



Rhode Island's Unemployment Rate Climbs to 8.9 percent in May

- ◆ RI's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate for May was 8.9 percent, up one-tenth of a percentage point from April.
- ◆ RI's May unemployment rate was down one and seven-tenths percentage points from last May's figure of 10.6 percent.
- ◆ The national rate was 7.6 percent, up one-tenth from April and down six-tenths of a percentage point from the previous year.
- ◆ In May 2013, Rhode Island had the fourth highest unemployment rate in the nation, behind Nevada, Illinois, and Mississippi.
- ◆ The May 2013 unemployment rate increased in seventeen states, including Massachusetts (+0.2), Rhode Island (+0.1) and Vermont (+0.1). Eight states' rates, including Connecticut were unchanged, while twenty-five states' rates decreased, including New Hampshire (-0.2) and Maine (-0.1). In all, three states have unemployment rates at over above nine percent.
- ◆ Rates in other New England states for May 2013— Connecticut 8.0 percent, Maine 6.8 percent, Massachusetts 6.6 percent, New Hampshire 5.3 percent and Vermont 4.1 percent.
- ◆ The number of employed RI residents totaled 509,300 in May 2013, up 400 from the previous month. Between May 2012 and May 2013, the number of employed RI residents increased by 9,100.
- ◆ Over the month, the number of unemployed Rhode Island residents grew by 200 to 49,600. From May 2012 to May 2013, the number of unemployed residents decreased by 9,600.

New Maximum Weekly Benefit Rates UI & TDI

The Unemployment Insurance (UI) program, financed by an employer tax, provides benefits to eligible persons who are out of work through no fault of their own. Rhode Island's Temporary Disability Insurance (TDI) program, funded exclusively by Rhode Island-based workers, protects workers against wage loss resulting from a non-work related illness or injury.

Beginning July 1st the maximum weekly benefit rate for TDI will be \$752, an increase of \$16 from last July. The maximum weekly benefit rate for UI will remain at \$566. The maximum weekly benefit rates are based on the average weekly wage of workers covered by the Employment Security Act. The 2012 average weekly wage for workers covered by the Act was \$883.63. Legislation passed in 2011 set the UI maximum rate at the greater of 57.5 percent of the average weekly wage or \$566. The TDI rate is set at 85 percent of the average weekly wage.

Maximum Benefit Rate as of July 1, 2013

UI - \$566
TDI - \$752

Individuals with dependents are eligible for additional benefits under each program. The maximum benefit rates for individuals with five dependents remains at \$707 for UI, and \$1,015, up \$22, for TDI for new claims effective after July 1, 2013.

Also beginning in July, the average weekly benefit rate for new claims will be set at 4.15 percent of the average of the two highest quarter wages in the base period. The minimum weekly benefit for UI will fall to \$42 per week while the TDI minimum weekly benefit will remain at \$72 per week.

Seasonally Adjusted Labor Force Statistics

(in thousands)

	Rhode Island			United States		
	May 13	Apr 13	May 12	May 13	Apr 13	May 12
Civilian Labor Force	558.9	558.3	559.4	155,658	155,238	154,998
Resident Employment	509.3	508.9	500.2	143,898	143,579	142,302
Unemployment	49.6	49.4	59.2	11,760	11,659	12,695
Unemployment Rate	8.9%	8.8%	10.6%	7.6%	7.5%	8.2%

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Rhode Island Jobs Decrease by 200 in May

Estimated nonfarm payroll in Rhode Island totaled 466,900 in May, reflecting a loss of 200 jobs from the April revised employment estimate of 467,100.

Larger than usual employment losses at colleges and universities contributed to a 1,100-job drop in the Educational Services sector.

Job declines were less severe in the Other Services (-300), Professional & Business Services (-200), Health Care & Social Assistance (-100) and Manufacturing (-100) sectors. Business and labor organizations reported declines in the Other Services sector, while the accounting and tax services, and employment services industry groups reported minor losses in the Professional & Businesses Services sector.

Offsetting some of the May declines was a reported gain of 700 jobs in the Accommodation & Food Services sector. All major components of the industry—accommodations, restaurants and drinking establishments—posted over-the-month employment gains.

The Retail Trade sector added 500 jobs since April as food and beverage stores and automotive parts stores increased their monthly payrolls.

Regionally, Vermont and Rhode Island were the only New England states to lose jobs in May, losing 2,000 and 200, respectively. The job count in Massachusetts increased by 3,400, followed by New Hampshire (+2,500), Maine (+2,400) and Connecticut (+1,000). Nationally, the employment level grew by 175,000 jobs or 0.1 percent since April.

Nationally, nonfarm payroll employment increased in 33 states and decreased in 17 states. Nebraska, Ohio and South Dakota had the largest over-the-month percentage increases in employment (+0.6 percent each). Alaska (-1.3%) and Vermont (-0.7%) reported the largest over-the-month percentage declines in employment.

Establishment Employment in Rhode Island					
Seasonally Adjusted					
	Net Change From				
	May-13	Apr-13	May-12	Apr-13	May-12
Total Nonfarm	466.9	467.1	465.3	-0.2	1.6
Total Private	407.3	407.5	405.1	-0.2	2.2
Natural Resources & Mining	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.0	0.0
Construction	14.8	14.8	15.8	0.0	-1.0
Manufacturing	40.3	40.4	39.6	-0.1	0.7
Wholesale Trade	16.7	16.6	16.9	0.1	-0.2
Retail Trade	46.6	46.1	47.0	0.5	-0.4
Transportation & Utilities	10.8	10.7	10.8	0.1	0.0
Information	9.2	9.2	9.6	0.0	-0.4
Financial Activities	32.6	32.6	31.5	0.0	1.1
Professional & Business Services	58.1	58.3	56.0	-0.2	2.1
Educational Services	23.8	24.9	25.3	-1.1	-1.5
Health Care & Social Assistance	79.3	79.4	78.4	-0.1	0.9
Arts, Entertainment & Recreation	8.1	7.9	7.4	0.2	0.7
Accommodation & Food Services	44.3	43.6	44.3	0.7	0.0
Other Services	22.5	22.8	22.3	-0.3	0.2
Government	59.6	59.6	60.2	0.0	-0.6

Manufacturing Employment in Rhode Island					
Not Seasonally Adjusted					
	Employment				
	(in thousands)			Net Change From:	
	May 13	Apr 13	May 12	Apr 13	May 12
Manufacturing	40.3	40.3	39.7	0	600
Durable Goods	25.7	25.8	25.3	-100	400
Fabricated Metal Product Mfg.	5.5	5.5	5.6	0	-100
Computer & Electronic Product Mfg.	3.3	3.3	3.4	0	-100
Transportation Equipment Mfg.	3.7	3.7	3.4	0	300
Miscellaneous DG Manufacturing	5.7	5.8	5.9	-100	-200
Jewelry & Silverware	3.5	3.5	3.7	0	-200
Non-Durable Goods	14.6	14.5	14.4	100	200
Chemical Manufacturing	2.9	2.9	2.9	0	0

Since the start of the year, employment in the New England region grew by 0.6 percent, while national employment grew by 0.7 percent. Rhode Island is slightly behind the region and nation, as employment has increased by 0.3 percent in 2013.

MANUFACTURING: In May 2013, production workers in the Manufacturing sector earned \$18.78 per hour, down 12 cents from April 2013 and up 55 cents from May 2012. Manufacturing employees worked an average of 39.6 hours per week in May, down one-tenth of an hour over the month and down two-tenths of an hour from a year ago.

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 Economy: Peak, Trough and Recovery

In December 2006, Rhode Island’s total nonfarm employment level peaked at 496,400. Nearly three years later in August 2009, nonfarm employment decreased by 39,600 to 456,800, an eight percent decrease. Private sector employment declined by 8.4 percent or 36,100 jobs during this period, while government sector employment fell by 3,500 (-5.4%). Between December 2006 and August 2009, local government employment decreased by 2,400 (-6.4%), followed by state government (-1,500), while the federal government added 400 jobs.

In comparison, the New England region as a whole lost 273,400 (-3.9%) jobs while the nation lost over 6.9 million (-5.0%) jobs between December 2006 and August 2009.

By December 2012, Rhode Island recovered a quarter of the jobs lost between the peak and trough as nonfarm employment averaged 466,800, an increase of 10,000 since the low employment level of 456,800. The private sector regained 32.1 percent or 11,600 of the lost jobs since the trough, while government employment continued to report additional losses. The public sector lost an additional 1,600 jobs since August 2009, as the local and federal government branch’s shed 1,600 and 100 jobs, respectively. State government reported a modest increase since the trough, adding 100 jobs.

New England as a whole regained over 70 percent of its lost jobs, adding 192,100 (+2.8%) jobs between August 2009 and December 2012. Nationally, employment rose nearly 4.7 million between August 2009 and December 2012, recovering of 67.6 percent of the 6.9 million jobs lost between December 2006 and August 2009.

In December 2012, the Rhode Island economy was down 6.0 percent or 29,600 jobs since the peak employment level of 496,400 in December 2006. Private sector employment decreased by 24,500 (-5.7%) while Government employment was down by 5,100 or 7.9 percent. Overall, local government lost 4,000 (-10.7%) employees between December 2006 and December 2012 while state government lost 1,400 employees (-8.0%). Federal government grew by 300 (+3.0%) during this period.

Between December 2006 and December 2012, the New England region as a whole lost 81,300 jobs or 1.2 percent of its workforce. During this six year period, the nation’s economy was down over 2.2 million jobs or 1.6 percent.

For more detailed industry sector employment changes during the recession, visit www.dlt.ri.gov/lmi/publications/recession.htm.

Characteristics of the Insured Unemployed

A total of 10,463 individuals were eligible to collect “regular” Unemployment Insurance benefits in May 2013, down 2,782 (-21.0%) from the 13,245 collecting these benefits in May 2012. In addition, 6,924 individuals collected Emergency Unemployment Compensation. In all, 34.2 percent of Rhode Island’s unemployed workers were eligible to collect unemployment benefits in May.

Of the 10,463 individuals collecting “regular” Unemployment Insurance benefits, 38.1 percent faced long-term unemployment (defined as collecting unemployment insurance for fifteen weeks or more), up from 34.5 percent in May 2013.

On an industry basis, 13.5 percent (1,411) of the State’s insured unemployed workers came from the Health Care & Social Assistance sector. There were also 1,268 individuals with an attachment to the Construction sector, accounting for 12.1 percent of all insured unemployed workers. An additional 11.8 percent (1,239) of those collecting UI benefits in May had worked in the Manufacturing sector. Large numbers of insured unemployed were also reported in Administration & Waste Services (1,144), Retail Trade (1,059) and Accommodation & Food Services (897). For more information, go to

www.dlt.ri.gov/lmi/uiadmin/characteristics.htm.

Characteristics of the Insured Unemployed, May 2013			
	<i>Percent</i>		
	<i>Total</i>	<i>Long-Term</i>	<i>Long-Term</i>
Total	10,463	3,985	38.1%
Male	5,640	2,198	39.0%
Female	4,823	1,787	37.1%
Selected Industries	10,463	3,985	38.1%
Construction	1,268	458	36.1%
Manufacturing	1,239	415	33.5%
Wholesale Trade	538	241	44.8%
Retail Trade	1,059	431	40.7%
Transportation & Warehousing	244	100	41.0%
Information	139	61	43.9%
Finance & Insurance	438	169	38.6%
Real Estate	167	83	49.7%
Professional & Tech. Services	599	200	33.4%
Administrative & Waste Services	1,144	390	34.1%
Educational Services	225	95	42.2%
Health Care & Social Assistance	1,411	525	37.2%
Arts, Entertainment & Recreation	153	59	38.6%
Accommodation & Food Services	897	402	44.8%
Other Services	456	194	42.5%
Public Administration	84	29	34.5%

Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers

				% Change
	May13	Apr. 13	May 12	Prev. Year
All Items	232.9	232.5	229.8	1.4%

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 18,700 advertisements for Rhode Island based jobs this month, a decrease of 100 (-0.5%) from the April 2013 postings, and up 700 (+3.9%) from the advertised vacancies posted online in May 2012. There were an estimated 3.34 advertised vacancies for every 100 persons in Rhode Island's labor force.

Help Wanted OnLine Advertised Job Vacancies

	May 13	Apr 13	May 12
RI Vacancies	18,700	18,800	18,000
<i>Labor Demand Rate *</i>			
Rhode Island	3.34	3.38	3.22
US	3.11	3.21	3.01
Connecticut	3.36	3.54	3.35
Massachusetts	4.13	4.30	4.01
Maine	3.02	3.22	2.88
New Hampshire	3.16	3.28	3.28
Vermont	3.36	3.42	3.60
<i>Supply/Demand Rate **</i>			
Rhode Island	2.65	2.62	3.29
US	2.44	2.34	2.72

* 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

	2013	2012		2013	2012
Barrington	6.5	7.5	Newport	8.1	8.2
Bristol	7.4	8.6	North Kingstown	7.1	8.5
Burrillville	9.0	8.9	North Providence	9.0	10.0
Central Falls	12.7	13.7	North Smithfield	7.9	8.5
Charlestown	7.8	10.5	Pawtucket	10.7	12.6
Coventry	8.0	9.9	Portsmouth	7.5	8.1
Cranston	9.5	10.7	Providence	11.4	12.7
Cumberland	8.0	9.3	Richmond	5.5	7.4
East Greenwich	7.9	9.4	Scituate	9.2	9.8
East Providence	9.8	11.5	Smithfield	7.8	8.5
Exeter	8.6	9.2	South Kingstown	8.0	8.5
Foster	8.8	9.6	Tiverton	8.2	9.3
Glocester	7.0	8.0	Warren	8.8	10.1
Hopkinton	7.1	9.5	Warwick	8.5	9.5
Jamestown	6.6	7.0	West Greenwich	7.6	9.0
Johnston	10.2	10.8	West Warwick	9.1	11.3
Lincoln	8.7	9.1	Westerly	7.5	8.4
Little Compton	8.1	8.2	Woonsocket	11.4	12.0
Middletown	7.4	8.0			
Narragansett	6.4	6.5	State of R.I.	9.2	10.3
New Shoreham	14.1	14.3	United States	7.3	7.9

Nationally, there were an estimated 3.11 advertised vacancies for every 100 persons in labor force. Among the New England states, Massachusetts (4.13), Connecticut (3.36) and Vermont (3.36) had higher vacancy rates than Rhode Island.

There were an estimated 2.65 unemployed Rhode Island residents for every advertised job in May, up from 2.62 unemployed residents estimated per April advertisements. Nationally, there were 2.44 unemployed persons for every job opening advertised in May, up from 2.34 in April.

Unemployment Insurance Claims Activity

	May	Apr.	May	% Change		Year to Date		
	2013	2013	2012	Apr. 13	May12	2013	2012	% Change
Regular Claims								
Initial Claims	4,401	7,210	6,122	-39.0%	-28.1%	37,557	39,714	-5.4%
Number of Payments	40,120	62,294	50,085	-35.6%	-19.9%	301,976	347,243	-13.0%
Amount of Payments (gross millions)	\$13.9	\$21.2	\$18.7	-34.4%	-25.7%	\$104.2	\$129.4	-19.5%
Exhaustions (Final Payments)	1,492	1,831	1,898	-18.5%	-21.4%	7,874	10,855	-27.5%
Emergency Unemployment Compensation						2013	Since Program Began	
Initial Claims	1,631	1,843	2,430	-11.5%	-32.9%	9,642	169,595	
Number of Payments	28,591	36,330	43,910	-21.3%	-34.9%	159,556	3,008,472	
Amount of Payments (gross millions)	\$9.2	\$13.1	\$16.2	-29.8%	-43.2%	\$57.9	\$1,101.2	

R.I. DEPARTMENT OF LABOR AND TRAINING
2013 UI AND TDI QUICK REFERENCE
(Effective July 1, 2013)

	UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE	TEMPORARY DISABILITY INSURANCE
TAXABLE WAGE BASE For Employers with tax rates of 9.79%	\$20,200 \$21,700	\$61,400
TAX SCHEDULES/TAX RATES Employment Security Job Development Assessment (JDA) *(Includes 0.3% Interest Assessment)	Schedule I: 1.90% to 10.0% 1.69% to 9.79% 0.51%*	1.2% Deducted from Employee's Wages
NEW EMPLOYER RATE	2.83% (+0.51%JDA)	NONE (Employee Tax)
EMPLOYEE WAGE DEDUCTION	NONE (employer payroll tax)	1.2% of first \$61,400 earned
WAITING PERIOD	7 days - beginning on a Sunday	No waiting period as of 7/1/12, but must have been unemployed due to sickness for at least 7 days.
BASE PERIOD	The first four of the last five completed calendar quarters prior to claim; or last 4 completed quarters if needed to meet minimum earnings requirement.	
ELIGIBILITY - MONETARY Based on a Minimum Wage of \$7.75/hour.	\$9,300 in base period wages; or \$1,550 in one of the base period quarters and total base period wages of at least 1.5 times the highest quarter earnings, and total base period earnings of at least \$3,100	
ELIGIBILITY - NONMONETARY	Worked for a subject employer and unemployed through no fault.	Worked for a subject employer and have medically certified disability.
WEEKLY BENEFIT RATE	4.15% of average of 2 highest quarter wages in base period.	4.62% of total high quarter wages in base period.
MIN. WEEKLY BENEFIT AMOUNT Based on minimum wage of \$7.75/hour	\$42 per week	\$72 per week
MAX. WEEKLY BENEFIT AMOUNT Based on 2012 average weekly wage of \$883.63.	\$566 per week Max of \$566 or 57.5% of AWW	\$752
DEPENDENT'S ALLOWANCE	Greater of \$15 or 5% of weekly benefit rate (up to 5 depts.)	Greater of \$10 or 7% of weekly benefit rate (up to 5 depts.)
MAX. WEEKLY BENEFIT AMOUNT WITH MAX. 5 DEPENDENTS	\$707 per week	\$1,015 per week
MAXIMUM DURATION	26 weeks	30 weeks
REASONS FOR DENIAL OF BENEFITS	Quit without good cause; fired for misconduct; refusal of suitable work; labor dispute (except lock-out); insufficient earnings in base period.	No medical certification; insufficient earnings in the base period. Receipt of unemployment or workers' compensation benefits.
BENEFIT APPLICATIONS	Call (401) 243-9100 to file.	Call (401) 462-8420 for application