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County Employment and Wages in Ohio — First Quarter 2016

All 13 large counties in Ohio reported employment gains from March 2015 to March 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.) Assistant Commissioner for Regional Operations Charlene Peiffer noted that Warren County had the largest increase, up 3.9 percent, followed by Butler County, up 3.6 percent. (See table 1.)

Nationally, employment advanced 2.0 percent from March 2015 to March 2016 as 318 of the 344 largest U.S. counties registered increases. Williamson, Tenn., had the largest percentage increase with a gain of 7.9 percent over the year. Midland, Texas, had the largest over-the-year percentage decrease in employment among the largest U.S. counties, with a loss of 9.0 percent.

Among the 13 largest counties in Ohio, employment was highest in Franklin County (724,200) and Cuyahoga County (707,500) in March 2016. Four other counties—Hamilton (501,200), Summit (261,100), Montgomery (251,500), and Lucas (207,500)—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 344 largest counties made up 72.6 percent of total U.S. employment in March 2016.

Average weekly wages declined in 7 of the 13 largest counties in Ohio from the first quarter of 2015 to the first quarter of 2016. Stark County had the largest percentage decrease in average weekly wages, down 4.5 percent (See table 1.) Hamilton County recorded the highest average weekly wage among the state's large counties at $1,106, followed by Delaware County at $1,096. Nationally, the average weekly wage decreased 0.5 percent over the year to $1,043 in the first quarter of 2016.

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 2016. (See table 2.)

Large county wage changes

In addition to Stark County's 4.5-percent decline in average weekly wages from the first quarter of 2015 to the first quarter of 2016, five other large counties in the state had wage declines greater than the national decrease of 0.5 percent. Four of Ohio's large counties registered wage increases over the year. Wages in Summit County increased 1.0 percent, the highest of the four and ranked 98th among the nation's 344 large counties. (See table 1.)

Among the 344 largest U.S. counties, 167 had over-the-year decreases in average weekly wages in the first quarter of 2016. McLean, Ill., had the largest percentage decline in average weekly wages with a loss of 13.3 percent. Nationally, 164 large counties experienced over-the-year increases in average weekly wages. Clayton, Ga., had the largest percentage increase in average weekly wages with a gain of 15.5 percent.

Large county average weekly wages

As noted, Hamilton County ($1,106) had the highest average weekly wage in the state and ranked 69th among the 344 largest U.S. counties. Delaware County ($1,096, 72nd) and Cuyahoga County ($1,048, 90th) also had average weekly wages above the national average of $1,043. Mahoning ($683, 335th) had the lowest average weekly wage among the state's large counties.

Nationally, weekly wages were higher than the U.S. average of $1,043 in 91 of the 344 largest counties. New York, N.Y., held the top position with an average weekly wage of $2,783. Santa Clara, Calif., was second at $2,210, followed by San Mateo, Calif. ($2,195); San Francisco, Calif. ($2,054); and Somerset, N.J. ($2,022). Among the 253 large counties with an average weekly wage below the U.S. average in the first quarter of 2016, Horry, S.C. ($587) reported the lowest wage.

Average weekly wages in Ohio's smaller counties

All 75 counties in Ohio with employment below 75,000 had average weekly wages below the national average of $1,043. Among these smaller counties, Union had the highest average weekly wage at $1,021, while Meigs had the lowest at $541. (See table 2.)

When all 88 counties in Ohio were considered, all but 3 had wages below the national average. Four reported average weekly wages less than $600, 33 had wages from $600 to $699, 32 reported wages from $700 to $799, 9 had wages from $800 to $899, and 10 had wages of $900 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 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 fourth quarter 2015 version of the national news release. Tables and additional content from Employment and Wages Annual Averages 2015 are available online at www.bls.gov/cew/cewbultn15.htm.

The County Employment and Wages release for second quarter 2016 is scheduled to be released on Wednesday, December 7, 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 9.7 million employer reports cover 140.1 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: 1-800-877-8339.

Table 1. Covered employment and wages in the United States and the 13 largest counties in Ohio, first quarter 2016

Area	Employment			Average weekly wage [1]			
	March 2016 (thousands)	Percent change, March 2015-16 [2]	National ranking by percent change [3]	Average weekly wage	National ranking by level [3]	Percent change, first quarter 2015-16 [2]	National ranking by percent change [3]
United States [4]	140,070.8	2.0	--	$1,043	--	-0.5	--
Ohio	5,236.2	1.8	--	913	24	-0.8	30
Butler, Ohio	147.9	3.6	44	900	182	-0.1	177
Cuyahoga, Ohio	707.5	0.9	273	1,048	90	-2.0	270
Delaware, Ohio	82.7	3.3	63	1,096	72	0.0	165
Franklin, Ohio	724.2	3.1	78	1,041	93	0.1	155
Hamilton, Ohio	501.2	1.6	211	1,106	69	-1.1	224
Lake, Ohio	93.3	0.8	283	833	253	0.0	165
Lorain, Ohio	95.3	1.0	263	782	297	-2.7	297
Lucas, Ohio	207.5	2.4	130	886	197	0.5	129
Mahoning, Ohio	96.6	0.2	314	683	335	-2.6	295
Montgomery, Ohio	251.5	2.4	130	843	243	-1.3	239
Stark, Ohio	155.9	0.6	295	726	325	-4.5	325
Summit, Ohio	261.1	0.6	295	946	154	1.0	98
Warren, Ohio	88.8	3.9	31	912	174	0.2	147

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 2016

Area	Employment March 2016	Average weekly wage [1]
United States [2]	140,070,814	$1,043
Ohio	5,236,188	913
Adams	6,007	648
Allen	49,030	783
Ashland	18,397	685
Ashtabula	29,681	648
Athens	20,998	730
Auglaize	20,925	750
Belmont	22,674	698
Brown	8,020	630
Butler	147,916	900
Carroll	6,442	651
Champaign	10,618	720
Clark	47,422	709
Clermont	57,654	795
Clinton	16,614	797
Columbiana	29,353	649
Coshocton	10,329	711
Crawford	13,317	668
Cuyahoga	707,467	1,048
Darke	18,084	698
Defiance	15,581	832
Delaware	82,726	1,096
Erie	34,296	709
Fairfield	42,113	652
Fayette	11,664	623
Franklin	724,186	1,041
Fulton	18,263	718
Gallia	10,765	666
Geauga	33,036	743
Greene	71,204	944
Guernsey	14,979	706
Hamilton	501,201	1,106
Hancock	44,644	1,011
Hardin	8,519	647
Harrison	3,660	700
Henry	10,672	719
Highland	10,394	589
Hocking	6,760	592
Holmes	19,225	629
Huron	20,217	692
Jackson	9,932	640
Jefferson	20,491	735
Knox	20,165	705
Lake	93,304	833
Lawrence	12,601	636
Licking	52,856	757
Logan	19,290	787
Lorain	95,348	782
Lucas	207,540	886
Madison	16,688	765
Mahoning	96,581	683
Marion	23,959	711
Medina	58,894	773
Meigs	3,435	541
Mercer	19,510	664
Miami	39,868	730

Note: See footnotes at end of table.

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

Area	Employment March 2016	Average weekly wage [1]
Monroe	2,698	572
Montgomery	251,545	843
Morgan	2,623	638
Morrow	5,523	685
Muskingum	32,209	696
Noble	3,100	689
Ottawa	12,220	842
Paulding	4,845	676
Perry	5,652	616
Pickaway	13,326	759
Pike	9,441	889
Portage	54,263	776
Preble	10,360	666
Putnam	11,487	650
Richland	50,169	667
Ross	27,407	789
Sandusky	25,286	715
Scioto	23,648	640
Seneca	19,235	647
Shelby	27,069	856
Stark	155,854	726
Summit	261,126	946
Trumbull	68,705	780
Tuscarawas	35,490	670
Union	31,027	1,021
Van Wert	10,738	667
Vinton	2,223	653
Warren	88,755	912
Washington	24,721	806
Wayne	45,796	731
Williams	17,250	721
Wood	64,249	842
Wyandot	9,055	718

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.

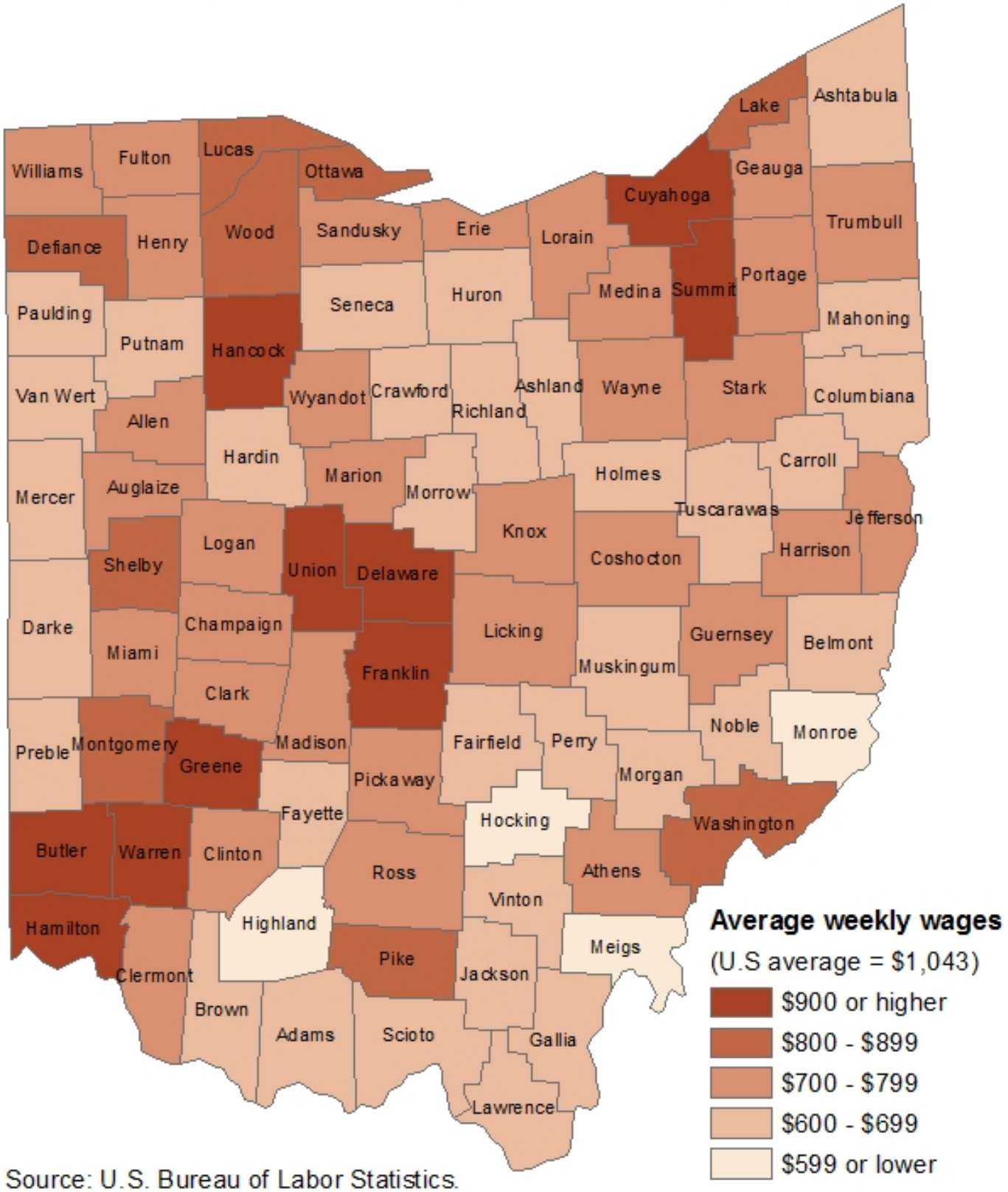
Table 3. Covered employment and wages by state, first quarter 2016

