



Donald L. Carcieri
Governor
Sandra M. Powell
Director

Employment Bulletin

Rhode Island
Department of
Labor & Training
1511 Pontiac Ave.
Cranston, RI 02920
401-462-8740
www.dlt.ri.gov/lmi

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Rhode Island's Unemployment Rate Drops to 11.9 percent in July

- ◆ RI's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate for July was 11.9 percent, down one-tenth of a percentage point from June and the fifth consecutive over-the-month drop.
- ◆ RI's July unemployment rate is up five-tenths of a percentage point from last year's figure of 11.4 percent.
- ◆ The national rate was 9.5 percent, unchanged from June and up one-tenth from the previous year.
- ◆ In July 2010, Rhode Island had the 4th highest unemployment rate in the nation, trailing Nevada (14.3%), Michigan (13.1%) and California (12.3%).
- ◆ The July 2010 unemployment rate increased in fourteen states, including Connecticut (+0.1) and Maine (+0.1). Eighteen states, including New Hampshire (-0.1) and Rhode Island (-0.1) saw their rates decrease. Massachusetts and Vermont were unchanged. In all, eleven states have unemployment rates in the double digits, with three states having a rate of 12.0 percent or higher.
- ◆ Rates in other New England States for July 2010—Massachusetts 9.0 percent, Connecticut 8.9 percent, Maine 8.1 percent, Vermont 6.0 percent and New Hampshire 5.8 percent.
- ◆ The number of employed RI residents totaled 505,500 in July 2010, reflecting a decrease of 1,300 from the previous month. Between July 2009 and July 2010, the number of employed RI residents grew by 3,500.
- ◆ In July, the number of unemployed Rhode Island residents decreased by 1,000 to 68,300. From July 2009 to July 2010, the number of unemployed residents increased by 3,700.

2009 Annual Average Wages

Wages for Rhode Island's private sector workers averaged \$41,320 in 2009, a slight increase \$221 (0.5%), from the \$41,099 earned in 2008. Within New England, Rhode Island reported the fourth highest average annual wage in 2009, trailing Connecticut (\$58,358), Massachusetts (\$56,635), and New Hampshire (\$45,108). The 2009 average annual wage in Rhode Island's private sector was 91.5 percent of the national average wage of \$45,146.

Workers employed in Rhode Island's Management of Companies & Enterprises sector earned the highest average wages (\$92,418) followed by the Utilities (\$82,074) and Finance & Insurance (\$67,939) sectors. The Professional & Technical Services (\$61,877), Wholesale Trade (\$60,040), Information (\$59,806) and Construction (\$52,206) sectors all paid over \$50,000 in average wages.

The Accommodation & Food Services (\$15,902) and Arts, Entertainment & Recreation (\$23,302) sectors reported the lowest annual average wages, reflecting the seasonal and part-time nature of these businesses. Other industry sectors with average wages below \$30,000 per year included Agriculture, Forestry, Fishing & Hunting (\$25,099); Retail Trade (\$26,343); Other Services (\$26,393); and Administrative & Waste Services (\$29,638). Other sectors paying lower-than-average wages included Transportation & Warehousing (\$35,571), Real Estate, Rental & Leasing (\$36,176) and Health Care & Social Assistance (\$40,682).

Average annual wages earned by Rhode Island workers were below the national average in nearly all economic sectors and generally ranked fourth in New England, most often trailing Connecticut, Massachusetts, and New Hampshire. (See label page for state averages)

For more information concerning industry wages, visit the Quarterly Census of Employment and Wages web site at: www.dlt.ri.gov/lmi/es202.htm.

Seasonally Adjusted Labor Force Statistics

(in thousands)

	Rhode Island			United States		
	Jul 10	Jun 10	Jul 09	Jul 10	Jun 10	Jul 09
Civilian Labor Force	573.8	576.1	566.5	153,560	153,741	154,351
Resident Employment	505.5	506.8	502.0	138,960	139,119	139,817
Unemployment	68.3	69.3	64.6	14,599	14,623	14,534
Unemployment Rate	11.9%	12.0%	11.4%	9.5%	9.5%	9.4%

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Rhode Island Jobs Increase by 600 in July

In July, Rhode Island nonfarm payroll employment reached 451,800, an increase of 600 from the revised June employment level of 451,200. Total private sector payroll grew by 1,500 over the month. However, Government sector employment fell 900, with a 600 drop in federal jobs and a 300 drop in local government employment

Accommodation & Food Services added 900 jobs between June and July, as local eateries and lodging establishments continue to increase their payrolls. Manufacturing employment increased by 600 over the month, reflecting the reporting of fewer seasonal layoffs for July than normal. Retail Trade also added 600 jobs, due in part to the re-opening of some flood-affected businesses.

Job gains were also noted in Arts, Entertainment & Recreation (+400), Other Services (+400), Health Care & Social Assistance (+100) and Educational Services (+100). Employment remained unchanged in the Transportation & Utilities, Information and Natural Resources & Mining sectors.

Government employment declined by 900 in July. The federal government subsector reported a net loss of 600 jobs over the month, which included an 800 drop in temporary Census workers. Local governments shed 300 jobs last month, while state employment remained unchanged.

Also in July, the Financial Activities sector lost 700 positions, due mainly to losses in the insurance carriers and real estate subsectors. Professional & Business Services (-400), Construction (-300) and Wholesale Trade (-200) were the remaining sectors to report job declines between June and July.

July 2010 employment was down 5,600 (-1.2%) from July 2009, with job declines reported in several economic sectors including Retail Trade (-2,200), Professional & Business Services (-1,700), Manufacturing (-1,200), Construction (-800), Financial Activities (-700) and Wholesale Trade (-600). Smaller over-the-year losses were noted in Arts, Entertainment & Recreation (-400), Government (-300), Information (-200) and Educational Services (-100).

Establishment Employment in Rhode Island Seasonally Adjusted

	Net Change From				
	Jul-10	Jun-10	Jul-09	Jun-10	Jul-09
Total Nonfarm	451.8	451.2	457.4	0.6	-5.6
Natural Resources & Mining	0.3	0.3	0.2	0.0	0.1
Construction	16.0	16.3	16.8	-0.3	-0.8
Manufacturing	40.6	40.0	41.8	0.6	-1.2
Wholesale Trade	15.2	15.4	15.8	-0.2	-0.6
Retail Trade	44.8	44.2	47.0	0.6	-2.2
Transportation & Utilities	10.1	10.1	10.0	0.0	0.1
Information	9.8	9.8	10.0	0.0	-0.2
Financial Activities	30.3	31.0	31.0	-0.7	-0.7
Professional & Business Services	50.2	50.6	51.9	-0.4	-1.7
Educational Services	23.7	23.6	23.8	0.1	-0.1
Health Care & Social Assistance	77.5	77.4	76.9	0.1	0.6
Arts, Entertainment & Recreation	7.3	6.9	7.7	0.4	-0.4
Accommodation & Food Services	42.1	41.2	40.9	0.9	1.2
Other Services	22.6	22.2	22.0	0.4	0.6
Government	61.3	62.2	61.6	-0.9	-0.3

Manufacturing Employment in Rhode Island Not Seasonally Adjusted

	Employment				
	(in thousands)			Net Change From:	
	Jul 10	Jun 10	Jul 09	Jun 10	Jul 09
Manufacturing	39.0	40.0	40.2	-1000	-1200
Durable Goods	24.4	25.4	25.7	-1000	-1300
Fabricated Metal Product Mfg.	5.1	5.4	5.4	-300	-300
Computer & Electronic Product Mfg.	3.8	3.8	3.8	0	0
Miscellaneous Manufacturing	5.9	6.3	6.5	-400	-600
Jewelry & Silverware	3.8	4.1	4.2	-300	-400
Non-Durable Goods	14.6	14.6	14.5	0	100
Chemical Manufacturing	2.9	3.0	2.9	-100	0

Five sectors—Accommodation & Food Services (+1,200), Health Care & Social Assistance (+600), Other Services (+600), Transportation & Utilities (+100) and Natural Resources & Mining (+100)—added jobs over the year.

MANUFACTURING: In July 2010, production workers in the Manufacturing sector earned \$14.70 per hour. The average hourly production wage was up one cent from June 2010 and up 22 cents from July 2009. Manufacturing employees worked an average of 38.3 hours per week in July, down six-tenths of an hour from June, and up two hours 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.



Update on Rhode Island's "Great Flood"

Nearly 80 Percent of Workers Back on the Job

With the recent re-opening of the Warwick Mall, 193 of the 240 companies closed as a result of the March floods are now back in business returning over 3,800 affected workers to their jobs. Department of Labor and Training records indicate that 240 businesses with 4,900

workers experienced significant flooding in March resulting in the temporary closing of the affected establishments.

Of the forty-six companies still closed, twenty-seven plan to reopen by Christmas, while two businesses are advertising 2011 reopenings. Seventeen businesses with approximately 200 workers are not planning to reopen.

The businesses and jobs still affected by the March flood are in the Retail Trade (19/721), Accommodation and Food Services (5/125) and Professional Services and Information (4/14) sectors. Nearly all of the closed businesses and jobs (26/828) are located in the city of Warwick.

Reopening Expectations

<u>Month Reopened</u>	<u>Companies</u>		<u>Workers Affected</u>	
	<u>Number</u>	<u>Percent</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Percent</u>
Total Companies Closed*	240	100%	4,900	100%
In April	114	47.5%	2,429	49.6%
In May	26	10.8%	327	6.7%
In June	12	5.0%	288	5.9%
In July	11	4.6%	303	6.2%
In August	31	12.9%	481	9.8%
In September	9	3.8%	124	2.5%
In October	14	5.8%	344	7.0%
In November	3	1.3%	20	0.4%
In December	1	0.4%	30	0.6%
In 2011	2	0.8%	344	7.0%
Not Planning to Reopening	17	7.1%	210	4.3%

*DLT records as of 8/27/10

Characteristics of the Insured Unemployed

A total of 18,753 individuals were eligible to collect "regular" Unemployment Insurance benefits in July 2010, down 5,762 (-23.5%) from the 24,515 collecting these benefits in July 2009. In addition, 9,418 individuals collected Emergency Unemployment Compensation and 7,640 collected Extended Benefits. In all, 51.5 percent of Rhode Island's unemployed workers were eligible to collect unemployment benefits in July.

Of the 18,753 individuals collecting "regular" Unemployment Insurance benefits, 29.3 percent faced long-term unemployment (defined as collecting unemployment insurance for fifteen weeks or more), down from 33.1 percent in July 2009.

On an industry basis, 11.8 percent (2,219) of the State's insured unemployed workers came from the Accommodation & Food Services sector. There were also 2,207 individuals with an attachment to the Manufacturing sector, accounting for 11.8 percent of all insured unemployed workers. An additional 11.4 percent (2,143) of those collecting UI benefits in July had worked in the Retail Trade sector. Large numbers of insured unemployed were also reported in Health Care & Social Assistance (2,010), Construction (1,717) and Transportation & Warehousing (1,686). For more information, go to www.dlt.ri.gov/lmi/uiadmin/characteristics.htm.

Characteristics of the Insured Unemployed, July 2010

	Total	Percent	
		Long-Term	Long-Term
Total	18,753	5,486	29.3%
Male	8,194	2,705	33.0%
Female	10,559	2,781	26.3%
Selected Industries	18,753	5,486	29.3%
Construction	1,717	573	33.4%
Manufacturing	2,207	817	37.0%
Wholesale Trade	655	262	40.0%
Retail Trade	2,143	1,053	49.1%
Transportation & Warehousing	1,686	108	6.4%
Information	234	94	40.2%
Finance & Insurance	735	322	43.8%
Real Estate	365	156	42.7%
Professional & Tech. Services	885	278	31.4%
Administrative & Waste Services	1,372	330	24.1%
Educational Services	857	80	9.3%
Health Care & Social Assistance	2,010	568	28.3%
Arts, Entertainment & Recreation	284	72	25.4%
Accommodation & Food Services	2,219	388	17.5%
Other Services	636	225	35.4%
Public Administration	249	40	16.1%

**Consumer Price Index for
All Urban Consumers**

				% Change
	Jul 10	Jun 10	Jul 09	Prev. Year
All Items	218.0	218.0	215.4	1.2%

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 20,800 advertisements for Rhode Island based jobs this month, an increase of 1,300 (+6.7%) from the June 2010 postings, and an increase of 5,400 (+35.1%) from the 15,400 advertised vacancies posted online in July 2009. There were an estimated 3.62 advertised vacancies for every 100 persons in Rhode Island's labor force.

**Help Wanted OnLine
Advertised Job Vacancies**

	July 10	June 10	July 09
RI Vacancies	20,800	19,500	15,400
Labor Demand Rate *			
Rhode Island	3.62	3.38	2.72
US	2.79	2.70	2.13
Connecticut	3.78	3.54	2.48
Massachusetts	3.97	3.92	2.89
Maine	2.99	2.77	2.32
New Hampshire	3.33	3.10	2.45
Vermont	3.65	3.27	2.79
Supply/Demand Rate **			
Rhode Island	3.28	3.56	4.19
US	3.40	3.52	4.43

* 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 July**

	2010	2009		2010	2009
Barrington	9.6	9.1	Newport	9.8	9.6
Bristol	10.7	11.0	North Kingstown	9.4	9.2
Burrillville	12.1	11.9	North Providence	12.3	11.5
Central Falls	15.0	15.4	North Smithfield	11.4	11.2
Charlestown	11.9	10.7	Pawtucket	13.2	14.0
Coventry	12.1	11.1	Portsmouth	10.0	8.8
Cranston	12.5	11.9	Providence	14.6	14.6
Cumberland	11.3	10.8	Richmond	10.0	7.5
East Greenwich	10.9	10.2	Scituate	12.4	12.6
East Providence	12.3	12.2	Smithfield	12.3	11.3
Exeter	11.1	9.9	South Kingstown	11.2	9.8
Foster	12.3	12.4	Tiverton	12.1	11.5
Glocester	9.4	9.7	Warren	10.7	11.5
Hopkinton	12.1	10.6	Warwick	11.7	10.9
Jamestown	9.3	7.4	West Greenwich	9.6	11.2
Johnston	12.6	12.1	West Warwick	13.4	12.3
Lincoln	11.5	11.4	Westerly	8.0	9.0
Little Compton	9.8	9.8	Woonsocket	13.1	13.5
Middletown	9.5	8.8			
Narragansett	7.5	6.7	State of R.I.	12.0	11.7
New Shoreham	4.7	3.6	United States	9.7	9.7

Nationally, there were an estimated 2.79 advertised vacancies for every 100 persons in labor force. Among the New England states, Massachusetts (3.97), Connecticut (3.78) and Vermont (3.65) had higher vacancy rates than Rhode Island.

There were an estimated 3.28 unemployed Rhode Island residents for every advertised job in July, down from 3.56 unemployed residents estimated per June advertisements. Nationally, there were 3.40 unemployed persons for every job opening advertised in July, down from 3.52 in June.

Unemployment Insurance Claims Activity

	July		July 2009	% Change		Year-to-Date		
	2010	2010		June 10	July 09	2010	2009	% Change
Regular Claims								
Initial Claims	6,935	9,071	10,934	-23.5%	-36.6%	61,580	77,166	-20.2%
Number of Payments	67,526	71,465	92,350	-5.5%	-26.9%	557,281	733,029	-24.0%
Amount of Payments (gross millions)	\$23.6	\$25.7	\$33.6	-8.2%	-29.8%	\$205.3	\$271.6	-24.4%
Exhaustions (Final Payments)	2,070	2,570	3,162	-19.5%	-34.5%	17,402	20,499	-15.1%
Emergency Unemployment Compensation								
Initial Claims	1,509	1,019	4,084	48.1%	-63.1%	20,363	82,611	
Number of Payments	39,661	78,181	47,087	-49.3%	-15.8%	529,014	1,344,551	
Amount of Payments (gross millions)	\$14.7	\$29.0	\$17.1	-49.3%	-14.0%	\$195.4	\$488.4	
Extended Benefits								
Initial Claims	3,971	5,515	843	-28.0%	371.1%	12,426	23,436	
Number of Payments	32,747	16,819	13,811	94.7%	137.1%	70,886	201,342	
Amount of Payments (gross millions)	\$12.2	\$6.2	\$5.0	96.8%	144.0%	\$25.7	\$71.5	
Exhaustions (Final Payments)	192	178	856	7.9%	-77.6%	2,250	7,742	

Average Annual Private Sector Wages by Industry Sector, 2009

	<u>US</u>	<u>RI</u>	<u>CT</u>	<u>ME</u>	<u>MA</u>	<u>NH</u>	<u>VT</u>
Total Private	\$45,146	\$41,320	\$58,358	\$35,747	\$56,635	\$45,108	\$37,949
Agriculture, Forestry, Fishing & Hunting	\$26,017	\$25,099	\$28,782	**	\$46,407	\$28,850	\$27,389
Mining, Quarrying, & Oil & Gas Extraction	\$85,533	\$47,269	\$64,758	**	\$53,131	\$52,434	\$55,483
Construction	\$49,312	\$52,206	\$57,770	\$40,130	\$61,792	\$49,045	\$41,672
Utilities	\$84,877	\$82,074	\$106,639	\$62,969	\$102,745	\$87,619	\$87,866
Manufacturing	\$54,854	\$47,199	\$70,237	\$46,265	\$69,252	\$58,240	\$51,818
Wholesale Trade	\$61,588	\$60,040	\$79,186	\$50,688	\$76,488	\$71,011	\$51,914
Retail Trade	\$26,161	\$26,343	\$30,546	\$23,713	\$27,728	\$26,292	\$25,563
Transportation & Warehousing	\$42,819	\$35,571	\$44,863	\$35,730	\$41,123	\$35,695	\$36,440
Information	\$71,182	\$59,806	\$71,240	\$43,062	\$84,729	\$69,672	\$45,192
Finance & Insurance	\$79,736	\$67,939	\$130,798	\$53,887	\$111,070	\$74,329	\$61,439
Real Estate & Rental & Leasing	\$42,248	\$36,176	\$51,762	\$32,335	\$55,424	\$43,931	\$32,771
Professional & Technical Services	\$74,738	\$61,877	\$85,417	\$54,084	\$95,683	\$72,654	\$60,196
Management of Companies & Enterprises	\$91,405	\$92,418	\$135,064	\$62,394	\$101,430	\$76,303	\$69,626
Administrative & Waste Services	\$32,578	\$29,638	\$38,294	\$29,923	\$38,367	\$40,179	\$31,219
Educational Services	\$41,974	\$44,359	\$52,929	\$37,579	\$54,015	\$46,204	\$40,456
Health Care & Social Assistance	\$43,217	\$40,682	\$46,720	\$39,224	\$50,514	\$46,035	\$37,948
Arts, Entertainment, & Recreation	\$31,627	\$23,302	\$26,471	\$20,605	\$33,760	\$18,808	\$20,760
Accommodation & Food Services	\$16,690	\$15,902	\$18,063	\$15,375	\$19,156	\$16,830	\$17,627
Other Services	\$28,810	\$26,393	\$30,146	\$26,563	\$28,132	\$30,812	\$27,916

Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics for US and other New England states. RI Department of Labor & Training, Labor Market Information unit for RI wages.

Wages are preliminary and subject to change.

** Wages are confidential.