



Rhode Island's Unemployment Rate Drops to 6.5 percent in January

- ◆ RI's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate for January was 6.5 percent, down three-tenths of a percentage point from December.
- ◆ RI's January unemployment rate was down two and one-tenth percentage points from last January's figure of 8.6 percent.
- ◆ The national rate was 5.7 percent, up one-tenth of a percentage point from December and down nine-tenth of a percentage point from the previous year.
- ◆ In January 2015, Rhode Island (6.5%) had the eighth highest unemployment rate in the nation, trailing Mississippi (7.1%), Nevada (7.1%), Louisiana (7.0%), California (6.9%), Tennessee (6.7%), South Carolina (6.6%) and Arizona (6.6%).
- ◆ The January 2015 unemployment rate decreased in twenty-four states, including Rhode Island (-0.3), Maine (-0.3) and Massachusetts (-0.2). Eight states' rates increased, while eighteen states' rates, including Connecticut, Vermont and New Hampshire, were unchanged.
- ◆ Rates in other New England states for January 2015 – Connecticut 6.3 percent, Maine 5.2 percent, Massachusetts 5.1 percent, Vermont 4.1 percent and New Hampshire 4.0 percent.
- ◆ The number of employed RI residents totaled 513,100 in January 2015, up 1,500 from the previous month. Between January 2014 and January 2015, the number of employed RI residents was up 5,500.
- ◆ Over the month, the number of unemployed Rhode Island residents decreased by 1,500 to 35,700. From January 2014 to January 2015, the number of unemployed residents decreased by 11,800.

Labor Supply & Demand in Rhode Island

Unemployment insurance claimants represent an able and available supply of trained workers who are currently seeking work. Online postings represent a current demand for labor detailing the types of occupations employers are seeking to fill. A comparison of these two groups provides an indication of occupational groups for which labor supply is sufficient to meet employer's current needs; and for which there is a shortage of trained workers available to meet employers' current demands.

On December 31, 2014, the Department of Labor and Training's EmployRI on-line network recorded 15,409 on-line job postings from RI based businesses. Healthcare Practitioners & Technical occupations, numbering 2,522, accounted for the most postings during the fourth quarter of 2014, followed by Management (2,189) and Sales and Related (2,183) occupational groups. Also in December, some 10,520 individuals collected Unemployment Insurance (UI) benefits.

A comparison of the on-line job posting to the UI claimants currently seeking work indicates that there was less than one (0.7) claimant for each on-line posting, and a surplus of available labor (more claimants per posting) for several education levels and occupational groups.

A labor surplus was associated with the Construction & Extraction and Building & Grounds Cleaning & Maintenance occupational groups for which there were more UI claimants with this type of work experience for every on-line posting.

Despite the fact that there are more on-line postings than available claimants this quarter, there still remains shortages in several occupational groups. Postings for Healthcare Practitioners & Technical and Computer & Mathematical occupational groups outnumber claimants by ten to one. These statistics indicate that employers seeking to hire workers to fill vacancies in these occupational groups would have more

difficulty finding qualified workers than those employers attempting to fill vacancies in occupational groups for which there are significantly more unemployed claimants than on-line postings. For more information, visit www.dlt.ri.gov/lmi/publications/supply&demand.htm

Seasonally Adjusted Labor Force Statistics (in thousands)

	Rhode Island			United States		
	Jan 15	Dec 14	Jan 14	Jan 15	Dec 14	Jan 14
Civilian Labor Force	548.8	548.8	555.1	157,180	156,129	155,486
Resident Employment	513.1	511.6	507.6	148,201	147,442	145,206
Unemployment	35.7	37.2	47.5	8,979	8,688	10,280
Unemployment Rate	6.5%	6.8%	8.6%	5.7%	5.6%	6.6%

Rhode Island Jobs Increase by 2,400 in January

Estimated nonfarm payroll in Rhode Island totaled 481,700 in January, reflecting a gain of 2,400 jobs from the revised December estimate of 479,300. The January employment level marks the highest level since June 2008 (482,800). The number of Rhode Island-based jobs is up 6,600 since January 2014.

The Other Services sector (industries within this sector include repair and maintenance services, personal and laundry services, and religious, civic and professional organizations) added 600 jobs over the month, the largest gain among all fifteen industry sectors. Jobs in the Other Services sector are up 1,100 from a year ago.

Employment in Educational Services rose by 500 since December, as local schools returned to work from the holiday break. A gain of 400 jobs was reported in both the Transportation & Utilities and Arts, Entertainment & Recreation sectors. In all, the number of jobs within the Transportation & Utilities sector has increased by 800 since January 2014.

