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Employment Bulletin

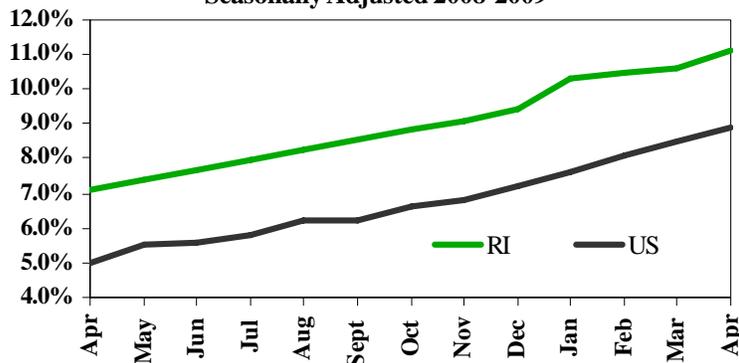
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Rhode Island's Unemployment Rate Rises to 11.1 Percent

- ◆ RI's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate for April was 11.1 percent, increasing 0.5 of a percentage point from the revised March rate of 10.6 percent.
- ◆ RI's April unemployment rate is up 4.0 percentage points from last year's figure of 7.1 percent.
- ◆ The national rate increased 0.4 of a percentage point to 8.9 percent, the highest rate since September 1983. Rhode Island has the 4th highest rate in the nation, trailing Michigan (12.9%), Oregon (12.0%) and South Carolina (11.5%).
- ◆ In April, the number of unemployed Rhode Island residents increased by 3,000 to reach 62,600, the state's highest jobless level on record. From April 2008 to April 2009, the number of unemployed residents increased by 22,300.
- ◆ The number of employed RI residents totaled 500,800 in April 2009, reflecting a decrease of 4,100 from the previous month. Between April 2008 and April 2009, the number of employed RI residents fell by 27,700.

RI & US Unemployment Rates
Seasonally Adjusted 2008-2009



Summer Employment Opportunities in Rhode Island

Several industry sectors traditionally add jobs between May and August, providing numerous opportunities for summer employment. In 2009, it is believed that openings in these areas will be sought after by job seekers of all ages, increasing the competition for younger workers to find summer jobs.

In Rhode Island, the sectors adding the most jobs during the summer months include Accommodations & Food Services, Arts, Entertainment & Recreation, Retail Trade, Construction, and Landscaping.

The largest seasonal employment gains traditionally occur in the Accommodation & Food Services sector which adds as many as 5,000 jobs during the summer months. While 2008 employment gains in this sector fell short of the average increase, employment was still up by 3,662 jobs, statewide. The largest increases were reported in Newport (+ 2,094) and Washington (+2,242) counties. These two counties are popular summer tourist destinations in Rhode Island, thus creating seasonal employment opportunities for youth.

The Arts, Entertainment & Recreation sector experienced the 2nd largest seasonal job growth in 2008, adding 2,704 jobs between May and August which was on par with traditional hiring trends. Washington County provided the most job opportunities (1,151) last year followed by Newport County (773).

Retail Trade is another industry sector that is fueled by tourists vacationing in Rhode Island. While the 2008 statewide employment gain (+433) in this sector was less than half the normal increase (+1,000), both Washington (+394) and Newport (+231) counties benefited from employment gains in this sector. (Continued on Page 4)

Seasonally Adjusted Labor Force Statistics

(in thousands)

	Rhode Island			United States		
	Apr 09	Mar 09	Apr 08	Apr 09	Mar 09	Apr 08
Civilian Labor Force	563.4	564.4	568.8	154,731	154,048	153,932
Resident Employment	500.8	504.9	528.5	141,007	140,887	146,257
Unemployment	62.6	59.6	40.3	13,724	13,161	7,675
Unemployment Rate	11.1%	10.6%	7.1%	8.9%	8.5%	5.0%

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Rhode Island Jobs Decline by 300 in April

In Rhode Island, the April 2009 job count totaled 464,700, a decline of 300 jobs from March's revised employment level of 465,000, the smallest over-the-month job loss since August 2008. Rhode Island has lost 31,700 (-6.4%) jobs since its employment peak in January 2007 and 23,700 (-4.9%) jobs since the start of the national recession in December 2007.

In April, six private-sector industries — Manufacturing (-400), Accommodation & Food Services (-300), Retail Trade (-200), Financial Activities (-200), Arts, Entertainment & Recreation (-100) and Educational Services (-100) experienced over-the-month job losses. The largest loss, reported in the Manufacturing sector, was due to declines in the Durable Goods component of the sector.

Over-the-month job gains were reported in five sectors including Government (+500), whose gains were due to the temporary hiring of more than 500 federal government workers for the 2010 Census. Other Services (+200), Health Care & Social

Assistance (+100), Construction (+100) and Professional & Business Services (+100) also posted slight but positive gains. Wholesale Trade, Transportation & Utilities, Information and Natural Resources & Mining remained unchanged.

From April 2008 to April 2009, RI jobs declined 20,100 (-4.3 %). Job declines occurred in nearly all economic sectors, with the most significant annual employment declines reported in Manufacturing (-5,100), Retail Trade (-3,300), Professional & Business Services (-3,100), Construction (-2,900), Financial Activities (-1,400) and Government (-1,400). Smaller losses were noted in Information (-600), Arts, Entertainment & Recreation (-600), Other Services (-600), Wholesale Trade (-600), Accommodation & Food Services (-400) and Transportation & Utilities (-400).

Establishment Employment in Rhode Island Seasonally Adjusted

	Net Change From				
	Apr-09	Mar-09	Apr-08	Mar-09	Apr-08
Total Nonfarm	464.7	465.0	484.8	-0.3	-20.1
Natural Resources & Mining	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.0	0.0
Construction	17.7	17.6	20.6	0.1	-2.9
Manufacturing	43.7	44.1	48.8	-0.4	-5.1
Wholesale Trade	16.3	16.3	16.9	0.0	-0.6
Retail Trade	46.8	47.0	50.1	-0.2	-3.3
Transportation & Utilities	10.6	10.6	11.0	0.0	-0.4
Information	10.2	10.2	10.8	0.0	-0.6
Financial Activities	32.1	32.3	33.5	-0.2	-1.4
Professional & Business Services	52.0	51.9	55.1	0.1	-3.1
Educational Services	23.3	23.4	23.2	-0.1	0.1
Health Care & Social Assistance	76.6	76.5	76.4	0.1	0.2
Arts, Entertainment & Recreation	7.5	7.6	8.1	-0.1	-0.6
Accommodation & Food Services	42.8	43.1	43.2	-0.3	-0.4
Other Services	22.3	22.1	22.9	0.2	-0.6
Government	62.6	62.1	64.0	0.5	-1.4

Manufacturing Employment in Rhode Island Not Seasonally Adjusted

	Employment				
	(in thousands)		Net Change From		
	Apr 09	Mar 09	Apr 08	Mar 09	Apr 08
Manufacturing	43.6	44.0	48.8	-400	-5,200
Durable Goods	28.1	28.4	31.7	-300	-3,600
Fabricated Metal Product Mfg.	6.0	6.1	6.7	-100	-700
Computer & Electronic Product Mfg.	4.1	4.1	4.3	0	-200
Miscellaneous Manufacturing	7.7	7.8	8.6	-100	-900
Jewelry & Silverware	5.1	5.2	5.7	-100	-600
Non-Durable Goods	15.5	15.6	17.1	-100	-1,600
Chemical Manufacturing	3.6	3.6	3.9	0	-300

Health Care & Social Assistance (+200) and Educational Services (+100) were the lone industries to report an over-the-year employment gain. Natural Resources & Mining employment remained unchanged over the year.

MANUFACTURING: In April 2009, production workers in the Manufacturing sector earned \$13.81 per hour. The average hourly production wage was up one cent from March 2009 and down 11 cents from April 2008. Manufacturing employees worked an average of 37.6 hours per week in April, up two-tenths of an hour over the month, but down six-tenths over the year.

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. With the release of the January estimates, the seasonally adjusted jobs and unemployment data have been revised back to 2004. Current month's figures are preliminary and subject to change.



Marine Trades in Rhode Island

Marine Trades encompasses a variety of business activities involved with boating. Included are ship and boat building and repair; boating recreation, instruction, rental and charters; sightseeing by water; retail and wholesale suppliers of marine machinery and equipment; navigational services and support activities for water transportation.

In 2008, the 533 business engaged in these activities employed an average of 6,468 workers and paid wages in excess of \$273 million. Wages averaged \$42,294 in 2008, about \$1,200 (2.9%) more than the private sector average of \$41,089.

