



Rhode Island's Unemployment Rate Drops to 8.3 percent in April

- ◆ RI's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate for April was 8.3 percent, down four-tenths of a percentage point from March.
- ◆ RI's April unemployment rate was down one and two-tenths percentage points from last April's figure of 9.5 percent.
- ◆ The national rate was 6.3 percent, down four-tenths of a percentage point from March and down one and two-tenths percentage points from the previous year.
- ◆ In April 2014, Rhode Island (8.3%) had the highest unemployment rate in the nation.
- ◆ The April 2014 unemployment rate decreased in forty-three states, including Rhode Island (-0.4), Massachusetts (-0.3), Maine (-0.2), Connecticut (-0.1), New Hampshire (-0.1) and Vermont (-0.1). Five states' rates were unchanged and two states saw their unemployment rate increase.
- ◆ Rates in other New England states for April 2014—Connecticut 6.9 percent, Massachusetts 6.0 percent, Maine 5.7 percent, New Hampshire 4.4 percent and Vermont 3.3 percent.
- ◆ The number of employed RI residents totaled 509,500 in April 2014, up 3,600 from the previous month. Between April 2013 and April 2014, the number of employed RI residents was up 3,900.
- ◆ Over the month, the number of unemployed Rhode Island residents decreased by 2,300 to 46,200. From April 2013 to April 2014, the number of unemployed residents decreased by 6,600.

Average Wages for over 550 RI-based Occupations Available on LMI Website

According to the latest Occupational Employment Statistics survey, wages for Rhode Island based jobs averaged \$18.03 per hour in May 2013. This average hourly wage was the third highest in New England, and higher than the national average of \$16.87 per hour. In New England, Massachusetts led the states with the highest average hourly wage of \$21.07, followed by Connecticut at \$20.33 per hour. New Hampshire was fourth with average hourly earnings of \$17.21. Vermont and Maine had the lowest hourly wages in the region at \$17.01 and \$16.06, respectively. Maine was the only New England state that had an average hourly wage lower than the national average.

In all, thirty six occupations paid average wages in excess of \$100,000 a year. Included among the highest paid occupations are physicians and surgeons; several top-line management positions, computer management positions, dentists, pharmacists, electronics engineers and physician assistants. For the majority of these occupations a bachelor's or advanced degree (doctorial or professional) is generally required. Five percent of the state's workforce is employed in these top paying occupations.

More than twenty five occupations paid average hourly wages of less than \$10.00 per hour. Included among the lowest paid occupations are host and hostesses, food preparation and serving workers, counter attendants, and dishwashers. For the majority of these occupations there is no minimum educational requirements (i.e. less than high school). Approximately twelve percent of the state's workforce is employed in these low paying occupations.

Occupational wage rates for over 550 occupations are available on the Labor Market Information website at: www.dlt.ri.gov/lmi/oes.htm.

Seasonally Adjusted Labor Force Statistics

(in thousands)

	Rhode Island			United States		
	Apr. 14	Mar. 14	Apr. 13	Apr. 14	Mar. 14	Apr. 13
Civilian Labor Force	555.8	554.4	558.5	155,421	156,227	155,359
Resident Employment	509.5	505.9	505.6	145,669	145,742	143,676
Unemployment	46.2	48.5	52.8	9,753	10,486	11,683
Unemployment Rate	8.3%	8.7%	9.5%	6.3%	6.7%	7.5%

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Rhode Island Jobs Increase by 700 in April

Estimated nonfarm payroll in Rhode Island totaled 476,000 in April, reflecting a gain of 700 jobs from the revised March employment estimate of 475,300. After shedding employment in March, the April rebound marks three out of four months of job gains throughout the year, totaling 4,800 jobs.

The 17,300 jobs reported in the Construction sector in April represent the sector's largest employment level since May 2009 and 900 more jobs than reported in March.

A gain of 700 jobs was reported in the Health Care & Social Assistance sector as payroll gains were noted in all subsectors. Large gains were also reported in the Retail Trade sector which added 500 jobs in April. Clothing stores, building material stores and convenience stores all added to their March employment levels.

Elsewhere, Government employment was up 300, followed by Financial Activities and Information, each adding 100 jobs. Employment in Arts, Entertainment & Recreation and Mining and Logging remained unchanged over the month.

Offsetting the April job gains was a loss of 800 jobs reported in the Professional & Business Services sector. The downfall may be attributed to a lack of hiring which normally occurs during this time of year. Typically, landscaping and tree service companies increase their payrolls in early spring, which may have been interrupted by the amount of precipitation and unseasonably cooler temperatures in April. In addition, the number of jobs added in Employment Services which includes the Temporary Help Services failed to meet prior years' totals.

Employment in the Accommodation & Food Services sector, which also may have been impacted by the weather, experienced a decline of 300 jobs since March. Smaller job losses were reported in the Educational Services (-200), Wholesale Trade (-200), Other Services (-200), Manufacturing (-100) and Transportation & Utilities (-100) sectors.

Nationally, employment increased by 288,000 or 0.2 percent in April, while jobs in the New England region were up 1,300 (+0.0%). Connecticut (+2,200), New Hampshire (+2,100), Rhode Island (+700) and Vermont (+100) all reported job gains in the

New England region, while both Maine (-2,200) and Massachusetts (-1,600) each lost employment since March.

In April, nonfarm payroll employment increased in 39 states and decreased in 10 states, and was unchanged in Nebraska. The largest over-the-month percentage increase in employment occurred in Alaska, Colorado and Texas (+0.6 percent each), followed by Hawaii (+0.5%). The largest over-the-month percentage declines in employment occurred in Maine (-0.4%), followed by Wyoming (-0.3%) and New Mexico (-0.2 %).

	Net Change From				
	Apr-14	Mar-14	Apr-13	Mar-14	Apr-13
Total Nonfarm	476.0	475.3	469.3	0.7	6.7
Total Private	416.0	415.6	409.2	0.4	6.8
Natural Resources & Mining	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.0	0.0
Construction	17.3	16.4	16.0	0.9	1.3
Manufacturing	40.3	40.4	39.9	-0.1	0.4
Wholesale Trade	16.4	16.6	16.6	-0.2	-0.2
Retail Trade	47.1	46.6	46.4	0.5	0.7
Transportation & Utilities	10.9	11.0	10.8	-0.1	0.1
Information	8.8	8.7	8.9	0.1	-0.1
Financial Activities	32.3	32.2	32.4	0.1	-0.1
Professional & Business Services	59.3	60.1	58.1	-0.8	1.2
Educational Services	24.7	24.9	23.6	-0.2	1.1
Health Care & Social Assistance	80.9	80.2	80.6	0.7	0.3
Arts, Entertainment & Recreation	9.3	9.3	8.1	0.0	1.2
Accommodation & Food Services	45.6	45.9	45.0	-0.3	0.6
Other Services	22.9	23.1	22.6	-0.2	0.3
Government	60.0	59.7	60.1	0.3	-0.1

Manufacturing Employment in Rhode Island Not Seasonally Adjusted

	Employment				
	(in thousands)			Net Change From:	
	Apr 14	Mar 14	Apr 13	Mar 14	Apr 13
Manufacturing	40.4	40.5	39.8	-100	600
Durable Goods	26.1	26.2	25.4	-100	700
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	5.6	5.6	5.8	0	-200
Jewelry & Silverware	3.3	3.3	3.6	0	-300
Non-Durable Goods	14.3	14.3	14.4	0	-100
Chemical Manufacturing	3.0	3.0	3.0	0	0

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.



