



Lincoln D. Chafee  
Governor  
Charles J. Fogarty  
Director

# Employment Bulletin

Rhode Island  
Department of  
Labor & Training  
1511 Pontiac Ave.  
Cranston, RI 02920  
401-462-8740  
www.dlt.ri.gov/lmi

January 2011

## Rhode Island's Unemployment Rate Drops to 11.5 percent in December

- ◆ RI's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate for December was 11.5 percent, down one-tenth of a percentage point from November.
- ◆ RI's December unemployment rate is down one and two-tenths percentage points from last year's figure of 12.7 percent.
- ◆ The national rate was 9.4 percent, down four-tenths of a percentage point from November and down five-tenths from the previous year.
- ◆ In December 2010, Rhode Island had the 5th highest unemployment rate in the nation, trailing Nevada (14.5%), California (12.5%), Florida (12.0%) and Michigan (11.7%).
- ◆ The December 2010 unemployment rate increased in twenty states, including Vermont (+0.1) and New Hampshire (+0.1). Fifteen states, including Rhode Island (-0.1) saw their rates decrease. Massachusetts, Connecticut and Maine were unchanged. In all, ten states have unemployment rates in the double digits, with three states having a rate of 12.0 percent or higher.
- ◆ Rates in other New England States for December 2010—Connecticut 9.0 percent, Massachusetts 8.2 percent, Maine 7.3 percent, Vermont 5.8 percent and New Hampshire 5.5 percent.
- ◆ The number of employed RI residents totaled 507,100 in December 2010, up 1,000 from the previous month. Between December 2009 and December 2010, the number of employed RI residents grew by 5,800.
- ◆ In December, the number of unemployed Rhode Island residents decreased by 100 to 66,000. From December 2009 to December 2010, the number of unemployed residents decreased by 6,800.

## The Rhode Island Economy Shows Signs of Improvement

After peaking at 12.7 percent (Dec. 09 to Feb. 10) Rhode Island's unemployment rate has seen near steady decline in 2010, ending the year at 11.5 percent, 1.2 percentage points below the December 2009 level. Since that time, the number of employed residents has grown by 5,800 and the number of unemployed residents has decreased by 6,800.

Private sector job losses in Rhode Island bottomed out in April 2010, coinciding with the full effects of the spring flood. Between April and December 2010, private sector employment has increased by 1,100 jobs.

More significantly, our unemployment insurance payroll records indicate that our employment levels are actually higher than current sample estimates show. A review of our quarterly unemployment insurance payroll records indicate that the state's private sector employment estimates will be revised upward significantly from October 2009 through the first nine months of 2010. When our employment revisions are completed next month we expect the job numbers to show that private sector employment began to show year-over-year increases in the jobs beginning in the second half of the year.

Our current employment estimates, which are based on a monthly sample of 1,600 Rhode Island-based employers, indicate that September 2010 private (not seasonally adjusted) sector employment was down 5,300 from the prior September. The payroll records which are reported quarterly by all employers in the state indicate that the September 2010 private sector job count was up about 4,300 from the previous year. The most significant upward revisions are expected in the Administrative &

Waste Services (+2,900), Accommodation & Food Services (+2,600) and Retail Trade (+2,300). The largest downward revision is expected in the Construction (-700) sector.

### Seasonally Adjusted Labor Force Statistics

(in thousands)

	Rhode Island			United States		
	Dec 10	Nov 10	Dec 09	Dec 10	Nov 10	Dec 09
Civilian Labor Force	573.2	572.2	574.1	153,690	153,950	153,172
Resident Employment	507.1	506.1	501.3	139,206	138,909	137,960
Unemployment	66.0	66.1	72.8	14,485	15,041	15,212
Unemployment Rate	11.5%	11.6%	12.7%	9.4%	9.8%	9.9%

## Rhode Island Jobs Decrease by 400 in December

Estimated nonfarm payroll in Rhode Island totaled 449,500 in December, reflecting a loss of 400 jobs from the November employment figure of 449,900. The private sector lost 300 jobs in December while the public sector reported a loss of 100 jobs.

The largest over-the-month decline was noted in the Accommodation & Food Services sector, which reported 900 fewer jobs in December, due mainly to job losses among the food services industry. Smaller job declines were reported in Construction (-300), Wholesale Trade (-200), Arts, Entertainment & Recreation (-200), Financial Activities (-200), Other Services (-200), Natural Resources & Mining (-100) and Government (-100).

December employment gains were noted in six sectors with the largest occurring in the Health Care & Social Assistance sector, which added 500 jobs from November. The Ambulatory Health Care Services, Hospitals and Social Assistance industries all posted positive gains. Also, over-the-month gains were reported in Transportation & Utilities (+400), Retail Trade (+400), Educational Services (+300), Professional & Business Services (+100) and Manufacturing (+100). Employment in the Information sector remained unchanged.

The number of Rhode Island-based jobs decreased by 2,400 (-0.5%) between December 2009 and December 2010. Over-the-year job losses were noted in seven economic sectors including Construction (-1,200), Educational Services (-1,000), Wholesale Trade (-600), Arts, Entertainment & Recreation (-500), Financial Activities (-400), Manufacturing (-200) and Government (-200).

However, employment in four sectors—Other Services (+500), Transportation & Utilities (+500), Health Care & Social Assistance (+400) and Information (+300) was up over the year. Employment in the Accommodation & Food Services, Professional & Business Services, Retail Trade and Natural Resources & Mining sectors remained even over the year.

### Establishment Employment in Rhode Island Seasonally Adjusted

	Net Change From				
	Dec-10	Nov-10	Dec-09	Nov-10	Dec-09
<b>Total Nonfarm</b>	<b>449.5</b>	<b>449.9</b>	<b>451.9</b>	<b>-0.4</b>	<b>-2.4</b>
Natural Resources & Mining	0.2	0.3	0.2	-0.1	0.0
Construction	15.7	16.0	16.9	-0.3	-1.2
Manufacturing	39.6	39.5	39.8	0.1	-0.2
Wholesale Trade	15.3	15.5	15.9	-0.2	-0.6
Retail Trade	45.4	45.0	45.4	0.4	0.0
Transportation & Utilities	10.6	10.2	10.1	0.4	0.5
Information	10.2	10.2	9.9	0.0	0.3
Financial Activities	30.3	30.5	30.7	-0.2	-0.4
Professional & Business Services	50.7	50.6	50.7	0.1	0.0
Educational Services	23.2	22.9	24.2	0.3	-1.0
Health Care & Social Assistance	78.0	77.5	77.6	0.5	0.4
Arts, Entertainment & Recreation	6.6	6.8	7.1	-0.2	-0.5
Accommodation & Food Services	40.0	40.9	40.0	-0.9	0.0
Other Services	22.5	22.7	22.0	-0.2	0.5
Government	61.2	61.3	61.4	-0.1	-0.2

### Manufacturing Employment in Rhode Island Not Seasonally Adjusted

	Employment				
	(in thousands)			Net Change From:	
	Dec 10	Nov 10	Dec 09	Nov 10	Dec 09
<b>Manufacturing</b>	<b>40.1</b>	<b>40.1</b>	<b>40.3</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>-200</b>
<b>Durable Goods</b>	<b>25.1</b>	<b>25.2</b>	<b>25.6</b>	<b>-100</b>	<b>-500</b>
Fabricated Metal Product Mfg.	5.5	5.5	5.5	0	0
Computer & Electronic Product Mfg.	3.7	3.8	3.8	-100	-100
Miscellaneous Manufacturing	6.2	6.3	6.6	-100	-400
Jewelry & Silverware	4.0	4.0	4.4	0	-400
<b>Non-Durable Goods</b>	<b>15.0</b>	<b>14.9</b>	<b>14.7</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>300</b>
Chemical Manufacturing	2.9	2.9	3.0	0	-100

**MANUFACTURING:** In December 2010, production workers in the Manufacturing sector earned \$14.85 per hour. The average hourly production wage was down two cents from November 2010 and up 44 cents from December 2009. Manufacturing employees worked an average of 39.2 hours per week in December, up three-tenths of an hour from November, and up eight-tenths of an hour 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](http://www.dlt.ri.gov/lmi/ces.htm). Current month's figures are preliminary and subject to change.*

## Nursing Occupations in Rhode Island



Nationally, as well as in Rhode Island, the demand for nurses is expected to continue as baby boomers age and the need for health care continues to grow. Nationally, 4.8 million workers are classified as registered nurses, licensed practical nurses or certified nursing assistants. The national demand for nursing occupations will exceed 1.8 million during the 2008 to 2018 projection period. Approximately 85 percent of these nurses work within the health care industry.

Mirroring the national trend, the demand for nursing occupations in Rhode Island is also expected to be high as establishments in the state seek to fill nearly 700 job openings each year. It is expected that Rhode Island establishments will need to fill approximately 4,400 registered nurse, 590 licensed practical nurse and 1,700 certified nursing assistant job openings during the ten-year projection period. These openings will result from the growing demand for workers as well as the need to replace those who leave the occupations. (For more information, go to [www.dlt.ri.gov/lmi/publications/nursing.htm](http://www.dlt.ri.gov/lmi/publications/nursing.htm))

	Employment		Annual Openings Due To		Total Annual Openings	Average Hourly Wage	Entry-Level Wage	Experienced-Level Wage
	2008	2018	Growth	Replacement				
Nursing Totals	22,193	25,671	349	322	671	—	—	—
Registered Nurses	12,446	14,772	233	205	438	\$33.09	\$28.13	\$38.09
Licensed Prac. Nurse	1,624	1,770	15	44	59	\$24.04	\$21.37	\$26.90
Nursing Assistants	8,123	9,129	101	73	174	\$13.96	\$11.80	\$15.81

## Characteristics of the Insured Unemployed

A total of 17,894 individuals were eligible to collect “regular” Unemployment Insurance benefits in December 2010, down 2,052 (-10.3%) from the 19,946 collecting these benefits in December 2009. In addition, 13,492 individuals collected Emergency Unemployment Compensation and 3,673 collected Extended Benefits. In all, 53.1 percent of Rhode Island’s unemployed workers were eligible to collect unemployment benefits in December.

Of the 17,894 individuals collecting “regular” Unemployment Insurance benefits, 24.9 percent faced long-term unemployment (defined as collecting unemployment insurance for fifteen weeks or more), down from 28.3 percent in December 2009.

On an industry basis, 14.8 percent (2,657) of the State’s insured unemployed workers came from the Construction sector. There were also 2,252 individuals with an attachment to the Administrative & Waste Services sector, accounting for 12.6 percent of all insured unemployed workers. An additional 10.9 percent (1,956) of those collecting UI benefits in December had worked in the Accommodation & Food Services sector. Large numbers of insured unemployed were also reported in Manufacturing (1,799), Health Care & Social Assistance (1,639) and Retail Trade (1,440). 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 2010

	Total	Percent	
		Long-Term	Long-Term
<b>Total</b>	<b>17,894</b>	<b>4,452</b>	<b>24.9%</b>
Male	10,333	2,036	19.7%
Female	7,561	2,416	32.0%
<b>Selected Industries</b>	<b>17,894</b>	<b>4,452</b>	<b>24.9%</b>
Construction	2,657	316	11.9%
Manufacturing	1,799	623	34.6%
Wholesale Trade	700	221	31.6%
Retail Trade	1,440	438	30.4%
Transportation & Warehousing	392	99	25.3%
Information	202	73	36.1%
Finance & Insurance	883	368	41.7%
Real Estate	374	93	24.9%
Professional & Tech. Services	711	218	30.7%
Administrative & Waste Services	2,252	297	13.2%
Educational Services	518	316	61.0%
Health Care & Social Assistance	1,639	618	37.7%
Arts, Entertainment & Recreation	640	54	8.4%
Accommodation & Food Services	1,956	340	17.4%
Other Services	634	166	26.2%
Public Administration	254	72	28.3%

### Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers

				% Change
	Dec 10	Nov 10	Dec 09	Prev. Year
All Items	219.2	218.8	215.9	1.5%

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 18,700 advertisements for Rhode Island based jobs this month, a decrease of 1,500 (-7.4%) from the November 2010 postings, and an increase of 1,900 (+11.3%) from the 16,800 advertised vacancies posted online in December 2009. There were an estimated 3.26 advertised vacancies for every 100 persons in Rhode Island's labor force.

#### Help Wanted OnLine Advertised Job Vacancies

	Dec 10	Nov 10	Dec 09
RI Vacancies	18,700	20,200	16,800
<i>Labor Demand Rate *</i>			
Rhode Island	3.26	3.53	2.93
US	2.89	2.89	2.38
Connecticut	3.46	3.58	2.97
Massachusetts	4.13	4.12	3.44
Maine	2.87	2.99	2.49
New Hampshire	3.20	3.22	2.63
Vermont	3.24	3.52	2.91
<i>Supply/Demand Rate **</i>			
Rhode Island	3.53	3.27	4.33
US	3.26	3.39	4.18

\* 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 December

	2010	2009		2010	2009
Barrington	8.0	9.9	Newport	11.6	12.5
Bristol	9.5	12.0	North Kingstown	9.2	9.9
Burrillville	10.7	12.8	North Providence	10.9	11.6
Central Falls	13.5	13.8	North Smithfield	9.2	11.8
Charlestown	12.4	12.0	Pawtucket	11.8	13.9
Coventry	10.1	11.7	Portsmouth	9.3	10.5
Cranston	10.4	12.1	Providence	13.0	14.1
Cumberland	9.9	11.2	Richmond	7.8	10.0
East Greenwich	10.4	11.5	Scituate	9.6	11.3
East Providence	11.9	12.9	Smithfield	9.6	11.8
Exeter	10.7	11.0	South Kingstown	9.7	10.3
Foster	12.4	12.9	Tiverton	11.8	12.4
Glocester	8.6	10.4	Warren	9.5	13.4
Hopkinton	10.9	11.6	Warwick	9.9	11.4
Jamestown	8.7	9.1	West Greenwich	8.8	10.6
Johnston	12.1	12.8	West Warwick	11.5	13.2
Lincoln	9.3	10.7	Westerly	9.4	9.2
Little Compton	10.6	11.6	Woonsocket	12.5	15.1
Middletown	11.3	11.9			
Narragansett	8.2	8.7	State of R.I.	10.9	12.2
New Shoreham	21.5	20.5	United States	9.1	9.7

Nationally, there were an estimated 2.89 advertised vacancies for every 100 persons in labor force. Among the New England states, only Massachusetts (4.13) and Connecticut (3.46) had a higher vacancy rate than Rhode Island.

There were an estimated 3.53 unemployed Rhode Island residents for every advertised job in December, up from 3.27 unemployed residents estimated per November advertisements. Nationally, there were 3.26 unemployed persons for every job opening advertised in December, down from 3.39 in November.

### Unemployment Insurance Claims Activity

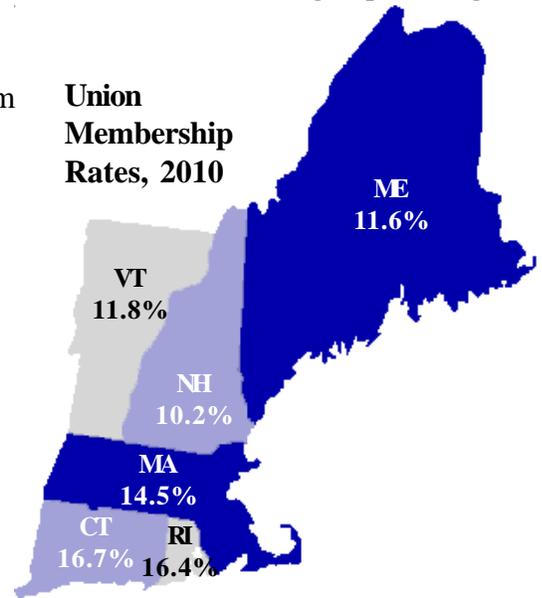
	Dec.	Nov.	Dec.	% Change		Year-to-Date		
	2010	2010	2009	Nov 10	Dec 09	2010	2009	% Change
<b>Regular Claims</b>								
Initial Claims	12,802	7,893	10,776	62.2%	18.8%	100,246	116,118	-13.7%
Number of Payments	63,717	62,122	72,301	2.6%	-11.9%	863,929	1,109,239	-22.1%
Amount of Payments (gross millions)	\$23.3	\$22.5	\$27.1	3.6%	-14.0%	\$315.4	\$411.3	-23.3%
Exhaustions (Final Payments)	2,109	2,223	2,446	-5.1%	-13.8%	27,881	34,632	-19.5%
<b>Emergency Unemployment Compensation</b>						2010	Since Program Began	
Initial Claims	2,520	3,722	4,283	-32.3%	-41.2%	36,001	98,249	
Number of Payments	58,558	67,714	81,226	-13.5%	-27.9%	796,222	1,611,759	
Amount of Payments (gross millions)	\$21.6	\$24.8	\$29.8	-12.9%	-27.5%	\$293.7	\$586.8	
<b>Extended Benefits</b>						2010	Since Program Began	
Initial Claims	2,754	613	132	349.3%	-	17,744	28,754	
Number of Payments	12,921	19,203	9,473	-32.7%	36.4%	205,260	335,716	
Amount of Payments (gross millions)	\$4.7	\$7.2	\$3.3	-34.7%	42.4%	\$75.9	\$121.7	
Exhaustions (Final Payments)	623	3,278	699	-81.0%	-10.9%	10,206	15,698	

# Union Membership in Rhode Island, 2010

According to the Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS), 16.4 percent (75,000) of Rhode Island private and public sector workers were union members in 2010. This represented an over-the-year decrease of 1.5 percentage points, or 5,000 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%).

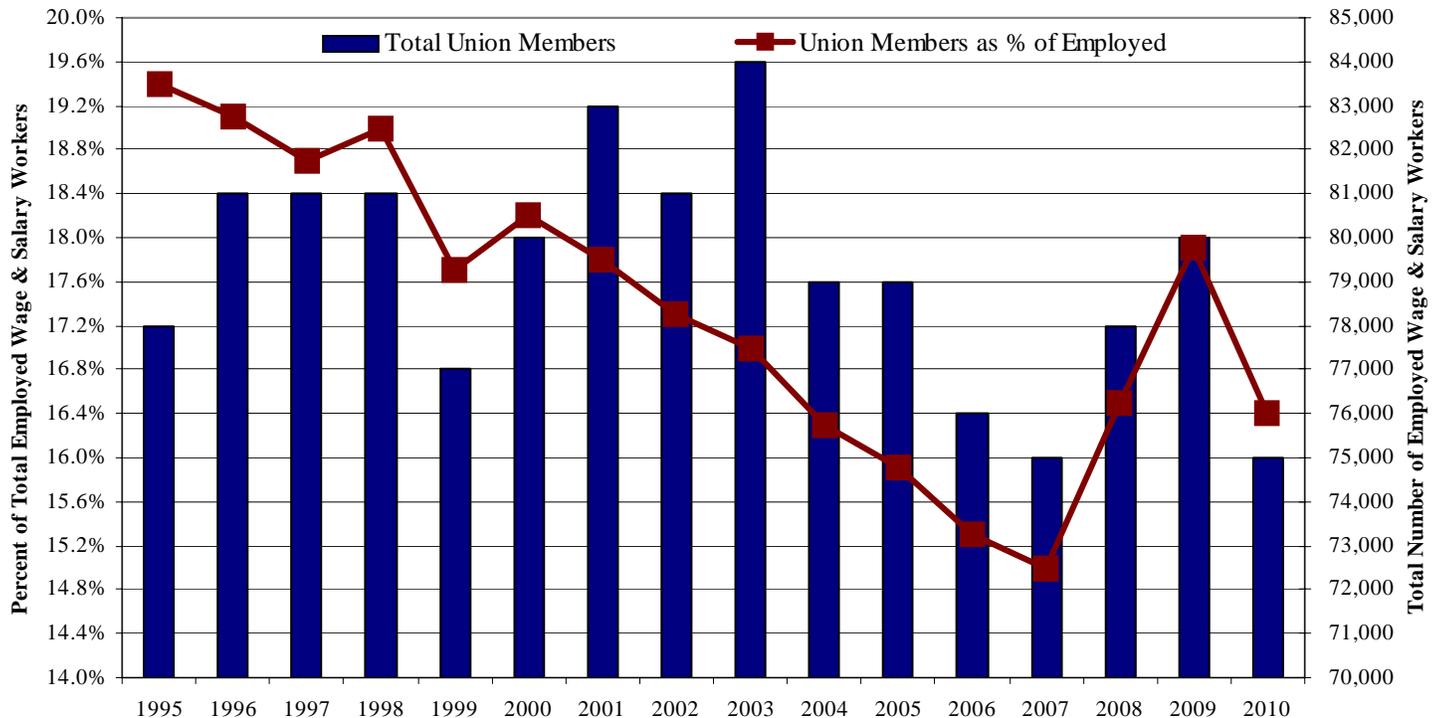
Nationally, the union membership rate was 11.9 percent in 2010, down from 12.3 percent in 2009 and well below the 20.1 percent measured in 1983. Among the fifty states, Rhode Island reported the ninth highest union membership rate, trailing New York (24.2%), Alaska (22.9%), Hawaii (21.8%), Washington (19.4%), California (17.5%), New Jersey (17.1%), Connecticut (16.7%) and Michigan (16.5%). North Carolina (3.2%), Arkansas (4.0%) and Georgia (4.0%) had the lowest union membership rates in 2010.

Regionally, the Ocean State had the second highest union membership rate, after Connecticut (16.7%), followed by Massachusetts (14.5%). Vermont (11.8%), Maine (11.6%) and New Hampshire (10.2%) 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 13.1 percent of the nation's wage and salary workers and 17.4 percent of Rhode Island's wage and salary workers.

Union Membership in Rhode Island, 1995-2010



\* 1983 is the first year for which comparable union data are available.

Data included within this report is derived from the Current Population Survey (CPS), a monthly survey of households conducted by the Bureau of Census for the Bureau of Labor Statistics. Union membership data refers to members of a labor union or an employee association similar to a union. Union representation data includes union members as well as workers who report no union affiliation, but whose jobs are covered by a union or an employee association contract. For more information on CPS data, please visit [www.bls.gov/cps/](http://www.bls.gov/cps/).