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MIDWEST INFORMATION OFFICE: Chicago, Ill.
Technical information: (312) 353-1880 BLSInfoChicago@bls.gov www.bls.gov/regions/midwest
Media contact: (312) 353-1138

County Employment and Wages in Illinois — Fourth Quarter 2018

Employment decreased in 11 of Illinois' 13 large counties from December 2017 to December 2018, the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics reported today. (Large counties are defined as those with 2017 annual average employment levels of 75,000 or more.) Assistant Commissioner for Regional Operations Charlene Peiffer noted that McHenry County had the largest percentage decrease in employment at 1.2 percent, followed by McLean (-1.1 percent) and Madison (-1.0 percent). Two counties had over-the-year percentage increases in employment, both less than 1.0 percent. (See table 1.)

Nationally, employment advanced 1.5 percent from December 2017 to December 2018 with 296 of the 349 largest U.S. counties registering increases. Midland, TX, had the largest percentage increase in the country, up 10.0 percent over the year. Bay, FL, experienced the largest over-the-year percentage decrease in employment, with a loss of 5.6 percent.

Among the 13 largest counties in Illinois, employment was highest in Cook County (2,625,300) in December 2018. Two other large counties, DuPage (620,100) and Lake (339,500), had employment levels of more than 300,000. Collectively, Illinois' 13 large counties accounted for 80.9 percent of the state's employment with Cook County alone accounting for 43.6 percent. Nationwide, the 349 largest counties made up 73.2 percent of total U.S. employment.

Average weekly wages in Winnebago County increased 7.6 percent from the fourth quarter of 2017 to the fourth quarter of 2018, followed by Madison County's 5.7-percent wage gain. (See table 1.) Lake County had the highest average weekly wage in the state at $1,449, followed by Cook ($1,335) and Du Page ($1,280). Nationally, the average weekly wage rose 3.2 percent over the year, increasing to $1,144 in the fourth quarter of 2018.

Employment and wage levels (but not over-the-year changes) are also available for the 89 counties in Illinois with employment levels below 75,000. Eighty-eight of these smaller counties had average weekly wages below the national average. (See table 2.)

Large county wage changes

Average weekly wages in 12 of the 13 large counties in Illinois increased from the fourth quarter of 2017 to the fourth quarter of 2018. Winnebago County's 7.6-percent increase in average weekly wages was the largest among the state's large counties and ranked 10th nationwide. Madison (5.7 percent, 31st), Cook (3.7 percent, 104th), DuPage (3.6 percent, 113th), and Lake (3.6 percent, 113th) Counties had over-the-year wage increases that ranked in the top-third nationwide. (See table 1.)

Nationally, 332 of the 349 largest counties had over-the-year wage growth. Tippecanoe, IN, had the largest fourth quarter over-the-year wage gain at 15.1 percent. Williamson, TN, was second with a wage increase of 13.1 percent, followed by Olmsted, MN (13.0 percent).

Among the largest U.S. counties, 15 experienced over-the-year decreases in average weekly wages. Washington, PA, had the largest percentage decrease in average weekly wages (-6.6 percent), followed by Elkhart, IN (-5.0 percent); Muscogee, GA, (-3.7 percent); and Douglas, CO (-3.6 percent).

Large county average weekly wages

Average weekly wages in 6 of Illinois' 13 large counties were above $1,000 in the fourth quarter of 2018, with wages in 3 counties above the $1,144 national average. Lake ($1,449, 21st), Cook ($1,335, 42nd), and DuPage ($1,280, 50th) placed in the top 50 nationwide. St. Clair ($867) reported the lowest average weekly wage among the state's large counties and ranked 314th nationwide.

Nationally, weekly wages were higher than the U.S. average of $1,144 in 94 of the 349 largest counties. Santa Clara, CA, held the top position among the highest-paid large counties in the nation with an average weekly wage of $2,670. San Francisco, CA, was second at $2,452, followed by San Mateo, CA, ($2,410); New York, NY, ($2,400); and Suffolk, MA ($2,055).

Among the largest U.S. counties, 255 had weekly wages below the national average in the fourth quarter of 2018. Hidalgo, TX, had the lowest wage at $680, followed by Horry, SC, and Cameron, TX, each at $685.

Average weekly wages in Illinois' smaller counties

Eighty-eight of the 89 counties in Illinois with employment below 75,000 had average weekly wages lower than the national average of $1,144. The exception was Rock Island ($1,292). Calhoun County reported the lowest weekly wage in the state, averaging $509 in the fourth quarter of 2018. (See table 2.)

When all 102 counties in Illinois were considered, all but 4 had wages below the national average of $1,144. Thirteen counties reported average weekly wages less than $700, 41 reported wages from $700 to $799, 25 had wages from $800 to $899, and 23 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 2017 edition of this publication, which was published in September 2018, 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 Averages Online* will be available in September 2019.

The County Employment and Wages release for first quarter 2019 is scheduled to be released on Wednesday, August 21, 2019. The County Employment and Wages full data update for first quarter 2019 is scheduled to be released on Wednesday, September 4, 2019.

BLS Local Data App Now Available for Android Devices

The BLS Local Data app, first released for iPhones last fall, is now available for Android devices. Search using your current location, a zip code, or a location name to find employment and wage data for detailed industries and occupations. BLS continues to partner with the U.S. Department of Labor's Office of the Chief Information Officer to expand the features and data in the app. For more information please visit: https://beta.bls.gov/labs/blogs/2019/04/17/bls-local-data-app-now-available-for-android-devices.

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 13 largest counties in Illinois, fourth quarter 2018

Area	Employment			Average weekly wage [1]			
	December 2018 (thousands)	Percent change, December 2017-18 [2]	National ranking by percent change [3]	Average weekly wage	National ranking by level [3]	Percent change, fourth quarter 2017-18 [2]	National ranking by percent change [3]
United States [4]	148,061.8	1.5	--	$1,144	--	3.2	--
Illinois	6,026.0	0.3	--	1,189	9	3.3	26
Champaign, Ill.	91.4	-0.1	303	952	248	2.1	249
Cook, Ill.	2,625.3	0.6	227	1,335	42	3.7	104
DuPage, Ill.	620.1	-0.3	318	1,280	50	3.6	113
Kane, Ill.	214.3	-0.3	318	1,012	190	1.2	306
Lake, Ill.	339.5	0.5	242	1,449	21	3.6	113
Madison, Ill.	101.5	-1.0	342	902	295	5.7	31
McHenry, Ill.	96.8	-1.2	346	909	287	1.9	265
McLean, Ill.	82.7	-1.1	345	959	240	1.5	292
Peoria, Ill.	106.2	-0.1	303	1,107	116	-0.1	335
Sangamon, Ill.	129.3	-0.5	332	1,065	149	0.2	331
St. Clair, Ill.	93.9	-0.1	303	867	314	0.3	329
Will, Ill.	249.1	-0.3	318	961	235	1.3	301
Winnebago, Ill.	127.1	-0.9	340	975	226	7.6	10

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 Illinois, fourth quarter 2018

Area	Employment December 2018	Average weekly wage(1)
United States(2)	148,061,773	$1,144
Illinois	6,026,009	1,189
Adams	33,495	863
Alexander	1,171	713
Bond	4,741	789
Boone	19,355	852
Brown	4,293	881
Bureau	11,725	816
Calhoun	764	509
Carroll	3,758	719
Cass	5,583	743
Champaign	91,418	952
Christian	10,044	742
Clark	4,652	725
Clay	5,283	794
Clinton	12,291	774
Coles	24,084	735
Cook	2,625,264	1,335
Crawford	7,037	932
Cumberland	2,769	703
De Kalb	37,982	869
De Witt	4,988	1,027
Douglas	7,492	785
Du Page	620,071	1,280
Edgar	7,121	817
Edwards	2,188	753
Effingham	22,320	784
Fayette	5,451	679
Ford	4,556	816
Franklin	9,081	754
Fulton	8,182	686
Gallatin	1,214	911
Greene	2,325	635
Grundy	19,902	1,080
Hamilton	2,082	830
Hancock	4,170	710
Hardin	677	603
Henderson	1,094	595
Henry	13,689	797
Iroquois	7,979	711
Jackson	25,196	992
Jasper	2,016	762
Jefferson	20,228	824
Jersey	4,888	687
Jo Daviess	7,110	729
Johnson	2,187	868
Kane	214,344	1,012
Kankakee	45,049	846
Kendall	28,328	831
Knox	17,308	717
La Salle	42,062	904
Lake	339,535	1,449
Lawrence	4,589	814
Lee	13,170	880
Livingston	13,672	894
Logan	9,208	812
Macon	49,590	1,012

Note: See footnotes at end of table.

