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

For Release: Monday, October 01, 2018 18-1590-PHI

MID-ATLANTIC INFORMATION OFFICE: Philadelphia, Pa.
Technical information: (215) 597-3282 BLSInfoPhiladelphia@bls.gov www.bls.gov/regions/mid-atlantic
Media contact: (215) 861-5600 BLSMediaPhiladelphia@bls.gov

County Employment and Wages in Virginia – First Quarter 2018

Average weekly wages increased in 11 counties

Ten of the 12 largest counties in Virginia registered employment increases from March 2017 to March 2018, the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics reported today. (Large counties are defined as those with employment of 75,000 or more as measured by 2017 annual average employment.) Newport News City had the fastest rate of employment growth at 4.1 percent, followed by Loudon County and Prince William County at 2.6 and 2.5 percent, respectively. Sheila Watkins, the Bureau's regional commissioner, noted that Newport News City's employment growth rate ranked 14th among the nation's 349 largest counties. Alexandria City and Virginia Beach City recorded employment declines over the year of 1.2 percent and 0.2 percent, respectively.

Nationally, employment grew 1.6 percent during this 12-month period, as 314 of the 349 large counties nationwide gained jobs. Midland, Texas, had the largest percentage increase in employment, up 12.6 percent over the year. Kanawha, W.Va., had the largest employment decrease with a loss of 1.4 percent.

Among the 12 largest counties in Virginia, employment was highest in Fairfax (603,900) in March 2018. No other county in the commonwealth had employment above 200,000. Together, Virginia's large counties accounted for 56.2 percent of total employment within the commonwealth. Nationwide, the 349 largest counties made up 73.1 percent of total U.S. employment.

The average weekly wage in Richmond City increased 4.4 percent from the first quarter of 2017 to the first quarter of 2018, the fastest increase among Virginia's 12 largest counties. Prince William County had the second largest average weekly wage increase, up 4.0 percent. Arlington County had the highest average weekly wage among the largest counties in the commonwealth at $1,925, followed by Fairfax County ($1,802) and Alexandria City ($1,499). (See table 1.) Nationally, the average weekly wage increased 3.7 percent over the year to $1,152 in the first quarter of 2018.

Employment and wage levels (but not over-the-year changes) are also available for the 121 counties in with employment below 75,000. Seven of these 121 counties had average weekly wages above the national average. (See table 2.)

Large county wage changes

From the first quarter of 2017 to the first quarter of 2018, 11 of the 12 large counties in Virginia recorded wage increases. Over-the-year gains in Richmond City (4.4 percent) and Prince William County (4.0 percent) ranked 59th and 85th, respectively, among the nation's 349 large U.S. counties.

Among the 349 largest U.S. counties, 336 had over-the-year increases in average weekly wages. Peoria, Ill., had the largest percentage wage increase, (23.8 percent). Of the 13 large U.S. counties with over-the-year decreases in average weekly wages, Forsyth, N.C., had the largest decline at 4.8 percent.

Large county average weekly wages

Arlington County had the eighth-highest average weekly wage among the 349 large U.S. counties. Fairfax County and Alexandria City ranked 11th and 25th, respectively. Additionally, Richmond City and Loudoun County recorded average weekly wages above the U.S. average of $1,152.

In Chesapeake City and Virginia Beach City, average weekly wages placed in the bottom fifth of the national ranking at 304th and 318th, respectively.

Average weekly wages in Virginia's smaller counties

Seven of the 121 counties in Virginia with employment below 75,000 had average weekly wages higher than the national average of $1,152. Among these smaller counties, Goochland ($2,464), Surry ($1,783) and King George ($1,408) had the highest average weekly wages. Mathews County reported the lowest average weekly wage at $516. (See table 2.)

When all 133 counties in Virginia were considered, 121 had wages below the national average of $1,152. Eleven counties reported wages below $600, 38 had wages from $600 to $699, 33 had wages from $700 to $799, 19 had wages from $800 to $899, and 32 had wages above $900.

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 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 2017 edition of this publication is now available and contains selected data produced by Business Employment Dynamics (BED) on job gains and losses, as well as selected data from the first quarter 2018 version of the national news release. Tables and additional content from Employment and Wages Annual Averages 2017 are now available online at www.bls.gov/cew/cewbultn17.htm. The 2018 edition of Employment and Wages Annual Online will be available in September 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 10.0 million employer reports cover 144.6 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: 1-800-877-8339.

