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County Employment and Wages in Rhode Island — Second Quarter 2018

Rhode Island's two large counties, Providence and Kent, reported employment gains of 0.7 percent and 0.4 percent, respectively, from June 2017 to June 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.)

Nationally, employment grew by 1.5 percent during the 12 month period as 309 of the 349 large counties had employment gains from June 2017 to June 2018. The largest over-the-year percentage gain was recorded in Midland, TX (11.6 percent). McLean, IL, had the largest over-the-year decrease in employment (-2.0 percent).

Employment was highest in Providence County (289,300) in June 2018, followed by Kent County (77,200). Employment in Rhode Island's largest counties accounted for 74.6 percent of statewide employment in June 2018. Nationwide, the 349 largest counties made up 72.9 percent of total U.S. employment in June 2018.

The average weekly wage in Providence County was \$1,033 in the second quarter of 2018, 1.7 percent higher than it was one year earlier. Kent County had an average weekly wage of \$906, 0.9 percent higher than a year ago. (See [table 1](#).) Nationally, the average weekly wage increased 3.4 percent over the year to \$1,055 in the second quarter of 2018.

Employment and wage levels (but not over-the-year changes) are also available for the three counties in Rhode Island with employment below 75,000. None of these counties had an average weekly wage above the national average in the second quarter of 2018. (See [table 2](#).)

Large County Wage Changes

Both of the largest counties in Rhode Island recorded wage growth below the national increase of 3.4 percent. Providence County's 1.7-percent annual wage gain ranked 289th among the 349 largest U.S. counties in the second quarter of June 2018, while Kent County's 0.9 percent wage gain, ranked 325th.

Of the 349 largest U.S. counties, 340 had over-the-year increases in average weekly wages. Nationwide, Marin, CA, ranked first in average weekly wage growth, with an increase of 11.7 percent from the second quarter of 2017. Eight large U.S. counties had wage declines over the year. New Hanover, NC, had the largest percentage decline in average weekly wages with a loss of 6.4 percent.

Large County Average Weekly Wages

Providence (\$1,033, 112th) and Kent (\$906, 224th) were among the 255 large counties nationwide with wages below the U.S. average of \$1,055 in the second quarter of 2018.

Average weekly wages were higher than the national average in 94 of the 349 largest U.S. counties. Santa Clara, CA, held the top position with an average weekly wage of \$2,573. San Mateo, CA, was second with an average weekly wage of \$2,357, followed by San Francisco, CA (\$2,083), New York, NY (\$2,025), and Washington, DC (\$1,713).

More than two-thirds of the largest U.S. counties (255) reported average weekly wages below the national average in the second quarter of 2018. The lowest weekly wage was reported in Horry, SC (\$625), followed by the Texas counties Cameron (\$642), Hidalgo (\$645), and Webb (\$687). Wages in these lowest-ranked counties were less than one-third of the average weekly wage reported for the highest-ranked county, Santa Clara, CA (\$2,573).

Average Weekly Wages in Rhode Island's Smaller Counties

All three counties in Rhode Island with employment below 75,000 had average weekly wages lower than the national average of \$1,055. Bristol County (\$840) had the lowest weekly wage in the state, followed by Washington (\$904). (See [table 2](#).)

When all five counties in Rhode Island were considered, none had wages above the national average at \$1,055. Overall, one had wages ranging from \$800 to \$899, three had wages from \$900 to \$999 and one had wages above \$1,000. (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 the QCEW Web site at 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, which was published in September 2018, 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/cewbultn17.htm. The 2018 edition of Employment and Wages Annual Averages Online will be available in September 2019.

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

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. 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.

Table 1. Covered employment and wages in the United States and the largest counties in Rhode Island, second quarter 2018

| Area | Employment | | | Average weekly wage ⁽¹⁾ | | | |
|------------------------------------|--------------------------|--|--|------------------------------------|--|---|--|
| | June 2018 (thousands) | Percent change, June 2017-18 ⁽²⁾ | National ranking by percent change ⁽³⁾ | Average weekly wage | National ranking by level ⁽³⁾ | Percent change, second quarter 2017-18 ⁽²⁾ | National ranking by percent change ⁽³⁾ |
| United States ⁽⁴⁾ | 147,431.2 | 1.5 | -- | \$1,055 | -- | 3.4 | -- |
| Rhode Island | 491.0 | 0.7 | -- | 998 | 19 | 1.7 | 47 |
| Kent, RI | 77.2 | 0.4 | 271 | 906 | 224 | 0.9 | 325 |
| Providence, RI..... | 289.3 | 0.7 | 235 | 1,033 | 112 | 1.7 | 289 |

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 Rhode Island, second quarter 2018

| Area | Employment June 2018 | Average Weekly Wage ⁽¹⁾ |
|------------------------------------|----------------------|------------------------------------|
| United States ⁽²⁾ | 147,431,154 | \$1,055 |
| Rhode Island..... | 491,000 | 998 |
| Bristol..... | 13,784 | 840 |
| Kent..... | 77,244 | 906 |
| Newport..... | 43,421 | 975 |
| Providence..... | 289,299 | 1033 |
| Washington..... | 56,604 | 904 |

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: Covered employment and wages 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 2018

| State | Employment | | Average weekly wage ⁽¹⁾ | | | |
|------------------------------------|--------------------------|------------------------------------|------------------------------------|---------------------------------|--|---|
| | June 2018 (thousands) | Percent change, June 2017-18 | Average weekly wage | National ranking by level | Percent change, second quarter 2017-18 | National ranking by percent change |
| United States ⁽²⁾ | 147,431.2 | 1.5 | \$1,055 | -- | 3.4 | -- |
| Alabama | 1,969.9 | 1.2 | 882 | 37 | 2.8 | 35 |
| Alaska..... | 335.8 | -0.9 | 1,043 | 15 | 3.7 | 9 |
| Arizona | 2,770.8 | 2.6 | 973 | 23 | 3.3 | 19 |
| Arkansas | 1,214.6 | 0.7 | 824 | 47 | 1.7 | 47 |
| California | 17,473.1 | 1.9 | 1,265 | 4 | 4.6 | 3 |
| Colorado..... | 2,704.4 | 2.4 | 1,075 | 10 | 3.2 | 27 |
| Connecticut | 1,704.5 | 0.3 | 1,218 | 5 | 0.1 | 50 |
| Delaware | 454.3 | 1.3 | 1,023 | 17 | 1.4 | 49 |
| District of Columbia | 777.3 | 1.3 | 1,713 | 1 | 2.6 | 39 |
| Florida | 8,568.9 | 2.1 | 931 | 28 | 2.9 | 32 |
| Georgia..... | 4,440.5 | 2.0 | 979 | 22 | 2.3 | 43 |
| Hawaii..... | 658.3 | 0.5 | 956 | 24 | 2.5 | 41 |
| Idaho | 745.3 | 3.1 | 794 | 50 | 3.8 | 8 |
| Illinois | 6,061.1 | 0.8 | 1,097 | 9 | 3.4 | 14 |
| Indiana..... | 3,075.8 | 1.1 | 883 | 36 | 2.8 | 35 |
| Iowa..... | 1,583.7 | 0.8 | 880 | 39 | 3.3 | 19 |
| Kansas | 1,393.3 | 1.0 | 879 | 40 | 3.4 | 14 |
| Kentucky..... | 1,905.9 | 0.9 | 882 | 37 | 2.3 | 43 |
| Louisiana | 1,918.6 | 0.4 | 901 | 33 | 3.7 | 9 |
| Maine..... | 636.8 | 1.0 | 843 | 45 | 3.6 | 11 |
| Maryland..... | 2,712.0 | 0.7 | 1,141 | 8 | 3.4 | 14 |
| Massachusetts | 3,650.1 | 1.0 | 1,322 | 2 | 3.5 | 12 |
| Michigan | 4,424.7 | 1.3 | 997 | 20 | 2.9 | 32 |
| Minnesota..... | 2,925.6 | 0.8 | 1,072 | 12 | 3.3 | 19 |
| Mississippi | 1,130.7 | 0.2 | 752 | 51 | 2.7 | 38 |
| Missouri | 2,829.0 | 0.5 | 924 | 30 | 3.9 | 7 |
| Montana | 478.7 | 1.1 | 817 | 48 | 2.5 | 41 |
| Nebraska | 990.8 | 0.6 | 859 | 43 | 3.1 | 29 |
| Nevada | 1,372.4 | 3.1 | 931 | 28 | 3.3 | 19 |
| New Hampshire..... | 670.8 | 0.8 | 1,049 | 14 | 3.3 | 19 |
| New Jersey..... | 4,157.0 | 0.9 | 1,201 | 7 | 2.3 | 43 |
| New Mexico..... | 823.6 | 1.0 | 852 | 44 | 3.5 | 12 |
| New York | 9,579.2 | 1.7 | 1,297 | 3 | 4.5 | 4 |
| North Carolina | 4,450.2 | 2.2 | 933 | 25 | 3.3 | 19 |
| North Dakota | 426.1 | 0.8 | 986 | 21 | 3.4 | 14 |
| Ohio..... | 5,461.3 | 0.7 | 933 | 25 | 2.3 | 43 |
| Oklahoma | 1,606.4 | 1.2 | 875 | 41 | 3.2 | 27 |
| Oregon | 1,947.3 | 1.5 | 999 | 18 | 3.3 | 19 |
| Pennsylvania..... | 5,924.9 | 1.1 | 1,031 | 16 | 3.1 | 29 |
| Rhode Island | 491.0 | 0.7 | 998 | 19 | 1.7 | 47 |
| South Carolina..... | 2,126.5 | 3.4 | 833 | 46 | 0.0 | 51 |
| South Dakota..... | 439.7 | 0.9 | 807 | 49 | 2.8 | 35 |
| Tennessee | 2,994.1 | 1.6 | 932 | 27 | 2.9 | 32 |
| Texas | 12,326.3 | 2.2 | 1,062 | 13 | 3.4 | 14 |
| Utah..... | 1,483.9 | 3.4 | 899 | 35 | 4.3 | 5 |
| Vermont..... | 312.4 | -0.8 | 907 | 31 | 4.3 | 5 |
| Virginia..... | 3,941.0 | 1.3 | 1,073 | 11 | 2.6 | 39 |
| Washington..... | 3,444.1 | 2.7 | 1,218 | 5 | 6.9 | 1 |
| West Virginia | 702.9 | 1.6 | 868 | 42 | 4.8 | 2 |
| Wisconsin | 2,933.5 | 0.9 | 904 | 32 | 3.3 | 19 |
| Wyoming | 282.2 | 0.5 | 901 | 33 | 3.0 | 31 |
| Puerto Rico..... | 853.5 | -2.3 | 543 | (3) | 5.2 | (3) |

Note: See footnotes at end of table.

Table 3. Covered employment and wages by state, second quarter 2018 - Continued

| State | Employment | | Average weekly wage ⁽¹⁾ | | | |
|---------------------|--------------------------|------------------------------------|------------------------------------|---------------------------------|--|---|
| | June 2018 (thousands) | Percent change, June 2017-18 | Average weekly wage | National ranking by level | Percent change, second quarter 2017-18 | National ranking by percent change |
| Virgin Islands..... | 33.4 | -14.4 | 838 | (3) | 12.8 | (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.