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COUNTY EMPLOYMENT AND WAGES IN HAWAII FIRST QUARTER 2012

Employment rose in Hawaii's only large county, Honolulu, from March 2011 to March 2012, 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 2011 annual average employment.) Regional Commissioner Richard J. Holden noted that employment in Honolulu County moved up 0.8 percent from March a year ago, a pace slower than the national increase of 1.8 percent. (See table 1.)

Nationally, employment increased in 293 of the 328 largest U.S. counties from March 2011 to March 2012. Gregg, Texas, posted the largest increase with a gain of 6.0 percent over the year. Benton, Wash., experienced the largest over-the-year decrease in employment among the largest counties in the U.S. with a loss of 3.9 percent.

Honolulu County employment was 440,600 and accounted for 73.4 of total employment within the state. Nationwide, the 322 largest counties made up 71.1 percent of total U.S. employment.

The average weekly wage in Honolulu County was \$870 in the first quarter of 2012, an increase of 6.1 percent from the first quarter of 2011. Nationally, the average weekly wage increased 5.4 percent over the year to \$984 in the first quarter of 2012. (See table 1.)

Employment and wage levels (but not over-the-year changes) are also available for three counties in Hawaii with employment below 75,000. As in Honolulu County, these three smaller counties also had average weekly wages below the national average. (See table 2.)

Large County Wage Changes

As mentioned, Honolulu County had a wage gain of 6.1-percent, placing it 129th in the national ranking. Among the 328 largest counties in the U.S., 323 had over-the-year increases in average weekly wages in the first quarter of 2012. Williamson, Texas, ranked first in average weekly wage growth with an increase of 27.4 percent. New York, N.Y., had the largest average weekly wage decrease with a loss of 6.3 percent.

Large County Average Weekly Wages

Honolulu County's \$870 weekly wage average placed in the middle of the national ranking (167th) among the 328 largest counties in the first quarter of 2012.

Nationally, weekly wages were higher than the average of \$984 in 95 of the 328 largest U.S. counties. New York, N.Y., held the top position among the highest-paid large counties with an average weekly wage of \$2,464. Santa Clara, Calif., was second at \$1,957, followed by Fairfield, Conn. (\$1,942), and Somerset, N.J. (\$1,881). Among the 232 large counties with an average weekly wage below the U.S. average in the first quarter of 2012, Horry, S.C. (\$559) reported the lowest wage.

Average Weekly Wages in Hawaii's Smaller Counties

For the smaller counties in Hawaii with employment below 75,000 Kauai (\$742), Maui and Kalawao (\$742), and Hawaii County (\$715) all had wages at least \$240 below the national average. (See table 2.)

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 www.bls.gov/cew/.

Employment and Wages Annual Averages Online features comprehensive information by detailed industry on establishments, employment, and wages for the nation and all states. The 2011 edition of this publication, which was published in September 2012, contains selected data produced by Business Employment Dynamics (BED) on job gains and losses, as well as selected data from the first quarter 2011 version of the national news release. Tables and additional content from *Employment and Wages Annual Averages 2011* are now available online at www.bls.gov/cew/cewbultn11.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.

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 9.2 million employer reports cover 130.2 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 largest county in Hawaii, first quarter 2012 (2)

Area	Employment			Average Weekly Wage [3]			
	March 2012 (thousands)	Percent change, March 2011-12 [4]	National ranking by percent change [5]	Average weekly wage	National ranking by level [5]	Percent change, first quarter 2011-12 [4]	National ranking by percent change [5]
United States [6]	130,175.4	1.8	--	\$984	--	5.4	--
Hawaii	600.3	0.9	--	834	32	5.7	29
Honolulu, Hawaii	440.6	0.8	238	870	167	6.1	129

[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.

[7] Data do not meet BLS or State agency disclosure standards.

Table 2. Covered (1) employment and wages in the United States and all counties in Hawaii, first quarter 2012 (2)

Area	Employment March 2012	Average Weekly Wage (3)
United States (4)	130175438	\$984
Hawaii	600273	834
Hawaii	62361	715
Honolulu	440620	870
Kauai	28397	742
Maui + Kalawao	68102	742
Footnotes		
(1) Includes workers covered by Unemployment Insurance (UI) and		
(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		
SOURCE: Quarterly Census of Employment and Wages		

Table 3. Covered (1) employment, and wages by state, first quarter 2012 (2)

State	Employment		Average weekly wage (3)			
	March 2012 (thousands)	Percent change, March 2011-12	Average weekly wage	National ranking by level	Percent change, first quarter 2011-	National ranking by percent change
United States (4)	130,175.4	1.8	\$984	--	5.4	--
Alabama	1,822.8	0.8	808	35	5.6	32
Alaska	316.4	1.9	973	15	6.7	9
Arizona	2,437.2	2.1	887	21	5.7	29
Arkansas	1,151.5	1.5	747	47	4.6	46
California	14,670.6	2.0	1,125	6	5.5	33
Colorado	2,230.4	2.4	1,003	13	5.4	36
Connecticut	1,613.1	1.5	1,330	3	3.8	50
Delaware	398.8	0.8	1,071	7	4.2	48
District of Columbia	712.1	1.3	1,602	1	4.0	49
Florida	7,377.3	2.0	837	30	5.4	36
Georgia	3,815.5	1.3	931	17	5.2	41
Hawaii	600.3	0.9	834	32	5.7	29
Idaho	596.7	1.1	692	50	5.0	43
Illinois	5,557.5	1.5	1,061	9	5.9	25
Indiana	2,777.0	2.2	822	34	6.3	17
Iowa	1,448.3	1.9	784	40	6.4	14
Kansas	1,314.2	1.8	803	37	7.2	5
Kentucky	1,750.3	1.9	785	39	6.4	14
Louisiana	1,863.1	1.2	836	31	4.9	44
Maine	561.4	0.5	757	46	4.7	45
Maryland	2,492.4	1.7	1,071	7	6.0	23
Massachusetts	3,178.7	1.7	1,227	5	5.7	29
Michigan	3,865.8	2.6	920	20	5.5	33
Minnesota	2,586.3	2.1	989	14	6.1	20
Mississippi	1,083.5	0.8	687	51	5.9	25
Missouri	2,593.7	1.2	838	29	6.5	12
Montana	419.5	1.8	706	48	7.8	4
Nebraska	905.3	2.1	765	44	6.1	20
Nevada	1,118.4	1.4	846	28	5.5	33
New Hampshire	602.1	1.0	923	19	5.4	36
New Jersey	3,749.0	1.5	1,228	4	5.9	25
New Mexico	779.7	0.4	782	41	5.8	28
New York	8,479.4	1.7	1,357	2	-0.8	51
North Carolina	3,874.9	1.7	869	23	5.3	39
North Dakota	397.4	9.0	857	25	14.6	1
Ohio	4,967.8	2.0	873	22	6.6	11
Oklahoma	1,525.5	2.0	806	36	9.4	2
Oregon	1,613.0	1.4	864	24	6.4	14
Pennsylvania	5,531.1	1.2	960	16	7.1	7
Rhode Island	443.5	1.1	931	17	8.0	3
South Carolina	1,797.7	1.7	764	45	6.0	23
South Dakota	390.4	2.1	703	49	6.7	9
Tennessee	2,636.7	2.4	847	27	6.8	8
Texas	10,605.2	2.6	1,013	11	7.2	5
Utah	1,193.1	3.2	799	38	6.1	20
Vermont	296.6	1.5	774	42	4.6	46
Virginia	3,586.3	1.4	1,019	10	5.3	39
Washington	2,831.9	1.9	1,009	12	6.5	12
West Virginia	705.5	2.4	768	43	6.2	18
Wisconsin	2,639.0	1.1	827	33	6.2	18
Wyoming	271.8	2.4	850	26	5.2	41
Puerto Rico	931.3	0.6	521	(5)	4.6	(5)
Virgin Islands	42.7	-5.4	722	(5)	-2.0	(5)

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

(2) Data are preliminary.

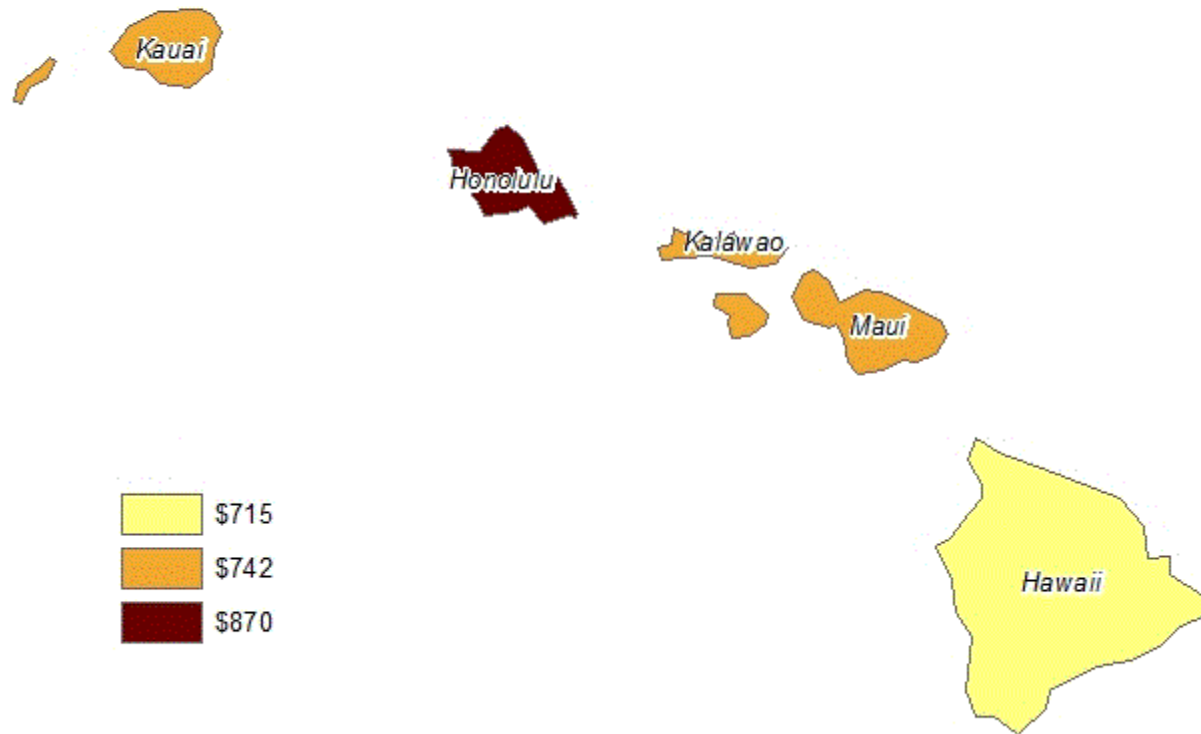
(3) Average weekly wages were calculated using unrounded data.

(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 Hawaii, first quarter 2012

Average Weekly Wages (National average = \$984)



Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics