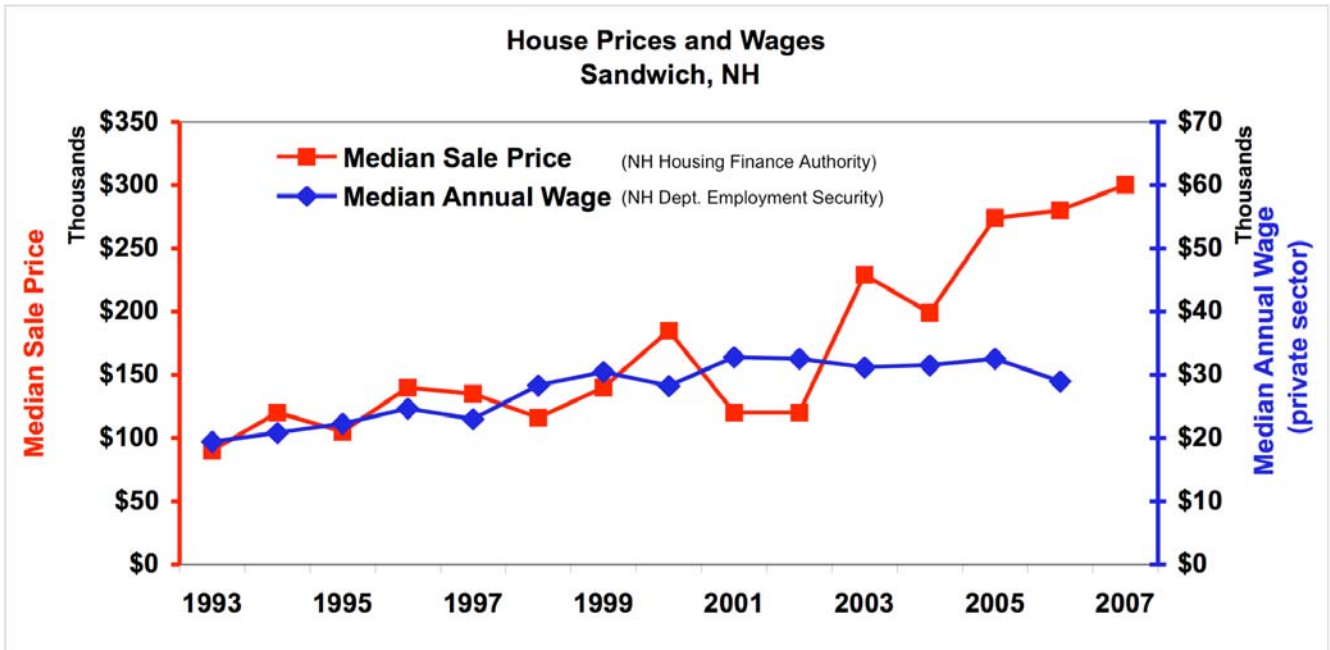


## The Wage-Housing Gap



The figure shown above illustrates the growing gap between the income of Sandwich residents and the cost of housing in the town. The wages shown are annualized hourly wages for workers in the public sector. The evolution of wages tends to mimic trends at the state and national level, i.e. relatively flat, or even decreasing wages in recent years. Similarly, the sale prices of houses in Sandwich have exhibited the national housing bubble of the last few years. However, the size of the increase in the cost of housing in Sandwich resembles that of suburban Massachusetts more than the somewhat more modest increases in most New Hampshire towns. Comparative data for other New Hampshire towns is available at the web sites of the NH Housing Finance Authority, [www.nhhfa.org](http://www.nhhfa.org), and the NH Dept. of Employment Security, [www.nh.gov/nhes](http://www.nh.gov/nhes).