



# Building Jobs for Rhode Island



An Analysis of Employment and Wages  
in Rhode Island's Construction Industries  
1992-2002

*A Publication of the:*

**Labor Market Information Unit**  
**Rhode Island Department of Labor and Training**

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# Introduction

*The Labor Market Information Unit of the  
Rhode Island Department of Labor and Training proudly presents:*

## **Building Jobs for Rhode Island**

*An Analysis of Employment and Wages in Rhode Island's Construction Industries  
1992-2002*

Of the major industry divisions in the Ocean State economy, Construction has been one of the fastest growing during recent years. Between 1992 and 2002, this sector added more than 6,700 jobs to the local economy. This 55.2 percent increase was the largest percentage gain reported by any major sector during this period. By 2002, the state's 3,529 Construction establishments employed nearly 19,000 people at an average wage (\$41,385) well above the state's private sector average. Construction-related jobs now account for 4.7 percent of total private sector employment in Rhode Island.

Using information collected by the Rhode Island Department of Labor and Training and the United States Department of Labor, **Building Jobs for Rhode Island** analyzes the Construction sector's growth in employment and annual wages by industry during the past decade. It also presents industry and occupational employment projections for the coming decade. This publication may be a useful tool in discovering where Rhode Island's Construction industries have been...  
and where they are going in the future.



# An Overview of Construction

For the past decade, Rhode Island's Construction-related firms have collectively reported continuous growth in annual average employment. In 1992, more than 12,200 people were employed by Construction firms in the Ocean State, accounting for 3.4 percent of private sector employment. Since that time, the sector has added 6,743 jobs to the local economy, employing 18,966 people in 2002. This 55.2 percent increase was the largest percentage gain reported among the state's major industry divisions during this period, surpassing employment growth in Agriculture, Forestry, & Fisheries (+48.0%), Finance, Insurance, & Real Estate (+30.2%), Services (+24.7%), and Retail Trade (+24.4%). Today, Construction-related jobs account for 4.7 percent of the Ocean State's private sector employment.

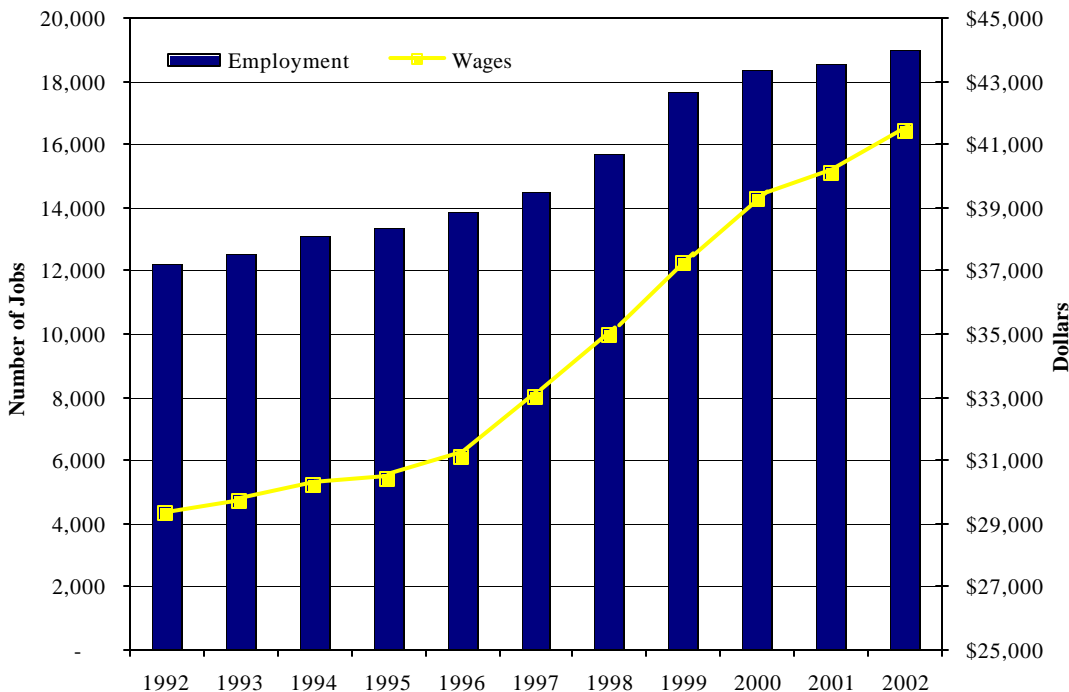
Annual growth rates in Construction employment have slowed in recent years and contrast the notable job gains reported during the late-1990's. Since 1992, the largest annual gain occurred between 1998 and 1999 with the addition of 1,948 Construction jobs. This was a remarkable 12.4 percent increase in the sector's annual average employment level.

During the previous year (1997-1998), the sector's establishments reported an increase of 1,194 (+8.2%) jobs. Providence accounted for a significant portion of this two-year period of growth, adding 602 (+26.1%) Construction jobs between 1997 and 1999. These gains can be partially attributed to the building of the Providence Place Mall. Statewide, annual job growth in excess of three percent was also reported in 1994 (+4.7%), 1996 (+3.9%), and 1997 (+4.7%). In contrast, Construction firms added just 208 (+1.1%) jobs in 2001 and 418 (2.3%) jobs in the following year.

## Percent Change in Annual Average Employment 1992-2002

<b>Total, Private Sector</b>	<b>12.1%</b>
Agriculture, Forestry, & Fisheries	48.0%
Mining	19.3%
<b>Construction</b>	<b>55.2%</b>
Manufacturing	-27.5%
Transportation, Comm., & Public Utilities	12.0%
Wholesale Trade	4.5%
Retail Trade	24.4%
Finance, Insurance, & Real Estate	30.2%
Services	24.7%

**Annual Average Employment and Wages in Construction**  
Rhode Island, 1992-2002



Each of Rhode Island's thirty-nine communities reported increased Construction employment between 1992 and 2002. Providence (+1,143) added the most jobs during this period, followed by Warwick (+753), Cranston (+610), and Pawtucket (+599). Several other cities and towns doubled and tripled their sector employment levels, including Johnston (+568), Cumberland (+503), Portsmouth (+449), and Coventry (+288).

# Employment in Rhode Island

In 2002, Rhode Island's Construction workers earned an annual average wage of \$41,385, more than \$8,100 above the private sector average. It was also the fourth highest wage paid by sector, trailing Finance, Insurance, & Real Estate (\$49,786), Wholesale Trade (\$46,225), and Mining (\$44,859).

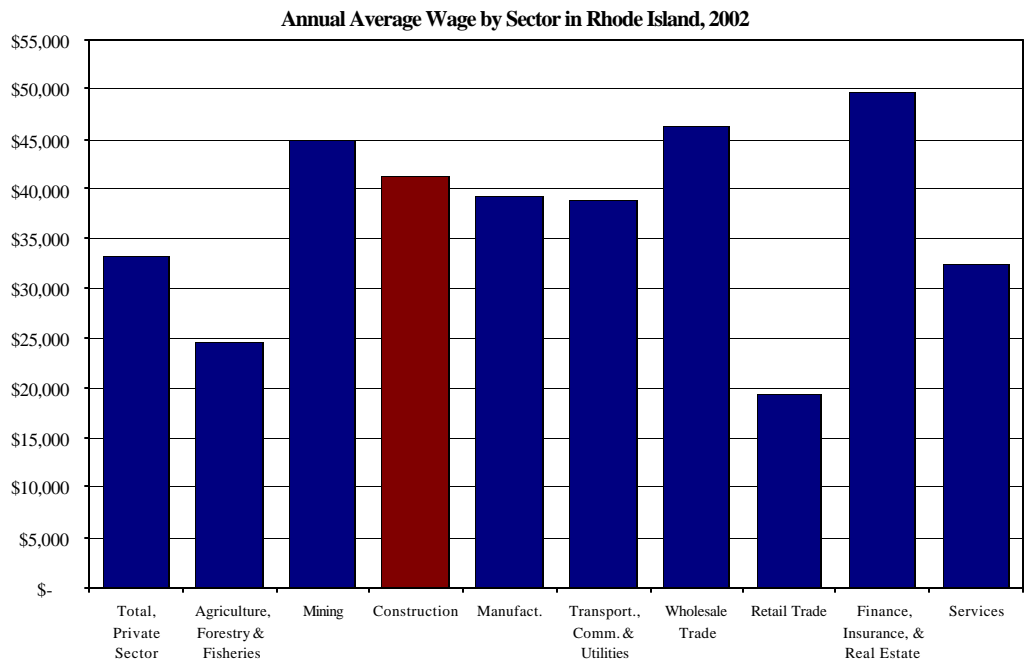
Construction's 2002 annual average wage represented a 41.1 percent increase over its 1992 average of \$29,321. This was on par with the Ocean State's private sector wage

increase of 42.0 percent experienced during the same period. Compared to Construction, most of the major sectors reported a faster growth in wages, including Finance, Insurance, & Real Estate (+61.5%), Mining (+57.7%), Wholesale Trade (+48.4%), Services (+45.6%), and Manufacturing (+42.5%). Only Transportation, Communications, & Utilities (+35.0%), Agriculture, Forestry, & Fisheries (+38.4%), and Retail Trade (+38.4%) workers experienced a slower rate of growth in average pay during this period.

Overall, Construction firms in the Ocean State paid total wages in excess of \$784.9 million in 2002. This accounted for 5.8 percent of all wages paid in the private sector statewide. A decade earlier, the sector paid \$358.4 million in wages, 4.3 percent of total private sector wages paid that year.

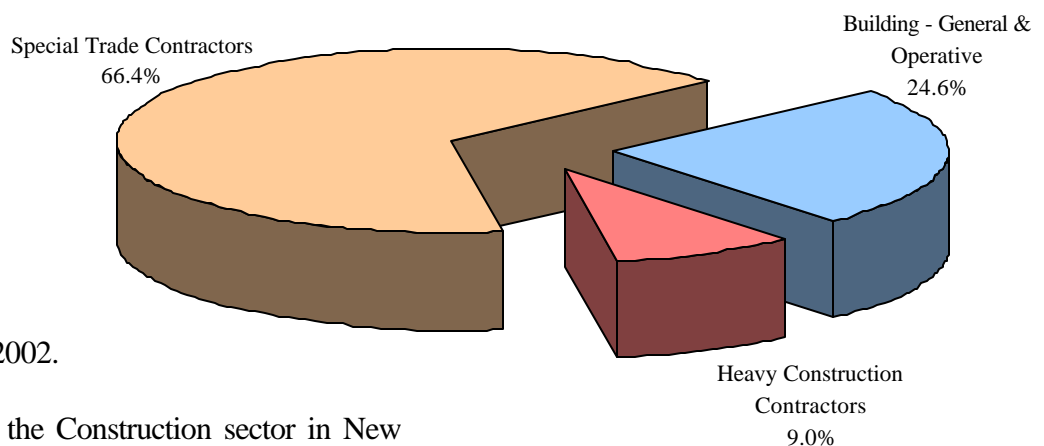
The Construction sector is divided into three major industry groups: Building Construction - General & Operative, Heavy Construction Contractors, and Special Trade Contractors. The largest of these is Special Trade Contractors, which accounted for 66.4 percent of Rhode Island's Construction employment in 2002.

The following pages highlight the Construction sector in New England and provide a more in-depth analysis of its industries within the Ocean State.



## Construction Employment by Major Industry Group

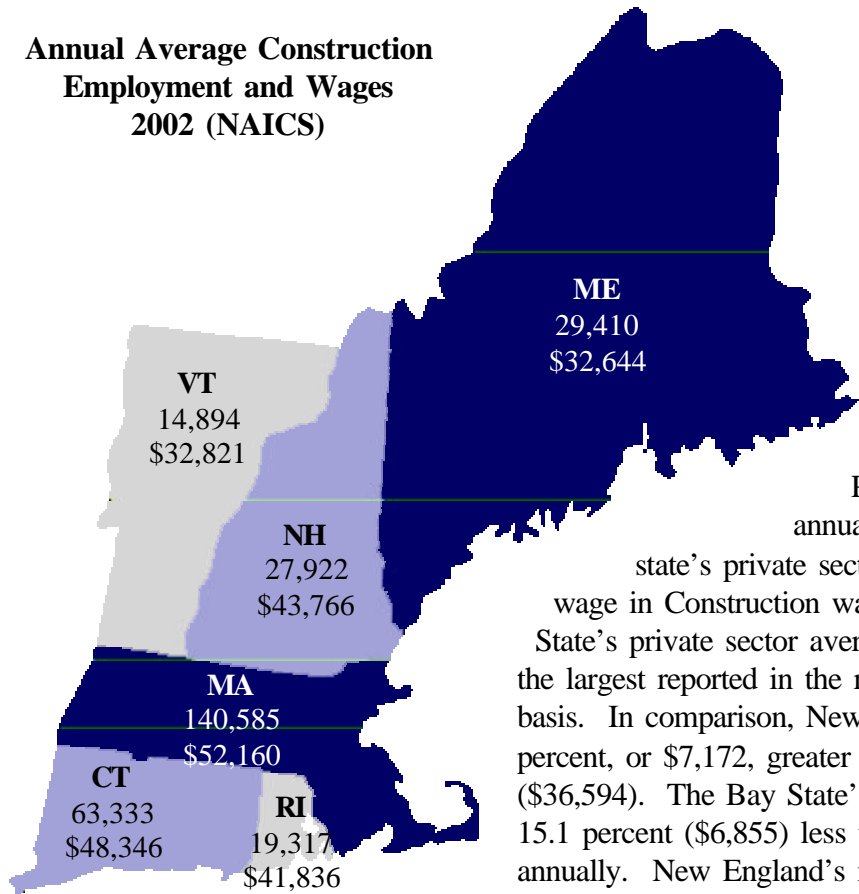
*Rhode Island, 2002*



# Construction in New England

Under the NAICS structure\*, 19,317 people worked in Rhode Island's Construction sector in 2002, accounting for 4.8 percent of the state's private sector employment. This was the second lowest share reported within the region. Connecticut's 63,333 Construction jobs accounted for 4.5 percent of the state's private sector workforce. However, Construction employment in the remaining New England states comprised higher percentages of total private sector jobs. Six percent of Maine's (29,410) and Vermont's (14,894) private sector workforces was engaged in Construction-related industries. Within New Hampshire, Construction jobs accounted for 5.4 percent (27,922) of private sector employment, while Massachusetts' 140,585 Construction workers comprised 5.0 percent of the Commonwealth's private sector employment in 2002.

## Annual Average Construction Employment and Wages 2002 (NAICS)



In 2002, Construction firms in the Ocean State paid its employees the fourth lowest annual average wage (\$41,836) in the region. This trailed annual sector wages paid in Massachusetts (\$52,160), Connecticut (\$48,346), and New Hampshire (\$43,766). Construction workers in Maine (\$32,644) and Vermont (\$32,821) were paid a significantly lower average wage than their Rhode Island peers in 2002.

Perhaps a better measure of Rhode Island's annual Construction wage is its relation to the state's private sector average. In 2002, the annual average wage in Construction was nearly 26 percent more than the Ocean State's private sector average (\$33,226). This \$8,610 difference was the largest reported in the region, both on an absolute and percentage basis. In comparison, New Hampshire's Construction wage was 19.6 percent, or \$7,172, greater than its annual average private sector wage (\$36,594). The Bay State's private sector average was \$45,305, or 15.1 percent (\$6,855) less than what its Construction workers earned annually. New England's northernmost state, Maine, reported the region's lowest annual average private sector wage (\$29,239), 11.6

percent (\$3,405) less than its average Construction wage. Vermont's Construction workers earned 7.2 percent (\$2,208) more than the state's private sector average (\$30,613). The smallest difference between private sector and Construction wages was reported in Connecticut. In 2002, Rhode Island's western neighbor paid the highest annual average private sector wage (\$47,389) in the region. This was \$957, or 2.0 percent, less than the state's average Construction wage that year.

\* Due to the recent statistical conversion from the Standard Industrial Classification (SIC) system to the North American Industry Classification System (NAICS), accurate time-series analysis on the regional level must be made using 2002 NAICS-based employment and wage statistics. Under NAICS, establishments using similar raw material inputs, similar capital equipment, and similar labor are classified in the same industry. In other words, establishments that do similar things in similar ways are classified together. The new NAICS-based Construction sector is comprised of approximately 97 percent of employment previously classified under the SIC's Construction division, with an additional 2 percent from SIC's Services division and 1 percent from the Finance, Insurance, & Real Estate division. Please visit LMI ([www.dlt.ri.gov/lmi/es202/naics/naics.htm](http://www.dlt.ri.gov/lmi/es202/naics/naics.htm)) or the U.S. Census Bureau ([www.census.gov/naics](http://www.census.gov/naics)) for a more in-depth explanation of the NAICS system and the SIC-NAICS conversion.

# Construction by Industry

The Standard Industrial Classification (SIC) system divides the Construction sector into three industry groups. The following list provides a brief summary of these groups and the industries covered by each of them:

**Building Construction - General Contractors & Operative Builders** includes establishments “primarily engaged in the construction of residential, farm, industrial, commercial, or other buildings.” Industry groups include *General Building Contractors - Residential Buildings*, *Operative Builders*, and *General Building Contractors - Non-residential Buildings*.

**Heavy Construction Contractors** is comprised of firms “primarily engaged in heavy construction other than building” and related special trade contractors, such as highway grading and sign installation, and underwater rock removal. *Highway & Street Construction, Except Elevated Highways* includes airport runway and sidewalk construction, asphalt paving, and resurfacing firms. A second industry, *Heavy Construction, Except Highway & Street Construction*, includes bridge, tunnel, and elevated highway contractors, and water, sewer, pipeline, and communications and power line construction firms. It also covers numerous general and special trade contractors engaged in heavy construction projects, such as dock and harbor construction, dredging, golf course construction, soil compacting services, underwater timber removal, and land clearing and drainage contractors.

**Special Trade Contractors** includes “contractors who undertake activities of a type that are specialized either to building construction, including work on mobile homes, or to both building and non-building projects.” It is divided into nine industry groups:

*Plumbing, Heating, & Air-Conditioning* includes contractors engaged in boiler installation, dry well construction, furnace repair, lawn sprinkler system installation, plumbing repair, and many others.

*Painting & Paper Hanging* includes contractors engaged in bridge, house, ship, and traffic lane painting, paper hanging, and whitewashing.

*Electrical Work* includes burglar and fire alarm installation, cable television hookup, sound equipment installation, and highway lighting and electrical signal construction contractors.

*Masonry, Stonework, Tile Setting, & Plastering* includes bricklaying, foundations, stone setting, drywall construction, insulation installation, and fresco and mosaic work contractors.

*Carpentry & Floor Work* includes cabinet work, framing, ship joinery, and floor laying contractors.

*Roofing, Siding, & Sheet Metal Work* includes gutter installation, duct work, and skylight contractors.

*Concrete Work* includes “the construction of private driveways and walks of all materials,” as well as grouting, patio construction, and parking lot construction contractors.

*Water Well Drilling* includes geothermal drilling and water well servicing contractors.

*Miscellaneous Special Trade Contractors* includes a wide variety of special contractors engaged in structural steel erection, glass & glazing work, excavation work, wrecking & demolition work, and installation or erection of building equipment.

## Standard Industrial Classification System

The structure of the SIC coding system makes it possible to analyze and provide industry data by *Major Industry Division or Sector*, *Major Industry Group*, and *Industry*.

For example:

- **Construction Division or Sector**
- **Special Trade Contractors**
- **Carpentry & Floor Work**

# Building Construction -

In 2002, Rhode Island's 1,008 Building Construction establishments employed 4,668 people. Overall, 1,344 jobs have been added within this industry group since 1992, a 40.4 percent increase. Among Construction's three major industry groups, this employment gain represented the second largest increase on both an absolute and percentage basis, trailing Special Trade Contractors. During this period, Building Construction's share of statewide Construction employment fell at the expense of the Special Trade Contractors industry, dropping from 27.2 percent in 1992 to 24.6 percent in 2002.

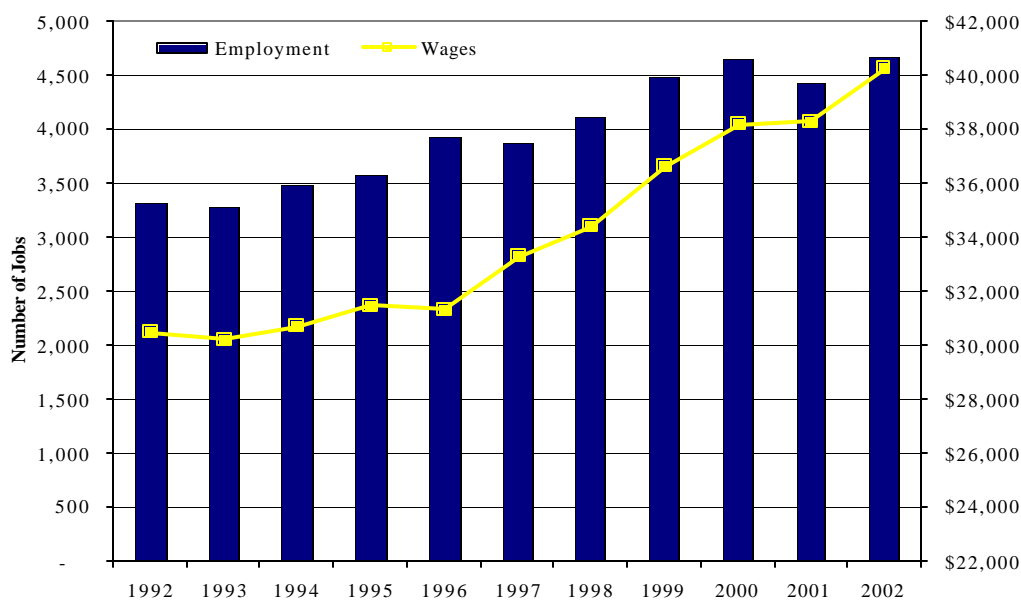
Among Rhode Island's 39 communities, Building Construction establishments in Providence (487) maintained the highest level of industry jobs in 2002, followed by Warwick (365) and Cranston (349). These three cities accounted for more than a quarter of the state's total employment in this industry group. Notable levels of employment were also reported in Johnston (308), Pawtucket (282), and Newport (270). The lowest levels of industry employment which can be disclosed were in Burrillville (13), Jamestown (24), and Hopkinton (28).

	Units	Average Employment	Average Wage
1992	1,103	3,324	\$ 30,472
1993	1,141	3,274	\$ 30,226
1994	1,185	3,486	\$ 30,686
1995	1,115	3,559	\$ 31,421
1996	1,125	3,917	\$ 31,289
1997	1,110	3,879	\$ 33,265
1998	1,094	4,106	\$ 34,371
1999	1,084	4,485	\$ 36,600
2000	1,054	4,634	\$ 38,134
2001	988	4,430	\$ 38,279
2002	1,008	4,668	\$ 40,247

While Building Construction employment in the Ocean State has grown over the decade, the number of firms engaged in these activities has actually declined. In 1992, just over 1,100 establishments were primarily engaged in General Contracting and Operative Building. By 2002, this number had fallen to 1,008 firms, a loss of 95 establishments. During that year, nearly one-third of the state's Building Construction firms were located in Warwick (76), Providence (68), Cranston (58), East Providence (44), Pawtucket (43), and South Kingstown (42).

Building Construction's annual average wage rose from \$30,472 in 1992 to \$40,247 in 2002. This 32.1 percent increase was the smallest reported (on both an absolute and percentage basis) among Construction's three industry groups and trailed Rhode Island's private sector growth rate (42.0%). However, it was the second highest annual average wage paid in Construction in 2002, trailing Heavy Construction (\$55,784).

Annual Average Employment and Wages in Building - General & Operative  
Rhode Island, 1992-2002



On a community basis, Johnston's General Contractors and Operative Builders paid the highest annual average wage (\$57,108) in 2002, followed by firms in East Greenwich (\$49,230), East Providence (\$47,703), and Providence (\$46,827). The lowest wages which can be disclosed were paid in Cumberland (\$19,355), Woonsocket (\$26,490), and Little Compton (\$28,252).

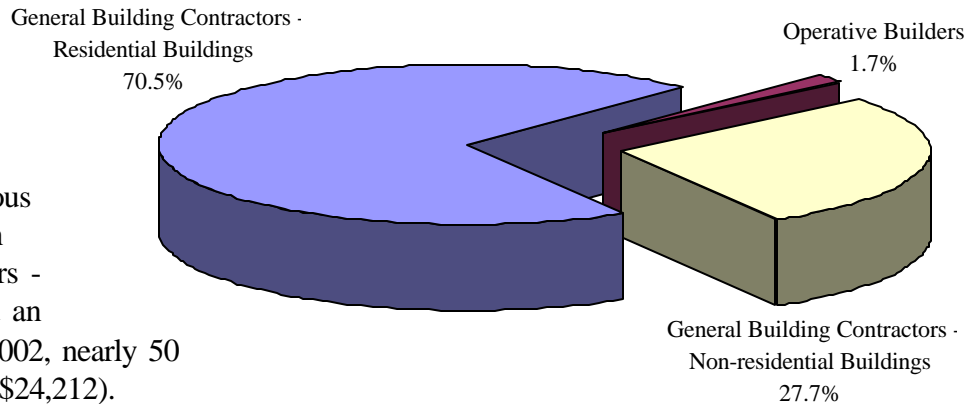


# General & Operative

Within the major industry group, General Building Contractors - Residential Buildings accounted for 70.5 percent of the state's Building Construction employment in 2002. This industry employed 3,293 people in that year, a 58.2 percent increase from its 1992 level of 2,082 workers. Overall, it represented the highest level of employment among the fourteen industries measured in the

Construction sector, accounting for 17.4 percent of total Construction employment throughout Rhode Island. Furthermore, its 842 firms in 2002 was the most in Construction, nearly double the number of firms in the next largest industry (Miscellaneous Special Trade Contractors, 438). On average, General Building Contractors - Residential Buildings workers earned an annual average wage of \$36,244 in 2002, nearly 50 percent more than they did in 1992 (\$24,212).

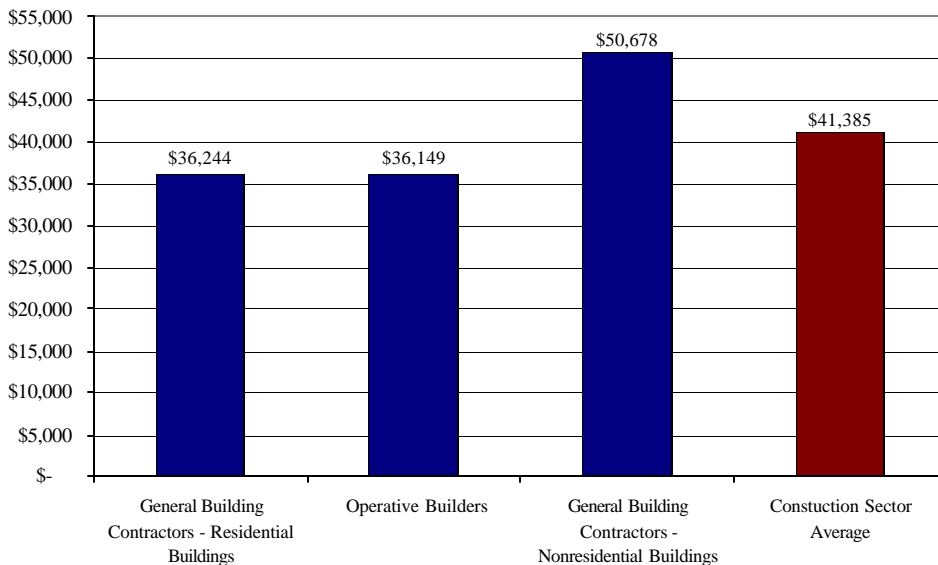
**Annual Average Employment in Building Construction**  
*Rhode Island, 2002*



Although the Operative Builders industry only accounted for 1.7 percent of Rhode Island's Building Construction employment in 2002, its 80 workers was double the number of people working in that industry ten years earlier. It represents the second smallest Construction industry within the Ocean State, just ahead of Water Well Drilling (77). Workers engaged in Operative Building earned an annual average wage of \$36,149 in 2002, the lowest wage reported within Building Construction. However, this wage was 64.5 percent higher than its 1992 annual average wage of \$21,972, the largest percentage gain reported within the industry group.

The remaining 27.7 percent of Building Construction's 2002 employment was in the General Building Contractors - Non-residential Buildings (1,295) industry. Its nearly 1,300 workers represented a 7.8 percent increase over the 1992 level of 1,201 people, the smallest percentage gain reported within the Building Construction industry group. Annually, Rhode Island's General Building Contractors - Non-residential Buildings

**Annual Average Wages in Building Construction Industries**  
*Rhode Island, 2002*



employees earned an average wage of \$50,678 in 2002, the highest wage paid within Building Construction. It was also the second highest wage reported among the Construction sector's fourteen industries, trailing Heavy Construction, Except Highway & Street Construction (\$60,158). General Building Contractors - Non-residential Buildings' 2002 annual average wage represented a 21.7 percent increase over the industry's 1992 wage of \$41,632, the smallest percentage gain in pay reported within Building Construction during this period.

# Heavy Construction

Rhode Island's smallest Construction industry group, Heavy Construction Contractors, employed 1,707 people in 2002. Since 1992, 169 Heavy Construction jobs have been added to the local economy. This 11.0 percent increase was the smallest reported among the three major industry groups, both on an absolute and percentage basis. Similar to Building Construction, this industry has seen its share of total sector employment decrease over the years at the expense of Special Trade Construction. Once accounting for 12.6 percent of Rhode Island's Construction employment, Heavy Construction comprised just 9.0 percent of total sector jobs in 2002.

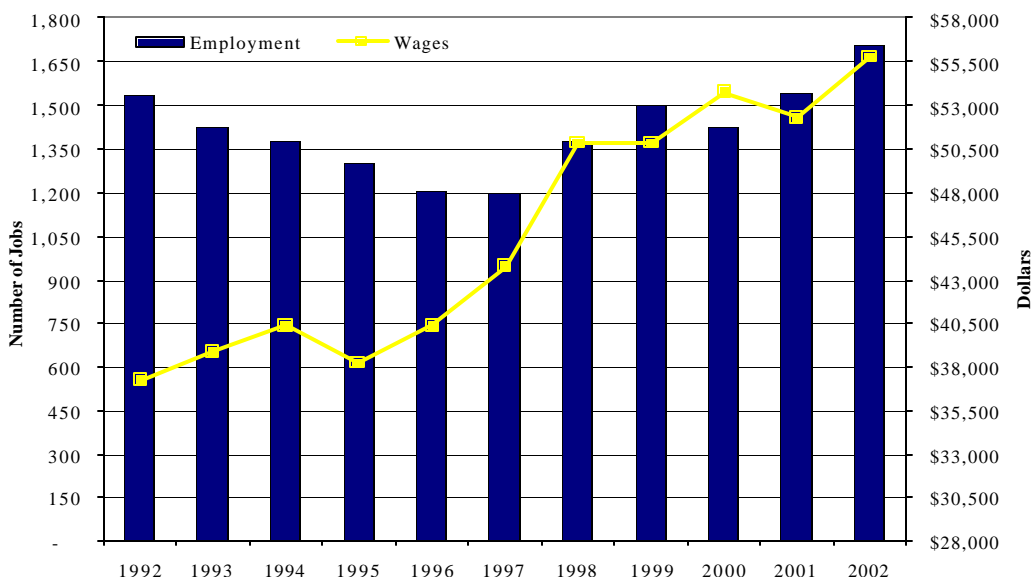
Smithfield's Heavy Construction establishments employed an average of 224 workers in 2002, the most of any Ocean State community in 2002. It was followed by Providence (219) and Portsmouth (216) as the communities with the highest industry employment totals. During that year, numerous towns reported no Heavy Construction employment, including Barrington, Charlestown, Exeter, Foster, Glocester, Jamestown, Little Compton, and New Shoreham.

Similar to the Building Construction industry group, Heavy Construction experienced a slight loss of firms between 1992 and 2002. A decade ago, 145 establishments were engaged in such industries as highway and sewer construction. By 2002, the industry had shrunk 8.3 percent to 133 firms, a loss of 12 establishments. More than a quarter of these were concentrated in four communities: Providence (13), Johnston (9), Smithfield (7), and Cranston (7).

	Units	Average Employment	Average Wage
1992	145	1,538	\$ 37,187
1993	153	1,429	\$ 38,867
1994	150	1,377	\$ 40,376
1995	125	1,300	\$ 38,153
1996	111	1,206	\$ 40,316
1997	105	1,194	\$ 43,724
1998	106	1,374	\$ 50,823
1999	115	1,498	\$ 50,776
2000	121	1,429	\$ 53,711
2001	123	1,542	\$ 52,232
2002	133	1,707	\$ 55,784

The average wage paid to Heavy Construction workers has risen significantly during the past decade. In 1992, industry workers earned an average wage of \$37,187 annually. Within ten years, this wage had increased 50 percent (+\$18,597) to \$55,784, the largest increase reported among Construction's three major industry groups on both an absolute and percentage basis. It also remained the highest wage paid among the sector's industry groups during this period, well above the sector average of \$41,385.

Annual Average Employment and Wages in Heavy Construction  
Rhode Island, 1992-2002



In 2002, Heavy Construction Contractors in several communities paid above-average wages to their workers, including Smithfield (\$70,262), Providence (\$59,888), North Providence (\$58,178), and Pawtucket (\$57,692). In other Rhode Island localities, such as Westerly (\$31,797), South Kingstown (\$32,972), and Cranston (\$34,926), Heavy Construction firms paid their employees below the industry average.

# Contractors

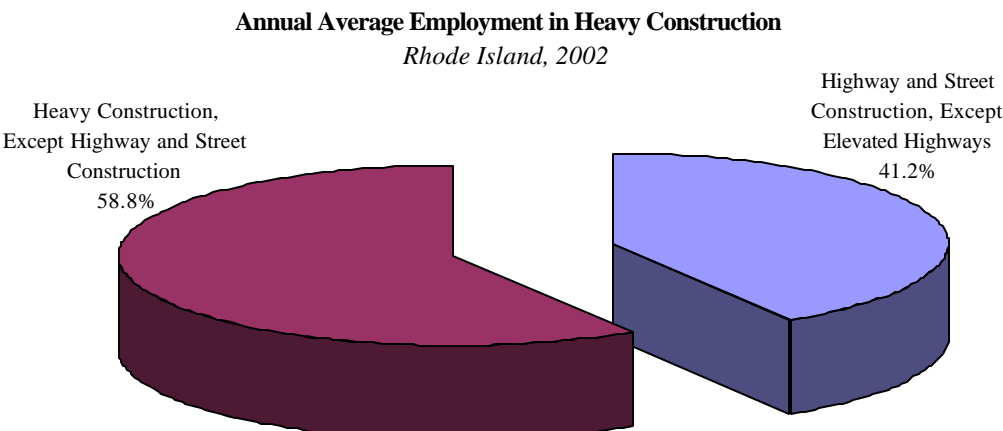
In 2002, 58.8 percent of Heavy Construction Contractors employees worked in the Heavy Construction, Except Highway and Street Construction industry. These 1,004 jobs represented a 9.0 percent (+83) increase over the industry's 1992 employment level of 921 jobs, accounting for 5.3 percent of total Construction employment within the Ocean State.

On average, workers in this industry earned an annual wage of \$60,158 in 2002. This represented the highest wage paid among the Construction sector's fourteen industries, surpassing General Building Contractors - Non-residential Buildings (\$50,678) by a wide margin. It was also 59.1 percent (+\$22,335) more than the industry's 1992 average wage of \$37,823.

In 2002, the state's 97 Heavy Construction, Except Highway and Street Construction firms accounted for 72.9 percent of all Heavy Construction establishments in the state.

Highway and Street Construction, Except Elevated Highways, the smaller of Rhode Island's two Heavy Construction industries, employed 703 people in 2002. This accounted for 41.2 percent of Heavy Construction employment and 3.7 percent of all Construction jobs throughout the Ocean State. It also represented a 13.9 percent (+86) increase over its 1992 employment level of 617 jobs.

Highway and Street Construction workers earned an annual average wage of \$49,537 in 2002 -- the third highest wage reported among the Construction sector's fourteen industries. This represented a 36.7 percent (+\$13,299) increase over the industry's 1992 annual average wage of \$36,238.



In 2002, there were 36 Highway and Street Construction firms throughout Rhode Island. This was the third smallest industry total within the Construction sector, surpassing the number of Water Well Drilling (17) and Operative Builders (27) establishments that year.

## Annual Average Wages in Construction by Industry, 2002

<b>CONSTRUCTION</b>	<b>\$41,385</b>
<b>Heavy Construction, Except Highway &amp; Street Construction</b>	<b>\$60,158</b>
General Building Contractors - Non-residential Buildings	\$50,678
<b>Highway &amp; Street Construction, Except Elevated Highways</b>	<b>\$49,537</b>
Electrical Work	\$46,161
Miscellaneous Special Trade Contractors	\$43,163
Plumbing, Heating, & Air-conditioning	\$42,479
Masonry, Stonework, Tile Setting, & Plastering	\$36,724
General Building Contractors - Residential Buildings	\$36,244
Operative Builders	\$36,149
Roofing, Siding, & Sheet Metal Work	\$34,397
Water Well Drilling	\$33,240
Carpentry & Floor Work	\$32,573
Painting & Paper Hanging	\$30,486
Concrete Work	\$30,362

# Special Trade

In 2002, Rhode Island's 12,591 Special Trade Contractors accounted for 66.4 percent of the state's Construction sector employment. Since 1992, Special Trade establishments have added 5,230 jobs to the local economy, a 71.1 percent increase and the largest employment gain reported on both an absolute and percentage basis within Construction.

	Units	Average Employment	Average Wage
1992	2,278	7,361	\$ 27,157
1993	2,343	7,835	\$ 27,732
1994	2,355	8,260	\$ 28,266
1995	2,227	8,490	\$ 28,750
1996	2,200	8,750	\$ 29,722
1997	2,232	9,451	\$ 31,537
1998	2,301	10,238	\$ 32,988
1999	2,358	11,684	\$ 35,721
2000	2,422	12,277	\$ 37,934
2001	2,392	12,576	\$ 39,180
2002	2,389	12,591	\$ 39,855

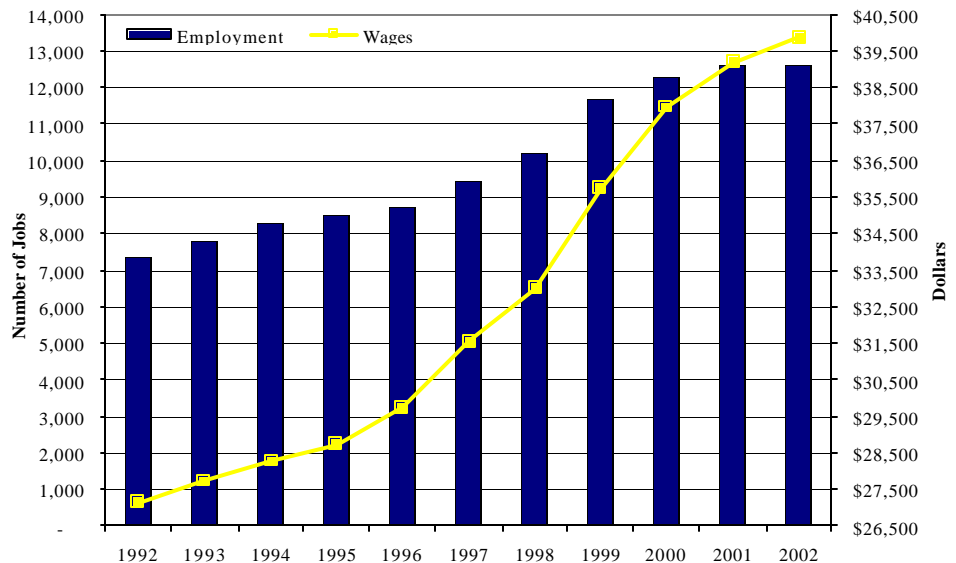
Unlike Building and Heavy Construction, Special Trade's share of statewide Construction employment has increased during the past decade. Ten years ago, just over 60 percent of the state's Construction workers were employed in this industry group. By 2002, Special Trade jobs accounted for more than 66 percent of total sector employment.

Rhode Island's three most populated communities - Providence (1,820), Warwick (1,288), and Cranston (1,281) - reported the highest levels of industry group employment in 2002. Combined, they accounted for 34.9 percent of Special Trade jobs in the state. East Providence (813), Pawtucket (772), and Johnston (675) also reported notable levels of Special Trade employment, while New Shoreham (29), Foster (34), and Richmond (37) employed the fewest people in this industry group.

In 2002, Rhode Island's Special Trade Contractors paid their employees an annual average wage of \$39,855, the lowest wage reported among Construction's three major industry groups. This represented a 46.8 percent (+\$12,698) increase over the 1992 average wage of \$27,157, but was still below the Construction sector's average wage of \$41,385. Within several communities, Special Trade workers earned above-average annual wages, including Providence (\$46,750), Smithfield (\$45,136), and East Greenwich (\$44,866). Special Trade Contractors and associated workers in West Warwick (\$25,732), Foster (\$29,451), and Glocester (\$29,715) earned the lowest wages within this industry group in 2002.

The state's 2,389 Special Trade establishments comprised 67.7 percent of all Construction firms in 2002, more than double the number of Building (1,008) and Heavy (133) Construction firms combined. This represented a gain of 111 firms over its 1992 total, a 4.9 percent increase. Of Construction's three major industry groups, it was the only one to report an increase in firms during this period. Many of these establishments were based in Warwick (202), Cranston (195), and Providence (186), while Richmond (13), Foster (14), and New Shoreham (14) reported the fewest number of industry group firms in 2002.

Annual Average Employment and Wages in Special Trade Contractors  
Rhode Island, 1992-2002



Of Special Trade's nine industries, Plumbing, Heating, & Air-Conditioning employed the most people in 2002. Its employment level of 2,808 workers was the second highest among all fourteen industries within the Construction sector, accounting for 14.8 percent of total sector employment in 2002. Since 1992, Plumbing, Heating, & Air-Conditioning employment has increased by 1,202 jobs (+74.8%), the largest increase on an absolute basis within Special Trade Construction. On average, the state's Plumbing, Heating, & Air-Conditioning workers earned an annual wage of \$42,479 in 2002, nearly 48 percent higher than the industry's 1992 average wage of \$28,761.

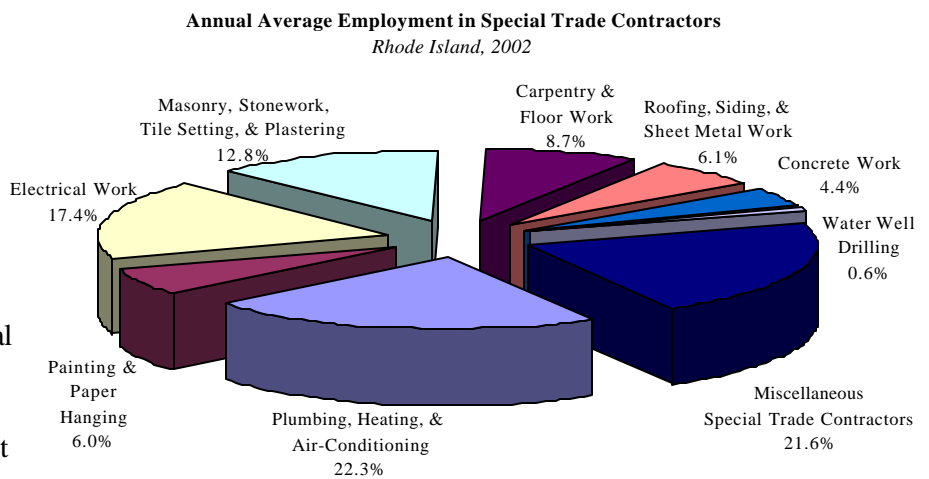
# Contractors

The Ocean State's Painting & Paper Hanging industry provided 761 jobs in 2002, a 25.4 percent (+154) increase over its 1992 level of employment (607). Workers in this industry earned an annual average wage of \$30,486 in 2002, a 37.6 percent increase over the 1992 average wage (\$22,155). This represented the second lowest wage paid within the Construction sector and was well below the sector's 2002 average wage of \$41,385.

Electrical Work employed 2,195 people in 2002, accounting for 11.6 percent of statewide Construction employment. Industry firms have added 830 jobs to the local economy since 1992, a 60.8 percent increase. In 2002, Electrical Work jobs paid an annual average wage of \$46,161, the highest wage paid within Special Trade and the fourth highest wage in all of Construction. It represented a 53.4 percent increase over the industry's 1992 average wage of \$30,090.

Masonry, Stonework, Tile Setting, & Plastering establishments employed 1,614 people in 2002, 77.4 percent (+704) more than they did in 1992 (910). Workers in this industry earned an annual average wage of \$36,724 in 2002, a 37.3 percent increase over the average wage paid to the state's Masonry, Stonework, Tile Setting, & Plastering employees ten years earlier (\$26,741).

In 2002, nearly 1,100 people were employed in the state's Carpentry & Floor Work industry, an increase of 683 jobs since 1992. During this period, industry firms more than doubled (+167%) their employment levels - the largest percentage gain within Construction. In 1992, Carpentry & Floor workers held the lowest paying jobs in Special Trade Construction, earning an average wage of \$19,774. By 2002, industry wages increased 64.7 percent to \$32,573 - the largest percentage gain reported in Special Trade, surpassing wages paid in Printing & Paper Hanging and Concrete Work.



Employment in Rhode Island's Roofing, Siding, & Sheet Metal Work industry has increased nearly 63 percent (+297) since 1992. By 2002, 769 people were employed in this industry throughout the state, earning an annual average wage of \$34,397. This represented a 37.2 percent increase over the industry's 1992 average wage of \$25,077.

The state's Concrete Work firms employed 559 people in 2002, 29.4 percent (+127) more than they did ten years earlier. Workers in this industry earned an annual average wage of \$30,362, the lowest wage paid among all Construction industries. Since 1992, annual average wages in Concrete Work have increased just 24.4 percent - the lowest percentage increase reported within Special Trade Construction during this period.

Water Well Drilling has remained the state's smallest Construction industry during the past decade, employing just 77 people in 2002. Since 1992, industry firms have added 32 jobs to the local economy, a 71.1 percent increase. On average, industry workers earned an annual wage of \$33,240 in 2002, 33.2 percent more than they did ten years earlier.

In 2002, 2,715 workers were employed in Miscellaneous Special Trades, making it the second largest employer in the Special Trade industry group and the third largest employer within the Construction sector. Miscellaneous Special Trade jobs accounted for 14.3 percent of total Construction employment in 2002. Since 1992, 1,200 (+79.2%) Miscellaneous Special Trade jobs have been added to the local economy - the second largest increase on both an absolute and percentage basis within the industry group during this period. Miscellaneous Special Trade workers earned an annual average wage of \$43,163 in 2002, 51.1 percent more than they did in 1992 (\$28,558).

# Construction in 2010

Rhode Island's industry projections (2000-2010) show a 15.7 percent increase in Construction employment by 2010. This 2,882 job gain is the fourth largest projected increase among the Ocean State's major industry sectors and fifth highest on a percentage basis. By the end of the decade, the Construction sector is expected to employ 21,221 people within the state, accounting for 3.8 percent of total public and private sector employment.

By industry, **Special Trade Contractors** are expected to add 2,189 jobs (+17.8%) during this period. This represents the sixth largest projected increase among all public and private major industry groups, trailing Health Services (+10,533), Educational Services (+7,447), Business Services (+4,416), Social Services (+4,389), and Eating & Drinking Places (+4,175). **Building Construction - General Contractors & Operative Builders** is projected to add 461 jobs to the local economy by 2010. This 10.0 percent increase is on par with the state's public and private sector average (+10.0%) and similar to projected job growth in General Merchandise Stores (+10.5%), Auto Dealers & Service Stations (+10.4%), and Trucking & Warehousing (+9.9%). **Heavy Construction** is projected to increase its employment by 232 jobs between 2000 and 2010, a 16.2 percent increase. By the end of this period, Heavy Construction should remain the smallest major industry group within the Construction sector.

Several Construction-related occupations are projected to add more than 100 jobs between 2000 and 2010, including Construction Laborers (+486), Carpenters (+424), Electricians (+282), and Plumbers, Pipefitters, & Steamfitters (+190). Both Construction Laborers (31st) and Carpenters (39th) rank among the state's top fifty occupations with the largest projected growth during this period. Above-average percentage increases in employment are projected for numerous Construction occupations, including Construction Laborers (+24.0%), Sheet Metal Workers (+23.6%), and Stonemasons (+22.9%).

## Rhode Island Employment Projections by Sector, 2000-2010

	<u>2000</u>	<u>2010</u>	<u>Change</u>	<u>% Change</u>
<b>Total</b>	<b>503,390</b>	<b>553,533</b>	<b>50,143</b>	<b>10.0%</b>
Agriculture, Forestry, & Fisheries	3,479	4,124	645	18.5%
Mining	223	267	44	19.7%
<b>Construction</b>	<b>18,339</b>	<b>21,221</b>	<b>2,882</b>	<b>15.7%</b>
Manufacturing	71,858	61,905	(9,953)	-13.9%
Transport., Comm., & Public Utilities	20,810	22,997	2,187	10.5%
Wholesale Trade	20,571	20,088	(483)	-2.3%
Retail Trade	88,697	100,055	11,358	12.8%
Finance, Insurance, & Real Estate	29,046	35,301	6,255	21.5%
Services	187,602	223,280	35,678	19.0%
Government	30,191	31,270	1,079	3.6%
Self-Employed & Unpaid Family	32,574	33,025	451	1.4%

*Industry projection data for Services includes Government Education and Hospital employment. Post Office employment is included in the Transportation, Communication, and Public utilities sector. Employment figures listed elsewhere in this publication are based upon private Covered Employment and Wage data, which excludes Government employment. For this reason, it is not possible to directly compare these two statistical data sets. For more information regarding Industry & Occupational Projections, please visit [www.dlt.ri.gov/lmi/proj.htm](http://www.dlt.ri.gov/lmi/proj.htm).*

# LMI Stat Track

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Please contact us ([nucci@dlt.state.ri.us](mailto:nucci@dlt.state.ri.us) or 401-462-8429) with your thoughts and opinions!

- Data sources

Quarterly Census of Employment and Wages

U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics

Industry and Occupational Projections Program

Industry summaries are taken from the Standard Industrial Classification Manual (1987)

Employment and wage data for the New England states is taken from the U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics' web site ([www.bls.gov/](http://www.bls.gov/)). Data for 2002 is current as of December 12, 2003.

Employment data included within this report is subject to revision and may not be additive due to rounding and excluded data. Some data has not been released due to Bureau of Labor Statistics or State agency disclosure standards.

- This publication was written and designed by Nick Ucci, Principal Research Technician.

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At LMI, our mission is to conduct economic research and analysis that promotes a better understanding of the Rhode Island economy. We are dedicated to ensuring the highest degree of accuracy and integrity in our labor market information. The information we provide assists jobseekers, business owners, policy makers, planners, researchers and the general public in making informed economic decisions. Our data, including a variety of publications, are available on-line at: [www.dlt.ri.gov/lmi/](http://www.dlt.ri.gov/lmi/).

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