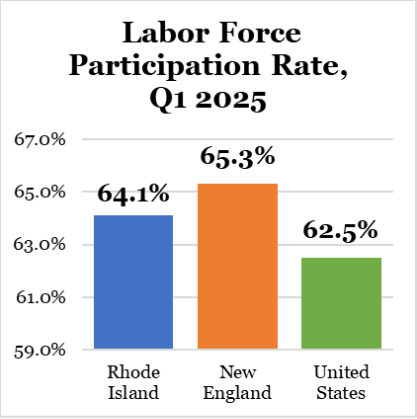
Rhode Island Key Performance Indicators
QUARTERLY BRIEFING
A JOINT PUBLICATION OF THE CENTER FOR GLOBAL AND REGIONAL ECONOMIC STUDIES AT BRYANT UNIVERSITY AND THE RHODE ISLAND PUBLIC EXPENDITURE COUNCIL
RIPEC

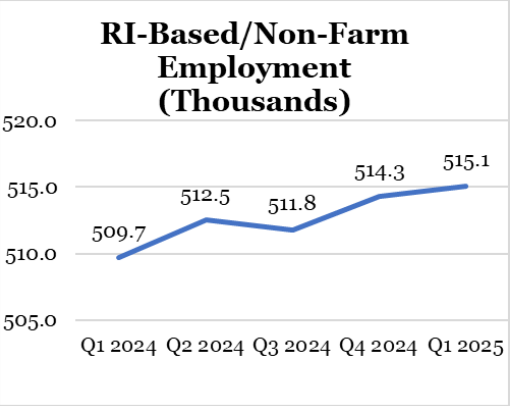
Q1 2025 – Highlights

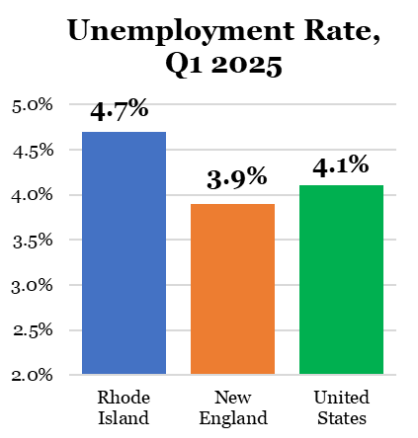
- Rhode Island's nonfarm employment continued to grow in Q1 2025, but several key economic indicators demonstrated weakness.
- The Ocean State's labor force participation rate decreased for the third consecutive quarter in Q1 2025 to 64.1 percent and was down year-over-year. A long-term trend, labor force participation in Rhode Island was lower than the New England region (65.3 percent) and greater than the nation (62.5 percent) in Q1 2025.
- Rhode Island's unemployment rate increased to 4.7 percent in Q1 2025, representing the seventh straight quarter in which the unemployment rate has either increased or held steady. Rhode Island's unemployment rate was higher than both New England (3.9 percent) and the U.S. (4.1 percent) for the fifth consecutive quarter.
- Net sales tax receipts, a key indicator of aggregate demand, decreased 2.4 percent in Q1 2025 and 0.2 percent in Q4 2024 (*seasonally adjusted*). Year-over-year, however, net sales tax receipts grew by 0.4 percent.

Indicator	Change	
	Year-Over-Year	Quarter-Over-Quarter
Non-Farm Employment	↑	↑
Unemployment Rate	↑	↑
Labor Force Participation Rate	↓	↓
Net Sales Tax Receipts	↑	↓

Note: Quarter-over-quarter change compares Q1 2025 to Q4 2024; Year-over-year change compares Q1 2025 to Q1 2024.







- The number of Rhode Island-based jobs (non-farm employment) and the number of employed Rhode Islanders moved in opposite directions in Q1 2025.
- The Ocean State added 800 jobs in Q1 2025 and was up 5,400 jobs year-over-year. Rhode Island nonfarm employment has been generally growing since Q3 2020.
- Conversely, the number of employed Rhode Islanders fell by 2,300 jobs in Q1 2025 and was down by 2,400 jobs year-over-year. Prior to decreases in the last three quarters, employment had generally been growing since Q3 2020.
- The number of unemployed Rhode Islanders was 27,900 in Q1 2025, an increase of 1,100 quarter-over-quarter, and an increase of 4,100 year-over-year.

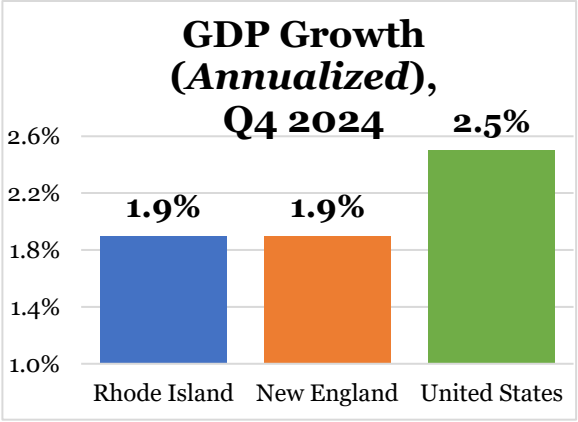
- In Q4 2024, Rhode Island's Gross Domestic Product (GDP) grew for the fourth straight quarter. Increasing by 1.9 percent over Q3 (*annualized*), Rhode Island's GDP growth was the same as the region but lower than the U.S. (2.5 percent). GDP data from Q1 2025 are not yet available.

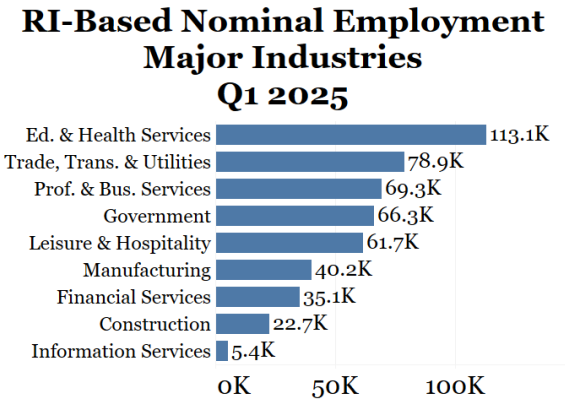
- In Q1 2025, Rhode Island-based jobs increased in five major industry sectors and reduced in three, with no change in construction.

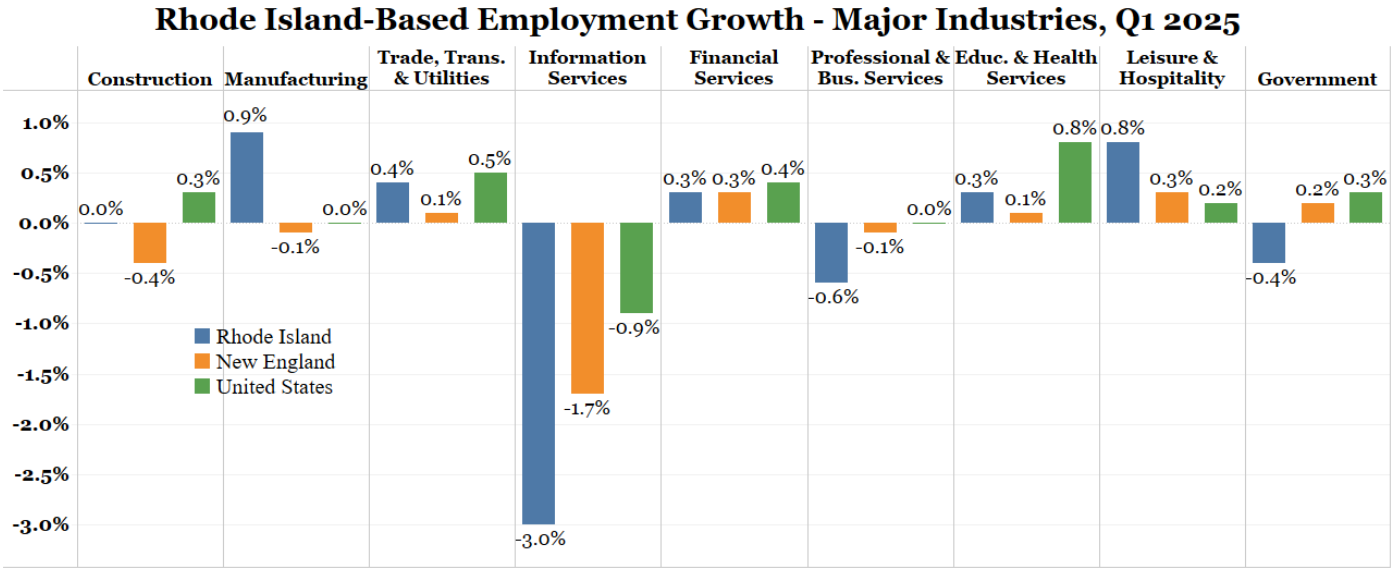
- Leisure and hospitality experienced the highest levels of job growth among major industry sectors in Rhode Island in Q1 2025 (500 jobs), followed by manufacturing and trade, transportation and utilities (400 jobs each). Education and health services—Rhode Island's largest industry sector—gained 300 jobs.

- Professional and business services and government respectively shed 400 and 300 jobs in Q1 2025. Information services— Rhode Island's smallest industry sector—shed 200 jobs.

- Compared to Q1 2024, Rhode Island-based jobs were up in seven of nine major industry sectors in Q1 2025. Employment was flat in financial services, and information services had 300 fewer jobs. Trade, transportation, and utilities experienced the greatest year-over-year nominal increase (1,900 jobs).







About the RI KPI
The Rhode Island Key Performance Indicators (KPI) Quarterly Briefing was developed by the Center for Global and Regional Economic Studies at Bryant University and the Rhode Island Public Expenditure Council to highlight key measures that gauge economic activity in the Ocean State on a quarterly basis. The KPI makes use of the most current available data.

Data revisions and corrections
The Quarterly Briefing incorporates revisions to employment data by the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics and to quarterly GDP data by the U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis.

Click here for the data used to create the RI KPI