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COUNTY EMPLOYMENT AND WAGES IN IOWA – SECOND QUARTER 2011

The three largest counties in Iowa reported employment growth from June 2010 to June 2011, the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics reported today. (Large counties are defined as those with employment of 75,000 or more as measured by 2010 annual average employment.) Scott County had the largest increase, up 1.7 percent, closely followed by Linn County, up 1.6 percent. Regional Commissioner Charlene Peiffer noted that these over-the-year employment increases were greater than the national rate of 0.9 percent. Employment in the remaining large county, Polk, increased 0.1 percent.

Among the three largest counties in Iowa, employment was highest in Polk County (268,300) in June 2011. Collectively, Iowa's three large counties accounted for 32.7 percent of total employment within the state. Nationwide, the 322 largest counties made up 70.5 percent of total U.S. employment, which stood at 130.5 million in June 2011.

The average weekly wage in Polk County rose 3.2 percent from the second quarter of 2010 to the second quarter of 2011, the largest increase among Iowa's large counties. Polk County also had the highest average weekly wage in the state at \$872, followed by Linn (\$838). (See table 1.) Nationally, the average weekly wage rose 3.0 percent over the year to \$891 in the second quarter of 2011.

Employment and wage levels (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 wage changes

Only one of Iowa's large counties recorded wage growth above the national increase of 3.0 percent from the second quarter of 2010 to the second quarter of 2011. (See table 1.) As noted, Polk County experienced the state's largest average weekly wage increase of 3.2 percent, ranking 109th among the 322 largest U.S. counties. Scott County (2.5 percent) placed 168th and Linn County (0.8 percent) ranked 291st.

Among the 322 largest counties in the U.S., 307 had over-the-year increases in average weekly wages in the second quarter of 2011. Williamson, Texas, ranked first in average weekly wage growth with an increase of 18.0 percent. Champaign, Ill., had the largest wage decline with a loss of 3.6 percent over the year.

Large county average weekly wages

Average weekly wages in all three large Iowa counties were below the national average of \$891 in the second quarter of 2011. As noted, Polk County (\$872) had the highest average weekly wage in the state and ranked 126th among the 322 largest counties in the United States. Scott (\$706) reported the lowest average weekly wage and ranked 293rd nationwide.

Nationally, weekly wages were higher than average in 107 of the 322 largest U.S. counties. Santa Clara, Calif., held the top position among the highest-paid large counties with an average weekly wage of \$1,743. New York, N.Y., was second at \$1,645, followed by Arlington, Va. (\$1,553), and Washington, D.C. (\$1,541). Among the 215 large counties with an average weekly wage below the U.S. average in the second quarter of 2011, Horry, S.C. (\$526) reported the lowest wage.

Average weekly wages in Iowa's smaller counties

All 96 counties in Iowa with employment below 75,000 had average weekly wages lower than the national average of \$891. Among these smaller counties, Dallas County had the highest average weekly wage at \$865 and Decatur County had the lowest at \$515. (See table 2.)

When all 99 counties in Iowa were considered, none had wages above the national average. Eight reported average weekly wages under \$550, 25 had wages from \$550 to \$599, 38 reported wages from \$600 to \$649, 13 had wages from \$650 to \$699, and 15 had wages of \$700 or more. (See chart 1.)

Additional statistics and other information

Quarterly data for states have been included in this release in table 3. For additional information about quarterly employment and wages data, please read the Technical Note or visit the QCEW Web site at www.bls.gov/cew/.

Employment and Wages Annual Averages Online features comprehensive information by detailed industry on establishments, employment, and wages for the nation and all states. The 2010 edition of this publication, which was published in November 2011, contains selected data produced by Business Employment Dynamics (BED) on job gains and losses, as well as selected data from the first quarter 2011 version of this news release. Tables and additional content from *Employment and Wages Annual Averages 2010* are now available online at <http://www.bls.gov/cew/cewbultn10.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

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 covered 130.5 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 and may not match the data contained on the BLS Web site.

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 3 largest counties in Iowa, second quarter 2011 (2)

Area	Employment			Average Weekly Wage (3)			
	June 2011 (thousands)	Percent change, June 2010-11 (4)	National ranking by percent change (5)	Average weekly wage	National ranking by level (5)	Percent change, second quarter 2010-11 (4)	National ranking by percent change (5)
United States (6)	130,469.9	0.9	--	\$891	--	3.0	--
Iowa	1,476.9	0.7	--	726	43	2.5	32
Linn, Iowa	127.4	1.6	74	838	150	0.8	291
Polk, Iowa	268.3	0.1	204	872	126	3.2	109
Scott, Iowa	87.6	1.7	70	706	293	2.5	168

(1) Includes workers covered by Unemployment Insurance (UI) and Unemployment Compensation for Federal Employees (UCFE)

(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 counties in Iowa, second quarter 2011 (2)

Area	Employment June 2011	Average weekly wage (3)	Area	Employment June 2011	Average weekly wage (3)
United States (4)	130,469,924	\$891			
Iowa	1,476,937	726	Jasper	10,931	\$637
Adair	2,850	584	Jefferson	6,970	643
Adams	1,229	579	Johnson	76,328	804
Allamakee	5,244	550	Jones	6,546	602
Appanoose	4,484	561	Keokuk	2,423	579
Audubon	1,900	565	Kossuth	6,597	634
Benton	5,674	600	Lee	16,023	689
Black Hawk	73,324	733	Linn	127,392	838
Boone	9,154	653	Louisa	3,664	612
Bremer	9,587	665	Lucas	3,206	613
Buchanan	6,467	578	Lyon	4,842	526
Buena Vista	10,867	609	Madison	3,847	597
Butler	3,701	596	Mahaska	7,936	628
Calhoun	3,151	541	Marion	16,522	710
Carroll	12,259	603	Marshall	18,448	681
Cass	5,995	588	Mills	4,240	625
Cedar	5,624	591	Mitchell	3,761	627
Cerro Gordo	24,791	668	Monona	2,812	537
Cherokee	5,507	600	Monroe	3,552	790
Chickasaw	4,857	626	Montgomery	4,114	620
Clarke	4,041	586	Muscatine	21,655	799
Clay	9,338	648	O'Brien	6,431	574
Clayton	6,905	600	Osceola	2,254	585
Clinton	23,056	641	Page	6,642	619
Crawford	7,666	642	Palo Alto	3,842	568
Dallas	33,715	865	Plymouth	10,770	700
Davis	2,002	557	Pocahontas	2,831	629
Decatur	2,170	515	Polk	268,321	872
Delaware	6,266	665	Pottawattamie	38,141	629
Des Moines	21,886	679	Poweshiek	9,470	697
Dickinson	9,562	548	Ringgold	1,472	550
Dubuque	55,905	697	Sac	3,386	572
Emmet	4,285	608	Scott	87,629	706
Fayette	7,344	543	Shelby	5,601	586
Floyd	5,539	637	Sioux	19,471	597
Franklin	4,142	711	Story	43,004	779
Fremont	2,439	700	Tama	5,006	584
Greene	3,171	712	Taylor	1,846	566
Grundy	4,190	663	Union	6,727	604
Guthrie	3,126	614	Van Buren	2,069	642
Hamilton	6,208	736	Wapello	15,800	642
Hancock	5,975	689	Warren	9,897	612
Hardin	7,439	627	Washington	8,210	548
Harrison	4,221	599	Wayne	1,885	600
Henry	9,288	633	Webster	17,797	673
Howard	4,143	613	Winnebago	4,660	575
Humboldt	3,931	605	Winneshiek	10,473	608
Ida	3,410	642	Woodbury	50,612	640
Iowa	8,778	625	Worth	2,318	599
Jackson	6,224	535	Wright	5,533	670

(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 2011 (2)

State	Employment		Average weekly wage (3)			
	June 2011 (thousands)	Percent change, June 2010-11	Average weekly wage	National ranking by level	Percent change, second quarter 2010-11	National ranking by percent change
United States (4)	130,469.9	0.9	\$891	--	3.0	--
Alabama	1,824.8	-0.4	767	34	2.3	41
Alaska	335.9	1.6	941	9	2.6	27
Arizona	2,336.3	1.1	842	20	2.7	26
Arkansas	1,140.4	-1.3	703	47	2.6	27
California	14,664.6	0.3	1,019	6	4.0	7
Colorado	2,234.7	1.4	900	13	3.4	16
Connecticut	1,630.2	0.8	1,116	3	3.8	9
Delaware	408.4	0.5	926	12	5.9	2
District of Columbia	711.3	1.4	1,541	1	2.4	36
Florida	7,092.3	0.8	802	25	2.6	27
Georgia	3,803.1	1.0	832	21	2.5	32
Hawaii	590.5	0.7	799	26	2.4	36
Idaho	616.6	0.0	667	49	2.3	41
Illinois	5,633.0	1.0	939	10	3.2	17
Indiana	2,769.2	1.3	749	41	2.2	46
Iowa	1,476.9	0.7	726	43	2.5	32
Kansas	1,313.2	-0.1	754	40	2.9	23
Kentucky	1,751.8	0.9	760	38	2.3	41
Louisiana	1,844.3	-0.1	794	28	3.1	18
Maine	593.8	0.3	712	46	1.9	48
Maryland	2,513.5	0.5	987	7	3.1	18
Massachusetts	3,230.4	0.9	1,120	2	5.6	3
Michigan	3,896.9	1.8	845	19	2.4	36
Minnesota	2,645.4	1.4	898	15	3.5	12
Mississippi	1,079.4	-0.6	664	50	1.8	49
Missouri	2,617.7	0.3	774	31	1.6	50
Montana	434.1	0.5	681	48	3.5	12
Nebraska	911.6	0.1	714	45	2.4	36
Nevada	1,123.0	0.5	816	24	2.5	32
New Hampshire	615.2	0.4	888	16	2.4	36
New Jersey	3,836.2	-0.3	1,056	5	2.6	27
New Mexico	788.7	-0.5	763	37	2.8	24
New York	8,575.3	1.0	1,092	4	1.0	51
North Carolina	3,865.9	1.5	783	30	2.5	32
North Dakota	382.4	5.1	769	33	8.2	1
Ohio	5,009.1	0.9	795	27	2.6	27
Oklahoma	1,510.3	0.7	749	41	4.5	5
Oregon	1,637.5	0.7	819	22	4.2	6
Pennsylvania	5,606.5	1.0	875	17	3.1	18
Rhode Island	458.1	0.3	862	18	3.5	12
South Carolina	1,801.6	1.1	726	43	2.3	41
South Dakota	404.8	0.8	656	51	3.8	9
Tennessee	2,616.9	1.3	794	28	2.3	41
Texas	10,462.4	2.1	900	13	4.0	7
Utah	1,183.9	2.0	756	39	3.1	18
Vermont	297.0	1.0	773	32	2.8	24
Virginia	3,619.7	0.9	949	8	2.2	46
Washington	2,875.8	0.6	928	11	3.5	12
West Virginia	702.9	0.3	765	36	5.4	4
Wisconsin	2,712.0	0.9	767	34	3.0	22
Wyoming	284.7	1.2	819	22	3.7	11
Puerto Rico	915.1	-1.4	496	(5)	0.6	(5)
Virgin Islands	44.1	0.6	747	(5)	5.5	(5)

(1) Includes workers covered by Unemployment Insurance (UI) and Unemployment Compensation for Federal Employees (UCFE) programs.

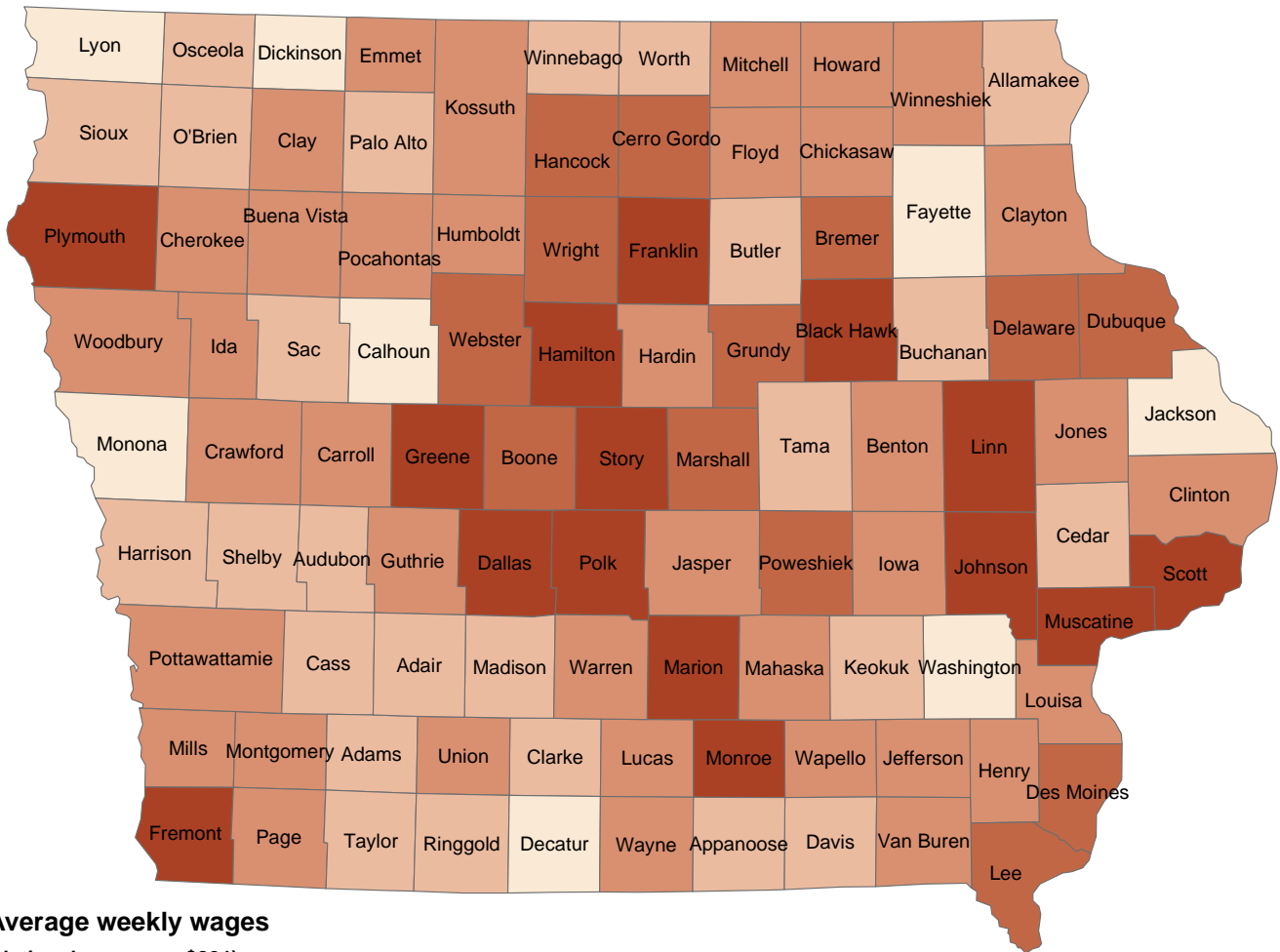
(2) Data are preliminary.

(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.

Chart 1. Average weekly wages by county in Iowa, second quarter 2011



SOURCE: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics