



Rhode Island's Unemployment Rate Increases to 5.6 percent in August

- ◆ RI's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate for August was 5.6 percent, up one-tenth of a percentage point from July.
- ◆ RI's August unemployment rate was down two-tenths of a percentage point from last August's figure of 5.8 percent.
- ◆ The national rate was 4.9 percent, unchanged from July and down two-tenths of a percentage point from the previous year.
- ◆ In August 2016, Rhode Island (5.6%), along with Connecticut (5.6%), had the tenth highest unemployment rate in the nation. Five states had unemployment rates of six percent or higher.
- ◆ The August 2016 unemployment rate decreased in seventeen states, including Massachusetts (-0.2) and Connecticut (-0.1). Twelve states' rates were unchanged, while twenty-one states' rates, including Rhode Island (+0.1), Maine (+0.1), New Hampshire (+0.1) and Vermont (+0.1), increased.
- ◆ Rates in other New England states for August 2016 – Connecticut 5.6 percent, Maine 4.0 percent, Massachusetts 3.9 percent, Vermont 3.3 percent and New Hampshire 3.0 percent.
- ◆ The number of employed RI residents totaled 525,800 in August 2016, up 1,100 from the previous month. Between August 2015 and August 2016, the number of employed RI residents was up 3,100.
- ◆ Over the month, the number of unemployed Rhode Island residents increased by 400 to 30,900. From August 2015 to August 2016, the number of unemployed residents decreased by 1,000.

Educational Attainment in Rhode Island - 2015

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 of the state. 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, 2015 American Community Survey 1-Year Estimates, 38.8 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 12.9 percent of the population. In comparison, 41.2 percent of Rhode Islanders have an Associate's degree or higher while 12.3 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 (32.7%) who have obtained at least a Bachelor's degree, but is above the national average (30.6%).
- ◆ Rhode Island (87.7%) ranks last in New England but above the national average (87.2%) in the percentage of adults (25+ years) who have at least graduated from high school.
- ◆ Rhode Island (13.4%) ranks fifth in New England in the percentage of adults with a graduate or professional degree.

Seasonally Adjusted Labor Force Statistics

(in thousands)

	Rhode Island			United States		
	Aug 16	Jul 16	Aug 15	Aug 16	Jul 16	Aug 15
Civilian Labor Force	556.8	555.2	554.6	159,463	159,287	157,061
Resident Employment	525.8	524.7	522.7	151,614	151,517	149,043
Unemployment	30.9	30.5	31.9	7,849	7,770	8,018
Unemployment Rate	5.6%	5.5%	5.8%	4.9%	4.9%	5.1%

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Rhode Island Jobs Decrease by 700 in August

Estimated nonfarm payroll in Rhode Island totaled 490,800 in August, reflecting a loss of 700 jobs from the revised July estimate of 491,500. On average, the state added 1,400 jobs over the past three months and now has 5,800 more jobs than a year ago. Thus far, a total of 2,300 jobs were added to the state's economy in 2016, on pace with the 2,200 jobs which were added during the same period in 2015.

The Professional & Business Services sector lost 600 jobs in August, erasing two-thirds of the 900 jobs it added in July. Despite the monthly loss, the sector added 1,900 jobs over the year.

In Manufacturing, jobs fell by 500 in August, ending two consecutive months of job gains which totaled 800 jobs. Most of the monthly jobs losses came from the nondurable goods component of manufacturing. Over the year, the sector added 700 jobs.

The Financial Activities and Retail Trade sectors each lost 300 jobs in August, as both industries have

reported two consecutive months of job declines. Employment in Financial Activities is down 200 since August 2015, while employment in Retail Trade is down 100 from a year ago. Smaller job losses were reported in Educational Services (-200) and Arts, Entertainment & Recreation (-100), while employment remained unchanged in Information and Mining & Logging.

Offsetting the job losses was a gain of 400 jobs reported in the Health Care & Social Assistance sector, pushing the employment level up to 81,400, the highest employment level on record. Over the year, the number of jobs in Health Care & Social Assistance is up 600.

A gain of 200 jobs was reported in each of the Government, Other Services and Wholesale Trade sectors. Over the year, employment in Government and Other Services is up 1,000 and 600, respectively, while employment in Wholesale Trade is down 500 from August 2015. The Accommodation & Food Services, Construction and Transportation & Utilities sectors each added 100 jobs in August. Employment in Accommodation & Food Services is up 1,200 over the year, while employment in both Construction and Transportation & Utilities is up 300 from a year ago.

In August 2016, nonfarm employment in the nation grew by 0.1 percent, while nonfarm employment in New England also grew by 0.1 percent. The number of jobs within the nation increased by 151,000, while the number of jobs in the six state region grew by

7,800. Three of the six New England states added jobs in August, led by Massachusetts (+5,900) then followed by New Hampshire (+4,400) and Connecticut (+300). Job losses were reported in Maine (-1,800), Rhode Island (-700) and Vermont (-300).

Nonfarm payroll employment increased in 29 states in August and decreased in 21 states. The largest over-the-month percentage increase in employment occurred in New Hampshire (+0.7%), followed by California (+0.4%) and Nevada (+0.4%). The largest over-the-month percentage decline in employment occurred in Louisiana, Michigan and Montana, all falling by 0.4 percent.

Establishment Employment in Rhode Island					
Seasonally Adjusted					
	Net Change From				
	<u>Aug-16</u>	<u>Jul-16</u>	<u>Aug-15</u>	<u>Jul-16</u>	<u>Aug-15</u>
Total Nonfarm	490.8	491.5	485.0	-0.7	5.8
Total Private	429.5	430.4	424.7	-0.9	4.8
Natural Resources & Mining	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.0	0.0
Construction	17.3	17.2	17.0	0.1	0.3
Manufacturing	41.9	42.4	41.2	-0.5	0.7
Wholesale Trade	16.4	16.2	16.9	0.2	-0.5
Retail Trade	48.1	48.4	48.2	-0.3	-0.1
Transportation & Utilities	11.7	11.6	11.4	0.1	0.3
Information	8.5	8.5	8.6	0.0	-0.1
Financial Activities	32.4	32.7	32.6	-0.3	-0.2
Professional & Business Services	65.5	66.1	63.6	-0.6	1.9
Educational Services	25.1	25.3	24.8	-0.2	0.3
Health Care & Social Assistance	81.4	81.0	80.8	0.4	0.6
Arts, Entertainment & Recreation	8.6	8.7	8.8	-0.1	-0.2
Accommodation & Food Services	48.8	48.7	47.6	0.1	1.2
Other Services	23.6	23.4	23.0	0.2	0.6
Government	61.3	61.1	60.3	0.2	1.0

Manufacturing Employment in Rhode Island Not Seasonally Adjusted

	Employment				
	(in thousands)			Net Change From:	
	<u>Aug 16</u>	<u>Jul 16</u>	<u>Aug 15</u>	<u>Jul 16</u>	<u>Aug 15</u>
Manufacturing	41.8	41.8	41.3	0	500
Durable Goods	25.7	25.6	26.1	100	-400
Fabricated Metal Product Mfg.	5.3	5.2	5.3	100	0
Computer & Electronic Product Mfg.	3.1	3.1	3.2	0	-100
Transportation Equipment Mfg.	4.4	4.6	4.9	-200	-500
Miscellaneous DG Manufacturing	5.5	5.4	5.7	100	-200
Jewelry & Silverware	3.3	3.2	3.4	100	-100
Non-Durable Goods	16.1	16.2	15.2	-100	900
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.

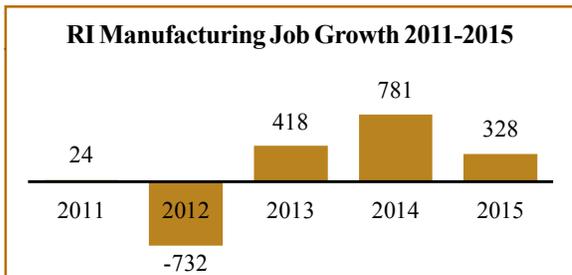


Rhode Island Manufacturing Job Growth 2012-2015

Manufacturing, Rhode Island's fourth largest employment sector, established a milestone that hadn't been achieved in nearly 40 years. The Manufacturing sector added employment for three straight years. Between 2012 and 2015, employment in Rhode Island's Manufacturing sector increased by just over 1,500 jobs. The last time the Manufacturing sector reported at least three straight years of job growth was in 1978.

In 1978, Rhode Island's Manufacturing sector was the state's largest employment sector, employing over 134,600 workers. By 2015, employment in the sector had fallen to 41,149 workers. Manufacturing's peak employment level was reported in 1943, when the sector employed over 168,200 workers. The sectors employment level fell all the way to 39,600 in 2012, the lowest employment level on record.

Between 2001 and 2012, 41.4 percent, or 27,958 Rhode Island manufacturing jobs were lost. The largest numeric job loss was reported in the other miscellaneous manufacturing industry group, which shed 7,259 (-61.6%) jobs during this period. Large employment losses were also reported in the printing and related activities manufacturing (-1,421), textile and fabric finishing mills (-1,283), spring and wire product manufacturing (-1,276) and semiconductor and electronic component manufacturing (-1,234) industry groups. Other Manufacturing industry groups which lost at least one-thousand jobs between 2001 and 2012 include; fabric mills (-1,222), plastics product manufacturing (-1,212), electrical equipment manufacturing (-1,175) and coating, engraving and heat treating manufacturing (-1,108).



One manufacturing industry group, the pharmaceutical and medicine manufacturing industry group, did flourish during the downward trend, adding 866 jobs between 2001 and 2012, a 165.0% increase.

Employment in the Manufacturing sector began to stabilize in 2011 with the addition of 24 jobs from 2010, marking the first year-over-year employment increase since 1978. While employment in the sector dropped again, shedding 732 jobs in 2012, it was followed by three straight years of job growth in the Manufacturing sector beginning in 2013, as 418 manufacturing jobs were added from 2012. An additional gain of 781 manufacturing jobs were added in 2014, followed by 328 jobs in 2015.

Characteristics of the Insured Unemployed

A total of 9,834 individuals were eligible to collect Unemployment Insurance benefits in August 2016, down 501 (-4.8%) from the 10,335 collecting these benefits in August 2015. In all, 30.2 percent of Rhode Island's unemployed workers were eligible to collect unemployment benefits in August.

Of the 9,834 individuals collecting Unemployment Insurance benefits, 20.6 percent faced long-term unemployment (defined as collecting unemployment insurance for fifteen weeks or more), down from 21.3 percent in August 2015.

On an industry basis, 16.0 percent (1,572) of the State's insured unemployed workers came from the Accommodation & Food Services sector. There were also 1,502 individuals with an attachment to the Transportation & Warehousing sector, accounting for 15.3 percent of all insured unemployed workers. An additional 12.3 percent (1,208) 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 (944), Manufacturing (916) and Retail Trade (737). For more information, go to

www.dlt.ri.gov/lmi/uiadmin/characteristics.htm.

Characteristics of the Insured Unemployed, August 2016

	Total	Long-Term	Percent Long-Term
Total	9,834	2,025	20.6%
Male	3,834	941	24.5%
Female	6,000	1,084	18.1%
Selected Industries	9,834	2,025	20.6%
Construction	506	138	27.3%
Manufacturing	916	266	29.0%
Wholesale Trade	281	77	27.4%
Retail Trade	737	228	30.9%
Transportation & Warehousing	1,502	40	2.7%
Information	76	27	35.5%
Finance & Insurance	320	114	35.6%
Real Estate	119	32	26.9%
Professional & Tech. Services	498	152	30.5%
Administrative & Waste Services	944	264	28.0%
Educational Services	377	38	10.1%
Health Care & Social Assistance	1,208	289	23.9%
Arts, Entertainment & Recreation	126	28	22.2%
Accommodation & Food Services	1,572	152	9.7%
Other Services	294	81	27.6%
Public Administration	91	18	19.8%

Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers

				% Change
	Aug 16	Jul 16	Aug 15	Prev. Year
All Items	240.9	240.6	238.3	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 15,000 advertisements for Rhode Island based jobs this month, a decrease of 200 (-1.3%) from the July 2016 postings, and down 6,000 (-28.6%) from the advertised vacancies posted online in August 2015. There were an estimated 2.71 advertised vacancies for every 100 persons in Rhode Island's labor force.

Help Wanted OnLine Advertised Job Vacancies

	Aug 16	Jul 16	Aug 15
RI Vacancies	15,000	15,200	21,000
<i>Labor Demand Rate *</i>			
Rhode Island	2.71	2.74	3.79
US	3.02	3.02	3.42
Connecticut	3.37	3.41	4.07
Massachusetts	4.04	4.08	4.70
Maine	2.59	3.21	3.70
New Hampshire	3.10	3.20	3.44
Vermont	3.00	3.14	3.91
<i>Supply/Demand Rate **</i>			
Rhode Island	2.06	2.01	1.52
US	1.63	1.61	1.49

* 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

	2016	2015		2016	2015
Barrington	4.0	4.0	Newport	4.7	4.4
Bristol	5.3	5.1	North Kingstown	4.3	4.4
Burrillville	5.9	6.3	North Providence	5.9	6.2
Central Falls	7.2	7.4	North Smithfield	5.3	5.1
Charlestown	6.1	6.0	Pawtucket	6.5	6.7
Coventry	5.5	5.7	Portsmouth	5.0	5.0
Cranston	5.7	5.9	Providence	7.2	7.1
Cumberland	4.8	4.9	Richmond	3.6	3.4
East Greenwich	5.2	5.1	Scituate	5.3	5.5
East Providence	6.1	6.2	Smithfield	5.2	5.3
Exeter	4.7	4.9	South Kingstown	5.5	5.2
Foster	4.9	5.4	Tiverton	5.5	5.4
Glocester	4.5	4.5	Warren	5.7	5.8
Hopkinton	6.0	6.3	Warwick	4.9	5.1
Jamestown	3.7	3.8	West Greenwich	5.1	5.4
Johnston	5.8	6.2	West Warwick	5.9	6.1
Lincoln	4.9	5.3	Westerly	6.4	6.8
Little Compton	3.6	3.9	Woonsocket	8.2	7.7
Middletown	4.8	4.9			
Narragansett	3.4	3.6	State of R.I.	5.8	5.8
New Shoreham	4.0	4.6	United States	5.0	5.2

Nationally, there were an estimated 3.02 advertised vacancies for every 100 persons in the labor force. Among the New England states, Massachusetts (4.04), Connecticut (3.37), New Hampshire (3.10) and Vermont (3.00) had higher vacancy rates than Rhode Island.

There were an estimated 2.06 unemployed Rhode Island residents for every advertised job in August, up from 2.01 unemployed residents estimated per July advertisements. Nationally, there were 1.63 unemployed persons for every job opening advertised in August, up from 1.61 in July.

Unemployment Insurance Claims Activity

	Aug.	July	Aug.	% Change		Year to Date		
	2016	2016	2015	July 16	Aug. 15	2016	2015	% Change
Regular Claims								
Initial Claims	4,195	4,263	3,983	-1.6%	5.3%	44,080	46,656	-5.5%
Number of Payments	44,432	36,584	44,261	21.5%	0.4%	341,969	366,310	-6.6%
Amount of Payments (gross millions)	\$13.8	\$11.3	\$13.4	22.1%	3.0%	\$113.5	\$118.5	-4.2%
Exhaustions (Final Payments)	830	732	880	13.4%	-5.7%	6,243	7,246	-13.8%

**Educational Attainment for the United States and New England
for Population Aged 25 Years and Older, 2015**

	RI	United States	New England	CT	MA	ME	NH	VT
Population (25 Years and Older)	730,083	216,447,163	10,248,553	2,474,718	4,706,644	961,240	937,214	438,654
Less than 9th Grade	5.5%	5.5%	4.1%	4.2%	4.5%	2.8%	1.9%	2.8%
9th to 12th Grade, No Diploma	6.8%	7.3%	5.4%	5.6%	5.2%	5.5%	4.9%	5.5%
High School Graduate, GED, or Alternative	28.0%	27.6%	27.1%	27.4%	25.2%	32.7%	28.5%	29.0%
Some College, No Degree	18.5%	20.7%	17.0%	16.9%	15.9%	19.2%	19.2%	17.1%
Associate's Degree	8.5%	8.2%	8.1%	7.6%	7.7%	9.7%	9.7%	8.6%
Bachelor's Degree	19.3%	19.0%	22.0%	21.7%	23.1%	19.5%	21.9%	22.3%
Graduate or Professional Degree	13.4%	11.6%	16.3%	16.7%	18.4%	10.6%	13.7%	14.6%
Not a High School Graduate or Equivalent	12.3%	12.9%	9.5%	9.8%	9.8%	8.3%	6.9%	8.3%
High School Graduate or Higher	87.7%	87.2%	90.5%	90.2%	90.3%	91.7%	93.2%	91.7%
Associate's Degree or Higher	41.2%	38.8%	46.4%	45.9%	49.2%	39.8%	45.4%	45.5%
Bachelor's Degree or Higher	32.7%	30.6%	38.3%	38.3%	41.5%	30.1%	35.7%	36.9%