

## Rhode Island's Unemployment Rate Drops to 10.2 percent in December

- ◆ RI's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate for December was 10.2 percent, down two-tenths of a percentage point from November.
- ◆ RI's December unemployment rate was down eight-tenths of a percentage point from last December's figure of 11.0 percent.
- ◆ The national rate was 7.8 percent, unchanged from November and down seven-tenths of a percentage point from the previous year.
- ◆ In December 2012, Rhode Island, along with Nevada, had the highest unemployment rate in the nation at 10.2 percent.
- ◆ The December 2012 unemployment rate decreased in twenty-two states, including Connecticut (-0.3), Rhode Island (-0.2) and Vermont (-0.1), while sixteen states' rates, including Massachusetts (+0.1), Maine (+0.1) and New Hampshire (+0.1) increased. In all, two states have unemployment rates in the double digits.
- ◆ Rates in other New England states for December 2012—Connecticut 8.6 percent, Maine 7.3 percent, Massachusetts 6.7 percent, New Hampshire 5.7 percent and Vermont 5.1 percent.
- ◆ The number of employed RI residents totaled 508,400 in December 2012, up 2,200 from the previous month. Between December 2011 and December 2012, the number of employed RI residents increased by 8,500.
- ◆ Over the month, the number of unemployed Rhode Island residents was down 900 to 57,800. From December 2011 to December 2012, the number of unemployed residents decreased by 4,300.

## Educational Attainment in Rhode Island - 2011

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, 2011 American Community Survey 1-Year Estimates, 36.3 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 14.1 percent of the population. In comparison, 39.5 percent of Rhode Islanders have an associate degree or higher while 15.2 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 (31.1%) who have obtained at least a Bachelor's degree, but is above the national average (28.5%).
- ◆ Rhode Island (84.8%) ranks last in New England and below the national average (85.9%) in the percentage of adults (25+ years) who have at least graduated from high school.

### Seasonally Adjusted Labor Force Statistics

(in thousands)

	Rhode Island			United States		
	Dec 12	Nov 12	Dec 11	Dec 12	Nov 12	Dec 11
Civilian Labor Force	566.2	564.9	562.0	155,511	155,319	153,945
Resident Employment	508.4	506.2	499.9	143,305	143,277	140,896
Unemployment	57.8	58.7	62.1	12,206	12,042	13,049
Unemployment Rate	10.2%	10.4%	11.0%	7.8%	7.8%	8.5%

- ◆ Rhode Island (12.3%) ranks fifth in New England in the percentage of adults with a graduate or professional degree, but is above the national average (10.6%).

(See enclosed label page for more information.)

## Rhode Island Jobs Increase by 1,200 in December

Estimated nonfarm payroll in Rhode Island totaled 458,800 in December, reflecting a gain of 1,200 jobs from the revised November employment estimate of 457,600. In all, the state's job count is up 900 since January 2012 and up 900 jobs since December 2011. Newly revised employment figures for the entire 2012 calendar year are scheduled for release in February following the completion of the annual benchmark process.

The December preliminary estimates indicate that the Professional & Business Services sector added 1,100 jobs over the month as increased payrolls were reported in several industry groups, including office administrative services, services to buildings and dwellings and waste management services.

Gains of 600 jobs each were reported in both the Educational Services and Accommodation & Food Services sectors. A reported employment increase at a private college along with gains in educational support services fueled the growth in Educational Services. The gain in Accommodation & Food Services was mainly attributed to restaurants and drinking places.

Smaller over the month job gains were reported in Health Care & Social Assistance (+200), Wholesale Trade (+200), Retail Trade (+100), Arts, Entertainment & Recreation (+100) and Transportation & Utilities (+100).

Offsetting the large employment gains were sizeable job losses reported in the Construction (-900) and Other Services (-500) sectors. Specialty trade contractors, especially finishing contractors, experienced a large number of job declines over the month. The reduction in the Other Services sector was mainly due to payroll declines reported in repair and maintenance services.

The Manufacturing and Financial Activities sectors each lost 200 jobs in December while employment remained unchanged in the Government, Information and Mining & Logging sectors.

Over the year, total nonfarm employment increased by 900, marking the first over-the-year increase since October 2011 (+100).

### Manufacturing Employment in Rhode Island Not Seasonally Adjusted

	Employment				
	(in thousands)			Net Change From:	
	Dec 12	Nov 12	Dec 11	Nov 12	Dec 11
<b>Manufacturing</b>	<b>41.5</b>	<b>41.4</b>	<b>40.9</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>600</b>
<b>Durable Goods</b>	<b>26.9</b>	<b>26.8</b>	<b>26.3</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>600</b>
Fabricated Metal Product Mfg.	5.4	5.4	5.7	0	-300
Computer & Electronic Product Mfg.	3.5	3.5	3.5	0	0
Miscellaneous Manufacturing	6.5	6.5	6.6	0	-100
Jewelry & Silverware	4.1	4.2	4.2	-100	-100
<b>Non-Durable Goods</b>	<b>14.6</b>	<b>14.6</b>	<b>14.6</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>
Chemical Manufacturing	2.9	2.9	2.9	0	0

Job gains appeared in seven economic sectors, including Professional & Business Services (+1,400), Accommodation & Food Services (+1,100), Manufacturing (+600), Financial Activities (+100), Educational Services (+100), Health Care & Social Assistance (+100) and Arts, Entertainment & Recreation (+100).

Employment in Government (-1,100), Construction (-1,100), Wholesale Trade (-200) and Information (-200) was down over the year. Employment in Mining & Logging, Retail Trade, Transportation & Utilities and Other Services remained unchanged over the year.

### Establishment Employment in Rhode Island Seasonally Adjusted

	Net Change From				
	Dec-12	Nov-12	Dec-11	Nov-12	Dec-11
<b>Total Nonfarm</b>	<b>458.8</b>	<b>457.6</b>	<b>457.9</b>	<b>1.2</b>	<b>0.9</b>
Natural Resources & Mining	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.0	0.0
Construction	15.3	16.2	16.4	-0.9	-1.1
Manufacturing	41.2	41.4	40.6	-0.2	0.6
Wholesale Trade	16.3	16.1	16.5	0.2	-0.2
Retail Trade	44.6	44.5	44.6	0.1	0.0
Transportation & Utilities	10.7	10.6	10.7	0.1	0.0
Information	10.3	10.3	10.5	0.0	-0.2
Financial Activities	31.1	31.3	31.0	-0.2	0.1
Professional & Business Services	55.7	54.6	54.3	1.1	1.4
Educational Services	26.1	25.5	26.0	0.6	0.1
Health Care & Social Assistance	77.6	77.4	77.5	0.2	0.1
Arts, Entertainment & Recreation	7.4	7.3	7.3	0.1	0.1
Accommodation & Food Services	42.4	41.8	41.3	0.6	1.1
Other Services	21.0	21.5	21.0	-0.5	0.0
Government	58.9	58.9	60.0	0.0	-1.1

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.

## Rhode Island's Unemployment Rate



Rhode Island ended 2012 with an unemployment rate of 10.2 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. The state's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate had been trending downward since April's high of 11.2 percent and it was down eight-tenths of a percentage point from the December 2011 rate of 11.0 percent. Almost all demographic groups shared in this improvement.

The 2012 average unemployment rate for all women was 9.9 percent, down from the 2011 average of 10.1 percent. Unemployment averaged 11.1 percent for men in 2012, down from the 2011 average of 12.0 percent.

The average unemployment rate for the white population fell from 10.3 in 2011 to 9.9 percent in 2012, as unemployment rates for both the white male (10.7%) and white female (9.0%) populations fell seven-tenths and one-tenth, respectively.

The average unemployment rate for the black population decreased to 17.2 percent in 2012, down from 17.6 percent in 2011 due to decreased unemployment among black men. The unemployment rate for black men averaged 17.7 percent in 2012, down from 20.1 percent in 2011. In contrast, the average unemployment rate for black females grew from 14.5 percent in 2011 to 16.8 percent in 2012.

The unemployment rate for the Hispanic community also decreased, averaging 19.3 percent in 2012, down from 21.6 percent in 2011, with decreases in both the male unemployment (-2.0 percentage points) rate and in the female unemployment (-2.4 percentage points) rate. In 2012, unemployment rates for Hispanic males and females averaged 18.9 and 19.9 percent, respectively.

The average unemployment rate for teenagers decreased from 29.0 in 2011 to 25.9 percent in 2012, due mainly to decreased unemployment among teenage girls. The female teenage unemployment rate decreased from 26.6 percent in 2011 to 21.4 percent in 2012. Unemployment rate for teenage boys fell from 31.1 percent to 30.0 percent. (See label page for more information.)

## Characteristics of the Insured Unemployed

A total of 13,866 individuals were eligible to collect "regular" Unemployment Insurance benefits in December 2012, down 1,970 (-12.4%) from the 15,836 collecting these benefits in December 2011. In addition, 8,785 individuals collected Emergency Unemployment Compensation. In all, 42.0 percent of Rhode Island's unemployed workers were eligible to collect unemployment benefits in December.

Of the 13,866 individuals collecting "regular" Unemployment Insurance benefits, 24.2 percent faced long-term unemployment (defined as collecting unemployment insurance for fifteen weeks or more), down from 25.0 percent in December 2011.

On an industry basis, 13.4 percent (1,859) of the State's insured unemployed workers came from the Administrative & Waste Services sector. There were also 1,771 individuals with an attachment to the Construction sector, accounting for 12.8 percent of all insured unemployed workers. An additional 11.3 percent (1,568) of those collecting UI benefits in December had worked in the Accommodation & Food Services sector. Large numbers of insured unemployed were also reported in Health Care & Social Assistance (1,512), Manufacturing (1,289) and Retail Trade (1,215). 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 2012

	Percent		
	Total	Long-Term	Long-Term
<b>Total</b>	<b>13,866</b>	<b>3,353</b>	<b>24.2%</b>
Male	8,054	1,557	19.3%
Female	5,812	1,796	30.9%
<b>Selected Industries</b>	<b>13,866</b>	<b>3,353</b>	<b>24.2%</b>
Construction	1,771	244	13.8%
Manufacturing	1,289	412	32.0%
Wholesale Trade	569	152	26.7%
Retail Trade	1,215	382	31.4%
Transportation & Warehousing	352	65	18.5%
Information	147	55	37.4%
Finance & Insurance	413	147	35.6%
Real Estate	299	53	17.7%
Professional & Tech. Services	652	230	35.3%
Administrative & Waste Services	1,859	261	14.0%
Educational Services	370	179	48.4%
Health Care & Social Assistance	1,512	577	38.2%
Arts, Entertainment & Recreation	548	25	4.6%
Accommodation & Food Services	1,568	237	15.1%
Other Services	548	169	30.8%
Public Administration	109	25	22.9%

### Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers

				% Change
	Dec. 12	Nov. 12	Dec. 11	Prev. Year
All Items	229.6	230.2	225.7	1.7%

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 20,100 advertisements for Rhode Island based jobs this month, an increase of 1,900 (+10.4%) from the November 2012 postings, and up 1,800 (+9.8%) from the advertised vacancies posted online in December 2011. There were an estimated 3.55 advertised vacancies for every 100 persons in Rhode Island's labor force.

#### Help Wanted OnLine Advertised Job Vacancies

	Dec 12	Nov 12	Dec 11
RI Vacancies	20,100	18,200	18,300
<i>Labor Demand Rate *</i>			
Rhode Island	3.55	3.22	3.25
US	3.18	3.04	2.81
Connecticut	3.55	3.20	3.27
Massachusetts	4.22	3.97	3.69
Maine	3.21	3.11	2.84
New Hampshire	3.36	3.29	3.16
Vermont	3.55	3.15	3.67
<i>Supply/Demand Rate **</i>			
Rhode Island	2.88	3.22	3.39
US	2.47	2.55	3.03

\* 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

	2012	2011		2012	2011
Barrington	6.7	7.5	Newport	10.1	11.2
Bristol	8.9	9.6	North Kingstown	7.9	9.2
Burrillville	9.0	10.1	North Providence	9.7	10.2
Central Falls	12.4	13.6	North Smithfield	7.5	8.0
Charlestown	9.7	11.4	Pawtucket	11.1	12.6
Coventry	8.9	9.8	Portsmouth	7.6	9.7
Cranston	9.4	10.7	Providence	10.9	12.4
Cumberland	7.8	8.9	Richmond	6.6	7.0
East Greenwich	8.6	9.6	Scituate	8.6	10.5
East Providence	10.5	11.3	Smithfield	7.8	9.0
Exeter	7.9	8.6	South Kingstown	8.2	9.2
Foster	9.2	11.1	Tiverton	9.2	10.8
Glocester	7.4	8.9	Warren	9.7	10.4
Hopkinton	8.4	9.7	Warwick	8.3	9.8
Jamestown	7.1	8.6	West Greenwich	8.0	9.8
Johnston	9.5	11.1	West Warwick	10.1	11.8
Lincoln	8.3	9.7	Westerly	8.0	9.6
Little Compton	8.4	10.5	Woonsocket	12.0	13.1
Middletown	9.1	11.0			
Narragansett	7.1	7.9	State of R.I.	9.4	10.7
New Shoreham	24.3	24.0	United States	7.6	8.3

Nationally, there were an estimated 3.18 advertised vacancies for every 100 persons in labor force. Among the New England states, only Massachusetts (4.22) had a higher vacancy rate than Rhode Island.

There were an estimated 2.88 unemployed Rhode Island residents for every advertised job in December, down from 3.22 unemployed residents estimated per November advertisements. Nationally, there were 2.47 unemployed persons for every job opening advertised in December, down from 2.55 in November.

### Unemployment Insurance Claims Activity

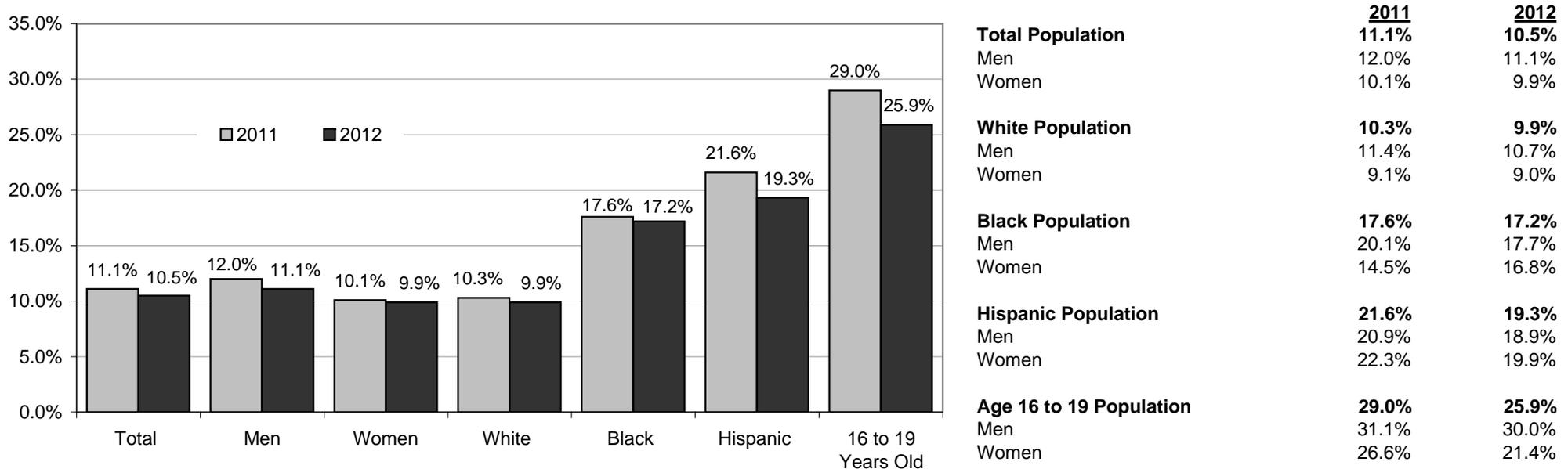
	Dec.	Nov.	Dec.	% Change		Year-to-Date		
	2012	2012	2011	Nov.12	Dec.11	2012	2011	% Change
<b>Regular Claims</b>								
Initial Claims	10,191	7,825	11,313	30.2%	-9.9%	90,039	94,173	-4.4%
Number of Payments	59,154	43,661	56,499	35.5%	4.7%	705,082	770,647	-8.5%
Amount of Payments (gross millions)	\$20.2	\$15.2	\$20.7	32.9%	-2.4%	\$255.8	\$279.6	-8.5%
Exhaustions (Final Payments)	1,699	1,437	1,705	18.2%	-0.4%	21,778	24,657	-11.7%
<b>Emergency Unemployment Compensation</b>						2012	Since Program Began	
Initial Claims	2,101	2,399	2,608	-12.4%	-19.4%	27,600	159,953	
Number of Payments	39,500	36,025	50,813	9.6%	-22.3%	531,248	2,848,916	
Amount of Payments (gross millions)	\$14.8	\$13.5	\$18.6	9.6%	-20.4%	\$196.7	\$1,043.6	

### Educational Attainment for the United States and New England for Population Aged 25 Years and Older, 2011

	Rhode Island	United States	New England	Connecticut	Maine	Massachusetts	New Hampshire	Vermont
Population (25 Years and Older)	712,266	206.5 million	9.95 million	2,444,403	942,537	4,502,048	914,207	434,652
Less than 9th Grade	6.4%	6.0%	4.5%	4.4%	3.4%	5.0%	2.8%	2.8%
9th to 12th Grade, No Diploma	8.8%	8.1%	6.2%	6.5%	5.7%	5.8%	5.8%	5.5%
High School Graduate, GED, or Alternative	26.4%	28.4%	27.6%	27.7%	33.4%	25.9%	29.3%	30.2%
Some College, No Degree	18.9%	21.2%	17.6%	17.9%	20.3%	16.4%	19.2%	17.8%
Associate's Degree	8.4%	7.8%	8.0%	7.3%	8.9%	7.8%	9.5%	8.4%
Bachelor's Degree	18.8%	17.9%	21.0%	20.5%	17.9%	22.3%	21.0%	21.4%
Graduate or Professional Degree	12.3%	10.6%	15.1%	15.7%	10.5%	16.8%	12.4%	14.0%
Not a High School Graduate or Equivalent	15.2%	14.1%	10.7%	10.9%	9.1%	10.8%	8.6%	8.2%
High School Graduate or Higher	84.8%	85.9%	89.3%	89.1%	90.9%	89.2%	91.4%	91.8%
Associate's Degree or Higher	39.5%	36.3%	44.1%	43.5%	37.3%	46.9%	42.9%	43.8%
Bachelor's Degree or Higher	31.1%	28.5%	36.1%	36.2%	28.4%	39.1%	33.4%	35.4%

US Census Bureau, 2011 American Community Survey 1-Year Estimates

### Rhode Island's Annual Average Unemployment Rate by Demographic Groups, 2011-2012



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