

Employment Diversity

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The most current employment data, collected from employers in the region that participate in the unemployment insurance system, clearly show an economy dominated by service industry employment (90.6% of total employment). Within services, Education and Health Services lead both in terms of its share of total employment, 22.4%, and in employment growth, 9%, between 2001 and 2004. This is consistent with demographic trends towards a large elderly population in the region. Retail trade and Leisure & Hospitality follow with 18.5% and 18.8% share of total employment. Growth rates in these two industries, 5% for Retail and 3% for Leisure & Hospitality, have been closer to the average of 4% for all industries in the region.

Barnstable County Covered Employment & Wages	Average Monthly Employment				
	2001	2004	2004 % Total	Change	
				%	#
Total, All Industries	89,761	93,215	100%	4%	3,454
Goods-Producing Domain	8,879	8,791	9.4	-1%	(88)
Service-Providing Domain	80,882	84,424	90.6	4%	3,542
Retail Trade	16,379	17,210	18.5	5%	831
Wholesale Trade, Transportation and Utilities	4,419	4,302	4.6	-3%	(117)
Information & Financial Activities	6,633	6,466	6.9	-3%	(167)
Professional and Business Services	8,755	8,979	9.6	3%	224
Education and Health Services	19,186	20,855	22.4	9%	1,669
Leisure and Hospitality	16,895	17,485	18.8	3%	590
Other Services	3,555	3,816	4.1	7%	261
Public Administration	5,059	5,311	5.7	5%	252

Source: Covered Employment & Wages (ES202)

In looking at changes in employment over time, it is important to consider the wages associated with the job gains and loses. The following table provides the average weekly wage by industry for Barnstable County and compares the wages from 2001 to 2004, the period between the previous sustainability report and this one. Overall, the data shows strong wage growth, 12% or \$69/week, across all industries. The largest percentage increases occurred in Professional and Business Services (15%), followed by Retail and Information & Financial

Activities. It is important to note, however, that the weekly wage for Retail is below the average (\$501 versus \$666/week) and far below the two other top growth sectors. While the largest single employment sector, Education & Health Services, pays an above average weekly wage (\$746) and shows average growth in wages, the two other top employment sectors, Retail and Leisure & Hospitality, pay wages significantly below average despite respectable rates of growth.

Barnstable County Covered Employment & Wages	Average Weekly Wages			
	2001	2004	% Chg	# Chg
Total, All Industries	\$597	\$666	12%	\$ 69
Goods-Producing Domain	\$768	\$835	9%	67
Service-Providing Domain	\$578	\$648	12%	70
Retail Trade	\$442	\$501	13%	59
Wholesale Trade, Transportation and Utilities	\$767	\$839	9%	72
Information & Financial Activities	\$783	\$886	13%	102
Professional and Business Services	\$747	\$861	15%	114
Education and Health Services	\$664	\$746	12%	82
Leisure and Hospitality	\$347	\$382	10%	35
Other Services	\$437	\$487	11%	50
Public Administration	\$830	\$925	11%	95

Source: Covered Employment & Wages (ES202)

Overall, the employment and wage data indicate that traditional sectors relating to tourism, larger year-round and elderly populations continue to dominate the region's economy. Continued efforts to diversify employment options, particularly in areas sensitive to the area's natural resources and historic scale, must remain a priority for the region.