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County Employment and Wages in Iowa — Second Quarter 2016

Two of the four largest counties in Iowa reported employment growth from June 2015 to June 2016, 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 2015 annual average employment.) Polk County had the larger increase, up 1.6 percent, followed by Johnson County, up 1.3 percent. Assistant Commissioner for Regional Operations Charlene Peiffer noted that Scott and Linn Counties had over-the-year employment declines of 0.6 percent and 0.3 percent, respectively. Nationally, employment increased 1.5 percent. (See table 1.)

Among the four largest counties in Iowa, employment was highest in Polk County (297,200) in June 2016. Collectively, Iowa's four large counties accounted for 38.5 percent of total employment within the state. Nationwide, the 344 largest counties made up 72.5 percent of total U.S. employment, which stood at 142.7 million in June 2016.

The average weekly wage in Polk County rose 3.2 percent from the second quarter of 2015 to the second quarter of 2016, the largest increase among Iowa's large counties. Polk County also had the highest average weekly wage in the state at $974. (See table 1.) Nationally, the average weekly wage rose 2.2 percent over the year to $989 in the second quarter of 2016.

Employment and wage levels (but not over-the-year changes) are also available for the 94 counties in Iowa with employment below 75,000. All of these smaller counties had average weekly wages below the national average. (See table 2.)

Large county wage changes

Two of Iowa's large counties recorded wage growth above the national increase of 2.2 percent from the second quarter of 2015 to the second quarter of 2016. (See table 1.) Polk County's 3.2-percent increase in average weekly wages ranked 87th among the 344 largest U.S. counties. Linn County (2.5 percent) also placed in the top half of the national ranking at 146th.

Among the 344 largest U.S. counties, 304 had over-the-year increases in average weekly wages in the second quarter of 2016. McLean, Ill., ranked first in average weekly wage growth with a gain of 21.0 percent. Of the largest U.S. counties, 36 experienced over-the-year decreases in average weekly wages. Ventura Calif., had the largest percentage decline in average weekly wages with a loss of 8.4 percent.

Large county average weekly wages

Average weekly wages in all four large Iowa counties were below the national average of $989 in the second quarter of 2016. As noted, Polk County ($974) had the highest average weekly wage in the state and ranked 115th among the 344 largest counties in the nation. Scott County ($794) reported the lowest average weekly wage among Iowa's large counties and ranked 291st nationwide.

Nationally, weekly wages were higher than the U.S. average of $989 in 102 of the 344 largest counties. Santa Clara, Calif., held the top position with an average weekly wage of $2,252. Santa Mateo, Calif., was second at $1,871, followed by New York, N.Y. ($1,866), and San Francisco, Calif. ($1,806). There were 241 large counties with an average weekly wage below the national average in the second quarter of 2016. Horry, S.C. ($598) reported the lowest average weekly wage, followed by the Texas counties of Cameron ($602), Hidalgo ($626), and Webb ($659).

Average weekly wages in Iowa's smaller counties

All 94 counties in Iowa with employment below 75,000 had average weekly wages below the national average of $989. Among these smaller counties, Muscatine County had the highest average weekly wage at $903 and Decatur County had the lowest at $591. (See table 2.)

When all 99 counties in Iowa were considered, 15 reported average weekly wages of $649 or less, 28 reported wages from $650 to $699, 27 had wages from $700 to $749, and 29 had wages of $750 or more. (See chart 1.)

Additional statistics and other information

Quarterly 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/home.htm.

Employment and Wages Annual Averages Online features comprehensive information by detailed industry on establishments, employment, and wages for the nation and all states. The 2015 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 2016 version of the national news release. Tables and additional content from *Employment and Wages Annual Averages 2015* are now available online at www.bls.gov/cew/cewbultn15.htm. The 2016 edition of *Employment and Wages Annual Averages Online* will be available in September 2017.

The County Employment and Wages release for third quarter 2016 is scheduled to be released on Tuesday, March 7, 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 9.7 million employer reports cover 142.7 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 4 largest counties in Iowa, second quarter 2016

Area	Employment			Average weekly wage [1]			
	June 2016 (thousands)	Percent change, June 2015-16 [2]	National ranking by percent change [3]	Average weekly wage	National ranking by level [3]	Percent change, second quarter 2015-16 [2]	National ranking by percent change [3]
United States [4]	142,717.2	1.5	--	$989	--	2.2	--
Iowa	1,566.0	0.3	--	825	40	2.9	9
Johnson, Iowa	82.9	1.3	188	916	165	2.0	201
Linn, Iowa	131.8	-0.3	306	946	138	2.5	146
Polk, Iowa	297.2	1.6	160	974	115	3.2	87
Scott, Iowa	91.6	-0.6	314	794	291	1.4	246

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 Iowa, second quarter 2016

Area	Employment June 2016	Average weekly wage(1)
United States(2)	142,717,157	$989
Iowa	1,565,972	825
Adair	2,867	660
Adams	1,310	649
Allamakee	5,340	622
Appanoose	4,807	663
Audubon	1,846	649
Benton	6,029	669
Black Hawk	74,353	799
Boone	9,780	726
Bremer	10,279	737
Buchanan	6,699	668
Buena Vista	10,990	703
Butler	3,534	643
Calhoun	3,011	685
Carroll	12,037	669
Cass	6,321	667
Cedar	5,650	697
Cerro Gordo	24,843	753
Cherokee	5,000	719
Chickasaw	4,921	718
Clarke	4,575	698
Clay	8,835	728
Clayton	7,005	692
Clinton	21,787	719
Crawford	7,058	743
Dallas	42,480	882
Davis	2,135	657
Decatur	2,345	591
Delaware	6,925	760
Des Moines	22,861	755
Dickinson	11,273	649
Dubuque	58,799	778
Emmet	3,977	697
Fayette	7,312	657
Floyd	6,010	721
Franklin	4,146	754
Fremont	2,564	712
Greene	3,583	690
Grundy	4,222	750
Guthrie	3,259	714
Hamilton	6,111	705
Hancock	7,267	775
Hardin	7,274	700
Harrison	4,433	644
Henry	9,358	748
Howard	4,200	644
Humboldt	4,205	713
Ida	3,719	801
Iowa	10,312	713
Jackson	6,520	600
Jasper	11,848	704
Jefferson	7,569	712
Johnson	82,947	916
Jones	6,460	707
Keokuk	2,300	655
Kossuth	7,243	755

Note: See footnotes at end of table.

Table 2. Covered employment and wages in the United States and all counties in Iowa, second quarter 2016 - Continued

Area	Employment June 2016	Average weekly wage(1)
Lee	16,662	857
Linn	131,751	946
Louisa	3,818	690
Lucas	3,473	777
Lyon	4,780	657
Madison	4,017	668
Mahaska	8,029	708
Marion	17,853	778
Marshall	18,230	803
Mills	4,084	819
Mitchell	4,047	713
Monona	2,867	618
Monroe	3,501	863
Montgomery	4,329	692
Muscatine	24,424	903
O'Brien	6,969	696
Osceola	2,479	712
Page	6,290	704
Palo Alto	3,983	654
Plymouth	11,508	823
Pocahontas	3,046	773
Polk	297,157	974
Pottawattamie	38,737	718
Poweshiek	10,021	768
Ringgold	1,442	625
Sac	3,270	655
Scott	91,604	794
Shelby	5,961	686
Sioux	20,877	723
Story	46,158	873
Tama	5,711	663
Taylor	1,967	655
Union	6,216	695
Van Buren	2,098	620
Wapello	16,160	711
Warren	11,300	696
Washington	8,532	628
Wayne	1,878	649
Webster	19,727	817
Winnebago	4,513	658
Winneshiek	10,722	709
Woodbury	54,939	853
Worth	2,461	615
Wright	5,847	787

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 2016

State	Employment		Average weekly wage [1]			
	June 2016 (thousands)	Percent change, June 2015-16	Average weekly wage	National ranking by level	Percent change, second quarter 2015-16	National ranking by percent change
United States [2]	142,717.2	1.5	$989	--	2.2	--
Alabama	1,923.5	1.2	835	37	2.0	29
Alaska	338.7	-2.4	1,011	10	-1.7	49
Arizona	2,619.6	2.6	921	22	1.9	33
Arkansas	1,197.5	1.1	785	47	3.0	7
California	16,754.1	2.5	1,157	5	2.4	19
Colorado	2,574.5	2.3	999	14	1.0	43
Connecticut	1,689.9	-0.1	1,213	3	3.0	7
Delaware	444.0	0.9	990	16	-0.6	48
District of Columbia	756.0	1.7	1,623	1	1.1	42
Florida	8,161.8	3.2	883	25	2.6	14
Georgia	4,269.5	2.7	929	21	2.7	11
Hawaii	643.4	1.0	906	24	3.5	5
Idaho	699.7	3.3	740	50	3.8	3
Illinois	5,945.0	0.2	1,038	9	2.4	19
Indiana	2,995.4	1.0	828	39	2.1	27
Iowa	1,566.0	0.3	825	40	2.9	9
Kansas	1,378.4	-0.2	829	38	1.2	39
Kentucky	1,877.2	1.5	838	36	1.9	33
Louisiana	1,905.2	-1.4	852	32	0.2	46
Maine	622.8	1.0	795	46	3.5	5
Maryland	2,656.0	0.9	1,070	8	2.5	15
Massachusetts	3,538.2	1.2	1,233	2	2.0	29
Michigan	4,300.9	1.9	942	19	2.7	11
Minnesota	2,846.8	0.7	997	15	2.0	29
Mississippi	1,120.1	0.5	727	51	2.5	15
Missouri	2,785.6	1.4	863	30	2.4	19
Montana	468.6	2.2	767	48	1.7	35
Nebraska	978.3	0.9	805	43	2.4	19
Nevada	1,289.4	3.3	874	27	2.2	26
New Hampshire	655.1	1.1	1,003	12	3.7	4
New Jersey	4,051.2	1.7	1,147	6	1.7	35
New Mexico	808.1	-0.3	812	42	0.9	44
New York	9,264.0	1.5	1,210	4	2.5	15
North Carolina	4,285.3	2.5	865	29	2.1	27
North Dakota	423.3	-4.9	908	23	-3.3	51
Ohio	5,353.1	0.8	882	26	2.0	29
Oklahoma	1,570.5	-1.4	823	41	0.6	45
Oregon	1,867.8	2.7	933	20	4.1	2
Pennsylvania	5,786.8	0.4	971	17	1.4	37
Rhode Island	482.9	0.6	949	18	2.5	15
South Carolina	2,013.7	2.4	804	44	2.8	10
South Dakota	432.7	1.0	760	49	2.7	11
Tennessee	2,900.4	2.4	874	27	1.3	38
Texas	11,810.7	1.0	1,000	13	1.2	39
Utah	1,395.9	3.8	840	35	2.3	25
Vermont	310.6	-0.1	850	33	2.4	19
Virginia	3,833.4	1.6	1,011	10	1.2	39
Washington	3,281.6	2.8	1,083	7	5.4	1
West Virginia	693.2	-1.9	800	45	-0.4	47
Wisconsin	2,869.1	0.9	856	31	2.4	19
Wyoming	281.7	-3.7	849	34	-2.2	50
Puerto Rico	879.5	-0.7	512	[3]	0.2	[3]

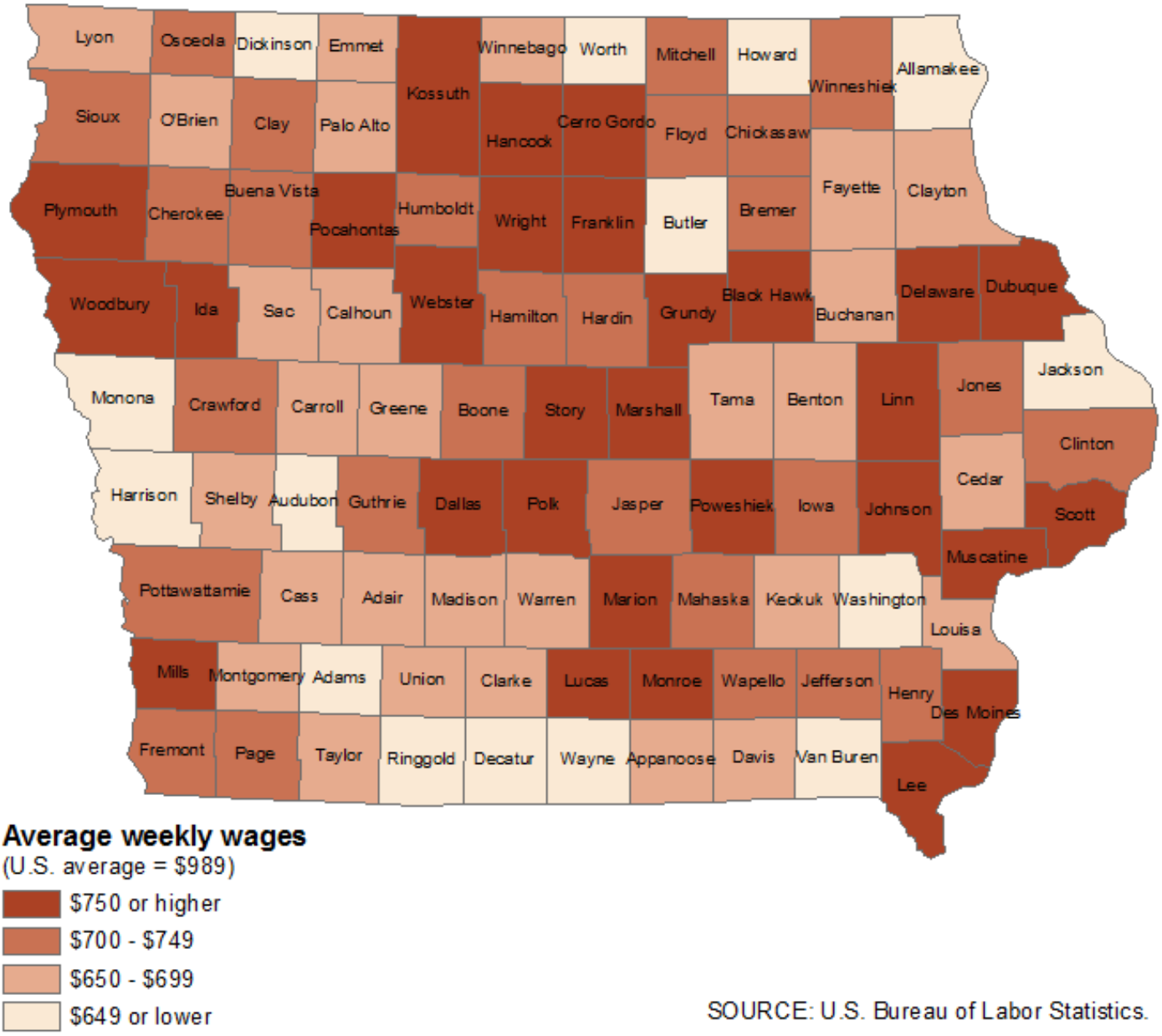
Note: See footnotes at end of table.

Table 3. Covered employment and wages by state, second quarter 2016 - Continued

State	Employment		Average weekly wage [1]			
	June 2016 (thousands)	Percent change, June 2015-16	Average weekly wage	National ranking by level	Percent change, second quarter 2015-16	National ranking by percent change
Virgin Islands	38.4	0.9	743	[3]	-0.4	[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 Iowa, second quarter 2016



SOURCE: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics.