



Rhode Island's Unemployment Rate Drops to 7.1 percent in November

- ◆ RI's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate for November was 7.1 percent, down three-tenths of a percentage point from October.
- ◆ RI's November unemployment rate was down two and three-tenths percentage points from last November's figure of 9.4 percent.
- ◆ The national rate was 5.8 percent, unchanged from October and down one and two-tenths percentage points from the previous year.
- ◆ In November 2014, Rhode Island (7.1%) had the fourth highest unemployment rate in the nation, trailing Mississippi (7.3%), Georgia (7.2%) and California (7.2%).
- ◆ The November 2014 unemployment rate decreased in forty-one states, including Rhode Island (-0.3), Massachusetts (-0.2), Maine (-0.1), Vermont (-0.1) and New Hampshire (-0.1). Three states' rates, including Connecticut (+0.1), increased, while six states' rates were unchanged.
- ◆ Rates in other New England states for November 2014 – Connecticut 6.5 percent, Massachusetts 5.8 percent, Maine 5.7 percent, Vermont 4.3 percent and New Hampshire 4.1 percent.
- ◆ The number of employed RI residents totaled 514,100 in November 2014, down 500 from the previous month. Between November 2013 and November 2014, the number of employed RI residents was up 14,700.
- ◆ Over the month, the number of unemployed Rhode Island residents decreased by 1,600 to 39,300. From November 2013 to November 2014, the number of unemployed residents decreased by 12,300.

RI Minimum Wage Increasing in January

The state's minimum wage will increase \$1.00 to \$9.00 an hour as of January 1, 2015. The last minimum wage increase in Rhode Island occurred in January 2014. Rhode Island, along with Massachusetts (\$9.00), will have the third highest minimum wage in New England, behind Vermont (\$9.15) and Connecticut (\$9.15). Maine's minimum wage is \$7.50, while New Hampshire's is \$7.25. The Federal minimum wage is \$7.25.

Exceptions to Rhode Island minimum wage law:

1.) Full-time students under 19 years of age working in nonprofit religious, educational, librarial, or community service organizations:

As of 1/1/14 - \$7.20 per hour (90% of applicable minimum)
As of 1/1/15 - \$8.10 per hour (90% of applicable minimum)

2.) Workers 14 and 15 years old who do not work more than 24 hours in a week. For any week in which a 14 or 15 year old works more than 24 hours, the higher applicable minimum rate must be paid for all hours worked in that week.

As of 1/1/14 - \$6.00 per hour (75% of applicable minimum)
As of 1/1/15 - \$6.75 per hour (75% of applicable minimum)

3.) Workers employed in domestic service in or about a private home, federal service, voluntary service in educational, charitable, religious or nonprofit organizations where employer/employee relationships do not exist, newspaper carriers on home delivery, shoe shine persons, caddies on golf courses, ushers in theaters, traveling or outside sales occupations. Service performed by an individual employed by a son or daughter or a minor child employed by the parent is also exempt.

Seasonally Adjusted Labor Force Statistics

(in thousands)

	Rhode Island			United States		
	Nov 14	Oct 14	Nov 13	Nov 14	Oct 14	Nov 13
Civilian Labor Force	553.4	555.4	551.0	156,397	156,278	155,284
Resident Employment	514.1	514.6	499.4	147,287	147,283	144,443
Unemployment	39.3	40.9	51.6	9,110	8,995	10,841
Unemployment Rate	7.1%	7.4%	9.4%	5.8%	5.8%	7.0%

The Rhode Island minimum wage laws and exemptions can be found in RI General Law 28-12.

For more information, visit the Labor Standards web site at www.dlt.ri.gov/ls/minwage.htm.

Rhode Island Jobs Increase by 2,800 in November

Estimated nonfarm payroll in Rhode Island totaled 479,700 in November, reflecting a gain of 2,800 jobs from the revised October estimate of 476,900. Jobs are up 600 from September and 8,500 from the start of the year. The November employment level marks the highest level since July 2008 (479,900).

