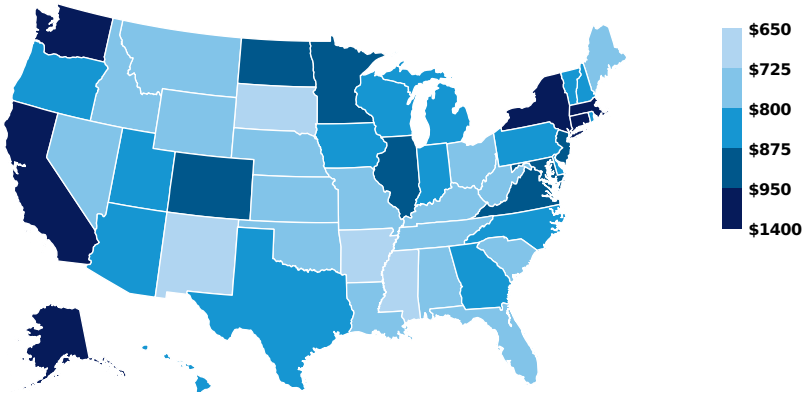
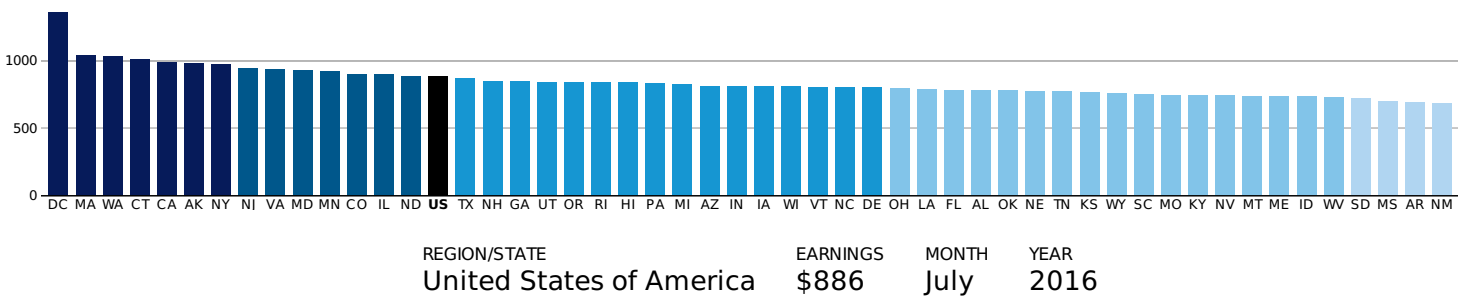


# EARNINGS

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 \$886 in July 2016.

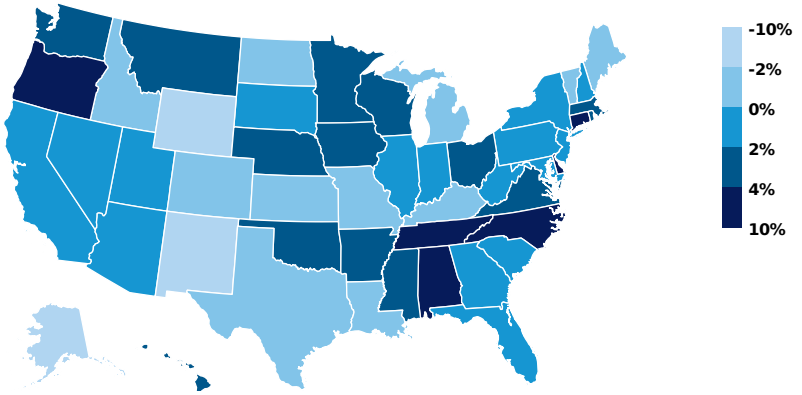
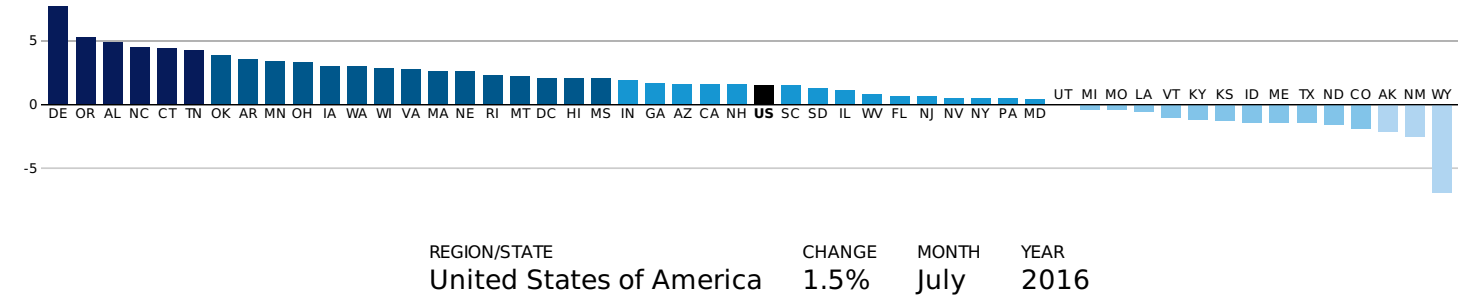


Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics. (<http://www.bls.gov/sae/home.htm>)

National weekly earnings for all US private employees averaged \$886 in July 2016. Among the 50 states, average earnings ranged from \$682 in New Mexico to \$1,039 in Massachusetts. As is typical, average weekly earnings in the District of Columbia (DC) were higher than in all states (\$1,357). Thirty-seven states had average weekly earnings below the national average. Average earnings were lowest in New Mexico, Arkansas (\$697), Mississippi (\$702), South Dakota (\$724), and West Virginia (\$732). Average weekly earnings in Illinois (\$898), North Dakota (\$887) and Texas (\$871) were closest to the national average. After DC and Massachusetts, the highest average earnings were in Washington (\$1,037), Connecticut (\$1,013), California (\$987), and Alaska (\$984).

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

National real (inflation adjusted) average weekly earnings increased 1.5 percent from July 2015 to July 2016.



Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics. (<http://www.bls.gov/sae/home.htm>)

National real (inflation-adjusted) average weekly earnings in July 2016 were 1.5 percent higher than in July 2015. Despite the national increase, however, real earnings fell in 14 states. The largest decline in real earnings was in natural resource-dependent Wyoming (-6.9 percent). Real average weekly earnings also fell more than 2.0 percent in New Mexico (-2.5 percent) and Alaska (-2.1 percent). In Wyoming and New Mexico, average hourly earnings (<http://www.bls.gov/web/laus/tabled6.pdf>) increased, but hours worked per week fell, causing the decline from last year and reflecting the effect of lower energy prices on activity. The largest increases in real average earnings were in Delaware (7.7 percent) and Oregon (5.3 percent). Four other states had real earnings growth of 4.0 percent or more: Alabama, Connecticut, North Carolina, and Tennessee. North Carolina's 4.5 percent increase may reflect the fact that Walmart (<https://www.nccommerce.com/lead/research-publications/the-lead-feed/artmid/11056/articleid/70/what-walmart%E2%80%99s-pay-raises-may-mean-to-north-carolina>) (a major employer) raised associates' wages.

Real wages for trade, transportation, and utilities, a category that includes general merchandise stores such as Walmart, increased 6.0 percent.

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