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County Employment and Wages in Iowa — Second Quarter 2018

Three of the four large counties in Iowa reported employment growth from June 2017 to June 2018, the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics reported today. (Large counties are defined as those with employment of 75,000 or greater as measured by 2017 annual average employment.) Assistant Commissioner for Regional Operations Charlene Peiffer noted that Polk County had the largest increase, up 0.9 percent, followed by the counties of Linn (0.7 percent) and Johnson (0.6 percent). Scott County had an over-the-year employment decrease of 0.1 percent. Nationally, employment increased 1.5 percent. (See table 1.)

Among the four largest counties in Iowa, employment was highest in Polk County (306,600) in June 2018. Collectively, Iowa's four large counties accounted for 39.0 percent of total employment within the state. Nationwide, the 349 largest counties made up 72.9 percent of total U.S. employment, which stood at 147.4 million in June 2018.

The average weekly wage in Linn County rose 3.9 percent from the second quarter of 2017 to the second quarter of 2018, the largest increase among Iowa's large counties. Polk County had the highest average weekly wage in the state at $1,050. (See table 1.) Nationally, the average weekly wage rose 3.4 percent over the year to $1,055 in the second quarter of 2018.

Employment and wage levels (but not over-the-year changes) are also available for 94 of the 95 counties in Iowa with employment below 75,000. Data were not available for one of the small counties. All of these smaller counties had average weekly wages below the national average. (See table 2.)

Large county wage changes

All four of Iowa's large counties recorded wage growth above the national increase of 3.4 percent from the second quarter of 2017 to the second quarter of 2018. (See table 1.) Linn County's 3.9-percent increase in average weekly wages ranked 77th among the 349 largest U.S. counties. Scott County (3.8 percent, 86th), Polk County (3.7 percent, 93rd), and Johnson County (3.7 percent, 93rd) all placed in the top half of the national ranking.

Among the 349 largest U.S. counties, 340 had over-the-year increases in average weekly wages in the second quarter of 2018. Marin, CA, ranked first in average weekly wage growth with a gain of 11.7 percent, followed by the counties of Lake, IL, and King, WA, at 9.3 percent each.

Eight of the 349 largest counties experienced over-the-year decreases in average weekly wages. New Hanover, NC, had the largest percentage decline in average weekly wages with a loss of 6.4 percent. Spartanburg, SC, had the second-largest decline at 2.9 percent, followed by Morris, NJ (-2.4 percent).

Large county average weekly wages
Average weekly wages in all four large Iowa counties were below the national average of $1,055 in the second quarter of 2018. As noted, Polk County ($1,050) had the highest average weekly wage in the state and ranked 97th among the 349 largest U.S. counties. Scott County ($842) reported the lowest average weekly wage among Iowa's large counties and ranked 294th nationwide.

Nationwide, weekly wages were higher than the U.S. average of $1,055 in 94 of the largest U.S. counties. Santa Clara, CA, held the top position with an average weekly wage of $2,573. San Mateo, CA, was second at $2,357, followed by San Francisco, CA ($2,083), and New York, NY ($2,025).

There were 255 large U.S. counties with an average weekly wage below the national average. Horry, SC ($625) reported the lowest weekly wage, followed by the Texas counties of Cameron ($642), Hidalgo ($645), and Webb ($687).

Average weekly wages in Iowa's smaller counties
Ninety-four smaller counties in Iowa, those with employment below 75,000, had average weekly wages below the national average of $1,055. Among these smaller counties, Dallas County had the highest average weekly wage at $994 and Decatur County had the lowest at $625. Data were not available for one of the small counties. (See table 2.)

When all 99 counties in Iowa were considered, 17 reported average weekly wages of $699 or lower, 26 reported wages from $700 to $749, 30 had wages from $750 to $799, and 25 had wages of $800 or higher. One county did not have data available. (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 2017 edition of this publication, which was published in September 2018, contains selected data produced by Business Employment Dynamics (BED) on job gains and losses, as well as selected data from the first quarter 2018 version of the national news release. Tables and additional content from *Employment and Wages Annual Averages 2017* are now available online at www.bls.gov/cew/cewbultn17.htm. The 2018 edition of *Employment and Wages Annual Averages Online* will be available in September 2019.

The County Employment and Wages release for third quarter 2018 is scheduled to be released on Wednesday, February 20, 2019. The County Employment and Wages full data update for third quarter 2018 is scheduled to be released on Wednesday, March 6, 2019.

New BLS Local Data iPhone App Includes QCEW Data

BLS has partnered with the U.S. Department of Labor's Office of the Chief Information Officer to develop a new mobile app for iPhones. The BLS Local Data app is ideal for customers, such as jobseekers and economic and workforce development professionals, who want to know more about local labor markets. For more information, please go to:

https://blogs.bls.gov/blog/2018/10/18/new-bls-local-data-app-now-available/.

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 4 largest counties in Iowa, second quarter 2018

Area	Employment			Average weekly wage [1]			
	June 2018 (thousands)	Percent change, June 2017-18 [2]	National ranking by percent change [3]	Average weekly wage	National ranking by level [3]	Percent change, second quarter 2017-18 [2]	National ranking by percent change [3]
United States [4]	147,431.2	1.5	--	$1,055	--	3.4	--
Iowa	1,583.7	0.8	--	880	39	3.3	19
Johnson, IA	84.4	0.6	250	980	164	3.7	93
Linn, IA	133.7	0.7	235	1,008	137	3.9	77
Polk, IA	306.6	0.9	206	1,050	97	3.7	93
Scott, IA	92.7	-0.1	316	842	294	3.8	86

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 2018

Area	Employment June 2018	Average weekly wage(1)
United States(2)	147,431,154	$1,055
Iowa	1,583,740	880
Adair	2,893	712
Adams	1,261	722
Allamakee	5,369	671
Appanoose	4,597	695
Audubon	1,821	706
Benton	6,164	725
Black Hawk	75,451	868
Boone	9,568	756
Bremer	10,152	769
Buchanan	6,897	730
Buena Vista	11,113	778
Butler	3,597	671
Calhoun	3,033	693
Carroll	11,701	724
Cass	6,338	761
Cedar	5,626	730
Cerro Gordo	25,330	788
Cherokee	4,841	740
Chickasaw	5,085	787
Clarke	4,508	723
Clay	8,883	782
Clayton	7,223	762
Clinton	20,999	748
Crawford	6,963	787
Dallas	46,034	994
Davis	-	-
Decatur	2,426	625
Delaware	6,852	801
Des Moines	22,687	770
Dickinson	11,038	676
Dubuque	60,023	835
Emmet	3,982	736
Fayette	7,438	703
Floyd	6,356	779
Franklin	4,173	824
Fremont	2,328	666
Greene	3,436	761
Grundy	4,362	840
Guthrie	3,294	765
Hamilton	6,049	768
Hancock	6,654	852
Hardin	7,152	744
Harrison	4,294	719
Henry	9,295	795
Howard	4,343	707
Humboldt	4,143	799
Ida	3,994	804
Iowa	10,267	750
Jackson	6,552	629
Jasper	11,814	747
Jefferson	7,890	752
Johnson	84,392	980
Jones	6,539	727
Keokuk	2,259	719
Kossuth	7,160	811

Note: See footnotes at end of table.

Table 2. Covered employment and wages in the United States and all counties in Iowa, second quarter 2018 - Continued

Area	Employment June 2018	Average weekly wage(1)
Lee	15,507	820
Linn	133,668	1,008
Louisa	4,026	730
Lucas	3,586	758
Lyon	4,829	679
Madison	4,031	714
Mahaska	8,202	780
Marion	18,288	874
Marshall	17,230	811
Mills	3,711	811
Mitchell	4,081	774
Monona	2,735	658
Monroe	3,547	918
Montgomery	4,162	750
Muscatine	23,890	936
O'Brien	6,889	699
Osceola	2,528	748
Page	6,451	758
Palo Alto	4,107	693
Plymouth	11,921	884
Pocahontas	3,294	807
Polk	306,612	1,050
Pottawattamie	40,342	792
Poweshiek	10,291	800
Ringgold	1,487	673
Sac	3,181	716
Scott	92,729	842
Shelby	5,933	754
Sioux	21,517	768
Story	47,030	939
Tama	5,738	711
Taylor	2,075	649
Union	6,250	729
Van Buren	1,996	694
Wapello	16,372	759
Warren	12,007	740
Washington	8,519	678
Wayne	1,932	757
Webster	18,522	841
Winnebago	4,300	688
Winneshiek	10,757	771
Woodbury	52,534	784
Worth	2,441	701
Wright	5,729	847

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: Dashes indicate data do not meet BLS or State agency disclosure standards.
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 2018

State	Employment		Average weekly wage [1]			
	June 2018 (thousands)	Percent change, June 2017-18	Average weekly wage	National ranking by level	Percent change, second quarter 2017-18	National ranking by percent change
United States [2]	147,431.2	1.5	$1,055	--	3.4	--
Alabama	1,969.9	1.2	882	37	2.8	35
Alaska	335.8	-0.9	1,043	15	3.7	9
Arizona	2,770.8	2.6	973	23	3.3	19
Arkansas	1,214.6	0.7	824	47	1.7	47
California	17,473.1	1.9	1,265	4	4.6	3
Colorado	2,704.4	2.4	1,075	10	3.2	27
Connecticut	1,704.5	0.3	1,218	5	0.1	50
Delaware	454.3	1.3	1,023	17	1.4	49
District of Columbia	777.3	1.3	1,713	1	2.6	39
Florida	8,568.9	2.1	931	28	2.9	32
Georgia	4,440.5	2.0	979	22	2.3	43
Hawaii	658.3	0.5	956	24	2.5	41
Idaho	745.3	3.1	794	50	3.8	8
Illinois	6,061.1	0.8	1,097	9	3.4	14
Indiana	3,075.8	1.1	883	36	2.8	35
Iowa	1,583.7	0.8	880	39	3.3	19
Kansas	1,393.3	1.0	879	40	3.4	14
Kentucky	1,905.9	0.9	882	37	2.3	43
Louisiana	1,918.6	0.4	901	33	3.7	9
Maine	636.8	1.0	843	45	3.6	11
Maryland	2,712.0	0.7	1,141	8	3.4	14
Massachusetts	3,650.1	1.0	1,322	2	3.5	12
Michigan	4,424.7	1.3	997	20	2.9	32
Minnesota	2,925.6	0.8	1,072	12	3.3	19
Mississippi	1,130.7	0.2	752	51	2.7	38
Missouri	2,829.0	0.5	924	30	3.9	7
Montana	478.7	1.1	817	48	2.5	41
Nebraska	990.8	0.6	859	43	3.1	29
Nevada	1,372.4	3.1	931	28	3.3	19
New Hampshire	670.8	0.8	1,049	14	3.3	19
New Jersey	4,157.0	0.9	1,201	7	2.3	43
New Mexico	823.6	1.0	852	44	3.5	12
New York	9,579.2	1.7	1,297	3	4.5	4
North Carolina	4,450.2	2.2	933	25	3.3	19
North Dakota	426.1	0.8	986	21	3.4	14
Ohio	5,461.3	0.7	933	25	2.3	43
Oklahoma	1,606.4	1.2	875	41	3.2	27
Oregon	1,947.3	1.5	999	18	3.3	19
Pennsylvania	5,924.9	1.1	1,031	16	3.1	29
Rhode Island	491.0	0.7	998	19	1.7	47
South Carolina	2,126.5	3.4	833	46	0.0	51
South Dakota	439.7	0.9	807	49	2.8	35
Tennessee	2,994.1	1.6	932	27	2.9	32
Texas	12,326.3	2.2	1,062	13	3.4	14
Utah	1,483.9	3.4	899	35	4.3	5
Vermont	312.4	-0.8	907	31	4.3	5
Virginia	3,941.0	1.3	1,073	11	2.6	39
Washington	3,444.1	2.7	1,218	5	6.9	1
West Virginia	702.9	1.6	868	42	4.8	2
Wisconsin	2,933.5	0.9	904	32	3.3	19
Wyoming	282.2	0.5	901	33	3.0	31
Puerto Rico	853.5	-2.3	543	[3]	5.2	[3]

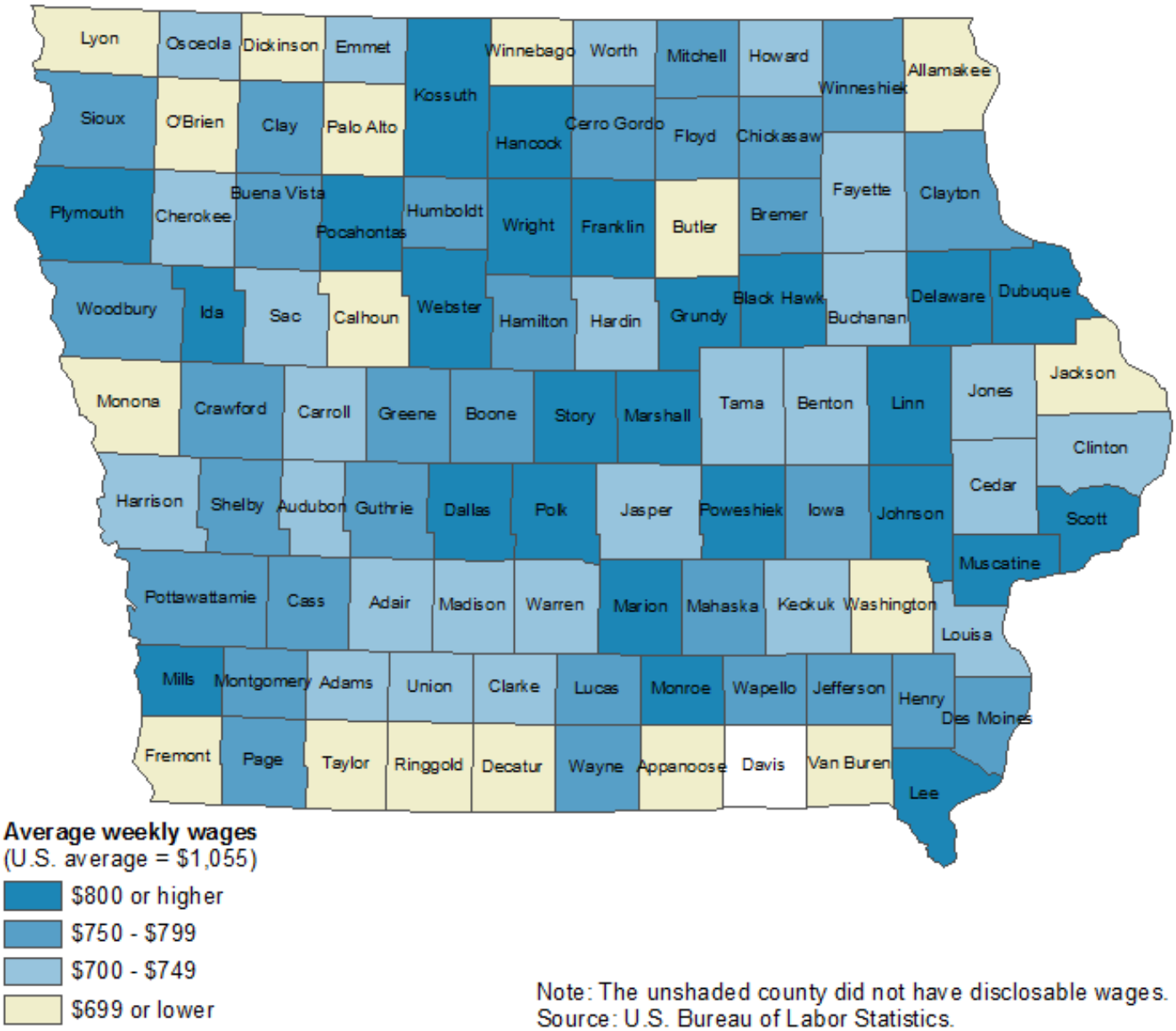
Note: See footnotes at end of table.

Table 3. Covered employment and wages by state, second quarter 2018 - Continued

State	Employment		Average weekly wage [1]			
	June 2018 (thousands)	Percent change, June 2017-18	Average weekly wage	National ranking by level	Percent change, second quarter 2017-18	National ranking by percent change
Virgin Islands	33.4	-14.4	838	[3]	12.8	[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 2018



Note: The unshaded county did not have disclosable wages.
Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics.