

EMPLOYMENT BULLETIN

March 2014



Rhode Island's Unemployment Rate Drops to 9.0 percent in February

- ◆ RI's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate for February was 9.0 percent, down two-tenths of a percentage point from January.
- ◆ RI's February unemployment rate was down half of a percentage point from last February's figure of 9.5 percent.
- ◆ The national rate was 6.7 percent, up one-tenth from January and down one percentage point from the previous year.
- ◆ In February 2014, Rhode Island (9.0%) had the highest unemployment rate in the nation.
- ◆ The February 2014 unemployment rate decreased in twenty-nine states, including Massachusetts (-0.3), Vermont (-0.3), Connecticut (-0.2), Rhode Island (-0.2), New Hampshire (-0.2) and Maine (-0.1). Eleven states' rates were unchanged and ten states saw their unemployment rate increase.
- ◆ Rates in other New England states for February 2014—Connecticut 7.0 percent, Massachusetts 6.5 percent, Maine 6.1 percent, New Hampshire 4.7 percent and Vermont 3.7 percent.
- ◆ The number of employed RI residents totaled 503,300 in February 2014, up 3,600 from the previous month. Between February 2013 and February 2014, the number of employed RI residents decreased by 2,900.
- ◆ Over the month, the number of unemployed Rhode Island residents decreased by 800 to 49,700. From February 2013 to February 2014, the number of unemployed residents decreased by 3,600.

2013 City & Town Annual Average Unemployment Rates

Rhode Island's 2013 annual average unemployment rate was 9.5 percent, down eight-tenths of a percentage point from the 2012 annual average unemployment rate of 10.3 percent. Of the state's 39 cities and towns, thirteen communities had an annual average unemployment rate at or above the state's 9.5 percent rate.

New Shoreham had the highest annual average unemployment rate in the state at 12.9 percent, due, in part, to the island's highly seasonal employment cycle. Central Falls' annual average unemployment rate was 12.4 percent, followed by Providence (11.4%), Woonsocket (11.4%) and Pawtucket (11.1%).

At the other end of the scale, Richmond (6.3%), Barrington (6.7%) and Narragansett (6.7%) all had annual average unemployment rates below 7 percent.

Thirty-eight of the thirty-nine towns posted an over-the-year decrease in their unemployment, while Newport's rate remained unchanged at 9.7 percent. Charlestown's unemployment rate decreased the most, dropping one and seven-tenths percentage points, from 11.3 percent in 2012 to 9.6 percent in 2013. Coventry and East Providence each dropped by one and three-tenths percentage points over the year, while West

Greenwich, Central Falls, Pawtucket and West Warwick all dropped by one and one-tenth percentage points over the year.

2013 Annual Average Unemployment Rates

Rhode Island 9.5%

Highest

New Shoreham	12.9%
Central Falls	12.4%
Providence	11.4%
Woonsocket	11.4%
Pawtucket	11.1%
Johnston	10.1%

Lowest

Richmond	6.3%
Barrington	6.7%
Narragansett	6.7%
Jamestown	7.0%
Glocester	7.5%
North Kingstown	7.7%

Seasonally Adjusted Labor Force Statistics

(in thousands)

	Rhode Island			United States		
	Feb. 14	Jan. 14	Feb. 13	Feb. 14	Jan. 14	Feb. 13
Civilian Labor Force	552.9	550.3	559.5	155,724	155,460	155,511
Resident Employment	503.3	499.7	506.2	145,266	145,224	143,464
Unemployment	49.7	50.5	53.3	10,459	10,236	12,047
Unemployment Rate	9.0%	9.2%	9.5%	6.7%	6.6%	7.7%

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

Rhode Island Jobs Increase by 1,500 in February

Estimated nonfarm payroll in Rhode Island totaled 476,700 in February, reflecting a gain of 1,500 jobs from the revised January employment estimate of 475,200. February marks two consecutive months of job gains totaling 5,500.

A gain of 1,500 jobs was reported in the Professional & Business Services sector as large job gains were scattered among the Administrative & Support Services and Professional, Scientific & Technical Services subsectors.

The Financial Activities and Other Services sectors each added 300 jobs in February. Credit intermediation services reported gains within Financial Activities as did civic and professional organizations within the Other Services sector.

The Retail Trade, Construction and Arts, Entertainment & Recreation sectors all added 200 jobs since January, while employment within the Accommodation & Food Services sector increased by 100.

The Information and Mining & Logging sectors reported no change in their February employment.

Employment in the Wholesale Trade sector decreased by 400 in February as declines were reported among durable goods wholesalers. Elsewhere, a loss of 300 jobs was reported in the Educational Services sector, followed by Health Care & Social Assistance (-200) and Government (-200), Manufacturing (-100) and Transportation & Utilities (-100).

Nationally, employment increased by 175,000 or 0.1 percent in February. Employment in Rhode Island grew by 0.3 percent, higher than the February job growth reported in the New England (+0.1%) region and the entire nation (+0.1%). Regionally, Massachusetts (+3,800), New Hampshire (+3,400), Rhode Island (+1,500), Connecticut (+800) and Maine (+1,400) all added February employment, while Vermont reported a loss of 1,500 jobs.

Establishment Employment in Rhode Island					
Seasonally Adjusted					
	Net Change From				
	Feb-14	Jan-14	Feb-13	Jan-14	Feb-13
Total Nonfarm	476.7	475.2	468.3	1.5	8.4
Total Private	416.9	415.2	408.5	1.7	8.4
Natural Resources & Mining	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.0	0.0
Construction	16.4	16.2	16.1	0.2	0.3
Manufacturing	40.7	40.8	39.7	-0.1	1.0
Wholesale Trade	16.8	17.2	16.6	-0.4	0.2
Retail Trade	47.2	47.0	46.6	0.2	0.6
Transportation & Utilities	10.9	11.0	10.8	-0.1	0.1
Information	8.8	8.8	9.3	0.0	-0.5
Financial Activities	32.4	32.1	32.1	0.3	0.3
Professional & Business Services	60.2	58.7	57.9	1.5	2.3
Educational Services	24.4	24.7	23.8	-0.3	0.6
Health Care & Social Assistance	80.7	80.9	80.2	-0.2	0.5
Arts, Entertainment & Recreation	9.1	8.9	8.0	0.2	1.1
Accommodation & Food Services	46.2	46.1	44.6	0.1	1.6
Other Services	22.9	22.6	22.6	0.3	0.3
Government	59.8	60.0	59.8	-0.2	0.0

Manufacturing Employment in Rhode Island					
Not Seasonally Adjusted					
	Employment				
	(in thousands)			Net Change From:	
	Feb 14	Jan 14	Feb 13	Jan 14	Feb 13
Manufacturing	40.5	40.7	39.4	-200	1,100
Durable Goods	26.1	26.2	25.1	-100	1000
Fabricated Metal Product Mfg.	5.5	5.5	5.5	0	0
Computer & Electronic Product Mfg.	3.4	3.4	3.4	0	0
Transportation Equipment Mfg.	3.9	3.9	3.7	0	200
Miscellaneous DG Manufacturing	5.7	5.7	5.8	0	-100
Jewelry & Silverware	3.4	3.4	3.6	0	-200
Non-Durable Goods	14.4	14.5	14.3	-100	100
Chemical Manufacturing	3.0	3.0	2.9	0	100

In February, nonfarm payroll employment increased in 33 states and decreased in 17 states. North Dakota (+1.3%) reported the largest over-the-month percentage increase in employment, followed by West Virginia (+0.6%) and Delaware, Idaho and New Hampshire (+0.5 percent each). The largest over-the-month percentage decline in employment occurred in Alaska (-0.7%), followed by Vermont (-0.5%) and Hawaii (-0.4%).

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.



Alternate Measures of Labor Underutilization for Rhode Island

There are six alternative measures of labor underutilization available through the Current Population Survey (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. While state unemployment averages derived solely from the CPS data are not strictly comparable to the official state average unemployment rates, 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 2013 obtained directly from the CPS survey was 9.2 percent, the second highest rate among all states. The national U-3 rate was 7.4 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 no work available for them, yields an unemployment rate of 9.6 percent, tied for the second highest rate among all states. The national U-4 rate was 7.9 percent. Including discouraged workers adds four-tenths of a percentage point to Rhode Island's standard definition of unemployment while adding five-tenths of a percentage point to the United State's standard definition. Among the 50 states, 23 states had a greater percentage of discouraged workers than Rhode Island, while 19 had a lower percentage.
- ◆ 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 10.5 percent, the second highest rate among all states. The national U-5 was 8.8 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 15.5 percent for Rhode Island, the sixth highest rate among all states. Nationally, the U-6 rate was 13.8 percent.

Characteristics of the Insured Unemployed

A total of 17,668 individuals were eligible to collect "regular" Unemployment Insurance benefits in February 2014, down 409 (-2.3%) from the 18,077 collecting these benefits in February 2013. In all, 34.0 percent of Rhode Island's unemployed workers were eligible to collect unemployment benefits in February.

Of the 17,668 individuals collecting "regular" Unemployment Insurance benefits, 20.2 percent faced long-term unemployment (defined as collecting unemployment insurance for fifteen weeks or more), down from 21.9 percent in February 2013.

On an industry basis, 20.2 percent (3,576) of the State's insured unemployed workers came from the Construction sector. There were also 3,112 individuals with an attachment to the Administrative & Waste Services sector, accounting for 17.6 percent of all insured unemployed workers. An additional 9.4 percent (1,658) 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 (1,404), Retail Trade (1,343) and Manufacturing (1,304). For more information, go to www.dlt.ri.gov/lmi/uiadmin/characteristics.htm.

Characteristics of the Insured Unemployed, February 2014

	Total	Long-Term	Percent
Total	17,668	3,573	20.2%
Male	11,609	1,837	15.8%
Female	6,059	1,736	28.7%
Selected Industries	17,668	3,573	20.2%
Construction	3,576	244	6.8%
Manufacturing	1,304	344	26.4%
Wholesale Trade	545	188	34.5%
Retail Trade	1,343	373	27.8%
Transportation & Warehousing	441	81	18.4%
Information	137	38	27.7%
Finance & Insurance	568	237	41.7%
Real Estate	345	88	25.5%
Professional & Tech. Services	733	196	26.7%
Administrative & Waste Services	3,112	389	12.5%
Educational Services	260	94	36.2%
Health Care & Social Assistance	1,404	512	36.5%
Arts, Entertainment & Recreation	862	94	10.9%
Accommodation & Food Services	1,658	390	23.5%
Other Services	465	122	26.2%
Public Administration	154	48	31.2%

Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers

				% Change
	Feb. 14	Jan. 14	Feb. 13	Prev. Year
All Items	234.8	233.9	232.2	1.1%

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 21,200 advertisements for Rhode Island based jobs this month, an increase of 1,100 (+5.5%) from the January 2014 postings, and up 1,700 (+8.7%) from the advertised vacancies posted online in February 2013. There were an estimated 3.85 advertised vacancies for every 100 persons in Rhode Island's labor force.

Help Wanted OnLine Advertised Job Vacancies

	Feb 14	Jan 14	Feb 13
RI Vacancies	21,200	20,100	19,500
<i>Labor Demand Rate *</i>			
Rhode Island	3.85	3.65	3.47
US	3.34	3.16	3.26
Connecticut	3.89	3.72	3.75
Massachusetts	4.54	4.27	4.46
Maine	3.40	3.43	3.39
New Hampshire	3.87	3.66	3.39
Vermont	3.38	3.16	3.50
<i>Supply/Demand Rate **</i>			
Rhode Island	2.34	2.51	2.74
US	2.02	2.08	2.38

* 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

	2014	2013		2014	2013
Barrington	6.4	7.0	Newport	10.4	11.8
Bristol	9.0	9.2	North Kingstown	7.7	8.7
Burrillville	9.9	10.1	North Providence	8.8	9.6
Central Falls	11.6	13.4	North Smithfield	8.1	8.7
Charlestown	11.6	12.3	Pawtucket	10.3	11.3
Coventry	8.8	9.3	Portsmouth	9.2	9.7
Cranston	8.7	9.9	Providence	10.7	11.4
Cumberland	8.5	8.8	Richmond	7.2	7.0
East Greenwich	8.4	9.4	Scituate	9.0	10.1
East Providence	10.0	11.0	Smithfield	8.2	8.6
Exeter	9.0	9.4	South Kingstown	8.6	9.0
Foster	9.5	12.2	Tiverton	10.5	10.5
Glocester	7.9	8.9	Warren	9.9	11.2
Hopkinton	10.1	9.8	Warwick	8.2	9.0
Jamestown	7.7	8.4	West Greenwich	7.8	9.1
Johnston	10.2	10.9	West Warwick	10.5	11.4
Lincoln	8.4	8.7	Westerly	9.9	9.8
Little Compton	9.3	10.0	Woonsocket	10.3	12.0
Middletown	9.9	10.8			
Narragansett	6.9	7.9	State of R.I.	9.4	10.2
New Shoreham	29.2	29.6	United States	7.0	8.1

Nationally, there were an estimated 3.34 advertised vacancies for every 100 persons in labor force. Among the New England states, Massachusetts (4.54), Connecticut (3.89) and New Hampshire (3.87) had higher vacancy rates than Rhode Island.

There were an estimated 2.34 unemployed Rhode Island residents for every advertised job in February, down from 2.51 unemployed residents estimated per January advertisements. Nationally, there were 2.02 unemployed persons for every job opening advertised in February, down from 2.08 in January.

Unemployment Insurance Claims Activity

	Feb.	Jan.	Feb.	% Change		Year to Date		
	2014	2014	2013	Jan. 14	Feb. 13	2014	2013	% Change
Regular Claims								
Initial Claims	9,240	10,297	8,707	-10.3%	6.1%	19,537	19,391	0.8%
Number of Payments	66,657	61,024	67,544	9.2%	-1.3%	127,681	133,086	-4.1%
Amount of Payments (gross millions)	\$22.4	\$20.5	\$23.4	9.3%	-4.3%	\$42.9	\$46.1	-6.9%
Exhaustions (Final Payments)	1,158	1,193	1,505	-2.9%	-23.1%	2,351	2,949	-20.3%

Rhode Island City/Town 2013 Annual Average Labor Force Statistics

	Resident Employment	Unemployment	Labor Force	Rate
RHODE ISLAND	502,857	52,721	555,578	9.5%
BARRINGTON	7,657	548	8,205	6.7%
BRISTOL	11,179	999	12,178	8.2%
BURRILLVILLE	8,654	878	9,532	9.2%
CENTRAL FALLS	7,352	1,036	8,388	12.4%
CHARLESTOWN	4,093	433	4,526	9.6%
COVENTRY	18,595	1,716	20,311	8.4%
CRANSTON	37,817	3,985	41,802	9.5%
CUMBERLAND	17,639	1,583	19,222	8.2%
EAST GREENWICH	6,188	604	6,792	8.9%
EAST PROVIDENCE	22,408	2,463	24,871	9.9%
EXETER	3,586	339	3,925	8.6%
FOSTER	2,497	259	2,756	9.4%
GLOCESTER	5,522	447	5,969	7.5%
HOPKINTON	4,397	420	4,817	8.7%
JAMESTOWN	2,841	213	3,054	7.0%
JOHNSTON	14,123	1,587	15,710	10.1%
LINCOLN	10,810	1,015	11,825	8.6%
LITTLE COMPTON	1,763	158	1,921	8.2%
MIDDLETOWN	7,306	710	8,016	8.9%
NARRAGANSETT	8,638	623	9,261	6.7%
NEW SHOREHAM	977	145	1,122	12.9%
NEWPORT	11,506	1,230	12,736	9.7%
NORTH KINGSTOWN	13,858	1,156	15,014	7.7%
NORTH PROVIDENCE	16,416	1,723	18,139	9.5%
NORTH SMITHFIELD	6,211	559	6,770	8.3%
PAWTUCKET	32,447	4,046	36,493	11.1%
PORTSMOUTH	8,640	773	9,413	8.2%
PROVIDENCE	71,650	9,201	80,851	11.4%
RICHMOND	3,989	269	4,258	6.3%
SCITUATE	5,576	571	6,147	9.3%
SMITHFIELD	10,828	966	11,794	8.2%
SOUTH KINGSTOWN	14,908	1,416	16,324	8.7%
TIVERTON	8,087	811	8,898	9.1%
WARREN	5,367	570	5,937	9.6%
WARWICK	42,127	4,002	46,129	8.7%
WEST GREENWICH	3,352	300	3,652	8.2%
WEST WARWICK	14,610	1,630	16,240	10.0%
WESTERLY	10,870	980	11,850	8.3%
WOONSOCKET	18,374	2,360	20,734	11.4%

Source: RI Department of Labor and Training, Labor Market Information