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County Employment and Wages in Ohio — First Quarter 2017

Eight of the 13 large counties in Ohio reported employment gains from March 2016 to March 2017, 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 2016 annual average employment.) Assistant Commissioner for Regional Operations Charlene Peiffer noted that Butler County had the largest increase, up 2.4 percent, followed by Franklin County, up 2.3 percent. (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 counties in the U.S., with a loss of 2.7 percent.

Among the 13 largest counties in Ohio, employment was highest in Franklin County (737,500) and Cuyahoga County (709,400) in March 2017. Four other counties—Hamilton (506,200), Summit (262,000), Montgomery (250,400), and Lucas (206,600)—had employment levels of more than 200,000. Collectively, Ohio's 13 large counties accounted for 65.2 percent of total employment within the state. Nationwide, the 346 largest counties made up 72.8 percent of total U.S. employment in March 2017.

Average weekly wages increased in all of the 13 largest counties in Ohio from the first quarter of 2016 to the first quarter of 2017. Butler County had the largest percentage increase in average weekly wages, up 9.9 percent. (See table 1.) Hamilton County recorded the highest average weekly wage among the state's large counties at $1,207, followed by Delaware County ($1,171), and Cuyahoga ($1,114). Nationally, the average weekly wage increased 6.6 percent over the year to $1,111 in the first quarter of 2017.

Employment and wage levels (but not over-the-year changes) are also available for the 75 counties in Ohio with employment levels below 75,000. Wage levels in all of these smaller counties were below the national average in the first quarter of 2017. (See table 2.)

Large county wage changes

As noted, average weekly wages rose in all of Ohio's large counties from the first quarter of 2016 to the first quarter of 2017. Wage gains in four of the state's large counties placed in the top 100 of the national ranking—Butler (9.9 percent, 19th), Montgomery, (7.9 percent, 63rd), and Delaware and Lorain (both 7.3 percent, 98th). (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

Hamilton County's average weekly wage of $1,207 was the highest among the state's 13 large counties and ranked 62nd among the 346 largest U.S. counties. Delaware County ($1,171, 70th) and Cuyahoga County ($1,114, 93rd) also reported average weekly wages above the national average of $1,111. Mahoning ($733) reported the lowest average weekly wage among the state's large counties and ranked 335th nationwide.

Nationwide, 94 large counties had average weekly wages at or above the U.S. average of $1,111 in the first quarter of 2017. New York, N.Y., recorded 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).

Average weekly wages in Ohio's smaller counties

All 75 smaller counties in Ohio with employment below 75,000 had average weekly wages below the national average of $1,111. Among these smaller counties, Union had the highest average weekly wage at $1,061, while Meigs had the lowest at $580. (See table 2.)

When all 88 counties in Ohio were considered, all but 3 had wages below the national average. One reported average weekly wages less than $600, 16 had wages from $600 to $699, 37 reported wages from $700 to $799, 21 had wages from $800 to $899, and 13 had wages of $900 or more. (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 *Employment and Wages Annual Averages 2016* are now available online at https://www.bls.gov/cew/cewbultn16.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.

Industry Changes

Beginning with this release, the QCEW program now uses the 2017 version of the North American Industry Classification System (NAICS) as the basis for the assignment and tabulation of economic data by industry. For more information on the change to NAICS, please see the Federal Register notice at www.census.gov/eos/www/naics/federal_register_notices/notices/fr08au16.pdf. For information on the use of the 2017 version of NAICS in QCEW, see www.bls.gov/cew/naics2017.htm.

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 13 largest counties in Ohio, 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	--
Ohio	5,278.3	0.8	--	976	24	6.7	25
Butler, Ohio	152.1	2.4	95	991	161	9.9	19
Cuyahoga, Ohio	709.4	0.1	294	1,114	93	6.7	148
Delaware, Ohio	85.3	2.1	114	1,171	70	7.3	98
Franklin, Ohio	737.5	2.3	98	1,106	99	6.2	189
Hamilton, Ohio	506.2	0.8	237	1,207	62	6.5	163
Lake, Ohio	93.4	-0.3	320	878	262	5.9	210
Lorain, Ohio	96.2	0.9	229	835	294	7.3	98
Lucas, Ohio	206.6	-0.3	320	946	195	7.0	126
Mahoning, Ohio	95.2	-0.1	308	733	335	7.0	126
Montgomery, Ohio	250.4	0.0	300	904	231	7.9	63
Stark, Ohio	156.2	-0.2	314	773	327	6.6	158
Summit, Ohio	262.0	0.1	294	979	170	3.7	321
Warren, Ohio	89.7	1.1	209	996	160	5.8	215

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 Ohio, first quarter 2017

Area	Employment March 2017	Average weekly wage(1)
United States(2)	142,309,185	$1,111
Ohio	5,278,342	976
Adams	6,076	719
Allen	50,384	861
Ashland	18,326	727
Ashtabula	29,421	714
Athens	21,534	762
Auglaize	21,007	795
Belmont	22,763	816
Brown	8,189	710
Butler	152,071	991
Carroll	6,747	758
Champaign	10,530	790
Clark	48,040	761
Clermont	57,541	824
Clinton	17,507	866
Columbiana	29,215	689
Coshocton	10,069	766
Crawford	13,238	719
Cuyahoga	709,442	1,114
Darke	18,420	783
Defiance	15,677	895
Delaware	85,274	1,171
Erie	34,665	754
Fairfield	43,429	708
Fayette	11,805	650
Franklin	737,467	1,106
Fulton	18,394	772
Gallia	11,359	657
Geauga	33,537	787
Greene	73,163	1,005
Guernsey	14,914	745
Hamilton	506,194	1,207
Hancock	44,960	1,001
Hardin	8,599	683
Harrison	4,091	878
Henry	10,777	743
Highland	10,408	661
Hocking	6,696	610
Holmes	19,005	691
Huron	20,205	758
Jackson	10,094	660
Jefferson	20,126	794
Knox	19,971	750
Lake	93,354	878
Lawrence	12,527	639
Licking	52,676	816
Logan	19,755	803
Lorain	96,230	835
Lucas	206,586	946
Madison	17,106	780
Mahoning	95,241	733
Marion	23,859	775
Medina	59,221	823
Meigs	3,382	580
Mercer	19,750	727
Miami	40,131	797

Note: See footnotes at end of table.

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

Area	Employment March 2017	Average weekly wage(1)
Monroe	2,675	606
Montgomery	250,416	904
Morgan	2,619	676
Morrow	5,165	673
Muskingum	32,686	742
Noble	3,024	702
Ottawa	12,327	858
Paulding	4,797	683
Perry	5,885	730
Pickaway	13,615	844
Pike	9,730	920
Portage	54,217	833
Preble	10,480	730
Putnam	11,601	709
Richland	49,850	728
Ross	27,665	835
Sandusky	26,133	747
Scioto	23,784	681
Seneca	19,193	693
Shelby	26,775	898
Stark	156,174	773
Summit	262,009	979
Trumbull	66,662	817
Tuscarawas	35,590	708
Union	32,252	1,061
Van Wert	10,807	726
Vinton	2,122	657
Warren	89,650	996
Washington	24,745	867
Wayne	47,364	817
Williams	17,064	769
Wood	66,904	874
Wyandot	9,045	818

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.

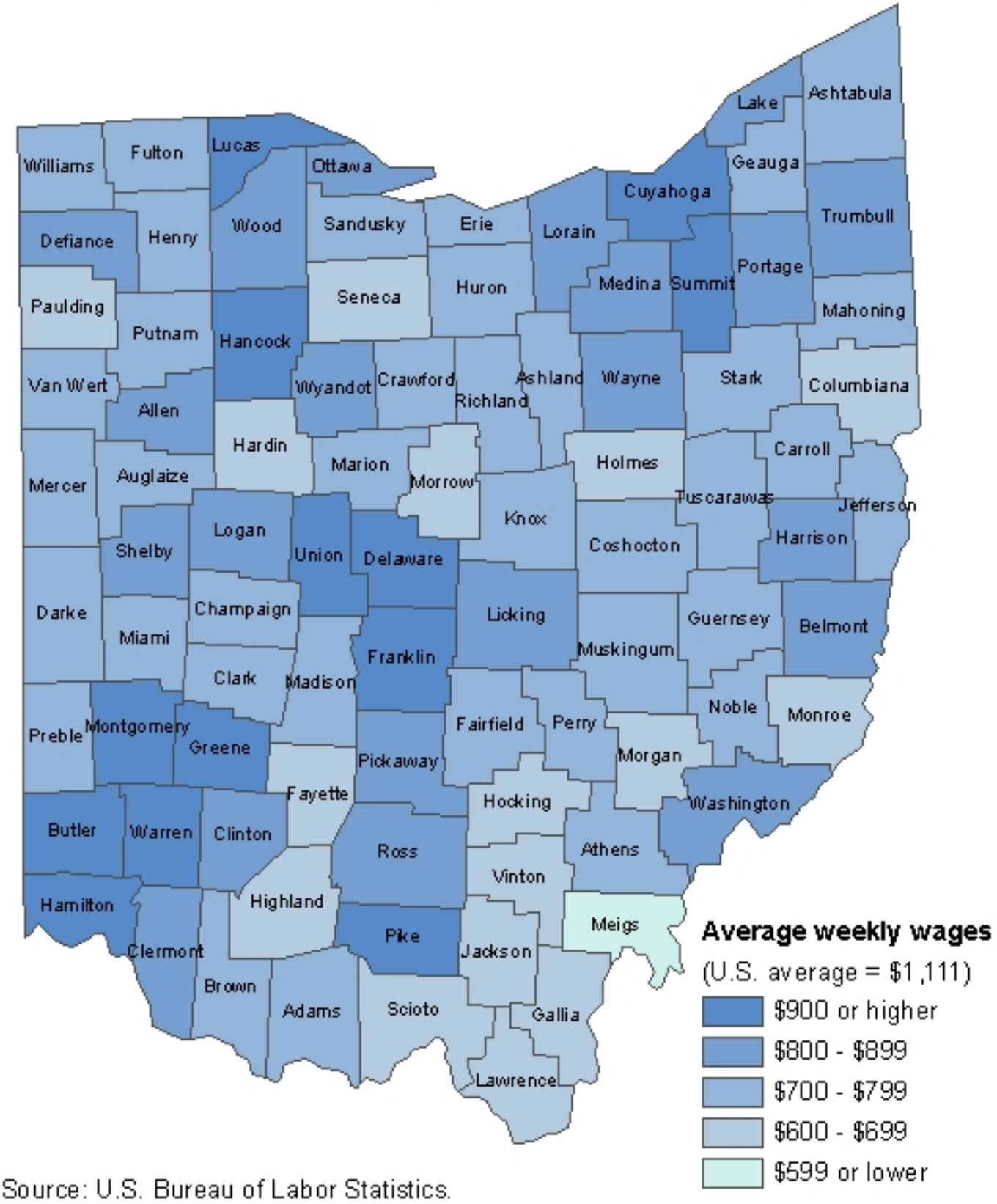
Table 3. Covered employment and wages by state, first quarter 2017

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.

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 Ohio, first quarter 2017



Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics.