



NEWS RELEASE



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Technical information: (312) 353-1880 • BLSInfoChicago@bls.gov • www.bls.gov/ro5
Media contact: (312) 353-1138

COUNTY EMPLOYMENT AND WAGES IN INDIANA – FIRST QUARTER 2011

All seven large counties in Indiana reported 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.) Elkhart County had the largest increase, up 6.2 percent, followed by Hamilton County, 2.5 percent, and Allen County, 2.1 percent. Regional Commissioner Charlene Peiffer noted that 3 of the state's 7 large counties experienced over-the-year employment increases greater than the national increase of 1.3 percent.

Nationally, employment grew 1.3 percent during this 12-month period, as 256 of the 322 large counties nationwide gained jobs. Elkhart County experienced the largest percentage increase in employment in both the state and nation, up 6.2 percent over the year. Sacramento, Calif., had the largest employment decrease with a loss of 1.6 percent.

Among the seven largest counties in Indiana, employment was highest in Marion County (542,200) in March 2011. Two other counties, Lake (181,100) and Allen (170,400), had employment levels above 150,000. Collectively, Indiana's seven large counties accounted for 48.7 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 Hamilton County rose 6.6 percent from the first quarter of 2010 to the first quarter of 2011, the largest increase among Indiana's large counties. Marion County had the highest average weekly wage in the state at \$987, followed by Hamilton (\$924) and Lake (\$791). (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 85 counties in Indiana with employment below 75,000. Excluding the counties of Martin, Bartholomew, and Posey, all of these smaller counties had average weekly wages below the national average. (See table 2.)

Large county wage changes

Four of Indiana's large counties recorded wage growth above the national increase of 5.2 percent from the first quarter of 2010 to the first quarter of 2011. (See table 1.) As noted, Hamilton County experienced the state's largest average weekly wage increase of 6.6 percent, ranking 43rd in the nation. Vanderburgh (5.7 percent, 73rd), Lake (5.6 percent, 77th), and Elkhart (5.4 percent, 82nd) Counties also

reported wage growth above the national average. Conversely, St. Joseph (3.1 percent) County ranked in the bottom third nationally.

Of the 322 largest counties, 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 decline 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 only one of Indiana's seven large counties was above the national average of \$935 in the first quarter of 2011. As noted, Marion County (\$987) had the highest average weekly wage in the state and ranked 69th among the 322 largest counties in the United States. Elkhart (\$698) reported the lowest average weekly wage among Indiana's largest counties and ranked 291st nationwide.

Nationwide, 94 large counties registered weekly wages above the U.S. average of \$935 in the first quarter of 2011. New York, N.Y., held the top position among the highest-paid large counties with an average weekly wage of \$2,634. Fairfield, Conn., was second at \$1,888, followed by the counties of Somerset, N.J. (\$1,867), Santa Clara, Calif. (\$1,863), and San Francisco, Calif. (\$1,723).

More than two-thirds of the largest U.S. counties (228) reported weekly wages below the national average. Horry County, S.C. reported the lowest wage (\$534), followed by the counties of Cameron, Texas (\$546), Hidalgo, Texas (\$556), Lake, Fla. (\$586), and Webb, Texas (\$590). Wages in these lowest-ranked counties were less than one-fourth of the average weekly wage reported for the highest-ranked county, New York.

Average weekly wages in Indiana's smaller counties

With the exceptions of Martin (\$1,135), Bartholomew (\$933), and Posey (\$948) Counties, all 85 counties in Indiana with employment below 75,000 had average weekly wages lower than the national average of \$935. Among these smaller counties, Vermillion County had the 4th highest average weekly wage at \$899 and Brown County had the lowest at \$412. (See table 2.)

When all 92 counties in Indiana were considered, all but 4 had wages below the national average of \$935. Thirteen reported average weekly wages under \$550, 42 had wages from \$550 to \$649, 24 reported wages from \$650 to \$749, and 13 had wages of \$750 or more. (See chart 1.)

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/cewbuln09.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 Midwest Information Office at 312-353-1880 from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 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/; 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 7 largest counties in Indiana, 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	--
Indiana	2,717.1	1.9	--	772	33	4.5	22
Allen, Ind.	170.4	2.1	56	747	248	4.0	165
Elkhart, Ind.	102.5	6.2	1	698	291	5.4	82
Hamilton, Ind.	107.8	2.5	35	924	100	6.6	43
Lake, Ind.	181.1	0.6	196	791	199	5.6	77
Marion, Ind.	542.2	1.0	158	987	69	3.6	188
St. Joseph, Ind.	114.9	0.7	188	723	272	3.1	226
Vanderburgh, Ind.	104.0	0.1	249	729	265	5.7	73

(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 Indiana, 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	Lake	181,051	\$791
Indiana	2,717,139	772	Lawrence	12,534	605
Adams	12,075	559	Madison	37,870	635
Allen	170,442	747	Marion	542,203	987
Bartholomew	42,403	993	Marshall	17,406	610
Benton	2,288	551	Martin	7,519	1,135
Blackford	3,403	562	Miami	8,914	600
Boone	19,581	687	Monroe	60,718	700
Brown	2,779	412	Montgomery	14,327	728
Carroll	4,953	550	Morgan	13,889	582
Cass	14,433	572	Newton	3,440	573
Clark	45,684	624	Noble	17,011	614
Clay	7,203	533	Ohio	1,496	597
Clinton	10,383	660	Orange	7,182	556
Crawford	1,958	471	Owen	4,705	654
Daviess	10,648	542	Parke	3,017	492
Dearborn	14,513	638	Perry	6,130	650
Decatur	11,163	654	Pike	3,101	865
De Kalb	18,028	775	Porter	54,620	711
Delaware	43,298	613	Posey	8,537	948
Dubois	26,388	658	Pulaski	4,411	628
Elkhart	102,530	698	Putnam	11,572	569
Fayette	6,408	574	Randolph	7,255	576
Floyd	28,316	666	Ripley	12,409	726
Fountain	5,349	561	Rush	4,517	591
Franklin	3,879	520	St. Joseph	114,913	723
Fulton	6,161	615	Scott	6,358	544
Gibson	17,233	785	Shelby	15,697	658
Grant	26,566	670	Spencer	6,249	648
Greene	6,486	519	Starke	4,130	495
Hamilton	107,830	924	Steuben	13,371	549
Hancock	19,025	745	Sullivan	5,784	628
Harrison	10,754	561	Switzerland	2,273	532
Hendricks	50,771	643	Tippecanoe	74,817	778
Henry	11,933	563	Tipton	3,791	682
Howard	35,129	841	Union	1,373	516
Huntington	13,888	599	Vanderburgh	103,996	729
Jackson	18,548	689	Vermillion	4,061	899
Jasper	10,873	606	Vigo	49,107	647
Jay	7,491	605	Wabash	11,901	577
Jefferson	11,852	638	Warren	1,898	584
Jennings	7,278	610	Warrick	14,343	720
Johnson	42,068	599	Washington	5,312	544
Knox	16,546	647	Wayne	28,216	617
Kosciusko	34,406	863	Wells	10,025	668
La Porte	40,323	660	White	8,159	588
Lagrange	10,294	595	Whitley	11,025	673

(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.

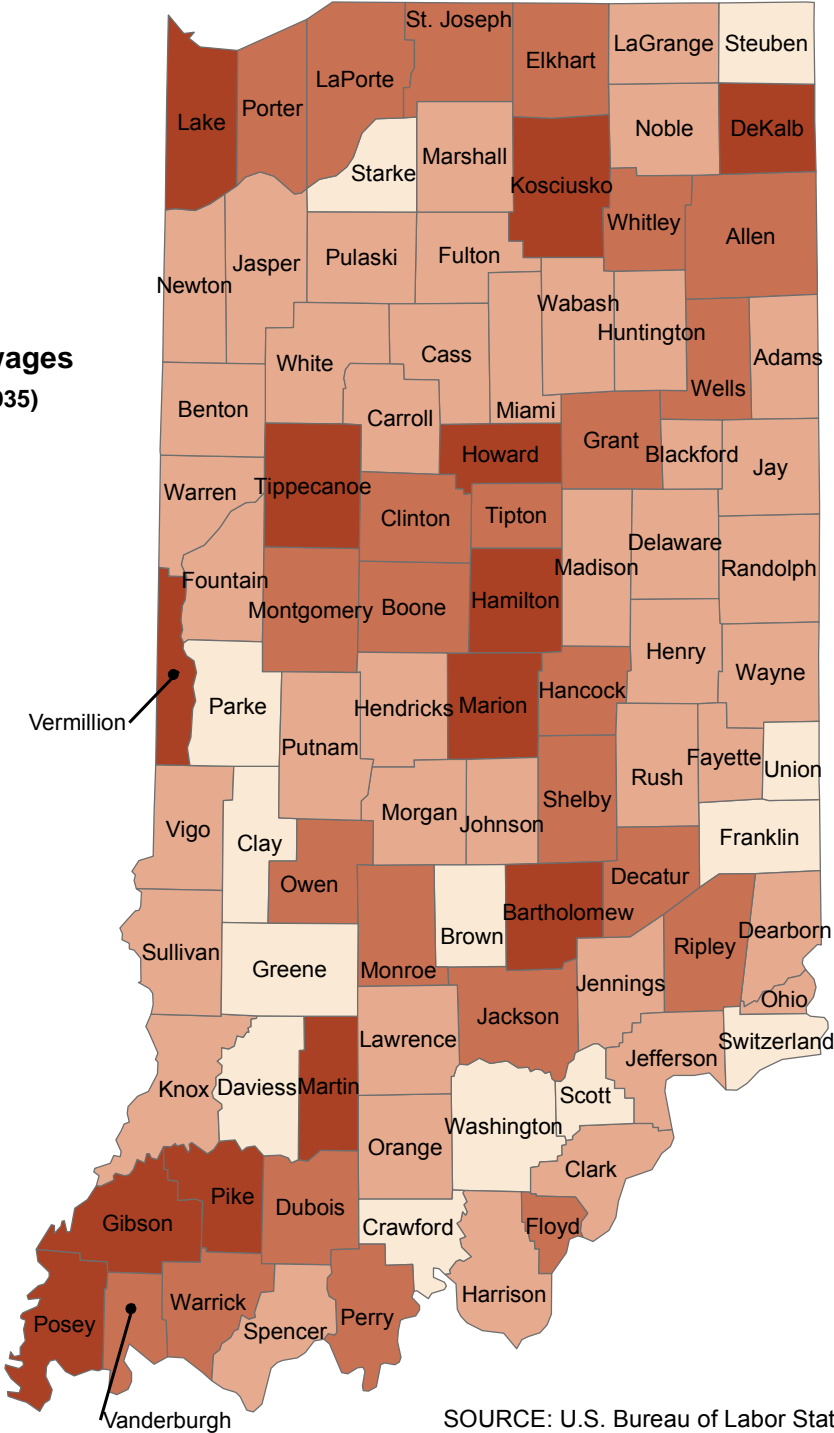
(4) Totals for the United States do not include data for Puerto Rico or the Virgin Islands.

(5) Data not included in the national ranking.

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

Average weekly wages
 (National average = \$935)

- Below \$550
- 550 - 649
- 650 - 749
- 750 or more



SOURCE: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics