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# Employment Bulletin

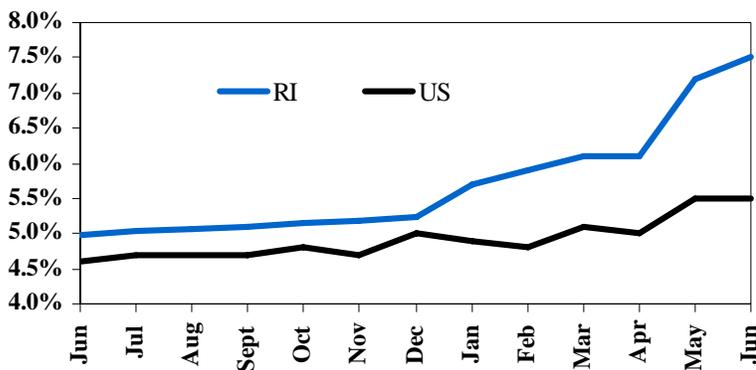
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July 2008

## Rhode Island's Unemployment Rate Climbs to 7.5 Percent in June

- ◆ RI's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate in June climbed 0.2 of a percentage point over the month to 7.5 percent, the highest jobless rate since November 1993 (7.5%).
- ◆ RI's June unemployment rate is up 2.5 percentage points from last year's figure of 5.0 percent.
- ◆ RI's jobless rate remained above the national rate, which held at 5.5 percent in June.
- ◆ In June, the number of unemployed Rhode Island residents rose to 42,600, an increase of 1,400 from May and the highest jobless level since May 1993 (42,700). On a year-over-year comparison, the number of unemployed residents increased 13,800 from June 2007 to June 2008.
- ◆ The number of employed RI residents totaled 529,500 in June 2008, reflecting a drop of 900 from the previous month. On a year-over-year basis, the number of employed RI residents fell 19,700 between June 2007 and June 2008.

**RI & US Unemployment Rates  
Seasonally Adjusted 2007-2008**

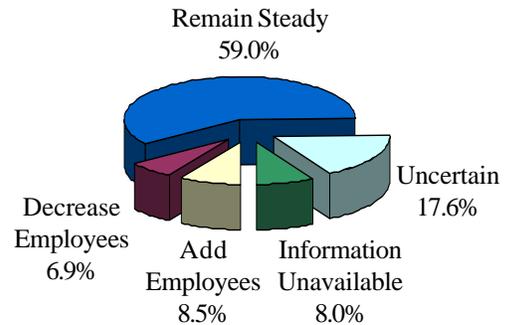


## Employers' Hiring Expectations Through 2008

According to the latest Department of Labor & Training's Job Vacancy Survey (Spring 2008), nearly 60 percent of Rhode Island employers expect their workforce to remain steady through the end of the year. Survey results also indicate that 8.5 percent of employers plan to hire additional workers, while 6.9 percent expect to decrease their current employment level. Eighteen percent of employers were uncertain if their payrolls would increase, decrease, or remain the same.

### Employer Hiring Expectations

Nearly 27 percent of large firms (100 employees or more) plan to hire additional workers by the end of the year. In comparison, 15 percent of mid-size firms (20-99 employees) and only 6.1 percent of small firms (0-19 employees) plan to hire during this time period. However, more than half of the mid-size (62%) and small (53%) firms reported that they expect their workforce to remain steady.



Over one-quarter of the employers in the Arts, Entertainment & Recreation (26.6%), and more than 10 percent of Retail Trade (12.9%) and Wholesale Trade (11.6%) sector employers expect to add workers by the end of the year due, in part, to the seasonal nature of these sectors. (Continued on Page 4)

### Seasonally Adjusted Labor Force Statistics

(in thousands)

	Rhode Island			United States		
	Jun 08	May 08	Jun 07	Jun 08	May 08	Jun 07
Civilian Labor Force	572.1	571.6	578.0	154,390	154,534	153,085
Resident Employment	529.5	530.4	549.2	145,891	146,046	146,087
Unemployment	42.6	41.2	28.8	8,499	8,487	6,997
Unemployment Rate	7.5%	7.2%	5.0%	5.5%	5.5%	4.6%

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## Rhode Island Jobs Decline by 500 in June

The number of seasonally adjusted nonfarm jobs in Rhode Island in June 2008 totaled 482,200, a decline of 500 from May's revised employment level of 482,700. June marks the sixth consecutive month of job losses for both Rhode Island and the United States. Job cutbacks of 200 each were reported in Rhode Island's Transportation & Utilities, Financial Activities, Educational Services, Other Services and Government sectors, while the Retail Trade, Health Care & Social Assistance, and Accommodation & Food Services sectors each lost 100 jobs.

This month's employment decline was slightly offset by gains of 200 each in the Construction, Wholesale Trade and Professional & Business Services sectors and gains of 100 each in the Information and Arts, Entertainment & Recreation sectors.

Job losses in the Educational Services sector were largely the result of declines at the state's private colleges following the conclusion of the spring semester. Declines in the Other Services sector were primarily attributed to reductions in personal services employment. Within Financial Activities, employment losses were noted in the Real Estate, Rental & Leasing sector. Government employment was down on both the state and local levels.

From June 2007 to June 2008, RI jobs declined 11,900, a 2.4 percent decrease. The largest annual employment losses occurred in the Manufacturing (-2,800), Professional & Business Services (-2,300), Retail Trade (-1,900), Financial Activities (-1,700), and Other Services (-1,200) sectors. Smaller losses were noted in Construction (-900); Transportation & Utilities (-500); Arts, Entertainment & Recreation (-400); Accommodation & Food Services (-400); Government (-300); Wholesale Trade (-200) and Natural Resources & Mining (-100).

### Establishment Employment in Rhode Island Seasonally Adjusted

	Net Change From				
	Jun-08	May-08	Jun-07	May-08	Jun-07
<b>Total Nonfarm</b>	<b>482.2</b>	<b>482.7</b>	<b>494.1</b>	<b>-0.5</b>	<b>-11.9</b>
Natural Resources & Mining	0.2	0.2	0.3	0.0	-0.1
Construction	21.2	21.0	22.1	0.2	-0.9
Manufacturing	48.1	48.1	50.9	0.0	-2.8
Wholesale Trade*	16.9	16.7	17.1	0.2	-0.2
Retail Trade	49.9	50.0	51.8	-0.1	-1.9
Transportation & Utilities	10.6	10.8	11.1	-0.2	-0.5
Information	11.0	10.9	10.5	0.1	0.5
Financial Activities	33.5	33.7	35.2	-0.2	-1.7
Professional & Business Services	54.5	54.3	56.8	0.2	-2.3
Educational Services	23.6	23.8	23.4	-0.2	0.2
Health Care & Social Assistance	76.2	76.3	76.1	-0.1	0.1
Arts, Entertainment & Recreation	7.7	7.6	8.1	0.1	-0.4
Accommodation & Food Services	42.8	42.9	43.2	-0.1	-0.4
Other Services	22.2	22.4	23.4	-0.2	-1.2
Government	63.8	64.0	64.1	-0.2	-0.3

\* State Calculated Estimate

### Manufacturing Employment in Rhode Island Not Seasonally Adjusted

	Employment				
	(in thousands)		Net Change From		
	Jun 08	May 08	Jun 07	May 08	Jun 07
<b>Manufacturing</b>	<b>48.3</b>	<b>48.1</b>	<b>51.2</b>	<b>200</b>	<b>-2,900</b>
<b>Durable Goods</b>	<b>31.3</b>	<b>31.2</b>	<b>33.0</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>-1,700</b>
Fabricated Metal Product Mfg.	6.6	6.6	6.9	0	-300
Computer & Electronic Product Mfg.	4.3	4.3	4.5	0	-200
Miscellaneous Manufacturing	8.7	8.7	9.4	0	-700
Jewelry & Silverware	5.9	6.0	6.6	-100	-700
<b>Non-Durable Goods</b>	<b>17.0</b>	<b>16.9</b>	<b>18.2</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>-1,200</b>
Chemical Manufacturing	4.2	4.2	4.5	0	-300
Plastics & Rubber Products Mfg.	2.9	2.9	2.9	0	0

Just three sectors experienced over-the-year gains. The Information sector reported the largest over-the-year gain (+500), followed by Educational Services (+200) and Health Care & Social Assistance (+100).

In June 2008, production workers in the Manufacturing sector earned \$13.90 per hour. The average hourly production wage was down three cents from May and down two cents per hour from a year ago. Manufacturing employees worked an average of 38.8 hours per week in June, up 0.2 of an hour over the month and down 0.6 of an hour since June 2007.

*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.*

## Nursing A Career to Consider



Rhode Island, as well as the nation, is in the midst of a nursing shortage that is expected to intensify as baby boomers age and the need for health care continues to grow. Compounding the problem is the inability of colleges and universities to increase nursing program enrollments as demand grows and faculty retires. Nationally, 4.7 million workers are classified as Registered Nurses, Licensed Practical Nurses (LPN's) or Certified Nursing Assistants (CNA's). Nearly 85 percent of these nurses work in the health care industry. The Bureau of Labor Statistics estimates that nearly one-quarter of the four million job openings expected to occur during the 2006 to 2016 projection period will be in the nursing field.

Mirroring the national trend, the demand for nursing occupations in Rhode Island is also expected to be high as establishments in the state seek to fill nearly 800 job openings each year. The growth trend for LPN's and CNA's is projected to continue in response to the long-term care needs of an aging population. It is expected that Rhode Island hospitals, nursing care facilities and home health care services will need to fill 850 LPN and over 2,500 CNA job openings during the ten-year projection period. These openings will result from the growing demand for workers as well as the need to replace those who leave the occupation.

The demand for Registered Nurses is also expected to be high as Rhode Island employers try to fill over 450 job openings each year. A Registered Nurse can expect to earn as much as \$26.50 per hour upon graduation with many health facilities offering shift differentials for weekend and nighttime hours.

### Nursing Employment Projections & Wages

	Employment		Annual Openings due to		Total Openings	Entry Level Wage
	2006	2016	Growth	Replacement		
Total	23,439	27,959	452	343	795	---
Registered Nurses	12,707	15,139	243	210	453	\$26.51
Licensed Practical Nurses	2,001	2,303	30	55	85	\$20.07
Nursing Assistants	8,731	10,517	179	78	257	\$11.14

### Characteristics of the Insured Unemployed

In June 2008, 30 percent of Rhode Island's unemployed workers were eligible to collect Unemployment Insurance (UI) benefits. Numbering 12,931 people, these "insured unemployed" accounted for 2.4 percent of the State's total employed (unadjusted). Nearly 31 percent (3,992) 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, 17.0 percent (2,200) of the State's insured unemployed workers came from the Manufacturing sector. There were also 1,708 individuals with an attachment to the Construction sector, accounting for 13.2 percent of all insured unemployed workers. An additional 11.5 percent (1,491) of those collecting UI benefits in June had worked in the Retail Trade sector. Large numbers of insured unemployed were also reported in Health Care & Social Assistance (1,291), Administrative & Waste Services (1,141) and Accommodation & Food Services (915). 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, June 2008

	Total	Long-Term	Percent
			Long-Term
<b>Total</b>	<b>12,931</b>	<b>3,992</b>	<b>30.9%</b>
Male	6,627	2,154	32.5%
Female	6,304	1,838	29.2%
<b>Selected Industries</b>	<b>12,931</b>	<b>3,992</b>	<b>30.9%</b>
Construction	1,708	588	34.4%
Manufacturing	2,200	706	32.1%
Wholesale Trade	507	196	38.7%
Retail Trade	1,491	515	34.5%
Transportation & Warehousing	349	96	27.5%
Information	186	64	34.4%
Finance & Insurance	754	272	36.1%
Real Estate	288	89	30.9%
Professional & Tech. Services	704	178	25.3%
Administrative & Waste Services	1,141	278	24.4%
Educational Services	184	53	28.8%
Health Care & Social Assistance	1,291	358	27.7%
Arts, Entertainment & Recreation	238	46	19.3%
Accommodation & Food Services	915	245	26.8%
Other Services	467	150	32.1%
Public Administration	77	23	29.9%

**Consumer Price Index for  
All Urban Consumers**

	Jun 08	May 08	Jun 07	% Change Prev. Year
All Items	218.8	216.6	208.4	5.0%

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

**Employers' Hiring Expectations  
Through 2008**

(Continued from Page 1)

In contrast, employers in the Administrative and Waste Services (13.0%) and Construction (11.5%) sectors are more likely to decrease their workforce than hire additional employees.

Within the state's other major sectors, both Health Care & Social Assistance and Accommodation & Food Services employers reported that they are more likely to increase their payrolls, while the Financial Activities sector is more likely to decrease its workforce.

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

	2008	2007		2008	2007
Barrington	5.2	3.8	Newport	6.1	4.2
Bristol	6.4	4.4	North Kingstown	6.4	4.0
Burrillville	6.8	4.3	North Providence	7.9	5.0
Central Falls	10.8	6.5	North Smithfield	6.8	4.5
Charlestown	6.9	4.3	Pawtucket	9.2	5.9
Coventry	6.8	4.4	Portsmouth	5.7	3.7
Cranston	7.7	5.1	Providence	9.4	6.4
Cumberland	6.6	4.3	Richmond	4.7	2.9
East Greenwich	7.0	4.4	Scituate	7.0	4.3
East Providence	7.7	5.1	Smithfield	6.8	4.3
Exeter	6.0	4.2	South Kingstown	6.1	4.0
Foster	6.7	4.6	Tiverton	7.1	4.7
Glocester	5.8	3.9	Warren	6.7	4.6
Hopkinton	7.0	4.1	Warwick	6.9	4.6
Jamestown	4.4	3.5	West Greenwich	6.6	4.0
Johnston	8.1	5.3	West Warwick	7.5	4.9
Lincoln	6.4	4.3	Westerly	6.4	3.9
Little Compton	6.1	4.3	Woonsocket	9.1	5.4
Middletown	5.7	4.0			
Narragansett	4.8	3.1	State of R.I.	7.5	4.9
New Shoreham	3.8	2.5	United States	5.7	4.7

**2007 City & Town Population Estimates**

The US Census Bureau recently released the 2007 city and town population estimates for Rhode Island. From 2006 to 2007, Rhode Island lost 0.4 percent (-3,809) of its total residents.

Of the 39 cities and towns in Rhode Island, 18 communities lost a larger percentage of their population than the state. The city of Newport reflected the largest population percentage decrease (-1.1%), followed by the towns of Middletown (-1.0%) and Tiverton (-0.8%). Only seven communities in the state reported population percentage gains: Lincoln, Westerly, North Kingstown, (+0.4% each), North Smithfield, Foster (+0.3% each), Portsmouth (+0.2%) and Cumberland (+0.1%).

The cities of Warwick (-541), Pawtucket (-482), Cranston (-441) and Providence (-395) lost the greatest number of residents. In contrast, the towns of Lincoln, North Kingstown, Westerly, and Cumberland each added 50 or more residents to their population counts.

From 2000 to 2007, Rhode Island's population increased by 0.9 percent (+9,513). West Greenwich (+25.7%) led all communities in percentage growth, followed by Cumberland (+7.8%) and North Smithfield (+6.4%). Middletown and Newport experienced the steepest population declines of 6.2 percent and 4.2 percent, respectively. One-third of Rhode Island communities lost population during the 2000-2007 period.

For more information, see enclosed label page or visit the LMI Census data web site at [www.dlt.ri.gov/lmi/census.htm](http://www.dlt.ri.gov/lmi/census.htm).

**Unemployment Insurance Claims Activity**

	June 2008	May 2008	June 2007	% Change		Year to Date		
				May 08	June 07	2008	2007	% Change
Initial Claims	8,584	5,633	7,509	52.4%	14.3%	49,064	42,917	14.3%
Number of Payments	58,026	51,890	40,491	11.8%	43.3%	403,848	344,815	17.1%
Amount of Payments (gross millions)	\$20.3	\$18.5	\$14.0	9.7%	45.0%	\$145.8	\$120.2	21.3%
Exhaustions (Final Payments)	1,711	1,608	1,042	6.4%	64.2%	9,980	7,708	29.5%

## Rhode Island City & Town Population Estimates

Geographic Area	Population Estimates		Census 2000	Difference			
	July 1, 2007	July 1, 2006		2006-2007	2000-2007		
<b>State of Rhode Island</b>	<b>1,057,832</b>	<b>1,061,641</b>	<b>1,048,319</b>	<b>-3,809</b>	<b>-0.4%</b>	<b>9,513</b>	<b>0.9%</b>
<b>Bristol County</b>	<b>50,079</b>	<b>50,228</b>	<b>50,648</b>	<b>-149</b>	<b>-0.3%</b>	<b>-569</b>	<b>-1.1%</b>
Barrington	16,444	16,506	16,819	-62	-0.4%	-375	-2.2%
Bristol	22,552	22,571	22,469	-19	-0.1%	83	0.4%
Warren	11,083	11,151	11,360	-68	-0.6%	-277	-2.4%
<b>Kent County</b>	<b>168,639</b>	<b>169,486</b>	<b>167,090</b>	<b>-847</b>	<b>-0.5%</b>	<b>1,549</b>	<b>0.9%</b>
Coventry	34,510	34,548	33,668	-38	-0.1%	842	2.5%
East Greenwich	13,349	13,417	12,948	-68	-0.5%	401	3.1%
Warwick	85,097	85,638	85,808	-541	-0.6%	-711	-0.8%
West Greenwich	6,394	6,408	5,085	-14	-0.2%	1,309	25.7%
West Warwick	29,289	29,475	29,581	-186	-0.6%	-292	-1.0%
<b>Newport County</b>	<b>82,777</b>	<b>83,335</b>	<b>85,433</b>	<b>-558</b>	<b>-0.7%</b>	<b>-2,656</b>	<b>-3.1%</b>
Jamestown	5,515	5,530	5,622	-15	-0.3%	-107	-1.9%
Little Compton	3,535	3,540	3,593	-5	-0.1%	-58	-1.6%
Middletown	16,259	16,419	17,334	-160	-1.0%	-1,075	-6.2%
Newport	25,359	25,644	26,475	-285	-1.1%	-1,116	-4.2%
Portsmouth	17,030	16,999	17,149	31	0.2%	-119	-0.7%
Tiverton	15,079	15,203	15,260	-124	-0.8%	-181	-1.2%
<b>Providence County</b>	<b>629,435</b>	<b>631,491</b>	<b>621,602</b>	<b>-2,056</b>	<b>-0.3%</b>	<b>7,833</b>	<b>1.3%</b>
Burrillville	16,505	16,507	15,796	-2	0.0%	709	4.5%
Central Falls	18,823	18,950	18,928	-127	-0.7%	-105	-0.6%
Cranston	80,463	80,904	79,269	-441	-0.5%	1,194	1.5%
Cumberland	34,314	34,264	31,840	50	0.1%	2,474	7.8%
East Providence	48,779	49,007	48,688	-228	-0.5%	91	0.2%
Foster	4,511	4,499	4,274	12	0.3%	237	5.5%
Glocester	10,536	10,551	9,948	-15	-0.1%	588	5.9%
Johnston	28,680	28,836	28,195	-156	-0.5%	485	1.7%
Lincoln	22,105	22,009	20,898	96	0.4%	1,207	5.8%
North Providence	32,885	32,929	32,411	-44	-0.1%	474	1.5%
North Smithfield	11,294	11,261	10,618	33	0.3%	676	6.4%
Pawtucket	72,342	72,824	72,958	-482	-0.7%	-616	-0.8%
Providence	172,459	172,854	173,618	-395	-0.2%	-1,159	-0.7%
Scituate	10,870	10,890	10,324	-20	-0.2%	546	5.3%
Smithfield	21,279	21,368	20,613	-89	-0.4%	666	3.2%
Woonsocket	43,590	43,838	43,224	-248	-0.6%	366	0.8%
<b>Washington County</b>	<b>126,902</b>	<b>127,101</b>	<b>123,546</b>	<b>-199</b>	<b>-0.2%</b>	<b>3,356</b>	<b>2.7%</b>
Charlestown	8,120	8,171	7,859	-51	-0.6%	261	3.3%
Exeter	6,195	6,227	6,045	-32	-0.5%	150	2.5%
Hopkinton	8,003	8,014	7,836	-11	-0.1%	167	2.1%
Narragansett	16,511	16,632	16,361	-121	-0.7%	150	0.9%
New Shoreham	1,021	1,028	1,010	-7	-0.7%	11	1.1%
North Kingstown	26,708	26,612	26,326	96	0.4%	382	1.5%
Richmond	7,659	7,704	7,222	-45	-0.6%	437	6.1%
South Kingstown	29,277	29,395	27,921	-118	-0.4%	1,356	4.9%
Westerly	23,408	23,318	22,966	90	0.4%	442	1.9%