



Donald L. Carcieri
Governor

Employment Labor Market Information Bulletin



Adelita S. Orefice
Acting Director

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Rhode Island's Unemployment Rate Inches up Slightly in April

Rhode Island's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate increased 0.1 of a percentage point over the month to 5.7 percent in April. The number of unemployed Rhode Island residents rose by 500 in April to an estimated 32,300. A year ago, the unemployment rate was 5.5 percent and the jobless level stood at 31,200. Nationally, the unemployment rate for April edged down 0.1 of a percentage point to 5.6 percent. For the first time since July 2001, Rhode Island's unemployment rate was higher than the national average.

"While there was some upbeat news about national job growth last month, we experienced a decline in the number of jobs at Rhode Island businesses," said Acting DLT Director Adelita S. Orefice. "An increase in the number of people looking for work, coupled with the decline in available jobs, pushed our unemployment rate up 0.1 of a percentage point in April."

Rhode Island Job Highlights

The Rhode Island job count decreased for the second successive month in April, following three consecutive months of increases. Businesses in the state reported a decline of 1,900 jobs (seasonally adjusted), bringing the April job count to 485,700. Over-the-month employment losses were reflected in Trade, Transportation & Utilities (-900); Manufacturing (-700); Professional & Business Services (-500); Leisure & Hospitality (-200); and Government (-100). Construction employment remained unchanged over the month. Since January 2004, jobs are down 1,500 mainly due to decreased employment in Leisure & Hospitality (-800) and Manufacturing (-500).

The more detailed unadjusted estimates increased by 4,400 (0.9%) over the month, the smallest March to April increase since 1991. The April job count stood at 484,600 (unadjusted). While employment gains were reported in a majority of the state's economic sectors, many were lower than normally experienced during this time of year due, in part, to the timing of the April school vacation period and to the severe weather conditions experienced during the survey week. The largest employment gains were noted in Construction (+1,700); Accommodation & Food Services (+1,300); Administrative & Waste Services (+1,000); and Arts, Entertainment & Recreation (+1,000). These increases offset losses in Transportation, Warehousing & Utilities (-800); Government (-400); Manufacturing (-300); and Wholesale Trade (-200). (Continued on Page 4)

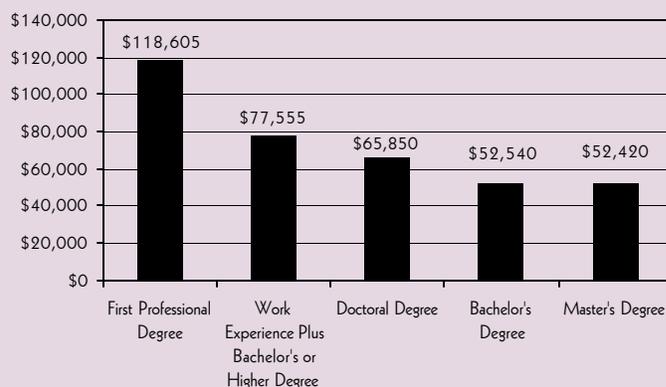
Annual Earnings by Education and Training Level

The Occupational Employment Statistics Survey determines wage and staffing levels for over 550 occupations in Rhode Island. These occupations are assigned to one of eleven education and training categories.

This article discusses median annual earnings for occupations that require at least a bachelor's degree. Occupations with other education and training requirements will be addressed in future articles.

The median annual salary for occupations that require a professional degree is \$118,605, the highest of all education and training levels. The best compensated occupations in this category are Dentists, Family and General Practitioners, and Surgeons, which all have median annual earnings above \$145,600. (Continued on Page 4)

Annual Median Salary by Education & Training Category



Rhode Island Labor Force Statistics*

(in thousands)

	Seasonally Adjusted			Unadjusted		
	Apr 04	Mar 04	Apr 03	Apr 04	Mar 04	Apr 03
Civilian Labor Force	569.6	566.1	571.9	562.6	563.8	564.7
Resident Employment	537.3	534.3	540.7	532.4	530.0	535.7
Unemployment	32.3	31.8	31.2	30.2	33.8	29.0
Unemployment Rate	5.7%	5.6%	5.5%	5.4%	6.0%	5.1%

