



Rhode Island Department of Labor and Training

Quarterly Census of Rhode Island Employment & Wages

First Quarter 2011 Analysis



Rhode Island total employment averaged 436,402 in the first quarter of 2011, an increase of 1,565 (+0.4%) jobs from the first quarter of 2010. All of the job gains were reported in the private sector which added 1,867 jobs, a 0.5 percent increase. The Government sector lost 301 (-0.5%) jobs from the first quarter 2010, as the local and federal branches lost 751 and 36 workers, respectively, while state government employment increased by 485 during this period.

Private Sector Analysis

The Administrative & Waste Services sector added 828 jobs in the first quarter 2011 when compared to the same quarter a year ago, representing the largest numeric increase among all sectors. The Administrative and Support Services subsector was responsible for 799 of the 828 jobs. In addition, the Management of Companies & Enterprises (+526), *Transportation & Warehousing (+491), Accommodation & Food Services (+466) and Other Services (+332) sectors added sizable employment during this period. The Transportation & Warehousing (+5.8%) and Management of Companies & Enterprises (+5.7%) sectors added the most jobs on a percentage basis.

Between the first quarter 2010 and the first quarter 2011, the *Retail Trade sector shed 658 jobs (-1.4%), the largest numeric employment loss during this period. Other noticeable losses occurred in the Construction (-464), Professional, Scientific & Technical Services (-389) and Real Estate & Rental & Leasing (-234) sectors. The Real Estate & Rental & Leasing sector lost the most jobs on a percentage basis by losing 4.2 percent of the workforce during this period.

Overall, Health Care & Social Assistance (77,802) represented the largest private employment sector in the first quarter of 2011. Retail Trade (45,618) represented the second largest private employment sector, followed by Manufacturing (40,190), Accommodation & Food Services (38,513) and Financial Activities (23,369).

Private sector employees earned over \$4.0 billion in wages during the first quarter of 2011, an increase of \$137.4 million (+3.5%) from the first quarter of 2010. The average weekly wage in the private sector increased by \$24, from \$804 earned in the first quarter of 2010 to \$829 earned in the first quarter of 2011, a 3.0 percent increase.

Employees in the Management of Companies & Enterprises sector earned an average weekly wage of \$2,293 during the first quarter of 2011. Workers in the Utilities (\$1,669), Finance & Insurance (\$1,581), Information (\$1,301), Wholesale Trade (\$1,256) and Professional & Technical Services (\$1,152) also earned an average weekly wage in excess of one thousand dollars.

The Utilities sector experienced the largest average weekly wage increase, with wages increasing by \$160 in the first quarter of 2011 when compared to the first quarter of 2010. Information (+\$118), Finance & Insurance (+\$71), Manufacturing (+\$63) and Professional, Scientific & Technical Services (+\$59) complete the top five sectors in average weekly earnings growth during this period. *Quarterly bonuses and exercised stock options are included in the calculation and therefore may impact the average weekly wage.*

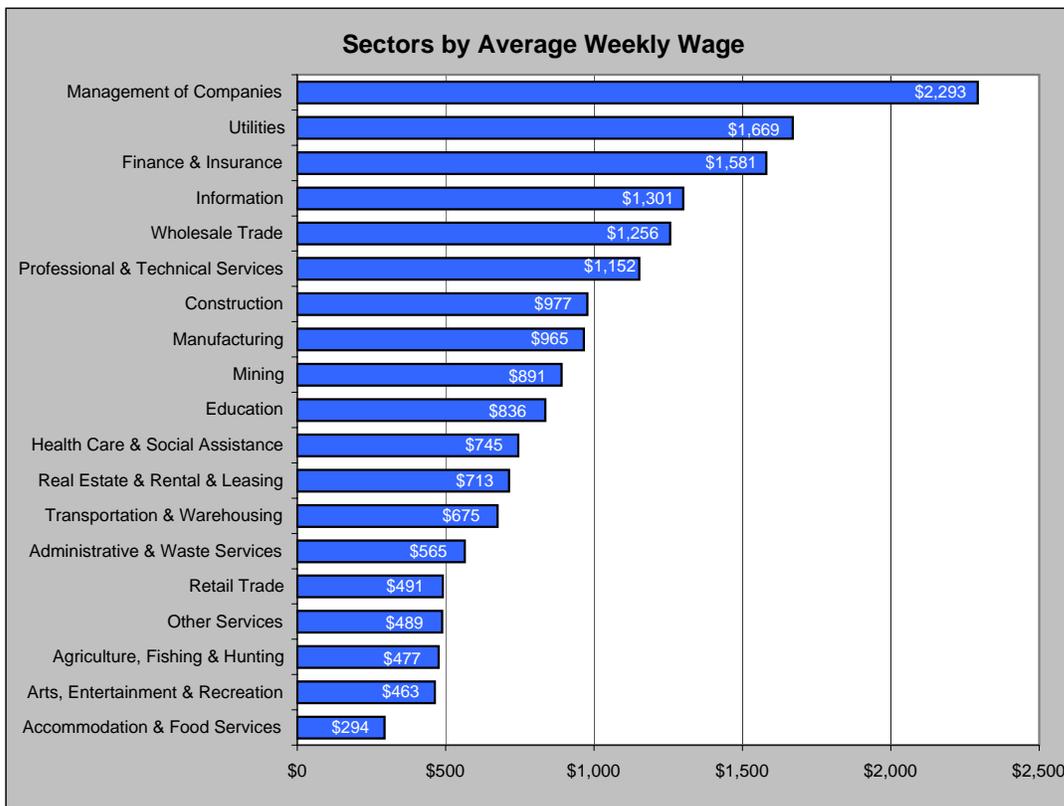
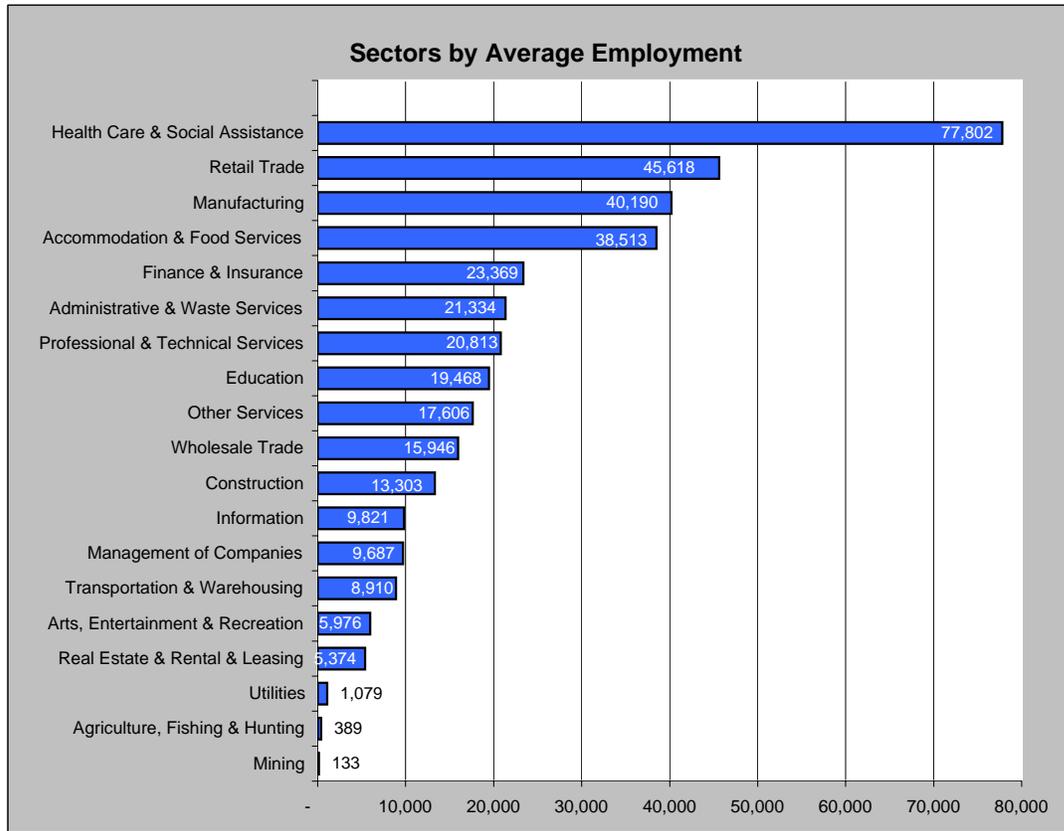
**Employment changes within these sectors were the result of a noneconomic code change. A noneconomic code change is a change in an industry code or a location code. In this case, an industry code change resulted in a loss of approximately 600 retail jobs and an industry code change resulted in a gain of approximately 200 jobs within the transportation & warehousing field.*

First Quarter 2011

	No. of Units	January	February	March	Average Employment	Total Wages	Taxable Wages	Contributions
Total	35,011	434,892	436,120	438,194	436,402	4,891,624,362	2,657,163,842	96,527,660
Private	34,295	374,149	375,052	376,939	375,380	4,043,809,548	2,652,193,269	96,398,512
Federal	190	10,190	10,192	10,204	10,195	181,309,161	0	0
State	111	16,001	16,115	15,997	16,038	227,329,162	156,707	2,920
Local	415	34,552	34,761	35,054	34,789	439,176,491	4,813,866	126,228
Total Government	716	60,743	61,068	61,255	61,022	847,814,814	4,970,573	129,148
Total UI Covered	34,596	400,340	401,359	403,140	401,613	4,452,447,871	2,652,349,976	96,401,432

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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.

DLT is an Equal Opportunity Employer/Program.

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