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Employment Bulletin

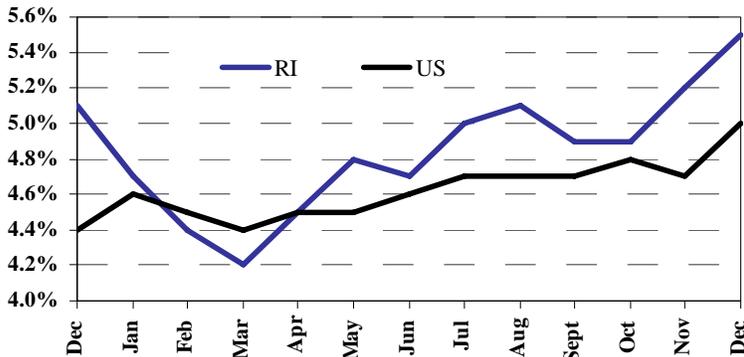
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Rhode Island's Unemployment Rate Climbs

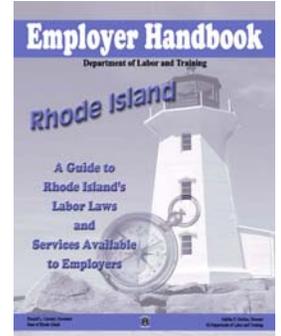
- ◆ RI's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate rose 0.3 of a percentage point for the second month in a row, reaching 5.5 percent in December, its highest level since February 1996.
- ◆ Compared to December 2006, RI's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate is up 0.4 of a percentage point.
- ◆ For the eighth month in a row, RI's jobless rate was above the US unemployment rate, which rose to 5.0 percent in December.
- ◆ In December, the number of unemployed RI residents increased to 31,800, a jump of 1,800 from November 2007 and a year-over-year increase of 2,400 from the previous December.
- ◆ The number of employed RI residents totaled 547,800 in December 2007, representing a decline of 3,200 over the previous month. From December 2006 to December 2007, the number of employed RI residents dropped 1,400.

**RI & US Unemployment Rates
Seasonally Adjusted 2006-2007**



Rhode Island Employer Handbook Online

Employers, did you know that the most up-to-date edition of the *Rhode Island Employer Handbook*, which includes a guide to RI labor laws, is available online?



The Department of Labor and Training (DLT) administers a number of programs including Unemployment Insurance, Temporary Disability Insurance, Workers' Compensation and Workforce Regulation and Safety, for the protection and advancement of Rhode Island's workforce. The *Employer Handbook* was designed as a resource for RI employers. It provides information on the many programs and services administered by DLT and assists employers in meeting the requirements placed on them by these programs.

Many sections in the *Employer Handbook* and *Digest of Labor Laws* provide links to web sites that offer additional information on particular topics. Clicking on a link in the online Table of Contents will take you directly to that subject. Because the contents of the publication, particularly labor laws, are subject to change with the enactment of new legislation, updates to the *Employer Handbook* will be posted in the online edition.

You can access the *Employer Handbook* on the Labor Market Information web site at www.dlt.ri.gov/lmi/publications/handbook.htm.

Seasonally Adjusted Labor Force Statistics (in thousands)

	Rhode Island			United States		
	Dec 07	Nov 07	Dec 06	Dec 07	Nov 07	Dec 06
Civilian Labor Force	579.5	581.0	578.7	153,866	153,828	152,709
Resident Employment	547.8	551.0	549.2	146,211	146,647	145,949
Unemployment	31.8	30.0	29.4	7,655	7,181	6,760
Unemployment Rate	5.5%	5.2%	5.1%	5.0%	4.7%	4.4%

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Rhode Island's Job Count Relatively Unchanged

The number of seasonally adjusted non-farm jobs in Rhode Island declined by 100 in December 2007, reducing the job count to 499,200. This is the second consecutive monthly employment decrease in Rhode Island, following nine months of stable or increased job growth.

From November to December of 2007, employment losses were reported in the Professional & Business Services (-200) and Other Services (-200) sectors. Smaller losses of 100 each were noted in the Manufacturing, Transportation & Utilities, Health Care & Social Assistance and Accommodation & Food Services sectors.

The majority of job losses in Professional & Business Services sector employment could be attributed to reductions in Temporary Help and Landscaping. Within the Other Services sector, losses were noted in Personal Care Services. The month's employment decreases were partially offset by a job gain of 200 in the Construction sector, along with gains of 100 jobs each in the Wholesale Trade; Information; Educational Services; Arts, Entertainment, & Recreation and Government sectors.

From December 2006 to December 2007, RI jobs grew 3,300, a 0.7 percent increase. The national growth rate for this same period totaled 1.0 percent. The largest annual employment gains in Rhode Island occurred in the Professional & Business Services (+1,400); Construction (+1,000); Information (+600); Arts, Entertainment & Recreation (+600); Transportation & Utilities (+500) and Educational Services (+500) sectors. Manufacturing employment experienced the largest over-the-year loss (-1,400), followed by Financial Activities (-500), Government (-300) and Wholesale Trade (-200).

In December 2007, production workers in the Manufacturing sector earned \$13.98 per hour. The average hourly production wage was down one cent from November and up 59 cents per hour from a year ago. Manufacturing employees worked an average of 39.4 hours per week in December, down 0.2 of an hour over the month and 0.5 of an hour since December 2006.

Establishment Employment in Rhode Island Seasonally Adjusted

	Employment (in thousands)		Net Change
	Dec-07	Nov-07	
	Total Nonfarm	499.2	
Natural Resources & Mining	0.3	0.3	0.0
Construction	24.5	24.3	0.2
Manufacturing	50.2	50.3	-0.1
Wholesale Trade*	16.6	16.5	0.1
Retail Trade	52.0	52.0	0.0
Transportation & Utilities	11.5	11.6	-0.1
Information	11.4	11.3	0.1
Financial Activities	35.8	35.8	0.0
Professional & Business Services	58.9	59.1	-0.2
Educational Services	23.0	22.9	0.1
Health Care & Social Assistance	75.8	75.9	-0.1
Arts, Entertainment & Recreation	8.8	8.7	0.1
Accommodation & Food Services	42.8	42.9	-0.1
Other Services	23.3	23.5	-0.2
Government	64.3	64.2	0.1

* State Calculated Estimate

Manufacturing Employment in Rhode Island Not Seasonally Adjusted

	Employment (in thousands)					Production Worker Averages					
				Net Change From		Weekly Hours			Hourly Earnings		
	Dec 07	Nov 07	Dec 06	Nov 07	Dec 06	Dec 07	Nov 07	Dec 06	Dec 07	Nov 07	Dec 06
Manufacturing	50.8	50.9	52.3	-100	-1,500	39.4	39.6	39.9	\$13.98	\$13.99	\$13.39
Durable Goods	33.6	33.7	33.9	-100	-300	38.5	38.6	38.6	\$13.97	\$13.99	\$13.16
Fabricated Metal Product Mfg.	7.1	7.1	7.4	0	-300	39.9	40.2	40.5	\$13.03	\$13.12	\$11.85
Computer & Electronic Product Mfg.	4.7	4.7	4.6	0	100	37.1	37.1	36.4	\$14.46	\$14.46	\$14.41
Miscellaneous Manufacturing	9.2	9.2	9.7	0	-500	36.2	35.8	35.5	\$12.09	\$12.06	\$11.18
Jewelry & Silverware	6.5	6.5	6.8	0	-300	38.3	38.5	38.0	\$10.77	\$10.70	\$10.26
Non-Durable Goods	17.2	17.2	18.4	0	-1,200	40.9	41.5	42.2	\$13.99	\$14.00	\$13.74
Chemical Manufacturing	3.6	3.7	4.5	-100	-900	40.4	40.6	35.9	\$16.29	\$16.35	\$16.10
Plastics & Rubber Products Mfg.	2.6	2.6	2.8	0	-200	44.1	44.6	43.5	\$14.37	\$14.40	\$14.55

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.

Current month's figures are preliminary and subject to change.

Accountants and Auditors



Accountants and auditors help to ensure that the Nation's firms are run efficiently, its public records are kept accurately and its taxes are paid properly. Many accountants and auditors broaden the services they offer to include budget analysis, financial and investment planning, information technology consulting, and limited legal services. There are four major fields of accounting: public, management, government accounting and internal auditing.

Public accountants perform a broad range of accounting, auditing, tax and consulting activities for their clients, which include corporations, governments, non-profit organizations or individuals. Management accountants record and analyze the financial information of the companies for which they work. Government accountants and auditors work in the public sector maintaining and examining the records of government agencies and auditing private businesses and individuals whose activities are subject to government regulations or taxation. Internal auditors verify the accuracy of their organization's internal records and check for mismanagement, waste or fraud.

Most accountant and auditor positions require at least a bachelor's degree in accounting or a related field; however, some employers prefer applicants with a master's degree in business education. Professional recognition through certification or licensure provides a distinct advantage in the job market. Certified public accountants are licensed by a State Board of Accountancy.

The median hourly wage for accountants and auditors in Rhode Island in 2006 was \$27.60 and the estimated median annual salary was \$57,420.

Nearly 4,800 accountants and auditors were employed in Rhode Island in 2004. The Professional, Scientific & Technical Services sector employs the largest percentage (28.4%) of accountants and auditors, mainly in accounting, tax preparation, bookkeeping and payroll services firms. The Finance & Insurance sector (11.6%) is the second largest employer of accountants and auditors, followed by manufacturing firms (8.9%). Nearly 6 percent of the state's accountants and auditors are employed by government agencies and nearly 12 percent are self-employed.

Employment of accountants and auditors is expected to grow at above-average rates as changing financial laws and regulations and increased scrutiny of company finances will boost the demand for this occupation. It is projected that by 2014 the number of accountants and auditors in the state will exceed 5,800.

Characteristics of the Insured Unemployed

In December 2007, 48 percent of Rhode Island's unemployed workers were eligible to collect Unemployment Insurance (UI) benefits. Numbering 14,477 people, these "insured unemployed" accounted for 2.6 percent of the state's total employed (unadjusted). Twenty-two percent (3,185) 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, 17.3 percent (2,498) of the state's insured unemployed workers came from the Construction sector. There were also 1,971 individuals with an attachment to the Manufacturing sector, accounting for 13.6 percent of all insured unemployed workers. An additional 9.2 percent (1,339) of those collecting UI benefits in December had worked in the Retail Trade sector. Large numbers of insured unemployed were also reported in Finance & Insurance (1,109), Health Care & Social Assistance (1,088) and Accommodation & Food Services (1,053). For more information, go to www.dlt.ri.gov/lmi/uiadmin/characteristics.htm.

Characteristics of the Insured Unemployed, December 2007

	Total	Long-Term	Percent Long-Term
Total	14,477	3,185	22.0%
Male	8,612	1,499	17.4%
Female	5,865	1,686	28.7%
Selected Industries	14,477	3,185	22.0%
Construction	2,498	234	9.4%
Manufacturing	1,971	490	24.9%
Wholesale Trade	550	132	24.0%
Retail Trade	1,339	474	35.4%
Transportation & Warehousing	290	36	12.4%
Information	148	43	29.1%
Finance & Insurance	1,109	417	37.6%
Real Estate	268	56	20.9%
Professional & Tech. Services	576	153	26.6%
Administrative & Waste Services	1,604	214	13.3%
Educational Services	233	127	54.5%
Health Care & Social Assistance	1,088	352	32.4%
Arts, Entertainment & Recreation	526	52	9.9%
Accommodation & Food Services	1,053	147	14.0%
Other Services	401	113	28.2%
Public Administration	123	42	34.1%

Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers

				% Change
	Dec 07	Nov 07	Dec 06	Prev. Year
All Items	210.0	210.2	201.8	4.1%

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

2007 New England Population

Since Census 2000, the population of New England has grown more slowly than the national population. Between April 2000 and July 2007, the population of New England increased 2.5 percent, compared to 7.2 percent nationally. Growth rates ranged from a low of 0.9 percent in Rhode Island to a high of 6.5 percent in New Hampshire.

Between 2000 and 2007, all of the New England states reported population growth. After New Hampshire, Maine posted the second highest growth rate at 3.3 percent, followed by Connecticut (2.8%), Vermont (2.0%), and Massachusetts (1.6%). Rhode Island's growth was the slowest in New England, gaining just 0.9 percent.

Over the past year, Rhode Island was just one of two states to post a decrease in population, losing 3,809 (-0.4%) residents. New Hampshire had the highest growth rate in New England between 2006 and 2007, increasing by 0.3 percent, followed by Connecticut, Maine, and Massachusetts all adding 0.2 percent to their population. Vermont's population grew by 0.1 percent. The nation as a whole grew by 1.0 percent.

New England Population

State	Census 2000 Population	July 1, 2006	July 1, 2007	2000-2007		2006-2007	
		Population Estimate	Population Estimate	Change	Percent	Change	Percent
United States	281,421,906	298,754,819	301,621,157	20,199,251	7.2%	2,866,338	1.0%
Connecticut	3,405,565	3,495,753	3,502,309	96,744	2.8%	6,556	0.2%
Maine	1,274,923	1,314,910	1,317,207	42,284	3.3%	2,297	0.2%
Massachusetts	6,349,097	6,434,389	6,449,755	100,658	1.6%	15,366	0.2%
New Hampshire	1,235,786	1,311,821	1,315,828	80,042	6.5%	4,007	0.3%
Rhode Island	1,048,319	1,061,641	1,057,832	9,513	0.9%	-3,809	-0.4%
Vermont	608,827	620,778	621,254	12,427	2.0%	476	0.1%

City & Town Unadjusted Unemployment Rates for December

	2007		2006		
	2007	2006	2007	2006	
Barrington	3.6	3.3	Newport	5.0	4.7
Bristol	4.5	4.3	North Kingstown	4.4	3.7
Burrillville	4.9	4.4	North Providence	5.1	4.8
Central Falls	6.6	6.4	North Smithfield	4.4	4.6
Charlestown	4.7	4.4	Pawtucket	5.8	5.5
Coventry	5.1	4.3	Portsmouth	4.2	3.7
Cranston	5.1	4.4	Providence	6.0	5.5
Cumberland	4.6	3.8	Richmond	2.7	2.7
East Greenwich	5.2	4.4	Scituate	5.2	4.3
East Providence	5.6	5.2	Smithfield	4.4	4.0
Exeter	4.4	4.2	South Kingstown	4.3	3.9
Foster	5.4	5.1	Tiverton	5.2	5.1
Glocester	4.0	3.4	Warren	5.2	5.1
Hopkinton	4.5	4.1	Warwick	5.1	4.2
Jamestown	3.7	3.3	West Greenwich	5.2	3.4
Johnston	5.7	5.4	West Warwick	5.8	5.0
Lincoln	4.6	3.9	Westerly	4.3	4.3
Little Compton	4.6	4.5	Woonsocket	6.2	5.3
Middletown	4.5	4.1			
Narragansett	4.0	3.1	State of R.I.	5.2	4.6
New Shoreham	14.0	11.4	United States	4.8	4.3

Unemployment Insurance Claims Activity

	Dec	Nov	Dec	% Change		Year to Date		
	2007	2007	2006	Nov 07	Dec 06	2007	2006	% Change
Initial Claims	10,302	6,352	10,031	62.2%	2.7%	81,928	76,453	7.2%
Number of Payments	59,980	42,552	42,493	41.0%	41.2%	647,413	579,130	11.8%
Amount of Payments (gross millions)	\$21.9	\$15.5	\$14.6	41.3%	50.0%	\$226.5	\$192.9	17.4%
Exhaustions (Final Payments)	1,480	1,131	1,067	30.9%	38.7%	15,181	13,867	9.5%

State Population Estimates

State	Census 2000 Population	July 1, 2006	July 1, 2007	2000-2007		2006-2007	
		Population Estimate	Population Estimate	Change	Percent	Change	Percent
United States	281,421,906	298,754,819	301,621,157	20,199,251	7.2%	2,866,338	1.0%
Alabama	4,447,100	4,590,240	4,627,851	180,751	4.1%	37,611	0.8%
Alaska	626,932	677,450	683,478	56,546	9.0%	6,028	0.9%
Arizona	5,130,632	6,165,689	6,338,755	1,208,123	23.5%	173,066	2.8%
Arkansas	2,673,400	2,809,111	2,834,797	161,397	6.0%	25,686	0.9%
California	33,871,648	36,249,872	36,553,215	2,681,567	7.9%	303,343	0.8%
Colorado	4,301,261	4,766,248	4,861,515	560,254	13.0%	95,267	2.0%
Connecticut	3,405,565	3,495,753	3,502,309	96,744	2.8%	6,556	0.2%
Delaware	783,600	852,747	864,764	81,164	10.4%	12,017	1.4%
District of Columbia	572,059	585,459	588,292	16,233	2.8%	2,833	0.5%
Florida	15,982,378	18,057,508	18,251,243	2,268,865	14.2%	193,735	1.1%
Georgia	8,186,453	9,342,080	9,544,750	1,358,297	16.6%	202,670	2.2%
Hawaii	1,211,537	1,278,635	1,283,388	71,851	5.9%	4,753	0.4%
Idaho	1,293,953	1,463,878	1,499,402	205,449	15.9%	35,524	2.4%
Illinois	12,419,293	12,777,042	12,852,548	433,255	3.5%	75,506	0.6%
Indiana	6,080,485	6,302,646	6,345,289	264,804	4.4%	42,643	0.7%
Iowa	2,926,324	2,972,566	2,988,046	61,722	2.1%	15,480	0.5%
Kansas	2,688,418	2,755,817	2,775,997	87,579	3.3%	20,180	0.7%
Kentucky	4,041,769	4,204,444	4,241,474	199,705	4.9%	37,030	0.9%
Louisiana	4,468,976	4,243,288	4,293,204	-175,772	-3.9%	49,916	1.2%
Maine	1,274,923	1,314,910	1,317,207	42,284	3.3%	2,297	0.2%
Maryland	5,296,486	5,602,017	5,618,344	321,858	6.1%	16,327	0.3%
Massachusetts	6,349,097	6,434,389	6,449,755	100,658	1.6%	15,366	0.2%
Michigan	9,938,444	10,102,322	10,071,822	133,378	1.3%	-30,500	-0.3%
Minnesota	4,919,479	5,154,586	5,197,621	278,142	5.7%	43,035	0.8%
Mississippi	2,844,658	2,899,112	2,918,785	74,127	2.6%	19,673	0.7%
Missouri	5,595,211	5,837,639	5,878,415	283,204	5.1%	40,776	0.7%
Montana	902,195	946,795	957,861	55,666	6.2%	11,066	1.2%
Nebraska	1,711,263	1,763,765	1,774,571	63,308	3.7%	10,806	0.6%
Nevada	1,998,257	2,492,427	2,565,382	567,125	28.4%	72,955	2.9%
New Hampshire	1,235,786	1,311,821	1,315,828	80,042	6.5%	4,007	0.3%
New Jersey	8,414,350	8,666,075	8,685,920	271,570	3.2%	19,845	0.2%
New Mexico	1,819,046	1,942,302	1,969,915	150,869	8.3%	27,613	1.4%
New York	18,976,457	19,281,988	19,297,729	321,272	1.7%	15,741	0.1%
North Carolina	8,049,313	8,869,442	9,061,032	1,011,719	12.6%	191,590	2.2%
North Dakota	642,200	637,460	639,715	-2,485	-0.4%	2,255	0.4%
Ohio	11,353,140	11,463,513	11,466,917	113,777	1.0%	3,404	0.0%
Oklahoma	3,450,654	3,577,536	3,617,316	166,662	4.8%	39,780	1.1%
Oregon	3,421,399	3,691,084	3,747,455	326,056	9.5%	56,371	1.5%
Pennsylvania	12,281,054	12,402,817	12,432,792	151,738	1.2%	29,975	0.2%
Rhode Island	1,048,319	1,061,641	1,057,832	9,513	0.9%	-3,809	-0.4%
South Carolina	4,012,012	4,330,108	4,407,709	395,697	9.9%	77,601	1.8%
South Dakota	754,844	788,467	796,214	41,370	5.5%	7,747	1.0%
Tennessee	5,689,283	6,074,913	6,156,719	467,436	8.2%	81,806	1.3%
Texas	20,851,820	23,407,629	23,904,380	3,052,560	14.6%	496,751	2.1%
Utah	2,233,169	2,579,535	2,645,330	412,161	18.5%	65,795	2.6%
Vermont	608,827	620,778	621,254	12,427	2.0%	476	0.1%
Virginia	7,078,515	7,640,249	7,712,091	633,576	9.0%	71,842	0.9%
Washington	5,894,121	6,374,910	6,468,424	574,303	9.7%	93,514	1.5%
West Virginia	1,808,344	1,808,699	1,812,035	3,691	0.2%	3,336	0.2%
Wisconsin	5,363,675	5,572,660	5,601,640	237,965	4.4%	28,980	0.5%
Wyoming	493,782	512,757	522,830	29,048	5.9%	10,073	2.0%

Source: US Census Bureau