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County Employment and Wages in South Dakota — Second Quarter 2017

South Dakota's only large county, Minnehaha, reported employment growth of 1.3 percent from June 2016 to June 2017, 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 2016 annual average employment.) Assistant Commissioner for Regional Operations Charlene Peiffer noted that in June 2017, Minnehaha County's employment level of 127,500 accounted for 29.3 percent of total employment within the state. (See [table 1](#).)

Nationally, employment rose 1.7 percent from June 2016 to June 2017, as 318 of the 346 largest U.S. counties gained jobs. Nationwide, the 346 largest counties made up 72.7 percent of total U.S. employment, which stood at 145.2 million in June 2017.

The average weekly wage in Minnehaha County was \$876 in the second quarter of 2017, up 3.4 percent from the previous year. Nationally, the average weekly wage rose 3.2 percent over the year to \$1,020 in the second quarter of 2017.

Employment and wage levels (but not over-the-year changes) are also available for the 65 counties in South Dakota with employment below 75,000. All 65 of these smaller counties had average weekly wages below the national average. (See [table 2](#).)

Large county wage changes

Minnehaha County's 3.4-percent wage growth from the second quarter of 2016 to the second quarter of 2017 ranked 134th nationally. (See [table 1](#).) Among the 346 largest U.S. counties, 325 had over-the-year increases in average weekly wages in the second quarter of 2017. New Hanover, N.C., ranked first in average weekly wage growth with a gain of 11.9 percent. Nineteen of the 346 largest counties experienced over-the-year decreases in average weekly wages. McLean, Ill., had the largest percentage decline in average weekly wages with a loss of 20.4 percent.

Large county average weekly wages

Minnehaha County's \$876 average weekly wage ranked 229th among the 346 large U.S. counties in the second quarter of 2017. Nationwide, weekly wages were higher than the U.S. average of \$1,020 in 97 of the largest U.S. counties. Santa Clara, Calif., held the top position with an average weekly wage of \$2,392. San Mateo, Calif., was second at \$2,093, followed by San Francisco, Calif. (\$1,941), and New York, N.Y. (\$1,907). Cameron, Texas (\$615) reported the lowest weekly wage, followed by Horry, S.C. (\$622) and the Texas counties of Hidalgo (\$632) and Webb (\$667).

Average weekly wages in South Dakota's smaller counties

All 65 counties in South Dakota with employment below 75,000 had average weekly wages lower than the national average of \$1,020. Among these smaller counties, Union County had the highest average weekly wage at \$944, and Mellette County had the lowest at \$486. (See [table 2](#).)

When all 66 counties in South Dakota were considered, 10 reported average weekly wages of \$599 or lower, 18 had wages from \$600 to \$649, 14 reported wages from \$650 to \$699, 12 reported wages from \$700 to \$749, and 12 had wages of \$750 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.

Employment and Wages Annual Averages Online features comprehensive information by detailed industry on establishments, employment, and wages for the nation and all states. The 2016 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 2017 version of the national news release. Tables and additional content from *Employment and Wages Annual Averages Online* are now available at www.bls.gov/cew/publications/employment-and-wages-annual-averages/2016/home.htm.

The County Employment and Wages release for third quarter 2017 is scheduled to be released on Thursday, March 8, 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 9.9 million employer reports cover 145.2 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: (800) 877-8339.

Table 1. Covered employment and wages in the United States and the largest county in South Dakota, second quarter 2017

Area	Employment			Average weekly wage ⁽¹⁾			
	June 2017 (thousands)	Percent change, June 2016-17 ⁽²⁾	National ranking by percent change ⁽³⁾	Average weekly wage	National ranking by level ⁽³⁾	Percent change, second quarter 2016-17 ⁽²⁾	National ranking by percent change ⁽³⁾
United States ⁽⁴⁾	145,186.4	1.7	--	\$1,020	--	3.2	--
South Dakota.....	435.5	0.6	--	785	49	3.4	16
Minnehaha, S.D.....	127.5	1.3	200	876	229	3.4	134

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 South Dakota, second quarter 2017

Area	Employment June 2017	Average weekly wage(1)
United States(2)	145,186,369	\$1,020
South Dakota	435,475	785
Aurora	937	608
Beadle	8,817	736
Bennett	892	627
Bon Homme	1,893	631
Brookings	18,447	805
Brown	21,243	771
Brule	1,952	588
Buffalo	535	711
Butte	2,908	621
Campbell	487	591
Charles Mix	3,606	630
Clark	1,060	611
Clay	5,902	717
Codington	16,232	720
Corson	869	734
Custer	2,972	597
Davison	12,456	732
Day	2,046	604
Deuel	1,500	708
Dewey	2,226	725
Douglas	1,151	617
Edmunds	1,283	685
Fall River	2,619	681
Faulk	644	576
Grant	3,947	742
Gregory	1,535	571
Haakon	817	785
Hamlin	2,023	686
Hand	1,430	615
Hanson	618	657
Harding	446	695
Hughes	11,100	805
Hutchinson	2,707	651
Hyde	574	709
Jackson	880	534
Jerauld	1,563	654
Jones	495	536
Kingsbury	1,873	651
Lake	4,912	752
Lawrence	12,282	633
Lincoln	22,492	879
Lyman	1,454	553
Marshall	1,708	701
McCook	1,396	650
McPherson	613	589
Meade	7,162	756
Mellette	322	486
Miner	765	632
Minnehaha	127,464	876
Moody	2,620	699
Oglala Lakota	3,679	800
Pennington	59,595	760
Perkins	1,360	614
Potter	930	634

Note: See footnotes at end of table.

Table 2. Covered employment and wages in the United States and all counties in South Dakota, second quarter 2017 - Continued

Area	Employment June 2017	Average weekly wage ⁽¹⁾
Roberts.....	3,669	655
Sanborn.....	592	601
Spink.....	2,456	680
Stanley.....	1,417	639
Sully.....	648	701
Todd.....	2,986	695
Tripp.....	2,202	677
Turner.....	2,198	644
Union.....	9,813	944
Walworth.....	2,321	647
Yankton.....	12,899	761
Ziebach.....	294	637

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.

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, second quarter 2017

State	Employment		Average weekly wage ⁽¹⁾			
	June 2017 (thousands)	Percent change, June 2016-17	Average weekly wage	National ranking by level	Percent change, second quarter 2016-17	National ranking by percent change
United States ⁽²⁾	145,186.4	1.7	\$1,020	--	3.2	--
Alabama	1,946.4	1.2	858	38	2.8	31
Alaska	338.4	-0.7	1,005	16	-0.5	51
Arizona	2,699.6	2.9	943	23	2.5	35
Arkansas	1,206.0	0.7	810	47	3.2	22
California	17,150.9	2.2	1,210	5	4.7	3
Colorado	2,638.8	2.5	1,042	11	4.2	5
Connecticut	1,701.2	0.6	1,216	4	0.4	50
Delaware	446.6	0.6	1,012	15	2.2	43
District of Columbia	766.5	1.0	1,675	1	3.3	19
Florida	8,390.6	2.8	905	27	2.5	35
Georgia.....	4,357.8	2.1	956	21	2.9	27
Hawaii.....	653.0	1.0	935	24	3.5	13
Idaho	723.5	3.4	765	50	3.4	16
Illinois	6,006.6	0.9	1,062	9	2.4	39
Indiana.....	3,041.0	1.5	859	37	3.7	9
Iowa.....	1,571.4	0.4	853	39	3.3	19
Kansas	1,377.8	-0.1	849	40	2.4	39
Kentucky.....	1,889.4	0.8	862	35	2.9	27
Louisiana	1,907.7	0.0	869	34	2.0	46
Maine.....	629.1	0.9	814	46	2.5	35
Maryland.....	2,694.8	1.4	1,103	8	3.1	23
Massachusetts	3,604.5	1.6	1,278	2	3.6	11
Michigan	4,365.3	1.6	969	19	2.9	27
Minnesota.....	2,902.1	2.0	1,037	12	3.9	6
Mississippi	1,128.9	0.7	732	51	0.8	49
Missouri	2,818.7	1.2	889	30	3.0	25
Montana	473.6	1.3	797	48	3.9	6
Nebraska	984.0	0.4	833	43	3.5	13
Nevada	1,333.5	3.4	900	29	2.9	27
New Hampshire.....	665.4	1.6	1,015	14	1.2	48
New Jersey.....	4,123.5	1.8	1,173	6	2.3	41
New Mexico	815.4	0.7	823	45	1.5	47
New York	9,417.4	1.6	1,237	3	2.2	43
North Carolina	4,361.4	1.8	902	28	4.3	4
North Dakota	422.7	-0.2	953	22	5.0	2
Ohio.....	5,422.8	1.2	912	25	3.3	19
Oklahoma	1,583.8	0.8	845	41	2.5	35
Oregon	1,912.6	2.2	967	20	3.8	8
Pennsylvania	5,859.4	1.3	1,000	17	3.0	25
Rhode Island	487.3	1.0	980	18	2.6	33
South Carolina.....	2,053.9	2.0	834	42	3.6	11
South Dakota.....	435.5	0.6	785	49	3.4	16
Tennessee	2,948.1	1.8	906	26	3.5	13
Texas	12,059.6	2.1	1,027	13	2.7	32
Utah.....	1,440.3	3.4	862	35	2.6	33
Vermont.....	314.2	1.0	870	33	2.1	45
Virginia.....	3,886.6	1.5	1,047	10	3.7	9
Washington.....	3,352.5	2.2	1,141	7	5.6	1
West Virginia	690.9	-0.3	828	44	3.4	16
Wisconsin	2,905.3	1.1	876	31	2.3	41
Wyoming	280.2	-0.7	875	32	3.1	23
Puerto Rico.....	873.6	-1.0	515	(3)	1.2	(3)

Note: See footnotes at end of table.

Table 3. Covered employment and wages by state, second quarter 2017 - Continued

State	Employment		Average weekly wage ⁽¹⁾			
	June 2017 (thousands)	Percent change, June 2016-17	Average weekly wage	National ranking by level	Percent change, second quarter 2016-17	National ranking by percent change
Virgin Islands	38.6	0.4	762	(3)	2.6	(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 South Dakota, second quarter 2017