Table 1. Covered employment and wages in the United States and the 12 largest counties in Virginia, first quarter 2018

Area	Employment			Average weekly wage [1]			
	March 2018 (thousands)	Percent change, March 2017-18 [2]	National ranking by percent change [3]	Average weekly wage	National ranking by level [3]	Percent change, first quarter 2017-18 [2]	National ranking by percent change [3]
United States [4]	144,562.9	1.6	--	$1,152	--	3.7	--
Virginia	3,854.4	1.5	--	1,162	14	3.0	30
Alexandria City, Va.	91.5	-1.2	347	1,499	25	2.4	228
Arlington, Va.	175.9	1.2	181	1,925	8	3.9	93
Chesapeake City, Va.	101.1	2.0	103	850	304	2.2	253
Chesterfield, Va.	136.2	1.9	113	942	221	3.1	160
Fairfax, Va.	603.9	1.4	158	1,802	11	3.0	172
Henrico, Va.	189.9	1.3	170	1,113	109	1.5	305
Loudoun, Va.	165.4	2.6	59	1,289	54	3.1	160
Newport News City, Va.	100.7	4.1	14	1,037	153	-2.4	346
Norfolk City, Va.	142.7	0.7	247	1,052	142	2.9	180
Prince William, Va.	128.4	2.5	62	936	226	4.0	85
Richmond City, Va.	155.1	0.7	247	1,308	52	4.4	59
Virginia Beach City, Va.	175.6	-0.2	325	823	318	3.4	132

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 Virginia, first quarter 2018

Area	Employment March 2018	Average weekly wage(1)
United States(2)	144,562,926	$1,152
Virginia	3,854,381	1,162
Accomack	13,278	758
Albemarle	55,837	1,065
Alleghany	3,734	658
Amelia	2,476	660
Amherst	8,130	724
Appomattox	3,260	549
Arlington	175,859	1,925
Augusta	27,152	842
Bath	2,164	701
Bedford	18,629	728
Bland	1,996	854
Botetourt	10,506	778
Brunswick	3,655	644
Buchanan	6,642	866
Buckingham	3,286	682
Campbell	17,057	981
Caroline	5,575	768
Carroll	6,454	599
Charles City	1,721	854
Charlotte	2,822	640
Chesterfield	136,192	942
Clarke	3,876	847
Craig	718	617
Culpeper	15,852	800
Cumberland	1,330	673
Dickenson	3,244	755
Dinwiddie	8,580	812
Essex	3,729	626
Fairfax County	603,899	1,802
Fauquier	22,178	926
Floyd	3,366	557
Fluvanna	4,238	750
Franklin	15,173	625
Frederick	31,398	914
Giles	4,466	786
Gloucester	9,508	641
Goochland	15,896	2,464
Grayson	2,915	564
Greene	3,713	649
Greensville	4,502	798
Halifax	12,160	725
Hanover	51,536	817
Henrico	189,938	1,113
Henry	15,874	634
Highland	464	616
Isle of Wight	10,682	1,236
James City	28,996	760
King and Queen	1,111	717
King George	11,414	1,408
King William	3,972	850
Lancaster	4,367	694
Lee	4,260	631
Loudoun	165,368	1,289
Louisa	10,238	1,011
Lunenburg	2,610	614

Note: See footnotes at end of table.

Table 2. Covered employment and wages in the United States and all counties in Virginia, first quarter 2018 - Continued

