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County Employment And Wages In Kentucky – First Quarter 2017

Kentucky's three large counties had employment gains from March 2016 to March 2017, the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics reported today. (Large counties are those with 2016 annual average employment levels of 75,000 or more.) Regional Commissioner Janet S. Rankin noted that the employment gains in Boone County and Fayette County, at 2.5 and 2.0 percent, respectively, were above the national average. (See [table 1](#).)

Nationally, employment advanced 1.6 percent from March 2016 to March 2017 as 299 of the 346 largest U.S. counties registered increases. York, S.C., had the largest percentage increase with a gain of 6.8 percent over the year. Kanawha, W.Va., had the largest over-the-year percentage decrease in employment among the largest U.S. counties, with a loss of 2.7 percent.

Among the three large counties in Kentucky, employment was highest in Jefferson County (460,100) in March 2017, while Boone County had the smallest employment (85,000). Together, Kentucky's large counties accounted for 39.5 percent of total employment within the state. Nationwide, the 346 largest counties made up 72.8 percent of total U.S. employment, which stood at 142.3 million in March 2017.

Each of Kentucky's three large counties had an over-the-year wage increase in the first quarter of 2017, with the highest gain in Jefferson County (8.2 percent). Jefferson County also had the largest average weekly wage among the state's largest counties at \$1,096. Nationally, the average weekly wage increased 6.6 percent over the year to \$1,111 in the first quarter of 2017. (See [table 1](#).)

Employment and wage levels (but not over-the-year changes) are also available for the 117 counties in Kentucky with employment levels below 75,000. Average weekly wages in these counties ranged from \$1,349 to \$510. (See [table 2](#).)

Large county wage changes

As noted, average weekly wages rose in all of Kentucky's large counties from the first quarter of 2016 to the first quarter of 2017. At 8.2 percent, Jefferson County's wage gain ranked 54th among the nation's 346 large counties. Boone County's 6.9-percent increase ranked 135th and Fayette County's 5.3-percent increase ranked 249th. (See [table 1](#).)

Nationally, 345 of the 346 largest counties had over-the-year increases in average weekly wages. McLean, Ill., had the largest wage gain, up 27.8 percent from the first quarter of 2016. Peoria, Ill., had the only percentage decrease in average weekly wages (-1.1 percent).

Large county average weekly wages

Average weekly wages in Kentucky's three large counties were below the U.S. average of \$1,111. The average weekly wage in Jefferson County (\$1,096, 105th) placed in the top third of the national ranking. Average weekly wages in Boone (\$914, 219th) and Fayette (\$901, 234th) placed in the bottom half of the national ranking.

Nationwide, 94 large counties had average weekly wages equal to or above the U.S. average of \$1,111 in the first quarter of 2017. New York, N.Y., had the highest average weekly wage at \$2,954, followed by Santa Clara, Calif., at \$2,450. Rounding out the top five were San Mateo, Calif. (\$2,385); San Francisco, Calif. (\$2,264); and Somerset, N.J. (\$2,026).

Among the largest U.S. counties, 252 had average weekly wages below the national average in the first quarter of 2017. Cameron, Texas (\$614), had the lowest wage, followed by the counties of Horry, S.C. (\$628); Hidalgo, Texas (\$642); Webb, Texas (\$675); and Lake, Fla. (\$681).

Average weekly wages in Kentucky's smaller counties

Among the 117 counties in Kentucky with employment below 75,000, Hancock (\$1,349) and Carroll (\$1,148) were the only two with an average weekly wage above the national average of \$1,111. Robertson County had the lowest wage in the state, averaging \$510 in the first quarter of 2017. (See [table 2](#).)

When all 120 counties in Kentucky were considered, 20 reported average weekly wages below \$600, 49 had average weekly wages from \$600 to \$699, 26 had wages from \$700 to \$799, 12 had wages from \$800 to \$899, and 13 had wages above \$900. (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 the 2016 edition of *Employment and Wages Annual Averages* are now available online at www.bls.gov/cew/publications/employment-and-wages-annual-averages/2016/home.htm. The 2017 edition of *Employment and Wages Annual Averages Online* will be available in September 2018.

The County Employment and Wages release for second quarter 2017 is scheduled to be released on Tuesday, December 5, 2017.

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 142.3 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 3 largest counties in Kentucky, first quarter 2017

Area	Employment			Average weekly wage ⁽¹⁾			
	March 2017 (thousands)	Percent change, March 2016-17 ⁽²⁾	National ranking by percent change ⁽³⁾	Average weekly wage	National ranking by level ⁽³⁾	Percent change, first quarter 2016-17 ⁽²⁾	National ranking by percent change ⁽³⁾
United States ⁽⁴⁾	142,309.2	1.6	--	\$1,111	--	6.6	--
Kentucky.....	1,864.1	1.1	--	879	41	6.9	18
Boone, Ky.	85.0	2.5	85	914	219	6.9	135
Fayette, Ky.....	192.0	2.0	127	901	234	5.3	249
Jefferson, Ky.....	460.1	1.5	176	1,096	105	8.2	54

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 Kentucky, first quarter 2017

Area	Employment March 2017	Average Weekly Wage(1)
United States(2)	142,309,185	\$1,111
Kentucky	1,864,126	879
Adair	4,485	581
Allen	4,507	631
Anderson	4,754	693
Ballard	1,609	940
Barren	17,012	661
Bath	1,858	711
Bell	8,429	640
Boone	85,017	914
Bourbon	6,520	759
Boyd	24,481	846
Boyle	13,987	737
Bracken	1,376	677
Breathitt	3,178	631
Breckinridge	3,472	623
Bullitt	24,113	691
Butler	3,151	644
Caldwell	4,127	638
Calloway	16,339	650
Campbell	29,789	875
Carlisle	1,023	558
Carroll	6,433	1,148
Carter	5,623	612
Casey	3,935	582
Christian	30,812	783
Clark	14,894	762
Clay	4,190	681
Clinton	3,723	560
Crittenden	2,109	587
Cumberland	1,660	643
Daviess	46,416	790
Edmonson	1,527	628
Elliott	975	595
Estill	2,432	654
Fayette	191,963	901
Fleming	2,979	633
Floyd	10,741	751
Franklin	30,556	818
Fulton	2,020	659
Gallatin	2,394	957
Garrard	2,190	649
Grant	4,978	766
Graves	11,129	686
Grayson	7,798	657
Green	1,722	608
Greenup	7,929	721
Hancock	4,062	1,349
Hardin	47,562	803
Harlan	5,878	663
Harrison	4,939	798
Hart	5,262	653
Henderson	19,460	818
Henry	2,684	697
Hickman	946	574
Hopkins	17,759	792
Jackson	1,584	605

Note: See footnotes at end of table.

Table 2. Covered employment and wages in the United States and all counties in Kentucky, first quarter 2017 - Continued

Area	Employment March 2017	Average Weekly Wage(1)
Jefferson	460,094	1,096
Jessamine	17,080	738
Johnson	5,187	627
Kenton	64,598	1,012
Knott	2,268	588
Knox	7,721	610
Larue	2,584	629
Laurel	27,324	669
Lawrence	3,144	669
Lee	1,528	661
Leslie	1,670	688
Letcher	4,347	649
Lewis	1,912	614
Lincoln	4,210	595
Livingston	2,463	798
Logan	8,491	777
Lyon	2,363	591
McCracken	39,329	805
McCreary	2,732	649
McLean	2,136	678
Madison	33,406	757
Magoffin	1,613	575
Marion	8,455	754
Marshall	11,621	961
Martin	2,577	845
Mason	8,507	759
Meade	4,162	714
Menifee	896	582
Mercer	6,319	909
Metcalf	1,894	627
Monroe	3,201	587
Montgomery	10,617	763
Morgan	2,878	660
Muhlenberg	9,019	833
Nelson	15,529	751
Nicholas	826	584
Ohio	7,477	650
Oldham	15,608	813
Owen	1,639	773
Owsley	648	516
Pendleton	2,337	730
Perry	11,437	719
Pike	20,793	799
Powell	2,582	592
Pulaski	24,562	652
Robertson	318	510
Rockcastle	3,723	627
Rowan	10,435	628
Russell	5,674	579
Scott	26,001	998
Shelby	16,172	766
Simpson	8,896	735
Spencer	1,866	697
Taylor	12,070	621
Todd	2,277	587
Trigg	3,004	619

Note: See footnotes at end of table.

Table 2. Covered employment and wages in the United States and all counties in Kentucky, first quarter 2017 - Continued

Area	Employment March 2017	Average Weekly Wage(1)
Trimble.....	1,042	987
Union	4,932	823
Warren	63,836	812
Washington.....	3,390	683
Wayne	5,428	610
Webster	3,038	966
Whitley.....	11,454	688
Wolfe	1,218	539
Woodford	9,073	801

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 2017

State	Employment		Average weekly wage ⁽¹⁾			
	March 2017 (thousands)	Percent change, March 2016-17	Average weekly wage	National ranking by level	Percent change, first quarter 2016-17	National ranking by percent change
United States ⁽²⁾	142,309.2	1.6	\$1,111	--	6.6	--
Alabama	1,928.9	1.4	893	36	6.2	35
Alaska	312.8	-1.8	1,061	18	3.9	50
Arizona	2,743.0	2.4	991	21	8.1	4
Arkansas	1,199.9	0.7	859	45	8.5	3
California	16,831.4	2.3	1,295	6	7.6	7
Colorado	2,573.2	2.3	1,136	12	7.5	10
Connecticut	1,651.5	0.1	1,417	4	4.0	49
Delaware	433.2	0.8	1,185	9	10.7	1
District of Columbia	760.7	1.2	1,885	1	7.0	16
Florida	8,532.6	2.8	949	27	7.2	13
Georgia.....	4,317.1	2.7	1,068	17	6.1	37
Hawaii.....	653.6	0.9	954	25	6.8	22
Idaho	690.4	3.0	775	50	7.0	16
Illinois	5,842.0	0.5	1,195	8	6.3	34
Indiana.....	2,985.8	1.2	918	32	7.6	7
Iowa	1,518.3	0.0	899	35	6.5	30
Kansas	1,368.0	0.4	888	38	6.7	25
Kentucky.....	1,864.1	1.1	879	41	6.9	18
Louisiana	1,901.3	-0.5	906	33	5.5	43
Maine.....	586.7	1.0	860	44	7.2	13
Maryland.....	2,626.0	1.2	1,171	10	5.8	42
Massachusetts	3,464.0	1.1	1,428	3	7.7	6
Michigan	4,230.6	1.7	1,041	20	6.8	22
Minnesota.....	2,806.4	2.1	1,149	11	7.9	5
Mississippi.....	1,122.9	0.1	750	51	5.3	46
Missouri	2,767.0	1.4	930	31	5.9	38
Montana	451.5	1.4	800	49	6.5	30
Nebraska	960.7	0.4	868	42	6.4	33
Nevada	1,311.6	3.8	932	30	6.9	18
New Hampshire.....	643.2	1.2	1,070	16	7.3	11
New Jersey.....	3,955.1	1.5	1,333	5	5.0	47
New Mexico	803.3	0.2	838	46	5.9	38
New York	9,159.3	1.3	1,541	2	5.9	38
North Carolina	4,287.0	1.8	991	21	6.9	18
North Dakota	405.7	-1.0	953	26	5.0	47
Ohio	5,278.3	0.8	976	24	6.7	25
Oklahoma	1,563.9	-1.0	883	39	5.9	38
Oregon	1,855.0	2.5	984	23	5.4	45
Pennsylvania	5,712.3	0.8	1,078	15	6.5	30
Rhode Island	465.4	0.3	1,055	19	7.2	13
South Carolina.....	2,017.9	2.2	864	43	7.3	11
South Dakota.....	413.4	0.7	819	48	6.2	35
Tennessee	2,906.2	1.8	945	28	6.7	25
Texas	11,924.5	1.7	1,124	14	5.5	43
Utah	1,411.3	3.1	905	34	6.6	29
Vermont.....	305.6	0.2	889	37	6.7	25
Virginia.....	3,796.3	1.4	1,129	13	6.9	18
Washington.....	3,225.9	2.6	1,215	7	8.6	2
West Virginia	678.2	-0.8	837	47	7.6	7
Wisconsin	2,803.7	1.1	933	29	6.8	22
Wyoming	262.4	-2.3	880	40	3.3	51
Puerto Rico.....	887.7	-0.9	526	(3)	1.2	(3)
Virgin Islands.....	38.7	0.0	797	(3)	3.1	(3)

Note: See footnotes at end of table.

Note: Data are preliminary. Covered employment and wages includes workers covered by Unemployment Insurance (UI) and Unemployment Compensation for Federal Employees (UCFE) programs.