



For Release: Thursday, December 27, 2018

18-1961-ATL

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County Employment and Wages in Mississippi – Second Quarter 2018

Employment decreased in Mississippi's two large counties 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 greater as measured by 2017 annual average employment.) Regional Commissioner Janet S. Rankin noted that Harrison and Hinds Counties each had an employment decline of 0.5 percent during the 12-month period. (See [table 1](#).)

Nationally, employment rose 1.5 percent from June 2017 to June 2018 as 309 of the 349 largest U.S. counties gained jobs. Midland, TX, had the largest over-the-year percentage increase in employment, with a gain of 11.6 percent. McLean, IL, had the largest over-the-year percentage decrease in employment, with a loss of 2.0 percent.

Among Mississippi's two largest counties, employment was higher in Hinds (120,500) in June 2018. Together, Hinds and Harrison Counties accounted for 18.3 percent of total employment within the state. Nationwide, the 349 largest counties made up 72.9 percent of total U.S. employment, which stood at 147.4 million in June 2018.

From the second quarter of 2017 to the second quarter of 2018, the average weekly wages in Harrison County was up 2.2 percent, the larger increase among the two large counties in Mississippi. (See [table 1](#).) Hinds County had the higher average weekly wage at \$865. Nationally, the average weekly wage was \$1,055, a 3.4-percent increase over the year.

Employment and wage levels (but not over-the-year changes) are also available for the 80 counties in Mississippi with employment below 75,000. Average weekly wages in these counties ranged from \$1,201 to \$460. (See [table 2](#).)

Large county wage changes

Harrison and Hinds Counties' average weekly wages rose 2.2 and 2.1 percent, respectively, from the second quarter of 2017 to the second quarter of 2018. Harrison (253rd) and Hinds (261st) were in the bottom third of the national ranking for large county wage growth. (See [table 1](#).)

Nationally, 340 of the 349 largest counties had over-the-year increases in average weekly wages in the second quarter of 2018. Marin, CA, had the largest over-the-year wage gain at 11.7 percent, followed by Lake, IL, and King, WA (9.3 percent each).

Of the 349 largest U.S. counties, 8 had over-the-year decreases in average weekly wages. New Hanover, NC, had the largest decrease in average weekly wages (-6.4 percent), followed by Spartanburg, SC (-2.9 percent) and Morris, NJ (-2.4 percent).

Large county average weekly wages

Average weekly wages in Hinds County (\$865) and Harrison County (\$734) were below the U.S. average of \$1,055 and placed in the bottom quarter of the national ranking in the second quarter of 2018. (See [table 1.](#))

Nationwide, average weekly wages were higher than the U.S. average in 94 of the 349 largest counties. Santa Clara, CA, was the highest-paid large county 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).

Among the largest U.S. counties, 255 reported average weekly wages below the national average in the second quarter of 2018. Horry, SC (\$625) had the lowest weekly wage, followed by Cameron, TX (\$642) and Hidalgo, TX (\$645).

Average weekly wages in Mississippi's smaller counties

Among the 80 smaller counties in Mississippi with employment below 75,000, Claiborne (\$1,201) was the only county with an average weekly wage above the national average of \$1,055. Issaquena County had the lowest weekly wage in the state, averaging \$460 in the second quarter of 2018. (See [table 2.](#))

When all 82 counties in Mississippi were considered, 10 had average weekly wages below \$599, 44 had wages from \$600 to \$699, 20 had wages from \$700 to \$799, and 8 had wages \$800 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 2017 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 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/publications/employment-and-wages-annual-averages/2017/home.htm. The 2018 edition of *Employment and Wages Annual Averages Online* will be available in September 2019.

The County Employment and Wages release for third quarter 2018 is scheduled to be released on Wednesday, February 20, 2019. The County Employment and Wages full data update for third quarter 2018 is scheduled to be released on Wednesday, March 6, 2019.

New BLS Local Data iPhone App Includes QCEW Data

BLS has partnered with the U.S. Department of Labor's Office of the Chief Information Officer to develop a new mobile app for iPhones. The BLS Local Data app is ideal for customers, such as jobseekers and economic and workforce development professionals, who want to know more about local labor markets. For more information, please go to: <https://blogs.bls.gov/blog/2018/10/18/new-bls-local-data-app-now-available/>

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.

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 2 largest counties in Mississippi, 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	--
Mississippi	1,130.7	0.2	--	752	51	2.7	38
Harrison, Miss.	86.4	-0.5	335	734	342	2.2	253
Hinds, Miss.	120.5	-0.5	335	865	274	2.1	261

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 Mississippi, second quarter 2018

Area	Employment June 2018	Average Weekly Wage(1)
United States(2)	147,431,154	\$1,055
Mississippi	1,130,719	752
Adams	10,759	668
Alcorn	14,054	675
Amite	1,720	693
Attala	4,583	613
Benton	945	685
Bolivar	10,992	687
Calhoun	3,296	558
Carroll	1,168	595
Chickasaw	5,493	646
Choctaw	2,264	772
Claiborne	3,463	1,201
Clarke	2,936	639
Clay	5,361	707
Coahoma	7,650	648
Copiah	7,031	636
Covington	5,670	661
De Soto	60,759	672
Forrest	39,893	750
Franklin	1,535	751
George	4,987	636
Greene	1,961	609
Grenada	10,599	667
Hancock	13,401	939
Harrison	86,446	734
Hinds	120,538	865
Holmes	3,449	646
Humphreys	2,234	555
Issaquena	212	460
Itawamba	6,107	693
Jackson	49,050	956
Jasper	4,070	741
Jefferson	1,016	631
Jefferson Davis	1,559	631
Jones	27,143	733
Kemper	2,060	988
Lafayette	23,872	716
Lamar	18,949	615
Lauderdale	32,980	683
Lawrence	2,413	792
Leake	4,992	580
Lee	54,419	740
Leflore	14,555	647
Lincoln	12,271	704
Lowndes	25,039	786
Madison	54,795	844
Marion	7,852	688
Marshall	7,138	758
Monroe	9,599	769
Montgomery	2,349	594
Neshoba	12,077	642
Newton	5,495	636
Noxubee	2,519	611
Oktibbeha	20,331	704
Panola	10,472	681

Note: See footnotes at end of table.

Table 2. Covered employment and wages in the United States and all counties in Mississippi, second quarter 2018 - Continued

Area	Employment June 2018	Average Weekly Wage(1)
Pearl River.....	10,309	642
Perry.....	2,147	776
Pike.....	14,849	615
Pontotoc.....	12,378	676
Prentiss.....	7,410	629
Quitman.....	938	627
Rankin.....	62,943	764
Scott.....	14,049	640
Sharkey.....	1,211	537
Simpson.....	7,086	528
Smith.....	2,760	732
Stone.....	4,344	652
Sunflower.....	8,366	604
Tallahatchie.....	2,785	631
Tate.....	5,548	644
Tippah.....	6,573	643
Tishomingo.....	6,341	631
Tunica.....	8,100	627
Union.....	11,105	829
Walthall.....	2,434	560
Warren.....	19,634	833
Washington.....	16,830	638
Wayne.....	4,979	690
Webster.....	2,001	653
Wilkinson.....	1,652	587
Winston.....	5,122	700
Yalobusha.....	2,891	697
Yazoo.....	6,398	734

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 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

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
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

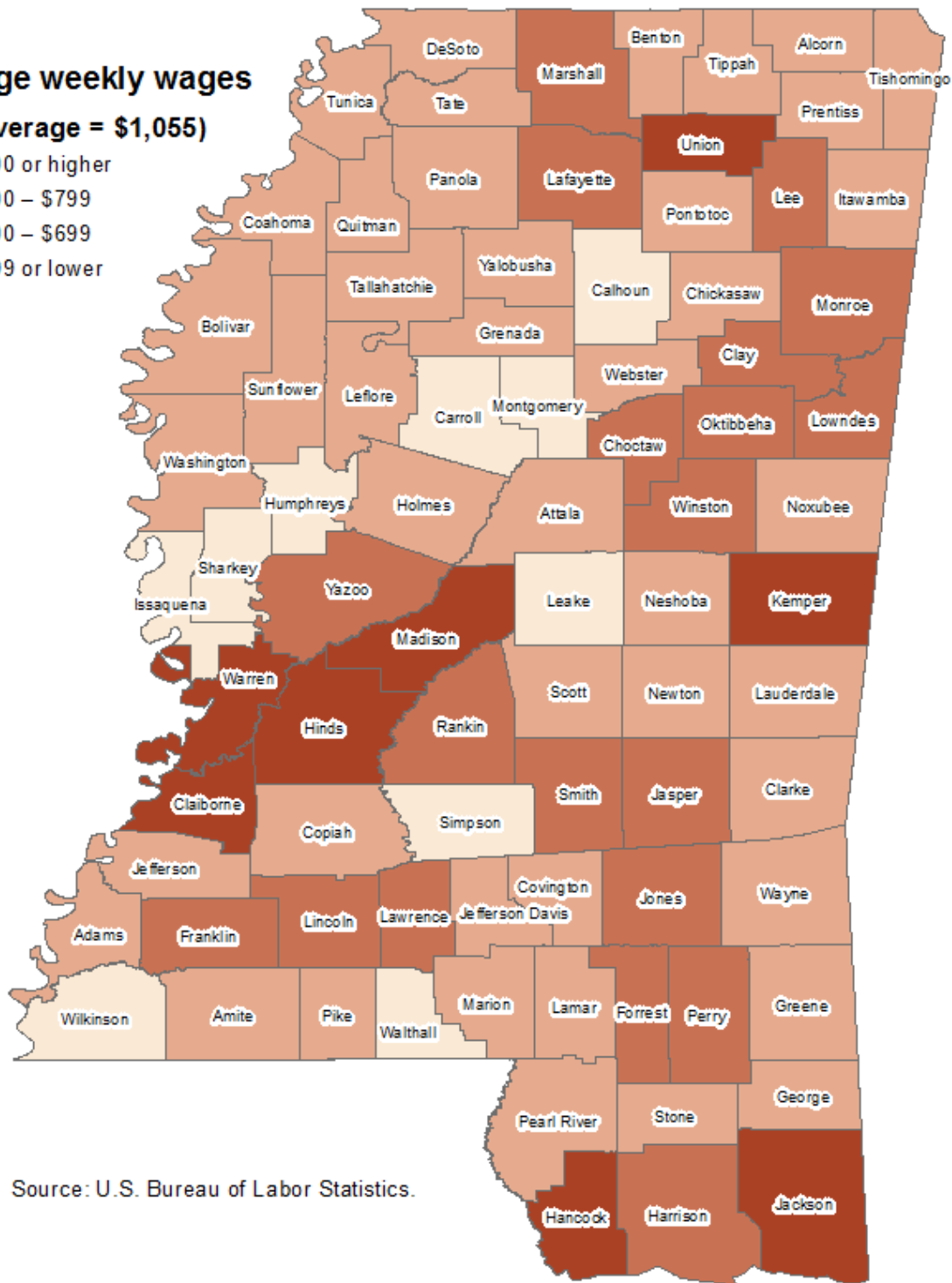
State	Employment			Average weekly wage ⁽¹⁾		
	June 2018 (thousands)	Percent change, June 2017-18	Average weekly wage	National ranking by level	Percent change, second quarter 2017-18	National ranking by percent change
North Dakota	426.1	0.8	986	21	3.4	14
Ohio	5,461.3	0.7	933	25	2.3	43
Oklahoma	1,606.4	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⁾
Virgin Islands	33.4	-14.4	838	⁽³⁾	12.8	⁽³⁾

Chart 1. Average weekly wages by county in Mississippi, second quarter 2018

Average weekly wages

(U.S. Average = \$1,055)

- \$800 or higher
- \$700 – \$799
- \$600 – \$699
- \$599 or lower



Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics.