

EMPLOYMENT BULLETIN

March 2013



Rhode Island's Unemployment Rate Drops to 9.4 percent in February

- ◆ RI's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate for February was 9.4 percent, down four-tenths of a percentage point from January.
- ◆ RI's February unemployment rate was down one and three-tenths percentage points from last February's figure of 10.7 percent.
- ◆ The national rate was 7.7 percent, down two-tenths from January and down six-tenths of a percentage point from the previous year.
- ◆ In February 2013, Rhode Island, along with North Carolina, had the fifth highest unemployment rate in the nation, behind Nevada, California, Mississippi and Illinois.
- ◆ The February 2013 unemployment rate decreased in twenty-two states, including Rhode Island (-0.4), Vermont (-0.3), Massachusetts (-0.2) and Connecticut (-0.1). Sixteen states' rates, including Maine and New Hampshire, were unchanged, while twelve states' rates increased. In all, seven states have unemployment rates at over above nine percent.
- ◆ Rates in other New England states for February 2013—Connecticut 8.0 percent, Maine 7.3 percent, Massachusetts 6.5 percent, New Hampshire 5.8 percent and Vermont 4.4 percent.
- ◆ The number of employed RI residents totaled 508,200 in February 2013, up 1,300 from the previous month. Between February 2012 and February 2013, the number of employed RI residents increased by 9,600.
- ◆ Over the month, the number of unemployed Rhode Island residents fell by 1,900 to 53,000. From February 2012 to February 2013, the number of unemployed residents decreased by 6,600.

2012 City & Town Annual Average Unemployment Rates

Rhode Island's 2012 annual average unemployment rate was 10.4 percent, down eight-tenths of a percentage point from the 2011 annual average unemployment rate of 11.2 percent. Of the state's 39 cities and towns, only 10 communities had an annual average unemployment rate higher than the state's 10.4 percent rate.

New Shoreham had the highest annual average unemployment rate in the state at 13.7 percent, due, in part, to the island's highly seasonal employment cycle. Central Falls' annual average unemployment rate was 13.6 percent, followed by Providence (12.4%), Woonsocket (12.3%) and Pawtucket (12.3%).

At the other end of the scale, Narragansett (7.1%), Richmond (7.2%), Barrington (7.3%) and Jamestown (7.6%) all had annual average unemployment rates below 8 percent.

New Shoreham was the only town to post an over-the-year increase in its unemployment rate, increasing four-tenths of a percentage point from 13.3 percent in 2011 to 13.7 percent in 2012. Foster's unemployment rate decreased the most, dropping one and seven-tenths percentage points, from 12.1 percent in 2011 to 10.4 percent in 2012. Portsmouth and Providence each dropped

by one and two-tenths percentage points over the year, while Hopkinton, Johnston, North Providence and Tiverton all dropped by one and one-tenth percentage points over the year.

For more information, go to www.dlt.ri.gov/lmi/laus/town/town.htm

2012 Annual Average Unemployment Rates

Rhode Island 10.4%

Highest

New Shoreham	13.7%
Central Falls	13.6%
Providence	12.4%
Woonsocket	12.3%
Pawtucket	12.3%
Charlestown	11.4%

Lowest

Narragansett	7.1%
Richmond	7.2%
Barrington	7.3%
Jamestown	7.6%
Glocester	8.6%
Portsmouth	8.6%

Seasonally Adjusted Labor Force Statistics

(in thousands)

	Rhode Island			United States		
	Feb 13	Jan 13	Feb 12	Feb 13	Jan 13	Feb 12
Civilian Labor Force	561.2	561.8	558.2	155,524	155,654	154,825
Resident Employment	508.2	506.9	498.6	143,492	143,322	142,019
Unemployment	53.0	54.9	59.6	12,032	12,332	12,806
Unemployment Rate	9.4%	9.8%	10.7%	7.7%	7.9%	8.3%

Rhode Island Jobs Decrease by 2,600 in February

Estimated nonfarm payroll in Rhode Island totaled 465,500 in February, reflecting a loss of 2,600 jobs from the revised January employment estimate of 468,100. February's unexpected sharp decline, tabulated by the Bureau of Labor Statistics, ends three consecutive months of job gains.

Over half of the jobs lost in February - 1,600 - were reported in Accommodation & Food Services, returning the sector to its November employment level. Declining payrolls were noted in limited service restaurants (generally establishments where items are ordered and paid for before eating) and drinking establishments.

