

News

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AVERAGE WEEKLY WAGES IN KANSAS: SECOND QUARTER 2007

Sedgwick County records fastest growth in wages Johnson County has highest average weekly wage

In the second quarter of 2007, the average weekly wage in Sedgwick County rose 6.4 percent over the year, the largest increase among the four counties in Kansas with 75,000 or more jobs as measured by 2006 annual average employment. Johnson County had the next largest increase at 4.8 percent, according to the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics. In addition, Sedgwick and Johnson were the only two counties to record over-the-year wage growth greater than the 4.6-percent gain for the nation. Regional Commissioner Stanley W. Suchman noted that only Johnson County had an average weekly wage above the national average of \$820. (See table A.).

Table A. Covered (1) employment and wages in the United States and the 4 largest counties in Kansas, second quarter 2007(2)

Area	Employment		Average Weekly Wage (3)			
	June 2007 (thousands)	Percent change, second quarter 2006-07 (5)	Average weekly wage	National ranking by level (4)	Percent change, second quarter 2006-07 (5)	National ranking by percent change (4)
United States (6)	137,018.2	1.2	\$820	--	4.6	--
Kansas	1,370.7	2.0	702	33	4.8	15
Johnson, Kan.	318.1	3.1	867	82	4.8	98
Sedgwick, Kan.	259.9	3.9	779	146	6.4	33
Shawnee, Kan.	96.7	2.3	723	215	4.2	144
Wyandotte, Kan.	80.7	2.2	798	136	1.4	299

(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.

Wage levels in the largest counties

Johnson County's average weekly wage of \$867 was the highest in the State and ranked in the top quarter (82nd) among the 328 largest counties in the nation in the second quarter of 2007. The three remaining large counties in the State had wage levels below the national average of \$820, but two ranked in the top half nationwide with Wyandotte County averaging \$798 (136th) and Sedgwick, \$779 (146th). Shawnee County placed in the bottom half, averaging \$723 (215th).

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 County, 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 the greater New York metropolitan area (New York, N.Y., Fairfield, Conn., and Somerset, N.J.), 3 others were located in or around the San Francisco area (Santa Clara, San Francisco, and San Mateo, all in California), 2 more were located in or around the Washington, D.C. metropolitan area (Washington, D.C., and Arlington, Va.), while Clayton, Ga., was part of the Atlanta metropolitan area. Rounding out the top 10 was Suffolk County, Mass., part of the Boston metropolitan area.

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).

At the state level, Kansas's weekly wage of \$702 was 14.4 percent below the national average, ranking 33rd among the 50 states and the District of Columbia. (See table 1.) Two of Kansas's four neighboring states had higher average weekly wages, Colorado (\$832/13th) and Missouri (\$727/29th), and two had lower levels, Oklahoma (\$665/40th) and Nebraska (\$654/45th).

Wage levels in Kansas's smaller counties

All of the 101 smaller counties in Kansas, those with employment of less than 75,000, recorded wages below the national average. Comanche County had the lowest average weekly wage, at \$361, in the second quarter of 2007. The highest wage among Kansas's smaller counties fell below that of any of the largest four counties and was recorded in Leavenworth at \$712. Coffey County followed closely averaging \$710. (See table 2).

When all 105 counties in Kansas are considered, 6 counties reported average weekly wages above \$700 and all were located in the eastern half of the state where wages ranged from a low of \$391 in Washington County to a high of \$867 in Johnson County. In the western half of the state, the lowest wage was recorded in Comanche County (\$361), while Grant County posted the highest wage at \$645. Overall, forty-one counties had wages averaging less than \$500, fifty-one counties had wages between \$500 and \$600, and the remaining thirteen counties had wages above \$600.

Over-the-year wage changes

As mentioned, two of Kansas's four large counties recorded wage growth greater than the national increase of 4.6 percent from the second quarter of 2006 to the second quarter of 2007. Sedgwick County's 6.4-percent wage gain ranked 33rd in the nation among the 328 largest counties and Johnson County's 4.8-percent increase ranked 98th. The average weekly wage increase in Shawnee County (4.2 percent) ranked 144th while the increase in Wyandotte County (1.4 percent) placed in the bottom ten percent nationwide, at 299th.

Among the 328 largest counties in the United States, Clayton County, Ga., led the nation in average weekly wage growth with an increase of 87.3 percent from the second quarter of 2006 due to increases in wage disbursements in the trade, transportation, and utilities supersector. Queens, N.Y., ranked second with growth of 12.7 percent, followed by the counties of Rockingham, N.H. (10.1 percent), Ventura, Ca. (9.2 percent), and Lake, Ill. (9.1 percent).

Six counties experienced over-the-year declines in average weekly wages. Saginaw, Mich., had the greatest decline (-5.2 percent), followed by Orleans, La. (-2.9 percent), Lake, Fla. (-1.1 percent), Genesee, Mich. (-1.0 percent), Lorain, Ohio (-0.9 percent), and Orange, Fla. (-0.1 percent).

At the state level, Kansas's wage growth of 4.8 percent in the second quarter of 2007 was above the national average, ranking 15th among the 50 states and the District of Columbia. Across the nation, Wyoming had the fastest wage growth (8.0 percent) and Delaware, the slowest (2.2 percent). No state recorded an over-the-year decline in average weekly wages during the period.

Employment

Among the four large counties in Kansas, employment was highest in Johnson County (318,100) and lowest in Wyandotte County (80,700) in June 2007. Over-the-year rates of employment growth in all four large counties exceeded the national average of 1.2 percent. Sedgwick County had the largest over-the-year percentage increase in employment, 3.9 percent, ranking 19th among the 328 largest counties. Johnson County had the next largest increase at 3.1 percent, followed by Shawnee (2.3 percent) and Wyandotte (2.2 percent).

Of the 328 largest counties in the United States, 126 had over-the-year percentage growth in employment above the national average (1.2 percent) in June 2007; 184 large counties experienced changes below the national average. Orleans County, La., had the largest over-the-year percentage increase in employment (10.8 percent). Harrison, Miss., had the next largest increase, 10.3 percent, followed by the counties of Utah, Utah (6.7 percent), Williamson, Tenn. (6.4 percent), and Wake, N.C. (5.9 percent). The large employment gains in Orleans and Harrison counties reflected significant recovery following substantial job losses that occurred in 2005 and 2006 due to Hurricane Katrina.

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 every employer subject to 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. The 2006 edition of this bulletin will contain 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* 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, telephone 866-512-1800, outside Washington, D.C. Within Washington, D.C., the telephone number is 202-512-1800. The fax number is 202-512-2104.

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 Kansas City Information Office at 816-285-7000 from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. and 1:00 p.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 by state, second quarter 2007(2)

State	Employment		Average weekly wage (3)			
	June 2007 (thousands)	Percent change, second quarter 2006-07	Average weekly wage	National ranking by level	Percent change, second quarter 2006-07	National ranking by percent change
United States (4)	137,018.2	1.2	\$820	-	4.6	-
Alabama	1,965.4	1.1	697	38	3.6	38
Alaska	325.8	-0.5	832	13	5.6	9
Arizona	2,612.4	1.2	786	20	4.4	23
Arkansas	1,186.5	0.3	639	46	4.2	28
California	15,832.5	0.8	935	6	5.4	11
Colorado	2,326.9	2.2	832	13	4.8	15
Connecticut	1,714.2	0.9	1,033	2	6.4	4
Delaware	430.2	0.0	870	9	2.2	51
District of Columbia	683.2	0.8	1,357	1	4.3	26
Florida	7,894.2	0.2	743	23	3.2	45
Georgia	4,091.5	1.4	792	19	6.5	3
Hawaii	631.2	1.4	736	27	4.2	28
Idaho	679.1	3.0	626	47	2.3	50
Illinois	5,956.3	0.8	874	8	4.4	23
Indiana	2,933.4	0.5	702	33	2.6	48
Iowa	1,518.6	0.9	664	42	3.9	35
Kansas	1,370.7	2.0	702	33	4.8	15
Kentucky	1,828.2	1.7	700	35	4.2	28
Louisiana	1,880.2	3.2	711	31	4.1	31
Maine	619.6	0.6	658	44	4.1	31
Maryland	2,584.9	0.7	899	7	5.3	12
Massachusetts	3,300.7	1.2	1,008	4	4.8	15
Michigan	4,252.9	-1.4	807	17	2.9	46
Minnesota	2,730.9	0.0	834	12	5.6	9
Mississippi	1,137.4	0.9	609	50	3.6	38
Missouri	2,764.6	0.8	727	29	3.4	43
Montana	449.8	1.7	611	49	6.3	5
Nebraska	930.9	1.6	654	45	3.5	42
Nevada	1,297.9	1.0	776	21	3.7	36
New Hampshire	643.7	0.7	823	16	6.3	5
New Jersey	4,066.7	0.4	989	5	4.3	26
New Mexico	833.3	1.1	686	39	5.2	13
New York	8,688.8	1.3	1,020	3	5.9	7
North Carolina	4,090.5	3.0	718	30	4.1	31
North Dakota	347.7	1.5	619	48	4.7	19
Ohio	5,384.6	-0.1	740	25	3.4	43
Oklahoma	1,538.5	1.6	665	40	4.1	31
Oregon	1,761.6	1.7	742	24	4.5	22
Pennsylvania	5,740.3	1.1	802	18	4.6	20
Rhode Island	492.9	0.3	774	22	2.5	49
South Carolina	1,917.4	3.0	665	40	2.9	46
South Dakota	404.3	2.1	590	51	4.8	15
Tennessee	2,768.7	0.7	729	28	3.6	38
Texas	10,296.1	3.4	827	15	5.9	7
Utah	1,233.7	4.4	698	36	6.6	2
Vermont	306.6	-0.5	698	36	5.0	14
Virginia	3,731.5	1.0	859	10	4.4	23
Washington	2,989.8	2.7	835	11	4.6	20
West Virginia	717.1	0.3	659	43	3.6	38
Wisconsin	2,845.8	0.4	709	32	3.7	36
Wyoming	288.3	3.3	739	26	8.0	1
Puerto Rico	1,020.7	-1.6	460	(5)	6.0	(5)
Virgin Islands	46.9	3.4	707	(5)	4.1	(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.

Table 2. Covered (1) employment and wages in the United States and all counties in Kansas, second quarter 2007(2)

Area	Employment June 2007 (thousands)	Average weekly wage (3)
United States (4)	137,018.2	\$820
Kansas	1,370.7	702
Allen	6.2	506
Anderson	2.3	454
Atchison	7.0	552
Barber	1.9	513
Barton	13.4	560
Bourbon	6.9	502
Brown	4.9	498
Butler	18.4	546
Chase	0.9	427
Chautauqua	0.9	409
Cherokee	6.2	541
Cheyenne	0.8	476
Clark	0.8	506
Clay	3.5	443
Cloud	4.0	458
Coffey	4.2	710
Comanche	0.8	361
Cowley	15.5	583
Crawford	18.0	519
Decatur	1.1	449
Dickinson	7.1	496
Doniphan	2.7	594
Douglas	47.5	601
Edwards	1.1	499
Elk	0.7	416
Ellis	15.4	575
Ellsworth	2.9	510
Finney	17.9	580
Ford	16.4	597
Franklin	9.3	572
Geary	13.9	566
Gove	1.3	462
Graham	1.1	505
Grant	3.8	645
Gray	3.0	530
Greeley	0.6	484
Greenwood	2.0	472
Hamilton	1.1	509
Harper	2.4	516
Harvey	13.9	548
Haskell	1.6	588
Hodgeman	0.6	456
Jackson	4.6	529
Jefferson	3.7	554
Jewell	0.9	416
Johnson	318.1	867
Kearny	1.4	562
Kingman	2.6	515
Kiowa	1.1	468
Labette	10.5	495
Lane	0.8	535
Leavenworth	20.9	712
Lincoln	1.0	395
Linn	2.2	636

Table 2. Covered (1) employment and wages in the United States and all counties in Kansas, second quarter 2007(2) - continued

Area	Employment June 2007 (thousands)	Average weekly wage (3)
Logan	1.4	514
Lyon	17.4	544
Mcperson	14.7	616
Marion	4.1	440
Marshall	4.7	528
Meade	1.5	609
Miami	8.8	552
Mitchell	3.2	510
Montgomery	17.8	529
Morris	1.6	463
Morton	1.3	590
Nemaha	5.2	518
Neosho	8.5	585
Ness	1.3	567
Norton	2.6	499
Osage	3.6	426
Osborne	1.5	408
Ottawa	1.4	472
Pawnee	3.8	522
Phillips	2.9	489
Pottawatomie	8.5	580
Pratt	4.8	572
Rawlins	0.8	435
Reno	28.4	574
Republic	2.0	392
Rice	3.6	504
Riley	27.4	609
Rooks	2.1	494
Rush	1.1	531
Russell	2.9	499
Saline	31.9	592
Scott	1.9	566
Sedgwick	259.9	779
Seward	11.9	596
Shawnee	96.7	723
Sheridan	1.0	479
Sherman	2.6	478
Smith	1.5	409
Stafford	1.5	458
Stanton	0.8	589
Stevens	1.8	606
Sumner	6.5	532
Thomas	3.9	484
Trego	1.2	470
Wabaunsee	1.4	474
Wallace	0.5	456
Washington	2.3	391
Wichita	0.9	516
Wilson	4.5	549
Woodson	0.7	468
Wyandotte	80.7	798

(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.