



Employment Labor Market Information Bulletin

Volume 14 No. 10

October 2002

Rhode Island Unemployment Rate Rises in September but Remains below National Average

The Unemployment Rate

Rhode Island's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate increased for the third straight month to 5.0 percent in September, its highest level since January. The jobless rate is up 0.2 of a percentage point from August. The number of unemployed Rhode Island residents climbed by 800 over the month to 25,600. A year ago September, the unemployment rate was 4.5 percent and the unemployment level stood at 22,800. Nationally, the unemployment rate for September dipped to 5.6 percent, down 0.1 of a percentage point from August. Despite the increase in Rhode Island's jobless rate, it remained below the national average for the fourteenth month in a row.

"Job seekers continue to feel the lingering effects of last year's recession evidenced by the upward trend in our unemployment rate," said DLT Director Dr. Lee H. Arnold. "While the economy continues to mend at a slow pace, sluggish job growth has hampered Rhode Island job hunters in their efforts to find employment." (Continued on Page 4)

Union Membership in 2001

According to the U.S. Department of Labor's Bureau of Labor Statistics, the share of wage and salary workers who were union members in 2001 averaged 13.5 percent, unchanged from 2000. The information on union members refers to the sole or principal job of full and part-time workers. Self-employed workers are excluded.

Nearly 4 in 10 government workers were unionized, compared with less than 1 in 10 in private sector employment. Protective service workers, a group that includes police and firefighters, had the highest unionization rate of 38.0 percent. Blacks (17.0 percent) were more likely than either Whites (13.1 percent) or Hispanics (11.3 percent) to be union members.

Among the New England states, Rhode Island reported the highest percentage of union members in 2001. Approximately 17.9 percent of all Rhode Islands workers were members of unions, down from 18.2 in 2000.

Union Affiliation of Employed Wage and Salary Workers, 2001 (in thousands)

	Total Employed	Members of Unions*		Represented by Unions**	
		Total	Percent of Employed	Total	Percent of Employed
Connecticut	1,497	237	15.8	250	16.7
Maine	559	72	12.9	81	14.5
Massachusetts	2,840	420	14.8	451	15.9
New Hampshire	593	60	10.1	67	11.4
Rhode Island	434	78	17.9	80	18.5
Vermont	276	30	10.8	34	12.2
United States	120,760	16,275	13.5	17,875	14.8

* Data refer to members of a labor union or an employee association similar to a union.

** Data refer to members of a labor union or an employee or association similar to a union, as well as workers who are not members, but whose jobs are covered by a union or an employee association contract.

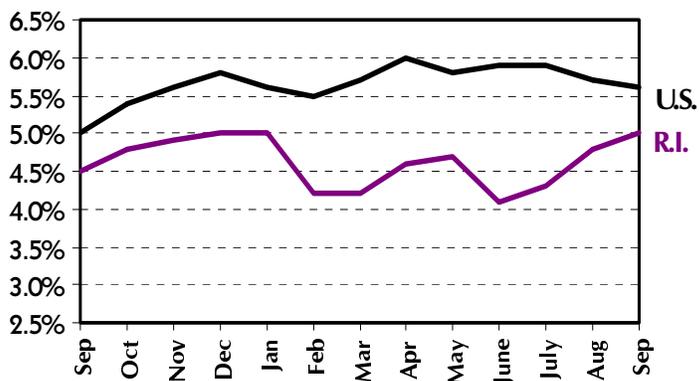
Rhode Island Labor Force Statistics* (in thousands)

	Seasonally Adjusted			Unadjusted		
	Sep 02	Aug 02	Sep 01	Sep 02	Aug 02	Sep 01
Civilian Labor Force	508.1	511.1	502.5	509.5	515.3	504.2
Resident Employment	482.5	486.4	479.7	484.9	491.2	482.3
Unemployment	25.6	24.8	22.8	24.6	24.1	21.9
Unemployment Rate	5.0%	4.8%	4.5%	4.8%	4.7%	4.3%

United States Labor Force Statistics (in thousands)

	Seasonally Adjusted			Unadjusted		
	Sep 02	Aug 02	Sep 01	Sep 02	Aug 02	Sep 01
Civilian Labor Force	143,277	142,616	142,068	142,745	143,176	141,576
Resident Employment	135,185	134,474	135,004	135,063	135,028	134,868
Unemployment	8,092	8,142	7,064	7,683	8,148	6,708
Unemployment Rate	5.6	5.7%	5.0%	5.4%	5.7%	4.7%

Rhode Island & United States Unemployment Rates Seasonally Adjusted 2001 - 2002



City & Town Unadjusted Unemployment Rates

	Sept 02	Sept 01
Barrington	3.3	2.8
Bristol	3.9	2.6
Burrillville	4.9	3.8
Central Falls	7.5	8.3
Charlestown	5.1	3.8
Coventry	4.9	4.0
Cranston	5.0	4.1
Cumberland	4.5	4.4
East Greenwich	5.5	3.9
East Providence	5.6	4.8
Exeter	3.6	3.1
Foster	4.7	5.6
Glocester	3.7	2.7
Hopkinton	1.9	2.4
Jamestown	3.8	3.3
Johnston	5.5	4.4
Lincoln	4.5	4.3
Little Compton	4.0	1.7
Middletown	3.2	3.2
Narragansett	2.7	2.0
New Shoreham	1.4	1.3
Newport	2.9	2.5
North Kingstown	4.0	3.4
North Providence	5.0	4.0
North Smithfield	4.7	3.3
Pawtucket	5.9	6.0
Portsmouth	3.4	2.5
Providence	6.4	6.3
Richmond	2.5	1.5
Scituate	5.2	4.3
Smithfield	4.6	3.5
South Kingstown	3.4	2.8
Tiverton	4.1	3.4
Warren	4.0	3.8
Warwick	4.1	3.9
West Greenwich	4.6	4.0
West Warwick	4.8	4.3
Westerly	2.3	2.7
Woonsocket	6.9	6.3
State of R.I.	4.8	4.3

Unemployment Insurance Claims Activity

	Sept	Aug	Sept	% Change		Year to Date		
	2002	2002	2001	Aug 02	Sept 01	2002	2001	% Change
Initial Claims	4,986	5,330	4,977	-6.5%	0.2%	63,665	68,311	-6.8%
Number of Payments	48,567	53,976	42,106	-10.0%	15.3%	556,603	483,808	15.0%
Amount of Payments (gross millions)	\$14.5	\$15.2	\$12.2	-4.6%	18.9%	\$164.1	\$134.6	21.9%
Exhaustions (Final Payments)	1,437	1,461	1,031	-1.6%	39.4%	14,049	9,699	44.8%
E.S. Fund Balance (millions)	\$272.9	\$282.1	\$294.3	-3.3%	-7.3%			

*Current month figures are preliminary; prior month and 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

Occupational Employment Statistics

Nearly eleven hundred employers have been selected to participate in the first panel of the 2002 Occupational Employment Statistics (OES) survey. If you receive a copy, please help us out by completing the booklet and returning it as soon as possible. Your participation is essential in order for us to produce timely and accurate wage and employment data.

Can't find time for more paperwork? Call the OES staff at 401-462-8750. They will take your information over the telephone and complete the survey for you!

The economic data we provide depends on the information you supply! To see how the information you provide is used, visit our web site at:

<http://www.dlt.state.ri.us/lmi>

Click on Wage Information



Total Establishment Employment in Rhode Island**

	Employment (in thousands)			Net Change From	
	Sept 02	Aug 02	Sept 01	Aug 02	Sept 01
TOTAL EMPLOYMENT	485.6	481.8	483.0	3800	2600
GOODS PRODUCING	86.7	86.7	89.1	-----	-2400
Contract Construction	19.2	19.3	19.9	-100	-700
Manufacturing	67.5	67.4	69.2	100	-1700
SERVICE PRODUCING	398.9	395.1	393.9	3800	5000
Trans. & Public Utilities	17.1	16.3	17.4	800	-300
Trade (Wholesale & Retail)	109.5	111.2	108.9	-1700	600
Wholesale	19.0	18.8	18.6	200	400
Durables♦	11.7	11.6	11.5	100	200
Nondurables♦	7.4	7.3	7.1	100	300
Retail	90.5	92.4	90.3	-1900	200
Building & Garden Supplies♦	2.8	2.9	2.6	-100	200
General Merchandise	6.3	6.3	6.6	-----	-300
Food Stores♦	15.5	15.6	15.6	-100	-100
Automotive Dealers	7.8	7.9	7.8	-100	-----
Apparel & Accessory Stores	4.7	4.8	4.6	-100	100
Furn., Home Furn., & Equipt.♦	2.9	3.0	2.6	-100	300
Eating and Drinking Places	34.1	35.5	33.7	-1400	400
Miscellaneous Retail	16.4	16.4	16.9	-----	-500
Finance, Insurance & Real Estate	33.8	33.9	32.5	-100	1300
Depository Institutions	10.1	10.0	9.1	100	1000
Services	173.9	172.9	171.3	1000	2600
Hotels & Other Lodging♦	5.0	5.3	4.9	-300	100
Business Services	25.8	25.5	27.6	300	-1800
Auto & Misc. Repair♦	5.9	5.8	5.5	100	400
Amusement & Recreation	7.0	7.6	6.9	-600	100
Health Services	54.0	53.8	52.6	200	1400
Educational Services	18.0	15.5	17.9	2500	100
Social Services	16.7	16.8	16.2	-100	500
Government	64.6	60.8	63.8	3800	800
Federal	10.4	10.4	10.4	-----	-----
State	17.3	17.6	17.4	-300	-100
Local	36.9	32.8	36.0	4100	900
Education♦	23.7*	19.6	23.4	4100	300
Non Education♦	13.2	13.2	12.5	-----	700

*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					
	Sept 02	Aug 02	Sept 01	Net Change		Weekly Hours			Hourly Earnings		
				Aug 02	Sept 01	Sept 02	Aug 02	Sept 01	Sept 02	Aug 02	Sept 01
MANUFACTURING	67.5	67.4	69.2	100	-1700	40.2	39.6	40.9	12.31	12.30	12.18
DURABLE MFG.	44.1	44.0	45.7	100	-1600	40.1	39.8	40.8	12.12	12.08	11.99
Primary Metals	3.1	3.3	3.4	-200	-300	40.2	38.0	39.8	12.96	12.93	12.83
Fabricated Metals	7.9	7.9	7.7	-----	200	38.9	38.9	39.3	11.82	11.77	11.36
Nonelectrical Machinery	3.6	3.5	3.9	100	-300	39.8	40.4	42.3	13.72	13.72	13.75
Electrical Machinery	4.7	4.7	5.0	-----	-300	40.6	40.7	40.5	11.44	11.45	11.57
Trans. Equipment	4.0	3.9	3.7	100	300	41.6	41.7	42.7	14.47	14.47	14.42
Instruments	5.1	5.1	5.2	-----	-100	41.7	40.6	41.2	12.85	12.85	12.76
Miscellaneous Mfg.	11.9	11.9	13.0	-----	-1100	39.9	39.8	40.6	10.73	10.72	10.69
Jewelry, Incl. Costume	9.0	9.0	10.0	-----	-1000	39.8	39.7	40.4	10.54	10.53	10.49
All Other Durables	3.8	3.7	3.8	100	-----	40.6	39.6	41.8	12.44	12.42	12.42
NONDURABLE MFG.	23.4	23.4	23.5	-----	-100	40.3	39.3	41.3	12.66	12.70	12.55
Textiles	5.2	5.3	5.5	-100	-300	40.6	38.1	43.1	10.92	10.92	10.96
Printing-Publishing	5.2	5.2	5.0	-----	200	39.4	39.7	39.7	16.63	16.64	16.65
Rubber & Plastic Products	4.3	4.3	4.5	-----	-200	41.4	37.7	40.8	13.29	13.27	13.20
All Other Nondurables	8.7	8.6	8.5	100	200	40.0	40.8	40.9	11.76	11.76	11.72

**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.

Rhode Island Unemployment Rate Rises in September but Remains below National Average

(Continued from Page 1)

Rhode Island Job Highlights (Over the Year, Unadjusted Figures)

Rhode Island businesses reported 485,600 jobs in September 2002, an increase of 2,600 (+0.5%) over last year's total of 483,000 jobs. Job gains in Services (+2,600), Finance, Insurance & Real Estate (+1,300), Government (+800) and Trade (+600) offset losses in Manufacturing (-1,700), Contract Construction (-700) and Transportation & Public Utilities (-300).

Employment in the Services sector was up 2,600 jobs over the year due to gains in Health Services (+1,400), Social Services (+500), Automotive & Miscellaneous Repair (+400) and Other Services (+1,900), which includes Engineering Services, Accounting Services, Membership Organizations, Landscape Services and unclassified employers. Only Business Services (-1,800) reported an annual decline in employment.

Wholesale Trade employment was up 400 over the year due to gains in both the Durable and Non-durable segments. Retail Trade jobs were up 200 as gains in Eating & Drinking Places (+400), Home Furnishings (+300), Building & Garden Supplies (+200) and Apparel & Accessory Stores (+100) offset employment losses in Miscellaneous Retail (-500), General Merchandise (-300) and Food Stores (-100).

Manufacturing jobs declined by 1,700 since September 2001, mainly due to job losses in the Durable Goods (-1,600) components. Jewelry & Silverware (-1,000), Electrical Machinery (-300), Non-electrical Machinery (-300), Primary Metals (-300) and Instruments (-100) all reported declines in employment.

Rhode Island Job Highlights (Over the Month, Unadjusted Figures)

The return of workers in education-related industries allowed for a 3,800 job increase over the State's August 2002 level of 481,800. Gains in Government (+3,800), Services (+1,000) and Transportation & Public Utilities (+800) employment offset a significant job loss in Retail Trade (-1,900).

Services – Boosted by the return of workers to private education facilities, the Services sector added 1,000 jobs to its August level. Increases in Educational Services (+2,500), Business Services (+300), Health Services (+200), and Automobile & Miscellaneous Repair (+100) employment offset job losses in Other Services (-1,000), Amusement & Recreation (-600), Hotels & Other Lodging (-300) and Social Services (-100).

Transportation and Public Utilities – Employment increased by 800 jobs over the month due to the return of school bus drivers.

Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers

	Sept 02	Aug 02	Sept 01	% Change Prev. Year
All Items	181.0	180.7	178.3	1.5%

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

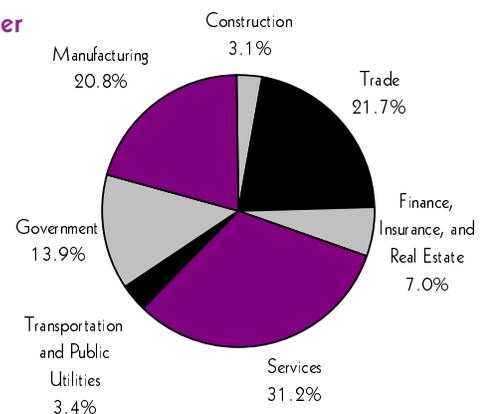
Government – The addition of 3,800 Government jobs in September is a result of gains in Local Education employment. Local communities added 4,100 education-related jobs over the month. State Government lost 300 jobs during this time, while Federal employment remained even.

Manufacturing – Employment in the factory sector was essentially unchanged over the month, posting a net gain of only 100 in September.

Trade – Seasonal job reductions in the Eating & Drinking Places (-1,400) component of Retail Trade, coupled with declines in Apparel & Accessory Stores (-100), Automotive Dealers (-100), Building & Garden Supplies (-100), Food Stores (-100) and Home Furnishings (-100) employment resulted in a 1,900 job loss in Retail Trade. Wholesale Trade added 200 jobs over the month.

Comparison of Rhode Island Establishment Employment

September 1992



September 2002

