



Employment Labor Market Information Bulletin

Volume 14 No. 8

August 2002

Rhode Island Unemployment Rate Up Slightly in July but Remains below National Average

The Unemployment Rate

Rhode Island's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate showed little change over the month, edging up 0.1 of a percentage point in July to 4.2 percent. This increase follows a 0.6 percentage point drop in June. Nationally, the unemployment rate for July held steady at 5.9 percent. Rhode Island's unemployment rate remained below the national average for the twelfth month in a row. The number of employed Rhode Island residents rose by 2,500 over the month, while the number of unemployed increased by 700. A year ago July, the unemployment rate was 4.9 percent and the unemployment level stood at 24,900.

"Although the unemployment rate was up slightly up over the month, it remained well below the 4.9 percent recorded in July of last year and below the national figure of 5.9 percent," said DLT Director Dr. Lee H. Arnold. "As the nation continues to mend from the effects of last year's recession at a frustratingly slow pace, Rhode Island businesses still managed to add 3,400 jobs over the year, largely due to growth in Services and Finance, Insurance and Real Estate."

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

Since July 2001, Rhode Island businesses have added 3,400 (+0.7%) jobs, increasing the State's total employment level to 478,100. Although the Manufacturing (-900), Contract Construction (-700) and Transportation & Public Utilities (-100) sectors all experienced declines in employment, gains in several Service Producing industries helped to offset these job losses. Services (+3,200), Finance, Insurance & Real Estate (+1,000), Trade (+800) and Government (+100) all benefited from over-the-year job gains. Only one component in Services, Business Services (-2,000), reported a job loss. Employment gains in Health Services (+1,400), Social Services (+900), and Other Services (+2,200) accounted for the sector's over-the-year net increase. (Continued on Page 4)

Workers' Compensation Education Unit Announces Fall 2002 Seminar Schedule

The Workers' Compensation Education Unit recently announced their Fall 2002 seminar schedule. These seminars are provided at no cost for employers to learn about recent changes in the Workers' Compensation Law and to create safety awareness in the workplace. Reservations are required and seating is limited.

Latex Allergy Awareness – Health Care Workers

October 3, 2002 9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

Registration: 8:30 a.m.

1025 Banquet Restaurant

1025 Plainfield St. Johnston, RI

Learn about latex and how to protect yourself, co-workers, and patients by recognizing and reporting latex allergy.

Latex Allergy Awareness – Food Service Workers

October 16, 2002 9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

Registration: 8:30 a.m.

Radisson Airport Hotel

2081 Post Rd. Warwick, RI

RI's Latex Gloves Safety Act prohibits use of disposable latex gloves in food service. How to minimize exposure and ensure compliance.

The Employer's Responsibility

October 23, 2002 or November 13, 2002

9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

RI Department of Labor & Training

1511 Pontiac Ave. Bldg. 73 Cranston, RI

Workshop will provide basic overview of RI Workers' Compensation system and the employer's responsibilities.

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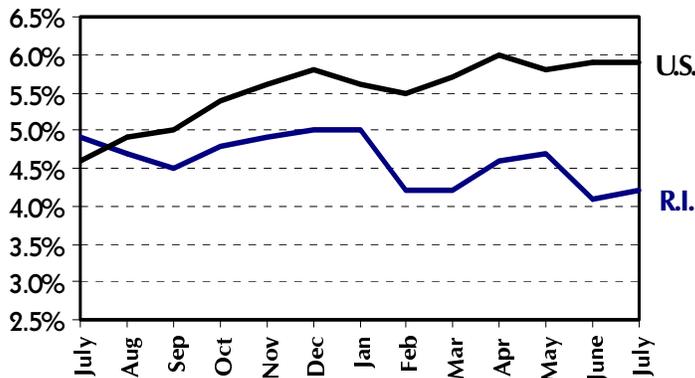
Rhode Island Labor Force Statistics* (in thousands)

	Seasonally Adjusted			Unadjusted		
	Jul 02	Jun 02	Jul 01	Jul 02	Jun 02	Jul 01
Civilian Labor Force	508.7	505.4	503.2	514.3	507.8	509.3
Resident Employment	487.0	484.5	478.3	492.4	487.4	484.0
Unemployment	21.6	20.9	24.9	21.9	20.4	25.2
Unemployment Rate	4.2%	4.1%	4.9%	4.3%	4.0%	5.0%

United States Labor Force Statistics (in thousands)

	Seasonally Adjusted			Unadjusted		
	Jul 02	Jun 02	Jul 01	Jul 02	Jun 02	Jul 01
Civilian Labor Force	142,390	142,476	141,651	143,885	143,669	143,181
Resident Employment	134,045	134,053	135,106	135,289	134,992	136,385
Unemployment	8,345	8,424	6,545	8,595	8,677	6,797
Unemployment Rate	5.9%	5.9%	4.6%	6.0%	6.0%	4.7%

Rhode Island & United States Unemployment Rates Seasonally Adjusted 2001 - 2002



City & Town Unadjusted Unemployment Rates

	Jul 02	Jul 01
Barrington	2.9	2.7
Bristol	3.2	3.3
Burrillville	4.2	4.9
Central Falls	6.8	9.9
Charlestown	5.2	5.6
Coventry	4.7	4.8
Cranston	4.2	4.6
Cumberland	4.2	5.4
East Greenwich	3.9	4.3
East Providence	4.5	4.9
Exeter	3.7	4.0
Foster	3.8	6.0
Glocester	2.9	3.5
Hopkinton	2.4	3.3
Jamestown	3.2	2.8
Johnston	4.6	5.0
Lincoln	4.0	4.6
Little Compton	2.6	2.2
Middletown	3.1	3.5
Narragansett	2.0	2.2
New Shoreham	0.8	2.4
Newport	2.6	2.8
North Kingstown	3.5	3.3
North Providence	4.3	4.5
North Smithfield	3.7	3.7
Pawtucket	5.2	6.9
Portsmouth	2.7	2.7
Providence	5.9	7.4
Richmond	2.8	2.1
Scituate	4.2	4.7
Smithfield	4.2	4.7
South Kingstown	3.3	3.1
Tiverton	4.2	4.8
Warren	3.6	4.2
Warwick	3.8	4.0
West Greenwich	5.0	4.8
West Warwick	4.5	5.1
Westerly	2.2	3.4
Woonsocket	5.3	6.6
State of R.I.	4.3	5.0

Unemployment Insurance Claims Activity

	Jul	Jun	Jul	% Change		Year to Date		
	2002	2002	2001	Jun 02	Jul 01	2002	2001	% Change
Initial Claims	9,133	7,324	8,056	24.7%	13.4%	53,747	57,791	-7.0%
Number of Payments	67,842	46,832	62,607	44.9%	8.4%	454,060	386,948	17.3%
Amount of Payments (gross millions)	\$19.1	\$13.8	\$16.7	38.4%	14.4%	\$134.4	\$107.6	24.9%
Exhaustions (Final Payments)	1,753	1,375	1,168	27.5%	50.1%	11,133	7,547	47.5%

*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.

For additional information, comments or suggestions, contact

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

**Workers' Compensation
Education Unit Announces
Fall 2002 Seminar Schedule**
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Occupational Noise Exposure

September 17, 2002 9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.
Registration: 8:30 a.m.
Radisson Airport Hotel
2081 Post Rd. Warwick, RI
Protocols regarding occupational hearing loss
have changed. Information on changes and
compliance will be provided.

Physician's Office Staff

October 24, 2002 or December 12, 2002
9:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m.
RI Department of Labor & Training
1511 Pontiac Ave. Bldg. 73 Cranston, RI
Workshop will provide overview of all required
and suggested procedures when treating a RI
Workers' Compensation patient.

For more information, directions, or to register:

RI Department of Labor & Training
Education Unit
249 Blackstone Blvd.
Providence, RI 02906
Phone: 401-462-8125
Fax: 401-222-4396

