

Employment Labor Market Information Bulletin

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February 2000

The Number of Jobs in Rhode Island Increased by 10,300 Over the Year

With the release of the January data, the Rhode Island labor force figures from 1995 to 1999 and the establishment employment figures for 1998 and 1999 have been revised due to the incorporation of re-estimated employment levels, updated Census population data, and changes in the seasonal adjustment factors.

The Unemployment Rate

The January unemployment rate matched December's estimate of 3.8 percent, the lowest since 1989. A year ago January, the unemployment rate was 4.7 percent. The number of unemployed Rhode Islanders declined by 200 over the month and 4,200 over the year. Nationally, the unemployment rate for January edged down 0.1 of a percentage point to 4.0 percent. Rhode Island's unemployment figure remained below the US rate for the fifth straight month.

"The Rhode Island economy continues to show strength heading into the year 2000," said DLT Director Dr. Lee H. Arnold. "The number of jobs in the State is up substantially over the year, more residents are employed this year than last, and the January unemployment rate matched December's ten-year low." (Continued on Page 4)

BusinessFirst

Many Rhode Island businesses are unaware of the multitude of resources available - free or at a minimal cost - to assist with new venture start-ups, or improve day-to-day operations in order to gain a competitive advantage. Does this include you? Now, by making just one toll-free phone call, BusinessFirst can connect you with a BusinessFirst Partner, who will be able to provide you with assistance in financing, exploring new markets, building a high-caliber workforce, adapting new technologies, or any other service you may be in need of to build your business.

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ESU Expands Employment Services

For the better part of the past six (6) years, the Employer Service Unit (ESU) has been a major player in filling the employment needs of Rhode Island's business community. Soliciting, gathering, and posting job vacancies has been an integral component of their everyday duties. Companies have come to expect rapid response to their employment needs and utilized their Employer Service Representatives (ESR's) knowledge of labor market information to determine prevailing wages and industry trends.

With the recent emergence of netWORKri, strategically located One-Stop Career Centers, ESRs will play a pivotal role in bringing qualified applicants to companies in need of skilled and competent employees. The landscape of Rhode Island's economic development delivery system is evolving and now concentrating on the growth of partnerships that combine private corporate interests with human resource development initiatives.

As the ESRs work more closely with individual job seekers and employment counselors in the Centers, their ability to bring the applicant to the employer will be enhanced by personal knowledge of the prospective employee and a definitive understanding of the needs of the hiring company. By mitigating some of the need for expensive advertising, this job development aspect of their new duties will no doubt save both time and money for the employer and afford the job seeker a type of "personal" employment advocate.

If your company is having difficulty filling crucial job vacancies, call the Employer Service Unit and allow your Representative to embark upon a plan to fit your own employment needs.

Employer Service Unit
1-888-616-5627
1-888-616-JOBS

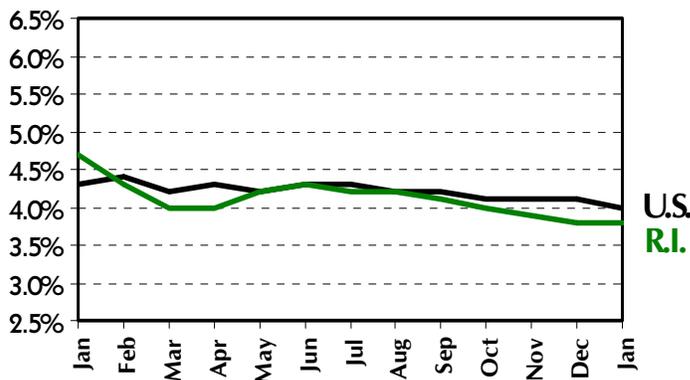
Rhode Island Labor Force Statistics* (in thousands)

	Unadjusted			Seasonally Adjusted		
	Jan 00	Dec 99	Jan 99	Jan 00	Dec 99	Jan 99
Civilian Labor Force	500.5	510.1	494.2	504.8	507.1	498.3
Resident Employment	476.9	493.0	466.4	485.6	487.8	475.0
Unemployment	23.6	17.0	27.7	19.1	19.3	23.3
Unemployment Rate	4.7%	3.3%	5.6%	3.8%	3.8%	4.7%

United States Labor Force Statistics (in thousands)

	Unadjusted			Seasonally Adjusted		
	Jan 00	Dec 99	Jan 99	Jan 00	Dec 99	Jan 99
Civilian Labor Force	139,621	139,941	137,943	140,910	140,108	139,232
Resident Employment	133,357	134,696	131,339	135,221	134,420	133,225
Unemployment	6,264	5,245	6,604	5,689	5,688	6,007
Unemployment Rate	4.5%	3.7%	4.8%	4.0%	4.1%	4.3%

Rhode Island & United States Unemployment Rates Seasonally Adjusted 1999-2000



City & Town Unadjusted Unemployment Rates

	Jan 00	Jan 99
Barrington	2.9	2.9
Bristol	4.1	5.0
Burrillville	4.8	5.8
Central Falls	6.0	7.1
Charlestown	5.8	7.8
Coventry	4.3	4.8
Cranston	4.4	5.1
Cumberland	4.0	5.2
East Greenwich	4.3	4.7
East Providence	5.4	5.8
Exeter	4.7	5.6
Foster	5.2	7.1
Glocester	4.2	4.8
Hopkinton	3.5	4.5
Jamestown	4.6	4.6
Johnston	5.7	7.1
Lincoln	4.3	5.1
Little Compton	3.2	4.6
Middletown	4.7	5.8
Narragansett	2.8	3.5
New Shoreham	17.9	18.9
Newport	6.9	8.1
North Kingstown	3.5	4.3
North Providence	4.6	5.8
North Smithfield	4.1	4.8
Pawtucket	4.7	6.0
Portsmouth	4.1	5.6
Providence	5.7	6.5
Richmond	2.2	2.3
Scituate	4.9	6.0
Smithfield	4.7	5.6
South Kingstown	4.3	5.1
Tiverton	5.1	6.3
Warren	4.7	5.4
Warwick	4.0	4.9
West Greenwich	3.9	5.4
West Warwick	5.6	5.5
Westerly	3.9	5.2
Woonsocket	5.1	6.5
State of R.I.	4.7	5.6

Unemployment Insurance Claims Activity

	Jan.	Dec.	Jan.	% Change		Year to Date		
	2000	1999	1999	Dec 99	Jan 99	1999	1998	% Change
Initial Claims	11,326	12,529	14,685	-9.6%	-22.9%	93,198	102,777	-9.3%
Number of Payments	55,533	40,854	64,568	35.9%	-14.0%	581,240	603,966	-3.8%
Amount of Payments (gross millions)	\$13.6	\$9.9	\$14.9	38.0%	-8.7%	\$135.9	\$132.1	2.9%
Exhaustions (Final Payments)	1,102	1,107	1,169	-0.5%	-5.7%	13,562	13,611	-0.4%
E.S. Fund Balance (millions)	\$252.9	\$260.5	\$211.9	-2.9%	19.3%			

*PLEASE NOTE: Current month figures are PRELIMINARY, prior month & year are REVISED. Farmers, Self-employed, Domestic & Armed Services personnel are excluded from Establishment Employment figures. 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)222-3706, Fax: (401)222-2731, www.dlt.state.ri.us/lmi/

Release Dates for US and RI Labor Force Data

The following schedule provides the Calendar Year 2000 tentative release dates for the national and state labor force data. The national data are usually available on the first Friday of the month and can be accessed via the Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) web site: www.bls.gov. Generally, the labor force data for the State of Rhode Island and the substate areas are available on the dates indicated and can be accessed through the Labor Market Information (LMI) web site: www.dlt.state.ri.us/lmi/.

Tentative Release Dates for US and Rhode Island Data Calendar Year 2000

Estimate Month	National Data	State of R.I. and Substate Areas
January 2000	February 4, 2000	February 25, 2000
February 2000	March 3, 2000	March 17, 2000
March 2000	April 7, 2000	April 21, 2000
April 2000	May 5, 2000	May 19, 2000
May 2000	June 2, 2000	June 16, 2000
June 2000	July 7, 2000	July 21, 2000
July 2000	August 4, 2000	August 18, 2000
August 2000	September 1, 2000	September 15, 2000
September 2000	October 6, 2000	October 20, 2000
October 2000	November 3, 2000	November 17, 2000
November 2000	December 8, 2000	December 22, 2000
December 2000	January 5, 2001	January 19, 2001

RI Department of Labor and Training, Labor Market Information Unit

Total Establishment Employment in Rhode Island*

	Employment (in thousands)			Net Change From	
	Jan 00	Dec 99	Jan 99	Dec 99	Jan 99
TOTAL EMPLOYMENT	456.7	473.6	446.4	-16900	10300
GOODS PRODUCING	89.9	93.0	90.4	-3100	-500
Contract Construction	16.2	18.4	14.8	-2200	1400
Manufacturing	73.7	74.6	75.6	-900	-1900
SERVICE PRODUCING	366.8	380.6	356.0	-13800	10800
Trans. & Public Utilities	15.5	16.4	15.3	-900	200
Trade (Wholesale & Retail)	102.7	108.6	97.6	-5900	5100
Wholesale	19.9	20.2	19.2	-300	700
Durables=	12.5	12.7	12.0	-200	500
Nondurables=	7.4	7.5	7.2	-100	200
Retail	82.8	88.4	78.4	-5600	4400
Building & Garden Supplies=	2.3	2.4	2.0	-100	300
General Merchandise	7.4	8.3	6.6	-900	800
Food Stores=	16.0	16.2	15.2	-200	800
Automotive Dealers	7.4	7.5	7.0	-100	400
Apparel & Accessory Stores	4.8	5.3	3.7	-500	1100
Furn., Home Furn., & Equipt.=	2.4	2.6	2.3	-200	100
Eating and Drinking Places	27.9	30.2	27.3	-2300	600
Miscellaneous Retail	14.6	16.0	14.4	-1400	200
Finance, Insurance & Real Estate	29.4	29.7	29.1	-300	300
Depository Institutions	8.7	8.8	8.4	-100	300
Services	155.0	161.1	149.9	-6100	5100
Hotels & Other Lodging=	3.6	3.8	3.0	-200	600
Business Services	28.5	29.8	26.0	-1300	2500
Auto & Misc. Repair=	5.1	5.0	4.9	100	200
Amusement & Recreation	4.4	4.9	3.7	-500	700
Health Services	51.0**	52.0	51.0**	-1000	-----
Educational Services	16.0	17.8	16.3	-1800	-300
Social Services	15.3	15.5	14.8	-200	500
Government	64.2	64.8	64.1	-600	100
Federal	10.5	10.6	10.5	-100	-----
State	18.4	18.5	18.2	-100	200
Local	35.3	35.7	35.4	-400	-100
Education=	22.8	22.9	23.0	-100	-200
Non Education=	12.6	12.8	12.4	-200	200

** Labor Dispute = 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		
	Jan 00	Dec 99	Jan 99	Dec 99	Jan 99	Jan 00	Dec 99	Jan 99	Jan 00	Dec 99	Jan 99
MANUFACTURING	73.7	74.6	75.6	-900	-1900	39.5	41.1	39.5	12.17	12.17	11.86
DURABLE MFG.	48.2	49.1	49.3	-900	-1100	39.1	40.7	39.7	12.01	12.00	11.69
Lumber/Furniture	2.9	3.0	2.8	-100	100	41.6	41.6	37.1	12.07	12.02	11.93
Stone-Clay-Glass	1.1	1.2	1.0	-100	100	40.0	42.5	41.0	13.89	13.91	13.84
Primary Metals	4.1	4.3	4.4	-200	-300	40.6	40.4	43.9	12.78	12.89	12.67
Fabricated Metals	8.2	8.4	8.3	-200	-100	37.2	36.9	36.8	11.22	11.11	10.45
Nonelectrical Mach.	5.0	5.0	4.9	-----	100	41.7	42.5	40.1	13.53	13.54	13.25
Electrical Mach.	5.4	5.4	5.5	-----	-100	40.9	42.1	39.1	11.50	11.62	11.26
Trans. Equipment	3.5	3.5	3.4	-----	100	39.3	43.0	44.1	14.32	14.37	14.25
Instruments	5.4	5.4	5.0	-----	400	37.2	39.0	42.8	12.67	12.70	12.66
Jewelry-Silverware	9.5	9.8	10.8	-300	-1300	37.8	41.1	38.9	10.48	10.42	10.23
Miscellaneous Mfg.	3.1	3.1	3.2	-----	-100	37.1	42.8	37.3	11.61	11.61	10.97
NONDURABLE MFG.	25.5	25.5	26.3	-----	-800	40.3	42.0	39.2	12.45	12.50	12.17
Food Beverage	2.8	2.7	2.7	100	100	41.0	41.4	41.9	11.36	11.31	11.52
Textiles	6.9	6.9	7.2	-----	-300	39.9	41.3	41.0	10.71	10.67	10.33
Apparel	1.0	0.9	0.8	100	200	38.9	40.5	38.0	9.40	9.29	9.54
Paper Products	2.0	2.0	1.9	-----	100	39.1	42.4	38.6	12.05	12.02	12.05
Printing-Publishing	5.3	5.3	5.8	-----	-500	40.0	43.5	38.1	16.69	16.70	16.12
Chemical Products	1.9	2.1	2.1	-200	-200	40.9	42.7	37.4	13.76	14.08	13.43
Rubber Products	0.5	0.5	0.5	-----	-----	44.2	44.0	38.1	13.03	13.03	12.73
Plastics Products	4.6	4.7	4.7	-100	-100	41.4	41.9	36.5	12.99	12.99	12.76
Leather Products	0.5	0.4	0.6	100	-100	40.7	40.7	37.1	8.34	8.34	8.04

The Number of Jobs in Rhode Island Increased by 10,300 Over the Year (Continued from Page 1)

The Number of Jobs in Rhode Island (Over the Year)

Since January 1999, the number of jobs in Rhode Island increased by 10,300 or 2.3 percent. Year-over-year growth was especially strong in trade and services, which increased by 5,100 jobs each. Within the trade sector, all major industry groups added jobs. Apparel/accessory stores and general merchandise stores recorded large gains of 1,100 and 800 jobs respectively, mostly due to the opening of Providence Place Mall. The substantial increase in services employment was fueled by hiring in business services, amusement/recreation, hotels/lodging, social services, and automotive repair. Contract construction payrolls rose by 1,400 with special trades construction accounting for most of the increase. Strengthened by hiring at financial institutions, the finance/insurance/real estate industry expanded by 300 jobs. Transportation/public utilities reported a yearly gain of 200 jobs, while government employment was up by 100. The number of manufacturing jobs declined by 1,900 over the year with the largest loss in jewelry-silverware (-1,300).

Rhode Island Job Highlights (Over the Month)

The period from December to January reflected typical seasonal declines in all major industries. This year's post-holiday seasonal downturn (-16,900) was smaller than the average decrease for this time of year. The end of the holiday shopping season, school vacation breaks, and normal seasonal layoffs due to the colder weather contributed to the January job cutbacks.

Services – Employment in services declined by 6,100 with widespread job losses throughout the industry. Despite the monthly drop, the services industry reached an all-time January high employment level of 155,000. Private educational institutions, which were on semester break, reported a decrease of 1,800 jobs. Business services (mostly temporary help agencies) and health services reduced their payrolls by 1,300 and 1,000 jobs, respectively.

Trade – Following two months of holiday hiring, retail trade employment, as expected, fell markedly in January. Retailers reported a loss of 5,600 jobs over the month. The largest seasonal employment declines occurred in eating and drinking places, miscellaneous retail stores, general merchandise stores, and apparel/accessory stores.

Contract Construction – The construction industry, which is highly influenced by the weather, recorded a drop of 2,200 jobs from December to January. As the colder weather settled in, all three component industries – residential building, heavy construction, and special trades construction - lost employment.

Government – Public sector employment posted a decline of 600 jobs mostly attributable to staff reductions in local government. The federal and state government components were down by 100 jobs each.

Manufacturing – The number of factory jobs fell by 900 over the month. The durable goods category accounted for the bulk of the industries experiencing job losses. Within this category, jewelry-silverware (-300) registered the largest decline.

Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers

	Jan 00	Dec 99	Jan 99	% Change Prev. Year
All Items	168.7	168.3	164.3	2.7%

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

New England and US Unemployment Rates

1998 - 1999 Annual Averages

	<u>1998</u>	<u>1999</u>
Connecticut	3.4	3.2
Maine	4.4	4.1
Massachusetts	3.3	3.2
New Hampshire	2.9	2.7
Rhode Island	4.9	4.1
Vermont	3.4	3.0
New England	3.5	3.3
United States	4.5	4.2