



## Rhode Island's Unemployment Rate Rises to 5.5 percent in June

- ◆ RI's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate for June was 5.5 percent, up one-tenth of a percentage point from May.
- ◆ RI's June unemployment rate was down half of a percentage point from last June's figure of 6.0 percent.
- ◆ The national rate was 4.9 percent, up two-tenths of a percentage point from May and down four-tenths of a percentage point from the previous year.
- ◆ In June 2016, Rhode Island (5.5%) had the fourteenth highest unemployment rate in the nation. Seven states had unemployment rates of six percent or higher.
- ◆ The June 2016 unemployment rate decreased in eleven states. Seventeen states' rates, including Massachusetts, were unchanged, while twenty-two states' rates, including Maine (+0.2), Rhode Island (+0.1), New Hampshire (+0.1), Connecticut (+0.1) and Vermont (+0.1), increased.
- ◆ Rates in other New England states for June 2016 – Connecticut 5.8 percent, Massachusetts 4.2 percent, Maine 3.7 percent, Vermont 3.2 percent and New Hampshire 2.8 percent.
- ◆ The number of employed RI residents totaled 523,100 in June 2016, up 300 from the previous month. Between June 2015 and June 2016, the number of employed RI residents was up 600.
- ◆ Over the month, the number of unemployed Rhode Island residents increased by 400 to 30,200. From June 2015 to June 2016, the number of unemployed residents decreased by 3,300.

## Labor Supply & Demand in Rhode Island

Unemployment Insurance (UI) 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 data sets 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 June 30, 2016, the Department of Labor and Training's EmployRI online network recorded 12,794 online job postings from RI-based businesses. Also during June, 7,864 RI residents collected unemployment insurance benefits accounting for 27 percent of the state's total unemployed.

A comparison of the online job postings to the UI claimants currently seeking work indicates that there was less than one (0.6) claimant for each online posting. Job postings for which the usual educational requirement was either a high school diploma (26%) or less than a high school diploma (9%) accounted for the most online postings. For nearly a quarter of the postings, an educational requirement was not listed.

A labor surplus was associated with eight of the 21 occupational groups including Construction & Extraction, Production, Food Preparation & Serving Related and Office & Administrative Support. In Construction, there were 3.6 claimants per job posting.

The largest potential labor shortages were associated with postings for Healthcare Practitioners & Technical occupations, where job postings outnumber claimants by more than 10 to 1.

These numbers indicate that employers seeking to fill vacancies in this occupational group would have more difficulty finding qualified workers than those employers attempting to fill vacancies in occupational groups where the ratio of unemployed claimants to online postings is greater or closer to one. For more information, visit [www.dlt.ri.gov/lmi/publications/supply&demand.htm](http://www.dlt.ri.gov/lmi/publications/supply&demand.htm).

### Seasonally Adjusted Labor Force Statistics

(in thousands)

	Rhode Island			United States		
	Jun 16	May 16	Jun 15	Jun 16	May 16	Jun 15
Civilian Labor Force	553.3	552.5	556.0	158,880	158,466	156,984
Resident Employment	523.1	522.8	522.5	151,097	151,030	148,722
Unemployment	30.2	29.8	33.5	7,783	7,436	8,262
Unemployment Rate	5.5%	5.4%	6.0%	4.9%	4.7%	5.3%

## Rhode Island Jobs Increase by 1,700 in June

Estimated nonfarm payroll in Rhode Island totaled 488,400 in June, reflecting a gain of 1,700 jobs from the May estimate of 486,700. The June job's report ended two consecutive months of job declines which consumed 3,900 jobs. In all, the state is down 100 jobs through the half-way point of 2016, while being up 3,600 jobs from June 2015.

Retail Trade added 800 jobs in June, pushing the employment level to 48,800, the highest level since October 2008 (49,000). Retail Trade employment is up 600 over the year.

Employment in Health Care & Social Assistance grew by 500 in June, fueled by job gains reported in social assistance. Health Care & Social Assistance averaged a gain of 200 jobs in each of the past three months. Employment within this sector is up 500 from a year ago. A gain of 500 jobs was also reported in the Other Services sector, propelling its employment level to 23,600, the highest level since March 2005. The Other Services sector added 600 jobs over the year.

The Information and Wholesale Trade sectors each added 400 jobs in June. The increase in Information is largely due, in part, to the return of workers from a telecommunications strike, while widespread employment growth was reported amongst the Wholesale Trade sector. The Manufacturing sector reported a gain of 300 jobs in June, regaining half of the 600 jobs lost in May. Manufacturing employment is up 800 from a year ago. The Accommodation & Food Services sector also added 300 jobs since May. This sector averaged a gain of 100 jobs during the first six months of the year and has 1,300 more workers now than a year ago. Through the addition of 100 jobs in June, the Professional & Business Services sector reported positive job growth for four of the first six months this year, averaging a gain of 200 jobs per month. Employment within this sector is up 1,900 over the year.

Employment in Construction continued to trend down, shedding 600 jobs in June. This sector reported four consecutive months of job declines, totaling 2,000 jobs. Despite the recent downward trend, the number of jobs in the Construction sector is down just 100 over the year. Educational Services employment fell by 500 over the month and is down 700 from a year ago. Elsewhere, job declines were reported in the Arts, Entertainment & Recreation (-200), Financial Activities (-200) and Transportation & Utilities (-100) sectors, while employment remained unchanged in Government and Mining & Logging.

In June 2016, the national workforce grew by 0.2 percent, while the New England workforce grew by 0.4 percent. The number of jobs within the nation increased by 287,000, while the number of jobs in the six state region grew by 32,000. Five of the six New England states reported job gains, led by Massachusetts which added 16,400 jobs. The number of jobs added in Connecticut was 7,900, followed by New Hampshire (+4,000), Maine (+3,400) and Rhode Island (+1,700). Vermont lost 1,400 jobs in June.

<b>Establishment Employment in Rhode Island</b>					
<b>Seasonally Adjusted</b>					
	Net Change From				
	<u>Jun-16</u>	<u>May-16</u>	<u>Jun-15</u>	<u>May-16</u>	<u>Jun-15</u>
<b>Total Nonfarm</b>	<b>488.4</b>	<b>486.7</b>	<b>484.8</b>	<b>1.7</b>	<b>3.6</b>
<b>Total Private</b>	<b>428.4</b>	<b>426.7</b>	<b>424.4</b>	<b>1.7</b>	<b>4.0</b>
Natural Resources & Mining	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.0	0.0
Construction	16.8	17.4	16.9	-0.6	-0.1
Manufacturing	41.9	41.6	41.1	0.3	0.8
Wholesale Trade	16.6	16.2	17.0	0.4	-0.4
Retail Trade	48.8	48.0	48.2	0.8	0.6
Transportation & Utilities	10.9	11.0	11.3	-0.1	-0.4
Information	8.5	8.1	8.4	0.4	0.1
Financial Activities	33.0	33.2	33.1	-0.2	-0.1
Professional & Business Services	65.3	65.2	63.4	0.1	1.9
Educational Services	24.2	24.7	24.9	-0.5	-0.7
Health Care & Social Assistance	81.2	80.7	80.7	0.5	0.5
Arts, Entertainment & Recreation	8.7	8.9	8.8	-0.2	-0.1
Accommodation & Food Services	48.7	48.4	47.4	0.3	1.3
Other Services	23.6	23.1	23.0	0.5	0.6
Government	60.0	60.0	60.4	0.0	-0.4

The Information and Wholesale Trade sectors each added 400 jobs in June. The increase in Information is largely due, in part, to the return of workers from a telecommunications strike, while widespread employment growth was reported amongst the Wholesale Trade sector. The Manufacturing sector reported a gain of 300 jobs in June, regaining half of the 600 jobs lost in May. Manufacturing employment is up 800 from a year ago. The Accommodation & Food Services sector also added 300 jobs since May. This sector averaged a gain of 100 jobs during the first six months of the year and has 1,300 more workers now than a year ago. Through the addition of 100 jobs in June, the Professional & Business Services sector reported positive job growth for four of the first six months this year, averaging a gain of 200 jobs per month. Employment within this sector is up 1,900 over the year.

Employment in Construction continued to trend down, shedding 600 jobs in June. This sector reported four consecutive months of job declines, totaling 2,000 jobs. Despite the recent downward trend, the number of jobs in the Construction sector is down just 100 over the year. Educational Services employment fell by 500 over the month and is down 700 from a year ago. Elsewhere, job declines were reported in the Arts, Entertainment & Recreation (-200), Financial Activities (-200) and Transportation & Utilities (-100) sectors, while employment remained unchanged in Government and Mining & Logging.

In June 2016, the national workforce grew by 0.2 percent, while the New England workforce grew by 0.4 percent. The number of jobs within the nation increased by 287,000, while the number of jobs in the six state region grew by 32,000. Five of the six New England states reported job gains, led by Massachusetts which added 16,400 jobs. The number of jobs added in Connecticut was 7,900, followed by New Hampshire (+4,000), Maine (+3,400) and Rhode Island (+1,700). Vermont lost 1,400 jobs in June.

<b>Manufacturing Employment in Rhode Island</b>					
<b>Not Seasonally Adjusted</b>					
	Employment				
	(in thousands)				
	Net Change From:				
	<u>Jun 16</u>	<u>May 16</u>	<u>Jun 15</u>	<u>May 16</u>	<u>Jun 15</u>
<b>Manufacturing</b>	<b>42.0</b>	<b>41.8</b>	<b>41.4</b>	<b>200</b>	<b>600</b>
<b>Durable Goods</b>	<b>25.9</b>	<b>26.0</b>	<b>26.1</b>	<b>-100</b>	<b>-200</b>
Fabricated Metal Product Mfg.	5.3	5.3	5.4	0	-100
Computer & Electronic Product Mfg.	3.1	3.1	3.3	0	-200
Transportation Equipment Mfg.	4.6	4.6	4.8	0	-200
Miscellaneous DG Manufacturing	5.6	5.6	5.8	0	-200
Jewelry & Silverware	3.4	3.4	3.5	0	-100
<b>Non-Durable Goods</b>	<b>16.1</b>	<b>15.8</b>	<b>15.3</b>	<b>300</b>	<b>800</b>
Chemical Manufacturing	3.0	3.0	3.1	0	-100

Nonfarm payroll employment increased in 42 states in June, decreased in 7 states and remained unchanged in one state. The largest over-the-month percentage increase in employment occurred in Delaware (+0.9), while Hawaii, Maine, New Hampshire and Nevada all reported a job increase of 0.6 percent. The largest over-the-month percentage decline in employment occurred in West Virginia (-0.8%), Wyoming (-0.7%), Mississippi (-0.4%) and Vermont (-0.4%).

*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.*



## 2015 Rhode Island Employment & Wages

Rhode Island private sector employment averaged 411,036 in 2015, an increase of 6,625 (+1.6%) jobs from 2014. The employment growth in 2015 marks five consecutive year-over-year job gains, totaling over 23,900 private sector jobs. The last time the Ocean State experienced five consecutive year-over-year private sector job gains, occurred between 1997 and 2001, when nearly 30,300 jobs were added.

The Administrative & Waste Services (+1,032) sector added the most jobs over the year, up 4.0 percent from 2014. The Professional, Scientific & Technical Services (+1,029), Retail Trade (+897), Accommodation & Food Services (+885), Management of Companies & Enterprises (+557), Construction (+513), Finance & Insurance (+505), Educational Services (+423), Manufacturing (+329) and Transportation & Warehousing (+315) sectors also reported significant job gains.

Annual job gains were also noted in the Arts, Entertainment & Recreation (+153), Other Services (+134), Wholesale Trade (+79), Real Estate, Rental & Leasing (+75) and Utilities (+25) sectors.

Four employment sectors reported job declines between 2014 and 2015, with the Information sector reporting a loss of 241 (-2.7%) jobs. Employment in Health Care & Social Assistance fell by 71, marking the first job loss within the sector since 2011. Between 2014 and 2015, a loss of 7 jobs was reported in both the Agriculture, Forestry, Fishing & Hunting and Mining sectors.

Just over \$20 billion in private sector wages was earned in 2015, an increase of \$843.2 million (+4.4%) from 2014. The 2015 average annual wage in the private sector was \$48,736, an increase of \$1,287 (+2.7%) from the \$47,449 earned in 2014.

Management of Companies & Enterprises employees averaged \$120,741, the highest average private sector wage in 2015. The Utilities sector paid an average of \$94,673 in 2015, the second highest annual wage. In addition, the Finance & Insurance (\$91,537), Professional, Scientific & Technical Services (\$72,867), Information (\$69,671), Wholesale Trade (\$68,999), Mining (\$58,555), Construction (\$56,716), Manufacturing (\$55,783) and Educational Services (\$51,459) sectors all averaged earnings over \$48,736 in 2015. The Finance & Insurance sector was the only private employment sector to experience an annual wage decrease in 2015, as wages fell by \$154 (-0.2%) from 2014. For more information, go to [www.dlt.ri.gov/lmi/es202/state/2015summary.htm](http://www.dlt.ri.gov/lmi/es202/state/2015summary.htm).

### Characteristics of the Insured Unemployed

A total of 7,864 individuals were eligible to collect Unemployment Insurance benefits in June 2016, down 209 (-2.6%) from the 8,073 collecting these benefits in June 2015. In all, 27.6 percent of Rhode Island's unemployed workers were eligible to collect unemployment benefits in June.

Of the 7,864 individuals collecting Unemployment Insurance benefits, 30.5 percent faced long-term unemployment (defined as collecting unemployment insurance for fifteen weeks or more), down from 32.3 percent in June 2015.

On an industry basis, 13.0 percent (1,023) of the State's insured unemployed workers came from the Administrative & Waste Services sector. There were also 1,021 individuals with an attachment to the Health Care & Social Assistance sector, accounting for 13.0 percent of all insured unemployed workers. An additional 12.1 percent (949) of those collecting UI benefits in June had worked in the Manufacturing sector. Large numbers of insured unemployed were also reported in Accommodation & Food Services (852), Retail Trade (743) and Construction (688). 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 2016

	Total	Long-Term	Percent Long-Term
<b>Total</b>	<b>7,864</b>	<b>2,398</b>	<b>30.5%</b>
Male	3,840	1,204	31.4%
Female	4,024	1,194	29.7%
<b>Selected Industries</b>	<b>7,864</b>	<b>2,398</b>	<b>30.5%</b>
Construction	688	213	31.0%
Manufacturing	949	303	31.9%
Wholesale Trade	315	121	38.4%
Retail Trade	743	218	29.3%
Transportation & Warehousing	246	54	22.0%
Information	90	41	45.6%
Finance & Insurance	350	101	28.9%
Real Estate	115	37	32.2%
Professional & Tech. Services	489	143	29.2%
Administrative & Waste Services	1,023	310	30.3%
Educational Services	200	48	24.0%
Health Care & Social Assistance	1,021	322	31.5%
Arts, Entertainment & Recreation	129	44	34.1%
Accommodation & Food Services	852	227	26.6%
Other Services	291	98	33.7%
Public Administration	55	16	29.1%

### Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers

				% Change
	Jun 16	May 16	Jun 15	Prev. Year
All Items	241.0	240.2	238.6	1.0%

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 14,700 advertisements for Rhode Island based jobs this month, a decrease of 500 (-3.3%) from the May 2016 postings, and down 6,500 (-30.7%) from the advertised vacancies posted online in June 2015. There were an estimated 2.67 advertised vacancies for every 100 persons in Rhode Island's labor force.

#### Help Wanted OnLine Advertised Job Vacancies

	Jun 16	May 16	Jun 15
RI Vacancies	14,700	15,200	21,200
<i>Labor Demand Rate *</i>			
Rhode Island	2.67	2.75	3.82
US	2.94	3.08	3.34
Connecticut	3.01	3.10	4.04
Massachusetts	3.86	4.14	4.49
Maine	2.88	2.96	3.64
New Hampshire	3.13	3.16	3.44
Vermont	3.05	2.96	3.68
<i>Supply/Demand Rate **</i>			
Rhode Island	2.05	1.96	1.58
US	1.67	1.52	1.57

\* 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

	2016	2015		2016	2015
Barrington	3.7	4.0	Newport	4.3	4.6
Bristol	4.8	5.2	North Kingstown	4.0	4.6
Burrillville	4.8	5.5	North Providence	5.1	6.0
Central Falls	6.3	7.3	North Smithfield	4.4	4.7
Charlestown	4.8	5.9	Pawtucket	5.7	6.6
Coventry	4.9	5.4	Portsmouth	4.6	5.1
Cranston	5.1	5.8	Providence	6.5	7.1
Cumberland	4.1	4.6	Richmond	3.0	3.3
East Greenwich	4.4	5.0	Scituate	4.6	5.4
East Providence	5.4	5.9	Smithfield	4.8	5.4
Exeter	4.2	5.0	South Kingstown	5.2	5.7
Foster	4.2	4.9	Tiverton	4.8	5.1
Glocester	4.0	4.4	Warren	4.8	5.5
Hopkinton	4.5	5.6	Warwick	4.3	5.0
Jamestown	3.3	3.8	West Greenwich	4.5	5.2
Johnston	5.3	6.0	West Warwick	5.0	5.9
Lincoln	4.3	4.8	Westerly	5.9	7.0
Little Compton	3.4	4.1	Woonsocket	6.9	7.5
Middletown	4.3	4.7			
Narragansett	3.6	3.9	State of R.I.	5.1	5.7
New Shoreham	6.0	7.0	United States	5.1	5.5

Nationally, there were an estimated 2.94 advertised vacancies for every 100 persons in the labor force. Among the New England states, Massachusetts (3.86), New Hampshire (3.13), Vermont (3.05), Connecticut (3.01) and Maine (2.88) had higher vacancy rates than Rhode Island.

There were an estimated 2.05 unemployed Rhode Island residents for every advertised job in June, up from 1.96 unemployed residents estimated per May advertisements. Nationally, there were 1.67 unemployed persons for every job opening advertised in June, up from 1.52 in May.

### Unemployment Insurance Claims Activity

	June	May	June	% Change		Year to Date		
	2016	2016	2015	May 16	June 15	2016	2015	% Change
<b>Regular Claims</b>								
Initial Claims	6,332	3,590	5,934	76.4%	6.7%	35,622	37,371	-4.7%
Number of Payments	30,703	38,754	36,730	-20.8%	-16.4%	260,953	284,524	-8.3%
Amount of Payments (gross millions)	\$10.1	\$13.8	\$11.9	-26.8%	-15.1%	\$88.4	\$93.7	-5.7%
Exhaustions (Final Payments)	700	872	990	-19.7%	-29.3%	4,681	5,624	-16.8%

## Rhode Island Annual Average Employment & Wages - 2015

NAICS Sector	Employment	Average Annual Wage	Over-the-Year Difference 2014-2015			
			Employment		Average Annual Wage	
<b>Total All Industries</b>	<b>470,019</b>	<b>\$50,608</b>	<b>6,644</b>	<b>1.4%</b>	<b>\$1,322</b>	<b>2.7%</b>
<b>Total Private Industries</b>	<b>411,036</b>	<b>\$48,736</b>	<b>6,625</b>	<b>1.6%</b>	<b>\$1,287</b>	<b>2.7%</b>
Agriculture, Fishing & Hunting	752	\$32,384	-7	-0.9%	\$2,484	8.3%
Mining	201	\$58,555	-7	-3.4%	\$3,080	5.6%
Utilities	1,082	\$94,673	25	2.4%	\$655	0.7%
Construction	17,011	\$56,716	513	3.1%	\$1,626	3.0%
Manufacturing	41,150	\$55,783	329	0.8%	\$1,096	2.0%
Wholesale Trade	16,922	\$68,999	79	0.5%	\$525	0.8%
Retail Trade	48,053	\$29,790	897	1.9%	\$1,232	4.3%
Transportation & Warehousing	9,801	\$40,057	315	3.3%	\$619	1.6%
Information	8,609	\$69,671	-241	-2.7%	\$1,413	2.1%
Finance & Insurance	24,645	\$91,537	505	2.1%	-\$154	-0.2%
Real Estate & Rental & Leasing	6,017	\$44,909	75	1.3%	\$2,186	5.1%
Professional & Technical Services	23,877	\$72,867	1,029	4.5%	\$2,208	3.1%
Mgmt. of Companies & Enterprises	12,558	\$120,741	557	4.6%	\$1,593	1.3%
Administrative & Waste Services	27,141	\$34,652	1,032	4.0%	\$736	2.2%
Educational Services	18,970	\$51,459	423	2.3%	\$598	1.2%
Health Care & Social Assistance	80,277	\$45,321	-71	-0.1%	\$1,775	4.1%
Arts, Entertainment, & Recreation	8,960	\$29,288	153	1.7%	\$2,364	8.8%
Accommodation & Food Services	47,264	\$18,772	885	1.9%	\$928	5.2%
Other Services	17,702	\$31,227	134	0.8%	\$1,104	3.7%
Government	58,983	\$63,656	19	0.0%	\$1,768	2.9%

Source: RI Department of Labor & Training, in cooperation with the Bureau of Labor Statistics, QCEW program