



Rhode Island's Unemployment Rate Drops to 10.5 percent in September

- ◆ RI's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate for September was 10.5 percent, down two-tenths of a percentage point from August.
- ◆ RI's September unemployment rate was down eight-tenths of a percentage point from last September's figure of 11.3 percent.
- ◆ The national rate was 7.8 percent, down three-tenths of a percentage point from August and down one and two-tenths percentage points from the previous year.
- ◆ In September 2012, Rhode Island had the 2nd highest unemployment rate in the nation, trailing Nevada (11.8%).
- ◆ The September 2012 unemployment rate increased in six states, including Massachusetts (+0.2) and Vermont (+0.1). Forty-one states, including Rhode Island (-0.2), Connecticut (-0.1) and Maine (-0.1), saw their rates decrease, while three states' rates, including New Hampshire, were unchanged. In all, three states have unemployment rates in the double digits.
- ◆ Rates in other New England States for September 2012—Connecticut 8.9 percent, Maine 7.6 percent, Massachusetts 6.5 percent, New Hampshire 5.7 percent and Vermont 5.4 percent.
- ◆ The number of employed RI residents totaled 499,400 in September 2012, up 3,900 from the previous month. Between September 2011 and September 2012, the number of employed RI residents increased by 400.
- ◆ Over the month, the number of unemployed Rhode Island residents decreased by 600 to 58,600 in September 2012. From September 2011 to September 2012, the number of unemployed residents decreased by 5,200.

Rhode Island Job Vacancies Summer 2012

The Department of Labor and Training's 2012 Job Vacancy Survey results indicated that there were an estimated 8,582 job vacancies in the summer of 2012. This translated to a job vacancy rate of 2.3 percent or just over two job openings for every one hundred jobs filled. In comparison, there were 10,475 job openings in spring of 2011 reflecting a vacancy rate of 2.8 percent. In 2009, the year hardest hit by the recession, there were only 5,948 vacancies reported, reflecting a vacancy rate of 1.5 percent or 1.5 openings for every one hundred jobs filled.

While the 2012 vacancy rate has declined from 2011, there is a notable increase in permanent positions versus temporary positions during this year compared to last. Full-time positions represented 47.5 percent of the vacancies in 2012, on par with the 48.6 percent estimated in 2011.

During the spring of 2012, job vacancies were reported in nearly all economic sectors and among all occupational groups. Health Care & Social Assistance, the state's largest employment sector, reported the greatest number of job vacancies, estimated at 1,863 for 2012, a notable decline from the 2011 estimate of 4,046. The Retail Trade (1,417) and Accommodations & Food Services (1,309) each had over 1,000 vacancies. Together these three sectors accounted for over half (53.5%) of the summer 2012 vacancies.

The three occupational groups with the most estimated vacancies—Food Preparation & Serving Related occupation (1,316), Sales & Related occupations (1,223), and Office & Administrative Support occupations (1,122) accounted for over 40 percent of recorded vacancies in 2012. There were an estimated 669 vacancies for Healthcare Practitioners & Technical occupations in 2012, down significantly from the 2011 estimate of 1,632.

The 2012 vacancy survey showed an increase in benefits offered to new employees. More than half of the vacancies offered health insurance (52.6%) or paid vacation (51.9%) in 2012 up respectively, from 47.2 percent and 47.5 percent in 2011. Nearly four out of ten openings (38.6%) offered paid sick leave, on par with last year. Starting wage rates for vacancies reported in 2012 averaged \$14.37 to \$14.94 per hour.

Seasonally Adjusted Labor Force Statistics

(in thousands)

	Rhode Island			United States		
	Sept 12	Aug 12	Sep 11	Sept 12	Aug 12	Sep 11
Civilian Labor Force	558.0	554.7	562.8	155,063	154,645	154,004
Resident Employment	499.4	495.5	499.0	142,974	142,101	140,107
Unemployment	58.6	59.2	63.8	12,088	12,544	13,897
Unemployment Rate	10.5%	10.7%	11.3%	7.8%	8.1%	9.0%

Rhode Island Jobs Increase by 2,000 in September

Estimated nonfarm payroll in Rhode Island totaled 458,000 in September, reflecting a gain of 2,000 jobs from the revised August employment estimate of 456,000.

The September preliminary estimates indicate that the Professional & Business Services sector added 1,100 jobs over the month, with sizable job gains reported in administrative support services. The Accommodation & Food Services sector added 700 jobs over the month marking five consecutive months of job gains for this sector.

An increase of 400 jobs was reported in the Health Care & Social Assistance sector as area hospitals increased their payrolls. The Retail Trade sector added 300 jobs over the month, fueled by growth in food stores and electronic and appliance stores. The September employment gain in Retail Trade ends four consecutive months of job declines within the sector.

Employment in the Transportation & Utilities sector was also up 300 jobs from August. Other sectors reporting jobs gains this month include Financial Activities (+200), Educational Services (+200) and Wholesale Trade (+100). Employment in the Government, Information and Mining & Logging sectors remained unchanged.

The Other Services sector lost 800 jobs over the month due to larger-than-usual employment losses reported in summer activities and recreational programs. Smaller employment declines in September were reported in the Construction (-200), Manufacturing (-200) and Arts, Entertainment & Recreation (-100) sectors.

Over the year, total nonfarm employment decreased by 1,700. Job losses were reported in eight economic sectors, including Health Care & Social Assistance (-1,300), Government (-1,300), Retail Trade (-1,200), Other Services (-900), Professional & Business Services (-600), Manufacturing (-300), Information (-100) and Wholesale Trade (-100).

Accommodation & Food Services (+2,400), Construction (+800), Transportation & Utilities (+400), Financial Activities (+300), Arts, Entertainment & Recreation (+100) and Educational Services (+100) all reported over-the-year job gains. Employment in Mining & Logging remained unchanged over the year.

Manufacturing Employment in Rhode Island Not Seasonally Adjusted

	Employment				
	(in thousands)			Net Change From :	
	Sept 12	Aug 12	Sept 11	Aug 12	Sept 11
Manufacturing	41.0	41.2	41.2	-200	-200
Durable Goods	26.6	26.8	26.6	-200	0
Fabricated Metal Product Mfg.	5.4	5.4	5.7	0	-300
Computer & Electronic Product Mfg.	3.5	3.5	3.6	0	-100
Miscellaneous Manufacturing	6.5	6.4	6.7	100	-200
Jewelry & Silverware	4.1	4.0	4.3	100	-200
Non-Durable Goods	14.4	14.4	14.6	0	-200
Chemical Manufacturing	2.9	2.9	2.8	0	100

Establishment Employment in Rhode Island Seasonally Adjusted

	Net Change From				
	Sep-12	Aug-12	Sep-11	Aug-12	Sep-11
Total Nonfarm	458.0	456.0	459.7	2.0	-1.7
Natural Resources & Mining	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.0	0.0
Construction	16.5	16.7	15.7	-0.2	0.8
Manufacturing	40.6	40.8	40.9	-0.2	-0.3
Wholesale Trade	16.3	16.2	16.4	0.1	-0.1
Retail Trade	44.6	44.3	45.8	0.3	-1.2
Transportation & Utilities	10.9	10.6	10.5	0.3	0.4
Information	10.3	10.3	10.4	0.0	-0.1
Financial Activities	30.9	30.7	30.6	0.2	0.3
Professional & Business Services	53.4	52.3	54.0	1.1	-0.6
Educational Services	25.8	25.6	25.7	0.2	0.1
Health Care & Social Assistance	76.7	76.3	78.0	0.4	-1.3
Arts, Entertainment & Recreation	7.3	7.4	7.2	-0.1	0.1
Accommodation & Food Services	44.1	43.4	41.7	0.7	2.4
Other Services	21.1	21.9	22.0	-0.8	-0.9
Government	59.3	59.3	60.6	0.0	-1.3

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.

MANUFACTURING: In September 2012, production workers in the Manufacturing sector earned \$18.38 per hour, up 13 cents from August 2012 and up \$1.13 from September 2011. Manufacturing employees worked an average of 40.2 hours per week in September, up four-tenths over the month and up one hour and four-tenths from a year ago.

2020 Projections Now Available!



The Labor Market Information unit has just released the 2010-2020 Industry and Occupational Projections. The projections, which are revised every two years, provide forecasts for all major economic sectors and subsectors and for the occupations they employ.

The latest round of projections indicate that Rhode Island employment is expected to increase by nearly 52,400 (+10.7%) jobs during the 2010-2020 projection period as the state's economy recovers from recessionary losses. Much of this growth is attributed to the increased demand for the products and services provided by the Health Care & Social Assistance; Accommodation & Food Services; Retail Trade; Professional, Scientific & Technical Services; and Educational Services sectors.

Employment is expected to grow at all education and skill levels, from jobs requiring on-the-job training to those requiring advance degrees. Jobs requiring a high school diploma which represent the largest portion (41.7%) of the Rhode Island labor marker will account for a third of the new jobs projected for the 2010-2020 period. Jobs where the minimum educational requirement is a bachelor's degree account for just over 15 percent of the state's 2010 employment and are expected to generate 18 percent of the new jobs projected for the 2010-2020 period.

The 2010-2020 Industry and Occupational Projections are available on our website at <http://www.dlt.ri.gov/lmi/proj.htm>. Accessible tables include:

- ◆ Employment Projections by Major Industry Division
- ◆ Employment Projections by 3-Digit NAICS Industry
- ◆ Top 50 Occupations by Annual Openings
- ◆ Top 50 Occupations with Largest Growth
- ◆ Projected Outlook and Educational Requirements by Available Jobs
- ◆ Major Occupational Group Projections

Characteristics of the Insured Unemployed

A total of 11,024 individuals were eligible to collect "regular" Unemployment Insurance benefits in September 2012, down 1,464 (-11.7%) from the 12,488 collecting these benefits in September 2011. In addition, 8,725 individuals collected Emergency Unemployment Compensation. In all, 35.8 percent of Rhode Island's unemployed workers were eligible to collect unemployment benefits in September.

Of the 11,024 individuals collecting "regular" Unemployment Insurance benefits, 32.4 percent faced long-term unemployment (defined as collecting unemployment insurance for fifteen weeks or more), up from 30.1 percent in September 2011.

On an industry basis, 14.4 percent (1,592) of the State's insured unemployed workers came from the Health Care & Social Assistance sector. There were also 1,427 individuals with an attachment to the Manufacturing sector, accounting for 12.9 percent of all insured unemployed workers. Large numbers of insured unemployed were also reported in Retail Trade (1,187), Construction (1,160) and Administrative & Waste Services (1,025). For more information, go to www.dlt.ri.gov/lmi/uiadmin/characteristics.htm.

Characteristics of the Insured Unemployed, September 2012			
	Total	Long-Term	Percent Long-Term
Total	11,024	3,575	32.4%
Male	5,634	1,779	31.6%
Female	5,390	1,796	33.3%
Selected Industries	11,024	3,575	32.4%
Construction	1,160	226	19.5%
Manufacturing	1,427	492	34.5%
Wholesale Trade	477	192	40.3%
Retail Trade	1,187	447	37.7%
Transportation & Warehousing	278	74	26.6%
Information	219	118	53.9%
Finance & Insurance	504	230	45.6%
Real Estate	174	53	30.5%
Professional & Tech. Services	661	217	32.8%
Administrative & Waste Services	1,025	294	28.7%
Educational Services	453	65	14.3%
Health Care & Social Assistance	1,592	581	36.5%
Arts, Entertainment & Recreation	137	47	34.3%
Accommodation & Food Services	755	218	28.9%
Other Services	495	173	34.9%
Public Administration	74	28	37.8%

**Consumer Price Index for
All Urban Consumers**

				% Change
	Sept. 12	Aug. 12	Sept. 11	Prev. Year
All Items	231.4	230.4	226.9	2.0%

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 19,300 advertisements for Rhode Island based jobs this month, an increase of 800 (+4.3%) from the August 2012 postings, and up 2,000 (+11.6%) from the advertised vacancies posted online in September 2011. There were an estimated 3.47 advertised vacancies for every 100 persons in Rhode Island's labor force.

**Help Wanted OnLine
Advertised Job Vacancies**

	Sept 12	Aug 12	Sept 11
RI Vacancies	19,300	18,500	17,300
<i>Labor Demand Rate *</i>			
Rhode Island	3.47	3.33	3.08
US	3.11	3.03	2.76
Connecticut	3.47	3.39	3.13
Massachusetts	4.20	4.07	3.66
Maine	3.01	2.96	2.87
New Hampshire	3.54	3.41	2.98
Vermont	3.29	3.25	3.57
<i>Supply/Demand Rate **</i>			
Rhode Island	3.04	3.20	3.69
US	2.51	2.68	3.27

* 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 September**

	2012	2011		2012	2011
Barrington	7.1	8.3	Newport	7.4	8.1
Bristol	8.5	9.0	North Kingstown	7.7	8.6
Burrillville	8.9	10.7	North Providence	9.8	10.9
Central Falls	13.9	14.8	North Smithfield	8.8	8.5
Charlestown	9.9	11.3	Pawtucket	12.4	13.1
Coventry	9.3	10.3	Portsmouth	7.1	8.2
Cranston	10.2	10.8	Providence	11.9	13.5
Cumberland	9.1	10.0	Richmond	6.4	7.3
East Greenwich	9.5	10.1	Scituate	8.7	9.7
East Providence	10.8	11.8	Smithfield	9.0	9.3
Exeter	8.3	7.6	South Kingstown	7.9	8.5
Foster	9.2	11.1	Tiverton	8.7	10.0
Glocester	8.1	8.2	Warren	9.6	10.5
Hopkinton	9.0	10.0	Warwick	9.3	10.3
Jamestown	7.1	7.3	West Greenwich	8.2	9.9
Johnston	9.7	11.0	West Warwick	10.8	11.7
Lincoln	8.7	10.2	Westerly	6.9	8.4
Little Compton	8.4	8.2	Woonsocket	11.9	13.0
Middletown	7.9	8.7			
Narragansett	5.8	7.3	State of R.I.	9.8	10.8
New Shoreham	7.6	7.4	United States	7.6	8.8

Nationally, there were an estimated 3.11 advertised vacancies for every 100 persons in labor force. Among the New England states, Massachusetts (4.20) and New Hampshire (3.54) each had a higher vacancy rate than Rhode Island.

There were an estimated 3.04 unemployed Rhode Island residents for every advertised job in September, down from 3.20 unemployed residents estimated per August advertisements. Nationally, there were 2.51 unemployed persons for every job opening advertised in September, down from 2.68 in August.

Unemployment Insurance Claims Activity

	Sept.	Aug.	Sept.	% Change		Year-to-Date		
	2012	2012	2011	Aug.12	Sept.11	2012	2011	% Change
Regular Claims								
Initial Claims	5,193	5,426	7,041	-4.3%	-26.2%	65,638	68,666	-4.4%
Number of Payments	41,036	53,082	49,286	-22.7%	-16.7%	554,732	610,354	-9.1%
Amount of Payments (gross millions)	\$14.8	\$18.4	\$17.7	-19.6%	-16.4%	\$203.5	\$220.9	-7.9%
Exhaustions (Final Payments)	1,306	1,406	1,692	-7.1%	-22.8%	17,094	19,504	-12.4%
Emergency Unemployment Compensation						2012	Since Program Began	
Initial Claims	2,002	1,908	2,708	4.9%	-26.1%	20,895	153,248	
Number of Payments	35,246	36,966	53,976	-4.7%	-34.7%	412,764	2,730,432	
Amount of Payments (gross millions)	\$13.2	\$13.8	\$19.9	-4.3%	-33.7%	\$152.2	\$998.8	



2020 Occupational Outlook for Rhode Island

Job openings result from the need to replace workers who leave an occupation and the need to fill vacancies created by business expansion. During the 2010-2020 projection period, it is estimated that employers will need to find workers to fill over 170,000 job openings. Nearly one-third of the projected job openings are attributed to the economic growth that is expected to occur during the projection period. The remaining openings are due to replacement needs resulting from employee turnover.

Several occupational groups are expected to grow at above average (10.7%) rates. Among the fastest growing occupational groups are Healthcare Support (19.7%), Computer and Mathematical (18.3%), Personal Care and Service (17.5%), and Healthcare Practitioners and Technical (15.8%). Each of these occupational groups is expected to generate over 2,300 new jobs during the projection period.

Occupational declines result from decreasing industry employment and from technological modifications. While all occupational groups are projected to have job gains: Farming, Fishing, & Forestry (0.4%); Production (3.2%); and Protective Service (4.8%) occupations are all projected to have less than a 5 percent change in employment. It is important to note that while job gains are below average, there will still be a demand for over 11,000 workers in these occupational groups resulting from new jobs and the need to replace workers who leave their jobs.

Among the major occupational groups, the greatest number of expected job openings resulting from economic growth and employee turnover will occur in Office and Administrative Support Occupations (+23,095), Food Preparation and Serving Related Occupations (+22,705), and Sales and Related Occupations (+20,233).

Occupational Group	Employment		Net Change	Percent Change	Openings Due To	
	2010	2020			Growth	Replacements
Total Occupations	488,178	40,550	52,372	10.7%	54,695	115,672
Management	24,230	25,815	1,585	6.5%	1,719	5,165
Business & Financial Operations	21,845	25,175	3,330	15.2%	3,332	4,418
Computer & Mathematical	11,945	14,135	2,190	18.3%	2,190	2,330
Architecture & Engineering	7,829	8,401	572	7.3%	623	1,786
Life, Physical, & Social Science	3,813	4,355	542	14.2%	543	1,019
Community & Social Service	10,241	11,603	1,362	13.3%	1,362	2,261
Legal	3,776	4,017	241	6.4%	246	666
Education, Training, & Library	31,721	34,809	3,088	9.7%	3,092	6,890
Arts, Design, Sports, & Media	8,540	9,409	869	10.2%	926	2,226
Healthcare Practitioners & Technical	35,503	41,097	5,594	15.8%	5,600	7,027
Healthcare Support	20,964	25,102	4,138	19.7%	4,152	2,916
Protective Service	10,777	11,299	522	4.8%	546	2,834
Food Preparation & Serving Related	43,673	49,422	5,749	13.2%	5,759	16,946
Building & Grounds:						
Cleaning & Maintenance	17,941	19,439	1,498	8.3%	1,541	3,229
Personal Care & Service	17,581	20,654	3,073	17.5%	3,076	4,151
Sales & Related	48,505	53,617	5,112	10.5%	5,232	15,001
Office and Administrative Support	79,181	84,280	5,099	6.4%	6,080	17,015
Farming, Fishing, & Forestry	718	721	3	0.4%	10	216
Construction & Extraction	18,541	21,295	2,754	14.9%	2,755	4,115
Installation, Maintenance, & Repair	16,894	18,364	1,470	8.7%	1,544	3,804
Production	30,221	31,191	970	3.2%	1,697	5,830
Transportation & Material Moving	23,739	26,350	2,611	11.0%	2,670	5,827