



Rhode Island Department of Labor and Training

MEDIA ADVISORY



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MEDIA CONTACTS:

Laura Hart (401) 462-8090 lhart@dlt.ri.gov
Nicole Romeo (401) 462-8744 nromeo@dlt.ri.gov

	<u>Jul 10</u>	<u>Jun 10</u>	<u>Jul 09</u>
RI Unemployment Rate	11.9%	12.0%	11.4%
U.S. Unemployment Rate	9.5%	9.5%	9.4%
RI Job Count (<i>in thousands</i>)	451.8	451.2	457.4

Highlights:

- The July RI unemployment rate dropped one-tenth of a percentage point over the month.
- The number of unemployed RI residents decreased for the sixth consecutive month.
- The number of jobs in RI increased by 600 from June, as an increase private employment (+1,500) outweighed a decrease in government jobs (-900).

Unemployment Rate Drops to 11.9 Percent

The RI Department of Labor and Training announced today that the state's **seasonally adjusted unemployment rate** for July 2010 was 11.9 percent, a decrease of one-tenth of a percentage point from the state's June 2010 rate. This represents the fifth consecutive over-the-month decrease in the state's unemployment rate, and the lowest rate since August 2009.

The U.S. unemployment rate in July remained at the June level of 9.5 percent.

The number of **unemployed RI residents**—those residents classified as available for and actively seeking employment

—decreased by 1,000 from June figures, dropping to 68,300. This decline marks the sixth straight over-the-month decrease in the number unemployed. Over the year, the number of unemployed RI residents increased by 3,700.

Due to numerous eligibility requirements, the number of unemployed RI residents differs from the number of **RI Unemployment Insurance recipients**. The average weekly claim load for RI Unemployment Insurance benefits in July was 37,279, down 250 (-0.7%) from the June average of 37,529.

The number of **employed RI residents** decreased 1,300 over the June figures, totaling 505,500 in July. This is the second consecutive month in which the number of employed RI residents decreased. Over the year, the number of employed RI residents increased by 3,500, the fifth consecutive over-the-year increase.

The monthly decrease in the number of unemployed residents coupled with the decrease in the number of employed residents resulted in a **total Rhode Island labor force** of 573,800, a decrease of 2,300 over June and an increase of 7,300 over July 2009 figures.

JOBS BASED IN RHODE ISLAND:

In July, Rhode Island nonfarm payroll employment reached 451,800, an increase of 600 from the revised June employment level of 451,200. Total private sector payroll grew by 1,500 over the month. However, Government sector employment fell 900, with a 600 drop in federal jobs and a 300 drop in local government employment

Accommodation & Food Services added 900 jobs between June and July, as local eateries and lodging establishments continue to increase their payrolls. Manufacturing employment increased by 600 over the month, reflecting the reporting of fewer seasonal layoffs for July than normal. Retail Trade also added 600 jobs, due in part to the re-opening of some flood-affected businesses.

(continued)





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Job gains were also noted in Arts, Entertainment & Recreation (+400), Other Services (+400), Health Care & Social Assistance (+100) and Educational Services (+100). Employment remained unchanged in the Transportation & Utilities, Information and Natural Resources & Mining sectors.

Government employment declined by 900 in July. The federal government subsector reported a net loss of 600 jobs over the month, which included an 800 drop in temporary Census workers. Local governments shed 300 jobs last month, while state employment remained unchanged.

Also in July, the Financial Activities sector lost 700 positions, due mainly to losses in the insurance carriers and real estate subsectors. Professional & Business Services (-400), Construction (-300) and Wholesale Trade (-200) were the remaining sectors to report job declines between June and July.

July 2010 employment was down 5,600 (-1.2%) from July 2009, with job declines reported in several economic sectors including Retail Trade (-2,200), Professional & Business Services (-1,700), Manufacturing (-1,200), Construction (-800), Financial Activities (-700) and Wholesale Trade (-600). Smaller over-the-year losses were noted in Arts, Entertainment & Recreation (-400), Government (-300), Information (-200) and Educational Services (-100).

Five sectors—Accommodation & Food Services (+1,200), Health Care & Social Assistance (+600), Other Services (+600), Transportation & Utilities (+100) and Natural Resources & Mining (+100)—added jobs over the year.

MANUFACTURING: In July 2010, production workers in the Manufacturing sector earned \$14.70 per hour. The average hourly production wage was up one cent from June 2010 and up 22 cents from July 2009. Manufacturing employees worked an average of 38.3 hours per week in July, down six-tenths of an hour from June, and up two hours over the year.

SEASONALLY-ADJUSTED NON-FARM EMPLOYMENT IN RHODE ISLAND					
<i>(in thousands)</i>					
	Jul-10	Jun-10	Jul-09	Net Change From	
				Jun-10	Jul-09
Total Nonfarm	451.8	451.2	457.4	0.6	-5.6
Natural Resources & Mining	0.3	0.3	0.2	0.0	0.1
Construction	16.0	16.3	16.8	-0.3	-0.8
Manufacturing	40.6	40.0	41.8	0.6	-1.2
Wholesale Trade	15.2	15.4	15.8	-0.2	-0.6
Retail Trade	44.8	44.2	47.0	0.6	-2.2
Transportation & Utilities	10.1	10.1	10.0	0.0	0.1
Information	9.8	9.8	10.0	0.0	-0.2
Financial Activities	30.3	31.0	31.0	-0.7	-0.7
Professional & Business Services	50.2	50.6	51.9	-0.4	-1.7
Educational Services	23.7	23.6	23.8	0.1	-0.1
Health Care & Social Assistance	77.5	77.4	76.9	0.1	0.6
Arts, Entertainment & Recreation	7.3	6.9	7.7	0.4	-0.4
Accommodation & Food Services	42.1	41.2	40.9	0.9	1.2
Other Services	22.6	22.2	22.0	0.4	0.6
Government	61.3	62.2	61.6	-0.9	-0.3

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. The August labor force figures are scheduled to be released on Friday, September 17, 2010.

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 on the programs and services available to all Rhode Islanders, please call the RI Department of Labor and Training at (401) 462-8000 or visit the web site at www.dlt.ri.gov.

