



Quarterly Census of RI Employment and Wages

Fourth Quarter Analysis 2003-2004



Fourth quarter 2004 total employment averaged 483,857, an increase of 2,977 (+0.6%) jobs from the fourth quarter 2003. Private sector employment increased by 3,824 (+0.9%), offsetting the loss of 847 (-1.3%) jobs in the Government sector. All three divisions of government, Local (-305), Federal (-301), and State (-241), experienced a job decline.

The Administrative & Waste Services sector led all twenty sectors in job gains, increasing employment by 2,078 (+8.6%) from fourth quarter 2003. The Administrative & Support Services sub-sector was responsible for 2,000 (96.3%) of the new jobs within this sector. General management, personnel administration, clerical activities and cleaning activities are the types of functions performed within this sub-sector. Health Care & Social Assistance employment grew by 1,348 (+1.9%) positions, while Education added 838 (+5.0%) jobs. Professional & Technical Services employment grew by 3.6 percent, adding 717 positions.

Manufacturing employment declined by 1,012 (-1.7%) between the fourth quarter 2004 and fourth quarter 2003. Miscellaneous manufacturing and Textile Product Mills manufacturing lost 489 and 328 jobs respectively. The Retail Trade (-696), Information (-348) and Construction (-292) sectors also experienced significant job losses. Utilities (-77) sector employment experienced a 6.7 decline, the largest decline on a percentage basis.

Health Care & Social Assistance (72,282) was the largest employment sector in the fourth quarter of 2004, accounting for 17.3 percent of private sector employment. Government, the second largest sector employer, reported 65,568 jobs. Despite continuous employment declines, the Manufacturing (57,136) sector continues to employ a large number of Rhode Islanders. Retail Trade (54,708) and Accommodation & Food Services (42,280) complete the top five sectors in average employment. Mining (200) and Agriculture, Forestry & Fishing (854) employed the least amount of workers.

A total of over \$4.8 billion in wages was paid in the fourth quarter 2004, an increase of \$194 million (+4.2%) from the wages paid in the fourth quarter of 2003. Private sector workers earned an average weekly wage of \$739, a gain of \$24 (+3.4%) from the \$715 earned during the same period in 2003.

In all, twelve sectors earned above average weekly wages, with the highest wages being reported in Management of Companies & Enterprise (\$1,264), Utilities (\$1,250), Professional & Technical Services (\$1,160), and Finance & Insurance (\$1,141). The Health Care & Social Assistance sector earned the largest weekly wage increase on a percentage basis (+8.0%), up \$56 to \$753. Professional & Technical workers experienced a \$76 (+7.0%) weekly wage increase, the highest gain between fourth quarter 2004 and fourth quarter 2003. *Quarterly bonuses and exercised stock options are included in the calculation and therefore may impact the average weekly wage.*

Fourth Quarter 2004

| | No. of Units | Oct | Nov | Dec | Average Employment | Total Wages | Taxable Wages | Contributions |
|-------------------------|---------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|--------------------|----------------------|--------------------|-------------------|
| Total | 35,418 | 484,862 | 484,254 | 482,455 | 483,857 | 4,810,503,839 | 573,404,264 | 18,417,633 |
| Private | 34,741 | 419,352 | 418,185 | 417,330 | 418,289 | 4,018,034,353 | 572,037,953 | 18,370,945 |
| State | 107 | 17,825 | 17,674 | 17,283 | 17,594 | 205,953,491 | - | - |
| Local | 428 | 37,834 | 38,547 | 37,979 | 38,120 | 431,243,474 | 1,336,311 | 46,688 |
| Federal | 142 | 9,851 | 9,848 | 9,863 | 9,854 | 155,272,521 | - | - |
| Total Government | 677 | 65,510 | 66,069 | 65,125 | 65,568 | 792,469,486 | 1,336,311 | 46,688 |
| Total UI Covered | 35,276 | 475,011 | 474,406 | 472,592 | 474,003 | 4,655,231,318 | 573,404,264 | 18,417,633 |

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 method.

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