The Retail Trade and Educational Services sectors also experienced sizable losses in February, shedding 600 and 500 positions, respectively. Several retail industries reported cutbacks, including auto dealers, electronic & appliance stores, building material stores and department stores (including discount department stores). In Educational Services, the employment level in colleges and universities fell short of the typical February level, resulting in an over-the-month job decline.

Smaller employment losses were reported in the Manufacturing (-300), Construction (-200), Wholesale Trade (-200), Financial Activities (-100), Government (-100), Arts, Entertainment & Recreation (-100) and Mining (-100) sectors.

The Health Care & Social Assistance sector added 500 jobs in February as employment increases were reported in the hospitals, nursing & residential care facilities and social assistance subsectors. Positive job gains were also reported in the Professional & Business Services (+300), Other Services (+300) and Transportation & Utilities (+100) sectors, while the Information sector remained unchanged.

Over the year, total nonfarm employment increased by 200, as job gains appeared in five economic sectors, including Financial Activities (+1,600), Health Care & Social Assistance (+1,000), Professional & Business Services (+1,000), Other Services (+400), and Manufacturing (+400).

Employment in seven sectors; Construction (-1,700), Information (-700), Government (-600), Retail Trade (-500), Educational Services (-400), Wholesale Trade (-200) and Transportation & Utilities (-100), was down over the year. Employment in Arts, Entertainment & Recreation, Accommodation & Food Services and Mining was unchanged over the year.

Manufacturing Employment in Rhode Island Not Seasonally Adjusted

	Employment				
	(in thousands)		Net Change From:		
	Feb 13	Jan 13	Feb 12	Jan 13	Feb 12
Manufacturing	40.0	40.0	39.3	0	700
Durable Goods	25.5	25.5	25.2	0	300
Fabricated Metal Product Mfg.	5.6	5.6	5.6	0	0
Computer & Electronic Product Mfg.	3.3	3.4	3.5	-100	-200
Transportation Equipment Mfg.	3.7	3.6	3.3	100	400
Miscellaneous DG Manufacturing	5.8	5.8	6.1	0	-300
Jewelry & Silverware	3.6	3.5	3.8	100	-200
Non-Durable Goods	14.5	14.5	14.1	0	400
Chemical Manufacturing	2.9	2.9	2.8	0	100

Establishment Employment in Rhode Island Seasonally Adjusted

	Net Change From				
	Feb-13	Jan-13	Feb-12	Jan-13	Feb-12
Total Nonfarm	465.5	468.1	465.3	-2.6	0.2
Total Private	405.9	408.4	405.1	-2.5	0.8
Natural Resources & Mining	0.1	0.2	0.1	-0.1	0.0
Construction	14.7	14.9	16.4	-0.2	-1.7
Manufacturing	39.9	40.2	39.5	-0.3	0.4
Wholesale Trade	16.8	17.0	17.0	-0.2	-0.2
Retail Trade	46.5	47.1	47.0	-0.6	-0.5
Transportation & Utilities	10.8	10.7	10.9	0.1	-0.1
Information	9.2	9.2	9.9	0.0	-0.7
Financial Activities	32.8	32.9	31.2	-0.1	1.6
Professional & Business Services	56.5	56.2	55.5	0.3	1.0
Educational Services	25.0	25.5	25.4	-0.5	-0.4
Health Care & Social Assistance	79.4	78.9	78.4	0.5	1.0
Arts, Entertainment & Recreation	7.7	7.8	7.7	-0.1	0.0
Accommodation & Food Services	43.7	45.3	43.7	-1.6	0.0
Other Services	22.8	22.5	22.4	0.3	0.4
Government	59.6	59.7	60.2	-0.1	-0.6

Manufacturing: In February 2013, production workers in the Manufacturing sector earned \$18.72 per hour, up 11 cents from January 2013 and up 63 cents from February 2012. Manufacturing employees worked an average of 39.2 hours per week in February, down an hour and four-tenths over the month and down one hour from a year ago.

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.



Labor Supply & Demand in Rhode Island

Unemployment insurance claimants represent an able and available supply of trained labor. On-line postings represent a current demand for labor. The LMI publication – *Labor Supply and Demand report* – provides a comparison of these two data sets indicating occupational groups for which labor supply is sufficient to meet employer’s current needs; and occupational groups for which there is a shortage of trained workers available to meet employers’ current demands.

On December 31, 2012, the Department of Labor and Training’s EmployRI on-line network recorded 8,630 on-line job postings from Rhode Island-based businesses. Also in December, 26,108 individuals collected Unemployment Insurance (UI) benefits. A comparison of the on-line job postings to the UI claimants currently seeking work indicates that there were 3.0 claimants for each on-line posting, and a surplus of available labor (more claimants per posting) for nearly all occupational groups.

The greatest labor surplus was for the Construction & Extraction occupational group, for which there were 27.7 UI claimants with this type of work experience for every on-line posting in this occupational group. Other occupational groups for which there were significantly more unemployed workers than on-line postings included Food Preparation & Serving Related (10.8), Production (10.6), Personal Care & Service (7.4) and Installation, Maintenance & Repair (7.1), each of which had more than seven unemployed claimants per on-line posting.

In contrast, there was more of a demand for Healthcare Practitioner & Technical, Computer & Mathematical and Protective Service occupations than available labor. For these occupational groups there were more on-line postings than UI claimants indicating previous work experience in these occupational groups.

These statistics indicate that employers seeking to hire workers to fill vacancies for Healthcare Practitioner & Technical, Computer & Mathematical and Protective Service jobs would have more difficulty finding qualified workers than those employers attempting to fill vacancies in occupational groups for which there are significantly more unemployed claimants than on-line postings.

For more information, visit www.dlt.ri.gov/lmi/publications/supply&demand.htm

Characteristics of the Insured Unemployed

A total of 18,077 individuals were eligible to collect “regular” Unemployment Insurance benefits in February 2013, down 1,996 (-9.9%) from the 20,073 collecting these benefits in February 2012. In addition, 7,790 individuals collected Emergency Unemployment Compensation. In all, 47.5 percent of Rhode Island’s unemployed workers were eligible to collect unemployment benefits in February.

Of the 18,077 individuals collecting “regular” Unemployment Insurance benefits, 21.9 percent faced long-term unemployment (defined as collecting unemployment insurance for fifteen weeks or more), up from 21.1 percent in February 2012.

On an industry basis, 19.5 percent (3,520) of the State’s insured unemployed workers came from the Construction sector. There were also 2,891 individuals with an attachment to the Administrative & Waste Services sector, accounting for 16.0 percent of all insured unemployed workers. An additional 10.4 percent (1,884) 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 (1,491), Retail Trade (1,443) and Health Care & Social Assistance (1,414). For more information, go to www.dlt.ri.gov/lmi/uiadmin/characteristics.htm.

Characteristics of the Insured Unemployed, February 2013

	Percent		
	Total	Long-Term	Long-Term
Total	18,077	3,951	21.9%
Male	11,886	2,082	17.5%
Female	6,191	1,869	30.2%
Selected Industries	18,077	3,951	21.9%
Construction	3,520	325	9.2%
Manufacturing	1,491	366	24.5%
Wholesale Trade	647	178	27.5%
Retail Trade	1,443	424	29.4%
Transportation & Warehousing	469	91	19.4%
Information	160	53	33.1%
Finance & Insurance	403	155	38.5%
Real Estate	349	113	32.4%
Professional & Tech. Services	681	224	32.9%
Administrative & Waste Services	2,891	377	13.0%
Educational Services	302	102	33.8%
Health Care & Social Assistance	1,414	520	36.8%
Arts, Entertainment & Recreation	860	113	13.1%
Accommodation & Food Services	1,884	478	25.4%
Other Services	620	214	34.5%
Public Administration	134	39	29.1%

Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers

				% Change
	Feb.13	Jan. 13	Feb. 12	Prev. Year
All Items	232.2	230.3	227.7	2.0%

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 19,300 advertisements for Rhode Island based jobs this month, a decrease of 400 (-2.0%) from the January 2013 postings, and up 1,300 (+7.2%) from the advertised vacancies posted online in February 2012. There were an estimated 3.40 advertised vacancies for every 100 persons in Rhode Island's labor force.

Help Wanted OnLine Advertised Job Vacancies

	Feb 13	Jan 13	Feb 12
RI Vacancies	19,300	19,700	18,000
<i>Labor Demand Rate *</i>			
Rhode Island	3.40	3.49	3.22
US	3.25	3.28	2.95
Connecticut	3.52	3.76	3.43
Massachusetts	4.32	4.39	3.95
Maine	3.25	3.35	2.86
New Hampshire	3.30	3.41	3.10
Vermont	3.41	3.51	3.54
<i>Supply/Demand Rate **</i>			
Rhode Island	2.75	2.79	3.31
US	2.38	2.42	2.81

* 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

	2013	2012		2013	2012
Barrington	6.8	7.7	Newport	11.1	13.1
Bristol	8.9	10.2	North Kingstown	8.2	10.5
Burrillville	9.9	11.6	North Providence	9.3	10.4
Central Falls	13.0	15.3	North Smithfield	8.5	9.3
Charlestown	11.5	13.9	Pawtucket	10.8	13.0
Coventry	9.0	11.1	Portsmouth	9.2	11.0
Cranston	9.6	11.2	Providence	11.0	13.1
Cumberland	8.7	10.1	Richmond	6.7	8.5
East Greenwich	8.9	11.0	Scituate	9.6	11.1
East Providence	10.6	12.6	Smithfield	8.2	10.4
Exeter	9.2	11.6	South Kingstown	8.5	10.4
Foster	11.9	13.4	Tiverton	10.1	12.0
Glocester	8.4	10.7	Warren	11.0	12.0
Hopkinton	9.2	11.2	Warwick	8.5	10.2
Jamestown	7.9	9.5	West Greenwich	8.6	11.7
Johnston	10.3	12.9	West Warwick	10.7	12.9
Lincoln	8.5	10.4	Westerly	9.2	11.2
Little Compton	9.6	12.1	Woonsocket	11.5	13.1
Middletown	10.5	12.8			
Narragansett	7.5	8.7	State of R.I.	9.8	11.7
New Shoreham	28.5	30.9	United States	8.1	8.7

Nationally, there were an estimated 3.25 advertised vacancies for every 100 persons in labor force. Among the New England states, Massachusetts (4.32), Connecticut (3.52) and Vermont (3.41) had higher vacancy rates than Rhode Island.

There were an estimated 2.75 unemployed Rhode Island residents for every advertised job in February, down from 2.79 unemployed residents estimated per January advertisements. Nationally, there were 2.38 unemployed persons for every job opening advertised in February, down from 2.42 in January.

Unemployment Insurance Claims Activity

	Feb.	Jan.	Feb.	% Change		Year to Date		
	2013	2013	2012	Jan. 13	Feb.12	2013	2012	% Change
Regular Claims								
Initial Claims	8,707	10,684	8,968	-18.5%	-2.9%	19,391	19,966	-2.9%
Number of Payments	67,544	65,542	76,496	3.1%	-11.7%	133,086	158,286	-15.9%
Amount of Payments (gross millions)	\$23.4	\$22.7	\$28.6	3.1%	-18.2%	\$46.1	\$59.0	-21.9%
Exhaustions (Final Payments)	1,505	1,444	1,896	4.2%	-20.6%	2,949	4,221	-30.1%
Emergency Unemployment Compensation						2013	Since Program Began	
Initial Claims	2,017	1,976	2,458	2.1%	-17.9%	3,993	163,946	
Number of Payments	31,183	31,737	47,873	-1.7%	-34.9%	62,920	2,911,836	
Amount of Payments (gross millions)	\$11.8	\$12.1	\$17.5	-2.5%	-32.6%	\$23.9	\$1,067.2	

**Rhode Island
Labor Supply & Demand
Fourth Quarter 2012**

<u>Occupation Group</u>	<u>EmployRI Postings*</u>	<u>Unemployed Claimants**</u>	<u>Claimants/ Posting</u>
Total	8,630	26,108	3.0
Construction & Extraction	54	1,497	27.7
Food Preparation & Serving Related	174	1,876	10.8
Production	286	3,028	10.6
Personal Care & Service	88	648	7.4
Installation, Maintenance & Repair	126	898	7.1
Building & Grounds Cleaning & Maintenance	215	1,439	6.7
Transportation & Material Moving	266	1,575	5.9
Office & Administrative Support	765	4,407	5.8
Legal	29	121	4.2
Community & Social Services	101	390	3.9
Education, Training & Library	182	613	3.4
Arts, Design, Entertainment, Sports & Media	119	386	3.2
Management	1,140	2,483	2.2
Business & Financial Operations	429	802	1.9
Sales & Related	914	1,615	1.8
Healthcare Support	485	791	1.6
Life, Physical & Social Science	139	180	1.3
Architecture & Engineering	267	281	1.1
Protective Service	598	335	0.6
Computer & Mathematical	647	342	0.5
Healthcare Practitioner & Technical	1,584	602	0.4

* Jobs posted during the 90 day period ending December 31, 2012 and still open on December 31, 2012

** Individuals receiving unemployment insurance payments for the week ending December 15, 2012