



Donald L. Carcieri  
Governor  
Adelita S. Orefice  
Director

# Employment Bulletin

Rhode Island  
Department of  
Labor & Training  
1511 Pontiac Ave.  
Cranston, RI 02920  
401-462-8740  
[www.dlt.ri.gov/lmi](http://www.dlt.ri.gov/lmi)

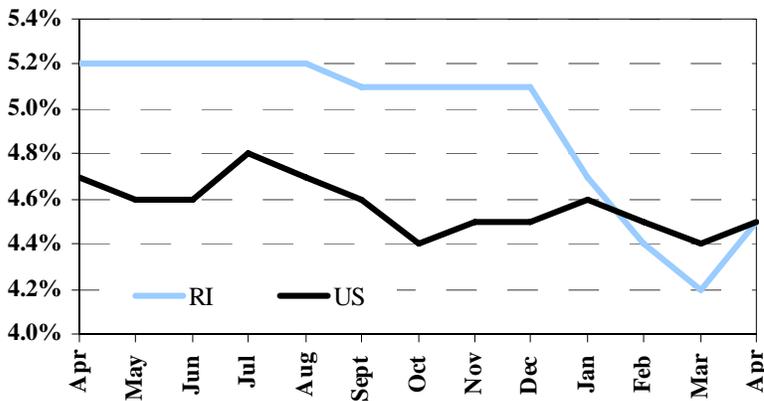
May 2007

## Rhode Island's Unemployment Rate Edges Up in April

Rhode Island's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate increased to 4.5 percent in April from 4.2 percent in March. This puts Rhode Island's unemployment rate even with the US jobless rate, which was up one-tenth of a percentage point over the month. Compared to last April, Rhode Island's unemployment rate is down 0.7 of a percentage point.

The number of employed Rhode Island residents dropped (-3,900) in April to its lowest level this year (549,800) but is still 1,800 above last April. The number of unemployed residents rose by 1,900 last month to 25,900 but remains well below our year ago level of 29,900. The total labor force fell in April, reflecting the large drop in resident employment which more than offset the sizeable increase in unemployment.

**RI & US Unemployment Rates  
Seasonally Adjusted 2006-2007**



## Did You Know.....

### Information Employers Must Post Posters

are available on the Internet from the Department of Labor and Training (DLT) web site at

[www.dlt.ri.gov/lmi/business/post.htm](http://www.dlt.ri.gov/lmi/business/post.htm)

Or, go to the DLT home page at

[www.dlt.ri.gov](http://www.dlt.ri.gov)

and click on



This web page contains links to posters from DLT, other state agencies and Federal posters required by law to be displayed in the workplace for employees including the RI Parental and Family Medical Leave Act, Workers' Compensation and Minimum Wage posters.

There is also a link to two different combination posters, which contain all DLT posters on one 11 x 17 sheet or two 8 1/2 x 11 sheets. They can be printed in color or black and white at your convenience, and are available in English, Spanish and Portuguese.

**All posters are available at no cost.**

If you have problems accessing or printing these posters, please call the Employer Service Unit at 1-888-616-JOBS (5627)

## Seasonally Adjusted Labor Force Statistics (in thousands)

	Rhode Island			United States		
	Apr 07	Mar 07	Apr 06	Apr 07	Mar 07	Apr 06
Civilian Labor Force	575.7	577.7	577.8	152,587	152,979	150,862
Resident Employment	549.8	553.7	548.0	145,786	146,254	143,763
Unemployment	25.9	24.0	29.9	6,801	6,724	7,098
Unemployment Rate	4.5%	4.2%	5.2%	4.5%	4.4%	4.7%

Sign up to receive news releases and LMI announcements by email through **LMI Stat Track**. Call LMI at 401-462-8740 or email [lmi@dlt.state.ri.us](mailto:lmi@dlt.state.ri.us)

## Job Count in Rhode Island Reaches a New Record-High Level

The total number of jobs at Rhode Island businesses reached a new record-high level of 498,400 in April, the third straight month of job growth. The Rhode Island job count grew by 1,800 over March's revised level of 496,600 as modest gains were spread throughout most industry sectors.

The April surge (+1,800) was the largest monthly increase observed in seven months. Employment gains of 400 each were noted in Manufacturing, Wholesale Trade, and Accommodation & Food Services; with increases of 300 each in Construction, Professional & Business Services, and Government; and gains of 200 each in Information and Arts, Entertainment & Recreation. These gains were partially offset by job losses reported in Financial Activities (-300), Retail Trade (-200), Transportation & Utilities (-100), and Health Care & Social Assistance (-100).

The increase in Accommodation & Food Services was influenced by growth in restaurant employment. Manufacturing gains were noted in both Durable Goods and Nondurable Goods employment. Construction employment increased as a result of several construction projects underway throughout the state. Arts, Entertainment & Recreation experienced an influx of new workers at a major entertainment venue which re-opened in northern Rhode Island.

Over the year, jobs were up 4,500 from the 493,900 jobs reported in April 2006. The largest annual employment gains occurred in the Professional & Business Services (+2,000); Financial Activities (+1,300); Health Care & Social Assistance (+1,300) and Construction (+1,100) sectors. These gains overshadowed losses in Manufacturing (-1,800); Government (-400); Accommodation & Food Services (-300); Retail Trade (-200); Transportation & Utilities (-100); and Information (-100).

### Hours and Earnings

In April 2007, production workers in the Manufacturing sector earned \$13.67 per hour. The average hourly production wage was up twenty cents per hour from March and up sixteen cents from a year ago. Manufacturing employees worked an average of 38.4 hours per week in April, down 0.6 of an hour over the month and up 0.9 of an hour since April 2006.

### Establishment Employment in Rhode Island Seasonally Adjusted

	Employment (in thousands)		Net Change
	Apr-07	Mar-07	
	<b>Total Nonfarm</b>	<b>498.4</b>	
Natural Resources & Mining	0.3	0.3	0.0
Construction	24.0	23.7	0.3
Manufacturing	51.5	51.1	0.4
Wholesale Trade*	17.2	16.8	0.4
Retail Trade	52.1	52.3	-0.2
Transportation & Utilities	10.8	10.9	-0.1
Information	11.3	11.1	0.2
Financial Activities	36.0	36.3	-0.3
Professional & Business Services	58.3	58.0	0.3
Educational Services	23.0	23.0	0.0
Health Care & Social Assistance	75.4	75.5	-0.1
Arts, Entertainment & Recreation	8.5	8.3	0.2
Accommodation & Food Services	42.4	42.0	0.4
Other Services	23.2	23.2	0.0
Government	64.4	64.1	0.3

\* State Calculated Estimate

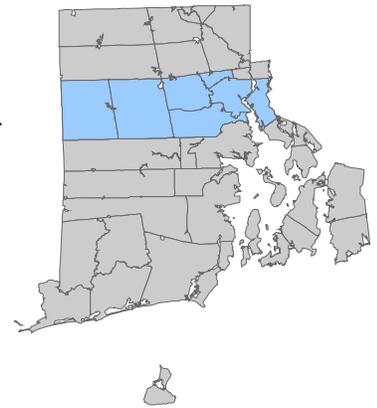
### Manufacturing Employment in Rhode Island Not Seasonally Adjusted

	Employment					Production Worker Averages					
	(in thousands)			Net Change From		Weekly Hours			Hourly Earnings		
	Apr 07	Mar 07	Apr 06	Mar 07	Apr 06	Apr 07	Mar 07	Apr 06	Apr 07	Mar 07	Apr 06
<b>Manufacturing</b>	51.4	51.2	53.2	200	-1800	38.4	39.0	37.5	13.67	13.47	13.51
<b>Durable Goods</b>	33.3	33.2	34.4	100	-1100	37.6	37.7	37.4	13.66	13.43	13.55
Fabricated Metal Product Mfg.	7.3	7.2	7.5	100	-200	39.6	39.8	39.9	11.99	12.05	11.82
Computer & Electronic Product Mfg.	4.8	4.7	4.6	100	200	35.7	36.6	39.5	14.71	14.75	14.35
Miscellaneous Manufacturing	9.6	9.6	9.8	0	-200	32.4	34.2	37.0	11.86	11.46	11.17
Jewelry & Silverware	6.8	6.8	7.0	0	-200	37.2	36.3	37.4	10.57	10.50	10.39
<b>Non-Durable Goods</b>	18.1	18.0	18.8	100	-700	39.8	41.2	37.8	13.68	13.54	13.45
Chemical Manufacturing	4.4	4.3	4.6	100	-200	37.9	39.2	41.5	16.31	16.14	15.50
Plastics & Rubber Products Mfg.	2.7	2.8	2.9	-100	-200	44.8	44.7	40.0	14.09	14.07	14.50

The employment figures in this section are derived from a survey of businesses in Rhode Island and measure the number of jobs in the state. Not seasonally adjusted total nonfarm employment data is available at: [www.dlt.ri.gov/lmi/ces.htm](http://www.dlt.ri.gov/lmi/ces.htm).

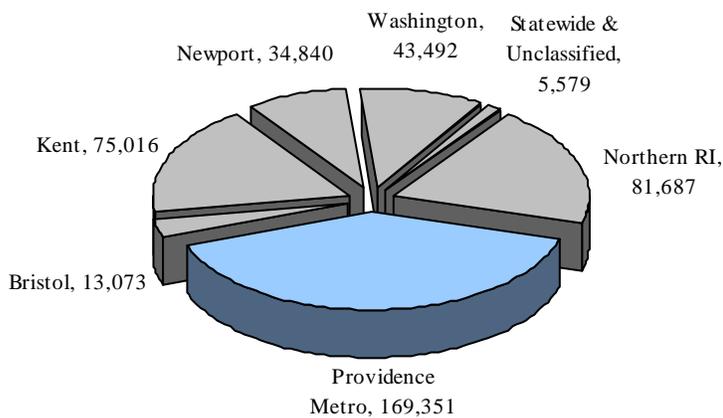
Current month's figures are preliminary and subject to change.

The Providence Metro Area, one of two regions of Providence County, includes Cranston, East Providence, Foster, Johnston, North Providence, Providence, and Scituate. Together, these municipalities employed over 169,000 workers in the third quarter of 2006 and accounted for 39.9 percent of the statewide private employment figure of 424,450.



Over 21 percent of the Providence Metro employment was concentrated in the Health Care & Social Assistance sector, followed by Retail Trade (9.6%) and Manufacturing (+9.5%). Between the third quarters of 2005 and 2006, the area's employment increased by 1,054 (+0.6%), with notable gains reported in the Construction (+624), Finance & Insurance (+546), and Educational Services (+520) sectors.

## RI Counties by Private Employment



Private employees working in the Providence Metro Area earned over \$1.6 billion in the third quarter of 2006 and accounted for 40.1 percent of the statewide earnings, which exceeded \$4 billion.

During the third quarter of 2006, the average weekly wage in this area was \$735, an increase of \$2 from the \$733 earned in the third quarter of 2005. The Management of Companies & Enterprises (\$1,555) sector paid the highest weekly wage in the third quarter of 2006, followed by the Information (\$1,096) and Finance & Insurance (\$1,054) sectors.

More information regarding Rhode Island's remaining four counties, including the Northern RI area (the second region of Providence County), can be found in the quarterly report entitled *Rhode Island Employment and Wage Analysis*, located on our web site at [www.dlt.ri.gov/lmi](http://www.dlt.ri.gov/lmi).

## Characteristics of the Insured Unemployed

In April 2007, 50 percent of Rhode Island's unemployed workers were eligible to collect Unemployment Insurance (UI) benefits. Numbering 13,218 people, these "insured unemployed" accounted for 2.4 percent of the state's total employed (unadjusted). Nearly 28 percent (3,641) of the Ocean State's insured unemployed faced long-term unemployment, defined as collecting unemployment benefits for more than fourteen weeks.

On an industry basis, 21.0 percent (2,779) of the State's insured unemployed workers came from the Construction sector. There were also 2,041 individuals with an attachment to the Manufacturing sector, accounting for 15.4 percent of all insured unemployed workers. An additional 10.8 percent (1,422) of those collecting UI benefits in April had worked in the Administrative & Waste Services sector. Large numbers of insured unemployed were also reported in Retail Trade (1,204), Accommodation & Food Services (973) and Health Care & Social Assistance (963). For more information, go to [www.dlt.ri.gov/lmi/uiadmin/characteristics.htm](http://www.dlt.ri.gov/lmi/uiadmin/characteristics.htm).

### Characteristics of the Insured Unemployed, April 2007

	Total	Long-Term	Percent Long-Term
<b>Total</b>	<b>13,218</b>	<b>3,641</b>	<b>27.5%</b>
Male	8,103	2,160	26.7%
Female	5,115	1,481	29.0%
<b>Selected Industries</b>	<b>13,218</b>	<b>3,641</b>	<b>27.5%</b>
Construction	2,779	581	20.9%
Manufacturing	2,041	585	28.7%
Wholesale Trade	514	166	32.3%
Retail Trade	1,204	316	26.2%
Transportation & Warehousing	333	63	18.9%
Information	157	57	36.3%
Finance & Insurance	616	180	29.2%
Real Estate	230	80	34.8%
Professional & Tech. Services	457	105	23.0%
Administrative & Waste Services	1,422	418	29.4%
Educational Services	189	66	34.9%
Health Care & Social Assistance	963	294	30.5%
Arts, Entertainment & Recreation	283	105	37.1%
Accommodation & Food Services	973	282	29.0%
Other Services	381	123	32.3%
Public Administration	99	31	31.3%

### Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers

				% Change
	Apr 07	Mar 07	Apr 06	Prev. Year
All Items	206.7	205.4	201.5	2.6%

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

### Labor Standards Wage and Hour Laws Seminars for Rhode Island Employers

The Labor Standards Unit is charged with administering and enforcing the Wage and Hour Laws that affect the workforce in Rhode Island. Rhode Island's Wage and Hour Laws can be very confusing, so Labor Standards is offering these free seminars to help you, the employer, understand your responsibilities to your employees. The following areas of law will be addressed at each seminar:

- Minimum Wage
- Overtime
- Record Keeping
- Payment of Wages
- Establishment of Regular Paydays
- Frequency of Payment
- Vacation Pay
- Illegal Deductions
- Statement of Earnings
- Private Agreements and Bonuses
- Direct Deposit
- Work on Sundays and Holidays
- RI Parental and Family Medical Leave Act
- Child Labor
- Meal Periods
- Temporary Employees Protection Act

All seminars will be held at the Department of Labor and Training, 1511 Pontiac Avenue, Cranston, RI. Dates are:

- Tuesday, June 12, 2007 9:30 AM - 12:30 PM
- Thursday, June 14, 2007 12:30 PM - 3:30 PM
- Tuesday, June 19, 2007 9:30 AM - 12:30 PM
- Thursday, June 21, 2007 12:30 PM - 3:30 PM

These seminars are free to Rhode Island employers, but you must **REGISTER** to attend. Visit [www.dlt.ri.gov/lr/seminars.htm](http://www.dlt.ri.gov/lr/seminars.htm) for more information and to register.

### City & Town Unadjusted Unemployment Rates for April

	2007	2006		2007	2006
Barrington	3.5	3.6	Newport	4.4	5.3
Bristol	4.1	4.5	North Kingstown	3.6	4.3
Burrillville	4.3	4.8	North Providence	4.3	4.9
Central Falls	6.5	7.2	North Smithfield	4.3	4.1
Charlestown	4.2	4.6	Pawtucket	5.4	6.3
Coventry	4.2	4.7	Portsmouth	3.5	4.0
Cranston	4.8	5.3	Providence	5.6	6.4
Cumberland	3.9	4.4	Richmond	2.7	3.9
East Greenwich	3.7	4.1	Scituate	4.9	5.0
East Providence	5.1	5.4	Smithfield	4.0	4.5
Exeter	4.0	4.0	South Kingstown	4.0	4.5
Foster	5.5	5.5	Tiverton	5.2	5.1
Glocester	3.9	3.9	Warren	4.5	5.0
Hopkinton	4.6	4.6	Warwick	4.2	4.9
Jamestown	3.1	3.8	West Greenwich	4.4	4.0
Johnston	5.4	5.9	West Warwick	5.1	5.6
Lincoln	3.8	4.3	Westerly	3.7	4.3
Little Compton	3.8	4.1	Woonsocket	5.6	5.8
Middletown	4.0	4.7			
Narragansett	3.1	3.4	State of R.I.	4.6	5.2
New Shoreham	9.1	10.7	United States	4.3	4.5

### DLT Annual Report

This report summarizes the activity of the Department of Labor and Training (DLT) in 2006. DLT is proud of the courteous and efficient services that support the employer community, including developing job openings, screening applicants and promoting grant and tax credit opportunities. The department held 935 job fairs and recruitment events in 2006 for employers in retail, manufacturing, agriculture, shipping, banking, food, medical, airline and publishing. DLT's toll-free line 1-888-616-JOBS enabled Rhode Island employers to advertise 2,300 job vacancies.

DLT helps many Rhode Island job seekers, whether their goal is a first job, a better job, or a career change. Agency staff provides personalized job search assistance, interview preparation, and training at no charge through our netWORKri offices. Providing income support through Unemployment Insurance, Temporary Disability Insurance or Workers' Compensation can sustain an individual during a difficult period. To view the 2006 Annual Report, visit [www.dlt.ri.gov/lmi/publications/annreport.htm](http://www.dlt.ri.gov/lmi/publications/annreport.htm).

### Unemployment Insurance Claims Activity

	Apr	Mar	Apr	% Change		Year to Date		
	2007	2007	2006	Mar 07	Apr 06	2007	2006	% Change
Initial Claims	6,959	5,873	6,086	18.5%	14.3%	30,572	28,211	8.4%
Number of Payments	61,272	64,980	46,506	-5.7%	31.8%	260,603	240,050	8.6%
Amount of Payments (gross millions)	\$21.2	\$23.0	\$15.5	-7.8%	36.8%	\$90.9	\$81.0	12.2%
Exhaustions (Final Payments)	1,584	1,249	1,284	26.8%	23.4%	5,363	5,170	3.7%

## Providence Metro Employment & Wage Analysis Third Quarter 2006

Municipalities: Cranston, East Providence, Foster, Johnston, North Providence, Providence, Scituate

Providence Metro County Q3 2006				Over-the-Year Difference Q3 2005-2006		
Industry Sector	Average Employment	Total Wages	Average Wkly Wage	Average Employment	Total Wages	Average Wkly Wage
Total Private Only	169,351	\$1,617,644,358	\$735	1,054	\$14,997,255	\$2
Construction	8,342	\$106,517,752	\$982	624	\$12,507,345	\$45
Manufacturing	16,167	\$148,397,002	\$706	-903	-\$4,755,399	\$16
Wholesale Trade	6,045	\$71,137,187	\$905	-237	-\$3,451,988	-\$8
Retail Trade	16,279	\$100,856,509	\$477	-298	-\$4,426,348	-\$12
Transportation & Warehousing	1,912	\$17,522,891	\$705	-72	-\$103,679	\$22
Information	6,454	\$91,987,875	\$1,096	51	-\$3,792,792	-\$54
Finance & Insurance	12,143	\$166,390,076	\$1,054	546	-\$1,026,946	-\$56
Real Estate & Rental & Leasing	2,859	\$27,388,165	\$737	142	\$519,608	-\$24
Professional & Technical Services	9,569	\$126,674,532	\$1,018	103	\$4,307,786	\$24
Mgt of Companies & Enterprises	2,436	\$49,241,121	\$1,555	75	\$7,589,017	\$198
Administrative & Waste Management	14,698	\$88,890,602	\$465	283	-\$731,460	-\$13
Educational Services	11,589	\$128,266,678	\$851	520	\$5,526,753	-\$2
Health Care & Social Assistance	35,673	\$363,322,417	\$783	290	-\$7,854,139	-\$23
Arts, Entertainment, & Recreation	2,093	\$9,120,608	\$335	58	\$307,343	\$2
Accommodation & Food Services	14,355	\$56,578,255	\$303	-298	-\$1,476,539	-\$2
Other services	7,951	\$52,741,129	\$510	129	-\$732,165	-\$16
All Remaining Sectors*	762	\$12,503,163	\$1,262	26	\$2,119,548	\$177

\*Remaining sectors include Agriculture, Forestry, Fishing & Hunting; Mining; and Utilities. Unclassified data not included, therefore, totals may not add.