



Employment Labor Market Information Bulletin

Volume 12, No. 7

July 2000

The Number of Jobs in Rhode Island Increased by 6,600 Over the Year

The number of jobs in Rhode Island rose by 6,600 between June 1999 and June 2000. The seasonally adjusted unemployment rate for June 2000 was 3.9 percent, reflecting a drop of 0.4 of a percentage point from the June 1999 level of 4.3 percent. The number of unemployed Rhode Island residents fell by 1,700 over the year.

The Unemployment Rate

Rhode Island's unemployment rate declined from May to June. The June jobless figure of 3.9 percent was down 0.1 of a percentage point from May's level of 4.0 percent. The number of unemployed Rhode Islanders fell by 600 over the month. Nationally, the unemployment rate for June inched down 0.1 of a percentage point to 4.0 percent. Rhode Island's unemployment figure remained below the comparable US average for the tenth month in a row.

"The trend in the labor force figures over the past six months confirms that the Rhode Island economy continues to prosper in terms of both job creation and low unemployment," said DLT Director Dr. Lee H. Arnold. "Rhode Island's unemployment rate averaged 3.8 percent in the first half of 2000, its lowest first-half level since 1989."

The Number of Jobs in Rhode Island (Over the Year)

Since June 1999, the number of jobs in Rhode Island increased by 6,600 or 1.4 percent. Trade and services each registered a gain of 3,300. Within the retail trade segment, apparel/accessory stores recorded the largest growth (+1,100), mostly due to the opening of Providence Place Mall. Services, led by continued hiring in business services, reported job improvement in all major industry groups, except health services. Contract construction rose by 700, due to hiring in special trade and building construction. Government, reflecting a gain in federal employment due to the 2000 Census, was up by 400 workers over the year. Finance/insurance/real estate recorded an annual gain of 300 jobs. Transportation/public utilities, driven by an increase in transportation employment, expanded by 200 jobs. The manufacturing sector posted a net decline of 1,600 jobs with the largest losses in jewelry-silverware. (Continued on Page 4)

ESU Assists Providence Fire Department

The Department of Labor and Training's Employer Service Unit was recently asked to assist the Providence Fire Department with their hiring needs. Hearing of the Unit's expertise with administering large-scale recruitments, Captain Michael Blackburn empowered the ESU to market their efforts to bring the hiring message throughout the state and on a national level as well.

The two (2) month effort produced in excess of 1,200 applicants, including 184 from out-of-state respondents. Inquiries from as far away as Georgia and Arkansas were generated due, for the most part, to the ESU's use of the Internet and other technological advances available to them. Constantly upgrading their skills and knowledge of new technology, the Unit brings a literal wealth of information to companies who rely on their assistance in attracting qualified workers.

If your company is in need of employees, contact the ESU. The collective expertise of the group will save you time and money by organizing and expediting a plan to fill your hiring needs, allowing you to concentrate on your most important task...the operation of your business!

You may utilize any of the Department's facilities throughout the State and take advantage of the ingenuity of the DLT and netWORKri staffs. Whether you're hiring 1 or 100, let the Employer Service Unit facilitate your recruitment by employing the latest concepts in technology and electronic information gathering, all at NO COST TO YOU!

**Employer Service Unit
(888) 616-JOBS (5627)**

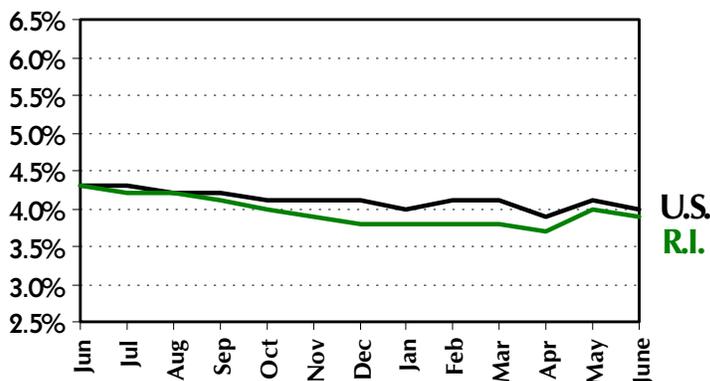
Rhode Island Labor Force Statistics* (in thousands)

	Unadjusted			Seasonally Adjusted		
	Jun 00	May 00	Jun 99	Jun 00	May 00	Jun 99
Civilian Labor Force	507.6	499.1	505.0	506.4	504.9	504.0
Resident Employment	489.5	481.2	485.2	486.6	484.6	482.4
Unemployment	18.1	18.0	19.8	19.8	20.4	21.5
Unemployment Rate	3.6%	3.6%	3.9%	3.9%	4.0%	4.3%

United States Labor Force Statistics (in thousands)

	Unadjusted			Seasonally Adjusted		
	Jun 00	May 00	Jun 99	Jun 00	May 00	Jun 99
Civilian Labor Force	142,132	140,395	140,666	140,762	140,489	139,332
Resident Employment	136,192	134,961	134,395	135,179	134,715	133,398
Unemployment	5,940	5,435	6,271	5,583	5,774	5,934
Unemployment Rate	4.2%	3.9%	4.5%	4.0%	4.1%	4.3%

Rhode Island & United States Unemployment Rates Seasonally Adjusted 1999-2000



City & Town Unadjusted Unemployment Rates

	Jun 00	Jun 99
Barrington	2.4	2.1
Bristol	2.9	2.8
Burrillville	3.1	4.2
Central Falls	6.2	5.9
Charlestown	3.1	4.0
Coventry	3.4	3.7
Cranston	3.7	4.3
Cumberland	3.0	3.5
East Greenwich	3.0	3.3
East Providence	4.3	4.4
Exeter	2.5	3.0
Foster	3.9	4.0
Glocester	2.8	3.1
Hopkinton	1.6	1.9
Jamestown	2.8	2.7
Johnston	3.9	4.4
Lincoln	3.7	3.6
Little Compton	1.7	1.6
Middletown	2.8	2.9
Narragansett	1.6	1.9
New Shoreham	2.6	2.0
Newport	2.9	3.1
North Kingstown	2.7	3.2
North Providence	3.5	3.9
North Smithfield	2.5	4.0
Pawtucket	4.4	4.6
Portsmouth	2.5	2.5
Providence	5.1	5.4
Richmond	1.3	1.7
Scituate	3.1	3.8
Smithfield	3.6	3.7
South Kingstown	2.5	3.2
Tiverton	3.0	2.9
Warren	3.5	2.5
Warwick	3.1	3.4
West Greenwich	2.5	2.7
West Warwick	3.6	4.4
Westerly	2.5	2.3
Woonsocket	3.6	5.4
State of R.I.	3.6	3.9

Unemployment Insurance Claims Activity

	Jun	May	Jun	% Change		Year to Date		
	2000	2000	1999	May 00	Jun 99	2000	1999	% Change
Initial Claims	8,080	5,227	8,552	54.6%	-5.5%	45,347	51,425	-11.8%
Number of Payments	36,826	43,817	45,299	-16.0%	-18.7%	307,852	333,040	-7.6%
Amount of Payments (gross millions)	\$8.9	\$10.7	\$10.5	-17.5%	-15.8%	\$76.0	\$77.9	-2.4%
Exhaustions (Final Payments)	981	1,267	1,304	-22.6%	-24.8%	6,606	7,495	-11.9%
E.S. Fund Balance (millions)	n/a	\$283.1	\$241.2	n/a	n/a			

*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

Competitiveness Improvement Program Grants Awarded

In the January issue of the Employment Bulletin, we mentioned the availability of training grants from the Human Resource Investment Council. Round X of the Competitiveness Improvement Program grants were awarded in June and 45 of your fellow business owners will share \$1,042,745 to help them become more competitive by having better trained workers. Feel left out? The grants will be available again next year and it is never too soon to start planning. For more information about the Competitiveness Improvement Program, contact the Human Resource Investment Council at 222-6700 or your local Workforce Investment Board (861-0800 in Providence and Cranston; 222-2090 all other cities).



Total Establishment Employment in Rhode Island**

	Employment (in thousands)			Net Change From	
	Jun 00	May 00	Jun 99	May 00	Jun 99
TOTAL EMPLOYMENT	476.1	475.3	469.5	800	6600
GOODS PRODUCING	93.0	92.0	93.9	1000	-900
Contract Construction	19.5	18.8	18.8	700	700
Manufacturing	73.5	73.2	75.1	300	-1600
SERVICE PRODUCING	383.1	383.3	375.6	-200	7500
Trans. & Public Utilities	16.7	16.4	16.5	300	200
Trade (Wholesale & Retail)	109.6	106.5	106.3	3100	3300
Wholesale	20.4	20.0	19.9	400	500
Durable†	12.6	12.5	12.4	100	200
Nondurable†	7.8	7.6	7.5	200	300
Retail	89.2	86.5	86.4	2700	2800
Building & Garden Supplies†	2.4	2.4	2.3	-----	100
General Merchandise	7.1	7.0	6.7	100	400
Food Stores†	16.4	16.0	15.7	400	700
Automotive Dealers	7.7	7.7	7.3	-----	400
Apparel & Accessory Stores	4.9	4.9	3.8	-----	1100
Furn., Home Furn., & Equipt.†	2.4	2.4	2.3	-----	100
Eating and Drinking Places	33.4	31.5	33.3	1900	100
Miscellaneous Retail	15.0	14.8	14.9	200	100
Finance, Insurance & Real Estate	30.0	29.6	29.7	400	300
Depository Institutions	8.8	8.7	8.6	100	200
Services	162.5	164.0	159.2	-1500	3300
Hotels & Other Lodging†	4.9	4.5	4.8	400	100
Business Services	30.9	30.7	28.7	200	2200
Auto & Misc. Repair†	5.2	5.3	5.1	-100	100
Amusement & Recreation	6.4	5.8	6.3	600	100
Health Services	51.1	50.9	51.7	200	-600
Educational Services	14.2	18.3	13.6	-4100	600
Social Services	15.5	15.3	15.2	200	300
Government	64.3	66.8	63.9	-2500	400
Federal	10.9	12.4	10.5	-1500	400
State	18.5	18.6	18.6	-100	-100
Local	34.9	35.8	34.8	-900	100
Education†	21.7	23.2	21.9	-1500	-200
Non Education†	13.3	12.7	12.9	600	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		
	Jun 00	May 00	Jun 99	May 00	Jun 99	Jun 00	May 00	Jun 99	Jun 00	May 00	Jun 99
MANUFACTURING	73.5	73.2	75.1	300	-1600	40.7	40.5	40.0	12.19	12.18	11.96
DURABLE MFG.	47.6	47.6	49.1	-----	-1500	40.3	40.1	39.5	11.99	12.02	11.73
Lumber/Furniture	2.6	2.7	2.9	-100	-300	42.2	41.6	40.0	12.08	12.05	12.04
Stone-Clay-Glass	1.1	1.1	1.1	-----	-----	42.1	41.9	44.9	13.85	13.84	13.40
Primary Metals	4.0	4.0	4.2	-----	-200	42.1	40.6	43.2	12.50	12.69	12.64
Fabricated Metals	8.2	8.2	8.3	-----	-100	38.5	38.4	36.4	11.31	11.32	10.90
Nonelectrical Mach.	5.1	5.2	4.8	-100	300	39.3	40.3	37.8	13.53	13.53	13.33
Electrical Mach.	5.2	5.3	5.3	-100	-100	41.9	42.0	43.1	11.43	11.47	11.43
Trans. Equipment	3.7	3.6	3.5	100	200	41.6	41.3	41.1	14.40	14.39	14.22
Instruments	5.3	5.3	5.0	-----	300	41.5	40.7	41.4	12.73	12.63	12.51
Jewelry-Silverware	9.3	9.2	10.8	100	-1500	39.5	39.0	37.4	10.46	10.45	10.05
Miscellaneous Mfg.	3.1	3.0	3.2	100	-100	39.4	39.1	38.6	11.45	11.45	11.13
NONDURABLE MFG.	25.9	25.6	26.0	300	-100	41.3	41.3	40.9	12.54	12.48	12.38
Food Beverage	2.9	2.9	2.8	-----	100	42.2	41.8	43.0	11.51	11.50	11.39
Textiles	6.8	6.9	7.1	-100	-300	41.2	40.7	42.2	10.74	10.68	10.69
Apparel	0.9	0.8	0.9	100	-----	41.7	42.7	37.7	9.24	9.28	9.19
Paper Products	2.1	2.0	1.9	100	200	40.0	40.6	40.1	12.07	12.07	11.95
Printing-Publishing	5.5	5.4	5.6	100	-100	40.1	40.3	40.6	16.56	16.51	16.48
Chemical Products	2.1	2.1	2.0	-----	100	41.4	40.9	42.5	13.80	13.77	13.45
Rubber Products	0.6	0.6	0.4	-----	200	41.8	42.1	42.2	12.93	12.97	12.88
Plastics Products	4.5	4.4	4.7	100	-200	43.0	43.1	37.9	13.40	13.33	13.12
Leather Products	0.5	0.5	0.6	-----	-100	40.3	41.4	37.4	8.31	8.31	8.08

** 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.

RI Private Covered Employment By City & Town 1999

The Rhode Island economy experienced its eighth consecutive year of solid employment growth in 1999 with the addition of 8,777 (+2.0%) jobs. Since the 1990-1991 Recession, total covered employment in the state has increased by 37,523 (8.9%) jobs. It is expected that the state's employment will surpass its pre-recession level by the end of 2000.

Rhode Island's private sector employed an average of 395,670 workers in 1999, and paid nearly \$12 billion in wages. The average annual wage paid to private sector workers was \$29,902 up \$956 (+3.3%) from the 1998 average.

Employment increased in 27 of the state's thirty-nine cities and towns with the largest number of job gains reported in Lincoln (+1,950), Warwick (+1,888) and Smithfield (+1,165). While the majority of employment decreases reported in the cities and towns were small (less than 100), employers physically located in North Providence and Woonsocket reported significant job losses of 590 and 435, respectively.

City / Town	Average Employment	Total Wages (in millions)	Average Wage
Total	395,670	\$11,831.3	\$29,902
Barrington	2,024	51.7	25,549
Bristol	5,421	144.2	26,604
Burrillville	2,294	60.9	26,544
Central Falls	4,181	103.9	24,845
Charlestown	1,291	30.6	23,740
Coventry	5,530	140.0	25,321
Cranston	27,578	742.9	26,937
Cumberland	6,595	174.4	26,448
East Greenwich	6,086	188.2	30,922
East Providence	23,523	723.5	30,758
Exeter	757	18.9	24,922
Foster	370	6.4	17,361
Glocester	1,015	21.9	21,533
Hopkinton	1,078	28.8	26,710
Jamestown	908	22.7	24,946
Johnston	9,507	268.2	28,213
Lincoln	11,218	381.0	33,967
Little Compton	488	9.4	19,310
Middletown	8,715	260.2	29,855
Narragansett	3,142	63.2	20,108
New Shoreham	696	15.2	21,887
Newport	11,950	276.5	23,136
North Kingstown	9,785	303.4	31,010
North Providence	7,646	192.3	25,152
North Smithfield	3,864	103.6	26,816
Pawtucket	27,689	800.4	28,906
Portsmouth	4,824	189.6	39,314
Providence	99,792	3,419.2	34,263
Richmond	1,101	23.3	21,189
Scituate	1,035	26.4	25,518
Smithfield	9,824	307.7	31,318
South Kingstown	8,756	247.8	28,297
Tiverton	1,864	44.7	23,977
Warren	3,672	92.8	25,276
Warwick	45,187	1,217.0	26,933
West Greenwich	2,369	116.6	49,231
West Warwick	7,043	197.7	28,071
Westerly	8,655	219.4	25,344
Woonsocket	13,290	387.4	29,153
Statewide**	4,907	209.1	42,617

** Includes out of state employers and employers with multi units

Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers

	Jun 00	May 00	Jun 99	% Change Prev. Year
	All Items	172.3	171.3	166.2

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

The Number of Jobs in Rhode Island Increased by 6,600 Over the Year (Continued from Page 1)

Rhode Island Job Highlights (Over the Month)

The number of jobs in Rhode Island rose by 800 from May to June. Seasonal employment gains in trade and construction along with increases in manufacturing overshadowed education-related declines in services and census-related declines in government.

Trade – Employment in trade was at an all-time June high of 109,600 with the addition of 3,100 jobs this month. Seasonal hiring in restaurants added 1,900 positions. Small gains were observed in food, miscellaneous retail, and general merchandise stores. The remaining four retail trade sectors showed no change over the month.

Contract Construction – Contract construction posted a seasonal gain of 700 jobs. The bulk of the hiring occurred in special trade construction. The construction industry reached its highest June employment level (19,500) since 1990.

Manufacturing – The manufacturing sector registered a net gain of 300 jobs. Transportation equipment, jewelry/silverware, apparel, paper products, printing/publishing, and rubber/plastics each added 100 jobs. In contrast, a loss of 100 jobs each was reported in lumber/furniture, industrial machinery, electronic equipment, and textiles. The remaining factory segments were unchanged from May to June.

Services – Services employment declined (-1,500) over the month as a result of seasonal swings. Education-related losses at private schools and colleges more than offset seasonal employment gains in vacation-related industries such as hotels/lodging and amusement/recreation.

Government – Public sector employment decreased (-2,500) over the month. The federal government employment level declined by 1,500 due to the reduction of census workers as the 2000 Census nears completion. Local government experienced a reduction of 900 jobs as public schools reduced staff. The state government trimmed its payroll by 100 jobs over the month.