First Quarter Job Growth in Rhode Island

In the first quarter of 2014, job growth in Rhode Island was amongst the best in the nation, increasing its total nonfarm employment level by 0.9 percent. Rhode Island experienced the fourth largest employment growth on a percentage basis, trailing only North Dakota (+1.7%), Nevada (+1.4%) and Utah (+1.0%). Numerically, this translates into 4,100 new jobs

in the Ocean State during the first quarter of 2014.

Regionally, Vermont's employment level grew by 0.8 percent during this period, followed by New Hampshire (+0.7%), Maine (+0.5%) and Massachusetts (+0.3%). Connecticut was the lone New England state to shed employment in the first quarter of 2014, as employment fell by 0.3 percent.

In all, thirty states added employment during this three month period, fifteen states and the District of Columbia lost employment, while the employment level in five states remained unchanged.

Alaska's statewide employment fell by 0.7 percent during the first quarter of 2014; the largest decline among those areas's losing employment. Employment was down by 0.6 percent in both Kentucky and Mississippi, while being down 0.5 percent in Hawaii and down 0.4 percent in Louisiana.

The start of the second quarter in Rhode Island began on a positive note as 700 jobs were added to the local economy in April 2014.

First Quarter 2014		
<u>Largest Job Gains (percentage basis)</u>		
North Dakota	7,800	1.7%
Nevada	16,800	1.4%
Utah	13,400	1.0%
Rhode Island	4,100	0.9%
Florida	63,900	0.8%
Vermont	2,500	0.8%
Colorado	19,300	0.8%
Oregon	13,300	0.8%
Texas	87,600	0.8%
<u>Largest Job Declines (percentage basis)</u>		
Alaska	-2.4	-0.7%
Kentucky	-11.8	-0.6%
Mississippi	-6.5	-0.6%
Hawaii	-3.2	-0.5%
Louisiana	-7.4	-0.4%
Iowa	-5.4	-0.3%
Connecticut	-7.4	-0.4%
District of Columbia	-11.3	-0.3%
Michigan	-11.3	-0.3%

Characteristics of the Insured Unemployed

A total of 12,588 individuals were eligible to collect "regular" Unemployment Insurance benefits in April 2014, down 546 (-4.2%) from the 13,134 collecting these benefits in April 2013. In all, 29.4 percent of Rhode Island's unemployed workers were eligible to collect unemployment benefits in April.

Of the 12,588 individuals collecting "regular" Unemployment Insurance benefits, 32.6 percent faced long-term unemployment (defined as collecting unemployment insurance for fifteen weeks or more), down from 33.2 percent in April 2013.

On an industry basis, 17.8 percent (2,238) of the State's insured unemployed workers came from the Construction sector. There were also 1,874 individuals with an attachment to the Administrative & Waste Services sector, accounting for 14.9 percent of all insured unemployed workers. An additional 10.5 percent (1,321) 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 Manufacturing (1,095), Accommodation & Food Services (1,093) and Retail Trade (1,057). For more information, go to www.dlt.ri.gov/lmi/uiadmin/characteristics.htm.

Characteristics of the Insured Unemployed, April 2014			
	Total	Long-Term	Percent Long-Term
Total	12,588	4,099	32.6%
Male	7,559	2,403	31.8%
Female	5,029	1,696	33.7%
Selected Industries	12,588	4,099	32.6%
Construction	2,238	592	26.5%
Manufacturing	1,095	358	32.7%
Wholesale Trade	485	159	32.8%
Retail Trade	1,057	368	34.8%
Transportation & Warehousing	304	107	35.2%
Information	139	46	33.1%
Finance & Insurance	506	196	38.7%
Real Estate	263	86	32.7%
Professional & Tech. Services	619	212	34.2%
Administrative & Waste Services	1,874	570	30.4%
Educational Services	180	74	41.1%
Health Care & Social Assistance	1,321	479	36.3%
Arts, Entertainment & Recreation	397	149	37.5%
Accommodation & Food Services	1,093	340	31.1%
Other Services	415	140	33.7%
Public Administration	106	56	52.8%

Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers

				% Change
	Apr. 14	Mar. 14	Apr. 13	Prev. Year
All Items	237.1	236.3	232.5	2.0%

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 20,500 advertisements for Rhode Island based jobs this month, an increase of 400 (+2.0%) from the March 2014 postings, and up 2,000 (+9.8%) from the advertised vacancies posted online in April 2013. There were an estimated 3.70 advertised vacancies for every 100 persons in Rhode Island's labor force.

Help Wanted OnLine Advertised Job Vacancies

	Apr 14	Mar 14	Apr 13
RI Vacancies	20,500	20,100	18,500
<i>Labor Demand Rate *</i>			
Rhode Island	3.70	3.63	3.32
US	3.15	3.13	3.12
Connecticut	3.63	3.61	3.53
Massachusetts	4.31	4.27	4.26
Maine	3.40	3.23	3.24
New Hampshire	3.82	3.78	3.25
Vermont	3.52	3.36	3.35
<i>Supply/Demand Rate **</i>			
Rhode Island	2.26	2.41	2.86
US	1.98	2.14	2.41

* 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

	2014	2013		2014	2013
Barrington	5.8	6.7	Newport	7.7	9.3
Bristol	7.2	7.8	North Kingstown	6.3	7.5
Burrillville	7.5	8.8	North Providence	7.6	8.9
Central Falls	10.4	11.9	North Smithfield	6.4	7.9
Charlestown	8.7	9.1	Pawtucket	9.2	10.7
Coventry	6.9	8.2	Portsmouth	6.5	8.1
Cranston	7.7	9.2	Providence	9.5	10.8
Cumberland	6.8	8.0	Richmond	5.2	5.5
East Greenwich	7.0	8.1	Scituate	7.1	8.6
East Providence	8.0	9.7	Smithfield	7.0	7.8
Exeter	6.9	8.3	South Kingstown	6.6	8.3
Foster	7.4	9.2	Tiverton	7.8	8.8
Glocester	6.1	7.3	Warren	7.5	9.5
Hopkinton	7.0	7.1	Warwick	7.0	8.5
Jamestown	6.4	6.5	West Greenwich	7.0	7.3
Johnston	8.3	10.1	West Warwick	8.6	9.8
Lincoln	7.1	8.3	Westerly	7.3	7.6
Little Compton	6.6	7.3	Woonsocket	8.8	11.7
Middletown	7.1	8.6			
Narragansett	5.2	6.6	State of R.I.	7.8	9.1
New Shoreham	20.7	20.8	United States	5.9	7.1

Nationally, there were an estimated 3.15 advertised vacancies for every 100 persons in labor force. Among the New England states, Massachusetts (4.31) and New Hampshire (3.82) had higher vacancy rates than Rhode Island.

There were an estimated 2.26 unemployed Rhode Island residents for every advertised job in April, down from 2.41 unemployed residents estimated per March advertisements. Nationally, there were 1.98 unemployed persons for every job opening advertised in April, down from 2.14 in March.

Unemployment Insurance Claims Activity

	Apr.	Mar.	Apr.	% Change		Year to Date		
	2014	2014	2013	Mar. 14	Apr. 13	2014	2013	% Change
Regular Claims								
Initial Claims	6,598	5,517	7,210	19.6%	-8.5%	31,652	33,156	-4.5%
Number of Payments	49,269	73,507	62,294	-33.0%	-20.9%	250,457	261,856	-4.4%
Amount of Payments (gross millions)	\$16.4	\$24.8	\$21.2	-33.9%	-22.6%	\$84.1	\$90.3	-6.9%
Exhaustions (Final Payments)	1,390	1,657	1,831	-16.1%	-24.1%	5,398	6,382	-15.4%

Highest and Lowest Paying Jobs in Rhode Island

Best Paying Occupations In Rhode Island

SOC	All Occupations	Estimated Employment	Mean Hourly Wage	Annual Wage	Educational Requirement
29-1067	Surgeons	140	\$116.46	\$242,230	Doctoral/Professional
11-1011	Chief Executives	380	\$100.60	\$209,240	Bachelor's degree
29-1062	General Practitioners	160	\$94.04	\$195,610	Doctoral/Professional
29-1065	Pediatricians, General	170	\$90.17	\$187,540	Doctoral/Professional
29-1066	Psychiatrists	110	\$89.50	\$186,160	Doctoral/Professional
29-1021	Dentists, General	350	\$80.91	\$168,290	Doctoral/Professional
29-1063	Internists, General	160	\$78.88	\$164,080	Doctoral/Professional
29-1064	Obstetricians	60	\$78.87	\$164,040	Doctoral/Professional
23-1023	Judges, Magistrate Judges	100	\$75.49	\$157,020	Doctoral/Professional
11-1021	General & Operations	5,930	\$68.63	\$142,760	Associate's degree
11-3111	Benefits Managers	100	\$66.81	\$138,970	Bachelor's degree
29-1041	Optometrists	100	\$66.36	\$138,030	Doctoral/Professional
19-2012	Physicists	60	\$66.36	\$138,030	Doctoral/Professional
11-3031	Financial Managers	3,070	\$65.23	\$135,680	Doctoral/Professional
11-2022	Sales Managers	750	\$64.28	\$133,710	Bachelor's degree
11-9041	Engineering Managers	370	\$63.48	\$132,030	Bachelor's degree
11-2031	Public Relations Managers	290	\$63.33	\$131,730	Bachelor's degree
25-1063	Economics Teachers, Postsecondary	90		\$131,250	Doctoral/Professional
11-3021	Computer Managers	1,070	\$61.53	\$127,990	Bachelor's degree
11-3121	Human Resources Managers	340	\$60.20	\$125,220	Bachelor's degree
11-2021	Marketing Managers	470	\$59.38	\$123,510	Bachelor's degree
11-9121	Natural Sciences Managers	130	\$59.33	\$123,400	Bachelor's degree
11-9021	Construction Managers	420	\$57.11	\$118,790	Associate's degree
11-9033	Postsecondary Education Administrators	720	\$54.76	\$113,890	Master's degree
11-9111	Medical & Health Services Managers	1,430	\$54.27	\$112,880	Bachelor's degree
11-3061	Purchasing Managers	160	\$54.22	\$112,770	Bachelor's degree
17-2072	Electronics Engineers, Except Computer	1,190	\$53.50	\$111,280	Bachelor's degree
29-1071	Physician Assistants	220	\$53.17	\$110,600	Master's degree
15-1111	Computer & Information Research Scientists	370	\$51.59	\$107,310	Doctoral/Professional

Lowest Paying Occupations In Rhode Island

SOC	All Occupations	Estimated Employment	Mean Hourly Wage	Annual Wage	Educational Requirement
35-9031	Hosts & Hostesses	1,480	\$9.09	\$18,900	Less than high school
35-3021	Combined Food Preparation & Serving Workers	9,110	\$9.28	\$19,300	Less than high school
35-9011	Dining Room & Cafeteria Attendants	1,970	\$9.30	\$19,330	Less than high school
35-3022	Counter Attendants: Cafeteria & Concession	3,890	\$9.33	\$19,410	Less than high school
35-2011	Cooks, Fast Food	820	\$9.40	\$19,550	Less than high school
35-9021	Dishwashers	2,200	\$9.48	\$19,720	Less than high school
39-3091	Amusement & Recreation Attendants	870	\$9.63	\$20,040	Less than high school
33-9092	Lifeguards & Recreational Protective Service	330	\$9.71	\$20,190	High School/GED
35-3031	Waiters & Waitresses	9,530	\$9.75	\$20,270	Less than high school
51-6064	Textile Winding Machine Setters & Operators	270	\$9.92	\$20,630	High School/GED