



Rhode Island's Unemployment Rate Drops to 11.0 percent in March

- ◆ RI's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate for March was 11.0 percent, down two-tenths of a percentage point from February.
- ◆ RI's March unemployment rate is down eight-tenths of a percentage points from last year's figure of 11.8 percent.
- ◆ The national rate was 8.8 percent, down one-tenth of a percentage point from February and down nine-tenths from the previous year.
- ◆ In March 2011, Rhode Island had the 4th highest unemployment rate in the nation, trailing Nevada (13.2%), California (12.0%) and Florida (11.1%).
- ◆ The March 2011 unemployment rate increased in seven states, including Maine (+0.1) and Connecticut (+0.1). Thirty-four states, including New Hampshire (-0.2), Massachusetts (-0.2), Vermont (-0.2) and Rhode Island (-0.2) saw their rates decrease. In all, nine states have unemployment rates in the double digits, with two states having a rate of 12.0 percent or higher.
- ◆ Rates in other New England States for March 2011—Connecticut 9.1 percent, Massachusetts 8.0 percent, Maine 7.6 percent, Vermont 5.4 percent and New Hampshire 5.2 percent.
- ◆ The number of employed RI residents totaled 508,900 in March 2011, down 900 from the previous month. Between March 2010 and March 2011, the number of employed RI residents grew by 1,400.
- ◆ In March, the number of unemployed Rhode Island residents decreased by 1,100 to 63,000. From March 2010 to March 2011, the number of unemployed residents decreased by 4,800.

City & Town Analysis Third Quarter 2010

Rhode Island total employment averaged 450,062 in the third quarter of 2010, an increase of 3,619 (+0.8%) jobs from the third quarter of 2009. Private sector employment saw an increase of 4,145 (+1.1%) jobs, while the Government payroll was reduced by 526 (-0.9%).

Twenty-five Rhode Island cities and towns reported private sector employment gains over the year with the largest gains occurring in Smithfield (+1,201), Providence (+771) and Johnston (+540). Significant employment gains within the town of Smithfield were noted in the Finance & Insurance (+553), Health Care & Social Assistance (+298) and Manufacturing (+177) sectors. Providence's gain was concentrated in Health Care & Social Assistance (+982), while Johnston saw employment increases in several economic sectors headed by a 96 job-gain in the Finance & Insurance sector.

Fourteen Rhode Island cities and towns reported private sector employment losses over the year with the largest losses occurring in Warwick (-1,119), Lincoln (-636) and Bristol (-315). The Retail Trade sector in Warwick lost 787 (-10.3%) jobs when compared to the third quarter 2009, much of which can be explained by the continued flood-related closure of the Warwick Mall. Lincoln's losses were concentrated in the Manufacturing (-253), Construction (-188) and Wholesale Trade (-113) sectors, while Bristol's losses were spread among many economic sectors.

Private sector employees in Rhode Island earned more than \$4.0 billion in wages during the third quarter of 2010, an increase of \$198.9 million (+5.2%) from the third quarter of 2009. The average weekly wage in the private sector increased by \$31, moving from \$758 in the third quarter of 2009 to \$789 in the third quarter of 2010, a 4.1 percent increase. Employees working in West Greenwich earned an average weekly wage of \$1,094 in the third quarter of 2010,

the highest private sector average weekly wage among all Rhode Island cities and towns. Woonsocket (\$992), Portsmouth (\$971), Smithfield (\$906) and Providence (\$898) also reported sizable weekly earnings.

Visit www.dlt.ri.gov/lmi/es202.htm for more information.

Seasonally Adjusted Labor Force Statistics

(in thousands)

	Rhode Island			United States		
	Mar 11	Feb 11	Mar 10	Mar 11	Feb 11	Mar 10
Civilian Labor Force	571.9	573.8	575.3	153,406	153,246	153,895
Resident Employment	508.9	509.8	507.5	139,864	139,573	138,952
Unemployment	63.0	64.1	67.8	13,542	13,673	14,943
Unemployment Rate	11.0%	11.2%	11.8%	8.8%	8.9%	9.7%

Rhode Island Jobs Increase by 1,000 in March

Estimated nonfarm payroll in Rhode Island totaled 460,200 in March, reflecting a gain of 1,000 jobs from the revised February employment figure of 459,200. Several economic sectors reported over-the-month gains, with the largest occurring in Accommodation & Food Services (+600) and Financial Activities (+400). Job gains in Accommodation & Food Services can be attributed to increases at both full- and limited-service restaurants. Within the Financial Activities sector, job gains were attributed to increases in rental and leasing services, while finance and insurance employment remained stable. Other sectors adding jobs included Other Services (+300), Wholesale Trade (+200), Health Care & Social Assistance (+200), Information (+100), Arts, Entertainment & Recreation (+100) and Natural Resources & Mining (+100).

On the negative side, the Educational Services sector lost 500 jobs from February, mainly due to cut backs at private colleges, universities and schools. A loss of 300 jobs in Professional & Business Services is attributed to administrative and waste services. Small over-the-month losses occurred in the Construction (-100) and Government (-100). Employment in Retail Trade, Manufacturing and Transportation & Utilities was unchanged.

Over the year, employment was up 1,900 (+0.4%) from March 2010, with job gains reported in eight economic sectors. Accommodation & Food Services (+2,100), Retail Trade (+1,200), Wholesale Trade (+900), Professional & Business Services (+800), Information (+600), Manufacturing (+600), Transportation & Utilities (+100) and Natural Resources & Mining (+100) all reported annual employment gains.

Educational Services employment was down 1,500 over the year due to cut backs at private colleges and universities, while Government employment was down 1,100 due to cut backs at the local level. Construction (-600), Financial Activities (-500), Arts, Entertainment & Recreation (-400), Other Services (-300) and Health Care & Social Assistance (-100) all reported job declines over the year.

	Net Change From				
	Mar-11	Feb-11	Mar-10	Feb-11	Mar-10
Total Nonfarm	460.2	459.2	458.3	1.0	1.9
Natural Resources & Mining	0.2	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1
Construction	15.5	15.6	16.1	-0.1	-0.6
Manufacturing	40.8	40.8	40.2	0.0	0.6
Wholesale Trade	16.8	16.6	15.9	0.2	0.9
Retail Trade	48.7	48.7	47.5	0.0	1.2
Transportation & Utilities	10.3	10.3	10.2	0.0	0.1
Information	10.5	10.4	9.9	0.1	0.6
Financial Activities	30.2	29.8	30.7	0.4	-0.5
Professional & Business Services	53.9	54.2	53.1	-0.3	0.8
Educational Services	22.5	23.0	24.0	-0.5	-1.5
Health Care & Social Assistance	77.7	77.5	77.8	0.2	-0.1
Arts, Entertainment & Recreation	7.1	7.0	7.5	0.1	-0.4
Accommodation & Food Services	43.6	43.0	41.5	0.6	2.1
Other Services	21.7	21.4	22.0	0.3	-0.3
Government	60.7	60.8	61.8	-0.1	-1.1

	Employment				
	(in thousands)			Net Change From:	
	Mar 11	Feb 11	Mar 10	Feb 11	Mar 10
Manufacturing	40.7	40.7	40.0	0	700
Durable Goods	26.0	26.0	25.7	0	300
Fabricated Metal Product Mfg.	5.7	5.7	5.6	0	100
Computer & Electronic Product Mfg.	3.7	3.7	3.6	0	100
Miscellaneous Manufacturing	6.4	6.4	6.7	0	-300
Jewelry & Silverware	4.1	4.1	4.4	0	-300
Non-Durable Goods	14.7	14.7	14.3	0	400
Chemical Manufacturing	2.9	2.9	2.9	0	0

MANUFACTURING: In March 2011, production workers in the Manufacturing sector earned \$15.12 per hour. The average hourly production wage was up sixteen cents from February 2011 and up fifty-four cents from March 2010. Manufacturing employees worked an average of 39.4 hours per week in March, up seven-tenths of an hour over the month, and up and six-tenths of an hour over the year.

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.

Rhode Island's Construction Industry



Rhode Island's Construction sector employed an average of 15,900 workers in 2010 and paid an average annual wage of \$51,600. Construction employment accounts for 4 percent of Rhode Island's private sector employment and 5 percent of the total wages paid.

In terms of the percentage of jobs loss, the Construction sector was the hardest hit by the "Great Recession." The sector lost a total of 6,900 jobs between 2006 and 2010, a 30 percent decline. A job loss of 600 in 2007 was followed by losses of 2,000 and 3,200 in 2008 and 2009, respectively. Last year the sector lost 1,300 jobs.

Nearly 40 percent of Construction employees are employed in positions which require long-term on-the-job training and 11 percent are employed in jobs which require work experience in a related occupation. Just five percent of Construction sector employees are employed in positions requiring a Bachelor's degree or higher. Over two-thirds of the sector's workers are employed in Construction and Extraction occupations, mainly as Carpenters (15%), Laborers (10%), Electricians (7%) and Plumbers (7%).

Above average growth is projected for the Construction sector during the 2008 to 2018 projection period, as employment is expected to rebound during the ten-year period, reaching its pre-recession level.

The available labor supply for individuals with previous work experience in Construction and Extraction occupations or at Construction establishments is significantly higher than the average for all economic sectors. There are currently 5,300 individuals previously employed in the Construction sector and 3,308 individuals previously employed in Construction and Extraction occupations currently collecting unemployment insurance benefits in Rhode Island. These unemployed individuals account for 25 percent of the Construction sector employment and 20 percent of the total employment in Construction and Extraction occupations.



Characteristics of the Insured Unemployed

A total of 21,430 individuals were eligible to collect "regular" Unemployment Insurance benefits in March 2011, down 2,348 (-9.9%) from the 23,778 collecting these benefits in March 2010. In addition, 13,989 individuals collected Emergency Unemployment Compensation and 2,484 collected Extended Benefits. In all, 58.5 percent of Rhode Island's unemployed workers were eligible to collect unemployment benefits in March.

Of the 21,430 individuals collecting "regular" Unemployment Insurance benefits, 23.0 percent faced long-term unemployment (defined as collecting unemployment insurance for fifteen weeks or more), down from 25.5 percent in March 2010.

On an industry basis, 21.7 percent (4,649) of the State's insured unemployed workers came from the Construction sector. There were also 3,021 individuals with an attachment to the Administrative & Waste Services sector, accounting for 14.1 percent of all insured unemployed workers. An additional 10.5 percent (2,250) of those collecting UI benefits in March had worked in the Accommodation & Food Services sector. Large numbers of insured unemployed were also reported in Retail Trade (1,911), Manufacturing (1,882) and Health Care & Social Assistance (1,498). For more information, go to www.dlt.ri.gov/lmi/uiadmin/characteristics.htm.

Characteristics of the Insured Unemployed, March 2011

	Total	Long-Term	Percent Long-Term
Total	21,430	4,938	23.0%
Male	13,862	2,661	19.2%
Female	7,568	2,277	30.1%
Selected Industries	21,430	4,938	23.0%
Construction	4,649	506	10.9%
Manufacturing	1,882	500	26.6%
Wholesale Trade	704	224	31.8%
Retail Trade	1,911	456	23.9%
Transportation & Warehousing	445	97	21.8%
Information	150	67	44.7%
Finance & Insurance	682	321	47.1%
Real Estate	361	120	33.2%
Professional & Tech. Services	811	193	23.8%
Administrative & Waste Services	3,021	462	15.3%
Educational Services	294	102	34.7%
Health Care & Social Assistance	1,498	534	35.6%
Arts, Entertainment & Recreation	892	170	19.1%
Accommodation & Food Services	2,250	647	28.8%
Other Services	709	218	30.7%

**Consumer Price Index for
All Urban Consumers**

	% Change			
	Mar 11	Feb 11	Mar 10	Prev. Year
All Items	223.5	221.3	217.6	2.7%

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 17,100 advertisements for Rhode Island based jobs this month, an increase of 600 (+3.6%) from the February 2011 postings, and unchanged from the advertised vacancies posted online in March 2010. There were an estimated 2.97 advertised vacancies for every 100 persons in Rhode Island's labor force.

**Help Wanted OnLine
Advertised Job Vacancies**

	Mar 11	Feb 11	Mar 10
RI Vacancies	17,100	16,500	17,100
Labor Demand Rate *			
Rhode Island	2.97	2.86	2.97
US	2.91	2.77	2.43
Connecticut	3.80	3.83	3.06
Massachusetts	3.93	3.85	3.42
Maine	2.88	2.73	2.67
New Hampshire	3.11	2.90	2.65
Vermont	3.13	3.12	2.97
Supply/Demand Rate **			
Rhode Island	3.68	3.88	3.96
US	3.04	3.22	4.00

* Number of advertised vacancies per 100 persons in labor force
** Number of unemployed persons in state per advertised vacancy
Source: The Conference Board

**City & Town
Unadjusted Unemployment Rates for March**

	2011	2010		2011	2010
Barrington	7.5	8.8	Newport	12.8	13.5
Bristol	10.7	12.4	North Kingstown	10.0	10.1
Burrillville	11.2	13.3	North Providence	10.7	11.7
Central Falls	14.6	15.1	North Smithfield	10.5	11.2
Charlestown	13.9	14.1	Pawtucket	12.1	13.6
Coventry	10.9	12.3	Portsmouth	11.0	11.2
Cranston	10.8	12.0	Providence	13.3	13.7
Cumberland	10.4	11.7	Richmond	8.1	8.6
East Greenwich	10.7	11.9	Scituate	11.3	12.9
East Providence	11.9	13.7	Smithfield	10.7	11.6
Exeter	12.0	11.3	South Kingstown	10.6	11.0
Foster	13.7	12.5	Tiverton	13.2	13.9
Glocester	9.8	10.8	Warren	11.4	13.0
Hopkinton	11.7	13.7	Warwick	10.1	11.2
Jamestown	9.5	11.3	West Greenwich	10.6	11.6
Johnston	13.0	13.9	West Warwick	12.5	13.5
Lincoln	9.7	11.4	Westerly	10.6	10.4
Little Compton	11.7	14.0	Woonsocket	12.9	14.4
Middletown	11.8	12.4			
Narragansett	7.8	8.6	State of R.I.	11.5	12.4
New Shoreham	27.0	26.1	United States	9.2	10.2

Nationally, there were an estimated 2.91 advertised vacancies for every 100 persons in labor force. Among the New England states, Massachusetts (3.93), Connecticut (3.80) Vermont (3.13) and New Hampshire (3.11) all had a higher vacancy rate than Rhode Island.

There were an estimated 3.68 unemployed Rhode Island residents for every advertised job in March, down from 3.88 unemployed residents estimated per February advertisements. Nationally, there were 3.04 unemployed persons for every job opening advertised in March, down from 3.22 in February.

Unemployment Insurance Claims Activity

	Mar.	Feb.	Mar.	% Change		Year to Date		
	2011	2011	2010	Feb 11	Mar 10	2011	2010	% Change
Regular Claims								
Initial Claims	6,458	9,185	7,467	-29.7%	-13.5%	25,893	28,926	-10.5%
Number of Payments	82,035	81,556	106,257	0.6%	-22.8%	251,124	275,129	-8.7%
Amount of Payments (gross millions)	\$30.4	\$30.1	\$40.0	1.0%	-24.0%	\$92.8	\$103.5	-10.3%
Exhaustions (Final Payments)	2,479	2,093	3,013	18.4%	-17.7%	7,159	7,557	-5.3%
Emergency Unemployment Compensation						2011	Since Program Began	
Initial Claims	3,368	2,963	4,177	13.7%	-19.4%	9,425	107,674	
Number of Payments	59,270	55,426	103,449	6.9%	-42.7%	179,306	1,791,065	
Amount of Payments (gross millions)	\$21.7	\$20.5	\$38.2	5.9%	-43.2%	\$66.1	\$652.8	
Extended Benefits						2011	Since Program Began	
Initial Claims	575	340	376	69.1%	52.9%	1,422	30,176	
Number of Payments	10,767	12,519	2,775	-14.0%	288.0%	40,648	376,364	
Amount of Payments (gross millions)	\$3.9	\$4.6	\$0.9	-15.2%	333.3%	\$14.9	\$136.7	
Exhaustions (Final Payments)	514	700	478	-26.6%	7.5%	1,741	17,439	

Rhode Island Department of Labor & Training
Quarterly Census of Employment & Wages - Private Sector
RI City and Town - Third Quarter 2010

<u>Municipality</u>	<u>Establishments</u>	<u>Average Employment</u>	<u>Total Wages</u>	<u>Average Weekly Wage</u>
Rhode Island	34,483	394,683	4,048,985,142	\$789
Barrington	452	2,334	18,008,227	\$594
Bristol	585	6,149	52,634,018	\$658
Burrillville	275	2,278	18,170,323	\$614
Central Falls	238	2,077	16,357,315	\$606
Charlestown	231	1,402	11,340,152	\$622
Coventry	697	6,352	50,346,526	\$610
Cranston	2,412	26,458	247,926,586	\$721
Cumberland	820	7,809	72,618,720	\$715
East Greenwich	714	6,173	61,032,037	\$761
East Providence	1,430	19,550	191,381,744	\$753
Exeter	173	1,310	13,427,820	\$788
Foster	89	319	2,085,441	\$503
Glocester	194	1,160	8,564,539	\$568
Hopkinton	185	1,107	10,385,465	\$722
Jamestown	194	1,010	9,085,522	\$692
Johnston	1,053	10,038	99,293,506	\$761
Lincoln	731	11,611	128,624,246	\$852
Little Compton	147	620	4,213,713	\$523
Middletown	742	10,734	105,108,176	\$753
Narragansett	469	4,197	26,804,745	\$491
Newport	1,224	13,910	110,885,744	\$613
New Shoreham	201	1,433	11,268,798	\$605
North Kingstown	979	13,113	138,054,275	\$810
North Providence	717	6,427	53,485,860	\$640
North Smithfield	356	3,389	28,733,960	\$652
Pawtucket	1,497	21,687	215,539,863	\$765
Portsmouth	515	5,108	64,476,786	\$971
Providence	5,494	91,290	1,065,353,291	\$898
Richmond	148	1,317	9,003,027	\$526
Scituate	238	976	7,084,299	\$558
Smithfield	810	13,544	159,480,890	\$906
South Kingstown	994	9,789	84,710,431	\$666
Tiverton	372	2,129	16,841,283	\$608
Warren	362	3,417	28,711,677	\$646
Warwick	3,151	42,285	407,592,330	\$741
Westerly	851	9,490	76,926,521	\$624
West Greenwich	190	2,743	39,007,664	\$1,094
West Warwick	597	6,736	67,929,802	\$776
Woonsocket	835	13,718	176,869,661	\$992
Statewide *	3,121	9,506	\$139,620,159	\$1,130

* Statewide - employment in multiple towns, at unknown locations, or outside RI.

Data compiled March 2011 at the RI DLT Labor Market Information office.

The data is subject to revisions & variations in sequences of rounding & averaging.

Source: Quarterly Census of Employment and Wages, developed through a cooperative program between the State of Rhode Island and the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics

A Product of: [Rhode Island Department of Labor and Training, Labor Market Information](#)

Employment changes may be influenced by non-economic code changes resulting from NAICS revisions and/or changes in employers' reporting method.

DLT is an Equal Opportunity Employer/ Program

Auxiliary aids & services are available upon request to individuals with disabilities. TDD: (401) 462-8006