



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

- ◆ RI's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate for January was 5.3 percent, down one-tenth of a percentage point from December.
- ◆ RI's January unemployment rate was down one and two-tenths percentage points from last January's figure of 6.5 percent.
- ◆ The national rate was 4.9 percent, down one-tenth of a percentage point from December and down eight-tenths of a percentage point from the previous year.
- ◆ In January 2016, Rhode Island (5.3%) had the eighteenth highest unemployment rate in the nation. Seven states had unemployment rates of six percent or higher.
- ◆ The January 2016 unemployment rate decreased in twenty-eight states, including Maine (-0.2), Massachusetts (-0.2), New Hampshire (-0.2), Vermont (-0.1) and Rhode Island (-0.1). Eight states' rates, including Connecticut (+0.1), increased, while fourteen states' rates were unchanged.
- ◆ Rates in other New England states for January 2016 – Connecticut 5.5 percent, Massachusetts 4.7 percent, Maine 3.8 percent, Vermont 3.4 percent and New Hampshire 2.9 percent.
- ◆ The number of employed RI residents totaled 522,400 in January 2016, up 200 from the previous month. Between January 2015 and January 2016, the number of employed RI residents was up 3,600.
- ◆ Over the month, the number of unemployed Rhode Island residents decreased by 600 to 29,400. From January 2015 to January 2016, the number of unemployed residents decreased by 6,600.

2015 Jobs Report

Rhode Island Establishment Employment averaged 484,500 in 2015, up 5,700 (1.2%) from the 2014 average of 478,800. Employment in the Private sector increased by an average of 5,800 (1.4%) jobs, while Government jobs decreased by 100 (0.2%) as cut-backs in the state and local segments over shadowed a 300 gain in federal government employment.

Within the private sector Professional, Scientific, & Technical Services and Administrative & Waste Services added the most jobs, each adding 1,000 jobs. Together with the 500 job gain recorded in the Management of Companies sector, these three sectors which make up Professional Business Services added 2,400 jobs, an increase of 3.9 percent.

Other sectors adding jobs over the year include Accommodation & Food Services (+900), Retail Trade (+600), Construction (+500), Transportation & Utilities (+500), Financial Activities (+500), Manufacturing (+400), Arts, Entertainment & Recreation (+100) and Other Services (+100). The 500 job gain recorded in the Construction sector marks the largest annual average employment gain since 2006.

Information and Educational Services reported job losses over the year of 200 and 100, respectively. Employment in Mining & Logging, Wholesale Trade and Health Care & Social Assistance was unchanged. This is the first year annual average employment in Health Care & Social Assistance has failed to increase since 2000.

Through December 2015, the state had regained 32,600 (82%) of the 39,800 jobs lost during the "Great Recession". Six private sectors - Construction (27.3%), Manufacturing (5.6%), Wholesale Trade (58.3%), Retail Trade (17.6%), Information (0%)* and Financial Activities (46.2%) - as well as Government (0%)*, have not regained all jobs lost during the recession.

*These two sectors have continued to lose jobs since the recession ended.

Seasonally Adjusted Labor Force Statistics

(in thousands)

	Rhode Island			United States		
	Jan 16	Dec 15	Jan 15	Jan 16	Dec 15	Jan 15
Civilian Labor Force	551.8	552.2	554.7	158,335	157,833	157,025
Resident Employment	522.4	522.2	518.8	150,544	149,929	148,104
Unemployment	29.4	30.0	36.0	7,791	7,904	8,920
Unemployment Rate	5.3%	5.4%	6.5%	4.9%	5.0%	5.7%

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Rhode Island Jobs Decrease by 600 in January

Estimated nonfarm payroll in Rhode Island totaled 487,900 in January, reflecting a loss of 600 jobs from the revised December estimate of 488,500. The January jobs report marks the first month of job losses since September 2015. Over the year, 4,100 jobs have been added since January 2015.

Educational Services experienced the largest over-the-month decline falling 1,100 since December to 22,700 jobs, the lowest job level for this sector since July 2009. This sector averaged a loss of 600 jobs over the past three months and is down 2,400 jobs from January 2015.

