



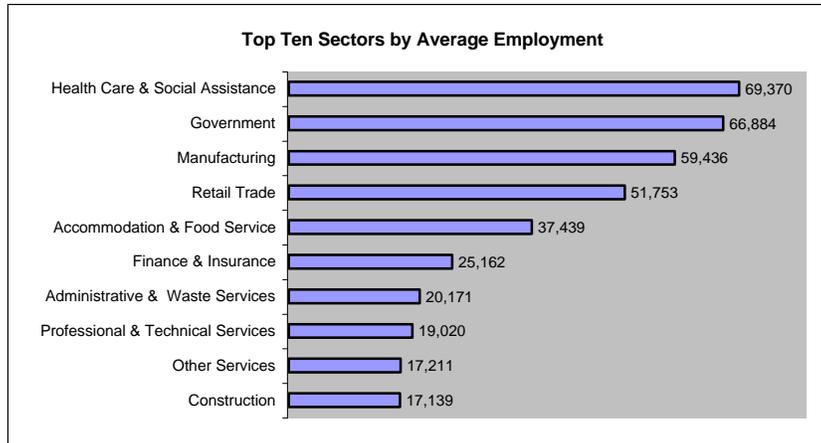
Rhode Island Covered Employment and Wages

First Quarter 2003



First quarter 2003 employment averaged 459,769, an increase of 1,842 (0.4%) from the 2002 first quarter revised average of 457,927. Private sector employment averaged 392,885 (+1,463) representing 85.5 percent of the First Quarter 2003 employment. Within the private sector, the largest gains were noted in Health Care & Social Assistance (+2,170) and Management of Companies & Enterprise (+1,074) which overshadowed reported declines in the Manufacturing sector (-3,854). Government (Federal, State and Local) jobs numbered 66,884 (+379), representing 14.6 percent of the State's covered employment.

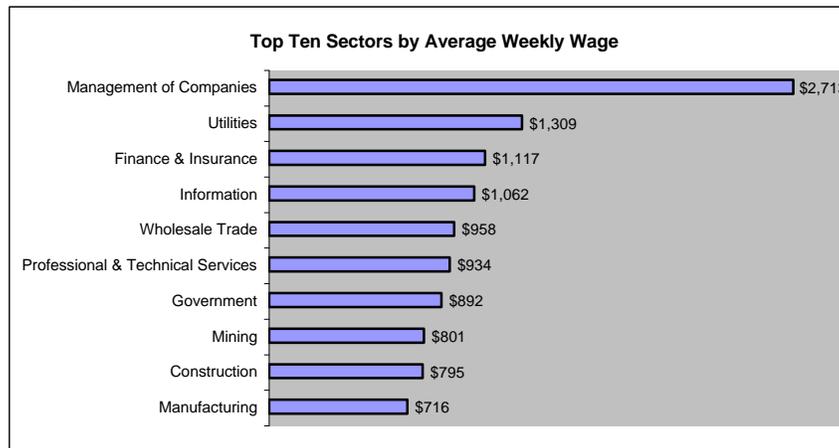
Health Care & Social Assistance represented the largest segment of the State's employment, averaging 69,370 workers, accounting for seventeen percent of private sector employment. Hospitals (22,031) and Ambulatory Health Care Services (19,947) were the two leading subsectors within this sector. Government and Manufacturing round out the top three sectors in average employment.



Mining (151), Agriculture, Forestry, Fishing & Hunting (429) and Utilities (1,167) represent the smallest segments of the State's average employment.

Rhode Island workers were paid wages in excess of \$4.2 billion, an increase of nearly \$253 million (+6.3%) from one year ago. In the private sector, total wages were up 6.7 percent, while total government wages increased by 4.7 percent.

The average weekly wage for total employed workers was \$712, up \$39 from the \$673 earned during the first quarter 2002. Private sector workers experienced a \$40 increase in their average weekly wage, compared to the \$35 increase in the Government sector.



On a sector basis, the average weekly wage during the first quarter 2003, was led by Management of Companies & Enterprise (\$2,713), followed by Utility workers (\$1,309) and Finance & Insurance (\$1,117). Employment in the Other Services except Public Administration (\$425), Arts, Entertainment & Recreation (\$402) and Accommodation & Food Services (\$257), earned the least amount of weekly wages.