



OCCUPATIONAL OUTLOOK 2026

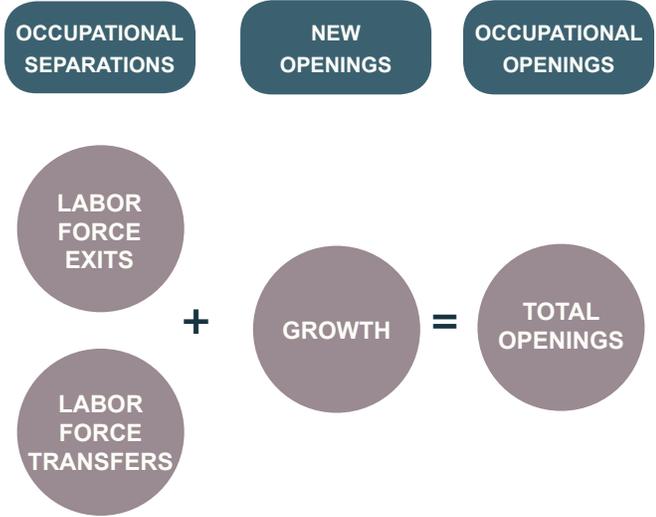
THE BIG PICTURE



Rhode Island employment in 2026 is projected to reach 550,700 an increase of 30,400 (5.9%) from our 2016 employment. Much of this growth is attributed to the increased demand for the products and services provided by the Accommodation & Food Services; Health Care & Social Assistance; Professional, Scientific & Technical Services; and Retail Trade sectors. Nationally, employment is projected to increase by 7.4 percent.



Several occupational groups are expected to grow at above average (7.1%) rates. Among the fastest growing occupational groups are Construction & Extraction (13.8%), Computer & Mathematical (12.3%), Architecture & Engineering (10.5%), Personal Care & Service Occupations (9.4%) and Food Preparation & Serving Related Occupations (8.9%). These occupational groups are expected to generate nearly 12,000 new jobs during the projection period.



A CLOSER LOOK AT PROJECTED EMPLOYMENT FOR RHODE ISLAND IN YEAR 2026

Occupational Group ▼	Employment		Percent Change	Exits	Projected Employment		
	2016	2026			Transfers	Growth	Total
Statewide, All Occupations	520,251	550,715	5.9	250,610	329,654	30,464	610,728
Management Occupations	24,445	26,490	8.4	6,541	13,101	2,045	21,687
Business & Financial Operations Occupations	28,014	30,182	7.7	8,496	16,709	2,168	27,373
Computer & Mathematical Occupations	14,851	16,671	² 12.3	2,670	7,519	1,820	12,009
Architecture & Engineering Occupations	7,871	8,696	³ 10.5	2,040	3,740	825	6,605
Life, Physical, & Social Science Occupations	2,992	3,222	7.7	776	1,742	230	2,748
Community & Social Service Occupations	9,805	10,396	6.0	3,988	6,735	591	11,314
Legal Occupations	6,292	6,714	6.7	1,574	2,196	422	4,192
Education, Training, & Library Occupations	33,122	34,326	3.6	15,131	14,161	1,204	30,496
Arts, Design, Entertainment, Sports, & Media Occupations	8,639	8,967	3.8	3,610	5,134	328	9,072
Healthcare Practitioners & Technical Occupations	36,067	37,908	5.1	9,397	8,710	1,841	19,948
Healthcare Support Occupations	21,541	23,266	8.0	12,810	12,050	1,725	26,585
Protective Service Occupations	12,471	12,735	2.1	6,945	7,041	264	14,250
Food Preparation & Serving Related Occupations	50,887	² 55,424	8.9	40,103	50,495	4,537	¹ 95,135
Building & Grounds Cleaning & Maintenance Occupations	19,543	20,953	7.2	11,823	13,015	1,410	26,248
Personal Care & Service Occupations	17,951	19,641	9.4	13,585	12,698	1,690	27,973
Sales & Related Occupations	50,766	³ 53,106	4.6	29,739	39,641	2,340	³ 71,720
Office & Administrative Support Occupations	76,461	¹ 76,008	-0.6	39,119	45,790	(453)	² 84,456
Farming, Fishing, & Forestry Occupations	1,245	1,305	4.8	463	1,328	60	1,851
Construction & Extraction Occupations	22,148	25,196	¹ 13.8	8,292	15,142	3,048	26,482
Installation, Maintenance, & Repair Occupations	16,927	18,183	7.4	6,102	10,387	1,256	17,745
Production Occupations	31,365	32,727	4.3	13,674	22,825	1,362	37,861
Transportation & Material Moving Occupations	26,848	28,599	6.5	13,732	19,495	1,751	34,978

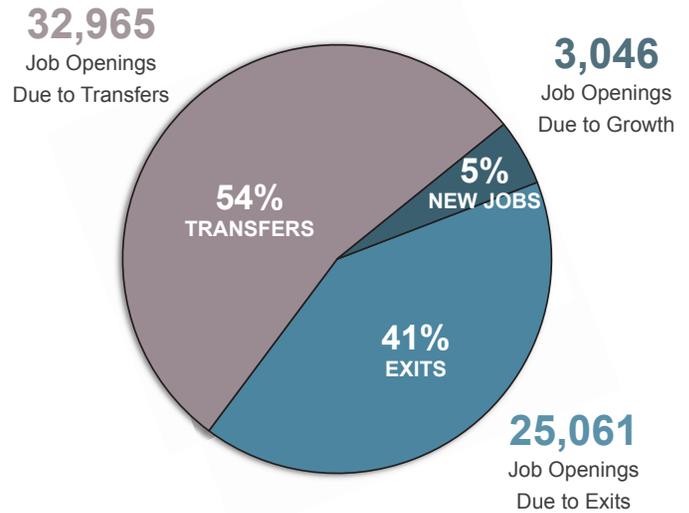
JOB OPENINGS: DUE TO GROWTH, EXITS & TRANSFERS

Job openings result from the need to replace workers who leave the labor market or transfer into a new occupation and from the need to fill vacancies created by business expansion. These employment projections are for the first time based on a new methodology developed by the US Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) that significantly changes the way job openings are estimated.

After years of research, BLS has developed a new methodology for estimating annual job openings that better reflects the changing workforce. The new methodology changes the way job openings are estimated, recognizing that an individual may have several career changes throughout the course of their working life.

Total openings are calculated by projected growth or decline (numeric change) in the number of jobs in a given occupation resulting from business expansion or contraction plus the number of workers leaving the workforce (exits) plus the number of workers changing occupations (transfers). In almost all occupations the total number of job openings is largely dictated by the number of workers leaving the workforce and the number of workers changing occupations. The projected growth or decline is generally a small component of total openings.

ANNUAL OPENINGS



HIGH GROWTH OCCUPATIONS

The top 50 occupations with the greatest number of openings due to growth represent openings created by new or expanding businesses during the projection period.

Occupation	Growth
Combined Food Preparation & Serving Workers	1,721
Carpenters	1,026
Retail Salespersons	942
Registered Nurses	860
Waiters & Waitresses	809
Personal Care Aides	805
Home Health Aides	736
Helpers--Production Workers	719
Software Developers, Applications	639
Cooks, Restaurant	630
General & Operations Managers	612
Janitors & Cleaners	556
Nursing Assistants	524
Welders, Cutters, Solderers, & Brazers	514
Stock Clerks & Order Fillers	509
Laborers & Freight, Stock, & Material Movers (Hand)	483
Accountants & Auditors	459
Plumbers, Pipefitters, & Steamfitters	437
Landscaping & Groundskeeping Workers	433
Financial Managers	430
Construction Laborers	378
Customer Service Representatives	374
Light Truck or Delivery Services Drivers	368
Maintenance & Repair Workers, General	357
First-Line Supervisors: Retail Sales Workers	354
Market Research Analysts & Marketing Specialists	330

Occupation	Growth
Electricians	323
First-Line Supervisors: Food Preparation & Serving Workers	315
Sales Representatives, Wholesale & Manufacturing (Except Technical & Scientific Products)	306
Food Preparation Workers	291
Machinists	279
Maids & Housekeeping Cleaners	263
First-Line Supervisors: Construction Trades & Extraction Workers	258
Heavy & Tractor-Trailer Truck Drivers	252
Medical Assistants	231
First-Line Supervisors: Production & Operating Workers	210
Lawyers	204
Management Analysts	195
Paralegals & Legal Assistants	191
Pharmacy Technicians	189
Nonfarm Animal Caretakers	189
Social & Human Service Assistants	182
Software Developers, Systems Software	169
Hairdressers, Hairstylists, & Cosmetologists	167
Counter Attendants, Cafeteria, Concession, & Coffee Shop	165
Computer Systems Analysts	163
Medical & Health Services Managers	160
Computer User Support Specialists	155
Insurance Sales Agents	153
First-Line Supervisors of Mechanics, Installers, & Repairers	149

FASTEST GROWING OCCUPATIONS

The fastest growing occupations in Rhode Island are considered to be those with both a projected 2026 employment level of 500 or more and a growth rate of at least 10 percent.

	Employment		Percent	Openings Due To			Total
	2016	2026	Change	Exits	Transfers	Growth	
Welders, Cutters, Solderers, & Brazers	1,618	2,132	31.8	499	1,464	514	2,477
Software Developers, Applications	2,252	2,891	28.4	352	1,263	639	2,254
Layout Workers, Metal & Plastic	414	526	27.1	174	325	112	611
Helpers--Production Workers	2,691	3,410	26.7	1635	2,905	719	5,259
Operations Research Analysts	452	564	24.8	104	191	112	407
Sheet Metal Workers	512	629	22.9	197	391	117	705
Plumbers, Pipefitters, & Steamfitters	2,006	2,443	21.8	807	1,488	437	2,732
Personal Care Aides	3,806	4,611	21.2	3359	2,530	805	6,694
Carpenters	4,956	5,982	20.7	1880	3,040	1026	5,946
Market Research Analysts & Marketing Specialists	1,613	1,943	20.5	472	1,220	330	2,022
Home Health Aides	3,637	4,373	20.2	2433	2,024	736	5,193
Nonfarm Animal Caretakers	968	1,157	19.5	726	856	189	1,771
Machinists	1,496	1,775	18.7	568	1,065	279	1,912
Telecommunications Line Installers & Repairers	446	528	18.4	119	361	82	562
Combined Food Preparation & Serving Workers (Including Fast Food)	9,572	11,293	18.0	9238	9,662	1721	20,621
Financial Managers	2,495	2,925	17.2	623	1,341	430	2,394
Nurse Practitioners	752	877	16.6	158	233	125	516
Hotel, Motel, & Resort Desk Clerks	550	636	15.6	328	586	86	1,000
Industrial Engineers	596	688	15.4	146	262	92	500
Electrical Engineers	440	507	15.2	107	190	67	364
Paralegals & Legal Assistants	1,286	1,477	14.9	456	919	191	1,566
Software Developers, Systems Software	1,174	1,343	14.4	172	618	169	959
Electricians	2,323	2,646	13.9	865	1,846	323	3,034
Cleaners of Vehicles & Equipment	769	869	13.0	423	710	100	1,233
Cooks, Restaurant	4,918	5,548	12.8	3066	4,186	630	7,882
Pharmacy Technicians	1,535	1,724	12.3	529	722	189	1,440
Loan Interviewers & Clerks	1,019	1,144	12.3	389	625	125	1,139
Training & Development Specialists	819	919	12.2	267	558	100	925
Cost Estimators	580	649	11.9	194	399	69	662
First-Line Supervisors of Construction Trades & Extraction Workers	2,201	2,459	11.7	746	1,470	258	2,474
Insurance Claims & Policy Processing Clerks	931	1,040	11.7	421	553	109	1,083
Electrical & Electronics Engineering Technicians	726	811	11.7	246	405	85	736
Telecommunications Equipment Installers & Repairers (Except Line Installers)	614	685	11.6	215	459	71	745
Appraisers & Assessors of Real Estate	478	532	11.3	176	146	54	376
Loan Officers	1,276	1,420	11.3	326	747	144	1,217
Computer & Information Systems Managers	1,173	1,304	11.2	218	675	131	1,024
Cooks, Institution & Cafeteria	1,068	1,187	11.1	661	902	119	1,682
Computer User Support Specialists	1,402	1,557	11.1	301	761	155	1,217
Mechanical Engineers	1,209	1,342	11.0	259	531	133	923
Chefs & Head Cooks	600	665	10.8	203	576	65	844
Electronics Engineers, Except Computer	1,148	1,271	10.7	273	484	123	880
Medical & Health Services Managers	1,502	1,662	10.7	430	772	160	1,362
Industrial Machinery Mechanics	600	663	10.5	213	326	63	602
Civil Engineers	842	930	10.5	192	436	88	716
Marketing Managers	576	636	10.4	138	368	60	566
Operating Engineers & Other Construction Equipment Operators	683	752	10.1	274	503	69	846
Construction Laborers	3,765	4,143	10.0	1379	2,606	378	4,363
Heating, Air Conditioning, & Refrigeration Mechanics & Installers	750	825	10.0	218	528	75	821

HIGH DEMAND OCCUPATIONS

The occupations with the most total openings will be the ones most in demand over the projection period. The 50 occupations listed are projected to have 348,000 job openings and account for more than half of the total openings through 2026. For most of the occupations listed, the need to replace workers leaving an occupation is projected to create more openings than openings created by new/expanding businesses.

Occupation	Total
Retail Salespersons	21,904
Waiters & Waitresses	20,839
Combined Food Preparation & Serving Workers (Including Fast Food)	20,621
Cashiers	19,450
Customer Service Representatives	13,077
Nursing Assistants	12,352
Office Clerks, General	10,934
Janitors & Cleaners	10,346
Stock Clerks & Order Fillers	9,947
Laborers & Freight, Stock, & Material Movers, Hand	9,298
Food Preparation Workers	8,277
Counter Attendants, Cafeteria, Concession, & Coffee Shop	8,244
Cooks, Restaurant	7,882
Landscaping & Groundskeeping Workers	7,691
Registered Nurses	7,409
Bookkeeping, Accounting, & Auditing Clerks	6,807
Personal Care Aides	6,694
First-Line Supervisors of Retail Sales Workers	6,644
Bartenders	6,270
General & Operations Managers	6,232
Secretaries & Administrative Assistants (Except Legal, Medical, & Executive)	6,099
Carpenters	5,946
Sales Representatives, Wholesale & Manufacturing (Except Technical & Scientific Products)	5,898
First-Line Supervisors: Office & Administrative Support Workers	5,652
Teacher Assistants	5,531

Occupation	Total
Maids & Housekeeping Cleaners	5,301
Helpers--Production Workers	5,259
First-Line Supervisors of Food Preparation & Serving Workers	5,198
Home Health Aides	5,193
Light Truck or Delivery Services Drivers	5,107
Accountants & Auditors	5,081
Receptionists & Information Clerks	5,054
Childcare Workers	4,669
Maintenance & Repair Workers, General	4,520
Construction Laborers	4,363
Heavy & Tractor-Trailer Truck Drivers	4,244
Security Guards	3,973
Dishwashers	3,419
Management Analysts	3,287
Hairdressers, Hairstylists, & Cosmetologists	3,286
Hosts & Hostesses, Restaurant, Lounge, & Coffee Shop	3,262
Dining Room & Cafeteria Attendants & Bartender Helpers	3,218
Social & Human Service Assistants	3,189
Substitute Teachers	3,135
Electricians	3,034
Medical Assistants	3,016
Team Assemblers	2,960
Medical Secretaries	2,916
First-Line Supervisors of Production & Operating Workers	2,833
Automotive Service Technicians & Mechanics	2,770

Visit www.dlt.ri.gov/lmi/proj.htm for additional data and tables.



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