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Rhode Island Department of Labor and Training

# Employment Labor Market Information Bulletin



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Director

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## Rhode Island Unemployment Rate Ticks up to 5.3 Percent in March

Rhode Island's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate for March was 5.3 percent. The March unemployment rate is up 0.1 of a percentage point from February's figure, which was revised upward to 5.2 percent. The number of unemployed Rhode Island residents edged up by 700 in March to 30,200. A year ago March, the unemployment rate was 4.9 percent and the jobless level stood at 26,900. The national unemployment rate for March held steady at 5.8 percent. Rhode Island's unemployment rate has remained below the national average for twenty consecutive months.

"March's numbers don't show any signs that the Rhode Island economy is turning around yet," said DLT Director Marvin D. Perry, "but we're hopeful that the employment situation will begin to improve as we get into spring."

### Rhode Island Job Highlights

Jobs at Rhode Island businesses numbered 472,600 in March 2003, up 1,200 (+0.3%) from the 471,400 jobs reported last year. Large employment gains in Health Care & Social Assistance (+1,800), Retail Trade (+1,300), Other Services (+1,400), Transportation, Warehousing & Utilities (+800), and Arts, Entertainment & Recreation (+500) helped to offset the large declines reported in Manufacturing (-3,000), Administrative & Waste Services (-1,100) and Professional & Technical Services (-800). Employment in Accommodation & Food Services was down 300 jobs over the year due to decreased employment in both hotels and restaurants. This is the first annual decline noted in this industry since December 2001. Government employment decreased by 100 over the year as declines in State Government employment (-300) overshadowed gains at the Local level (+200). (Continued on Page 4)

## Occupational Employment Statistics

Nearly eleven hundred employers have been selected to participate in the 2003 Occupational Employment Statistics (OES) survey. If you receive a copy, please help us out by completing the booklet and returning it as soon as possible. Your participation is essential in order for us to produce timely and accurate wage and employment data.

Can't find time for more paperwork? Call the OES staff at 401-462-8750. They will take your information over the telephone and complete the survey for you!

The economic data we provide depends on the information you supply! To see how the information you provide is used, visit the Occupational Employment Statistics web site at:

[www.dlt.ri.gov/lmi/oes.htm](http://www.dlt.ri.gov/lmi/oes.htm)

### State of the State: Statistical Profiles of Rhode Island's Cities and Towns

**State of the State** shows how Rhode Island continues to evolve through population diversity, education and employment. Incorporating information collected by the United States Department of Commerce and the Rhode Island Department of Labor and Training, **State of the State** depicts changes that occurred during the final decade of the twentieth century. Population diversity based on age, sex, race and ethnicity, as well as educational attainment, labor force statistics and English language proficiency of local residents, is encapsulated in statistical profiles for each of Rhode Island's thirty-nine communities. An overview of local private sector employment and wages by major economic sector is also provided. To view this publication, visit the publications section of the LMI web site at [www.dlt.ri.gov/lmi/publications.htm](http://www.dlt.ri.gov/lmi/publications.htm).

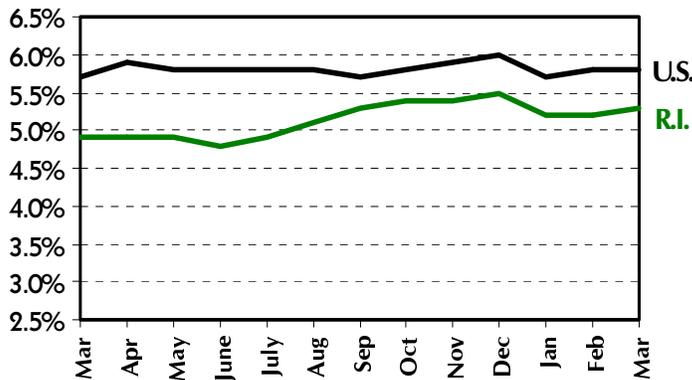
## Rhode Island Labor Force Statistics\* (in thousands)

	Seasonally Adjusted			Unadjusted		
	Mar 03	Feb 03	Mar 02	Mar 03	Feb 03	Mar 02
Civilian Labor Force	568.5	571.9	552.7	565.9	569.9	550.3
Resident Employment	538.3	542.4	525.8	534.0	534.3	521.8
Unemployment	30.2	29.5	26.9	31.9	35.7	28.6
Unemployment Rate	5.3%	5.2%	4.9%	5.6%	6.3%	5.2%

## United States Labor Force Statistics (in thousands)

	Seasonally Adjusted			Unadjusted		
	Mar 03	Feb 03	Mar 02	Mar 03	Feb 03	Mar 02
Civilian Labor Force	145,793	145,857	144,367	145,801	145,693	144,334
Resident Employment	137,348	137,408	136,143	136,783	136,433	135,558
Unemployment	8,445	8,450	8,224	9,018	9,260	8,776
Unemployment Rate	5.8%	5.8%	5.7%	6.2%	6.4%	6.1%

## Rhode Island & United States Unemployment Rates Seasonally Adjusted 2002 - 2003



## City & Town Unadjusted Unemployment Rates

	Mar 03	Mar 02**
Barrington	2.6	2.8
Bristol	5.5	4.5
Burrillville	6.0	5.6
Central Falls	9.1	7.8
Charlestown	6.8	5.9
Coventry	5.1	5.0
Cranston	5.1	4.5
Cumberland	5.2	5.0
East Greenwich	5.1	4.9
East Providence	5.7	5.6
Exeter	6.1	4.8
Foster	7.3	6.6
Glocester	5.6	4.5
Hopkinton	4.2	3.3
Jamestown	4.5	3.7
Johnston	6.6	5.7
Lincoln	5.8	4.9
Little Compton	5.5	4.5
Middletown	4.7	4.9
Narragansett	3.4	2.9
New Shoreham	14.8	15.1
Newport	5.7	5.3
North Kingstown	4.2	4.2
North Providence	5.3	4.5
North Smithfield	5.8	4.0
Pawtucket	6.5	6.2
Portsmouth	4.0	4.2
Providence	6.8	6.5
Richmond	3.4	3.0
Scituate	6.8	6.1
Smithfield	4.8	4.5
South Kingstown	4.7	3.9
Tiverton	6.5	6.0
Warren	5.5	5.4
Warwick	4.9	4.6
West Greenwich	6.4	5.6
West Warwick	6.4	5.7
Westerly	4.5	3.3
Woonsocket	6.9	6.6
State of R.I.	5.6	5.2

\*\*Revised

## Unemployment Insurance Claims Activity

	Mar	Feb	Mar	% Change		Year to Date		
	2003	2003	2002	Feb 03	Mar 02	2003	2002	% Change
Initial Claims	5,788	8,334	6,037	-30.5%	-4.1%	27,298	23,165	17.8%
Number of Payments	82,515	72,971	67,601	13.1%	22.1%	227,476	217,188	4.7%
Amount of Payments (gross millions)	\$25.3	\$22.3	\$20.4	13.7%	24.0%	\$69.2	\$65.0	6.4%
Exhaustions (Final Payments)	1,869	1,380	1,499	35.4%	24.7%	4,693	4,242	10.6%
E.S. Fund Balance (millions)	\$207.1	\$226.6	\$261.8	-8.6%	-20.9%			

Rhode Island labor market information is available on the web at [www.dlt.ri.gov/lmi](http://www.dlt.ri.gov/lmi). If you find that the LMI web site meets your need for labor market information and you would like to be removed from the mailing list for this publication, please call LMI at (401) 462-8740 or fax (401) 462-8766.

\*Current month figures are preliminary; prior month and 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.

## Total Nonfarm Employment in Rhode Island\* March 2003

*Sectors reflect the recent conversion from the Standard Industrial Classification (SIC) system to the North American Industry Classification System (NAICS).  
Not all industries previously classified under a particular SIC are classified in a similarly titled NAICS sector.*

	Employment in Thousands			Net Change From	
	Mar 2003	Feb 2003	Mar 2002	Feb 2003	Mar 2002
<b>Total Nonfarm</b>	<b>472.6</b>	<b>470.0</b>	<b>471.4</b>	<b>2,600</b>	<b>1,200</b>
<b>Goods Producing</b>	<b>78.5</b>	<b>77.6</b>	<b>81.9</b>	<b>900</b>	<b>-3,400</b>
Natural Resources & Mining	0.2	0.2	0.2	0	0
Construction	17.6	17.0	18.0	600	-400
Specialty Trade Contractors	11.6	11.2	11.7	400	-100
Manufacturing	60.7	60.4	63.7	300	-3,000
Durable Goods	39.7	39.3	42.1	400	-2,400
Fabricated Metal Product Mfg.	8.9	8.8	9.0	100	-100
Computer & Electronic Product Mfg.	5.1	5.2	5.4	-100	-300
Electrical Equipment & Appliance Mfg.	3.0	2.9	2.9	100	100
Transportation Equipment Mfg.	3.8	3.8	3.8	0	0
Miscellaneous Manufacturing	11.6	11.7	12.5	-100	-900
Jewelry & Silverware	8.8	8.8	9.2	0	-400
Non-Durable Goods	21.0	21.1	21.6	-100	-600
Chemical Manufacturing	3.8	3.8	3.6	0	200
Plastics & Rubber Products Mfg.	3.2	3.3	3.3	-100	-100
<b>Service Providing</b>	<b>394.1</b>	<b>392.4</b>	<b>389.5</b>	<b>1,700</b>	<b>4,600</b>
Wholesale Trade	16.7	16.6	16.4	100	300
Retail Trade	52.3	52.2	51.0	100	1,300
Grocery Stores	6.2	6.3	6.1	-100	100
Health & Personal Care Stores	5.6	5.5	5.6	100	0
General Merchandise Stores	10.7	10.5	10.6	200	100
Department Stores	4.7	4.6	5.0	100	-300
Other General Merchandise Stores	6.0	6.1	5.6	-100	400
Transportation, Warehousing & Utilities	11.3	11.3	10.5	0	800
Transportation & Warehousing	10.1	10.1	9.4	0	700
Information	11.3	11.4	11.3	-100	0
Publishing	3.4	3.4	3.5	0	-100
Financial Activities (including Real Estate)	32.7	32.5	32.2	200	500
Finance & Insurance	27.0	26.9	26.2	100	800
Credit Intermediation & Related Activities	12.1	12.0	11.6	100	500
Insurance Carriers & Related Activities	11.0	11.0	10.8	0	200
Professional & Technical Services	18.3	18.4	19.1	-100	-800
Management of Companies & Enterprises	6.7	6.6	6.4	100	300
Administrative & Waste Services	21.1	20.5	22.2	600	-1,100
Educational Services	20.5	20.0	20.5	500	0
Colleges & Universities	14.4	13.7	14.7	700	-300
Health Care & Social Assistance	70.0	70.3	68.2	-300	1,800
Ambulatory Health Care Services	20.3	20.2	19.5	100	800
Hospitals	22.2	22.4	21.9	-200	300
Nursing & Residential Care Facilities	17.6	17.7	17.2	-100	400
Social Assistance	9.9	10.0	9.6	-100	300
Arts, Entertainment & Recreation	6.0	6.0	5.5	0	500
Accommodation & Food Services	37.6	37.7	37.9	-100	-300
Accommodation	3.7	3.8	3.6	-100	100
Food Services & Drinking Places	33.9	33.9	34.3	0	-400
Other Services	22.6	22.3	21.2	300	1,400
Government	67.0	66.6	67.1	400	-100
Federal Government	10.3	10.3	10.3	0	0
State Government	18.0	18.0	18.3	0	-300
Local Government	38.7	38.3	38.5	400	200
Local Education	25.8	25.3	25.6	500	200
Local Non-Ed	12.9	13.0	12.9	-100	0

\*Not seasonally adjusted.

For more detail see "Introducing NAICS" at [www.dlt.ri.gov/lmi/es202/naics/naics.htm](http://www.dlt.ri.gov/lmi/es202/naics/naics.htm).

Some subcategories are not additive.

## Rhode Island Unemployment Rate Ticks up to 5.3 Percent in March

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On a seasonally adjusted basis employment fell by 300 jobs over the month from 479,600 (revised) in February to 479,300 in March. Within the Private sector, employment gains in Trade, Transportation & Warehousing (+500), Professional & Business Services (+300) and Other Services (+300) were negated by losses in other industries, most notably Leisure & Hospitality (-600) and Manufacturing (-300). Government employment was up 200 over the month.

The more detailed unadjusted estimates increased by 2,600 over the month due to increases in several industries, the largest attributed to seasonal gains in Construction (+600), Administrative & Waste Services (+600), Educational Services (+500) and Local Government (+400). The largest decrease was reported in Health Care & Social Assistance (-300).

The \$12.82 average hourly wage earned by the Manufacturing sector's production workers in March 2003 represents an over-the-month gain of four cents and a yearly gain of eighteen cents per hour. In March 2003, Manufacturing employees worked an average of 39.4 weekly hours, up one hour over the month and year.

### Employers!

- ◆ Where can you find wage rates to establish competitive pay scales?
- ◆ What is the available labor supply in your area?
- ◆ Where can you learn more about Rhode Island's training grants and tax credits?
- ◆ Where can you find information to assist you in making location/expansion choices?
- ◆ What are your responsibilities as a Rhode Island employer?

For all the answers, visit the LMI web site at:

[www.dlt.ri.gov/lmi](http://www.dlt.ri.gov/lmi)

## Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers

	Mar 03	Feb 03	Mar 02	% Change Prev. Year
All Items	184.2	183.1	178.8	3.0%

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

## Labor Surplus Areas for Rhode Island October 1, 2002 - September 30, 2003

Effective October 1, 2002, the U.S. Department of Labor, Employment and Training Administration, released the following list of labor surplus areas for the State of Rhode Island:

- \*Central Falls
- \*New Shoreham
- \*Providence

This list will remain in effect until September 30, 2003. Employers located in the labor surplus area may be given preference in bidding on federal procurement contracts. The purpose in providing such preference is to help direct the government's procurement dollars into areas where people are in the most severe economic need based on their high unemployment rates.

