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

Q3 2025 – Highlights

- Rhode Island's economic signals for Q3 2025 are mixed, reflecting economic stability amid slower underlying growth. Although the number of Rhode Island–based jobs (non-farm employment) declined and labor force participation remained unchanged, the number of employed Rhode Islanders rebounded somewhat, and the unemployment rate fell for the first time since Q1 2023.

- Rhode Island-based job growth (non-farm employment) declined by 800 jobs (-0.2 percent) in Q3 2025 but remained 2,300 jobs (0.4 percent) greater than in Q3 2024, and only 1,000 jobs below the record high level of 515,100 set in Q1 2025.

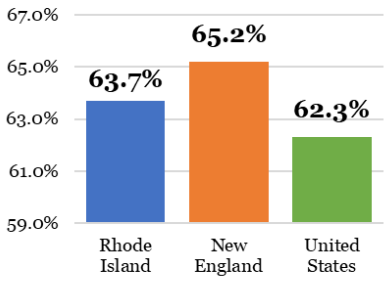
- Rhode Island's unemployment rate fell quarter-over-quarter from 4.9 percent to 4.6 percent in Q3 2025, just above the Q3 2024 rate of 4.5 percent. Rhode Island's unemployment rate was higher than both New England and the U.S. (both 4.3 percent) for the seventh consecutive quarter.

- Net sales tax receipts, a key indicator of aggregate demand, increased 2.2 percent in Q3 2025 and 2.0 percent in Q2 2025 after a 2.4 percent decrease in Q1 2025 (*seasonally adjusted*). Year-over-year net sales tax receipts grew by 1.6 percent

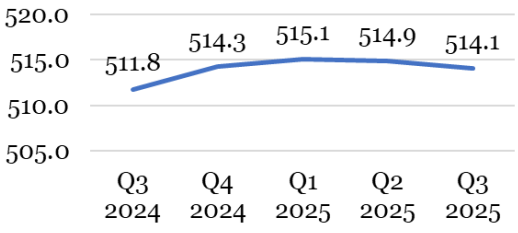
Indicator	Change	
	Year-Over-Year	Quarter-Over-Quarter
Non-Farm Employment	↑	↓
Unemployment Rate	↑	↓
Labor Force Participation Rate	↓	↔
Net Sales Tax Receipts	↑	↑

Note: Quarter-over-quarter change compares Q3 2025 to Q2 2025; Year-over-year change compares Q3 2025 to Q3 2024.

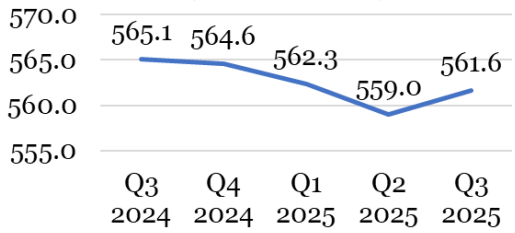
Labor Force Participation Rate Q3 2025



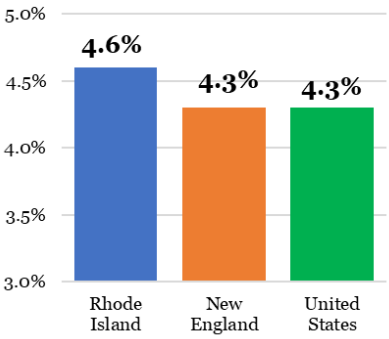
RI-Based/Non-Farm Employment (Thousands)



Employed RIers (Thousands)



Unemployment Rate Q3 2025



- After four consecutive quarters of decline, the Ocean State's labor force participation rate maintained in Q3 2025 at 63.7 percent. A long-term trend, labor force participation in Rhode Island was lower than New England (65.2 percent) and greater than the nation (62.3 percent).

- In Q3 2025, the number of Rhode Islanders employed grew by 2,600 (0.5 percent) to 561,600, the first quarter of increase after four straight quarters of decline. Rhode Island employment was 3,500 jobs (0.6 percent) lower than in Q3 2024.

- In Q3 2025, unemployed Rhode Islanders totaled 27,200, a 1,500 (5.3 percent) quarterly decline that halted nine consecutive quarters of increase. Year-over-year, the number of unemployed residents was up by 800 (3.0 percent).

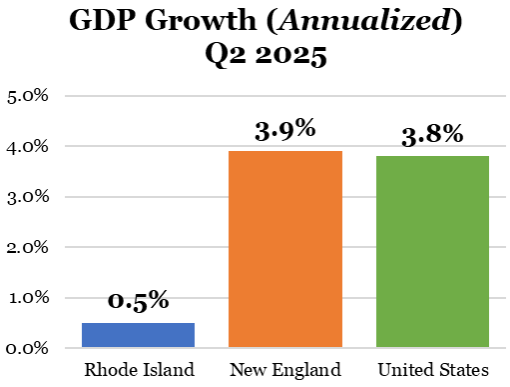
- Rhode Island's Gross Domestic Product (GDP) increased by 0.5 percent (*annualized*) in Q2 2025, reversing a 0.3 percent decline in Q1. This gain was considerably smaller than GDP growth in New England (3.9 percent) and the United States (3.8 percent) over the same quarter. GDP data for Q3 2025 are not yet available.

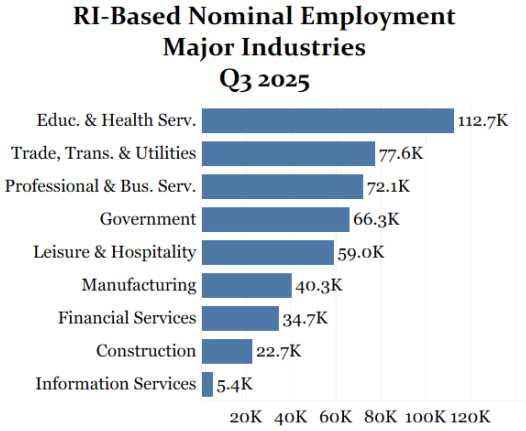
- In Q3 2025, Rhode Island-based jobs increased in five major industry sectors and decreased in three sectors.

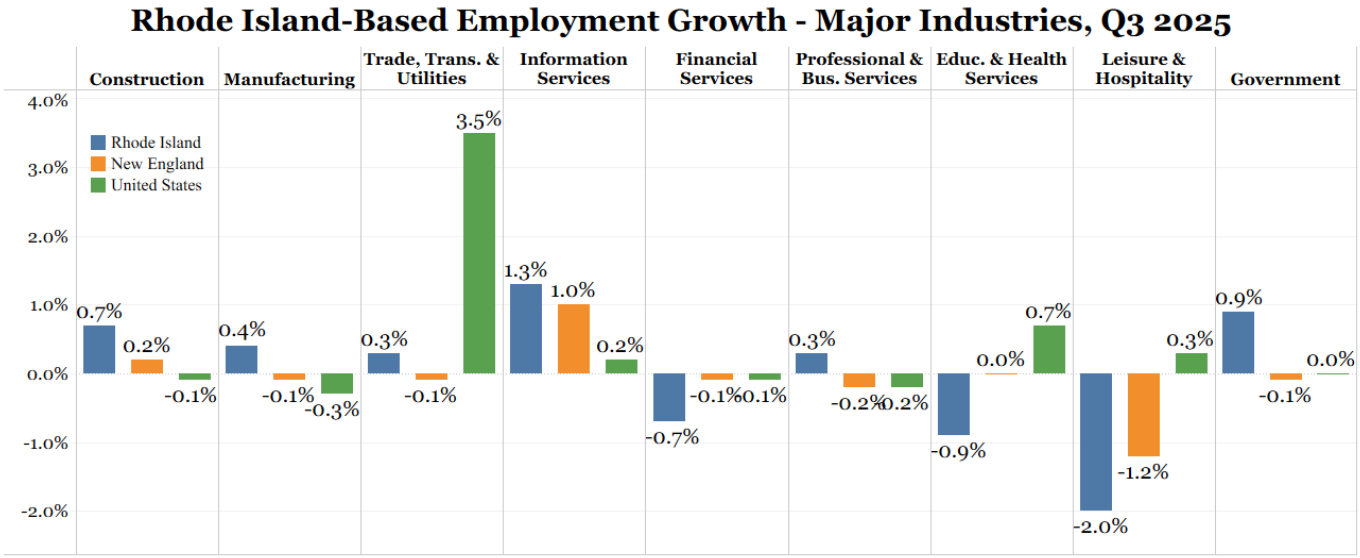
- Government experienced the largest nominal increase in Q3 2025 (500 jobs) but was still 400 jobs down compared to Q3 2024. Increases in other sectors were more marginal; construction, manufacturing, trade, transportation, and utilities, and professional and business services all picked up 200 jobs and information services gained 100 jobs.

- Year-over-year, professional and business services recorded the largest nominal increase in employment (+2,500) in Q3 2025, while leisure and hospitality experienced the largest decrease (-1,200).

- Education and health services—Rhode Island's largest major industry sector—experienced a reduction of 1,100 jobs in Q3 2025.







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. The release of data for Q3 2025 was delayed as a result of the federal government shutdown.

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