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Rhode Island Department of Labor and Training

Employment Labor Market Information Bulletin



Marvin D. Perry
Director

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January Unemployment Rate Remains Below the National Average

Rhode Island's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate for January was 5.1 percent. The unemployment rate for December was revised upward to 5.5 percent. The number of unemployed Rhode Island residents declined by 1,300 in January to 29,500. A year ago the unemployment rate was 4.9 percent and the jobless level stood at 27,100. Nationally, the unemployment rate moved in the same direction as Rhode Island, dropping from 6.0 percent in December to 5.7 percent in January. Rhode Island has now recorded a lower unemployment rate than the US for eighteen consecutive months.

"Although the January unemployment rate shows improvement over the month, it is difficult to make valid comparisons with prior years due to some changes in the methodology that affects all states," said DLT Director Marvin D. Perry. "When February's numbers are released in a few weeks, we should get a better sense of the current condition of the economy."

Rhode Island Job Highlights (Unadjusted Figures)

Jobs at Rhode Island businesses numbered 468,900 in January 2003, up 2,900 (+0.6%) from the 466,000 jobs reported last year. Employment increases in Health Care & Social Assistance (+2,100), Retail Trade (+1,400), Other Services (+1,200) and Accommodation & Food Services (+1,000) offset declines in Manufacturing (-3,000) and Administrative & Waste Services (-1,100). Government employment increased by 200 over the year as gains on the Local level overshadowed losses in the Federal (-100) and State (-300) segments.

Over the month, jobs were down 17,200 (-3.5%) as job losses were seen in nearly all economic sectors. Seasonal reductions in Retail Trade (-3,400), Educational Services (-2,200), Accommodation & Food Services (-2,000), Construction (-1,900) and Arts, Entertainment & Recreation (-1,000) along with sizable declines in Administrative & Waste Services (-2,300) and Manufacturing (-1,200) contributed to the loss.

A New Look!

Implementation of the North American Industry Classification System (NAICS) is complete! This new industry coding system which replaces the outdated Standard Industrial Classification (SIC) system now provides the structure for the aggregation and analysis of Rhode Island's monthly establishment employment data reflecting the move to a service providing, information-based economy. As part of the implementation process, historical time series from 1990 forward and hours and earnings from January 2001 forward will be available on the DLT web site.

While many of the new NAICS sectors reflect recognizable parts of the SIC divisions, it is important to note that not all industries classified under a particular SIC division are classified under a similarly titled NAICS sector. For example, Eating and Drinking Places, which were classified in the Retail Trade division under SIC, are now classified in the new Accommodation and Food Services sector. Likewise, Publishing previously classified in Manufacturing is now included in the new Information sector. For more information on this new system, visit our web site at www.dlt.ri.gov/lmi/es202/naics/naics.htm.

LMI Launches its New Web Site!

Rhode Island's Labor Market Information (LMI) unit recently launched its redesigned web site. Our enhanced Internet presence offers easy access to a wide variety of labor market statistics, including industry trends, wage rates, employment levels, occupational projections, and demographics. Employers and jobseekers will now find pertinent data and publications with download capabilities right at their fingertips. These options will deliver timely labor market information to users throughout the Ocean State and around the world.

Visit LMI on the Web at:

www.dlt.ri.gov/lmi

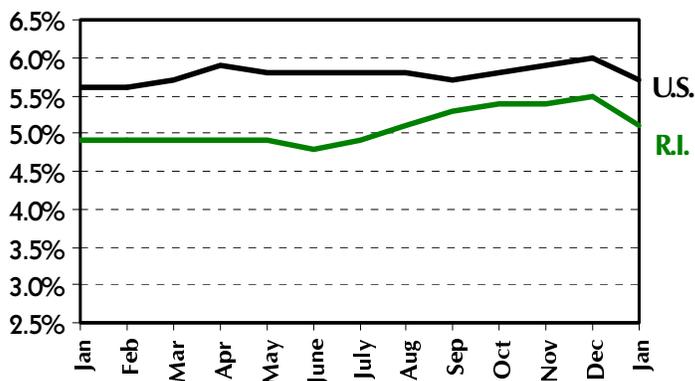
Rhode Island Labor Force Statistics* (in thousands)

	Seasonally Adjusted			Unadjusted		
	Jan 03	Dec 02	Jan 02	Jan 03	Dec 02	Jan 02
Civilian Labor Force	573.4	561.5	550.3	568.1	564.3	545.5
Resident Employment	543.9	530.6	523.2	533.6	535.1	513.4
Unemployment	29.5	30.8	27.1	34.5	29.2	32.1
Unemployment Rate	5.1%	5.5%	4.9%	6.1%	5.2%	5.9%

United States Labor Force Statistics (in thousands)

	Seasonally Adjusted			Unadjusted		
	Jan 03	Dec 02	Jan 02	Jan 03	Dec 02	Jan 02
Civilian Labor Force	145,838	145,150	143,826	145,301	144,807	143,228
Resident Employment	137,536	136,439	135,791	135,907	136,599	134,177
Unemployment	8,302	8,711	8,035	9,395	8,209	9,051
Unemployment Rate	5.7%	6.0%	5.6%	6.5%	5.7%	6.3%

Rhode Island & United States Unemployment Rates Seasonally Adjusted 2002 - 2003



City & Town Unadjusted Unemployment Rates

	Jan 03	Jan 02**
Barrington	3.1	3.3
Bristol	5.7	4.8
Burrillville	6.3	6.0
Central Falls	10.4	8.5
Charlestown	7.0	6.7
Coventry	5.9	5.4
Cranston	5.3	5.2
Cumberland	5.6	5.6
East Greenwich	5.6	5.3
East Providence	6.5	6.4
Exeter	6.2	5.2
Foster	6.5	6.8
Glocester	5.5	4.7
Hopkinton	4.4	3.9
Jamestown	4.8	4.2
Johnston	6.5	6.0
Lincoln	5.7	5.6
Little Compton	6.2	5.8
Middletown	5.3	5.2
Narragansett	4.2	3.3
New Shoreham	16.9	16.1
Newport	6.7	6.0
North Kingstown	4.3	4.4
North Providence	5.8	5.2
North Smithfield	6.7	4.7
Pawtucket	7.0	7.5
Portsmouth	4.6	4.4
Providence	7.4	7.7
Richmond	3.3	3.2
Scituate	6.9	5.9
Smithfield	5.2	5.1
South Kingstown	5.0	4.5
Tiverton	6.9	6.4
Warren	5.6	6.0
Warwick	5.1	5.1
West Greenwich	5.4	6.2
West Warwick	7.0	5.9
Westerly	4.6	4.3
Woonsocket	7.7	7.7
State of R.I.	6.1	5.9

**Revised

Unemployment Insurance Claims Activity

	Jan	Dec	Jan	% Change		Annual Comparison		
	2003	2002	2002	Dec 02	Jan 02	2002	2001	% Change
Initial Claims	13,176	12,046	9,029	9.4%	45.9%	88,347	99,629	-11.3%
Number of Payments	71,990	63,192	76,297	13.9%	-5.6%	703,694	640,088	9.9%
Amount of Payments (gross millions)	\$21.6	\$18.9	\$22.7	14.0%	-5.0%	\$208.6	\$180.8	15.4%
Exhaustions (Final Payments)	1,444	1,608	1,441	-10.2%	0.2%	18,166	13,579	33.8%
E.S. Fund Balance (millions)	\$236.4	\$253.8	\$260.3	-6.9%	-9.2%			

Rhode Island labor market information is available on the web at www.dlt.ri.gov/lmi. If you find that the LMI web site meets your need for labor market information and you would like to be removed from the mailing list for this publication, please call LMI at (401) 462-8740 or fax (401) 462-8766.

