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Employment Bulletin

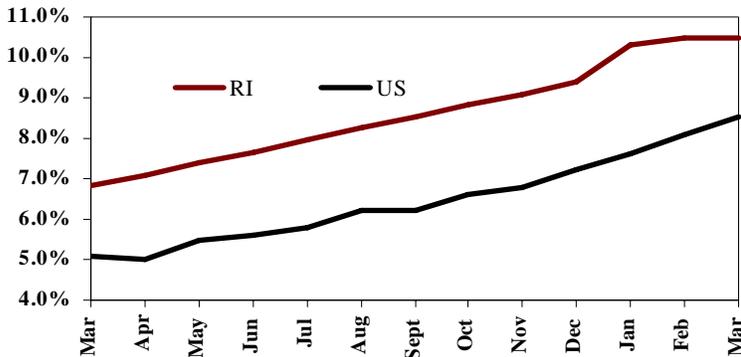
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April 2009

Rhode Island's Unemployment Rate Remains at 10.5 Percent

- ◆ RI's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate for March was 10.5 percent, unchanged from the February rate.
- ◆ This was the first time the RI rate has not shown a monthly increase since May-June 2007.
- ◆ RI's March unemployment rate is up 3.7 percentage points from last year's figure of 6.8 percent.
- ◆ The national rate increased 0.4 of a percentage point to 8.5 percent, the highest rate since November 1983. Rhode Island has the 6th highest rate in the nation, trailing Michigan (12.6%), Oregon (12.1%), South Carolina (11.4%), California (11.2%) and North Carolina (10.8%).
- ◆ In March, the number of unemployed Rhode Island residents increased by 100 to reach 59,500, the state's highest jobless level on record. From March 2008 to March 2009, the number of unemployed residents increased by 20,800.
- ◆ The number of employed RI residents totaled 504,900 in March 2009, reflecting a decrease of 1,700 from the previous month. Between March 2008 and March 2009, the number of employed RI residents fell by 25,400.

**RI & US Unemployment Rates
Seasonally Adjusted 2008-2009**



City & Town Analysis Third Quarter 2008

Rhode Island total employment averaged 469,910 in the third quarter of 2008, a decrease of 11,264 (-2.3%) jobs from the third quarter of 2007. Private sector employment suffered a loss of 9,830 (-2.3%) jobs, while the Government payroll was cut by 1,434 (-2.5%) jobs. State government reported a loss of 762, positions while local government lost 855 jobs. Federal government experienced a modest gain of 183 positions during the period.

Private sector employment in Warwick experienced a loss of 2,399 (-4.9%) positions between the second quarter of 2007 and second quarter of 2008, the largest employment decline among all Rhode Island communities. Retail Trade lost 487 (-5.6%) jobs from the second quarter 2007, followed by the Management of Companies & Enterprises sector, which declined by 419 (-22.6%) positions. Providence (-1,503), Lincoln (-866), Cranston (-857) and Pawtucket (-821) also reported sizable employment declines during this period.

Smithfield added 423 (+3.3%) private sector jobs between the second quarter of 2007 and second quarter of 2008, the largest employment gain among Rhode Island's thirty-nine cities and towns. Significant employment gains within the town were noted in the Finance & Insurance (+642) and Educational Services (+41) sectors.

North Kingstown experienced the second largest employment increase, adding 278 (+2.1%) private sector jobs from the second quarter of 2007. The Utilities sector added 112 jobs during this period. Additional cities and towns to report notable employment gains during this period were Narragansett (+233), Burrillville (+121) and Newport (+120). For more information, visit www.dlt.ri.gov/lmi/es202.htm.

Seasonally Adjusted Labor Force Statistics

(in thousands)

	Rhode Island			United States		
	Mar 09	Feb 09	Mar 08	Mar 09	Feb 09	Mar 08
Civilian Labor Force	564.5	566.0	569.0	154,048	154,214	153,843
Resident Employment	504.9	506.6	530.3	140,887	141,748	146,023
Unemployment	59.5	59.4	38.7	13,161	12,467	7,820
Unemployment Rate	10.5%	10.5%	6.8%	8.5%	8.1%	5.1%

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Rhode Island Jobs Decline by 1,900 in March

Job losses continued in Rhode Island as the March job count totaled 465,300, a decline of 1,900 jobs from February's revised employment level of 467,200. March marks the fourteenth straight month of job losses for Rhode Island, and fifteen consecutive months of job declines for the US. Since the January 2007 employment peak (496,400), the local economy has lost over 31,000 jobs.

Health Care & Social Assistance, which had been one of the few industries to report employment gains during the recession, lost 400 jobs in March, with declines occurring in hospitals and ambulatory health care services.

Construction employment fell by 300 between February 2009 and March 2009, this industry has lost 6,200 (-26.1%) jobs since peaking in January 2007 (23,800). Also in March, job losses were reported in Wholesale Trade (-300), Government (-300), Professional & Business Services (-200), Information (-100), Financial Activities (-100), Other Services (-100) and Manufacturing (-100).

There were no industries reporting over-the-month job growth; however, employment in several industries remained unchanged, including Retail Trade, Transportation & Utilities, Educational Services, Accommodation & Food Services, Arts, Entertainment & Recreation and Natural Resources & Mining.

From March 2008 to March 2009, RI jobs declined 22,000 (-4.5 %), the largest year-over-year loss on record. Job declines occurred in nearly all economic sectors with the most significant annual employment declines reported in Manufacturing (-4,900), Construction (-3,700), Retail Trade (-3,400), Professional & Business Services (-3,400), Government (-2,000) and Financial Activities (-1,300). Smaller losses, were noted in Wholesale Trade (-800), Information (-700), Other Services (-700), Arts, Entertainment & Recreation (-600), Transportation & Utilities (-500) and Health Care & Social Assistance (-200).

Establishment Employment in Rhode Island Seasonally Adjusted

	Net Change From				
	Mar-09	Feb-09	Mar-08	Feb-09	Mar-08
Total Nonfarm	465.3	467.2	487.3	-1.9	-22.0
Natural Resources & Mining	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.0	0.0
Construction	17.6	17.9	21.3	-0.3	-3.7
Manufacturing	44.2	44.3	49.1	-0.1	-4.9
Wholesale Trade	16.3	16.6	17.1	-0.3	-0.8
Retail Trade	46.9	46.9	50.3	0.0	-3.4
Transportation & Utilities	10.6	10.6	11.1	0.0	-0.5
Information	10.2	10.3	10.9	-0.1	-0.7
Financial Activities	32.4	32.5	33.7	-0.1	-1.3
Professional & Business Services	51.9	52.1	55.3	-0.2	-3.4
Educational Services	23.5	23.5	23.3	0.0	0.2
Health Care & Social Assistance	76.5	76.9	76.7	-0.4	-0.2
Arts, Entertainment & Recreation	7.6	7.6	8.2	0.0	-0.6
Accommodation & Food Services	43.1	43.1	43.1	0.0	0.0
Other Services	22.2	22.3	22.9	-0.1	-0.7
Government	62.1	62.4	64.1	-0.3	-2.0

Manufacturing Employment in Rhode Island Not Seasonally Adjusted

	Employment				
	(in thousands)			Net Change From	
	Mar 09	Feb 09	Mar 08	Feb 09	Mar 08
Manufacturing	44.1	44.3	49.0	-200	-4,900
Durable Goods	28.4	28.4	31.6	0	-3,200
Fabricated Metal Product Mfg.	6.1	6.1	6.8	0	-700
Computer & Electronic Product Mfg.	4.1	4.1	4.3	0	-200
Miscellaneous Manufacturing	7.8	7.8	8.7	0	-900
Jewelry & Silverware	5.2	5.2	5.8	0	-600
Non-Durable Goods	15.7	15.9	17.4	-200	-1,700
Chemical Manufacturing	3.6	3.6	4.0	0	-400

Educational Services (+200) was the lone industry to report an over the year employment gain, while Accommodation & Food Services and Natural Resources & Mining employment remained even.

MANUFACTURING: In March 2009, production workers in the Manufacturing sector earned \$13.80 per hour. The average hourly production wage was down twenty-nine cents from February and down thirteen cents from a year ago March. Manufacturing employees worked an average of 37.4 hours per week in March, up four-tenths of an hour over the month and down nine-tenths since March 2008.

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. With the release of the January estimates, the seasonally adjusted jobs and unemployment data have been revised back to 2004. Current month's figures are preliminary and subject to change.



Foreign Labor Certification

Foreign workers have authorization from the US Citizenship and Immigration Service to live and work in the United States. However, before hiring a foreign worker, a business must first demonstrate its inability to fill the position with a qualified citizen at the prevailing wage rate for the occupation. The Department of Labor and Training provides guidance to the employer community in meeting all regulations and requirements and administers pre-certification for their application. Careful monitoring of prevailing wages discourages unfair labor practices and assures the stability of the economy.

Rhode Island employers submitted 214 prevailing wage requests in 2008. Computer & Mathematical occupations demonstrated the greatest need for foreign labor accounting for nearly 30 percent of the requests submitted. Over half of the requests (39) in this group were for Computer Software Engineers. Annual prevailing wages for this occupation range from \$60,840 for entry level workers to \$94,307 for fully competent workers.

Other occupational groups in strong demand included Education (11%) in which prevailing wage requests for Post-Secondary Teachers was highest. Health Practitioner & Technical Occupations accounted for nearly 10 percent of the prevailing wage requests with Registered Nurses (9) and Physicians and Surgeons (6) accounting for most of the requests. Life, Physical & Social Science occupations such as Medical Scientists, Chemists, and Market Research Analysts, and Management Occupations each accounted for approximately eight percent of the prevailing wage requests submitted.

Prevailing Wage Requests - 2008

Occupational Group	Requests Number	Received Percent	Prevailing Wage
Computer & Mathematical	62	29.0%	\$73,099
Education, Training & Library	24	11.2%	\$53,293
Health Care Practitioner & Technical	20	9.3%	\$75,782
Management	18	8.4%	\$75,658
Life, Physical & Social Science	18	8.4%	\$49,849
Construction & Maintenance	14	6.5%	\$40,512
Architecture & Engineering	12	5.6%	\$73,013
Sales & Office	12	5.6%	\$31,748
Service	11	5.1%	\$18,111
Business & Financial	10	4.7%	\$65,205
Production	6	2.8%	\$30,732
Other	7	3.3%	n/a

* Average for all skill levels

Characteristics of the Insured Unemployed

In March 2009, 55 percent of Rhode Island's unemployed workers were eligible to collect Unemployment Insurance (UI) benefits. Numbering 34,033 people, these "insured unemployed" accounted for 6.8 percent of the State's total employed (unadjusted). More than 26 percent (8,890) 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, 19.8 percent (6,730) of the State's insured unemployed workers came from the Construction sector. There were also 6,622 individuals with an attachment to the Manufacturing sector, accounting for 19.5 percent of all insured unemployed workers. An additional 12.0 percent (4,071) of those collecting UI benefits in March had worked in the Administrative & Waste Services sector. Large numbers of insured unemployed were also reported in Retail Trade (2,694), Accommodation & Food Services (2,575) and Health Care & Social Assistance (1,585). For more information, go to www.dlt.ri.gov/lmi/uiadmin/characteristics.htm.

Characteristics of the Insured Unemployed, March 2009

	Total	Long-Term	Percent Long-Term
Total	34,033	8,890	26.1%
Male	22,039	5,415	24.6%
Female	11,994	3,475	29.0%
Selected Industries	34,033	8,890	26.1%
Construction	6,730	1,168	17.4%
Manufacturing	6,622	1,868	28.2%
Wholesale Trade	1,363	393	28.8%
Retail Trade	2,694	872	32.4%
Transportation & Warehousing	944	238	25.2%
Information	522	166	31.8%
Finance & Insurance	1,436	483	33.6%
Real Estate	570	168	29.5%
Professional & Tech. Services	1,221	357	29.2%
Administrative & Waste Services	4,071	791	19.4%
Educational Services	320	110	34.4%
Health Care & Social Assistance	1,585	647	40.8%
Arts, Entertainment & Recreation	1,054	282	26.8%
Accommodation & Food Services	2,575	672	26.1%
Other Services	876	284	32.4%
Public Administration	176	47	26.7%

**Consumer Price Index for
All Urban Consumers**

				% Change
	Mar 09	Feb 09	Mar 08	Prev. Year
All Items	212.7	212.2	213.5	-0.4%

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

**Unemployment Insurance Activity
First Quarter 2009**

During the first quarter of 2009, the DLT processed nearly 48,000 initial claims for unemployment compensation, up (75.9%) from the 27,032 processed during the same period in 2008. A total of 477,451 payments totaling nearly \$175 million were issued during the quarter. DLT is currently paying unemployment compensation under three programs – Unemployment Insurance, Emergency Unemployment Compensation and Extended Benefits.

Nearly 900 of the initial claims filed during the quarter were associated with nine Mass Layoff events that occurred in the state. A mass layoff event is defined as a layoff expected to last longer than thirty days, affecting a minimum of fifty workers during a five week period. There were four mass layoff events during the first quarter, 2008.

Employers cited insufficient demand, cost control/cutting, financial difficulty and reorganization as reasons for the layoffs. One layoff was considered seasonal with most workers expected to be recalled to their jobs.

The majority of mass layoff events (4) were associated with employers classified in the Manufacturing sector, affecting nearly 600 workers. Companies classified in Professional & Business Services accounted for three events, and Leisure & Hospitality accounted for two, affecting 180 and 100 workers respectively.

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

	2009	2008		2009	2008
Barrington	7.3	4.4	Newport	10.9	7.0
Bristol	11.1	6.7	North Kingstown	9.1	6.0
Burrillville	11.7	7.4	North Providence	10.1	6.5
Central Falls	15.3	9.9	North Smithfield	10.2	6.2
Charlestown	12.7	7.6	Pawtucket	13.3	8.0
Coventry	10.4	6.7	Portsmouth	9.7	5.6
Cranston	11.1	6.9	Providence	12.5	8.1
Cumberland	10.3	6.2	Richmond	8.0	4.3
East Greenwich	9.4	6.3	Scituate	10.9	7.7
East Providence	11.9	7.3	Smithfield	10.1	6.0
Exeter	9.7	6.8	South Kingstown	9.1	6.1
Foster	12.3	8.0	Tiverton	12.2	7.7
Glocester	9.3	5.6	Warren	11.2	6.7
Hopkinton	11.5	7.3	Warwick	9.9	6.5
Jamestown	6.9	4.6	West Greenwich	10.1	6.3
Johnston	12.2	7.9	West Warwick	12.2	7.2
Lincoln	10.4	6.2	Westerly	10.4	6.5
Little Compton	11.0	6.7	Woonsocket	12.9	7.9
Middletown	10.3	6.6			
Narragansett	7.0	4.8	State of R.I.	11.1	7.0
New Shoreham	21.8	15.6	United States	9.0	5.2

**New Release
DLT 2008 Annual Report**

The Department of Labor and Training (DLT) 2008 Annual Report summarizes the activities and programs of the department in 2008. This report can be viewed at www.dlt.ri.gov/lmi/publications/annreport.htm.

Unemployment Insurance Claims Activity

	Mar	Feb	Mar	% Change		Year to Date		
	2009	2009	2008	Feb 09	Mar 08	2009	2008	% Change
Regular Claims								
Initial Claims	15,491	12,586	6,388	23.1%	142.5%	39,780	27,032	47.2%
Number of Payments	141,500	103,041	83,086	37.3%	70.3%	336,409	231,391	45.4%
Amount of Payments (gross millions)	\$52.4	\$38.4	\$30.4	36.5%	72.4%	124.9	84.600	47.6%
Exhaustions (Final Payments)	3,188	2,120	1,905	50.4%	67.3%	7,391	4,882	51.4%
Emergency Unemployment Compensation								
Initial Claims	3,484	2,301	n/a	51.4%	n/a	7,710	n/a	n/a
Number of Payments	55,382	42,936	n/a	29.0%	n/a	138,352	n/a	n/a
Amount of Payments (gross millions)	\$19.6	\$15.1	n/a	29.6%	n/a	\$48.6	n/a	n/a
Extended Benefits								
Initial Claims	366	87	n/a	320.7%	n/a	460	n/a	n/a
Number of Payments	2,467	219	n/a	1026.5%	n/a	2,690	n/a	n/a
Amount of Payments	\$738,752	\$59,052	n/a	1151.0%	n/a	\$798,778	n/a	n/a

Rhode Island Department of Labor & Training
Quarterly Census of Employment & Wages - Private Sector
RI City and Town - Third Quarter 2008

<u>Municipality</u>	<u>Establishments</u>	<u>Average Employment</u>	<u>Total Wages</u>	<u>Average Weekly Wage</u>
Rhode Island	35,217	413,404	\$3,981,024,801	\$741
Barrington	453	2,485	17,924,273	\$555
Bristol	624	6,766	57,613,762	\$655
Burrillville	298	2,505	18,612,411	\$572
Central Falls	230	2,079	16,504,748	\$611
Charlestown	232	1,490	12,178,469	\$629
Coventry	753	7,009	53,379,909	\$586
Cranston	2,572	28,523	254,545,994	\$686
Cumberland	875	8,212	81,244,155	\$761
East Greenwich	738	6,537	60,532,993	\$712
East Providence	1,501	20,678	193,743,985	\$721
Exeter	183	1,227	9,070,174	\$569
Foster	100	379	2,927,624	\$594
Glocester	195	1,176	8,513,704	\$557
Hopkinton	209	1,130	8,752,629	\$596
Jamestown	213	1,102	9,680,925	\$676
Johnston	1,087	10,360	95,256,768	\$707
Lincoln	777	13,029	134,230,695	\$792
Little Compton	140	669	4,577,126	\$526
Middletown	769	10,435	98,235,934	\$724
Narragansett	475	4,170	25,140,240	\$464
Newport	1,274	14,575	116,755,603	\$616
New Shoreham	205	1,384	10,883,790	\$605
North Kingstown	1,048	13,664	134,601,772	\$758
North Providence	709	6,857	54,841,510	\$615
North Smithfield	375	3,595	29,255,999	\$626
Pawtucket	1,573	23,300	212,503,217	\$702
Portsmouth	515	5,720	67,923,690	\$913
Providence	5,535	95,714	1,055,583,380	\$848
Richmond	145	1,204	8,014,827	\$512
Scituate	250	957	6,580,390	\$529
Smithfield	823	13,098	147,615,186	\$867
South Kingstown	1,030	10,091	88,874,258	\$677
Tiverton	400	2,235	16,539,222	\$569
Warren	390	3,930	31,004,227	\$607
Warwick	3,321	46,182	416,590,000	\$694
Westerly	880	9,338	71,318,916	\$587
West Greenwich	194	3,013	41,723,561	\$1,065
West Warwick	606	7,716	71,982,675	\$718
Woonsocket	844	13,594	130,312,439	\$737
Statewide *	2,676	7,278	\$105,453,621	\$1,115

* Statewide - employment in multiple towns, at unknown locations, or outside RI.

Data compiled March 2009 at the RI DLT Labor Market Information office.

The data is subject to revisions & variations in sequences of rounding & averaging.

Source: Quarterly Census of Employment and Wages, developed through a cooperative program between the State of Rhode Island and the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics

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 method.

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