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Employment Bulletin

Rhode Island
Department of
Labor & Training

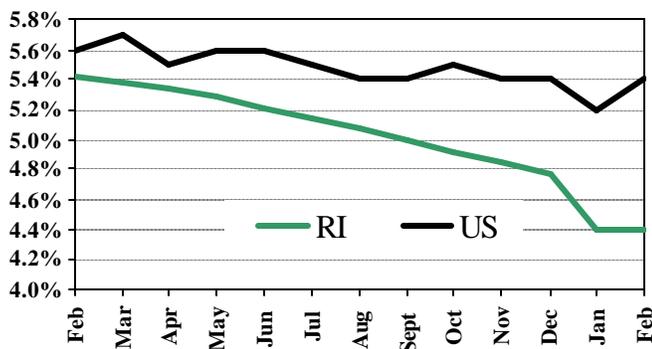
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www.dlt.ri.gov/lmi

Rhode Island's Unemployment Rate Holds Steady in February

Rhode Island's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate for February was 4.4 percent, unchanged from January. The number of employed Rhode Island residents climbed by 3,000 over the month, while the number of unemployed edged up slightly to 24,800 in February. A year ago, the unemployment rate was 5.4 percent, and the number of unemployed stood at 30,500. Nationally, the unemployment rate rose to 5.4 percent in February from 5.2 percent in January. Rhode Island's unemployment rate has remained below the national average since August 2001.

RI & US Unemployment Rates
Seasonally Adjusted 2004 - 2005



"Rhode Island's labor market continued to move in a positive direction as the labor force, fueled by an increase in the number of employed residents, grew for the first time since July," said DLT Director Adelita S. Orefice. "We're also happy to report that momentum continued to build on the jobs front as businesses added jobs for the fifth straight month."

Women's Earnings in the Ocean State, 2003

According to the Current Population Survey (CPS), Rhode Island women earned 80.0 percent of their male counterparts in 2003. This was the second highest earnings ratio in New England and the fourteenth highest earnings ratio in the United States. Regionally, Vermont (82.4%) reported the smallest earnings differential between women and men, followed by Rhode Island (80.0%), Massachusetts (78.0%), Maine (76.9%), Connecticut (74.1%), and New Hampshire (72.1%). Throughout the U.S., female-to-male earnings ratios ranged from a high of 87.7 percent in Georgia to just 65.3 percent in Wyoming. Nationwide, women earned 79.5 percent of what men did in 2003, slightly below the Rhode Island ratio.

During the past several years, the earnings gap between Ocean State men and women has shrunk. In 1998, the female-to-male earnings ratio stood at 71.2 percent. One year later, women in Rhode Island earned 76.5 percent of what men did. It remained around that level until 2002, when the ratio increased to 78.7 percent. During this period, Rhode Island women experienced a much faster growth in median weekly earnings (full-time wage and salary workers) than men did. In 1998, females earned \$455 weekly compared to \$638 earned by males. By 2003, women's median weekly earnings had increased 27.3 percent (+\$124), to \$579. In contrast, Ocean State males experienced just a 13.3 percent (+\$85) increase in median weekly earnings between 1998 and 2003.

For more information, visit the LMI web site at:
www.dlt.ri.gov/lmi/publications/womenearn.htm

Seasonally Adjusted Labor Force Statistics

(in thousands)

	Rhode Island			United States		
	Feb 05	Jan 05	Feb 04	Feb 05	Jan 05	Feb 04
Civilian Labor Force	561.7	558.5	561.9	148,132	147,979	146,529
Resident Employment	536.9	533.9	531.4	140,144	140,241	138,334
Unemployment	24.8	24.6	30.5	7,988	7,737	8,195
Unemployment Rate	4.4%	4.4%	5.4%	5.4%	5.2%	5.6%

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Rhode Island Job Highlights

Rhode Island businesses added 800 (+0.2%) jobs last month, bringing the February job count to 491,900 (seasonally adjusted). Over-the-month employment gains in Educational & Health Services (+500); Professional & Business Services (+400); Construction (+200); Financial Activities (+200) and Government (+100) offset job losses reported in Trade, Transportation & Utilities (-300) and Leisure & Hospitality (-100). Manufacturing employment remained unchanged over the month.

February's gain of 800 jobs marks the fifth consecutive month of employment increases. Private sector employment showed continued growth, as Professional & Business Services, Educational & Health Services and Financial Activities each reported successive monthly job gains of five months, four months and three months, respectively. Manufacturing employment remained stable in February following three months of job declines. Trade, Transportation & Utilities was the only sector to record a continued monthly decline, losing jobs in each of the last four months.

Establishment Employment in Rhode Island Seasonally Adjusted

	Employment (in thousands)		Net Change
	Feb 05	Jan 05	
Total Nonfarm	491.9	491.1	0.8
Construction	21.0	20.8	0.2
Manufacturing	56.3	56.3	0.0
Trade, Transportation & Utilities	78.6	78.9	-0.3
Financial Activities	35.2	35.0	0.2
Professional & Business Services	55.3	54.9	0.4
Educational & Health Services	94.7	94.2	0.5
Leisure and Hospitality	50.7	50.8	-0.1
Government	65.7	65.6	0.1

Over the year, employment was up 4,900 (+1.0%) from the 487,000 jobs reported in February 2004. The largest gains were noted in Professional & Business Services (+2,600); Educational & Health Services (+2,600); Leisure & Hospitality (+1,300) and Financial Activities (+1,200). The largest private sector employment losses occurred in Trade, Transportation & Utilities (-2,300) and Manufacturing (-800). Government employment increased by 100.

Hours and Earnings

In February 2005, the \$13.01 average hourly wage earned by the Manufacturing sector's production workers represented a yearly gain of four cents, but a monthly loss of four cents per hour. Manufacturing employees worked an average of 37.9 hours per week in February, unchanged over the month, but down 1.4 hours from last year.

Manufacturing Employment in Rhode Island Not Seasonally Adjusted

	Employment					Production Worker Averages					
	(in thousands)			Net Change From:		Weekly Hours			Hourly Earnings		
	Feb 05	Jan 05	Feb 04	Jan 05	Feb 04	Feb 05	Jan 05	Feb 04	Feb 05	Jan 05	Feb 04
Manufacturing	56.1	56.0	56.8	100	-700	37.9	37.9	39.3	13.01	13.05	12.97
Durable Goods	37.0	36.8	37.5	200	-500	38.8	38.3	38.8	13.00	13.07	12.96
Fabricated Metal Product Mfg.	7.8	7.7	7.9	100	-100	37.5	36.9	39.5	11.76	11.72	11.59
Computer & Electronic Product Mfg.	5.1	5.1	5.4	0	-300	39.5	38.8	36.7	14.00	14.04	13.82
Miscellaneous Manufacturing	10.5	10.4	10.9	100	-400	38.5	37.6	37.6	10.91	10.98	10.74
Jewelry and Silverware	7.6	7.5	7.8	100	-200	37.5	36.5	38.3	10.23	10.30	10.06
Non-Durable Goods	19.1	19.2	19.3	-100	-200	36.3	37.2	40.3	13.04	13.01	13.00
Chemical Manufacturing	4.1	4.2	4.2	-100	-100	40.0	41.0	40.1	15.30	15.36	15.40
Plastics & Rubber Products Mfg.	3.1	3.1	3.1	0	0	38.6	39.6	42.1	14.65	14.59	14.71

The employment figures in the "Rhode Island Job Highlights" section are derived from a survey of businesses in Rhode Island and measure the number of jobs in the state. With the release of the January data, the seasonally adjusted jobs figures for 2000-2004 reflect changes due to the annual benchmark revision process. Current month's figures are preliminary and subject to change.

Characteristics of the Insured Unemployed

In February 2005, over 70 percent of Rhode Island's unemployed workers were eligible to collect unemployment insurance benefits. Numbering 17,580 people, these "insured unemployed" accounted for 3.6 percent of the state's establishment employment total. More than 17 percent (3,099) of the Ocean State's insured unemployed faced long-term unemployment, defined as collecting unemployment benefits for more than fourteen weeks.

Just over 27 percent (4,789) of the people receiving unemployment insurance benefits were between the ages of 35 and 44, while an additional 23 percent (4,105) were 25 to 34 years old. Concentrations of long-term unemployment increased with age, due in part to the difficulties workers face in finding new jobs as they grow older. For example, nearly 31 percent (207) of insured unemployed workers 65 years and older had been collecting benefits for at least fourteen weeks, whereas 11 percent (72) of those under 22 and 14 percent (157) of 22 to 24 year olds were considered long-term unemployed.

In February, roughly 48 percent (8,474) of those collecting unemployment insurance benefits had just a high school diploma. An additional 3,204 people (18.2%) had less than a high school diploma, while 14.5 percent (2,556) of the insured unemployed had at least a bachelor's degree. The highest concentrations of long-term unemployment were noted among people with college educations. Roughly eight out of every ten insured unemployed workers with education beyond the bachelor's degree level had been collecting benefits for a minimum of fourteen weeks.

On an industry basis, 22.9 percent (4,023) of the state's insured unemployed workers came from the Construction sector, partially attributable to the continued cold weather experienced throughout February. There were also 2,408 individuals with an attachment to the Manufacturing sector, accounting for 13.7 percent of the statewide total. An additional 13.2 percent (2,329) of those collecting unemployment insurance benefits had worked in the Administrative & Waste Services sector. Large numbers of insured unemployed were also reported in the Accommodation & Food Services (1,532) and Retail Trade (1,417) sectors.

More than 12 percent of the state's insured unemployed previously worked in Construction & Extraction occupations, accounting for 2,219 people. A large number of workers previously employed in Office & Administrative Support occupations also collected unemployment insurance benefits. Of these 1,941 people, 28.4 percent faced long-term unemployment. Other occupational groups reporting a high number of insured unemployed workers included Production (1,498), Building & Grounds Cleaning & Maintenance (1,423), and Transportation & Material Moving (1,401). Numerous occupational groups, including Computer & Mathematical (40.7%), Protective Service (39.8%), Life, Physical & Social Science (36.2%), and Healthcare Practitioner & Technical (35.2%), reported concentrations of long-term unemployment above the state average.

Characteristics of the Insured Unemployed - February 2005

	<i>Total</i>	<i>Long-Term</i>	<i>Percent Long-Term</i>
Total	17,580	3,099	17.6%
Male	11,595	1,552	13.4%
Female	5,985	1,547	25.8%
Age	17,580	3,099	17.6%
Under 22	663	72	10.9%
22 - 24	1,146	157	13.7%
25 - 34	4,105	690	16.8%
35 - 44	4,789	806	16.8%
45 - 54	3,955	696	17.6%
55 - 59	1,385	270	19.5%
60 - 64	862	201	23.3%
65 or over	675	207	30.7%
Education	17,580	3,099	17.6%
Less than 9th Grade	1,030	137	13.3%
9th to 12th, no diploma	2,174	47	2.2%
High School Graduate	8,474	294	3.5%
Some College	2,913	443	15.2%
Bachelor's Degree	1,784	1,354	75.9%
Beyond Bachelor's	772	636	82.4%
Selected Industries	17,580	3,099	17.6%
Construction	4,023	187	4.6%
Manufacturing	2,408	606	25.2%
Wholesale Trade	585	136	23.2%
Retail Trade	1,417	361	25.5%
Transportation & Warehousing	381	59	15.5%
Information	183	75	41.0%
Finance & Insurance	768	319	41.5%
Real Estate	276	75	27.2%
Professional & Tech. Services	525	98	18.7%
Administrative & Waste Services	2,329	232	10.0%
Educational Services	114	47	41.2%
Health Care & Social Assistance	879	314	35.7%
Arts, Entertainment & Recreation	704	58	8.2%
Accommodation & Food Services	1,532	269	17.6%
Other Services	430	119	27.7%
Public Administration	120	37	30.8%
Selected Occupations	17,580	3,099	17.6%
Business & Financial Operations	383	130	33.9%
Computer & Mathematical	135	55	40.7%
Architecture & Engineering	274	63	23.0%
Life, Physical & Social Science	69	25	36.2%
Community & Social Services	94	33	35.1%
Legal	46	10	21.7%
Education, Training & Library	182	57	31.3%
Arts, Design, Ent., Sports & Media	260	65	25.0%
Healthcare Practitioner & Technical	182	64	35.2%
Healthcare Support	191	63	33.0%
Protective Service	108	43	39.8%
Food Preparation & Serving Related	1,109	187	16.9%
Bldg. & Grounds Cleaning & Maint.	1,423	94	6.6%
Personal Care & Service	144	41	28.5%
Sales & Related	892	243	27.2%
Office & Administrative Support	1,941	551	28.4%
Construction & Extraction	2,219	101	4.6%
Installation, Maintenance & Repair	606	110	18.2%
Production	1,498	308	20.6%
Transportation & Material Moving	1,401	192	13.7%

Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers

				% Change
	Feb 05	Jan 05	Feb 04	Prev. Year
All Items	191.8	190.7	186.2	3.0%

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

City & Town Employment Analysis

Total employment increased in Rhode Island by 3,597 (+0.8%) jobs in the third quarter of 2004 when compared to the third quarter of 2003. Out of the state's thirty-nine cities and towns, twenty-eight reported job growth, while eleven communities suffered job losses. Smithfield added the most jobs, while East Providence experienced the largest employment drop. Wages were up in thirty-six municipalities with the average weekly wage increasing by \$27 to \$675 a week, a 4.2 percent increase during this period.

The Town of Smithfield added 757 (+6.9%) jobs, the most of any community in the third quarter 2004 when compared to the third quarter 2003. The Finance & Insurance (+322) and Retail Trade (+120) sectors experienced the largest job growth while, thirteen other sectors posted minimal gains. Only four of the town's nineteen industry sectors reported slight job declines. Manufacturing reported a decline of 26 positions during this period.

Employment in Johnston increased by 521 (+4.9%) positions, the second largest increase from the third quarter 2003. Administrative & Waste Services (+379) accounted for the biggest employment gain, followed by Retail Trade (+184) and Accommodation & Food Services (+115). West Greenwich employment increased by 13.7%, the largest gain on a percentage basis, with employment increases noted in the Management of Companies & Enterprises (+282) and Administrative & Waste Services (+208) sectors.

East Providence lost the most jobs during this period, with employment dropping by 792 positions. Health Care & Social Services reported a loss of 336 jobs, followed by Wholesale Trade (-261) and Professional, Scientific and Technical Services (-227). Cranston lost 321 positions between third quarter 2003 and third quarter 2004 with Retail Trade losing 607 jobs.

Providence employment declined by 234 (-0.2%) positions between the third quarter 2003 and the third quarter 2004. Large job losses were reported in the Finance & Insurance (-819), Construction (-464) and Information (-415) sectors. On a positive note, employment was up 969 (+12.6%) in the Administrative & Waste Services sector, and Health Care & Social Services, the largest employment sector in the capital city, added 448 jobs. For more information, please see attached label page.

City & Town Unadjusted Unemployment Rates for February

	2005	2004		2005	2004
Barrington	3.1	3.7	Newport	6.1	6.7
Bristol	4.9	5.9	North Kingstown	4.5	4.8
Burrillville	5.3	5.6	North Providence	4.7	5.7
Central Falls	7.3	8.7	North Smithfield	4.6	5.4
Charlestown	5.4	6.5	Pawtucket	6.2	7.4
Coventry	5.1	5.4	Portsmouth	4.4	5.0
Cranston	5.0	5.7	Providence	5.8	6.8
Cumberland	5.0	5.7	Richmond	3.5	4.3
East Greenwich	4.5	5.3	Scituate	5.5	6.4
East Providence	5.7	6.5	Smithfield	4.5	5.2
Exeter	5.0	6.2	South Kingstown	4.8	5.6
Foster	6.5	7.3	Tiverton	6.5	7.0
Glocester	4.4	5.0	Warren	5.7	6.4
Hopkinton	5.5	6.0	Warwick	4.7	5.2
Jamestown	4.3	5.0	West Greenwich	5.2	5.4
Johnston	5.9	6.8	West Warwick	6.3	6.8
Lincoln	4.4	5.4	Westerly	5.0	5.8
Little Compton	5.4	5.7	Woonsocket	5.9	7.0
Middletown	5.5	5.8			
Narragansett	3.7	4.6	State of R.I.	5.3	6.1
New Shoreham	12.9	14.8	United States	5.8	6.0

Unemployment Insurance Claims Activity

	Feb	Jan	Feb	% Change		Year to Date		
	2005	2005	2004	Jan 05	Feb 04	2005	2004	% Change
Initial Claims	7,634	9,790	7,669	-22.0%	-0.5%	17,424	18,359	-5.1%
Number of Payments	66,697	70,791	69,763	-5.8%	-4.4%	137,488	135,932	1.1%
Amount of Payments (gross millions)	\$22.3	\$23.3	\$22.1	-4.3%	0.9%	\$45.6	\$42.6	7.0%
Exhaustions (Final Payments)	1,166	1,515	1,333	-23.0%	-12.5%	2,681	2,742	-2.2%
E.S. Fund Balance (millions)	\$155.3	\$162.4	\$179.2	-4.4%	-13.3%			

(label page)

Rhode Island Department of Labor & Training
Quarterly Census of Employment & Wages - Private Sector
RI City and Town - Third Quarter 2004

<u>Municipality</u>	<u>Establishments</u>	<u>Average Employment</u>	<u>Total Wages</u>	<u>Average Weekly Wage</u>
Rhode Island total:	34,519	418,711	\$3,674,505,432	\$675
Barrington	445	2,350	\$15,558,227	\$509
Bristol	575	6,549	\$47,098,251	\$553
Burrillville	290	2,375	\$16,416,972	\$532
Central Falls	258	2,576	\$17,813,795	\$532
Charlestown	237	1,618	\$12,433,307	\$591
Coventry	697	6,388	\$45,020,380	\$542
Cranston	2,459	29,789	\$241,382,196	\$623
Cumberland	808	7,511	\$57,569,929	\$590
East Greenwich	700	6,768	\$60,344,629	\$686
East Providence	1,468	20,162	\$180,303,143	\$688
Exeter	151	977	\$6,457,455	\$508
Foster	97	391	\$2,062,605	\$406
Glocester	188	1,109	\$6,967,255	\$483
Hopkinton	184	1,241	\$8,758,925	\$543
Jamestown	190	1,059	\$7,680,207	\$558
Johnston	1,080	11,116	\$100,054,111	\$692
Lincoln	725	12,422	\$116,761,644	\$723
Little Compton	122	633	\$3,672,336	\$446
Middletown	724	10,454	\$88,610,397	\$652
Narragansett	474	4,010	\$23,398,054	\$449
New Shoreham	189	1,378	\$9,689,174	\$541
Newport	1,243	14,137	\$101,529,134	\$552
North Kingstown	974	12,234	\$110,663,149	\$696
North Providence	751	7,853	\$56,573,395	\$554
North Smithfield	352	3,841	\$29,555,161	\$592
Pawtucket	1,563	26,033	\$220,619,625	\$652
Portsmouth	484	5,384	\$58,938,011	\$842
Providence	5,582	96,616	\$989,808,503	\$788
Richmond	144	1,407	\$9,405,745	\$514
Scituate	248	1,190	\$7,816,614	\$505
Smithfield	766	11,653	\$106,139,836	\$701
South Kingstown	985	9,343	\$76,348,426	\$629
Tiverton	384	2,215	\$15,413,450	\$535
Warren	364	4,202	\$30,744,089	\$563
Warwick	3,297	47,652	\$387,059,769	\$625
West Greenwich	195	3,964	\$62,162,477	\$1,206
West Warwick	618	8,469	\$70,176,041	\$637
Westerly	839	10,112	\$71,732,642	\$546
Woonsocket	873	13,254	\$109,795,753	\$637
Statewide *	2,796	8,273	\$91,970,620	\$855

* Statewide - employment in multiple towns, at unknown locations, or outside RI.

Data compiled March 14, 2005 at the RI DLT Labor Market Information office.

The data is subject to revisions & variations in sequences of rounding & averaging.