



Rhode Island's Unemployment Rate Drops to 10.9 percent in April

- ◆ RI's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate for April was 10.9 percent, down one-tenth of a percentage point from March.
- ◆ RI's April unemployment rate is down eight-tenths of a percentage points from last year's figure of 11.7 percent.
- ◆ The national rate was 9.0 percent, up two-tenths of a percentage point from March and down eight-tenths from the previous year.
- ◆ In April 2011, Rhode Island had the 3rd highest unemployment rate in the nation, trailing Nevada (12.5%) and California (11.9%).
- ◆ The April 2011 unemployment rate increased in three states. Thirty-nine states, including New Hampshire (-0.3), Massachusetts (-0.2), Vermont (-0.1) and Rhode Island (-0.1) saw their rates decrease, while eight states' rates, including Connecticut and Maine, were unchanged. In all, seven states have unemployment rates in the double digits, with two states having a rate of 11.0 percent or higher.
- ◆ Rates in other New England States for April 2011—Connecticut 9.1 percent, Massachusetts 7.8 percent, Maine 7.6 percent, Vermont 5.3 percent and New Hampshire 4.9 percent.
- ◆ The number of employed RI residents totaled 509,000 in April 2011, up 100 from the previous month. Between April 2010 and April 2011, the number of employed RI residents grew by 400.
- ◆ In April, the number of unemployed Rhode Island residents decreased by 900 to 62,100. From April 2010 to April 2011, the number of unemployed residents decreased by 5,500.

Labor Supply and Demand

According to The Conference Board Help Wanted OnLine (HWOL) data series there were 17,300 online advertised job vacancies posted for Rhode Island in April 2011, up 100 over the month and 700 (+4.2%) from the 16,600 vacancies advertised in April 2010. Professional & Related occupations numbering 6,426 accounted for the most postings, followed by Sales & Office (4,188), Service (2,765) and Management, Business & Financial (2,330) occupations. Construction & Maintenance and Production, Transportation & Material Moving occupations had the fewest on-line vacancy postings, numbering 906 and 1,350, respectively.

Also in April 2011, approximately 58 percent of unemployed Rhode Island residents collected Unemployment Insurance benefits. A comparison of the 17,300 on-line job postings to the 35,341 Unemployment Insurance claimants shows that there was a surplus of available labor (i.e. more claimants per posting) for nearly all occupational classifications. In general, there were 1.97 unemployed claimants per on-line posting. The greatest labor surplus was for Construction & Maintenance and Production, Transportation & Material Moving occupations, for which there were more than four claimants with this type of work experience per posted online vacancy. There were approximately two Unemployed Insurance claimants per on-line posting for Sales & Office (1.99), Service (1.93) and Management, Business & Financial (1.81) occupations.

In contrast, there was more of a demand for Professional & Related occupations, which consists of occupations requiring post secondary education most often obtained through collegiate study, than available labor. Approximately 3,300 of the individuals currently collecting benefits indicated that they had previous work experience in a professional occupation, nearly half as many as the number of professional on-line vacancy postings. However, just having a college degree would not necessarily secure employment opportunities in this

difficult labor market. In April, health practitioners (such as registered nurses, physical and occupational therapists), engineers and computer programmers were in most demand. While opportunities for those with backgrounds in education or the arts, design and entertainment field were limited.

Seasonally Adjusted Labor Force Statistics

(in thousands)

| | Rhode Island | | | United States | | |
|----------------------|--------------|--------|--------|---------------|---------|---------|
| | Apr 11 | Mar 11 | Apr 10 | Apr 11 | Mar 11 | Apr 10 |
| Civilian Labor Force | 571.1 | 572.0 | 576.2 | 153,421 | 153,406 | 154,520 |
| Resident Employment | 509.0 | 508.9 | 508.6 | 139,674 | 139,864 | 139,382 |
| Unemployment | 62.1 | 63.0 | 67.6 | 13,747 | 13,542 | 15,138 |
| Unemployment Rate | 10.9% | 11.0% | 11.7% | 9.0% | 8.8% | 9.8% |

Rhode Island Jobs Increase by 1,800 in April

Estimated nonfarm payroll in Rhode Island totaled 462,200 in April, reflecting a gain of 1,800 jobs from the revised March employment estimate of 460,400. Several economic sectors reported over-the-month gains with the largest occurring in Retail Trade (+1,400) and Health Care & Social Assistance (+1,100).

Job gains in the Retail Trade sector are attributed to increases in grocery stores, automotive vehicle & parts dealers and building material & garden equipment supplies dealers. All Health Care & Social Assistance subsectors added jobs over the month with the largest gains occurring in hospitals and ambulatory health services. Other sectors adding jobs included Accommodation & Food Services (+300), Financial Activities (+300), Educational Services (+300), Information (+200), Manufacturing (+100), Other Services (+100) and Transportation & Utilities (+100) sectors.

On the negative side, Professional & Business Services lost 800 jobs due to cutbacks in the Administrative & Waste Services sector. The Construction sector reported a loss of 600 jobs resulting from cutbacks among specialty trade contractors. A loss of 500 jobs in Government employment is attributed to declines in federal and local government employment. Wholesale Trade reported a loss of 200 jobs. Employment in Natural, Resources & Mining and Arts, Entertainment & Recreation was unchanged over the month.

Over the year, employment was up 4,000 (+0.9%) from April 2010, with job gains reported in eight economic sectors. Retail Trade (+3,100) Accommodation & Food Services (+2,600), Health Care & Social Assistance (+1,000), Manufacturing (+900), Information (+800) and Wholesale Trade (+600) all reported significant over-the-year gains. Transportation & Utilities reported an over-the-year gain of 100 jobs, while Natural Resources & Mining employment remained even.

Government employment was down 1,800 over the year due to cutbacks among municipal government workers and the termination of census workers. Construction employment was down 1,200 from April 2010, and can be attributed to less hiring of specialty trade contractors. Educational Services was down 900 over the year due to cutbacks at private colleges and universities.

Professional & Business Services (-600), Arts, Entertainment & Recreation (-400), Financial Activities (-100), and Other Services (-100) all reported job declines over the year.

MANUFACTURING: In April 2011, production workers in the Manufacturing sector earned \$15.42 per hour. The average hourly production wage was up 23 cents from March 2011 and up 73 cents from April 2010. Manufacturing employees worked an average of 39.6 hours per week in April, down three-tenths of an hour over the month, but up an hour and a half over the year.

| Establishment Employment in Rhode Island | | | | | |
|---|-----------------|--------------|--------------|------------|------------|
| Seasonally Adjusted | | | | | |
| | Net Change From | | | | |
| | Apr-11 | Mar-11 | Apr-10 | Mar-11 | Apr-10 |
| Total Nonfarm | 462.2 | 460.4 | 458.2 | 1.8 | 4.0 |
| Natural Resources & Mining | 0.2 | 0.2 | 0.2 | 0.0 | 0.0 |
| Construction | 14.9 | 15.5 | 16.1 | -0.6 | -1.2 |
| Manufacturing | 40.9 | 40.8 | 40.0 | 0.1 | 0.9 |
| Wholesale Trade | 16.4 | 16.6 | 15.8 | -0.2 | 0.6 |
| Retail Trade | 50.0 | 48.6 | 46.9 | 1.4 | 3.1 |
| Transportation & Utilities | 10.3 | 10.2 | 10.2 | 0.1 | 0.1 |
| Information | 10.6 | 10.4 | 9.8 | 0.2 | 0.8 |
| Financial Activities | 30.4 | 30.1 | 30.5 | 0.3 | -0.1 |
| Professional & Business Services | 53.2 | 54.0 | 53.8 | -0.8 | -0.6 |
| Educational Services | 23.0 | 22.7 | 23.9 | 0.3 | -0.9 |
| Health Care & Social Assistance | 78.9 | 77.8 | 77.9 | 1.1 | 1.0 |
| Arts, Entertainment & Recreation | 7.1 | 7.1 | 7.5 | 0.0 | -0.4 |
| Accommodation & Food Services | 44.3 | 44.0 | 41.7 | 0.3 | 2.6 |
| Other Services | 21.8 | 21.7 | 21.9 | 0.1 | -0.1 |
| Government | 60.2 | 60.7 | 62.0 | -0.5 | -1.8 |

| Manufacturing Employment in Rhode Island | | | | | |
|---|------------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|------------|
| Not Seasonally Adjusted | | | | | |
| | Employment | | | | |
| | (in thousands) | | | | |
| | Net Change From: | | | | |
| | Apr 11 | Mar 11 | Apr 10 | Mar 11 | Apr 10 |
| Manufacturing | 40.6 | 40.7 | 39.8 | -100 | 800 |
| Durable Goods | 25.9 | 26.0 | 25.5 | -100 | 400 |
| Fabricated Metal Product Mfg. | 5.6 | 5.7 | 5.5 | -100 | 100 |
| Computer & Electronic Product Mfg. | 3.7 | 3.7 | 3.7 | 0 | 0 |
| Miscellaneous Manufacturing | 6.3 | 6.4 | 6.7 | -100 | -400 |
| Jewelry & Silverware | 4.0 | 4.1 | 4.3 | -100 | -300 |
| Non-Durable Goods | 14.7 | 14.7 | 14.3 | 0 | 400 |
| Chemical Manufacturing | 2.8 | 2.9 | 2.9 | -100 | -100 |

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.

Health Care and Social Assistance



Since 1990, employment in Rhode Island's Health Care & Social Assistance sector has increased steadily, fueling employment growth during the state's expansion periods and holding its own during times of recession. Today, 78,900, or 19.7 percent, of the state's private sector jobs are in Health Care & Social Assistance, 4 percent more than the national average and the second highest percentage in the nation. Only Maine's Health Care & Social Assistance sector job share accounts for a higher percentage of private sector jobs.

Since January 1990, each of the four subsectors within Health Care & Social Assistance has seen notable job growth, led by Ambulatory Health Care Services (+10,500), Nursing & Residential Care Facilities (+6,800), Hospitals (+6,500) and Social Assistance (+4,500). The Hospitals subsector is the largest subsector, accounting for 31.5 percent of the sector's employment, followed by Ambulatory Health Care (30.6%), Nursing & Residential Care Facilities (23.8%) and Social Assistance (14.1%).

In 2010, Health Care & Social Assistance establishments paid \$3.2 billion in wages, accounting for 19.5 percent of total private wages. The average annual wage was \$41,121 in 2010, \$1,409 (-3.3%) less than the private sector average. Average annual wages are higher in the Hospitals (\$51,949) and Ambulatory Health Care (\$49,574) subsectors, which have greater demand for workers with higher levels of education. Average wages in the Nursing & Residential Care Facilities (\$27,353) and Social Assistance (\$21,703) subsectors are lower due to a greater reliance on workers with on-the-job training and vocational skills.

Healthcare Practitioners and Technicians account for over one-quarter of the employment in the Health Care & Social Assistance sector. Educational requirements for these occupations vary, ranging from Associate Degrees for Registered Nurses, Bachelor Degrees for Occupational Therapists and Masters Degrees for Speech & Language Pathologists to Professional degrees for Doctors & Surgeons. The sector also offers numerous opportunities for new and re-entrants to the labor market in both patient and non-patient care positions. Wages for Nursing Aides, Orderlies & Attendants average \$11.23 per hour for entry-level workers and \$15.49 per hour for experienced workers. Hospitals and Nursing & Residential Care Facilities also employ significant numbers of Cooks, Food Preparation Workers, Janitors and Maids & Housekeepers with starting wages ranging from \$8.79 per hour for Maids & Housekeepers to \$13.53 per hour for Cooks. Job skills needed for these occupations are acquired on the job in short-term training programs.

Characteristics of the Insured Unemployed

A total of 16,884 individuals were eligible to collect "regular" Unemployment Insurance benefits in April 2011, down 2,678 (-13.7%) from the 19,562 collecting these benefits in April 2010. In addition, 13,888 individuals collected Emergency Unemployment Compensation and 2,470 collected Extended Benefits. In all, 59.0 percent of Rhode Island's unemployed workers were eligible to collect unemployment benefits in April.

Of the 16,884 individuals collecting "regular" Unemployment Insurance benefits, 34.1 percent faced long-term unemployment (defined as collecting Unemployment Insurance for fifteen weeks or more), down from 34.7 percent in April 2010.

On an industry basis, 18.9 percent (3,188) of the State's insured unemployed workers came from the Construction sector. There were also 1,865 individuals with an attachment to the Manufacturing sector, accounting for 11.0 percent of all insured unemployed workers. An additional 10.8 percent (1,830) of those collecting UI benefits in April had worked in the Administrative & Waste Services sector. Large numbers of insured unemployed were also reported in Retail Trade (1,762), Accommodation & Food Services (1,673) and Health Care & Social Assistance (1,580). For more information, go to www.dlt.ri.gov/lmi/uiadmin/characteristics.htm.

Characteristics of the Insured Unemployed, April 2011

| | Total | Percent | |
|----------------------------------|---------------|--------------|--------------|
| | | Long-Term | Long-Term |
| Total | 16,884 | 5,757 | 34.1% |
| Male | 10,030 | 3,409 | 34.0% |
| Female | 6,854 | 2,348 | 34.3% |
| Selected Industries | 16,884 | 5,757 | 34.1% |
| Construction | 3,188 | 974 | 30.6% |
| Manufacturing | 1,865 | 528 | 28.3% |
| Wholesale Trade | 568 | 214 | 37.7% |
| Retail Trade | 1,762 | 514 | 29.2% |
| Transportation & Warehousing | 386 | 115 | 29.8% |
| Information | 127 | 59 | 46.5% |
| Finance & Insurance | 686 | 320 | 46.6% |
| Real Estate | 333 | 140 | 42.0% |
| Professional & Tech. Services | 721 | 228 | 31.6% |
| Administrative & Waste Services | 1,830 | 642 | 35.1% |
| Educational Services | 265 | 99 | 37.4% |
| Health Care & Social Assistance | 1,580 | 505 | 32.0% |
| Arts, Entertainment & Recreation | 417 | 171 | 41.0% |
| Accommodation & Food Services | 1,673 | 690 | 41.2% |
| Other Services | 611 | 196 | 32.1% |
| Public Administration | 165 | 54 | 32.7% |

Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers

| | | | | % Change |
|-----------|--------|--------|--------|------------|
| | Apr 11 | Mar 11 | Apr 10 | Prev. Year |
| All Items | 224.9 | 223.5 | 218.0 | 3.2% |

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 17,300 advertisements for Rhode Island based jobs this month, an increase of 100 (+0.6%) from the March 2011 postings, and up 700 (+4.2%) from the advertised vacancies posted online in April 2010. There were an estimated 3.03 advertised vacancies for every 100 persons in Rhode Island's labor force.

Help Wanted OnLine Advertised Job Vacancies

| | Apr 11 | Mar 11 | Apr 10 |
|------------------------------|--------|--------|--------|
| RI Vacancies | 17,300 | 17,200 | 16,600 |
| <i>Labor Demand Rate *</i> | | | |
| Rhode Island | 3.03 | 3.01 | 2.88 |
| US | 2.82 | 2.90 | 2.33 |
| Connecticut | 3.22 | 3.82 | 2.96 |
| Massachusetts | 3.66 | 3.99 | 3.25 |
| Maine | 2.91 | 2.88 | 2.56 |
| New Hampshire | 3.30 | 3.08 | 2.68 |
| Vermont | 3.31 | 3.08 | 2.89 |
| <i>Supply/Demand Rate **</i> | | | |
| Rhode Island | 3.59 | 3.67 | 4.07 |
| US | 3.18 | 3.05 | 4.20 |

* 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 April

| | 2011 | 2010 | | 2011 | 2010 |
|-----------------|------|------|------------------|------|------|
| Barrington | 7.2 | 8.5 | Newport | 10.3 | 11.0 |
| Bristol | 10.0 | 10.2 | North Kingstown | 9.3 | 9.7 |
| Burrillville | 10.4 | 11.9 | North Providence | 10.2 | 11.2 |
| Central Falls | 14.1 | 13.8 | North Smithfield | 9.4 | 10.5 |
| Charlestown | 12.0 | 12.8 | Pawtucket | 12.1 | 13.0 |
| Coventry | 9.6 | 11.4 | Portsmouth | 9.5 | 9.4 |
| Cranston | 10.7 | 12.4 | Providence | 13.3 | 13.3 |
| Cumberland | 9.9 | 10.6 | Richmond | 7.2 | 9.2 |
| East Greenwich | 10.6 | 10.9 | Scituate | 9.6 | 11.8 |
| East Providence | 11.0 | 12.4 | Smithfield | 10.4 | 10.7 |
| Exeter | 10.1 | 10.4 | South Kingstown | 9.6 | 10.0 |
| Foster | 12.0 | 12.1 | Tiverton | 11.2 | 11.1 |
| Glocester | 8.6 | 9.9 | Warren | 10.9 | 11.5 |
| Hopkinton | 10.7 | 14.1 | Warwick | 9.5 | 11.6 |
| Jamestown | 8.5 | 9.7 | West Greenwich | 8.9 | 10.4 |
| Johnston | 12.1 | 12.6 | West Warwick | 12.0 | 13.7 |
| Lincoln | 8.7 | 10.3 | Westerly | 8.1 | 9.7 |
| Little Compton | 10.3 | 11.8 | Woonsocket | 12.3 | 13.2 |
| Middletown | 9.7 | 9.4 | | | |
| Narragansett | 7.1 | 8.1 | State of R.I. | 10.8 | 11.7 |
| New Shoreham | 22.3 | 19.8 | United States | 8.7 | 9.5 |

Nationally, there were an estimated 2.82 advertised vacancies for every 100 persons in labor force. Among the New England states, Massachusetts (3.66), Vermont (3.31), New Hampshire (3.30) and Connecticut (3.22) all had a higher vacancy rate than Rhode Island.

There were an estimated 3.59 unemployed Rhode Island residents for every advertised job in April, down from 3.67 unemployed residents estimated per March advertisements. Nationally, there were 3.18 unemployed persons for every job opening advertised in April, up from 3.05 in March.

Unemployment Insurance Claims Activity

| | Apr. | Mar. | Apr. | % Change | | Year to Date | | |
|--|--------|--------|--------|----------|--------|--------------|---------------------|----------|
| | 2011 | 2011 | 2010 | Mar 11 | Apr 10 | 2011 | 2010 | % Change |
| Regular Claims | | | | | | | | |
| Initial Claims | 7,820 | 6,458 | 9,488 | 21.1% | -17.6% | 33,713 | 38,414 | -12.2% |
| Number of Payments | 66,351 | 82,035 | 76,218 | -19.1% | -12.9% | 317,475 | 351,347 | -9.6% |
| Amount of Payments (gross millions) | \$24.2 | \$30.4 | \$28.2 | -20.4% | -14.2% | \$117.0 | \$131.7 | -11.2% |
| Exhaustions (Final Payments) | 2,444 | 2,479 | 2,748 | -1.4% | -11.1% | 9,603 | 10,305 | -6.8% |
| Emergency Unemployment Compensation | | | | | | 2011 | Since Program Began | |
| Initial Claims | 3,040 | 3,368 | 2,813 | -9.7% | 8.1% | 12,465 | 110,714 | |
| Number of Payments | 56,969 | 59,270 | 75,133 | -3.9% | -24.2% | 236,275 | 1,848,034 | |
| Amount of Payments (gross millions) | \$20.8 | \$21.7 | \$27.9 | -4.1% | -25.4% | \$86.9 | \$673.6 | |
| Extended Benefits | | | | | | 2011 | Since Program Began | |
| Initial Claims | 402 | 575 | 1,256 | -30.1% | -68.0% | 1,824 | 30,578 | |
| Number of Payments | 9,973 | 10,767 | 3,558 | -7.4% | 180.3% | 50,621 | 386,337 | |
| Amount of Payments (gross millions) | \$3.7 | \$3.9 | \$1.2 | -5.1% | 208.3% | \$18.7 | \$140.4 | |
| Exhaustions (Final Payments) | 821 | 514 | 97 | 59.7% | 746.4% | 2,562 | 18,260 | |

**Rhode Island Help Wanted OnLine
Advertised Vacancies per Unemployment Insurance Claimant**

| | <u>OnLine Postings</u> | <u>Average Wage</u> | <u>Unemployment Insurance Claimant</u> | <u>Claimants per Posting</u> |
|--|------------------------|---------------------|--|------------------------------|
| Total | 17,965 | n/a | 35,341 | 1.97 |
| Management, Business & Financial | 2,330 | \$41.74 | 4,206 | 1.81 |
| Professional & Related | 6,426 | \$31.11 | 3,308 | 0.51 |
| Service | 2,765 | \$12.97 | 5,327 | 1.93 |
| Sales & Office | 4,188 | \$16.58 | 8,324 | 1.99 |
| Construction & Maintenance | 906 | \$21.51 | 3,987 | 4.40 |
| Production, Transportation & Material Moving | 1,350 | \$15.29 | 6,617 | 4.90 |

Source: The Conference Board