Within Marine Trades, Ship Building and Repair employs the most workers (2,552) followed by Boat Building (1,022), Marinas (702) and Charting and Boating Clubs (550). Together these four industries account for nearly three-quarters of the employment included in Marine Trades.

Employment in Rhode Island's Marine Trades Industry Cluster Annual Average Employment Data 2003 - 2008

	Number of Business	Employees	Payroll	Average Wage
2003	444	5,827	\$207,381,332	\$35,590
2004	469	6,167	\$224,938,707	\$36,475
2005	502	6,256	\$234,607,598	\$37,501
2006	527	6,117	\$239,835,036	\$39,208
2007	528	6,341	\$260,040,139	\$41,009
2008	533	6,468	\$273,558,072	\$42,294

Over the last five years employment in Marine Trades has grown by 11 percent with the addition of 641 jobs. The largest job gains were reported in Ship Building and Repair (+205) and Marinas (+183). Other notable gains occurred in Sports & Recreational Instruction (+71), Marine Instructional Schools (+69) and Boat Dealers (+52). The largest declines were reported in Boat Building (-57) and Marine Machinery, Equipment and Supply Merchant Wholesalers (-18).

Characteristics of the Insured Unemployed

In April 2009, 45 percent of Rhode Island's unemployed workers were eligible to collect Unemployment Insurance (UI) benefits. Numbering 28,407 people, these "insured unemployed" accounted for 5.7 percent of the State's total employed (unadjusted). Nearly 35 percent (9,853) 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, 20.2 percent (5,743) of the State's insured unemployed workers came from the Manufacturing sector. There were also 4,418 individuals with an attachment to the Construction sector, accounting for 15.6 percent of all insured unemployed workers. An additional 9.1 percent (2,593) of those collecting UI benefits in April had worked in the Administrative & Waste Services sector. Large numbers of insured unemployed were also reported in Accommodation & Food Services (2,539), Retail Trade (2,208) and Transportation & Warehousing (2,090). For more information, go to www.dlt.ri.gov/lmi/uiadmin/characteristics.htm.

Characteristics of the Insured Unemployed, April 2009

	Total	Long-Term	Percent Long-Term
Total	28,407	9,853	34.7%
Male	16,239	6,171	38.0%
Female	12,168	3,682	30.3%
Selected Industries	28,407	9,853	34.7%
Construction	4,418	1,616	36.6%
Manufacturing	5,743	2,056	35.8%
Wholesale Trade	1,186	432	36.4%
Retail Trade	2,208	855	38.7%
Transportation & Warehousing	2,090	317	15.2%
Information	554	178	32.1%
Finance & Insurance	1,361	514	37.8%
Real Estate	539	190	35.3%
Professional & Tech. Services	1,079	344	31.9%
Administrative & Waste Services	2,593	985	38.0%
Educational Services	271	94	34.7%
Health Care & Social Assistance	1,522	552	36.3%
Arts, Entertainment & Recreation	527	254	48.2%
Accommodation & Food Services	2,539	796	31.4%
Other Services	725	261	36.0%
Public Administration	224	51	22.8%

Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers

				% Change
	Apr 09	Mar 09	Apr 08	Prev. Year
All Items	213.2	212.7	214.8	-0.7%

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

Summer Employment Opportunities in Rhode Island (Continued from Page 1)

Seasonal employment during summer 2009 may prove to have a brighter outlook in these industries than earlier predicted. Due to the poor economic conditions and sharply increasing gas prices States are promoting and preparing for "staycations". "Staycations"-vacations at or near home- boost the tourism business and positively affect employment and revenue in seasonal industries. Rhode Island's recreation areas, historical interest sites, restaurants and unique entertainment venues such as Waterfire, make it the perfect back drop for "staycations."

Getting a summer job may be more difficult this year than in years past due to a decrease in demand and a greater supply of available workers. However, job seekers are still encouraged to check with employers in these sectors and areas, as they will be the ones most likely to be hiring.

The other two industries which traditionally add jobs during the summer months are Construction (+2,200) and Landscaping (+550). In 2008, both these industries experienced smaller than average employment gains. The Construction sector added nearly 1,700 positions last year while the Landscaping industry added 527 jobs.

City & Town Unadjusted Unemployment Rates for April

	2009	2008		2009	2008
Barrington	7.7	4.1	Newport	9.7	5.6
Bristol	10.8	5.7	North Kingstown	8.9	5.3
Burrillville	11.9	6.1	North Providence	11.0	6.3
Central Falls	15.0	8.8	North Smithfield	10.2	5.6
Charlestown	12.7	6.5	Pawtucket	13.9	7.4
Coventry	11.5	6.1	Portsmouth	8.9	4.7
Cranston	10.9	6.4	Providence	13.0	7.5
Cumberland	10.5	5.5	Richmond	8.4	4.1
East Greenwich	9.4	5.9	Scituate	11.7	6.7
East Providence	12.2	6.7	Smithfield	10.3	5.5
Exeter	9.8	5.1	South Kingstown	8.7	5.0
Foster	12.1	5.9	Tiverton	11.8	6.5
Glocester	9.1	5.2	Warren	11.7	5.8
Hopkinton	12.4	6.3	Warwick	10.2	5.9
Jamestown	6.0	4.2	West Greenwich	10.0	5.8
Johnston	11.9	7.1	West Warwick	11.9	6.4
Lincoln	11.1	5.7	Westerly	10.1	6.0
Little Compton	9.6	5.2	Woonsocket	13.4	7.5
Middletown	9.1	5.5			
Narragansett	6.8	4.3	State of R.I.	11.3	6.3
New Shoreham	16.1	11.0	United States	8.6	4.8

Statistical Digest

The *Statistical Digest* is published annually by the Rhode Island Department of Labor and Training's Labor Market Information Unit. This digest contains detailed activity reports for nearly all Department programs. A number of selected tables showing labor force, employment, unemployment and wage data are also included.

To view and print tables from the Digest, visit the LMI web site at: www.dlt.ri.gov/lmi/publications/sfdigest.htm

	Apr	Mar	Apr	% Change		Year to Date		
	2009	2009	2008	Mar 09	Apr 08	2009	2008	% Change
Regular Claims								
Initial Claims	10,381	15,491	7,815	-33.0%	32.8%	50,161	34,847	43.9%
Number of Payments	110,415	141,500	62,541	-22.0%	76.5%	446,824	293,932	52.0%
Amount of Payments (gross millions)	\$40.9	\$52.4	\$22.4	-21.9%	82.6%	\$165.8	\$107.0	55.0%
Exhaustions (Final Payments)	3,159	3,188	1,779	-0.9%	77.6%	10,550	6,661	58.4%
Emergency Unemployment Compensation								
Initial Claims	3,360	3,484	n/a	-3.6%	n/a	11,070	n/a	n/a
Number of Payments	44,148	55,382	n/a	-20.3%	n/a	182,500	n/a	n/a
Amount of Payments (gross millions)	\$15.5	\$19.6	n/a	-20.6%	n/a	\$64.1	n/a	n/a
Extended Benefits								
Initial Claims	647	366	n/a	76.8%	n/a	1,107	n/a	n/a
Number of Payments	5,288	2,467	n/a	114.3%	n/a	7,978	n/a	n/a
Amount of Payments (gross millions)	\$1.7	\$0.7	n/a	142.9%	n/a	\$2.5	n/a	n/a

Marine Trades 2008 Employment by Industry

NAICS Code	Industry	Number Businesses	Average Employees	Total Payroll	Average Wage
	Marine Trades	533	6,468	\$273,558,072	\$42,294
336612	Boat building	40	1,022	\$45,699,063	\$44,715
441222	Boat dealers	64	399	\$16,074,981	\$40,288
532292	Boat rental	12	14	\$295,087	\$21,078
811490	Boat repair	67	195	\$5,922,319	\$30,371
713990	Chartering & boating clubs without marina	69	550	\$11,316,201	\$20,575
713930	Marinas	73	702	\$24,871,279	\$35,429
611519	Marine instructional schools	26	191	\$7,670,093	\$40,158
423860	Marine machinery, equipment and supply merchant wholesalers	8	13	\$708,165	\$54,474
48833	Navigational services to shipping & salvage	7	60	\$2,879,658	\$47,994
48839	Other support activities fro water transportation	6	55	\$2,519,009	\$45,800
487210	Scenic & sightseeing transportation, water	41	186	\$3,886,225	\$20,894
336611	Ship building and repairing	6	2,552	\$131,730,479	\$51,619
423910	Sporting and recreational goods & supplies merchant wholesalers	27	256	\$14,464,436	\$56,502
61162	Sports & recreational instruction	87	273	\$5,521,077	\$20,224