The Professional and Business Services sector added 1,000 jobs in November, following the unprecedented loss of 1,100 (revised from a loss of 1,200) jobs reported in October. November's job gain ends three consecutive months of reported job losses within the Professional and Business Services sector.

The Health Care and Social Assistance and Accommodation and Food Services sectors each added 600 jobs since October. Job gains in ambulatory health care services and social assistance propelled the growth in the Health Care and Social Assistance sector. Employment in the Accommodation and Food Services sector has increased for three of the last four months. Jobs in this sector are up 1,600 since July.

Four employment sectors, Manufacturing, Construction, Retail Trade and Wholesale Trade, each reported a gain of 300 jobs in November.

In addition, smaller job gains were noted in the Arts, Entertainment and Recreation (+200), Information (+100) and Transportation and Utilities (+100) sectors. Employment in Mining and Logging remained unchanged.

Offsetting the November gains were job losses reported in the Financial Activities (-500), Educational Services (-300), Government (-100) and Other Services (-100) sectors.

Nationally, employment increased by 321,000 or 0.2 percent in November, while job growth in the New England region was robust, increasing by 25,900 jobs. Massachusetts added 13,500 jobs since October, followed by Connecticut (+4,600), Vermont (+3,600), Rhode Island (+2,800) and New Hampshire (+1,900).

Establishment Employment in Rhode Island					
Seasonally Adjusted					
	Net Change From				
	Nov-14	Oct-14	Nov-13	Oct-14	Nov-13
Total Nonfarm	479.7	476.9	473.9	2.8	5.8
Total Private	419.9	417.0	413.8	2.9	6.1
Natural Resources & Mining	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.0	0.0
Construction	16.7	16.4	16.1	0.3	0.6
Manufacturing	41.2	40.9	40.7	0.3	0.5
Wholesale Trade	16.6	16.3	16.7	0.3	-0.1
Retail Trade	47.0	46.7	46.7	0.3	0.3
Transportation & Utilities	11.5	11.4	10.9	0.1	0.6
Information	8.8	8.7	8.9	0.1	-0.1
Financial Activities	33.1	33.6	32.1	-0.5	1.0
Professional & Business Services	61.0	60.0	59.1	1.0	1.9
Educational Services	24.3	24.6	25.0	-0.3	-0.7
Health Care & Social Assistance	81.0	80.4	80.6	0.6	0.4
Arts, Entertainment & Recreation	9.0	8.8	8.8	0.2	0.2
Accommodation & Food Services	46.8	46.2	45.6	0.6	1.2
Other Services	22.7	22.8	22.4	-0.1	0.3
Government	59.8	59.9	60.1	-0.1	-0.3

Manufacturing Employment in Rhode Island					
Not Seasonally Adjusted					
	Employment				
	(in thousands)			Net Change From:	
	Nov 14	Oct 14	Nov 13	Oct 14	Nov 13
Manufacturing	41.4	41.0	40.8	400	600
Durable Goods	27.4	26.9	26.1	500	1300
Fabricated Metal Product Mfg.	5.5	5.6	5.5	-100	0
Computer & Electronic Product Mfg.	3.3	3.3	3.4	0	-100
Transportation Equipment Mfg.	4.1	4.1	3.9	0	200
Miscellaneous DG Manufacturing	5.6	5.6	5.8	0	-200
Jewelry & Silverware	3.3	3.3	3.5	0	-200
Non-Durable Goods	14.0	14.1	14.7	-100	-700
Chemical Manufacturing	3.0	3.0	3.0	0	0

Maine (-500) was the lone regional state to report November job declines.

In November, nonfarm payroll employment increased in 37 states, decreased in 12 states and was unchanged in one state. The largest over-the-month percentage increase in employment occurred in Vermont (+1.2%), followed by Hawaii (+0.9%) and Delaware, South Carolina, and Wisconsin (+0.7 percent each). The largest over-the-month percentage declines in employment occurred in West Virginia (-0.7%), followed by Mississippi (-0.4%) and Kansas, South Dakota, and Wyoming (-0.3 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.

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



Census Bureau Releases 2014 Population Estimates

The Census Bureau recently released state population estimates as of July 1, 2014. Since July 1, 2013, the United States population increased by 2.36 million, for a 0.75 percent increase. Texas (+451,321) added the most residents over the period. California (+371,107), Florida (+292,986) and Georgia (+102,584) were the only other states to add over 100,000 residents. North Dakota (+2.16%) had the greatest percentage growth in population, followed by the Nevada (+1.71%), Texas (+1.70%) and Colorado (+1.59%).

Illinois (-9,972), West Virginia (-3,269), Connecticut (-2,664), New Mexico (-1,323) Alaska (-527) and Vermont (-293) were the only states in the country to lose population.

New England population growth lagged behind the United States. While the nation's population increased by 0.75 percent, the New England region grew by just 0.28 percent and contained two of only six states that posted population declines. Massachusetts (+0.54%) had the largest percentage growth in residents in the region, followed by New Hampshire (+0.32%), Rhode Island (+0.17%) and Maine (+0.10%). As noted above, Connecticut (-0.07%) and Vermont (-0.05%) lost population over the period.

New England Population: 2013-2014

Area	2013	2014	Change:	
	Pop. Estimate	Pop. Estimate	Numeric	Percent
United States	316,497,531	318,857,056	2,359,525	0.75%
New England	14,639,742	14,680,722	40,980	0.28%
Connecticut	3,599,341	3,596,677	-2,664	-0.07%
Maine	1,328,702	1,330,089	1,387	0.10%
Massachusetts	6,708,874	6,745,408	36,534	0.54%
New Hampshire	1,322,616	1,326,813	4,197	0.32%
Rhode Island	1,053,354	1,055,173	1,819	0.17%
Vermont	626,855	626,562	-293	-0.05%

Source: US Census Bureau, Population Division

Since Census 2010, the number of Rhode Island residents has increased from 1,052,567 to 1,055,173 in 2014, a gain of 2,606 (+0.25%) residents.

Population estimates for 2014 for all states can be found on the enclosed label page.

Characteristics of the Insured Unemployed

A total of 8,821 individuals were eligible to collect "regular" Unemployment Insurance benefits in November 2014, down 705 (-7.4%) from the 9,526 collecting these benefits in November 2013. In all, 24.0 percent of Rhode Island's unemployed workers were eligible to collect unemployment benefits in November.

Of the 8,821 individuals collecting "regular" Unemployment Insurance benefits, 28.4 percent faced long-term unemployment (defined as collecting unemployment insurance for fifteen weeks or more), up from 28.1 percent in November 2013.

On an industry basis, 14.0 percent (1,233) of the State's insured unemployed workers came from the Health Care & Social Assistance sector. There were also 996 individuals with an attachment to the Manufacturing sector, accounting for 11.3 percent of all insured unemployed workers. An additional 11.0 percent (966) of those collecting UI benefits in November had worked in the Administrative & Waste Services sector. Large numbers of insured unemployed were also reported in Accommodation & Food Services (904), Construction (854) and Retail Trade (808). For more information, go to www.dlt.ri.gov/lmi/uiadmin/characteristics.htm.

Characteristics of the Insured Unemployed, November 2014

	Total	Percent	
		Long-Term	Long-Term
Total	8,821	2,503	28.4%
Male	4,624	1,064	23.0%
Female	4,197	1,439	34.3%
Selected Industries	8,821	2,503	28.4%
Construction	854	97	11.4%
Manufacturing	996	308	30.9%
Wholesale Trade	383	136	35.5%
Retail Trade	808	276	34.2%
Transportation & Warehousing	191	62	32.5%
Information	118	25	21.2%
Finance & Insurance	408	166	40.7%
Real Estate	176	35	19.9%
Professional & Tech. Services	472	161	34.1%
Administrative & Waste Services	966	242	25.1%
Educational Services	213	95	44.6%
Health Care & Social Assistance	1,233	491	39.8%
Arts, Entertainment & Recreation	257	21	8.2%
Accommodation & Food Services	904	169	18.7%
Other Services	378	105	27.8%
Public Administration	70	14	20.0%

Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers

				% Change
	Nov. 14	Oct. 14	Nov. 13	Prev. Year
All Items	236.2	237.4	233.1	1.3%

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 20,300 advertisements for Rhode Island based jobs this month, an increase of 500 (+2.5%) from the October 2014 postings, and up 1,900 (+10.3%) from the advertised vacancies posted online in November 2013. There were an estimated 3.65 advertised vacancies for every 100 persons in Rhode Island's labor force.

Help Wanted OnLine Advertised Job Vacancies

	Nov 14	Oct 14	Nov 13
RI Vacancies	20,300	19,800	18,400
<i>Labor Demand Rate *</i>			
Rhode Island	3.65	3.57	3.34
US	3.36	3.25	3.15
Connecticut	3.84	3.67	3.63
Massachusetts	4.46	4.31	4.26
Maine	4.25	4.33	3.22
New Hampshire	4.10	4.02	3.54
Vermont	3.87	3.76	3.24
<i>Supply/Demand Rate **</i>			
Rhode Island	1.94	2.06	2.80
US	1.73	1.77	2.21

* 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 November

	2014	2013		2014	2013
Barrington	5.0	6.4	Newport	6.5	9.3
Bristol	5.7	7.8	North Kingstown	5.1	7.2
Burrillville	6.0	8.0	North Providence	6.8	8.9
Central Falls	8.2	10.7	North Smithfield	5.7	7.8
Charlestown	5.7	9.1	Pawtucket	7.9	10.5
Coventry	5.6	7.7	Portsmouth	6.1	8.1
Cranston	6.6	8.6	Providence	8.5	10.3
Cumberland	5.6	7.5	Richmond	4.2	5.7
East Greenwich	5.7	8.4	Scituate	5.5	7.8
East Providence	7.1	9.2	Smithfield	6.1	7.7
Exeter	5.9	7.8	South Kingstown	5.8	8.0
Foster	6.7	8.1	Tiverton	6.1	8.7
Glocester	4.6	7.0	Warren	6.9	8.7
Hopkinton	5.1	8.8	Warwick	5.9	8.2
Jamestown	4.4	6.6	West Greenwich	4.7	7.1
Johnston	6.8	8.8	West Warwick	6.9	9.3
Lincoln	6.0	7.8	Westerly	5.1	8.0
Little Compton	5.7	7.9	Woonsocket	8.1	9.9
Middletown	5.7	8.7			
Narragansett	4.4	6.6	State of R.I.	6.6	8.7
New Shoreham	15.3	18.2	United States	5.5	6.6

Nationally, there were an estimated 3.36 advertised vacancies for every 100 persons in labor force. Among the New England states, Massachusetts (4.46), Maine (4.25), New Hampshire (4.10), Vermont (3.87) and Connecticut (3.84) all had higher vacancy rates than Rhode Island.

There were an estimated 1.94 unemployed Rhode Island residents for every advertised job in November, down from 2.06 unemployed residents estimated per October advertisements. Nationally, there were 1.73 unemployed persons for every job opening advertised in November, down from 1.77 in October.

Unemployment Insurance Claims Activity

	Nov.	Oct.	Nov.	% Change		Year to Date		
	2014	2014	2013	Oct. 14	Nov. 13	2014	2013	% Change
Regular Claims								
Initial Claims	5,149	4,741	5,684	8.6%	-9.4%	66,904	71,485	-6.4%
Number of Payments	29,778	30,326	37,906	-1.8%	-21.4%	513,040	557,167	-7.9%
Amount of Payments (gross millions)	\$9.8	\$10.1	\$12.9	-3.0%	-24.0%	\$169.1	\$189.5	-10.8%
Exhaustions (Final Payments)	838	859	1,101	-2.4%	-23.9%	12,692	14,918	-14.9%

**State Population Estimates
July 1, 2013 - July 1, 2014**

	July 1, 2013 Population Estimate	July 1, 2014 Population Estimate	Numeric Change	Percent Change
United States	316,497,531	318,857,056	2,359,525	0.75%
Alabama	4,833,996	4,849,377	15,381	0.32%
Alaska	737,259	736,732	-527	-0.07%
Arizona	6,634,997	6,731,484	96,487	1.45%
Arkansas	2,958,765	2,966,369	7,604	0.26%
California	38,431,393	38,802,500	371,107	0.97%
Colorado	5,272,086	5,355,866	83,780	1.59%
Connecticut	3,599,341	3,596,677	-2,664	-0.07%
Delaware	925,240	935,614	10,374	1.12%
District of Columbia	649,111	658,893	9,782	1.51%
Florida	19,600,311	19,893,297	292,986	1.49%
Georgia	9,994,759	10,097,343	102,584	1.03%
Hawaii	1,408,987	1,419,561	10,574	0.75%
Idaho	1,612,843	1,634,464	21,621	1.34%
Illinois	12,890,552	12,880,580	-9,972	-0.08%
Indiana	6,570,713	6,596,855	26,142	0.40%
Iowa	3,092,341	3,107,126	14,785	0.48%
Kansas	2,895,801	2,904,021	8,220	0.28%
Kentucky	4,399,583	4,413,457	13,874	0.32%
Louisiana	4,629,284	4,649,676	20,392	0.44%
Maine	1,328,702	1,330,089	1,387	0.10%
Maryland	5,938,737	5,976,407	37,670	0.63%
Massachusetts	6,708,874	6,745,408	36,534	0.54%
Michigan	9,898,193	9,909,877	11,684	0.12%
Minnesota	5,422,060	5,457,173	35,113	0.65%
Mississippi	2,992,206	2,994,079	1,873	0.06%
Missouri	6,044,917	6,063,589	18,672	0.31%
Montana	1,014,864	1,023,579	8,715	0.86%
Nebraska	1,868,969	1,881,503	12,534	0.67%
Nevada	2,791,494	2,839,099	47,605	1.71%
New Hampshire	1,322,616	1,326,813	4,197	0.32%
New Jersey	8,911,502	8,938,175	26,673	0.30%
New Mexico	2,086,895	2,085,572	-1,323	-0.06%
New York	19,695,680	19,746,227	50,547	0.26%
North Carolina	9,848,917	9,943,964	95,047	0.97%
North Dakota	723,857	739,482	15,625	2.16%
Ohio	11,572,005	11,594,163	22,158	0.19%
Oklahoma	3,853,118	3,878,051	24,933	0.65%
Oregon	3,928,068	3,970,239	42,171	1.07%
Pennsylvania	12,781,296	12,787,209	5,913	0.05%
Rhode Island	1,053,354	1,055,173	1,819	0.17%
South Carolina	4,771,929	4,832,482	60,553	1.27%
South Dakota	845,510	853,175	7,665	0.91%
Tennessee	6,497,269	6,549,352	52,083	0.80%
Texas	26,505,637	26,956,958	451,321	1.70%
Utah	2,902,787	2,942,902	40,115	1.38%
Vermont	626,855	626,562	-293	-0.05%
Virginia	8,270,345	8,326,289	55,944	0.68%
Washington	6,973,742	7,061,530	87,788	1.26%
West Virginia	1,853,595	1,850,326	-3,269	-0.18%
Wisconsin	5,742,953	5,757,564	14,611	0.25%
Wyoming	583,223	584,153	930	0.16%