

Total Number of Jobs

- In May, the number of jobs across the nation grew by 38,000, no change on a percentage basis. Locally, all six New England states combined to lose 15,000 jobs in May, a 0.2 percent decrease. New Hampshire (-0.6%) reported the largest over-the-month percentage decrease in the number of jobs, followed by Rhode Island (-0.4%), Vermont (-0.3%) and Massachusetts (-0.2%). Connecticut and Maine each reported a job decrease of 0.1 percent.

Total Number of Jobs (in thousands)						
Location	May 2016	Apr 2016	May 2015	Change From		
				Apr 2016	May 2015	May 2015
Connecticut	1,688.1	1,689.5	1,674.2	-1.4	-0.1%	13.9 0.8%
Maine	611.8	612.2	610.2	-0.4	-0.1%	1.6 0.3%
Massachusetts	3,545.9	3,552.3	3,492.5	-6.4	-0.2%	53.4 1.5%
New Hampshire	661.1	665.1	656.6	-4.0	-0.6%	4.5 0.7%
Rhode Island	486.7	488.7	485.6	-2.0	-0.4%	1.1 0.2%
Vermont	316.4	317.2	312.0	-0.8	-0.3%	4.4 1.4%
New England	7,310.0	7,325.0	7,231.1	-15.0	-0.2%	78.9 1.1%
US	143,894	143,856	141,496	38.0	0.0%	2,398.0 1.7%

- The number of jobs in Massachusetts fell 6,400 from April, the largest numeric decrease throughout the region. A loss of 4,000 jobs was reported in New Hampshire, followed by Rhode Island (-2,000), Connecticut (-1,400), Vermont (-800) and Maine (-400).
- Over the year (OTY), the number of jobs in the U.S. and in the New England region are up 1.7 percent and 1.1 percent, respectively. State by state, the number of jobs in Massachusetts are up 1.5 percent from May 2015, followed by Vermont (+1.4%), Connecticut (+0.8%), New Hampshire (+0.7%), Maine (+0.3%) and Rhode Island (+0.2%).

Job Change through 2016

- Through May 2016, jobs are up 0.9 percent in both Massachusetts and Vermont, the largest percentage increase in all of New England. Also since the beginning of the year, jobs in Connecticut are up 0.5 percent, followed by Maine (+0.1%). The number of jobs in Rhode Island are down 0.4 percent since the start of the year, while the number of jobs in New Hampshire remains unchanged.
- The number of jobs in New England are up 0.6 percent through May 2016, while the number of U.S. jobs are up 0.5 percent.

2016 Job Change Thru May (in thousands)			
Location	Dec 15	May 16	Change
Connecticut	1,680.0	1,688.1	8.1 0.5%
Maine	610.9	611.8	0.9 0.1%
Massachusetts	3,515.4	3,545.9	30.5 0.9%
New Hampshire	661.1	661.1	0.0 0.0%
Rhode Island	488.5	486.7	-1.8 -0.4%
Vermont	313.5	316.4	2.9 0.9%
New England	7,269.4	7,310.0	40.6 0.6%
US	143,146.0	143,894.0	748.0 0.5%

Recession Job Counts

- As of May 2016, three New England states have yet to recover all of the jobs lost during their respective high and low employment periods. Connecticut has recovered 78.8 percent of the 119,100 jobs lost between the peak employment level established in March 2008 and the low employment level which occurred in February 2010. Rhode Island has recovered 77.4 percent of the 39,800 jobs lost between its peak and low period. Maine has recouped 70.4 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 May 2016 (in thousands)**						
Location	Duration	High	Low	Total Jobs Lost	% of Jobs	
					Jobs Gained Since Low	Recovered
Connecticut	Mar '08 - Feb '10	1,713.3	1,594.2	-119.1	93.9	78.8%
Maine	Feb '08 - Aug '10	620.9	590.2	-30.7	21.6	70.4%
Massachusetts	Apr '08 - Oct '09	3,331.5	3,190.1	-141.4	355.8	251.6%
New Hampshire	Jan '08 - Jan '10	652.6	622.0	-30.6	39.1	127.8%
Rhode Island	Dec '06 - Aug '09	495.7	455.9	-39.8	30.8	77.4%
Vermont	Jun '07 - Jul '09	309.6	294.9	-14.7	21.5	146.3%
US	Jan '08 - Feb '10	138,432.0	129,733.0	-8,699.0	14,161.0	162.8%

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

Unemployment Rate					
Location	May 2016	Apr 2016	May 2015	Change From	
				Apr 2016	May 2015
Connecticut	5.7	5.7	5.6	0.0	0.1
Maine	3.5	3.4	4.5	0.1	-1.0
Massachusetts	4.2	4.2	4.9	0.0	-0.7
New Hampshire	2.7	2.6	3.5	0.1	-0.8
Rhode Island	5.4	5.4	6.1	0.0	-0.7
Vermont	3.1	3.2	3.7	-0.1	-0.6
New England	4.4	4.4	5.0	0.0	-0.6
US	4.7	5.0	5.5	-0.3	-0.8

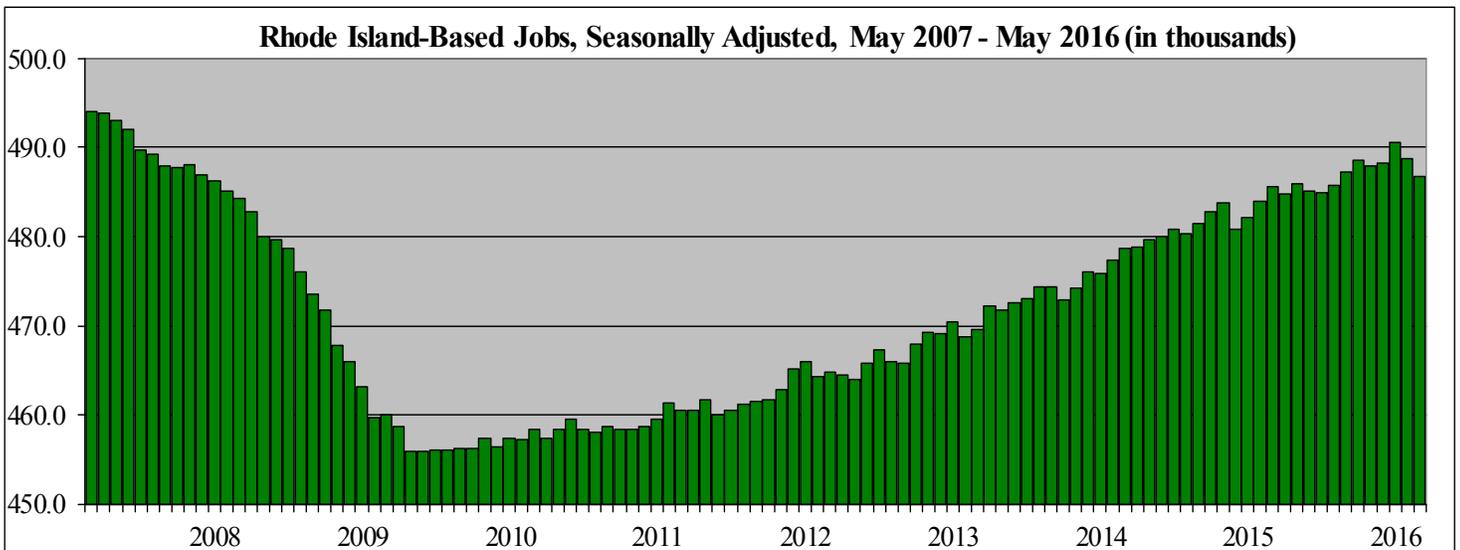
- Over the year, the unemployment rate in the U.S. and in the New England region was down eight-tenths of a percentage point and six-tenths of a percentage point, respectively. Among the New England states, the Maine unemployment rate decreased by 1.0 percentage point OTY, followed by New Hampshire (-0.8), Massachusetts (-0.7) Rhode Island (-0.7) and Vermont (-0.6). In Connecticut, the unemployment rate rose by one-tenth of a percentage point from May 2015.

Labor Force

- The New England labor force rose by 0.1 percent in May, while falling by 0.3 percent across the nation. The labor force rose by 0.5 percent in Maine, followed by New Hampshire (+0.2%), Massachusetts (+0.1%) and Vermont (+0.1%). A declining labor force of 0.1 percent was reported in both Connecticut and Rhode Island.

Civilian Labor Force							
Location	May 2016	Apr 2016	May 2015	Apr 2016	Change From		
					Apr 2016	May 2015	
Connecticut	1,902,289	1,904,932	1,892,424	-2,643	-0.1%	9,865	0.5%
Maine	678,735	675,507	681,808	3,228	0.5%	-3,073	-0.5%
Massachusetts	3,601,895	3,596,834	3,579,552	5,061	0.1%	22,343	0.6%
New Hampshire	748,895	747,099	742,044	1,796	0.2%	6,851	0.9%
Rhode Island	552,489	552,787	556,209	-298	-0.1%	-3,720	-0.7%
Vermont	345,821	345,351	344,934	470	0.1%	887	0.3%
New England	7,824,956	7,815,462	7,783,798	9,494	0.1%	41,158	0.5%
US (in thousands)	158,466	158,924	157,367	-458	-0.3%	1,099	0.7%

- Over the year, the U.S. labor force rose by 0.7 percent, while rising by 0.5 percent in the New England region. Since May 2015, New Hampshire (+0.9%), Massachusetts (+0.6%), Connecticut (+0.5%) and Vermont (+0.3%) all reported an increase in their respective labor force. The labor force in Rhode Island and Maine fell by 0.7 percent and 0.5 percent, respectively, during this period.



May 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