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MIDWEST INFORMATION OFFICE: Chicago, Ill.

Technical information: (312) 353-1880 BLSInfoChicago@bls.gov [www.bls.gov/regions/midwest](http://www.bls.gov/regions/midwest)

Media contact: (312) 353-1138

## **County Employment and Wages in Ohio — First Quarter 2018**

All 13 of Ohio's large counties reported employment gains from March 2017 to March 2018, 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 2017 annual average employment.) Assistant Commissioner for Regional Operations Charlene Peiffer noted that Delaware County had the largest increase, up 1.9 percent, followed by Franklin County, up 1.6 percent. (See [table 1.](#))

Nationally, employment advanced 1.6 percent from March 2017 to March 2018, as 314 of the 349 largest U.S. counties registered increases. Midland, Texas, had the largest percentage increase with a gain of 12.6 percent over the year. Kanawha, W.Va., had the largest over-the-year percentage decrease in employment among the largest counties in the U.S., with a loss of 1.4 percent.

Among the 13 largest counties in Ohio, employment was highest in Franklin County (744,300) and Cuyahoga County (715,600) in March 2018. Four other counties—Hamilton (510,500), Summit (262,800), Montgomery (253,600), and Lucas (207,300)—had employment levels of more than 200,000. Collectively, Ohio's 13 large counties accounted for 65.1 percent of total employment within the state. Nationwide, the 349 largest counties made up 73.1 percent of total U.S. employment, which stood at 144.6 million in March 2018.

Average weekly wages increased in all of the 13 largest counties in Ohio from the first quarter of 2017 to the first quarter of 2018. Lucas County had the largest percentage increase in average weekly wages, up 5.7 percent, followed by Stark County (4.6 percent). (See [table 1.](#)) Hamilton County recorded the highest average weekly wage among the state's large counties at \$1,209, followed by Delaware County (\$1,205). Nationally, the average weekly wage increased 3.7 percent over the year to \$1,152 in the first quarter of 2018.

Employment and wage levels (but not over-the-year changes) are also available for the 75 counties in Ohio with employment levels below 75,000. Wage levels in all of these smaller counties were below the national average in the first quarter of 2018. (See [table 2.](#))

### **Large county wage changes**

As noted, average weekly wages rose in all of Ohio's large counties from the first quarter of 2017 to the first quarter of 2018. Wage gains in five of the state's large counties placed in the top half of the national ranking: Lucas (5.7 percent, 23<sup>rd</sup>), Stark, (4.6 percent, 51<sup>st</sup>), Warren (3.5 percent, 124<sup>th</sup>), and Cuyahoga and Franklin (both 3.0 percent, 172<sup>nd</sup>). (See [table 1.](#))

Nationally, 336 of the 349 largest counties had over-the-year increases in average weekly wages. Peoria, Ill., had the largest wage gain, up 23.8 percent from the first quarter of 2017. Suffolk, Mass., followed with an increase of 12.1 percent.

Of the 349 largest counties, 13 experienced an over-the-year decrease in average weekly wages. Forsyth, N.C., had the largest percentage decrease in average weekly wages (-4.8 percent), followed by Washington, Ark. (-3.1 percent).

### **Large county average weekly wages**

Hamilton County's average weekly wage of \$1,209 was the highest among the state's 13 large counties and ranked 73<sup>rd</sup> among the 349 largest U.S. counties. Delaware County (\$1,205, 75<sup>th</sup>) also reported an average weekly wage above the national average of \$1,152. Mahoning (\$747) reported the lowest average weekly wage among the state's large counties and ranked 340<sup>th</sup> nationwide.

Among the 349 largest U.S. counties, 259 had average weekly wages below the national average in the first quarter of 2018. Cameron, Texas, reported the lowest wage (\$628), followed by Horry County, S.C. (\$631), and the Texas counties of Hidalgo (\$657) and Webb (\$690).

Nationwide, 90 large counties had average weekly wages at or above the U.S. average of \$1,152 in the first quarter of 2018. New York, N.Y., had the highest average weekly wage at \$3,087. Santa Clara, Calif. (\$2,651) was second, followed by San Mateo, Calif. (\$2,606); San Francisco, Calif. (\$2,485); Suffolk, Mass. (\$2,268); and Somerset, N.J. (\$2,078).

### **Average weekly wages in Ohio's smaller counties**

All 75 smaller counties in Ohio with employment below 75,000 had average weekly wages below the national average of \$1,152. Among these smaller counties, Hancock had the highest average weekly wage at \$1,118, while Meigs had the lowest at \$576. (See [table 2](#).)

When all 88 counties in Ohio were considered, all but 2 had wages lower than the national average. One reported average weekly wages less than \$600, 10 had wages from \$600 to \$699, 32 reported wages from \$700 to \$799, 27 had wages from \$800 to \$899, and 18 had wages of \$900 or higher. (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](http://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 2017 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 2018 version of the national news release. Tables and additional content from *Employment and Wages Annual Averages 2017* are now available online at [www.bls.gov/cew/publications/employment-and-wages-annual-averages/2017/home.htm](http://www.bls.gov/cew/publications/employment-and-wages-annual-averages/2017/home.htm). The 2017 edition of *Employment and Wages Annual Averages Online* will be available in September 2019.

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**The County Employment and Wages release for second quarter 2018 is scheduled to be released on Wednesday, November 21, 2018.**

## 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 10.0 million employer reports cover 144.6 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/](http://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: (800) 877-8339.

**Table 1. Covered employment and wages in the United States and the 13 largest counties in Ohio, first quarter 2018**

Area	Employment			Average weekly wage <sup>(1)</sup>			
	March 2018 (thousands)	Percent change, March 2017-18 <sup>(2)</sup>	National ranking by percent change <sup>(3)</sup>	Average weekly wage	National ranking by level <sup>(3)</sup>	Percent change, first quarter 2017-18 <sup>(2)</sup>	National ranking by percent change <sup>(3)</sup>
United States <sup>(4)</sup> .....	144,562.9	1.6	--	\$1,152	--	3.7	--
Ohio .....	5,328.5	0.9	--	1,005	24	2.9	34
Butler, Ohio.....	153.2	1.5	149	1,005	171	1.3	310
Cuyahoga, Ohio .....	715.6	0.9	222	1,150	92	3.0	172
Delaware, Ohio.....	86.2	1.9	113	1,205	75	2.7	197
Franklin, Ohio .....	744.3	1.6	140	1,148	94	3.0	172
Hamilton, Ohio.....	510.5	0.5	273	1,209	73	0.6	325
Lake, Ohio .....	93.8	0.7	247	888	275	2.1	264
Lorain, Ohio .....	96.4	1.1	200	848	305	2.8	190
Lucas, Ohio .....	207.3	0.2	300	998	177	5.7	23
Mahoning, Ohio .....	96.1	0.5	273	747	340	2.5	214
Montgomery, Ohio .....	253.6	1.2	181	920	248	2.4	228
Stark, Ohio .....	158.7	1.5	149	816	320	4.6	51
Summit, Ohio.....	262.8	0.4	282	981	190	1.0	319
Warren, Ohio .....	91.7	1.0	212	1,035	155	3.5	124

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 Ohio, first quarter 2018**

Area	Employment March 2018	Average weekly wage(1)
United States(2) .....	144,562,926	\$1,152
Ohio .....	5,328,477	1,005
Adams .....	6,015	713
Allen .....	50,492	889
Ashland .....	18,451	750
Ashtabula .....	30,291	714
Athens .....	20,822	803
Auglaize .....	21,411	838
Belmont .....	22,285	810
Brown .....	7,844	702
Butler .....	153,227	1,005
Carroll .....	6,041	694
Champaign .....	10,693	808
Clark .....	47,871	794
Clermont .....	58,212	857
Clinton .....	17,554	962
Columbiana .....	29,230	718
Coshocton .....	9,996	786
Crawford .....	12,263	760
Cuyahoga .....	715,602	1,150
Darke .....	18,269	803
Defiance .....	15,598	873
Delaware .....	86,194	1,205
Erie .....	35,009	779
Fairfield .....	43,238	719
Fayette .....	11,478	684
Franklin .....	744,310	1,148
Fulton .....	18,431	788
Gallia .....	11,442	738
Geauga .....	33,778	836
Greene .....	75,334	1,025
Guernsey .....	15,264	782
Hamilton .....	510,525	1,209
Hancock .....	45,330	1,118
Hardin .....	8,352	691
Harrison .....	3,745	1,017
Henry .....	10,698	777
Highland .....	10,714	654
Hocking .....	6,415	632
Holmes .....	19,366	735
Huron .....	20,394	787
Jackson .....	10,360	643
Jefferson .....	20,139	807
Knox .....	19,880	805
Lake .....	93,780	888
Lawrence .....	12,482	643
Licking .....	59,169	815
Logan .....	19,801	825
Lorain .....	96,371	848
Lucas .....	207,342	998
Madison .....	16,919	820
Mahoning .....	96,137	747
Marion .....	24,611	789
Medina .....	59,722	839
Meigs .....	3,628	576
Mercer .....	20,343	733
Miami .....	40,235	822

Note: See footnotes at end of table.

**Table 2. Covered employment and wages in the United States and all counties in Ohio, first quarter 2018 - Continued**

Area	Employment March 2018	Average weekly wage <sup>(1)</sup>
Monroe .....	2,663	661
Montgomery .....	253,560	920
Morgan .....	2,663	714
Morrow .....	5,099	680
Muskingum .....	32,922	773
Noble .....	2,989	738
Ottawa .....	12,368	948
Paulding .....	4,887	731
Perry .....	6,271	761
Pickaway .....	13,684	886
Pike .....	9,641	979
Portage .....	53,667	855
Preble .....	11,127	744
Putnam .....	11,686	745
Richland .....	50,240	760
Ross .....	28,471	841
Sandusky .....	26,072	776
Scioto .....	23,283	711
Seneca .....	19,250	714
Shelby .....	27,170	921
Stark .....	158,693	816
Summit .....	262,802	981
Trumbull .....	66,706	820
Tuscarawas .....	35,657	732
Union .....	33,914	1,051
Van Wert .....	11,114	763
Vinton .....	2,199	688
Warren .....	91,700	1,035
Washington .....	24,945	897
Wayne .....	47,710	862
Williams .....	17,300	800
Wood .....	66,042	956
Wyandot .....	9,340	825

**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. Data are preliminary.

**Table 3. Covered employment and wages by state, first quarter 2018**

State	Employment		Average weekly wage <sup>(1)</sup>			
	March 2018 (thousands)	Percent change, March 2017-18	Average weekly wage	National ranking by level	Percent change, first quarter 2017-18	National ranking by percent change
United States <sup>(2)</sup>	144,562.9	1.6	\$1,152	--	3.7	--
Alabama	1,948.9	1.1	919	36	2.9	34
Alaska	311.2	-0.5	1,074	20	2.3	44
Arizona	2,822.5	2.8	1,025	22	3.5	19
Arkansas	1,211.4	0.9	879	44	2.4	40
California	17,152.5	2.1	1,352	6	4.4	6
Colorado	2,639.5	2.5	1,175	11	3.4	22
Connecticut	1,651.9	0.1	1,447	4	2.4	40
Delaware	438.7	1.2	1,202	10	1.3	51
District of Columbia	770.2	1.2	1,917	1	1.9	49
Florida	8,716.8	2.2	988	25	4.1	9
Georgia	4,409.1	2.3	1,095	17	2.3	44
Hawaii	658.4	0.3	974	29	2.3	44
Idaho	712.6	3.5	809	50	4.3	7
Illinois	5,909.3	1.0	1,241	8	3.9	10
Indiana	3,018.8	1.2	954	32	3.9	10
Iowa	1,525.8	0.5	921	35	2.4	40
Kansas	1,370.6	0.2	912	40	2.7	38
Kentucky	1,873.7	0.5	901	41	2.5	39
Louisiana	1,914.7	0.5	932	34	3.0	30
Maine	592.1	0.9	891	43	3.6	16
Maryland	2,646.9	0.9	1,209	9	3.2	26
Massachusetts	3,509.9	1.1	1,510	3	5.6	2
Michigan	4,289.0	1.4	1,078	19	3.4	22
Minnesota	2,823.6	0.7	1,175	11	2.1	47
Mississippi	1,125.9	0.1	765	51	2.1	47
Missouri	2,777.6	0.5	960	31	3.1	28
Montana	455.5	1.0	819	49	2.4	40
Nebraska	966.0	0.4	898	42	3.6	16
Nevada	1,351.6	3.0	977	28	4.8	5
New Hampshire	648.2	0.8	1,122	15	4.9	3
New Jersey	3,997.6	1.3	1,373	5	3.0	30
New Mexico	813.3	1.0	862	47	2.9	34
New York	9,318.9	1.8	1,597	2	3.4	22
North Carolina	4,370.6	1.8	1,022	23	3.0	30
North Dakota	408.2	0.6	988	25	3.7	15
Ohio	5,328.5	0.9	1,005	24	2.9	34
Oklahoma	1,600.9	1.8	914	38	3.5	19
Oregon	1,894.3	2.0	1,026	21	4.3	7
Pennsylvania	5,787.2	1.4	1,115	16	3.4	22
Rhode Island	469.9	1.1	1,086	18	3.2	26
South Carolina	2,067.4	2.2	877	45	1.7	50
South Dakota	417.5	1.0	842	48	2.8	37
Tennessee	2,950.0	1.6	978	27	3.5	19
Texas	12,179.2	2.0	1,168	13	3.9	10
Utah	1,458.8	3.3	949	33	4.9	3
Vermont	307.1	0.4	917	37	3.1	28
Virginia	3,854.4	1.5	1,162	14	3.0	30
Washington	3,316.1	2.8	1,306	7	7.7	1
West Virginia	684.8	0.6	868	46	3.6	16
Wisconsin	2,831.7	1.0	968	30	3.8	14
Wyoming	263.7	0.3	914	38	3.9	10
Puerto Rico	856.7	-3.8	563	(3)	7.0	(3)
Virgin Islands	33.3	-15.5	969	(3)	24.4	(3)

Note: See footnotes at end of table.

Footnotes:

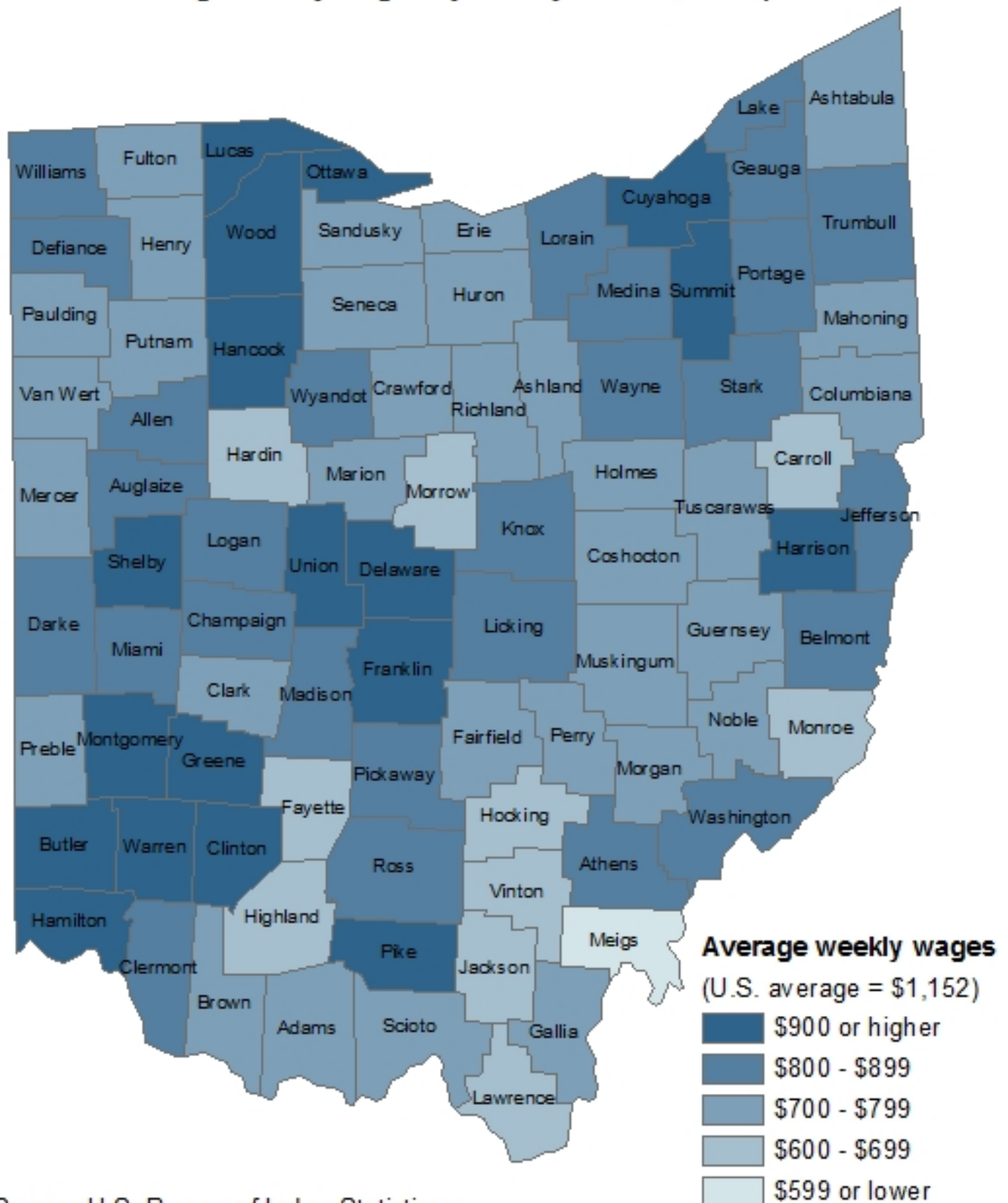
(1) Average weekly wages were calculated using unrounded data.

(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 Ohio, first quarter 2018**



Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics.