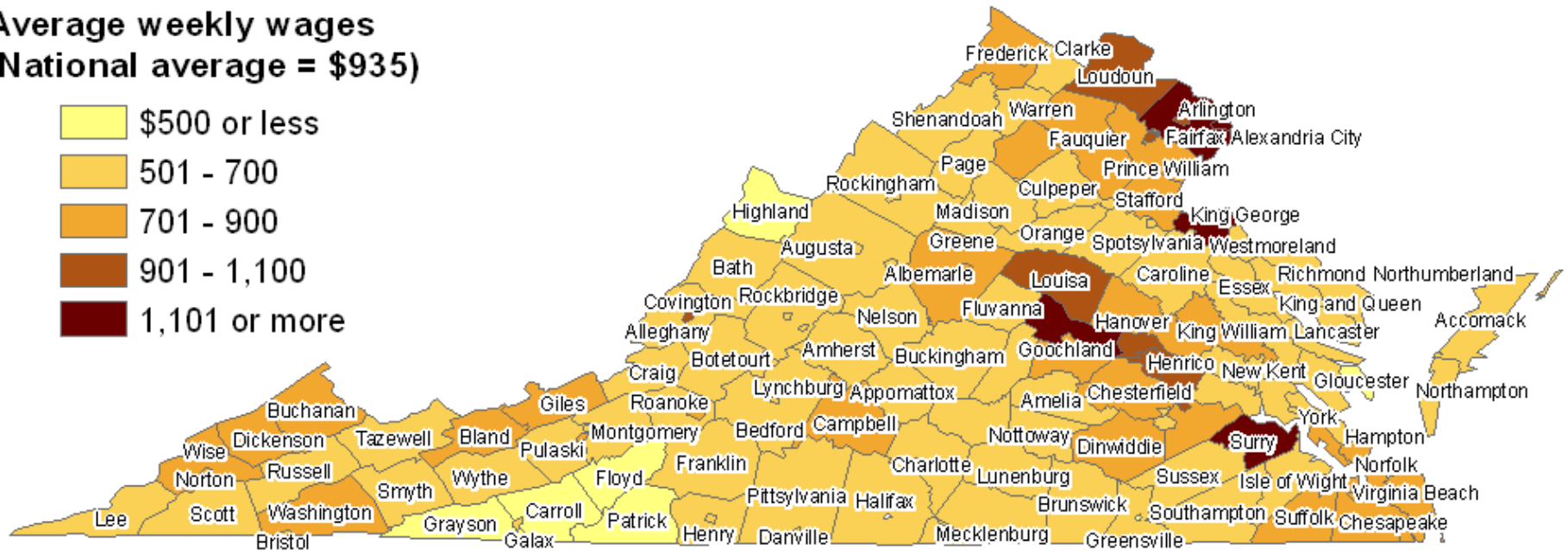
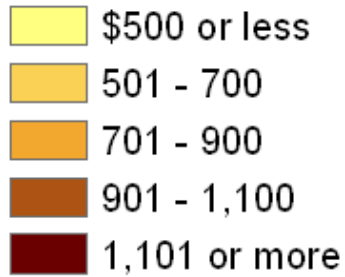
**Table 3. Covered<sup>1</sup> employment and wages by state, first quarter 2011<sup>2</sup>**

State	Employment		Average weekly wage <sup>3</sup>			
	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 <sup>4</sup>	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]

<sup>1</sup> Includes workers covered by Unemployment Insurance (UI) and Unemployment Compensation for Federal Employees (UCFE) programs.<sup>2</sup> Data are preliminary.<sup>3</sup> Average weekly wages were calculated using unrounded data.<sup>4</sup> Totals for the United States do not include data for Puerto Rico or the Virgin Islands.<sup>5</sup> Data not included in the national ranking.

Chart 1. Average weekly wages by county in Virginia first quarter 2011

**Average weekly wages  
(National average = \$935)**



Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics