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# Employment Bulletin

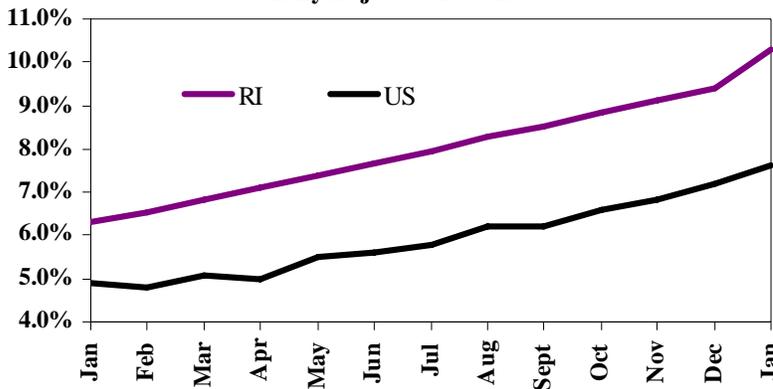
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## Rhode Island's Rate Climbs to 10.3 Percent

- ◆ RI's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate for January was 10.3 percent, increasing 0.9 of a percentage point from the revised December rate of 9.4 percent.
- ◆ RI's January unemployment rate is up 4.0 percentage points from last year's figure of 6.3 percent.
- ◆ The national rate increased 0.4 of a percentage point to 7.6 percent.
- ◆ In January, the number of unemployed Rhode Island residents increased by 4,600 to reach 57,800, the state's highest jobless level on record. On a year-over-year comparison, the number of unemployed residents increased 22,000 from January 2008 to January 2009.
- ◆ The number of employed RI residents totaled 504,900 in January 2009, reflecting a decrease of 7,200 from the previous month. On a year-over-year basis, the number of employed RI residents fell 28,100 between January 2008 and January 2009.

RI & US Unemployment Rates  
Seasonally Adjusted 2008-2009



## 2008 Annual Average Unemployment Summary

Rhode Island's annual average unemployment rate for 2008 was 7.8 percent, compared to 5.2 percent in 2007. The 2.6 percentage point increase was the nation's largest over-the-year jump in the jobless rate, followed by 2.1 percentage points for Nevada and 2.0 percentage points for Florida. Michigan had the highest annual average unemployment rate in 2008 at 8.4 percent, followed by Rhode Island (7.8%) and California (7.2%).

According to the Current Population Survey, unemployment was higher among men, teenagers, and minority populations, as the average unemployment rates in Rhode Island increased over the year for all age ranges, races, and both genders. Unemployment among males averaged 9.1 percent in 2008, compared to 6.7 percent for females. Males increased over the year by 4.1 percentage points, while females increased by 1.9 percentage points from their 2007 average rates of 5.0 and 4.8 percent, respectively.

The unemployment rate for the white population was 7.3 percent, while the rates for Hispanic and black residents averaged 13.5 and 11.6 percent, respectively. The unemployment rate for white residents increased by 2.6 percentage points, while black unemployment increased by 5.3 percentage points and Hispanic unemployment increased by 5.7 percentage points over the year.

The largest increases in the unemployment rates by age group were the 16-19 and 20-24 year olds. Over the year, unemployment increased by 8.2 percentage points for teenagers and 5.5 percentage points for young adults. Residents aged 55-64 posted the smallest gain in unemployment, increasing by 1.0 percentage point to 4.9 percent in 2008.

### Seasonally Adjusted Labor Force Statistics

(in thousands)

	Rhode Island			United States		
	Jan 09	Dec 08	Jan 08	Jan 09	Dec 08	Jan 08
Civilian Labor Force	562.7	565.3	568.7	153,716	154,447	153,873
Resident Employment	504.9	512.1	533.0	142,099	143,338	146,317
Unemployment	57.8	53.2	35.8	11,616	11,108	7,555
Unemployment Rate	10.3%	9.4%	6.3%	7.6%	7.2%	4.9%

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## Rhode Island Jobs Decline by 1,600 in January

In Rhode Island, the January 2009 job count totaled 469,600, a decline of 1,600 jobs from December's revised employment level of 471,200. January marks the twelfth straight month of job losses for Rhode Island.

In January, Construction, Professional & Business Services, Educational Services and Wholesale Trade each experienced a loss of 300 jobs.

Also in January, job losses were reported in Manufacturing and Health Care & Social Assistance, with each sector shedding 200 jobs. Elsewhere, over-the-month employment declines were noted in Financial Activities (-100), Arts, Entertainment & Recreation (-100), and Transportation & Utilities (-100).

Retail Trade, the only sector to add jobs in January, reported a gain of 300 employees. This increase may be attributed to the fact that holiday hiring fell well below traditional hiring, resulting in less retail layoffs. Overall, January employment in Retail Trade (47,100) was down 1,600 from pre-holiday hiring in October 2008 (48,700).

Employment in Information, Accommodation & Food Services, Other Services, Government and Natural Resources & Mining remained unchanged between December 2008 and January 2009.

From January 2008 to January 2009, RI jobs declined 19,000 (-3.9 %) due to job losses in nearly all economic sectors. The largest annual employment declines were reported in Manufacturing (-4,100), followed by Retail Trade (-3,600), Professional & Business Services (-3,400), Construction (-2,700), Government (-1,500) and Financial Activities (-1,200). Smaller losses were noted in Arts, Entertainment & Recreation (-700), Wholesale Trade (-600), Accommodation & Food Services (-600), Other Services (-500), Transportation & Utilities (-400) and Information (-300).

### Establishment Employment in Rhode Island Seasonally Adjusted

	Net Change From				
	Jan-09	Dec-08	Jan-08	Dec-08	Jan-08
<b>Total Nonfarm</b>	<b>469.6</b>	<b>471.2</b>	<b>488.6</b>	<b>-1.6</b>	<b>-19.0</b>
Natural Resources & Mining	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.0	0.0
Construction	18.6	18.9	21.3	-0.3	-2.7
Manufacturing	45.6	45.8	49.7	-0.2	-4.1
Wholesale Trade	16.5	16.8	17.1	-0.3	-0.6
Retail Trade	47.1	46.8	50.7	0.3	-3.6
Transportation & Utilities	10.7	10.8	11.1	-0.1	-0.4
Information	10.3	10.3	10.6	0.0	-0.3
Financial Activities	32.7	32.8	33.9	-0.1	-1.2
Professional & Business Services	52.4	52.7	55.8	-0.3	-3.4
Educational Services	23.3	23.6	23.2	-0.3	0.1
Health Care & Social Assistance	76.7	76.9	76.2	-0.2	0.5
Arts, Entertainment & Recreation	7.8	7.9	8.5	-0.1	-0.7
Accommodation & Food Services	42.6	42.6	43.2	0.0	-0.6
Other Services	22.5	22.5	23.0	0.0	-0.5
Government	62.6	62.6	64.1	0.0	-1.5

### Manufacturing Employment in Rhode Island Not Seasonally Adjusted

	Employment				
	(in thousands)			Net Change From	
	Jan 09	Dec 08	Jan 08	Dec 08	Jan 08
<b>Manufacturing</b>	<b>45.4</b>	<b>46.4</b>	<b>49.4</b>	<b>-1000</b>	<b>-4,000</b>
<b>Durable Goods</b>	<b>29.3</b>	<b>30.0</b>	<b>32.1</b>	<b>-700</b>	<b>-2,800</b>
Fabricated Metal Product Mfg.	6.3	6.5	6.9	-200	-600
Computer & Electronic Product Mfg.	4.1	4.1	4.3	0	-200
Miscellaneous Manufacturing	8.0	8.2	9.0	-200	-1,000
Jewelry & Silverware	5.3	5.5	6.1	-200	-800
<b>Non-Durable Goods</b>	<b>16.1</b>	<b>16.4</b>	<b>17.3</b>	<b>-300</b>	<b>-1,200</b>
Chemical Manufacturing	3.6	3.6	4.0	0	-400

Health Care & Social Assistance and Educational Services reported employment increases over the year, with gains of 500 and 100 jobs, respectively.

**Manufacturing:** In January 2009, production workers in the Manufacturing sector earned \$13.99 per hour. The average hourly production wage was down seven cents from December and up one cent from a year ago January. Manufacturing employees worked an average of 37.5 hours per week in January, down three-tenths of an hour over the month and down an hour and one-tenth since January 2008.

*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). 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.*



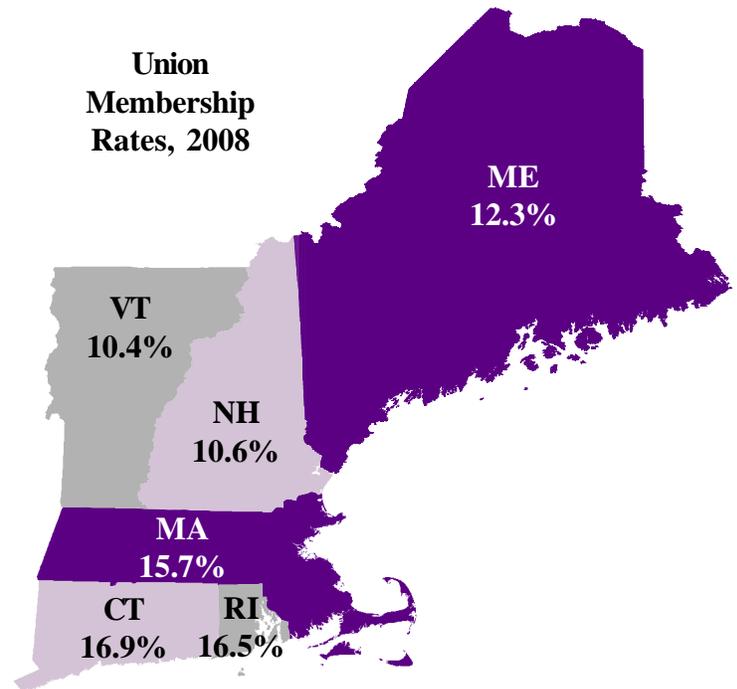
## Union Membership in Rhode Island, 2008

According to the Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS), 16.5 percent (78,000) of private and public sector workers throughout Rhode Island were union members in 2008. This represented an over-the-year increase of 1.5 percentage points, or 3,000 workers. Regionally, the Ocean State had the second highest union membership rate, trailing only Connecticut (16.9%). No New England state experienced a decrease in their union membership rates between 2007 and 2008. Massachusetts posted the greatest increase (+2.5 points), followed by Rhode Island (+1.5 points), Connecticut (+1.3 points), New Hampshire (+0.9), and Maine (+0.6). Vermont's rate was unchanged over the year.

Among the fifty states, Rhode Island reported the twelfth highest union membership rate, trailing New York (24.9%), Hawaii (24.3%), Alaska (23.5%), Washington (19.8%), Michigan (18.8%), California (18.4%), New Jersey (18.3%), Connecticut (16.9%), Nevada (16.7%), Illinois (16.6%), and Oregon (16.6%). Nationally, the union membership rate was 12.4 percent, up from 12.1 percent one year earlier but well below the 20.1 percent measured in 1983.

Over the year, the percentage of wage and salary workers represented by unions in the Ocean State increased as well, climbing from 15.8 percent in 2007 to 17.4 percent in 2008. Throughout the country, 13.7 percent of public and private sector workers were represented by unions in 2007.

For more information, go to <http://www.dlt.ri.gov/lmi/publications/union.htm>.



## Characteristics of the Insured Unemployed

In January 2009, 38 percent of Rhode Island's unemployed workers were eligible to collect regular Unemployment Insurance (UI) benefits. Numbering 24,412 people, these "insured unemployed" accounted for 4.9 percent of the State's total employed (unadjusted). More than 21 percent (5,174) of the Ocean State's insured unemployed faced long-term unemployment, defined as collecting unemployment benefits for more than fourteen weeks.

On an industry basis, 19.2 percent (4,695) of the State's insured unemployed workers came from the Construction sector. There were also 4,201 individuals with an attachment to the Manufacturing sector, accounting for 17.2 percent of all insured unemployed workers. An additional 12.2 percent (2,967) of those collecting UI benefits in January had worked in the Administrative & Waste Services sector. Large numbers of insured unemployed were also reported in Accommodation & Food Services (2,067), Retail Trade (2,007) and Health Care & Social Assistance (1,366). 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, January 2009

	Total	Long-Term	Percent Long-Term
<b>Total</b>	<b>24,412</b>	<b>5,174</b>	<b>21.2%</b>
Male	15,759	2,808	17.8%
Female	8,653	2,366	27.3%
<b>Selected Industries</b>	<b>24,412</b>	<b>5,174</b>	<b>21.2%</b>
Construction	4,695	530	11.3%
Manufacturing	4,201	1,074	25.6%
Wholesale Trade	864	237	27.4%
Retail Trade	2,007	573	28.6%
Transportation & Warehousing	681	144	21.1%
Information	381	121	31.8%
Finance & Insurance	970	357	36.8%
Real Estate	433	89	20.6%
Professional & Tech. Services	857	198	23.1%
Administrative & Waste Services	2,967	371	12.5%
Educational Services	299	130	43.5%
Health Care & Social Assistance	1,366	554	40.6%
Arts, Entertainment & Recreation	812	88	10.8%
Accommodation & Food Services	2,067	297	14.4%
Other Services	635	180	28.3%
Public Administration	136	47	34.6%

**Consumer Price Index for  
All Urban Consumers**

				% Change
	Jan 09	Dec 08	Jan 08	Prev. Year
All Items	211.1	210.2	211.1	0.0%

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

**Mass Layoff Events in 2008**

In 2008, there were 106 significant layoff actions (a layoff of 35 or more workers from a single company in a five week period) involving a total of 11,816 workers taken by Rhode Island employers. These layoff actions accounted for 12.6 percent of the 93,761 initial claims filed in 2008. Thirty-three of the 106 layoff events were classified as long-term layoffs expecting to last longer than 30 days. In comparison, in 2007, there were 91 significant layoff actions. A total of 10,941 workers were involved in the 2007 events accounting for 13.4 percent of the 81,928 initial claims filed that year.

The Manufacturing sector accounted for the largest number of layoff actions with a total of 35 events associated with 26 different establishments involving 2,933 workers. Seven of the events affecting more than 200 workers were classified as long-term and three events were permanent closings with no recall expected for more than 300 workers.

The largest number of workers associated with mass layoff events were employed in the Accommodation & Food Services sector. Employers in this sector were responsible for 13 events involving 3,127 workers. Twelve of the 13 events were short-term with most employers expecting to recall all their workers within a month.

Seasonal occurrences accounted for nearly half (15) of the long-term events, affecting 1,577 workers. Nearly all these events were associated with weather related layoffs in the Construction sector or school closings involving support services supplied by the Transportation and Food Services industries which were discontinued during the summer months. All workers were expected to be back on the job within three months. Eleven of the companies experiencing a mass layoff in 2008 reported that no recalls were expected for their 1,046 workers. The reasons most often cited for these layoffs were company reorganizations, slack work, bankruptcy or ownership change. For more information, see Rhode Island Layoff Statistics at [www.dlt.ri.gov/lmi/mls.htm](http://www.dlt.ri.gov/lmi/mls.htm).

**City & Town  
Unadjusted Unemployment Rates for January**

	2009	2008		2009	2008
Barrington	7.6	4.7	Newport	11.2	8.1
Bristol	11.9	6.9	North Kingstown	8.9	6.6
Burrillville	11.7	7.0	North Providence	10.5	7.0
Central Falls	15.9	9.1	North Smithfield	10.4	6.4
Charlestown	12.3	7.7	Pawtucket	13.5	7.9
Coventry	10.8	7.3	Portsmouth	9.7	6.5
Cranston	11.1	7.0	Providence	13.1	8.5
Cumberland	10.2	6.7	Richmond	8.1	4.9
East Greenwich	9.8	7.2	Scituate	10.4	7.8
East Providence	12.4	7.8	Smithfield	10.6	6.4
Exeter	10.6	6.6	South Kingstown	10.2	6.7
Foster	11.7	9.0	Tiverton	12.7	8.3
Glocester	9.3	5.9	Warren	11.8	7.8
Hopkinton	11.8	7.4	Warwick	10.1	7.0
Jamestown	6.5	5.8	West Greenwich	9.5	6.6
Johnston	12.6	8.6	West Warwick	12.7	8.2
Lincoln	10.3	6.8	Westerly	11.1	6.7
Little Compton	12.8	7.2	Woonsocket	13.6	8.1
Middletown	10.5	7.8			
Narragansett	7.6	5.8	State of R.I.	11.4	7.4
New Shoreham	21.1	17.1	United States	8.5	5.4

**Unemployment Insurance Claims Activity**

	Jan 2009	Dec 2008	Jan 2008	% Change Dec 08	% Change Jan 08	Annual Comparison		
						2008	2007	% Change
<b>Regular Claims</b>								
Initial Claims	11,703	11,079	11,475	5.6%	2.0%	93,761	81,928	14.4%
Number of Payments	91,868	82,543	73,155	11.3%	25.6%	772,052	647,413	19.3%
Amount of Payments (gross millions)	\$34.0	\$30.4	\$26.8	11.8%	26.9%	\$277.3	\$226.4	22.5%
Exhaustions (Final Payments)	2,083	2,194	1,580	-5.1%	31.8%	20,492	15,181	35.0%
<b>Extended Unemployment Compensation</b>								
Initial Claims	1,925	3,871	n/a	-50.3%	n/a	18,152	n/a	n/a
Number of Payments	40,034	46,457	n/a	-13.8%	n/a	160,892	n/a	n/a
Amount of Payments (gross millions)	\$13.9	\$16.3	n/a	-14.9%	n/a	\$56.2	n/a	n/a
<b>Extended Benefits</b>								
Initial Claims	7	79	n/a	-91.1%	n/a	3,443	n/a	n/a
Number of Payments	4	365	n/a	-98.9%	n/a	17,264	n/a	n/a
Amount of Payments	\$974	\$122,640	n/a	-99.2%	n/a	\$6.1 mil	n/a	n/a



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## Medical Office Staff Workshop

*Training designed specifically for medical office staff.* Learn how to complete Workers' Compensation and/or Temporary Disability Insurance paperwork. Understand RI Workers' Compensation Medical Advisory Board protocols and WC fee schedules. Become familiar with work hardening and physical rehabilitation services available from the Donley Rehabilitation Center.

Thursday, May 7, 2009      9:00 AM - 11:30 AM      *Registration is 8:30 AM Sharp*      DLT Headquarters, Cranston, RI

**Pre-registration is required.** Call (401)462-8100, option 1 to register.

## Workers' Compensation

*Oversees employer-provided insurance for statutory employee benefits due to a work-related injury or illness.* The Education Unit is sponsoring these seminars which will provide essential information about the RI Workers' Compensation system, including the Workers' Compensation Court, and compliance assistance with the appropriate safety and health standards issues by OSHA. Please select the program which most closely matches your business type. The Workers' Compensation component will be repeated, however the safety presentation will be directed toward the specific industry listed by the event date.

Thursday, April 2, 2009 - <b>for healthcare/retail/service/hospitality industries</b>	9:00 AM - Noon	<i>Registration is 8:30 AM Sharp</i>	Crown Plaza at the Crossings, Warwick, RI
Thursday, May 14, 2008 - <b>for manufacturing/transport/warehousing industries</b>	9:00 AM - Noon	<i>Registration is 8:30 AM Sharp</i>	Crown Plaza at the Crossings, Warwick, RI
Thursday, June 11, 2008 - <b>for government/administration/clerical support industries</b>	9:00 AM - Noon	<i>Registration is 8:30 AM Sharp</i>	Crown Plaza at the Crossings, Warwick, RI

**Pre-registration is required.** Call (401)462-8100, option 1 to register.