



## 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 was down eight-tenths of a percentage point from last October's figure of 11.2 percent.
- ◆ The national rate was 7.9 percent, up one-tenth of a percentage point from September and down one percentage point from the previous year.
- ◆ In October 2012, Rhode Island had the 2nd highest unemployment rate in the nation, trailing Nevada (11.5%).
- ◆ The October 2012 unemployment rate increased in seven states, including Massachusetts (+0.1), Connecticut (+0.1) and Vermont (+0.1). Thirty-seven states, including Maine (-0.2) and Rhode Island (-0.1), saw their rates decrease, while six states' rates, including New Hampshire, were unchanged. In all, three states have unemployment rates in the double digits.
- ◆ Rates in other New England states for October 2012—Connecticut 9.0 percent, Maine 7.4 percent, Massachusetts 6.6 percent, New Hampshire 5.7 percent and Vermont 5.5 percent.
- ◆ The number of employed RI residents totaled 504,700 in October 2012, up 5,200 from the previous month. Between October 2011 and October 2012, the number of employed RI residents increased by 5,300.
- ◆ Over the month, the number of unemployed Rhode Island residents was unchanged at 58,700. From October 2011 to October 2012, the number of unemployed residents decreased by 4,500.

## RI Minimum Wage Increasing in January

The state's minimum wage will increase \$0.35 to \$7.75 an hour as of January 1, 2013. The last minimum wage increase in Rhode Island occurred in January 2007. Rhode Island will have the fourth highest minimum wage in New England, behind Vermont (\$8.60), Connecticut (\$8.25) and Massachusetts (\$8.00). Maine's minimum wage is \$7.50, while New Hampshire's is \$7.25. The Federal minimum wage is \$7.25.

Exceptions to Rhode Island minimum wage law:

1.) Full-time students under 19 years of age working in nonprofit religious, educational, librarial, or community service organizations:

1/1/07 - \$6.66 per hour (90% of applicable minimum)  
As of 1/1/13 - \$6.98 per hour (90% of applicable minimum)

2.) 14 and 15 year olds who do not work more than 24 hours in a week. For any week in which a 14 or 15 year old works more than 24 hours, the higher applicable minimum rate must be paid for all hours worked in that week.

1/1/07 - \$5.55 per hour (75% of applicable minimum)  
As of 1/1/13 - \$5.81 per hour (75% of applicable minimum)

3.) Workers employed in domestic service in or about a private home, federal service, voluntary service in educational, charitable, religious or nonprofit organizations where employer/employee relationships do not exist, such as newspaper carriers on home delivery, shoe shine persons, caddies on golf courses, ushers in theaters, traveling or outside sales occupations. Service performed by an individual employed by a son or daughter or a minor child employed by the parent is also exempt.

### Seasonally Adjusted Labor Force Statistics (in thousands)

	Rhode Island			United States		
	Oct 12	Sept 12	Oct 11	Oct 12	Sept 12	Oct 11
Civilian Labor Force	563.4	558.1	562.6	155,641	155,063	154,057
Resident Employment	504.7	499.5	499.4	143,384	142,974	140,297
Unemployment	58.7	58.7	63.2	12,258	12,088	13,759
Unemployment Rate	10.4%	10.5%	11.2%	7.9%	7.8%	8.9%

The Rhode Island minimum wage laws and exemptions can be found in RI General Law 28-12.

For more information, visit the Labor Standards web site at [www.dlt.ri.gov/lis/minwage.htm](http://www.dlt.ri.gov/lis/minwage.htm).

## Rhode Island Jobs Decrease by 2,500 in October

Estimated nonfarm payroll in Rhode Island totaled 457,000 in October, reflecting a loss of 2,500 jobs from the revised September employment estimate of 459,500. (September payroll was originally reported at 458,000.)

The Accommodation & Food Services and Educational Services sectors reported the largest over-the-month losses, reflecting declines of 1,500 and 1,100, respectively. The larger-than-normal job losses in the Accommodation & Food Services sector can be attributed to greater-than-normal hiring during the 2012 summer season. Between May and August, employment in the Accommodation & Food Service sector was 2,500 above regular seasonal adjustments. A decrease of 1,100 jobs was reported in the Educational Services sector, reflecting a change in student hiring patterns at local college and universities as well as drops in non-collegiate educational services employment. Smaller employment losses were reported in the Other Services (-400), Construction (-300), Transportation & Utilities (-300) and Wholesale Trade (-100) sectors.

The Professional & Business Services, Health Care & Social Assistance and Manufacturing Sectors each added 300 jobs in October. The Professional & Business Services sector received a boost from administrative and support service establishments which include employment services. The health care industry reported gains in ambulatory health care services, while the durable goods component added jobs in the Manufacturing sector. Three sectors, Financial Activities, Retail Trade and Arts, Entertainment & Recreation, each added 100 jobs since September, while employment in the Information, Government and Mining & Logging sectors was unchanged.

