



Rhode Island's Unemployment Rate Drops to 5.2 percent in November

- ◆ RI's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate for November was 5.2 percent, down one-tenth of a percentage point from October.
- ◆ RI's November unemployment rate was down one and seven-tenths percentage points from last November's figure of 6.9 percent.
- ◆ The national rate was 5.0 percent, unchanged from October and down eight-tenths of a percentage point from the previous year.
- ◆ In November 2015, Rhode Island (5.2%) had the eighteenth highest unemployment rate in the nation. Eight states had unemployment rates of six percent or higher.
- ◆ The November 2015 unemployment rate decreased in twenty-seven states, including Maine (-0.2), New Hampshire (-0.1) and Rhode Island (-0.1). Twelve states' rates, including Vermont and Connecticut, were unchanged, while eleven states' rates, including Massachusetts (+0.1), increased.
- ◆ Rates in other New England states for November 2015 – Connecticut 5.1 percent, Massachusetts 4.7 percent, Maine 4.1 percent, Vermont 3.7 percent and New Hampshire 3.2 percent.
- ◆ The number of employed RI residents totaled 526,900 in November 2015, down 800 from the previous month. Between November 2014 and November 2015, the number of employed RI residents was up 15,100.
- ◆ Over the month, the number of unemployed Rhode Island residents decreased by 700 to 28,700. From November 2014 to November 2015, the number of unemployed residents decreased by 9,200.

RI Minimum Wage Increasing in January

The state's minimum wage will increase \$0.60 to \$9.60 an hour as of January 1, 2016. The last minimum wage increase in Rhode Island occurred in January 2015. Rhode Island, along with Vermont (\$9.60) and Connecticut (\$9.60), will have the second highest minimum wage in New England, behind Massachusetts (\$10.00). Maine's minimum wage is \$7.50 (with the exception of Portland at \$10.10), while New Hampshire's is \$7.25. The Federal minimum wage is \$7.25.

Exceptions to Rhode Island minimum wage law:

1.) Full-time students under 19 years of age working in nonprofit religious, educational, librarial, or community service organizations:

As of 1/1/15 - \$8.10 per hour (90% of applicable minimum)
As of 1/1/16 - \$8.64 per hour (90% of applicable minimum)

2.) Workers 14 and 15 years old who do not work more than 24 hours in a week. For any week in which a 14 or 15 year old works more than 24 hours, the higher applicable minimum rate must be paid for all hours worked in that week.

As of 1/1/15 - \$6.75 per hour (75% of applicable minimum)
As of 1/1/16 - \$7.20 per hour (75% of applicable minimum)

3.) Workers employed in domestic service in or about a private home, federal service, voluntary service in educational, charitable, religious or nonprofit organizations where employer/employee relationships do not exist, newspaper carriers on home delivery, shoe shine persons, caddies on golf courses, ushers in theaters, traveling or outside sales occupations. Service performed by an individual employed by a son or daughter or a minor child employed by the parent is also exempt.

Seasonally Adjusted Labor Force Statistics

(in thousands)

	Rhode Island			United States		
	Nov 15	Oct 15	Nov 14	Nov 15	Oct 15	Nov 14
Civilian Labor Force	555.6	557.1	549.7	157,301	157,028	156,402
Resident Employment	526.9	527.7	511.8	149,364	149,120	147,331
Unemployment	28.7	29.4	37.9	7,937	7,908	9,071
Unemployment Rate	5.2%	5.3%	6.9%	5.0%	5.0%	5.8%

The Rhode Island minimum wage laws and exemptions can be found in RI General Law 28-12.

For more information, visit the Labor Standards web site at www.dlt.ri.gov/lsl/minwage.htm.

Rhode Island Jobs Increase by 2,200 in November

Estimated nonfarm payroll in Rhode Island totaled 486,700 in November, reflecting a gain of 2,200 jobs from the revised October estimate of 484,500. Over the past three months, Rhode Island averaged a gain of 900 jobs and has added 8,000 jobs over the year. Since the start of the year, jobs are up 7,400. Through November 2015, job growth has averaged 700 per month, compared with an average monthly gain of 500 jobs during the same period in 2014. November's nonfarm job count marks the highest job count since February 2008.

