



Rhode Island Department of Labor and Training

Quarterly Census of Rhode Island Employment & Wages

Fourth Quarter 2011 Analysis



Rhode Island total employment averaged 453,097 in the fourth quarter of 2011, an increase of 485 (+0.1%) jobs from the fourth quarter of 2010. Private sector employment rose by 1,488 (+0.4%) positions, while Government payroll was cut by 1,003 (-1.6%) jobs. Local government reported a loss of 789 (-2.2%) positions, while State government and Federal government lost 164 and 50 positions, respectively.

Private Sector Analysis

The Accommodation & Food Services sector added 587 (+3.2%) positions in the fourth quarter 2011 when compared to the same quarter a year ago. The food services & drinking places sub-sector added 381 (+1.0%) positions since the fourth quarter 2010. Overall, thirteen of the nineteen private industry sectors reported job gains during this period, including Management of Companies & Enterprises (+559), Transportation & Warehousing (+454), Wholesale Trade (+450) and Professional & Technical Services (+326). The Transportation & Warehousing sector increased its workforce by 4.5 percent when compared to fourth quarter 2010, the largest increase on a percentage basis, followed by Professional & Technical Services (+3.5%).

Offsetting the positive sector job gains were large employment losses reported in the Financial Activities (-593), Manufacturing (-514) and Health Care & Social Assistance (-360). Smaller employment declines were reported in the, Utilities (-49), Information (-34), Utilities (-63) and Agriculture sectors (-54).

Overall, Health Care & Social Assistance (78,385) represented the largest private employment sector in the fourth quarter of 2011. Retail Trade (48,279) represented the second largest private employment sector, followed by Accommodation & Food Services (42,091), Manufacturing (40,290) and Administrative & Waste Services (24,000).

Private sector employees earned over \$4.5 billion in wages during the fourth quarter of 2011, a decrease of \$42 million (-0.9%) from the fourth quarter of 2010. The average weekly wage in the private sector decreased by \$12, from \$900 reported in the fourth quarter of 2010 to \$888 reported in the fourth quarter of 2011, a 1.3 percent decrease.

Employees in the Management of Companies & Enterprises sector earned an average weekly wage of \$2,002 during the fourth quarter of 2011. Workers in the Finance & Insurance (\$1,702), Utilities (\$1,665), Professional & Technical Services (\$1,383), Wholesale Trade (\$1,335), Information (\$1,223), Construction (\$1,081) and Manufacturing (\$1,037) sectors also earned an average weekly wage in excess of one thousand dollars.

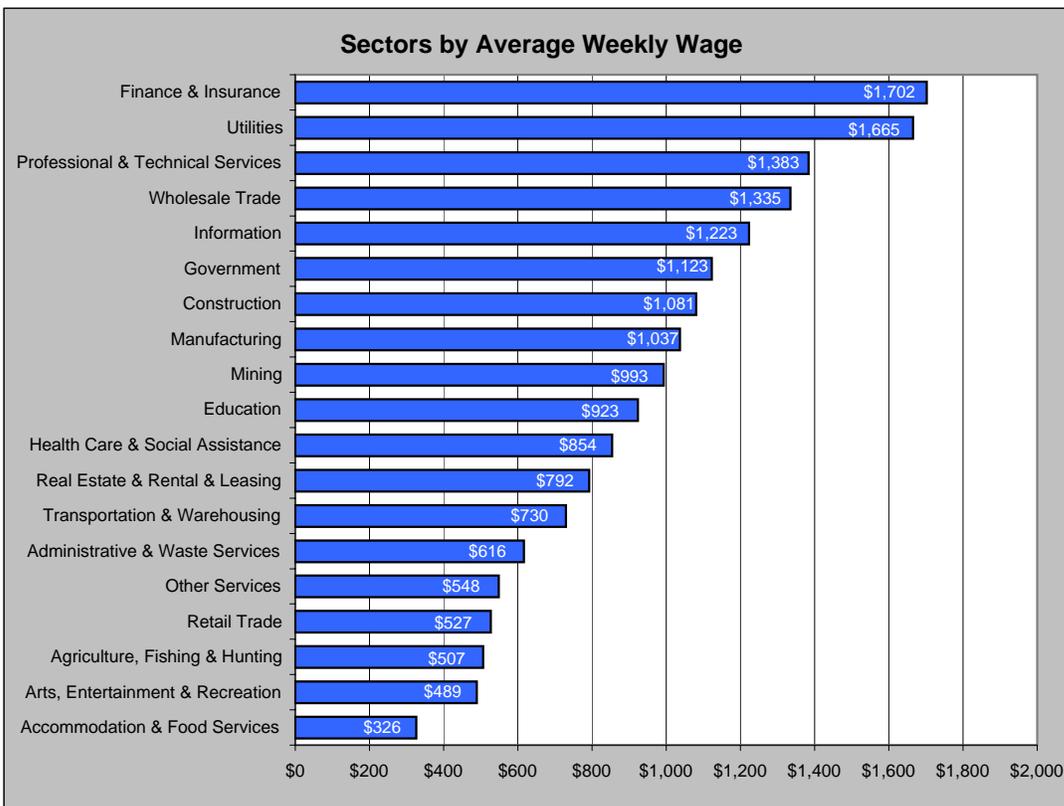
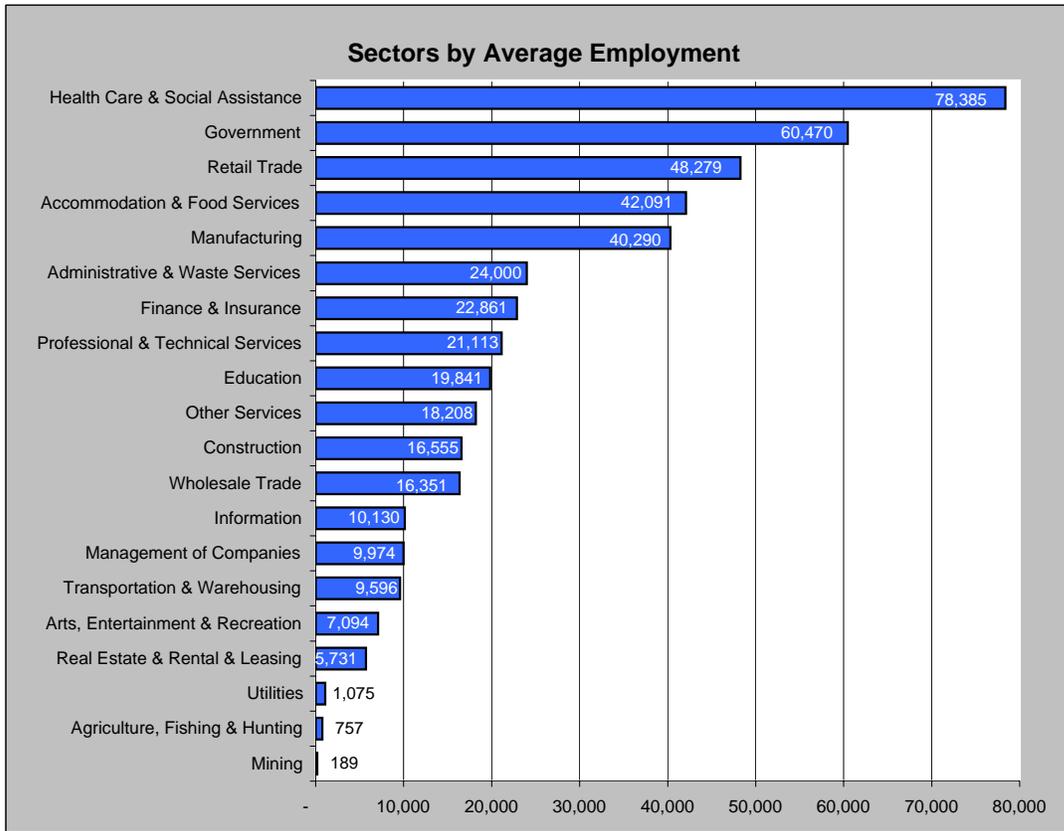
The Utilities sector experienced the largest average weekly wage increase, with wages increasing by \$101 in the fourth quarter of 2011 when compared to the fourth quarter of 2010. The Utilities (+6.5%) sector also represented the largest wage increase on a percentage basis. Educational Services (+\$30), Agriculture (+\$13), Wholesale Trade (+\$10) and Manufacturing (+\$5) 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.*

Fourth Quarter 2011

	No. of <u>Units</u>	October	November	December	Average <u>Employment</u>	Total <u>Wages</u>	Taxable <u>Wages</u>	Contributions
Total	34,976	454,033	453,358	451,899	453,097	5,415,233,683	659,310,828	25,423,727
Private	34,261	393,653	392,865	391,362	392,627	4,532,468,907	658,349,495	25,396,623
Federal	190	10,211	10,171	10,184	10,189	186,357,988	0	0
State	111	16,079	15,945	15,934	15,986	237,170,438	11,017	271
Local	414	34,090	34,377	34,419	34,295	459,236,350	950,316	26,833
Total Government	715	60,380	60,493	60,537	60,470	882,764,776	961,333	27,104
Total UI Covered	34,562	419,943	418,981	417,480	418,801	4,955,997,333	658,360,512	25,396,894

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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