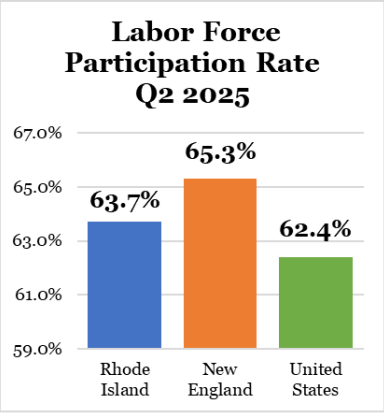
Rhode Island Key Performance Indicators
QUARTERLY BRIEFING
A JOINT PUBLICATION OF THE CENTER FOR GLOBAL AND REGIONAL ECONOMIC STUDIES AT BRYANT UNIVERSITY AND THE RHODE ISLAND PUBLIC EXPENDITURE COUNCIL
RIPEC

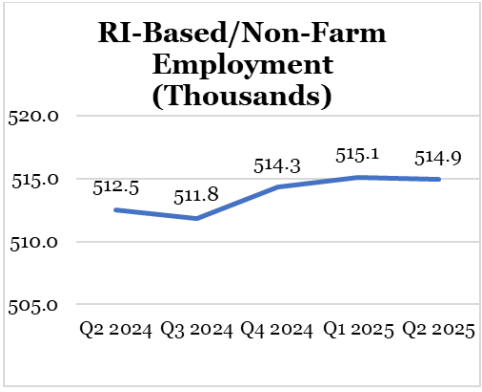
Q2 2025 – Highlights

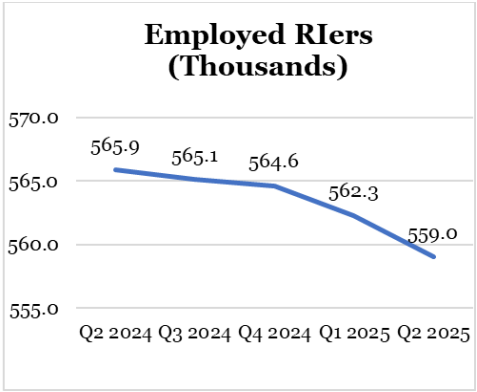
- Rhode Island's economic signals for Q2 2025 are mixed. While non-farm employment stayed flat at historically high levels and estimated net sales tax receipts increased, other indicators—including a sharp drop in the number of employed Rhode Islanders, a rising unemployment rate and a shrinking labor force participation rate—point toward softening economic conditions.
- The Ocean State's labor force participation rate decreased for the fourth consecutive quarter in Q2 2025 to 63.7 percent. A long-term trend, labor force participation in Rhode Island was lower than New England (65.3 percent) and greater than the nation (62.4 percent).
- Rhode Island's unemployment rate increased to 4.9 percent in Q2 2025, representing the eighth straight quarter in which the unemployment rate has either increased or held steady. Rhode Island's unemployment rate was higher than both New England and the U.S. (both 4.2 percent) for the sixth consecutive quarter.
- Preliminary estimates show net sales tax receipts, a key indicator of aggregate demand, increased 2.5 percent in Q2 2025, after a 2.4 percent decrease in Q1 2025 (*seasonally adjusted*). Year-over-year net sales tax receipts grew by 2.2 percent. Figures will be updated in the next Briefing.

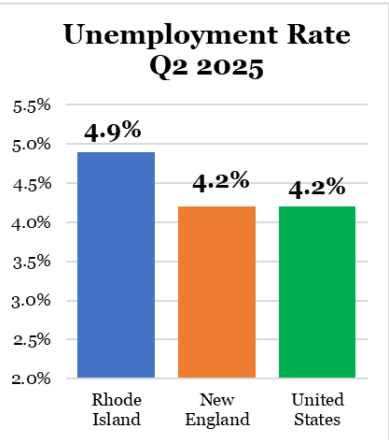
Indicator	Change	
	Year-Over-Year	Quarter-Over-Quarter
Non-Farm Employment	↑	↔
Unemployment Rate	↑	↑
Labor Force Participation Rate	↓	↓
Net Sales Tax Receipts	↑	↑

Note: Quarter-over-quarter change compares Q2 2025 to Q1 2025; Year-over-year change compares Q2 2025 to Q2 2024.



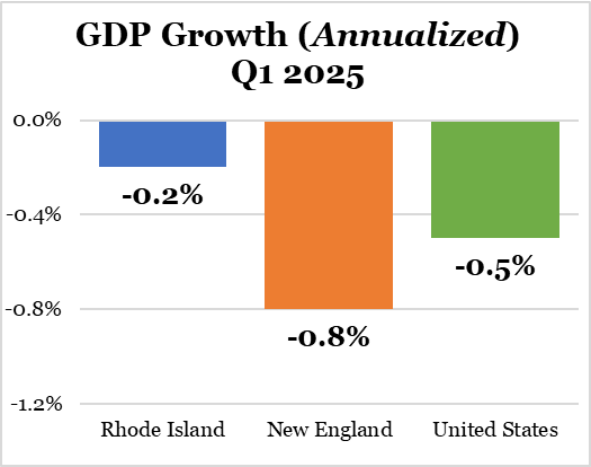


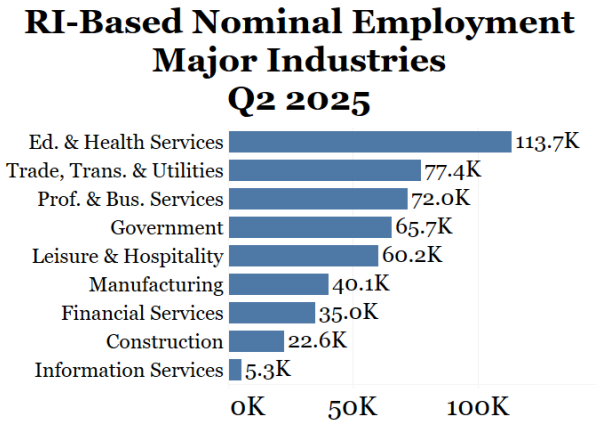


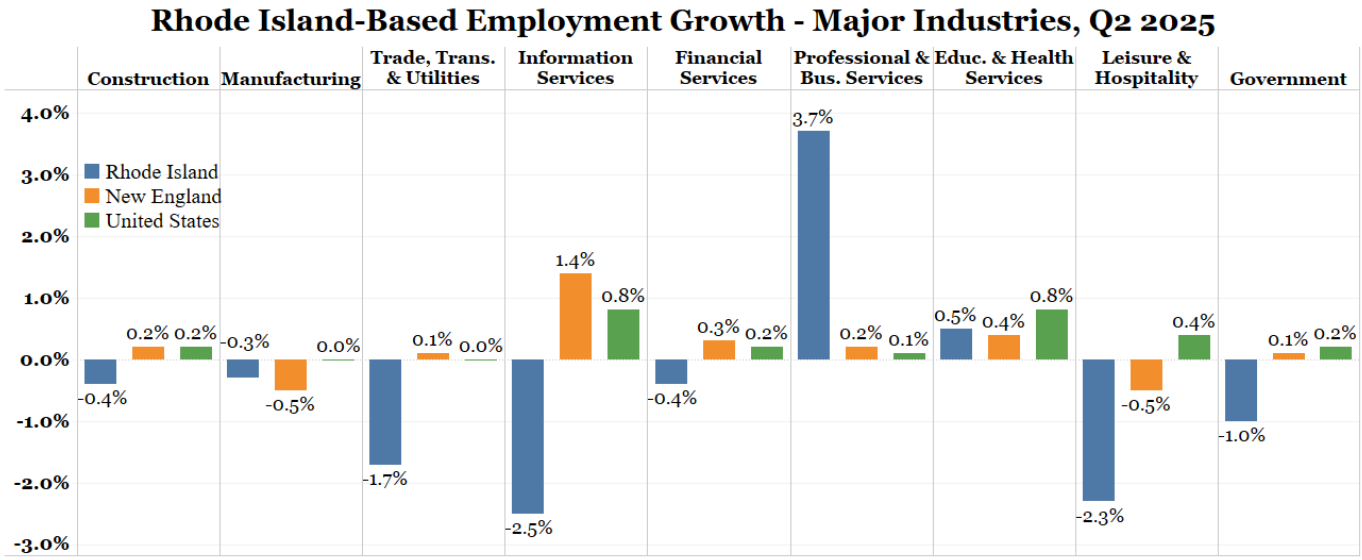


- Rhode Island-based job (non-farm employment) growth was essentially flat in Q2 2025, falling by 200 jobs (0.05 percent). However, non-farm employment was up by 2,400 jobs (0.5 percent) year-over-year.
- In Q2 2025, the number of Rhode Islanders employed decreased by 3,300 jobs (0.6 percent) compared to Q1 2025 and by 6,900 jobs (1.2 percent) compared to Q2 2024. While this measure of employment ticked up through 2023 and the first two quarters of 2024, Q2 2025 marked the fourth straight quarter of decrease.
- The number of unemployed Rhode Islanders was 28,700 in Q2 2025, an increase of 800 (2.8 percent) quarter-over-quarter, and an increase of 3,300 (13.0 percent) year-over-year.

- In Q1 2025, Rhode Island's Gross Domestic Product (GDP) fell by 0.2 percent (*annualized*) after four straight quarters of growth. The GDP of both New England and the United States fell at greater levels (0.8 percent and 0.5 percent, respectively). GDP data from Q2 2025 are not yet available.
- In Q2 2025, Rhode Island-based jobs reduced in six major industry sectors and incresed in two sectors.
- Rhode Island's third largest major industry sector, professional and business services, experienced an increase in jobs of 2,600 in Q2 2025, and its largest sector, education and health services, gained 600 jobs.
- Construction, manufacturing, information services, and financial services each shed a marginal 100 jobs, while larger losses were experienced in leisure and hospitality (1,400 jobs), trade, transportation, and utilities (1,300 jobs), and government (700 jobs).
- Compared to Q2 2024, Rhode Island-based jobs were up in four of nine major industry sectors in Q2 2025: construction, trade, transportation, and utilities, professional and business services, and education and health services. Employment was flat in manufacturing, and the four remaining industry sectors shed jobs year over year.







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