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Employment Bulletin

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Rhode Island's Unemployment Rate Drops to 12.7 Percent

- ◆ RI's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate for November was 12.7 percent, decreasing two-tenths of a percentage point from the October rate of 12.9 percent.
- ◆ RI's November unemployment rate is up 3.6 percentage points from last year's figure of 9.1 percent.
- ◆ The national rate decreased two-tenths of a percentage point to 10.0 percent. Rhode Island's November unemployment rate was the 2nd highest in the nation, trailing Michigan (14.7%).
- ◆ The unemployment rate decreased in 37 states - including Connecticut (-0.6), Rhode Island (-0.2) Maine (-0.2), New Hampshire (-0.1), Massachusetts (-0.1) and Vermont (-0.1). Only eight states saw their rates increase. In all, fourteen states have unemployment rates in the double digits, with five states having a rate above 12.0 percent.
- ◆ Rates in other New England States – Massachusetts 8.8 percent, Connecticut 8.2 percent, Maine 8.0 percent, New Hampshire 6.7 percent, Vermont 6.4 percent.
- ◆ The number of employed RI residents totaled 498,200 in November 2009, reflecting an increase of 2,100 from the previous month. Between November 2008 and November 2009, the number of employed RI residents fell by 17,200.
- ◆ In November, the number of unemployed Rhode Island residents decreased by 1,300 to 72,400, the second consecutive over-the-month decline. From November 2008 to November 2009, the number of unemployed residents increased by 20,800.

Health Care & Social Assistance Employment in Rhode Island

The Health Care & Social Assistance sector is Rhode Island's largest private sector, comprising nearly 20 percent of the state's private sector employment.

During the last expansion period (December 2001 – January 2007) employment in the Health Care & Social Assistance sector grew by 8,300 jobs, a 12.3 percent increase. In comparison, total employment in the state increased 4.4 percent (+20,900) during the same period.

November 2009 Estimated Employment	
Health Care & Social Assistance	76,500
Private Sector	394,100
Total (Public & Private)	455,200

Since its employment peak in January 2007, employment in the state has decreased by 41,200 jobs, a decline of 8.3 percent. Health Care & Social Assistance is one of just two sectors to add jobs during the current recessionary period (which for Rhode Island began in February 2007) with the addition of 700 (0.9%) jobs.

This modest job growth was evidenced in the latest job vacancy survey which recorded an estimated total of 1,484 job vacancies during the spring of 2009 which translates to a vacancy rate of 1.9 percent or 1.9 vacancies for every 100 Health Care & Social Assistance jobs filled. While continuing to provide the greatest number of vacancies of all industry sectors, available jobs in the sector were down considerably from the 2,122 (-30.1%) reported in 2008 and less than half the number (3,480) reported in 2006. (Continued on Page 4)

Seasonally Adjusted Labor Force Statistics

(in thousands)

	Rhode Island			United States		
	Nov 09	Oct 09	Nov 08	Nov 09	Oct 09	Nov 08
Civilian Labor Force	570.6	569.8	567.0	153,877	153,975	154,620
Resident Employment	498.2	496.1	515.4	138,502	138,275	144,144
Unemployment	72.4	73.7	51.6	15,375	15,700	10,476
Unemployment Rate	12.7%	12.9%	9.1%	10.0%	10.2%	6.8%

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Rhode Island Jobs Decrease by 1,300 in November

Rhode Island based non-farm jobs totaled 455,200 in November 2009, the lowest employment level since April 1998 (455,000). The November job count declined by 1,300 (-0.3%) from the October revised employment level of 456,500. The private sector accounted for 900 of the 1,300 lost jobs, while the Government sector shed 400 jobs in November.

Employment in Retail Trade declined by 600 jobs over the month as several retail industries fell short of normal holiday hiring expectations. Also in November, the Accommodation & Food Services and Government sectors lost 500 and 400 jobs, respectively. In Accommodation & Food Services, employment losses were reported in full service restaurants, while in Government, declines were attributed to losses at the local and federal level. Job losses were also reported in the Professional & Business Services (-300), Arts, Entertainment & Recreation (-200) and Transportation & Utilities (-100) sectors.

Modest job gains were noted in several sectors in November, including Health Care & Social Assistance, Wholesale Trade and Other Services, as each sector added 200 jobs. Also, Construction and Educational Services both added 100 jobs over the month. Employment remained stable in the Manufacturing, Financial Activities, Information, and Natural Resources & Mining sectors.

November 2009 employment was down 19,200 (-4.0%) from November 2008, with job declines reported in nearly all economic sectors. Manufacturing (-4,600), Retail Trade (-2,300), Construction (-2,000), Professional & Business Services (-1,800), Accommodation & Food Services (-1,700), Government (-1,400), Other Services (-1,200) and Financial Activities (-1,000) reported the most significant annual employment declines. Smaller over-the-year losses were noted in Information (-800),

Transportation & Utilities (-700), Wholesale Trade (-700), Arts, Entertainment & Recreation (-500), Educational Services (-300) and Health Care & Social Assistance (-200).

MANUFACTURING: In November 2009, production workers in the Manufacturing sector earned \$14.41 per hour. The average hourly production wage was up ten cents from October 2009 and up forty cents from November 2008. Manufacturing employees worked an average of 37.4 hours per week in November, down one-tenth of an hour over the month, and down nine-tenths of an hour over the year.

Establishment Employment in Rhode Island Seasonally Adjusted

	Net Change From				
	Nov-09	Oct-09	Nov-08	Oct-09	Nov-08
Total Nonfarm	455.2	456.5	474.4	-1.3	-19.2
Natural Resources & Mining	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.0	0.0
Construction	17.6	17.5	19.6	0.1	-2.0
Manufacturing	42.0	42.0	46.6	0.0	-4.6
Wholesale Trade	16.1	15.9	16.8	0.2	-0.7
Retail Trade	45.3	45.9	47.6	-0.6	-2.3
Transportation & Utilities	10.2	10.3	10.9	-0.1	-0.7
Information	9.7	9.7	10.5	0.0	-0.8
Financial Activities	32.3	32.3	33.3	0.0	-1.0
Professional & Business Services	51.4	51.7	53.2	-0.3	-1.8
Educational Services	23.1	23.0	23.4	0.1	-0.3
Health Care & Social Assistance	76.5	76.3	76.7	0.2	-0.2
Arts, Entertainment & Recreation	7.3	7.5	7.8	-0.2	-0.5
Accommodation & Food Services	40.9	41.4	42.6	-0.5	-1.7
Other Services	21.5	21.3	22.7	0.2	-1.2
Government	61.1	61.5	62.5	-0.4	-1.4

Manufacturing Employment in Rhode Island Not Seasonally Adjusted

	Employment				
	(in thousands)			Net Change From:	
	Nov 09	Oct 09	Nov 08	Oct 09	Nov 08
Manufacturing	42.5	42.5	47.1	0	-4,600
Durable Goods	27.6	27.6	30.7	0	-3,100
Fabricated Metal Product Mfg.	6.0	6.0	6.5	0	-500
Computer & Electronic Product Mfg.	4.0	4.0	4.1	0	-100
Miscellaneous Manufacturing	7.6	7.7	8.3	-100	-700
Jewelry & Silverware	5.0	5.1	5.6	-100	-600
Non-Durable Goods	14.9	14.9	16.4	0	-1,500
Chemical Manufacturing	3.6	3.6	3.6	0	0

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. With the release of the January estimates, the seasonally adjusted jobs and unemployment data have been revised back to 2004. Current month's figures are preliminary and subject to change.

2009 Population Estimates



Since Census 2000, the population of New England has grown more slowly than the national population. Between April 2000 and July 2009, the population of New England increased 3.6 percent, compared to 9.1 percent nationally. Growth rates ranged from a low of 0.5 percent in Rhode Island to a high of 7.2 percent in New Hampshire.

Between Census 2000 and 2009, all of the New England states reported population growth. After New Hampshire, Massachusetts posted the second highest growth rate at 3.9 percent, followed by Maine (3.4%), Connecticut (3.3%), and Vermont (2.1%). Rhode Island's growth was the slowest in New England, gaining just 0.5 percent.

Nationally, all states reported population growth since Census 2000. Nevada (+32.3%), followed by Arizona (+28.6%), posted the largest growth rate, while Michigan (+0.3%), Rhode Island (+0.5%) and Louisiana (+0.5%) had the slowest population growth rate. Six states added over a million residents, led by Texas (+3.9 mil) and California (+3.1 mil).

Over the past year, Rhode Island was just one of three states to post a decrease in population, losing 293 (-0.03%) residents. Michigan's population declined by 32,759 (-0.3%) and Maine's population declined by 1,390 (-0.1%). Rhode Island's population peaked in 2003 (1,071,504) and has been slowly declining since. Massachusetts had the highest growth rate in New England between 2008 and 2009, increasing by 0.8 percent, followed by Connecticut adding 0.4 percent to its population. The New England region grew by 0.5 percent, while the nation as a whole grew by 0.9 percent.

