



Rhode Island's Unemployment Rate Drops to 10.6 percent in August

- ◆ RI's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate for August was 10.6 percent, down two-tenths of a percentage point from July.
- ◆ RI's August unemployment rate is down nine-tenths of a percentage points from last year's figure of 11.5 percent.
- ◆ The national rate was 9.1 percent, unchanged from July and down five-tenths from the previous year.
- ◆ In August 2011, Rhode Island had the 6th highest unemployment rate in the nation, trailing Nevada (13.4%), California (12.1%), Michigan (11.2%), South Carolina (11.1%) and Florida (10.7%).
- ◆ The August 2011 unemployment rate increased in twenty-six states, including Vermont (+0.2) and New Hampshire (+0.1). Twelve states, including Massachusetts (-0.2), Rhode Island (-0.2), Connecticut (-0.1) and Maine (-0.1) saw their rates decrease, while twelve states' rates were unchanged. In all, nine states have unemployment rates in the double digits, with two states having a rate of 12.0 percent or higher.
- ◆ Rates in other New England States for August 2011—Connecticut 9.0 percent, Maine 7.6 percent, Massachusetts 7.4 percent, Vermont 5.9 percent and New Hampshire 5.3 percent.
- ◆ The number of employed RI residents totaled 501,700 in August 2011, down 1,600 from the previous month. Between August 2010 and August 2011, the number of employed RI residents decreased by 8,200.
- ◆ In August, the number of unemployed Rhode Island residents decreased by 1,500 to 59,600. From August 2010 to August 2011, the number of unemployed residents decreased by 7,000.

2010 Annual City & Town Analysis

Rhode Island private employment averaged 387,005 in 2010, a decrease of 819 (-0.2%) jobs from 2009. Twenty-one of the thirty-nine Rhode Island cities and towns lost employment, while eighteen communities added employment over the year.

Private sector employment in Warwick experienced a loss of 1,537 (-3.5%) positions between 2009 and 2010, the largest decline of its kind among all Rhode Island communities, but at least partially explained by the affects of the flooding in March. The Retail Trade sector lost 669 (-8.6%) jobs from 2009, while Accommodation & Food Services (-228) and Construction (-161) also reported notable losses during this period. Lincoln (-668), Cranston (-369), East Providence (-306) and Pawtucket (-283) also reported relatively large employment declines between 2009 and 2010. Foster (-9.0%), Little Compton (-5.9%) and Lincoln (-5.4%) experienced the largest employment declines on a percentage basis.

Smithfield added 771 (+6.2%) private sector jobs between 2009 and 2010, the largest employment gain among Rhode Island's thirty-nine cities and towns. Large employment gains were also noted in Johnston (+251), Middletown (+195) and Westerly (+128) over the year. Exeter experienced the greatest employment increase on a percentage basis, increasing private sector jobs by 8.4 percent (+101) from 2009. Scituate (+7.3%), Smithfield (+6.2%), Richmond (+4.9) and Central Falls (+4.8) also enjoyed significant gains on a percentage basis during the period.

Private sector employees earned over \$16.4 billion in wages in 2010, an increase of \$434.5 million (+2.7%) from 2009. The average annual wage in the private sector increased by \$1,210 from the \$41,320 earned in 2009, to \$42,530 earned in 2010, a 2.9 percent increase. Employees working in West Greenwich earned an average annual wage of \$65,302 in 2010, the highest

private sector average annual wage among all Rhode Island cities and towns. Smithfield (\$59,812), Woonsocket (\$53,628), Portsmouth (\$51,161) and Providence (\$47,634) also reported sizable annual earnings in 2010.

Visit www.dlt.ri.gov/es202.htm for more information.

Seasonally Adjusted Labor Force Statistics

(in thousands)

	Rhode Island			United States		
	Aug 11	Jul 11	Aug 10	Aug 11	Jul 11	Aug 10
Civilian Labor Force	561.3	564.4	576.5	153,594	153,228	154,117
Resident Employment	501.7	503.3	509.9	139,627	139,296	139,267
Unemployment	59.6	61.1	66.6	13,967	13,931	14,849
Unemployment Rate	10.6%	10.8%	11.5%	9.1%	9.1%	9.6%

Rhode Island Jobs Decrease by 6,300 in August

Estimated nonfarm payroll in Rhode Island totaled 460,900 in August, reflecting a loss of 6,300 jobs from the revised July employment estimate of 467,200. Three sectors in particular—Retail Trade, Manufacturing and Accommodation & Food Services—each reported sizable losses of more than 1,000 each. The August loss represents the largest over-the-month job loss since January 1991 (-9,800). Despite the month's employment losses, RI-based jobs still increased by 4,000 from January to August of this year.

The Retail Trade sector lost 1,200 jobs over the month, with over half of these jobs resulting from temporary vacation closings and earlier than usual seasonal cutbacks. Other employment declines in this sector are attributable to losses in building materials; garden equipment and supply dealers; and food and beverage stores subsectors.

The 1,100 employment drop in the Manufacturing sector was the result of changes in the traditional July Manufacturing shut-down period. With fewer than average seasonal shutdowns being reported in July, less manufacturing workers were added back to the August payroll, resulting in distorted gains and losses in the seasonally adjusted numbers for those two months.

Employment in the Accommodation and Food Services sector also fell by 1,100 over the month, mainly due to losses in both full-service and limited-service restaurant establishments within the food services and drinking places subsector.

Employment in the Information sector fell by 900 jobs in August, with many telecommunication workers being on strike and, therefore, off the company payrolls. Also in August, the Professional & Business Services sector fell by 900 as losses were reported by temporary help agencies along with the accounting, tax preparation, bookkeeping, and payroll services, as well as the advertising, public relations, and related services industry groups. Smaller losses were noted in the Educational Services (-400), Construction (-400), Transportation & Warehousing (-300), Financial Activities (-300) and Health Care & Social Assistance (-300) sectors.

Wholesale Trade (+400) and Government (+200) were the only two sectors to report job gains in August, while employment within the Arts, Entertainment & Recreation; Other Services; and Natural Resources & Mining sectors remained unchanged.

Over the year, employment was up 400 (+0.1%) from August 2010, with job gains reported in seven economic sectors. Retail Trade (+1,900), Wholesale Trade (+700), Health Care & Social Assistance (+600), Professional & Business Services (+600), Other Services (+500),

Manufacturing (+500) and Accommodation & Food Services (+400) all reported over-the-year gains.

Educational Services and Natural Resources & Mining employment remained even over the year. From August 2010 to August 2011, however, Government employment was down 1,600, as were Financial Activities (-1,000), Construction (-900), Information (-800), Arts, Entertainment & Recreation (-400) and Transportation & Warehousing (-100).

MANUFACTURING: In August 2011, production workers in the Manufacturing sector earned \$16.97 per hour. The average hourly production wage was up 37 cents from July 2011 and up \$2.20 from August 2010. Manufacturing employees worked an average of 38.6 hours per week in August, down six-tenths of an hour over the month, and down two-tenths of an hour over the year.

Establishment Employment in Rhode Island Seasonally Adjusted

	Net Change From				
	Aug-11	Jul-11	Aug-10	Jul-11	Aug-10
Total Nonfarm	460.9	467.2	460.5	-6.3	0.4
Natural Resources & Mining	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.0	0.0
Construction	15.0	15.4	15.9	-0.4	-0.9
Manufacturing	40.8	41.9	40.3	-1.1	0.5
Wholesale Trade	16.7	16.3	16.0	0.4	0.7
Retail Trade	49.0	50.2	47.1	-1.2	1.9
Transportation & Utilities	9.9	10.2	10.0	-0.3	-0.1
Information	9.4	10.3	10.2	-0.9	-0.8
Financial Activities	29.6	29.9	30.6	-0.3	-1.0
Professional & Business Services	53.8	54.7	53.2	-0.9	0.6
Educational Services	23.9	24.3	23.9	-0.4	0.0
Health Care & Social Assistance	78.9	79.2	78.3	-0.3	0.6
Arts, Entertainment & Recreation	7.3	7.3	7.7	0.0	-0.4
Accommodation & Food Services	42.9	44.0	42.5	-1.1	0.4
Other Services	22.9	22.9	22.4	0.0	0.5
Government	60.6	60.4	62.2	0.2	-1.6

Manufacturing Employment in Rhode Island Not Seasonally Adjusted

	Employment				
	(in thousands)			Net Change From:	
	Aug 11	Jul 11	Aug 10	Jul 11	Aug 10
Manufacturing	41.0	40.2	40.5	800	500
Durable Goods	26.2	25.8	25.8	400	400
Fabricated Metal Product Mfg.	5.6	5.4	5.6	200	0
Computer & Electronic Product Mfg.	3.7	3.7	3.8	0	-100
Miscellaneous Manufacturing	6.2	6.0	6.5	200	-300
Jewelry & Silverware	3.9	3.7	4.2	200	-300
Non-Durable Goods	14.8	14.4	14.7	400	100
Chemical Manufacturing	2.9	2.9	2.9	0	0

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.



RI Manufacturing Sector Shows Signs of Improvement

The latest data from the Quarterly Census of Employment and Wages (QCEW) program reported that Rhode Island manufacturing employment increased in the first quarter of 2011 when compared to the first quarter 2010.

For the first time since August 1986, a time when manufacturing was the backbone of the local economy, the Manufacturing sector posted a year-over-year monthly employment gain. In January 2011, the Manufacturing sector employed 40,170 workers, 193 (+0.5%) more workers than January 2010. In August 1986 the Manufacturing sector gained 185 (+0.2%) jobs when compared to August 1985.

The January 2011 year-over-year monthly job gain was followed by gains of 165 (+0.4%) in February and 372 (+0.9%) in March. The last time the Manufacturing sector posted an over-the-year quarterly job gain was in the second quarter of 1986.

In the first quarter of 2011, the Manufacturing sector averaged 243 more jobs when compared to the first quarter of 2010.

The significance of the 2011 over-the-year quarterly gain in manufacturing is marked by the fact that the Manufacturing sector has lost on average 3,060 jobs in the first quarter going as far back as the first quarter of 1986.

Between the first quarter 2010 and the first quarter 2011, the plastics and rubber products manufacturing (+168), machinery manufacturing (+151) and food manufacturing (+72) subsectors reported the largest over-the-year job gains within the Manufacturing sector. In all, thirteen manufacturing subsectors experienced job gains during this period, while eight manufacturing subsectors reported job declines.

Second quarter 2011 QCEW data will be made available in December 2011. For more QCEW information or data please visit <http://www.dlt.ri.gov/lmi/es202.htm>.

Characteristics of the Insured Unemployed

A total of 16,007 individuals were eligible to collect “regular” Unemployment Insurance benefits in August 2011, down 1,802 (-10.1%) from the 17,809 collecting these benefits in August 2010. In addition, 13,324 individuals collected Emergency Unemployment Compensation and 1,315 collected Extended Benefits. In all, 53.1 percent of Rhode Island’s unemployed workers were eligible to collect unemployment benefits in August.

Of the 16,007 individuals collecting “regular” Unemployment Insurance benefits, 24.4 percent faced long-term unemployment (defined as collecting unemployment insurance for fifteen weeks or more), down from 27.1 percent in August 2010.

On an industry basis, 13.6 percent (2,179) of the State’s insured unemployed workers came from the Health Care & Social Assistance sector. There were also 2,065 individuals with an attachment to the Accommodation & Food Services sector, accounting for 12.9 percent of all insured unemployed workers. An additional 10.7 percent (1,714) of those collecting UI benefits in August had worked in the Manufacturing sector. Large numbers of insured unemployed were also reported in Transportation & Warehousing (1,620), Retail Trade (1,515) and Administrative & Waste Services (1,345). For more information, go to www.dlt.ri.gov/lmi/uiadmin/characteristics.htm.

Characteristics of the Insured Unemployed, August 2011

	Percent		
	Total	Long-Term	Long-Term
Total	16,007	3,908	24.4%
Male	6,663	1,887	28.3%
Female	9,344	2,021	21.6%
Selected Industries	16,007	3,908	24.4%
Construction	1,081	272	25.2%
Manufacturing	1,714	581	33.9%
Wholesale Trade	456	168	36.8%
Retail Trade	1,515	574	37.9%
Transportation & Warehousing	1,620	80	4.9%
Information	190	47	24.7%
Finance & Insurance	668	248	37.1%
Real Estate	245	63	25.7%
Professional & Tech. Services	718	249	34.7%
Administrative & Waste Services	1,345	310	23.0%
Educational Services	789	72	9.1%
Health Care & Social Assistance	2,179	581	26.7%
Arts, Entertainment & Recreation	206	50	24.3%
Accommodation & Food Services	2,065	269	13.0%
Other Services	574	186	32.4%
Public Administration	196	38	19.4%

Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers

				% Change
	Aug 11	Jul 11	Aug 10	Prev. Year
All Items	226.5	225.9	218.3	3.8%

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 16,400 advertisements for Rhode Island based jobs this month, a decrease of 1,700 (-9.4%) from the July 2011 postings, and down 2,000 (-10.9%) from the advertised vacancies posted online in August 2010. There were an estimated 2.90 advertised vacancies for every 100 persons in Rhode Island's labor force.

Help Wanted OnLine Advertised Job Vacancies

	Aug 11	Jul 11	Aug 10
RI Vacancies	16,400	18,100	18,400
<i>Labor Demand Rate *</i>			
Rhode Island	2.90	3.21	3.20
US	2.60	2.71	2.41
Connecticut	2.97	3.17	3.12
Massachusetts	3.48	3.71	3.31
Maine	2.76	2.84	2.56
New Hampshire	2.81	3.15	2.73
Vermont	3.29	3.39	3.00
<i>Supply/Demand Rate **</i>			
Rhode Island	3.64	3.38	3.62
US	3.50	3.35	4.00

* 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 August

	2011	2010		2011	2010
Barrington	8.1	9.2	Newport	8.2	9.6
Bristol	9.0	10.1	North Kingstown	7.9	9.7
Burrillville	10.0	11.7	North Providence	10.2	12.0
Central Falls	13.9	14.6	North Smithfield	8.7	11.4
Charlestown	10.5	12.1	Pawtucket	12.1	12.9
Coventry	10.1	11.2	Portsmouth	8.1	9.4
Cranston	10.2	12.0	Providence	13.4	14.3
Cumberland	9.3	11.2	Richmond	7.2	9.5
East Greenwich	9.1	11.0	Scituate	8.7	11.3
East Providence	10.2	12.0	Smithfield	9.7	11.8
Exeter	7.7	11.0	South Kingstown	8.8	10.6
Foster	10.9	13.1	Tiverton	10.2	11.5
Glocester	7.3	9.6	Warren	10.0	10.1
Hopkinton	10.2	11.7	Warwick	9.4	11.3
Jamestown	7.2	8.9	West Greenwich	9.4	9.4
Johnston	10.7	12.0	West Warwick	10.5	13.1
Lincoln	9.3	11.1	Westerly	7.5	7.9
Little Compton	8.5	9.3	Woonsocket	11.3	12.6
Middletown	8.5	9.4			
Narragansett	6.7	7.5	State of R.I.	10.2	11.7
New Shoreham	5.4	4.7	United States	9.1	9.5

Nationally, there were an estimated 2.60 advertised vacancies for every 100 persons in labor force. Among the New England states, Massachusetts (3.48), Vermont (3.29) and Connecticut (2.97) all had a higher vacancy rate than Rhode Island.

There were an estimated 3.64 unemployed Rhode Island residents for every advertised job in August, up from 3.38 unemployed residents estimated per July advertisements. Nationally, there were 3.50 unemployed persons for every job opening advertised in August, up from 3.35 in July.

Unemployment Insurance Claims Activity

	Aug.	July	Aug.	% Change		Year to Date		
	2011	2011	2010	July 11	Aug. 10	2011	2010	% Change
Regular Claims								
Initial Claims	6,808	7,120	6,291	-4.4%	8.2%	61,625	67,871	-9.2%
Number of Payments	70,078	58,383	77,817	20.0%	-9.9%	561,068	635,098	-11.7%
Amount of Payments (gross millions)	\$24.2	\$20.1	\$26.9	20.4%	-10.0%	\$203.2	\$232.1	-12.5%
Exhaustions (Final Payments)	2,144	1,771	2,345	21.1%	-8.6%	17,812	19,747	-9.8%
Emergency Unemployment Compensation						2011	Since Program Began	
Initial Claims	2,829	2,474	3,312	14.3%	-14.6%	23,386	121,635	
Number of Payments	66,596	54,495	49,556	22.2%	34.4%	485,807	2,097,566	
Amount of Payments (gross millions)	\$24.5	\$20.1	\$18.4	21.9%	33.2%	\$178.7	\$765.5	
Extended Benefits						2011	Since Program Began	
Initial Claims	577	296	459	94.9%	25.7%	3,609	32,363	
Number of Payments	6,767	5,799	43,841	16.7%	-84.6%	77,235	412,951	
Amount of Payments (gross millions)	\$2.4	\$2.1	\$16.3	14.3%	-85.3%	\$28.3	\$150.1	
Exhaustions (Final Payments)	500	223	704	124.2%	-29.0%	4,424	20,122	

Rhode Island Department of Labor & Training
Quarterly Census of Employment & Wages - Private Sector
RI City and Town - Annual 2010

<u>Municipality</u>	<u>Establishments</u>	<u>Average Employment</u>	<u>Total Wages</u>	<u>Average Annual Wage</u>
Rhode Island	34,403	387,005	\$16,459,231,937	\$42,530
Barrington	451	2,260	\$71,356,183	\$31,574
Bristol	585	6,033	\$204,864,147	\$33,957
Burrillville	274	2,213	\$72,411,655	\$32,721
Central Falls	235	2,040	\$63,407,824	\$31,082
Charlestown	229	1,244	\$43,365,064	\$34,859
Coventry	699	6,274	\$201,041,406	\$32,044
Cranston	2,409	26,337	\$999,662,048	\$37,957
Cumberland	823	7,663	\$299,216,767	\$39,047
East Greenwich	713	6,053	\$241,344,169	\$39,872
East Providence	1,423	19,368	\$781,807,593	\$40,366
Exeter	174	1,307	\$52,431,107	\$40,116
Foster	90	313	\$8,608,055	\$27,502
Glocester	191	1,135	\$33,636,746	\$29,636
Hopkinton	186	1,066	\$40,440,225	\$37,936
Jamestown	194	917	\$33,483,084	\$36,514
Johnston	1,055	9,727	\$397,484,461	\$40,864
Lincoln	735	11,757	\$548,577,517	\$46,660
Little Compton	145	495	\$15,037,146	\$30,378
Middletown	738	10,148	\$410,869,833	\$40,488
Narragansett	464	3,323	\$90,429,433	\$27,213
Newport	1,215	12,352	\$404,011,546	\$32,708
New Shoreham	198	725	\$23,475,540	\$32,380
North Kingstown	978	12,948	\$558,235,943	\$43,114
North Providence	709	6,320	\$205,859,119	\$32,573
North Smithfield	359	3,332	\$111,028,149	\$33,322
Pawtucket	1,499	21,649	\$883,915,131	\$40,829
Portsmouth	515	4,945	\$252,990,324	\$51,161
Providence	5,488	91,817	\$4,373,601,124	\$47,634
Richmond	147	1,184	\$33,677,932	\$28,444
Scituate	239	911	\$26,678,955	\$29,285
Smithfield	812	13,251	\$792,565,387	\$59,812
South Kingstown	992	9,543	\$338,546,614	\$35,476
Tiverton	372	2,028	\$65,842,552	\$32,467
Warren	364	3,389	\$107,793,995	\$31,807
Warwick	3,155	42,205	\$1,644,221,811	\$38,958
Westerly	852	8,493	\$288,778,988	\$34,002
West Greenwich	192	2,706	\$176,707,623	\$65,302
West Warwick	595	6,731	\$273,602,676	\$40,648
Woonsocket	830	13,603	\$729,506,670	\$53,628
Statewide *	3,096	9,203	\$558,717,395	\$60,710

* Statewide - employment in multiple towns, at unknown locations, or outside RI.

Data compiled May 2011 at the RI DLT Labor Market Information office.

The data is subject to revisions & variations in sequences of rounding & averaging.

Source: Quarterly Census of Employment and Wages, developed through a cooperative program between the State of Rhode Island and the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics

A Product of: **Rhode Island Department of Labor and Training, Labor Market Information**

Employment changes may be influenced by non-economic code changes resulting from NAICS revisions and/or changes in employers' reporting method.

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