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County Employment and Wages in Idaho – First Quarter 2017

Idaho's only large county, Ada, had an employment increase of 3.2 percent from March 2016 to March 2017 the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics reported today. (Large counties are those with 2016 annual average employment levels of 75,000 or more.) Assistant Commissioner for Regional Operations Richard Holden noted that the rate of employment growth in Ada County was faster-paced than the national increase of 1.6 percent. (See [table 1.](#))

Nationally, employment increased in 299 of the 346 largest U.S. counties from March 2016 to March 2017. York, S.C., had the largest percentage increase with a gain of 6.8 percent over the year. Kanawha, W.Va., had the largest over-the-year percentage decrease in employment among the largest U.S. counties, with a loss of 2.7 percent.

Employment in Ada County was 229,200 in March 2017, accounting for one-third of the total employment in Idaho. Nationwide, the 346 largest counties made up 72.8 percent of total U.S. employment which stood at 142.3 million in March 2017.

Employment and wage levels (but not over-the-year changes) are also available for the 43 counties in Idaho with employment below 75,000. All except one of these smaller counties had an average weekly wage below the national average in the first quarter of 2017. (See [table 2.](#))

Large county wage changes

From the first quarter of 2016 to the first quarter of 2017, the average weekly wage in Ada County increased 6.7 percent, ranking it 148th among the 346 largest U.S. counties. Nationally, the average weekly wage increased 6.6 percent. (See [table 1.](#))

Nationally, 345 of the 346 largest counties had over-the-year increases in average weekly wages. McLean, Ill., had the largest wage gain, up 27.8 percent from the first quarter of 2016. Peoria, Ill., had the only percentage decrease in average weekly wages (-1.1 percent).

Large county average weekly wages

Ada County's \$895 average weekly wage ranked in the bottom half of the 346 largest U.S. counties. Nationally, the average weekly wage was \$1,111 in the first quarter of 2017.

Nationwide, 94 large counties had average weekly wages at or above the U.S. average of \$1,111 in the first quarter of 2017. New York, N.Y., recorded the highest average weekly wage at \$2,954, followed by Santa Clara, Calif., at \$2,450. Rounding out the top five were San Mateo, Calif. (\$2,385); San Francisco, Calif. (\$2,264); and Somerset, N.J. (\$2,026).

Seventy-three percent of the largest U.S. counties (253) reported weekly wages at or below the national average in the first quarter of 2017. Cameron, Texas reported the lowest wage (\$614), followed by Horry, S.C. (\$628). The Texas counties of Hidalgo (\$642); and Webb (\$675); were followed by Lake, Fla. (\$681).

Average weekly wages in Idaho's smaller counties

Among the 43 counties in Idaho with employment below 75,000, only Butte County (\$1,687) had an average weekly wage above the national average of \$1,111. Boise County reported the lowest average weekly wage in the state, averaging \$433 in the first quarter of 2017. (See [table 2](#).)

When all 44 counties in Idaho were considered, 9 reported average weekly wages under \$600, 21 reported wages from \$600 to \$699, 9 had wages from \$700 to \$799, 1 had wages from \$800 to \$899, and 4 had wages at \$900 or above. (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 <https://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 second quarter 2017 is scheduled to be released on Tuesday, December 5, 2017.

Note

Beginning with this release, the QCEW program now uses the 2017 version of the North American Industry Classification System (NAICS) as the basis for the assignment and tabulation of economic data by industry. For more information on the change to NAICS, please see the Federal Register notice at www.census.gov/eos/www/naics/federal_register_notices/notices/fr08au16.pdf. For information on the use of the 2017 version of NAICS in QCEW, see www.bls.gov/cew/naics2017.htm

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 9.9 million employer reports cover 142.3 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 largest county in Idaho, first quarter 2017

Area	Employment			Average weekly wage ⁽¹⁾			
	March 2017 (thousands)	Percent change, March 2016-17 ⁽²⁾	National ranking by percent change ⁽³⁾	Average weekly wage	National ranking by level ⁽³⁾	Percent change, first quarter 2016-17 ⁽²⁾	National ranking by percent change ⁽³⁾
United States ⁽⁴⁾	142,309.2	1.6	--	\$1,111	--	6.6	--
Idaho	690.4	3.0	--	775	50	7.0	16
Ada, Idaho	229.2	3.2	34	895	242	6.7	148

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 Idaho, first quarter 2017

Area	Employment March 2017	Average weekly wage(1)
United States(2)	142,309,185	\$1,111
Idaho	690,443	775
Ada	229,176	895
Adams	1,009	710
Bannock	33,167	674
Bear Lake	1,468	558
Benewah	3,268	738
Bingham	14,583	649
Blaine	12,626	759
Boise	1,617	433
Bonner	13,234	658
Bonneville	49,028	726
Boundary	3,275	672
Butte	7,694	1,687
Camas	366	914
Canyon	63,199	673
Caribou	3,214	1,107
Cassia	10,863	673
Clark	400	969
Clearwater	2,594	688
Custer	1,242	623
Elmore	6,707	648
Franklin	3,433	547
Fremont	2,645	621
Gem	3,612	575
Gooding	5,970	718
Idaho	4,064	662
Jefferson	6,263	587
Jerome	9,843	675
Kootenai	57,672	713
Latah	13,426	639
Lemhi	2,243	613
Lewis	1,525	584
Lincoln	1,575	652
Madison	14,666	564
Minidoka	7,591	683
Nez Perce	21,318	790
Oneida	1,171	476
Owyhee	2,788	622
Payette	6,272	660
Power	3,105	751
Shoshone	4,586	711
Teton	2,710	638
Twin Falls	37,668	658
Valley	4,277	644
Washington	2,686	589

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 2017

State	Employment		Average weekly wage ⁽¹⁾			
	March 2017 (thousands)	Percent change, March 2016-17	Average weekly wage	National ranking by level	Percent change, first quarter 2016-17	National ranking by percent change
United States ⁽²⁾	142,309.2	1.6	\$1,111	--	6.6	--
Alabama	1,928.9	1.4	893	36	6.2	35
Alaska	312.8	-1.8	1,061	18	3.9	50
Arizona	2,743.0	2.4	991	21	8.1	4
Arkansas	1,199.9	0.7	859	45	8.5	3
California	16,831.4	2.3	1,295	6	7.6	7
Colorado	2,573.2	2.3	1,136	12	7.5	10
Connecticut	1,651.5	0.1	1,417	4	4.0	49
Delaware	433.2	0.8	1,185	9	10.7	1
District of Columbia	760.7	1.2	1,885	1	7.0	16
Florida	8,532.6	2.8	949	27	7.2	13
Georgia.....	4,317.1	2.7	1,068	17	6.1	37
Hawaii.....	653.6	0.9	954	25	6.8	22
Idaho	690.4	3.0	775	50	7.0	16
Illinois	5,842.0	0.5	1,195	8	6.3	34
Indiana.....	2,985.8	1.2	918	32	7.6	7
Iowa	1,518.3	0.0	899	35	6.5	30
Kansas	1,368.0	0.4	888	38	6.7	25
Kentucky.....	1,864.1	1.1	879	41	6.9	18
Louisiana	1,901.3	-0.5	906	33	5.5	43
Maine.....	586.7	1.0	860	44	7.2	13
Maryland.....	2,626.0	1.2	1,171	10	5.8	42
Massachusetts	3,464.0	1.1	1,428	3	7.7	6
Michigan	4,230.6	1.7	1,041	20	6.8	22
Minnesota.....	2,806.4	2.1	1,149	11	7.9	5
Mississippi.....	1,122.9	0.1	750	51	5.3	46
Missouri.....	2,767.0	1.4	930	31	5.9	38
Montana	451.5	1.4	800	49	6.5	30
Nebraska	960.7	0.4	868	42	6.4	33
Nevada	1,311.6	3.8	932	30	6.9	18
New Hampshire.....	643.2	1.2	1,070	16	7.3	11
New Jersey.....	3,955.1	1.5	1,333	5	5.0	47
New Mexico.....	803.3	0.2	838	46	5.9	38
New York	9,159.3	1.3	1,541	2	5.9	38
North Carolina	4,287.0	1.8	991	21	6.9	18
North Dakota	405.7	-1.0	953	26	5.0	47
Ohio	5,278.3	0.8	976	24	6.7	25
Oklahoma.....	1,563.9	-1.0	883	39	5.9	38
Oregon	1,855.0	2.5	984	23	5.4	45
Pennsylvania.....	5,712.3	0.8	1,078	15	6.5	30
Rhode Island	465.4	0.3	1,055	19	7.2	13
South Carolina.....	2,017.9	2.2	864	43	7.3	11
South Dakota.....	413.4	0.7	819	48	6.2	35
Tennessee.....	2,906.2	1.8	945	28	6.7	25
Texas	11,924.5	1.7	1,124	14	5.5	43
Utah	1,411.3	3.1	905	34	6.6	29
Vermont.....	305.6	0.2	889	37	6.7	25
Virginia.....	3,796.3	1.4	1,129	13	6.9	18
Washington.....	3,225.9	2.6	1,215	7	8.6	2
West Virginia	678.2	-0.8	837	47	7.6	7
Wisconsin.....	2,803.7	1.1	933	29	6.8	22
Wyoming	262.4	-2.3	880	40	3.3	51
Puerto Rico.....	887.7	-0.9	526	(3)	1.2	(3)
Virgin Islands.....	38.7	0.0	797	(3)	3.1	(3)

Note: See footnotes at end of table.