Also in January, payrolls in the Construction (+300) and Accommodation & Food Services (+200) sectors continued to rise as both sectors experienced three consecutive months of payroll growth. Construction employment is up 700 since November 2014, while Accommodation & Food Services employment is up 800 during these three months.

Finally, the Manufacturing, Financial Activities and Retail Trade sectors each added 100 jobs in January.

Small job losses in January were reported in three employment sectors. The Health Care & Social Assistance, Information and Wholesale Trade sectors each lost 100 jobs from December, while employment remained unchanged in the Professional & Business Services, Government and Mining & Logging sectors.

Nationally, employment increased by 239,000 or 0.2 percent in January, while job growth in the New England region was modest, increasing by 6,300 (+0.1%) jobs. In addition to the 2,400 jobs added in Rhode Island, Connecticut added 6,400 jobs since December 2014, followed by Massachusetts (+2,600) and Vermont (+1,100).

Establishment Employment in Rhode Island					
	Seasonally Adjusted			Net Change From	
	Jan-15	Dec-14	Jan-14	Dec-14	Jan-14
Total Nonfarm	481.7	479.3	475.1	2.4	6.6
Total Private	421.6	419.2	414.9	2.4	6.7
Natural Resources & Mining	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.0	0.0
Construction	16.9	16.6	16.3	0.3	0.6
Manufacturing	41.5	41.4	40.6	0.1	0.9
Wholesale Trade	16.9	17.0	16.8	-0.1	0.1
Retail Trade	47.1	47.0	46.8	0.1	0.3
Transportation & Utilities	11.8	11.4	11.0	0.4	0.8
Information	8.7	8.8	9.0	-0.1	-0.3
Financial Activities	32.6	32.5	32.4	0.1	0.2
Professional & Business Services	60.6	60.6	59.5	0.0	1.1
Educational Services	24.7	24.2	24.5	0.5	0.2
Health Care & Social Assistance	80.6	80.7	80.5	-0.1	0.1
Arts, Entertainment & Recreation	9.0	8.6	8.9	0.4	0.1
Accommodation & Food Services	47.2	47.0	45.7	0.2	1.5
Other Services	23.8	23.2	22.7	0.6	1.1
Government	60.1	60.1	60.2	0.0	-0.1

Manufacturing Employment in Rhode Island					
Not Seasonally Adjusted					
	Employment			Net Change From:	
	(in thousands)				
	Jan 15	Dec 14	Jan 14	Dec 14	Jan 14
Manufacturing	41.5	41.8	40.3	-300	1,200
Durable Goods	26.9	27.1	25.7	-200	1200
Fabricated Metal Product Mfg.	5.7	5.8	5.6	-100	100
Computer & Electronic Product Mfg.	3.2	3.3	3.4	-100	-200
Transportation Equipment Mfg.	4.7	4.7	4.0	0	700
Miscellaneous DG Manufacturing	5.5	5.6	5.7	-100	-200
Jewelry & Silverware	3.3	3.4	3.5	-100	-200
Non-Durable Goods	14.6	14.7	14.6	-100	0
Chemical Manufacturing	3.1	3.1	3.2	0	-100

Maine (-3,400) and New Hampshire (-2,800) were the regional states to report January job declines.

In January 2015, nonfarm payroll employment increased in 39 states, and decreased in 10 states and was unchanged in one state. The largest over-the-month percentage increase in employment occurred in Idaho (+1.4%), followed by Hawaii (+0.9%) and Utah (+0.7%). The largest over-the-month percentage declines in employment occurred in Maine (-0.6%), followed by Louisiana and New Hampshire (-0.4% each).

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.

Job Growth by Wage Class



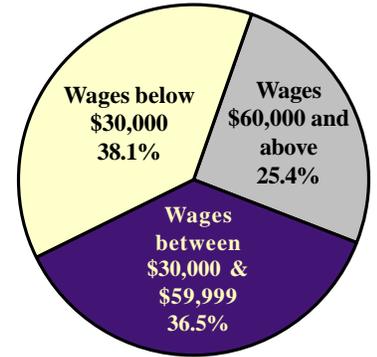
Private sector wages averaged \$45,769 in 2013. There were four private economic sectors in 2014 that earned wages in excess of \$60,000. Employment from these four sectors accounted for 22 percent of the state's total private employment. A total of seven economic sectors averaged an annual wage between \$30,000 and \$60,000, representing nearly 48 percent of Rhode Island's private employment in 2014. A total of four private employment sectors earned less than \$30,000, accounting for 30 percent of total private employment in 2014.

In 2014, an average of 6,200 private sector jobs was added to the Rhode Island economy. Employment increased in thirteen economic sectors, resulting in gains of 6,300 private sector jobs, while one economic sector saw their employment total decrease, resulting in a loss of 100 private sector jobs.

Of the 6,300 jobs that were created in 2014:

- approximately a quarter of the jobs were added in sectors with annual average wages of \$60,000 or higher.
- nearly 37 percent of the private sector jobs were added in sectors with annual average wages between \$30,000- \$59,999.
- sectors with annual average wages below \$30,000 accounted for 38 percent of the jobs added between 2013 and 2014.

Percentage of Job Gains by Wage Class - 2014



In 2014, three private sectors with annual wages exceeding \$60,000 added jobs. Those sectors include Professional & Managerial Services (+1,300), Financial Activities (+200) and Wholesale Trade (+100). The Manufacturing sector added 900 jobs in 2014, accounting for 39 percent of the 2,300 jobs created within those sectors with average wages between \$30,000 and \$59,999. In all, six sectors in this wage class added jobs between 2013 and 2014. Employment in Natural Resources & Mining was unchanged. Among the sectors earning below \$30,000, the Accommodation & Food Services sector accounted for 1,100 of the 2,400 jobs added, while Retail Trade accounted for 500 of the added jobs. These sectors' wages averaged \$17,339 and \$27,413, respectively, in 2013. All of the 100 jobs that were lost were in the Information sector, a sector in which wages averaged over \$60,000 in 2014.

Note: Employment figures are derived from the Current Employment Statistics Survey, a monthly survey of business establishments that provides estimates of employment for the nation as a whole and all states. Annual average wage figures are derived from the Quarterly Census of Employment & Wages (QCEW) program, a program which produces a comprehensive tabulation of employment and wage information for workers covered by State unemployment insurance laws. The annual average wage reflect the average wage paid in the sector (i.e. average wage off all workers employed in the economic sector) and not the wage of individual jobs.

Characteristics of the Insured Unemployed

A total of 13,730 individuals were eligible to collect Unemployment Insurance benefits in January 2015, down 2,149 (-13.5%) from the 15,879 collecting these benefits in January 2014. In all, 34.2 percent of Rhode Island's unemployed workers were eligible to collect unemployment benefits in January.

Of the 13,730 individuals collecting Unemployment Insurance benefits, 17.3 percent faced long-term unemployment (defined as collecting unemployment insurance for fifteen weeks or more), down from 20.1 percent in January 2014.

On an industry basis, 18.5 percent (2,541) of the State's insured unemployed workers came from the Construction sector. There were also 2,463 individuals with an attachment to the Administration & Waste Services sector, accounting for 17.9 percent of all insured unemployed workers. An additional 11.2 percent (1,536) of those collecting UI benefits in January had worked in the Accommodation & Food Services sector. Large numbers of insured unemployed were also reported in Health Care & Social Assistance (1,127), Manufacturing (1,017) and Retail Trade (985). For more information, go to www.dlt.ri.gov/lmi/uiadmin/characteristics.htm.

Characteristics of the Insured Unemployed, January 2015

	Total	Long-Term	Long-Term Percent
Total	13,730	2,381	17.3%
Male	8,835	1,142	12.9%
Female	4,895	1,239	25.3%
Selected Industries	13,730	2,381	17.3%
Construction	2,541	136	5.4%
Manufacturing	1,017	299	29.4%
Wholesale Trade	394	125	31.7%
Retail Trade	985	237	24.1%
Transportation & Warehousing	330	47	14.2%
Information	166	35	21.1%
Finance & Insurance	367	151	41.1%
Real Estate	256	53	20.7%
Professional & Tech. Services	501	129	25.7%
Administrative & Waste Services	2,463	227	9.2%
Educational Services	186	63	33.9%
Health Care & Social Assistance	1,127	420	37.3%
Arts, Entertainment & Recreation	690	35	5.1%
Accommodation & Food Services	1,536	198	12.9%
Other Services	413	116	28.1%
Public Administration	98	19	19.4%

Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers

				% Change
	Jan 15	Dec 14	Jan 14	Prev. Year
All Items	233.7	234.8	233.9	-0.1%

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 22,100 advertisements for Rhode Island based jobs this month, an increase of 1,600 (+7.8%) from the December 2014 postings, and up 2,300 (+11.6%) from the advertised vacancies posted online in January 2014. There were an estimated 3.99 advertised vacancies for every 100 persons in Rhode Island's labor force.

Help Wanted OnLine Advertised Job Vacancies

	Jan 15	Dec 14	Jan 14
RI Vacancies	22,100	20,500	19,800
<i>Labor Demand Rate *</i>			
Rhode Island	3.99	3.72	3.59
US	3.37	3.28	3.12
Connecticut	3.83	3.67	3.58
Massachusetts	4.46	4.33	4.15
Maine	4.06	4.10	3.44
New Hampshire	3.49	3.66	3.61
Vermont	3.90	3.84	3.21
<i>Supply/Demand Rate **</i>			
Rhode Island	1.61	1.81	2.40
US	1.70	1.70	2.12

* 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 January

	2015	2014		2015	2014
Barrington	5.0	6.0	Newport	7.2	9.2
Bristol	6.8	8.8	North Kingstown	5.9	7.8
Burrillville	7.3	9.7	North Providence	7.1	9.3
Central Falls	9.0	11.8	North Smithfield	6.0	7.8
Charlestown	8.5	11.8	Pawtucket	8.2	10.9
Coventry	7.0	9.2	Portsmouth	7.1	9.1
Cranston	7.0	9.4	Providence	8.5	10.9
Cumberland	6.1	7.9	Richmond	4.8	6.4
East Greenwich	6.6	8.5	Scituate	7.0	9.0
East Providence	7.7	10.3	Smithfield	6.9	8.8
Exeter	6.8	8.8	South Kingstown	6.9	8.9
Foster	7.1	9.3	Tiverton	7.1	9.6
Glocester	5.8	7.3	Warren	7.4	10.2
Hopkinton	7.4	9.6	Warwick	6.3	8.4
Jamestown	5.2	6.4	West Greenwich	6.9	9.2
Johnston	7.6	10.2	West Warwick	7.9	10.4
Lincoln	6.2	7.7	Westerly	9.1	11.2
Little Compton	6.5	8.6	Woonsocket	9.2	11.9
Middletown	7.0	9.0			
Narragansett	5.1	6.8	State of R.I.	7.3	9.6
New Shoreham	25.6	31.5	United States	6.1	7.0

Nationally, there were an estimated 3.37 advertised vacancies for every 100 persons in labor force. Among the New England states, Massachusetts (4.46) and Maine (4.06) had higher vacancy rates than Rhode Island.

There were an estimated 1.61 unemployed Rhode Island residents for every advertised job in January, down from 1.81 unemployed residents estimated per December advertisements. Nationally, there were 1.70 unemployed persons for every job opening advertised in January, unchanged from 1.70 in December.

Unemployment Insurance Claims Activity

Regular Claims	Jan.	Dec.	Jan.	% Change		Annual		
	2015	2014	2014	Dec. 14	Jan. 14	2014	2013	% Change
Initial Claims	8,978	9,808	10,297	-8.5%	-12.8%	76,712	79,864	-3.9%
Number of Payments	51,643	46,812	61,024	10.3%	-15.4%	559,852	611,257	-8.4%
Amount of Payments (gross millions)	\$16.7	\$15.1	\$20.5	10.6%	-18.5%	\$184.2	\$207.7	-11.3%
Exhaustions (Final Payments)	894	1,111	1,193	-19.5%	-25.1%	13,803	16,329	-15.5%

Private Sector Job Change by Wages 2013 - 2014

Sectors	Numeric Change	Percent Change	2013 Average Annual Wage
Total Jobs Created	6,300	100.0%	\$45,328*
60,000 & above	1,600	25.4%	\$77,225
Professional & Managerial Services	1,300	81.2%	\$83,306
Financial Activities	200	12.5%	\$75,850
Wholesale Trade	100	6.3%	\$67,540
\$30,000 - \$59,999	2,300	36.5%	\$45,334
Manufacturing	900	39.1%	\$53,378
Administrative & Waste Services	400	17.5%	\$33,115
Construction	300	13.0%	\$54,244
Transportation & Utilities	300	13.0%	\$44,053
Educational Services	300	13.0%	\$49,890
Health Care & Social Assistance	100	4.4%	\$42,540
Below \$30,000	2,400	38.1%	\$23,630
Accommodation & Food Services	1,100	45.8%	\$17,339
Retail Trade	500	20.8%	\$27,413
Arts, Entertainment & Recreation	400	16.7%	\$25,389
Other Services	400	16.7%	\$29,042
Total Jobs Lost	-100	100.0%	\$65,790*
60,000 & above	-100	-100.0%	\$65,790
Information	-100	-100.0%	\$65,790
\$30,000 - \$59,999	0	0.0%	\$0
Below \$30,000	0	0.0%	\$0

**2013 average annual wage for those sectors which created or lost jobs*