



Rhode Island's Unemployment Rate Remains at 5.6 percent in September

- ◆ RI's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate for September was 5.6 percent, unchanged from August.
- ◆ RI's September unemployment rate was unchanged from last September's figure of 5.6 percent.
- ◆ The national rate was 5.0 percent, up one-tenth of a percentage point from August and down one-tenth of a percentage point from the previous year.
- ◆ In September 2016, Rhode Island (5.6%), along with Washington (5.6%), had the eighth highest unemployment rate in the nation. Four states had unemployment rates of six percent or higher.
- ◆ The September 2016 unemployment rate decreased in fourteen states, including Massachusetts (-0.3), Connecticut (-0.2) and New Hampshire (-0.1). Seventeen states' rates, including Vermont and Rhode Island, were unchanged, while nineteen states' rates, including Maine (+0.1), increased.
- ◆ Rates in other New England states for September 2016 – Connecticut 5.4 percent, Maine 4.1 percent, Massachusetts 3.6 percent, Vermont 3.3 percent and New Hampshire 2.9 percent.
- ◆ The number of employed RI residents totaled 526,300 in September 2016, up 400 from the previous month. Between September 2015 and September 2016, the number of employed RI residents was up 3,800.
- ◆ Over the month, the number of unemployed Rhode Island residents increased by 100 to 31,100. From September 2015 to September 2016, the number of unemployed residents decreased by 100.

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, 2016, the Department of Labor and Training's EmployRI online network recorded 12,089 online job postings from RI-based businesses. Also during September, 7,027 RI residents collected unemployment insurance benefits accounting for 25 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 (0.6) claimant for each online posting. Job postings for which the usual educational requirement was either a high school diploma (27.3%) or bachelor's degree (17.3%) accounted for the most online postings. For a fifth of the postings, an educational requirement was not listed.

A labor surplus was associated with three of the 21 occupational groups: Construction & Extraction, Production and Building & Grounds Cleaning & Maintenance. In Construction, there were 4.4 claimants per job posting.

The largest potential labor shortages were associated with postings for Healthcare Practitioners & Technical occupations, where job postings outnumber claimants by more than 10 to 1.

These numbers indicate that employers seeking to fill vacancies in this occupational group 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		
	Sept 16	Aug 16	Sept 15	Sept 16	Aug 16	Sept 15
Civilian Labor Force	557.4	556.9	553.8	159,907	159,463	156,867
Resident Employment	526.3	525.9	522.5	151,968	151,614	148,942
Unemployment	31.1	31.0	31.2	7,939	7,849	7,925
Unemployment Rate	5.6%	5.6%	5.6%	5.0%	4.9%	5.1%

Rhode Island Jobs Decrease by 900 in September

Estimated nonfarm payroll in Rhode Island totaled 490,200 in September, reflecting a loss of 900 jobs from the revised August estimate of 491,100. September marks two consecutive months of job declines resulting in a loss of 1,300 jobs. The Government sector reported the bulk of the September losses, shedding 700 jobs, while private sector employment fell by 200. Over the year, the Rhode Island economy has added 5,300 jobs.

A loss of 1,100 jobs was reported in Educational Services, marking the second time within this calendar year where a monthly loss of 1,100 jobs was reported in this sector. A loss of the same magnitude was reported in the January jobs report. Despite these significant declines, the number of jobs in Educational Services is up 200 from a year ago.

In Health Care & Social Assistance, jobs fell by 900 in September, the largest over-the-month decline since January 2000 (-1,000). The Ambulatory Health Care Services (generally provides outpatient services) and Hospital subsectors accounted for a majority of the job declines. Since September 2015, the number of jobs in the Health Care & Social Assistance sector is down 200.

Sizeable employment losses were also noted in Government and Professional & Business Services, each falling by 700 in September. The Government employment figure is up 300 from a year ago, while the Professional & Business Services sector, which lost 1,100 jobs over the past two months, is up 1,500 from September 2015. Smaller monthly job losses were reported in the Other Services (-300), Manufacturing (-200), Information (-100) and Transportation & Utilities (-100) sectors. Among these sectors, Manufacturing employment is up 500 from a year ago, while employment in Other Services and Transportation & Utilities is up 200 and 100, respectively. Employment in the Information sector is down 300 over the year.

Robust discretionary spending was apparent in September as three employment sectors which rely heavily on such spending reported strong monthly job growth. The number of jobs in the Accommodation & Food Services sector was up 1,800 from August, while 600 jobs were added in both the Arts, Entertainment & Recreation and Retail Trade sectors. Wholesale Trade employment rose by 200 in September, while employment in Construction, Financial Activities and Mining & Logging remained unchanged.

In September 2016, nonfarm employment in the nation grew by 0.1 percent, while nonfarm employment in New England remained unchanged on a percentage basis. The number of jobs within the nation increased by 156,000, while the number of jobs in the six state region fell by 2,800. Four of the six New England states lost jobs in September, led by Connecticut (-5,200) and followed by Maine (-1,300), Rhode Island (-900) and Vermont (-500). Massachusetts was the sole regional state to add jobs in September, adding 5,100 jobs, while New Hampshire reported no change.

Manufacturing Employment in Rhode Island					
Not Seasonally Adjusted					
	Employment				
	(in thousands)				
	Net Change From:				
	Sept 16	Aug 16	Sept 15	Aug 16	Sept 15
Manufacturing	41.5	41.8	41.3	-300	200
Durable Goods	25.7	25.7	25.9	0	-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.	4.3	4.4	4.8	-100	-500
Miscellaneous DG Manufacturing	5.5	5.5	5.6	0	-100
Jewelry & Silverware	3.4	3.3	3.4	100	0
Non-Durable Goods	15.8	16.1	15.4	-300	400
Chemical Manufacturing	2.9	3.0	3.0	-100	-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.

Establishment Employment in Rhode Island					
Seasonally Adjusted					
	Net Change From				
	Sep-16	Aug-16	Sep-15	Aug-16	Sep-15
Total Nonfarm	490.2	491.1	484.9	-0.9	5.3
Total Private	429.6	429.8	424.6	-0.2	5.0
Natural Resources & Mining	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.0	0.0
Construction	17.2	17.2	17.1	0.0	0.1
Manufacturing	41.7	41.9	41.2	-0.2	0.5
Wholesale Trade	16.5	16.3	16.9	0.2	-0.4
Retail Trade	48.8	48.2	48.3	0.6	0.5
Transportation & Utilities	11.6	11.7	11.5	-0.1	0.1
Information	8.4	8.5	8.7	-0.1	-0.3
Financial Activities	32.5	32.5	33.0	0.0	-0.5
Professional & Business Services	65.0	65.7	63.5	-0.7	1.5
Educational Services	24.0	25.1	23.8	-1.1	0.2
Health Care & Social Assistance	80.4	81.3	80.6	-0.9	-0.2
Arts, Entertainment & Recreation	9.3	8.7	8.9	0.6	0.4
Accommodation & Food Services	50.7	48.9	47.8	1.8	2.9
Other Services	23.3	23.6	23.1	-0.3	0.2
Government	60.6	61.3	60.3	-0.7	0.3

Nonfarm payroll employment increased in 31 states in September, decreased in 19 states and remained unchanged in one state. The largest over-the-month percentage increase in employment occurred in Kentucky and Washington at 0.6 percent each, followed by Indiana, Montana and Tennessee at 0.5 percent each. The largest over-the-month percentage decline in employment occurred in Alaska and New Mexico, with each state falling by 0.5 percent each.



Average Wages for Over 500 Rhode Island-Based Occupations Available on the LMI Website

Median wages for Rhode Island based jobs averaged \$18.77 per hour in May 2015, according to the latest Occupational Employment Statistics survey. This median hourly wage was more than a dollar greater the national median of \$17.40 an hour and the third highest in New England. In the New England region, Massachusetts led the states with the highest median hourly wage of \$21.91, followed by Connecticut at \$21.07 per hour. New Hampshire was in fourth place with median hourly earnings of \$17.92, followed closely by Vermont at \$17.81 an

hour. Maine (\$16.69/hour) had the lowest median hourly wage in the region and was the only New England state to have a median hourly wage lower than the national average.

Highest and Lowest Paying Occupations

In all, thirty-nine occupations paid a median wage in excess of \$100,000 a year. Included among the highest paid occupations are several top-line management occupations, software developers, computer network architects, electrical engineers, lawyers, post-secondary teachers of various disciplines, physicians, surgeons; pharmacists, dentists, veterinarians, physicians assistants, and nurse practitioners. For the majority of these occupations a bachelor's or advanced degree (doctoral or professional) is generally required. Approximately six percent of the state's workforce is employed in these top paying occupations.

Median Hourly Wage May 2015	
United States	\$17.40
Massachusetts	\$21.91
Connecticut	\$21.07
Rhode Island	\$18.77
New Hampshire	\$17.92
Vermont	\$17.81
Maine	\$16.69

At the other end of the pay scale, approximately twelve percent of the state's workforce is employed in occupations with median hourly wages of less than \$10.00 per hour. Included among the lowest paid occupations are childcare workers, ushers & ticket takers, baggage porters & bellhops, cashiers, production worker helpers, and several food preparation and serving workers such as waiters & waitresses, bartenders, hosts & hostesses, counter attendants, and fast food cooks. In total, eighteen occupations had median hourly wages of less than \$10.00 an hour. For the majority of these occupations there is no minimum educational requirements (i.e. less than high school). Occupational wage rates for over 500 occupations are available on the Labor Market Information website at www.dlt.ri.gov/lmi/oes.htm.

Characteristics of the Insured Unemployed

A total of 7,027 individuals were eligible to collect Unemployment Insurance benefits in September 2016, down 182 (-2.5%) from the 7,209 collecting these benefits in September 2015. In all, 24.8 percent of Rhode Island's unemployed workers were eligible to collect unemployment benefits in September.

Of the 7,027 individuals collecting Unemployment Insurance benefits, 28.3 percent faced long-term unemployment (defined as collecting unemployment insurance for fifteen weeks or more), down from 29.1 percent in September 2015.

On an industry basis, 15.8 percent (1,110) of the State's insured unemployed workers came from the Manufacturing sector. There were also 970 individuals with an attachment to the Health Care & Social Assistance sector, accounting for 13.8 percent of all insured unemployed workers. An additional 12.3 percent (865) of those collecting UI benefits in September had worked in the Administrative & Waste Services sector. Large numbers of insured unemployed were also reported in Retail Trade (693), Construction (507) and Accommodation & Food Services (507). For more information, go to www.dlt.ri.gov/lmi/uiadmin/characteristics.htm.

Characteristics of the Insured Unemployed, September 2016			
	Total	Long-Term	Percent Long-Term
Total	7,027	1,992	28.3%
Male	3,529	931	26.4%
Female	3,498	1,061	30.3%
Selected Industries	7,027	1,992	28.3%
Construction	507	98	19.3%
Manufacturing	1,110	291	26.2%
Wholesale Trade	289	73	25.3%
Retail Trade	693	233	33.6%
Transportation & Warehousing	189	39	20.6%
Information	77	20	26.0%
Finance & Insurance	334	110	32.9%
Real Estate	141	34	24.1%
Professional & Tech. Services	437	155	35.5%
Administrative & Waste Services	865	243	28.1%
Educational Services	208	39	18.8%
Health Care & Social Assistance	970	293	30.2%
Arts, Entertainment & Recreation	93	34	36.6%
Accommodation & Food Services	507	155	30.6%
Other Services	291	81	27.8%
Public Administration	49	16	32.7%

**Consumer Price Index for
All Urban Consumers**

				% Change
	Sept 16	Aug 16	Sept 15	Prev. Year
All Items	241.4	240.8	237.9	1.5%

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 14,500 advertisements for Rhode Island based jobs this month, a decrease of 500 (-3.3%) from the August 2016 postings, and down 5,400 (-27.1%) from the advertised vacancies posted online in September 2015. There were an estimated 2.61 advertised vacancies for every 100 persons in Rhode Island's labor force.

**Help Wanted OnLine
Advertised Job Vacancies**

	Sept 16	Aug 16	Sept 15
RI Vacancies	14,500	15,000	19,900
<i>Labor Demand Rate *</i>			
Rhode Island	2.61	2.70	3.59
US	2.96	3.02	3.37
Connecticut	3.27	3.37	4.00
Massachusetts	3.87	4.04	4.64
Maine	2.44	2.58	3.58
New Hampshire	2.96	3.09	3.38
Vermont	2.97	3.00	3.64
<i>Supply/Demand Rate **</i>			
Rhode Island	2.15	2.06	1.57
US	1.68	1.63	1.50

* 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 September**

	2016	2015		2016	2015
Barrington	3.7	3.6	Newport	4.3	4.0
Bristol	4.6	4.5	North Kingstown	4.0	4.0
Burrillville	4.9	4.9	North Providence	5.1	5.3
Central Falls	6.4	6.7	North Smithfield	4.4	4.5
Charlestown	4.9	5.1	Pawtucket	5.9	6.1
Coventry	4.8	4.9	Portsmouth	4.5	4.4
Cranston	5.1	5.2	Providence	6.3	6.3
Cumberland	4.2	4.2	Richmond	3.3	2.9
East Greenwich	5.0	4.6	Scituate	4.7	4.6
East Providence	5.4	5.6	Smithfield	4.5	4.6
Exeter	3.6	4.1	South Kingstown	4.5	4.5
Foster	4.2	4.5	Tiverton	4.7	4.6
Glocester	3.8	4.0	Warren	5.0	5.1
Hopkinton	4.6	5.1	Warwick	4.4	4.5
Jamestown	3.4	3.6	West Greenwich	4.6	4.7
Johnston	5.4	5.3	West Warwick	5.4	5.3
Lincoln	4.1	4.4	Westerly	6.0	6.1
Little Compton	3.0	3.5	Woonsocket	7.3	6.7
Middletown	4.3	4.3			
Narragansett	3.4	3.5	State of R.I.	5.1	5.1
New Shoreham	4.9	5.1	United States	4.8	4.9

Nationally, there were an estimated 2.96 advertised vacancies for every 100 persons in the labor force. Among the New England states, Massachusetts (3.87), Connecticut (3.27), Vermont (2.97) and New Hampshire (2.96) had higher vacancy rates than Rhode Island.

There were an estimated 2.15 unemployed Rhode Island residents for every advertised job in September, up from 2.06 unemployed residents estimated per August advertisements. Nationally, there were 1.68 unemployed persons for every job opening advertised in September, up from 1.63 in August.

Unemployment Insurance Claims Activity

	Sept.	Aug.	Sept.	% Change		Year to Date		
	2016	2016	2015	Aug. 16	Sept. 15	2016	2015	% Change
Regular Claims								
Initial Claims	3,178	4,195	3,779	-24.2%	-15.9%	47,258	50,435	-6.3%
Number of Payments	26,700	44,432	27,265	-39.9%	-2.1%	368,669	393,575	-6.3%
Amount of Payments (gross millions)	\$9.2	\$13.8	\$9.0	-33.3%	2.2%	\$122.7	\$127.5	-3.8%
Exhaustions (Final Payments)	622	830	693	-25.1%	-10.2%	6,865	7,939	-13.5%

Occupational Employment Statistics - May 2015 Highest & Lowest Paying Occupations

Occupations	Estimated Employment	Median Wage	Educational Requirement
Highest Paying Occupations			
		Annual Wages	
Chief Executives	450	>\$200,000	Bachelor's degree
Surgeons	230	>\$200,000	Doctoral or professional degree
Psychiatrists	360	>\$200,000	Doctoral or professional degree
Judges, Magistrate Judges, & Magistrates	120	>\$200,000	Doctoral or professional degree
Internists, General	240	>\$200,000	Doctoral or professional degree
Dentists, General	350	\$169,270	Doctoral or professional degree
Dentists, All Other Specialists	N/A	\$168,334	Doctoral or professional degree
Physicians & Surgeons, All Other	2,580	\$168,043	Doctoral or professional degree
Family & General Practitioners	N/A	\$155,542	Doctoral or professional degree
Pediatricians, General	220	\$148,595	Doctoral or professional degree
Computer & Information Systems Managers	1,080	\$135,866	Bachelor's degree
Architectural & Engineering Managers	380	\$135,616	Bachelor's degree
Compensation & Benefits Managers	80	\$127,379	Bachelor's degree
Financial Managers	2,840	\$126,610	Bachelor's degree
Marketing Managers	420	\$126,360	Bachelor's degree
Sales Managers	800	\$126,027	Bachelor's degree
Veterinarians	210	\$125,258	Doctoral or professional degree
Human Resources Managers	310	\$125,050	Bachelor's degree
Public Relations & Fundraising Managers	240	\$124,218	Bachelor's degree
Purchasing Managers	200	\$123,136	Bachelor's degree
Natural Sciences Managers	120	\$120,973	Bachelor's degree
Electronics Engineers, Except Computer	1,080	\$118,602	Bachelor's degree
Pharmacists	1,400	\$117,978	Doctoral or professional degree
General & Operations Managers	6,610	\$117,936	Associate's degree
Computer & Information Research Scientists	400	\$114,005	Doctoral or professional degree
Construction Managers	470	\$112,674	Associate's degree
Training & Development Managers	70	\$112,674	Bachelor's degree
Lawyers	1,780	\$112,653	Doctoral or professional degree
Sales Engineers	140	\$112,216	Bachelor's degree
Managers, All Other	840	\$112,070	High school diploma or equivalent
Computer Network Architects	410	\$111,904	Bachelor's degree
Physician Assistants	230	\$108,722	Master's degree
Software Developers, Systems Software	1,240	\$106,496	Bachelor's degree
Electrical Engineers	380	\$104,811	Bachelor's degree
Transportation, Storage, & Distribution Managers	250	\$104,104	High school diploma or equivalent
Nurse Practitioners	520	\$103,730	Master's degree
Mathematicians	40	\$101,816	Master's degree
Optometrists	190	\$100,090	Doctoral or professional degree
Lowest Paying Occupations			
		Hourly Wages	
Combined Food Preparation & Serving Workers, Including Fast Food	9,750	\$9.29	Less than high school
Waiters & Waitresses	9,810	\$9.32	Less than high school
Bartenders	3,180	\$9.36	Less than high school
Counter Attendants, Cafeteria, Food Concession, & Coffee Shop	3,360	\$9.39	Less than high school
Musicians & Singers	350	\$9.40	High school diploma or equivalent
Cooks, Fast Food	N/A	\$9.40	Less than high school
Dining Room & Cafeteria Attendants & Bartender Helpers	1,880	\$9.40	Less than high school
Hosts & Hostesses, Restaurant, Lounge, & Coffee Shop	1,280	\$9.43	Less than high school
Ushers, Lobby Attendants, & Ticket Takers	160	\$9.47	Less than high school
Childcare Workers	2,100	\$9.48	High school diploma or equivalent
Dishwashers	2,120	\$9.55	Less than high school
Automotive & Watercraft Service Attendants	320	\$9.62	Less than high school
Packers & Packagers, Hand	2,040	\$9.64	Less than high school
Cashiers	11,020	\$9.66	Less than high school
Helpers--Production Workers	1,610	\$9.87	Less than high school
Food Preparation Workers	4,430	\$9.96	Less than high school
Baggage Porters & Bellhops	80	\$9.97	High school diploma or equivalent

In 2015, the Rhode Island minimum wage was \$9.00 an hour.

Source: Occupational Employment Statistics Survey, May 2015

Labor Market Information Division of the Rhode Island Department of Labor & Training

N/A: Employment estimates are not releasable.