



Rhode Island's Unemployment Rate Rises to 11.2 percent in April

- ◆ RI's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate for April was 11.2 percent, up one-tenth of a percentage point from March.
- ◆ RI's April unemployment rate is unchanged from last April's figure of 11.2 percent.
- ◆ The national rate was 8.1 percent, down one-tenth of a percentage point from March and down nine-tenths of a percentage point from the previous year.
- ◆ In April 2012, Rhode Island had the 2nd highest unemployment rate in the nation, trailing Nevada (11.7%).
- ◆ The April 2012 unemployment rate increased in five states, including Rhode Island (+0.1). Thirty-seven states, including Massachusetts (-0.2), New Hampshire (-0.2) and Vermont (-0.2), saw their rates decrease, while eight states' rates, including Maine and Connecticut, were unchanged. In all, three states have unemployment rates in the double digits.
- ◆ Rates in other New England States for April 2012— Connecticut 7.7 percent, Maine 7.2 percent, Massachusetts 6.3 percent, New Hampshire 5.0 percent and Vermont 4.6 percent.
- ◆ The number of employed RI residents totaled 494,100 in April 2012, down 2,000 from the previous month. Between April 2011 and April 2012, the number of employed RI residents decreased by 6,900.
- ◆ Over the month, the number of unemployed Rhode Island residents increased by 100 to 62,200 in April 2012. From April 2011 to April 2012, the number of unemployed residents decreased by 900.

2011 Rhode Island Employment and Wages

Rhode Island total employment (448,532) increased by 1,313 jobs in 2011, a 0.3 percent increase in total employment from 2010 and on par with earlier estimates that show an annual increase of 1,100 in establishment employment. Private sector employment accounted for all of the employment gain by adding 2,235 (+0.6%) jobs, while the Government sector lost 922 (-1.5%) jobs. The Private sector (389,240) represents 86.8 percent of total covered employment, while the Government sector (59,293) represents 13.2 percent of total employment.

Health Care & Social Assistance (78,200) was the leading employment sector in Rhode Island in 2011, accounting for 17.4 percent of total employment in the state. Government (59,293), Retail Trade (46,881), Accommodation & Food Services (42,565) and Manufacturing (40,354) round out the top five sectors for employment and together (267,293) comprise 59.6 percent of total employment in the state.

Accommodation & Food Services (+597) added the most jobs over-the-year, up 1.4 percent from 2010. Management of Companies and Enterprises (+522), Transportation & Warehousing (+453), Wholesale Trade (+358) and Other Services (+350) also reported significant jobs gains.

Over the year, Government (-922) led all sectors in job loss as Local and Federal Government posted 674 and 416 job losses, respectively. Finance & Insurance (-365) and Construction (-263) posted the largest decreases in the private sector.

Rhode Island workers earned \$20.5 billion in 2011, a 12.7 percent increase from wages paid in 2010. Private sector wages grew by \$483.0 million (+2.9%) while Government wages grew by \$46.4 million (+1.3%). The annual Private sector wage in 2011 was \$43,526, and increase of \$996 (+2.3%) from the \$42,530 earned in 2010. Government wages (\$59,972) were up \$1,690 (+2.9%) from 2010.

Workers in the Management of Companies & Enterprises sector earned an average annual wage of \$103,185 in 2011, an increase of \$1,944 (+1.9%) from last year. Utilities (\$90,360), Finance & Insurance (\$78,197), Professional & Technical Services (\$64,927), Information (\$64,026) and Wholesale Trade (\$63,773) sectors all reported average annual wages above \$60,000.

Seasonally Adjusted Labor Force Statistics (in thousands)

	Rhode Island			United States		
	Apr 12	Mar 12	Apr 11	Apr 12	Mar 12	Apr 11
Civilian Labor Force	556.3	558.2	564.1	154,365	154,707	153,420
Resident Employment	494.1	496.1	501.0	141,865	142,034	139,628
Unemployment	62.2	62.1	63.1	12,500	12,673	13,792
Unemployment Rate	11.2%	11.1%	11.2%	8.1%	8.2%	9.0%

Rhode Island Jobs Increase by 100 in April

Estimated nonfarm payroll in Rhode Island totaled 457,800 in April, adding 100 jobs from the March employment estimate of 457,700.

The Retail Trade sector added 500 jobs in April as job gains were reported within several industry groups, including motor vehicle and parts dealers, building material and garden equipment stores and food and beverage stores. The Construction sector and Financial Activities sector each added 300 jobs over the month.

Also in April, positive job gains were reported in the Educational Services (+200), Professional & Business Services (+200), Government (+200) and Wholesale Trade (+100) sectors.

Employment within the Information and Mining & Logging sectors remained unchanged over the month.

Offsetting the April job gains were losses reported in the Health Care & Social Assistance (-500) and Accommodation & Food Services (-500) sectors. Losses in Health Care & Social Assistance can be attributed to cutbacks among ambulatory health care services while job declines in Accommodation & Food Services sector were mainly due to smaller gains among food services & drinking places than typically occur in April.

Job declines from March were also reported in the Manufacturing (-200), Arts, Entertainment & Recreation (-200), Transportation & Utilities (-200) and Other Services (-100) sectors.

Over the year, total nonfarm employment decreased by 4,300. Job losses were reported in eight economic sectors, including Health Care & Social Assistance (-1,500), Accommodation & Food Services (-1,400), Retail Trade (-1,200), Other Services (-1,000), Government (-900), Arts, Entertainment & Recreation (-500), Transportation & Utilities (-100) and Manufacturing (-100).

Educational Services employment posted the largest over-the-year increase in April, with a gain of 1,000 jobs, followed by Professional & Business Services (+500), Wholesale Trade (+500) and Information (+400).

	Net Change From				
	Apr-12	Mar-12	Apr-11	Mar-12	Apr-11
Total Nonfarm	457.8	457.7	462.1	0.1	-4.3
Natural Resources & Mining	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.0	0.0
Construction	15.5	15.2	15.5	0.3	0.0
Manufacturing	40.7	40.9	40.8	-0.2	-0.1
Wholesale Trade	16.6	16.5	16.1	0.1	0.5
Retail Trade	46.2	45.7	47.4	0.5	-1.2
Transportation & Utilities	10.6	10.8	10.7	-0.2	-0.1
Information	10.5	10.5	10.1	0.0	0.4
Financial Activities	30.8	30.5	30.8	0.3	0.0
Professional & Business Services	54.4	54.2	53.9	0.2	0.5
Educational Services	26.1	25.9	25.1	0.2	1.0
Health Care & Social Assistance	77.0	77.5	78.5	-0.5	-1.5
Arts, Entertainment & Recreation	7.1	7.3	7.6	-0.2	-0.5
Accommodation & Food Services	40.9	41.4	42.3	-0.5	-1.4
Other Services	21.2	21.3	22.2	-0.1	-1.0
Government	60.0	59.8	60.9	0.2	-0.9

Manufacturing Employment in Rhode Island Not Seasonally Adjusted

	Employment				
	(in thousands)				
	Net Change From:				
	Apr 12	Mar 12	Apr 11	Mar 12	Apr 11
Manufacturing	40.7	40.9	40.6	-200	100
Durable Goods	26.3	26.5	26.0	-200	300
Fabricated Metal Product Mfg.	5.5	5.5	5.7	0	-200
Computer & Electronic Product Mfg.	3.5	3.5	3.6	0	-100
Miscellaneous Manufacturing	6.5	6.5	6.7	0	-200
Jewelry & Silverware	4.1	4.1	4.3	0	-200
Non-Durable Goods	14.4	14.4	14.6	0	-200
Chemical Manufacturing	2.8	2.8	2.8	0	0

Employment in Construction, Financial Activities and Mining & Logging remained unchanged over the year.

MANUFACTURING: In April 2012, production workers in the Manufacturing sector earned \$18.14 per hour. The average hourly production wage was down 4 cents from March 2012 and up \$2.72 from April 2011. Manufacturing employees worked an average of 40.0 hours per week in April, up one-tenth of an hour over the month and up five-tenths of an 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. LMI's newest 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 March 30, 2012, the Department of Labor and Training's EmployRI on-line network recorded 7,999 on-line job postings from Rhode Island-based businesses. Also in March, 33,467 individuals collected Unemployment Insurance (UI) benefits, accounting for slightly more than half (51.3%) of all unemployed Rhode Island residents. A comparison of the on-line job postings to the UI claimants currently seeking work indicates that there were 4.2 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 nearly 40 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 Building & Grounds Cleaning & Maintenance (16.1), Installation, Maintenance & Repair (11.9), Production (10.7) and Transportation & Material Moving (10.4), each of which had more than ten unemployed claimants per on-line posting.

In contrast, there was more of a demand for Healthcare Practitioner & Technical and Computer & Mathematical occupations than available labor. For both of 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 and Computer & Mathematical 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 14,923 individuals were eligible to collect "regular" Unemployment Insurance benefits in April 2012, down 1,961 (-11.6%) from the 16,884 collecting these benefits in April 2011. In addition, 11,631 individuals collected Emergency Unemployment Compensation and 1,947 collected Extended Benefits. In all, 46.9 percent of Rhode Island's unemployed workers were eligible to collect unemployment benefits in April.

Of the 14,923 individuals collecting "regular" Unemployment Insurance benefits, 30.7 percent faced long-term unemployment (defined as collecting unemployment insurance for fifteen weeks or more), down from 34.1 percent in April 2011.

On an industry basis, 16.5 percent (2,457) of the State's insured unemployed workers came from the Construction sector. There were also 1,765 individuals with an attachment to the Health Care & Social Assistance sector, accounting for 11.8 percent of all insured unemployed workers. An additional 11.3 percent (1,683) of those collecting UI benefits in April had worked in the Administrative & Waste Services sector. Large numbers of insured unemployed were also reported in Manufacturing (1,552), Retail Trade (1,472) and Accommodation & Food Services (1,374). For more information, go to www.dlt.ri.gov/lmi/uiadmin/characteristics.htm.

Characteristics of the Insured Unemployed, April 2012

			Percent
	Total	Long-Term	Long-Term
Total	14,923	4,587	30.7%
Male	8,669	2,544	29.3%
Female	6,254	2,043	32.7%
Selected Industries	14,923	4,587	30.7%
Construction	2,457	534	21.7%
Manufacturing	1,552	488	31.4%
Wholesale Trade	590	185	31.4%
Retail Trade	1,472	436	29.6%
Transportation & Warehousing	375	111	29.6%
Information	239	84	35.1%
Finance & Insurance	644	260	40.4%
Real Estate	291	90	30.9%
Professional & Tech. Services	617	195	31.6%
Administrative & Waste Services	1,683	478	28.4%
Educational Services	286	104	36.4%
Health Care & Social Assistance	1,765	628	35.6%
Arts, Entertainment & Recreation	368	121	32.9%
Accommodation & Food Services	1,374	467	34.0%
Other Services	586	196	33.4%
Public Administration	110	44	40.0%

Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers

	% Change			
	Apr 12	Mar 12	Apr 11	Prev. Year
All Items	230.1	229.4	224.9	2.3%

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 18,900 advertisements for Rhode Island based jobs this month, an increase of 1,100 (+6.2%) from the March 2012 postings, and up 1,000 (+5.6%) from the advertised vacancies posted online in April 2011. There were an estimated 3.39 advertised vacancies for every 100 persons in Rhode Island's labor force.

Help Wanted OnLine Advertised Job Vacancies

	Apr 12	Mar 12	Apr 11
RI Vacancies	18,900	17,800	17,900
<i>Labor Demand Rate *</i>			
Rhode Island	3.39	3.20	3.18
US	3.08	3.02	2.89
Connecticut	3.24	3.37	3.29
Massachusetts	3.88	3.87	3.84
Maine	3.07	3.00	3.04
New Hampshire	3.50	3.26	3.43
Vermont	3.90	3.79	3.49
<i>Supply/Demand Rate **</i>			
Rhode Island	3.29	3.48	3.53
US	2.63	2.71	3.11

* 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

	2012	2011		2012	2011
Barrington	7.5	7.2	Newport	10.4	10.1
Bristol	9.4	9.9	North Kingstown	9.6	9.5
Burrillville	10.3	10.7	North Providence	10.1	10.7
Central Falls	13.9	14.0	North Smithfield	9.4	9.2
Charlestown	12.5	12.3	Pawtucket	13.1	12.5
Coventry	10.7	9.9	Portsmouth	9.3	9.6
Cranston	11.0	10.9	Providence	13.3	13.3
Cumberland	9.9	10.1	Richmond	7.7	7.2
East Greenwich	10.5	10.9	Scituate	11.1	10.0
East Providence	12.1	11.4	Smithfield	10.0	10.4
Exeter	11.0	10.4	South Kingstown	9.5	9.5
Foster	10.5	12.0	Tiverton	10.4	10.8
Glocester	8.8	9.3	Warren	11.0	11.1
Hopkinton	10.8	10.4	Warwick	9.9	9.8
Jamestown	8.3	8.8	West Greenwich	10.3	9.3
Johnston	11.5	12.3	West Warwick	12.0	12.1
Lincoln	10.2	9.1	Westerly	8.9	8.4
Little Compton	10.1	10.3	Woonsocket	13.0	12.8
Middletown	10.3	9.9			
Narragansett	7.6	7.2	State of R.I.	11.1	11.0
New Shoreham	25.1	21.3	United States	7.7	8.7

Nationally, there were an estimated 3.08 advertised vacancies for every 100 persons in labor force. Among the New England states, Vermont (3.90), Massachusetts (3.88) and New Hampshire (3.50) all had a higher vacancy rate than Rhode Island.

There were an estimated 3.29 unemployed Rhode Island residents for every advertised job in April, down from 3.48 unemployed residents estimated per March advertisements. Nationally, there were 2.63 unemployed persons for every job opening advertised in April, down from 2.71 in March.

Unemployment Insurance Claims Activity

	Apr.	Mar.	Apr.	% Change		Year-to-Date		
	2012	2012	2011	Mar.12	Apr.11	2012	2011	% Change
Regular Claims								
Initial Claims	7,722	5,904	7,820	30.8%	-1.3%	33,592	33,713	-0.4%
Number of Payments	67,014	71,858	66,351	-6.7%	1.0%	297,158	317,475	-6.4%
Amount of Payments (gross millions)	\$24.8	\$27.0	\$24.2	-8.1%	2.5%	\$110.8	\$117.0	-5.3%
Exhaustions (Final Payments)	2,538	2,198	2,444	15.5%	3.8%	8,957	9,603	-6.7%
Emergency Unemployment Compensation						2012	Since Program Began	
Initial Claims	2,498	2,664	3,040	-6.2%	-17.8%	10,398	142,751	
Number of Payments	54,095	47,909	56,969	12.9%	-5.0%	209,301	2,526,969	
Amount of Payments (gross millions)	\$19.8	\$17.5	\$20.8	13.1%	-4.8%	\$76.7	\$903.4	
Extended Benefits						2012	Since Program Began	
Initial Claims	504	581	402	-13.3%	25.4%	2,297	36,921	
Number of Payments	8,978	7,820	9,973	14.8%	-10.0%	33,499	474,558	
Amount of Payments (gross millions)	\$3.3	\$2.9	\$3.7	13.8%	-10.8%	\$12.2	\$172.5	
Exhaustions (Final Payments)	439	416	821	5.5%	-46.5%	1,756	23,085	

Rhode Island Covered Employment and Wages 2011 Statewide Employment by NAICS

	<u>Number of Units</u>	<u>Average Employment</u>	<u>Total Wages</u>	<u>Average Annual Wage</u>
Total Private & Government	34,942	448,532	\$20,498,159,788	\$45,701
Total Private Only	34,225	389,240	\$16,942,221,360	\$43,526
Agriculture, Forestry, Fishing & Hunting	166	704	\$17,945,182	\$25,490
Mining	20	177	\$8,847,476	\$56,255
Utilities	32	1,077	\$97,317,921	\$90,360
Construction	3,720	15,681	\$827,180,211	\$52,750
Manufacturing	1,733	40,354	\$2,051,055,401	\$50,827
Wholesale Trade	2,966	16,173	\$1,031,401,138	\$63,773
Retail Trade	3,814	46,881	\$1,250,423,330	\$26,672
Transportation & Warehousing	694	9,164	\$340,619,984	\$37,169
Information	740	10,145	\$649,546,461	\$64,026
Finance & Insurance	1,524	23,041	\$1,801,741,169	\$78,197
Real Estate, Rental & Leasing	1,064	5,645	\$218,571,229	\$38,719
Professional & Technical Services	4,167	20,948	\$1,360,096,936	\$64,927
Management of Companies & Enterprise	246	9,849	\$1,016,265,404	\$103,185
Administrative & Waste Services	2,408	23,401	\$721,618,980	\$30,837
Educational Services	537	19,379	\$894,239,200	\$46,145
Health Care & Social Assistance	3,111	78,200	\$3,271,917,223	\$41,840
Arts, Entertainment & Recreation	546	7,508	\$183,510,229	\$24,442
Accommodation & Food Services	2,907	42,565	\$706,411,416	\$16,596
Other Services Except Public Administration	3,771	18,299	\$491,622,332	\$26,866
Government	717	59,293	\$3,555,938,428	\$59,972
Federal Government	190	10,223	\$787,389,114	\$77,021
State Government	112	16,033	\$985,185,236	\$61,447
Local Government	415	33,037	\$1,783,364,078	\$53,981

Employment changes may be influenced by noneconomic code changes resulting
from NAICS revisions and / or changes in employers reporting methods.
Data subject to revision - Numbers may not add due to rounding variations.