



### Rhode Island's Unemployment Rate Drops to 5.3 percent in October

- ◆ RI's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate for October was 5.3 percent, down one-tenth of a percentage point from the September rate of 5.4 percent.
- ◆ RI's October unemployment rate was down one and eight-tenths percentage points from last October's figure of 7.1 percent.
- ◆ The national rate was 5.0 percent, down one-tenth of a percentage point from September and down seven-tenths of a percentage point from the previous year.
- ◆ In October 2015, Rhode Island (5.3%) had the seventeenth highest unemployment rate in the nation. Seven states had unemployment rates of six percent or higher.
- ◆ The October 2015 unemployment rate decreased in thirty-two states, including Rhode Island (-0.1), New Hampshire (-0.1), Maine (-0.1) and Connecticut (-0.1). Fifteen states' rates were unchanged, including Massachusetts and Vermont, while three states' rates increased.
- ◆ Rates in other New England states for October 2015 – Connecticut 5.1 percent, Massachusetts 4.6 percent, Maine 4.3 percent, Vermont 3.7 percent and New Hampshire 3.3 percent.
- ◆ The number of employed RI residents totaled 527,500 in October 2015, down 600 from the previous month. Between October 2014 and October 2015, the number of employed RI residents was up 15,500.
- ◆ Over the month, the number of unemployed Rhode Island residents decreased by 1,000 to 29,400. From October 2014 to October 2015, the number of unemployed residents decreased by 9,400.

### UI and TDI Taxable Wage Bases & Tax Rates Announced for 2016

The Unemployment Insurance (UI) taxable wage base, which represents the maximum amount of an employee's earned wages subject to taxation, will be \$22,000 for most employers in 2016. By law, the UI taxable wage base is set at 46.5 percent of the average annual wage paid by employers subject to the contribution provisions of the Employment Security Act. The 2016 taxable wage base was based on the 2014 average annual wage of \$46,944. For employers at the highest tax rate (9.79%), the UI taxable wage base will be set \$1,500 higher at \$23,500. In addition, the Job Development Assessment will remain at 0.21 percent in 2016.

The new employer rate for UI purposes will be 2.27 percent for calendar year 2016, down from 2.74 percent in 2015. For all other employers tax rates will vary based on their UI experience rating. Tax Schedule I, with rates ranging from 1.69 percent to 9.79 percent, will remain in effect in 2016. Employers will be notified of their individual tax rates by the end of December.

The Temporary Disability Insurance (TDI) taxable wage base will be set at \$66,300 in 2016, an increase of \$2,100 over last year's taxable wage base. The TDI taxable wage base is based on the TDI maximum weekly benefit amount, which in July increased to \$795 per week from \$770 the prior year.

The employee contribution rate to the TDI Fund will remain at 1.2 percent in 2016. The contribution rate is set at the cost of running the program and is calculated by dividing the total adjusted TDI disbursements for the twelve month period ending September 30, 2015 by the total taxable wages for that same period. The maximum TDI contribution will be \$795.60 in 2015, an increase of \$25.20 from the 2015 maximum contribution of \$770.40.

Monetary eligibility for UI and TDI benefits is based on the state minimum wage which will increase to \$9.60 per hour on January 1, 2016 thereby increasing the amount of earnings needed to qualify for UI and TDI benefits. Beginning in January, individuals

will need to earn \$1,920 in one base period quarter, total base period earnings of at least one and one half times the highest quarter earnings and total base period earnings of at least \$3,840 or total base period earnings of \$11,520 to qualify for UI or TDI benefits. (See label page for the 2016 UI & TDI Quick Reference Chart.)

### Seasonally Adjusted Labor Force Statistics

(in thousands)

	Rhode Island			United States		
	Oct 15	Sept 15	Oct 14	Oct 15	Sept 15	Oct 14
Civilian Labor Force	556.8	558.5	550.9	157,028	156,715	156,243
Resident Employment	527.5	528.1	512.0	149,120	148,800	147,260
Unemployment	29.4	30.4	38.8	7,908	7,915	8,983
Unemployment Rate	5.3%	5.4%	7.1%	5.0%	5.1%	5.7%

## Rhode Island Jobs Increase by 100 in October

Estimated nonfarm payroll in Rhode Island totaled 483,500 in October, reflecting a gain of 100 jobs from the revised September estimate of 483,400. Over the past three months, Rhode Island averaged a loss of 800 jobs, but added 5,600 jobs over the year. Since the start of the year, jobs are up 4,200. Through October 2015, job growth averaged 400 per month, compared with an average monthly gain of 500 jobs during the same period in 2014.

The Construction sector added 500 jobs in October, its first over-the-month gain in five months. This increase marks the largest job gain in Construction since April 2006, when 700 jobs were added. Construction employment is down 900 jobs from a year ago.

An additional 500 jobs in the Arts, Entertainment & Recreation sector brought the October employment level to 9,400, the highest employment level on record. Since August, this sector added 800 jobs and was also up 800 jobs over the year. Employment in Financial Activities rose 300 from September and is up 200 from October 2014.

Five employment sectors added 100 jobs in October. These sectors include; Educational Services, Health Care & Social Assistance, Manufacturing, Professional & Business Services and Transportation & Utilities. The job increase in Transportation & Utilities marks the sector's first job increase in four months, while the job increase in Health Care & Social Assistance marks the first increase in three months. Over the year, employment in Health Care & Social Assistance is down 200.

A loss of 600 jobs was reported in the Retail Trade sector in October, marking two consecutive months of job declines totaling 800 jobs. Since October 2014, Retail Trade employment is down 500. Employment in Wholesale Trade also fell for the second consecutive month, shedding 400 jobs in October, following a loss of 200 jobs in September. Wholesale Trade employment is down 400 from a year ago.

Employment in Accommodation & Food Services, Information and Other Services fell 200 from September, while Government employment fell by 100. The number of jobs in Accommodation & Food Service is up 1,300 since the start of the year, and are up 1,900 from October 2014. Employment in the Other Services sector is still up 500 over the year, while Government and Information both experienced over-the-year drops of 500 jobs.

In October, the national workforce and the New England regional workforce grew at a rate of 0.2 percent from September. The nation's employment grew by 271,000, while the number of jobs in the six state region rose by 14,200. Massachusetts (+11,000) added the most jobs

within the entire New England region on a numeric basis, followed by New Hampshire (+4,400), Vermont (+1,100) and Rhode Island (+100). Both Connecticut and Maine lost employment in October, shedding 2,200 and 200 jobs, respectively.

Nonfarm payroll employment increased in 40 states in October, decreased in 9 states and remained unchanged in one state. The largest over-the-month percentage increase in employment occurred in Idaho (+1.1%) followed by Alaska (+0.9%) and Wyoming (+0.8%). The largest over-the-month percentage decline in employment occurred in Louisiana (-0.3%), followed by North Dakota (-0.2%).

### Establishment Employment in Rhode Island Seasonally Adjusted

	Net Change From				
	Oct-15	Sep-15	Oct-14	Sep-15	Oct-14
<b>Total Nonfarm</b>	<b>483.5</b>	<b>483.4</b>	<b>477.9</b>	<b>0.1</b>	<b>5.6</b>
<b>Total Private</b>	<b>423.9</b>	<b>423.7</b>	<b>417.8</b>	<b>0.2</b>	<b>6.1</b>
Natural Resources & Mining	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.0	0.0
Construction	15.3	14.8	16.2	0.5	-0.9
Manufacturing	42.0	41.9	41.1	0.1	0.9
Wholesale Trade	16.3	16.7	16.7	-0.4	-0.4
Retail Trade	46.7	47.3	47.2	-0.6	-0.5
Transportation & Utilities	11.4	11.3	11.3	0.1	0.1
Information	8.3	8.5	8.8	-0.2	-0.5
Financial Activities	32.9	32.6	32.7	0.3	0.2
Professional & Business Services	63.6	63.5	60.7	0.1	2.9
Educational Services	25.7	25.6	24.4	0.1	1.3
Health Care & Social Assistance	80.3	80.2	80.5	0.1	-0.2
Arts, Entertainment & Recreation	9.4	8.9	8.6	0.5	0.8
Accommodation & Food Services	48.3	48.5	46.4	-0.2	1.9
Other Services	23.5	23.7	23.0	-0.2	0.5
Government	59.6	59.7	60.1	-0.1	-0.5

### Manufacturing Employment in Rhode Island Not Seasonally Adjusted

	Employment				
	(in thousands)			Net Change From:	
	Oct 15	Sept 15	Oct 14	Sept 15	Oct 14
<b>Manufacturing</b>	<b>42.1</b>	<b>41.8</b>	<b>41.2</b>	<b>300</b>	<b>900</b>
<b>Durable Goods</b>	<b>27.1</b>	<b>26.9</b>	<b>26.6</b>	<b>200</b>	<b>500</b>
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.	5.1	5.1	4.7	0	400
Miscellaneous DG Manufacturing	5.4	5.4	5.6	0	-200
Jewelry & Silverware	3.3	3.2	3.4	100	-100
<b>Non-Durable Goods</b>	<b>15.0</b>	<b>14.9</b>	<b>14.6</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>400</b>
Chemical Manufacturing	3.1	3.1	3.1	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](http://www.dlt.ri.gov/lmi/ces.htm).*

*Current month's figures are preliminary and subject to change.*

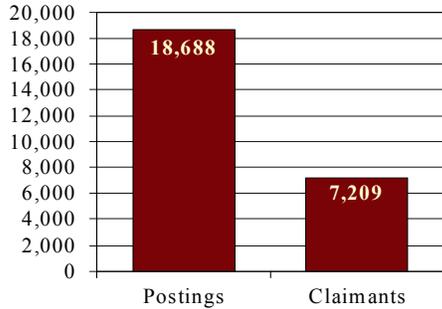


## Labor Supply & Demand in Rhode Island

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 September 30, 2015, the Department of Labor and Training's EmployRI on-line network recorded 18,688 on-line job postings from RI-based businesses. Also during September 23.7 percent of the 30,364 unemployed RI residents collected UI benefits.

### Job Postings & Claimants



A comparison of the on-line job posting to the UI claimants currently seeking work indicates that there was less than one (0.4) claimant for each on-line posting. Job postings for which the usual educational requirement was either a high school diploma (31.2%) or a bachelor's degree (14.2%) accounted for the most on-line postings, numbering 5,830 and 2,648 respectively. For nearly a quarter of the postings, an educational requirement was not listed.

A labor surplus was associated with two of the 21 occupational groups including Construction & Extraction and Production. In these major groups there were almost two unemployment insurance claimants with this type of work experience for every on-line posting.

The largest potential labor shortages were associated with postings for Healthcare Practitioners & Technical occupations, Computer & Math occupations, Protective Service occupations, Sales & Related occupations and Architecture & Engineering occupations where job postings outnumber claimants by more than ten 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](http://www.dlt.ri.gov/lmi/publications/supply&demand.htm).

### Characteristics of the Insured Unemployed

A total of 6,954 individuals were eligible to collect Unemployment Insurance benefits in October 2015, down 1,158 (-14.3%) from the 8,112 collecting these benefits in October 2014. In all, 27.0 percent of Rhode Island's unemployed workers were eligible to collect unemployment benefits in October.

Of the 6,954 individuals collecting Unemployment Insurance benefits, 29.0 percent faced long-term unemployment (defined as collecting unemployment insurance for fifteen weeks or more), down from 30.5 percent in October 2014.

On an industry basis, 14.6 percent (1,018) of the State's insured unemployed workers came from the Health Care & Social Assistance sector. There were also 958 individuals with an attachment to the Administrative & Waste Services sector, accounting for 13.8 percent of all insured unemployed workers. An additional 12.9 percent (896) of those collecting UI benefits in October had worked in the Manufacturing sector. Large numbers of insured unemployed were also reported in Retail Trade (690) and Construction (504). 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, October 2015

	Total	Percent	
		Long-Term	Long-Term
<b>Total</b>	<b>6,954</b>	<b>2,019</b>	<b>29.0%</b>
Male	3,322	883	26.6%
Female	3,632	1,136	31.3%
<b>Selected Industries</b>	<b>6,954</b>	<b>2,019</b>	<b>29.0%</b>
Construction	504	66	13.1%
Manufacturing	896	271	30.2%
Wholesale Trade	364	111	30.5%
Retail Trade	690	206	29.9%
Transportation & Warehousing	140	39	27.9%
Information	109	41	37.6%
Finance & Insurance	334	111	33.2%
Real Estate	115	35	30.4%
Professional & Tech. Services	416	141	33.9%
Administrative & Waste Services	958	229	23.9%
Educational Services	211	67	31.8%
Health Care & Social Assistance	1,018	336	33.0%
Arts, Entertainment & Recreation	113	27	23.9%
Accommodation & Food Services	493	135	27.4%
Other Services	246	89	36.2%
Public Administration	48	22	45.8%

### Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers

				% Change
	Oct 15	Sept 15	Oct 14	Prev. Year
All Items	237.8	237.9	237.4	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 20,800 advertisements for Rhode Island based jobs this month, an increase of 100 (+0.5%) from the September 2015 postings, and up 400 (+2.0%) from the advertised vacancies posted online in October 2014. There were an estimated 3.74 advertised vacancies for every 100 persons in Rhode Island's labor force.

#### Help Wanted OnLine Advertised Job Vacancies

	Oct 15	Sept 15	Oct 14
RI Vacancies	20,800	20,700	20,400
<i>Labor Demand Rate *</i>			
Rhode Island	3.74	3.70	3.70
US	3.48	3.37	3.31
Connecticut	4.13	4.04	3.75
Massachusetts	4.79	4.76	4.37
Maine	3.47	3.55	4.31
New Hampshire	3.57	3.43	4.04
Vermont	3.59	3.67	3.81
<i>Supply/Demand Rate **</i>			
Rhode Island	1.41	1.47	1.90
US	1.45	1.50	1.74

\* 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 October

	2015	2014		2015	2014
Barrington	3.3	4.5	Newport	3.7	5.2
Bristol	4.0	5.7	North Kingstown	3.7	5.0
Burrillville	4.5	6.2	North Providence	5.0	6.7
Central Falls	5.8	7.9	North Smithfield	4.1	5.3
Charlestown	4.6	6.7	Pawtucket	5.4	7.8
Coventry	4.4	6.1	Portsmouth	4.0	5.6
Cranston	4.9	6.6	Providence	5.6	7.8
Cumberland	3.8	5.2	Richmond	2.6	3.8
East Greenwich	4.0	6.0	Scituate	4.2	5.8
East Providence	5.0	7.0	Smithfield	4.0	5.7
Exeter	3.6	5.5	South Kingstown	3.7	5.7
Foster	4.0	5.9	Tiverton	4.3	5.7
Glocester	3.5	4.7	Warren	4.5	6.4
Hopkinton	4.6	6.4	Warwick	4.2	5.9
Jamestown	3.1	4.4	West Greenwich	4.2	6.1
Johnston	4.8	6.7	West Warwick	4.9	6.9
Lincoln	3.9	5.5	Westerly	5.7	7.7
Little Compton	3.3	4.8	Woonsocket	6.2	8.4
Middletown	3.9	5.4			
Narragansett	3.2	4.3	State of R.I.	4.7	6.5
New Shoreham	7.4	10.4	United States	4.8	5.5

Nationally, there were an estimated 3.48 advertised vacancies for every 100 persons in the labor force. Among the New England states, Massachusetts (4.79) and Connecticut (4.13) had higher vacancy rates than Rhode Island.

There were an estimated 1.41 unemployed Rhode Island residents for every advertised job in October, down from 1.47 unemployed residents estimated per September advertisements. Nationally, there were 1.45 unemployed persons for every job opening advertised in October, down from 1.50 in September.

### Unemployment Insurance Claims Activity

	Oct.	Sept.	Oct.	% Change		Year to Date		
	2015	2015	2014	Sept. 15	Oct. 14	2015	2014	% Change
<b>Regular Claims</b>								
Initial Claims	3,894	3,779	4,741	3.0%	-17.9%	54,329	61,755	-12.0%
Number of Payments	25,339	27,265	30,326	-7.1%	-16.4%	418,914	483,262	-13.3%
Amount of Payments (gross millions)	\$8.5	\$9.0	\$10.1	-5.6%	-15.8%	\$136.0	\$159.4	-14.7%
Exhaustions (Final Payments)	643	693	859	-7.2%	-25.1%	8,582	11,854	-27.6%

**R.I. DEPARTMENT OF LABOR AND TRAINING****2016 UI AND TDI QUICK REFERENCE**

(Effective January 1, 2016)

	<b>UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE</b>	<b>TEMPORARY DISABILITY INSURANCE</b>
<b>TAXABLE WAGE BASE</b> For Employers with tax rates of 9.79%	\$22,000 <b>\$23,500</b>	\$66,300
<b>TAX SCHEDULES/ TAX RATES</b> Employment Security Job Development Assessment (JDA)	Schedule I: 1.90% to 10.0% 1.69% to 9.79% 0.21%	1.2%  Deducted from Employee's Wages
<b>NEW EMPLOYER RATE</b>	2.27% (+0.21%JDA)	NONE (Employee Tax)
<b>EMPLOYEE WAGE DEDUCTION</b>	NONE (employer payroll tax)	1.2% of first \$66,300 earned
<b>WAITING PERIOD</b>	7 days - beginning on a Sunday	No waiting period as of 7/1/12, but must have been unemployed due to sickness for at least 7 days.
<b>BASE PERIOD</b>	The first four of the last five completed calendar quarters prior to claim; or last 4 completed quarters if needed to meet minimum earnings requirement.	
<b>ELIGIBILITY - MONETARY</b> Based on a Minimum Wage of \$9.60/hour.	\$11,520 in base period wages; or \$1,920 in one of the base period quarters and total base period wages of at least 1.5 times the highest quarter earnings, and total base period earnings of at least \$3,840	
<b>ELIGIBILITY - NONMONETARY</b>	Worked for a subject employer and unemployed through no fault.	Worked for a subject employer and have medically certified disability.
<b>WEEKLY BENEFIT RATE</b>	3.85% of average of 2 highest quarter wages in base period.	4.62% of total high quarter wages in base period.
<b>MIN. WEEKLY BENEFIT AMOUNT</b> Based on minimum wage of \$9.60/hour	\$49 per week	\$89 per week
<b>MAX. WEEKLY BENEFIT AMOUNT</b> Based on 2014 average weekly wage of \$935.02	\$566 per week Max of \$566 or 57.5% of AWW	\$795 per week
<b>DEPENDENT'S ALLOWANCE</b>	Greater of \$15 or 5% of weekly benefit rate (up to 5 deps.)	Greater of \$10 or 7% of weekly benefit rate (up to 5 deps.)
<b>MAX. WEEKLY BENEFIT AMOUNT WITH MAX. 5 DEPENDENTS</b>	\$707 per week	\$1,073 per week
<b>MAXIMUM DURATION</b>	26 weeks	30 weeks
<b>REASONS FOR DENIAL OF BENEFITS</b>	Quit without good cause; fired for misconduct; refusal of suitable work; labor dispute (except lock-out); insufficient earnings in base period.	No medical certification; insufficient earnings in the base period. Receipt of unemployment or workers' compensation benefits.
<b>BENEFIT APPLICATIONS</b>	Call (401) 243-9100 to file.	Call (401) 462-8420 for application