



### Rhode Island's Unemployment Rate Rises to 9.1 percent in December

- ◆ RI's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate for December was 9.1 percent, up one-tenth 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 9.9 percent.
- ◆ The national rate was 6.7 percent, down three-tenths from November and down one and two-tenths percentage points from the previous year.
- ◆ In December 2013, Rhode Island (9.1%) had the highest unemployment rate in the nation.
- ◆ The December 2013 unemployment rate decreased in thirty-nine states, including Connecticut (-0.2), Maine (-0.2), Vermont (-0.2) and Massachusetts (-0.1). Nine states' rates, including New Hampshire, were unchanged. Two states, Rhode Island (+0.1) and Hawaii (+0.1), saw their unemployment rate increase.
- ◆ Rates in other New England states for December 2013—Connecticut 7.4 percent, Massachusetts 7.0 percent, Maine 6.2 percent, New Hampshire 5.1 percent and Vermont 4.2 percent.
- ◆ The number of employed RI residents totaled 500,700 in December 2013, down 700 from the previous month. Between December 2012 and December 2013, the number of employed RI residents decreased by 6,900.
- ◆ Over the month, the number of unemployed Rhode Island residents increased by 400 to 49,900. From December 2012 to December 2013, the number of unemployed residents decreased by 5,700.

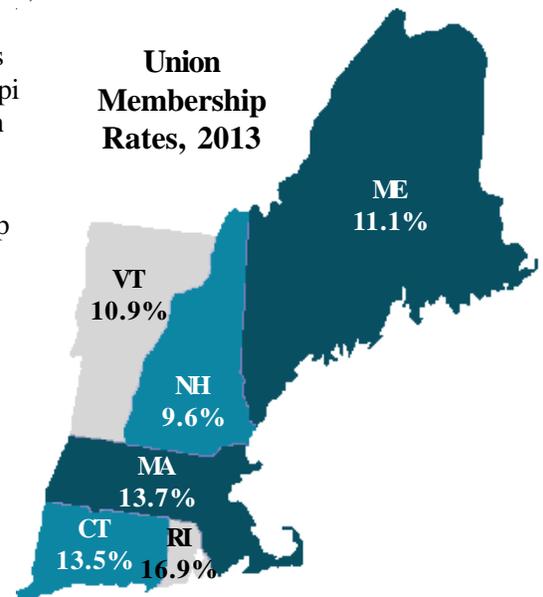
### 2013 Union Membership in Rhode Island

According to the Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS), 16.9 percent (77,000) of Rhode Island private and public sector workers were union members in 2013. This represented an over-the-year decrease of nine-tenths of a percentage point, or 4,000 workers. The number of union members was at its lowest level since 2010 and accounted for the smallest percentage of employed workers since 2010 (16.4%).

Nationally, the union membership rate was 11.3 percent in 2013, unchanged from 2012 and well below the 20.1 percent measured in 1983. Among the fifty states, Rhode Island reported the fifth highest union membership rate, trailing New York (24.4%), Alaska (23.1%), Hawaii (22.1%) and Washington (18.9%).

North Carolina (3.0%), Arkansas (3.5%), Mississippi (3.7%) and South Carolina (3.7%) had the lowest union membership rates in 2013.

Regionally, the Ocean State had the highest union membership rate in New England, followed by Massachusetts (13.7%) and Connecticut (13.5%). Maine (11.1%), Vermont (10.9%) and New Hampshire (9.6%) had union membership rates below the national average.



### Seasonally Adjusted Labor Force Statistics

(in thousands)

	Rhode Island			United States		
	Dec. 13	Nov. 13	Dec. 12	Dec. 13	Nov. 13	Dec. 12
Civilian Labor Force	550.5	550.8	563.2	154,937	155,284	155,485
Resident Employment	500.7	501.4	507.6	144,586	144,443	143,212
Unemployment	49.9	49.5	55.6	10,351	10,841	12,273
Unemployment Rate	9.1%	9.0%	9.9%	6.7%	7.0%	7.9%

Union members and workers whose jobs are covered by a union or employee association contract represented 12.4 percent of the nation's wage and salary workers and 17.8 percent of Rhode Island's wage and salary workers. For more information, go to: [www.dlt.ri.gov/lmi/publications/union.htm](http://www.dlt.ri.gov/lmi/publications/union.htm)

## Rhode Island Jobs Decrease by 1,500 in December

Estimated nonfarm payroll in Rhode Island totaled 469,200 in December, reflecting a loss of 1,500 jobs from the November revised employment estimate of 470,700. Prior to the December decline, the local economy had experienced four consecutive months of growth totaling 4,600 jobs. Over the year, jobs were up 3,600 since December 2012.

The Educational Services, Construction and Other Services sectors each reported a loss of 400 jobs. The drop in Educational Services can be attributed to colleges and universities, which break for winter recess in December. Construction declines were mostly felt amongst specialty trade contractors, while the Other Services sector reported payroll declines in repair and maintenance services.

Elsewhere, employment declines were also reported in Financial Activities (-300), Professional & Business Services (-200), Health Care & Social Assistance (-200), Arts, Entertainment & Recreation (-100) and Mining & Logging (-100).

Offsetting some of the December losses were job gains reported in the Accommodation & Food Services (+300), Retail Trade (+200) and Manufacturing (+100) sectors. Employment in the Information, Transportation & Utilities, Wholesale Trade and Government sectors remained unchanged.

Throughout New England, three of the six states added jobs in December. Massachusetts and New Hampshire led the region on a percentage basis by increasing their workforce by 0.3 percent. In Maine, employment grew by 0.1 percent. Rhode Island and Connecticut each lost employment in December, dropping by 0.3 percent and 0.2 percent, respectively. The workforce in Vermont remained unchanged.

Nationally, employment increased by 74,000 or 0.1 percent. On a percentage basis, Rhode Island (-0.1%) fell short from the New England (+0.1%) region and the entire nation (+0.1%) in terms of over-the-month job growth.

In December, nonfarm payroll employment increased in 30 states, decreased in 19 states and was unchanged in Vermont. Alaska (+0.5%) and Hawaii (+0.5%) reported the largest over-the-month percentage increase in employment. The largest over-the-month percentage declines in employment occurred in New Jersey (-0.9%), Kansas (-0.5%) and Idaho (-0.4%).

Since the start of the year, employment in the New England region grew by 1.2 percent, while employment within the nation is up by 1.6 percent. All six New England states added employment over the year. Massachusetts (+1.7%) grew the most, followed by Maine (+1.1%), Vermont (+1.0%), Rhode Island (+0.8%), New Hampshire (+0.8%) and Connecticut (+0.7%).

<b>Establishment Employment in Rhode Island</b>					
<b>Seasonally Adjusted</b>					
	Net Change From				
	Dec-13	Nov-13	Dec-12	Nov-13	Dec-12
<b>Total Nonfarm</b>	<b>469.2</b>	<b>470.7</b>	<b>465.6</b>	<b>-1.5</b>	<b>3.6</b>
<b>Total Private</b>	<b>409.7</b>	<b>411.2</b>	<b>405.9</b>	<b>-1.5</b>	<b>3.8</b>
Natural Resources & Mining	0.2	0.3	0.2	-0.1	0.0
Construction	15.4	15.8	14.7	-0.4	0.7
Manufacturing	40.5	40.4	40.2	0.1	0.3
Wholesale Trade	16.7	16.7	16.7	0.0	0.0
Retail Trade	47.0	46.8	46.1	0.2	0.9
Transportation & Utilities	11.0	11.0	10.9	0.0	0.1
Information	9.1	9.1	9.2	0.0	-0.1
Financial Activities	32.1	32.4	32.1	-0.3	0.0
Professional & Business Services	59.0	59.2	57.6	-0.2	1.4
Educational Services	24.7	25.1	24.8	-0.4	-0.1
Health Care & Social Assistance	78.9	79.1	79.1	-0.2	-0.2
Arts, Entertainment & Recreation	8.3	8.4	7.6	-0.1	0.7
Accommodation & Food Services	45.0	44.7	44.0	0.3	1.0
Other Services	21.8	22.2	22.7	-0.4	-0.9
Government	59.5	59.5	59.7	0.0	-0.2

