



Rhode Island's Unemployment Rate Drops to 8.8 percent in April

- ◆ RI's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate for April was 8.8 percent, down three-tenths of a percentage point from March.
- ◆ RI's April unemployment rate was down one and eight-tenths percentage points from last April's figure of 10.6 percent.
- ◆ The national rate was 7.5 percent, down one-tenth from March and down six-tenths of a percentage point from the previous year.
- ◆ In April 2013, Rhode Island had the sixth highest unemployment rate in the nation, behind Nevada, Illinois, Mississippi, California and North Carolina.
- ◆ The April 2013 unemployment rate decreased in forty states, including Rhode Island (-0.3), Maine (-0.2), New Hampshire (-0.2) and Vermont (-0.1). Seven states' rates, including Connecticut and Massachusetts, were unchanged, while three states' rates increased. In all, four states have unemployment rates at over above nine percent.
- ◆ Rates in other New England states for April 2013—Connecticut 8.0 percent, Maine 6.9 percent, Massachusetts 6.4 percent, New Hampshire 5.5 percent and Vermont 4.0 percent.
- ◆ The number of employed RI residents totaled 508,900 in April 2013, up 1,200 from the previous month. Between April 2012 and April 2013, the number of employed RI residents increased by 9,100.
- ◆ Over the month, the number of unemployed Rhode Island residents fell by 1,700 to 49,400. From April 2012 to April 2013, the number of unemployed residents decreased by 9,700.

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 March 2013 obtained directly from the CPS survey was 9.8 percent, the third highest rate among all states. The national U-3 rate was 7.9 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 10.2 percent, third highest rate among all states. The national U-4 rate was 8.4 percent.
 - ◆ 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 11.0 percent, the fifth highest rate among all states. The national U-5 was 9.4 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 16.7 percent, the fourth highest rate. Nationally, the U-6 rate was 14.5 percent.

- ◆ When compared to the prior four-quarter average ending December 2012, Rhode Island experienced the largest decreases among all states for U-3 (-0.7), U-4 (-0.7), U-5 (-0.8) and U-6 (-0.9).

Seasonally Adjusted Labor Force Statistics

(in thousands)

	Rhode Island			United States		
	Apr 13	Mar 13	Apr 12	Apr 13	Mar 13	Apr 12
Civilian Labor Force	558.2	558.9	558.9	155,238	155,028	154,451
Resident Employment	508.9	507.7	499.8	143,579	143,286	141,934
Unemployment	49.4	51.1	59.1	11,659	11,742	12,518
Unemployment Rate	8.8%	9.1%	10.6%	7.5%	7.6%	8.1%

Rhode Island Jobs Increase by 500 in April

Estimated nonfarm payroll in Rhode Island totaled 467,400 in April, reflecting a gain of 500 jobs from the March revised employment estimate of 466,900 and marking the fifth month of job gains in the last six months.

The Accommodation & Food Services sector employment count increased by 500 from March, as job gains were reported in full-service restaurants. Manufacturing employment rose by 400 over the month, mainly due to reported gains among durable goods manufacturing workers.

Job gains in landscaping services and employment services provided a boost to the Professional & Business Services sector which added 300 jobs over the month. In addition, both Health Care & Social Assistance and Educational Services grew by 300 jobs since March. Job gains were also reported in the Other Services (+200) and Arts, Entertainment & Recreation (+100) sectors.

Employment in three sectors—Government, Information and Mining & Logging—was unchanged.

Offsetting some of the April gains was a reported loss of 500 jobs in the Construction sector, as the sector failed to meet the expected job growth typically experienced in April. In addition, Retail Trade employment dropped 400 from March, as retailers were reluctant to add employment to their April payrolls. Job losses were also reported in the Financial Activities (-300), Transportation & Utilities (-200) and Wholesale Trade (-200) sectors.

Over the year, total nonfarm employment was up by 2,700, as job gains appeared in six economic sectors, including Professional & Business Services (+2,600), Health Care & Social Assistance (+1,300), Financial Activities (+1,200), Manufacturing (+1,100), Other Services (+400) and Arts, Entertainment & Recreation (+300).

Employment in eight sectors—Construction (-1,400), Retail Trade (-800), Government (-500), Information (-500), Educational Services (-400), Wholesale Trade (-200), Transportation & Utilities (-200) and Accommodation & Food Services (-200) — was down over the year. Employment in Logging & Mining was unchanged over the year.

	Net Change From				
	Apr-13	Mar-13	Apr-12	Mar-13	Apr-12
Total Nonfarm	467.4	466.9	464.7	0.5	2.7
Total Private	407.8	407.3	404.6	0.5	3.2
Natural Resources & Mining	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.0	0.0
Construction	14.8	15.3	16.2	-0.5	-1.4
Manufacturing	40.6	40.2	39.5	0.4	1.1
Wholesale Trade	16.6	16.8	16.8	-0.2	-0.2
Retail Trade	46.1	46.5	46.9	-0.4	-0.8
Transportation & Utilities	10.6	10.8	10.8	-0.2	-0.2
Information	9.2	9.2	9.7	0.0	-0.5
Financial Activities	32.6	32.9	31.4	-0.3	1.2
Professional & Business Services	58.5	58.2	55.9	0.3	2.6
Educational Services	24.8	24.5	25.2	0.3	-0.4
Health Care & Social Assistance	79.4	79.1	78.1	0.3	1.3
Arts, Entertainment & Recreation	7.9	7.8	7.6	0.1	0.3
Accommodation & Food Services	43.7	43.2	43.9	0.5	-0.2
Other Services	22.8	22.6	22.4	0.2	0.4
Government	59.6	59.6	60.1	0.0	-0.5

	Employment				
	(in thousands)			Net Change From:	
	Apr 13	Mar 13	Apr 12	Mar 13	Apr 12
Manufacturing	40.5	40.2	39.4	300	1,100
Durable Goods	25.9	25.7	25.2	200	700
Fabricated Metal Product Mfg.	5.5	5.6	5.6	-100	-100
Computer & Electronic Product Mfg.	3.4	3.4	3.4	0	0
Transportation Equipment Mfg.	3.7	3.7	3.4	0	300
Miscellaneous DG Manufacturing	5.8	5.8	6.0	0	-200
Jewelry & Silverware	3.5	3.5	3.7	0	-200
Non-Durable Goods	14.6	14.5	14.2	100	400
Chemical Manufacturing	2.9	3.0	2.9	-100	0

MANUFACTURING: In April 2013, production workers in the Manufacturing sector earned \$18.89 per hour, down 8 cents from March 2013 and up 75 cents from April 2012. Manufacturing employees worked an average of 39.6 hours per week in April, down three-tenths over the month and down four-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.



2012 Rhode Island Employment & Wages

Rhode Island total employment (451,357) increased by 2,825 jobs in 2012, a 0.6 percent increase in total employment from 2011. Private sector employment accounted for all of the employment gain by adding 3,518 (+0.9%) jobs, while the Government sector lost 693 (-1.2%) jobs. The Private sector (392,758) represents 87.0 percent of total covered employment, while the Government sector (58,599) represents 13.0 percent of total employment.

Health Care & Social Assistance (78,578) was the leading employment sector in Rhode Island in 2012, accounting for 17.4 percent of total employment in the state. Government (58,599), Retail Trade (46,905), Accommodation & Food Services (44,131) and Manufacturing (39,622) round out the top five sectors for employment and together (267,835) comprise 59.3 percent of total employment in the state.

Accommodation & Food Services (+1,566) added the most jobs over-the-year, up 3.7 percent from 2011. Administrative & Waste Services (+701), Wholesale Trade (+670), Management of Companies & Enterprises (+664), Professional & Business Services (+524) and Health Care & Social Assistance (+378) also reported significant jobs gains.

Over the year, Manufacturing (-732) led all sectors in job loss as the miscellaneous manufacturing subsector reported a substantial loss of 543 jobs since 2011. Government (-693), Educational Services (-640) and Information (-580) also posted the largest employment decreased between 2011 and 2012.

Rhode Island workers earned over \$21.0 billion in 2012, a 2.8 percent increase from wages paid in 2011. Private sector wages grew by \$567.3 million (+3.3%) while Government wages decreased by nearly \$2.2 million (-0.1%). The annual Private sector wage in 2012 was \$44,581, and increase of \$1,055 (+2.4%) from the \$43,526 earned in 2011. Government wages (\$60,645) were up \$673 (+1.1%) from 2011.

Workers in the Management of Companies & Enterprises sector earned an average annual wage of \$111,379 in 2012, an increase of \$8,194 (+7.9%) from last year. Utilities (\$83,099), Finance & Insurance (\$82,026), Information (\$66,866), Professional & Technical Services (\$65,856), and Wholesale Trade (\$65,290) sectors all reported average annual wages above \$60,000.

Characteristics of the Insured Unemployed

A total of 13,134 individuals were eligible to collect “regular” Unemployment Insurance benefits in April 2013, down 1,789 (-12.0%) from the 14,923 collecting these benefits in April 2012. In addition, 7,272 individuals collected Emergency Unemployment Compensation. In all, 42.0 percent of Rhode Island’s unemployed workers were eligible to collect unemployment benefits in April.

Of the 13,134 individuals collecting “regular” Unemployment Insurance benefits, 33.2 percent faced long-term unemployment (defined as collecting unemployment insurance for fifteen weeks or more), up from 30.7 percent in April 2012.

On an industry basis, 16.4 percent (2,156) of the State’s insured unemployed workers came from the Construction sector. There were also 1,649 individuals with an attachment to the Administrative & Waste Services sector, accounting for 12.6 percent of all insured unemployed workers. An additional 10.8 percent (1,425) of those collecting UI benefits in April had worked in the Health Care & Social Assistance sector. Large numbers of insured unemployed were also reported in Accommodation & Food Services (1,303), Manufacturing (1,302) and Retail Trade (1,194). For more information, go to www.dlt.ri.gov/lmi/uiadmin/characteristics.htm.

Characteristics of the Insured Unemployed, April 2013

	Percent		
	Total	Long-Term	Long-Term
Total	13,134	4,363	33.2%
Male	7,859	2,582	32.9%
Female	5,275	1,781	33.8%
Selected Industries	13,134	4,363	33.2%
Construction	2,156	601	27.9%
Manufacturing	1,302	360	27.6%
Wholesale Trade	575	220	38.3%
Retail Trade	1,194	412	34.5%
Transportation & Warehousing	348	117	33.6%
Information	149	51	34.2%
Finance & Insurance	445	160	36.0%
Real Estate	263	100	38.0%
Professional & Tech. Services	579	188	32.5%
Administrative & Waste Services	1,649	515	31.2%
Educational Services	233	100	42.9%
Health Care & Social Assistance	1,425	535	37.5%
Arts, Entertainment & Recreation	336	117	34.8%
Accommodation & Food Services	1,303	478	36.7%
Other Services	522	183	35.1%
Public Administration	108	42	38.9%

Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers

				% Change
	Apr.13	Mar. 13	Apr. 12	Prev. Year
All Items	232.5	232.8	230.1	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 19,100 advertisements for Rhode Island based jobs this month, an increase of 800 (+4.4%) from the March 2013 postings, and up 300 (+1.6%) from the advertised vacancies posted online in April 2012. There were an estimated 3.41 advertised vacancies for every 100 persons in Rhode Island's labor force.

Help Wanted OnLine Advertised Job Vacancies

	Apr 13	Mar 13	Apr 12
RI Vacancies	19,100	18,300	18,800
<i>Labor Demand Rate *</i>			
Rhode Island	3.41	3.28	3.36
US	3.29	3.16	3.08
Connecticut	3.59	3.51	3.48
Massachusetts	4.37	4.23	4.09
Maine	3.27	3.23	3.02
New Hampshire	3.33	3.17	3.40
Vermont	3.47	3.35	3.66
<i>Supply/Demand Rate **</i>			
Rhode Island	2.58	2.79	3.15
US	2.28	2.40	2.63

* 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

	2013	2012		2013	2012
Barrington	6.3	7.2	Newport	8.8	9.7
Bristol	7.5	8.9	North Kingstown	7.1	9.1
Burrillville	8.5	9.6	North Providence	8.4	9.4
Central Falls	11.5	13.2	North Smithfield	7.6	8.6
Charlestown	8.7	12.0	Pawtucket	10.3	12.3
Coventry	7.8	10.2	Portsmouth	7.7	8.7
Cranston	8.9	10.4	Providence	10.3	12.5
Cumberland	7.7	9.3	Richmond	5.2	7.3
East Greenwich	7.8	9.8	Scituate	8.1	10.4
East Providence	9.3	11.3	Smithfield	7.5	9.2
Exeter	7.9	10.4	South Kingstown	7.9	9.1
Foster	8.8	9.7	Tiverton	8.5	9.6
Glocester	6.9	8.1	Warren	8.9	10.4
Hopkinton	6.9	10.3	Warwick	8.0	9.4
Jamestown	6.4	8.1	West Greenwich	7.1	9.7
Johnston	9.8	10.8	West Warwick	9.3	11.4
Lincoln	8.0	9.5	Westerly	7.2	8.3
Little Compton	7.0	9.8	Woonsocket	11.2	12.2
Middletown	8.1	9.5			
Narragansett	6.2	7.1	State of R.I.	8.7	10.4
New Shoreham	21.3	23.4	United States	7.1	7.7

Nationally, there were an estimated 3.29 advertised vacancies for every 100 persons in labor force. Among the New England states, Massachusetts (4.37), Connecticut (3.59) and Vermont (3.47) had higher vacancy rates than Rhode Island.

There were an estimated 2.58 unemployed Rhode Island residents for every advertised job in April, down from 2.79 unemployed residents estimated per March advertisements. Nationally, there were 2.28 unemployed persons for every job opening advertised in April, down from 2.40 in March.

Unemployment Insurance Claims Activity

	Apr.	Mar.	Apr.	% Change		Year to Date		
	2013	2013	2012	Mar. 13	Apr.12	2013	2012	% Change
Regular Claims								
Initial Claims	7,210	6,555	7,722	10.0%	-6.6%	33,156	33,592	-1.3%
Number of Payments	62,294	66,476	67,014	-6.3%	-7.0%	261,856	297,158	-11.9%
Amount of Payments (gross millions)	\$21.2	\$23.0	\$24.8	-7.8%	-14.5%	\$90.3	\$110.8	-18.5%
Exhaustions (Final Payments)	1,831	1,602	2,538	14.3%	-27.9%	6,382	8,957	-28.7%
Emergency Unemployment Compensation						2013	Since Program Began	
Initial Claims	1,843	2,175	2,498	-15.3%	-26.2%	8,011	167,964	
Number of Payments	36,330	31,715	54,095	14.6%	-32.8%	130,965	2,979,881	
Amount of Payments (gross millions)	\$13.1	\$11.8	\$19.8	11.0%	-33.8%	\$48.7	\$1,092.0	

**Alternative measures of labor underutilization by state,
second quarter of 2012 through first quarter of 2013 averages (percent)**

State	Measure					
	U-1	U-2	U-3	U-4	U-5	U-6
United States	4.4	4.3	7.9	8.4	9.4	14.5
Alabama	4.5	4.3	8.1	8.7	9.7	13.5
Alaska	3.1	3.9	7.0	7.6	8.4	12.7
Arizona	3.8	3.9	8.0	8.6	9.7	15.6
Arkansas	3.4	3.8	7.7	8.2	9.3	13.4
California	5.8	5.5	9.9	10.5	11.6	18.8
Colorado	3.8	4.1	7.7	8.0	8.9	14.1
Connecticut	5.2	5.2	8.4	8.9	9.8	14.8
Delaware	4.4	4.3	7.6	8.0	8.9	14.1
District of Columbia	5.8	4.4	8.6	9.2	10.4	13.8
Florida	5.1	4.7	8.2	9.0	9.8	15.5
Georgia	5.1	4.1	8.9	9.7	10.5	15.6
Hawaii	3.1	2.8	5.7	6.1	7.1	12.0
Idaho	3.4	3.1	6.7	7.0	7.8	13.5
Illinois	5.3	5.0	9.0	9.5	10.2	16.1
Indiana	4.0	4.7	8.5	8.9	9.6	14.3
Iowa	2.1	2.5	5.1	5.3	6.1	9.8
Kansas	2.5	2.6	5.5	5.9	6.8	10.6
Kentucky	3.9	4.1	7.8	8.2	9.0	13.8
Louisiana	3.7	3.1	7.1	7.6	8.7	12.2
Maine	3.7	4.0	7.4	7.7	9.0	14.5
Maryland	3.8	3.8	6.8	7.4	8.3	12.0
Massachusetts	3.6	3.9	6.6	7.2	8.0	12.8
Michigan	5.0	4.8	8.9	9.5	10.8	16.2
Minnesota	2.5	3.0	5.5	5.8	6.6	11.4
Mississippi	5.2	4.7	9.3	9.9	11.4	15.5
Missouri	3.5	4.0	6.8	7.1	7.8	12.2
Montana	2.4	3.0	6.0	6.3	6.9	13.3
Nebraska	1.7	1.8	4.0	4.2	4.7	8.6
Nevada	6.3	6.2	10.8	11.7	13.0	19.6
New Hampshire	2.9	3.2	5.8	6.1	6.8	11.5
New Jersey	5.8	5.5	9.3	10.0	10.8	15.7
New Mexico	3.9	3.6	7.1	7.5	8.7	13.6
New York	5.2	4.9	8.5	9.1	10.1	14.7
North Carolina	5.6	4.9	9.2	9.7	10.8	16.2
North Dakota	1.1	1.5	3.2	3.4	3.9	6.2
Ohio	3.7	3.7	7.2	7.7	8.6	13.5
Oklahoma	2.0	2.8	5.2	5.5	6.5	9.8
Oregon	4.4	4.9	8.9	9.2	10.2	17.2
Pennsylvania	4.4	4.8	7.9	8.4	9.4	13.9
Rhode Island	5.9	5.9	9.8	10.2	11.0	16.7
South Carolina	5.1	4.8	9.1	9.9	11.1	15.6
South Dakota	1.4	1.9	4.4	4.7	5.2	8.1
Tennessee	4.2	4.2	7.9	8.4	9.0	13.9
Texas	3.1	3.3	6.6	6.9	7.6	11.6
Utah	2.2	2.9	5.3	5.7	6.4	10.9
Vermont	2.0	2.5	4.8	5.1	6.0	10.5
Virginia	3.0	2.6	5.7	6.2	7.0	11.6
Washington	4.0	4.6	8.0	8.4	9.7	16.4
West Virginia	4.2	4.1	7.5	7.9	8.6	12.9
Wisconsin	3.5	4.1	7.2	7.6	8.6	13.3
Wyoming	2.0	2.4	5.3	5.6	6.2	9.5

U-1: persons unemployed 15 weeks or longer, as a percent of the civilian labor force

U-2: job losers and persons who completed temporary jobs, as a percent of the civilian labor force

U-3: total unemployed, as a percent of the civilian labor force (this is the definition used for the official unemployment rate)

U-4: total unemployed plus discouraged workers, as a percent of the civilian labor force plus discouraged workers

U-5: total unemployed, plus discouraged workers, plus all other marginally attached workers, as a percent of the civilian labor force plus all marginally attached workers

U-6: total unemployed, plus all marginally attached workers, plus total employed part time for economic reasons, as a percent of the civilian labor force plus all marginally attached workers