



Rhode Island Department of Labor and Training

Quarterly Census of Rhode Island Employment & Wages

Fourth Quarter 2007 Analysis



Rhode Island total employment averaged 482,240 in the fourth quarter of 2007, a decrease of 6,237 (-1.3%) jobs from the fourth quarter of 2006. This marks the first fourth quarter year-over-year employment sector decline since 2001. Private employment declined by 5,233 (-1.2%) while government employment lost 1,004 (-1.6%) positions. Federal, state and local government lost 84, 180, and 740 jobs, respectively.

Private Sector Analysis

Job losses were reported in twelve of the nineteen private industry sectors. Significant employment declines between the fourth quarter of 2006 and 2007 were reported in the Manufacturing (-2,008) and Construction (-1,523) sectors. Miscellaneous Manufacturing lost 529 employees, while Specialty Trade Contractors lost 1,074 jobs in the Construction sector. The Construction sector lost 6.4 percent of its workforce, the second largest employment percentage decline (Agriculture lost 10.9 percent of its workforce) during this period. Finance & Insurance (-1,379), Retail Trade (-994), Administrative & Waste Services (-762), Information (-439), and Professional & Technical Services (-329), also experienced sizable employment declines.

On the positive side, the Health Care & Social Assistance sector experienced a gain of 1,202 (+1.6%) positions in the fourth quarter of 2007 when compared to the fourth quarter of 2006. The Nursing & Residential Care Facilities (+575) and Hospitals (+544) sub-sectors were responsible for over 76 percent of the job growth within the sector. Employment in the Arts, Entertainment & Recreation sector grew by 518 (+7.1%), representing the second largest employment gain among all nineteen sectors. The Accommodation & Food Services (+486), Education (+217) and Other Services (+140) sectors also experienced employment growth during this period. Arts, Entertainment & Recreation also experience the largest employment gain on a percentage basis, increasing the workforce by 7.1 percent.

Overall, Health Care & Social Assistance (76,585) was the largest private employment sector in the fourth quarter of 2007. Retail Trade (52,471), Manufacturing (50,576) and Accommodation & Food Services (42,755) represented the second, third and fourth highest employment figures, respectively.

Private sector employees earned over \$4.3 billion in wages in the fourth quarter of 2007, an increase of \$57 million (+1.3%) from the fourth quarter of 2006. The average weekly wage in the private sector increased by \$20, from the \$783 earned in the fourth quarter of 2006 to the \$803 earned in the fourth quarter of 2007, a 2.6 percent increase.

Employees in the Management of Companies & Enterprises sector earned an average weekly wage of \$1,620, the highest weekly wage among the nineteen private sectors. Also, employees in the Utilities (\$1,423), Professional & Technical Services (\$1,268), Finance & Insurance (\$1,233), Wholesale Trade (\$1,232), Information (\$1,066) and Construction (\$1,037) sectors averaged a weekly wage in excess of one-thousand dollars.

