



Donald L. Carcieri  
Governor  
Sandra M. Powell  
Director

# Employment Bulletin

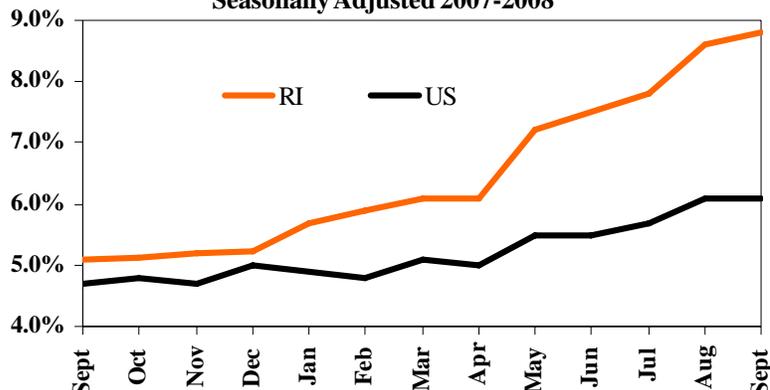
Rhode Island  
Department of  
Labor & Training  
1511 Pontiac Ave.  
Cranston, RI 02920  
401-462-8740  
[www.dlt.ri.gov/lmi](http://www.dlt.ri.gov/lmi)

October 2008

## Rhode Island's Unemployment Rate Rises to 8.8 Percent

- ◆ RI's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate continued to trend upward in September, climbing to 8.8 percent, its highest level since September 1992 (8.8%).
- ◆ RI's September unemployment rate is up 3.7 percentage points from last year's figure of 5.1 percent.
- ◆ RI's jobless rate was the highest in the nation in September. The national rate remained unchanged at 6.1 percent.
- ◆ In September, the number of unemployed Rhode Island residents increased by 1,400 to reach 50,200, the state's highest jobless level on record. On a year-over-year comparison, the number of unemployed residents increased 20,800 from September 2007 to September 2008.
- ◆ The number of employed RI residents totaled 522,500 in September 2008, reflecting an increase of 300 from the previous month. On a year-over-year basis, the number of employed RI residents fell 25,300 between September 2007 and September 2008.

RI & US Unemployment Rates  
Seasonally Adjusted 2007-2008



## Rhode Island Job Vacancies Spring 2008

The Department of Labor and Training's annual Job Vacancy Survey provides information on the quantity and characteristics of job vacancies available at the time of the survey. The 2008 survey results indicated that there were an estimated 8,912 job vacancies between May and June 2008. This translated to a job vacancy rate of 2.2 percent, or a little more than two job openings for every one hundred jobs filled. In comparison, there were 10,949 vacancies reported during the same survey period in 2006, reflecting a vacancy rate of 2.7 percent.

*Even during less favorable economic conditions, some businesses struggle to find qualified applicants to meet their needs.*

During spring 2008, job vacancies were reported in all economic sectors and among all occupational groups. Economic sectors with the most openings included Health Care & Social Assistance (2,122), Accommodation & Food Services (1,809) and Retail Trade (1,770). However, each sector reported fewer vacancies this year than in spring 2006. Likewise, the three occupational groups with the most estimated vacancies—Food Preparation & Serving (1,803), Sales & Related (1,425) and Office & Administrative Support (1,032)—recorded more vacancies in 2006 than in 2008.

The majority (78.4%) of the 2008 vacancies were for permanent positions. The remaining vacancies (21.6%) were for seasonal or temporary positions concentrated among Food & Beverage Serving occupations to meet the summertime needs of Leisure & Hospitality businesses.

For more information, visit [www.dlt.ri.gov/lmi/jvs/results08.htm](http://www.dlt.ri.gov/lmi/jvs/results08.htm).

## Seasonally Adjusted Labor Force Statistics

(in thousands)

	Rhode Island			United States		
	Sep 08	Aug 08	Sep 07	Sep 08	Aug 08	Sep 07
Civilian Labor Force	572.7	571.0	577.2	154,732	154,853	153,506
Resident Employment	522.5	522.2	547.8	145,255	145,477	146,260
Unemployment	50.2	48.8	29.4	9,477	9,376	7,246
Unemployment Rate	8.8%	8.6%	5.1%	6.1%	6.1%	4.7%

Sign up to receive news releases and LMI announcements by email through **LMI Stat Track**. Call LMI at 401-462-8740 or email [lmi@dlt.ri.gov](mailto:lmi@dlt.ri.gov)

## Rhode Island Jobs Decline by 1,300 in September

In Rhode Island, the September 2008 monthly job count totaled 478,200, a decline of 1,300 from the August revised employment level of 479,500. September marks the ninth straight month of job losses for both Rhode Island and the United States.

The Other Services sector, which includes automotive repair & maintenance, personal care services and social organizations, reported a loss of 400 jobs over the month. Also in September, Manufacturing, Health Care & Social Assistance, Construction and Retail Trade each lost 200 workers. Employment in Wholesale Trade, Information, Professional & Business Services, Educational Services and Government fell by 100.

The Accommodation & Food Services sector and the Financial Activities sector each reported an increase of 200 workers in September. Accommodation & Food Services' gains were noted in food service establishments, while insurance & other related insurance activities provided for the growth in Financial Activities.

Employment in the Natural Resources & Mining, Transportation & Utilities and Arts, Entertainment & Recreation sectors was unchanged.

From September 2007 to September 2008, RI jobs declined 12,600, a 2.6 percent decrease. The largest annual employment losses occurred in the Manufacturing (-3,300), Retail Trade (-1,900), Financial Activities (-1,400), Other Services (-1,400), Government (-1,300), and Professional & Business Services (-1,200) sectors. Smaller losses were noted in Construction (-700); Wholesale Trade (-600); Health Care & Social Assistance (-400); Transportation & Utilities (-400); Arts,

Entertainment & Recreation (-400); and Natural Resources & Mining (-100).

Information and Educational Services each reported an over-the-year increase of 400 jobs.

In September 2008, production workers in the Manufacturing sector earned \$13.96 per hour. The average hourly production wage was up five cents from August and up six cents from a year ago September. Manufacturing employees worked an average of 38.8 hours per week in September, up six-tenths of an hour over the month but down five-tenths of an hour since September 2007.

### Establishment Employment in Rhode Island Seasonally Adjusted

	Net Change From				
	Sep-08	Aug-08	Sep-07	Aug-08	Sep-07
<b>Total Nonfarm</b>	<b>478.2</b>	<b>479.5</b>	<b>490.8</b>	<b>-1.3</b>	<b>-12.6</b>
Natural Resources & Mining	0.2	0.2	0.3	0.0	-0.1
Construction	20.8	21.0	21.5	-0.2	-0.7
Manufacturing	47.4	47.6	50.7	-0.2	-3.3
Wholesale Trade*	16.5	16.6	17.1	-0.1	-0.6
Retail Trade	49.6	49.8	51.5	-0.2	-1.9
Transportation & Utilities	10.7	10.7	11.1	0.0	-0.4
Information	10.8	10.9	10.4	-0.1	0.4
Financial Activities	33.1	32.9	34.5	0.2	-1.4
Professional & Business Services	53.8	53.9	55.0	-0.1	-1.2
Educational Services	23.8	23.9	23.4	-0.1	0.4
Health Care & Social Assistance	76.1	76.3	76.5	-0.2	-0.4
Arts, Entertainment & Recreation	7.6	7.6	8.0	0.0	-0.4
Accommodation & Food Services	42.9	42.7	43.2	0.2	-0.3
Other Services	21.7	22.1	23.1	-0.4	-1.4
Government	63.2	63.3	64.5	-0.1	-1.3

\* State Calculated Estimate

### Manufacturing Employment in Rhode Island Not Seasonally Adjusted

	Employment				
	(in thousands)		Net Change From		
	Sept 08	Aug 08	Sept 07	Aug 08	Sept 07
<b>Manufacturing</b>	<b>47.8</b>	<b>47.8</b>	<b>51.0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>-3,200</b>
<b>Durable Goods</b>	<b>31.1</b>	<b>31.0</b>	<b>33.0</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>-1,900</b>
Fabricated Metal Product Mfg.	6.5	6.5	6.9	0	-400
Computer & Electronic Product Mfg.	4.3	4.3	4.4	0	-100
Miscellaneous Manufacturing	8.8	8.7	9.4	100	-600
Jewelry & Silverware	6.0	5.9	6.5	100	-500
<b>Non-Durable Goods</b>	<b>16.7</b>	<b>16.8</b>	<b>18.0</b>	<b>-100</b>	<b>-1,300</b>
Chemical Manufacturing	4.2	4.2	4.5	0	-300
Plastics & Rubber Products Mfg.	2.8	2.8	2.9	0	-100

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.



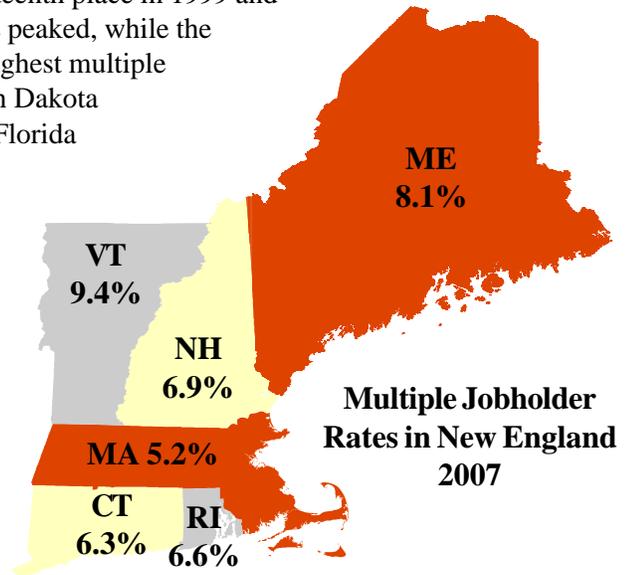
## Multiple Jobholders in the Ocean State

According to the Bureau of Labor Statistics' Current Population Survey, 6.6 percent of employed Rhode Islanders sixteen years and older held more than one job in 2007. This represented a 0.3 percentage point decrease from the state's 2006 rate.

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 now stands at 1.4 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 2007, the Ocean State reported the sixteenth highest multiple jobholder rate in the United States. The highest rates were reported in South Dakota (10.2%), Nebraska (9.7%), and Vermont (9.4%), while Nevada (3.8%) and Florida (3.9%) had the lowest percentages of multiple jobholders in the country.

Within New England, Rhode Island (6.6%) had the fourth highest multiple jobholder rate in 2007. Vermont's multiple jobholder rate of 9.4 percent remained the highest in the region, a distinction the Green Mountain State has held in all but one year since 1994. Maine (8.1%) reported the next highest multiple jobholder rate in the region, followed by New Hampshire (6.9%), Rhode Island (6.6%), Connecticut (6.3%) and Massachusetts (5.2%). Each of the six New England states reported multiple jobholder rates at or above the national average (5.2%). For more information, visit [www.dlt.ri.gov/lmi/publications/mjh.htm](http://www.dlt.ri.gov/lmi/publications/mjh.htm).



## Characteristics of the Insured Unemployed

In September 2008, 28 percent of Rhode Island's unemployed workers were eligible to collect Unemployment Insurance (UI) benefits. Numbering 13,261 people, these "insured unemployed" accounted for 2.5 percent of the State's total employed (unadjusted). More than 28 percent (3,736) of the Ocean State's insured unemployed faced long-term unemployment, defined as collecting unemployment benefits for more than fourteen weeks.

On an industry basis, 16.0 percent (2,119) of the State's insured unemployed workers came from the Manufacturing sector. There were also 1,595 individuals with an attachment to the Construction sector, accounting for 12.0 percent of all insured unemployed workers. An additional 11.0 percent (1,456) of those collecting UI benefits in September had worked in the Retail Trade sector. Large numbers of insured unemployed were also reported in Health Care & Social Assistance (1,409), Administrative & Waste Services (1,106) and Finance & Insurance (877). 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, September 2008

	Total	Long-Term	Percent Long-Term
<b>Total</b>	<b>13,261</b>	<b>3,736</b>	<b>28.2%</b>
Male	6,892	1,826	26.5%
Female	6,369	1,910	30.0%
<b>Selected Industries</b>	<b>13,261</b>	<b>3,736</b>	<b>28.2%</b>
Construction	1,595	295	18.5%
Manufacturing	2,119	652	30.8%
Wholesale Trade	529	173	32.7%
Retail Trade	1,456	524	36.0%
Transportation & Warehousing	365	67	18.4%
Information	256	76	29.7%
Finance & Insurance	877	281	32.0%
Real Estate	234	83	35.5%
Professional & Tech. Services	644	227	35.2%
Administrative & Waste Services	1,106	284	25.7%
Educational Services	494	47	9.5%
Health Care & Social Assistance	1,409	451	32.0%
Arts, Entertainment & Recreation	259	61	23.6%
Accommodation & Food Services	731	200	27.4%
Other Services	521	146	28.0%
Public Administration	136	24	17.6%

### Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers

				% Change
	Sept 08	Aug 08	Sept 07	Prev. Year
All Items	218.8	219.1	208.5	4.9%

Source: U.S. Dept. of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics

### Labor Surplus Areas for Rhode Island October 1, 2008 - September 30, 2009

Effective October 1, 2008, the U.S. Department of Labor, Employment and Training Administration, released the following list of labor surplus areas for the State of Rhode Island:

**Central Falls**  
**Pawtucket**  
**Providence**

This list will remain in effect until September 30, 2009. Employers located in the labor surplus area may be given preference in bidding on federal procurement contracts. The purpose in providing such preference is to help direct the government's procurement dollars into areas where people are in the most severe economic need based on their high unemployment rates.

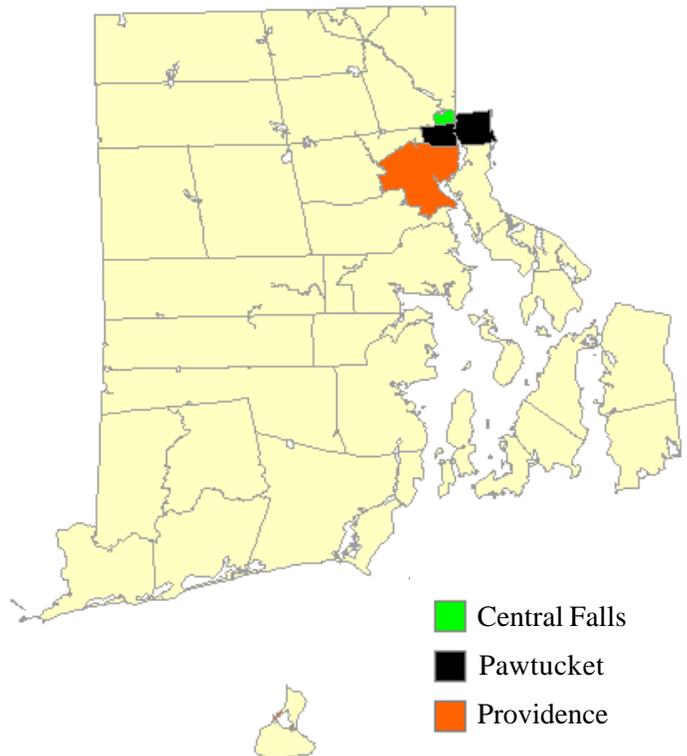
#### Classification of Labor Surplus Areas

In order to be classified as a labor surplus area, a civil jurisdiction must have had an unemployment rate during the previous two calendar years (January 2006-December 2007) which was at least 20 percent above the national average unemployment rate for the same two year reference period. A floor of 6.0 percent is used during periods of low national unemployment in order for an area to qualify as a labor surplus area. The 6.0 percent floor comes into effect whenever the average unemployment rate for all states during the two-year reference period was 5.0 percent or less.

The national average unemployment rate during the period of January 2006 through December 2007 was 4.7 percent. Therefore, the qualifying rate for labor surplus area classification was 6.0 percent or above. For more information, visit [www.dlt.ri.gov/lmi/laus/lsa.htm](http://www.dlt.ri.gov/lmi/laus/lsa.htm).

### City & Town Unadjusted Unemployment Rates for September

	2008		2007		
	2008	2007	2008	2007	
Barrington	6.3	3.5	Newport	6.2	3.7
Bristol	7.3	3.8	North Kingstown	7.0	3.8
Burrillville	8.0	3.8	North Providence	8.5	5.1
Central Falls	12.0	5.9	North Smithfield	6.9	3.7
Charlestown	7.3	3.9	Pawtucket	10.3	5.4
Coventry	7.9	4.0	Portsmouth	6.6	3.3
Cranston	8.4	5.0	Providence	10.2	5.9
Cumberland	7.1	4.0	Richmond	5.5	2.5
East Greenwich	8.1	4.5	Scituate	7.7	4.1
East Providence	8.8	4.8	Smithfield	7.1	4.1
Exeter	7.0	3.4	South Kingstown	7.0	3.5
Foster	7.4	4.7	Tiverton	8.1	4.1
Glocester	6.8	3.4	Warren	8.3	4.2
Hopkinton	7.4	3.7	Warwick	7.6	4.6
Jamestown	5.0	3.0	West Greenwich	6.7	3.9
Johnston	9.1	5.2	West Warwick	8.8	4.9
Lincoln	7.3	4.1	Westerly	6.7	3.6
Little Compton	6.2	3.2	Woonsocket	10.0	5.1
Middletown	6.2	3.3			
Narragansett	5.6	3.0	State of R.I.	8.3	4.6
New Shoreham	3.8	2.0	United States	6.0	4.5



### Unemployment Insurance Claims Activity

	Sept	Aug	Sept	% Change		Year to Date		
	2008	2008	2007	Aug 08	Sept 07	2008	2007	% Change
Initial Claims	6,424	6,145	4,430	4.5%	45.0%	69,162	59,844	15.6%
Number of Payments	59,650	60,862	40,707	-2.0%	46.5%	586,983	498,627	17.7%
Amount of Payments (gross millions)	\$21.4	\$20.8	\$14.3	2.9%	49.7%	\$209.4	\$172.6	21.3%
Exhaustions (Final Payments)	1,897	1,574	1,032	20.5%	83.8%	15,003	11,247	33.4%

## Private Sector Job Vacancy Data Summary Spring 2008

	<u>2008</u>	<u>2006</u>
<b>Number of Job Vacancies</b>	<b>8,912</b>	<b>10,949</b>
Job Vacancy Rate (vacancies per 100 filled jobs)	2.2%	2.7%
Full-Time Positions	53.8%	55.8%
Part-Time Positions	46.2%	44.2%
Vacancies Open < 30 Days	45.1%	35.8%
Vacancies Open Between 30-59 Days	15.1%	17.8%
Vacancies Open > 60 Days	8.8%	12.6%
Constantly Recruiting/Always Hiring	30.9%	33.7%
Permanent Positions	78.4%	87.0%
Temporary/Seasonal Positions	21.6%	13.0%
Vacancies Requiring a Diploma/GED	37.6%	41.0%
Vacancies Requiring Vocational Training	5.1%	8.3%
Vacancies Requiring an Associate Degree	8.5%	8.3%
Vacancies Requiring a Bachelor Degree	21.9%	16.1%
Vacancies Requiring an Advanced Degree	2.9%	3.7%
No Education Requirement	24.1%	22.3%
License or Certificate Required	14.7%	25.8%
General Work Experience Required	19.9%	20.2%
Experience Related to Position Required	58.6%	51.7%
No Experience Required	21.5%	28.1%
Median Hourly Wage Range	\$12.81 to \$14.67	\$11.00 to \$12.00
Vacancies with Health Insurance	62.0%	63.9%
Vacancies with Paid Sick Leave	51.9%	52.9%
Vacancies with Paid Vacation	59.8%	65.4%
Vacancies with Tuition Reimbursement	30.9%	40.2%
Vacancies with Retirement /Pension Plan	52.0%	60.9%
Vacancies with No Benefits Offered	32.6%	27.2%