



Employment Labor Market Information Bulletin



Dr. Lee H. Arnold
Director

Volume 13, No. 4

April 2001

The Unemployment Rate Rises, but Remains below the National Average

The Unemployment Rate

Mirroring the national trend, Rhode Island's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate increased over the month, rising 0.4 of a percentage point to 4.0 percent in March. Despite the upturn, the March figure compares favorably to the year ago estimate of 4.2 percent. The number of unemployed increased by 2,100 from February to March. Nationally, the unemployment rate for March rose 0.1 of a percentage point to 4.3 percent, its highest level since July 1999. Rhode Island's unemployment rate remained below the comparable national average for the sixth straight month. The number of unemployed Rhode Island residents declined by 1,000 from March 2000 to March 2001.

"Although the unemployment rate showed upward movement in March, the Rhode Island economy remains in good shape," said DLT Director Dr. Lee H. Arnold. "Our unemployment rate continues to reflect improvement over the year and is below the national average for the sixth month in a row, while the number of jobs in the State is up by 5,500 from a year ago."

Rhode Island Job Highlights (Over the Year, Unadjusted Figures)

Since March 2000, the number of jobs in Rhode Island has increased by 5,500 (1.2%) to 472,500. Annual growth was especially strong in Services and Trade, which added 3,100 and 2,900 jobs, respectively. Employment in Health Services was up by 1,600 over the year, accounting for more than half of the increase reported in the Services sector. All industry components in the Trade sector experienced over-the-year job growth with the largest increases reported in Restaurants (+ 500), Food Stores (+ 400) and Automotive Dealers (+ 400). Employment gains were also evident in Finance, Insurance & Real Estate (+ 500), Transportation & Public Utilities (+ 400), Contract Construction (+ 100) and Government (+ 100). In contrast, the Manufacturing sector posted an annual loss of 1,600 jobs. The largest factory cutbacks occurred in Jewelry/Silverware (-600), Fabricated Metals (-600) and Printing/Publishing (-500). These losses overshadowed employment gains in Electrical Machinery (+ 500) and Food & Beverage (+ 400). (Continued on Page 4)

Look What We've Been Up To...

During the months of March and April, the Department of Labor & Training's Employer Service Unit (ESU) has kept up a frantic pace organizing and attending job fairs, seminars and business expos. Rhode Island companies have received assistance with their staffing needs and the citizens of the state have been provided with a multitude of career opportunities. Below is a listing of organizations and companies that have benefited from the expertise of the ESU.

1. March 5th through 9th – Apex Job Fairs – Warwick & Pawtucket
2. March 13th – NE Manufacturers Expo – URI @ Kingston
3. March 21st – CCRI Career Expo – Lincoln
4. March 28th – Newport Chamber Expo – Hyatt Regency, Newport
5. March 28th & 29th – Ann & Hope Job Fair – Cumberland
6. April 3rd – ProJo Diversity Fair – Providence Convention Center
7. April 4th – Roger Williams University Career Fair – Bristol
8. April 5th – Tiverton Economic Development Group – Tiverton
9. April 5th & 6th – Ann & Hope Job Fair – Warwick
10. April 9th – Small Business Advocacy Council – Newport
11. April 11th & 12th – Greater Providence Business Expo – Providence Convention Ctr.
12. April 12th – Citadel Diversity Job Fair – Providence
13. April 18th – netWORKri IT/Financial Job Fair – 220 Elmwood Ave, Providence

The Employer Service Unit is an experienced group of professionals skilled in the area of job service and development. Whether your hiring needs are a few or many, call now and allow an Employer Service Representative in your geographical district to explain the many diverse and free services we offer – (401) 462-8724.

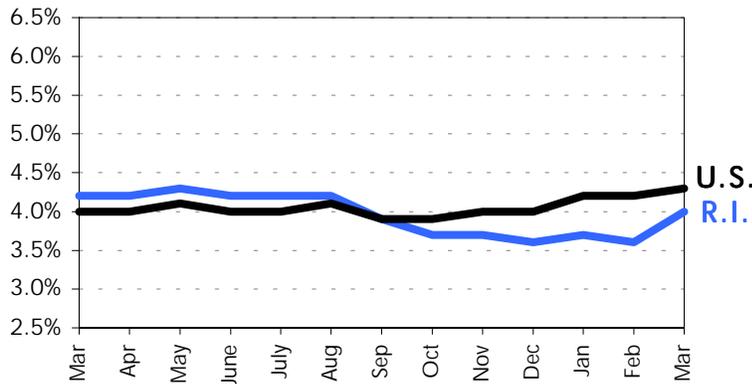
Rhode Island Labor Force Statistics* (in thousands)

	Unadjusted			Seasonally Adjusted		
	Mar 01	Feb 01	Mar 00	Mar 01	Feb 01	Mar 00
Civilian Labor Force	507.3	509.6	500.4	511.5	513.8	504.7
Resident Employment	485.7	485.6	477.7	491.2	495.5	483.3
Unemployment	21.6	24.0	22.7	20.4	18.3	21.4
Unemployment Rate	4.3%	4.7%	4.5%	4.0%	3.6%	4.2%

United States Labor Force Statistics (in thousands)

	Unadjusted			Seasonally Adjusted		
	Mar 01	Feb 01	Mar 00	Mar 01	Feb 01	Mar 00
Civilian Labor Force	141,751	141,238	140,501	141,868	141,751	140,705
Resident Employment	135,298	134,774	134,494	135,780	135,815	135,013
Unemployment	6,453	6,464	6,007	6,088	5,936	5,692
Unemployment Rate	4.6%	4.6%	4.3%	4.3%	4.2%	4.0%

Rhode Island & United States Unemployment Rates Seasonally Adjusted 2000-2001



City & Town Unadjusted Unemployment Rates

	Mar 01	Mar 00
Barrington	2.3	2.7
Bristol	3.9	3.9
Burrillville	4.5	5.2
Central Falls	7.9	5.7
Charlestown	5.4	5.7
Coventry	3.8	3.9
Cranston	3.9	4.3
Cumberland	4.1	3.9
East Greenwich	3.9	4.1
East Providence	4.5	5.3
Exeter	3.8	4.6
Foster	4.8	5.0
Glocester	3.3	4.2
Hopkinton	3.4	3.7
Jamestown	3.6	3.8
Johnston	4.9	5.4
Lincoln	3.8	4.1
Little Compton	3.8	3.6
Middletown	3.8	4.5
Narragansett	2.3	3.0
New Shoreham	14.5	19.1
Newport	4.7	5.6
North Kingstown	2.9	3.3
North Providence	4.0	4.4
North Smithfield	3.5	3.8
Pawtucket	5.3	4.8
Portsmouth	3.3	3.9
Providence	5.4	5.3
Richmond	1.7	1.7
Scituate	4.1	4.9
Smithfield	3.0	4.5
South Kingstown	3.3	3.8
Tiverton	5.1	5.3
Warren	3.8	4.7
Warwick	3.4	3.9
West Greenwich	4.1	4.9
West Warwick	4.7	5.4
Westerly	3.6	4.1
Woonsocket	4.9	5.0
State of R.I.	4.3	4.5

Unemployment Insurance Claims Activity

	Mar	Feb	Mar	% Change		Year to Date		
	2001	2001	2000	Feb 01	Mar 00	2001	2000	% Change
Initial Claims	7,366	8,438	5,690	-12.7%	29.5%	27,196	25,019	8.7%
Number of Payments	57,454	58,609	55,611	-2.0%	3.3%	180,385	183,176	-1.5%
Amount of Payments (gross millions)	\$16.4	\$16.6	\$13.9	-1.1%	17.5%	\$51.0	\$45.7	11.6%
Exhaustions (Final Payments)	1,049	899	1,144	16.7%	-8.3%	3,064	3,191	-4.0%
E.S. Fund Balance (millions)	\$263.0	\$277.6	\$237.7	-5.2%	10.7%			

*Current month figures are PRELIMINARY, prior month & year are REVISED. Totals may not add due to rounding. Labor Force statistics are compiled by Labor Market Information, in cooperation with the Bureau of Labor Statistics, U.S. Dept. of Labor.

For additional information, comments or suggestions, contact

Labor Market Information, Phone (401)462-8740, Fax: (401)462-8766, www.dlt.state.ri.us/lmi

NAICS The New Industrial Classification System

Our department is in the final stages of the North American Industry Classification System (NAICS) implementation. Industrial classification systems provide the structure for the collection and presentation of economic data. This new system, which replaces the Standard Industrial Classification (SIC) coding system, offers a much better picture of the economy of the twenty-first century. For the first time, detailed information will be available about many businesses and industries that were previously clustered together.

Survey forms were recently mailed to some 5,000 RI businesses for the purpose of obtaining information about the establishment's primary economic activity. If your company received a survey form, please complete the form and return it to the Labor Market Information unit, so that we may assign the proper NAICS code to your company.

If you have any questions about the survey or would like additional information about NAICS, call the LMI unit at 462-8760.

*The economic data we provide
depend on the information you supply.*

Total Establishment Employment in Rhode Island**

	Employment (in thousands)			Net Change From	
	Mar 01	Feb 01	Mar 00	Feb 01	Mar 00
TOTAL EMPLOYMENT	472.5	469.5	467.0	3000	5500
GOODS PRODUCING	89.2	88.7	90.7	500	-1500
Contract Construction	17.3	16.8	17.2	500	100
Manufacturing	71.9	71.9	73.5	-----	-1600
SERVICE PRODUCING	383.3	380.8	376.3	2500	7000
Trans. & Public Utilities	16.7	16.6	16.3	100	400
Trade (Wholesale & Retail)	107.2	107.0	104.3	200	2900
Wholesale	20.5	20.5	20.0	-----	500
Durables*	12.7	12.7	12.7	-----	-----
Nondurables*	7.8	7.8	7.3	-----	500
Retail	86.7	86.5	84.3	200	2400
Building & Garden Supplies*	2.3	2.2	2.2	100	100
General Merchandise	7.3	7.5	7.2	-200	100
Food Stores*	15.9	16.0	15.5	-100	400
Automotive Dealers	7.7	7.6	7.3	100	400
Apparel & Accessory Stores	4.5	4.6	4.2	-100	300
Furn., Home Furn., & Equipt.*	3.1	2.9	2.8	200	300
Eating and Drinking Places	30.4	29.9	29.9	500	500
Miscellaneous Retail	15.5	15.7	15.2	-200	300
Finance, Insurance & Real Estate	30.4	30.4	29.9	-----	500
Depository Institutions	8.9	9.0	8.7	-100	200
Services	163.7	162.0	160.6	1700	3100
Hotels & Other Lodging*	3.6	3.4	3.4	200	200
Business Services	29.1	28.4	29.1	700	-----
Auto & Misc. Repair*	5.4	5.4	5.2	-----	200
Amusement & Recreation	4.8	4.7	4.4	100	400
Health Services	52.4	52.5	50.8	-100	1600
Educational Services	19.5	19.0	19.5	500	-----
Social Services	15.9	16.0	15.6	-100	300
Government	65.3	64.8	65.2	500	100
Federal	10.4	10.4	10.6	-----	-200
State	18.3	18.3	18.5	-----	-200
Local	36.6	36.1	36.1	500	500
Education*	24.0	23.7	23.6	300	400
Non Education*	12.5	12.4	12.5	100	-----

* Publication of these industries is not approved by the Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS)

Establishment Employment, Hours and Earnings in Manufacturing Industries in Rhode Island

	EMPLOYMENT (In thousands)					PRODUCTION-WORKER AVERAGES					
				Net Change		Weekly Hours			Hourly Earnings		
	Mar 01	Feb 01	Mar 00	Feb 01	Mar 00	Mar 01	Feb 01	Mar 00	Mar 01	Feb 01	Mar 00
MANUFACTURING	71.9	71.9	73.5	-----	-1600	40.0	39.9	40.6	12.17	12.19	12.17
DURABLE MFG.	47.1	47.2	48.3	-100	-1200	40.0	39.9	40.3	11.99	12.01	11.95
Lumber/Furniture	2.9	2.9	2.8	-----	100	41.6	39.7	42.7	11.43	11.34	12.09
Stone-Clay-Glass	0.8	0.8	0.9	-----	-100	42.2	41.6	40.1	13.89	13.89	13.89
Primary Metals	3.8	3.9	4.2	-100	-400	40.9	40.4	41.2	12.92	12.91	12.74
Fabricated Metals	8.2	8.2	8.8	-----	-600	38.7	39.4	37.6	11.28	11.34	11.25
Nonelectrical Mach.	4.3	4.3	4.4	-----	-100	40.9	41.2	40.9	13.65	13.61	13.51
Electrical Mach.	5.9	5.9	5.4	-----	500	39.9	40.1	41.5	11.65	11.61	11.49
Trans. Equipment	3.5	3.5	3.3	-----	200	41.4	42.1	41.7	14.41	14.42	14.29
Instruments	5.4	5.5	5.6	-100	-200	38.1	38.2	42.3	12.76	12.77	12.74
Jewelry-Silverware	9.2	9.1	9.8	100	-600	39.4	38.8	39.8	10.52	10.52	10.47
Miscellaneous Mfg.	3.1	3.1	3.1	-----	-----	41.7	40.9	39.9	11.64	11.60	11.64
NONDURABLE MFG.	24.8	24.7	25.2	100	-400	40.1	39.8	41.2	12.51	12.55	12.59
Food Beverage	3.2	3.2	2.8	-----	400	40.4	42.0	38.1	11.37	11.36	11.48
Textiles	6.1	6.0	6.5	100	-400	40.9	40.1	41.8	10.88	10.90	10.79
Apparel	0.9	0.8	0.9	100	-----	38.5	38.0	40.1	9.34	9.32	9.30
Paper Products	2.0	2.0	2.0	-----	-----	39.3	38.0	38.9	12.08	12.08	12.04
Local Printing-Publishing	5.0	5.0	5.5	-----	-500	39.1	39.5	41.4	16.62	16.62	16.61
Chemical Products	2.3	2.3	2.1	-----	200	42.2	42.5	42.0	14.05	14.07	13.77
Rubber Products	0.4	0.5	0.4	-100	-----	39.1	41.6	44.5	12.94	12.99	13.03
Plastics Products	4.5	4.5	4.5	-----	-----	39.6	38.4	42.9	13.20	13.20	13.14
Leather Products	0.4	0.4	0.5	-----	-100	38.8	37.5	40.5	8.38	8.37	8.31

** Current month figures are PRELIMINARY, prior month & year are REVISED. Totals may not add due to rounding. Farmers, Self-employed, Domestic & Armed Services personnel are excluded from Establishment Employment figures.

Rhode Island Population by City and Town 1990 - 2000 Census Data

	1990 Population	2000 Population	Numeric Change	% Change
State	1,003,464	1,048,319	44,855	4.5%
Bristol County	48,859	50,648	1,789	3.7%
Barrington	15,849	16,819	970	6.1%
Bristol	21,625	22,469	844	3.9%
Warren	11,385	11,360	-25	-0.2%
Kent County	161,135	167,090	5,955	3.7%
Coventry	31,083	33,668	2,585	8.3%
East Greenwich	11,865	12,948	1,083	9.1%
Warwick	85,427	85,808	381	0.4%
West Warwick	29,268	29,581	313	1.1%
West Greenwich	3,492	5,085	1,593	45.6%
Newport County	87,194	85,433	-1,761	-2.0%
Jamestown	4,999	5,622	623	12.5%
Little Compton	3,339	3,593	254	7.6%
Middletown	19,460	17,334	-2,126	-10.9%
Newport	28,227	26,475	-1,752	-6.2%
Portsmouth	16,857	17,149	292	1.7%
Tiverton	14,312	15,260	948	6.6%
Providence County	596,270	621,602	25,332	4.2%
Burrillville	16,230	15,796	-434	-2.7%
Central Falls	17,637	18,928	1,291	7.3%
Cranston	76,060	79,269	3,209	4.2%
Cumberland	29,038	31,840	2,802	9.6%
East Providence	50,380	48,688	-1,692	-3.4%
Foster	4,316	4,274	-42	-1.0%
Glocester	9,227	9,948	721	7.8%
Johnston	26,542	28,195	1,653	6.2%
Lincoln	18,045	20,898	2,853	15.8%
North Providence	32,090	32,411	321	1.0%
North Smithfield	10,497	10,618	121	1.2%
Pawtucket	72,644	72,958	314	0.4%
Providence	160,728	173,618	12,890	8.0%
Scituate	9,796	10,324	528	5.4%
Smithfield	19,163	20,613	1,450	7.6%
Woonsocket	43,877	43,224	-653	-1.5%
Washington County	110,006	123,546	13,540	12.3%
Charlestown	6,478	7,859	1,381	21.3%
Exeter	5,461	6,045	584	10.7%
Hopkinton	6,873	7,836	963	14.0%
Narragansett	14,985	16,361	1,376	9.2%
New Shoreham	836	1,010	174	20.8%
North Kingstown	23,786	26,326	2,540	10.7%
Richmond	5,351	7,222	1,871	35.0%
South Kingstown	24,631	27,921	3,290	13.4%
Westerly	21,605	22,966	1,361	6.3%

Source: U.S. Bureau of the Census

Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers

	Mar 01	Feb 01	Mar 00	% Change Prev. Year
All Items	176.2	175.8	171.2	2.9%

Source: U.S. Dept. of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics

The Unemployment Rate Rises, but Remains below the National Average (Continued from Page 1)

Rhode Island Job Highlights (Over the Month, Unadjusted Figures)

The number of jobs in Rhode Island rose by 3,000 over the month mostly due to increases in Services and Government along with seasonal growth in Contract Construction.

Services – The Services sector added 1,700 jobs in March with the largest gains reported in Business Services (+700), Private Educational Services (+500) and Hotels & Other Lodging (+200).

Government – Government recorded a net gain of 500 jobs due entirely to increases in Local Government employment. State and Federal Government employment remained even over the month.

Contract Construction – Employment in Contract Construction was up 500 over the month as the warmer weather bolstered outdoor construction activity.

Trade – The addition of 500 jobs reported in Restaurant employment, coupled with small gains and losses among other retail industry components, resulted in a net increase of 200 jobs in Trade.

Transportation & Public Utilities – Employment in Transportation & Public Utilities increased by 100 from February to March.

Finance Insurance & Real Estate - Finance, Insurance & Real Estate employment was unchanged over the month.

Manufacturing – Employment in the factory sector showed no change from February to March.