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County Employment and Wages in Wisconsin Third Quarter 2007

The average weekly wage in Outagamie County increased 4.9 percent from the third quarter of 2006 to the third quarter of 2007, the largest advance among Wisconsin's seven counties with employment of 75,000 or more as measured by 2006 annual average employment. Winnebago County had the second-highest wage growth at 3.9 percent, followed by Racine County at 3.2 percent. Waukesha County had the highest average weekly wage level in the State at \$814, followed by the counties of Milwaukee (\$802) and Dane (\$783). (See table 1.) Regional Commissioner Jay A. Mousa noted that among Wisconsin's seven largest counties, only Outagamie reported wage growth above the national rate of 4.3 percent and none had average weekly wages above the national average of \$818.

Among the seven largest counties in Wisconsin, employment was highest in Milwaukee County (497,800) and lowest in Racine County (76,400) in September 2007. Only one of the State's large counties—Outagamie—recorded an employment gain greater than the national average of 0.9 percent.

Employment and wage levels (but not over-the-year changes) are also available for the 65 counties in Wisconsin with employment below 75,000. All of the State's smaller counties had average weekly wages below the national level. (See table 2.)

Wage Levels in Large Counties

The average weekly wage levels in the counties of Waukesha, Milwaukee, Dane, and Winnebago placed in the top half of the national ranking among the 328 largest counties in the United States. Waukesha County's average weekly wage ranked 114th; Milwaukee's, 127th; Dane's, 138th; and Winnebago's, 161st. While none of these counties had average weekly wages above that for the nation, Waukesha, Milwaukee, and Dane Counties were within 5 percent of the U.S. average.

The average weekly wages in Wisconsin's three other large counties placed in the bottom half of the national rankings: Outagamie (\$712/229th), Brown (\$719/216th), and Racine (\$738/193rd).

Across the country, average weekly wages were higher than the national average in 112 of the largest 328 U.S. counties. Santa Clara, Calif., held the top position among the highest-paid large counties with an average weekly wage of \$1,585. New York County, N.Y., was second with an average weekly wage of \$1,544, followed by Washington, D.C. (\$1,376), Arlington, Va. (\$1,364), and San Mateo, Calif. (\$1,322).

Nationwide, there were 215 counties with an average weekly wage below the national average in the third quarter of 2007. The lowest average weekly wage was reported in Cameron County, Texas (\$518), followed by the counties of Hidalgo, Texas (\$529), Horry, S.C. (\$536), Webb, Texas (\$548), and Yakima, Wash. (\$568).

Wage Changes in Large Counties

Only one of Wisconsin's seven large counties recorded wage growth above the national increase of 4.3 percent from the third quarter of 2006 to the third quarter of 2007. (See table 1.) As mentioned, Outagamie County's 4.9-percent wage gain was the largest increase in the State and ranked 71st in the nation. Winnebago, at 3.9 percent, placed 134th. Brown County had the State's smallest wage increase, 1.8 percent and ranked 272nd among the nation's largest counties.

Among the largest counties in the nation, Clayton County, Ga., led the nation in growth in average weekly wages, with an increase of 23.9 percent from the third quarter of 2006 to the third quarter of 2007. Muscogee, Ga., was second with growth of 12.1 percent, followed by the counties of Santa Clara, Calif. (11.8 percent), Rock Island, Ill. (11.5 percent), and Davidson, Tenn. (9.1 percent).

Over the year, 10 large counties experienced declines in average weekly wages. Among the five largest decreases in wages, Trumbull, Ohio, had the greatest decline (-10.6 percent), followed by the counties of Vanderburgh, Ind. (-6.1 percent), Genesee, Mich. (-4.0 percent), Saginaw, Mich. (-3.1 percent), and Montgomery, Ohio (-3.0 percent).

Wage Levels in Wisconsin's Smaller Counties

All of the 65 counties in Wisconsin with employment below 75,000 had average weekly wages below the national level. Florence County reported the lowest wage at \$389 in the third quarter of 2007. The highest wage among Wisconsin's small counties was \$767 in Wood, followed by \$722 in Ozaukee. (See table 2.)

When all 72 counties in Wisconsin were considered, 12 counties in the State reported average weekly wages ranging from \$400 to \$499 and 50, or nearly three-quarters, reported average weekly wages in the \$500 to \$699 range. Among the higher-paid counties, Waukesha and Milwaukee were the only counties with average weekly wages above \$800. These better-paid counties were located in the Milwaukee-Racine metropolitan area.

State Average Weekly Wages

At the state level, the average weekly wage in Wisconsin was \$705, \$113 below the nationwide figure, ranking 33rd 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 (\$1,376), Connecticut (\$1,021), New York (\$1,009), Massachusetts (\$1,002) and New Jersey (\$965). All had wages at least 18 percent higher than the national average. Three states had average earnings of less than 75 percent of the national average: South Dakota (\$598), Mississippi (\$607), and Montana (\$608).

Wisconsin experienced wage growth of 2.6 percent from the third quarter of 2006 to the third quarter of 2007, ranking 47th among the 50 states and District of Columbia. Wage gains in the neighboring states of Minnesota (4.6 percent), Iowa (4.2 percent), and Illinois (4.0 percent) were all considerably larger, while Michigan (2.4 percent) experienced similar wage growth. (See table 3.) Nationwide, the highest over-the-year

wage gains in the third quarter of 2007 were recorded by Washington (6.7 percent), Connecticut (6.6 percent), and New York (6.1 percent). The only state to report a decline in average weekly wages was Rhode Island, where wages edged down 0.1 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 reports submitted by employers subject to state and federal unemployment insurance (UI) laws. The 9.0 million employer reports cover 136.2 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/; 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. This edition includes the data on a CD for enhanced access and usability. As a result of this change, the printed booklet contains only selected graphic representation of QCEW data; the data tables themselves are published exclusively in electronic formats as PDF and fixed-width text files. *Employment and Wages Annual Averages, 2006* is now available for sale from the United States Government Printing Office, Superintendent of Documents. On-line ordering information is available at <http://bookstore.gpo.gov/>. The 2006 bulletin is available in a portable document format (PDF) on the BLS Web site at 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 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. CT.

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 (1) employment and wages in the United States and the 7 largest counties in Wisconsin, third quarter 2007 (2)

Area	Employment		Average Weekly Wage (3)			
	September 2007 (thousands)	Percent change, third quarter 2006-07 (5)	Average weekly wage	National ranking by level (4)	Percent change, third quarter 2006-07 (5)	National ranking by percent change (4)
United States (6)	136,246.9	0.9	\$818	--	4.3	--
Wisconsin	2,802.3	-0.1	705	33	2.6	47
Brown, Wis.	150.4	0.0	719	216	1.8	272
Dane, Wis.	306.2	(7)	783	138	(7)	-
Milwaukee, Wis.	497.8	0.0	802	127	2.8	223
Outagamie, Wis.	104.8	1.7	712	229	4.9	71
Racine, Wis.	76.4	-1.1	738	193	3.2	199
Waukesha, Wis.	236.4	-0.6	814	114	3.0	211
Winnebago, Wis.	90.4	0.4	765	161	3.9	134

(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.

(7) Data do not meet BLS or State agency disclosure standards.

Table 2. Covered (1) employment and wages in the United States and all of the counties in Wisconsin, third quarter 2007 (2)

Area	Employment September 2007	Average Weekly Wage (3)	Area	Employment September 2007	Average Weekly Wage (3)
United States (4)	136,246,900	\$818	Manitowoc	35,356	\$637
Wisconsin	2,802,342	705	Marathon	71,312	682
Adams	5,003	496	Marinette	19,888	584
Ashland	8,921	594	Marquette	4,208	482
Barron	21,380	534	Menominee	2,128	504
Bayfield	4,238	442	Milwaukee	497,849	802
Brown	150,398	719	Monroe	20,241	584
Buffalo	5,355	692	Oconto	9,526	502
Burnett	4,818	489	Oneida	17,905	542
Calumet	13,136	538	Outagamie	104,819	712
Chippewa	21,966	604	Ozaukee	39,408	722
Clark	10,432	558	Pepin	2,256	518
Columbia	21,441	595	Pierce	9,213	553
Crawford	8,747	480	Polk	15,448	553
Dane	306,182	783	Portage	33,687	605
Dodge	35,162	668	Price	6,373	558
Door	14,811	493	Racine	76,366	738
Douglas	15,691	581	Richland	6,079	543
Dunn	16,377	595	Rock	68,084	692
Eau Claire	56,474	643	Rusk	5,402	483
Florence	1,101	389	Sauk	38,047	556
Fond Du Lac	46,837	661	Sawyer	7,986	599
Forest	3,466	490	Shawano	13,047	517
Grant	16,956	526	Sheboygan	62,977	684
Green	15,230	540	St. Croix	29,295	610
Green Lake	7,387	574	Taylor	8,408	570
Iowa	10,574	562	Trempealeau	13,265	561
Iron	1,987	469	Vernon	8,079	505
Jackson	8,630	626	Vilas	8,963	450
Jefferson	34,809	596	Walworth	40,729	586
Juneau	9,379	579	Washburn	5,864	507
Kenosha	55,301	662	Washington	53,103	653
Kewaunee	7,445	681	Waukesha	236,367	814
La Crosse	66,062	627	Waupaca	20,939	572
Lafayette	3,767	484	Waushara	6,913	499
Langlade	8,047	508	Winnebago	90,413	765
Lincoln	11,474	608	Wood	44,712	767

(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, third quarter 2007 (2)

State	Employment		Average weekly wage (3)			
	September 2007 (thousands)	Percent change, third quarter 2006-07	Average weekly wage	National ranking by level	Percent change, third quarter 2006-07	National ranking by percent change
United States (4)	136,246.9	0.9	\$818	-	4.3	-
Alabama	1,959.0	1.1	707	32	3.7	37
Alaska	327.3	0.7	840	13	5.4	9
Arizona	2,644.9	0.5	783	20	4.1	25
Arkansas	1,184.5	0.3	629	46	4.1	25
California	15,755.0	0.7	932	6	4.5	18
Colorado	2,314.3	2.4	844	12	3.2	42
Connecticut	1,696.9	1.0	1,021	2	6.6	2
Delaware	425.2	0.1	860	10	1.2	50
District of Columbia	679.0	0.6	1,376	1	5.3	12
Florida	7,879.9	-0.9	741	26	4.1	25
Georgia	4,089.4	1.2	782	21	4.1	25
Hawaii	624.4	0.3	760	22	5.4	9
Idaho	675.5	2.2	634	45	3.4	41
Illinois	5,917.6	0.6	866	9	4.0	32
Indiana	2,937.4	0.5	702	34	2.2	49
Iowa	1,494.5	0.9	668	40	4.2	22
Kansas	1,368.7	1.7	680	38	2.7	46
Kentucky	1,814.3	1.0	676	39	3.0	44
Louisiana	1,880.8	2.7	716	31	4.5	18
Maine	615.3	0.7	660	44	3.9	35
Maryland	2,563.7	0.7	892	7	4.1	25
Massachusetts	3,261.0	1.0	1,002	4	5.5	5
Michigan	4,218.2	-1.4	808	16	2.4	48
Minnesota	2,713.3	0.9	822	15	4.6	16
Mississippi	1,142.2	0.6	607	50	3.8	36
Missouri	2,746.7	0.8	719	29	4.2	22
Montana	446.1	2.7	608	49	4.6	16
Nebraska	922.7	1.7	666	41	5.4	9
Nevada	1,286.4	-0.1	792	19	5.5	5
New Hampshire	637.2	0.3	799	18	3.2	42
New Jersey	3,985.2	0.1	965	5	3.7	37
New Mexico	830.4	0.8	682	37	4.1	25
New York	8,585.3	1.3	1,009	3	6.1	3
North Carolina	4,104.1	2.4	719	29	3.5	40
North Dakota	347.4	1.5	621	48	5.8	4
Ohio	5,331.9	-0.2	745	25	2.8	45
Oklahoma	1,548.2	1.8	666	41	5.5	5
Oregon	1,751.7	1.2	750	24	4.2	22
Pennsylvania	5,673.4	0.5	802	17	4.4	20
Rhode Island	486.1	-1.0	759	23	-0.1	51
South Carolina	1,904.7	1.7	664	43	3.6	39
South Dakota	397.5	2.0	598	51	4.7	15
Tennessee	2,774.4	0.5	728	28	4.3	21
Texas	10,304.9	2.9	825	14	5.0	13
Utah	1,231.6	3.6	696	36	5.5	5
Vermont	305.2	-0.2	699	35	4.0	32
Virginia	3,686.6	1.0	857	11	5.0	13
Washington	2,976.5	2.1	878	8	6.7	1
West Virginia	713.8	0.3	623	47	4.0	32
Wisconsin	2,802.3	-0.1	705	33	2.6	47
Wyoming	284.3	3.6	734	27	4.1	25
Puerto Rico	1,008.0	-1.1	453	(5)	2.5	(5)
Virgin Islands	45.0	0.7	682	(5)	-0.3	(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.