



Rhode Island's Unemployment Rate Drops to 9.2 percent in January

- ◆ RI's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate for January was 9.2 percent, down one-tenth of a percentage point from December.
- ◆ RI's January unemployment rate was down four-tenths of a percentage point from last January's figure of 9.6 percent.
- ◆ The national rate was 6.6 percent, down one-tenth from December and down one and three-tenths percentage points from the previous year.
- ◆ In January 2014, Rhode Island (9.2%) had the highest unemployment rate in the nation.
- ◆ The January 2014 unemployment rate decreased in forty-three states, including Massachusetts (-0.3), New Hampshire (-0.3), Connecticut (-0.2), Vermont (-0.2), Maine (-0.2) and Rhode Island (-0.1). Six states' rates were unchanged and one state, Iowa (+0.1), saw its unemployment rate increase.
- ◆ Rates in other New England states for January 2014—Connecticut 7.2 percent, Massachusetts 6.8 percent, Maine 6.2 percent, New Hampshire 4.9 percent and Vermont 4.0 percent.
- ◆ The number of employed RI residents totaled 499,700 in January 2014, up 600 from the previous month. Between January 2013 and January 2014, the number of employed RI residents decreased by 6,500.
- ◆ Over the month, the number of unemployed Rhode Island residents decreased by 500 to 50,600. From January 2013 to January 2014, the number of unemployed residents decreased by 3,200.

Benchmark Revisions 2013

The RI Department of Labor and Training recently completed its annual revision of the 2013 RI-based jobs and labor force estimates. Benchmark results were mixed, showing that the state had a higher job count and a higher unemployment rate than previously published data showed.

Benchmark revisions to the state's unemployment rate, which had previously ranged between 8.8 percent and 9.8 percent in 2013, indicate that the rate reached a high of 9.6 percent several times during 2013 and ended at a low of 9.3 percent in December. Previously, the 2013 annual average unemployment rate was 9.1 percent. This average was revised to 9.5 percent following the benchmark process. The 2013 annual average rate is down eight-tenths of a percentage point from the revised 2012 average rate of 10.3 percent.

The year ended with a December unemployment rate of 9.3 percent, now the lowest unemployment rate since November 2008. Over the year, the December rate was down four-tenths of a percentage point from the revised December 2012 rate of 9.7 percent.

The department also reports that the state's economy did better than initially reported in 2013, as the annual average of RI-based unadjusted jobs was revised upward by 3,100 from original published estimates.

There were an average of 470,800 jobs in 2013, an increase of 5,400 (+1.2%) jobs from the 2012 average of 465,400 jobs. In all, nine industry sectors experienced upward revisions as a result of the benchmark process with the largest gains being reported in the Professional & Business Services (+2,600), Health Care & Social Assistance (+1,100), Accommodation & Food Services (+900), Arts, Entertainment & Recreation (+800) and Financial Activities (+600) sectors. Smaller but still positive gains were noted in the Manufacturing (+400), Construction (+100), Educational Services (+100) and Government (+100) sectors.

Offsetting the upward revisions were downward revisions reported in five industry sectors; Information (-600), Retail Trade (-500), Wholesale Trade (-200), Transportation, Warehousing & Utilities (-100) and Other Services (-100) sectors.

Seasonally Adjusted Labor Force Statistics (in thousands)

	Rhode Island			United States		
	Jan. 14	Dec. 13	Jan. 13	Jan. 14	Dec. 13	Jan. 13
Civilian Labor Force	550.3	550.1	560.0	155,460	154,937	155,699
Resident Employment	499.7	499.1	506.2	145,224	144,586	143,384
Unemployment	50.6	51.1	53.8	10,236	10,351	12,315
Unemployment Rate	9.2%	9.3%	9.6%	6.6%	6.7%	7.9%

Rhode Island Jobs Increase by 3,800 in January

Estimated nonfarm payroll in Rhode Island totaled 475,000 in January, reflecting a gain of 3,800 jobs from the revised December employment estimate of 471,200. January's employment level marks the highest employment level since October 2008.

The Educational Services sector added 1,600 jobs in January, the result of a change in the college calendar for some local universities and colleges. Typically, the fall semester runs deep into December, keeping student workers and faculty workers employed through the end of month. Because the semester ended early, a bulk of the sector's employment came off the payrolls in December rather than in January, resulting in a seasonal gain.

Employment in Health Care & Social Assistance estimated at 81,100 reached an all-time high in January, adding 700 jobs over the month. Ambulatory health care services and nursing and residential care facilities, which usually shed employment in January, held on to their December employment, resulting in large job gains.

The Wholesale Trade and Other Services sectors each added 400 jobs in January, while positive gains were also reported in the Manufacturing (+300), Accommodation & Food Services (+200), Retail Trade (+100), Financial Activities (+100), Construction (+100), Arts, Entertainment & Recreation (+100) and Government (+100) sectors.

Minor employment declines were noted in the Professional & Business Services (-200) and Transportation & Utilities (-100) sectors, while the Information and Mining & Logging sectors reported no change.

Nationally, employment increased by 129,000 or 0.1 percent. On a percentage basis, Rhode Island (+0.8%) fell well above the New England (-0.1%) region and the entire nation (+0.1%) in terms of over-the-month job growth. Regionally, Rhode Island (+3,800), Vermont (+3,000) and Maine (+1,400) added January employment, while Connecticut (-10,400), Massachusetts (-4,500) and New Hampshire (-3,400) lost employment.

Establishment Employment in Rhode Island					
Seasonally Adjusted					
	Net Change From				
	Jan-14	Dec-13	Jan-13	Dec-13	Jan-13
Total Nonfarm	475.0	471.2	468.9	3.8	6.1
Total Private	414.9	411.2	408.9	3.7	6.0
Natural Resources & Mining	0.2	0.2	0.3	0.0	-0.1
Construction	16.0	15.9	16.0	0.1	0.0
Manufacturing	40.8	40.5	39.9	0.3	0.9
Wholesale Trade	17.2	16.8	16.7	0.4	0.5
Retail Trade	47.0	46.9	46.4	0.1	0.6
Transportation & Utilities	11.0	11.1	10.7	-0.1	0.3
Information	8.8	8.8	9.2	0.0	-0.4
Financial Activities	32.2	32.1	32.0	0.1	0.2
Professional & Business Services	58.6	58.8	57.5	-0.2	1.1
Educational Services	24.4	22.8	24.6	1.6	-0.2
Health Care & Social Assistance	81.1	80.4	80.4	0.7	0.7
Arts, Entertainment & Recreation	8.9	8.8	7.9	0.1	1.0
Accommodation & Food Services	46.0	45.8	44.7	0.2	1.3
Other Services	22.7	22.3	22.6	0.4	0.1
Government	60.1	60.0	60.0	0.1	0.1

Manufacturing Employment in Rhode Island					
Not Seasonally Adjusted					
	Employment				
	(in thousands)			Net Change From:	
	Jan 14	Dec 13	Jan 13	Dec 13	Jan 13
Manufacturing	40.7	40.7	39.6	0	1,100
Durable Goods	26.2	26.3	25.3	-100	900
Fabricated Metal Product Mfg.	5.5	5.6	5.5	-100	0
Computer & Electronic Product Mfg.	3.4	3.4	3.4	0	0
Transportation Equipment Mfg.	3.9	3.9	3.7	0	200
Miscellaneous DG Manufacturing	5.7	5.8	5.8	-100	-100
Jewelry & Silverware	3.4	3.5	3.6	-100	-200
Non-Durable Goods	14.5	14.4	14.3	100	200
Chemical Manufacturing	3.0	3.0	3.0	0	0

In January, nonfarm payroll employment increased in 23 states and decreased in 27 states. Vermont (+1.0%) reported the largest over-the-month percentage increase in employment, followed by Rhode Island (+0.8%) and Nevada (+0.7%). The largest over-the-month percentage decline in employment occurred in Kentucky (-1.0%), followed by Alaska (-0.8%), Connecticut (-0.6%) and Delaware (-0.6%).

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.

Job Growth by Wage Class



In 2013, an average of 5,600 private sector jobs were added to the Rhode Island economy. Employment increased in eight economic sectors resulting in gains of 6,700 private sector jobs, while three economic sectors saw their employment totals decrease, resulting in a loss of 1,100 private sector jobs.

Of the 6,700 jobs that were created in 2013:

- nearly 30 percent were added in high-wage economic sectors - sectors with annual average wages exceeding \$60,000.

- approximately 48 percent were added in middle-wage economic sectors – sectors with annual average wages between \$30,000-\$60,000.

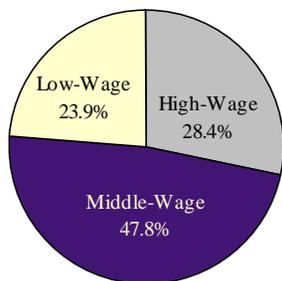
- less than 25 percent were added in low-wage economic sectors – sectors with annual average wages below \$30,000.

Among the 1,100 jobs that were lost, 800 came from the high-wage Information and Wholesale Trade sectors and 300 came from the low-wage Retail Trade sector.

High-wage sectors adding jobs included Professional & Managerial Services and Financial Activities which added 1,200 and 700 jobs, respectively. Both Professional & Managerial Services (\$80,819) and Financial Activities (73,709) paid average annual wages exceeding \$70,000 in 2012.

	Number	Percent
Total Jobs Created - 2013	6,700	100.0%
High-Wage (\$60,000 & above)	1,900	28.4%
Professional & Managerial	1,200	63.2%
Financial Activities	700	36.8%
Middle-Wage (\$30,001 - \$59,999)	3,200	47.8%
Administrative & Waste Services	1,300	40.6%
Health Care & Social Assistance	1,100	34.4%
Manufacturing	500	15.6%
Educational Services	300	9.4%
Low-Wage (\$30,000 & below)	1,600	23.9%
Accommodation & Food Services	900	56.3%
Arts, Entertainment & Recreation	700	43.8%

Percentage of Job Gains by Wage Category - 2013



The Administrative & Waste Services sector added 1,300 jobs in 2013 accounting for approximately 40 percent of the 3,200 jobs created in middle-wage sectors. Annual wages in this sector averaged \$31,767 in 2012.

Among the 1,600 low-wage jobs created in 2013, the Accommodation & Food Services sector accounted for 900 and Arts, Entertainment & Recreation accounted for 700. These sectors' wages averaged \$16,910 and \$24,943 respectively, in 2012.

Note: Employment figures are derived from the Current Employment Statistics Survey, a monthly survey of business establishments that provides estimates of employment for the nation as a whole and all states. Annual average wage figures are derived from the Quarterly Census of Employment & Wages (QCEW) program, a program which produces a comprehensive tabulation of employment and wage information for workers covered by State unemployment insurance laws. The annual average wage reflect the average wage paid in the sector (i.e. average wage off all workers employed in the economic sector) and not the wage of individual jobs.

Characteristics of the Insured Unemployed

A total of 15,879 individuals were eligible to collect "regular" Unemployment Insurance benefits in January 2014, down 1,742 (-9.9%) from the 17,621 collecting these benefits in January 2013. In all, 28.6 percent of Rhode Island's unemployed workers were eligible to collect unemployment benefits in January.

Of the 15,879 individuals collecting "regular" Unemployment Insurance benefits, 20.1 percent faced long-term unemployment (defined as collecting unemployment insurance for fifteen weeks or more), down from 20.6 percent in January 2013.

On an industry basis, 18.1 percent (2,877) of the State's insured unemployed workers came from the Construction sector. There were also 2,734 individuals with an attachment to the Administrative & Waste Services sector, accounting for 17.2 percent of all insured unemployed workers. An additional 10.8 percent (1,711) 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 (1,327), Retail Trade (1,251) and Manufacturing (1,210). For more information, go to www.dlt.ri.gov/lmi/uiadmin/characteristics.htm.

Characteristics of the Insured Unemployed, January 2014

	Total	Long-Term	Percent
Total	15,879	3,187	20.1%
Male	10,088	1,572	15.6%
Female	5,791	1,615	27.9%
Selected Industries	15,879	3,187	20.1%
Construction	2,877	171	5.9%
Manufacturing	1,210	312	25.8%
Wholesale Trade	501	180	35.9%
Retail Trade	1,251	374	29.9%
Transportation & Warehousing	373	59	15.8%
Information	142	45	31.7%
Finance & Insurance	543	229	42.2%
Real Estate	304	66	21.7%
Professional & Tech. Services	637	197	30.9%
Administrative & Waste Services	2,734	337	12.3%
Educational Services	265	109	41.1%
Health Care & Social Assistance	1,327	505	38.1%
Arts, Entertainment & Recreation	745	36	4.8%
Accommodation & Food Services	1,711	276	16.1%
Other Services	413	119	28.8%
Public Administration	158	45	28.5%

Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers

				% Change
	Jan. 14	Dec. 13	Jan. 13	Prev. Year
All Items	233.9	233.0	230.3	1.6%

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

City & Town

Unadjusted Unemployment Rates for January

	2014	2013		2014	2013
Barrington	6.9	7.6	Newport	11.4	13.4
Bristol	9.7	10.2	North Kingstown	8.1	9.4
Burrillville	10.3	10.5	North Providence	9.4	10.3
Central Falls	12.5	13.8	North Smithfield	9.0	8.7
Charlestown	12.2	12.6	Pawtucket	11.3	11.8
Coventry	9.1	9.7	Portsmouth	10.0	9.8
Cranston	9.3	10.6	Providence	11.7	12.4
Cumberland	9.0	9.0	Richmond	7.1	7.3
East Greenwich	9.0	10.1	Scituate	9.5	10.2
East Providence	10.5	11.4	Smithfield	9.4	9.1
Exeter	9.8	10.5	South Kingstown	9.7	10.3
Foster	9.5	12.2	Tiverton	11.0	11.2
Glocester	8.2	8.9	Warren	10.4	11.8
Hopkinton	11.3	10.0	Warwick	8.6	9.5
Jamestown	7.1	8.7	West Greenwich	8.9	9.0
Johnston	10.6	10.9	West Warwick	11.2	11.6
Lincoln	8.6	9.4	Westerly	10.0	9.6
Little Compton	10.4	10.8	Woonsocket	11.5	12.6
Middletown	10.7	11.8			
Narragansett	7.5	8.3	State of R.I.	10.1	10.8
New Shoreham	27.9	29.7	United States	7.0	8.5

Employer Demand for Workers in Rhode Island

The *Conference Board Help Wanted OnLine* (HWOL) data series reported that there were 20,800 advertisements for Rhode Island based jobs this month, an increase of 700 (+3.5%) from the December 2013 postings, and up 500 (+2.5%) from the advertised vacancies posted online in January 2013. There were an estimated 3.78 advertised vacancies for every 100 persons in Rhode Island's labor force.

Help Wanted OnLine Advertised Job Vacancies

	Jan 14	Dec 13	Jan 13
RI Vacancies	20,800	20,100	20,300
<i>Labor Demand Rate *</i>			
Rhode Island	3.78	3.65	3.62
US	3.38	3.41	3.32
Connecticut	3.85	3.84	3.83
Massachusetts	4.43	4.49	4.48
Maine	3.63	3.68	3.40
New Hampshire	3.88	3.90	3.49
Vermont	3.45	3.40	3.66
<i>Supply/Demand Rate **</i>			
Rhode Island	2.43	2.48	2.65
US	1.96	1.96	2.38

* Number of advertised vacancies per 100 persons in labor force
** Number of unemployed persons in state per advertised vacancy

Source: The Conference Board

Nationally, there were an estimated 3.38 advertised vacancies for every 100 persons in labor force. Among the New England states, Massachusetts (4.43), New Hampshire (3.88) and Connecticut (3.85) had higher vacancy rates than Rhode Island.

There were an estimated 2.43 unemployed Rhode Island residents for every advertised job in January, down from 2.48 unemployed residents estimated per December advertisements. Nationally, there were 1.96 unemployed persons for every job opening advertised in January, unchanged from December.

Unemployment Insurance Claims Activity

	Jan.	Dec.	Jan.	% Change		Annual		
	2014	2013	2013	Dec. 13	Jan. 13	2013	2012	% Change
Regular Claims								
Initial Claims	10,297	8,379	10,684	22.9%	-3.6%	79,864	90,039	-11.3%
Number of Payments	61,024	54,090	65,542	12.8%	-6.9%	611,257	705,082	-13.3%
Amount of Payments (gross millions)	\$20.5	\$18.3	\$22.7	12.0%	-9.7%	\$207.7	\$255.8	-18.8%
Exhaustions (Final Payments)	1,193	1,411	1,444	-15.5%	-17.4%	16,329	21,778	-25.0%

2013 Seasonally Adjusted Establishment Employment & Labor Force Statistics

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Establishment Employment (in thousands)												
Benchmark	468.9	468.3	469.4	469.3	470.1	472.4	472.2	472.2	473	472.9	473.9	471.2
Prev. Released	468.1	465.5	466.9	467.1	466.8	466.7	466.1	467.7	468.8	469.2	470.7	469.2
Change	0.8	2.8	2.5	2.2	3.3	5.7	6.1	4.5	4.2	3.7	3.2	2.0
Unemployment Rate												
Benchmark	9.6	9.5	9.5	9.5	9.5	9.5	9.6	9.6	9.5	9.4	9.4	9.3
Prev. Released	9.8	9.4	9.1	8.8	8.9	8.8	8.9	9.1	9.2	9.2	9.0	9.1
Change	-0.2	0.1	0.4	0.7	0.6	0.7	0.7	0.5	0.3	0.2	0.4	0.2
Unemployment (in thousands)												
Benchmark	53.8	53.3	53.0	52.8	52.9	53.1	53.3	53.1	52.7	52.1	51.6	51.1
Prev. Released	54.9	53.0	51.1	49.4	49.6	49.4	49.3	50.0	50.5	50.4	49.5	49.9
Change	-1.1	0.3	1.9	3.4	3.3	3.7	4.0	3.1	2.2	1.7	2.1	1.2
Employment (in thousands)												
Benchmark	506.2	506.2	506.0	505.6	504.8	503.6	502.3	501.3	500.5	499.9	499.4	499.1
Prev. Released	506.9	508.3	507.7	508.9	509.3	509.0	506.6	502.2	500.9	500.3	501.4	500.7
Change	-0.7	-2.1	-1.7	-3.3	-4.5	-5.4	-4.3	-0.9	-0.4	-0.4	-2.0	-1.6
Labor Force (in thousands)												
Benchmark	560.0	559.5	559.0	558.5	557.7	556.7	555.6	554.4	553.2	552.0	551.0	550.1
Prev. Released	561.8	561.3	558.9	558.3	558.9	558.4	556.0	552.2	551.4	550.7	550.8	550.5
Change	-1.8	-1.8	0.1	0.2	-1.2	-1.7	-0.4	2.2	1.8	1.3	0.2	-0.4