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# Employment Bulletin

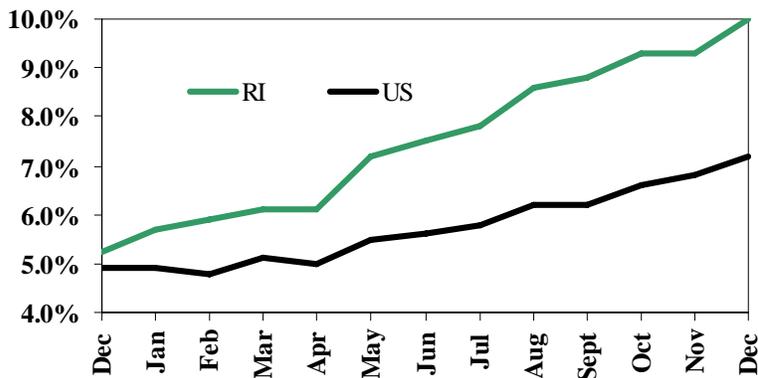
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## Rhode Island's Rate Climbs to 10.0 Percent

- ◆ RI's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate for December was 10.0 percent, increasing 0.7 percent from the November rate of 9.3 percent.
- ◆ RI's December unemployment rate is up 4.8 percentage points from last year's figure of 5.2 percent.
- ◆ The national rate increased 0.4 of a percentage point to 7.2 percent.
- ◆ In December, the number of unemployed Rhode Island residents increased by 3,700 to reach 56,800, the state's highest jobless level on record. On a year-over-year comparison, the number of unemployed residents increased 26,600 from December 2007 to December 2008.
- ◆ The number of employed RI residents totaled 509,400 in December 2008, reflecting a decrease of 8,100 from the previous month. On a year-over-year basis, the number of employed RI residents fell 37,000 between December 2007 and December 2008.

RI & US Unemployment Rates  
Seasonally Adjusted 2007-2008



## Unemployment Claims Activity for 2008

In 2008, there were 93,761 initial claims filed for **Unemployment Insurance (UI)** in Rhode Island. This was an increase of 11,833 (+14.4%) over 2007 initial claims. There were 772,052 payments made in 2008, totaling \$277.3 million. This is an increase of 124,639 (+19.3%) payments worth \$50.9 million (+22.5%) more than in 2007.

The average weekly benefit payment was \$359, up \$9 from 2007. The number of weekly benefit payments averaged 16.6 weeks in 2008, up 0.9 weeks from 2007.

There were 10,546 initial claims filed for **Workshare** in 2008, an increase of 4,095 (+63.5%) from 2007. It is estimated that 2,934 layoffs were averted in 2008 as a result of Rhode Island's Workshare program.

**Emergency Unemployment Compensation 08 (EUC08)**, which became effective July 6, 2008, provided up to thirteen weeks of federally funded benefits to eligible individuals who exhausted their UI claims. In November 2008, the program was expanded to provide up to twenty weeks of additional benefits in all states and a second tier of benefits was added which provided up to thirteen more weeks of benefits to states (including Rhode Island) with high unemployment rates. There were 18,152 initial EUC08 claims filed in 2008. There were 160,892 payments totaling \$56.2 million issued in 2008. The average EUC08 payment in 2008 was \$349.

**Extended Benefits (EB)** is available to individuals who have exhausted EUC08 claims. There were 3,443 initial EB claims in 2008, with 17,264 payments worth \$6.1 million issued. The average EB payment in 2008 was \$355.

## Seasonally Adjusted Labor Force Statistics

(in thousands)

	Rhode Island			United States		
	Dec 08	Nov 08	Dec 07	Dec 08	Nov 08	Dec 07
Civilian Labor Force	566.2	570.6	576.7	154,447	154,620	153,836
Resident Employment	509.4	517.5	546.4	143,338	144,144	146,294
Unemployment	56.8	53.1	30.2	11,108	10,476	7,541
Unemployment Rate	10.0%	9.3%	5.2%	7.2%	6.8%	4.9%

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## Rhode Island Jobs Decline by 3,000 in December

The number of Rhode Island jobs in December 2008 job count totaled 468,800, a decline of 3,000 jobs from November's employment level of 471,800. December marks the twelfth straight month of job losses for both Rhode Island and the United States.

Retail Trade employment fell by 900 in December through a shortfall of traditional holiday hiring coupled with widespread losses among most retail industries, including automobile dealerships and home centers.

Also in December, large job losses continued in Manufacturing, Construction and Professional & Business Services, with each sector shedding 700 jobs. Elsewhere, over-the-month employment declines were noted in Financial Activities (-400), Wholesale Trade (-300), Accommodation & Food Services (-100), Other Services (-100) and Information (-100). Educational Services (+400), Government (+300), Health Care & Social Assistance (+200) and Arts, Entertainment & Recreation (+100) added jobs in December, while employment in Natural Resources & Mining and Transportation & Utilities remained unchanged.

### Establishment Employment in Rhode Island Seasonally Adjusted

	Net Change From				
	Dec-08	Nov-08	Dec-07	Nov-08	Dec-07
<b>Total Nonfarm</b>	<b>468.8</b>	<b>471.8</b>	<b>490.8</b>	<b>-3.0</b>	<b>-22.0</b>
Natural Resources & Mining	0.2	0.2	0.3	0.0	-0.1
Construction	19.2	19.9	21.7	-0.7	-2.5
Manufacturing	45.8	46.5	49.6	-0.7	-3.8
Wholesale Trade*	16.1	16.4	17.0	-0.3	-0.9
Retail Trade	46.9	47.8	51.5	-0.9	-4.6
Transportation & Utilities	10.5	10.5	11.0	0.0	-0.5
Information	10.6	10.7	10.8	-0.1	-0.2
Financial Activities	32.6	33.0	34.5	-0.4	-1.9
Professional & Business Services	51.9	52.6	55.6	-0.7	-3.7
Educational Services	24.1	23.7	23.7	0.4	0.4
Health Care & Social Assistance	76.8	76.6	76.0	0.2	0.8
Arts, Entertainment & Recreation	7.5	7.4	8.1	0.1	-0.6
Accommodation & Food Services	42.5	42.6	43.3	-0.1	-0.8
Other Services	21.7	21.8	23.2	-0.1	-1.5
Government	62.4	62.1	64.5	0.3	-2.1

\* State Calculated Estimate

From December 2007 to December 2008, RI jobs declined 22,000 (4.5 %) due to job losses in nearly all economic sectors. The largest annual employment declines were reported in Retail Trade (-4,600), followed by Manufacturing (-3,800), Professional & Business Services (-3,700), Construction (-2,500), Government (-2,100), Financial Activities (-1,900) and Other Services (-1,500). Smaller losses were noted in Wholesale Trade (-900), Accommodation & Food Services (-800), Arts, Entertainment & Recreation (-600), Transportation & Utilities (-500), Information (-200) and Natural Resources & Mining (-100).

### Manufacturing Employment in Rhode Island Not Seasonally Adjusted

	Employment				
	(in thousands)		Net Change From		
	Dec 08	Nov 08	Dec 07	Nov 08	Dec 07
<b>Manufacturing</b>	<b>46.3</b>	<b>47.1</b>	<b>50.2</b>	<b>-800</b>	<b>-3,900</b>
<b>Durable Goods</b>	<b>30.0</b>	<b>30.8</b>	<b>32.7</b>	<b>-800</b>	<b>-2,700</b>
Fabricated Metal Product Mfg.	6.5	6.5	6.9	0	-400
Computer & Electronic Product Mfg.	4.2	4.3	4.3	-100	-100
Miscellaneous Manufacturing	8.4	8.5	9.3	-100	-900
Jewelry & Silverware	5.9	6.0	6.5	-100	-600
<b>Non-Durable Goods</b>	<b>16.3</b>	<b>16.3</b>	<b>17.5</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>-1,200</b>
Chemical Manufacturing	4.2	4.2	4.2	0	0
Plastics & Rubber Products Mfg.	2.8	2.8	2.9	0	-100

Health Care & Social Assistance and Educational Services were the only sectors to report employment increases over the year with gains of 800 and 400 jobs, respectively.

In December 2008, production workers in the Manufacturing sector earned \$14.05 per hour. The average hourly production wage was up three cents from November and up seven cents from a year ago December. Manufacturing employees worked an average of 38.5 hours per week in December, up two-tenths of an hour over the month but down nine-tenths of an hour since December 2007.

*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).*

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



## 2008 New England Population

Since Census 2000, the population of New England has grown more slowly than the national population. Between April 2000 and July 2008, the population of New England increased 2.7 percent, compared to 8.0 percent nationally. Growth rates ranged from a low of 0.2 percent in Rhode Island to a high of 6.5 percent in New Hampshire.

Between 2000 and 2008, all of the New England states reported population growth. After New Hampshire, Maine posted the second highest growth rate at 3.3 percent, followed by Connecticut (2.8%), Massachusetts (2.3%), and Vermont (2.0%). Rhode Island's growth was the slowest in New England, gaining just 0.2 percent.

Over the past year, Rhode Island was just one of two states to post a decrease in population, losing 2,348 (-0.2%) residents. Michigan's population declined by 46,368 (-0.5%). Massachusetts had the highest growth rate in New England between 2007 and 2008, increasing by 0.5 percent, followed by Connecticut and New Hampshire each adding 0.3 percent to their population. Both Maine and Vermont saw their population grow by 0.1 percent. The nation as a whole grew by 0.9 percent.

State	Census 2000 Population	July 1, 2007	July 1, 2008	2000-2008		2007-2008	
		Population Estimate	Population Estimate	Change	Percent	Change	Percent
<b>United States</b>	<b>281,421,906</b>	<b>301,290,332</b>	<b>304,059,724</b>	<b>22,637,818</b>	<b>8.0%</b>	<b>2,769,392</b>	<b>0.9%</b>
Connecticut	3,405,565	3,489,868	3,501,252	95,687	2.8%	11,384	0.3%
Maine	1,274,923	1,315,398	1,316,456	41,533	3.3%	1,058	0.1%
Massachusetts	6,349,097	6,467,915	6,497,967	148,870	2.3%	30,052	0.5%
New Hampshire	1,235,786	1,312,256	1,315,809	80,023	6.5%	3,553	0.3%
<b>Rhode Island</b>	<b>1,048,319</b>	<b>1,053,136</b>	<b>1,050,788</b>	<b>2,469</b>	<b>0.2%</b>	<b>-2,348</b>	<b>-0.2%</b>
Vermont	608,827	620,748	621,270	12,443	2.0%	522	0.1%

## Characteristics of the Insured Unemployed

In December 2008, 36 percent of Rhode Island's unemployed workers were eligible to collect Unemployment Insurance (UI) benefits. Numbering 19,630 people, these "insured unemployed" accounted for 3.8 percent of the State's total employed (unadjusted). More than 21 percent (4,223) 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, 17.1 percent (3,360) of the State's insured unemployed workers came from the Manufacturing sector. There were also 3,160 individuals with an attachment to the Construction sector, accounting for 16.1 percent of all insured unemployed workers. An additional 11 percent (2,155) of those collecting UI benefits in December had worked in the Administrative & Waste Services sector. Large numbers of insured unemployed were also reported in Retail Trade (1,749), Accommodation & Food Services (1,487) and Health Care & Social Assistance (1,427). 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, December 2008

	Total	Long-Term	Percent Long-Term
<b>Total</b>	<b>19,630</b>	<b>4,223</b>	<b>21.5%</b>
Male	12,045	2,122	17.6%
Female	7,585	2,101	27.7%
<b>Selected Industries</b>	<b>19,630</b>	<b>4,223</b>	<b>21.5%</b>
Construction	3,160	308	9.7%
Manufacturing	3,360	778	23.2%
Wholesale Trade	724	199	27.5%
Retail Trade	1,749	470	26.9%
Transportation & Warehousing	544	112	20.6%
Information	333	101	30.3%
Finance & Insurance	943	332	35.2%
Real Estate	358	75	20.9%
Professional & Tech. Services	796	203	25.5%
Administrative & Waste Services	2,155	276	12.8%
Educational Services	395	183	46.3%
Health Care & Social Assistance	1,427	522	36.6%
Arts, Entertainment & Recreation	639	80	12.5%
Accommodation & Food Services	1,487	226	15.2%
Other Services	600	165	27.5%
Public Administration	129	50	38.8%

**Consumer Price Index for  
All Urban Consumers**

				% Change
	Dec 08	Nov 08	Dec 07	Prev. Year
All Items	210.2	212.4	210.0	0.1%

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

**City & Town Analysis  
Second Quarter 2008**

Rhode Island total employment averaged 476,955 in the second quarter of 2008, a decrease of 9,300 (-1.9%) jobs from the second quarter of 2007. Private sector employment suffered a loss of 9,068 (-2.1%) jobs, while the Government payroll was cut by 232 (-0.4%) jobs. State government reported a loss of 219, positions while local government lost 104 jobs. Federal government experienced a modest gain of 91 positions during the period.

Private sector employment in Warwick experienced a loss of 1,815 (-3.7%) positions between the second quarter of 2007 and second quarter of 2008, the largest employment decline among all Rhode Island communities. Management of Companies & Enterprises lost 577 (-28.1%) jobs from the second quarter 2007, followed by the Retail Trade sector, which declined by 503 (-5.8%) positions. Providence (-1,509), Cranston (-1,269), Pawtucket (-851) and East Providence (-794) also reported sizable employment declines during this period.

North Kingstown added 377 (+2.6%) private sector jobs between the second quarter of 2007 and second quarter of 2008, the largest employment gain among Rhode Island's thirty-nine cities and towns. Significant employment gains within the town were noted in the Manufacturing (+446) and Other Services (+49) sectors.

Narragansett experienced the second largest employment increase, adding 241 (+7.3%) private sector jobs from the second quarter of 2007. The Accommodation & Food Services sector added 139 jobs during this period. Additional cities and towns to report notable employment gains during this period were Newport (+227), Burrillville (+226) and South Kingstown (+155). For more information, visit <http://www.dlt.ri.gov/lmi/es202.htm>.

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

	2008	2007		2008	2007
Barrington	6.8	3.6	Newport	8.9	5.1
Bristol	9.5	4.5	North Kingstown	7.9	4.5
Burrillville	9.7	4.9	North Providence	9.2	5.1
Central Falls	14.1	6.6	North Smithfield	8.3	4.3
Charlestown	10.1	4.7	Pawtucket	11.4	5.8
Coventry	9.1	5.1	Portsmouth	7.9	4.2
Cranston	9.6	5.1	Providence	11.2	6.1
Cumberland	9.0	4.6	Richmond	6.7	2.7
East Greenwich	9.2	5.1	Scituate	8.5	5.3
East Providence	10.3	5.6	Smithfield	8.7	4.4
Exeter	8.8	4.4	South Kingstown	8.6	4.2
Foster	9.0	5.4	Tiverton	9.7	5.1
Glocester	8.2	4.0	Warren	10.6	5.2
Hopkinton	10.6	4.5	Warwick	8.6	5.1
Jamestown	6.0	3.8	West Greenwich	7.7	4.6
Johnston	10.5	5.7	West Warwick	10.2	5.8
Lincoln	8.4	4.6	Westerly	8.7	4.2
Little Compton	8.5	4.7	Woonsocket	11.2	6.2
Middletown	8.7	4.6			
Narragansett	6.5	4.0	State of R.I.	9.6	5.2
New Shoreham	17.1	11.6	United States	7.1	4.8

**Unemployment Insurance Claims Activity**

	Dec 2008	Nov 2008	Dec 2007	% Change		Year to Date		
				Nov 08	Dec 07	2008	2007	% Change
<b>Regular Claims</b>								
Initial Claims	11,079	7,369	10,302	50.3%	7.5%	93,761	81,928	14.4%
Number of Payments	82,543	52,734	59,980	56.5%	37.6%	772,052	647,413	19.3%
Amount of Payments (gross millions)	\$30.4	\$19.3	\$21.9	57.5%	38.8%	\$277.3	\$226.4	22.5%
Exhaustions (Final Payments)	2,194	1,655	1,480	32.6%	48.2%	20,492	15,181	35.0%
<b>Extended Unemployment Compensation</b>								
Initial Claims	3,871	1,661	n/a	133.1%	n/a	18,152	n/a	n/a
Number of Payments	46,457	14,509	n/a	220.2%	n/a	160,892	n/a	n/a
Amount of Payments (gross millions)	\$16.3	\$5.1	n/a	219.0%	n/a	\$56.2	n/a	n/a
<b>Extended Benefits</b>								
Initial Claims	79	902	n/a	-91.2%	n/a	3,443	n/a	n/a
Number of Payments	365	9,355	n/a	-96.1%	n/a	17,264	n/a	n/a
Amount of Payments (gross millions)	\$0.1	\$3.4	n/a	-96.4%	n/a	\$6.1	n/a	n/a

**Rhode Island Department of Labor & Training**  
**Quarterly Census of Employment & Wages - Private Sector**  
**RI City and Town - Second Quarter 2008**

<u>Municipality</u>	<u>Establishments</u>	<u>Average Employment</u>	<u>Total Wages</u>	<u>Average Weekly Wage</u>
Rhode Island	35,222	412,889	\$4,009,602,914	\$747
Barrington	452	2,486	17,937,155	\$555
Bristol	624	6,615	53,694,868	\$624
Burrillville	294	2,540	18,133,333	\$549
Central Falls	234	2,219	18,478,637	\$641
Charlestown	234	1,473	12,454,808	\$650
Coventry	750	7,073	53,430,617	\$581
Cranston	2,577	28,425	260,009,264	\$704
Cumberland	866	8,440	76,167,746	\$694
East Greenwich	747	6,654	60,256,666	\$697
East Providence	1,512	20,729	198,861,107	\$738
Exeter	186	1,218	8,722,017	\$551
Foster	97	374	2,780,824	\$572
Glocester	198	1,154	8,081,251	\$539
Hopkinton	202	1,084	9,294,312	\$660
Jamestown	213	1,021	7,991,463	\$602
Johnston	1,089	10,432	95,207,140	\$702
Lincoln	781	13,470	133,822,127	\$764
Little Compton	136	530	3,628,766	\$527
Middletown	766	10,360	96,580,229	\$717
Narragansett	474	3,485	21,313,042	\$470
Newport	1,266	13,366	106,460,988	\$613
New Shoreham	208	776	5,140,768	\$510
North Kingstown	1,046	13,717	132,769,383	\$745
North Providence	714	7,123	55,583,796	\$600
North Smithfield	372	3,618	29,427,314	\$626
Pawtucket	1,565	23,617	219,979,339	\$716
Portsmouth	515	5,692	63,890,704	\$863
Providence	5,536	96,339	1,074,460,098	\$858
Richmond	148	1,216	8,357,146	\$529
Scituate	252	955	6,142,370	\$495
Smithfield	828	12,585	142,795,040	\$873
South Kingstown	1,039	10,007	88,535,726	\$681
Tiverton	399	2,203	16,558,836	\$578
Warren	385	3,956	31,275,382	\$608
Warwick	3,338	46,929	419,912,948	\$688
Westerly	873	8,786	69,542,503	\$609
West Greenwich	198	3,057	46,028,545	\$1,158
West Warwick	607	7,967	69,899,219	\$675
Woonsocket	858	13,726	158,404,681	\$888
Statewide *	2,643	7,456	\$107,592,756	\$1,110

\*Statewide - employment in multiple towns, at unknown locations, or outside RI.

Data compiled November 2008 at the RI DLT Labor Market Information office.

The data is subject to revisions & variations in sequences of rounding & averaging.

Source: Quarterly Census of Employment and Wages, developed through a cooperative program between the State of Rhode Island and the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics

A Product of: **Rhode Island Department of Labor and Training, Labor Market Information**

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