

EMPLOYMENT BULLETIN

September 2013



Rhode Island's Unemployment Rate Increases to 9.1 percent in August

- ◆ RI's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate for August was 9.1 percent, up two-tenths of percentage point from July.
- ◆ RI's August unemployment rate was down one and three-tenths percentage points from last August's figure of 10.4 percent.
- ◆ The national rate was 7.3 percent, down one-tenth of a percentage point from July and down eight-tenths of a percentage point from the previous year.
- ◆ In August 2013, Rhode Island had the third highest unemployment rate in the nation, behind Nevada and Illinois.
- ◆ The August 2013 unemployment rate increased in eighteen states, including Rhode Island (+0.2) and Maine (+0.1). Fifteen states' rates, including Vermont, Massachusetts and Connecticut, were unchanged, while seventeen states' rates, including New Hampshire (-0.1), decreased. In all, four states have unemployment rates at over above nine percent.
- ◆ Rates in other New England states for August 2013—Connecticut 8.1 percent, Massachusetts 7.2 percent, Maine 7.0 percent, New Hampshire 5.0 percent and Vermont 4.6 percent.
- ◆ The number of employed RI residents totaled 502,200 in August 2013, down 4,400 from the previous month. Between August 2012 and August 2013, the number of employed RI residents decreased by 700.
- ◆ Over the month, the number of unemployed Rhode Island residents increased by 800 to 50,100. From August 2012 to August 2013, the number of unemployed residents decreased by 8,200.

Educational Attainment in Rhode Island - 2012

Not long ago, most people were able to get a 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:

- Greater rates of workforce participation
- Reduced reliance on government assistance programs
- Readily transferable skills
- Higher annual earnings
- Better job opportunities

According to the US Census Bureau, 2012 American Community Survey 1-Year Estimates, 37.1 percent of the US population aged 25 or older has an associate's degree or higher, while Americans who did not graduate high school or receive a high school equivalency comprise 13.7 percent of the population. In comparison, 40.3 percent of Rhode Islanders have an associate degree or higher while 13.9 percent of Rhode Islanders do not have a high school diploma or equivalency.

- ◆ Rhode Island ranks fifth in New England in the percentage of adults (31.4%) who have obtained at least a Bachelor's degree, but is above the national average (29.1%).
- ◆ Rhode Island (86.1%) ranks last in New England and below the national average (86.4%) in the percentage of adults (25+ years) who have at least graduated from high school.

Seasonally Adjusted Labor Force Statistics (in thousands)

	Rhode Island			United States		
	Aug 13	Jul 13	Aug 12	Aug 13	Jul 13	Aug 12
Civilian Labor Force	552.2	556.0	561.2	155,486	155,798	154,647
Resident Employment	502.2	506.6	502.9	144,170	144,285	142,164
Unemployment	50.1	49.3	58.3	11,316	11,514	12,483
Unemployment Rate	9.1%	8.9%	10.4%	7.3%	7.4%	8.1%

- ◆ Rhode Island (12.8%) ranks fourth in New England in the percentage of adults with a graduate or professional degree.

(See enclosed label page for more information.)

Rhode Island Jobs Increase by 2,000 in August

Estimated nonfarm payroll in Rhode Island totaled 468,100 in August, reflecting a gain of 2,000 jobs from the July revised employment estimate of 466,100.

The August boost to the economy was fueled by a gain of 700 jobs in the Retail Trade sector as clothing stores, grocery stores and health and personal care stores increased their employment levels. The Educational Services and Accommodation & Food Services sectors each added 400 jobs from July. Private area colleges and trade schools prepared for the start of another school year, while local restaurants added additional staff.

The Government sector added 300 jobs over-the-month as federal, state and local subsectors each added 100 jobs. In addition, August employment gains were reported in the Other Services (+300), Transportation & Utilities (+200), Professional & Business Services (+200), Construction (+100) and Health Care & Social Assistance sectors (+100).

The Manufacturing sector trimmed 300 jobs in August. Smaller employment losses were reported in the Wholesale Trade (-200), Financial Activities (-200) and Arts, Entertainment & Recreation (-100) sectors. Employment remained unchanged in the Information and Mining & Logging sectors.

Throughout New England, three of the six states added jobs since July. Massachusetts led the region by adding 7,500 jobs followed by Rhode Island (+2,000) and Vermont (+400). On the losing end of employment, Connecticut lost 6,000 jobs in August followed by New Hampshire (-1,000) and Maine (-500).

Nationally, payroll employment increased by 169,000 or 0.1 percent over-the-month. Rhode Island (+0.4%) outpaced the nation in terms of percentage growth in August.

Establishment Employment in Rhode Island					
Seasonally Adjusted					
	Net Change From				
	Aug-13	Jul-13	Aug-12	Jul-13	Aug-12
Total Nonfarm	468.1	466.1	466.4	2.0	1.7
Total Private	407.7	406.0	406.4	1.7	1.3
Natural Resources & Mining	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.0	0.0
Construction	15.1	15.0	15.8	0.1	-0.7
Manufacturing	40.0	40.3	39.6	-0.3	0.4
Wholesale Trade	16.8	17.0	16.9	-0.2	-0.1
Retail Trade	47.3	46.6	46.5	0.7	0.8
Transportation & Utilities	10.8	10.6	10.9	0.2	-0.1
Information	9.1	9.1	9.7	0.0	-0.6
Financial Activities	33.1	33.2	31.6	-0.1	1.5
Professional & Business Services	58.4	58.2	56.3	0.2	2.1
Educational Services	24.8	24.4	25.5	0.4	-0.7
Health Care & Social Assistance	78.6	78.5	78.7	0.1	-0.1
Arts, Entertainment & Recreation	8.4	8.5	7.6	-0.1	0.8
Accommodation & Food Services	43.0	42.6	44.3	0.4	-1.3
Other Services	22.1	21.8	22.8	0.3	-0.7
Government	60.4	60.1	60.0	0.3	0.4

In August, nonfarm payroll employment increased in 29 states, decreased in 20 states and remained unchanged in one state. Nevada (+1.0%) and Louisiana (+0.7%) reported the largest over-the-month percentage increase in jobs, while Connecticut (-0.4%) and Georgia (-0.4%) reported the largest percentage decrease in jobs.

Since the start of the year, employment in the New England region grew by 0.8 percent, while employment within the nation increased by 1.1 percent. Employment in Rhode Island increased by 0.5 percent during this period.

Manufacturing Employment in Rhode Island					
Not Seasonally Adjusted					
	Employment				
	(in thousands)			Net Change From:	
	Aug 13	Jul 13	Aug 12	Jul 13	Aug 12
Manufacturing	40.3	39.6	39.8	700	500
Durable Goods	25.7	25.4	25.3	300	400
Fabricated Metal Product Mfg.	5.6	5.4	5.6	200	0
Computer & Electronic Product Mfg.	3.3	3.3	3.4	0	-100
Transportation Equipment Mfg.	3.8	3.8	3.6	0	200
Miscellaneous DG Manufacturing	5.6	5.4	5.9	200	-300
Jewelry & Silverware	3.4	3.2	3.7	200	-300
Non-Durable Goods	14.6	14.2	14.5	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.

Rhode Island Employer Size Class



The Rhode Island economy is characterized by a large number of small companies employing a small number of workers. In March 2013, there were 32,069 private businesses in the state employing 384,865 workers.

Nearly half the employers (49.5%) in the state have between one and four employees; however, they employ just 7.8 percent of the workforce. The largest employers, those with 1,000 or more employees, numbered 29 (0.1%) and employed 15.9 percent of Rhode Island's private sector workforce.

- Smaller employers, those with less than 20 employees, represented 90.2 percent of all employers in the state and employed one quarter (25.0%) of the workforce.
- Mid-sized companies (20 to 99 workers) employed 27.1 percent of the private sector employment and accounted for 8.1 percent of the firms.
- There are just 556 (1.7%) firms in the state employing 100 or more workers. Together, these firms employ nearly half (47.9%) of the state's private sector employees.

The state's largest firms (1,000 or more employees) are found in the Health Care & Social Assistance (7), Private Education (5), Finance & Insurance (5), Retail Trade (5), Manufacturing (2), Management of Companies & Enterprises (2), Transportation & Warehousing (1), Information (1) and Administrative & Waste Services (1) sectors.

Private Sector Employment

March 2013

Size Class	Employers*		Employment	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Total:	32,069	100.0%	384,865	100.0%
Zero	5,822	18.2%	0	0.0%
1-4	15,860	49.5%	29,980	7.8%
5-9	4,500	14.0%	29,572	7.7%
10-19	2,732	8.5%	36,716	9.5%
20-49	1,944	6.1%	59,059	15.3%
50-99	655	2.0%	45,366	11.8%
100-249	383	1.2%	57,924	15.1%
250-499	99	0.3%	32,736	8.5%
500-999	45	0.1%	32,461	8.4%
1000+	29	0.1%	61,051	15.9%

*Based on size of firm

Characteristics of the Insured Unemployed

A total of 12,693 individuals were eligible to collect "regular" Unemployment Insurance benefits in August 2013, down 444 (-3.4%) from the 13,137 collecting these benefits in August 2012. In addition, 6,230 individuals collected Emergency Unemployment Compensation. In all, 36.1 percent of Rhode Island's unemployed workers were eligible to collect unemployment benefits in August.

Of the 12,693 individuals collecting "regular" Unemployment Insurance benefits, 21.6 percent faced long-term unemployment (defined as collecting unemployment insurance for fifteen weeks or more), down from 24.6 percent in August 2012.

On an industry basis, 15.0 percent (1,910) of the State's insured unemployed workers came from the Accommodation & Food Services sector. There were also 1,660 individuals with an attachment to the Health Care & Social Assistance sector, accounting for 13.1 percent of all insured unemployed workers. An additional 12.7 percent (1,618) of those collecting UI benefits in August had worked in the Transportation & Warehousing sector. Large numbers of insured unemployed were also reported in Manufacturing (1,141), Retail Trade (1,129) and Administration & Waste Services (1,022). For more information, go to www.dlt.ri.gov/lmi/uiadmin/

Characteristics of the Insured Unemployed, August 2013

	Percent		
	Total	Long-Term	Long-Term
Total	12,693	2,747	21.6%
Male	5,164	1,278	24.7%
Female	7,529	1,469	19.5%
Selected Industries	12,693	2,747	21.6%
Construction	694	164	23.6%
Manufacturing	1,141	339	29.7%
Wholesale Trade	446	148	33.2%
Retail Trade	1,129	350	31.0%
Transportation & Warehousing	1,618	61	3.8%
Information	132	40	30.3%
Finance & Insurance	437	159	36.4%
Real Estate	179	38	21.2%
Professional & Tech. Services	647	191	29.5%
Administrative & Waste Services	1,022	240	23.5%
Educational Services	532	61	11.5%
Health Care & Social Assistance	1,660	490	29.5%
Arts, Entertainment & Recreation	158	40	25.3%
Accommodation & Food Services	1,910	175	9.2%
Other Services	472	115	24.4%
Public Administration	125	27	21.6%

Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers

				% Change
	Aug 13	Jul 13	Aug 12	Prev. Year
All Items	233.9	233.6	230.4	1.5%

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 18,700 advertisements for Rhode Island based jobs this month, an increase of 600 (+3.3%) from the July 2013 postings, and up 900 (+5.1%) from the advertised vacancies posted online in August 2012. There were an estimated 3.37 advertised vacancies for every 100 persons in Rhode Island's labor force.

Help Wanted OnLine Advertised Job Vacancies

	Aug. 13	Jul. 13	Aug. 12
RI Vacancies	18,700	18,100	17,800
<i>Labor Demand Rate *</i>			
Rhode Island	3.37	3.25	3.18
US	3.19	3.14	3.04
Connecticut	3.58	3.54	3.45
Massachusetts	4.26	4.15	4.10
Maine	3.09	2.89	2.97
New Hampshire	3.59	3.28	3.26
Vermont	3.33	3.13	3.12
<i>Supply/Demand Rate **</i>			
Rhode Island	2.68	2.73	3.28
US	2.27	2.36	2.66

* 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

	2013	2012		2013	2012
Barrington	6.8	7.5	Newport	8.7	8.2
Bristol	8.0	9.1	North Kingstown	7.3	7.9
Burrillville	10.0	10.8	North Providence	9.8	9.9
Central Falls	12.1	13.1	North Smithfield	8.4	9.8
Charlestown	9.0	11.7	Pawtucket	11.1	12.7
Coventry	8.6	10.0	Portsmouth	7.6	8.1
Cranston	9.5	10.6	Providence	11.5	12.7
Cumberland	8.6	9.6	Richmond	6.9	7.6
East Greenwich	8.9	9.6	Scituate	10.4	10.9
East Providence	9.5	11.0	Smithfield	8.3	10.3
Exeter	9.2	9.6	South Kingstown	9.0	9.3
Foster	8.4	10.5	Tiverton	9.3	10.6
Glocester	7.2	8.3	Warren	9.0	10.2
Hopkinton	9.8	10.5	Warwick	8.7	9.8
Jamestown	6.5	7.2	West Greenwich	8.7	9.7
Johnston	10.5	10.5	West Warwick	9.5	10.8
Lincoln	9.0	9.5	Westerly	8.0	8.3
Little Compton	7.4	8.4	Woonsocket	11.2	12.1
Middletown	7.5	8.4			
Narragansett	6.0	6.5	State of R.I.	9.4	10.4
New Shoreham	6.5	5.4	United States	7.3	8.2

Nationally, there were an estimated 3.19 advertised vacancies for every 100 persons in labor force. Among the New England states, Massachusetts (4.26), New Hampshire (3.59) and Connecticut (3.58) had higher vacancy rates than Rhode Island.

There were an estimated 2.68 unemployed Rhode Island residents for every advertised job in August, down from 2.73 unemployed residents estimated per July advertisements. Nationally, there were 2.27 unemployed persons for every job opening advertised in August, down from 2.36 in July.

Unemployment Insurance Claims Activity

	Aug.	Jul.	Aug.	% Change		Year to Date		
	2013	2013	2012	Jul. 13	Aug. 12	2013	2012	% Change
Regular Claims								
Initial Claims	5,386	7,375	5,426	-27.0%	-0.7%	55,858	60,445	-7.6%
Number of Payments	47,327	53,700	53,082	-11.9%	-10.8%	440,462	513,696	-14.3%
Amount of Payments (gross millions)	\$15.1	\$17.3	\$18.4	-12.7%	-17.9%	\$149.5	\$188.7	-20.8%
Exhaustions (Final Payments)	1,138	1,423	1,406	-20.0%	-19.1%	11,599	15,788	-26.5%
Emergency Unemployment Compensation						2013	Since Program Began	
Initial Claims	1,784	1,797	1,908	-0.7%	-6.5%	14,892	174,845	
Number of Payments	25,292	30,301	36,966	-16.5%	-31.6%	241,934	3,090,850	
Amount of Payments (gross millions)	\$8.0	\$9.7	\$13.8	-17.5%	-42.0%	\$84.2	\$1,127.5	

**Educational Attainment for the United States and New England
for Population Aged 25 Years and Older, 2012**

	RI	United States	New England	CT	ME	MA	NH	VT
Population (25 Years and Older)	712,271	208.7 million	10.0 million	2,457,978	947,017	4,556,609	919,883	434,948
Less than 9th Grade	6.4%	5.8%	4.2%	4.2%	3.0%	4.7%	2.4%	2.9%
9th to 12th Grade, No Diploma	7.5%	7.9%	5.9%	6.0%	5.5%	5.7%	5.8%	5.4%
High School Graduate, GED, or Alternative	27.9%	28.0%	27.9%	27.8%	34.8%	25.9%	29.4%	30.5%
Some College, No Degree	18.1%	21.3%	17.5%	17.6%	19.8%	16.8%	18.4%	16.4%
Associate's Degree	8.8%	8.0%	8.0%	7.4%	9.1%	7.6%	9.5%	9.0%
Bachelor's Degree	18.7%	18.2%	21.1%	20.5%	18.1%	22.2%	21.9%	21.9%
Graduate or Professional Degree	12.8%	10.9%	15.4%	16.6%	9.8%	17.1%	12.6%	13.9%
Not a High School Graduate or Equivalent	13.9%	13.7%	10.1%	10.2%	8.5%	10.4%	8.2%	8.3%
High School Graduate or Higher	86.1%	86.4%	89.9%	89.9%	91.6%	89.7%	91.8%	91.7%
Associate's Degree or Higher	40.3%	37.1%	44.5%	44.5%	37.0%	46.9%	44.0%	44.8%
Bachelor's Degree or Higher	31.4%	29.1%	36.5%	37.1%	28.0%	39.3%	34.6%	35.8%