



## Rhode Island's Unemployment Rate Drops to 8.2 percent in May

- ◆ RI's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate for May was 8.2 percent, down one-tenth of a percentage point from April.
- ◆ RI's May unemployment rate was down one and three-tenths percentage points from last May's figure of 9.5 percent.
- ◆ The national rate was 6.3 percent, unchanged from April and down one and two-tenths percentage points from the previous year.
- ◆ In May 2014, Rhode Island (8.2%) had the highest unemployment rate in the nation.
- ◆ The May 2014 unemployment rate decreased in twenty states, including Massachusetts (-0.4) and Rhode Island (-0.1). Fourteen states' rates, including Connecticut, Maine, New Hampshire and Vermont, were unchanged and sixteen states saw their unemployment rate increase.
- ◆ Rates in other New England states for May 2014—Connecticut 6.9 percent, Maine 5.7 percent, Massachusetts 5.6 percent, New Hampshire 4.4 percent and Vermont 3.3 percent.
- ◆ The number of employed RI residents totaled 512,200 in May 2014, up 2,700 from the previous month. Between May 2013 and May 2014, the number of employed RI residents was up 7,400.
- ◆ Over the month, the number of unemployed Rhode Island residents decreased by 600 to 45,600. From May 2013 to May 2014, the number of unemployed residents decreased by 7,300.

## Rhode Island 2013 City & Town Population Estimates

The US Census Bureau has released city and town population estimates for Rhode Island. The state added 1,207 (+0.1%) residents between 2012 and 2013, but is still down 1,056 (-0.1%) from Census 2010.

Within Rhode Island, 29 cities and towns added population over the year, while nine cities and towns lost population. Narragansett had no change in residents from 2012 to 2013. Bristol had the greatest population growth rate over the year, with a population increase of 1.2 percent. South Kingstown and North Smithfield each had a growth rate of 0.8 percent. On a numeric basis, only Bristol (+262), South Kingstown (+252) and Cumberland (+178) gained over 100 residents.

The greatest percentage loss in population occurred in Smithfield (-0.2%), followed by Providence, Newport, Warren, New Shoreham, Hopkinton and North Kingstown, each losing 0.1 percent of their residents. Providence (-253) was the only community to lose over 100 residents.

In the three years between Census 2010 and 2013, eighteen cities and towns have posted population gains, while 21 communities have posted losses. On a percentage basis, Exeter (+1.9%), North Smithfield (+1.8%) and Cumberland (+1.6%) have posted the largest gains. Cumberland (+549), Johnston (+276) and North Smithfield (+211) are the only towns to add over 200 residents during this time.

Newport (-2.6%) and Bristol (-2.5%) have lost the most residents since Census 2010 on a percentage basis. Warwick (-701), Newport (-645), Bristol (-569), North Kingstown (-302) and West Warwick (-298) all lost over 200 residents in the past three years.

### Seasonally Adjusted Labor Force Statistics

(in thousands)

	Rhode Island			United States		
	May 14	Apr. 14	May 13	May 14	Apr. 14	May 13
Civilian Labor Force	557.8	555.8	557.7	155,613	155,421	155,609
Resident Employment	512.2	509.5	504.8	145,814	145,669	143,919
Unemployment	45.6	46.2	52.9	9,799	9,753	11,690
Unemployment Rate	8.2%	8.3%	9.5%	6.3%	6.3%	7.5%

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## Rhode Island Jobs Increase by 2,000 in May

Estimated nonfarm payroll in Rhode Island totaled 477,600 in May, reflecting a gain of 2,000 jobs from the revised April employment estimate of 475,600. The strong jobs report has boosted Rhode Island's nonfarm employment level to the highest point since September 2008 (478,600). In all, the local economy has added 6,400 jobs since the start of the year.

Employment in Professional & Business Services was up 1,400 over the month, bringing the number of jobs for this sector cluster to 61,100, its largest employment level on record. The surge in employment was spread among various industries in the Professional, Scientific & Technical Services and Administrative & Waste Services sectors.

Sizable job growth was also noted in the Accommodation & Food Services and Manufacturing sectors, which added 800 and 600 employees, respectively. Payrolls in full-service restaurants and hotels rose sharply in May in addition to payrolls in the durable goods component of Manufacturing.

Elsewhere, smaller but positive gains were reported in Retail Trade (+200), Health Care & Social Assistance (+100), Construction (+100), Financial Activities (+100), Wholesale Trade (+100) and Government (+100).

Employment in Arts, Entertainment & Recreation, Transportation & Utilities and Mining & Logging remained unchanged.

Offsetting the May job gains was a loss of 900 jobs reported in the Educational Services sector, as several local private colleges and universities brought to a close their spring sessions resulting in employment declines. The Other Services sector also experienced a sharp decline since April, shedding 500 jobs. Several sectors within the industry reported job losses.

The Information (-100) sector was the only remaining sector to lose employment in May.

Nationally, employment increased by 217,000 or 0.2 percent in May, while jobs in the New England region were up 20,700 (+0.3%). The employment level in Maine rose by 0.8 percent since April, followed by Rhode Island (+0.4%), Connecticut (+0.3%), Massachusetts (0.3%) and Vermont (+0.2%). New Hampshire was the lone New England area state to lose jobs in May as the employment level declined by 0.3 percent.

In May, nonfarm payroll employment increased in 36 states and decreased in 14 states. The largest over-the-month percentage increase in employment occurred in West Virginia (+1.5%), Maine (+0.8%) and Delaware (+0.7%). The largest over-the-month percentage decline in employment occurred in South Dakota (-0.5%), followed by Arizona, New Hampshire and Wyoming (-0.3 percent each).

<b>Establishment Employment in Rhode Island</b>					
<b>Seasonally Adjusted</b>					
	Net Change From				
	May-14	Apr-14	May-13	Apr-14	May-13
<b>Total Nonfarm</b>	<b>477.6</b>	<b>475.6</b>	<b>470.1</b>	<b>2.0</b>	<b>7.5</b>
<b>Total Private</b>	<b>417.6</b>	<b>415.7</b>	<b>410.0</b>	<b>1.9</b>	<b>7.6</b>
Natural Resources & Mining	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.0	0.0
Construction	17.2	17.1	16.1	0.1	1.1
Manufacturing	40.8	40.2	39.9	0.6	0.9
Wholesale Trade	16.5	16.4	16.7	0.1	-0.2
Retail Trade	47.3	47.1	46.5	0.2	0.8
Transportation & Utilities	10.9	10.9	10.8	0.0	0.1
Information	8.7	8.8	9.1	-0.1	-0.4
Financial Activities	32.3	32.2	32.3	0.1	0.0
Professional & Business Services	61.1	59.7	58.4	1.4	2.7
Educational Services	23.8	24.7	23.6	-0.9	0.2
Health Care & Social Assistance	80.9	80.8	80.7	0.1	0.2
Arts, Entertainment & Recreation	9.3	9.3	8.1	0.0	1.2
Accommodation & Food Services	46.4	45.6	45.0	0.8	1.4
Other Services	22.2	22.7	22.6	-0.5	-0.4
Government	60.0	59.9	60.1	0.1	-0.1

### Manufacturing Employment in Rhode Island Not Seasonally Adjusted

	Employment				
	(in thousands)			Net Change From:	
	May 14	Apr 14	May 13	Apr 14	May 13
<b>Manufacturing</b>	<b>40.8</b>	<b>40.3</b>	<b>39.9</b>	<b>500</b>	<b>900</b>
<b>Durable Goods</b>	<b>26.4</b>	<b>26.0</b>	<b>25.5</b>	<b>400</b>	<b>900</b>
Fabricated Metal Product Mfg.	5.5	5.5	5.5	0	0
Computer & Electronic Product Mfg.	3.4	3.4	3.4	0	0
Transportation Equipment Mfg.	4.0	3.9	3.8	100	200
Miscellaneous DG Manufacturing	5.6	5.6	5.8	0	-200
Jewelry & Silverware	3.3	3.3	3.5	0	-200
<b>Non-Durable Goods</b>	<b>14.4</b>	<b>14.3</b>	<b>14.4</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>0</b>
Chemical Manufacturing	3.0	3.0	3.0	0	0

*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.*



## 2013 Rhode Island Employment & Wages

Rhode Island total employment (456,108) increased by 4,751 jobs in 2013, a 1.1 percent increase in total employment from 2012. Private sector employment accounted for nearly all of the employment gains by adding 4,677 (+1.2%) jobs, while the Government sector added 74 (+0.1%) jobs. The Private sector (397,435) represents 87.1 percent of total covered employment, while the Government sector (58,673) represents 12.9 percent of total employment.

Health Care & Social Assistance (80,332) was the leading employment sector in Rhode Island in 2013, accounting for 17.6 percent of total employment in the state. Government (58,673), Retail Trade (46,547), Accommodation & Food Services (45,207) and Manufacturing (40,040) round out the top five sectors for employment and together (270,799) comprise 59.4 percent of total employment in the state.

Health Care & Social Assistance (+1,754) added the most jobs over the year, up 2.2 percent from 2012. Administrative & Waste Services (+1,263), Accommodation & Food Services (+1,076), Management of Companies & Enterprises (+817), Arts, Entertainment & Recreation (+741) and Finance & Insurance (+602) also reported significant jobs gains.

The Other Services sector reported a loss of 977 jobs, the largest numeric loss between 2012 and 2013. Sizeable employment declines were also reported within the Educational Services (-723) and Information (-504) sectors. Elsewhere, job declines were noted in Retail Trade (-358), Wholesale Trade (-152) and Agricultural, Forestry, Fishing & Hunting (-15).

Rhode Island workers earned over \$21.7 billion in 2013, a 3.4 percent increase from wages paid in 2012. Private sector wages grew by \$680.6 million (+3.9%) while Government wages increased by nearly \$25 million (+0.7%). The annual Private sector wage in 2013 was \$45,769, an increase of \$1,188 (+2.7%) from the \$44,581 earned in 2012. Government wages (\$61,005) were up \$360 (+0.6%) from 2012.

Workers in the Management of Companies & Enterprises sector earned an average annual wage of \$113,590 in 2013, an increase of \$2,211 (+2.0%) from last year. Utilities (\$93,070), Finance & Insurance (\$84,417), Professional & Technical Services (\$67,709), Wholesale Trade (\$67,540), and Information (\$65,790) were the remaining private sectors to report an annual wage above \$60,000 in 2013.

### Characteristics of the Insured Unemployed

A total of 9,987 individuals were eligible to collect “regular” Unemployment Insurance benefits in May 2014, down 476 (-4.5%) from the 10,463 collecting these benefits in May 2013. In all, 21.9 percent of Rhode Island’s unemployed workers were eligible to collect unemployment benefits in May.

Of the 9,987 individuals collecting “regular” Unemployment Insurance benefits, 37.1 percent faced long-term unemployment (defined as collecting unemployment insurance for fifteen weeks or more), down from 38.1 percent in May 2013.

On an industry basis, 13.6 percent (1,355) of the State’s insured unemployed workers came from the Health Care & Social Assistance sector. There were also 1,306 individuals with an attachment to the Administrative & Waste Services sector, accounting for 13.1 percent of all insured unemployed workers. An additional 12.3 percent (1,230) of those collecting UI benefits in May had worked in the Construction sector. Large numbers of insured unemployed were also reported in Manufacturing (1,043), Retail Trade (953) and Accommodation & Food Service (837). 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 2014

	Percent		
	Total	Long-Term	Long-Term
<b>Total</b>	<b>9,987</b>	<b>3,701</b>	<b>37.1%</b>
Male	5,313	2,073	39.0%
Female	4,674	1,628	34.8%
<b>Selected Industries</b>	<b>9,987</b>	<b>3,701</b>	<b>37.1%</b>
Construction	1,230	449	36.5%
Manufacturing	1,043	403	38.6%
Wholesale Trade	439	140	31.9%
Retail Trade	953	379	39.8%
Transportation & Warehousing	216	98	45.4%
Information	147	56	38.1%
Finance & Insurance	473	171	36.2%
Real Estate	184	69	37.5%
Professional & Tech. Services	639	230	36.0%
Administrative & Waste Services	1,306	458	35.1%
Educational Services	165	66	40.0%
Health Care & Social Assistance	1,355	502	37.0%
Arts, Entertainment & Recreation	165	61	37.0%
Accommodation & Food Services	837	314	37.5%
Other Services	368	128	34.8%
Public Administration	67	34	50.7%

### Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers

				% Change
	May 14	Apr. 14	May 13	Prev. Year
All Items	237.9	237.1	232.9	2.1%

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 19,900 advertisements for Rhode Island based jobs this month, a decrease of 600 (-2.9%) from the April 2014 postings, and up 1,300 (+7.0%) from the advertised vacancies posted online in May 2013. There were an estimated 3.59 advertised vacancies for every 100 persons in Rhode Island's labor force.

#### Help Wanted OnLine Advertised Job Vacancies

	May 14	Apr 14	May 13
RI Vacancies	19,900	20,500	18,600
<i>Labor Demand Rate *</i>			
Rhode Island	3.59	3.70	3.34
US	3.16	3.17	3.12
Connecticut	3.55	3.63	3.48
Massachusetts	4.25	4.31	4.22
Maine	3.63	3.40	3.08
New Hampshire	3.73	3.81	3.23
Vermont	3.50	3.52	3.37
<i>Supply/Demand Rate **</i>			
Rhode Island	2.29	2.25	2.84
US	2.00	1.98	2.41

\* 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

	2014	2013		2014	2013
Barrington	6.5	6.6	Newport	7.2	8.6
Bristol	6.9	7.7	North Kingstown	6.5	7.6
Burrillville	7.1	9.2	North Providence	8.8	9.3
Central Falls	11.3	13.2	North Smithfield	6.6	8.0
Charlestown	7.0	7.9	Pawtucket	10.1	11.2
Coventry	7.1	8.3	Portsmouth	6.6	7.8
Cranston	8.3	9.8	Providence	10.6	11.8
Cumberland	6.9	8.3	Richmond	5.2	5.6
East Greenwich	7.3	8.1	Scituate	7.1	9.5
East Providence	8.5	10.1	Smithfield	7.2	8.0
Exeter	6.7	8.6	South Kingstown	7.0	8.4
Foster	7.3	9.0	Tiverton	7.3	8.5
Glocester	6.6	7.2	Warren	7.2	9.1
Hopkinton	7.1	7.4	Warwick	7.5	8.9
Jamestown	6.8	6.8	West Greenwich	5.7	8.1
Johnston	8.2	10.6	West Warwick	8.3	9.7
Lincoln	7.7	8.9	Westerly	7.2	7.8
Little Compton	6.0	8.2	Woonsocket	9.9	11.8
Middletown	6.9	7.6			
Narragansett	5.5	6.6	State of R.I.	8.2	9.5
New Shoreham	14.5	14.1	United States	6.1	7.3

Nationally, there were an estimated 3.16 advertised vacancies for every 100 persons in labor force. Among the New England states, Massachusetts (4.25), New Hampshire (3.73) and Maine (3.63) had higher vacancy rates than Rhode Island.

There were an estimated 2.29 unemployed Rhode Island residents for every advertised job in May, up from 2.25 unemployed residents estimated per April advertisements. Nationally, there were 2.00 unemployed persons for every job opening advertised in May, up from 1.98 in April.

### Unemployment Insurance Claims Activity

	May	Apr.	May	% Change		Year to Date		
	2014	2014	2013	Apr. 14	May 13	2014	2013	% Change
<b>Regular Claims</b>								
Initial Claims	4,072	6,598	4,401	-38.3%	-7.5%	35,724	37,557	-4.9%
Number of Payments	37,568	49,269	40,120	-23.7%	-6.4%	288,025	301,976	-4.6%
Amount of Payments (gross millions)	\$12.5	\$16.4	\$13.9	-23.8%	-10.1%	\$96.7	\$104.2	-7.2%
Exhaustions (Final Payments)	1,293	1,390	1,492	-7.0%	-13.3%	6,691	7,874	-15.0%

## Rhode Island Annual Average Employment &amp; Wages - 2013

Industry	Employment	Average Annual Wage	Over-the-Year Difference 2012-2013			
			Employment		Annual Average Wage	
<b>Total All Industries</b>	<b>456,108</b>	<b>\$47,729</b>	<b>4,751</b>	<b>1.1%</b>	<b>\$1,062</b>	<b>2.3%</b>
<b>Total Private Industries</b>	<b>397,435</b>	<b>\$45,769</b>	<b>4,677</b>	<b>1.2%</b>	<b>\$1,188</b>	<b>2.7%</b>
Agriculture, Fishing & Hunting	702	\$29,480	-15	-2.1%	-\$835	-2.8%
Mining	189	\$52,661	1	0.5%	\$2,509	5.0%
Utilities	1,059	\$93,070	4	0.4%	\$9,971	12.0%
Construction	16,100	\$54,244	98	0.6%	\$808	1.5%
Manufacturing	40,040	\$53,378	418	1.1%	\$1,659	3.2%
Wholesale Trade	16,691	\$67,540	-152	-0.9%	\$2,250	3.4%
Retail Trade	46,547	\$27,413	-358	-0.8%	\$355	1.3%
Transportation & Warehousing	9,313	\$38,480	5	0.1%	\$645	1.7%
Information	9,061	\$65,790	-504	-5.3%	-\$1,076	-1.6%
Finance & Insurance	23,913	\$84,417	602	2.6%	\$2,391	2.9%
Real Estate & Rental & Leasing	5,899	\$41,123	117	2.0%	\$945	2.4%
Professional & Technical Services	21,999	\$67,709	527	2.5%	\$1,853	2.8%
Mgt of Companies & Enterprises	11,330	\$113,590	817	7.8%	\$2,211	2.0%
Administrative & Waste Services	25,365	\$33,115	1,263	5.2%	\$1,348	4.2%
Educational Services	18,016	\$49,890	-723	-3.9%	\$2,690	5.7%
Health Care & Social Assistance	80,332	\$42,540	1,754	2.2%	\$416	1.0%
Arts, Entertainment, & Recreation	8,359	\$25,389	741	9.7%	\$446	1.8%
Accommodation & Food Services	45,207	\$17,339	1,076	2.4%	\$429	2.5%
Other Services	17,292	\$29,042	-977	-5.3%	\$1,725	6.3%
Government	58,673	\$61,005	74	0.1%	\$360	0.6%