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

For Release: Thursday, April 09, 2015 **15-494-ATL**

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County Employment and Wages in Florida – Third Quarter 2014

Employment increased in all 23 of Florida's large counties from September 2013 to September 2014, 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 2013 annual average employment.) Regional Commissioner Janet S. Rankin noted that employment increases ranged from 6.1 percent in both Lee and Sarasota Counties to 0.1 percent in Okaloosa County. (See table 1.)

Nationally, employment advanced 2.0 percent from September 2013 to September 2014 as 306 of the 339 largest U.S. counties registered increases. Weld, Colo., recorded the largest percentage increase, up 8.8 percent over the year. Atlantic, N.J., had the largest over-the-year decrease in employment with a loss of 4.0 percent.

Among the 23 largest counties in Florida, employment was highest in Miami-Dade County (1,047,000) in September 2014, while Okaloosa County had the smallest employment level (78,200). Together, Florida's large counties accounted for 86.3 percent of total employment within the state. Nationwide, the 339 largest counties made up 71.8 percent of total U.S. employment, which stood at 137.7 million in September 2014.

All but 1 of Florida's 23 large counties posted over-the-year wage increases, as Collier County (-3.9 percent) experienced a decrease. Palm Beach County had the highest average weekly wage among the state's largest counties at $903, followed by the counties of Hillsborough and Miami-Dade, $891 each. Nationally, the average weekly wage rose 2.9 percent over the year to $949 in the third quarter of 2014. (See table 1.)

Employment and wage levels (but not over-the-year changes) are also available for the 44 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 2014. (See table 2.)

Large county wage changes

Average weekly wages increased in 22 of the 23 largest counties in Florida from the third quarter of 2013 to the third quarter of 2014. The wage gains in two of the state's large counties placed in the top third of the national ranking–Alachua (3.4 percent, 74th) and Escambia (3.2 percent, 91st). (See table 1.)

Nationally, 328 of the 339 largest counties registered over-the-year wage increases. Olmsted, Minn., had the largest wage gain, up 11.1 percent from the third quarter of 2013. San Francisco, Calif., was second with a wage increase of 8.6 percent, followed by Santa Clara, Calif. (7.4 percent), and San Mateo, Calif. and Brazoria, Texas (7.1 percent each).

Among the largest U.S. counties, 10 experienced over-the-year wage decreases. Collier, Fla., had the largest wage decrease with a loss of 3.9 percent. Dane, Wis., had the second largest decrease in average weekly wages, down 2.2 percent from the third quarter 2013, followed by Williamson, Texas. (-0.8 percent), Hamilton, Ind. (-0.7 percent), and Shawnee, Kan. (-0.4 percent).

Large county average weekly wages

Average weekly wages in four of Florida's large counties placed in the top half of the national ranking in the third quarter of 2014. However, none of these counties had an average weekly wage above the national average of $949. In contrast, the five large counties with the lowest average weekly wages in the state–Marion ($644, 336th), Pasco ($650, 335th), Lake ($656, 332nd), Osceola ($656, 332nd), and Volusia ($664, 330th)–ranked among the 10 lowest in the United States.

Nationwide, average weekly wages were above the U.S. average ($949) in 99 of the 339 largest counties in the third quarter of 2014. Santa Clara, Calif., recorded the highest average weekly wage at $2,012, followed by San Mateo, Calif. ($1,824), New York, N.Y. ($1,733), San Francisco, Calif. ($1,685), and Washington, D.C. ($1,631)

There were 237 large counties with an average weekly wage below the U.S. average in the third quarter of 2014. Horry County, S.C. ($580), reported the lowest wage, followed by the counties of Cameron, Texas ($603), Hidalgo, Texas ($616), Marion, Fla. ($644), and Pasco, Fla. ($650).

Average weekly wages in Florida's smaller counties

All 44 counties in Florida with employment below 75,000 had average weekly wages lower than the national average of $949. Among these counties, Nassau County had the highest average weekly wage at $772. Levy County reported the lowest weekly wage among all counties in the state, averaging $561 in the third quarter of 2014. (See table 2.)

When all 67 counties in Florida were considered, 4 reported average weekly wages under $600, 46 reported wages from $600-$749, 15 had wages from $750-$899, and 2 had wages at or 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 2013 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 2014 version of the national news release. Tables and additional content from *Employment and Wages Annual Averages 2013* are now available online at https://www.bls.gov/cew/cewbultn13.htm. The 2014 edition of *Employment and Wages Annual Averages Online* will be available in September 2015.

The County Employment and Wages release for fourth quarter 2014 is scheduled to be released on Wednesday, June 17, 2015, at 10:00 a.m. (ET).

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 9.4 million employer reports cover 137.7 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 23 largest counties in Florida, third quarter 2014

Area	Employment			Average Weekly Wage [1]			
	September 2014 (thousands)	Percent change, September 2013-14 [2]	National ranking by percent change [3]	Average weekly wage	National ranking by level [3]	Percent change, third quarter 2013-14 [2]	National ranking by percent change [3]
United States [4]	137,724.1	2.0	--	$949	--	2.9	--
Florida	7,748.4	3.3	--	826	32	2.1	38
Alachua, Fla.	121.5	2.5	107	790	260	3.4	74
Brevard, Fla.	190.0	1.7	162	851	189	1.2	291
Broward, Fla.	739.9	2.8	86	869	174	2.2	206
Collier, Fla.	123.9	4.3	24	806	243	-3.9	339
Duval, Fla.	456.5	1.3	192	890	160	2.8	129
Escambia, Fla.	124.9	2.1	137	733	317	3.2	91
Hillsborough, Fla.	620.0	2.9	83	891	156	2.6	154
Lake, Fla.	86.2	2.8	86	656	332	2.5	165
Lee, Fla.	223.2	6.1	4	743	310	1.6	274
Leon, Fla.	142.2	2.8	86	771	280	1.7	264
Manatee, Fla.	106.5	3.1	73	706	325	1.0	300
Marion, Fla.	94.9	3.2	65	644	336	1.1	293
Miami-Dade, Fla.	1,047.0	3.0	77	891	156	2.2	206
Okaloosa, Fla.	78.2	0.1	299	779	271	2.8	129
Orange, Fla.	735.7	3.6	51	821	228	2.1	223
Osceola, Fla.	80.9	3.0	77	656	332	2.2	206
Palm Beach, Fla.	538.4	3.9	36	903	141	1.9	244
Pasco, Fla.	105.7	4.2	26	650	335	2.7	140
Pinellas, Fla.	397.8	2.1	137	826	216	2.5	165
Polk, Fla.	196.2	1.9	147	730	319	1.5	282
Sarasota, Fla.	152.5	6.1	4	754	298	1.3	290
Seminole, Fla.	169.0	4.1	29	777	273	1.8	257
Volusia, Fla.	156.2	2.6	102	664	330	2.3	194

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 2014

Area	Employment September 2014	Average Weekly Wage [1]
United States [2]	137,724,117	$949
Florida	7,748,395	826
Alachua	121,547	790
Baker	6,855	575
Bay	74,361	694
Bradford	6,279	637
Brevard	189,989	851
Broward	739,850	869
Calhoun	2,820	548
Charlotte	41,960	633
Citrus	31,219	653
Clay	46,500	657
Collier	123,894	806
Columbia	22,632	653
De Soto	8,008	621
Dixie	2,536	583
Duval	456,511	890
Escambia	124,891	733
Flagler	20,328	584
Franklin	3,362	553
Gadsden	12,683	615
Gilchrist	3,156	588
Glades	1,491	684
Gulf	3,520	613
Hamilton	3,065	735
Hardee	6,492	639
Hendry	10,436	655
Hernando	38,100	606
Highlands	25,818	590
Hillsborough	619,973	891
Holmes	3,256	537
Indian River	46,339	701
Jackson	14,065	602
Jefferson	2,516	581
Lafayette	1,517	538
Lake	86,179	656
Lee	223,194	743
Leon	142,243	771
Levy	8,226	542
Liberty	1,997	598
Madison	4,290	585
Manatee	106,533	706
Marion	94,928	644
Martin	58,842	725
Miami-Dade	1,046,970	891
Monroe	37,804	699
Nassau	19,986	744
Okaloosa	78,194	779
Okeechobee	10,399	640
Orange	735,683	821
Osceola	80,946	656
Palm Beach	538,447	903
Pasco	105,733	650
Pinellas	397,809	826
Polk	196,233	730
Putnam	16,023	651
St. Johns	63,699	694

Note: See footnotes at end of table.