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

Area	Employment December 2018	Average weekly wage(1)
Macoupin	10,553	760
Madison	101,547	902
Marion	13,007	748
Marshall	2,830	736
Mason	2,956	718
Massac	3,006	807
McDonough	10,919	782
McHenry	96,819	909
McLean	82,651	959
Menard	1,717	673
Mercer	3,200	694
Monroe	8,789	721
Montgomery	8,673	763
Morgan	13,991	784
Moultrie	5,173	794
Ogle	15,495	898
Peoria	106,215	1,107
Perry	4,723	757
Piatt	3,600	718
Pike	3,960	677
Pope	508	604
Pulaski	1,692	900
Putnam	1,707	1,072
Randolph	12,264	829
Richland	5,935	732
Rock Island	74,746	1,292
Saline	7,811	702
Sangamon	129,299	1,065
Schuyler	1,461	822
Scott	1,010	723
Shelby	5,170	722
St. Clair	93,935	867
Stark	1,348	759
Stephenson	17,658	844
Tazewell	47,982	859
Union	4,967	678
Vermilion	26,356	867
Wabash	3,381	780
Warren	6,624	731
Washington	7,068	915
Wayne	3,810	651
White	4,365	740
Whiteside	21,327	757
Will	249,088	961
Williamson	28,163	779
Winnebago	127,065	975
Woodford	9,654	875

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.

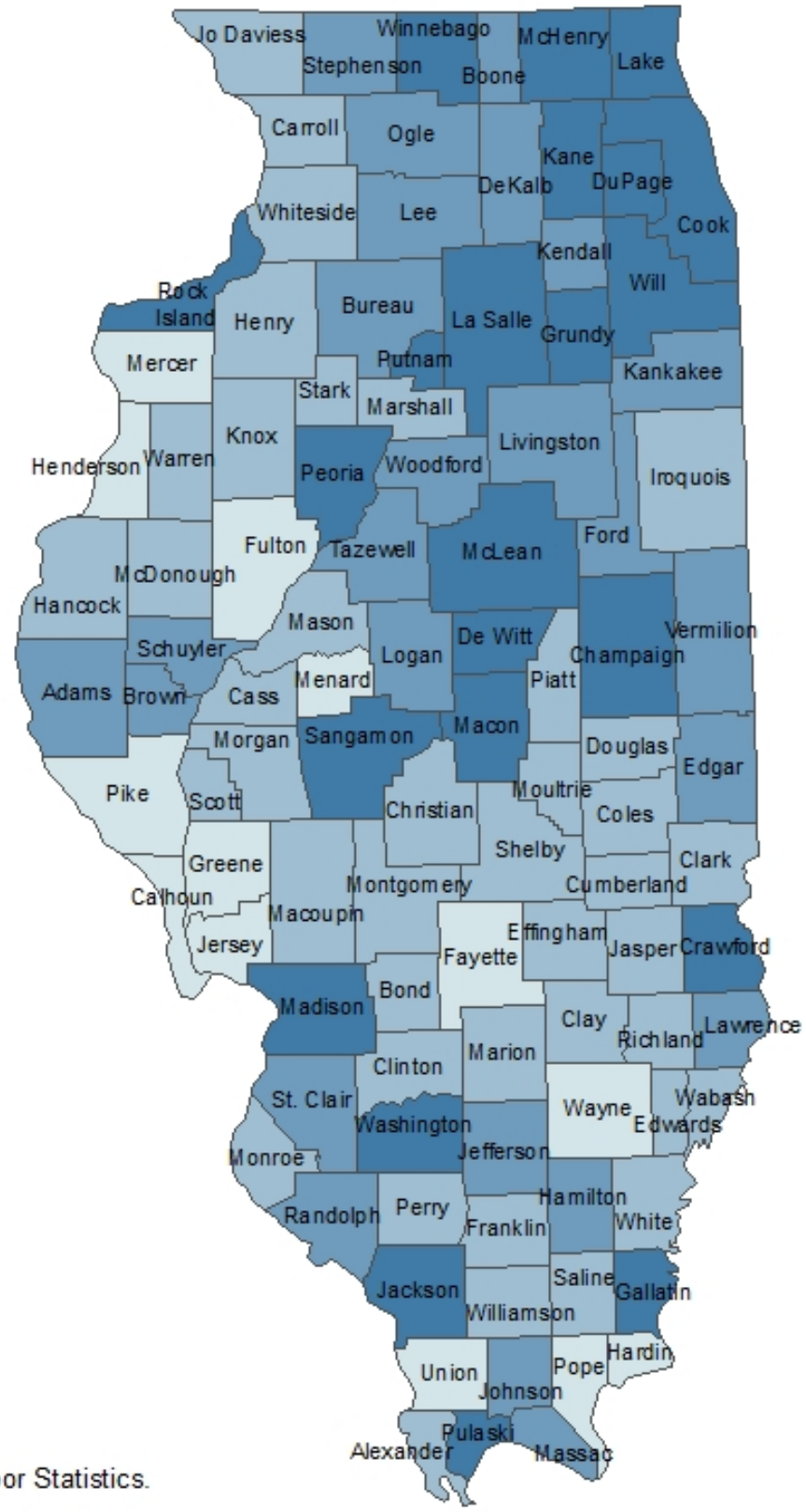
Table 3. Covered employment and wages by state, fourth quarter 2018

