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County Employment and Wages in Iowa — Second Quarter 2017

All four of the large counties in Iowa reported employment growth from June 2016 to June 2017, 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 2016 annual average employment.) Assistant Commissioner for Regional Operations Charlene Peiffer noted that Polk County had the largest increase, up 1.9 percent, followed by the counties of Johnson (1.7 percent) and Scott (1.6 percent). Linn County had an over-the-year employment increase of 0.5 percent. Nationally, employment increased 1.7 percent. (See table 1.)

Among the four largest counties in Iowa, employment was highest in Polk County (303,500) in June 2017. Collectively, Iowa's four large counties accounted for 39.0 percent of total employment within the state. Nationwide, the 346 largest counties made up 72.7 percent of total U.S. employment, which stood at 145.2 million in June 2017.

The average weekly wage in Polk County rose 4.3 percent from the second quarter of 2016 to the second quarter of 2017, the largest increase among Iowa's large counties. Polk County also had the highest average weekly wage in the state at $1,018. (See table 1.) Nationally, the average weekly wage rose 3.2 percent over the year to $1,020 in the second quarter of 2017.

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

Only one of Iowa's large counties, Polk, recorded wage growth above the national increase of 3.2 percent from the second quarter of 2016 to the second quarter of 2017. (See table 1.) Polk County's 4.3-percent increase in average weekly wages ranked 71st among the 346 largest U.S. counties. Johnson County (3.1 percent) also placed in the top half of the national ranking at 156th.

Among the 346 largest U.S. counties, 325 had over-the-year increases in average weekly wages in the second quarter of 2017. New Hanover, N.C., ranked first in average weekly wage growth with a gain of 11.9 percent. Nineteen of the 346 largest counties experienced over-the-year decreases in average weekly wages. McLean, Ill., had the largest percentage decline in average weekly wages with a loss of 20.4 percent.

Large county average weekly wages

Average weekly wages in all four large Iowa counties were below the national average of $1,020 in the second quarter of 2017. As noted, Polk County ($1,018) had the highest average weekly wage in the state and ranked 98th among the 346 largest counties in the nation. Scott County ($812) reported the lowest average weekly wage among Iowa's large counties and ranked 300th nationwide.

Nationwide, weekly wages were higher than the U.S. average of $1,020 in 97 of the largest U.S. counties. Santa Clara, Calif., held the top position with an average weekly wage of $2,392. San Mateo, Calif., was second at $2,093, followed by San Francisco, Calif. ($1,941), and New York, N.Y. ($1,907). There were 249 large U.S. counties with an average weekly wage below the national average. Cameron, Texas ($615) reported the lowest weekly wage, followed by Horry, S.C. ($622) and the Texas counties of Hidalgo ($632) and Webb ($667).

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 $1,020. Among these smaller counties, Dallas County had the highest average weekly wage at $961, and Decatur County had the lowest at $617. (See table 2.)

When all 99 counties in Iowa were considered, 28 reported average weekly wages of $699 or lower, 29 reported wages from $700 to $749, 25 had wages from $750 to $799, and 17 had wages of $800 or higher. (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 2016 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 2017 version of the national news release. Tables and additional content from *Employment and Wages Annual Averages Online* are now available at www.bls.gov/cew/cewbultn16.htm.

The County Employment and Wages release for third quarter 2017 is scheduled to be released on Thursday, March 8, 2018.

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 9.9 million employer reports cover 145.2 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: (800) 877-8339.

Table 1. Covered employment and wages in the United States and the 4 largest counties in Iowa, second quarter 2017

Area	Employment			Average weekly wage [1]			
	June 2017 (thousands)	Percent change, June 2016-17 [2]	National ranking by percent change [3]	Average weekly wage	National ranking by level [3]	Percent change, second quarter 2016-17 [2]	National ranking by percent change [3]
United States [4]	145,186.4	1.7	--	$1,020	--	3.2	--
Iowa	1,571.4	0.4	--	853	39	3.3	19
Johnson, Iowa	84.1	1.7	157	944	164	3.1	156
Linn, Iowa	132.3	0.5	287	971	141	2.6	196
Polk, Iowa	303.5	1.9	134	1,018	98	4.3	71
Scott, Iowa	93.0	1.6	170	812	300	2.4	215

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 2017

Area	Employment June 2017	Average weekly wage(1)
United States(2)	145,186,369	$1,020
Iowa	1,571,414	853
Adair	2,852	695
Adams	1,250	703
Allamakee	5,401	655
Appanoose	4,789	702
Audubon	1,835	681
Benton	6,094	710
Black Hawk	74,281	849
Boone	9,585	739
Bremer	10,211	744
Buchanan	6,756	706
Buena Vista	11,181	753
Butler	3,536	665
Calhoun	2,982	696
Carroll	11,892	697
Cass	6,406	703
Cedar	5,661	697
Cerro Gordo	25,358	773
Cherokee	4,867	739
Chickasaw	5,051	775
Clarke	4,502	735
Clay	8,904	755
Clayton	7,071	736
Clinton	21,124	737
Crawford	7,059	753
Dallas	44,294	961
Davis	2,200	713
Decatur	2,322	617
Delaware	6,931	783
Des Moines	22,694	766
Dickinson	11,398	645
Dubuque	59,061	809
Emmet	3,977	730
Fayette	7,237	680
Floyd	6,247	761
Franklin	4,063	781
Fremont	2,480	646
Greene	3,410	756
Grundy	4,229	787
Guthrie	3,188	741
Hamilton	6,067	743
Hancock	6,876	812
Hardin	7,364	719
Harrison	4,344	692
Henry	9,594	770
Howard	4,158	676
Humboldt	4,203	769
Ida	3,788	819
Iowa	10,312	765
Jackson	6,422	620
Jasper	11,754	731
Jefferson	7,746	756
Johnson	84,130	944
Jones	6,596	707
Keokuk	2,277	678
Kossuth	7,322	789

Note: See footnotes at end of table.

Table 2. Covered employment and wages in the United States and all counties in Iowa, second quarter 2017 - Continued

Area	Employment June 2017	Average weekly wage(1)
Lee	15,387	830
Linn	132,331	971
Louisa	3,911	710
Lucas	3,446	739
Lyon	4,785	676
Madison	4,134	698
Mahaska	8,052	758
Marion	17,652	848
Marshall	17,349	788
Mills	3,699	794
Mitchell	4,041	756
Monona	2,762	648
Monroe	3,539	879
Montgomery	4,181	735
Muscatine	23,904	913
O'Brien	6,655	678
Osceola	2,504	740
Page	6,170	754
Palo Alto	4,039	686
Plymouth	11,905	855
Pocahontas	2,846	753
Polk	303,502	1,018
Pottawattamie	39,032	752
Poweshiek	10,187	784
Ringgold	1,472	656
Sac	3,169	678
Scott	92,978	812
Shelby	5,985	747
Sioux	21,053	748
Story	46,515	911
Tama	5,843	684
Taylor	2,047	673
Union	6,275	723
Van Buren	2,102	621
Wapello	16,297	737
Warren	11,739	718
Washington	8,481	649
Wayne	1,866	730
Webster	18,691	805
Winnebago	4,534	657
Winneshiek	10,759	747
Woodbury	52,010	757
Worth	2,464	673
Wright	5,789	810

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 2017

State	Employment		Average weekly wage [1]			
	June 2017 (thousands)	Percent change, June 2016-17	Average weekly wage	National ranking by level	Percent change, second quarter 2016-17	National ranking by percent change
United States [2]	145,186.4	1.7	$1,020	--	3.2	--
Alabama	1,946.4	1.2	858	38	2.8	31
Alaska	338.4	-0.7	1,005	16	-0.5	51
Arizona	2,699.6	2.9	943	23	2.5	35
Arkansas	1,206.0	0.7	810	47	3.2	22
California	17,150.9	2.2	1,210	5	4.7	3
Colorado	2,638.8	2.5	1,042	11	4.2	5
Connecticut	1,701.2	0.6	1,216	4	0.4	50
Delaware	446.6	0.6	1,012	15	2.2	43
District of Columbia	766.5	1.0	1,675	1	3.3	19
Florida	8,390.6	2.8	905	27	2.5	35
Georgia	4,357.8	2.1	956	21	2.9	27
Hawaii	653.0	1.0	935	24	3.5	13
Idaho	723.5	3.4	765	50	3.4	16
Illinois	6,006.6	0.9	1,062	9	2.4	39
Indiana	3,041.0	1.5	859	37	3.7	9
Iowa	1,571.4	0.4	853	39	3.3	19
Kansas	1,377.8	-0.1	849	40	2.4	39
Kentucky	1,889.4	0.8	862	35	2.9	27
Louisiana	1,907.7	0.0	869	34	2.0	46
Maine	629.1	0.9	814	46	2.5	35
Maryland	2,694.8	1.4	1,103	8	3.1	23
Massachusetts	3,604.5	1.6	1,278	2	3.6	11
Michigan	4,365.3	1.6	969	19	2.9	27
Minnesota	2,902.1	2.0	1,037	12	3.9	6
Mississippi	1,128.9	0.7	732	51	0.8	49
Missouri	2,818.7	1.2	889	30	3.0	25
Montana	473.6	1.3	797	48	3.9	6
Nebraska	984.0	0.4	833	43	3.5	13
Nevada	1,333.5	3.4	900	29	2.9	27
New Hampshire	665.4	1.6	1,015	14	1.2	48
New Jersey	4,123.5	1.8	1,173	6	2.3	41
New Mexico	815.4	0.7	823	45	1.5	47
New York	9,417.4	1.6	1,237	3	2.2	43
North Carolina	4,361.4	1.8	902	28	4.3	4
North Dakota	422.7	-0.2	953	22	5.0	2
Ohio	5,422.8	1.2	912	25	3.3	19
Oklahoma	1,583.8	0.8	845	41	2.5	35
Oregon	1,912.6	2.2	967	20	3.8	8
Pennsylvania	5,859.4	1.3	1,000	17	3.0	25
Rhode Island	487.3	1.0	980	18	2.6	33
South Carolina	2,053.9	2.0	834	42	3.6	11
South Dakota	435.5	0.6	785	49	3.4	16
Tennessee	2,948.1	1.8	906	26	3.5	13
Texas	12,059.6	2.1	1,027	13	2.7	32
Utah	1,440.3	3.4	862	35	2.6	33
Vermont	314.2	1.0	870	33	2.1	45
Virginia	3,886.6	1.5	1,047	10	3.7	9
Washington	3,352.5	2.2	1,141	7	5.6	1
West Virginia	690.9	-0.3	828	44	3.4	16
Wisconsin	2,905.3	1.1	876	31	2.3	41
Wyoming	280.2	-0.7	875	32	3.1	23
Puerto Rico	873.6	-1.0	515	[3]	1.2	[3]

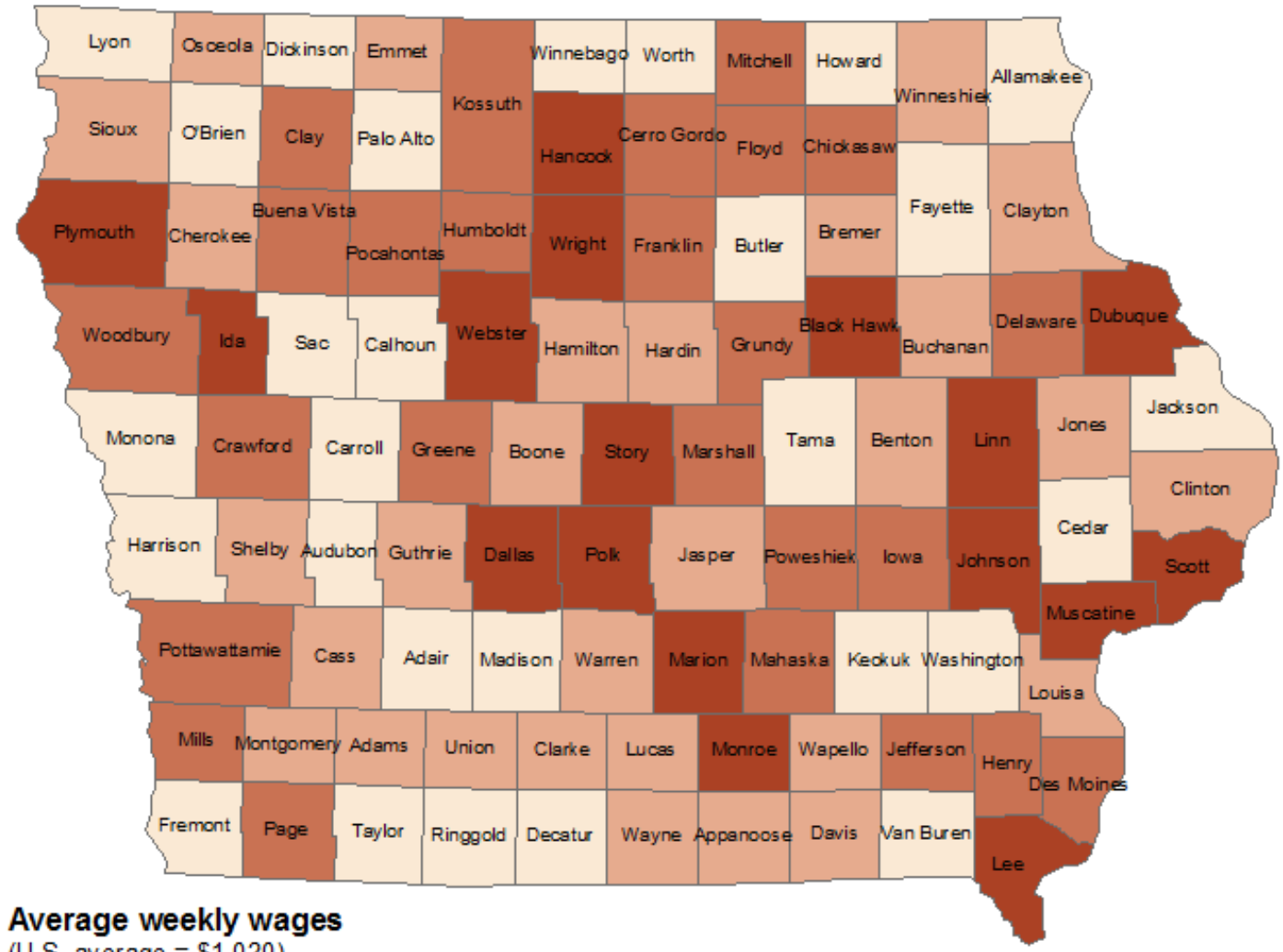
Note: See footnotes at end of table.

Table 3. Covered employment and wages by state, second quarter 2017 - Continued

State	Employment		Average weekly wage [1]			
	June 2017 (thousands)	Percent change, June 2016-17	Average weekly wage	National ranking by level	Percent change, second quarter 2016-17	National ranking by percent change
Virgin Islands	38.6	0.4	762	[3]	2.6	[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 2017



Average weekly wages
(U.S. average = $1,020)

- $800 or higher
- $750 - $799
- $700 - $749
- $699 or lower

SOURCE: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics.