



Rhode Island Department of Labor and Training
Leisure, Hospitality and Tourism



Tourism crosses many industrial sectors, significantly influencing the success of the various industries within those sectors. Industries that are **heavily** dependent on tourism and tourist-related activities include Leisure & Recreation, Accommodations & Food Services, Air & Ground Transportation and Travel Arrangements & Reservations. We refer to this industry cluster as **Leisure, Hospitality and Tourism**. Other types of businesses, such as gasoline stations, retail stores, and linen, food and other suppliers are also affected by tourist and tourist-related activities, but to a lesser degree.

Leisure, Hospitality and Tourism -2007

| Industry | Number of Units | Average Employment | Total Wages | Average Wage |
|---|------------------------|---------------------------|-------------------------|---------------------|
| Total Private & Government | 36,135 | 480,232 | \$19,989,951,238 | \$41,626 |
| Total Private Only | 35,422 | 417,728 | \$16,636,774,694 | \$39,827 |
| Total for Leisure, Hospitality & Tourism | 3,891 | 56,338 | \$1,008,577,049 | \$17,902 |
| Leisure & Recreation | 582 | 8,537 | \$193,308,618 | \$22,644 |
| Accommodations & Food Services | 2,872 | 43,204 | \$670,592,262 | \$15,522 |
| Air & Ground Transportation | 210 | 1,812 | \$54,328,819 | \$29,983 |
| Travel Arrangement & Reservations | 227 | 2,785 | \$90,347,350 | \$32,441 |

In 2007, the Leisure, Hospitality and Tourism industry cluster employed an average of 56,338 workers, with employment reaching 60,000 during the summer months. Leisure, Hospitality and Tourism accounted for 13.5 percent of jobs in the state’s private sector. By 2016, Leisure, Hospitality and Tourism employment is expected to exceed 63,000 jobs.

Over 91 percent of the employment in Leisure, Hospitality and Tourism is included in Leisure & Recreation and Accommodation & Food Services. During the 2006 to 2016 projection period, nearly 16 percent of the new jobs that are expected to be created in Rhode Island are projected to be in these two industry clusters. Jobs in Accommodation & Food Services sector are expected to increase by 14.9 percent, much faster than the average growth rate expected for the state (9.1%) and surpassing the national growth rate of 11.4 percent projected for this sector. Leisure & Recreation jobs are projected to increase by 12.9 percent, nearly 4 percent more than the growth rate projected for the all industries in the state.

Overall, Leisure, Hospitality and Tourism workers earned an average annual wage of \$17,902 in 2007, significantly lower than the private sector average (\$39,827) due, in part, to the seasonal and part time nature of the industry.

Leisure, Hospitality and Tourism

Jobs where necessary skills are learned on-the-job make up the largest portion of jobs in the Leisure, Hospitality and Tourism cluster, accounting for approximately 75 percent of the employment. In comparison, on-the-job training jobs account for nearly 60 percent of the state's employment. These jobs generally attract a higher proportion of young workers. They also provide opportunities for individuals who do not have nor wish to pursue a formal education. Many occupations in Leisure, Hospitality and Tourism have the added advantage of flexible and part-time work schedules, a benefit for school students, parents with childcare issues and other individuals seeking non-traditional or part-time work schedules.

The **Accommodations and Food Services** sector, which includes hotels, motels, restaurants and bars, employed some 43,204 workers in 2007, accounting for over three-quarters (76.7%) of the Leisure, Hospitality & Tourism employment.

- Accommodations and Food Services wages averaged \$15,522.
- Employment is projected to reach 48,900 by 2016.
- Numerous employment opportunities exist for individuals interested in working as Cooks, Bartenders, Waiters/Waitresses, or Hosts/Hostesses where necessary skills are learned on the job.
- Other entry-level positions requiring limited skills include Maids, Dishwashers, Food Preparation Workers and Dining Room Attendants.
- Average wages for Cooks range from \$8.96 to \$14.57 per hour. Chefs and Head Cooks average between \$18 to \$22 per hour. Wages for Maids & Housekeepers average \$11.09 per hour. Wages for Waiters/Waitresses, Bartenders and Dining Room Attendants (Bus Persons) are heavily influenced by gratuities and vary greatly by type of restaurant.
- Career ladders are available, allowing experienced workers to move into higher level positions, such as Housekeeping Supervisors, Lodging Managers, Concierges, Food Service Managers, General Managers and Operations Directors.
- Just one percent of the jobs in Accommodations and Food Services require college degrees.

Leisure and Recreation includes establishments providing entertainment in the performing arts, spectator sports, movie theaters and museums.

- In 2007, an average of 8,537 workers was employed in the state's 582 leisure and recreation establishments, earning an average wage of \$22,644.
- Occupations frequently found in this sector include Fitness Trainers, Landscapers, Ushers, Lobby Attendants, Ticket Takers, and Amusement & Recreation Workers.
- Skills for Landscapers, Ushers, Lobby Attendants & Ticket Takers and Amusement & Recreation Workers are typically learned through short-term on the job training. Fitness Trainers typically learn required skills in post-secondary vocational training.

Air and Ground Transportation includes establishments providing air and bus transportation, taxi and limousine service, scenic and sightseeing tours and support activities for air and road transportation.

- In 2007, an average of 1,812 workers was employed in the state's 210 Air and Ground Transportation establishments, earning an average annual salary of \$29,983.
- Occupations commonly found in this industry include Bus Drivers and Taxi Drivers. Wages for Bus Drivers average \$17.83 per hour while Taxi Drivers' wages average \$11.60 per hour.

Travel Arrangements and Reservation Services includes travel agencies, road service and automotive rental.

- In 2007, an average of 2,785 workers was employed in the state's 227 Travel Arrangements and Reservation Service establishments, earning an average annual salary of \$32,441.
- About 15 percent workers employed in this industry are classified as Travel Agents. Wages for this occupation average \$15.41 per hour.