

## High-Wage Industries

Another income indicator is the annual average wage, which is derived from reports submitted by employers covered under the unemployment insurance program. In each of the state's 21 counties, the total annual payrolls of covered employers are divided by the number of workers to reach an annual average wage. Contrary to per capita income, which is based on place of residence, average wage is determined by work location.

Atlantic County's annual average private-sector wage rose to \$29,200 in 2000, an increase of 3.2 percent from 1999. In comparison, the state's annual average wage increased to \$43,600 in 2000, a jump of 6.9 percent. Listed below are Atlantic County's top five private sector industries and the federal government sector <sup>(1)</sup> ranked by annual average wage for 2000.

**Atlantic County  
Highest Average Annual Wage Industries/Government Sectors  
In 2000**

<u>Rank</u>	<u>SIC</u>	<u>Industry</u>	<u>Employment</u>	<u>Average Annual Wage</u>
1	62	Security/Commodity Brokers	240	\$119,800

<b>2</b>		<b>Federal Government</b>	<b>2,600</b>	<b>\$60,000</b>
<b>3</b>	<b>81</b>	<b>Legal Services</b>	<b>860</b>	<b>\$59,700</b>
<b>4</b>	<b>49</b>	<b>Public Utilities</b>	<b>1,250</b>	<b>\$57,200</b>
<b>5</b>	<b>63</b>	<b>Insurance carriers</b>	<b>240</b>	<b>\$55,200</b>
<b>6</b>	<b>87</b>	<b>Engineering/Management Svcs.</b>	<b>2,500</b>	<b>\$53,800</b>

Source: New Jersey Department of Labor, Division of Labor Market & Demographic Research, *Trends in Employment & Wages in New Jersey*, August 2001.

With few exceptions, Atlantic County industries which rank high based on their annual average wage are generally small and/or employ persons with high-level skills and/or education. The industries (including federal government) listed above (out of a total 65) accounted for about 5.5 percent of Atlantic County's covered jobs in 2000. While employment levels in several of these industries are projected to increase modestly during the 1998-2008 period, most are projected to remain unchanged or decline. Only in engineering, accounting and management services is employment projected to grow by a significant amount (550) from 1998 to 2008.

For a different perspective, the table below lists Atlantic County's top ten largest (out of a total 65) industries and government sectors <sup>(2)</sup> by total employment, and includes their rank by annual average wage.

**Atlantic County  
Largest Industries/Government Sectors by Employment in 2000  
And Rank by Annual Average Wage**

<b>Rank by Employment</b>	<b>Rank by Wage</b>	<b>SIC</b>	<b>Industry</b>	<b>Employment</b>	<b>Average Wage</b>
<b>1</b>	<b>38</b>	<b>70</b>	<b>Hotels/other lodging</b>	<b>48,400</b>	<b>\$28,400</b>
<b>2</b>	<b>20</b>		<b>Local Government</b>	<b>12,900</b>	<b>39,900</b>
<b>3</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>80</b>	<b>Health Services</b>	<b>10,500</b>	<b>36,900</b>
<b>4</b>	<b>64</b>	<b>58</b>	<b>Eating/drinking places</b>	<b>8,000</b>	<b>13,100</b>
<b>5</b>	<b>35</b>	<b>73</b>	<b>Business Services</b>	<b>5,400</b>	<b>30,600</b>
<b>6</b>	<b>19</b>		<b>State Government</b>	<b>3,700</b>	<b>45,000</b>
<b>7</b>	<b>57</b>	<b>54</b>	<b>Food Stores</b>	<b>3,500</b>	<b>17,900</b>
<b>8</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>Spec. Trade Contractors</b>	<b>3,300</b>	<b>42,200</b>
<b>9</b>	<b>52</b>	<b>59</b>	<b>Miscellaneous Retail</b>	<b>3,100</b>	<b>22,100</b>
<b>10</b>	<b>4</b>		<b>Federal Government</b>	<b>2,600</b>	<b>60,000</b>

Source: New Jersey Department of Labor, Division of Labor Market & Demographic Research, *Trends in Employment & Wages in New Jersey*, August 2001.

Combined, these ten (including government) sectors accounted for about three of every four (72.7%) covered jobs in Atlantic County during 2000. Six of the seven private-sector industries on the list fall within the broader trade and services industry divisions where seasonal and part-time jobs tend to dilute the annual average wage. In contrast to the list of high-wage industries, where little or no growth is projected to occur during the 1998-2008 period, these ten largest

industries are projected to account for 79 percent of all the new jobs during this period.

**Footnotes:**

1. The average annual wage for Federal Government is boosted in Atlantic County by the presence of a Federal Aviation Administration Technical Center.
2. Covered employment and wages in state executive departments were distributed by county based on a survey of executive departments for 2000.