



## Rhode Island's Unemployment Rate Drops to 8.7 percent in March

- ◆ RI's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate for March was 8.7 percent, down three-tenths of a percentage point from February.
- ◆ RI's March unemployment rate was down eight-tenths of a percentage point from last March's figure of 9.5 percent.
- ◆ The national rate was 6.7 percent, unchanged from February and down eight-tenths of a percentage point from the previous year.
- ◆ In March 2014, Rhode Island (8.7%) had the highest unemployment rate in the nation.
- ◆ The March 2014 unemployment rate decreased in twenty-one states, including Rhode Island (-0.3), Vermont (-0.3), Maine (-0.2), Massachusetts (-0.2) and New Hampshire (-0.2). Twelve states' rates, including Connecticut, were unchanged and seventeen states saw their unemployment rate increase.
- ◆ Rates in other New England states for March 2014—Connecticut 7.0 percent, Massachusetts 6.3 percent, Maine 5.9 percent, New Hampshire 4.5 percent and Vermont 3.4 percent.
- ◆ The number of employed RI residents totaled 506,000 in March 2014, up 2,700 from the previous month. Between March 2013 and March 2014, the number of employed RI residents was unchanged.
- ◆ Over the month, the number of unemployed Rhode Island residents decreased by 1,100 to 48,500. From March 2013 to March 2014, the number of unemployed residents decreased by 4,500.

## Projected Revisions to RI Job Numbers Fourth Quarter 2013

Fourth quarter tax data indicates that Rhode Island job growth was better than originally estimated, with 2,100 more jobs than first estimated in December 2013.

The latest estimates, released by the RI Department of Labor and Training, are based upon employment information from the state's 32,000 private-sector employers, and show a RI job count of 473,300. Earlier estimates, released by the department in conjunction with the US Bureau of Labor Statistics, are based upon a sample of 1,700 employers.

These new estimates suggest an over-the-year improvement of 5,200 RI-based jobs and a growth rate of 1.1 percent. Earlier estimates suggested an over-the-year improvement of 3,100 jobs and a growth rate of 0.7 percent.

On the industry level, the new estimates show significantly improved performances in the Professional & Business Services sector and the Information sector. Professional & Business Services showed a 600-job increase over original estimates; this revises the sector's year-over-year performance from a gain of 1,700 jobs to a gain of 2,300 jobs. The Information sector showed a 400-job increase over original estimates, reducing its total job loss over the year from 500 to 100 jobs.

The Retail Trade sector showed a downward revision for December 2013, with new estimates showing a loss of 200 jobs more than originally estimated.

The RI Department of Labor and Training has chosen to release its own revisions on a quarterly basis, to better track the progress of the economic recovery. Because quarterly estimates are based on a larger data pool, they are considered to have a smaller margin of error than the monthly estimates the department produces. However, because tax data is not

available until three months after a quarter closes, monthly estimates are still the most timely data available. The monthly estimates are also comparable from state to state.

For more information, visit [www.dlt.ri.gov/lmi/publications/jobrevisions413.htm](http://www.dlt.ri.gov/lmi/publications/jobrevisions413.htm).

### Seasonally Adjusted Labor Force Statistics

(in thousands)

	Rhode Island			United States		
	Mar. 14	Feb. 14	Mar. 13	Mar. 14	Feb. 14	Mar. 13
Civilian Labor Force	554.4	552.9	559.0	156,227	155,724	155,099
Resident Employment	506.0	503.3	506.0	145,742	145,266	143,393
Unemployment	48.5	49.6	53.0	10,486	10,459	11,706
Unemployment Rate	8.7%	9.0%	9.5%	6.7%	6.7%	7.5%

## Rhode Island Jobs Decrease by 800 in March

Estimated nonfarm payroll in Rhode Island totaled 475,800 in March, reflecting a loss of 800 jobs from the revised February employment estimate of 476,600. Despite the loss of jobs, employment is still up 4,600 through the first quarter of the year.

Accommodation & Food Services employment dropped by 400 over the month, as food services and drinking places establishments failed to add the expected employment in March, resulting in a seasonal loss.

The Retail Trade reported a loss of 300 jobs as payroll declines were reported in food and beverage stores as well as clothing stores. The Health Care & Social Assistance sector lost 200 jobs in March as employment was down in hospitals and nursing and residential care facilities. Financial Activities employment was also down 200.

A loss of 100 jobs was reported in the Manufacturing, Wholesale Trade, Information, Educational Services and Government sectors, while jobs remained unchanged in the Mining & Logging sector.

The Other Services sector added 300 jobs since February, as gains were reported in civic and social organizations. Employment was also up in Professional & Business Services (+200), Construction (+100), Transportation & Utilities (+100) and Arts, Entertainment & Recreation (+100).

Nationally, employment increased by 192,000 or 0.1 percent in March, while jobs in the New England region as a whole were up 16,500 (+0.2%). Rhode Island was the only New England state to shed March employment as job gains were reported in Massachusetts (+8,100), Connecticut (+4,900), New Hampshire (+2,600), Maine (+1,100) and Vermont (+600).

### Establishment Employment in Rhode Island Seasonally Adjusted

	Net Change From				
	Mar-14	Feb-14	Mar-13	Feb-14	Mar-13
<b>Total Nonfarm</b>	<b>475.8</b>	<b>476.6</b>	<b>469.4</b>	<b>-0.8</b>	<b>6.4</b>
<b>Total Private</b>	<b>416.1</b>	<b>416.8</b>	<b>409.4</b>	<b>-0.7</b>	<b>6.7</b>
Natural Resources & Mining	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.0	0.0
Construction	16.3	16.2	16.2	0.1	0.1
Manufacturing	40.6	40.7	39.9	-0.1	0.7
Wholesale Trade	16.7	16.8	16.6	-0.1	0.1
Retail Trade	46.6	46.9	46.2	-0.3	0.4
Transportation & Utilities	11.0	10.9	10.8	0.1	0.2
Information	8.7	8.8	9.1	-0.1	-0.4
Financial Activities	32.1	32.3	32.3	-0.2	-0.2
Professional & Business Services	60.3	60.1	57.9	0.2	2.4
Educational Services	24.9	25.0	23.7	-0.1	1.2
Health Care & Social Assistance	80.3	80.5	80.8	-0.2	-0.5
Arts, Entertainment & Recreation	9.3	9.2	8.1	0.1	1.2
Accommodation & Food Services	45.9	46.3	44.9	-0.4	1.0
Other Services	23.2	22.9	22.7	0.3	0.5
Government	59.7	59.8	60.0	-0.1	-0.3

### Manufacturing Employment in Rhode Island Not Seasonally Adjusted

	Employment				
	(in thousands)			Net Change From:	
	Mar 14	Feb 14	Mar 13	Feb 14	Mar 13
<b>Manufacturing</b>	<b>40.7</b>	<b>40.5</b>	<b>39.7</b>	<b>200</b>	<b>1,000</b>
<b>Durable Goods</b>	<b>26.3</b>	<b>26.1</b>	<b>25.3</b>	<b>200</b>	<b>1,000</b>
Fabricated Metal Product Mfg.	5.5	5.5	5.5	0	0
Computer & Electronic Product Mfg.	3.4	3.4	3.4	0	0
Transportation Equipment Mfg.	3.9	3.9	3.7	0	200
Miscellaneous DG Manufacturing	5.6	5.7	5.8	-100	-200
Jewelry & Silverware	3.3	3.4	3.5	-100	-200
<b>Non-Durable Goods</b>	<b>14.4</b>	<b>14.4</b>	<b>14.4</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>
Chemical Manufacturing	3.0	3.0	3.0	0	0

In March, nonfarm payroll employment increased in 34 states and decreased in 16 states. The largest over-the-month percentage increase in employment occurred in North Carolina, North Dakota, South Carolina, Utah and Wyoming (+0.5 percent each). The largest over-the-month percentage decline in employment occurred in Nebraska (-0.3%), followed by Rhode Island and New Mexico (-0.2 percent each).

*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.*

## New DLT Publications



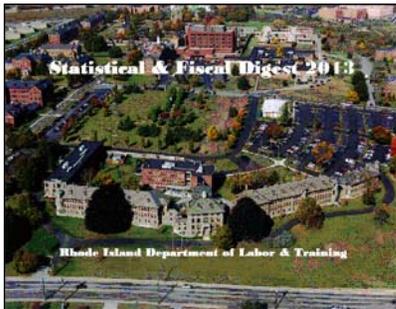
### Rhode Island Department of Labor & Training 2013 Annual Report

The RI Department of Labor and Training provides workforce development, workforce security and workforce protection to the state's workers, employers and citizens. Through federal and state funding, it offers employment services, educational services and economic opportunity to both individuals and employers. DLT also protects the

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. To view this publication, go to [www.dlt.ri.gov/lmi/publications/annreport.htm](http://www.dlt.ri.gov/lmi/publications/annreport.htm).



### Rhode Island Statistical & Fiscal Digest 2013



The Statistical and Fiscal Digest is published annually by the Rhode Island Department of Labor and Training's Labor Market Information Unit - the centralized state resource for the collection, analysis and dissemination of data pertaining to employment statistics in Rhode Island. The Department of Labor and Training's primary function is the protection and advancement of the Rhode Island workforce. In order to fulfill its mission, the Department administers a variety of programs including temporary income support, reemployment services and occupational safety enforcement.

This digest contains summaries of funding sources and expenditures, as well as detailed activity reports for nearly all Department programs. A number of selected tables showing labor force, employment, unemployment and wage data are also included. To view this publication, go to [www.dlt.ri.gov/lmi/publications/sfdigest.htm](http://www.dlt.ri.gov/lmi/publications/sfdigest.htm).

## Characteristics of the Insured Unemployed

A total of 16,555 individuals were eligible to collect "regular" Unemployment Insurance benefits in March 2014, down 851 (-4.9%) from the 17,406 collecting these benefits in March 2013. In all, 33.2 percent of Rhode Island's unemployed workers were eligible to collect unemployment benefits in March.

Of the 16,555 individuals collecting "regular" Unemployment Insurance benefits, 24.4 percent faced long-term unemployment (defined as collecting unemployment insurance for fifteen weeks or more), down from 26.3 percent in March 2013.

On an industry basis, 20.6 percent (3,417) of the State's insured unemployed workers came from the Construction sector. There were also 2,923 individuals with an attachment to the Administrative & Waste Services sector, accounting for 17.7 percent of all insured unemployed workers. An additional 9.1 percent (1,510) 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 (1,329), Retail Trade (1,261) and Manufacturing (1,236). 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 2014

	Total	Long-Term	Percent Long-Term
<b>Total</b>	<b>16,555</b>	<b>4,044</b>	<b>24.4%</b>
Male	10,873	2,301	21.2%
Female	5,682	1,743	30.7%
<b>Selected Industries</b>	<b>16,555</b>	<b>4,044</b>	<b>24.4%</b>
Construction	3,417	403	11.8%
Manufacturing	1,236	342	27.7%
Wholesale Trade	538	178	33.1%
Retail Trade	1,261	368	29.2%
Transportation & Warehousing	386	97	25.1%
Information	133	37	27.8%
Finance & Insurance	526	229	43.5%
Real Estate	307	97	31.6%
Professional & Tech. Services	710	206	29.0%
Administrative & Waste Services	2,923	538	18.4%
Educational Services	228	82	36.0%
Health Care & Social Assistance	1,329	505	38.0%
Arts, Entertainment & Recreation	733	205	28.0%
Accommodation & Food Services	1,510	401	26.6%
Other Services	463	133	28.7%
Public Administration	140	54	38.6%

### Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers

				% Change
	Mar. 14	Feb. 14	Mar. 13	Prev. Year
All Items	236.3	234.8	232.8	1.5%

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 20,100 advertisements for Rhode Island based jobs this month, a decrease of 1,100 (-5.2%) from the February 2014 postings, and up 1,600 (+8.6%) from the advertised vacancies posted online in March 2013. There were an estimated 3.64 advertised vacancies for every 100 persons in Rhode Island's labor force.

#### Help Wanted OnLine Advertised Job Vacancies

	Mar 14	Feb 14	Mar 13
RI Vacancies	20,100	21,200	18,500
<i>Labor Demand Rate *</i>			
Rhode Island	3.64	3.83	3.31
US	3.14	3.33	3.10
Connecticut	3.62	3.87	3.49
Massachusetts	4.28	4.52	4.24
Maine	3.24	3.39	3.23
New Hampshire	3.79	3.84	3.25
Vermont	3.36	3.37	3.33
<i>Supply/Demand Rate **</i>			
Rhode Island	2.41	2.35	2.86
US	2.14	2.02	2.43

\* 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

	2014	2013		2014	2013
Barrington	6.4	7.0	Newport	9.5	10.8
Bristol	8.6	8.7	North Kingstown	7.4	8.0
Burrillville	9.1	9.6	North Providence	8.6	9.0
Central Falls	11.6	13.4	North Smithfield	8.0	8.5
Charlestown	10.6	11.2	Pawtucket	10.0	11.2
Coventry	8.3	9.0	Portsmouth	8.7	9.5
Cranston	8.5	9.6	Providence	10.7	11.4
Cumberland	8.1	8.5	Richmond	6.8	6.3
East Greenwich	8.3	9.0	Scituate	8.5	10.1
East Providence	9.5	10.3	Smithfield	8.1	8.5
Exeter	8.8	8.6	South Kingstown	8.5	9.1
Foster	9.8	11.8	Tiverton	9.8	9.8
Glocester	7.5	8.2	Warren	9.5	10.4
Hopkinton	8.9	9.0	Warwick	7.9	8.8
Jamestown	7.4	7.7	West Greenwich	7.6	9.2
Johnston	9.8	10.6	West Warwick	10.1	10.9
Lincoln	8.1	8.6	Westerly	9.2	9.2
Little Compton	7.3	7.9	Woonsocket	10.0	11.9
Middletown	9.1	10.2			
Narragansett	6.6	7.2	State of R.I.	9.1	9.9
New Shoreham	26.6	27.5	United States	6.8	7.6

Nationally, there were an estimated 3.14 advertised vacancies for every 100 persons in labor force. Among the New England states, Massachusetts (4.28) and New Hampshire (3.79) had higher vacancy rates than Rhode Island.

There were an estimated 2.41 unemployed Rhode Island residents for every advertised job in March, up from 2.35 unemployed residents estimated per February advertisements. Nationally, there were 2.14 unemployed persons for every job opening advertised in March, up from 2.02 in February.

### Unemployment Insurance Claims Activity

	Mar.	Feb.	Mar.	% Change		Year to Date		
	2014	2014	2013	Feb. 14	Mar. 13	2014	2013	% Change
<b>Regular Claims</b>								
Initial Claims	5,517	9,240	6,555	-40.3%	-15.8%	25,054	25,946	-3.4%
Number of Payments	73,507	66,657	66,476	10.3%	10.6%	201,188	199,562	0.8%
Amount of Payments (gross millions)	\$24.8	\$22.4	\$23.0	10.7%	7.8%	\$67.7	\$69.1	-2.0%
Exhaustions (Final Payments)	1,657	1,158	1,602	43.1%	3.4%	4,008	4,551	-11.9%

**RI Department of Labor and Training**  
 Projected Revision in December 2013 Job Numbers  
 (In Thousands)

	BLS		DLT	DLT	Change From	
	Published Estimates	Dec-12	Projected	Projected	December 2012	
	Dec-13		Dec-13	Revision	BLS	DLT
<b>Total Nonfarm</b>	<b>471.2</b>	<b>468.1</b>	<b>473.3</b>	<b>2.1</b>	<b>3.1</b>	<b>5.2</b>
<b>Private Sector</b>	<b>411.2</b>	<b>408.0</b>	<b>413.1</b>	<b>1.9</b>	<b>3.2</b>	<b>5.1</b>
Mining & Logging	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.0	0.0	0.0
Construction	15.9	16.1	16.1	0.2	-0.2	0.0
Manufacturing	40.5	39.9	40.5	0.0	0.6	0.6
Trade, Transportation & Utilities	74.8	74.2	74.7	-0.1	0.6	0.5
Wholesale Trade	16.8	16.7	16.8	0.0	0.1	0.1
Retail Trade	46.9	46.6	46.7	-0.2	0.3	0.1
Transportation & Utilities	11.1	10.9	11.2	0.1	0.2	0.3
Information	8.8	9.3	9.2	0.4	-0.5	-0.1
Financial Activities	32.1	31.9	32.4	0.3	0.2	0.5
Professional & Business Services	58.8	57.1	59.4	0.6	1.7	2.3
Administrative & Waste Services	25.8	24.8	25.7	-0.1	1.0	0.9
Education & Health Services	103.2	104.3	103.2	0.0	-1.1	-1.1
Educational Services	22.8	23.9	22.8	0.0	-1.1	-1.1
Health Care & Social Assistance	80.4	80.4	80.4	0.0	0.0	0.0
Leisure & Hospitality	54.6	52.3	54.8	0.2	2.3	2.5
Arts, Entertainment & Recreation	8.8	7.7	8.9	0.1	1.1	1.2
Accommodation & Food Services	45.8	44.6	45.9	0.1	1.2	1.3
Other Services	22.3	22.7	22.6	0.3	-0.4	-0.1
Government	60.0	60.1	60.2	0.2	-0.1	0.1
Federal Government	10.2	10.2	10.2	0.0	0.0	0.0
State Government	16.2	16.0	16.2	0.0	0.2	0.2
Local Government	33.6	33.9	33.8	0.2	-0.3	-0.1