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## **County Employment and Wages in Oklahoma – Second Quarter 2018**

Employment rose in Oklahoma's three large counties from June 2017 to June 2018, the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics reported today. (Large counties are defined as those with employment of 75,000 or greater as measured by 2017 annual average employment.) Assistant Commissioner for Regional Operations Stanley W. Suchman noted that employment increased 1.4 percent over the year in Oklahoma County, 1.3 percent in Tulsa County, and 0.9 percent in Cleveland County. (See [table 1.](#))

Employment nationwide advanced 1.5 percent during the 12-month period as 309 of the 349 largest U.S. counties registered increases. Midland, TX, had the largest percentage increase in the country, up 11.6 percent over the year. McLean, IL, experienced the largest over-the-year percentage decrease in employment with a loss of 2.0 percent.

Among the three largest counties in Oklahoma, employment was highest in Oklahoma County (457,200) in June 2018. The counties of Tulsa and Cleveland had employment levels of 358,300 and 80,300, respectively. Together, the three largest Oklahoma counties accounted for 55.8 percent of total employment within the state. Nationwide, the 349 largest counties made up 72.9 percent of total U.S. employment.

All three large Oklahoma counties experienced average weekly wage gains from the second quarter of 2017 to the second quarter of 2018, with the fastest rate of increase in Cleveland County, up 3.9 percent. In Oklahoma and Tulsa Counties, average weekly wages increased 3.1 percent and 3.0 percent, respectively. (See [table 1.](#)) Oklahoma County had the highest average weekly wage among the state's largest counties at \$979. Nationally, the average weekly wage increased 3.4 percent from a year ago to \$1,055 in the second quarter of 2018.

Employment and wage levels (but not over-the-year changes) are also available for the 74 counties in Oklahoma with employment below 75,000. Wage levels in all of these smaller counties were below the national average in June 2018. (See [table 2.](#))

### **Large county wage changes**

The 3.9-percent annual average weekly wage gain in Cleveland County ranked 77<sup>th</sup> among the nation's 349 largest counties in the second quarter of 2018. The 3.1-percent wage gain in Oklahoma County ranked 160<sup>th</sup> and Tulsa's 3.0-percent increase ranked 172<sup>nd</sup>. (See [table 1.](#))

Nationally, 340 of the 349 largest counties had over-the-year wage increases. Marin, CA, had the largest percentage wage increase in the nation, up 11.7 percent. King, WA, and Lake, IL, tied for the second largest increase, each at 9.3 percent.

Nationwide, eight large counties registered wage declines during the period. New Hanover, NC, had the largest percentage decrease in average weekly wages with a loss of 6.4 percent.

### **Large county average weekly wages**

Weekly wages in the state's three large counties were below the national average of \$1,055 in the second quarter of 2018. Average weekly wages in Oklahoma County (\$979) and Tulsa County (\$942) ranked 166<sup>th</sup> and 188<sup>th</sup>, respectively, near the middle of the national ranking. The average weekly wage in Cleveland County (\$777) ranked 332<sup>nd</sup>. (See [table 1.](#))

More than 70 percent of the largest U.S. counties (255) reported average weekly wages below the national average in the second quarter of 2018. At \$625 a week, Horry County, SC, had the lowest average weekly wage among the 349 large counties. The next three lowest-paying large counties were in Texas: Cameron (\$642), Hidalgo (\$645), and Webb (\$687).

Nationwide, average weekly wages were higher than the U.S. average in 94 of the 349 largest counties. Santa Clara, CA, held the top position with an average weekly wage of \$2,573. San Mateo, CA, was second with an average weekly wage of \$2,357, followed by San Francisco, CA (\$2,083) and New York, NY (\$2,025). Average wages in the highest-ranked county, Santa Clara, Calif., were more than four times the average wage in the lowest-ranked county, Horry, SC (\$625).

### **Average weekly wages in Oklahoma's smaller counties**

All 74 smaller counties in Oklahoma – those with employment below 75,000 – reported average weekly wages below the national average of \$1,055. Among these counties, Grant posted the highest weekly wage, \$962, followed by Woodward (\$954), Dewey (\$948), and Beckham (\$942). Sequoyah County reported the lowest average wage in the state at \$536 per week, closely followed by Johnston County at \$538 per week. (See [table 2.](#))

When all 77 counties in Oklahoma were considered, 27 reported average weekly wages of less than \$700, 26 registered wages from \$700 to \$799, 15 had wages from \$800 to \$899, and 9 had average weekly wages of \$900 or more. (See [chart 1.](#)) The higher-paying counties were located in and around the Oklahoma City and Tulsa metropolitan areas, as well as the smaller areas of Elk City and Woodward. The lower-paying counties, those with weekly wages under \$700, were concentrated in the eastern portion of the state.

### **Additional statistics and other information**

QCEW 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 [www.bls.gov/cew](http://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 2017 edition of this publication, which was published in September 2018, contains selected data produced by Business Employment Dynamics (BED) on job gains and losses, as well as selected data from the first quarter 2018 version of the national news release. Tables and additional content from *Employment and Wages Annual Averages Online* are now available at [www.bls.gov/cew/cewbultn17.htm](http://www.bls.gov/cew/cewbultn17.htm).

