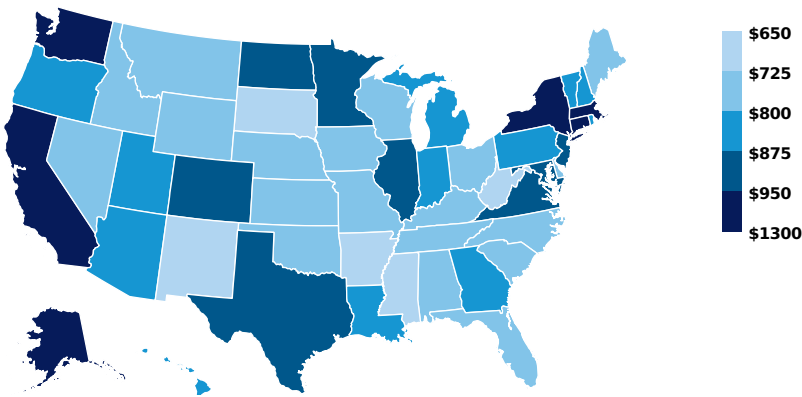
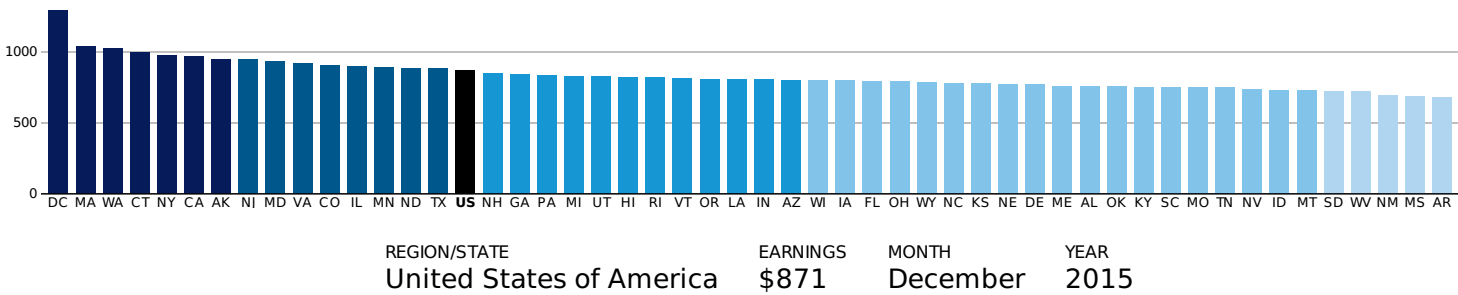


# WAGES

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 \$871 in December 2015.

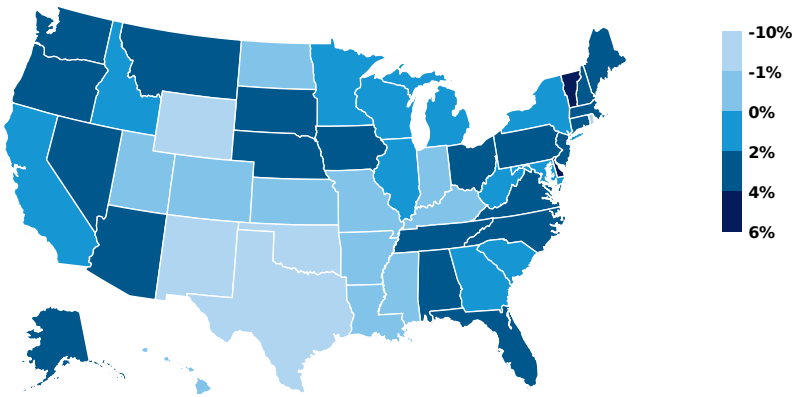
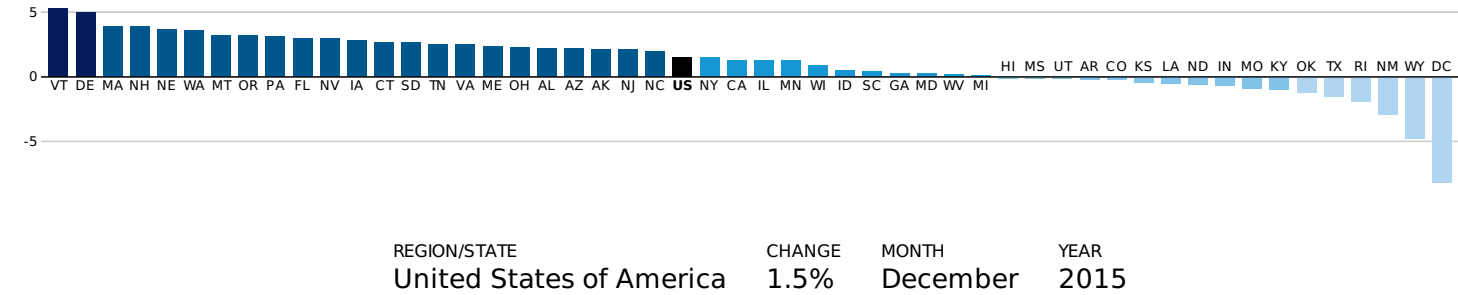


Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics. (<http://www.bls.gov/sae/home.htm>)

National weekly earnings for all US private employees averaged \$871 in December 2015. Among the 50 states, average earnings ranged from \$679 in Arkansas to \$1,041 in Massachusetts. As is typically the case, the District of Columbia's (DC) average weekly earnings (\$1,289) were higher than all the states. Thirty-six states had average weekly earnings below the national average. Average earnings were lowest in Arkansas, Mississippi (\$689), New Mexico (\$693), West Virginia (\$723), and South Dakota (\$724). Texas's average weekly earnings (\$880) were the closest to the national average. After DC and Massachusetts, the highest average earnings were in Washington (\$1,028), Connecticut (\$996), New York (\$973), and California (\$968).

## 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 December 2014 to December 2015.



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

National real (inflation-adjusted) average weekly earnings in December 2015 were 1.5 percent higher than in December 2014. This was only the third month (<http://apps.urban.org/features/state-economic-monitor/historical.html>) in 2015 (joining June and November) that year-over-year real national earnings did not increase 2.0 percent or more. Sixteen states and DC had real average weekly earnings fall over the past year. The largest year-over-year decrease was in DC (-8.2 percent). Six states also had average earnings decrease 1.0 percent or more: Wyoming (-4.8 percent), New Mexico (-2.9 percent), Rhode Island (-1.9 percent), Texas (-1.5 percent), Oklahoma (-1.2 percent), and Kentucky (-1.0 percent). The largest increase in real average earnings were in Vermont (5.3 percent) and Delaware (5.0 percent). Nine additional states (Florida, Massachusetts, Montana, New Hampshire, Nebraska, Nevada, Pennsylvania, Oregon, and Washington) had real average earnings increase 3.0 percent or more.

