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# Employment Bulletin

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## Rhode Island's Unemployment Rate Drops to 11.8 percent in August

- ◆ RI's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate for August was 11.8 percent, down one-tenth of a percentage point from July and the sixth consecutive over-the-month drop.
- ◆ RI's August unemployment rate is up one-tenth of a percentage point from last year's figure of 11.7 percent.
- ◆ The national rate was 9.6 percent, up one-tenth of a percentage point from July but down one-tenth from the previous year.
- ◆ In August 2010, Rhode Island had the 4th highest unemployment rate in the nation, trailing Nevada (14.4%), Michigan (13.1%) and California (12.4%).
- ◆ The August 2010 unemployment rate increased in twenty-seven states, including Connecticut (+0.2). Thirteen states, including Massachusetts (-0.2), New Hampshire (-0.1), Maine (-0.1) and Rhode Island (-0.1) saw their rates decrease. Vermont was unchanged. In all, thirteen 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 August 2010—Connecticut 9.1 percent, Massachusetts 8.8 percent, Maine 8.0 percent, Vermont 6.0 percent and New Hampshire 5.7 percent.
- ◆ The number of employed RI residents totaled 504,600 in August 2010, reflecting a decrease of 900 from the previous month. Between August 2009 and August 2010, the number of employed RI residents grew by 2,800.
- ◆ In August, the number of unemployed Rhode Island residents decreased by 800 to 67,500. From August 2009 to August 2010, the number of unemployed residents increased by 900.

## Rhode Island High-Tech Industries Fare Well During Recession

High technology offers overall economic growth and the creation of well-paying jobs. The economic impact and addition of well-paying jobs is what has state and local governments vying for high-tech firms.

The Bureau of Labor Statistics has defined industries that employ a larger than average portion of technology-oriented occupations as "high-tech" industries. Industries that employ five times the average portion (25% or more) are considered *level 1* "high tech" industries.

In 2006, pre-recession, *level 1* high-tech companies employed an average of 20,607 private sector workers in Rhode Island. Employment in the high-tech industries increased to 21,090 in 2009, a gain of 483 (+2.3%) high-tech workers. In comparison, total statewide private employment decreased by 7.2 percent, or 29,882 jobs, during this recession period.

In 2009, high-tech workers in Rhode Island earned \$70,940, a decrease of \$5,361 (-7.0%) from the \$76,300 earned in 2006. High-tech private sector workers earned \$29,620 more in 2009 than the 2009 statewide private sector average of \$41,320.

The Computer Systems Design & Related Services industry employed the most high-tech workers, employing 5,191 workers in 2009, while Software Publishers were the highest paid high-tech industry workers averaging \$91,982.

Nationally, the United States lost 15,718 (-0.3%) high-tech jobs between 2006 and 2009. In general, high-tech industries in the New England region outperformed the nation in terms of job growth during the recession. The six-state region added 10,627 (+2.6%) high-tech jobs during this period. Massachusetts (+10,703) added the most high-tech jobs followed by New Hampshire (+720) and Vermont (+583). High-tech employment losses were reported in Connecticut (-1,293) and Maine (-812) between 2006 and 2009.

### Seasonally Adjusted Labor Force Statistics

(in thousands)

	Rhode Island			United States		
	Aug 10	Jul 10	Aug 09	Aug 10	Jul 10	Aug 09
Civilian Labor Force	572.1	573.8	568.3	154,110	153,560	154,426
Resident Employment	504.6	505.5	501.8	139,250	138,960	139,433
Unemployment	67.5	68.3	66.6	14,860	14,599	14,993
Unemployment Rate	11.8%	11.9%	11.7%	9.6%	9.5%	9.7%

On a percentage basis, Rhode Island's (+2.3%) high-tech industry cluster outperformed Maine (-4.6%), Connecticut (-1.7%) and New Hampshire (+2.0%), as well as the nation which lost 0.3 percent of its high-tech industry workforce.

## Rhode Island Jobs Increase by 300 in August

In August, Rhode Island nonfarm payroll employment increased by 300 to 452,000 from the revised July employment level of 451,700. All job gains were in the private sector, marking four consecutive months of job growth in the private sector. Government employment remained unchanged.

Construction employment increased by 900 in August, with the largest gains occurring in specialty trade contractors, notably in foundation, structure and building exterior contractors. Health Care & Social Assistance added 400 jobs over the month, with growth reported in ambulatory health care services and in hospitals.

Transportation & Utilities, Financial Activities and Professional & Business services each added 300 jobs in August, while employment in Retail Trade employment added 200 jobs. Several sectors reported no change from July, including Arts, Entertainment & Recreation; Other Services; Information; and Government.

Monthly job gains were offset by losses in four industry sectors: Manufacturing (-1,200), Accommodations & Food Services (-400), Educational Services (-300) and Wholesale Trade (-200). In Manufacturing, fewer-than-average seasonal shutdowns reported in July resulted in fewer-than-expected manufacturing workers returning to the payroll in August; this resulted in a seasonally adjusted job loss of 1,200 in that sector.

August 2010 employment was down 4,200 (-0.9%) from August 2009, with job declines reported in several economic sectors including Retail Trade (-2,100), Professional & Business Services (-1,400), Manufacturing (-1,300) and Wholesale Trade (-900). Smaller over-the-year losses were noted in Arts, Entertainment & Recreation (-500), Educational Services (-400), Government (-300), Information (-100) and Financial Activities (-100).

### Establishment Employment in Rhode Island Seasonally Adjusted

	Net Change From				
	Aug-10	Jul-10	Aug-09	Jul-10	Aug-09
<b>Total Nonfarm</b>	<b>452.0</b>	<b>451.7</b>	<b>456.2</b>	<b>0.3</b>	<b>-4.2</b>
Natural Resources & Mining	0.3	0.3	0.2	0.0	0.1
Construction	17.1	16.2	16.7	0.9	0.4
Manufacturing	39.5	40.7	40.8	-1.2	-1.3
Wholesale Trade	15.0	15.2	15.9	-0.2	-0.9
Retail Trade	44.7	44.5	46.8	0.2	-2.1
Transportation & Utilities	10.4	10.1	10.0	0.3	0.4
Information	9.9	9.9	10.0	0.0	-0.1
Financial Activities	30.6	30.3	30.7	0.3	-0.1
Professional & Business Services	50.5	50.2	51.9	0.3	-1.4
Educational Services	23.4	23.7	23.8	-0.3	-0.4
Health Care & Social Assistance	78.1	77.7	76.9	0.4	1.2
Arts, Entertainment & Recreation	7.3	7.3	7.8	0.0	-0.5
Accommodation & Food Services	41.4	41.8	41.3	-0.4	0.1
Other Services	22.6	22.6	21.9	0.0	0.7
Government	61.2	61.2	61.5	0.0	-0.3

<b>Manufacturing Employment in Rhode Island Not Seasonally Adjusted</b>					
	Employment				
	(in thousands)			Net Change From:	
	Aug 10	Jul 10	Aug 09	Jul 10	Aug 09
<b>Manufacturing</b>	<b>39.8</b>	<b>39.1</b>	<b>41.0</b>	<b>700</b>	<b>-1200</b>
<b>Durable Goods</b>	<b>25.2</b>	<b>24.5</b>	<b>26.2</b>	<b>700</b>	<b>-1000</b>
Fabricated Metal Product Mfg.	5.4	5.2	5.6	200	-200
Computer & Electronic Product Mfg.	3.8	3.8	3.8	0	0
Miscellaneous Manufacturing	6.2	5.9	6.8	300	-600
Jewelry & Silverware	4.0	3.7	4.5	300	-500
<b>Non-Durable Goods</b>	<b>14.6</b>	<b>14.6</b>	<b>14.8</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>-200</b>
Chemical Manufacturing	2.9	2.9	3.0	0	-100

Six sectors—Health Care & Social Assistance (+1,200), Other Services (+700), Construction (+400), Transportation & Utilities (+400), Accommodation & Food Services (+100) and Natural Resources & Mining (+100)—added jobs over the year.

**MANUFACTURING:** In August 2010, production workers in the Manufacturing sector earned \$14.76 per hour. The average hourly production wage was up four cents from July 2010 and up 69 cents from August 2009. Manufacturing employees worked an average of 38.9 hours per week in August, up four-tenths of an hour from July, and up an hour and six-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](http://www.dlt.ri.gov/lmi/ces.htm). Current month's figures are preliminary and subject to change.*



## 2018 Projections Now Available!

The Labor Market Information unit has just released the 2008 – 2018 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 40,000 (+7.8%) jobs during the 2008-2018 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; Professional, Scientific & Technical Services; Educational Services; Retail Trade and Accommodation & Food 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 where necessary skills are learned on-the-job account for 60 percent of Rhode Island’s 2008 employment and will account for over half of the new jobs projected for the 2008- 2018 period. Jobs where the minimum education requirement is a college degree (associate degree or higher) are expected to account for 38 percent of the new jobs projected for the 2008- 2018 period.

The 2008 -2018 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
- ◆ Jobs Requiring College Degrees
- ◆ Jobs Requiring On-the-Job Training
- ◆ Jobs Requiring Vocational Training or Work Experience

## Characteristics of the Insured Unemployed

A total of 17,809 individuals were eligible to collect “regular” Unemployment Insurance benefits in August 2010, down 4,612 (-20.6%) from the 22,421 collecting these benefits in August 2009. In addition, 9,721 individuals collected Emergency Unemployment Compensation and 8,661 collected Extended Benefits. In all, 52.9 percent of Rhode Island’s unemployed workers were eligible to collect unemployment benefits in August.

Of the 18,753 individuals collecting “regular” Unemployment Insurance benefits, 27.1 percent faced long-term unemployment (defined as collecting unemployment insurance for fifteen weeks or more), down from 31.3 percent in August 2009.

On an industry basis, 12.0 percent (2,136) of the State’s insured unemployed workers came from the Accommodation & Food Services sector. There were also 1,995 individuals with an attachment to the Health Care & Social Assistance sector, accounting for 11.2 percent of all insured unemployed workers. An additional 11.0 percent (1,963) of those collecting UI benefits in August had worked in the Manufacturing sector. Large numbers of insured unemployed were also reported in Retail Trade (1,907), Transportation & Warehousing (1,642) and Construction (1,544). 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, August 2010			
	Total	Long-Term	Percent Long-Term
<b>Total</b>	<b>17,809</b>	<b>4,830</b>	<b>27.1%</b>
Male	7,581	2,307	30.4%
Female	10,228	2,523	24.7%
<b>Selected Industries</b>	<b>17,809</b>	<b>4,830</b>	<b>27.1%</b>
Construction	1,544	444	28.8%
Manufacturing	1,963	699	35.6%
Wholesale Trade	611	272	44.5%
Retail Trade	1,907	954	50.0%
Transportation & Warehousing	1,642	100	6.1%
Information	217	80	36.9%
Finance & Insurance	781	260	33.3%
Real Estate	375	144	38.4%
Professional & Tech. Services	865	284	32.8%
Administrative & Waste Services	1,263	272	21.5%
Educational Services	851	63	7.4%
Health Care & Social Assistance	1,995	553	27.7%
Arts, Entertainment & Recreation	278	67	24.1%
Accommodation & Food Services	2,136	310	14.5%
Other Services	571	173	30.3%
Public Administration	277	38	13.7%

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

	Aug 10	Jul 10	Aug 09	Prev. Year
All Items	218.3	218.0	215.8	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 21,600 advertisements for Rhode Island based jobs this month, an increase of 800 (+3.8%) from the July 2010 postings, and an increase of 6,200 (+40.3%) from the 15,400 advertised vacancies posted online in August 2009. There were an estimated 3.76 advertised vacancies for every 100 persons in Rhode Island's labor force.

**Help Wanted OnLine  
Advertised Job Vacancies**

	Aug 10	July 10	Aug 09
RI Vacancies	21,600	20,800	15,400
<b>Labor Demand Rate *</b>			
Rhode Island	3.76	3.63	2.71
US	2.76	2.80	2.19
Connecticut	3.65	3.80	2.61
Massachusetts	3.92	3.97	3.06
Maine	2.95	3.01	2.36
New Hampshire	3.29	3.34	2.40
Vermont	3.43	3.67	2.82
<b>Supply/Demand Rate **</b>			
Rhode Island	3.12	3.28	4.32
US	3.51	3.40	4.44

\* 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 August**

	2010	2009		2010	2009
Barrington	9.5	9.5	Newport	9.5	9.3
Bristol	10.4	10.7	North Kingstown	9.7	9.3
Burrillville	12.0	11.7	North Providence	12.1	11.5
Central Falls	14.7	14.3	North Smithfield	11.7	11.5
Charlestown	12.3	11.4	Pawtucket	13.0	13.7
Coventry	11.5	11.5	Portsmouth	9.6	9.1
Cranston	12.2	11.8	Providence	14.5	14.2
Cumberland	11.5	11.3	Richmond	9.7	8.1
East Greenwich	11.0	11.0	Scituate	11.8	12.7
East Providence	12.2	12.2	Smithfield	12.0	11.2
Exeter	11.3	9.8	South Kingstown	10.7	9.2
Foster	13.3	12.0	Tiverton	11.8	11.6
Glocester	9.6	9.9	Warren	10.3	11.9
Hopkinton	12.0	11.1	Warwick	11.4	10.7
Jamestown	9.0	7.4	West Greenwich	9.6	11.4
Johnston	12.2	12.2	West Warwick	13.2	12.2
Lincoln	11.3	11.1	Westerly	8.1	9.1
Little Compton	9.2	9.0	Woonsocket	12.8	13.4
Middletown	9.6	9.9			
Narragansett	7.6	6.7	State of R.I.	11.8	11.6
New Shoreham	4.7	3.8			

Nationally, there were an estimated 2.76 advertised vacancies for every 100 persons in labor force. Among the New England states, only Massachusetts (3.92) had a higher vacancy rate than Rhode Island.

There were an estimated 3.12 unemployed Rhode Island residents for every advertised job in August, down from 3.28 unemployed residents estimated per July advertisements. Nationally, there were 3.51 unemployed persons for every job opening advertised in August, up from 3.40 in July.

**Unemployment Insurance Claims Activity**

	Aug.	July	Aug.	% Change		Year-to-Date		
	2010	2010	2009	July 10	Aug. 09	2010	2009	% Change
<b>Regular Claims</b>								
Initial Claims	6,291	6,935	7,398	-9.3%	-15.0%	67,871	84,564	-19.7%
Number of Payments	77,817	67,526	98,920	15.2%	-21.3%	635,098	831,949	-23.7%
Amount of Payments (gross millions)	\$26.9	\$23.6	\$35.7	14.0%	-24.6%	\$232.1	\$307.3	-24.5%
Exhaustions (Final Payments)	2,345	2,070	3,450	13.3%	-32.0%	19,747	23,949	-17.5%
<b>Emergency Unemployment Compensation</b>						2010	Since Program Began	
Initial Claims	3,312	1,509	4,090	119.5%	-19.0%	23,675	85,923	
Number of Payments	49,556	39,661	61,142	24.9%	-18.9%	578,570	1,394,107	
Amount of Payments (gross millions)	\$18.4	\$14.7	\$22.4	25.2%	-17.9%	\$213.8	\$506.8	
<b>Extended Benefits</b>						2010	Since Program Began	
Initial Claims	459	3,971	869	-88.4%	-47.2%	12,885	23,895	
Number of Payments	43,841	32,747	15,546	33.9%	182.0%	114,727	245,183	
Amount of Payments (gross millions)	\$16.3	\$12.2	\$5.5	33.6%	196.4%	\$42.0	\$87.8	
Exhaustions (Final Payments)	704	192	842	266.7%	-16.4%	2,954	8,446	

## Rhode Island Employment & Wages 2009

	Average <u>Employment</u>	Total Wages <u>(thousands)</u>	Annual <u>Average Wage</u>
Total Private	387,824	\$16,024,776	\$41,320
High-Tech Industries	21,090	\$1,496,122	\$70,940

High-tech employment represented 5.4 percent of total statewide

## Rhode Island High-Tech Employment & Wages

High-Tech Industries	2009 Average Employment	Wages
Pharmaceutical & medicine manufacturing	1395	\$88,709
Computer & peripheral equipment mfg.	*	*
Communications equipment manufacturing	243	\$74,571
Semiconductor & electronic component mfg.	458	\$45,784
Electronic instrument manufacturing	2,994	\$68,599
Software publishers	891	\$91,982
Internet publishing & broadcasting	49	\$78,345
Wired telecommunications carriers	2,350	\$69,226
Telecommunications resellers	*	\$84,691
Data processing, hosting & related services	2,841	\$59,127
Architectural & engineering services	3,547	\$62,797
Computer systems design & related services	5,191	\$77,621
Scientific research & development services	604	\$74,677

\*Data not available due to the possibility of identification with an individual employer.