



Rhode Island's Unemployment Rate Remains at 5.4 percent in February

- ◆ RI's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate for February was 5.4 percent, unchanged from the revised January rate.
- ◆ RI's February unemployment rate was down one percentage point from last February's figure of 6.4 percent.
- ◆ The national rate was 4.9 percent, unchanged from January and down six-tenths of a percentage point from the previous year.
- ◆ In February 2016, Rhode Island (5.4%) was tied for the sixteenth highest unemployment rate in the nation. Six states had unemployment rates of six percent or higher.
- ◆ The February 2016 unemployment rate decreased in twenty-two states, including Maine (-0.2), Massachusetts (-0.2) and New Hampshire (-0.2). Twenty states' rates, including Vermont, Connecticut and Rhode Island, were unchanged, while eight states' rates increased.
- ◆ Rates in other New England states for February 2016 – Connecticut 5.5 percent, Massachusetts 4.5 percent, Maine 3.6 percent, Vermont 3.4 percent and New Hampshire 2.7 percent.
- ◆ The number of employed RI residents totaled 522,400 in February 2016, down 100 from the previous month. Between February 2015 and February 2016, the number of employed RI residents was up 2,900.
- ◆ Over the month, the number of unemployed Rhode Island residents increased by 100 to 29,700. From February 2015 to February 2016, the number of unemployed residents decreased by 5,900.

Labor Force Participation

Estimated at 552,100 in February 2016, Rhode Island's labor force is at its lowest level since August 2002. The drop in the prime working age (25 to 54) population coupled with significant drops in the labor force participation rate (percent of population employed or unemployed but actively seeking work) of teenagers and prime working age males were contributing factors in the decrease in the state's labor force.

The state's civilian non-institutional working-age (16 and above) population increased by 15,000 (+1.8%) between 2006 and 2015 due mainly to gains in the older worker (55& older) population. With the first of the baby-boomers reaching 60 in 2006, the older worker population (55& older) increased by 65,000 (+26.3%) during the period while the total number of workers in the prime working age population (25-54) fell by 49,000 (-10.6%). This demographic change in the state's population from ages where labor force participation (employed or unemployed but actively seeking work) is expected, to ages where labor force participation is less likely to occur, has had a major impact on the size of the state's labor force.

While the state's male population grew slightly faster than its female population between 2006 and 2015, with the male population increasing by 8,000 (1.9%) and the female population increasing by 7,000 (1.7%), the number of men in the labor force declined by 15,000 (-5.0%) while the number of women in the labor force declined by 4,000 (-1.3%). During this period the percentage of male residents participating in the labor force declined from 74.8 percent in 2006 to 69.7 percent in 2015 and the percentage of female residents participating in the labor force declined from 63.0 percent in 2006 to 61.2 percent in 2015.

Labor Force participation rates for teenagers declined the most during this period, falling from 53.3 percent in 2006 to 41.2 percent in 2015, a drop of 12.1 percentage points. Other groups experiencing significant drops in labor force participation included 20 to 24 year old males, 35 to 44 year old males and 45 to 54 year old females. Labor force participation rates for these three groups fell 5.3; 5.5; and 4.0 percentage points, respectively.

In 2015, there were an estimated 19,300 RI residents not participating in the labor force who wanted a job, on par with the 2006 estimate of 19,400.

Seasonally Adjusted Labor Force Statistics (in thousands)

	Rhode Island			United States		
	Feb 16	Jan 16	Feb 15	Feb 16	Jan 16	Feb 15
Civilian Labor Force	552.1	552.1	555.1	158,890	158,335	156,878
Resident Employment	522.4	522.5	519.4	151,074	150,544	148,231
Unemployment	29.7	29.6	35.6	7,815	7,791	8,646
Unemployment Rate	5.4%	5.4%	6.4%	4.9%	4.9%	5.5%

Rhode Island Jobs Increase by 300 in February

Estimated nonfarm payroll in Rhode Island totaled 488,200 in February, reflecting a gain of 300 jobs from the January estimate of 487,900. Over the past three months, Rhode Island has averaged a gain of 300 jobs. Over the year, employment is up 7,400 jobs.

Employment in Educational Services rebounded in February, adding 1,600 jobs following the 1,100 job loss posted in January. Over the year, employment in Educational Services is down 300.

Retail Trade added 500 jobs in February, the first reported job gain within this sector since September 2015. Over the year, the number of jobs in the Retail Trade sector is up by 400.

The Health Care & Social Assistance and Mining & Logging sectors each added 100 jobs in February. Employment in Health Care & Social Assistance is up 300 from a year ago, while Mining & Logging employment is up by 100 jobs.

The Manufacturing, Transportation & Utilities and Other Services sectors each reported a loss of 400 jobs in February. This is the first time that the Manufacturing sector reported a job loss during the past eight months, dating back to June 2015. It's also been 12 months since a job loss was reported in the Other Services sector. Employment in each of these three sectors is up 100 from February 2015.

Employment in Accommodation & Food Services is down 300 since January, marking three consecutive months of job losses, totaling 600 jobs. However, employment in Accommodation & Food Services is up 1,200 over the year. Government employment fell by 200 in February and is down 500 over the year.

A loss of 100 jobs was reported in the Professional & Business Services, Financial Activities and Information sectors. Employment in Professional & Business Services and Financial Activities is up 3,200 and 600, respectively, from a year ago, while the number of jobs in the Information sector is up 100.

In February, employment in Construction, Wholesale Trade and Arts, Entertainment & Recreation remained unchanged.

In February 2016, the New England regional workforce grew at a rate of 0.3 percent from January, while the U.S. workforce rose by 0.2 percent. The number of jobs within the nation increased by 242,000, with 21,000 of those jobs originating in New England. Massachusetts added 13,300 jobs in February, the largest job gain within the entire New England region. New Hampshire added 4,800 jobs since January, followed by a gain of 4,200 in Connecticut and 300 jobs in Rhode Island. Job losses were reported in Maine (-1,300) and Vermont (-300).

Establishment Employment in Rhode Island					
Seasonally Adjusted					
	Net Change From				
	Feb-16	Jan-16	Feb-15	Jan-16	Feb-15
Total Nonfarm	488.2	487.9	480.8	0.3	7.4
Total Private	428.1	427.6	420.2	0.5	7.9
Natural Resources & Mining	0.3	0.2	0.2	0.1	0.1
Construction	18.8	18.8	16.4	0.0	2.4
Manufacturing	41.2	41.6	41.1	-0.4	0.1
Wholesale Trade	16.3	16.3	17.1	0.0	-0.8
Retail Trade	48.0	47.5	47.6	0.5	0.4
Transportation & Utilities	11.4	11.8	11.3	-0.4	0.1
Information	8.5	8.6	8.4	-0.1	0.1
Financial Activities	33.3	33.4	32.7	-0.1	0.6
Professional & Business Services	65.6	65.7	62.4	-0.1	3.2
Educational Services	24.3	22.7	24.6	1.6	-0.3
Health Care & Social Assistance	80.7	80.6	80.4	0.1	0.3
Arts, Entertainment & Recreation	9.3	9.3	8.9	0.0	0.4
Accommodation & Food Services	47.5	47.8	46.3	-0.3	1.2
Other Services	22.9	23.3	22.8	-0.4	0.1
Government	60.1	60.3	60.6	-0.2	-0.5

Manufacturing Employment in Rhode Island					
Not Seasonally Adjusted					
	Employment				
	(in thousands)				
	Feb 16	Jan 16	Feb 15	Net Change From:	
	Jan 16	Feb 15	Jan 16	Feb 15	
Manufacturing	41.3	41.6	40.8	-300	500
Durable Goods	26.1	26.3	26.0	-200	100
Fabricated Metal Product Mfg.	5.3	5.3	5.4	0	-100
Computer & Electronic Product Mfg.	3.1	3.1	3.2	0	-100
Transportation Equipment Mfg.	4.8	4.8	4.6	0	200
Miscellaneous DG Manufacturing	5.7	5.7	5.8	0	-100
Jewelry & Silverware	3.5	3.5	3.6	0	-100
Non-Durable Goods	15.2	15.3	14.8	-100	400
Chemical Manufacturing	3.0	3.0	3.0	0	0

Nonfarm payroll employment increased in 36 states in February and decreased in 14 states. The largest over-the-month percentage increase in employment occurred in Hawaii and New Hampshire, growing by 0.7 percent each, followed by Arkansas and Utah (+0.5 percent each). The largest over-the-month percentage decline in employment occurred in North Dakota (-1.0%), followed by Iowa (-0.4%) and Delaware (-0.3%).

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.

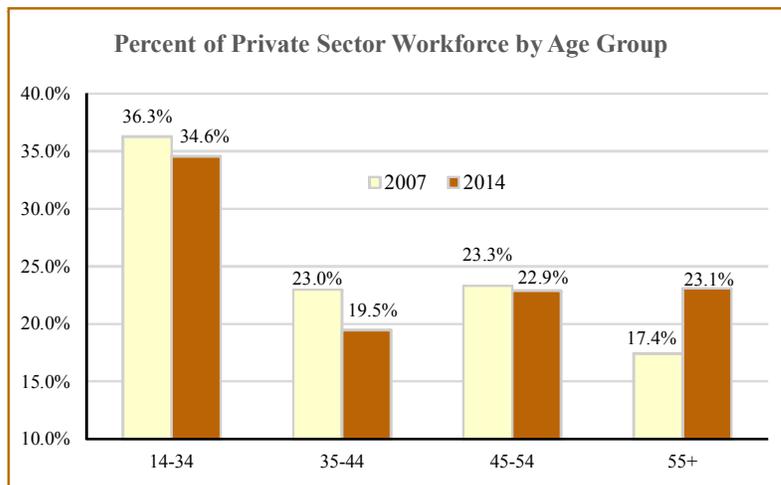


Rhode Island's Older Workforce

In 2014, nearly one-quarter (23.1%) of RI's private sector jobs were held by individuals 55 and older, up from the 17.4 percent this group represented in 2007. All other age groups reviewed showed drops in the share of jobs they held in Rhode Island's private sector. The 14 to 34 age group fell from 36.3 percent in 2007 to 34.6 percent in 2014; the 35 to 44 age group fell from 23.0 percent in 2007 to 19.5 percent in 2014 and the 45 to 54 age group fell from 23.3 percent in 2007 to 22.9 percent in 2014.

In terms of overall numeric change, the 55+ workforce totaled 88,780 in 2014, an increase of 18,016 (+25.5%) from the 55+ workforce of 70,764 reported in 2007. Between 2007 and 2014, the 35-44 age group and the 14-34 age group fell by 19.7 percent and 9.7 percent, respectively. The 45-54 age group reported a decrease of 6.9 percent during this period.

In 2014, nearly 22 percent of the 88,780 private sector workers age 55+, were employed in the Health Care & Social Assistance sector, while 14.5 percent were employed in the Manufacturing sector. Retail Trade (10.1%) was third largest employment sector for those Rhode Island workers 55+. Among those employment sectors which represented the smallest segment of workers 55+ include; the Information (2.2%), Real Estate, rental & Leasing (1.9%) and Arts, Entertainment & Recreation (1.7%) sectors.



Sectors with the largest shares of older workers include Manufacturing (31.9%), Education (30.6%) and Mining (30.4%) in which nearly one out of three workers are 55 or older. In the Utilities (29.8%), Transportation & Warehousing (29.3%), Other Services (27.2%), Agriculture (27.0%), Wholesale Trade (26.6%) and Health Care & Social Assistance (24.9%) sectors approximately one out of four workers are 55 or older. In contrast, older workers accounted for approximately one out of ten workers in the Accommodation & Food Services sector.

Source: US Census, Longitudinal Employer-Household Dynamics (LEHD)

Characteristics of the Insured Unemployed

A total of 13,654 individuals were eligible to collect Unemployment Insurance benefits in February 2016, down 1,478 (-9.8%) from the 15,132 collecting these benefits in February 2015. In all, 40.1 percent of Rhode Island's unemployed workers were eligible to collect unemployment benefits in February.

Of the 13,654 individuals collecting Unemployment Insurance benefits, 17.7 percent faced long-term unemployment (defined as collecting unemployment insurance for fifteen weeks or more), down from 18.1 percent in February 2015.

On an industry basis, 20.2 percent (2,759) of the State's insured unemployed workers came from the Administrative & Waste Services sector. There were also 2,729 individuals with an attachment to the Construction sector, accounting for 20.0 percent of all insured unemployed workers. An additional 9.3 percent (1,275) of those collecting UI benefits in February had worked in the Accommodation & Food Services sector. Large numbers of insured unemployed were also reported in Manufacturing (1,081), Retail Trade (966) and Health Care & Social Assistance (962). For more information, go to

www.dlt.ri.gov/lmi/uiadmin/characteristics.htm.

Characteristics of the Insured Unemployed, February 2016

	Total	Long-Term	Percent Long-Term
Total	13,654	2,417	17.7%
Male	9,096	1,259	13.8%
Female	4,558	1,158	25.4%
Selected Industries	13,654	2,417	17.7%
Construction	2,729	150	5.5%
Manufacturing	1,081	258	23.9%
Wholesale Trade	482	134	27.8%
Retail Trade	966	247	25.6%
Transportation & Warehousing	316	53	16.8%
Information	126	44	34.9%
Finance & Insurance	348	125	35.9%
Real Estate	225	64	28.4%
Professional & Tech. Services	468	112	23.9%
Administrative & Waste Services	2,759	267	9.7%
Educational Services	174	69	39.7%
Health Care & Social Assistance	962	343	35.7%
Arts, Entertainment & Recreation	630	80	12.7%
Accommodation & Food Services	1,275	265	20.8%
Other Services	366	80	21.9%
Public Administration	101	19	18.8%

Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers

				% Change
	Feb. 16	Jan. 16	Feb. 15	Prev. Year
All Items	237.1	236.9	234.7	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 18,100 advertisements for Rhode Island based jobs this month, a decrease of 700 (-3.7%) from the January 2016 postings, and down 4,000 (-18.1%) from the advertised vacancies posted online in February 2015. There were an estimated 3.27 advertised vacancies for every 100 persons in Rhode Island's labor force.

Help Wanted OnLine Advertised Job Vacancies

	Feb 16	Jan 16	Feb 15
RI Vacancies	18,100	18,800	22,100
<i>Labor Demand Rate *</i>			
Rhode Island	3.27	3.40	4.02
US	3.37	3.47	3.44
Connecticut	3.51	3.75	3.92
Massachusetts	4.70	4.62	4.52
Maine	3.32	3.07	4.20
New Hampshire	3.96	3.83	3.56
Vermont	3.10	3.10	4.04
<i>Supply/Demand Rate **</i>			
Rhode Island	1.64	1.57	1.61
US	1.47	1.42	1.60

* 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

	2016	2015		2016	2015
Barrington	4.2	4.7	Newport	6.0	6.7
Bristol	5.8	6.7	North Kingstown	5.1	5.7
Burrillville	6.4	7.5	North Providence	6.0	6.9
Central Falls	7.7	8.9	North Smithfield	5.5	5.8
Charlestown	7.2	8.7	Pawtucket	6.8	8.0
Coventry	6.0	7.1	Portsmouth	5.8	7.0
Cranston	6.0	6.8	Providence	7.3	8.2
Cumberland	5.1	6.0	Richmond	4.2	4.8
East Greenwich	5.2	6.3	Scituate	6.0	6.9
East Providence	6.8	7.6	Smithfield	5.6	6.6
Exeter	5.5	6.8	South Kingstown	5.7	6.6
Foster	6.4	7.4	Tiverton	6.1	7.0
Glocester	5.2	5.7	Warren	6.3	7.4
Hopkinton	5.9	7.2	Warwick	5.2	6.2
Jamestown	4.3	5.0	West Greenwich	5.7	6.8
Johnston	6.6	7.5	West Warwick	6.7	7.9
Lincoln	5.1	6.0	Westerly	7.5	9.1
Little Compton	4.9	6.1	Woonsocket	8.0	9.1
Middletown	5.8	6.6			
Narragansett	4.4	5.0	State of R.I.	6.2	7.2
New Shoreham	24.8	25.5	United States	5.2	5.8

Nationally, there were an estimated 3.37 advertised vacancies for every 100 persons in labor force. Among the New England states, Massachusetts (4.70) New Hampshire (3.96), Connecticut (3.51) and Maine (3.32) had higher vacancy rates than Rhode Island.

There were an estimated 1.64 unemployed Rhode Island residents for every advertised job in February, up from 1.57 unemployed residents estimated per January advertisements. Nationally, there were 1.47 unemployed persons for every job opening advertised in February, up from 1.42 in January.

Unemployment Insurance Claims Activity

	Feb.	Jan.	Feb.	% Change		Year to Date		
	2016	2016	2015	Jan. 16	Feb. 15	2016	2015	% Change
Regular Claims								
Initial Claims	7,286	8,409	8,081	-13.4%	-9.8%	15,695	17,059	-8.0%
Number of Payments	60,488	44,184	56,287	36.9%	7.5%	104,672	107,930	-3.0%
Amount of Payments (gross millions)	\$20.5	\$14.6	\$18.7	40.4%	9.6%	\$35.1	\$35.4	-0.8%
Exhaustions (Final Payments)	770	693	815	11.1%	-5.5%	1,463	1,709	-14.4%

Population, Labor Force and labor Force Participation Rates by Age and Gender

Population, 16 and older (in thousands)

	<u>2006</u>	<u>2015</u>		<u>2006</u>	<u>2015</u>		<u>2006</u>	<u>2015</u>
Total	842	857	Male	401	409	Female	441	448
16-24	133	132	16-24	67	72	16-24	66	60
16-19	60	54	16-19	31	27	16-19	29	27
20-24	73	78	20-24	36	45	20-24	37	33
25-54	462	413	25-54	224	195	25-54	238	218
25-34	130	135	25-34	65	60	25-34	65	74
35-44	164	133	35-44	78	65	35-44	86	68
45-54	168	146	45-54	81	70	45-54	87	75
55+	247	312	55+	110	141	55+	137	171
55-64	113	152	55-64	54	73	55-64	59	79
65+	134	160	65+	56	68	65+	78	92

Labor Force (in thousands)

	<u>2006</u>	<u>2015</u>		<u>2006</u>	<u>2015</u>		<u>2006</u>	<u>2015</u>
Total	578	559	Male	300	285	Female	278	274
16-24	90	82	16-24	46	47	16-24	44	35
16-19	32	22	16-19	16	12	16-19	16	10
20-24	58	60	20-24	30	35	20-24	28	25
25-54	390	344	25-54	202	172	25-54	188	172
25-34	109	114	25-34	58	55	25-34	51	60
35-44	141	112	35-44	73	57	35-44	68	56
45-54	140	117	45-54	71	60	45-54	69	57
55+	98	134	55+	51	66	55+	47	68
55-64	77	103	55-64	39	52	55-64	38	51
65+	21	31	65+	12	15	65+	9	16

Labor Force Participation Rate

	<u>2006</u>	<u>2015</u>		<u>2006</u>	<u>2015</u>		<u>2006</u>	<u>2015</u>
Total	68.6%	65.3%	Male	74.8%	69.7%	Female	63.0%	61.2%
16-24	67.7%	62.2%	16-24	68.7%	64.9%	16-24	66.7%	58.9%
16-19	53.3%	41.2%	16-19	51.6%	43.2%	16-19	55.2%	39.1%
20-24	79.5%	76.7%	20-24	83.3%	78.0%	20-24	75.7%	74.8%
25-54	84.4%	83.2%	25-54	90.2%	88.0%	25-54	79.0%	78.8%
25-34	83.8%	85.0%	25-34	89.2%	90.7%	25-34	78.5%	80.3%
35-44	86.0%	84.5%	35-44	93.6%	88.1%	35-44	79.1%	81.1%
45-54	83.3%	80.2%	45-54	87.7%	85.5%	45-54	79.3%	75.3%
55+	39.7%	42.9%	55+	46.4%	47.0%	55+	34.3%	39.5%
55-64	68.1%	67.7%	55-64	72.2%	70.5%	55-64	64.4%	65.2%
65+	15.7%	19.4%	65+	21.4%	21.8%	65+	11.5%	17.7%

Not in the Labor Force (in thousands)

	<u>2006</u>	<u>2015</u>		<u>2006</u>	<u>2015</u>		<u>2006</u>	<u>2015</u>
Total	264.0	297.6	Men	101.0	123.7	Women	163.0	173.9
Want a Job	19.4	19.3	Want a Job	8.4	9.8	Want a Job	11.0	9.5