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# Employment Bulletin

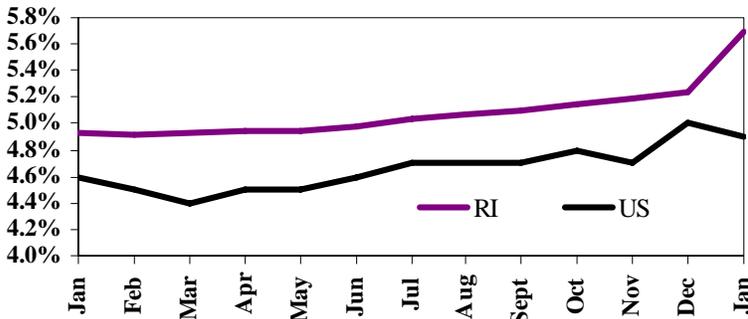
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## Rhode Island's Unemployment Rate Climbs in January

- ◆ RI's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate in January jumped 0.5 of a percentage point to 5.7 percent from the December 2007 revised jobless rate of 5.2 percent.
- ◆ This marks the highest RI unemployment rate since December 1995.
- ◆ RI's jobless rate remained above the national rate, which inched down 0.1 of a percentage point last month to 4.9 percent.
- ◆ In January 2008, the number of unemployed RI residents rose to 32,800, an increase of 2,600 from December 2007 and a year-over-year increase of 4,300 from the previous January.
- ◆ The number of employed RI residents totaled 541,800 in January 2008, representing a decline of 4,600 over the previous month. On a year-over-year basis, the number of employed RI residents dropped 7,900 between January 2007 and January 2008.

RI & US Unemployment Rates  
Seasonally Adjusted 2007-2008



## Benchmarking – What the Annual Revision Means

The Department of Labor and Training's Labor Market Information unit provides establishment employment estimates based on a monthly survey of 1,500 employers through methodology prescribed by the US Department of Labor's Bureau of Labor Statistics. Once a year, the sample-based employment estimates are revised based on employment counts reported on the quarterly Unemployment Insurance tax records filed by all employers. This process is referred to as "Benchmarking."

This year's annual benchmarking process replaced employment estimates with actual data submitted on the quarterly tax records for the April 2006 through September 2007 period. Employment estimates for October through December 2007 were recalculated based on the benchmark data. With the release of the January estimates, the not seasonally adjusted establishment employment data have been revised for 2006 and 2007 and the seasonally adjusted data have been revised for 2003 to 2007.

Rhode Island establishment employment averaged 493,000 in 2007 a decline of 300 from the 2006 annual average of 493,300. A gain of 2,300 jobs in Service Producing industries was overshadowed by a loss of 2,600 jobs in Goods Producing industries. (See Label Page for more detail).

## Free Business Workshops Slated

The RI Department of Labor and Training (DLT) continues its free employer education seminar series with seminars on Unemployment Insurance (UI), Temporary Disability Insurance (TDI), Resources for Ocean State Employers, and Workers' Compensation. (Continued on Page 4)

Seasonally Adjusted Labor Force Statistics  
(in thousands)

	Rhode Island			United States		
	Jan 08	Dec 07	Jan 07	Jan 08	Dec 07	Jan 07
Civilian Labor Force	574.5	576.7	578.2	153,824	153,866	152,958
Resident Employment	541.8	546.4	549.7	146,248	146,211	145,915
Unemployment	32.8	30.2	28.5	7,576	7,655	7,043
Unemployment Rate	5.7%	5.2%	4.9%	4.9%	5.0%	4.6%

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## Rhode Island's Job Count Declines

The number of seasonally adjusted non-farm jobs in Rhode Island fell by 1,700 in January 2008, reducing the number of jobs to 489,100. This represents the lowest job count since June 2004 (488,100).

From December of 2007 to January of 2008, employment losses were reported in the Construction (-600), Professional & Business Services (-500), Financial Activities (-400) and Manufacturing (-300) sectors. Smaller losses of 200 each were noted in the Wholesale Trade; Transportation & Utilities; and Arts, Entertainment & Recreation sectors. Losses of 100 each were evident in the Mining, Retail Trade and Other Services sectors.

Job losses in the Construction sector are largely the result of reductions among Specialty Trade Contractors. Within the Professional & Business Services sector, most of the job loss is attributed to declines in Administrative & Waste Services employment.

The month's employment decreases were partially offset by job gains of 500 in the Educational Services and 400 in the Health Care & Social Assistance sectors, along with a gain of 100 jobs in the Information sector. Employment remained unchanged in both the Accommodation & Food Services and Government sectors.

From January 2007 to January 2008, RI jobs declined 7,200, a 1.5 percent decrease. The largest annual employment losses occurred in the Manufacturing (-2,500), Construction (-2,300), Professional & Business Services (-2,100) and Financial Activities (-1,400) sectors. Smaller losses were noted in Retail Trade (-500), Wholesale Trade (-400) and Transportation & Utilities (-300). Educational Services

employment experienced the largest over-the-year gain (+1,500), followed by Health Care & Social Assistance (+700), Information (+400) and Accommodation & Food Services (+100).

In January 2008, production workers in the Manufacturing sector earned \$13.98 per hour. The average hourly production wage was unchanged from December and up 52 cents per hour from a year ago. Manufacturing employees worked an average of 38.7 hours per week in January, down 0.7 of an hour over the month and 0.6 of an hour since January 2007.

### Establishment Employment in Rhode Island Seasonally Adjusted

	Net Change From				
	Jan-08	Dec-07	Jan-07	Dec-07	Jan-07
<b>Total Nonfarm</b>	<b>489.1</b>	<b>490.8</b>	<b>496.3</b>	<b>-1.7</b>	<b>-7.2</b>
Natural Resources & Mining	0.2	0.3	0.2	-0.1	0.0
Construction	21.1	21.7	23.4	-0.6	-2.3
Manufacturing	49.3	49.6	51.8	-0.3	-2.5
Wholesale Trade*	16.8	17.0	17.2	-0.2	-0.4
Retail Trade	51.4	51.5	51.9	-0.1	-0.5
Transportation & Utilities	10.8	11.0	11.1	-0.2	-0.3
Information	10.9	10.8	10.5	0.1	0.4
Financial Activities	34.1	34.5	35.5	-0.4	-1.4
Professional & Business Services	55.1	55.6	57.2	-0.5	-2.1
Educational Services	24.2	23.7	22.7	0.5	1.5
Health Care & Social Assistance	76.4	76.0	75.7	0.4	0.7
Arts, Entertainment & Recreation	7.9	8.1	8.0	-0.2	-0.1
Accommodation & Food Services	43.3	43.3	43.2	0.0	0.1
Other Services	23.1	23.2	23.2	-0.1	-0.1
Government	64.5	64.5	64.7	0.0	-0.2

\* State Calculated Estimate

### Manufacturing Employment in Rhode Island Not Seasonally Adjusted

	Employment				
	(in thousands)			Net Change From	
	Jan 08	Dec 07	Jan 07	Dec 07	Jan 07
<b>Manufacturing</b>	49.1	50.2	51.4	-1100	-2,300
<b>Durable Goods</b>	32.0	32.7	33.3	-700	-1,300
Fabricated Metal Product Mfg.	6.7	6.9	7.0	-200	-300
Computer & Electronic Product Mfg.	4.3	4.3	4.6	0	-300
Miscellaneous Manufacturing	9.1	9.3	9.6	-200	-500
Jewelry & Silverware	6.3	6.5	6.7	-200	-400
<b>Non-Durable Goods</b>	17.1	17.5	18.1	-400	-1,000
Chemical Manufacturing	4.2	4.2	4.5	0	-300
Plastics & Rubber Products Mfg.	2.9	2.9	3.0	0	-100

*The employment figures in this section are derived from a survey of businesses in Rhode Island and measure the number of jobs in the state. Not seasonally adjusted total nonfarm employment data is available at: [www.dlt.ri.gov/lmi/ces.htm](http://www.dlt.ri.gov/lmi/ces.htm). Current month's figures are preliminary and subject to change.*



## Union Membership in Rhode Island 2007

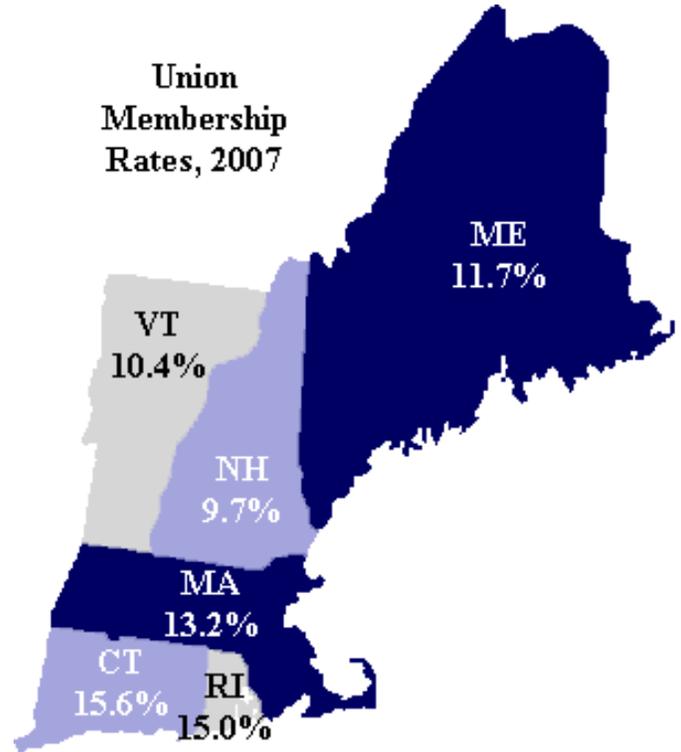
According to the Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS), 15.0 percent (75,000) of private and public sector workers throughout Rhode Island were union members in 2007. This represented an over-the-year decline of 0.3 percentage points, or 1,000 workers. Regionally, the Ocean State had the second highest union membership rate, trailing only Connecticut (15.6%). No New England state experienced an increase in their union membership rates between 2006 and 2007.

Massachusetts posted the greatest decline (-1.3 points), followed by Vermont (-0.6 points), and New Hampshire (-0.4 points). Connecticut's rate was unchanged over the year.

Among the fifty states, Rhode Island reported the twelfth highest union membership rate, trailing New York (25.2%), Alaska (23.8%), Hawaii (23.4%), Washington (20.2%), Michigan (19.5%), New Jersey (19.2%), California (16.7%), Minnesota (16.3%), Connecticut (15.6%), Nevada (15.4%), and Pennsylvania (15.1%). Nationally, the union membership rate was 12.1 percent, up from 12.0 percent one year earlier but well below the 20.1 percent measured in 1983.

Over the year, the percentage of wage and salary workers represented by unions in the Ocean State declined, falling from 16.0 percent in 2006 to 15.8 percent in 2007. Throughout the country, 13.3 percent of public and private sector workers were represented by unions in 2007.

For more information, go to <http://www.dlt.ri.gov/lmi/publications/union.htm>.



### Characteristics of the Insured Unemployed

In January 2008, 47 percent of Rhode Island's unemployed workers were eligible to collect Unemployment Insurance (UI) benefits. Numbering 18,744 people, these "insured unemployed" accounted for 3.5 percent of the state's total employed (unadjusted). Nearly 19 percent (3,467) of the Ocean State's insured unemployed faced long-term unemployment, defined as collecting unemployment benefits for more than fourteen weeks.

On an industry basis, 21.6 percent (4,040) of the state's insured unemployed workers came from the Construction sector. There were also 2,411 individuals with an attachment to the Administrative & Waste Services sector, accounting for 12.9 percent of all insured unemployed workers. An additional 12.2 percent (2,291) of those collecting UI benefits in January had worked in the Manufacturing sector. Large numbers of insured unemployed were also reported in Retail Trade (1,619), Accommodation & Food Services (1,566) and Finance & Insurance (1,108). For more information, go to [www.dlt.ri.gov/lmi/uiadmin/characteristics.htm](http://www.dlt.ri.gov/lmi/uiadmin/characteristics.htm).

**Characteristics of the Insured Unemployed, January 2008**

	Total	Long-Term	Percent Long-Term
<b>Total</b>	<b>18,744</b>	<b>3,467</b>	<b>18.5%</b>
Male	11,933	1,656	13.9%
Female	6,811	1,811	26.6%
<b>Selected Industries</b>	<b>18,744</b>	<b>3,467</b>	<b>18.5%</b>
Construction	4,040	260	6.4%
Manufacturing	2,291	476	20.8%
Wholesale Trade	676	146	21.6%
Retail Trade	1,619	521	32.2%
Transportation & Warehousing	377	39	10.3%
Information	183	47	25.7%
Finance & Insurance	1,108	468	42.2%
Real Estate	302	64	21.2%
Professional & Tech. Services	626	175	28.0%
Administrative & Waste Services	2,411	241	10.0%
Educational Services	214	101	47.2%
Health Care & Social Assistance	1,105	395	35.7%
Arts, Entertainment & Recreation	707	56	7.9%
Accommodation & Food Services	1,566	192	12.3%
Other Services	489	129	26.4%
Public Administration	125	35	28.0%

**Consumer Price Index for  
All Urban Consumers**

	Jan 08	Dec 07	Jan 07	% Change Prev. Year
All Items	211.1	210.0	202.4	4.3%

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

**Free Business Workshops Slated  
(Continued from Page 1)**

**Resources for Ocean State Employers**

An array of resources is available to benefit your business. The Department of Labor and Training has teamed with the Economic Development Corporation to boost your bottom line. Learn about Tax Credits, Occupational Wage Levels and Grants for Employee Training from the Employer Service Team.

Tuesday, April 29, 2008                      8:30 AM - Noon  
Registration is 8:00 AM                      DLT Headquarters

**Temporary Disability Insurance (TDI)**

TDI provides benefits to insured RI workers for unemployment that is caused by illness or disability that is not work-related. Learn about recent improvements to the TDI System that align the interests of the worker, employer and medical community.

Tuesday, May 20, 2008                      8:30 AM - Noon  
Registration is 8:00 AM                      DLT Headquarters

**Unemployment Insurance (UI)**

UI provides benefits to insured and eligible persons who are out of work through no fault of their own. Learn who qualifies for benefits, how UI impacts your tax rate and what defines "out of work through no fault of their own." Learn how, when and why UI claims are deemed eligible.

Wednesday, May 21, 2008                      8:30 AM - Noon  
Registration is 8:00 AM                      DLT Headquarters

For more information on the DLT Employer Education Series, including dates and times for each seminar, go to [www.dlt.ri.gov/EmployerSeminars.htm](http://www.dlt.ri.gov/EmployerSeminars.htm). Registration is required for all seminars. To register, call 1-888-616-JOBS.

**City & Town  
Unadjusted Unemployment Rates for January**

	2008	2007		2008	2007
Barrington	4.6	3.9	Newport	7.8	6.7
Bristol	6.3	5.3	North Kingstown	6.2	4.7
Burrillville	6.6	5.4	North Providence	6.7	5.6
Central Falls	8.7	7.5	North Smithfield	6.2	5.3
Charlestown	7.2	6.1	Pawtucket	7.5	6.5
Coventry	7.0	5.2	Portsmouth	6.1	5.0
Cranston	6.6	5.5	Providence	7.9	6.8
Cumberland	6.4	4.7	Richmond	4.5	3.7
East Greenwich	6.7	5.3	Scituate	7.3	5.4
East Providence	7.4	6.1	Smithfield	6.0	4.9
Exeter	6.4	5.7	South Kingstown	6.2	5.5
Foster	8.6	6.7	Tiverton	7.8	6.7
Glocester	5.5	4.7	Warren	7.4	6.6
Hopkinton	7.0	6.2	Warwick	6.6	5.2
Jamestown	5.4	4.5	West Greenwich	6.3	4.3
Johnston	8.1	6.9	West Warwick	7.7	6.7
Lincoln	6.5	4.8	Westerly	6.2	5.7
Little Compton	6.9	6.6	Woonsocket	7.8	6.4
Middletown	7.0	5.8			
Narragansett	5.4	4.0	State of R.I.	7.0	5.8
New Shoreham	15.5	15.3	United States	5.4	5.0

**Workers' Compensation (WC)**

WC oversees employer-provided insurance for statutory employee benefits due to a work-related injury or illness. Learn about the law and procedures regarding insurance coverage, claim reporting and handling and employee return-to-work options. Discover the comprehensive and physical rehabilitation services available from the Donley Rehabilitation Center.

Wednesday, April 16, 2008                      8:30 AM - Noon  
Registration is 8:00 AM                      DLT Headquarters

Thursday, May 1, 2008                      8:30 AM - Noon  
Registration is 8:00 AM                      DLT Headquarters

Wednesday, June 11, 2008                      8:30 AM - Noon  
Registration is 8:00 AM                      DLT Headquarters

**Unemployment Insurance Claims Activity**

	Jan 2008	Dec 2007	Jan 2007	% Change Dec 07	% Change Jan 07	Annual Comparison		
						2007	2006	% Change
Initial Claims	11,475	10,302	10,205	11.4%	12.4%	81,928	76,453	7.2%
Number of Payments	73,155	59,980	69,599	22.0%	5.1%	647,413	579,130	11.8%
Amount of Payments (gross millions)	\$26.8	\$21.9	\$24.0	22.4%	11.7%	\$226.5	\$192.9	17.4%
Exhaustions (Final Payments)	1,580	1,480	1,431	6.8%	10.4%	15,181	13,867	9.5%

**Rhode Island Establishment Employment**  
 Not Seasonally Adjusted  
*(In Thousands)*

	Annual Average Employment		
	2007	2006	Change
<b>TOTAL NONFARM</b>	<b>493.0</b>	<b>493.3</b>	<b>-300</b>
Total Private	428.3	428.3	0
<b>GOODS PRODUCING</b>	<b>73.2</b>	<b>75.8</b>	<b>-2,600</b>
<b>Natural Resources &amp; Mining</b>	<b>0.3</b>	<b>0.3</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>Construction</b>	<b>22.1</b>	<b>22.8</b>	<b>-700</b>
Specialty Trade Construction	14.5	15.0	-500
<b>Manufacturing</b>	<b>50.8</b>	<b>52.7</b>	<b>-1,900</b>
Durable Goods	32.9	34.1	-1,200
Fabricated Metal Product Mfg.	6.9	7.4	-500
Computer & Electronic Product Mfg.	4.4	4.6	-200
Miscellaneous Mfg.	9.4	9.7	-300
Jewelry & Silverware	6.5	6.9	-400
Non-Durable Goods	17.9	18.6	-700
Chemical Mfg.	4.5	4.5	0
Plastics & Rubber Products Mfg.	2.9	2.9	0
<b>SERVICE PROVIDING</b>	<b>419.8</b>	<b>417.5</b>	<b>2,300</b>
<b>Trade, Transportation &amp; Utilities</b>	<b>79.8</b>	<b>79.8</b>	<b>0</b>
Wholesale Trade	17.1	17.0	100
Retail Trade	51.7	51.8	-100
Health & Personal Care Stores	5.9	5.7	200
Department Stores	4.7	4.4	300
Transportation, Warehousing & Utilities	11.0	11.0	0
Transportation & Warehousing	10.0	9.8	200
<b>Information</b>	<b>10.5</b>	<b>11.0</b>	<b>-500</b>
Publishing	2.8	3.0	-200
<b>Financial Activities (including Real Estate)</b>	<b>34.9</b>	<b>35.1</b>	<b>-200</b>
Finance & Insurance	28.2	28.2	0
Credit Intermediation & Related Activities	13.5	13.9	-400
Insurance Carriers & Related Activities	10.6	10.5	100
<b>Professional &amp; Business Services</b>	<b>56.1</b>	<b>56.5</b>	<b>-400</b>
Professional & Technical Services	21.7	21.5	200
Administrative & Waste Services	25.0	25.6	-600
Employment Services	9.7	10.5	-800
<b>Educational &amp; Health Services</b>	<b>99.4</b>	<b>97.1</b>	<b>2,300</b>
Educational Services	23.4	22.7	700
Colleges & Universities	15.7	15.2	500
Health Care & Social Assistance	76.0	74.4	1,600
Ambulatory Health Care Services	22.8	22.2	600
Hospitals	24.1	23.7	400
Nursing & Residential Care Facilities	18.5	18.0	500
Social Assistance	10.6	10.5	100
<b>Leisure &amp; Hospitality</b>	<b>51.3</b>	<b>50.2</b>	<b>1,100</b>
Arts, Entertainment & Recreation	8.0	7.7	300
Accommodation & Food Services	43.2	42.5	700
Accommodation	4.1	3.8	300
Food Services & Drinking Places	39.2	38.6	600
Full-Service Restaurants	18.7	18.4	300
Limited-Service Eating Places	15.0	14.6	400
<b>Other Services</b>	<b>23.2</b>	<b>23.1</b>	<b>100</b>
<b>Government</b>	<b>64.6</b>	<b>64.9</b>	<b>-300</b>
Federal Government	9.8	10.0	-200
State Government	17.3	17.5	-200
Local Government	37.5	37.4	100