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## COUNTY EMPLOYMENT AND WAGES IN IOWA, SECOND QUARTER 2008

The average weekly wage in Linn County increased 2.6 percent from the second quarter of 2007 to the second quarter of 2008, equal to the national average and the largest advance among Iowa's three counties with employment of 75,000 or more (as measured by 2007 annual average employment). Polk County, the State's largest county based on employment, had the highest average weekly wage, \$822. (See table 1.) Regional Commissioner Jay A. Mousa noted that all three of Iowa's large counties reported average weekly wages below the national average of \$841.

Employment in Iowa's three largest counties accounted for close to 33 percent of statewide employment in June 2008. All three counties recorded employment gains from June 2007 to June 2008, counter to the national decline of 0.3 percent during the same period.

Employment and average wages (but not over-the-year changes) are also available for the 96 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 Average Weekly Wages

With an average weekly wage of \$822, Polk County ranked 126<sup>th</sup> among the nation's 334 large counties in the second quarter of 2008. Linn County (\$792) ranked 152<sup>nd</sup> and Scott County (\$670), 299<sup>th</sup>. Scott County's ranking placed it among the bottom quartile among the largest counties.

Average weekly wages were higher than the national average in 109 of the 334 largest counties in the United States. New York County, N.Y., held the top position with an average weekly wage of \$1,569. Santa Clara, Calif., was second highest at \$1,529, followed by Washington, D.C. (\$1,433), Arlington, Va. (\$1,376), and San Francisco, Calif. (\$1,334).

At the other end of the spectrum, Cameron County, Texas, reported the lowest average weekly wage (\$535), followed by the counties of Hidalgo, Texas (\$538), Horry, S.C. (\$539), Webb, Texas (\$562), and Yakima, Wash. (\$580).

### **Large County Wage Changes**

Linn County's wage growth of 2.6 percent in the second quarter of 2008 ranked it 158<sup>th</sup> among the 334 largest counties nationwide. Polk County (1.4 percent) ranked 253<sup>rd</sup> and Scott County (2.3 percent) ranked 186<sup>th</sup>.

Over the year, the national average weekly wage rose by 2.6 percent. Among the largest counties, Rock Island, Ill., led the nation in wage growth with an increase of 10.5 percent from the second quarter of 2007. Weld, Colo., was second with 10.4-percent growth, followed by the counties of Utah, Utah (9.4 percent), Whatcom, Wash. (8.3 percent), and East Baton Rouge, La. (7.8 percent).

Twenty-six large counties experienced over-the-year declines in average weekly wages. Clayton, Ga., had the largest decrease (-43.7 percent), followed by the counties of Boone, Ky. (-10.0 percent), Ventura, Calif., and Trumbull, Ohio (-4.8 percent, each), and Queens, N.Y. (-4.3 percent).

### **Average Wages in Iowa's Smaller Counties**

All 96 of Iowa's counties with employment of less than 75,000 had average weekly wages below the national average of \$841. Among these smaller counties, the highest average weekly wage was \$773 in Muscatine County and the lowest was \$486 in Audubon County.

When all 99 counties in the State are considered, 7 had average weekly wages of \$700 or more, 32 had average weekly between \$600 and \$699, and 60 had average weekly wages below \$600.

### **State Average Weekly Wages**

The average weekly wage in Iowa was \$683, \$158 below the national average, ranking it 42<sup>nd</sup> among the 50 states and the District of Columbia. (See table 3.) The five highest wage levels in the U.S. were in the District of Columbia (\$1,433), Massachusetts (\$1,044), New York (\$1,040), Connecticut (\$1,036), and New Jersey (\$1,004). Average weekly wages in this group were more than 19 percent above that for the nation.

Iowa's average weekly wage increased 2.9 percent, ranking it 23<sup>rd</sup> in growth among the 50 states and District of Columbia. (See table 3.) Nationwide, the District of Columbia experienced a wage gain of 5.9 percent from the second quarter of 2007 to the second quarter of 2008, higher than any state. North Dakota was second with 5.8-percent growth. The smallest wage gains were in Connecticut (0.3 percent) and New Hampshire (1.5 percent). Two states experienced over-the-year declines in wages: Delaware (-0.8 percent) and Georgia (-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 136.6 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 2007 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 2008 version of the national news release. Tables and additional content from the 2007 Employment and Wages Annual Bulletin are now available online at [www.bls.gov/cew/cewbultn07.htm](http://www.bls.gov/cew/cewbultn07.htm). These tables present final 2007 annual averages. The tables will also be included on the CD which accompanies the hardcopy version of the Annual Bulletin. Employment and Wages Annual Averages, 2007 will be available for sale as a chartbook by the end of the first quarter in 2009 from the United States Government Printing Office, Superintendent of Documents. 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 [www.bls.gov/cew/](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 Program, as well as other Bureau programs, contact the Midwest Information Office in Chicago at (312) 353-1880 from 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. CT.

**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 state's 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 three largest counties in Iowa, second quarter 2008 (2)**

Area	Employment		Average Weekly Wage (3)			
	June 2008 (thousands)	Percent change, June 2007-08 (4)	Average weekly wage	National ranking by level (5)	Percent change, second quarter 2007-08 (4)	National ranking by percent change (5)
United States (6)	136,631.8	-0.3	\$841	--	2.6	--
Iowa	1,521.2	0.1	683	42	2.9	23
Linn, Iowa	127.4	0.9	792	152	2.6	158
Polk, Iowa	279.5	0.8	822	126	1.4	253
Scott, Iowa	90.9	0.2	670	299	2.3	186

(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 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. Covered(1) employment and wages in the United States and all of the counties in Iowa second quarter 2008(2)**

Area	Employment June 2008	Average Weekly Wages(3)	Area	Employment June 2008	Average Weekly Wages(3)
United States(4)	136,631,800	\$841	Jasper	11,288	\$612
Iowa	1,521,187	683	Jefferson	7,880	588
Adair	3,059	555	Johnson	75,796	762
Adams	1,325	541	Jones	6,648	553
Allamakee	5,366	511	Keokuk	2,467	535
Appanoose	4,573	539	Kossuth	6,779	588
Audubon	2,027	486	Lee	16,995	626
Benton	5,770	560	Linn	127,449	792
Black Hawk	73,336	695	Louisa	3,932	559
Boone	9,925	630	Lucas	3,274	578
Bremer	10,070	629	Lyon	3,947	505
Buchanan	6,862	532	Madison	3,794	558
Buena Vista	10,793	561	Mahaska	8,164	607
Butler	3,768	564	Marion	18,353	680
Calhoun	3,340	509	Marshall	19,051	655
Carroll	12,489	556	Mills	4,124	586
Cass	6,247	537	Mitchell	3,874	586
Cedar	5,763	548	Monona	3,035	510
Cerro Gordo	26,168	624	Monroe	3,545	750
Cherokee	5,456	596	Montgomery	4,646	574
Chickasaw	5,020	553	Muscatine	24,018	773
Clarke	4,419	535	O'Brien	6,503	516
Clay	9,788	601	Osceola	2,481	533
Clayton	7,070	557	Page	7,451	579
Clinton	24,421	608	Palo Alto	4,128	518
Crawford	7,678	613	Plymouth	10,507	647
Dallas	31,230	772	Pocahontas	2,865	540
Davis	2,111	526	Polk	279,544	822
Decatur	2,365	494	Pottawattamie	39,246	622
Delaware	6,557	605	Poweshiek	9,934	635
Des Moines	21,758	618	Ringgold	1,465	515
Dickinson	10,382	519	Sac	3,376	588
Dubuque	55,308	650	Scott	90,868	670
Emmet	4,521	576	Shelby	5,747	533
Fayette	7,522	516	Sioux	19,497	567
Floyd	6,083	591	Story	43,319	713
Franklin	3,988	629	Tama	5,174	572
Fremont	2,625	614	Taylor	1,863	507
Greene	3,283	640	Union	6,329	564
Grundy	4,127	616	Van Buren	2,251	554
Guthrie	3,300	585	Wapello	16,753	627
Hamilton	8,284	607	Warren	9,800	582
Hancock	6,843	632	Washington	8,204	522
Hardin	7,811	570	Wayne	1,960	516
Harrison	4,003	543	Webster	19,786	650
Henry	10,627	625	Winnebago	5,068	561
Howard	4,495	569	Winneshiek	10,782	584
Humboldt	4,093	561	Woodbury	53,294	617
Ida	3,879	626	Worth	2,442	571
Iowa	8,990	691	Wright	5,980	609
Jackson	6,593	494			

(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, second quarter 2008(2)**

State	Employment		Average weekly wage (3)			
	June 2008 (thousands)	Percent change, June 2007-08	Average weekly wage	National ranking by level	Percent change, second quarter 2007-08	National ranking by percent change
United States (4)	136,631.8	-0.3	\$841	-	2.6	-
Alabama	1,955.4	-0.5	720	33	3.3	15
Alaska	330.6	1.4	860	12	3.1	16
Arizona	2,543.9	-2.6	806	19	2.4	34
Arkansas	1,183.5	-0.2	661	46	3.4	11
California	15,760.3	-0.5	955	6	2.2	42
Colorado	2,346.3	0.8	858	13	3.1	16
Connecticut	1,722.3	0.5	1,036	4	0.3	49
Delaware	427.3	-0.9	862	10	-0.8	51
District of Columbia	691.4	1.2	1,433	1	5.9	1
Florida	7,620.1	-3.4	762	26	2.6	30
Georgia	4,059.7	-0.6	787	22	-0.6	50
Hawaii	623.9	-1.3	764	24	3.9	9
Idaho	671.9	-0.9	636	48	1.6	46
Illinois	5,930.0	-0.4	893	8	2.3	39
Indiana	2,906.5	-0.9	715	38	1.9	43
Iowa	1,521.2	0.1	683	42	2.9	23
Kansas	1,389.1	1.2	720	33	2.4	34
Kentucky	1,818.9	-0.5	718	35	2.6	30
Louisiana	1,900.3	1.2	750	29	5.5	3
Maine	620.3	0.1	676	44	2.7	28
Maryland	2,577.7	-0.3	920	7	2.8	26
Massachusetts	3,310.4	0.1	1,044	2	3.6	10
Michigan	4,163.3	-2.2	825	18	2.4	34
Minnesota	2,733.9	-0.5	849	14	1.8	45
Mississippi	1,139.1	0.1	635	49	4.4	7
Missouri	2,761.6	0.0	752	28	3.4	11
Montana	450.3	0.1	629	50	2.9	23
Nebraska	936.1	0.5	676	44	3.4	11
Nevada	1,271.8	-1.9	797	20	2.7	28
New Hampshire	641.9	-0.4	835	16	1.5	48
New Jersey	4,054.4	-0.4	1,004	5	1.6	46
New Mexico	837.2	0.6	715	38	4.2	8
New York	8,758.2	0.6	1,040	3	2.3	39
North Carolina	4,083.6	-0.1	735	31	2.4	34
North Dakota	356.4	2.5	654	47	5.8	2
Ohio	5,315.0	-1.3	757	27	2.3	39
Oklahoma	1,556.0	1.0	701	40	5.3	5
Oregon	1,747.4	-0.8	764	24	3.0	20
Pennsylvania	5,743.3	0.1	827	17	3.1	16
Rhode Island	481.6	-2.2	796	21	2.8	26
South Carolina	1,907.5	-0.6	681	43	2.4	34
South Dakota	409.0	1.2	606	51	2.9	23
Tennessee	2,752.7	-0.4	745	30	1.9	43
Texas	10,510.3	2.2	849	14	2.5	33
Utah	1,234.3	0.1	716	37	2.6	30
Vermont	305.6	-0.9	718	35	3.0	20
Virginia	3,720.4	-0.3	885	9	3.0	20
Washington	3,000.9	0.3	862	10	3.4	11
West Virginia	715.3	0.0	695	41	5.1	6
Wisconsin	2,836.8	-0.5	730	32	3.1	16
Wyoming	296.7	2.7	780	23	5.4	4
Puerto Rico	997.8	-2.0	475	[5]	3.5	(5)
Virgin Islands	45.9	-2.2	703	[5]	-0.6	(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.