State	Employment		Average weekly wage [1]			
	March 2016 (thousands)	Percent change, March 2015-16	Average weekly wage	National ranking by level	Percent change, first quarter 2015-16	National ranking by percent change
United States [2]	140,070.8	2.0	1043	--	-0.5	--
Alabama	1,902.6	1.6	842	37	-0.2	22
Alaska	317.6	-1.4	1028	15	-2	43
Arizona	2,679.8	2.8	918	23	-0.8	30
Arkansas	1,191.1	2.1	793	45	0.5	13
California	16,455.5	2.6	1206	6	0	20
Colorado	2,514.6	2.4	1057	13	-1.3	36
Connecticut	1,650.6	0.6	1362	3	-1.4	38
Delaware	429.7	1.5	1072	10	-3	48
District of Columbia	749.6	2.0	1766	1	0.4	14
Florida	8,301.8	3.5	887	27	0.2	18
Georgia	4,215.1	3.0	1008	17	1.9	2
Hawaii	645.1	1.4	896	26	1.7	3
Idaho	670.4	3.5	725	50	-1.5	39
Illinois	5,800.6	1.2	1126	7	-0.5	28
Indiana	2,949.5	1.9	853	33	-0.5	28
Iowa	1,518.2	0.9	844	36	-0.4	27
Kansas	1,362.3	0.4	833	38	-2	43
Kentucky	1,843.9	1.9	823	41	0.1	19
Louisiana	1,910.5	-0.8	860	32	-2.6	47
Maine	580.5	1.8	804	44	1.1	8
Maryland	2,591.7	1.9	1103	9	-0.8	30
Massachusetts	3,414.8	2.1	1327	4	-1	33
Michigan	4,163.7	2.1	976	20	0.7	11
Minnesota	2,750.1	1.5	1065	12	-1.2	34
Mississippi	1,121.0	1.7	713	51	0.4	14
Missouri	2,729.5	1.9	879	29	-0.3	25
Montana	447.8	1.8	751	49	0.3	16
Nebraska	956.6	1.4	817	42	0	20
Nevada	1,264.1	3.0	875	30	1.2	5
New Hampshire	635.1	1.9	998	18	1.6	4
New Jersey	3,909.7	2.4	1268	5	-1.7	41
New Mexico	800.4	0.0	792	46	-1.6	40
New York	9,042.2	2.0	1456	2	-0.3	25
North Carolina	4,220.3	3.0	928	22	-0.2	22
North Dakota	409.4	-6.2	908	25	-7.6	51
Ohio	5,236.2	1.8	913	24	-0.8	30
Oklahoma	1,578.6	-0.9	833	38	-4.1	49
Oregon	1,808.2	3.2	929	21	1.2	5
Pennsylvania	5,662.2	1.1	1012	16	-1.9	42
Rhode Island	464.6	1.9	985	19	-2.2	46
South Carolina	1,974.6	2.7	806	43	0.8	10
South Dakota	410.5	0.9	771	48	1.2	5
Tennessee	2,859.2	3.3	887	27	0.3	16
Texas	11,638.7	0.7	1066	11	-2.1	45
Utah	1,369.2	3.8	849	35	0.6	12
Vermont	304.6	0.1	832	40	1	9
Virginia	3,748.1	2.6	1057	13	-1.2	34
Washington	3,147.7	3.1	1121	8	3	1
West Virginia	683.9	-1.2	782	47	-1.3	36
Wisconsin	2,771.4	1.3	875	30	-0.2	22
Wyoming	267.9	-3.7	850	34	-4.7	50
Puerto Rico	895.2	-1.2	520	[3]	-0.4	[3]
Virgin Islands	38.6	0.4	769	[3]	2.9	[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 2016



Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics.