



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

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## Rhode Island's Unemployment Rate Drops to 11.5 percent in September

- ◆ RI's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate for September was 11.5 percent, down three-tenths of a percentage point from August and the seventh consecutive over-the-month drop.
- ◆ RI's September unemployment rate is down five-tenths of a percentage point from last year's figure of 12.0 percent.
- ◆ The national rate was 9.6 percent, unchanged from August and down two-tenths from the previous year.
- ◆ In September 2010, Rhode Island had the 5th highest unemployment rate in the nation, trailing Nevada (14.4%), Michigan (13.0%), California (12.4%) and Florida (11.9%).
- ◆ The September 2010 unemployment rate increased in eleven states. Twenty-three states, including Massachusetts (-0.4), Maine (-0.3), Rhode Island (-0.3), New Hampshire (-0.2) and Vermont (-0.2) saw their rates decrease. Connecticut was unchanged. In all, eleven states have unemployment rates in the double digits, with three states having a rate of 12.0 percent or higher.
- ◆ Rates in other New England States for September 2010—Connecticut 9.1 percent, Massachusetts 8.4 percent, Maine 7.7 percent, Vermont 5.8 percent and New Hampshire 5.5 percent.
- ◆ The number of employed RI residents totaled 505,200 in September 2010, reflecting an increase of 600 from the previous month. Between September 2009 and September 2010, the number of employed RI residents grew by 3,600.
- ◆ In September, the number of unemployed Rhode Island residents decreased by 1,600 to 65,900. From September 2009 to September 2010, the number of unemployed residents decreased by 2,500.

## Employment by Size of Firm March 2010

The Rhode Island economy is characterized by a large number of small companies employing a small number of workers. As of March 2010, there were 31,876 private businesses in the state employing 375,621 workers. Nearly half the employers (48.1%) in the state have between one and four employees; however, they employ just 7.7% of the workforce. The largest employers, those with 1,000 or more employees, numbered 32 and employed 17.9% of Rhode Island's private sector workforce.

- ◆ Smaller employers, those with less than 20 employees, represented 90.5% of all employers in the state and employed approximately one quarter (25.2%) of the workforce.
- ◆ Mid-sized companies (20 to 99 workers) employed 27.0% of the private sector employment and accounted for 7.9% of the firms.
- ◆ There are just 532 (1.7%) firms in the state employing 100 or more workers. Together, they employ nearly half (47.7%) of the state's private sector employees.

Of the 532 firms in the state employing 100 or more workers, more than half were concentrated in Health Care & Social

Assistance (150), Manufacturing (75) and Retail Trade (60). Rhode Island's 10 largest companies employ one out of ten of the state's workers.

### Top Ten Rhode Island Companies

Company	Employment
Rhode Island Hospital	7,000
CVS Caremark Corporation	5,800
Citizens Financial Group	5,100
Brown University	4,600
Stop & Shop Supermarket Co, Inc.	3,800
Bank of America Corporation	3,800
Women & Infants Hospital	3,100
The Miriam Hospital	2,400
Fidelity Investments	2,300
Kent County Memorial Hospital	2,300

Source: RI Economic Development Corporation

### Seasonally Adjusted Labor Force Statistics

	(in thousands)			United States		
	Rhode Island			United States		
	Sep 10	Aug 10	Sep 09	Sep 10	Aug 10	Sep 09
Civilian Labor Force	571.0	572.1	570.1	154,158	154,110	153,927
Resident Employment	505.2	504.6	501.6	139,391	139,250	138,768
Unemployment	65.9	67.5	68.4	14,767	14,860	15,159
Unemployment Rate	11.5%	11.8%	12.0%	9.6%	9.6%	9.8%

For more information, visit [www.dlt.ri.gov/lmi/es202/size.htm](http://www.dlt.ri.gov/lmi/es202/size.htm).

## Rhode Island Jobs Decrease by 1,000 in September

In September, Rhode Island seasonally adjusted nonfarm payroll employment totaled 450,900, a decrease of 1,000 from the revised August employment level of 451,900. All job declines were reported in the private sector, ending four consecutive months of private sector job growth. Government employment, however, increased by 500 jobs over the month.

Employment in Accommodation & Food Services fell by 1,100 over-the-month, fueled by job losses in food services and drinking places. Construction employment fell sharply as well, shedding 500 jobs in September, with losses reported in construction of buildings and specialty trade contractors.

Smaller over-the-month losses were reported in Arts, Entertainment & Recreation (-200), Manufacturing (-100), Wholesale Trade (-100) and Other Services (-100). Employment in Health Care & Social Assistance, Retail Trade, Transportation & Utilities and Natural Resources & Mining remained unchanged.

