

# Immigrant Job Opportunities



**Map to Success**

## Rhode Island

Job Shortages



Potential Career  
Advancement



Immigration in  
Rhode Island



## Job Shortages

The tables below show the top three occupations that are projected from 2018-2028 of Rhode Island employers based on the level of education they require. There is a state minimum wage of \$11.50 in Rhode Island. The one highlighted occupation under each of the three education levels has been selected to expand on in terms of potential career advancement.

High School (HS) Diploma or Less			
Occupation	<a href="#">Average Annual Job Openings</a>	<a href="#">Median Hourly Wage</a>	<a href="#">State Licensing Required</a>
Cashiers	2,420	\$12.26	No
Retail Salespersons	2,070	\$14.00	No
Waiters & Waitresses	2,030	\$12.17	No

More than HS Diploma, less than Bachelor's Degree			
Occupation	<a href="#">Average Annual Job Openings</a>	<a href="#">Median Hourly Wage</a>	<a href="#">State Licensing Required</a>
Nursing Assistants	1,270	\$16.14	Yes
Bookkeeping, Accounting & Audit Clerks	750	\$22.38	No

Teacher Assistants	520	<a href="#">\$15.79</a>	No
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Bachelor's Degree or Higher			
Occupation	<a href="#">Average Annual Job Openings</a>	<a href="#">Median Hourly Wage</a>	<a href="#">State Licensing Required</a>
Registered Nurses	760	\$39.93	Yes
General & Operations Managers	580	\$64.31	No
Accountants & Auditors	520	\$38.16	Yes

## Potential Career Advancement

### 1) Waiter & Waitress to Certified Food Manager

	Entry Level Job (hourly wage)	Entry Level Requirements	Career Advancement (hourly wage)	Career Advancement Requirements
1	Waiter & Waitress (\$12.17)	Food Handler Certification not required, but preferred	Certified Food Manager (\$29.78)	Pass the ANSI food safety certification exam

#### Waiter & Waitress Job Description:

- [Take](#) orders and serve food and beverages to patrons at tables in a restaurant

#### Entry Level Requirements:

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- Food Handler Certification – not required by Rhode Island state law, but employers may prefer it
- Obtain Food Handlers Card online [here](#) (\$7, 2 hours); click [here](#) to take exam in Español, 普通话, 한국어, Việt, American Sign Language, Tagalog, Serbo-Croatian
- If serving alcohol, must obtain an [alcohol permit](#) (\$10)

#### Certified Food Manager Job Description:

- Responsible for food safety to protect the public from illness as required by state regulations

#### Career Advancement Requirements:

- [Pass](#) the American National Standards Institute (ANSI) certification exam (\$55, 1.5 hours)
- [Online training courses](#) are not required, but provide knowledge to prepare for the exam

## 2) Teacher Assistant to Elementary School Teacher

	Entry Level Job (hourly wage)	Entry Level Requirements	Career Advancement (hourly wage)	Career Advancement Requirements
2	Teacher Assistant (\$15.79)	Pass the ParaPro exam <b>OR</b> Complete at least 2 years of higher education <b>OR</b> Obtain an Associates or higher degree  Complete a state- approved Teacher Assistant Pre-Employment Training Program	Elementary School Teacher <a href="#">(\$35.77)</a>	Bachelor's degree  Complete state- approved teacher program  Pass Praxis Exams  Complete 60 hours of field experience & 12 weeks of student teaching  Apply for certification

#### Teacher Assistant Job Description:

- [Assist](#) in the teaching of academic and social skills to students at any and all school levels

#### Entry Level Requirements:

- Pass the [ParaPro](#) exam(\$55) **OR** complete at least 2 years at an institution of higher education **OR** obtain an Associate's degree or higher
- Complete a state-approved [Teacher Assistant Pre-Employment Training Program](#) (\$270-\$335, 2-6 weeks, exceptions to this requirement listed [here](#))

#### Elementary School Teacher Job Description:

- [Teach](#) academic and social skills to students at the elementary school level

#### Career Advancement Requirements:

- Obtain Bachelor's degree
- [Complete](#) state-approved teacher program from an accredited college
- Pass [Praxis](#) exams (prices found [here](#))
- [Complete](#) 60 hours of field experience and 12 weeks of student teaching
- [Apply](#) for certification in Rhode Island (\$100, renewable every 3 years)

### 3) Accountant & Auditor to Financial Manager

	Entry Level Job (hourly wage)	Entry Level Requirements	Career Advancement (hourly wage)	Career Advancement Requirements
3	Accountant & Auditor (\$38.16)	Bachelor's degree with Accounting concentration  1 year experience in Accounting  Pass the CPA exam  Pass the AICPA Ethics exam	Financial Manager (\$72.70)	Bachelor's degree or higher in finance related field  5+ years of experience in business or finance

#### Accountant & Auditor Job Description:

- [Analyze](#) financial information and prepare financial reports on activities in an organization

#### Entry Level Requirements:

- [Bachelor's](#) degree with accounting concentration and at least 1 year of experience in accounting
- Pass the [CPA](#) exam (Approx. \$900 with \$170 application fee)
- Pass the [AICPA](#) Ethics exam with a minimum score of 90
- State residency required

#### Financial Manager Job Description:

- [Plan](#), direct, or coordinate accounting, investing, banking, insurance, securities, and other financial activities of a branch, office, or department of an establishment

#### Career Advancement Requirements:

- [Bachelor's](#) degree in finance related field required, [Master's](#) degree encouraged

- 5+ years of experience in business or financial occupation, more information found [here](#)

## Immigration in Rhode Island

The following are facts about the [immigrant community in Rhode Island](#):

- Immigrants comprise 13% of the state population and 16% of the Rhode Island labor force
- Top industries of immigrant employment in Rhode Island:
  - Health Care and Social Assistance, 18,438
  - Manufacturing, 17,458
  - Educational Services, 10,072
  - Administrative & Support, Waste Management and Remediation Services, 8,111
  - Retail Trade, 7,675
- 7,187 immigrant business owners account for 16% of all self-employed Rhode Island residents
- 61% of immigrants in Rhode Island are naturalized and another 19% are undocumented
- Top foreign-born countries of origin:
  - Dominican Republic, 19%
  - Guatemala, 10%
  - Portugal, 7%
  - Cabo Verde, 5%
  - India, 4%
- 19% of native-born Rhode Islanders are children of an immigrant
- Educational attainment of foreign born adults in Rhode Island:
  - High School diploma or less – 55%
  - More than HS diploma, less than Bachelor's degree – 18%
  - Bachelor's degree or higher – 27%
    - Share of [Brain Waste](#)\* - 20%

\* Share of [immigrant professionals](#), who are unemployed, employed at poverty-level wages in High School diploma or less jobs, or significantly underemployed in more than HS diploma, less than Bachelor's degree jobs

## Sources

### Jobs

Projections Managing Partnership (PMP), Projections Central – State Occupational Projections, “Long Term Occupational Projection (2018-2028)”; <http://www.projectionscentral.com/Projections/LongTerm>

Bureau of Labor Statistics, May 2019 State Occupational Employment and Wage Estimates; <https://www.bls.gov/oes/current/oessrcst.htm>

Bureau of Labor Statistics, *Employment Projections*, “Education and training assignments by detailed occupation,” 2019; <https://www.bls.gov/emp/tables/education-and-training-by-occupation.htm>

National Council of State Legislatures, “State Minimum Wages”, December 2020; <http://www.ncsl.org/research/labor-and-employment/state-minimum-wage-chart.aspx#Table>

Bureau of Labor Statistics, *Economic News Release*, “Employees on Nonfarm Payrolls by State, Seasonally adjusted”, November 2020; <https://www.bls.gov/news.release/laus.t03.htm>

### Potential Career Advancement

National Conference of State Legislatures, “The National Occupational Licensing Database”, March 2020: <https://www.ncsl.org/research/labor-and-employment/occupational-licensing-statute-database.aspx>

### Immigration

American Immigration Council, State by State Fact Sheet, August 2020; <https://www.americanimmigrationcouncil.org/topics/state-by-state>