



## 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 798,044 in 2017. This represented a 0.5 percent (+3,906) increase in estimated total population between Census 2010 and 2017. In comparison, the state's population as a whole increased by 7,072 residents (+0.7%) during this period. Approximately 75.3 percent of all Rhode Islanders lived in the Greater Rhode Island WIA in 2017.

Between 2006 (peak RI employment) and 2017, the labor force of Greater Rhode Island decreased by 23,298 people (-5.2%). During this period, resident employment declined by 20,429 (-4.8%), while the number of unemployed in the area decreased by 2,869 (-13.5%). Greater RI had an annual average unemployment rate of 4.3 percent for 2017, slightly lower than the statewide annual average unemployment rate of 4.5 percent. During the height of the recession, the area's unemployment rate was 11.0 percent with 48,062 residents unemployed.

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

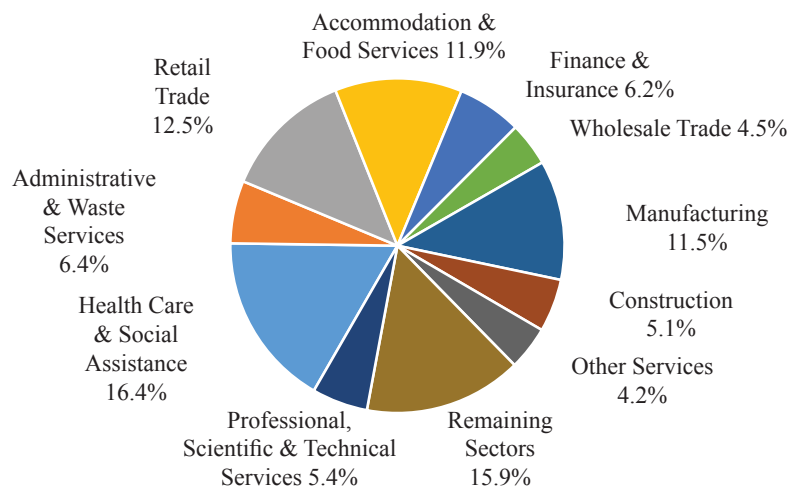
	2006	2010	2016	2017	2006-2010		2010-2017	
					Change	%Change	Change	%Change
Total Population	806,931	794,138	796,547	798,044	-12,793	-1.6%	3,906	0.5%
Labor Force	450,190	436,613	425,963	426,892	-13,577	-3.0%	-9,721	-2.2%
Employment	428,959	388,551	404,587	408,530	-40,408	-9.4%	19,979	5.1%
Unemployment	21,231	48,062	21,376	18,362	26,831	126.4%	-29,700	-61.8%
Unemployment Rate	4.7	11.0	5.0	4.3	6.3	---	-6.7	---

The number of jobs located in the Greater Rhode Island WIA averaged 327,597 in 2017, accounting for 68.6 percent of all Ocean State employment. Private sector employment averaged 289,478 in 2017, representing 88.4 percent of the employment in Greater Rhode Island. Within the private sector, the Health Care & Social Assistance sector (16.4%) accounted for the most jobs, followed by Retail Trade (12.5%), Accommodation & Food Services (11.9%), Manufacturing (11.5%), Administrative Support & Waste Management Services (6.4%) and Finance & Insurance (6.2%).

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 2017, 20,627 (+7.7%) private sector jobs were added back to the Greater Rhode Island area since the low point in 2010. The Administrative & Waste Services (+4,268) sector added the most private sector jobs followed by the Arts, Entertainment & Recreation (+3,227), Accommodation & Food Services (+3,008), Professional, Scientific & Technical Services (+2,540) and Educational Services (+2,128) sectors. Three private sectors were still feeling the effects of the recession as the Health Care and Social Assistance (-1,080), Information (-126) and Retail Trade (-78) sectors were still posting job losses between 2010 (the low employment level) and 2017.

Statewide, nearly 31,000 (+8.0%) private sector jobs were added between the low employment level in 2010 and 2017.

In 2017, private sector employment in the Greater Rhode Island area averaged 289,478, an increase of 2,793 (+1.0%) from the 2016 employment level. Statewide, private sector employment grew by 0.8 percent during this period.

The Educational Services sector added 1,651 jobs between 2016 and 2017, the largest numeric increase. The Arts, Entertainment & Recreation (+1,622), Administrative & Waste Services (+1,012) and Wholesale Trade (+940) sectors also reported sizable numeric gains. On a percentage basis, the Educational Services sector rose by 21.6 percent, the largest percentage gain during this period. The Arts, Entertainment & Recreation (+20.5%) and Information (+11.6%) also reported large employment percentage gains.

Between 2016 and 2017, Accommodation & Food Services (-990), Health Care & Social Assistance (-957), Management of Companies & Enterprises (-631) and Retail Trade (-269) were the only sectors to post over the year job losses in the Greater Rhode Island area.

The 2017 annual average private sector wage was \$49,384 in Greater Rhode Island, an increase of \$1,426 (+3.0%) from the 2016 annual wage. Management of Companies & Enterprises led all of Greater Rhode Island's employment sectors with a 2017 annual wage of \$123,477. The Finance & Insurance sector reported the second highest private sector annual wage of \$97,607, followed by Wholesale Trade (\$72,846), Professional, Scientific & Technical Services (\$71,407) and Information (\$69,815) sectors. The lowest annual average private sector wages were reported in Accommodation & Food Services (\$20,281), Other Services (\$29,953), Retail Trade (\$32,185) and Arts, Entertainment & Recreation (\$32,324), sectors that generally rely upon part-time employment and require limited previous work experience and skill sets.

The 2017 annual statewide private sector wage was \$50,929, or \$1,545 (+3.1%) more than the Greater Rhode Island 2017 private sector wage.

<b>Greater Rhode Island WIA Covered Employment</b>								
<i>Annual Average Employment</i>								
	<u>2006</u>	<u>2010</u>	<u>2016</u>	<u>2017</u>	<u>2006-2010</u>		<u>2010-2017</u>	
					<u>Change</u>	<u>% Change</u>	<u>Change</u>	<u>% Change</u>
Total, Private Sector & Government	330,790	307,939	324,554	327,597	-22,851	-6.9%	19,658	6.4%
Total, Private Sector only	289,304	268,851	286,685	289,478	-20,453	-7.1%	20,627	7.7%
Construction	17,991	12,861	14,675	14,834	-5,130	-28.5%	1,973	15.3%
Manufacturing	41,382	32,077	33,192	33,194	-9,305	-22.5%	1,117	3.5%
Wholesale Trade	12,838	12,217	12,098	13,038	-621	-4.8%	821	6.7%
Retail Trade	40,101	36,140	36,331	36,062	-3,961	-9.9%	-78	-0.2%
Transportation & Warehousing	7,921	7,479	8,634	9,063	-442	-5.6%	1,584	21.2%
Information	5,305	4,689	4,089	4,563	-616	-11.6%	-126	-2.7%
Finance & Insurance	19,518	17,871	17,887	17,907	-1,647	-8.4%	36	0.2%
Real Estate & Rental & Leasing	4,705	3,899	4,186	4,296	-806	-17.1%	397	10.2%
Professional, Scientific & Technical Svcs.	13,671	13,236	15,487	15,776	-435	-3.2%	2,540	19.2%
Management of Companies	7,028	7,566	9,753	9,122	538	7.7%	1,556	20.6%
Administrative & Waste Services	14,462	14,118	17,374	18,386	-344	-2.4%	4,268	30.2%
Educational Services	6,859	7,161	7,638	9,289	302	4.4%	2,128	29.7%
Health Care & Social Assistance	46,789	48,573	48,450	47,493	1,784	3.8%	-1,080	-2.2%
Arts, Entertainment & Recreation	6,308	6,319	7,924	9,546	11	0.2%	3,227	51.1%
Accommodation & Food Services	31,430	31,314	35,312	34,322	-116	-0.4%	3,008	9.6%
Other Services	12,095	11,877	12,155	12,167	-218	-1.8%	290	2.4%
Government	40,487	39,089	37,868	38,119	-1,398	-3.5%	-970	-2.5%

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, 75.5 percent of the 8,351 individuals collecting unemployment insurance benefits in the state were residents of the Greater RI WIA. Nearly 21 percent (20.6%) 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 (20.6%) among Greater RI area residents than in the state (21.6%) as a whole. Workers in the 60-64 age group living in the Greater RI area (26.1%) were more likely to face long-term unemployment than their counterparts statewide (25.7%).

Nearly 23 percent (22.6%) of the Greater RI area residents collecting unemployment insurance benefits were between the ages of 45-54 and an additional 21.6% were between 25 and 34 years of age.

Over 15 percent of the unemployed Greater RI residents collecting benefits in December 2017 were previously employed in Construction (15.2%), followed by Administrative & Waste Services (13.6%) and Accommodation & Food Services (11.3%).

Over thirteen percent of the unemployed Greater RI residents collecting benefits in December 2017 were previously employed as Office & Administrative Support (13.4%), followed by Management (12.0%), Building & Grounds Cleaning & Maint. (8.6%), Food Preparation & Serving Related (8.2%) and Construction & Extraction (6.1%). More than forty-seven percent of the Education, Training & Library (47.7%) sector employees had been unemployed for fifteen weeks or longer.

## Characteristics of the Insured Unemployment Living in the Greater RI WIA December 2017

	<i>Total</i>	<i>Percent of Total</i>	<i>Long- Term</i>	<i>Percent Long -Term</i>
Total	6,308	100%	1,297	20.6%
Male	3,807	60.4%	561	14.7%
Female	2,501	39.6%	736	29.4%
Age	6,308	100%	1,297	20.6%
Under 25	385	6.1%	58	15.1%
25 - 34	1,361	21.6%	221	16.2%
35 - 44	1,277	20.2%	262	20.5%
45 - 54	1,427	22.6%	315	22.1%
55 - 59	739	11.7%	156	21.1%
60 - 64	571	9.1%	149	26.1%
65 or over	548	8.7%	136	24.8%
Education	6,308	100%	1,297	20.6%
Less than 9th Grade	121	1.9%	8	6.6%
9th to 12th, no diploma	494	7.8%	60	12.1%
High School Graduate	2,495	39.6%	461	18.5%
Some College	1,589	25.2%	360	22.7%
Bachelor's Degree	631	10.0%	127	20.1%
Beyond Bachelor's	891	14.1%	256	28.7%
Unknown	87	1.4%	25	28.7%
Industry	6,308	100%	1,297	20.6%
Construction	960	15.2%	87	9.1%
Manufacturing	453	7.2%	136	30.0%
Wholesale Trade	209	3.3%	65	31.1%
Retail Trade	613	9.7%	125	20.4%
Transportation & Warehousing	138	2.2%	25	18.1%
Finance & Insurance	268	4.2%	99	36.9%
Professional & Tech. Services	302	4.8%	82	27.2%
Administrative & Waste Services	858	13.6%	111	12.9%
Educational Services	134	2.1%	66	49.3%
Health Care & Social Assistance	589	9.3%	219	37.2%
Arts, Entertainment & Recreation	333	5.3%	18	5.4%
Accommodation & Food Services	712	11.3%	105	14.7%
Other Services	196	3.1%	53	27.0%
All Other Industries	543	8.6%	106	19.5%
Occupation	6,308	100%	1,297	20.6%
Management	754	12.0%	180	23.9%
Business & Financial Operations	181	2.9%	49	27.1%
Education, Training & Library	111	1.8%	53	47.7%
Healthcare Practitioner & Technical	152	2.4%	61	40.1%
Healthcare Support	121	1.9%	36	29.8%
Food Preparation & Serving Related	515	8.2%	68	13.2%
Building & Grounds Cleaning & Maint.	545	8.6%	20	3.7%
Personal Care & Service	99	1.6%	26	26.3%
Sales & Related	353	5.6%	101	28.6%
Office & Administrative Support	848	13.4%	258	30.4%
Construction & Extraction	387	6.1%	27	7.0%
Installation, Maintenance & Repair	182	2.9%	36	19.8%
Production	371	5.9%	86	23.2%
Transportation & Material Moving	328	5.2%	48	14.6%
All Other Occupations	1,361	21.6%	248	18.2%

According to the 2016 American Community Survey (ACS), 1-Year Estimates, Whites account for 86.4 percent of Greater RI's household population compared to 80.5 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 14.9 percent of the state's total household population.

The ACS indicates 27.2 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 43.6 percent have an associate degree or higher. The percentage of Greater Rhode Island residents without a high school diploma (10.2%) is lower than the statewide percentage of 11.5 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.

<b>Greater Rhode Island WIA Race &amp; Ethnicity, 2016</b>		
<b>Total Population</b>	<b>796,187</b>	<b>100.0%</b>
One race (of any origin)	773,785	97.2%
White	687,901	86.4%
Black or African American	39,645	5.0%
American Indian and Alaska Native	1,888	0.2%
Asian	22,320	2.8%
Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander	1,214	0.2%
Some other race	20,817	2.6%
Two or more races (of any origin)	22,402	2.8%
Hispanic or Latino (of any race)	63,326	8.0%
<b>Educational Attainment, 2016</b>		
<b>Total Population (Age 25+)</b>	<b>569,684</b>	<b>100.0%</b>
Less than 9th grade	24,468	4.3%
9th to 12th grade, no diploma	33,783	5.9%
High school graduate (includes equivalency)	154,893	27.2%
Some college, no degree	107,912	18.9%
Associate's degree	50,135	8.8%
Bachelor's degree	121,944	21.4%
Graduate or professional degree	76,549	13.4%
Source: American Community Survey, 2016		

<b>Where Greater Rhode Island WIA Residents Work</b>			<b>Where Greater Rhode Island WIA Workers Live</b>		
<b>Total</b>	<b>386,244</b>	<b>100.0%</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>324,899</b>	<b>100.0%</b>
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%
<b>Greater Rhode Island WIA Residents Work in the State of:</b>			<b>Greater Rhode Island WIA Workers Live in the State of:</b>		
<b>Total</b>	<b>386,244</b>	<b>100.0%</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>324,899</b>	<b>100.0%</b>
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					