January job losses were also reported in the Health Care & Social Assistance (-500), Transportation & Utilities (-400), Wholesale Trade (-300), Retail Trade (-300), Accommodation & Food Services (-100), Information (-100) and Arts, Entertainment & Recreation (-100) sectors. Over the year, the Accommodation & Food Services (+700), Transportation & Utilities (+400), Arts, Entertainment & Recreation (+200) and Information (+100) sectors posted job gains while the Wholesale Trade (-700), Health Care & Social Assistance (-100) and Retail Trade (-100) sectors showed job losses.

Professional & Business Services reported the largest over the month increase from December, adding 1,400 jobs, with the bulk of the increase occurring in the Administrative & Waste Services sector, which posted a gain of 1,200 over the month. This sector includes establishments that offer routine support activities to businesses and in some cases households such as office administration, temporary help, security, cleaning, and waste disposal services. This sector is up 2,900 jobs since January 2015.

The Construction sector also posted an over the month job increase, adding 400 jobs since December to reach 18,800 jobs in January. The Construction sector is up 2,200 jobs since last January and is at its highest job level since December 2008. Other sectors showing a job increase from December include Government (+300) and Financial Activities (+200). The Financial Activities sector also posted an over-the-year increase of 800 jobs, while the Government sector lost 400 jobs since January 2015.

The Manufacturing, Other Services, and Mining & Logging sectors were unchanged over the month. Over the year, the Manufacturing sector increased by 300 jobs, while the Other Services sector was up 200 and the Mining & Logging sector was unchanged.

In January 2016, the national workforce grew at a rate of 0.1 percent from December 2015, while the New England regional workforce remained unchanged. The number of jobs within the nation increased by 172,000, while the number of jobs in the six state region rose by 2,800. Maine and Vermont each added 2,700 jobs in January, the largest job gain within the entire New England region. Connecticut added 900 jobs since December 2015, while job losses were reported in Massachusetts (-2,500), Rhode Island (-600) and New Hampshire (-400).

Nonfarm payroll employment increased in 30 states in January and decreased in 20 states. The largest over-the-month percentage increase in employment occurred in Vermont (+0.9%) followed by Nevada (+0.6%). The largest over-the-month percentage decline in employment occurred in South Carolina (-0.5%), followed by Arkansas (-0.4%).

Establishment Employment in Rhode Island Seasonally Adjusted

	Net Change From				
	<u>Jan-16</u>	<u>Dec-15</u>	<u>Jan-15</u>	<u>Dec-15</u>	<u>Jan-15</u>
Total Nonfarm	487.9	488.5	483.8	-0.6	4.1
Total Private	427.6	428.5	423.1	-0.9	4.5
Natural Resources & Mining	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.0	0.0
Construction	18.8	18.4	16.6	0.4	2.2
Manufacturing	41.6	41.6	41.3	0.0	0.3
Wholesale Trade	16.3	16.6	17.0	-0.3	-0.7
Retail Trade	47.5	47.8	47.6	-0.3	-0.1
Transportation & Utilities	11.8	12.2	11.4	-0.4	0.4
Information	8.6	8.7	8.5	-0.1	0.1
Financial Activities	33.4	33.2	32.6	0.2	0.8
Professional & Business Services	65.7	64.3	62.8	1.4	2.9
Educational Services	22.7	23.8	25.1	-1.1	-2.4
Health Care & Social Assistance	80.6	81.1	80.7	-0.5	-0.1
Arts, Entertainment & Recreation	9.3	9.4	9.1	-0.1	0.2
Accommodation & Food Services	47.8	47.9	47.1	-0.1	0.7
Other Services	23.3	23.3	23.1	0.0	0.2
Government	60.3	60.0	60.7	0.3	-0.4

Manufacturing Employment in Rhode Island Not Seasonally Adjusted

	Employment				
	(in thousands)				
	Net Change From :				
	<u>Jan 16</u>	<u>Dec 15</u>	<u>Jan 15</u>	<u>Dec 15</u>	<u>Jan 15</u>
Manufacturing	41.6	41.9	41.1	-300	500
Durable Goods	26.3	26.4	26.2	-100	100
Fabricated Metal Product Mfg.	5.3	5.4	5.5	-100	-200
Computer & Electronic Product Mfg.	3.1	3.2	3.2	-100	-100
Transportation Equipment Mfg.	4.8	4.8	4.7	0	100
Miscellaneous DG Manufacturing	5.7	5.8	5.8	-100	-100
Jewelry & Silverware	3.5	3.5	3.6	0	-100
Non-Durable Goods	15.3	15.5	14.9	-200	400
Chemical Manufacturing	3.0	3.0	3.1	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.



2015 Job Growth by Wage Class

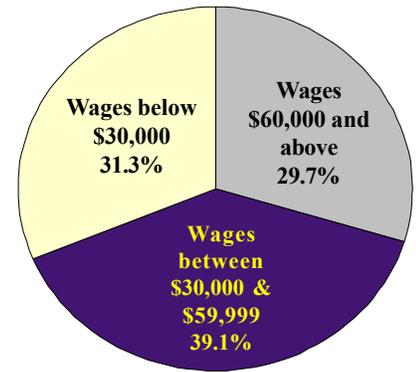
There were four private economic sectors that earned wages in excess of \$60,000 in 2015. Employment from these four sectors accounted for 22.2 percent of the state's total private employment. A total of seven economic sectors averaged an annual wage between \$30,000 and \$60,000, representing nearly 48 percent of Rhode Island's private sector employment in 2015. Three private employment sectors earned less than \$30,000 in 2015, accounting for 30 percent of total private employment.

In 2015, an average of 6,100 private sector jobs was added to the Rhode Island economy. Employment increased in eleven economic sectors, resulting in gains of 6,400 private sector jobs, while two economic sectors experienced an employment decrease, resulting in a loss of 300 private sector jobs. Employment in two sectors remained unchanged over the year.

Of the 6,400 jobs that were created in 2015:

- approximately 30 percent of the jobs were added in sectors with annual average wages of \$60,000 or higher.
- Just over 39 percent of the private sector jobs were added in sectors with annual average wages between \$30,000- \$59,999.
- those sectors with annual average wages below \$30,000 accounted for over 31 percent of the jobs added between 2014 and 2015.

Percentage of Job Gains by Wage Class - 2015



In 2015, three private sectors with annual wages exceeding \$60,000 added jobs. Those sectors were Professional & Managerial Services (+1,400), Financial Activities (+400) and Wholesale Trade (+100). The Construction sector added 500 jobs in 2015, accounting for 20 percent of the 2,500 jobs created within those sectors averaging wages between \$30,000 and \$59,999. In all, five sectors in this wage class added jobs between 2014 and 2015. Employment in Health Care & Social Assistance and Mining & logging was unchanged. Among the sectors earning below \$30,000, the Accommodation & Food Services sector accounted for 1,100 of the 2,000 jobs added, while Retail Trade accounted for 700 of the added jobs. These sectors' wages averaged \$17,844 and \$28,558, respectively, in 2014. Of the 300 jobs that were lost in all of 2015, the Information sector lost 200 jobs, a sector which averaged over \$60,000 in 2014, while the Educational Services sector lost 100 jobs and averaged wages between \$30,000 and \$59,999.

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 of all workers employed in the economic sector) and not the wage of individual jobs.

Characteristics of the Insured Unemployed

A total of 12,203 individuals were eligible to collect Unemployment Insurance benefits in January 2016, down 1,527 (-11.1%) from the 13,730 collecting these benefits in January 2015. In all, 35.7 percent of Rhode Island's unemployed workers were eligible to collect unemployment benefits in January.

Of the 12,203 individuals collecting Unemployment Insurance benefits, 16.8 percent faced long-term unemployment (defined as collecting unemployment insurance for fifteen weeks or more), down from 17.3 percent in January 2015.

On an industry basis, 19.9 percent (2,425) of the State's insured unemployed workers came from the Administrative & Waste Services sector. There were also 2,017 individuals with an attachment to the Construction sector, accounting for 16.5 percent of all insured unemployed workers. An additional 10.5 percent (1,283) of those collecting UI benefits in January had worked in the Accommodation & Food Services sector. Large numbers of insured unemployed were also reported in Manufacturing (1,051), Health Care & Social Assistance (964) and Retail Trade (922). For more information, go to www.dlt.ri.gov/lmi/uiadmin/characteristics.htm.

Characteristics of the Insured Unemployed, January 2016

	Total	Long-Term	Percent
Total	12,203	2,046	16.8%
Male	7,708	968	12.6%
Female	4,495	1,078	24.0%
Selected Industries	12,203	2,046	16.8%
Construction	2,017	112	5.6%
Manufacturing	1,051	272	25.9%
Wholesale Trade	442	114	25.8%
Retail Trade	922	224	24.3%
Transportation & Warehousing	276	39	14.1%
Information	118	37	31.4%
Finance & Insurance	331	113	34.1%
Real Estate	216	42	19.4%
Professional & Tech. Services	438	110	25.1%
Administrative & Waste Services	2,425	233	9.6%
Educational Services	192	80	41.7%
Health Care & Social Assistance	964	330	34.2%
Arts, Entertainment & Recreation	546	28	5.1%
Accommodation & Food Services	1,283	139	10.8%
Other Services	340	72	21.2%
Public Administration	91	13	14.3%

**Consumer Price Index for
All Urban Consumers**

				% Change
	Jan. 16	Dec. 15	Jan. 15	Prev. Year
All Items	236.9	236.5	233.7	1.4%

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 18,800 advertisements for Rhode Island based jobs this month, a decrease of 600 (-3.1%) from the December 2015 postings, and down 3,000 (-13.8%) from the advertised vacancies posted online in January 2015. There were an estimated 3.39 advertised vacancies for every 100 persons in Rhode Island's labor force.

**Help Wanted OnLine
Advertised Job Vacancies**

	Jan 16	Dec 15	Jan 15
RI Vacancies	18,800	19,400	21,800
Labor Demand Rate *			
Rhode Island	3.39	3.50	3.97
US	3.48	3.47	3.36
Connecticut	3.75	4.01	3.85
Massachusetts	4.63	4.72	4.45
Maine	3.06	3.15	4.11
New Hampshire	3.83	3.72	3.52
Vermont	3.09	3.42	3.95
Supply/Demand Rate **			
Rhode Island	1.56	1.55	1.65
US	1.42	1.44	1.69

* 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**

	2016	2015		2016	2015
Barrington	4.0	5.1	Newport	6.2	7.4
Bristol	5.8	7.0	North Kingstown	5.1	6.1
Burrillville	6.4	7.5	North Providence	6.1	7.3
Central Falls	8.0	9.4	North Smithfield	5.5	6.2
Charlestown	6.9	8.9	Pawtucket	7.1	8.4
Coventry	5.8	7.2	Portsmouth	5.8	7.4
Cranston	6.0	7.2	Providence	7.5	8.8
Cumberland	5.2	6.3	Richmond	3.9	5.0
East Greenwich	5.0	6.7	Scituate	5.7	7.2
East Providence	6.6	7.9	Smithfield	5.6	7.0
Exeter	5.4	7.1	South Kingstown	5.6	7.0
Foster	6.3	7.3	Tiverton	6.1	7.3
Glocester	4.9	5.9	Warren	6.3	7.6
Hopkinton	6.1	7.6	Warwick	5.2	6.4
Jamestown	4.4	5.3	West Greenwich	5.6	7.1
Johnston	6.5	7.8	West Warwick	6.5	8.1
Lincoln	5.1	6.3	Westerly	7.6	9.6
Little Compton	4.7	6.6	Woonsocket	8.2	9.4
Middletown	5.9	7.2			
Narragansett	4.5	5.1	State of R.I.	6.2	7.5
New Shoreham	24.4	26.6	United States	4.9	5.3

Nationally, there were an estimated 3.48 advertised vacancies for every 100 persons in labor force. Among the New England states, Massachusetts (4.63) New Hampshire (3.83) and Connecticut (3.75) had higher vacancy rates than Rhode Island.

There were an estimated 1.56 unemployed Rhode Island residents for every advertised job in January, up from 1.55 unemployed residents estimated per December advertisements. Nationally, there were 1.42 unemployed persons for every job opening advertised in January, down from 1.44 in December.

Unemployment Insurance Claims Activity

	Jan.	Dec.	Jan.	% Change		Annual		
	2016	2015	2015	Dec. 15	Jan. 15	2015	2014	% Change
Regular Claims								
Initial Claims	8,409	8,682	8,978	-3.1%	-6.3%	67,234	76,712	-12.4%
Number of Payments	44,184	35,096	51,643	25.9%	-14.4%	486,166	559,852	-13.2%
Amount of Payments (gross millions)	\$14.6	\$11.5	\$16.7	27.0%	-12.6%	\$158.3	\$184.2	-14.1%
Exhaustions (Final Payments)	693	757	894	-8.5%	-22.5%	10,081	13,803	-27.0%

**RHODE ISLAND DEPARTMENT OF LABOR AND TRAINING
RHODE ISLAND ESTABLISHMENT EMPLOYMENT
ANNUAL AVERAGE (IN THOUSANDS)**

	<u>2015</u>	<u>2014</u>	<u>CHANGE</u>	
TOTAL NONFARM	484.5	478.8	5.7	1.2%
Total Private	424.2	418.4	5.8	1.4%
GOODS PRODUCING	58.5	57.5	1.0	1.7%
Natural Resources & Mining	0.2	0.2	0.0	0.0%
Construction	17.0	16.5	0.5	3.0%
Specialty Trade Contractors	11.0	10.6	0.4	3.8%
Manufacturing	41.3	40.9	0.4	1.0%
Durable Goods	26.1	26.0	0.1	0.4%
Fabricated Metal Product Mfg.	5.4	5.6	-0.2	-3.6%
Computer & Electronic Product Mfg.	3.2	3.3	-0.1	-3.0%
Transportation Equipment Mfg.	4.8	4.4	0.4	9.1%
Miscellaneous Durable Goods Mfg.	5.8	5.7	0.1	1.8%
Jewelry & Silverware	3.5	3.4	0.1	2.9%
Non-Durable Goods	15.2	14.9	0.3	2.0%
Chemical Mfg.	3.0	3.1	-0.1	-3.2%
SERVICE PROVIDING	426.0	421.3	4.7	1.1%
Trade, Transportation & Utilities	76.1	75.1	1.0	1.3%
Wholesale Trade	16.9	16.9	0.0	0.0%
Retail Trade	47.8	47.2	0.6	1.3%
Health & Personal Care Stores	4.8	4.6	0.2	4.3%
Department Stores	4.0	4.0	0.0	0.0%
Transportation, Warehousing & Utilities	11.5	11.0	0.5	4.5%
Transportation & Warehousing	10.4	10.0	0.4	4.0%
Information	8.6	8.8	-0.2	-2.3%
Publishing	1.8	1.9	-0.1	-5.3%
Financial Activities (including Real Estate)	32.9	32.4	0.5	1.5%
Finance & Insurance	26.9	26.5	0.4	1.5%
Credit Intermediation & Related Activities	9.8	9.7	0.1	1.0%
Insurance Carriers & Related Activities	11.7	11.6	0.1	0.9%
Professional & Business Services	63.4	61.0	2.4	3.9%
Professional, Scientific, & Technical Services	23.8	22.8	1.0	4.4%
Management of Companies & Enterprises	12.5	12.0	0.5	4.2%
Administrative & Waste Services	27.1	26.1	1.0	3.8%
Employment Services	9.9	9.2	0.7	7.6%
Educational & Health Services	105.4	105.5	-0.1	-0.1%
Educational Services	24.7	24.8	-0.1	-0.4%
Colleges & Universities	16.3	16.6	-0.3	-1.8%
Health Care & Social Assistance	80.7	80.7	0.0	0.0%
Ambulatory Health Care Services	25.9	25.8	0.1	0.4%
Hospitals	23.4	23.3	0.1	0.4%
Nursing & Residential Care Facilities	18.3	18.5	-0.2	-1.1%
Social Assistance	13.2	13.1	0.1	0.8%
Leisure & Hospitality	56.3	55.2	1.1	2.0%
Arts, Entertainment, and Recreation	8.9	8.8	0.1	1.1%
Accommodation & Food Services	47.3	46.4	0.9	1.9%
Accommodation	4.5	4.4	0.1	2.3%
Food Services & Drinking Places	42.8	42.0	0.8	1.9%
Full-service Restaurants	21.3	20.9	0.4	1.9%
Limited-service Eating Places	16.2	15.8	0.4	2.5%
Other Services	23.0	22.9	0.1	0.4%
Government	60.3	60.4	-0.1	-0.2%
Federal Government	10.5	10.2	0.3	2.9%
Other Federal Govt. exc Defense & Postal	3.4	3.3	0.1	3.0%
Department of Defense	4.5	4.3	0.2	4.7%
US Postal Service	2.6	2.6	0.0	0.0%
State Government	16.0	16.2	-0.2	-1.2%
Local Government	33.9	34.0	-0.1	-0.3%
Local Education	21.7	21.7	0.0	0.0%
Local Non-Education	12.2	12.3	-0.1	-0.8%