



Donald L. Carcieri
Governor

Rhode Island Department of Labor and Training

Employment Labor Market Information Bulletin



Adelita S. Orefice
Acting Director

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Rhode Island's Unemployment Rate Rises in March

Rhode Island's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate for March was 5.6 percent, reflecting an increase of 0.4 of a percentage point from February. The number of unemployed Rhode Island residents rose by 2,300 in March to an estimated 31,500. A year ago, the unemployment rate was 5.5 percent and the jobless level stood at 31,400. Nationally, the unemployment rate for March inched up 0.1 of a percentage point to 5.7 percent. Although Rhode Island's unemployment rate remained below the national average for the thirty-second month in a row, the gap between the two figures has narrowed.

"The job market, which had been gaining some ground over the past several months, stalled a bit in March as the number of jobs at Rhode Island businesses fell by 800 last month," said DLT Acting Director Adelita S. Orefice. "It's not unusual for the unemployment rate to increase slightly during the early stages of a recovery as more workers enter the labor force looking for work."
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Occupational Employment Statistics Update...

New wage rates are now available on the LMI website at:
www.dlt.ri.gov/lmi/oes.htm.

The latest wage statistics reflecting the May 2003 reference period are available for over 500 occupations statewide, by metropolitan statistical area and labor market area, and by selected industries. For additional information, please call the OES staff at 401-462-8750.

Workforce Solutions of Providence/ Cranston Offers the Tools Needed to Keep Employers Competitive

Workforce Solutions of Providence/Cranston, the Workforce Investment Agency for the cities of Providence and Cranston, is charged by the Human Resource Investment Council (HRIC) to help local employers offset costs for training enabling their business to remain competitive. Small and large grants can assist employers in achieving their goals. The type of grant depends on the size and needs of the organization.

Small businesses, fewer than 100 employees, are better served through the Employee Investment Grant, which allows for up to \$10,000 for training purposes. Types of training could include, but are not limited to, training for new machinery or equipment, an area of the organization with a skills shortage, new production methods or staff who will be assuming new responsibilities for a wider scope of authority. Grants can be secured throughout the year by contacting Jim Glover at Workforce Solutions of Providence/Cranston, 861-0800. Companies located outside of Providence and Cranston can contact Dottie Miller at the Workforce Partnership of Greater Rhode Island, 222-2090.

Larger companies can apply for Excellence Through Training Grants (ETTG). HRIC administers this annual grant program. Both for-profit and not-for-profit companies that pay into the Job Development Fund can apply for up to \$30,000 to conduct employee training. Some eligible training examples would be new technology training, ISO training, lean manufacturing training or literacy training. The application has been simplified so companies will find it easier to apply. Grant funds will pay for up to 75% of allowable training costs and the company pays 25%. This is a competitive grant process where proposals must be submitted following a Request for Proposals. The HRIC does offer free grant writing workshops for those companies unfamiliar with the grant writing process. To register for those workshops or to learn more about the ETTG, go to www.rihric.com or call 462-8863.

Rhode Island Labor Force Statistics*

(in thousands)

	Seasonally Adjusted			Unadjusted		
	Mar 04	Feb 04	Mar 03	Mar 04	Feb 04	Mar 03
Civilian Labor Force	565.7	563.2	570.4	563.4	563.8	568.0
Resident Employment	534.2	534.0	539.0	529.9	528.7	534.6
Unemployment	31.5	29.2	31.4	33.5	35.2	33.4
Unemployment Rate	5.6%	5.2%	5.5%	5.9%	6.2%	5.9%

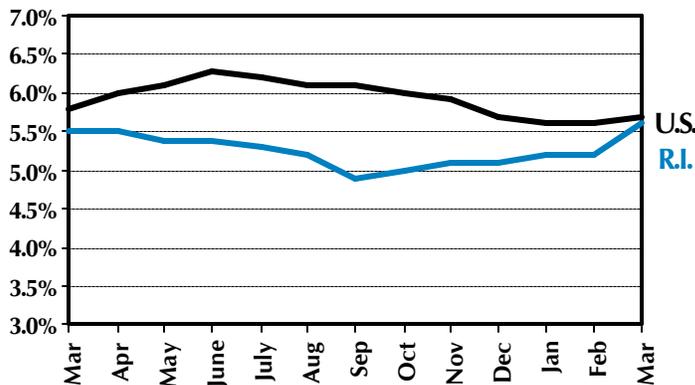
United States Labor Force Statistics

(in thousands)

	Seasonally Adjusted			Unadjusted		
	Mar 04	Feb 04	Mar 03	Mar 04	Feb 04	Mar 03
Civilian Labor Force	146,650	146,471	145,818	146,525	146,154	145,801
Resident Employment	138,298	138,301	137,300	137,691	137,384	136,783
Unemployment	8,352	8,170	8,519	8,834	8,770	9,018
Unemployment Rate	5.7%	5.6%	5.8%	6.0%	6.0%	6.2%

Rhode Island & United States Unemployment Rates

Seasonally Adjusted 2003-2004



City & Town

Unadjusted Unemployment Rates

	Mar 04	Mar 03**
Barrington	3.1	2.7
Bristol	5.8	5.9
Burrillville	6.4	6.6
Central Falls	8.8	8.8
Charlestown	6.3	6.8
Coventry	5.6	5.4
Cranston	5.7	5.4
Cumberland	5.6	5.3
East Greenwich	5.2	5.3
East Providence	6.2	6.2
Exeter	6.6	6.5
Foster	8.9	8.2
Glocester	5.4	5.7
Hopkinton	5.8	4.6
Jamestown	4.8	4.7
Johnston	7.0	6.8
Lincoln	5.3	5.6
Little Compton	6.0	5.7
Middletown	5.8	5.6
Narragansett	4.2	3.5
New Shoreham	17.5	16.4
Newport	6.0	5.8
North Kingstown	5.0	4.5
North Providence	5.6	5.6
North Smithfield	5.5	6.0
Pawtucket	6.8	6.7
Portsmouth	4.3	4.3
Providence	6.3	6.5
Richmond	3.7	3.5
Scituate	7.2	7.2
Smithfield	4.9	4.8
South Kingstown	5.0	5.1
Tiverton	7.5	6.7
Warren	6.6	6.0
Warwick	5.3	5.3
West Greenwich	5.8	5.4
West Warwick	6.9	7.0
Westerly	5.3	5.0
Woonsocket	7.2	7.3
State of R.I.	5.9	5.9

** Revised

Unemployment Insurance Claims Activity

	Mar	Feb	Mar	% Change		Year to Date		
	2004	2004	2003	Feb 04	Mar 03	2004	2003	% Change
Initial Claims	5,983	7,669	5,788	-22.0%	3.4%	24,342	27,298	-10.8%
Number of Payments	77,903	69,763	82,515	11.7%	-5.6%	213,835	227,476	-6.0%
Amount of Payments (gross millions)	\$25.0	\$22.1	\$25.3	13.1%	-1.2%	\$67.6	\$69.2	-2.3%
Exhaustions (Final Payments)	1,902	1,333	1,869	42.7%	1.8%	4,644	4,693	-1.0%
E.S. Fund Balance (millions)	\$159.8	\$179.2	\$207.1	-10.8%	-22.8%			

Rhode Island labor market information is available on the web at 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 e-mail us at lmi@dlt.state.ri.us.

*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
Not Seasonally Adjusted
March 2004

	Employment in Thousands			Net Change From	
	Mar 2004	Feb 2004	Mar 2003	Feb 2004	Mar 2003
Total Nonfarm	480.0	478.3	473.5	1,700	6,500
Goods Producing	78.7	78.4	77.0	300	1,700
Natural Resources & Mining	0.1	0.1	0.2	0	-100
Construction	20.2	19.8	17.3	400	2,900
Specialty Trade Contractors	13.2	13.0	11.2	200	2,000
Manufacturing	58.4	58.5	59.5	-100	-1,100
Durable Goods	37.4	37.6	39.0	-200	-1,600
Fabricated Metal Product Mfg.	7.7	7.8	8.4	-100	-700
Computer & Electronic Product Mfg.	5.0	5.0	5.2	0	-200
Transportation Equipment Mfg.	3.9	3.8	3.7	100	200
Miscellaneous Manufacturing	10.7	10.9	11.5	-200	-800
Jewelry & Silverware	7.6	7.7	8.2	-100	-600
Non-Durable Goods	21.0	20.9	20.5	100	500
Chemical Manufacturing	4.2	4.2	3.9	0	300
Plastics & Rubber Products Mfg.	3.2	3.1	3.1	100	100
Service Providing	401.3	399.9	396.5	1,400	4,800
Wholesale Trade	16.2	16.3	16.3	-100	-100
Retail Trade	51.7	52.0	51.3	-300	400
Grocery Stores	6.5	6.7	6.2	-200	300
Health & Personal Care Stores	5.6	5.6	5.6	0	0
General Merchandise Stores	9.8	9.8	10.1	0	-300
Department Stores	4.0	4.0	4.4	0	-400
* Transportation, Warehousing & Utilities	11.5	11.4	11.0	100	500
Transportation & Warehousing	10.4	10.3	9.8	100	600
Information	10.8	10.8	11.0	0	-200
Publishing	3.3	3.4	3.3	-100	0
** Financial Activities (including Real Estate)	33.3	33.1	33.5	200	-200
Finance & Insurance	27.0	26.8	27.3	200	-300
Credit Intermediation & Related Activities	13.1	13.0	12.4	100	700
Insurance Carriers & Related Activities	10.3	10.4	11.0	-100	-700
Professional & Technical Services	19.1	18.9	19.1	200	0
Administrative & Waste Services	21.0	20.7	20.4	300	600
Educational Services	21.8	21.0	22.7	800	-900
Colleges & Universities	14.0	13.2	16.2	800	-2,200
Health Care & Social Assistance	71.5	71.5	69.9	0	1,600
Ambulatory Health Care Services	20.7	20.8	20.1	-100	600
Hospitals	22.5	22.4	22.2	100	300
Nursing & Residential Care Facilities	17.8	17.9	17.6	-100	200
Social Assistance	10.5	10.4	10.0	100	500
Arts, Entertainment & Recreation	5.7	5.5	5.9	200	-200
Accommodation & Food Services	40.3	40.5	38.1	-200	2,200
Accommodation	3.6	3.5	3.3	100	300
Food Services & Drinking Places	36.7	37.0	34.8	-300	1,900
Other Services	23.0	23.0	22.4	0	600
Government	67.7	67.5	67.4	200	300
Federal Government	10.0	10.0	10.1	0	-100
State Government	17.6	17.6	18.0	0	-400
Local Government	40.1	39.9	39.3	200	800
Local Education	27.0	26.7	26.1	300	900
Local Non-Ed	13.1	13.2	13.2	-100	-100

* Utilities are not broken out separately

** Real Estate & Rentals is not broken out separately

Some subcategories are not additive.

Current month figures are preliminary and subject to revision.

Rhode Island's Unemployment Rate Rises in March

(Continued from Page 1)

Rhode Island Job Highlights

Rhode Island employment decreased in March, following three consecutive months of increases. Businesses in the state reported a decline of 800 jobs (seasonally adjusted), bringing the March job count to 487,400. Over-the-month employment losses were reflected in Leisure & Hospitality (-500), Manufacturing (-300), Trade, Transportation & Utilities (-100), and Government (-100). Professional & Business Services reported a monthly gain (+200), while Construction employment remained unchanged over the month.

The more detailed unadjusted estimates increased by 1,700 (0.4%) over the month, bringing the March job count to 480,000 (unadjusted), the highest March employment level on record. Employment gains were reported in a majority of the state's economic sectors including Educational Services (+800), Construction (+400), Administrative & Waste Services (+300), Financial Activities (+200), Professional & Technical Services (+200), Arts, Entertainment & Recreation (+200), Government (+200) and Transportation, Warehousing, & Utilities (+100). These job gains offset losses in Retail Trade (-300), Accommodation & Food Services (-200), Manufacturing (-100) and Wholesale Trade (-100).

The over-the-month increase in Educational Services, typical for this time of year, was due to the continuing increase of student workers following the reopening of the state's private colleges and universities subsequent to the semester break. Smaller than usual gains in construction jobs were attributed to increases in steel prices and the completion of construction projects. Specialty Trade Contractors accounted for half of the reported gains in the Construction sector. The declines in Retail Trade employment were largely attributed to employment reductions in Grocery Stores, while decreases in Accommodation & Food Services were the result of reduced employment in Full Service Restaurants. Manufacturing losses were due to decreased employment by Durable Goods employers.

Over the year, employment (unadjusted) was up 6,500 (+1.4%) from the 473,500 jobs (revised) reported in March 2003. The largest over-the-year gains were noted in Construction (+2,900), Accommodation & Food Services (+2,200) and Health Care & Social Assistance (+1,600). Government employment increased by 300 over the year, as job gains on the Local level (+800) overshadowed losses in the Federal (-100) and State (-400) segments. The largest employment losses occurred in Manufacturing (-1,100) and Educational Services (-900).

Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers

	Mar 04	Feb 04	Mar 03	% Change Prev. Year
All Items	187.4	186.2	184.2	1.7%

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

Manufacturing Employment in Rhode Island, Not Seasonally Adjusted March 2004

	Employment					Production Worker Averages					
	(in thousands)			Net Change From:		Weekly Hours			Hourly Earnings		
	Mar 04	Feb 04	Mar 03	Feb 04	Mar 03	Mar 04	Feb 04	Mar 03	Mar 04	Feb 04	Mar 03
Manufacturing	58.4	58.5	59.5	-100	-1100	39.2	39.4	39.3	12.98	12.98	12.82
Durable Goods	37.4	37.6	39.0	-200	-1600	38.4	38.8	38.1	13.00	12.96	12.82
Fabricated Metal Product Mfg.	7.7	7.8	8.4	-100	-700	38.4	39.5	36.4	11.60	11.59	11.39
Computer & Electronic Product Mfg.	5.0	5.0	5.2	0	-200	36.7	36.7	41.5	13.77	13.82	13.68
Transportation Equipment Mfg.	3.9	3.8	3.7	100	200	39.0	39.0	43.0	15.42	15.42	15.57
Miscellaneous Manufacturing	10.7	10.9	11.5	-200	-800	36.9	37.6	36.7	10.78	10.74	10.46
Jewelry and Silverware	7.6	7.7	8.2	-100	-600	37.5	38.3	37.2	10.11	10.06	9.88
Non-Durable Goods	21.0	20.9	20.5	100	500	40.6	40.3	41.5	12.96	13.00	12.82
Chemical Manufacturing	4.2	4.2	3.9	0	300	39.5	40.1	40.3	15.37	15.40	15.53
Plastics & Rubber Products Mfg.	3.2	3.1	3.1	100	100	41.4	42.1	41.5	14.65	14.71	14.54



Quarterly Census of RI Employment and Wages

Third Quarter Comparison 2002-2003



Rhode Island total employment averaged 473,756 in the third quarter of 2003, an increase of 6,010 (+1.3%) jobs when compared to the third quarter of 2002. Private sector employment increased by 4,987 positions, while the Government added 1,023 positions. Construction (+2,509) led the way in private sector gains, while Local Government (city/town) accounted for 1,221 jobs, offsetting losses at the federal (-16) and state (-182) level.

Overall, Health Care & Social Assistance (69,984) led the way in average employment for the third quarter 2003, accounting for 16.9 percent of private sector employment. All four sub-sectors reported an employment increase, led by Social Assistance (+528), Ambulatory Health Care Services (+518), Nursing and Residential Care Facilities (+421) and Hospitals (+331). Government (59,089) and Manufacturing (57,149) complete the top three sectors in average employment.

Construction added 2,509 (+12.4) jobs due to gains in Special Trade Contractors (+1,879), Heavy and Civil Engineering Construction (+442) and Construction of Buildings (+209). Health Care & Social Assistance (+1,798), Accommodation & Food Services (+1,321), Management of Companies & Enterprise (+1,213) and Education (+545) round out the top five sectors in employment gains reported over the year.

Manufacturing continues to report large employment declines, losing 3,672 (-6.0%), jobs between third quarter 2002 and third quarter 2003. Eighteen of the twenty-one manufacturing sub-sectors reported job losses. Miscellaneous Manufacturing (-1,074) continues to experience large employment declines as does Fabricated Metal Product Manufacturing (-891).

Over \$4.1 billion in wages was paid during the third quarter of 2003, an increase of \$196 million (+5.0%) from the third quarter of 2002. Private sector wages increased by \$173 million (+5.2%), while Government wages increased by \$23 million (+3.6%). The average weekly private sector wage was \$648, an increase of \$25 (+4.0%) from the \$623 earned during the same period of last year.

Utility workers continue to earn the highest weekly wage, averaging \$1,329, while representing only 0.3 percent of total private employment within the State. Management of Companies & Enterprise, not only experienced a rise in employment but in wages as well, up \$21,452,189 (+24.5%) from third quarter 2002, averaging \$1,091 per week. The growth in the Construction sector led to the largest wage increase \$35,629,255 (+17.3%) between third quarter 2002 and third quarter 2003, followed by Health Care and Social Assistance (+\$28,913,197) and Finance & Insurance (+\$27,459,547).

Third Quarter 2003

	No. of Units	July	August	September	Average Employment	Total Wages	Taxable Wages	Contributions
Total	34,620	468,511	470,821	481,936	473,756	4,167,807,446	653,603,560	21,294,427
Private	33,932	413,014	415,600	415,386	414,667	3,491,764,675	651,298,769	21,240,217
State	58	18,215	17,757	18,077	18,016	207,787,160	1,411	22
Local	440	27,084	27,309	38,332	30,908	310,978,122	2,303,380	54,188
Federal	190	10,198	10,155	10,141	10,165	157,277,489	0	0
Total Government	688	55,497	55,221	66,550	59,089	676,042,771	2,304,791	54,210
Total UI Covered	34,430	458,313	460,666	471,795	463,591	4,010,529,957	653,603,560	21,294,427

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 methods.

DLT is an Equal Opportunity Employer/Program.

Auxiliary aids & services are available upon request to individuals with disabilities. TDD: (401) 462-8006