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

Q4 2025 – Highlights

- Rhode Island's economy experienced mixed performance in the second half of 2025. While Q3 GDP expanded at a robust annualized rate of 4.4 percent, Q4 data reveal a softening in some sectors. Despite a rebounding number of employed residents and a decline in the unemployment rate, in-state job counts and sales tax receipts edged lower, suggesting that underlying weaknesses in the labor market and aggregate demand persist.

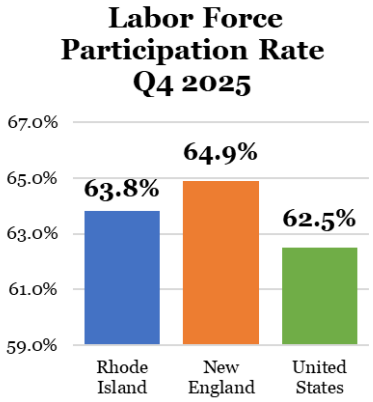
- Net sales tax receipts, a key indicator of aggregate demand, decreased 0.6 percent in Q4 2025, compared to an increase of 2.1 percent in Q3 and 2.0 percent in Q2 (*seasonally adjusted*). Year-over-year net sales tax receipts grew by 1.1 percent

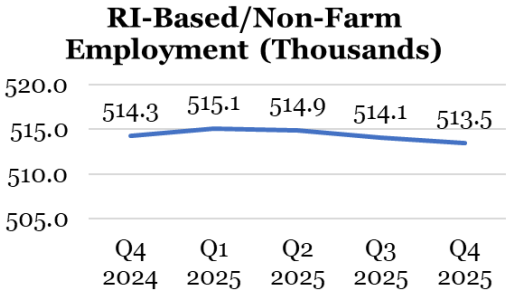
- Rhode Island-based jobs (non-farm employment) totaled 513,500 in Q4, down 600 jobs (-0.1 percent) quarter-over-quarter and 800 jobs (-0.2 percent) year-over-year. There were 1,600 fewer in-state jobs than the record level of 515,100 set in Q1 2025.

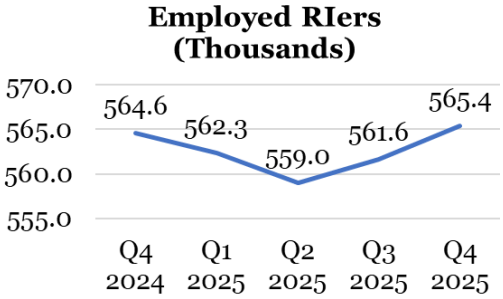
- The number of Rhode Islanders employed rose for a second consecutive quarter, gaining 3,800 jobs (0.7 percent) and reaching 565,400 after four straight quarters of decline. Year-over-year, employment increased by 800 jobs (0.1 percent).

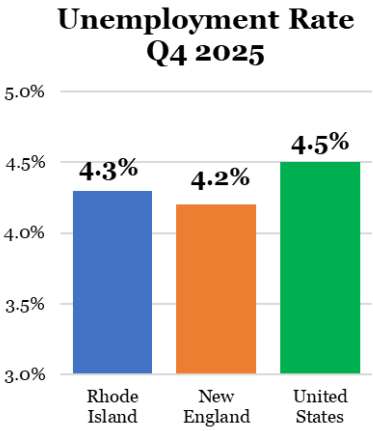
Indicator	Change	
	Year-Over-Year	Quarter-Over-Quarter
Non-Farm Employment	↓	↓
Unemployment Rate	↓	↓
Labor Force Participation Rate	↓	↔
Net Sales Tax Receipts	↑	↓

Note: Quarter-over-quarter change compares Q4 2025 to Q3 2025; Year-over-year change compares Q4 2025 to Q4 2024.









- Rhode Island's unemployment rate declined for the second straight quarter in Q4, falling from 4.6 percent to 4.3 percent, after nine quarters of either increase or no change. The state's unemployment rate fell below the U.S. (4.5 percent) for the first time in seven quarters but remained slightly above New England (4.2 percent).

- The Ocean State's labor force participation rate remained essentially unchanged for the third straight quarter—edging up from 63.7 percent in Q3 to 63.8 percent in Q4—and was below its Q4 2024 rate of 64.3 percent. A long-term trend, Rhode Island's labor force participation rate was lower than New England (64.9 percent) and greater than the nation (62.5 percent) in Q4 2025.

- In Q4 2025, unemployed Rhode Islanders totaled 25,400, a drop of 1,800 quarter-over-quarter and 1,400 year-over-year.

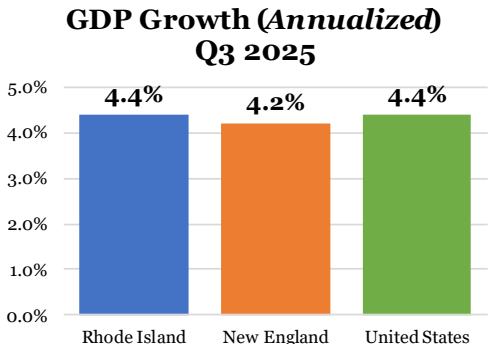
- Rhode Island's Gross Domestic Product (GDP) increased for the second consecutive quarter in Q3 2025, expanding at an annualized rate of 4.4 percent. This growth matched the national rate (4.4 percent) and slightly outpaced the New England regional average (4.2 percent). GDP data for Q4 2025 have not yet been released.

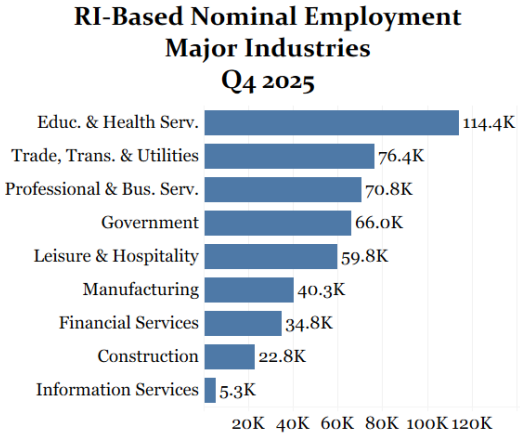
- In Q4 2025, jobs in education and health services—Rhode Island's largest sector—posted the largest nominal gains, adding 1,600 positions. Leisure and hospitality added 800 jobs.

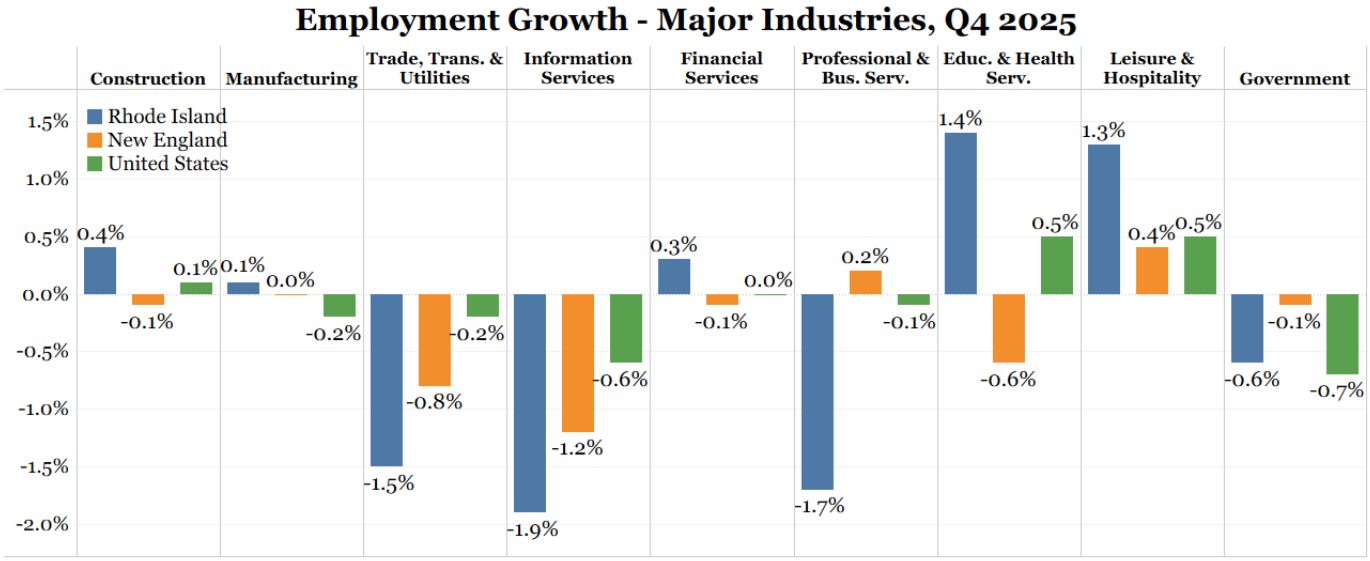
- Job growth was flat in manufacturing (no change) and virtually flat in financial services (+100), construction (+100), and information services (-100).

- Trade, transportation and utilities, along with professional and business services, each shed 1,200 jobs in Q4, while government employment declined by 300.

- Year-over-year, employment rose in education and health services (+1,600), professional and business services (+1,100), and manufacturing (+500). Construction was essentially flat (+100) and the remaining five sectors saw declines.







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. As a result of the federal government shutdown, Q4 data on labor force participation, resident employment, and unemployment represent November and December only.

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