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County Employment and Wages in Michigan — Fourth Quarter 2017

Nine of the 10 large counties in Michigan had employment increases from December 2016 to December 2017, the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) reported today. (Large counties are defined as those with employment of 75,000 or more as measured by 2016 annual average employment.) Assistant Commissioner for Regional Operations Charlene Peiffer noted that Washtenaw County had the largest increase, up 1.7 percent, followed by Ottawa County, up 1.3 percent. (See table 1.)

Nationally, employment advanced 1.5 percent from December 2016 to December 2017 with 316 of the 346 largest U.S. counties registering increases. Midland, Texas, had the largest percentage increase in the country, up 11.5 percent over the year. Shawnee, Kan., and Caddo, La., had the largest over-the-year percentage decreases in employment among the largest counties in the U.S., with losses of 1.8 percent each.

Among the 10 largest counties in Michigan, employment was highest in Oakland County (735,100) and Wayne County (725,300) in December 2017. Two other counties, Kent (402,500) and Macomb (328,800), also had employment levels of more than 300,000. Collectively, Michigan's 10 large counties accounted for 70.0 percent of total employment within the state. Nationwide, the 346 largest counties made up 73.0 percent of total U.S. employment.

The average weekly wage in Saginaw and Oakland counties rose 3.7 and 3.6 percent, respectively, from the fourth quarter of 2016 to the fourth quarter of 2017, and were the largest increases among Michigan's large counties. (See table 1.) Among the largest counties, Oakland had the highest average weekly wage in the state at $1,253, followed by Wayne at $1,212. Nationally, the average weekly wage rose 3.9 percent over the year, increasing to $1,109 in the fourth quarter of 2017.

Employment and wage levels (but not over-the-year changes) are also available for the 73 counties in Michigan with employment levels below 75,000. With the exception of Midland County ($1,800), all smaller counties had average weekly wages below the national average.(See table 2.)

Large county wage changes

All of Michigan's large counties had over-the-year wage gains, but all were lower than the national increase of 3.9 percent. (See table 1.) As noted, Saginaw and Oakland counties had the state's largest average weekly wage increases, up 3.7 and 3.6 percent respectively, and ranked 107th and 117th among the nation's 346 largest counties. One other large county, Washtenaw (3.2 percent, 151st), ranked among the top-half nationwide for wage growth.

Among the 346 largest counties in the U.S., 339 had over-the-year increases in average weekly wages in the fourth quarter of 2017. San Mateo, Calif., and Ada, Idaho, had the largest percentage increases in average weekly wages among the largest U.S. counties (11.5 percent each). Seven of the 346 largest counties experienced over-the-year decreases in average weekly wages. Clayton, Ga., had the largest percentage decrease in average weekly wages with a decline of 6.7 percent.

Large county average weekly wages

As noted, Oakland County ($1,253) had the highest average weekly wage in the state and ranked 50th among the 346 largest U.S. counties. Wayne ($1,212, 59th) and Washtenaw ($1,134, 79th) also reported average weekly wages above the national average of $1,109. Three other counties—Macomb ($1,091), Ingham ($1,041) and Kalamazoo ($1,002)—had average weekly wages that placed in the top-half of the national ranking. Saginaw ($897) had the lowest average weekly wage among the state's large counties and ranked 275th nationwide.

Nationally, weekly wages were higher than the U.S. average of $1,109 in 95 of the 346 largest counties. Santa Clara, Calif., held the top position with an average weekly wage of $2,576, followed by New York, N.Y. ($2,439), and San Mateo, Calif. ($2,341). Among the largest U.S. counties, more than two-thirds (251) reported average weekly wages below the national average in the fourth quarter of 2017. The lowest weekly wages were in the Texas counties of Cameron ($652) and Hidalgo ($664), followed by Horry, S.C. ($674).

Average weekly wages in Michigan's smaller counties

Seventy-two counties in Michigan with employment below 75,000 had average weekly wages below the national average of $1,109. Among these smaller counties, Midland had the highest average weekly wage at $1,800, while Keweenaw had the lowest at $515. (See table 2.)

When all 83 counties in Michigan were considered, all but 4 had wages below the national average. Two had average weekly wages of $649 or lower, 19 had wages from $650 to $749, 32 had wages from $750 to $849, 17 had wages from $850 to $949, and 13 had wages of $950 or higher. (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 2016 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 2017 version of the national news release. Tables and additional content from *Employment and Wages Annual Averages 2016* are now available online at www.bls.gov/cew/cewbultn16.htm. The 2017 edition of *Employment and Wages Annual Averages Online* will be available in September 2018.

The County Employment and Wages news release for first quarter 2018 is scheduled to be released on Wednesday, August 22, 2018.

QCEW Publication Acceleration and Conversion to Two Data Releases

The national QCEW publication process has accelerated for a more timely release. Beginning with the national fourth quarter 2017 release, QCEW data are now published in two parts. The current County Employment and Wages news release and associated data have been accelerated and published first. The full QCEW data release, with smaller county data contained in this release, occurs two weeks later.

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 10.0 million employer reports cover 145.9 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.

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) 877-8342.

Table 1. Covered employment and wages in the United States and the 10 largest counties in Michigan, fourth quarter 2017

Area	Employment			Average weekly wage [1]			
	December 2017 (thousands)	Percent change, December 2016-17 [2]	National ranking by percent change [3]	Average weekly wage	National ranking by level [3]	Percent change, fourth quarter 2016-17 [2]	National ranking by percent change [3]
United States [4]	145,921.1	1.5	--	$1,109	--	3.9	--
Michigan	4,321.8	0.9	--	1,062	17	3.4	16
Genesee, Mich.	136.0	0.4	281	899	273	0.9	322
Ingham, Mich.	153.1	0.6	255	1,041	137	1.1	314
Kalamazoo, Mich.	119.8	1.2	167	1,002	173	2.0	270
Kent, Mich.	402.5	1.2	167	956	213	1.9	281
Macomb, Mich.	328.8	0.6	255	1,091	103	2.6	213
Oakland, Mich.	735.1	1.0	196	1,253	50	3.6	117
Ottawa, Mich.	124.3	1.3	158	976	190	2.7	200
Saginaw, Mich.	84.6	-0.9	336	897	275	3.7	107
Washtenaw, Mich.	215.6	1.7	111	1,134	79	3.2	151
Wayne, Mich.	725.3	0.2	302	1,212	59	2.4	241

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 Michigan, fourth quarter 2017

Area	Employment December 2017	Average weekly wage(1)
United States(2)	145,921,109	$1,109
Michigan	4,321,793	1,062
Alcona	1,732	744
Alger	2,355	821
Allegan	38,016	943
Alpena	11,519	752
Antrim	4,880	651
Arenac	4,359	732
Baraga	2,858	816
Barry	12,271	806
Bay	33,822	864
Benzie	4,029	685
Berrien	60,594	919
Branch	14,342	819
Calhoun	55,414	990
Cass	9,407	783
Charlevoix	10,030	860
Cheboygan	5,868	657
Chippewa	12,275	740
Clare	6,943	770
Clinton	16,409	886
Crawford	3,916	783
Delta	13,429	771
Dickinson	13,877	924
Eaton	42,101	937
Emmet	17,363	813
Genesee	136,010	899
Gladwin	3,955	718
Gogebic	5,469	758
Grand Traverse	49,747	887
Gratiot	12,548	883
Hillsdale	12,525	857
Houghton	11,019	822
Huron	11,041	800
Ingham	153,079	1,041
Ionia	21,169	674
Iosco	7,409	757
Iron	3,716	728
Isabella	29,159	773
Jackson	56,966	959
Kalamazoo	119,780	1,002
Kalkaska	4,013	1,017
Kent	402,486	956
Keweenaw	310	515
Lake	1,529	675
Lapeer	20,633	813
Leelanau	5,934	751
Lenawee	26,715	826
Livingston	61,609	1,020
Luce	1,882	716
Mackinac	3,138	750
Macomb	328,824	1,091
Manistee	6,972	810
Marquette	26,863	814
Mason	10,041	776
Mecosta	13,898	813
Menominee	7,295	717

Note: See footnotes at end of table.

Table 2. Covered employment and wages in the United States and all counties in Michigan, fourth quarter 2017 - Continued

Area	Employment December 2017	Average weekly wage(1)
Midland	36,721	1,800
Missaukee	3,275	706
Monroe	40,681	934
Montcalm	16,341	804
Montmorency	1,893	668
Muskegon	62,752	853
Newaygo	11,716	809
Oakland	735,129	1,253
Oceana	6,256	715
Ogemaw	5,734	748
Ontonagon	1,194	610
Osceola	6,616	888
Oscoda	1,387	651
Otsego	10,029	777
Ottawa	124,288	976
Presque Isle	2,746	766
Roscommon	5,165	652
Saginaw	84,556	897
St. Clair	44,450	875
St. Joseph	24,344	755
Sanilac	10,996	737
Schoolcraft	2,664	819
Shiawassee	16,039	767
Tuscola	11,235	817
Van Buren	20,315	850
Washtenaw	215,605	1,134
Wayne	725,260	1,212
Wexford	13,647	789

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.

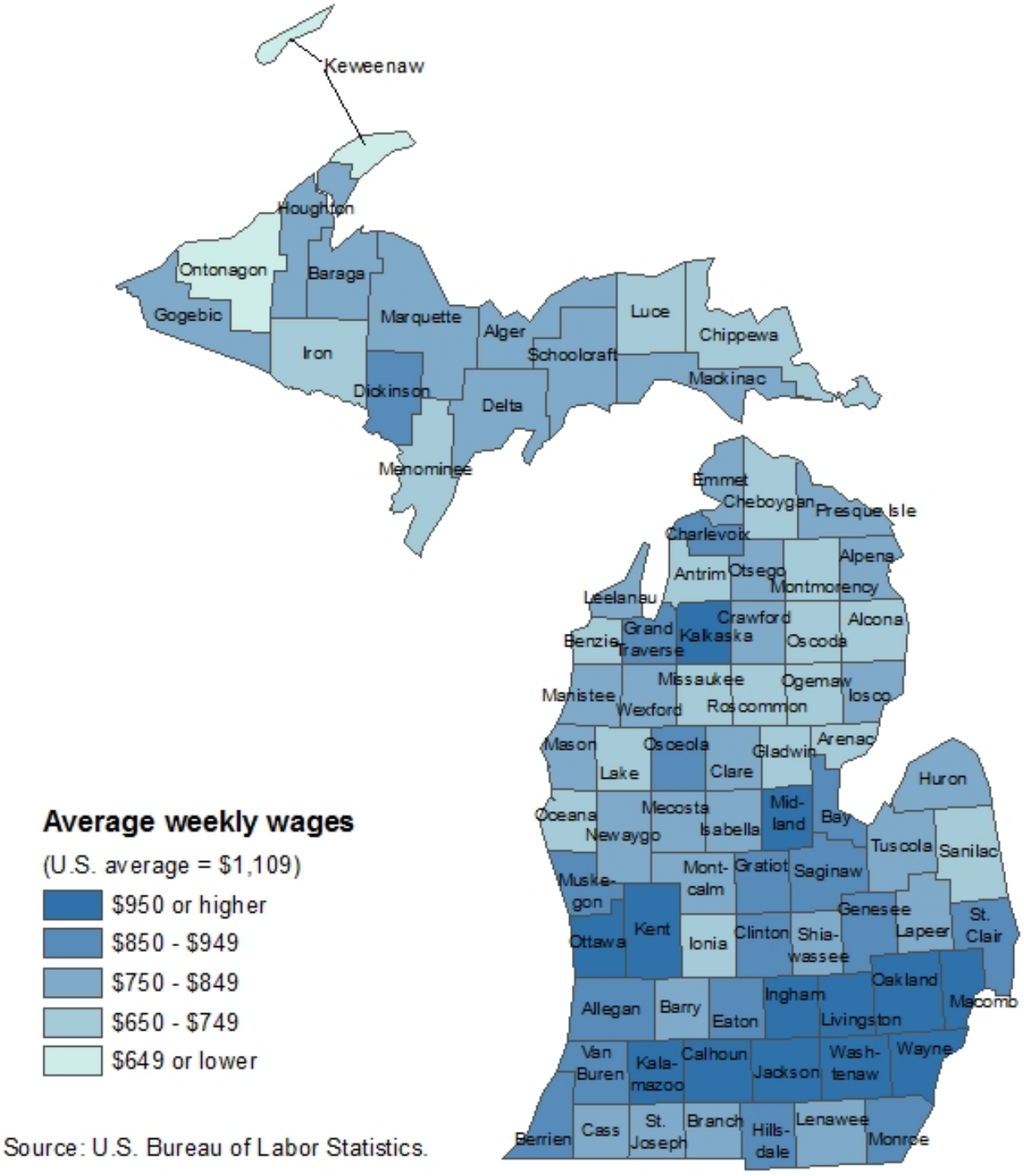
Table 3. Covered employment and wages by state, fourth quarter 2017

State	Employment		Average weekly wage [1]			
	December 2017 (thousands)	Percent change, December 2016-17	Average weekly wage	National ranking by level	Percent change, fourth quarter 2016-17	National ranking by percent change
United States [2]	145,921.1	1.5	$1,109	--	3.9	--
Alabama	1,955.3	1.1	928	36	2.9	32
Alaska	306.7	-1.2	1,052	19	1.5	51
Arizona	2,834.7	2.6	978	25	3.5	12
Arkansas	1,217.2	1.0	848	48	2.5	42
California	17,293.0	2.1	1,346	4	5.7	4
Colorado	2,653.3	2.5	1,133	10	4.3	9
Connecticut	1,689.7	0.3	1,317	5	2.2	46
Delaware	444.9	0.6	1,081	15	2.6	40
District of Columbia	769.0	0.9	1,812	1	2.7	37
Florida	8,712.0	2.0	975	26	3.4	16
Georgia	4,425.0	1.8	1,027	20	3.4	16
Hawaii	664.5	0.8	984	24	3.1	26
Idaho	712.4	3.0	857	46	7.1	1
Illinois	6,001.1	0.8	1,151	9	2.6	40
Indiana	3,057.8	1.1	915	38	3.6	11
Iowa	1,549.7	0.4	938	32	3.0	28
Kansas	1,390.3	0.4	894	41	1.9	49
Kentucky	1,903.8	0.5	892	42	2.1	47
Louisiana	1,918.8	0.4	933	35	2.1	47
Maine	610.3	1.2	884	43	3.4	16
Maryland	2,683.6	0.5	1,207	8	3.3	22
Massachusetts	3,582.2	1.3	1,411	3	4.4	8
Michigan	4,321.8	0.9	1,062	17	3.4	16
Minnesota	2,875.7	1.3	1,100	14	3.4	16
Mississippi	1,140.6	0.5	774	51	2.4	45
Missouri	2,809.5	1.0	945	31	2.9	32
Montana	461.4	1.0	843	50	2.7	37
Nebraska	980.9	0.9	901	39	3.0	28
Nevada	1,351.9	3.5	955	29	3.2	25
New Hampshire	661.3	0.7	1,132	11	3.7	10
New Jersey	4,106.9	1.6	1,262	6	1.8	50
New Mexico	816.7	0.6	865	45	2.5	42
New York	9,465.3	1.4	1,428	2	6.4	2
North Carolina	4,388.6	1.5	964	28	3.3	22
North Dakota	416.1	0.4	1,010	22	3.3	22
Ohio	5,409.2	0.8	973	27	3.1	26
Oklahoma	1,607.8	1.2	895	40	3.5	12
Oregon	1,900.4	2.0	1,014	21	4.5	7
Pennsylvania	5,870.4	1.2	1,075	16	3.5	12
Rhode Island	483.6	1.1	1,056	18	2.7	37
South Carolina	2,058.8	1.6	879	44	2.8	35
South Dakota	423.8	0.9	856	47	3.4	16
Tennessee	2,984.8	1.3	1,000	23	3.0	28
Texas	12,207.8	2.0	1,109	13	3.5	12
Utah	1,465.5	3.6	936	33	2.9	32
Vermont	314.7	0.5	919	37	2.5	42
Virginia	3,884.2	1.3	1,121	12	2.8	35
Washington	3,305.0	2.4	1,217	7	5.8	3
West Virginia	693.1	0.1	847	49	4.7	5
Wisconsin	2,872.6	1.0	951	30	3.0	28
Wyoming	267.5	0.6	935	34	4.6	6
Puerto Rico	887.0	-4.4	570	[3]	2.5	[3]
Virgin Islands	34.3	-11.1	827	[3]	7.7	[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 Michigan, fourth quarter 2017



Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics.