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MIDWEST INFORMATION OFFICE: Chicago, Ill.
Technical information: (312) 353-1880 BLSInfoChicago@bls.gov www.bls.gov/regions/midwest
Media contact: (312) 353-1138

County Employment and Wages in Iowa — Second Quarter 2015

Four of the five largest counties in Iowa reported employment growth from June 2014 to June 2015, 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 2014 annual average employment.) Scott County had the largest increase, up 1.3 percent, followed by Polk and Linn Counties, up 1.1 percent and 1.0 percent, respectively. Regional Commissioner Charlene Peiffer noted that Black Hawk County had an over-the-year employment decline of 1.5 percent. Nationally, employment increased 2.0 percent. (See table 1.)

Among the five largest counties in Iowa, employment was highest in Polk County (293,100) in June 2015. Collectively, Iowa's five large counties accounted for 43.2 percent of total employment within the state. Nationwide, the 342 largest counties made up 72.1 percent of total U.S. employment, which stood at 140.6 million in June 2015.

The average weekly wage in Linn County rose 3.4 percent from the second quarter of 2014 to the second quarter of 2015, the largest increase among Iowa's large counties. Polk County had the highest average weekly wage in the state at $944, followed by Linn ($924) and Johnson ($898) Counties. (See table 1.) Nationally, the average weekly wage rose 3.0 percent over the year to $968 in the second quarter of 2015.

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

Only one of Iowa's large counties recorded wage growth above the national increase of 3.0 percent from the second quarter of 2014 to the second quarter of 2015. (See table 1.) As noted, Linn County's average weekly wages increased 3.4 percent over the year, ranking 79th among the 342 largest U.S. counties. Johnson County (2.6 percent) and Polk County (2.5 percent) also placed in the top half of the national ranking at 154th and 160th, respectively.

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 largest U.S. 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

Average weekly wages in all five large Iowa counties were below the national average of $968 in the second quarter of 2015. As noted, Polk County ($944) had the highest average weekly wage in the state and ranked 128th among the 342 largest counties in the nation. Scott County ($783) reported the lowest average weekly wage of Iowa's large counties and ranked 284th nationwide.

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. Santa Mateo, Calif., was second at $1,863, followed by New York, N.Y. ($1,842), and San Francisco, Calif. ($1,730). There were 240 large counties with an average weekly wage below the national average in the second quarter of 2015. The lowest average weekly wage was reported in Horry, S.C. ($568), followed by Cameron, Texas ($586); Hidalgo, Texas ($614); Webb, Texas ($651); Yakima, Wash. ($660); and Lake, Fla.

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 $968. Among these smaller counties, Muscatine County had the highest average weekly wage at $868 and Decatur County had the lowest at $552. (See table 2.)

When all 99 counties in Iowa were considered, 26 reported average weekly wages of $649 or less, 35 reported wages from $650 to $699, 17 had wages from $700 to $749, and 21 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.

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 https://www.bls.gov/cew/cewbultn14.htm. The 2015 edition of *Employment and Wages Annual Averages Online* will be available in September 2016.

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.

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 5 largest counties in Iowa, 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	--
Iowa	1,561.2	0.9	--	802	43	2.8	18
Black Hawk, Iowa	74.8	-1.5	336	794	273	1.7	252
Johnson, Iowa	81.9	0.6	291	898	167	2.6	154
Linn, Iowa	131.6	1.0	256	924	140	3.4	79
Polk, Iowa	293.1	1.1	243	944	128	2.5	160
Scott, Iowa	92.6	1.3	226	783	284	2.0	220

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 2015

Area	Employment June 2015	Average weekly wage [1]
United States [2]	140,594,927	$968
Iowa	1,561,168	802
Adair	2,921	624
Adams	1,339	644
Allamakee	5,286	601
Appanoose	4,821	641
Audubon	1,792	648
Benton	5,945	655
Black Hawk	74,813	794
Boone	9,975	693
Bremer	10,242	726
Buchanan	6,658	654
Buena Vista	11,130	673
Butler	3,738	635
Calhoun	2,996	612
Carroll	11,962	665
Cass	6,408	640
Cedar	5,741	692
Cerro Gordo	24,317	735
Cherokee	4,886	681
Chickasaw	4,926	686
Clarke	4,437	659
Clay	8,936	714
Clayton	7,076	685
Clinton	21,920	709
Crawford	7,558	724
Dallas	40,908	867
Davis	2,017	627
Decatur	2,321	552
Delaware	6,871	749
Des Moines	23,106	743
Dickinson	11,248	683
Dubuque	59,587	762
Emmet	4,124	692
Fayette	7,416	607
Floyd	6,072	704
Franklin	4,158	784
Fremont	2,826	691
Greene	3,457	699
Grundy	4,290	740
Guthrie	3,328	674
Hamilton	6,094	694
Hancock	7,060	765
Hardin	7,415	712
Harrison	4,425	634
Henry	9,342	724
Howard	4,223	646
Humboldt	4,129	706
Ida	3,630	754
Iowa	9,979	699
Jackson	6,559	576
Jasper	11,586	686
Jefferson	7,710	683
Johnson	81,894	898
Jones	6,800	665
Keokuk	2,418	650
Kossuth	7,263	737

Note: See footnotes at end of table.

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

Area	Employment June 2015	Average weekly wage [1]
Lee	17,163	845
Linn	131,648	924
Louisa	3,780	690
Lucas	3,474	717
Lyon	4,862	630
Madison	4,037	637
Mahaska	8,106	670
Marion	17,499	798
Marshall	18,375	797
Mills	3,887	785
Mitchell	3,673	667
Monona	2,905	592
Monroe	3,701	857
Montgomery	4,345	663
Muscatine	23,838	868
O'Brien	6,931	679
Osceola	2,364	686
Page	6,431	683
Palo Alto	3,815	632
Plymouth	11,243	792
Pocahontas	3,083	742
Polk	293,065	944
Pottawattamie	39,654	721
Poweshiek	10,108	760
Ringgold	1,397	647
Sac	3,462	629
Scott	92,582	783
Shelby	6,268	660
Sioux	21,183	692
Story	46,363	857
Tama	5,506	648
Taylor	2,032	645
Union	6,262	664
Van Buren	1,991	576
Wapello	16,532	699
Warren	10,879	678
Washington	8,586	602
Wayne	1,892	665
Webster	19,039	772
Winnebago	4,463	631
Winneshiek	10,871	674
Woodbury	53,507	744
Worth	2,406	623
Wright	5,881	771

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]

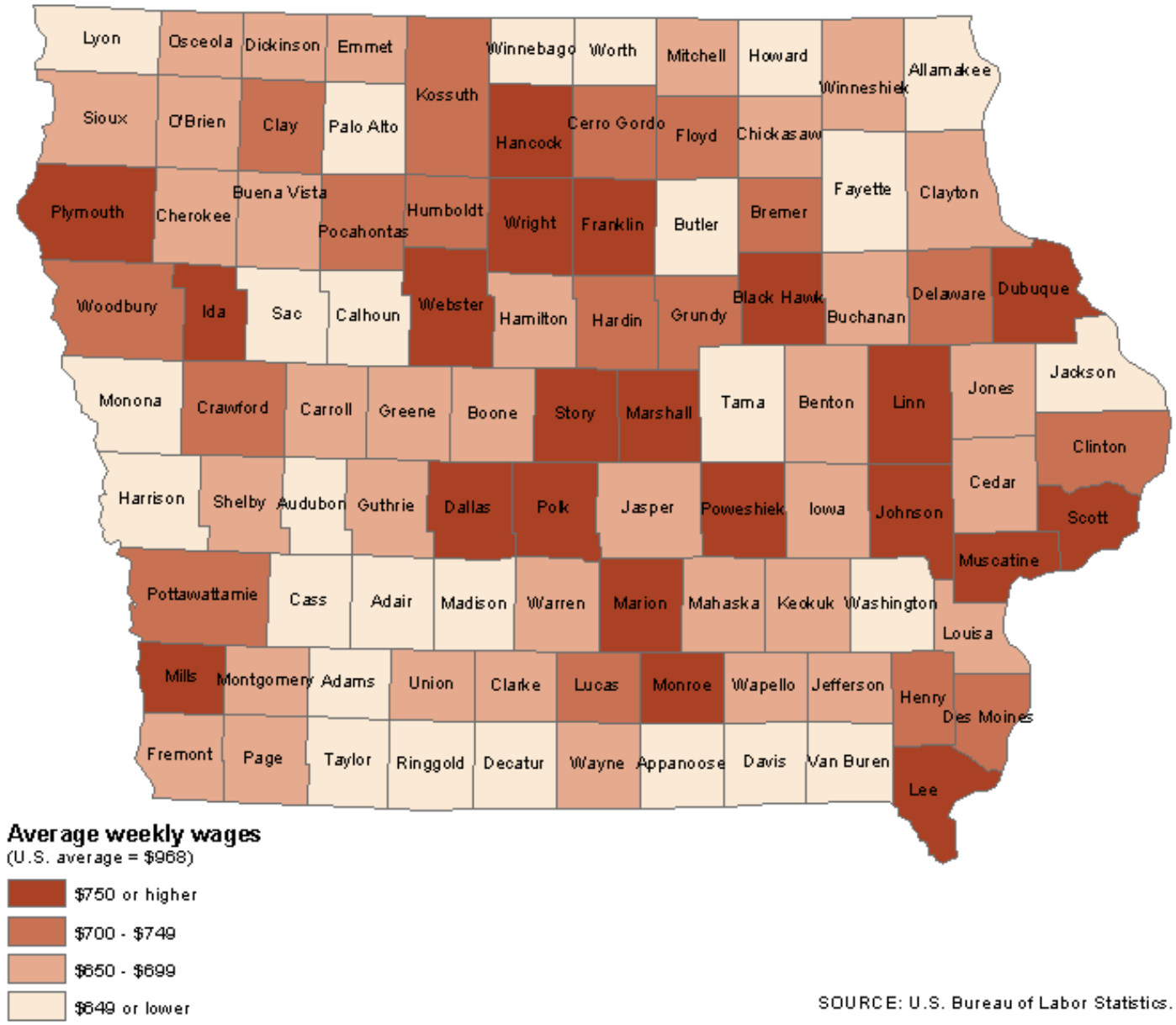
Note: See footnotes at end of table.

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 Iowa, second quarter 2015



SOURCE: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics.