



# Rhode Island Department of Labor and Training



## An Overview of Average Annual Wages – Private Sector 2008

Rhode Island's private sector employed 407,900 workers in 2008 and paid over \$16.7 billion in wages. Private sector employees earned an average annual wage of \$41,099 in 2008, a 3.2 percent (+\$1,272) increase from the 2007 average of \$39,827. The 2008 average annual wage in the Ocean State was 9.4 percent less than the national average of \$45,368 and ranked as the fourth highest wage in New England. At \$59,305, Connecticut reported the highest average annual private sector wage in the northeast, nearly \$14,000 higher than the United States average. Massachusetts workers earned an average of \$57,272, followed by New Hampshire, whose average annual wage of \$45,274 was slightly lower than the rest of the nation. Private industry in Vermont (\$37,567) and Maine (\$35,624) paid the lowest average annual wages in New England. The statewide private sector wages in New Hampshire, Rhode Island, Vermont, and Maine were all below the national average in 2008.

The highest paying industry sector in Rhode Island was Management of Companies & Enterprises, whose employees earned \$104,254 on average. The Utilities (\$78,823), Finance & Insurance (\$67,767), Professional & Technical Services (\$61,681) and Wholesale Trade (\$60,207) industry sectors also reported average annual wages well above the state's private sector average. In comparison, Rhode Island's Accommodation & Food Services workers earned an average of just \$15,734 in 2008, followed by Arts, Entertainment & Recreation (\$23,198), Agriculture, Forestry, Fishing & Hunting (\$26,129), Other Services (\$26,140) and Retail Trade (\$26,493). Many of the industries in these sectors are seasonal in nature and rely on part-time and low-skilled labor.

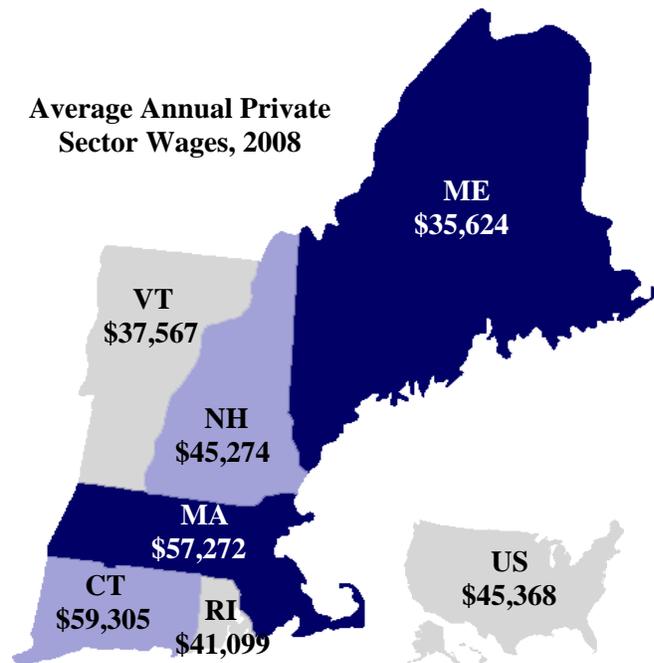
Average annual wages earned by Rhode Island workers were below the national average in nearly all economic sectors and generally ranked fourth in New England, most often trailing Connecticut, Massachusetts and New Hampshire.

Rhode Island workers were paid average annual wages above the national average in five economic sectors: Management of Companies; Education; Construction; Retail Trade; and Agriculture, Forestry & Fishing.

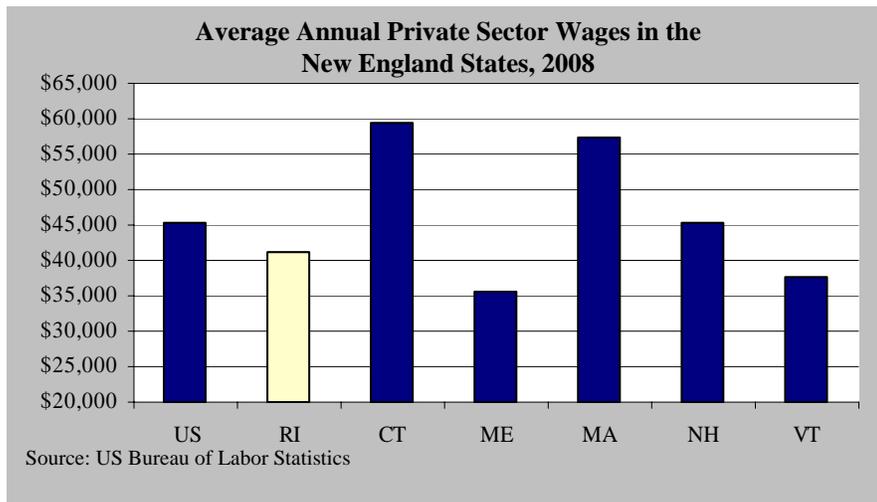
Rhode Island ranked third in three categories within the New England states. The sectors are Construction; Retail Trade; and Arts, Entertainment, & Recreation.

Rhode Island's Management of Companies sector reported the highest annual wage in 2008, paying workers an average of \$104,254, more than the \$94,842 earned nationally. In New England, only Connecticut (\$136,573) paid higher wages to workers in this sector.

Nationally, employees of Management of Companies earned the highest average wage, as was the case in two New England states (Rhode Island and Maine). Finance & Insurance was the highest paying sector in Connecticut (\$141,194) and Massachusetts (\$118,985), while Utilities was the highest paying sector in New Hampshire (\$91,141) and Vermont (\$89,953).



Rhode Island workers in Health Care & Social Assistance, the state's largest economic sector, earned an average annual wage of \$39,333, approximately \$2,800 (6.7%) less than the national average (\$42,150). Regionally, Massachusetts (\$49,401) paid the highest wage to workers in this sector, followed by Connecticut (\$46,106) and New Hampshire (\$44,858).



The \$34,759 average wage paid to Transportation & Warehousing workers in Rhode Island was \$8,210 (19.1%) less than the national average (\$42,969) and the lowest in New England.

Rhode Island workers earned less than their Connecticut counterparts in all economic sectors and only earned more in the Management of Companies sector than Massachusetts workers.

In every New England state and nationally, Accommodation & Food Services workers earned the lowest average annual wage among all industry sectors.

Average Annual Private Sector Wages by Industry Sector, 2008							
	US	RI	CT	ME	MA	NH	VT
<b>Total Private</b>	<b>\$45,368</b>	<b>\$41,099</b>	<b>\$59,305</b>	<b>\$35,624</b>	<b>\$57,272</b>	<b>\$45,274</b>	<b>\$37,567</b>
Agriculture, Forestry, Fishing & Hunting	\$25,982	\$26,129	\$28,409	**	\$45,743	\$29,313	\$26,958
Mining, Quarrying, & Oil & Gas Extraction	\$87,211	\$44,617	\$63,920	**	\$51,897	\$50,835	\$53,737
Construction	\$49,014	\$50,699	\$57,895	\$40,250	\$62,170	\$49,946	\$41,300
Utilities	\$84,191	\$78,823	\$109,502	\$63,977	\$99,447	\$91,141	\$89,953
Manufacturing	\$54,392	\$46,491	\$70,566	\$46,148	\$69,014	\$58,599	\$50,653
Wholesale Trade	\$61,847	\$60,207	\$79,653	\$50,129	\$76,961	\$72,248	\$50,381
Retail Trade	\$26,181	\$26,493	\$30,289	\$23,258	\$27,709	\$26,457	\$25,264
Transportation & Warehousing	\$42,969	\$34,759	\$46,014	\$34,880	\$41,295	\$35,750	\$36,437
Information	\$70,780	\$57,412	\$69,421	\$44,185	\$86,360	\$71,392	\$44,277
Finance & Insurance	\$85,274	\$67,767	\$141,194	\$54,068	\$118,985	\$73,965	\$64,793
Real Estate & Rental & Leasing	\$43,239	\$36,639	\$52,861	\$31,541	\$56,490	\$43,716	\$31,948
Professional & Technical Services	\$74,354	\$61,681	\$85,540	\$54,214	\$96,802	\$73,377	\$59,612
Management of Companies & Enterprises	\$94,842	\$104,254	\$136,573	\$71,534	\$100,428	\$77,941	\$58,600
Administrative & Waste Services	\$32,078	\$29,459	\$37,925	\$28,787	\$38,646	\$38,656	\$30,365
Educational Services	\$40,832	\$43,632	\$50,576	\$36,152	\$52,484	\$44,846	\$39,037
Health Care & Social Assistance	\$42,150	\$39,333	\$46,106	\$38,250	\$49,401	\$44,858	\$37,141
Arts, Entertainment, & Recreation	\$31,935	\$23,198	\$28,977	\$21,224	\$34,695	\$19,635	\$20,255
Accommodation & Food Services	\$16,694	\$15,734	\$17,943	\$15,284	\$19,295	\$16,413	\$17,580
Other Services	\$28,776	\$26,140	\$29,969	\$25,846	\$28,185	\$31,110	\$27,631

Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics for US and other New England states. Wages are preliminary and subject to change.

\*\*Wages are confidential.