

NEW YORK – NEW JERSEY INFORMATION OFFICE  
New York City, N.Y.

**For release: July 28, 2011**

NYLS – 7498

Technical information: Martin Kohli (646) 264-3620 • [BLSInfoNY@bls.gov](mailto:BLSInfoNY@bls.gov) • [www.bls.gov/ro2](http://www.bls.gov/ro2)  
Media contact: Michael L. Dolfman (212) 337-2500

## COUNTY EMPLOYMENT AND WAGES IN PUERTO RICO – FOURTH QUARTER 2010

Puerto Rico's one large county, the municipio of San Juan, reported an employment loss of 3.2 percent from December 2009 to December 2010, the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics reported today. (See chart 1.) Regional Commissioner Michael L. Dolfman noted that in December 2010, San Juan's employment level of 269,900 accounted for 28.2 percent of total employment in the Commonwealth. Large counties are defined as those with employment of 75,000 or more as measured by 2009 annual average employment.

In the United States, employment grew 0.9 percent over the year, as 220 of the 326 largest U.S. counties gained jobs. The 326 largest counties made up 70.9 percent of total U.S. employment.

The average weekly wage in San Juan was \$669 in the fourth quarter of 2010, 2.8 percent higher than one year prior. By comparison, the United States weekly wage increased 3.0 percent over the year to \$971. (See table 1 and chart 2.)

Chart 1. Percent change in employment, United States, Puerto Rico, and San Juan, December 2009-10

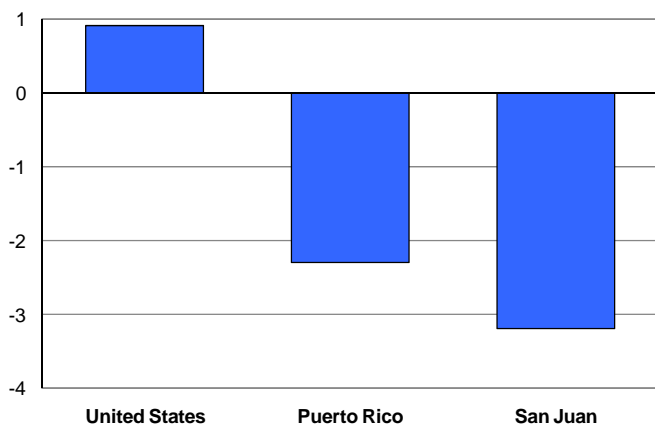
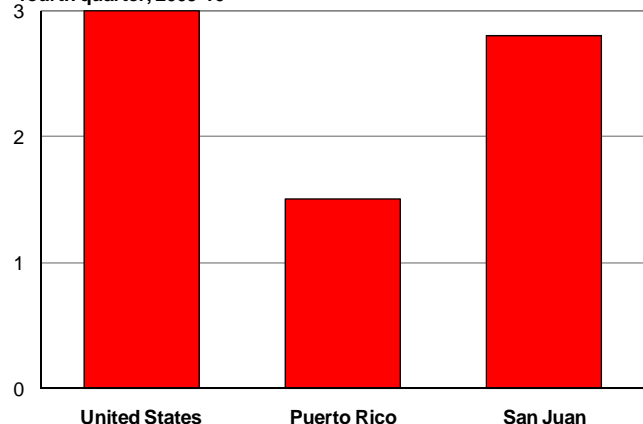


Chart 2. Percent growth in average weekly wages, United States, Puerto Rico, and San Juan, fourth quarter, 2009-10



Round-the-clock recorded messages for the **Consumer Price Index** and a variety of other **Bureau of Labor Statistics** data are available by dialing the **New York-New Jersey Information Office's** main telephone number: **(646) 264-3600**. For recorded messages, press '2'.

Employment and wage levels (but not over-the-year changes) are also available for the 77 municipios in Puerto Rico with employment below 75,000. All 77 had wages below the United States average of \$971. (See table 2.) Juncos, at \$795, had the highest average weekly wage in Puerto Rico, followed by Guaynabo, at \$706. None of the other municipios had a weekly wage above \$675. Overall, 11 municipios, including San Juan, had an average weekly wage ranging from \$675 to \$550. Most of these municipios are on the eastern part of the island. Twenty-four municipios had average weekly wages below \$425; more than half of these low-wage municipios are located in the western end of the island including Lajas (\$364), Lares (\$370), and Hatillo (\$377). (See chart 3.)

