

News

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New York Office

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AVERAGE WEEKLY WAGE IN MANHATTAN AT \$1,453 IN SECOND QUARTER 2006

The average weekly wage of workers in New York County, more commonly known as the borough of Manhattan, experienced robust growth over the year, rising 7.8 percent in the second quarter of 2006 to \$1,453 according to the U.S. Department of Labor's Bureau of Labor Statistics. Regional Commissioner Michael L. Dolfman noted that Manhattan's average weekly wage was not only the highest among the nation's 325 large counties, those with 75,000 or more jobs as measured by 2005 annual average employment; it was also the fastest growing among the nation's 10 largest counties. Queens, with over-the-year wage growth of 5.0 percent, was the only other county in New York City to exceed the national increase of 4.4 percent. (See table 1.) In the three other counties comprising the City, wages rose by 3.5 percent in the Bronx, 3.1 percent in Kings County, and 2.0 percent in Richmond County.

In June 2006 Manhattan had over-the-year employment growth of 2.2 percent, somewhat greater than the 2.0-percent average for the nation. None of the other four counties comprising New York City had employment growth above the national rate. Kings County had the next highest increase, 1.6 percent, followed by Queens (1.2 percent) and the Bronx (0.8 percent). Just as Richmond County had the smallest growth in wages, it had the smallest growth in employment, 0.2 percent.

Average weekly wages

Manhattan's average wage was almost twice the national average in the second quarter of 2006—\$1,453 versus \$784. Queens, with wages of \$792, was also above the U.S. average in the second quarter of 2006. (See chart 1.) None of the other three counties in the City had an average weekly wage above that for the nation. Average weekly wages in the Bronx, Richmond, and Kings Counties were \$760, \$708, and \$691, respectively, ranging from 3.1 to 11.9 percent below the national level. (See table 1.)

Within Manhattan, the financial activities supersector paid the highest weekly wage, \$2,810 in the second quarter of 2006, followed by information, \$1,826. (See table 2.) Leisure and hospitality had the lowest wage of any industry supersector, \$711. Of note, wages in every supersector in Manhattan were higher than their respective national averages. The largest percentage differential occurred in financial activities, with wages over twice the U.S. average; the smallest occurred in government, with wages 23.0 percent above the national level.



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: **(212) 337-2400**. For recorded messages, press '2'. Fax-on-Demand service will be discontinued on April 27, 2007.

Among the 325 largest counties in the nation, Santa Clara, Calif., had the second highest average weekly wage after Manhattan at \$1,386, followed by Arlington, Va. (\$1,335) and Washington, D.C. (\$1,300). Still, three of the 10 counties with the highest wages were located in the greater New York metropolitan area. Besides Manhattan or New York County, they were Somerset, N.J., and Fairfield, Conn. Three other counties were located in or around the San Francisco area (Santa Clara, San Francisco, and San Mateo, all in California), while three more were located in or around the Washington, D.C., metropolitan area (Arlington, Va., Washington, D.C., and Fairfax, Va.). Rounding out the top 10 was Suffolk County, Mass., part of the Boston metropolitan area. At the other end of the spectrum, the two counties with the lowest wages in the nation were Cameron (\$484) and Hidalgo (\$494), both in Texas.

Among the 50 states and the District of Columbia, the District had the highest average weekly wage at \$1,300. (See table 3.) Connecticut ranked second with \$971, followed by Massachusetts with \$963. New York (\$962) and New Jersey (\$948) were the two other states that recorded weekly averages over \$900. At the lower end of the scale, four states reported average weekly wages under \$600: North Dakota (\$591), Mississippi (\$587), Montana (\$575), and South Dakota (\$563).

Over-the-year wage changes

Manhattan had the 22nd highest rate of wage growth among the 325 large counties in the nation. Queens, which placed 94th, was the only other county in New York City that ranked in the top 100.

Among the 10 largest counties in the nation, Manhattan's 7.8-percent wage gain ranked first, ahead of the 7.5-percent increase in Harris County, Texas. (Harris County includes Houston.) The smallest wage increase among the 10 largest counties occurred in Miami-Dade, Fla., up 3.0 percent.

In Manhattan, average weekly wages rose 11.2 percent in natural resources and mining, followed by a 10.8-percent gain in financial activities and a 9.4-percent increase in government. For the nation, wage gains were also largest in natural resources and mining, then construction, and financial activities, up 13.3, 5.8, and 5.4 percent, respectively; government, however, registered the smallest growth in wages, up 3.3 percent. No industry supersector at the national level experienced a loss in wages, but in Manhattan, manufacturing wages fell 0.8 percent.

Among the 325 large counties in the United States, Orleans County, La., led the nation in growth in average weekly wages, with an increase of 28.0 percent from the second quarter of 2005. Jefferson, La., was second with growth of 16.3 percent, followed by the counties of Harrison, Miss. (15.2 percent), Rock Island, Ill. (10.5 percent), and Somerset, N.J. (10.0 percent). The high wage increases for Orleans, Jefferson, and Harrison Counties were related to the disproportionate job and pay losses in lower-paid industries due to the impact of Hurricane Katrina. At the other end of the spectrum, 10 counties experienced over-the-year declines in average weekly wages: San Mateo, Calif., and McLean, Ill., had the largest declines, -5.0 percent each.

Among the 50 states and the District of Columbia, Wyoming had the largest over-the-year wage growth, 10.3 percent, followed by Louisiana (10.2 percent), Oklahoma and Idaho (7.4 percent each), and Delaware (6.8 percent). New York State's wage gain of 5.4 percent was the 9th largest increase among the 50 states and the District of Columbia. No state saw its wages fall or remain the same from the second quarter of 2005. Only two states experienced growth of less than 2 percent: Michigan (1.8) and Nevada (1.4 percent).

Employment

In June 2006, employment in New York County stood at 2,312,600, accounting for 65 percent of New York City's employment. Manhattan's over-the-year employment growth of 2.2 percent ranked 130th among the 325 largest counties, in the top half of the national ranking. Kings County's increase of 1.6 percent was not far from the midpoint at 171st. Richmond County's 0.2-percent growth in employment ranked 260th nationally.

Nationally, Collin County, Texas, a Dallas suburb, had the largest over-the-year percentage increase in employment, 8.2 percent, and Lafayette, La., followed with 7.0-percent growth. Overall, employment increased in 270 of the nation's 325 large counties from June 2005 to June 2006. Three counties located along the Gulf Coast suffered notable employment losses—Orleans, La. (-37.2 percent), Harrison, Miss. (-14.7 percent), and Jefferson, La. (-10.2 percent), reflecting the destruction caused by Hurricane Katrina. Of the 325 largest counties nationwide, 40 registered a decrease in employment.

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 reports submitted by employers subject to unemployment insurance (UI) laws. The 8.8 million employer reports cover 135.5 million full- and part-time workers. Average weekly wage values are calculated by dividing quarterly total wages by the average of the three monthly employment levels. This number then is 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 2005 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 fourth quarter 2005 version of this news release. This edition will also be the first to include the data on a CD for enhanced access and usability. As a result of this change, the printed booklet will contain only selected graphic representations of QCEW data; the data tables themselves will be published exclusively in electronic formats as PDF and fixed-width text files. *Employment and Wages Annual Averages, 2005* will be available for sale in early 2007 from the United States Government Printing Office, Superintendent of Documents, P.O. Box 371954, Pittsburgh, PA 15250, telephone 866-512-1800, outside of Washington, D.C. Within Washington, D.C., the telephone number is 202-512-1800. Also, the bulletin will be available in a portable document format (PDF) on the BLS Web site, <http://www.bls.gov/cew/cewbultn05.htm>. In addition, QCEW news releases issued by other regional offices have been placed at one convenient 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 (212) 337-2400 from 9:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. and 1:30 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. ET.

Hurricane Katrina

The employment and wages reported in this news release reflect the impact of Hurricane Katrina and ongoing labor market trends in certain counties. The effects of Hurricane Katrina, which hit the Gulf Coast on August 29, 2005, were first apparent in the September QCEW employment counts and the wage totals for the third quarter of 2005. This catastrophic storm continues to affect monthly employment and quarterly wage totals in parts of Louisiana and Mississippi in the second quarter of 2006. For more information, see the QCEW section of the Katrina coverage on the BLS Web site at <http://www.bls.gov/katrina/qcewquestions.htm>.

TECHNICAL NOTE

QCEW data are the sums of individual establishment records reflecting the number of establishments that exist in a county or industry at a point in time. 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. The potential differences result from several causes. Differences between BLS and state published data may be due to the 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.

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Labor – New York

Table 1. Covered¹ employment and wages in the United States, New York State, and five counties in New York City, second quarter 2006²

Area	<u>Employment</u>			<u>Average weekly wage³</u>		National rank by percent change ⁵
	June 2006 (thousands)	Percent change, 2005-06 ⁴	Level 2006	National rank by level ⁵	Percent change, 2005-06 ⁴	
United States ⁶	135,481.1	2.0	\$ 784	--	4.4	--
New York State	8,566.2	1.0	962	--	5.4	--
Bronx	224.4	0.8	760	135	3.5	203
Kings	464.1	1.6	691	226	3.1	231
New York	2,312.6	2.2	1,453	1	7.8	22
Queens	488.1	1.2	792	104	5.0	94
Richmond	91.8	0.2	708	197	2.0	276

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 New York County, second quarter 2006²

Area and supersector	Employment		Average weekly wage ³	
	June 2006 (thousands)	Percent change 2005-06 ⁴	Average weekly wage	Percent change 2005-06 ⁴
United States ⁵	135,481.1	2.0	\$ 784	4.4
Private industry	114,201.0	2.2	774	4.6
Natural resources and mining	1,904.1	2.7	790	13.3
Construction	7,870.8	5.5	820	5.8
Manufacturing	14,256.1	-0.1	952	4.2
Trade, transportation, and utilities	26,042.5	1.5	682	4.0
Information	3,065.0	-0.1	1,188	4.7
Financial activities	8,219.2	1.9	1,141	5.4
Professional and business services	17,646.2	4.2	944	4.4
Education and health services	16,871.9	2.7	735	4.4
Leisure and hospitality	13,570.7	2.0	330	4.8
Other services	4,446.1	1.2	509	4.3
Government	21,280.1	1.0	836	3.3
New York, NY	2,312.6	2.2	1,453	7.8
Private industry	1,860.5	2.8	1,557	7.4
Natural resources and mining	0.1	4.2	1,272	11.2
Construction	31.6	7.1	1,386	7.9
Manufacturing	39.8	-6.2	1,066	-0.8
Trade, transportation, and utilities	241.4	1.5	1,100	6.6
Information	132.1	1.4	1,826	6.8
Financial activities	369.5	3.2	2,810	10.8
Professional and business services	466.0	3.2	1,660	4.5
Education and health services	279.5	2.1	956	6.5
Leisure and hospitality	201.2	2.5	711	6.6
Other services	85.2	-0.1	876	7.4
Government	452.1	-0.3	1,028	9.4

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 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 2006²

Area	Employment		Average weekly wage ³		
	June 2006 (thousands)	Average weekly wage	National rank by level ⁴	Percent change, 2005-06	National rank by percent change ⁴
United States ⁵	135,481.1	\$784	-	4.4	-
Alabama	1,944.8	672	34	4.3	24
Alaska	327.2	788	14	4.2	26
Arizona	2,581.3	753	20	4.1	28
Arkansas	1,185.3	612	46	3.2	44
California	15,733.0	888	6	4.5	22
Colorado	2,277.7	794	12	3.3	40
Connecticut	1,700.6	971	2	2.8	48
Delaware	430.4	851	8	6.8	5
District of Columbia	677.9	1,300	1	5.3	10
Florida	7,889.6	722	23	4.8	18
Georgia	4,054.1	743	22	3.1	45
Hawaii	621.8	704	26	4.0	31
Idaho	660.0	612	46	7.4	3
Illinois	5,912.4	837	9	4.1	28
Indiana	2,917.5	684	32	3.0	47
Iowa	1,502.9	639	41	4.1	28
Kansas	1,339.5	667	36	5.0	16
Kentucky	1,797.2	672	34	3.4	39
Louisiana	1,831.7	680	33	10.2	2
Maine	616.0	632	44	3.8	36
Maryland	2,567.8	855	7	4.7	19
Massachusetts	3,256.7	963	3	5.1	13
Michigan	4,320.8	783	15	1.8	50
Minnesota	2,731.9	789	13	4.0	31
Mississippi	1,127.4	587	49	5.6	8
Missouri	2,743.6	703	27	3.7	38
Montana	442.8	575	50	4.0	31
Nebraska	915.6	632	44	5.7	7
Nevada	1,284.6	748	21	1.4	51
New Hampshire	639.1	774	17	2.5	49
New Jersey	4,053.9	948	5	5.1	13
New Mexico	824.4	653	39	4.6	21
New York	8,566.2	962	4	5.4	9
North Carolina	3,965.0	690	29	3.8	36
North Dakota	342.4	591	48	5.3	10
Ohio	5,396.5	716	24	3.3	40
Oklahoma	1,512.5	639	41	7.4	3
Oregon	1,732.5	710	25	3.3	40
Pennsylvania	5,675.5	766	18	3.9	34
Rhode Island	490.7	755	19	4.7	19
South Carolina	1,858.5	646	40	4.2	26
South Dakota	396.1	563	51	4.3	24
Tennessee	2,749.2	703	27	4.9	17
Texas	9,965.6	781	16	5.8	6
Utah	1,182.9	655	38	5.3	10

See footnotes at end of table.

Table 3. Covered¹ employment and wages by state and territory, second quarter 2006² -- continued

Area	Employment	Average weekly wage ³			
	June 2006 (thousands)	Average weekly wage	National rank by level ⁴	Percent change, 2005-06	National rank by percent change ⁴
Vermont	307.7	665	37	3.1	45
Virginia	3,697.5	822	10	4.4	23
Washington	2,911.9	799	11	5.1	13
West Virginia	714.3	636	43	3.9	34
Wisconsin	2,828.3	685	30	3.3	40
Wyoming	278.6	685	30	10.3	1
Puerto Rico	1,039.6	435	(6)	4.1	(6)
Virgin Islands	45.3	679	(6)	5.6	(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.

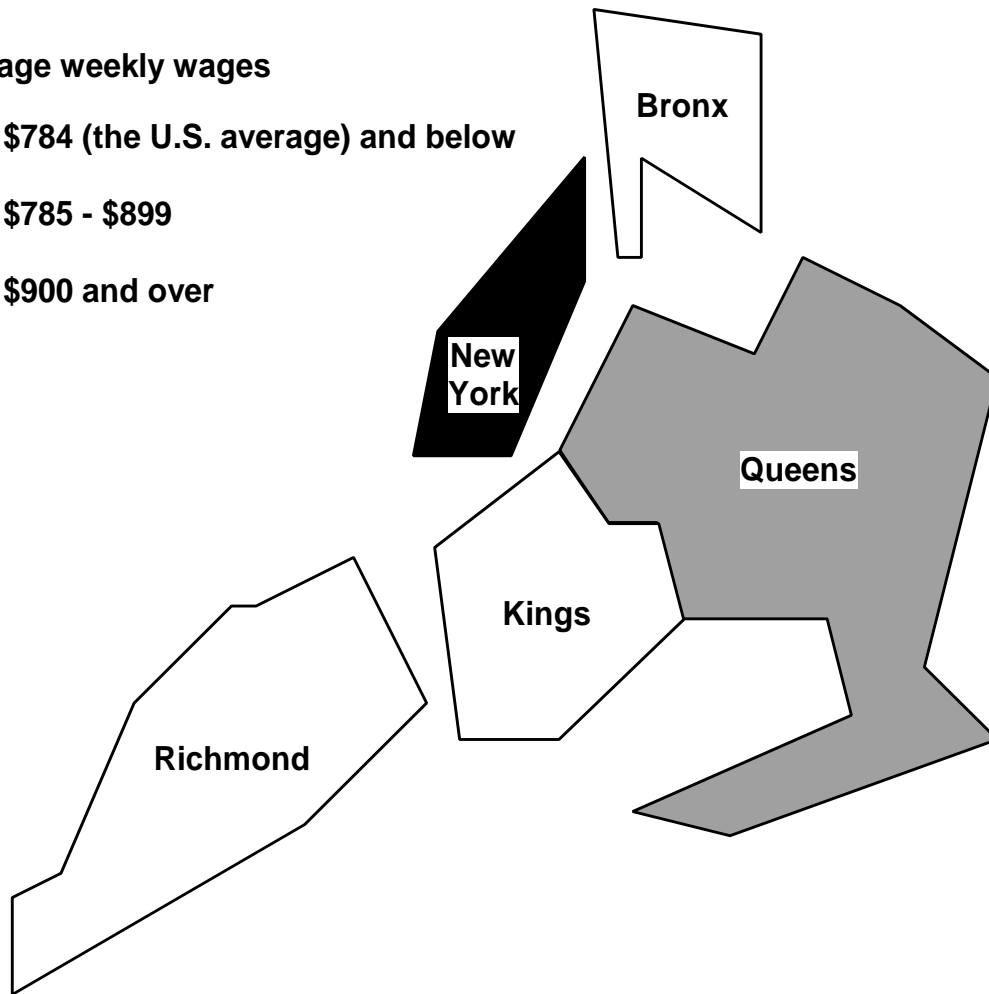
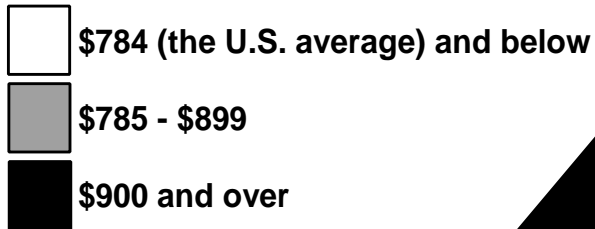
⁴ Ranking does not include Puerto Rico or the Virgin Islands.

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, five counties in New York City, second quarter 2006

Average weekly wages



Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics, February 2007