



Rhode Island's Unemployment Rate Drops to 5.3 percent in November

- ◆ RI's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate for November was 5.3 percent, down two-tenths of a percentage point from October.
- ◆ RI's November unemployment rate was down two-tenths of a percentage point from last November's figure of 5.5 percent.
- ◆ The national rate was 4.6 percent, down three-tenths of a percentage point from October and down four-tenths of a percentage point from the previous year.
- ◆ In November 2016, Rhode Island (5.3%), along with California (5.3%), Georgia (5.3%) and Washington (5.3%), had the ninth highest unemployment rate in the nation. Four states had unemployment rates of six percent or higher.
- ◆ The November 2016 unemployment rate decreased in thirty-two states, including Massachusetts (-0.4), Connecticut (-0.4), Rhode Island (-0.2), New Hampshire (-0.1) and Vermont (-0.1). Eleven states' rates, including Maine, were unchanged, while seven states' rates increased.
- ◆ Rates in other New England states for November 2016 – Connecticut 4.7 percent, Maine 4.0 percent, Vermont 3.2 percent, Massachusetts 2.9 percent and New Hampshire 2.7 percent.
- ◆ The number of employed RI residents totaled 526,300 in November 2016, down 300 from the previous month. Between November 2015 and November 2016, the number of employed RI residents was up 4,000.
- ◆ Over the month, the number of unemployed Rhode Island residents decreased by 1,500 to 29,200. From November 2015 to November 2016, the number of unemployed residents decreased by 1,100.

Census Bureau Releases 2016 Population Estimates

The Census Bureau recently released state population estimates as of July 1, 2016. Since July 1, 2015, the United States population increased by 2.23 million, for a 0.70 percent increase. Texas (+432,957) added the most residents over the period. Florida (+367,525), California (+256,077) and Washington (+127,710) were the only other states to add over 120,000 residents. Utah (+2.03%) had the greatest percentage growth in population, followed by Nevada (+1.95%), Idaho (+1.83%) and Florida (+1.82%).

New England Population: 2015-2016

	2015	2016	Change:	
	Pop. Estimate	Pop. Estimate	Numeric	Percentage
United States	320,896,618	323,127,513	2,230,895	0.70%
New England	14,710,229	14,735,525	25,296	0.17%
Connecticut	3,584,730	3,576,452	-8,278	-0.23%
Maine	1,329,453	1,331,479	2,026	0.15%
Massachusetts	6,784,240	6,811,779	27,539	0.41%
New Hampshire	1,330,111	1,334,795	4,684	0.35%
Rhode Island	1,055,607	1,056,426	819	0.08%
Vermont	626,088	624,594	-1,494	-0.24%

Source: US Census Bureau, Population Division

Illinois (-37,508), West Virginia (-9,951), Connecticut (-8,278), Pennsylvania (-7,677), New York (-1,894), Vermont (-1,494), Wyoming (-1,054) and Mississippi (-664) 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 0.70 percent, the New England region grew by just 0.17 percent and contained two of the only eight states that posted population declines. Massachusetts (+0.41%) had the largest percentage growth in residents in the region, followed by New Hampshire (+0.35%), Maine (+0.15%) and Rhode Island (+0.08%). As noted above, Vermont (-0.24%) and Connecticut (-0.23%) lost population over the period.

Since Census 2010, the number of Rhode Island residents has increased from 1,052,567 to 1,056,426 in 2016, a gain of 3,859 (+0.37%) residents.

Seasonally Adjusted Labor Force Statistics (in thousands)

	Rhode Island			United States		
	Nov 16	Oct 16	Nov 15	Nov 16	Oct 16	Nov 15
Civilian Labor Force	555.5	557.3	552.6	159,486	159,712	157,367
Resident Employment	526.3	526.6	522.3	152,085	151,925	149,444
Unemployment	29.2	30.7	30.3	7,400	7,787	7,924
Unemployment Rate	5.3%	5.5%	5.5%	4.6%	4.9%	5.0%

Rhode Island Jobs Increase by 400 in November

Estimated nonfarm payroll in Rhode Island totaled 492,700 in November, reflecting a gain of 400 jobs from the revised October estimate of 492,300. November marks two consecutive months of job gains totaling 2,000 jobs. Since the start of the year, a total of 4,200 jobs have been added to the economy. Overall, total nonfarm jobs are up 5,500 from November 2015.

The Arts, Entertainment & Recreation sector reported an over-the-month gain of 500 jobs in November. On average, this sector added over 300 jobs during the past three months, while having 500 more employees than a year ago.

Employment in Educational Services rose by 300 in November, following an increase of 700 in October. Over the year employment in Educational Services is up 500.

The Construction, Health Care & Social Assistance and Government sectors each reported gains of 200 jobs over the month. The number of jobs in Government is up 500 over the year, while the number of jobs in the Construction and Health Care & Social Assistance sectors are up 300 and 100, respectively.

Finally, November job gains were also reported in the Information, Professional & Business Services and Transportation & Utilities sectors, as all three sectors reported a gain of 100 jobs each. Among these three industries, the Professional & Business Services sector has prospered with an additional 2,300 jobs from a year ago, while the number of jobs in the Information (-300) and Transportation & Utilities (-100) sectors are both down over the year.

Employment in the Financial Activities sector was down 400 jobs from October. The number of jobs within this sector is down 700 from November 2015. Jobs in the Manufacturing sector continued to trend down, with a loss of 300 jobs in November marking four consecutive months of job declines totaling 1,400 jobs. Manufacturing employment is down 600 over the year. A loss of 300 jobs was reported in both the Retail Trade and Other Services sectors. Over the year, Retail Trade employment is up 700, while the number of jobs in Other Services is down 200 from November 2015.

The November employment level in the Accommodation & Food Services, Mining & Logging and Wholesale Trade sectors remained unchanged from October. Over the year, employment in the Accommodation & Food Services sector is up 2,700, Wholesale Trade employment is down 200, and Mining employment remained even.

In November 2016, nonfarm employment across the nation grew by 0.1 percent, while nonfarm employment in the New England region grew by 0.2 percent. The number of jobs within the nation increased by 178,000, while the number of jobs in the six state region rose by 12,000.

Five of the six New England states added jobs in November, led by Massachusetts (+5,800) and followed by Maine (+3,200), Connecticut (+2,100), New Hampshire (+1,900) and Rhode Island (+400). Vermont reported a loss of 1,400 jobs in November.

Nonfarm payroll employment increased in 36 states in November and decreased in 14 states. The largest over-the-month percentage increase in employment occurred in West Virginia (+1.4%), followed by Nebraska and South Carolina at 0.6 percent each. The largest over-the-month percentage decrease in employment occurred in Colorado (-0.5%), followed by Oklahoma and Vermont (-0.4 percent each).

Establishment Employment in Rhode Island					
	Seasonally Adjusted			Net Change From	
	<u>Nov-16</u>	<u>Oct-16</u>	<u>Nov-15</u>	<u>Oct-16</u>	<u>Nov-15</u>
Total Nonfarm	492.7	492.3	487.2	0.4	5.5
Total Private	432.0	431.8	427.0	0.2	5.0
Natural Resources & Mining	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.0	0.0
Construction	17.6	17.4	17.3	0.2	0.3
Manufacturing	41.0	41.3	41.6	-0.3	-0.6
Wholesale Trade	16.5	16.5	16.7	0.0	-0.2
Retail Trade	48.5	48.8	47.8	-0.3	0.7
Transportation & Utilities	11.7	11.6	11.8	0.1	-0.1
Information	8.4	8.3	8.7	0.1	-0.3
Financial Activities	32.3	32.7	33.0	-0.4	-0.7
Professional & Business Services	66.0	65.9	63.7	0.1	2.3
Educational Services	25.2	24.9	24.7	0.3	0.5
Health Care & Social Assistance	81.0	80.8	80.9	0.2	0.1
Arts, Entertainment & Recreation	9.7	9.2	9.2	0.5	0.5
Accommodation & Food Services	50.8	50.8	48.1	0.0	2.7
Other Services	23.1	23.4	23.3	-0.3	-0.2
Government	60.7	60.5	60.2	0.2	0.5

