



Rhode Island's Unemployment Rate Drops to 6.3 percent in February

- ◆ RI's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate for February was 6.3 percent, down two-tenths of a percentage point from January.
- ◆ RI's February unemployment rate was down two and one-tenth percentage points from last February's figure of 8.4 percent.
- ◆ The national rate was 5.5 percent, down two-tenths of a percentage point from January and down one and two-tenths percentage points from the previous year.
- ◆ In February 2015, Rhode Island (6.3%) had the tenth highest unemployment rate in the nation. Thirteen states had unemployment rates of 6.3 or higher.
- ◆ The February 2015 unemployment rate decreased in twenty-six states, including Rhode Island (-0.2), Maine (-0.2), Massachusetts (-0.2), Vermont (-0.2) and New Hampshire (-0.1). Six states' rates increased, including Connecticut (+0.1), while eighteen states' rates were unchanged.
- ◆ Rates in other New England states for February 2015 – Connecticut 6.4 percent, Maine 5.0 percent, Massachusetts 4.9 percent, Vermont 3.9 percent and New Hampshire 3.9 percent.
- ◆ The number of employed RI residents totaled 514,800 in February 2015, up 1,700 from the previous month. Between February 2014 and February 2015, the number of employed RI residents was up 6,400.
- ◆ Over the month, the number of unemployed Rhode Island residents decreased by 1,100 to 34,800. From February 2014 to February 2015, the number of unemployed residents decreased by 11,900.

Rhode Island's Manufacturing Sector

In 2014, RI's 1,655 Manufacturing establishments employed an average of 40,900 workers and paid a total of \$2.2 billion in wages, accounting for approximately 10 percent of the state's private sector employment and 12 percent of private sector wages.

RI's Manufacturing sector is the fourth largest employer of private sector workers trailing Health Care & Social Assistance (80,700) Retail Trade (47,000) and Accommodations and Food Services (46,300); and exceeding Administrative & Waste Services (25,700), Finance & Insurance (24,500), and Professional & Technical Services (22,800).

Within the Manufacturing sector, Miscellaneous Manufacturing (5,700 workers), which includes jewelry, game & toys and medical equipment & supplies manufacturing, and Fabricated Metal Product Manufacturing (5,500 workers), which includes machine shops and coating & engraving, employ the most workers. Together they account for over one-quarter (27.4%) of the state's Manufacturing sector employment.

Other subsectors with significant employment include Transportation Equipment Manufacturing (3,505), which includes ship & boat building; Computer & Electronic Product Manufacturing (3,433), Food Manufacturing (3,025) and Chemical Manufacturing (2,901), which includes pharmaceutical manufacturing.

The smallest subsectors include Petroleum & Coal Products (49), Apparel (72) and Leather & Allied Product (123) manufacturing.

The Manufacturing sector's annual average wage is an estimated \$54,200 in 2014, significantly higher (15.6%) than the statewide private sector average of \$46,900.

Annual average wages paid in the Manufacturing sector range from a high of \$85,700 in Chemical Manufacturing industries to a low of \$27,600 in Leather & Allied Product Manufacturing industries.

Other high paying Manufacturing industries include Electrical Equipment & Appliance Manufacturing (\$80,300), Petroleum & Coal Products (\$74,100) and Computer & Electronic Product Manufacturing (\$73,300).

Seasonally Adjusted Labor Force Statistics

(in thousands)

	Rhode Island			United States		
	Feb 15	Jan 15	Feb 14	Feb 15	Jan 15	Feb 14
Civilian Labor Force	549.6	549.0	555.1	157,002	157,180	155,688
Resident Employment	514.8	513.1	508.4	148,297	148,201	145,301
Unemployment	34.8	35.9	46.7	8,705	8,979	10,387
Unemployment Rate	6.3%	6.5%	8.4%	5.5%	5.7%	6.7%

Rhode Island Jobs Decrease by 2,700 in February

Estimated nonfarm payroll in Rhode Island totaled 479,000 in February, reflecting a loss of 2,700 jobs from the January estimate of 481,700. The February downturn erased all of January's (+2,400) job gains and marks the largest monthly job decline since July 2009 (-2,900). Despite the significant decline, there are currently 3,900 more jobs now than in February 2014.

Over-the-month job losses were noted in ten economic sectors with the largest occurring in the Educational Services sector. Educational Services lost 800 jobs in February, negating the 500 job gains reported in January. Over-the-year employment in Educational Services is down 500.

Cold temperatures and measurable snowfall in February may have been a contributory factor in job declines in service-providing sectors such as Retail Trade and Accommodation & Food Services. The number of jobs in Retail Trade was down by 500 over the month, while employment in Accommodation & Food Services was down by 400. Employment within the Construction industry, another industry impacted by weather conditions, also lost 400 jobs in February.

February payroll declines were also reported in the Government (-300), Financial Activities (-200), Transportation & Utilities (-100), Professional & Business Services (-100), Information (-100) and Other Services (-100) sectors.

Manufacturing and Mining & Logging were the only two sectors to add employment in February, adding 200 and 100 jobs, respectively. The Manufacturing sector has added jobs in each of the last five months and is up 1,100 over the year.

Employment remained unchanged in the Health Care & Social Assistance, Arts, Entertainment & Recreation and Wholesale Trade sectors.

Nationally, employment increased by 295,000 or 0.2 percent in February, while the New England region reported a loss of 3,300 jobs, no change on a percentage basis. Regional states to report employment losses include Connecticut (-3,700), Rhode Island (-2,700) and Vermont (-600).

Establishment Employment in Rhode Island Seasonally Adjusted					
	Net Change From				
	Feb-15	Jan-15	Feb-14	Jan-15	Feb-14
Total Nonfarm	479.0	481.7	475.1	-2.7	3.9
Total Private	419.2	421.6	415.0	-2.4	4.2
Natural Resources & Mining	0.3	0.2	0.2	0.1	0.1
Construction	16.5	16.9	16.3	-0.4	0.2
Manufacturing	41.7	41.5	40.6	0.2	1.1
Wholesale Trade	16.9	16.9	16.9	0.0	0.0
Retail Trade	46.6	47.1	46.9	-0.5	-0.3
Transportation & Utilities	11.7	11.8	10.9	-0.1	0.8
Information	8.6	8.7	8.8	-0.1	-0.2
Financial Activities	32.4	32.6	32.2	-0.2	0.2
Professional & Business Services	60.5	60.6	59.9	-0.1	0.6
Educational Services	23.9	24.7	24.4	-0.8	-0.5
Health Care & Social Assistance	80.6	80.6	80.4	0.0	0.2
Arts, Entertainment & Recreation	9.0	9.0	8.8	0.0	0.2
Accommodation & Food Services	46.8	47.2	45.9	-0.4	0.9
Other Services	23.7	23.8	22.8	-0.1	0.9
Government	59.8	60.1	60.1	-0.3	-0.3

Manufacturing Employment in Rhode Island Not Seasonally Adjusted					
	Employment				
	(in thousands)			Net Change From:	
	Feb 15	Jan 15	Feb 14	Jan 15	Feb 14
Manufacturing	41.6	41.5	40.3	100	1,300
Durable Goods	27.1	26.9	25.7	200	1400
Fabricated Metal Product Mfg.	5.7	5.7	5.6	0	100
Computer & Electronic Product Mfg.	3.3	3.2	3.4	100	-100
Transportation Equipment Mfg.	4.7	4.7	4.1	0	600
Miscellaneous DG Manufacturing	5.5	5.5	5.7	0	-200
Jewelry & Silverware	3.3	3.3	3.5	0	-200
Non-Durable Goods	14.5	14.6	14.6	-100	-100
Chemical Manufacturing	3.1	3.1	3.1	0	0

Maine (+2,100), New Hampshire (+800) and Massachusetts (+800) were the area states to report February job gains.

In February 2015, nonfarm payroll employment increased in 36 states, and decreased in 13 states and was unchanged in one state. The largest over-the-month percentage increase in employment occurred in Kansas, South Dakota and Utah (+0.7% each). The largest over-the-month percentage declines in employment occurred in Rhode Island (-0.6%), followed by Alaska and West Virginia (-0.3% 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.



Rhode Island's Expanding & Declining Industries

Rhode Island employment is expected to increase by over 50,000 jobs during the 2012-2022 projection period. Employment in 2022 is expected to reach 545,550, an increase of 51,420 (10.4%) from the 2012 employment level of 494,130. While job gains are anticipated in nearly all major economic sectors, the individual industries within the sectors are projected to grow at different rates. While employment in the Retail Trade sector is projected to grow at below average rates, employment in Building Material and Garden Equipment and Supplies Dealers (+18.2%), a subsector within the sector is projected to grow at significantly higher than average rates.

We consider an expanding industry to be one that is growing at a faster rate than the rest of the economy.

Any industry that is expected to grow by at least 10.5 percent and add a minimum of one hundred jobs during the 2012-2022 projection period or any industry that is projected to add a minimum of 100 jobs annually, regardless of the growth rate is classified as an “expanding industry”.

In contrast, a declining industry is considered to be any industry, with a minimum employment level of 100 jobs, that is expected to show negative job growth resulting in the loss of fifty jobs or more during the 2012-2022 projection period.

For more information, visit www.dlt.ri.gov/lmi/proj/expdecind.htm.

Characteristics of the Insured Unemployed

A total of 15,132 individuals were eligible to collect Unemployment Insurance benefits in February 2015, down 2,536 (-14.4%) from the 17,668 collecting these benefits in February 2014. In all, 39.7 percent of Rhode Island’s unemployed workers were eligible to collect unemployment benefits in February.

Of the 15,132 individuals collecting Unemployment Insurance benefits, 18.1 percent faced long-term unemployment (defined as collecting unemployment insurance for fifteen weeks or more), down from 20.2 percent in February 2014.

On an industry basis, 22.5 percent (3,410) of the State’s insured unemployed workers came from the Construction sector. There were also 2,668 individuals with an attachment to the Administrative & Waste Services sector, accounting for 17.6 percent of all insured unemployed workers. An additional 9.8 percent (1,484) of those collecting UI benefits in February had worked in the Accommodation & Food Services sector. Large numbers of insured unemployed were also reported in Health Care & Social Assistance (1,097), Manufacturing (1,086) and Retail Trade. For more information, go to www.dlt.ri.gov/lmi/uiadmin/characteristics.htm.

Characteristics of the Insured Unemployed, February 2015			
	Total	Long-Term	Percent Long-Term
Total	15,132	2,740	18.1%
Male	10,237	1,459	14.3%
Female	4,895	1,281	26.2%
Selected Industries	15,132	2,740	18.1%
Construction	3,410	176	5.2%
Manufacturing	1,086	311	28.6%
Wholesale Trade	436	117	26.8%
Retail Trade	1,077	267	24.8%
Transportation & Warehousing	385	60	15.6%
Information	164	60	36.6%
Finance & Insurance	386	134	34.7%
Real Estate	261	71	27.2%
Professional & Tech. Services	494	141	28.5%
Administrative & Waste Services	2,668	236	8.8%
Educational Services	184	62	33.7%
Health Care & Social Assistance	1,097	401	36.6%
Arts, Entertainment & Recreation	730	89	12.2%
Accommodation & Food Services	1,484	346	23.3%
Other Services	421	123	29.2%
Public Administration	103	22	21.4%

Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers

				% Change
	Feb. 15	Jan. 15	Feb. 14	Prev. Year
All Items	234.7	233.7	234.8	0.0%

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 22,700 advertisements for Rhode Island based jobs this month, an increase of 600 (+2.7%) from the January 2015 postings, and up 2,500 (+12.4%) from the advertised vacancies posted online in February 2014. There were an estimated 4.10 advertised vacancies for every 100 persons in Rhode Island's labor force.

Help Wanted OnLine Advertised Job Vacancies

	Feb 15	Jan 15	Feb 14
RI Vacancies	22,700	22,100	20,200
<i>Labor Demand Rate *</i>			
Rhode Island	4.10	3.99	3.66
US	3.47	3.35	3.19
Connecticut	3.96	3.83	3.67
Massachusetts	4.61	4.46	4.30
Maine	4.13	4.06	3.42
New Hampshire	3.51	3.49	3.72
Vermont	4.07	3.90	3.38
<i>Supply/Demand Rate **</i>			
Rhode Island	1.53	1.62	2.31
US	1.60	1.70	2.09

* 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 February

	2015	2014		2015	2014
Barrington	4.6	5.7	Newport	6.6	8.6
Bristol	6.5	8.2	North Kingstown	5.6	7.5
Burrillville	7.3	9.5	North Providence	6.7	9.0
Central Falls	8.6	11.2	North Smithfield	5.6	7.5
Charlestown	8.4	11.5	Pawtucket	7.8	10.4
Coventry	6.8	8.9	Portsmouth	6.8	8.5
Cranston	6.6	9.0	Providence	7.9	10.3
Cumberland	5.9	7.6	Richmond	4.7	6.3
East Greenwich	6.1	8.1	Scituate	6.8	8.6
East Providence	7.5	10.1	Smithfield	6.4	8.1
Exeter	6.7	8.5	South Kingstown	6.5	8.1
Foster	7.3	9.1	Tiverton	6.8	9.3
Glocester	5.7	7.2	Warren	7.1	9.8
Hopkinton	7.0	9.1	Warwick	6.1	8.1
Jamestown	4.9	6.5	West Greenwich	6.5	8.7
Johnston	7.3	9.9	West Warwick	7.7	10.1
Lincoln	5.9	7.7	Westerly	8.7	10.8
Little Compton	6.1	8.0	Woonsocket	8.8	11.4
Middletown	6.4	8.4			
Narragansett	4.9	6.4	State of R.I.	7.0	9.1
New Shoreham	24.8	31.7	United States	5.8	7.0

Nationally, there were an estimated 3.47 advertised vacancies for every 100 persons in labor force. Among the New England states, Massachusetts (4.61) and Maine (4.13) had higher vacancy rates than Rhode Island.

There were an estimated 1.53 unemployed Rhode Island residents for every advertised job in February, down from 1.62 unemployed residents estimated per January advertisements. Nationally, there were 1.60 unemployed persons for every job opening advertised in February, down from 1.70 in January.

Unemployment Insurance Claims Activity

	Feb.	Jan.	Feb.	% Change		Year to Date		
	2015	2015	2014	Jan. 15	Feb. 14	2015	2014	% Change
Regular Claims								
Initial Claims	8,081	8,978	9,240	-10.0%	-12.5%	17,059	19,537	-12.7%
Number of Payments	56,287	51,643	66,657	9.0%	-15.6%	107,930	127,681	-15.5%
Amount of Payments (gross millions)	\$18.7	\$16.7	\$22.4	12.0%	-16.5%	\$35.3	\$42.9	-17.7%
Exhaustions (Final Payments)	815	894	1,158	-8.8%	-29.6%	1,709	2,351	-27.3%

Rhode Island 2012-2022 Industry Projections Expanding & Declining Industries

NAICS Industry Title	2012 Employment	2022 Employment	Numeric Change	Percent Change
Rhode Island Total	494,130	545,550	51,420	10.4%
Expanding Industries				
Construction				
236 Construction of Buildings	3,854	5,250	1,396	36.2%
237 Heavy & Civil Engineering Construction	1,808	2,200	392	21.7%
238 Specialty Trade Contractors	10,340	12,800	2,460	23.8%
Manufacturing				
311 Food Manufacturing	3,025	3,500	475	15.7%
325 Chemical Manufacturing	2,901	3,500	599	20.7%
326 Plastics & Rubber Products Manufacturing	2,528	2,900	372	14.7%
334 Computer & Electronic Product Manufacturing	3,433	3,900	467	13.6%
335 Electrical Equipment, Appliance, & Component Manufacturing	1,147	1,550	403	35.1%
336 Transportation Equipment Manufacturing	3,505	5,600	2,095	59.8%
337 Furniture & Related Product Manufacturing	1,199	1,500	301	25.1%
Retail Trade				
442 Furniture & Home Furnishings Stores	1,219	1,400	181	14.9%
444 Building Material & Garden Equipment & Supplies Dealers	3,553	4,200	647	18.2%
448 Clothing & Clothing Accessories Stores	4,348	4,890	542	12.5%
485 Transit & Ground Passenger Transportation	2,366	2,680	314	13.3%
488 Support Activities for Transportation	1,026	1,220	194	18.9%
492 Couriers & Messengers	1,642	1,975	333	20.3%
493 Warehousing & Storage	1,319	1,540	221	16.8%
Information				
512 Motion Picture & Sound Recording Industries	565	700	135	23.9%
Finance & Insurance				
523 Securities, Commodity Contracts, & Other Financial Investments & Related	4,642	5,200	558	12.0%
531 Real Estate	4,247	4,700	453	10.7%
532 Rental & Leasing Services	1,475	1,650	175	11.9%
Professional & Business Services				
541 Professional, Scientific, & Technical Services	21,472	26,000	4,528	21.1%
551 Management of Companies & Enterprises	10,513	13,200	2,687	25.6%
561 Administrative & Support Services	22,539	26,700	4,161	18.5%
562 Waste Management & Remediation Service	1,563	1,900	337	21.6%
Educational Services				
611 Educational Services	44,178	45,600	1,422	3.2%
Health Care & Social Assistance				
621 Ambulatory Health Care Services	25,256	30,000	4,744	18.8%
622 Hospitals	25,030	27,500	2,470	9.9%
623 Nursing & Residential Care Facilities	18,249	22,500	4,251	23.3%
624 Social Assistance	12,113	14,500	2,387	19.7%
Accommodation & Food Services				
711 Performing Arts, Spectator Sports, & Related Industries	1,054	1,300	246	23.3%
713 Amusement, Gambling, & Recreation Industries	5,805	7,000	1,195	20.6%
722 Food Services & Drinking Places	39,851	45,000	5,149	12.9%
Declining Industries				
Utilities				
221 Utilities	1,055	1,000	-55	-5.2%
Manufacturing				
313 Textile Mills	2,113	1,650	-463	-21.9%
322 Paper Manufacturing	1,170	1,050	-120	-10.3%
327 Nonmetallic Mineral Product Manufacturing	593	520	-73	-12.3%
339 Miscellaneous Manufacturing	5,987	5,700	-287	-4.8%
Wholesale Trade				
423 Merchant Wholesalers, Durable Goods	8,518	8,300	-218	-2.6%
Retail Trade				
451 Sporting Goods, Hobby, Book, & Music Stores	1,367	1,230	-137	-10.0%
Information				
511 Publishing Industries (except Internet)	2,159	1,800	-359	-16.6%
Government				
910 Total Federal Government Employment	10,245	10,030	-215	-2.1%
920 State Government, Excluding Education & Hospitals	10,056	10,000	-56	-0.6%
930 Local Government, Excluding Education & Hospitals	11,688	11,000	-688	-5.9%

Source: RI Department of Labor and Training