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Employment Bulletin

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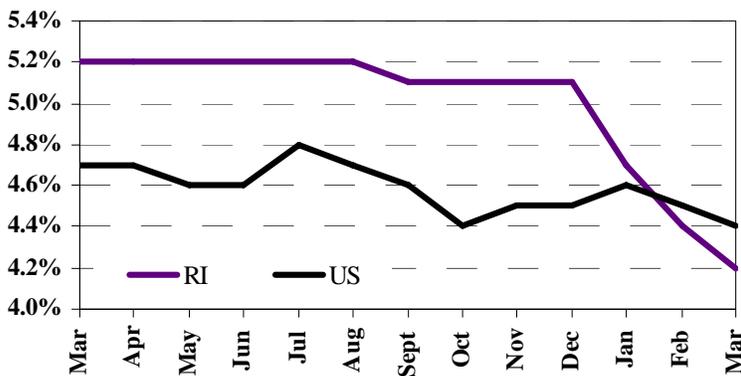
April 2007

Rhode Island's Jobless Rate Lowest in Six Years

Rhode Island's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate fell to 4.2 percent in March, down from 4.4 percent in February. This puts the RI unemployment rate below the U.S. unemployment rate by two-tenths of a percentage point, and represents the second month in a row that Rhode Island has performed better than the national average. The RI unemployment rate has continued to drop for three consecutive months, down from 5.1% in December 2006.

"Rhode Island's unemployment rate is the lowest since October 2000," said RI Department of Labor and Training Director Adelita S. Orefice. This latest change can be attributed to the net drop in unemployed Rhode Islanders and the decrease in employed Rhode Island residents which, when combined, served to reduce the state's labor force by 1,800 last month. The number of unemployed Rhode Islanders decreased from 25,800 in February to 24,000 in March, while the number of employed residents remained relatively stable at 553,700 in March, down from 553,800 in February.

RI & US Unemployment Rates
Seasonally Adjusted 2006-2007



DLT Launches "Rhody Red" Campaign

Earlier this month the Rhode Island Department of Labor and Training (DLT) unveiled a statewide campaign to educate Rhode Island employees and employers about their rights and responsibilities with regard to Workers' Compensation Insurance. Dubbed the "Rhody Red" campaign in honor of its illustrated mascot, the multimedia effort includes radio, newspaper, outdoor, poster, and brochure elements with messages in both Spanish and English.

"We want to remind all Rhode Island employers about their responsibility to provide Workers' Compensation Insurance and to make sure that every employee knows that this coverage is more than a benefit; it is a right," says DLT Director Adelita S. Orefice.



The campaign employs a lighter approach - with its Rhode Island Red rooster mascot clucking "Workers Comp, Comp, Comp" in radio spots - to deliver its more serious message: Workers' Compensation - It's the Law.

The DLT Division of Workers' Compensation already provides all new employers with information regarding their Workers' Compensation Insurance requirements in coordination with the Rhode Island Division of Taxation. The Division's Fraud and Compliance Unit also investigates Workers' Compensation Insurance policies reported as cancelled as well as tips of suspected violations. (Continued on Page 4)

Seasonally Adjusted Labor Force Statistics (in thousands)

	Rhode Island			United States		
	Mar 07	Feb 07	Mar 06	Mar 07	Feb 07	Mar 06
Civilian Labor Force	577.7	579.5	575.6	152,979	152,784	150,689
Resident Employment	553.7	553.8	545.8	146,254	145,919	143,680
Unemployment	24.0	25.8	29.8	6,724	6,865	7,009
Unemployment Rate	4.2%	4.4%	5.2%	4.4%	4.5%	4.7%

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Rhode Island's Job Count Reaches Record High

Total nonfarm employment in Rhode Island reached a historic high in March with 496,300 Rhode Island- based jobs. This is the fifth time in the past seven months that Rhode Island has broken its own employment record. Businesses in the state reported a net gain of 200 jobs in March from February's revised figure of 496,100. Employment gains of 200 each were noted in Construction, Accommodation & Food Services, and Other Services, while the Professional & Business Services and Natural Resources & Mining sectors each added 100 jobs. These gains were partially offset by job losses reported in Government (-300), Manufacturing (-100), Transportation & Utilities (-100) and Financial Activities (-100).

Wholesale Trade; Retail Trade; Information; Educational Services; Health Care & Social Assistance; and Arts, Entertainment & Recreation employment remained unchanged over the month. The increase in Accommodation & Food Services was influenced by growth in fast food restaurant employment.

Over the year, jobs were up 4,500 from the 491,800 jobs reported in March 2006. Annual employment growth occurred in the Professional & Business Services (+2,100); Financial Activities (+1,600); Health Care & Social Assistance (+1,500); Construction (+1,000); Arts, Entertainment & Recreation (+600); Educational Services (+500); Retail Trade (+300); Other Services (+300); Information (+100); and Natural Resources & Mining (+100) sectors. These gains offset losses in Manufacturing (-2,200); Government (-700); Accommodation & Food Services (-600); and Wholesale Trade (-100). Transportation & Utilities remained unchanged over the year.

Hours and Earnings

In March 2007, production workers in the Manufacturing sector earned \$13.46 per hour. The average hourly production wage was down four cents per hour from February but unchanged from a year ago. Manufacturing employees worked an average of 39.0 hours per week in March, down 0.3 of an hour over the month and up 0.4 of an hour since March 2006.

Establishment Employment in Rhode Island Seasonally Adjusted

	Employment (in thousands)		Net Change
	Mar-07	Feb-07	
	Total Nonfarm	496.3	
Natural Resources & Mining	0.3	0.2	0.1
Construction	23.7	23.5	0.2
Manufacturing	51.1	51.2	-0.1
Wholesale Trade*	16.8	16.8	0.0
Retail Trade	52.3	52.3	0.0
Transportation & Utilities	10.9	11.0	-0.1
Information	11.1	11.1	0.0
Financial Activities	36.3	36.4	-0.1
Professional & Business Services	57.9	57.8	0.1
Educational Services	23.0	23.0	0.0
Health Care & Social Assistance	75.4	75.4	0.0
Arts, Entertainment & Recreation	8.3	8.3	0.0
Accommodation & Food Services	42.0	41.8	0.2
Other Services	23.1	22.9	0.2
Government	64.1	64.4	-0.3

* State Calculated Estimate

Manufacturing Employment in Rhode Island Not Seasonally Adjusted

	Employment					Production Worker Averages					
	(in thousands)			Net Change From		Weekly Hours			Hourly Earnings		
	Mar 07	Feb 07	Mar 06	Feb 07	Mar 06	Mar 07	Feb 07	Mar 06	Mar 07	Feb 07	Mar 06
Manufacturing	51.2	51.3	53.2	-100	-2000	39.0	39.3	38.6	13.46	13.50	13.46
Durable Goods	33.2	33.3	34.4	-100	-1200	37.7	37.9	38.4	13.41	13.43	13.43
Fabricated Metal Product Mfg.	7.2	7.2	7.4	0	-200	39.8	40.2	41.4	12.05	11.88	11.70
Computer & Electronic Product Mfg.	4.7	4.7	4.6	0	100	36.6	36.5	40.0	14.75	14.74	14.25
Miscellaneous Manufacturing	9.6	9.6	9.8	0	-200	34.2	34.0	37.0	11.46	11.54	11.22
Jewelry & Silverware	6.8	6.8	7.0	0	-200	36.2	36.0	38.0	10.50	10.60	10.47
Non-Durable Goods	18.0	18.0	18.8	0	-800	41.2	41.7	39.0	13.54	13.61	13.52
Chemical Manufacturing	4.3	4.3	4.5	0	-200	39.2	39.3	43.2	16.14	16.10	15.40
Plastics & Rubber Products Mfg.	2.8	2.8	2.9	0	-100	44.7	44.4	42.0	14.07	14.10	14.62

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's Biotechnology Industry Cluster

Rhode Island's *Biotechnology Industry Cluster* includes pharmaceuticals and medicine manufacturing, medical equipment and supplies manufacturing, scientific research and development and diagnostic laboratories. The 150 private business establishments included in this industry cluster employed an average of 3,377 workers in 2006 and paid wages in excess of \$261.8 million dollars. The 2006 average annual wage for this cluster was \$69,332, well above the private sector average of \$38,785.

Biotechnology jobs accounted for 0.9 percent of the state's 417,597 private sector jobs, up slightly from 0.8 percent in 2005. Nationally, this industry cluster accounted for 1.0 percent of the 2005 privates sector employment, while in the neighboring states of Massachusetts and Connecticut, jobs in this industry cluster accounted for 2.3 percent and 1.7 percent of total private sector employment, respectively.

Between 2001 and 2006, Rhode Island's Biotechnology Industry Cluster added 1,756 jobs. By the end of the 2004 to 2014 projection period, employment in the cluster is expected to exceed 3,800, an increase of 670 (+21.2%) from the 2004 level of 3,160 and nearly twice the growth rate expected for all industries in our state.

A significant portion of the workers in the Biotechnology Industry Cluster are employed in Production Occupations where necessary skills are generally learned on-the-job in moderate- to long-term training programs. There is also an increasing demand for Biological, Chemical and Life Scientists and Technicians with educational backgrounds in chemistry, biology, mathematics, microbiology and biochemical engineering.

	RI - Employment - 2006			
	Firms	Employment	Total Wages	Average Wage
Total Private Sector employment	35,231	417,597	\$ 16,196,612,035	\$38,785
Biotechnology Cluster	150	3,777	\$ 261,868,269	\$69,332
Pharmaceutical & Medicine Manufacturing	16	1,884	\$ 152,086,598	\$80,725
Surgical Appliance & Instrument Manufacturing	8	442	\$ 26,496,742	\$59,947
Electromedical Manufacturing	6	153	\$ 5,181,784	\$33,868
Analytical Laboratory Instrument & Irradiation Apparatus Manufacturing	4	91	\$ 4,879,361	\$53,619
Research Development in Physical, Engineering & Life Sciences	98	826	\$ 57,454,885	\$69,558
Labs for DNA Testing, Toxicology, Blood Analysis, Forensic Testing	18	381	\$ 15,768,899	\$41,388

Characteristics of the Insured Unemployed

In March 2007, 63 percent of Rhode Island's unemployed workers were eligible to collect Unemployment Insurance (UI) benefits. Numbering 16,706 people, these "insured unemployed" accounted for 3.1 percent of the state's total employed (unadjusted). Nearly 21 percent (3,458) of the Ocean State's insured unemployed faced long-term unemployment, defined as collecting unemployment benefits for more than fourteen weeks.

On an industry basis, 23.9 percent (3,991) of the State's insured unemployed workers came from the Construction sector. There were also 2,337 individuals with an attachment to the Administrative & Waste sector, accounting for 14.0 percent of all insured unemployed workers. An additional 12.3 percent (2,062) of those collecting UI benefits in March had worked in the Manufacturing sector. Large numbers of insured unemployed were also reported in Retail Trade (1,328), Accommodation & Food Services (1,288), Health Care & Social Assistance (898) and Arts, Entertainment & Recreation (621). For more information, go to www.dlt.ri.gov/lmi/uiadmin/characteristics.htm.

Characteristics of the Insured Unemployed, March 2007

	Percent		
	Total	Long-Term	Long-Term
Total	16,706	3,458	20.7%
Male	11,029	2,003	18.2%
Female	5,677	1,455	25.6%
Selected Industries	16,706	3,458	20.7%
Construction	3,991	415	10.4%
Manufacturing	2,062	521	25.3%
Wholesale Trade	586	167	28.5%
Retail Trade	1,328	339	25.5%
Transportation & Warehousing	402	59	14.7%
Information	192	72	37.5%
Finance & Insurance	612	184	30.1%
Real Estate	264	79	29.9%
Professional & Tech. Services	537	114	21.2%
Administrative & Waste Services	2,337	386	16.5%
Educational Services	198	73	36.9%
Health Care & Social Assistance	898	292	32.5%
Arts, Entertainment & Recreation	621	146	23.5%
Accommodation & Food Services	1,288	287	22.3%
Other Services	451	133	29.5%
Public Administration	130	29	22.3%

**Consumer Price Index for
All Urban Consumers**

				% Change
	Mar 07	Feb 07	Mar 06	Prev. Year
All Items	205.4	203.5	199.8	2.8%

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

DLT Launches “Rhody Red” Campaign

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In 2006, the Fraud and Compliance Unit checked close to 5,000 businesses for Workers’ Compensation Insurance coverage. As a result, 342 employers who were determined to be operating without required insurance were penalized, and the unit collected nearly \$400,000 in penalties from previously uninsured employers.

For more information visit the Workers’ Compensation web site, www.dlt.ri.gov/comp.

**City & Town
Unadjusted Unemployment Rates for March**

	2007	2006		2007	2006
Barrington	3.4	4.0	Newport	4.7	6.1
Bristol	4.2	5.4	North Kingstown	3.7	4.8
Burrillville	4.6	5.8	North Providence	4.3	5.2
Central Falls	6.1	7.9	North Smithfield	4.0	4.8
Charlestown	5.2	5.8	Pawtucket	5.3	6.6
Coventry	4.3	5.4	Portsmouth	4.0	5.0
Cranston	4.4	5.4	Providence	5.3	6.8
Cumberland	4.0	5.1	Richmond	3.1	4.3
East Greenwich	3.6	4.8	Scituate	5.2	5.8
East Providence	5.1	6.0	Smithfield	4.0	5.0
Exeter	4.8	5.3	South Kingstown	4.3	5.1
Foster	5.3	7.0	Tiverton	5.6	6.5
Glocester	3.9	5.1	Warren	5.4	6.3
Hopkinton	4.7	4.9	Warwick	4.2	5.1
Jamestown	3.5	4.5	West Greenwich	4.3	4.8
Johnston	5.5	6.5	West Warwick	5.2	6.5
Lincoln	3.7	4.8	Westerly	4.2	5.6
Little Compton	4.3	5.4	Woonsocket	5.3	6.2
Middletown	4.4	5.7			
Narragansett	3.0	3.7	State of R.I.	4.6	5.7
New Shoreham	11.4	14.7	United States	4.8	4.5

“Power to Grow” - Business Expo 2007

Highlighting the economic power of Rhode Island’s business community, the Greater Providence Chamber of Commerce will hold its annual Business Expo at the Rhode Island Convention Center Tuesday, May 1 and Wednesday, May 2, 2007.

With a theme of “The Power to Grow,” this year’s event is being designed to give both event exhibitors and attendees access to a broad knowledge base, successful business practices and top notch decision makers - all in an effort to stimulate the creation of new ideas, new jobs and enhanced economic activity in Rhode Island! This year’s Expo theme complements a year long effort the Chamber has embarked on to engage small and emerging business owners and their employees.

Last year, thousands of business professionals attended the show, and according to our survey results, more than 90 percent will be back for “Power to Grow.” In addition, in 2006 the Greater Providence Chamber of Commerce recruited hundreds of new businesses as members. Many of these businesses will be attending the Business Expo or showcasing their products and services as exhibitors.

NBC Chief Pentagon Correspondent Jim Miklaszewski will take the stage on Tuesday, May 1 at 11:00 a.m. at the Rhode Island Convention Center to deliver the keynote address at “Power to Grow: Business Expo 2007.” A former White House correspondent, Miklaszewski will talk about today’s political landscape, including the homeland security and the War in Iraq, and its early affect on the campaign for President.

For more information on “The Power to Grow: Business Expo 2007,” visit www.providencechamber.com.

Unemployment Insurance Claims Activity

	Mar	Feb	Mar	% Change		Year to Date		
	2007	2007	2006	Feb 07	Mar 06	2007	2006	% Change
Initial Claims	5,873	7,535	5,043	-22.1%	16.5%	23,613	22,125	6.7%
Number of Payments	64,980	64,752	60,635	0.4%	7.2%	199,331	193,544	3.0%
Amount of Payments (gross millions)	\$23.0	\$22.7	\$20.7	1.3%	11.1%	\$69.7	\$65.5	6.4%
Exhaustions (Final Payments)	1,249	1,099	1,288	13.6%	-3.0%	3,779	3,886	-2.8%

Occupations in Biotechnology



Mixing and Blending Machine Setters, Operators, and Tenders: Set up, operate, or tend machines to mix or blend materials, such as chemicals, food products, tobacco, liquids, color pigments, or explosive ingredients.

Median Wage: **\$13.79**

Education Required: **Moderate on-the-job training**

Chemist: Conduct qualitative and quantitative chemical analyses or chemical experiments in laboratories for quality or process control or to develop new products or knowledge.

Median Wage: **\$33.12**

Education/Training Required: **Bachelor's degree**

Supervisors/Managers of Production and Operating Workers: Supervise and coordinate the activities of production and operating workers, such as inspectors, precision workers, machine setters and operators, assemblers, fabricators, and plant and system operators.

Median Wage: **\$24.12**

Education/Training Required: **Work experience in a related occupation**

Chemical Technicians: Conduct chemical and physical laboratory tests to assist scientists in the analyses of solids, liquids, and gaseous materials. Work involves experimental, theoretical, or practical application of chemistry and related sciences.

Median Wage: ***\$18.51**

Education/Training Required: **Associate degree**

Chemical Plant and System Operators: Control or operate an entire chemical process or system of machines..

Median Wage: ***\$22.45**

Education/Training Required: **Long-term on-the-job training**

Chemical Equipment Operators and Tenders: Operate or tend equipment to control chemical changes or reactions in the processing of industrial or consumer products. Equipment used includes devulcanizers, batch stills, fermenting tanks, steam-jacketed kettles, and reactor vessels.

Median Wage: **\$17.18**

Education/Training Required: **Moderate on-the-job training**

Biochemists and Biophysicists: Study the chemical composition and physical principles of living cells and organisms, their electrical and mechanical energy, and related phenomena.

Median Wage: **\$34.31**

Education/Training Required: **Doctoral degree**

Medical Scientists, Except Epidemiologists: Conduct research dealing with the understanding of human diseases and the improvement of human health. Engage in clinical investigation or other research, production, technical writing, or related activities.

Median Wage: **\$29.68**

Education/Training Required: **Doctoral degree**

Microbiologists: Investigate the growth, structure, development, and other characteristics of microscopic organisms, such as bacteria, algae, or fungi.

Median Wage: **\$31.04**

Education/Training Required: **Doctoral degree**

Chemical Engineers: Design chemical plant equipment and devise processes for manufacturing chemicals and products by applying principles and technology of chemistry, physics, and engineering.

Median Wage: **\$32.21**

Education/Training Required: **Bachelor's degree**

**National median wage for May 2005.*