Total Establishment Employment in Rhode Island**

	Employment (in thousands)			Net Change From	
	Jul 02	Jun 02	Jul 01	Jun 02	Jul 01
TOTAL EMPLOYMENT	478.1	488.0	474.7	-9900	3400
GOODS PRODUCING	83.0	87.4	84.6	-4400	-1600
Contract Construction	19.2	19.0	19.9	200	-700
Manufacturing	63.8	68.4	64.7	-4600	-900
SERVICE PRODUCING	395.1	400.6	390.1	-5500	5000
Trans. & Public Utilities	16.6	17.4	16.7	-800	-100
Trade (Wholesale & Retail)	110.9	110.8	110.1	100	800
Wholesale	18.7	18.5	18.7	200	-----
Durables♦	11.5	11.4	11.6	100	-100
Nondurables♦	7.2	7.2	7.1	-----	100
Retail	92.2	92.3	91.4	-100	800
Building & Garden Supplies♦	2.9	2.8	2.6	100	300
General Merchandise	6.4	6.4	6.5	-----	-100
Food Stores♦	15.3	15.5	15.9	-200	-600
Automotive Dealers	7.8	7.9	7.8	-100	-----
Apparel & Accessory Stores	4.9	4.8	4.7	100	200
Furn., Home Furn., & Equipt.♦	3.0	3.1	2.6	-100	400
Eating and Drinking Places	35.4	35.4	35.1	-----	300
Miscellaneous Retail	16.4	16.3	16.4	100	-----
Finance, Insurance & Real Estate	33.7	33.7	32.7	-----	1000
Depository Institutions	9.9	9.9	9.3	-----	600
Services	173.0	173.6	169.8	-600	3200
Hotels & Other Lodging♦	5.5	5.3	5.3	200	200
Business Services	24.9	25.5	26.9	-600	-2000
Auto & Misc. Repair♦	5.7	5.8	5.6	-100	100
Amusement & Recreation	7.6	7.5	7.5	100	100
Health Services	54.1	53.7	52.7	400	1400
Educational Services	15.6	15.7	15.5	-100	100
Social Services	16.7	17.0	15.8	-300	900
Government	60.9	65.1	60.8	-4200	100
Federal	10.2	10.2	10.4	-----	-200
State	17.6	18.4	17.7	-800	-100
Local	33.1	36.5	32.7	-3400	400
Education♦	19.6	23.7	19.2	-4100	400
Non Education♦	13.5	12.8	13.5	700	-----

♦ 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					
	Jul 02	Jun 02	Jul 01	Net Change		Weekly Hours			Hourly Earnings		
				Jun 02	Jul 01	Jul 02	Jun 02	Jul 01	Jul 02	Jun 02	Jul 01
MANUFACTURING	63.8	68.4	64.7	-4600	-900	39.6	40.3	39.5	12.38	12.31	12.18
DURABLE MFG.	41.9	44.6	43.7	-2700	-1800	40.2	40.3	39.5	12.13	12.10	11.99
Primary Metals	3.0	3.2	3.1	-200	-100	38.6	40.8	39.0	12.92	12.95	12.80
Fabricated Metals	6.9	7.9	7.4	-1000	-500	39.6	38.6	38.9	11.70	11.73	11.26
Nonelectrical Machinery	3.3	3.5	4.0	-200	-700	41.3	41.4	39.3	13.72	13.72	13.75
Electrical Machinery	4.8	5.1	5.0	-300	-200	40.5	39.7	41.7	11.57	11.60	11.27
Trans. Equipment	4.0	4.0	3.7	-----	300	41.1	41.9	39.6	14.47	14.46	14.41
Instruments	5.1	5.2	5.2	-100	-100	39.2	41.4	38.7	12.90	12.82	12.76
Miscellaneous Mfg.	11.0	12.2	11.7	-1200	-700	40.4	40.2	38.7	10.78	10.71	10.60
Jewelry, Incl. Costume	8.1	9.1	8.7	-1000	-600	40.3	40.0	38.4	10.57	10.48	10.37
All Other Durables	3.8	3.5	3.6	300	200	40.7	41.2	41.2	12.42	12.43	12.40
NONDURABLE MFG.	21.9	23.8	21.0	-1900	900	38.4	40.4	39.4	12.85	12.69	12.59
Textiles	4.5	5.3	4.6	-800	-100	39.0	40.6	38.1	10.92	10.95	10.89
Printing-Publishing	5.2	5.4	5.1	-200	100	40.9	39.7	37.1	16.64	16.63	16.66
Rubber & Plastic Products	4.1	4.4	3.2	-300	900	36.9	39.4	39.0	13.26	13.28	13.17
All Other Nondurables	8.1	8.7	8.1	-600	-----	37.5	41.2	41.6	11.77	11.74	11.77

**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.

Rhode Island Unemployment Rate Up Slightly in July but Remains below National Average

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The Retail Trade (+800) sector was fueled by growth in Home Furnishings (+400), Eating & Drinking Places (+300), Building & Garden Supplies (+300) and Apparel & Accessory Stores (+200). These gains offset reductions in Food Stores (-600) and General Merchandise Stores (-100).

Manufacturing employment continued to decline as all but two of its Durable Goods (-1,800) components experienced job losses. Non-electrical Machinery (-700), Jewelry/Silverware (-600) and Fabricated Metals (-500) reported the steepest employment declines. Employment gains in Rubber & Plastic Products (+900) and Printing & Publishing (+100), components of Non-durable Goods Manufacturing (+900), helped to offset some of these losses.

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

Seasonal declines in education-related industries, coupled with temporary factory shutdowns, accounted for most of the 9,900 job decline experienced between June and July 2002. Due to the temporary nature of the school and factory closings, employment levels are expected to rebound by September.

Contract Construction – Favorable weather helped boost employment in road construction, resulting in an increase of 200 jobs in Contract Construction, the largest employment gain of all the major sectors.

Trade – Food Stores (-200), Automotive Dealers (-100) and Home Furnishings Stores (-100) all reported employment declines, resulting in a net loss of 100 jobs for Retail Trade. Wholesale Trade added 200 jobs over the month.

Services – A net decline of 600 jobs in Services was primarily attributable to losses in Business Services (-600), Social Services (-300) and Other Services (-200). Only three components reported employment gains within the sector – Health Services (+400), Hotels & Other Lodging (+200) and Amusement & Recreation (+100).

Government – Employment in the public sector declined by 4,200 between June and July as a result of staff reductions in the State's public schools during the summer break. Employment is expected to rebound in September when the school workers return to their jobs. Local Government reported 3,400 fewer employees, while State Government (-800) also contributed to the seasonal dip. Federal employment remained unchanged in July.

Manufacturing – The Manufacturing sector posted a reduction of 4,600 jobs, mostly due to seasonal factory shutdowns. The steepest job declines were evident in Jewelry/Silverware (-1,000), Fabricated Metals (-1,000), Textiles (-800) and Other Non-durable Manufacturing (-600). Because most of the losses are due to factory vacation closings, these workers will be back on the payrolls in August. Other Durable Manufacturing (+300) was the only component to post an over-the-month employment gain.

Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers

	Jul 02	Jun 02	Jul 01	% Change Prev. Year
All Items	180.1	179.9	177.5	1.5%

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

Employer Service Unit (ESU) Provides Pivotal Support To the United States Department of Labor

Recruiting for 500 Airport Screener positions, this time-sensitive undertaking tested even the experienced ESU.

On July 10th and 11th, with only four (4) days notice, the RI Department of Labor and Training's Employer Service Unit utilized its many resources to assist the US Department of Labor (DOL) and, specifically, the Transportation Security Administration (TSA), with their statewide recruitment.

Mandated by Federal law, the TSA must hire a minimum of 500 Transportation Security Screeners for T. F. Green Airport by November 2002. The excellent salary and benefits, coupled with the turnouts in other areas of the country, promised to bring record numbers to the recruitment center at Rhode Island College. Word of the hiring was carried by newspaper, local radio and television and community-based organizations.

Representatives from NCS Pearson, the DOL's recruiting company, and Employer Service Reps (ESR's) worked feverishly on the first day of the recruitment as the computers, scheduled to apply individuals on-line, were inoperative. Faced with continuing streams of applicants and no way to accommodate them, the Employer Service Unit mobilized 3 different netWORKri Centers to allow individuals to apply via phone. Their crowd control skills and organizational know-how managed to document each person's presence and conduct impromptu information sessions to facilitate "at home" application procedures.

When the service provider was operational, Pearson employees and ESR's hastened the application process to successfully process any and all individuals. In a matter of two days time, over 3,100 job seekers filed a job application via the Internet!

If your company, regardless of its size, would like assistance with any of your recruitment or hiring goals, call the Employer Service Unit today and develop a plan to specifically meet your needs.

Employer Service Unit
(401) 462-8724