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Rhode Island Department of Labor and Training

# Employment Labor Market Information Bulletin



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Director

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## Rhode Island's Unemployment Rate Inches Down in May

Rhode Island's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate for May was 5.6 percent, reflecting a drop of 0.1 of a percentage point from April. The number of unemployed Rhode Island residents fell by 700 in May to an estimated 31,800. A year ago, the unemployment rate was 5.4 percent and the jobless level stood at 31,000. Nationally, the unemployment rate for May held steady at 5.6 percent. The national rate has been either 5.6 or 5.7 percent in each month since December 2003. In May, Rhode Island's unemployment rate equaled the national average.

"Rhode Island's unemployment rate inched down slightly in May and the employment picture brightened as the state gained 1,500 jobs," said Acting DLT Director Adelita S. Orefice. "The rebound from last month's job losses is a positive sign that the job market is improving."

### Rhode Island Job Highlights

The Rhode Island job count rebounded in May, following two successive months of reduced employment. Businesses in the state reported growth of 1,500 jobs, bringing the May job count to 487,500 (seasonally adjusted). Over-the-month employment gains were reflected in Trade, Transportation & Utilities (+800); Manufacturing (+600); Leisure & Hospitality (+600); and Government (+100). The only segment to report an employment decline was Construction (-400). Since January 2004, jobs are up 300 mainly due to increased employment in Trade, Transportation & Utilities. (Continued on page 4)

## New Maximum Weekly Benefit Rates for Unemployed Individuals Announced

New maximum weekly benefit rates of \$462 for Unemployment Insurance, and \$588 for Temporary Disability Insurance, will be in effect for claimants whose Benefit Years begin on or after July 1, 2004, announced Adelita S. Orefice, Director of the Department of Labor and Training.

These new rates reflect an increase of \$21 for Unemployment Insurance (UI) and \$27 for Temporary Disability Insurance (TDI). The previous maximum rates were \$441 for UI and \$561 for TDI. Individuals who established claims prior to July 1, 2004 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 once a new claim is filed.

### Maximum Benefit Rates 2004

UI - \$462  
TDI - \$588

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 2003 was \$690.62. Sixty-seven percent of that average weekly wage is \$462.71. After rounding down to the next lower dollar amount, the new maximum for Unemployment Insurance will be \$462.

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 \$588 (85 percent of \$690.62 rounded to the next highest dollar amount).

## Where do Rhode Islanders Live and Work?

Rhode Island commuting patterns data is now available! Based on data collected from Census 2000, Rhode Island Commuting Patterns provides journey-to-work statistics for the Ocean State's cities and towns and supplies information on resident outflow to neighboring states for employment.

Visit [www.dlt.ri.gov/lmi/publications/commute.htm](http://www.dlt.ri.gov/lmi/publications/commute.htm) to view and download this publication.

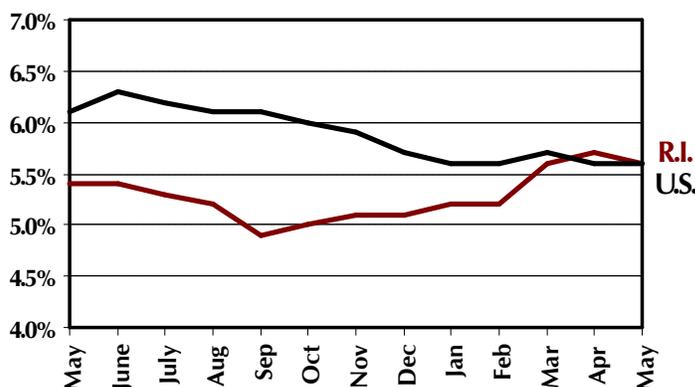
## Rhode Island Labor Force Statistics\* (in thousands)

	Seasonally Adjusted			Unadjusted		
	May 04	Apr 04	May 03	May 04	Apr 04	May 03
Civilian Labor Force	568.7	569.8	574.3	562.1	562.9	567.9
Resident Employment	536.9	537.4	543.3	532.1	532.5	538.7
Unemployment	31.8	32.5	31.0	30.0	30.4	29.2
Unemployment Rate	5.6%	5.7%	5.4%	5.3%	5.4%	5.1%

## United States Labor Force Statistics (in thousands)

	Seasonally Adjusted			Unadjusted		
	May 04	Apr 04	May 03	May 04	Apr 04	May 03
Civilian Labor Force	146,974	146,741	146,462	146,659	146,260	146,067
Resident Employment	138,772	138,576	137,505	138,867	138,423	137,567
Unemployment	8,203	8,164	8,957	7,792	7,837	8,500
Unemployment Rate	5.6%	5.6%	6.1%	5.3%	5.4%	5.8%

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



## City & Town Unadjusted Unemployment Rates

	May 04	May 03**
Barrington	2.9	2.7
Bristol	4.1	4.4
Burrillville	5.4	5.5
Central Falls	8.2	8.4
Charlestown	4.7	3.9
Coventry	5.1	4.6
Cranston	5.7	5.2
Cumberland	5.0	4.3
East Greenwich	5.2	5.3
East Providence	5.6	5.3
Exeter	4.1	4.0
Foster	6.6	5.3
Glocester	3.4	4.1
Hopkinton	4.1	3.6
Jamestown	3.5	3.1
Johnston	6.8	5.6
Lincoln	4.2	4.5
Little Compton	3.6	2.4
Middletown	4.6	4.0
Narragansett	3.1	2.4
New Shoreham	8.2	7.3
Newport	4.2	4.2
North Kingstown	4.3	3.9
North Providence	5.6	5.2
North Smithfield	4.9	4.2
Pawtucket	6.8	6.2
Portsmouth	3.3	3.2
Providence	6.3	6.8
Richmond	2.6	2.3
Scituate	5.8	5.8
Smithfield	4.4	3.9
South Kingstown	3.7	3.5
Tiverton	5.2	4.5
Warren	5.2	4.3
Warwick	5.2	4.9
West Greenwich	4.5	4.1
West Warwick	6.1	6.1
Westerly	3.5	3.6
Woonsocket	6.7	6.7
State of R.I.	5.6	5.1

\*\*Revised

## Unemployment Insurance Claims Activity

	May	Apr	May	% Change		Year to Date		
	2004	2004	2003	Apr 04	May 03	2004	2003	% Change
Initial Claims	4,542	7,059	5,302	-35.7%	-14.3%	35,943	40,495	-11.2%
Number of Payments	43,263	54,347	48,542	-20.4%	-10.9%	311,445	336,604	-7.5%
Amount of Payments (gross millions)	\$13.8	\$17.1	\$14.6	-19.3%	-5.5%	\$98.4	\$101.9	-3.4%
Exhaustions (Final Payments)	1,357	1,459	1,545	-7.0%	-12.2%	7,460	8,065	-7.5%
E.S. Fund Balance (millions)	\$199.8	\$149.6	\$241.2	33.6%	-17.2%			

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**  
**May 2004**

	Employment in Thousands			Net Change From	
	May 2004	Apr 2004	May 2003	Apr 2004	May 2003
<b>Total Nonfarm</b>	<b>491.7</b>	<b>484.9</b>	<b>488.5</b>	<b>6,800</b>	<b>3,200</b>
<b>Goods Producing</b>	<b>81.1</b>	<b>80.1</b>	<b>80.4</b>	<b>1,000</b>	<b>700</b>
Natural Resources & Mining	0.2	0.2	0.2	0	0
Construction	22.4	21.9	21.1	500	1,300
Specialty Trade Contractors	14.5	14.3	13.6	200	900
Manufacturing	58.5	58.0	59.1	500	-600
Durable Goods	37.5	37.3	38.6	200	-1,100
Fabricated Metal Product Mfg.	7.7	7.6	8.2	100	-500
Computer & Electronic Product Mfg.	5.0	5.1	5.1	-100	-100
Transportation Equipment Mfg.	3.9	3.8	3.6	100	300
Miscellaneous Manufacturing	11.0	11.0	11.3	0	-300
Jewelry & Silverware	7.8	7.8	7.9	0	-100
Non-Durable Goods	21.0	20.7	20.5	300	500
Chemical Manufacturing	4.1	4.1	3.9	0	200
Plastics & Rubber Products Mfg.	3.2	3.1	3.0	100	200
<b>Service Providing</b>	<b>410.6</b>	<b>404.8</b>	<b>408.1</b>	<b>5,800</b>	<b>2,500</b>
Wholesale Trade	16.1	16.1	16.6	0	-500
Retail Trade	52.8	52.1	52.4	700	400
Grocery Stores	6.7	6.6	6.5	100	200
Health & Personal Care Stores	5.6	5.5	5.7	100	-100
General Merchandise Stores	9.9	9.6	9.9	300	0
Department Stores	4.0	3.9	4.2	100	-200
* Transportation, Warehousing & Utilities	11.7	10.7	11.4	1,000	300
Transportation & Warehousing	10.6	9.6	10.2	1,000	400
Information	10.8	10.6	11.0	200	-200
Publishing	3.4	3.2	3.3	200	100
** Financial Activities (including Real Estate)	33.5	33.6	33.3	-100	200
Finance & Insurance	27.0	27.1	27.0	-100	0
Credit Intermediation & Related Activities	13.2	13.3	12.4	-100	800
Insurance Carriers & Related Activities	10.3	10.3	10.9	0	-600
Professional & Business Services	49.5	49.1	49.7	400	-200
Professional & Technical Services	19.3	19.3	19.1	0	200
Administrative & Waste Services	22.4	22.0	23.0	400	-600
Educational Services	21.3	21.8	22.5	-500	-1,200
Colleges & Universities	13.6	14.1	15.7	-500	-2,100
Health Care & Social Assistance	71.7	71.8	70.3	-100	1,400
Ambulatory Health Care Services	21.0	21.0	20.2	0	800
Hospitals	22.5	22.5	22.3	0	200
Nursing & Residential Care Facilities	17.8	17.9	17.7	-100	100
Social Assistance	10.4	10.4	10.1	0	300
Arts, Entertainment & Recreation	7.6	6.7	7.9	900	-300
Accommodation & Food Services	44.0	41.7	42.6	2,300	1,400
Accommodation	4.4	3.9	4.3	500	100
Food Services & Drinking Places	39.6	37.8	38.3	1,800	1,300
Other Services	23.5	23.2	22.9	300	600
Government	68.1	67.4	67.5	700	600
Federal Government	9.9	10.0	10.1	-100	-200
State Government	17.7	17.6	18.0	100	-300
Local Government	40.5	39.8	39.4	700	1,100
Local Education	27.0	26.5	26.3	500	700
Local Non-Ed	13.5	13.3	13.1	200	400

\* Utilities are not broken out separately

\*\* Real Estate & Rentals is not broken out separately

Some subcategories are not additive.

Current month figures are preliminary and subject to revision.

## Rhode Island's Unemployment Rate Inches Down in May

(Continued from Page 1)

The more detailed unadjusted estimates increased by 6,800 (1.4%) over the month. The May job count stood at 491,700 (unadjusted). Employment gains were noted in Accommodation & Food Services (+2,300); Transportation, Warehousing & Utilities (+1,000); Arts, Entertainment & Recreation (+900), Retail Trade (+700); Government (+700); Construction (+500); Manufacturing (+500); and Administrative & Waste Services (+400). Losses were reported in Educational Services (-500); Financial Activities (-100); and Health Care & Social Assistance (-100).

The over-the-month increases in Accommodation & Food Services; Transportation, Warehousing & Utilities; and Local Education reflect a rebound from the April school vacation. School bus drivers, school lunch workers, and substitute teachers, who were out of work during the vacation period last month, returned to work this month. Manufacturing gains were due to increased employment by both Durable Goods and Non-Durable Goods employers. Construction gains were less than expected due to the winding down of some ongoing construction projects in the state. The employment decline in Educational Services is reflective of the end of the college term.

Over the year, employment was up 3,200 (+0.7%) from the 488,500 jobs (revised) reported in May 2003, bringing the May job count to 491,700 (unadjusted), the highest May job count on record. The largest over-the-year gains were noted in Health Care & Social Assistance (+1,400); Accommodation & Food Services (+1,400); and Construction (+1,300). Government employment increased by 600 over the year, as job gains on the Local level (+1,100) overshadowed losses in the Federal (-200) and State (-300) segments. The largest employment losses occurred in Educational Services (-1,200); Manufacturing (-600); Administrative & Waste Services (-600); and Wholesale Trade (-500).

## Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers

				% Change
	May 04	Apr 04	May 03	Prev. Year
All Items	189.1	188.0	183.5	3.1%

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

## Best Paying Jobs in Rhode Island

Eight occupations in Rhode Island had annual median earnings above \$100,000 in 2003 according to the Department of Labor and Training's latest Occupational Employment Statistics survey. In comparison with other states, thirty-seven of the fifty highest paying jobs in Rhode Island earn wages above the national average with thirty occupations earning wages greater than those earned in Massachusetts and twenty-three earning wages greater than the Connecticut wages.

Among the best paying jobs in Rhode Island are Dentists, General Practitioners, Surgeons and CEO's, all of which earn wages (annual median) in excess of \$145,600. Psychiatrists, Pediatricians, Internists and Podiatrists earn wages in excess of \$100,000 per year. The median wages for six of the top eight paying jobs in Rhode Island either equal or exceed the national average as well as the wages earned by those employed in the same occupations in Massachusetts and Connecticut. While the median wage earned by Pediatricians and Internists in Rhode Island exceeds the Connecticut median, the median wage for these specialties is higher in Massachusetts and nationally.

The label page accompanying the June Employment Bulletin provides a list of the best paying jobs in Rhode Island and the corresponding median salary rates for neighboring states.

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

	Employment					Production Worker Averages					
	(in thousands)			Net Change From:		Weekly Hours			Hourly Earnings		
	May 04	Apr 04	May 03	Apr 04	May 03	May 04	Apr 04	May 03	May 04	Apr 04	May 03
<b>Manufacturing</b>	58.5	58.0	59.1	500	-600	39.1	39.2	39.6	13.05	13.00	12.87
<b>Durable Goods</b>	37.5	37.3	38.6	200	-1100	39.0	38.7	38.7	13.06	13.00	12.86
Fabricated Metal Product Mfg.	7.7	7.6	8.2	100	-500	39.3	38.4	38.3	11.69	11.65	11.48
Computer & Electronic Product Mfg.	5.0	5.1	5.1	-100	-100	37.5	36.6	39.7	13.75	13.72	13.61
Transportation Equipment Mfg.	3.9	3.8	3.6	100	300	40.2	39.8	41.3	15.47	15.50	15.43
Miscellaneous Manufacturing	11.0	11.0	11.3	0	-300	37.4	37.2	36.9	10.82	10.78	10.47
Jewelry and Silverware	7.8	7.8	7.9	0	-100	38.0	38.0	36.6	10.17	10.13	9.89
<b>Non-Durable Goods</b>	21.0	20.7	20.5	300	500	39.3	40.0	41.2	13.04	13.00	12.88
Chemical Manufacturing	4.1	4.1	3.9	0	200	39.6	39.3	40.5	15.35	15.33	15.56
Plastics & Rubber Products Mfg.	3.2	3.1	3.0	100	200	40.9	40.2	38.6	14.66	14.61	14.60

## Best Paying Jobs In Rhode Island and Corresponding Annual Salary for Area States

Occupation	RI Median	CT Median	MA Median	US Median
Chief Executive Officers (CEO)	\$145,600+	\$145,600+	\$145,600+	\$134,740
Dentists	\$145,600+	\$110,880	\$116,000	\$120,330
Family And General Practitioners	\$145,600+	\$142,490	\$145,600+	\$133,340
Surgeons	\$145,600+	\$145,600+	\$145,600+	\$145,600+
Psychiatrists	\$138,930	\$138,590	\$ 134,610	\$133,970
Pediatricians, General	\$123,670	\$115,180	\$ 145,380	\$134,170
Internists, General	\$121,960	\$114,800	\$ 135,470	\$145,600+
Podiatrists	\$115,250	\$ 94,010	\$ 95,540	\$ 94,060
Optometrists	\$ 97,560	\$ 80,460	\$ 82,060	\$ 85,430
Engineering Managers	\$ 94,470	\$ 98,250	\$ 106,310	\$ 94,470
Sales Managers	\$ 94,180	\$100,770	\$ 91,680	\$ 80,470
Computer And Information Systems Managers	\$ 91,110	\$103,240	\$ 95,090	\$ 89,740
Financial Managers	\$ 87,490	\$ 97,290	\$ 81,740	\$ 77,300
Physicists	\$ 86,300	\$125,410	\$ 102,190	\$ 85,630
Education Administrators, Elementary & Secondary	\$ 82,070	\$ 93,720	\$ 78,760	\$ 73,490
Economics Teachers, Postsecondary	\$ 82,030	\$ 79,400	\$ 68,610	\$ 64,950
Electronics Engineers, Except Computer	\$ 81,430	\$ 74,900	\$ 78,040	\$ 71,370
General And Operations Managers	\$ 81,050	\$108,670	\$ 82,190	\$ 72,800
Construction Managers	\$ 79,580	\$ 75,640	\$ 71,430	\$ 66,470
Chemical Engineers	\$ 79,260	\$ 76,070	\$ 74,700	\$ 73,750
Natural Sciences Managers	\$ 79,070	\$118,130	\$ 112,840	\$ 85,860
Public Relations Managers	\$ 79,020	\$ 82,640	\$ 61,240	\$ 64,820
Computer And Information Scientists, Research	\$ 78,430	\$ 87,450	\$ 93,150	\$ 81,600
Pharmacists	\$ 78,400	\$ 82,030	\$ 78,140	\$ 80,530
Industrial Production Managers	\$ 78,110	\$ 84,800	\$ 75,220	\$ 70,510
Loan Officers	\$ 77,300	\$ 63,500	\$ 60,790	\$ 46,640
Engineering Teachers, Postsecondary	\$ 76,350	\$ 76,350	\$ 75,370	\$ 69,700
Physics Teachers, Postsecondary	\$ 76,310	\$ 75,400	\$ 71,770	\$ 62,880
Purchasing Managers	\$ 76,090	\$ 76,780	\$ 70,930	\$ 64,930
Lawyers	\$ 75,030	\$ 93,270	\$ 89,690	\$ 91,490
Administrative Services Managers	\$ 74,860	\$ 72,340	\$ 60,060	\$ 56,940
Political Science Teachers, Postsecondary	\$ 74,120	\$ 70,030	\$ 64,830	\$ 57,340
Sociology Teachers, Postsecondary	\$ 73,220	\$ 57,560	\$ 58,260	\$ 52,770
Computer Software Engineers, Applications	\$ 72,110	\$ 71,150	\$ 83,420	\$ 72,530
Veterinarians	\$ 71,570	\$ 69,520	\$ 60,100	\$ 64,750
Marketing Managers	\$ 71,490	\$ 99,910	\$ 97,980	\$ 83,210
Transportation, Storage, And Distribution Managers	\$ 71,440	\$ 75,970	\$ 60,810	\$ 63,590
Computer Software Engineers, Systems Software	\$ 70,500	\$ 71,290	\$ 83,110	\$ 76,240
Medical And Health Services Managers	\$ 70,370	\$ 77,550	\$ 66,350	\$ 64,550
Physician Assistants	\$ 69,680	\$ 73,190	\$ 64,070	\$ 65,670
History Teachers, Postsecondary	\$ 69,010	\$ 64,450	\$ 60,520	\$ 52,180
Mechanical Engineers	\$ 68,240	\$ 65,270	\$ 70,890	\$ 63,910
Human Resources Managers	\$ 68,220	\$ 84,110	\$ 73,570	\$ 68,800
Chemistry Teachers, Postsecondary	\$ 67,830	\$ 67,860	\$ 62,770	\$ 55,420
Business Teachers, Postsecondary	\$ 67,630	\$ 67,050	\$ 75,760	\$ 55,510
Chiropractors	\$ 67,480	\$ 76,530	\$ 63,870	\$ 65,990
Computer Hardware Engineers	\$ 67,330	\$ 74,850	\$ 83,120	\$ 75,980
Management Analysts	\$ 66,350	\$ 68,810	\$ 78,720	\$ 62,580
Philosophy And Religion Teachers, Postsecondary	\$ 65,850	\$ 56,350	\$ 54,580	\$ 48,630
Foreign Language Teachers, Postsecondary	\$ 65,520	\$ 50,620	\$ 50,180	\$ 46,780