

# 1998 Annual Average Wage

## New Hampshire's Annual Average Wage Increased 5.6 Percent in 1998

The Granite State's 1998 average annual wage for covered employment was \$30,943, up \$1,647 from 1997. The largest growth of average annual wage in New England was in Massachusetts, with a 5.8 percent increase. New Hampshire, for the second year in a row, had the next largest increase, 5.6 percent. Nationally, Massachusetts had the eighth highest percent increase, while New Hampshire tied Delaware for ninth. The nation's average annual wage gained \$1,555 to \$31,908, a 5.1 percent increase, while New England grew 5.4 percent to \$35,962. For the fourth consecutive year, New England's gain in average annual wage surpassed the nation's.

Nationally the highest average annual wage, \$48,727, was in Washington D.C. The highest state wage level in the nation for the second year in a row was in Connecticut. Massachusetts ranked third, with a wage of \$37,787. In 1997 New Jersey had the third highest average annual wage among the states. New

Jersey's 1998 data is not yet available. The average annual wage in the four remaining New England states were below the national average of \$31,908.

The largest increase in New Hampshire was in Finance, insurance, and real estate (FIRE), 9.4 percent. The largest increases, nationally and regionally, were also in FIRE, both at 8.3 percent. This is the fourth consecutive year that this division had the highest growth nationally. Connecticut and Vermont were the only two New England states that did not have the highest divisional increase in FIRE. Both states had larger increases in Transportation, communication, and public utilities.

The second highest gain in New Hampshire was in Retail trade, with an increase of 6.6 percent. The smallest increase was in Government, with a gain of 2.0 percent. Wholesale trade had the highest wage, \$47,092, while Retail trade had the lowest average annual wage, \$16,391.

*Gail Houston*

**Average Annual Wage for the New England States  
1997 to 1998 Percent Change**

States	1997	1998	Net Change	Percent Change
New England	\$34,133	\$35,962	\$1,829	5.4%
Connecticut	38,941	40,915	1,974	5.1%
Maine	24,899	25,875	976	3.9%
Massachusetts	35,716	37,787	2,071	5.8%
<b>New Hampshire</b>	<b>29,296</b>	<b>30,943</b>	<b>1,647</b>	<b>5.6%</b>
Rhode Island	28,662	30,148	1,486	5.2%
Vermont	25,496	26,615	1,119	4.4%
United States	30,353	31,908	1,555	5.1%