

### Total Number of Jobs

- Nationally, jobs were up 215,000 (+0.1%) in March, with 10,900 (+0.1%) of those jobs originating in the New England region. Rhode Island (+0.6%), Maine (+0.3%) and Massachusetts (+0.2%) outpaced the nation and the region in terms of job growth on a percentage basis. Vermont's employment level grew by 0.1 percent since February, while Connecticut's level remained unchanged and New Hampshire's level fell by 0.1 percent.

Total Number of Jobs (in thousands)							
Location	Mar 2016	Feb 2016	Mar 2015	Change From			
				Feb 2016	Mar 2015	Mar 2015	
Connecticut	1,685.6	1,685.3	1,670.6	0.3	0.0%	15.0	0.9%
Maine	614.6	613.0	608.6	1.6	0.3%	6.0	1.0%
Massachusetts	3,537.4	3,530.5	3,476.0	6.9	0.2%	61.4	1.8%
New Hampshire	664.3	665.1	653.8	-0.8	-0.1%	10.5	1.6%
Rhode Island	490.9	488.2	482.1	2.7	0.6%	8.8	1.8%
Vermont	316.1	315.9	311.7	0.2	0.1%	4.4	1.4%
New England	7,308.9	7,298.0	7,202.8	10.9	0.1%	106.1	1.5%
US	143,774	143,559	140,972	215.0	0.1%	2,802.0	2.0%

- Massachusetts added 6,900 jobs in March, the largest numeric job gain among all regional states. The number of jobs in Rhode Island rose by 2,700, followed by Maine (+1,600), Connecticut (+300) and Vermont (+200). New Hampshire reported a loss 800 jobs in March.
- Over the year (OTY), jobs in the U.S. and in the New England region were up 2.0 percent and 1.5 percent, respectively. State by state, Massachusetts and Rhode Island employment is up 1.8 percent each from March 2015, followed by New Hampshire (+1.6%), Vermont (+1.4%), Maine (+1.0%) and Connecticut (+0.9%).

### Job Change through 2016

- Through March 2016, jobs are up 0.8 percent in Vermont, the largest percentage increase in all of New England. Also through March 2016, jobs in Massachusetts and Maine are up 0.6 percent each, followed by New Hampshire (+0.5%), Rhode Island (+0.5%) and Connecticut (+0.3%).
- The number of jobs in New England are up 0.5 percent through March 2016, while the number of U.S. jobs are up 0.4 percent.

2016 Job Change Thru March (in thousands)				
Location	Dec-15	Mar-16	Change	
Connecticut	1,680.0	1,685.6	5.6	0.3%
Maine	610.9	614.6	3.7	0.6%
Massachusetts	3,515.4	3,537.4	22.0	0.6%
New Hampshire	661.1	664.3	3.2	0.5%
Rhode Island	488.5	490.9	2.4	0.5%
Vermont	313.5	316.1	2.6	0.8%
New England	7,269.4	7,308.9	39.5	0.5%
US	143,146.0	143,774.0	628.0	0.4%

### Recession Job Counts

- As of March 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 87.9 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. Maine has recovered 79.5 percent of the 30,700 jobs lost between their peak and low period. Connecticut has recouped 76.7 percent of the 119,100 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 March 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	1,594.2	-119.1	91.4	76.7%
Maine	Feb '08 - Aug '10	620.9	590.2	-30.7	24.4	79.5%
Massachusetts	Apr '08 - Oct '09	3,331.5	3,190.1	-141.4	347.3	245.6%
New Hampshire	Jan '08 - Jan '10	652.6	622.0	-30.6	42.3	138.2%
Rhode Island	Dec '06 - Aug '09	495.7	455.9	-39.8	35.0	87.9%
Vermont	Jun '07 - Jul '09	309.6	294.9	-14.7	21.2	144.2%
US	Jan '08 - Feb '10	138,432.0	129,733.0	-8,699.0	14,041.0	161.4%

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

**Unemployment Rate**

- In March, the unemployment rate decreased in four of the six New England states, remained unchanged in one state and rose in the remaining state. The unemployment rate in Maine fell by two-tenths of a percentage point, while falling by one-tenth of a percentage point in Massachusetts, New Hampshire and Vermont. Rhode Island's rate remained unchanged and the Connecticut rate rose by two-tenths of a percentage point. Throughout the nation, the unemployment rate rose by one-tenth of a percentage point over the month, while the New England region reported no change in its rate.

Unemployment Rate					
Location	Mar 2016	Feb 2016	Mar 2015	Change From	
				Feb 2016	Mar 2015
Connecticut	5.7	5.5	5.9	0.2	-0.2
Maine	3.4	3.6	4.6	-0.2	-1.2
Massachusetts	4.4	4.5	5.1	-0.1	-0.7
New Hampshire	2.6	2.7	3.7	-0.1	-1.1
Rhode Island	5.4	5.4	6.3	0.0	-0.9
Vermont	3.3	3.4	3.7	-0.1	-0.4
New England	4.5	4.5	5.2	0.0	-0.7
US	5.0	4.9	5.5	0.1	-0.5

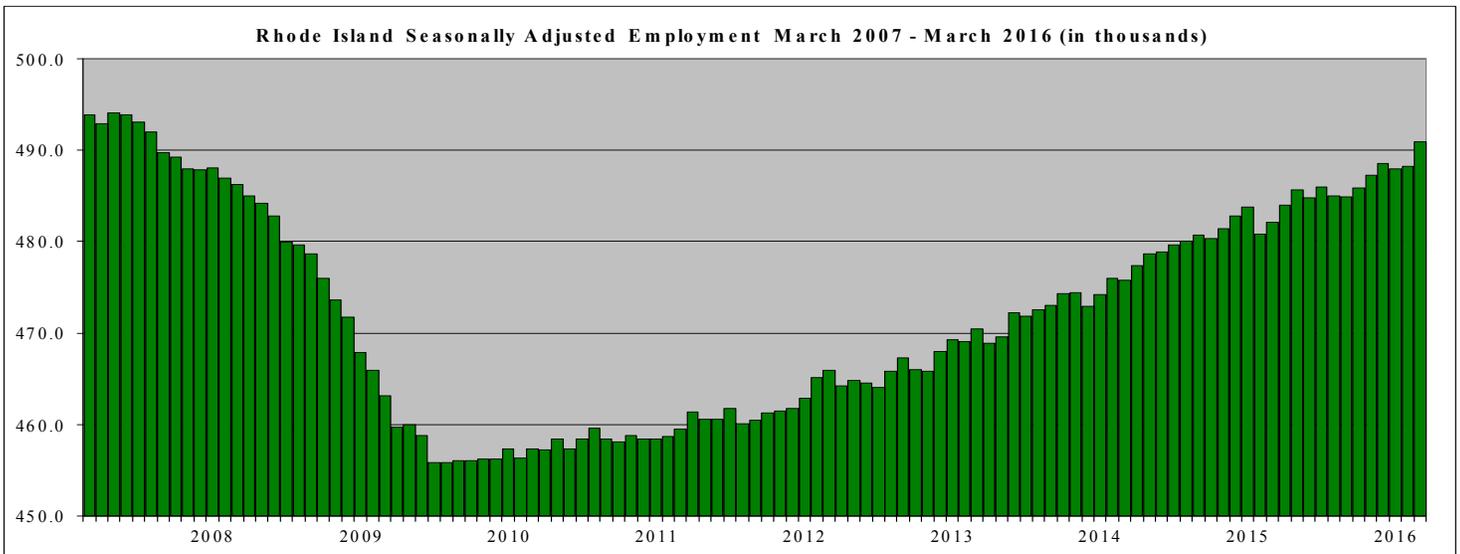
- Over the year, the unemployment rate in the New England region and in the U.S. was down seven-tenths of a percentage point and five-tenths of a percentage point, respectively. Among the New England states, the Maine unemployment rate decreased by 1.2 percentage points OTY, followed by New Hampshire (-1.1), Rhode Island (-0.9), Massachusetts (-0.7), Vermont (-0.4) and Connecticut (-0.2).

**Labor Force**

- The labor force in the U.S. and in the New England region rose by 0.2 percent in March. The labor force in Connecticut, Massachusetts and New Hampshire rose by 0.3 percent each, while rising by 0.2 percent in Vermont. The March labor force grew by 0.1 percent in both Maine and Rhode Island.

Civilian Labor Force						
Location	Mar 2016	Feb 2016	Mar 2015	Feb 2016	Change From	
					Mar 2015	Feb 2016
Connecticut	1,901,906	1,896,146	1,898,610	5,760	0.3%	3,296 0.2%
Maine	674,344	673,726	684,075	618	0.1%	-9,731 -1.4%
Massachusetts	3,581,535	3,570,026	3,586,810	11,509	0.3%	-5,275 -0.1%
New Hampshire	744,190	742,112	741,503	2,078	0.3%	2,687 0.4%
Rhode Island	552,816	552,133	555,600	683	0.1%	-2,784 -0.5%
Vermont	344,477	343,805	345,561	672	0.2%	-1,084 -0.3%
New England	7,794,110	7,775,007	7,792,427	19,103	0.2%	1,683 0.0%
US (in thousands)	159,286	158,890	156,890	396	0.2%	2,396 1.5%

- Over the year, the U.S. labor force rose by 1.5 percent, while remaining even in the New England region. Since March 2015, Maine (-1.4%), Rhode Island (-0.5%), Vermont (-0.3%), and Massachusetts (-0.1%) all reported a decrease in their respective labor force. The labor force in New Hampshire and Connecticut rose by 0.4 percent and 0.2 percent, respectively, from March 2015.



March 2016

Sources: Rhode Island Department of Labor and Training, Current Employment Statistics (CES) and Local Area Unemployment Statistics (LAUS) programs; US Bureau of Labor Statistics