

# EMPLOYMENT BULLETIN

September 2015



## Rhode Island's Unemployment Rate Drops to 5.6 percent in August

- ◆ RI's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate for August was 5.6 percent, down two-tenths of a percentage point from the July rate of 5.8 percent.
- ◆ RI's August unemployment rate was down one and eight-tenths percentage points from last August's figure of 7.4 percent.
- ◆ The national rate was 5.1 percent, down two-tenths of a percentage point from July and down one percentage point from the previous year.
- ◆ In August 2015, Rhode Island (5.6%) had the sixteenth highest unemployment rate in the nation. Eleven states had unemployment rates of six percent or higher.
- ◆ The August 2015 unemployment rate decreased in twenty-nine states, including Rhode Island (-0.2), New Hampshire (-0.1), Maine (-0.1) and Connecticut (-0.1). Eleven states' rates were unchanged, including Massachusetts and Vermont, while ten states' rates increased.
- ◆ Rates in other New England states for August 2015 – Connecticut 5.3 percent, Massachusetts 4.7 percent, Maine 4.5 percent, New Hampshire 3.6 percent and Vermont 3.6 percent.
- ◆ The number of employed RI residents totaled 528,600 in August 2015, up 1,100 from the previous month. Between August 2014 and August 2015, the number of employed RI residents was up 16,100.
- ◆ Over the month, the number of unemployed Rhode Island residents decreased by 700 to 31,600. From August 2014 to August 2015, the number of unemployed residents decreased by 9,300.

## Educational Attainment in Rhode Island - 2014

Not long ago, most people were able to get a job with not much more than a high school diploma. However, today's economy places a much higher premium on additional years of schooling – even for an entry-level position, a high school diploma or GED may not be enough. Our ability to compete in a global economy is dependent on the knowledge and skills of our workforce and its ability to learn and adapt to new situations.

Each level of education attained provides more return than the level below. The benefits gained from an educated workforce are important for both the residents and the economy as a whole. Research shows that higher levels of individual educational attainment lead to:

- Greater rates of workforce participation
- Reduced reliance on government assistance programs
- Readily transferable skills
- Higher annual earnings
- Better job opportunities

According to the US Census Bureau, 2014 American Community Survey 1-Year Estimates, 38.3 percent of the US population aged 25 or older has an associate's degree or higher, while Americans who did not graduate high school or receive a high school equivalency comprise 13.1 percent of the population. In comparison, 38.6 percent of Rhode Islanders have an associate degree or higher while 14.2 percent of Rhode Islanders do not have a high school diploma or equivalency.

- ◆ Rhode Island ranks fifth in New England in the percentage of adults (30.4%) who have obtained at least a Bachelor's degree, but is above the national average (30.1%).
- ◆ Rhode Island (85.8%) ranks last in New England and below the national average (86.9%) in the percentage of adults (25+ years) who have at least graduated from high school.

- ◆ Rhode Island (12.3%) ranks fifth in New England in the percentage of adults with a graduate or professional degree.

(See enclosed label page for more information.)

### Seasonally Adjusted Labor Force Statistics

(in thousands)

	Rhode Island			United States		
	Aug 15	Jul 15	Aug 14	Aug 15	Jul 15	Aug 14
Civilian Labor Force	560.2	559.8	553.3	157,065	157,106	156,018
Resident Employment	528.6	527.5	512.5	149,036	148,840	146,451
Unemployment	31.6	32.3	40.9	8,029	8,266	9,568
Unemployment Rate	5.6%	5.8%	7.4%	5.1%	5.3%	6.1%

## Rhode Island Jobs Decrease by 800 in August

Estimated nonfarm payroll in Rhode Island totaled 485,000 in August, reflecting a loss of 800 jobs from the revised July estimate of 485,800. The Government sector was responsible for 600 of the lost jobs, while private sector employment fell by 200. During the past three months, Rhode Island has averaged a gain of 400 jobs and has added 5,600 jobs over the year. Since the start of the year, jobs are up 5,700.

The number of jobs in the Government sector fell by 600 in August, of which a majority of the losses came from the local government branch. The August decline helps offset an unusual gain of 1,000 jobs reported by the Government sector in July, attributed to the end of a late school year which inflated the number of jobs in local government. Since August of last year, Government employment is up 200.

Employment in both the Professional & Business Services sector and the Health Care & Social Assistance sector declined by 500 over the month. The decline is a minor setback in Professional & Business Services, a sector which is up 3,200 jobs from a year ago and has added 3,900 jobs since the start of the year. The Health Care & Social Assistance sector continues to struggle as employment is down 700 over the year and jobs are down 300 since the start of the year.

The addition of 400 jobs in the Retail Trade sector propelled its employment level to 47,700, the highest level since January 2009. Jobs in Retail Trade are up 500 over the year and the sector has averaged a gain of 300 jobs over the past three months. The Accommodation & Food Services sector also added 400 jobs in August, ending two consecutive months of job declines and increasing its year-over-year job total to 1,100.

The Wholesale Trade sector added 200 jobs in August, marking four consecutive months of job gains. Jobs in the Construction sector rose for the first time since May and only the third time in 2015 as 100 jobs were added to the sector.

A gain of 100 jobs in the Manufacturing sector raises its August employment level to 42,100, the highest level since April 2009. Manufacturing employment is up 1,100 from a year ago and up 700 since the start of the year. With the addition of 100 jobs in August, the Financial Activities employment level rose to 33,200, its highest level since July 2008.

In August, the national workforce and the New England workforce grew at a rate of 0.1 percent from July. Employment in the six state region rose by 8,200, while U.S. employment grew by 173,000. Three New England states, Maine (+0.4%), Massachusetts (+0.2%) and Connecticut (+0.2%) added more jobs on a percentage basis than both the region and nation.

August 2015 nonfarm payroll employment increased in 32 states and decreased in 18 states. The largest over-the-month percentage increases in employment occurred in Hawaii (+1.3) followed by Nebraska (+0.6%) and Maine (+0.4 percent each). The largest over-the-month percentage declines in employment occurred in South Dakota (-0.7%), followed by Delaware and New Hampshire (-0.6 percent each).

<b>Establishment Employment in Rhode Island</b>					
<b>Seasonally Adjusted</b>					
	Net Change From				
	Aug-15	Jul-15	Aug-14	Jul-15	Aug-14
<b>Total Nonfarm</b>	<b>485.0</b>	<b>485.8</b>	<b>479.4</b>	<b>-0.8</b>	<b>5.6</b>
<b>Total Private</b>	<b>425.0</b>	<b>425.2</b>	<b>419.6</b>	<b>-0.2</b>	<b>5.4</b>
Natural Resources & Mining	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.0	0.0
Construction	15.1	15.0	16.4	0.1	-1.3
Manufacturing	42.1	42.0	41.0	0.1	1.1
Wholesale Trade	17.0	16.8	16.9	0.2	0.1
Retail Trade	47.7	47.3	47.2	0.4	0.5
Transportation & Utilities	11.5	11.6	11.0	-0.1	0.5
Information	8.5	8.5	9.0	0.0	-0.5
Financial Activities	33.2	33.1	32.6	0.1	0.6
Professional & Business Services	64.5	65.0	61.3	-0.5	3.2
Educational Services	25.0	25.2	24.6	-0.2	0.4
Health Care & Social Assistance	80.4	80.9	81.1	-0.5	-0.7
Arts, Entertainment & Recreation	8.6	8.6	8.7	0.0	-0.1
Accommodation & Food Services	47.5	47.1	46.4	0.4	1.1
Other Services	23.7	23.9	23.2	-0.2	0.5
Government	60.0	60.6	59.8	-0.6	0.2

<b>Manufacturing Employment in Rhode Island</b>					
<b>Not Seasonally Adjusted</b>					
	Employment				
	(in thousands)			Net Change From:	
	Aug 15	Jul 15	Aug 14	Jul 15	Aug 14
<b>Manufacturing</b>	<b>42.2</b>	<b>41.1</b>	<b>41.1</b>	<b>1,100</b>	<b>1,100</b>
<b>Durable Goods</b>	<b>27.2</b>	<b>26.9</b>	<b>26.2</b>	<b>300</b>	<b>1,000</b>
Fabricated Metal Product Mfg.	5.7	5.6	5.7	100	0
Computer & Electronic Product Mfg.	3.2	3.2	3.3	0	-100
Transportation Equipment Mfg.	5.1	5.0	4.6	100	500
Miscellaneous DG Manufacturing	5.4	5.2	5.5	200	-100
Jewelry & Silverware	3.2	3.0	3.3	200	-100
<b>Non-Durable Goods</b>	<b>15.0</b>	<b>14.2</b>	<b>14.9</b>	<b>800</b>	<b>100</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.*



## Rhode Island Employer Size Class

Rhode Island has an economy represented by a large number of companies employing a small number of workers. In March 2015 there were 32,780 firms employing 396,482 workers.

The companies with 1-4 employees numbered 16,015 and accounted for 48.9% of RI companies and 7.5% of the workforce.

The largest employers, which are those employing 1000+, number 30 and employ 16.2% of the private sector workforce, holding steady at the same counts as 2014.

- Smaller companies, those employing less than 20 people, represented 90.1 % of all Rhode Island employers and employed 24.3% of the workforce.
- Rhode Island’s mid-sized companies (20-99 employees) had 27.1% of the private sector employment and accounted for 8.2% of the firms also remaining unchanged from 2014.
- The larger firms in Rhode Island, those employing 100 or more, numbered 578. This is just 1.7% of employers but they employ almost half of the private sector workforce at 48.6 %.

Rhode Island’s largest firms (1,000 or more in employment) are found in Health Care and Social Assistance (8), Private Education (5), Finance and Insurance (6), Retail Trade (5), Management of Companies and Enterprises (2), and those having (1) each are Manufacturing , Transportation and Warehousing, Administrative Services and Waste Management, and Arts, Entertainment and Recreation.

Private Sector Employment				
March 2015				
Size Class	Employers*		Employment	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Total:	32,780	100.0%	396,482	100.0%
Zero	6,189	18.9%	0	0.0%
1-4	16,015	48.9%	29,755	7.5%
5-9	4,544	13.9%	29,712	7.5%
10-19	2,763	8.4%	36,878	9.3%
20-49	2,014	6.1%	60,781	15.3%
50-99	677	2.1%	46,689	11.8%
100-249	399	1.2%	60,703	15.3%
250-499	103	0.3%	34,831	8.8%
500-999	46	0.1%	32,990	8.3%
1000+	30	0.1%	64,143	16.2%

\*Based on size of firm

## Characteristics of the Insured Unemployed

A total of 10,335 individuals were eligible to collect Unemployment Insurance benefits in August 2015, down 1,598 (-13.4%) from the 11,933 collecting these benefits in August 2014. In all, 32.1 percent of Rhode Island’s unemployed workers were eligible to collect unemployment benefits in August.

Of the 10,335 individuals collecting Unemployment Insurance benefits, 21.3percent faced long-term unemployment (defined as collecting unemployment insurance for fifteen weeks or more), down from 22.2 percent in August 2014.

On an industry basis, 15.5 percent (1,603) of the State’s insured unemployed workers came from the Accommodation & Food Services sector. There were also 1,446 individuals with an attachment to the Transportation & Warehousing sector, accounting for 14.0 percent of all insured unemployed workers. An additional 12.9 percent (1,336) of those collecting UI benefits in August had worked in the Health Care & Social Assistance sector. Large numbers of insured unemployed were also reported in Administrative & Waste Services (982), Manufacturing (945) and Retail Trade (763). 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, August 2015			
	Total	Long-Term	Percent Long-Term
<b>Total</b>	<b>10,335</b>	<b>2,206</b>	<b>21.3%</b>
Male	3,967	985	24.8%
Female	6,368	1,221	19.2%
<b>Selected Industries</b>	<b>10,335</b>	<b>2,206</b>	<b>21.3%</b>
Construction	498	128	25.7%
Manufacturing	945	244	25.8%
Wholesale Trade	388	163	42.0%
Retail Trade	763	256	33.6%
Transportation & Warehousing	1,446	34	2.4%
Information	119	54	45.4%
Finance & Insurance	359	136	37.9%
Real Estate	187	52	27.8%
Professional & Tech. Services	463	156	33.7%
Administrative & Waste Services	982	205	20.9%
Educational Services	376	47	12.5%
Health Care & Social Assistance	1,336	365	27.3%
Arts, Entertainment & Recreation	108	26	24.1%
Accommodation & Food Services	1,603	132	8.2%
Other Services	354	102	28.8%
Public Administration	93	21	22.6%

### Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers

				% Change
	Aug 15	Jul 15	Aug 14	Prev. Year
All Items	238.3	238.7	237.9	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 21,100 advertisements for Rhode Island based jobs this month, a decrease of 1,000 (-4.5%) from the July 2015 postings, and down 200 (-0.9%) from the advertised vacancies posted online in August 2014. There were an estimated 3.76 advertised vacancies for every 100 persons in Rhode Island's labor force.

#### Help Wanted OnLine Advertised Job Vacancies

	Aug 15	Jul 15	Aug 14
RI Vacancies	21,100	22,100	21,300
<i>Labor Demand Rate *</i>			
Rhode Island	3.76	3.95	3.86
US	3.45	3.43	3.37
Connecticut	4.09	4.27	3.90
Massachusetts	4.66	4.66	4.43
Maine	3.68	3.77	4.10
New Hampshire	3.49	3.63	4.21
Vermont	3.39	3.30	3.88
<i>Supply/Demand Rate **</i>			
Rhode Island	1.50	1.46	1.92
US	1.48	1.54	1.82

\* 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 August

	2015	2014		2015	2014
Barrington	3.9	5.2	Newport	4.4	6.1
Bristol	5.0	6.5	North Kingstown	4.3	5.8
Burrillville	6.2	7.7	North Providence	6.1	7.8
Central Falls	7.2	9.1	North Smithfield	4.9	6.2
Charlestown	5.8	8.1	Pawtucket	6.6	8.8
Coventry	5.5	7.3	Portsmouth	4.9	6.3
Cranston	5.8	7.6	Providence	6.9	9.0
Cumberland	4.8	6.2	Richmond	3.4	4.6
East Greenwich	5.0	6.7	Scituate	5.4	6.9
East Providence	6.0	8.0	Smithfield	5.2	6.9
Exeter	4.9	6.6	South Kingstown	5.1	6.8
Foster	5.3	6.9	Tiverton	5.2	6.9
Glocester	4.3	5.7	Warren	5.6	7.2
Hopkinton	6.1	7.7	Warwick	5.0	6.8
Jamestown	3.7	5.1	West Greenwich	5.3	7.3
Johnston	6.0	7.8	West Warwick	5.9	8.0
Lincoln	5.3	6.7	Westerly	6.3	8.5
Little Compton	3.8	5.9	Woonsocket	7.5	9.6
Middletown	4.7	6.3			
Narragansett	3.5	4.8	State of R.I.	5.7	7.5
New Shoreham	4.6	6.2	United States	5.2	6.3

Nationally, there were an estimated 3.45 advertised vacancies for every 100 persons in the labor force. Among the New England states, Massachusetts (4.66) and Connecticut (4.09) had higher vacancy rates than Rhode Island.

There were an estimated 1.50 unemployed Rhode Island residents for every advertised job in August, up from 1.46 unemployed residents estimated per July advertisements. Nationally, there were 1.48 unemployed persons for every job opening advertised in August, down from 1.54 in July.

### Unemployment Insurance Claims Activity

Regular Claims	Aug.	July	Aug.	% Change		Year to Date		
	2015	2015	2014	July 15	Aug 14	2015	2014	% Change
Initial Claims	3,983	5,302	4,236	-24.9%	-6.0%	46,656	52,696	-11.5%
Number of Payments	44,261	37,525	42,289	18.0%	4.7%	366,310	415,042	-11.7%
Amount of Payments (gross millions)	\$13.4	\$11.4	\$13.0	17.5%	3.1%	\$118.5	\$136.8	-13.4%
Exhaustions (Final Payments)	880	742	972	18.6%	-9.5%	7,246	9,928	-27.0%

**Educational Attainment for the United States and New England  
for Population Aged 25 Years and Older, 2014**

	<b>RI</b>	<b>United States</b>	<b>New England</b>	<b>CT</b>	<b>MA</b>	<b>ME</b>	<b>NH</b>	<b>VT</b>
Population (25 Years and Older)	725,871	213,725,624	10,181,030	2,471,818	4,654,351	959,407	931,304	438,279
Less than 9th Grade	5.7%	5.6%	4.3%	4.2%	5.0%	3.1%	2.6%	2.8%
9th to 12th Grade, No Diploma	8.5%	7.5%	5.7%	5.8%	5.4%	5.2%	5.3%	5.2%
High School Graduate (includes Equivalency)	28.7%	27.7%	27.1%	27.5%	24.9%	32.3%	28.6%	30.7%
Some College, No Degree	18.4%	21.0%	17.1%	17.1%	15.7%	20.3%	18.8%	18.7%
Associate's Degree	8.2%	8.2%	8.1%	7.5%	7.9%	9.7%	9.8%	7.8%
Bachelor's Degree	18.1%	18.7%	21.8%	21.3%	23.2%	19.4%	21.7%	20.9%
Graduate or Professional Degree	12.3%	11.4%	15.9%	16.7%	18.0%	10.0%	13.3%	14.0%
Not a High School Graduate or Equivalent	14.2%	13.1%	10.0%	10.0%	10.4%	8.3%	7.9%	8.0%
High School Graduate or Higher	85.8%	86.9%	90.0%	90.1%	89.7%	91.7%	92.2%	92.0%
Associate's Degree or Higher	38.6%	38.3%	45.8%	45.5%	49.1%	39.1%	44.8%	42.7%
Bachelor's Degree or Higher	30.4%	30.1%	37.7%	38.0%	41.2%	29.4%	35.0%	34.9%

Source: US Census Bureau, 2014 American Community Survey 1-Year Estimates

Table S1501