



Rhode Island's Unemployment Rate Drops to 10.4 percent in October

- ◆ RI's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate for October was 10.4 percent, down one-tenth of a percentage point from September.
- ◆ RI's October unemployment rate is down 1.1 percentage points from last year's figure of 11.5 percent.
- ◆ The national rate was 9.0 percent, down one-tenth of a percentage point from September and down seven-tenths from the previous year.
- ◆ In October 2011, Rhode Island, along with North Carolina, had the 7th highest unemployment rate in the nation. Nevada (13.4%) had the highest unemployment rate in the country, while North Dakota (3.5%) had the lowest.
- ◆ The October 2011 unemployment rate increased in five states. Thirty-six states, including Connecticut (-0.2), Maine (-0.2), Vermont (-0.2), Rhode Island (-0.1) and New Hampshire (-0.1) saw their rates decrease, while nine states' rates, including Massachusetts, were unchanged. In all, ten 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 October 2011—Connecticut 8.7 percent, Maine 7.3 percent, Massachusetts 7.3 percent, Vermont 5.6 percent and New Hampshire 5.3 percent.
- ◆ The number of employed RI residents totaled 502,900 in October 2011, up 1,300 from the previous month. Between October 2010 and October 2011, the number of employed RI residents decreased by 7,700.
- ◆ In October, the number of unemployed Rhode Island residents decreased by 200 to 58,600. From October 2010 to October 2011, the number of unemployed residents decreased by 7,700.

UI and TDI Taxable Wage Bases and Tax Rates Announced for 2012

The Unemployment Insurance (UI) taxable wage base, which represents the maximum amount of an employee's earned wages subject to taxation, will be \$19,600 for most employers in 2012. By law, the UI taxable wage base is set at 46.5 percent of the average annual wage paid by employers subject to the contribution provisions of the Employment Security Act. For employers at the highest tax rate (9.79%), the UI taxable wage base will be set \$1,500 higher at \$21,100.

The new employer rate for UI purposes will be 2.64 percent for calendar year 2012, up from 2.46 percent in 2011. 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 2012. Employers will be notified of their individual tax rates by the end of December.

In addition, the Job Development Assessment will remain at 0.51 percent in 2012. The 0.3 percent increase in the Job Development Assessment which took effect in 2011 will be used to pay interest on the money the state has been borrowing from the federal government to pay unemployment insurance benefits.

The Temporary Disability Insurance (TDI) taxable wage base will be set at \$60,000 in 2012, an increase of \$1,600 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 \$719 per week from \$700 the prior year.

The 2012 employee contribution rate to the TDI Fund will be 1.2 percent down from 1.3 percent in 2011. The contribution rate is calculated by dividing the total adjusted TDI disbursements for the twelve month period ending September 30, 2011 by the total taxable wages for that same period.

The maximum TDI contribution will be \$720 in 2012, a decrease of \$39.20 from the 2011 maximum contribution of \$759.20. For individuals earning the average weekly wage (\$844.94) the weekly TDI contribution will be \$10.14 in 2012, down from \$10.69 in 2011. For a full-time worker earning the minimum hourly wage (\$7.40), the weekly TDI contribution will be \$3.55 down from \$3.85 in 2011.

See label page for the 2012 UI & TDI Quick Reference Chart.

Seasonally Adjusted Labor Force Statistics

(in thousands)

	Rhode Island			United States		
	Oct 11	Sep 11	Oct 10	Oct 11	Sep 11	Oct 10
Civilian Labor Force	561.5	560.4	576.9	154,198	154,017	153,960
Resident Employment	502.9	501.6	510.6	140,302	140,025	139,084
Unemployment	58.6	58.8	66.3	13,897	13,992	14,876
Unemployment Rate	10.4%	10.5%	11.5%	9.0%	9.1%	9.7%

Rhode Island Jobs Decrease by 1,200 in October

Estimated nonfarm payroll in Rhode Island totaled 459,300 in October, reflecting a loss of 1,200 jobs from the September employment estimate of 460,500 (revised upward by 700), marking three consecutive months of job declines.

The Manufacturing sector lost 800 jobs over the month, with the majority of the job losses stemming from the durable goods component of manufacturing, mainly fabricated metal product and wood product manufacturing. Three sectors – Retail Trade, Accommodation & Food Services and Other Services – each shed 500 jobs since September. Employment declines in Retail Trade were reported in the clothing & clothing accessories stores subsector and the sporting goods, book stores, music stores & hobby stores subsector. Accommodation & Food Services experienced payroll declines in hotel & motel establishments, as well as in full service restaurants. Losses in Other Services can be attributed to reductions in civic & social organizations and business, professional, labor & political organizations.

	Establishment Employment in Rhode Island				
	Seasonally Adjusted			Net Change From	
	<u>Oct-11</u>	<u>Sep-11</u>	<u>Oct-10</u>	<u>Sep-11</u>	<u>Oct-10</u>
Total Nonfarm	459.3	460.5	459.5	-1.2	-0.2
Natural Resources & Mining	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.0	0.0
Construction	15.7	15.2	15.8	0.5	-0.1
Manufacturing	40.0	40.8	40.5	-0.8	-0.5
Wholesale Trade	16.5	16.5	16.5	0.0	0.0
Retail Trade	48.6	49.1	47.2	-0.5	1.4
Transportation & Utilities	10.1	10.0	10.1	0.1	0.0
Information	10.3	10.3	10.4	0.0	-0.1
Financial Activities	29.4	29.6	30.4	-0.2	-1.0
Professional & Business Services	53.8	53.8	52.7	0.0	1.1
Educational Services	24.3	24.0	23.4	0.3	0.9
Health Care & Social Assistance	78.5	78.2	78.3	0.3	0.2
Arts, Entertainment & Recreation	7.2	7.1	7.4	0.1	-0.2
Accommodation & Food Services	42.8	43.3	43.2	-0.5	-0.4
Other Services	22.0	22.5	22.3	-0.5	-0.3
Government	59.9	59.9	61.1	0.0	-1.2

Financial Activities reported a 200 job loss over the month, while employment in Professional & Business Services, Information, Wholesale Trade, Government and Natural Resources & Mining remained unchanged.

Following a gain of 200 jobs in September, Construction employment increased by 500 in October, mainly due to job gains in the specialty trade contractors and construction of building components of the sector. Health Care & Social Assistance and Educational Services each added 300 jobs over the month, while employment within the Arts, Entertainment & Recreation and Transportation & Utilities sectors were up 100 each over the month.

Over the year, employment was down 200 from October 2010. Job declines were reported in eight economic sectors since last October, including Government (-1,200), Financial Activities (-1,000), Manufacturing (-500), Accommodation & Food Services (-400), Other Services (-300), Arts, Entertainment & Recreation (-200), Construction (-100) and Information (-100). Retail Trade employment posted the largest over-the-year gain in October, with an increase of 1,400 jobs, followed by Professional &

Business Services (+1,100), Educational Services (+900) and Health Care & Social Assistance (+200). Transportation & Utilities, Wholesale Trade and Natural Resources & Mining employment remained even over the year.

Manufacturing Employment in Rhode Island					
Not Seasonally Adjusted					
	Employment				
	(in thousands)			Net Change From:	
	<u>Oct 11</u>	<u>Sep 11</u>	<u>Oct 10</u>	<u>Sept 11</u>	<u>Oct 10</u>
Manufacturing	40.6	41.0	41.1	-400	-500
Durable Goods	26.1	26.4	26.3	-300	-200
Fabricated Metal Product Mfg.	5.6	5.6	5.8	0	-200
Computer & Electronic Product Mfg.	3.7	3.7	3.8	0	-100
Miscellaneous Manufacturing	6.4	6.3	6.8	100	-400
Jewelry & Silverware	4.1	4.0	4.5	100	-400
Non-Durable Goods	14.5	14.6	14.8	-100	-300
Chemical Manufacturing	2.8	2.8	2.9	0	-100

MANUFACTURING: In October 2011, production workers in the Manufacturing sector earned \$17.45 per hour. The average hourly production wage was up 20 cents from September 2011 and up \$2.61 from October 2010. Manufacturing employees worked an average of 39.1 hours per week in October, up three-tenths of an hour over the month and unchanged 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.



Multiple Jobholders in Rhode Island, 2010

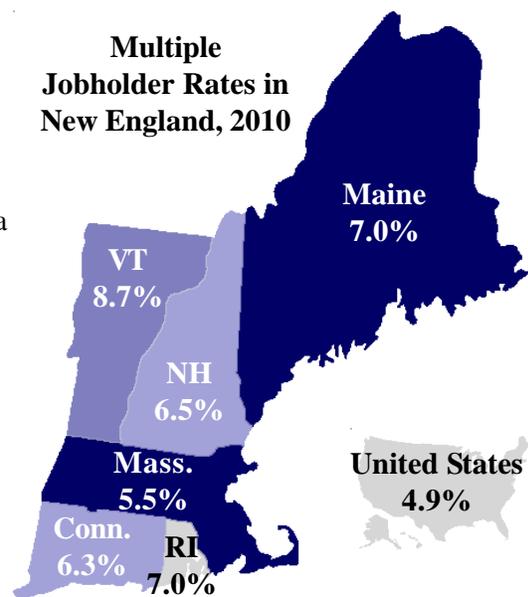
According to the Bureau of Labor Statistics' Current Population Survey, 7.0 percent of employed Rhode Islanders sixteen years and older held more than one job in 2010. This represented a 0.5 percentage point decrease from the state's 2009 rate and is at its lowest level since 2007 (6.6%).

Historical data show that Rhode Island's multiple jobholder rate consistently surpasses the United States average. In 1994, 6.0 percent of the nation's workers held two or more jobs, 0.8 percentage points less than in the Ocean State. This gap widened to 2.3 percentage points in 1999 and again in 2009. The gap now stands at 2.1 percentage points.

Since 1994, Rhode Island has ranked among the top half of states with the highest multiple jobholder rates. In 1994, the Ocean State ranked twentieth in the nation, rising to fourteenth place in 1999 and 2000. In these latter years, Rhode Island's percentage of multiple jobholders peaked, while the national rate began to fall. In 2010, the Ocean State reported the eleventh highest multiple jobholder rate in the United States. The highest rates were reported in South Dakota (10.3%), Nebraska (9.0%) and North Dakota (8.9%), while Alabama (3.3%), Louisiana (3.5%) and Florida (3.6%) had the lowest percentages of multiple jobholders in the country.

Within New England, Rhode Island (7.0%), along with Maine (7.0%), had the second highest multiple jobholder rate in 2010. Vermont's multiple jobholder rate of 8.7 percent remained the highest in the region, a distinction the Green Mountain State has held in all but one year since 1994. New Hampshire (6.5%) reported the next highest multiple jobholder rate in the region, followed by Connecticut (6.3%) and Massachusetts (5.5%). Each of the six New England states reported multiple jobholder rates above the national average (4.9%). For more information, visit www.dlt.ri.gov/lmi/publications/mjh.htm.

Multiple Jobholder Rates in New England, 2010



Characteristics of the Insured Unemployed

A total of 12,240 individuals were eligible to collect "regular" Unemployment Insurance benefits in October 2011, down 1,492 (-10.9%) from the 13,732 collecting these benefits in October 2010. In addition, 12,755 individuals collected Emergency Unemployment Compensation and 1,529 collected Extended Benefits. In all, 46.1 percent of Rhode Island's unemployed workers were eligible to collect unemployment benefits in October.

Of the 12,240 individuals collecting "regular" Unemployment Insurance benefits, 31.5 percent faced long-term unemployment (defined as collecting unemployment insurance for fifteen weeks or more), down from 33.2 percent in October 2010.

On an industry basis, 14.8 percent (1,808) of the State's insured unemployed workers came from the Health Care & Social Assistance sector. There were also 1,516 individuals with an attachment to the Manufacturing sector, accounting for 12.4 percent of all insured unemployed workers. An additional 10.7 percent (1,309) of those collecting UI benefits in October had worked in the Retail Trade sector. Large numbers of insured unemployed were also reported in Construction (1,241), Administrative & Waste Services (1,209) and Accommodation & Food Services (857). For more information, go to www.dlt.ri.gov/lmi/uiadmin/characteristics.htm.

Characteristics of the Insured Unemployed, October 2011

	Total	Long-Term	Percent Long-Term
Total	12,240	3,860	31.5%
Male	6,139	1,656	27.0%
Female	6,101	2,204	36.1%
Selected Industries	12,240	3,860	31.5%
Construction	1,241	205	16.5%
Manufacturing	1,516	503	33.2%
Wholesale Trade	467	164	35.1%
Retail Trade	1,309	457	34.9%
Transportation & Warehousing	271	91	33.6%
Information	180	71	39.4%
Finance & Insurance	671	264	39.3%
Real Estate	204	62	30.4%
Professional & Tech. Services	714	218	30.5%
Administrative & Waste Services	1,209	344	28.5%
Educational Services	538	213	39.6%
Health Care & Social Assistance	1,808	673	37.2%
Arts, Entertainment & Recreation	181	37	20.4%
Accommodation & Food Services	857	240	28.0%
Other Services	472	166	35.2%
Public Administration	132	33	25.0%

**Consumer Price Index for
All Urban Consumers**

				% Change
	Oct 11	Sept 11	Oct 10	Prev. Year
All Items	226.4	226.9	218.7	3.5%

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 800 (+4.8%) from the September 2011 postings, and down 400 (-2.3%) from the advertised vacancies posted online in October 2010. There were an estimated 3.09 advertised vacancies for every 100 persons in Rhode Island's labor force.

**Help Wanted OnLine
Advertised Job Vacancies**

	Oct 11	Sept 11	Oct 10
RI Vacancies	17,300	16,500	17,700
<i>Labor Demand Rate *</i>			
Rhode Island	3.09	2.94	3.07
US	2.55	2.56	2.39
Connecticut	2.97	2.96	2.99
Massachusetts	3.37	3.38	3.40
Maine	2.57	2.67	2.49
New Hampshire	2.69	2.76	2.74
Vermont	3.53	3.40	3.06
<i>Supply/Demand Rate **</i>			
Rhode Island	3.39	3.57	3.75
US	3.53	3.54	4.04

* 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 October**

	2011	2010		2011	2010
Barrington	7.7	8.4	Newport	8.2	9.5
Bristol	9.4	9.6	North Kingstown	8.1	9.0
Burrillville	9.7	10.0	North Providence	10.1	10.8
Central Falls	14.3	13.5	North Smithfield	7.9	10.1
Charlestown	10.4	11.0	Pawtucket	12.4	12.4
Coventry	9.7	9.9	Portsmouth	8.1	9.0
Cranston	10.2	11.4	Providence	13.0	13.5
Cumberland	8.9	9.9	Richmond	6.9	8.2
East Greenwich	9.2	9.9	Scituate	8.4	10.3
East Providence	10.8	12.1	Smithfield	8.6	10.4
Exeter	8.6	10.2	South Kingstown	8.4	9.5
Foster	8.9	12.2	Tiverton	9.9	11.1
Glocester	7.4	8.7	Warren	9.6	9.3
Hopkinton	9.2	9.1	Warwick	9.6	10.7
Jamestown	7.2	8.8	West Greenwich	10.0	9.2
Johnston	10.4	11.6	West Warwick	10.7	11.7
Lincoln	9.2	9.8	Westerly	7.4	8.0
Little Compton	8.6	8.5	Woonsocket	12.0	12.2
Middletown	8.6	9.7			
Narragansett	7.0	7.7	State of R.I.	10.2	11.0
New Shoreham	10.9	9.8	United States	8.5	9.0

Nationally, there were an estimated 2.55 advertised vacancies for every 100 persons in labor force. Among the New England states, Vermont (3.53) and Massachusetts (3.37) both had a higher vacancy rate than Rhode Island.

There were an estimated 3.39 unemployed Rhode Island residents for every advertised job in October, down from 3.57 unemployed residents estimated per September advertisements. Nationally, there were 3.53 unemployed persons for every job opening advertised in October, down from 3.54 in September.

Unemployment Insurance Claims Activity

	Oct.	Sept.	Oct.	% Change		Year to Date		
	2011	2011	2010	Sept. 11	Oct. 10	2011	2010	% Change
Regular Claims								
Initial Claims	6,358	7,041	6,153	-9.7%	3.3%	75,024	79,551	-5.7%
Number of Payments	52,336	49,286	48,872	6.2%	7.1%	662,690	738,090	-10.2%
Amount of Payments (gross millions)	\$19.1	\$17.7	\$17.8	7.9%	7.3%	\$240.0	\$269.5	-10.9%
Exhaustions (Final Payments)	1,815	1,692	1,945	7.3%	-6.7%	21,319	23,549	-9.5%
Emergency Unemployment Compensation						2011	Since Program Began	
Initial Claims	2,538	2,708	3,128	-6.3%	-18.9%	28,632	126,881	
Number of Payments	62,497	53,976	46,881	15.8%	33.3%	602,280	2,214,039	
Amount of Payments (gross millions)	\$23.0	\$19.9	\$17.1	15.6%	34.5%	\$221.6	\$808.4	
Extended Benefits						2011	Since Program Began	
Initial Claims	531	617	596	-13.9%	-10.9%	4,757	33,511	
Number of Payments	7,518	6,053	26,485	24.2%	-71.6%	90,806	426,522	
Amount of Payments (gross millions)	\$2.7	\$2.2	\$10.0	22.7%	-73.0%	\$33.3	\$155.0	
Exhaustions (Final Payments)	416	299	1996	39.1%	-79.2%	5,139	20,837	

R.I. DEPARTMENT OF LABOR AND TRAINING
2012 UI AND TDI QUICK REFERENCE
(Effective January 1, 2012)

	UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE	TEMPORARY DISABILITY INSURANCE
TAXABLE WAGE BASE For Employers with tax rates of 9.79%	\$19,600 \$21,100	\$60,000
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%*	1.2% Deducted from Employee's Wages
NEW EMPLOYER RATE	2.64% (+0.51%JDA)	NONE (Employee Tax)
EMPLOYEE WAGE DEDUCTION	NONE (employer payroll tax)	1.2% of first \$60,000 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 2010 average weekly wage of \$844.94.	\$566 per week	\$719 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	\$707 per week	\$970 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