

## **Quarterly Workforce Indicators for Federal Workers (QWI-OPM) – Beta release 2012Q1**

We are pleased to announce the release of new Quarterly Workforce Indicators (QWI) for Federal Workers, containing detailed sub-state indicators on the federal workforce by age, gender, race, and ethnicity.

The Census Bureau's Quarterly Workforce Indicators (QWI) have been published since 2003, and are comprised of 32 indicators of dynamics of the labor market (see Abowd et al. (2009) for detailed description). The QWI cover nearly all private sector employment (Stevens, 2007), and portions of the non-private sector of the economy, in particular state and local government. Most federal employees are tracked in the the U.S. Office of Personnel Management (OPM)'s personnel data files. Their wage records are not reported through the Unemployment Insurance (UI) system, and have thus been absent from the QWI universe.

As part of a Center for Economic Studies (CES) research program, the Census Bureau is releasing detailed sub-state tabulations by demographic characteristics of OPM-covered employment and earnings, as Quarterly Workforce Indicators for OPM (QWI-OPM). While research has not been completed into this new data product, the Census Bureau is releasing an early version (beta) of the new Quarterly Workforce Indicators for OPM (QWI-OPM) to a wider audience to obtain feedback prior to a full release. Only data for a select number of states that have passed preliminary internal quality assurance controls are available. The full list of states available in this beta release are listed in Appendix A, along with summary information on the coverage of this release.

*Disclaimer:* The analysis presented here has not undergone the review accorded Census Bureau publications and no endorsement should be inferred. The analysis is based on early release data, and all results reported here are subject to revision in later releases. Any opinions and conclusions expressed herein are those of the author(s) and do not necessarily represent the views of the U.S. Census Bureau. All results have been reviewed to ensure that no confidential information is disclosed.

Data access: The beta QWI-OPM tabulations can be downloaded from <http://www.vrdc.cornell.edu/qwipu-opm/beta1/> in state-specific folders, where (state) is one of the states from the list in Appendix A. More information about downloading the data is available at <http://www.vrdc.cornell.edu/news/availability-of-qwi-opm-beta/> .

### **Preliminary results**

From September 2009 to September 2010, the net increase of OPM employment in the 16 states in this release was 16,621 jobs. OPM employment increased in all 16 states in this release, by between 0.12 percent in Arkansas to 6.24 percent in Missouri. However, this overall increase hid significant geographic and demographic diversity. OPM employment increased (by at least 10 employees) in 145 of the 870 counties in the 16 states in this release, and OPM employment decreased (by at least 10 employees) in 34 of the counties in this release. Most counties had no significant change in overall employment. The District of Columbia dominates both OPM employment and increases

thereof over the September 2009-10 time period. Outside of the District of Columbia, DeKalb County, GA, posted the largest increase, with a gain of 3126 jobs (21 percent) over the year. Completing the list of the five counties with the largest increases in employment levels were St. Louis County, MO; Jefferson County, CO, and Butler County, MO. These counties had a combined over-the-year gain of 13,245, accounting for 62% of the employment gains in counties that had higher employment in September 2010.

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**Table A1. Counties ranked by September 2010 employment**  
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District of Columbia, DC	131649
DeKalb County, GA	17797
Jackson County, MO	12768
Fulton County, GA	10903
Bernalillo County, NM	9281
Jefferson County, CO	8765
Denver County, CO	8358
Oklahoma County, OK	7634
Multnomah County, OR	7618
St. Louis city, MO	6589

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**Table A2. Counties ranked by September 2009-2010 employment increase**  
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District of Columbia, DC	7570
DeKalb County, GA	3126
St. Louis County, MO	1088
Jefferson County, CO	956
Butler County, MO	505
Marquette, WI	296
El Paso County, CO	292
Bernalillo County, NM	266
Dane County, WI	262
Muskogee County, OK	259

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Within DeKalb, women gained 2179 jobs (23.54 percent increase over September 2009), whereas men gained 946 jobs (an increase of 17.47 percent). The largest percentage increase for each gender occurred in the 55-64 year, increasing by 31.77 percent for women, and by 24.13 percent for men. Employment for young workers (25-34 year old) increased by 19.08 percent for women, and by 24.03 percent for men.

Employment declined in 34 of the counties in this collection of states from September 2009 to September 2010. Fulton County, GA, experienced the largest over-the-year decrease in employment among the counties in this collection of states, with a loss of 1659 jobs (13.21 percent). Both men (loss of 302 jobs, 5.14 percent) and women (loss of 1357 jobs, 20.30 percent) were affected in Fulton County. Employment of young workers (25-34 year old) in Fulton County declined among young women (decline of 4 percent), but increased for men (increase of 6.47 percent). Jackson County, MO, had the

second largest employment decrease, followed by Arapahoe, CO.; Clackamas, OR; and Denver County, CO (See Table B1.)

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**Table B1: Counties ranked by September 2009-2010 employment decline**  
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Fulton County, GA	-1659	-13.21%
Jackson County, MO	-353	-2.69%
Arapahoe County, CO	-281	-36.16%
Clackamas County, OR	-179	-23.74%
Denver County, CO	-175	-2.05%
Douglas County, OR	-163	-10.37%
Catron County, NM	-150	-98.04%
Jefferson County, KY	-114	-3.55%
Monroe County, WI	-109	-9.80%
Boone County, MO	-98	-5.31%

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Within this group of states, average quarterly earnings increased over the year by 3.53 percent to \$6,635 in the second quarter of 2010. Earnings decreased in 212 of the 870 counties in this release, and increased in 645 counties, the balance having insignificant earnings changes. Among the top 10 counties by 2010Q2 employment, all had earnings increases. The largest increase, in both absolute and relative terms, occurred in St. Louis City, Missouri. In St. Louis, Mo., men's average quarterly earnings increased by 9.61 percent, with the highest increase occurring for men aged 35-44 (20.11 percent). Women's average quarterly earnings increased by 6.37 percent, with the highest increase occurring for women aged 25-34 (13.08 percent).

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**Table C1. 10 Largest counties ranked by second quarter 2010 average quarterly earnings**  
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District of Columbia, DC	8502
Jefferson County, CO	6893
Fulton County, GA	6845
DeKalb County, GA	6708
Denver County, CO	6445
Multnomah County, OR	6410
Oklahoma County, OK	6303
Bernalillo County, NM	5942
Jackson County, MO	5311
St. Louis city, MO	5307

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**Table C2. 10 Largest counties ranked by second quarter 2009-2010 increase in average quarterly earnings**  
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St. Louis city, MO	398
Multnomah County, OR	333
Denver County, CO	301
District of Columbia, DC	267
Fulton County, GA	218

DeKalb County, GA	212
Oklahoma County, OK	183
Bernalillo County, NM	169
Jefferson County, CO	75
Jackson County, MO	67

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*Table C3. 10 Largest counties ranked by second quarter 2009-2010 percent decrease in average quarterly earnings.*

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St. Louis city, MO	8.11
Multnomah County, OR	5.48
Denver County, CO	4.90
Fulton County, GA	3.29
DeKalb County, GA	3.26
District of Columbia, DC	3.24
Oklahoma County, OK	2.99
Bernalillo County, NM	2.93
Jackson County, MO	1.28
Jefferson County, CO	1.10

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## **Appendix A**

The initial release (R2012Q2 beta1) is only available for certain time periods and states. More states and time periods will be released in the future, with the final releases covering all time periods since 2000 as available, and all states of the LED Partnership with available data.

### ***List of states available in QWI-OPM R2012Q2 beta1***

- 1 Arkansas
- 2 Colorado
- 3 Delaware
- 4 District of Columbia
- 5 Georgia
- 6 Hawaii
- 7 Kentucky
- 8 Missouri
- 9 Montana
- 10 New Mexico
- 11 North Dakota
- 12 Oklahoma
- 13 Oregon
- 14 Vermont
- 15 West Virginia
- 16 Wisconsin

### ***Coverage discussion***

The current release of QWI-OPM does not include all workers covered by OPM. In particular, civilian employees of the Department of Defense and the Armed Forces are excluded. Some federal workers, such as those in select agencies as well as the U.S. Postal Service, are not covered by OPM. More details will be available in a technical paper shortly.

### ***Technical terms***

All technical terms are defined as per regular QWI. Employment is reported as end-of-quarter employment. Average quarterly earnings are for end-of-quarter employees. For more information on the QWI, consult the Census Bureau's LEHD website at <http://lehd.ces.census.gov> and [Abowd et al \(2009\)](#).

### **References**

Abowd, J. M.; Stephens, B. E.; Vilhuber, L.; Andersson, F.; McKinney, K. L.; Roemer, M. & Woodcock, S. D. "The LEHD Infrastructure Files and the Creation of the Quarterly Workforce Indicators," in Dunne, T.; Jensen, J. B. & Roberts, M. J. (Eds.), *Producer Dynamics: New Evidence from Micro Data*, University of Chicago Press, 2009. Available online at <http://www.nber.org/chapters/c0485.pdf>.

Stevens, D. W. (2007), 'Employment that is not covered by state unemployment insurance Laws'(TP-2007-04), Technical report, LEHD, U.S. Census Bureau.

