



Common Cents

New Hampshire Fiscal Policy Institute Blog

Annual Kids Count Report Finds More NH Children Facing Economic Hardship

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The annual Kids Count ranking for 2016 once again places New Hampshire among the top states for child well-being, but increases in the numbers of children and families facing financial hardship should serve as a warning sign and inspire a closer look at policies that can enhance economic stability for working families.





Released on June 21, the annual [Kids Count Data Book](#) from the Annie E. Casey Foundation measures child well-being across four indicators: economic well-being, education, health, and family and community. While New Hampshire traditionally fares well among all states, it dropped from second to fourth place in the overall ranking, behind Minnesota, Massachusetts, and Iowa.

New Hampshire ranked seventh for economic well-being, a rank driven in part by increases in the numbers of children living in poverty and whose parents lack secure employment. In 2008, 9 percent of New Hampshire children lived in poverty; as of 2014 the number had increased to 13 percent, or 34,000 children. What's more, in 2014, 64,000 children – or 24 percent – had parents who lacked secure employment, which raises concern for the future economic security of these children and their families.

The finding that nearly one in four children have parents who lack secure employment is echoed in NHFPI's [Taking the Measure of Need](#) report, released in March 2016. In this report, NHFPI examined the median incomes for many common types of employment and found that a sizeable number of jobs do not pay enough for many working families to afford housing, child care, food, transportation, and other basic needs. A review of the 20 most common occupations finds a large number of service-related positions, which may not offer a steady number of hours or provide sufficient income to meet family needs.

Median Wage in Most Common New Hampshire Occupations Can Fall Short of Basic Family Budgets

Comparison of median wage in twenty largest occupations in New Hampshire with Basic Family Budget for select family types in Strafford County-Great Bay Region

Occupation	Statewide employment	Median annual wage	Basic Family Budget for select family types			
			 One adult, no children	 One adult, one child	 Two adults, one child	 Two adults, two children
Retail Salespersons	27,130	\$22,080				
Cashiers	21,740	\$19,260				
Stock Clerks and Order Fillers	13,340	\$24,200				
Office Clerks	13,060	\$34,370	✓		✓	
Registered Nurses	12,390	\$63,820	✓	✓	✓	✓
Combined Food Preparation and Serving Workers	12,150	\$18,510				
Waiters and Waitresses	11,860	\$18,680				
Secretaries and Administrative Assistants	11,040	\$33,300	✓		✓	
Janitors and Cleaners	9,460	\$25,080				
Customer Service Representatives	9,070	\$35,160	✓		✓	
General and Operations Managers	8,830	\$100,260	✓	✓	✓	✓
Teacher Assistants	8,640	\$28,360				
Nursing Assistants	8,500	\$28,630				
Bookkeeping, Accounting, and Auditing Clerks	7,530	\$37,230	✓		✓	✓
First-Line Supervisors of Retail Sales Workers	7,400	\$40,610	✓		✓	✓
First-Line Supervisors of Office and Admin. Support Workers	6,870	\$50,170	✓		✓	✓
Heavy and Tractor-Trailer Truck Drivers	6,690	\$38,750	✓		✓	✓
Sales Representatives	6,650	\$60,570	✓	✓	✓	✓
Laborers and Freight, Stock, and Material Movers	6,590	\$24,630				
Elementary School Teachers	6,380	\$55,030	✓	✓	✓	✓

Notes: Secretaries and Administrative Assistants exclude legal, medical, and executive; Janitors and Cleaners excludes maids and housekeepers; Sales Representatives are those in wholesale and manufacturing but exclude technical and scientific products; Elementary School Teachers excludes special education instructors
Source: NHFPI analysis of Economic Policy Institute and Occupational Employment Statistics data

NHFPI's [The State of Working New Hampshire](#) report further examined state employment trends and found that income for the typical household has declined since 2007, driven in part by a steady shift in the types of employment, as many higher wage manufacturing jobs have been lost over time and replaced by lower wage service-oriented positions.

As policymakers work to bring new jobs to the Granite State, they should be mindful that New Hampshire's children depend upon the availability of employment opportunities that enable their families to earn sufficient income and achieve economic stability.