Area	Employment March 2018	Average weekly wage(1)
Madison	2,998	712
Mathews	1,516	516
Mecklenburg	11,440	656
Middlesex	3,299	668
Montgomery	42,551	887
Nelson	4,080	631
New Kent	4,091	694
Northampton	3,965	576
Northumberland	2,291	752
Nottoway	5,799	643
Orange	9,798	706
Page	5,459	617
Patrick	4,496	544
Pittsylvania	12,557	658
Powhatan	7,011	721
Prince Edward	9,227	681
Prince George	14,953	996
Prince William	128,369	936
Pulaski	14,024	781
Rappahannock	1,341	706
Richmond County	2,906	707
Roanoke County	38,397	797
Rockbridge	6,022	608
Rockingham	33,104	850
Russell	6,769	799
Scott	4,618	626
Shenandoah	14,120	738
Smyth	11,960	661
Southampton	3,575	678
Spotsylvania	35,920	749
Stafford	43,629	1,020
Surry	2,381	1,783
Sussex	3,544	739
Tazewell	14,739	688
Warren	12,375	756
Washington	20,693	689
Westmoreland	3,414	593
Wise	11,703	656
Wythe	11,407	653
York	21,279	720
Alexandria City	91,523	1,499
Bristol City	9,140	685
Buena Vista City	2,576	624
Charlottesville City	40,131	1,155
Chesapeake City	101,143	850
Colonial Heights City	10,698	607
Covington City	4,181	997
Danville City	25,730	716
Emporia City	3,315	591
Fairfax City	19,533	1,091
Falls Church City	12,293	1,296
Franklin City	4,228	583
Fredericksburg City	24,648	832
Galax City	5,815	620
Hampton City	54,832	897
Harrisonburg City	31,534	704

Note: See footnotes at end of table.

Table 2. Covered employment and wages in the United States and all counties in Virginia, first quarter 2018 - Continued

Area	Employment March 2018	Average weekly wage(1)
Hopewell City	8,013	1,130
Lexington City	4,597	779
Lynchburg City	51,935	842
Manassas City	22,071	1,211
Manassas Park City	3,591	903
Martinsville City	9,099	665
Newport News City	100,719	1,037
Norfolk City	142,670	1,052
Norton City	3,418	693
Petersburg City	13,068	756
Poquoson City	1,891	594
Portsmouth City	44,273	995
Radford City	6,047	832
Richmond City	155,062	1,308
Roanoke City	65,958	879
Salem City	20,062	948
Staunton City	11,196	708
Suffolk City	30,986	901
Virginia Beach City	175,564	823
Waynesboro City	9,434	732
Williamsburg City	12,922	809
Winchester City	25,505	901

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.

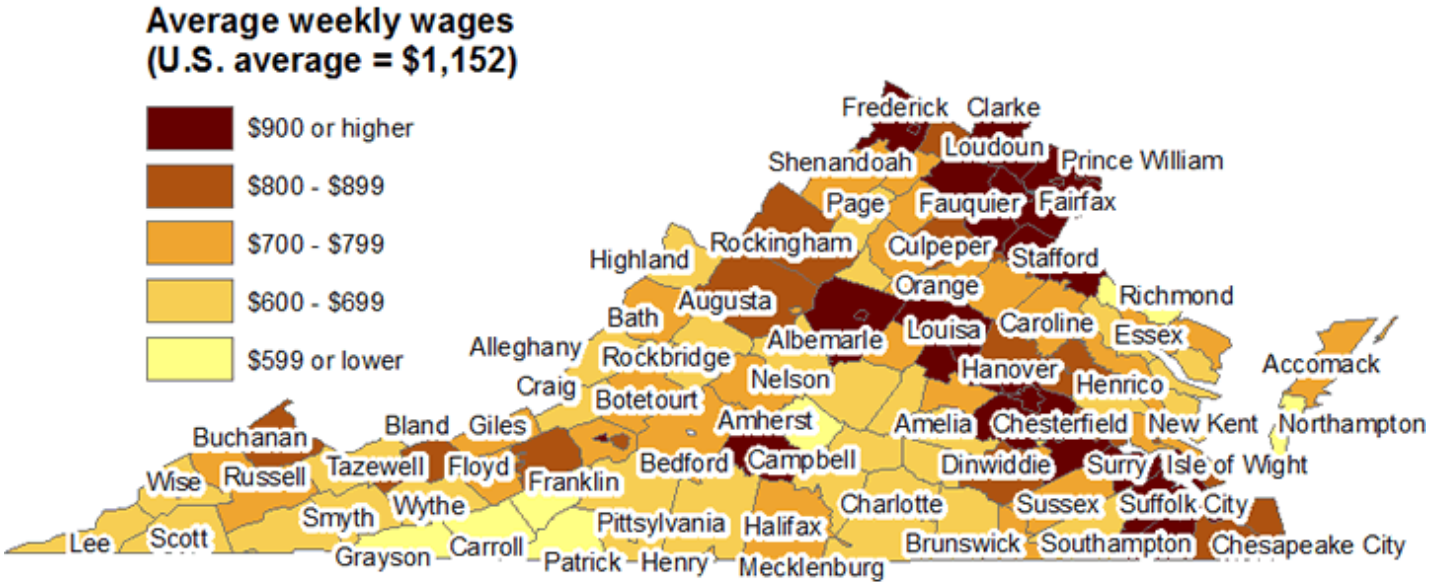
Table 3. Covered employment and wages by state, first quarter 2018

