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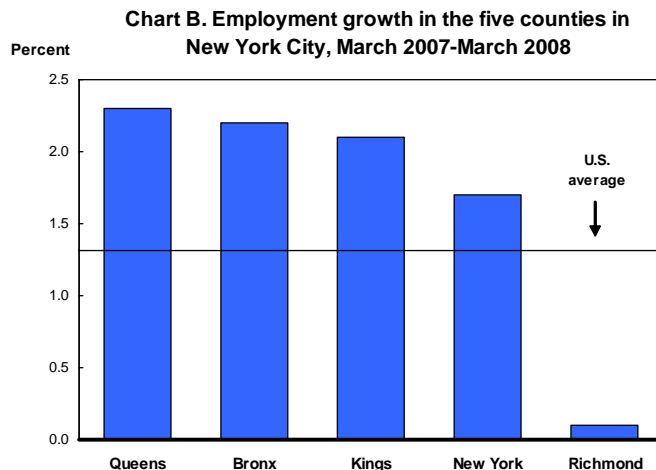
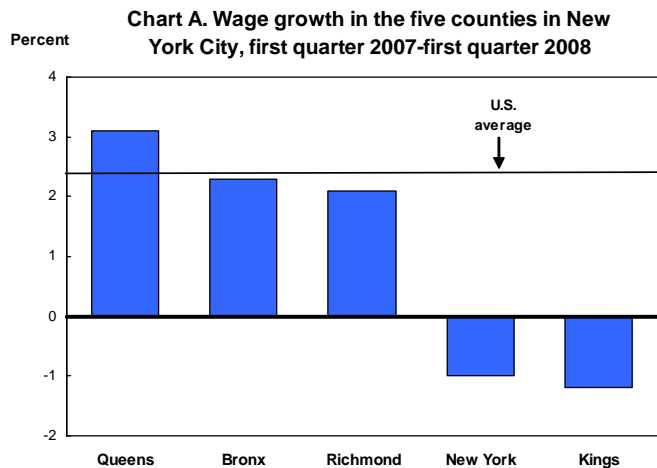
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## AVERAGE WEEKLY WAGE IN MANHATTAN DROPS 1.0 PERCENT IN FIRST QUARTER 2008 Queens Exceeds Nation in Wage and Employment Growth

The average weekly wage in New York County, more commonly known as the borough of Manhattan, dropped 1.0 percent over the year in the first quarter of 2008. Regional Commissioner Michael L. Dolfman noted that Manhattan's first quarter over-the-year decline contrasted with the double-digit wage growth in the first quarter of three of the past four years. Among the other counties that comprise New York City, Queens, with an over-the-year wage gain of 3.1 percent, was the only borough to exceed the national increase of 2.4 percent. (See chart A.)

Despite the over-the-year wage decline in Manhattan, its average weekly wage, \$2,805 remained the highest among the nation's largest counties, those with 75,000 or more jobs as measured by annual average employment in 2007. Queens led the outer boroughs with an average weekly wage of \$852, although all of the New York City counties outside of Manhattan lagged the national average weekly wage of \$905.

From March a year ago, all but one of the five counties comprising New York City had employment growth above the national rate of 0.4 percent. Queens County had the largest employment increase, 2.3 percent, followed by Bronx County (2.2 percent), and Kings County (2.1 percent). (See chart B.)



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'.

## **Over-the-year Wage Changes**

Although Queens was the only county in New York City to record a wage increase larger than the national average, wages also rose over the year in Bronx and Richmond Counties, up 2.3 and 2.1 percent, respectively. The wage increase in Queens, ranked 129<sup>th</sup> among the nation's 334 large counties, while Bronx and Richmond Counties placed 192<sup>nd</sup> and 204<sup>th</sup>, respectively. (See table 1.) New York County (-1.0 percent) and Kings County (-1.2 percent) were 2 of only 34 large counties nationwide to experience over-the-year declines in average weekly wages. Manhattan ranked 311<sup>th</sup> nationally, in over-the-year wage changes, after ranking 2<sup>nd</sup> only one year ago.

In Manhattan, two industry groups experienced over-the-year wage declines in the first quarter of 2008—manufacturing (-4.1 percent) and financial activities (-3.7 percent). (See table 2.) (Because financial activities employed ten times more workers than manufacturing in New York County, its wage decline had more of an effect on the county average.) These first quarter declines followed over-the-year average weekly wage gains of 14.6 percent in manufacturing and 24.2 percent in financial activities in the first quarter of 2007. By contrast, the nation as a whole showed increases in all supersectors. Annual wage gains in the first quarter were largest in natural resources and mining (10.5 percent), followed by construction (4.8 percent) and professional and business services (4.2 percent). Average weekly wage growth in the other sectors ranged from a high of 3.6 in education and health services to a low of 0.2 percent in financial activities.

Leading the nation in average weekly wage growth was Westmoreland, Pa., with an increase of 14.9 percent. Williamson, Texas, was second with growth of 10.8 percent, followed by the counties of Somerset, N.J. (9.0 percent), San Luis Obispo, Calif. (8.3 percent), and Jefferson, Texas (7.9 percent). At the other end of the spectrum, the largest over-the-year declines in average weekly wages were recorded in Mecklenburg, N.C. (-3.4 percent), Fairfield, Conn. (-3.8 percent), Rockingham, N.H. (-3.9 percent), Saginaw, Mich. (-4.4 percent), and Trumbull, Ohio, (-17.2 percent). A year ago, Trumbull had led the large counties with a wage increase of 22.3 percent.

## **Average Weekly Wages**

Manhattan's average weekly wage during the first quarter of 2008 was more than three times the national average—\$2,805 compared to \$905. No other county in New York City had an average weekly wage above that of the nation. Average wages in Queens, Bronx, Richmond, and Kings were \$852, \$803, \$745, and \$730, respectively, and ranged from 6 to 19 percent below the national level.

Within Manhattan, the financial activities supersector had the highest average weekly wage, \$9,840. (See table 2.) As is often typical during the first quarter, the payment of year-end bonuses and commissions in finance contributed to the high average. The next highest average wage was in information (\$2,698) followed by natural resources and mining (\$2,375) and professional and business services (\$2,343). Leisure and hospitality had the lowest average wage of any industry supersector, \$766. Wages in every supersector in Manhattan were higher than their respective national industry averages. The largest percentage differential occurred in financial activities, with wages 418 percent above the U.S. average; the smallest occurred in government, with wages 16 percent above the national level.

Among the 334 largest counties in the nation, Fairfield, Conn., trailed Manhattan with the second highest average weekly wage, \$1,905, followed by Somerset, N.J. (\$1,765), Suffolk, Mass. (\$1,708), and San Francisco, Calif. (\$1,639). Four of the 10 counties with the highest wages in the nation were located in the greater New York metropolitan area (New York, N.Y., Fairfield, Conn., Somerset, N.J., and Hudson, N.J.), 3 others were located in or around the San Francisco area (San Francisco, Santa Clara, and San Mateo), while 2 more were located in or around the Washington, D.C. metropolitan area (Washington, D.C. and Arlington, Va.). Rounding out the top 10 was Suffolk County, Mass., part of the Boston metropolitan area. At the

other end of the spectrum, the two counties with the lowest average wages in the nation were Hidalgo (\$532) and Cameron (\$523), both in Texas.

## **Employment**

In March 2008, employment in Manhattan stood at 2,376,000, accounting for 65 percent of the New York City total. Over-the-year employment growth in the City was led by Queens County's 2.3-percent increase, which ranked 27<sup>th</sup> followed by Bronx County's 2.2 percent growth, and Kings County's 2.1 percent growth which ranked 37<sup>th</sup> and 39<sup>th</sup>, respectively. At 1.7 percent, Manhattan's employment increase ranked 56<sup>th</sup> in the nation. Rounding out New York's five counties, employment increased by 0.1 percent in Richmond County which ranked 180<sup>th</sup>.

Nationally, Orleans, La., experienced the largest over-the-year percentage employment gain, 5.0 percent, compared with the national job growth of 0.4 percent. Fort Bend and Montgomery County, both in Texas, tied for the next largest increase, 4.7 percent, followed by Williamson, Texas (4.6 percent). Overall, employment increased in 189 of the nation's 334 large counties from March 2007 to March 2008, while 129 registered a decrease in employment. Lee, Fla., had the largest percentage decline in employment (-8.1 percent), followed by Collier, Fla. (-7.4 percent), Genesee, Mich. (-6.5 percent), Saginaw, Mich. (-5.2 percent), and Marion, Fla. (-5.1 percent).

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 9.1 million employer reports cover 134.8 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, 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. The 2006 edition of this bulletin contains selected data produced by Business Employment Dynamics (BED) on job gains and losses, as well as selected data from the first quarter 2007 version of this news release. As with the 2005 edition, this edition will include the data on a CD for enhanced access and usability with the printed booklet containing selected graphic representations of QCEW data; the data tables themselves will be published exclusively in electronic formats as PDFs. *Employment and Wages Annual Averages, 2006* is available in a PDF on the BLS Web site at <http://www.bls.gov/cew/cewbultn06.htm>.

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

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 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.

### **TECHNICAL NOTE**

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. 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 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.

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Labor – New York

**Table 1. Covered<sup>1</sup> employment and wages in the United States, New York State, and five counties in New York City, first quarter 2008<sup>2</sup>**

Area rank	<u>Employment</u>			<u>Average weekly wage<sup>3</sup></u>		
	March 2008 (thousands)	Percent change, 2007-08 <sup>4</sup>	Level 2007	National rank by level <sup>5</sup>	Percent change, 2007-08 <sup>4</sup>	National rank by percent change <sup>5</sup>
United States <sup>6</sup>	134,761.1	0.4	\$ 905	--	2.4	--
New York State	8,555.0	1.3	1,399	--	0.1	--
Bronx	224.6	2.2	803	168	2.3	192
Kings	478.3	2.1	730	251	-1.2	313
New York	2,376.0	1.7	2,805	1	-1.0	311
Queens	499.9	2.3	852	129	3.1	129
Richmond	93.1	0.1	745	230	2.1	204

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

<sup>5</sup> Ranking does not include the county of San Juan, Puerto Rico.

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

**Table 2. Covered<sup>1</sup> employment and wages in the United States and New York County, first quarter 2008<sup>2</sup>**

Area and supersector	Employment		Average weekly wage <sup>3</sup>	
	March 2008 (thousands)	Percent change 2007-08 <sup>4</sup>	Average weekly wage	Percent change 2007-08 <sup>4</sup>
United States <sup>5</sup>	134,761.1	0.4	\$ 905	2.4
Private industry	112,728.2	0.2	913	2.4
Natural resources and mining	1,731.8	2.7	1020	10.5
Construction	7,020.0	-4.1	898	4.8
Manufacturing	13,529.8	-2.3	1,079	1.9
Trade, transportation, and utilities	26,031.1	0.2	745	1.9
Information	3,013.5	-0.1	1,469	2.3
Financial activities	8,005.6	-1.7	1,898	0.2
Professional and business services	17,691.9	0.5	1,131	4.2
Education and health services	17,845.8	3.0	767	3.6
Leisure and hospitality	13,112.5	1.3	360	2.9
Other services	4,444.1	1.0	547	3.4
Government	22,032.9	1.3	868	2.7
New York, NY	2,376.0	1.7	2,805	-1.0
Private industry	1,923.2	1.9	3,229	-1.4
Natural resources and mining	0.2	-4.5	2,375	23.3
Construction	36.2	8.9	1,596	8.6
Manufacturing	36.0	-6.3	1,499	-4.1
Trade, transportation, and utilities	246.4	0.8	1,211	0.8
Information	134.1	0.7	2,698	5.0
Financial activities	377.6	0.7	9,840	-3.7
Professional and business services	489.3	1.9	2,343	3.8
Education and health services	293.1	1.5	989	3.9
Leisure and hospitality	213.9	3.7	766	2.7
Other services	87.8	1.8	1,105	7.6
Government	452.8	0.8	1,004	1.7

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

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

**Table 3. Covered<sup>1</sup> employment and wages by state and territory, first quarter 2008<sup>2</sup>**

Area	Employment		Average weekly wage <sup>3</sup>		
	March 2008 (thousands)	Average weekly wage	National ranking by level <sup>4</sup>	Percent change, first quarter 2007-08	National ranking by percent change <sup>4</sup>
United States <sup>5</sup>	134,761.1	\$905	-	2.4	-
Alabama	1,947.0	740	34	3.2	27
Alaska	303.0	866	16	4.2	11
Arizona	2,639.7	820	22	2.4	34
Arkansas	1,178.4	667	46	4.1	12
California	15,561.5	1,008	6	2.1	41
Colorado	2,300.0	920	10	3.6	16
Connecticut	1,683.9	1,254	3	-0.6	51
Delaware	418.4	987	7	0.1	49
District of Columbia	680.8	1,488	1	4.3	9
Florida	7,918.6	777	26	1.8	43
Georgia	4,060.9	847	20	1.3	44
Hawaii	628.1	773	28	3.5	19
Idaho	645.3	635	48	0.3	48
Illinois	5,796.1	980	8	2.6	33
Indiana	2,858.7	757	33	2.4	34
Iowa	1,469.8	710	40	3.6	16
Kansas	1,363.2	737	35	2.4	34
Kentucky	1,794.0	714	39	2.4	34
Louisiana	1,887.3	765	30	4.8	4
Maine	584.1	701	42	3.5	19
Maryland	2,530.3	963	9	2.8	31
Massachusetts	3,203.1	1,143	4	3.3	23
Michigan	4,058.8	857	18	0.9	47
Minnesota	2,644.8	908	12	4.0	13
Mississippi	1,138.2	634	49	3.3	23
Missouri	2,708.0	768	29	3.5	19
Montana	432.4	625	51	4.3	9
Nebraska	912.2	687	44	3.2	27
Nevada	1,266.3	839	21	4.7	5
New Hampshire	621.2	863	17	3.4	22
New Jersey	3,939.9	1,133	5	3.3	23
New Mexico	823.8	717	38	4.7	5
New York	8,555.0	1,399	2	0.1	49
North Carolina	4,069.1	788	24	1.3	44
North Dakota	343.3	652	47	6.2	2
Ohio	5,189.1	798	23	1.0	46
Oklahoma	1,560.0	707	41	4.7	5
Oregon	1,713.1	776	27	2.9	30
Pennsylvania	5,608.8	869	15	2.4	34
Rhode Island	464.8	851	19	2.3	39
South Carolina	1,888.3	695	43	2.8	31
South Dakota	389.4	632	50	5.2	3
Tennessee	2,746.4	761	31	3.3	23
Texas	10,420.8	903	13	3.6	16

See footnotes at end of table.

**Table 3. Covered<sup>1</sup> employment and wages by state and territory, first quarter 2008<sup>2</sup>--  
continued**

Area	Employment		Average weekly wage <sup>3</sup>		
	March 2008 (thousands)	Average weekly wage	National ranking by level <sup>4</sup>	Percent change, first quarter 2007-08	National ranking by percent change <sup>4</sup>
Utah	1,220.2	\$718	37	3.2	27
Vermont	300.8	735	36	4.4	8
Virginia	3,653.5	918	11	2.0	42
Washington	2,928.6	899	14	3.7	15
West Virginia	700.3	679	45	4.0	13
Wisconsin	2,734.3	760	32	2.2	40
Wyoming	277.2	779	25	6.7	1
Puerto Rico	1,004.5	489	(6)	2.7	(6)
Virgin Islands	46.5	708	(6)	3.4	(6)

<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> Ranking does not include Puerto Rico or the Virgin Islands.

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

<sup>6</sup> Data not included in the national ranking.