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County Employment and Wages in Minnesota — Third Quarter 2014

Seven of the eight large counties in Minnesota reported employment increases from September 2013 to September 2014, 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 2013 annual average employment.) Anoka County had the largest increase, up 1.9 percent followed by Hennepin, up 1.5 percent. Employment in Dakota County rose 1.3 percent. Regional Commissioner Charlene Peiffer noted that these same three large counties experienced over-the-year rates of employment growth below the 2.0 percent national increase. (See table 1.)

Among the eight largest counties in Minnesota, employment was highest in Hennepin (872,800) in September 2014, followed by Ramsey (326,100). Two other counties—Dakota and Anoka—had employment levels of more than 100,000. Collectively, Minnesota's eight large counties accounted for 67.0 percent of total employment within the state. Nationwide, the 339 largest counties made up 71.8 percent of total U.S. employment.

The average weekly wage in Olmsted County rose 11.1 percent from the third quarter of 2013 to the third quarter of 2014, the largest increase among Minnesota's large counties. Hennepin County had the highest average weekly wage in the state at $1,175, followed by Olmsted ($1,077) and Ramsey ($1,057). (See table 1.) Nationally, the average weekly wage rose 2.9 percent over the year to $949 in the third quarter of 2014.

Employment and wage levels (but not over-the-year changes) are also available for the 79 counties in Minnesota with employment below 75,000. Of these 79, only Faribault County ($1,037) and Le Sueur County ($1,008) had average weekly wages above the national average. (See table 2.)

Large county wage changes

Five of the 8 large counties in Minnesota recorded wage increases greater than the national increase of 2.9 percent from the third quarter of 2013 to the third quarter of 2014. (See table 1.) As noted, Olmsted County experienced the state's largest average weekly wage increase, up 11.1 percent. This was followed by Stearns (5.7 percent) and St. Louis (4.2 percent). Hennepin and Washington had the smallest wage increases among Minnesota's large counties, up 1.1 percent and 2.6 percent respectively.

Among the 339 largest U.S. counties, 328 had over-the-year increases in average weekly wages. Olmsted, Minn., had the largest increase with a gain of 11.1 percent. San Francisco, Calif., was second with wage growth of 8.7 percent, followed by Santa Clara, Calif., (7.4 percent). Wage decreases were recorded in 10 large counties nationwide; Collier, Fla., experienced the largest over-the-year wage loss at 3.9 percent.

Large county average weekly wages

Average weekly wages in three of Minnesota's eight large counties were above the national average of $949 in the third quarter of 2014. As noted, Hennepin County ($1,175) had the highest average weekly wage in the state, ranking 27th among the 339 largest U.S. counties, followed by Olmsted ($1,077) and Ramsey ($1,057) which placed 46th and 54th respectively. Washington ($783) reported the lowest average weekly wage among the state's largest counties and ranked 267th nationwide.

Nationally, Santa Clara, Calif., held the top position among the highest-paid large counties with an average weekly wage of $2,012. San Mateo, Calif., was second at $1,824, followed by New York, N.Y. ($1,733), San Francisco, Calif. ($1,685) and Washington, D.C. ($1,631).

Average weekly wages in Minnesota's smaller counties

Among the 79 smaller counties in the state (those with employment below 75,000), Faribault County had the highest average weekly wage at $1,037 followed by Le Sueur County ($1,008). These two counties were the only smaller counties to have wages greater than the $949 national average. Cass County had the lowest weekly wage among the smaller counties at $521. (See table 2.)

When all 87 counties in Minnesota were considered, all but 5 had wages below the national average of $949. Eleven reported average weekly wages under $600, 36 had wages from $600 to $699, 28 reported wages from $700 to $799, 4 reported wages from $800 to $899, and 8 had wages of $900 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 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 2013 edition of this publication contains selected data produced by Business Employment Dynamics (BED) on job gains and losses, as well as selected data from the first quarter 2014 version of the national news release. Tables and additional content from Employment and Wages Annual Averages 2013 are now available online at www.bls.gov/cew/cewbultn13.htm. The 2014 edition of Employment and Wages Annual Averages Online will be available in September 2015.

The County Employment and Wages release for fourth quarter 2014 is scheduled to be released on Wednesday, June 17, 2015, at 9:00 a.m. (CT).

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 9.4 million employer reports cover 137.7 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.

Information in this release will be made available to sensory impaired individuals upon request. Voice phone: 202-691-5200; Federal Relay Service: 1-800-877-8339.

Table 1. Covered employment and wages in the United States and the 8 largest counties in Minnesota, third quarter 2014

Area	Employment			Average Weekly Wage [1]			
	September 2014 (thousands)	Percent change, September 2013-14 [2]	National ranking by percent change [3]	Average weekly wage	National ranking by level [3]	Percent change, third quarter 2013-14 [2]	National ranking by percent change [3]
United States [4]	137,724.1	2.0	--	$949	--	2.9	--
Minnesota	2,757.9	1.1	--	965	15	2.9	22
Anoka, Minn.	118.2	1.9	147	937	112	3.8	50
Dakota, Minn.	181.5	1.3	192	919	129	3.6	61
Hennepin, Minn.	872.8	1.5	171	1,175	27	1.1	293
Olmsted, Minn.	92.5	-0.3	322	1,077	46	11.1	1
Ramsey, Minn.	326.1	0.3	290	1,057	54	2.7	140
St. Louis, Minn.	97.6	0.5	276	827	213	4.2	31
Stearns, Minn.	83.6	0.7	263	793	258	5.7	12
Washington, Minn.	76.7	0.4	282	783	267	2.6	154

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 Minnesota, third quarter 2014

Area	Employment September 2014	Average Weekly Wage [1]
United States [2]	137,724,117	$949
Minnesota	2,757,863	965
Aitkin	3,827	608
Anoka	118,232	937
Becker	13,786	676
Beltrami	19,169	716
Benton	17,652	684
Big Stone	1,809	636
Blue Earth	38,078	757
Brown	13,502	730
Carlton	13,820	765
Carver	36,539	914
Cass	10,452	521
Chippewa	5,776	652
Chisago	14,546	694
Clay	18,535	694
Clearwater	2,729	687
Cook	3,189	542
Cottonwood	4,760	629
Crow Wing	28,995	671
Dakota	181,501	919
Dodge	5,740	773
Douglas	18,377	742
Faribault	5,077	1,037
Fillmore	6,154	578
Freeborn	12,037	708
Goodhue	21,929	787
Grant	1,925	676
Hennepin	872,765	1,175
Houston	4,922	576
Hubbard	6,168	618
Isanti	10,906	700
Itasca	16,349	745
Jackson	5,696	659
Kanabec	3,813	663
Kandiyohi	23,171	672
Kittson	1,457	688
Koochiching	4,711	713
Lac qui Parle	2,223	607
Lake	4,472	791
Lake of the Woods	1,527	548
Le Sueur	8,786	1,008
Lincoln	1,677	597
Lyon	15,079	725
McLeod	17,415	765
Mahnomen	1,910	590
Marshall	2,489	731
Martin	8,345	722
Meeker	7,277	652
Mille Lacs	9,643	624
Morrison	10,606	631
Mower	16,334	816
Murray	3,012	602
Nicollet	14,331	729
Nobles	10,327	669
Norman	1,699	615
Olmsted	92,485	1,077

Note: See footnotes at end of table.

Table 2. Covered employment and wages in the United States and all counties in Minnesota, third quarter 2014 - Continued

Area	Employment September 2014	Average Weekly Wage [1]
Otter Tail	22,846	665
Pennington	10,645	755
Pine	8,218	564
Pipestone	4,519	611
Polk	12,537	670
Pope	4,280	751
Ramsey	326,129	1,057
Red Lake	1,030	582
Redwood	6,390	619
Renville	5,858	684
Rice	23,445	778
Rock	3,515	636
Roseau	8,959	808
St. Louis	97,570	827
Scott	45,384	854
Sherburne	26,586	754
Sibley	4,044	675
Stearns	83,593	793
Steele	21,938	720
Stevens	5,374	765
Swift	3,473	687
Todd	6,160	627
Traverse	1,071	594
Wabasha	7,127	635
Wadena	5,822	690
Waseca	6,838	772
Washington	76,694	783
Watonwan	3,973	584
Wilkin	2,045	697
Winona	25,013	731
Wright	39,910	726
Yellow Medicine	3,981	652

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.

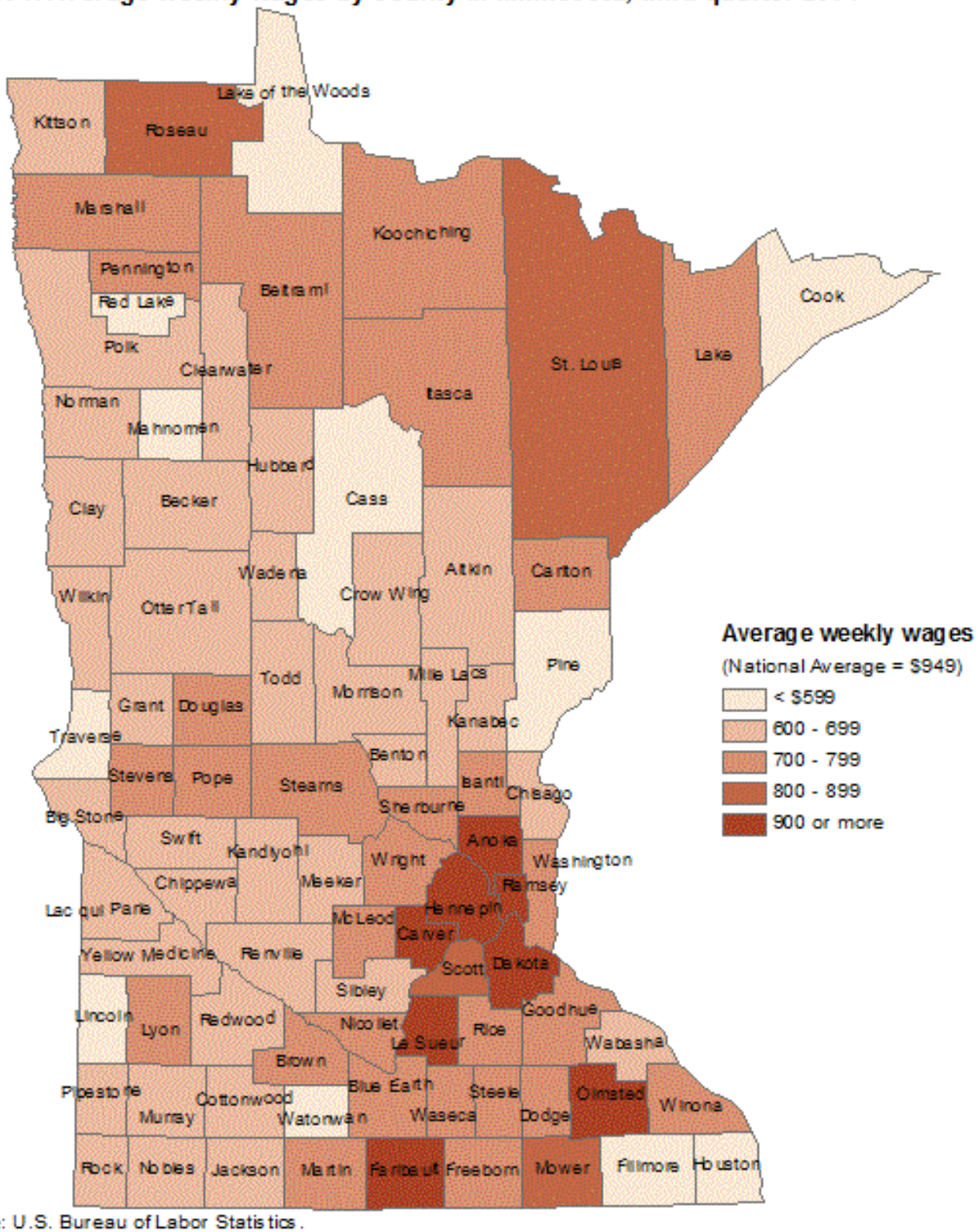
Table 3. Covered employment and wages by state, third quarter 2014

State	Employment		Average weekly wage [1]			
	September 2014 (thousands)	Percent change, September 2013-14	Average weekly wage	National ranking by level	Percent change, third quarter 2013-14	National ranking by percent change
United States [2]	137,724.1	2.0	$949	--	2.9	--
Alabama	1,871.2	1.3	815	34	2.5	30
Alaska	344.7	-0.1	1,019	9	3.0	19
Arizona	2,539.6	1.8	876	24	2.0	40
Arkansas	1,170.9	1.3	737	47	1.8	44
California	16,013.4	3.1	1,095	5	3.7	7
Colorado	2,443.0	3.7	982	12	3.0	19
Connecticut	1,663.2	0.8	1,124	4	1.4	49
Delaware	426.1	1.9	961	16	2.2	37
District of Columbia	732.9	0.8	1,631	1	4.5	2
Florida	7,748.4	3.3	826	32	2.1	38
Georgia	4,059.0	3.4	891	21	2.8	23
Hawaii	625.1	0.9	870	25	3.9	4
Idaho	658.4	2.1	721	50	2.6	26
Illinois	5,807.4	1.2	982	12	2.5	30
Indiana	2,924.7	1.4	799	39	1.9	42
Iowa	1,528.8	1.1	800	38	3.6	10
Kansas	1,363.1	1.2	794	40	2.3	35
Kentucky	1,827.8	1.8	781	42	2.5	30
Louisiana	1,928.3	1.7	852	27	3.1	16
Maine	604.5	0.3	754	46	2.6	26
Maryland	2,574.5	1.1	1,042	8	3.1	16
Massachusetts	3,386.7	1.8	1,164	2	3.0	19
Michigan	4,141.0	1.7	896	19	2.4	33
Minnesota	2,757.9	1.1	965	15	2.9	22
Mississippi	1,105.0	0.5	697	51	1.3	50
Missouri	2,686.4	1.0	828	31	2.7	25
Montana	449.5	0.7	732	49	3.7	7
Nebraska	950.0	1.1	779	43	1.8	44
Nevada	1,215.8	4.0	840	28	0.5	51
New Hampshire	633.5	1.4	927	18	3.6	10
New Jersey	3,880.4	0.8	1,087	6	1.7	47
New Mexico	804.0	1.1	786	41	2.6	26
New York	8,902.1	2.0	1,145	3	3.2	15
North Carolina	4,085.5	1.9	839	29	2.8	23
North Dakota	455.9	4.3	977	14	6.1	1
Ohio	5,219.1	1.4	863	26	3.1	16
Oklahoma	1,592.3	1.0	826	32	3.6	10
Oregon	1,752.8	2.4	887	22	3.6	10
Pennsylvania	5,676.2	1.0	937	17	2.6	26
Rhode Island	471.8	1.4	895	20	1.8	44
South Carolina	1,902.7	2.4	768	45	2.4	33
South Dakota	415.8	1.7	733	48	3.7	7
Tennessee	2,775.5	2.4	837	30	2.1	38
Texas	11,433.6	3.1	988	11	3.8	6
Utah	1,304.7	3.1	803	37	1.5	48
Vermont	306.5	1.2	805	36	2.3	35
Virginia	3,667.9	0.6	989	10	2.0	40
Washington	3,112.8	3.2	1,087	6	3.9	4
West Virginia	709.3	-0.2	778	44	3.5	14
Wisconsin	2,783.1	1.1	808	35	1.9	42
Wyoming	291.3	1.7	877	23	4.4	3
Puerto Rico	896.7	-1.5	505	[3]	0.8	[3]
Virgin Islands	37.5	-1.0	720	[3]	2.0	[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 Minnesota, third quarter 2014



Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics.