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County Employment and Wages in Wisconsin — Third Quarter 2016

Wisconsin's six large counties had employment increases from September 2015 to September 2016, the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics reported today. (Large counties are defined as those with 2015 annual average employment levels of 75,000 or more.) Dane County had the largest increase, up 2.6 percent, followed by Winnebago County, up 2.0 percent. Assistant Commissioner for Regional Operations Charlene Peiffer noted that the employment gains in four of the state's large counties were less than the national increase of 1.7 percent. (See table 1.)

Among the six large counties in Wisconsin, employment was highest in Milwaukee (487,000) in September 2016, followed by Dane (330,700), and Waukesha (239,000). Each of the three other counties—Brown, Outagamie, and Winnebago—had employment levels of less than 155,000. Collectively, Wisconsin's six large counties accounted for 49.5 percent of total employment within the state. Nationwide, the 344 largest counties made up 72.5 percent of total U.S. employment.

The average weekly wage in Dane County rose 10.1 percent from the third quarter of 2015 to the third quarter of 2016, the largest increase among Wisconsin's large counties, followed by Brown and Waukesha Counties at 6.7 percent and 5.2 percent, respectively. Dane County had the highest average weekly wage in the state at $1,032, followed by Waukesha County at $1,006 and Milwaukee County at $970. (See table 1.) Nationally, the average weekly wage rose 5.4 percent over the year to $1,027 in the third quarter of 2016.

Employment and wage levels (but not over-the-year changes) are also available for the 66 counties in Wisconsin with employment below 75,000. All of these smaller counties had average weekly wages below the national average. (See table 2.)

Large county wage changes

Two of Wisconsin's six large counties recorded wage gains greater than the national increase of 5.4 percent from the third quarter of 2015 to the third quarter of 2016. (See table 1.) As noted, Dane County had the state's largest average weekly wage increase, up 10.1 percent, and ranked seventh among the 344 largest U.S. counties. The over-the-year wage gain in Brown County, at 6.7 percent, ranked 79th nationally. The four remaining counties had average weekly wage increases ranging from 5.2 to 4.4 percent.

Nationally, 339 of the 344 largest counties registered over-the-year wage increases. Clark, Nev., had the largest wage gain, up 12.2 percent from the third quarter of 2015. Manatee, Fla., was second with a wage increase of 10.7 percent, followed by Hillsborough, N.H. (10.4 percent); and Boone, Ky., and Elkhart, Ind. (10.3 percent each).

Among the largest U.S. counties, five experienced over-the-year wage decreases. Rockland, N.Y., had the largest wage decrease with a loss of 14.9 percent. Lafayette, La., had the second largest decrease in average weekly wages, down 3.4 percent from the third quarter 2015, followed by Benton, Ark. (-2.0 percent); Lake, Ill. (-0.9 percent); and Midland, Texas (-0.3 percent).

Large county average weekly wages

Average weekly wages in five of Wisconsin's six largest counties were below the national average of $1,027 in the third quarter of 2016. As noted, Dane County ($1,032) had the highest average weekly wage in the state, ranking 98th among the 344 largest U.S. counties. Waukesha ($1,006) and Milwaukee ($970) Counties placed 118th and 153rd, respectively. The state's remaining large counties had average weekly wages that placed in the bottom half of the national ranking.

Nationwide, average weekly wages were at or above the U.S. average ($1,027) in 103 of the 344 largest counties in the third quarter of 2016. Santa Clara, Calif., recorded the highest average weekly wage at $2,260, followed by San Mateo, Calif. ($2,098); San Francisco, Calif. ($1,892); New York, N.Y. ($1,879); and Washington, D.C. ($1,728).

Among the largest U.S. counties, 241 had weekly wages below the national average in the third quarter of 2016. Horry County, S.C. ($632) reported the lowest wage, followed by Cameron, Texas ($636); Hidalgo, Texas ($654); and Webb, Texas ($680).

Average weekly wages in Wisconsin's smaller counties

Of the 66 counties in Wisconsin with employment below 75,000, Racine County had the highest average weekly wage at $896. Florence County had the lowest weekly wage at $528, followed by Bayfield at $542. (See table 2.)

When all 72 counties in Wisconsin were considered, 14 reported average weekly wages of $649 or lower, 29 had wages from $650 to $749, 18 had wages from $750 to $849, and 11 had wages of $850 or higher. (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.

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 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. The 2016 edition of *Employment and Wages Annual Averages Online* will be available in September 2017.

The County Employment and Wages release for fourth quarter 2016 is scheduled to be released on Wednesday, June 7, 2017.

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 9.8 million employer reports cover 142.9 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: (800) 877-8339.

Table 1. Covered employment and wages in the United States and the 6 largest counties in Wisconsin, third quarter 2016

Area	Employment			Average weekly wage [1]			
	September 2016 (thousands)	Percent change, September 2015-16 [2]	National ranking by percent change [3]	Average weekly wage	National ranking by level [3]	Percent change, third quarter 2015-16 [2]	National ranking by percent change [3]
United States [4]	142,940.5	1.7	--	$1,027	--	5.4	--
Wisconsin	2,850.1	1.0	--	885	31	6.2	14
Brown, Wis.	154.6	1.5	195	904	211	6.7	79
Dane, Wis.	330.7	2.6	96	1,032	98	10.1	7
Milwaukee, Wis.	487.0	0.5	283	970	153	4.5	254
Outagamie, Wis.	107.0	1.4	203	875	242	4.8	233
Waukesha, Wis.	239.0	0.4	292	1,006	118	5.2	205
Winnebago, Wis.	93.1	2.0	142	924	190	4.4	262

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 Wisconsin, third quarter 2016

Area	Employment September 2016	Average weekly wage(1)
United States(2)	142,940,452	$1,027
Wisconsin	2,850,076	885
Adams	4,846	668
Ashland	8,194	702
Barron	21,826	721
Bayfield	4,393	542
Brown	154,590	904
Buffalo	3,772	691
Burnett	4,674	608
Calumet	13,917	728
Chippewa	24,974	740
Clark	10,980	700
Columbia	22,412	755
Crawford	7,648	658
Dane	330,667	1,032
Dodge	35,585	826
Door	14,827	634
Douglas	15,622	758
Dunn	17,467	765
Eau Claire	57,117	832
Florence	1,018	528
Fond du Lac	46,985	848
Forest	3,156	684
Grant	17,729	691
Green	15,794	707
Green Lake	6,467	721
Iowa	10,091	720
Iron	1,690	586
Jackson	8,763	765
Jefferson	32,479	746
Juneau	9,301	735
Kenosha	64,414	780
Kewaunee	7,164	728
La Crosse	69,196	818
Lafayette	4,109	657
Langlade	7,495	659
Lincoln	10,984	779
Manitowoc	33,586	816
Marathon	70,777	856
Marinette	18,438	772
Marquette	3,860	632
Menominee	2,053	578
Milwaukee	487,048	970
Monroe	20,471	760
Oconto	9,203	646
Oneida	16,873	751
Outagamie	107,012	875
Ozaukee	43,337	853
Pepin	2,305	696
Pierce	10,086	670
Polk	16,259	723
Portage	34,464	806
Price	5,649	734
Racine	74,621	896
Richland	5,963	670
Rock	65,067	841
Rusk	5,131	660

Note: See footnotes at end of table.

Table 2. Covered employment and wages in the United States and all counties in Wisconsin, third quarter 2016 - Continued

Area	Employment September 2016	Average weekly wage(1)
St. Croix	33,560	757
Sauk	36,340	731
Sawyer	7,054	642
Shawano	12,690	619
Sheboygan	60,703	886
Taylor	8,095	713
Trempealeau	14,569	737
Vernon	9,039	648
Vilas	7,957	592
Walworth	41,557	720
Washburn	5,912	640
Washington	54,518	825
Waukesha	238,963	1,006
Waupaca	20,225	693
Waushara	6,247	623
Winnebago	93,145	924
Wood	38,288	864

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.

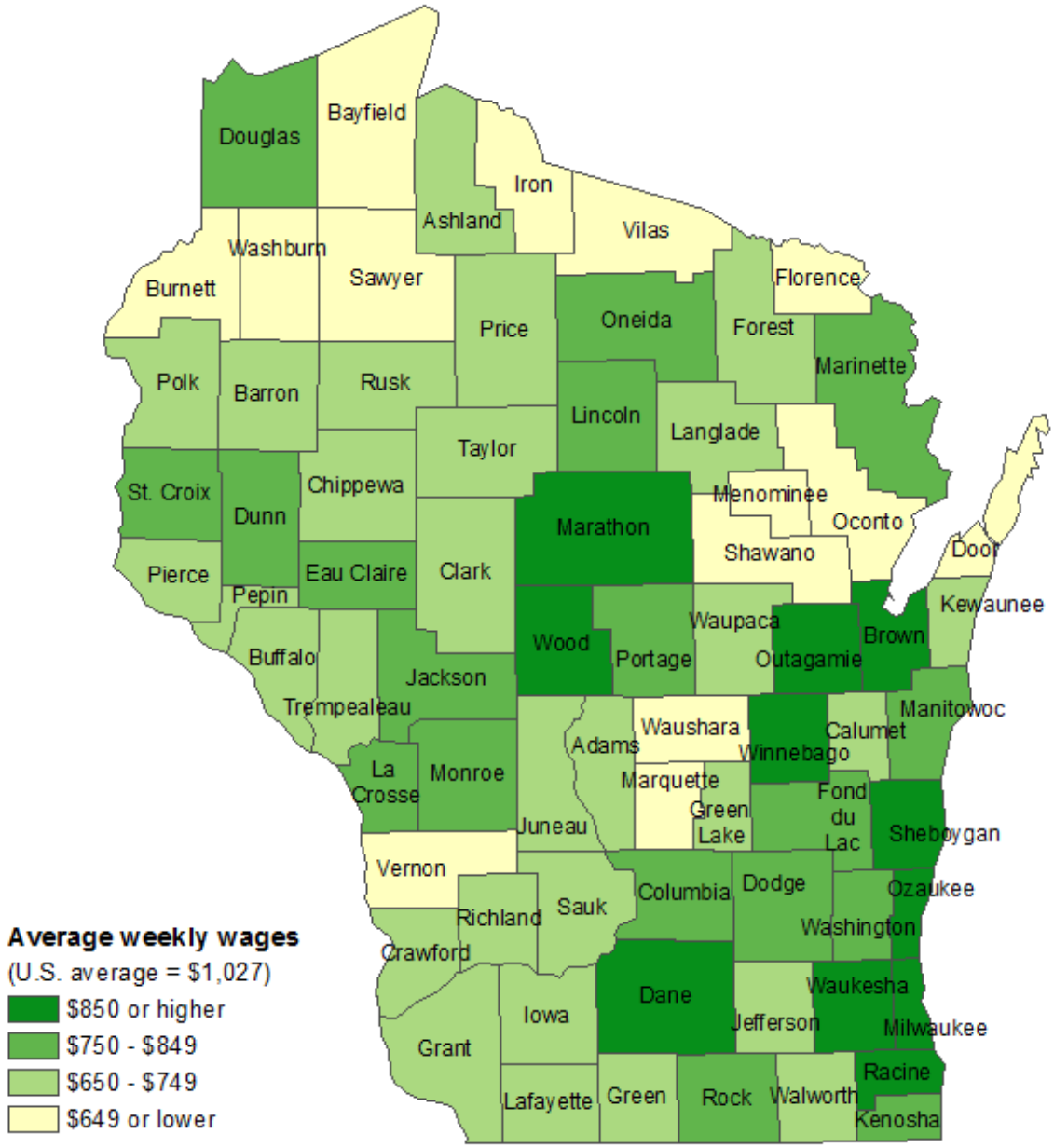
Table 3. Covered employment and wages by state, third quarter 2016

State	Employment		Average weekly wage [1]			
	September 2016 (thousands)	Percent change, September 2015-16	Average weekly wage	National ranking by level	Percent change, third quarter 2015-16	National ranking by percent change
United States [2]	142,940.5	1.7	$1,027	--	5.4	--
Alabama	1,923.8	1.5	870	36	4.9	38
Alaska	337.4	-2.6	1,055	12	1.2	49
Arizona	2,695.5	3.1	950	24	6.9	5
Arkansas	1,205.4	1.0	794	48	5.2	32
California	16,871.1	2.4	1,210	4	6.7	8
Colorado	2,576.5	2.6	1,062	10	5.6	23
Connecticut	1,674.2	0.3	1,204	5	5.0	34
Delaware	440.7	0.8	1,022	16	5.6	23
District of Columbia	759.2	1.7	1,728	1	3.8	45
Florida	8,320.2	3.7	905	29	6.2	14
Georgia	4,290.4	2.9	969	21	5.9	18
Hawaii	648.4	1.8	956	23	6.7	8
Idaho	703.7	3.5	782	50	6.3	12
Illinois	5,933.6	0.6	1,062	10	4.4	40
Indiana	3,025.9	1.8	866	37	5.9	18
Iowa	1,548.6	0.8	873	35	6.2	14
Kansas	1,377.2	0.5	857	39	5.9	18
Kentucky	1,880.2	1.5	857	39	6.5	10
Louisiana	1,908.8	-0.9	883	32	2.9	48
Maine	616.2	0.9	825	45	5.9	18
Maryland	2,648.1	1.4	1,124	8	5.3	30
Massachusetts	3,522.9	2.0	1,277	2	6.8	7
Michigan	4,292.2	2.1	976	19	5.9	18
Minnesota	2,849.5	1.6	1,053	13	6.4	11
Mississippi	1,126.9	0.7	739	51	4.7	39
Missouri	2,782.1	1.6	888	30	5.0	34
Montana	464.5	1.5	792	49	4.3	41
Nebraska	973.9	0.9	857	39	5.5	26
Nevada	1,300.7	3.8	949	25	10.1	1
New Hampshire	655.0	1.8	1,027	15	7.9	2
New Jersey	4,000.0	1.8	1,173	7	5.0	34
New Mexico	811.5	0.2	830	44	4.0	43
New York	9,216.6	1.6	1,222	3	3.5	46
North Carolina	4,290.3	2.3	909	28	5.3	30
North Dakota	423.2	-3.4	964	22	0.7	50
Ohio	5,347.3	1.1	924	26	5.4	27
Oklahoma	1,578.7	-1.3	854	42	3.5	46
Oregon	1,866.5	2.6	970	20	5.2	32
Pennsylvania	5,776.7	1.0	1,013	17	5.4	27
Rhode Island	481.1	0.8	990	18	7.6	3
South Carolina	2,008.6	2.5	832	43	5.6	23
South Dakota	424.2	1.1	809	47	7.0	4
Tennessee	2,918.8	2.5	912	27	5.4	27
Texas	11,830.7	1.3	1,042	14	4.3	41
Utah	1,407.4	3.8	881	33	6.3	12
Vermont	309.9	0.5	880	34	6.2	14
Virginia	3,801.0	1.0	1,063	9	5.0	34
Washington	3,278.9	3.0	1,188	6	6.9	5
West Virginia	691.5	-1.6	816	46	3.9	44
Wisconsin	2,850.1	1.0	885	31	6.2	14
Wyoming	274.8	-4.7	865	38	0.0	51
Puerto Rico	888.2	-0.4	524	[3]	2.3	[3]
Virgin Islands	37.4	1.4	778	[3]	5.9	[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 Wisconsin, third quarter 2016



Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics.