



# Multiple Jobholders in the Ocean State



According to the Bureau of Labor Statistics' Current Population Survey, 6.6 percent of employed Rhode Islanders sixteen years and older held more than one job in 2007. This represented a 0.3 percentage point decrease from the state's 2006 rate.

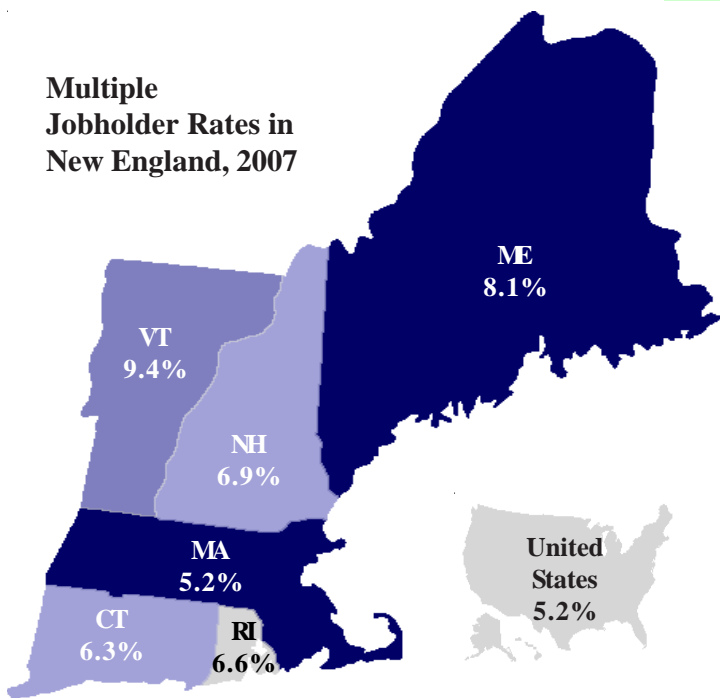
Historical data show that Rhode Island's multiple jobholder rate consistently surpasses the United States average. In 1994, 6.0 percent of the nation's workers held two or more jobs -- 0.8 percentage points less than in the Ocean State. This gap widened to 2.3 percentage points in 1999 and now stands at 1.4 percentage points.

Since 1994, Rhode Island has ranked among the top half of states with the highest multiple jobholder rates. In 1994, the Ocean State ranked twentieth in the nation, rising to fourteenth place in 1999 and 2000. In these latter years, Rhode Island's percentage of multiple jobholders peaked, while the national rate

## Multiple Jobholders as Percentage of Total Employed 16 years and older

	<u>RI</u>	<u>CT</u>	<u>MA</u>	<u>ME</u>	<u>NH</u>	<u>VT</u>	<u>US</u>
2007	<b>6.6%</b>	6.3%	5.2%	8.1%	6.9%	9.4%	5.2%
2006	<b>6.9%</b>	5.9%	5.6%	8.2%	7.3%	9.3%	5.2%
2005	<b>6.5%</b>	5.5%	5.8%	7.8%	6.3%	8.3%	5.3%
2004	<b>5.8%</b>	5.3%	5.4%	7.7%	6.4%	8.5%	5.4%
2003	<b>6.4%</b>	4.9%	4.9%	7.9%	6.2%	8.9%	5.3%
2002	<b>6.2%</b>	5.9%	4.9%	7.2%	6.5%	8.9%	5.3%
2001	<b>7.2%</b>	6.4%	4.8%	7.1%	7.0%	7.8%	5.4%
2000	<b>7.8%</b>	6.5%	5.8%	8.6%	6.3%	9.2%	5.6%
1999	<b>8.1%</b>	5.9%	5.9%	8.0%	7.1%	8.7%	5.8%
1998	<b>7.0%</b>	5.1%	6.1%	8.0%	7.3%	8.8%	6.0%
1997	<b>7.0%</b>	5.3%	6.4%	8.8%	8.0%	8.9%	6.3%
1996	<b>6.8%</b>	6.1%	7.2%	7.9%	7.8%	8.6%	6.4%
1995	<b>7.5%</b>	5.4%	6.8%	6.7%	8.9%	8.5%	6.3%
1994	<b>6.8%</b>	6.1%	6.5%	6.5%	7.3%	7.9%	6.0%

### Multiple Jobholder Rates in New England, 2007



began to fall. In 2007, the Ocean State reported the sixteenth highest multiple jobholder rate in the United States. The highest rates were reported in South Dakota (10.2%), Nebraska (9.7%), and Vermont (9.4%), while Nevada (3.8%) and Florida (3.9%) had the lowest percentages of multiple jobholders in the country.

Within New England, Rhode Island (6.6%) had the fourth highest multiple jobholder rate in 2007. Vermont's multiple jobholder rate of 9.4 percent remained the highest in the region, a distinction the Green Mountain State has held in all but one year since 1994. Maine (8.1%) reported the next highest multiple jobholder rate in the region, followed by New Hampshire (6.9%), Rhode Island (6.6%), Connecticut (6.3%) and Massachusetts (5.2%). Each of the six New England states reported multiple jobholder rates at or above the national average (5.2%).

Multiple jobholders are defined as employed persons sixteen years and older who "had either two or more jobs as a wage and salary worker; were self-employed and also held one or more wage and salary jobs; or worked as unpaid family workers and also held one or more wage and salary jobs." Self-employed persons with multiple businesses and those with multiple jobs as unpaid family workers are excluded.

# Reasons for Working Multiple Jobs

The Current Population Survey (CPS) is a monthly survey of households conducted by the Census Bureau for the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics. In May 2001, the CPS asked respondents sixteen years and older to identify the main reason why they worked more than one job. Estimates based on this data showed that 27.8 percent of multiple jobholders found it necessary to meet expenses or pay off debt. For others, wages from second jobs help meet other personal goals and desires. More than 35 percent reported that they worked more than one job to earn extra money. This could be to save for the future or to purchase something special. An additional 17.4 percent enjoyed the type of work their second job entailed, while 4.6 percent wanted to build a business or get experience in a different occupation.

## Why hold multiple jobs?

- ◆ To help meet regular household expenses
- ◆ To pay off debts
- ◆ To save for the future
- ◆ To gain experience in a new occupation
- ◆ To build up a new business
- ◆ To help out a friend or relative
- ◆ To earn extra money to buy something
- ◆ Because one enjoys the work

Reasons for working multiple jobs vary across age, race, sex, and marital status. For instance, a slightly higher percentage of women who maintain families (47.7%) than men (40.7%) in a similar situation worked multiple jobs to meet expenses or pay debts. Also, people increasingly work a second job for enjoyment as they age. Nearly a quarter (24.0%) of men aged 55 years and older fit this category, compared to 17.1 percent of males 35 to 44 years old and 9.8 percent of 16 to 24 year olds. This trend is more pronounced among women, where 30.5 percent of those 55 years and older work a second job for enjoyment compared to just 8.9 percent of 16 to 24 year old women.

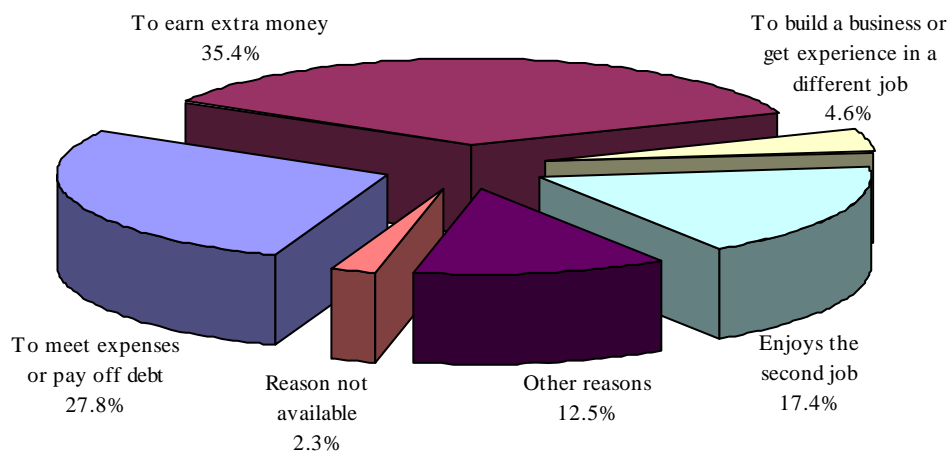
By marital status, more single workers (43.0%) held multiple jobs to earn extra money than married (32.4%) ones. Furthermore, 6.5 percent of single multiple jobholders did so to build a business or get experience in a different job, compared to just 4.2 percent of married and 3.2 percent of widowed, divorced, and separated workers. Among the latter, nearly 40 percent worked at more than one job to meet expenses or pay debts, compared to just 27.2 percent of single and 24.3 percent of married individuals.

Nationally, the economic necessity to hold two or more jobs was skewed toward black citizens and those of Hispanic origin. Nearly 41 percent of Hispanic and 32.8 percent of black multiple jobholders did so to meet expenses or to pay off debts, while just 27.1 percent of whites reported this reasoning. In contrast, 18.6 percent of white workers held a second job because they enjoyed the work, compared to just 8.2 percent of black workers.

For more CPS information, visit [www.bls.gov/cps/](http://www.bls.gov/cps/).

Reasons for Working Multiple Jobs in the United States

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