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Employment Bulletin

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Rhode Island's Unemployment Rate Drops to 12.5 percent in April

- ◆ RI's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate for April was 12.5 percent, down one-tenth of a percentage point from March and the second consecutive over-the-month drop.
- ◆ RI's April unemployment rate is up 2.1 percentage points from last year's figure of 10.4 percent.
- ◆ The national rate was 9.9 percent, up one-tenth of a percentage point in April and was up 1.0 percentage point from the previous year.
- ◆ In April 2010, Rhode Island had the 4th highest unemployment rate in the nation, trailing Michigan (14.0%), Nevada (13.7%) and California (12.6%).
- ◆ Rates in other New England States for April 2010– Massachusetts 9.2 percent, Connecticut 9.0 percent, Maine 8.1 percent, New Hampshire 6.7 percent, Vermont 6.4 percent.
- ◆ The number of employed RI residents totaled 507,000 in April 2010, reflecting an increase of 1,200 from the previous month. Between April 2009 and April 2010, the number of employed RI residents grew by 2,900.
- ◆ In April, the number of unemployed Rhode Island residents decreased by 400 to 72,300. From April 2009 to April 2010, the number of unemployed residents increased by 13,600.

The numbers of employed and unemployed Rhode Islanders, along with the resulting unemployment rate, are calculated through a household survey known as the Current Population Survey (CPS). By CPS definition, workers whose unemployment is due to **weather-related issues** are considered to be "with a job but not at work." Because workers temporarily laid off or relocated due to the March flooding were still considered employed Rhode Islanders at the time of the survey, the impact of flooding on the state's April unemployment rate (12.5%) was minimal.

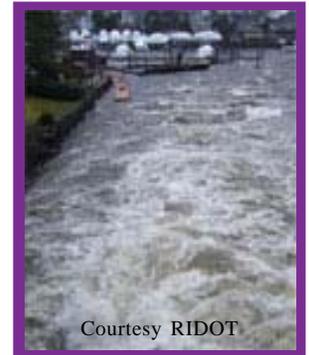
The Great Flood

One Month Later, Over 2,700 Workers Still Affected by March Flood

Department of Labor and Training (DLT) records indicate that 240 businesses with more than 4,800 workers experienced significant flooding in March 2010, resulting in the temporary closing of the affected establishments. For some businesses, the closures lasted for just a few days, while for others recovery will require a few weeks to several months before it is business as usual.

It is estimated that one month after the flood 156 businesses with more than 2,700 workers were still affected. The Department's most current data shows that fifteen of these businesses plan to open by the end of this month, nine plan to open in June and three in July. Four businesses employing a total of 82 workers have indicated that they are not planning to reopen.

The majority of businesses and jobs still affected by the March flood are in the Retail Trade (60/1,507) sector of the economy, followed by Accommodations & Food Services (23/390) and Manufacturing (19/345).



Courtesy RIDOT

There are closed businesses located in fourteen cities and towns in the state, with nearly two-thirds of the businesses and over 80 percent of the workers located in Warwick. Seventy of the closed businesses and 1,500 of the affected jobs are located at Warwick Mall.

Over one-quarter of the affected workers are employed at four large establishments that are still temporarily closed due to damage caused by the flood.

Not all affected workers were laid off as a result of the flood. Many of the closed businesses have other locations, allowing the temporary transfer of some workers. Some companies provided paid leave for various portions of the time the businesses have been closed. In some cases, employees were allowed to use vacation time to make up for some of the loss time.

Seasonally Adjusted Labor Force Statistics

(in thousands)

	Rhode Island			United States		
	Apr 10	Mar 10	Apr 09	Apr 10	Mar 10	Apr 09
Civilian Labor Force	579.3	578.4	562.8	154,715	153,910	154,718
Resident Employment	507.0	505.8	504.1	139,455	138,905	140,902
Unemployment	72.3	72.7	58.7	15,260	15,005	13,816
Unemployment Rate	12.5%	12.6%	10.4%	9.9%	9.7%	8.9%

Rhode Island Jobs Decline by 4,400 in April

Over the month, nonfarm payroll employment declined by 4,400, totaling 448,000 in April. Most of these losses are believed to be temporary and are due to flood-related layoffs and relocations.

The number of Rhode Island-based jobs is determined by the Current Employment Statistics (CES) program, a monthly employer survey based on payroll records from the week which includes the 12th day of each month. The monthly decline in Rhode Island-based jobs reflects all employees who did not receive pay, including severance and vacation, during the week of April 12. According to Unemployment Insurance program data, employment at an estimated 150 Rhode Island companies continued to be impacted from flooding during survey week.

The Accommodation & Food Services sector lost 1,800 jobs in April, due in part to the flood-related closing of several local restaurants and fast-food places. Seasonal hiring in this sector also fell well below traditional April increases, an indicator that the March flooding may have disrupted traditional seasonal hiring patterns. The Retail Trade sector was directly impacted by the March flooding and lost 1,100 jobs in April due in large part to the temporary closure of the Warwick Mall. The Arts, Entertainment & Recreation sector also lost 1,100 jobs, due in part to delays in seasonal hiring.

The Manufacturing and Construction sectors each lost 700 jobs over the month, with nearly half the losses in the Manufacturing considered flood-related. The flood-related closure of ambulatory health care facilities contributed to the loss of 400 jobs in Health Care & Social Assistance. Other Services sector employment declined by 600 in April, while the Educational Services (-300) and Transportation & Utilities (-100) also reported monthly job losses.

Three sectors—Professional & Business Services (1,800), Financial Activities (300) and Wholesale Trade (300)—reported employment gains in April. The Professional Services, Landscaping Services, Temporary Help Services and Waste Management Services sub-sectors all reported job gains, which fueled the growth in Professional & Business Services. Employment in the Information, Government and Natural Resources & Mining sectors remained even.

Establishment Employment in Rhode Island Seasonally Adjusted

	Net Change From				
	Apr-10	Mar-10	Apr-09	Mar-10	Apr-09
Total Nonfarm	448.0	452.4	460.4	-4.4	-12.4
Natural Resources & Mining	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.0	0.0
Construction	15.7	16.4	17.5	-0.7	-1.8
Manufacturing	39.9	40.6	42.1	-0.7	-2.2
Wholesale Trade	15.7	15.4	16.1	0.3	-0.4
Retail Trade	44.5	45.6	46.9	-1.1	-2.4
Transportation & Utilities	9.8	9.9	10.0	-0.1	-0.2
Information	9.8	9.8	10.4	0.0	-0.6
Financial Activities	30.9	30.6	31.3	0.3	-0.4
Professional & Business Services	52.2	50.4	52.5	1.8	-0.3
Educational Services	23.3	23.6	23.8	-0.3	-0.5
Health Care & Social Assistance	77.5	77.9	76.3	-0.4	1.2
Arts, Entertainment & Recreation	6.1	7.2	7.6	-1.1	-1.5
Accommodation & Food Services	39.5	41.3	40.9	-1.8	-1.4
Other Services	21.5	22.1	22.3	-0.6	-0.8
Government	61.4	61.4	62.5	0.0	-1.1

Three sectors—Professional & Business Services (1,800), Financial Activities (300) and Wholesale Trade (300)—reported employment gains in April. The Professional Services, Landscaping Services, Temporary Help Services and Waste Management

Manufacturing Employment in Rhode Island Not Seasonally Adjusted

	Employment				
	(in thousands)			Net Change From:	
	Apr 10	Mar 10	Apr 09	Mar 10	Apr 09
Manufacturing	39.7	40.2	42.0	-500	-2,300
Durable Goods	25.0	25.5	27.2	-500	-2,200
Fabricated Metal Product Mfg.	5.3	5.5	5.8	-200	-500
Computer & Electronic Product Mfg.	3.8	3.8	3.9	0	-100
Miscellaneous Manufacturing	6.4	6.5	7.0	-100	-600
Jewelry & Silverware	4.2	4.2	4.6	0	-400
Non-Durable Goods	14.7	14.7	14.8	0	-100
Chemical Manufacturing	3.0	3.0	3.1	0	-100

Services sub-sectors all reported job gains, which fueled the growth in Professional & Business Services. Employment in the Information, Government and Natural Resources & Mining sectors remained even.

