



### Rhode Island's Unemployment Rate Drops to 5.9 percent in June

- ◆ RI's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate for June was 5.9 percent, down one-tenth of a percentage point from the May rate of 6.0 percent.
- ◆ RI's June unemployment rate was down one and eight-tenths percentage points from last June's figure of 7.7 percent.
- ◆ The national rate was 5.3 percent, down two-tenths of a percentage point from May and down eight-tenths of a percentage point from the previous year.
- ◆ In June 2015, Rhode Island (5.9%) had the twelfth highest unemployment rate in the nation. Eleven states had unemployment rates of six percent or higher.
- ◆ The June 2015 unemployment rate decreased in twenty-one states, including Connecticut (-0.3) and Rhode Island (-0.1). Seventeen states' rates were unchanged, including Massachusetts, Maine, Vermont and New Hampshire, while twelve states' rates increased.
- ◆ Rates in other New England states for June 2015 – Connecticut 5.7 percent, Maine 4.7 percent, Massachusetts 4.6 percent, New Hampshire 3.8 percent and Vermont 3.6 percent.
- ◆ The number of employed RI residents totaled 525,600 in June 2015, up 2,400 from the previous month. Between June 2014 and June 2015, the number of employed RI residents was up 13,500.
- ◆ Over the month, the number of unemployed Rhode Island residents decreased by 100 to 33,000. From June 2014 to June 2015, the number of unemployed residents decreased by 9,900.

### Alternate Measures of Labor Underutilization for Rhode Island

There are six alternative measures of labor underutilization available through the Current Population Survey (CPS) which provide narrower as well as broader definitions of labor underutilization. These alternative measures, which are referred to as U-1 through U-6, are available on a quarterly basis. While state unemployment averages derived solely from the CPS data are not strictly comparable to the official state average unemployment rates, these alternative measures can provide insight into the volume of states' discouraged populations and those working part-time for economic reasons.

- ◆ The U-3 rate is closest to the standard definition of unemployment - individuals in the labor force without a job who are available for and actively seeking work. Rhode Island's average unemployment rate for the four quarters ending June 2015 obtained directly from the CPS survey was 6.7 percent, the eighth highest rate among all states. The national U-3 rate was 5.7 percent.
- ◆ Expanding this definition to include "discouraged workers" (U-4), individuals who want a job, but have given up looking for work because they believe no work is available for them, yields an unemployment rate of 7.0 percent, tied for the tenth highest rate among all states. The national U-4 rate was 6.1 percent. Including discouraged workers adds three-tenths of a percentage point to Rhode Island's standard definition of unemployment while adding four-tenths of a percentage point to the United State's standard definition. Among the 50 states, 29 states had a greater percentage of discouraged workers than Rhode Island, while 13 had a lower percentage.
- ◆ The inclusion of discouraged workers and those that are "marginally attached" (U-5), individuals who want a job, are currently available for work, but have not looked in the past twelve months for a variety of reasons other than discouragement, yields an unemployment rate of 8.0 percent, the tenth highest rate among all states. The national U-5 was 7.0 percent.

#### Seasonally Adjusted Labor Force Statistics

(in thousands)

	Rhode Island			United States		
	Jun15	May 15	Jun 14	Jun15	May 15	Jun 14
Civilian Labor Force	558.6	556.3	555.1	157,037	157,469	155,700
Resident Employment	525.6	523.2	512.1	148,739	148,795	146,247
Unemployment	33.0	33.1	42.9	8,299	8,674	9,453
Unemployment Rate	5.9%	6.0%	7.7%	5.3%	5.5%	6.1%

- ◆ The broadest measure of unemployment (U-6) includes discouraged workers, marginally attached workers and those working part-time for economic reasons yields an unemployment rate of 12.4 percent for Rhode Island, tied for the tenth highest rate among all states. Nationally, the U-6 rate was 11.3 percent.

## Rhode Island Jobs Decrease by 300 in June

Estimated nonfarm payroll in Rhode Island totaled 483,600 in June, reflecting a loss of 300 jobs from the revised May estimate of 483,900. This loss is the first job loss since February and marks only the second month of job declines during the half-way point of 2015. Thus far, employment is up 4,300 through the year.

Employment in the Accommodation & Food Services sector fell by 900 in June, following a gain of 1,100 jobs in May. Since April, employment in the Accommodation & Food Services sector is up 200 jobs.

The Construction sector continues to struggle, shedding 700 jobs in June, its largest over-the-month loss since October 2008. Since the start of the year, Construction employment is down 1,600.

June job losses were also reported in the Other Services (-400), Financial Activities (-200), Manufacturing (-200), Government (-200), Arts, Entertainment & Recreation (-200) and Transportation & Utilities (-100) sectors.

Offsetting the June job declines were gains reported in five economic sectors. Professional & Business Services added the most jobs over the month (+1,100) marking three consecutive months of job growth totaling 3,500 jobs. Also adding jobs in June were the Educational Services (+600), Health Care & Social Assistance (+500), Retail Trade (+300) and Information (+100) sectors.

Employment in Wholesale Trade and Mining & Logging remain unchanged.

Nationally, employment increased by 223,000 (+0.2%) in June, while the New England region fell short to the nation on a percentage basis, adding 9,700 jobs, a 0.1 percent increase. Three New England states, Massachusetts (+10,500), Vermont (+1,000) and Connecticut (+600) added jobs in June, New Hampshire (-2,100) and Rhode Island (-300) lost jobs and Maine's employment level remained unchanged.

	Net Change From				
	Jun-15	May-15	Jun-14	May-15	Jun-14
<b>Total Nonfarm</b>	<b>483.6</b>	<b>483.9</b>	<b>477.9</b>	<b>-0.3</b>	<b>5.7</b>
<b>Total Private</b>	<b>424.0</b>	<b>424.1</b>	<b>417.5</b>	<b>-0.1</b>	<b>6.5</b>
Natural Resources & Mining	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.0	0.0
Construction	15.0	15.7	16.6	-0.7	-1.6
Manufacturing	41.7	41.9	40.8	-0.2	0.9
Wholesale Trade	16.7	16.7	16.7	0.0	0.0
Retail Trade	47.0	46.7	47.2	0.3	-0.2
Transportation & Utilities	11.7	11.8	11.0	-0.1	0.7
Information	8.7	8.6	8.8	0.1	-0.1
Financial Activities	32.5	32.7	32.5	-0.2	0.0
Professional & Business Services	63.5	62.4	60.4	1.1	3.1
Educational Services	25.2	24.6	24.6	0.6	0.6
Health Care & Social Assistance	81.2	80.7	80.5	0.5	0.7
Arts, Entertainment & Recreation	8.7	8.9	8.8	-0.2	-0.1
Accommodation & Food Services	48.1	49.0	46.3	-0.9	1.8
Other Services	23.8	24.2	23.1	-0.4	0.7
Government	59.6	59.8	60.4	-0.2	-0.8

	Employment				
	(in thousands)			Net Change From:	
	Jun 15	May 15	Jun 14	May 15	Jun 14
<b>Manufacturing</b>	<b>42.1</b>	<b>42.0</b>	<b>41.2</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>900</b>
<b>Durable Goods</b>	<b>27.1</b>	<b>27.2</b>	<b>26.2</b>	<b>-100</b>	<b>900</b>
Fabricated Metal Product Mfg.	5.7	5.7	5.7	0	0
Computer & Electronic Product Mfg.	3.2	3.2	3.3	0	-100
Transportation Equipment Mfg.	4.9	4.9	4.4	0	500
Miscellaneous DG Manufacturing	5.5	5.5	5.7	0	-200
Jewelry & Silverware	3.2	3.3	3.4	-100	-200
<b>Non-Durable Goods</b>	<b>15.0</b>	<b>14.8</b>	<b>15.0</b>	<b>200</b>	<b>0</b>
Chemical Manufacturing	3.1	3.1	3.2	0	-100

In June 2015, nonfarm payroll employment increased in 31 states, decreased in 17 states and was unchanged in two states. The largest over-the-month percentage increases in employment occurred in South Dakota (+0.6) and South Carolina (+0.5), followed by Colorado, Kansas, and Virginia (+0.4 percent each). The largest over-the-month percentage declines in employment occurred in Alaska (-1.1%), Wyoming (-0.8%) and Idaho (-0.7%).

*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.*



## Private Sector Construction Employment

In January 2007, the Rhode Island Construction sector established a peak employment level of 23,400. By December of that year, the nation had just entered into the *Great Recession* and the Rhode Island construction workforce had already fallen by 9.0 percent, shedding 2,100 jobs. As of June 2015, the struggles continued as the Construction sector employed 15,000 workers, the lowest level since December 1997. Between January 2007 and June 2015, a total of 8,400 Rhode Island construction jobs have been lost, a 35.9 percent decrease.

The Rhode Island Construction sector was amongst the hardest hit states during this period, reporting the fourth largest construction percentage employment decline across the nation trailing only Nevada (-49.2%), Arizona (-45.8%) and Florida (-36.4%). Nationally, construction employment fell by 17.4 percent between January 2007 and June 2015, while the New England region as a whole dropped by 11.4 percent.

Construction employment in Maine experienced the second largest percentage decrease in New England between January 2007 and June 2015, losing 18.0 percent of the construction workforce during this period. Massachusetts lost 4.7 percent of the construction workforce, the smallest regional percentage decline.

In addition to Nevada, Arizona, Florida and Rhode Island; New Mexico (-30.8%), South Carolina (-30.6%), Georgia (-29.6%), Alabama (-26.7%), West Virginia (-26.5%), Missouri (-26.1%) and North Carolina (-25.0%) all lost at least one-quarter of their construction workforce between January 2007 and June 2015.

Since the official end of the *Great Recession* in June 2009, a total of thirty states have posted positive construction employment gains through June 2015, while fourteen states continue to lose construction jobs. Nationally, the construction workforce was up 6.2 percent during this six year period while the New England region as a whole was up 12.2 percent.

Rhode Island was among those fourteen states still reporting construction job losses between June 2009 and June 2015 as employment fell by 11.8 percent during this period. Ahead of Rhode Island in construction job losses were New Mexico (-14.8%), Mississippi (-12.9%), Nevada (-12.8%) and West Virginia (-12.5%). All remaining New England states have reported construction employment growth throughout this time frame.

## Characteristics of the Insured Unemployed

A total of 8,073 individuals were eligible to collect Unemployment Insurance benefits in June 2015, down 1,361 (-14.4%) from the 9,434 collecting these benefits in June 2014. In all, 25.7 percent of Rhode Island's unemployed workers were eligible to collect unemployment benefits in June.

Of the 8,073 individuals collecting Unemployment Insurance benefits, 32.3 percent faced long-term unemployment (defined as collecting unemployment insurance for fifteen weeks or more), down from 34.9 percent in June 2014.

On an industry basis, 13.8 percent (1,115) of the State's insured unemployed workers came from the Health Care & Social Assistance sector. There were also 928 individuals with an attachment to the Administration & Waste Services sector, accounting for 11.5 percent of all insured unemployed workers. An additional 10.9 percent (880) of those collecting UI benefits in June had worked in the Manufacturing sector. Large numbers of insured unemployed were also reported in Retail Trade (810), Construction (768) and Accommodation & Food Services (730). For more information, go to [www.dlt.ri.gov/lmi/uiadmin/characteristics.htm](http://www.dlt.ri.gov/lmi/uiadmin/characteristics.htm).

### Characteristics of the Insured Unemployed, June 2015

	Total	Long-Term	Percent Long-Term
<b>Total</b>	<b>8,073</b>	<b>2,606</b>	<b>32.3%</b>
Male	3,988	1,309	32.8%
Female	4,085	1,297	31.8%
<b>Selected Industries</b>	<b>8,073</b>	<b>2,606</b>	<b>32.3%</b>
Construction	768	269	35.0%
Manufacturing	880	283	32.2%
Wholesale Trade	411	150	36.5%
Retail Trade	810	297	36.7%
Transportation & Warehousing	157	66	42.0%
Information	156	56	35.9%
Finance & Insurance	426	152	35.7%
Real Estate	171	50	29.2%
Professional & Tech. Services	486	126	25.9%
Administrative & Waste Services	928	272	29.3%
Educational Services	189	54	28.6%
Health Care & Social Assistance	1,115	372	33.4%
Arts, Entertainment & Recreation	129	40	31.0%
Accommodation & Food Services	730	181	24.8%
Other Services	318	110	34.6%
Public Administration	59	26	44.1%

### Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers

				% Change
	Jun 15	May 15	Jun 14	Prev. Year
All Items	238.6	237.8	238.3	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 21,400 advertisements for Rhode Island based jobs this month, a decrease of 1,300 (-5.7%) from the May 2015 postings, and up 800 (+3.9%) from the advertised vacancies posted online in June 2014. There were an estimated 3.84 advertised vacancies for every 100 persons in Rhode Island's labor force.

#### Help Wanted OnLine Advertised Job Vacancies

	Jun 15	May 15	Jun 14
RI Vacancies	21,400	22,700	20,600
<i>Labor Demand Rate *</i>			
Rhode Island	3.84	4.08	3.70
US	3.37	3.46	3.29
Connecticut	4.03	4.15	3.82
Massachusetts	4.56	4.77	4.32
Maine	3.64	4.60	3.89
New Hampshire	3.37	3.59	4.01
Vermont	3.66	4.06	3.67
<i>Supply/Demand Rate **</i>			
Rhode Island	1.54	1.46	2.08
US	1.57	1.59	1.84

\* 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 June

	2015	2014		2015	2014
Barrington	3.9	4.8	Newport	4.5	5.9
Bristol	5.1	6.2	North Kingstown	4.5	5.8
Burrillville	5.3	7.1	North Providence	5.8	7.5
Central Falls	7.1	9.5	North Smithfield	4.6	5.9
Charlestown	5.7	7.9	Pawtucket	6.4	8.8
Coventry	5.2	6.9	Portsmouth	4.9	6.3
Cranston	5.6	7.4	Providence	6.9	8.8
Cumberland	4.5	5.8	Richmond	3.2	4.2
East Greenwich	4.9	6.4	Scituate	5.2	6.6
East Providence	5.8	7.9	Smithfield	5.3	6.5
Exeter	4.9	6.4	South Kingstown	5.6	6.4
Foster	4.8	6.8	Tiverton	5.0	6.6
Glocester	4.3	5.4	Warren	5.4	7.1
Hopkinton	5.5	7.0	Warwick	4.9	6.5
Jamestown	3.7	4.9	West Greenwich	4.9	6.5
Johnston	5.8	7.8	West Warwick	5.7	7.7
Lincoln	4.7	6.3	Westerly	6.8	8.5
Little Compton	4.0	5.6	Woonsocket	7.3	9.5
Middletown	4.6	6.1			
Narragansett	3.8	4.7	State of R.I.	5.6	7.3
New Shoreham	6.7	9.9	United States	5.5	6.3

Nationally, there were an estimated 3.37 advertised vacancies for every 100 persons in the labor force. Among the New England states, Massachusetts (4.56) and Connecticut (4.03) had higher vacancy rates than Rhode Island.

There were an estimated 1.54 unemployed Rhode Island residents for every advertised job in June, up from 1.46 unemployed residents estimated per May advertisements. Nationally, there were 1.57 unemployed persons for every job opening advertised in June, down from 1.59 in May.

### Unemployment Insurance Claims Activity

	Jun.	May	Jun.	% Change		Year to Date		
	2015	2015	2014	May 15	Jun. 14	2015	2014	% Change
<b>Regular Claims</b>								
Initial Claims	5,934	3,747	7,103	58.4%	-16.5%	37,371	42,827	-12.7%
Number of Payments	36,730	31,872	41,261	15.2%	-11.0%	284,524	329,286	-13.6%
Amount of Payments (gross millions)	\$11.9	\$10.5	\$13.6	13.3%	-12.5%	\$93.7	\$110.2	-15.0%
Exhaustions (Final Payments)	990	885	1,263	11.9%	-21.6%	5,624	7,954	-29.3%

## Private Construction Sector

	Change from Jun.09 - Jun.15			Change from Jan.07 - Jun.15	
	Number	Percent		Number	Percent
<b>U.S.</b>	<b>370.0</b>	<b>6.2%</b>	<b>U.S.</b>	<b>-1,345.0</b>	<b>-17.4%</b>
New Mexico	-7.0	-14.8%	Nevada	-67.5	-49.2%
Mississippi	-6.7	-12.9%	Arizona	-107.1	-45.8%
Nevada	-10.2	-12.8%	Florida	-241.1	-36.4%
West Virginia	-4.2	-12.5%	<b>Rhode Island</b>	<b>-8.4</b>	<b>-35.9%</b>
<b>Rhode Island</b>	<b>-2.0</b>	<b>-11.8%</b>	New Mexico	-17.9	-30.8%
Alabama	-9.4	-10.2%	South Carolina	-38.9	-30.6%
Missouri	-8.1	-6.8%	Georgia	-66.1	-29.6%
Georgia	-9.4	-5.6%	Alabama	-30.0	-26.7%
Illinois	-6.9	-3.2%	West Virginia	-10.6	-26.5%
Wyoming	-0.7	-2.9%	Missouri	-39.0	-26.1%
Arkansas	-1.0	-2.0%	North Carolina	-63.6	-25.0%
Nebraska*	-0.6	-1.3%	Illinois	-66.0	-24.0%
Arizona	-1.4	-1.1%	Virginia	-57.2	-23.4%
North Carolina	-1.1	-0.6%	Idaho	-12.2	-23.2%
Virginia	-0.9	-0.5%	Delaware*	-6.5	-22.8%
South Carolina	0.9	1.0%	Oregon	-23.5	-22.7%
Maryland*	2.4	1.5%	Mississippi	-13.3	-22.7%
Maine	0.5	2.0%	Utah	-22.9	-22.1%
Indiana	3.1	2.6%	California	-196.9	-21.5%
Wisconsin	3.3	3.3%	Montana	-6.6	-20.9%
Ohio	5.9	3.3%	Indiana	-29.9	-19.6%
Kentucky	2.7	3.7%	Ohio	-41.4	-18.2%
South Dakota*	0.9	4.1%	Maine	-5.6	-18.0%
Tennessee*	4.5	4.1%	Wisconsin	-22.5	-17.7%
Montana	1.0	4.2%	Maryland*	-32.8	-17.2%
Florida	23.4	5.9%	Tennessee*	-22.1	-16.3%
Hawaii*	1.9	6.0%	New Hampshire	-4.2	-14.9%
Louisiana	8.9	6.8%	Vermont	-2.5	-14.5%
New Hampshire	1.6	7.1%	New Jersey	-25.0	-14.4%
New Jersey	10.4	7.5%	Washington	-29.1	-14.4%
Washington	13.0	8.1%	Hawaii*	-4.7	-12.3%
Oregon	6.0	8.1%	Arkansas	-6.9	-12.2%
Pennsylvania	19.2	8.6%	Connecticut	-7.9	-11.5%
Vermont	1.2	8.8%	Minnesota	-13.8	-11.1%
Delaware*	2.0	10.0%	Kentucky	-7.8	-9.3%
New York	32.7	10.1%	Michigan	-15.3	-8.9%
Kansas	5.9	10.2%	Pennsylvania	-22.2	-8.4%
Alaska	1.7	10.4%	Colorado	-10.9	-6.6%
Connecticut	6.2	11.4%	Wyoming	-1.6	-6.4%
Texas	68.7	11.5%	Massachusetts	-6.6	-4.7%
Oklahoma	8.7	12.6%	Kansas	-1.9	-2.9%
Utah	10.6	15.1%	Nebraska*	-1.1	-2.3%
California	97.1	15.6%	Alaska	-0.1	-0.6%
Colorado	23.1	17.7%	South Dakota*	0.2	0.9%
Idaho	6.4	18.9%	New York	10.2	2.9%
Minnesota	17.9	19.3%	Louisiana	6.2	4.7%
Massachusetts	22.1	20.0%	Texas	41.7	6.7%
Iowa	14.3	22.2%	Iowa	5.2	7.1%
Michigan	29.7	23.5%	Oklahoma	7.9	11.3%
North Dakota	15.6	74.6%	North Dakota	17.4	91.1%

*\*Construction employment data for Delaware, Hawaii, Maryland, Nebraska, South Dakota and Tennessee includes Mining and Logging employment.*

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