The number of jobs in the Other Services sector rose by 600 in November, the first job increase within this sector since May. Over the year, Other Services employment is up 1,200.

The Wholesale Trade sector added 400 jobs in November recouping more than half of the 700 jobs lost in October. Jobs in this sector are down 600 jobs from a year ago. The Accommodation & Food Services sector also added 400 jobs in November, marking three consecutive months of job gains totaling 1,900. Over the past year, Accommodation & Food Services employment has grown by 2,300.

In anticipation of holiday deliveries, Transportation & Utilities employment grew by 300 in November and has risen by 300 over the year.

For the first time in 2015, the Health Care & Social Assistance sector added jobs in two consecutive months, adding 200 jobs in October and 200 jobs in November. Despite these gains, employment in the Health Care & Social Assistance sector is down 300 over the year. Professional & Business Services and Retail Trade also added 200 jobs each in November. The Professional & Business Services added 3,600 jobs since the start of the year, and is up 3,500 jobs since November 2014. Employment in Retail Trade is down 100 from a year ago.

A gain of 100 jobs was reported in the Construction, Educational Services and Information sectors, while employment in Manufacturing, Arts, Entertainment & Recreation and Mining & Logging remained unchanged. Over the year, employment in Educational Services, Manufacturing, and Arts, Entertainment & Recreation was up by 1,700, 900 and 800, respectively, while employment in the Construction and Information sectors reported respective losses of 1,100 and 200.

Employment in Financial Activities and Government fell by 200 each in November. Financial Activities employment is up 200 over the year, while Government employment is down 600 over the year.

In November, the New England regional workforce grew at a rate of 0.2 percent from October, while nationally the workforce grew at 0.1 percent. The number of jobs within the nation increased by 211,000, while the number of jobs in the six state region rose by 14,400.

Massachusetts (+5,900) added the most jobs within the entire New England region on a numeric basis, followed by Connecticut (+5,100), Vermont (+2,900), Rhode Island (+2,200) and Maine (+100). New Hampshire (-1,800) was the only regional state to shed jobs in November.

Nonfarm payroll employment increased in 35 states in November, decreased in 14 states and remained unchanged in one state. The largest over-the-month percentage increase in employment occurred in Vermont (+0.9%) followed by Idaho (+0.7%) and Delaware (+0.6%). The largest over-the-month percentage decline in employment occurred in Nevada (-0.5%), followed by Wyoming (-0.4%) and New Hampshire and North Dakota (-0.3 percent each).

Establishment Employment in Rhode Island Seasonally Adjusted

	Net Change From				
	Nov-15	Oct-15	Nov-14	Oct-15	Nov-14
Total Nonfarm	486.7	484.5	478.7	2.2	8.0
Total Private	427.3	424.9	418.7	2.4	8.6
Natural Resources & Mining	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.0	0.0
Construction	15.3	15.2	16.4	0.1	-1.1
Manufacturing	42.1	42.1	41.2	0.0	0.9
Wholesale Trade	16.4	16.0	17.0	0.4	-0.6
Retail Trade	47.1	46.9	47.2	0.2	-0.1
Transportation & Utilities	11.7	11.4	11.4	0.3	0.3
Information	8.6	8.5	8.8	0.1	-0.2
Financial Activities	32.6	32.8	32.4	-0.2	0.2
Professional & Business Services	64.2	64.0	60.7	0.2	3.5
Educational Services	25.9	25.8	24.2	0.1	1.7
Health Care & Social Assistance	80.6	80.4	80.9	0.2	-0.3
Arts, Entertainment & Recreation	9.5	9.5	8.7	0.0	0.8
Accommodation & Food Services	49.0	48.6	46.7	0.4	2.3
Other Services	24.1	23.5	22.9	0.6	1.2
Government	59.4	59.6	60.0	-0.2	-0.6

Manufacturing Employment in Rhode Island Not Seasonally Adjusted

	Employment				
	(in thousands)			Net Change From:	
	Nov 15	Oct 15	Nov 14	Oct 15	Nov 14
Manufacturing	42.3	42.2	41.4	100	900
Durable Goods	27.3	27.2	26.8	100	500
Fabricated Metal Product Mfg.	5.7	5.7	5.8	0	-100
Computer & Electronic Product Mfg.	3.2	3.2	3.3	0	-100
Transportation Equipment Mfg.	5.1	5.1	4.7	0	400
Miscellaneous DG Manufacturing	5.4	5.4	5.6	0	-200
Jewelry & Silverware	3.3	3.3	3.4	0	-100
Non-Durable Goods	15.0	15.0	14.6	0	400
Chemical Manufacturing	3.0	3.1	3.1	-100	-100

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.

Current month's figures are preliminary and subject to change.



Census Bureau Releases 2015 Population Estimates

The Census Bureau recently released state population estimates as of July 1, 2015. Since July 1, 2014, the United States population increased by 2.51 million, for a 0.79 percent increase. Texas (+490,036) added the most residents over the period. Florida (+365,703) and California (+352,527) were the only other states to add over 120,000 residents. North Dakota (+2.28%) had the greatest percentage growth in population, followed by Colorado (+1.89%), the District of Columbia (+1.88%) and Nevada (+1.85%).

Illinois (-22,194), West Virginia (-4,623), Connecticut (-3,876), Mississippi (-1,110), Maine (-928), Vermont (-725) and New Mexico (-458) were the only states in the country to lose population.

New England population growth lagged behind the United States. While the nation's population increased by 0.79 percent, the New England region grew by just 0.26 percent and contained three of only seven states that posted population declines. Massachusetts (+0.58%) had the largest percentage growth in residents in the region, followed by New Hampshire (+0.20%) and Rhode Island (+0.13%). As noted above, Vermont (-0.12%), Connecticut (-0.11%) and Maine (-0.07%) lost population over the period.

New England Population: 2014-2015

Area	2014	2015	Change:	
	Pop. Estimate	Pop. Estimate	Numeric	Percent
United States	318,907,401	321,418,820	2,511,419	0.79%
New England	14,689,812	14,727,584	37,772	0.26%
Connecticut	3,594,762	3,590,886	-3,876	-0.11%
Maine	1,330,256	1,329,328	-928	-0.07%
Massachusetts	6,755,124	6,794,422	39,298	0.58%
New Hampshire	1,327,996	1,330,608	2,612	0.20%
Rhode Island	1,054,907	1,056,298	1,391	0.13%
Vermont	626,767	626,042	-725	-0.12%

Source: US Census Bureau, Population Division

Since Census 2010, the number of Rhode Island residents has increased from 1,052,567 to 1,054,907 in 2015, a gain of 3,731 (+0.35%) residents.

Population estimates for 2015 for all states can be found on the enclosed label page.

Characteristics of the Insured Unemployed

A total of 7,598 individuals were eligible to collect Unemployment Insurance benefits in November 2015, down 1,223 (-13.9%) from the 8,821 collecting these benefits in November 2014. In all, 27.9 percent of Rhode Island's unemployed workers were eligible to collect unemployment benefits in November.

Of the 7,598 individuals collecting Unemployment Insurance benefits, 26.5 percent faced long-term unemployment (defined as collecting unemployment insurance for fifteen weeks or more), down from 28.4 percent in November 2014.

On an industry basis, 13.6 percent (1,033) of the State's insured unemployed workers came from the Health Care & Social Assistance sector. There were also 1,000 individuals with an attachment to the Administrative & Waste Services sector, accounting for 13.2 percent of all insured unemployed workers. An additional 11.1 percent (847) of those collecting UI benefits in November had worked in the Manufacturing sector. Large numbers of insured unemployed were also reported in Accommodation & Food Services (734) and Retail Trade (714). For more information, go to www.dlt.ri.gov/lmi/uiadmin/characteristics.htm.

