



Rhode Island's Unemployment Rate Remains at 9.2 percent in October

- ◆ RI's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate for October was 9.2 percent, unchanged from September.
- ◆ RI's October unemployment rate was down nine-tenths of a percentage points from last October's figure of 10.1 percent.
- ◆ The national rate was 7.3 percent, up one-tenth from September but down six-tenths of a percentage point from the previous year.
- ◆ In October 2013, Rhode Island (9.2%) had the second highest unemployment rate in the nation, behind Nevada (9.3%). Michigan (9.0%) is the only other state with a rate at or above nine percent.
- ◆ The October 2013 unemployment rate decreased in twenty-eight states, including Maine (-0.2), Connecticut (-0.1) and Vermont (-0.1). Eleven states' rates, including Rhode Island, were unchanged, while eleven states' rates increased, including Massachusetts (+0.1) and New Hampshire (+0.1).
- ◆ Rates in other New England states for October 2013—Connecticut 7.9 percent, Massachusetts 7.2 percent, Maine 6.7 percent, New Hampshire 5.1 percent and Vermont 4.5 percent.
- ◆ The number of employed RI residents totaled 500,300 in October 2013, down 600 from the previous month. Between October 2012 and October 2013, the number of employed RI residents decreased by 5,400.
- ◆ Over the month, the number of unemployed Rhode Island residents fell by 100 to 50,400. From October 2012 to October 2013, the number of unemployed residents decreased by 6,400.

RI Minimum Wage Increasing in January

The state's minimum wage will increase \$0.25 to \$8.00 an hour as of January 1, 2014. The last minimum wage increase in Rhode Island occurred in January 2013. Rhode Island, along with Massachusetts, will have the third highest minimum wage in New England, behind Vermont (\$8.73), Connecticut (\$8.70). 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:

As of 1/1/13 - \$6.98 per hour (90% of applicable minimum)
As of 1/1/14 - \$7.20 per hour (90% of applicable minimum)

2.) Workers 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.

As of 1/1/13 - \$5.81 per hour (75% of applicable minimum)
As of 1/1/14 - \$6.00 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, 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 13	Sept 13	Oct 12	Oct 13	Sept 13	Oct 12
Civilian Labor Force	550.7	551.4	562.4	154,839	155,559	155,576
Resident Employment	500.3	500.9	505.7	143,568	144,303	143,328
Unemployment	50.4	50.5	56.8	11,272	11,255	12,248
Unemployment Rate	9.2%	9.2%	10.1%	7.3%	7.2%	7.9%

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/lr/minwage.htm.

Rhode Island Jobs Increase by 800 in October

In October, the number of RI-based jobs reached 469,600, its highest level since December 2008. In September and October, RI-based jobs showed monthly increases of 1,100 and 800, respectively. Combined with the previously reported August gains of 1,600 jobs, the state experienced three consecutive months of employment gains totaling 3,500 jobs.

In September, the industry sector demonstrating the greatest job gains was Professional & Business Services (+900), with strong growth in the employment services industry group and services to buildings and dwelling industry group.

In October, Accommodation & Food Services (+800) demonstrated the greatest job gains as employment levels outperformed seasonal expectations. This, coupled with consecutive months of smaller gains in the sector, brought the four-month total increase in Accommodation & Food Services to 1,700. In other positive job news, the Construction sector gained 300 jobs in September and 400 in October, bringing its three-month total increase to 1,000 jobs.

As for monthly job losses, the Retail Trade (-800) and Financial Activities (-600) sectors each experienced notable declines in September. Building material retailers and miscellaneous retailers (i.e. office supply, gift shops, and stationary stores) reported job losses, while several subsectors in the Financial Activities sector experienced payroll declines. The greatest over-the-month job losses in October occurred in the Government sector (-300), with reported losses in local government and state government.

Throughout New England, four of the six states added jobs since September. Massachusetts led the region by adding 9,100 jobs followed by New Hampshire (+3,100), Rhode Island (+800) and Vermont (+400). On the losing end of employment, Maine lost 800 jobs in September followed by Connecticut (-100).

Nationally, the number of jobs increased by 204,000, or 0.1 percent, over-the-month. Rhode Island and the New England Region (+0.2%) slightly outpaced the nation in terms of percentage growth in September.

Establishment Employment in Rhode Island					
Seasonally Adjusted					
	Net Change From				
	Oct-13	Sep-13	Oct-12	Sep-13	Oct-12
Total Nonfarm	469.6	468.8	464.1	0.8	5.5
Total Private	409.8	408.7	404.0	1.1	5.8
Natural Resources & Mining	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.0	0.0
Construction	16.0	15.6	15.2	0.4	0.8
Manufacturing	40.0	40.1	39.9	-0.1	0.1
Wholesale Trade	16.7	16.8	16.8	-0.1	-0.1
Retail Trade	46.6	46.5	46.4	0.1	0.2
Transportation & Utilities	11.0	11.0	10.7	0.0	0.3
Information	9.0	9.1	9.2	-0.1	-0.2
Financial Activities	32.4	32.5	31.9	-0.1	0.5
Professional & Business Services	59.3	59.3	56.3	0.0	3.0
Educational Services	25.1	25.1	25.1	0.0	0.0
Health Care & Social Assistance	78.9	78.8	78.7	0.1	0.2
Arts, Entertainment & Recreation	8.4	8.2	7.6	0.2	0.8
Accommodation & Food Services	44.0	43.2	43.7	0.8	0.3
Other Services	22.2	22.3	22.3	-0.1	-0.1
Government	59.8	60.1	60.1	-0.3	-0.3

Manufacturing Employment in Rhode Island					
Not Seasonally Adjusted					
	Employment				
	(in thousands)		Net Change From:		
	Oct 13	Sept 13	Oct 12	Sept 13	Oct 12
Manufacturing	40.3	40.2	40.2	100	100
Durable Goods	25.7	25.6	25.7	100	0
Fabricated Metal Product Mfg.	5.6	5.6	5.6	0	0
Computer & Electronic Product Mfg.	3.3	3.3	3.4	0	-100
Transportation Equipment Mfg.	3.8	3.8	3.6	0	200
Miscellaneous DG Manufacturing	5.7	5.6	6.0	100	-300
Jewelry & Silverware	3.5	3.4	3.8	100	-300
Non-Durable Goods	14.6	14.6	14.5	0	100
Chemical Manufacturing	2.9	2.9	2.9	0	0

In October, nonfarm payroll employment increased in 34 states, decreased in 15 states and remained unchanged in one state. Wyoming (+1.0%) reported the largest over-the-month percentage increase in jobs followed by Delaware, Florida and Nevada (+0.6%). The largest over-the-month percentage decline occurred in Kentucky (-0.7%), South Dakota (-0.6%) and Washington (-0.3%).

Since the start of the year, employment in the New England region grew by 1.0 percent, while employment within the nation increased by 1.4 percent. Employment in Rhode Island is up 0.9 percent during this period.

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.



UI and TDI Taxable Wage Bases and Tax Rates Announced for 2014

The Unemployment Insurance (UI) taxable wage base, which represents the maximum amount of an employee’s earned wages subject to taxation, will be \$20,600 for most employers in 2014. 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 2014 taxable wage base was based on the 2012 average annual wage of \$44,144. For employers at the highest tax rate (9.79%), the UI taxable wage base will be set \$1,500 higher at \$22,100.

The new employer rate for UI purposes will be 2.85 percent for calendar year 2014, up from 2.83 percent in 2013. 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 2014. 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 2014. 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 \$62,700 in 2014, an increase of \$1,300 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 \$752 per week from \$736 the prior year.

The employee contribution rate to the TDI Fund will remain at 1.2 percent in 2014. The contribution rate is calculated by dividing the total adjusted TDI disbursements for the twelve month period ending September 30, 2013 by the total taxable wages for that same period. The maximum TDI contribution will be \$752.40 in 2014, an increase of \$15.60 from the 2013 maximum contribution of \$736.80, which will only affect individuals earning more than \$62,700 a year.

Monetary eligibility for UI and TDI benefits is based on the state minimum wage which will increase to \$8.00 per hour on January 1, 2014 thereby increasing the amount of earnings needed to qualify for UI and TDI benefits. Beginning in January, individuals will need to earn \$1,600 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 \$3,200 or total base period earnings of \$9,600 to qualify for UI or TDI benefits. (See label page for the 2014 UI & TDI Quick Reference Chart.)

Characteristics of the Insured Unemployed

A total of 9,249 individuals were eligible to collect “regular” Unemployment Insurance benefits in October 2013, down 1,770 (-16.1%) from the 11,019 collecting these benefits in October 2012. In addition, 5,002 individuals collected Emergency Unemployment Compensation. In all, 30.2 percent of Rhode Island’s unemployed workers were eligible to collect unemployment benefits in October.

Of the 9,249 individuals collecting “regular” Unemployment Insurance benefits, 30.5 percent faced long-term unemployment (defined as collecting unemployment insurance for fifteen weeks or more), down from 32.9 percent in October 2012.

On an industry basis, 15.0 percent (1,387) of the State’s insured unemployed workers came from the Health Care & Social Assistance sector. There were also 1,041 individuals with an attachment to the Administrative & Waste Services sector, accounting for 11.3 percent of all insured unemployed workers. An additional 10.8 percent (996) of those collecting UI benefits in October had worked in the Manufacturing sector. Large numbers of insured unemployed were also reported in Retail Trade (966), Construction (807) and Accommodation & Food Services (687). For more information, go to www.dlt.ri.gov/lmi/uiadmin/characteristics.htm.

Characteristics of the Insured Unemployed, October 2013

	<i>Percent</i>		
	<i>Total</i>	<i>Long-Term</i>	<i>Long-Term</i>
Total	9,249	2,818	30.5%
Male	4,648	1,283	27.6%
Female	4,601	1,535	33.4%
Selected Industries	9,249	2,818	30.5%
Construction	807	102	12.6%
Manufacturing	996	324	32.5%
Wholesale Trade	421	153	36.3%
Retail Trade	966	301	31.2%
Transportation & Warehousing	231	80	34.6%
Information	114	39	34.2%
Finance & Insurance	523	177	33.8%
Real Estate	179	62	34.6%
Professional & Tech. Services	598	169	28.3%
Administrative & Waste Services	1,041	256	24.6%
Educational Services	318	127	39.9%
Health Care & Social Assistance	1,387	511	36.8%
Arts, Entertainment & Recreation	136	53	39.0%
Accommodation & Food Services	687	193	28.1%
Other Services	387	124	32.0%
Public Administration	99	29	29.3%

Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers

				% Change
	Oct.13	Sept. 13	Oct. 12	Prev. Year
All Items	233.5	234.1	231.3	1.0%

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 17,800 advertisements for Rhode Island based jobs this month, a decrease of 1,000 (-5.3%) from the September 2013 postings, and up 100 (+0.6%) from the advertised vacancies posted online in October 2012. 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 13	Sept 13	Oct 12
RI Vacancies	17,800	18,800	17,700
<i>Labor Demand Rate *</i>			
Rhode Island	3.23	3.40	3.14
US	3.17	3.33	3.13
Connecticut	3.50	3.62	3.58
Massachusetts	4.27	4.47	4.22
Maine	3.02	3.24	3.06
New Hampshire	3.50	3.75	3.34
Vermont	3.20	3.33	3.10
<i>Supply/Demand Rate **</i>			
Rhode Island	2.83	2.68	3.21
US	2.29	2.17	2.51

* 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

	2013	2012		2013	2012
Barrington	5.8	7.0	Newport	7.9	7.8
Bristol	7.5	9.0	North Kingstown	6.7	8.1
Burrillville	7.8	8.8	North Providence	9.0	9.8
Central Falls	11.0	12.8	North Smithfield	7.7	8.0
Charlestown	7.7	10.1	Pawtucket	10.4	11.4
Coventry	7.3	8.9	Portsmouth	6.9	7.4
Cranston	8.6	9.9	Providence	10.4	11.6
Cumberland	7.4	7.9	Richmond	5.4	6.6
East Greenwich	9.0	8.9	Scituate	8.1	8.9
East Providence	8.9	10.5	Smithfield	7.6	8.2
Exeter	7.0	9.2	South Kingstown	7.2	8.3
Foster	7.1	8.0	Tiverton	8.1	8.7
Glocester	6.7	8.1	Warren	8.7	9.4
Hopkinton	8.2	8.6	Warwick	8.0	9.0
Jamestown	6.2	7.5	West Greenwich	8.0	7.7
Johnston	8.9	10.1	West Warwick	9.0	9.8
Lincoln	7.7	8.2	Westerly	7.4	6.9
Little Compton	7.2	7.3	Woonsocket	10.0	12.1
Middletown	7.7	8.5			
Narragansett	5.8	6.3	State of R.I.	8.5	9.6
New Shoreham	9.0	10.7	United States	7.0	7.5

Nationally, there were an estimated 3.17 advertised vacancies for every 100 persons in labor force. Among the New England states, Massachusetts (4.27), Connecticut (3.50) and New Hampshire (3.50) had higher vacancy rates than Rhode Island.

There were an estimated 2.83 unemployed Rhode Island residents for every advertised job in October, up from 2.68 unemployed residents estimated per September advertisements. Nationally, there were 2.29 unemployed persons for every job opening advertised in October, up from 2.17 in September.

Unemployment Insurance Claims Activity

	Oct.	Sept.	Oct.	% Change		Year to Date		
	2013	2013	2012	Sept. 13	Oct.12	2013	2012	% Change
Regular Claims								
Initial Claims	5,221	4,722	6,385	10.6%	-18.2%	65,801	72,023	-8.6%
Number of Payments	36,306	42,493	47,535	-14.6%	-23.6%	519,261	602,267	-13.8%
Amount of Payments (gross millions)	\$12.6	\$14.5	\$16.9	-13.1%	-25.4%	\$176.6	\$220.4	-19.9%
Exhaustions (Final Payments)	1,008	1,210	1,548	-16.7%	-34.9%	13,817	18,642	-25.9%
Emergency Unemployment Compensation						2013	Since Program Began	
Initial Claims	1,523	1,541	2,205	-1.2%	-30.9%	17,956	177,909	
Number of Payments	20,118	26,759	42,959	-24.8%	-53.2%	288,811	3,137,727	
Amount of Payments (gross millions)	\$6.2	\$8.2	\$16.2	-24.4%	-61.7%	\$98.7	\$1,141.9	

R.I. DEPARTMENT OF LABOR AND TRAINING
2014 UI AND TDI QUICK REFERENCE
(Effective January 1, 2014)

	UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE	TEMPORARY DISABILITY INSURANCE
TAXABLE WAGE BASE For Employers with tax rates of 9.79%	\$20,600 \$22,100	\$62,700
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	2.85% (+0.51%JDA)	NONE (Employee Tax)
EMPLOYEE WAGE DEDUCTION	NONE (employer payroll tax)	1.2% of first \$62,700 earned
WAITING PERIOD	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.
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 \$8.00/hour.	\$9,600 in base period wages; or \$1,600 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 \$3,200	
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	4.15% of average of 2 highest quarter wages in base period.	4.62% of total high quarter wages in base period.
MIN. WEEKLY BENEFIT AMOUNT Based on minimum wage of \$8.00/hour	\$44 per week	\$74 per week
MAX. WEEKLY BENEFIT AMOUNT Based on 2012 average weekly wage of \$883.63.	\$566 per week Max of \$566 or 57.5% of AWW	\$752
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	\$1,015 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