



Current Employment Statistics 2009 Benchmark Summary



The Rhode Island job count was weaker than previously estimated in December 2009 according to data released by the Rhode Island Department of Labor and Training. The revised December 2009 employment count was 451,900, or 1,900 less than the 453,800 which was originally published. Also, the published December 2008 to December 2009 job loss of 17,400 was revised to an actual loss of 20,600 jobs as the December 2008 employment count was revised up to 472,500 from 471,200.

The revised data is a result of the annual benchmark process through the Current Employment Statistics (CES) program, which produces a monthly job count at the state level. Sample based employment estimates derived from the CES program are revised based on quarterly Unemployment Insurance (UI) tax records filed by all employers. The CES program provides a snapshot of current economic conditions, since the UI tax records are not available until several months after the estimated month.

The sectors which experienced the largest downward employment revisions in December 2009 as a result of the benchmark process include Financial Activities (-1,900), Manufacturing (-1,600) and Construction (-700). Smaller downward revisions were made in Accommodation & Food Services (-400), Arts, Entertainment & Recreation (-300), Transportation & Utilities (-200) and Wholesale Trade (-200).

Offsetting the downward revisions were positive employment revisions in Educational Services (+1,100), Health Care & Social Assistance (+1,100), Government (+400), Retail Trade (+400) and Other Services (+300).

The largest revisions in 2009 were made to the July and August employment estimates, as the effects of the state's weak economic conditions hampered seasonal hiring more than anticipated. Estimates for the two months were down by 6,900 (-1.5%) and 5,300 (-1.1%) jobs,

respectively. All other monthly estimates were within one percent of the original employment estimates.

Also, through the CES benchmark, two factors of economic interest have been revised: the employment change since the peak employment and the employment change since the beginning of the recession.

	Benchmarked	Published	Adjustment
Total Nonfarm	451.9	453.8	-1.9
Natural Resources & Mining	0.2	0.2	0.0
Construction	16.9	17.6	-0.7
Manufacturing	39.8	41.4	-1.6
Durable Goods	25.3	26.7	-1.4
Non-Durable Goods	14.5	14.7	-0.2
Trade, Transportation & Utilities	71.4	71.4	0.0
Wholesale Trade	15.9	16.1	-0.2
Retail Trade	45.4	45.0	0.4
Transportation & Utilities	10.1	10.3	-0.2
Information	9.9	9.9	0.0
Financial Activities	30.7	32.6	-1.9
Professional & Business Services	50.7	50.6	0.1
Administrative & Waste Services	21.1	20.4	0.7
Education & Health Services	101.8	99.6	2.2
Educational Services	24.2	23.1	1.1
Health Care & Social Assistance	77.6	76.5	1.1
Leisure & Hospitality	47.1	47.8	-0.7
Arts, Entertainment & Recreation	7.1	7.4	-0.3
Accommodation & Food Services	40.0	40.4	-0.4
Other Services	22.0	21.7	0.3
Government	61.4	61.0	0.4
State Government	16.2	16.2	0.0
Local Government	35.0	35.0	0.0

	Oct-08	Nov-08	Dec-08	Jan-09	Feb-09	Mar-09	Apr-09	May-09	Jun-09	Jul-09	Aug-09	Sep-09	Oct-09	Nov-09	Dec-09
Post-benchmark	477.7	474.9	472.5	468.8	466.6	463.6	460.4	460.6	459.3	457.4	456.2	456.1	454.5	453.1	451.9
Pre-benchmark	477.4	474.4	471.2	469.6	467.2	465.0	464.6	463.8	463.0	464.3	461.5	457.7	456.5	455.1	453.8
Revision	0.3	0.5	1.3	-0.8	-0.6	-1.4	-4.2	-3.2	-3.7	-6.9	-5.3	-1.6	-2.0	-2.0	-1.9
Percent	0.1%	0.1%	0.3%	-0.2%	-0.1%	-0.3%	-0.9%	-0.7%	-0.8%	-1.5%	-1.1%	-0.3%	-0.4%	-0.4%	-0.4%

In January 2007, Rhode Island reached a peak employment level of 496,500. The job loss between the peak and December 2009 was originally published as a loss of 42,600 jobs. Post-benchmark data revealed the job loss to be 44,600. The national recession officially began in December 2007. The published number of jobs lost during this period was 34,600. The CES benchmark concluded that the loss of jobs between December 2007 and December 2009 was 36,600.

The seasonal estimates back to 1990 have been revised and are subject to further revisions in future benchmarks.

For more information, visit the CES web site at www.dlt.ri.gov/lmi/ces.htm.