In the neighboring Virgin Islands, average weekly wages were also below the United States average. However, the highest average weekly wage in the Virgin Islands, at \$906 in Saint Croix, was more than \$100 above the highest wage in any of Puerto Rico's municipios. Nor did any of the Virgin Islands have weekly wages below \$600 as St. Thomas averaged \$739 and St. John, \$619. St. Thomas had over half of the territory's 44,900 jobs in December 2010, and St. Croix, 19,125.

### **Additional statistics and other information**

Quarterly data for states has been included in this release in table 3. For additional information about quarterly employment and wages data, please read the Technical Note or visit the QCEW Web site at [www.bls.gov/cew/](http://www.bls.gov/cew/).

An annual bulletin, *Employment and Wages Annual Averages*, features comprehensive information by detailed industry on establishments, employment, and wages for the nation and all states. The 2009 edition of this bulletin contains selected data produced by Business Employment Dynamics (BED) on job gains and losses, as well as selected data from the first quarter 2010 version of the national news release. This web-only publication has replaced the annual print bulletin, *Employment and Wages Annual Averages*. The March 2010 issue of this annual bulletin was the final one to be issued on paper. Tables and additional content from the 2009 Employment and Wages Annual Bulletin are now available online at [www.bls.gov/cew/cewbultn09.htm](http://www.bls.gov/cew/cewbultn09.htm).

Information in this release will be made available to sensory impaired individuals upon request. Voice phone: 202-691-5200; TDD message referral phone number: 1-800-877-8339.

For personal assistance or further information on the Quarterly Census of Employment and Wages program, as well as other Bureau programs, contact the New York-New Jersey Information Office at (646) 264-3600 from 9:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. and 1:30 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. ET.

**County employment and wage data for the first quarter 2011 are scheduled to be released on Thursday, September 29, 2011.**

### 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 9.1 million employer reports cover 129.5 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/](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.

**Table 1. Covered<sup>1</sup> employment and wages in the United States, Puerto Rico, and San Juan, fourth quarter 2010<sup>2</sup>**

Area	Employment		Average weekly wage <sup>3</sup>	
	December 2010 (thousands)	Percent change, December 2009-10 <sup>4</sup>	Average weekly wage	Percent change, fourth quarter 2009-10 <sup>4</sup>
United States <sup>5</sup>	129,451.6	0.9	\$971	3.0
Puerto Rico	956.7	-2.3	559	1.5
San Juan	269.9	-3.2	669	2.8

<sup>1</sup> Includes workers covered by Unemployment Insurance (UI) and Unemployment Compensation for Federal Employees (UCFE) programs.

<sup>2</sup> Data are preliminary.

<sup>3</sup> Average weekly wages were calculated using unrounded data.

<sup>4</sup> Percent changes were computed from quarterly employment and pay data adjusted for noneconomic county reclassifications.

<sup>5</sup> Totals for the United States do not include data for Puerto Rico or the Virgin Islands.

**Table 2. Covered<sup>1</sup> employment and wages in the United States, Puerto Rico, and the Virgin Islands, by county, fourth quarter 2010<sup>2</sup>**

Area	Employment December 2010 (thousands)	Average weekly wage <sup>3</sup>	Area	Employment December 2010 (thousands)	Average weekly wage <sup>3</sup>
United States	129,451.6	\$971	Lajas	3.4	\$364
			Lares	4.8	370
Puerto Rico	956.7	559	Las Marias	1.7	390
			Las Piedras	7.6	578
Adjuntas	2.2	406	Loiza	1.7	416
Aguada	4.8	395	Luquillo	2.7	501
Aguadilla	17.3	584	Manati	12.9	548
Aguas Buenas	1.9	451	Maricao	1.3	481
Aibonito	5.4	501	Maunabo	1.6	554
Anasco	5.7	494	Mayaguez	34.6	484
Arecibo	23.4	525			
Arroyo	2.7	540	Moca	3.8	410
Barceloneta	9.8	619	Morovis	2.6	417
Barranquitas	3.5	476	Naguabo	1.9	516
			Naranjito	3.4	429
Bayamon	59.3	488	Orocovis	3.0	419
Cabo Rojo	6.3	391	Patillas	1.8	436
Caguas	48.8	496	Penuelas	3.1	504
Camuy	3.5	416	Ponce	52.8	493
Canovanas	6.6	508	Quebradillas	2.3	450
Carolina	54.7	515	Rincon	1.6	388
Catano	10.6	623			
Cayey	11.6	529	Rio Grande	6.0	475
Ceiba	1.4	513	Sabana Grande	2.9	432
Ciales	2.0	413	Salinas	4.2	512
			San German	9.3	495
Cidra	6.4	577	San Juan	269.9	669
Coamo	4.1	437	San Lorenzo	5.1	511
Comerio	2.2	419	San Sebastian	5.2	394
Corozal	4.0	441	Santa Isabel	6.1	414
Culebra	0.3	387	Toa Alta	3.7	431
Dorado	7.2	518	Toa Baja	12.9	498
Fajardo	11.5	531			
Florida	1.2	408	Trujillo Alto	10.5	388
Guanica	2.3	406	Utuado	3.8	510
Guayama	12.7	602	Vega Alta	5.1	443
			Vega Baja	8.7	534
Guayanilla	2.7	558	Vieques	1.9	417
Guaynabo	43.1	706	Villalba	3.5	526
Gurabo	6.5	566	Yabucoa	3.7	462
Hatillo	8.3	377	Yauco	6.4	421
Hormigueros	2.4	408			
Humacao	17.4	568			
Isabela	6.7	450			
Jayuya	3.0	528			
Juana Diaz	6.5	493			
Juncos	6.5	795			

[1] Includes workers covered by Unemployment Insurance (UI) and Unemployment Compensation for Federal Employees (UCFE) programs.

[2] Data are preliminary.

[3] Average weekly wages were calculated using unrounded data.

[4] Totals for the United States do not include data for Puerto Rico or the Virgin Islands.

**Table 3. Covered<sup>1</sup> employment and wages by state, fourth quarter 2010<sup>2</sup>**

State	Employment		Average weekly wage <sup>3</sup>			
	December 2010 (thousands)	Percent change, December 2009-10	Average weekly wage	National ranking by level <sup>4</sup>	Percent change, fourth quarter 2009-10	National ranking by percent change <sup>4</sup>
United States <sup>5</sup>	129,451.6	0.9	\$971	--	3.0	--
Alabama	1,823.8	0.3	839	31	2.4	36
Alaska	306.6	1.4	987	12	2.9	24
Arizona	2,417.0	0.5	892	21	1.4	47
Arkansas	1,143.4	0.5	738	47	1.8	42
California	14,561.6	0.6	1,128	6	5.0	2
Colorado	2,203.9	0.9	1,001	11	3.7	10
Connecticut	1,628.6	0.5	1,226	2	2.8	28
Delaware	404.9	1.5	1,003	10	4.4	7
District of Columbia	698.5	1.6	1,688	1	4.5	5
Florida	7,258.9	0.7	871	25	1.8	42
Georgia	3,790.7	0.7	906	20	3.4	16
Hawaii	598.0	0.8	859	28	1.9	41
Idaho	601.7	-0.4	733	48	3.5	12
Illinois	5,573.7	0.9	1,035	8	2.9	24
Indiana	2,743.6	1.2	804	39	2.9	24
Iowa	1,446.1	0.6	797	40	3.4	16
Kansas	1,311.7	0.2	812	37	2.5	35
Kentucky	1,747.7	1.3	794	42	1.7	44
Louisiana	1,849.5	0.3	863	27	3.5	12
Maine	578.3	-0.1	769	46	1.3	48
Maryland	2,488.6	1.0	1,080	7	2.7	32
Massachusetts	3,188.2	1.4	1,217	4	3.3	19
Michigan	3,817.3	1.3	938	19	2.7	32
Minnesota	2,579.6	0.6	974	16	5.0	2
Mississippi	1,081.6	0.4	706	51	1.3	48
Missouri	2,596.8	-0.1	839	31	2.8	28
Montana	419.5	0.1	721	49	3.6	11
Nebraska	902.9	0.7	772	45	2.0	39
Nevada	1,114.5	-0.8	880	22	0.6	51
New Hampshire	610.0	0.6	978	14	2.1	37
New Jersey	3,792.0	-0.2	1,161	5	1.5	46
New Mexico	786.7	-0.1	817	35	2.8	28
New York	8,507.7	1.0	1,219	3	2.1	37
North Carolina	3,831.7	0.7	840	30	2.7	32
North Dakota	368.8	4.3	809	38	7.6	1
Ohio	4,963.5	1.1	865	26	3.0	23
Oklahoma	1,506.9	1.2	797	40	4.5	5
Oregon	1,609.4	1.0	852	29	2.8	28
Pennsylvania	5,547.3	1.3	951	17	2.0	39
Rhode Island	450.8	0.5	940	18	3.1	22

See footnotes at end of table.

**Table 3. Covered<sup>1</sup> employment and wages by state, fourth quarter 2010<sup>2</sup>—Continued**

State	Employment		Average weekly wage <sup>3</sup>			
	December 2010 (thousands)	Percent change, December 2009-10	Average weekly wage	National ranking by level <sup>4</sup>	Percent change, fourth quarter 2009-10	National ranking by percent change <sup>4</sup>
South Carolina	1,770.6	1.2	775	44	1.6	45
South Dakota	391.1	1.4	714	50	3.8	9
Tennessee	2,599.4	1.1	878	23	3.5	12
Texas	10,352.8	2.0	977	15	3.4	16
Utah	1,170.2	1.1	827	34	3.9	8
Vermont	299.3	0.9	814	36	1.1	50
Virginia	3,578.5	0.8	1,028	9	3.3	19
Washington	2,803.1	1.0	981	13	2.9	24
West Virginia	698.0	0.6	778	43	3.5	12
Wisconsin	2,665.9	1.1	836	33	3.2	21
Wyoming	270.5	1.3	872	24	4.9	4
Puerto Rico	956.7	-2.3	559	( <sup>6</sup> )	1.5	( <sup>6</sup> )
Virgin Islands	44.9	2.0	805	( <sup>6</sup> )	8.3	( <sup>6</sup> )

<sup>1</sup> Includes workers covered by Unemployment Insurance (UI) and Unemployment Compensation for Federal Employees (UCFE) programs.

<sup>2</sup> Data are preliminary.

<sup>3</sup> Average weekly wages were calculated using unrounded data.

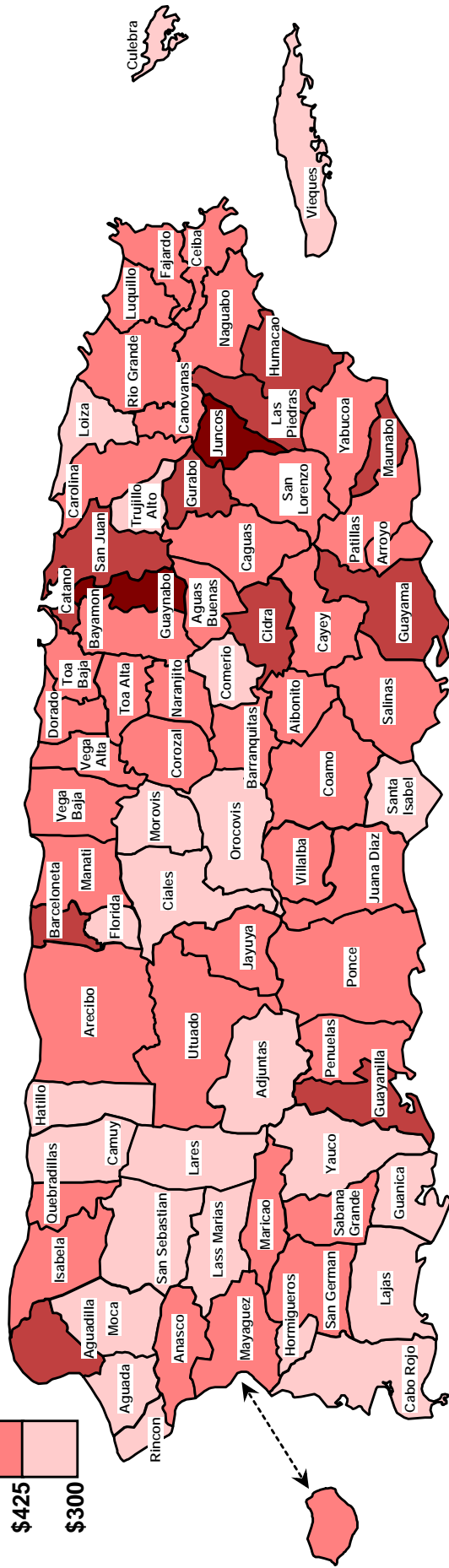
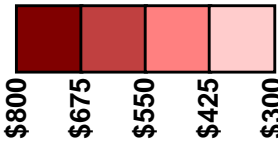
<sup>4</sup> Ranking does not include Puerto Rico or the Virgin Islands.

<sup>5</sup> Totals for the United States do not include data for Puerto Rico or the Virgin Islands.

<sup>6</sup> Data not included in the national ranking.

# Chart 3. Average weekly wages by county in Puerto Rico, fourth quarter 2010

Average weekly wages  
(U.S. average = \$971)



Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics, July 2011