Footnotes:

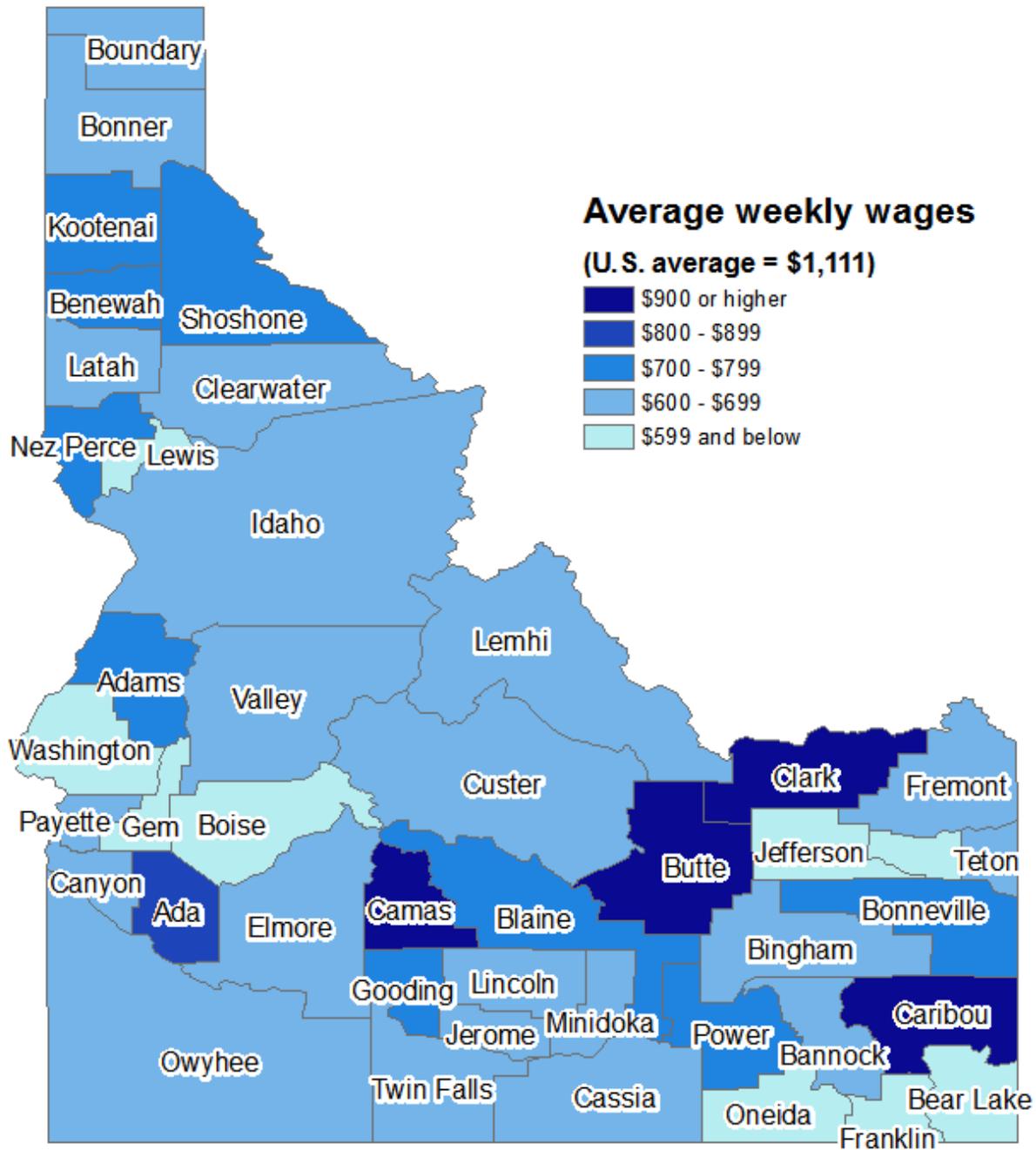
(1) Average weekly wages were calculated using unrounded data.

(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 Idaho, first quarter 2017



Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics.