



## Rhode Island's Unemployment Rate Rises to 11.0 percent in February

- ◆ RI's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate for February was 11.0 percent, up one-tenth of a percentage point from January.
- ◆ RI's February unemployment rate is down three-tenths of a percentage point from last year's figure of 11.3 percent.
- ◆ The national rate was 8.3 percent, unchanged from January and down seven-tenths of a percentage point from the previous year.
- ◆ In February 2012, Rhode Island had the 2nd highest unemployment rate in the nation, trailing Nevada (12.3%).
- ◆ The February 2012 unemployment rate increased in eight states, including Rhode Island (+0.1), New Hampshire (+0.1) and Maine (+0.1). Twenty-nine states, including Vermont (-0.2) and Connecticut (-0.2), saw their rates decrease, while thirteen states' rates, including Massachusetts, were unchanged. In all, three states have unemployment rates in the double digits.
- ◆ Rates in other New England States for February 2012—Connecticut 7.8 percent, Maine 7.1 percent, Massachusetts 6.9 percent, New Hampshire 5.2 percent and Vermont 4.9 percent.
- ◆ The number of employed RI residents totaled 497,300 in February 2012, down 1,500 from the previous month. Between February 2011 and February 2012, the number of employed RI residents decreased by 4,000.
- ◆ Over the month, the number of unemployed Rhode Island residents increased by 400 to 61,700 in February 2012. From February 2011 to February 2012, the number of unemployed residents decreased by 2,000.

## 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 2011 obtained directly from the CPS survey\* was 11.1 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 11.7 percent, or six-tenths of a percentage point higher (+0.6%) than the standard definition. Prior to the recession, inclusion of this group would have yielded an unemployment rate two-tenths higher (+0.2%) 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 12.7 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 18.6 percent, 7.5 percentage points higher than the rate calculated using the official definition, with most of the increase (+5.9 %) 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 11.3 percent.

### Seasonally Adjusted Labor Force Statistics

(in thousands)

	Rhode Island			United States		
	Feb 12	Jan 12	Feb 11	Feb 12	Jan 12	Feb 11
Civilian Labor Force	559.0	560.1	564.9	154,871	154,395	153,302
Resident Employment	497.3	498.8	501.3	142,065	141,637	139,551
Unemployment	61.7	61.3	63.7	12,806	12,758	13,751
Unemployment Rate	11.0%	10.9%	11.3%	8.3%	8.3%	9.0%

## Rhode Island Jobs Increase by 500 in February

Estimated nonfarm payroll in Rhode Island totaled 458,400 in February, reflecting a gain of 500 jobs from the revised January employment estimate of 457,900. The job gain reported in February ends six consecutive months of job losses.

The Accommodation & Food Services sector added 1,000 jobs in February with nearly all of the increases reported in the special food services and restaurant industry groups. Employment in the Professional & Business Services sector increased by 700 as job gains were noted in temporary help and placement agencies (employment services) as well as professional services. Payrolls in private Educational Services rose by 400 as private colleges and universities returned to employment levels prior to the winter break.

Also in February, smaller gains were reported in Retail Trade (+100) and Information (+100), while employment in the Manufacturing, Wholesale Trade, Arts, Entertainment & Recreation and Government remained level.

Five sectors lost jobs in February, including Construction (-700), Other Services (-600), Health Care & Social Services (-200), Financial Activities (-200) and Transportation & Utilities (-100). The employment loss in Construction can be attributed to cutbacks among specialty trade contractors, while losses in the Other Services sector were due mainly to declines reported in professional organizations and beauty salons.

Over the year, total nonfarm employment decreased by 1,000. Job losses were reported in eight economic sectors, including Other Services (-1,400), Health Care & Social Assistance (-1,100), Construction (-800), Retail Trade (-700), Government (-600), Financial Activities (-500), Arts, Entertainment & Recreation (-500) and Accommodation & Food Services (-500).

Educational Services employment posted the largest over-the-year increase in February, with a gain of 2,000 jobs, followed by Professional & Business Services (+1,100), Information (+800), Wholesale Trade (+600), Manufacturing (+500) and Transportation & Utilities (+100).

	Net Change From				
	Feb-12	Jan-12	Feb-11	Jan-12	Feb-11
<b>Total Nonfarm</b>	<b>458.4</b>	<b>457.9</b>	<b>459.4</b>	<b>0.5</b>	<b>-1.0</b>
Natural Resources & Mining	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.0	0.0
Construction	14.9	15.6	15.7	-0.7	-0.8
Manufacturing	41.0	41.0	40.5	0.0	0.5
Wholesale Trade	16.6	16.6	16.0	0.0	0.6
Retail Trade	45.7	45.6	46.4	0.1	-0.7
Transportation & Utilities	10.8	10.9	10.7	-0.1	0.1
Information	10.6	10.5	9.8	0.1	0.8
Financial Activities	30.2	30.4	30.7	-0.2	-0.5
Professional & Business Services	55.2	54.5	54.1	0.7	1.1
Educational Services	26.7	26.3	24.7	0.4	2.0
Health Care & Social Assistance	77.1	77.3	78.2	-0.2	-1.1
Arts, Entertainment & Recreation	7.1	7.1	7.6	0.0	-0.5
Accommodation & Food Services	41.5	40.5	42.0	1.0	-0.5
Other Services	20.8	21.4	22.2	-0.6	-1.4
Government	60.1	60.1	60.7	0.0	-0.6

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	Employment				
	(in thousands)			Net Change From:	
	Feb 12	Jan 12	Feb 11	Jan 12	Feb 11
<b>Manufacturing</b>	<b>40.9</b>	<b>40.6</b>	<b>40.3</b>	<b>300</b>	<b>600</b>
<b>Durable Goods</b>	<b>26.6</b>	<b>26.3</b>	<b>25.9</b>	<b>300</b>	<b>700</b>
Fabricated Metal Product Mfg.	5.6	5.6	5.6	0	0
Computer & Electronic Product Mfg.	3.5	3.5	3.6	0	-100
Miscellaneous Manufacturing	6.5	6.5	6.6	0	-100
Jewelry & Silverware	4.1	4.0	4.3	100	-200
<b>Non-Durable Goods</b>	<b>14.3</b>	<b>14.3</b>	<b>14.4</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>-100</b>
Chemical Manufacturing	2.8	2.8	2.8	0	0

**MANUFACTURING:** In February 2012, production workers in the Manufacturing sector earned \$18.11 per hour. The average hourly production wage was up 38 cents from January 2012 and up \$3.15 from February 2011. Manufacturing employees worked an average of 40.1 hours per week in February, down four-tenths of an hour over the month but up an hour and four-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](http://www.dlt.ri.gov/lmi/ces.htm). Current month's figures are preliminary and subject to change.*



## 2011 Rhode Island Employee Benefits Report

Employer-provided benefits such as paid time off and medical insurance are an important part of how workers are compensated. However, the frequency and types of benefits offered vary by industry and firm size. Benefits are more common in some industrial sectors than in others, full-time workers are more likely to have access to benefits than part-time workers and workers in larger establishments are more likely to be offered benefits than those in smaller establishments.

Seventy-eight percent of Rhode Island firms provide paid time off (combination vacation, personal and sick leave) and 73 percent offer health insurance to their full-time workers.

Dental insurance (57%) and retirement plans (51%) are offered by over half of Rhode Island employers. Other benefits offered to full-time workers include life insurance (28%) vision insurance (23%) and tuition reimbursement (23%).

While some employers offer the same benefits to their part-time workers, the reality is those working less than full-time are not as likely to enjoy fringe benefits. Less than a quarter of Rhode Island employers provide paid time off (24%) or retirement plans (22%), 14 percent offer dental insurance and just 13 percent offer health insurance to their part-time workers. Less than 10 percent offer benefits such as vision care (4%), life insurance (8%) or tuition reimbursement (7%) to these workers.

Larger establishments are more likely to offer health insurance and retirement plans than smaller establishments. Ninety-eight percent of the employers with 100 or more workers offer health insurance and 85 percent offer retirement plans to their full-time workers, while 65 percent of the employers with less than 20 workers offer health insurance and just 42 percent offer retirement plans. Variations in benefits provided were also evident at the sector level, with employers in the Utilities sector the most likely to offer benefits to their full-time workers, while those in the Construction sector were generally the least likely to offer benefits.

For a copy of the complete 2011 Rhode Island Employee Benefits Report visit our website at <http://www.dlt.ri.gov/lmi/ebs.htm>.

### Characteristics of the Insured Unemployed

A total of 20,073 individuals were eligible to collect “regular” Unemployment Insurance benefits in February 2012, down 2,371 (-10.6%) from the 22,444 collecting these benefits in February 2011. In addition, 11,611 individuals collected Emergency Unemployment Compensation and 1,842 collected Extended Benefits. In all, 49.9 percent of Rhode Island’s unemployed workers were eligible to collect unemployment benefits in February.

Of the 20,073 individuals collecting “regular” Unemployment Insurance benefits, 21.1 percent faced long-term unemployment (defined as collecting unemployment insurance for fifteen weeks or more), up from 19.7 percent in February 2011.

On an industry basis, 18.8 percent (3,764) of the State’s insured unemployed workers came from the Construction sector. There were also 3,153 individuals with an attachment to the Administrative & Waste Services sector, accounting for 15.7 percent of all insured unemployed workers. An additional 9.7 percent (1,938) of those collecting UI benefits in February had worked in the Accommodation & Food Services sector. Large numbers of insured unemployed were also reported in Health Care & Social Assistance (1,799), Retail Trade (1,778) and Manufacturing (1,695). For more information, go to [www.dlt.ri.gov/lmi/uiadmin/characteristics.htm](http://www.dlt.ri.gov/lmi/uiadmin/characteristics.htm).

#### Characteristics of the Insured Unemployed, February 2012

	Total	Percent	
		Long-Term	Long-Term
<b>Total</b>	<b>20,073</b>	<b>4,244</b>	<b>21.1%</b>
Male	12,846	2,173	16.9%
Female	7,227	2,071	28.7%
<b>Selected Industries</b>	<b>20,073</b>	<b>4,244</b>	<b>21.1%</b>
Construction	3,764	260	6.9%
Manufacturing	1,695	473	27.9%
Wholesale Trade	630	148	23.5%
Retail Trade	1,778	465	26.2%
Transportation & Warehousing	420	86	20.5%
Information	231	84	36.4%
Finance & Insurance	672	281	41.8%
Real Estate	312	89	28.5%
Professional & Tech. Services	727	253	34.8%
Administrative & Waste Services	3,153	356	11.3%
Educational Services	318	102	32.1%
Health Care & Social Assistance	1,799	711	39.5%
Arts, Entertainment & Recreation	984	120	12.2%
Accommodation & Food Services	1,938	407	21.0%
Other Services	660	170	25.8%
Public Administration	160	61	38.1%

**Consumer Price Index for  
All Urban Consumers**

	% Change			
	Feb 12	Jan 12	Feb 11	Prev. Year
All Items	227.7	226.7	221.3	2.9%

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 17,500 advertisements for Rhode Island based jobs this month, an increase of 200 (+1.2%) from the January 2012 postings, and up 700 (+4.20%) from the advertised vacancies posted online in February 2011. There were an estimated 3.10 advertised vacancies for every 100 persons in Rhode Island's labor force.

**Help Wanted OnLine  
Advertised Job Vacancies**

	Feb 12	Jan 12	Feb 11
RI Vacancies	17,500	17,300	16,800
<b>Labor Demand Rate *</b>			
Rhode Island	3.10	3.07	2.92
US	2.86	2.84	2.68
Connecticut	3.43	3.34	3.25
Massachusetts	3.69	3.65	3.62
Maine	2.92	2.80	2.94
New Hampshire	3.05	3.05	3.03
Vermont	3.49	3.66	3.24
<b>Supply/Demand Rate **</b>			
Rhode Island	3.52	3.55	3.79
US	2.90	2.91	3.35

\* 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**

	2012	2011		2012	2011
Barrington	8.0	7.8	Newport	13.6	13.5
Bristol	10.6	11.3	North Kingstown	10.7	10.4
Burrillville	12.2	12.2	North Providence	10.7	11.6
Central Falls	16.1	13.7	North Smithfield	9.6	10.5
Charlestown	14.6	15.0	Pawtucket	13.4	12.7
Coventry	11.6	11.6	Portsmouth	11.5	11.6
Cranston	11.6	11.3	Providence	13.5	13.2
Cumberland	10.5	10.9	Richmond	8.9	8.4
East Greenwich	11.5	11.2	Scituate	11.5	12.3
East Providence	13.2	12.8	Smithfield	11.0	10.7
Exeter	11.9	13.4	South Kingstown	10.7	10.9
Foster	14.2	14.3	Tiverton	12.5	13.2
Glocester	11.1	11.1	Warren	12.2	12.3
Hopkinton	11.3	13.3	Warwick	10.5	10.8
Jamestown	9.9	10.3	West Greenwich	12.1	11.6
Johnston	13.4	13.7	West Warwick	13.3	13.4
Lincoln	10.9	10.6	Westerly	11.7	11.8
Little Compton	12.7	13.3	Woonsocket	13.7	13.7
Middletown	13.4	13.0			
Narragansett	8.7	9.1	State of R.I.	12.1	12.0
New Shoreham	31.9	28.6	United States	8.7	9.5

Nationally, there were an estimated 2.86 advertised vacancies for every 100 persons in labor force. Among the New England states, Massachusetts (3.69), Vermont (3.49) and Connecticut (3.43) all had a higher vacancy rate than Rhode Island.

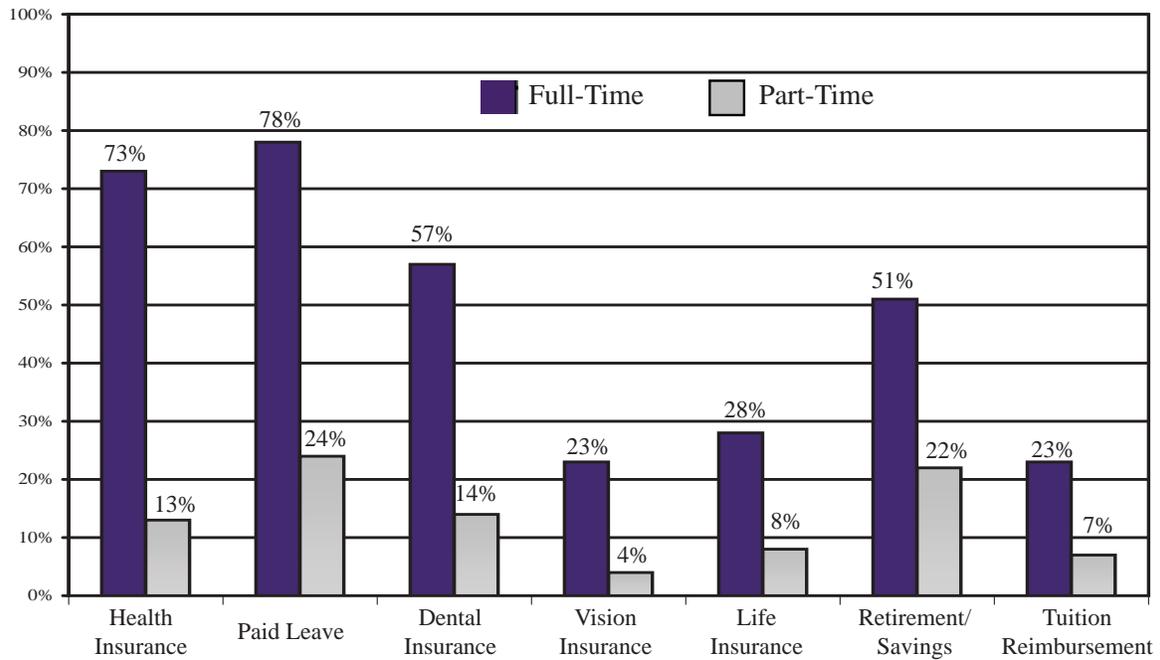
There were an estimated 3.52 unemployed Rhode Island residents for every advertised job in February, down from 3.55 unemployed residents estimated per January advertisements. Nationally, there were 2.90 unemployed persons for every job opening advertised in February, down from 2.91 in January.

**Unemployment Insurance Claims Activity**

	Feb.	Jan.	Feb.	% Change		Year-to-Date		
	2012	2012	2011	Jan.12	Feb.11	2012	2011	% Change
<b>Regular Claims</b>								
Initial Claims	8,968	10,998	9,185	-18.5%	-2.4%	19,966	19,435	2.7%
Number of Payments	76,496	81,790	81,556	-6.5%	-6.2%	158,286	169,089	-6.4%
Amount of Payments (gross millions)	\$28.6	\$30.4	\$30.1	-5.9%	-5.0%	\$59.0	\$62.4	-5.4%
Exhaustions (Final Payments)	1,896	2,325	2,093	-18.5%	-9.4%	4,221	4,680	-9.8%
<b>Emergency Unemployment Compensation</b>						2012	Since Program Began	
Initial Claims	2,458	2,778	2,963	-11.5%	-17.0%	5,236	137,589	
Number of Payments	47,873	59,424	55,426	-19.4%	-13.6%	107,297	2,424,965	
Amount of Payments (gross millions)	\$17.5	\$21.8	\$20.5	-19.7%	-14.6%	\$39.4	\$885.9	
<b>Extended Benefits</b>						2012	Since Program Began	
Initial Claims	587	625	340	-6.1%	72.6%	1,212	35,836	
Number of Payments	7,581	9,120	12,519	-16.9%	-39.4%	16,701	457,760	
Amount of Payments (gross millions)	\$2.8	\$3.3	\$4.6	-15.2%	-39.1%	\$6.1	\$166.4	
Exhaustions (Final Payments)	394	507	700	-22.3%	-43.7%	901	22,230	

# 2011 Rhode Island Employee Benefits Report

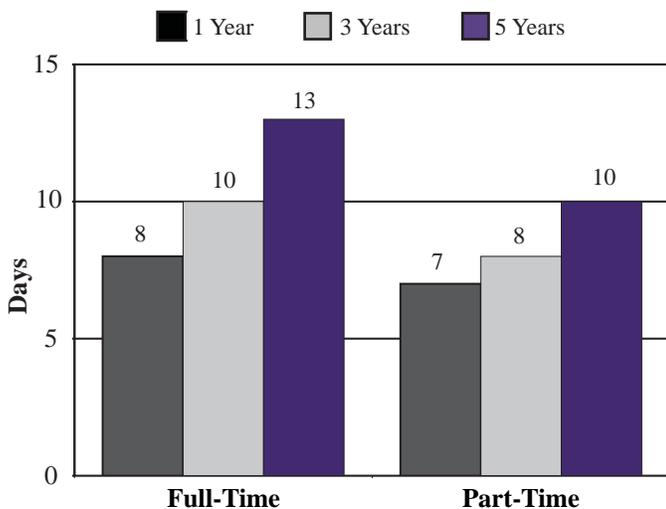
Percentage of Firms Offering Benefits by Benefit Type



Paid leave is the most common employee benefit. Seventy-eight percent of Rhode Island firms offered paid leave to their full-time employees and 24 percent of employers provided paid leave to part-time workers.

The most common types of coverage offered are individual plans, family plans and two-person plans. Employers reported that the average monthly costs for benefit plans in 2011 were \$520 for a single adult plan, \$1,112 for a two-person plan and \$1,322 for a family plan.

Average Paid Vacation Time



Average Monthly Cost of Health Insurance by Plan