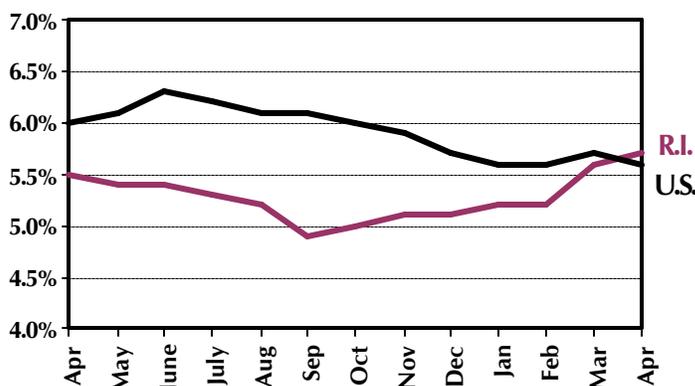
United States Labor Force Statistics

(in thousands)

	Seasonally Adjusted			Unadjusted		
	Apr 04	Mar 04	Apr 03	Apr 04	Mar 04	Apr 03
Civilian Labor Force	146,741	146,650	146,377	146,260	146,525	145,925
Resident Employment	138,576	138,298	137,578	138,423	137,691	137,424
Unemployment	8,164	8,352	8,799	7,837	8,834	8,501
Unemployment Rate	5.6%	5.7%	6.0%	5.4%	6.0%	5.8%

Rhode Island & United States Unemployment Rates

Seasonally Adjusted 2003-2004



City & Town

Unadjusted Unemployment Rates

	Apr 04	Apr 03**
Barrington	2.9	2.5
Bristol	4.7	5.0
Burrillville	6.1	5.5
Central Falls	7.7	8.1
Charlestown	6.4	5.1
Coventry	5.4	4.5
Cranston	5.1	5.1
Cumberland	5.5	4.5
East Greenwich	4.7	5.1
East Providence	5.7	5.4
Exeter	5.2	4.9
Foster	7.2	6.2
Glocester	4.0	4.7
Hopkinton	5.4	3.7
Jamestown	3.6	3.4
Johnston	6.4	5.8
Lincoln	4.8	4.9
Little Compton	3.8	4.6
Middletown	4.6	4.3
Narragansett	3.3	3.0
New Shoreham	10.7	11.1
Newport	4.5	4.6
North Kingstown	4.1	3.8
North Providence	5.5	5.1
North Smithfield	5.0	4.4
Pawtucket	6.5	5.9
Portsmouth	3.6	3.4
Providence	5.9	6.3
Richmond	3.7	2.6
Scituate	6.2	5.9
Smithfield	4.9	3.8
South Kingstown	4.1	4.1
Tiverton	6.4	5.3
Warren	5.8	5.0
Warwick	4.9	4.7
West Greenwich	6.1	4.3
West Warwick	6.0	6.0
Westerly	4.2	3.9
Woonsocket	6.5	6.7
State of R.I.	5.4	5.1

** Revised

Unemployment Insurance Claims Activity

	Apr	Mar	Apr	% Change		Year to Date		
	2004	2004	2003	Mar 04	Apr 03	2004	2003	% Change
Initial Claims	7,059	5,983	7,895	18.0%	-10.6%	31,401	35,193	-10.8%
Number of Payments	54,347	77,903	60,586	-30.2%	-10.3%	268,182	288,062	-6.9%
Amount of Payments (gross millions)	\$17.1	\$25.0	\$18.1	-31.6%	-5.5%	\$84.6	\$87.3	-3.1%
Exhaustions (Final Payments)	1,459	1,902	1,827	-23.3%	-20.1%	6,103	6,520	-6.4%

Rhode Island labor market information is available on the web at 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.

