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County Employment and Wages in Kansas – Second Quarter 2016

Employment rose in the four largest counties in Kansas from June 2015 to June 2016, 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 2015 annual average employment.) Assistant Commissioner for Regional Operations Stanley W. Suchman noted that Wyandotte County experienced the fastest rate of job growth, up 1.6 percent over the year, and exceeded the national job growth rate of 1.5 percent.

Nationally, employment increased in 291 of the 344 largest U.S. counties from June 2015 to June 2016. Williamson, Tenn., posted the largest percentage increase with a gain of 6.7 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 8.3 percent.

Among the four largest counties in Kansas, employment was highest in Johnson County (338,700) and lowest in Wyandotte (91,100). Together, the four largest counties accounted for 56.3 percent of total employment within the state. Nationwide, the 344 large counties made up 72.5 percent of total U.S. employment.

Average weekly wages increased in three of the four large counties in Kansas from the second quarter of 2015 to the second quarter of 2016. Wyandotte County recorded over-the-year wage growth of 3.5 percent, exceeding the 2.2-percent increase for the nation. Johnson had the highest average weekly wage ($1,020) among Kansas's large counties and was above the national average of $989. (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 ($1,072) had an average weekly wage above the national average. (See table 2.)

Large county wage changes

Wyandotte County's 3.5-percent wage gain was the largest among the state's large counties and placed 66th in the national ranking. (See table 1.) The state's three remaining large counties placed in the bottom quartile of the national ranking in wage growth—Shawnee (0.9 percent, 277th), Sedgwick (0.7 percent, 289th), and Johnson (0.0 percent, 305th).

Among the 344 largest U.S. counties, 304 had over-the-year increases in average weekly wages in the second quarter of 2016. McLean, Ill., had the largest percentage increase in average weekly wages with a gain of 21.0 percent. Nationally, 36 large counties experienced over-the-year decreases in average weekly wages. Ventura, Calif., had the largest percentage decline in average weekly wages with a loss of 8.4 percent.

Large county average weekly wages

Johnson County's average weekly wage of $1,020 ranked 81st among the 344 largest U.S. counties in the second quarter of 2016. Wyandotte recorded an average weekly wage of $928 and placed 156th in the national ranking. The state's remaining large counties, Sedgwick ($858, 222nd) and Shawnee ($802, 283rd), had average weekly wages that placed them in the bottom half of the ranking.

Nationally, weekly wages were higher than the U.S. average of $989 in 102 of the 344 largest counties. Santa Clara, Calif., held the top position with an average weekly wage of $2,252. San Mateo, Calif., was second at $1,871, followed by New York, N.Y. ($1,866) and San Francisco, Calif. ($1,806). Among the 241 large counties with an average weekly wage below the U.S. average in the second quarter of 2016, Horry, S.C. ($598) reported the lowest wage.

Average weekly wages in Kansas's smaller counties

Of the 101 counties in Kansas with employment below 75,000, only Coffey County ($1,072) had an average weekly wage above the national average of $989. Elk County reported the lowest weekly wage in the state with an average of $456 in the second quarter of 2016. (See table 2.)

When all 105 counties in Kansas were considered, all but 2 had wages below the national average. Twenty-nine reported average weekly wages under $600, 25 reported wages from $600 to $649, 28 had wages from $650 to $699, 13 had wages from $700 to $749, and 10 had wages $750 or higher. (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 first quarter 2016 version of the national news release. Tables and additional content from *Employment and Wages Annual Averages 2015* are now available online at www.bls.gov/cew/cewbultn15.htm.

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 2016 is scheduled to be released on Tuesday, March 7, 2017.

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 142.7 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 2016

Area	Employment			Average weekly wage [1]			
	June 2016 (thousands)	Percent change, June 2015-16 [2]	National ranking by percent change [3]	Average weekly wage	National ranking by level [3]	Percent change, second quarter 2015-16 [2]	National ranking by percent change [3]
United States [4]	142,717.2	1.5	--	$989	--	2.2	--
Kansas	1,378.4	-0.2	--	829	38	1.2	39
Johnson, Kan.	338.7	0.3	276	1,020	81	0.0	305
Sedgwick, Kan.	248.7	0.2	283	858	222	0.7	289
Shawnee, Kan.	97.6	0.8	238	802	283	0.9	277
Wyandotte, Kan.	91.1	1.6	160	928	156	3.5	66

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 2016

Area	Employment June 2016	Average Weekly Wage(1)
United States(2)	142,717,157	$989
Kansas	1,378,363	829
Allen	5,624	636
Anderson	2,111	596
Atchison	5,485	670
Barber	1,735	614
Barton	12,284	660
Bourbon	6,499	628
Brown	4,955	647
Butler	18,949	674
Chase	901	578
Chautauqua	825	539
Cherokee	5,962	687
Cheyenne	960	583
Clark	773	684
Clay	3,133	582
Cloud	3,574	604
Coffey	3,915	1,072
Comanche	719	518
Cowley	14,120	688
Crawford	16,966	625
Decatur	969	508
Dickinson	6,151	613
Doniphan	2,409	655
Douglas	48,270	707
Edwards	1,050	720
Elk	594	456
Ellis	15,102	673
Ellsworth	2,348	631
Finney	19,138	716
Ford	17,894	715
Franklin	9,671	691
Geary	13,907	707
Gove	1,257	582
Graham	921	593
Grant	3,375	799
Gray	3,239	679
Greeley	708	620
Greenwood	1,804	557
Hamilton	1,343	656
Harper	2,356	668
Harvey	14,066	701
Haskell	1,930	738
Hodgeman	575	606
Jackson	4,348	614
Jefferson	3,863	691
Jewell	766	518
Johnson	338,657	1,020
Kearny	1,304	676
Kingman	2,442	627
Kiowa	1,233	645
Labette	9,335	645
Lane	652	701
Leavenworth	21,093	827
Lincoln	951	599
Linn	2,185	822
Logan	1,373	611

Note: See footnotes at end of table.

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

Area	Employment June 2016	Average Weekly Wage(1)
Lyon	15,132	627
Mcpherson	14,692	791
Marion	3,671	566
Marshall	4,553	628
Meade	1,745	715
Miami	8,572	698
Mitchell	3,365	624
Montgomery	15,392	625
Morris	1,509	569
Morton	980	635
Nemaha	5,583	673
Neosho	6,036	656
Ness	1,169	652
Norton	2,501	657
Osage	3,030	516
Osborne	1,477	555
Ottawa	1,378	555
Pawnee	3,087	635
Phillips	2,544	650
Pottawatomie	9,535	766
Pratt	4,650	667
Rawlins	979	598
Reno	26,926	670
Republic	2,050	519
Rice	3,913	621
Riley	29,178	719
Rooks	1,912	632
Rush	1,127	597
Russell	2,663	599
Saline	29,172	721
Scott	2,338	669
Sedgwick	248,682	858
Seward	11,080	674
Shawnee	97,647	802
Sheridan	989	713
Sherman	2,471	625
Smith	1,323	537
Stafford	1,340	572
Stanton	868	704
Stevens	2,014	684
Sumner	7,294	664
Thomas	4,043	635
Trego	1,302	594
Wabaunsee	1,341	564
Wallace	555	584
Washington	2,125	493
Wichita	801	663
Wilson	3,787	658
Woodson	709	500
Wyandotte	91,111	928

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 2016

State	Employment		Average weekly wage [1]			
	June 2016 (thousands)	Percent change, June 2015-16	Average weekly wage	National ranking by level	Percent change, second quarter 2015-16	National ranking by percent change
United States [2]	142,717.2	1.5	$989	--	2.2	--
Alabama	1,923.5	1.2	835	37	2.0	29
Alaska	338.7	-2.4	1,011	10	-1.7	49
Arizona	2,619.6	2.6	921	22	1.9	33
Arkansas	1,197.5	1.1	785	47	3.0	7
California	16,754.1	2.5	1,157	5	2.4	19
Colorado	2,574.5	2.3	999	14	1.0	43
Connecticut	1,689.9	-0.1	1,213	3	3.0	7
Delaware	444.0	0.9	990	16	-0.6	48
District of Columbia	756.0	1.7	1,623	1	1.1	42
Florida	8,161.8	3.2	883	25	2.6	14
Georgia	4,269.5	2.7	929	21	2.7	11
Hawaii	643.4	1.0	906	24	3.5	5
Idaho	699.7	3.3	740	50	3.8	3
Illinois	5,945.0	0.2	1,038	9	2.4	19
Indiana	2,995.4	1.0	828	39	2.1	27
Iowa	1,566.0	0.3	825	40	2.9	9
Kansas	1,378.4	-0.2	829	38	1.2	39
Kentucky	1,877.2	1.5	838	36	1.9	33
Louisiana	1,905.2	-1.4	852	32	0.2	46
Maine	622.8	1.0	795	46	3.5	5
Maryland	2,656.0	0.9	1,070	8	2.5	15
Massachusetts	3,538.2	1.2	1,233	2	2.0	29
Michigan	4,300.9	1.9	942	19	2.7	11
Minnesota	2,846.8	0.7	997	15	2.0	29
Mississippi	1,120.1	0.5	727	51	2.5	15
Missouri	2,785.6	1.4	863	30	2.4	19
Montana	468.6	2.2	767	48	1.7	35
Nebraska	978.3	0.9	805	43	2.4	19
Nevada	1,289.4	3.3	874	27	2.2	26
New Hampshire	655.1	1.1	1,003	12	3.7	4
New Jersey	4,051.2	1.7	1,147	6	1.7	35
New Mexico	808.1	-0.3	812	42	0.9	44
New York	9,264.0	1.5	1,210	4	2.5	15
North Carolina	4,285.3	2.5	865	29	2.1	27
North Dakota	423.3	-4.9	908	23	-3.3	51
Ohio	5,353.1	0.8	882	26	2.0	29
Oklahoma	1,570.5	-1.4	823	41	0.6	45
Oregon	1,867.8	2.7	933	20	4.1	2
Pennsylvania	5,786.8	0.4	971	17	1.4	37
Rhode Island	482.9	0.6	949	18	2.5	15
South Carolina	2,013.7	2.4	804	44	2.8	10
South Dakota	432.7	1.0	760	49	2.7	11
Tennessee	2,900.4	2.4	874	27	1.3	38
Texas	11,810.7	1.0	1,000	13	1.2	39
Utah	1,395.9	3.8	840	35	2.3	25
Vermont	310.6	-0.1	850	33	2.4	19
Virginia	3,833.4	1.6	1,011	10	1.2	39
Washington	3,281.6	2.8	1,083	7	5.4	1
West Virginia	693.2	-1.9	800	45	-0.4	47
Wisconsin	2,869.1	0.9	856	31	2.4	19
Wyoming	281.7	-3.7	849	34	-2.2	50
Puerto Rico	879.5	-0.7	512	[3]	0.2	[3]

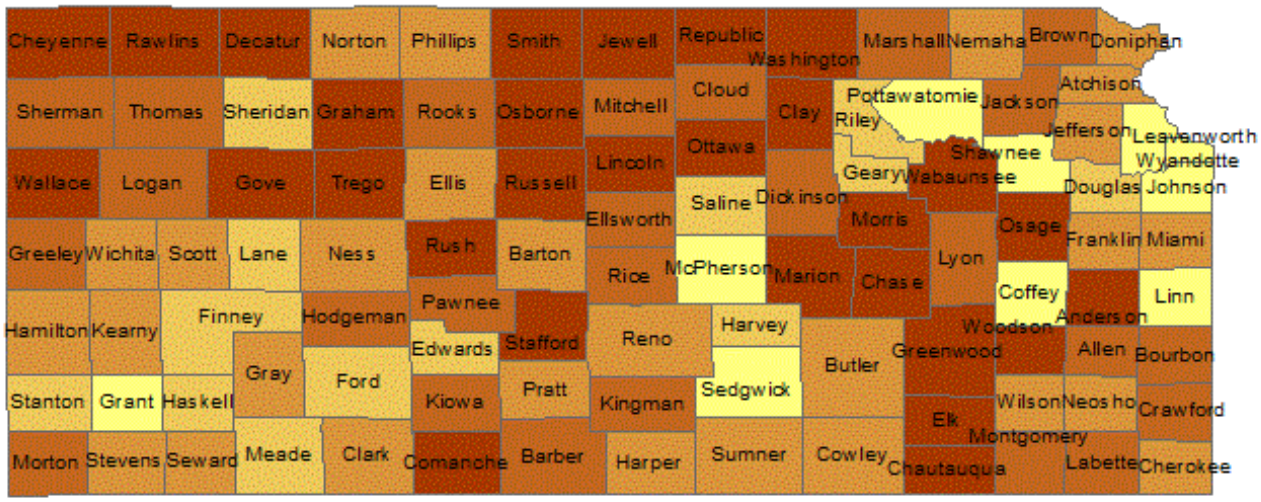
Note: See footnotes at end of table.

Table 3. Covered employment and wages by state, second quarter 2016 - Continued

State	Employment		Average weekly wage [1]			
	June 2016 (thousands)	Percent change, June 2015-16	Average weekly wage	National ranking by level	Percent change, second quarter 2015-16	National ranking by percent change
Virgin Islands	38.4	0.9	743	[3]	-0.4	[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 Kansas, second quarter 2016



Average weekly wages

(U.S. average = $989)

- $750 or higher
- $700 - $749
- $650 - $699
- $600 - $649
- $599 or lower

Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics.