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Governor

Rhode Island Department of Labor and Training

# Employment Labor Market Information Bulletin



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Director

Volume 16 No. 7

July 2004

## Rhode Island's Unemployment Rate Edges Up in June Jobs Increase Marginally

Rhode Island's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate for June inched up 0.2 of a percentage point to 5.8 percent, the highest level since January 1996. The number of unemployed Rhode Island residents climbed by 1,300 in June to an estimated 33,200. A year ago, the unemployment rate was 5.4 percent and the jobless level stood at 31,100. Nationally, the unemployment rate for June held steady at 5.6 percent. The national rate has been at 5.6 percent in all but one month this year. Rhode Island's unemployment rate surpassed the national average for the second time in three months.

"The trend in the unemployment rate over the past several months indicates that Rhode Island has yet to feel the effects of improvement at the national level," said DLT Director Adelita S. Orefice. "While we are encouraged that payroll employment moved in the right direction for the second straight month, the uptick in the unemployment rate and the addition of just 600 jobs in June reflect the continued slow pace of labor market activity."

The Rhode Island job count increased in June, the second consecutive month of growth following two successive months of reduced employment. Businesses in the state reported an increase of 600 jobs, bringing the June job count to 488,100 (seasonally adjusted). Over-the-month employment gains were reflected in Trade, Transportation & Utilities (+500); Professional & Business Services (+300); Government (+300); and Manufacturing (+100). The only segments to report employment declines were Leisure & Hospitality (-400) and Construction (-100).

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## Annual Employment & Wages City & Town Comparison 2002 - 2003

Rhode Island total employment (472,558) increased by 4,107 in 2003, a 0.9 percent increase from 2002. Private sector employment accounted for nearly 90 percent of the gain, adding 3,663 jobs.

The City of Cranston led all of Rhode Island's thirty-nine cities and towns in private sector growth, adding 1,371 (+4.8%) workers between 2002 and 2003. The Retail Trade sector in Cranston added 758 (+18%) jobs, offsetting the 495 jobs lost in the City's Manufacturing (-8.6%) sector. Finance & Insurance (+289), Accommodation & Food Services (+277) and Information (+276) also contributed to Cranston's employment growth.

The Manufacturing (+442) sector was the catalyst in West Greenwich, accounting for over 60 percent (583) of the 729 jobs created between 2002 and 2003. West Warwick (+676), Warwick (+630) and Middletown (+537) round out the top five cities and towns in employment growth.

The largest employment loss of 381 positions was reported in Pawtucket, followed by Providence, which reported 271 job losses. Manufacturing in Providence declined by 1,219 positions while Pawtucket lost 638 workers in the same sector. Central Falls (-246) and East Providence (-214) were the only other communities between 2002 and 2003 to suffer private sector employment losses in excess of a hundred jobs. (Continued on Page 4)

## Labor Market Information for Today's Business

Did you know the Labor Market Information (LMI) Unit has a wide range of economic and statistical data available on Rhode Island? And it's all available at no charge to you, our customers. With the help of the Employer Service Unit (ESU), LMI is connecting with RI's employer community to provide products and services that meet your needs. Together, LMI and the ESU can work for you, saving you money and precious time. Visit [www.dlt.ri.gov/lmi/business.htm](http://www.dlt.ri.gov/lmi/business.htm) for more information.

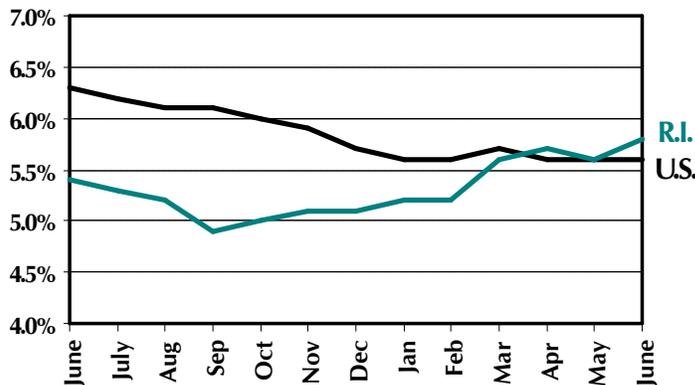
## Rhode Island Labor Force Statistics\* (in thousands)

	Seasonally Adjusted			Unadjusted		
	Jun 04	May 04	Jun 03	Jun 04	May 04	Jun 03
Civilian Labor Force	568.9	568.9	575.2	572.1	562.3	578.6
Resident Employment	535.7	536.9	544.1	539.4	532.1	548.1
Unemployment	33.2	31.9	31.1	32.6	30.1	30.5
Unemployment Rate	5.8%	5.6%	5.4%	5.7%	5.4%	5.3%

## United States Labor Force Statistics (in thousands)

	Seasonally Adjusted			Unadjusted		
	Jun 04	May 04	Jun 03	Jun 04	May 04	Jun 03
Civilian Labor Force	147,279	146,974	146,917	148,478	146,659	148,117
Resident Employment	139,031	138,772	137,673	139,861	138,867	138,468
Unemployment	8,248	8,203	9,245	8,616	7,792	9,649
Unemployment Rate	5.6%	5.6%	6.3%	5.8%	5.3%	6.5%

## Rhode Island & United States Unemployment Rates Seasonally Adjusted 2003-2004



## City & Town Unadjusted Unemployment Rates

	Jun 04	Jun 03**
Barrington	3.0	3.0
Bristol	4.2	4.5
Burrillville	6.3	5.4
Central Falls	8.6	8.1
Charlestown	4.8	4.0
Coventry	5.7	5.0
Cranston	6.2	5.6
Cumberland	5.3	4.4
East Greenwich	5.2	5.3
East Providence	6.1	5.5
Exeter	4.3	4.0
Foster	6.3	5.1
Glocester	3.9	3.8
Hopkinton	4.5	4.2
Jamestown	3.3	3.2
Johnston	6.9	5.8
Lincoln	4.5	4.6
Little Compton	3.6	2.5
Middletown	4.8	3.7
Narragansett	3.0	2.6
New Shoreham	3.2	1.8
Newport	4.0	3.8
North Kingstown	4.5	3.9
North Providence	6.3	5.5
North Smithfield	5.6	4.2
Pawtucket	7.1	6.5
Portsmouth	3.6	3.1
Providence	7.0	7.0
Richmond	2.3	2.0
Scituate	6.3	6.1
Smithfield	4.7	4.1
South Kingstown	3.9	3.7
Tiverton	5.1	4.1
Warren	5.4	4.7
Warwick	5.6	5.1
West Greenwich	5.3	4.6
West Warwick	6.4	6.5
Westerly	3.5	3.5
Woonsocket	7.2	7.0
State of R.I.	5.7	5.3

\*\*Revised

## Unemployment Insurance Claims Activity

	Jun	May	Jun	% Change		Year to Date		
	2004	2004	2003	May 04	Jun 03	2004	2003	% Change
Initial Claims	8,146	4,542	8,524	79.3%	-4.4%	44,089	49,019	-10.1%
Number of Payments	50,399	43,263	55,040	16.5%	-8.4%	361,844	391,644	-7.6%
Amount of Payments (gross millions)	\$16.0	\$13.8	\$16.3	15.9%	-1.8%	\$114.4	\$118.2	-3.2%
Exhaustions (Final Payments)	1,473	1,357	1,675	8.5%	-12.1%	8,933	9,740	-8.3%

Rhode Island labor market information is available on the web at [www.dlt.ri.gov/lmi](http://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 e-mail us at [lmi@dlt.state.ri.us](mailto:lmi@dlt.state.ri.us).

\*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  
Not Seasonally Adjusted  
June 2004

	Employment in Thousands			Net Change From	
	Jun 2004	May 2004	Jun 2003	May 2004	Jun 2003
<b>Total Nonfarm</b>	<b>493.0</b>	<b>491.7</b>	<b>489.9</b>	<b>1,300</b>	<b>3,100</b>
<b>Goods Producing</b>	<b>82.1</b>	<b>81.2</b>	<b>81.1</b>	<b>900</b>	<b>1,000</b>
Natural Resources & Mining	0.2	0.2	0.2	0	0
Construction	23.2	22.4	21.8	800	1,400
Specialty Trade Contractors	15.0	14.6	14.1	400	900
Manufacturing	58.7	58.6	59.1	100	-400
Durable Goods	37.6	37.6	38.4	0	-800
Fabricated Metal Product Mfg.	7.6	7.7	8.2	-100	-600
Computer & Electronic Product Mfg.	5.1	5.0	5.1	100	0
Transportation Equipment Mfg.	3.9	3.9	3.7	0	200
Miscellaneous Manufacturing	11.0	11.0	11.2	0	-200
Jewelry & Silverware	7.8	7.8	7.9	0	-100
Non-Durable Goods	21.1	21.0	20.7	100	400
Chemical Manufacturing	4.1	4.1	4.0	0	100
Plastics & Rubber Products Mfg.	3.3	3.2	3.0	100	300
<b>Service Providing</b>	<b>410.9</b>	<b>410.5</b>	<b>408.8</b>	<b>400</b>	<b>2,100</b>
Wholesale Trade	16.3	16.2	16.7	100	-400
Retail Trade	53.4	52.8	53.2	600	200
Grocery Stores	6.8	6.7	6.6	100	200
Health & Personal Care Stores	5.5	5.5	5.7	0	-200
General Merchandise Stores	10.0	9.8	10.0	200	0
Department Stores	4.0	4.0	4.3	0	-300
Transportation, Warehousing & Utilities	11.9	11.7	11.5	200	400
Transportation & Warehousing	10.8	10.6	10.3	200	500
Information	10.7	10.8	11.2	-100	-500
Publishing	3.4	3.4	3.3	0	100
Financial Activities (including Real Estate)	33.4	33.5	33.7	-100	-300
Finance & Insurance	26.9	27.0	27.3	-100	-400
Credit Intermediation & Related Activities	13.1	13.2	12.6	-100	500
Insurance Carriers & Related Activities	10.4	10.3	10.8	100	-400
Professional & Business Services	50.2	49.5	50.7	700	-500
Professional & Technical Services	19.4	19.3	19.4	100	0
Administrative & Waste Services	22.8	22.4	23.6	400	-800
Educational Services	17.4	21.1	17.2	-3,700	200
Colleges & Universities	10.7	13.5	10.7	-2,800	0
Health Care & Social Assistance	72.2	71.7	70.5	500	1,700
Ambulatory Health Care Services	21.3	21.1	20.3	200	1,000
Hospitals	22.6	22.5	22.5	100	100
Nursing & Residential Care Facilities	18.0	17.8	17.7	200	300
Social Assistance	10.3	10.3	10.0	0	300
Arts, Entertainment & Recreation	8.5	7.7	8.8	800	-300
Accommodation & Food Services	45.9	44.0	44.5	1,900	1,400
Accommodation	4.9	4.4	4.6	500	300
Food Services & Drinking Places	41.0	39.6	39.9	1,400	1,100
Other Services	23.9	23.5	23.3	400	600
Government	67.1	68.0	67.5	-900	-400
Federal Government	9.9	9.9	10.2	0	-300
State Government	17.6	17.7	18.0	-100	-400
Local Government	39.6	40.4	39.3	-800	300
Local Education	25.6	26.9	26.0	-1,300	-400
Local Non-Ed	14.0	13.5	13.3	500	700

Some subcategories are not additive.

Current month figures are preliminary and subject to revision.

## Rhode Island's Unemployment Rate Edges Up in June Jobs Increase Marginally

(Continued from Page 1)

The more detailed unadjusted estimates increased by 1,300 (0.3%) over the month. The June job count stood at 493,000 (unadjusted), the highest June job count on record. The largest employment gain occurred in Accommodation & Food Services (+1,900). Construction (+800); Arts, Entertainment & Recreation (+800); Professional & Business Services (+700); Retail Trade (+600) and Health Care & Social Assistance (+500) reported notable monthly gains as well. Significant losses were reported in Educational Services (-3,700) and Government (-900).

The over-the-month increases in Accommodation & Food Services; Construction; Arts, Entertainment & Recreation; and Professional & Business Services were seasonal increases, reflecting the improved weather conditions. Manufacturing gains were due to increased employment by Non-Durable Goods employers. Decreased employment in Educational Services, as well as Government, is reflective of the end of the school year for both private and public education.

Over the year, employment was up 3,100 (+0.6%) from the 489,900 jobs (revised) reported in June 2003. The largest over-the-year gains were noted in Health Care & Social Assistance (+1,700); Construction (+1,400); and Accommodation & Food Services (+1,400). The largest private employment losses occurred in Information (-500); Professional & Business Services (-500); Manufacturing (-400); Wholesale Trade (-400); Arts, Entertainment & Recreation (-300); and Financial Activities (-300). Government employment decreased by 400 over the year, as job gains on the Local level (+300) were overshadowed by losses in the Federal (-300) and State (-400) segments.

## Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers

				% Change
	Jun 04	May 04	Jun 03	Prev. Year
All Items	189.7	189.1	183.7	3.3%

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

## Annual Employment & Wages City & Town Comparison 2002 - 2003

(Continued from Page 1)

Rhode Island workers earned wages in excess of \$17.2 billion in 2003, a 5.6 percent increase from wages paid in 2002. Private sector wages grew in excess of \$787 million (+5.9%), accounting for 86.9 percent of the total wage increase. The average annual private sector wage in 2003 was \$34,860, an increase of \$1,634 (+4.9%) from the \$33,226 earned in 2002, the largest percent gain in Private sector wages since 1998.

West Greenwich private sector workers led all cities and towns in highest annual wage, averaging \$75,893 in 2003. Professional & Technical Services workers averaged \$111,325, followed by employees in the Finance & Insurance sector who averaged \$93,886. The 2003 average annual private sector wage in Portsmouth was \$44,512. Manufacturing (\$66,548) and Information (\$62,235) were the town's leading sectors in average annual wage.

Providence (\$40,352), Smithfield (\$36,691) and Johnston (\$36,398), round out the top five cities and towns in average annual wage.

For more detailed statistics, visit [www.dlt.ri.gov/lmi/es2002.htm](http://www.dlt.ri.gov/lmi/es2002.htm).

## Manufacturing Employment in Rhode Island, Not Seasonally Adjusted June 2004

	Employment					Production Worker Averages					
	(in thousands)			Net Change From:		Weekly Hours			Hourly Earnings		
	Jun 04	May 04	Jun 03	May 04	Jun 03	Jun 04	May 04	Jun 03	Jun 04	May 04	Jun 03
<b>Manufacturing</b>	58.7	58.6	59.1	100	-400	39.5	39.1	39.5	13.05	13.06	12.86
<b>Durable Goods</b>	37.6	37.6	38.4	0	-800	39.5	39.0	38.1	13.03	13.06	12.85
Fabricated Metal Product Mfg.	7.6	7.7	8.2	-100	-600	39.4	39.3	38.8	11.65	11.70	11.47
Computer & Electronic Product Mfg.	5.1	5.0	5.1	100	0	37.0	37.5	37.5	13.80	13.75	13.62
Transportation Equipment Mfg.	3.9	3.9	3.7	0	200	40.2	40.2	41.2	15.47	15.47	15.46
Miscellaneous Manufacturing	11.0	11.0	11.2	0	-200	38.0	37.2	36.8	10.80	10.83	10.46
Jewelry and Silverware	7.8	7.8	7.9	0	-100	38.3	38.2	36.6	10.14	10.17	9.86
<b>Non-Durable Goods</b>	21.1	21.0	20.7	100	400	39.4	39.3	42.0	13.07	13.05	12.88
Chemical Manufacturing	4.1	4.1	4.0	0	100	40.7	39.8	41.2	15.35	15.36	15.59
Plastics & Rubber Products Mfg.	3.3	3.2	3.0	100	300	41.3	40.9	40.6	14.63	14.66	14.62

**R.I. DEPARTMENT OF LABOR AND TRAINING**  
**2004 UI AND TDI QUICK REFERENCE**  
(Effective July 1, 2004)

	<b>UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE</b>	<b>TEMPORARY DISABILITY INSURANCE</b>
<b>TAXABLE WAGE BASE</b>	\$14,000	\$46,800
<b>TAX SCHEDULES/TAX RATES</b> Employment Security Job Development Assessment (JDA)	Schedule I: 1.90% to 10.0% 1.69% to 9.79% 0.21%	1.5% Deducted from Employee's Wages
<b>NEW EMPLOYER RATE</b>	1.79% (+0.21%JDA)	NONE (Employee Tax)
<b>EMPLOYEE WAGE DEDUCTION</b>	NONE (employer payroll tax)	1.5% of first \$46,800 earned
<b>WAITING PERIOD</b>	7 days	7 days (paid retroactively if customer out for 28 consecutive days or more)
<b>BASE PERIOD</b>	The first four of the last five completed calendar quarters prior to claim; or last 4 completed quarters if needed to meet minimum earnings requirement.	
<b>ELIGIBILITY - MONETARY</b> Based on a Minimum Wage of \$6.75/hour.	\$8,100 in base period wages; or \$1,350 in one of the base period quarters and total base period wages of at least 1.5 times the highest quarter earnings, and total base period earnings of at least \$2,700.	
<b>ELIGIBILITY - NONMONETARY</b>	Worked for a subject employer and unemployed through no fault.	Worked for a subject employer and have medically certified disability.
<b>WEEKLY BENEFIT RATE</b>	4.62% of total high quarter wages in base period.	
<b>MIN. WEEKLY BENEFIT AMOUNT</b>	\$62 per week	\$63 per week
<b>MAX. WEEKLY BENEFIT AMOUNT</b>	\$462 per week	\$588 per week
<b>DEPENDENT'S ALLOWANCE</b>	Greater of \$10 or 5% of weekly benefit rate (up to 5 depts.)	Greater of \$10 or 7% of weekly benefit rate (up to 5 depts.)
<b>MAX. WEEKLY BENEFIT AMOUNT WITH MAX. 5 DEPENDENTS</b>	\$577 per week	\$793 per week
<b>MAXIMUM DURATION</b>	26 weeks	30 weeks
<b>REASONS FOR DENIAL OF BENEFITS</b>	Quit without good cause; fired for misconduct; refusal of suitable work; labor dispute (except lock-out); insufficient earnings in base period.	No medical certification; insufficient earnings in the base period. Receipt of unemployment or workers' compensation benefits.
<b>BENEFIT APPLICATIONS</b>	Call (401) 243-9100 to file.	Call (401) 462-8420 for application