

Employment by Size of Firm March 2009

The Rhode Island economy is characterized by a large number of small companies employing a small number of workers. In March 2009, there were 32,372 private businesses in the state employing 379,362 workers. Nearly half the employers (47.9%) in the state have between one and four employees; however, they employ just 7.8% of the workforce. The largest employers, those with 1,000 or more employees, numbered 31 and employed 17.5% of Rhode Island's private sector workforce.

Smaller employers, those with less than 20 employees, represented 90.6% of all employers in the state and employed approximately one quarter (25.8%) of the workforce. Mid-sized companies (20 to 99 workers) employed 26.5% of the private sector employment and accounted for 7.8% of the firms. There are just 541 (1.7%) firms in the state employing 100 or more workers.

Together, they employ nearly half (47.7%) of the state's private sector employees.

The highest concentration of smaller employers is found in the Agriculture, Forestry, Fishing & Hunting (97.6%) sector, followed by Construction (96.8%), Other Services (96.4%), and Professional & Technical Services (95.0%). The Manufacturing sector had the smallest percentage of small firms (77.2%), followed by Utilities (77.8%), Educational Services (80.0%) and Accommodation & Food Services (80.0%).

The state's largest firms (1,000 or more employees) are found in the Health Care & Social assistance (8), Private Education (5), finance & Insurance (5), Retail Trade (4) and Manufacturing (3) sectors.

Private Sector Employment March 2009				
Size Class	Employers		Employment	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Total:	32,372	100.0%	379,362	100.0%
Zero	6,490	20.0%	0	0.0%
1-4	15,501	47.9%	29,464	7.8%
5-9	4,491	13.9%	29,537	7.8%
10-19	2,847	8.8%	38,603	10.2%
20-49	1,864	5.8%	56,420	14.9%
50-99	638	2.0%	44,052	11.6%
100-249	386	1.2%	59,292	15.6%
250-499	88	0.3%	29,742	7.8%
500-999	36	0.1%	25,941	6.8%
1000+	31	0.1%	66,311	17.5%

**Rhode Island Private Covered Employers
Size Class by Industry
March 2009**

Major Industry	Firms/ Employees	Total Private	NUMBER OF EMPLOYEES									
			0	1-4	5-9	10-19	20-49	50-99	100-249	250-499	500-999	1000+
TOTAL	# of Firms	32,372	6,490	15,501	4,491	2,847	1,864	638	386	88	36	31
	# of Employees	379,362	0	29,464	29,537	38,603	56,420	44,052	59,292	29,742	25,941	66,311
Agriculture, Forestry, Fishing & Hunting	# of Firms	166	64	76	16	6	4					
	# of Employees	440	0	139	107	80	114					
Mining	# of Firms	20	2	10	3	2	3					
	# of Employees	153	0	24	22	*	85					
Utilities	# of Firms	27	8	6	3	4	4	1		1		
	# of Employees	1,127	0	12	26	65	119	*		*		
Construction	# of Firms	4,071	1,576	1,707	421	235	96	23	11	2		
	# of Employees	15,833	0	3,251	2,745	3,215	2,912	1,569	1,595	*		
Manufacturing	# of Firms	1,867	208	628	336	269	235	107	62	15	4	3
	# of Employees	43,834	0	1,378	2,249	3,755	7,205	7,433	9,465	4,948	2,597	4,804
Wholesale Trade	# of Firms	3,009	549	1,802	283	204	119	35	16	1		
	# of Employees	15,996	0	2,814	1,858	2,746	3,594	2,413	*	*		
Retail Trade	# of Firms	3,131	404	1,510	580	313	191	73	37	14	5	4
	# of Employees	46,213	0	3,263	3,820	4,250	5,954	4,956	5,721	4,934	3,811	9,504
Transportation & Warehousing	# of Firms	706	176	319	74	68	40	17	10			2
	# of Employees	7,900	0	594	475	899	1,204	1,097	1,266			*
Information	# of Firms	604	147	295	59	41	31	13	13	2	2	1
	# of Employees	8,018	0	444	406	560	852	914	1,625	*	*	*
Finance & Insurance	# of Firms	1,367	296	715	167	82	49	21	18	10	4	5
	# of Employees	28,135	0	1,333	1,103	1,103	1,562	1,558	2,971	3,748	2,749	12,008
Real Estate & Rental & Leasing	# of Firms	1,066	217	608	125	54	43	13	5	1		
	# of Employees	6,059	0	1,162	792	742	1,226	914	*	*		
Professional & Technical Services	# of Firms	4,070	824	2,381	425	238	147	33	18	3		1
	# of Employees	21,455	0	4,100	2,752	3,181	4,333	2,354	2,695	*		*
Management of & Enterprises	# of Firms	164	31	89	16	11	9	3	2	1	1	1
	# of Employees	5,529	0	143	106	155	283	225	352	*	*	*
Administrative & Waste Services	# of Firms	2,322	827	926	222	146	120	45	29	6		1
	# of Employees	19,758	0	1,728	1,454	2,005	3,713	3,079	4,739	*		*
Educational Services	# of Firms	511	97	219	54	39	60	22	11	1	3	5
	# of Employees	19,242	0	394	348	546	1,903	1,509	1,679	*	*	10,698
Health Care & Social Assistance	# of Firms	2,544	114	983	609	383	194	114	105	22	12	8
	# of Employees	77,527	0	2,149	4,020	5,103	5,895	7,946	16,173	7,200	8,809	20,232
Arts, Entertainment, & Recreation	# of Firms	554	125	206	97	63	44	11	7			1
	# of Employees	6,002	0	404	663	843	1,387	742	*			*
Accommodation & Food Services	# of Firms	2,541	370	723	479	460	376	89	33	9	2	
	# of Employees	38,415	0	1,707	3,232	6,338	11,040	5,935	5,397	3,000	*	
Other services, (except Public)	# of Firms	3,518	423	2,216	522	229	99	18	9	1	1	
	# of Employees	17,612	0	4,311	3,359	2,995	3,039	1,337	1,453	*	*	
Unclassified	# of Firms	114	32	82								
	# of Employees	114	0	114								

* Not shown due to the possibility of data being identified with an individual employer.