



## Rhode Island's Unemployment Rate Remains at 5.4 percent in March

- ◆ RI's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate for March was 5.4 percent, unchanged from the February rate.
- ◆ RI's March unemployment rate was down nine-tenths of a percentage point from last March's figure of 6.3 percent.
- ◆ The national rate was 5.0 percent, up one-tenth of a percentage point from February and down five-tenths of a percentage point from the previous year.
- ◆ In March 2016, Rhode Island (5.4%) was tied for the fifteenth highest unemployment rate in the nation. Seven states had unemployment rates of six percent or higher.
- ◆ The March 2016 unemployment rate decreased in twenty-one states, including Maine (-0.2), New Hampshire (-0.1), Vermont (-0.1) and Massachusetts (-0.1). Fourteen states' rates, including Rhode Island, were unchanged, while fifteen states' rates, including Connecticut (+0.2) increased.
- ◆ Rates in other New England states for March 2016 – Connecticut 5.7 percent, Massachusetts 4.4 percent, Maine 3.4 percent, Vermont 3.3 percent and New Hampshire 2.6 percent.
- ◆ The number of employed RI residents totaled 522,900 in March 2016, up 600 from the previous month. Between March 2015 and March 2016, the number of employed RI residents was up 2,500.
- ◆ Over the month, the number of unemployed Rhode Island residents increased by 100 to 29,900. From March 2015 to March 2016, the number of unemployed residents decreased by 5,300.

## 2015 City & Town Annual Average Unemployment Rates

Rhode Island's 2015 annual average unemployment rate was 6.0 percent, down one and seven-tenths percentage points from the 2014 annual average unemployment rate of 7.7 percent. Of the state's 39 cities and towns, fourteen communities had an annual average unemployment rate at or above the state's 6.0 percent rate.

New Shoreham had the highest annual average unemployment rate in the state at 12.3 percent, due, in part, to the island's highly seasonal employment cycle. Woonsocket's annual average unemployment rate was 7.8 percent, followed by Central Falls (7.5%), Westerly (7.4%), Providence (7.1%) and Pawtucket (6.8%).

At the other end of the scale, Richmond (3.6%), Barrington (4.1%), Jamestown (4.1%), Narragansett (4.1%) and Little Compton (4.5%) had annual average unemployment rates at or below 4.5 percent.

All thirty-nine towns posted an over-the-year decrease in their unemployment rate. New Shoreham's unemployment rate decreased the most, dropping three and a half percentage points, from 15.8 percent in 2014 to 12.3 percent in 2015. Charlestown and Pawtucket each dropped by two and two-tenths percentage points over the year. Westerly (-2.1), Central Falls (-2.1), East Providence (-2.0) and West Warwick (-2.0) each dropped by

two or more percentage points. The remaining thirty-two towns' rates dropped by one percentage point or more.

### 2015 Annual Average Unemployment Rates

**Rhode Island 6.0%**

#### Highest

New Shoreham	12.3%
Woonsocket	7.8%
Central Falls	7.5%
Westerly	7.4%
Providence	7.1%
Pawtucket	6.8%

#### Lowest

Richmond	3.6%
Jamestown	4.1%
Narragansett	4.1%
Barrington	4.1%
Little Compton	4.5%
Glocester	4.6%

### Seasonally Adjusted Labor Force Statistics

(in thousands)

	Rhode Island			United States		
	Mar 16	Feb 16	Mar 15	Mar 16	Feb 16	Mar 15
Civilian Labor Force	552.8	552.1	555.6	159,286	158,890	156,890
Resident Employment	522.9	522.3	520.4	151,320	151,074	148,333
Unemployment	29.9	29.8	35.2	7,966	7,815	8,557
Unemployment Rate	5.4%	5.4%	6.3%	5.0%	4.9%	5.5%

For more information visit:

[www.dlt.ri.gov/lmi/laus/town/town.htm](http://www.dlt.ri.gov/lmi/laus/town/town.htm)

## Rhode Island Jobs Increase by 2,700 in March

Estimated nonfarm payroll in Rhode Island totaled 490,900 in March, reflecting a gain of 2,700 jobs from the February estimate of 488,200. Through the first quarter of 2016, a total of 2,400 jobs were added to the local economy. In comparison, jobs were down by 700 during the same period in 2015. Over the year, employment is up 8,800 jobs.

The Accommodation & Food Services sector added 900 jobs in March, partially due to preparation for Providence's designation as a regional host for the NCAA college basketball tournament. Thousands of college basketball fans from across the country converged upon the capital city in March, occupying local hotels and restaurants.

The Professional & Business Services sector continues to serve as a bright spot in the state's economy, adding 800 jobs since February. This sector added 2,000 jobs through the first three months of 2016, and the number of jobs within this sector are up 3,400 from March 2015.

The Manufacturing sector added 500 jobs in March, highlighted by job growth reported in the non-durable component of manufacturing. The number of Manufacturing jobs are up 800 from a year ago. Employment in the Other Services sector rose by 500 in March as the sector recouped the 400 jobs lost in February.

Jobs were up in the Financial Activities (+300) and Arts, Entertainment & Recreation (+200) sectors, while employment remained unchanged in the Information, Health Care & Social Assistance, Transportation & Utilities and Wholesale Trade sectors. Employment in Financial Activities is up 900 as compared to a year ago, employment in the Arts, Entertainment & Recreation (+400) and Information (+100) sectors is also up over the year.

Five employment sectors reported minimal job losses in March with each sector reporting a loss of 100 jobs. Those sectors include: Construction, Educational Services, Government, Mining & Logging and Retail Trade. Over the year, employment in the Construction and Retail Trade sectors was up 2,200 and 100, respectively, while employment in the Educational Services (-800) and Government (-400) sectors was down from March 2015. Employment in the Health Care & Social Assistance and Mining & Logging sectors were unchanged from a year ago.

In March 2016, the national workforce grew at a rate of 0.1 percent from February, while the New England workforce also grew at a rate of 0.1 percent. The number of jobs within the nation increased by 215,000, while the number of jobs in the six state region rose by 10,900. Rhode Island added 2,700 (+0.6%) jobs in March, the largest percentage increase in the region and tied for the second largest percentage increase

within the nation. Elsewhere across the region, Massachusetts added 6,900 (+0.2%) jobs, followed by Maine (+1,600), Connecticut (+300), and Vermont (+200). The number of jobs in New Hampshire fell by 800 in March.

Nonfarm payroll employment increased in 37 states in March, decreased in 12 states and was unchanged in one state. The largest over-the-month percentage increase in employment occurred in Hawaii and Maryland (+0.7 percent each) followed by Rhode Island and South Carolina (+0.6 percent each). The largest over-the-month percentage decline in employment occurred in Alaska and Wyoming (-0.4 percent each), followed by Arkansas, Indiana, and Oklahoma (-0.3 percent) each.

Establishment Employment in Rhode Island					
	Seasonally Adjusted			Net Change From	
	Mar-16	Feb-16	Mar-15	Feb-16	Mar-15
<b>Total Nonfarm</b>	<b>490.9</b>	<b>488.2</b>	<b>482.1</b>	<b>2.7</b>	<b>8.8</b>
<b>Total Private</b>	<b>430.9</b>	<b>428.1</b>	<b>421.7</b>	<b>2.8</b>	<b>9.2</b>
Natural Resources & Mining	0.2	0.3	0.2	-0.1	0.0
Construction	18.7	18.8	16.5	-0.1	2.2
Manufacturing	41.9	41.4	41.1	0.5	0.8
Wholesale Trade	16.3	16.3	16.9	0.0	-0.6
Retail Trade	47.8	47.9	47.7	-0.1	0.1
Transportation & Utilities	11.4	11.4	11.2	0.0	0.2
Information	8.6	8.6	8.5	0.0	0.1
Financial Activities	33.6	33.3	32.7	0.3	0.9
Professional & Business Services	66.3	65.5	62.9	0.8	3.4
Educational Services	24.0	24.1	24.8	-0.1	-0.8
Health Care & Social Assistance	80.6	80.6	80.6	0.0	0.0
Arts, Entertainment & Recreation	9.5	9.3	9.1	0.2	0.4
Accommodation & Food Services	48.6	47.7	46.5	0.9	2.1
Other Services	23.4	22.9	23.0	0.5	0.4
Government	60.0	60.1	60.4	-0.1	-0.4

### Manufacturing Employment in Rhode Island Not Seasonally Adjusted

	Employment				
	(in thousands)			Net Change From :	
	Mar 16	Feb 16	Mar 15	Feb 16	Mar 15
<b>Manufacturing</b>	<b>41.9</b>	<b>41.5</b>	<b>40.9</b>	<b>400</b>	<b>1,000</b>
<b>Durable Goods</b>	<b>26.3</b>	<b>26.3</b>	<b>26.0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>300</b>
Fabricated Metal Product Mfg.	5.3	5.3	5.4	0	-100
Computer & Electronic Product Mfg.	3.1	3.1	3.2	0	-100
Transportation Equipment Mfg.	4.7	4.8	4.6	-100	100
Miscellaneous DG Manufacturing	5.7	5.7	5.9	0	-200
Jewelry & Silverware	3.4	3.5	3.6	-100	-200
<b>Non-Durable Goods</b>	<b>15.6</b>	<b>15.2</b>	<b>14.9</b>	<b>400</b>	<b>700</b>
Chemical Manufacturing	3.0	3.0	3.0	0	0

The employment figures in this section are derived from a survey of businesses in Rhode Island and measure the number of jobs in the state. Not seasonally adjusted total nonfarm employment data is available at: [www.dlt.ri.gov/lmi/ces.htm](http://www.dlt.ri.gov/lmi/ces.htm). Current month's figures are preliminary and subject to change.



# Pathway to Employment

## Community Workforce Development

### Pathway to Employment Community Workforce Development Summit May 25, 2016

**Summit Goal:** Provide employers, hiring managers, business and labor leadership important workforce development information about the benefits and financial incentives available when hiring formerly incarcerated individuals.

#### When and where is this FREE Summit?

- Wednesday, May 25<sup>th</sup> 8AM to 1PM
- Radisson Hotel, 2081 Post Road, Warwick, RI
- 8:00AM: Registration & Continental Breakfast
- 8:30AM - 1:00PM: Speakers, Panel Discussions, Resource & Information Sharing

#### Who should attend?

- Business Owners, Employers, Hiring Managers, Business and Labor Leaders, Workforce Association Leaders, Vocational Education Advisors

#### How do I register for this FREE event?

- Register online at [www.usaoritraining.org/CWD](http://www.usaoritraining.org/CWD). Registration questions may be directed to Sheila Grant at [Sheila.Grant@usdoj.gov](mailto:Sheila.Grant@usdoj.gov)

## Characteristics of the Insured Unemployed

A total of 12,576 individuals were eligible to collect Unemployment Insurance benefits in March 2016, down 1,967 (-13.5%) from the 14,543 collecting these benefits in March 2015. In all, 38.3 percent of Rhode Island's unemployed workers were eligible to collect unemployment benefits in March.

Of the 12,576 individuals collecting Unemployment Insurance benefits, 21.7 percent faced long-term unemployment (defined as collecting unemployment insurance for fifteen weeks or more), down from 22.4 percent in March 2015.

On an industry basis, 20.0 percent (2,520) of the State's insured unemployed workers came from the Administrative & Waste Services sector. There were also 2,519 individuals with an attachment to the Construction sector, accounting for 20.0 percent of all insured unemployed workers. An additional 9.4 percent (1,180) of those collecting UI benefits in March had worked in the Accommodation & Food Services sector. Large numbers of insured unemployed were also reported in Manufacturing (1,019), Retail Trade (904) and Health Care & Social Assistance (901). For more information, go to [www.dlt.ri.gov/lmi/uiadmin/characteristics.htm](http://www.dlt.ri.gov/lmi/uiadmin/characteristics.htm).

	Total	Long-Term	Percent
<b>Total</b>	<b>12,576</b>	<b>2,724</b>	<b>21.7%</b>
Male	8,361	1,580	18.9%
Female	4,215	1,144	27.1%
<b>Selected Industries</b>	<b>12,576</b>	<b>2,724</b>	<b>21.7%</b>
Construction	2,519	250	9.9%
Manufacturing	1,019	252	24.7%
Wholesale Trade	448	152	33.9%
Retail Trade	904	227	25.1%
Transportation & Warehousing	293	63	21.5%
Information	117	47	40.2%
Finance & Insurance	311	115	37.0%
Real Estate	208	76	36.5%
Professional & Tech. Services	443	87	19.6%
Administrative & Waste Services	2,520	362	14.4%
Educational Services	153	55	35.9%
Health Care & Social Assistance	901	290	32.2%
Arts, Entertainment & Recreation	542	166	30.6%
Accommodation & Food Services	1,180	348	29.5%
Other Services	357	112	31.4%
Public Administration	93	22	23.7%

**Consumer Price Index for  
All Urban Consumers**

				% Change
	Mar. 16	Feb. 16	Mar. 15	Prev. Year
All Items	238.1	237.1	236.1	0.9%

Source: U.S. Dept. of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics

**Employer Demand for Workers  
in Rhode Island**

The *Conference Board Help Wanted OnLine* (HWOL) data series reported that there were 16,400 advertisements for Rhode Island based jobs this month, a decrease of 400 (-2.4%) from the February 2016 postings, and down 5,200 (-24.1%) from the advertised vacancies posted online in March 2015. There were an estimated 2.96 advertised vacancies for every 100 persons in Rhode Island's labor force.

**Help Wanted OnLine  
Advertised Job Vacancies**

	Mar 16	Feb 16	Mar 15
RI Vacancies	16,400	16,800	21,600
<i>Labor Demand Rate *</i>			
Rhode Island	2.96	3.04	3.88
US	3.23	3.25	3.35
Connecticut	3.27	3.36	3.91
Massachusetts	4.41	4.48	4.46
Maine	3.18	3.28	4.26
New Hampshire	3.57	3.82	3.58
Vermont	3.02	2.97	4.06
<i>Supply/Demand Rate **</i>			
Rhode Island	1.82	1.77	1.63
US	1.55	1.51	1.63

\* Number of advertised vacancies per 100 persons in labor force  
\*\* Number of unemployed persons in state per advertised vacancy

Source: The Conference Board

**City & Town  
Unadjusted Unemployment Rates for March**

	2016	2015		2016	2015
Barrington	4.0	4.6	Newport	5.6	6.3
Bristol	5.7	6.5	North Kingstown	4.9	5.6
Burrillville	5.6	7.2	North Providence	5.6	6.7
Central Falls	7.5	8.5	North Smithfield	5.1	5.6
Charlestown	6.7	8.6	Pawtucket	6.5	7.7
Coventry	5.7	6.7	Portsmouth	5.6	6.7
Cranston	5.8	6.6	Providence	7.3	7.9
Cumberland	4.7	5.7	Richmond	4.0	4.3
East Greenwich	5.1	6.0	Scituate	5.8	6.7
East Providence	6.3	7.4	Smithfield	5.5	6.3
Exeter	5.3	6.6	South Kingstown	6.0	6.4
Foster	5.7	7.1	Tiverton	5.9	6.6
Glocester	4.9	5.6	Warren	5.9	7.2
Hopkinton	5.5	7.0	Warwick	5.0	5.9
Jamestown	4.1	4.8	West Greenwich	5.5	6.6
Johnston	6.2	7.3	West Warwick	6.3	7.6
Lincoln	4.8	5.8	Westerly	7.3	8.7
Little Compton	4.6	6.1	Woonsocket	7.6	8.8
Middletown	5.5	6.2			
Narragansett	4.3	4.9	State of R.I.	6.0	6.9
New Shoreham	25.7	26.6	United States	5.1	5.6

Nationally, there were an estimated 3.23 advertised vacancies for every 100 persons in labor force. Among the New England states, Massachusetts (4.41) New Hampshire (3.57), Connecticut (3.27), Maine (3.18) and Vermont (3.02) had higher vacancy rates than Rhode Island.

There were an estimated 1.82 unemployed Rhode Island residents for every advertised job in March, up from 1.77 unemployed residents estimated per February advertisements. Nationally, there were 1.55 unemployed persons for every job opening advertised in March, up from 1.51 in February.

**Unemployment Insurance Claims Activity**

	Mar.	Feb.	Mar.	% Change	Year to Date	Year to Date	Year to Date	
	2016	2016	2015	Feb. 16	Mar. 15	2016	2015	% Change
<b>Regular Claims</b>								
Initial Claims	4,020	7,286	4,524	-44.8%	-11.1%	19,715	21,583	-8.7%
Number of Payments	48,793	60,488	65,347	-19.3%	-25.3%	153,465	173,277	-11.4%
Amount of Payments (gross millions)	\$16.7	\$20.5	\$22.0	-18.5%	-24.1%	\$51.8	\$57.3	-9.6%
Exhaustions (Final Payments)	821	770	1,108	6.6%	-25.9%	2,284	2,817	-18.9%

## **Rhode Island City/Town 2015 Annual Average Labor Force Statistics**

	Labor Force	Resident Employment	Resident Unemployment	Rate
<b>Rhode Island</b>	<b>554,558</b>	<b>521,434</b>	<b>33,124</b>	<b>6.0%</b>
Barrington	8,382	8,040	342	4.1%
Bristol	12,136	11,482	654	5.4%
Burrillville	8,923	8,389	534	6.0%
Central Falls	8,599	7,951	648	7.5%
Charlestown	4,111	3,840	271	6.6%
Coventry	18,822	17,748	1,074	5.7%
Cranston	41,368	38,918	2,450	5.9%
Cumberland	19,345	18,401	944	4.9%
East Greenwich	6,866	6,507	359	5.2%
East Providence	24,279	22,738	1,541	6.3%
Exeter	3,926	3,721	205	5.2%
Foster	2,900	2,737	163	5.6%
Glocester	5,936	5,662	274	4.6%
Hopkinton	4,742	4,456	286	6.0%
Jamestown	3,223	3,092	131	4.1%
Johnston	15,629	14,651	978	6.3%
Lincoln	12,222	11,604	618	5.1%
Little Compton	1,886	1,802	84	4.5%
Middletown	7,980	7,567	413	5.2%
Narragansett	9,176	8,804	372	4.1%
New Shoreham	815	715	100	12.3%
Newport	13,404	12,718	686	5.1%
North Kingstown	14,705	14,012	693	4.7%
North Providence	17,971	16,871	1,100	6.1%
North Smithfield	6,767	6,430	337	5.0%
Pawtucket	36,332	33,852	2,480	6.8%
Portsmouth	8,848	8,366	482	5.4%
Providence	86,585	80,428	6,157	7.1%
Richmond	4,291	4,138	153	3.6%
Scituate	6,137	5,790	347	5.7%
Smithfield	11,281	10,668	613	5.4%
South Kingstown	16,564	15,669	895	5.4%
Tiverton	8,768	8,281	487	5.6%
Warren	5,736	5,394	342	6.0%
Warwick	46,122	43,725	2,397	5.2%
West Greenwich	3,191	3,014	177	5.5%
West Warwick	16,172	15,148	1,024	6.3%
Westerly	11,394	10,554	840	7.4%
Woonsocket	19,027	17,550	1,477	7.8%