Over-the-month gains occurred in five industry sectors—Government (500), Financial Activities (200), Educational Services (200), Professional & Business Services (100) and Information (100). Employment gains in Government, the sector with the greatest over-the-month growth, could be attributed to hiring in the public elementary, secondary and higher education systems.

September 2010 employment was down 5,200 (-1.1%) from September 2009, due to over-the-year job losses in several economic sectors including Retail Trade (-2,100), Accommodation & Food Services (-1,300), Manufacturing (-1,200), Professional & Business Services (-1,200), Wholesale Trade (-900) and Arts, Entertainment & Recreation (-700). Smaller over-the-year losses were noted in Educational Services (-200) and Government (-100).

### Establishment Employment in Rhode Island Seasonally Adjusted

	Net Change From				
	Sep-10	Aug-10	Sep-09	Aug-10	Sep-09
<b>Total Nonfarm</b>	<b>450.9</b>	<b>451.9</b>	<b>456.1</b>	<b>-1.0</b>	<b>-5.2</b>
Natural Resources & Mining	0.3	0.3	0.2	0.0	0.1
Construction	16.6	17.1	16.5	-0.5	0.1
Manufacturing	39.4	39.5	40.6	-0.1	-1.2
Wholesale Trade	15.0	15.1	15.9	-0.1	-0.9
Retail Trade	44.7	44.7	46.8	0.0	-2.1
Transportation & Utilities	10.3	10.3	10.1	0.0	0.2
Information	10.1	10.0	9.9	0.1	0.2
Financial Activities	30.8	30.6	30.5	0.2	0.3
Professional & Business Services	50.5	50.4	51.7	0.1	-1.2
Educational Services	23.7	23.5	23.9	0.2	-0.2
Health Care & Social Assistance	77.9	77.9	76.8	0.0	1.1
Arts, Entertainment & Recreation	7.0	7.2	7.7	-0.2	-0.7
Accommodation & Food Services	40.4	41.5	41.7	-1.1	-1.3
Other Services	22.4	22.5	21.9	-0.1	0.5
Government	61.8	61.3	61.9	0.5	-0.1

### Manufacturing Employment in Rhode Island Not Seasonally Adjusted

	Employment				
	(in thousands)			Net Change From:	
	Sept 10	Aug 10	Sept 09	Aug 10	Sept 09
<b>Manufacturing</b>	<b>39.9</b>	<b>39.8</b>	<b>41.1</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>-1200</b>
<b>Durable Goods</b>	<b>25.2</b>	<b>25.2</b>	<b>26.3</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>-1100</b>
Fabricated Metal Product Mfg.	5.4	5.4	5.6	0	-200
Computer & Electronic Product Mfg.	3.8	3.8	3.8	0	0
Miscellaneous Manufacturing	6.3	6.2	6.9	100	-600
Jewelry & Silverware	4.0	4.0	4.6	0	-600
<b>Non-Durable Goods</b>	<b>14.7</b>	<b>14.6</b>	<b>14.8</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>-100</b>
Chemical Manufacturing	2.9	2.9	3.0	0	-100

However, seven sectors—Health Care & Social Assistance (+1,100), Other Services (+500), Financial Activities (+300), Transportation & Utilities (+200), Information (+200), Construction (+100) and Natural Resources & Mining (+100) - added jobs over the year.

**MANUFACTURING:** In September 2010, production workers in the Manufacturing sector earned \$14.83 per hour. The average hourly production wage was up six cents from August 2010 and up 60 cents from September 2009. Manufacturing employees worked an average of 39.1 hours per week in September, up three-tenths of an hour from August, and up an hour and a half 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](http://www.dlt.ri.gov/lmi/ces.htm). Current month's figures are preliminary and subject to change.*



## Educational Attainment in Rhode Island - 2009

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, 2009 American Community Survey, 35.4 percent of the US population aged 25 or older has an Associate's degree or higher, while 27.9 percent have a Bachelor's degree or higher. Americans who did not graduate high school or receive a high school equivalency comprise 14.7 percent of the nation's population.

In Rhode Island, 15.3 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 fourteenth nationally in the percentage of adults (30.5%) who have obtained at least a Bachelor's degree. (See label page for additional statistics.)

Population (25 Years and Older)	715,565
Less than 9th Grade	7.0%
9th to 12th Grade, No Diploma	8.3%
High School Graduate, GED, or Alternative	28.1%
Some College, No Degree	17.9%
Associate's Degree	8.2%
Bachelor's Degree	18.7%
Graduate or Professional Degree	11.7%

Source: American Community Survey, 2009

## Characteristics of the Insured Unemployed

A total of 14,005 individuals were eligible to collect "regular" Unemployment Insurance benefits in September 2010, down 4,621 (-24.8%) from the 18,626 collecting these benefits in September 2009. In addition, 10,607 individuals collected Emergency Unemployment Compensation and 7,551 collected Extended Benefits. In all, 53.0 percent of Rhode Island's unemployed workers were eligible to collect unemployment benefits in September.

Of the 14,005 individuals collecting "regular" Unemployment Insurance benefits, 32.8 percent faced long-term unemployment (defined as collecting unemployment insurance for fifteen weeks or more), down from 35.3 percent in September 2009.

On an industry basis, 13.1 percent (1,835) of the State's insured unemployed workers came from the Manufacturing sector. There were also 1,705 individuals with an attachment to the Retail Trade sector, accounting for 12.2 percent of all insured unemployed workers. An additional 11.3 percent (1,580) 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 Construction (1,562), Administrative & Waste Services (1,182) and Accommodation & Food Services (951). For more information, go to [www.dlt.ri.gov/lmi/uiadmin/characteristics.htm](http://www.dlt.ri.gov/lmi/uiadmin/characteristics.htm).

	Total	Long-Term	Percent Long-Term
<b>Total</b>	<b>14,005</b>	<b>4,591</b>	<b>32.8%</b>
Male	6,926	2,171	31.3%
Female	7,079	2,420	34.2%
<b>Selected Industries</b>	<b>14,005</b>	<b>4,591</b>	<b>32.8%</b>
Construction	1,562	374	23.9%
Manufacturing	1,835	667	36.3%
Wholesale Trade	611	245	40.1%
Retail Trade	1,705	849	49.8%
Transportation & Warehousing	384	78	20.3%
Information	231	91	39.4%
Finance & Insurance	797	280	35.1%
Real Estate	307	110	35.8%
Professional & Tech. Services	812	281	34.6%
Administrative & Waste Services	1,182	301	25.5%
Educational Services	657	75	11.4%
Health Care & Social Assistance	1,580	568	35.9%
Arts, Entertainment & Recreation	223	58	26.0%
Accommodation & Food Services	951	294	30.9%
Other Services	493	178	36.1%
Public Administration	241	43	17.8%

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

	Sept 10	Aug 10	Sept 09	Prev. Year
All Items	218.4	218.3	216.0	1.1%

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 20,600 advertisements for Rhode Island based jobs this month, a decrease of 1,000 (-4.6%) from the August 2010 postings, and an increase of 5,200 (+33.8%) from the 15,400 advertised vacancies posted online in September 2009. There were an estimated 3.60 advertised vacancies for every 100 persons in Rhode Island's labor force.

**Help Wanted OnLine  
Advertised Job Vacancies**

	Sept 10	Aug 10	Sept 09
RI Vacancies	20,600	21,600	15,400
<b>Labor Demand Rate *</b>			
Rhode Island	3.60	3.77	2.70
US	2.79	2.75	2.18
Connecticut	3.51	3.65	2.64
Massachusetts	4.05	3.93	3.05
Maine	2.81	2.96	2.37
New Hampshire	3.33	3.29	2.44
Vermont	3.58	3.44	2.86
<b>Supply/Demand Rate **</b>			
Rhode Island	3.20	3.13	4.44
US	3.44	3.51	4.52

\* Number of advertised vacancies per 100 persons in labor force  
\*\* Number of unemployed persons in state per advertised vacancy

**City & Town**

**Unadjusted Unemployment Rates for September**

	2010	2009		2010	2009
Barrington	8.3	9.7	Newport	8.3	9.6
Bristol	9.1	10.5	North Kingstown	9.0	9.1
Burrillville	10.0	11.4	North Providence	10.8	11.3
Central Falls	13.3	14.0	North Smithfield	9.7	10.4
Charlestown	9.8	10.1	Pawtucket	11.9	13.6
Coventry	9.7	10.8	Portsmouth	8.5	9.0
Cranston	11.4	12.0	Providence	13.1	13.9
Cumberland	10.0	10.4	Richmond	7.5	7.3
East Greenwich	10.1	11.0	Scituate	9.6	11.1
East Providence	11.3	12.2	Smithfield	10.2	11.3
Exeter	10.2	9.9	South Kingstown	9.2	9.1
Foster	11.9	11.0	Tiverton	10.3	10.7
Glocester	8.8	9.5	Warren	9.5	11.0
Hopkinton	9.3	9.3	Warwick	10.6	10.8
Jamestown	8.4	7.2	West Greenwich	8.1	9.8
Johnston	10.9	12.2	West Warwick	11.6	12.3
Lincoln	9.8	10.4	Westerly	7.5	8.2
Little Compton	8.9	8.8	Woonsocket	11.9	14.0
Middletown	9.1	9.6			
Narragansett	7.4	7.1	State of R.I.	10.6	11.4
New Shoreham	6.0	5.0	United States	9.2	9.5

Nationally, there were an estimated 2.79 advertised vacancies for every 100 persons in labor force. Among the New England states, only Massachusetts (4.05) had a higher vacancy rate than Rhode Island.

There were an estimated 3.20 unemployed Rhode Island residents for every advertised job in September, up from 3.20 unemployed residents estimated per August advertisements. Nationally, there were 3.44 unemployed persons for every job opening advertised in September, down from 3.51 in August.

**Unemployment Insurance Claims Activity**

	Sept.	Aug.	Sept.	% Change		Year-to-Date		
	2010	2010	2009	Aug 10	Sept. 09	2010	2009	% Change
<b>Regular Claims</b>								
Initial Claims	5,527	6,291	6,605	-12.1%	-16.3%	73,398	91,169	-19.5%
Number of Payments	54,120	77,817	71,272	-30.5%	-24.1%	689,218	903,221	-23.7%
Amount of Payments (gross millions)	\$19.6	\$26.9	\$26.6	-27.1%	-26.3%	\$251.7	\$333.9	-24.6%
Exhaustions (Final Payments)	1,857	2,345	2,687	-20.8%	-30.9%	21,604	26,636	-18.9%
<b>Emergency Unemployment Compensation</b>						2010	Since Program Began	
Initial Claims	2,956	3,312	4,245	-10.7%	-30.4%	26,631	88,879	
Number of Payments	44,499	49,556	54,390	-10.2%	-18.2%	623,069	1,438,606	
Amount of Payments (gross millions)	\$16.5	\$18.4	\$20.2	-10.3%	-18.3%	\$230.3	\$523.3	
<b>Extended Benefits</b>						2010	Since Program Began	
Initial Claims	896	459	939	95.2%	-4.6%	13,781	24,791	
Number of Payments	31,924	43,841	12,398	-27.2%	157.5%	146,651	277,107	
Amount of Payments (gross millions)	\$11.9	\$16.3	\$4.4	-27.0%	170.5%	\$53.9	\$99.7	
Exhaustions (Final Payments)	1,355	704	702	92.5%	93.0%	4,309	9,801	

**Educational Attainment for the United States and New England  
for Population Aged 25 Years and Older, 2009**

	<b>RI</b>	<b>United States</b>	<b>New England</b>	<b>CT</b>	<b>ME</b>	<b>MA</b>	<b>NH</b>	<b>VT</b>
Population (25 Years and Older)	715,565	202 million	9.8 million	2,370,028	924,973	4,490,445	902,747	425,483
Less than 9th Grade	7.0%	6.3%	4.6%	4.7%	3.8%	4.9%	3.0%	3.0%
9th to 12th Grade, No Diploma	8.3%	8.5%	6.4%	6.8%	6.0%	6.2%	5.8%	6.0%
High School Graduate, GED, or Alternative	28.1%	28.5%	28.2%	28.2%	34.3%	26.3%	29.9%	32.1%
Some College, No Degree	17.9%	21.3%	17.6%	17.4%	20.2%	16.7%	19.7%	17.5%
Associate's Degree	8.2%	7.5%	8.0%	7.4%	8.8%	7.7%	9.6%	8.4%
Bachelor's Degree	18.7%	17.6%	20.6%	20.0%	17.3%	21.8%	20.8%	19.7%
Graduate or Professional Degree	11.7%	10.3%	14.6%	15.5%	9.6%	16.4%	11.2%	13.3%
Not a High School Graduate or Equivalent	15.3%	14.7%	11.0%	11.4%	9.8%	11.0%	8.7%	9.0%
High School Graduate or Higher	84.7%	85.3%	89.0%	88.6%	90.2%	89.0%	91.3%	91.0%
Associate's Degree or Higher	38.7%	35.4%	43.2%	43.0%	35.7%	46.0%	41.6%	41.4%
Bachelor's Degree or Higher	30.5%	27.9%	35.2%	35.6%	26.9%	38.2%	32.0%	33.1%

US Census Bureau, 2009 American Community Survey