



Rhode Island Department of Labor & Training

Greater Rhode Island Workforce Investment Area



The Greater Rhode Island Workforce Investment Area (WIA) encompasses all cities and towns in Rhode Island with the exception of Providence and Cranston. The Greater Rhode Island WIA had a combined estimated population of 796,018 in 2015. This represented a 0.2 percent (+1,880) increase in estimated total population between Census 2010 and 2015. In comparison, the state's population as a whole increased by 3,731 residents (+0.4%) during this period. Approximately 75.4 percent of all Rhode Islanders lived in the Greater Rhode Island WIA in 2015.

Between 2006 (peak RI employment) and 2015, the labor force of Greater Rhode Island decreased by 23,586 people (-5.2%). During this period, resident employment declined by 26,872 (-6.3%), while the number of unemployed in the area increased by 3,286 (+15.5%). Greater RI had an annual average unemployment rate of 5.7 percent for 2015, slightly lower than the statewide annual average unemployment rate of 6.0 percent. During the height of the recession, the area's unemployment rate was 11.0 percent with 47,816 residents unemployed.

Greater Rhode Island WIA Annual Average Labor Force Statistics *Not Seasonally Adjusted*

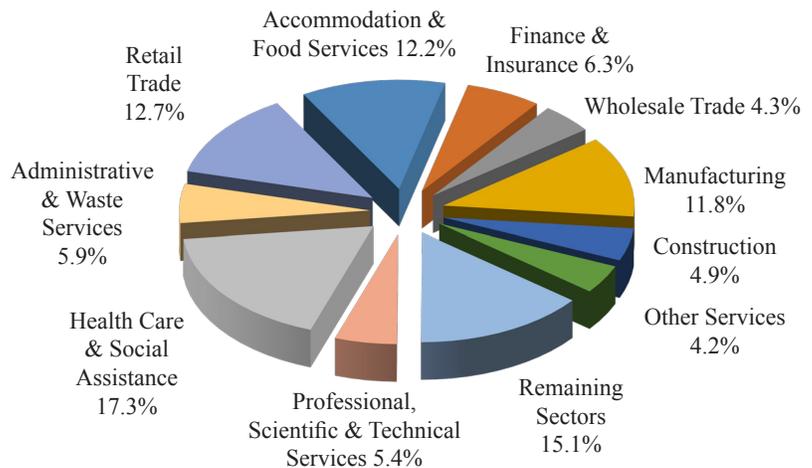
	2006	2010	2014	2015	2006-2010		2010-2015	
					Change	%Change	Change	%Change
Total Population	806,931	794,138	794,849	796,018	-12,793	-1.6%	1,880	0.2%
Labor Force	450,190	436,350	427,451	426,604	-13,840	-3.1%	-9,746	-2.2%
Employment	428,959	388,534	395,724	402,087	-40,425	-9.4%	13,553	3.5%
Unemployment	21,231	47,816	31,727	24,517	26,585	125.2%	-23,299	-48.7%
Unemployment Rate	4.7	11.0	7.4	5.7	6.3	---	-5.3	---

The number of jobs located in the Greater Rhode Island WIA averaged 321,802 in 2015, accounting for 68.5 percent of all Ocean State employment. Private sector employment averaged 284,051 in 2015, representing 88.3 percent of the employment in Greater Rhode Island. Within the private sector, the Health Care & Social Assistance sector (17.3%) accounted for the most jobs, followed by Retail Trade (12.7%), Accommodation & Food Services (12.2%), Manufacturing (11.8%), Finance & Insurance (6.3%) and Administrative Support & Waste Management Services (5.9%).

In 2006, Greater Rhode Island established a private peak employment level of 289,304. Shortly thereafter, the nation entered into an economic recession and in 2010, the Greater Rhode Island area reached a low employment level of 268,851. Overall, Greater Rhode Island lost 20,453 (-7.1%) private sector jobs between the peak and low periods, while statewide private sector employment as a whole fell by 7.3 percent during this period.

During the recession, substantial numeric job losses in the Greater Rhode Island area were reported in the Manufacturing (-9,305), Construction (-5,130) and Retail Trade (-3,961) sectors. Four employment sectors did report job growth between 2006 and 2010 led by Health Care & Social Assistance which added 1,784 jobs. Management of Companies (+538), Educational Services (+302) and Arts, Entertainment & Recreation (+11) also added jobs during the economic downturn.

