



Internet Address: www.bls.gov/ro2/home.htm
Information: Martin Kohli, (646) 264-3620
Media Contact: Michael L. Dolfman, (212) 337-2500

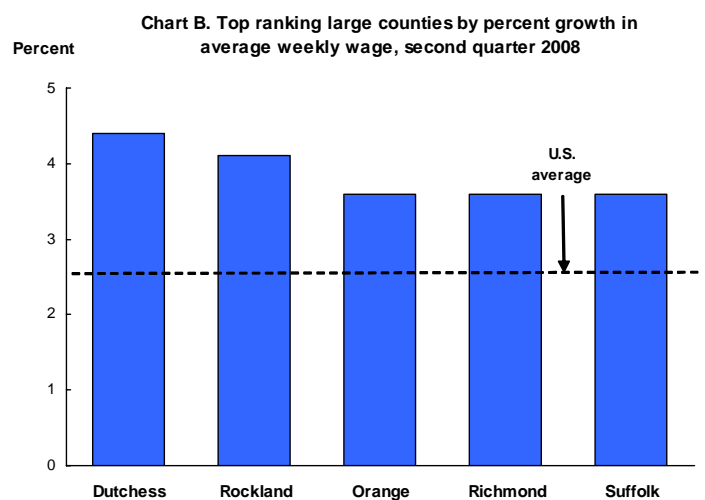
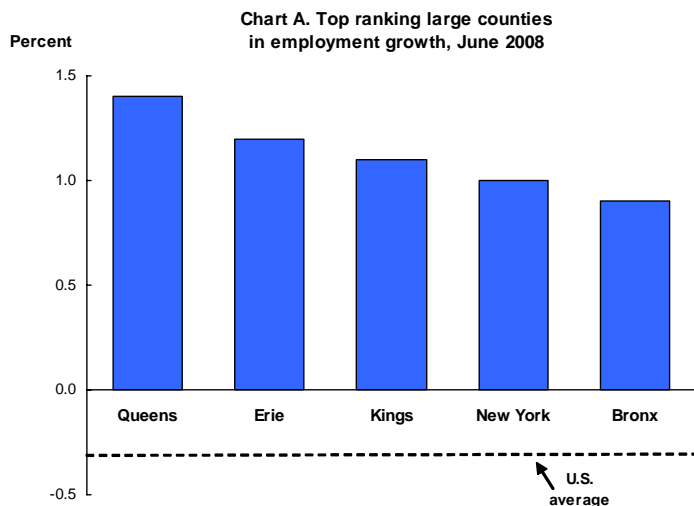
For Release: March 4, 2009

COUNTY EMPLOYMENT AND WAGES IN NEW YORK: SECOND QUARTER 2008

Employment growth in Queens leads State

Queens County recorded over-the-year employment growth of 1.4 percent in June 2008, the largest increase among New York's 18 large counties, those with 75,000 or more jobs (as measured by 2007 average annual employment), according to the U.S. Department of Labor's Bureau of Labor Statistics. (See chart A.) Erie County followed with an increase of 1.2 percent. Regional Commissioner Michael L. Dolfman noted that 10, or 56 percent, of the State's large counties recorded job growth from June 2007 to June 2008. Nationwide, only 37 percent of the 334 large counties in the country experienced employment gains over this 12-month period.

In the second quarter of 2008, average weekly wages in Dutchess and Rockland Counties increased by 4.4 and 4.1 percent respectively over the year, the fastest rates among New York's large counties. (See chart B.) These two counties also ranked among the top 50 in wage growth in the nation, Dutchess at 35th and Rockland at 49th. Nine, or one-half, of New York's large counties reported wage growth above the national increase of 2.6 percent.



Round-the-clock recorded messages for the Consumer Price Index and a variety of other *Bureau of Labor Statistics* data are available by dialing the *New York Information Office's* main telephone number: (646) 264-3600. For recorded messages, press '2'.

Among the State's large counties, New York (more commonly known as Manhattan) recorded the highest average weekly wage at \$1,569 in the second quarter of 2008, followed by Westchester at \$1,140. New York County's average weekly wage also ranked 1st among the 334 large counties nationwide. Seven of the largest counties in the State reported average weekly wages above the U.S. average of \$841. Nationally, 157 of the 334 large counties reported wages above that for the nation.

Wage and employment levels (but not over-the-year changes) are also available for the 44 other counties in New York State with employment below 75,000. The vast majority of these counties (40) had an average wage below the U.S. average. (See table 2.)

Large County Employment

Employment in New York's large counties ranged from a high of 2,392,500 in Manhattan to a low of 79,400 in Saratoga in June 2008. All together, New York's large counties accounted for 84 percent of the statewide employment. Nationally, large counties accounted for 71 percent of employment.

Ten of New York's large counties recorded over the-year increases in employment, with five reporting growth of 0.9 percent or more. Queens and Erie Counties ranked 34th and 41st highest in employment growth, respectively, among the nation's largest counties. New York, Kings, and Bronx Counties were also among the top 60 nationally. In contrast, seven counties reported employment losses; however, six of these—Monroe, Richmond, Suffolk, Nassau, Onondaga, and Westchester—had decreases that either matched or were less than the national decline of 0.3 percent. Dutchess (-1.4 percent) was the only large county in New York to report a drop steeper than the national average.

Nationally, employment declined in 188 of the 334 large counties from June 2007 to June 2008. Lee, Fla., had the largest over-the-year percentage decrease in employment (-8.8 percent) followed by Collier, Fla. (-6.8 percent), Sarasota, Fla. and Elkhart, Ind. (-6.5 percent each), and Marion, Fla. (-6.0 percent). Employment rose in 125 of the large counties. Orleans County, La., which includes the city of New Orleans, had the largest over-the-year increase in employment (5.6 percent).

Large County Wage Changes

In the second quarter of 2008, wage growth in 10 of the 18 large counties in New York matched or exceeded the 2.6 percent national increase. Two of these counties had growth above 4.0 percent, Dutchess and Rockland, and six had growth between 3.0 and 3.9 percent—Orange, Richmond, Suffolk, Broome, Onondaga, and Erie—placing all eight in the upper one-third of the national ranking. Seven counties posted below-average wage growth, with Nassau County reporting the smallest gain, 0.6 percent. Queens County (-4.3 percent) was the only large county in the State to record a decline in its average weekly wage.

Across the country, Rock Island, Ill., led the nation in average weekly wage growth with an increase of 10.5 percent from the second quarter of 2007. Weld, Colo., ranked second with 10.4 percent, 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 decline (-43.7 percent), followed by Boone, Ky. (-10.0 percent), Ventura, Calif., and Trumbull, Ohio (-4.8 percent each), and Queens, N.Y. (-4.3 percent).

Large County Average Weekly Wages

Seven of New York's large counties reported average weekly wages above the national average in the second quarter of 2008, with two surpassing \$1,100—New York and Westchester—and three exceeding \$900—Nassau, Rockland, and Suffolk. Wages in these five counties ranked in the upper one-quarter of the national ranking. Albany (\$881) and Dutchess (\$880) were the only other large counties to report wages above that for the nation. Broome and Oneida Counties had the lowest average weekly wage at \$688 and \$678, respectively, placing them in the bottom quarter of the nationwide ranking.

Nationally, Santa Clara, Calif. (\$1,529), and Washington, D.C. (\$1,433) followed New York in average weekly earnings. The lowest average weekly wage was reported in Cameron County, Texas (\$535), followed by the counties of Hidalgo, Texas (\$538), Horry, S.C. (\$539), Webb, Texas (\$562), and Yakima, Wash. (\$580).

Employment and Average Wages in New York's Small Counties

Employment and average weekly wages (but not over-the-year changes) are also available for New York's 44 small counties, those with employment below 75,000. These counties accounted for 16 percent of statewide employment. Among the small counties, Niagara reported the highest employment in June 2008 with 74,400, followed by Schenectady with 66,500, and Ulster with 61,900. Hamilton County had the fewest jobs—2,000.

The average weekly wage in Steuben, at \$934, was the highest among the small counties, exceeding the national average by more than \$90. Tioga, Schenectady, and Putnam, with wages of \$887, \$879, and \$876, respectively, also exceeded the national average. Seven counties--Tompkins, Rennselaer, Franklin, Clinton, Ulster, Chemung, and Oswego--recorded below-average weekly wages ranging from \$799 to \$700. The remaining 33 small counties had average weekly wages at or below \$700. Yates County, in western New York, and Hamilton County, in the Adirondacks, reported the lowest average weekly wages at \$531 and \$529, respectively. (See chart 1.)

When all 62 counties in New York are considered, 11 had an average weekly wage above the \$841 national average. With the exception of Schenectady, Steuben, and Tioga, these counties were clustered in New York City, on Long Island, or in the Hudson River valley.

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, 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 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 the national 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. 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* will be available for sale by the end of the first quarter in 2009 from the United States Government Printing Office, Superintendent of Documents, P.O. Box 37194, 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 New York-New Jersey Information Office at (646) 264-3600 from 9:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. and 1:30 p.m. to 4:30 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. 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. 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.

NYLS -7366
02/26/09

Labor – New York

Table 1. Covered¹ employment and wages in the United States, New York State, and large counties, second quarter 2008²

	Employment		Average weekly wage ³			
	June 2008 (thousands)	Percent change, June 2007-08 ⁴	Level 2008	National rank by level ⁵	Percent change 2007-08 ⁴	National rank by percent change ⁵
United States ⁶	136,631.8	-0.3	\$841	-	2.6	-
New York	8,758.2	0.6	1,040	3	2.3	39
Albany	230.1	0.1	881	83	2.7	145
Bronx	227.4	0.9	820	130	2.6	158
Broome	97.4	0.1	688	284	3.5	79
Dutchess	117.8	-1.4	880	85	4.4	35
Erie	466.1	1.2	747	209	3.2	109
Kings	482.5	1.1	728	232	2.1	203
Monroe	386.5	-0.1	823	125	2.2	194
Nassau	615.4	-0.3	962	47	0.6	281
New York	2,392.5	1.0	1,569	1	2.0	212
Oneida	113.1	0.1	678	293	2.4	175
Onondaga	256.1	-0.3	786	158	3.3	94
Orange	134.0	0.0	752	202	3.6	72
Queens	508.3	1.4	840	111	-4.3	323
Richmond	94.5	-0.2	755	199	3.6	72
Rockland	118.9	0.1	932	57	4.1	49
Saratoga	79.4	0.1	719	247	1.8	228
Suffolk	642.6	-0.2	922	62	3.6	72
Westchester	430.8	-0.3	1,140	14	2.2	194

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 any 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. Covered¹ employment and wages in the United States and counties in New York, second quarter, 2008²

Area	Employment June 2008 (thousands)	Average weekly wage ³	Area	Employment June 2008 (thousands)	Average weekly wage ³
United States ⁴	136,631.8	\$841	New York	2,392.5	\$1,569
New York	8,758.2	1,040	Niagara	74.4	674
Albany	230.1	881	Oneida	113.1	678
Allegany	14.5	669	Onondaga	256.1	786
Bronx	227.4	820	Ontario	51.1	678
Broome	97.4	688	Orange	134.0	752
Cattaraugus	32.0	657	Orleans	13.4	664
Cayuga	27.3	664	Oswego	34.6	700
Chautauqua	56.5	623	Otsego	25.4	655
Chemung	40.0	704	Putnam	27.0	876
Chenango	16.8	682	Queens	508.3	840
Clinton	35.4	710	Rensselaer	53.8	787
Columbia	21.5	646	Richmond	94.5	755
Cortland	17.5	634	Rockland	118.9	932
Delaware	17.2	675	Saratoga	79.4	719
Dutchess	117.8	880	Schenectady	66.5	879
Erie	466.1	747	Schoharie	9.3	616
Essex	15.2	660	Schuyler	5.1	616
Franklin	19.2	713	Seneca	11.6	671
Fulton	18.7	643	St. Lawrence	37.6	686
Genesee	25.5	603	Steuben	39.5	934
Greene	15.2	667	Suffolk	642.6	922
Hamilton	2.0	529	Sullivan	27.1	682
Herkimer	17.3	584	Tioga	15.5	887
Jefferson	43.9	648	Tompkins	51.7	794
Kings	482.5	728	Ulster	61.9	706
Lewis	7.0	639	Warren	41.6	641
Livingston	20.8	644	Washington	16.4	694
Madison	22.2	628	Wayne	31.3	686
Monroe	386.5	823	Westchester	430.8	1,140
Montgomery	19.8	641	Wyoming	14.7	664
Nassau	615.4	962	Yates	7.0	531

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. Covered¹ employment and wages by state and territory, second quarter 2008²

Area	Employment		Average weekly wage ³		
	June 2008 (thousands)	Average weekly wage	National rank by level ⁴	Percent change, 2007-08	National rank by percent change ⁴
United States ⁵	136,631.8	\$841	-	2.6	-
Alabama	1,955.4	720	33	3.3	15
Alaska	330.6	860	12	3.1	16
Arizona	2,543.9	806	19	2.4	34
Arkansas	1,183.5	661	46	3.4	11
California	15,760.3	955	6	2.2	42
Colorado	2,346.3	858	13	3.1	16
Connecticut	1,722.3	1,036	4	0.3	49
Delaware	427.3	862	10	-0.8	51
District of Columbia	691.4	1,433	1	5.9	1
Florida	7,620.1	762	26	2.6	30
Georgia	4,059.7	787	22	-0.6	50
Hawaii	623.9	764	24	3.9	9
Idaho	671.9	636	48	1.6	46
Illinois	5,930.0	893	8	2.3	39
Indiana	2,906.5	715	38	1.9	43
Iowa	1,521.2	683	42	2.9	23
Kansas	1,389.1	720	33	2.4	34
Kentucky	1,818.9	718	35	2.6	30
Louisiana	1,900.3	750	29	5.5	3
Maine	620.3	676	44	2.7	28
Maryland	2,577.7	920	7	2.8	26
Massachusetts	3,310.4	1,044	2	3.6	10
Michigan	4,163.3	825	18	2.4	34
Minnesota	2,733.9	849	14	1.8	45
Mississippi	1,139.1	635	49	4.4	7
Missouri	2,761.6	752	28	3.4	11
Montana	450.3	629	50	2.9	23
Nebraska	936.1	676	44	3.4	11
Nevada	1,271.8	797	20	2.7	28
New Hampshire	641.9	835	16	1.5	48
New Jersey	4,054.4	1,004	5	1.6	46
New Mexico	837.2	715	38	4.2	8
New York	8,758.2	1,040	3	2.3	39
North Carolina	4,083.6	735	31	2.4	34
North Dakota	356.4	654	47	5.8	2
Ohio	5,315.0	757	27	2.3	39
Oklahoma	1,556.0	701	40	5.3	5
Oregon	1,747.4	764	24	3.0	20
Pennsylvania	5,743.3	827	17	3.1	16
Rhode Island	481.6	796	21	2.8	26
South Carolina	1,907.5	681	43	2.4	34
South Dakota	409.0	606	51	2.9	23
Tennessee	2,752.7	745	30	1.9	43
Texas	10,510.3	849	14	2.5	33
Utah	1,234.3	716	37	2.6	30

See footnotes at end of table.

Table 3. Covered¹ employment and wages by state and territory, second quarter 2008² -- continued

Area	Employment	Average weekly wage ³			
	June 2008 (thousands)	Average weekly wage	National rank by level ⁴	Percent change, 2007-08	National rank by percent change ⁴
Vermont	305.6	\$718	35	3.0	20
Virginia	3,720.4	885	9	3.0	20
Washington	3,000.9	862	10	3.4	11
West Virginia	715.3	695	41	5.1	6
Wisconsin	2,836.8	730	32	3.1	16
Wyoming	296.7	780	23	5.4	4
Puerto Rico	997.8	475	6	3.5	6
Virgin Islands	45.9	703	6	-0.6	6

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

² Data are preliminary.

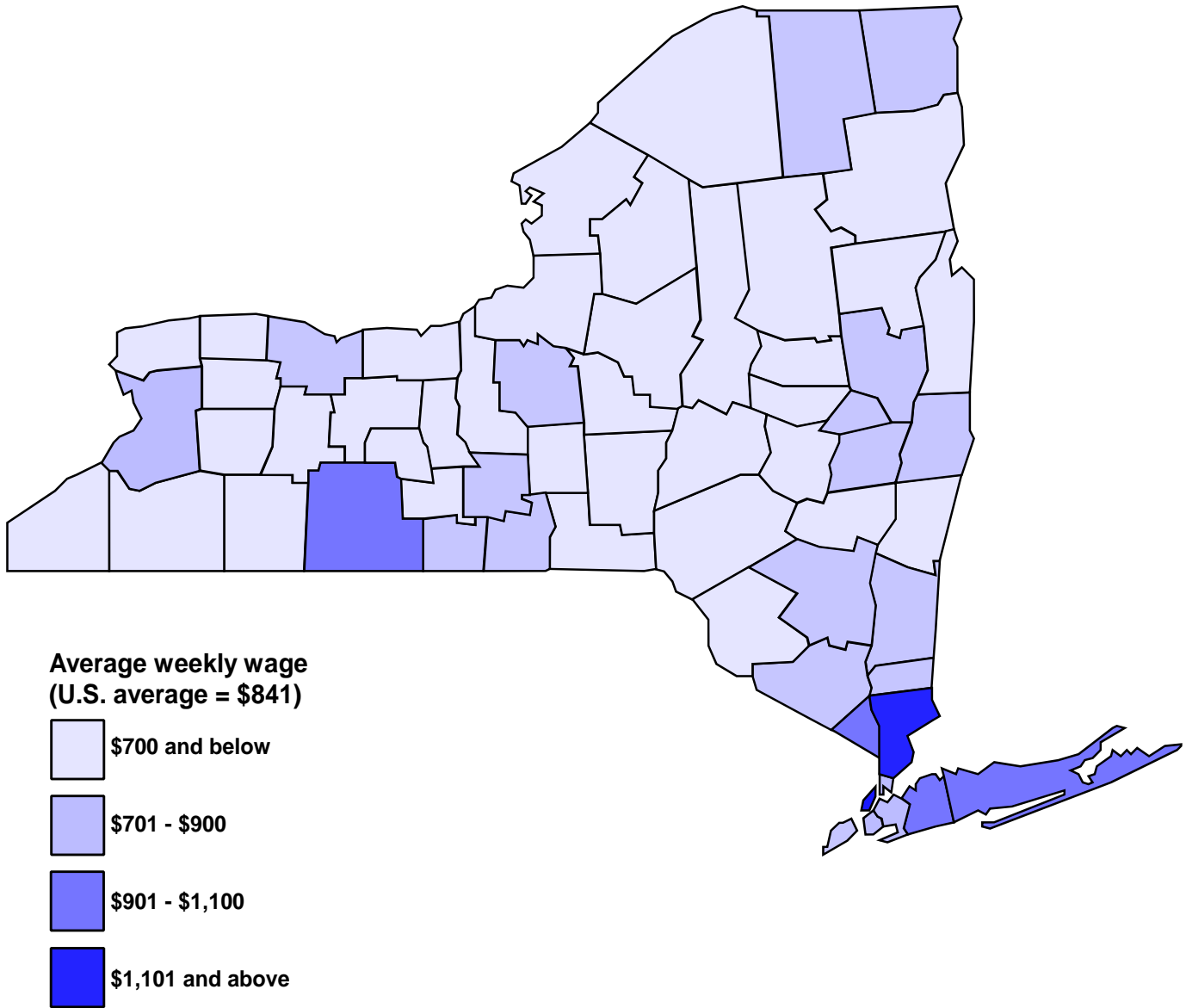
³ Average weekly wages were calculated using unrounded data.

⁴ Ranking does not include Puerto Rico or the Virgin Islands.

⁵ Totals for the United States do not include data for Puerto Rico or the Virgin Islands.

⁶ Data not included in the national ranking.

Chart 1. Average weekly wages, counties in New York State, second quarter 2008



Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics, March 2009