### Manufacturing Employment in Rhode Island Not Seasonally Adjusted

	Employment				
	(in thousands)			Net Change From:	
	Dec 13	Nov 13	Dec 12	Nov 13	Dec 12
<b>Manufacturing</b>	<b>40.7</b>	<b>40.5</b>	<b>40.4</b>	<b>200</b>	<b>300</b>
<b>Durable Goods</b>	<b>26.2</b>	<b>25.9</b>	<b>25.7</b>	<b>300</b>	<b>500</b>
Fabricated Metal Product Mfg.	5.6	5.6	5.6	0	0
Computer & Electronic Product Mfg.	3.3	3.3	3.4	0	-100
Transportation Equipment Mfg.	3.8	3.8	3.6	0	200
Miscellaneous DG Manufacturing	5.6	5.6	5.9	0	-300
Jewelry & Silverware	3.4	3.4	3.7	0	-300
<b>Non-Durable Goods</b>	<b>14.5</b>	<b>14.6</b>	<b>14.7</b>	<b>-100</b>	<b>-200</b>
Chemical Manufacturing	2.9	2.9	3.0	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](http://www.dlt.ri.gov/lmi/ces.htm). Current month's figures are preliminary and subject to change.*

## Workforce Development Services



The Workforce Development Services is the single point of contact in Rhode Island for employment, workforce information and education and training services. Workforce Development Services oversees all programs that guide jobseekers to suitable employment and facilitates the connection between employers and qualified workers. Some of the services provided by Workforce Development Services:

**EmployRI** - EmployRI is a web-based Virtual One-Stop that provides individuals, employers and Labor Market Information professionals with the tools they need to accomplish their job

search goals. Job seekers can post their résumés and apply for jobs. Employers can search through the résumé bank and post their job openings. EmployRI also spiders multiple online job boards to create a virtual one-stop job search resource and is an important labor market information tool as well. Visit EmployRI at [www.employri.org](http://www.employri.org).

**Business Workforce Center (BWC)** - The Business Workforce Center offers a multitude of services to employers including developing job orders, coordinating recruitments and job fairs, pre-screening applicants and facilitating contacts that help employers become or stay competitive (tax credits, on-the-job training and incumbent worker training grants, WorkShare). Representatives from the BWC are the department's liaisons to the business community and simplify the process of doing business in Rhode Island.

**Work Immersion** - Governor's Workforce Board program that provides 50 percent wage subsidies to businesses that provide a 200-hour work experience to unemployed adults.

**Apprenticeship** - Combines paid, on-the-job learning and related classroom instruction. Workers learn practical and theoretical aspects of highly skilled occupations. Sponsored by joint employer and labor groups, individual employers and/or employer associations.

**Back to Work Rhode Island** - Provides unemployment insurance (UI) claimants with career-relevant, unpaid work experience and training. Claimants continue to collect UI while they participate, up to 24 hours per week for six weeks.

**On-the-Job Training** - Workforce Partnership of Greater RI and Workforce Solutions of Providence-Cranston programs offer up to 50 percent wage reimbursement to employers who train new hires.

For more information about the services provided by Workforce Development Services, go to [www.dlt.ri.gov/wfds](http://www.dlt.ri.gov/wfds)

## Characteristics of the Insured Unemployed

A total of 12,005 individuals were eligible to collect "regular" Unemployment Insurance benefits in December 2013, down 1,861 (-13.4%) from the 13,866 collecting these benefits in December 2012. In addition, 5,230 individuals collected Emergency Unemployment Compensation. In all, 34.0 percent of Rhode Island's unemployed workers were eligible to collect unemployment benefits in December.

Of the 12,005 individuals collecting "regular" Unemployment Insurance benefits, 24.2 percent faced long-term unemployment (defined as collecting unemployment insurance for fifteen weeks or more), unchanged from December 2012.

On an industry basis, 14.2 percent (1,704) of the State's insured unemployed workers came from the Administrative & Waste Services sector. There were also 1,564 individuals with an attachment to the Construction sector, accounting for 13.0 percent of all insured unemployed workers. An additional 11.3 percent (1,362) of those collecting UI benefits in December had worked in the Health Care & Social Assistance sector. Large numbers of insured unemployed were also reported in Accommodation & Food Services (1,218), Manufacturing (1,051) and Retail Trade (1,023). 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 2013

	Total	Long-Term	Percent Long-Term
<b>Total</b>	<b>12,005</b>	<b>2,905</b>	<b>24.2%</b>
Male	6,989	1,362	19.5%
Female	5,016	1,543	30.8%
<b>Selected Industries</b>	<b>12,005</b>	<b>2,905</b>	<b>24.2%</b>
Construction	1,564	153	9.8%
Manufacturing	1,051	330	31.4%
Wholesale Trade	457	160	35.0%
Retail Trade	1,023	331	32.4%
Transportation & Warehousing	268	60	22.4%
Information	125	45	36.0%
Finance & Insurance	559	179	32.0%
Real Estate	265	60	22.6%
Professional & Tech. Services	595	175	29.4%
Administrative & Waste Services	1,704	248	14.6%
Educational Services	307	135	44.0%
Health Care & Social Assistance	1,362	488	35.8%
Arts, Entertainment & Recreation	514	30	5.8%
Accommodation & Food Services	1,218	223	18.3%
Other Services	384	123	32.0%
Public Administration	124	42	33.9%

### Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers

				% Change
	Dec. 13	Nov. 13	Dec. 12	Prev. Year
All Items	233.0	233.1	229.6	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 20,500 advertisements for Rhode Island based jobs this month, an increase of 1,500 (+7.9%) from the November 2013 postings, and up 1,400 (+7.3%) from the advertised vacancies posted online in December 2012. There were an estimated 3.73 advertised vacancies for every 100 persons in Rhode Island's labor force.

#### Help Wanted OnLine Advertised Job Vacancies

	Dec 13	Nov 13	Dec 12
RI Vacancies	20,500	19,000	19,100
<i>Labor Demand Rate *</i>			
Rhode Island	3.73	3.45	3.39
US	3.41	3.33	3.20
Connecticut	3.87	3.80	3.56
Massachusetts	4.59	4.41	4.29
Maine	3.58	3.29	3.21
New Hampshire	3.93	3.76	3.36
Vermont	3.44	3.43	3.44
<i>Supply/Demand Rate **</i>			
Rhode Island	2.43	2.61	2.91
US	1.95	2.11	2.47

\* 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

	2013	2012		2013	2012
Barrington	6.2	6.7	Newport	9.6	10.1
Bristol	7.9	9.0	North Kingstown	7.3	8.0
Burrillville	8.9	9.0	North Providence	8.7	9.6
Central Falls	10.5	12.2	North Smithfield	7.8	7.4
Charlestown	9.9	10.0	Pawtucket	10.5	11.0
Coventry	8.0	8.9	Portsmouth	8.5	7.7
Cranston	8.6	9.5	Providence	10.5	11.0
Cumberland	7.7	7.8	Richmond	6.1	6.7
East Greenwich	8.0	8.6	Scituate	8.0	8.7
East Providence	9.3	10.4	Smithfield	7.7	7.8
Exeter	8.0	8.0	South Kingstown	8.5	8.3
Foster	8.3	9.2	Tiverton	8.9	9.2
Glocester	7.2	7.4	Warren	8.6	9.7
Hopkinton	8.8	8.4	Warwick	8.0	8.3
Jamestown	6.2	7.2	West Greenwich	7.4	8.2
Johnston	9.0	9.5	West Warwick	9.7	10.2
Lincoln	7.8	8.3	Westerly	8.0	8.1
Little Compton	8.0	8.5	Woonsocket	10.5	11.9
Middletown	9.0	9.3			
Narragansett	6.9	7.4	State of R.I.	8.9	9.4
New Shoreham	20.3	23.7	United States	6.5	7.6

Nationally, there were an estimated 3.41 advertised vacancies for every 100 persons in labor force. Among the New England states, Massachusetts (4.59), New Hampshire (3.93) and Connecticut (3.87) had higher vacancy rates than Rhode Island.

There were an estimated 2.43 unemployed Rhode Island residents for every advertised job in December, down from 2.61 unemployed residents estimated per November advertisements. Nationally, there were 1.95 unemployed persons for every job opening advertised in December, down from 2.11 in November.

### Unemployment Insurance Claims Activity

	Dec.	Nov.	Dec.	% Change		Annual		
	2013	2013	2012	Nov. 13	Dec. 12	2013	2012	% Change
<b>Regular Claims</b>								
Initial Claims	8,379	5,684	10,191	47.4%	-17.8%	79,864	90,039	-11.3%
Number of Payments	54,090	37,906	59,154	42.7%	-8.6%	611,257	705,082	-13.3%
Amount of Payments (gross millions)	\$18.3	\$12.9	\$20.2	41.9%	-9.4%	\$207.7	\$255.8	-18.8%
Exhaustions (Final Payments)	1,411	1,101	1,699	28.2%	-17.0%	16,329	21,778	-25.0%
<b>Emergency Unemployment Compensation</b>						2013	Since Program Began	
Initial Claims	1,719	1,371	2,101	25.4%	-18.2%	21,046	180,999	
Number of Payments	25,050	19,241	39,500	30.2%	-36.6%	333,102	3,182,018	
Amount of Payments (gross millions)	\$8.8	\$5.9	\$14.8	49.2%	-40.5%	\$113.5	\$1,156.7	



**RI Department of Labor and Training**

## **Workforce Development Services**

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### **Work Immersion**

- ◆ Governor's Workforce Board program that provides 50 percent wage subsidies to businesses that provide a 200-hour work experience to unemployed adults.
- ◆ Participants are referred by public or private sector programs that serve unemployed Rhode Islanders.
- ◆ Bonus funding awarded to employers that hire participants after the completion of the work immersion program.
- ◆ Subsidies depend on available funding.

### **Back to Work Rhode Island**

- ◆ Provides unemployment insurance (UI) claimants with career-relevant, unpaid work experience and training.
- ◆ Claimants continue to collect UI while they participate, up to 24 hours per week for six weeks.
- ◆ Voluntary for both claimant and employer.
- ◆ Employer must be located in Rhode Island and adhere to the Fair Labor Standards Act.

### **Apprenticeship**

- ◆ Combines paid, on-the-job learning and related classroom instruction.
- ◆ Workers learn practical and theoretical aspects of highly skilled occupations.
- ◆ Sponsored by joint employer and labor groups, individual employers and/or employer associations.
- ◆ Must be approved by the RI Dept. of Labor and Training.

### **On-the-Job Training**

- ◆ Workforce Partnership of Greater RI and Workforce Solutions of Providence-Cranston programs offer up to 50 percent wage reimbursement to employers who train new hires.
- ◆ Individualized curriculum of up to six months.
- ◆ Candidates are assessed by *netWORKri* career advisors for suitability.
- ◆ Grants depend on available funding.

### **Other Internship Opportunities**

- ◆ Private employers in Rhode Island may offer paid and unpaid internship opportunities.
- ◆ Employers must be located in Rhode Island and adhere to the Fair Labor Standards Act.



### **BUSINESS WORKFORCE CENTER**

**1-888-616-JOBS (5627)**

**Rhode Island Department of Labor and Training**

Administrative Offices: 1511 Pontiac Avenue, Cranston, RI 02920 • [www.dlt.ri.gov](http://www.dlt.ri.gov) • TTY via RI Relay 711

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