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Employment Bulletin

Rhode Island
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March 2010

Rhode Island's Unemployment Rate Remains at 12.7 Percent for Third Month

- ◆ RI's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate for February was 12.7 percent, unchanged from the January rate.
- ◆ RI's February unemployment rate is up 2.8 percentage points from last year's figure of 9.9 percent.
- ◆ The national rate was also unchanged in February at 9.7 percent, but was up 1.5 percentage points from the previous year.
- ◆ In January 2010, Rhode Island had the 3rd highest unemployment rate in the nation, trailing Michigan (14.3%) and Nevada (13.0%).
- ◆ The January 2010 unemployment rate increased in 31 states - including Connecticut (+0.2), Massachusetts (+0.2), New Hampshire (+0.1) and Maine (+0.1). Only nine states saw their rates decrease. In all, fifteen states have unemployment rates in the double digits, with five states having a rate of 12.0 percent or higher.
- ◆ Rates in other New England States for January 2010—Massachusetts 9.5 percent, Connecticut 9.0 percent, Maine 8.2 percent, New Hampshire 7.0 percent, Vermont 6.7 percent.
- ◆ The number of employed RI residents totaled 505,000 in February 2010, reflecting an increase of 1,600 from the previous month. Between February 2009 and February 2010, the number of employed RI residents fell by 2,500.
- ◆ In February, the number of unemployed Rhode Island residents decreased by 100 to 73,200, the first decrease since February 2007. From February 2009 to February 2010, the number of unemployed residents increased by 17,600.

City & Town Analysis Third Quarter 2009

Rhode Island total employment averaged 446,443 in the third quarter of 2009, a decrease of 23,467 (-5.0%) jobs from the third quarter of 2008. Private sector employment suffered a loss of 22,866 (-5.5%) jobs, while the Government payroll was cut by 601 (-1.1%) jobs.

Thirty seven of the state's 39 cities and towns experienced job losses between the third quarter of 2008 and the third quarter of 2009 with Providence experiencing a job loss of 5,195 (-5.4%) positions, the largest employment decline among all Rhode Island communities. Warwick (-2,698), Cranston (-1,851), Pawtucket (-1,315) and East Providence (-972) also reported sizable employment declines during this period. Warren (-14.7%), Coventry (-11.1%) and Burrillville (-11.1%) experienced the largest employment declines on a percentage basis.

Richmond added 36 (+3.0%) private sector jobs between the third quarter of 2008 and third quarter of 2009, the largest employment gain among Rhode Island's cities and towns. Little Compton experienced the only other employment increase, adding 17 (+2.5%) private sector jobs from the third quarter of 2008.

Private sector employees earned more than \$3.8 billion in wages during the third quarter of 2009, a decrease of \$130.9 million (-3.3%) from the third quarter of 2008. The average weekly wage in the private sector increased by \$17, from \$741 in the third quarter of 2008 to \$758 in the third quarter of 2009, a 2.3 percent increase. Employees working in West Greenwich earned an average weekly wage of \$1,077 in the third quarter of 2009, the highest private sector weekly wage among all Rhode Island cities and towns. Portsmouth (\$940), Smithfield (\$938), Woonsocket (\$869) and Providence (\$859) also reported sizable weekly earnings.

Visit www.dlt.ri.gov/lmi/es202.htm for more information.

Seasonally Adjusted Labor Force Statistics

(in thousands)

	Rhode Island			United States		
	Feb 10	Jan 10	Feb 09	Feb 10	Jan 10	Feb 09
Civilian Labor Force	578.2	576.7	563.2	153,512	153,170	154,401
Resident Employment	505.0	503.4	507.5	138,641	138,333	141,687
Unemployment	73.2	73.3	55.6	14,871	14,837	12,714
Unemployment Rate	12.7%	12.7%	9.9%	9.7%	9.7%	8.2%

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Rhode Island Jobs Increase by 400 in February

Rhode Island nonfarm payroll employment totaled 453,600 in February, a gain of 400 jobs from the revised January employment level of 453,200. This marks two consecutive months of job gains in the Ocean State.

In February, the Accommodation & Food Services sector added 800 jobs as employment gains were reported in both full-service and limited-service restaurants. Layoffs in the Retail Trade sector were weaker than normal in February following light holiday hiring, resulting in a seasonal gain of 500 jobs.

Small positive gains were also reported in the Arts, Entertainment & Recreation (+300), Transportation & Utilities (+200), Health Care & Social Assistance (+100) and Other Services (+100) sectors.

Two sectors, Educational Services and Professional & Business Services, reported large employment losses over the month, losing 700 and 600 jobs, respectively. The loss in Educational Services can be attributed to less hiring of student workers at colleges and universities. Several fields within Professional & Business Services reported over-the-month job losses, including landscaping services, temporary help services, janitorial services and waste collection services.

In addition, employment was down in the Wholesale Trade, Information and Natural Resources & Mining sectors, with each industry reporting a loss of 100 jobs in February. Employment in Construction, Manufacturing, Financial Activities and Government remained unchanged.

February 2010 employment was down 13,000 (-2.8%) from February 2009, with job declines reported in several economic sectors, including Manufacturing (-3,200), Professional & Business Services (-2,400), Retail Trade (-2,100), Construction (-1,800), Financial Activities (-1,300), Government (-1,200) and Wholesale Trade (-1,100). Smaller over-the-year losses were noted in Transportation & Utilities (-400), Information (-400), Arts, Entertainment & Recreation (-300) and Educational Services (-200).

Establishment Employment in Rhode Island Seasonally Adjusted

	Net Change From				
	Feb-10	Jan-10	Feb-09	Jan-10	Feb-09
Total Nonfarm	453.6	453.2	466.6	0.4	-13.0
Natural Resources & Mining	0.1	0.2	0.1	-0.1	0.0
Construction	16.6	16.6	18.4	0.0	-1.8
Manufacturing	40.0	40.0	43.2	0.0	-3.2
Wholesale Trade	15.3	15.4	16.4	-0.1	-1.1
Retail Trade	45.7	45.2	47.8	0.5	-2.1
Transportation & Utilities	10.0	9.8	10.4	0.2	-0.4
Information	9.9	10.0	10.3	-0.1	-0.4
Financial Activities	30.8	30.8	32.1	0.0	-1.3
Professional & Business Services	51.0	51.6	53.4	-0.6	-2.4
Educational Services	23.6	24.3	23.8	-0.7	-0.2
Health Care & Social Assistance	77.6	77.5	76.8	0.1	0.8
Arts, Entertainment & Recreation	7.4	7.1	7.7	0.3	-0.3
Accommodation & Food Services	41.8	41.0	41.2	0.8	0.6
Other Services	22.4	22.3	22.4	0.1	0.0
Government	61.4	61.4	62.6	0.0	-1.2

Manufacturing Employment in Rhode Island Not Seasonally Adjusted

	Employment				
	(in thousands)			Net Change From:	
	Feb 10	Jan 10	Feb 09	Jan 10	Feb 09
Manufacturing	39.9	39.9	43.0	0	-3,100
Durable Goods	25.1	25.2	28.0	-100	-2,900
Fabricated Metal Product Mfg.	5.4	5.4	6.1	0	-700
Computer & Electronic Product Mfg.	3.8	3.8	4.0	0	-200
Miscellaneous Manufacturing	6.4	6.5	7.2	-100	-800
Jewelry & Silverware	4.2	4.2	4.8	0	-600
Non-Durable Goods	14.8	14.7	15.0	100	-200
Chemical Manufacturing	3.0	3.0	3.1	0	-100

Health Care & Social Assistance (+800) and Accommodation & Food Services (+600) added jobs over the year. Employment in Other Services and Natural Resources & Mining remained even.

MANUFACTURING: In February 2010, production workers in the Manufacturing sector earned \$14.40 per hour. The average hourly production wage was up nine cents from January 2010 and up thirty-one cents from February 2009. Manufacturing employees worked an average of 37.2 hours per week in February, down eight-tenths of an hour over the month, but up two-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.



Rhode Island's Biotechnology Industry Cluster

The Biotechnology Industry Cluster includes businesses primarily engaged in manufacturing pharmaceuticals & medicines, medical equipment & supplies, electromedical & electrotherapeutic apparatus, analytical laboratory instruments and irradiation apparatus. Also included are establishments conducting biotechnology research and medical laboratories.

The 149 business establishments included in *Rhode Island's Biotechnology Industry Cluster* employed an average of 3,912 workers in 2008 and paid wages in excess of \$250 million. The 2008 average annual wage for this cluster was \$64,098, well above the private sector average of \$41,095.

Biotechnology jobs accounted for 0.96 percent of the state's 407,973 private sector jobs, up slightly from 0.93 percent in 2006. Nationally, this industry cluster accounted for 0.88 percent of the 2008 private sector employment while in the neighboring states of Massachusetts and Connecticut, jobs in this industry cluster accounted for 2.17 percent and 1.53 percent of private sector employment, respectively.

Biotechnology Employment 2008				
	Number of Firms	Average Employment	Total Wages	Average Wage
Total Private Sector Employment	35,160	407,973	\$16,765,849,627	\$41,095
Biotechnology Cluster	149	3,912	\$250,752,029	\$64,098
Pharmaceutical & Medicine Manufacturing	17	1,492	\$128,245,018	\$85,955
Medical Equipment & Supplies Manufacturing	64	1,500	\$78,356,075	\$52,237
Electromedical Manufacturing	8	191	\$6,547,854	\$34,282
Analytical Laboratory Instrument & Irradiation Apparatus Manufacturing	6	120	\$5,990,198	\$49,918
Research & Development in Biotechnology	26	91	\$7,382,433	\$81,126
Medical Laboratories	28	518	\$24,230,451	\$46,777

Characteristics of the Insured Unemployed

A total of 23,378 individuals were eligible to collect "regular" Unemployment Insurance benefits in February 2010, down 5,684 (-19.6%) from the 29,062 collecting these benefits in February 2009. In addition, 19,609 individuals collected Emergency Unemployment Compensation and 831 collected Extended Benefits. In all, 57 percent of Rhode Island's unemployed workers were eligible to collect unemployment benefits in February.

Of the 23,378 individuals collecting "regular" Unemployment Insurance benefits, 23.3 percent faced long-term unemployment (defined as collecting unemployment insurance for fifteen weeks or more), up from 22.7 percent in February 2009.

On an industry basis, 22.3 percent (5,207) of the State's insured unemployed workers came from the Construction sector. There were also 2,946 individuals with an attachment to the Administration & Waste Services sector, accounting for 12.6 percent of all insured unemployed workers. An additional 12.4 percent (2,900) of those collecting UI benefits in February had worked in the Manufacturing sector. Large numbers of insured unemployed were also reported in Accommodation & Food Services (2,037), Retail Trade (1,806) and Health Care & Social Assistance (1,441). For more information, go to www.dlt.ri.gov/lmi/uiadmin/characteristics.htm.

Characteristics of the Insured Unemployed, February 2010

	Total	Long-Term	Percent Long-Term
Total	23,378	5,453	23.3%
Male	15,229	3,019	19.8%
Female	8,149	2,434	29.9%
Selected Industries	23,378	5,453	23.3%
Construction	5,207	775	14.9%
Manufacturing	2,900	739	25.5%
Wholesale Trade	809	250	30.9%
Retail Trade	1,806	476	26.4%
Transportation & Warehousing	584	123	21.1%
Information	314	137	43.6%
Finance & Insurance	793	339	42.7%
Real Estate	452	140	31.0%
Professional & Tech. Services	916	285	31.1%
Administrative & Waste Services	2,946	380	12.9%
Educational Services	341	147	43.1%
Health Care & Social Assistance	1,441	584	40.5%
Arts, Entertainment & Recreation	1,025	140	13.7%
Accommodation & Food Services	2,037	447	21.9%
Other Services	724	225	31.1%
Public Administration	169	56	33.1%

Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers

				% Change
	Feb 10	Jan 10	Feb 09	Prev. Year
All Items	216.7	216.7	212.2	2.1%

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

Employer Demand for Workers in Rhode Island

While Rhode Island employers' demand for workers dipped slightly in February 2010, online advertised job vacancies were up significantly from those posted a year ago. The Conference Board Help Wanted OnLine (HWOL) data series reported that there were 19,000 advertisements for Rhode Island based jobs this month a decrease of 100 (0.5%) from the January 2010 postings, but an increase of 3,000 (18.8%) from the 16,000 advertised vacancies posted online in February 2009.

Help Wanted OnLine Advertised Job Vacancies

	Feb 10	Jan 10	Feb 09
RI Vacancies	19,000	19,100	16,000
<i>Labor Demand Rate *</i>			
Rhode Island	3.34	3.35	2.82
U S	2.58	2.63	2.21
Connecticut	3.23	3.46	2.84
Massachusetts	3.69	3.79	3.17
Maine	2.75	2.75	2.41
New Hampshire	2.86	2.95	2.63
Vermont	3.17	3.22	3.15
<i>Supply/Demand Rate **</i>			
Rhode Island	3.76	3.69	3.72
U S	3.85	3.84	3.48

* Number of advertised vacancies per 100 persons in labor force

** Number of unemployed persons in state per advertised vacancy

City & Town

Unadjusted Unemployment Rates for February

	2010	2009		2010	2009
Barrington	9.6	7.4	Newport	14.4	11.4
Bristol	13.4	10.9	North Kingstown	10.7	8.8
Burrillville	14.9	11.0	North Providence	12.1	9.8
Central Falls	15.3	15.0	North Smithfield	12.3	9.4
Charlestown	14.9	12.1	Pawtucket	14.1	12.7
Coventry	13.0	10.1	Portsmouth	12.1	9.5
Cranston	12.8	10.6	Providence	14.5	12.4
Cumberland	12.4	9.7	Richmond	9.9	7.8
East Greenwich	12.8	9.6	Scituate	12.9	10.3
East Providence	14.6	11.4	Smithfield	12.9	9.8
Exeter	12.4	9.6	South Kingstown	11.9	9.6
Foster	14.2	11.5	Tiverton	15.1	11.5
Glocester	11.8	8.7	Warren	13.9	11.3
Hopkinton	14.8	11.5	Warwick	12.0	9.7
Jamestown	11.0	7.0	West Greenwich	12.1	9.5
Johnston	14.6	12.0	West Warwick	14.4	11.9
Lincoln	12.0	9.9	Westerly	11.2	9.8
Little Compton	15.8	10.6	Woonsocket	15.5	12.1
Middletown	13.4	10.2			
Narragansett	9.6	7.2	State of R.I.	13.2	10.8
New Shoreham	27.2	20.8	United States	10.4	8.9

There were an estimated 3.34 advertised vacancies for every 100 persons in Rhode Island's labor force. Nationally, there were an estimated 2.58 advertised vacancies for every 100 persons in labor force. Among the New England states, only Massachusetts (3.69) had a higher vacancy rate than Rhode Island.

There were an estimated 3.76 unemployed Rhode Island residents for every advertised job in February, a slight increase from 3.69 unemployed residents estimated per January advertisements. Nationally, there were 3.85 unemployed persons for every job opening advertised in February, up from 3.84 in January.

Unemployment Insurance Claims Activity

	Feb.	Jan.	Feb.	% Change		Year-to-Date		
	2010	2010	2009	Jan. 10	Feb. 09	2010	2009	% Change
Regular Claims								
Initial Claims	9,209	12,250	12,586	-24.8%	-26.8%	21,459	24,289	-11.7%
Number of Payments	87,314	81,558	103,041	7.1%	-15.3%	168,872	194,909	-13.4%
Amount of Payments (gross millions)	\$33.0	\$30.5	\$38.4	8.2%	-14.1%	\$63.5	\$72.5	-12.4%
Exhaustions (Final Payments)	2,287	2,257	2,120	1.3%	7.9%	4,544	4,203	8.1%
Emergency Unemployment Compensation						2010	Since Program Began	
Initial Claims	3,552	3,515	2,301	1.1%	54.4%	7,067	69,315	
Number of Payments	81,248	79,696	42,936	1.9%	89.2%	160,944	976,481	
Amount of Payments (gross millions)	\$29.7	\$29.2	\$15.1	1.7%	96.7%	\$58.9	\$352.0	
Extended Benefits						2010	Since Program Began	
Initial Claims	167	94	87	77.7%	92.0%	261	11,271	
Number of Payments	3,695	6,033	219	-38.8%	-	9,728	140,184	
Amount of Payments (gross millions)	\$1.3	\$2.1	-	-38.1%	-	\$3.4	\$49.2	
Exhaustions (Final Payments)	547	660	26	-17.1%	-	1,207	6,699	

Rhode Island Department of Labor & Training
Quarterly Census of Employment & Wages - Private Sector
RI City and Town - Third Quarter 2009

<u>Municipality</u>	<u>Establishments</u>	<u>Average Employment</u>	<u>Total Wages</u>	<u>Average Weekly Wage</u>
Rhode Island	34,696	390,538	3,850,108,486	\$758
Barrington	456	2,288	16,668,423	\$560
Bristol	597	6,464	53,939,470	\$642
Burrillville	280	2,227	16,492,876	\$570
Central Falls	226	1,912	14,704,701	\$592
Charlestown	231	1,367	11,245,374	\$633
Coventry	726	6,230	48,599,915	\$600
Cranston	2,480	26,672	242,915,270	\$701
Cumberland	855	7,683	75,368,979	\$755
East Greenwich	716	6,045	58,554,933	\$745
East Providence	1,450	19,706	187,172,281	\$731
Exeter	172	1,223	11,264,545	\$709
Foster	95	357	2,599,659	\$560
Glocester	195	1,167	8,714,598	\$574
Hopkinton	196	1,052	9,069,348	\$663
Jamestown	199	1,017	8,727,546	\$660
Johnston	1,077	9,498	89,849,758	\$728
Lincoln	766	12,247	134,564,300	\$845
Little Compton	134	686	4,661,933	\$523
Middletown	746	10,383	98,973,709	\$733
Narragansett	467	4,037	25,306,487	\$482
Newport	1,235	13,623	107,976,424	\$610
New Shoreham	203	1,375	10,391,153	\$581
North Kingstown	1,000	12,899	127,980,049	\$763
North Providence	707	6,368	51,353,618	\$620
North Smithfield	368	3,245	26,243,640	\$622
Pawtucket	1,541	21,985	207,229,634	\$725
Portsmouth	518	5,351	65,412,426	\$940
Providence	5,526	90,519	1,010,808,095	\$859
Richmond	144	1,240	8,318,695	\$516
Scituate	243	870	6,146,773	\$543
Smithfield	812	12,343	150,517,839	\$938
South Kingstown	1,003	9,809	81,720,999	\$641
Tiverton	384	2,058	16,212,374	\$606
Warren	367	3,351	26,632,534	\$611
Warwick	3,241	43,484	394,146,459	\$697
Westerly	860	9,110	71,293,065	\$602
West Greenwich	196	2,809	39,326,048	\$1,077
West Warwick	606	6,879	65,671,532	\$734
Woonsocket	827	13,514	152,671,713	\$869
Statewide *	2,851	7,446	\$110,661,311	\$1,143

* Statewide - employment in multiple towns, at unknown locations, or outside RI.

Data compiled March 2010 at the RI DLT Labor Market Information office.

The data is subject to revisions & variations in sequences of rounding & averaging.

Source: Quarterly Census of Employment and Wages, developed through a cooperative program between the State of Rhode Island and the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics

A Product of: **Rhode Island Department of Labor and Training, Labor Market Information**

Employment changes may be influenced by non-economic code changes resulting from NAICS revisions and/or changes in employers' reporting method.

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