

# News

United States  
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Bureau of Labor Statistics

Chicago, Ill. 60604

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General Information: (312) 353-1880

Media Contact: Paul LaPorte

(312) 353-1138

Internet: [www.bls.gov/ro5](http://www.bls.gov/ro5)

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## **County Employment and Wages in South Dakota: Second Quarter 2008**

The average weekly wage in Minnehaha County was \$682 in the second quarter of 2008, 0.7 percent higher than it was one year earlier, according to the U.S. Department of Labor's Bureau of Labor Statistics. Regional Commissioner Jay A. Mousa noted that Minnehaha's average weekly wage was \$159 below the national level of \$841, and its wage growth was lower than the nationwide increase of 2.6 percent. Minnehaha was the only large county in South Dakota—that is, it had 75,000 or more jobs as measured by 2007 annual average employment.

Nationally, there were 334 large counties of which 224 had average weekly wages below the national average. Minnehaha County's wage placed it 291<sup>st</sup>, in the bottom quartile of the national ranking. The county's slower-than-average wage growth ranked higher at 278<sup>th</sup>.

Employment in Minnehaha County increased 1.9 percent from June 2007-June 2008 to a level of 118,200. Nationally, employment declined 0.3 percent during this time period.

Employment and wage levels (but not over-the-year changes) are also available for the 65 counties in South Dakota with employment below 75,000. All 65 of these counties had average weekly wages below the national average of \$841. (See table 2.) Among these smaller counties, the highest average weekly wage was \$709 in Union County and the lowest was \$402 in Mellette County. When all 66 counties in the State were considered, 8 had average weekly wages of \$600 or more, 27 between \$500 and \$599, and 31 below \$500.

### **Large County Average Weekly Wages**

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 with an average weekly wage of \$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).

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).

### **State Average Weekly Wages**

South Dakota's wage of \$606 placed it 51<sup>st</sup> in the national ranking in the second quarter of 2008, \$235 below that for the nation. The State was one of two in the country, Montana (\$629) the other, that had an average weekly wage that was less than 75 percent of the national level. 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.

Average weekly wages in South Dakota rose 2.9 percent over the year, placing the State in the upper half of the national ranking in wage growth at 23<sup>rd</sup>. 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 this 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 is expected to 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/).

QCEW-based news releases issued by other regional offices have been placed at one convenient Web site location, [www.bls.gov/cew/cewregional.htm](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 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 and reflect 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 largest county in South Dakota, 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	--
South Dakota	409.0	1.2	606	51	2.9	23
Minnehaha, S.D.	118.2	1.9	682	291	0.7	278

(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 South Dakota 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	Hutchinson	2,597	\$478
South Dakota	409,031	606	Hyde	558	499
Aurora	889	461	Jackson	869	428
Beadle	8,385	563	Jerauld	1,487	518
Bennett	840	502	Jones	536	414
Bon Homme	1,897	462	Kingsbury	1,843	521
Brookings	17,767	637	Lake	4,807	546
Brown	20,597	592	Lawrence	12,141	528
Brule	2,048	438	Lincoln	13,831	660
Buffalo	368	572	Lyman	1,497	436
Butte	2,851	475	Marshall	1,734	507
Campbell	456	415	McCook	1,393	482
Charles Mix	3,457	450	McPherson	657	424
Clark	940	447	Meade	7,042	597
Clay	5,896	549	Mellette	371	402
Codington	16,249	575	Miner	867	480
Corson	855	523	Minnehaha	118,231	682
Custer	3,162	476	Moody	2,510	560
Davison	12,084	561	Pennington	56,022	600
Day	2,120	437	Perkins	1,180	453
Deuel	1,786	561	Potter	940	433
Dewey	1,923	539	Roberts	3,611	490
Douglas	1,122	457	Sanborn	772	478
Edmunds	1,140	508	Shannon	3,519	623
Fall River	2,620	557	Spink	2,381	517
Faulk	619	465	Stanley	1,295	480
Grant	3,856	564	Sully	574	460
Gregory	1,501	429	Todd	2,837	562
Haakon	746	523	Tripp	2,225	486
Hamlin	1,770	518	Turner	2,247	526
Hand	1,293	443	Union	9,778	709
Hanson	490	477	Walworth	2,256	449
Harding	425	615	Yankton	12,739	590
Hughes	10,488	641	Ziebach	294	567

(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.