



Employment Labor Market Information Bulletin

Volume 12, No. 6

June 2000

The Number of Jobs in Rhode Island Increased by 6,400 Over the Year

The number of jobs in Rhode Island rose by 6,400, or 1.4 percent, between May 1999 and May 2000. The seasonally adjusted unemployment rate for May 2000 was 4.0 percent, reflecting a drop of 0.2 of a percentage point from the May 1999 level of 4.2 percent. The number of unemployed Rhode Island residents fell by 1,100 over the year.

The Unemployment Rate

Following the national trend, Rhode Island's unemployment rate rose from April to May. The May jobless figure of 4.0 percent was up 0.3 of a percentage point from April's level of 3.7 percent. The number of unemployed Rhode Islanders rose by 1,100 over the month. Nationally, the unemployment rate for May climbed to 4.1 percent, an increase of 0.2 of a percentage point from April. Rhode Island's unemployment figure remained below the comparable US average for the ninth month in a row.
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New Maximum Weekly Benefit Rates for Unemployed Individuals Announced

New maximum weekly benefit rates of \$397 for Unemployment Insurance, and \$504 for Temporary Disability Insurance, will be in effect for claimants whose Benefit Years begin on or after July 2, 2000, announced Dr. Lee H. Arnold, Director of the Department of Labor and Training.

These new rates reflect an increase of \$14 for Unemployment Insurance (UI) and \$17 for Temporary Disability Insurance (TDI). The previous maximum rates were \$383 for UI and \$487 for TDI. Individuals who established claims prior to July 2, 2000 will continue to be paid at their present rate for the duration of their Benefit Year. A Benefit Year is the 52-week period that starts when a new claim is filed.

The maximum rate for Unemployment Insurance benefits is set at 67 percent of the average weekly wage of workers covered by the Employment Security Act. The average weekly wage paid to workers covered by the Employment Security Act in calendar year 1999 was \$592.93. Sixty-seven percent of that average weekly wage is \$397.26. After rounding down to the next lower dollar amount, the new maximum for Unemployment Insurance will be \$397.

The maximum weekly benefit rate for Temporary Disability Insurance is set at 85 percent of the average weekly wage paid to workers covered by the Employment Security Act. Accordingly, the new maximum for Temporary Disability Insurance is \$504 (85 percent of \$592.93 rounded to the next highest dollar amount).

Trends in the Rhode Island Labor Market

A new publication is now available from LMI. *Trends in the Rhode Island Labor Market* presents a current overview of employment, unemployment and population conditions in Rhode Island and the surrounding region. Incorporating the latest census and updated labor force statistics, this publication offers analysis on the present state of the RI economy.

As with all LMI publications, it is free of charge. To reserve your copy, please contact LMI at (401) 462-8740 or e-mail your request to mferreira@dlt.state.ri.us.

This publication can also be viewed and printed by selecting *Trends in the Rhode Island Labor Market* from the LMI website at:

<http://www.dlt.state.ri.us/lmi>

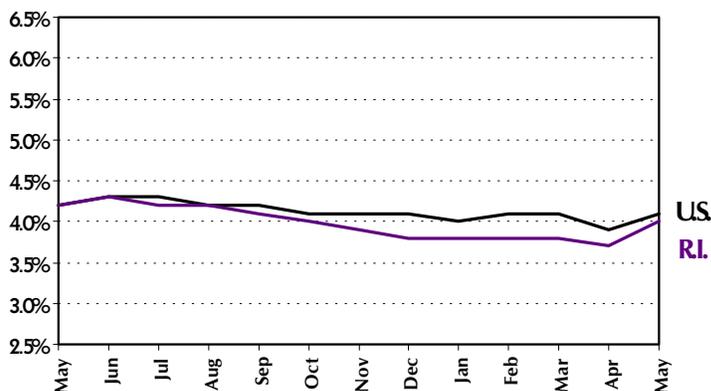
Rhode Island Labor Force Statistics* (in thousands)

	Unadjusted			Seasonally Adjusted		
	May 00	Apr 00	May 99	May 00	Apr 00	May 99
Civilian Labor Force	498.7	504.8	497.5	504.5	513.8	503.2
Resident Employment	480.9	488.2	478.6	484.3	494.6	481.8
Unemployment	17.9	16.6	19.0	20.3	19.2	21.4
Unemployment Rate	3.6%	3.3%	3.8%	4.0%	3.7%	4.2%

United States Labor Force Statistics (in thousands)

	Unadjusted			Seasonally Adjusted		
	May 00	Apr 00	May 99	May 00	Apr 00	May 99
Civilian Labor Force	140,395	140,403	138,919	140,489	141,230	139,013
Resident Employment	134,961	135,215	133,411	134,715	135,706	133,190
Unemployment	5,435	5,188	5,507	5,774	5,524	5,823
Unemployment Rate	3.9%	3.7%	4.0%	4.1%	3.9%	4.2%

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



City & Town Unadjusted Unemployment Rates

	May 00	May 99
Barrington	2.3	2.0
Bristol	2.9	2.8
Burrillville	3.2	3.7
Central Falls	5.7	5.9
Charlestown	3.9	4.1
Coventry	3.2	3.4
Cranston	3.7	4.0
Cumberland	2.8	3.3
East Greenwich	3.1	3.4
East Providence	4.4	4.1
Exeter	2.6	2.6
Foster	3.7	3.8
Glocester	2.4	2.8
Hopkinton	2.3	1.7
Jamestown	3.0	2.0
Johnston	4.0	4.4
Lincoln	3.4	3.2
Little Compton	2.4	2.2
Middletown	2.9	3.1
Narragansett	1.7	2.1
New Shoreham	6.0	5.2
Newport	3.3	3.6
North Kingstown	2.6	3.0
North Providence	3.4	3.8
North Smithfield	2.3	2.8
Pawtucket	4.3	4.8
Portsmouth	2.8	2.5
Providence	4.9	5.3
Richmond	1.5	1.4
Scituate	3.8	3.9
Smithfield	3.6	3.5
South Kingstown	2.6	3.0
Tiverton	3.1	3.2
Warren	3.5	2.8
Warwick	3.1	3.4
West Greenwich	3.2	2.5
West Warwick	3.8	4.4
Westerly	3.2	2.6
Woonsocket	3.8	4.6
State of R.I.	3.6	3.8

Unemployment Insurance Claims Activity

	May	Apr.	May	% Change		Year to Date		
	2000	2000	1999	Apr 00	May 99	2000	1999	% Change
Initial Claims	5,227	7,201	4,833	-27.4%	8.2%	37,267	42,873	-13.1%
Number of Payments	43,817	44,033	37,971	-0.5%	15.4%	271,026	287,741	-5.8%
Amount of Payments (gross millions)	\$10.7	\$10.7	\$8.9	-0.2%	21.2%	\$67.2	\$67.4	-0.3%
Exhaustions (Final Payments)	1,267	1,167	1,121	8.6%	13.0%	5,625	6,191	-9.1%
E.S. Fund Balance (millions)	\$283.1	\$235.8	\$246.8	20.1%	14.7%			

*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



LMI has Moved!!!!

The RI Department of Labor & Training's Labor Market Information Division has moved. Please make note of our new address and phone numbers. We are now located at the Howard Complex in Cranston at:

Labor Market Information
RI Department of Labor and Training
Center General Complex
1511 Pontiac Avenue
Cranston, RI 02920

The main phone number will be **(401)462-8740**.

In addition to the main LMI phone number, the following phone numbers are provided for specific program questions:

Covered Employment Statistics (ES202)
(401)462-8760

Current Employment Statistics (CES)
(401)462-8770

Marketing/Communications
(401)462-8810

Occupational Employment Statistics (OES)
(401)462-8750

Occupational Safety & Health (OSH)
(401)462-8820

RI Occupational Information
Coordinating Committee(RIOICC)
(401)462-8790



Total Establishment Employment in Rhode Island**

	Employment (in thousands)			Net Change From	
	May 00	Apr 00	May 99	Apr 00	May 99
TOTAL EMPLOYMENT	474.4	468.8	468.0	5600	6400
GOODS PRODUCING	92.0	91.2	93.2	800	-1200
Contract Construction	18.7	18.1	18.1	600	600
Manufacturing	73.3	73.1	75.1	200	-1800
SERVICE PRODUCING	382.4	377.6	374.8	4800	7600
Trans. & Public Utilities	16.4	15.9	16.1	500	300
Trade (Wholesale & Retail)	106.3	104.9	102.9	1400	3400
Wholesale	20.0	20.2	19.7	-200	300
Durable†	12.4	12.5	12.4	-100	-----
Nondurable†	7.5	7.7	7.3	-200	200
Retail	86.3	84.7	83.2	1600	3100
Building & Garden Supplies†	2.4	2.4	2.3	-----	100
General Merchandise	7.0	7.2	6.5	-200	500
Food Stores†	15.9	15.9	15.3	-----	600
Automotive Dealers	7.6	7.6	7.3	-----	300
Apparel & Accessory Stores	4.8	4.6	3.7	200	1100
Furn., Home Furn., & Equipt.†	2.4	2.4	2.3	-----	100
Eating and Drinking Places	31.5	30.0	31.2	1500	300
Miscellaneous Retail	14.8	14.7	14.7	100	100
Finance, Insurance & Real Estate	29.6	29.7	29.5	-100	100
Depository Institutions	8.7	8.7	8.5	-----	200
Services	163.2	162.5	161.3	700	1900
Hotels & Other Lodging†	4.5	4.2	4.1	300	400
Business Services	30.7	30.2	28.5	500	2200
Auto & Misc. Repair†	5.2	5.2	5.0	-----	200
Amusement & Recreation	5.6	5.2	5.3	400	300
Health Services	50.9	50.9	51.7	-----	-800
Educational Services	18.3	18.6	18.6	-300	-300
Social Services	15.3	15.4	15.2	-100	100
Government	66.9	64.6	65.0	2300	1900
Federal	12.4	10.8	10.5	1600	1900
State	18.5	18.3	18.7	200	-200
Local	36.0	35.5	35.8	500	200
Education†	23.3	22.9	23.4	400	-100
Non Education†	12.7	12.6	12.5	100	200

† 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		
	May 00	Apr 00	May 99	Apr 00	May 99	May 00	Apr 00	May 99	May 00	Apr 00	May 99
MANUFACTURING	73.3	73.1	75.1	200	-1800	40.3	40.6	40.2	12.20	12.19	11.96
DURABLE MFG.	47.7	47.6	49.1	100	-1400	40.0	40.2	39.8	12.03	12.02	11.72
Lumber/Furniture	2.7	2.8	2.8	-100	-100	41.3	42.1	40.1	12.05	12.10	12.02
Stone-Clay-Glass	1.1	1.0	1.1	100	-----	41.9	42.9	47.2	13.84	13.89	13.73
Primary Metals	4.0	4.0	4.2	-----	-200	40.4	40.2	42.8	12.79	12.67	12.56
Fabricated Metals	8.3	8.1	8.3	200	-----	38.6	38.1	36.3	11.31	11.27	10.82
Nonelectrical Mach.	5.2	5.2	4.8	-----	400	40.2	40.3	38.8	13.53	13.53	13.40
Electrical Mach.	5.3	5.3	5.4	-----	-100	42.2	42.1	41.7	11.40	11.51	11.33
Trans. Equipment	3.6	3.5	3.5	100	100	40.7	41.6	42.3	14.39	14.42	14.23
Instruments	5.3	5.4	5.0	-100	300	40.8	39.9	40.0	12.62	12.72	12.67
Jewelry-Silverware	9.2	9.3	10.8	-100	-1600	38.7	39.8	39.0	10.52	10.46	10.12
Miscellaneous Mfg.	3.0	3.0	3.2	-----	-200	39.1	39.1	39.3	11.45	11.64	11.00
NONDURABLE MFG.	25.6	25.5	26.0	100	-400	41.0	41.3	40.9	12.52	12.51	12.42
Food Beverage	2.9	2.8	2.7	100	200	41.8	42.2	43.6	11.50	11.49	11.54
Textiles	6.9	6.9	7.2	-----	-300	40.1	40.3	41.6	10.54	10.70	10.75
Apparel	0.8	0.8	0.9	-----	-100	42.2	42.7	39.9	9.28	9.30	9.26
Paper Products	2.0	2.0	1.9	-----	100	39.5	40.2	38.4	12.03	12.04	11.85
Printing-Publishing	5.4	5.4	5.6	-----	-200	40.3	41.1	39.8	16.51	16.60	16.41
Chemical Products	2.1	2.1	2.0	-----	100	40.8	41.7	44.3	13.80	13.74	13.57
Rubber Products	0.6	0.6	0.5	-----	100	42.1	41.5	43.3	12.97	12.98	12.92
Plastics Products	4.4	4.4	4.6	-----	-200	42.9	42.8	38.8	13.33	13.13	13.20
Leather Products	0.5	0.5	0.6	-----	-100	41.4	41.1	40.6	8.31	8.32	8.17

** 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.

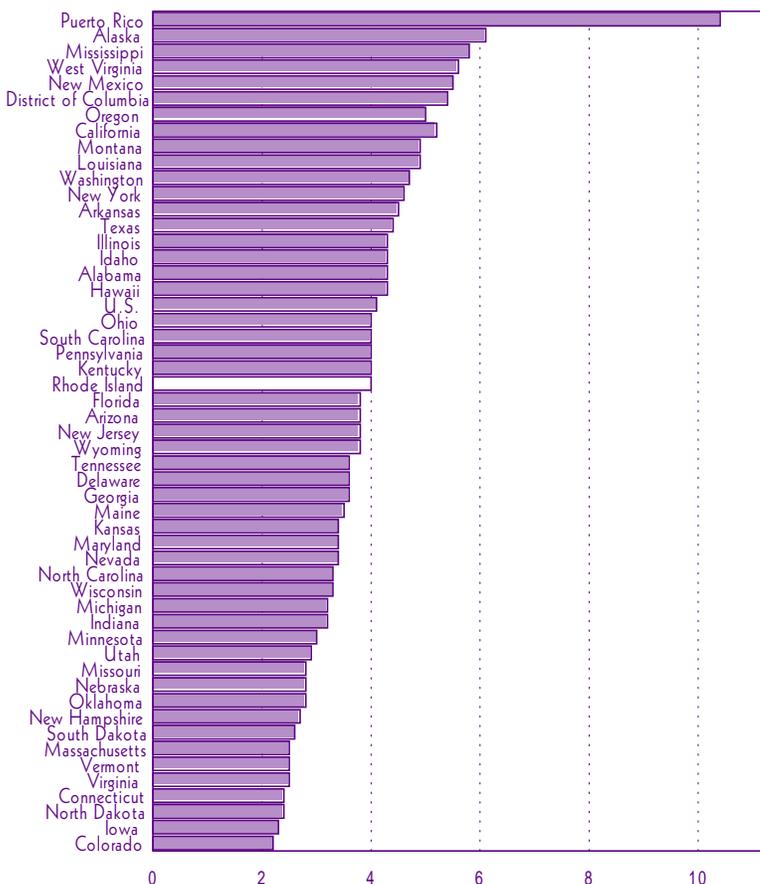
The Number of Jobs in Rhode Island Increased by 6,400 Over the Year (Continued from Page 1)

"Despite the slight upturn in this month's unemployment rate, our indicators continue to compare favorably to last year's levels," said DLT Director Dr. Lee H. Arnold. "More Rhode Islanders are working this year compared to last, Rhode Island companies employ more people than they did a year ago, and the unemployment rate remains below the May 1999 level."

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

Since May 1999, the number of jobs in Rhode Island increased by 6,400 or 1.4 percent. Trade registered the largest gain (+3,400), with all major industry groups adding jobs, except wholesale-durables (which remained even). Services, fueled by continued hiring in business services, grew by 2,200 jobs over the year. Government, reflecting a large gain in federal employment due to the 2000 Census, added 1,900 workers. Employment in contract construction rose by 600, mostly due to hiring in special trade construction. Transportation/public utilities, driven by an increase in transportation employment, expanded by 300 jobs over the year. Finance/insurance/real estate recorded an annual gain of 100 jobs. Manufacturing posted a net decline of 1,800 jobs, with the largest cutbacks in jewelry-silverware.

Seasonally Adjusted Unemployment Rates Ranked by State for May



Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers

	May 00	Apr 00	May 99	% Change Prev. Year
All Items	171.3	171.2	166.2	3.1%

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

Rhode Island Job Highlights (Over the Month)

The number of jobs in Rhode Island rose by 5,600 from April to May, mostly due to an increase in government employment along with seasonal activity in trade, services, and contract construction.

Government – Government employment rose by 2,300 over the month. The federal government increased by 1,600 workers due to the ongoing 2000 Census. Local government gained 500 jobs, primarily in public education, and state government added 200 jobs over the month.

Trade – Trade payrolls were up 1,400 over the month. Seasonal hiring in restaurants added 1,500 jobs. Small gains were posted in apparel and accessory stores, as well as in miscellaneous retail stores. General merchandise stores declined by 200 jobs. The remaining four retail trade sectors showed no change over the month.

Services – Employment in services posted a net gain of 700 jobs from April to May, the result of seasonal hiring in amusement/recreation and hotels/lodging, along with employment increases in business services. In contrast, private educational services registered a drop of 300 mostly due to the loss of college work-study students.

Contract Construction – Contract construction employment picked up seasonally in May. This industry added 600 jobs as the milder weather fueled activity in special trade construction and general building construction.

Manufacturing – The manufacturing sector posted an increase of 200 jobs over the month. Fabricated metals gained 200 jobs, while stone-clay-glass, transportation equipment, and food products each added 100 jobs. In contrast, a loss of 100 jobs each was reported in lumber/furniture, instruments, and jewelry-silverware. The remaining factory segments were unchanged from April to May.