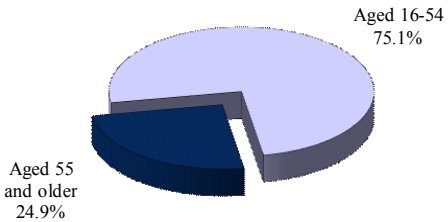
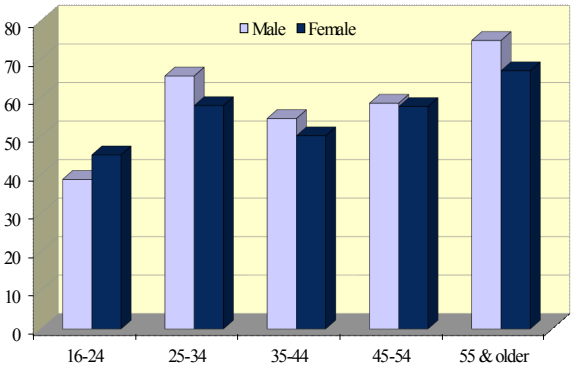
Rhode Island Civilian Labor Force

Civilian Labor Force by Age
Rhode Island, 2017



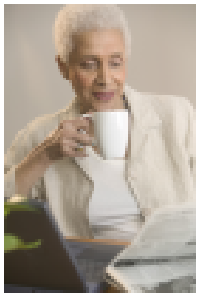
- In 2017, out of a Rhode Island civilian labor force of 570,665 (those aged 16 and older) who were either working or actively seeking employment, 24.9%, or 141,911, were aged 55 and older.

Civilian Labor Force
by Sex and Age, Rhode Island, 2017
(in thousands)



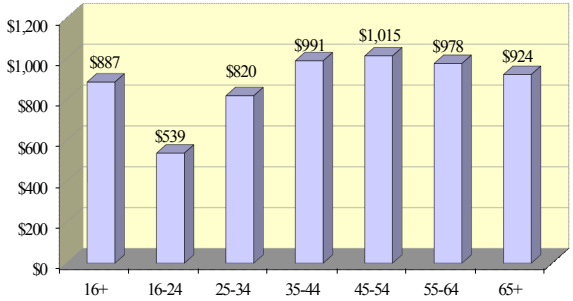
- In Rhode Island, men (52.8%) and women (47.2%) comprised nearly equal percentages of the labor force aged 55 and older.
- Nationally, men accounted for 52.9% of the labor force aged 55 and older, while 47.1% were women.

National Weekly Earnings



- 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.

Median Weekly Earnings by Age
United States, Third Quarter, 2018



Sources: US Census Bureau, 2015 American Community Survey; US Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics, Current Population Survey

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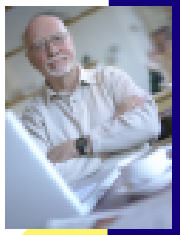
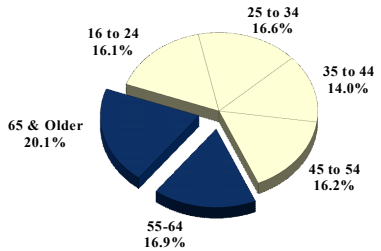
Rhode Island's Older Workforce

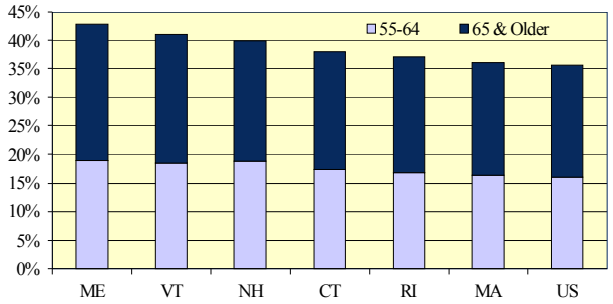


Rhode Island's Working Age Population, 2017



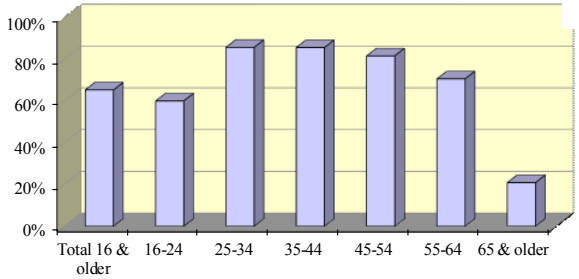
- Of Rhode Island's 877,959 working age residents, approximately 325,369 (37.1%) were aged 55 and older in 2017. Nationally, 35.6 percent of the US working age population is aged 55 and older.
- Rhode Island had a larger percentage of working age residents aged 55-64 (16.9%) than the national average (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.

Percent of Working Age Population Aged 55 and Older United States and New England, 2017



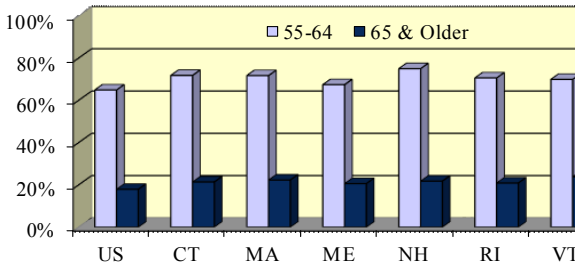
- In 2017, the total civilian labor force participatio rate for the state was 65.3 percent. The labor force participation rate for those aged 55-64 wa 70.6 percent, while the labor force participation rate for 65+ was 20.9 percent. Nationally, the labor force participation rate for these two groups were 64.9 percent and 17.9 percent, respectively.

Civilian Labor Force Participation Rates by Age, Rhode Island, 2017



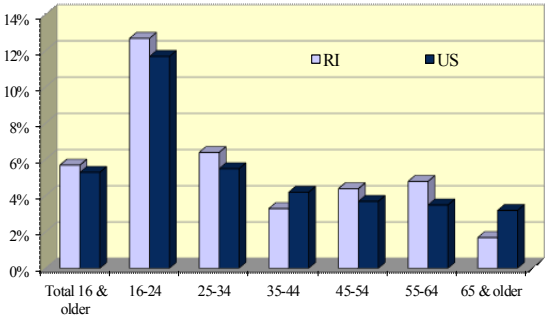
- Men (50.7%) aged 55 and older were more likely to be participating in the labor force than women (37.8%).

Aged 55 and Older Labor Force Participation Rates, United States and New England, 2017



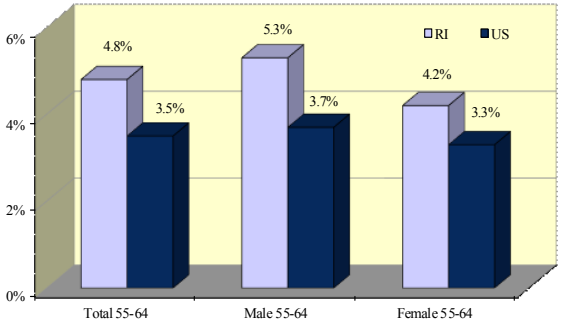
- Nationally, the civilian labor force participation rate for those aged 55-64 was 64.9%, 5.7 percentage points lower than Rhode Island (70.6%). In New England, New Hampshire (75.0%) and Connecticut (71.8%) had the highest participation rate for those aged 55-64.

Unemployment Rates by Age United States and Rhode Island, 2017



- 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%.

Unemployment Rates by Sex and Age United States and Rhode Island, 2017



- 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%).