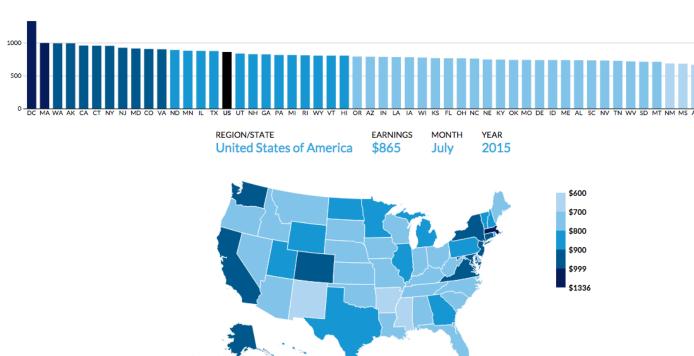
## **WAGES**

Tracking monthly state data on average weekly earnings for all US private employees.

## Average Weekly Earnings, Private Employment (dollars)

National real weekly earnings (i.e., earnings adjusted for inflation) for all US private employees averaged \$865 in July 2015.

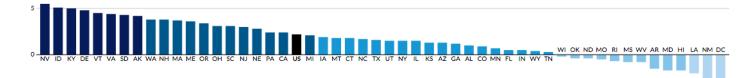


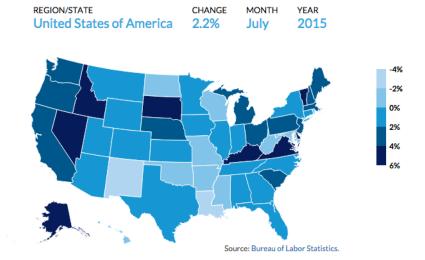
National weekly earnings for all US private employees averaged \$865 in July 2015. Among the 50 states, average wages ranged from \$669 in Arkansas to \$1,000 in Massachusetts. The District of Columbia's average weekly earnings were \$1,335. Thirty-six states had average weekly earnings below the national average, including three states with average wages below \$700: Arkansas, Mississippi (\$686), and New Mexico (\$689). The states with average wages closest to the national average were Texas (\$877), Illinois (\$881), and Minnesota (\$883). After Massachusetts, the highest average wages were in Washington and Alaska (both \$996), California (\$963), Connecticut (\$959), and New York (\$958).

Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics.

## Changes in Real Average Weekly Earnings, Private Employment (percent change year over year)

National real (inflation adjusted) average weekly earnings increased 2.2 percent from July 2014 to July 2015.





National real (inflation-adjusted) average weekly earnings in July 2015 was 2.2 percent higher than in July 2014. Real average weekly earnings decreased in 12 states and DC, with the largest drops in New Mexico and DC (both -3.2 percent). Four other states had decreases greater than 1.0 percent: Louisiana (-2.0 percent), Hawaii and Maryland (both -1.7 percent), and Arkansas (-1.5 percent). Conversely, real average wages increased 5.0 percent or more over the year in Nevada (5.5 percent), Idaho (5.1 percent), and Kentucky (5.0 percent). Another five states had growth greater than 4.0 percent: Delaware (4.8 percent), Vermont (4.5 percent), Virginia (4.4 percent), South Dakota (4.3 percent), and Alaska (4.2 percent).