



# NEWS RELEASE



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## COUNTY EMPLOYMENT AND WAGES IN MISSISSIPPI – SECOND QUARTER 2011

Employment declined in one of Mississippi's two large counties from June 2010 to June 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.) Regional Commissioner Janet S. Rankin noted that Hinds County declined 1.1 percent, while Harrison County registered a 0.7-percent increase. (See table 1.)

Nationally, employment increased 0.9 percent during the 12-month period as 215 of the 322 largest U.S. counties gained jobs. Ottawa, Mich., posted the largest increase, with a gain of 4.7 percent, while San Joaquin, Calif., experienced the biggest employment decline at 4.0 percent.

Among the state's two largest counties, employment was highest in Hinds (121,900) in June 2011. Together, Mississippi's large counties accounted for 19.1 percent of total employment within the state. Nationwide, the 322 largest counties made up 70.5 percent of total U.S. employment, which stood at 130.5 million in June 2011.

Hinds County posted a 2.0-percent wage gain from the second quarter of 2010 to the second quarter of 2011 while wages in Harrison County increased 0.6 percent. Nationally, average weekly wages advanced 3.0 percent. Average weekly wages in both Hinds County (\$777) and Harrison County (\$669) were well below the national average of \$891. (See table 1.)

Employment and wage levels (but not over-the-year changes) are also available for the 80 counties in Mississippi with employment below 75,000. One of these smaller counties, Claiborne (\$955), had average weekly wages above the national average. (See table 2.)

### Large county wage changes

Hinds County's 2.0-percent wage growth from the second quarter of 2010 to the second quarter of 2011 ranked 218<sup>th</sup> among the 322 largest counties. Harrison County (0.6 percent) ranked 298<sup>th</sup> among the nation's large counties. (See table 1.)

Nationwide, 307 large counties experienced growth in average weekly wages. Williamson, Texas, ranked first with an increase of 18.0 percent from the second quarter of 2010 to the second quarter of

2011. Middlesex, Mass., ranked second with a gain of 10.2 percent, followed by the counties of Hartford, Md. (8.8 percent), Santa Clara, Calif. (8.5 percent), and Butler, Pa. (7.5 percent).

Among the 322 largest counties, 11 experienced over-the-year decreases in average weekly wages. Champaign, Ill., had the largest decrease in the nation (-3.6 percent), followed by the counties of Benton, Ark. (-2.7 percent), Rutherford, Tenn. (-2.2 percent), New York, N.Y. (-1.1 percent), and Elkhart, Ind. (-1.0 percent).

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

Average weekly wages in both of Mississippi's large counties placed in the bottom half of the national rankings in the second quarter of 2011. Hinds County (\$777) ranked 223<sup>rd</sup> and Harrison County (\$669) ranked 309<sup>th</sup>.

Nationally, average weekly wages were higher than average in 107 of the 322 largest counties. Santa Clara, Calif., recorded the highest average weekly wage at \$1,743. New York, N.Y., was second with an average weekly wage of \$1,645, followed by Arlington, Va. (\$1,553), Washington, D.C. (\$1,541), and Fairfield, Conn. (\$1,469).

There were 215 large counties with an average weekly wage below the U.S. average in the second quarter of 2011. Horry, S.C. (\$526), reported the lowest wage, followed by the counties of Hidalgo, Texas (\$571), Cameron, Texas (\$572), Yakima, Wash. (\$610), and Webb, Texas (\$616).

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

Among the 80 counties in Mississippi with employment below 75,000, all but 1 had average weekly wages below the national average of \$891. The lone exception was Claiborne (\$955). (See table 2.) Issaquena reported the lowest weekly wage among all the counties in the state, averaging \$403 in the second quarter of 2011.

When all 82 counties in Mississippi were considered, 5 reported average weekly wages under \$500, 50 reported wages from \$500-\$599, 19 had wages from \$600-\$699, 5 had wages from \$700-\$799, and 3 had wages above \$800. (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/](http://www.bls.gov/cew/).

An annual bulletin, *Employment and Wages*, 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 the 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. 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. 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).

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 Southeast Information Office in Atlanta at 404-893-4222.

### **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 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/](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 in this release are based on the 2012 North American Industry Classification System. Data for 2011 are preliminary and subject to revision.

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 2 largest counties in Mississippi, second quarter 2011 (2)**

Area	Employment			Average Weekly Wage (3)			
	June 2011 (thousands)	Percent change, June 2010-11 (4)	National ranking by percent change (5)	Average weekly wage	National ranking by level (5)	Percent change, second quarter 2010-11 (4)	National ranking by percent change (5)
United States (6)	130,469.9	0.9	--	\$891	--	3.0	--
Mississippi	1,079.4	-0.6	--	664	50	1.8	49
Harrison, Miss.	83.8	0.7	156	669	309	0.6	298
Hinds, Miss.	121.9	-1.1	286	777	223	2.0	218

(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 Mississippi, second quarter 2011 (2)**

Area	Employment June 2011	Average weekly wage (3)	Area	Employment June 2011	Average weekly wage (3)
United States (4)	130,469,924	\$891	Leake	5,391	\$525
Mississippi	1,079,442	664	Lee	49,055	659
Adams	11,155	569	Leflore	13,881	594
Alcorn	12,405	594	Lincoln	10,917	608
Amite	1,730	533	Lowndes	24,177	693
Attala	4,681	538	Madison	44,453	735
Benton	1,319	536	Marion	7,740	594
Bolivar	12,171	572	Marshall	5,811	601
Calhoun	3,461	499	Monroe	9,448	650
Carroll	1,085	544	Montgomery	2,570	513
Chickasaw	6,168	564	Neshoba	13,005	595
Choctaw	1,878	664	Newton	5,704	555
Claiborne	3,330	955	Noxubee	2,427	508
Clarke	2,958	550	Oktibbeha	17,768	651
Clay	4,972	590	Panola	10,775	602
Coahoma	8,437	574	Pearl River	9,913	570
Copiah	7,702	568	Perry	2,035	735
Covington	5,158	548	Pike	14,280	552
De Soto	45,421	589	Pontotoc	10,773	592
Forrest	35,040	680	Prentiss	7,034	552
Franklin	1,667	658	Quitman	1,209	502
George	4,204	558	Rankin	55,159	658
Greene	1,913	568	Scott	12,700	561
Grenada	9,722	575	Sharkey	1,265	501
Hancock	13,597	879	Simpson	7,465	489
Harrison	83,810	669	Smith	2,743	622
Hinds	121,893	777	Stone	4,126	579
Holmes	3,681	561	Sunflower	8,899	545
Humphreys	3,008	433	Tallahatchie	2,862	486
Issaquena	268	403	Tate	5,351	598
Itawamba	5,238	574	Tippah	5,769	587
Jackson	48,796	867	Tishomingo	5,190	533
Jasper	4,231	643	Tunica	11,539	538
Jefferson	1,239	552	Union	9,163	598
Jefferson Davis	1,726	677	Walthall	2,619	528
Jones	28,130	660	Warren	20,853	739
Kemper	2,036	569	Washington	18,390	566
Lafayette	17,800	659	Wayne	5,159	577
Lamar	16,893	522	Webster	2,095	516
Lauderdale	33,349	641	Wilkinson	2,227	582
Lawrence	2,500	722	Winston	4,546	581
			Yalobusha	2,826	590
			Yazoo	6,060	644

(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, second quarter 2011 (2)**

State	Employment		Average weekly wage (3)			
	June 2011 (thousands)	Percent change, June 2010-11	Average weekly wage	National ranking by level	Percent change, second quarter 2010-11	National ranking by percent change
United States (4)	130,469.9	0.9	\$891	--	3.0	--
Alabama	1,824.8	-0.4	767	34	2.3	41
Alaska	335.9	1.6	941	9	2.6	27
Arizona	2,336.3	1.1	842	20	2.7	26
Arkansas	1,140.4	-1.3	703	47	2.6	27
California	14,664.6	0.3	1,019	6	4.0	7
Colorado	2,234.7	1.4	900	13	3.4	16
Connecticut	1,630.2	0.8	1,116	3	3.8	9
Delaware	408.4	0.5	926	12	5.9	2
District of Columbia	711.3	1.4	1,541	1	2.4	36
Florida	7,092.3	0.8	802	25	2.6	27
Georgia	3,803.1	1.0	832	21	2.5	32
Hawaii	590.5	0.7	799	26	2.4	36
Idaho	616.6	0.0	667	49	2.3	41
Illinois	5,633.0	1.0	939	10	3.2	17
Indiana	2,769.2	1.3	749	41	2.2	46
Iowa	1,476.9	0.7	726	43	2.5	32
Kansas	1,313.2	-0.1	754	40	2.9	23
Kentucky	1,751.8	0.9	760	38	2.3	41
Louisiana	1,844.3	-0.1	794	28	3.1	18
Maine	593.8	0.3	712	46	1.9	48
Maryland	2,513.5	0.5	987	7	3.1	18
Massachusetts	3,230.4	0.9	1,120	2	5.6	3
Michigan	3,896.9	1.8	845	19	2.4	36
Minnesota	2,645.4	1.4	898	15	3.5	12
Mississippi	1,079.4	-0.6	664	50	1.8	49
Missouri	2,617.7	0.3	774	31	1.6	50
Montana	434.1	0.5	681	48	3.5	12
Nebraska	911.6	0.1	714	45	2.4	36
Nevada	1,123.0	0.5	816	24	2.5	32
New Hampshire	615.2	0.4	888	16	2.4	36
New Jersey	3,836.2	-0.3	1,056	5	2.6	27
New Mexico	788.7	-0.5	763	37	2.8	24
New York	8,575.3	1.0	1,092	4	1.0	51
North Carolina	3,865.9	1.5	783	30	2.5	32
North Dakota	382.4	5.1	769	33	8.2	1
Ohio	5,009.1	0.9	795	27	2.6	27
Oklahoma	1,510.3	0.7	749	41	4.5	5
Oregon	1,637.5	0.7	819	22	4.2	6
Pennsylvania	5,606.5	1.0	875	17	3.1	18
Rhode Island	458.1	0.3	862	18	3.5	12
South Carolina	1,801.6	1.1	726	43	2.3	41
South Dakota	404.8	0.8	656	51	3.8	9
Tennessee	2,616.9	1.3	794	28	2.3	41
Texas	10,462.4	2.1	900	13	4.0	7
Utah	1,183.9	2.0	756	39	3.1	18
Vermont	297.0	1.0	773	32	2.8	24
Virginia	3,619.7	0.9	949	8	2.2	46
Washington	2,875.8	0.6	928	11	3.5	12
West Virginia	702.9	0.3	765	36	5.4	4
Wisconsin	2,712.0	0.9	767	34	3.0	22
Wyoming	284.7	1.2	819	22	3.7	11
Puerto Rico	915.1	-1.4	496	(5)	0.6	(5)
Virgin Islands	44.1	0.6	747	(5)	5.5	(5)

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

(2) Data are preliminary.

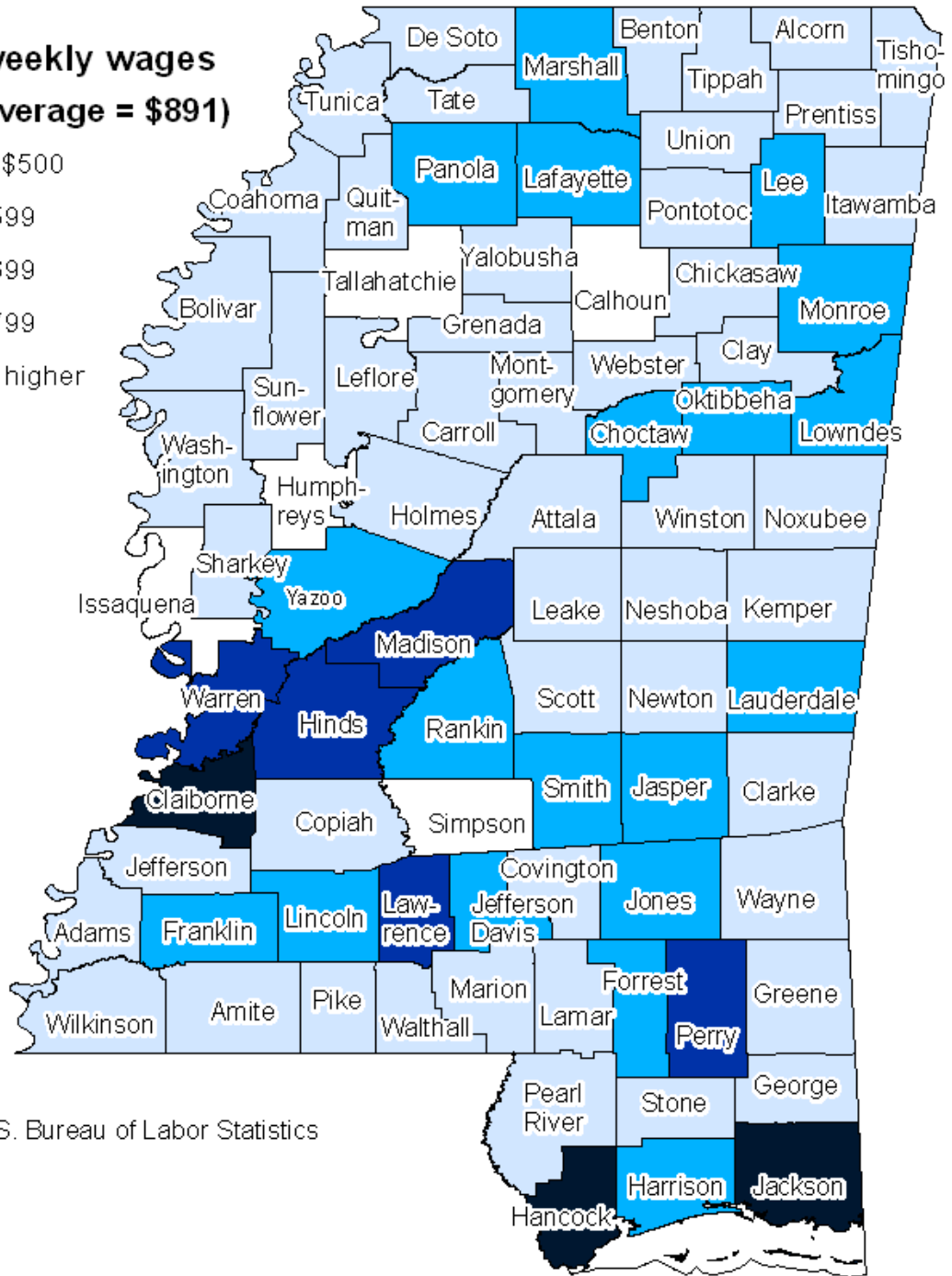
(3) Average weekly wages were calculated using unrounded data.

(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 in Mississippi, second quarter 2011

**Average weekly wages  
(National average = \$891)**



Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics