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County Employment and Wages in South Dakota — Second Quarter 2019

South Dakota's only large county, Minnehaha, reported employment growth of 1.2 percent 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 in June 2019, Minnehaha County's employment level of 130,100 accounted for 29.4 percent of total employment within the state. (See [table 1.](#))

Nationally, employment rose 1.1 percent from June 2018 to June 2019, as 279 of the 355 largest U.S. counties gained jobs. 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 Minnehaha County was \$935 in the second quarter of 2019, up 4.4 percent from the previous year. 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 65 counties in South Dakota with employment below 75,000. All 65 of these smaller counties had average weekly wages below the national average in June 2019. (See [table 2.](#))

Large county wage changes

Minnehaha County's 4.4-percent wage growth from the second quarter of 2018 to the second quarter of 2019 ranked 79th nationally. (See [table 1.](#)) 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, had the largest over-the-year wage gain at 16.3 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

Minnehaha County's \$935 average weekly wage ranked 226th among the 355 large U.S. counties in the second quarter of 2019. 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 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 \$1,095. Among these smaller counties, Union County had the highest average weekly wage at \$999, and Mellette County had the lowest at \$501. (See [table 2.](#))

When all 66 counties in South Dakota were considered, 4 reported average weekly wages of \$599 or lower, 12 had wages from \$600 to \$649, 12 reported wages from \$650 to \$699, 12 reported wages from \$700 to \$749, and 26 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 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 2018 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 largest county in South Dakota, 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	--
South Dakota.....	441.8	0.4	--	838	49	3.8	16
Minnehaha, S.D.....	130.1	1.2	140	935	226	4.4	79

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 2019

Area	Employment June 2019	Average weekly wage(1)
United States(2)	149,089,158	\$1,095
South Dakota	441,808	838
Aurora	997	605
Beadle	9,033	773
Bennett	834	676
Bon Homme	1,835	646
Brookings	18,783	838
Brown	20,868	825
Brule	1,955	650
Buffalo	498	813
Butte	2,900	633
Campbell	448	654
Charles Mix	3,477	670
Clark	1,137	646
Clay	6,154	742
Codington	16,432	753
Corson	792	763
Custer	3,016	608
Davison	12,441	781
Day	2,008	625
Deuel	1,453	770
Dewey	2,251	766
Douglas	1,132	664
Edmunds	1,226	757
Fall River	2,624	738
Faulk	643	626
Grant	3,988	783
Gregory	1,554	622
Haakon	780	793
Hamlin	2,231	764
Hand	1,416	643
Hanson	641	728
Harding	506	784
Hughes	11,030	864
Hutchinson	2,711	728
Hyde	558	783
Jackson	844	583
Jerauld	1,507	678
Jones	464	572
Kingsbury	1,815	710
Lake	5,120	815
Lawrence	12,457	704
Lincoln	24,424	949
Lyman	1,467	581
Marshall	1,712	747
McCook	1,388	664
McPherson	579	614
Meade	7,570	811
Mellette	330	501
Miner	761	641
Minnehaha	130,142	935
Moody	2,818	747
Oglala Lakota	3,628	817
Pennington	59,842	805
Perkins	1,156	625
Potter	838	699

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 2019 - Continued

Area	Employment June 2019	Average weekly wage ⁽¹⁾
Roberts.....	3,714	702
Sanborn.....	582	654
Spink	2,469	709
Stanley	1,273	750
Sully.....	742	920
Todd.....	2,938	708
Tripp	2,325	653
Turner	2,151	694
Union	10,278	999
Walworth.....	2,138	679
Yankton.....	13,256	816
Ziebach.....	289	739

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 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 South Dakota, second quarter 2019