

News

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Bureau of Labor Statistics

New York Office

Internet Address: <http://www.bls.gov/ro2/home.htm>

Information: Martin Kohli, (646) 264-3620

Media Contact: Michael L. Dolfman, (212) 337-2500

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MANHATTAN AVERAGE WEEKLY WAGE AT \$2,821 IN FIRST QUARTER 2007

The average weekly wage in New York County, more commonly known as the borough of Manhattan, climbed 16.7 percent over the year to \$2,821 in the first quarter of 2007. Among the nation's counties with at least 75,000 jobs, Manhattan had the highest average weekly wage and the second largest over-the-year gain. (See table 1.) Regional Commissioner Michael L. Dolfman noted that Manhattan's substantial wage growth had a significant impact on national average weekly wage growth. Without Manhattan's increases in employment and wages, the national rise in the average weekly wage would have been 4.2 percent, rather than 5.1 percent.

Among the other counties that comprise New York City, the Bronx, with an over-the-year wage gain of 5.1 percent, matched the national increase. The other three counties had wage growth less than that for the nation. The average weekly wage rose by 4.8 percent in Kings County and by 3.5 percent in both Queens and Richmond Counties. (See chart 1.)

From March a year ago, all but one of the five counties comprising New York City had employment growth above the national rate of 1.4 percent. Richmond County had the largest employment increase, 3.2 percent, followed by Manhattan (2.3 percent), Queens (2.1 percent), and Kings County (1.9 percent). Employment in the Bronx declined over the 12-month period, -0.6 percent.

Average weekly wages

Manhattan's average wage during the first quarter of 2007 was more than three times the national average—\$2,821 compared to \$885. No other county in New York City had an average weekly wage above that of the nation. Average wages in Queens, Bronx, Kings, and Richmond Counties were \$831, \$788, \$742, and \$733, respectively, and ranged from 6 to 17 percent below the national level. (See table 1.)

Within Manhattan, the financial activities supersector had the highest average weekly wage, \$10,156. (See table 2.) As is often typical during the first quarter, the payment of year-end bonuses and commissions in finance contributed to the high average. The next highest wage average was in information (\$2,586) followed by natural resources and mining (\$2,411) and professional and business services (\$2,258). Leisure and hospitality had the lowest average wage of any industry supersector, \$769. Wages in every supersector



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in Manhattan were higher than their respective national industry averages. The largest percentage differential occurred in financial activities, with wages 437 percent above the U.S. average; the smallest occurred in government, with wages 16 percent above the national level.

Among the 328 largest counties in the nation, Fairfield, Conn., trailed Manhattan with the second highest average weekly wage, \$1,979, followed by Suffolk, Mass. (\$1,659), and San Francisco, Calif. (\$1,639). Four of the 10 counties with the highest wages in the nation were located in the greater New York metropolitan area (New York, N.Y., Fairfield, Conn., Somerset, N.J., and Hudson, N.J.), 3 others were located in or around the San Francisco area (Santa Clara, San Francisco, and San Mateo, all in California), while 2 more were located in or around the Washington, D.C. metropolitan area (Washington, D.C. and Arlington, 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 average wages in the nation were Hidalgo (\$516) and Cameron (\$502), both in Texas.

Among the 50 states and the District of Columbia, 5 reported average wages greater than \$1,000 per week. At \$1,428, weekly wages in the District of Columbia were well above the national average of \$885. Following the District were New York (\$1,397), Connecticut (\$1,263), Massachusetts (\$1,110), and New Jersey (\$1,097). At the lower end of the scale, four states reported average weekly wages under \$620: Mississippi (\$616), North Dakota (\$615), South Dakota (\$602), and Montana (\$600). (See table 3.)

Over-the-year wage changes

Manhattan had the 2nd highest percentage increase in wages among the 328 counties in the nation with at least 75,000 employees. The Bronx ranked 78th. No other county in New York City ranked among the top 100 in wage growth.

In Manhattan, average weekly wages rose 24.2 percent in financial activities, followed by increases of 14.6 percent in manufacturing and 10.1 percent in professional and business services. For the nation, annual wage gains in the first quarter were also largest in financial activities (12.2 percent), followed by professional and business services (6.2 percent) and information (4.6 percent). Average weekly wage growth in all of the other sectors (including manufacturing) ranged from 3.4 to 4.4 percent over the year.

Leading the nation in average weekly wage growth was Trumbull County, Ohio, with an increase of 22.3 percent. Manhattan's 16.7-percent gain was next highest, followed by Cobb, Georgia (11.2 percent), and Suffolk, Mass. (10.8 percent). None of the other large counties experienced wage growth above 10 percent for the year. At the other end of the spectrum, four counties experienced declines in average weekly wages of greater than 2.0 percent from March 2006: Norfolk, Mass., and Orleans, La. (both -2.7 percent), and Bibb, Ga., and Loudon, Va. (both -3.0 percent).

Among the 50 states and the District of Columbia, New York had the largest over-the-year wage growth, 11.8 percent, followed by Wyoming (9.3 percent), Rhode Island (7.1 percent), and Connecticut and Massachusetts (both 6.1 percent). Four states experienced growth of less than 2.5 percent: South Carolina and Vermont (both 2.3 percent), Delaware (2.1 percent), and Oklahoma (1.3 percent). No state saw its wages fall or stay the same from the first quarter of 2006.

Employment

In March 2007, employment in Manhattan stood at 2,331,500, accounting for 65 percent of the New York City total. Over-the-year employment growth in the City was led by Richmond County's 3.2-percent increase, which ranked 40th among the 328 largest counties. Manhattan followed with a 2.3-percent growth, which ranked 73rd. Employment increases in Queens (2.1 percent) and Kings (1.9 percent) Counties ranked 79th and 88th, respectively.

Nationally, Orleans, La., experienced the largest over-the-year percentage increase in employment, 15.0 percent. Another recovering Gulf Coast county, Harrison, Miss., followed closely behind with 14.5-percent growth over the year. Overall, employment increased in 255 of the nation's 328 large counties from March 2006 to March 2007, while 61 registered a decrease in employment. Three large counties, all located in the Midwest, experienced over-the-year job losses above 3 percent—Montgomery, Ohio (-3.2 percent), Macomb, Mich. (-3.8 percent), and Trumbull, Ohio (-6.2 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 reports submitted by employers subject to unemployment insurance (UI) laws. The 8.9 million employer reports cover 134.3 million full- and part-time workers. The average weekly wage is computed by dividing the quarterly total wages of employees covered by UI programs by the average monthly number of these employees. 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 2006 edition of this bulletin will contain 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 will include the data on a CD for enhanced access and usability with the printed booklet containing selected graphic representations of QCEW data; the data tables themselves will be published exclusively in electronic formats as PDFs. *Employment and Wages Annual Averages, 2006* will be available for sale in early 2008 from the United States Government Printing Office, Superintendent of Documents, P.O. Box 371954, 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 (212) 337-2400 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 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.

Changes to County Employment and Wages Data

Beginning with the Quarterly Census of Employment and Wages (QCEW) data presented in this release, the Bureau of Labor Statistics is introducing the 2007 North American Industry Classification System (NAICS 2007). The conversion to NAICS 2007 resulted in minor changes to the data and more accurately reflects the underlying business activities in selected industries. For further information on the NAICS 2007 revision and its effect on QCEW data, see the note on page 6 of the national release (<http://www.bls.gov/news.release/pdf/cewqtr.pdf>) and the U.S. Census Bureau Web site at <http://www.census.gov/epcd/naics07/index.html>.

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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, first quarter 2007²

Area	Employment			Average weekly wage ³		
	March 2007 (thousands)	Percent change, 2006-07 ⁴	Level 2007	National rank by level ⁵	Percent change, 2006-07 ⁴	National rank by percent change ⁵
United States ⁶	134,320.6	1.4	\$ 885	--	5.1	--
New York State	8,441.3	1.3	1,397	--	11.8	--
Bronx	219.1	-0.6	788	159	5.1	78
Kings	464.8	1.9	742	212	4.8	101
New York	2,331.5	2.3	2,821	1	16.7	2
Queens	487.7	2.1	831	134	3.5	189
Richmond	91.9	3.2	733	224	3.5	189

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, first quarter 2007²

Area and supersector	Employment		Average weekly wage ³	
	March 2007 (thousands)	Percent change 2006-07 ⁴	Average weekly wage	Percent change 2006-07 ⁴
United States ⁵	134,320.6	1.4	\$ 885	5.1
Private industry	112,574.0	1.4	892	5.2
Natural resources and mining	1,683.1	3.2	925	4.0
Construction	7,298.4	0.0	859	4.4
Manufacturing	13,862.4	-1.7	1,061	3.8
Trade, transportation, and utilities	25,963.5	1.4	731	3.4
Information	3,011.6	-0.8	1,438	4.6
Financial activities	8,139.4	0.5	1,891	12.2
Professional and business services	17,617.5	2.7	1,083	6.2
Education and health services	17,314.4	2.8	740	3.6
Leisure and hospitality	12,938.1	2.4	351	4.2
Other services	4,395.2	1.6	527	3.9
Government	21,746.6	1.1	850	4.4
New York, NY	2,331.5	2.3	2,821	16.7
Private industry	1,883.8	2.8	3,261	17.4
Natural resources and mining	0.1	-10.0	2,411	-4.0
Construction	32.7	5.4	1,469	5.8
Manufacturing	37.3	-5.0	1,591	14.6
Trade, transportation, and utilities	242.2	1.6	1,202	6.6
Information	131.7	0.7	2,586	6.2
Financial activities	372.3	2.7	10,156	24.2
Professional and business services	475.5	3.1	2,258	10.1
Education and health services	289.7	1.8	954	3.1
Leisure and hospitality	202.9	3.4	769	4.5
Other services	84.9	1.3	961	5.7
Government	447.7	0.4	982	3.3

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, first quarter 2007²

Area	Employment	Average weekly wage ³			National rank by percent change ⁴
	March 2007 (thousands)	Average weekly wage	National rank by level ⁴	Percent change, 2006-07	
United States ⁵	134,320.6	\$885	-	5.1	-
Alabama	1,953.7	716	35	3.5	39
Alaska	299.8	831	20	5.2	11
Arizona	2,667.2	803	21	4.7	18
Arkansas	1,179.9	642	46	3.2	42
California	15,569.4	988	6	3.9	34
Colorado	2,262.4	889	11	3.6	37
Connecticut	1,665.0	1,263	3	6.1	4
Delaware	416.6	986	7	2.1	50
District of Columbia	674.4	1,428	1	4.7	18
Florida	8,093.4	764	25	3.4	40
Georgia	4,065.1	837	17	4.9	14
Hawaii	626.4	748	27	4.2	30
Idaho	645.0	636	47	4.6	23
Illinois	5,795.7	956	8	4.6	23
Indiana	2,880.8	739	30	2.9	44
Iowa	1,457.6	686	39	3.6	37
Kansas	1,349.1	720	34	4.7	18
Kentucky	1,791.5	699	37	4.0	32
Louisiana	1,863.5	730	32	4.4	27
Maine	582.1	677	41	3.7	36
Maryland	2,527.0	939	9	4.6	23
Massachusetts	3,167.5	1,110	4	6.1	4
Michigan	4,130.2	851	15	4.0	32
Minnesota	2,629.6	873	12	5.2	11
Mississippi	1,127.3	616	48	3.2	42
Missouri	2,710.1	744	29	2.9	44
Montana	428.8	600	51	4.9	14
Nebraska	899.3	667	44	2.8	46
Nevada	1,282.3	802	22	4.8	16
New Hampshire	619.8	836	18	4.6	23
New Jersey	3,926.6	1,097	5	5.6	7
New Mexico	819.3	685	40	5.9	6
New York	8,441.3	1,397	2	11.8	1
North Carolina	4,034.3	779	24	4.7	18
North Dakota	334.5	615	49	4.8	16
Ohio	5,241.0	793	23	5.3	9
Oklahoma	1,534.3	676	43	1.3	51
Oregon	1,707.8	755	26	2.7	47
Pennsylvania	5,589.6	849	16	5.1	13
Rhode Island	472.2	834	19	7.1	3
South Carolina	1,885.9	677	41	2.3	48
South Dakota	381.9	602	50	3.4	40
Tennessee	2,732.5	738	31	4.7	18
Texas	10,143.0	872	13	5.6	7
Utah	1,203.9	696	38	5.3	9

See footnotes at end of table.

Table 3. Covered¹ employment and wages by state and territory, first quarter 2007² -- continued

Area	Employment	Average weekly wage ³			
	March 2007 (thousands)	Average weekly wage	National rank by level ⁴	Percent change, 2006-07	National rank by percent change ⁴
Vermont	300.0	704	36	2.3	48
Virginia	3,644.6	901	10	4.4	27
Washington	2,869.9	868	14	4.3	29
West Virginia	700.3	652	45	4.2	30
Wisconsin	2,727.7	745	28	3.9	34
Wyoming	269.1	730	32	9.3	2
Puerto Rico	1,024.5	476	⁶	5.3	⁶
Virgin Islands	45.6	687	⁶	6.3	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.

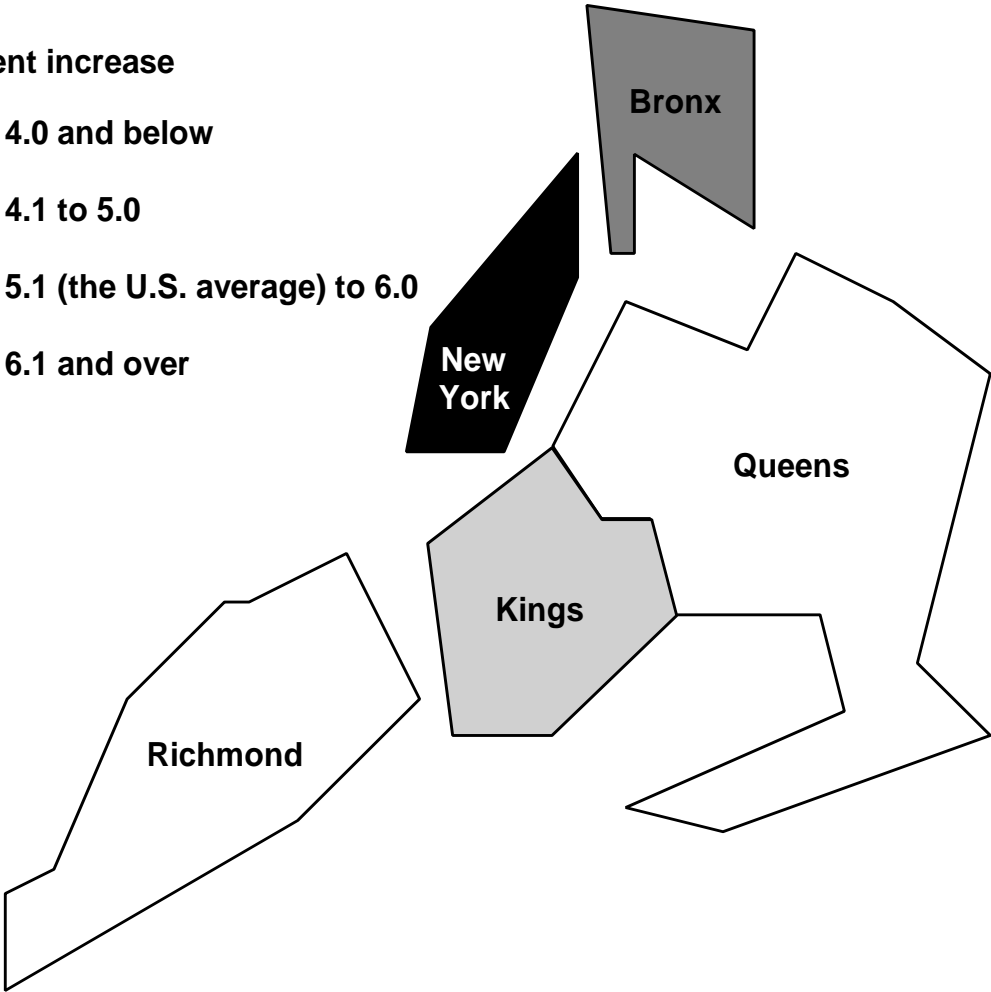
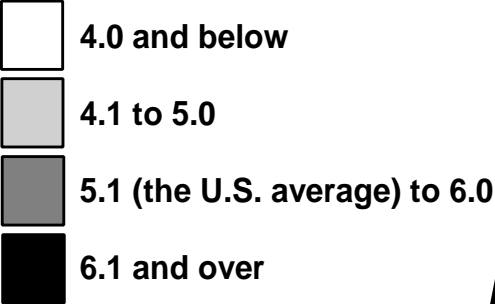
⁴ Ranking does not include Puerto Rico or the Virgin Islands.

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. Percent increase in average weekly wage, five counties in New York City, first quarter 2006-07

Percent increase



Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics, November 2007