In 2017, out of a Rhode Island civilian labor force of 570,665 (those aged 16 and older) who were either working or actively seeking employment, 24.9%, or 141,911, were aged 55 and older.

In Rhode Island, men (52.8%) and women (47.2%) comprised nearly equal percentages of the labor force aged 55 and older.

Nationally, men accounted for 52.9% of the labor force aged 55 and older, while 47.1% were women.

Median weekly earnings in the United States were greatest, on average, for the 45-54 age bracket at $1,015, followed by workers aged 35-44 at $991.

The median weekly earnings for workers 65 and older were $924.

The national median weekly earnings for all workers aged 16 and older were $887 in the third quarter of 2018.
In 2017, the total civilian labor force participation rate for the state was 65.3 percent. The labor force participation rate for those aged 55-64 was 70.6 percent, while the labor force participation rate for 65+ was 20.9 percent. Nationally, the labor force participation rate for these two groups were 64.9 percent and 17.9 percent, respectively.

Of Rhode Island’s 877,959 working age residents, approximately 325,369 (37.1%) were aged 55 and older in 2017. Nationally, 35.6 percent of the US working age population is aged 55 and older.

Rhode Island had a larger percentage of working age residents aged 55-64 (16.9%) than the national average (16.1%).

Among the working age population, the percentage of RI residents aged 55-64 increased from 15.2% in 2010 to 16.9% in 2017.

Of the New England states, Maine (18.9%) had the highest percentage of the working age population aged 55-64, while Massachusetts (16.4%) had the lowest. Rhode Island (16.9%) ranked fifth in New England.

In 2017, the unemployment rate for the 55 to 64 age group (4.8%) was 0.9 of a percentage point lower than the 5.7% state average (16 and older age group). The unemployment rate for the 65+ age group was 1.7%.

Nationally, the unemployment rate for workers aged 16 and older was 5.3%. Workers aged 55 to 64 had an unemployment rate of 3.5%, while those aged 65 and older had an unemployment rate of 3.2%.

In Rhode Island, women (4.2%) in the 55-64 age group were less likely to be unemployed than men (5.3%) in the same age group. Nationally, men (3.7%) were also more likely to be unemployed than women (3.3%).