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## **County Employment and Wages in Indiana First Quarter 2008**

The average weekly wage in St. Joseph County increased 6.2 percent from the first quarter of 2007 to the first quarter of 2008, the largest increase among Indiana's eight counties with employment of 75,000 or more (as measured by 2007 annual average employment). Tippecanoe County had the second-highest wage growth at 4.4 percent, followed by both Hamilton and Vanderburgh Counties at 3.7 percent. Marion County had the highest average weekly wage level in the State at \$953, followed by the counties of Hamilton (\$897), Tippecanoe (\$765), and Lake (\$752). (See table 1.) Regional Commissioner Jay A. Mousa noted that six large counties had wage growth above the 2.4 percent national increase and only one county, Marion, had wages above the national average of \$905.

Among the eight largest counties in Indiana, employment in March 2008 was highest in Marion County (575,000) and lowest in Tippecanoe County (75,300). Six of the eight large counties in the State reported declines in employment levels from March 2007 to March 2008. Only Hamilton and Marion Counties increased employment, up 1.7 and 0.3 percent, respectively. Nationally, employment rose 0.4 percent during this time period.

Employment and wage levels (but not over-the-year changes) are also available for the 84 counties in Indiana with employment below 75,000. Eighty-one of these smaller counties had average weekly wages below the national average. (See table 2.)

### **Wage Levels in Large Counties**

The average weekly wage levels in the counties of Marion and Hamilton placed in the top half of the national rankings among the 334 largest counties in the United States. Marion County's average weekly wage (\$953) ranked 67<sup>th</sup> and Hamilton's (\$897) ranked 97<sup>th</sup>. The remaining six of the state's eight counties with employment over 75,000 had wages in the bottom half of the national rankings: Elkhart (\$703/279<sup>th</sup>), Allen (\$726/256<sup>th</sup>), Vanderburgh (\$728/254<sup>th</sup>), St. Joseph (\$740/241<sup>st</sup>), Lake (\$752/219<sup>th</sup>), and Tippecanoe (\$765/205<sup>th</sup>).

The national average weekly wage in the first quarter of 2008 was \$905. Average weekly wages were higher than the national average in 92 of the largest 334 U.S. counties. New York, N.Y., held the top position among the highest-paid large counties with an average weekly wage of \$2,805. Fairfield, Conn., was second with an average weekly wage of \$1,905, followed by Somerset, N.J. (\$1,765), Suffolk, Mass. (\$1,708), and San Francisco, Calif. (\$1,639).

Nationwide, there were 241 counties with an average weekly wage below the national average in the first quarter of 2008. The lowest average weekly wage was reported in Cameron County, Texas (\$523), followed by the counties of Hidalgo, Texas (\$532), Horry, S.C. (\$534), Webb, Texas (\$554), and Yakima, Wash. (\$587).

### **Wage Changes in Large Counties**

Six of Indiana's eight large counties recorded wage growth above the national increase of 2.4 percent from the first quarter of 2007 to the first quarter of 2008. (See table 1.) St. Joseph's 6.2-percent wage gain was the largest increase in the State and ranked 13<sup>th</sup> in the nation. Tippecanoe, at 4.4 percent, placed 48<sup>th</sup>. Elkhart County recorded the smallest wage increase in the State at 0.1 percent and ranked 290<sup>th</sup> among the nation's largest counties.

Among the largest counties, Westmoreland, Pa., led the nation in growth in average weekly wages, with an increase of 14.9 percent from the first quarter of 2007. 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).

Thirty-four large counties experienced over-the-year declines in average weekly wages. Trumbull, Ohio, had the largest decrease (-17.2 percent), followed by the counties of Saginaw, Mich. (-4.4 percent), Rockingham, N.H. (-3.9 percent), Fairfield, Conn. (-3.8 percent), and Mecklenburg, N.C. (-3.4 percent).

### **Wage Levels in Indiana's Smaller Counties**

Eighty-one of the smaller counties in Indiana with employment below 75,000 had average weekly wages below the national level of \$905. The exceptions were Martin (\$1,099), Bartholomew (\$957), and Posey (\$912). Brown County reported the lowest average weekly wage at \$434 in the first quarter of 2008 followed by Crawford at \$482. (See table 2.)

When all 92 counties in Indiana were considered, 38 counties in the State reported average weekly wages under \$600, 32 reported average weekly wages between \$600 and \$699, and 12 had average weekly wages between \$700 and \$799. Ten counties had average weekly wages of \$800 or more and two (Hamilton and Marion) were in the Indianapolis-Carmel Metropolitan Area.

### **State Average Weekly Wages**

At the state level, the average weekly wage in Indiana was \$757, \$148 below the nationwide figure, ranking 33<sup>rd</sup> among the 50 states and the District of Columbia. (See table 3.) The five highest wage levels in the nation were in the District of Columbia (\$1,488), New York (\$1,399), Connecticut (\$1,254), Massachusetts (\$1,143) and New Jersey (\$1,133). All had wages at least 25 percent higher than the national average. Six states had average earnings of less than 75 percent of the national average: Montana (\$625), South Dakota (\$632), Mississippi (\$634), Idaho (\$635), North Dakota (\$652), and Arkansas (\$667).

Indiana experienced wage growth of 2.4 percent from the first quarter of 2007 to the first quarter of 2008, matching the increase nationwide and ranking 34<sup>th</sup> among the 50 States and District of Columbia. Wage gains in the neighboring states of Ohio (1.0 percent), and Michigan (0.9 percent) were lower. Illinois, on-the-other hand experienced a

similar gain (2.6 percent). (See table 3.) Nationwide, the highest over-the-year wage gains in the first quarter of 2008 were recorded by Wyoming (6.7 percent), North Dakota (6.2 percent), and South Dakota (5.2 percent). The only state to report a decline in average weekly wages was Connecticut, where wages were down 0.6 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 135.4 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/](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 includes the data on a CD for enhanced access and usability with the printed booklet containing selected graphic representation of QCEW data; the data tables themselves are published exclusively in electronic formats as PDF. The 2006 bulletin is available in a PDF on the BLS Web site at [www.bls.gov/cew/cewbultn06.htm](http://www.bls.gov/cew/cewbultn06.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 Midwest Information Office in Chicago at (312) 353-1880 from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 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.

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 8 largest counties in Indiana, first quarter 2008(2)**

Area	Employment		Average Weekly Wage (3)			
	March 2008 (thousands)	Percent change, March 2007-08(5)	Average weekly wage	National ranking by level (4)	Percent change, first quarter 2007-08 (5)	National ranking by percent change (4)
United States (6)	134,761.1	0.4	\$905	--	2.4	--
Indiana	2,858.7	-0.7	757	33	2.4	34
Allen, Ind.	178.2	-2.8	726	256	1.4	233
Elkhart, Ind.	120.2	-3.6	703	279	0.1	290
Hamilton, Ind.	109.4	1.7	897	97	3.7	80
Lake, Ind.	192.7	-0.1	752	219	2.6	163
Marion, Ind.	575.0	0.3	953	67	2.5	177
St. Joseph, Ind.	122.1	-0.9	740	241	6.2	13
Tippecanoe, Ind.	75.3	-1.6	765	205	4.4	48
Vanderburgh, Ind.	106.5	-0.9	728	254	3.7	80

(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 the county of San Juan, Puerto Rico.

(5) Percent changes were computed from quarterly employment and pay data adjusted for noneconomic county reclassifications.

(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 of the counties in Indiana, first quarter 2008(2)**

Area	Employment March 2008	Average weekly wage (3)	Area	Employment March 2008	Average weekly wage (3)
United States (4)	134,761,100	\$905	Lake	192,721	\$752
Indiana -- Statewide	2,858,717	757	Lawrence	13,502	624
Adams	13,247	570	Madison	38,756	592
Allen	178,246	726	Marion	574,952	953
Bartholomew	44,015	957	Marshall	18,638	598
Benton	2,387	531	Martin	6,704	1,099
Blackford	3,795	550	Miami	10,211	588
Boone	18,647	676	Monroe	60,930	669
Brown	2,855	434	Montgomery	15,703	743
Carroll	5,204	536	Morgan	14,769	598
Cass	15,456	583	Newton	3,903	549
Clark	47,585	660	Noble	18,111	614
Clay	6,576	517	Ohio	1,614	590
Clinton	10,798	648	Orange	7,756	550
Crawford	2,124	482	Owen	5,092	594
Daviess	11,087	549	Parke	3,287	494
De Kalb	19,464	760	Perry	6,198	600
Dearborn	14,516	621	Pike	3,009	807
Decatur	12,242	659	Porter	56,499	718
Delaware	47,377	601	Posey	8,620	912
Dubois	28,176	642	Pulaski	4,520	649
Elkhart	120,214	703	Putnam	12,249	562
Fayette	7,394	679	Randolph	7,058	571
Floyd	29,048	658	Ripley	12,467	714
Fountain	5,713	550	Rush	5,018	579
Franklin	4,293	537	Scott	7,000	556
Fulton	6,528	601	Shelby	16,243	664
Gibson	15,936	830	Spencer	6,486	694
Grant	26,554	630	St. Joseph	122,138	740
Greene	7,452	592	Starke	4,274	494
Hamilton	109,433	897	Steuben	13,689	545
Hancock	19,511	767	Sullivan	5,329	534
Harrison	10,997	569	Switzerland	2,301	549
Hendricks	46,873	629	Tippecanoe	75,320	765
Henry	13,007	611	Tipton	4,152	667
Howard	38,577	852	Union	1,365	551
Huntington	14,814	591	Vanderburgh	106,546	728
Jackson	19,806	673	Vermillion	4,750	878
Jasper	12,137	650	Vigo	51,002	651
Jay	8,097	608	Wabash	12,488	625
Jefferson	12,667	642	Warren	1,941	576
Jennings	7,793	608	Warrick	14,202	740
Johnson	42,400	589	Washington	5,929	547
Knox	16,669	580	Wayne	32,691	647
Kosciusko	35,050	851	Wells	10,870	598
La Porte	43,995	646	White	8,224	585
Lagrange	11,789	603	Whitley	12,052	619

(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, first quarter 2008(2)**

State	Employment		Average weekly wage (3)			
	March 2008 (thousands)	Percent change, March 2007-08	Average weekly wage	National ranking by level	Percent change, first quarter 2007-08	National ranking by percent change
United States (4)	134,761.1	0.4	\$905	-	2.4	-
Alabama	1,947.0	-0.2	740	34	3.2	27
Alaska	303.0	1.0	866	16	4.2	11
Arizona	2,639.7	-1.3	820	22	2.4	34
Arkansas	1,178.4	-0.1	667	46	4.1	12
California	15,561.5	0.1	1,008	6	2.1	41
Colorado	2,300.0	1.7	920	10	3.6	16
Connecticut	1,683.9	1.2	1,254	3	-0.6	51
Delaware	418.4	0.5	987	7	0.1	49
District of Columbia	680.8	1.1	1,488	1	4.3	9
Florida	7,918.6	-2.2	777	26	1.8	43
Georgia	4,060.9	0.1	847	20	1.3	44
Hawaii	628.1	0.2	773	28	3.5	19
Idaho	645.3	0.2	635	48	0.3	48
Illinois	5,796.1	0.1	980	8	2.6	33
Indiana	2,858.7	-0.7	757	33	2.4	34
Iowa	1,469.8	0.9	710	40	3.6	16
Kansas	1,363.2	1.0	737	35	2.4	34
Kentucky	1,794.0	0.1	714	39	2.4	34
Louisiana	1,887.3	1.3	765	30	4.8	4
Maine	584.1	0.5	701	42	3.5	19
Maryland	2,530.3	0.0	963	9	2.8	31
Massachusetts	3,203.1	0.9	1,143	4	3.3	23
Michigan	4,058.8	-1.8	857	18	0.9	47
Minnesota	2,644.8	0.6	908	12	4.0	13
Mississippi	1,138.2	0.8	634	49	3.3	23
Missouri	2,708.0	0.0	768	29	3.5	19
Montana	432.4	0.9	625	51	4.3	9
Nebraska	912.2	1.4	687	44	3.2	27
Nevada	1,266.3	-1.2	839	21	4.7	5
New Hampshire	621.2	0.3	863	17	3.4	22
New Jersey	3,939.9	0.5	1,133	5	3.3	23
New Mexico	823.8	0.6	717	38	4.7	5
New York	8,555.0	1.3	1,399	2	0.1	49
North Carolina	4,069.1	0.9	788	24	1.3	44
North Dakota	343.3	2.6	652	47	6.2	2
Ohio	5,189.1	-1.0	798	23	1.0	46
Oklahoma	1,560.0	1.6	707	41	4.7	5
Oregon	1,713.1	0.3	776	27	2.9	30
Pennsylvania	5,608.8	0.5	869	15	2.4	34
Rhode Island	464.8	-1.5	851	19	2.3	39
South Carolina	1,888.3	0.1	695	43	2.8	31
South Dakota	389.4	2.0	632	50	5.2	3
Tennessee	2,746.4	0.6	761	31	3.3	23
Texas	10,420.8	2.8	903	13	3.6	16
Utah	1,220.2	1.4	718	37	3.2	27
Vermont	300.8	-0.3	735	36	4.4	8
Virginia	3,653.5	0.2	918	11	2.0	42
Washington	2,928.6	2.1	899	14	3.7	15
West Virginia	700.3	0.3	679	45	4.0	13
Wisconsin	2,734.3	0.2	760	32	2.2	40
Wyoming	277.2	2.9	779	25	6.7	1
Puerto Rico	1,004.5	-1.6	489	(5)	2.7	(5)
Virgin Islands	46.5	1.1	708	(5)	3.4	(5)

(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.