

# News

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**Bureau of Labor Statistics**

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## **Average Weekly Wages in the District of Columbia: Second Quarter 2007**

### **District of Columbia ranks 4<sup>th</sup> highest in wages in the nation**

The average weekly wage in the District of Columbia was \$1,357 in the second quarter of 2007, 4.3 percent higher than one year earlier, according to the Bureau of Labor Statistics of the U.S. Department of Labor. Nationally, weekly wages averaged \$820 and were up 4.6 percent over the year. Regional Commissioner Sheila Watkins noted that the District of Columbia ranked 4<sup>th</sup> highest in wage level and 136<sup>th</sup> in rate of wage growth among the 328 largest counties (those with 75,000 or more jobs as measured by 2006 annual average employment) in the United States.

### **Large County Average Weekly Wages**

Average weekly wages were higher than the national average in 110 of the largest 328 U.S. counties. New York County, N.Y., held the top position among the highest-paid large counties with an average weekly wage of \$1,540. Santa Clara, Calif., was second with an average weekly wage of \$1,504, followed by Clayton, Ga. (\$1,358), Washington, D.C. (\$1,357), and Arlington, Va. (\$1,352).

Three of the 10 counties with the highest wages in the United States were located in or around the New York metropolitan area (New York, N.Y.; Fairfield, Conn.; and Somerset, N.J.), while 3 others were located in or around the San Francisco metropolitan area (Santa Clara, Calif.; San Francisco, Calif.; and San Mateo, Calif.), and two more were located in the Washington, D.C., metropolitan area (Washington, D.C. and Arlington, Va.). Rounding out the top 10 were Clayton, Ga., and Suffolk, Mass., which were located in the Atlanta and Boston metropolitan areas, respectively. (See table 1.)

There were 218 counties with an average weekly wage below the national average in the second quarter of 2007. 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).

Over the year, the national average weekly wage rose by 4.6 percent. Among the largest counties, 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. The county of Saginaw, Mich., had the greatest decline (-5.2 percent), followed by Orleans County, La. (-2.9 percent).

## **State Average Weekly Wages**

Nationally, 16 states had average weekly wage levels surpassing the U.S. average; 9 of these, including the District of Columbia, fell in a contiguous band along the east coast stretching from New Hampshire to Virginia. The five highest wage levels in the nation were in the District of Columbia (\$1,357), Connecticut (\$1,033), New York (\$1,020), Massachusetts (\$1,008), and New Jersey (\$989). Average weekly wages in this group were 21 percent or more above that for the nation. During this same period, three states had wage levels averaging less than 75 percent of national earnings: South Dakota (\$590), Mississippi (\$609), and Montana (\$611). (See table 2 and chart 1.)

Wyoming recorded the fastest wage growth (8.0 percent) among the states in the second quarter of 2007. Five other states experienced wage growth above 6.0 percent from the second quarter of 2006—Utah (6.6 percent), Georgia (6.5 percent), Connecticut (6.4 percent), and Montana and New Hampshire (6.3 percent each). At the other end of the scale, Delaware posted the smallest increase in wages, up 2.2 percent. No state experienced an over-the-year decline.

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 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 values are calculated by dividing quarterly total wages by the average of the three monthly employment levels of those covered by UI programs; this 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 <http://www.bls.gov/cew/>; however, data in QCEW press releases have been revised (see Technical Note below) and may not match the data contained on the Bureau's Web site.

## **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 will be available for sale in early 2008 from the United States Government Printing Office, Superintendent of Documents, P.O. Box 371954, Pittsburgh, PA, 15250, or by calling 1-866-512-1800. Also, the 2006 bulletin will be 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 U.S. 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 Census of Employment and Wages data, as well as other Bureau data, contact the Mid-Atlantic Information Office at 215-597-3282 from 8:30 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. and 1:00 p.m. to 3:30 p.m. ET.

QCEW-based news releases issued by other regional offices have been placed at one convenient Web site location, <http://www.bls.gov/cew/cewregional.htm>.

## 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.

**Table 1. Covered<sup>1</sup> employment and wages in the top 10 counties ranked by average weekly wage, second quarter 2007<sup>2</sup>**

County <sup>3</sup>	Employment		Average weekly wage <sup>5</sup>			
	June 2007 (thousands)	Percent change, June 2006-07 <sup>4</sup>	Average weekly wage	Ranking by level <sup>6</sup>	Percent change, second quarter 2006-07 <sup>4</sup>	Ranking by percent change <sup>6</sup>
United States	137,018.2	1.2	\$820	--	4.6	--
New York, N.Y.	2,363.8	1.9	1,540	1	6.4	33
Santa Clara, Calif.	905.1	2.0	1,504	2	8.3	7
Clayton, Ga.	115.6	2.2	1,358	3	87.3	1
Washington, D.C.	683.2	0.8	1,357	4	4.3	136
Arlington, Va.	154.5	1.8	1,352	5	2.7	254
San Francisco, Calif.	555.6	(7)	1,323	6	7.9	12
Fairfield, Conn.	428.3	1.3	1,311	7	7.1	17
Somerset, N.J.	178.0	-0.3	1,286	8	8.2	8
Suffolk, Mass.	589.1	2.5	1,284	9	4.7	107
San Mateo, Calif.	342.1	1.2	1,277	10	6.2	39

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

<sup>2</sup> Data are preliminary.

<sup>3</sup> Includes areas not officially designated as counties. See Technical Note.

<sup>4</sup> Percent changes were computed from quarterly employment and pay data adjusted for any noneconomic county reclassifications.

<sup>5</sup> Average weekly wages were calculated using unrounded data

<sup>6</sup> Ranking does not include the county of San Juan, Puerto Rico.

<sup>7</sup> Data do not meet BLS or State agency disclosure standards.

**Table 2. Covered<sup>1</sup> employment and wages by state, second quarter 2007<sup>2</sup>**

State	Employment	Average weekly wage <sup>3</sup>			National ranking by percent change
	June 2007 (thousands)	Average weekly wage	National ranking by level	Percent change, second quarter 2006-07	
United States <sup>4</sup>	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
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	(5)	6.0	(5)
Virgin Islands	46.9	707	(5)	4.1	(5)

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

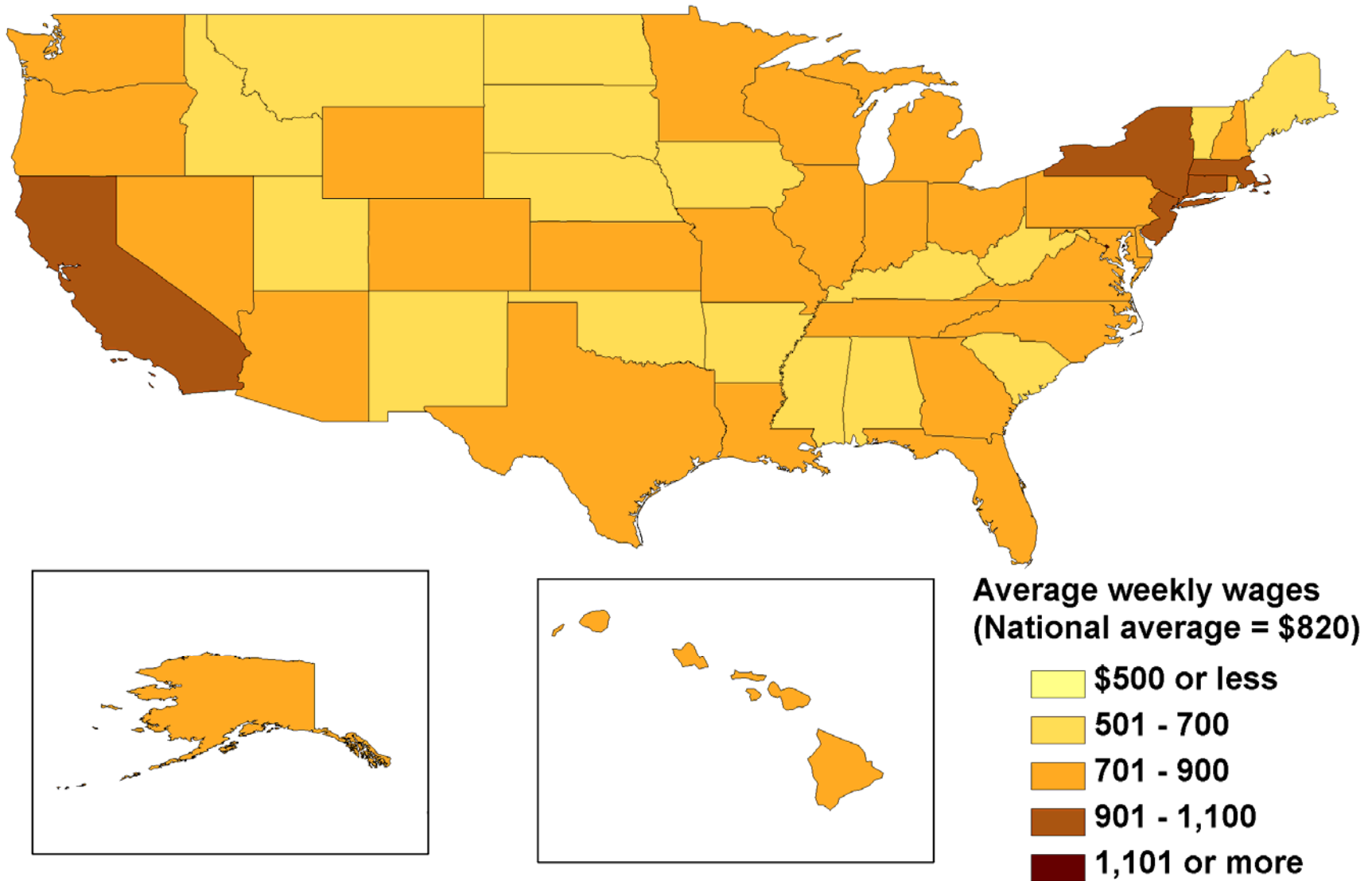
<sup>2</sup> Data are preliminary.

<sup>3</sup> Average weekly wages were calculated using unrounded data.

<sup>4</sup> Totals for the United States do not include data for Puerto Rico or the Virgin Islands.

<sup>5</sup> Data not included in the national ranking.

**Chart 1. Average weekly wages in the 50 states and the District of Columbia, second quarter 2007<sup>1</sup>**



<sup>1</sup> Data are preliminary.