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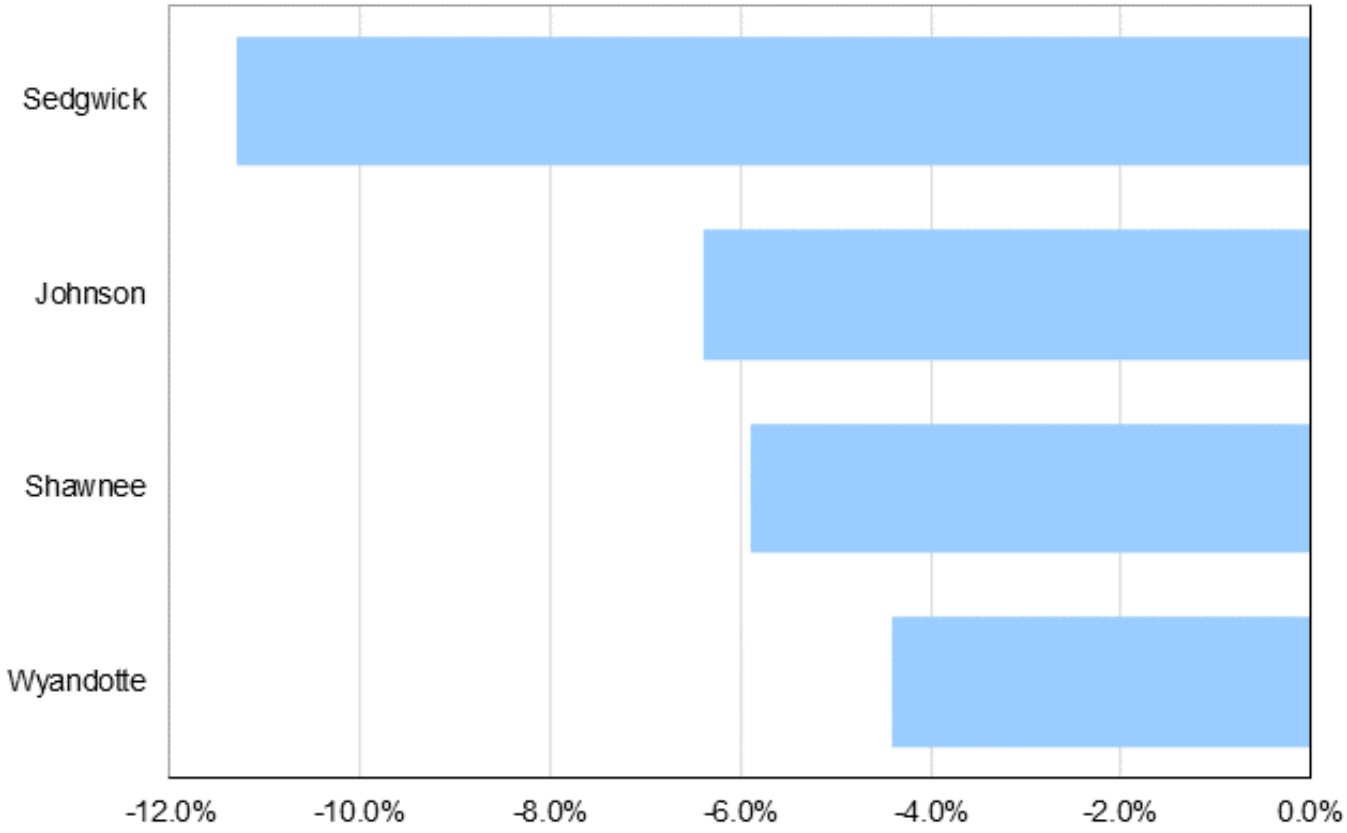
# County Employment and Wages in Kansas – Second Quarter 2020

Employment declined in all of the largest counties in Kansas from June 2019 to June 2020, the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics reported today. (Large counties are those with annual average employment levels of 75,000 or more in 2019.) Regional Commissioner Michael Hirniak noted that Sedgwick County had the largest over-the-year decrease in employment at 11.3 percent. (See chart 1 and table 1.)

**Chart 1. Over-the-year percent change in covered employment among the largest counties in Kansas, June 2020**




Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics.

National employment decreased 9.4 percent over the year, with all of the 357 largest U.S. counties reporting declines. Atlantic, NJ, had the largest over-the-year decrease in employment with a loss of 34.2 percent.

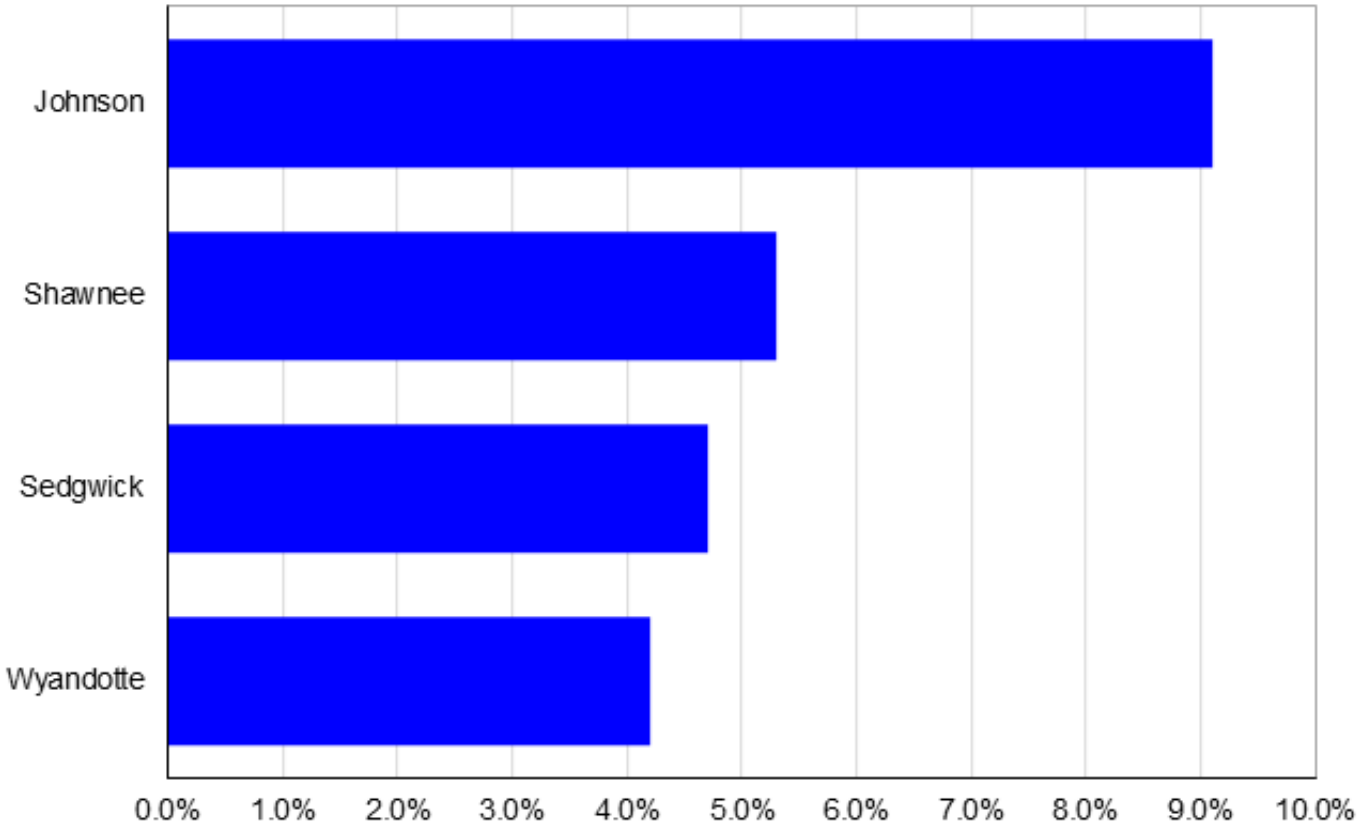
Among the four largest counties in Kansas, employment was highest in Johnson County (333,200) in June 2020. Within Johnson County's private industry, health care and social assistance accounted for the largest employment. Together, the four largest Kansas counties accounted for 56.6 percent of total employment within the state. Nationwide, the 357 largest counties made up 72.9 percent of total U.S. employment.

Employment and wage levels (but not over-the-year changes) are also available for the 101 counties in Kansas with employment below 75,000. Wage levels in 99 of the 101 smaller counties were below the national average of $1,188 in the second quarter of 2020. (See table 2.)

**Large county wage changes**

All four large Kansas counties reported average weekly wage gains from the second quarter of 2019 to the second quarter of 2020. (See chart 2.) Johnson County had a wage gain of 9.1 percent, exceeding the national rate of 8.6 percent. Shawnee County had the next highest rate of wage gain at 5.3 percent.

**Chart 2. Over-the-year percent change in covered average weekly wages among the largest counties in Kansas, second quarter 2020**




Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics.

Among the 357 largest counties in the United States, 352 had over-the-year wage increases. The increases in average weekly wages largely reflect substantial employment loss among lower-paid industries. Atlantic, NJ, had the largest percentage wage increase (+22.5 percent). Five large counties had wage declines during the period. Ector, TX, had the largest over-the-year percentage decrease (-6.6 percent).

**Large county average weekly wages**

Johnson County, with average weekly wages of $1,207, was the only large county in Kansas to record wages above the national average of $1,188 in the second quarter of 2020. Average weekly wages in Johnson County ranked 89th among the top 100 nationwide.

Among the largest U.S. counties, 101 reported average weekly wages above the U.S. average in the second quarter of 2020. Santa Clara, CA, had the highest average weekly wage at $3,045. Average weekly wages were at or below the national average in 256 counties. At $698 a week, Cameron, TX, had the lowest average weekly wage.

**Average weekly wages in Kansas's smaller counties**

Among the 101 smaller counties in Kansas–those with employment below 75,000–2 had average weekly wages that were above the national average, and also led all counties in the state. Coffey County reported an average weekly wage of $1,771, followed by Linn at $1,293. Jewell County reported the lowest average weekly wage in the state at $538.

When all 105 counties in Kansas were considered, 20 reported average weekly wages of less than $675, 21 registered wages from $675 to $724, 22 had wages from $725 to $774, 19 had wages from $775 to $824, and 23 had average weekly wages of $825 or higher. (See chart 3.) The highest paying counties were located in and around the Kansas City metropolitan area.

**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 2019 edition of this publication was published in September 2020. Tables and additional content from the 2019 edition of *Employment and Wages Annual Averages Online* are available at www.bls.gov/cew/publications/employment-and-wages-annual-averages/2019/home.htm. The 2020 edition of *Employment and Wages Annual Averages Online* will be available in September 2021.

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**The County Employment and Wages release for third quarter 2020 is scheduled to be released on Wednesday, February 24, 2021.**
**The County Employment and Wages full data update for third quarter 2020 is scheduled to be released on Tuesday, March 9, 2021.**

## Coronavirus (COVID-19) Pandemic Impact on Second Quarter 2020 QCEW Data

Response rate tables for the second quarter of 2020 are available at www.bls.gov/covid19/county-employment-and-wages-covid-19-impact-second-quarter-2020.htm. For more information about the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic on QCEW data, see www.bls.gov/covid19/effects-of-covid-19-pandemic-on-county-employment-and-wages-data.htm.

**Special Notice: Imputation Methodology Improvements**

QCEW implemented improvements to imputation methodology, effective with second quarter 2020 processing. For more information on QCEW imputation methodology and the impact of the improved methods, see www.bls.gov/cew/additional-resources/imputation-methodology.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 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 four largest counties in Kansas, second quarter 2020**

| Area | Establishments, second quarter 2020 (thousands) | Employment | | | Average weekly wage [1] | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | June 2020 (thousands) | Percent change, June 2019–20 [2] | National ranking by percent change [3] | Second quarter 2020 | National ranking by level [3] | Percent change, second quarter 2019–20 [2] | National ranking by percent change [3] |
| United States [4] | 10,451.0 | 135,114.4 | -9.4 | -- | $1,188 | -- | 8.6 | -- |
| Kansas | 90.0 | 1,306.0 | -7.0 | -- | 969 | 38 | 7.1 | 34 |
| Johnson | 24.5 | 333.2 | -6.4 | 77 | 1,207 | 89 | 9.1 | 133 |
| Sedgwick | 12.9 | 229.2 | -11.3 | 251 | 945 | 286 | 4.7 | 323 |
| Shawnee | 5.1 | 90.6 | -5.9 | 61 | 917 | 313 | 5.3 | 312 |
| Wyandotte | 3.6 | 86.3 | -4.4 | 27 | 1,098 | 164 | 4.2 | 327 |

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, second quarter 2020

| Area | Employment June 2020 | Average Weekly Wage(1) |
|---|---|---|
| United States(2) | 135,114,354 | $1,188 |
| Kansas | 1,305,983 | 969 |
| Allen | 5,405 | 694 |
| Anderson | 2,126 | 731 |
| Atchison | 5,117 | 826 |
| Barber | 1,546 | 729 |
| Barton | 11,761 | 763 |
| Bourbon | 5,714 | 681 |
| Brown | 4,800 | 821 |
| Butler | 18,503 | 780 |
| Chase | 871 | 660 |
| Chautauqua | 734 | 618 |
| Cherokee | 5,523 | 851 |
| Cheyenne | 916 | 654 |
| Clark | 797 | 783 |
| Clay | 2,915 | 689 |
| Cloud | 3,067 | 651 |
| Coffey | 3,423 | 1,771 |
| Comanche | 627 | 616 |
| Cowley | 13,041 | 771 |
| Crawford | 16,197 | 737 |
| Decatur | 928 | 598 |
| Dickinson | 5,849 | 721 |
| Doniphan | 2,105 | 777 |
| Douglas | 44,621 | 866 |
| Edwards | 953 | 757 |
| Elk | 577 | 585 |
| Ellis | 14,712 | 792 |
| Ellsworth | 2,281 | 750 |
| Finney | 19,001 | 846 |
| Ford | 16,093 | 923 |
| Franklin | 9,013 | 836 |
| Geary | 12,813 | 841 |
| Gove | 1,258 | 719 |
| Graham | 829 | 699 |
| Grant | 2,686 | 809 |
| Gray | 3,104 | 848 |
| Greeley | 672 | 680 |
| Greenwood | 1,495 | 666 |
| Hamilton | 1,535 | 768 |
| Harper | 2,281 | 798 |
| Harvey | 12,943 | 799 |
| Haskell | 1,637 | 819 |
| Hodgeman | 609 | 677 |
| Jackson | 3,857 | 716 |
| Jefferson | 3,563 | 785 |
| Jewell | 718 | 538 |
| Johnson | 333,205 | 1,207 |
| Kearny | 1,451 | 818 |
| Kingman | 3,007 | 1,005 |
| Kiowa | 1,042 | 715 |
| Labette | 8,028 | 745 |
| Lane | 610 | 773 |
| Leavenworth | 20,119 | 946 |
| Lincoln | 989 | 771 |
| Linn | 1,960 | 1,293 |
| Logan | 1,260 | 679 |

Note: See footnotes at end of table.

**Table 2. Covered employment and wages in the United States and all counties in Kansas, second quarter 2020 - Continued**

| Area | Employment June 2020 | Average Weekly Wage(1) |
|---|---|---|
| Lyon | 14,148 | 790 |
| Mcpherson | 15,046 | 933 |
| Marion | 3,328 | 687 |
| Marshall | 4,489 | 751 |
| Meade | 1,577 | 850 |
| Miami | 8,208 | 787 |
| Mitchell | 3,149 | 749 |
| Montgomery | 13,744 | 720 |
| Morris | 1,538 | 640 |
| Morton | 817 | 733 |
| Nemaha | 5,226 | 785 |
| Neosho | 6,208 | 735 |
| Ness | 1,082 | 747 |
| Norton | 2,214 | 761 |
| Osage | 2,702 | 609 |
| Osborne | 1,381 | 663 |
| Ottawa | 1,197 | 639 |
| Pawnee | 2,664 | 835 |
| Phillips | 2,308 | 707 |
| Pottawatomie | 9,420 | 774 |
| Pratt | 4,437 | 805 |
| Rawlins | 989 | 712 |
| Reno | 25,710 | 784 |
| Republic | 1,830 | 610 |
| Rice | 3,602 | 740 |
| Riley | 26,452 | 869 |
| Rooks | 1,710 | 673 |
| Rush | 929 | 684 |
| Russell | 2,332 | 702 |
| Saline | 27,075 | 796 |
| Scott | 2,266 | 796 |
| Sedgwick | 229,200 | 945 |
| Seward | 10,387 | 912 |
| Shawnee | 90,584 | 917 |
| Sheridan | 1,061 | 771 |
| Sherman | 2,394 | 681 |
| Smith | 1,294 | 654 |
| Stafford | 1,277 | 674 |
| Stanton | 918 | 882 |
| Stevens | 2,043 | 846 |
| Sumner | 6,111 | 756 |
| Thomas | 3,857 | 755 |
| Trego | 1,276 | 680 |
| Wabaunsee | 1,359 | 648 |
| Wallace | 531 | 709 |
| Washington | 2,097 | 610 |
| Wichita | 806 | 821 |
| Wilson | 3,325 | 712 |
| Woodson | 725 | 581 |
| Wyandotte | 86,253 | 1,098 |

(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 2020

| State | Establishments, second quarter 2020 (thousands) | Employment | | Average weekly wage [1] | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | June 2020 (thousands) | Percent change, June 2019–20 | Second quarter 2020 | National ranking by level | Percent change, second quarter 2019–20 | National ranking by percent change |
| United States [2] | 10,451.0 | 135,114.4 | -9.4 | $1,188 | -- | 8.6 | -- |
| Alabama | 131.2 | 1,868.7 | -6.4 | 964 | 40 | 5.9 | 42 |
| Alaska | 22.7 | 296.2 | -12.7 | 1,195 | 14 | 11.2 | 11 |
| Arizona | 170.7 | 2,708.4 | -5.1 | 1,090 | 22 | 7.9 | 30 |
| Arkansas | 93.0 | 1,156.5 | -5.5 | 924 | 47 | 7.3 | 33 |
| California | 1,633.1 | 15,911.2 | -10.2 | 1,468 | 4 | 10.9 | 12 |
| Colorado | 216.4 | 2,545.9 | -8.0 | 1,226 | 9 | 8.7 | 25 |
| Connecticut | 123.4 | 1,483.6 | -12.3 | 1,407 | 6 | 11.3 | 9 |
| Delaware | 34.5 | 416.0 | -9.3 | 1,156 | 17 | 9.0 | 22 |
| District of Columbia | 41.7 | 701.8 | -10.0 | 1,987 | 1 | 11.7 | 7 |
| Florida | 738.0 | 8,113.8 | -7.1 | 1,032 | 28 | 6.6 | 40 |
| Georgia | 307.2 | 4,196.0 | -7.0 | 1,075 | 23 | 5.7 | 44 |
| Hawaii | 45.9 | 524.9 | -20.1 | 1,108 | 21 | 12.0 | 6 |
| Idaho | 67.9 | 748.3 | -2.3 | 882 | 50 | 7.6 | 32 |
| Illinois | 379.6 | 5,391.8 | -11.3 | 1,218 | 10 | 8.6 | 26 |
| Indiana | 171.6 | 2,865.7 | -7.3 | 960 | 41 | 5.6 | 45 |
| Iowa | 104.7 | 1,458.8 | -8.0 | 978 | 36 | 8.4 | 27 |
| Kansas | 90.0 | 1,306.0 | -7.0 | 969 | 38 | 7.1 | 34 |
| Kentucky | 125.4 | 1,754.0 | -8.2 | 970 | 37 | 6.4 | 41 |
| Louisiana | 137.8 | 1,710.1 | -11.0 | 985 | 34 | 6.7 | 39 |
| Maine | 53.8 | 572.5 | -10.8 | 980 | 35 | 12.3 | 5 |
| Maryland | 175.8 | 2,430.3 | -11.2 | 1,305 | 8 | 10.7 | 13 |
| Massachusetts | 263.1 | 3,178.8 | -14.3 | 1,570 | 2 | 14.0 | 1 |
| Michigan | 268.5 | 3,850.9 | -12.9 | 1,114 | 20 | 9.5 | 16 |
| Minnesota | 185.4 | 2,644.6 | -10.5 | 1,200 | 13 | 9.0 | 22 |
| Mississippi | 73.8 | 1,063.1 | -6.4 | 812 | 51 | 5.9 | 42 |
| Missouri | 215.9 | 2,622.2 | -7.5 | 1,015 | 32 | 7.1 | 34 |
| Montana | 51.5 | 459.5 | -4.9 | 919 | 48 | 9.1 | 19 |
| Nebraska | 72.9 | 932.3 | -6.0 | 960 | 41 | 8.0 | 28 |
| Nevada | 85.9 | 1,191.6 | -15.4 | 1,048 | 26 | 9.1 | 19 |
| New Hampshire | 54.8 | 605.4 | -10.5 | 1,215 | 12 | 11.5 | 8 |
| New Jersey | 284.1 | 3,570.3 | -14.6 | 1,376 | 7 | 11.3 | 9 |
| New Mexico | 62.4 | 757.0 | -9.4 | 958 | 43 | 7.8 | 31 |
| New York | 652.0 | 8,142.6 | -15.9 | 1,520 | 3 | 12.8 | 4 |
| North Carolina | 296.2 | 4,205.4 | -6.9 | 1,038 | 27 | 6.9 | 37 |
| North Dakota | 32.4 | 390.1 | -9.7 | 1,061 | 24 | 3.3 | 51 |
| Ohio | 302.3 | 5,049.8 | -8.0 | 1,031 | 29 | 7.0 | 36 |
| Oklahoma | 112.1 | 1,521.3 | -6.3 | 940 | 44 | 4.4 | 49 |
| Oregon | 160.9 | 1,789.3 | -9.6 | 1,143 | 19 | 10.3 | 15 |
| Pennsylvania | 362.8 | 5,314.5 | -11.1 | 1,170 | 16 | 9.2 | 18 |
| Rhode Island | 39.5 | 429.3 | -13.2 | 1,172 | 15 | 13.1 | 3 |
| South Carolina | 144.4 | 1,991.0 | -7.2 | 928 | 46 | 6.9 | 37 |
| South Dakota | 34.7 | 415.9 | -5.9 | 912 | 49 | 9.0 | 22 |
| Tennessee | 171.1 | 2,847.2 | -6.6 | 1,016 | 31 | 5.3 | 46 |
| Texas | 727.4 | 11,807.1 | -6.3 | 1,156 | 17 | 5.0 | 47 |
| Utah | 111.6 | 1,474.8 | -3.0 | 1,017 | 30 | 9.1 | 19 |
| Vermont | 26.1 | 271.8 | -13.6 | 1,055 | 25 | 13.6 | 2 |
| Virginia | 283.3 | 3,635.2 | -8.8 | 1,218 | 10 | 9.4 | 17 |
| Washington | 253.8 | 3,207.1 | -8.4 | 1,424 | 5 | 10.6 | 14 |
| West Virginia | 51.3 | 634.9 | -9.4 | 933 | 45 | 4.9 | 48 |
| Wisconsin | 179.2 | 2,690.0 | -8.7 | 1,014 | 33 | 8.0 | 28 |
| Wyoming | 27.2 | 260.5 | -9.6 | 965 | 39 | 3.7 | 50 |
| Puerto Rico | 46.1 | 798.7 | -7.9 | 556 | [3] | 4.7 | [3] |

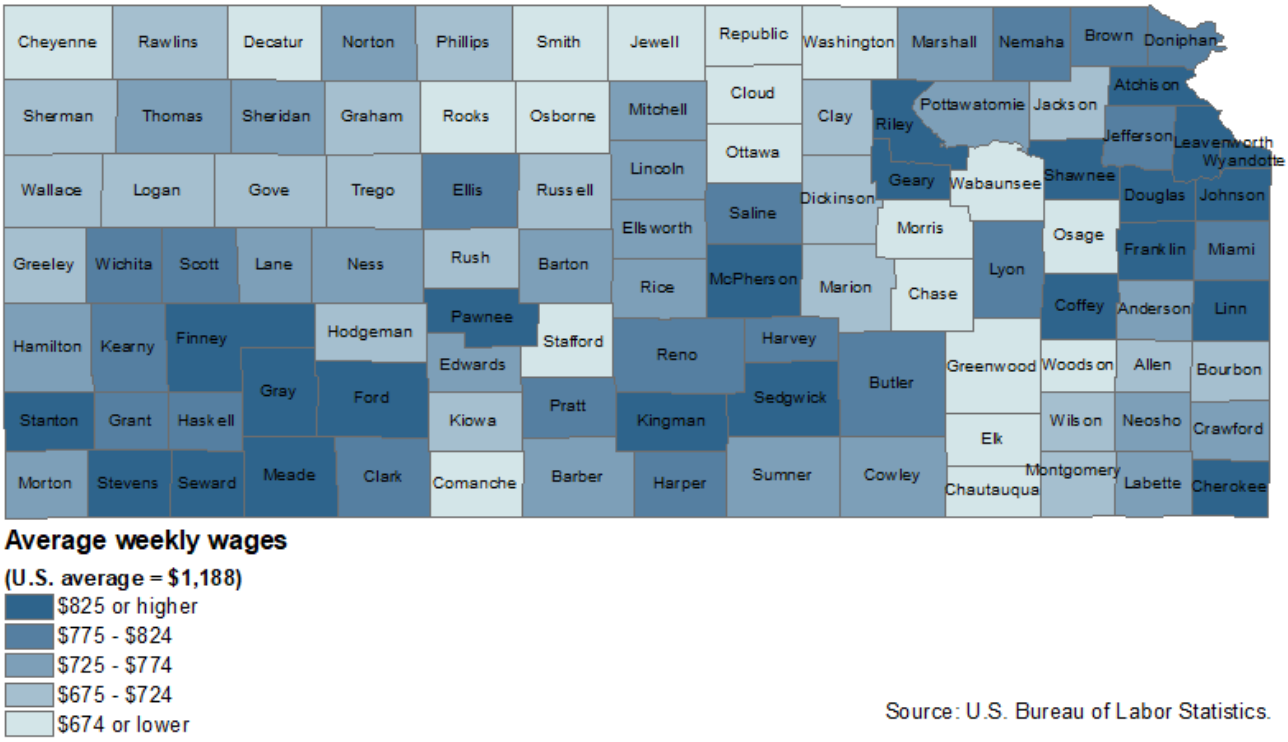
Note: See footnotes at end of table.

## Table 3. Covered employment and wages by state, second quarter 2020 - Continued

| State | Establishments, second quarter 2020 (thousands) | Employment | | Average weekly wage [1] | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | June 2020 (thousands) | Percent change, June 2019–20 | Second quarter 2020 | National ranking by level | Percent change, second quarter 2019–20 | National ranking by percent change |
| Virgin Islands | 3.4 | 35.4 | -7.0 | 1,016 | [3] | 6.9 | [3] |

(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 3. Average weekly wages by county in Kansas, second quarter 2020**




Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics.