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County Employment and Wages in Kansas – Second Quarter 2015

Employment rose in the four largest counties in Kansas from June 2014 to June 2015, the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) reported today. (Large counties are defined as those with employment of 75,000 or more as measured by 2014 annual average employment.) Regional Commissioner Stanley W. Suchman noted that Johnson and Wyandotte Counties experienced the fastest rates of job growth, up 2.3 and 2.2 percent, respectively, over the year. Employment gains in both counties exceeded the national job growth rate of 2.0 percent.

Nationally, employment increased in 319 of the 342 largest U.S. counties from June 2014 to June 2015. Utah County, Utah, posted the largest percentage increase with a gain of 7.5 percent over the year. Ector, Texas, had the largest over-the-year percentage decrease in employment among the largest counties in the U.S. with a loss of 4.2 percent.

Among the four largest counties in Kansas, employment was highest in Johnson County (338,400) and lowest in Wyandotte (90,200). Together, the four largest counties accounted for 56.1 percent of total employment within the state. Nationwide, the 342 large counties made up 72.1 percent of total U.S. employment.

Average weekly wages increased in the four large counties in Kansas from the second quarter of 2014 to the second quarter of 2015. Johnson County recorded over-the-year wage growth of 4.6 percent, exceeding the 3.0-percent increase for the nation. Johnson also had the highest average weekly wage ($1,021) among Kansas's large counties and was above the national average of $968. (See table 1.)

Employment and wage levels (but not over-the-year changes) are also available for the 101 counties in Kansas with employment below 75,000. Of these smaller counties, only Coffey ($1,172) had an average weekly wage above the national average. (See table 2.)

Large county wage changes

As mentioned, Johnson County had the largest wage gain at 4.6 percent, placing it 27th in the national ranking. (See table 1.) Wyandotte's 2.5-percent wage gain ranked 160th. Sedgwick and Shawnee registered wage growth of 1.9 and 1.1 percent, respectively, and placed 235th and 295th.

Among the 342 largest U.S. counties, 323 had over-the-year increases in average weekly wages in the second quarter of 2015. Ventura, Calif., ranked first in average weekly wage growth with a gain of 15.2 percent. Sixteen of the 342 largest counties experienced over-the-year decreases in average weekly wages. Olmsted, Minn., had the largest percentage decline in average weekly wages with a loss of 5.2 percent.

Large county average weekly wages

Johnson County's average weekly wage of $1,021 ranked 74th among the 342 largest U.S. counties in the second quarter of 2015. Wyandotte recorded an average weekly wage of $896 and placed 168th in the national ranking. The state's remaining large counties, Sedgwick ($851, 205th) and Shawnee ($794, 273rd), had average weekly wages that placed them in the bottom half of the ranking.

Nationally, weekly wages were higher than the U.S. average of $968 in 102 of the 342 largest counties. Santa Clara, Calif., held the top position with an average weekly wage of $2,109. San Mateo, Calif., was second at $1,863, followed by New York, N.Y. ($1,842); and San Francisco, Calif. ($1,730). Among the 240 large counties with an average weekly wage below the U.S. average in the second quarter of 2015, Horry, S.C. ($568) reported the lowest wage.

Average weekly wages in Kansas's smaller counties

Of the 101 counties in Kansas with employment below 75,000, only one county—Coffey ($1,172)—had an average weekly wage above the national average of $968. Woodson County reported the lowest weekly wage in the state with an average of $459 in the second quarter of 2015. (See table 2.)

When all 105 counties in Kansas were considered, all but 2 had wages below the national average. Thirty-one reported average weekly wages under $600, 35 reported wages from $600 to $649, 25 had wages from $650 to $699, 4 had wages from $700 to $749, and 10 had wages at or above $750. (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/.

Employment and Wages Annual Averages Online features comprehensive information by detailed industry on establishments, employment, and wages for the nation and all states. The 2014 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 2015 version of the national news release. Tables and additional content from *Employment and Wages Annual Averages 2014* are now available online at www.bls.gov/cew/cewbultn14.htm. The 2015 edition of *Employment and Wages Annual Averages Online* will be available in September 2016.

Information in this release will be made available to sensory impaired individuals upon request. Voice phone: (202) 691-5200; Federal Relay Service: 1 (800) 877-8339.

The County Employment and Wages release for third quarter 2015 is scheduled to be released on Wednesday, March 9, 2016.

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 9.6 million employer reports cover 140.6 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.

Table 1. Covered employment and wages in the United States and the 4 largest counties in Kansas, second quarter 2015

Area	Employment			Average Weekly Wage [1]			
	June 2015 (thousands)	Percent change, June 2014-15 [2]	National ranking by percent change [3]	Average weekly wage	National ranking by level [3]	Percent change, second quarter 2014-15 [2]	National ranking by percent change [3]
United States [4]	140,594.9	2.0	--	$968	--	3.0	--
Kansas	1,382.1	0.7	--	819	37	2.8	18
Johnson, Kan.	338.4	2.3	138	1,021	74	4.6	27
Sedgwick, Kan.	248.8	1.4	220	851	205	1.9	235
Shawnee, Kan.	97.4	0.6	291	794	273	1.1	295
Wyandotte, Kan.	90.2	2.2	147	896	168	2.5	160

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 Kansas, 2nd quarter 2015

Area	Employment June 2015	Average Weekly Wage [1]
United States [2]	140,594,927	$968
Kansas	1,382,069	819
Allen	5,820	606
Anderson	2,044	566
Atchison	6,027	655
Barber	1,806	595
Barton	12,858	673
Bourbon	6,442	613
Brown	5,100	629
Butler	19,044	671
Chase	759	504
Chautauqua	818	522
Cherokee	5,927	678
Cheyenne	949	575
Clark	793	626
Clay	3,207	579
Cloud	3,637	538
Coffey	4,444	1,172
Comanche	752	482
Cowley	14,053	662
Crawford	16,980	606
Decatur	1,015	503
Dickinson	6,647	562
Doniphan	2,309	641
Douglas	47,751	681
Edwards	1,053	639
Elk	708	505
Ellis	15,541	673
Ellsworth	2,474	604
Finney	18,703	684
Ford	17,903	666
Franklin	9,468	657
Geary	13,699	731
Gove	1,249	567
Graham	958	610
Grant	3,488	769
Gray	3,400	672
Greeley	712	571
Greenwood	1,711	549
Hamilton	1,329	649
Harper	2,398	667
Harvey	14,009	690
Haskell	1,926	708
Hodgeman	519	572
Jackson	4,272	615
Jefferson	3,803	688
Jewell	767	534
Johnson	338,397	1,021
Kearny	1,405	617
Kingman	2,457	621
Kiowa	1,237	681
Labette	9,071	636
Lane	699	642
Leavenworth	20,789	825
Lincoln	997	538
Linn	2,198	806
Logan	1,364	593

Note: See footnotes at end of table.

Table 2. Covered employment and wages in the United States and all counties in Kansas, 2nd quarter 2015 - Continued

Area	Employment June 2015	Average Weekly Wage [1]
Lyon	14,649	605
Mcpherson	15,628	860
Marion	3,579	563
Marshall	4,714	641
Meade	1,729	697
Miami	8,259	646
Mitchell	3,310	621
Montgomery	15,895	627
Morris	1,539	561
Morton	1,016	649
Nemaha	5,559	656
Neosho	6,333	642
Ness	1,292	681
Norton	2,538	640
Osage	3,097	493
Osborne	1,435	540
Ottawa	1,413	541
Pawnee	3,118	629
Phillips	2,645	624
Pottawatomie	9,550	722
Pratt	4,785	665
Rawlins	923	613
Reno	27,553	637
Republic	2,021	515
Rice	4,054	651
Riley	29,529	705
Rooks	1,982	654
Rush	1,153	591
Russell	2,819	643
Saline	30,132	679
Scott	2,272	671
Sedgwick	248,839	851
Seward	11,468	672
Shawnee	97,380	794
Sheridan	989	662
Sherman	2,643	565
Smith	1,322	589
Stafford	1,374	538
Stanton	817	608
Stevens	2,241	824
Sumner	7,316	621
Thomas	4,168	627
Trego	1,342	637
Wabaunsee	1,350	540
Wallace	563	619
Washington	2,136	479
Wichita	809	647
Wilson	3,542	619
Woodson	675	459
Wyandotte	90,240	896

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 2015

State	Employment		Average weekly wage [1]			
	June 2015 (thousands)	Percent change, June 2014-15	Average weekly wage	National ranking by level	Percent change, second quarter 2014-15	National ranking by percent change
United States [2]	140,594.9	2.0	$968	--	3.0	--
Alabama	1,899.3	1.3	819	37	1.6	41
Alaska	346.6	0.4	1,028	8	2.4	30
Arizona	2,549.9	2.5	904	21	1.8	39
Arkansas	1,184.6	1.7	762	47	2.1	35
California	16,338.9	2.8	1,131	5	5.5	1
Colorado	2,517.1	3.2	989	13	3.0	13
Connecticut	1,693.1	0.9	1,177	4	2.0	38
Delaware	439.1	2.2	991	12	1.5	42
District of Columbia	745.1	1.8	1,599	1	1.8	39
Florida	7,907.7	3.6	861	28	2.6	23
Georgia	4,167.8	3.4	903	22	2.4	30
Hawaii	635.9	1.6	876	24	3.8	6
Idaho	678.5	2.9	713	50	2.3	33
Illinois	5,925.5	1.5	1,015	10	2.6	23
Indiana	2,966.0	1.7	811	40	3.4	7
Iowa	1,561.2	0.9	802	43	2.8	18
Kansas	1,382.1	0.7	819	37	2.8	18
Kentucky	1,850.5	1.7	822	35	3.0	13
Louisiana	1,930.6	0.5	850	30	0.8	47
Maine	615.8	0.8	768	46	2.9	16
Maryland	2,631.3	1.4	1,046	7	2.6	23
Massachusetts	3,488.3	2.1	1,211	2	4.7	2
Michigan	4,225.0	1.5	916	20	2.1	35
Minnesota	2,826.3	1.5	977	15	3.2	8
Mississippi	1,114.7	1.1	709	51	0.6	48
Missouri	2,746.6	1.7	842	32	2.8	18
Montana	461.5	1.8	754	48	2.7	21
Nebraska	968.7	1.2	787	44	4.1	3
Nevada	1,248.1	3.2	855	29	2.6	23
New Hampshire	647.7	1.5	967	16	1.3	46
New Jersey	4,000.2	1.5	1,126	6	2.6	23
New Mexico	808.4	0.8	805	41	1.4	44
New York	9,136.9	1.9	1,180	3	3.1	9
North Carolina	4,185.6	2.6	850	30	3.9	4
North Dakota	445.0	-1.8	939	18	0.3	50
Ohio	5,308.1	1.4	865	26	2.4	30
Oklahoma	1,591.5	0.6	818	39	0.5	49
Oregon	1,810.4	3.4	899	23	3.0	13
Pennsylvania	5,763.9	0.8	958	17	2.7	21
Rhode Island	480.0	1.5	925	19	2.9	16
South Carolina	1,963.5	2.5	782	45	2.1	35
South Dakota	428.6	1.3	740	49	3.9	4
Tennessee	2,832.1	2.8	863	27	3.1	9
Texas	11,689.4	2.4	988	14	1.5	42
Utah	1,345.9	3.9	821	36	3.1	9
Vermont	309.3	0.6	831	34	2.2	34
Virginia	3,767.2	1.7	1,000	11	2.5	29
Washington	3,197.6	3.3	1,026	9	3.1	9
West Virginia	706.5	-0.8	803	42	1.4	44
Wisconsin	2,839.8	1.0	836	33	2.6	23
Wyoming	291.5	-1.5	869	25	-0.1	51
Puerto Rico	884.6	-1.4	513	[3]	2.0	[3]

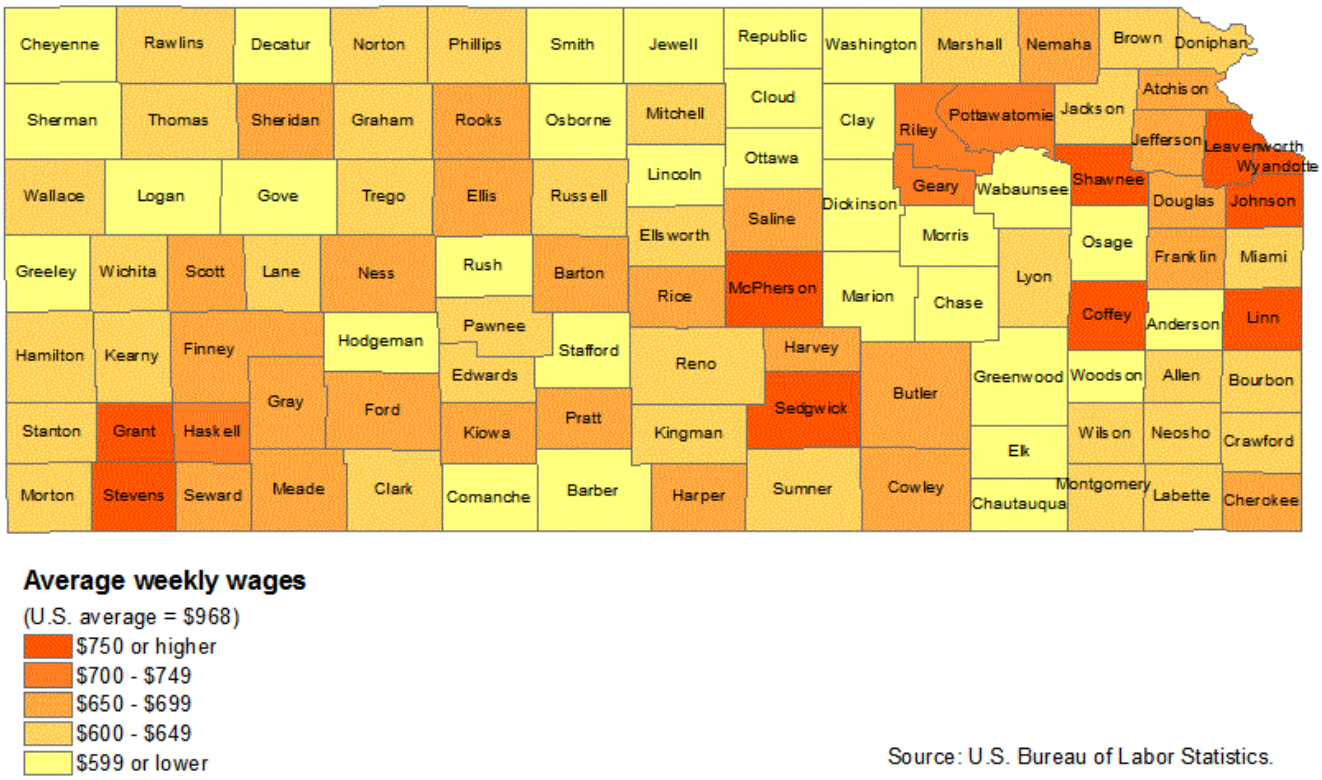
Note: See footnotes at end of table.

Table 3. Covered employment and wages by state, second quarter 2015 - Continued

State	Employment		Average weekly wage [1]			
	June 2015 (thousands)	Percent change, June 2014-15	Average weekly wage	National ranking by level	Percent change, second quarter 2014-15	National ranking by percent change
Virgin Islands	37.9	0.1	748	[3]	2.2	[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 Kansas, second quarter 2015



Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics.