



Rhode Island's Unemployment Rate Drops to 6.1 percent in April

- ◆ RI's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate for April was 6.1 percent, down two-tenths of a percentage point from the March rate of 6.3 percent.
- ◆ RI's April unemployment rate was down two percentage points from last April's figure of 8.1 percent.
- ◆ The national rate was 5.4 percent, down one-tenth of a percentage point from March and down eight-tenths of a percentage point from the previous year.
- ◆ In April 2015, Rhode Island (6.1%) had the twelfth highest unemployment rate in the nation. Fifteen states had unemployment rates of six percent or higher.
- ◆ The April 2015 unemployment rate decreased in twenty-three states, including Rhode Island (-0.2), Vermont (-0.2), Connecticut (-0.1), Maine (-0.1), Massachusetts (-0.1) and New Hampshire (-0.1). Sixteen states' rates were unchanged while eleven states' rates increased.
- ◆ Rates in other New England states for April 2015 – Connecticut 6.3 percent, Maine 4.7 percent, Massachusetts 4.7 percent, New Hampshire 3.8 percent and Vermont 3.6 percent.
- ◆ The number of employed RI residents totaled 520,100 in April 2015, up 2,800 from the previous month. Between April 2014 and April 2015, the number of employed RI residents was up 9,700.
- ◆ Over the month, the number of unemployed Rhode Island residents decreased by 1,000 to 33,700. From April 2014 to April 2015, the number of unemployed residents decreased by 11,200.

Labor Supply & Demand in Rhode Island

Unemployment insurance 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 groups 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 March 31, 2015, the Department of Labor and Training's EmployRI online network recorded 18,784 on-line job postings from RI-based businesses. Also during March, a total of 14,543 (42.0%) of the 34,600 unemployed RI residents collected UI benefits. A comparison of the on-line job posting to the UI claimants currently seeking work indicates that there was less than one (0.7) claimant for each on-line posting.

Job postings for which the usual educational requirement was either high school diploma (25.7%) or a bachelor's degree (17.0%) accounted for the most on-line postings, numbering 4,824 and 3,201, respectively. Eleven percent of the postings required less than a high school diploma, 8.7 percent required an associate degree and 5.6 percent required advance degrees.

A labor surplus was associated with four of the 21 occupational groups, including Construction & Extraction, Building & Maintenance, Production, and Food Preparation & Serving occupations. The greatest labor surplus was associated with the Construction & Extraction group, for which there were approximately eleven UI claimants with this type of work experience for every on-line posting.

Postings for Healthcare Practitioners & Technical occupations outnumber claimants by approximately ten to one. Postings for the Computer & Mathematical occupational group outnumber claimants by approximately five to one. These numbers indicate that

employers seeking to fill vacancies in these occupational groups would have more difficulty finding qualified workers than those employers attempting to fill vacancies in occupational groups where the ratio of unemployed claimants to on-line postings is greater or closer to one. For more information, visit www.dlt.ri.gov/lmi/publications/supply&demand.htm.

Seasonally Adjusted Labor Force Statistics

(in thousands)

	Rhode Island			United States		
	Apr 15	Mar 15	Apr 14	Apr 15	Mar 15	Apr 14
Civilian Labor Force	553.8	551.9	555.3	157,072	156,906	155,420
Resident Employment	520.1	517.3	510.4	148,523	148,331	145,724
Unemployment	33.7	34.7	44.9	8,549	8,575	9,696
Unemployment Rate	6.1%	6.3%	8.1%	5.4%	5.5%	6.2%

Rhode Island Jobs Increase by 600 in April

Estimated nonfarm payroll in Rhode Island totaled 481,400 in April, reflecting a gain of 600 jobs from the revised March estimate of 480,800. Thus far, the state's job count is up 2,100 through 2015, and up 4,300 from a year ago.

The Professional & Business Services sector added 1,400 jobs in April as a surge of landscapers were added back to the payrolls following unfavorable weather-related working conditions which were present in March. This was the first job gain within the Professional & Business sector since September 2014.

The Accommodation & Food Services sector posted a gain of 500 jobs in April, equaling the same amount added in March. The employment level of 47,800 in this sector is the highest level on record.

Both the Retail Trade and Government sectors added 200 jobs in April, while a gain of 100 jobs each was added in the Health Care & Social Assistance and Educational Services sectors.

Offsetting the April gains were job losses reported in eight economic sectors. The Construction sector continues to struggle, shedding 400 jobs from March. April's loss marks three consecutive months of Construction job losses totaling 1,200 jobs. Employment in the Arts, Entertainment & Recreation sector also fell by 400 in April.

The Manufacturing sector lost 300 jobs, the first job loss in this sector over the last six months. A loss of 200 jobs was reported in the Financial Activities, Transportation & Utilities and Wholesale Trade sectors, while a loss of 100 jobs was reported in both the Information and Other Services sectors.

Nationally, employment increased by 223,000 or 0.2 percent in April, while the New England region reported a gain of 15,600 (+0.2%) jobs. Three local states, Maine (+0.6%), Vermont (+0.6%) and Massachusetts (+0.3%) outpaced the region and nation in terms of job growth on a percentage basis.

In April 2015, nonfarm payroll employment increased in 40 states, decreased in 9 states and was unchanged in one state. The largest over-the-month percentage increases in employment occurred in Nevada (+1.0%) and Alaska (+0.9%). The largest over-the-month percentage declines in employment occurred in New Hampshire and Wyoming (-0.3% each).

Establishment Employment in Rhode Island					
Seasonally Adjusted					
	Net Change From				
	Apr-15	Mar-15	Apr-14	Mar-15	Apr-14
Total Nonfarm	481.4	480.8	477.1	0.6	4.3
Total Private	421.3	420.9	416.9	0.4	4.4
Natural Resources & Mining	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.0	0.0
Construction	15.7	16.1	16.5	-0.4	-0.8
Manufacturing	41.5	41.8	40.8	-0.3	0.7
Wholesale Trade	16.5	16.7	16.8	-0.2	-0.3
Retail Trade	46.9	46.7	47.2	0.2	-0.3
Transportation & Utilities	11.6	11.8	10.9	-0.2	0.7
Information	8.6	8.7	8.8	-0.1	-0.2
Financial Activities	32.4	32.6	32.4	-0.2	0.0
Professional & Business Services	61.4	60.0	60.3	1.4	1.1
Educational Services	24.9	24.8	24.6	0.1	0.3
Health Care & Social Assistance	81.1	81.0	80.5	0.1	0.6
Arts, Entertainment & Recreation	8.7	9.1	8.9	-0.4	-0.2
Accommodation & Food Services	47.8	47.3	46.2	0.5	1.6
Other Services	24.0	24.1	22.8	-0.1	1.2
Government	60.1	59.9	60.2	0.2	-0.1

Manufacturing Employment in Rhode Island					
Not Seasonally Adjusted					
	Employment				
	(in thousands)				
	Apr 15	Mar 15	Apr 14	Net Change From:	
	Mar 15	Apr 14	Mar 15	Apr 14	
Manufacturing	41.3	41.8	40.7	-500	600
Durable Goods	27.0	27.2	26.0	-200	1000
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.	4.8	4.8	4.3	0	500
Miscellaneous DG Manufacturing	5.5	5.5	5.7	0	-200
Jewelry & Silverware	3.3	3.3	3.4	0	-100
Non-Durable Goods	14.3	14.6	14.7	-300	-400
Chemical Manufacturing	3.1	3.1	3.2	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.

Rhode Island's High-Tech Industries



The Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) has identified 11 “high-tech” industries using North American Industry Classification System (NAICS) codes. According to the BLS, an industry is considered high tech if “technology-oriented workers” within an industry, as identified by occupational staffing patterns, account for approximately 25 percent or more of total jobs within the selected industry.

In 2013, there were over 20,700 Rhode Island workers employed in high-tech industries, representing 5.2 percent of the state’s private sector employment. Rhode Island High-tech industries paid an average wage of \$79,226 in 2013; over \$33,400 more than the private sector average of \$45,769. Nationally, high-tech industries accounted for 6.1 percent of the nation’s private sector employment and paid its employees an average of \$98, 940 a year.

The Computer Systems Design and Internet, Telecommunications & Data Processing industries employed the most high-tech industry workers in 2013, employing 5,710 and 4,921 individuals, respectively. Other notable high-tech industry employment was also noted in Architectural & Engineering Services (3,486) and Electronic Instrument Manufacturing (2,551).

Employment in the high-tech industries of Pharmaceutical & Medicine Manufacturing and Computer Equipment Manufacturing, each earned over \$100,000 in 2013. Two other high-tech industries, Software Publishes and Communications Equipment Manufacturing, averaged over \$90,000 in earnings in 2013.

In 2013, high-tech industries accounted for over \$1.6 billion or 9 percent of the states \$18.2 billion earned by the private sector workforce. There were over 2,200 Rhode Island high-tech industry establishments in 2013, accounting for 6.5 percent of the 34,798 private sector establishments statewide.

In relation to the Rhode Island recession, the percentage of high-tech industry workers grew slightly, rising from 4.5 percent in December 2006 (peak employment level) to 4.8 percent in August 2009 (low employment level), indicating that fewer high-tech industry workers were impacted during the economic downturn. The U.S. shared a similar story between the nation’s high employment level in January 2008 and the low employment level in February 2010, as high-tech industry employment rose from 6.1 percent to 6.2 percent during this period. (See label page for more information.)

Characteristics of the Insured Unemployed

A total of 10,154 individuals were eligible to collect Unemployment Insurance benefits in April 2015, down 2,434 (-19.3%) from the 12,588 collecting these benefits in April 2014. In all, 32.7 percent of Rhode Island’s unemployed workers were eligible to collect unemployment benefits in April.

Of the 10,154 individuals collecting Unemployment Insurance benefits, 36.2 percent faced long-term unemployment (defined as collecting unemployment insurance for fifteen weeks or more), up from 32.6 percent in April 2014.

On an industry basis, 18.2 percent (1,849) of the State’s insured unemployed workers came from the Construction sector. There were also 1,411 individuals with an attachment to the Administrative & Waste Services sector, accounting for 13.9 percent of all insured unemployed workers. An additional 10.8 percent (1,097) of those collecting UI benefits in April had worked in the Health Care & Social Assistance sector. Large numbers of insured unemployed were also reported in Manufacturing (933), Retail Trade (899) and Accommodation & Food Services (845). For more information, go to www.dlt.ri.gov/lmi/uiadmin/characteristics.htm.

Characteristics of the Insured Unemployed, April 2015

	Total	Percent	
		Long-Term	Long-Term
Total	10,154	3,671	36.2%
Male	6,153	2,345	38.1%
Female	4,001	1,326	33.1%
Selected Industries	10,154	3,671	36.2%
Construction	1,849	696	37.6%
Manufacturing	933	291	31.2%
Wholesale Trade	427	114	26.7%
Retail Trade	899	312	34.7%
Transportation & Warehousing	237	104	43.9%
Information	161	67	41.6%
Finance & Insurance	372	122	32.8%
Real Estate	197	56	28.4%
Professional & Tech. Services	423	132	31.2%
Administrative & Waste Services	1,411	552	39.1%
Educational Services	160	57	35.6%
Health Care & Social Assistance	1,097	366	33.4%
Arts, Entertainment & Recreation	264	135	51.1%
Accommodation & Food Services	845	333	39.4%
Other Services	365	122	33.4%
Public Administration	80	29	36.3%

Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers

				% Change
	Apr. 15	Mar. 15	Apr. 14	Prev. Year
All Items	236.6	236.1	237.1	-0.2%

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 21,500 advertisements for Rhode Island based jobs this month, a decrease of 1,400 (-6.1%) from the March 2015 postings, and up 1,400 (+7.0%) from the advertised vacancies posted online in April 2014. There were an estimated 3.90 advertised vacancies for every 100 persons in Rhode Island's labor force.

Help Wanted OnLine Advertised Job Vacancies

	Apr 15	Mar 15	Apr 14
RI Vacancies	21,500	22,900	20,100
<i>Labor Demand Rate *</i>			
Rhode Island	3.90	4.14	3.62
US	3.42	3.48	3.22
Connecticut	4.00	4.00	3.61
Massachusetts	4.63	4.76	4.23
Maine	4.28	4.29	3.55
New Hampshire	3.43	3.60	3.86
Vermont	3.97	4.19	3.53
<i>Supply/Demand Rate **</i>			
Rhode Island	1.57	1.51	2.23
US	1.59	1.57	1.94

* 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 April

	2015	2014		2015	2014
Barrington	3.8	5.1	Newport	4.9	7.1
Bristol	5.2	7.0	North Kingstown	4.4	6.4
Burrillville	5.6	8.0	North Providence	5.8	8.0
Central Falls	7.0	10.0	North Smithfield	4.5	6.3
Charlestown	6.6	9.7	Pawtucket	6.6	9.4
Coventry	5.4	7.6	Portsmouth	5.2	7.0
Cranston	5.6	8.0	Providence	6.6	9.3
Cumberland	4.6	6.4	Richmond	3.2	5.1
East Greenwich	4.9	7.0	Scituate	5.4	7.3
East Providence	6.1	8.6	Smithfield	5.1	7.1
Exeter	4.8	7.1	South Kingstown	4.9	6.9
Foster	5.5	7.5	Tiverton	5.1	7.6
Glocester	4.5	6.0	Warren	5.6	8.2
Hopkinton	5.7	7.5	Warwick	4.9	7.1
Jamestown	3.9	5.6	West Greenwich	5.1	7.9
Johnston	6.0	8.5	West Warwick	6.1	8.7
Lincoln	4.8	6.6	Westerly	7.1	9.3
Little Compton	4.0	6.6	Woonsocket	7.6	10.1
Middletown	4.9	6.9			
Narragansett	3.9	5.3	State of R.I.	5.6	8.0
New Shoreham	19.6	26.4	United States	5.1	5.9

Nationally, there were an estimated 3.42 advertised vacancies for every 100 persons in labor force. Among the New England states, Massachusetts (4.63), Maine (4.28), Connecticut (4.00) and Vermont (3.97) had higher vacancy rates than Rhode Island.

There were an estimated 1.57 unemployed Rhode Island residents for every advertised job in April, up from 1.51 unemployed residents estimated per March advertisements. Nationally, there were 1.59 unemployed persons for every job opening advertised in April, up from 1.57 in March.

Unemployment Insurance Claims Activity

Regular Claims	Apr.	Mar.	Apr.	% Change		Year to Date		
	2015	2015	2014	Mar. 15	Apr. 14	2015	2014	% Change
Initial Claims	6,107	4,524	6,598	35.0%	-7.4%	27,690	31,652	-12.5%
Number of Payments	42,645	65,347	49,269	-34.7%	-13.4%	215,922	250,457	-13.8%
Amount of Payments (gross millions)	\$13.9	\$22.0	\$16.4	-36.8%	-15.2%	\$71.2	\$84.1	-15.3%
Exhaustions (Final Payments)	932	1,108	1,390	-15.9%	-32.9%	3,749	5,398	-30.5%

**Rhode Island High-Tech Industry Employment
2013**

<u>High-Tech Industries</u>	<u>Employment</u>	<u>Total Wages</u>	<u>Average Annual Wage</u>
Pharmaceutical and Medicine Manufacturing	1,448	\$159,307,512	\$110,019
Computer Equipment Manufacturing	26	\$2,693,639	\$103,602
Communications Equipment Manufacturing	253	\$23,582,309	\$93,211
Semiconductor and Other Electronic Component Manufacturing	548	\$24,679,353	\$45,035
Navigational, Measuring, Electromedical, and Control Instruments Mfg	2,551	\$192,833,766	\$75,591
Aerospace Product and Parts Manufacturing	0	\$0	\$0
Software Publishers	991	\$97,479,436	\$98,365
Architectural and Engineering Services	3,486	\$234,899,014	\$67,384
Computer Systems Design	5,710	\$483,440,935	\$84,666
Scientific Research and Development Services	775	\$63,023,860	\$81,321
Internet, Telecommunications and Data Processing	4,921	\$358,741,793	\$72,900
Total High-Tech Industries	20,709	\$1,640,681,617	\$79,226
Total Private Sector	397,435	\$18,190,258,626	\$45,769