



Rhode Island's Unemployment Rate Drops to 11.2 percent in February

- ◆ RI's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate for February was 11.2 percent, down one-tenth of a percentage point from January.
- ◆ RI's February unemployment rate is down six-tenths percentage points from last year's figure of 11.8 percent.
- ◆ The national rate was 8.9 percent, down one-tenth of a percentage point from January and down eight-tenths from the previous year.
- ◆ In February 2011, Rhode Island had the 4th highest unemployment rate in the nation, trailing Nevada (13.6%), California (12.2%) and Florida (11.5%).
- ◆ The February 2011 unemployment rate increased in seven states. Twenty-seven states, including New Hampshire (-0.2), Massachusetts (-0.1), Vermont (-0.1) and Rhode Island (-0.1) saw their rates decrease. Connecticut and Maine were unchanged. In all, ten states have unemployment rates in the double digits, with two states having a rate of 12.0 percent or higher.
- ◆ Rates in other New England States for February 2011—Connecticut 9.0 percent, Massachusetts 8.2 percent, Maine 7.5 percent, Vermont 5.6 percent and New Hampshire 5.4 percent.
- ◆ The number of employed RI residents totaled 509,800 in February 2011, down 1,300 from the previous month. Between February 2010 and February 2011, the number of employed RI residents grew by 3,800.
- ◆ In February, the number of unemployed Rhode Island residents decreased by 1,000 to 64,100. From February 2010 to February 2011, the number of unemployed residents decreased by 3,700.

Alternative Measures of Labor Underutilization for Rhode Island

Unemployment rates are derived each month from the Current Population Survey (CPS). There are six alternative measures available through the CPS which provide narrower as well as broader definitions of labor underutilization. These alternative measures, which are referred to as U-1 through U-6, are available on a quarterly basis. State unemployment averages derived solely from the CPS data are not strictly comparable to the official state average unemployment rates, which incorporates other data. However, these alternative measures can provide insight into the volume of states' discouraged populations and those working part-time for economic reasons.

- ◆ The U-3 rate is the rate closest to the standard definition of unemployment - individuals in the labor force without a job who are available for and actively seeking work. Rhode Island's average unemployment rate for the four quarters ending December 2010 obtained directly from the CPS survey* was 11.3 percent.
- ◆ Expanding this definition to include "discouraged workers" (U-4), individuals who want a job, but have given up looking for work because they believe there is no work available for them, would yield an unemployment rate of 11.8 percent, or half a percentage point higher (+0.5%) than the standard definition. Prior to the recession, inclusion of this group would have yielded an unemployment rate two-tenths higher than the standard definition.
- ◆ The inclusion of discouraged workers and those that are "marginally attached" (U-5), individuals who want a job, are currently available for work, but have not looked in the past twelve months for a variety of reasons other than discouragement, yields an unemployment rate of 12.3 percent.
- ◆ The broadest measure of unemployment (U-6) includes discouraged workers, marginally attached workers and those working part-time for economic reasons yields an

unemployment rate of 19.2 percent, nearly 8 percentage points higher than the rate calculated using the official definition, with most of the increase (+6.7 %) associated with the involuntary part-time worker. Prior to the recession involuntary part-time workers comprised 2.7 percent of the labor force.

*Rhode Island's official state average unemployment rate for this period was 11.6 percent.

Seasonally Adjusted Labor Force Statistics

(in thousands)

	Rhode Island			United States		
	Feb 11	Jan 11	Feb 10	Feb 11	Jan 11	Feb 10
Civilian Labor Force	573.8	576.2	573.8	153,246	153,186	153,558
Resident Employment	509.8	511.1	506.0	139,573	139,323	138,698
Unemployment	64.1	65.1	67.8	13,673	13,863	14,860
Unemployment Rate	11.2%	11.3%	11.8%	8.9%	9.0%	9.7%

Rhode Island Jobs Increase by 2,600 in February

Estimated nonfarm payroll in Rhode Island totaled 459,400 in February, reflecting a gain of 2,600 jobs from the revised January employment figure of 456,800. This marks the first over-the-month job gain in Rhode Island since August 2010, when 600 jobs were added to the local economy.

In February, the Professional & Business Services sector added 1,000 jobs, mainly due to job growth in the accounting, tax preparation & bookkeeping services and business support services industry groups. Employment in the Accommodation & Food Services (+700) sector also surged as full-service and limited-service restaurants increased their payrolls from January.

Smaller, but positive gains were also reported in the Arts, Entertainment & Recreation (+300), Construction (+300), Health Care & Social Assistance (+300), Manufacturing (+200), Wholesale Trade (+100), Information (+100) and Educational Services (+100) sectors.

Financial Activities and Government were the only two sectors to report job losses in February, shedding 300 and 200 jobs, respectively. The losses in Financial Activities can be attributed to declines in the finance & Insurance sector, while Government losses were reported in local and federal government.

Employment in four sectors, Retail Trade, Transportation & Utilities, Other Services and Natural Resources & Mining, remain unchanged.

Over the year, employment was up 2,200 (+0.5%) from February 2010, with job gains reported in seven economic sectors. Professional & Business Services (+1,800), Accommodation & Food Services (+1,600), Retail Trade (+1,400), Wholesale Trade (+800), Information (+700), Manufacturing (+300) and Transportation & Utilities (+100) all reported annual employment gains. Natural Resources & Mining employment was unchanged over the year.

Establishment Employment in Rhode Island Seasonally Adjusted					
	Net Change From				
	Feb-11	Jan-11	Feb-10	Jan-11	Feb-10
Total Nonfarm	459.4	456.8	457.2	2.6	2.2
Natural Resources & Mining	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.0	0.0
Construction	15.6	15.3	16.3	0.3	-0.7
Manufacturing	40.6	40.4	40.3	0.2	0.3
Wholesale Trade	16.6	16.5	15.8	0.1	0.8
Retail Trade	48.5	48.5	47.1	0.0	1.4
Transportation & Utilities	10.3	10.3	10.2	0.0	0.1
Information	10.5	10.4	9.8	0.1	0.7
Financial Activities	29.8	30.1	30.5	-0.3	-0.7
Professional & Business Services	54.3	53.3	52.5	1.0	1.8
Educational Services	23.2	23.1	24.0	0.1	-0.8
Health Care & Social Assistance	77.7	77.4	77.8	0.3	-0.1
Arts, Entertainment & Recreation	7.0	6.7	7.5	0.3	-0.5
Accommodation & Food Services	43.0	42.3	41.4	0.7	1.6
Other Services	21.4	21.4	22.1	0.0	-0.7
Government	60.8	61.0	61.8	-0.2	-1.0

Manufacturing Employment in Rhode Island Not Seasonally Adjusted					
	Employment				
	(in thousands)			Net Change From:	
	Feb 11	Jan 11	Feb 10	Jan 11	Feb 10
Manufacturing	40.5	40.3	40.1	200	400
Durable Goods	25.8	25.7	25.7	100	100
Fabricated Metal Product Mfg.	5.7	5.7	5.6	0	100
Computer & Electronic Product Mfg.	3.7	3.8	3.7	-100	0
Miscellaneous Manufacturing	6.4	6.3	6.7	100	-300
Jewelry & Silverware	4.2	4.1	4.4	100	-200
Non-Durable Goods	14.7	14.6	14.4	100	300
Chemical Manufacturing	2.9	2.9	2.9	0	0

Government (-1,000), Educational Services (-800), Construction (-700), Financial Activities (-700), Other Services (-700), Arts, Entertainment & Recreation (-500) and Health Care & Social Assistance (-100), all experienced job declines over the year.

MANUFACTURING: In February 2011, production workers in the Manufacturing sector earned \$14.96 per hour. The average hourly production wage was up four cents from January 2011 and up fifty-five cents from February 2010. Manufacturing employees worked an average of 38.7 hours per week in February, up six-tenths over the month, and up an hour and a five-tenths 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 2010 Census Population

The US Census Bureau has released city and town population counts for Rhode Island. The state added 4,248 (+0.4%) residents between the 2000 Census and the 2010 Census. Only Michigan, which lost 54,804 (-0.6%) residents, had less population growth.

Within Rhode Island, 23 cities and towns added population, while in 16 cities and towns population decreased. West Greenwich had the greatest population growth rate over the decade, reflecting a population increase of 20.6 percent. North Smithfield grew by 12.7 percent (+1,349) and South

Kingstown's population grew by 9.7 percent (+2,718). On a numeric basis, Providence (+4,424) added the most residents of all cities and towns, adding more residents than the state (+4,248) as a whole. South Kingstown (+2,718), Cumberland (+1,666), North Smithfield (+1,349), Coventry (+1,346), Cranston (+1,118) and West Greenwich (+1,050) are the only other cities and towns in the state to add over 1,000 residents.

The greatest percentage losses of population occurred in Middletown (-6.8%), Newport (-6.8%) and Warren (-6.6%). Numerically, Warwick (-3,136) lost the most residents. Woonsocket (-2,038), Pawtucket (-1,810), Newport (-1,803), East Providence (-1,651) and Middletown (-1,184) also lost over 1,000 residents.

Washington County (+2.8%, +3,433) and Providence County (+0.8%, +5,065) gained residents, while Newport County (-3.0%, -2,545), Bristol County (-1.5%, -773) and Kent County (-0.6%, -932) all lost population. See the enclosed label page for more information.

Largest Percent Changes in Population

	2010 Census	2000 Census	Change	
			Numeric	Percent
Gains				
West Greenwich	6,135	5,085	1,050	20.6%
North Smithfield	11,967	10,618	1,349	12.7%
South Kingstown	30,639	27,921	2,718	9.7%
Foster	4,606	4,274	332	7.8%
Richmond	7,708	7,222	486	6.7%
Losses				
Middletown	16,150	17,334	-1,184	-6.8%
Newport	24,672	26,475	-1,803	-6.8%
Warren	10,611	11,360	-749	-6.6%
Woonsocket	41,186	43,224	-2,038	-4.7%
Jamestown	5,405	5,622	-217	-3.9%

Source: US Census Bureau

Characteristics of the Insured Unemployed

A total of 22,444 individuals were eligible to collect "regular" Unemployment Insurance benefits in February 2011, down 934 (-4.0%) from the 23,378 collecting these benefits in February 2010. In addition, 14,282 individuals collected Emergency Unemployment Compensation and 3,176 collected Extended Benefits. In all, 59.4 percent of Rhode Island's unemployed workers were eligible to collect unemployment benefits in February.

Of the 22,444 individuals collecting "regular" Unemployment Insurance benefits, 19.7 percent faced long-term unemployment (defined as collecting unemployment insurance for fifteen weeks or more), down from 23.3 percent in February 2010.

On an industry basis, 21.0 percent (4,718) of the State's insured unemployed workers came from the Construction sector. There were also 3,207 individuals with an attachment to the Administrative & Waste Services sector, accounting for 14.3 percent of all insured unemployed workers. An additional 10.8 percent (2,428) of those collecting UI benefits in February had worked in the Accommodation & Food Services sector. Large numbers of insured unemployed were also reported in Manufacturing (1,935), Retail Trade (1,831) and Health Care & Social Assistance (1,599). For more information, go to www.dlt.ri.gov/lmi/uiadmin/characteristics.htm.

Characteristics of the Insured Unemployed, February 2011

	Total	Long-Term	Percent Long-Term
Total	22,444	4,417	19.7%
Male	14,387	2,234	15.5%
Female	8,057	2,183	27.1%
Selected Industries	22,444	4,417	19.7%
Construction	4,718	351	7.4%
Manufacturing	1,935	474	24.5%
Wholesale Trade	738	230	31.2%
Retail Trade	1,831	410	22.4%
Transportation & Warehousing	462	95	20.6%
Information	184	84	45.7%
Finance & Insurance	715	343	48.0%
Real Estate	429	105	24.5%
Professional & Tech. Services	814	218	26.8%
Administrative & Waste Services	3,207	337	10.5%
Educational Services	350	133	38.0%
Health Care & Social Assistance	1,599	581	36.3%
Arts, Entertainment & Recreation	992	89	9.0%
Accommodation & Food Services	2,428	461	19.0%
Other Services	726	199	27.4%
Public Administration	231	65	28.1%

Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers

				% Change
	Feb 11	Jan 11	Feb 10	Prev. Year
All Items	221.3	220.2	216.7	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 16,500 advertisements for Rhode Island based jobs this month, an increase of 200 (+1.2%) from the January 2011 postings, and a decrease of 900 (-5.2%) from the advertised vacancies posted online in February 2010. There were an estimated 2.88 advertised vacancies for every 100 persons in Rhode Island's labor force.

Help Wanted OnLine Advertised Job Vacancies

	Feb 11	Jan 11	Feb 10
RI Vacancies	16,500	16,300	17,400
<i>Labor Demand Rate *</i>			
Rhode Island	2.88	2.85	3.02
US	2.77	2.79	2.40
Connecticut	3.83	3.56	2.90
Massachusetts	3.85	3.78	3.31
Maine	2.74	2.83	2.62
New Hampshire	2.88	2.92	2.57
Vermont	3.16	3.26	2.92
<i>Supply/Demand Rate **</i>			
Rhode Island	3.88	3.99	3.89
US	3.22	3.24	4.04

* 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 February

	2011	2010		2011	2010
Barrington	7.8	9.0	Newport	13.9	14.0
Bristol	11.3	12.6	North Kingstown	10.2	10.2
Burrillville	11.8	14.1	North Providence	11.2	11.6
Central Falls	13.8	14.7	North Smithfield	10.5	11.5
Charlestown	14.7	14.1	Pawtucket	12.3	13.4
Coventry	11.5	12.4	Portsmouth	11.7	11.4
Cranston	11.1	12.2	Providence	13.2	13.9
Cumberland	10.6	11.7	Richmond	8.3	9.1
East Greenwich	11.1	12.2	Scituate	11.6	12.7
East Providence	12.4	13.9	Smithfield	10.5	12.3
Exeter	13.5	11.7	South Kingstown	11.0	11.3
Foster	14.2	13.3	Tiverton	13.8	14.3
Glocester	10.4	11.2	Warren	12.2	13.6
Hopkinton	13.5	13.7	Warwick	10.5	11.4
Jamestown	10.4	10.9	West Greenwich	10.9	11.6
Johnston	13.4	14.2	West Warwick	13.1	13.8
Lincoln	10.2	11.5	Westerly	11.4	10.6
Little Compton	13.4	14.8	Woonsocket	13.0	14.7
Middletown	12.9	12.9			
Narragansett	8.9	9.1	State of R.I.	11.8	12.6
New Shoreham	30.2	27.3	United States	9.5	10.4

Nationally, there were an estimated 2.77 advertised vacancies for every 100 persons in labor force. Among the New England states, Massachusetts (3.85), Connecticut (3.83) and Vermont (3.16) all had a higher vacancy rate than Rhode Island.

There were an estimated 3.88 unemployed Rhode Island residents for every advertised job in February, down from 3.99 unemployed residents estimated per January advertisements. Nationally, there were 3.22 unemployed persons for every job opening advertised in February, down from 3.24 in January.

Unemployment Insurance Claims Activity

	Feb.	Jan.	Feb.	% Change		Year to Date		
	2011	2011	2010	Jan 11	Feb 10	2011	2010	% Change
Regular Claims								
Initial Claims	9,185	10,250	9,209	-10.4%	-0.3%	19,435	21,459	-9.4%
Number of Payments	81,556	87,533	87,314	-6.8%	-6.6%	169,089	168,872	0.1%
Amount of Payments (gross millions)	\$30.1	\$32.3	\$33.0	-6.8%	-8.8%	\$62.4	\$63.5	-1.7%
Exhaustions (Final Payments)	2,093	2,587	2,287	-19.1%	-8.5%	4,680	4,544	3.0%
Emergency Unemployment Compensation						2011	Since Program Began	
Initial Claims	2,963	3,094	3,552	-4.2%	-16.6%	6,057	104,306	
Number of Payments	55,426	64,610	81,248	-14.2%	-31.8%	120,036	1,731,795	
Amount of Payments (gross millions)	\$20.5	\$23.9	\$29.8	-14.2%	-31.2%	\$44.4	\$631.1	
Extended Benefits						2011	Since Program Began	
Initial Claims	340	507	167	-32.9%	103.6%	847	29,601	
Number of Payments	12,519	17,362	3,695	-27.9%	238.8%	29,881	365,597	
Amount of Payments (gross millions)	\$4.6	\$6.4	\$1.3	-28.1%	253.8%	\$11.0	\$132.7	
Exhaustions (Final Payments)	700	527	547	32.8%	28.0%	1,227	16,925	

Rhode Island City & Town Resident Population from Census 2010

City/Town	2010 Census Population	2000 Census Population	Numeric Change	Percent Change
State of Rhode Island	1,052,567	1,048,319	4,248	0.4%
Bristol County	49,875	50,648	-773	-1.5%
Barrington	16,310	16,819	-509	-3.0%
Bristol	22,954	22,469	485	2.2%
Warren	10,611	11,360	-749	-6.6%
Kent County	166,158	167,090	-932	-0.6%
Coventry	35,014	33,668	1,346	4.0%
East Greenwich	13,146	12,948	198	1.5%
Warwick	82,672	85,808	-3,136	-3.7%
West Greenwich	6,135	5,085	1,050	20.6%
West Warwick	29,191	29,581	-390	-1.3%
Newport County	82,888	85,433	-2,545	-3.0%
Jamestown	5,405	5,622	-217	-3.9%
Little Compton	3,492	3,593	-101	-2.8%
Middletown	16,150	17,334	-1,184	-6.8%
Newport	24,672	26,475	-1,803	-6.8%
Portsmouth	17,389	17,149	240	1.4%
Tiverton	15,780	15,260	520	3.4%
Providence County	626,667	621,602	5,065	0.8%
Burrillville	15,955	15,796	159	1.0%
Central Falls	19,376	18,928	448	2.4%
Cranston	80,387	79,269	1,118	1.4%
Cumberland	33,506	31,840	1,666	5.2%
East Providence	47,037	48,688	-1,651	-3.4%
Foster	4,606	4,274	332	7.8%
Glocester	9,746	9,948	-202	-2.0%
Johnston	28,769	28,195	574	2.0%
Lincoln	21,105	20,898	207	1.0%
North Providence	32,078	32,411	-333	-1.0%
North Smithfield	11,967	10,618	1,349	12.7%
Pawtucket	71,148	72,958	-1,810	-2.5%
Providence	178,042	173,618	4,424	2.5%
Scituate	10,329	10,324	5	0.0%
Smithfield	21,430	20,613	817	4.0%
Woonsocket	41,186	43,224	-2,038	-4.7%
Washington County	126,979	123,546	3,433	2.8%
Charlestown	7,827	7,859	-32	-0.4%
Exeter	6,425	6,045	380	6.3%
Hopkinton	8,188	7,836	352	4.5%
Narragansett	15,868	16,361	-493	-3.0%
New Shoreham	1,051	1,010	41	4.1%
North Kingstown	26,486	26,326	160	0.6%
Richmond	7,708	7,222	486	6.7%
South Kingstown	30,639	27,921	2,718	9.7%
Westerly	22,787	22,966	-179	-0.8%

Source: US Census Bureau, 2010 Census & 2000 Census