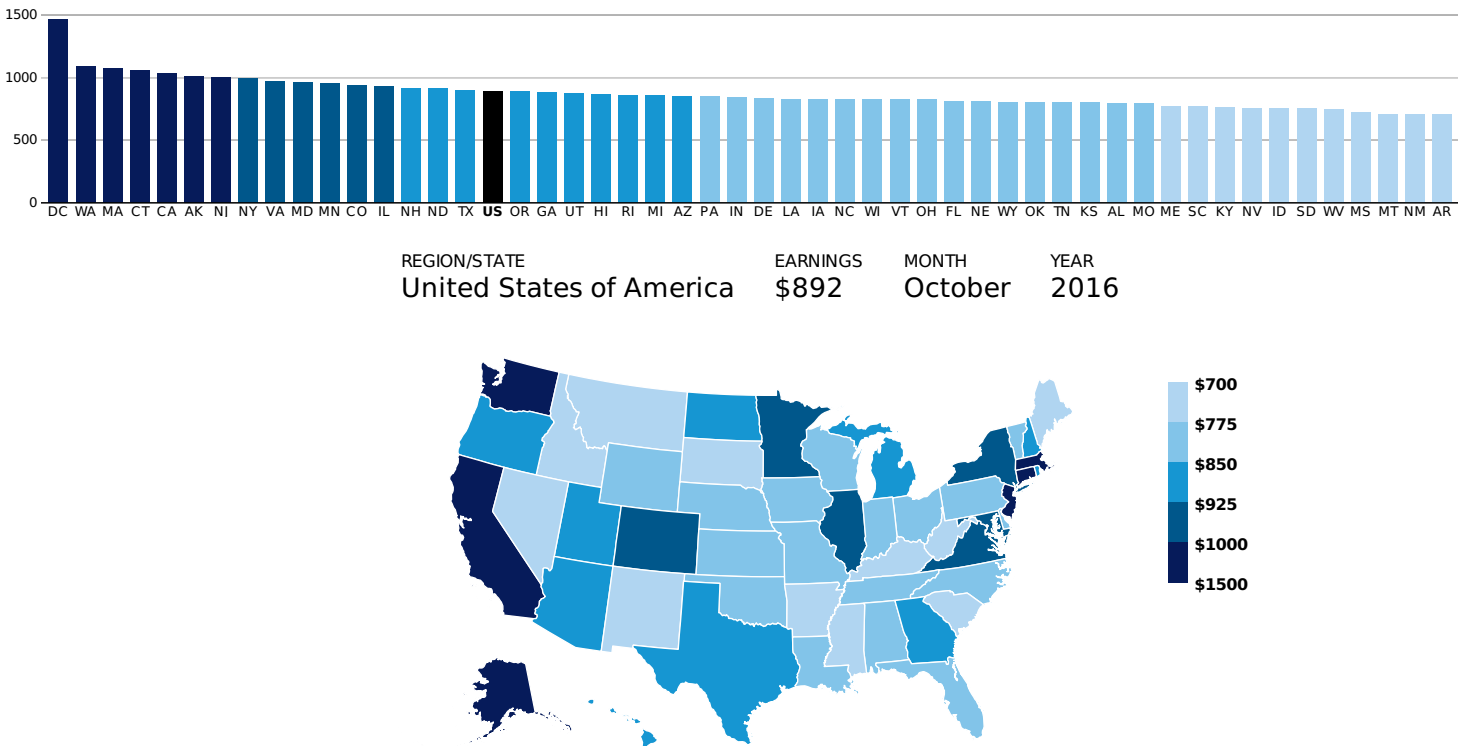


# EARNINGS

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 \$892 in October 2016.

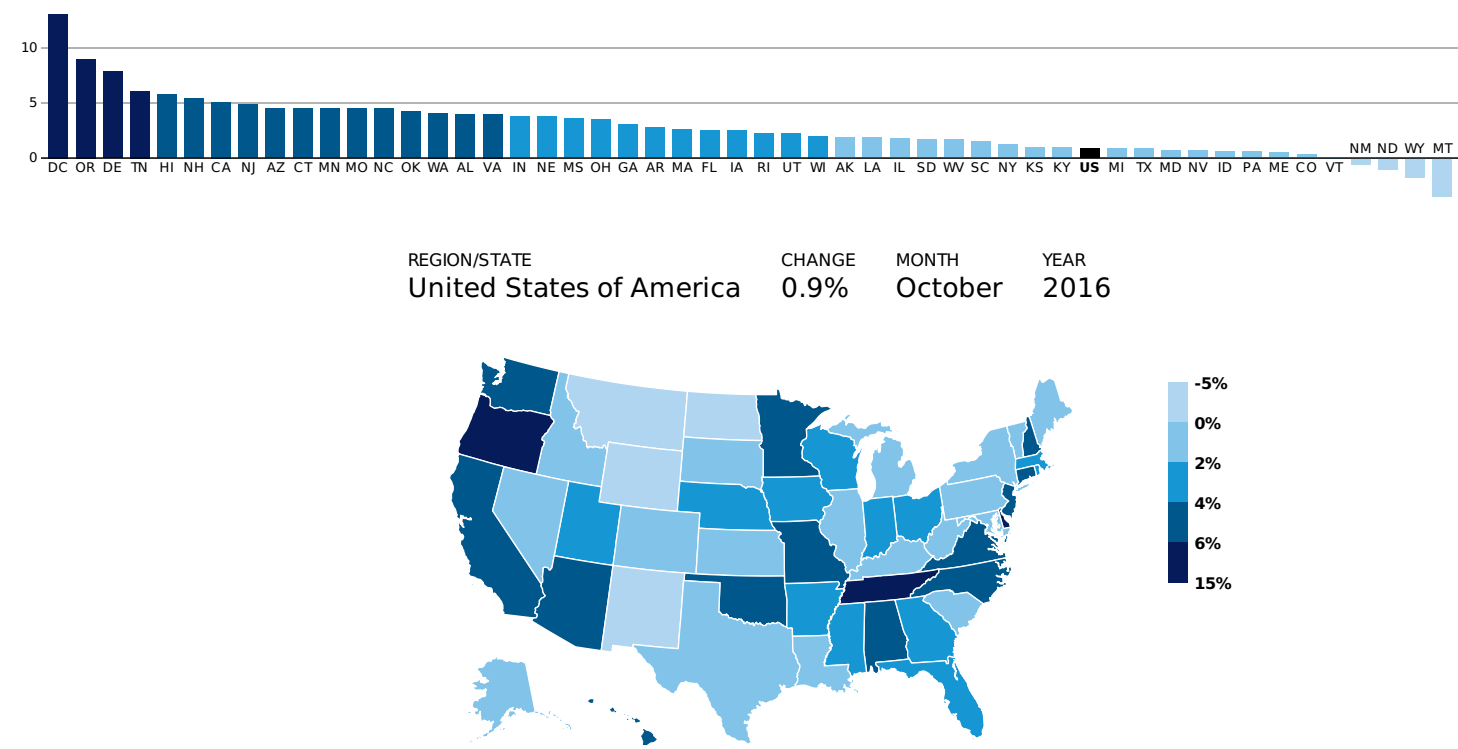


Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics. (<http://www.bls.gov/sae/home.htm>)

National weekly earnings for all US private employees averaged \$887 in September 2016. Among the 50 states, average earnings ranged from \$682 in Arkansas to \$1,053 in Washington. As is typical, average weekly earnings in the District of Columbia (DC) were higher than in all states (\$1,386). Thirty-seven states had average weekly earnings below the national average. Beyond Arkansas, average earnings were lowest in New Mexico (\$690), Mississippi (\$702), Montana (\$727), and Idaho (\$734). Average weekly earnings in New Hampshire (\$884) and North Dakota (\$891) were closest to the national average. After DC and Washington, the highest average earnings were in Massachusetts (\$1,047), Connecticut (\$1,026), California (\$997), and Alaska (\$985). In the final state earnings data before the 2016 presidential election, weekly earnings in swing states ([http://projects.fivethirtyeight.com/2016-election-forecast/?ex\\_cid=rrpromo](http://projects.fivethirtyeight.com/2016-election-forecast/?ex_cid=rrpromo)) ranged from \$750 in Nevada, which is still recovering from the housing collapse, to \$950 in Virginia. Among swing states, only Virginia and Colorado (\$900) had weekly earnings above the national average.

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

National real (inflation adjusted) average weekly earnings increased 0.9 percent from October 2015 to October 2016.



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

National real (inflation-adjusted) average weekly earnings in September 2016 were 0.8 percent higher than in September 2015. Despite the national increase, real earnings fell in 12 states. The largest decline in real earnings was in natural resource-dependent Wyoming (-4.9 percent). Real average weekly earnings also fell more than 2.0 percent in New Mexico (-2.9 percent) and Colorado (-2.4 percent). The largest increases in real average earnings were in Oregon (5.7 percent), Tennessee (4.5 percent), Minnesota (4.4 percent), Delaware, and North Carolina (both 4.3 percent). DC saw real earnings growth of 4.4 percent. In total, 38 states and DC saw real earnings growth from September 2015 to September 2016. In Nevada, which had the lowest weekly earnings of any swing states in the 2016 election, weekly earnings have declined 1.1 percent since 2015. Colorado also saw weekly earnings decline -2.4 percent. In contrast, North Carolina and New Hampshire saw earnings grow 4.3 percent and 4.0 percent, respectively. For more context on state earnings growth, see

