



# Annual Average Wages in RI - 2005

## A Regional and National Comparison



In 2005, Rhode Island's annual average private sector wage was \$37,067, or roughly 92 percent of the national average (\$40,422). Within New England, the Ocean State reported the fourth highest annual average wage, trailing Connecticut (\$53,678), Massachusetts (\$50,425), and New Hampshire (\$41,023). Private sector workers in Vermont (\$33,648) and Maine (\$32,104) were paid an annual average wage below that of their Rhode Island peers in 2005. Overall, Rhode Island reported the 21st highest annual average private sector wage among the fifty states.

Of the nineteen private industry sectors measured, Ocean State workers were paid annual wages above the national average in three of them - Agriculture, Forestry, Fishing & Hunting, Construction, and Educational Services.

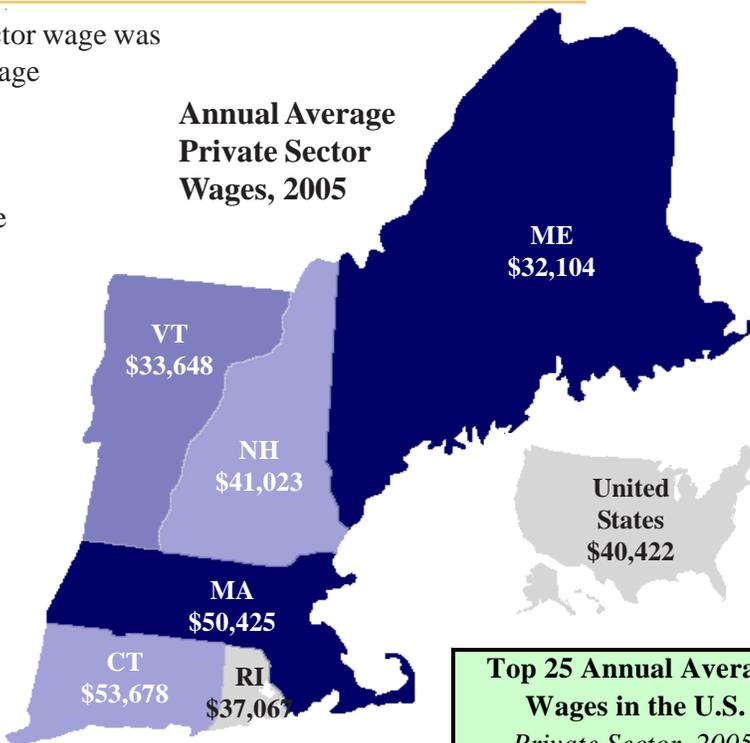
In Agriculture, Forestry, Fishing & Hunting, Rhode Island workers earned an annual average wage of \$26,836 in 2005, or 16 percent more than the national average (\$23,117). It was the eleventh highest industry sector wage in the United States, trailing regional neighbors Massachusetts (\$44,039) and Maine (\$28,804).

Rhode Island's Construction workers earned an average of \$44,789 in 2005, or 106 percent of the United States average (\$42,100). It was the fifteenth highest industry sector average reported that year. Regionally, construction firms in Massachusetts (\$53,477), Connecticut (\$51,431), and New Hampshire (\$45,261) paid annual wages above Rhode Island's average. Both Vermont (\$36,330) and Maine (\$35,431) reported industry sector averages well below that of the Ocean State.

Educational Services employees in the private sector earned an annual average wage of \$39,097 in 2005. This was 7.6 percent greater than the national average wage of \$36,333. Rhode Island's industry sector workers were the eighth highest paid in the country, trailing Massachusetts (\$47,467), Connecticut (\$44,905), Maryland (\$40,913), Pennsylvania (\$40,792), Tennessee (\$40,687), New York (\$39,928), and Missouri (\$39,480). Within New England, industry sector workers in New Hampshire (\$38,348), Vermont (\$34,792), and Maine (\$33,470) were all paid annual wages below the Rhode Island average.

Aside from Agriculture, Forestry, Fishing & Hunting, Construction, and Educational Services, Rhode Island's annual average wages in the remaining sixteen industry

**Annual Average Private Sector Wages, 2005**



**Top 25 Annual Average Wages in the U.S. Private Sector, 2005**

Connecticut	\$ 53,678
New York	\$ 52,979
Massachusetts	\$ 50,425
New Jersey	\$ 49,119
California	\$ 45,684
Delaware	\$ 44,592
Illinois	\$ 43,852
Maryland	\$ 42,779
Virginia	\$ 41,938
Colorado	\$ 41,593
Michigan	\$ 41,125
New Hampshire	\$ 41,023
Minnesota	\$ 40,965
Texas	\$ 40,880
Washington	\$ 40,225
Georgia	\$ 39,514
Pennsylvania	\$ 39,264
Alaska	\$ 38,817
Nevada	\$ 37,881
Arizona	\$ 37,706
<b>Rhode Island</b>	<b>\$ 37,067</b>
Ohio	\$ 36,830
Oregon	\$ 36,230
Missouri	\$ 36,205
Florida	\$ 36,096

A Product of the

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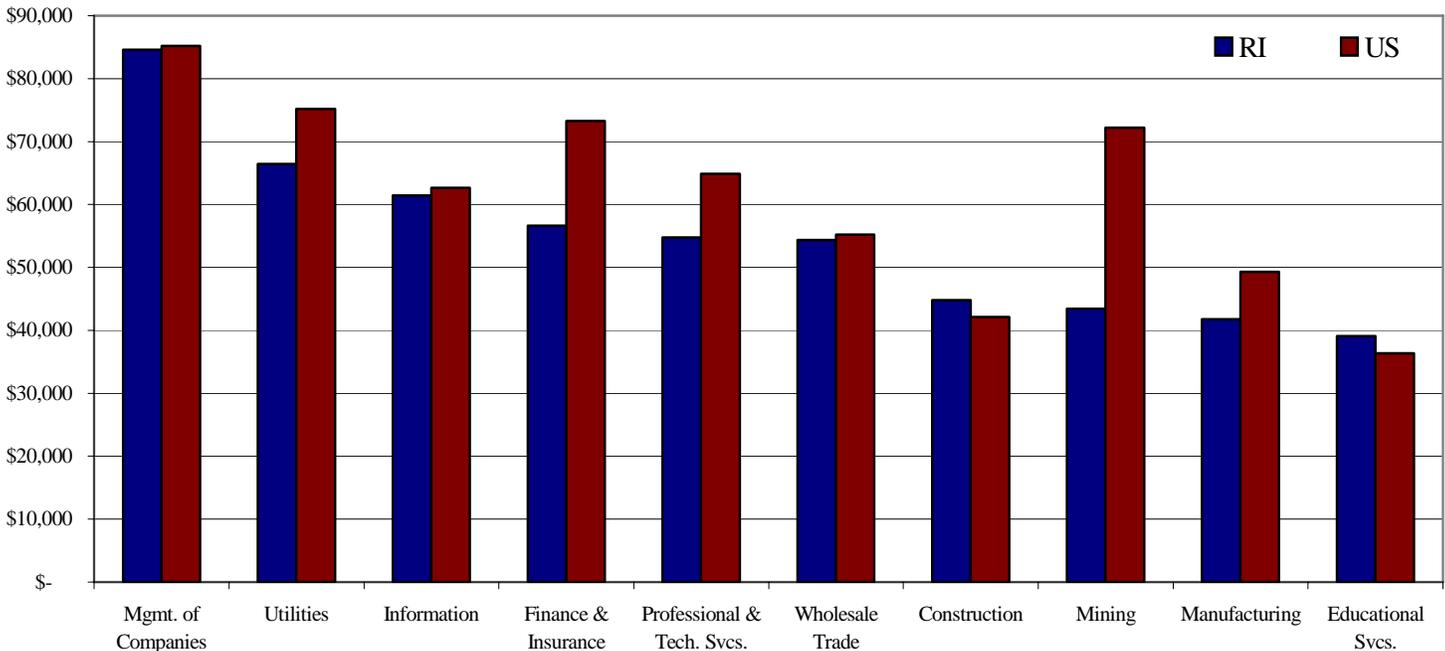
sectors were below national averages. Not surprisingly, Management of Companies & Enterprises workers were the highest paid throughout the Ocean State in 2005, earning \$84,598 on average. This was slightly less (-0.7%) than the annual average wage reported throughout the United States (\$85,213) and ranked fourteenth among the fifty states. Nevada (\$149,915) and neighboring Connecticut (\$130,948) reported the highest annual average wage in this industry sector, while New Hampshire placed eighth at \$93,318. Elsewhere in New England, Management of Companies & Enterprises employees earned average wages below their Rhode Island peers, including Massachusetts (\$81,009), Vermont (\$63,082), and Maine (\$59,211).

Within Rhode Island, Utilities workers (\$66,444) were the second highest paid on an industry sector basis in 2005. This wage was 11.6 percent less than the national average of \$75,204 and ranked in the bottom half (32nd) of all states. Within the six-state region, employees of Ocean State-based Utilities firms earned the fifth highest annual average wage, trailing Connecticut (\$87,661), Massachusetts (\$87,227), Vermont (\$80,832), and New Hampshire (\$74,965). Each of their industry sector wages ranked in the top fifth of all states in 2005. At \$58,857, Maine's Utilities employees earned an annual wage well below the Rhode Island average.

Workers in Rhode Island's Information sector, which includes publishing, broadcasting, Internet, and telecommunications employees, earned an annual average wage of \$61,439 in 2005. This was 1.9 percent below the national average of \$62,652 and ranked twelfth in the nation. Three New England states - Massachusetts (\$76,441),

<b>Annual Average Wages by Industry Sector</b> <i>Rhode Island, 2005</i>	
<b>Private Sector</b>	<b>\$ 37,067</b>
Management of Companies & Enterprises	\$ 84,598
Utilities	\$ 66,444
Information	\$ 61,439
Finance & Insurance	\$ 56,614
Professional & Technical Services	\$ 54,777
Wholesale Trade	\$ 54,347
Construction	\$ 44,789
Mining	\$ 43,416
Manufacturing	\$ 41,744
Educational Services	\$ 39,097
Health Care & Social Assistance	\$ 36,983
Real Estate & Rental & Leasing	\$ 35,264
Transportation & Warehousing	\$ 32,001
Agriculture, Forestry, Fishing & Hunting	\$ 26,836
Administrative & Waste Services	\$ 25,427
Retail Trade	\$ 24,905
Other Services	\$ 24,182
Arts, Entertainment & Recreation	\$ 21,067
Accommodation & Food Services	\$ 14,734

**Ten Highest Annual Average Wages by Industry Sector in Rhode Island vs. National Average**  
2005



Connecticut (\$63,430), and New Hampshire (\$61,720) - reported annual average wages in Information greater than that of the Ocean State. Industry sector employees in Maine (\$40,258) and Vermont (\$39,619) earned the 40th and 41st highest wages in the United States, respectively.

In 2005, Rhode Island's Finance & Insurance employees earned the twentieth highest annual average wage in America, at \$56,614. However, this was 22.7 percent below the national average (\$73,278) and was just the fourth highest industry sector average within the region, trailing Connecticut (\$128,169), Massachusetts (\$98,564), and New Hampshire (\$66,387). Industry sector workers in Vermont (\$54,580) and Maine (\$48,466) earned an annual wage below the Rhode Island average.

The state's Professional & Technical Services workers earned an average of \$54,777 in 2005, or 84 percent of the national average (\$64,848). This ranked 24th in the nation and trailed Massachusetts (\$83,587), Connecticut (\$75,985), and New Hampshire (\$62,623). Professional & Technical Services firms in Vermont (\$52,258) and Maine (\$46,915) reported the lowest annual average wages in the region that year.

Rhode Island's Wholesale Trade sector paid an annual average wage of \$54,347 in 2005, or 1.6 percent less than the national average (\$55,222). This ranked nineteenth in the country. Industry sector firms in three New England states - Connecticut (\$72,384), Massachusetts (\$67,229), and New Hampshire (\$66,454) - posted the highest annual average wages in America. Wholesale Trade workers in Vermont (\$45,953) and Maine (\$45,247) received average wages trailing the rest of the region in 2005.

With fewer than 300 workers, Mining is Rhode Island's smallest industry sector. Local Mining firms paid an annual average wag of \$43,416 in 2005, roughly 60 percent of the national average (\$72,226). This ranked in the bottom fifth of all states, as was the case for Vermont (\$41,580) and Maine (\$31,623). Connecticut's Mining firms paid the sixteenth highest annual average wage (\$57,473) in the United States, while Massachusetts (\$50,387) and New Hampshire (\$49,425) ranked 34th and 35th, respectively.

At \$41,744, Rhode Island's Manufacturing employees earned the 38th highest annual average wage in the United States. This was 15.3 percent below the national average (\$49,283) and was the lowest industry sector wage in New England, trailing Connecticut (\$63,036), Massachusetts (\$62,472), New Hampshire (\$52,103), Vermont (\$46,316), and Maine (\$42,111). In 2005, Manufacturing firms in Connecticut and Massachusetts paid their employees the highest annual average wages in the nation.

**Annual Average Wage in Manufacturing**  
New England and the United States, 2005



In 2005, Rhode Island's Health Care & Social Assistance workers earned an average of \$36,983, or 2.1 percent less than the U.S. average (\$37,795). Nationally, this ranked 22nd and was below the average wage paid to similar workers in Massachusetts (\$43,095), Connecticut (\$41,682), and New Hampshire (\$39,410). Healthcare workers in Maine (\$33,644) and Vermont (\$32,494) earned annual wages below the Ocean State average.

At \$35,264, the state's Real Estate & Rental & Leasing firms paid the twentieth highest annual average wage in the country. This was roughly 90 percent of the national average (\$39,296) and trailed Massachusetts (\$50,300, 1st in the U.S.), Connecticut (\$46,723), and New Hampshire (\$40,732). Industry sector firms in Vermont (\$29,554) and Maine (\$28,864) paid the lowest wages within the region.

Rhode Island's Transportation & Warehousing workers earned an average of \$32,001 in 2005, or 19 percent less than the national average (\$39,515). This ranked 46th overall and was the lowest industry sector average in New England, trailing Connecticut (\$40,654), Massachusetts (\$38,539), New Hampshire (\$33,459), Vermont (\$32,780), and Maine (\$32,682).

Local Administrative & Waste Services companies, which includes temporary help firms, paid an annual average wage of \$25,427 in 2005. This was 9.5 percent less than the U.S. average (\$28,100) and ranked 29th overall, trailing Massachusetts (\$34,242), New Hampshire (\$33,013), Connecticut (\$32,290), and Maine (\$25,971). Vermont's industry sector wage (\$25,350) was just below that of Rhode Island.

The state's annual average wage for Retail Trade workers (\$24,905) was on par with the national average (\$24,926) and the sixteenth highest in the country. Sector employers in Connecticut (\$28,757), Massachusetts (\$27,479), and New Hampshire (\$26,023) paid their workers annual wages above the Ocean State average, while Vermont (\$23,748) and Maine (\$22,077) trailed Rhode Island.

Ocean State-based Other Services firms, including repair facilities, religious and civic organizations, and personal services, paid an annual average wage of \$24,182 in 2005. This was roughly 5 percent below the national average (\$25,420) and ranked 24th in the country. This average wage trailed those paid by industry sector establishments in New Hampshire (\$28,242), Connecticut (\$27,702), Massachusetts (\$26,104), and Vermont (\$24,883). At \$23,919, Maine's Other Services workers earned an average wage slightly below that paid in Rhode Island.

Comprised of numerous part-time and seasonal workers, the state's Arts, Entertainment & Recreation firms paid an annual wage of \$21,067 in 2005, or three-quarters of the national average (\$28,086). This average wage ranked 25th in the country and third in New England behind Massachusetts (\$30,349) and Connecticut (\$25,460). Industry sector pay in New Hampshire (\$19,016), Vermont (\$18,215), and Maine (\$17,944) trailed Rhode Island.

Similar to Arts, Entertainment & Recreation, the state's Accommodation & Food Services sector is exposed to seasonal and occupational factors that depress annual wage levels. At \$14,734, local industry sector workers earned 2.5 percent less than the nation average (\$15,117) in 2005. Among the New England states, susceptible to similar seasonal patterns, Rhode Island ranked fifth behind Massachusetts (\$17,653), Connecticut (\$16,772), Vermont (\$16,008), New Hampshire (\$15,326). Only workers in Maine (\$14,003) received an annual average wage below that paid to Ocean State workers in Accommodation & Food Services.

<b>Top 25 Annual Average Wages in Health Care &amp; Social Assistance, 2005</b>	
California	\$ 43,781
Nevada	\$ 43,663
Massachusetts	\$ 43,095
Delaware	\$ 42,567
New Jersey	\$ 42,557
Connecticut	\$ 41,682
Arizona	\$ 40,749
Maryland	\$ 40,362
New Hampshire	\$ 39,410
Hawaii	\$ 39,193
Florida	\$ 39,066
Colorado	\$ 38,870
Tennessee	\$ 38,850
Georgia	\$ 38,796
New York	\$ 38,521
Illinois	\$ 38,253
Michigan	\$ 38,215
Virginia	\$ 37,618
Oregon	\$ 37,617
Minnesota	\$ 37,533
Pennsylvania	\$ 36,983
<b>Rhode Island</b>	<b>\$ 36,983</b>
Wisconsin	\$ 36,746
Alabama	\$ 36,463
Washington	\$ 36,149

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