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Employment Bulletin

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Rhode Island's Unemployment Rate Rises to 13.0 Percent

- ◆ RI's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate for September was 13.0 percent, increasing two-tenths of a percentage point from the August rate of 12.8 percent.
- ◆ RI's September unemployment rate is up 4.5 percentage points from last year's figure of 8.5 percent.
- ◆ The national rate increased one-tenth of a percentage point to 9.8 percent. Rhode Island has the 3rd highest unemployment rate in the nation, trailing Michigan (15.3%) and Nevada (13.3%).
- ◆ The unemployment rate increased in 23 states - including Connecticut (+0.3), New Hampshire (+0.2) and Massachusetts (+0.2). Vermont (-0.1) and Maine (-0.1), along with seventeen other states, saw their rates decrease. In all, fourteen states have unemployment rates in the double digits, with four states having a rate of 12.0 percent or higher.
- ◆ Rates in other New England States – Massachusetts 9.3 percent, Maine 8.5 percent, Connecticut 8.4 percent, New Hampshire 7.2 percent, Vermont 6.7 percent.
- ◆ The number of employed RI residents totaled 496,400 in September 2009, reflecting a decrease of 3,900 from the previous month. Between September 2008 and September 2009, the number of employed RI residents fell by 22,800.
- ◆ In September, the number of unemployed Rhode Island residents increased by 800 to reach 74,000, the state's highest jobless level on record. From September 2008 to September 2009, the number of unemployed residents increased by 25,600.

Women's Earnings in the Ocean State 1998-2008

According to the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS), Rhode Island women working full-time earned a median weekly wage of \$679 in 2008. This was 78.7 percent of what full-time working males earned that year - the 3rd highest earnings ratio in New England and the 27th highest in the country. Over the past ten years, Rhode Island has seen its female-to-male earnings ratio grow from a low of 71.2 percent in 1998 to a high of 83.9 percent in 2007. However, this past year, Rhode Island posted its largest over-the-year ratio decrease in the past decade, dropping from 83.9 percent in 2007 to 78.7 percent in 2008, a 5.2 percent decline.

Regionally, Vermont (82.1%) reported the smallest earnings differential between women and men, followed by Maine (79.5%), Rhode Island (78.7%), Massachusetts (76.0%), Connecticut (73.0%), and New Hampshire (72.9%). Throughout the country, female-to-male earnings ratios ranged from a high of 92.2 percent in the District of Columbia to just 67.8 percent in Wyoming. Nationwide, women earned 79.9 percent of what men did in 2008. Vermont was the only New England state to report an earnings ratio above the national average. The reasons for these earnings differentials between women and men vary. Although job discrimination is most often cited as the main reason women earn less than men, female worker earnings can also be impacted by breaks in or changes to their labor force participation (i.e. due to family responsibilities) and occupational mix due to physical differences between the sexes. For example, men generally have more natural physical strength than women and therefore are better suited for well-paying heavy construction jobs. (Continued on Page 4)

Seasonally Adjusted Labor Force Statistics

(in thousands)

	Rhode Island			United States		
	Sep 09	Aug 09	Sep 08	Sep 09	Aug 09	Sep 08
Civilian Labor Force	570.4	573.6	567.6	154,006	154,577	154,621
Resident Employment	496.4	500.3	519.2	138,864	139,649	145,029
Unemployment	74.0	73.2	48.4	15,142	14,928	9,592
Unemployment Rate	13.0%	12.8%	8.5%	9.8%	9.7%	6.2%

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Rhode Island Jobs Decrease by 2,800 in September

In Rhode Island, the September 2009 nonfarm payroll employment totaled 458,700, a decline of 2,800 jobs from the August revised employment level of 461,500. Since the start of the recession in December 2007, payroll employment has fallen by 29,700.

In September, employment declined by 1,000 in the Accommodation & Food Services sector, the largest over-the month decrease experienced by this sector since the recession began. Larger than usual seasonal losses reported by both Full Service and Limited Service Restaurants contributed to the job loss. Large job declines were also reported in the Professional & Business Services (-700) sector, as many components of the sector reported employment losses, including Engineering Services, Architectural Services and Landscaping Services.

