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Employment Bulletin

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Rhode Island's Rate Climbs to 10.5 Percent

- ◆ RI's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate for February was 10.5 percent, increasing 0.2 of a percentage point from the January rate of 10.3 percent.
- ◆ RI's February unemployment rate is up 4.0 percentage points from last year's figure of 6.5 percent.
- ◆ The national rate increased 0.5 of a percentage point to 8.1 percent. RI, along with California, has the 5th highest rate in the nation, trailing Michigan (12.0%), South Carolina (11.0%), Oregon (10.8%), and North Carolina (10.7%). In all, there are seven states with unemployment rates above 10.0%.
- ◆ In February, the number of unemployed Rhode Island residents increased by 1,900 to reach 59,700, the state's highest jobless level on record. From February 2008 to February 2009, the number of unemployed residents increased by 22,500.
- ◆ The number of employed RI residents totaled 506,700 in February 2009, reflecting an increase of 1,800 from the previous month. Between February 2008 and February 2009, the number of employed RI residents fell by 24,500.

The Unemployment Rate "A Key Economic Indicator"

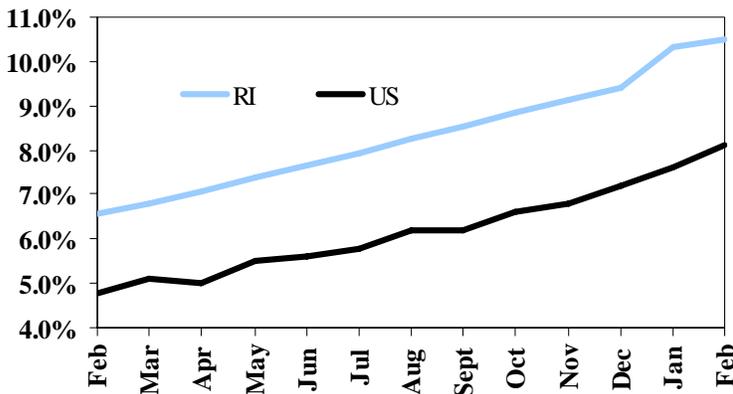
In recent months, the unemployment rate has become, perhaps, the most talked about statistic generated by the Department of Labor and Training's Labor Market Information unit. It headlines the nightly news, is the focus of numerous newspaper articles and is the subject of everyday conversation. Yet, despite all this attention, the methods used to determine the unemployment rate remain a mystery to many.

Some people believe that the unemployment rate reflects the number of people collecting unemployment insurance benefits, others think the government actually counts the total number of unemployed individuals each month. Neither theory is correct. The first method would provide inaccurate results, since less than half the individuals that are unemployed actually collect benefits. The second method would be much too expensive and invasive to be accomplished on a monthly basis.

The unemployment rate is actually based on a monthly survey of some 65,000 households nationwide, approximately 1,300 of which are located in Rhode Island. This survey, which is known as the Current Population Survey (CPS), is conducted by the Bureau of the Census for the US Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS). Each month, 1,500 highly trained Census Bureau workers interview individuals in the sampled households to obtain information on the labor force activities of everyone living in the household. The interviewees answer a series of questions which results in the classification of each household member (16 or older) as being *employed*, *unemployed* or *not in the labor force*.

While the national unemployment rate is derived directly from data collected through the CPS survey, sample sizes in each state are too small to provide reliable monthly estimates for the states and substate areas directly. Therefore, all states, including Rhode Island, calculate the unemployment rate according to a standard methodology which adjusts the state data (Continued on Page 4)

RI & US Unemployment Rates
Seasonally Adjusted 2008-2009



Seasonally Adjusted Labor Force Statistics

(in thousands)

	Rhode Island			United States		
	Feb 09	Jan 09	Feb 08	Feb 09	Jan 09	Feb 08
Civilian Labor Force	566.3	562.7	568.4	154,214	153,716	153,498
Resident Employment	506.7	504.9	531.2	141,748	142,099	146,075
Unemployment	59.7	57.8	37.2	12,467	11,616	7,423
Unemployment Rate	10.5%	10.3%	6.5%	8.1%	7.6%	4.8%

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Rhode Island Jobs Decline by 2,300 in February

Total nonfarm payroll employment in Rhode Island continued to fall as the February job count totaled 467,300, a decline of 2,300 jobs from January's employment level of 469,600. February marks the thirteenth straight month of job losses for Rhode Island, and fourteen consecutive months of job declines for the US. Since an employment peak in January 2007 (496,400), the local economy has lost over 29,000 jobs.

From January to February 2009, the Manufacturing sector reported a loss of 1,200 jobs, due mainly to declines in several durable goods industries. The Construction sector lost 700 jobs over the month, with both the residential and nonresidential components of the industry shedding jobs. Also in February, job losses were reported in Professional & Business Services (-400), Retail Trade (-300), Financial Activities (-200), Government (-200), Arts, Entertainment & Recreation (-200), Transportation & Utilities (-100) and Other Services (-100).

However, from January to February 2009, job growth occurred in Accommodation & Food Services (+500) as full services restaurants reported employment gains in February. Health Care & Social Assistance (+400) and Educational Services (+200) also added jobs during this period. Employment in Information, Wholesale Trade and Natural Resources & Mining remained unchanged between January 2009 and February 2009.

From February 2008 to February 2009, RI jobs declined 20,700 (-4.2 %) due to job losses in nearly all economic sectors. The largest annual employment declines were reported in Manufacturing (-4,800), followed by Retail Trade (-3,500), Construction (-3,400), Professional & Business Services (-3,400), Financial Activities (-1,500) and Government (-1,400). Smaller, but still significant losses were noted in Arts, Entertainment & Recreation (-800), Other Services (-700), Information (-600), Transportation & Utilities (-500) and Wholesale Trade (-500). Employment in Accommodation & Food Services is down one hundred jobs over the year.

Manufacturing Employment in Rhode Island Not Seasonally Adjusted

	Employment				
	(in thousands)		Net Change From		
	Feb 09	Jan 09	Feb 08	Jan 09	Feb 08
Manufacturing	44.3	45.3	48.9	-1000	-4,600
Durable Goods	28.3	29.2	31.6	-900	-3,300
Fabricated Metal Product Mfg.	6.1	6.3	6.8	-200	-700
Computer & Electronic Product Mfg.	4.1	4.1	4.3	0	-200
Miscellaneous Manufacturing	7.8	8.0	8.8	-200	-1,000
Jewelry & Silverware	5.1	5.3	5.9	-200	-800
Non-Durable Goods	16.0	16.1	17.3	-100	-1,300
Chemical Manufacturing	3.6	3.6	4.0	0	-400

Establishment Employment in Rhode Island Seasonally Adjusted

	Net Change From				
	Feb-09	Jan-09	Feb-08	Jan-09	Feb-08
Total Nonfarm	467.3	469.6	488.0	-2.3	-20.7
Natural Resources & Mining	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.0	0.0
Construction	17.9	18.6	21.3	-0.7	-3.4
Manufacturing	44.3	45.5	49.1	-1.2	-4.8
Wholesale Trade	16.6	16.6	17.1	0.0	-0.5
Retail Trade	46.9	47.2	50.4	-0.3	-3.5
Transportation & Utilities	10.6	10.7	11.1	-0.1	-0.5
Information	10.3	10.3	10.9	0.0	-0.6
Financial Activities	32.5	32.7	34.0	-0.2	-1.5
Professional & Business Services	52.1	52.5	55.5	-0.4	-3.4
Educational Services	23.5	23.3	23.4	0.2	0.1
Health Care & Social Assistance	77.0	76.6	76.6	0.4	0.4
Arts, Entertainment & Recreation	7.6	7.8	8.4	-0.2	-0.8
Accommodation & Food Services	43.1	42.6	43.2	0.5	-0.1
Other Services	22.3	22.4	23.0	-0.1	-0.7
Government	62.4	62.6	63.8	-0.2	-1.4

Health Care & Social Assistance and Educational Services reported employment increases over the year, with gains of 400 and 100 jobs, respectively.

Manufacturing: In February 2009, production workers in the Manufacturing sector earned \$14.09 per hour. The average hourly production wage was up ten cents from January and up twenty-one cents from a year ago February. Manufacturing employees worked an average of 37.0 hours per week in February, down four-tenths of an hour over the month and down an hour and three-tenths since February 2008.

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. With the release of the January estimates, the seasonally adjusted jobs and unemployment data have been revised back to 2004. Current month's figures are preliminary and subject to change.

The Green Industry



Green industries are considered to be industries that produce a product or service that contribute to preserving and enhancing the quality of the environment. While there is no standard definition for the *Green Industry*, it is generally thought to include industries that focus on protecting ecosystems and wildlife; minimizing waste and pollution; and reducing energy usage and lowering carbon emissions. These industries are found in many economic sectors including Utilities, Construction, Manufacturing, Trade, Professional, Scientific & Technical Services and Administrative & Waste Services.

Rhode Island currently has 420 establishments classified in industries that are commonly accepted as *Green*. Together they employ approximately 3,300 workers and paid annual wages in excess of \$170 million in 2007. Nearly half this employment is found in Waste Management & Remediation Services (1,616), followed by Recyclable Material Merchant Wholesalers (435), Wind/Nuclear Power Structure Construction* (381) and Research & Development in Physical, Engineering & Life Sciences. In 2007 annual average wages in these industries ranged from \$44,770 in Recyclable Material Merchant Wholesalers to \$77,573 in Research Development in Physical, Engineering & Life Sciences.

Just as Green Industries cross many industrial sectors, *Green Jobs* cross many occupational structures as well. In addition, some jobs that are classified as “green” may not be green all the time. For example, while the responsibilities of the Environmental Engineers are always oriented to preserving the quality of the environment, there is no way to distinguish the Industrial Machinery Mechanics who work on wind turbines from those who do not. In many cases we will find that the new green jobs are existing jobs that will acquire a “green layer.” Occupational projections, wage rates and training levels for occupations that are generally considered green are listed on the accompanying label page.

Rhode Island’s Green Industries

Hydroelectric Power Generation
 Nuclear Electric Power Generation
 Other Electric Power Generation
 Water Supply & Irrigation Systems
 Sewage Treatment Facilities
 Steam & Air-Conditioning Supply
 Wind/Nuclear Power Structure Construction
 Ethyl Alcohol Manufacturing
 Air Purification Equipment Manufacturing
 Recyclable Material Merchant Wholesalers
 Geophysical Surveying & Mapping Services
 Environmental Consulting Services
 Other Technical Consulting Services
 Research & Development in Physical,
 Engineering & Life Sciences
 Waste Management & Remediation Services

* Wind/Nuclear Power Construction is classified in Power & Communication Line and Related Structure Construction

Characteristics of the Insured Unemployed

In February 2009, 45 percent of Rhode Island’s unemployed workers were eligible to collect Unemployment Insurance (UI) benefits. Numbering 29,062 people, these “insured unemployed” accounted for 5.8 percent of the State’s total employed (unadjusted). Nearly 23 percent (6,597) of the Ocean State’s insured unemployed faced long-term unemployment, defined as collecting unemployment benefits for more than fourteen weeks.

On an industry basis, 19.8 percent (5,750) of the State’s insured unemployed workers came from the Construction sector. There were also 5,369 individuals with an attachment to the Manufacturing sector, accounting for 18.5 percent of all insured unemployed workers. An additional 12.2 percent (3,542) of those collecting UI benefits in February had worked in the Administrative & Waste Services sector. Large numbers of insured unemployed were also reported in Accommodation & Food Services (2,319) and Retail Trade (2,304). For more information, go to www.dlt.ri.gov/lmi/uiadmin/characteristics.htm.

Characteristics of the Insured Unemployed, February 2009

	Total	Long-Term	Percent Long-Term
Total	29,062	6,597	22.7%
Male	18,883	3,735	19.8%
Female	10,179	2,862	28.1%
Selected Industries	29,062	6,597	22.7%
Construction	5,750	698	12.1%
Manufacturing	5,369	1,455	27.1%
Wholesale Trade	1,041	260	25.0%
Retail Trade	2,304	723	31.4%
Transportation & Warehousing	826	193	23.4%
Information	458	155	33.8%
Finance & Insurance	1,166	382	32.8%
Real Estate	494	131	26.5%
Professional & Tech. Services	994	249	25.1%
Administrative & Waste Services	3,542	468	13.2%
Educational Services	266	127	47.7%
Health Care & Social Assistance	1,380	623	45.1%
Arts, Entertainment & Recreation	1,045	133	12.7%
Accommodation & Food Services	2,319	459	19.8%
Other Services	754	240	31.8%
Public Administration	154	42	27.3%

Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers

				% Change
	Feb 09	Jan 09	Feb 08	Prev. Year
All Items	212.2	211.1	211.7	0.2%

Source: U.S. Dept. of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics

The Unemployment Rate

(Continued from Page 1)

using statistical models developed by BLS. The statistical models, which are based on historical trends, incorporate the number of jobs at RI businesses and current unemployment insurance claims data to refine the estimates of the number of Rhode Island residents classified as employed, unemployed or not in the labor force provided by the CPS survey. The labor force is the total number of employed and unemployed individuals and the unemployment rate is the number of unemployed divided by the total labor force.

Individuals do not classify themselves as employed or unemployed; their classification is based on their responses to a series of questions designed to determine whether they have a job or are on layoff, if they want a job, what they have done to find a job during the previous four week period and if they are available to work.

Employed persons consist of:

- ◆ All civilians who did any work for pay or profit during the survey week (the week that includes the 12th of the month).
- ◆ All persons who did at least 15 hours of unpaid work in a family-operated business or farm.
- ◆ All persons who were temporarily absent from their regular jobs because of illness, bad weather, vacation, labor-management dispute, or for other personal reasons.

City & Town Unadjusted Unemployment Rates for February

	2009	2008		2009	2008
Barrington	7.8	4.2	Newport	11.4	7.1
Bristol	11.8	6.8	North Kingstown	9.2	6.0
Burrillville	12.0	7.1	North Providence	10.3	6.4
Central Falls	15.9	9.1	North Smithfield	10.1	5.9
Charlestown	12.2	7.6	Pawtucket	13.5	7.7
Coventry	10.7	6.9	Portsmouth	10.1	5.7
Cranston	11.2	6.7	Providence	12.9	7.9
Cumberland	10.4	6.3	Richmond	8.2	4.5
East Greenwich	10.0	6.4	Scituate	10.7	7.7
East Providence	12.3	7.2	Smithfield	10.5	5.7
Exeter	10.6	6.5	South Kingstown	9.9	6.1
Foster	12.7	8.3	Tiverton	12.9	8.0
Glocester	9.5	5.7	Warren	11.9	6.9
Hopkinton	12.0	7.5	Warwick	10.0	6.5
Jamestown	7.1	5.0	West Greenwich	9.5	6.1
Johnston	12.6	7.9	West Warwick	12.5	7.4
Lincoln	10.3	6.1	Westerly	10.6	6.2
Little Compton	11.2	7.2	Woonsocket	13.4	7.9
Middletown	10.8	6.9			
Narragansett	7.5	4.9	State of R.I.	11.4	6.9
New Shoreham	22.1	16.8	United States	8.9	5.2

Unemployed persons consist of:

- ◆ All persons who did not have a job during the survey week and made specific efforts to find a job during the previous four week period, such as registering at an employment office, meeting with prospective employers, checking with friends or relatives, writing letters of application, or being on a union or professional register;
- ◆ All workers waiting to be called back to a job from which they had been temporarily laid off;
- ◆ All persons waiting to report to a new wage or salary job within 30 days.

Unemployment Insurance Claims Activity

	Feb	Jan	Feb	% Change	
	2009	2009	2008	Jan 09	Feb 08
Regular Claims					
Initial Claims	12,586	11,703	9,169	7.5%	37.3%
Number of Payments	103,041	91,868	75,150	12.2%	37.1%
Amount of Payments (gross millions)	\$38.4	\$34.0	\$27.4	12.9%	40.1%
Exhaustions (Final Payments)	2,120	2,083	1,397	1.8%	51.8%
Extended Unemployment Compensation					
Initial Claims	2,301	1,925	n/a	19.5%	n/a
Number of Payments	42,936	40,034	n/a	7.2%	n/a
Amount of Payments (gross millions)	\$15.1	\$13.9	n/a	8.9%	n/a
Extended Benefits					
Initial Claims	87	7	n/a	1142.9%	n/a
Number of Payments	219	4	n/a	5375.0%	n/a
Amount of Payments	\$59,052	\$974	n/a	5962.8%	n/a

All other civilians 16 years old and older who are not classified as employed or unemployed would be classified as *not in the labor force*. This would include persons who are keeping house, going to school, unable to work because of long-term physical or mental illness, or for other reasons such as retirement.

"Green" Occupations in Rhode Island

Occupational Title	Employment		Total Openings			Entry Wage	Median Wage	Skill Level*
	2006 Average	2016 Projected	Growth	Attrition	Total			
Total	32,974	35,368	2,895	6,350	9,245	-	-	-
Carpenters	6,698	7,381	683	906	1,589	16.84	19.30	9
Chemical Engineers	31	34	3	8	11	28.75	35.09	5
Chemical Equipment Operators & Tenders	134	157	23	31	54	16.87	19.81	10
Chemical Technicians	311	336	25	104	129	13.39	17.21	6
Chemists	173	195	22	46	68	22.50	30.13	5
Civil Engineers	655	734	79	173	252	30.98	35.88	5
Computer Software Engineers, Applications	1,259	1,690	431	184	615	32.70	39.28	5
Computer Software Engineers, Systems Software	987	1,267	280	144	424	33.82	40.61	5
Computer-Controlled Machine Tool Operators, Metal & Plastic	290	283	0	35	35	12.99	15.48	10
Conservation Scientists	42	46	4	12	16	20.36	32.98	5
Construction and Building Inspectors	303	332	29	56	85	18.94	22.50	8
Construction Managers	1,238	1,381	143	192	335	33.03	39.48	5
Dispatchers	657	658	1	166	167	12.88	14.76	10
Electrical and Electronic Equipment Assemblers	588	425	0	100	100	10.32	11.83	11
Electrical Engineers	428	449	21	99	120	30.46	37.55	5
Electricians	2,197	2,376	179	566	745	19.74	25.12	9
Engine & Other Machine Assemblers	23	21	0	5	5	14.90	17.59	11
Engineering Technicians	206	207	1	40	41	14.55	23.00	6
Environmental Engineering Technicians	34	37	3	7	10	13.66	16.98	6
Environmental Engineers	181	212	31	53	84	28.35	32.67	5
Environmental Science & Protection Technicians	211	249	38	80	118	15.34	18.35	6
Environmental Scientists & Specialists	319	369	50	82	132	26.52	31.21	3
First-Line Supervisors of Production & Operating Workers	2,818	2,684	0	472	472	17.62	23.34	8
Geographers	29	34	5	9	14	27.30	33.14	3
Hazardous Materials Removal Workers	60	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	19.93	23.60	10
Heating, Air Conditioning, & Refrigeration Mechanics & Installers	1,339	1,406	67	235	302	17.82	21.62	9
Helpers--Carpenters	516	564	48	131	179	12.30	13.75	11
Helpers--Electricians	239	253	14	60	74	11.96	13.48	11
Hydrologists	17	22	5	4	9	31.76	35.75	3
Industrial Machinery Mechanics	486	544	58	81	139	16.21	18.55	9
Industrial Production Managers	631	601	0	218	218	\$33.37	\$39.73	8
Industrial Truck & Tractor Operators	885	826	0	223	223	11.82	14.26	11
Machinists	1,441	1,405	0	223	223	15.29	17.96	9
Millwrights	105	124	19	13	32	29.51	31.72	9
Mixing & Blending Machine Setters, Operators, & Tenders	265	272	7	43	50	10.72	12.68	10
Natural Sciences Managers	99	106	7	22	29	36.58	55.42	3
Operating Engineers & Other Construction Equipment Operators	850	925	75	165	240	23.66	27.37	10
Plumbers, Pipefitters, & Steamfitters	2,420	2,670	250	499	749	20.07	23.83	9
Production Workers	536	526	0	111	111	9.31	12.83	10
Refuse & Recyclable Material Collectors	459	489	30	124	154	14.87	16.72	11
Roofers	561	637	76	128	204	12.85	16.67	10
Sheet Metal Workers	759	820	61	184	245	16.62	20.05	9
Welders, Cutters, Solderers, & Brazers	1,261	1,387	126	267	393	15.29	17.96	9
Welding, Soldering, & Brazing Machine Setters, Operators, & Tenders	233	234	1	49	50	8.87	11.96	10

1- First professional degree, 2-Doctoral degree, 3 - Master's, 4- Work experience plus bachelor's or higher, 4-Bachelor's, 5-Associate, 7- Postsecondary vocational training, 8-Work experience in a related occupation, 9-Long-term on-the-job training, 10-Moderate-on-the-job training, 11- Short-term on-the-job training.