State	Employment		Average weekly wage [1]			
	March 2018 (thousands)	Percent change, March 2017-18	Average weekly wage	National ranking by level	Percent change, first quarter 2017-18	National ranking by percent change
United States [2]	144,562.9	1.6	$1,152	--	3.7	--
Alabama	1,948.9	1.1	919	36	2.9	34
Alaska	311.2	-0.5	1,074	20	2.3	44
Arizona	2,822.5	2.8	1,025	22	3.5	19
Arkansas	1,211.4	0.9	879	44	2.4	40
California	17,152.5	2.1	1,352	6	4.4	6
Colorado	2,639.5	2.5	1,175	11	3.4	22
Connecticut	1,651.9	0.1	1,447	4	2.4	40
Delaware	438.7	1.2	1,202	10	1.3	51
District of Columbia	770.2	1.2	1,917	1	1.9	49
Florida	8,716.8	2.2	988	25	4.1	9
Georgia	4,409.1	2.3	1,095	17	2.3	44
Hawaii	658.4	0.3	974	29	2.3	44
Idaho	712.6	3.5	809	50	4.3	7
Illinois	5,909.3	1.0	1,241	8	3.9	10
Indiana	3,018.8	1.2	954	32	3.9	10
Iowa	1,525.8	0.5	921	35	2.4	40
Kansas	1,370.6	0.2	912	40	2.7	38
Kentucky	1,873.7	0.5	901	41	2.5	39
Louisiana	1,914.7	0.5	932	34	3.0	30
Maine	592.1	0.9	891	43	3.6	16
Maryland	2,646.9	0.9	1,209	9	3.2	26
Massachusetts	3,509.9	1.1	1,510	3	5.6	2
Michigan	4,289.0	1.4	1,078	19	3.4	22
Minnesota	2,823.6	0.7	1,175	11	2.1	47
Mississippi	1,125.9	0.1	765	51	2.1	47
Missouri	2,777.6	0.5	960	31	3.1	28
Montana	455.5	1.0	819	49	2.4	40
Nebraska	966.0	0.4	898	42	3.6	16
Nevada	1,351.6	3.0	977	28	4.8	5
New Hampshire	648.2	0.8	1,122	15	4.9	3
New Jersey	3,997.6	1.3	1,373	5	3.0	30
New Mexico	813.3	1.0	862	47	2.9	34
New York	9,318.9	1.8	1,597	2	3.4	22
North Carolina	4,370.6	1.8	1,022	23	3.0	30
North Dakota	408.2	0.6	988	25	3.7	15
Ohio	5,328.5	0.9	1,005	24	2.9	34
Oklahoma	1,600.9	1.8	914	38	3.5	19
Oregon	1,894.3	2.0	1,026	21	4.3	7
Pennsylvania	5,787.2	1.4	1,115	16	3.4	22
Rhode Island	469.9	1.1	1,086	18	3.2	26
South Carolina	2,067.4	2.2	877	45	1.7	50
South Dakota	417.5	1.0	842	48	2.8	37
Tennessee	2,950.0	1.6	978	27	3.5	19
Texas	12,179.2	2.0	1,168	13	3.9	10
Utah	1,458.8	3.3	949	33	4.9	3
Vermont	307.1	0.4	917	37	3.1	28
Virginia	3,854.4	1.5	1,162	14	3.0	30
Washington	3,316.1	2.8	1,306	7	7.7	1
West Virginia	684.8	0.6	868	46	3.6	16
Wisconsin	2,831.7	1.0	968	30	3.8	14
Wyoming	263.7	0.3	914	38	3.9	10
Puerto Rico	856.7	-3.8	563	[3]	7.0	[3]
Virgin Islands	33.3	-15.5	969	[3]	24.4	[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 Virginia, first quarter 2018



Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics.