



# Rhode Island Department of Labor and Training

## Quarterly Census of Rhode Island Employment & Wages

First Quarter 2006 Analysis



Rhode Island total employment averaged 466,170 in the first quarter of 2006, an increase of 473 (+0.1%) jobs from the first quarter of 2005. Private sector employment was responsible for 356 new positions, while the government sector added 117 jobs. Government employment posted modest gains at the federal (+264) and state (+125) level, while local government reported a loss of 273 jobs.

### Private Sector Analysis

The Health Care & Social Assistance sector experienced a gain of 1,534 (+2.1%) positions in the first quarter of 2006 when compared to the first quarter of 2005. The Ambulatory Health Care Services (+546) and Hospitals (+500) sub-sectors were responsible for 68.2 percent of the job growth. Employment in the Construction sector grew by 992, a 5.3 percent increase. The Specialty Trade Contractors sub-sector was up 927 from first quarter 2005 totals. Management of Companies & Enterprises (+764), Education (+533) and Professional & Technical Services (+440) also experienced significant employment growth during this period.

Job losses were noted in six of the nineteen private industry sectors, with a significant decline reported in the Manufacturing sector, which lost 2,489 (-4.5%) positions in the first quarter of 2006 when compared to the first quarter of 2005. Miscellaneous manufacturing (-661) and fabricated metal product manufacturing (-368) were the two sub-sectors which reported the largest employment loss. Retail Trade (-918), Accommodation & Food Services (-685), Other Services (-634), Administrative & Waste Services (-448), and Utilities (-10) were the remaining private sectors to experience job declines during this period.

Overall, Health Care & Social Assistance (73,358) accounted for the largest private employment sector in the first quarter of 2006. Despite the employment declines, Manufacturing (53,089), Retail Trade (50,726) and Accommodation & Food Services (38,822) represented the second, third and fourth highest employment figures, respectively.

Private sector employees earned over \$3.9 billion in wages during the first quarter of 2006, an increase of \$232 million (+6.3%) from the first quarter of 2005. The average weekly wage in the private sector increased by \$44, from \$710 in the first quarter of 2005 to \$754 in the first quarter of 2006, a 6.2 percent increase.

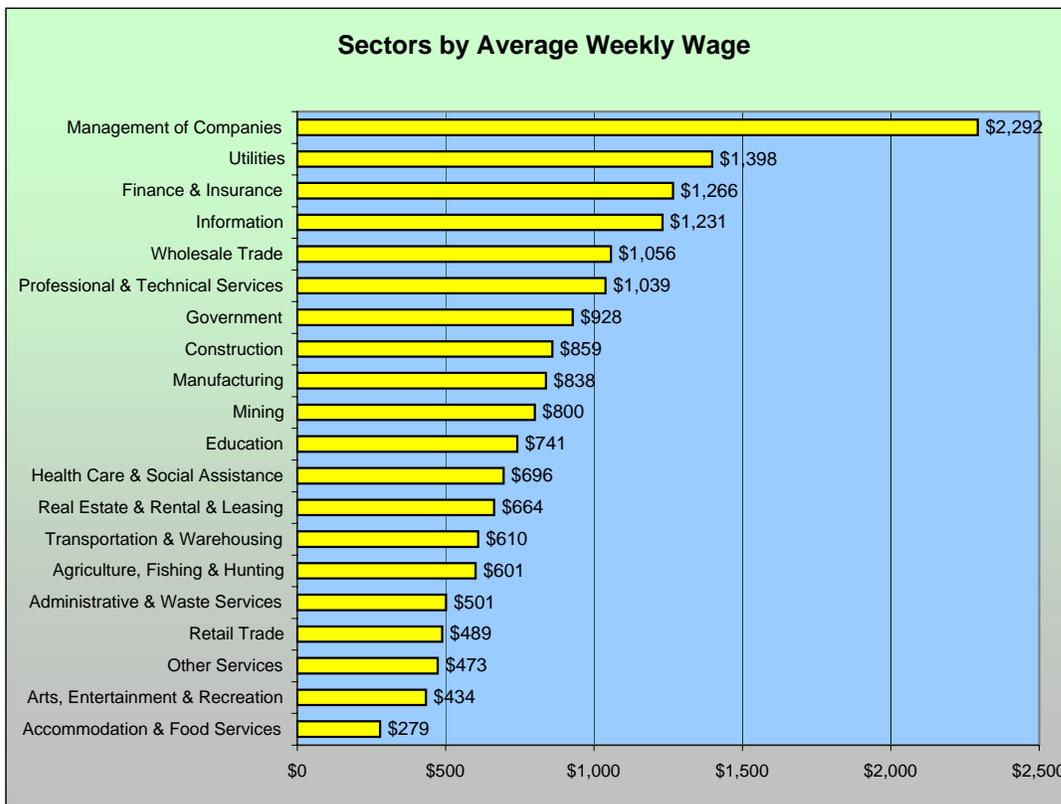
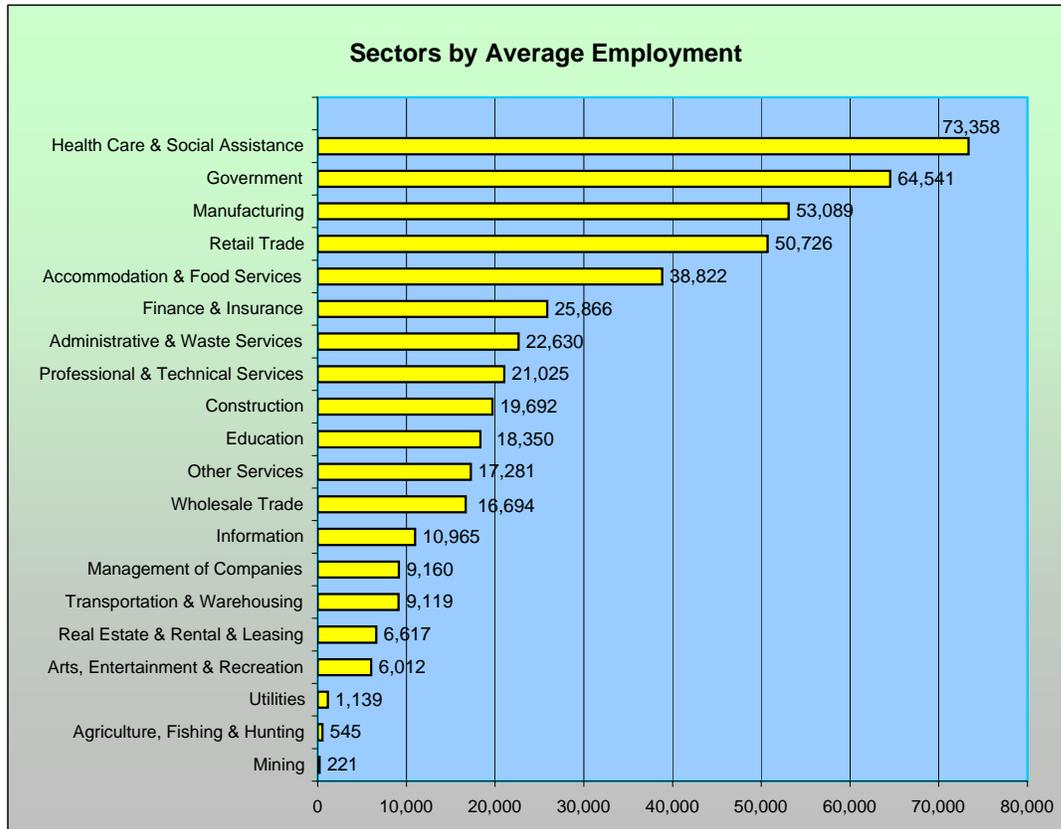
Employees in the Management of Companies & Enterprises sector earned an average weekly wage of \$2,292, while workers in five of the nineteen private sectors, Utilities (\$1,398), Finance & Insurance (\$1,266), Information (\$1,231), Wholesale Trade (\$1,056), and Professional & Technical Services (\$1,039) earned an average weekly wage in excess of one-thousand dollars.

The Utilities sector experienced the largest average weekly wage increase, with wages increasing \$126 in the first quarter of 2006 when compared to the first quarter of 2005. The weekly wage in the Mining sector grew by \$100 (+14.2%), the largest gain on a percentage basis. Information (+\$96), Finance & Insurance (+\$78) and Professional & Technical Services (+\$68) complete the top five sectors in average weekly wage increase during this period. *Quarterly bonuses and exercised stock options are included in the calculation and therefore may impact the average weekly wage.*

	No. of Units	First Quarter 2006				Average Employment	Total Wages	Taxable Wages	Contributions
		Jan	Feb	Mar					
<b>Total</b>	<b>35,928</b>	<b>465,035</b>	<b>465,175</b>	<b>468,301</b>	<b>466,170</b>	<b>4,717,113,304</b>	<b>2,632,961,712</b>	<b>84,556,171</b>	
<b>Private</b>	<b>35,243</b>	<b>400,620</b>	<b>400,466</b>	<b>403,802</b>	<b>401,629</b>	<b>3,938,113,786</b>	<b>2,628,013,477</b>	<b>84,415,402</b>	
State	107	16,834	16,843	16,716	16,798	202,418,316	215,837	5,012	
Local	423	37,582	37,856	37,846	37,761	425,472,387	4,732,398	135,757	
Federal	155	9,999	10,010	9,937	9,982	151,108,815	0	0	
<b>Total Government</b>	<b>685</b>	<b>64,415</b>	<b>64,709</b>	<b>64,499</b>	<b>64,541</b>	<b>778,999,518</b>	<b>4,948,235</b>	<b>140,769</b>	
<b>Total UI Covered</b>	<b>35,773</b>	<b>455,036</b>	<b>455,165</b>	<b>458,364</b>	<b>456,188</b>	<b>4,566,004,489</b>	<b>2,632,961,712</b>	<b>84,556,171</b>	

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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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Source: Quarterly Census of Employment and Wages, developed through a cooperative program between the State of Rhode Island and the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics