



Rhode Island Department of Labor & Training Greater Rhode Island Workforce Investment Area



The Greater Rhode Island Workforce Investment Area (WIA) encompasses all cities and towns in Rhode Island with the exception of Providence and Cranston. The Greater Rhode Island WIA had a combined estimated population of 796,706 in 2018. This represented a 0.3 percent (+2,568) increase in estimated total population between Census 2010 and 2018. In comparison, the state’s population as a whole increased by 4,748 residents (+0.5%) during this period. Approximately 75.4 percent of all Rhode Islanders lived in the Greater Rhode Island WIA in 2018.

Between 2006 (peak RI employment) and 2018, the labor force of Greater Rhode Island decreased by 22,810 people (-5.1%). During this period, resident employment declined by 18,148 (-4.2%), while the number of unemployed in the area decreased by 4,662 (-22.0%). Greater RI had an annual average unemployment rate of 3.9 percent for 2018, slightly lower than the statewide annual average unemployment rate of 4.1 percent. During the height of the recession, the area’s unemployment rate was 11.0 percent with 48,062 residents unemployed.

Greater Rhode Island WIA Annual Average Labor Force Statistics *Not Seasonally Adjusted*

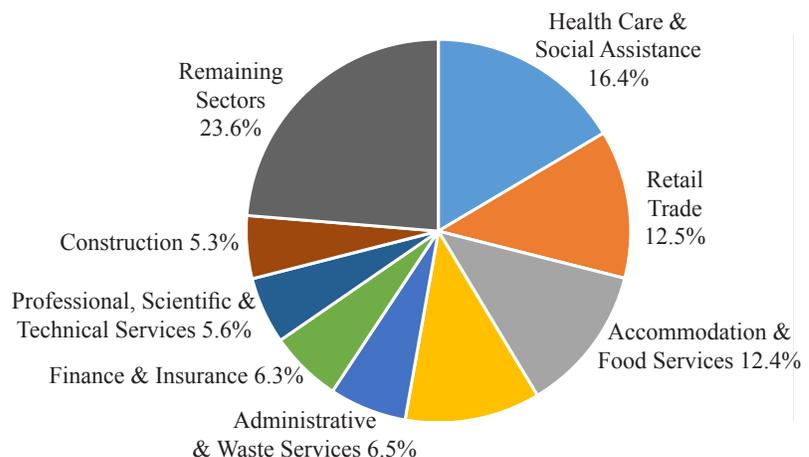
	2006	2010	2017	2018	2006-2010		2010-2018	
					Change	%Change	Change	%Change
Total Population	806,913	794,138	795,949	796,706	-12,775	-1.6%	2,568	0.3%
Labor Force	450,190	436,601	425,907	427,380	-13,589	-3.0%	-9,221	-2.1%
Employment	428,959	388,539	407,816	410,811	-40,420	-9.4%	22,272	5.7%
Unemployment	21,231	48,062	18,091	16,569	26,831	126.4%	-31,493	-65.5%
Unemployment Rate	4.7	11.0	4.2	3.9	6.3	---	-7.1	---

The number of jobs located in the Greater Rhode Island WIA averaged 330,904 in 2018, accounting for 68.7 percent of all Ocean State employment. Private sector employment averaged 292,276 in 2018, representing 88.3 percent of the employment in Greater Rhode Island. Within the private sector, the Health Care & Social Assistance sector (16.4%) accounted for the most jobs, followed by Retail Trade (12.5%), Accommodation & Food Services (12.4%), Manufacturing (11.4%), Administrative Support & Waste Management Services (6.5%) and Finance & Insurance (6.3%).

In 2006, Greater Rhode Island established a private peak employment level of 289,304. Shortly thereafter, the nation entered into an economic recession and in 2010, the Greater Rhode Island area reached a low employment level of 268,851. Overall, Greater Rhode Island lost 20,453 (-7.1%) private sector jobs between the peak and low periods, while statewide private sector employment as a whole fell by 7.3 percent during this period.

During the recession, substantial numeric job losses in the Greater Rhode Island area were reported in the Manufacturing (-9,305), Construction (-5,130) and Retail Trade (-3,961) sectors. Four employment sectors did report job growth between 2006 and 2010 led by Health Care & Social Assistance which added 1,784 jobs. Management of Companies (+538), Educational Services (+302) and Arts, Entertainment & Recreation (+11) also added jobs during the economic downturn.

Total Private Sector Employment in the Greater Rhode Island WIA by Industry Sector



In 2018, 23,425 (+8.7%) private sector jobs were added back to the Greater Rhode Island area since the low point in 2010. The Accommodation & Food Services (+4,938) sector added the most private sector jobs followed by the Administrative & Waste Services (+4,841), Professional, Scientific & Technical Services (+3,217), Construction (+2,584), and Management of Companies (+2,361) sectors. Three private sectors were still feeling the effects of the recession as the Information (-783), Health Care and Social Assistance (-568) and Wholesale Trade (-270) sectors were still posting job losses between 2010 (the low employment level) and 2018.

Statewide, over 34,400 (+8.9%) private sector jobs were added between the low employment level in 2010 and 2018.

In 2018, private sector employment in the Greater Rhode Island area averaged 292,276 an increase of 2,798 (+1.0%) from the 2017 employment level. Statewide, private sector employment grew by 0.8 percent during this period.

The Accommodation & Food Services sector added 1,930 jobs between 2017 and 2018, the largest numeric increase. The Management of Companies (+805), Professional, Scientific & Technical Services (+677) and Construction (+611) sectors also reported sizable numeric gains. On a percentage basis, the Management of Companies sector rose by 8.8 percent, the largest percentage gain during this period.

Between 2017 and 2018, Arts, Entertainment & Recreation (-1,480), Educational Services (-1,421), Wholesale Trade (-1,091) and Information (-657) were the only sectors to post over the year job losses in the Greater Rhode Island area.

The 2018 annual average private sector wage was \$50,280 in Greater Rhode Island, an increase of \$896 (+1.8%) from the 2017 annual wage. Management of Companies & Enterprises led all of Greater Rhode Island's employment sectors with a 2018 annual wage of \$123,367. The Finance & Insurance sector reported the second highest private sector annual wage of \$93,204, followed by Information (\$78,919), Wholesale Trade (\$77,277) and Professional & Technical Services (\$75,355) sectors. The lowest annual average private sector wages were reported in Accommodation & Food Services (\$20,898) followed by Arts, Entertainment, & Recreation (\$31,760), Other Services (\$32,059) and Retail Trade (\$32,852).

The 2018 annual statewide private sector wage was \$51,747 or \$1,467(+2.9%) more than the Greater Rhode Island 2018 private sector wage.

Greater Rhode Island WIA Covered Employment								
<i>Annual Average Employment</i>								
	<u>2006</u>	<u>2010</u>	<u>2017</u>	<u>2018</u>	2006-2010		2010-2018	
					<u>Change</u>	<u>% Change</u>	<u>Change</u>	<u>% Change</u>
Total, Private Sector & Government	330,790	307,939	327,597	330,904	-22,851	-6.9%	22,965	7.5%
Total, Private Sector only	289,304	268,851	289,478	292,276	-20,453	-7.1%	23,425	8.7%
Construction	17,991	12,861	14,834	15,445	-5,130	-28.5%	2,584	20.1%
Manufacturing	41,382	32,077	33,194	33,228	-9,305	-22.5%	1,151	3.6%
Wholesale Trade	12,838	12,217	13,038	11,947	-621	-4.8%	-270	-2.2%
Retail Trade	40,101	36,140	36,062	36,457	-3,961	-9.9%	317	0.9%
Transportation & Warehousing	7,921	7,479	9,063	9,096	-442	-5.6%	1,617	21.6%
Information	5,305	4,689	4,563	3,906	-616	-11.6%	-783	-16.7%
Finance & Insurance	19,518	17,871	17,907	18,388	-1,647	-8.4%	517	2.9%
Real Estate & Rental & Leasing	4,705	3,899	4,296	4,368	-806	-17.1%	469	12.0%
Professional, Scientific & Technical Svcs.	13,671	13,236	15,776	16,453	-435	-3.2%	3,217	24.3%
Management of Companies	7,028	7,566	9,122	9,927	538	7.7%	2,361	31.2%
Administrative & Waste Services	14,462	14,118	18,386	18,959	-344	-2.4%	4,841	34.3%
Educational Services	6,859	7,161	9,289	7,868	302	4.4%	707	9.9%
Health Care & Social Assistance	46,789	48,573	47,493	48,005	1,784	3.8%	-568	-1.2%
Arts, Entertainment & Recreation	6,308	6,319	9,546	8,066	11	0.2%	1,747	27.6%
Accommodation & Food Services	31,430	31,314	34,322	36,252	-116	-0.4%	4,938	15.8%
Other Services	12,095	11,877	12,167	12,306	-218	-1.8%	429	3.6%
Government	40,487	39,089	38,119	38,606	-1,398	-3.5%	-483	-1.2%

Employment changes may be influenced by non-economic code changes resulting from industry revisions and/or changes in employers' reporting methods.
Data is subject to revision and may not add due to rounding.

In September 2019, 71.6 percent of the 4,663 individuals collecting unemployment insurance benefits were residents of the Greater RI WIA. Thirty percent of the Greater Rhode Island insured unemployed faced long-term unemployment.

Long-term unemployment, which is unemployment spells of fifteen weeks or longer, was slightly less (30%) among Greater RI area residents than in the state (30.3%) as a whole. Workers in the 60-64 age group living in the Greater RI area (33%) were more likely to face long-term unemployment than their counterparts statewide (32.4%).

Nearly 22 percent (21.6%) of the Greater RI area residents collecting unemployment insurance benefits were between the ages of 45-54 and an additional 21.3% were between 35 and 44 years of age.

Over 13 percent of the unemployed Greater RI residents collecting benefits in September 2019 were previously employed in Healthcare & Social Assistance (13.3%), followed by Manufacturing (10.5%), Retail Trade (9.8%) and Administrative & Waste Services (9.8%).

Over sixteen percent of the unemployed Greater RI residents collecting benefits in September 2019 were previously employed as Office & Administrative Support (16.4%), followed by Management (10.5%), Production (7.3%) and Transportation & Material Moving (6.3%) occupations. Nearly forty percent of the Sales & Related (38.7%) sector employees had been unemployed for fifteen weeks or longer.

Characteristics of the Insured Unemployment Living in the Greater RI WIA September 2019

	<i>Total</i>	<i>Percent of Total</i>	<i>Long-Term</i>	<i>Percent Long -Term</i>
Total	3,339	100%	1,003	30.0%
Male	1,666	49.9%	496	29.8%
Female	1,673	50.1%	507	30.3%
Age	3,339	100%	1,003	30.0%
Under 25	132	4.0%	41	31.1%
25-34	659	19.7%	184	27.9%
35-44	710	21.3%	230	32.4%
45-54	722	21.6%	192	26.6%
55-59	425	12.7%	121	28.5%
60-64	358	10.7%	118	33.0%
65 or over	333	10.0%	117	35.1%
Education	3,339	100%	1,003	30.0%
Less than 9th Grade	55	1.6%	12	21.8%
9th to 12th, no diploma	200	6.0%	38	19.0%
High School Graduate	1,022	30.6%	309	30.2%
Some College	830	24.9%	268	32.3%
Bachelor's Degree	420	12.6%	122	29.0%
Beyond Bachelor's	743	22.3%	234	31.5%
Unknown	69	2.1%	20	29.0%
Industry	3,339	100%	1,003	30.0%
Construction	306	9.2%	53	17.3%
Manufacturing	351	10.5%	112	31.9%
Wholesale Trade	171	5.1%	67	39.2%
Retail Trade	328	9.8%	129	39.3%
Transportation & Warehousing	108	3.2%	31	28.7%
Finance & Insurance	193	5.8%	70	36.3%
Professional & Tech. Services	233	7.0%	73	31.3%
Administrative & Waste Services	326	9.8%	84	25.8%
Educational Services	140	4.2%	22	15.7%
Healthcare & Social Assistance	445	13.3%	137	30.8%
Arts, Entertainment & Recreation	75	2.2%	15	20.0%
Accommodation & Food Services	221	6.6%	65	29.4%
Other Services	109	3.3%	27	24.8%
All Other Industries	333	10.0%	118	35.4%
Occupation	3,339	100%	1,003	30.0%
Management	349	10.5%	124	35.5%
Business & Financial Operations	185	5.5%	63	34.1%
Computer & Mathematical	106	3.2%	40	37.7%
Education, Training & Library	80	2.4%	10	12.5%
Healthcare Practitioner & Technical	93	2.8%	22	23.7%
Healthcare Support	84	2.5%	30	35.7%
Food Preparation & Serving Related	154	4.6%	41	26.6%
Personal Care & Service	68	2.0%	17	25.0%
Sales & Related	191	5.7%	74	38.7%
Office & Administrative Support	546	16.4%	185	33.9%
Construction & Extraction	113	3.4%	27	23.9%
Installation, Maintenance & Repair	81	2.4%	28	34.6%
Production	243	7.3%	69	28.4%
Transportation & Material Moving	209	6.3%	54	25.8%
All Other Occupations	837	25.1%	219	26.2%

According to the 2018 American Community Survey (ACS), 1-Year Estimates, Whites account for 85.5 percent of Greater RI's household population compared to 80.7 percent of the state's total household population.

Slightly more than ten percent of Greater RI residents are of Hispanic or Latino origin, while Hispanics/Latinos make up approximately 15.9 percent of the state's total household population.

The ACS indicates 27 percent of Greater RI's household population (age 25 and older) have a high school diploma or equivalent, 18.4 percent have some college-level courses, and 44.3 percent have an associate degree or higher. The percentage of Greater Rhode Island residents without a high school diploma (10.3%) is lower than the statewide percentage of 10.9 percent.

The ACS 2011-2015 commuting pattern data show that 63.8 percent of greater RI residents held jobs that were located in the Greater Rhode Island WIA.

Approximately 83.2 percent of Greater Rhode Island residents worked within Rhode Island borders, while 13.6 percent commuted to a job in neighboring Massachusetts and 2.5 percent traveled to a job in Connecticut.

Approximately 77 percent of the jobs located in the Greater Rhode Island WIA were held by individuals residing in the WIA. Rhode Islanders held roughly 88.1 percent of the jobs located in Greater Rhode Island, while Massachusetts and Connecticut residents accounted for 9.3 percent and 1.9 percent, respectively, of Greater Rhode Island's workforce.

Greater Rhode Island WIA Race & Ethnicity, 2018		
Total Population	796,698	100.0%
One race (of any origin)	775,042	97.3%
White	681,303	85.5%
Black or African American	35,573	4.5%
American Indian and Alaska Native	2,732	0.3%
Asian	18,025	2.3%
Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander	723	0.1%
Some other race	36,686	4.6%
Two or more races (of any origin)	21,656	2.7%
Hispanic or Latino (of any race)	80,706	10.1%
Educational Attainment, 2018		
Total Population (Age 25+)	572,998	100.0%
Less than 9th grade	23,831	4.2%
9th to 12th grade, no diploma	35,219	6.1%
High school graduate (includes equivalency)	154,781	27.0%
Some college, no degree	105,524	18.4%
Associate's degree	51,185	8.9%
Bachelor's degree	119,529	20.9%
Graduate or professional degree	82,929	14.5%
Source: American Community Survey, 2018		

Where Greater Rhode Island WIA Residents Work			Where Greater Rhode Island WIA Workers Live		
Total	391,892	100.0%	Total	324,943	100.0%
Providence, RI	57,995	14.8%	Warwick, RI	27,306	8.4%
Warwick, RI	35,233	9.0%	Providence, RI	21,539	6.6%
Cranston, RI	18,065	4.6%	Pawtucket, RI	15,755	4.8%
Pawtucket, RI	16,017	4.1%	Cranston, RI	14,706	4.5%
South Kingstown, RI	14,383	3.7%	Coventry, RI	13,003	4.0%
East Providence, RI	14,347	3.7%	East Providence, RI	11,205	3.4%
North Kingstown, RI	12,558	3.2%	West Warwick, RI	10,532	3.2%
Woonsocket, RI	11,191	2.9%	North Kingstown, RI	10,392	3.2%
Lincoln, RI	10,212	2.6%	Cumberland, RI	9,396	2.9%
Smithfield, RI	10,060	2.6%	Woonsocket, RI	9,202	2.8%
Other Communities	163,415	41.7%	Other Communities	181,907	56.0%
Greater Rhode Island WIA Residents Work in the State of:			Greater Rhode Island WIA Workers Live in the State of:		
Total	391,892	100.0%	Total	324,943	100.0%
Rhode Island	326,126	83.2%	Rhode Island	286,311	88.1%
Massachusetts	53,274	13.6%	Massachusetts	30,091	9.3%
Connecticut	9,608	2.5%	Connecticut	6,268	1.9%
Other State/Country	2,884	0.7%	Other State/Country	2,273	0.7%
Source: US Census Bureau, American Community Survey 2011-2015					