

Total Number of Jobs

- In August, the national workforce and the New England workforce grew at a rate of 0.1 percent from July. Employment in the six state region rose by 8,200, while the U.S. employment grew by 173,000. Three New England states, Maine (+0.4%), Connecticut (+0.2%) and Massachusetts (+0.2%), added more jobs on a percentage basis than the region and nation. Employment in Vermont rose by 0.1 percent, while the employment level in New Hampshire and Rhode Island fell by 0.6 percent and 0.2 percent, respectively.

Location	Total Number of Jobs (in thousands)						
	Aug 2015	Jul 2015	Aug 2014	Change From		Jul 2015	Aug 2014
Connecticut	1,698.9	1,695.7	1,665.7	3.2	0.2%	33.2	2.0%
Maine	611.8	609.5	605.3	2.3	0.4%	6.5	1.1%
Massachusetts	3,502.4	3,495.2	3,412.2	7.2	0.2%	90.2	2.6%
New Hampshire	653.7	657.6	642.6	-3.9	-0.6%	11.1	1.7%
Rhode Island	485.0	485.8	479.4	-0.8	-0.2%	5.6	1.2%
Vermont	314.7	314.5	310.4	0.2	0.1%	4.3	1.4%
New England	7,266.5	7,258.3	7,115.6	8.2	0.1%	150.9	2.1%
US	142,288	142,115	139,369	173.0	0.1%	2,919.0	2.1%

- Massachusetts (+7,200) added the most jobs within the entire New England region on a numeric basis, followed by Connecticut (+3,200), Maine (+2,300) and Vermont (+200). Total nonfarm employment in New Hampshire fell by 3,900, while falling by 800 in Rhode Island.

- Over the year, jobs in the U.S. and the New England region were up 2.1 percent each. The Massachusetts employment level was up 2.6 percent from August 2014, followed by Connecticut (+2.0%), New Hampshire (+1.7%), Vermont (+1.4%), Rhode Island (+1.2%) and Maine (+1.1%).

Job Change through 2015

- In all of 2015, jobs are up 1.6 percent in Massachusetts, the largest percentage increase in all of New England. Also, through August 2015, jobs in Connecticut, Maine and Rhode Island were all up 1.2 percent, followed by Vermont (+1.0%), and Maine (+0.1%).

- The number of jobs in New England is up 1.3 percent in 2015, while the U.S. job count is up 1.2 percent.

2015 Job Change Thru August (in thousands)

Location	Dec 2014	Aug 2015	Change	
Connecticut	1,678.1	1,698.9	20.8	1.2%
Maine	604.7	611.8	7.1	1.2%
Massachusetts	3,445.9	3,502.4	56.5	1.6%
New Hampshire	653.0	653.7	0.7	0.1%
Rhode Island	479.3	485.0	5.7	1.2%
Vermont	311.7	314.7	3.0	1.0%
New England	7,172.7	7,266.5	93.8	1.3%
US	140,592.0	142,288.0	1,696.0	1.2%

Recession Job Counts

- As of August 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 88.2 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 73.1 percent of the 39,800 jobs lost between the peak and low periods. 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 US has also recovered all of the 8.7 million jobs lost between January 2008 and February 2010, the high and low employment levels.

**Recession Job Counts Thru August 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	104.9	88.2%
Maine	Feb '08 - Aug '10	620.9	590.2	-30.7	21.6	70.4%
Massachusetts	Apr '08 - Oct '09	3,325.0	3,182.7	-142.3	319.7	224.7%
New Hampshire	Jan '08 - Jan '10	652.7	622.4	-30.3	31.3	103.3%
Rhode Island	Dec '06 - Aug '09	495.7	455.9	-39.8	29.1	73.1%
Vermont	Jun '07 - Jul '09	309.6	294.9	-14.7	19.8	134.7%
US	Jan '08 - Feb '10	138,365.0	129,649.0	-8,716.0	12,639.0	145.0%

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

Unemployment Rate						
Location				Change From		
	Aug 2015	Jul 2015	Aug 2014	Jul 2015	Aug 2014	
Connecticut	5.3	5.4	6.4	-0.1	-1.1	
Maine	4.5	4.6	5.6	-0.1	-1.1	
Massachusetts	4.7	4.7	5.6	0.0	-0.9	
New Hampshire	3.6	3.7	4.2	-0.1	-0.6	
Rhode Island	5.6	5.8	7.4	-0.2	-1.8	
Vermont	3.6	3.6	4.1	0.0	-0.5	
New England	4.6	4.7	5.8	-0.1	-1.2	
US	5.1	5.3	6.1	-0.2	-1.0	

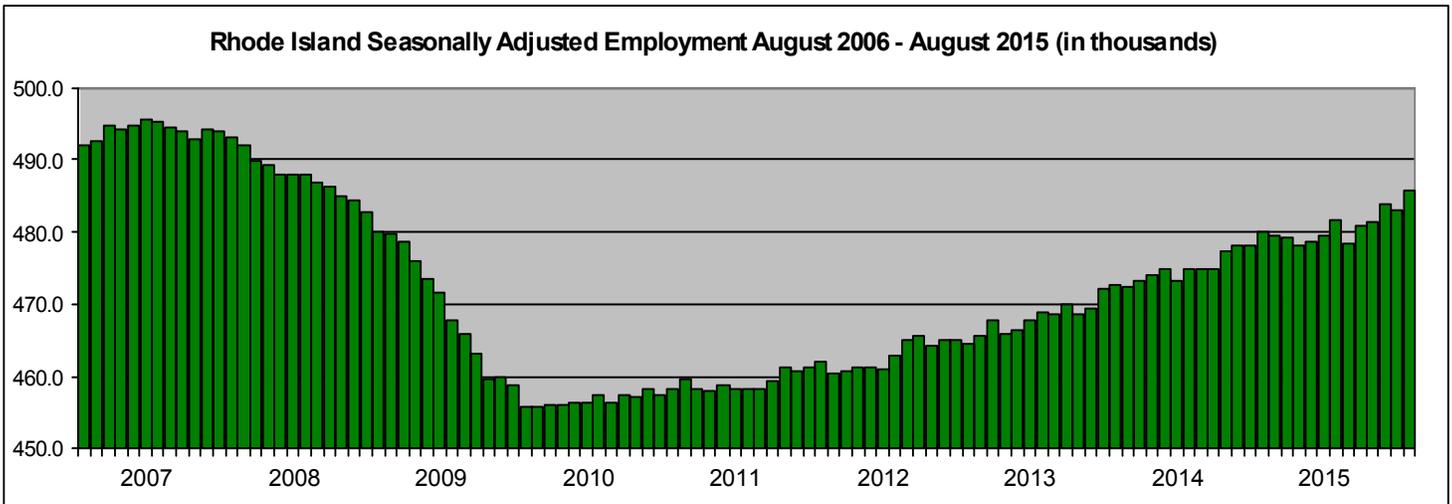
• Over the year, the unemployment rate in New England and in the nation was down 1.2 percentage points and one percentage point, respectively. Among the New England states, the Rhode Island unemployment rate dropped by 1.8 percentage points from August 2014, followed by Connecticut (-1.1), Maine (-1.1), Massachusetts (-0.9), New Hampshire (-0.6) and Vermont (-0.5).

Labor Force

• The August labor force fell by 0.4 percent in the New England region and remained unchanged on a percentage basis within the nation. Among the regional states, a decreasing labor force of 0.6 percent was reported in Massachusetts, followed by declines reported in Connecticut (-0.4%), Maine (-0.4%), New Hampshire (-0.2%) and Vermont (-0.2%). Rhode Island (+0.1%) was the lone New England state to report a rise in their August labor force.

Civilian Labor Force							
Location				Change From			
	Aug 2015	Jul 2015	Aug 2014	Jul 2015	Aug 2014		
Connecticut	1,903,148	1,910,826	1,886,766	-7,678	-0.4%	16,382	0.9%
Maine	689,267	692,131	697,549	-2,864	-0.4%	-8,282	-1.2%
Massachusetts	3,591,529	3,614,577	3,561,162	-23,048	-0.6%	30,367	0.9%
New Hampshire	747,412	748,824	740,433	-1,412	-0.2%	6,979	0.9%
Rhode Island	560,206	559,804	553,312	402	0.1%	6,894	1.2%
Vermont	348,723	349,386	348,872	-663	-0.2%	-149	0.0%
New England	7,849,225	7,883,157	7,794,929	-33,932	-0.4%	54,296	0.7%
US (in thousands)	157,065	157,106	156,018	-41	0.0%	1,047.0	0.7%

• Over the year, the labor force in New England rose by 0.7 percent, while also rising by 0.7 percent in the nation. Since August 2014, Rhode Island (+1.2%), Connecticut (+0.9%), Massachusetts (+0.9%) and New Hampshire (+0.9%) all reported an increase in their labor force. The labor force in Maine is down 1.2 percent from a year ago and the labor force in Vermont is unchanged.



August 2015