



# Employment Labor Market Information Bulletin

Volume 13, No. 5

May 2001

## Rhode Island's Unemployment Rate Rises to 4.4 Percent

### The Unemployment Rate

Following the national trend, Rhode Island's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate increased from March to April. The unemployment rate rose to 4.4 percent in April, up 0.4 of a percentage point from March. This is the highest unemployment rate since February 2000. A year ago, the State unemployment rate stood at 4.2 percent. The number of unemployed Rhode Islanders increased by 2,200 in April. Nationally, the unemployment rate for April rose 0.2 of a percentage point to 4.5 percent, the highest level since October 1998. Rhode Island's unemployment rate remained below the comparable national average for the seventh straight month. The number of unemployed residents was up 1,400 from April 2000 to April 2001.

"The upward trend in the unemployment rate over the last two months indicates that the Rhode Island labor market is slowing down," said DLT Director Dr. Lee H. Arnold. "While the number of jobs at Rhode Island businesses is still growing, it is at a slower pace than we experienced last year."

### Rhode Island Job Highlights (Over the Year, Unadjusted Figures)

Since April 2000, the number of jobs in Rhode Island increased by 4,300 (0.9%) to 478,600. Services and Trade reported the most substantial job gains, adding 2,700 and 2,100 jobs, respectively. Employment in the Health Services industry grew by 1,400 over the year, accounting for more than half of the increase reported in the Services sector. Most of the industry components in the Trade sector experienced over-the-year job growth with the exception of General Merchandise (-200) and Building & Garden Supply Stores (no change). Within the Retail Trade sector, Restaurants (+500) reported the largest job increase. Contract Construction payrolls were up by 600 jobs, due mostly to hiring in Special Trade Construction. Government employment posted a small increase of 100. A gain in public education employment offset a drop in Federal Government jobs. Transportation & Public Utilities added 100 jobs over the year, while Finance, Insurance & Real Estate declined by 100. Employment in the factory sector registered a net drop of 1,200, with the largest reductions in Textiles (-500), Fabricated Metals (-400), and Jewelry-Silverware (-400). (Continued on page 4)

## Governor's Youth Opportunities Program

The Governor's Youth Opportunities Program has been designed to help Rhode Island youth obtain meaningful summer employment. Our objective is two-fold: to provide local businesses with needed summer help and to provide valuable work experience for deserving youth.

netWORKri, our state's system of One-Stop employment centers will coordinate this effort in two ways: we will work with community groups to assist in recruiting young people for summer employment opportunities and we will begin accepting summer job orders immediately from employers. Those job orders may be listed directly by calling 1-888-616-JOBS.

Let us remember, these young men and women are Rhode Island's future. Working together, we really can make a difference. Thank you for your cooperation and concern.

## Career Resource Network

The Career Resource Network (CRN), a program of the Labor Market Information Unit, supports career planning by providing relevant tools and information for use with youth and adults. The Career Resource Network works closely with colleges and universities, elementary and secondary schools, state agencies, community agencies, and others in pursuit of its goals.

The web site of the CRN has been extensively revised and expanded. It now includes brief descriptions of products and services available through the CRN, announcements of upcoming training, and directions on how to obtain additional information from the CRN. Links access web sites of providers of products such as Choices and The Real Game. The CRN site can be accessed through the Labor Market Information web site at:

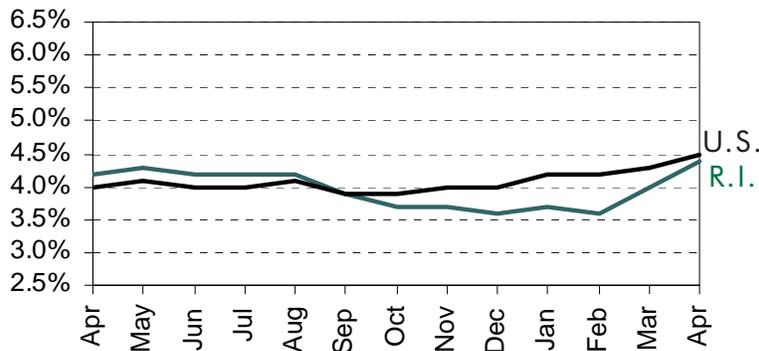
## Rhode Island Labor Force Statistics\* (in thousands)

	Unadjusted			Seasonally Adjusted		
	Apr 01	Mar 01	Apr 00	Apr 01	Mar 01	Apr 00
Civilian Labor Force	506.5	507.3	498.8	514.3	511.5	506.4
Resident Employment	486.7	485.6	480.3	491.7	491.0	485.1
Unemployment	19.8	21.7	18.5	22.7	20.5	21.3
Unemployment Rate	3.9%	4.3%	3.7%	4.4%	4.0%	4.2%

## United States Labor Force Statistics (in thousands)

	Unadjusted			Seasonally Adjusted		
	Apr 01	Mar 01	Apr 00	Apr 01	Mar 01	Apr 00
Civilian Labor Force	141,073	141,751	140,403	141,757	141,868	141,114
Resident Employment	135,122	135,298	135,215	135,354	135,780	135,517
Unemployment	5,951	6,453	5,188	6,402	6,088	5,597
Unemployment Rate	4.2%	4.6%	3.7%	4.5%	4.3%	4.0%

## Rhode Island & United States Unemployment Rates Seasonally Adjusted 2000-2001



## City & Town Unadjusted Unemployment Rates

	Apr 01	Apr 00
Barrington	2.0	2.1
Bristol	3.1	2.9
Burrillville	3.9	3.7
Central Falls	8.3	5.3
Charlestown	4.6	4.5
Coventry	3.3	3.2
Cranston	3.6	3.8
Cumberland	3.7	3.0
East Greenwich	3.9	3.0
East Providence	4.4	4.6
Exeter	2.7	2.9
Foster	3.8	3.5
Glocester	2.8	3.2
Hopkinton	2.4	2.5
Jamestown	3.2	3.0
Johnston	4.4	4.3
Lincoln	3.4	3.4
Little Compton	2.5	2.7
Middletown	2.9	3.2
Narragansett	2.0	2.3
New Shoreham	12.9	13.1
Newport	3.9	3.8
North Kingstown	2.8	2.8
North Providence	3.5	3.6
North Smithfield	2.7	2.7
Pawtucket	5.3	4.6
Portsmouth	2.6	2.7
Providence	5.5	4.9
Richmond	1.5	1.4
Scituate	3.4	3.6
Smithfield	2.8	3.9
South Kingstown	2.5	2.7
Tiverton	4.0	3.5
Warren	3.2	3.9
Warwick	3.1	3.2
West Greenwich	3.3	2.9
West Warwick	4.1	3.8
Westerly	2.8	2.9
Woonsocket	4.6	3.8
State of R.I.	3.9	3.7

## Unemployment Insurance Claims Activity

	Apr	Mar	Apr	% Change		Year to Date		
	2001	2001	2000	Mar 01	Apr 00	2001	2000	% Change
Initial Claims	8,373	7,366	7,201	13.7%	16.3%	35,569	32,220	10.4%
Number of Payments	53,968	57,454	44,033	-6.1%	22.6%	234,353	227,209	3.1%
Amount of Payments (gross millions)	\$14.9	\$16.4	\$10.7	-9.2%	38.5%	\$65.9	\$56.5	16.7%
Exhaustions (Final Payments)	1,266	1,049	1,167	20.7%	8.5%	4,330	4,358	-0.6%
E.S. Fund Balance (millions)	\$259.6	\$263.0	\$235.8	-1.3%	10.1%			

\*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](http://www.dlt.state.ri.us/lmi)

## Statistical & Fiscal Digest

The latest edition of the Statistical and Fiscal Digest 2000 is currently available on the LMI web site. The Digest provides a variety of reference data on Unemployment Insurance, Temporary Disability Insurance, Workers' Compensation, Employment and Training Services, and Labor Market Information. To view and print tables from the Digest, go to the LMI web site at:

[www.dlt.state.ri.us/lmi](http://www.dlt.state.ri.us/lmi)

The Digest is listed under LMI Products. The Statistical and Fiscal Digest 2000 will be available in hard copy in June. To reserve a copy please call LMI at (401) 462-8740.



### LMI Contact Information

General Labor Market Information	462-8740
Occupational Employment Statistics	462-8750
Covered Employment & Wages (ES-202)	462-8760
Current Employment Statistics (790)	462-8770
Career Resource Network	462-8790
Marketing/Communications	462-8810
Occupational Safety and Health Statistics	462-8820
LMI Web Address:	<a href="http://www.dlt.state.ri.us/lmi">www.dlt.state.ri.us/lmi</a>

## Total Establishment Employment in Rhode Island\*\*

	Employment (in thousands)			Net Change From	
	Apr 01	Mar 01	Apr 00	Mar 01	Apr 00
<b>TOTAL EMPLOYMENT</b>	<b>478.6</b>	<b>472.2</b>	<b>474.3</b>	<b>6400</b>	<b>4300</b>
<b>GOODS PRODUCING</b>	<b>90.3</b>	<b>88.9</b>	<b>90.9</b>	<b>1400</b>	<b>-600</b>
Contract Construction	18.5	17.2	17.9	1300	600
Manufacturing	71.8	71.7	73.0	100	-1200
<b>SERVICE PRODUCING</b>	<b>388.3</b>	<b>383.3</b>	<b>383.4</b>	<b>5000</b>	<b>4900</b>
Trans. & Public Utilities	16.9	16.7	16.8	200	100
Trade (Wholesale & Retail)	109.2	107.3	107.1	1900	2100
Wholesale	20.9	20.5	20.4	400	500
Durables	13.1	12.7	13.0	400	100
Nondurables	7.8	7.8	7.4	----	400
Retail	88.3	86.8	86.7	1500	1600
Building & Garden Supplies	2.4	2.3	2.4	100	----
General Merchandise	7.4	7.3	7.6	100	-200
Food Stores	16.1	15.9	15.8	200	300
Automotive Dealers	7.6	7.7	7.3	-100	300
Apparel & Accessory Stores	4.7	4.6	4.3	100	400
Furn., Home Furn., & Equip.	3.0	3.1	2.8	-100	200
Eating and Drinking Places	31.4	30.4	30.9	1000	500
Miscellaneous Retail	15.7	15.5	15.5	200	200
Finance, Insurance & Real Estate	30.3	30.4	30.4	-100	-100
Depository Institutions	8.9	8.9	8.9	----	----
Services	166.6	163.7	163.9	2900	2700
Hotels & Other Lodging	3.9	3.6	3.8	300	100
Business Services	28.9	29.1	28.9	-200	----
Auto & Misc. Repair	5.4	5.4	5.2	----	200
Amusement & Recreation	5.8	4.8	5.3	1000	500
Health Services	52.7	52.4	51.3	300	1400
Educational Services	19.7	19.5	19.6	200	100
Social Services	15.9	15.9	15.9	----	----
Government	65.3	65.2	65.2	100	100
Federal	10.4	10.4	11.0	----	-600
State	18.4	18.3	18.3	100	100
Local	36.5	36.5	35.9	----	600
Education	24.1	24.1	23.4	----	700
Non Education	12.4	12.5	12.5	-100	-100

□ 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		
	Apr 01	Mar 01	Apr 00	Mar 01	Apr 00	Apr 01	Mar 01	Apr 00	Apr 01	Mar 01	Apr 00
<b>MANUFACTURING</b>	<b>71.8</b>	<b>71.7</b>	<b>73.0</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>-1200</b>	<b>39.7</b>	<b>40.2</b>	<b>40.5</b>	<b>12.13</b>	<b>12.17</b>	<b>12.17</b>
<b>DURABLE MFG.</b>	<b>47.3</b>	<b>47.2</b>	<b>47.9</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>-600</b>	<b>39.9</b>	<b>40.2</b>	<b>40.1</b>	<b>11.94</b>	<b>11.99</b>	<b>11.97</b>
Lumber/Furniture	2.8	2.9	2.8	-100	----	39.9	41.0	42.1	11.37	11.37	12.08
Stone-Clay-Glass	0.8	0.8	0.9	----	-100	40.5	42.1	42.9	13.89	13.89	13.89
Primary Metals	3.9	3.8	4.1	100	-200	40.0	40.9	40.1	12.81	12.92	12.71
Fabricated Metals	8.3	8.2	8.7	100	-400	38.8	38.8	38.1	11.30	11.29	11.25
Nonelectrical Mach.	4.2	4.3	4.4	-100	-200	40.2	41.0	40.3	13.60	13.61	13.54
Electrical Mach.	6.0	6.0	5.5	----	500	39.3	40.2	42.1	11.53	11.62	11.60
Trans. Equipment	3.6	3.5	3.3	100	300	40.2	41.5	41.6	14.42	14.41	14.42
Instruments	5.4	5.4	5.7	----	-300	39.4	41.0	39.9	12.76	12.76	12.72
Jewelry-Silverware	9.1	9.2	9.5	-100	-400	41.4	39.8	39.8	10.54	10.52	10.46
Miscellaneous Mfg.	3.2	3.1	3.0	100	200	39.0	40.2	39.1	11.64	11.64	11.64
<b>NONDURABLE MFG.</b>	<b>24.5</b>	<b>24.5</b>	<b>25.1</b>	<b>----</b>	<b>-600</b>	<b>39.2</b>	<b>40.0</b>	<b>41.2</b>	<b>12.52</b>	<b>12.52</b>	<b>12.54</b>
Food Beverage	2.8	2.9	2.6	-100	200	40.8	41.0	42.2	11.42	11.37	11.49
Textiles	6.1	6.1	6.6	----	-500	39.4	40.9	40.2	10.66	10.88	10.73
Apparel	0.9	0.9	0.9	----	----	38.0	38.5	42.7	9.33	9.34	9.30
Paper Products	2.0	2.0	2.0	----	----	38.2	38.8	40.2	12.06	12.09	12.04
Local Printing-Publishing	5.1	5.0	5.4	100	-300	38.4	38.7	41.1	16.62	16.62	16.61
Chemical Products	2.3	2.3	2.2	----	100	40.8	41.5	41.7	13.93	14.05	13.74
Rubber Products	0.5	0.4	0.4	100	100	39.3	39.1	41.5	12.99	12.94	12.98
Plastics Products	4.5	4.5	4.5	----	----	38.8	39.6	42.8	13.16	13.20	13.13
Leather Products	0.3	0.4	0.5	-100	-200	37.7	38.8	41.1	8.37	8.38	8.32

\*\*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.

## Rhode Island's Unemployment Rate Rises to 4.4 Percent

(Continued from Page 1)

### Rhode Island Job Highlights (Over the Month, Unadjusted Figures)

The number of jobs in Rhode Island rose by 6,400 from March to April, mostly the result of seasonal employment gains in Services, Trade and Contract Construction.

**Services** – The Services sector added 2,900 jobs in April. As anticipated, seasonal hiring was evident in Amusement/Recreation, Hotels/Lodging and Landscaping Services. The combined employment increase from these three industries accounted for more than half the gain reported in this sector.

**Trade** - Trade employment climbed by 1,900 over the month. Hiring was especially strong in Restaurants with the addition of 1,000 jobs. Within the Retail Trade component, increases were recorded in Building & Garden Supply Stores, General Merchandise Stores, Food Stores, Apparel & Accessory Stores and Miscellaneous Retail Stores.

**Contract Construction** - Contract Construction employment picked up seasonally in April as this industry added 1,300 workers over the month. The warmer April weather prompted more outdoor-related construction activity.

**Government** – Employment in Government increased by 100 over the month due mainly to a gain in State Government.

**Manufacturing** – Manufacturing firms in Rhode Island reported an increase of 100 jobs in April. Small increases in several factory components slightly offset declines in others.

## Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers

	Apr 01	Mar 01	Apr 00	% Change Prev. Year
All Items	176.9	176.2	171.3	3.3%

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

## RIEDC Launches "BUSINESS CAFÉ"! Bringing Manufacturers and Service Providers Together

The Rhode Island Economic Development Corporation (RIEDC) has conceived a unique and innovative event to educate and illustrate to Rhode Island manufacturers the many business growth and developmental programs available through RIEDC and its partners. The "Business Café" is a casual forum that will allow the participants to learn about each other, exchange ideas and share resources. Financing, tax credits, loans, support services etc. will all be discussed in the length and detail that is wished.

The tedium of seminars, workshops and conferences gave rise to the sentiment that something novel would be needed to attract both service providers and manufacturers. The "Business Café" will take place at the historic Roger Williams Park Casino in Providence on Thursday, June 7, 2001 from 4 until 8 p.m. Service providers will be situated on both stories of this elegant facility with marketing/program material at each table. RIEDC officials will facilitate movement throughout the program to allow ample opportunity for contact with the program(s) of choice.

### THE PARTNERS

RIMES  
Providence/Cranston Workforce Development  
The Center for Design & Business  
NE Institute of Technology  
RI Department of Human Services  
netWORKri  
Providence/Economic Development  
Greater Providence Chamber of Commerce  
Printing Industries of Rhode Island  
Slater Center for Progressive Manufacturing

Manufacturer's Partnership Inc.  
Workplace Dynamics  
Center for Technology Commercialization  
RACE for Performance Excellence  
Human Resource Investment Council  
INTERQUEST  
Mfg. Jewelers & Suppliers of America  
Cranston Chamber of Commerce  
RI Small Business Development Center

Workforce Partnership of Greater RI  
RI Export Assistance Center  
City of Cranston/Economic Develop.  
RI Department of Labor & Training  
The Center for Women & Enterprise  
NTB Associates  
Community College of Rhode Island  
RI Manufacturers Association  
Office of Rehabilitative Services

Fine catering by Russell Morin and music by noted jazz pianist Matthew Quinn will ensure a professional yet leisurely evening. The Casino is easily accessible from all major thoroughways guaranteeing prompt arrivals and departures. The cost is \$10 per person and is payable at the door. Space is limited. Three easy options to RSVP:

1) Call (401) 222-2601

2) e-mail [pdegan@riedc.com](mailto:pdegan@riedc.com)

3) fax (401) 222-2102

For general information call Ken Duffin, RIEDC at (401) 222-2090 ext.106.