Over the year, total nonfarm employment decreased by 2,500. Job losses appeared in eight economic sectors, including Educational Services (-1,100), Government (-1,100), Other Services (-800), Retail Trade (-600), Health Care & Social Assistance (-400), Professional & Business Services (-300), Wholesale Trade (-300) and Information (-100).

Employment in Accommodation & Food Services (+1,100), Financial Activities (+500), Manufacturing (+300), Construction

(+200) and Arts, Entertainment & Recreation (+100) was up over-the-year job. Employment in Mining & Logging and Transportation & Utilities remained unchanged over the year.

**MANUFACTURING:** In October 2012, production workers in the Manufacturing sector earned \$18.46 per hour, up 16 cents from September 2012 and up \$1.00 from October 2011. Manufacturing employees worked an average of 40.0 hours per week in October, down four-tenths over the month and up nine-tenths of an hour from a year ago.

<b>Establishment Employment in Rhode Island</b>					
<b>Seasonally Adjusted</b>					
	Net Change From				
	Oct-12	Sep-12	Oct-11	Sep-12	Oct-11
<b>Total Nonfarm</b>	<b>457.0</b>	<b>459.5</b>	<b>459.5</b>	<b>-2.5</b>	<b>-2.5</b>
Natural Resources & Mining	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.0	0.0
Construction	16.2	16.5	16.0	-0.3	0.2
Manufacturing	40.9	40.6	40.6	0.3	0.3
Wholesale Trade	16.3	16.4	16.6	-0.1	-0.3
Retail Trade	45.0	44.9	45.6	0.1	-0.6
Transportation & Utilities	10.6	10.9	10.6	-0.3	0.0
Information	10.3	10.3	10.4	0.0	-0.1
Financial Activities	31.0	30.9	30.5	0.1	0.5
Professional & Business Services	53.7	53.4	54.0	0.3	-0.3
Educational Services	25.0	26.1	26.1	-1.1	-1.1
Health Care & Social Assistance	77.5	77.2	77.9	0.3	-0.4
Arts, Entertainment & Recreation	7.5	7.4	7.4	0.1	0.1
Accommodation & Food Services	42.6	44.1	41.5	-1.5	1.1
Other Services	20.9	21.3	21.7	-0.4	-0.8
Government	59.3	59.3	60.4	0.0	-1.1

<b>Manufacturing Employment in Rhode Island</b>					
<b>Not Seasonally Adjusted</b>					
	Employment				
	(in thousands)		Net Change From :		
	Oct 12	Sept 12	Oct 11	Sept 12	Oct 11
<b>Manufacturing</b>	<b>41.3</b>	<b>41.0</b>	<b>41.0</b>	<b>300</b>	<b>300</b>
<b>Durable Goods</b>	<b>26.9</b>	<b>26.6</b>	<b>26.3</b>	<b>300</b>	<b>600</b>
Fabricated Metal Product Mfg.	5.4	5.4	5.7	0	-300
Computer & Electronic Product Mfg.	3.5	3.5	3.6	0	-100
Miscellaneous Manufacturing	6.6	6.5	6.7	100	-100
Jewelry & Silverware	4.2	4.1	4.3	100	-100
<b>Non-Durable Goods</b>	<b>14.4</b>	<b>14.4</b>	<b>14.7</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>-300</b>
Chemical Manufacturing	2.8	2.9	2.8	-100	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](http://www.dlt.ri.gov/lmi/ces.htm).*

*Current month's figures are preliminary and subject to change.*



## UI and TDI Taxable Wage Bases and Tax Rates Announced for 2013

The Unemployment Insurance (UI) taxable wage base, which represents the maximum amount of an employee’s earned wages subject to taxation, will be \$20,200 for most employers in 2013. 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. The 2013 taxable wage base was based on the 2011 average annual wage of \$43,040. For employers at the highest tax rate (9.79%), the UI taxable wage base will be set \$1,500 higher at \$21,700.

The new employer rate for UI purposes will be 2.83 percent for calendar year 2013, up from 2.64 percent in 2012. 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 2013. 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 \$61,400 in 2013, an increase of \$1,400 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 \$736 per week from \$719 the prior year.

The 2012 employee contribution rate to the TDI Fund will remain at 1.2 percent in 2012. The contribution rate is calculated by dividing the total adjusted TDI disbursements for the twelve month period ending September 30, 2012 by the total taxable wages for that same period. The maximum TDI contribution will be \$736.80 in 2013, an increase of \$16.80 from the 2012 maximum contribution of \$720.00 which will only affect individuals earning more than \$60,000 a year.

Monetary eligibility for UI and TDI benefits is based on the state minimum wage which will increase to \$7.75 per hour on January 1, 2013 thereby increasing the amount of earnings needed to qualify for UI and TDI benefits. Beginning in January, individuals will need to earn \$1,550 in one base period quarter, total base period earnings of at least one and one half times the highest quarter earnings and total base period earnings of at least \$3,100 or total base period earnings of \$9,300 to qualify for UI or TDI benefits. (See label page for the 2013 UI & TDI Quick Reference Chart.)

### Characteristics of the Insured Unemployed

A total of 11,019 individuals were eligible to collect “regular” Unemployment Insurance benefits in October 2012, down 1,221 (-10.0%) from the 12,240 collecting these benefits in October 2011. In addition, 8,593 individuals collected Emergency Unemployment Compensation. In all, 34.8 percent of Rhode Island’s unemployed workers were eligible to collect unemployment benefits in October.

Of the 11,019 individuals collecting “regular” Unemployment Insurance benefits, 32.9 percent faced long-term unemployment (defined as collecting unemployment insurance for fifteen weeks or more), up from 31.5 percent in October 2011.

On an industry basis, 14.4 percent (1,583) of the State’s insured unemployed workers came from the Health Care & Social Assistance sector. There were also 1,298 individuals with an attachment to the Manufacturing sector, accounting for 11.8 percent of all insured unemployed workers. Large numbers of insured unemployed were also reported in Construction (1,190), Retail Trade (1,169) and Administrative & Waste Services (1,120). For more information, go to [www.dlt.ri.gov/lmi/uiadmin/characteristics.htm](http://www.dlt.ri.gov/lmi/uiadmin/characteristics.htm).

<b>Characteristics of the Insured Unemployed, October 2012</b>			
	<i>Total</i>	<i>Percent</i>	
		<i>Long-Term</i>	<i>Long-Term</i>
<b>Total</b>	<b>11,019</b>	<b>3,621</b>	<b>32.9%</b>
Male	5,722	1,724	30.1%
Female	5,297	1,897	35.8%
<b>Selected Industries</b>	<b>11,019</b>	<b>3,621</b>	<b>32.9%</b>
Construction	1,190	228	19.2%
Manufacturing	1,298	446	34.4%
Wholesale Trade	482	187	38.8%
Retail Trade	1,169	438	37.5%
Transportation & Warehousing	247	99	40.1%
Information	176	92	52.3%
Finance & Insurance	485	209	43.1%
Real Estate	188	59	31.4%
Professional & Tech. Services	658	252	38.3%
Administrative & Waste Services	1,120	298	26.6%
Educational Services	429	166	38.7%
Health Care & Social Assistance	1,583	571	36.1%
Arts, Entertainment & Recreation	161	40	24.8%
Accommodation & Food Services	836	220	26.3%
Other Services	501	182	36.3%
Public Administration	84	26	31.0%

### Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers

				% Change
	Oct. 12	Sept. 12	Oct. 11	Prev. Year
All Items	231.3	231.4	226.4	2.2%

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 18,000 advertisements for Rhode Island based jobs this month, a decrease of 1,300 (-6.7%) from the September 2012 postings, and unchanged from the advertised vacancies posted online in October 2011. There were an estimated 3.23 advertised vacancies for every 100 persons in Rhode Island's labor force.

#### Help Wanted OnLine Advertised Job Vacancies

	Oct 12	Sept 12	Oct 11
RI Vacancies	18,000	19,300	18,000
<i>Labor Demand Rate *</i>			
Rhode Island	3.23	3.45	3.19
US	3.05	3.10	2.77
Connecticut	3.40	3.48	3.14
Massachusetts	4.05	4.18	3.63
Maine	3.04	3.01	2.79
New Hampshire	3.45	3.54	2.92
Vermont	3.19	3.28	3.67
<i>Supply/Demand Rate **</i>			
Rhode Island	3.26	3.05	3.51
US	2.59	2.51	3.23

\* 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

	2012	2011		2012	2011
Barrington	7.2	7.9	Newport	8.0	8.6
Bristol	9.2	9.6	North Kingstown	8.3	8.7
Burrillville	9.1	10.3	North Providence	10.1	10.9
Central Falls	13.3	14.6	North Smithfield	8.5	8.1
Charlestown	10.3	10.9	Pawtucket	11.8	13.0
Coventry	9.3	10.1	Portsmouth	7.5	8.5
Cranston	10.4	10.8	Providence	12.0	13.4
Cumberland	8.3	9.5	Richmond	6.8	7.1
East Greenwich	9.1	10.1	Scituate	9.3	9.1
East Providence	10.9	11.5	Smithfield	8.7	9.2
Exeter	9.1	9.6	South Kingstown	8.4	8.8
Foster	8.2	9.6	Tiverton	8.9	10.0
Glocester	8.4	8.3	Warren	9.5	10.0
Hopkinton	8.6	9.6	Warwick	9.3	10.1
Jamestown	7.9	7.7	West Greenwich	8.0	10.5
Johnston	10.4	11.0	West Warwick	10.3	11.6
Lincoln	8.5	9.8	Westerly	7.2	8.1
Little Compton	7.4	9.2	Woonsocket	12.7	13.0
Middletown	8.7	9.1			
Narragansett	6.4	7.4	State of R.I.	9.9	10.7
New Shoreham	11.1	11.6	United States	7.5	8.5

Nationally, there were an estimated 3.05 advertised vacancies for every 100 persons in labor force. Among the New England states, Massachusetts (4.05), New Hampshire (3.45) and Connecticut (3.40) each had a higher vacancy rate than Rhode Island.

There were an estimated 3.26 unemployed Rhode Island residents for every advertised job in October, up from 3.05 unemployed residents estimated per September advertisements. Nationally, there were 2.59 unemployed persons for every job opening advertised in October, down from 2.51 in September.

### Unemployment Insurance Claims Activity

	Oct.	Sept.	Oct.	% Change		Year-to-Date		
	2012	2012	2011	Sept.12	Oct.11	2012	2011	% Change
<b>Regular Claims</b>								
Initial Claims	6,385	5,193	6,358	23.0%	0.4%	72,023	75,024	-4.0%
Number of Payments	47,535	41,036	52,336	15.8%	-9.2%	602,267	662,690	-9.1%
Amount of Payments (gross millions)	\$16.9	\$14.8	\$19.1	14.2%	-11.5%	\$220.4	\$240.0	-8.2%
Exhaustions (Final Payments)	1,548	1,306	1,815	18.5%	-14.7%	18,642	21,319	-12.6%
<b>Emergency Unemployment Compensation</b>						2012	Since Program Began	
Initial Claims	2,205	2,002	2,538	10.1%	-13.1%	23,100	155,453	
Number of Payments	42,959	35,246	62,497	21.9%	-31.3%	455,723	2,773,391	
Amount of Payments (gross millions)	\$16.2	\$13.2	\$23.0	22.7%	-29.6%	\$168.4	\$1,014.9	

# R.I. DEPARTMENT OF LABOR AND TRAINING

## 2013 UI AND TDI QUICK REFERENCE

(Effective January 1, 2013)

	UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE	TEMPORARY DISABILITY INSURANCE
<b>TAXABLE WAGE BASE</b> For Employers with tax rates of 9.79%	\$20,200 \$21,700	\$61,400
<b>TAX SCHEDULES/TAX RATES</b> 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
<b>NEW EMPLOYER RATE</b>	2.83% (+0.51%JDA)	NONE (Employee Tax)
<b>EMPLOYEE WAGE DEDUCTION</b>	NONE (employer payroll tax)	1.2% of first \$61,400 earned
<b>WAITING PERIOD</b>	7 days - beginning on a Sunday	No waiting period as of 7/1/12, but must have been unemployed due to sickness for at least 7 days.
<b>BASE PERIOD</b>	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.	
<b>ELIGIBILITY - MONETARY</b> Based on a Minimum Wage of \$7.75/hour.	\$9,300 in base period wages; or \$1,550 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 \$3,100	
<b>ELIGIBILITY - NONMONETARY</b>	Worked for a subject employer and unemployed through no fault.	Worked for a subject employer and have medically certified disability.
<b>WEEKLY BENEFIT RATE</b>	4.38% of average of 2 highest quarter wages in base period.	4.62% of total high quarter wages in base period.
<b>MIN. WEEKLY BENEFIT AMOUNT</b> Based on minimum wage of \$7.75/hour	\$45 per week	\$72 per week
<b>MAX. WEEKLY BENEFIT AMOUNT</b> Based on 2011 average weekly wage of \$864.81.	\$566 per week Max of \$566 or 57.5% of AWW	\$736 per week
<b>DEPENDENT'S ALLOWANCE</b>	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.)
<b>MAX. WEEKLY BENEFIT AMOUNT WITH MAX. 5 DEPENDENTS</b>	\$707 per week	\$993 per week
<b>MAXIMUM DURATION</b>	26 weeks	30 weeks
<b>REASONS FOR DENIAL OF BENEFITS</b>	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' compensation benefits.
<b>BENEFIT APPLICATIONS</b>	Call (401) 243-9100 to file.	Call (401) 462-8420 for application