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County Employment and Wages in Virginia – First Quarter 2016 **Employment increase in Loudoun County ranked third in the nation**

Eleven of the 12 largest counties in Virginia registered employment increases from March 2015 to March 2016, 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 2015 annual average employment.) Loudoun County had the fastest rate of employment growth at 6.2 percent, followed by Prince William County at 4.4 percent and Chesterfield County at 4.3 percent. Sheila Watkins, the Bureau's regional commissioner, noted that Loudoun County's employment growth rate ranked third among the nation's 344 largest counties. Newport News City recorded the only employment decline among the state's largest counties.

Nationally, employment grew 2.0 percent during this 12-month period, as 318 of the 344 large counties nationwide gained jobs. Williamson, Tenn., had the largest percentage increase in employment, up 7.9 percent over the year. Midland, Texas, had the largest employment decrease with a loss of 9.0 percent.

Among the 12 largest counties in Virginia, employment was highest in Fairfax (588,080) in March 2016. No other county in the commonwealth had employment above 200,000. Together, Virginia's large counties accounted for 56.3 percent of total employment within the commonwealth. Nationwide, the 344 largest counties made up 72.6 percent of total U.S. employment.

The average weekly wage in Henrico County declined 4.5 percent from the first quarter of 2015 to the first quarter of 2016, the fastest decrease among Virginia's 12 largest counties. Richmond City had the second largest average weekly wage decrease, down 3.0 percent. Arlington County had the highest average weekly wage among the largest counties in the commonwealth at \$1,734, followed by Fairfax County (\$1,622) and Alexandria City (\$1,400). (See [table 1](#).) Nationally, the average weekly wage declined 0.5 percent over the year to \$1,043 in the first quarter of 2016.

Employment and wage levels (but not over-the-year changes) are also available for the 121 counties in Virginia with employment below 75,000. Six of these 121 counties had average weekly wages above the national average. (See [table 2](#).)

Large county wage changes

From the first quarter of 2015 to the first quarter of 2016, 10 of the 12 large counties in Virginia recorded wage decreases. The two large counties in Virginia with wage gains, Prince William (1.2 percent) and Chesapeake City (0.1 percent), ranked 79th and 155th, respectively, among the nation's 334 large U.S. counties.

Nationally, 167 counties had over-the-year decreases in average weekly wages. McLean, Ill., had the largest percentage wage decrease among the largest counties, declining 13.3 percent.

Among the nation's largest counties, 164 recorded increases in average weekly wages over the year. Clayton, Ga., had the largest over-the-year increase in average weekly wages, at 15.5 percent. King, Wash., had the second largest increase (5.1 percent), followed by San Mateo, Calif. (4.8 percent); Ventura, Calif. (4.4 percent); and Merrimack, N.H. (4.3 percent).

Large county average weekly wages

Arlington County had the ninth highest average weekly wage among the 344 large U.S. counties. Fairfax County and Alexandria City also ranked in the top 50 nationwide, at 11th and 19th, respectively. Additionally, Loudoun County and Richmond City recorded average weekly wages above the U.S. average of \$1,043.

In Virginia Beach City and Chesapeake City, average weekly wages placed in the bottom fifth of the national ranking at 309th and 310th, respectively.

Average weekly wages in Virginia's smaller counties

Six of the 121 counties in Virginia with employment below 75,000 had average weekly wages higher than the national average of \$1,043. Among these smaller counties, Goochland County (\$1,984), Surry (\$1,678) and King George (\$1,341) had the highest average weekly wages. Patrick County reported the lowest average weekly wage at \$491. (See [table 2](#).)

When all 133 counties in Virginia were considered, 122 had wages below the national average of \$1,043. As noted, Patrick County reported an average weekly wage below \$500. Twenty-eight counties reported wages from \$501 to \$600, 41 had wages from \$601 to \$700, 28 had wages from \$701 to \$800, and 35 had wages above \$800.

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 2015 edition of this publication is now available and contains selected data produced by Business Employment Dynamics (BED) on job gains and losses, as well as selected data from the first quarter 2016 version of the national news release. Tables and additional content from Employment and Wages Annual Averages 2015 are now available online at www.bls.gov/cew/cewbultn15.htm.

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 9.7 million employer reports cover 140.1 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 employment and wages in the United States and the 12 largest counties in Virginia, first quarter 2016

Area	Employment			Average weekly wage ⁽¹⁾			
	March 2016 (thousands)	Percent change, March 2015-16 ⁽²⁾	National ranking by percent change ⁽³⁾	Average weekly wage	National ranking by level ⁽³⁾	Percent change, first quarter 2015-16 ⁽²⁾	National ranking by percent change ⁽³⁾
United States ⁽⁴⁾	140,070.8	2.0	--	\$1,043	--	-0.5	--
Virginia.....	3,748.1	2.6	--	1,057	13	-1.2	34
Alexandria City, Va.	93.8	0.6	295	1,400	19	-0.1	177
Arlington, Va.	170.9	3.1	78	1,734	9	-0.2	187
Chesapeake City, Va.	97.3	1.9	176	763	310	0.1	155
Chesterfield, Va.	132.3	4.3	18	840	246	-2.3	284
Fairfax, Va.	588.1	2.2	150	1,622	11	-1.8	260
Henrico, Va.	187.6	2.6	116	1,028	101	-4.5	325
Loudoun, Va.	155.9	6.2	3	1,193	51	-1.1	224
Newport News City, Va.	95.5	-1.9	336	1,016	111	-2.4	287
Norfolk City, Va.	140.2	1.1	260	987	131	-2.0	270
Prince William, Va.	123.7	4.4	16	838	250	1.2	79
Richmond City, Va.	152.6	3.2	69	1,173	54	-3.0	301
Virginia Beach City, Va.	173.0	3.0	86	765	309	-1.3	239

Footnotes:

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

(2) Percent changes were computed from quarterly employment and pay data adjusted for noneconomic county reclassifications.

(3) Ranking does not include data for Puerto Rico or the Virgin Islands.

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

Note: Data are preliminary. Covered employment and wages includes workers covered by Unemployment Insurance (UI) and Unemployment Compensation for Federal Employees (UCFE) programs.

Table 2. Covered employment and wages in the United States and all counties in Virginia, 1st quarter 2016

Area	Employment March 2016	Average weekly wage (1)		Area	Employment March 2016	Average weekly wage (1)
United States (2)	140,070,814	\$1,043		Orange	9,729	669
Virginia	3,748,064	1057		Page	5,138	592
Accomack	12,628	666		Patrick	5,448	491
Albemarle	52,892	991		Pittsylvania	12,336	594
Alleghany	3,815	640		Powhatan	6,775	712
Amelia	2,410	642		Prince Edward	8,861	639
Amherst	8,490	649		Prince George	14,997	954
Appomattox	3,143	526		Prince William	123,719	838
Arlington	170,851	1,734		Pulaski	13,740	664
Augusta	26,875	753		Rappahannock	1,480	1,014
Bath	2,208	724		Richmond County	2,849	682
Bedford	18,592	682		Roanoke County	37,429	744
Bland	1,929	823		Rockbridge	5,666	577
Botetourt	10,718	718		Rockingham	30,877	796
Brunswick	4,020	613		Russell	6,817	724
Buchanan	6,508	756		Scott	4,662	571
Buckingham	3,320	666		Shenandoah	13,701	660
Campbell	16,703	871		Smyth	12,797	611
Caroline	5,619	700		Southampton	3,703	631
Carroll	6,494	560		Spotsylvania	34,202	684
Charles City	1,501	763		Stafford	42,307	918
Charlotte	2,970	645		Surry	2,165	1,678
Chesterfield	132,258	840		Sussex	3,726	700
Clarke	3,779	786		Tazewell	14,717	586
Craig	675	640		Warren	11,955	692
Culpeper	15,322	763		Washington	20,642	660
Cumberland	1,389	555		Westmoreland	3,297	555
Dickenson	3,315	698		Wise	11,555	637
Dinwiddie	8,268	752		Wythe	11,522	600
Essex	4,021	588		York	21,038	679
Fairfax County	588,080	1,622		Alexandria City	93,845	1,400
Fauquier	21,792	852		Bedford City	0	0
Floyd	3,066	536		Bristol City	9,795	696
Fluvanna	4,232	699		Buena Vista City	2,532	588
Franklin	14,792	575		Charlottesville City	38,967	932
Frederick	29,765	812		Chesapeake City	97,328	763
Giles	4,601	713		Colonial Heights City	10,771	587
Gloucester	9,251	598		Covington City	4,036	888
Goochland	14,798	1,984		Danville City	26,661	650
Grayson	2,607	559		Emporia City	3,231	533
Greene	3,632	627		Fairfax City	19,235	1,060
Greensville	4,521	709		Falls Church City	11,450	1,185
Halifax	12,222	659		Franklin City	4,434	556
Hanover	49,563	771		Fredericksburg City	23,865	763
Henrico	187,586	1,028		Galax City	6,334	538
Henry	15,707	597		Hampton City	54,457	841
Highland	498	559		Harrisonburg City	31,163	662
Isle of Wight	10,767	950		Hopewell City	7,562	1,000
James City	28,251	712		Lexington City	4,854	753

Note: See footnotes at end of table.

Table 2. Covered employment and wages in the United States and all counties in Virginia, 1st quarter 2016 - Continued

Area	Employment March 2016	Average weekly wage (1)		Area	Employment March 2016	Average weekly wage (1)
King and Queen	946	716		Lynchburg City	51,215	775
King George	11,317	1,341		Manassas City	22,107	1,116
King William.....	3,821	798		Manassas Park City	3,164	795
Lancaster.....	4,372	652		Martinsville City	9,069	618
Lee	4,486	601		Newport News City	95,469	1,016
Loudoun	155,881	1,193		Norfolk City	140,167	987
Louisa	9,505	854		Norton City	3,668	673
Lunenburg	2,587	579		Petersburg City	13,187	701
Madison	3,035	644		Poquoson City	1,683	565
Mathews	1,513	506		Portsmouth City	44,257	913
Mecklenburg.....	11,658	605		Radford City	5,827	797
Middlesex	3,138	592		Richmond City	152,609	1,173
Montgomery	42,135	760		Roanoke City	67,321	816
Nelson	4,103	551		Salem City	20,309	909
New Kent.....	4,149	647		Staunton City	11,107	632
Northampton.....	4,720	571		Suffolk City	28,715	865
Northumberland.....	2,320	659		Virginia Beach City	173,047	765
Nottoway	5,734	636		Waynesboro City	9,655	697
Orange	9,729	669		Williamsburg City	12,778	730

Footnotes:

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

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

NOTE: Includes workers covered by Unemployment Insurance (UI) and Unemployment Compensation for Federal Employees (UCFE) programs. Data are preliminary.

Table 3. Covered employment and wages by state, first quarter 2016

State	Employment		Average weekly wage ⁽¹⁾			
	March 2016 (thousands)	Percent change, March 2015-16	Average weekly wage	National ranking by level	Percent change, first quarter 2015-16	National ranking by percent change
United States ⁽²⁾	140,070.8	2.0	\$1,043	--	-0.5	--
Alabama	1,902.6	1.6	842	37	-0.2	22
Alaska	317.6	-1.4	1,028	15	-2.0	43
Arizona	2,679.8	2.8	918	23	-0.8	30
Arkansas	1,191.1	2.1	793	45	0.5	13
California	16,455.5	2.6	1,206	6	0.0	20
Colorado	2,514.6	2.4	1,057	13	-1.3	36
Connecticut	1,650.6	0.6	1,362	3	-1.4	38
Delaware	429.7	1.5	1,072	10	-3.0	48
District of Columbia	749.6	2.0	1,766	1	0.4	14
Florida	8,301.8	3.5	887	27	0.2	18
Georgia.....	4,215.1	3.0	1,008	17	1.9	2
Hawaii.....	645.1	1.4	896	26	1.7	3
Idaho	670.4	3.5	725	50	-1.5	39
Illinois	5,800.6	1.2	1,126	7	-0.5	28
Indiana.....	2,949.5	1.9	853	33	-0.5	28
Iowa	1,518.2	0.9	844	36	-0.4	27
Kansas	1,362.3	0.4	833	38	-2.0	43
Kentucky.....	1,843.9	1.9	823	41	0.1	19
Louisiana	1,910.5	-0.8	860	32	-2.6	47
Maine.....	580.5	1.8	804	44	1.1	8
Maryland.....	2,591.7	1.9	1,103	9	-0.8	30
Massachusetts	3,414.8	2.1	1,327	4	-1.0	33
Michigan	4,163.7	2.1	976	20	0.7	11
Minnesota.....	2,750.1	1.5	1,065	12	-1.2	34
Mississippi.....	1,121.0	1.7	713	51	0.4	14
Missouri.....	2,729.5	1.9	879	29	-0.3	25
Montana	447.8	1.8	751	49	0.3	16
Nebraska	956.6	1.4	817	42	0.0	20
Nevada	1,264.1	3.0	875	30	1.2	5
New Hampshire.....	635.1	1.9	998	18	1.6	4
New Jersey.....	3,909.7	2.4	1,268	5	-1.7	41
New Mexico.....	800.4	0.0	792	46	-1.6	40
New York	9,042.2	2.0	1,456	2	-0.3	25
North Carolina	4,220.3	3.0	928	22	-0.2	22
North Dakota.....	409.4	-6.2	908	25	-7.6	51
Ohio	5,236.2	1.8	913	24	-0.8	30
Oklahoma.....	1,578.6	-0.9	833	38	-4.1	49
Oregon	1,808.2	3.2	929	21	1.2	5
Pennsylvania.....	5,662.2	1.1	1,012	16	-1.9	42
Rhode Island.....	464.6	1.9	985	19	-2.2	46
South Carolina.....	1,974.6	2.7	806	43	0.8	10
South Dakota.....	410.5	0.9	771	48	1.2	5
Tennessee.....	2,859.2	3.3	887	27	0.3	16
Texas	11,638.7	0.7	1,066	11	-2.1	45
Utah	1,369.2	3.8	849	35	0.6	12
Vermont.....	304.6	0.1	832	40	1.0	9
Virginia.....	3,748.1	2.6	1,057	13	-1.2	34
Washington.....	3,147.7	3.1	1,121	8	3.0	1
West Virginia.....	683.9	-1.2	782	47	-1.3	36
Wisconsin.....	2,771.4	1.3	875	30	-0.2	22
Wyoming	267.9	-3.7	850	34	-4.7	50
Puerto Rico.....	895.2	-1.2	520	(3)	-0.4	(3)
Virgin Islands.....	38.6	0.4	769	(3)	2.9	(3)

Note: See footnotes at end of table.

Footnotes:

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

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

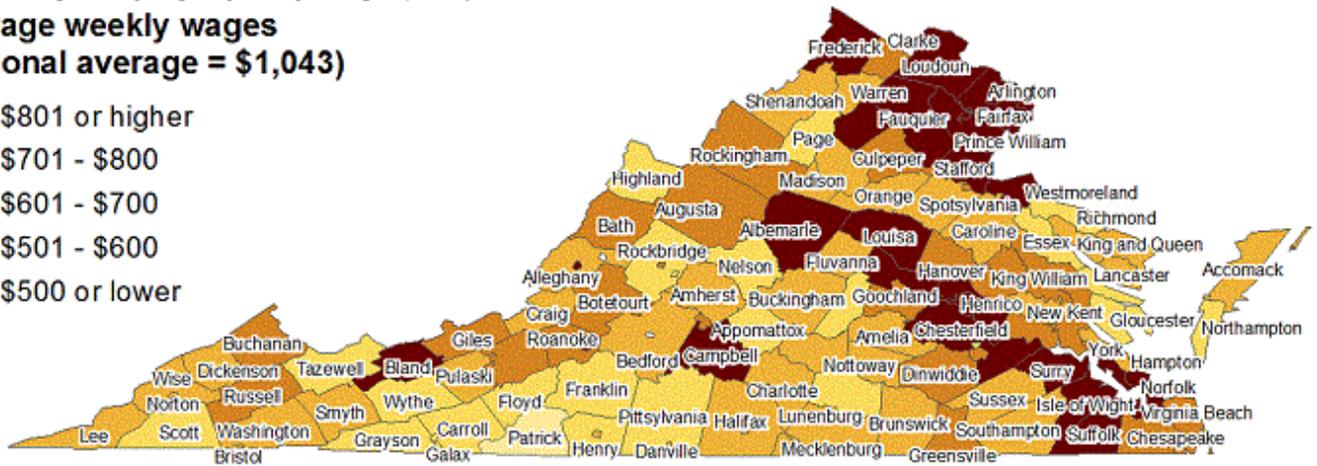
(3) Data not included in the national ranking.

Note: Data are preliminary. Covered employment and wages includes workers covered by Unemployment Insurance (UI) and Unemployment Compensation for Federal Employees (UCFE) programs.

Chart 1. Average weekly wages by county in Virginia, first quarter 2016

Average weekly wages (National average = \$1,043)

- \$801 or higher
- \$701 - \$800
- \$601 - \$700
- \$501 - \$600
- \$500 or lower



Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics.