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## **County Employment and Wages in Idaho – First Quarter 2021**

Employment rose in Idaho's only large county, Ada, from March 2020 to March 2021, the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics reported today. (Large counties are those with annual average employment levels of 75,000 or more in 2020.) Regional Commissioner Chris Rosenlund noted that Ada County had an over-the-year employment increase of 0.2 percent. (See [table 1](#).)

National employment decreased 4.5 percent over the year, with 324 of the 343 largest U.S. counties reporting declines. Calcasieu, LA, had the largest over-the-year decrease in employment with a loss of 14.9 percent. Utah, UT, experienced the largest over-the-year percentage increase in employment with a gain of 6.1 percent.

Employment in Ada County was 257,400 in March 2021, accounting for one-third of total employment in Idaho. Within Ada County's private industry, healthcare and social assistance accounted for the largest employment. Nationwide, the 343 largest counties made up 72.3 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. Average weekly wages were below the national average in 42 of the 43 smaller counties in the first quarter 2021. (See [table 2](#).)

### **Large county wage changes**

From the first quarter of 2020 to the first quarter of 2021, the average weekly wage in Ada County increased 5.4 percent, below the national rate of 5.6 percent.

Among the 343 largest counties in the United States, 312 had over-the-year wage increases. Nationally, across most industries, increases in average weekly wages reflect substantial employment declines combined with wage increases. The lowest paying industry, leisure and hospitality, had the largest employment loss, which resulted in higher average weekly wages for the industry and the nation. San Francisco, CA, had the largest percentage wage increase (+33.9 percent). Clayton, GA, had the largest over-the-year percentage decrease (-14.2 percent).

### **Large county average weekly wages**

Ada County's \$1,068 average wage ranked in the bottom half of the 343 largest U.S. counties. Nationally the average weekly wage was \$1,289 in the first quarter of 2021.

Among the largest U.S. counties, 84 reported average weekly wages above the U.S. average in the first quarter of 2021. New York, NY had the highest average weekly wage at \$3,967. Average weekly wages were below the national average in the remaining 259 counties. At \$685 a week, Cameron, TX, had the lowest average weekly wage.

### **Average weekly wages in Idaho's smaller counties**

Among the 43 smaller counties in Idaho – those with employment below 75,000 – only Butte County (\$1,767) reported an average weekly wage above the national average of \$1,289. Boise County (\$506) reported the lowest average weekly wage in the state.

When all 44 counties in Idaho were considered, 14 reported average weekly wages of less than \$700, 11 registered wages from \$700 to \$749, 7 had wages from \$750 to \$799, and 12 had average weekly wages of \$800 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](http://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 2019 edition of this publication was published in September 2020. Tables and additional content from the 2019 edition of *Employment and Wages Annual Averages Online* are available at [www.bls.gov/cew/publications/employment-and-wages-annual-averages/2019/home.htm](http://www.bls.gov/cew/publications/employment-and-wages-annual-averages/2019/home.htm). The 2020 edition of *Employment and Wages Annual Averages Online* will be available in September 2021.

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**The County Employment and Wages release for second quarter 2021 is scheduled to be released on Wednesday, November 17, 2021. The County Employment and Wages full data update for second quarter 2021 is scheduled to be released on Wednesday, December 1, 2021.**

### **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/](http://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 individuals with sensory impairments 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 2021**

Area	Establishments, first quarter 2021 (thousands)	Employment			Average weekly wage <sup>(1)</sup>			
		March 2021 (thousands)	Percent change, March 2020–21 <sup>(2)</sup>	National ranking by percent change <sup>(3)</sup>	First quarter 2021	National ranking by level <sup>(3)</sup>	Percent change, first quarter 2020–21 <sup>(2)</sup>	National ranking by percent change <sup>(3)</sup>
United States <sup>(4)</sup> .....	10,755.4	140,455.8	-4.5	--	\$1,289	--	5.6	--
Idaho .....	74.2	768.6	1.9	--	906	50	4.9	15
Ada .....	19.2	257.4	0.2	8	1,068	190	5.4	108

Footnotes:

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

(2) Percent changes were computed from 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 2021**

Area	Employment March 2021	Average Weekly Wage(1)
United States(2)	140,455,819	\$1,289
Idaho	768,621	906
Ada	257,432	1,068
Adams	942	804
Bannock	34,237	741
Bear Lake	1,645	575
Benewah	3,393	862
Bingham	14,797	743
Blaine	12,725	918
Boise	1,653	506
Bonner	14,646	747
Bonneville	55,549	796
Boundary	3,694	727
Butte	8,911	1,767
Camas	327	923
Canyon	77,832	752
Caribou	3,428	1,002
Cassia	11,697	722
Clark	256	971
Clearwater	2,568	755
Custer	1,333	607
Elmore	7,111	692
Franklin	3,757	630
Fremont	2,907	663
Gem	4,067	677
Gooding	6,090	777
Idaho	4,415	690
Jefferson	7,326	656
Jerome	10,842	776
Kootenai	64,082	893
Latah	13,014	757
Lemhi	2,356	763
Lewis	1,578	671
Lincoln	1,565	740
Madison	16,233	643
Minidoka	8,272	738
Nez Perce	20,666	834
Oneida	1,235	611
Owyhee	3,205	669
Payette	6,682	742
Power	3,329	805
Shoshone	4,806	861
Teton	3,414	748
Twin Falls	39,785	731
Valley	4,756	732
Washington	2,753	662

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 2021**

State	Establishments, first quarter 2021 (thousands)	Employment		Average weekly wage <sup>(1)</sup>			
		March 2021 (thousands)	Percent change, March 2020–21	First quarter 2021	National ranking by level	Percent change, first quarter 2020–21	National ranking by percent change
United States <sup>(2)</sup> .....	10,755.4	140,455.8	-4.5	\$1,289	--	5.6	--
Alabama .....	135.9	1,924.3	-3.0	996	37	2.5	40
Alaska .....	23.3	295.0	-5.5	1,125	23	-0.6	48
Arizona .....	176.5	2,894.2	-2.3	1,150	21	4.8	17
Arkansas .....	95.3	1,194.2	-2.0	957	43	3.7	30
California .....	1,651.4	16,507.7	-5.9	1,623	4	11.3	1
Colorado .....	224.7	2,634.7	-3.5	1,335	10	4.1	25
Connecticut .....	128.3	1,550.5	-5.4	1,575	5	4.7	19
Delaware .....	35.2	425.6	-4.1	1,264	13	1.6	44
District of Columbia .....	44.0	708.1	-9.0	2,166	1	8.7	4
Florida .....	780.8	8,701.9	-3.1	1,104	24	5.1	13
Georgia.....	329.2	4,393.8	-2.6	1,198	17	3.6	33
Hawaii.....	48.0	564.4	-14.1	1,091	26	5.7	9
Idaho .....	74.2	768.6	1.9	906	50	4.9	15
Illinois .....	390.0	5,559.6	-5.5	1,387	8	6.7	7
Indiana.....	176.2	2,956.4	-2.5	1,026	34	3.3	37
Iowa .....	105.1	1,473.6	-3.3	1,004	35	2.6	39
Kansas .....	90.4	1,335.4	-3.3	986	39	1.9	43
Kentucky.....	130.7	1,835.2	-2.5	965	41	2.3	42
Louisiana .....	141.5	1,787.6	-5.9	977	40	1.0	46
Maine.....	56.2	585.0	-2.8	1,000	36	4.7	19
Maryland.....	174.3	2,522.1	-5.0	1,386	9	8.5	5
Massachusetts .....	271.2	3,334.9	-6.6	1,732	3	7.8	6
Michigan .....	267.5	4,026.6	-5.9	1,155	20	4.8	17
Minnesota.....	189.7	2,695.4	-5.1	1,290	11	4.6	22
Mississippi.....	75.3	1,098.4	-2.5	811	51	1.1	45
Missouri.....	221.8	2,705.5	-3.0	1,055	30	3.7	30
Montana .....	53.2	465.2	0.1	915	48	5.4	10
Nebraska .....	73.4	944.7	-2.8	990	38	3.6	33
Nevada .....	92.8	1,291.5	-8.4	1,080	27	4.7	19
New Hampshire.....	56.8	631.8	-3.9	1,258	15	5.4	10
New Jersey.....	297.0	3,818.6	-5.5	1,533	7	5.3	12
New Mexico.....	65.2	774.5	-7.4	958	42	3.8	28
New York .....	664.6	8,587.8	-8.7	1,869	2	10.4	2
North Carolina .....	302.7	4,423.2	-1.7	1,137	22	4.1	25
North Dakota .....	32.3	388.7	-6.1	1,037	32	-0.9	51
Ohio .....	310.1	5,136.8	-3.9	1,098	25	3.3	37
Oklahoma .....	114.4	1,549.7	-3.7	939	46	-0.8	50
Oregon .....	169.4	1,841.9	-5.2	1,172	18	6.4	8
Pennsylvania.....	369.7	5,531.3	-5.4	1,226	16	4.3	23
Rhode Island .....	41.2	447.8	-5.6	1,171	19	3.4	35
South Carolina.....	150.1	2,056.2	-2.6	957	43	3.8	28
South Dakota.....	35.6	417.1	-0.9	932	47	3.4	35
Tennessee.....	180.2	2,968.7	-2.1	1,077	28	5.0	14
Texas .....	750.1	12,216.7	-3.4	1,261	14	2.4	41
Utah .....	117.3	1,548.8	1.5	1,065	29	3.7	30
Vermont.....	27.0	283.7	-6.9	1,028	33	4.9	15
Virginia.....	291.3	3,765.8	-3.9	1,285	12	4.2	24
Washington.....	261.2	3,252.0	-5.1	1,540	6	9.1	3
West Virginia .....	52.3	648.6	-3.8	911	49	0.8	47
Wisconsin.....	183.1	2,730.0	-3.7	1,047	31	3.9	27
Wyoming .....	27.8	255.9	-4.6	953	45	-0.6	48
Puerto Rico.....	47.1	856.5	-3.1	562	(3)	2.0	(3)
Virgin Islands.....	3.6	34.7	-14.0	961	(3)	-8.0	(3)

Note: See footnotes at end of table.

Footnotes:

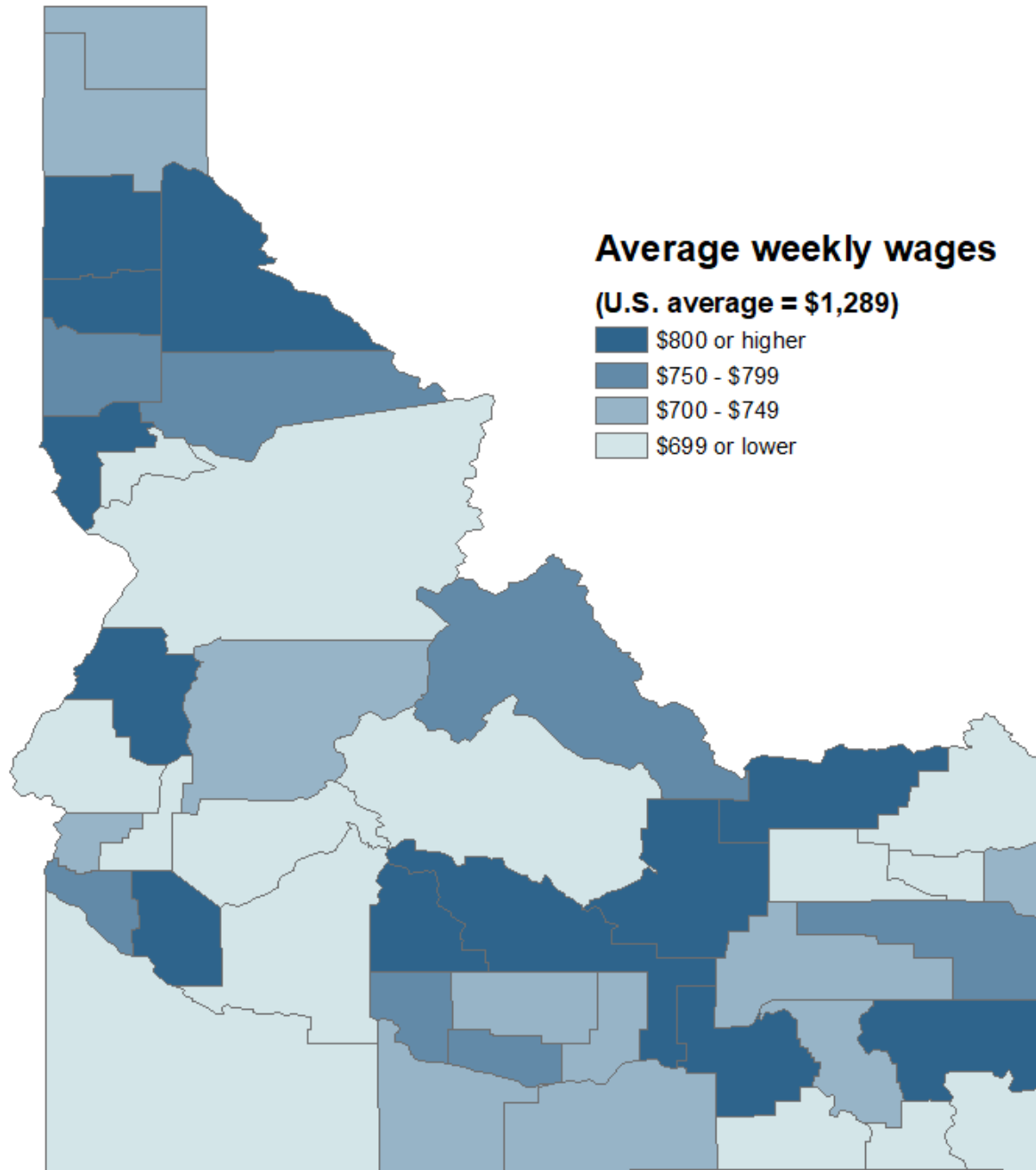
(1) Average weekly wages were calculated using unrounded data.

(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 Idaho, first quarter 2021**



Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics.