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County Employment and Wages in Iowa — Second Quarter 2019

Three of the four large counties in Iowa reported employment growth from June 2018 to June 2019, the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics reported today. (Large counties are those with annual average employment levels of 75,000 or more in 2018.) Assistant Commissioner for Regional Operations Charlene Peiffer noted that Polk County had the largest increase, up 0.6 percent, followed by Scott (0.3 percent) and Linn (0.1 percent) Counties. Johnson County had an over-the-year employment decrease of 0.7 percent. Nationally, employment increased 1.1 percent. (See [table 1.](#))

Among the four largest counties in Iowa, employment was highest in Polk County (307,300) in June 2019. Collectively, Iowa's four large counties accounted for 39.0 percent of total employment within the state. Nationwide, the 355 largest counties made up 73.4 percent of total U.S. employment, which stood at 149.1 million in June 2019.

The average weekly wage in Scott County rose 3.0 percent from the second quarter of 2018 to the second quarter of 2019, the largest increase among Iowa's large counties. Polk County had the highest average weekly wage in the state at \$1,059. (See [table 1.](#)) Nationally, the average weekly wage rose 3.8 percent over the year to \$1,095 in the second quarter of 2019.

Employment and wage levels (but not over-the-year changes) are also available for the 95 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

All four of Iowa's large counties recorded wage growth below the national increase of 3.8 percent from the second quarter of 2018 to the second quarter of 2019. (See [table 1.](#)) Scott County's 3.0-percent increase in average weekly wages ranked 220th among the 355 largest U.S. counties. The state's remaining three large counties all placed in the lowest quintile of the national ranking.

Among the 355 largest U.S. counties, 347 had over-the-year increases in average weekly wages in the second quarter of 2019. Benton, AR, ranked first in average weekly wage growth with a gain of 16.3 percent, followed by San Francisco, CA, at 15.5 percent.

Eight of the 355 largest U.S. counties experienced over-the-year decreases in average weekly wages. McLean, IL, had the largest over-the-year percentage decrease in average weekly wages with a loss of 5.8 percent.

Large county average weekly wages

Average weekly wages in all four large Iowa counties were below the national average of \$1,095 in the second quarter of 2019. As noted, Polk County (\$1,059) had the highest average weekly wage in the state and ranked 123rd among the 355 largest U.S. counties. Scott County (\$867) reported the lowest average weekly wage among Iowa's large counties and ranked 303rd nationwide.

Nationwide, weekly wages were higher than the U.S. average of \$1,095 in 93 of the largest U.S. counties. Santa Clara, CA, held the top position with an average weekly wage of \$2,612. San Francisco, CA, was second at \$2,430, followed by San Mateo, CA (\$2,373), and New York, NY (\$2,109).

Nationwide, 260 large U.S. counties reported average weekly wages below the national average. Horry, SC (\$649) reported the lowest weekly wage, followed by the Texas counties of Hidalgo (\$657), Cameron (\$659), and Webb (\$697).

Average weekly wages in Iowa's smaller counties

All of the 95 smaller counties in Iowa, those with employment below 75,000, had average weekly wages below the national average of \$1,095. Among these smaller counties, Dallas County had the highest average weekly wage at \$1,055 and Decatur County had the lowest at \$651. (See [table 2.](#))

When all 99 counties in Iowa were considered, 36 reported average weekly wages of \$749 or lower, 28 reported wages from \$750 to \$799, 18 had wages from \$800 to \$849, and 17 had wages of \$850 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 2018 edition of this publication, which was published in September 2019, contains selected data produced by Business Employment Dynamics (BED) on job gains and losses, as well as selected data from the first quarter 2019 version of the national news release. Tables and additional content from the 2018 edition of *Employment and Wages Annual Averages* are now available online at www.bls.gov/cew/publications/employment-and-wages-annual-averages/2018/home.htm. The 2019 edition of *Employment and Wages Annual Online* will be available in September 2020.

The County Employment and Wages release for third quarter 2019 is scheduled to be released on Thursday, February 20, 2020. The County Employment and Wages full data update for third quarter 2019 is scheduled to be released on Wednesday, March 4, 2020.

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 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. 13, the number of weeks in a quarter, then divide the result. 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 4 largest counties in Iowa, second quarter 2019

Area	Employment			Average weekly wage ⁽¹⁾			
	June 2019 (thousands)	Percent change, June 2018-19 ⁽²⁾	National ranking by percent change ⁽³⁾	Average weekly wage	National ranking by level ⁽³⁾	Percent change, second quarter 2018-19 ⁽²⁾	National ranking by percent change ⁽³⁾
United States ⁽⁴⁾	149,089.2	1.1	--	\$1,095	--	3.8	--
Iowa.....	1,584.7	0.1	--	902	40	2.5	45
Johnson, Iowa.....	83.6	-0.7	330	991	181	1.0	340
Linn, Iowa.....	133.6	0.1	269	1,020	159	1.2	336
Polk, Iowa.....	307.3	0.6	209	1,059	123	1.0	340
Scott, Iowa.....	93.3	0.3	249	867	303	3.0	220

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, second quarter 2019

Area	Employment June 2019	Average weekly wage(1)
United States(2)	149,089,158	\$1,095
Iowa	1,584,673	902
Adair	3,023	739
Adams	1,404	723
Allamakee	5,201	696
Appanoose	4,697	698
Audubon	1,839	701
Benton	6,254	747
Black Hawk	74,104	906
Boone	9,232	781
Bremer	10,275	790
Buchanan	6,816	742
Buena Vista	11,125	816
Butler	3,595	689
Calhoun	2,968	719
Carroll	11,764	734
Cass	5,950	732
Cedar	5,619	743
Cerro Gordo	25,469	809
Cherokee	4,893	764
Chickasaw	5,059	819
Clarke	4,543	764
Clay	8,728	787
Clayton	7,087	772
Clinton	20,688	780
Crawford	6,900	803
Dallas	47,241	1,055
Davis	2,106	726
Decatur	2,415	651
Delaware	6,907	820
Des Moines	21,922	781
Dickinson	11,284	709
Dubuque	59,800	875
Emmet	3,772	754
Fayette	7,279	703
Floyd	6,274	808
Franklin	4,126	819
Fremont	2,050	732
Greene	3,403	798
Grundy	4,350	845
Guthrie	3,246	773
Hamilton	5,914	791
Hancock	6,441	878
Hardin	7,015	768
Harrison	4,214	712
Henry	9,364	804
Howard	4,279	700
Humboldt	3,971	815
Ida	3,881	835
Iowa	10,393	786
Jackson	6,497	653
Jasper	11,984	775
Jefferson	7,841	778
Johnson	83,635	991
Jones	6,444	747
Keokuk	2,293	745
Kossuth	7,000	802

Note: See footnotes at end of table.

Table 2. Covered employment and wages in the United States and all counties in Iowa, second quarter 2019 - Continued

Area	Employment June 2019	Average weekly wage(1)
Lee	15,641	847
Linn.....	133,590	1,020
Louisa	3,898	759
Lucas	3,771	741
Lyon	4,888	701
Madison.....	4,038	719
Mahaska.....	8,097	796
Marion	18,619	906
Marshall.....	16,881	849
Mills	3,633	809
Mitchell	5,107	880
Monona	2,657	673
Monroe	3,627	980
Montgomery	4,298	764
Muscatine	23,620	948
O'Brien.....	6,783	726
Osceola	2,499	772
Page	6,387	774
Palo Alto	3,889	725
Plymouth	12,022	902
Pocahontas	3,325	866
Polk	307,296	1,059
Pottawattamie.....	40,768	816
Poweshiek	10,108	868
Ringgold	1,432	690
Sac	3,132	708
Scott	93,301	867
Shelby	5,969	749
Sioux	21,870	797
Story	47,166	973
Tama.....	5,713	773
Taylor.....	2,064	690
Union.....	6,106	760
Van Buren.....	1,975	742
Wapello.....	16,209	790
Warren.....	12,119	758
Washington.....	8,554	689
Wayne	1,926	781
Webster	18,543	880
Winnebago	4,386	700
Winneshiek	10,764	779
Woodbury.....	52,226	815
Worth.....	2,430	701
Wright	6,360	841

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, second quarter 2019

State	Employment		Average weekly wage ⁽¹⁾			
	June 2019 (thousands)	Percent change, June 2018-19	Average weekly wage	National ranking by level	Percent change, second quarter 2018-19	National ranking by percent change
United States ⁽²⁾	149,089.2	1.1	\$1,095	--	3.8	--
Alabama.....	1,993.7	1.1	911	36	3.4	28
Alaska.....	338.9	0.7	1,078	15	3.6	26
Arizona.....	2,843.3	2.6	1,010	23	3.8	16
Arkansas.....	1,222.5	0.6	862	47	4.6	4
California.....	17,717.4	1.5	1,325	4	4.7	3
Colorado.....	2,765.7	2.2	1,128	9	4.9	2
Connecticut.....	1,690.8	-0.8	1,266	6	3.9	11
Delaware.....	458.0	0.8	1,057	17	3.4	28
District of Columbia.....	780.4	0.5	1,778	1	3.8	16
Florida.....	8,722.9	1.8	968	26	3.9	11
Georgia.....	4,507.1	1.7	1,016	22	3.9	11
Hawaii.....	652.2	-1.2	992	24	3.7	22
Idaho.....	765.1	2.6	820	50	3.3	33
Illinois.....	6,074.7	0.3	1,122	10	2.4	47
Indiana.....	3,089.8	0.5	910	38	3.1	39
Iowa.....	1,584.7	0.1	902	40	2.5	45
Kansas.....	1,403.0	0.6	905	39	2.8	42
Kentucky.....	1,909.7	0.3	911	36	3.3	33
Louisiana.....	1,920.2	-0.2	923	35	2.4	47
Maine.....	639.6	0.4	874	45	3.7	22
Maryland.....	2,733.6	0.7	1,178	8	3.3	33
Massachusetts.....	3,690.1	0.9	1,377	2	4.3	5
Michigan.....	4,419.7	0.1	1,018	21	2.4	47
Minnesota.....	2,952.6	0.8	1,101	13	2.6	44
Mississippi.....	1,135.9	0.4	767	51	2.0	51
Missouri.....	2,836.7	0.3	948	30	2.5	45
Montana.....	483.1	1.0	843	48	3.3	33
Nebraska.....	991.5	0.1	889	42	3.5	27
Nevada.....	1,408.8	2.6	961	29	3.2	38
New Hampshire.....	676.1	0.8	1,090	14	4.0	10
New Jersey.....	4,182.5	0.7	1,236	7	3.0	41
New Mexico.....	834.0	1.0	888	44	4.3	5
New York.....	9,682.8	1.0	1,347	3	3.9	11
North Carolina.....	4,527.3	2.0	970	25	3.9	11
North Dakota.....	431.8	1.3	1,026	20	4.1	7
Ohio.....	5,486.7	0.4	965	27	3.4	28
Oklahoma.....	1,618.5	0.5	900	41	3.1	39
Oregon.....	1,976.5	1.3	1,036	18	3.8	16
Pennsylvania.....	5,972.1	0.8	1,070	16	3.8	16
Rhode Island.....	494.5	0.7	1,034	19	3.4	28
South Carolina.....	2,144.2	1.3	867	46	3.7	22
South Dakota.....	441.8	0.4	838	49	3.8	16
Tennessee.....	3,047.8	1.8	964	28	3.3	33
Texas.....	12,585.6	2.0	1,102	12	3.8	16
Utah.....	1,526.1	3.0	936	32	4.1	7
Vermont.....	314.0	0.0	929	34	2.7	43
Virginia.....	3,981.6	1.0	1,113	11	3.7	22
Washington.....	3,500.6	1.8	1,288	5	5.9	1
West Virginia.....	700.4	-0.6	889	42	2.4	47
Wisconsin.....	2,945.3	0.3	940	31	4.1	7
Wyoming.....	287.6	1.7	932	33	3.4	28
Puerto Rico.....	867.7	1.5	531	(3)	-1.8	(3)

Note: See footnotes at end of table.

Table 3. Covered employment and wages by state, second quarter 2019 - Continued

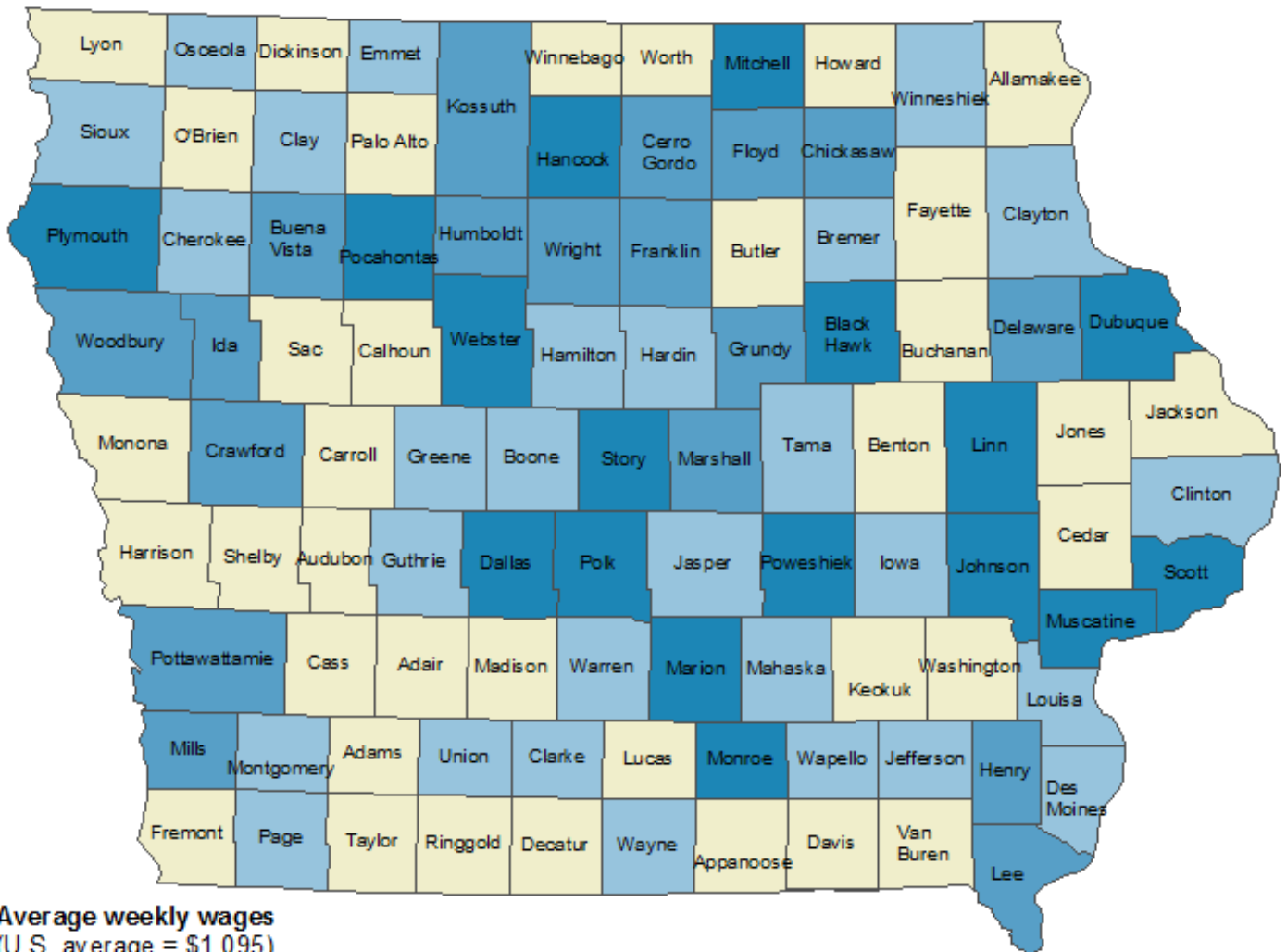
State	Employment		Average weekly wage ⁽¹⁾			
	June 2019 (thousands)	Percent change, June 2018-19	Average weekly wage	National ranking by level	Percent change, second quarter 2018-19	National ranking by percent change
Virgin Islands.....	37.0	10.0	919	(3)	8.8	(3)

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 2019



Average weekly wages
(U.S. average = \$1,095)

- \$850 or higher
- \$800 - \$849
- \$750 - \$799
- \$749 or lower

Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics.