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COUNTY EMPLOYMENT AND WAGES IN NEW YORK: SECOND QUARTER 2007 Employment growth in Queens and Saratoga Counties leads State

Queens and Saratoga Counties recorded over-the-year employment growth of 2.3 percent each in June 2007, the fastest increase among New York's largest counties, those with 75,000 or more jobs (as measured by 2006 average annual employment), according to the U.S. Department of Labor's Bureau of Labor Statistics. Regional Commissioner Michael L. Dolfman noted that the growth rate for both Queens and Saratoga was well above the national average of 1.2 percent. (See chart A.) Six other large New York counties also exceeded the nationwide increase.

In the second quarter of 2007, average weekly wages in Queens County increased 12.7 percent over the year, the fastest growth among New York's 18 large counties. Queens County's wage growth ranked 2nd highest among the 328 large counties in the nation and was well above the national increase of 4.6 percent. (See chart B.) Rockland County ranked second in the State with 6.5-percent growth, followed by New York and Oneida Counties with wage gains of 6.4 and 6.3 percent, respectively. All 3 of these counties ranked among the top 40 in the nation in wage growth in the second quarter of 2007.

Chart A. Top ranking large counties
in employment growth, June 2007

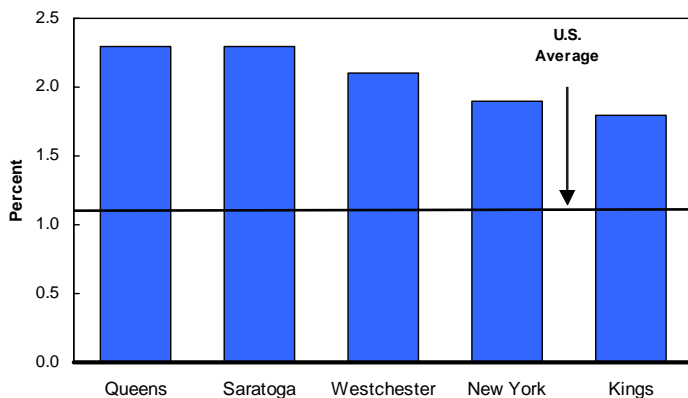
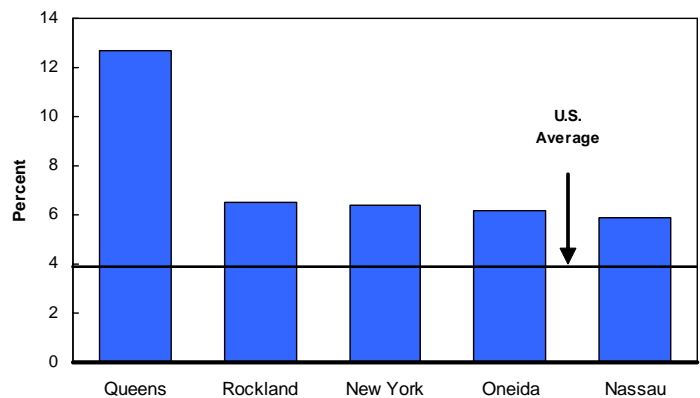


Chart B. Top ranking large counties by percent growth
in average weekly wage, second quarter 2007



Round-the-clock recorded messages for the Consumer Price Index and a variety of other *Bureau of Labor Statistics* data are available by dialing the *New York Information Office's* main telephone number: (646) 264-3600. For recorded messages, press '2'.

Among the 18 large counties, New York (more commonly known as Manhattan) recorded the highest average weekly wage at \$1,540 in the second quarter of 2007, followed by Westchester at \$1,119. New York County's average weekly wage also ranked first among the 328 large counties nationwide. Eight of the 18 large counties (44 percent) in the State reported average weekly wages above the national average of \$820 per week. Nationally, 110 of the 328 large counties (33.5 percent) reported wages above that for the nation.

Wage and employment levels (but not over-the-year changes) are also available for the 44 other counties in New York State with less than 75,000 in employment. The vast majority of these counties, 40, had an average wage below the national average. (See table 2.)

Employment in large counties

Employment in New York's largest counties ranged from a high of 2,363,800 in Manhattan to a low of 78,800 in Saratoga in June 2007. (With its job gains in 2006, Saratoga became the newest entry into the ranks of the large counties, surpassing the threshold of 75,000 in average annual employment.) All together, large counties in New York accounted for 84 percent of the State's employment, while nationally, large counties accounted for 71 percent of employment.

Eight of New York's large counties had employment growth exceeding the national average, led by 2.3-percent increases in both Queens and Saratoga. Among the nation's 328 largest counties, the two highest in New York ranked 62nd in employment growth. Westchester County had the third highest growth in the State, up 2.1 percent. Other counties with above-average gains were New York, Kings, Richmond, Rockland, and Broome Counties; employment growth in this group ranged from 1.9 to 1.6 percent. In contrast, three counties—Monroe and Erie in western New York and Dutchess in the Hudson Valley—lost jobs over the year, down either 0.1 or 0.2 percent.

Nationally, employment rose in 235 of the 328 large counties from June 2006 to June 2007. Orleans County, La., which includes the city of New Orleans, had the largest over-the-year percentage increase in employment with a 10.8-percent growth rate. Harrison County, Miss., followed closely behind Orleans with an over-the-year gain of 10.3 percent. Employment gains in Orleans and Harrison reflected continued recovery from substantial losses that occurred in September 2005 due to Hurricane Katrina. Employment fell in 77 counties. Trumbull County, Ohio, had the largest decline, 6.3 percent.

Over-the-year changes in wages in large counties

Eight of the 18 (44 percent) large counties in New York had wage increases exceeding that for the nation in the second quarter of 2007, with Queens County's 12.7-percent increase the highest in the State and second highest nationwide among the 328 largest counties. Rockland, New York, and Oneida Counties followed with growth rates of 6.5, 6.4, and 6.2 percent, respectively, and placed 30th, 33rd, and 39th. The remaining four with above-average growth—Nassau, Saratoga, Westchester, and Bronx—all ranked among the top 60 in the nation in growth. Broome County's wage gain of 4.6 percent matched the national average. Eight of the large counties posted below-average growth rates ranging from 4.5 to 3.4 percent. Monroe County had the smallest gain at 1.9 percent.

Among the largest counties in the United States, Clayton County, Ga., led the nation in growth in average weekly wages, with an increase of 87.3 percent from the second quarter of 2006. Queens, N.Y., was second with growth of 12.7 percent, followed by the counties of Rockingham, N.H. (10.1 percent), Ventura, Calif. (9.2 percent), and Lake, Ill. (9.1 percent). Six large counties experienced over-the-year declines in average weekly wages led by Saginaw, Mich., down 5.2 percent.

Wage levels in large counties

Eight of New York's large counties had average weekly wages above the national average in the second quarter of 2007, but only New York and Westchester exceeded \$1,000. Nassau County averaged \$953 and ranked 45th nationally. Three counties—Rockland, Suffolk, and Queens—had average wages ranging from \$900 to \$886. Two other counties—Albany and Dutchess—had average weekly wages below \$860 but still above the \$820 U.S. average. Ten of the large counties had average weekly wages below that for the nation. Of these, weekly wages in Oneida and Broome Counties ranked lowest at \$668 and \$664, respectively.

Nationally, Santa Clara, Calif. (\$1,504), Clayton, Ga. (\$1,358), and Washington, D.C. (\$1,357) followed New York in average weekly earnings. The lowest average weekly wage was reported in Cameron County, Texas (\$515), followed by the counties of Hidalgo, Texas (\$518), Horry, S.C., and Webb, Texas (\$545 each), and Yakima, Wash. (\$555).

Employment and wage levels in small counties

Employment and wage levels (but not over-the-year changes) are also available for New York's 44 small counties, those with less than 75,000 as measured by 2006 average annual employment. These counties accounted for 16 percent of statewide employment. Among the small counties, Niagara reported the highest job total in June 2007 with 75,500 employees, followed by Schenectady with 65,000 and Ulster with 63,500. Hamilton County had the distinction of having the fewest jobs—2,300.

Steuben had the highest average weekly wage in the State among the small counties at \$919, which was almost \$100 above the nationwide average. Schenectady, Tioga, and Putnam each exceeded the U.S. average with wage rates of \$846, \$844, and \$842, respectively. Rensselaer and Tompkins had average weekly wages below that for the nation at \$807 and \$725. The remaining 38 smaller counties had average weekly wages below \$700. Yates County, in western New York, and Hamilton County, in the Adirondacks, had the lowest average weekly wages at \$523 and \$506, respectively. (See chart 1.) When all 62 counties in New York are considered, 12 had average weekly wages above the \$820 national average. With the exception of Schenectady, Steuben and Tioga, these counties were clustered in New York City, on Long Island, or in the Hudson River valley.

Additional statistics and other information

An annual bulletin, *Employment and Wages*, features comprehensive information by detailed industry on establishments, employment, and wages for the nation and all states. *Employment and Wages Annual Averages, 2006* is now available for sale from the United States Government Printing Office, Superintendent of Documents, P.O. Box 371954, Pittsburgh, PA 15250, telephone 866-512-1800, outside of Washington, D.C.

Within Washington, D.C., the telephone number is 202-512-1800. The fax number is 202-512-2104. The bulletin is available in a portable document format (PDF) on the BLS Web site at <http://www.bls.gov/cew/cewbultn06.htm>. Also, the quarterly press release, County Employment and Wages, presents employment and wage data for the largest counties in the United States and is available at <http://www.bls.gov/cew/>.

Information in this release will be made available to sensory impaired individuals upon request. Voice phone: 202-691-5200; TDD message referral phone number: 1-800-877-8339. For personal assistance or further information on the Quarterly Covered Employment and Wages Program, as well as other Bureau programs, contact the New York-New Jersey Information Office at (646) 264-3600 from 9:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. and 1:30 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. ET.

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TECHNICAL NOTE

QCEW data are the sums of individual establishment records reflecting the number of establishments that exist in a county or industry at a point in time. For this reason, county and industry data are not designed to be used as a time series.

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. The potential differences result from several causes. Differences between BLS and state published data may be due to the 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.

Average weekly 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 reports submitted by employers subject to state and federal unemployment insurance (UI) laws. The 8.9 million employer reports cover 137.0 million full- and part-time workers. The average weekly wage is first compiled by dividing the total quarterly payroll of employees covered by UI programs by the average monthly number of these employees. This number, then, is divided by 13, the number of weeks in the quarter. It is to be noted 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 <http://www.bls.gov/cew/>; however, data in QCEW press releases may not match the data contained on the Bureau's Web site because of adjustments made to improve over-the-year comparisons.

Table 1. Covered¹ employment and wages in the United States, New York State, and large counties, second quarter 2007²

	Employment		Average weekly wage ³			
	June 2007 (thousands)	Percent change, June 2006-07 ⁴	Level 2007	National rank by level ⁵	Percent change 2006-07 ⁴	National rank by percent change ⁵
United States ⁶	137,018.2	1.2	\$820	-	4.6	-
New York State	8,688.8	1.3	1,020	3	5.9	7
Albany	229.0	0.1	855	90	4.1	148
Bronx	224.4	0.6	805	126	5.6	59
Broome	97.5	1.6	664	280	4.6	110
Dutchess	119.4	-0.2	842	97	4.5	122
Erie	458.9	-0.2	724	212	4.3	136
Kings	472.4	1.8	714	227	3.8	170
Monroe	385.8	-0.1	804	128	1.9	290
Nassau	616.6	0.8	953	45	5.9	50
New York	2,363.8	1.9	1,540	1	6.4	33
Oneida	112.8	0.3	668	279	6.2	39
Onondaga	256.0	1.0	762	161	3.4	213
Orange	132.9	0.6	729	206	3.6	194
Queens	501.2	2.3	886	70	12.7	2
Richmond	93.8	1.7	734	201	3.7	183
Rockland	117.8	1.7	900	62	6.5	30
Saratoga	78.8	2.3	703	242	5.7	54
Suffolk	640.0	0.8	891	67	4.1	148
Westchester	430.4	2.1	1,119	15	5.7	54

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 any noneconomic county reclassifications.

⁵ Ranking does not include the county of San Juan, Puerto Rico.

⁶ Totals for the United States do not include data for Puerto Rico or the Virgin Islands.

Table 2. Covered¹ employment and wages in the United States, New York State, and counties in New York, second quarter, 2007²

Area	Employment		Area	Employment	
	June 2007 (thousands)	Average weekly wage ³		June 2007 (thousands)	Average weekly wage ³
United States ⁴	137,018.2	\$820	New York	2,363.8	\$1,540
New York	8,688.8	1,020	Niagara	75.5	673
Albany	229.0	855	Oneida	112.8	668
Allegany	13.9	601	Onondaga	256.0	762
Bronx	224.4	805	Ontario	51.6	681
Broome	97.5	664	Orange	132.9	729
Cattaraugus	31.9	624	Orleans	13.3	624
Cayuga	27.4	622	Oswego	34.4	685
Chautauqua	57.2	588	Otsego	25.3	625
Chemung	39.7	673	Putnam	26.9	842
Chenango	16.8	644	Queens	501.2	886
Clinton	35.2	683	Rennselaer	52.3	807
Columbia	21.8	653	Richmond	93.8	734
Cortland	17.2	609	Rockland	117.8	900
Delaware	17.6	631	Saratoga	78.8	703
Dutchess	119.4	842	Schenectady	65.3	846
Erie	458.9	724	Schoharie	9.6	593
Essex	15.7	636	Schuyler	5.1	581
Franklin	19.4	669	Seneca	11.7	660
Fulton	18.7	623	St. Lawrence	37.2	658
Genesee	25.2	593	Steuben	38.3	919
Greene	15.0	657	Suffolk	640.0	891
Hamilton	2.3	506	Sullivan	26.9	643
Herkimer	17.4	571	Tioga	15.2	844
Jefferson	43.8	630	Tompkins	50.8	725
Kings	472.4	714	Ulster	63.5	695
Lewis	7.0	591	Warren	41.0	645
Livingston	20.7	636	Washington	16.1	682
Madison	22.5	596	Wayne	31.1	659
Monroe	385.8	804	Westchester	430.4	1,119
Montgomery	19.6	628	Wyoming	15.1	633
Nassau	616.6	953	Yates	7.0	523

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. Covered¹ employment and wages by state and territory, second quarter 2007²

Area	Employment		Average weekly wage ³		
	June 2007 (thousands)	Average weekly wage	National rank by level ⁴	Percent change, 2006-07	National rank by percent change ⁴
United States ⁵	137,018.2	\$820	-	4.6	-
Alabama	1,965.4	697	38	3.6	38
Alaska	325.8	832	13	5.6	9
Arizona	2,612.4	786	20	4.4	23
Arkansas	1,186.5	639	46	4.2	28
California	15,832.5	935	6	5.4	11
Colorado	2,326.9	832	13	4.8	15
Connecticut	1,714.2	1,033	2	6.4	4
Delaware	430.2	870	9	2.2	51
District of Columbia	683.2	1,357	1	4.3	26
Florida	7,894.2	743	23	3.2	45
Georgia	4,091.5	792	19	6.5	3
Hawaii	631.2	736	27	4.2	28
Idaho	679.1	626	47	2.3	50
Illinois	5,956.3	874	8	4.4	23
Indiana	2,933.4	702	33	2.6	48
Iowa	1,518.6	664	42	3.9	35
Kansas	1,370.7	702	33	4.8	15
Kentucky	1,828.2	700	35	4.2	28
Louisiana	1,880.2	711	31	4.1	31
Maine	619.6	658	44	4.1	31
Maryland	2,584.9	899	7	5.3	12
Massachusetts	3,300.7	1,008	4	4.8	15
Michigan	4,252.9	807	17	2.9	46
Minnesota	2,730.9	834	12	5.6	9
Mississippi	1,137.4	609	50	3.6	38
Missouri	2,764.6	727	29	3.4	43
Montana	449.8	611	49	6.3	5
Nebraska	930.9	654	45	3.5	42
Nevada	1,297.9	776	21	3.7	36
New Hampshire	643.7	823	16	6.3	5
New Jersey	4,066.7	989	5	4.3	26
New Mexico	833.3	686	39	5.2	13
New York	8,688.8	1,020	3	5.9	7
North Carolina	4,090.5	718	30	4.1	31
North Dakota	347.7	619	48	4.7	19
Ohio	5,384.6	740	25	3.4	43
Oklahoma	1,538.5	665	40	4.1	31
Oregon	1,761.6	742	24	4.5	22
Pennsylvania	5,740.3	802	18	4.6	20
Rhode Island	492.9	774	22	2.5	49
South Carolina	1,917.4	665	40	2.9	46
South Dakota	404.3	590	51	4.8	15
Tennessee	2,768.7	729	28	3.6	38
Texas	10,296.1	827	15	5.9	7
Utah	1,233.7	698	36	6.6	2

See footnotes at end of table.

Table 3. Covered¹ employment and wages by state and territory, second quarter 2007² -- continued

Area	Employment	Average weekly wage ³			
	June 2007 (thousands)	Average weekly wage	National rank by level ⁴	Percent change, 2006-07	National rank by percent change ⁴
Vermont	306.6	698	36	5.0	14
Virginia	3,731.5	859	10	4.4	23
Washington	2,989.8	835	11	4.6	20
West Virginia	717.1	659	43	3.6	38
Wisconsin	2,845.8	709	32	3.7	36
Wyoming	288.3	739	26	8.0	1
Puerto Rico	1,020.7	460	⁶	6.0	⁶
Virgin Islands	46.9	707	⁶	4.1	⁶

¹ Includes workers covered by Unemployment Insurance (UI) and Unemployment Compensation for Federal Employees (UCFE) programs.

² Data are preliminary.

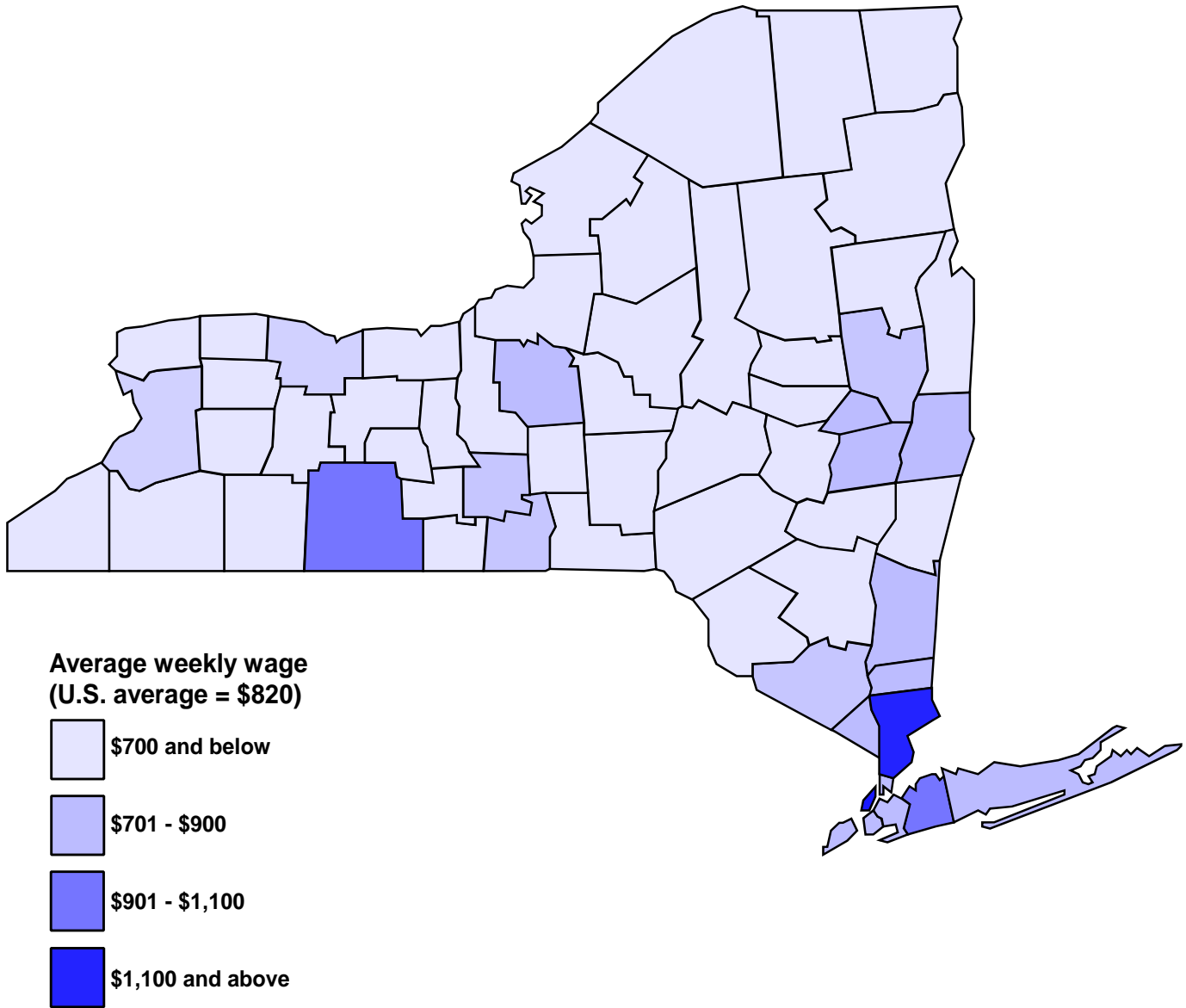
³ Average weekly wages were calculated using unrounded data.

⁴ Ranking does not include Puerto Rico or the Virgin Islands.

⁵ Totals for the United States do not include data for Puerto Rico or the Virgin Islands.

⁶ Data not included in the national ranking.

Chart 1. Average weekly wages, counties in New York State, second quarter 2007



Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics, March 2008