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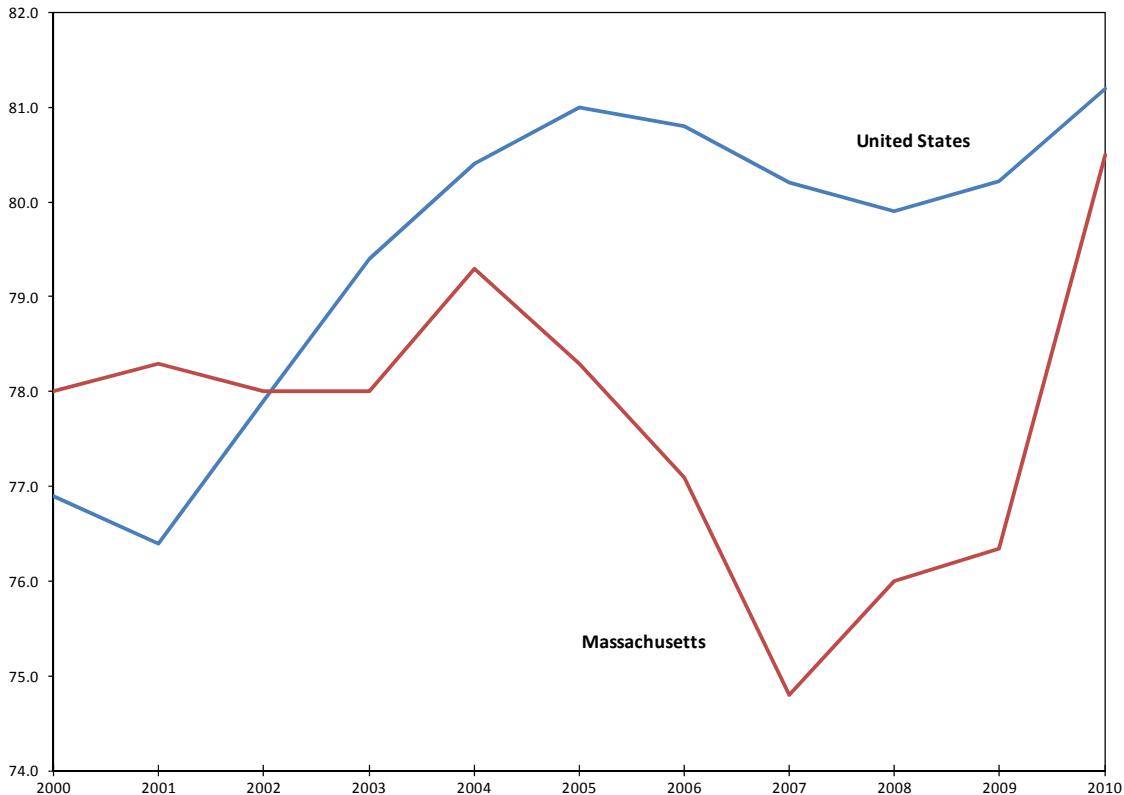
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WOMEN’S EARNINGS IN MASSACHUSETTS – 2010

In 2010, women who were full-time wage and salary workers in Massachusetts had median weekly earnings of \$832, or 80.5 percent of the \$1,033 median for their male counterparts, the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics reported today. Regional Commissioner Denis M. McSweeney noted that the Commonwealth’s 2010 ratio increased 4.2 percentage points over the year to rise above the previous peak of 79.3 percent posted in 2004. Nationwide, women earned \$669, or approximately 81.2 percent of the \$824 median for men in 2010. (See table 1. Earnings in this report do not control for many factors that can be significant in explaining earnings differences.)

From 2000 to 2010, the women’s-to-men’s earnings ratio in Massachusetts reached a low of 74.8 percent in 2007. Since then it has trended upwards. (See chart 1.)

Chart 1. Women’s earning as a percent of men’s, full-time wage and salary workers, Massachusetts and the United States, 2000-10 annual averages



Among the 50 states, median weekly earnings of women in full-time wage and salary positions ranged from \$530 in Arkansas to \$835 in Connecticut. States with the highest wages for women were located along the Northeastern coastline. In addition to Connecticut, Massachusetts and New Jersey also had wages above \$800 and Maryland was close at \$798. (See table 1 and chart 2.)

Across the nation, median weekly earnings for men were lowest in Arkansas at \$640 and highest in Connecticut at \$1,101, the same pattern that emerged for women. Five of the six states with wages above \$950 (Connecticut, Massachusetts, New Jersey, New Hampshire, and Virginia) were located along or close to the east coast. The sole exception was on the west coast—Washington.

The ratio of female-to-male earnings in 2010 varied across the nation, ranging from 68.8 percent in West Virginia to 91.3 percent in Delaware. Of the eight states with the highest ratios, 85 percent or higher, seven were either in the Northeast or along the border with Mexico, the only exception being North Carolina. Vermont was the only New England state among those with the highest ratios. (See chart 3.) 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, comparisons by sex are on a broad level and do not control for factors such as educational attainment which can be significant in explaining earnings differences.

For more information on the median weekly earnings of women and men, see Bureau of Labor Statistics Report 1031, "Highlights of Women's Earnings in 2010", issued in July 2011; copies are available on the Internet at www.bls.gov/cps/cpswom2010.pdf or by calling the New England Information Office at (617) 565-2327. This information will be made available to sensory impaired individuals upon request. Voice phone: (617) 565-2072, Federal Relay Services: 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. This survey is conducted monthly for the Bureau of Labor Statistics by the U.S. Census Bureau, using a national sample of about 60,000 households, with coverage in all 50 states and the District of Columbia. The earnings data are collected from one-fourth of the CPS monthly sample.

Statistics based on the CPS data are subject to both sampling and nonsampling error. The differences among data for the states reflect, in part, variations in the occupation, industry, and 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.

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.

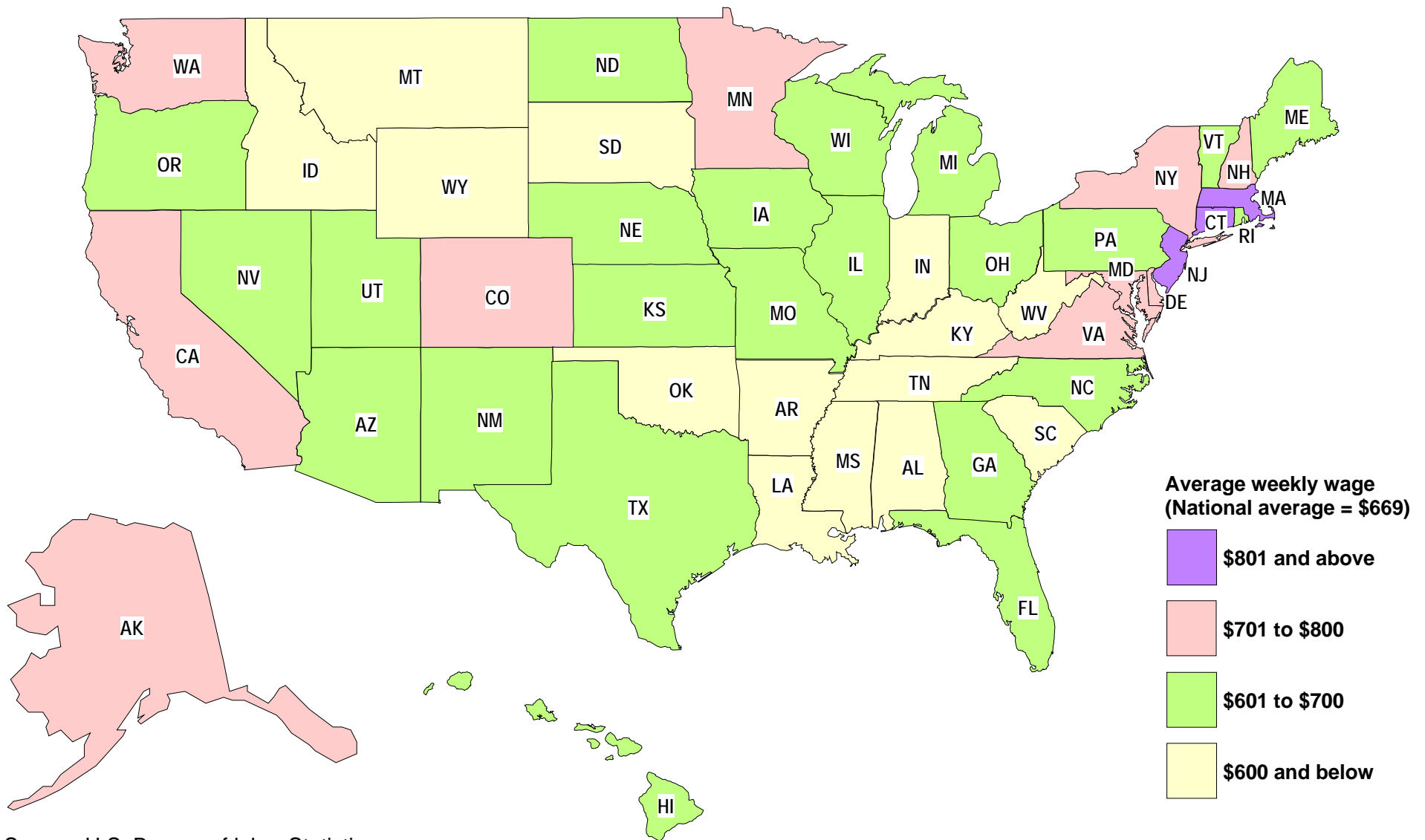
Table 1. Median usual weekly earnings of full-time wage and salary workers, by state and sex, 2010 annual averages

State	Both sexes			Women		
	Number of workers (in thousands)	Median weekly earnings	Standard error of median	Number of workers (in thousands)	Median weekly earnings	Standard error of median
UNITED STATES.....	99,531	\$747	\$2	44,472	\$669	\$3
Alabama.....	1,478	661	20	678	597	18
Alaska.....	241	827	18	107	705	20
Arizona.....	2,028	723	11	878	667	17
Arkansas.....	911	594	9	416	530	14
California.....	10,999	793	8	4,712	747	9
Colorado.....	1,727	823	15	728	719	14
Connecticut.....	1,195	976	24	524	835	32
Delaware.....	293	760	16	137	735	16
District of Columbia.....	259	1,014	21	131	965	20
Florida.....	5,804	717	8	2,735	647	8
Georgia.....	3,198	725	14	1,458	637	13
Hawaii.....	401	732	16	185	658	15
Idaho.....	445	666	12	181	585	14
Illinois.....	4,264	771	10	1,865	678	13
Indiana.....	2,030	693	15	869	598	13
Iowa.....	1,056	700	14	481	622	13
Kansas.....	970	689	16	439	611	12
Kentucky.....	1,301	650	15	596	581	11
Louisiana.....	1,436	682	23	646	582	12
Maine.....	406	722	15	189	637	19
Maryland.....	2,148	867	19	1,006	798	43
Massachusetts.....	2,193	946	15	982	832	19
Michigan.....	2,848	768	11	1,290	684	14
Minnesota.....	1,856	823	17	819	749	18
Mississippi.....	854	618	11	406	564	18
Missouri.....	1,977	725	16	926	616	12
Montana.....	280	658	16	128	553	18
Nebraska.....	652	688	13	304	621	14
Nevada.....	811	687	12	359	614	8
New Hampshire.....	486	848	16	213	745	16
New Jersey.....	3,074	895	17	1,352	824	16
New Mexico.....	606	688	17	270	605	15
New York.....	6,602	798	10	3,062	747	7
North Carolina.....	3,049	671	12	1,418	622	10
North Dakota.....	249	689	13	112	603	13
Ohio.....	3,679	732	8	1,668	645	11
Oklahoma.....	1,202	661	12	542	579	12
Oregon.....	1,129	754	17	468	659	22
Pennsylvania.....	4,171	751	7	1,835	664	11
Rhode Island.....	335	805	22	152	700	26
South Carolina.....	1,416	664	10	679	586	16
South Dakota.....	280	651	12	131	598	10
Tennessee.....	2,001	639	15	926	589	15
Texas.....	8,381	665	8	3,575	611	7
Utah.....	853	717	9	324	620	12
Vermont.....	217	754	14	102	696	22
Virginia.....	2,892	831	18	1,351	719	18
Washington.....	2,193	870	18	938	748	16
West Virginia.....	566	705	15	244	572	17
Wisconsin.....	1,894	761	12	856	684	17
Wyoming.....	197	776	15	81	616	14

Table 1. Median usual weekly earnings of full-time wage and salary workers, by state and sex, 2010 annual averages—Continued

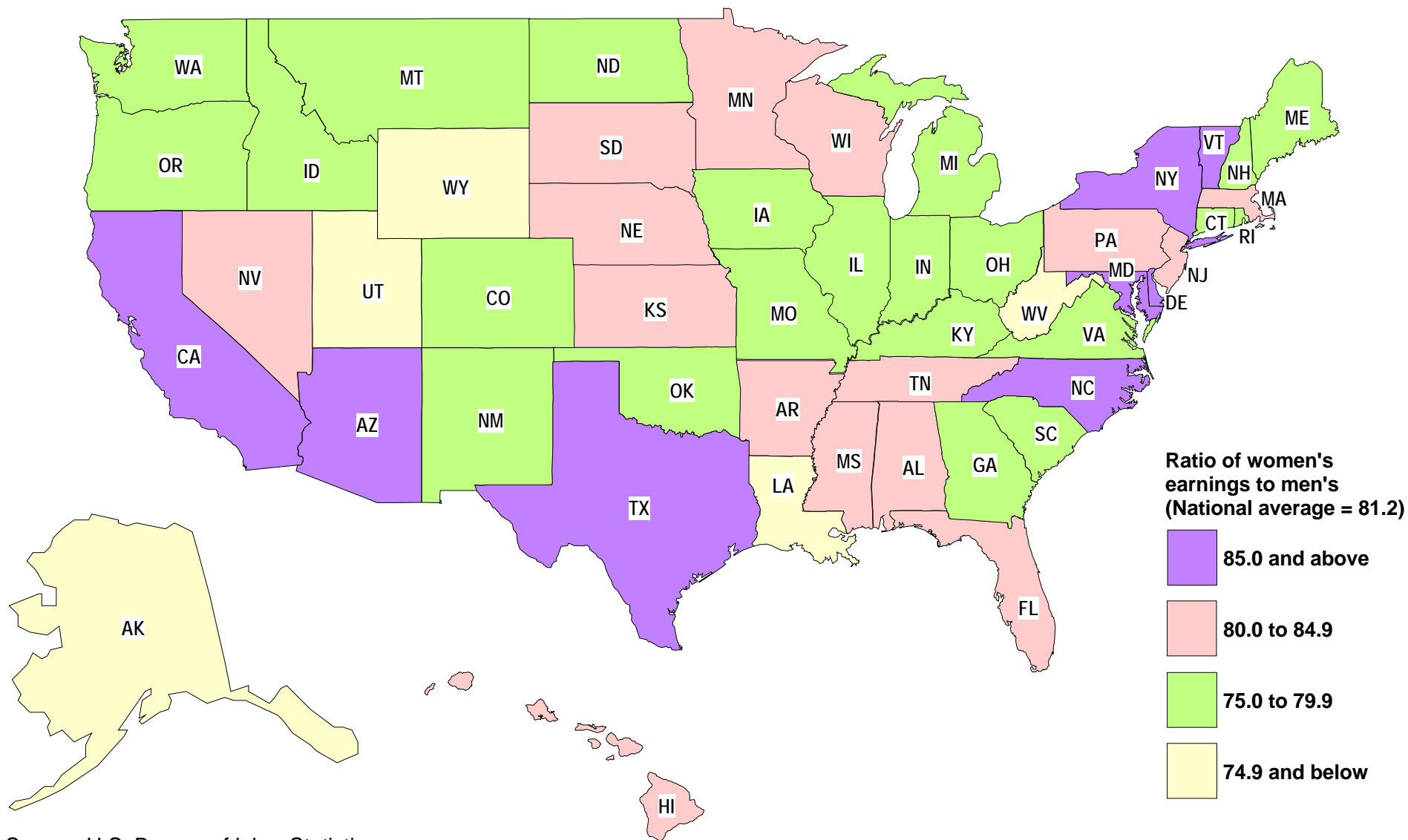
State	Men			Women's earnings as percent of men's
	Number of workers (in thousands)	Median weekly earnings	Standard error of median	
UNITED STATES.....	55,059	\$824	\$3	81.2
Alabama.....	800	709	20	84.2
Alaska.....	134	948	28	74.4
Arizona.....	1,150	767	16	87.0
Arkansas.....	496	640	18	82.8
California.....	6,287	840	13	88.9
Colorado.....	998	925	22	77.7
Connecticut.....	672	1,101	56	75.8
Delaware.....	156	805	30	91.3
District of Columbia.....	128	1,103	58	87.5
Florida.....	3,069	773	11	83.7
Georgia.....	1,740	822	27	77.5
Hawaii.....	216	797	22	82.6
Idaho.....	264	754	20	77.6
Illinois.....	2,399	872	14	77.8
Indiana.....	1,160	772	22	77.5
Iowa.....	575	786	23	79.1
Kansas.....	531	763	18	80.1
Kentucky.....	705	743	19	78.2
Louisiana.....	790	834	20	69.8
Maine.....	217	810	30	78.6
Maryland.....	1,142	932	32	85.6
Massachusetts.....	1,212	1,033	23	80.5
Michigan.....	1,558	857	23	79.8
Minnesota.....	1,037	903	23	82.9
Mississippi.....	449	693	20	81.4
Missouri.....	1,051	819	22	75.2
Montana.....	152	730	19	75.8
Nebraska.....	348	748	18	83.0
Nevada.....	452	751	14	81.8
New Hampshire.....	273	966	27	77.1
New Jersey.....	1,722	972	19	84.8
New Mexico.....	336	780	25	77.6
New York.....	3,540	861	11	86.8
North Carolina.....	1,630	728	17	85.4
North Dakota.....	137	764	16	78.9
Ohio.....	2,012	817	16	78.9
Oklahoma.....	660	746	23	77.6
Oregon.....	661	828	29	79.6
Pennsylvania.....	2,336	822	15	80.8
Rhode Island.....	183	930	30	75.3
South Carolina.....	737	752	19	77.9
South Dakota.....	149	716	17	83.5
Tennessee.....	1,076	715	26	82.4
Texas.....	4,806	714	10	85.6
Utah.....	528	841	26	73.7
Vermont.....	116	807	18	86.2
Virginia.....	1,540	956	21	75.2
Washington.....	1,255	978	22	76.5
West Virginia.....	321	832	27	68.8
Wisconsin.....	1,037	826	18	82.8
Wyoming.....	116	891	17	69.1

Chart 2. Women's median usual weekly earnings of full-time wage and salary workers, by state, 2010 annual averages



Source: U.S. Bureau of labor Statistics

Chart 3. Women's earnings as a percent of men's, full-time wage and salary workers, by state, 2010



Source: U.S. Bureau of labor Statistics