



Employment Labor Market Information Bulletin

Volume 12, No. 10

October 2000

The September Unemployment Rate Fell to 3.7 Percent

The Unemployment Rate

Rhode Island's jobless level of 3.7 percent in September was down 0.8 of a percentage point from August's figure of 4.5 percent. A year ago, the unemployment rate was estimated at 4.1 percent. The number of unemployed Rhode Islanders fell by 4,100 over the month and 1,800 over the year. Nationally, the unemployment rate for September edged down 0.2 of a percentage point to 3.9 percent. Rhode Island's unemployment figure was below the US average for the seventh time in nine months.

"The drop in September's unemployment rate signals good news for the Rhode Island economy. Our unemployment rate averaged 3.9 percent for the first nine months of 2000. This is a clear indication that the Rhode Island economy remains on a positive track," said DLT Director Dr. Lee H. Arnold.

Rhode Island Job Highlights (Over the Year)

Since September 1999, the number of jobs in Rhode Island increased by 4,600 or 1.0 percent. Nearly all major industry divisions experienced over-the-year job gains with the largest occurring in Trade (+2,000), Services (+1,400) and Contract Construction (+1,300). Employment gains were reported in nearly every component of the Trade sector with the largest increases occurring in Apparel & Accessory Stores (+400), followed by General Merchandise Stores (+300), Food Stores (+300) and Restaurants (+300). Within the Services sector, Business Services (+1,000) registered the most growth, followed by Amusement & Recreation (+300), Hotels & Lodging (+300) and Automotive & Miscellaneous Repair (+300). Employment in Health Services was down 800 over the year due to the closing of one of the State's largest HMO's. Contract Construction remained strong over the last twelve months with the addition of 1,300 jobs. Government employment grew by 500 over the year due to an increase of 800 jobs in Local Government. Annual gains were also reported in Transportation & Public Utilities (+400) and Finance, Insurance & Real Estate (+200). The Manufacturing sector lost 1,200 jobs over the year with more than half the decrease attributed to a job loss of 700 in Jewelry-Silverware manufacturing.

Rhode Island Job Highlights (Over the Month)

The number of jobs in Rhode Island rose by 4,000 over the month, mainly due to the return of school workers following the summer break and the end of the Verizon Communications labor dispute. The largest increases occurred in Government, Services and Transportation & Public Utilities as private and public education services geared up for the new school year and communications workers returned to their jobs. (Continued on Page 4)

New Labor Market Information Applications

The LMI unit has developed two new applications that make access to its data available over the Internet. One is geared towards Job Seekers and Students and the second focuses on our Business and Research users. Anyone with access to the Internet can now view the latest labor market information available for Rhode Island from the convenience of their home, business, school, or library at any time of the day or night. The Job Seeker/Student application (www.dlt.state.ri.us/jobseeker) allows users to access data on growing and declining occupations, wages by occupation, job duties, employer listings, training and educational program providers. The Analyzer (www.dlt.state.ri.us/analyzer) allows business people and researchers to view the latest occupational wage rates, labor force data, area profiles, lists of employers by industry, and expanding and declining industries. Demonstrations have already been given to the LMI Committee, the Human Resource Investment Council, and at a Welfare Implementation Meeting at the Department of Human Services.

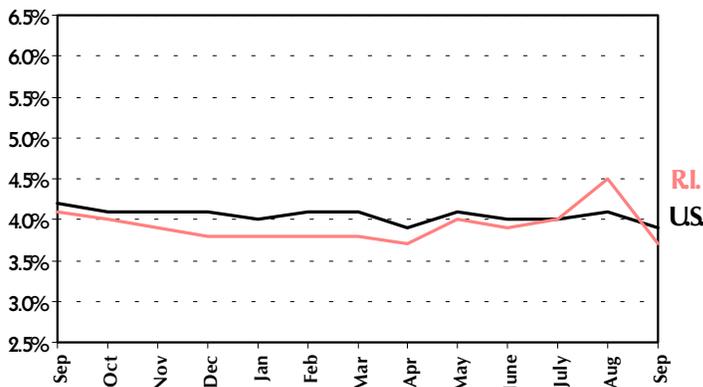
Rhode Island Labor Force Statistics* (in thousands)

	Unadjusted			Seasonally Adjusted		
	Sept 00	Aug 00	Sept 99	Sept 00	Aug 00	Sept 99
Civilian Labor Force	506.5	515.9	508.5	503.2	508.7	505.1
Resident Employment	486.8	493.6	487.2	484.3	485.8	484.5
Unemployment	19.7	22.3	21.3	18.8	22.9	20.6
Unemployment Rate	3.9%	4.3%	4.2%	3.7%	4.5%	4.1%

United States Labor Force Statistics (in thousands)

	Unadjusted			Seasonally Adjusted		
	Sept 00	Aug 00	Sept 99	Sept 00	Aug 00	Sept 99
Civilian Labor Force	140,357	141,425	139,217	140,639	140,742	139,475
Resident Employment	135,033	135,601	133,555	135,161	134,912	133,650
Unemployment	5,324	5,824	5,661	5,477	5,829	5,825
Unemployment Rate	3.8%	4.1%	4.1%	3.9%	4.1%	4.2%

Rhode Island & United States Unemployment Rates Seasonally Adjusted 1999-2000



City & Town Unadjusted Unemployment Rates

	Sept 00	Sept 99
Barrington	2.6	2.7
Bristol	3.1	3.4
Burrillville	3.2	3.8
Central Falls	6.0	5.9
Charlestown	3.4	5.6
Coventry	4.1	4.0
Cranston	4.0	4.3
Cumberland	2.9	3.3
East Greenwich	3.5	4.2
East Providence	4.3	4.5
Exeter	3.2	3.6
Foster	4.1	4.5
Glocester	2.7	3.8
Hopkinton	1.6	3.0
Jamestown	3.3	3.3
Johnston	4.2	4.6
Lincoln	3.6	4.2
Little Compton	1.7	2.2
Middletown	3.0	3.1
Narragansett	1.7	2.2
New Shoreham	2.6	2.1
Newport	3.2	3.6
North Kingstown	3.2	3.3
North Providence	4.1	4.4
North Smithfield	2.7	3.3
Pawtucket	4.5	4.7
Portsmouth	3.0	2.6
Providence	5.5	5.7
Richmond	1.7	2.0
Scituate	3.9	4.1
Smithfield	3.5	4.2
South Kingstown	2.7	3.3
Tiverton	3.2	3.2
Warren	3.5	3.7
Warwick	3.8	3.7
West Greenwich	3.3	3.4
West Warwick	4.4	5.2
Westerly	2.5	2.7
Woonsocket	4.4	5.2
State of R.I.	3.9	4.2

Unemployment Insurance Claims Activity

	Sept	Aug	Sept	% Change		Year to Date		
	2000	2000	1999	Aug 00	Sept 99	2000	1999	% Change
Initial Claims	4,007	5,015	4,644	-20.1%	-13.7%	61,537	70,362	-12.5%
Number of Payments	31,597	44,692	35,718	-29.3%	-11.5%	434,080	469,458	-7.5%
Amount of Payments (gross millions)	\$7.6	\$10.1	\$8.5	-24.8%	-10.8%	\$105.0	\$108.7	-3.4%
Exhaustions (Final Payments)	883	944	893	-6.5%	-1.1%	9,676	10,467	-7.6%
E.S. Fund Balance (millions)	\$293.4	\$295.5	\$254.8	-0.7%	15.1%			

*Current month figures are PRELIMINARY, prior month & 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.

For additional information, comments or suggestions, contact

Labor Market Information, Phone (401)462-8740, Fax: (401)462-8766, www.dlt.state.ri.us/lmi

Important Notice for Employers!

The relocation of the Department of Labor & Training (DLT) to the Center General Complex in Cranston has made it necessary to change the telephone number of the DLT/netWORKri Job Bank fax number. The new number listed below will continue to provide hiring companies instant access to job listing opportunities in both local office postings and on the Internet as well. As always, these services are provided at absolutely no cost to the participating organization. The success of the Job Bank is reflected in the vast number of orders they handle on a daily basis. If you have been a customer of this successful employment tool, please make a note of the new number for your convenience. If you are unfamiliar with how the system operates, call the toll free number below and an Employer Service Representative (ESR) will be happy to explain this free service to you.

DLT / netWORKri JOB BANK
1-888-616-JOBS (5627)
FAX (401)-462-8722

Total Establishment Employment in Rhode Island**

	Employment (in thousands)			Net Change From	
	Sept 00	Aug 00	Sept 99	Aug 00	Sept 99
TOTAL EMPLOYMENT	474.8	470.8	470.2	4000	4600
GOODS PRODUCING	94.7	94.0	94.6	700	100
Contract Construction	20.5	20.6	19.2	-100	1300
Manufacturing	74.2	73.4	75.4	800	-1200
SERVICE PRODUCING	380.1	376.8	375.6	3300	4500
Trans. & Public Utilities	16.6	14.8*	16.2	1800	400
Trade (Wholesale & Retail)	108.6	110.4	106.6	-1800	2000
Wholesale	20.4	20.3	19.9	100	500
Durables*	12.7	12.6	12.4	100	300
Nondurables*	7.7	7.7	7.5	-----	200
Retail	88.2	90.1	86.7	-1900	1500
Building & Garden Supplies*	2.5	2.4	2.4	100	100
General Merchandise	7.2	7.1	6.9	100	300
Food Stores*	16.2	16.3	15.9	-100	300
Automotive Dealers	7.6	7.6	7.5	-----	100
Apparel & Accessory Stores	5.0	5.1	4.6	-100	400
Furn., Home Furn., & Equipt.*	2.4	2.5	2.5	-100	-100
Eating and Drinking Places	32.4	34.3	32.1	-1900	300
Miscellaneous Retail	15.0	14.8	14.9	200	100
Finance, Insurance & Real Estate	30.1	30.4	29.9	-300	200
Depository Institutions	9.0	9.0	8.7	-----	300
Services	163.3	161.7	161.9	1600	1400
Hotels & Other Lodging*	4.9	5.2	4.6	-300	300
Business Services	32.0	31.2	31.0	800	1000
Auto & Misc. Repair*	5.3	5.2	5.0	100	300
Amusement & Recreation	6.1	6.7	5.8	-600	300
Health Services	50.9	51.1	51.7	-200	-800
Educational Services	16.0	13.5	16.0	2500	-----
Social Services	15.3	15.1	15.2	200	100
Government	61.5	59.5	61.0	2000	500
Federal	10.3	10.5	10.4	-200	-100
State	17.4	17.6	17.6	-200	-200
Local	33.8	31.4	33.0	2400	800
Education*	20.7	17.2	20.5	3500	200
Non Education*	13.1	14.2	12.5	-1100	600

*Labor Dispute ♦ Publication of these industries is not approved by the Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS)

Establishment Employment, Hours and Earnings in Manufacturing Industries in Rhode Island

	EMPLOYMENT (in thousands)					PRODUCTION-WORKER AVERAGES					
				Net Change		Weekly Hours			Hourly Earnings		
	Sept 00	Aug 00	Sept 99	Aug 00	Sept 99	Sept 00	Aug 00	Sept 99	Sept 00	Aug 00	Sept 99
MANUFACTURING	74.2	73.4	75.4	800	-1200	40.2	39.9	39.5	12.13	12.15	11.97
DURABLE MFG.	48.2	47.8	49.3	400	-1100	40.1	39.9	39.2	11.90	11.94	11.75
Lumber/Furniture	2.6	2.7	3.0	-100	-400	39.4	39.9	39.9	12.04	12.03	12.00
Stone-Clay-Glass	1.2	1.2	1.1	-----	100	40.7	41.5	39.5	13.81	13.84	13.79
Primary Metals	4.0	3.9	4.2	100	-200	39.7	40.0	42.0	12.68	12.70	12.65
Fabricated Metals	8.3	8.2	8.3	100	-----	38.0	37.7	36.1	11.40	11.30	11.12
Nonelectrical Mach.	5.2	5.1	4.8	100	400	41.9	40.0	39.7	13.54	13.52	13.21
Electrical Mach.	5.3	5.1	5.4	200	-100	40.2	40.5	40.1	11.34	11.48	11.33
Trans. Equipment	3.3	3.5	3.4	-200	-100	40.7	41.4	39.2	14.31	14.33	14.34
Instruments	5.3	5.3	5.2	-----	100	40.6	39.6	39.6	12.58	12.64	12.37
Jewelry-Silverware	10.0	9.8	10.7	200	-700	41.1	41.3	39.3	10.37	10.48	10.15
Miscellaneous Mfg.	3.0	3.0	3.2	-----	-200	38.7	37.2	40.0	11.43	11.34	11.41
NONDURABLE MFG.	26.0	25.6	26.1	400	-100	40.4	39.9	40.1	12.56	12.52	12.39
Food Beverage	3.1	2.9	2.7	200	400	41.1	41.3	39.8	11.52	11.54	11.31
Textiles	6.9	6.8	7.1	100	-200	39.2	39.5	42.6	10.78	10.77	10.71
Apparel	0.7	0.8	0.9	-100	-200	39.3	41.3	36.3	9.33	9.18	9.30
Paper Products	2.3	2.2	2.2	100	100	39.7	37.8	37.0	12.34	12.33	11.82
Printing-Publishing	5.3	5.3	5.5	-----	-200	40.8	39.5	39.2	16.52	16.52	16.77
Chemical Products	2.2	2.1	2.1	100	100	42.5	41.2	40.1	13.73	13.84	13.52
Rubber Products	0.6	0.6	0.5	-----	100	42.5	40.7	45.5	13.05	12.93	12.92
Plastics Products	4.4	4.4	4.6	-----	-200	41.4	40.8	38.3	13.42	13.35	12.87
Leather Products	0.5	0.5	0.5	-----	-----	40.1	41.0	40.3	8.34	8.31	8.03

**Current month figures are PRELIMINARY, prior month & year are REVISED. Totals may not add due to rounding. Farmers, Self-employed, Domestic & Armed Services personnel are excluded from Establishment Employment figures.

Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers

	Sept 00	Aug 00	Sept 99	% Change Prev. Year
All Items	173.7	172.8*	167.9	3.3%

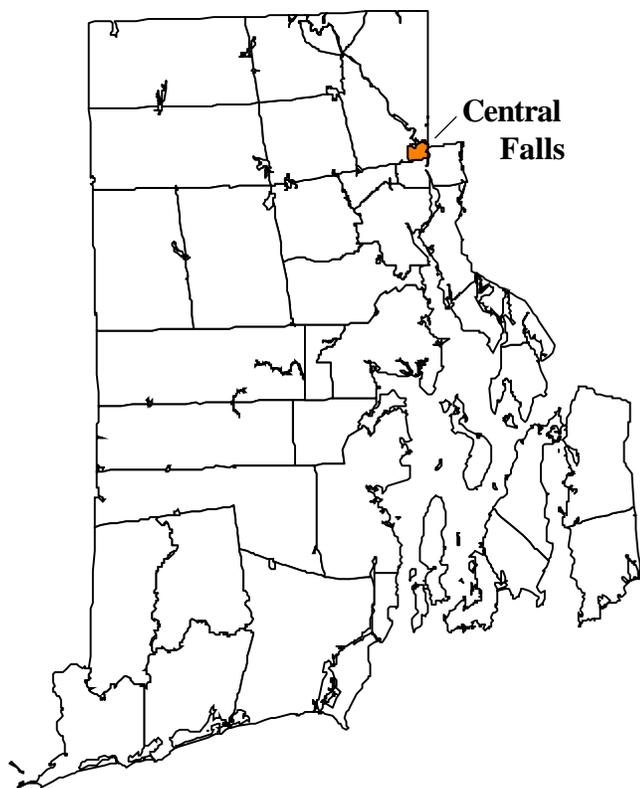
Source: U.S. Dept. of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics *Revised

Rhode Island Labor Surplus Areas

Effective October 1, 2000, the U.S. Department of Labor, Employment and Training Administration, released the following list of labor surplus areas for the State of Rhode Island:

Central Falls **New Shoreham**

This list will be in effect until September 30, 2001. There are no new additions to this year's list. The cities of Pawtucket and Providence are no longer recognized as labor surplus areas. Employers located in labor surplus areas may be given preference in bidding on federal procurement contracts. The purpose in providing such preference is to help direct the government's procurement dollars into areas where people are in the most severe economic need based on the area's high unemployment rate.



Consumer Price Index Revision

The Consumer Price Index (CPI-U), published by the US Department of Labor's Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS), is a measure of the average change in the prices paid for a fixed market basket of goods and services purchased for consumption by the population covered by the index. The CPI, as the most widely used measure of price change, is often used in escalation agreements to adjust payments for changes in prices. The most frequently used escalation applications are in private sector collective bargaining agreements, rental contracts, insurance policies with automatic inflation protection, and alimony and child support payments. Due to the limited number of geographic areas for which a CPI is calculated, the information presented here is the US CPI figure, which is most commonly used for the State of Rhode Island.

BLS is reissuing CPI data for the January to August 2000 period to correct an error recently uncovered in the software used to calculate the Rent of Primary Residence and Owners' Equivalent Rent of Primary Residence components of the index. Correcting this error increases previously published values for those components and for index series that include those components, in selected local areas as well as at the U.S. City Average level. More information regarding the revised CPI can be found on the BLS web site at <http://www.bls.gov/cpirev01.htm>

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

Revised CPI 2000

Jan	168.8
Feb	169.8
Mar	171.2
Apr	171.3
May	171.5
June	172.4
July	172.8
Aug	172.8

The September Unemployment Rate Fell to 3.7 Percent

(Continued from Page 1)

Government – Government payrolls increased by 2,000 as public school workers returned to their jobs after the summer break. The Local Government segment added 2,400 jobs over the month, overshadowing a 200 job loss in both the Federal and State segments.

Transportation/Public Utilities – Employment in Transportation & Public Utilities increased by 1,800 over the month due mainly to the end of the Verizon Communications labor dispute and the return of school bus drivers.

Services – Services employment rose by 1,600 over the month reaching an all-time September high of 163,300. A large increase in private education employment (+2,500) more than offset seasonal declines in Amusement & Recreation (-600) and Hotels & Other Lodging (-300).

Manufacturing – The Manufacturing sector registered a net gain of 800 jobs as several industries reported small increases from August to September.

Contract Construction – Despite a seasonal decrease of 100 jobs, the construction industry continued to break records, posting its highest September employment level (20,500) since 1989.

Trade – Wholesale and Retail Trade reported a loss of 1,800 jobs in September. The highly seasonal Restaurant industry, which trimmed its payrolls by 1,900, accounted for the decline in Trade.