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County Employment and Wages in Kansas – Second Quarter 2014

Employment rose in the four largest counties in Kansas from June 2013 to June 2014, 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 2013 annual average employment.) Regional Commissioner Stanley W. Suchman noted that Wyandotte County experienced the fastest growth, up 4.4 percent over the year, and exceeded the national average of 2.0 percent.

Nationally, employment increased in 305 of the 339 largest U.S. counties from June 2013 to June 2014. Weld, Colo., posted the largest increase with a gain of 8.9 percent over the year. Atlantic, N.J., had the largest over-the-year decrease in employment with a loss of 1.6 percent.

Among the four largest counties in Kansas, employment was highest in Johnson County (331,400) and lowest in Wyandotte (88,000). Together, the four largest counties accounted for 55.5 percent of total employment within the state. Nationwide, the 339 large counties made up 71.8 percent of total U.S. employment.

Two of Kansas's four large counties experienced wage growth that exceeded the 2.1-percent increase for the nation. Wyandotte and Johnson Counties recorded wage growth of 4.3 and 3.0 percent, respectively. Johnson County had the highest average weekly wage among the largest counties in the state at $976 and was above the national average of $940. (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 ($1,254) had an average weekly wage above the national average. (See table 2.)

Large county wage changes

As mentioned, Wyandotte County had the largest wage gain at 4.3 percent, placing it 19th in the national ranking, followed by Johnson at 3.0 percent and ranking 58th. (See table 1.) Average wages in Shawnee County rose 0.6 percent and placed 281st. Sedgwick had a decline in average weekly wages with a loss of 0.8 percent, ranking 331st.

Among the 339 largest counties in the U.S., 312 had over-the-year increases in average weekly wages in the second quarter of 2014. Midland, Texas, ranked first in average weekly wage growth with an increase of 9.0 percent. Williamson, Texas, had the largest percentage decrease in average weekly wages, with a loss of 2.7 percent.

Large county average weekly wages

Only one of Kansas's four large counties had average weekly wages above the national average of $940 and placed in the top 100 nationwide in the second quarter of 2014. Johnson County had an average weekly wage of $976 and ranked 82nd among the 339 largest counties. Wyandotte recorded an average weekly wage of $872 and placed 166th in the national ranking. The state's remaining large counties, Sedgwick ($836,195th) and Shawnee ($791, 253rd), had average weekly wages that placed them in the bottom half of the national ranking.

Nationally, weekly wages were higher than the average of $940 in 109 of the 339 largest U.S. counties. Santa Clara, Calif., held the top position among the highest-paid large counties with an average weekly wage of $1,886, followed by San Mateo, Calif. ($1,740) and New York, N.Y. ($1,732). Among the 230 large counties with an average weekly wage below the U.S. average in the second quarter of 2014, Horry, S.C. ($548) 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 ($1,254)—had an average weekly wage above the national average of $940. Elk County reported the lowest weekly wage in the state with an average of $468 in the second quarter of 2014. (See table 2.)

When all 105 counties in Kansas were considered, all but 2 had wages below the national average. Thirty-five reported average weekly wages under $600, 33 reported wages from $600 to $649, 22 had wages from $650 to $699, 6 had wages from $700 to $749, and 9 had wages 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 2013 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 2014 version of the national news release. Tables and additional content from *Employment and Wages Annual Averages 2013* are now available online at www.bls.gov/cew/cewbultn13.htm. The 2014 edition of *Employment and Wages Annual Averages Online* will be available in September 2015.

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 2014 is scheduled to be released on Thursday, March 19, 2015.

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 9.4 million employer reports cover 137.8 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 2014

Area	Employment			Average Weekly Wage [1]			
	June 2014 (thousands)	Percent change, June 2013-14 [2]	National ranking by percent change [3]	Average weekly wage	National ranking by level [3]	Percent change, second quarter 2013-14 [2]	National ranking by percent change [3]
United States [4]	137,776.4	2.0	--	$940	--	2.1	--
Kansas	1,372.8	1.7	--	797	38	2.3	20
Johnson, Kan.	331.4	2.8	78	976	82	3.0	58
Sedgwick, Kan.	245.5	1.2	222	836	195	-0.8	331
Shawnee, Kan.	97.3	2.5	102	791	253	0.6	281
Wyandotte, Kan.	88.0	4.4	22	872	166	4.3	19

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 2014

Area	Employment June 2014	Average Weekly Wage [1]
United States [2]	137,776,364	$940
Kansas	1,372,757	797
Allen	6,083	595
Anderson	2,127	570
Atchison	6,014	665
Barber	1,871	590
Barton	13,768	715
Bourbon	6,336	612
Brown	5,140	639
Butler	18,831	636
Chase	739	483
Chautauqua	808	525
Cherokee	5,861	665
Cheyenne	893	576
Clark	768	615
Clay	3,267	543
Cloud	3,695	522
Coffey	4,430	1,254
Comanche	709	479
Cowley	14,484	651
Crawford	16,953	585
Decatur	985	484
Dickinson	6,965	567
Doniphan	2,243	624
Douglas	46,816	672
Edwards	1,038	644
Elk	666	468
Ellis	16,099	680
Ellsworth	3,001	697
Finney	18,918	682
Ford	17,776	647
Franklin	9,361	652
Geary	13,552	731
Gove	1,263	535
Graham	982	667
Grant	3,466	763
Gray	3,280	608
Greeley	679	567
Greenwood	1,808	561
Hamilton	1,291	638
Harper	2,516	624
Harvey	13,935	677
Haskell	1,970	657
Hodgeman	557	564
Jackson	4,348	609
Jefferson	3,984	666
Jewell	798	530
Johnson	331,359	976
Kearny	1,396	602
Kingman	2,741	645
Kiowa	1,148	566
Labette	9,401	616
Lane	711	640
Leavenworth	20,880	809
Lincoln	962	524
Linn	2,232	742
Logan	1,379	558

Note: See footnotes at end of table.

Table 2. Covered employment and wages in the United States and all counties in Kansas, 2nd quarter 2014 - Continued

Area	Employment June 2014	Average Weekly Wage [1]
Lyon	14,432	596
Mcpherson	15,066	765
Marion	3,652	551
Marshall	4,895	671
Meade	1,679	688
Miami	8,195	624
Mitchell	3,499	626
Montgomery	16,525	660
Morris	1,526	550
Morton	1,065	671
Nemaha	5,486	741
Neosho	6,399	642
Ness	1,391	738
Norton	2,726	641
Osage	3,031	480
Osborne	1,418	535
Ottawa	1,404	534
Pawnee	3,370	630
Phillips	2,630	614
Pottawatomie	9,498	718
Pratt	5,026	681
Rawlins	916	595
Reno	27,797	636
Republic	2,037	498
Rice	3,999	628
Riley	29,524	674
Rooks	2,109	625
Rush	1,185	619
Russell	2,986	642
Saline	30,165	659
Scott	2,243	663
Sedgwick	245,537	836
Seward	12,294	686
Shawnee	97,253	791
Sheridan	1,017	625
Sherman	2,598	542
Smith	1,387	512
Stafford	1,404	515
Stanton	752	663
Stevens	2,458	844
Sumner	7,260	618
Thomas	4,100	610
Trego	1,338	630
Wabaunsee	1,390	526
Wallace	539	643
Washington	2,074	474
Wichita	819	630
Wilson	3,700	642
Woodson	693	499
Wyandotte	87,998	872

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 2014

State	Employment		Average weekly wage [1]			
	June 2014 (thousands)	Percent change, June 2013-14	Average weekly wage	National ranking by level	Percent change, second quarter 2013-14	National ranking by percent change
United States [2]	137,776.4	2.0	$940	--	2.1	--
Alabama	1,872.9	0.7	806	36	1.6	38
Alaska	344.9	0.5	1,014	8	4.6	2
Arizona	2,486.0	1.9	888	21	1.3	43
Arkansas	1,168.1	1.5	745	47	1.5	41
California	15,905.6	2.8	1,072	6	2.4	15
Colorado	2,439.3	3.4	960	14	2.9	8
Connecticut	1,676.6	0.6	1,155	3	2.5	13
Delaware	429.0	2.5	976	11	1.2	44
District of Columbia	732.6	1.0	1,569	1	-0.5	51
Florida	7,628.6	3.1	839	28	2.1	23
Georgia	4,036.3	3.1	882	22	1.7	35
Hawaii	624.6	1.1	845	26	2.7	10
Idaho	659.2	2.5	697	51	2.2	22
Illinois	5,836.9	1.5	988	10	1.9	32
Indiana	2,916.9	1.8	784	42	1.2	44
Iowa	1,547.8	1.6	780	43	3.0	7
Kansas	1,372.8	1.7	797	38	2.3	20
Kentucky	1,820.8	1.7	798	37	2.0	27
Louisiana	1,921.6	1.4	843	27	2.4	15
Maine	610.4	0.8	746	46	2.1	23
Maryland	2,594.4	0.9	1,020	7	1.6	38
Massachusetts	3,407.0	1.4	1,158	2	2.4	15
Michigan	4,164.7	2.3	897	20	2.3	20
Minnesota	2,782.0	1.3	947	16	1.9	32
Mississippi	1,101.1	0.5	705	50	2.0	27
Missouri	2,703.2	1.3	818	31	1.9	32
Montana	453.4	1.1	734	48	2.4	15
Nebraska	956.2	1.4	756	45	2.7	10
Nevada	1,210.1	3.4	833	30	0.6	50
New Hampshire	637.2	1.2	955	15	4.3	3
New Jersey	3,944.8	0.8	1,097	5	1.2	44
New Mexico	801.0	0.6	794	40	1.7	35
New York	8,965.2	1.8	1,146	4	2.4	15
North Carolina	4,080.7	2.4	818	31	1.2	44
North Dakota	453.0	4.4	936	17	5.5	1
Ohio	5,233.8	1.4	846	25	2.1	23
Oklahoma	1,578.0	1.0	816	33	2.6	12
Oregon	1,748.4	2.4	874	23	2.9	8
Pennsylvania	5,719.8	1.0	933	18	1.6	38
Rhode Island	472.9	1.6	898	19	2.0	27
South Carolina	1,916.4	2.7	765	44	2.5	13
South Dakota	422.9	1.4	712	49	3.3	4
Tennessee	2,755.7	1.8	836	29	2.0	27
Texas	11,402.8	3.0	973	13	3.1	5
Utah	1,297.5	2.9	796	39	1.7	35
Vermont	307.0	1.0	813	35	0.7	49
Virginia	3,710.8	0.7	976	11	0.8	48
Washington	3,109.6	3.2	990	9	2.1	23
West Virginia	711.3	-0.3	792	41	1.4	42
Wisconsin	2,809.1	1.3	816	33	2.0	27
Wyoming	295.3	1.6	871	24	3.1	5
Puerto Rico	897.0	-2.0	504	[3]	0.6	[3]

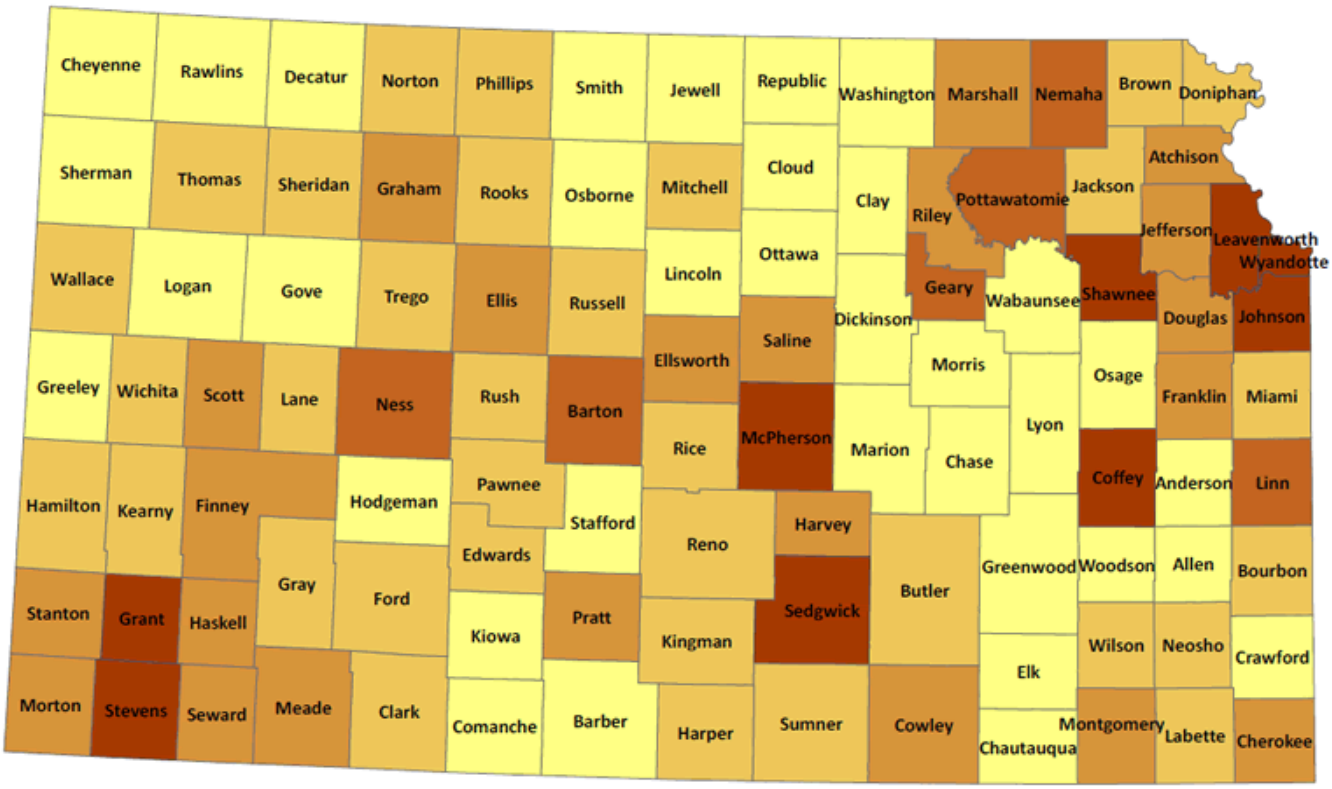
Note: See footnotes at end of table.

Table 3. Covered employment and wages by state, second quarter 2014 - Continued

State	Employment		Average weekly wage [1]			
	June 2014 (thousands)	Percent change, June 2013-14	Average weekly wage	National ranking by level	Percent change, second quarter 2013-14	National ranking by percent change
Virgin Islands	37.8	-2.2	728	[3]	2.8	[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 for counties in Kansas, second quarter 2014



Average weekly wages
(U.S. average = $940)

- Below $600
- 600 - 649
- 650 - 699
- 700 - 749
- 750 or more

Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics.