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County Employment and Wages in Iowa – Second Quarter 2014

The five largest counties in Iowa reported employment growth from June 2013 to June 2014, the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics reported today. (Large counties are defined as those with employment of 75,000 or more as measured by 2013 annual average employment.) Polk County had the largest increase, up 3.0 percent, followed by Linn and Scott Counties, each up 1.2 percent. Regional Commissioner Charlene Peiffer noted that only Polk County experienced an over-the-year employment gain greater than the national increase of 2.0 percent. (See [table 1.](#))

Among the five largest counties in Iowa, employment was highest in Polk County (290,300) in June 2014. Collectively, Iowa's five large counties accounted for 43.2 percent of total employment within the state. Nationwide, the 339 largest counties made up 71.8 percent of total U.S. employment, which stood at 137.8 million in June 2014.

The average weekly wage in Johnson County rose 3.3 percent from the second quarter of 2013 to the second quarter of 2014, the largest increase among Iowa's large counties. Polk County had the highest average weekly wage in the state at \$920, followed by Linn (\$894) and Johnson (\$874) Counties. (See [table 1.](#)) Nationally, the average weekly wage rose 2.1 percent over the year to \$940 in the second quarter of 2014.

Employment and wage levels (but not over-the-year changes) are also available for the 94 counties in Iowa with employment below 75,000. All of these smaller counties had average weekly wages below the national average. (See [table 2.](#))

Large county wage changes

Three of Iowa's large counties recorded wage growth above the national increase of 2.1 percent from the second quarter of 2013 to the second quarter of 2014. (See [table 1.](#)) As noted, Johnson County experienced the state's largest average weekly wage increase of 3.3 percent, ranking 41st among the 339 largest U.S. counties. This was followed by Black Hawk County (2.8 percent) and Polk County (2.4 percent), which ranked 79th and 104th, respectively, nationwide.

Among the 339 largest counties in the U.S., 312 had over-the-year increases in average weekly wages in the second quarter of 2014. Midland, Texas, had the largest wage increase (9.0 percent). Twenty-two large counties experienced over-the-year decreases in average weekly wages, of which Williamson, Texas, had the largest decrease (-2.7 percent).

Large county average weekly wages

Average weekly wages in all five large Iowa counties were below the national average of \$940 in the second quarter of 2014. As noted, Polk County (\$920) had the highest average weekly wage in the state and ranked 125th among the 339 largest counties in the nation. Scott County (\$766) reported the lowest average weekly wage of Iowa's large counties and ranked 280th nationwide.

Nationally, Santa Clara, Calif., held the top position among the 339 large counties with an average weekly wage of \$1,886. San Mateo, Calif., was second at \$1,740, followed by New York, N.Y. (\$1,732) and San Francisco, Calif. (\$1,593).

Average weekly wages in Iowa's smaller counties

All 94 counties in Iowa with employment below 75,000 had average weekly wages below the national average of \$940. Among these smaller counties, Dallas County had the highest average weekly wage at \$895 and Decatur County had the lowest at \$529. (See [table 2](#).)

When all 99 counties in Iowa were considered, none had wages above the national average. Six reported average weekly wages of \$599 or less, 31 reported wages from \$600 to \$649, 31 had wages from \$650 to \$699, and 31 had wages of \$700 or more. (See [chart 1](#).)

Additional statistics and other information

QCEW data for states have been included in this release in [table 3](#). For additional information about quarterly employment and wages data, please read the Technical Note or visit www.bls.gov/cew.

Employment and Wages Annual Averages Online features comprehensive information by detailed industry on establishments, employment, and wages for the nation and all states. The 2013 edition of this publication contains selected data produced by Business Employment Dynamics (BED) on job gains and losses, as well as selected data from the first quarter 2014 version of the national news release. Tables and additional content from Employment and Wages Annual Averages 2013 are now available online at www.bls.gov/cew/publications/employment-and-wages-annual-averages/2013/home.htm. The 2014 edition of Employment and Wages Annual Averages Online will be available in September 2015.

The County Employment and Wages release for third quarter 2014 is scheduled to be released on Thursday, March 19, 2015, at 9:00 a.m. (CT).

Technical Note

Average weekly wage data by county are compiled under the Quarterly Census of Employment and Wages (QCEW) program, also known as the ES-202 program. The data are derived from summaries of employment and total pay of workers covered by state and federal unemployment insurance (UI) legislation and provided by State Workforce Agencies (SWAs). The 9.4 million employer reports cover 137.8 million full- and part-time workers. The average weekly wage values are calculated by dividing quarterly total wages by the average of the three monthly employment levels of those covered by UI programs. The result is then divided by 13, the number of weeks in a quarter. It is to be noted, therefore, that over-the-year wage changes for geographic areas may reflect shifts in the composition of employment by industry, occupation, and such other factors as hours of work. Thus, wages may vary among counties, metropolitan areas, or states for reasons other than changes in

the average wage level. Data for all states, Metropolitan Statistical Areas (MSAs), counties, and the nation are available on the BLS Web site at www.bls.gov/cew; however, data in QCEW press releases have been revised and may not match the data contained on the Bureau's Web site.

QCEW data are not designed as a time series. QCEW data are simply the sums of individual establishment records reflecting the number of establishments that exist in a county or industry at a point in time. Establishments can move in or out of a county or industry for a number of reasons—some reflecting economic events, others reflecting administrative changes.

The preliminary QCEW data presented in this release may differ from data released by the individual states as well as from the data presented on the BLS Web site. These potential differences result from the states' continuing receipt, review and editing of UI data over time. On the other hand, differences between data in this release and the data found on the BLS Web site are the result of adjustments made to improve over-the-year comparisons. Specifically, these adjustments account for administrative (noneconomic) changes such as a correction to a previously reported location or industry classification. Adjusting for these administrative changes allows users to more accurately assess changes of an economic nature (such as a firm moving from one county to another or changing its primary economic activity) over a 12-month period. Currently, adjusted data are available only from BLS press releases.

Information in this release will be made available to sensory impaired individuals upon request. Voice phone: 202-691-5200; Federal Relay Service: 1-800-877-8339.

Table 1. Covered employment and wages in the United States and the 5 largest counties in Iowa, second quarter 2014

Area	Employment			Average Weekly Wage ⁽¹⁾			
	June 2014 (thousands)	Percent change, June 2013-14 ⁽²⁾	National ranking by percent change ⁽³⁾	Average weekly wage	National ranking by level ⁽³⁾	Percent change, second quarter 2013-14 ⁽²⁾	National ranking by percent change ⁽³⁾
United States ⁽⁴⁾	137,776.4	2.0	--	\$940	--	2.1	--
Iowa	1,547.8	1.6	--	780	43	3.0	7
Black Hawk, Iowa	76.1	0.3	295	780	264	2.8	79
Johnson, Iowa	80.9	1.1	235	874	164	3.3	41
Linn, Iowa	130.4	1.2	222	894	148	1.6	195
Polk, Iowa	290.3	3.0	70	920	125	2.4	104
Scott, Iowa	91.5	1.2	222	766	280	2.0	143

Footnotes:

(1) Average weekly wages were calculated using unrounded data.

(2) Percent changes were computed from quarterly employment and pay data adjusted for noneconomic county reclassifications.

(3) Ranking does not include data for Puerto Rico or the Virgin Islands.

(4) Totals for the United States do not include data for Puerto Rico or the Virgin Islands.

NOTE: Data are preliminary. Covered employment and wages includes workers covered by Unemployment Insurance (UI) and Unemployment Compensation for Federal Employees (UCFE) programs.

Table 2. Covered employment and wages in the United States and all counties in Iowa, 2nd quarter 2014

Area	Employment June 2014	Average weekly wage ⁽¹⁾
United States ⁽²⁾	137,776,364	\$940
Iowa	1,547,848	780
Adair	2,892	638
Adams	1,288	615
Allamakee	5,471	573
Appanoose	4,639	613
Audubon	1,912	613
Benton	5,898	629
Black Hawk	76,127	780
Boone	9,857	689
Bremer	10,362	708
Buchanan	6,750	634
Buena Vista	11,143	648
Butler	3,906	636
Calhoun	3,126	600
Carroll	11,935	658
Cass	6,278	630
Cedar	5,633	656
Cerro Gordo	24,428	708
Cherokee	5,272	666
Chickasaw	5,034	681
Clarke	4,326	637
Clay	9,074	695
Clayton	6,940	653
Clinton	22,334	686
Crawford	7,558	687
Dallas	38,542	895
Davis	1,984	608
Decatur	2,402	529
Delaware	6,820	722
Des Moines	23,140	726
Dickinson	10,431	631
Dubuque	58,458	744
Emmet	4,234	668
Fayette	7,413	632
Floyd	5,717	672
Franklin	4,310	758
Fremont	2,845	673
Greene	3,277	704
Grundy	4,350	731
Guthrie	3,231	666
Hamilton	5,990	656
Hancock	7,005	756
Hardin	7,415	665
Harrison	4,372	618
Henry	9,203	712
Howard	4,279	641
Humboldt	4,141	680
Ida	3,607	705
Iowa	9,858	689
Jackson	6,311	562
Jasper	11,763	692
Jefferson	7,440	679
Johnson	80,871	874
Jones	6,765	679
Keokuk	2,511	645
Kossuth	7,171	726

Note: See footnotes at end of table.

Table 2. Covered employment and wages in the United States and all counties in Iowa, 2nd quarter 2014 - Continued

Area	Employment June 2014	Average weekly wage ⁽¹⁾
Lee	16,703	782
Linn.....	130,427	894
Louisa	3,761	630
Lucas.....	3,341	695
Lyon.....	4,799	611
Madison.....	3,796	631
Mahaska	8,231	653
Marion	17,244	769
Marshall.....	18,753	732
Mills	4,231	757
Mitchell	3,690	708
Monona	2,952	583
Monroe	3,717	816
Montgomery	4,388	649
Muscatine	23,303	841
O'Brien.....	6,693	618
Osceola	2,346	658
Page	6,420	673
Palo Alto	3,878	616
Plymouth	11,245	762
Pocahontas	3,147	689
Polk	290,338	920
Pottawattamie.....	39,004	708
Poweshiek	9,989	740
Ringgold	1,424	605
Sac	3,378	616
Scott	91,528	766
Shelby	6,269	635
Sioux	20,715	662
Story	45,696	828
Tama.....	4,997	617
Taylor.....	2,011	596
Union	6,522	646
Van Buren.....	2,129	617
Wapello.....	16,238	684
Warren.....	10,581	671
Washington.....	8,698	588
Wayne	1,937	653
Webster	18,486	763
Winnebago	4,438	615
Winneshiek.....	10,770	658
Woodbury	53,150	694
Worth.....	2,436	600
Wright.....	6,010	745
Data are preliminary.		

Footnotes:

(1) Average weekly wages were calculated using unrounded data.

(2) Totals for the United States do not include data for Puerto Rico or the Virgin Islands.

NOTE: Includes workers covered by Unemployment Insurance (UI) and Unemployment Compensation for Federal Employees (UCFE) programs.

Table 3. Covered employment and wages by state, second quarter 2014

State	Employment		Average weekly wage ⁽¹⁾			
	June 2014 (thousands)	Percent change, June 2013-14	Average weekly wage	National ranking by level	Percent change, second quarter 2013-14	National ranking by percent change
United States ⁽²⁾	137,776.4	2.0	\$940	--	2.1	--
Alabama	1,872.9	0.7	806	36	1.6	38
Alaska	344.9	0.5	1,014	8	4.6	2
Arizona	2,486.0	1.9	888	21	1.3	43
Arkansas	1,168.1	1.5	745	47	1.5	41
California	15,905.6	2.8	1,072	6	2.4	15
Colorado	2,439.3	3.4	960	14	2.9	8
Connecticut	1,676.6	0.6	1,155	3	2.5	13
Delaware	429.0	2.5	976	11	1.2	44
District of Columbia	732.6	1.0	1,569	1	-0.5	51
Florida	7,628.6	3.1	839	28	2.1	23
Georgia	4,036.3	3.1	882	22	1.7	35
Hawaii	624.6	1.1	845	26	2.7	10
Idaho	659.2	2.5	697	51	2.2	22
Illinois	5,836.9	1.5	988	10	1.9	32
Indiana	2,916.9	1.8	784	42	1.2	44
Iowa	1,547.8	1.6	780	43	3.0	7
Kansas	1,372.8	1.7	797	38	2.3	20
Kentucky	1,820.8	1.7	798	37	2.0	27
Louisiana	1,921.6	1.4	843	27	2.4	15
Maine	610.4	0.8	746	46	2.1	23
Maryland	2,594.4	0.9	1,020	7	1.6	38
Massachusetts	3,407.0	1.4	1,158	2	2.4	15
Michigan	4,164.7	2.3	897	20	2.3	20
Minnesota	2,782.0	1.3	947	16	1.9	32
Mississippi	1,101.1	0.5	705	50	2.0	27
Missouri	2,703.2	1.3	818	31	1.9	32
Montana	453.4	1.1	734	48	2.4	15
Nebraska	956.2	1.4	756	45	2.7	10
Nevada	1,210.1	3.4	833	30	0.6	50
New Hampshire	637.2	1.2	955	15	4.3	3
New Jersey	3,944.8	0.8	1,097	5	1.2	44
New Mexico	801.0	0.6	794	40	1.7	35
New York	8,965.2	1.8	1,146	4	2.4	15
North Carolina	4,080.7	2.4	818	31	1.2	44
North Dakota	453.0	4.4	936	17	5.5	1
Ohio	5,233.8	1.4	846	25	2.1	23
Oklahoma	1,578.0	1.0	816	33	2.6	12
Oregon	1,748.4	2.4	874	23	2.9	8
Pennsylvania	5,719.8	1.0	933	18	1.6	38
Rhode Island	472.9	1.6	898	19	2.0	27
South Carolina	1,916.4	2.7	765	44	2.5	13
South Dakota	422.9	1.4	712	49	3.3	4
Tennessee	2,755.7	1.8	836	29	2.0	27
Texas	11,402.8	3.0	973	13	3.1	5
Utah	1,297.5	2.9	796	39	1.7	35
Vermont	307.0	1.0	813	35	0.7	49
Virginia	3,710.8	0.7	976	11	0.8	48
Washington	3,109.6	3.2	990	9	2.1	23
West Virginia	711.3	-0.3	792	41	1.4	42
Wisconsin	2,809.1	1.3	816	33	2.0	27
Wyoming	295.3	1.6	871	24	3.1	5
Puerto Rico	897.0	-2.0	504	(3)	0.6	(3)

Note: See footnotes at end of table.

Table 3. Covered employment and wages by state, second quarter 2014 - Continued

State	Employment		Average weekly wage ⁽¹⁾			
	June 2014 (thousands)	Percent change, June 2013-14	Average weekly wage	National ranking by level	Percent change, second quarter 2013-14	National ranking by percent change
Virgin Islands.....	37.8	-2.2	728	(3)	2.8	(3)

Footnotes:

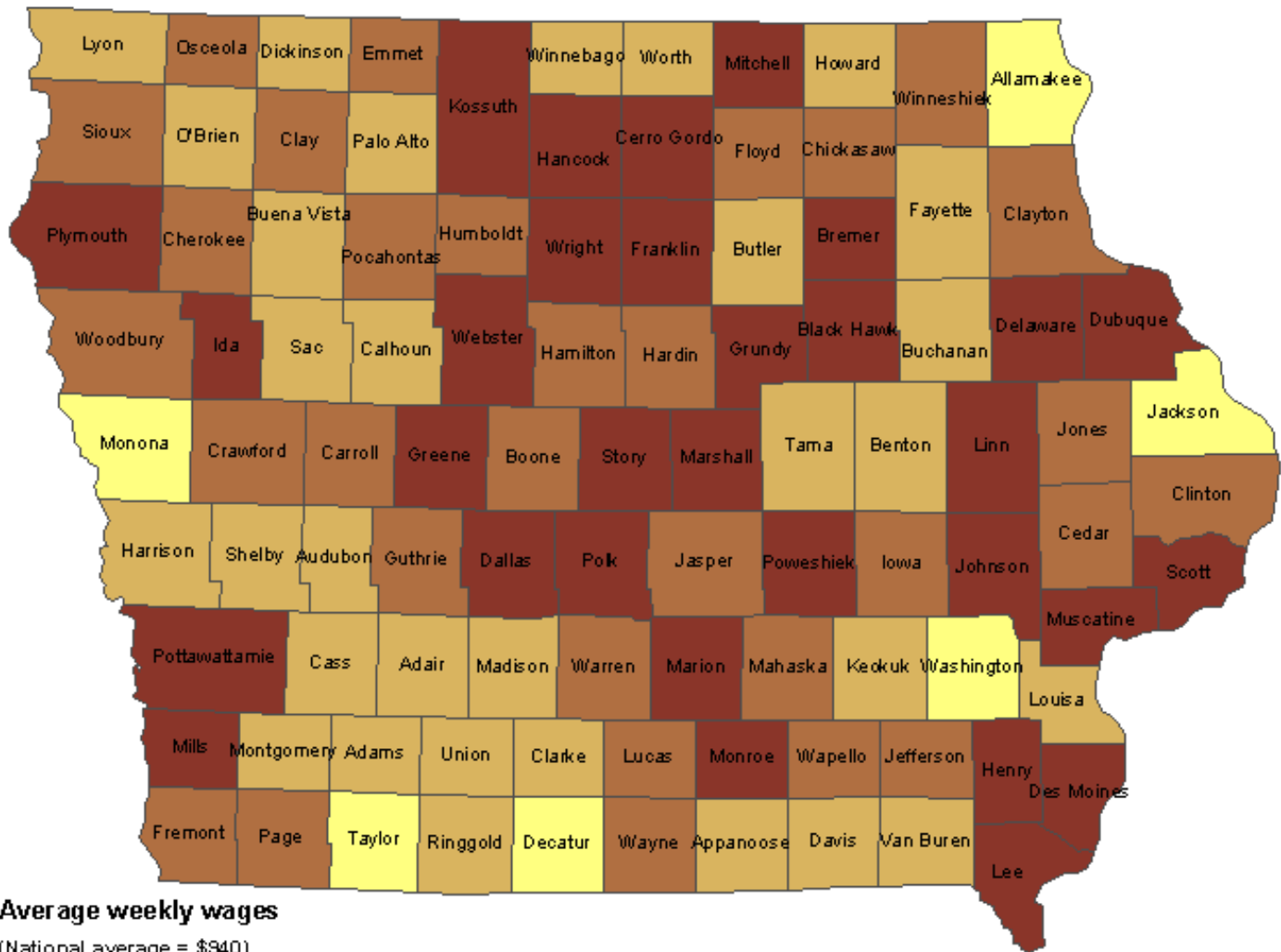
(1) Average weekly wages were calculated using unrounded data.

(2) Totals for the United States do not include data for Puerto Rico or the Virgin Islands.

(3) Data not included in the national ranking.

NOTE: Data are preliminary. Covered employment and wages includes workers covered by Unemployment Insurance (UI) and Unemployment Compensation for Federal Employees (UCFE) programs.

Chart 1. Average weekly wages by county in Iowa, second quarter 2014



SOURCE: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics.