

Total Number of Jobs

- In December, job growth within the New England region was strong as the area as a whole added 17,400 jobs (+0.2%). The US added 252,000 (+0.2%) jobs. Three New England states; New Hampshire (+0.6%), Connecticut (+0.3%) and Massachusetts (+0.3%), all outpaced the nation in terms of job growth on a percentage basis.

- Massachusetts (+10,900) added the most numeric jobs in the entire New England region, followed by Connecticut (+4,800) and New Hampshire (+3,700). On a percentage basis, New Hampshire's employment level grew by 0.6 percent, the largest gain among area states. Employment in Connecticut and Massachusetts each grew by 0.3 percent.

- Vermont shed 1,400 (-0.4%) jobs in December, followed by Maine (-500) and Rhode Island (-100).

- Over-the-year, jobs in the US and in the New England region were up 2.1 percent and 1.6 percent, respectively. State by state, Massachusetts employment is up 1.8 percent OTY, followed by Rhode Island (+1.6%), Connecticut (+1.6%), Vermont (+1.3%) and New Hampshire (+1.3%). Maine's employment level is up 0.8 percent since December 2013.

Total Number of Jobs (in thousands)							
Location	Dec 2014	Nov 2014	Dec 2013	Change From			
				Nov 2014	Dec 2013	Nov 2014	Dec 2013
Connecticut	1,690.2	1,685.4	1,663.5	4.8	0.3%	26.7	1.6%
Maine	609.2	609.7	604.1	-0.5	-0.1%	5.1	0.8%
Massachusetts	3,447.6	3,436.7	3,386.7	10.9	0.3%	60.9	1.8%
New Hampshire	652.9	649.2	644.3	3.7	0.6%	8.6	1.3%
Rhode Island	478.9	479.0	471.2	-0.1	0.0%	7.7	1.6%
Vermont	310.2	311.6	306.3	-1.4	-0.4%	3.9	1.3%
New England	7,189.0	7,171.6	7,076.1	17.4	0.2%	112.9	1.6%
US	140,347	140,095	137,395	252.0	0.2%	2,952.0	2.1%

Job Change through 2014

- In all of 2014, jobs were up 1.8 percent in Massachusetts, the largest percentage increase in all of New England. Jobs were up 1.6 percent each in Rhode Island and Connecticut. Employment in New Hampshire and Vermont was up 1.3 percent in 2014, followed by a 0.8 percent increase in Maine.

- Nationally, jobs were up 2.1 percent in 2014, while New England employment was up 1.6 percent.

2014 Job Change Thru Dec. (in thousands)			
Location	Dec 2013	Dec 2014	Change
Connecticut	1,663.5	1,690.2	26.7 1.6%
Maine	604.1	609.2	5.1 0.8%
Massachusetts	3,386.7	3,447.6	60.9 1.8%
New Hampshire	644.3	652.9	8.6 1.3%
Rhode Island	471.2	478.9	7.7 1.6%
Vermont	306.3	310.2	3.9 1.3%
New England	7,076.1	7,189.0	112.9 1.6%
US	137,395.0	140,347.0	2,952.0 2.1%

Recession Job Counts

- In December 2014, Connecticut recovered 80.9 percent of the 119,100 jobs lost between their peak employment level established in March 2008 and the low employment level which occurred in February 2010. Maine has recovered 61.3 percent of the 30,500 jobs lost between their peak and low periods. Elsewhere, Rhode Island has recovered 57.8 percent of their lost jobs.

- Massachusetts* has recovered all of their lost employment as noted below. In addition, Vermont has regained all of their 14,700 jobs which were lost between their high and low periods, while New Hampshire has recovered the 31,400 jobs lost from their high employment level in January 2008 and their low level in January 2010.

**Recession Job Counts Thru December 2014 (in thousands)						
Location	Duration	High	Low	Total Jobs Lost	Jobs Gained Since Low	% of Jobs Recovered
Connecticut	Mar '08 - Feb '10	1,713.0	1593.9	-119.1	96.3	80.9%
Maine	Feb '08 - Aug '10	621.0	590.5	-30.5	18.7	61.3%
Massachusetts*	Apr '08 - Oct '09	3,325.0	3,184.2	-140.8	263.4	187.1%
New Hampshire	Jan '08 - Jan '10	652.7	621.3	-31.4	31.6	100.6%
Rhode Island	Dec '06 - Aug '09	495.7	455.9	-39.8	23.0	57.8%
Vermont	Jan '07 - Jul '09	309.6	294.9	-14.7	15.3	104.1%
US	Jan '08 - Feb '10	138,365.0	129,655.0	-8,710.0	10,692.0	122.8%

- The US has recovered all of the 8.7 million jobs between January 2008 and February 2010.

* To date, Massachusetts has surpassed their job count level prior to the start of the recession and also surpassed their overall high employment level established in February 2001.

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

Unemployment Rate

- In December, the unemployment rate decreased in all New England states. In Rhode Island and Massachusetts, the unemployment rate decreased by three-tenths of a percentage point, the largest drop in the area. In Maine and Vermont, the unemployment rate decreased by two-tenths of a percentage point, followed by Connecticut (-0.1) and New Hampshire (-0.1).

- The New England and national rate decreased by two-tenths of a percentage point.

- Over-the-year, the unemployment rate in New England and in the US was down 1.3 percentage points and 1.1 percentage points, respectively. Among the New England states, the Rhode Island unemployment rate decreased by 2.5 percentage points OTY, followed by Massachusetts (-1.6), New Hampshire (-1.2), Connecticut (-1.0) and Maine (-0.9). The unemployment rate in Vermont remained unchanged since December 2013.

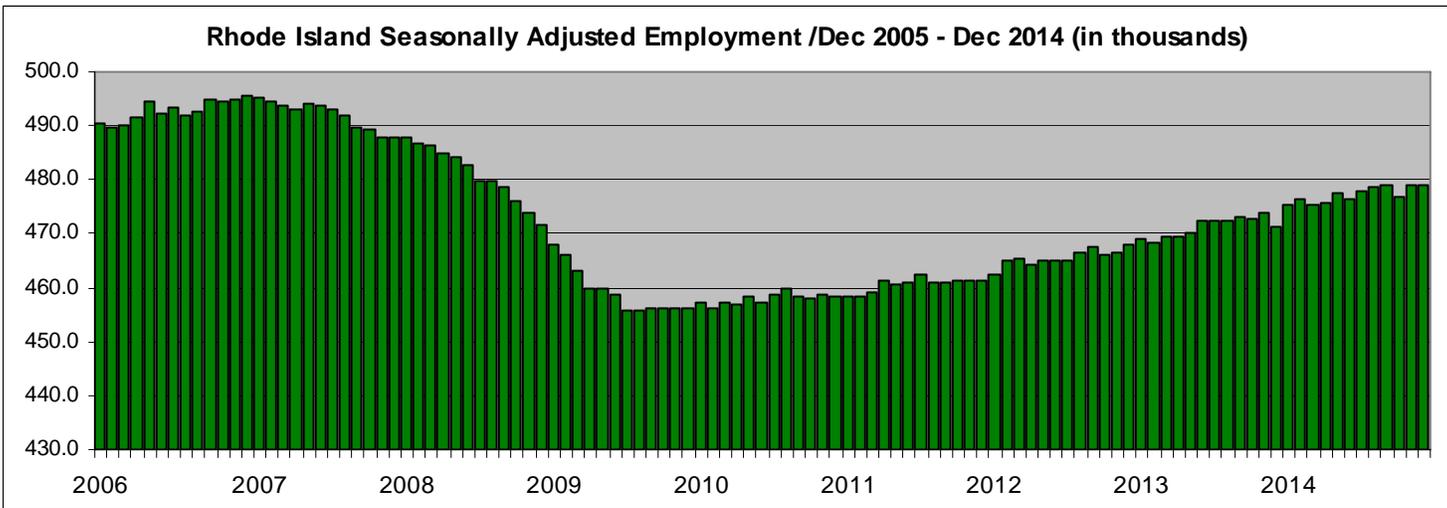
Unemployment Rate					
Location	Dec 2014	Nov 2014	Dec 2013	Change From	
				Nov 2014	Dec 2013
Connecticut	6.4	6.5	7.4	-0.1	-1.0
Maine	5.5	5.7	6.4	-0.2	-0.9
Massachusetts	5.5	5.8	7.1	-0.3	-1.6
New Hampshire	4.0	4.1	5.2	-0.1	-1.2
Rhode Island	6.8	7.1	9.3	-0.3	-2.5
Vermont	4.2	4.4	4.2	-0.2	0.0
New England	5.6	5.8	6.9	-0.2	-1.3
US	5.6	5.8	6.7	-0.2	-1.1

Labor Force

- The December labor force rose by 0.2 percent in New England while decreasing by 0.2 percent in the US. The labor force in Connecticut grew by 0.4 percent, followed by New Hampshire (+0.3%), Massachusetts (+0.1%) and Vermont (+0.1%). The labor force in Rhode Island shrunk by 0.1 percent in December, while shrinking by 0.2 percent in Maine.

- Over-the-year, the labor force in New England rose by 1.9 percent, while rising by 0.7 percent in the US. Since December 2013, Connecticut (+3.3%), Massachusetts (+2.4%), Vermont (+0.6%), Rhode Island (+0.5%) and New Hampshire (+0.4%) reported an increase in their labor force. Maine (-1.0%) was the lone New England state to experience a decline in their labor force from a year ago.

Civilian Labor Force							
Location	Dec 2014	Nov 2014	Dec 2013	Change From			
				Nov 2014	Dec 2013		
Connecticut	1,906,038	1,898,657	1,845,784	7,381	0.4%	60,254	3.3%
Maine	701,081	702,354	708,400	-1,273	-0.2%	-7,319	-1.0%
Massachusetts	3,566,437	3,563,568	3,483,094	2,869	0.1%	83,343	2.4%
New Hampshire	744,216	742,262	741,145	1,954	0.3%	3,071	0.4%
Rhode Island	552,640	553,338	550,107	-698	-0.1%	2,533	0.5%
Vermont	352,253	351,898	350,218	355	0.1%	2,035	0.6%
New England	7,824,390	7,809,226	7,680,276	15,164	0.2%	144,114	1.9%
US (in thousands)	156,129	156,402	155,047	-273	-0.2%	1,082.0	0.7%



December 2014