



# Employment Labor Market Information Bulletin

Volume 13, No. 12

December 2001

## Rhode Island's Unemployment Rate Edges Up to 4.4 Percent in November

## Human Resource Investment Council's Employee Investment Grant

### The Unemployment Rate

Rhode Island's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate for November was 4.4 percent, which is up slightly from October's revised figure of 4.2 percent. A year ago November, the unemployment rate was 3.7 percent. The number of unemployed Rhode Island residents increased by 1,200 over the month to 22,200 in November. Nationally, the unemployment rate for November rose sharply to 5.7 percent, its highest level since August 1995. Rhode Island's unemployment rate remained well below the national average for the fourth month in a row.

"Even though we saw an increase in the number of unemployed, Rhode Island has not been hit as hard with job losses as other parts of the country," said DLT Director Dr. Lee H. Arnold. "The service producing industries continue to add jobs, though at a slower pace than past years. The biggest job losses continue to occur in the manufacturing sector." (Continued on Page 4)

Rapid changes in technology and organizational restructuring can easily overwhelm smaller businesses. **Employee Investment Grants** (formerly known as Project Upgrade Grants) address this challenge with personalized training monies that allow employers with 100 or fewer employees to retrain their workers for new technologies or systems. In today's business world, success is based on who has the competitive edge. By giving your employees the most current skills, you will be positioning yourself to meet your organization's goals. For more information on this cost-saving and innovative program, companies located in Providence and Cranston should call 401-861-0800. Businesses in any other Rhode Island community should call 401-222-2090.

The Human Resource Investment Council (HRIC) has invested dramatically in the future of Rhode Island. Below are other important available solutions for growth:

- Excellence Through Training Grant**
- Industry Clusters**
- Job Creation Grant**
- Export Assistance Training Grants**
- Training Tax Credits**
- Workforce Literary Collaborative**
- School-to-Career Initiative**
- netWORKri Career Centers**

For a more detailed review of these programs and concepts, call the HRIC at 401-462-8860 or visit the web site at [www.rihric.com](http://www.rihric.com).

## Work Opportunity Tax Credit and Welfare-to-Work Tax Credit

Two Federal Tax Credit Programs, Work Opportunity Tax Credit (WOTC) and Welfare-to-Work Tax Credit (WWTC), will expire on December 31, 2001.

DLT staff will continue to accept timely Certification Requests (IRS-8850) for WOTC and WWTC. In the past, when Federal Tax Credit Programs expired, the extension was made retroactive. This is not guaranteed, but usually occurs.

If you have any questions, please call Joseph DesRoches, Federal Tax Credit Coordinator at (401) 462-8802 or Linda Nardella, Federal Tax Manager, at (401) 462-8812.

*Best Wishes for a Happy  
and Healthy New Year!*



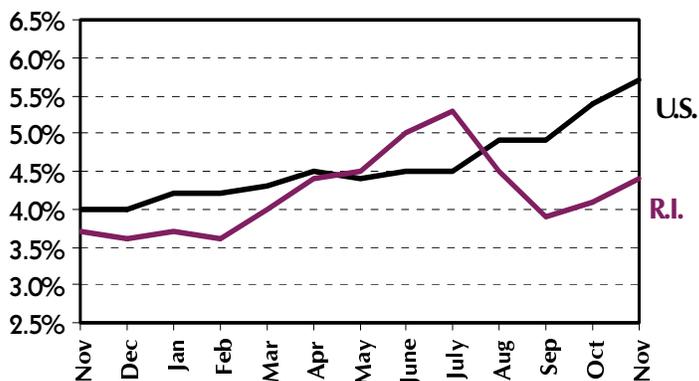
## Rhode Island Labor Force Statistics (in thousands)

	Unadjusted			Seasonally Adjusted		
	Nov 01*	Oct 01*	Nov 00	Nov 01*	Oct 01*	Nov 00
Civilian Labor Force	506.9	508.3	510.4	503.1	506.1	506.5
Resident Employment	487.7	487.5	494.2	480.9	485.0	487.6
Unemployment	19.3	20.8	16.3	22.2	21.0	18.9
Unemployment Rate	3.8%	4.1%	3.2%	4.4%	4.2%	3.7%

## United States Labor Force Statistics (in thousands)

	Unadjusted			Seasonally Adjusted		
	Nov 01*	Oct 01*	Nov 00	Nov 01*	Oct 01*	Nov 00
Civilian Labor Force	141,911	142,004	141,025	142,244	142,303	141,136
Resident Employment	134,359	134,898	135,731	134,084	134,562	135,478
Unemployment	7,551	7,106	5,295	8,160	7,741	5,658
Unemployment Rate	5.3%	5.0%	3.8%	5.7%	5.4%	4.0%

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



## City & Town Unadjusted Unemployment Rates

	Nov 01*	Nov 00
Barrington	2.3	1.8
Bristol	2.8	2.7
Burrillville	3.5	2.7
Central Falls	6.3	5.4
Charlestown	4.5	3.8
Coventry	3.6	3.2
Cranston	3.6	3.2
Cumberland	3.7	2.3
East Greenwich	3.5	3.0
East Providence	4.0	3.2
Exeter	2.8	2.9
Foster	4.5	3.0
Glocester	2.4	2.1
Hopkinton	2.1	2.1
Jamestown	2.8	2.8
Johnston	3.7	3.4
Lincoln	3.7	2.5
Little Compton	3.2	2.2
Middletown	2.9	2.9
Narragansett	1.9	1.9
New Shoreham	9.5	14.5
Newport	3.4	3.1
North Kingstown	3.0	2.5
North Providence	3.5	3.2
North Smithfield	2.5	2.3
Pawtucket	5.3	3.4
Portsmouth	2.2	2.3
Providence	5.1	4.4
Richmond	1.7	1.1
Scituate	3.5	3.0
Smithfield	3.1	2.9
South Kingstown	2.7	2.1
Tiverton	3.4	2.9
Warren	3.5	3.0
Warwick	3.4	2.9
West Greenwich	3.3	2.9
West Warwick	3.6	3.7
Westerly	2.6	2.5
Woonsocket	5.4	3.7
State of R.I.	3.8	3.2

## Unemployment Insurance Claims Activity

	Nov	Oct	Nov	% Change		Year to Date		
	2001	2001	2000	Oct 01	Nov 00	2001	2000	% Change
Initial Claims	7,832	6,905	6,248	13.4%	25.4%	83,048	73,168	13.5%
Number of Payments	45,854	48,787	31,162	-6.0%	47.1%	578,449	499,430	15.8%
Amount of Payments (gross millions)	\$13.6	\$14.5	\$7.8	-6.1%	75.2%	\$162.7	\$129.1	26.1%
Exhaustions (Final Payments)	1,097	1,399	864	-21.6%	27.0%	12,195	11,542	5.7%
E.S. Fund Balance (millions)	\$289.0	\$285.1	\$299.2	1.4%	-3.4%			

\*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](http://www.dlt.state.ri.us/lmi)

## OES Wage Rates Updated

The results of the most recent Occupational Employment Statistics (OES) survey are now available on the LMI web site. Average, median, entry level and experienced level wage rates for over 500 occupations in Rhode Island are listed. A downloadable file is provided for your convenience.

We would also like to take this opportunity to thank the 1,600 Rhode Island employers who took time away from their busy schedules to respond to the OES survey. We would not be able to provide this comprehensive wage data without your assistance – again, many thanks!

To reserve a free copy of the new wage publication, please call the OES staff at 401-462-8750.

To view the latest wage statistics, visit the LMI web site at:

[www.dlt.state.ri.us/lmi](http://www.dlt.state.ri.us/lmi)

then click on **Wage Information**.

## Total Establishment Employment in Rhode Island\*\*

	Employment (in thousands)			Net Change From	
	Nov 01	Oct 01	Nov 00	Oct 01	Nov 00
<b>TOTAL EMPLOYMENT</b>	486.9	485.7	485.0	1200	1900
<b>GOODS PRODUCING</b>	91.7	91.6	93.0	100	-1300
Contract Construction	21.7	21.7	19.5	-----	2200
Manufacturing	70.0	69.9	73.5	100	-3500
<b>SERVICE PRODUCING</b>	395.2	394.1	392.0	1100	3200
Trans. & Public Utilities	17.0	17.2	17.3	-200	-300
Trade (Wholesale & Retail)	112.1	111.2	110.8	900	1300
Wholesale	20.8	20.7	20.6	100	200
Durables♦	12.7	12.6	12.9	100	-200
Nondurables♦	8.1	8.0	7.7	100	400
Retail	91.3	90.5	90.2	800	1100
Building & Garden Supplies♦	2.4	2.4	2.3	-----	100
General Merchandise	8.2	7.7	8.1	500	100
Food Stores♦	16.7	16.6	16.0	100	700
Automotive Dealers	7.4	7.4	7.8	-----	-400
Apparel & Accessory Stores	5.1	4.6	5.0	500	100
Furn., Home Furn., & Equipt.♦	3.2	3.1	2.9	100	300
Eating and Drinking Places	31.4	32.1	31.3	-700	100
Miscellaneous Retail	17.0	16.5	16.9	500	100
Finance, Insurance & Real Estate	31.8	31.5	31.3	300	500
Depository Institutions	9.5	9.4	9.3	100	200
Services	168.4	168.6	167.4	-200	1000
Hotels & Other Lodging♦	4.6	4.9	4.4	-300	200
Business Services	29.5	29.6	30.3	-100	-800
Auto & Misc. Repair♦	5.7	5.6	5.5	100	200
Amusement & Recreation	5.1	5.6	5.4	-500	-300
Health Services	53.1	53.0	52.4	100	700
Educational Services	19.5	19.1	19.3	400	200
Social Services	16.1	16.0	15.9	100	200
Government	65.9	65.6	65.2	300	700
Federal	10.3	10.3	10.5	-----	-200
State	18.4	18.5	18.3	-100	100
Local	37.2	36.8	36.4	400	800
Education♦	24.3	24.0	23.6	300	700
Non Education♦	12.9	12.8	12.9	100	-----

♦ 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		
	Nov 01	Oct 01	Nov 00	Oct 01	Nov 00	Nov 01	Oct 01	Nov 00	Nov 01	Oct 01	Nov 00
<b>MANUFACTURING</b>	70.0	69.9	73.5	100	-3500	40.2	39.9	40.6	12.18	12.16	12.19
<b>DURABLE MFG.</b>	45.4	45.4	48.6	-----	-3200	39.9	39.9	40.8	12.01	11.99	11.99
Lumber/Furniture	2.7	2.6	2.9	100	-200	40.9	39.4	41.4	11.83	11.82	12.01
Stone-Clay-Glass	0.8	0.8	0.9	-----	-100	40.0	41.4	41.7	13.89	13.91	13.82
Primary Metals	3.7	3.6	3.9	100	-200	40.8	40.4	42.0	12.99	12.91	12.95
Fabricated Metals	8.0	8.0	8.8	-----	-800	39.7	38.9	40.1	11.42	11.41	11.43
Nonelectrical Mach.	3.9	3.9	4.5	-----	-600	38.7	38.8	41.1	13.61	13.61	13.61
Electrical Mach.	5.6	5.7	5.9	-100	-300	40.3	41.1	41.1	11.63	11.49	11.59
Trans. Equipment	3.5	3.5	3.3	-----	200	41.2	41.2	41.6	14.40	14.39	14.41
Instruments	5.3	5.3	5.6	-----	-300	38.0	38.3	40.7	12.70	12.68	12.75
Jewelry-Silverware	8.9	9.0	9.7	-100	-800	40.0	40.5	40.6	10.59	10.61	10.45
Miscellaneous Mfg.	3.0	3.0	3.1	-----	-100	39.2	40.2	39.8	11.63	11.60	11.51
<b>NONDURABLE MFG.</b>	24.6	24.5	24.9	100	-300	40.7	39.8	40.1	12.47	12.49	12.59
Food Beverage	3.1	3.0	2.9	100	200	41.0	38.6	39.1	11.47	11.44	11.35
Textiles	6.2	6.1	6.3	100	-100	41.3	40.3	40.3	10.90	10.96	10.93
Apparel	0.9	0.9	0.9	-----	-----	39.4	39.0	39.8	9.35	9.30	9.34
Paper Products	1.9	1.9	1.9	-----	-----	39.7	38.8	40.5	12.14	12.13	12.07
Printing-Publishing	4.9	4.9	5.3	-----	-400	41.4	40.1	40.1	16.57	16.58	16.74
Chemical Products	2.3	2.3	2.2	-----	100	40.4	40.0	41.6	14.04	14.03	13.95
Rubber Products	0.4	0.4	0.4	-----	-----	42.4	41.0	41.3	12.97	12.95	12.96
Plastics Products	4.4	4.5	4.5	-100	-100	39.6	40.1	39.6	13.44	13.43	13.22
Leather Products	0.5	0.5	0.5	-----	-----	39.8	39.7	39.1	8.40	8.36	8.21

\*\*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's Unemployment Rate Edges Up to 4.4 Percent in November

(Continued from Page 1)

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

Despite confirmation of a national recession, jobs continue to grow in Rhode Island, but at a slower pace. Jobs increased by 1,900 over the year, the smallest annual November gain experienced in the last ten years. November 2001 jobs numbered 486,900, an increase of less than one-half of one percent (0.4%) over the 485,000 jobs reported in November 2000. While most major industry divisions reported employment increases, the gains for most were much smaller than those experienced in recent years. The only exception is a 2,200 job gain noted in the Construction industry, the highest annual increase reported for this industry since 1987. All industry components in the Trade sector continued to grow with the exception of Automotive Dealers (-400). Food Stores and Furniture & Home Furnishings reported the largest gains of 700 and 300 jobs, respectively. Services (+1,000), Government (+700) and Finance, Insurance & Real Estate (+500) also recorded annual job gains. In contrast, the Manufacturing sector declined by 3,500 jobs over the year - the steepest annual loss since 1991. Nearly all components of the Manufacturing sector posted job cutbacks with the largest in Jewelry-Silverware (-800), Fabricated Metals (-800) and Nonelectric Machinery (-600). Employment in the Transportation & Public Utilities sector declined by 300.

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

The number of jobs in Rhode Island rose by 1,200 over the month. Trade posted the largest job gain primarily due to pre-holiday hiring in General Merchandise Stores, Apparel & Accessory Stores, and Miscellaneous Retail Stores.

**Trade** – Trade reported a net gain of 900 jobs over the month, due mostly to pre-holiday hiring in the retail trade segment. General Merchandise Stores, Apparel & Accessory Stores, and Miscellaneous Retail Stores added 500 jobs each. Four trade segments (Food Stores, Furniture & Home Furnishings, Wholesale Durables, Wholesale Nondurables) registered increases of 100 each. These gains were offset by seasonal losses in Restaurants (-700).

**Government** – Local government employment expanded by 400 due mainly to hiring in public schools. Federal Government employment remained even over the month while employment in State Government decreased by 100.

## Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers

	Nov 01	Oct 01	Nov 00	% Change Prev. Year
All Items	177.4	177.7	174.1	1.9%

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

**Manufacturing** – Manufacturing employment showed a net gain of 100 jobs in November. Four manufacturing segments reported over-the-month gains of 100 jobs, overshadowing three segments that reported job losses of 100. The remaining twelve segments were unchanged.

**Contract Construction** – Employment in the Construction industry, which typically declines from October to November, showed no change. The unusually mild November weather was a major factor in keeping workers on the payroll.

**Services** – Despite a monthly drop of 200 jobs, employment in the Services sector reached an all-time November high of 168,400. Job gains in Educational Services (+400), Automobile Repair (+100), Health Services (+100) and Social Services (+100) were surpassed by losses in Amusement and Recreation (-500), Hotels and Other Lodging (-300) and Business Services (-100).

## RI's Establishment Employment November 2001

