

EMPLOYMENT BULLETIN

September 2012



Rhode Island's Unemployment Rate Drops to 10.7 percent in August

- ◆ RI's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate for August was 10.7 percent, down one-tenth of a percentage point from July.
- ◆ RI's August unemployment rate was down seven-tenths of a percentage point from last August's figure of 11.4 percent.
- ◆ The national rate was 8.1 percent, down two-tenths of a percentage point from July and down one percentage point from the previous year.
- ◆ In August 2012, Rhode Island had the 2nd highest unemployment rate in the nation, trailing Nevada (12.1%).
- ◆ The August 2012 unemployment rate increased in twenty-six states, including Connecticut (+0.5), Vermont (+0.3), New Hampshire (+0.3) and Massachusetts (+0.2). Twelve states, including Rhode Island (-0.1), saw their rates decrease, while twelve states' rates, including Maine, were unchanged. In all, three states have unemployment rates in the double digits.
- ◆ Rates in other New England States for August 2012—Connecticut 9.0 percent, Maine 7.6 percent, Massachusetts 6.3 percent, New Hampshire 5.7 percent and Vermont 5.3 percent.
- ◆ The number of employed RI residents totaled 495,500 in August 2012, up 600 from the previous month. Between August 2011 and August 2012, the number of employed RI residents decreased by 3,300.
- ◆ Over the month, the number of unemployed Rhode Island residents decreased by 700 to 59,200 in August 2012. From August 2011 to August 2012, the number of unemployed residents decreased by 5,000.

Average Wages for over 500 Rhode Island Based Occupations Available on LMI Website

Wages for Rhode Island based jobs averaged \$22.78 per hour in May 2011, according to the latest Occupational Employment Statistics survey. This average hourly wage was the third highest in New England, and slightly higher than the national average of \$21.74 per hour. In New England, Massachusetts led the states with the highest average hourly wage of \$26.32, followed by Connecticut at \$25.40 per hour. New Hampshire was in fourth place with average hourly earnings of \$21.74. Vermont and Maine had the lowest hourly wages in the region at \$20.71 and \$19.32, respectively, and were the only two New England states to have average hourly wages lower than the national average.

In all, thirty-nine occupations paid average wages in excess of \$100,000 a year. Included among the highest paid occupations are physicians and surgeons, several top-line management positions, post-secondary teachers of various subject mater, dentists, pharmacists and water vessel captains, mates and pilots. For the majority of these occupations a bachelor's or advanced degree (doctorial or professional) is generally required. Approximately five percent of the state's workforce is employed in these top paying occupations.

Fourteen occupations paid average hourly wages of less than \$10.00 per hour. Included among the lowest paid occupations are food preparation and serving workers, cashiers, production worker helpers and bicycle repairers. For the majority of these occupations there is no minimum educational requirements (i.e. less than high school). Approximately seven percent of the state's workforce is employed in these low paying occupations.

Seasonally Adjusted Labor Force Statistics (in thousands)

	Rhode Island			United States		
	Aug 12	Jul 12	Aug 11	Aug 12	Jul 12	Aug 11
Civilian Labor Force	554.7	554.8	563.0	154,645	155,013	153,674
Resident Employment	495.5	494.9	498.8	142,101	142,220	139,754
Unemployment	59.2	59.9	64.2	12,544	12,794	13,920
Unemployment Rate	10.7%	10.8%	11.4%	8.1%	8.3%	9.1%

Occupational wage rates for over 500 occupations are available on the Labor Market Information website at www.dlt.ri.gov/lmi/oes.htm.

Rhode Island Jobs Increase by 1,100 in August

Estimated nonfarm payroll in Rhode Island totaled 456,900 in August, reflecting a gain of 1,100 jobs from the revised July employment estimate of 455,800. The August employment increase marks the first employment increase in three months.

The August preliminary estimates indicate that the Accommodation & Food Services sector added 900 jobs over the month, with job gains being reported in local restaurants, hotels and area recreational parks and vacation camps.

The Health Care & Social Assistance sector added 800 jobs over the month, the first over-the-month increase since March 2012 and the largest since September 1997 (+800). Notable employment gains within the sector were reported in the ambulatory health care services subsector.

An increase of 400 jobs was reported in the Educational Services sector as some academic programs in higher education resumed earlier than in previous years. The Construction sector added 300 jobs over the month, marking three consecutive monthly gains which totaled 1,200 jobs. Five other employment sectors also added jobs in August, including Financial Activities (+200), Other Services (+200), Transportation & Utilities (+100), Information (+100) and Wholesale Trade (+100).

The Retail Trade sector lost 600 jobs over the month due to reported employment losses in motor vehicle and parts dealers and general merchandise stores. The Professional & Business Services lost 500 jobs over the month due to job losses in waste service and a seasonal drop in employment services. Manufacturing employment also declined by 500, due to job losses in durable goods. Smaller losses were reported in the Government (-300) and Arts, Entertainment & Recreation (-100) sectors.

Over the year, total nonfarm employment decreased by 2,800. Job losses were reported in seven economic sectors, including Health Care & Social Assistance (-1,800), Retail Trade (-1,600), Professional & Business Services (-1,500), Government (-1,400), Other Services (-400), Manufacturing (-200) and Wholesale Trade (-100).

Accommodation & Food Services (+1,800), Construction (+1,200), Information (+800), Financial Activities (+200), Arts,

Entertainment & Recreation (+100) and Transportation & Utilities (+100) all reported over-the-year job gains.

Employment in Educational Services and Mining & Logging remained unchanged over the year.

MANUFACTURING: In August 2012, production workers in the Manufacturing sector earned \$18.25 per hour. The average hourly production wage was down 32 cents from July 2012 and up \$1.32 from August 2011. Manufacturing employees worked an average of 39.8 hours per week in August, up six-tenths over the month and up one hour and two-tenths from a year ago.

Establishment Employment in Rhode Island					
Seasonally Adjusted					
	Net Change From				
	Aug-12	Jul-12	Aug-11	Jul-12	Aug-11
Total Nonfarm	456.9	455.8	459.7	1.1	-2.8
Natural Resources & Mining	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.0	0.0
Construction	16.6	16.3	15.4	0.3	1.2
Manufacturing	40.8	41.3	41.0	-0.5	-0.2
Wholesale Trade	16.3	16.2	16.4	0.1	-0.1
Retail Trade	44.2	44.8	45.8	-0.6	-1.6
Transportation & Utilities	10.6	10.5	10.5	0.1	0.1
Information	10.4	10.3	9.6	0.1	0.8
Financial Activities	30.8	30.6	30.6	0.2	0.2
Professional & Business Services	52.5	53.0	54.0	-0.5	-1.5
Educational Services	25.7	25.3	25.7	0.4	0.0
Health Care & Social Assistance	76.6	75.8	78.4	0.8	-1.8
Arts, Entertainment & Recreation	7.4	7.5	7.3	-0.1	0.1
Accommodation & Food Services	43.4	42.5	41.6	0.9	1.8
Other Services	22.1	21.9	22.5	0.2	-0.4
Government	59.3	59.6	60.7	-0.3	-1.4

Manufacturing Employment in Rhode Island Not Seasonally Adjusted

	Employment				
	(in thousands)			Net Change From :	
	Aug 12	Jul 12	Aug 11	Jul 12	Aug 11
Manufacturing	41.2	40.4	41.1	800	100
Durable Goods	26.8	26.4	26.4	400	400
Fabricated Metal Product Mfg.	5.4	5.3	5.7	100	-300
Computer & Electronic Product Mfg.	3.5	3.5	3.6	0	-100
Miscellaneous Manufacturing	6.4	6.2	6.6	200	-200
Jewelry & Silverware	4.0	3.8	4.2	200	-200
Non-Durable Goods	14.4	14.0	14.7	400	-300
Chemical Manufacturing	2.9	2.9	2.8	0	100

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.

Upcoming DLT Events



Choosing a Retirement Solution for Your Small Business

Starting a retirement savings plan can be easier than most business owners think; many programs provide tax benefits to both employers and their employees. US Dept. of Labor and IRS representatives will be conducting this informative workshop.

Space is limited. Advanced registration required at <https://uiclaims.state.ri.us/knowledge/kipinterests.aspx>

Wednesday, November 7, 2012
10:00 AM to 12:00 Noon
Cost: Free
Dept. of Labor and Training
Room 73-1
1511 Pontiac Ave.
Cranston, RI

Job Fair for Multi-Cultural Workers

The Business Workforce Center and Workforce Solutions of Providence/Cranston are joining together for a Multi-Cultural job fair on Wednesday, October 31 from 1:00 pm to 4:00 pm. at **Roger Williams Casino**, 1000 Elmwood Ave, Cranston, RI 02907

Some of the Employers include:

- * Electric Boat
- * Citizens Banks
- * Fed Ex
- * Co Worx Staffing
- * First Student
- * Atrion Networking Corp
- * HiTech Group
- * Hope Valley Industries
- * Thielsch Engineering
- * New England Farm Workers Council
- * Elmwood Health Center
- * Charter CARE Health Partners
- * Panera Bread LLC
- * Home Instead Senior Care

Employers: If you would like to participate in the Job Fair, visit <http://www.dlt.ri.gov/bwc/MulticultWkrsJobFair.htm> to register

Workshop: Learn How to Successfully Attend a Job Fair

Please sign up to attend Workshops to help you prepare and present yourself to employers.

Dates and Time:

Call to sign up today!

(401) 462-8900

- > Tuesday, Oct. 16 @ 1:00 pm
- > Wednesday, Oct. 17 @ 1:00 pm
- > Thursday, Oct. 18 @ 1:00 pm
- > Tuesday, Oct. 23 @ 1:00 pm
- > Wednesday, Oct. 24 @ 1:00 pm
- > Thursday, Oct. 25 @ 1:00 pm

Where: **networkri Providence**

1 Reservoir Avenue, Providence, RI

Characteristics of the Insured Unemployed

A total of 13,137 individuals were eligible to collect “regular” Unemployment Insurance benefits in August 2012, down 2,870 (-17.9%) from the 16,007 collecting these benefits in August 2011. In addition, 8,831 individuals collected Emergency Unemployment Compensation. In all, 35.4 percent of Rhode Island’s unemployed workers were eligible to collect unemployment benefits in August.

Of the 13,137 individuals collecting “regular” Unemployment Insurance benefits, 24.6 percent faced long-term unemployment (defined as collecting unemployment insurance for fifteen weeks or more), up from 24.4 percent in August 2011.

On an industry basis, 14.7 percent (1,934) of the State’s insured unemployed workers came from the Accommodation & Food Services sector. There were also 1,662 individuals with an attachment to the Health Care & Social Assistance sector, accounting for 12.7 percent of all insured unemployed workers. An additional 11.6 percent (1,525) of those collecting UI benefits in August had worked in the Transportation & Warehousing sector. Large numbers of insured unemployed were also reported in Manufacturing (1,263), Retail Trade (1,144) and Administrative & Waste Services (956). For more information, go to www.dlt.ri.gov/lmi/uiadmin/characteristics.htm.

Characteristics of the Insured Unemployed, August 2012

	Total	Long-Term	Percent Long-Term
Total	13,137	3,227	24.6%
Male	5,669	1,571	27.7%
Female	7,468	1,656	22.2%
Selected Industries	13,137	3,227	24.6%
Construction	952	223	23.4%
Manufacturing	1,263	418	33.1%
Wholesale Trade	472	178	37.7%
Retail Trade	1,144	405	35.4%
Transportation & Warehousing	1,525	62	4.1%
Information	239	74	31.0%
Finance & Insurance	482	219	45.4%
Real Estate	195	63	32.3%
Professional & Tech. Services	613	188	30.7%
Administrative & Waste Services	956	271	28.3%
Educational Services	517	58	11.2%
Health Care & Social Assistance	1,662	534	32.1%
Arts, Entertainment & Recreation	138	32	23.2%
Accommodation & Food Services	1,934	219	11.3%
Other Services	516	159	30.8%
Public Administration	127	30	23.6%

Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers

				% Change
	Aug 12	Jul 12	Aug 11	Prev. Year
All Items	230.4	229.1	226.5	1.7%

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 18,500 advertisements for Rhode Island based jobs this month, a decrease of 800 (-4.1%) from the July 2012 postings, and up 1,100 (+6.3%) from the advertised vacancies posted online in August 2011. There were an estimated 3.33 advertised vacancies for every 100 persons in Rhode Island's labor force.

Help Wanted OnLine Advertised Job Vacancies

	Aug 12	July 12	Aug 11
RI Vacancies	18,500	19,300	17,400
<i>Labor Demand Rate *</i>			
Rhode Island	3.33	3.47	3.10
US	3.02	3.09	2.77
Connecticut	3.37	3.40	3.12
Massachusetts	4.07	4.19	3.73
Maine	2.95	2.99	2.97
New Hampshire	3.40	3.46	3.07
Vermont	3.25	3.40	3.54
<i>Supply/Demand Rate **</i>			
Rhode Island	3.20	3.11	3.69
US	2.68	2.67	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 August

	2012	2011		2012	2011
Barrington	7.8	8.8	Newport	8.2	8.8
Bristol	9.2	9.9	North Kingstown	7.9	8.7
Burrillville	11.0	10.9	North Providence	10.0	11.4
Central Falls	13.2	14.8	North Smithfield	10.1	9.4
Charlestown	11.8	11.8	Pawtucket	12.9	13.4
Coventry	10.0	11.1	Portsmouth	8.2	8.8
Cranston	10.8	11.3	Providence	12.9	14.4
Cumberland	9.9	10.4	Richmond	7.8	7.8
East Greenwich	9.3	10.4	Scituate	11.0	9.8
East Providence	11.2	11.4	Smithfield	10.5	10.4
Exeter	9.7	8.6	South Kingstown	9.2	9.5
Foster	10.7	11.9	Tiverton	10.6	10.7
Glocester	8.3	8.5	Warren	9.8	11.1
Hopkinton	10.7	10.8	Warwick	9.8	10.5
Jamestown	7.3	8.1	West Greenwich	10.0	10.4
Johnston	10.7	11.7	West Warwick	11.0	11.6
Lincoln	9.7	10.6	Westerly	8.3	8.4
Little Compton	8.3	9.3	Woonsocket	12.2	12.8
Middletown	8.5	9.3			
Narragansett	6.4	7.4	State of R.I.	10.6	11.3
New Shoreham	5.5	5.6	United States	8.2	9.1

Nationally, there were an estimated 3.02 advertised vacancies for every 100 persons in labor force. Among the New England states, Massachusetts (4.07), New Hampshire (3.40) and Connecticut (3.37) each had a higher vacancy rate than Rhode Island.

There were an estimated 3.20 unemployed Rhode Island residents for every advertised job in August, down from 3.11 unemployed residents estimated per July advertisements. Nationally, there were 2.68 unemployed persons for every job opening advertised in August, up from 2.67 in July.

Unemployment Insurance Claims Activity

	Aug.	Jul.	Aug.	% Change		Year-to-Date		
	2012	2012	2011	Jul.12	Aug.11	2012	2011	% Change
Regular Claims								
Initial Claims	5,426	7,457	6,808	-27.2%	-20.3%	60,445	61,625	-1.9%
Number of Payments	53,082	65,029	70,078	-18.4%	-24.3%	513,696	561,068	-8.4%
Amount of Payments (gross millions)	\$18.4	\$22.8	\$24.2	-19.3%	-24.0%	\$188.7	\$203.2	-7.1%
Exhaustions (Final Payments)	1,406	1,959	2,144	-28.2%	-34.4%	15,788	17,812	-11.4%
Emergency Unemployment Compensation						2012	Since Program Began	
Initial Claims	1,908	2,119	2,829	-10.0%	-32.6%	18,893	151,246	
Number of Payments	36,966	46,548	66,596	-20.6%	-44.5%	377,518	2,695,186	
Amount of Payments (gross millions)	\$13.8	\$17.3	\$24.5	-20.2%	-43.7%	\$139.0	\$985.5	

Highest and Lowest Paying Jobs in Rhode Island

All Occupations	Estimated Employment	Hourly Wage	Annual Wage	Educational Requirement
	450,980	\$22.78	\$47,382	n/a
<i>Best Paying Occupations</i>				
29-1062 Family and General Practitioners	160	\$95.79	\$199,243	Doctoral or Professional
11-1011 Chief Executives	810	\$92.06	\$191,485	Bachelor's Degree
29-1067 Surgeons	200	\$90.00	\$187,200	Doctoral or Professional
29-1066 Psychiatrists	160	\$87.82	\$182,666	Doctoral or Professional
29-1065 Pediatricians, General	230	\$84.44	\$175,635	Doctoral or Professional
29-1069 Physicians and Surgeons, All Other	2,130	\$81.81	\$170,165	Doctoral or Professional
29-1063 Internists, General	NA	\$69.18	\$143,894	Doctoral or Professional
11-1021 General and Operations Managers	4,630	\$68.29	\$142,043	Associate Degree
11-2031 Public Relations and Fundraising Managers	240	\$67.08	\$139,526	Bachelor's Degree
11-3111 Compensation and Benefits Managers	80	\$63.77	\$132,642	Bachelor's Degree
11-9041 Architectural and Engineering Managers	470	\$63.67	\$132,434	Bachelor's Degree
29-1021 Dentists, General	240	\$63.55	\$132,184	Doctoral or Professional
11-2022 Sales Managers	770	\$62.33	\$129,646	Bachelor's Degree
25-1063 Economics Teachers, Postsecondary	110	\$129,040	\$129,040	Doctoral or Professional
11-3031 Financial Managers	2,570	\$60.70	\$126,256	Bachelor's Degree
11-9021 Construction Managers	420	\$59.93	\$124,654	Associate Degree
53-5021 Captains, Mates, and Pilots of Water Vessels	120	\$59.42	\$123,594	Bachelor's Degree
11-3121 Human Resources Managers	320	\$58.34	\$121,347	Bachelor's Degree
11-3021 Computer and Information Systems Managers	1,130	\$58.22	\$121,098	Bachelor's Degree
11-9121 Natural Sciences Managers	100	\$57.03	\$118,622	Bachelor's Degree
19-2012 Physicists	70	\$55.32	\$115,066	Doctoral or Professional
11-9033 Education Administrators, Postsecondary	610	\$54.11	\$112,549	Master's Degree
11-9111 Medical and Health Services Managers	1,260	\$53.97	\$112,258	Bachelor's Degree
29-2091 Orthotists and Prosthetists	40	\$53.97	\$112,258	Master's Degree
17-2072 Electronics Engineers, Except Computer	1,080	\$52.56	\$109,325	Bachelor's Degree
29-1051 Pharmacists	1,100	\$52.16	\$108,493	Doctoral or Professional
25-1051 Atmospheric, Earth, Marine, and Space Sciences Teachers, Postsecondary	90	\$107,650	\$107,650	Doctoral or Professional
11-3061 Purchasing Managers	190	\$51.73	\$107,598	Bachelor's Degree
15-1111 Computer and Information Research Scientists	370	\$51.61	\$107,349	Doctoral or Professional
11-3131 Training and Development Managers	160	\$51.52	\$107,162	Bachelor's Degree
29-1071 Physician Assistants	220	\$51.44	\$106,995	Master's Degree
25-1071 Health Specialties Teachers, Postsecondary	270	\$106,730	\$106,730	Doctoral or Professional
11-3011 Administrative Services Managers	690	\$51.21	\$106,517	High School or Equivalent
11-3051 Industrial Production Managers	430	\$51.16	\$106,413	Bachelor's Degree
25-1032 Engineering Teachers, Postsecondary	220	\$103,140	\$103,140	Doctoral or Professional
17-2061 Computer Hardware Engineers	250	\$49.57	\$103,106	Bachelor's Degree
11-2021 Marketing Managers	700	\$48.65	\$101,192	Bachelor's Degree
25-1021 Computer Science Teachers, Postsecondary	120	\$101,010	\$101,010	Doctoral or Professional
25-1061 Anthropology and Archeology Teachers, Postsecondary	40	\$100,660	\$100,660	Doctoral or Professional
<i>Lowest Paying Occupations</i>				
35-3022 Counter Attendants, Cafeteria, Food Concession, and Coffee Shop	4,060	\$8.98	\$18,678	Less than High School
35-9011 Dining Room and Cafeteria Attendants and Bartender Helpers	NA	\$9.10	\$18,928	Less than High School
35-9021 Dishwashers	2,770	\$9.11	\$18,949	Less than High School
35-9099 Food Preparation and Serving Related Workers, All Other	80	\$9.14	\$19,011	Less than High School
35-9031 Hosts and Hostesses, Restaurant, Lounge, and Coffee Shop	1,460	\$9.20	\$19,136	Less than High School
35-3021 Combined Food Preparation and Serving Workers, Including Fast Food	8,360	\$9.25	\$19,240	Less than High School
35-2011 Cooks, Fast Food	990	\$9.31	\$19,365	Less than High School
51-9198 Helpers-Production Workers	1,560	\$9.67	\$20,114	Less than High School
39-3091 Amusement and Recreation Attendants	570	\$9.70	\$20,176	Less than High School
49-3091 Bicycle Repairers	NA	\$9.77	\$20,322	High School or Equivalent
39-3031 Ushers, Lobby Attendants, and Ticket Takers	260	\$9.78	\$20,342	Less than High School
33-9092 Lifeguards, Ski Patrol, and Other Recreational Protective Service Workers	220	\$9.88	\$20,550	High School or Equivalent
41-2011 Cashiers	10,730	\$9.89	\$20,571	Less than High School
39-6011 Baggage Porters and Bellhops	110	\$9.96	\$20,717	High School or Equivalent