

First Quarter 2000 Employment Up 16,000 Over-The-Year

Average Weekly Wage Continued Upward

Preliminary total covered employment in New Hampshire for first quarter 2000 recorded growth of 16,279 jobs over first quarter 1999. It increased from 576,440 to 592,719, a jump of 2.8 percent. In comparison, similar data for first quarter 1999 showed an increase of 2.6 percent over first quarter 1998.

Services employment exhibited both the largest percentage gain, 4.5 percent, and numerical increase, 9,104 jobs. Business services, specifically computer services, and Education services, mostly in local government, led the division. Retail trade expanded by 4,350 up 3.5 percent from first quarter 1999. About a third of the gain was in Food stores. Manufacturing registered the only drop in employment with a loss of 707 jobs quarter-over-quarter. This 0.7 percent loss was somewhat minimal in comparison to the first quarter 1999, when Manufacturing employment dropped 2.4 percent (2,620 jobs) from first quarter 1998.

Concurrently, average weekly wages rose 15.6 percent, first quarter 1999 to first quarter 2000. This jump may be calendar driven as first quarter 2000 had one more Friday payday than first quarter 1999 (because of New Years Day). In fourth quarter 1999 the average weekly wage rose only 3.7 percent over-the-year. Furthermore, from April 1999 through March 2000, the 12-month increase in average weekly wages, compared to April 1998 through March 1999, was 6.8 percent. This may be a more accurate gauge of the trend in average weekly wages.

Manufacturing led the way with a 25.6 percent leap, much of it in machinery manufacturing. The average weekly wage in both Finance, insurance, and real estate and Wholesale trade exceeded \$1,000, a feat heretofore seen only in the fourth quarter.

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1st Quarter 2000 Employment and Wages

	1st Quarter 2000 Average		1st Quarter: 1999 to 2000 Employment Change		1st Quarter: 1999 to 2000 Weekly Wage Change	
	Employment	Weekly Wage	Net	Percent	Net	Percent
Total Private & Government	592,719	\$660.62	16,279	2.8%	\$89.08	15.6%
Agriculture, Forestry, & Fishing	4,553	\$418.46	151	3.4%	\$10.77	2.6%
Mining	355	\$631.69	-22	-5.8%	\$27.54	4.6%
Construction	23,920	\$664.23	828	3.6%	\$45.08	7.3%
Manufacturing	106,754	\$914.69	-707	-0.7%	\$186.15	25.6%
Transportation & Public Utilities	25,573	\$765.69	592	2.4%	\$79.00	11.5%
Wholesale Trade	31,895	\$1,004.00	866	2.8%	\$141.00	16.3%
Retail Trade	127,396	\$350.23	4,350	3.5%	\$38.00	12.2%
Finance, Insurance, & Real Estate	31,479	\$1,067.23	354	1.1%	\$171.54	19.2%
Services	210,870	\$603.85	9,104	4.5%	\$70.69	13.3%
Public Administration	28,727	\$611.46	746	2.7%	\$40.69	7.1%