

Covered Employment Up Over 15,000 Jobs In 1999

Average Weekly Wage Rose 3.9 Percent

After soaring out of the recession in the early 90s New Hampshire's employment growth has fluctuated between 14,500 and 20,500 jobs each year. In 1999 total employment grew by 15,257, lower than the 17,936 increase recorded during 1998.

Private industries added 14,078 jobs, accounting for almost 90 percent of the new jobs. The only division that did not contribute to this gain was Manufacturing, which posted a loss of 2,136 jobs. The major decreases were in Durable goods industries, which lost more than 1,700 jobs.

Services and Retail trade had by far the largest gains in employment. Each division added slightly more than 6,000 jobs in 1999. Retail trade posted a significant growth of 4.9 percent, making it 22 percent of total statewide employment. Services grew by 3.8 percent, and had just over 28 percent of New Hampshire's total employment.

In 1999 Construction continued to grow, adding 1,159 jobs. This is not surprising, considering all the residential and business developments that have been occurring in the state. Government had a growth of 1.6 percent or 1,178 jobs, with the largest gain being in Local government, which added 1,228 jobs.

New Hampshire's average weekly wage grew 3.9 percent bringing the total to \$618.27. Private average weekly wage gained \$24.44, slightly more than the total increase of \$23.15. Finance, insurance, and real estate had the largest jump in average weekly wage, \$65.06. This was slightly less than the increase in 1998.

Government average weekly wage had a growth of 2.4 percent, slightly below the statewide increase of 3.9 percent. No division posted a drop in average weekly wage. Not surprisingly, Retail trade recorded the smallest increase, \$11.19.

Gail Houston

Employment and Wages in New Hampshire				
Divisions	1998		1999	
	Employment	Average Weekly Wage	Employment	Average Weekly Wage
Total Private & Government	575,919	\$595.12	591,176	\$618.27
Private	502,641	598.92	516,719	623.37
Agriculture, Forstry, and Fishing	5,110	405.21	5,485	421.62
Mining	430	696.77	452	744.75
Construction	24,646	667.65	25,817	693.87
Manufacturing	108,663	778.35	106,529	797.02
Transportation and Public Utilities	25,575	702.87	25,824	720.10
Wholesale Trade	30,425	905.67	31,803	965.60
Retail Trade	123,121	337.21	129,202	348.35
Finance, Insurance, and Real Estate	31,136	811.62	31,782	879.25
Services	198,275	555.92	204,364	587.19
Government	73,278	568.99	74,456	582.89