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County Employment and Wages in Iowa – Second Quarter 2013

The four largest counties in Iowa reported employment growth from June 2012 to June 2013, 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 2012 annual average employment.) Polk County had the largest increase, up 2.7 percent, followed by Johnson County, up 2.0 percent. Regional Commissioner Charlene Peiffer noted that these two large counties experienced over-the-year employment increases greater than the national increase of 1.6 percent. (See table 1.)

Among the four largest counties in Iowa, employment was highest in Polk County (281,800) in June 2013. Collectively, Iowa's four large counties accounted for 38.2 percent of total employment within the state. Nationwide, the 334 largest counties made up 71.4 percent of total U.S. employment, which stood at 135.1 million in June 2013.

The average weekly wage in Linn County rose 3.5 percent from the second quarter of 2012 to the second quarter of 2013, the largest increase among Iowa's large counties. Polk County had the highest average weekly wage in the state at $897, followed by Linn ($876). (See table 1.) Nationally, the average weekly wage rose 2.1 percent over the year to $921 in the second quarter of 2013.

Employment and wage levels (but not over-the-year changes) are also available for the 95 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

Two of Iowa's large counties recorded wage growth above the national increase of 2.1 percent from the second quarter of 2012 to the second quarter of 2013. (See table 1.) As noted, Linn County experienced the state's largest average weekly wage increase of 3.5 percent, ranking 34th among the 334 largest U.S. counties. This was followed by Johnson County (2.5 percent), which placed 85th nationwide.

Among the 334 largest counties in the U.S., 304 had over-the-year increases in average weekly wages in the second quarter of 2013. Union, N.J., had the largest wage increase (8.1 percent). Eighteen large counties experienced over-the-year decreases in average weekly wages. Davidson, Tenn., had the largest wage decrease (-2.2 percent).

Large county average weekly wages

Average weekly wages in all four large Iowa counties were below the national average of $921 in the second quarter of 2013. As noted, Polk County ($897) had the highest average weekly wage in the state and ranked 130th among the 334 largest counties in the United States. Scott ($750) reported the lowest average weekly wage of Iowa's large counties and ranked 282nd nationwide.

Nationally, Santa Clara, Calif., held the top position among the 334 large counties with an average weekly wage of $1,810. New York, N.Y., was second at $1,675, followed by San Mateo, Calif. ($1,632) and Washington, D.C. ($1,575).

Average weekly wages in Iowa's smaller counties

All 95 counties in Iowa with employment below 75,000 had average weekly wages below the national average of $921. Among these smaller counties, Dallas County had the highest average weekly wage at $851 and Decatur County had the lowest at $523. (See table 2.)

When all 99 counties in Iowa were considered, none had wages above the national average. Nineteen reported average weekly wages of $599 or less, 32 reported wages from $600 to $649, 28 had wages from $650 to $699, and 20 had wages of $700 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 2012 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 2013 version of the national news release. Tables and additional content from *Employment and Wages Annual Averages 2012* are now available online at www.bls.gov/cew/cewbultn12htm. The 2013 edition of *Employment and Wages Annual Averages Online* will be available later in September 2014.

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.

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 9.2 million employer reports cover 135.1 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.

Table 1. Covered [1] employment and wages in the United States and the 4 largest counties in Iowa, second quarter 2013 [2]

Area	Employment			Average weekly wage [3]			
	June 2013 (thousands)	Percent change, June 2012-13 [4]	National ranking by percent change [5]	Average weekly wage	National ranking by level [5]	Percent change, second quarter 2012-13 [4]	National ranking by percent change [5]
United States [6]	135,094.0	1.6	--	$921	--	2.1	--
Iowa	1,523.9	1.3	--	757	43	2.0	21
Johnson, Iowa	79.7	2	114	848	167	2.5	85
Linn, Iowa	129.7	0.5	244	876	149	3.5	34
Polk, Iowa	281.8	2.7	62	897	130	1.5	197
Scott, Iowa	90.2	0.5	244	750	282	1.8	159

Footnotes:
(1) Includes workers covered by Unemployment Insurance (UI) and Unemployment Compensation for Federal Employees (UCFE) programs.
(2) Data are preliminary.
(3) Average weekly wages were calculated using unrounded data.
(4) Percent changes were computed from quarterly employment and pay data adjusted for noneconomic county reclassifications.
(5) Ranking does not include data for Puerto Rico or the Virgin Islands.
(6) Totals for the United States do not include data for Puerto Rico or the Virgin Islands.

Table 2. Covered [1] employment and wages in the United States and all counties in Iowa, second quarter 2013 [2]

Area	Employment June 2013	Average weekly wage [3]
United States [4]	135,093,963	$921
Iowa	1,523,914	757
Adair	2,960	579
Adams	1,245	605
Allamakee	5,382	552
Appanoose	4,461	581
Audubon	1,893	596
Benton	5,969	619
Black Hawk	76,110	758
Boone	9,824	674
Bremer	10,283	687
Buchanan	6,534	617
Buena Vista	10,953	642
Butler	3,881	623
Calhoun	3,038	580
Carroll	12,117	644
Cass	6,206	606
Cedar	5,645	638
Cerro Gordo	24,242	694
Cherokee	5,529	663
Chickasaw	4,981	653
Clarke	4,214	604
Clay	8,947	696
Clayton	6,870	624
Clinton	22,345	661
Crawford	7,763	655
Dallas	37,281	851
Davis	2,012	587
Decatur	2,306	523
Delaware	6,683	712
Des Moines	22,291	691
Dickinson	9,920	605
Dubuque	57,681	729
Emmet	4,381	639
Fayette	7,456	583
Floyd	5,743	665
Franklin	4,191	723
Fremont	2,848	649
Greene	3,232	699
Grundy	4,327	693
Guthrie	3,274	662
Hamilton	5,982	627
Hancock	7,039	709
Hardin	7,383	646
Harrison	4,376	595
Henry	9,231	684
Howard	4,238	628
Humboldt	4,116	655
Ida	3,530	670
Iowa	9,474	692
Jackson	6,262	529
Jasper	11,789	658
Jefferson	7,239	647
Johnson	79,738	848
Jones	6,765	674
Keokuk	2,468	632

Note: See footnotes at end of table.

Table 2. Covered [1] employment and wages in the United States and all counties in Iowa, second quarter 2013 [2] - Continued

Area	Employment June 2013	Average weekly wage [3]
Kossuth	6,976	687
Lee	15,998	712
Linn	129,741	876
Louisa	3,704	629
Lucas	3,289	683
Lyon	4,842	572
Madison	3,676	613
Mahaska	7,937	645
Marion	16,992	760
Marshall	18,631	727
Mills	4,031	726
Mitchell	3,808	677
Monona	2,873	563
Monroe	3,697	774
Montgomery	4,343	634
Muscatine	22,777	833
O'Brien	6,638	561
Osceola	2,322	622
Page	6,293	655
Palo Alto	3,817	584
Plymouth	11,377	745
Pocahontas	2,942	654
Polk	281,788	897
Pottawattamie	37,929	693
Poweshiek	10,048	697
Ringgold	1,446	596
Sac	3,381	604
Scott	90,226	750
Shelby	6,191	608
Sioux	20,172	643
Story	43,984	796
Tama	5,095	603
Taylor	1,997	582
Union	6,632	638
Van Buren	2,049	578
Wapello	16,120	681
Warren	10,378	646
Washington	8,515	569
Wayne	2,017	611
Webster	18,723	741
Winnebago	4,432	606
Winneshiek	10,664	633
Woodbury	52,499	669
Worth	2,378	580
Wright	5,898	718

Footnotes
(1) Includes workers covered by Unemployment Insurance (UI) and Unemployment Compensation for Federal Employees (UCFE) programs.
(2) Data are preliminary.
(3) Average weekly wages were calculated using unrounded data.
(4) Totals for the United States do not include data for Puerto Rico or the Virgin Islands.

Table 3. Covered [1] employment and wages by state, second quarter 2013 [2]

State	Employment		Average weekly wage [3]			
	June 2013 (thousands)	Percent change, June 2012-13	Average weekly wage	National ranking by level	Percent change, second quarter 2012-13	National ranking by percent change
United States [4]	135,094.0	1.6	$921	--	2.1	--
Alabama	1,859.5	0.9	794	35	1.4	44
Alaska	342.6	-0.1	970	9	1.6	37
Arizona	2,438.1	1.8	877	20	1.7	32
Arkansas	1,150.4	-0.6	734	46	2.4	10
California	15,485.8	2.4	1,048	6	2.0	21
Colorado	2,359.4	2.9	933	14	1.6	37
Connecticut	1,666.3	1.0	1,128	3	1.5	41
Delaware	417.8	1.8	966	12	2.0	21
District of Columbia	725.0	0.9	1,575	1	2.1	19
Florida	7,402.0	2.4	822	29	2.0	21
Georgia	3,917.2	1.7	867	22	2.2	17
Hawaii	617.0	1.9	823	28	1.6	37
Idaho	642.7	2.7	683	51	1.9	28
Illinois	5,750.0	0.8	971	8	1.9	28
Indiana	2,863.4	1.1	776	42	1.7	32
Iowa	1,523.9	1.3	757	43	2.0	21
Kansas	1,350.0	1.2	779	41	2.1	19
Kentucky	1,790.6	0.6	782	38	1.3	46
Louisiana	1,894.7	0.9	824	27	2.4	10
Maine	604.4	0.4	732	47	1.8	30
Maryland	2,570.3	0.9	1,005	7	1.4	44
Massachusetts	3,352.7	1.3	1,131	2	2.0	21
Michigan	4,073.7	2.2	875	21	2.0	21
Minnesota	2,745.2	1.9	929	15	2.4	10
Mississippi	1,094.9	0.7	691	49	1.5	41
Missouri	2,668.2	1.2	803	33	1.6	37
Montana	448.4	1.5	717	48	2.4	10
Nebraska	941.0	0.9	737	45	2.6	7
Nevada	1,168.3	2.3	829	26	1.7	32
New Hampshire	629.1	0.8	916	17	2.9	4
New Jersey	3,917.5	1.0	1,084	5	2.6	7
New Mexico	795.0	0.4	781	39	-0.3	51
New York	8,804.9	1.1	1,118	4	2.0	21
North Carolina	3,985.1	1.7	808	31	2.5	9
North Dakota	433.7	3.2	887	18	3.7	1
Ohio	5,162.3	1.1	830	25	1.7	32
Oklahoma	1,560.7	0.9	794	35	3.5	2
Oregon	1,708.0	2.5	848	23	1.3	46
Pennsylvania	5,665.9	0.3	918	16	2.8	5
Rhode Island	465.5	1.0	880	19	2.3	16
South Carolina	1,864.9	1.8	747	44	1.5	41
South Dakota	417.0	1.0	689	50	1.8	30
Tennessee	2,709.3	1.5	820	30	0.5	49
Texas	11,078.8	2.7	944	13	2.4	10
Utah	1,259.7	2.8	783	37	2.2	17
Vermont	303.1	0.3	808	31	2.7	6
Virginia	3,685.4	0.7	968	11	1.7	32
Washington	3,013.3	2.2	969	10	2.4	10
West Virginia	713.1	-0.1	781	39	0.6	48
Wisconsin	2,768.2	0.6	801	34	3.0	3
Wyoming	290.4	0.4	845	24	0.5	49
Puerto Rico	926.1	-1.1	503	[5]	1.0	[5]

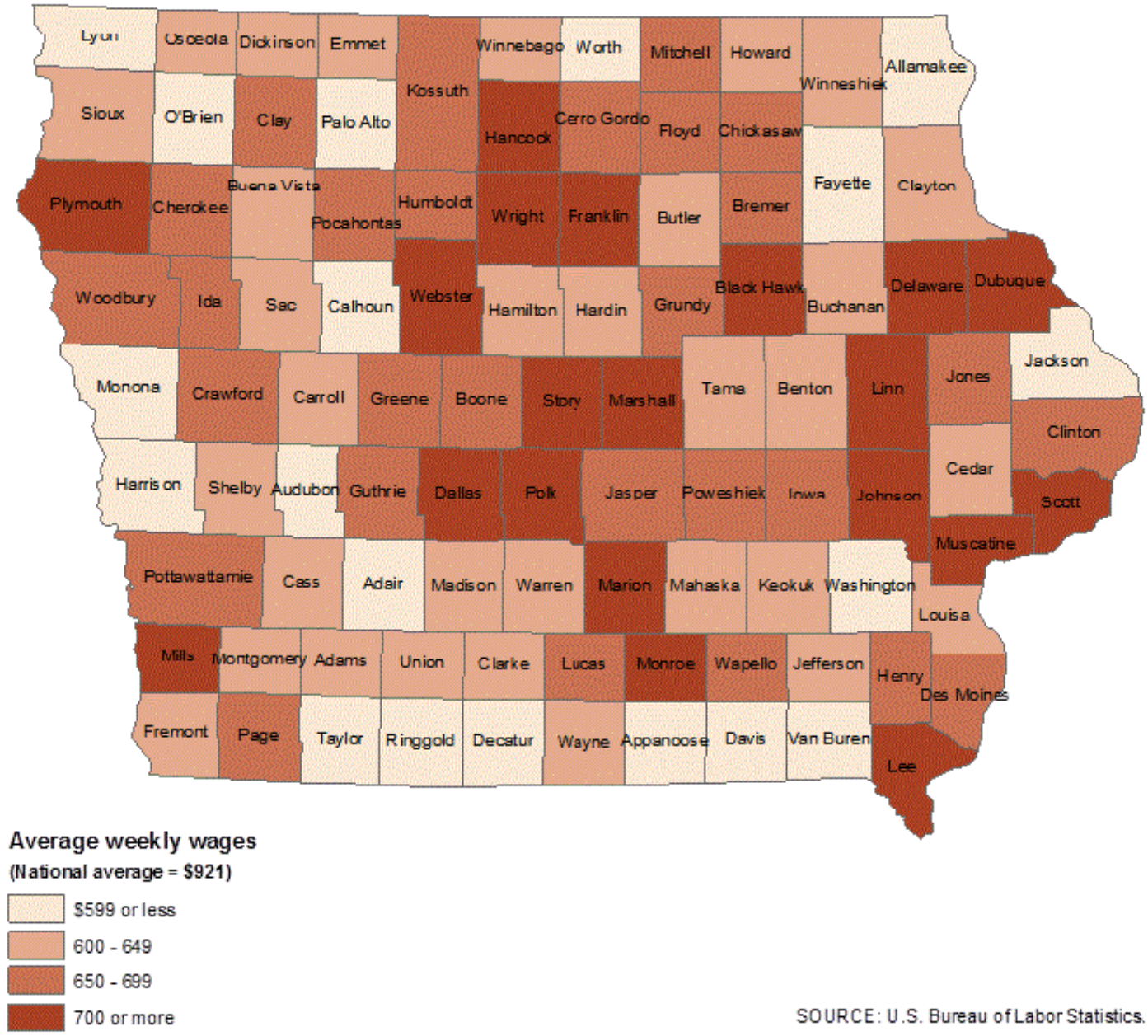
Note: See footnotes at end of table.

Table 3. Covered [1] employment and wages by state, second quarter 2013 [2] - Continued

State	Employment		Average weekly wage [3]			
	June 2013 (thousands)	Percent change, June 2012-13	Average weekly wage	National ranking by level	Percent change, second quarter 2012-13	National ranking by percent change
Virgin Islands	38.9	-3.0	706	[5]	-13.8	[5]

Footnotes:
(1) Includes workers covered by Unemployment Insurance (UI) and Unemployment Compensation for Federal Employees (UCFE) programs.
(2) Data are preliminary.
(3) Average weekly wages were calculated using unrounded data.
(4) Totals for the United States do not include data for Puerto Rico or the Virgin Islands.
(5) Data not included in the national ranking.

Chart 1. Average weekly wages by county in Iowa, second quarter 2013



Average weekly wages

(National average = $921)

- $599 or less
- 600 - 649
- 650 - 699
- 700 or more

SOURCE: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics.