



Employment Labor Market Information Bulletin

Volume 14 No. 1

January 2002

Rhode Island's Unemployment Rate Increases to 4.8 Percent in December

The Unemployment Rate

Rhode Island's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate of 4.8 percent in December was 0.4 of a percentage point above November's figure of 4.4 percent. A year ago December, the unemployment rate was 3.6 percent. The number of unemployed Rhode Island residents increased by 1,900 over the month to 24,200 in December. The comparable national unemployment rate of 5.8 percent for December was up 0.2 of a percentage point from the prior month. Rhode Island's unemployment rate remained well below the national average for the fifth straight month.

"Amid the ongoing recession in the national economy, Rhode Island has still managed to add jobs over the year," said DLT Director Dr. Lee H. Arnold. "Despite continued weakness in the manufacturing sector and sluggish job growth in the service producing industries, the construction industry remains a bright spot."

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

Despite concern over increasing layoffs, rising unemployment rates and a national recession, employment at Rhode Island businesses reached an all-time December high. Jobs numbered 486,900 in December 2001, up 2,500 (0.5%) from the 484,400 jobs reported last year. This is the smallest annual December gain experienced in the last ten years. While most major industry divisions reported modest employment gains, the Contract Construction industry boosted its payroll by some 2,000 jobs due to increased employment among Special Trade Contractors. The Finance, Insurance & Real Estate division also reported a substantial gain (+1,200) due, in part, to employment gains in Banking. Trade and Government each showed an over-the-year gain of 1,000 jobs, while Transportation & Public Utilities remained even. Employment in Services increased by just 500 jobs over the year. Business Services posted a decline of 1,800 jobs due to decreases in temporary help agencies. The Manufacturing sector continued to decline, posting an annual loss of 3,200 jobs. Nearly all factory components reported job cutbacks with the largest in Jewelry-Silverware (-700), Fabricated Metals (-600) and Nonelectrical Machinery (-500).

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

The number of jobs in Rhode Island declined by 500 over the month, typical for this time of year as holiday hiring in the Trade sector was overshadowed by seasonal losses in Services and Construction.

Trade – Trade reported a net gain of 1,200 jobs over the month, due to holiday hiring in the Retail Trade segment. Nearly all Retail components showed monthly gains with the largest occurring among Miscellaneous Retail Stores (+500) and Apparel & Accessory Stores (+400). Restaurant employment declined by 200.

Government – Public sector employment posted a gain of 300 over the month with growth concentrated in the Local segment. Federal Government employment remained even as the seasonal hiring of postal workers for the holiday rush did not materialize.

Manufacturing – Manufacturing employment showed a net loss of 200 jobs over the month. Jewelry/Silverware (-300) and Primary Metals (-100) reported minor losses, while small gains were noted in Fabricated Metals (+100) and Electrical Machinery (+100).

Contract Construction – The Construction industry trimmed its payrolls by 500 jobs, due to seasonal declines in General Building and Heavy Construction.

Services – The Services sector declined by 1,300 jobs over the month due to seasonal losses in several industries. Employment at private educational institutions was down 300, marking the beginning of the winter break. Business Services posted a drop of 400, mostly due to decreased employment among temporary help agencies. Employment also declined in vacation-related industries as Hotels/Lodging and Amusement/ Recreation trimmed their payrolls by 600 and 300 jobs, respectively.

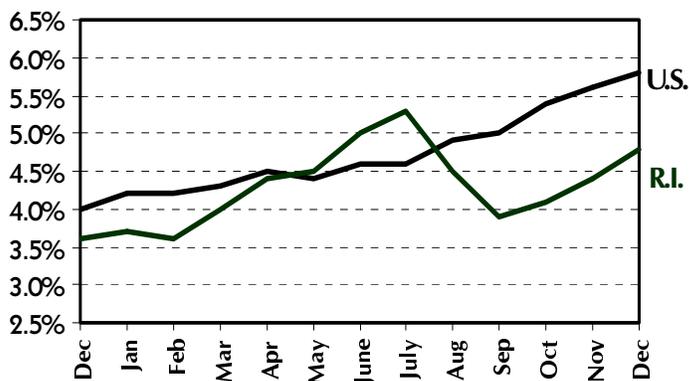
Rhode Island Labor Force Statistics (in thousands)

	Unadjusted			Seasonally Adjusted		
	Dec 01*	Nov 01*	Dec 00	Dec 01*	Nov 01*	Dec 00
Civilian Labor Force	508.9	507.2	512.2	504.8	503.4	507.7
Resident Employment	487.4	487.8	496.0	480.6	481.1	489.4
Unemployment	21.6	19.4	16.2	24.2	22.3	18.3
Unemployment Rate	4.2%	3.8%	3.2%	4.8%	4.4%	3.6%

United States Labor Force Statistics (in thousands)

	Unadjusted			Seasonally Adjusted		
	Dec 01*	Nov 01*	Dec 00*	Dec 01*	Nov 01*	Dec 00*
Civilian Labor Force	141,912	141,911	141,319	142,314	142,279	141,544
Resident Employment	134,235	134,359	136,092	134,055	134,253	135,888
Unemployment	7,678	7,551	5,227	8,259	8,026	5,656
Unemployment Rate	5.4%	5.3%	3.7%	5.8%	5.6%	4.0%

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



City & Town Unadjusted Unemployment Rates

	Dec 01*	Dec 00
Barrington	2.6	1.7
Bristol	3.3	2.6
Burrillville	4.0	3.1
Central Falls	6.8	5.4
Charlestown	5.1	3.4
Coventry	4.0	3.0
Cranston	4.0	3.1
Cumberland	4.0	2.2
East Greenwich	3.9	3.3
East Providence	4.5	3.3
Exeter	3.6	3.4
Foster	5.2	2.7
Glocester	2.9	2.0
Hopkinton	2.5	2.0
Jamestown	3.1	3.1
Johnston	4.0	3.6
Lincoln	4.1	2.4
Little Compton	3.4	2.4
Middletown	3.4	2.9
Narragansett	2.2	2.0
New Shoreham	13.0	16.3
Newport	3.8	3.4
North Kingstown	3.2	2.6
North Providence	4.0	3.3
North Smithfield	3.0	2.2
Pawtucket	5.6	3.8
Portsmouth	2.8	2.4
Providence	5.7	4.3
Richmond	1.8	1.0
Scituate	4.0	2.8
Smithfield	3.7	2.6
South Kingstown	2.9	2.2
Tiverton	4.3	3.1
Warren	3.9	2.8
Warwick	3.8	2.9
West Greenwich	3.8	2.9
West Warwick	4.1	3.6
Westerly	2.9	2.2
Woonsocket	5.8	3.6
State of R.I.	4.2	3.2

Unemployment Insurance Claims Activity

	Dec	Nov	Dec	% Change		Year to Date		
	2001	2001	2000	Nov 01	Dec 00	2001	2000	% Change
Initial Claims	16,546	7,832	11,599	111.3%	42.7%	99,594	84,767	17.5%
Number of Payments	61,639	45,854	37,219	34.4%	65.6%	640,088	536,649	19.3%
Amount of Payments (gross millions)	\$18.1	\$13.6	\$9.3	33.1%	94.2%	\$180.9	\$138.4	30.7%
Exhaustions (Final Payments)	1,384	1,097	959	26.2%	44.3%	13,579	12,501	8.6%
E.S. Fund Balance (millions)	\$277.9	\$289.0	\$295.7	-3.8%	-6.0%			

*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

Annual Refiling Survey

We request your assistance in reviewing the North American Industry Classification System (NAICS) code assigned to your business.

The **Annual Refiling Survey** has been mailed to this year's selected firms. Survey forms were mailed to some 10,000 RI businesses for the purpose of obtaining information about the establishment's primary economic activity. The technological and economic changes that frequently occur in industries make it necessary to periodically review and update previously assigned NAICS codes. If your company received a form, please complete it and return it to the Labor Market Information (LMI) Unit, so that we may assign the proper code to your company.

If you have any questions about the Refiling Survey or would like additional information about NAICS, call the LMI Unit at (401) 462-8760.

Total Establishment Employment in Rhode Island**

	Employment (in thousands)			Net Change From	
	Dec 01	Nov 01	Dec 00	Nov 01	Dec 00
TOTAL EMPLOYMENT	486.9	487.4	484.4	-500	2500
GOODS PRODUCING	91.0	91.7	92.2	-700	-1200
Contract Construction	21.2	21.7	19.2	-500	2000
Manufacturing	69.8	70.0	73.0	-200	-3200
SERVICE PRODUCING	395.9	395.7	392.2	200	3700
Trans. & Public Utilities	17.2	17.2	17.2	-----	-----
Trade (Wholesale & Retail)	113.6	112.4	112.6	1200	1000
Wholesale	20.7	20.7	20.6	-----	100
Durables♦	12.7	12.6	12.9	100	-200
Nondurables♦	8.0	8.1	7.7	-100	300
Retail	92.9	91.7	92.0	1200	900
Building & Garden Supplies♦	2.4	2.4	2.3	-----	100
General Merchandise	8.4	8.3	8.5	100	-100
Food Stores♦	16.8	16.7	16.0	100	800
Automotive Dealers	7.5	7.4	7.7	100	-200
Apparel & Accessory Stores	5.6	5.2	5.4	400	200
Furn., Home Furn., & Equipt.♦	3.4	3.2	3.1	200	300
Eating and Drinking Places	31.3	31.5	31.6	-200	-300
Miscellaneous Retail	17.5	17.0	17.4	500	100
Finance, Insurance & Real Estate	31.8	31.8	30.6	-----	1200
Depository Institutions	9.6	9.5	9.0	100	600
Services	167.2	168.5	166.7	-1300	500
Hotels & Other Lodging♦	4.0	4.6	3.8	-600	200
Business Services	28.9	29.3	30.7	-400	-1800
Auto & Misc. Repair♦	5.6	5.6	5.6	-----	-----
Amusement & Recreation	4.9	5.2	5.1	-300	-200
Health Services	53.2	53.1	52.4	100	800
Educational Services	19.2	19.5	18.8	-300	400
Social Services	16.5	16.3	16.0	200	500
Government	66.1	65.8	65.1	300	1000
Federal	10.3	10.3	10.7	-----	-400
State	18.4	18.4	18.3	-----	100
Local	37.4	37.1	36.1	300	1300
Education♦	24.5	24.3	23.7	200	800
Non Education♦	12.8	12.7	12.4	100	400

♦ 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		
	Dec 01	Nov 01	Dec 00	Nov 01	Dec 00	Dec 01	Nov 01	Dec 00	Dec 01	Nov 01	Dec 00
MANUFACTURING	69.8	70.0	73.0	-200	-3200	40.5	40.2	40.7	12.17	12.18	12.19
DURABLE MFG.	45.1	45.3	48.0	-200	-2900	40.1	39.8	40.9	11.99	12.02	11.96
Lumber/Furniture	2.7	2.7	2.9	-----	-200	39.6	39.5	40.4	11.82	11.82	11.34
Stone-Clay-Glass	0.8	0.8	0.9	-----	-100	39.0	40.0	42.0	13.89	13.89	13.85
Primary Metals	3.6	3.7	3.9	-100	-300	41.0	41.2	42.9	13.02	12.98	12.97
Fabricated Metals	8.1	8.0	8.7	100	-600	39.5	39.7	39.8	11.34	11.41	11.42
Nonelectrical Mach.	3.9	3.9	4.4	-----	-500	40.1	38.9	41.6	13.66	13.61	13.61
Electrical Mach.	5.6	5.5	6.0	100	-400	41.4	40.5	40.7	11.46	11.68	11.47
Trans. Equipment	3.5	3.5	3.4	-----	100	40.5	41.2	42.6	14.43	14.40	14.44
Instruments	5.3	5.3	5.5	-----	-200	37.8	38.0	41.1	12.72	12.70	12.80
Jewelry-Silverware	8.6	8.9	9.3	-300	-700	40.0	39.9	40.3	10.54	10.60	10.43
Miscellaneous Mfg.	3.0	3.0	3.0	-----	-----	42.4	39.1	40.8	11.61	11.61	11.59
NONDURABLE MFG.	24.7	24.7	25.0	-----	-300	41.3	40.9	40.4	12.51	12.46	12.62
Food Beverage	3.2	3.2	2.9	-----	300	41.6	41.5	41.1	11.47	11.47	11.35
Textiles	6.2	6.2	6.3	-----	-100	40.9	41.3	39.7	10.91	10.90	10.92
Apparel	0.9	0.9	0.9	-----	-----	38.7	39.1	38.4	9.34	9.35	9.31
Paper Products	1.9	1.9	2.0	-----	-100	41.5	39.5	41.7	12.19	12.14	12.08
Printing-Publishing	4.9	4.9	5.3	-----	-400	40.3	40.8	39.5	16.58	16.57	16.70
Chemical Products	2.3	2.3	2.2	-----	100	42.9	41.2	42.2	14.23	14.04	14.10
Rubber Products	0.4	0.4	0.5	-----	-100	43.5	42.4	43.6	12.97	12.97	12.50
Plastics Products	4.4	4.4	4.4	-----	-----	42.0	41.0	40.6	13.44	13.44	13.38
Leather Products	0.5	0.5	0.5	-----	-----	41.7	39.8	41.0	8.38	8.40	8.36

**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.

NAICS

The New Industrial Classification System

The Labor Market Information (LMI) unit is in the final stages of the initiative to implement the North American Industry Classification System (NAICS).

This new industry coding system, which replaces the Standard Industrial Classification (SIC) coding system, provides a much better picture of the economy of the twenty-first century. For the first time, detailed information is available about many businesses and industries that were previously clustered together.

Individuals responsible for administering programs, which determine a company's eligibility or responsibility based on its industry code, should begin making plans to apply the NAICS coding system to their rules and regulations.

For additional information on NAICS, contact the Rhode Island Department of Labor and Training's Labor Market Information Unit at 462-8740 or visit our website.

Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers

	Dec 01	Nov 01	Dec 00	% Change Prev. Year
All Items	176.7	177.4	174.0	1.6%

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

Rhode Island Covered Employment and Wages by NAICS First Quarter 2001

	Number of Units	Average Quarter Employment	Total Quarter Wages
Total Private & Government	33,591	461,739	\$3,921,774,167
Total Private Only	32,924	396,798	\$3,226,982,039
Agriculture, Forestry, Fishing & Hunting	180	520	2,901,214
Mining	22	172	1,463,141
Utilities	29	1,310	26,134,614
Construction	3,543	16,566	164,685,331
Manufacturing	2,605	70,032	642,297,004
Wholesale Trade	2,719	16,712	203,372,548
Retail Trade	4,087	50,698	272,192,044
Transportation & Warehousing	691	8,978	61,669,446
Information	576	11,021	135,642,206
Finance & Insurance	1,479	24,316	323,725,382
Real Estate & Rental & Leasing	1,000	5,972	43,003,657
Professional & Technical Services	3,472	18,788	219,619,014
Management of Companies & Enterprises	114	6,464	131,512,247
Administrative & Waste Services	1,922	23,268	123,410,778
Educational Services	359	15,614	125,026,368
Health Care & Social Assistance	2,691	65,479	491,524,896
Arts, Entertainment, & Recreation	476	5,330	25,777,971
Accommodation & Food Services	2,510	36,035	114,498,763
Other Services, except Public Administration	3,104	16,703	87,521,010
Unclassified Establishments	1,345	2,820	31,004,405