Manufacturing Employment in Rhode Island					
Not Seasonally Adjusted					
	Employment				
	(in thousands)			Net Change From:	
	<u>Nov 16</u>	<u>Oct 16</u>	<u>Nov 15</u>	<u>Oct 16</u>	<u>Nov 15</u>
Manufacturing	41.2	41.5	41.8	-300	-600
Durable Goods	25.6	25.8	26.4	-200	-800
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.	4.5	4.3	4.8	200	-300
Miscellaneous DG Manufacturing	5.6	5.6	5.7	0	-100
Jewelry & Silverware	3.4	3.4	3.5	0	-100
Non-Durable Goods	15.6	15.7	15.4	-100	200
Chemical Manufacturing	2.9	2.9	3.0	0	-100

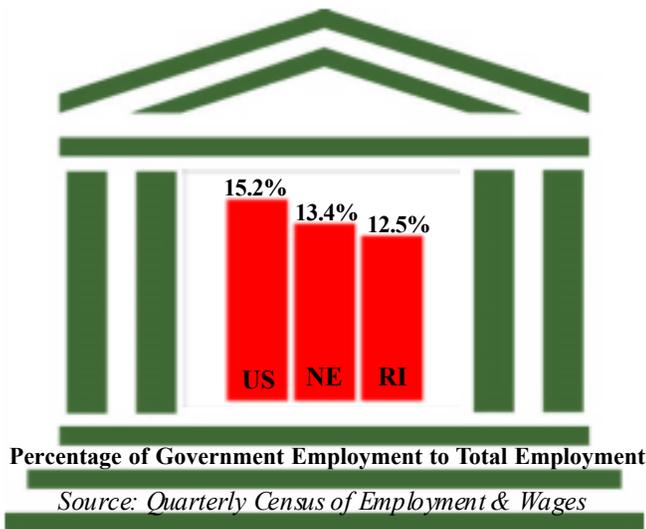
The employment figures in this section are derived from a survey of businesses in Rhode Island and measure the number of jobs in the state. Not seasonally adjusted total nonfarm employment data is available at: www.dlt.ri.gov/lmi/ces.htm. Current month's figures are preliminary and subject to change.

Government Employment



In 2015, total government employment in the United States totaled nearly 21.2 million workers, accounting for 15.2 percent of the nation's total employment level of 139.5 million.

Total government employment in Rhode Island (58,923) accounted for 12.5 percent of the state's total employment level of 469,981, falling below the national average of 15.2 percent and ranking forty-seventh among the 50 states.



Among the New England states, only Massachusetts (12.4%) had a lower percentage of total government employment in 2015 than Rhode Island. Vermont (17.2%) had the largest percentage of government workers throughout the local region, followed by Maine (15.9%), Connecticut (14.1%) and New Hampshire (13.3%). In all, total government employment in New England represented 13.4 percent of the region's total employment level of 7.1 million.

State	Percentage	Rank
WY	23.6%	1st (Highest percentage of government employees to total covered employment)
US	15.2%	US Average
RI	12.5%	47th
PA	11.9%	50th (Lowest percentage of government employees to total covered employment)

Nationwide, Wyoming (23.6%), Alaska (23.0%), New Mexico (22.3%), Mississippi (21.2%) and Oklahoma (20.3%) had the highest percentage of total government workers in 2015, while Pennsylvania (11.9%), Nevada (12.0%), Massachusetts (12.4%), Rhode Island (12.5%) and Florida (12.9%) represented the smallest portions of total government employment.

Characteristics of the Insured Unemployed

A total of 7,258 individuals were eligible to collect Unemployment Insurance benefits in November 2016, down 340 (-4.5%) from the 7,598 collecting these benefits in November 2015. In all, 28.4 percent of Rhode Island's unemployed workers were eligible to collect unemployment benefits in November.

Of the 7,258 individuals collecting Unemployment Insurance benefits, 26.0 percent faced long-term unemployment (defined as collecting unemployment insurance for fifteen weeks or more), down from 26.5 percent in November 2015.

On an industry basis, 13.4 percent (970) of the State's insured unemployed workers came from the Health Care & Social Assistance sector. There were also 894 individuals with an attachment to the Manufacturing sector, accounting for 12.3 percent of all insured unemployed workers. An additional 12.2 percent (885) of those collecting UI benefits in November had worked in the Administrative & Waste Services sector. Large numbers of insured unemployed were also reported in Accommodation & Food Services (712), Construction (638) and Retail Trade (616). For more information, go to www.dlt.ri.gov/lmi/uiadmin/characteristics.htm.

Characteristics of the Insured Unemployed, November 2016

	Total	Long-Term	Percent Long-Term
Total	7,258	1,885	26.0%
Male	3,883	869	22.4%
Female	3,375	1,016	30.1%
Selected Industries	7,258	1,885	26.0%
Construction	638	87	13.6%
Manufacturing	894	285	31.9%
Wholesale Trade	300	97	32.3%
Retail Trade	616	166	26.9%
Transportation & Warehousing	173	48	27.7%
Information	75	21	28.0%
Finance & Insurance	335	108	32.2%
Real Estate	152	23	15.1%
Professional & Tech. Services	436	149	34.2%
Administrative & Waste Services	885	218	24.6%
Educational Services	184	67	36.4%
Health Care & Social Assistance	970	295	30.4%
Arts, Entertainment & Recreation	224	26	11.6%
Accommodation & Food Services	712	141	19.8%
Other Services	281	76	27.0%
Public Administration	72	9	12.5%

Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers

				% Change
	Nov 16	Oct 16	Nov 15	Prev. Year
All Items	241.4	241.7	237.3	1.7%

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 14,900 advertisements for Rhode Island based jobs this month, a decrease of 400 (-2.6%) from the October 2016 postings, and down 5,800 (-28.0%) from the advertised vacancies posted online in November 2015. There were an estimated 2.68 advertised vacancies for every 100 persons in Rhode Island's labor force.

Help Wanted OnLine Advertised Job Vacancies

	Nov 16	Oct 16	Nov 15
RI Vacancies	14,900	15,300	20,700
<i>Labor Demand Rate *</i>			
Rhode Island	2.68	2.74	3.75
US	2.96	3.03	3.53
Connecticut	3.43	3.45	4.16
Massachusetts	3.92	3.99	4.76
Maine	2.41	2.41	3.56
New Hampshire	3.11	3.09	3.61
Vermont	3.05	3.24	3.60
<i>Supply/Demand Rate **</i>			
Rhode Island	1.96	2.00	1.46
US	1.57	1.61	1.43

* 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

	2016	2015		2016	2015
Barrington	3.4	3.6	Newport	4.1	4.6
Bristol	4.2	4.5	North Kingstown	3.7	4.1
Burrillville	4.5	5.0	North Providence	4.7	5.4
Central Falls	5.7	6.5	North Smithfield	3.9	4.5
Charlestown	4.6	5.7	Pawtucket	5.4	6.0
Coventry	4.2	4.8	Portsmouth	4.1	4.7
Cranston	4.6	5.4	Providence	5.6	6.3
Cumberland	3.8	4.2	Richmond	3.1	3.1
East Greenwich	4.2	4.6	Scituate	4.2	5.0
East Providence	4.9	5.6	Smithfield	4.0	4.7
Exeter	3.4	4.4	South Kingstown	3.8	4.5
Foster	3.7	4.6	Tiverton	4.3	5.0
Glocester	3.4	3.8	Warren	4.5	5.2
Hopkinton	4.1	5.1	Warwick	3.9	4.6
Jamestown	3.2	3.7	West Greenwich	4.2	4.8
Johnston	4.9	5.4	West Warwick	4.7	5.4
Lincoln	3.9	4.3	Westerly	5.7	6.4
Little Compton	2.6	3.4	Woonsocket	6.6	6.8
Middletown	4.3	4.6			
Narragansett	3.2	3.8	State of R.I.	4.6	5.2
New Shoreham	15.8	16.8	United States	4.4	4.8

Nationally, there were an estimated 2.96 advertised vacancies for every 100 persons in the labor force. Among the New England states, Massachusetts (3.92), Connecticut (3.43), New Hampshire (3.11) and Vermont (3.05) had higher vacancy rates than Rhode Island.

There were an estimated 1.96 unemployed Rhode Island residents for every advertised job in November, down from 2.00 unemployed residents estimated per October advertisements. Nationally, there were 1.57 unemployed persons for every job opening advertised in November, down from 1.61 in October.

Unemployment Insurance Claims Activity

	Nov.	Oct.	Nov.	% Change		Year to Date		
	2016	2016	2015	Oct. 16	Nov. 15	2016	2015	% Change
Regular Claims								
Initial Claims	4,912	3,522	4,223	39.5%	16.3%	55,692	58,552	-4.9%
Number of Payments	27,185	28,849	32,156	-5.8%	-15.5%	424,703	451,070	-5.8%
Amount of Payments (gross millions)	\$9.4	\$10.0	\$10.7	-6.0%	-12.1%	\$142.1	\$146.7	-3.1%
Exhaustions (Final Payments)	649	723	742	-10.2%	-12.5%	8,237	9,324	-11.7%

**State Population Estimates
July 1, 2015 - July 1, 2016**

	July 1, 2015 Population Estimates	July 1, 2016 Population Estimates	Numeric Change	Percent Change
United States	320,896,618	323,127,513	2,230,895	0.70%
Alabama	4,853,875	4,863,300	9,425	0.19%
Alaska	737,709	741,894	4,185	0.57%
Arizona	6,817,565	6,931,071	113,506	1.66%
Arkansas	2,977,853	2,988,248	10,395	0.35%
California	38,993,940	39,250,017	256,077	0.66%
Colorado	5,448,819	5,540,545	91,726	1.68%
Connecticut	3,584,730	3,576,452	-8,278	-0.23%
Delaware	944,076	952,065	7,989	0.85%
District of Columbia	670,377	681,170	10,793	1.61%
Florida	20,244,914	20,612,439	367,525	1.82%
Georgia	10,199,398	10,310,371	110,973	1.09%
Hawaii	1,425,157	1,428,557	3,400	0.24%
Idaho	1,652,828	1,683,140	30,312	1.83%
Illinois	12,839,047	12,801,539	-37,508	-0.29%
Indiana	6,612,768	6,633,053	20,285	0.31%
Iowa	3,121,997	3,134,693	12,696	0.41%
Kansas	2,906,721	2,907,289	568	0.02%
Kentucky	4,424,611	4,436,974	12,363	0.28%
Louisiana	4,668,960	4,681,666	12,706	0.27%
Maine	1,329,453	1,331,479	2,026	0.15%
Maryland	5,994,983	6,016,447	21,464	0.36%
Massachusetts	6,784,240	6,811,779	27,539	0.41%
Michigan	9,917,715	9,928,300	10,585	0.11%
Minnesota	5,482,435	5,519,952	37,517	0.68%
Mississippi	2,989,390	2,988,726	-664	-0.02%
Missouri	6,076,204	6,093,000	16,796	0.28%
Montana	1,032,073	1,042,520	10,447	1.01%
Nebraska	1,893,765	1,907,116	13,351	0.70%
Nevada	2,883,758	2,940,058	56,300	1.95%
New Hampshire	1,330,111	1,334,795	4,684	0.35%
New Jersey	8,935,421	8,944,469	9,048	0.10%
New Mexico	2,080,328	2,081,015	687	0.03%
New York	19,747,183	19,745,289	-1,894	-0.01%
North Carolina	10,035,186	10,146,788	111,602	1.11%
North Dakota	756,835	757,952	1,117	0.15%
Ohio	11,605,090	11,614,373	9,283	0.08%
Oklahoma	3,907,414	3,923,561	16,147	0.41%
Oregon	4,024,634	4,093,465	68,831	1.71%
Pennsylvania	12,791,904	12,784,227	-7,677	-0.06%
Rhode Island	1,055,607	1,056,426	819	0.08%
South Carolina	4,894,834	4,961,119	66,285	1.35%
South Dakota	857,919	865,454	7,535	0.88%
Tennessee	6,595,056	6,651,194	56,138	0.85%
Texas	27,429,639	27,862,596	432,957	1.58%
Utah	2,990,632	3,051,217	60,585	2.03%
Vermont	626,088	624,594	-1,494	-0.24%
Virginia	8,367,587	8,411,808	44,221	0.53%
Washington	7,160,290	7,288,000	127,710	1.78%
West Virginia	1,841,053	1,831,102	-9,951	-0.54%
Wisconsin	5,767,891	5,778,708	10,817	0.19%
Wyoming	586,555	585,501	-1,054	-0.18%