



Rhode Island's Unemployment Rate Drops to 5.5 percent in October

- ◆ RI's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate for October was 5.5 percent, down one-tenth of a percentage point from September.
- ◆ RI's October unemployment rate was down one-tenth of a percentage point from last October's figure of 5.6 percent.
- ◆ The national rate was 4.9 percent, down one-tenth of a percentage point from September and down one-tenth of a percentage point from the previous year.
- ◆ In October 2016, Rhode Island (5.5%), along with California (5.5%) and Nevada (5.5%), had the ninth highest unemployment rate in the nation. Four states had unemployment rates of six percent or higher.
- ◆ The October 2016 unemployment rate decreased in twenty-four states, including Massachusetts (-0.3), Connecticut (-0.3), New Hampshire (-0.1), Rhode Island (-0.1) and Maine (-0.1). Twelve states' rates, including Vermont, were unchanged, while fourteen states' rates increased.
- ◆ Rates in other New England states for October 2016 – Connecticut 5.1 percent, Maine 4.0 percent, Massachusetts 3.3 percent, Vermont 3.3 percent and New Hampshire 2.8 percent.
- ◆ The number of employed RI residents totaled 526,600 in October 2016, up 200 from the previous month. Between October 2015 and October 2016, the number of employed RI residents was up 4,200.
- ◆ Over the month, the number of unemployed Rhode Island residents decreased by 500 to 30,600. From October 2015 to October 2016, the number of unemployed residents decreased by 100.

UI and TDI Taxable Wage Bases & Tax Rates Announced for 2017

The Unemployment Insurance (UI) taxable wage base, which represents the maximum amount of an employee's earned wages subject to taxation, will be \$22,400 for most employers in 2017. 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 2017 taxable wage base was based on the 2015 average annual wage of \$48,152. For employers at the highest tax rate, the UI taxable wage base will be set \$1,500 higher at \$23,900. In addition, the Job Development Assessment will remain at 0.21 percent in 2017.

The new employer rate for UI purposes will be 1.83 percent for calendar year 2017, down from 2.27 percent in 2016. For all other employers tax rates will vary based on their UI experience rating. Tax Schedule H, with rates ranging from 0.99 percent to 9.59 percent, will replace Tax Schedule I in 2017. 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 \$68,100 in 2017, an increase of \$1,800 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 \$817 per week from \$795 the prior year.

The employee contribution rate to the TDI Fund will remain at 1.2 percent in 2017. 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, 2016 by the total taxable wages for that same period. The maximum TDI contribution will be \$817.20 in 2016, an increase of \$21.60 from the 2016 maximum contribution of \$795.60.

Monetary eligibility for UI and TDI benefits is based on the state minimum wage of \$9.60 per hour effective January 1, 2016. Since there is no pending minimum wage increase as of

January 1, 2017, individuals will need to continue 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 2017 UI & TDI Quick Reference Chart.)

Seasonally Adjusted Labor Force Statistics

(in thousands)

	Rhode Island			United States		
	Oct 16	Sept 16	Oct 15	Oct 16	Sept 16	Oct 15
Civilian Labor Force	557.3	557.6	553.1	159,712	159,907	157,096
Resident Employment	526.6	526.4	522.4	151,925	151,968	149,197
Unemployment	30.6	31.1	30.7	7,787	7,939	7,899
Unemployment Rate	5.5%	5.6%	5.6%	4.9%	5.0%	5.0%

Rhode Island Jobs Increase by 1,700 in October

Estimated nonfarm payroll in Rhode Island totaled 492,400 in October, reflecting a gain of 1,700 jobs from the revised September estimate of 490,700. October snaps two consecutive months of job declines which totaled 800 jobs. Since January 2016, a total of 3,900 jobs have been added to the economy. In comparison, the number of nonfarm jobs was up 3,000 during this same period in 2015. Overall, jobs are up 6,600 from October 2015.

Employment in the Professional & Business Services sector rose by 900 in October, fueled by job gains reported in the professional & technical services and administrative & waste services subsectors. Over the year, the number of jobs within the Professional & Business Services sector is up 2,800.

After reporting a loss of 900 jobs each in September, both the Educational Services and Health Care & Social Assistance sectors responded by each adding 700 jobs in October. Employment in Educational Services is up 400 from a year ago, while employment in Health Care & Social Assistance is up

300 from October 2015. The Arts, Entertainment & Recreation, Construction, Financial Activities and Other Services sectors each added 100 jobs in October. Among these sectors, employment in the Arts, Entertainment & Recreation (+200), Other Services (+200) and Construction (+100) sectors are up over the year, while employment in Financial Activities is down by 400.

Employment in the Manufacturing sector continued to trend down in October, shedding 500 jobs from September. The October job loss marks three consecutive months of job losses totaling 1,100 jobs. The number of manufacturing jobs is down 300 from a year ago. Smaller monthly job losses were reported in the Accommodation & Food Services (-200), Government (-100), Transportation & Utilities (-100) and Wholesale Trade (-100) sectors. Among these sectors, employment in Accommodation & Food Services is up 2,800 from a year ago, while employment in the Government sector is up 100. The number of jobs in the Wholesale Trade sector is down 300 from October 2015, while employment in Transportation & Utilities remained even.

The October employment level in the Information, Retail Trade and Mining & Logging sectors remained unchanged from September. Over the year, Retail Trade employment is up 1,000 while Information Services is down 300. Mining & Logging is unchanged over the year.

In October 2016, nonfarm employment across the nation grew by 0.1 percent, while nonfarm employment in the New England region fell by 0.2 percent. The number of jobs within the nation increased by 161,000, while the number of jobs in the six state region fell by 14,200. Four of the six New England states lost jobs in October, led by Connecticut (-7,200) and followed by

Massachusetts (-5,500), Maine (-3,600) and Vermont (-2,100). New Hampshire and Rhode Island each added jobs in October, adding 2,500 and 1,700 jobs, respectively.

Nonfarm payroll employment increased in 29 states in October, decreased in 19 states and remained unchanged in two states. The largest over-the-month percentage increase in employment occurred in Alaska and Montana at 0.5 percent each, followed by Michigan, New Hampshire, Louisiana and Wisconsin at 0.4 percent each. The largest over-the-month percentage decline in employment occurred in Vermont (-0.7%), followed by Maine (-0.6%) and South Carolina (-0.5%).

Establishment Employment in Rhode Island					
Seasonally Adjusted					
	Net Change From				
	Oct-16	Sep-16	Oct-15	Sep-16	Oct-15
Total Nonfarm	492.4	490.7	485.8	1.7	6.6
Total Private	431.9	430.1	425.4	1.8	6.5
Natural Resources & Mining	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.0	0.0
Construction	17.3	17.2	17.2	0.1	0.1
Manufacturing	41.3	41.8	41.6	-0.5	-0.3
Wholesale Trade	16.4	16.5	16.7	-0.1	-0.3
Retail Trade	48.9	48.9	47.9	0.0	1.0
Transportation & Utilities	11.6	11.7	11.6	-0.1	0.0
Information	8.4	8.4	8.7	0.0	-0.3
Financial Activities	32.6	32.5	33.0	0.1	-0.4
Professional & Business Services	66.1	65.2	63.3	0.9	2.8
Educational Services	24.9	24.2	24.5	0.7	0.4
Health Care & Social Assistance	81.1	80.4	80.8	0.7	0.3
Arts, Entertainment & Recreation	9.2	9.1	9.0	0.1	0.2
Accommodation & Food Services	50.6	50.8	47.8	-0.2	2.8
Other Services	23.3	23.2	23.1	0.1	0.2
Government	60.5	60.6	60.4	-0.1	0.1

Manufacturing Employment in Rhode Island Not Seasonally Adjusted

	Employment				
	(in thousands)				
	Net Change From:				
	Oct 16	Sept 16	Oct 15	Sept 16	Oct 15
Manufacturing	41.5	41.6	41.6	-100	-100
Durable Goods	25.8	25.8	26.2	0	-400
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.	4.3	4.3	4.8	0	-500
Miscellaneous DG Manufacturing	5.6	5.5	5.7	100	-100
Jewelry & Silverware	3.4	3.4	3.5	0	-100
Non-Durable Goods	15.7	15.8	15.4	-100	300
Chemical Manufacturing	2.9	2.9	3.0	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.



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 September 2016 obtained directly from the CPS survey was 5.6 percent. The national U-3 rate was 4.9 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 available for them, yields an unemployment rate of 5.8 percent. The national U-4 rate was 5.3 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 State's standard definition. Among the 50 states, 36 states had a greater percentage of discouraged workers than Rhode Island, while six 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 6.6 percent. The national U-5 was 6.0 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 10.4 percent for Rhode Island. Nationally, the U-6 rate was 9.8 percent.

For more information, visit www.bls.gov/lau/stalt.htm.

Characteristics of the Insured Unemployed

A total of 6,697 individuals were eligible to collect Unemployment Insurance benefits in October 2016, down 257 (-3.7%) from the 6,954 collecting these benefits in October 2015. In all, 25.2 percent of Rhode Island's unemployed workers were eligible to collect unemployment benefits in October.

Of the 6,697 individuals collecting Unemployment Insurance benefits, 28.9 percent faced long-term unemployment (defined as collecting unemployment insurance for fifteen weeks or more), down from 29.0 percent in October 2015.

On an industry basis, 15.0 percent (1,004) of the State's insured unemployed workers came from the Manufacturing sector. There were also 940 individuals with an attachment to the Health Care & Social Assistance sector, accounting for 14.0 percent of all insured unemployed workers. An additional 13.1 percent (875) of those collecting UI benefits in October had worked in the Administrative & Waste Services sector. Large numbers of insured unemployed were also reported in Retail Trade (615), Accommodation & Food Services (507) and Construction (494). For more information, go to www.dlt.ri.gov/lmi/uiadmin/characteristics.htm.

Characteristics of the Insured Unemployed, October 2016			
	Total	Long-Term	Percent Long-Term
Total	6,697	1,934	28.9%
Male	3,451	869	25.2%
Female	3,246	1,065	32.8%
Selected Industries	6,697	1,934	28.9%
Construction	494	83	16.8%
Manufacturing	1,004	278	27.7%
Wholesale Trade	287	81	28.2%
Retail Trade	615	191	31.1%
Transportation & Warehousing	198	52	26.3%
Information	72	24	33.3%
Finance & Insurance	341	119	34.9%
Real Estate	111	26	23.4%
Professional & Tech. Services	435	152	34.9%
Administrative & Waste Services	875	234	26.7%
Educational Services	187	68	36.4%
Health Care & Social Assistance	940	316	33.6%
Arts, Entertainment & Recreation	81	27	33.3%
Accommodation & Food Services	507	137	27.0%
Other Services	261	63	24.1%
Public Administration	51	13	25.5%

Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers

				% Change
	Oct 16	Sept 16	Oct 15	Prev. Year
All Items	241.7	241.4	237.8	1.6%

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 15,300 advertisements for Rhode Island based jobs this month, an increase of 800 (+5.5%) from the September 2016 postings, and down 4,900 (-24.3%) from the advertised vacancies posted online in October 2015. There were an estimated 2.74 advertised vacancies for every 100 persons in Rhode Island's labor force.

Help Wanted OnLine Advertised Job Vacancies

	Oct 16	Sept 16	Oct 15
RI Vacancies	15,300	14,500	20,200
<i>Labor Demand Rate *</i>			
Rhode Island	2.74	2.60	3.65
US	3.03	2.95	3.43
Connecticut	3.45	3.27	4.10
Massachusetts	3.98	3.87	4.70
Maine	2.41	2.43	3.51
New Hampshire	3.08	2.96	3.49
Vermont	3.23	2.97	3.57
<i>Supply/Demand Rate **</i>			
Rhode Island	2.00	2.15	1.52
US	1.61	1.68	1.47

* 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

	2016	2015		2016	2015
Barrington	3.5	3.6	Newport	4.0	4.1
Bristol	4.2	4.4	North Kingstown	3.7	4.1
Burrillville	4.6	4.9	North Providence	5.0	5.5
Central Falls	6.0	6.4	North Smithfield	4.2	4.5
Charlestown	4.8	5.2	Pawtucket	5.6	5.9
Coventry	4.5	4.9	Portsmouth	4.1	4.4
Cranston	4.8	5.3	Providence	5.8	6.2
Cumberland	4.0	4.2	Richmond	3.1	2.8
East Greenwich	4.6	4.5	Scituate	4.5	4.7
East Providence	5.1	5.5	Smithfield	4.1	4.4
Exeter	3.2	4.1	South Kingstown	3.8	4.1
Foster	3.7	4.5	Tiverton	4.4	4.7
Glocester	3.5	3.9	Warren	4.7	5.1
Hopkinton	4.4	5.0	Warwick	4.2	4.5
Jamestown	3.2	3.4	West Greenwich	4.0	4.6
Johnston	5.1	5.3	West Warwick	5.2	5.4
Lincoln	4.0	4.3	Westerly	5.7	6.2
Little Compton	3.0	3.7	Woonsocket	6.8	6.8
Middletown	4.0	4.3			
Narragansett	3.2	3.5	State of R.I.	4.8	5.1
New Shoreham	6.9	8.9	United States	4.7	4.8

Nationally, there were an estimated 3.03 advertised vacancies for every 100 persons in the labor force. Among the New England states, Massachusetts (3.98), Connecticut (3.45), Vermont (3.23) and New Hampshire (3.08) had higher vacancy rates than Rhode Island.

There were an estimated 2.00 unemployed Rhode Island residents for every advertised job in October, down from 2.15 unemployed residents estimated per September advertisements. Nationally, there were 1.61 unemployed persons for every job opening advertised in October, down from 1.68 in September.

Unemployment Insurance Claims Activity

	Oct.	Sept.	Oct.	% Change		Year to Date		
	2016	2016	2015	Sept. 16	Oct. 15	2016	2015	% Change
Regular Claims								
Initial Claims	3,522	3,178	3,894	10.8%	-9.6%	50,780	54,329	-6.5%
Number of Payments	28,849	26,700	25,339	8.0%	13.9%	397,518	418,914	-5.1%
Amount of Payments (gross millions)	\$10.0	\$9.2	\$8.5	8.7%	17.6%	\$132.7	\$136.0	-2.4%
Exhaustions (Final Payments)	723	622	643	16.2%	12.4%	7,588	8,582	-11.6%

R.I. DEPARTMENT OF LABOR AND TRAINING
2017 UI AND TDI QUICK REFERENCE
(Effective January 1, 2017)

	UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE	TDI / TCI INSURANCE
TAXABLE WAGE BASE For Employers with tax rates of 9.79%	\$22,400 \$23,900	\$68,100
TAX SCHEDULES/ TAX RATES Employment Security Job Development Assessment (JDA)	Schedule H: 1.20% to 9.80% 0.99% to 9.59% 0.21%*	1.2% Deducted from Employee's Wages
NEW EMPLOYER RATE	1.83% (+ 0.21% JDA)	None (Employee Tax)
EMPLOYEE WAGE DEDUCTION	NONE (employer payroll tax)	1.2% of first \$68,100 earned
WAITING PERIOD	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.
BASE PERIOD	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.	
ELIGIBILITY - MONETARY 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	
ELIGIBILITY - NONMONETARY	Worked for a subject employer and unemployed through no fault.	Worked for a subject employer and have medically certified disability.
WEEKLY BENEFIT RATE	3.85% of average of 2 highest quarter wages in base period.	4.62% of total high quarter wages in base period.
MIN. WEEKLY BENEFIT AMOUNT Based on minimum wage of \$9.60/hour	\$49 per week	\$89 per week
MAX. WEEKLY BENEFIT AMOUNT Based on 2015 average weekly wage of \$961.07	\$566 per week Max of \$566 or 57.5% of AWW*	\$817 per week
DEPENDENT'S ALLOWANCE	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.)
MAX. WEEKLY BENEFIT AMOUNT WITH MAX. 5 DEPENDENTS	\$707 per week	\$1,102 per week
MAXIMUM DURATION	26 weeks	TDI 30 wks / TCI 4 wks
REASONS FOR DENIAL OF BENEFITS	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.
BENEFIT APPLICATIONS	Call (401) 243-9100 to file.	Call (401) 462-8420 for application

*AWW: Average Weekly Wage

Provided by : Rhode island Department of Labor & Training, Labor Market Information Division