*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.

Total Nonfarm Employment in Rhode Island* January 2003

*Sectors reflect the recent conversion from the Standard Industrial Classification (SIC) system to the North American Industry Classification System (NAICS).
Not all industries previously classified under a particular SIC are classified in a similarly titled NAICS sector.*

	Employment in Thousands			Net Change From	
	Jan 2003	Dec 2002	Jan 2002	Dec 2002	Jan 2002
Total Nonfarm	468.9	486.1	466.0	-17,200	2,900
Goods Producing	78.2	81.3	81.1	-3,100	-2,900
Natural Resources & Mining	0.2	0.2	0.2	0	0
Construction	17.5	19.4	17.4	-1,900	100
Specialty Trade Contractors	11.6	12.5	11.4	-900	200
Manufacturing	60.5	61.7	63.5	-1,200	-3,000
Durable Goods	39.2	40.2	41.9	-1,000	-2,700
Fabricated Metal Product Mfg.	8.6	8.7	8.9	-100	-300
Computer & Electronic Product Mfg.	5.3	5.3	5.5	0	-200
Electrical Equipment & Appliance Mfg.	2.9	3.0	2.9	-100	0
Transportation Equipment Mfg.	3.8	3.8	3.7	0	100
Miscellaneous Manufacturing	11.9	12.2	12.3	-300	-400
Jewelry & Silverware	8.8	9.2	9.0	-400	-200
Non-Durable Goods	21.3	21.5	21.6	-200	-300
Chemical Manufacturing	3.8	3.8	3.5	0	300
Plastics & Rubber Products Mfg.	3.3	3.2	3.3	100	0
Service Providing	390.7	404.8	384.9	-14,100	5,800
Wholesale Trade	16.5	16.7	16.5	-200	0
Retail Trade	53.1	56.5	51.7	-3,400	1,400
Grocery Stores	6.3	6.4	6.2	-100	100
Health & Personal Care Stores	5.5	5.7	5.7	-200	-200
General Merchandise Stores	11.1	12.3	10.8	-1,200	300
Department Stores	4.8	5.9	5.1	-1,100	-300
Other General Merchandise Stores	6.4	6.5	5.6	-100	800
Transportation, Warehousing & Utilities	11.2	11.6	10.8	-400	400
Transportation & Warehousing	9.9	10.4	9.5	-500	400
Information	11.3	11.4	11.3	-100	0
Publishing	3.4	3.5	3.4	-100	0
Financial Activities (including Real Estate)	32.2	32.6	32.3	-400	-100
Finance & Insurance	26.7	26.8	26.3	-100	400
Credit Intermediation & Related Activities	11.8	12.0	11.7	-200	100
Insurance Carriers & Related Activities	10.9	11.0	10.7	-100	200
Professional & Technical Services	18.4	19.0	19.0	-600	-600
Management of Companies & Enterprises	6.6	6.6	6.4	0	200
Administrative & Waste Services	20.7	23.0	21.8	-2,300	-1,100
Educational Services	18.1	20.3	17.7	-2,200	400
Colleges & Universities	11.7	13.8	12.0	-2,100	-300
Health Care & Social Assistance	70.0	70.6	67.9	-600	2,100
Ambulatory Health Care Services	20.1	20.2	19.3	-100	800
Hospitals	22.4	22.5	21.9	-100	500
Nursing & Residential Care Facilities	17.7	17.9	17.2	-200	500
Social Assistance	9.8	10.0	9.5	-200	300
Arts, Entertainment & Recreation	5.9	6.9	5.2	-1,000	700
Accommodation & Food Services	37.5	39.5	36.5	-2,000	1,000
Accommodation	3.7	3.9	3.4	-200	300
Food Services & Drinking Places	33.8	35.6	33.1	-1,800	700
Other Services	22.3	22.6	21.1	-300	1,200
Government	66.9	67.5	66.7	-600	200
Federal Government	10.3	10.6	10.4	-300	-100
State Government	18.0	18.1	18.3	-100	-300
Local Government	38.6	38.8	38.0	-200	600
Local Education	25.4	25.6	25.2	-200	200
Local Non-Ed	13.2	13.2	12.8	0	400

*Not seasonally adjusted.

For more detail see "Introducing NAICS" at www.dlt.ri.gov/lmi/es202/naics/naics.htm.

Some subcategories are not additive.

Unemployment Rates for States Annual Average Rankings 2002

<u>Rank</u>	<u>State</u>	<u>Rate</u>
1	South Dakota	3.1
2	Nebraska	3.6
3	Vermont	3.7
4	Iowa	4.0
4	North Dakota	4.0
6	Virginia	4.1
7	Delaware	4.2
7	Hawaii	4.2
7	Wyoming	4.2
10	Connecticut	4.3
11	Maine	4.4
11	Maryland	4.4
11	Minnesota	4.4
14	Oklahoma	4.5
15	Montana	4.6
16	New Hampshire	4.7
17	Georgia	5.1
17	Indiana	5.1
17	Kansas	5.1
17	Rhode Island	5.1
17	Tennessee	5.1
22	Massachusetts	5.3
23	Arkansas	5.4
23	New Mexico	5.4
25	Florida	5.5
25	Missouri	5.5
25	Nevada	5.5
25	Wisconsin	5.5
29	Kentucky	5.6
30	Colorado	5.7
30	Ohio	5.7
30	Pennsylvania	5.7
33	Idaho	5.8
33	New Jersey	5.8
35	Alabama	5.9
36	South Carolina	6.0
37	Louisiana	6.1
37	New York	6.1
37	Utah	6.1
37	West Virginia	6.1
41	Arizona	6.2
41	Michigan	6.2
43	Texas	6.3
44	District of Columbia	6.4
45	Illinois	6.5
46	California	6.7
46	North Carolina	6.7
48	Mississippi	6.8
49	Washington	7.3
50	Oregon	7.5
51	Alaska	7.7

Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics

Note: Data refer to place of residence. Data reflect updated population controls, incorporating the results of Census 2000.

Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers

				% Change
	Jan 03	Dec 02	Jan 02	Prev. Year
All Items	181.7	180.9	177.1	2.6%

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

Business Expo 2003

The Greater Providence Chamber of Commerce is sponsoring the largest Business to Business Expo in New England on April 8th & 9th, 2003 at the RI Convention Center. Real leads...real customers...real business growth...real marketing power! Business Expo 2003 is shaping up to be the best, most well attended yet! It is the only business exposition in the region strategically designed to deliver maximum marketing power to its exhibitors through high profile keynote speakers, special events, unprecedented networking and professional development opportunities and 400 business exhibitors on the show floor.

Dubbed as an "unequivocal hero" during the worst terrorist attack in American history, former New York City Mayor Rudolph Giuliani will deliver what is sure to be a riveting keynote address at the Expo on April 8th. Giuliani has become a national and international icon since the attack on the World Trade Center on September 11, 2001. At Business Expo 2003, he will share a poignant account of relentless leadership in the face of the most devastating crisis ever to confront the people of New York City and the nation.

Expo 2003 is a "must" for business leaders who want to expand their market, enlarge their network and refine their management skills. This annual sell-out event features:

- ◆ 20,00 business professionals in attendance over the course of two days
- ◆ 400 business exhibitors
- ◆ More than 80 educational seminars
- ◆ Chamber's Annual Economic Outlook Luncheon
- ◆ Business After Hours

The Department of Labor & Training and the netWORKri statewide offices will be represented by the Agency's Employer Service Unit at booth #809. Employer Service Representatives (ESR's) will be available to answer questions from business executives ranging from hiring and labor market trends to grant monies, tax credits and training opportunities.

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.