Nationally, Wyoming (+2.1%) and Utah (+2.1%) had the highest over-the-year population growth rate increase. Five states posted increases in population above 100,000, led by Texas (+478,012) and California (+381,293). Population estimates for all fifty states can be found on the enclosed label page and at www.dlt.ri.gov/lmi/census/pop/nation.htm.

Rhode Island Population

Census 2000 1,048,319

July 1st Population Estimate

2000	1,050,736
2001	1,058,051
2002	1,066,034
2003	1,071,504
2004	1,071,414
2005	1,064,989
2006	1,060,196
2007	1,055,009
2008	1,053,502
2009	1,053,209

Source: US Census Bureau

Characteristics of the Insured Unemployed

A total of 17,190 individuals were eligible to collect "regular" Unemployment Insurance benefits in November 2009, up 2,238 (+15.0%) from the 14,952 collecting these benefits in November 2008. In addition, 19,258 individuals collected Emergency Unemployment Compensation and 2,302 collected Extended Benefits. In all, 57 percent of Rhode Island's unemployed workers were eligible to collect unemployment benefits in November.

Of the 17,190 individuals collecting "regular" Unemployment Insurance benefits, 32.7 percent faced long-term unemployment (defined as collecting unemployment insurance for fifteen weeks or more), up from 26.3 percent in November 2008.

On an industry basis, 16.2 percent (2,793) of the State's insured unemployed workers came from the Manufacturing sector. There were also 2,612 individuals with an attachment to the Construction sector, accounting for 15.2 percent of all insured unemployed workers. An additional 8.9 percent (1,535) of those collecting UI benefits in November had worked in the Health Care & Social Assistance sector. Large numbers of insured unemployed were also reported in Administrative & Waste Services (1,491), Retail Trade (1,421) and Accommodation & Food Services (1,372). For more information, go to www.dlt.ri.gov/lmi/uiadmin/characteristics.htm.

Characteristics of the Insured Unemployed, November 2009

	Total	Long-Term	Percent Long-Term
Total	17,190	5,618	32.7%
Male	9,694	2,759	28.5%
Female	7,496	2,859	38.1%
Selected Industries	17,190	5,618	32.7%
Construction	2,612	538	20.6%
Manufacturing	2,793	1,091	39.1%
Wholesale Trade	722	275	38.1%
Retail Trade	1,421	519	36.5%
Transportation & Warehousing	429	139	32.4%
Information	366	151	41.3%
Finance & Insurance	836	358	42.8%
Real Estate	362	121	33.4%
Professional & Tech. Services	870	319	36.7%
Administrative & Waste Services	1,491	335	22.5%
Educational Services	588	303	51.5%
Health Care & Social Assistance	1,535	665	43.3%
Arts, Entertainment & Recreation	394	47	11.9%
Accommodation & Food Services	1,372	342	24.9%
Other Services	617	207	33.5%
Public Administration	155	51	32.9%

Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers

				% Change
	Nov 09	Oct 09	Nov 08	Prev. Year
All Items	216.3	216.2	212.4	1.8%

Source: U.S. Dept. of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics

Health Care & Social Assistance Employment in Rhode Island (Continued from Page 1)

On the occupational side, Healthcare Support Occupations and Healthcare Practitioners & Technical Occupations had a combined 1,012 job vacancies during the spring 2009 down from 1,473 in Spring 2008 and 2,217 in Spring 2006. As in past years, registered nurses and certified nursing assistants were among the occupations most in demand, however, the number of vacancies for these occupations was down from past years with the most striking decrease occurring in the demand for registered nurses, which are included in the Healthcare Practitioners & Technical occupational group.

Estimated vacancies for registered nurses decreased from approximately 800 in Spring 2006 and over 600 in Spring 2008 to less than 200 in Spring 2009. Registered nurse's delaying retirement and requesting more full-time positions contributed to the decrease in the number of vacancies.

The 2008 average annual wage for the Health Care & Social Assistance sector was \$39,633, which was 3.7 percent less than the private sector average annual wage of \$41,099. Ambulatory Health Care Services and Hospitals paid considerably more than the statewide average with average wages of \$48,029 and \$47,709, respectively, while average wages for Nursing & Residential Care Facilities (\$27,223) and Social Assistance (\$22,077) were considerably less than the annual average wage paid in the private sector.

Once the recession ends, the Health Care & Social Assistance sector is expected to rebound quickly providing the most new jobs due to growth. Effects of the current recession which has folks delaying elective surgeries and cutting down on preventative visits will likely cease as people return to work. The latest projections are for the Health Care & Social Assistance sector is to add over 15,000 jobs between 2006 and 2016, a growth rate of 19.7 percent, double the 9.1 percent growth rate projected for total employment in all industries during this period. The Health Care & Social Assistance sector is expected to provide over 30 percent of the job gains projected for the 2006-2016 period.

City & Town

Unadjusted Unemployment Rates for November

	2009	2008		2009	2008
Barrington	9.6	6.3	Newport	10.6	7.5
Bristol	10.9	8.2	North Kingstown	9.0	7.2
Burrillville	12.0	8.2	North Providence	11.7	8.3
Central Falls	13.9	12.2	North Smithfield	12.0	7.7
Charlestown	11.0	8.5	Pawtucket	14.0	10.3
Coventry	11.8	7.7	Portsmouth	9.0	6.9
Cranston	12.1	8.4	Providence	13.9	9.9
Cumberland	11.1	7.5	Richmond	9.1	5.6
East Greenwich	10.9	8.8	Scituate	11.4	7.6
East Providence	12.5	9.1	Smithfield	11.6	7.7
Exeter	10.7	7.7	South Kingstown	8.6	7.1
Foster	11.3	7.6	Tiverton	12.0	8.2
Glocester	9.5	6.4	Warren	13.1	9.1
Hopkinton	10.9	8.7	Warwick	11.3	7.7
Jamestown	9.4	5.6	West Greenwich	10.5	6.4
Johnston	12.6	9.2	West Warwick	13.0	8.9
Lincoln	11.1	7.7	Westerly	8.9	7.6
Little Compton	9.5	6.7	Woonsocket	15.0	9.7
Middletown	11.4	7.5			
Narragansett	7.9	5.8	State of R.I.	11.9	8.4
New Shoreham	16.9	11.5	United States	9.4	6.5

Unemployment Insurance Claims Activity

	Nov.	Oct.	Nov.	% Change		Year to Date		
	2009	2009	2008	Oct. 09	Nov. 08	2009	2008	% Change
Regular Claims								
Initial Claims	7,264	6,909	7,369	5.1%	-1.4%	105,342	82,682	27.4%
Number of Payments	71,447	62,270	52,734	14.7%	35.5%	1,036,938	689,509	50.4%
Amount of Payments (gross millions)	\$26.7	\$23.5	\$19.3	13.6%	38.3%	\$384.2	\$246.8	55.7%
Exhaustions (Final Payments)	2,939	2,611	1,655	12.6%	77.6%	32,186	18,298	75.9%
Emergency Unemployment Compensation						2009	Since Program Began	
Initial Claims	5,208	4,248	1,661	22.6%	213.5%	39,813	57,965	
Number of Payments	78,044	55,008	14,509	41.9%	437.9%	573,421	734,313	
Amount of Payments (gross millions)	\$28.8	\$20.5	\$5.1	40.5%	464.7%	\$207.0	\$263.2	
Exhaustions (Final Payments)	0	1,189	n/a	-100.0%	n/a	11,482	11,482	
Extended Benefits						2009	Since Program Began	
Initial Claims	608	989	902	-38.5%	-32.6%	7,435	10,878	
Number of Payments	14,380	12,357	9,355	16.4%	53.7%	103,719	120,983	
Amount of Payments (gross millions)	\$5.0	\$4.3	\$3.4	16.3%	47.1%	\$36.3	\$42.5	
Exhaustions (Final Payments)	759	659	n/a	15.2%	n/a	4,793	4,793	

**State Population Estimates:
Census 2000, July 1st Population Estimates 2008, 2009**

State	Census 2000 Population	July 1, 2008	July 1, 2009	2000-2009		2008-2009	
		Population Estimate	Population Estimate	Change	Percent	Change	Percent
United States	281,421,906	304,374,846	307,006,550	25,584,644	9.1%	2,631,704	0.9%
Alabama	4,447,100	4,677,464	4,708,708	261,608	5.9%	31,244	0.7%
Alaska	626,932	688,125	698,473	71,541	11.4%	10,348	1.5%
Arizona	5,130,632	6,499,377	6,595,778	1,465,146	28.6%	96,401	1.5%
Arkansas	2,673,400	2,867,764	2,889,450	216,050	8.1%	21,686	0.8%
California	33,871,648	36,580,371	36,961,664	3,090,016	9.1%	381,293	1.0%
Colorado	4,301,261	4,935,213	5,024,748	723,487	16.8%	89,535	1.8%
Connecticut	3,405,565	3,502,932	3,518,288	112,723	3.3%	15,356	0.4%
Delaware	783,600	876,211	885,122	101,522	13.0%	8,911	1.0%
District of Columbia	572,059	590,074	599,657	27,598	4.8%	9,583	1.6%
Florida	15,982,378	18,423,878	18,537,969	2,555,591	16.0%	114,091	0.6%
Georgia	8,186,453	9,697,838	9,829,211	1,642,758	20.1%	131,373	1.4%
Hawaii	1,211,537	1,287,481	1,295,178	83,641	6.9%	7,697	0.6%
Idaho	1,293,953	1,527,506	1,545,801	251,848	19.5%	18,295	1.2%
Illinois	12,419,293	12,842,954	12,910,409	491,116	4.0%	67,455	0.5%
Indiana	6,080,485	6,388,309	6,423,113	342,628	5.6%	34,804	0.5%
Iowa	2,926,324	2,993,987	3,007,856	81,532	2.8%	13,869	0.5%
Kansas	2,688,418	2,797,375	2,818,747	130,329	4.8%	21,372	0.8%
Kentucky	4,041,769	4,287,931	4,314,113	272,344	6.7%	26,182	0.6%
Louisiana	4,468,976	4,451,513	4,492,076	23,100	0.5%	40,563	0.9%
Maine	1,274,923	1,319,691	1,318,301	43,378	3.4%	-1,390	-0.1%
Maryland	5,296,486	5,658,655	5,699,478	402,992	7.6%	40,823	0.7%
Massachusetts	6,349,097	6,543,595	6,593,587	244,490	3.9%	49,992	0.8%
Michigan	9,938,444	10,002,486	9,969,727	31,283	0.3%	-32,759	-0.3%
Minnesota	4,919,479	5,230,567	5,266,214	346,735	7.0%	35,647	0.7%
Mississippi	2,844,658	2,940,212	2,951,996	107,338	3.8%	11,784	0.4%
Missouri	5,595,211	5,956,335	5,987,580	392,369	7.0%	31,245	0.5%
Montana	902,195	968,035	974,989	72,794	8.1%	6,954	0.7%
Nebraska	1,711,263	1,781,949	1,796,619	85,356	5.0%	14,670	0.8%
Nevada	1,998,257	2,615,772	2,643,085	644,828	32.3%	27,313	1.0%
New Hampshire	1,235,786	1,321,872	1,324,575	88,789	7.2%	2,703	0.2%
New Jersey	8,414,350	8,663,398	8,707,739	293,389	3.5%	44,341	0.5%
New Mexico	1,819,046	1,986,763	2,009,671	190,625	10.5%	22,908	1.2%
New York	18,976,457	19,467,789	19,541,453	564,996	3.0%	73,664	0.4%
North Carolina	8,049,313	9,247,134	9,380,884	1,331,571	16.5%	133,750	1.4%
North Dakota	642,200	641,421	646,844	4,644	0.7%	5,423	0.8%
Ohio	11,353,140	11,528,072	11,542,645	189,505	1.7%	14,573	0.1%
Oklahoma	3,450,654	3,644,025	3,687,050	236,396	6.9%	43,025	1.2%
Oregon	3,421,399	3,782,991	3,825,657	404,258	11.8%	42,666	1.1%
Pennsylvania	12,281,054	12,566,368	12,604,767	323,713	2.6%	38,399	0.3%
Rhode Island	1,048,319	1,053,502	1,053,209	4,890	0.5%	-293	0.0%
South Carolina	4,012,012	4,503,280	4,561,242	549,230	13.7%	57,962	1.3%
South Dakota	754,844	804,532	812,383	57,539	7.6%	7,851	1.0%
Tennessee	5,689,283	6,240,456	6,296,254	606,971	10.7%	55,798	0.9%
Texas	20,851,820	24,304,290	24,782,302	3,930,482	18.8%	478,012	2.0%
Utah	2,233,169	2,727,343	2,784,572	551,403	24.7%	57,229	2.1%
Vermont	608,827	621,049	621,760	12,933	2.1%	711	0.1%
Virginia	7,078,515	7,795,424	7,882,590	804,075	11.4%	87,166	1.1%
Washington	5,894,121	6,566,073	6,664,195	770,074	13.1%	98,122	1.5%
West Virginia	1,808,344	1,814,873	1,819,777	11,433	0.6%	4,904	0.3%
Wisconsin	5,363,675	5,627,610	5,654,774	291,099	5.4%	27,164	0.5%
Wyoming	493,782	532,981	544,270	50,488	10.2%	11,289	2.1%