



Employment Labor Market Information Bulletin

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February 2001

Rhode Island's Unemployment Rate Remained Below the U.S. Rate in January

With the release of the January data, the Rhode Island labor force figures from 1996 to 2000 and the establishment employment data for 1999 and 2000 have been revised in accordance with Bureau of Labor Statistics methodology.

The Unemployment Rate

Rhode Island's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate reflected little change over the month, rising 0.1 of a percentage point in January to 3.7 percent. The unemployment rate was below the 4.0 percent mark for the fifth month in a row. The level of unemployment increased by 400 from December to January. Nationally, the unemployment rate for January rose 0.2 of a percentage point to 4.2 percent. Rhode Island's unemployment rate remained below the national average for the fourth straight month. In addition, the unemployment rate was down 0.6 of a percentage point from last January's figure of 4.3 percent. The number of unemployed Rhode Island residents declined by 3,000 from January 2000 to January 2001.

"The Rhode Island economy shows continued momentum heading into 2001," said DLT Director Dr. Lee H. Arnold. "The outlook is encouraging as the number of jobs in the State is up substantially over the year, more residents are employed this year compared to last, and the unemployment rate remains well below the revised January 2000 level."

Rhode Island Job Highlights (Over the Year)

Since January 2000, the number of jobs in Rhode Island has increased by 7,800 or 1.7 percent to 468,100. Nearly all major industry divisions reported over-the-year gains with the largest occurring in Services (+4,100) and Trade (+2,600). Within the Services industry, Health Services (+1,400) and Social Services (+800) experienced the largest job gains accounting for more than half the increase reported in this sector. Nearly all components of the Trade sector experienced over-the-year increases with the largest occurring in Restaurants (+500), Non-Durable Wholesale (+500) and Automotive Dealers (+400).

An 800 job gain noted in Contract Construction is attributable to increases reported by Special Trade Contractors. A job gain of 300 in Banking helped to boost Finance, Insurance & Real Estate employment by 700 over the year. Transportation & Public Utilities employment was up by 200, while Government employment remained even. Within the Manufacturing sector an 800 job gain in Electronic Equipment was negated by losses in Jewelry/Silverware (-500) and Textile Mill Products (-400). Manufacturing employment was down 600 over the year. (Continued on Page 4)

Business Expo 2001

The largest Business to Business Expo in New England will be held April 10th and 11th at the Rhode Island Convention Center. Sponsored by the Greater Providence Chamber of Commerce, the Providence Journal, Fleet and Providence College, this event is an absolute must for business leaders who want to expand their markets, enlarge their networks, and refine their management skills. Promotions, exposure and opportunity are the anticipated rewards that corporate officials can expect from such a large-scale gathering of exhibitors and visitors. This annual sellout event will feature:

- ◆ More than 20,000 business professionals networking over two days
- ◆ 400 business to business exhibitors
- ◆ Over 80 professional development seminars
- ◆ Demonstrations of cutting edge technology

The Department of Labor & Training and The Department of Human Services will be staffing booths #707 and 709 to answer questions and assist both employers and job seekers.

Tim Russert, moderator for NBC's Sunday morning "Meet the Press", and the network's political analyst who will serve as the event's keynote speaker, is sure to draw a record Expo crowd.

Don't miss out on what is expected to be an exciting two days. If you need more information about the Expo, call the Greater Providence Chamber of Commerce at (401) 521-1000, or the Employer Service Unit at (401) 462-8724.

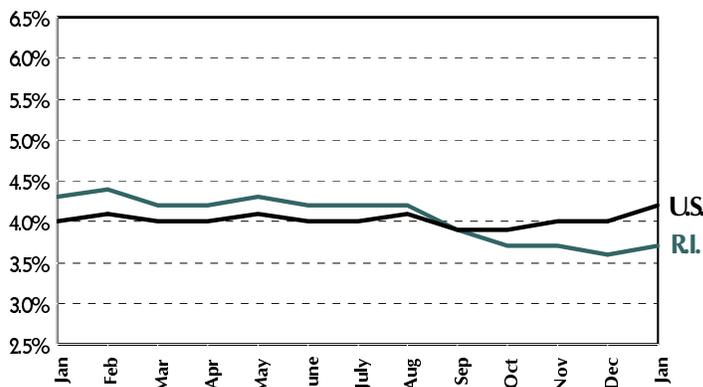
Rhode Island Labor Force Statistics* (in thousands)

	Unadjusted			Seasonally Adjusted		
	Jan 01	Dec 00	Jan 00	Jan 01	Dec 00	Jan 00
Civilian Labor Force	504.3	512.2	499.6	510.2	507.7	505.0
Resident Employment	481.2	496.0	473.5	491.5	489.4	483.3
Unemployment	23.1	16.2	26.1	18.7	18.3	21.7
Unemployment Rate	4.6%	3.2%	5.2%	3.7%	3.6%	4.3%

United States Labor Force Statistics (in thousands)

	Unadjusted			Seasonally Adjusted		
	Jan 01	Dec 00	Jan 00	Jan 01	Dec 00	Jan 00
Civilian Labor Force	141,049	141,319	139,621	141,955	141,489	140,645
Resident Employment	134,462	136,092	133,357	135,999	135,836	134,976
Unemployment	6,587	5,227	6,264	5,956	5,653	5,669
Unemployment Rate	4.7%	3.7%	4.5%	4.2%	4.0%	4.0%

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



City & Town Unadjusted Unemployment Rates

	Jan 01	Jan 00
Barrington	2.5	3.3
Bristol	3.9	4.5
Burrillville	4.5	5.5
Central Falls	7.2	6.7
Charlestown	6.5	6.3
Coventry	4.6	4.7
Cranston	4.2	4.8
Cumberland	3.9	4.3
East Greenwich	4.5	4.8
East Providence	4.9	6.0
Exeter	4.6	5.2
Foster	5.1	5.7
Glocester	3.8	4.7
Hopkinton	3.7	3.9
Jamestown	4.1	5.0
Johnston	5.3	6.3
Lincoln	3.9	4.9
Little Compton	4.4	3.7
Middletown	4.2	5.0
Narragansett	2.5	3.0
New Shoreham	17.4	18.5
Newport	5.4	7.3
North Kingstown	3.3	3.8
North Providence	4.5	5.1
North Smithfield	3.9	4.8
Pawtucket	5.3	5.3
Portsmouth	3.9	4.5
Providence	5.6	6.4
Richmond	1.5	2.4
Scituate	4.1	5.4
Smithfield	3.6	5.1
South Kingstown	3.7	4.7
Tiverton	5.8	5.8
Warren	4.2	5.4
Warwick	4.1	4.5
West Greenwich	4.5	4.5
West Warwick	5.3	6.2
Westerly	3.8	4.4
Woonsocket	5.2	5.7
State of R.I.	4.6	5.2

Unemployment Insurance Claims Activity

	Jan	Dec	Jan	% Change		Annual Comparison		
	2001	2000	2000	Dec 00	Jan 00	2000	1999	% Change
Initial Claims	11,397	11,599	11,326	-1.7%	0.6%	84,587	93,198	-9.2%
Number of Payments	64,322	37,219	55,533	72.8%	15.8%	536,649	581,240	-7.7%
Amount of Payments (gross millions)	\$18.0	\$10.2	\$13.6	76.9%	32.7%	\$130.7	\$135.9	-3.8%
Exhaustions (Final Payments)	1,116	959	1,102	16.4%	1.3%	12,501	13,562	-7.8%
E.S. Fund Balance (millions)	\$280.6	\$295.7	\$252.9	-5.1%	11.0%			

*Current month figures are PRELIMINARY, prior month & 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

Total Establishment Employment in Rhode Island**

Release Dates for US and RI Labor Force Data

The following schedule provides the Calendar Year 2001 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

State of Rhode Island Tentative Release Dates for National and Rhode Island Data

Calendar Year 2001

Estimate Month	National Data	State of R.I. and Substate Areas
FEBRUARY 2001	MARCH 9, 2001	MARCH 23, 2001
MARCH 2001	APRIL 6, 2001	APRIL 20, 2001
APRIL 2001	MAY 4, 2001	MAY 18, 2001
MAY 2001	JUNE 1, 2001	JUNE 15, 2001
JUNE 2001	JULY 6, 2001	JULY 20, 2001
JULY 2001	AUGUST 3, 2001	AUGUST 17, 2001
AUGUST 2001	SEPTEMBER 7, 2001	SEPTEMBER 21, 2001
SEPTEMBER 2001	OCTOBER 5, 2001	OCTOBER 19, 2001
OCTOBER 2001	NOVEMBER 2, 2001	NOVEMBER 21, 2001*
NOVEMBER 2001	DECEMBER 7, 2001	DECEMBER 21, 2001
DECEMBER 2001	JANUARY 4, 2002	JANUARY 18, 2002

* Wednesday before Thanksgiving

	Employment (in thousands)			Net Change From	
	Jan 01	Dec 00	Jan 00	Dec 00	Jan 00
TOTAL EMPLOYMENT	468.1	484.4	460.3	-16300	7800
GOODS PRODUCING	89.9	92.2	89.7	-2300	200
Contract Construction	17.3	19.2	16.5	-1900	800
Manufacturing	72.6	73.0	73.2	-400	-600
SERVICE PRODUCING	378.2	392.2	370.6	-14000	7600
Trans. & Public Utilities	16.6	17.2	16.4	-600	200
Trade (Wholesale & Retail)	107.3	112.6	104.7	-5300	2600
Wholesale	20.6	20.6	19.8	-----	800
Durables	12.9	12.9	12.6	-----	300
Nondurables	7.7	7.7	7.2	-----	500
Retail	86.7	92.0	84.9	-5300	1800
Building & Garden Supplies	2.2	2.3	2.1	-100	100
General Merchandise	7.8	8.5	7.8	-700	-----
Food Stores	16.0	16.0	15.8	-----	200
Automotive Dealers	7.6	7.7	7.2	-100	400
Apparel & Accessory Stores	4.7	5.4	4.6	-700	100
Furn., Home Furn., & Equipt.	2.9	3.1	2.7	-200	200
Eating and Drinking Places	29.7	31.6	29.2	-1900	500
Miscellaneous Retail	15.8	17.4	15.5	-1600	300
Finance, Insurance & Real Estate	30.4	30.6	29.7	-200	700
Depository Institutions	9.0	9.0	8.7	-----	300
Services	159.5	166.7	155.4	-7200	4100
Hotels & Other Lodging	3.5	3.8	3.3	-300	200
Business Services	28.1	30.7	28.0	-2600	100
Auto & Misc. Repair	5.5	5.6	5.1	-100	400
Amusement & Recreation	4.7	5.1	4.3	-400	400
Health Services	52.3	52.4	50.9*	-100	1400
Educational Services	16.8	18.8	16.7	-2000	100
Social Services	16.1	16.0	15.3	100	800
Government	64.4	65.1	64.4	-700	-----
Federal	10.4	10.7	10.3	-300	100
State	18.2	18.3	18.4	-100	-200
Local	35.8	36.1	35.7	-300	100
Education	23.6	23.7	23.2	-100	400
Non Education	12.3	12.4	12.4	-100	-100

*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 01	Dec 00	Jan 00	Dec 00	Jan 00	Jan 01	Dec 00	Jan 00	Jan 01	Dec 00	Jan 00
MANUFACTURING	72.6	73.0	73.2	-400	-600	40.0	40.7	39.6	12.19	12.19	12.19
DURABLE MFG.	47.7	48.0	47.9	-300	-200	40.1	40.9	39.2	11.98	11.96	12.02
Lumber/Furniture	2.9	2.9	2.9	-----	-----	39.4	40.4	41.6	11.34	11.34	12.05
Stone-Clay-Glass	0.8	0.9	0.9	-100	-100	41.5	42.0	40.0	13.87	13.85	13.89
Primary Metals	3.9	3.9	4.1	-----	-200	41.3	42.9	40.3	12.92	12.97	12.79
Fabricated Metals	8.6	8.7	8.6	-100	-----	38.7	39.8	37.0	11.34	11.42	11.22
Nonelectrical Mach.	4.4	4.4	4.5	-----	-100	42.2	41.6	41.9	13.62	13.61	13.54
Electrical Mach.	6.1	6.0	5.3	100	800	41.0	40.7	40.6	11.60	11.47	11.75
Trans. Equipment	3.3	3.4	3.3	-100	-----	43.1	42.6	39.3	14.54	14.44	14.33
Instruments	5.5	5.5	5.7	-----	-200	39.3	41.1	39.2	12.76	12.80	12.76
Jewelry-Silverware	9.1	9.3	9.6	-200	-500	39.1	40.3	37.9	10.52	10.43	10.56
Miscellaneous Mfg.	3.1	3.0	3.0	100	100	40.0	40.8	37.9	11.53	11.59	11.52
NONDURABLE MFG.	24.9	25.0	25.3	-100	-400	39.7	40.4	40.4	12.60	12.62	12.52
Food Beverage	3.1	2.9	2.8	200	300	39.8	41.1	41.0	11.36	11.35	11.36
Textiles	6.1	6.3	6.5	-200	-400	39.5	39.7	40.0	10.91	10.92	10.72
Apparel	0.9	0.9	0.9	-----	-----	37.5	38.4	38.9	9.52	9.31	9.40
Paper Products	2.0	2.0	2.0	-----	-----	38.5	41.7	39.1	12.06	12.08	12.05
Local Printing-Publishing	5.2	5.3	5.5	-100	-300	40.9	39.5	40.0	16.70	16.70	16.69
Chemical Products	2.2	2.2	2.2	-----	-----	42.1	42.2	41.4	14.01	14.10	13.67
Rubber Products	0.5	0.5	0.5	-----	-----	41.2	43.6	44.2	13.00	12.50	13.03
Plastics Products	4.4	4.4	4.4	-----	-----	39.0	40.6	41.4	13.18	13.38	12.99
Leather Products	0.5	0.5	0.5	-----	-----	38.5	41.0	40.7	8.38	8.36	8.34

**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.

Annual Average Unemployment Rates by State 1999-2000

Rank	State	2000	1999	Change
1	Virginia	2.2	2.8	-0.6
2	Connecticut	2.3	3.2	-0.9
2	South Dakota	2.3	2.9	-0.6
4	Iowa	2.6	2.5	0.1
4	Massachusetts	2.6	3.2	-0.6
6	Colorado	2.7	2.9	-0.2
7	New Hampshire	2.8	2.7	0.1
8	Vermont	2.9	3.0	-0.1
9	Nebraska	3.0	2.9	0.1
9	North Dakota	3.0	3.4	-0.4
9	Oklahoma	3.0	3.4	-0.4
12	Indiana	3.2	3.0	0.2
12	Utah	3.2	3.7	-0.5
14	Minnesota	3.3	2.8	0.5
15	Maine	3.5	4.1	-0.6
15	Missouri	3.5	3.4	0.1
15	Wisconsin	3.5	3.0	0.5
18	Florida	3.6	3.9	-0.3
18	Michigan	3.6	3.8	-0.2
18	North Carolina	3.6	3.2	0.4
21	Georgia	3.7	4.0	-0.3
21	Kansas	3.7	3.0	0.7
23	New Jersey	3.8	4.6	-0.8
24	Arizona	3.9	4.4	-0.5
24	Maryland	3.9	3.5	0.4
24	South Carolina	3.9	4.5	-0.6
24	Tennessee	3.9	4.0	-0.1
24	Wyoming	3.9	4.9	-1.0
29	Delaware	4.0	3.5	0.5
30	Kentucky	4.1	4.5	-0.4
30	Nevada	4.1	4.4	-0.3
30	Ohio	4.1	4.3	-0.2
30	Rhode Island	4.1	4.1	0.0
34	Pennsylvania	4.2	4.4	-0.2
34	Texas	4.2	4.6	-0.4
36	Hawaii	4.3	5.6	-1.3
37	Arkansas	4.4	4.5	-0.1
37	Illinois	4.4	4.3	0.1
39	Alabama	4.6	4.8	-0.2
39	New York	4.6	5.2	-0.6
41	California	4.9	5.2	-0.3
41	Idaho	4.9	5.2	-0.3
41	Montana	4.9	5.2	-0.3
41	New Mexico	4.9	5.6	-0.7
41	Oregon	4.9	5.7	-0.8
46	Washington	5.2	4.7	0.5
47	Louisiana	5.5	5.1	0.4
47	West Virginia	5.5	6.6	-1.1
49	Mississippi	5.7	5.1	0.6
50	District of Columbia	5.8	6.3	-0.5
51	Alaska	6.6	6.4	0.2
52	Puerto Rico	10.1	11.7	-1.6

Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers

	Jan 01	Dec 00	Jan 00	% Change
				Prev. Year
All Items	175.1	174.0	168.8	3.7%

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

Rhode Island's Unemployment Rate Remained Below the U.S. Rate in January

(Continued from Page 1)

Rhode Island Job Highlights (Over the Month)

The number of jobs in Rhode Island decreased by 16,300 over the month, largely the result of seasonal reductions in Services (-7,200), Trade (-5,300) and Contract Construction (-1,900).

Services – The Services sector declined by 7,200 jobs over the month due to seasonal losses in several industries. Employment at private educational institutions was down 2,000 due to winter break at the area's colleges. Business Services posted a drop of 2,600, mostly due to decreased employment among temporary help agencies. Employment continued to decline in vacation-related industries as Hotels/Lodging and Amusement/ Recreation cut their payrolls by 300 and 400 jobs, respectively.

Trade – Trade reported a net loss of 5,300 jobs over the month due to seasonal losses in Retail Trade. Nearly all components of Retail Trade experienced seasonal declines with the largest occurring in Restaurants (-1,900), Miscellaneous Retail (-1,600), Apparel & Accessory Stores (-700), and General Merchandise Stores (-700).

Contract Construction – The Construction industry had a net decline of 1,900 jobs due to seasonal cutbacks reported in Heavy Construction (-800) and Special Trade Contractors (-700).

Government – Public sector employment posted a loss of 700 jobs over the month. Seasonal layoffs associated with Federal Government postal workers (-300), and State and Local Government decreases of 100 and 300 respectively, contributed to the monthly decrease.

Transportation & Public Utilities – Employment in Transportation & Public Utilities posted a loss of 600 jobs over the month due mainly to a seasonal drop of 500 jobs in private mail services.

Manufacturing – Manufacturing employment showed a net loss of 400 jobs over the month as the Jewelry/Silverware and Textile Mill Products each reported a loss of 200 jobs.