Total Private Sector Employment in the Greater Rhode Island WIA by Industry Sector



In 2015, 15,200 (+5.7%) private sector jobs were added back to the Greater Rhode Island area since the low point in 2010. The Accommodation & Food Services (+3,452) sector added the most private sector jobs followed by the Administrative & Waste Services (+2,566), Professional, Scientific & Technical Services (+2,000) and Management of Companies & Enterprises (+1,559) sectors. Three private sectors were still feeling the effects of the recession as the Information (-320), Retail Trade (-102) and Finance & Insurance (-35) sectors were still posting job losses between 2010 (the low employment level) and 2015.

Statewide, over 24,000 (+6.2%) private sector jobs were added between the low employment level in 2010 and 2015.

In 2015, private sector employment in the Greater Rhode Island area averaged 284,051, an increase of 4,497 (+1.6%) from the 2014 employment level. Statewide, private sector employment grew by 1.6 percent during this period.

The Accommodation & Food Services sector added 806 jobs between 2014 and 2015, the largest numeric increase. The Professional, Scientific & Technical Services (+709) and Retail Trade (+637) sectors also reported sizable numeric gains. On a percentage basis, the Professional, Scientific & Technical Services sector rose by 4.9 percent, the largest percentage gain during this period. The Construction (+4.4%), Management of Companies & Enterprises (+3.9%) and Administrative & Waste Services (+3.9%) also reported large employment percentage gains.

Between 2014 and 2015, Health Care & Social Assistance (-524) and Government (-42) were the only sectors to post over the year job losses in the Greater Rhode Island area.

The 2015 annual average private sector wage was \$47,258 in Greater Rhode Island, an increase of \$1,253 (+2.7%) from the 2014 annual wage. Management of Companies & Enterprises led all of Greater Rhode Island's employment sectors with a 2015 annual wage of \$124,853. The Finance & Insurance sector reported the second highest private sector annual wage of \$89,685, followed by Wholesale Trade (\$70,983), Information (\$69,732) and Professional, Scientific & Technical Services (\$69,043) sectors. The lowest annual average private sector wages were reported in Accommodation & Food Services (\$18,397), Other Services (\$29,820), Arts, Entertainment & Recreation (\$30,410) and Retail Trade (\$30,444), industry sectors that generally rely upon part-time employment and require limited previous work experience and skill sets.

The 2015 annual statewide private sector wage was \$48,736, or \$1,478 (+3.0%) more than the Greater Rhode Island 2015 private sector wage.

Greater Rhode Island WIA Covered Employment								
<i>Annual Average Employment</i>								
	<u>2006</u>	<u>2010</u>	<u>2014</u>	<u>2015</u>	2006-2010		2010-2015	
					<u>Change</u>	<u>% Change</u>	<u>Change</u>	<u>% Change</u>
Total, Private Sector & Government	330,790	307,939	317,348	321,802	-22,851	-6.9%	13,863	4.5%
Total, Private Sector only	289,304	268,851	279,554	284,051	-20,453	-7.1%	15,200	5.7%
Construction	17,991	12,861	13,273	13,860	-5,130	-28.5%	999	7.8%
Manufacturing	41,382	32,077	33,102	33,528	-9,305	-22.5%	1,451	4.5%
Wholesale Trade	12,838	12,217	12,301	12,354	-621	-4.8%	137	1.1%
Retail Trade	40,101	36,140	35,401	36,038	-3,961	-9.9%	-102	-0.3%
Transportation & Warehousing	7,921	7,479	8,306	8,498	-442	-5.6%	1,019	13.6%
Information	5,305	4,689	4,344	4,369	-616	-11.6%	-320	-6.8%
Finance & Insurance	19,518	17,871	17,744	17,836	-1,647	-8.4%	-35	-0.2%
Real Estate & Rental & Leasing	4,705	3,899	4,092	4,133	-806	-17.1%	234	6.0%
Professional, Scientific & Technical Svcs.	13,671	13,236	14,527	15,236	-435	-3.2%	2,000	15.1%
Management of Companies	7,028	7,566	8,785	9,125	538	7.7%	1,559	20.6%
Administrative & Waste Services	14,462	14,118	16,065	16,684	-344	-2.4%	2,566	18.2%
Educational Services	6,859	7,161	7,504	7,619	302	4.4%	458	6.4%
Health Care & Social Assistance	46,789	48,573	49,564	49,040	1,784	3.8%	467	1.0%
Arts, Entertainment & Recreation	6,308	6,319	7,317	7,544	11	0.2%	1,225	19.4%
Accommodation & Food Services	31,430	31,314	33,960	34,766	-116	-0.4%	3,452	11.0%
Other Services	12,095	11,877	11,766	11,946	-218	-1.8%	69	0.6%
Government	40,487	39,089	37,793	37,751	-1,398	-3.5%	-1,338	-3.4%

Employment changes may be influenced by non-economic code changes resulting from industry revisions and/or changes in employers' reporting methods. Data is subject to revision and may not add due to rounding.

At years end, 74.1 percent of the 8,952 individuals collecting unemployment insurance benefits in the state were residents of the Greater RI WIA. Twenty-two percent of the Greater Rhode Island insured unemployed faced long-term unemployment.

Long-term unemployment, which is unemployment spells of fifteen weeks or longer, was slightly less (22.0%) among Greater RI area residents than in the state (22.8%) as a whole. Workers in older age groups (60-64 and 65 or older) living in the Greater RI area were more likely to face long-term unemployment than their counterparts statewide.

Over 23 percent (23.2%) of the Greater RI area residents collecting unemployment insurance benefits were between the ages of 45-54 and an additional 21.9% were between 25 and 34 years of age.

Nearly thirteen percent (12.8%) of the unemployed Greater RI residents collecting benefits in December 2015 were previously employed in Administrative & Waste Services, followed by Construction (11.7%) and Accommodation & Food Services (11.5%).

Nearly fifteen percent of the unemployed Greater RI residents collecting benefits in December 2015 were previously employed as Office & Administrative Support (14.8%), followed by Management (12.2%), Food Preparation & Serving Related (8.0%) and Production (7.7%). Nearly forty-nine percent of the Education, Training & Library (48.7%) sector employees had been unemployed for fifteen weeks or longer.

Characteristics of the Insured Unemployment Living in the Greater RI WIA December 2015

	<i>Total</i>	<i>Percent of Total</i>	<i>Long-Term</i>	<i>Percent Long -Term</i>
Total	6,635	100%	1,459	22.0%
Male	3,849	58.0%	674	17.5%
Female	2,786	42.0%	785	28.2%
Age	6,635	100%	1,459	22.0%
Under 24	429	1.8%	64	7.6%
25 - 34	1,450	21.9%	278	19.2%
35 - 44	1,327	20.0%	277	20.9%
45 - 54	1,541	23.2%	350	22.7%
55 - 59	774	11.7%	164	21.2%
60 - 64	571	8.6%	174	30.5%
65 or over	543	8.2%	152	28.0%
Education	6,635	100%	1,459	22.0%
Less than 9th Grade	162	2.4%	35	21.6%
9th to 12th, no diploma	477	7.2%	66	13.8%
High School Graduate	2,558	38.6%	497	19.4%
Some College	1,623	24.5%	378	23.3%
Bachelor's Degree	686	10.3%	171	24.9%
Beyond Bachelor's	1,034	15.6%	295	28.5%
Unknown	95	1.4%	17	17.9%
Industry	6,635	100%	1,459	22.0%
Construction	778	11.7%	76	9.8%
Manufacturing	582	8.8%	183	31.4%
Wholesale Trade	329	5.0%	98	29.8%
Retail Trade	550	8.3%	145	26.4%
Transportation & Warehousing	168	2.5%	28	16.7%
Finance & Insurance	257	3.9%	92	35.8%
Professional & Tech. Services	313	4.7%	83	26.5%
Administrative & Waste Services	849	12.8%	134	15.8%
Educational Services	161	2.4%	80	49.7%
Health Care & Social Assistance	696	10.5%	246	35.3%
Arts, Entertainment & Recreation	333	5.0%	15	4.5%
Accommodation & Food Services	761	11.5%	90	11.8%
Other Services	244	3.7%	61	25.0%
All Other Industries	614	0.8%	128	13.2%
Occupation	6,635	100%	1,459	22.0%
Management	809	12.2%	221	27.3%
Business & Financial Operations	222	3.3%	66	29.7%
Education, Training & Library	115	1.7%	56	48.7%
Healthcare Practitioner & Technical	160	2.4%	59	36.9%
Healthcare Support	141	2.1%	37	26.2%
Food Preparation & Serving Related	532	8.0%	57	10.7%
Building & Grounds Cleaning & Maint.	478	7.2%	25	5.2%
Personal Care & Service	148	2.2%	40	27.0%
Sales & Related	308	4.6%	92	29.9%
Office & Administrative Support	981	14.8%	295	30.1%
Construction & Extraction	372	5.6%	43	11.6%
Installation, Maintenance & Repair	192	2.9%	38	19.8%
Production	512	7.7%	128	25.0%
Transportation & Material Moving	390	5.9%	73	18.7%
All Other Occupations	1,275	10.0%	229	9.8%

According to the 2015 American Community Survey (ACS), 1-Year Estimates, Whites account for 87.2 percent of Greater RI's household population compared to roughly 80.4 percent of the state's total household population.

Eight percent of Greater RI residents are of Hispanic or Latino origin, while Hispanics/Latinos make up approximately 14.4 percent of the state's total household population.

The ACS indicates 28.2 percent of Greater RI's household population (age 25 and older) have a high school diploma or equivalent, 18.9 percent have some college-level courses, and 42.3 percent have an associate degree or higher. The percentage of Greater Rhode Island residents without a high school diploma (10.6%) is lower than the statewide percentage of 12.3 percent.

The ACS 2009-2013 commuting pattern data show that 65.3 percent of greater RI residents held jobs that were located in the Greater Rhode Island WIA.

Approximately 84.2 percent of Greater Rhode Island residents worked within Rhode Island borders, while 12.6 percent commuted to a job in neighboring Massachusetts and 2.5 percent traveled to a job in Connecticut.

Approximately 77.6 percent of the jobs located in the Greater Rhode Island WIA were held by individuals residing in the WIA. Rhode Islanders held roughly 88.7 percent of the jobs located in Greater Rhode Island, while Massachusetts and Connecticut residents accounted for 8.7 percent and 1.8 percent, respectively, of Greater Rhode Island's workforce.

Greater Rhode Island WIA Race & Ethnicity, 2015		
Total Population	796,017	100.0%
One race (of any origin)	772,240	97.0%
White	694,188	87.2%
Black or African American	34,308	4.3%
American Indian and Alaska Native	2,553	0.3%
Asian	19,431	2.4%
Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander	0	0.0%
Some other race	21,760	2.7%
Two or more races (of any origin)	23,777	3.0%
Hispanic or Latino (of any race)	63,699	8.0%
Educational Attainment, 2015		
Total Population (Age 25+)	565,446	100.0%
Less than 9th grade	24,727	4.4%
9th to 12th grade, no diploma	35,275	6.2%
High school graduate (includes equivalency)	159,556	28.2%
Some college, no degree	107,029	18.9%
Associate's degree	50,807	9.0%
Bachelor's degree	112,486	19.9%
Graduate or professional degree	75,566	13.4%
Source: American Community Survey, 2015		

Where Greater Rhode Island WIA Residents Work			Where Greater Rhode Island WIA Workers Live		
Total	386,244	100.0%	Total	324,899	100.0%
Providence, RI	56,177	14.5%	Warwick, RI	28,243	8.7%
Warwick, RI	35,530	9.2%	Providence, RI	21,904	6.7%
Newport, RI	19,203	5.0%	Pawtucket, RI	16,134	5.0%
Cranston, RI	16,997	4.4%	Cranston, RI	14,208	4.4%
Pawtucket, RI	16,700	4.3%	Coventry, RI	12,595	3.9%
South Kingstown, RI	14,487	3.8%	South Kingstown, RI	12,232	3.8%
East Providence, RI	14,229	3.7%	Newport, RI	12,101	3.7%
North Kingstown, RI	12,214	3.2%	East Providence, RI	11,447	3.5%
Woonsocket, RI	11,906	3.1%	North Kingstown, RI	10,488	3.2%
Lincoln, RI	10,439	2.7%	West Warwick, RI	10,426	3.2%
Other Communities	178,362	46.2%	Other Communities	175,121	53.9%
Greater Rhode Island WIA Residents Work in the State of:			Greater Rhode Island WIA Workers Live in the State of:		
Total	386,244	100.0%	Total	324,899	100.0%
Rhode Island	325,213	84.2%	Rhode Island	288,151	88.7%
Massachusetts	48,675	12.6%	Massachusetts	28,422	8.7%
Connecticut	9,475	2.5%	Connecticut	6,003	1.8%
Other State/Country	2,881	0.7%	Other State/Country	2,323	0.7%
Source: US Census Bureau, American Community Survey 2009-2013					