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County Employment and Wages in Mississippi – Second Quarter 2019

Employment in Harrison County rose 0.9 percent from June 2018 to June 2019, the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics reported today. Harrison County is one of the two large counties in Mississippi. (Large counties are those with annual average employment levels of 75,000 or more in 2018.) Regional Commissioner Janet S. Rankin noted that employment decreased 0.2 percent over the year in Hinds County, the state's other large county. (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. Adams, CO, had the largest over-the-year percentage increase in employment, with a gain of 5.3 percent. Bay, FL, had the largest over-the-year percentage decrease in employment, with a loss of 6.4 percent.

Among Mississippi's two large counties, employment was higher in Hinds (120,000) in June 2019. Together, Hinds and Harrison Counties accounted for 18.3 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.

Both of Mississippi's large counties had over-the-year wage increases in the second quarter of 2019, with the larger percentage gain in Hinds County (2.0 percent). (See [table 1](#).) Hinds County also had the higher average weekly wage at \$879. Nationally, the average weekly wage was \$1,095, a 3.8 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 2018 annual average employment levels below 75,000. Average weekly wages in these counties ranged from \$1,073 to \$473. (See [table 2](#).)

Large county wage changes

Hinds and Harrison Counties' average weekly wages rose 2.0 percent and 1.9 percent, respectively, from the second quarter of 2018 to the second quarter of 2019. Hinds (303rd) and Harrison (316th) were in the bottom third of the national ranking for large county wage growth. (See [table 1](#).)

Nationally, 347 of the 355 largest counties 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, followed by San Francisco, CA (15.5 percent), and Bay, FL (9.2 percent).

Of the 355 largest U.S. counties, 8 had over-the-year decreases in average weekly wages. McLean, IL, had the largest percentage decrease in average weekly wages (-5.8 percent), followed by Shawnee, KS (-2.9 percent), and Lake, IL (-2.5 percent).

Large county average weekly wages

Average weekly wages in Hinds County (\$879) and Harrison County (\$747) were below the U.S. average of \$1,095 and placed in the bottom quarter of the national ranking in the second quarter of 2019. (See [table 1.](#))

Nationwide, average weekly wages were at or higher than the U.S. average in 95 of the 355 largest counties. Santa Clara, CA, had the highest average weekly wage at \$2,612, followed by San Francisco CA (\$2,430), and San Mateo, CA (\$2,373).

Among the largest U.S. counties, 260 had average weekly wages below the national average in the second quarter of 2019. Horry, SC (\$649) had the lowest weekly wage, followed by Hidalgo, TX (\$657), and Cameron TX (\$659).

Average weekly wages in Mississippi's smaller counties

Among the 80 counties in Mississippi—those with 2018 annual employment levels below 75,000—Claiborne (\$1,073) had the highest average weekly wage in the state. Issaquena County had the lowest average weekly wage in the state, averaging \$473 in the second quarter of 2019. (See [table 2.](#))

When all 82 counties in Mississippi were considered, 8 had average weekly wages below \$599, 40 had wages from \$600 to \$699, 24 had wages from \$700 to \$799, and 10 had wages above \$800. (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 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. 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 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	--
Mississippi	1,135.9	0.4	--	767	51	2.0	51
Harrison, Miss.	87.8	0.9	174	747	351	1.9	316
Hinds, Miss.	120.0	-0.2	298	879	291	2.0	303

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 2019

Area	Employment June 2019	Average weekly wage(1)
United States(2)	149,089,158	\$1,095
Mississippi	1,135,850	767
Adams	10,747	669
Alcorn	14,245	684
Amite	1,877	723
Attala	4,614	639
Benton	927	681
Bolivar	10,863	704
Calhoun	3,262	587
Carroll	1,162	621
Chickasaw	5,233	668
Choctaw	2,302	778
Claiborne	3,407	1,073
Clarke	2,909	636
Clay	5,327	728
Coahoma	7,614	670
Copiah	6,840	646
Covington	5,605	689
De Soto	62,197	690
Forrest	40,080	766
Franklin	1,581	785
George	4,908	653
Greene	1,951	636
Grenada	10,849	663
Hancock	13,674	962
Harrison	87,769	747
Hinds	119,981	879
Holmes	3,337	642
Humphreys	2,255	549
Issaquena	185	473
Itawamba	5,857	693
Jackson	48,879	948
Jasper	4,129	780
Jefferson	964	653
Jefferson Davis	1,576	679
Jones	27,935	744
Kemper	1,838	936
Lafayette	23,952	726
Lamar	19,172	628
Lauderdale	32,595	724
Lawrence	2,396	791
Leake	5,280	603
Lee	54,801	767
Leflore	14,746	655
Lincoln	12,196	727
Lowndes	25,128	802
Madison	55,755	839
Marion	7,884	703
Marshall	7,497	779
Monroe	9,794	782
Montgomery	2,289	571
Neshoba	12,301	673
Newton	5,619	669
Noxubee	2,495	630
Oktibbeha	20,536	717
Panola	10,162	711

Note: See footnotes at end of table.

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

Area	Employment June 2019	Average weekly wage ⁽¹⁾
Pearl River	10,663	643
Perry	2,310	821
Pike	14,871	634
Pontotoc	12,601	671
Prentiss	7,534	650
Quitman	944	580
Rankin	64,177	785
Scott	13,407	681
Sharkey	1,145	560
Simpson	7,323	542
Smith	2,731	742
Stone	4,519	688
Sunflower	8,176	622
Tallahatchie	2,822	667
Tate	5,452	673
Tippah	6,462	658
Tishomingo	6,520	653
Tunica	7,511	616
Union	11,426	897
Walthall	2,308	579
Warren	19,527	839
Washington	16,375	652
Wayne	4,997	682
Webster	1,996	670
Wilkinson	1,651	606
Winston	5,113	723
Yalobusha	2,692	737
Yazoo	6,243	748

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.

