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The West Virginia Worker Earned an Average of \$37,702 in 2010

The West Virginia worker earned an average of \$37,702 in 2010 according to statistics released by WorkForce West Virginia, a division of the West Virginia Department of Commerce. The average annual wage in the state rose by \$807, an increase of 2.2 percent from 2009. Average annual employment increased to 692,305 from 691,921 in 2009, a gain of 384, or just over one-half of one percentage point (+0.6). Major industry sectors that experienced growth included government (+2,875), educational and health services (+2,001), professional and business services (+1,133), mining (+375), and leisure and hospitality (+203). Sectors with employment declines included manufacturing (-1,582), trade, transportation, and utilities (-1,554), construction (-1,526), financial activities (-672), other services (-495), information (-141), and agriculture, forestry, fishing and hunting (-127).

A survey of wages based on four-digit NAICS codes shows securities and commodity contracts brokerage firms paid the highest annual average wage among the state's industries, with an average of \$105,865, followed by resin, rubber, and artificial fibers manufacturing (\$84,124), power generation and supply (\$83,766), druggists' goods merchant wholesalers (\$82,990), and basic chemical manufacturing (\$79,852).

Boone County continued to report the highest average annual wage at \$52,651, followed by Mingo (\$46,834), Marshall (\$43,710), Putnam (\$43,313), Monongalia (\$42,191), McDowell (\$41,954), Wayne (\$40,860), Kanawha (\$40,832), Pleasants (\$39,762), and Wyoming (\$39,735). Tucker County had the lowest annual average wage of \$24,656, followed by Wirt (\$25,282), Wetzel (\$26,384), Pocahontas (\$26,731), and Summers (\$26,734).

The five counties with the largest growth in average employment were Monongalia (+2,114), Greenbrier (+550), Lewis (+419), Jefferson (+363), and Marshall (+265). West Virginia covered employers paid over \$26 billion in wages, an increase of just over \$527 million or 2.2% from 2009.

Based on data that includes all workers covered by state and federal unemployment insurance programs, these statistics appear each year in the West Virginia Employment and Wages. Also included are data on average annual employment, average annual and weekly wages, and the number of employers by detailed industry for the state and each of its 55 counties. **West Virginia Employment and Wages** can be found online at www.workforcewv.org/lmi/WAGEDATA.HTM

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