## ungan STATE ECONOMIC MONITOR

WAGES<br>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 \$861 in June 2015.



National weekly earnings for all US private employees averaged \$861 in June 2015. Among the 50 states, average wages ranged from $\$ 663$ in Arkansas to \$1,000 in Massachusetts. The District of Columbia's average weekly earnings were $\$ 1,365$. Thirty-six states had average weekly earnings below the national average, including three states with average wages below \$700: Arkansas, Mississippi (\$679), and New Mexico (\$694). Ten states had average weekly earnings above \$900: Massachusetts, Washington (\$995), Alaska (\$980), California (\$965), New York (\$958), Connecticut (\$954), New Jersey (\$932), Maryland (\$922), Virginia (\$905), and Colorado (\$902).

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National real (inflation-adjusted) average weekly earnings in June 2015 were 1.9 percent higher than in June 2014 but only twenty-two states saw real average weekly earnings increase over the year. Four states saw increases of more than 3 percent: Nevada ( 3.9 percent), Vermont (3.4 percent), Kentucky (3.3 percent), and Alaska (3.2 percent). Ten other states had real average earnings growth between 1 and 3 percent. Twenty-eight states and DC saw average wages decline. The three states with the lowest average weekly earnings were among the states that declined the most: New Mexico (-4.9 percent), Arkansas (-4.6 percent), and Mississippi (-3.0 percent). Three other states had declines 3 percent or more: Hawaii (-3.8 percent), and Colorado and Mississippi (both -3.0 percent).

