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County Employment and Wages in Ohio First Quarter 2008

The average weekly wage in Butler County increased 3.9 percent from the first quarter of 2007 to the first quarter of 2008, the largest increase among Ohio's 13 counties with employment of 75,000 or more (as measured by 2007 annual average employment). Summit County had the second-highest wage growth at 2.9 percent, followed by Lorain County at 1.7 percent. Hamilton County had the highest average weekly wage in the State at \$961, followed by the counties of Cuyahoga (\$907) and Franklin (\$906). (See table 1.) Regional Commissioner Jay A. Mousa noted that only two of Ohio's large counties had wage growth above the 2.4 percent national increase and three had wages above the national average of \$905.

Among the 13 largest counties in Ohio, employment in March 2008 was highest in Cuyahoga County (725,600) and lowest in Trumbull County (75,500). Ten of the 13 large counties in the State reported declines in employment levels from March 2007 to March 2008. Lorain County reported the largest decline in employment, dropping 4.2 percent. Only Butler and Summit counties increased employment, each up 0.6 percent. Hamilton County reported no change in employment level. Nationally, employment grew 0.4 percent during this time period.

Employment and wage levels (but not over-the-year changes) are also available for the 75 counties in Ohio with employment below 75,000. Seventy-three of these smaller counties had average weekly wages below the national average. (See table 2.)

Large County Average Weekly Wages

Average weekly wages in 5 of Ohio's 13 large counties placed in the top half of the national rankings among the 334 largest counties in the United States. As noted, the three highest-paid counties in the State—Hamilton, Cuyahoga, and Franklin—were above the average weekly wage of \$905 and ranked 64th, 90th, and 91st, respectively. Joining these three counties were Summit (\$814/156th) and Montgomery (\$804/165th).

The average weekly wages in Ohio's eight other large counties placed in the bottom half of the national rankings: Mahoning (\$618/322nd), Stark (\$679/297th), Trumbull (\$709/274th), Lorain (\$721/261st), Lake (\$731/249th), Warren (\$747/228th), Lucas (\$771/196th), and Butler (\$778/190th).

Average weekly wages were higher than the national average in 92 of the largest 334 U.S. counties. New York, N.Y., held the top position among the highest-paid large

counties with an average weekly wage of \$2,805. Fairfield, Conn., was second with an average weekly wage of \$1,905, followed by Somerset, N.J. (\$1,765), Suffolk, Mass. (\$1,708), and San Francisco, Calif. (\$1,639).

Nationwide, there were 241 counties with an average weekly wage below the national average in the first quarter of 2008. The lowest average weekly wage was reported in Cameron County, Texas (\$523), followed by the counties of Hidalgo, Texas (\$532), Horry, S.C. (\$534), Webb, Texas (\$554), and Yakima, Wash. (\$587).

Large County Wage Changes

Only 2 of Ohio's 13 large counties recorded wage growth above the national increase of 2.4 percent from the first quarter of 2007 to the first quarter of 2008. (See table 1.) Butler County's 3.9-percent wage gain was the largest increase in the State and ranked 70th in the nation while Summit County, at 2.9 percent, placed 140th. Conversely, Trumbull County reported the largest decline in average weekly wages in the State and the nation, falling 17.2 percent.

Nationwide, Westmoreland, Pa., ranked first in average weekly wage growth with an increase of 14.9 percent from the first quarter of 2007. Williamson, Texas, was second with growth of 10.8 percent, followed by the counties of Somerset, N.J. (9.0 percent), San Luis Obispo, Calif. (8.3 percent), and Jefferson, Texas (7.9 percent).

Thirty-four large counties experienced over-the-year declines in average weekly wages. As mentioned, Trumbull, Ohio, had the largest decrease (-17.2 percent), followed by the counties of Saginaw, Mich. (-4.4 percent), Rockingham, N.H. (-3.9 percent), Fairfield, Conn. (-3.8 percent), and Mecklenburg, N.C. (-3.4 percent).

Wage Levels in Ohio's Smaller Counties

Seventy-three of the 75 smaller counties in Ohio with employment below 75,000 had average weekly wages below the national level of \$905. The exceptions were Delaware County, which reported an average weekly wage of \$972, followed by Union County, at \$919. The third-highest wage among the smaller counties was \$870 in Wood County. Meigs County reported the lowest average weekly wage at \$454 in the first quarter of 2008. (See table 2.)

When all 88 counties in Ohio were considered, 29 counties in the State reported average weekly wages under \$600, 34 reported average weekly wages between \$600 and \$699, 15 had average weekly wages between \$700 and \$799 and 10 counties had average weekly wages greater than \$800.

State Average Weekly Wages

At the state level, the average weekly wage in Ohio was \$798, \$107 below the nationwide figure, ranking 23rd 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 (\$1,488), New York (\$1,399), Connecticut (\$1,254), Massachusetts (\$1,143) and New Jersey (\$1,133). All five had wages at least 25 percent higher than the national average. Five states had average earnings of less than 75 percent of the national average: Montana (\$625), South Dakota (\$632), Mississippi (\$634), North Dakota (\$652), and Arkansas (\$667).

Ohio experienced wage growth of 1.0 percent from the first quarter of 2007 to the first quarter of 2008, ranking 46th among the 50 States and District of Columbia. Wage gains in the neighboring states of Indiana (2.4 percent) and Pennsylvania (2.4 percent) were higher, while in Michigan, weekly wages rose at about the same pace (0.9 percent). (See table 3.) Nationwide, the highest over-the-year wage gains in the first quarter of 2008 were recorded by Wyoming (6.7 percent), North Dakota (6.2 percent) and South Dakota (5.2 percent). The only state to report a decline in average weekly wages was Connecticut, where wages were down 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 135.4 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. As with the 2005 edition, this edition includes the data on a CD for enhanced access and usability with the printed booklet containing selected graphic representation of QCEW data; the data tables themselves are published exclusively in electronic formats as PDF. The 2006 bulletin is available in a 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 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. ET.

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 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 13 largest counties in Ohio, first quarter 2008(2)

Area	Employment		Average Weekly Wage (3)			
	March 2008 (thousands)	Percent change, March 2007-08(5)	Average weekly wage	National ranking by level (4)	Percent change, first quarter 2007-08 (5)	National ranking by percent change (4)
United States (6)	134,761.1	0.4	\$905	--	2.4	--
Ohio	5,189.1	-1.0	798	23	1.0	46
Butler, Ohio	146.9	0.6	778	190	3.9	70
Cuyahoga, Ohio	725.6	-1.7	907	90	-0.4	300
Franklin, Ohio	674.4	-0.1	906	91	1.2	243
Hamilton, Ohio	511.0	0.0	961	64	1.2	243
Lake, Ohio	98.8	-0.6	731	249	1.0	253
Lorain, Ohio	95.9	-4.2	721	261	1.7	224
Lucas, Ohio	212.7	-2.0	771	196	-0.5	304
Mahoning, Ohio	100.5	-1.5	618	322	1.0	253
Montgomery, Ohio	259.2	-3.2	804	165	-1.5	316
Stark, Ohio	160.1	-0.2	679	297	1.3	239
Summit, Ohio	270.8	0.6	814	156	2.9	140
Trumbull, Ohio	75.5	-3.2	709	274	-17.2	328
Warren, Ohio	76.0	-0.7	747	228	(7)	-

(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 Ohio, first quarter 2008(2)

Area	Employment March 2008	Average Weekly Wage (3)	Area	Employment March 2008	Average Weekly Wage (3)
United States (4)	134,761,100	\$905	Lawrence	12,817	\$512
Ohio -- Statewide	5,189,100	798	Licking	52,886	674
Adams	6,603	569	Logan	20,329	697
Allen	51,884	668	Lorain	95,897	721
Ashland	18,089	634	Lucas	212,694	771
Ashtabula	31,253	584	Madison	13,845	670
Athens	19,860	640	Mahoning	100,461	618
Auglaize	19,544	677	Marion	27,252	664
Belmont	23,486	562	Medina	58,711	684
Brown	8,016	588	Meigs	3,504	454
Butler	146,881	778	Mercer	17,083	586
Carroll	5,968	537	Miami	40,426	660
Champaign	10,305	677	Monroe	3,748	688
Clark	50,780	625	Montgomery	259,228	804
Clermont	56,451	760	Morgan	2,324	546
Clinton	26,677	803	Morrow	5,430	577
Columbiana	31,475	558	Muskingum	32,775	590
Coshocton	11,594	680	Noble	3,220	555
Crawford	14,323	583	Ottawa	12,193	789
Cuyahoga	725,600	907	Paulding	5,225	618
Darke	17,528	609	Perry	6,081	583
Defiance	16,419	712	Pickaway	14,500	691
Delaware	67,911	972	Pike	9,668	758
Erie	34,268	674	Portage	52,380	712
Fairfield	39,412	588	Preble	10,896	609
Fayette	11,809	571	Putnam	11,490	579
Franklin	674,401	906	Richland	55,158	648
Fulton	19,544	617	Ross	26,106	718
Gallia	11,716	697	Sandusky	26,131	626
Geauga	33,778	695	Scioto	24,440	610
Greene	66,101	821	Seneca	20,263	598
Guernsey	14,294	594	Shelby	29,585	732
Hamilton	511,010	961	Stark	160,089	679
Hancock	42,477	744	Summit	270,817	814
Hardin	8,181	599	Trumbull	75,528	709
Harrison	3,531	568	Tuscarawas	35,229	579
Henry	10,954	654	Union	27,443	919
Highland	11,000	569	Van Wert	11,335	604
Hocking	6,837	551	Vinton	2,353	551
Holmes	16,751	541	Warren	75,954	747
Huron	21,675	644	Washington	24,945	686
Jackson	11,120	553	Wayne	45,292	639
Jefferson	25,042	702	Williams	16,839	629
Knox	19,312	670	Wood	59,324	870
Lake	98,758	731	Wyandot	8,587	595

(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, first quarter 2008(2)

State	Employment		Average weekly wage (3)			
	March 2008 (thousands)	Percent change, March 2007-08	Average weekly wage	National ranking by level	Percent change, first quarter 2007-08	National ranking by percent change
United States (4)	134,761.1	0.4	\$905	-	2.4	-
Alabama	1,947.0	-0.2	740	34	3.2	27
Alaska	303.0	1.0	866	16	4.2	11
Arizona	2,639.7	-1.3	820	22	2.4	34
Arkansas	1,178.4	-0.1	667	46	4.1	12
California	15,561.5	0.1	1,008	6	2.1	41
Colorado	2,300.0	1.7	920	10	3.6	16
Connecticut	1,683.9	1.2	1,254	3	-0.6	51
Delaware	418.4	0.5	987	7	0.1	49
District of Columbia	680.8	1.1	1,488	1	4.3	9
Florida	7,918.6	-2.2	777	26	1.8	43
Georgia	4,060.9	0.1	847	20	1.3	44
Hawaii	628.1	0.2	773	28	3.5	19
Idaho	645.3	0.2	635	48	0.3	48
Illinois	5,796.1	0.1	980	8	2.6	33
Indiana	2,858.7	-0.7	757	33	2.4	34
Iowa	1,469.8	0.9	710	40	3.6	16
Kansas	1,363.2	1.0	737	35	2.4	34
Kentucky	1,794.0	0.1	714	39	2.4	34
Louisiana	1,887.3	1.3	765	30	4.8	4
Maine	584.1	0.5	701	42	3.5	19
Maryland	2,530.3	0.0	963	9	2.8	31
Massachusetts	3,203.1	0.9	1,143	4	3.3	23
Michigan	4,058.8	-1.8	857	18	0.9	47
Minnesota	2,644.8	0.6	908	12	4.0	13
Mississippi	1,138.2	0.8	634	49	3.3	23
Missouri	2,708.0	0.0	768	29	3.5	19
Montana	432.4	0.9	625	51	4.3	9
Nebraska	912.2	1.4	687	44	3.2	27
Nevada	1,266.3	-1.2	839	21	4.7	5
New Hampshire	621.2	0.3	863	17	3.4	22
New Jersey	3,939.9	0.5	1,133	5	3.3	23
New Mexico	823.8	0.6	717	38	4.7	5
New York	8,555.0	1.3	1,399	2	0.1	49
North Carolina	4,069.1	0.9	788	24	1.3	44
North Dakota	343.3	2.6	652	47	6.2	2
Ohio	5,189.1	-1.0	798	23	1.0	46
Oklahoma	1,560.0	1.6	707	41	4.7	5
Oregon	1,713.1	0.3	776	27	2.9	30
Pennsylvania	5,608.8	0.5	869	15	2.4	34
Rhode Island	464.8	-1.5	851	19	2.3	39
South Carolina	1,888.3	0.1	695	43	2.8	31
South Dakota	389.4	2.0	632	50	5.2	3
Tennessee	2,746.4	0.6	761	31	3.3	23
Texas	10,420.8	2.8	903	13	3.6	16
Utah	1,220.2	1.4	718	37	3.2	27
Vermont	300.8	-0.3	735	36	4.4	8
Virginia	3,653.5	0.2	918	11	2.0	42
Washington	2,928.6	2.1	899	14	3.7	15
West Virginia	700.3	0.3	679	45	4.0	13
Wisconsin	2,734.3	0.2	760	32	2.2	40
Wyoming	277.2	2.9	779	25	6.7	1
Puerto Rico	1,004.5	-1.6	489	(5)	2.7	(5)
Virgin Islands	46.5	1.1	708	(5)	3.4	(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.