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Employment Bulletin

Rhode Island
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April 2010

Rhode Island's Unemployment Rate Drops to 12.6 percent in March

- RI's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate for March was 12.6 percent, down one-tenth of a percentage point from February and the first over-the-month drop since August 2006.
- RI's March unemployment rate is up 2.4 percentage points from last year's figure of 10.2 percent.
- The national rate was unchanged in March at 9.7 percent, but was up 1.1 percentage points from the previous year.
- In March 2010, Rhode Island, along with California, had the 3rd highest unemployment rate in the nation, trailing Michigan (14.1%) and Nevada (13.4%).
- The March 2010 unemployment rate increased in 24 states - including Connecticut (+0.1). Seventeen states, including Massachusetts (-0.2), Maine (-0.1), New Hampshire (-0.1) and Vermont (-0.1), saw their rates decrease. In all, fifteen states have unemployment rates in the double digits, with six states having a rate of 12.0 percent or higher.
- Rates in other New England States for March 2010– Massachusetts 9.3 percent, Connecticut 9.2 percent, Maine 8.2 percent, New Hampshire 7.0 percent, Vermont 6.5 percent.
- The number of employed RI residents totaled 505,800 in March 2010, reflecting an increase of 900 from the previous month. Between March 2009 and March 2010, the number of employed RI residents grew by 300.
- In March, the number of unemployed Rhode Island residents decreased by 600 to 72,600. From March 2009 to March 2010, the number of unemployed residents increased by 15,500.

As Many as 6,500 Workers Affected by March Floods

Record breaking rain falls played havoc with Rhode Island life in March overflowing rivers, flooding basements and closing roads from Woonsocket to Westerly affecting residents and business alike. It is estimated that nearly 500 businesses with approximately 6,500 jobs were located in areas that experienced significant flooding. For some businesses, the closures lasted for just a few days, while for others recovering may take weeks or even months before they are able to reopen.

Rhode Island's Unemployment Insurance law provides some relief to businesses and their workers affected by last month's floods. Eligible employers whose storm related damage resulted in the layoff of workers can seek relief from related unemployment benefit charges under Rhode Island Law 28-43-3. A second weather related law (28-44-14) waives the usual one-week waiting period week for workers whose unemployment was caused by the flood. As of April 13th, over one hundred employers with approximately 3,200 laid off workers have applied for benefit charge waivers. Approximately 500 of the laid off workers can expect recalls within one to two weeks of the March 31st flood. For 400 workers, layoffs are expected to last one to three months, but for the majority of workers the date of their recall is unknown.

Courtesy RIDOT

For more information about assistance provided to employers and workers affected by flooding go to www.dlt.ri.gov/ui/FloodInfo.htm

Seasonally Adjusted Labor Force Statistics

(in thousands)

	Rhode Island			United States		
	Mar 10	Feb 10	Mar 09	Mar 10	Feb 10	Mar 09
Civilian Labor Force	578.4	578.0	562.6	153,910	153,512	154,164
Resident Employment	505.8	504.9	505.5	138,905	138,641	140,854
Unemployment	72.6	73.2	57.1	15,005	14,871	13,310
Unemployment Rate	12.6%	12.7%	10.2%	9.7%	9.7%	8.6%

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Rhode Island Jobs Increase by 100 in March

Rhode Island nonfarm payroll employment totaled 452,500 in March, a gain of 100 jobs, following a revised loss of 800 jobs in February. During the first quarter of 2010, employment increased by 600 jobs.

In March, the Manufacturing sector experienced a significant employment gain of 700 jobs, due to reported increases in Durable Goods employment, including Fabricated Metal Product Manufacturing and Jewelry & Silverware Manufacturing.

Large employment gains were also reported in the Retail Trade (+600) and Health Care & Social Assistance (+400) sectors. Payrolls within Department Stores and Building Material & Supplies Dealers rose, contributing to the retail growth. Three components of the Health Care & Social Assistance sector— Ambulatory Health Care Services, Nursing & Residential Care Facilities and Social Assistance—all added jobs. Government (+200), Wholesale Trade (+100) and Natural Resources & Mining (+100) also reported over-the-month gains. Employment in Construction, Transportation & Utilities and Information remained even.

Establishment Employment in Rhode Island
Seasonally Adjusted

	Mar-10	Feb-10	Mar-09	Net Change From Feb-10	Net Change From Mar-09
Total Nonfarm	**452.5**	**452.4**	**463.6**	**0.1**	**-11.1**
Natural Resources & Mining	0.2	0.1	0.2	0.1	0.0
Construction	16.5	16.5	17.9	0.0	-1.4
Manufacturing	40.6	39.9	42.5	0.7	-1.9
Wholesale Trade	15.4	15.3	16.3	0.1	-0.9
Retail Trade	46.0	45.4	47.5	0.6	-1.5
Transportation & Utilities	9.9	9.9	10.3	0.0	-0.4
Information	9.9	9.9	10.2	0.0	-0.3
Financial Activities	30.6	30.8	31.8	-0.2	-1.2
Professional & Business Services	50.0	51.0	53.1	-1.0	-3.1
Educational Services	23.5	23.6	23.8	-0.1	-0.3
Health Care & Social Assistance	78.0	77.6	76.6	0.4	1.4
Arts, Entertainment & Recreation	7.2	7.3	7.6	-0.1	-0.4
Accommodation & Food Services	41.3	41.7	41.2	-0.4	0.1
Other Services	22.0	22.2	22.3	-0.2	-0.3
Government	61.4	61.2	62.3	0.2	-0.9

The Professional & Business Services sector reported a large employment loss in March, shedding 1,000 jobs. Losses within the sector were reported in Administrative & Support Services, Computer Systems Design Services and Architectural & Engineering Services. Smaller over-the-month losses were reported in other sectors, including Accommodation & Food Services (-400), Other Services (-200), Financial Activities (-200), Educational Services (-100) and Arts, Entertainment & Recreation (-100).

March 2010 employment was down 11,100 (-2.4%) from March 2009, with job declines reported in several economic sectors, including Professional & Business Services (-3,100), Manufacturing (-1,900), Retail Trade (-1,500), Construction (-1,400), Financial Activities (-1,200), Government (-900) and Wholesale Trade (-900). Smaller over-the-year losses were noted in Transportation & Utilities (-400), Arts, Entertainment & Recreation (-400), Information (-300), Educational Services (-300) and Other Services (-300).

Health Care & Social Assistance (+1,400) and Accommodation & Food Services (+100) added jobs over the year. Employment in Natural Resources & Mining remained even.

MANUFACTURING: In March 2010, production workers in the Manufacturing sector earned $14.58 per hour. The average hourly production wage was up 17 cents from February 2010 and up 78 cents from March 2009. Manufacturing employees worked an average of 38.8 hours per week in March, up 1.6 hours over the month, and up 1.4 hours over the year.

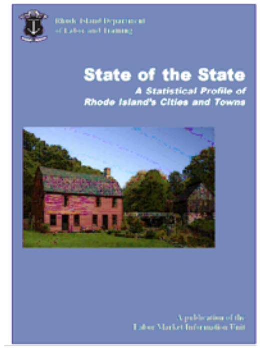
Manufacturing Employment in Rhode Island
Not Seasonally Adjusted

	Employment (in thousands) Mar 10	Feb 10	Mar 09	Net Change From: Feb 10	Mar 09
Manufacturing	**40.2**	**39.8**	**42.4**	**400**	**-2,200**
Durable Goods	**25.5**	**25.0**	**27.4**	**500**	**-1,900**
Fabricated Metal Product Mfg.	5.5	5.4	6.0	100	-500
Computer & Electronic Product Mfg.	3.8	3.8	3.9	0	-100
Miscellaneous Manufacturing	6.4	6.4	7.0	0	-600
Jewelry & Silverware	4.2	4.1	4.6	100	-400
Non-Durable Goods	**14.7**	**14.8**	**15.0**	**-100**	**-300**
Chemical Manufacturing	3.0	3.0	3.1	0	-100

The employment figures in this section are derived from a survey of businesses in Rhode Island and measure the number of jobs in the state. Not seasonally adjusted total nonfarm employment data is available at: www.dlt.ri.gov/lmi/ces.htm. Current month's figures are preliminary and subject to change.

New on the LMI Web Site

State of the State: A Statistical Profile of Rhode Island's Cities and Towns



Population diversity based on age, sex, race, and ethnicity, as well as educational attainment, labor force statistics, and English language proficiency of local residents, is encapsulated in statistical profiles for each of Rhode Island's thirty-nine communities. An overview of local private sector employment by industry sector is also provided on a city and town basis. *State of the State* shows how Rhode Island continues to evolve through population diversity, educational attainment, and employment trends. This publication can be viewed at www.dlt.ri.gov/lmi/publications/stateofstate.htm.

2009 DLT Annual Report

This report summarizes the activity of the Department of Labor and Training (DLT) in 2009. One of our primary functions is the protection and advancement of Rhode Island's workforce. DLT is proud of the courteous, prompt and efficient service that protects and advances the workforce and supports the employer community.

DLT helped many Rhode Island job seekers in 2009, whether their goal was a first job, a better job, or a career change. Agency staff provided personalized job search assistance, interview preparation, and training at no charge through our netWORKri offices. We connected people with meaningful employment when they were unemployed, underemployed or simply wishing to modify their career path. Providing income support through Unemployment Insurance, Temporary Disability Insurance or Workers' Compensation can sustain an individual during a difficult period. This publication can be viewed at www.dlt.ri.gov/lmi/publications/annreport.htm.

Characteristics of the Insured Unemployed

A total of 23,778 individuals were eligible to collect "regular" Unemployment Insurance benefits in March 2010, down 10,255 (-30.1%) from the 34,033 collecting these benefits in March 2009. In addition, 20,694 individuals collected Emergency Unemployment Compensation and 574 collected Extended Benefits. In all, 60 percent of Rhode Island's unemployed workers were eligible to collect unemployment benefits in March.

Of the 23,778 individuals collecting "regular" Unemployment Insurance benefits, 25.5 percent faced long-term unemployment (defined as collecting unemployment insurance for fifteen weeks or more), down from 26.1 percent in March 2009.

On an industry basis, 22.5 percent (5,357) of the State's insured unemployed workers came from the Construction sector. There were also 3,005 individuals with an attachment to the Administration & Waste Services sector, accounting for 12.6 percent of all insured unemployed workers. An additional 12.4 percent (2,956) of those collecting UI benefits in March had worked in the Manufacturing sector. Large numbers of insured unemployed were also reported in Accommodation & Food Services (2,055), Retail Trade (1,912) and Health Care & Social Assistance (1,534). For more information, go to www.dlt.ri.gov/lmi/uiadmin/characteristics.htm.

Characteristics of the Insured Unemployed, March 2010

	Total	*Long-Term*	*Percent Long-Term*
Total	**23,778**	**6,067**	**25.5%**
Male	15,549	3,494	22.5%
Female	8,229	2,573	31.3%
Selected Industries	**23,778**	**6,067**	**25.5%**
Construction	5,357	875	16.3%
Manufacturing	2,956	786	26.6%
Wholesale Trade	866	276	31.9%
Retail Trade	1,912	514	26.9%
Transportation & Warehousing	539	139	25.8%
Information	306	144	47.1%
Finance & Insurance	795	336	42.3%
Real Estate	461	144	31.2%
Professional & Tech. Services	908	301	33.1%
Administrative & Waste Services	3,005	524	17.4%
Educational Services	334	122	36.5%
Health Care & Social Assistance	1,534	628	40.9%
Arts, Entertainment & Recreation	948	213	22.5%
Accommodation & Food Services	2,055	561	27.3%
Other Services	752	234	31.1%
Public Administration	161	44	27.3%

Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers	Mar 10	Feb 10	Mar 09	% Change Prev. Year
All Items	217.6	216.7	212.7	1.9%

Source: U.S. Dept. of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics

Employer Demand for Workers in Rhode Island

The ***Conference Board Help Wanted OnLine*** (HWOL) data series reported that there were 17,900 advertisements for Rhode Island based jobs this month a decrease of 1,100 (-5.8%) from the February 2010 postings, but an increase of 3,500 (+24.3%) from the 14,400 advertised vacancies posted online in March 2009. There were an estimated 3.10 advertised vacancies for every 100 persons in Rhode Island's labor force.

Help Wanted OnLine
Advertised Job Vacancies

	Mar 10	Feb 10	Mar 09
RI Vacancies	17,900	19,000	14,400
Labor Demand Rate*			
Rhode Island	3.10	3.30	2.57
US	2.56	2.58	2.11
Connecticut	3.41	3.20	2.68
Massachusetts	3.70	3.65	2.90
Maine	2.77	2.75	2.38
New Hampshire	2.90	2.84	2.56
Vermont	3.31	3.16	2.98
Supply/Demand Rate*			
Rhode Island	4.06	3.85	3.97
US	3.82	3.76	4.02

* Number of advertised vacancies per 100 persons in labor force
** Number of unemployed persons in state per advertised vacancy

City & Town
Unadjusted Unemployment Rates for March

	2010	2009		2010	2009
Barrington	9.5	7.1	Newport	14.1	10.8
Bristol	12.9	10.5	North Kingstown	10.6	8.8
Burrillville	14.0	11.0	North Providence	12.2	9.8
Central Falls	15.6	14.8	North Smithfield	11.8	9.6
Charlestown	14.9	11.7	Pawtucket	14.1	12.7
Coventry	12.8	10.0	Portsmouth	11.7	9.0
Cranston	12.5	10.6	Providence	14.3	12.1
Cumberland	12.2	9.8	Richmond	9.2	7.6
East Greenwich	12.3	9.2	Scituate	13.4	10.5
East Providence	14.3	11.3	Smithfield	12.3	9.6
Exeter	11.9	9.2	South Kingstown	11.5	8.8
Foster	13.0	11.6	Tiverton	14.6	11.3
Glocester	11.4	8.8	Warren	13.5	10.6
Hopkinton	14.4	10.8	Warwick	11.8	9.5
Jamestown	11.9	6.7	West Greenwich	12.0	9.3
Johnston	14.4	11.5	West Warwick	13.9	11.6
Lincoln	11.9	9.9	Westerly	11.0	9.4
Little Compton	14.7	10.5	Woonsocket	15.0	12.0
Middletown	13.0	9.9			
Narragansett	9.1	6.8	State of R.I.	13.0	10.6
New Shoreham	25.1	19.2	United States	10.2	9.0

Nationally, there were an estimated 2.56 advertised vacancies for every 100 persons in labor force. Among the New England states, Massachusetts (3.70) and Connecticut (3.41) had higher vacancy rates than Rhode Island.

There were an estimated 4.06 unemployed Rhode Island residents for every advertised job in March, up from 3.85 unemployed residents estimated per February advertisements. Nationally, there were 3.82 unemployed persons for every job opening advertised in March, up from 3.76 in February.

Unemployment Insurance Claims Activity

	Mar. 2010	Feb. 2010	Mar. 2009	% Change Feb.. 1	% Change Mar. 09	Year-to-Date 2010	Year-to-Date 2009	% Change
Regular Claims								
Initial Claims	7,467	9,209	15,491	-18.9%	-51.8%	28,926	39,780	-27.3%
Number of Payments	106,257	87,314	141,500	21.7%	-24.9%	275,129	336,409	-18.2%
Amount of Payments (gross millions)	$40.0	$33.0	$52.4	21.2%	-23.7%	$103.5	$124.9	-17.1%
Exhaustions (Final Payments)	3,013	2,287	3,188	31.7%	-5.5%	7,557	7,391	2.2%
Emergency Unemployment Compensation						2010	Since Program Began	
Initial Claims	4,177	3,552	3,484	17.6%	19.9%	11,244	73,492	
Number of Payments	103,449	81,248	55,382	27.3%	86.8%	264,393	1,079,930	
Amount of Payments (gross millions)	$38.2	$29.8	$19.6	28.2%	94.9%	$97.1	$390.1	
Extended Benefits						2010	Since Program Began	
Initial Claims	376	167	366	125.1%	2.7%	637	11,647	
Number of Payments	2,775	3,695	2,467	-24.9%	12.5%	12,503	142,959	
Amount of Payments (gross millions)	$0.9	$1.3	$0.7	-31.3%	20.9%	$4.3	$50.1	
Exhaustions (Final Payments)	478	547	125	-12.6%	-	1,685	7,177	

(label page)

Rhode Island City/Town
2009 Annual Average Labor Force Statistics

	Resident Employment	Unemployment	Labor Force	Rate
RHODE ISLAND	**503,425**	**63,668**	**567,093**	**11.2%**
BARRINGTON	7,681	721	8,402	8.6%
BRISTOL	11,217	1,350	12,567	10.7%
BURRILLVILLE	8,841	1,134	9,975	11.4%
CENTRAL FALLS	7,070	1,193	8,263	14.4%
CHARLESTOWN	4,217	526	4,743	11.1%
COVENTRY	18,398	2,228	20,626	10.8%
CRANSTON	37,448	4,788	42,236	11.3%
CUMBERLAND	17,766	2,040	19,806	10.3%
EAST GREENWICH	6,264	714	6,978	10.2%
EAST PROVIDENCE	22,998	3,114	26,112	11.9%
EXETER	3,395	363	3,758	9.7%
FOSTER	2,416	315	2,731	11.5%
GLOCESTER	5,886	594	6,480	9.2%
HOPKINTON	4,297	510	4,807	10.6%
JAMESTOWN	2,857	230	3,087	7.5%
JOHNSTON	13,869	1,871	15,740	11.9%
LINCOLN	11,155	1,295	12,450	10.4%
LITTLE COMPTON	1,778	191	1,969	9.7%
MIDDLETOWN	7,317	802	8,119	9.9%
NARRAGANSETT	9,019	693	9,712	7.1%
NEW SHOREHAM	1,011	112	1,123	10.0%
NEWPORT	11,228	1,297	12,525	10.4%
NORTH KINGSTOWN	13,999	1,389	15,388	9.0%
NORTH PROVIDENCE	16,643	2,017	18,660	10.8%
NORTH SMITHFIELD	5,902	689	6,591	10.5%
PAWTUCKET	32,620	5,027	37,647	13.4%
PORTSMOUTH	8,423	838	9,261	9.0%
PROVIDENCE	68,683	10,576	79,259	13.3%
RICHMOND	3,971	343	4,314	8.0%
SCITUATE	5,782	730	6,512	11.2%
SMITHFIELD	10,661	1,263	11,924	10.6%
SOUTH KINGSTOWN	14,246	1,436	15,682	9.2%
TIVERTON	7,644	973	8,617	11.3%
WARREN	5,580	728	6,308	11.5%
WARWICK	43,340	5,020	48,360	10.4%
WEST GREENWICH	3,495	382	3,877	9.9%
WEST WARWICK	14,765	2,004	16,769	12.0%
WESTERLY	12,229	1,220	13,449	9.1%
WOONSOCKET	19,318	2,954	22,272	13.3%

Source: RI Department of Labor and Training, Labor Market Information 4/2010
Subject to approval by the Bureau of Labor Statistics