



Quarterly Census of RI Employment and Wages

First Quarter Comparison 2003-2004



Rhode Island total employment increased by 2,379 (+0.5%) jobs during the first quarter of 2004, averaging 462,148 workers, when compared to the first quarter of 2003. Private sector (+2,842) employment accounted for nearly all of the job growth, offsetting the 466 positions lost in the State and Federal Government sector. State employment declined by 270 positions, while Federal employment lost 196 positions. Local Government added three jobs.

The Administrative & Waste Services sector (+1,987) experienced the largest number of job gains during this period, with a 10 percent increase (+1,890) in the Administrative & Support Services sub-sector. Health Care & Social Services continues to be amongst the sector leaders in employment growth, adding 1,175 positions between first quarters 2003-2004. Hospitals (+445) and Ambulatory Health Care Services (+296) were the two leading sub-sectors within this sector. Management of Companies & Enterprise led all sectors in employment growth on a percentage basis adding 860 new jobs, an 11.6 percent increase.

Overall, Health Care & Social Assistance (70,545) was the largest employment sector in the state, accounting for over 17 percent of private sector employment. This marks the ninth straight quarter under the North American Industrial Classification System (NAICS) in which the Health Care & Social Assistance sector has led in average employment. Government (66,421), Manufacturing (56,348), Retail Trade (51,766) and Accommodation & Food Services (37,896) round out the top five sectors in average employment.

Manufacturing reported a loss of 3,088 (-5.2%) positions between first quarters 2003-2004. Miscellaneous Manufacturing (-771) led all Manufacturing sub-sectors in job decline, followed by Fabricated Metal Product Manufacturing (-576) and Textile Mills (-542). In all, sixteen of the twenty-one Manufacturing sub-sectors reported a job loss between these periods. Government (-466), Wholesale Trade (-290), Utilities (-45), Mining (-8) and Arts, Entertainment & Recreation (-5) were the only other sectors to report a drop in employment.

A total of over \$4.3 billion in wages was paid during the first quarter 2004, an increase of over \$100 million (+2.6) from last years first quarter total of \$4.2 billion. Private sector wages increased by \$96 million (+2.8%) while Government wages grew by \$13 million (+1.7%). The total average weekly wage in the first quarter 2004 was \$728, a \$15 increase from the \$713 earned during first quarter in 2003. Private sector wages were up \$14 (\$696) from the \$682 earned a year ago.

Management of Companies & Enterprise (\$2,006) led all sectors in average weekly wage followed by Utilities (\$1,271), Information (\$1,237), Finance (\$1,196) and Wholesale Trade (\$975). The Information sector experienced the largest weekly wage increase of \$174 (+16.4 %) followed by Agriculture, Forestry, Fishing & Hunting (+\$79). Though Management of Companies & Enterprise led all sectors in average weekly wage, it also experienced the largest decline in average weekly wage with a decrease of \$707 (-26.1%) from first quarter 2003. Quarterly bonuses and exercised stock options are included in the calculation and therefore may impact the average weekly wage.

	No. of Units	First Quarter 2004				Average Employment	Total Wages	Taxable Wages	Contributions
		January	February	March	March				
Total	34,879	461,250	461,488	463,707	462,148	4,370,876,718	2,362,603,809	71,890,311	
Private	34,197	395,100	395,198	396,884	395,727	3,581,633,010	2,357,197,874	71,719,188	
State	107	17,713	17,679	17,707	17,700	216,237,308	12,217	2,918	
Local	427	38,387	38,601	39,090	38,693	412,050,541	5,299,625	168,205	
Federal	148	10,050	10,010	10,026	10,029	160,955,859	0	0	
Total Government	682	66,150	66,290	66,823	66,421	789,243,708	5,405,935	171,123	
Total UI Covered	34,731	451,200	451,478	453,681	452,119	4,209,920,859	2,362,603,809	71,890,311	

A Product of: [Rhode Island Department of Labor and Training, Labor Market Information](#)

Employment changes may be influenced by non-economic code changes resulting from NAICS revisions and/or changes in employers' reporting methods.

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