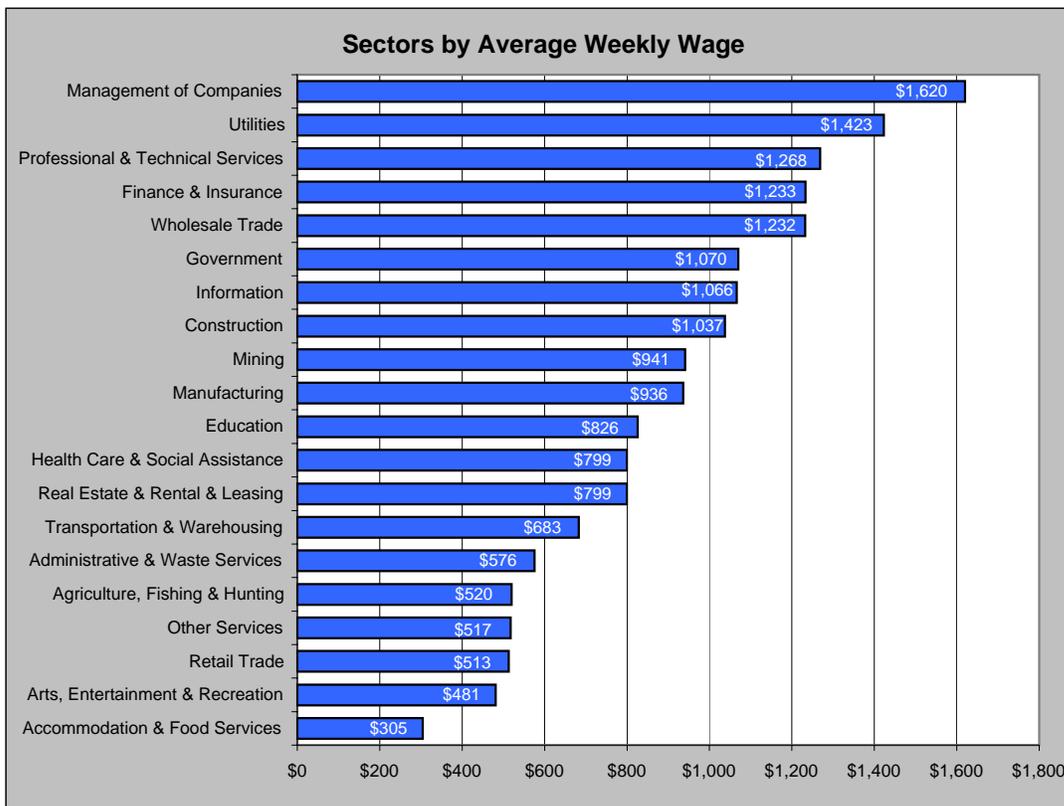
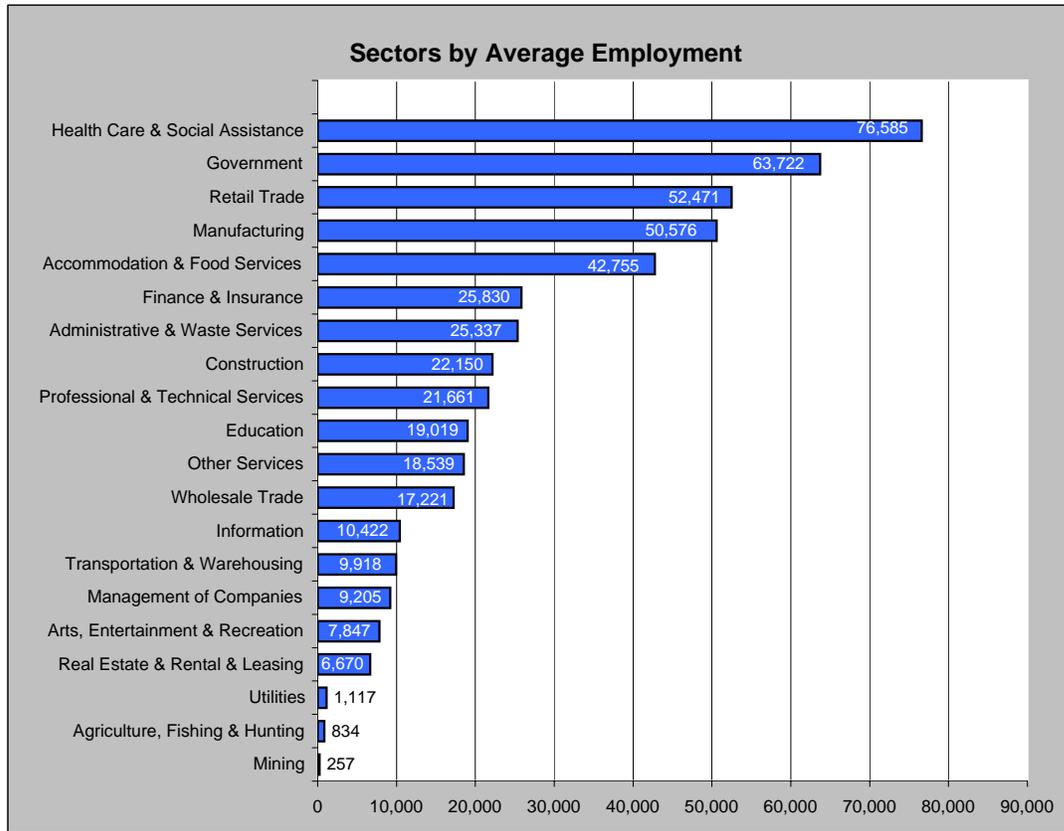
The Utilities sector experienced the largest average weekly wage increase with weekly wages increasing by \$69 (+5.1%) in the fourth quarter of 2007 when compared to the fourth quarter of 2006. The weekly wage in the Professional & Technical sector grew by \$62, followed by Wholesale Trade (+\$51) and Real Estate, Rental & Leasing (+\$51) sectors. *Quarterly bonuses and exercised stock options are included in the calculation and therefore may impact the average weekly wage.*

Fourth Quarter 2007

	No. of <u>Units</u>	October	November	December	Average <u>Employment</u>	Total <u>Wages</u>	Taxable <u>Wages</u>	Contributions
Total	36,077	483,760	482,069	480,890	482,240	5,255,535,751	523,788,402	17,950,672
Private	35,365	420,258	418,276	417,019	418,518	4,369,506,866	522,544,959	17,921,553
State	108	16,706	16,663	16,402	16,590	232,482,130	2,529	61
Local	421	37,008	37,279	37,459	37,249	471,260,613	1,240,914	29,058
Federal	183	9,788	9,851	10,010	9,883	182,286,142	0	0
Total Government	712	63,502	63,793	63,871	63,722	886,028,885	1,243,443	29,119
Total UI Covered	35,894	473,972	472,218	470,880	472,357	5,073,249,609	523,788,402	17,950,672

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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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Auxiliary aids & services are available upon request to individuals with disabilities. TDD: (401) 462-8006

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