



### Rhode Island's Unemployment Rate Drops to 7.4 percent in October

- ◆ RI's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate for October was 7.4 percent, down two-tenths of a percentage point from September.
- ◆ RI's October unemployment rate was down two percentage points from last October's figure of 9.4 percent.
- ◆ The national rate was 5.8 percent, down one-tenth of a percentage point from September and down one and four-tenths percentage points from the previous year.
- ◆ In October 2014, Rhode Island (7.4%) had the third highest unemployment rate in the nation, trailing Georgia (7.7%) and Mississippi (7.6%).
- ◆ The October 2014 unemployment rate decreased in thirty-four states, including Rhode Island (-0.2) and New Hampshire (-0.1). Eleven states' rates, including Maine, Massachusetts, Vermont and Connecticut, were unchanged and five states saw their unemployment rate increase.
- ◆ Rates in other New England states for October 2014 – Connecticut 6.4 percent, Massachusetts 6.0 percent, Maine 5.8 percent, Vermont 4.4 percent and New Hampshire 4.2 percent.
- ◆ The number of employed RI residents totaled 514,600 in October 2014, up 1,200 from the previous month. Between October 2013 and October 2014, the number of employed RI residents was up 14,700.
- ◆ Over the month, the number of unemployed Rhode Island residents decreased by 1,400 to 40,900. From October 2013 to October 2014, the number of unemployed residents decreased by 11,200.

### UI and TDI Taxable Wage Bases & Tax Rates Announced for 2015

The Unemployment Insurance (UI) taxable wage base, which represents the maximum amount of an employee's earned wages subject to taxation, will be \$21,200 for most employers in 2015. 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 2015 taxable wage base was based on the 2013 average annual wage of \$45,215. For employers at the highest tax rate (9.79%), the UI taxable wage base will be set \$1,500 higher at \$22,700. In addition, the Job Development Assessment will return to 0.21 percent in 2015.

The new employer rate for UI purposes will be 2.74 percent for calendar year 2015, down from 2.85 percent in 2014. 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 2015. Employers will be notified of their individual tax rates by the end of December.

The Temporary Disability Insurance (TDI) taxable wage base will be set at \$64,200 in 2015, an increase of \$1,500 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 \$770 per week from \$752 the prior year.

The employee contribution rate to the TDI Fund will remain at 1.2 percent in 2015. The contribution rate is set at the cost of running the program and is calculated by dividing the total adjusted TDI disbursements for the twelve month period ending September 30, 2014 by the total taxable wages for that same period. The maximum TDI contribution will be \$770.40 in 2015, an increase of \$18.00 from the 2014 maximum contribution of \$752.40. Only individuals earning more than \$62,700 a year will pay more in TDI contributions.

Monetary eligibility for UI and TDI benefits is based on the state minimum wage which will increase to \$9.00 per hour on January 1, 2015 thereby increasing the amount of earnings

needed to qualify for UI and TDI benefits. Beginning in January, individuals will need to earn \$1,800 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 \$3,600 or total base period earnings of \$10,800 to qualify for UI or TDI benefits. (See label page for the 2015 UI & TDI Quick Reference Chart.)

### Seasonally Adjusted Labor Force Statistics

(in thousands)

	Rhode Island			United States		
	Oct 14	Sept 14	Oct 13	Oct 14	Sept 14	Oct 13
Civilian Labor Force	555.4	555.8	552.0	156,278	155,862	154,625
Resident Employment	514.6	513.4	499.9	147,283	146,600	143,485
Unemployment	40.9	42.3	52.1	8,995	9,262	11,140
Unemployment Rate	7.4%	7.6%	9.4%	5.8%	5.9%	7.2%

## Rhode Island Jobs Decrease by 2,600 in October

Estimated nonfarm payroll in Rhode Island totaled 476,500 in October, reflecting a loss of 2,600 jobs from the revised September employment estimate of 479,100.

An unprecedented decline of 1,200 jobs was reported in the Professional and Business Services sector, as large job declines were noted in landscaping services and smaller declines noted in employment services. The largest job loss ever within this sector was a loss of 1,400 jobs reported in April 1991.

Short-term building projects which began in September, wrapped up by October, resulted in a loss of 700 Construction jobs. Payroll declines reported in ambulatory health services led to a loss of 500 jobs in the Health Care and Social Assistance sector.

Five other employment sectors also reported job declines in October; Educational Services (-300), Arts, Entertainment and Recreation (-300), Wholesale Trade (-200), Information (-100) and Government (-100).

Offsetting the October job losses were small gains reported in the Accommodation and Food Services (+400), Financial Activities (+300) and Transportation & Utilities (+100) sectors. Employment remained unchanged in the Manufacturing, Retail Trade, Other Services and Mining and Logging sectors.

Nationally, employment increased by 214,000 or 0.2 percent in October, while job growth in the New England region was flat, increasing by a mere 400 (+0.0%) jobs. Connecticut added 3,600 jobs since September, followed by Massachusetts (+1,200) and Vermont (+900).

<b>Establishment Employment in Rhode Island</b>					
<b>Seasonally Adjusted</b>					
	Net Change From				
	Oct-14	Sep-14	Oct-13	Sep-14	Oct-13
<b>Total Nonfarm</b>	<b>476.5</b>	<b>479.1</b>	<b>472.9</b>	<b>-2.6</b>	<b>3.6</b>
<b>Total Private</b>	<b>416.6</b>	<b>419.1</b>	<b>412.7</b>	<b>-2.5</b>	<b>3.9</b>
Natural Resources & Mining	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.0	0.0
Construction	16.4	17.1	16.1	-0.7	0.3
Manufacturing	40.8	40.8	40.5	0.0	0.3
Wholesale Trade	16.3	16.5	16.7	-0.2	-0.4
Retail Trade	46.7	46.7	46.6	0.0	0.1
Transportation & Utilities	11.4	11.3	10.8	0.1	0.6
Information	8.7	8.8	8.8	-0.1	-0.1
Financial Activities	33.6	33.3	32.2	0.3	1.4
Professional & Business Services	59.9	61.1	59.2	-1.2	0.7
Educational Services	24.6	24.9	25.1	-0.3	-0.5
Health Care & Social Assistance	80.4	80.9	80.4	-0.5	0.0
Arts, Entertainment & Recreation	8.8	9.1	8.7	-0.3	0.1
Accommodation & Food Services	46.2	45.8	45.0	0.4	1.2
Other Services	22.6	22.6	22.4	0.0	0.2
Government	59.9	60.0	60.2	-0.1	-0.3

<b>Manufacturing Employment in Rhode Island</b>					
<b>Not Seasonally Adjusted</b>					
	Employment				
	(in thousands)				
	Oct 14	Sept 14	Oct 13	Sept 14	Oct 13
<b>Manufacturing</b>	<b>40.9</b>	<b>40.8</b>	<b>40.6</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>300</b>
<b>Durable Goods</b>	<b>26.7</b>	<b>26.6</b>	<b>25.9</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>800</b>
Fabricated Metal Product Mfg.	5.6	5.5	5.5	100	100
Computer & Electronic Product Mfg.	3.3	3.3	3.4	0	-100
Transportation Equipment Mfg.	4.1	4.0	3.9	100	200
Miscellaneous DG Manufacturing	5.6	5.6	5.9	0	-300
Jewelry & Silverware	3.3	3.3	3.5	0	-200
<b>Non-Durable Goods</b>	<b>14.2</b>	<b>14.2</b>	<b>14.7</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>-500</b>
Chemical Manufacturing	3.0	3.0	3.0	0	0

In addition to Rhode Island, Maine (-1,900) and New Hampshire (-800) also reported regional October job declines.

In October, nonfarm payroll employment increased in 38 states and decreased in 12 states. The largest over-the-month percentage increase in employment occurred in Wyoming (+1.4%), followed by Idaho (+0.8%) and Utah (+0.7%). The largest over-the-month percentage declines in employment occurred in Montana and Nevada, down 0.2 percent each, followed by Rhode Island (-0.5%).

*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).*

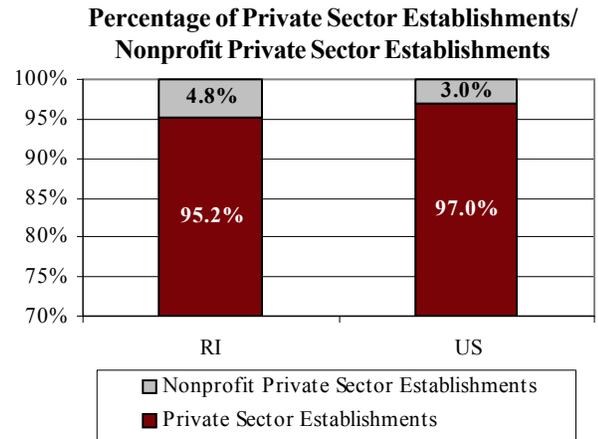
*Current month's figures are preliminary and subject to change.*



## Nonprofit Private Sector Employment in Rhode Island

Nationally, there were over 11.4 million people employed in nonprofit\* organizations in 2012, representing 10.3 percent of the total private employment. Rhode Island, by a large margin, fell above the national percentage of nonprofit employment as 18.1 percent or 70,841 individuals were employed in the nonprofit sector. Among all fifty states, both Rhode Island and New York tied for first in the percentage of employees employed in nonprofit private sectors. Enriched with the nation’s history, the District of Columbia had 26.6 percent of its private sector employment employed in nonprofit organizations.

Among the 34,524 private sector establishments in Rhode Island in 2012, 1,665 or 4.8 percent were nonprofit private establishments. Nationally, there were over 8.8 million private sector establishments in 2012, of which 3.0 percent were nonprofit establishments. On a percentage basis, Rhode Island ranked twelfth in the nation in the amount of nonprofit establishments within its borders. Alaska, with 6.9 percent, was the state with the highest percentage of nonprofit establishments in the nation. A total of 10.6 percent of the establishments in the District of Columbia were designated as nonprofit establishments. Nevada, with 1.5 percent, had the lowest percentage of nonprofit establishments in 2012.



Annual wages for those employed in nonprofit private organizations in Rhode Island were nearly equal to those employed in the private sector. Those employed in nonprofit organizations earned an average of \$44,165 in 2012, just short of the private sector’s annual average wage of \$44,581. Nationally, nonprofit employees earned an average of \$46,568 in 2012. Overall, Rhode Island ranked 23 in nonprofit average annual wage among the fifty states. For more information, go to [www.dlt.ri.gov/lmi/publications/nonprofit.htm](http://www.dlt.ri.gov/lmi/publications/nonprofit.htm).

*\*Nonprofit in this publication is in reference to the 501(c)3 nonprofit private organization.*

## Characteristics of the Insured Unemployed

A total of 8,112 individuals were eligible to collect “regular” Unemployment Insurance benefits in October 2014, down 1,137 (-12.3%) from the 9,249 collecting these benefits in October 2013. In all, 23.1 percent of Rhode Island’s unemployed workers were eligible to collect unemployment benefits in October.

Of the 8,112 individuals collecting “regular” Unemployment Insurance benefits, 30.5 percent faced long-term unemployment (defined as collecting unemployment insurance for fifteen weeks or more), unchanged from October 2013.

On an industry basis, 16.4 percent (1,328) of the State’s insured unemployed workers came from the Health Care & Social Assistance sector. There were also 930 individuals with an attachment to the Manufacturing sector, accounting for 11.5 percent of all insured unemployed workers. An additional 11.3 percent (920) of those collecting UI benefits in October had worked in the Administrative & Waste Services sector. Large numbers of insured unemployed were also reported in Retail Trade (790), Construction (743) and Accommodation & Food Services (644). For more information, go to [www.dlt.ri.gov/lmi/uiadmin/characteristics.htm](http://www.dlt.ri.gov/lmi/uiadmin/characteristics.htm).

Characteristics of the Insured Unemployed, October 2014			
	Total	Long-Term	Percent Long-Term
<b>Total</b>	<b>8,112</b>	<b>2,478</b>	<b>30.5%</b>
Male	4,035	1,078	26.7%
Female	4,077	1,400	34.3%
<b>Selected Industries</b>	<b>8,112</b>	<b>2,478</b>	<b>30.5%</b>
Construction	743	102	13.7%
Manufacturing	930	245	26.3%
Wholesale Trade	389	137	35.2%
Retail Trade	790	301	38.1%
Transportation & Warehousing	162	58	35.8%
Information	94	33	35.1%
Finance & Insurance	429	174	40.6%
Real Estate	140	37	26.4%
Professional & Tech. Services	478	169	35.4%
Administrative & Waste Services	920	238	25.9%
Educational Services	223	106	47.5%
Health Care & Social Assistance	1,328	481	36.2%
Arts, Entertainment & Recreation	113	23	20.4%
Accommodation & Food Services	644	169	26.2%
Other Services	336	100	29.8%
Public Administration	54	16	29.6%

### Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers

				% Change
	Oct. 14	Sept. 14	Oct. 13	Prev. Year
All Items	237.4	238.0	233.5	1.7%

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 19,800 advertisements for Rhode Island based jobs this month, a decrease of 200 (-1.0%) from the September 2014 postings, and up 2,100 (+11.9%) from the advertised vacancies posted online in October 2013. There were an estimated 3.56 advertised vacancies for every 100 persons in Rhode Island's labor force.

#### Help Wanted OnLine Advertised Job Vacancies

	Oct 14	Sept 14	Oct 13
RI Vacancies	19,800	20,000	17,700
<i>Labor Demand Rate *</i>			
Rhode Island	3.56	3.60	3.20
US	3.26	3.25	3.04
Connecticut	3.69	3.79	3.43
Massachusetts	4.33	4.40	4.11
Maine	4.33	4.13	3.03
New Hampshire	4.03	4.05	3.48
Vermont	3.77	3.82	3.20
<i>Supply/Demand Rate **</i>			
Rhode Island	2.06	2.11	2.95
US	1.77	1.83	2.37

\* 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

	2014	2013		2014	2013
Barrington	4.9	6.1	Newport	5.1	8.4
Bristol	5.5	7.9	North Kingstown	4.7	7.1
Burrillville	5.6	8.0	North Providence	6.5	9.5
Central Falls	7.7	11.4	North Smithfield	5.4	7.9
Charlestown	5.2	7.8	Pawtucket	7.7	11.0
Coventry	5.4	7.8	Portsmouth	5.2	7.5
Cranston	6.4	9.1	Providence	8.3	10.9
Cumberland	5.2	7.9	Richmond	4.1	5.8
East Greenwich	5.8	9.4	Scituate	5.7	8.3
East Providence	6.7	9.4	Smithfield	5.4	8.0
Exeter	5.2	7.4	South Kingstown	5.4	7.6
Foster	6.7	7.9	Tiverton	5.7	8.5
Glocester	4.5	7.0	Warren	6.4	9.5
Hopkinton	5.5	8.6	Warwick	5.8	8.5
Jamestown	4.4	6.6	West Greenwich	4.6	8.4
Johnston	6.6	9.4	West Warwick	6.6	9.5
Lincoln	5.8	8.0	Westerly	5.6	7.9
Little Compton	4.5	7.8	Woonsocket	7.8	10.7
Middletown	5.0	8.1			
Narragansett	4.1	6.2	State of R.I.	6.3	9.0
New Shoreham	7.5	9.2	United States	5.5	7.0

Nationally, there were an estimated 3.26 advertised vacancies for every 100 persons in labor force. Among the New England states, Massachusetts (4.33), Maine (4.33), New Hampshire (4.03), Vermont (3.77) and Connecticut (3.69) all had higher vacancy rates than Rhode Island.

There were an estimated 2.06 unemployed Rhode Island residents for every advertised job in October, down from 2.11 unemployed residents estimated per September advertisements. Nationally, there were 1.77 unemployed persons for every job opening advertised in October, down from 1.83 in September.

### Unemployment Insurance Claims Activity

	Oct.	Sept.	Oct.	% Change		Year to Date		
	2014	2014	2013	Sept. 14	Oct. 13	2014	2013	% Change
<b>Regular Claims</b>								
Initial Claims	4,741	4,318	5,221	9.8%	-9.2%	61,755	65,801	-6.1%
Number of Payments	30,326	37,894	36,306	-20.0%	-16.5%	483,262	519,261	-6.9%
Amount of Payments (gross millions)	\$10.1	\$12.6	\$12.6	-19.8%	-19.8%	\$159.4	\$176.6	-9.7%
Exhaustions (Final Payments)	859	1,067	1,008	-19.5%	-14.8%	11,854	13,817	-14.2%

**R.I. DEPARTMENT OF LABOR AND TRAINING****2015 UI AND TDI QUICK REFERENCE**

(Effective January 1, 2015)

	<b>UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE</b>	<b>TEMPORARY DISABILITY INSURANCE</b>
<b>TAXABLE WAGE BASE</b> For Employers with tax rates of 9.79%	\$21,200 \$22,700	\$64,200
<b>TAX SCHEDULES/ TAX RATES</b> Employment Security Job Development Assessment (JDA)	Schedule I: 1.90% to 10.0% 1.69% to 9.79% 0.21%	1.2%  Deducted from Employee's Wages
<b>NEW EMPLOYER RATE</b>	2.74% (+0.21%JDA)	NONE (Employee Tax)
<b>EMPLOYEE WAGE DEDUCTION</b>	NONE (employer payroll tax)	1.2% of first \$64,200 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 \$9.00/hour.	\$10,800 in base period wages; or \$1,800 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 \$3,600	
<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>	3.85% 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 \$9.00/hour	\$46 per week	\$83 per week
<b>MAX. WEEKLY BENEFIT AMOUNT</b> Based on 2013 average weekly wage of \$905.24.	\$566 per week Max of \$566 or 57.5% of AWW	\$770 per week
<b>DEPENDENT'S ALLOWANCE</b>	Greater of \$15 or 5% of weekly benefit rate (up to 5 deps.)	Greater of \$10 or 7% of weekly benefit rate (up to 5 deps.)
<b>MAX. WEEKLY BENEFIT AMOUNT WITH MAX. 5 DEPENDENTS</b>	\$707 per week	\$1,039 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