



Rhode Island's Unemployment Rate Drops to 5.3 percent in April

- ◆ RI's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate for April was 5.3 percent, down one-tenth of a percentage point from the March rate.
- ◆ RI's April unemployment rate was down one percentage point from last April's figure of 6.3 percent.
- ◆ The national rate was 5.0 percent, unchanged from March and down four-tenths of a percentage point from the previous year.
- ◆ In April 2016, Rhode Island (5.3%) was tied for the sixteenth highest unemployment rate in the nation. Seven states had unemployment rates of six percent or higher.
- ◆ The April 2016 unemployment rate decreased in nineteen states, including Massachusetts (-0.2), Rhode Island (-0.1) and Vermont (-0.1). Thirteen states' rates, including Maine, New Hampshire and Connecticut, were unchanged, while eighteen states' rates increased.
- ◆ Rates in other New England states for April 2016 – Connecticut 5.7 percent, Massachusetts 4.2 percent, Maine 3.4 percent, Vermont 3.2 percent and New Hampshire 2.6 percent.
- ◆ The number of employed RI residents totaled 523,300 in April 2016, up 500 from the previous month. Between April 2015 and April 2016, the number of employed RI residents was up 2,000.
- ◆ Over the month, the number of unemployed Rhode Island residents decreased by 300 to 29,600. From April 2015 to April 2016, the number of unemployed residents decreased by 5,200.

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 March 31, 2016, the Department of Labor and Training's EmployRI online network recorded 18,852 online job postings from RI-based businesses. Also during March, 12,576 RI residents collected unemployment insurance benefits accounting for 38.3 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 (0.7) claimant for each online posting. Job postings for which the usual educational requirement was either a high school diploma (26.3%) or less than a high school diploma (26.3%) accounted for the most online postings. For a tenth of the postings, an educational requirement was not listed.

A labor surplus was associated with three of the 21 occupational groups including Construction & Extraction, Building & Grounds Cleaning & Maintenance and Production. In Construction, there were over 15 claimants per job posting.

The largest potential labor shortages were associated with postings for Healthcare Practitioners & Technical occupations, Computer & Math occupations, Architecture & Engineering occupations and Sales & Related occupations where job postings outnumber claimants by at least 5 to 1.

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 online 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 16	Mar 16	Apr 15	Apr 16	Mar 16	Apr 15
Civilian Labor Force	552.8	552.8	556.0	158,924	159,286	157,032
Resident Employment	523.3	522.8	521.3	151,004	151,320	148,509
Unemployment	29.6	29.9	34.8	7,920	7,966	8,523
Unemployment Rate	5.3%	5.4%	6.3%	5.0%	5.0%	5.4%

Rhode Island Jobs Decrease by 1,500 in April

Estimated nonfarm payroll in Rhode Island totaled 489,100 in April, reflecting a loss of 1,500 jobs from the revised March estimate of 490,600. Through 2016, a total of 600 jobs have been added to the local economy. The total number of jobs is up 5,100 from a year ago.

The Professional & Businesses Services sector lost 1,200 jobs in April, due, in part, to less hiring within the sector which typically occurs during this time of year. Despite this steep loss, the number of jobs in Professional & Business Services is up 900 since the start of the year and is up 2,000 over the year.

Employment in the Construction sector fell by 700 in April, marking two consecutive months of job declines totaling 900 jobs. In all, there are 1,200 more jobs in the Construction sector than in April 2015.

Three employment sectors, Arts, Entertainment & Recreation; Educational Services and Financial Activities, each reported a loss of 300 jobs in April.

Of these three sectors, employment in both Arts, Entertainment & Recreation and Financial Activities is up 100 over the year, while employment in Educational Services is down 1,000 from April 2015. The Other Services sector was the only remaining sector to experience a job loss in April, shedding 100 jobs.

In April, the Manufacturing employment level was 42,200, reflecting a gain of 400 jobs from March. The number of jobs within this sector is up 1,000 over the year.

Employment in both the Accommodation & Food Services and Government sectors was up 300 in April. Employment in Accommodation & Food Services is up 2,000 since April 2015, while Government employment is down 300.

A gain of 200 jobs was reported in both the Retail Trade and the Wholesale Trade sectors, while employment remained unchanged in the Information, Health Care & Social Assistance, Mining & Logging and Transportation & Utilities sectors.

In April 2016, the national workforce grew at a rate of 0.1 percent from March, while the New England workforce grew at a rate of 0.2 percent. The number of jobs within the nation increased by 160,000 and the number of jobs in the six state region rose by

13,300. Three New England states, Massachusetts (+13,900), Connecticut (+3,500) and Vermont (+700) added jobs in April, while job declines were reported in Maine (-1,900), Rhode Island (-1,500) and in New Hampshire (-1,400).

Nonfarm payroll employment increased in 30 states in April, decreased in 19 states and was unchanged in one state. The largest over-the-month percentage increase in employment occurred in Minnesota and Missouri (+0.5 percent each) followed by Idaho and Montana (+0.4 percent each). The largest over-the-month percentage decline in employment occurred in Wyoming (-0.9%), followed by Hawaii (-0.8%) and Alaska (-0.5%).

Establishment Employment in Rhode Island					
Seasonally Adjusted					
	(in thousands)		Net Change From		
	<u>Apr-16</u>	<u>Mar-16</u>	<u>Apr-15</u>	<u>Mar-16</u>	<u>Apr-15</u>
Total Nonfarm	489.1	490.6	484.0	-1.5	5.1
Total Private	428.9	430.7	423.5	-1.8	5.4
Natural Resources & Mining	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.0	0.0
Construction	17.9	18.6	16.7	-0.7	1.2
Manufacturing	42.2	41.8	41.2	0.4	1.0
Wholesale Trade	16.4	16.2	17.0	0.2	-0.6
Retail Trade	48.0	47.8	47.8	0.2	0.2
Transportation & Utilities	11.4	11.4	11.3	0.0	0.1
Information	8.6	8.6	8.6	0.0	0.0
Financial Activities	33.0	33.3	32.9	-0.3	0.1
Professional & Business Services	65.2	66.4	63.2	-1.2	2.0
Educational Services	23.9	24.2	24.9	-0.3	-1.0
Health Care & Social Assistance	80.5	80.5	80.6	0.0	-0.1
Arts, Entertainment & Recreation	9.2	9.5	9.1	-0.3	0.1
Accommodation & Food Services	49.0	48.7	47.0	0.3	2.0
Other Services	23.4	23.5	23.0	-0.1	0.4
Government	60.2	59.9	60.5	0.3	-0.3

Manufacturing Employment in Rhode Island Not Seasonally Adjusted

	Employment				
	(in thousands)		Net Change From:		
	<u>Apr 16</u>	<u>Mar 16</u>	<u>Apr 15</u>	<u>Mar 16</u>	<u>Apr 15</u>
Manufacturing	41.9	41.8	41.1	100	800
Durable Goods	26.3	26.2	26.1	100	200
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.	4.7	4.7	4.7	0	0
Miscellaneous DG Manufacturing	5.7	5.7	5.8	0	-100
Jewelry & Silverware	3.4	3.4	3.5	0	-100
Non-Durable Goods	15.6	15.6	15.0	0	600
Chemical Manufacturing	3.0	3.0	3.0	0	0

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.



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 the rate 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 March 2016 obtained directly from the CPS survey was 5.7 percent. The national U-3 rate was 5.1 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 5.9 percent. The national U-4 rate was 5.5 percent. Including discouraged workers adds two-tenths of a percentage point to Rhode Island's standard definition of unemployment while adding four-tenths of a percentage point to the United States' standard definition. Among the 50 states, 37 states had a greater percentage of discouraged workers than Rhode Island, while 4 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 6.8 percent. The national U-5 was 6.2 percent.
- ◆ 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 11.0 percent for Rhode Island. Nationally, the U-6 rate was 10.1 percent.

For more information, visit <http://www.dlt.ri.gov/lmi/laus/altlaus.htm>.

Characteristics of the Insured Unemployed

A total of 9,596 individuals were eligible to collect Unemployment Insurance benefits in April 2016, down 558 (-5.5%) from the 10,154 collecting these benefits in April 2015. In all, 36.1 percent of Rhode Island's unemployed workers were eligible to collect unemployment benefits in April.

Of the 9,596 individuals collecting Unemployment Insurance benefits, 32.4 percent faced long-term unemployment (defined as collecting unemployment insurance for fifteen weeks or more), down from 36.2 percent in April 2015.

On an industry basis, 16.4 percent (1,576) of the state's insured unemployed workers came from the Construction sector. There were also 1,466 individuals with an attachment to the Administrative & Waste Services sector, accounting for 15.3 percent of all insured unemployed workers. An additional 10.2 percent (979) of those collecting UI benefits in April had worked in the Manufacturing sector. Large numbers of insured unemployed were also reported in Health Care & Social Assistance (948), Accommodation & Food Services (918) and Retail Trade (812). For more information, go to www.dlt.ri.gov/lmi/uiadmin/characteristics.htm.

Characteristics of the Insured Unemployed, April 2016

	<i>Total</i>	<i>Long-Term</i>	<i>Percent Long-Term</i>
Total	9,596	3,112	32.4%
Male	5,778	1,923	33.3%
Female	3,818	1,189	31.1%
Selected Industries	9,596	3,112	32.4%
Construction	1,576	449	28.5%
Manufacturing	979	291	29.7%
Wholesale Trade	394	154	39.1%
Retail Trade	812	223	27.5%
Transportation & Warehousing	240	81	33.8%
Information	120	43	35.8%
Finance & Insurance	327	106	32.4%
Real Estate	163	62	38.0%
Professional & Tech. Services	413	111	26.9%
Administrative & Waste Services	1,466	558	38.1%
Educational Services	151	46	30.5%
Health Care & Social Assistance	948	292	30.8%
Arts, Entertainment & Recreation	260	112	43.1%
Accommodation & Food Services	918	323	35.2%
Other Services	331	111	33.5%
Public Administration	67	21	31.3%

Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers

				% Change
	Apr. 16	Mar. 16	Apr. 15	Prev. Year
All Items	239.3	238.1	236.6	1.1%

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 15,700 advertisements for Rhode Island based jobs this month, a decrease of 700 (-4.3%) from the March 2016 postings, and down 5,800 (-27.0%) from the advertised vacancies posted online in April 2015. There were an estimated 2.84 advertised vacancies for every 100 persons in Rhode Island's labor force.

Help Wanted OnLine Advertised Job Vacancies

	Apr 16	Mar 16	Apr 15
RI Vacancies	15,700	16,400	21,500
<i>Labor Demand Rate *</i>			
Rhode Island	2.84	2.96	3.87
US	3.25	3.22	3.41
Connecticut	3.23	3.26	4.03
Massachusetts	4.28	4.39	4.59
Maine	3.03	3.18	4.32
New Hampshire	3.41	3.57	3.55
Vermont	3.10	3.01	4.01
<i>Supply/Demand Rate **</i>			
Rhode Island	1.88	1.83	1.62
US	1.53	1.55	1.59

* 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

	2016	2015		2016	2015
Barrington	3.0	4.0	Newport	4.3	5.0
Bristol	4.5	5.4	North Kingstown	3.9	4.5
Burrillville	4.5	5.8	North Providence	4.9	6.1
Central Falls	6.1	7.4	North Smithfield	4.3	4.6
Charlestown	5.3	6.8	Pawtucket	5.6	6.9
Coventry	4.6	5.7	Portsmouth	4.3	5.4
Cranston	4.8	5.8	Providence	5.9	6.9
Cumberland	3.8	4.8	Richmond	2.9	3.4
East Greenwich	4.1	5.1	Scituate	4.5	5.6
East Providence	5.3	6.3	Smithfield	4.2	5.4
Exeter	3.7	4.9	South Kingstown	4.3	5.0
Foster	4.2	5.7	Tiverton	4.7	5.4
Glocester	3.6	4.7	Warren	4.8	5.9
Hopkinton	4.2	5.9	Warwick	4.1	5.1
Jamestown	3.1	3.9	West Greenwich	4.2	5.4
Johnston	5.2	6.3	West Warwick	5.1	6.4
Lincoln	4.0	4.9	Westerly	6.0	7.5
Little Compton	3.4	4.3	Woonsocket	6.6	7.9
Middletown	4.3	5.0			
Narragansett	3.4	4.0	State of R.I.	4.9	5.9
New Shoreham	19.8	21.6	United States	4.7	5.1

Nationally, there were an estimated 3.25 advertised vacancies for every 100 persons in the labor force. Among the New England states, Massachusetts (4.28) New Hampshire (3.41), Connecticut (3.23), Vermont (3.10) and Maine (3.03) had higher vacancy rates than Rhode Island.

There were an estimated 1.88 unemployed Rhode Island residents for every advertised job in April, up from 1.83 unemployed residents estimated per March advertisements. Nationally, there were 1.53 unemployed persons for every job opening advertised in April, down from 1.55 in March.

Unemployment Insurance Claims Activity

	Apr.	Mar.	Apr.	% Change		Year to Date		
	2016	2016	2015	Mar. 16	Apr. 15	2016	2015	% Change
Regular Claims								
Initial Claims	5,985	4,020	6,107	48.9%	-2.0%	25,700	27,690	-7.2%
Number of Payments	38,031	48,793	42,645	-22.1%	-10.8%	191,496	215,922	-11.3%
Amount of Payments (gross millions)	\$12.7	\$16.7	\$13.9	-24.0%	-8.6%	\$64.5	\$71.2	-9.4%
Exhaustions (Final Payments)	825	821	932	0.5%	-11.5%	3,109	3,749	-17.1%

**Alternative Measures of Labor Underutilization by State,
Second Quarter of 2015 through First Quarter of 2016 Averages (percent)**

State	Measure					
	U-1	U-2	U-3	U-4	U-5	U-6
United States	2.2	2.5	5.1	5.5	6.2	10.1
Alabama	2.6	2.5	6.2	6.8	7.5	10.9
Alaska	2.2	3.7	6.5	6.9	8.4	12.0
Arizona	2.0	2.8	5.9	6.3	7.2	11.7
Arkansas	1.7	2.2	4.7	5.1	5.8	9.0
California	2.6	2.9	5.9	6.2	7.0	12.0
Colorado	1.2	1.7	3.5	3.6	4.0	7.5
Connecticut	2.7	3.5	5.6	5.9	6.8	10.7
Delaware	2.5	2.9	4.9	5.2	5.8	9.2
District of Columbia	4.2	2.6	6.7	7.0	7.9	10.4
Florida	2.6	2.5	5.2	5.7	6.3	11.0
Georgia	2.9	2.5	5.7	6.2	7.2	11.2
Hawaii	1.4	1.5	3.5	3.9	4.9	9.1
Idaho	1.3	2.2	4.2	4.3	4.9	8.4
Illinois	3.0	3.0	6.0	6.3	7.2	11.0
Indiana	1.7	2.2	4.7	4.9	5.6	8.8
Iowa	1.0	1.8	3.8	3.9	4.5	6.9
Kansas	1.6	2.1	4.2	4.4	5.0	8.0
Kentucky	2.0	2.5	5.5	5.8	6.6	10.5
Louisiana	2.4	3.1	6.2	6.6	7.3	10.8
Maine	1.6	1.9	4.0	4.2	4.9	9.3
Maryland	2.4	2.3	5.0	5.4	6.0	8.8
Massachusetts	2.2	2.7	4.7	5.1	5.8	9.6
Michigan	2.3	2.7	5.2	5.7	6.6	11.2
Minnesota	1.0	2.3	3.7	4.0	4.6	8.0
Mississippi	2.6	2.9	6.3	6.7	7.5	11.6
Missouri	1.4	2.6	4.6	5.0	5.6	8.7
Montana	1.6	2.3	4.2	4.5	5.1	9.0
Nebraska	1.0	1.5	3.3	3.4	4.2	6.6
Nevada	2.7	3.4	6.5	6.8	7.8	13.4
New Hampshire	1.2	1.7	3.1	3.3	3.8	7.4
New Jersey	2.8	3.0	5.2	5.6	6.1	9.5
New Mexico	2.8	3.1	6.7	7.1	8.0	12.4
New York	2.3	2.3	5.1	5.7	6.5	10.2
North Carolina	2.6	2.5	5.8	6.3	7.0	11.0
North Dakota	0.8	1.6	2.8	3.0	3.3	5.3
Ohio	1.9	2.0	4.8	5.2	6.2	9.8
Oklahoma	1.7	2.2	4.6	4.9	5.6	8.3
Oregon	1.8	2.7	5.4	5.8	6.5	11.2
Pennsylvania	2.2	2.7	5.2	5.5	6.4	10.7
Rhode Island	2.8	3.2	5.7	5.9	6.8	11.0
South Carolina	2.6	2.6	5.7	6.2	7.0	11.2
South Dakota	0.8	1.0	2.9	3.1	3.6	5.4
Tennessee	2.0	2.6	5.2	5.7	6.3	10.2
Texas	1.6	2.1	4.4	4.8	5.3	8.3
Utah	1.2	1.6	3.6	3.9	4.4	7.7
Vermont	1.0	1.7	3.6	3.9	4.6	8.1
Virginia	1.8	1.9	4.2	4.6	5.4	9.7
Washington	2.1	2.8	5.7	6.0	6.8	10.9
West Virginia	3.1	3.1	6.8	7.2	8.1	11.9
Wisconsin	1.9	2.3	4.5	4.7	5.3	8.3
Wyoming	1.2	2.8	4.4	4.6	5.0	8.5