Characteristics of the Insured Unemployed, November 2015

	Total	Long-Term	Percent
			Long-Term
Total	7,598	2,014	26.5%
Male	3,925	906	23.1%
Female	3,673	1,108	30.2%
Selected Industries	7,598	2,014	26.5%
Construction	606	82	13.5%
Manufacturing	847	279	32.9%
Wholesale Trade	390	113	29.0%
Retail Trade	714	185	25.9%
Transportation & Warehousing	166	44	26.5%
Information	108	39	36.1%
Finance & Insurance	334	114	34.1%
Real Estate	170	36	21.2%
Professional & Tech. Services	408	126	30.9%
Administrative & Waste Services	1,000	226	22.6%
Educational Services	205	84	41.0%
Health Care & Social Assistance	1,033	352	34.1%
Arts, Entertainment & Recreation	225	21	9.3%
Accommodation & Food Services	734	128	17.4%
Other Services	252	87	34.5%
Public Administration	52	13	25.0%

Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers

				% Change
	Nov. 15	Oct. 15	Nov. 14	Prev. Year
All Items	237.3	237.8	236.2	0.5%

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 21,700 advertisements for Rhode Island based jobs this month, an increase of 900 (+4.3%) from the October 2015 postings, and up 1,200 (+5.9%) from the advertised vacancies posted online in November 2014. There were an estimated 3.89 advertised vacancies for every 100 persons in Rhode Island's labor force.

Help Wanted OnLine Advertised Job Vacancies

	Nov 15	Oct 15	Nov 14
RI Vacancies	21,700	20,800	20,500
<i>Labor Demand Rate *</i>			
Rhode Island	3.89	3.74	3.74
US	3.62	3.47	3.35
Connecticut	4.25	4.14	3.80
Massachusetts	4.90	4.80	4.41
Maine	3.54	3.48	4.27
New Hampshire	3.71	3.58	4.16
Vermont	3.72	3.61	3.87
<i>Supply/Demand Rate **</i>			
Rhode Island	1.32	1.41	1.85
US	1.40	1.45	1.73

* 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 November

	2015	2014		2015	2014
Barrington	3.4	4.5	Newport	4.4	5.5
Bristol	4.2	5.7	North Kingstown	3.9	5.1
Burrillville	4.7	6.3	North Providence	5.1	6.6
Central Falls	6.1	8.0	North Smithfield	4.2	5.3
Charlestown	5.2	6.9	Pawtucket	5.7	7.6
Coventry	4.5	6.0	Portsmouth	4.3	5.9
Cranston	5.0	6.5	Providence	5.9	7.7
Cumberland	3.9	5.2	Richmond	2.9	3.8
East Greenwich	4.3	5.8	Scituate	4.7	5.5
East Providence	5.2	7.0	Smithfield	4.4	5.8
Exeter	4.1	5.6	South Kingstown	4.2	5.8
Foster	4.4	6.0	Tiverton	4.6	5.8
Glocester	3.6	4.9	Warren	4.8	6.3
Hopkinton	4.8	6.4	Warwick	4.3	5.8
Jamestown	3.6	4.4	West Greenwich	4.3	6.0
Johnston	5.1	6.7	West Warwick	5.0	6.9
Lincoln	4.0	5.5	Westerly	6.1	8.0
Little Compton	3.2	5.2	Woonsocket	6.4	8.3
Middletown	4.3	5.5			
Narragansett	3.5	4.4	State of R.I.	4.9	6.5
New Shoreham	15.6	19.0	United States	4.8	5.5

Nationally, there were an estimated 3.62 advertised vacancies for every 100 persons in labor force. Among the New England states, Massachusetts (4.90) and Connecticut (4.25) had higher vacancy rates than Rhode Island.

There were an estimated 1.32 unemployed Rhode Island residents for every advertised job in November, down from 1.41 unemployed residents estimated per October advertisements. Nationally, there were 1.40 unemployed persons for every job opening advertised in November, down from 1.45 in October.

Unemployment Insurance Claims Activity

	Nov.	Oct.	Nov.	% Change		Year to Date		
	2015	2015	2014	Oct. 15	Nov. 14	2015	2014	% Change
Regular Claims								
Initial Claims	4,223	3,894	5,149	8.4%	-18.0%	58,552	66,904	-12.5%
Number of Payments	32,156	25,339	29,778	26.9%	8.0%	451,070	513,040	-12.1%
Amount of Payments (gross millions)	\$10.7	\$8.5	\$9.8	25.9%	9.2%	\$146.7	\$169.1	-13.2%
Exhaustions (Final Payments)	742	643	838	15.4%	-11.5%	9,324	12,692	-26.5%

**State Population Estimates
July 1, 2014 - July 1, 2015**

	July 1, 2014 Population Estimates	July 1, 2015 Population Estimates	Numeric Change	Percent Change
United States	318,907,401	321,418,820	2,511,419	0.79%
Alabama	4,846,411	4,858,979	12,568	0.26%
Alaska	737,046	738,432	1,386	0.19%
Arizona	6,728,783	6,828,065	99,282	1.48%
Arkansas	2,966,835	2,978,204	11,369	0.38%
California	38,792,291	39,144,818	352,527	0.91%
Colorado	5,355,588	5,456,574	100,986	1.89%
Connecticut	3,594,762	3,590,886	-3,876	-0.11%
Delaware	935,968	945,934	9,966	1.06%
District of Columbia	659,836	672,228	12,392	1.88%
Florida	19,905,569	20,271,272	365,703	1.84%
Georgia	10,097,132	10,214,860	117,728	1.17%
Hawaii	1,420,257	1,431,603	11,346	0.80%
Idaho	1,634,806	1,654,930	20,124	1.23%
Illinois	12,882,189	12,859,995	-22,194	-0.17%
Indiana	6,597,880	6,619,680	21,800	0.33%
Iowa	3,109,481	3,123,899	14,418	0.46%
Kansas	2,902,507	2,911,641	9,134	0.31%
Kentucky	4,412,617	4,425,092	12,475	0.28%
Louisiana	4,648,990	4,670,724	21,734	0.47%
Maine	1,330,256	1,329,328	-928	-0.07%
Maryland	5,975,346	6,006,401	31,055	0.52%
Massachusetts	6,755,124	6,794,422	39,298	0.58%
Michigan	9,916,306	9,922,576	6,270	0.06%
Minnesota	5,457,125	5,489,594	32,469	0.59%
Mississippi	2,993,443	2,992,333	-1,110	-0.04%
Missouri	6,063,827	6,083,672	19,845	0.33%
Montana	1,023,252	1,032,949	9,697	0.95%
Nebraska	1,882,980	1,896,190	13,210	0.70%
Nevada	2,838,281	2,890,845	52,564	1.85%
New Hampshire	1,327,996	1,330,608	2,612	0.20%
New Jersey	8,938,844	8,958,013	19,169	0.21%
New Mexico	2,085,567	2,085,109	-458	-0.02%
New York	19,748,858	19,795,791	46,933	0.24%
North Carolina	9,940,387	10,042,802	102,415	1.03%
North Dakota	740,040	756,927	16,887	2.28%
Ohio	11,596,998	11,613,423	16,425	0.14%
Oklahoma	3,879,610	3,911,338	31,728	0.82%
Oregon	3,971,202	4,028,977	57,775	1.45%
Pennsylvania	12,793,767	12,802,503	8,736	0.07%
Rhode Island	1,054,907	1,056,298	1,391	0.13%
South Carolina	4,829,160	4,896,146	66,986	1.39%
South Dakota	853,304	858,469	5,165	0.61%
Tennessee	6,547,779	6,600,299	52,520	0.80%
Texas	26,979,078	27,469,114	490,036	1.82%
Utah	2,944,498	2,995,919	51,421	1.75%
Vermont	626,767	626,042	-725	-0.12%
Virginia	8,328,098	8,382,993	54,895	0.66%
Washington	7,063,166	7,170,351	107,185	1.52%
West Virginia	1,848,751	1,844,128	-4,623	-0.25%
Wisconsin	5,759,432	5,771,337	11,905	0.21%
Wyoming	584,304	586,107	1,803	0.31%