

## New Hampshire Over-The-Year Change in Covered Employment 2011 Q1 to 2012 Q1

New Hampshire’s average total employment in 2012 Q1 was 600,421, an over-the-year increase of 5,617 jobs from Q1 2011 to Q1 2012. Job growth came from private industry, while the public sector lost jobs.

Historically, New Hampshire’s average employment level is the lowest in the first quarter of each year. Retailers are winding down the holiday shopping season, and colder weather conditions impact employment at landscaping companies and construction companies. These usual seasonal employment changes can make fourth quarter to first quarter comparisons deceptive. A more reliable gauge of the state’s economic health is a comparison of the same quarter from year to year.

Average private sector employment grew by 7,256 jobs from 2011 Q1

to 2012 Q1, a 1.4 percent increase. New Hampshire’s 2012 Q1 average private sector employment was 512,096.

The private sector had total net job growth in both goods-producing and service-providing industries. Goods-producing industries added 432 jobs over the year. The two largest employing sectors in the domain had mixed results. *Construction* showed some growth, adding 402 jobs, while *Manufacturing* was nearly flat, losing 29 jobs.

Service-providing industries had a total net growth of 6,825 jobs over the year. Significant contributors were *Retail trade*, *Information*, and *Accommodation and food services*. *Retail trade* increased employment by 1,291 jobs, which is a good sign since retail businesses had experienced over-the-

year job losses from 2008 Q1 to 2009 Q1, and from 2009 Q1 to 2010 Q1. The *Administrative and support and waste management and remediation services* sector added 1,410 jobs over the year. *Information* added 981 jobs, and *Accommodation and food services* added 964 jobs, of which 889 were in the *Food services and drinking places* subsector.

The public sector – establishments with federal, state, or local government ownership – did not fare as well. Average quarterly government employment decreased from 2011 Q1 to 2012 Q1 by 1,585 jobs, a 1.7 percent drop, to 88,325 jobs. Though all three levels of government experienced a negative change in employment, State government had the largest portion, with a loss of 881 jobs over the year.

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