Table 2. Covered employment and wages in the United States and all counties in Florida, 3rd quarter 2014 - Continued

Area	Employment September 2014	Average Weekly Wage [1]
St. Lucie	68,645	696
Santa Rosa	33,696	605
Sarasota	152,531	754
Seminole	168,986	777
Sumter	25,105	666
Suwannee	11,201	569
Taylor	6,723	695
Union	3,452	620
Volusia	156,192	664
Wakulla	5,224	596
Walton	22,481	624
Washington	5,480	605

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 2014

State	Employment		Average weekly wage [1]			
	September 2014 (thousands)	Percent change, September 2013-14	Average weekly wage	National ranking by level	Percent change, third quarter 2013-14	National ranking by percent change
United States [2]	137,724.1	2.0	$949	--	2.9	--
Alabama	1,871.2	1.3	815	34	2.5	30
Alaska	344.7	-0.1	1,019	9	3.0	19
Arizona	2,539.6	1.8	876	24	2.0	40
Arkansas	1,170.9	1.3	737	47	1.8	44
California	16,013.4	3.1	1,095	5	3.7	7
Colorado	2,443.0	3.7	982	12	3.0	19
Connecticut	1,663.2	0.8	1,124	4	1.4	49
Delaware	426.1	1.9	961	16	2.2	37
District of Columbia	732.9	0.8	1,631	1	4.5	2
Florida	7,748.4	3.3	826	32	2.1	38
Georgia	4,059.0	3.4	891	21	2.8	23
Hawaii	625.1	0.9	870	25	3.9	4
Idaho	658.4	2.1	721	50	2.6	26
Illinois	5,807.4	1.2	982	12	2.5	30
Indiana	2,924.7	1.4	799	39	1.9	42
Iowa	1,528.8	1.1	800	38	3.6	10
Kansas	1,363.1	1.2	794	40	2.3	35
Kentucky	1,827.8	1.8	781	42	2.5	30
Louisiana	1,928.3	1.7	852	27	3.1	16
Maine	604.5	0.3	754	46	2.6	26
Maryland	2,574.5	1.1	1,042	8	3.1	16
Massachusetts	3,386.7	1.8	1,164	2	3.0	19
Michigan	4,141.0	1.7	896	19	2.4	33
Minnesota	2,757.9	1.1	965	15	2.9	22
Mississippi	1,105.0	0.5	697	51	1.3	50
Missouri	2,686.4	1.0	828	31	2.7	25
Montana	449.5	0.7	732	49	3.7	7
Nebraska	950.0	1.1	779	43	1.8	44
Nevada	1,215.8	4.0	840	28	0.5	51
New Hampshire	633.5	1.4	927	18	3.6	10
New Jersey	3,880.4	0.8	1,087	6	1.7	47
New Mexico	804.0	1.1	786	41	2.6	26
New York	8,902.1	2.0	1,145	3	3.2	15
North Carolina	4,085.5	1.9	839	29	2.8	23
North Dakota	455.9	4.3	977	14	6.1	1
Ohio	5,219.1	1.4	863	26	3.1	16
Oklahoma	1,592.3	1.0	826	32	3.6	10
Oregon	1,752.8	2.4	887	22	3.6	10
Pennsylvania	5,676.2	1.0	937	17	2.6	26
Rhode Island	471.8	1.4	895	20	1.8	44
South Carolina	1,902.7	2.4	768	45	2.4	33
South Dakota	415.8	1.7	733	48	3.7	7
Tennessee	2,775.5	2.4	837	30	2.1	38
Texas	11,433.6	3.1	988	11	3.8	6
Utah	1,304.7	3.1	803	37	1.5	48
Vermont	306.5	1.2	805	36	2.3	35
Virginia	3,667.9	0.6	989	10	2.0	40
Washington	3,112.8	3.2	1,087	6	3.9	4
West Virginia	709.3	-0.2	778	44	3.5	14
Wisconsin	2,783.1	1.1	808	35	1.9	42
Wyoming	291.3	1.7	877	23	4.4	3
Puerto Rico	896.7	-1.5	505	[3]	0.8	[3]
Virgin Islands	37.5	-1.0	720	[3]	2.0	[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.
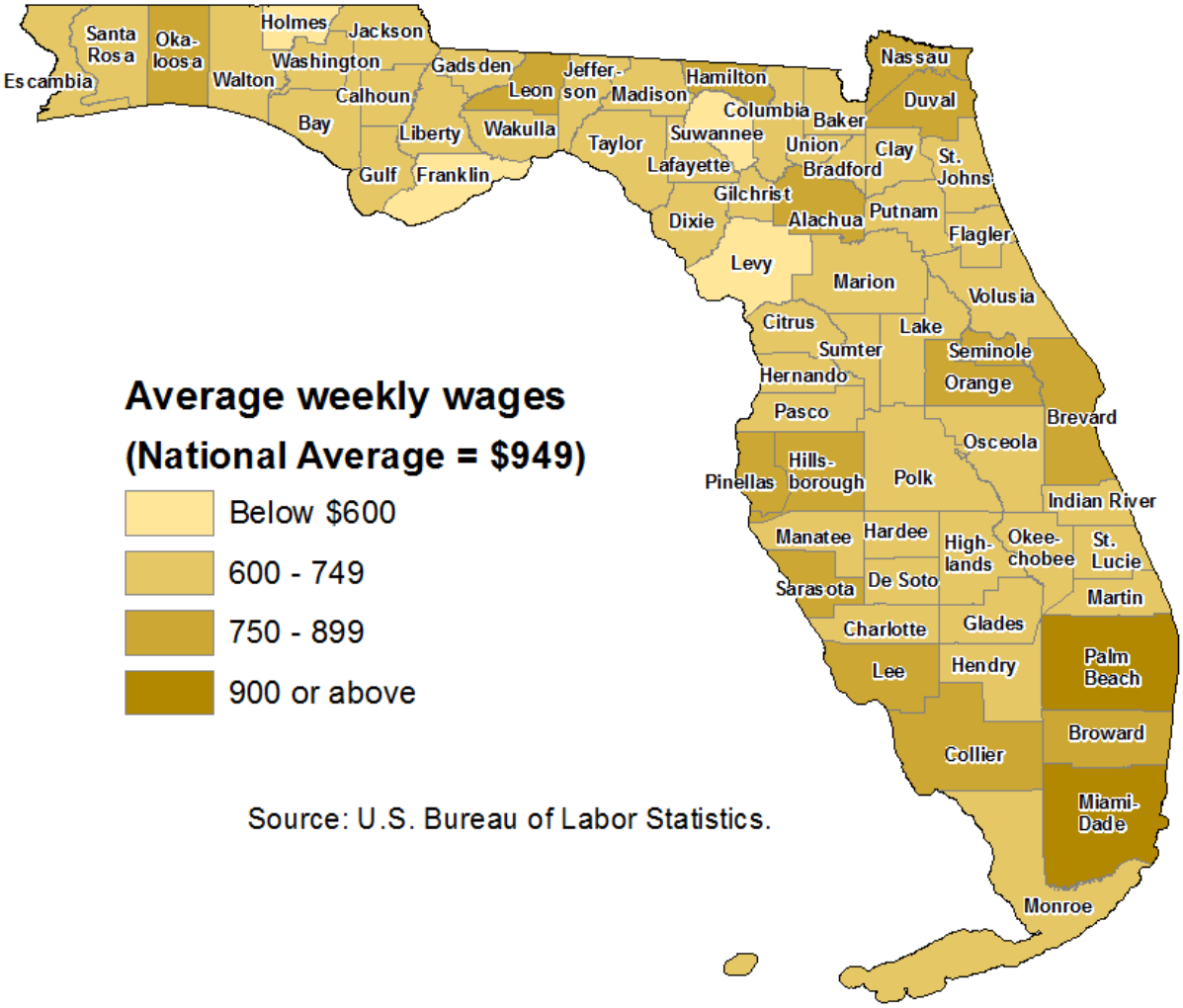
Chart 1. Average weekly wages by county in Florida, third quarter 2014