*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
April 2004

	Employment in Thousands			Net Change From	
	Apr 2004	Mar 2004	Apr 2003	Mar 2004	Apr 2003
Total Nonfarm	484.6	480.2	481.1	4,400	3,500
Goods Producing	80.1	78.6	79.1	1,500	1,000
Natural Resources & Mining	0.2	0.1	0.2	100	0
Construction	21.9	20.2	19.6	1,700	2,300
Specialty Trade Contractors	14.2	13.2	12.7	1,000	1,500
Manufacturing	58.0	58.3	59.3	-300	-1,300
Durable Goods	37.3	37.3	38.9	0	-1,600
Fabricated Metal Product Mfg.	7.7	7.7	8.4	0	-700
Computer & Electronic Product Mfg.	5.1	5.0	5.1	100	0
Transportation Equipment Mfg.	3.8	3.8	3.6	0	200
Miscellaneous Manufacturing	10.9	10.8	11.4	100	-500
Jewelry & Silverware	7.8	7.6	8.1	200	-300
Non-Durable Goods	20.7	21.0	20.4	-300	300
Chemical Manufacturing	4.2	4.2	4.0	0	200
Plastics & Rubber Products Mfg.	3.1	3.2	3.0	-100	100
Service Providing	404.5	401.6	402.0	2,900	2,500
Wholesale Trade	16.1	16.3	16.4	-200	-300
Retail Trade	51.9	51.7	51.8	200	100
Grocery Stores	6.6	6.5	6.4	100	200
Health & Personal Care Stores	5.5	5.5	5.7	0	-200
General Merchandise Stores	9.6	9.8	9.9	-200	-300
Department Stores	3.9	4.0	4.2	-100	-300
* Transportation, Warehousing & Utilities	10.7	11.5	11.1	-800	-400
Transportation & Warehousing	9.6	10.4	9.9	-800	-300
Information	10.6	10.7	11.0	-100	-400
Publishing	3.2	3.3	3.2	-100	0
** Financial Activities (including Real Estate)	33.6	33.4	33.0	200	600
Finance & Insurance	27.1	27.0	26.9	100	200
Credit Intermediation & Related Activities	13.3	13.2	12.2	100	1,100
Insurance Carriers & Related Activities	10.3	10.3	10.9	0	-600
Professional & Technical Services	19.4	19.1	19.4	300	0
Administrative & Waste Services	22.0	21.0	22.2	1,000	-200
Educational Services	21.8	21.8	22.7	0	-900
Colleges & Universities	14.1	14.0	16.1	100	-2,000
Health Care & Social Assistance	71.7	71.5	70.1	200	1,600
Ambulatory Health Care Services	20.9	20.8	20.1	100	800
Hospitals	22.4	22.4	22.3	0	100
Nursing & Residential Care Facilities	18.0	17.9	17.7	100	300
Social Assistance	10.4	10.4	10.0	0	400
Arts, Entertainment & Recreation	6.7	5.7	6.9	1,000	-200
Accommodation & Food Services	41.6	40.3	40.2	1,300	1,400
Accommodation	3.8	3.6	3.8	200	0
Food Services & Drinking Places	37.8	36.7	36.4	1,100	1,400
Other Services	23.1	23.0	22.6	100	500
Government	67.5	67.9	67.0	-400	500
Federal Government	10.0	10.0	10.1	0	-100
State Government	17.6	17.6	18.0	0	-400
Local Government	39.9	40.3	38.9	-400	1,000
Local Education	26.5	26.9	25.9	-400	600
Local Non-Ed	13.4	13.4	13.0	0	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.

Annual Earnings by Education and Training Level

(Continued from Page 1)

Occupations that require work experience plus a bachelor's degree have the second highest salaries. Chief Executives, Judges and Magistrates all have median annual salaries over \$145,600. Engineering Managers earn a median of \$94,470; Sales Managers earn a median of \$94,180; and Computer and Information Systems Managers earn a median of \$91,110. The median annual salary for all occupations in this category is \$77,555.

Occupations that require a doctoral degree are in third place, with annual median earnings of \$65,850. Physicists earn \$86,300; Economics Professors earn \$82,030; Computer and Information Research Scientists earn \$78,430; and Engineering Professors earn \$76,350.

Occupations that require a bachelor's degree have the fourth highest salaries with median annual earnings of \$52,540. The best compensated occupations in this category are: Electronics Engineers - \$81,430; Construction Managers - \$79,580; and Chemical Engineers - \$79,260. The most frequently employed occupations in this category are: Elementary School Teachers - \$55,300; Secondary School Teachers - \$52,540; and Accountants - \$48,630.

A relatively small number of occupations require a master's degree. The annual median salary for these occupations is \$52,420 – lower than the median annual salary for occupations requiring a bachelor's degree. The lower median appears to be the result of modest salaries for some social services occupations. The highest paying occupations in this category are: Mathematicians at \$64,540; Physical Therapists at \$61,270; and Clinical, Counseling, and School Psychologists at \$60,370.

Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers

				% Change
	Apr 04	Mar 04	Apr 03	Prev. Year
All Items	188.0	187.4	183.8	2.3%

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

Rhode Island's Unemployment Rate Inches up Slightly in April

(Continued from Page 1)

The over-the-month seasonal increases in Construction, Administrative & Waste Services, and Arts, Entertainment & Recreation are typical for this time of year with warmer weather approaching. The April school vacation was responsible for a smaller than normal seasonal increase in Accommodation & Food Services, as well as a decline in Transportation, Warehousing & Utilities, since school lunch workers and school bus drivers were out of work during that period. The April school vacation also accounted for a reduced need for substitute teachers, resulting in a decline in Local Education employment. Manufacturing losses were due to decreased employment by Non-Durable Goods employers.

Over the year, employment (unadjusted) was up 3,500 (+0.7%) from the 481,100 jobs (revised) reported in April 2003, bringing the April job count to 484,600 (unadjusted), the highest April job count on record. The largest over-the-year gains were noted in Construction (+2,300); Health Care & Social Assistance (+1,600); and Accommodation & Food Services (+1,400). The largest employment losses occurred in Manufacturing (-1,300); Educational Services (-900); Transportation, Warehousing & Utilities (-400); Information (-400); and Wholesale Trade (-300).

Manufacturing Employment in Rhode Island, Not Seasonally Adjusted April 2004

	Employment					Production Worker Averages					
	(in thousands)			Net Change From:		Weekly Hours			Hourly Earnings		
	Apr 04	Mar 04	Apr 03	Mar 04	Apr 03	Apr 04	Mar 04	Apr 03	Apr 04	Mar 04	Apr 03
Manufacturing	58.0	58.3	59.3	-300	-1300	39.5	39.8	38.6	12.98	12.99	12.84
Durable Goods	37.3	37.3	38.9	0	-1600	39.2	39.1	37.4	12.97	13.01	12.84
Fabricated Metal Product Mfg.	7.7	7.7	8.4	0	-700	38.4	39.4	37.3	11.65	11.60	11.43
Computer & Electronic Product Mfg.	5.1	5.0	5.1	100	0	37.3	36.6	40.1	13.72	13.76	13.62
Transportation Equipment Mfg.	3.8	3.8	3.6	0	200	39.8	39.3	41.7	15.50	15.46	15.47
Miscellaneous Manufacturing	10.9	10.8	11.4	100	-500	37.6	37.4	36.3	10.73	10.78	10.45
Jewelry and Silverware	7.8	7.6	8.1	200	-300	38.4	38.3	36.8	10.11	10.11	9.91
Non-Durable Goods	20.7	21.0	20.4	-300	300	40.0	40.9	40.6	12.99	12.95	12.83
Chemical Manufacturing	4.2	4.2	4.0	0	200	39.8	39.5	40.2	15.33	15.37	15.53
Plastics & Rubber Products Mfg.	3.1	3.2	3.0	-100	100	40.2	41.2	38.9	14.61	14.65	14.58

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

Occupation	RI Median	CT Median	MA Median	US Median
Median OES Annual Salary - All Occupations	\$ 29,560	\$ 34,340	\$ 33,970	\$ 28,140
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 & 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 & 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 & 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, & Distribution Managers	\$ 71,440	\$ 75,970	\$ 60,810	\$ 63,590
Computer Software Engineers, Systems Software	\$ 70,500	\$ 71,290	\$ 83,110	\$ 76,240
Medical & 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	\$ 88,100	\$ 78,720	\$ 62,580
Philosophy & Religion Teachers, Postsecondary	\$ 65,850	\$ 56,350	\$ 54,580	\$ 48,630
Foreign Language Teachers, Postsecondary	\$ 65,520	\$ 50,620	\$ 50,180	\$ 46,780
Education Administrators, Postsecondary	\$ 64,680	\$ 91,010	\$ 68,070	\$ 66,640
Mathematicians	\$ 64,540	\$ 47,580	\$ 75,280	\$ 78,290
Environmental Engineers	\$ 63,910	\$ 66,240	\$ 66,100	\$ 62,800