



## Rhode Island's Unemployment Rate Rises to 11.1 percent in March

- ◆ RI's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate for March was 11.1 percent, up one-tenth of a percentage point from February.
- ◆ RI's March unemployment rate is down one-tenth of a percentage point from last March's figure of 11.2 percent.
- ◆ The national rate was 8.2 percent, down one-tenth of a percentage point from February and down seven-tenths of a percentage point from the previous year.
- ◆ In March 2012, Rhode Island had the 2nd highest unemployment rate in the nation, trailing Nevada (12.0%).
- ◆ The March 2012 unemployment rate increased in eight states, including Rhode Island (+0.1) and Maine (+0.1). Thirty states, including Massachusetts (-0.4), Vermont (-0.1) and Connecticut (-0.1), saw their rates decrease, while twelve states' rates, including New Hampshire, were unchanged. In all, three states have unemployment rates in the double digits.
- ◆ Rates in other New England States for March 2012—Connecticut 7.7 percent, Maine 7.2 percent, Massachusetts 6.5 percent, New Hampshire 5.2 percent and Vermont 4.8 percent.
- ◆ The number of employed RI residents totaled 496,100 in March 2012, down 1,300 from the previous month. Between March 2011 and March 2012, the number of employed RI residents decreased by 5,200.
- ◆ Over the month, the number of unemployed Rhode Island residents increased by 400 to 62,100 in March 2012. From March 2011 to March 2012, the number of unemployed residents decreased by 1,100.

## Trends in Rhode Island

### Employer-Provided Health Care Benefits

Results from the Department of Labor and Training's bi-annual Benefits Survey show that employer provided access to health care benefits for Rhode Island's full-time workers has decreased from 79 percent in 2005 and 2007 to 73 percent in 2009 and 2011. The percentage of employers offering health benefits to part-time workers has also decreased since 2005. In 2011, 13 percent of employers offered health benefits to their part-time workers compared to 18 percent in 2005.

Smaller companies, defined as employers with less than 20 employees, are less likely to offer health insurance to their full-time employees than larger companies. In addition, the share of small employers who offer health insurance has declined from 75 percent in 2007 to 65 percent in 2011. Survey results show that the percentage of large companies (100 or more workers) offering health insurance to their full-time employees has remained fairly consistent since 2007. The percentage of mid-sized employers (20-99 workers) offering health insurance has shown a slight increase since the 2007 survey.

The decrease in access to health benefits was accompanied by a decline in the percentage of employers who pay 100 percent of their employees health care insurance premiums. In 2005, 2007, and 2009 approximately one quarter of Rhode Island employers paid the full cost of health care premiums for the family plans offered to their full-time workers. However, data from our most recent survey (2011) indicates that less than 15 percent of employers now pay the full costs associated with a family plan. With respect to individual plans offered to full-time workers, 28 percent of employers paid the full costs in 2011, down from 40 percent in 2005.

Survey results show that the monthly premiums for health insurance have increased for both the individual and family plans. Employers reported the monthly costs associated with the individual plan offered to their workers increased from \$424 in 2007 to \$520 in 2011, an annual average increase of 5.2

percent. The monthly cost of family plans increased from \$1,172 in 2007 to \$1,322 in 2011, an annual average increase of 3.1 percent. In comparison, the cost of living increased averaged 2.1 percent annually during this period (2007-2011).

See enclosed label page and visit [www.dlt.ri.gov/lmi/ebs.htm](http://www.dlt.ri.gov/lmi/ebs.htm) for more information.

### Seasonally Adjusted Labor Force Statistics

(in thousands)

	Rhode Island			United States		
	Mar 12	Feb 12	Mar 11	Mar 12	Feb 12	Mar 11
Civilian Labor Force	558.2	559.0	564.5	154,707	154,871	153,392
Resident Employment	496.1	497.4	501.3	142,034	142,065	139,764
Unemployment	62.1	61.7	63.2	12,673	12,806	13,628
Unemployment Rate	11.1%	11.0%	11.2%	8.2%	8.3%	8.9%

## Rhode Island Jobs Decrease by 600 in March

Estimated nonfarm payroll in Rhode Island totaled 457,700 in March, down 600 jobs from the revised February employment estimate of 458,300. Private sector employment decreased by 200 in March while Government employment decreased by 400.

The Professional & Business Services sector lost 900 in March as job losses were reported within several industry groups of the sector including office administrative services, temporary help services and advertising and public relation services. Educational Services (-700) also reported a large over the month employment loss which was mainly due to cutbacks in hiring at local colleges and universities as well as sports and recreation instruction schools.

Also in March, Government employment was down 400, with all the losses reported within the local government branch. Many of the local government job losses stemmed from public elementary and secondary schools.

Smaller over-the-month job declines were reported in the Retail Trade (-100), Construction (-100), Information (-100) and Wholesale Trade (-100) sectors. Employment within the Manufacturing sector remained unchanged.

Offsetting the March job declines were positive gains reported in the Health Care & Social Assistance (+500) and Other Services (+500) sectors. Ambulatory health care services propelled the growth within the health care industry while gains in Other Services were mainly due to growth in repair and maintenance services as well as civic and professional organizations.

Positive job gains from February were also reported in the Financial Activities (+300), Arts, Entertainment & Recreation (+200), Accommodation & Food Services (+100), Transportation & Utilities (+100) and Mining & Logging (+100) sectors.

Over the year, total nonfarm employment decreased by 2,200. Job losses were reported in eight economic sectors, including Government (-1,000), Retail Trade (-800), Other Services (-800), Health Care & Social Assistance (-700), Construction (-500), Accommodation & Food Services (-400), Arts, Entertainment & Recreation (-300) and Financial Activities (-200).

Educational Services employment posted the largest over-the-year increase in March, with a gain of 1,100 jobs, followed by Information (+500), Wholesale Trade (+400), Manufacturing (+300), Transportation & Utilities (+100) and Mining & Logging (+100). Employment in Professional & Business Services remained unchanged since March 2011.

	Net Change From				
	Mar-12	Feb-12	Mar-11	Feb-12	Mar-11
<b>Total Nonfarm</b>	<b>457.7</b>	<b>458.3</b>	<b>459.9</b>	<b>-0.6</b>	<b>-2.2</b>
Natural Resources & Mining	0.2	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1
Construction	15.1	15.2	15.6	-0.1	-0.5
Manufacturing	41.0	41.0	40.7	0.0	0.3
Wholesale Trade	16.5	16.6	16.1	-0.1	0.4
Retail Trade	45.6	45.7	46.4	-0.1	-0.8
Transportation & Utilities	10.8	10.7	10.7	0.1	0.1
Information	10.5	10.6	10.0	-0.1	0.5
Financial Activities	30.5	30.2	30.7	0.3	-0.2
Professional & Business Services	54.1	55.0	54.1	-0.9	0.0
Educational Services	25.9	26.6	24.8	-0.7	1.1
Health Care & Social Assistance	77.5	77.0	78.2	0.5	-0.7
Arts, Entertainment & Recreation	7.3	7.1	7.6	0.2	-0.3
Accommodation & Food Services	41.6	41.5	42.0	0.1	-0.4
Other Services	21.3	20.8	22.1	0.5	-0.8
Government	59.8	60.2	60.8	-0.4	-1.0

	Employment				
	(in thousands)			Net Change From:	
	Mar 12	Feb 12	Mar 11	Feb 12	Mar 11
<b>Manufacturing</b>	<b>41.0</b>	<b>40.9</b>	<b>40.4</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>600</b>
<b>Durable Goods</b>	<b>26.7</b>	<b>26.6</b>	<b>25.9</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>800</b>
Fabricated Metal Product Mfg.	5.6	5.6	5.7	0	-100
Computer & Electronic Product Mfg.	3.5	3.5	3.6	0	-100
Miscellaneous Manufacturing	6.5	6.5	6.6	0	-100
Jewelry & Silverware	4.1	4.1	4.3	0	-200
<b>Non-Durable Goods</b>	<b>14.3</b>	<b>14.3</b>	<b>14.5</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>-200</b>
Chemical Manufacturing	2.8	2.8	2.8	0	0

**MANUFACTURING:** In March 2012, production workers in the Manufacturing sector earned \$18.29 per hour. The average hourly production wage was up 20 cents from February 2012 and up \$3.10 from March 2011. Manufacturing employees worked an average of 39.9 hours per week in March, down three-tenths of an hour over the month and no change in hours per week from a year ago.

*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](http://www.dlt.ri.gov/lmi/ces.htm).*

*Current month's figures are preliminary and subject to change.*



## Free Employer Education Workshops!

The Business Workforce Center at the RI Department of Labor and Training is hosting a series of free workshops specially designed to assist Rhode Island employers. Space is limited and reservations are required.

To register, visit <https://uiclaims.state.ri.us/knowledge/kipinterests.aspx>

### Unemployment Insurance Tips for Employers

Thursday, May 3, 9:00 AM

Showcase Cinemas

400 Bald Hill Rd., Warwick Mall

When is a claimant eligible to collect Unemployment Insurance? Unemployment Insurance representatives offer employers hot tips to detect and prevent fraud and improper payments. Additionally, department experts explain how the adjudication process applies to individuals who have become unemployed for reasons other than a layoff, and they review the steps a business should take in advance of an employee separation.

### Temporary Disability Insurance for Medical Providers

Thursday, May 31, 9:00 AM

RI Dept. of Labor and Training

1511 Pontiac Ave., Cranston

All employers are welcome to learn more about the TDI system, including requirements, processes and fraud reporting assistance.

### Workforce Assistance for Local Businesses

Thursday, June 14, 9:00 AM

RI Dept. of Labor and Training

1511 Pontiac Ave., Cranston

Representatives from our Business Workforce Center orient you to the department's free recruitment and assessment services; explore subsidized training opportunities for new and existing workers; review available tax credits related to hiring; and discuss Rapid Response services for businesses experiencing layoffs.

### Workers' Compensation for Medical Providers

Thursday, May 31, 10:30 AM

RI Dept. of Labor and Training

1511 Pontiac Ave., Cranston

This workshop is designed to educate medical providers on compliance with Workers' Compensation law.

## Characteristics of the Insured Unemployed

A total of 18,516 individuals were eligible to collect "regular" Unemployment Insurance benefits in March 2012, down 2,914 (-13.6%) from the 21,430 collecting these benefits in March 2011. In addition, 11,628 individuals collected Emergency Unemployment Compensation and 1,877 collected Extended Benefits. In all, 49.1 percent of Rhode Island's unemployed workers were eligible to collect unemployment benefits in March.

Of the 18,516 individuals collecting "regular" Unemployment Insurance benefits, 24.5 percent faced long-term unemployment (defined as collecting unemployment insurance for fifteen weeks or more), up from 23.0 percent in March 2011.

On an industry basis, 18.7 percent (3,469) of the State's insured unemployed workers came from the Construction sector. There were also 2,730 individuals with an attachment to the Administrative & Waste Services sector, accounting for 14.7 percent of all insured unemployed workers. An additional 10.1 percent (1,879) of those collecting UI benefits in March had worked in the Accommodation & Food Services sector. Large numbers of insured unemployed were also reported in Health Care & Social Assistance (1,747), Retail Trade (1,640) and Manufacturing (1,623). For more information, go to [www.dlt.ri.gov/lmi/uiadmin/characteristics.htm](http://www.dlt.ri.gov/lmi/uiadmin/characteristics.htm).

### Characteristics of the Insured Unemployed, March 2012

	Percent		
	Total	Long-Term	Long-Term
<b>Total</b>	<b>18,516</b>	<b>4,540</b>	<b>24.5%</b>
Male	11,661	2,497	21.4%
Female	6,855	2,043	29.8%
<b>Selected Industries</b>	<b>18,516</b>	<b>4,540</b>	<b>24.5%</b>
Construction	3,469	367	10.6%
Manufacturing	1,623	442	27.2%
Wholesale Trade	644	181	28.1%
Retail Trade	1,640	484	29.5%
Transportation & Warehousing	401	92	22.9%
Information	222	77	34.7%
Finance & Insurance	659	300	45.5%
Real Estate	285	79	27.7%
Professional & Tech. Services	690	249	36.1%
Administrative & Waste Services	2,730	495	18.1%
Educational Services	282	87	30.9%
Health Care & Social Assistance	1,747	639	36.6%
Arts, Entertainment & Recreation	800	195	24.4%
Accommodation & Food Services	1,879	465	24.7%
Other Services	636	184	28.9%
Public Administration	118	42	35.6%

**Consumer Price Index for  
All Urban Consumers**

	% Change			
	Mar 12	Feb 12	Mar 11	Prev. Year
All Items	229.4	227.7	223.5	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 17,800 advertisements for Rhode Island based jobs this month, an increase of 300 (+1.7%) from the February 2012 postings, and up 700 (+4.1%) from the advertised vacancies posted online in March 2011. There were an estimated 3.19 advertised vacancies for every 100 persons in Rhode Island's labor force.

**Help Wanted OnLine  
Advertised Job Vacancies**

	Mar 12	Feb 12	Mar 11
RI Vacancies	17,800	17,500	17,100
<i>Labor Demand Rate *</i>			
Rhode Island	3.19	3.13	3.04
US	3.02	2.86	2.81
Connecticut	3.37	3.39	3.28
Massachusetts	3.87	3.73	3.80
Maine	3.01	2.87	3.05
New Hampshire	3.26	3.07	3.23
Vermont	3.78	3.50	3.29
<i>Supply/Demand Rate **</i>			
Rhode Island	3.49	3.52	3.70
US	2.71	2.90	3.16

\* 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**

	2012	2011		2012	2011
Barrington	7.9	7.6	Newport	12.4	12.4
Bristol	10.6	10.6	North Kingstown	10.3	10.2
Burrillville	11.8	11.5	North Providence	10.5	11.1
Central Falls	15.6	14.4	North Smithfield	10.1	10.3
Charlestown	13.9	14.3	Pawtucket	13.3	12.4
Coventry	11.2	11.1	Portsmouth	10.6	11.0
Cranston	11.5	10.9	Providence	13.5	13.2
Cumberland	10.4	10.7	Richmond	8.1	8.1
East Greenwich	11.1	11.1	Scituate	11.3	11.7
East Providence	12.8	12.3	Smithfield	10.4	10.7
Exeter	12.2	12.2	South Kingstown	10.5	10.5
Foster	12.5	13.6	Tiverton	11.8	12.6
Glocester	10.7	10.6	Warren	12.1	11.8
Hopkinton	11.4	11.7	Warwick	10.1	10.4
Jamestown	9.3	9.7	West Greenwich	11.7	11.0
Johnston	12.9	13.1	West Warwick	13.2	12.7
Lincoln	10.7	10.1	Westerly	11.1	10.9
Little Compton	10.6	11.8	Woonsocket	13.4	13.5
Middletown	12.3	11.9			
Narragansett	8.5	8.1	State of R.I.	11.8	11.6
New Shoreham	29.5	25.9	United States	8.4	9.2

Nationally, there were an estimated 3.02 advertised vacancies for every 100 persons in labor force. Among the New England states, Massachusetts (3.87), Vermont (3.78), Connecticut (3.37) and New Hampshire (3.26) all had a higher vacancy rate than Rhode Island.

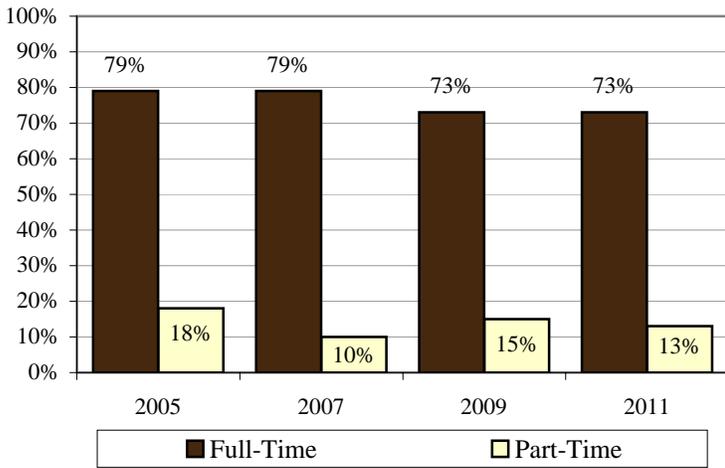
There were an estimated 3.49 unemployed Rhode Island residents for every advertised job in March, down from 3.52 unemployed residents estimated per February advertisements. Nationally, there were 2.71 unemployed persons for every job opening advertised in March, down from 2.90 in February.

**Unemployment Insurance Claims Activity**

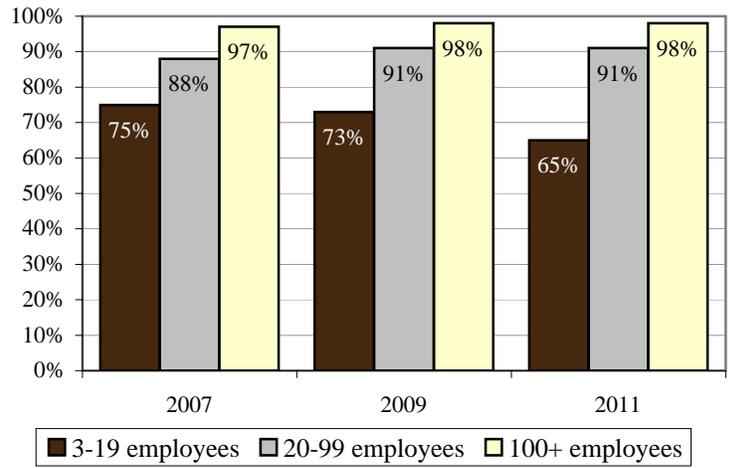
	Mar.	Feb.	Mar.	% Change		Year-to-Date		
	2012	2012	2011	Feb.12	Mar.11	2012	2011	% Change
<b>Regular Claims</b>								
Initial Claims	5,904	8,968	6,458	-34.2%	-8.6%	25,870	25,893	-0.1%
Number of Payments	71,858	76,496	82,035	-6.1%	-12.4%	230,144	251,124	-8.4%
Amount of Payments (gross millions)	\$27.0	\$28.6	\$30.4	-5.6%	-11.2%	\$86.0	\$92.8	-7.3%
Exhaustions (Final Payments)	2,198	1,896	2,479	15.9%	-11.3%	6,419	7,159	-10.3%
<b>Emergency Unemployment Compensation</b>								
Initial Claims	2,664	2,458	3,368	8.4%	-20.9%	7,900	140,253	
Number of Payments	47,909	47,873	59,270	0.1%	-19.2%	155,206	2,472,874	
Amount of Payments (gross millions)	\$17.5	\$17.5	\$21.7	0.0%	-19.4%	\$56.9	\$903.4	
<b>Extended Benefits</b>								
Initial Claims	581	587	575	-1.0%	1.0%	1,793	36,417	
Number of Payments	7,820	7,581	10,767	3.2%	-27.4%	24,521	465,580	
Amount of Payments (gross millions)	\$2.9	\$2.8	\$3.9	3.6%	-25.6%	\$9.0	\$169.3	
Exhaustions (Final Payments)	416	394	514	5.6%	-19.1%	1,317	22,646	

# Rhode Island Trends in Health Care Benefits

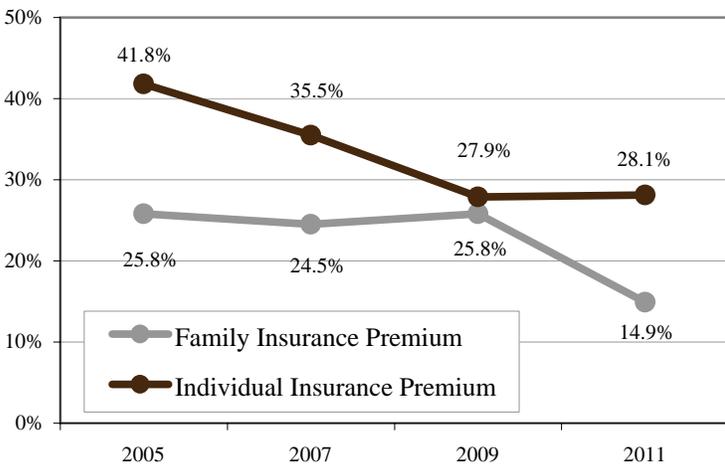
### Share of Employers Providing Health Care



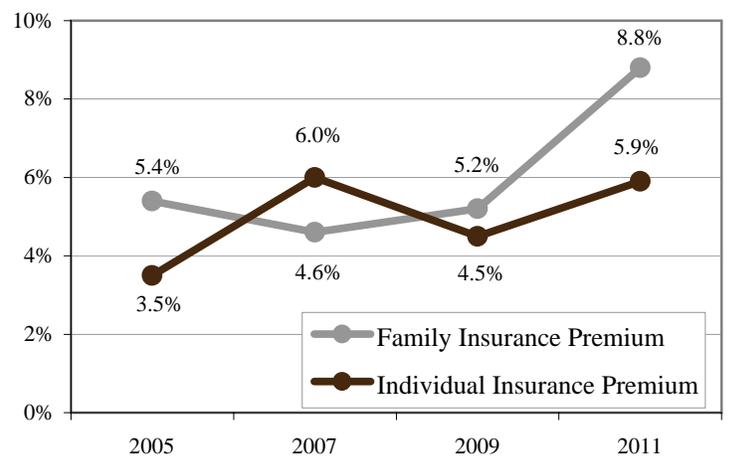
### Access to Health Insurance by Size of Firm



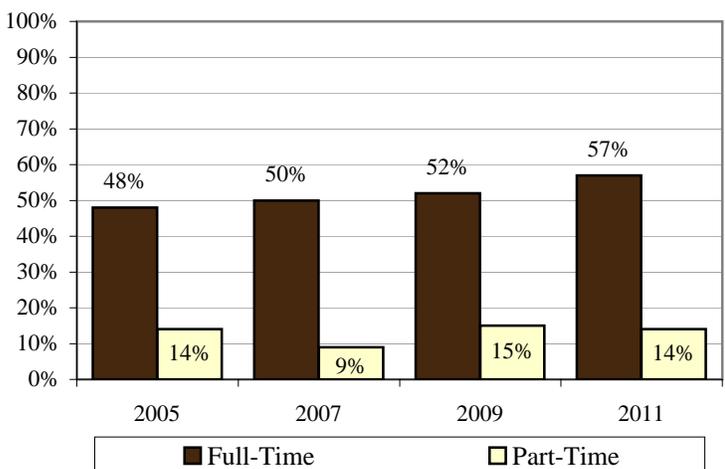
### 100% Employer Paid Health Insurance Plans



### 100% Employee Paid Health Insurance Plans



### Share of Employers Providing Dental Care



### Individual & Family Health Insurance Premium Costs

