

### Total Number of Jobs

- Nationally, jobs were up 242,000 (+0.2%) in February, with 21,000 (+0.3%) of those jobs originating in the New England region. New Hampshire (+0.7%) and Massachusetts (+0.4%) were the only local states to outpace the nation and the region in terms of job growth on a percentage basis, while Connecticut equaled the U.S. job growth rate of 0.2 percent. The number of jobs in Rhode Island since January grew by 0.1 percent, while Maine and Vermont reported job declines of 0.2 percent and 0.1 percent, respectively.

Location	Total Number of Jobs (in thousands)					Change From	
	Feb 2016	Jan 2016	Feb 2015	Jan 2016	Feb 2015		
Connecticut	1,685.4	1,681.2	1,669.6	4.2	0.2%	15.8	0.9%
Maine	613.3	614.6	607.5	-1.3	-0.2%	5.8	1.0%
Massachusetts	3,529.9	3,516.6	3,462.8	13.3	0.4%	67.1	1.9%
New Hampshire	665.7	660.9	651.3	4.8	0.7%	14.4	2.2%
Rhode Island	488.2	487.9	480.8	0.3	0.1%	7.4	1.5%
Vermont	316.0	316.3	311.2	-0.3	-0.1%	4.8	1.5%
New England	7,298.5	7,277.5	7,183.2	21.0	0.3%	115.3	1.6%
US	143,560	143,318	140,888	242.0	0.2%	2,672.0	1.9%

- Massachusetts added 13,300 jobs in February, the largest numeric job gain among all regional states. The number of jobs in New Hampshire rose by 4,800, followed by Connecticut (+4,200) and Rhode Island (+300). Maine (-1,300) and Vermont (-300) each reported job losses in February.

- Over the year (OTY), jobs in the U.S. and in the New England region were up 1.9 percent and 1.6 percent, respectively. State by state, New Hampshire employment is up 2.2 percent from February 2015, followed by Massachusetts (+1.9%), Vermont (+1.5%), Rhode Island (+1.5%), Maine (+1.0%) and Connecticut (+0.9%).

### Job Change through 2016

- Throughout 2016, jobs are up 0.8 percent in Vermont, the largest percentage increase in all of New England. Also through February 2016, jobs in New Hampshire are up 0.7 percent, followed by Maine (+0.4%), Massachusetts (+0.4%) and Connecticut (+0.3%). The number of jobs in Rhode Island are down by 0.1 percent since the start of the year.

- The number of jobs in New England are up 0.4 percent in 2016, while the number of U.S. jobs are up 0.3 percent.

2016 Job Change Thru February (in thousands)			
Location	Dec-15	Feb-16	Change
Connecticut	1,680.0	1,685.4	5.4 0.3%
Maine	610.9	613.3	2.4 0.4%
Massachusetts	3,515.4	3,529.9	14.5 0.4%
New Hampshire	661.1	665.7	4.6 0.7%
Rhode Island	488.5	488.2	0.3 -0.1%
Vermont	313.5	316.0	2.5 0.8%
New England	7,269.4	7,298.5	29.1 0.4%
US	143,146.0	143,560.0	414.0 0.3%

### Recession Job Counts

- As of February 2016, three New England states have yet to recover all of the jobs lost during their respective high and low employment periods. Rhode Island has recovered 81.2 percent of the 39,800 jobs lost between the peak employment level established in December 2006 and the low employment level which occurred in August 2009. Connecticut has recovered 76.6 percent of the 119,100 jobs lost between their peak and low period. Maine has recouped 75.2 percent of the 30,700 jobs lost during their recession period.

- Massachusetts, New Hampshire and Vermont have recovered all of their employment which was lost during their respective recessions.

- The U.S. has recovered all of the 8.7 million jobs between January 2008 and February 2010, the high and low employment levels.

Recession Job Counts Thru February 2016 (in thousands)**						
Location	Duration	High	Low	Total Jobs Lost	Jobs Gained Since Low	% of Jobs Recovered
Connecticut	Mar '08 - Feb '10	1,713.3	1594.2	-119.1	91.2	76.6%
Maine	Feb '08 - Aug '10	620.9	590.2	-30.7	23.1	75.2%
Massachusetts	Apr '08 - Oct '09	3,331.5	3,190.1	-141.4	339.8	240.3%
New Hampshire	Jan '08 - Jan '10	652.6	622	-30.6	43.7	142.8%
Rhode Island	Dec '06 - Aug '09	495.7	455.9	-39.8	32.3	81.2%
Vermont	Jun '07 - Jul '09	309.6	294.9	-14.7	21.1	143.5%
US	Jan '08 - Feb '10	138,432.0	129,733.0	-8,699.0	13,827.0	158.9%

\*\*Recession for this publication is defined as the period between the state's high employment level and the state's low employment level.

Note: Rhode Island data for January is revised January data while data for the remaining New England states is preliminary January data.

**Unemployment Rate**

- In February, the unemployment rate decreased in three of the six New England states and remained unchanged in the remaining three states. The unemployment rate in Maine, Massachusetts and New Hampshire fell by two-tenths of a percentage point in each state, while remaining unchanged in Connecticut, Rhode Island and Vermont. In the New England region as a whole, the unemployment rate fell by one-tenth of a percentage point over the month, while the U.S. rate reported no change.

Unemployment Rate					
Location	Feb 2016	Jan 2016	Feb 2015	Change From	
				Jan 2016	Feb 2015
Connecticut	5.5	5.5	6.0	0.0	-0.5
Maine	3.6	3.8	4.7	-0.2	-1.1
Massachusetts	4.5	4.7	5.1	-0.2	-0.6
New Hampshire	2.7	2.9	3.7	-0.2	-1.0
Rhode Island	5.4	5.4	6.4	0.0	-1.0
Vermont	3.4	3.4	3.7	0.0	-0.3
New England	4.5	4.6	5.2	-0.1	-0.7
US	4.9	4.9	5.5	0.0	-0.6

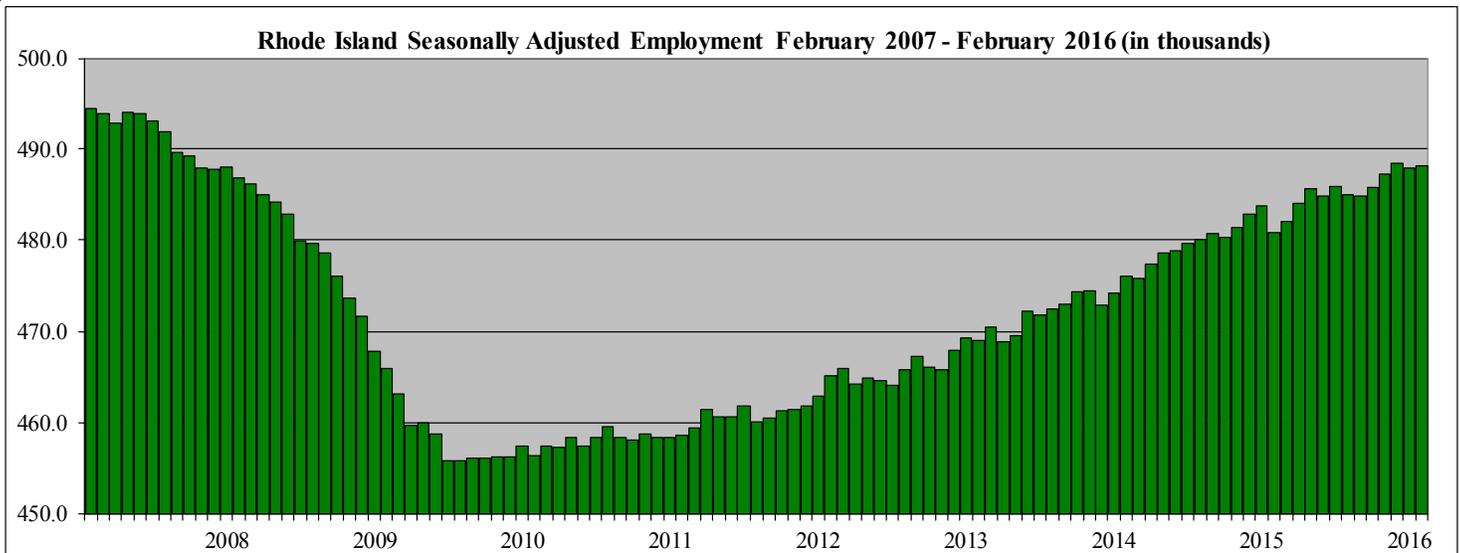
- Over the year, the unemployment rate in the New England region and in the U.S. was down seven-tenths of a percentage point and six-tenths of a percentage point, respectively. Among the New England states, the Maine unemployment rate decreased by 1.1 percentage points OTY, followed by New Hampshire (-1.0), Rhode Island (-1.0), Massachusetts (-0.6), Connecticut (-0.5) and Vermont (-0.3).

**Labor Force**

- The U.S. labor force rose by 0.4 percent in February, and by 0.1 percent in the New England region. The labor force in Connecticut, Massachusetts, New Hampshire and Vermont grew by 0.2 percent each, while the labor force in Maine and Rhode Island remained unchanged in February.

Civilian Labor Force							
Location	Feb 2016	Jan 2016	Feb 2015	Jan 2016	Change From		
					Jan 2016	Feb 2015	
Connecticut	1,896,218	1,892,272	1,900,081	3,946	0.2%	-3,863	-0.2%
Maine	673,786	673,900	685,355	-114	0.0%	-11,569	-1.7%
Massachusetts	3,569,875	3,563,214	3,588,773	6,661	0.2%	-18,898	-0.5%
New Hampshire	742,197	740,532	741,258	1,665	0.2%	939	0.1%
Rhode Island	552,059	552,131	555,099	-72	0.0%	-3,040	-0.5%
Vermont	343,803	343,205	345,788	598	0.2%	-1,985	-0.6%
New England	7,775,007	7,766,080	7,795,395	8,927	0.1%	-20,388	-0.3%
US (in thousands)	158,890	158,335	156,878	555	0.4%	2,012	1.3%

- Over the year, the labor force in the U.S. rose by 1.3 percent, while decreasing by 0.3 percent in New England. Since February 2015, Maine (-1.7%), Vermont (-0.6%), Massachusetts (-0.5%), Rhode Island (-0.5%) and Connecticut (-0.2%) all reported a decrease in their respective labor force. The labor force in New Hampshire rose by 0.1 percent from February 2015.



**February 2016**