



**Rhode Island Department of Labor & Training**  
**Providence/Cranston**  
**Workforce Investment Area**



The Providence/Cranston Workforce Investment Area (WIA) includes the capital city of Providence and the state's third largest city, Cranston. Together, these two cities had a combined estimated population of 260,280 in 2015. This represented a +0.7 percent increase (+1,851) 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 24.6 percent of all Rhode Islanders lived in the Providence/Cranston WIA in 2015.

Between 2006 (peak RI employment) and 2015, the labor force in the Providence/Cranston WIA increased by 5,542 people (+4.5%). During this period, resident employment increased by 3,951 (+3.4%), while the number of unemployed in the area increased by 1,591 (+22.7%). The Providence/Cranston area had an annual average unemployment rate of 6.7 percent for 2015, higher than the statewide annual average unemployment rate of 6.0 percent. During the height of the recession, the area's unemployment rate was 12.0 percent with 15,671 unemployed residents.

During the recession, large numeric job losses in the Providence/Cranston WIA were reported in the Manufacturing (-3,089), Administrative & Waste Services (-1,864) and Construction (-1,729) sectors. Three employment sectors did report job growth between 2006 and 2010, led by Health Care & Social Assistance which added 1,998 jobs. Educational Services (+677) and Other Services (+54) were the remaining private sectors to report job gains during the economic downturn.

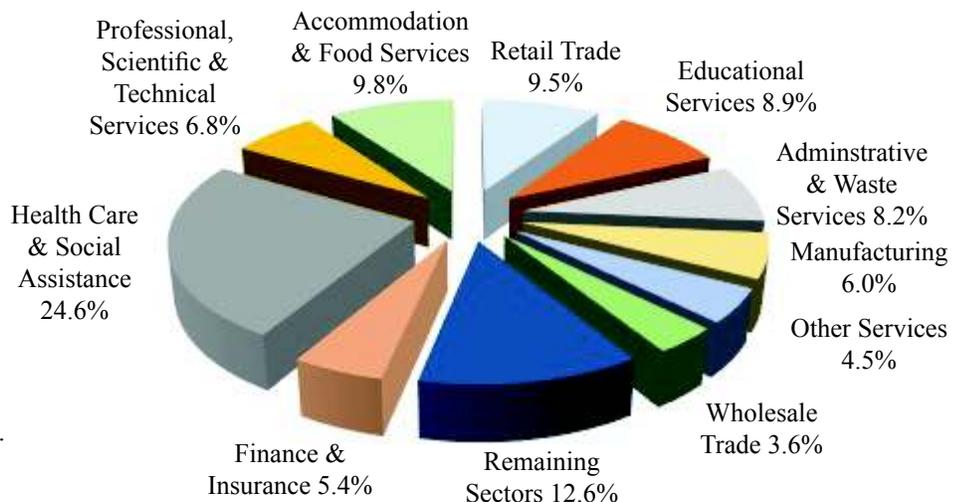
**Providence - Cranston WIA Annual Average Labor Force Statistics**  
*Not Seasonally Adjusted*

	<u>2006</u>	<u>2010</u>	<u>2014</u>	<u>2015</u>	<u>2006-2010</u>		<u>2010-2015</u>	
					<i>Change</i>	<i>% Change</i>	<i>Change</i>	<i>% Change</i>
Total Population	253,283	258,429	260,058	260,280	5,146	2.0%	1,851	0.7%
Labor Force	122,411	130,353	128,505	127,953	7,942	6.5%	-2,400	-1.8%
Employment	115,395	114,682	117,494	119,346	-713	-0.6%	4,664	4.1%
Unemployment	7,016	15,671	11,011	8,607	8,655	123.4%	-7,064	-45.1%
Unemployment Rate	5.7	12.0	8.6	6.7	6.3	---	-5.3	---

The number of jobs located in the Providence/Cranston WIA averaged 148,217 in 2015, accounting for 31.5 percent of all Ocean State employment. Private sector employment averaged 126,985 in 2015, representing 85.7 percent of the employment in Providence/Cranston. Within the private sector, the Health Care & Social Assistance sector (24.6%) accounted for the most jobs, followed by Accommodation & Food Services (9.8%), Retail Trade (9.5%), Educational Services (8.9%), Administrative & Waste Services (8.2%) and Professional, Scientific & Technical Services (6.8%).

In 2006, the Providence/Cranston WIA established a private peak employment level of 127,402. Shortly thereafter, the nation entered into an economic recession and in 2010, the Providence/Cranston area reached a low employment level of 118,154. Overall, Providence/Cranston lost 9,248 (-7.3%) 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.

**Total Private Sector Employment in the Providence/Cranston WIA by Industry Sector**



During the recession, large numeric job losses in the Providence/Cranston WIA were reported in the Manufacturing (-3,089), Administrative & Waste Services (-1,864) and Construction (-1,729) sectors. Three employment sectors did report job growth between 2006 and 2010 led by Health Care & Social Assistance which added 1,998 jobs. Educational Services (+677) and Other Services (+54) also added jobs during the economic downturn.

In 2015, over 8,831 (+7.5%) private sector jobs were added back to the Providence/Cranston area from the low point in 2010. The Accommodation & Food Services (+1,843) sector added the most private sector jobs followed by the Management of Companies & Enterprises (+1,670), Health Care & Social Assistance (+1,592) and Administrative & Waste Services (+1,395) sectors. Four private sectors were still feeling the effects of the recession as the Information (-1,062), Educational Services (-688), Manufacturing (-633) and Other Services (-320) 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 Providence/Cranston WIA averaged 126,985, an increase of 2,128 (+1.7%) from the 2014 employment level. Statewide, private sector employment grew by 1.6 percent during this period.

Between 2014 and 2015, the Health Care & Social Assistance sector added 453 jobs, the largest numerical increase among all employment sectors. The Finance & Insurance (+413) and Administrative & Waste Services (+413) sectors also added sizable gains. On a percentage basis, the Transportation & Warehousing sector rose by 10.4 percent, the largest percentage increase during this period. The Management of Companies (+6.7%) and Finance & Insurance (+6.5%) sectors reported the second and third largest employment percentage gains.

Between 2014 and 2015, Information (-266), Manufacturing (-97), Arts, Entertainment & Recreation (-74), Construction (-74) and Other Services (-46) were the only sectors to post year over year job losses in the Providence/Cranston area.

The 2015 annual average private sector wage was \$52,041 in the Providence/Cranston WIA, an increase of \$1,360 (+2.7%) from the 2014 annual wage. Management of Companies & Enterprises led all of the Providence/Cranston area employment sectors with a 2015 annual wage of \$109,809. The Finance & Insurance sector reported the second largest private sector annual wage of \$96,390, followed by Professional, Scientific & Technical Services (\$79,609), Information (\$69,607) and Construction (\$67,264). The lowest annual average private sector wages were reported in Accommodation & Food Services (\$19,816), Arts, Entertainment & Recreation (\$23,314), Retail Trade (\$27,828) and Administrative & Waste Services (\$30,852), industry sectors that generally rely upon part-time employment and require limited previous work experience and skill sets.

The 2015 Providence/Cranston annual private sector wage was \$52,041, or \$3,305 (+6.8%) more than the statewide private sector wage of \$48,736.

### Providence/Cranston WIA Covered Employment Annual Average Employment

	2006	2010	2014	2015	2006-2010		2010-2015	
					Change	% Change	Change	% Change
Total, Private Sector & Government	149,799	139,280	146,027	148,217	-10,519	-7.0%	8,937	6.4%
Total, Private Sector only	127,402	118,154	124,857	126,985	-9,248	-7.3%	8,831	7.5%
Construction	4,812	3,083	3,225	3,151	-1,729	-35.9%	68	2.2%
Manufacturing	11,344	8,255	7,719	7,622	-3,089	-27.2%	-633	-7.7%
Wholesale Trade	4,131	3,599	4,542	4,568	-532	-12.9%	969	26.9%
Retail Trade	11,652	10,735	11,755	12,015	-917	-7.9%	1,280	11.9%
Transportation & Warehousing	1,476	1,232	1,180	1,303	-244	-16.5%	71	5.8%
Information	5,692	5,302	4,506	4,240	-390	-6.9%	-1,062	-20.0%
Finance & Insurance	6,974	5,536	6,396	6,809	-1,438	-20.6%	1,273	23.0%
Real Estate & Rental & Leasing	2,172	1,732	1,850	1,884	-440	-20.3%	152	8.8%
Professional, Scientific & Technical Svcs.	7,778	7,648	8,321	8,641	-130	-1.7%	993	13.0%
Management of Companies	2,283	1,763	3,216	3,433	-520	-22.8%	1,670	94.7%
Administrative & Waste Services	10,926	9,062	10,044	10,457	-1,864	-17.1%	1,395	15.4%
Educational Services	11,362	12,039	11,043	11,351	677	6.0%	-688	-5.7%
Health Care & Social Assistance	27,647	29,645	30,784	31,237	1,998	7.2%	1,592	5.4%
Arts, Entertainment & Recreation	1,384	1,229	1,490	1,416	-155	-11.2%	187	15.2%
Accommodation & Food Services	11,132	10,655	12,419	12,498	-477	-4.3%	1,843	17.3%
Other Services	6,022	6,076	5,802	5,756	54	0.9%	-320	-5.3%
Government	22,396	21,126	21,171	21,232	-1,270	-5.7%	106	0.5%

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.

In December 2015, 25.9 percent of the 8,952 individuals collecting unemployment insurance benefits in the state were residents of the Providence/Cranston WIA. Over 25 percent (582) of the Providence-Cranston WIA insured unemployed faced long-term unemployment.

Long-term unemployment, that is, unemployment spells of fifteen weeks or longer, was higher among Providence/Cranston area residents (25.1%) than in the state (22.8%) as a whole. Workers in all age groups under 60 years of age living in the Providence/Cranston area were more likely to face long-term unemployment than their counterparts statewide.

More than a quarter (29.0%) of the Providence/Cranston area residents collecting unemployment insurance benefits were between the ages of 25 and 34, and an additional 21.6 percent were between 35 and 44 years of age and 21.1 percent were between 45-54 years of age.

Nearly a quarter of the unemployed Providence-Cranston WIA residents collecting benefits were previously employed in Administrative & Waste Services (24.2%), followed by Health Care & Social Assistance (12.3%), Manufacturing (12.3%) and Retail Trade (9.3%).

Almost 19 percent of the unemployed Providence/Cranston residents collecting benefits in December 2015 were previously employed as Production (18.7%), followed by Office & Administrative Support (15.0%) and Building & Ground Cleaning & Maintenance (7.4%). Over one-third of the Education, Training & Library (37.7%), Management (37.1%), Healthcare Practitioner & Technical (35.1%), and Office & Administrative Support (33.4%) had been unemployed for over fifteen weeks or longer.

## Characteristics of the Insured Unemployed

### *Living in the Providence/Cranston WIA*

*December 2015*

	<i>Total</i>	<i>Percent of Total</i>	<i>Long Term</i>	<i>Percent Long-Term</i>
Total	2,317	100.0%	582	25.1%
Male	1,186	51.2%	226	19.1%
Female	1,131	48.8%	356	31.5%
Age	2,317	100.0%	582	25.1%
Under 24	236	2.6%	64	25.0%
25 - 34	673	29.0%	172	25.6%
35 - 44	500	21.6%	123	24.6%
45 - 54	489	21.1%	112	22.9%
55 - 59	199	8.6%	56	28.1%
60 - 64	138	6.0%	35	25.4%
65 or over	82	3.5%	20	24.4%
Education	2,317	100.0%	582	25.1%
Less than 9th Grade	205	8.8%	31	15.1%
9th to 12th, no diploma	246	10.6%	53	21.5%
High School Graduate	889	38.4%	230	25.9%
Some College	495	21.4%	127	25.7%
Bachelor's Degree	191	8.2%	59	30.9%
Beyond Bachelor's	256	11.0%	72	28.1%
Unknown	35	1.5%	10	28.6%
Industry	2,317	100.0%	582	25.1%
Construction	176	7.6%	12	6.8%
Manufacturing	284	12.3%	88	31.0%
Wholesale Trade	92	4.0%	27	29.3%
Retail Trade	215	9.3%	64	29.8%
Transportation & Warehousing	34	1.5%	12	35.3%
Finance & Insurance	86	3.7%	31	36.0%
Professional & Tech. Services	88	3.8%	29	33.0%
Administrative & Waste Services	561	24.2%	120	21.4%
Educational Services	44	1.9%	15	34.1%
Health Care & Social Assistance	285	12.3%	90	31.6%
Arts, Entertainment & Recreation	70	3.0%	9	12.9%
Accommodation & Food Services	164	7.1%	29	17.7%
Other Services	50	2.2%	15	30.0%
All Other Industries	168	0.5%	41	50.0%
Occupation	2,317	100.0%	582	25.1%
Management	159	6.9%	59	37.1%
Business & Financial Operations	46	2.0%	11	23.9%
Education, Training & Library	53	2.3%	20	37.7%
Healthcare Practitioner & Technical	37	1.6%	13	35.1%
Healthcare Support	54	2.3%	17	31.5%
Food Preparation & Serving Related	136	5.9%	31	22.8%
Building & Grounds Cleaning & Maint.	172	7.4%	21	12.2%
Personal Care & Service	55	2.4%	15	27.3%
Sales & Related	114	4.9%	29	25.4%
Office & Administrative Support	347	15.0%	116	33.4%
Construction & Extraction	95	4.1%	7	7.4%
Installation, Maintenance & Repair	39	1.7%	12	30.8%
Production	433	18.7%	121	27.9%
Transportation & Material Moving	164	7.1%	35	21.3%
All Other Occupations	413	9.1%	75	13.8%

According to the 2015 American Community Survey (ACS) 1-Year Estimates, Whites account for 59.4 percent of Providence/Cranston's household population compared to 80.4 percent of the state's total household population.

Thirty-four percent of Providence/Cranston 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 27.2 percent of Providence/Cranston's household population (age 25 and older) have a high school diploma or equivalent, while 16.9 percent have some college-level courses. However, 18.3 percent of Providence/Cranston residents do not have a high school diploma, compared to 12.3 percent statewide.

The ACS 2009-2013 commuting pattern data show that approximately 57.1 percent of Providence/Cranston residents held jobs that were located in the Providence/Cranston WIA.

Nearly 89 percent of Providence/Cranston residents worked within Rhode Island borders, while 9.4 percent commuted to a job in neighboring Massachusetts.

Approximately 41.9 percent of the jobs located in the Providence/Cranston WIA were held by individuals residing in the WIA. Rhode Islanders held 89.2 percent of the jobs located in Providence/Cranston, while Massachusetts residents accounted for 9.2 percent of the WIA workers.

### Providence/Cranston WIA

#### Race & Ethnicity, 2015

Total Population	260,281	100.0%
One race (of any origin)	247,680	95.2%
White	154,657	59.4%
Black or African American	31,196	12.0%
American Indian and Alaska Native	2,010	0.8%
Asian	16,109	6.2%
Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander	211	0.1%
Some other race	43,497	16.7%
Two or more races (of any origin)	12,601	4.8%
Hispanic or Latino (of any race)	88,386	34.0%

#### Educational Attainment, 2015

Total Population (Age 25+)	164,637	100.0%
Less than 9th grade	15,592	9.5%
9th to 12th grade, no diploma	14,450	8.8%
High school graduate (includes equivalency)	44,739	27.2%
Some college, no degree	27,744	16.9%
Associate's degree	11,346	6.9%
Bachelor's degree	28,645	17.4%
Graduate or professional degree	22,121	13.4%

Source: American Community Survey 1-Year Estimates, 2015

#### Where Providence/Cranston WIA Residents Work

Total	113,445	100.0%
Providence, RI	50,289	44.3%
Cranston, RI	14,492	12.8%
Warwick, RI	7,978	7.0%
Pawtucket, RI	4,170	3.7%
East Providence, RI	3,381	3.0%
Johnston, RI	2,743	2.4%
Lincoln, RI	2,110	1.9%
Smithfield, RI	1,986	1.8%
North Providence, RI	1,801	1.6%
Woonsocket, RI	1,785	1.6%
Other Communities	22,710	20.0%

#### Providence/Cranston WIA Residents Work in the State of:

Total	113,445	100.0%
Rhode Island	100,893	88.9%
Massachusetts	10,713	9.4%
Connecticut	891	0.8%
Other State/Country	948	0.8%

#### Where Providence/Cranston WIA Workers Live

Total	154,711	100.0%
Providence, RI	45,623	29.5%
Cranston, RI	19,158	12.4%
Warwick, RI	10,503	6.8%
Pawtucket, RI	7,032	4.5%
East Providence, RI	6,043	3.9%
North Providence, RI	5,978	3.9%
Johnston, RI	4,915	3.2%
West Warwick, RI	3,116	2.0%
Smithfield, RI	3,094	2.0%
Coventry, RI	3,084	2.0%
Other Communities	46,165	29.8%

#### Providence/Cranston WIA Workers Live in the State of:

Total	154,711	100.0%
Rhode Island	137,955	89.2%
Massachusetts	14,161	9.2%
Connecticut	1,472	1.0%
Other State/Country	1,123	0.7%

Source: US Census Bureau, American Community Survey 2009-2013