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Employment Bulletin

Rhode Island
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November 2007

Rhode Island's Unemployment Rate is Unchanged in October

- ◆ Rhode Island's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate for October showed no change from September's jobless estimate of 4.9 percent.
- ◆ Compared to October 2006, the seasonally adjusted unemployment rate is down 0.2 of a percentage point.
- ◆ Rhode Island's unemployment rate is 0.2 of a percentage point above the national average, which held steady at 4.7 percent.
- ◆ The number of unemployed Rhode Island residents inched up only 100 to 28,600 in October 2007 from September's level and is down by 1,000 from the October 2006 level of 29,600.
- ◆ The number of employed Rhode Islanders declined by 200 over the month to 551,800 in October 2007 and rose by 2,700 from October 2006.

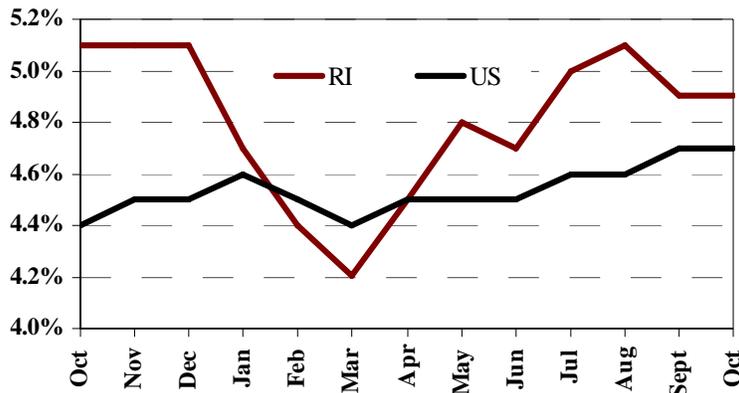
UI and TDI Taxable Wage Bases Announced for 2008

The taxable wage base on which employers pay Unemployment Insurance (UI) taxes for their employees will remain at \$14,000 for the 2008 year. As of September 30, 2007, the Employment Security Fund held \$185.5 million in reserves. According to the law, if the Employment Security Fund balance is more than \$175 million but less than \$225 million, the taxable wage base will be \$14,000 for the next calendar year.

Tax Schedule I, with rates ranging from a low of 1.69% to a high of 9.79%, will remain in effect in 2008. The new employer rate for UI purposes will be 2.43 percent for calendar year 2008. In 2007, the new employer rate was 2.41 percent. These tax rates do not include the 0.21 percent Job Development Assessment. Employers will be notified of their individual tax rates at the end of December.

The Temporary Disability Insurance (TDI) taxable wage base for the tax year beginning January 1, 2008 will be \$54,400, up from the 2007 base of \$52,100. The TDI contribution rate will remain at 1.3 percent for calendar year 2008.

RI & US Unemployment Rates
Seasonally Adjusted 2006-2007



Resources for Ocean State Employers

An array of resources is available to benefit your business. The Department of Labor and Training has teamed with the Economic Development Corporation to boost your bottom line. Learn about Tax Credits, Occupational Wage Levels and Grants for Employee Training from the Employer Service Team.

Tuesday, December 11, 2007 9:00 AM - 11:00 AM
Department of Labor & Training, Cranston, RI

Pre-registration is required. Call 1-888-616-Jobs to register.

Seasonally Adjusted Labor Force Statistics (in thousands)

	Rhode Island			United States		
	Oct 07	Sep 07	Oct 06	Oct 07	Sep 07	Oct 06
Civilian Labor Force	580.4	580.6	578.7	153,253	153,464	152,052
Resident Employment	551.8	552.0	549.1	146,007	146,257	145,337
Unemployment	28.6	28.5	29.6	7,245	7,207	6,715
Unemployment Rate	4.9%	4.9%	5.1%	4.7%	4.7%	4.4%

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Rhode Island's Job Count Remains Stable

The total number of seasonally adjusted non-farm jobs in Rhode Island was unchanged at 499,600 in October, equaling the number of the revised September 2007 job count.

From September to October of this year, the largest employment gains were reported in the Transportation & Utilities (+300) and the Professional & Business Services (+300) sectors. Smaller gains of 100 each were noted in the Construction, Information, and Accommodation & Food Services sectors. The boost in Transportation & Utilities employment was attributed to reported gains in both school and charter bus employment, as well as increases in truck transportation and warehousing. Within Professional & Business Services, job gains were noted in Employment Services.

The month's employment increases were partially offset by job losses of 300 each in the Educational Services and Health Care & Social Assistance sectors, along with a loss of 200 in the Manufacturing and 100 in the Retail Trade sectors.

From October 2006 to October 2007, Rhode Island jobs grew 3,800, a 0.8 percent increase. The largest annual employment gains occurred in the Professional & Business Services (+1,300); Health Care & Social Assistance (+1,000);

Construction (+900); Arts, Entertainment & Recreation (+600); and Other Services (+600) sectors. Manufacturing employment experienced the largest over-the-year loss (-1,300), followed by declines in Government (-300), Wholesale Trade (-200) and Retail Trade (-100).

Hours and Earnings

In October 2007, production workers in the Manufacturing sector earned \$13.94 per hour. The average hourly production wage was up four cents from September and up 51 cents per hour from a year ago. Manufacturing employees worked an average of 39.3 hours per week in October, up 0.1 of an hour over the month and down 0.4 of an hour since October 2006.

Establishment Employment in Rhode Island Seasonally Adjusted

	Employment (in thousands)		Net
	Oct-07	Sep-07	Change
Total Nonfarm	499.6	499.6	0.0
Natural Resources & Mining	0.3	0.3	0.0
Construction	24.3	24.2	0.1
Manufacturing	50.8	51.0	-0.2
Wholesale Trade*	16.6	16.6	0.0
Retail Trade	51.9	52.0	-0.1
Transportation & Utilities	11.6	11.3	0.3
Information	11.2	11.1	0.1
Financial Activities	35.9	35.9	0.0
Professional & Business Services	58.9	58.6	0.3
Educational Services	22.7	23.0	-0.3
Health Care & Social Assistance	75.8	76.1	-0.3
Arts, Entertainment & Recreation	8.7	8.7	0.0
Accommodation & Food Services	43.2	43.1	0.1
Other Services	23.5	23.5	0.0
Government	64.2	64.2	0.0

* State Calculated Estimate

Manufacturing Employment in Rhode Island Not Seasonally Adjusted

	Employment					Production Worker Averages					
	(in thousands)			Net Change From		Weekly Hours			Hourly Earnings		
	Oct 07	Sept 07	Oct 06	Sept 07	Oct 06	Oct 07	Sept 07	Oct 06	Oct 07	Sept 07	Oct 06
Manufacturing	51.3	51.4	52.6	-100	-1300	39.3	39.2	39.7	\$13.94	\$13.90	\$13.43
Durable Goods	33.7	33.6	34.2	100	-500	39.4	38.3	39.2	\$13.97	\$13.89	\$13.32
Fabricated Metal Product Mfg.	7.1	7.0	7.5	100	-400	40.8	40.9	40.7	\$13.07	\$12.94	\$11.86
Computer & Electronic Product Mfg.	4.7	4.7	4.6	0	100	37.9	37.1	37.0	\$14.45	\$14.49	\$14.60
Miscellaneous Manufacturing	9.5	9.4	9.9	100	-400	36.1	35.5	38.9	\$11.98	\$11.92	\$11.10
Jewelry & Silverware	6.8	6.7	6.9	100	-100	38.2	37.8	41.1	\$10.65	\$10.60	\$10.30
Non-Durable Goods	17.6	17.8	18.4	-200	-800	39.2	40.9	40.5	\$13.90	\$13.91	\$13.62
Chemical Manufacturing	4.0	4.1	4.6	-100	-600	39.9	40.8	38.2	\$16.28	\$16.31	\$15.70
Plastics & Rubber Products Mfg.	2.6	2.7	2.8	-100	-200	43.4	44.6	41.0	\$14.32	\$14.41	\$14.34

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.

Job Vacancies - Summer 2007



In Summer 2007, there were an estimated 8,637 job vacancies in Rhode Island's private sector, a vacancy rate of 2.1 percent or approximately two openings for every one hundred jobs filled. Nearly forty percent of the job vacancies were in the Health Care & Social Assistance sector (3,416), as the

demand for Registered Nurses, CNA's and other healthcare practitioners and technologist kept this sector on top of the job vacancy list for the third consecutive year. Other sectors with substantial numbers of vacancies included Accommodation & Food Services (1,281) and Administrative & Waste Services (952).

In comparison with last year, job vacancies were down 21.1 percent from the 10,949 job vacancies estimated for the Spring 2006. However, nearly 66 percent of the 2007 vacancies were for full-time jobs (defined as 35 or more hours of work per week) compared to 56 percent in 2006.

An estimated 30.9 percent of the 2007 vacancies required a high school diploma or GED, and 23.4 percent called for a bachelor's degree or higher. Approximately 21 percent had no education requirement. Nearly 60 percent of the vacancies required work experience in a related position and nearly 18 percent required general work experience.

Overall, 38 percent of the estimated job vacancies in Summer 2007 had been open for less than thirty days. In contrast, one-third of estimated openings were constantly being recruited for or always open for hire, while an additional 13.4 percent had been open for more than sixty days.

For more job vacancy data by industry and major occupational group, please read our full report at www.dlt.ri.gov/lmi/jvs.htm.

Private Sector Job Vacancy Data Summary Summer 2007

	2007
Number of Job Vacancies	8,637
Job Vacancy Rate (vacancies per 100 filled jobs)	2.1%
Full-Time Positions	65.8%
Part-Time Positions	34.2%
Vacancies Open < 30 Days	38.4%
Vacancies Open Between 30-59 Days	16.5%
Vacancies Open > 60 Days	13.4%
Constantly Recruiting/Always Hiring	31.7%
Vacancies Requiring a Diploma/GED	30.9%
Vacancies Requiring Vocational Training	11.6%
Vacancies Requiring an Associate Degree	12.7%
Vacancies Requiring a Bachelor's Degree	18.5%
Vacancies Requiring an Advanced Degree	4.9%
No Education Requirement	21.3%
General Work Experience Required	17.9%
Experience Related to Position Required	59.3%
No Experience Required	22.8%

Characteristics of the Insured Unemployed

In October 2007, 41 percent of Rhode Island's unemployed workers were eligible to collect Unemployment Insurance (UI) benefits. Numbering 10,605 people, these "insured unemployed" accounted for 1.9 percent of the state's total employed (unadjusted). More than 31 percent (3,311) 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, 15.2 percent (1,614) of the State's insured unemployed workers came from the Manufacturing sector. There were also 1,267 individuals with an attachment to the Retail Trade sector, accounting for 11.9 percent of all insured unemployed workers. An additional 11.6 percent (1,226) of those collecting UI benefits in October had worked in the Construction sector. Large numbers of insured unemployed were also reported in Finance & Insurance (1,110), Health Care & Social Assistance (1,030) and Administrative & Waste Services (786). For more information, go to www.dlt.ri.gov/lmi/uiadmin/characteristics.htm.

Characteristics of the Insured Unemployed, October 2007

	<i>Total</i>	<i>Long-Term</i>	<i>Percent Long-Term</i>
Total	10,605	3,311	31.2%
Male	5,550	1,617	29.1%
Female	5,055	1,694	33.5%
Selected Industries	10,605	3,311	31.2%
Construction	1,226	176	14.4%
Manufacturing	1,614	612	37.9%
Wholesale Trade	437	148	33.9%
Retail Trade	1,267	388	30.6%
Transportation & Warehousing	227	64	28.2%
Information	155	60	38.7%
Finance & Insurance	1,110	364	32.8%
Real Estate	220	88	40.0%
Professional & Tech. Services	568	197	34.7%
Administrative & Waste Services	786	229	29.1%
Educational Services	331	115	34.7%
Health Care & Social Assistance	1,030	350	34.0%
Arts, Entertainment & Recreation	168	46	27.4%
Accommodation & Food Services	573	186	32.5%
Other Services	344	121	35.2%
Public Administration	107	34	31.8%

Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers

	Oct 07	Sept 07	Oct 06	% Change Prev. Year
All Items	208.9	208.5	201.8	3.5%

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

2008 Annual Refiling Survey Notice

Every few years, the LMI unit conducts an *Annual Refiling Survey (ARS)* of all Rhode Island businesses. The purpose of the survey is to review and update previously assigned North American Industry Classification System (NAICS) codes and to provide or verify the physical location of the business.

NAICS is an industry classification system that groups establishments into industries based on the activities in which they are primarily engaged. The NAICS code is assigned to all businesses, public or private. The NAICS code acts as a statistical tool to measure the economic health of industries both local and statewide. NAICS makes it possible to determine current employment wage trends and economic forecasts by industry. The NAICS code helps determine statistically how industries are growing or shrinking and how occupations within industries are emerging or declining.

The LMI unit is currently conducting the first mailing for the 2008 ARS. If you receive an **Industry Verification Form, (BLS 3023)**, we are asking that you complete this form and return it to the LMI unit. A high response rate is essential for accurate statistical data. Once the survey is completed, you should not have to participate for a few years.

If your business receives a form, you can now respond by telephone using the Touchtone Response System (TRS). If your company is TRS eligible, simply follow the instructions on the back of the cover letter. For those not eligible for TRS, a postage paid envelope is provided for a mailed return. Thank you for your assistance!

City & Town Unadjusted Unemployment Rates for October

	2007	2006		2007	2006
Barrington	3.4	3.0	Newport	3.5	3.6
Bristol	3.7	3.6	North Kingstown	3.8	3.3
Burrillville	3.7	3.8	North Providence	4.9	4.5
Central Falls	5.9	6.3	North Smithfield	3.7	4.2
Charlestown	4.1	3.7	Pawtucket	5.3	5.4
Coventry	3.9	3.8	Portsmouth	3.2	3.5
Cranston	4.8	4.5	Providence	5.6	5.4
Cumberland	4.0	3.9	Richmond	2.3	2.6
East Greenwich	4.4	4.4	Scituate	4.1	4.3
East Providence	4.7	4.6	Smithfield	4.0	3.9
Exeter	3.6	3.7	South Kingstown	3.3	3.5
Foster	4.4	4.3	Tiverton	3.9	4.3
Glocester	3.4	3.0	Warren	4.1	4.4
Hopkinton	3.9	3.8	Warwick	4.4	4.1
Jamestown	3.1	3.3	West Greenwich	3.9	3.1
Johnston	5.2	4.8	West Warwick	4.9	4.5
Lincoln	4.3	3.7	Westerly	3.8	3.7
Little Compton	3.1	3.2	Woonsocket	5.1	4.8
Middletown	3.4	3.7			
Narragansett	3.0	3.1	State of R.I.	4.5	4.3
New Shoreham	3.5	3.4	United States	4.4	4.1

Wage & Labor Laws Free Seminars

Labor Standards investigates complaints and compliance with state labor laws. Learn how to maintain adequate wage records, when to pay time and a half, determine mandatory employee breaks, hire teens or fire employees. Understand how to honor legal holidays and properly display workforce information posters.

Monday, December 10, 2007	9:30 AM - 12:30 PM
Wednesday, December 12, 2007	12:30 PM - 3:30 PM
Thursday, December 13, 2007	9:30 AM - 12:30 PM
Friday, December 14, 2007	12:30 PM - 3:30 PM

All seminars take place at the Department of Labor and Training, 1511 Pontiac Avenue, Cranston. Registration is 1/2 hour before each seminar.

Pre-registration is required. Call 1-888-616-Jobs or visit www.dlt.ri.gov/lis/seminars.htm to register.

Unemployment Insurance Claims Activity

	Oct 2007	Sept 2007	Oct 2006	% Change		Year to Date		
				Sept 07	Oct 06	2007	2006	% Change
Initial Claims	5,430	4,430	4,654	22.6%	16.7%	65,274	60,671	7.6%
Number of Payments	46,254	40,707	38,519	13.6%	20.1%	544,881	500,833	8.8%
Amount of Payments (gross millions)	\$16.7	\$14.3	\$13.1	16.8%	27.5%	\$189.1	\$166.1	13.8%
Exhaustions (Final Payments)	1,323	1,032	1,067	28.2%	24.0%	12,570	11,780	6.7%

2007 Rhode Island Job Vacancy Report

Private Sector Job Vacancy Data Summary Summer 2007

	2007	2006
Number of Job Vacancies	8,637	10,949
Job Vacancy Rate (vacancies per 100 filled jobs)	2.1%	2.7%
Full-Time Positions	65.8%	55.8%
Part-Time Positions	34.2%	44.2%
Vacancies Open < 30 Days	38.4%	35.8%
Vacancies Open Between 30-59 Days	16.5%	17.8%
Vacancies Open > 60 Days	13.4%	12.6%
Constantly Recruiting/Always Hiring	31.7%	33.7%
Permanent Positions	92.2%	87.0%
Temporary/Seasonal Positions	7.8%	13.0%
Vacancies Requiring a Diploma/GED	30.9%	41.0%
Vacancies Requiring Vocational Training	11.6%	8.3%
Vacancies Requiring an Associate Degree	12.7%	8.3%
Vacancies Requiring a Bachelor's Degree	18.5%	16.1%
Vacancies Requiring an Advanced Degree	4.9%	3.7%
No Education Requirement	21.3%	22.6%
License or Certificate Required	20.0%	25.8%
General Work Experience Required	17.9%	20.2%
Experience Related to Position Required	59.3%	51.7%
No Experience Required	22.8%	28.1%
Median Hourly Wage Range	\$11.00 to \$12.00	\$11.00 to \$12.00
Vacancies with Health Insurance	77.3%	63.9%
Vacancies with Paid Sick Leave	52.5%	52.9%
Vacancies with Paid Vacation	81.0%	65.4%
Vacancies with Tuition Reimbursement	51.0%	40.2%
Vacancies with Retirement /Pension Plan	68.4%	60.9%
Vacancies with No Benefits Offered	13.3%	27.2%

The full Job Vacancy report is available on our website at www.dlt.ri.gov/lmi/jvs.htm.