



Rhode Island's Unemployment Rate Rises to 10.8 percent in December

- ◆ RI's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate for December was 10.8 percent, up three-tenths of a percentage point from November.
- ◆ RI's December unemployment rate is down seven-tenths of a percentage point from last year's figure of 11.5 percent.
- ◆ The national rate was 8.5 percent, down two-tenths of a percentage point from November and down nine-tenths of a percentage point from the previous year.
- ◆ In December 2011, Rhode Island had the 3rd highest unemployment rate in the nation, trailing Nevada (12.6%) and California (11.1%).
- ◆ The December 2011 unemployment rate increased in three states, including Rhode Island (+0.3). Thirty-seven states, including Connecticut (-0.2), Massachusetts (-0.2), Vermont (-0.2) and New Hampshire (-0.1) saw their rates decrease, while ten states' rates, including Maine, were unchanged. In all, four states have unemployment rates in the double digits, with two states having a rate of 11.0 percent or higher.
- ◆ Rates in other New England States for December 2011— Connecticut 8.2 percent, Maine 7.0 percent, Massachusetts 6.8 percent, Vermont 5.1 percent and New Hampshire 5.1 percent.
- ◆ The number of employed RI residents totaled 503,400 in December 2011, unchanged from the previous month. Between December 2010 and December 2011, the number of employed RI residents decreased by 7,700.
- ◆ Over the month, the number of unemployed Rhode Island residents increased by 1,600 to 60,800 in December 2011. From December 2010 to December 2011, the number of unemployed residents decreased by 5,400.

Educational Attainment in Rhode Island - 2010

Not long ago, most people were able to get a job with not much more than a high school diploma. However, today's economy places a much higher premium on additional years of schooling – even for an entry-level position, a high school diploma or GED may not be enough. Our ability to compete in a global economy is dependent on the knowledge and skills of our workforce and its ability to learn and adapt to new situations.

Each level of education attained provides more return than the level below. The benefits gained from an educated workforce are important for both the residents and the economy as a whole. Research shows that higher levels of individual educational attainment lead to:

- Greater rates of workforce participation
- Reduced reliance on government assistance programs
- Readily transferable skills
- Higher annual earnings
- Better job opportunities

According to the US Census Bureau, 2010 American Community Survey 1-Year Estimates, 35.8 percent of the US population aged 25 or older has an associate's degree or higher, while Americans who did not graduate high school or receive a high school equivalency comprise 14.4 percent of the population. In comparison, 37.7 percent of Rhode Islanders have an associate degree or higher while 16.5 percent of Rhode Islanders do not have a high school diploma or equivalency.

- ◆ Rhode Island ranks fifth in New England in the percentage of adults (30.2%) who have obtained at least a Bachelor's degree, but is above the national average (28.2%).
- ◆ Rhode Island (83.5%) ranks last in New England and below the national average (85.6%) in the percentage of adults (25+ years) who have at least graduated from high school.

- ◆ Rhode Island (12.2%) ranks fifth in New England in the percentage of adults with a graduate or professional degree.

(See enclosed label page for more information.)

Seasonally Adjusted Labor Force Statistics (in thousands)

	Rhode Island			United States		
	Dec 11	Nov 11	Dec 10	Dec 11	Nov 11	Dec 10
Civilian Labor Force	564.2	562.7	577.3	153,887	153,937	153,613
Resident Employment	503.4	503.4	511.1	140,790	140,614	139,220
Unemployment	60.8	59.2	66.2	13,097	13,323	14,393
Unemployment Rate	10.8%	10.5%	11.5%	8.5%	8.7%	9.4%

Rhode Island Jobs Decrease by 600 in December

Estimated nonfarm payroll in Rhode Island totaled 458,700 in December, reflecting a loss of 600 jobs from the revised November employment estimate of 459,300 (revised upward by 1,100) and marking five consecutive months of job declines.

The Retail Trade sector reported a loss of 1,000 jobs in December as retail establishments added fewer workers than in previous Decembers. Construction sector employment declined by 500, due to reported cutbacks in specialty trade contractors and heavy and civil engineering construction workers.

Also in December, widespread losses in the Other Services sector resulted in a loss of 400 jobs. Health Care & Social Assistance employment decreased by 300 as payroll declines were reported among ambulatory health care services and hospitals. Smaller jobs declines were reported in the Educational Services (-200) and Arts, Entertainment & Recreation (-100) sectors. Employment in Information, Government and Natural Resources & Mining remained unchanged.

Employment in the Accommodation & Food Services sector increased by 600 over the month, due to better than expected employment in local restaurants and hotels. The Manufacturing sector added 400 jobs over the month as both the durable goods and non-durable goods components of manufacturing added jobs.

Positive job gains in December were also reported in the Financial Activities (+300), Professional & Business Services (+300), Wholesale Trade (+200) and Transportation & Utilities (+100) sectors.

Over the year, total non-farm employment was up 500 from December 2010. Job gains were reported in six economic sectors over the year, including Professional & Business Services (+1,400), Construction (+900), Educational Services (+700), Wholesale Trade (+400), Transportation & Utilities (+200) and Accommodation & Food Services (+100).

Establishment Employment in Rhode Island Seasonally Adjusted

	Net Change From				
	Dec-11	Nov-11	Dec-10	Nov-11	Dec-10
Total Nonfarm	458.7	459.3	458.2	-0.6	0.5
Natural Resources & Mining	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.0	0.0
Construction	16.0	16.5	15.1	-0.5	0.9
Manufacturing	40.2	39.8	40.5	0.4	-0.3
Wholesale Trade	16.8	16.6	16.4	0.2	0.4
Retail Trade	47.5	48.5	47.5	-1.0	0.0
Transportation & Utilities	10.4	10.3	10.2	0.1	0.2
Information	10.4	10.4	10.5	0.0	-0.1
Financial Activities	30.0	29.7	30.1	0.3	-0.1
Professional & Business Services	54.3	54.0	52.9	0.3	1.4
Educational Services	24.0	24.2	23.3	-0.2	0.7
Health Care & Social Assistance	78.0	78.3	78.3	-0.3	-0.3
Arts, Entertainment & Recreation	6.9	7.0	7.1	-0.1	-0.2
Accommodation & Food Services	43.0	42.4	42.9	0.6	0.1
Other Services	21.4	21.8	22.2	-0.4	-0.8
Government	59.6	59.6	61.0	0.0	-1.4

Government employment posted the largest over-the-year decline in December, with a decrease of 1,400 jobs, followed by Other Services (-800), Manufacturing (-300), Health Care & Social Assistance (-300), Arts, Entertainment & Recreation (-200), Financial Activities (-100) and Information (-100). Retail Trade and Natural Resources & Mining employment remained even over the year.

MANUFACTURING: In December 2011, production workers in the Manufacturing sector earned \$17.59 per hour. The average hourly production wage was up 17 cents from November 2011 and up \$2.66 from December 2010. Manufacturing employees worked an average of 40.5 hours per week in December, up eight-tenths of an hour over the month and up an hour and three-tenths over the year.

Manufacturing Employment in Rhode Island Not Seasonally Adjusted

	Employment				
	(in thousands)			Net Change From:	
	Dec 11	Nov 11	Dec 10	Nov 11	Dec 10
Manufacturing	40.6	40.4	40.9	200	-300
Durable Goods	26.1	26.0	26.0	100	100
Fabricated Metal Product Mfg.	5.6	5.6	5.8	0	-200
Computer & Electronic Product Mfg.	3.7	3.7	3.8	0	-100
Miscellaneous Manufacturing	6.3	6.3	6.6	0	-300
Jewelry & Silverware	4.0	4.0	4.3	0	-300
Non-Durable Goods	14.5	14.4	14.9	100	-400
Chemical Manufacturing	2.8	2.8	2.9	0	-100

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's Unemployment Rate



Rhode Island ended 2011 with an unemployment rate of 10.8 percent. During the year, unemployment was higher for men than it was for women. Minority populations also had higher unemployment rates than the white population, and the unemployment rate for teenagers (16-19) was more than twice that of the total population. While the state's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate had been trending upward since October's low of 10.4 percent, it was down seven-tenths of a percentage point from the December 2010 rate of 11.5 percent. However, not all demographic groups shared in this improvement.

The 2011 average unemployment rate for all women was 10.1 percent, down from the 2010 average of 10.5 percent. Unemployment averaged 12.0 percent for men in 2011, unchanged from the 2010 average.

The average unemployment rate for the white population fell from 10.8 in 2010 to 10.3 percent in 2011, as unemployment rates for both the white male (11.4%) and white female (9.1%) populations fell five-tenths and six-tenths, respectively.

The average unemployment rate for the black population increased to 17.6 percent in 2011, up from 15.7 percent in 2010 due to increased unemployment among black men. The unemployment rate for black men averaged 20.1 percent in 2011, up significantly from 14.6 percent in 2010. In contrast, the average unemployment rate for black females fell from 16.7 percent in 2010 to 14.5 percent in 2011.

There was little overall change in the unemployment rate for the Hispanic community, which averaged 21.6 percent in 2011, down slightly from 21.7 percent in 2010 as increases in the male unemployment (+0.9 percentage points) rate was offset by decreases in the female rate (-1.2 percentage points). In 2011, unemployment rates for Hispanic males and females averaged 20.9 and 22.3 percent, respectively.

The average unemployment rate for teenagers increased from 25.9 in 2010 to 29.0 percent in 2011, due to increase unemployment among teenage girls. The female teenage unemployment rate increased from 16.5 percent in 2010 to 26.6 percent in 2011. Unemployment rate for teenage boys fell from 35.3 percent to 31.1 percent. (See label page for more information.)

Characteristics of the Insured Unemployed

A total of 15,836 individuals were eligible to collect "regular" Unemployment Insurance benefits in December 2011, down 2,058 (-11.5%) from the 17,894 collecting these benefits in December 2010. In addition, 12,615 individuals collected Emergency Unemployment Compensation and 1,854 collected Extended Benefits. In all, 49.4 percent of Rhode Island's unemployed workers were eligible to collect unemployment benefits in December.

Of the 15,836 individuals collecting "regular" Unemployment Insurance benefits, 25.0 percent faced long-term unemployment (defined as collecting unemployment insurance for fifteen weeks or more), up from 24.9 percent in December 2010.

On an industry basis, 12.9 percent (2,050) of the State's insured unemployed workers came from the Administrative & Waste Services sector. There were also 1,967 individuals with an attachment to the Health Care & Social Assistance sector, accounting for 12.4 percent of all insured unemployed workers. An additional 12.1 percent (1,921) of those collecting UI benefits in December had worked in the Construction sector. Large numbers of insured unemployed were also reported in Accommodation & Food Services (1,628), Manufacturing (1,587) and Retail Trade (1,447). For more information, go to www.dlt.ri.gov/lmi/uiadmin/characteristics.htm.

Characteristics of the Insured Unemployed, December 2011

	Percent		
	Total	Long-Term	Long-Term
Total	15,836	3,959	25.0%
Male	8,943	1,800	20.1%
Female	6,893	2,159	31.3%
Selected Industries	15,836	3,959	25.0%
Construction	1,921	217	11.3%
Manufacturing	1,587	509	32.1%
Wholesale Trade	532	162	30.5%
Retail Trade	1,447	426	29.4%
Transportation & Warehousing	336	78	23.2%
Information	223	84	37.7%
Finance & Insurance	723	253	35.0%
Real Estate	304	61	20.1%
Professional & Tech. Services	717	199	27.8%
Administrative & Waste Services	2,050	300	14.6%
Educational Services	466	252	54.1%
Health Care & Social Assistance	1,967	781	39.7%
Arts, Entertainment & Recreation	613	42	6.9%
Accommodation & Food Services	1,628	254	15.6%
Other Services	556	172	30.9%
Public Administration	167	59	35.3%

Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers

	% Change			
	Dec 11	Nov 11	Dec 10	Prev. Year
All Items	225.7	226.2	219.2	3.0%

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 17,100 advertisements for Rhode Island based jobs this month, an increase of 400 (+2.4%) from the November 2011 postings, and up 1,400 (+8.9%) from the advertised vacancies posted online in December 2010. There were an estimated 3.03 advertised vacancies for every 100 persons in Rhode Island's labor force.

Help Wanted OnLine Advertised Job Vacancies

	Dec 11	Nov 11	Dec 10
RI Vacancies	17,100	16,700	15,700
<i>Labor Demand Rate *</i>			
Rhode Island	3.03	2.96	2.72
US	2.57	2.51	2.40
Connecticut	3.00	2.78	2.99
Massachusetts	3.42	3.27	3.35
Maine	2.73	2.59	2.53
New Hampshire	2.92	2.70	2.66
Vermont	3.50	3.28	2.78
<i>Supply/Demand Rate **</i>			
Rhode Island	3.56	3.55	4.22
US	3.31	3.45	3.67

* 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

	2011	2010		2011	2010
Barrington	7.7	8.1	Newport	11.8	11.6
Bristol	9.7	9.5	North Kingstown	9.3	9.2
Burrillville	9.9	10.7	North Providence	10.1	10.8
Central Falls	13.8	13.4	North Smithfield	8.2	9.3
Charlestown	11.4	12.3	Pawtucket	12.5	11.9
Coventry	9.7	10.0	Portsmouth	9.9	9.4
Cranston	10.9	10.4	Providence	12.6	13.0
Cumberland	8.8	9.9	Richmond	6.8	7.7
East Greenwich	10.0	10.2	Scituate	10.1	9.7
East Providence	11.1	12.0	Smithfield	9.1	9.4
Exeter	8.5	10.4	South Kingstown	9.5	9.6
Foster	11.2	12.2	Tiverton	11.4	11.9
Glocester	8.1	8.5	Warren	10.2	9.7
Hopkinton	9.6	10.9	Warwick	9.6	9.8
Jamestown	8.3	8.5	West Greenwich	9.5	8.7
Johnston	10.9	12.1	West Warwick	11.8	11.4
Lincoln	9.3	9.3	Westerly	9.3	9.6
Little Compton	10.6	10.7	Woonsocket	12.8	12.6
Middletown	10.9	11.2			
Narragansett	7.8	8.4	State of R.I.	10.7	10.9
New Shoreham	25.1	23.4	United States	8.3	9.1

Nationally, there were an estimated 2.57 advertised vacancies for every 100 persons in labor force. Among the New England states, Vermont (3.50) and Massachusetts (3.42) both had a higher vacancy rate than Rhode Island.

There were an estimated 3.56 unemployed Rhode Island residents for every advertised job in December, up from 3.55 unemployed residents estimated per November advertisements. Nationally, there were 3.31 unemployed persons for every job opening advertised in December, down from 3.45 in November.

Unemployment Insurance Claims Activity

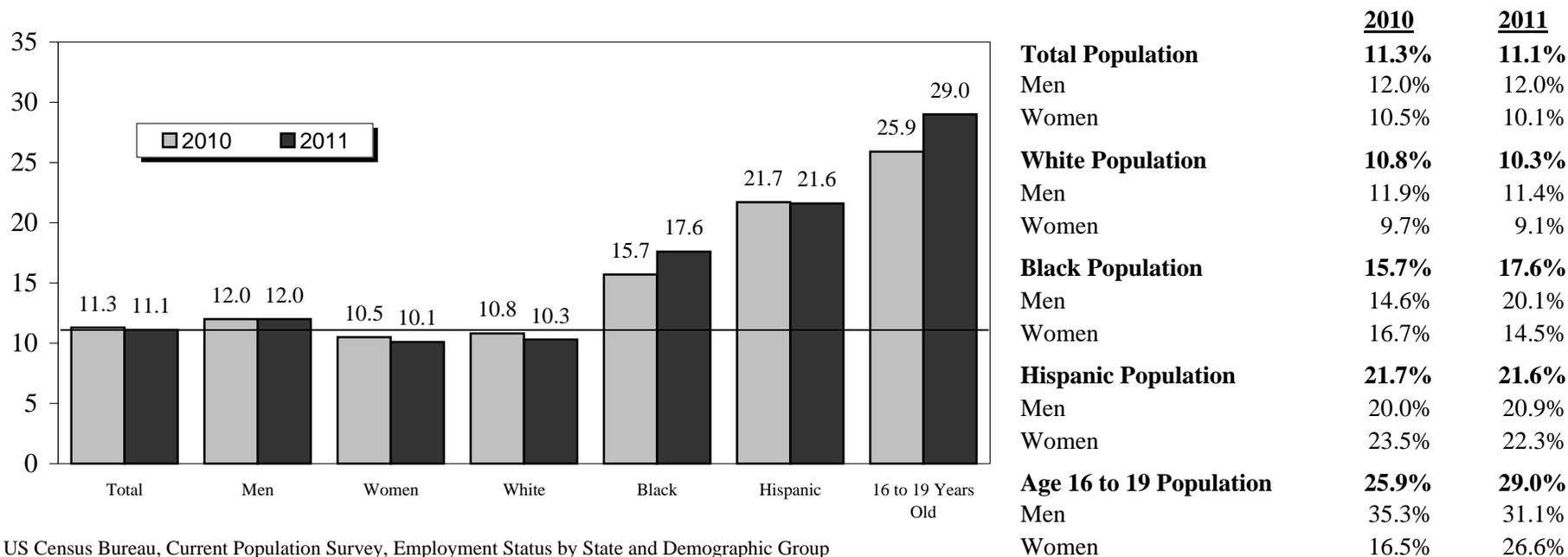
	Dec.	Nov.	Dec.	% Change		Annual Total		
	2011	2011	2010	Nov. 11	Dec. 10	2011	2010	% Change
Regular Claims								
Initial Claims	11,313	7,836	12,802	44.4%	-11.6%	94,173	100,246	-6.1%
Number of Payments	56,499	51,458	63,717	9.8%	-11.3%	770,647	863,929	-10.8%
Amount of Payments (gross millions)	\$20.7	\$18.9	\$23.3	9.5%	-11.2%	\$279.6	\$315.4	-11.4%
Exhaustions (Final Payments)	1,705	1,633	2,109	4.4%	-19.2%	24,657	27,881	-11.6%
Emergency Unemployment Compensation								
Initial Claims	2,608	2,864	2,520	-8.9%	3.5%	34,104	132,353	
Number of Payments	50,813	52,816	58,558	-3.8%	-13.2%	705,909	2,317,668	
Amount of Payments (gross millions)	\$18.6	\$19.5	\$21.6	-4.6%	-13.9%	\$259.8	\$846.5	
Extended Benefits								
Initial Claims	499	614	2,754	-18.7%	-81.9%	5,870	34,624	
Number of Payments	7,549	6,988	12,921	8.0%	-41.6%	105,343	441,059	
Amount of Payments (gross millions)	\$2.8	\$2.5	\$4.7	12.0%	-40.4%	\$38.6	\$160.3	
Exhaustions (Final Payments)	272	220	623	23.6%	-56.3%	5,631	21,329	

Educational Attainment for the United States and New England for Population Aged 25 Years and Older, 2010

	RI	United States	New England	CT	ME	MA	NH	VT
Population (25 Years and Older)	709,979	204 million	9.9 million	2,434,383	937,014	4,458,898	907,755	431,042
Less than 9th Grade	7.3%	6.1%	4.6%	4.6%	3.6%	4.9%	2.8%	3.0%
9th to 12th Grade, No Diploma	9.2%	8.3%	6.4%	6.8%	6.1%	6.0%	5.8%	5.9%
High School Graduate, GED, or Alternative	27.2%	28.5%	28.1%	28.2%	34.4%	26.2%	29.8%	31.5%
Some College, No Degree	18.7%	21.3%	17.5%	17.7%	20.1%	16.3%	18.9%	17.6%
Associate's Degree	7.4%	7.6%	7.8%	7.1%	9.0%	7.6%	10.0%	8.3%
Bachelor's Degree	18.1%	17.7%	20.7%	20.2%	17.3%	22.3%	20.4%	20.3%
Graduate or Professional Degree	12.2%	10.4%	14.8%	15.3%	9.5%	16.7%	12.4%	13.3%
Not a High School Graduate or Equivalent	16.5%	14.4%	11.0%	11.4%	9.7%	10.9%	8.5%	9.0%
High School Graduate or Higher	83.5%	85.6%	89.0%	88.6%	90.3%	89.1%	91.5%	91.0%
Associate's Degree or Higher	37.7%	35.8%	43.4%	42.7%	35.8%	46.6%	42.8%	41.9%
Bachelor's Degree or Higher	30.2%	28.2%	35.6%	35.5%	26.8%	39.0%	32.8%	33.6%

US Census Bureau, 2010 American Community Survey 1-Year Estimates

Rhode Island's Annual Average Unemployment Rate by Demographic Groups, 2010-2011



US Census Bureau, Current Population Survey, Employment Status by State and Demographic Group