



Rhode Island Department of Labor and Training

Quarterly Census of Rhode Island Employment & Wages

First Quarter 2012 Analysis



Rhode Island total employment averaged 440,533 in the first quarter of 2012, an increase of 4,131 (+0.9%) jobs from the first quarter of 2011. All of the job gains were reported in the private sector which added 5,074 jobs, a 1.4 percent increase. The Government sector lost 943 (-1.5%) positions from the first quarter 2011, as the local and state branches lost 805 and 121 jobs, respectively, while the federal government lost 17 employees during this period.

Private Sector Analysis

The Accommodation & Food Services sector added 1,499 (+3.9%) jobs in the first quarter 2012 when compared to the same quarter a year ago, representing the largest numeric increase among all sectors. The Food Services & Drinking Places subsector added 1,328 (+3.8%) additional jobs within the sector. In addition, the Construction (+905), Wholesale Trade (+635) and Management of Companies & Enterprises (+606) sectors added sizable employment during this period. The Mining (+8.0%), Construction (+6.8%) and Management of Companies & Enterprises (+6.3%) sectors added the most jobs on a percentage basis.

Between the first quarter 2011 and the first quarter 2012, three employment sectors lost jobs. The Manufacturing* sector shed 752 jobs, the largest numeric employment loss during this period. The Finance & Insurance (-450) sector also reported a sizable employment loss, while the Utilities sector lost a mere 27 positions during this period. The Utilities sector lost 2.5 percent of its workforce, followed by Finance & Insurance (-1.9%) and Manufacturing (-1.9%).

Overall, Health Care & Social Assistance (78,335) represented the largest private employment sector in the first quarter of 2012. Retail Trade (46,114) represented the second largest private employment sector, followed by Accommodation & Food Services (40,012), Manufacturing (39,438) and Finance & Insurance (22,919).

Private sector employees earned over \$4.4 billion in wages during the first quarter of 2012, an increase of \$364.1 million (+9.0%) from the first quarter of 2011. The average weekly wage in the private sector increased by \$63, from \$829 earned in the first quarter of 2011 to \$891 earned in the first quarter of 2012, a 7.6 percent increase.

Employees in the Management of Companies & Enterprises sector earned an average weekly wage of \$2,993 during the first quarter of 2012. Workers in the Finance & Insurance (\$1,687), Utilities (\$1,620), Information (\$1,379), Wholesale Trade (\$1,293), Professional & Technical Services (\$1,216), Manufacturing (\$1,032) and Construction (\$1,030) also earned an average weekly wage in excess of one thousand dollars.

The Management of Companies & Enterprises sector experienced the largest average weekly wage increase, with wages increasing by \$700 in the first quarter of 2012 when compared to the first quarter of 2011. Agriculture, Fishing & Hunting (+\$208), Finance & Insurance (+\$106), Information (+\$78), and Manufacturing (+\$67) 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.*

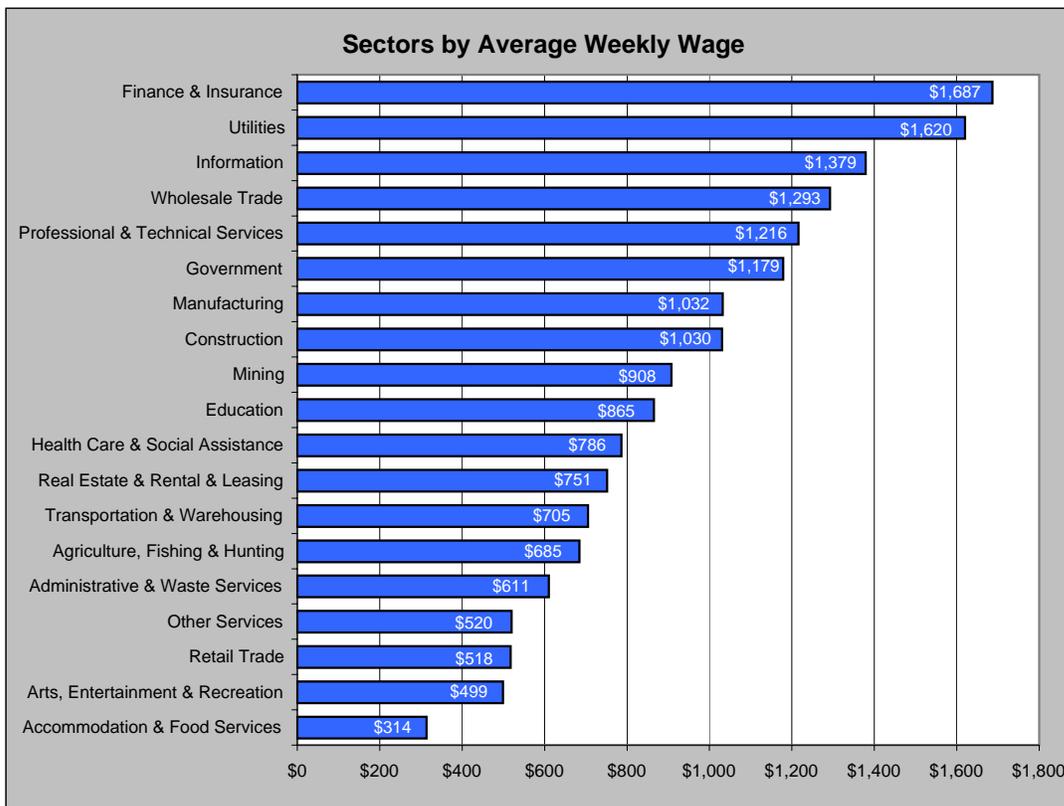
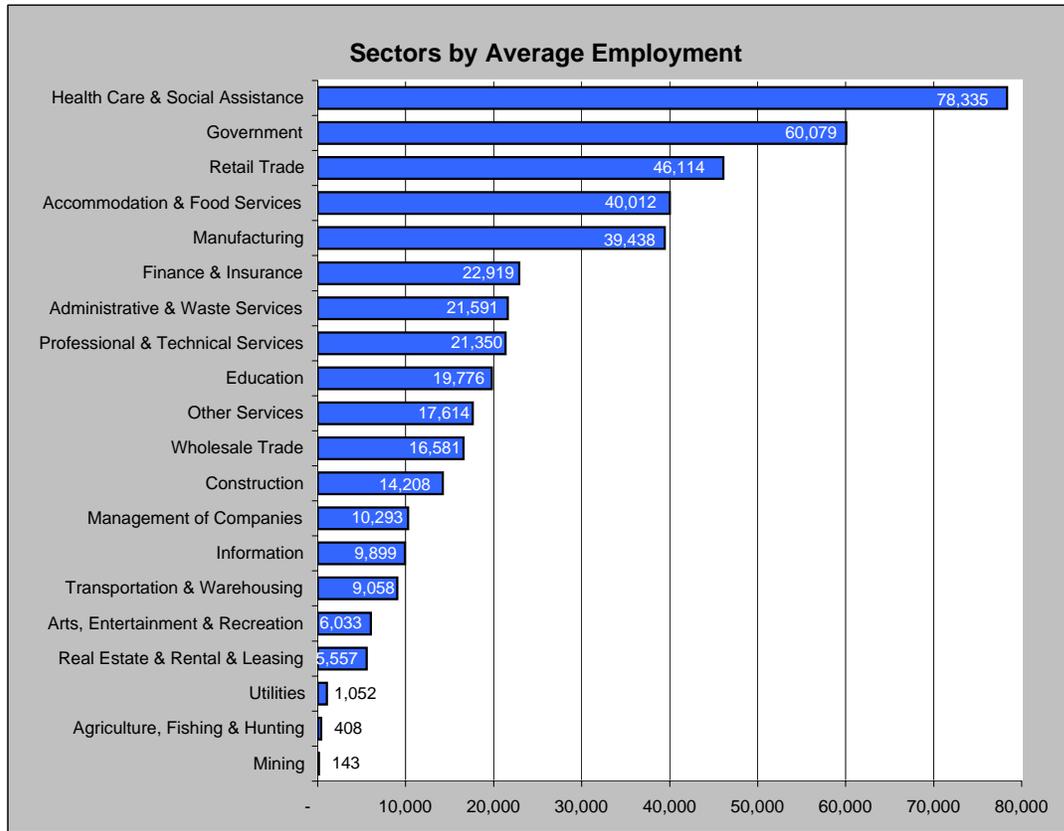
**Employment change within this sector was the result of a noneconomic code change. A noneconomic code change is a change in an industry code or a location code. In this case, an industry code change resulted in a loss of approximately 300 Manufacturing jobs.*

First Quarter 2012

	No. of Units	January	February	March	Average Employment	Total Wages	Taxable Wages	Contributions
Total	35,002	438,009	440,263	443,327	440,533	5,328,723,896	2,856,829,058	105,568,989
Private	34,286	378,135	380,133	383,095	380,454	4,407,937,777	2,851,558,883	105,419,744
Federal	191	10,182	10,185	10,167	10,178	206,825,261	0	0
State	111	15,885	15,872	15,993	15,917	257,836,640	223,040	6,023
Local	414	33,807	34,073	34,072	33,984	456,124,218	5,047,135	143,222
Total								
Government	716	59,874	60,130	60,232	60,079	920,786,119	5,270,175	149,245
Total UI Covered	34,588	404,202	406,190	409,255	406,549	4,872,599,678	2,851,781,923	105,425,767

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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. TTY via RI Relay 711

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