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County Employment and Wages in Florida – Third Quarter 2016

Employment increased in all 24 of Florida's large counties from September 2015 to September 2016, the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics reported today. (Large counties are defined as those with 2015 average annual employment levels of 75,000 or more.) Regional Commissioner Janet S. Rankin noted that employment increases ranged from 5.1 percent in Collier County to 0.9 percent in Bay County. (See table 1.)

Nationally, employment advanced 1.7 percent from September 2015 to September 2016 as 307 of the 344 largest U.S. counties registered increases. York, S.C., had the largest percentage increase in the country, up 6.0 percent over the year. Midland, Texas, had the largest over-the-year percentage decrease in employment among the largest counties in the U.S., with a loss of 5.8 percent.

Among the 24 largest counties in Florida, employment was highest in Miami-Dade County (1,107,400) in September 2016, while Bay County had the smallest employment level (77,400). Together, Florida's large counties accounted for about 87.0 percent of total employment within the state. Nationwide, the 344 largest counties made up 72.5 percent of total U.S. employment, which stood at 142.9 million in September 2016.

All of Florida's 24 large counties posted over-the-year wage increases in September 2016. Hillsborough County had the highest average weekly wage among the state's largest counties at $993, followed by Miami-Dade County ($983) and Palm Beach County ($973). Nationally, the average weekly wage rose 5.4 percent over the year to $1,027 in the third quarter of 2016. (See table 1.)

Employment and wage levels (but not over-the-year changes) are also available for the 43 counties in Florida with employment below 75,000. All of these smaller counties had average weekly wages below the national average in the third quarter of 2016. (See table 2.)

Large county wage changes

Average weekly wages increased in each of the 24 largest counties in Florida from the third quarter of 2015 to the third quarter of 2016. The wage gains in five of the state's large counties placed in the top tenth of the national ranking—Manatee (10.7 percent, 2nd), Alachua (9.5 percent, 9th), Marion (9.3 percent, 12th), Hillsborough (8.4 percent, 21st), and Sarasota (7.9 percent, 27th). (See table 1.)

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 the counties of Hillsborough, N.H. (10.4 percent); Elkhart, Ind. and Boone, Ky. (10.3 percent each); and McLean, Ill. (10.2 percent).

Of the 344 largest counties, 5 experienced over-the-year decreases in average weekly wages. Rockland, N.Y., had the largest percentage decrease in average weekly wages (-14.9 percent), followed by Lafayette, La. (-3.4 percent); 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 Florida's large counties placed in the top half of the national ranking in the third quarter of 2016. However, none of these counties had an average weekly wage above the national average of $1,027. In contrast, the four large counties with the lowest average weekly wages in the state—Osceola ($707, 340th), Lake ($715, 337th), Pasco ($717, 336th), and Marion ($719, 335th) ranked among the 10 lowest in the United States.

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, S.C. ($632), reported the lowest wage, followed by Cameron, Texas ($636); Hidalgo, Texas ($654); Webb, Texas ($680); and Osceola, Fla. ($707).

Average weekly wages in Florida's smaller counties

All 43 counties in Florida with employment below 75,000 had average weekly wages lower than the national average of $1,027. Among these counties, Martin County had the highest average weekly wage at $781. Calhoun County reported the lowest weekly wage among all counties in the state, averaging $547 in the third quarter of 2016. (See table 2.)

When all 67 counties in Florida were considered, 5 had average weekly wages below $600, 24 had wages from $600-$699, 21 had wages from $700-$799, 9 had wages from $800 to $899, and 8 had wages at $900 or above. (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 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 https://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 24 largest counties in Florida, 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	--
Florida	8,320.2	3.7	--	905	29	6.2	14
Alachua, Fla.	128.7	3.1	58	880	238	9.5	9
Bay, Fla.	77.4	0.9	250	754	330	5.0	215
Brevard, Fla.	203.2	4.7	8	932	184	7.0	59
Broward, Fla.	781.2	2.5	105	951	166	5.8	152
Collier, Fla.	135.8	5.1	4	869	250	6.8	68
Duval, Fla.	490.3	3.4	46	967	157	6.4	100
Escambia, Fla.	131.4	3.8	29	809	308	6.3	108
Hillsborough, Fla.	666.3	3.7	34	993	128	8.4	21
Lake, Fla.	93.9	4.2	16	715	337	5.9	139
Lee, Fla.	247.6	4.5	12	806	312	5.4	187
Leon, Fla.	147.9	3.1	58	841	279	5.9	139
Manatee, Fla.	116.1	2.7	87	816	299	10.7	2
Marion, Fla.	100.0	3.8	29	719	335	9.3	12
Miami-Dade, Fla.	1,107.4	2.6	96	983	138	6.0	130
Okaloosa, Fla.	82.2	2.9	74	855	268	4.8	233
Orange, Fla.	797.1	3.2	54	904	211	6.0	130
Osceola, Fla.	89.1	3.8	29	707	340	5.5	177
Palm Beach, Fla.	579.8	3.6	40	973	149	5.0	215
Pasco, Fla.	114.2	4.1	18	717	336	6.2	117
Pinellas, Fla.	418.6	2.6	96	900	214	6.3	108
Polk, Fla.	210.0	3.2	54	783	324	5.7	160
Sarasota, Fla.	162.6	2.9	74	838	281	7.9	27
Seminole, Fla.	184.7	4.8	7	852	270	6.0	130
Volusia, Fla.	169.2	4.7	8	727	334	4.3	269

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 Florida, 3rd quarter 2016

Area	Employment September 2016	Average Weekly Wage(1)
United States(2)	142,940,452	$1,027
Florida	8,320,165	905
Alachua	128,711	880
Baker	7,659	614
Bay	77,437	754
Bradford	6,689	685
Brevard	203,172	932
Broward	781,211	951
Calhoun	2,829	547
Charlotte	45,935	702
Citrus	32,130	689
Clay	50,580	702
Collier	135,810	869
Columbia	24,810	704
De Soto	8,408	656
Dixie	2,634	660
Duval	490,278	967
Escambia	131,432	809
Flagler	22,841	643
Franklin	3,340	589
Gadsden	12,841	672
Gilchrist	3,465	638
Glades	1,412	758
Gulf	3,810	663
Hamilton	3,190	718
Hardee	6,378	643
Hendry	10,770	705
Hernando	41,421	656
Highlands	27,288	634
Hillsborough	666,256	993
Holmes	3,307	570
Indian River	49,215	756
Jackson	14,428	666
Jefferson	2,485	641
Lafayette	1,369	599
Lake	93,870	715
Lee	247,553	806
Leon	147,865	841
Levy	8,759	585
Liberty	1,904	648
Madison	4,188	618
Manatee	116,087	816
Marion	99,957	719
Martin	65,183	781
Miami-Dade	1,107,441	983
Monroe	40,827	767
Nassau	21,165	743
Okaloosa	82,241	855
Okeechobee	11,083	678
Orange	797,116	904
Osceola	89,072	707
Palm Beach	579,823	973
Pasco	114,182	717
Pinellas	418,648	900
Polk	209,961	783
Putnam	16,418	697
St. Johns	70,580	776

Note: See footnotes at end of table.

Table 2. Covered employment and wages in the United States and all counties in Florida, 3rd quarter 2016 - Continued

Area	Employment September 2016	Average Weekly Wage(1)
St. Lucie	72,719	753
Santa Rosa	36,169	679
Sarasota	162,582	838
Seminole	184,694	852
Sumter	27,001	746
Suwannee	11,575	633
Taylor	6,677	743
Union	3,729	697
Volusia	169,215	727
Wakulla	5,561	662
Walton	25,067	697
Washington	5,836	653

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.

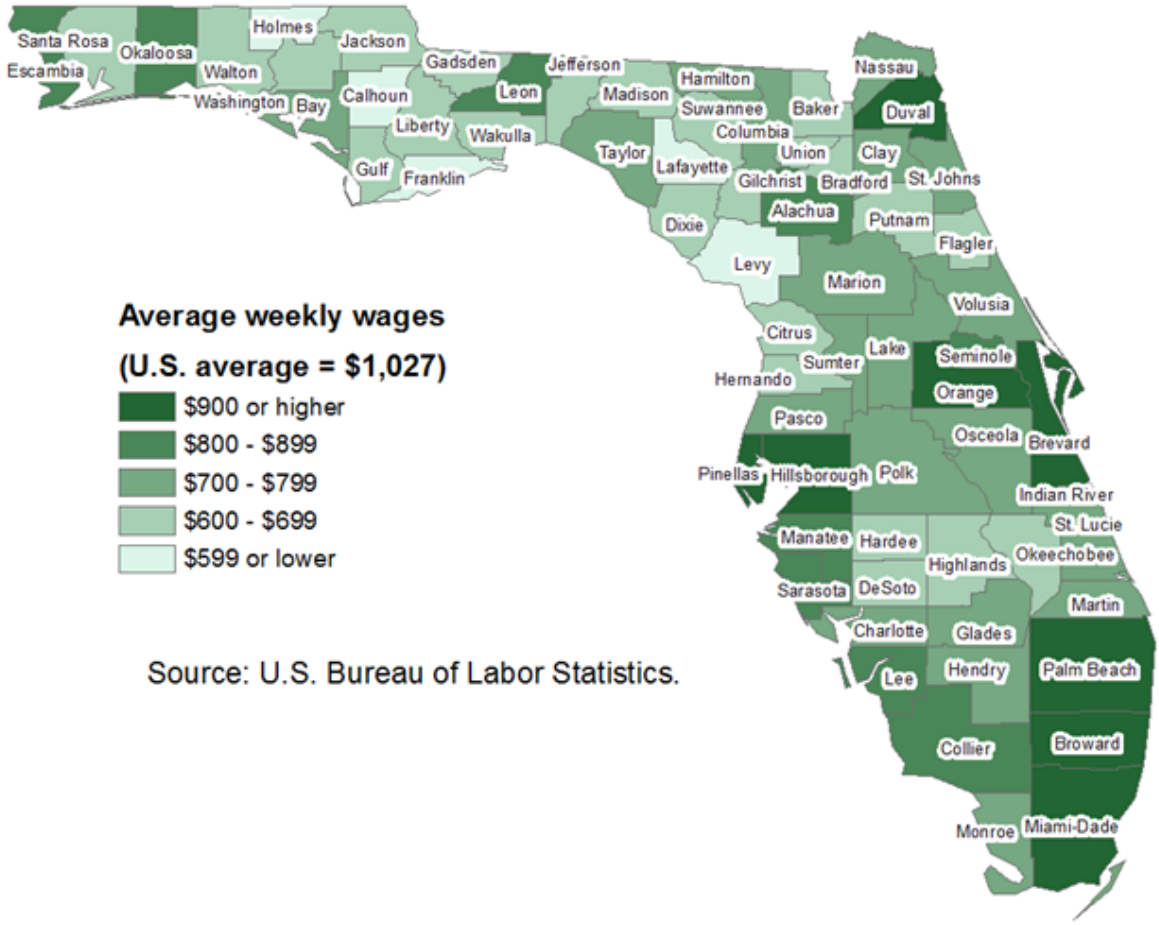
Table 3. Covered employment and wages by state, third quarter 2016

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 Florida, third quarter 2016



Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics.