

EMPLOYMENT BULLETIN

July 2011



Rhode Island's Unemployment Rate Drops to 10.8 percent in June

- ◆ RI's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate for June was 10.8 percent, down one-tenth of a percentage point from May.
- ◆ RI's June unemployment rate is down eight-tenths of a percentage points from last year's figure of 11.6 percent.
- ◆ The national rate was 9.2 percent, up one-tenth of a percentage point from May and down three-tenths from the previous year.
- ◆ In June 2011, Rhode Island had the 3rd highest unemployment rate in the nation, trailing Nevada (12.4%) and California (11.8%).
- ◆ The June 2011 unemployment rate increased in twenty-eight states, including Vermont (+0.1), New Hampshire (+0.1) and Maine (+0.1). Eight states, including Rhode Island (-0.1), saw their rates decrease, while fourteen states' rates, including Connecticut and Massachusetts, were unchanged. In all, seven 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 June 2011—Connecticut 9.1 percent, Maine 7.8 percent, Massachusetts 7.6 percent, Vermont 5.5 percent and New Hampshire 4.9 percent.
- ◆ The number of employed RI residents totaled 505,700 in June 2011, down 2,000 from the previous month. Between June 2010 and June 2011, the number of employed RI residents decreased by 3,800.
- ◆ In June, the number of unemployed Rhode Island residents decreased by 700 to 61,300. From June 2010 to June 2011, the number of unemployed residents decreased by 5,700.

Rhode Island Job Vacancies Spring 2011

The 2011 Job Vacancy Survey results indicated that there were an estimated 10,475 job vacancies during the spring of 2011. This translated to a job vacancy rate of 2.8 percent, or nearly three job openings for every one hundred jobs filled. In comparison, there were 8,106 job vacancies reported in 2010. In 2009, the year hardest hit by the recession, there were only 5,948 job vacancies reported, reflecting a vacancy rate of 1.5 percent. In 2006, the year prior to the recession, 10,949 job vacancies were reported, reflecting a vacancy rate of 2.7 percent, or nearly three openings for every 100 jobs filled.

While the current vacancy rate mirrors the pre-recession level, there was a notable decrease in full-time positions, which accounted for less than half (48.6%) of the 2011 vacancies. In spring 2006, 55.8 percent of the vacant positions were for full-time jobs. Full-time vacancies accounted for 56.5 percent and 50.4 percent of the 2010 and 2009 job vacancies, respectively.

As in past surveys, Health Care & Social Assistance, the state's largest employment sector, reported the greatest number of job vacancies, estimated at 4,046 for 2011, followed by Retail Trade (1,640) and Accommodation & Food Services (1,459). These three sectors accounted for over two-thirds (68.2%) of the 2011 spring vacancies. The three occupational groups reporting the most estimated vacancies—Healthcare Practitioner & Technical occupations (1,632); Sales & Related occupations (1,386); and Office & Administrative Support occupations (1,174) accounted for 40 percent of the 2011 estimated vacancies.

In 2011, nearly one-third of the job openings required a bachelor degree (25.2%) or an advanced degree (6.2%). Nearly 40 percent of the vacancies listed a high school diploma or GED as the entry level education required for the job opening. Just 18 percent of the job openings had no educational requirements and only 15.6 percent required no previous work experience.

Nearly 65 percent of employers reported they expect their workforce to remain steady through the end of the year. Survey results also indicate that 16 percent expect to hire more workers, while only three percent expect to decrease their current workforce. Fifteen percent of employers were uncertain of their future hiring plans.

For more information: www.dlt.ri.gov/lmi/jvs.htm

Seasonally Adjusted Labor Force Statistics

(in thousands)

	Rhode Island			United States		
	Jun 11	May 11	Jun 10	Jun 11	May 11	Jun 10
Civilian Labor Force	567.1	569.7	576.5	153,421	153,693	153,684
Resident Employment	505.7	507.7	509.5	139,334	139,779	139,092
Unemployment	61.3	62.0	67.0	14,087	13,914	14,593
Unemployment Rate	10.8%	10.9%	11.6%	9.2%	9.1%	9.5%

Rhode Island Jobs Decrease by 1,500 in June

Estimated nonfarm payroll in Rhode Island totaled 462,400 in June, reflecting a loss of 1,500 jobs from the revised May employment estimate of 463,900. The May to June payroll decrease marks the end of four consecutive months of job gains in Rhode Island.

Employment in the Educational Services sector declined sharply in June with the loss of 1,900 jobs. Smaller over-the-month employment losses were reported in Professional & Business Services and Health Care & Social Assistance, with each shedding 400 jobs. Manufacturing (-300) and Financial Activities (-200) also reported job losses in June.

The decline Educational Services employment is attributed to large losses among the state's private colleges and universities. Within Professional & Business Services, Employment Services which includes temporary help agencies was largely responsible for the loss. Job declines in the Health Care & Social Assistance sector were reflected in hospital and nursing & residential care facilities, while Manufacturing sector losses were in durable goods employment.

Offsetting the job losses were gains reported in the Construction (+700), Accommodation & Food Services (+700), Arts, Entertainment & Recreation (+200) and Other Services (+100) sectors. Job growth in the Construction sector was fueled by gains in the specialty trade contractors subsector. The addition of 700 jobs in the Construction sector marks the largest over-the-month gain within the sector since April 2005 (+800). Local restaurants and lodging establishments provided the employment boost in the Accommodation & Food Services sector.

Employment in the Wholesale Trade, Retail Trade, Transportation & Utilities, Information, Government and Natural Resources & Mining sectors remained unchanged over the month.

Over the year, employment was up 4,500 (+1.0%) from June 2010, with job gains reported in eight economic sectors. Retail Trade (+4,000) Accommodation & Food Services (+2,400), Information (+700), Health Care & Social Assistance (+600), Professional & Business Services (+500), Wholesale Trade (+500), Manufacturing (+400) and Other Services (+400) all reported over-the-year gains. Transportation & Utilities and Natural Resources & Mining employment remained even over the year.

	Establishment Employment in Rhode Island				
	Seasonally Adjusted			Net Change From	
	<u>Jun-11</u>	<u>May-11</u>	<u>Jun-10</u>	<u>May-11</u>	<u>Jun-10</u>
Total Nonfarm	462.4	463.9	457.9	-1.5	4.5
Natural Resources & Mining	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.0	0.0
Construction	15.3	14.6	15.8	0.7	-0.5
Manufacturing	40.7	41.0	40.3	-0.3	0.4
Wholesale Trade	16.4	16.4	15.9	0.0	0.5
Retail Trade	50.5	50.5	46.5	0.0	4.0
Transportation & Utilities	10.2	10.2	10.2	0.0	0.0
Information	10.5	10.5	9.8	0.0	0.7
Financial Activities	29.9	30.1	30.4	-0.2	-0.5
Professional & Business Services	53.8	54.2	53.3	-0.4	0.5
Educational Services	22.1	24.0	24.0	-1.9	-1.9
Health Care & Social Assistance	78.6	79.0	78.0	-0.4	0.6
Arts, Entertainment & Recreation	7.4	7.2	7.5	0.2	-0.1
Accommodation & Food Services	44.4	43.7	42.0	0.7	2.4
Other Services	22.3	22.2	21.9	0.1	0.4
Government	60.1	60.1	62.1	0.0	-2.0

Manufacturing Employment in Rhode Island					
Not Seasonally Adjusted					
	Employment				
	(in thousands)			Net Change From:	
	<u>Jun 11</u>	<u>May 11</u>	<u>Jun 10</u>	<u>May 11</u>	<u>Jun 10</u>
Manufacturing	40.8	40.8	40.5	0	300
Durable Goods	25.9	26.0	25.8	-100	100
Fabricated Metal Product Mfg.	5.6	5.6	5.6	0	0
Computer & Electronic Product Mfg.	3.7	3.7	3.7	0	0
Miscellaneous Manufacturing	6.3	6.3	6.6	0	-300
Jewelry & Silverware	4.0	4.0	4.3	0	-300
Non-Durable Goods	14.9	14.8	14.7	100	200
Chemical Manufacturing	2.9	2.8	2.9	100	0

Government employment was down 2,000 over the year, due to cutbacks of federal census workers and municipal employees. Educational Services (-1,900), Construction (-500), Financial Activities (-500) and Arts, Entertainment & Recreation (-100) also reported over-the-year job losses.

MANUFACTURING: In June 2011, production workers in the Manufacturing sector earned \$15.96 per hour. The average hourly production wage was up 26 cents from May 2011 and up \$1.27 from June 2010. Manufacturing employees worked an average of 39.7 hours per week in June, up a half-hour over the month, 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. Current month's figures are preliminary and subject to change.

The First Six Months



During the first half of the year, employment growth in Rhode Island outpaced both the nation and New England as employment in the state grew by nearly one percent. The Rhode Island job count was up by 4,200 since December 2010, an increase of 0.9 percent. Nationally, jobs were up 0.6 percent, while total employment in the New England region was up 0.8 percent during this period.

Forty-one states experienced job growth during the first six months of 2011, ranging from 3.0 percent in North Dakota to just 0.1 percent in Idaho and Missouri. Seven states reported employment declines, including neighboring Connecticut (-0.2%). Overall, Rhode Island's 0.9 percent job growth was the 19th highest nationally and third highest in New England, trailing Massachusetts (1.3%) and Vermont (1.2%).

In Rhode Island, the state's Retail Trade sector reported the largest employment gain with the addition of 3,000 jobs, followed by Accommodation & Food Services (+1,500) and Professional Business Services (+900). Smaller gains have occurred in Health Care & Social Assistance (+300), Arts, Entertainment & Recreation (+300), Construction (+200), Manufacturing (+200) and Other Services (+100). Sectors reporting job losses include private Educational Services (-1,200), Financial Activities (-200) and Government (-900).

Rhode Island's unemployment rate is down 0.7 percentage points since the start of the year. Nationally, unemployment is down 0.2 percent, while in New England unemployment is down 0.5 percent. Thirty-seven states reported decreases in their unemployment rates during the first half of the year, while 12 states have seen their rates increase. The rate in one state was unchanged.

In New England, four states experienced decreases in their unemployment rates since the beginning of the year. Massachusetts and New Hampshire also reported a 0.7 percent decline in their unemployment rates, while Vermont has recorded a 0.3 percent fall since the start of the year. Two New England states, Connecticut and Maine have experienced unemployment rate increases of 0.1 and 0.3, respectively. Despite these improvements, Rhode Island's 10.8 percent unemployment rate remains the third highest in the nation, trailing Nevada (12.4%) and California (11.8%).

Characteristics of the Insured Unemployed

A total of 13,832 individuals were eligible to collect "regular" Unemployment Insurance benefits in June 2011, down 2,504 (-15.3%) from the 16,336 collecting these benefits in June 2010. In addition, 13,979 individuals collected Emergency Unemployment Compensation and 1,405 collected Extended Benefits. In all, 53.6 percent of Rhode Island's unemployed workers were eligible to collect unemployment benefits in June.

Of the 13,832 individuals collecting "regular" Unemployment Insurance benefits, 33.9 percent faced long-term unemployment (defined as collecting unemployment insurance for fifteen weeks or more), down from 35.2 percent in June 2010.

On an industry basis, 13.0 percent (1,804) of the State's insured unemployed workers came from the Health Care & Social Assistance sector. There were also 1,713 individuals with an attachment to the Manufacturing sector, accounting for 12.4 percent of all insured unemployed workers. An additional 12.0 percent (1,665) of those collecting UI benefits in June had worked in the Retail Trade sector. Large numbers of insured unemployed were also reported in Construction (1,599), Administrative & Waste Services (1,421) and Accommodation & Food Services (1,235). For more information, go to www.dlt.ri.gov/lmi/uiadmin/characteristics.htm.

Characteristics of the Insured Unemployed, June 2011

	Total	Long-Term	Percent Long-Term
Total	13,832	4,691	33.9%
Male	6,981	2,437	34.9%
Female	6,851	2,254	32.9%
Selected Industries	13,832	4,691	33.9%
Construction	1,599	537	33.6%
Manufacturing	1,713	571	33.3%
Wholesale Trade	503	175	34.8%
Retail Trade	1,665	687	41.3%
Transportation & Warehousing	333	108	32.4%
Information	142	47	33.1%
Finance & Insurance	679	270	39.8%
Real Estate	225	92	40.9%
Professional & Tech. Services	791	236	29.8%
Administrative & Waste Services	1,421	359	25.3%
Educational Services	315	105	33.3%
Health Care & Social Assistance	1,804	622	34.5%
Arts, Entertainment & Recreation	206	61	29.6%
Accommodation & Food Services	1,235	374	30.3%
Other Services	580	227	39.1%
Public Administration	123	43	35.0%

**Consumer Price Index for
All Urban Consumers**

				% Change
	Jun 11	May 11	Jun 10	Prev. Year
All Items	225.7	226.0	218.0	3.6%

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 17,700 advertisements for Rhode Island based jobs this month, a decrease of 100 (-0.6%) from the May 2011 postings, and up 2,000 (+12.7%) from the advertised vacancies posted online in June 2010. There were an estimated 3.11 advertised vacancies for every 100 persons in Rhode Island's labor force.

**Help Wanted OnLine
Advertised Job Vacancies**

	Jun 11	May 11	Jun 10
RI Vacancies	17,700	17,800	15,700
<i>Labor Demand Rate *</i>			
Rhode Island	3.11	3.12	2.72
US	2.84	2.91	2.35
Connecticut	3.31	3.41	3.07
Massachusetts	3.83	3.92	3.37
Maine	2.99	2.95	2.64
New Hampshire	3.18	3.26	2.63
Vermont	3.13	3.28	2.72
<i>Supply/Demand Rate **</i>			
Rhode Island	3.46	3.49	4.27
US	3.22	3.11	4.04

* 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 June**

	2011	2010		2011	2010
Barrington	7.9	9.1	Newport	8.6	9.6
Bristol	8.7	9.7	North Kingstown	8.3	9.5
Burrillville	9.5	10.7	North Providence	10.1	11.9
Central Falls	15.3	14.8	North Smithfield	8.9	10.6
Charlestown	9.4	10.5	Pawtucket	12.2	12.8
Coventry	9.6	10.9	Portsmouth	9.2	9.4
Cranston	10.5	12.5	Providence	14.0	13.9
Cumberland	9.2	10.1	Richmond	6.8	8.9
East Greenwich	10.7	10.7	Scituate	9.0	10.7
East Providence	9.8	12.0	Smithfield	9.4	10.5
Exeter	7.8	10.4	South Kingstown	8.6	9.8
Foster	10.7	11.9	Tiverton	9.8	10.7
Glocester	7.0	9.1	Warren	10.6	9.9
Hopkinton	9.2	10.9	Warwick	9.2	11.6
Jamestown	6.8	9.2	West Greenwich	7.9	8.7
Johnston	10.9	11.7	West Warwick	11.3	12.8
Lincoln	8.4	10.1	Westerly	7.4	7.4
Little Compton	8.1	9.1	Woonsocket	11.3	12.5
Middletown	8.6	8.6			
Narragansett	7.1	7.3	State of R.I.	10.3	11.4
New Shoreham	8.0	6.8	United States	9.3	9.6

Nationally, there were an estimated 2.84 advertised vacancies for every 100 persons in labor force. Among the New England states, Massachusetts (3.83), Connecticut (3.31), New Hampshire (3.18) and Vermont (3.13) all had a higher vacancy rate than Rhode Island.

There were an estimated 3.46 unemployed Rhode Island residents for every advertised job in June, down from 3.49 unemployed residents estimated per May advertisements. Nationally, there were 3.22 unemployed persons for every job opening advertised in June, up from 3.11 in May.

Unemployment Insurance Claims Activity

	June	May	June	% Change		Year to Date		
	2011	2011	2010	May 11	June 10	2011	2010	% Change
Regular Claims								
Initial Claims	8,285	5,699	9,071	45.4%	-8.7%	47,697	54,645	-12.7%
Number of Payments	51,287	63,845	71,465	-19.7%	-28.2%	432,607	489,755	-11.7%
Amount of Payments (gross millions)	\$18.6	\$23.2	\$25.7	-19.8%	-27.6%	\$158.8	\$181.7	-12.6%
Exhaustions (Final Payments)	1,699	2,595	2,570	-34.5%	-33.9%	13,897	15,332	-9.4%
Emergency Unemployment Compensation						2011	Since Program Began	
Initial Claims	2,568	3,050	1,019	-15.8%	152.0%	18,083	116,332	
Number of Payments	58,287	70,154	78,181	-16.9%	-25.4%	364,716	1,976,475	
Amount of Payments (gross millions)	\$21.5	\$25.7	\$29.0	-16.3%	-25.9%	\$134.1	\$720.9	
Extended Benefits						2011	Since Program Began	
Initial Claims	345	567	5,515	-39.2%	-93.7%	2,736	31,490	
Number of Payments	6,031	8,017	16,819	-24.8%	-64.1%	64,669	400,385	
Amount of Payments (gross millions)	\$2.2	\$2.9	\$6.2	-24.1%	-64.5%	\$23.8	\$145.5	
Exhaustions (Final Payments)	244	895	178	-72.7%	37.1%	3,701	19,399	

**Private Sector Job Vacancy Data Summary
Spring 2011**

	2011	2010	2009	2006
Number of Job Vacancies	10,475	8,106	5,948	10,949
Job Vacancy Rate (vacancies per 100 filled jobs)	2.8%	2.2%	1.5%	2.7%
Full-Time Positions	48.6%	56.5%	50.4%	55.8%
Part-Time Positions	51.4%	43.5%	49.6%	44.2%
Vacancies Open < 30 Days	45.6%	37.2%	40.8%	35.8%
Vacancies Open 30-59 Days	14.6%	18.5%	11.6%	17.8%
Vacancies Open > 60 Days	16.6%	10.5%	15.4%	12.6%
Constantly Recruiting/ Hiring	18.7%	28.0%	32.2%	33.7%
Permanent Positions	76.9%	87.2%	82.1%	87.0%
Temporary/Seasonal Positions	23.1%	12.8%	17.9%	13.0%
Vacancies Requiring:				
Diploma/GED	37.9%	43.7%	34.3%	41.0%
Vocational Training	7.4%	10.0%	11.5%	8.3%
Associate Degree	4.8%	12.1%	2.4%	8.3%
Bachelor Degree	25.6%	13.9%	19.0%	16.1%
Advanced Degree	6.2%	7.2%	9.3%	3.7%
No Education Requirement	18.0%	13.1%	23.5%	22.6%
License or Certificate	19.2%	18.8%	10.6%	25.8%
General Work Experience	21.2%	20.8%	13.2%	20.2%
Experience Related to Position	55.3%	53.6%	63.1%	51.7%
No Experience Required	15.6%	18.4%	23.8%	28.1%
Hourly Wage Range	\$14.30 to \$15.67	\$15.22 to \$17.08	\$13.59 to \$15.69	\$11.00 to \$12.00
Vacancies Providing:				
Health Insurance	47.2%	68.7%	45.1%	63.9%
Paid Sick Leave	36.9%	48.8%	33.1%	52.9%
Paid Vacation	47.5%	64.9%	40.8%	65.4%
Tuition Reimbursement	20.3%	34.0%	21.7%	40.2%
Retirement /Pension Plan	40.5%	54.1%	40.7%	60.9%
No Benefits Offered	39.4%	21.6%	43.9%	27.2%

The Department of Labor and Training's annual Job Vacancy Survey provides information on the quantity and characteristics of job vacancies available at the time of the survey.