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Employment Bulletin

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Rhode Island's Unemployment Rate Climbs to 12.9 Percent

- ◆ RI's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate for December was 12.9 percent, increasing two-tenths of a percentage point from the November rate of 12.7 percent.
- ◆ RI's December unemployment rate is up 3.5 percentage points from last year's figure of 9.4 percent.
- ◆ The national rate remained at 10.0 percent in December. Rhode Island's December unemployment rate was the 3rd highest in the nation, trailing Michigan (14.6%) and Nevada (13.0%).
- ◆ The unemployment rate increased in 43 states - including Connecticut (+0.7), Massachusetts (+0.7), Vermont (+0.5), Maine (+0.3), New Hampshire (+0.3), and Rhode Island (+0.2). Only four states saw their rates decrease. In all, sixteen states have unemployment rates in the double digits, with five states having a rate above 12.0 percent.
- ◆ Rates in other New England States – Massachusetts 9.4 percent, Connecticut 8.9 percent, Maine 8.3 percent, New Hampshire 7.0 percent, Vermont 6.9 percent.
- ◆ The number of employed RI residents totaled 496,800 in December 2009, reflecting a decrease of 1,400 from the previous month. Between December 2008 and December 2009, the number of employed RI residents fell by 15,300.
- ◆ In December, the number of unemployed Rhode Island residents increased by 1,100 to 73,500. From December 2008 to December 2009, the number of unemployed residents increased by 20,300.

Unemployment Insurance Activity for 2009

The Department of Labor and Training (DLT) is currently paying unemployment compensation under three programs – Unemployment Insurance (UI), Emergency Unemployment Compensation (EUC-08) and Extended Benefits (EB).

DLT processed over 116,000 initial claims for UI benefits in 2009, up (+23.8%) from the 93,761 processed in 2008 and the most since 1996. Over one million payments totaling more than \$411 million were issued in 2009. This is the sixth time in the history of the program that over one million payments have been issued in a single year.

EUC-08, which became effective July 6, 2008, currently provides up to 53 weeks of federally funded benefits to eligible individuals who have exhausted their UI claims. DLT processed over 44,000 initial claims for EUC-08 benefits in 2009 and issued 654,645 payments totaling \$236.8 million. Since the program began, over 62,000 initial claims have been filed and over 815,000 payments totaling \$293 million have been issued.

EB, which also became effective in July 2008, currently provides up to 20 weeks of additional benefits to individuals who have exhausted their EUC-08 claims. DLT processed 7,567 EB initial claims in 2009 and issued 113,192 payments totaling \$39.7 million. Since the program began, over 11,000 initial claims have been filed and over 130,000 payments totaling \$46 million have been issued.

A table of Annual Unemployment Insurance Activity for 2009 can be found on page 4.

Seasonally Adjusted Labor Force Statistics

(in thousands)

	Rhode Island			United States		
	Dec 09	Nov 09	Dec 08	Dec 09	Nov 09	Dec 08
Civilian Labor Force	570.3	570.6	565.3	153,059	153,720	154,587
Resident Employment	496.8	498.2	512.1	137,792	138,381	143,188
Unemployment	73.5	72.4	53.2	15,267	15,340	11,400
Unemployment Rate	12.9%	12.7%	9.4%	10.0%	10.0%	7.4%

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Rhode Island Jobs Decrease by 1,300 in December

Rhode Island nonfarm payroll employment totaled 453,800 in December, equaling the lowest employment level since December 1997 (453,800). The December job count edged down by 1,300 from the November revised employment level of 455,100.

Notable job losses were reported in Manufacturing, Professional & Business Services and Accommodation & Food Services. Manufacturing employment fell by 700 in December as the Durable Goods component of Manufacturing experienced large losses, including Jewelry & Silverware Manufacturing, a sub-sector of Durable Goods. The Professional & Business Services sector also shed 700 jobs over the month, as landscaping companies continued to shed employees. Janitorial services, which provide services to buildings, also reported notable payroll losses. Employment was down in full-service and limited-service restaurants as the Accommodation & Food Services sector lost 500 jobs in December, while Retail Trade (-200) and Government (-100) reported modest employment losses.

Five sectors—Financial Activities (+300), Transportation & Utilities (+200), Other Services (+200), Arts, Entertainment & Recreation (+100) and Information (+100)—reported modest employment gains between November and December. Employment in the Health Care & Social Assistance, Educational Services, Wholesale Trade, Construction, and Natural Resources & Mining sectors remained unchanged over the month.

December 2009 employment was down 17,400 (-3.7%) from December 2008, with job declines reported in nearly all economic sectors. Manufacturing (-4,400), Accommodation & Food Services (-2,200), Professional & Business Services (-2,100), Retail Trade (-1,800), Government (-1,600), and Construction (-1,300) reported the most significant annual employment declines.

Smaller over-the-year losses were noted in Other Services (-800), Wholesale Trade (-700), Educational Services (-500), Arts, Entertainment & Recreation (-500), Transportation & Utilities (-500), Health Care & Social Assistance (-400), Information (-400) and Financial Activities (-200).

MANUFACTURING: In December 2009, production workers in the Manufacturing sector earned \$14.37 per hour. The average hourly production wage remained unchanged from November 2009 and up thirty-one cents from December 2008. Manufacturing employees worked an average of 38.2 hours per week in December, up eight-tenths of an hour over the month, and up four-tenths of an hour over the year.

Establishment Employment in Rhode Island Seasonally Adjusted

	Net Change From				
	Dec-09	Nov-09	Dec-08	Nov-09	Dec-08
Total Nonfarm	453.8	455.1	471.2	-1.3	-17.4
Natural Resources & Mining	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.0	0.0
Construction	17.6	17.6	18.9	0.0	-1.3
Manufacturing	41.4	42.1	45.8	-0.7	-4.4
Wholesale Trade	16.1	16.1	16.8	0.0	-0.7
Retail Trade	45.0	45.2	46.8	-0.2	-1.8
Transportation & Utilities	10.3	10.1	10.8	0.2	-0.5
Information	9.9	9.8	10.3	0.1	-0.4
Financial Activities	32.6	32.3	32.8	0.3	-0.2
Professional & Business Services	50.6	51.3	52.7	-0.7	-2.1
Educational Services	23.1	23.1	23.6	0.0	-0.5
Health Care & Social Assistance	76.5	76.5	76.9	0.0	-0.4
Arts, Entertainment & Recreation	7.4	7.3	7.9	0.1	-0.5
Accommodation & Food Services	40.4	40.9	42.6	-0.5	-2.2
Other Services	21.7	21.5	22.5	0.2	-0.8
Government	61.0	61.1	62.6	-0.1	-1.6

Manufacturing Employment in Rhode Island Not Seasonally Adjusted

	Employment				
	(in thousands)			Net Change From:	
	Dec 09	Nov 09	Dec 08	Nov 09	Dec 08
Manufacturing	41.9	42.6	46.4	-700	-4,500
Durable Goods	27.1	27.7	30.0	-600	-2,900
Fabricated Metal Product Mfg.	5.9	6.0	6.5	-100	-600
Computer & Electronic Product Mfg.	3.9	4.0	4.1	-100	-200
Miscellaneous Manufacturing	7.4	7.6	8.2	-200	-800
Jewelry & Silverware	4.8	5.0	5.5	-200	-700
Non-Durable Goods	14.8	14.9	16.4	-100	-1,600
Chemical Manufacturing	3.4	3.6	3.6	-200	-200

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. 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.



Multiple Jobholders in Rhode Island, 2008

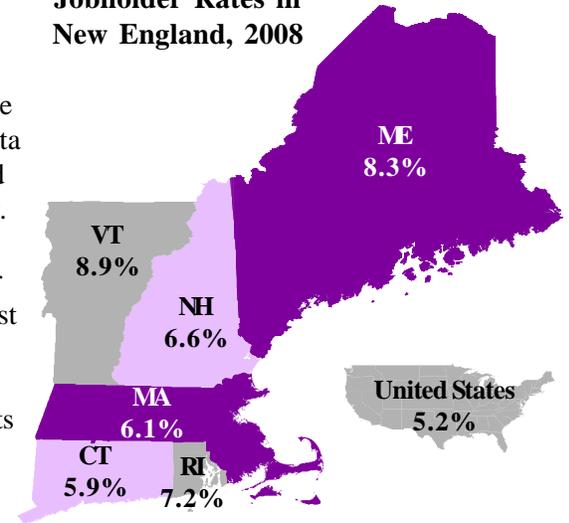
According to the Bureau of Labor Statistics' Current Population Survey, 7.2 percent of employed Rhode Islanders sixteen years and older held more than one job in 2008. This represented a 0.6 percentage point increase from the state's 2007 rate and is at its highest level since 2001 (7.2%).

Historical data show that Rhode Island's multiple jobholder rate consistently surpasses the United States average. In 1994, 6.0 percent of the nation's workers held two or more jobs -- 0.8 percentage points less than in the Ocean State. This gap widened to 2.3 percentage points in 1999 and now stands at 2.0 percentage points.

Since 1994, Rhode Island has ranked among the top half of states with the highest multiple jobholder rates. In 1994, the Ocean State ranked twentieth in the nation, rising to fourteenth place in 1999 and 2000. In these latter years, Rhode Island's percentage of multiple jobholders peaked, while the national rate began to fall. In 2008, the Ocean State reported the fourteenth highest multiple jobholder rate in the United States. The highest rates were reported in Nebraska (9.8%), North Dakota (9.8%), and South Dakota (9.5%), while Nevada (3.7%), New Jersey (4.1%) and Louisiana (4.1%) had the lowest percentages of multiple jobholders in the country.

Within New England, Rhode Island (7.2%) had the third highest multiple jobholder rate in 2008. Vermont's multiple jobholder rate of 8.9 percent remained the highest in the region, a distinction the Green Mountain State has held in all but one year since 1994. Maine (8.3%) reported the next highest multiple jobholder rate in the region, followed by Rhode Island (7.2%), New Hampshire (6.6%), Massachusetts (6.1%) and Connecticut (5.9%). Each of the six New England states reported multiple jobholder rates above the national average (5.2%). To view this publication, go to www.dlt.ri.gov/lmi/publications/mjh.htm.

Multiple Jobholder Rates in New England, 2008



Characteristics of the Insured Unemployed

A total of 19,946 individuals were eligible to collect "regular" Unemployment Insurance benefits in December 2009, up 316 (+1.6%) from the 19,630 collecting these benefits in December 2008. In addition, 19,258 individuals collected Emergency Unemployment Compensation and 2,302 collected Extended Benefits. In all, 59 percent of Rhode Island's unemployed workers were eligible to collect unemployment benefits in December.

Of the 19,946 individuals collecting "regular" Unemployment Insurance benefits, 28.3 percent faced long-term unemployment (defined as collecting unemployment insurance for fifteen weeks or more), up from 21.5 percent in December 2008.

On an industry basis, 16.9 percent (3,367) of the State's insured unemployed workers came from the Construction sector. There were also 2,958 individuals with an attachment to the Manufacturing sector, accounting for 14.8 percent of all insured unemployed workers. An additional 10.5 percent (2,087) of those collecting UI benefits in December had worked in the Administrative & Waste Services sector. Large numbers of insured unemployed were also reported in Accommodation & Food Services (1,795), Health Care & Social Assistance (1,532) and Retail Trade (1,494). For more information, go to www.dlt.ri.gov/lmi/uiadmin/characteristics.htm.

Characteristics of the Insured Unemployed, December 2009

	Total	Percent	
		Long-Term	Long-Term
Total	19,946	5,636	28.3%
Male	11,887	2,922	24.6%
Female	8,059	2,714	33.7%
Selected Industries	19,946	5,636	28.3%
Construction	3,367	651	19.3%
Manufacturing	2,958	1,028	34.8%
Wholesale Trade	781	262	33.5%
Retail Trade	1,494	488	32.7%
Transportation & Warehousing	474	135	28.5%
Information	380	134	35.3%
Finance & Insurance	826	330	40.0%
Real Estate	411	121	29.4%
Professional & Tech. Services	983	355	36.1%
Administrative & Waste Services	2,087	327	15.7%
Educational Services	566	305	53.9%
Health Care & Social Assistance	1,532	612	39.9%
Arts, Entertainment & Recreation	660	74	11.2%
Accommodation & Food Services	1,795	365	20.3%
Other Services	713	238	33.4%
Public Administration	145	38	26.2%

Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers

	Dec 09		Nov 09		Dec 08		Nov 08		% Change	
	Dec 09	Nov 09	Dec 08	Nov 08	Dec 08	Nov 08	Dec 07	Nov 07	Dec 07	Nov 07
All Items	215.9	216.3	210.2	210.2	207.2	207.2	204.2	204.2	2.7%	2.7%

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

Union Membership in Rhode Island, 2009

According to the Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS), 17.9 percent (80,000) of Rhode Island private and public sector workers were union members in 2009. This represented an over-the-year increase of 1.4 percentage points, or 2,000 workers. The number of union members were at its highest level since 2003 and accounted for the largest percentage of employed workers since 2000 (18.2%).

Nationally, the union membership rate was 12.3 percent in 2009, down from 12.4 percent in 2008 and well below the 20.1 percent measured in 1983. Among the fifty states, Rhode Island reported the seventh highest union membership rate, trailing New York (25.2%), Hawaii (23.5%), Alaska (22.3%), Washington (20.2%), New Jersey (19.3%) and Michigan (18.8%). North Carolina (3.1%) and Arkansas (4.2%) had the lowest union membership rates in 2009.

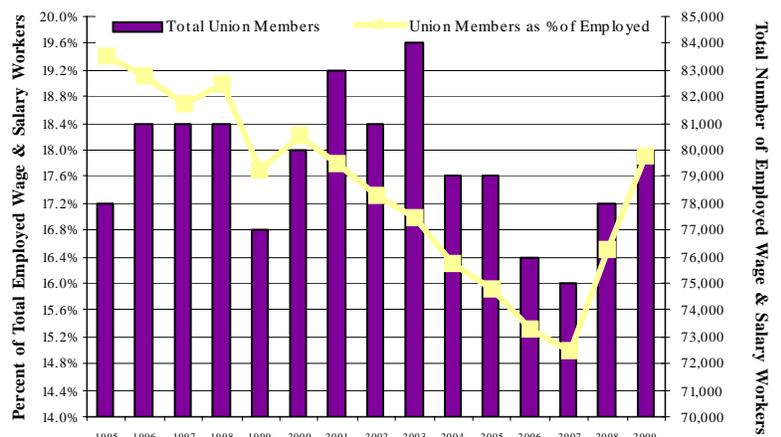
Regionally, the Ocean State had the highest union membership rate, followed by Connecticut (17.3%) and Massachusetts (16.6%). Vermont (12.3%), Maine (11.7%) and New Hampshire (10.8%) all had union membership rates below the national average.

Union members and workers whose jobs are covered by a union or employee association contract represented 13.6 percent of the nation's wage and salary workers and 18.7 percent of Rhode Island's wage and salary workers.

City & Town Unadjusted Unemployment Rates for December

	2009	2008		2009	2008
Barrington	9.9	6.7	Newport	11.7	8.9
Bristol	12.0	9.8	North Kingstown	9.7	7.9
Burrillville	13.0	9.5	North Providence	11.6	8.9
Central Falls	13.8	13.8	North Smithfield	12.1	8.2
Charlestown	11.8	10.5	Pawtucket	14.0	11.3
Coventry	11.9	9.1	Portsmouth	10.4	8.0
Cranston	12.2	9.6	Providence	14.0	11.2
Cumberland	11.4	8.7	Richmond	10.0	6.6
East Greenwich	11.3	9.1	Scituate	11.6	8.4
East Providence	12.9	10.1	Smithfield	11.8	8.7
Exeter	11.2	9.0	South Kingstown	9.8	8.4
Foster	12.7	9.0	Tiverton	12.6	9.6
Glocester	10.8	8.1	Warren	13.8	10.6
Hopkinton	12.4	10.4	Warwick	11.5	8.6
Jamestown	9.1	6.2	West Greenwich	10.8	8.0
Johnston	13.0	10.4	West Warwick	13.5	10.5
Lincoln	10.7	8.4	Westerly	9.3	9.0
Little Compton	11.9	8.9	Woonsocket	15.4	10.8
Middletown	11.8	8.8			
Narragansett	8.6	6.6	State of R.I.	12.3	9.6
New Shoreham	21.4	17.5	United States	9.7	7.1

Union Membership in Rhode Island, 1995-2009



Unemployment Insurance Claims Activity

	Dec.	Nov.	Dec.	% Change		Year to Date		
	2009	2009	2008	Nov. 09	Dec. 08	2009	2008	% Change
Regular Claims								
Initial Claims	10,776	7,264	11,079	48.3%	-2.7%	116,118	93,761	23.8%
Number of Payments	72,301	71,447	82,543	1.2%	-12.4%	1,109,239	772,052	43.7%
Amount of Payments (gross millions)	\$27.1	\$26.7	\$30.4	1.5%	-10.9%	\$411.3	\$277.3	48.3%
Exhaustions (Final Payments)	2,446	2,939	2,194	-16.8%	11.5%	34,632	20,492	69.0%
Emergency Unemployment Compensation						2009	Since Program Began	
Initial Claims	4,283	5,208	3,871	-17.8%	10.6%	44,096	62,248	
Number of Payments	81,226	78,042	46,457	4.1%	74.8%	654,645	815,537	
Amount of Payments (gross millions)	\$29.8	\$28.8	\$16.3	3.5%	82.8%	\$236.8	\$293.0	
Extended Benefits						2009	Since Program Began	
Initial Claims	132	608	79	-78.3%	67.1%	7,567	11,010	
Number of Payments	9,473	14,380	365	-34.1%	2495.3%	113,192	130,456	
Amount of Payments (gross millions)	\$3.3	\$5.0	\$0.1	-34.0%	2590.8%	\$39.7	\$45.8	
Exhaustions (Final Payments)	699	759	n/a	-7.9%	n/a	5,492	5,492	

Union affiliation of employed wage and salary workers by state
 [Numbers in thousands]

State	2008					2009				
	Total employed	Members of unions ¹		Represented by unions ²		Total employed	Members of unions ¹		Represented by unions ²	
		Total	Percent of employed	Total	Percent of employed		Total	Percent of employed	Total	Percent of employed
Alabama.....	1,858	181	9.8	199	10.7	1,763	191	10.9	212	12.0
Alaska.....	289	68	23.5	71	24.7	293	65	22.3	69	23.6
Arizona.....	2,579	227	8.8	254	9.8	2,471	162	6.5	194	7.9
Arkansas.....	1,158	68	5.9	85	7.3	1,103	47	4.2	55	5.0
California.....	14,889	2,740	18.4	2,909	19.5	14,297	2,453	17.2	2,622	18.3
Colorado.....	2,254	181	8.0	208	9.2	2,175	153	7.0	181	8.3
Connecticut.....	1,625	275	16.9	291	17.9	1,538	265	17.3	282	18.4
Delaware.....	391	52	13.4	57	14.7	367	44	11.9	47	12.8
District of Columbia.....	288	35	12.2	41	14.3	276	29	10.4	35	12.5
Florida.....	7,573	482	6.4	601	7.9	7,097	411	5.8	489	6.9
Georgia.....	4,084	151	3.7	189	4.6	3,869	177	4.6	226	5.9
Hawaii.....	562	136	24.3	143	25.5	526	123	23.5	128	24.3
Idaho.....	602	42	7.1	48	8.0	577	36	6.3	46	7.9
Illinois.....	5,662	939	16.6	993	17.5	5,435	951	17.5	997	18.3
Indiana.....	2,811	349	12.4	386	13.7	2,612	277	10.6	319	12.2
Iowa.....	1,437	153	10.6	187	13.0	1,398	156	11.1	185	13.3
Kansas.....	1,273	89	7.0	111	8.7	1,249	77	6.2	104	8.4
Kentucky.....	1,703	146	8.6	163	9.6	1,657	142	8.6	173	10.5
Louisiana.....	1,724	80	4.6	97	5.6	1,704	99	5.8	110	6.5
Maine.....	574	71	12.3	84	14.7	543	63	11.7	74	13.7
Maryland.....	2,610	329	12.6	380	14.5	2,555	323	12.6	366	14.3
Massachusetts.....	2,909	458	15.7	491	16.9	2,864	476	16.6	516	18.0
Michigan.....	4,089	771	18.8	801	19.6	3,785	710	18.8	752	19.9
Minnesota.....	2,430	392	16.1	412	17.0	2,400	362	15.1	377	15.7
Mississippi.....	1,089	57	5.3	79	7.3	1,029	49	4.8	66	6.4
Missouri.....	2,543	285	11.2	327	12.8	2,481	234	9.4	264	10.6
Montana.....	389	47	12.2	61	15.7	374	52	13.9	68	18.1
Nebraska.....	840	70	8.3	90	10.7	823	76	9.2	94	11.4
Nevada.....	1,192	199	16.7	217	18.2	1,097	173	15.7	188	17.2
New Hampshire.....	635	67	10.6	79	12.4	616	67	10.8	76	12.3
New Jersey.....	3,843	703	18.3	731	19.0	3,734	721	19.3	742	19.9
New Mexico.....	807	58	7.2	94	11.6	759	51	6.7	77	10.2
New York.....	8,165	2,029	24.9	2,170	26.6	8,021	2,019	25.2	2,182	27.2
North Carolina.....	3,799	132	3.5	189	5.0	3,707	115	3.1	162	4.4
North Dakota.....	308	19	6.1	25	8.2	301	21	6.8	30	9.8
Ohio.....	5,046	716	14.2	783	15.5	4,827	685	14.2	742	15.4
Oklahoma.....	1,529	102	6.6	127	8.3	1,456	83	5.7	107	7.3
Oregon.....	1,566	259	16.6	272	17.4	1,471	250	17.0	272	18.5
Pennsylvania.....	5,504	847	15.4	899	16.3	5,220	782	15.0	844	16.2
Rhode Island.....	471	78	16.5	82	17.4	444	80	17.9	83	18.7
South Carolina.....	1,792	70	3.9	105	5.8	1,672	75	4.5	91	5.4
South Dakota.....	369	18	5.0	24	6.4	357	20	5.5	24	6.6
Tennessee.....	2,534	139	5.5	166	6.6	2,387	121	5.1	156	6.6
Texas.....	9,991	449	4.5	559	5.6	9,920	508	5.1	615	6.2
Utah.....	1,178	68	5.8	84	7.1	1,136	79	6.9	90	8.0
Vermont.....	284	29	10.4	36	12.8	285	35	12.3	40	14.1
Virginia.....	3,597	146	4.1	178	5.0	3,503	166	4.7	191	5.4
Washington.....	2,912	578	19.8	626	21.5	2,847	574	20.2	612	21.5
West Virginia.....	736	101	13.8	112	15.3	699	97	13.9	108	15.4
Wisconsin.....	2,642	396	15.0	422	16.0	2,528	385	15.2	400	15.8
Wyoming.....	241	19	7.7	21	8.9	239	18	7.7	20	8.3

1 Data refer to members of a labor union or an employee association similar to a union.

2 Data refer to both union members and workers who report no union affiliation but whose jobs are covered by a union or an employee association contract.

NOTE: Data refer to the sole or principal job of full- and part-time wage and salary workers. All self-employed workers are excluded, both those with incorporated businesses as well as those with unincorporated businesses. Updated population controls are introduced annually with the release of January data.