Rhode Island

State Outlook

As Rhode Island's population ages, older residents will play a critical role in the state's economic recovery and growth. Even after accounting for the impact of COVID-19, Rhode Island's aging population will continue to make economic and social contributions that benefit people of all ages, and the growth of this age group will fuel innovation and new market solutions. Policymakers, business leaders, and elected officials must ensure programs and policies are in place to support and grow this economic engine.

Key findings:

Rhode Island's 50-plus population creates outsized economic impact and will drive economic growth for the next 30 years. In 2018, the 50-plus population accounted for 38% of Rhode Island's population, yet contributed 44%—or \$28 billion—of the state's total GDP. Their activities also supported 313,000 jobs and generated \$19 billion in wages and salaries. Their contribution to GDP is forecast to reach \$84 billion in 2050—over 47% of the state's projected GDP—when people 50-plus will account for 42% of the population.

The purchasing power of Rhode Island's 50-plus population will generate tax revenue for decades to come. In 2018, the market activities of people 50-plus supported \$2.5 billion in state and local taxes (41% of Rhode Island's total). That figure will more than triple to \$8.7 billion by 2050.

Where do people age 50-plus live?

(%) share by county in 2018

Overview: Economic impact of the 50-plus population

	2018		2050	
	Impact	% of total	Impact	% of total
State GDP	\$28 billion	44	\$84 billion	47
Jobs	313,000	48	343,000	49
Wages and salaries	\$19 billion	50	\$58 billion	52
State and local taxes	\$2.5 billion	41	\$8.7 billion	44

"% of total" refers to 50-plus impact as a percentage of each category.

The 50-plus cohort will grow from 38% to 42% of the population by 2050

(Thousands)

The 50-plus population fuels economic growth, stimulates jobs, and creates opportunities

Economic impact of the 50-plus through 2050

GDP (\$ billion)

Wages and salaries (\$ billion)

State and local taxes (\$ billion)

Jobs (thousand)

Rhode Island

As a major source of Rhode Island's consumer spending, 50-plus households will drive economic growth across sectors

Unpaid contributions

Beyond their economic contributions, the 50-plus cohort also spends time engaging in vital activities like volunteering and caregiving for children and adults. The 50-plus population in Rhode Island contributed \$378 million in volunteering activities and \$2 billion in unpaid caregiving in 2018, with the average person spending 44 hours on volunteering and almost 360 hours on caregiving over the entire year.

The 50-plus population provides \$2 billion in unpaid contributions

Value of unpaid activities, 2018 (\$ billion)
(Values may not sum due to rounding)

■ Under-50 ■ 50-plus

50-plus households accounted for 59 cents of every dollar spent in Rhode Island in 2018—this will grow to 62 cents (62%) by 2050

50-plus share of every dollar spent, for select categories

The market activities of Rhode Island's 50-plus population create jobs, wages, and salaries

In 2030, the 50-plus population's activities will support 320,000 jobs in Rhode Island, driving employment growth across all age groups and industries. Most of these jobs will be created in health services; professional and business services; wholesale and retail trade; and finance, insurance, and real estate (see chart on right).

Labor force: People age 50-plus will continue to play a significant role as part of Rhode Island's workforce: by 2030, 150-plus workers in the state are projected to number 194,000, representing 34% of the state's total labor force.

Which sectors will see biggest jobs impact in 2030?

Methodology: This state profile details the contribution of the 50-plus population, both in-state and through interstate commerce, to Rhode Island's economy. The overall impact includes the direct effects of their spending, work contributions, and taxes paid. It also includes the ripple effects this generates—via business supply chains and through the wages and spending of other workers. All forecasts account for the effects of COVID-19 on U.S. demographic and economic projections. These forecasts were informed by data from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, the Bureau of Economic Analysis, Bureau of Labor Statistics, and The Economist Intelligence Unit's macroeconomic forecasts. For further details see: <http://www.aarp.org/longevity>.

Sources: Economic impact and forecasts (EIU, Regional Economic Models, Inc. (REMI)); Population by age (REMI, U.S. Census Bureau); 50-plus population share by county (U.S. Census Bureau 2018); Spending (EIU, Bureau of Labor Statistics, Bureau of Economic Analysis, REMI); Jobs impact by sector (EIU, REMI); Unpaid contributions (EIU, American Time Use Survey, AARP's Valuing the Invaluable: 2019 Update, Bureau of Labor Statistics).

For more information about the Longevity Economy download our free report. It offers as a roadmap for companies to tap into this growing market.
<http://www.aarp.org/longevity>
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