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Employment Bulletin

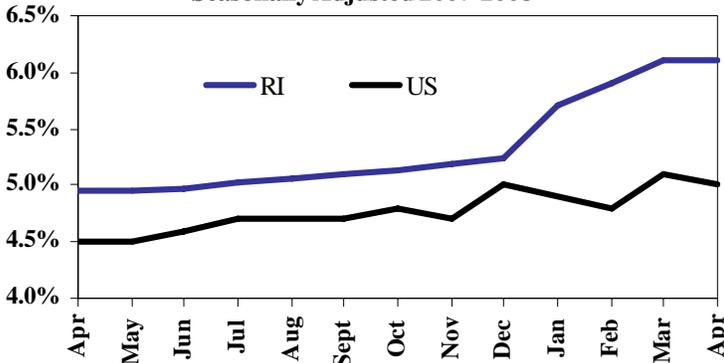
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May 2008

RI's Unemployment Rate Remains Stable in April

- ◆ RI's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate in April matched the March jobless rate of 6.1 percent.
- ◆ RI's April unemployment rate is up 1.1 percentage points from last year's figure of 5.0 percent.
- ◆ RI's jobless rate remained above the national rate, which inched down 0.1 of a percentage point to 5.0 percent in April.
- ◆ In April, the number of unemployed Rhode Island residents edged down to 34,800, a drop of 300 from March. On a year-over-year comparison, the number of unemployed residents increased 6,300 from April 2007 to April 2008.
- ◆ The number of employed RI residents totaled 538,300 in April 2008, reflecting an increase of 600 from the previous month. On a year-over-year basis, the number of employed RI residents fell 9,100 between April 2007 and April 2008.

RI & US Unemployment Rates
Seasonally Adjusted 2007-2008



Employer Service Unit

Businesses can reduce the time and costs associated with the hiring process with the help of the Employer Service Unit (ESU) at the RI Department of Labor and Training. The Employer Service Unit offers FREE services that can help your business, including:

- ◆ Developing and implementing the right recruitment strategy for your business.
- ◆ Connecting you to a pool of motivated and qualified candidates.
- ◆ Linking your company to an extensive network of training providers and educational resources.
- ◆ Informing you about available grants and tax credits.
- ◆ Coordinating recruitments and job fairs for your business, industry or region.
- ◆ Providing you with the latest labor market information and employment trend data.

DLT Employer Service Representatives are assigned specific geographical regions, so that they gain an in-depth knowledge of an area's unique business climate. In addition, each representative maintains individual expertise in key high-growth industries in Rhode Island, including Health Care, Hospitality & Tourism, Information Technology, Biotechnology, Manufacturing and Marine Trades.
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Seasonally Adjusted Labor Force Statistics

(in thousands)

| | Rhode Island | | | United States | | |
|----------------------|--------------|--------|--------|---------------|---------|---------|
| | Apr 08 | Mar 08 | Apr 07 | Apr 08 | Mar 08 | Apr 07 |
| Civilian Labor Force | 573.1 | 572.8 | 575.9 | 153,957 | 153,784 | 152,542 |
| Resident Employment | 538.3 | 537.7 | 547.4 | 146,331 | 145,969 | 145,713 |
| Unemployment | 34.8 | 35.1 | 28.5 | 7,626 | 7,815 | 6,829 |
| Unemployment Rate | 6.1% | 6.1% | 5.0% | 5.0% | 5.1% | 4.5% |

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RI Jobs Decline by 700 in April

The number of seasonally adjusted nonfarm jobs in Rhode Island fell by 700 in April to 484,500 from March's revised employment level of 485,200. April marks the fourth consecutive month of job losses for both Rhode Island and the United States. Over the month, employment losses were reported in a number of industry sectors with the largest in the Other Services (-400), Government (-300) and Manufacturing (-200) sectors.

This month's employment loss was slightly offset by a gain of 300 jobs in the Transportation & Utilities sector, along with gains of 100 each in the Information, Professional & Business Services and Accommodation & Food Services sectors. Employment remained unchanged in the Retail Trade, Educational Services, and Arts, Entertainment & Recreation sectors.

Job losses in the Other Services sector were the result of reductions in personal services and civic organization employment.

Reductions in Government employment were reported in both public education and local government. The Manufacturing sector experienced declines in both Durable and Non-Durable Goods employment.

From April 2007 to April 2008, RI jobs declined 8,800, a 1.8 percent decrease. The largest annual employment losses in Rhode Island occurred in the Manufacturing (-2,700), Professional & Business Services (-2,000), Financial Activities (-1,700), Construction (-1,000), and Retail Trade (-1,000) sectors.

| | Net Change From | | | | |
|----------------------------------|-----------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|
| | <u>Apr-08</u> | <u>Mar-08</u> | <u>Apr-07</u> | <u>Mar-08</u> | <u>Apr-07</u> |
| Total Nonfarm | 484.5 | 485.2 | 493.3 | -0.7 | -8.8 |
| Natural Resources & Mining | 0.2 | 0.2 | 0.3 | 0.0 | -0.1 |
| Construction | 20.9 | 21.0 | 21.9 | -0.1 | -1.0 |
| Manufacturing | 48.4 | 48.6 | 51.1 | -0.2 | -2.7 |
| Wholesale Trade* | 16.8 | 16.9 | 17.1 | -0.1 | -0.3 |
| Retail Trade | 50.7 | 50.7 | 51.7 | 0.0 | -1.0 |
| Transportation & Utilities | 11.1 | 10.8 | 11.0 | 0.3 | 0.1 |
| Information | 10.9 | 10.8 | 10.5 | 0.1 | 0.4 |
| Financial Activities | 33.7 | 33.8 | 35.4 | -0.1 | -1.7 |
| Professional & Business Services | 54.3 | 54.2 | 56.3 | 0.1 | -2.0 |
| Educational Services | 23.9 | 23.9 | 23.3 | 0.0 | 0.6 |
| Health Care & Social Assistance | 76.2 | 76.3 | 75.7 | -0.1 | 0.5 |
| Arts, Entertainment & Recreation | 7.7 | 7.7 | 8.1 | 0.0 | -0.4 |
| Accommodation & Food Services | 43.2 | 43.1 | 43.1 | 0.1 | 0.1 |
| Other Services | 22.5 | 22.9 | 23.2 | -0.4 | -0.7 |
| Government | 64.0 | 64.3 | 64.6 | -0.3 | -0.6 |

* State Calculated Estimate

Educational Services employment experienced the largest over-the-year gain (+600). Other gains were noted in Health Care & Social Assistance (+500), Information (+400), Transportation & Utilities (+100) and Accommodation & Food Services (+100).

| | Employment | | | | |
|------------------------------------|----------------|---------------|---------------|-----------------|---------------|
| | (in thousands) | | | Net Change From | |
| | <u>Apr 08</u> | <u>Mar 08</u> | <u>Apr 07</u> | <u>Mar 08</u> | <u>Apr 07</u> |
| Manufacturing | 48.4 | 48.6 | 51.1 | -200 | -2,700 |
| Durable Goods | 31.5 | 31.6 | 33.0 | -100 | -1,500 |
| Fabricated Metal Product Mfg. | 6.6 | 6.6 | 6.9 | 0 | -300 |
| Computer & Electronic Product Mfg. | 4.3 | 4.3 | 4.4 | 0 | -100 |
| Miscellaneous Manufacturing | 8.9 | 8.9 | 9.5 | 0 | -600 |
| Jewelry & Silverware | 6.2 | 6.2 | 6.6 | 0 | -400 |
| Non-Durable Goods | 16.9 | 17.0 | 18.1 | -100 | -1,200 |
| Chemical Manufacturing | 4.2 | 4.2 | 4.6 | 0 | -400 |
| Plastics & Rubber Products Mfg. | 2.9 | 2.9 | 2.9 | 0 | 0 |

In April 2008, production workers in the Manufacturing sector earned \$13.92 per hour. The average hourly production wage was down one cent from March and up 28 cents per hour from a year ago. Manufacturing employees worked an average of 38.4 hours per week in April, up 0.1 of an hour over the month and up 0.2 of an hour since April 2007.

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

Occupational Wages

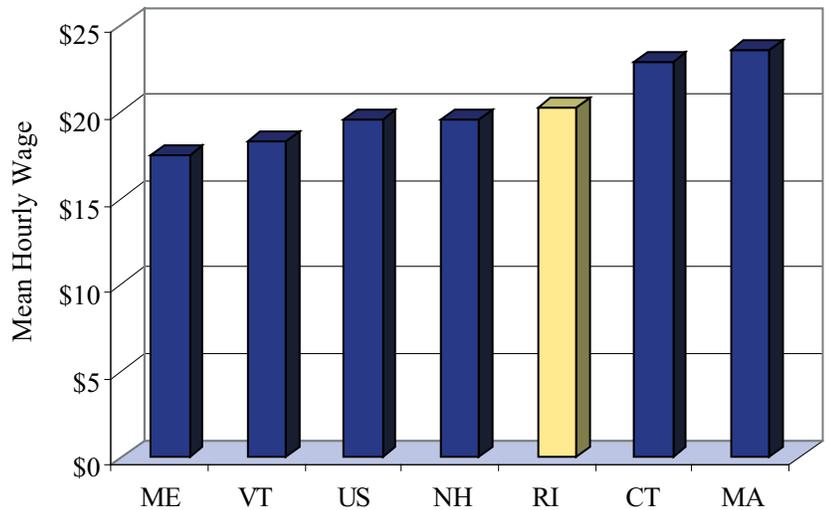


Results of the Department of Labor and Training's latest Occupational Employment Statistics survey show that Rhode Island workers earned an average wage of \$20.30 per hour in May 2007. This mean hourly wage exceeded the national average by 74 cents per hour and was the third highest in New England. Massachusetts led the New England states with a mean hourly wage of \$23.59, followed closely by Connecticut at \$22.92 per hour. New Hampshire followed in fourth place with mean hourly earnings of \$19.60. Vermont and Maine had the lowest hourly wages in the region at \$18.30 and \$17.53 per hour, respectively, and were the only two New England states to have average hourly wages lower than the national average.

Highest and Lowest Paid Jobs

The ten best paying jobs in the state include seven healthcare professionals as well as Judges, Chief Executives and Sales Managers. All of these occupations have extensive education and training requirements such as professional degrees (law and medical) or college degrees along with years of work experience in related occupations. Obstetricians & Gynecologists topped the list of high-paying jobs in May 2007 with a mean hourly wage of \$86.38 (\$179,670 annually) followed closely by Judges, Magistrate Judges, & Magistrates with an average of \$86.31 per hour. Family & General Practitioners, Internists, Psychiatrists and Chief Executives all have hourly wages in excess of \$80 an hour.

Jobs at the other end of the pay scale include a variety of restaurant and fast food workers, Baggage Porters & Bellhops and Parking Lot Attendants. Average hourly wages for these jobs ranged from \$8.77 to \$9.26 per hour. These jobs require little, if any, previous work experience and generally have no minimum education requirements. (See label page.)



Characteristics of the Insured Unemployed

In April 2008, 46 percent of Rhode Island's unemployed workers were eligible to collect Unemployment Insurance (UI) benefits. Numbering 15,642 people, these "insured unemployed" accounted for 2.9 percent of the State's total employed (unadjusted). More than 29 percent (4,570) 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, 20.6 percent (3,215) of the State's insured unemployed workers came from the Construction sector. There were also 2,332 individuals with an attachment to the Manufacturing sector, accounting for 14.9 percent of all insured unemployed workers. An additional 11.1 percent (1,733) 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 (1,593), Health Care & Social Assistance (1,082) and Accommodation & Food Services (1,081). For more information, go to www.dlt.ri.gov/lmi/uiadmin/characteristics.htm.

Characteristics of the Insured Unemployed, April 2008

| | Total | Long-Term | Percent Long-Term |
|----------------------------------|---------------|--------------|-------------------|
| Total | 15,642 | 4,570 | 29.2% |
| Male | 9,545 | 2,861 | 30.0% |
| Female | 6,097 | 1,709 | 28.0% |
| Selected Industries | 15,642 | 4,570 | 29.2% |
| Construction | 3,215 | 888 | 27.6% |
| Manufacturing | 2,332 | 675 | 28.9% |
| Wholesale Trade | 608 | 207 | 34.0% |
| Retail Trade | 1,593 | 447 | 28.1% |
| Transportation & Warehousing | 456 | 96 | 21.1% |
| Information | 185 | 48 | 25.9% |
| Finance & Insurance | 800 | 321 | 40.1% |
| Real Estate | 294 | 89 | 30.3% |
| Professional & Tech. Services | 533 | 157 | 29.5% |
| Administrative & Waste Services | 1,733 | 517 | 29.8% |
| Educational Services | 146 | 48 | 32.9% |
| Health Care & Social Assistance | 1,082 | 315 | 29.1% |
| Arts, Entertainment & Recreation | 376 | 100 | 26.6% |
| Accommodation & Food Services | 1,081 | 301 | 27.8% |
| Other Services | 521 | 152 | 29.2% |
| Public Administration | 87 | 19 | 21.8% |

Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers

| | | | | % Change |
|-----------|--------|--------|--------|------------|
| | Apr 08 | Mar 08 | Apr 07 | Prev. Year |
| All Items | 214.8 | 213.5 | 206.7 | 3.9% |

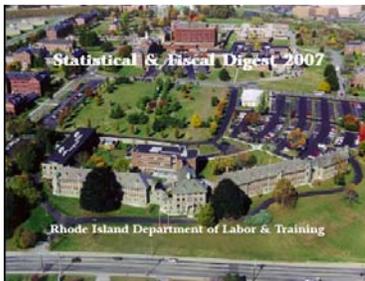
Source: U.S. Dept. of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics

UI Claims Activity Highlighted in *Statistical & Fiscal Digest*

Rhode Island workers filed a total of 71,351 claims for Unemployment Insurance (UI) benefits in 2007, up 7.0% from 2006. The department issued 641,081 Unemployment Insurance payments in 2007, totaling over \$224 million. UI claimants collected benefits for an average of 15.7 weeks in 2007, up from 15.4 weeks in 2006. The 2007 average weekly benefit payment was \$350.

Rhode Island is one of 19 states that provides a WorkShare program. This program helped 120 companies avoid layoffs in 2007 by combining reduced work hours with partial UI benefits.

Claims for WorkShare benefits in 2007 totaled 6,451, up 15 percent from the 5,618 filed in 2006 and nearly 30



percent from the 5,006 initial claims filed in 2005. It is estimated that nearly 1,500 layoffs were averted during 2007 as a result of Rhode Island's WorkShare program.

Unemployment Insurance is just one of the programs administered by the Department of Labor and Training. The *Statistical and Fiscal Digest*, which is published annually by the Labor Market Information unit, contains detailed activity reports as well as summaries of funding sources and expenditures for nearly all the Department's programs. The Digest is now available on the Department's web site at www.dlt.ri.gov/lmi/publications/sfdigest.htm.

City & Town Unadjusted Unemployment Rates for April

| | 2008 | 2007 | | 2008 | 2007 |
|-----------------|------------|------|------------------|------|---------|
| | Barrington | 3.9 | | 3.7 | Newport |
| Bristol | 5.3 | 4.3 | North Kingstown | 5.0 | 3.7 |
| Burrillville | 5.8 | 4.5 | North Providence | 5.9 | 4.6 |
| Central Falls | 8.3 | 6.8 | North Smithfield | 5.4 | 4.5 |
| Charlestown | 6.2 | 4.5 | Pawtucket | 7.1 | 5.8 |
| Coventry | 5.8 | 4.4 | Portsmouth | 4.5 | 3.7 |
| Cranston | 6.1 | 5.0 | Providence | 7.1 | 5.9 |
| Cumberland | 5.2 | 4.1 | Richmond | 3.9 | 2.9 |
| East Greenwich | 5.6 | 4.0 | Scituate | 6.5 | 5.1 |
| East Providence | 6.4 | 5.4 | Smithfield | 5.2 | 4.2 |
| Exeter | 4.8 | 4.3 | South Kingstown | 4.8 | 4.2 |
| Foster | 5.6 | 5.7 | Tiverton | 6.2 | 5.4 |
| Glocester | 4.9 | 4.0 | Warren | 5.6 | 4.8 |
| Hopkinton | 6.0 | 4.8 | Warwick | 5.6 | 4.5 |
| Jamestown | 3.9 | 3.3 | West Greenwich | 5.5 | 4.3 |
| Johnston | 6.7 | 5.7 | West Warwick | 6.1 | 5.4 |
| Lincoln | 5.4 | 4.0 | Westerly | 5.6 | 4.0 |
| Little Compton | 5.1 | 3.9 | Woonsocket | 7.1 | 5.9 |
| Middletown | 5.2 | 4.3 | | | |
| Narragansett | 4.1 | 3.3 | State of R.I. | 6.0 | 4.9 |
| New Shoreham | 10.3 | 9.4 | United States | 4.8 | 4.3 |

Employer Service Unit

(Continued from Page 1)

The Employer Service Unit can also help your business navigate through economic downturns, reductions in workforce or company closures. Your ESU representative can connect you to the DLT WorkShare program, which helps companies retain valuable employees during a temporary (non-seasonal) slowdown by combining reduced work hours with partial Unemployment Insurance benefits. Or, if your company is experiencing large-scale layoffs, your ESU representative can arrange for a DLT Rapid Response Unit to provide timely, comprehensive services to affected workers.

For a FREE consultation, contact Acting Coordinator Connie Parks at (401) 462-8716 or cparks@networkri.org. Or, contact the DLT Employer Services Line at 1-888-616-JOBS.

Unemployment Insurance Claims Activity

| | Apr | Mar | Apr | % Change | | Year to Date | | |
|-------------------------------------|--------|--------|--------|----------|--------|--------------|---------|----------|
| | 2008 | 2008 | 2007 | Mar 08 | Apr 07 | 2008 | 2007 | % Change |
| Initial Claims | 7,815 | 6,388 | 6,959 | 22.3% | 12.3% | 34,847 | 30,572 | 14.0% |
| Number of Payments | 62,541 | 83,086 | 61,272 | -24.7% | 2.1% | 293,932 | 260,603 | 12.8% |
| Amount of Payments (gross millions) | \$22.4 | \$30.4 | \$21.2 | -26.3% | 5.7% | \$107.0 | \$90.9 | 17.7% |
| Exhaustions (Final Payments) | 1,779 | 1,905 | 1,584 | -6.6% | 12.3% | 6,661 | 5,363 | 24.2% |



Top Ten Rhode Island Occupations by Average Hourly Wage*

| Occupation | Estimated Employment | Average Wage |
|--|-----------------------------|---------------------|
| Obstetricians & Gynecologists | 240 | \$86.38 |
| Judges, Magistrate Judges, & Magistrates | 90 | \$86.31 |
| Family & General Practitioners | 420 | \$84.53 |
| Internists, General | 520 | \$83.27 |
| Psychiatrists | 130 | \$82.21 |
| Chief Executives | 1,070 | \$80.82 |
| Dentists, General | 280 | \$77.35 |
| Pediatricians, General | 290 | \$69.34 |
| Optometrists | 110 | \$57.90 |
| Sales Managers | 870 | \$55.94 |



Bottom Ten Rhode Island Occupations by Average Hourly Wage*

| Occupation | Estimated Employment | Average Wage |
|---|-----------------------------|---------------------|
| Table Bussers & Bartender Helpers | 1,610 | \$8.77 |
| Dishwashers | 2,320 | \$8.93 |
| Fast Food Cooks | 1,340 | \$8.96 |
| Combined Food Preparation & Serving Workers | 7,940 | \$9.11 |
| Parking Lot Attendants | 500 | \$9.16 |
| Baggage Porters & Bellhops | 160 | \$9.17 |
| Bartenders | 2,760 | \$9.19 |
| Counter Attendants, Cafeteria, Food Concession, & Coffee Shop | 5,140 | \$9.20 |
| Waiters & Waitresses | 10,200 | \$9.24 |
| Hosts & Hostesses | 1,250 | \$9.26 |

*Rankings are by mean hourly wage and include occupations with publishable employment only.