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# County Employment and Wages in Indiana — First Quarter 2019

Employment rose in 7 of the 8 large counties in Indiana from March 2018 to March 2019, the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics reported today. (Large counties are those with annual average employment levels of 75,000 or more in 2018.) Assistant Commissioner for Regional Operations Charlene Peiffer noted that Tippecanoe County had the largest increase, up 2.2 percent, followed by the counties of Hamilton (2.0 percent) and Allen (1.6 percent). (See table 1.)

Nationally, employment advanced 1.4 percent from March 2018 to March 2019, as 298 of the 355 largest U.S. counties registered increases. Midland, TX, had the largest percentage increase in employment, up 5.8 percent over the year. Bay, FL, had the largest decrease with a loss of 5.9 percent.

Among the largest counties in Indiana, employment was highest in Marion County (600,200) in March 2019, followed by Allen County (188,700) and Lake County (186,600). Together, the eight largest Indiana counties accounted for 51.4 percent of total employment within the state. Nationwide, the 355 largest counties made up 73.5 percent of total U.S. employment, which stood at 146.5 million in March 2019.

Average weekly wages increased in 7 of the 8 large counties in Indiana from the first quarter of 2018 to the first quarter of 2019. Vanderburgh County had the largest percentage increase in average weekly wages, up 8.2 percent, followed by Lake County at 2.7 percent. (See table 1.) Marion County recorded the highest average weekly wage among the state's large counties at $1,232, followed by Hamilton County at $1,132. Nationally, the average weekly wage increased 2.8 percent over the year to $1,184 in the first quarter of 2019.

Employment and wage levels (but not over-the-year changes) are also available for the 84 counties in Indiana with employment levels below 75,000. Average weekly wages in these counties ranged from $1,266 to $507. (See table 2.)

**Large county wage changes**

In the first quarter of 2019, Vanderburgh County (8.2 percent) had the highest wage gain among the state's large counties and ranked third among the 355 largest counties nationwide. In contrast Elkhart County had an over-the-year wage decline of 7.6 percent and ranked 355th among the 355 largest U.S. counties. Average weekly wages for the nation increased 2.8 percent over the year.

Nationally, 325 of the 355 largest counties had over-the-year increases in average weekly wages. San Francisco, CA, had the largest percentage wage gain at 10.2 percent, followed by Bay, FL (9.3 percent).

Of the 355 largest U.S. counties, 28 experienced an over-the-year decrease in average weekly wages. Elkhart, IN, had the largest percentage decrease in average weekly wages (-7.6 percent), followed by Olmsted, MN (-5.1 percent).

**Large county average weekly wages**

Marion County's average weekly wage of $1,232 was the highest among the state's large counties and ranked 76th among the 355 largest U.S. counties. Hamilton County ($1,132, 114th) was the only other large county in Indiana to report an average weekly wage above $1,000. St. Joseph ($868) reported the lowest average weekly wage among the state's large counties and ranked 308th nationwide.

Nationwide, average weekly wages were above the U.S. average ($1,184) in 92 of the 355 large counties in the first quarter of 2019. New York, NY, had the highest average weekly wage at $3,153, followed by San Francisco, CA ($2,759), and Santa Clara, CA ($2,758).

Among the largest U.S. counties, 263 had average weekly wages below the national average in the first quarter of 2019. Cameron, TX, reported the lowest wage ($648), followed by Horry County, S.C. ($652), and Hidalgo, TX ($662).

**Average weekly wages in Indiana's smaller counties**

Among the 84 counties in Indiana—those with 2018 employment below 75,000— 3 counties had an average weekly wage above the national average of $1,184: Bartholomew ($1,266), Martin ($1,263), and Posey ($1,197). Brown County reported the lowest average weekly wage in the state, averaging $507 in the first quarter of 2019. (See table 2.)

When all 92 counties in Indiana were considered, all but 4 had wages below the national average. Four reported average weekly wages less than $600, 15 had wages from $600 to $699, 35 reported wages from $700 to $799, 17 reported wages from $800 to $899, and 21 had wages of $900 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 2018 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 2019 version of the national news release. Tables and additional content from *Employment and Wages Annual Averages* are now available online at www.bls.gov/cew/publications/employment-and-wages-annual-averages/2018/home.htm.

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**The County Employment and Wages release for second quarter 2019 is scheduled to be released on Wednesday, November 20, 2019. The County Employment and Wages full data update for second quarter 2019 is scheduled to be released on Wednesday, December 4, 2019.**

## 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 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. 13, the number of weeks in a quarter, then divide the result. 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 8 largest counties in Indiana, first quarter 2019**

| Area | Employment | | | Average weekly wage [1] | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | March 2019 (thousands) | Percent change, March 2018-19 [2] | National ranking by percent change [3] | Average weekly wage | National ranking by level [3] | Percent change, first quarter 2018-19 [2] | National ranking by percent change [3] |
| United States [4] | 146,497.6 | 1.4 | -- | $1,184 | -- | 2.8 | -- |
| Indiana | 3,059.1 | 1.2 | -- | 963 | 33 | 0.9 | 48 |
| Allen, Ind. | 188.7 | 1.6 | 118 | 941 | 251 | 1.1 | 288 |
| Elkhart, Ind. | 135.0 | -1.8 | 350 | 930 | 261 | -7.6 | 355 |
| Hamilton, Ind. | 142.2 | 2.0 | 85 | 1,132 | 114 | 0.1 | 324 |
| Lake, Ind. | 186.6 | 0.3 | 263 | 946 | 241 | 2.7 | 161 |
| Marion, Ind. | 600.2 | 1.0 | 184 | 1,232 | 76 | 1.5 | 262 |
| St. Joseph, Ind. | 124.0 | 1.4 | 138 | 868 | 308 | 0.8 | 303 |
| Tippecanoe, Ind. | 86.8 | 2.2 | 69 | 960 | 223 | 0.4 | 315 |
| Vanderburgh, Ind. | 109.7 | 0.9 | 201 | 962 | 220 | 8.2 | 3 |

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 Indiana, first quarter 2019

| Area | Employment March 2019 | Average weekly wage(1) |
|---|---|---|
| United States(2) | 146,497,599 | $1,184 |
| Indiana | 3,059,080 | 963 |
| Adams | 14,063 | 730 |
| Allen | 188,734 | 941 |
| Bartholomew | 50,784 | 1,266 |
| Benton | 2,362 | 747 |
| Blackford | 3,088 | 678 |
| Boone | 30,104 | 825 |
| Brown | 2,843 | 507 |
| Carroll | 5,390 | 694 |
| Cass | 14,588 | 703 |
| Clark | 53,627 | 814 |
| Clay | 7,758 | 668 |
| Clinton | 11,055 | 779 |
| Crawford | 1,838 | 623 |
| Daviess | 12,300 | 690 |
| Dearborn | 14,493 | 738 |
| Decatur | 14,284 | 883 |
| De Kalb | 22,195 | 977 |
| Delaware | 45,262 | 792 |
| Dubois | 28,869 | 806 |
| Elkhart | 135,043 | 930 |
| Fayette | 6,341 | 681 |
| Floyd | 30,999 | 809 |
| Fountain | 4,785 | 687 |
| Franklin | 4,359 | 617 |
| Fulton | 6,273 | 701 |
| Gibson | 20,900 | 942 |
| Grant | 26,904 | 788 |
| Greene | 6,471 | 666 |
| Hamilton | 142,168 | 1,132 |
| Hancock | 25,579 | 934 |
| Harrison | 10,331 | 711 |
| Hendricks | 72,659 | 751 |
| Henry | 13,233 | 688 |
| Howard | 38,724 | 1,005 |
| Huntington | 13,487 | 746 |
| Jackson | 21,836 | 909 |
| Jasper | 11,592 | 773 |
| Jay | 7,267 | 708 |
| Jefferson | 12,492 | 778 |
| Jennings | 7,447 | 732 |
| Johnson | 55,341 | 762 |
| Knox | 17,356 | 758 |
| Kosciusko | 39,155 | 1,041 |
| La Porte | 39,970 | 783 |
| Lagrange | 14,111 | 763 |
| Lake | 186,571 | 946 |
| Lawrence | 14,121 | 784 |
| Madison | 39,702 | 752 |
| Marion | 600,220 | 1,232 |
| Marshall | 18,355 | 738 |
| Martin | 7,567 | 1,263 |
| Miami | 9,411 | 704 |
| Monroe | 63,589 | 918 |
| Montgomery | 15,115 | 886 |
| Morgan | 15,583 | 712 |

Note: See footnotes at end of table.

**Table 2. Covered employment and wages in the United States and all counties in Indiana, first quarter 2019 - Continued**

| Area | Employment March 2019 | Average weekly wage(1) |
|---|---|---|
| Newton | 3,240 | 750 |
| Noble | 18,634 | 781 |
| Ohio | 1,327 | 559 |
| Orange | 7,633 | 646 |
| Owen | 5,046 | 825 |
| Parke | 3,100 | 613 |
| Perry | 6,523 | 754 |
| Pike | 2,727 | 936 |
| Porter | 61,519 | 859 |
| Posey | 8,767 | 1,197 |
| Pulaski | 4,925 | 868 |
| Putnam | 13,890 | 699 |
| Randolph | 6,489 | 714 |
| Ripley | 12,717 | 803 |
| Rush | 5,043 | 745 |
| St. Joseph | 124,019 | 868 |
| Scott | 8,225 | 725 |
| Shelby | 18,228 | 852 |
| Spencer | 6,397 | 887 |
| Starke | 4,159 | 609 |
| Steuben | 16,100 | 700 |
| Sullivan | 5,823 | 847 |
| Switzerland | 2,109 | 589 |
| Tippecanoe | 86,760 | 960 |
| Tipton | 5,463 | 901 |
| Union | 1,344 | 567 |
| Vanderburgh | 109,715 | 962 |
| Vermillion | 4,190 | 1,067 |
| Vigo | 47,786 | 811 |
| Wabash | 12,255 | 739 |
| Warren | 1,866 | 832 |
| Warrick | 17,559 | 933 |
| Washington | 6,236 | 664 |
| Wayne | 30,278 | 764 |
| Wells | 10,799 | 746 |
| White | 9,107 | 724 |
| Whitley | 13,081 | 858 |

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.

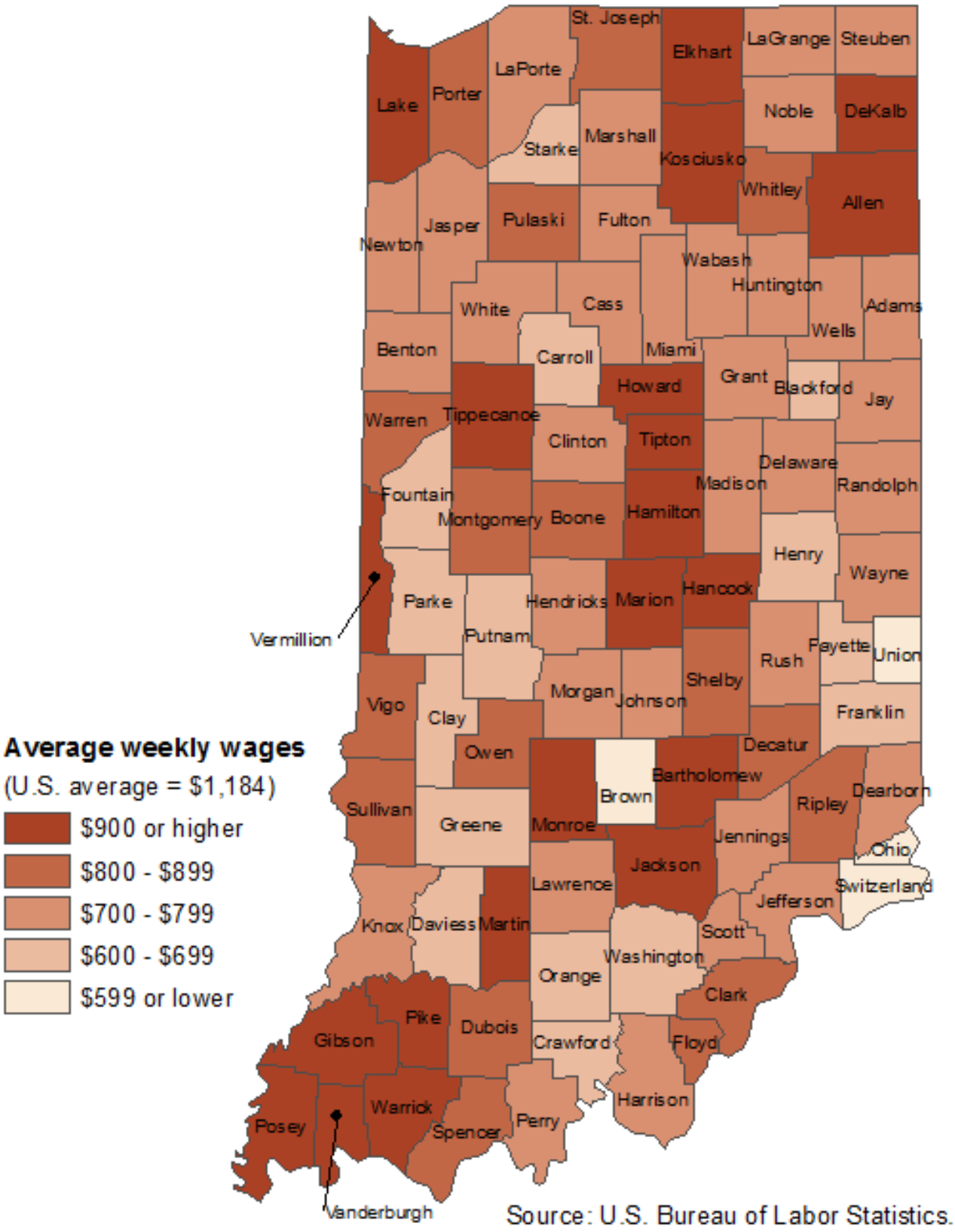
## Table 3. Covered employment and wages by state, first quarter 2019

| State | Employment | | Average weekly wage [1] | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | March 2019 (thousands) | Percent change, March 2018-19 | Average weekly wage | National ranking by level | Percent change, first quarter 2018-19 | National ranking by percent change |
| United States [2] | 146,497.6 | 1.4 | $1,184 | -- | 2.8 | -- |
| Alabama | 1,978.0 | 1.6 | 944 | 38 | 2.5 | 32 |
| Alaska | 312.4 | 0.3 | 1,108 | 18 | 3.3 | 9 |
| Arizona | 2,895.1 | 2.5 | 1,056 | 22 | 3.0 | 21 |
| Arkansas | 1,218.5 | 0.7 | 896 | 45 | 2.2 | 38 |
| California | 17,436.4 | 1.8 | 1,401 | 5 | 3.8 | 4 |
| Colorado | 2,690.3 | 1.9 | 1,231 | 9 | 4.8 | 2 |
| Connecticut | 1,650.6 | 0.0 | 1,487 | 4 | 2.3 | 34 |
| Delaware | 444.1 | 1.3 | 1,199 | 13 | -0.1 | 51 |
| District of Columbia | 773.5 | 0.5 | 1,921 | 1 | 0.2 | 49 |
| Florida | 8,894.3 | 2.1 | 1,015 | 26 | 2.7 | 25 |
| Georgia | 4,488.6 | 2.1 | 1,121 | 17 | 2.6 | 28 |
| Hawaii | 658.1 | -0.4 | 1,006 | 27 | 3.4 | 8 |
| Idaho | 732.3 | 2.7 | 828 | 50 | 2.3 | 34 |
| Illinois | 5,912.0 | 0.1 | 1,275 | 8 | 2.7 | 25 |
| Indiana | 3,059.1 | 1.2 | 963 | 33 | 0.9 | 48 |
| Iowa | 1,527.1 | 0.1 | 942 | 39 | 2.3 | 34 |
| Kansas | 1,379.3 | 0.6 | 940 | 40 | 3.2 | 12 |
| Kentucky | 1,882.6 | 0.6 | 920 | 41 | 2.2 | 38 |
| Louisiana | 1,916.8 | -0.1 | 954 | 34 | 2.5 | 32 |
| Maine | 599.8 | 1.2 | 919 | 42 | 3.1 | 16 |
| Maryland | 2,670.3 | 0.9 | 1,228 | 10 | 1.7 | 45 |
| Massachusetts | 3,558.1 | 1.1 | 1,561 | 3 | 3.5 | 7 |
| Michigan | 4,307.4 | 0.6 | 1,078 | 20 | 0.1 | 50 |
| Minnesota | 2,840.8 | 0.5 | 1,203 | 12 | 2.3 | 34 |
| Mississippi | 1,129.8 | 0.4 | 779 | 51 | 1.8 | 43 |
| Missouri | 2,788.4 | 0.5 | 986 | 31 | 2.6 | 28 |
| Montana | 458.8 | 0.9 | 844 | 49 | 3.1 | 16 |
| Nebraska | 965.6 | 0.1 | 917 | 43 | 2.2 | 38 |
| Nevada | 1,392.2 | 3.0 | 992 | 29 | 1.5 | 47 |
| New Hampshire | 656.2 | 1.2 | 1,156 | 15 | 3.1 | 16 |
| New Jersey | 4,040.2 | 1.3 | 1,399 | 6 | 1.7 | 45 |
| New Mexico | 825.4 | 1.3 | 890 | 47 | 3.2 | 12 |
| New York | 9,453.5 | 1.5 | 1,639 | 2 | 2.6 | 28 |
| North Carolina | 4,458.5 | 2.0 | 1,054 | 23 | 3.2 | 12 |
| North Dakota | 414.3 | 1.5 | 1,021 | 25 | 3.3 | 9 |
| Ohio | 5,363.2 | 0.7 | 1,035 | 24 | 3.0 | 21 |
| Oklahoma | 1,617.0 | 1.1 | 953 | 35 | 4.3 | 3 |
| Oregon | 1,921.9 | 1.3 | 1,060 | 21 | 3.3 | 9 |
| Pennsylvania | 5,850.3 | 1.1 | 1,146 | 16 | 2.8 | 24 |
| Rhode Island | 474.7 | 0.8 | 1,104 | 19 | 1.8 | 43 |
| South Carolina | 2,110.0 | 2.0 | 901 | 44 | 3.0 | 21 |
| South Dakota | 419.0 | 0.4 | 865 | 48 | 2.7 | 25 |
| Tennessee | 3,004.2 | 2.0 | 996 | 28 | 1.9 | 42 |
| Texas | 12,455.6 | 2.2 | 1,204 | 11 | 3.1 | 16 |
| Utah | 1,501.4 | 3.0 | 978 | 32 | 3.1 | 16 |
| Vermont | 309.1 | 0.4 | 950 | 36 | 3.7 | 5 |
| Virginia | 3,896.9 | 1.2 | 1,186 | 14 | 2.1 | 41 |
| Washington | 3,371.1 | 1.8 | 1,368 | 7 | 4.9 | 1 |
| West Virginia | 687.1 | 0.3 | 896 | 45 | 3.2 | 12 |
| Wisconsin | 2,838.9 | 0.1 | 992 | 29 | 2.6 | 28 |
| Wyoming | 269.0 | 1.9 | 948 | 37 | 3.7 | 5 |
| Puerto Rico | 875.8 | 2.2 | 553 | [3] | -2.1 | [3] |
| Virgin Islands | 36.6 | 9.6 | 966 | [3] | -1.0 | [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 Indiana, first quarter 2019




Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics.