



Employment Labor Market Information Bulletin

Volume 13, No. 8

August 2001

The Rhode Island Unemployment Rate Rose to 5.3 Percent in July

Household Survey Sample Size Expanded

The Unemployment Rate

Rhode Island's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate continued to trend upward in July. The unemployment rate rose 0.3 of a percentage point to 5.3 percent in July from June's revised estimate of 5.0 percent. The June revised and July preliminary labor force figures reflect the results of an expansion of the Census household survey sample for Rhode Island. A comparison of RI's unemployment rate for the first six months of 2001, show that RI's rate was, on average, 0.3 percent higher using the expanded sample data. A year ago July, the unemployment rate (based on the old sample) was 4.2 percent. The number of unemployed Rhode Islanders rose by 1,300 over the month to 27,000 in July. In July 2000, the number of unemployed (based on the old sample) was 20,900. Nationally, the unemployment figure for July held steady at 4.5 percent. Rhode Island's unemployment rate is higher than the comparable national average for the third month in a row.

"Rhode Island's unemployment rate inched up again in July reflecting the continued soft economy," said DLT Director Dr. Lee H. Arnold. "The increase in the unemployment rate over the year may be somewhat overstated because of the effect of the expansion in the household survey sample. Nonetheless, it's clear that unemployment has continued to increase this year when compared to last year." (Continued on Page 4)

Expanded Current Population Survey

The Current Population Survey (CPS) is a household survey conducted each month by the US Census Bureau and is an important component in the methodology used to produce the estimates of the labor force, including the unemployment rate. The CPS sample was recently expanded to meet the requirements of the State Children's Health Insurance Program (SCHIP) legislation. The national sample increased from about 50,000 to 60,000 households. In Rhode Island, the sample doubled from approximately 600 to 1,200 households.

Beginning with the publication of the July Preliminary and June Revised data, Rhode Island's state and sub-state labor force estimates reflect the results of the expanded household survey sample. The state and area estimates for January – May 2001 do not reflect the expanded sample, but will be revised as part of the annual benchmarking process in early 2002. Labor force estimates for June and the following months are not directly comparable to data from prior years.

(See the attachment for more information on the expanded household survey sample.)

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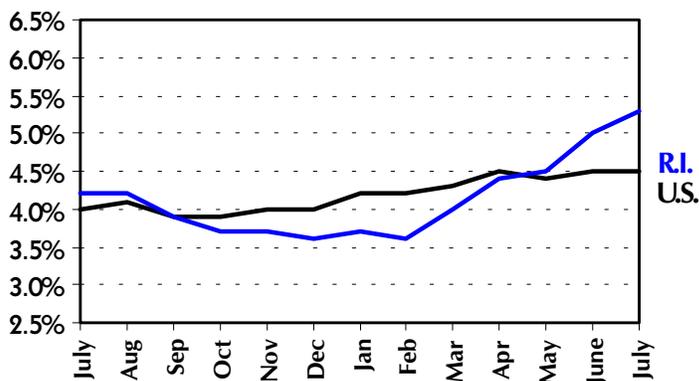
Rhode Island Labor Force Statistics (in thousands)

	Unadjusted			Seasonally Adjusted		
	Jul 01*	Jun 01*	Jul 00	Jul 01*	Jun 01*	Jul 00
Civilian Labor Force	515.8	512.6	510.7	509.1	511.7	504.1
Resident Employment	488.9	488.4	490.2	482.1	486.0	483.2
Unemployment	26.9	24.2	20.5	27.0	25.7	20.9
Unemployment Rate	5.2%	4.7%	4.0%	5.3%	5.0%	4.2%

United States Labor Force Statistics (in thousands)

	Unadjusted			Seasonally Adjusted		
	Jul 01*	Jun 01	Jul 00	Jul 01*	Jun 01	Jul 00
Civilian Labor Force	143,181	142,684	142,101	141,774	141,354	140,546
Resident Employment	136,385	135,923	136,097	135,379	134,932	134,898
Unemployment	6,797	6,762	6,004	6,395	6,422	5,648
Unemployment Rate	4.7%	4.7%	4.2%	4.5%	4.5%	4.0%

Rhode Island & United States Unemployment Rates Seasonally Adjusted 2000 - 2001



City & Town Unadjusted Unemployment Rates

	Jul 01*	Jul 00
Barrington	2.9	2.5
Bristol	3.5	3.4
Burrillville	5.2	3.7
Central Falls	10.3	6.8
Charlestown	5.8	4.2
Coventry	5.0	4.6
Cranston	4.8	3.9
Cumberland	5.8	3.5
East Greenwich	4.5	3.0
East Providence	5.2	4.6
Exeter	4.3	3.4
Foster	6.3	4.8
Glocester	3.7	2.9
Hopkinton	3.3	2.4
Jamestown	2.9	2.5
Johnston	5.3	4.5
Lincoln	4.9	4.1
Little Compton	2.2	1.5
Middletown	3.6	2.7
Narragansett	2.4	1.7
New Shoreham	2.7	0.7
Newport	3.0	2.9
North Kingstown	3.5	2.8
North Providence	4.8	4.0
North Smithfield	4.0	3.4
Pawtucket	7.4	4.9
Portsmouth	2.8	2.5
Providence	7.7	5.6
Richmond	2.2	2.4
Scituate	5.0	4.1
Smithfield	4.8	4.2
South Kingstown	3.3	3.0
Tiverton	5.1	3.9
Warren	4.3	3.7
Warwick	4.3	3.6
West Greenwich	4.9	3.4
West Warwick	5.4	4.5
Westerly	3.3	2.3
Woonsocket	7.1	4.4
State of R.I.	5.2	4.0

Unemployment Insurance Claims Activity

	Jul	Jun	Jul	% Change		Year to Date		
	2001	2001	2000	Jun 01	Jul 00	2001	2000	% Change
Initial Claims	8,056	7,945	7,168	1.4%	12.4%	57,791	52,695	9.7%
Number of Payments	62,912	43,451	49,939	44.8%	26.0%	387,253	357,791	8.2%
Amount of Payments (gross millions)	\$16.7	\$12.1	\$11.3	38.4%	48.5%	\$107.6	\$87.3	23.3%
Exhaustions (Final Payments)	1,168	896	1,243	30.4%	-6.0%	7,547	7,849	-3.8%

*Based on expanded household survey sample.

Labor Force statistics are compiled by Labor Market Information, in cooperation with the Bureau of Labor Statistics, U.S. Dept. of Labor.

For additional information, comments or suggestions, contact

Labor Market Information, Phone (401)462-8740, Fax: (401)462-8766, www.dlt.state.ri.us/lmi

Total Establishment Employment in Rhode Island**

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	Employment (in thousands)			Net Change From	
	Jul 01	Jun 01	Jul 00	Jun 01	Jul 00
TOTAL EMPLOYMENT	474.9	483.6	473.4	-8700	1500
GOODS PRODUCING	87.5	91.7	88.9	-4200	-1400
Contract Construction	21.3	20.9	19.9	400	1400
Manufacturing	66.2	70.8	69.0	-4600	-2800
SERVICE PRODUCING	387.4	391.9	384.5	-4500	2900
Trans. & Public Utilities	16.9	17.4	16.7	-500	200
Trade (Wholesale & Retail)	112.9	112.8	111.6	100	1300
Wholesale	20.9	21.0	20.6	-100	300
Durables◆	12.9	13.0	13.1	-100	-200
Nondurables◆	8.0	8.0	7.6	-----	400
Retail	92.0	91.8	91.0	200	1000
Building & Garden Supplies◆	2.3	2.3	2.3	-----	-----
General Merchandise	7.3	7.4	7.3	-100	-----
Food Stores◆	16.6	16.5	16.3	100	300
Automotive Dealers	7.6	7.7	7.5	-100	100
Apparel & Accessory Stores	4.7	4.6	4.5	100	200
Furn., Home Furn., & Equipt.◆	3.2	3.1	2.8	100	400
Eating and Drinking Places	34.4	34.3	34.4	100	-----
Miscellaneous Retail	15.9	15.9	15.8	-----	100
Finance, Insurance & Real Estate	31.2	31.1	31.1	100	100
Depository Institutions	9.3	9.1	9.3	200	-----
Services	165.3	166.3	163.5	-1000	1800
Hotels & Other Lodging◆	5.3	5.0	5.3	300	-----
Business Services	28.8	29.7	28.7	-900	100
Auto & Misc. Repair◆	5.6	5.5	5.4	100	200
Amusement & Recreation	7.2	7.0	7.0	200	200
Health Services	52.7	52.5	51.9	200	800
Educational Services	14.9	14.9	14.7	-----	200
Social Services	15.8	16.1	15.6	-300	200
Government	61.1	64.3	61.6	-3200	-500
Federal	10.5	10.4	11.2	100	-700
State	17.7	18.4	17.6	-700	100
Local	32.9	35.5	32.8	-2600	100
Education◆	19.3	22.6	19.2	-3300	100
Non Education◆	13.6	12.8	13.6	800	-----

◆ Publication of these industries is not approved by the Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS)

Establishment Employment, Hours and Earnings in Manufacturing Industries in Rhode Island

	EMPLOYMENT (in thousands)					PRODUCTION-WORKER AVERAGES					
	Net Change					Weekly Hours			Hourly Earnings		
	Jul 01	Jun 01	Jul 00	Jun 01	Jul 00	Jul 01	Jun 01	Jul 00	Jul 01	Jun 01	Jul 00
MANUFACTURING	66.2	70.8	69.0	-4600	-2800	39.9	40.2	39.5	12.20	12.17	12.23
DURABLE MFG.	43.5	46.7	45.7	-3200	-2200	40.0	40.0	39.3	12.00	12.02	11.96
Lumber/Furniture	2.7	2.8	2.7	-100	-----	41.4	41.8	40.4	11.81	11.81	12.08
Stone-Clay-Glass	0.5	0.8	0.9	-300	-400	39.4	40.5	41.4	13.86	13.89	13.81
Primary Metals	3.7	3.9	3.9	-200	-200	40.5	42.7	40.0	12.88	12.88	12.72
Fabricated Metals	7.0	8.1	7.4	-1100	-400	38.6	38.6	38.7	11.21	11.29	11.26
Nonelectrical Mach.	4.0	4.2	4.3	-200	-300	39.5	39.3	38.4	13.61	13.61	13.60
Electrical Mach.	5.7	5.9	5.5	-200	200	41.6	40.4	40.6	11.47	11.58	11.47
Trans. Equipment	3.6	3.7	3.2	-100	400	41.0	40.3	40.7	14.42	14.42	14.39
Instruments	5.2	5.3	5.6	-100	-400	41.1	39.1	40.4	12.77	12.78	12.65
Jewelry-Silverware	8.2	8.8	9.1	-600	-900	38.8	39.7	38.2	10.49	10.54	10.38
Miscellaneous Mfg.	2.9	3.2	3.1	-300	-200	39.6	40.2	37.8	11.62	11.63	11.37
NONDURABLE MFG.	22.7	24.1	23.3	-1400	-600	39.7	40.7	39.9	12.58	12.46	12.73
Food Beverage	2.8	2.8	2.7	-----	100	41.8	41.8	41.0	11.47	11.49	11.47
Textiles	5.0	6.0	5.4	-1000	-400	38.5	41.9	37.6	10.82	10.86	10.78
Apparel	0.8	0.8	0.9	-----	-100	39.4	40.8	39.0	9.31	9.34	9.19
Paper Products	1.8	2.0	1.8	-200	-----	39.0	40.8	38.3	12.07	12.08	12.05
Printing-Publishing	4.8	4.9	5.2	-100	-400	38.7	39.4	40.5	16.56	16.63	16.58
Chemical Products	2.2	2.3	2.1	-100	100	41.2	40.6	40.8	14.09	13.93	13.81
Rubber Products	0.4	0.4	0.4	-----	-----	38.7	39.4	41.5	12.98	12.99	12.93
Plastics Products	4.5	4.5	4.4	-----	100	40.7	39.4	42.3	13.21	13.20	13.41
Leather Products	0.4	0.4	0.4	-----	-----	39.4	38.3	40.5	8.36	8.38	8.31

** Current month figures are PRELIMINARY, prior month & year are REVISED. Totals may not add due to rounding. Farmers, Self-employed, Domestic & Armed Services personnel are excluded from Establishment Employment figures.

The Rhode Island Unemployment Rate Rose to 5.3 Percent in July

(Continued from Page 1)

Rhode Island Job Highlights – (Over the Year, Unadjusted Figures)

In July, Rhode Island businesses employed 474,900 workers, an increase of 1,500 jobs over the year. Services reported the most substantial employment growth, adding 1,800 jobs. Contract Construction and Trade reflected increases of 1,400 and 1,300 jobs, respectively.

Several industry components in the Services sector experienced annual growth with the largest gains reported in Health Services. Employment in Health Services was up by 800 over the year, accounting for nearly half of the increase reported in the Services sector. Auto Repair, Amusement/Recreation, Educational Services, and Social Services each reported a yearly employment gain of 200, while Business Services grew by 100. Contract Construction payrolls were up 1,400 mostly due to increases in Special Trade Contractors. Within the Trade sector, the largest employment increases occurred in Furniture and Fixtures (+400), Wholesale-Nondurable Goods (+400), and Food Stores (+300). Annual gains were also reported in Transportation & Public Utilities (+200) and Finance, Insurance & Real Estate (+100). Government employment was down by 500 over the year, due to the loss of 600 Federal workers hired for the 2000 Census. The Manufacturing sector posted an annual decline of 2,800 jobs. The largest factory cutbacks occurred in Jewelry/Silverware (-900), followed by losses of 400 each in Stone/Clay/Glass, Fabricated Metals, Instruments, Textiles, and Printing/Publishing.

Rhode Island Job Highlights – (Over the Month, Unadjusted Figures)

The number of jobs in Rhode Island declined by 8,700 from June to July mainly due to temporary factory shutdowns and school closings that normally occur this time of year.

Contract Construction – The construction industry continued to break records, posting its highest July employment level (21,300) since 1989. Contract Construction reported a seasonal gain of 400 jobs, with Special Trade Contractors accounting for most of the increase.

Trade – Trade employment remained relatively stable over the month, reflecting a gain of 100 jobs in July. Small gains of 100 each were noted in Food Stores, Apparel and Accessory Stores, Furniture and Fixtures, and Restaurants. These gains slightly offset small losses of 100 each reported in Wholesale-Durable Goods, General Merchandise, and Automotive Dealers. The remaining three trade segments - Wholesale-Nondurable Goods, Building & Garden Supplies, and Miscellaneous Retail – were unchanged over the month.

Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers

	Jul 01	Jun 01	Jul 00	% Change Prev. Year
All Items	177.5	178.0	172.8	2.7%

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

Services – Employment in Services declined by 1,000 over the month. A decline in Business Services (-900), coupled with a loss in Social Services (-300), more than offset seasonal employment gains in Hotels/Lodging (+300) and Amusement/Recreation (+200). Health Services and Auto Repair increased their payrolls by 200 and 100 jobs, respectively.

Government – Public sector employment decreased over the month by 3,200 jobs, mostly due to decreased staffing in public schools during the summer break. Employment is expected to rebound in September when the school workers return to their jobs.

Manufacturing – The Manufacturing sector registered a decline of 4,600 jobs, mostly the result of temporary factory closings. The largest reductions occurred in Fabricated Metals (-1,100), Textiles (-1,000), Jewelry/Silverware (-600), Stone/Clay/Glass (-300), and Miscellaneous Manufacturing (-300). Because most of the factory losses are due to vacation shutdowns, the workers will be back on the payrolls in August.

RI's Establishment Employment July 2001

