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July Unemployment Rate Increases to 8.9 percent

The RI Department of Labor and Training announced today that the state’s **seasonally adjusted unemployment rate** for July 2013 increased to 8.9 percent, up one-tenth of a percentage point from the revised June 2013 rate of 8.8 percent and down 1.6 percentage points from the July 2012 rate.

The U.S. unemployment rate was 7.4 percent in July 2013, down two-tenths of a percentage point from the previous month and down eight-tenths of a percentage point over the year.

The number of **unemployed RI residents**—those residents classified as available for and actively seeking employment—was 49,200, down 200 from the previous month. Over the year, the number of unemployed dropped by 9,700.

	<u>Jul 13</u>	<u>Jun 13</u>	<u>Jul 12</u>
RI Unemployment Rate	8.9%	8.8%	10.5%
U.S. Unemployment Rate	7.4%	7.6%	8.2%
RI Job Count (<i>in thousands</i>)	465.8	466.7	465.1

Highlights:

- The RI July unemployment rate increased by one-tenth of a percentage point to 8.9 percent.
- RI-based jobs decreased 900 over the month, due, in part, to losses in the Professional & Business Services sector.
- The Retail Trade and Arts, Entertainment & Recreation sectors showed an employment increase of 400 jobs each over the month.

The number of **employed RI residents** dropped 2,400 over the month, decreasing to 506,600 in July. Over the year, the number of employed RI residents increased 5,000 from July 2012.

The RI labor force totaled 555,900 in July 2013, down 2,500 from June 2013 and down 4,600 from July 2012.

JOBS BASED IN RHODE ISLAND: Estimated nonfarm payroll in Rhode Island totaled 465,800 in July, reflecting a loss of 900 jobs from the June revised employment estimate of 466,700.

The Professional & Business Services sector lost 1,300 jobs in July as several industry groups reported job declines. Large payroll cuts were reported in temporary help services while smaller cuts were reported in accounting & payroll services, security services and business support services.

Employment in the Health Care & Social Assistance sector declined by 700 in July, mainly due to losses in the social assistance subsector. Minor job declines within the sector were noted in the hospitals and ambulatory health care services subsectors. The Construction sector shed 400 jobs over the month as employment among specialty trade contractors trended downward.

Smaller job declines were reported in the Transportation & Utilities (-300), Other Services (-200) and Information (-100) sectors, while employment remained unchanged in the Mining & Logging sector.

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The Retail Trade sector and the Arts, Entertainment & Recreation sector each added 400 jobs in July as clothing stores and health and personal care stores fueled the retail growth, and as the expansion of gaming in Rhode Island contributed to the gain in Arts, Entertainment & Recreation.

Six other industry sectors, Wholesale Trade (+300), Educational Services (+300), Government (+300), Accommodation & Food Services (+200), Financial Activities (+100) and Manufacturing (+100) also reported positive employment gains.

Over the year, total non-farm employment was up by 700, as job gains appeared in six economic sectors, including Professional & Business Services (+2,000), Financial Activities (+1,600), Arts, Entertainment & Recreation (+900), Manufacturing (+500), Wholesale Trade (+200), and Health Care & Social Assistance (+100).

Employment in seven sectors— Accommodation & Food Services (-1,600), Construction (-800), Other Services (-800), Educational Services (-700), Information (-400), Retail Trade (-200) and Transportation & Utilities (-100) was down over the year. Employment in Government and Mining & Logging was unchanged over the year.

MANUFACTURING: In July 2013, production workers in the Manufacturing sector earned \$18.72 per hour, down 2 cents from June 2013 and up 15 cents from July 2012. Manufacturing employees worked an average of 40.0 hours per week in July, up three-tenths of an hour over the month and up eight-tenths of an hour from a year ago.

SEASONALLY-ADJUSTED NON-FARM EMPLOYMENT IN RHODE ISLAND <i>(in thousands)</i>					
	Jul-13	Jun-13	Jul-12	Net Change From	
				Jun-13	Jul-12
Total Nonfarm	465.8	466.7	465.1	-0.9	0.7
Total Private	405.9	407.1	405.2	-1.2	0.7
Natural Resources & Mining	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.0	0.0
Construction	15.0	15.4	15.8	-0.4	-0.8
Manufacturing	40.4	40.3	39.9	0.1	0.5
Wholesale Trade	17.0	16.7	16.8	0.3	0.2
Retail Trade	46.6	46.2	46.8	0.4	-0.2
Transportation & Utilities	10.6	10.9	10.7	-0.3	-0.1
Information	9.1	9.2	9.5	-0.1	-0.4
Financial Activities	33.2	33.1	31.6	0.1	1.6
Professional & Business Services	58.2	59.5	56.2	-1.3	2.0
Educational Services	24.4	24.1	25.1	0.3	-0.7
Health Care & Social Assistance	78.4	79.1	78.3	-0.7	0.1
Arts, Entertainment & Recreation	8.5	8.1	7.6	0.4	0.9
Accommodation & Food Services	42.5	42.3	44.1	0.2	-1.6
Other Services	21.8	22.0	22.6	-0.2	-0.8
Government	59.9	59.6	59.9	0.3	0.0

METHODOLOGY: The unemployment figures are based largely on a survey of households in Rhode Island and measure the unemployment status of people who live in the state. Unemployment rates prior to 1976 are not recognized by the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics as official since the methodology used at that time is not comparable to today’s methods. The establishment employment figures are derived from a survey of businesses in Rhode Island and measure the number of jobs in the state. Rhode Island labor market information is available at www.dlt.ri.gov/lmi. Additional information on procedures for producing CES estimates is available on the BLS website at www.bls.gov/sae/cesprocs.htm. The August labor force figures are scheduled to be released on Thursday, September 19, 2013 at 2:00 P.M.

ABOUT DLT: The RI Department of Labor and Training offers employment services, educational services and economic opportunity to both individuals and employers. DLT protects Rhode Island’s workforce by enforcing labor laws, prevailing wage rates and workplace health and safety standards. The department also provides temporary income support to unemployed and temporarily disabled workers. For more information, please call the RI Department of Labor and Training at (401) 462-8000 or visit the website at www.dlt.ri.gov.