

Total Number of Jobs

- In March, the U.S. workforce increased by 126,000 (+0.1%) jobs, while the New England region as a whole grew by 21,900 jobs (+0.3%). Also, all six regional states added more employment on a percentage basis than the U.S.

- Massachusetts (+10,500) added the most numeric jobs in the entire New England region, followed by New Hampshire (+2,900) and Maine (+2,300). On a percentage basis, the employment level in Maine and New Hampshire grew by 0.4 percent each, followed by Rhode Island and Massachusetts (+0.3 percent each).

- Over the year, jobs in the U.S. and in the New England region were up 2.3 percent and 1.5 percent, respectively. State by state, Massachusetts employment is up 1.8 percent from a year ago, followed by Connecticut (+1.6%), Vermont (+1.4%), New Hampshire (+1.2%), Rhode Island (+1.0%) and Maine (+0.4%).

Total Number of Jobs (in thousands)							
Location	Mar 2015	Feb 2015	Mar 2014	Change From			
				Feb 2015	Mar 2014		
Connecticut	1,686.7	1,682.7	1,659.6	4.0	0.2%	27.1	1.6%
Maine	605.9	603.6	603.6	2.3	0.4%	2.3	0.4%
Massachusetts	3,457.7	3,447.2	3,397.5	10.5	0.3%	60.2	1.8%
New Hampshire	654.0	651.1	646.4	2.9	0.4%	7.6	1.2%
Rhode Island	480.0	478.4	475.1	1.6	0.3%	4.9	1.0%
Vermont	313.6	313.0	309.3	0.6	0.2%	4.3	1.4%
New England	7,197.9	7,176.0	7,091.5	21.9	0.3%	106.4	1.5%
US	141,183	141,057	138,055	126.0	0.1%	3,128.0	2.3%

Job Change through 2015

- In all of 2015, jobs are up 0.6 percent in Vermont, the largest percentage increase in all of New England. Also through March 2015, jobs are up in Connecticut (+0.5%) Massachusetts (+0.3%), New Hampshire (+0.2%), Maine (+0.2%) and Rhode Island (+0.1%).

- The number of jobs in both the U.S. and New England are up 0.4 percent in 2015.

2015 Job Change Thru March (in thousands)			
Location	Dec 2014	Mar 2015	Change
Connecticut	1,678.1	1,686.7	8.6 0.5%
Maine	604.7	605.9	1.2 0.2%
Massachusetts	3,445.9	3,457.7	11.8 0.3%
New Hampshire	653.0	654.0	1.0 0.2%
Rhode Island	479.3	480.0	0.7 0.1%
Vermont	311.7	313.6	1.9 0.6%
New England	7,172.7	7,197.9	25.2 0.4%
US	140,592.0	141,183.0	591.0 0.4%

Recession Job Counts

- In March 2015, three New England states have yet to recover all of the jobs lost between their respective high and low employment periods. Connecticut has recovered 77.9 percent of the 119,000 jobs lost between their peak employment level established in March 2008 and the low employment level which occurred in February 2010. Rhode Island has recovered 60.6 percent of the 39,800 jobs lost between the peak and low periods. Finally, Maine has recovered 51 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 US has also recovered all of the 8.7 million jobs between January 2008 and February 2010, the high and low employment levels.

**Recession Job Counts Thru March 2015 (in thousands)						
Location	Duration	High	Low	Total Jobs Lost	Jobs Gained Since Low	% of Jobs Recovered
Connecticut	Mar '08 - Feb '10	1,713.0	1594.0	-119.0	92.7	77.9%
Maine	Feb '08 - Aug '10	620.9	590.2	-30.7	15.7	51.1%
Massachusetts	Apr '08 - Oct '09	3,325.0	3,182.7	-142.3	275.0	193.3%
New Hampshire	Jan '08 - Jan '10	652.7	622.4	-30.3	31.6	104.3%
Rhode Island	Dec '06 - Aug '09	495.7	455.9	-39.8	24.1	60.6%
Vermont	Jun '07 - Jul '09	309.6	294.9	-14.7	18.7	127.2%
US	Jan '08 - Feb '10	138,365.0	129,649.0	-8,716.0	11,534.0	132.3%

Unemployment Rate

• In March, the unemployment rate decreased in four New England states while remaining unchanged in two local states. In Maine, the unemployment rate fell by two-tenths of a percentage point, while decreasing by one-tenth of a percentage point in Massachusetts, Rhode Island and Vermont. The March unemployment rate remained even in Connecticut and New Hampshire. The U.S. unemployment rate remained unchanged over the month, while the New England regional rate decreased by one-tenth of a percentage point.

Unemployment Rate					
Location	Mar 2015	Feb 2015	Mar 2014	Change From	
				Feb 2015	Mar 2014
Connecticut	6.4	6.4	6.9	0.0	-0.5
Maine	4.8	5.0	5.8	-0.2	-1.0
Massachusetts	4.8	4.9	5.9	-0.1	-1.1
New Hampshire	3.9	3.9	4.5	0.0	-0.6
Rhode Island	6.3	6.4	8.2	-0.1	-1.9
Vermont	3.8	3.9	4.0	-0.1	-0.2
New England	5.2	5.3	6.2	-0.1	-1.0
US	5.5	5.5	6.6	0.0	-1.1

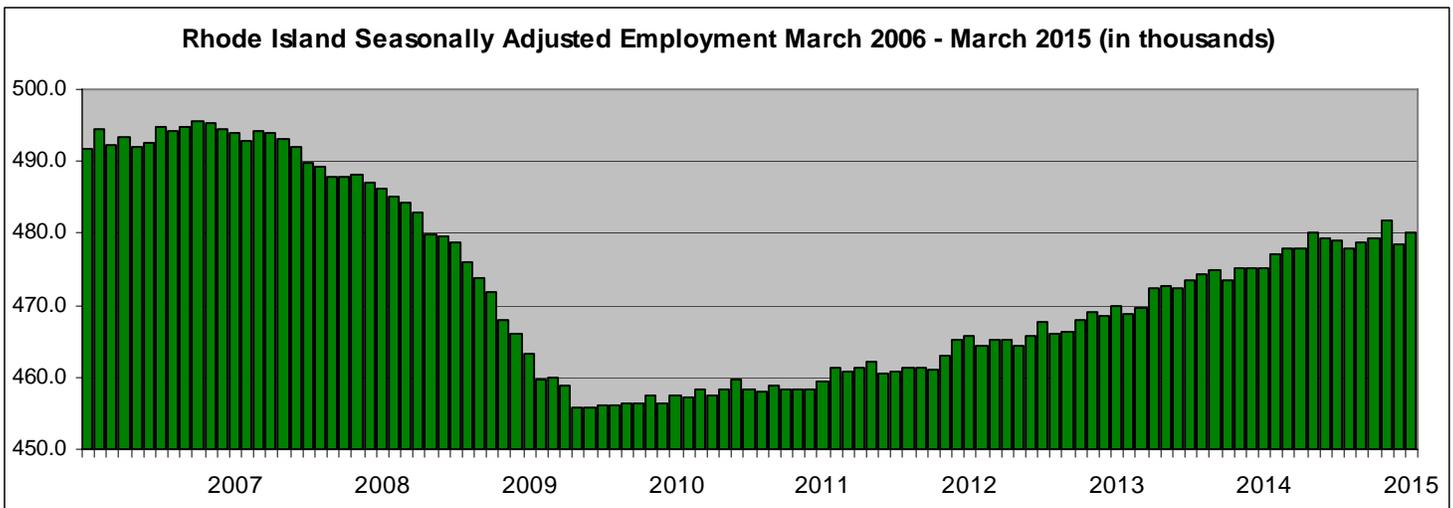
• Over the year, the unemployment rate in the U.S. and the New England region was down 1.1 percentage points and one percentage point, respectively. Among the New England states, the Rhode Island unemployment rate dropped by 1.9 percentage points from March 2014, followed by Massachusetts (-1.1), Maine (-1.0), New Hampshire (-0.6), Connecticut (-0.5) and Vermont (-0.2).

Labor Force

• The March labor force rose by 0.3 percent in the New England region, but fell by 0.1 percent in the nation. Among the regional states, an increasing labor force was reported in Rhode Island and Massachusetts, 0.4 percent each, followed by Connecticut (+0.3%), New Hampshire (+0.3%). The labor force was down 0.1 percent in Maine and Vermont.

Civilian Labor Force							
Location	Mar 2015	Feb 2015	Mar 2014	Feb 2015	Change From		
					Mar 2014	Feb 2015	
Connecticut	1,916,002	1,909,873	1,879,697	6,129	0.3%	36,305	1.9%
Maine	689,754	690,595	702,612	-841	-0.1%	-12,858	-1.8%
Massachusetts	3,623,942	3,607,859	3,539,637	16,083	0.4%	84,305	2.4%
New Hampshire	745,879	743,996	742,122	1,883	0.3%	3,757	0.5%
Rhode Island	551,680	549,606	555,159	2,074	0.4%	-3,479	-0.6%
Vermont	348,210	348,468	348,875	-258	-0.1%	-665	-0.2%
New England	7,873,368	7,849,760	7,761,550	23,608	0.3%	111,818	1.4%
US (in thousands)	156,906	157,002	156,180	-96	-0.1%	726.0	0.5%

• Over the year, the labor force in New England rose by 1.4 percent, while rising by 0.5 percent in the nation. Since March 2014, Massachusetts (+2.4%), Connecticut (+1.9%) and New Hampshire (+0.5%) all reported an increase in their labor force. Maine (-1.8%), Rhode Island (-0.6%) and Vermont (-0.2%) all experienced a drop in their respective labor force from a year ago.



March 2015