



For Release: Wednesday, October 03, 2018

18-1611-SAN

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County Employment and Wages in Idaho – First Quarter 2018

Idaho's only large county, Ada, had an employment increase of 4.5 percent from March 2017 to March 2018, the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics reported today. (Large counties are those with 2017 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 314 of the 349 large counties. 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.

Employment in Ada County was 239,900 in March 2018, accounting for one-third of the total employment in Idaho. Nationwide, the 349 largest counties made up 73.1 percent of total U.S. employment.

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 2018. (See [table 2.](#))

Large county wage changes

From the first quarter of 2017 to the first quarter of 2018, the average weekly wage in Ada County increased 5.1 percent, ranking it 34th among the 349 largest U.S. counties. Nationally, the average weekly wage increased 3.7 percent. (See [table 1.](#))

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 counties with over-the-year decreases in average weekly wages, Forsyth, N.C., had the largest decrease (-4.8 percent).

Large county average weekly wages

Ada County's \$943 average weekly wage ranked in the bottom half of the 349 largest U.S. counties. Nationally, the average weekly wage was \$1,152 in the first quarter of 2018.

Nationwide, 90 large counties had average weekly wages equal to or above the U.S. average of \$1,152 in the first quarter of 2018. New York, N.Y., held the top position with an average weekly wage of \$3,087. Santa Clara, Calif., was second at \$2,651, followed by San Mateo, Calif. (\$2,606), and San Francisco, Calif. (\$2,485).

In the first quarter of 2018, nearly three-fourths of the largest U.S. counties (259) reported wages below the national weekly average of \$1,152. Cameron, Texas, reported the lowest wage (\$628), followed by Horry County, S.C. (\$631), and the Texas counties of Hidalgo (\$657) and Webb (\$690).

Average weekly wages in Idaho's smaller counties

Among the 43 counties in Idaho with employment below 75,000, only Butte County (\$1,742) had an average weekly wage above the national average of \$1,152. Boise County reported the lowest average weekly wage in the state, averaging \$441 in the first quarter of 2018. (See [table 2](#).)

When all 44 counties in Idaho were considered, 6 reported average weekly wages under \$600, 22 reported wages from \$600 to \$699, 10 had wages from \$700 to \$799, 1 had wages from \$800 to \$899, and 5 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 2017 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 2018 version of the national news release. Tables and additional content from *Employment and Wages Annual Averages 2017* are now available online at <https://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 second quarter 2018 is scheduled to be released on Thursday, December 6, 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 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: (800) 877-8339.

Table 1. Covered employment and wages in the United States and the largest county in Idaho, 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	--	1152	--	3.7	--
Idaho	712.6	3.5	--	809	50	4.3	7
Ada, Idaho	239.9	4.5	9	943	220	5.1	34

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 2018

Area	Employment March 2018	Average Weekly Wage(1)
United States(2)	144,562,926	\$1,152
Idaho	712,621	809
Ada	239,880	943
Adams	958	708
Bannock	33,011	690
Bear Lake	1,587	563
Benewah	3,307	773
Bingham	14,665	662
Blaine	12,830	778
Boise	1,686	441
Bonner	13,713	668
Bonneville	50,616	778
Boundary	3,428	696
Butte	7,857	1,742
Camas	335	1,008
Canyon	66,263	702
Caribou	3,114	1,090
Cassia	10,612	682
Clark	387	902
Clearwater	2,538	689
Custer	1,217	615
Elmore	6,787	641
Franklin	3,553	557
Fremont	2,793	626
Gem	3,756	614
Gooding	5,907	753
Idaho	4,091	660
Jefferson	6,579	606
Jerome	10,176	709
Kootenai	60,120	741
Latah	13,593	673
Lemhi	2,288	661
Lewis	1,599	591
Lincoln	1,553	661
Madison	15,352	575
Minidoka	7,749	697
Nez Perce	21,088	800
Oneida	1,243	491
Owyhee	3,002	675
Payette	6,388	686
Power	3,292	769
Shoshone	4,341	752
Teton	2,903	670
Twin Falls	38,807	669
Valley	4,404	664
Washington	2,749	625

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:

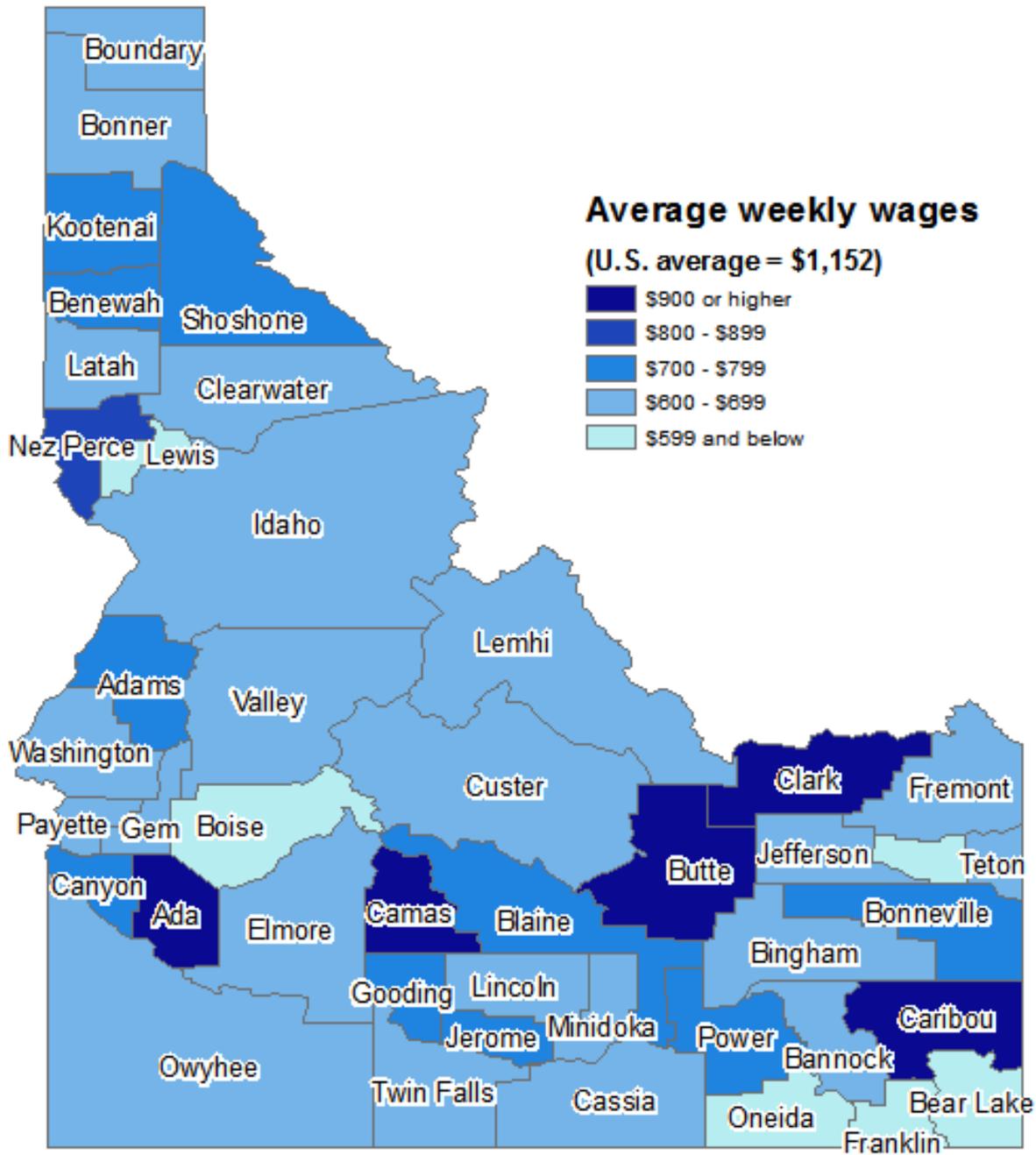
(1) Average weekly wages were calculated using unrounded data.

(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 Idaho, first quarter 2018



Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics.