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SOUTHWEST INFORMATION OFFICE: Dallas, Texas

Technical information: (972) 850-4800 BLSInfoDallas@bls.gov www.bls.gov/regions/southwest

Media contact: (972) 850-4800

County Employment and Wages in New Mexico – Fourth Quarter 2018

In New Mexico's only large county, Bernalillo, employment rose 0.8 percent from December 2017 to December 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 Stanley W. Suchman noted that the rate of employment growth in Bernalillo County ranked 198th among the 349 largest U.S. counties. (See [table 1.](#))

Nationally, employment advanced 1.5 percent from December 2017 to December 2018 with 296 of the 349 largest U.S. counties registering increases. Midland, TX, recorded the largest percentage increase in the country, up 10.0 percent over the year. Bay, FL, had the largest over-the-year percentage decrease in employment, with a loss of 5.6 percent.

Employment in Bernalillo County stood at 332,500 in December 2018, accounting for 40.1 percent of total employment in New Mexico. Nationwide, the 349 largest counties made up 73.2 percent of total U.S. employment.

The average weekly wage in Bernalillo County was \$944 in the fourth quarter of 2018, ranking it 252nd. Nationwide, 255 of the 349 large counties reported average weekly wages below the U.S. average of \$1,144. Hidalgo, TX, reported the lowest weekly wage (\$680), followed by Cameron, TX, and Horry, SC (\$685 each).

Nationally, 94 large counties registered average weekly wages above the U.S. average in the fourth quarter of 2018. Santa Clara, CA, held the top position with an average weekly wage of \$2,670. San Francisco, CA, was second at \$2,452, followed by San Mateo, CA, at \$2,410. The average weekly wage in the highest-ranked county, Santa Clara, CA, was nearly four times the average weekly wage in the lowest-ranked county, Hidalgo, TX (\$680).

The average weekly wage in Bernalillo County increased 3.5 percent from the fourth quarter of 2017 to the fourth quarter of 2018, ranking 128th among the largest U.S. counties. Nationwide, average weekly wages rose 3.2 percent over the year, as 332 of the 349 largest counties registered increases. Tippecanoe, IN, had the largest over-the-year percentage increase in average weekly wages, with a gain of 15.1 percent.

Among the 349 large U.S. counties, 15 experienced over-the-year decreases in average weekly wages. Washington, PA, had the largest over-the-year percentage decrease with a loss of 6.6 percent in average weekly wages.

Average weekly wages in New Mexico's smaller counties

Employment and wage levels (but not over-the-year changes) are also available for the 32 counties in New Mexico with employment levels below 75,000. Two of these smaller counties had average weekly wages above the \$1,144 national average in the fourth quarter of 2018: Los Alamos (\$1,601) and Eddy (\$1,210). Catron County had the lowest average wage in the state at \$555 per week. (See [table 2](#).)

When all 33 counties in New Mexico were considered, 2 had weekly wages averaging \$599 or less, 10 averaged \$600 to \$699 per week, 13 reported wages from \$700 to \$799, and 8 had wages averaging \$800 or more. (See [chart 1](#).) The counties with the highest average wages were primarily concentrated around the metropolitan areas of Albuquerque, Carlsbad, Farmington, Hobbs, Los Alamos, and Santa Fe.

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 the 2017 edition of *Employment and Wages Annual Averages Online* are now available 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 first quarter 2019 is scheduled to be released on Wednesday, August 21, 2019.

BLS Local Data App Now Available for Android Devices

The BLS Local Data app, first released for iPhones last fall, is now available for Android devices. Search using your current location, a zip code, or a location name to find employment and wage data for detailed industries and occupations. BLS continues to partner with the U.S. Department of Labor's Office of the Chief Information Officer to expand the features and data in the app. For more information please visit: <https://beta.bls.gov/labs/blogs/2019/04/17/bls-local-data-app-now-available-for-android-devices/>.

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.

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 New Mexico, fourth quarter 2018

Area	Employment			Average weekly wage ⁽¹⁾			
	December 2018 (thousands)	Percent change, December 2017-18 ⁽²⁾	National ranking by percent change ⁽³⁾	Average weekly wage	National ranking by level ⁽³⁾	Percent change, fourth quarter 2017-18 ⁽²⁾	National ranking by percent change ⁽³⁾
United States ⁽⁴⁾	148,061.8	1.5	--	\$1,144	--	3.2	--
New Mexico.....	830.2	1.5	--	905	45	4.6	9
Bernalillo, NM.....	332.5	0.8	198	944	252	3.5	128

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 New Mexico, fourth quarter 2018

Area	Employment December 2018	Average weekly wage ⁽¹⁾
United States ⁽²⁾	148,061,773	\$1,144
New Mexico.....	830,234	905
Bernalillo.....	332,513	944
Catron.....	626	555
Chaves.....	21,267	725
Cibola.....	7,673	709
Colfax.....	4,309	634
Curry.....	17,069	714
De Baca.....	436	724
Dona Ana.....	73,546	762
Eddy.....	31,964	1,210
Grant.....	9,284	781
Guadalupe.....	1,463	631
Harding.....	168	704
Hidalgo.....	1,578	823
Lea.....	32,937	1,099
Lincoln.....	6,271	634
Los Alamos.....	16,345	1,601
Luna.....	7,137	724
McKinley.....	20,786	712
Mora.....	714	622
Otero.....	17,404	755
Quay.....	2,613	627
Rio Arriba.....	9,649	713
Roosevelt.....	5,969	712
Sandoval.....	30,797	802
San Juan.....	47,152	916
San Miguel.....	8,227	604
Santa Fe.....	62,027	960
Sierra.....	3,364	598
Socorro.....	5,168	752
Taos.....	11,269	627
Torrance.....	2,972	690
Union.....	1,288	686
Valencia.....	15,168	699

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: Covered employment and wages 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, fourth quarter 2018

State	Employment		Average weekly wage ⁽¹⁾			
	December 2018 (thousands)	Percent change, December 2017-18	Average weekly wage	National ranking by level	Percent change, fourth quarter 2017-18	National ranking by percent change
United States ⁽²⁾	148,061.8	1.5	\$1,144	--	3.2	--
Alabama.....	1,986.6	1.6	957	36	3.1	33
Alaska.....	308.3	0.4	1,103	16	4.9	7
Arizona.....	2,921.1	3.0	1,017	24	4.1	11
Arkansas.....	1,227.0	0.8	869	50	2.4	43
California.....	17,556.7	1.7	1,392	4	3.3	26
Colorado.....	2,713.7	2.2	1,180	10	4.1	11
Connecticut.....	1,697.9	0.5	1,334	5	1.3	49
Delaware.....	451.2	1.1	1,107	15	2.4	43
District of Columbia.....	775.1	0.6	1,943	1	7.3	2
Florida.....	8,902.7	2.1	1,006	27	3.1	33
Georgia.....	4,499.8	1.8	1,053	21	2.4	43
Hawaii.....	669.3	0.6	1,016	25	3.3	26
Idaho.....	734.4	3.2	890	47	3.6	20
Illinois.....	6,026.0	0.3	1,189	9	3.3	26
Indiana.....	3,086.2	0.9	941	38	2.8	37
Iowa.....	1,558.4	0.5	966	35	3.0	35
Kansas.....	1,402.2	0.8	927	41	3.7	18
Kentucky.....	1,914.0	0.3	924	42	3.2	30
Louisiana.....	1,934.1	0.7	968	34	3.8	15
Maine.....	618.4	1.3	906	44	2.5	41
Maryland.....	2,702.5	0.8	1,228	8	1.7	48
Massachusetts.....	3,620.3	1.0	1,457	2	3.3	26
Michigan.....	4,366.5	1.0	1,077	19	1.3	49
Minnesota.....	2,902.3	0.9	1,140	14	3.6	20
Mississippi.....	1,144.3	0.2	793	51	2.5	41
Missouri.....	2,821.3	0.5	980	31	3.6	20
Montana.....	468.8	1.6	888	48	5.2	5
Nebraska.....	983.0	0.2	930	40	3.2	30
Nevada.....	1,397.4	3.3	1,006	27	5.3	4
New Hampshire.....	666.0	0.7	1,158	12	2.3	46
New Jersey.....	4,125.6	0.8	1,298	6	2.7	38
New Mexico.....	830.2	1.5	905	45	4.6	9
New York.....	9,613.2	1.5	1,445	3	1.0	51
North Carolina.....	4,458.9	1.6	1,013	26	5.1	6
North Dakota.....	422.3	1.5	1,057	20	4.7	8
Ohio.....	5,442.9	0.5	1,006	27	3.4	24
Oklahoma.....	1,632.3	1.5	932	39	4.1	11
Oregon.....	1,935.8	1.7	1,052	22	3.7	18
Pennsylvania.....	5,932.5	1.0	1,103	16	2.6	39
Rhode Island.....	487.2	0.8	1,085	18	2.6	39
South Carolina.....	2,119.6	2.8	893	46	1.9	47
South Dakota.....	428.4	1.2	885	49	3.4	24
Tennessee.....	3,039.8	1.8	1,030	23	3.0	35
Texas.....	12,531.7	2.5	1,148	13	3.5	23
Utah.....	1,511.5	3.2	972	33	3.8	15
Vermont.....	314.2	-0.4	954	37	3.2	30
Virginia.....	3,927.2	1.1	1,164	11	3.8	15
Washington.....	3,384.2	2.4	1,292	7	6.3	3
West Virginia.....	704.2	1.5	917	43	8.3	1
Wisconsin.....	2,892.3	0.6	989	30	4.0	14
Wyoming.....	272.1	1.8	978	32	4.4	10
Puerto Rico.....	896.4	0.8	576	(3)	0.9	(3)
Virgin Islands.....	34.5	0.5	925	(3)	2.3	(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 New Mexico, 4th quarter 2018

