

# EMPLOYMENT BULLETIN

June 2011



## Rhode Island's Unemployment Rate Remains at 10.9 percent in May

- ◆ RI's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate for May was 10.9 percent, unchanged from April.
- ◆ RI's May unemployment rate is down eight-tenths of a percentage points from last year's figure of 11.7 percent.
- ◆ The national rate was 9.1 percent, up one-tenth of a percentage point from April and down five-tenths from the previous year.
- ◆ In May 2011, Rhode Island had the 3rd highest unemployment rate in the nation, trailing Nevada (12.1%) and California (11.7%).
- ◆ The May 2011 unemployment rate increased in thirteen states, including Vermont (+0.1) and Maine (+0.1). Twenty-four states, including Massachusetts (-0.2) and New Hampshire (-0.1) saw their rates decrease, while thirteen states' rates, including Connecticut and Rhode Island, 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 May 2011—Connecticut 9.1 percent, Maine 7.7 percent, Massachusetts 7.6 percent, Vermont 5.4 percent and New Hampshire 4.8 percent.
- ◆ The number of employed RI residents totaled 507,700 in May 2011, down 1,400 from the previous month. Between May 2010 and May 2011, the number of employed RI residents decreased by 1,500.
- ◆ In May, the number of unemployed Rhode Island residents decreased by 100 to 62,000. From May 2010 to May 2011, the number of unemployed residents decreased by 5,300.

## Rhode Island Wages Increase 2.8 Percent in 2010

Wages in Rhode Island averaged \$44,651 in 2010, up 2.8 percent (\$1,204) from the 2009 annual average wage of \$43,447. Private sector wages increased 2.9 percent over the year, while government wages increased 2.2 percent.

Private sector workers earned an annual average wage of \$42,530 in 2010, an increase of \$1,210 (2.9%) from the \$41,320 earned in 2009. Annual average wage gains were reported in seventeen of the state's nineteen economic sectors. Only two sectors, Construction and Agriculture, Fishing & Hunting, reported decreases in the annual average wages paid to their workers, declining 1.3 and 0.7 percent, respectively.

Management of Companies, the only sector with wages averaging over \$100,000, reported the largest annual increase on both a numeric and percentage basis. Workers in this sector earned an annual average wage of \$101,240 in 2010, up \$8,822 or 9.5 percent over the year.

The Utilities (\$83,249) sector boasts the second highest annual average wage, followed by the Finance & Insurance (\$73,450), Professional & Technical Services (\$63,861), Wholesale Trade (\$63,199) and Information (\$61,341) sectors. Annual wage increases in these sectors ranged from 1.4 percent in Utilities to 8.1 percent in Finance & Insurance, the second largest over-the-year increase on both a numeric and percentage basis.

The lowest annual average wages were reported in the Accommodation & Food Services (\$16,239), Arts, Entertainment & Recreation (\$23,744), Agricultural, Fishing & Hunting (\$24,916), Other Services (\$26,602) and Retail Trade (\$27,059) sectors due, in part, to the seasonal and part-time nature of many of the businesses included in these sectors. Annual wage increase in these sectors ranged from 0.8 percent in Other Services to 2.7 percent in Retail Trade. As noted, wages in the Agricultural, Fishing & Hunting sector decreased over the year.

Government workers averaged \$58,283 in 2010, an increase of \$1,235 (2.2%) from the 2009 average of \$57,048. Federal employees earned the highest wages, averaging \$73,950, up \$1,603 (2.2%) from the 2009 average (\$72,347). Average wages for local government (\$53,001) employees were up 2.7 percent over the year while state employee wages (\$59,004) were down 0.2 percent from 2009.

### Seasonally Adjusted Labor Force Statistics

(in thousands)

	Rhode Island			United States		
	May 11	Apr 11	May 10	May 11	Apr 11	May 10
Civilian Labor Force	569.7	571.1	576.5	153,693	153,421	154,237
Resident Employment	507.7	509.1	509.2	139,779	139,674	139,353
Unemployment	62.0	62.1	67.3	13,914	13,747	14,884
Unemployment Rate	10.9%	10.9%	11.7%	9.1%	9.0%	9.6%

## Rhode Island Jobs Increase by 1,300 in May

Estimated nonfarm payroll in Rhode Island totaled 463,800 in May, reflecting a gain of 1,300 jobs from the revised April employment estimate of 462,500. The April to May payroll increase marks four consecutive months of job gains in Rhode Island.

In May, the Professional & Business Services sector added 1,000 jobs, due to increases in professional services, temporary help and landscaping. The Other Services sector, driven by gains in the personal care services and civic & social organizations/industry groups, added 700 jobs. Employment in the Educational Services and Retail Trade sectors increased by 600 and 500, respectively. Smaller gains were reported in Health Care & Social Assistance (+100) and Arts, Entertainment & Recreation (+100).

On the negative side, Accommodation & Food Services lost 600 jobs over the month, due to reduced hiring among full-service restaurants. Construction also reported a loss of 600 jobs,

resulting from cutbacks among specialty trade contractors. Smaller over-the-month declines were reported in the Financial Activities (-200), Information (-100), Transportation & Utilities (-100) and Government (-100) sectors.

Employment in Manufacturing, Wholesale Trade and Natural Resources & Mining was unchanged over the month.

Over the year, employment was up 4,200 (+0.9%) from May 2010, with job gains reported in nine economic sectors. Retail Trade (+4,200) Accommodation & Food Services (+2,100), Information (+700), Health Care & Social Assistance (+600), Manufacturing (+600), Professional & Business Services (+600), Wholesale Trade (+500), Other Services (+300) and Transportation & Utilities (+100) all reported over-the-year gains. Educational Services and Natural Resources & Mining employment remained even over the year.

Government employment was down 3,000 over the year, due to cutbacks among municipal government workers and the loss of Census workers. Construction employment was down 1,600 from May 2010, due to decreased employment of specialty trade contractors. Arts, Entertainment & Recreation (-500) and Financial Activities (-400) also reported over-the-year job losses.

	<b>Establishment Employment in Rhode Island</b>				
	<b>Seasonally Adjusted</b>			Net Change From	
	<u>May-11</u>	<u>Apr-11</u>	<u>May-10</u>	<u>Apr-11</u>	<u>May-10</u>
<b>Total Nonfarm</b>	<b>463.8</b>	<b>462.5</b>	<b>459.6</b>	<b>1.3</b>	<b>4.2</b>
Natural Resources & Mining	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.0	0.0
Construction	14.4	15.0	16.0	-0.6	-1.6
Manufacturing	40.9	40.9	40.3	0.0	0.6
Wholesale Trade	16.4	16.4	15.9	0.0	0.5
Retail Trade	50.5	50.0	46.3	0.5	4.2
Transportation & Utilities	10.2	10.3	10.1	-0.1	0.1
Information	10.5	10.6	9.8	-0.1	0.7
Financial Activities	30.1	30.3	30.5	-0.2	-0.4
Professional & Business Services	54.2	53.2	53.6	1.0	0.6
Educational Services	23.9	23.3	23.9	0.6	0.0
Health Care & Social Assistance	78.9	78.8	78.3	0.1	0.6
Arts, Entertainment & Recreation	7.2	7.1	7.7	0.1	-0.5
Accommodation & Food Services	43.9	44.5	41.8	-0.6	2.1
Other Services	22.4	21.7	22.1	0.7	0.3
Government	60.1	60.2	63.1	-0.1	-3.0

Government employment was down 3,000 over the year, due to cutbacks among municipal government workers and the loss of

<b>Manufacturing Employment in Rhode Island</b>					
<b>Not Seasonally Adjusted</b>					
	Employment				
	(in thousands)			Net Change From:	
	<u>May 11</u>	<u>Apr 11</u>	<u>May 10</u>	<u>Apr 11</u>	<u>May 10</u>
<b>Manufacturing</b>	<b>40.7</b>	<b>40.6</b>	<b>40.2</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>500</b>
<b>Durable Goods</b>	<b>26.0</b>	<b>25.9</b>	<b>25.6</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>400</b>
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
<b>Non-Durable Goods</b>	<b>14.7</b>	<b>14.7</b>	<b>14.6</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>100</b>
Chemical Manufacturing	2.8	2.8	2.9	0	-100

**MANUFACTURING:** In May 2011, production workers in the Manufacturing sector earned \$15.74 per hour. The average hourly production wage was up 32 cents from April 2011 and up 98 cents from May 2010. Manufacturing employees worked an average of 39.4 hours per week in May, down one-tenth of an hour over the month, but up a half-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.*

## New Maximum Weekly Benefit Rates UI&TDI



The Unemployment Insurance (UI) program provides benefits to insured and eligible persons who are out of work through no fault of their own. The program is financed by an employer tax. Rhode Island's Temporary Disability Insurance (TDI) program, which is funded exclusively by Rhode Island based workers, protects workers against wage loss resulting from a non-work related illness or injury. In July, the maximum weekly benefit amounts paid to eligible workers will increase for programs.

New Maximum weekly benefit rates of \$566 for UI and \$719 for TDI will be in effect for individuals whose benefit year begins on or after July 1, 2011. The maximum weekly benefit rates are based on the average weekly wage of workers covered by the Employment Security Act. The 2010 average weekly wage for workers covered by the Act was \$844.94, an increase of \$22.46 (2.7%) from the 2009 weekly average of \$822.48. The UI rate is set at 67 percent of the average weekly wage and the TDI rate is set at 85 percent of the average weekly wage.

The new rates reflect increases of \$15 for UI and \$19 for TDI. The previous maximum rates were \$551 and \$700 for UI and TDI, respectively. Individuals who had established claims prior to July 1, 2011 will continue to be paid at their present rate for the duration of their benefit year. A benefit year is the 52-week period that begins once a new claim is filed. Individual worker's benefit rates are set at 4.62 percent of their highest quarter earnings included in their benefit year or approximately 60 percent of their average weekly wage up to the program maximums.

### Maximum Benefit Rate - 2011

**UI - \$566  
TDI - \$719**

Individuals with dependents are eligible for additional benefits under each program. The UI program provides the greater of \$15 or 5 percent of the weekly benefit rate per dependent up to a maximum of five dependents. The TDI program provides the greater of \$10 or 7 percent of the weekly benefit rate per dependent, also up to a maximum of five dependents. The maximum benefit rates for individuals with five dependents will increase to \$707 for UI and \$970 for TDI for new claims effective after July 1, 2011.

## Characteristics of the Insured Unemployed

A total of 14,404 individuals were eligible to collect "regular" Unemployment Insurance benefits in May 2011, down 3,350 (-18.9%) from the 17,754 collecting these benefits in May 2010. In addition, 14,305 individuals collected Emergency Unemployment Compensation and 1,553 collected Extended Benefits. In all, 49.0 percent of Rhode Island's unemployed workers were eligible to collect unemployment benefits in May.

Of the 14,404 individuals collecting "regular" Unemployment Insurance benefits, 35.7 percent faced long-term unemployment (defined as collecting unemployment insurance for fifteen weeks or more), down from 36.6 percent in May 2010.

On an industry basis, 15.5 percent (2,227) of the State's insured unemployed workers came from the Construction sector. There were also 1,735 individuals with an attachment to the Manufacturing sector, accounting for 12.0 percent of all insured unemployed workers. An additional 11.7 percent (1,684) of those collecting UI benefits in May had worked in the Retail Trade sector. Large numbers of insured unemployed were also reported in Health Care & Social Assistance (1,634), Administrative & Waste Services (1,459) and Accommodation & Food Services (1,286). 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, May 2011

	<i>Total</i>	<i>Long-Term</i>	<i>Percent Long-Term</i>
<b>Total</b>	<b>14,404</b>	<b>5,136</b>	<b>35.7%</b>
Male	7,966	2,851	35.8%
Female	6,438	2,285	35.5%
<b>Selected Industries</b>	<b>14,404</b>	<b>5,136</b>	<b>35.7%</b>
Construction	2,227	794	35.7%
Manufacturing	1,735	547	31.5%
Wholesale Trade	521	216	41.5%
Retail Trade	1,684	599	35.6%
Transportation & Warehousing	328	100	30.5%
Information	123	40	32.5%
Finance & Insurance	641	254	39.6%
Real Estate	258	109	42.2%
Professional & Tech. Services	734	234	31.9%
Administrative & Waste Services	1,459	453	31.0%
Educational Services	275	102	37.1%
Health Care & Social Assistance	1,634	568	34.8%
Arts, Entertainment & Recreation	247	99	40.1%
Accommodation & Food Services	1,286	531	41.3%
Other Services	570	217	38.1%
Public Administration	131	51	38.9%

### Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers

	% Change			
	May 11	Apr 11	May 10	Prev. Year
All Items	226.0	224.9	218.2	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 17,800 advertisements for Rhode Island based jobs this month, an increase of 500 (+2.9%) from the April 2011 postings, and up 1,400 (+8.5%) from the advertised vacancies posted online in May 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

	May 11	Apr 11	May 10
RI Vacancies	17,800	17,300	16,400
<i>Labor Demand Rate *</i>			
Rhode Island	3.11	3.04	2.85
US	2.91	2.82	2.36
Connecticut	3.40	3.22	3.10
Massachusetts	3.91	3.66	3.39
Maine	2.94	2.90	2.62
New Hampshire	3.25	3.30	2.69
Vermont	3.27	3.31	2.81
<i>Supply/Demand Rate **</i>			
Rhode Island	3.48	3.58	4.10
US	3.11	3.18	4.08

\* 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 May

	2011	2010		2011	2010
Barrington	8.1	8.6	Newport	10.1	10.0
Bristol	10.1	9.9	North Kingstown	9.5	9.6
Burrillville	10.2	11.1	North Providence	10.8	11.2
Central Falls	15.2	14.4	North Smithfield	9.3	10.5
Charlestown	10.8	10.5	Pawtucket	12.8	12.9
Coventry	9.8	11.0	Portsmouth	9.7	9.0
Cranston	11.0	12.2	Providence	14.2	13.8
Cumberland	9.4	10.4	Richmond	7.4	8.9
East Greenwich	11.1	10.2	Scituate	9.1	10.7
East Providence	10.9	11.8	Smithfield	9.7	10.4
Exeter	9.3	10.3	South Kingstown	9.4	9.6
Foster	12.2	12.8	Tiverton	10.5	10.3
Glocester	8.8	9.4	Warren	11.0	10.1
Hopkinton	10.1	11.4	Warwick	9.8	11.5
Jamestown	7.7	9.3	West Greenwich	8.8	9.7
Johnston	11.9	11.8	West Warwick	12.4	13.2
Lincoln	8.7	10.3	Westerly	7.8	8.2
Little Compton	9.0	9.9	Woonsocket	12.5	12.8
Middletown	9.1	8.7			
Narragansett	7.3	7.9	State of R.I.	11.0	11.4
New Shoreham	14.7	12.9	United States	8.7	9.3

Nationally, there were an estimated 2.91 advertised vacancies for every 100 persons in labor force. Among the New England states, Massachusetts (3.91), Connecticut (3.40), Vermont (3.27) and New Hampshire (3.25) all had a higher vacancy rate than Rhode Island.

There were an estimated 3.48 unemployed Rhode Island residents for every advertised job in May, down from 3.58 unemployed residents estimated per April advertisements. Nationally, there were 3.11 unemployed persons for every job opening advertised in May, down from 3.18 in April.

### Unemployment Insurance Claims Activity

	May	Apr.	May	% Change		Year to Date		
	2011	2011	2010	Apr 11	May 10	2011	2010	% Change
<b>Regular Claims</b>								
Initial Claims	5,699	7,820	7,160	-27.1%	-20.4%	39,412	45,574	-13.5%
Number of Payments	63,845	66,351	66,943	-3.8%	-4.6%	381,320	418,290	-8.8%
Amount of Payments (gross millions)	\$23.2	\$24.2	\$24.3	-4.1%	-4.5%	\$140.3	\$156.0	-10.1%
Exhaustions (Final Payments)	2,595	2,444	2,457	6.2%	5.6%	12,198	12,762	-4.4%
<b>Emergency Unemployment Compensation</b>								
Initial Claims	3,050	3,040	3,778	0.3%	-19.3%	15,515	113,764	
Number of Payments	70,154	56,969	71,646	23.1%	-2.1%	306,429	1,918,188	
Amount of Payments (gross millions)	\$25.7	\$20.8	\$26.7	23.6%	-3.7%	\$112.6	\$699.4	
<b>Extended Benefits</b>								
Initial Claims	567	402	1,047	41.0%	-45.8%	2,391	31,145	
Number of Payments	8,017	9,973	5,259	-19.6%	52.4%	58,638	394,354	
Amount of Payments (gross millions)	\$2.9	\$3.7	\$1.9	-21.6%	52.6%	\$21.6	\$143.3	
Exhaustions (Final Payments)	895	821	98	9.0%	813.3%	3,457	19,155	

**Rhode Island Covered Employment and Wages  
2010 Statewide Employment by Industry**

	2010 Average Employment	2010 Average Annual Wage	2009 Average Annual Wage	2009-2010 Difference	
				Net	Percent
<b>Total Private &amp; Government</b>	447,219	\$44,651	\$43,447	\$1,204	2.8%
<b>Total Private Only</b>	387,005	\$42,530	\$41,320	\$1,210	2.9%
<b>Agriculture, Forestry, Fishing &amp; Hunting</b>	715	\$24,916	\$25,099	-\$183	-0.7%
<b>Mining</b>	173	\$50,242	\$47,269	\$2,973	6.3%
<b>Utilities</b>	1,131	\$83,249	\$82,074	\$1,175	1.4%
<b>Construction</b>	15,944	\$51,545	\$52,206	-\$661	-1.3%
<b>Manufacturing</b>	40,330	\$49,217	\$47,199	\$2,018	4.3%
<b>Wholesale Trade</b>	15,815	\$63,199	\$60,040	\$3,159	5.3%
<b>Retail Trade</b>	46,879	\$27,059	\$26,343	\$716	2.7%
<b>Transportation &amp; Warehousing</b>	8,711	\$36,394	\$35,571	\$823	2.3%
<b>Information</b>	9,989	\$61,341	\$59,806	\$1,535	2.6%
<b>Finance &amp; Insurance</b>	23,406	\$73,450	\$67,939	\$5,511	8.1%
<b>Real Estate, Rental &amp; Leasing</b>	5,632	\$37,624	\$36,176	\$1,448	4.0%
<b>Professional &amp; Technical Services</b>	20,879	\$63,861	\$61,877	\$1,984	3.2%
<b>Management of Companies &amp; Enterprise</b>	9,327	\$101,240	\$92,418	\$8,822	9.5%
<b>Administrative &amp; Waste Services</b>	23,178	\$30,038	\$29,638	\$400	1.4%
<b>Educational Services</b>	19,199	\$45,530	\$44,359	\$1,171	2.6%
<b>Health Care &amp; Social Assistance</b>	78,217	\$41,121	\$40,682	\$439	1.1%
<b>Arts, Entertainment &amp; Recreation</b>	7,547	\$23,744	\$23,302	\$442	1.9%
<b>Accommodation &amp; Food Services</b>	41,968	\$16,239	\$15,902	\$337	2.1%
<b>Other Services Except Public Administration</b>	17,949	\$26,602	\$26,393	\$209	0.8%
<b>Government</b>	60,215	\$58,283	\$57,048	\$1,235	2.2%
<b>Federal Government</b>	10,639	\$73,950	\$72,347	\$1,603	2.2%
<b>State Government</b>	15,864	\$59,004	\$59,108	-\$104	-0.2%
<b>Local Government</b>	33,711	\$53,001	\$51,605	\$1,396	2.7%

Source: Quarterly Census of Employment and Wages, developed through a cooperative program between the state of Rhode Island and the US Bureau of Labor Statistics, [www.bls.gov](http://www.bls.gov)

For more information, go to [www.dlt.ri.gov/lmi/es202/state/2010summary.htm](http://www.dlt.ri.gov/lmi/es202/state/2010summary.htm)