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**The County Employment and Wages release for third quarter 2018 is scheduled to be released on Wednesday, February 20, 2019.**

## 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 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.

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.

Information in this release will be made available to sensory impaired individuals upon request. Voice phone: (202) 691-5200; Federal Relay Service: (800) 877-8339.

**Table 1. Covered employment and wages in the United States and the 3 largest counties in Oklahoma, second quarter 2018**

Area	Employment			Average weekly wage <sup>(1)</sup>			
	June 2018 (thousands)	Percent change, June 2017-18 <sup>(2)</sup>	National ranking by percent change <sup>(3)</sup>	Average weekly wage	National ranking by level <sup>(3)</sup>	Percent change, second quarter 2017-18 <sup>(2)</sup>	National ranking by percent change <sup>(3)</sup>
United States <sup>(4)</sup> .....	147,431.2	1.5	--	\$1,055	--	3.4	--
Oklahoma .....	1,606.4	1.2	--	875	41	3.2	27
Cleveland, OK .....	80.3	0.9	206	777	332	3.9	77
Oklahoma, OK.....	457.2	1.4	144	979	166	3.1	160
Tulsa, OK.....	358.3	1.3	159	942	188	3.0	172

Footnotes:

(1) Average weekly wages were calculated using unrounded data.

(2) Percent changes were computed from quarterly employment and pay data adjusted for noneconomic county reclassifications.

(3) Ranking does not include data for Puerto Rico or the Virgin Islands.

(4) Totals for the United States do not include data for Puerto Rico or the Virgin Islands.

Note: Data are preliminary. Covered employment and wages includes workers covered by Unemployment Insurance (UI) and Unemployment Compensation for Federal Employees (UCFE) programs.

**Table 2. Covered employment and wages in the United States and all counties in Oklahoma, 2nd quarter 2018**

Area	Employment June 2018	Average weekly wage(1)
United States(2) .....	147,431,154	\$1,055
Oklahoma .....	1,606,435	875
Adair .....	4,446	659
Alfalfa .....	1,532	880
Atoka .....	3,378	639
Beaver .....	1,632	853
Beckham .....	10,265	942
Blaine .....	3,093	807
Bryan .....	18,924	725
Caddo .....	7,489	792
Canadian .....	37,247	910
Carter .....	23,896	806
Cherokee .....	15,247	670
Choctaw .....	4,227	629
Cimarron.....	740	642
Cleveland .....	80,345	777
Coal .....	1,095	644
Comanche.....	42,496	736
Cotton .....	1,543	636
Craig.....	5,560	672
Creek.....	18,825	835
Custer.....	12,808	796
Delaware .....	9,119	639
Dewey .....	1,720	948
Ellis.....	1,245	736
Garfield.....	24,726	825
Garvin.....	9,798	863
Grady.....	13,132	746
Grant .....	1,369	962
Greer .....	1,120	606
Harmon.....	636	620
Harper .....	1,038	712
Haskell.....	3,125	589
Hughes.....	2,969	635
Jackson .....	9,497	757
Jefferson.....	1,085	578
Johnston.....	4,562	538
Kay .....	18,122	795
Kingfisher .....	6,879	917
Kiowa.....	1,735	600
Latimer .....	2,421	754
LeFlore .....	12,428	722
Lincoln .....	6,645	724
Logan .....	7,673	678
Love.....	6,126	610
Major .....	2,515	820
Marshall.....	4,312	718
Mayes.....	13,001	812
McClain .....	9,463	724
McCurtain .....	10,700	686
McIntosh.....	3,881	581
Murray .....	5,949	647
Muskogee.....	29,348	781
Noble .....	4,859	837
Nowata .....	1,764	675
Okfuskee .....	2,290	614

Note: See footnotes at end of table.

**Table 2. Covered employment and wages in the United States and all counties in Oklahoma, 2nd quarter 2018 - Continued**

Area	Employment June 2018	Average weekly wage(1)
Oklahoma .....	457,166	979
Okmulgee .....	9,364	727
Osage .....	6,668	709
Ottawa .....	12,301	642
Pawnee .....	3,540	705
Payne .....	32,273	792
Pittsburg .....	16,327	864
Pontotoc .....	18,353	810
Pottawatomie.....	22,251	679
Pushmataha .....	2,449	594
Roger Mills .....	852	792
Rogers .....	27,073	843
Seminole .....	7,252	726
Sequoyah .....	9,423	536
Stephens .....	14,467	812
Texas .....	9,894	782
Tillman .....	1,687	704
Tulsa .....	358,270	942
Wagoner .....	9,242	772
Washington.....	19,374	914
Washita.....	1,883	728
Woods .....	3,264	882
Woodward .....	8,780	954

Footnotes:

(1) Average weekly wages were calculated using unrounded data.

(2) Totals for the United States do not include data for Puerto Rico or the Virgin Islands.

Note: Covered employment and wages includes workers covered by Unemployment Insurance (UI) and Unemployment Compensation for Federal Employees (UCFE) programs. Data are preliminary.

**Table 3. Covered employment and wages by state, second quarter 2018**

State	Employment		Average weekly wage <sup>(1)</sup>			
	June 2018 (thousands)	Percent change, June 2017-18	Average weekly wage	National ranking by level	Percent change, second quarter 2017-18	National ranking by percent change
United States <sup>(2)</sup> .....	147,431.2	1.5	\$1,055	--	3.4	--
Alabama .....	1,969.9	1.2	882	37	2.8	35
Alaska.....	335.8	-0.9	1,043	15	3.7	9
Arizona .....	2,770.8	2.6	973	23	3.3	19
Arkansas .....	1,214.6	0.7	824	47	1.7	47
California .....	17,473.1	1.9	1,265	4	4.6	3
Colorado.....	2,704.4	2.4	1,075	10	3.2	27
Connecticut .....	1,704.5	0.3	1,218	5	0.1	50
Delaware .....	454.3	1.3	1,023	17	1.4	49
District of Columbia .....	777.3	1.3	1,713	1	2.6	39
Florida .....	8,568.9	2.1	931	28	2.9	32
Georgia.....	4,440.5	2.0	979	22	2.3	43
Hawaii.....	658.3	0.5	956	24	2.5	41
Idaho .....	745.3	3.1	794	50	3.8	8
Illinois .....	6,061.1	0.8	1,097	9	3.4	14
Indiana.....	3,075.8	1.1	883	36	2.8	35
Iowa.....	1,583.7	0.8	880	39	3.3	19
Kansas .....	1,393.3	1.0	879	40	3.4	14
Kentucky.....	1,905.9	0.9	882	37	2.3	43
Louisiana .....	1,918.6	0.4	901	33	3.7	9
Maine.....	636.8	1.0	843	45	3.6	11
Maryland.....	2,712.0	0.7	1,141	8	3.4	14
Massachusetts .....	3,650.1	1.0	1,322	2	3.5	12
Michigan .....	4,424.7	1.3	997	20	2.9	32
Minnesota.....	2,925.6	0.8	1,072	12	3.3	19
Mississippi .....	1,130.7	0.2	752	51	2.7	38
Missouri .....	2,829.0	0.5	924	30	3.9	7
Montana .....	478.7	1.1	817	48	2.5	41
Nebraska .....	990.8	0.6	859	43	3.1	29
Nevada .....	1,372.4	3.1	931	28	3.3	19
New Hampshire.....	670.8	0.8	1,049	14	3.3	19
New Jersey.....	4,157.0	0.9	1,201	7	2.3	43
New Mexico.....	823.6	1.0	852	44	3.5	12
New York .....	9,579.2	1.7	1,297	3	4.5	4
North Carolina .....	4,450.2	2.2	933	25	3.3	19
North Dakota .....	426.1	0.8	986	21	3.4	14
Ohio.....	5,461.3	0.7	933	25	2.3	43
Oklahoma .....	1,606.4	1.2	875	41	3.2	27
Oregon .....	1,947.3	1.5	999	18	3.3	19
Pennsylvania.....	5,924.9	1.1	1,031	16	3.1	29
Rhode Island .....	491.0	0.7	998	19	1.7	47
South Carolina.....	2,126.5	3.4	833	46	0.0	51
South Dakota.....	439.7	0.9	807	49	2.8	35
Tennessee .....	2,994.1	1.6	932	27	2.9	32
Texas .....	12,326.3	2.2	1,062	13	3.4	14
Utah.....	1,483.9	3.4	899	35	4.3	5
Vermont.....	312.4	-0.8	907	31	4.3	5
Virginia.....	3,941.0	1.3	1,073	11	2.6	39
Washington.....	3,444.1	2.7	1,218	5	6.9	1
West Virginia .....	702.9	1.6	868	42	4.8	2
Wisconsin .....	2,933.5	0.9	904	32	3.3	19
Wyoming .....	282.2	0.5	901	33	3.0	31
Puerto Rico.....	853.5	-2.3	543	(3)	5.2	(3)

Note: See footnotes at end of table.

**Table 3. Covered employment and wages by state, second quarter 2018 - Continued**

State	Employment		Average weekly wage <sup>(1)</sup>			
	June 2018 (thousands)	Percent change, June 2017-18	Average weekly wage	National ranking by level	Percent change, second quarter 2017-18	National ranking by percent change
Virgin Islands.....	33.4	-14.4	838	(3)	12.8	(3)

Footnotes:

(1) Average weekly wages were calculated using unrounded data.

(2) Totals for the United States do not include data for Puerto Rico or the Virgin Islands.

(3) Data not included in the national ranking.

Note: Data are preliminary. Covered employment and wages includes workers covered by Unemployment Insurance (UI) and Unemployment Compensation for Federal Employees (UCFE) programs.

**Chart 1. Average weekly wages by county in Oklahoma, second quarter 2018**

