



Rhode Island's Unemployment Rate Drops to 10.9 percent in January

- ◆ RI's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate for January was 10.9 percent, down one-tenth of a percentage point from December.
- ◆ RI's January unemployment rate is down five-tenths of a percentage point from last year's figure of 11.4 percent.
- ◆ The national rate was 8.3 percent, down two-tenths of a percentage point from December and down eight-tenths of a percentage point from the previous year.
- ◆ In January 2012, Rhode Island, along with California, had the 2nd highest unemployment rate in the nation, trailing Nevada (12.7%).
- ◆ The January 2012 unemployment rate increased in one state. Forty-five states, including Vermont (-0.2), Connecticut (-0.1), and Rhode Island (-0.1) saw their rates decrease, while four states' rates, including Maine, Massachusetts and New Hampshire were unchanged. In all, four states have unemployment rates in the double digits.
- ◆ Rates in other New England States for January 2012— Connecticut 8.0 percent, Maine 7.0 percent, Massachusetts 6.9 percent, New Hampshire 5.2 percent and Vermont 5.0 percent.
- ◆ The number of employed RI residents totaled 498,900 in January 2012, down 1,000 from the previous month. Between January 2011 and January 2012, the number of employed RI residents decreased by 2,200.
- ◆ Over the month, the number of unemployed Rhode Island residents decreased by 800 to 61,300 in January 2012. From January 2011 to January 2012, the number of unemployed residents decreased by 3,100.

Benchmark Revisions 2011

The department reports that the year ended with an unemployment rate of 11.0 percent in December, half a percentage point below the December 2010 unemployment rate of 11.5 percent, but two-tenths higher than the 10.8 percent originally estimated. The highest unemployment rate recorded last year for Rhode Island was 11.4 percent, experienced as recently as August 2011.

This latest information comes from the department's annual benchmarking process, where labor force data is recalculated based on updated monthly job estimates and revised population estimates. Annual benchmarking on labor statistics is performed for the latest five-year period (2007-2011). This process revealed that the highest unemployment rate experienced in Rhode Island, since the use of the current method established in 1976, was 11.9 percent in January 2010. The unemployment rate has been at or above 11.0 percent since July 2009.

The department also reports that the state's economy did not perform as well as initially reported in 2011, as the annual average of RI-based unadjusted jobs was revised down from original published estimates.

The 2011 annual average unadjusted count of RI-based jobs was 460,200, up 1,100 from the 2010 annual average of 459,100. The sectors which experienced over-the-year increases were Educational Services (+1,100), Management of Companies & Enterprises (+500), Administrative & Waste Services (+400), Wholesale Trade (+400) and Transportation, Warehousing & Utilities (+400), Manufacturing (+300) and Information (+200). Financial Activities, Information and Natural Resources were unchanged.

Offsetting the increases were declines in Government (-1,100), Leisure & Hospitality (-300), Retail Trade (-300), Construction (-200), Professional, Scientific & Health Services (-200) and Health Care & Social Assistance (-100).

Visit the Labor Market Information web site for more information on labor force (www.dlt.ri.gov/lmi/laus.htm) and jobs (www.dlt.ri.gov/lmi/ces.htm) data.

Seasonally Adjusted Labor Force Statistics

(in thousands)

	Rhode Island			United States		
	Jan 12	Dec 11	Jan 11	Jan 12	Dec 11	Jan 11
Civilian Labor Force	560.2	562.0	565.5	154,395	153,887	153,250
Resident Employment	498.9	499.9	501.1	141,637	140,790	139,330
Unemployment	61.3	62.1	64.4	12,758	13,097	13,919
Unemployment Rate	10.9%	11.0%	11.4%	8.3%	8.5%	9.1%

Rhode Island Jobs Decrease by 200 in January

Estimated nonfarm payroll in Rhode Island totaled 457,700 in January, reflecting a loss of 200 jobs from the revised December employment estimate of 457,900. This marks the fifth monthly decline over the last six months.

The Construction sector reported a loss of 900 jobs in January due to reported cutbacks in specialty trade contractors. The Financial Activities sector lost 700 jobs over the month, with reported declines in credit intermediation and financial investments. The Accommodation & Food Services sector also reported an over-the-month loss of 700 jobs, due mainly to declines in the special food services and full service restaurants. Lesser job declines were reported in the Arts, Entertainment & Recreation (-200), Health Care & Social Assistance (-100) and Mining & Logging (-100) sectors. Employment in the Government sector and Information sector remained unchanged.

Seven sectors added jobs in January, including Retail Trade (1,000), Manufacturing (400), Other Services (400), Educational Services (200), Professional & Business Services (200) and Transportation & Utilities (200). Because the Retail sector had not met seasonal hiring expectations for the end of 2011, it experienced less than normal layoffs in January; the 1,000 increase in seasonally adjusted numbers reflects this change in hiring patterns. Gains in Manufacturing occurred in the durable goods subsector.

Over the year, total nonfarm employment decreased by 1,400. Job losses were reported in eight economic sectors, including Accommodation & Food Services (-1,500), Retail Trade (-800), Government (-800), Other Services (-700), Health Care & Social Assistance (-600), Arts, Entertainment & Recreation (-500), Financial Activities (-400) and Construction (-300).

Educational Services employment posted the largest over-the-year increase in January, with a gain of 1,700 jobs, followed by Information (+700), Wholesale Trade (+600), Manufacturing (+500), Professional & Business Services (+400), and Transportation & Utilities (+300). Mining & Logging employment remained even over the year.

	Net Change From				
	Jan-12	Dec-11	Jan-11	Dec-11	Jan-11
Total Nonfarm	457.7	457.9	459.1	-0.2	-1.4
Natural Resources & Mining	0.1	0.2	0.1	-0.1	0.0
Construction	15.5	16.4	15.8	-0.9	-0.3
Manufacturing	41.0	40.6	40.5	0.4	0.5
Wholesale Trade	16.6	16.5	16.0	0.1	0.6
Retail Trade	45.6	44.6	46.4	1.0	-0.8
Transportation & Utilities	10.9	10.7	10.6	0.2	0.3
Information	10.5	10.5	9.8	0.0	0.7
Financial Activities	30.3	31.0	30.7	-0.7	-0.4
Professional & Business Services	54.5	54.3	54.1	0.2	0.4
Educational Services	26.2	26.0	24.5	0.2	1.7
Health Care & Social Assistance	77.4	77.5	78.0	-0.1	-0.6
Arts, Entertainment & Recreation	7.1	7.3	7.6	-0.2	-0.5
Accommodation & Food Services	40.6	41.3	42.1	-0.7	-1.5
Other Services	21.4	21.0	22.1	0.4	-0.7
Government	60.0	60.0	60.8	0.0	-0.8

	Employment				
	(in thousands)		Net Change From:		
	Jan 12	Dec 11	Jan 11	Dec 11	Jan 11
Manufacturing	40.6	40.9	40.3	-300	300
Durable Goods	26.3	26.3	25.9	0	400
Fabricated Metal Product Mfg.	5.6	5.7	5.6	-100	0
Computer & Electronic Product Mfg.	3.5	3.5	3.7	0	-200
Miscellaneous Manufacturing	6.5	6.6	6.6	-100	-100
Jewelry & Silverware	4.0	4.2	4.2	-200	-200
Non-Durable Goods	14.3	14.6	14.4	-300	-100
Chemical Manufacturing	2.8	2.9	2.8	-100	0

MANUFACTURING: In January 2012, production workers in the Manufacturing sector earned \$17.75 per hour. The average hourly production wage was up 16 cents from December 2011 and up \$2.83 from January 2011. Manufacturing employees worked an average of 40.6 hours per week in January, up one-tenth of an hour over the month and up two hours and five-tenths 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.



Rhode Island Health Care Employment Growth & Population Facts

Between 2000 and 2010, Rhode Island's health care (ambulatory health care services sector, hospitals sector and nursing and residential care facilities) industry was the fastest growing industry in the state, adding 10,645 (+18.8%) jobs, more than any other industry. However, nationally, health care increased by 27.7 percent with the addition of more than 2.9 million jobs during this period. Although Rhode Island lagged far behind the nation in terms of job growth in the health care industry, census data reveals that Rhode Island's gain of health care workers is quite notable when considering population facts.

According to the 2010 Census, total population in Rhode Island increased by just 0.4 percent between 2000 and 2010 with the addition of 4,248 residents, while the older population (65 years or older) decreased by 521 or 0.3 percent. Nationally, population increased by nearly 10 percent (+9.7%) with the addition of over 27.3 million residents and the number of older people residing in the US during this period increased by 15.1 percent or 5.3 million since the Census 2000.

Health Care Workers				
	2000	2010	Change	
RI	56,523	67,168	10,645	18.8%
US	10,753,373	13,728,076	2,974,703	27.7%

Based on this information, one can conclude that:

- ◆ In Rhode Island, for every one Rhode Island resident added between 2000 and 2010, there were approximately 2.5 health care workers added. Nationally, for approximately every ten residents added in the US during this period, there were less than one health care worker added.
- ◆ In 2010, there were approximately two elderly residents in RI for every health care worker. In comparison, there were approximately three elderly residents in the US for every health care worker.

Area	2000			2010			Percent Change, 2000 to 2010	
	Total Population	65 Years and over		Total Population	65 Years and over		Total Population	65 years and over
		Number	Per-cent		Number	Per-cent		
RI	1,048,319	152,402	14.5%	1,052,567	151,881	14.4%	0.4%	-0.3%
US	281,421,906	34,991,753	12.4%	308,745,538	40,267,984	13.0%	9.7%	15.1%

In conclusion, despite the minor population growth in Rhode Island between 2000 and 2010, in conjunction with the decrease in the older population, the Rhode Island health care industry flourished when compared to the total population growth and older population growth experienced in the United States. For more information, visit www.dlt.ri.gov/lmi/publications/hcpop.htm.

Characteristics of the Insured Unemployed

A total of 18,762 individuals were eligible to collect "regular" Unemployment Insurance benefits in January 2012, down 1,959 (-9.5%) from the 20,721 collecting these benefits in January 2011. In addition, 11,782 individuals collected Emergency Unemployment Compensation and 1,797 collected Extended Benefits. In all, 49.5 percent of Rhode Island's unemployed workers were eligible to collect unemployment benefits in January.

Of the 18,762 individuals collecting "regular" Unemployment Insurance benefits, 21.7 percent faced long-term unemployment (defined as collecting unemployment insurance for fifteen weeks or more), up from 19.9 percent in January 2011.

On an industry basis, 15.2 percent (2,858) of the State's insured unemployed workers came from the Construction sector. There were also 2,768 individuals with an attachment to the Administrative & Waste Services sector, accounting for 14.8 percent of all insured unemployed workers. An additional 10.9 percent (2,043) of those collecting UI benefits in January had worked in the Accommodation & Food Services sector. Large numbers of insured unemployed were also reported in Health Care & Social Assistance (1,916), Manufacturing (1,748) and Retail Trade (1,635). For more information, go to www.dlt.ri.gov/lmi/uiadmin/characteristics.htm.

Characteristics of the Insured Unemployed, January 2012

	Total		Percent
	Long-Term	Long-Term	Long-Term
Total	18,762	4,070	21.7%
Male	11,362	1,993	17.5%
Female	7,400	2,077	28.1%
Selected Industries	18,762	4,070	21.7%
Construction	2,858	259	9.1%
Manufacturing	1,748	473	27.1%
Wholesale Trade	612	171	27.9%
Retail Trade	1,635	455	27.8%
Transportation & Warehousing	449	85	18.9%
Information	211	70	33.2%
Finance & Insurance	685	289	42.2%
Real Estate	329	73	22.2%
Professional & Tech. Services	751	264	35.2%
Administrative & Waste Services	2,768	327	11.8%
Educational Services	396	163	41.2%
Health Care & Social Assistance	1,916	720	37.6%
Arts, Entertainment & Recreation	819	52	6.3%
Accommodation & Food Services	2,043	278	13.6%
Other Services	600	176	29.3%
Public Administration	177	52	29.4%

Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers

	% Change			
	Jan 12	Dec 11	Jan 11	Prev. Year
All Items	226.7	225.7	220.2	2.9%

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 17,300 advertisements for Rhode Island based jobs this month, a decrease of 1,000 (-5.5%) from the December 2011 postings, and up 500 (+3.0%) from the advertised vacancies posted online in January 2011. There were an estimated 3.07 advertised vacancies for every 100 persons in Rhode Island's labor force.

Help Wanted OnLine Advertised Job Vacancies

	Jan 12	Dec 11	Jan 11
RI Vacancies	17,300	18,300	16,800
<i>Labor Demand Rate *</i>			
Rhode Island	3.07	3.24	2.91
US	2.85	2.81	2.73
Connecticut	3.34	3.32	3.31
Massachusetts	3.65	3.65	3.61
Maine	2.80	2.88	2.93
New Hampshire	3.05	3.14	3.01
Vermont	3.66	3.65	3.21
<i>Supply/Demand Rate **</i>			
Rhode Island	3.54	3.33	3.83
US	2.91	3.03	3.33

* 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 January

	2012	2011		2012	2011
Barrington	7.8	8.0	Newport	13.6	14.6
Bristol	10.7	11.6	North Kingstown	10.5	10.4
Burrillville	11.4	12.6	North Providence	10.6	11.6
Central Falls	15.3	14.8	North Smithfield	9.1	10.6
Charlestown	14.3	14.8	Pawtucket	13.1	12.9
Coventry	11.0	11.4	Portsmouth	11.6	11.9
Cranston	11.3	11.6	Providence	13.4	13.7
Cumberland	9.9	11.0	Richmond	7.9	8.8
East Greenwich	11.1	11.6	Scituate	10.9	12.5
East Providence	12.8	13.2	Smithfield	10.3	11.0
Exeter	11.5	13.6	South Kingstown	10.6	11.4
Foster	12.4	14.8	Tiverton	12.2	13.4
Glocester	10.2	11.4	Warren	11.6	12.0
Hopkinton	11.1	13.4	Warwick	10.4	10.9
Jamestown	8.6	11.3	West Greenwich	11.1	11.8
Johnston	12.4	13.7	West Warwick	12.9	13.2
Lincoln	10.1	10.9	Westerly	10.8	11.8
Little Compton	12.4	12.8	Woonsocket	13.8	13.9
Middletown	13.4	13.3			
Narragansett	8.9	9.4	State of R.I.	11.7	12.3
New Shoreham	30.3	29.2	United States	8.8	9.8

Nationally, there were an estimated 2.85 advertised vacancies for every 100 persons in labor force. Among the New England states, Vermont (3.66), Massachusetts (3.65) and Connecticut (3.34) all had a higher vacancy rate than Rhode Island.

There were an estimated 3.54 unemployed Rhode Island residents for every advertised job in January, up from 3.33 unemployed residents estimated per December advertisements. Nationally, there were 2.91 unemployed persons for every job opening advertised in January, down from 3.03 in December.

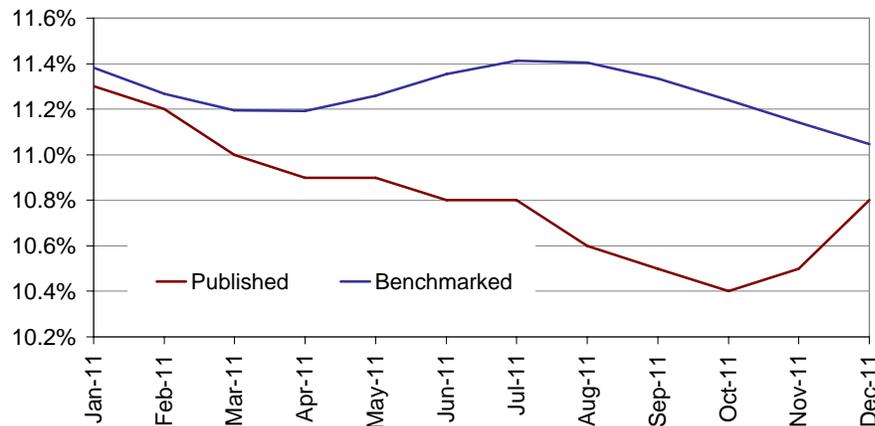
Unemployment Insurance Claims Activity

	Jan.	Dec.	Jan.	% Change		Annual Total		
	2012	2011	2011	Dec. 11	Jan 11	2011	2010	% Change
Regular Claims								
Initial Claims	10,998	11,313	10,250	-2.8%	7.3%	94,173	100,246	-6.1%
Number of Payments	81,790	56,499	87,533	44.8%	-6.6%	770,647	863,929	-10.8%
Amount of Payments (gross millions)	\$30.4	\$20.7	\$32.3	46.9%	-5.9%	\$279.6	\$315.4	-11.4%
Exhaustions (Final Payments)	2,325	1,705	2,587	36.4%	-10.1%	24,657	27,881	-11.6%
Emergency Unemployment Compensation								
Initial Claims	2,778	2,608	3,094	6.5%	-10.2%	34,104	132,353	
Number of Payments	59,424	50,813	64,610	16.9%	-8.0%	705,909	2,317,668	
Amount of Payments (gross millions)	\$21.8	\$18.6	\$23.9	17.2%	-8.8%	\$259.8	\$846.5	
Extended Benefits								
Initial Claims	625	499	507	25.3%	23.3%	5,870	34,624	
Number of Payments	9,120	7,549	17,362	20.8%	-47.5%	105,343	441,059	
Amount of Payments (gross millions)	\$3.3	\$2.8	\$6.4	17.9%	-48.4%	\$38.6	\$160.3	
Exhaustions (Final Payments)	507	272	527	86.4%	-3.8%	5,631	21,329	

Benchmark Revisions Employment and Labor Force Estimates

Annual Average Nonfarm Employment in Rhode Island 2010 & 2011 Not Seasonally Adjusted (In Thousands)				
	2011 Annual Average	2010 Annual Average	Numeric Change	Percent Change
Total Nonfarm	460.2	459.1	1.1	0.2%
Total Private	399.6	397.4	2.2	0.6%
Natural Resources & Mining	0.2	0.2	0.0	0.0%
Construction	15.7	15.9	-0.2	-1.3%
Manufacturing	40.7	40.4	0.3	0.7%
Durable Goods	26.1	25.9	0.2	0.8%
Non-Durable Goods	14.6	14.5	0.1	0.7%
Trade, Transportation & Utilities	73.1	72.7	0.4	0.6%
Wholesale Trade	16.3	15.9	0.4	2.5%
Retail Trade	46.2	46.5	-0.3	-0.6%
Transportation, Warehousing & Utilities	10.7	10.3	0.4	3.9%
Information	10.2	10.0	0.2	2.0%
Financial Activities (including Real Estate)	30.7	30.7	0.0	0.0%
Professional & Business Services	54.2	53.4	0.8	1.5%
Professional, Scientific, & Technical Services	20.7	20.9	-0.2	-1.0%
Management of Companies & Enterprises	9.9	9.4	0.5	5.3%
Administrative & Waste Services	23.6	23.2	0.4	1.7%
Educational & Health Services	103.5	102.5	1.0	1.0%
Educational Services	25.4	24.3	1.1	4.5%
Health Care & Social Assistance	78.1	78.2	-0.1	-0.1%
Leisure & Hospitality	49.2	49.5	-0.3	-0.6%
Arts, Entertainment, and Recreation	7.4	7.5	-0.1	-1.3%
Accommodation & Food Services	41.8	42.0	-0.2	-0.5%
Other Services	22.1	22.1	0.0	0.0%
Government	60.6	61.7	-1.1	-1.8%
Federal Government	10.2	10.6	-0.4	-3.8%
State Government	16.1	16.0	0.1	0.6%
Local Government	34.4	35.1	-0.7	-2.0%

2011 Unemployment Rates - Seasonally Adjusted



Seasonally Adjusted Rhode Island Unemployment Rates

2011	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Published	11.3%	11.2%	11.0%	10.9%	10.9%	10.8%	10.8%	10.6%	10.5%	10.4%	10.5%	10.8%
Benchmarked	11.4%	11.3%	11.2%	11.2%	11.3%	11.4%	11.4%	11.4%	11.3%	11.2%	11.1%	11.0%

All benchmark data are available on the LMI web site and include:

*Unadjusted establishment employment data for 2010 & 2011

*Seasonally adjusted establishment employment data for 1990 to 2011

*Unadjusted labor force statistics for 2007 to 2011

*Seasonally adjusted labor force statistics for 2007 to 2011