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

For Release: Wednesday, May 01, 2019 **19-300-CHI**

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County Employment and Wages in Wisconsin — Third Quarter 2018

Wisconsin's six large counties had employment increases from September 2017 to September 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 Brown County had the largest increase, up 1.6 percent, matching the national average. Employment increases in Wisconsin's remaining five large counties ranged from 0.3 percent to 0.5 percent. (See table 1.)

From September 2017 to September 2018, 295 of the 349 largest U.S. counties registered employment increases. Midland, TX, had the largest over-the-year increase in employment with a gain of 11.9 percent. New Hanover, NC, had the largest over-the-year percentage decrease in employment with a loss of 2.0 percent.

Among the six large counties in Wisconsin, employment was highest in Milwaukee (490,500) in September 2018, followed by Dane (335,600) and Waukesha (244,500). Each of the three other counties—Brown, Outagamie, and Winnebago—had employment levels of less than 170,000. Collectively, Wisconsin's six large counties accounted for 49.6 percent of total employment within the state. Nationwide, the 349 largest counties made up 73.0 percent of total U.S. employment.

From the third quarter of 2017 to the third quarter of 2018, the six large counties in Wisconsin had over-the-year increases in average weekly wages, with the largest gain in Brown County (4.0 percent). Dane County had the highest average weekly wage in the state at $1,028, followed by Waukesha County at $1,022 and Milwaukee County at $980. (See table 1.) Nationally, the average weekly wage rose 3.3 percent over the year to $1,055 in the third quarter of 2018.

Employment and wage levels (but not over-the-year changes) are also available for the 66 counties in Wisconsin with employment below 75,000. All of these smaller counties had average weekly wages below the national average. (See table 2.)

Large county wage changes

Brown County's 4.0-percent wage increase from the third quarter of 2017 to the third quarter of 2018 ranked 65th among the nation's 349 largest counties. (See table 1.) Nationally, average weekly wages increased 3.3 percent over the year. In the state's remaining five large counties, wage gains ranged from 2.9 percent in Waukesha County to 1.3 percent in Dane County.

Nationally, 336 of the 349 largest counties registered over-the-year wage growth. Chatham, GA, had the largest increase, up 8.5 percent from the third quarter of 2017. King, WA, was second with a wage increase of 7.9 percent, followed by Santa Clara, CA, and Stanislaus, CA, at 7.8 percent each.

Among the largest U.S. counties, 11 experienced over-the-year decreases in average weekly wages. Elkhart, IN, had the largest percentage decrease in average weekly wages (-4.2 percent), followed by Union, NJ (-3.7 percent); Providence, RI (-3.4 percent); and Forsyth, NC (-3.0 percent).

Large county average weekly wages

Average weekly wages in three of Wisconsin's large counties placed in the top half of the national ranking in the third quarter of 2018. However, average weekly wages in these three counties were below the national average of $1,055. Dane County's $1,028 average weekly wage ranked 117th among the 349 largest U.S. counties. Waukesha ($1,022) and Milwaukee ($980) Counties placed 121st and 160th, respectively. Outagamie County's $895 weekly wage was the lowest among the state's large counties, ranking 242nd nationwide.

Nationwide, average weekly wages were above the U.S. average ($1,055) in 94 of the 349 largest counties in the third quarter of 2018. Santa Clara, CA, held the top position among the highest-paid large counties in the nation with an average weekly wage of $2,460. San Mateo, CA, was second at $2,363, followed by San Francisco, CA ($2,097); New York, NY ($1,997); and Washington, DC ($1,807).

Among the largest U.S. counties, 255 had weekly wages below the national average in the third quarter of 2018. Cameron, TX, had the lowest wage at $632, followed by Horry, SC ($635); Hidalgo, TX ($662); and Webb, TX ($698).

Average weekly wages in Wisconsin's smaller counties

Of the 66 counties in Wisconsin with employment below 75,000, Sheboygan County had the highest average weekly wage at $907, followed by Marathon County at $900. Florence County had the lowest weekly wage at $527, followed by Iron at $589. (See table 2.)

When all 72 counties in Wisconsin were considered, 10 reported average weekly wages of $649 or lower, 25 had wages from $650 to $749, 23 had wages from $750 to $849, and 14 had wages of $850 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 fourth quarter 2018 is scheduled to be released on Wednesday, May 22, 2019. The County Employment and Wages full data update for fourth quarter 2018 is scheduled to be released on Wednesday, June 5, 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 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 6 largest counties in Wisconsin, third quarter 2018

Area	Employment			Average weekly wage [1]			
	September 2018 (thousands)	Percent change, September 2017-18 [2]	National ranking by percent change [3]	Average weekly wage	National ranking by level [3]	Percent change, third quarter 2017-18 [2]	National ranking by percent change [3]
United States [4]	146,824.1	1.6	--	$1,055	--	3.3	--
Wisconsin	2,888.9	0.7	--	901	33	2.9	31
Brown, WI	160.5	1.6	123	917	210	4.0	65
Dane, WI	335.6	0.5	235	1,028	117	1.3	312
Milwaukee, WI	490.5	0.4	249	980	160	2.6	208
Outagamie, WI	108.0	0.3	262	895	242	2.6	208
Waukesha, WI	244.5	0.5	235	1,022	121	2.9	169
Winnebago, WI	93.6	0.3	262	936	192	2.0	272

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 Wisconsin, third quarter 2018

Area	Employment September 2018	Average weekly wage(1)
United States(2)	146,824,093	$1,055
Wisconsin	2,888,858	901
Adams	4,682	693
Ashland	8,139	733
Barron	22,638	753
Bayfield	4,439	607
Brown	160,462	917
Buffalo	3,920	680
Burnett	4,776	622
Calumet	13,978	749
Chippewa	24,488	788
Clark	11,244	804
Columbia	23,278	773
Crawford	7,489	662
Dane	335,559	1,028
Dodge	36,147	835
Door	14,980	640
Douglas	16,021	762
Dunn	17,828	758
Eau Claire	58,437	857
Florence	1,040	527
Fond du Lac	47,804	882
Forest	3,178	716
Grant	17,911	681
Green	15,850	735
Green Lake	6,386	724
Iowa	10,315	761
Iron	1,623	589
Jackson	9,216	834
Jefferson	33,424	750
Juneau	9,359	760
Kenosha	66,598	794
Kewaunee	6,987	751
La Crosse	69,824	830
Lafayette	4,305	692
Langlade	7,433	665
Lincoln	11,207	784
Manitowoc	33,678	805
Marathon	71,111	900
Marinette	18,381	785
Marquette	3,996	641
Menominee	2,084	611
Milwaukee	490,538	980
Monroe	21,142	811
Oconto	9,285	668
Oneida	16,753	764
Outagamie	108,002	895
Ozaukee	42,922	859
Pepin	2,270	709
Pierce	10,593	680
Polk	15,916	695
Portage	34,131	794
Price	5,350	724
Racine	75,746	899
Richland	5,839	695
Rock	67,216	869

Note: See footnotes at end of table.

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

Area	Employment September 2018	Average weekly wage(1)
Rusk	5,046	689
St. Croix	34,361	785
Sauk	36,998	746
Sawyer	7,234	668
Shawano	12,832	643
Sheboygan	62,091	907
Taylor	8,184	721
Trempealeau	14,085	770
Vernon	8,777	685
Vilas	8,295	607
Walworth	42,804	716
Washburn	5,842	662
Washington	56,733	844
Waukesha	244,544	1,022
Waupaca	19,563	727
Waushara	6,485	639
Winnebago	93,600	936
Wood	39,238	859

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.

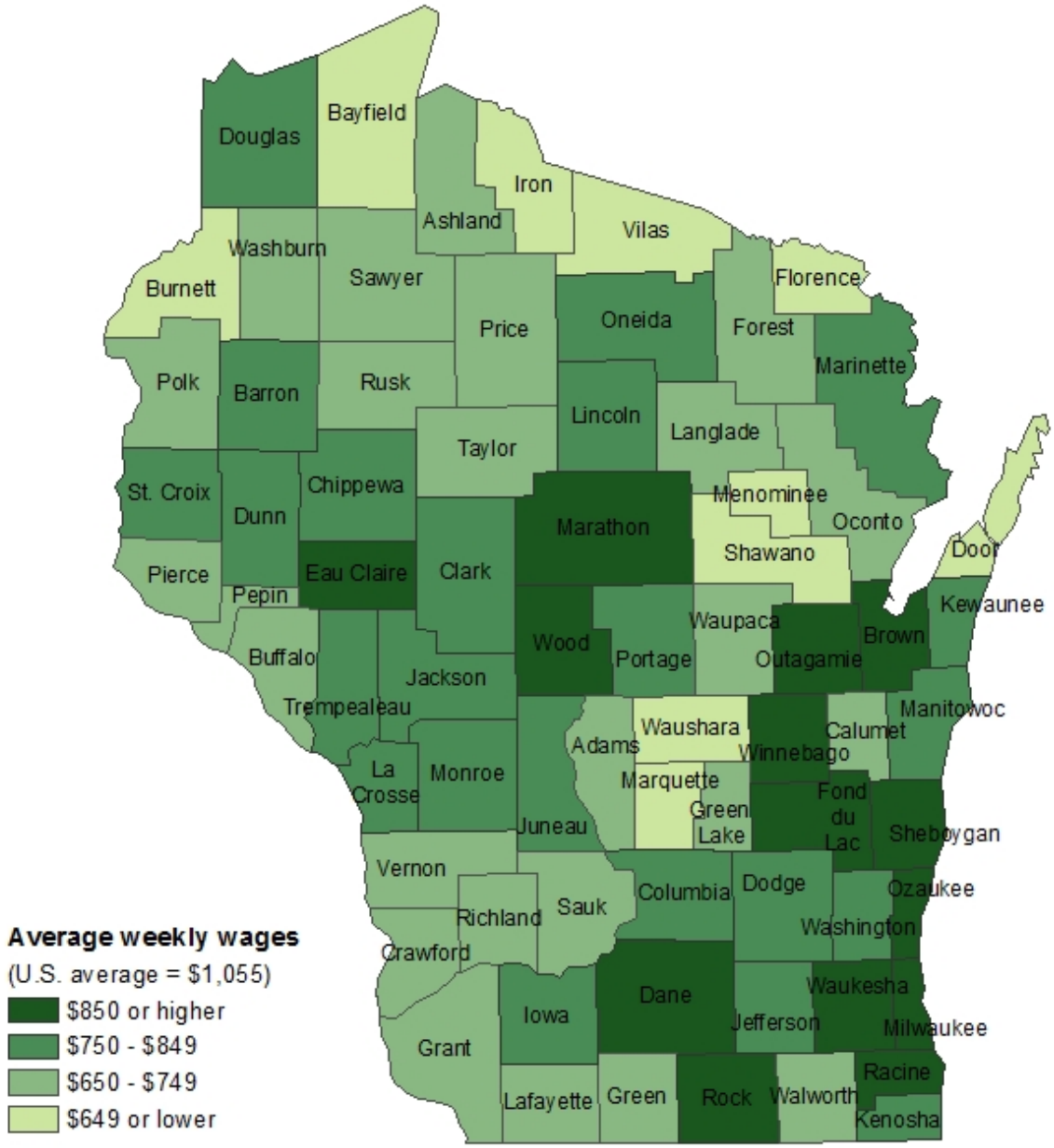
Table 3. Covered employment and wages by state, third quarter 2018

State	Employment		Average weekly wage [1]			
	September 2018 (thousands)	Percent change, September 2017-18	Average weekly wage	National ranking by level	Percent change, third quarter 2017-18	National ranking by percent change
United States [2]	146,824.1	1.6	$1,055	--	3.3	--
Alabama	1,966.0	1.2	885	38	3.1	25
Alaska	334.0	-0.4	1,065	13	3.7	12
Arizona	2,838.6	2.8	974	23	2.9	31
Arkansas	1,222.1	0.7	811	49	2.9	31
California	17,457.5	1.8	1,260	5	3.8	9
Colorado	2,684.0	2.1	1,104	9	3.5	18
Connecticut	1,681.5	0.3	1,209	6	2.5	41
Delaware	447.8	0.6	1,046	15	2.4	42
District of Columbia	770.7	0.7	1,807	1	2.8	36
Florida	8,690.7	4.6	924	29	3.1	25
Georgia	4,448.8	2.3	993	20	3.3	21
Hawaii	654.7	0.0	975	22	2.4	42
Idaho	743.5	3.0	805	50	3.2	23
Illinois	6,029.2	0.8	1,087	10	3.0	28
Indiana	3,072.3	0.9	883	39	2.4	42
Iowa	1,555.0	0.6	887	37	3.7	12
Kansas	1,390.4	1.0	867	42	3.5	18
Kentucky	1,898.7	0.5	855	43	2.2	47
Louisiana	1,915.4	0.5	901	33	3.7	12
Maine	626.5	0.6	851	45	3.7	12
Maryland	2,683.9	0.7	1,130	8	2.4	42
Massachusetts	3,598.1	0.7	1,305	2	3.2	23
Michigan	4,366.5	0.8	991	21	2.8	36
Minnesota	2,904.3	0.8	1,074	12	4.2	5
Mississippi	1,133.7	0.2	754	51	3.4	20
Missouri	2,812.0	0.4	907	31	3.3	21
Montana	473.3	1.0	815	48	2.8	36
Nebraska	980.3	0.6	873	41	2.8	36
Nevada	1,382.9	3.4	936	28	2.4	42
New Hampshire	662.3	0.5	1,040	16	1.7	49
New Jersey	4,072.6	0.8	1,181	7	2.1	48
New Mexico	826.2	1.2	855	43	3.9	7
New York	9,467.5	1.4	1,272	4	4.2	5
North Carolina	4,398.0	1.1	938	26	3.8	9
North Dakota	424.3	1.1	995	19	4.4	3
Ohio	5,424.4	0.7	947	25	2.9	31
Oklahoma	1,616.8	1.2	874	40	3.6	16
Oregon	1,939.8	1.5	1,005	18	3.8	9
Pennsylvania	5,894.8	1.0	1,031	17	3.0	28
Rhode Island	489.4	1.0	963	24	-1.3	51
South Carolina	2,088.2	2.8	834	46	0.8	50
South Dakota	431.5	1.3	827	47	3.0	28
Tennessee	3,005.6	1.7	938	26	3.9	7
Texas	12,327.0	2.6	1,064	14	3.1	25
Utah	1,494.4	3.4	911	30	3.6	16
Vermont	310.9	0.0	892	36	2.6	40
Virginia	3,889.6	1.1	1,082	11	2.9	31
Washington	3,425.6	2.4	1,280	3	6.2	2
West Virginia	706.0	1.7	894	35	8.1	1
Wisconsin	2,888.9	0.7	901	33	2.9	31
Wyoming	278.2	0.6	905	32	4.3	4
Puerto Rico	862.5	0.2	534	[3]	5.3	[3]
Virgin Islands	33.4	-8.0	888	[3]	18.6	[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 Wisconsin, third quarter 2018



Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics.