



Rhode Island's Unemployment Rate Drops to 10.8 percent in July

- ◆ RI's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate for July was 10.8 percent, down one-tenth of a percentage point from June.
- ◆ RI's July unemployment rate was down six-tenths of a percentage point from last July's figure of 11.4 percent.
- ◆ The national rate was 8.3 percent, up one-tenth of a percentage point from June and down eight-tenths of a percentage point from the previous year.
- ◆ In July 2012, Rhode Island had the 2nd highest unemployment rate in the nation, trailing Nevada (12.0%).
- ◆ The July 2012 unemployment rate increased in forty-four states, including Connecticut (+0.4), Vermont (+0.3), New Hampshire (+0.3), Massachusetts (+0.1) and Maine (+0.1). Two states, including Rhode Island (-0.1), saw their rates decrease, while four states' rates were unchanged. In all, three states have unemployment rates in the double digits.
- ◆ Rates in other New England States for July 2012— Connecticut 8.5 percent, Maine 7.6 percent, Massachusetts 6.1 percent, New Hampshire 5.4 percent and Vermont 5.0 percent.
- ◆ The number of employed RI residents totaled 494,900 in July 2012, down 100 from the previous month. Between July 2011 and July 2012, the number of employed RI residents decreased by 4,000.
- ◆ Over the month, the number of unemployed Rhode Island residents decreased by 400 to 59,900 in July 2012. From July 2011 to July 2012, the number of unemployed residents decreased by 4,400.

Extended Benefits Recap

During the “Great Recession” Rhode Island became the second state in the nation to pay Extended Benefits. Rhode Island’s Extended Benefits (EB) program “triggered on” July 6, 2008, a month after Alaska, which triggered on June 1, 2008.

Rhode Island’s EB program remained in effect until data released by the Bureau of Labor Statistics on June 15, 2012, showed that the three month average, seasonally adjusted total unemployment rate for Rhode Island (11.1%), as well as Nevada (11.7%) and New Jersey (9.1%), did not meet one of the necessary criteria to remain on the EB program - i.e. having a rate at least ten percent greater than the comparable rate in any of the three prior years- thereby triggering these states “off” the EB program. The end of the payable period in these states was July 7, 2012. Idaho triggered off EB the following month, ending payments on August 11, 2012. Currently, no states are paying EB, however the program will resume in New York on September 10, 2012.

Extended Benefits Summary

Initial Claims	37,986
Monetary Determinations	33,827
Monetary Ineligible	490
Number of Payments	492,287
Amount of Payments	\$179,032,392
Average Payment	\$364
Average Duration	14.8 weeks
First Payments	33,219
Final Payments	25,114

During the four year period the EB program was in effect in Rhode Island workers who had exhausted their regular and emergency unemployment insurance benefits were potentially eligible for up to twenty additional weeks of benefits. A total of 33,827 EB claims were filed during the four year period, of which over 98 percent were determined

to be monetarily eligible to receive benefits. A total of 492,287 payments totaling more than \$179 million were made on 33,219 claims. The average EB payment was \$364 and the average claim duration was 14.8 weeks. Approximately 75 percent of the individuals who filed EB claims collected their full entitlement.

Seasonally Adjusted Labor Force Statistics

(in thousands)

	Rhode Island			United States		
	Jul 12	Jun 12	Jul 11	Jul 12	Jun 12	Jul 11
Civilian Labor Force	554.8	555.2	563.2	155,013	155,163	153,358
Resident Employment	494.9	495.0	498.9	142,220	142,415	139,450
Unemployment	59.9	60.3	64.3	12,794	12,749	13,908
Unemployment Rate	10.8%	10.9%	11.4%	8.3%	8.2%	9.1%

Rhode Island Jobs Decrease by 1,200 in July

Estimated nonfarm payroll in Rhode Island totaled 455,900 in July, reflecting a loss of 1,200 jobs from the June employment estimate of 457,100. The July employment figure marks the lowest employment figure since April 1998 (455,300).

The July preliminary estimates indicate that the Health Care & Social Assistance sector lost 900 jobs over the month. Employment declines were noted in the industry groups of individual and family services, home health care, and health practitioners.

Also reporting large job losses since June were the Professional & Technical Services (-500) and Educational Services (-500) sectors. Notable employment declines in the Professional & Business Services sector were reported in such areas as janitorial, landscaping, and security services. In the Educational Services sector, private colleges and universities showed job losses in payroll and educational support services.

The Wholesale Trade, Government, Information and Transportation & Utilities sectors all lost 200 jobs in July, while the Other Services sector shed 100 positions. Employment in the Retail Trade, Manufacturing and Mining & Logging sectors remained unchanged.

The Accommodation & Food Services and Construction sectors each added 600 jobs over the month, helping to offset the job declines. Local hotels and motels as well as drinking places added employment in July. Construction gains were noted in residential building construction, commercial construction and specialty trade construction. Smaller job gains were reported in the Arts, Entertainment & Recreation (+300) and Financial Activities (+100) sectors.

Over the year, total nonfarm employment decreased by 7,300. Job losses were reported in ten economic sectors, including Health Care & Social Assistance (-2,900), Professional & Business Services (-1,700), Retail Trade (-1,600), Government (-900), Educational Services (-600), Other Services (-500), Information (-200), Financial Activities (-200), Wholesale Trade (-100) and Transportation & Utilities (-100).

Establishment Employment in Rhode Island					
Seasonally Adjusted					
	Net Change From				
	Jul-12	Jun-12	Jul-11	Jun-12	Jul-11
Total Nonfarm	455.9	457.1	463.2	-1.2	-7.3
Natural Resources & Mining	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.0	0.0
Construction	16.3	15.7	15.6	0.6	0.7
Manufacturing	41.2	41.2	41.2	0.0	0.0
Wholesale Trade	16.2	16.4	16.3	-0.2	-0.1
Retail Trade	44.9	44.9	46.5	0.0	-1.6
Transportation & Utilities	10.5	10.7	10.6	-0.2	-0.1
Information	10.2	10.4	10.4	-0.2	-0.2
Financial Activities	30.6	30.5	30.8	0.1	-0.2
Professional & Business Services	53.0	53.5	54.7	-0.5	-1.7
Educational Services	25.3	25.8	25.9	-0.5	-0.6
Health Care & Social Assistance	75.6	76.5	78.5	-0.9	-2.9
Arts, Entertainment & Recreation	7.5	7.2	7.4	0.3	0.1
Accommodation & Food Services	42.7	42.1	42.0	0.6	0.7
Other Services	22.0	22.1	22.5	-0.1	-0.5
Government	59.7	59.9	60.6	-0.2	-0.9

Manufacturing Employment in Rhode Island					
Not Seasonally Adjusted					
	Employment				
	(in thousands)			Net Change From:	
	Jul 12	Jun 12	Jul 11	Jun 12	Jul 11
Manufacturing	40.3	41.1	40.2	-800	100
Durable Goods	26.4	26.6	26.0	-200	400
Fabricated Metal Product Mfg.	5.3	5.5	5.5	-200	-200
Computer & Electronic Product Mfg.	3.5	3.5	3.6	0	-100
Miscellaneous Manufacturing	6.2	6.4	6.3	-200	-100
Jewelry & Silverware	3.8	4.0	3.9	-200	-100
Non-Durable Goods	13.9	14.5	14.2	-600	-300
Chemical Manufacturing	2.9	2.9	2.8	0	100

Accommodation & Food Services and Construction employment each posted the largest over-the-year increases in July, with a gain of 700 jobs, followed by Arts, Entertainment & Recreation (+100). Employment in Manufacturing and Mining & Logging remained unchanged over the year.

MANUFACTURING: In July 2012, production workers in the Manufacturing sector earned \$18.57 per hour. The average hourly production wage was up 35 cents from June 2012 and up \$1.97 from July 2011. Manufacturing employees worked an average of 39.2 hours per week in July, down one hour and two-tenths over the month and unchanged 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. Current month's figures are preliminary and subject to change.



Labor Supply & Demand in Rhode Island

Unemployment insurance claimants represent an able and available supply of trained labor. On-line postings represent a current demand for labor. LMI's newest publication – *Labor Supply and Demand report* – provides a comparison of these two data sets indicating occupational groups for which labor supply is sufficient to meet employer's current needs; and occupational groups for which there is a shortage of trained workers available to meet employers' current demands.

On June 30, 2012, the Department of Labor and Training's EmployRI on-line network recorded 9,533 on-line job postings from Rhode Island-based businesses. Also in June, 25,291 individuals collected Unemployment Insurance (UI) benefits, accounting for less than half (44%) of all unemployed Rhode Island residents. A comparison of the on-line job postings to the UI claimants currently seeking work indicates that there were 2.7 claimants for each on-line posting, and a surplus of available labor (more claimants per posting) for nearly all occupational groups.

The greatest labor surplus was for the Production occupational group, for which there were 9.4 UI claimants with this type of work experience for every on-line posting in this occupational group. Other occupational groups for which there were significantly more unemployed workers than on-line postings included Construction (8.7), Food Preparation & Serving Related (5.8), Education, Training & Library (5.2) and Installation, Maintenance & Repair (5.2), each of which had more than five unemployed claimants per on-line posting.

In contrast, there was more of a demand for Healthcare Practitioner & Technical and Computer & Mathematical occupations than available labor. For both of these occupational groups there were more on-line postings than UI claimants indicating previous work experience in these occupational groups.

These statistics indicate that employers seeking to hire workers to fill vacancies for Healthcare Practitioner & Technical and Computer & Mathematical jobs would have more difficulty finding qualified workers than those employers attempting to fill vacancies in occupational groups for which there are significantly more unemployed claimants than on-line postings.

For more information, visit www.dlt.ri.gov/lmi/publications/supply&demand.htm

Characteristics of the Insured Unemployed

A total of 15,155 individuals were eligible to collect "regular" Unemployment Insurance benefits in July 2012, down 1,528 (-9.2%) from the 16,683 collecting these benefits in July 2011. In addition, 9,444 individuals collected Emergency Unemployment Compensation and 62 collected Extended Benefits. In all, 38.5 percent of Rhode Island's unemployed workers were eligible to collect unemployment benefits in July.

Of the 15,155 individuals collecting "regular" Unemployment Insurance benefits, 23.9 percent faced long-term unemployment (defined as collecting unemployment insurance for fifteen weeks or more), down from 26.0 percent in July 2011.

On an industry basis, 13.0 percent (1,963) of the State's insured unemployed workers came from the Health Care & Social Assistance sector. There were also 1,851 individuals with an attachment to the Accommodation & Food Services sector, accounting for 12.2 percent of all insured unemployed workers. An additional 10.7 percent (1,617) of those collecting UI benefits in July had worked in the Manufacturing sector. Large numbers of insured unemployed were also reported in Transportation & Warehousing (1,577), Administrative & Waste Services (1,446) and Retail Trade (1,344). For more information, go to www.dlt.ri.gov/lmi/uiadmin/characteristics.htm.

Characteristics of the Insured Unemployed, July 2012

	Total	Long-Term	Percent Long-Term
Total	15,155	3,615	23.9%
Male	6,721	1,793	26.7%
Female	8,434	1,822	21.6%
Selected Industries	15,155	3,615	23.9%
Construction	1,147	282	24.6%
Manufacturing	1,617	471	29.1%
Wholesale Trade	552	199	36.1%
Retail Trade	1,344	449	33.4%
Transportation & Warehousing	1,577	75	4.8%
Information	312	81	26.0%
Finance & Insurance	464	183	39.4%
Real Estate	226	73	32.3%
Professional & Tech. Services	849	239	28.2%
Administrative & Waste Services	1,446	278	19.2%
Educational Services	520	65	12.5%
Health Care & Social Assistance	1,963	615	31.3%
Arts, Entertainment & Recreation	200	39	19.5%
Accommodation & Food Services	1,851	256	13.8%
Other Services	563	182	32.3%
Public Administration	136	27	19.9%

**Consumer Price Index for
All Urban Consumers**

				% Change
	Jul 12	Jun 12	Jul 11	Prev. Year
All Items	229.1	229.5	225.9	1.4%

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 19,300 advertisements for Rhode Island based jobs this month, an increase of 400 (+2.1%) from the June 2012 postings, and up 1,700 (+9.7%) from the advertised vacancies posted online in July 2011. There were an estimated 3.47 advertised vacancies for every 100 persons in Rhode Island's labor force.

**Help Wanted OnLine
Advertised Job Vacancies**

	July 12	June 12	July 11
RI Vacancies	19,300	18,900	17,600
<i>Labor Demand Rate *</i>			
Rhode Island	3.47	3.41	3.12
U S	3.09	3.19	2.80
Connecticut	3.39	3.42	3.14
Massachusetts	4.18	4.23	3.79
Maine	2.99	3.13	2.98
New Hampshire	3.45	3.57	3.15
Vermont	3.39	3.66	3.51
<i>Supply/Demand Rate **</i>			
Rhode Island	3.10	3.18	3.65
U S	2.67	2.58	3.23

* 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 July**

	2012	2011		2012	2011
Barrington	8.3	8.9	Newport	8.2	9.5
Bristol	9.7	10.1	North Kingstown	8.3	9.1
Burrillville	11.3	11.5	North Providence	10.8	11.8
Central Falls	14.4	16.1	North Smithfield	9.8	10.1
Charlestown	12.1	12.5	Pawtucket	13.9	14.1
Coventry	10.5	11.5	Portsmouth	8.5	9.6
Cranston	11.5	11.9	Providence	13.9	15.5
Cumberland	10.5	11.0	Richmond	7.7	8.0
East Greenwich	9.9	10.9	Scituate	11.1	11.5
East Providence	12.1	11.8	Smithfield	10.3	11.0
Exeter	9.9	9.5	South Kingstown	10.0	10.3
Foster	12.4	13.0	Tiverton	10.7	10.9
Glocester	9.6	9.4	Warren	10.3	11.9
Hopkinton	10.5	11.7	Warwick	10.1	10.8
Jamestown	6.6	7.5	West Greenwich	10.9	10.5
Johnston	11.8	12.3	West Warwick	11.8	12.4
Lincoln	10.1	10.6	Westerly	8.7	8.2
Little Compton	9.6	9.0	Woonsocket	12.7	13.0
Middletown	9.0	9.1			
Narragansett	7.2	7.7	State of R.I.	11.2	11.8
New Shoreham	6.0	6.0	United States	8.6	9.3

Nationally, there were an estimated 3.09 advertised vacancies for every 100 persons in labor force. Among the New England states, only Massachusetts (4.18) had a higher vacancy rate than Rhode Island.

There were an estimated 3.10 unemployed Rhode Island residents for every advertised job in July, down from 3.18 unemployed residents estimated per June advertisements. Nationally, there were 2.67 unemployed persons for every job opening advertised in July, down from 2.58 in June.

Unemployment Insurance Claims Activity

	Jul.	Jun.	Jul.	% Change		Year-to-Date		
	2012	2012	2011	Jun.12	Jul.11	2012	2011	% Change
Regular Claims								
Initial Claims	7,457	7,848	7,120	-5.0%	4.7%	55,019	54,817	0.4%
Number of Payments	65,029	48,342	58,383	34.5%	11.4%	460,614	490,990	-6.2%
Amount of Payments (gross millions)	\$22.8	\$18.0	\$20.1	26.7%	13.4%	\$170.2	\$179.0	-4.9%
Exhaustions (Final Payments)	1,959	1,568	1,771	24.9%	10.6%	14,382	15,668	-8.2%
Emergency Unemployment Compensation								
Initial Claims	2,119	2,038	2,474	4.0%	-14.3%	16,985	149,338	
Number of Payments	46,548	40,793	54,495	14.1%	-14.6%	340,552	2,658,220	
Amount of Payments (gross millions)	\$17.3	\$15.1	\$20.1	14.6%	-13.9%	\$125.2	\$971.7	
Extended Benefits*								
Initial Claims	101	424	296	-76.2%	-65.9%	3,362	37,986	
Number of Payments	3,273	6,805	5,799	-51.9%	-43.6%	51,228	492,287	
Amount of Payments (gross millions)	\$1.2	\$2.5	\$2.1	-52.0%	-42.9%	\$18.7	\$179.0	
Exhaustions (Final Payments)	758	329	223	130.4%	239.9%	3,785	25,114	

*The last payable week for Extended Benefits claims was July 7, 2012.

**Rhode Island
Labor Supply and Demand
Second Quarter 2012**

<u>Occupation Group</u>	<u>EmployRI Postings*</u>	<u>Unemployed Claimants**</u>	<u>Claimants/ Posting</u>
Total	9,533	25,291	2.7
Production	355	3,354	9.4
Construction & Extraction	145	1,267	8.7
Food Preparation & Serving Related	248	1,441	5.8
Education, Training & Library	118	614	5.2
Installation, Maintenance & Repair	167	868	5.2
Office & Administrative Support	1,003	4,690	4.7
Building & Grounds Cleaning & Maintenance	143	605	4.2
Arts, Design, Entertainment, Sports & Media	129	525	4.1
Personal Care & Service	151	584	3.9
Transportation & Material Moving	428	1,542	3.6
Legal	41	105	2.6
Community & Social Services	182	453	2.5
Protective Service	181	349	1.9
Management	1,252	2,355	1.9
Business & Financial Operations	454	839	1.8
Sales & Related	1,181	1,649	1.4
Healthcare Support	600	830	1.4
Life, Physical & Social Science	129	168	1.3
Architecture & Engineering	280	290	1.0
Computer & Mathematical	672	451	0.7
Healthcare Practitioner & Technical	1,655	620	0.4

* Jobs posted during the 90 day period ending June 30, 2012 and still open on June 30 2012

** Individuals receiving unemployment insurance payments for the week ending June 16, 2012