April 2010 employment was down 12,400 (-2.7%) from April 2009, with significant job declines reported in several sectors, including Retail Trade (-2,400), Manufacturing (-2,200), Construction (-1,800), Arts, Entertainment & Recreation (-1,500), Accommodation & Food Services (-1,400), and Government (-1,100).

Health Care & Social Assistance, however, added 1,200 jobs 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.

Nursing & Residential Care Facilities



Industries in Nursing & Residential Care Facilities provide residential care combined with either nursing, supervisory, or other types of care as required by the residents. In this industry, the facilities are a significant part of the production process and the care provided is a mix of health and social services with the health services being largely some level of nursing services.

In 2008, Nursing & Residential Care Facilities businesses employed an average of 18,349 workers. Nursing & Residential Care Facilities accounted for 4.5 percent of jobs in the state's private sector.

Overall, Nursing & Residential Care Facilities workers earned an annual average wage of \$27,223 in 2008, significantly lower than the private sector average (\$41,099). In 2008, the Ocean State's 439 Nursing & Residential Care Facilities establishments paid over \$499.5 million in wages, accounting for 3.0 percent of the total private sector wages paid that year.

Rhode Island's Nursing & Residential Care employment averaged 4.5 percent of total private employment in the state, 1.8 percentage points higher than the national average of 2.7 percent.

Nursing & Residential Care Facilities in Rhode Island				
2008				
Industry	Number of Units	Average Employment	Total Wages	Average Wage
Total Private & Government	35,878	469,673	\$20,213,629,215	\$43,038
Total Private Only	35,172	407,900	\$16,764,269,036	\$41,099
Total for Nursing & Residential Care Facilities	439	18,349	\$499,519,428	\$27,223
Nursing Care Facilities	91	10,184	\$309,291,579	\$30,370
Residential Mental Health Facilities	231	4,317	\$99,861,449	\$23,132
Community Care Facilities for the Elderly	57	2,544	\$58,217,751	\$22,884
Other Residential Care Facilities	61	1,304	\$32,148,649	\$24,654

Characteristics of the Insured Unemployed

A total of 19,562 individuals were eligible to collect "regular" Unemployment Insurance benefits in April 2010, down 8,845 (-31.1%) from the 28,407 collecting these benefits in April 2009. In addition, 17,168 individuals collected Emergency Unemployment Compensation and 1,206 collected Extended Benefits. In all, 53.3 percent of Rhode Island's unemployed workers were eligible to collect unemployment benefits in April.

Of the 19,562 individuals collecting "regular" Unemployment Insurance benefits, 34.7 percent faced long-term unemployment (defined as collecting unemployment insurance for fifteen weeks or more), unchanged from 34.7 percent in April 2009.

On an industry basis, 18.3 percent (3,583) of the State's insured unemployed workers came from the Construction sector. There were also 3,104 individuals with an attachment to the Manufacturing sector, accounting for 15.9 percent of all insured unemployed workers. An additional 11.7 percent (2,290) of those collecting UI benefits in April had worked in the Retail Trade sector. Large numbers of insured unemployed were also reported in Administrative & Waste Services (1,788), Accommodation & Food Services (1,557) and Health Care & Social Assistance (1,457). For more information, go to www.dlt.ri.gov/lmi/uiadmin/characteristics.htm.

Characteristics of the Insured Unemployed, April 2010

	Total	Long-Term	Percent Long-Term
Total	19,562	6,792	34.7%
Male	11,666	4,203	36.0%
Female	7,896	2,589	32.8%
Selected Industries	19,562	6,792	34.7%
Construction	3,583	1,215	33.9%
Manufacturing	3,104	949	30.6%
Wholesale Trade	817	284	34.8%
Retail Trade	2,290	590	25.8%
Transportation & Warehousing	446	145	32.5%
Information	300	139	46.3%
Finance & Insurance	780	336	43.1%
Real Estate	425	136	32.0%
Professional & Tech. Services	851	320	37.6%
Administrative & Waste Services	1,788	719	40.2%
Educational Services	280	100	35.7%
Health Care & Social Assistance	1,457	544	37.3%
Arts, Entertainment & Recreation	439	189	43.1%
Accommodation & Food Services	1,557	589	37.8%
Other Services	706	251	35.6%
Public Administration	139	49	35.3%

**Consumer Price Index for
All Urban Consumers** % Change

	Apr 10	Mar 10	Apr 09	Prev. Year
All Items	218.0	217.6	213.2	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 20,400 advertisements for Rhode Island based jobs this month an increase of 2,500 (+14.0%) from the March 2010 postings, and an increase of 5,600 (+37.8%) from the 14,800 advertised vacancies posted online in April 2009. There were an estimated 3.53 advertised vacancies for every 100 persons in Rhode Island's labor force.

**Help Wanted OnLine
Advertised Job Vacancies**

	Apr 10	Mar 10	Apr 09
RI Vacancies	20,400	17,900	14,800
Labor Demand Rate *			
Rhode Island	3.53	3.09	2.63
US	2.70	2.55	2.04
Connecticut	3.59	3.39	2.49
Massachusetts	3.89	3.69	2.79
Maine	3.09	2.77	2.42
New Hampshire	3.38	2.88	2.56
Vermont	3.54	3.29	2.92
Supply/Demand Rate **			
Rhode Island	3.55	4.06	3.97
US	3.68	3.82	4.37

* 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 April**

	2010	2009		2010	2009
Barrington	9.1	7.2	Newport	11.7	9.1
Bristol	10.9	9.8	North Kingstown	10.2	8.1
Burrillville	13.0	10.7	North Providence	11.7	9.9
Central Falls	14.5	13.5	North Smithfield	11.3	9.2
Charlestown	13.8	11.2	Pawtucket	13.8	12.5
Coventry	12.0	10.3	Portsmouth	10.1	8.2
Cranston	12.8	10.0	Providence	13.9	11.8
Cumberland	11.4	9.5	Richmond	9.3	7.6
East Greenwich	11.6	8.6	Scituate	12.5	10.3
East Providence	13.4	11.0	Smithfield	11.5	9.4
Exeter	10.7	8.9	South Kingstown	10.7	8.0
Foster	12.7	10.8	Tiverton	12.1	10.4
Glocester	10.6	8.4	Warren	12.2	10.5
Hopkinton	14.6	11.0	Warwick	12.0	9.3
Jamestown	9.9	6.0	West Greenwich	11.3	9.0
Johnston	13.3	10.7	West Warwick	14.1	10.7
Lincoln	11.2	10.0	Westerly	10.4	8.9
Little Compton	12.8	8.6	Woonsocket	14.2	11.9
Middletown	10.4	8.3			
Narragansett	8.7	6.3	State of R.I.	12.4	10.2
New Shoreham	19.7	14.6	United States	9.5	8.6

Nationally, there were an estimated 2.70 advertised vacancies for every 100 persons in labor force. Among the New England states, Massachusetts (3.89), Connecticut (3.59) and Vermont (3.54) had higher vacancy rates than Rhode Island.

There were an estimated 3.55 unemployed Rhode Island residents for every advertised job in April, down from 4.06 unemployed residents estimated per March advertisements. Nationally, there were 3.68 unemployed persons for every job opening advertised in April, down from 3.82 in March.

Unemployment Insurance Claims Activity

	Apr.	Mar.	Apr.	% Change		Year-to-Date		
	2010	2010	2009	Mar 10	Apr. 09	2010	2009	% Change
Regular Claims								
Initial Claims	9,488	7,467	10,381	27.1%	-8.6%	38,414	50,161	-23.4%
Number of Payments	76,218	106,257	110,415	-28.3%	-31.0%	351,347	446,824	-21.4%
Amount of Payments (gross millions)	\$28.2	\$40.0	\$40.9	-29.5%	-31.1%	\$131.7	\$165.8	-20.6%
Exhaustions (Final Payments)	2,748	3,013	3,159	-8.8%	-13.0%	10,305	10,550	-2.3%
Emergency Unemployment Compensation						2010	Since Program Began	
Initial Claims	2,813	4,177	3,360	-32.7%	-16.3%	14,057	76,305	
Number of Payments	75,133	103,449	44,148	-27.4%	70.2%	339,526	1,155,063	
Amount of Payments (gross millions)	\$27.9	\$38.2	\$15.5	-27.0%	80.0%	\$125.0	\$418.0	
Extended Benefits						2010	Since Program Began	
Initial Claims	1,256	376	647	234.0%	94.1%	1,893	12,903	
Number of Payments	3,558	2,775	5,288	28.2%	-32.7%	16,061	146,517	
Amount of Payments (gross millions)	\$1.2	\$0.9	\$1.7	33.3%	-29.4%	\$5.6	\$51.3	
Exhaustions (Final Payments)	97	478	173	-79.7%	-43.9%	1,782	7,274	

**Rhode Island's "Great Flood"
One Month Later**

Return to Work Expectations

	Companies		Workers Affected	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Total Companies Closed*	240	100%	4,854	100%
Within Three Days Flood (April 4th)	19	7.9%	203	4.2%
Within Ten Days Flood (April 10th)	40	16.7%	1,319	27.2%
Within One Month of Flood	25	10.4%	603	12.4%
In May	15	6.3%	169	3.5%
In June	9	3.8%	166	3.4%
In July	3	1.3%	318	6.6%
In August	54	22.5%	668	13.8%
Fall 2010	2	0.8%	470	9.7%
Unknown	69	28.8%	856	17.6%
Not Planning to Reopening	4	1.7%	82	1.7%

Companies Still Closed One Month Later

By Industry

	Companies		Workers Affected	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Total	156	100%	2,730	100%
Manufacturing	19	12.2%	345	12.6%
Wholesale Trade	7	4.5%	99	3.6%
Retail Trade	60	38.5%	1,507	55.2%
Professional Services	6	3.8%	67	2.5%
Ambulatory Health	14	9.0%	107	3.9%
Accommodations & Food Services	23	14.7%	390	14.3%
Other Services	11	7.1%	83	3.0%
Other Industries	16	10.3%	132	4.8%

By Location

	Companies		Workers Affected	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Total	156	100%	2,730	100%
Warwick	103	66.0%	2,201	80.6%
Cranston	16	10.3%	231	8.5%
Westerly	8	5.1%	115	4.2%
West Warwick	9	5.8%	96	3.5%
Other Cities/Towns	20	12.8%	87	3.2%
Warwick Mall Employment	70	44.9%	1,500	54.9%

By Size of Establishment

	Companies		Workers Affected	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Total	156	100%	2,730	100%
100 or more employees	4	2.6%	764	28.0%
50-99	7	4.5%	456	16.7%
20-49	20	12.8%	603	22.1%
10-19	38	24.4%	497	18.2%
1-9	87	55.8%	410	15.0%

Prepared by: Labor Market Information Unit

Rhode Island Department of Labor and Training (DLT)

Source: Quarterly Census of Employment and Wage Program Records

Unemployment Insurance Administrative Records

DLT records as of 5/27/10