



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 804,910 in July 2007. This represented a 0.9 percent (+7,416) increase in estimated total population between July 2000 and July 2007. In comparison, the state's population as a whole grew by an estimated 0.7 percent during this period. Approximately 76.0 percent of all Rhode Islanders lived in the Greater Rhode Island WIA in July 2007.

Between 2000 and 2007, the labor force of Greater Rhode Island increased by 26,741 people (+6.3%). During this period, resident employment grew by 21,843 (+5.3%), while the number of unemployed in the area increased by 4,898 (+28.8%). Greater Rhode Island had an annual average unemployment rate of 4.8 percent in 2007, slightly lower than the statewide annual average unemployment rate of 5.0 percent.

Greater Rhode Island WIA Annual Average Labor Force Statistics

Not Seasonally Adjusted

	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2000 - 2007	
									Change	% Change
Labor Force	426,940	428,626	435,485	443,209	437,856	444,293	451,986	453,681	26,741	6.3%
Employment	409,949	410,101	414,247	420,380	415,854	422,777	429,977	431,792	21,843	5.3%
Unemployment	16,991	18,525	21,238	22,829	22,002	21,516	22,009	21,889	4,898	28.8%
Unemployment Rate	4.0	4.3	4.9	5.2	5.0	4.8	4.9	4.8	0.8	---

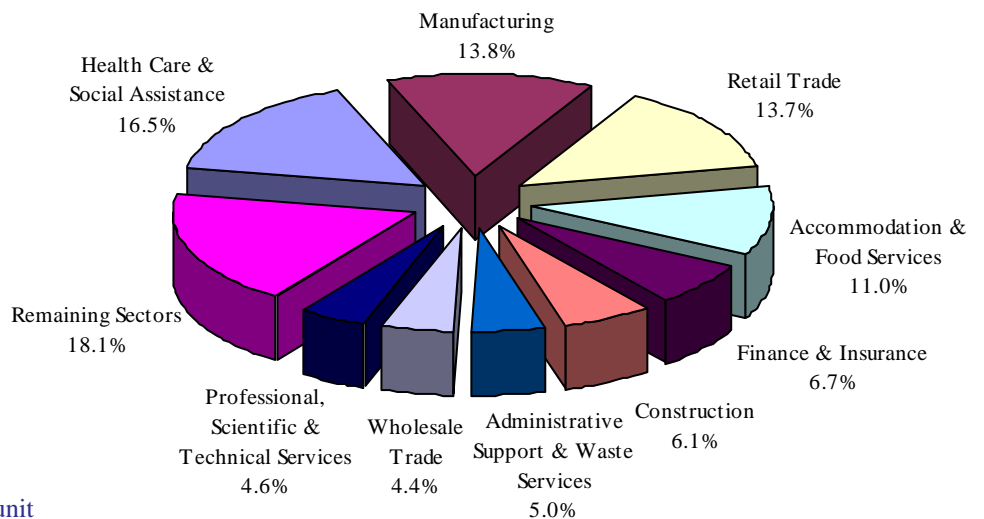
Public and private sector employment located in the Greater Rhode Island WIA averaged 330,715 in 2007, accounting for 68.9 percent of all Ocean State employment. Private sector employment averaged 290,490 in 2007, representing 87.8 percent of the employment in Greater Rhode Island. Within the private sector, the Health Care & Social Assistance sector (16.5%) accounted for the most jobs, followed by Manufacturing (13.8%), Retail Trade (13.7%), Accommodation & Food Services (11.0%), Finance & Insurance (6.7%) and Construction (6.1%).

Overall, Greater Rhode Island gained 15,847 private sector jobs between 2000 and 2007, a 5.8 percent increase that outpaced the 3.2 percent (+12,758) growth experienced statewide. The largest gains occurred in Health Care & Social Assistance (+8,426), Finance & Insurance (+4,681) and Construction (+3,841).

Notable job growth was also reported in Management of Companies (+2,822), Accommodation & Food Services (+2,434), Professional, Scientific & Technical Services (+1,975), Other Services (+1,575), Arts, Entertainment & Recreation (+1,569), Educational Services (+1,200), Wholesale Trade (+1,150) and Administrative & Waste Services (+1,078).

Public sector employment increased by 3,276 (8.9%) jobs between 2000 and 2007, due mainly to gains in the local government segment.

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



On a percentage basis, industry sector job growth in Greater Rhode Island generally outpaced statewide growth. Employment in the Finance & Insurance sector grew by 31.6 percent between 2000 and 2007, compared to the 14.2 percent experienced in the Ocean State. Information firms in the area increased their total employment by 11.0 percent, while the growth rate experienced statewide in this industry sector declined by 3.9 percent. Similarly, the rate of job growth in the Greater Rhode Island Administrative & Waste Services (+8.0%) sector was greater than the state, which experienced a 4.2 percent decline. In contrast, the Educational Services (+20.7%) and Accommodation & Food Services (+8.3%) sectors were the only area sectors to report job growth below that of the statewide average (+24.4% and +9.6%, respectively) between 2000 and 2007.

Mirroring the statewide trend, Manufacturing firms in Greater Rhode Island shed over 14,800 jobs between 2000 and 2007. Manufacturing jobs currently account for 13.8 percent of the total private sector employment in the area, down from 20.0 percent in 2000. Manufacturing experienced the largest employment loss on a percentage basis, losing 26.9 percent of its area workforce between 2000 and 2007. Retail Trade (-739) and Utilities (-117) were the two remaining Greater Rhode Island sectors to report an employment decline during this period.

Of the private sectors that reported the largest job gains in Greater Rhode Island between 2000 and 2007, most experienced percentage increases greater than the state as a whole. For example, local Health Care & Social Assistance employment grew by 21.4 percent during this period, while throughout Rhode Island, Health Care & Social Assistance firms increased their employment by 17.1 percent. Likewise, as mentioned earlier, Finance & Insurance sector jobs in the area grew by 31.6 percent, while the state as a whole gained 14.2 percent in this sector. Also, Construction employment in Greater Rhode Island increased by 27.6 percent compared to a statewide increase of 22.7 percent.

In addition, Management of Companies employment in Greater Rhode Island increased by 64.9 percent, while the Ocean State as a whole increased industry sector employment by 57.2 percent. Similarly, the area's Arts, Entertainment & Recreation employment rose by 30.4 percent between 2000 and 2007, compared to a 22.2 percent increase statewide.

The 2007 annual average private sector wage was \$38,389 in Greater Rhode Island, \$1,438 (-3.7%) lower than the statewide private sector average of \$39,827. Management of Companies led all of Greater Rhode Island's economic sectors with an annual average wage of \$89,825, followed by Utilities (\$73,993), Wholesale Trade (\$60,717), Finance & Insurance (\$56,907), and Professional & Technical Services (\$56,449). The lowest annual average wages were reported in Accommodation & Food Services (\$15,085) and Arts, Entertainment & Recreation (\$23,726) - industry sectors that generally rely upon part-time help and require limited previous work experience and skill sets.

Greater Rhode Island WIA Covered* Employment

	<i>Annual Average Employment</i>								<i>2000 - 2007</i>	
	<u>2000</u>	<u>2001</u>	<u>2002</u>	<u>2003</u>	<u>2004</u>	<u>2005</u>	<u>2006</u>	<u>2007</u>	<u>Change</u>	<u>% Change</u>
Total, Private Sector & Government	311,592	312,840	316,572	319,920	325,899	328,457	330,790	330,715	19,123	6.1%
Total, Private Sector only	274,643	275,599	278,282	280,845	285,244	288,385	290,304	290,490	15,847	5.8%
Utilities	647	534	510	487	504	618	561	530	(117)	-18.0%
Construction	13,908	14,425	14,780	16,018	16,529	17,141	17,991	17,749	3,841	27.6%
Manufacturing	54,986	51,629	47,310	45,275	44,488	43,112	41,382	40,177	(14,809)	-26.9%
Wholesale Trade	11,764	11,918	12,296	12,304	12,191	12,644	12,838	12,914	1,150	9.8%
Retail Trade	40,674	40,468	40,834	40,733	41,105	40,831	40,101	39,935	(739)	-1.8%
Transportation & Warehousing	7,489	7,627	7,678	7,976	7,876	7,854	7,921	8,119	630	8.4%
Information	4,404	4,941	5,786	5,528	5,581	5,328	5,305	4,889	485	11.0%
Finance & Insurance	14,795	15,772	17,229	17,400	18,115	18,706	19,518	19,476	4,681	31.6%
Real Estate & Rental & Leasing	3,859	4,014	4,159	4,270	4,559	4,716	4,705	4,594	735	19.0%
Professional, Scientific & Technical Svcs.	11,339	11,460	11,598	11,914	12,598	13,255	13,671	13,314	1,975	17.4%
Management of Companies	4,348	4,802	4,784	5,593	6,017	6,483	7,028	7,170	2,822	64.9%
Administrative & Waste Services	13,478	12,660	12,547	12,599	13,916	14,152	14,462	14,556	1,078	8.0%
Educational Services	5,801	5,528	5,871	6,235	6,395	6,708	6,859	7,001	1,200	20.7%
Health Care & Social Assistance	39,435	41,005	42,485	43,343	44,183	45,454	46,789	47,861	8,426	21.4%
Arts, Entertainment & Recreation	5,157	5,579	5,839	6,021	6,027	6,073	6,308	6,725	1,569	30.4%
Accommodation & Food Services	29,441	29,150	29,965	30,794	31,360	31,469	31,429	31,875	2,434	8.3%
Other Services	10,868	11,113	11,483	11,685	12,226	12,258	12,095	12,443	1,575	14.5%
Government	36,948	37,241	38,290	39,075	40,656	40,074	40,487	40,224	3,276	8.9%

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.

*Covered Employment includes workers covered under the Unemployment Insurance Program.

At year's end, 77.1 percent of the 14,477 individuals collecting Unemployment Insurance benefits in the state were residents of the Greater Rhode Island WIA. Numbering 11,162, these "insured unemployed" workers accounted for 48.9 percent of all unemployed Greater Rhode Island area residents. In comparison, 48.5 percent of unemployed Rhode Island residents were eligible to collect Unemployment Insurance benefits in December 2007.

Long-term unemployment, that is unemployment spells of fifteen weeks or longer, was slightly lower (20.9%) among Greater Rhode Island area residents than in the state (22.0%) as a whole. Long-term unemployment was more common among older workers than younger workers. Individuals 65 and older (29.8%) and those in the 60-64 age category (24.7%) were more likely to be unemployed for fifteen weeks or longer while those under the age of 24 (16.7%) were less likely to have unemployment spells lasting fifteen weeks or more.

Approximately 26 percent of the Greater Rhode Island area residents collecting Unemployment Insurance benefits were between the ages of 35 and 44, and an additional 24.8 percent were between 45 and 54 years of age.

Over one-quarter of the unemployed Greater Rhode Island residents collecting benefits in December 2007 were previously employed as Office & Administrative Support (16.0%) workers or in Management (10.7%) occupations. Half were previously employed by Construction (18.9%), Manufacturing (12.2%), Retail Trade (9.6%) or Administrative & Waste Services (9.3%) establishments. Over one-third of the Finance & Insurance and Retail Trade sectors employees had been unemployed for fifteen weeks or longer.

Characteristics of the Insured Unemployed Living in the Greater Rhode Island WIA December 2007

	<i>Total</i>	<i>Percent of Total</i>	<i>Long- Term</i>	<i>Percent Long-Term</i>
Total	11,162	100.0%	2,328	20.9%
Male	6,743	60.4%	1,136	16.9%
Female	4,419	39.6%	1,191	27.0%
Age	11,162	100.0%	2,328	20.9%
Under 24	965	8.6%	161	16.7%
25 - 34	2,336	20.9%	481	20.6%
35 - 44	2,885	25.8%	566	19.6%
45 - 54	2,767	24.8%	576	20.8%
55-59	910	8.2%	193	21.2%
60-64	706	6.3%	175	24.7%
65 or over	591	5.3%	176	29.8%
Education	11,162	100.0%	2,328	20.9%
Less than 9th Grade	342	3.1%	55	16.1%
9th to 12th, no diploma	1,114	10.0%	186	16.7%
High School Graduate	5,125	45.9%	1,014	19.8%
Some College	2,156	19.3%	481	22.3%
Bachelor's Degree	1,105	9.9%	269	24.3%
Beyond Bachelor's	925	8.3%	246	26.6%
Unknown	395	3.5%	77	19.5%
Industry	11,162	100.0%	2,328	20.9%
Construction	2,109	18.9%	205	9.7%
Manufacturing	1,359	12.2%	297	21.9%
Retail Trade	1,067	9.6%	362	33.9%
Administrative & Waste Services	1,039	9.3%	134	12.9%
Accommodation & Food Services	864	7.7%	100	11.6%
Health Care & Social Assistance	837	7.5%	268	32.0%
Finance & Insurance	830	7.4%	312	37.6%
Professional & Tech. Services	480	4.3%	120	24.9%
Arts, Entertainment & Recreation	450	4.0%	40	9.0%
Wholesale Trade	430	3.9%	97	22.4%
All Other Industries	1,697	15.2%	393	23.2%
Occupation	11,162	100.0%	2,328	20.9%
Office & Administrative Support	1,784	16.0%	463	26.0%
Management	1,196	10.7%	335	28.0%
Construction & Extraction	1,106	9.9%	101	9.2%
Production	927	8.3%	235	25.3%
Building & Grounds Cleaning & Maint.	700	6.3%	50	7.2%
Food Preparation & Serving Related	621	5.6%	78	12.6%
Transportation & Material Moving	594	5.3%	99	16.7%
Sales & Related	591	5.3%	159	26.9%
Business & Financial Operations	506	4.5%	177	35.0%
Installation, Maintenance & Repair	419	3.8%	81	19.2%
Education, Training & Library	209	1.9%	119	56.7%
Healthcare Support	198	1.8%	62	31.5%
Personal Care & Service	169	1.5%	46	27.5%
Healthcare Practitioner & Technical	155	1.4%	31	19.7%
Arts, Design, Ent., Sports & Media	136	1.2%	24	18.0%
Computer & Mathematical	119	1.1%	24	20.6%
Architecture & Engineering	115	1.0%	20	17.0%
All Other Industries	1,617	14.5%	224	13.8%

According to the 2007 American Community Survey (ACS), Whites account for 90 percent of Greater Rhode Island's household population compared to roughly 83 percent of the state's total household population. Only one out of ten individuals residing in the Greater Rhode Island Workforce Investment Area is a minority and just 5.8 percent of the area's residents are of Hispanic/Latino origin. Comparably, two out of ten individuals residing in the state as a whole are minority races, while 11.2 percent are of Hispanic or Latino origin.

The ACS indicates that nearly 30 percent of Greater Rhode Island's household population (age 25 and older) have a high school diploma or equivalent, 17.4 percent have some college-level courses, and 37.6 percent have an associate degree or higher. The percentage of Greater Rhode Island residents without a high school diploma (15.7%) is slightly lower than the statewide percentage of 17.0 percent.

The most recent data on commuting patterns (Census 2000) show that nearly 81 percent of Greater Rhode Island residents held jobs that were located in the Greater Rhode Island WIA. Approximately 84.5 percent of Greater Rhode Island residents worked within Rhode Island borders, while 12 percent commuted to a job in neighboring Massachusetts and about 3 percent traveled to a job in Connecticut.

Approximately 89.3 percent of the jobs located in the Greater Rhode Island WIA were held by individuals residing in the WIA. Rhode Islanders held almost 92 percent of the jobs located in Greater Rhode Island, while Massachusetts and Connecticut residents accounted for 6.7 percent and 1.1 percent, respectively, of Greater Rhode Island's workforce.

Greater Rhode Island WIA

Race & Ethnicity, 2007

Total Population	800,920	100.0%
One race (of any origin)	788,719	98.5%
White	720,904	90.0%
Black or African American	31,250	3.9%
American Indian and Alaska Native	1,580	0.2%
Asian	15,666	2.0%
Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander	58	0.0%
Some other race	19,261	2.4%
Two or more races (of any origin)	12,201	1.5%
Hispanic or Latino (of any race)	46,168	5.8%

Educational Attainment, 2007

Total Population (Age 25+)	556,106	100.0%
Less than 9th grade	37,364	6.7%
9th to 12th grade, no diploma	50,281	9.0%
High school graduate (includes equivalency)	162,430	29.2%
Some college, no degree	96,765	17.4%
Associate degree	43,865	7.9%
Bachelor's degree	101,877	18.3%
Graduate or professional degree	63,524	11.4%

Source: American Community Survey, 2007

Where Greater Rhode Island WIA Residents Work

Total	387,745	100.0%
Providence	56,500	14.6%
Warwick	37,235	9.6%
Pawtucket	20,280	5.2%
Newport	19,290	5.0%
Cranston	17,794	4.6%
East Providence	15,863	4.1%
South Kingstown	14,002	3.6%
Woonsocket	12,759	3.3%
North Kingstown	10,603	2.7%
Lincoln	9,766	2.5%
Other Communities	173,653	44.8%

Where Greater Rhode Island WIA Workers Live

Total	313,172	100.0%
Warwick	28,014	8.9%
Providence	19,279	6.2%
Pawtucket	17,807	5.7%
Cranston	14,312	4.6%
Coventry	13,012	4.2%
East Providence	12,547	4.0%
Newport	12,455	4.0%
South Kingstown	11,059	3.5%
Woonsocket	10,612	3.4%
West Warwick	10,588	3.4%
Other Communities	163,487	52.2%

Greater Rhode Island WIA Residents Work in the State of:

Total	387,745	100.0%
Rhode Island	327,765	84.5%
Massachusetts	46,824	12.1%
Connecticut	10,654	2.7%
Other State/Country	2,502	0.6%

Greater Rhode Island WIA Workers Live in the State of:

Total	313,172	100.0%
Rhode Island	287,062	91.7%
Massachusetts	21,078	6.7%
Connecticut	3,315	1.1%
Other State/Country	1,717	0.5%

Source: US Census Bureau, Census 2000