NEWS RELEASE
BUREAU OF LABOR STATISTICS
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF LABOR

For Release: Wednesday, June 20, 2018 **18-906-ATL**

SOUTHEAST INFORMATION OFFICE: Atlanta, Ga.
Technical information: (404) 893-4222 BLSInfoAtlanta@bls.gov www.bls.gov/regions/southeast
Media contact: (404) 893-4220

County Employment and Wages in Georgia – Fourth Quarter 2017

Nine of the ten large counties in Georgia reported employment gains from December 2016 to December 2017, the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics reported today. (Large counties are defined as those with 2016 average annual employment levels of 75,000 or more.) Regional Commissioner Janet S. Rankin noted that employment increases in five of Georgia's large counties were above the national job growth rate of 1.5 percent. (See table 1.)

From December 2016 to December 2017, employment increased in 316 of the 346 largest U.S. counties. Midland, Texas, had the largest percentage increase with a gain of 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 Georgia, employment was highest in Fulton County (870,200) in December 2017, while Bibb County had the smallest employment level (83,600). Together, Georgia's large counties accounted for 57.6 percent of total employment within the state. Nationwide, the 346 largest counties made up 73.0 percent of total U.S. employment, which stood at 145.9 million in December 2017.

Nine of Georgia's 10 large counties had over-the-year wage increases in the fourth quarter of 2017, with the largest gain in Hall County, up 5.8 percent, followed by Fulton County, up 5.0 percent. Fulton County had the highest average weekly wage among the state's largest counties ($1,449), followed by Cobb ($1,125), DeKalb ($1,086), and Gwinnett ($1,048). Nationally, the average weekly wage increased 3.9 percent over the year to $1,109 in the fourth quarter of 2017. (See table 1.)

Employment and wage levels (but not over-the-year changes) are also available for the 149 counties in Georgia with employment below 75,000. With the exception of Burke County ($1,505), wage levels in all of these smaller counties were below the national average in December 2017. (See table 2.)

Large county wage changes

In the fourth quarter of 2017, average weekly wage gains in three of Georgia's large counties placed in the top 100 of the national ranking—Hall (5.8 percent, 16th), Fulton (5.0 percent, 33rd), and Muscogee (4.0 percent, 85th). (See table 1.) Among Georgia's large counties, Clayton had the only decline in average weekly wages with a loss of 6.7 percent over-the-year.

Among the 346 largest U.S. counties, 339 had over-the-year increases in average weekly wages. San Mateo, Calif., and Ada, Idaho, had the largest percentage wage increases among the largest U.S. counties (11.5 percent each). New York, N.Y., followed with an increase of 10.4 percent.

Of the 346 largest counties, 7 experienced an over-the-year decrease in average weekly wages. Clayton, Ga., had the largest percentage decrease in average weekly wages (-6.7 percent), followed by Champaign, Ill. (-1.6 percent); and Benton, Ark. (-1.4 percent).

Large county average weekly wages

Average weekly wages in 4 of Georgia's 10 large counties placed in the top half of the national ranking in the fourth quarter of 2017. Among these four, both Fulton ($1,449, 18th) and Cobb ($1,125, 82nd) had average weekly wages above the U.S. average of $1,109. The two remaining counties, DeKalb ($1,086) and Gwinnett ($1,048), ranked 106th and 131st, respectively. Bibb County ($840, 313th) had the lowest average wage among the state's largest counties, followed by Muscogee ($875, 291st).

Nationwide, average weekly wages were above the U.S. average ($1,109) in 95 of the 346 largest counties in the fourth quarter of 2017. Santa Clara, Calif., recorded the highest average weekly wage at $2,576, followed by New York, N.Y. ($2,439); San Mateo, Calif. ($2,341); and San Francisco, Calif. ($2,232).

Among the largest U.S. counties, 251 had weekly wages below the national average in the fourth quarter of 2017. Cameron, Texas ($652) had the lowest wage, followed by the counties of Hidalgo, Texas ($664); Horry, S.C. ($674); and Webb, Texas ($706).

Average weekly wages in Georgia's smaller counties

With the exception of Burke County ($1,505), all of the smaller counties in Georgia—those with employment below 75,000—had average weekly wages lower than the national average of $1,109. Among the smaller counties, Forsyth County had the second highest average weekly wage at $1,001, followed by Chattahoochee County at $980. Glascock County had the lowest average weekly wage in the state at $508. (See table 2.)

When all 159 counties in Georgia were considered, 9 reported average weekly wages below $600, 64 had wages from $600 to $699, 48 had wages from $700 to $799, 25 had wages from $800 to $899, and 13 had wages above $900. (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 release for first quarter 2018 is scheduled to be released on Wednesday, August 22, 2018.

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.

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 10 largest counties in Georgia, 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	--
Georgia	4,425.0	1.8	--	1,027	20	3.4	16
Bibb, Ga.	83.6	-1.0	340	840	313	2.8	188
Chatham, Ga.	154.2	2.2	81	906	262	2.3	249
Clayton, Ga.	126.7	1.0	196	988	180	-6.7	346
Cobb, Ga.	363.7	1.9	96	1,125	82	3.5	122
DeKalb, Ga.	301.5	0.6	255	1,086	106	2.5	227
Fulton, Ga.	870.2	2.4	69	1,449	18	5.0	33
Gwinnett, Ga.	359.9	2.7	52	1,048	131	2.3	249
Hall, Ga.	86.8	1.8	102	979	185	5.8	16
Muscogee, Ga.	94.5	0.9	215	875	291	4.0	85
Richmond, Ga.	105.9	0.6	255	887	284	2.3	249

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 Georgia, fourth quarter 2017

Area	Employment December 2017	Average weekly wage(1)
United States(2)	145,921,109	$1,109
Georgia	4,424,983	1,027
Appling	6,723	814
Atkinson	2,187	673
Bacon	3,757	728
Baker	421	736
Baldwin	14,918	658
Banks	4,395	636
Barrow	18,639	782
Bartow	37,196	861
Ben Hill	5,264	650
Berrien	3,548	638
Bibb	83,571	840
Bleckley	2,749	615
Brantley	2,276	618
Brooks	3,141	680
Bryan	8,514	701
Bulloch	25,615	681
Burke	11,704	1,505
Butts	6,736	709
Calhoun	1,133	666
Camden	14,165	836
Candler	2,815	589
Carroll	40,734	849
Catoosa	14,910	679
Charlton	2,109	676
Chatham	154,194	906
Chattahoochee	2,258	980
Chattooga	6,240	660
Cherokee	60,481	828
Clarke	72,873	817
Clay	509	594
Clayton	126,711	988
Clinch	2,122	725
Cobb	363,696	1,125
Coffee	17,479	715
Colquitt	15,281	678
Columbia	33,664	775
Cook	4,270	625
Coweta	38,807	799
Crawford	1,254	672
Crisp	8,120	775
Dade	3,362	670
Dawson	9,482	570
Decatur	9,404	627
De Kalb	301,512	1,086
Dodge	5,036	635
Dooly	3,864	713
Dougherty	47,887	819
Douglas	43,394	757
Early	4,426	861
Echols	702	719
Effingham	10,396	837
Elbert	5,725	680
Emanuel	6,721	659
Evans	4,459	767
Fannin	6,461	654

Note: See footnotes at end of table.

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

Area	Employment December 2017	Average weekly wage(1)
Fayette	44,481	872
Floyd	39,744	846
Forsyth	74,232	1,001
Franklin	8,013	692
Fulton	870,233	1,449
Gilmer	6,954	589
Glascock	438	508
Glynn	38,007	819
Gordon	21,711	832
Grady	6,110	695
Greene	6,158	747
Gwinnett	359,945	1,048
Habersham	14,742	700
Hall	86,831	979
Hancock	1,609	664
Haralson	6,723	860
Harris	4,842	624
Hart	6,627	714
Heard	2,146	921
Henry	60,183	741
Houston	60,126	892
Irwin	2,020	649
Jackson	28,120	755
Jasper	2,232	660
Jeff Davis	4,238	701
Jefferson	4,753	847
Jenkins	1,373	640
Johnson	1,538	600
Jones	4,576	752
Lamar	3,527	673
Lanier	1,374	649
Laurens	18,534	766
Lee	6,615	689
Liberty	18,755	771
Lincoln	1,316	606
Long	993	642
Lowndes	49,011	746
Lumpkin	7,593	691
McDuffie	6,754	677
McIntosh	1,782	605
Macon	2,809	776
Madison	3,116	649
Marion	1,117	607
Meriwether	4,768	700
Miller	1,744	653
Mitchell	6,867	663
Monroe	7,507	755
Montgomery	1,505	618
Morgan	7,084	709
Murray	9,114	709
Muscogee	94,474	875
Newton	24,983	873
Oconee	11,553	774
Oglethorpe	1,686	649
Paulding	23,655	728
Peach	9,565	731

Note: See footnotes at end of table.

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

Area	Employment December 2017	Average weekly wage(1)
Pickens	7,698	899
Pierce	4,073	711
Pike	2,902	682
Polk	11,282	760
Pulaski	2,873	742
Putnam	5,872	638
Quitman	395	601
Rabun	4,820	620
Randolph	1,883	645
Richmond	105,904	887
Rockdale	32,176	910
Schley	967	677
Screven	3,388	655
Seminole	2,183	745
Spalding	23,185	700
Stephens	9,092	792
Stewart	1,306	788
Sumter	10,957	729
Talbot	772	670
Taliaferro	203	538
Tattnall	5,873	712
Taylor	1,515	770
Telfair	3,296	579
Terrell	2,380	673
Thomas	20,328	866
Tift	19,736	778
Toombs	11,709	653
Towns	3,086	636
Treutlen	1,038	603
Troup	39,480	847
Turner	1,989	614
Twiggs	2,275	548
Union	6,773	698
Upson	6,530	720
Walker	13,115	682
Walton	22,955	841
Ware	15,582	680
Warren	1,489	756
Washington	6,611	721
Wayne	7,893	759
Webster	499	794
Wheeler	1,149	660
White	8,588	629
Whitfield	55,735	931
Wilcox	1,140	578
Wilkes	2,890	661
Wilkinson	3,509	846
Worth	3,209	670

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.

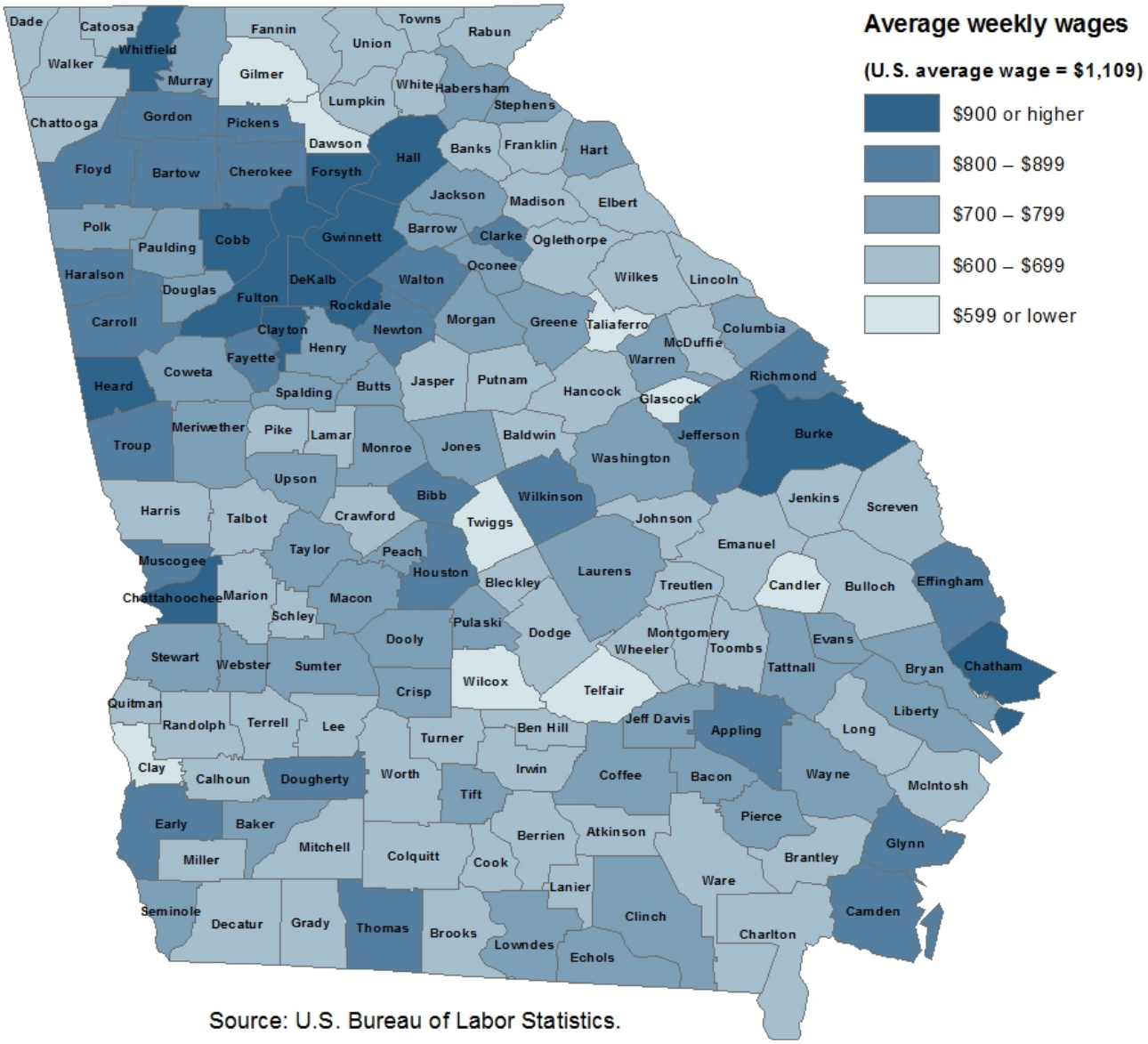
Table 3. Covered employment and wages by state, fourth quarter 2017

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 Georgia, fourth quarter 2017



Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics.