

New Hampshire Economic Conditions

October 2010

2009 Median Earnings of Full-Time, Year-Round Workers in New Hampshire

Median earnings for males in New Hampshire were estimated at \$50,837 in 2009. That ranked as the 8th highest median earning among the states¹ and was more than \$5,350 above the national median for males. At the same time, median earnings for females in New Hampshire were \$37,527. Female earnings ranked 16th highest among the states and was about \$2,000 above the national median for females.

The difference between median earnings for males and median earnings for females in New Hampshire in 2009 was \$13,310. This was the 7th largest difference in median earnings between genders among the states.

Median earnings for female and male full-time, year-round workers were released with the one-year estimates

for 2009 from the American Community Survey (see end of article for information about the American Community Survey). "Earnings" is the sum of wage and salary income and self-employment. Wages are sometimes distinguished from salaries by the time period that is the basis for payment. Wage earners are often hourly employees while salaried individuals are usually paid an annual salary. That distinction between wage and salary is not universally applied, so the Census Bureau does not differentiate.²

According to estimates from the American Community Survey there were an estimated 463,414 persons 16 years and over who were full-time, year round workers with earnings. Of these, 271,753 were males and 191,662 were females.

This is a subset of the estimated 788,071 persons in New Hampshire, over the age of 16, with earnings in 2009. Of these, 408,405 were males and 379,666 were females.

Median Earnings for Full-time, Year-round Workers in the New England Region

Four New England states ranked among the top ten highest states for median earnings by males. Connecticut ranked 2nd highest with earnings of \$59,387 for males in 2009. Massachusetts followed with \$56,902, ranking 4th. New Hampshire with \$50,837 ranked 8th, and Rhode Island ranked 10th with median earnings for males of \$49,439. Median earnings of males in Vermont and Maine fell below the national median of \$45,485. Vermont ranked 22nd nationally with \$45,234, and Maine ranked 32nd with \$42,156.

¹ The U.S. Census Bureau includes the District of Columbia in the state ranks

² Evidence From Census 2000 About Earnings By Detailed Occupation for Men and Women. Census 2000 Special Reports. Issued May 2004. U.S. Census Bureau, U.S. Department of Commerce. Accessed October 4, 2010 <<http://www.census.gov/prod/2004pubs/censr-15.pdf>>.

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Median Earnings by Gender, 2009 Full-Time, Year-Round Workers by Residence (not place of work)

	Male	US Rank*	Female	US Rank*	Difference Between Genders
US	\$45,439	..	\$35,549	..	\$9,890
Connecticut	\$59,387	2	\$43,900	5	\$15,487
Maine	\$45,156	32	\$32,314	30	\$9,842
Massachusetts	\$56,902	4	\$45,062	2	\$11,840
New Hampshire	\$50,837	8	\$37,527	16	\$13,310
Rhode Island	\$49,439	10	\$39,248	9	\$10,191
Vermont	\$45,234	22	\$35,276	20	\$9,958

* Ranks include the District of Columbia

Source: American Community Survey, <http://www.census.gov/prod/2010pubs/acsbr09-3.pdf>

The rankings of median earnings for females working full-time, year-round were considerably different. Massachusetts ranked 2nd highest with median earnings for females of \$45,062. Two other New England states ranked in the top ten highest median earnings by women. Connecticut ranked 5th highest with \$43,900 and Rhode

Island ranked 9th with \$39,248. New Hampshire ranked 16th with \$37,527. The remaining two New England states were below the national median of \$35,549. Vermont had median earnings for females of \$35,276, ranking 20th, and Maine ranked 30th with \$32,314.

Nationwide

The highest median earnings for males and females were in the District of Columbia. The second-highest rankings for males and females were held by Connecticut and Massachusetts, respectively. Arkansas ranked lowest in median earnings for males with \$36,465, while West Virginia ranked lowest in median earnings for women with \$27,855.

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About the American Community Survey

Every ten years since 1790, the US Census Bureau conducts the Census, to provide an official count of the entire U.S. population to Congress. Over time, the information gathered by the Census evolved into two survey forms: the long form and the short form. The short form is still used to provide the official count of every household every ten years, and was most recently conducted in April 2010. The long form, distributed to a sample of households, has evolved yet again into the American Community Survey.

The American Community Survey (ACS) has been conducted by the US Census Bureau since 2005, with the purpose of replacing the long form. Instead of a snapshot of one year in ten, the ACS collects socioeconomic and housing data continuously from a national sample. The goal of the ACS is to provide current information needed to plan investments and services. Information from the survey generates data that help determine how more than \$400 billion in federal and state funds are distributed each year.³

Starting in 2006, one-year estimates for states and areas with 65,000 or more people were published based on data collected in 2005. Estimates based on one year of data have been published annually since then, with the most recent data for 2009 released in September 2010. Starting in 2008, the Census Bureau added three-year estimates for areas with 20,000 or more people. These estimates — which include data for all of New Hampshire's ten counties — were based on three years of survey responses combined.

This year marks the final stage of ACS geographic area data releases. In December, the Census Bureau will add five-year estimates for all areas, including those with fewer than 20,000 people. This will include all locations in New Hampshire. These estimates are based on five years of survey responses combined. Starting with the 2010 release, the estimates will be updated annually, using five years of survey responses combined. Instead of having to use increasingly "old" data from the last decennial Census, all areas will have up-to-date estimates available.

For more information on the American Community Survey, go to <http://www.census.gov/acs/www/>.

^{3.} *About the American Community Survey*. US Census Bureau. Accessed Oct. 13, 2010 . <http://www.census.gov/acs/www/about_the_survey/american_community_survey/>