State	Employment		Average weekly wage [1]			
	December 2018 (thousands)	Percent change, December 2017-18	Average weekly wage	National ranking by level	Percent change, fourth quarter 2017-18	National ranking by percent change
United States [2]	148,061.8	1.5	$1,144	--	3.2	--
Alabama	1,986.6	1.6	957	36	3.1	33
Alaska	308.3	0.4	1,103	16	4.9	7
Arizona	2,921.1	3.0	1,017	24	4.1	11
Arkansas	1,227.0	0.8	869	50	2.4	43
California	17,556.7	1.7	1,392	4	3.3	26
Colorado	2,713.7	2.2	1,180	10	4.1	11
Connecticut	1,697.9	0.5	1,334	5	1.3	49
Delaware	451.2	1.1	1,107	15	2.4	43
District of Columbia	775.1	0.6	1,943	1	7.3	2
Florida	8,902.7	2.1	1,006	27	3.1	33
Georgia	4,499.8	1.8	1,053	21	2.4	43
Hawaii	669.3	0.6	1,016	25	3.3	26
Idaho	734.4	3.2	890	47	3.6	20
Illinois	6,026.0	0.3	1,189	9	3.3	26
Indiana	3,086.2	0.9	941	38	2.8	37
Iowa	1,558.4	0.5	966	35	3.0	35
Kansas	1,402.2	0.8	927	41	3.7	18
Kentucky	1,914.0	0.3	924	42	3.2	30
Louisiana	1,934.1	0.7	968	34	3.8	15
Maine	618.4	1.3	906	44	2.5	41
Maryland	2,702.5	0.8	1,228	8	1.7	48
Massachusetts	3,620.3	1.0	1,457	2	3.3	26
Michigan	4,366.5	1.0	1,077	19	1.3	49
Minnesota	2,902.3	0.9	1,140	14	3.6	20
Mississippi	1,144.3	0.2	793	51	2.5	41
Missouri	2,821.3	0.5	980	31	3.6	20
Montana	468.8	1.6	888	48	5.2	5
Nebraska	983.0	0.2	930	40	3.2	30
Nevada	1,397.4	3.3	1,006	27	5.3	4
New Hampshire	666.0	0.7	1,158	12	2.3	46
New Jersey	4,125.6	0.8	1,298	6	2.7	38
New Mexico	830.2	1.5	905	45	4.6	9
New York	9,613.2	1.5	1,445	3	1.0	51
North Carolina	4,458.9	1.6	1,013	26	5.1	6
North Dakota	422.3	1.5	1,057	20	4.7	8
Ohio	5,442.9	0.5	1,006	27	3.4	24
Oklahoma	1,632.3	1.5	932	39	4.1	11
Oregon	1,935.8	1.7	1,052	22	3.7	18
Pennsylvania	5,932.5	1.0	1,103	16	2.6	39
Rhode Island	487.2	0.8	1,085	18	2.6	39
South Carolina	2,119.6	2.8	893	46	1.9	47
South Dakota	428.4	1.2	885	49	3.4	24
Tennessee	3,039.8	1.8	1,030	23	3.0	35
Texas	12,531.7	2.5	1,148	13	3.5	23
Utah	1,511.5	3.2	972	33	3.8	15
Vermont	314.2	-0.4	954	37	3.2	30
Virginia	3,927.2	1.1	1,164	11	3.8	15
Washington	3,384.2	2.4	1,292	7	6.3	3
West Virginia	704.2	1.5	917	43	8.3	1
Wisconsin	2,892.3	0.6	989	30	4.0	14
Wyoming	272.1	1.8	978	32	4.4	10
Puerto Rico	896.4	0.8	576	[3]	0.9	[3]
Virgin Islands	34.5	0.5	925	[3]	2.3	[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 Illinois, fourth quarter 2018



Average weekly wages

(U.S. average = $1,144)

- $900 or higher
- $800 - $899
- $700 - $799
- $699 or lower

Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics.