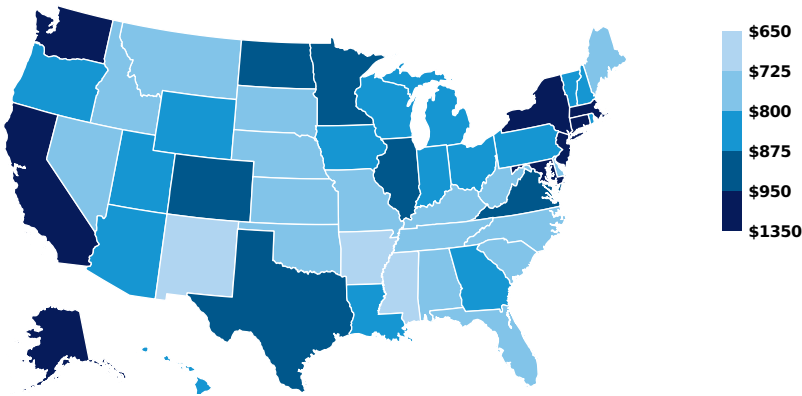
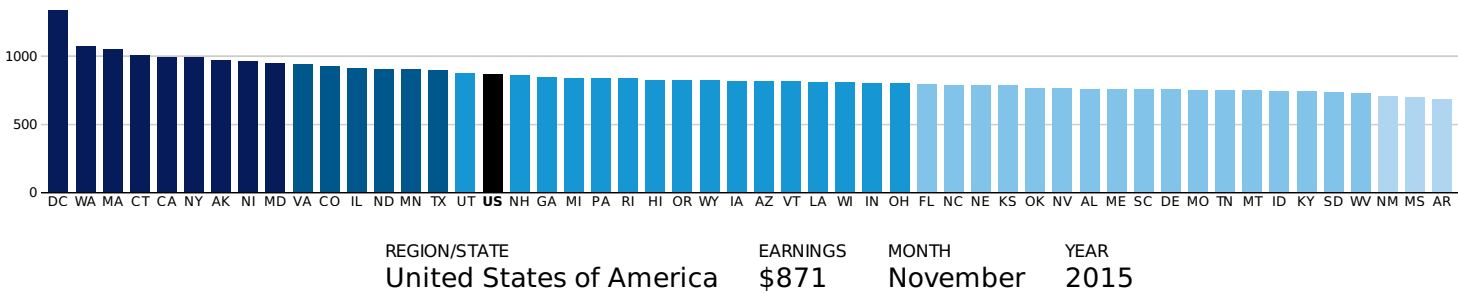


# WAGES

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 November 2015.

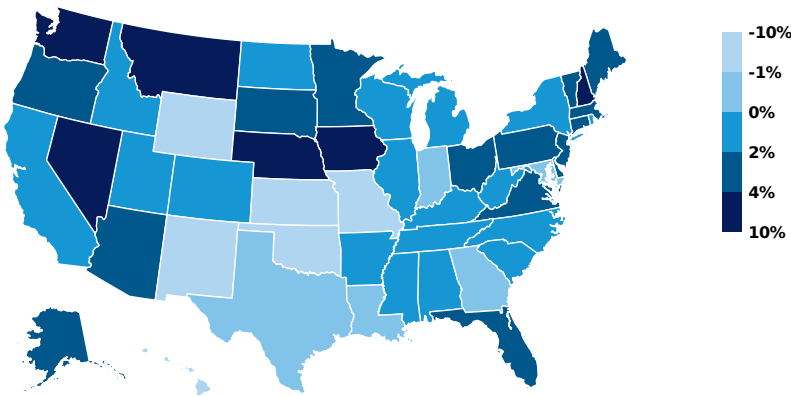
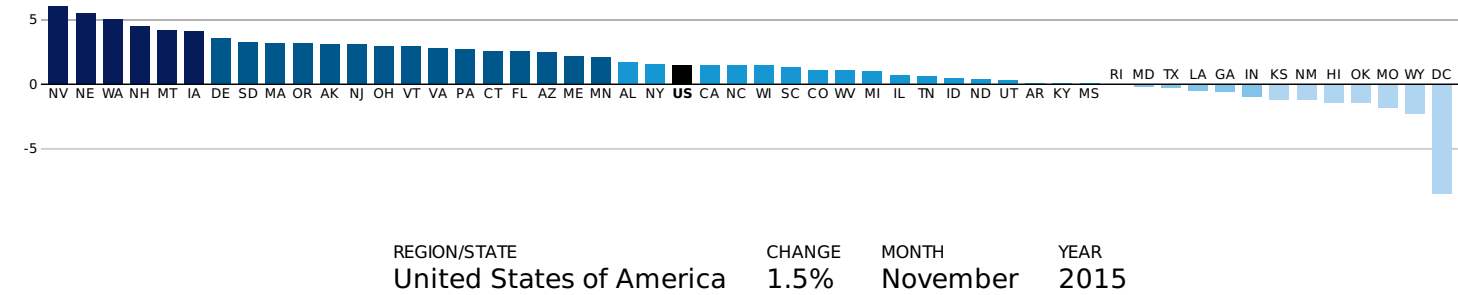


Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics. (<http://www.bls.gov/sae/home.htm>)

National weekly earnings for all US private employees averaged \$871 in November 2015. Among the 50 states, average wages ranged from \$689 in Arkansas to \$1,073 in Washington. As is typically the case, the District of Columbia's (DC) average weekly earnings (\$1,342) for private employees were higher than all the states. Thirty-five states had average weekly earnings below the national average. Average earnings were lowest in Arkansas, Mississippi (\$699), New Mexico (\$709), West Virginia (\$733), and South Dakota (\$734). Utah's average weekly earnings (\$874) were the closest to the national average. After DC and Washington, the highest average wages were in Massachusetts (\$1,056), Connecticut (\$1,011), California (\$996), and New York (\$993).

## 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 November 2014 to November 2015.



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

National real (inflation-adjusted) average weekly earnings in November 2015 were 1.5 percent higher than in November 2014. This was the first month since June (<http://apps.urban.org/features/state-economic-monitor/historical.html>) that year-over-year real national wages did not increase 2.0 percent or more. Eleven states and DC had real average weekly earnings fall over the past year. The largest year-over-year decrease was in DC (-8.5 percent): both hours and hourly wages were down in November compounding the effect on weekly earnings. Seven states also had average wages decrease 1.0 percent or more: Wyoming (-2.3 percent), Missouri (-1.8 percent), Hawaii and Oklahoma (both -1.4 percent), Kansas and New Mexico (both -1.2 percent), and Indiana (-1.0 percent). The largest increase in real average wages was in Nevada (6.1 percent). The next real highest wage increases were in Nebraska (5.5 percent), Washington (5.1 percent), New Hampshire (4.5. percent), Montana (4.2 percent), and Iowa (4.1 percent).

