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Employment Bulletin

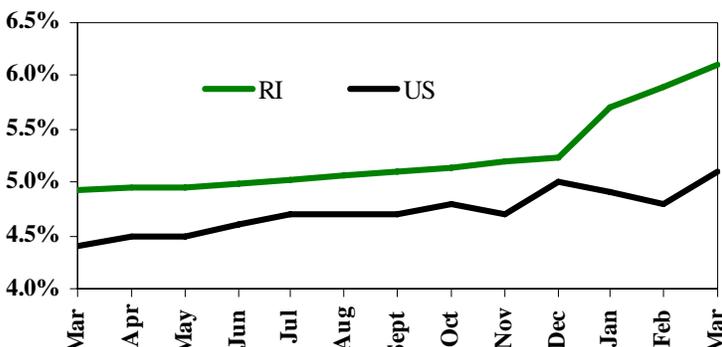
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RI's Unemployment Rate Continues to Climb in March

- ◆ RI's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate rose 0.2 of a percentage point over the month to 6.1 percent in March, its highest level since August 1995.
- ◆ The March jobless rate is up 1.2 percentage points from last year's figure of 4.9 percent.
- ◆ RI's unemployment rate remained above the national rate, which increased by 0.3 of a percentage point in March to 5.1 percent.
- ◆ In March, the number of unemployed Rhode Island residents jumped to 35,100, an increase of 1,600 from February and a year-over-year increase of 6,700 from the previous March.
- ◆ The number of employed RI residents totaled 537,700 in March, unchanged from the previous month. Compared to a year ago March, the number of employed RI residents is down 10,800.

RI & US Unemployment Rates
Seasonally Adjusted 2007-2008



Rapid Response Outreach Services for Businesses

The Rhode Island Department of Labor and Training's Rapid Response Unit provides comprehensive outreach services to businesses experiencing permanent job loss. A special team of reemployment experts helps employers communicate timely and accurate information to their employees during this transition. Rapid Response team members also guide employees toward Unemployment Insurance benefits, health insurance options, available reemployment services, job search activities and, when applicable, state and federal funding opportunities.

The Rapid Response process is activated a number of ways, including direct employer contact, employee queries and other labor market information sources. Once alerted to the existence of or potential for mass layoffs, a Rapid Response team member contacts the company management to schedule a meeting for assessing its employees' service needs and eligibility. Then, the Rapid Response team may hold an orientation for workers who may face or have already experienced layoffs. For the convenience of the employees involved, these orientations often take place at the worksite or in a nearby community location.

After the orientation, employees are invited to make individual appointments at their nearest netWORKri One-Stop Career Center, where they may receive a variety of services, including:

- ◆ skill assessments and interest inventories
- ◆ résumé development
- ◆ interviewing and job searching
- ◆ self-directed or staff-assisted job searches
- ◆ job development services and access to netWORKri job fairs
- ◆ one-to-one career counseling.

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Seasonally Adjusted Labor Force Statistics

(in thousands)

	Rhode Island			United States		
	Mar 08	Feb 08	Mar 07	Mar 08	Feb 08	Mar 07
Civilian Labor Force	572.7	571.2	576.9	153,784	153,374	152,884
Resident Employment	537.7	537.7	548.5	145,969	145,993	146,145
Unemployment	35.1	33.5	28.4	7,815	7,381	6,738
Unemployment Rate	6.1%	5.9%	4.9%	5.1%	4.8%	4.4%

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RI's Job Count Continues to Fall

The number of seasonally adjusted non-farm jobs in Rhode Island fell by 3,100 in March to 484,800. This represents the lowest job count since July 2003 (484,700). From February to March of 2008, employment losses were reported in nearly all industry sectors. The Manufacturing (-700), Retail Trade (-500), Professional & Business Services (-500), Financial Activities (-400), and Other Services (-300) sectors observed the largest declines.

Job losses of 200 each were reported in the Educational Services; Health Care & Social Assistance; and Government sectors, while declines of 100 each were evident in the Information; Arts, Entertainment & Recreation; and Accommodation & Food Services sectors. This month's employment loss was slightly offset by a gain of 200 jobs in the Construction sector. Employment remained unchanged in the Wholesale Trade and Transportation & Utilities sectors.

Job losses in the Manufacturing sector were the result of reductions in both Durable and Non-Durable Goods employment. Reductions in the Retail Trade sector were reflected in Department Stores, together with Clothing, Building Material, Sporting Goods, and Health & Personal Care Stores. Losses in the Professional & Business Services sector were largely the result of cutbacks in Temporary Help agencies.

From March 2007 to March 2008, RI jobs declined 10,100, a 2.0 percent decrease. The largest annual employment losses occurred in the Manufacturing (-2,700), Professional & Business Services (-2,600) Construction (-1,800), and Financial Activities (-1,800) sectors. Smaller losses were noted in Retail Trade (-1,400); Arts, Entertainment & Recreation (-400); Other Services (-400); Government (-300); Wholesale Trade (-200) and Accommodation & Food Services (-100). Educational Services employment experienced the largest over-the-year gain (+700). Other gains were noted in Health Care & Social Assistance (+600) and Information (+300).

In March 2008, production workers in the Manufacturing sector earned \$13.87 per hour. The average hourly production wage was unchanged from February and up 40 cents per hour from a year ago. Manufacturing employees worked an average of 38.3 hours per week in March, unchanged over the month and down 0.7 of an hour since March 2007.

Establishment Employment in Rhode Island Seasonally Adjusted

	Net Change From				
	<u>Mar-08</u>	<u>Feb-08</u>	<u>Mar-07</u>	<u>Feb-08</u>	<u>Mar-07</u>
Total Nonfarm	484.8	487.9	494.9	-3.1	-10.1
Natural Resources & Mining	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.0	0.0
Construction	21.0	20.8	22.8	0.2	-1.8
Manufacturing	48.6	49.3	51.3	-0.7	-2.7
Wholesale Trade*	16.9	16.9	17.1	0.0	-0.2
Retail Trade	50.6	51.1	52.0	-0.5	-1.4
Transportation & Utilities	10.9	10.9	10.9	0.0	0.0
Information	10.8	10.9	10.5	-0.1	0.3
Financial Activities	33.7	34.1	35.5	-0.4	-1.8
Professional & Business Services	54.0	54.5	56.6	-0.5	-2.6
Educational Services	23.9	24.1	23.2	-0.2	0.7
Health Care & Social Assistance	76.3	76.5	75.7	-0.2	0.6
Arts, Entertainment & Recreation	7.7	7.8	8.1	-0.1	-0.4
Accommodation & Food Services	43.1	43.2	43.2	-0.1	-0.1
Other Services	22.9	23.2	23.3	-0.3	-0.4
Government	64.2	64.4	64.5	-0.2	-0.3

* State Calculated Estimate

Manufacturing Employment in Rhode Island Not Seasonally Adjusted

	Employment				
	(in thousands)			Net Change From	
	<u>Mar 08</u>	<u>Feb 08</u>	<u>Mar 07</u>	<u>Feb 08</u>	<u>Mar 07</u>
Manufacturing	48.6	49.2	51.3	-600	-2,700
Durable Goods	31.6	32.0	33.2	-400	-1,600
Fabricated Metal Product Mfg.	6.6	6.7	7.0	-100	-400
Computer & Electronic Product Mfg.	4.3	4.3	4.5	0	-200
Miscellaneous Manufacturing	8.9	9.0	9.5	-100	-600
Jewelry & Silverware	6.2	6.3	6.6	-100	-400
Non-Durable Goods	17.0	17.2	18.1	-200	-1,100
Chemical Manufacturing	4.2	4.2	4.5	0	-300
Plastics & Rubber Products Mfg.	2.9	2.9	3.0	0	-100

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.



Providence

With more than 170,000 residents, the City of Providence has the largest population in Rhode Island. The Hispanic/Latino community, which has more than doubled in size since 1990, accounts for 36 percent of the City's total population. One-quarter of Providence residents (5 years and older -158,827) are not fluent* in English. About 70 percent of Providence residents 25 years and older have at least a high school diploma or GED, while nearly one-third have a college degree (associate's degree or higher).

In 2007, the total labor force in Providence totaled 80,194, reflecting 75,230 employed residents and 4,964 unemployed residents. The 2007 annual average unemployment rate for the City was 6.2 percent.

In 2007, Providence's 5,600 private sector business establishments employed an average of 98,000 workers and paid over \$4.4 billion in wages. Jobs in the Capital City paid an annual average wage of \$45,316, approximately 14 percent (\$5,488) more than the statewide private sector average of \$39,828. Nearly one-quarter (23.4%) of the state's private sector jobs are located in Providence.

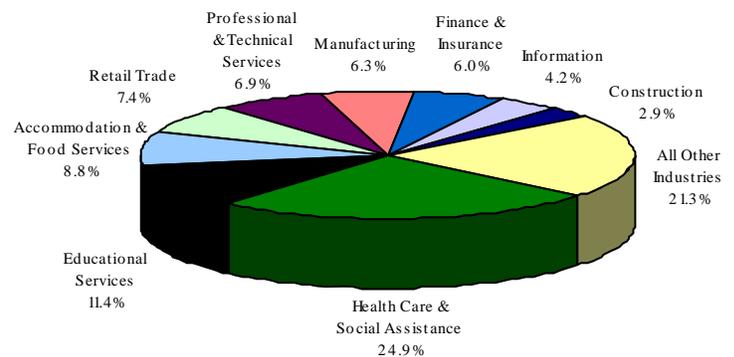
The Health Care & Social Assistance sector employed approximately 24,400 workers in 2007, accounting for the greatest percentage (24.9%) of the City's employment. The Educational Services (11.4%) sector ran a distant second with an average of 11,100 workers. The Management of Companies sector reported the highest average wage (\$126,108), followed by Finance & Insurance (\$77,611), Professional & Technical Services (\$67,670), Information (\$64,327) and Construction (\$61,426).

Providence residents held approximately 30 percent of the jobs located in the city. Nearly 10 percent of the jobs were held by residents of other states. In 2006, the median household income in Providence was \$32,803.

For more information, refer to the label page, "Providence Demographics and Employment Statistics."

*Fluent is defined as the ability to speak English "very well."

Providence Private Sector Employment, 2007



Characteristics of the Insured Unemployed

In March 2008, 49 percent of Rhode Island's unemployed workers were eligible to collect Unemployment Insurance (UI) benefits. Numbering 18,671 people, these "insured unemployed" accounted for 3.5 percent of the state's total employed (unadjusted). Nearly 23 percent (4,282) 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 percent (4,287) of the state's insured unemployed workers came from the Construction sector. There were also 2,638 individuals with an attachment to the Administrative & Waste Services sector, accounting for 14.1 percent of all insured unemployed workers. An additional 12.8 percent (2,390) of those collecting UI benefits in March had worked in the Manufacturing sector. Large numbers of insured unemployed were also reported in Retail Trade (1,626), Accommodation & Food Services (1,341) and Health Care & Social Assistance (1,013). For more information, go to www.dlt.ri.gov/lmi/uiadmin/characteristics.htm.

Characteristics of the Insured Unemployed, March 2008

	Total	Long-Term	Percent Long-Term
Total	18,671	4,282	22.9%
Male	12,147	2,480	20.4%
Female	6,524	1,802	27.6%
Selected Industries	18,671	4,282	22.9%
Construction	4,287	623	14.5%
Manufacturing	2,390	631	26.4%
Wholesale Trade	695	198	28.5%
Retail Trade	1,626	400	24.6%
Transportation & Warehousing	486	70	14.4%
Information	166	48	28.9%
Finance & Insurance	862	366	42.5%
Real Estate	305	92	30.2%
Professional & Tech. Services	595	170	28.6%
Administrative & Waste Services	2,638	437	16.6%
Educational Services	170	50	29.4%
Health Care & Social Assistance	1,013	366	36.1%
Arts, Entertainment & Recreation	674	186	27.6%
Accommodation & Food Services	1,341	313	23.3%
Other Services	533	136	25.5%
Public Administration	105	30	28.6%

**Consumer Price Index for
All Urban Consumers**

				% Change
	Mar 08	Feb 08	Mar 07	Prev. Year
All Items	213.5	211.7	205.4	4.0%

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

Mass Layoff Events in 2007

In 2007, RI employers experienced 91 significant layoff actions (a layoff of 35 or more workers from a single company in a five-week period) involving a total of 10,941 workers. These layoff actions accounted for 13.4 percent of the 81,928 initial claims filed in 2007. In comparison, there were 83 significant layoff actions in 2006, involving 10,817 workers (14.1 percent of the 76,453 initial claims filed).

The number of Rhode Island workers affected by long-term mass layoffs (lasting 30 days or longer) more than doubled over the year, increasing to 39 in 2007 from 14 in 2006. The 14 long-term mass layoff events identified in 2006 affected 1,801 workers and accounted for 2.3 percent of the 76,453 initial claims filed. In 2007, long-term mass layoffs resulted in 3,990 job losses and accounted for 4.9 percent of the 81,928 initial claims filed.

Seasonal occurrences, such as weather changes, school closings or vacation shut-downs, accounted for nearly half (19) of the long-term events affecting 2,464 workers. Nearly all of these events were associated with weather-related layoffs in the Construction sector or school closings involving support services which were discontinued during the summer months. Most of these services were supplied by workers employed in the Transportation and Food Services industries. Total recalls were anticipated for all workers of companies reporting either seasonal or vacation period layoffs with workers expected to be back on the job within one to six months.

Eighteen of the companies experiencing a mass layoff in 2007 reported that no recalls were expected for their 1,346 workers. The reasons most often cited for these layoffs were business closures, reorganizations, slack work, ownership change, or financial difficulty. In 2006, seven companies reported that no recalls were expected for the 504 workers they laid off.

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

	<u>2008</u>	<u>2007</u>		<u>2008</u>	<u>2007</u>
Barrington	4.3	3.7	Newport	7.0	5.1
Bristol	6.3	4.5	North Kingstown	5.8	4.0
Burrillville	7.2	4.8	North Providence	6.2	4.7
Central Falls	9.5	6.8	North Smithfield	6.0	4.5
Charlestown	7.4	5.2	Pawtucket	7.6	5.7
Coventry	6.5	4.6	Portsmouth	5.4	4.2
Cranston	6.5	4.7	Providence	7.7	5.7
Cumberland	6.0	4.3	Richmond	4.2	3.3
East Greenwich	6.0	4.0	Scituate	7.4	5.5
East Providence	7.0	5.4	Smithfield	5.7	4.3
Exeter	6.5	5.2	South Kingstown	5.8	4.5
Foster	7.8	5.7	Tiverton	7.5	5.8
Glocester	5.4	4.2	Warren	6.5	5.7
Hopkinton	7.1	5.1	Warwick	6.2	4.6
Jamestown	4.4	3.7	West Greenwich	6.0	4.3
Johnston	7.6	6.0	West Warwick	6.9	5.7
Lincoln	6.0	4.0	Westerly	6.0	4.6
Little Compton	6.3	4.9	Woonsocket	7.7	5.9
Middletown	6.3	4.7			
Narragansett	4.6	3.2	State of R.I.	6.7	5.0
New Shoreham	14.7	11.9	United States	5.2	4.5

**Rapid Response
Outreach Services for Businesses**

(Continued from Page 1)

NetWORKri centers are located in Providence, Pawtucket, Woonsocket and West Warwick. In addition, an East Bay satellite office is located in Middletown.

For more information on Rapid Response, contact the RI Department of Labor and Training Adult Dislocated Worker Unit at 401-462-8804.

Unemployment Insurance Claims Activity

	Mar	Feb	Mar	% Change	Year to Date	Year to Date	% Change	
	2008	2008	2007	Feb 08	Mar 07	2008	2007	% Change
Initial Claims	6,388	9,169	5,873	-30.3%	8.8%	27,032	23,613	14.5%
Number of Payments	83,086	75,150	64,980	10.6%	27.9%	231,391	199,331	16.1%
Amount of Payments (gross millions)	\$30.4	\$27.4	\$23.0	10.9%	32.2%	\$84.6	\$69.7	21.4%
Exhaustions (Final Payments)	1,905	1,397	1,249	36.4%	52.5%	4,882	3,779	29.2%

Providence Demographics and Employment Statistics

Population

	2006	
Total Population	170,435	
Male	82,880	48.6%
Female	87,555	51.4%
18 years +	129,529	76.0%
25 years +	96,634	56.7%
65 years +	15,137	8.9%
White alone	77,430	45.4%
Black/African American alone	27,942	16.4%
American Indian & Alaskan Native alone	1,565	0.9%
Asian & Pacific Islander alone	10,008	5.9%
Some other race alone	46,962	27.6%
Two or more races	6,528	3.8%
Hispanic or Latino (of any race)	61,360	36.0%

Educational Attainment

Population (25+)	96,634	
Less than 9th grade	17,171	17.8%
9th to 12th grade, no diploma	12,432	12.9%
High school graduate (includes equivalency)	23,361	24.2%
Some college, no degree	12,042	12.5%
Associate's degree	4,053	4.2%
Bachelor's degree	15,694	16.2%
Graduate or professional degree	11,881	12.3%

Language Spoken

Population (5+)	158,827	100%
Fluent in English	118,952	74.9%
Speak only English	81,389	51.2%
Primary Language other than English	37,563	23.7%
Not Fluent in English	39,875	25.1%

Employment and Wage Data

	<u>Employment</u>	<u>Wages</u>
Total, Private Sector	97,795	\$45,316
Construction	2,868	\$61,426
Manufacturing	6,161	\$35,170
Wholesale Trade	2,505	\$57,891
Retail Trade	7,189	\$22,964
Transportation & Warehousing	720	\$35,607
Information	4,119	\$64,327
Finance & Insurance	5,824	\$77,611
Professional & Technical Services	6,792	\$67,670
Management of Companies	1,985	\$126,108
Administrative & Waste Services	7,883	\$26,330
Educational Services	11,108	\$45,364
Health Care & Social Assistance	24,372	\$47,102
Arts, Entertainment & Recreation	1,107	\$21,033
Accommodation & Food Services	8,561	\$17,535
Other Services	4,515	\$29,269
All Other Employment	2,086	-----

Sources: US Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2006

RI Department of Labor & Training, Quarterly Census of Employment & Wages, 2007 (Preliminary 2007 Data)