

Total Number of Jobs

- In May, the New England regional workforce grew by 0.3 percent, slightly ahead of the U.S. which grew by 0.2 percent. Employment in the six state region rose by 21,400, while the U.S. employment grew by 280,000. Three New England states, New Hampshire (+0.7%), Rhode Island (+0.7%) and Connecticut (+0.4%) added more jobs on a percentage basis than the region and nation, while Massachusetts (+0.2%) and Maine (+0.2%) fell short of the region's growth rate but equaled the nation's growth rate.

Total Number of Jobs (in thousands)							
Location	May 2015	Apr 2015	May 2014	Change From			
				Apr 2015	May 2014		
Connecticut	1,691.8	1,685.4	1,665.7	6.4	0.4%	26.1	1.6%
Maine	609.9	608.4	604.9	1.5	0.2%	5.0	0.8%
Massachusetts	3,477.8	3,470.4	3,407.2	7.4	0.2%	70.6	2.1%
New Hampshire	657.1	652.3	645.7	4.8	0.7%	11.4	1.8%
Rhode Island	484.7	481.3	478.0	3.4	0.7%	6.7	1.4%
Vermont	312.9	315.0	308.9	-2.1	-0.7%	4.0	1.3%
New England	7,234.2	7,212.8	7,110.4	21.4	0.3%	123.8	1.7%
US	141,679	141,399	138,621	280.0	0.2%	3,058.0	2.2%

- Numerically, Massachusetts (+7,400) added the most jobs within the entire New England region, followed by Connecticut (+6,400), New Hampshire (+4,800), Rhode Island (+3,400) and Maine (+1,500). Total nonfarm employment in Vermont fell by 2,100 (-0.7%) in May.

- Over the year, jobs in the U.S. were up 2.2 percent while the New England job rate was up by 1.7 percent. The Massachusetts employment level was up 2.1 percent since May 2014, followed by New Hampshire (+1.8%), Connecticut (+1.6%), Rhode Island (+1.4%), Vermont (+1.3%) and Maine (+0.8%).

Job Change through 2015

- In all of 2015, jobs are up 1.1 percent in Rhode Island, the largest percentage increase in all of New England. Also through the first five months 2015, jobs are up in Maine (+0.9%) Massachusetts (+0.9%), Connecticut (+0.8%), New Hampshire (+0.6%) and Vermont (+0.4%).

- The number of jobs in New England is up 0.9 percent in 2015, while the U.S. job count is up 0.8 percent.

2015 Job Change Thru May (in thousands)			
Location	Dec 2014	May 2015	Change
Connecticut	1,678.1	1,691.8	13.7 0.8%
Maine	604.7	609.9	5.2 0.9%
Massachusetts	3,445.9	3,477.8	31.9 0.9%
New Hampshire	653.0	657.1	4.1 0.6%
Rhode Island	479.3	484.7	5.4 1.1%
Vermont	311.7	312.9	1.2 0.4%
New England	7,172.7	7,234.2	61.5 0.9%
US	140,592.0	141,679.0	1,087.0 0.8%

Recession Job Counts

- As of May 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 82.2 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 72.4 percent of the 39,800 jobs lost between the peak and low periods. Maine has recouped 64.2 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 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 May 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	97.8	82.2%
Maine	Feb '08 - Aug '10	620.9	590.2	-30.7	19.7	64.2%
Massachusetts	Apr '08 - Oct '09	3,325.0	3,182.7	-142.3	295.1	207.4%
New Hampshire	Jan '08 - Jan '10	652.7	622.4	-30.3	34.7	114.5%
Rhode Island	Dec '06 - Aug '09	495.7	455.9	-39.8	28.8	72.4%
Vermont	Jun '07 - Jul '09	309.6	294.9	-14.7	18.0	122.4%
US	Jan '08 - Feb '10	138,365.0	129,649.0	-8,716.0	12,030.0	138.0%

*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 May, the unemployment rate decreased in three of the six New England states while remaining unchanged in the remaining three states. The unemployment rate fell by two-tenths of a percentage point in both Connecticut and Rhode Island, while decreasing by one-tenth of a percentage point in Massachusetts. The unemployment rate remained unchanged in Maine, New Hampshire and Vermont. New England’s regional unemployment rate decreased by one-tenth of a percentage over the month, while the U.S. rate grew by one-tenth of a percentage point.

Unemployment Rate					
Location	May 2015	Apr 2015	May 2014	Change From	
				Apr 2015	May 2014
Connecticut	6.0	6.2	6.6	-0.2	-0.6
Maine	4.7	4.7	5.7	0.0	-1.0
Massachusetts	4.6	4.7	5.8	-0.1	-1.2
New Hampshire	3.8	3.8	4.4	0.0	-0.6
Rhode Island	5.9	6.1	7.9	-0.2	-2.0
Vermont	3.6	3.6	4.0	0.0	-0.4
New England	4.9	5	6.0	-0.1	-1.1
US	5.5	5.4	6.3	0.1	-0.8

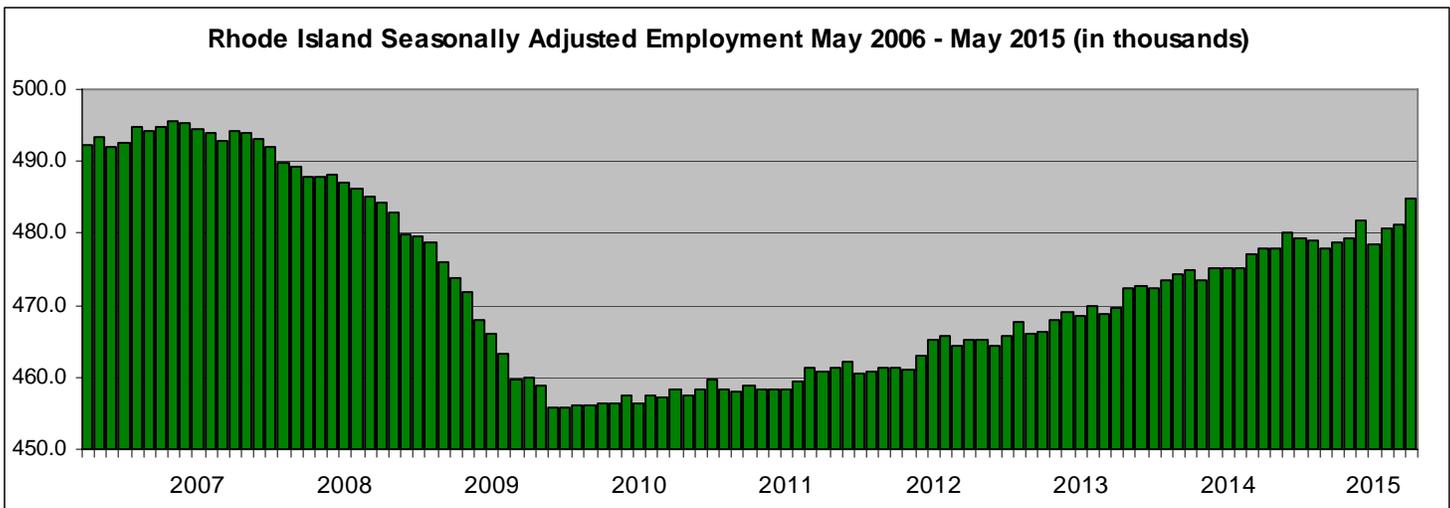
• Over the year, the unemployment rate in New England and the nation was down 1.1 percentage points and eight-tenths of a percentage point, respectively. Among the New England states, the Rhode Island unemployment rate dropped by 2.0 percentage points from May 2014, followed by Massachusetts (-1.2), Maine (-1.0), Connecticut (-0.6), New Hampshire (-0.6) and Vermont (-0.4).

Labor Force

• The May labor force rose by 0.3 percent in the U.S. and rose by 0.2 percent in the region. Among the regional states, an increasing labor force of 0.5 percent was reported in Rhode Island, followed by Maine (+0.3%), Massachusetts (+0.2%), New Hampshire (+0.2%) Connecticut (+0.1%) and Vermont (+0.1%).

Civilian Labor Force						
Location	May 2015	Apr 2015	May 2014	Apr 2015	Change From	
					Apr 2015	May 2014
Connecticut	1,921,768	1,920,635	1,881,809	1,133	0.1%	39,959 2.1%
Maine	691,150	689,205	700,836	1,945	0.3%	-9,686 -1.4%
Massachusetts	3,640,110	3,634,312	3,550,123	5,798	0.2%	89,987 2.5%
New Hampshire	748,000	746,543	741,238	1,457	0.2%	6,762 0.9%
Rhode Island	556,418	553,831	555,315	2,587	0.5%	1,103 0.2%
Vermont	348,503	348,209	348,777	294	0.1%	-274 -0.1%
New England	7,903,887	7,889,615	7,772,030	14,272	0.2%	131,857 1.7%
US (in thousands)	157,469	157,072	155,629	397	0.3%	1,840.0 1.2%

• Over the year, the labor force in New England rose by 1.7 percent, while rising by 1.2 percent in the nation. Since May 2014, Massachusetts (+2.5%), Connecticut (+2.1%), New Hampshire (+0.9%) and Rhode Island (+0.2%) all reported an increase in their labor force. Maine (-1.4%) and Vermont (-0.1%) experienced a drop in their respective labor force from a year ago.



May 2015