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Employment Bulletin

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Rhode Island's Unemployment Rate Drops to 11.4 percent in October

- ◆ RI's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate for October was 11.4 percent, down one-tenth of a percentage point from September and the eight consecutive over-the-month drop.
- ◆ RI's October unemployment rate is down nine-tenths of a percentage point from last year's figure of 12.3 percent.
- ◆ The national rate was 9.6 percent, unchanged from September and down five-tenths from the previous year.
- ◆ In October 2010, Rhode Island had the 5th highest unemployment rate in the nation, trailing Nevada (14.2%), Michigan (12.8%), California (12.4%) and Florida (11.9%).
- ◆ The October 2010 unemployment rate increased in fourteen states. Nineteen states, including Massachusetts (-0.3), Maine (-0.3), Rhode Island (-0.1), New Hampshire (-0.1) and Vermont (-0.1) saw their rates decrease. Connecticut was unchanged. In all, eight states have unemployment rates in the double digits, with three states having a rate of 12.0 percent or higher.
- ◆ Rates in other New England States for October 2010—Connecticut 9.1 percent, Massachusetts 8.1 percent, Maine 7.4 percent, Vermont 5.7 percent and New Hampshire 5.4 percent.
- ◆ The number of employed RI residents totaled 506,200 in October 2010, reflecting an increase of 1,100 from the previous month. Between October 2009 and October 2010, the number of employed RI residents grew by 4,700.
- ◆ In October, the number of unemployed Rhode Island residents decreased by 600 to 65,300. From October 2009 to October 2010, the number of unemployed residents decreased by 4,800.

UI and TDI Taxable Wage Bases and Wage Rates Announced for 2011

The Unemployment Insurance (UI) taxable wage base, which represents the maximum amount of an employee's earned wages subject to taxation, will remain at \$19,000 for the 2011 tax year. According to law, if the September 30th Employment Security Fund balance is less than \$75 million, the taxable wage base will be \$19,000 for the next calendar year. The Employment Security Fund has a negative balance since it is currently borrowing from the federal government to meet the demand for Unemployment Insurance benefits.

The new employer rate for UI purposes will be 2.46 percent for calendar year 2011, up from 2.30 percent in 2010. For all other employers tax rates will vary based on their UI experience rating. Tax Schedule I, with rates ranging from 1.69 percent to 9.79 percent, will remain in effect in 2011. Employers will be notified of their individual tax rates by the end of December.

In addition, the Job Development Assessment will be 0.51 percent in 2011, up from the 0.21 percent rate assessed in prior years. The 0.3 percent increase in the Job Development Assessment will be used to pay interest on the loans the state has received from the federal government to pay Unemployment Insurance benefits.

The Temporary Disability Insurance (TDI) taxable wage base will be set at \$58,400 in 2011, an increase of \$500 over last year's taxable wage base. The TDI taxable wage base is based on the TDI maximum weekly benefit amount, which in July increased to \$700 per week from \$694 the prior year.

The 2011 employee contribution rate to the TDI Fund will be 1.3 percent up from 1.2 percent in 2010. The contribution rate is set at the cost of running the TDI program. It is calculated by dividing the total TDI disbursements for the twelve-month period ending September 30, 2010 by the total taxable wages for the twelve-month ending June 30, 2010.

The maximum TDI contribution will be \$759.20 in 2011, an increase of \$64.40 from the 2010 maximum contribution of \$694.80. For individuals earning the average weekly wage (\$822.48) the weekly TDI contribution will be \$10.69 in 2011, up from \$9.87 in 2010. For a full-time worker earning the minimum hourly wage (\$7.40), the weekly TDI contribution will be \$3.85 up from \$3.55 in 2010.

See label page for the 2011 UI & TDI Quick Reference Chart.

Seasonally Adjusted Labor Force Statistics

	(in thousands)					
	Rhode Island			United States		
	Oct 10	Sep 10	Oct 09	Oct 10	Sep 10	Oct 09
Civilian Labor Force	571.5	571.0	571.6	153,904	154,158	153,854
Resident Employment	506.2	505.1	501.5	139,061	139,391	138,242
Unemployment	65.3	65.9	70.1	14,843	14,767	15,612
Unemployment Rate	11.4%	11.5%	12.3%	9.6%	9.6%	10.1%

Rhode Island Jobs Increase by 600 in October

Total nonfarm payroll in Rhode Island increased to 451,000 in October, reflecting a gain of 600 jobs from the revised September employment figure of 450,400. Private sector employment rose by 800 over the month, while the Government sector lost 200 jobs.

Accommodation & Food Services added 500 jobs, as fewer seasonal layoffs were reported in October than normal. Sparked by an increase in wholesale agents and brokers, Wholesale Trade employment grew by 400 over the month. The Manufacturing sector added 300 jobs in October, mainly due to reported gains in the durable goods component of manufacturing.

Smaller gains were reported in the Retail Trade and Other Services sectors, each added 200 jobs in October. Employment in the Construction, Information, Arts, Entertainment & Recreation, Transportation & Utilities and Natural Resources & Mining sectors remained unchanged.

Health Care & Social Assistance (-400) reported the largest over-the-month decline due to reported losses in ambulatory health care services. Over-the-month declines were also reported in Government (-200), Professional & Business Services (-200), Financial Activities (-100) and Educational Services (-100).

October 2010 employment was down 3,500 (-0.8%) from October 2009, due to over-the-year job losses in several economic sectors including Professional & Business Services (-2,000), Retail Trade (-1,100), Educational Services (-1,100), Manufacturing (-800), Wholesale Trade (-400), Arts, Entertainment & Recreation (-300), Government (-200) and Construction (-100).

However, employment in seven sectors—Other Services (+1,400), Financial Activities (+400), Transportation & Utilities (+200), Information (+200), Accommodations & Food Services (+100), Health Care & Social Assistance (+100) and Natural Resources & Mining (+100) is up over the year.

Establishment Employment in Rhode Island Seasonally Adjusted

	Net Change From				
	Oct-10	Sep-10	Oct-09	Sep-10	Oct-09
Total Nonfarm	451.0	450.4	454.5	0.6	-3.5
Natural Resources & Mining	0.3	0.3	0.2	0.0	0.1
Construction	16.6	16.6	16.7	0.0	-0.1
Manufacturing	39.6	39.3	40.4	0.3	-0.8
Wholesale Trade	15.4	15.0	15.8	0.4	-0.4
Retail Trade	44.9	44.7	46.0	0.2	-1.1
Transportation & Utilities	10.3	10.3	10.1	0.0	0.2
Information	10.1	10.1	9.9	0.0	0.2
Financial Activities	30.7	30.8	30.3	-0.1	0.4
Professional & Business Services	50.4	50.6	52.4	-0.2	-2.0
Educational Services	23.1	23.2	24.2	-0.1	-1.1
Health Care & Social Assistance	77.6	78.0	77.5	-0.4	0.1
Arts, Entertainment & Recreation	7.0	7.0	7.3	0.0	-0.3
Accommodation & Food Services	40.7	40.2	40.6	0.5	0.1
Other Services	22.8	22.6	21.4	0.2	1.4
Government	61.5	61.7	61.7	-0.2	-0.2

Manufacturing Employment in Rhode Island Not Seasonally Adjusted

	Employment				
	(in thousands)			Net Change From:	
	Oct 10	Sept 10	Oct 09	Sept 10	Oct 09
Manufacturing	40.3	39.8	41.1	500	-800
Durable Goods	25.4	25.1	26.4	300	-1000
Fabricated Metal Product Mfg.	5.5	5.4	5.6	100	-100
Computer & Electronic Product Mfg.	3.8	3.8	3.8	0	0
Miscellaneous Manufacturing	6.4	6.3	7.0	100	-600
Jewelry & Silverware	4.1	4.0	4.7	100	-600
Non-Durable Goods	14.9	14.7	14.7	200	200
Chemical Manufacturing	2.9	2.9	3.0	0	-100

MANUFACTURING: In October 2010, production workers in the Manufacturing sector earned \$14.85 per hour. The average hourly production wage was up two cents from September 2010 and up 54 cents from October 2009. Manufacturing employees worked an average of 39.3 hours per week in October, up two-tenths of an hour from September, and up an hour and six-tenths 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.



Rhode Island Job Vacancies - Summer 2010

The Department of Labor and Training's 2010 Job Vacancy Survey indicated that there were an estimated 8,106 job vacancies during summer 2010. This translated to a job vacancy rate of 2.2 percent or just over two openings for every one hundred jobs filled. In comparison, there were 5,948 job vacancies reported during the spring 2009; reflecting a vacancy rate of 1.5 percent. In 2006, the year prior to the start of the state's current economic downturn, there were nearly 11,000 vacancies reported during the survey period reflecting a vacancy rate of 2.7 percent or nearly three opening for every 100 jobs filled.

Many economic sectors reported more job vacancies this year than in spring 2009 including two of the state's four largest employment sectors, Health Care & Social Assistance and Manufacturing. As in past surveys, Health Care & Social Assistance, the state's largest employment sector, reported the greatest number of job vacancies estimated at 2,617 for summer 2010, up considerably from the 1,484 job vacancies reported last year but still down from the number (3,480) reported in 2006. Estimated vacancies for Administrative & Waste Services more than doubled in 2010 with 972 vacancies in 2010 compared to 432 in 2009. The most significant gain was noted in the Manufacturing sector which had an estimated 664 job vacancies in summer 2010, compared to just 64 last year and 485 in 2008, but still below the 965 estimated job vacancies reported in 2006. Job vacancies for the Accommodation & Food Services sector were estimated at 1,314, on par with the 1,328 reported last year but down from 2,001 in 2006. The Retail Trade (508) sector reported about 12 percent fewer vacancies in 2010 than reported in 2009.

The increase in the number of job openings was accompanied by an increase in the "quality" of openings reflected by increases in the percentages of full-time vacancies and those with benefits. Full-time job vacancies accounted for over half (56.5%) of the 2010 vacant positions up from 50.4 percent in 2009 and 55.8 percent in 2006. More than two-thirds of the vacancies provided Health Insurance and over half provided vacation pay or retirement/pension plans. In addition, the median wage range for job vacancies increased to \$15.22 to \$17.08 an hour, up from the 2009 median range (\$13.59 to \$15.69 per hour). For more information, visit www.dlt.ri.gov/lmi/jvs.htm.

Characteristics of the Insured Unemployed

A total of 13,732 individuals were eligible to collect "regular" Unemployment Insurance benefits in October 2010, down 3,006 (-18.0%) from the 16,738 collecting these benefits in October 2009. In addition, 13,562 individuals collected Emergency Unemployment Compensation and 3,748 collected Extended Benefits. In all, 49.0 percent of Rhode Island's unemployed workers were eligible to collect unemployment benefits in October.

Of the 13,732 individuals collecting "regular" Unemployment Insurance benefits, 33.2 percent faced long-term unemployment (defined as collecting unemployment insurance for fifteen weeks or more), down from 36.3 percent in October 2009.

On an industry basis, 12.5 percent (1,710) of the State's insured unemployed workers came from the Construction sector. There were also 1,694 individuals with an attachment to the Manufacturing sector, accounting for 12.3 percent of all insured unemployed workers. An additional 11.8 percent (1,624) of those collecting UI benefits in October had worked in the Health Care & Social Assistance sector. Large numbers of insured unemployed were also reported in Retail Trade (1,368), Administrative & Waste Services (1,284) and Accommodation & Food Services (1,023). For more information, go to www.dlt.ri.gov/lmi/uiadmin/characteristics.htm.

Characteristics of the Insured Unemployed, October 2010

	Total	Percent	
		Long-Term	Long-Term
Total	13,732	4,557	33.2%
Male	7,034	2,091	29.7%
Female	6,698	2,466	36.8%
Selected Industries	13,732	4,557	33.2%
Construction	1,710	327	19.1%
Manufacturing	1,694	609	36.0%
Wholesale Trade	612	236	38.6%
Retail Trade	1,368	570	41.7%
Transportation & Warehousing	329	114	34.7%
Information	204	74	36.3%
Finance & Insurance	780	280	35.9%
Real Estate	278	117	42.1%
Professional & Tech. Services	793	269	33.9%
Administrative & Waste Services	1,284	318	24.8%
Educational Services	601	291	48.4%
Health Care & Social Assistance	1,624	605	37.3%
Arts, Entertainment & Recreation	265	66	24.9%
Accommodation & Food Services	1,023	322	31.5%
Other Services	495	157	31.7%
Public Administration	240	66	27.5%

**Consumer Price Index for
All Urban Consumers**

				% Change
	Oct 10	Sept 10	Oct 09	Prev. Year
All Items	218.7	218.4	216.2	1.2%

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 20,400 advertisements for Rhode Island based jobs this month, a decrease of 200 (-1.0%) from the September 2010 postings, and an increase of 4,400 (+27.5%) from the 16,000 advertised vacancies posted online in October 2009. There were an estimated 3.58 advertised vacancies for every 100 persons in Rhode Island's labor force.

**Help Wanted OnLine
Advertised Job Vacancies**

	Oct 10	Sept 10	Oct 09
RI Vacancies	20,400	20,600	16,000
<i>Labor Demand Rate *</i>			
Rhode Island	3.58	3.60	2.80
US	2.86	2.79	2.15
Connecticut	3.52	3.49	2.68
Massachusetts	4.08	4.05	2.91
Maine	2.87	2.81	2.41
New Hampshire	3.17	3.31	2.46
Vermont	3.64	3.57	2.83
<i>Supply/Demand Rate **</i>			
Rhode Island	3.20	3.20	4.38
US	3.37	3.44	4.73

* 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 October

	2010	2009		2010	2009
Barrington	8.6	9.5	Newport	9.5	9.8
Bristol	9.7	10.8	North Kingstown	9.1	9.3
Burrillville	10.4	11.5	North Providence	10.9	11.8
Central Falls	13.5	14.4	North Smithfield	10.4	11.0
Charlestown	10.9	11.4	Pawtucket	12.5	13.7
Coventry	10.1	11.3	Portsmouth	9.1	8.8
Cranston	11.5	12.0	Providence	13.6	14.1
Cumberland	10.1	10.8	Richmond	8.2	8.2
East Greenwich	10.3	11.6	Scituate	10.4	12.3
East Providence	12.2	12.5	Smithfield	10.6	11.7
Exeter	10.3	10.6	South Kingstown	9.4	8.8
Foster	12.1	11.6	Tiverton	11.3	11.1
Glocester	8.9	8.9	Warren	9.5	12.6
Hopkinton	9.0	9.5	Warwick	10.7	11.1
Jamestown	9.2	9.1	West Greenwich	9.2	10.2
Johnston	11.5	12.4	West Warwick	11.8	12.1
Lincoln	9.9	10.9	Westerly	8.0	9.3
Little Compton	8.9	9.2	Woonsocket	12.3	14.1
Middletown	9.5	11.1			
Narragansett	7.8	7.2	State of R.I.	11.0	11.7
New Shoreham	9.0	9.0	United States	9.0	9.5

Nationally, there were an estimated 2.86 advertised vacancies for every 100 persons in labor force. Among the New England states, only Massachusetts (4.08) and Vermont (3.64) had a higher vacancy rate than Rhode Island.

There were an estimated 3.20 unemployed Rhode Island residents for every advertised job in October, unchanged from 3.20 unemployed residents estimated per September advertisements. Nationally, there were 3.37 unemployed persons for every job opening advertised in October, down from 3.44 in September.

Unemployment Insurance Claims Activity

	Oct.	Sept.	Oct.	% Change		Year-to-Date		
	2010	2010	2009	Sept 10	Oct 09	2010	2009	% Change
Regular Claims								
Initial Claims	6,153	5,527	6,909	11.3%	-10.9%	79,551	98,078	-18.9%
Number of Payments	48,872	54,120	62,270	-9.7%	-21.5%	738,090	965,491	-23.6%
Amount of Payments (gross millions)	\$17.8	\$19.6	\$23.5	-9.2%	-24.3%	\$269.5	\$357.4	-24.6%
Exhaustions (Final Payments)	1,945	1,857	2,611	4.7%	-25.5%	23,549	29,247	-19.5%
Emergency Unemployment Compensation						2010	Since Program Began	
Initial Claims	3,128	2,956	4,248	5.8%	-26.4%	29,759	92,007	
Number of Payments	46,881	44,499	55,008	5.4%	-14.8%	669,950	1,485,487	
Amount of Payments (gross millions)	\$17.1	\$16.5	\$20.5	3.6%	-16.6%	\$247.4	\$540.4	
Extended Benefits						2010	Since Program Began	
Initial Claims	596	896	989	-33.5%	-39.7%	14,377	25,387	
Number of Payments	26,485	31,924	12,357	-17.0%	114.3%	173,136	303,592	
Amount of Payments (gross millions)	\$10.0	\$11.9	\$4.3	-16.0%	132.6%	\$64.0	\$109.8	
Exhaustions (Final Payments)	1,996	1,355	659	47.3%	202.9%	6,305	11,797	

R.I. DEPARTMENT OF LABOR AND TRAINING
2011 UI AND TDI QUICK REFERENCE
(Effective January 1, 2011)

	UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE	TEMPORARY DISABILITY INSURANCE
TAXABLE WAGE BASE	\$19,000	\$58,400
TAX SCHEDULES/TAX RATES Employment Security Job Development Assessment (JDA) *(Includes 0.3% Interest Assessment)	Schedule I: 1.90% to 10.0% 1.69% to 9.79% 0.51%*	1.3% Deducted from Employee's Wages
NEW EMPLOYER RATE	2.46% (+0.51%JDA)	NONE (Employee Tax)
EMPLOYEE WAGE DEDUCTION	NONE (employer payroll tax)	1.3% of first \$58,400 earned
WAITING PERIOD	7 days - beginning on a Sunday	7 days - beginning on a Sunday (paid retroactively if customer is out for 28 consecutive days or more from the effective date of the claim)
BASE PERIOD	The first four of the last five completed calendar quarters prior to claim; or last 4 completed quarters if needed to meet minimum earnings requirement.	
ELIGIBILITY - MONETARY Based on a Minimum Wage of \$7.40/hour.	\$8,880 in base period wages; or \$1,480 in one of the base period quarters and total base period wages of at least 1.5 times the highest quarter earnings, and total base period earnings of at least \$2,960.	
ELIGIBILITY - NONMONETARY	Worked for a subject employer and unemployed through no fault.	Worked for a subject employer and have medically certified disability.
WEEKLY BENEFIT RATE	4.62% of total high quarter wages in base period.	
MIN. WEEKLY BENEFIT AMOUNT Based on minimum wage of \$7.40/hour	\$68 per week	\$69 per week
MAX. WEEKLY BENEFIT AMOUNT Based on the 2009 average weekly wage of \$822.48.	\$551 per week	\$700 per week
DEPENDENT'S ALLOWANCE	Greater of \$15 or 5% of weekly benefit rate (up to 5 depts.)	Greater of \$10 or 7% of weekly benefit rate (up to 5 depts.)
MAX. WEEKLY BENEFIT AMOUNT WITH MAX. 5 DEPENDENTS	\$688 per week	\$945 per week
MAXIMUM DURATION	26 weeks	30 weeks
REASONS FOR DENIAL OF BENEFITS	Quit without good cause; fired for misconduct; refusal of suitable work; labor dispute (except lock- out); insufficient earnings in base period.	No medical certification; insufficient earnings in the base period. Receipt of unemployment or workers' com- pensation benefits.
BENEFIT APPLICATIONS	Call (401) 243-9100 to file.	Call (401) 462-8420 for application