



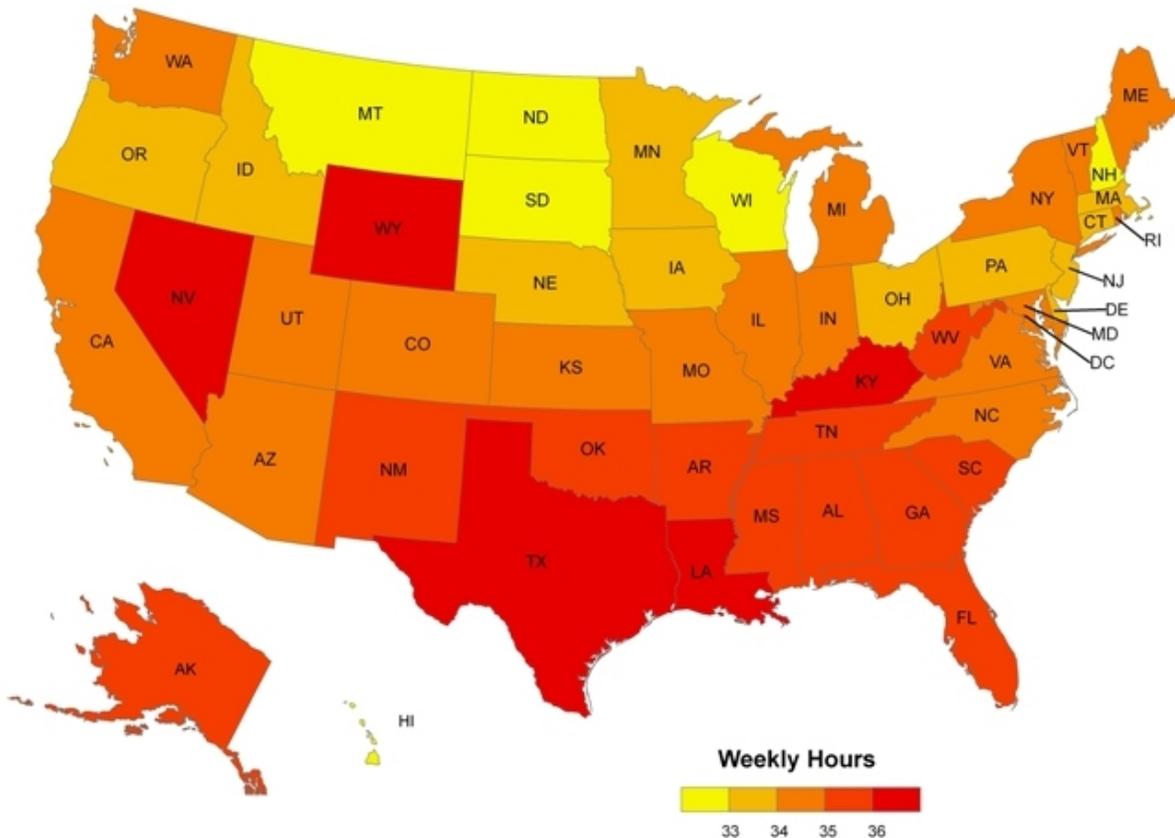
Working Smarter, Not Harder Brings in the Dough

by Ariel Goldring

[Richard Florida](#) has posted on a [new study](#) (PDF) from the Bureau of Labor Statistics that shows where workers work the longest hours and make the most money.

The study by Dante DeAntonio uses data from the Current Employment Statistics – a monthly survey of more than 400,000 U.S. business establishments – to provide estimates for employment, hours, and earnings for all 50 U.S. states. Catherine Rampell [summarized](#) some key findings of the study earlier this week over at Economix.

The map below shows how many hours employees in each state worked on average. People work the most hours in Nevada averaging 37 hours per week. Workers in Wyoming, Louisiana, Texas, Kentucky, and Alabama work an average of over 36 hours per week. Workers in Montana, the Dakotas, Hawaii, and New Hampshire, on the other hand, average less than 33 hours of work per week.

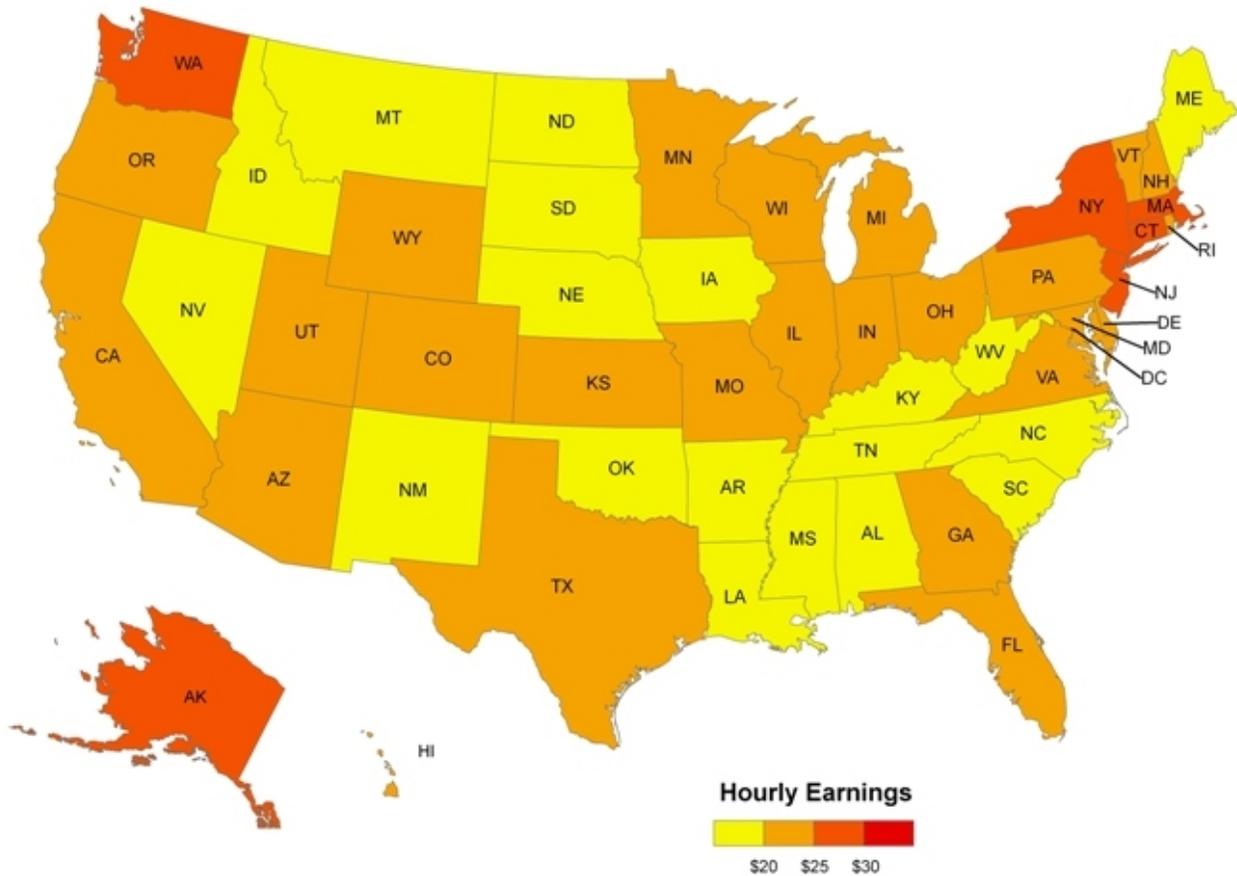




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The next map illustrates the highest-earning states in terms of average hourly earnings. D.C. is the top earner followed by Connecticut, Massachusetts, New York, New Jersey, Washington, Alaska, California, and Maryland. At the other end of the spectrum are South Dakota, Mississippi, Arkansas, Oklahoma, and West Virginia.





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So why is there almost no overlap between the two maps? Florida explains:

Our analysis reinforces a simple fact that working smarter, and not working harder, is what brings higher earnings to states. In contrast to the view, held by some, that immigrants drag down wages, states with higher levels of immigrants have higher earnings. So do states with higher levels of gays and lesbians. It's hard to say exactly what's causing what here – if immigrants or gay people are attracted to richer states that offer more opportunity and higher wages, or if they are part of an economic system that generates higher earnings. My own view is that more open and tolerant states are better able to compete for a wider range of talented and skilled workers across the board. And, smarter states not only generate higher earnings, they afford a greater level of happiness and well-being to their residents.

It's time to get over the notion that simply working harder brings wealth and economic development. The structure and composition of jobs matter greatly. At a time when job creation is at the top of the agenda, this is something policy-makers need to factor into their thinking about exactly what kinds of jobs we wish to create.