Other employment losses between August and September were reported in Manufacturing (-600), Health Care & Social Assistance (-400), Retail Trade (-400), Other Services (-400), Transportation & Utilities (-200), Wholesale Trade (-100), Arts, Entertainment & Recreation (-100) and Construction (-100).

Government employment increased by 1,100 over the month, as the educational services component of local government reported large employment gains. Educational Services employment (+100) in the private sector was up as well in September, while Financial Activities, Information, and Natural Resources & Mining employment remained unchanged.

Between September 2008 and September 2009, job declines were reported in nearly all economic sectors, resulting in an overall loss of 21,600 (-4.5%) jobs during this period. Manufacturing (-5,400), Professional & Business Services (-3,500), Construction (-3,200) and Retail Trade (-2,900) reported the most significant annual employment declines. Smaller, but still significant over-the-year losses were noted in Wholesale Trade (-1,000), Financial Activities (-900), Other Services (-900), Government (-800), Health Care & Social Assistance (-800), Information (-800) and Accommodation & Food Services (-700). Employment in Transportation & Utilities and Arts, Entertainment & Recreation was down 500 and 300, respectively, over-the-year.

Establishment Employment in Rhode Island Seasonally Adjusted

	Net Change From				
	Sep-09	Aug-09	Sep-08	Aug-09	Sep-08
Total Nonfarm	458.7	461.5	480.3	-2.8	-21.6
Natural Resources & Mining	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.0	0.0
Construction	17.3	17.4	20.5	-0.1	-3.2
Manufacturing	42.1	42.7	47.5	-0.6	-5.4
Wholesale Trade	15.9	16.0	16.9	-0.1	-1.0
Retail Trade	46.5	46.9	49.4	-0.4	-2.9
Transportation & Utilities	10.4	10.6	10.9	-0.2	-0.5
Information	9.7	9.7	10.5	0.0	-0.8
Financial Activities	32.5	32.5	33.4	0.0	-0.9
Professional & Business Services	51.3	52.0	54.8	-0.7	-3.5
Educational Services	23.4	23.3	23.3	0.1	0.1
Health Care & Social Assistance	75.8	76.2	76.6	-0.4	-0.8
Arts, Entertainment & Recreation	7.4	7.5	7.7	-0.1	-0.3
Accommodation & Food Services	42.0	43.0	42.7	-1.0	-0.7
Other Services	21.9	22.3	22.8	-0.4	-0.9
Government	62.3	61.2	63.1	1.1	-0.8

Manufacturing Employment in Rhode Island Not Seasonally Adjusted

	Employment				
	(in thousands)			Net Change From:	
	Sep 09	Aug 09	Sep 08	Aug 09	Sep 08
Manufacturing	42.6	42.9	47.8	-300	-5,200
Durable Goods	27.5	27.7	31.0	-200	-3,500
Fabricated Metal Product Mfg.	6.0	6.0	6.5	0	-500
Computer & Electronic Product Mfg.	4.1	4.1	4.1	0	0
Miscellaneous Manufacturing	7.5	7.6	8.5	-100	-1,000
Jewelry & Silverware	5.0	5.0	5.6	0	-600
Non-Durable Goods	15.1	15.2	16.8	-100	-1,700
Chemical Manufacturing	3.6	3.6	3.6	0	0

Educational Services (+100) was the lone sector to add jobs over-the-year, while employment in Natural Resources & Mining remained unchanged.

MANUFACTURING: In September 2009, production workers in the Manufacturing sector earned \$14.28 per hour. The average hourly production wage was up twenty-one cents from August 2009 and up thirty-two cents from September 2008. Manufacturing employees worked an average of 37.3 hours per week in September, up one-tenth of an hour over the month, but down an hour and four-tenths 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. With the release of the January estimates, the seasonally adjusted jobs and unemployment data have been revised back to 2004. Current month's figures are preliminary and subject to change.



Educational Attainment in Rhode Island, 2008

Not long ago, most people were able to get a good-paying job with not much more than a high school diploma. However, today's economy places a much higher premium on additional years of schooling – even for an entry-level position, a high school diploma or GED may not be enough. Our ability to compete in a global economy is dependent on the knowledge and skills of our workforce and its ability to learn and adapt to new situations.

Each level of education attained provides more return than the level below. The benefits gained from an educated workforce are important for both the residents and the economy as a whole. Research shows that higher levels of individual educational attainment lead to:

- Higher rates of workforce participation
- An increase in annual earnings
- Readily transferable skills
- Reduced reliance on government assistance programs

According to the US Census Bureau, 2008 American Community Survey, 35.2 percent of the US population aged 25 or older has an Associate's degree or higher, while 27.7 percent have a Bachelor's degree or higher. Americans who did not graduate high school or receive a high school equivalency comprise 15.0 percent of the nation's population.

In Rhode Island, 16.3 percent of the 25 and older population do not have a high school diploma or equivalent, higher than the national average and highest in New England. Rhode Island ranks fifth in New England and thirteenth nationally in the percentage of adults (30.0%) who have obtained at least a Bachelor's degree. (See label page for additional statistics.)

Population (25 Years and Older)	708,746
Less than 9th Grade	6.8%
9th to 12th Grade, No Diploma	9.5%
High School Graduate, GED, or Alternative	27.8%
Some College, No Degree	18.3%
Associate's Degree	7.6%
Bachelor's Degree	18.7%
Graduate or Professional Degree	11.3%

Source: American Community Survey, 2008

Characteristics of the Insured Unemployed

A total of 18,626 individuals were eligible to collect "regular" Unemployment Insurance benefits in September 2009, up 5,365 (+40.5%) from the 13,261 collecting these benefits in September 2008. In addition, 12,619 individuals collected Emergency Unemployment Compensation and 2,861 collected Extended Benefits. In all, 48.8 percent of Rhode Island's unemployed workers were eligible to collect unemployment benefits in September.

Of the 18,626 individuals collecting "regular" Unemployment Insurance benefits, 35.3 percent faced long-term unemployment (defined as collecting unemployment insurance for fifteen weeks or more), up from 28.2 percent in September 2008.

On an industry basis, 19.2 percent (3,583) of the State's insured unemployed workers came from the Manufacturing sector. There were also 2,440 individuals with an attachment to the Construction sector, accounting for 13.1 percent of all insured unemployed workers. An additional 9.4 percent (1,752) of those collecting UI benefits in September had worked in the Health Care & Social Assistance sector. Large numbers of insured unemployed were also reported in Retail Trade (1,635), Administrative & Waste Services (1,491) and Finance & Insurance (1,059). For more information, go to www.dlt.ri.gov/lmi/uiadmin/characteristics.htm.

	Total		Percent
	Total	Long-Term	Long-Term
Total	18,626	6,580	35.3%
Male	10,003	3,452	34.5%
Female	8,623	3,128	36.3%
Selected Industries	18,626	6,580	35.3%
Construction	2,440	614	25.2%
Manufacturing	3,583	1,559	43.5%
Wholesale Trade	884	372	42.1%
Retail Trade	1,635	660	40.4%
Transportation & Warehousing	559	142	25.4%
Information	434	199	45.9%
Finance & Insurance	1,059	537	50.7%
Real Estate	362	143	39.5%
Professional & Tech. Services	1,050	396	37.7%
Administrative & Waste Services	1,491	502	33.7%
Educational Services	759	94	12.4%
Health Care & Social Assistance	1,752	608	34.7%
Arts, Entertainment & Recreation	246	61	24.8%
Accommodation & Food Services	1,027	301	29.3%
Other Services	630	190	30.2%
Public Administration	173	49	28.3%

**Consumer Price Index for
All Urban Consumers** % Change

	Sept 09	Aug 09	Sept 08	Prev. Year
All Items	216.0	215.8	218.8	-1.3%

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

**Women's Earnings in the Ocean State
1998-2008**

(Continued from Page 1)

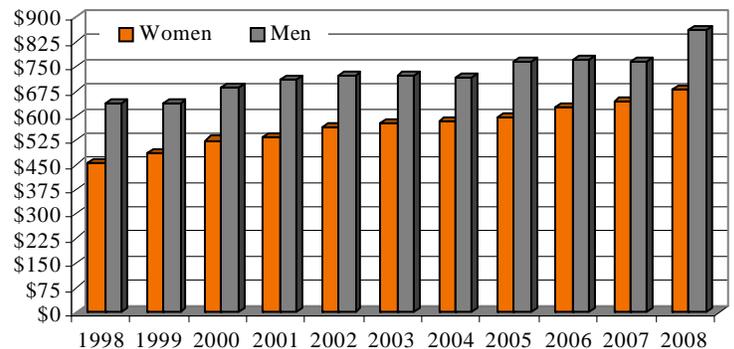
Since 1998, the earnings gap between Rhode Island women and men working full-time has improved when compared to regional neighbors and the nation as a whole. While Rhode Island women had earned 71.2 percent of what men did in 1998, the ratio had improved to 78.7 percent by 2008. This 7.5 percentage point change was the highest reported in New England and the 3rd highest recorded in the nation during this period (tied with Iowa and Indiana). Only Arkansas (+10.7) and Ohio (+7.9) posted larger percentage gains. Within New England, Vermont's women-to-men earnings gap closed by 5.6 percentage points, followed by Connecticut (+3.5 points) and Maine (+0.4 points). Meanwhile, women workers in both Massachusetts (-3.1 points) and New Hampshire (-3.0 points) saw their earnings fall in comparison to their male counterparts. Nationally, the female-to-male earnings ratio improved by 3.6 percentage points during this period, from 76.3 percent in 1998 to 79.9 percent in 2008.

Between 1998 and 2008, Rhode Island women experienced a much faster growth in median weekly earnings than men did. In 1998, females earned a median weekly wage of \$455 compared to \$638 earned by males. By 2008, women's median weekly earnings had increased by 49.2 percent (+\$224) to \$679, the 8th largest percentage gain over the past ten years nationally. In contrast, the median weekly earnings of Rhode Island males rose to \$863, a 35.3 percent (+\$225) increase.

**City & Town
Unadjusted Unemployment Rates for September**

	2009	2008		2009	2008
Barrington	10.3	6.0	Newport	9.8	6.0
Bristol	11.2	7.1	North Kingstown	9.8	6.7
Burrillville	12.3	7.6	North Providence	12.1	8.3
Central Falls	15.1	11.5	North Smithfield	11.3	6.6
Charlestown	10.9	7.1	Pawtucket	14.7	10.0
Coventry	11.8	7.7	Portsmouth	9.6	6.4
Cranston	13.0	8.2	Providence	14.9	10.0
Cumberland	11.4	6.9	Richmond	7.7	5.4
East Greenwich	11.9	7.9	Scituate	12.0	7.4
East Providence	13.3	8.5	Smithfield	12.0	7.0
Exeter	10.7	6.7	South Kingstown	9.3	6.8
Foster	12.2	7.1	Tiverton	11.8	8.0
Glocester	10.3	6.6	Warren	11.9	7.9
Hopkinton	10.1	7.2	Warwick	11.6	7.4
Jamestown	7.6	5.0	West Greenwich	10.4	6.5
Johnston	13.4	8.8	West Warwick	13.2	8.6
Lincoln	11.1	7.0	Westerly	9.1	6.6
Little Compton	9.6	6.1	Woonsocket	15.1	9.6
Middletown	10.1	6.1			
Narragansett	7.4	5.5	State of R.I.	12.3	8.0
New Shoreham	5.6	3.7	United States	9.5	6.0

**Median Weekly Earnings of Rhode Island
Women and Men, 1998-2008**



Unemployment Insurance Claims Activity

	Sept.	Aug.	Sept.	% Change		Year to Date		
	2009	2009	2008	Aug. 09	Sept. 08	2009	2008	% Change
Regular Claims								
Initial Claims	6,605	7,398	6,424	-10.7%	2.8%	91,169	69,162	31.8%
Number of Payments	71,272	98,920	59,650	-27.9%	19.5%	903,221	586,983	53.9%
Amount of Payments (gross millions)	\$26.6	\$35.7	\$21.4	-25.5%	24.3%	\$333.9	\$209.3	59.5%
Exhaustions (Final Payments)	2,687	3,450	1,897	-22.1%	41.6%	26,636	15,003	77.5%
Emergency Unemployment Compensation						2009	Since Program Began	
Initial Claims	4,245	4,090	1,884	3.8%	125.3%	30,357	48,509	
Number of Payments	54,390	61,142	34,015	-11.0%	59.9%	440,369	601,261	
Amount of Payments (gross millions)	\$20.1	\$22.4	\$11.9	-10.3%	68.9%	\$157.7	\$213.9	
Exhaustions (Final Payments)	1,100	1,257	n/a	-12.5%	n/a	10,293	10,293	
Extended Benefits						2009	Since Program Began	
Initial Claims	939	869	546	8.1%	n/a	5,838	9,281	
Number of Payments	12,398	15,546	1,263	-20.2%	n/a	76,982	94,246	
Amount of Payments (gross millions)	\$4.4	\$5.5	\$0.39	-20.0%	n/a	\$27.0	\$33.1	
Exhaustions (Final Payments)	702	842	8	-16.6%	n/a	3,375	3,375	

**Educational Attainment for the United States and New England
for Population Aged 25 Years and Older, 2008**

	United States	New England	Connecticut	Maine	Massachusetts	New Hampshire	Rhode Island	Vermont
Population (25 Years and Older)	200,030,018	9,732,531	2,364,317	928,594	4,397,927	903,088	708,746	429,859
Less than 9th Grade	6.4%	4.7%	4.7%	3.7%	4.9%	3.2%	6.8%	3.4%
9th to 12th Grade, No Diploma	8.7%	6.6%	6.6%	6.6%	6.4%	5.9%	9.5%	5.9%
High School Graduate, GED, or Alternative	28.5%	28.4%	28.0%	35.0%	26.7%	29.1%	27.8%	33.0%
Some College, No Degree	21.3%	17.5%	17.6%	20.3%	16.4%	19.2%	18.3%	16.7%
Associate's Degree	7.5%	7.9%	7.5%	9.0%	7.5%	9.3%	7.6%	8.7%
Bachelor's Degree	17.5%	20.6%	20.4%	16.5%	21.7%	21.3%	18.7%	19.9%
Graduate or Professional Degree	10.2%	14.4%	15.2%	8.9%	16.4%	12.0%	11.3%	12.2%
Not a High School Graduate or Equivalent	15.0%	11.3%	11.4%	10.3%	11.3%	9.1%	16.3%	9.4%
High School Graduate or Higher	85.0%	88.7%	88.6%	89.7%	88.7%	90.9%	83.7%	90.6%
Associate's Degree or Higher	35.2%	42.9%	43.1%	34.4%	45.6%	42.6%	37.6%	40.9%
Bachelor's Degree or Higher	27.7%	35.0%	35.6%	25.4%	38.1%	33.3%	30.0%	32.1%

**Median Earnings by Educational Attainment
for Population Aged 25 Years and Older with Earnings, 2008**

	United States	New England	Connecticut	Maine	Massachusetts	New Hampshire	Rhode Island	Vermont
Median Earnings for Population 25 Years and Older	\$34,737	\$40,351	\$43,429	\$30,676	\$41,938	\$38,079	\$36,911	\$32,094
Less than High School Graduate	\$20,268	\$23,814	\$24,595	\$20,386	\$24,141	\$25,592	\$23,302	\$21,427
High School Graduate (Includes Equivalency)	\$27,479	\$31,455	\$34,349	\$25,921	\$32,457	\$30,633	\$31,058	\$27,250
Some College or Associate's Degree	\$33,447	\$36,662	\$40,341	\$30,192	\$37,506	\$36,500	\$35,978	\$31,750
Bachelor's Degree	\$47,094	\$50,887	\$56,747	\$37,985	\$51,853	\$48,419	\$48,596	\$38,319
Graduate or Professional Degree	\$62,179	\$66,071	\$71,376	\$50,794	\$67,467	\$60,859	\$63,194	\$49,870