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Rhode Island Department of Labor and Training

Employment Labor Market Information Bulletin

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Rhode Island Unemployment Rate Declines in September

Rhode Island's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate for September was 4.5 percent, down 0.8 of a percentage point from August's figure of 5.3 percent. The number of employed Rhode Island residents rose by 2,600 in September, while the number of unemployed Rhode Islanders fell by 4,500. A year ago, the unemployment rate was 5.3 percent and the jobless level stood at 29,400. The national unemployment rate for September held steady at 6.1 percent. Rhode Island's unemployment rate remained below the national average for the twenty-sixth straight month.

"While a lower unemployment rate appears to be good news, much of this month's drop in the unemployment rate is the result of fewer workers looking for work," said DLT Director Marvin D. Perry. "Employers are still reluctant to hire new employees. The number of jobs at Rhode Island businesses in September fell for the second straight month."

Rhode Island Job Highlights

Rhode Island businesses shed another 1,000 jobs last month following a 1,700 decline in August. Employment (seasonally adjusted) peaked at 483,500 in July before falling to 481,800 in August and then to 480,800 in September. Nearly all measured sectors reported over-the-month declines with the greatest losses occurring in Professional & Business Services (-1,100), Other Services (-800) and Government (-600). (Continued on Page 4)

2004 Annual Refiling Survey

The Rhode Island Department of Labor and Training (DLT) will conduct its Annual Refiling Survey (ARS) in November. Every year, approximately one-third of all Rhode Island employers are surveyed, so if your business is selected in this year's sample, we ask that you please complete and return the survey form. The ARS simply requests Rhode Island employers to verify or correct our information about their firm's Rhode Island business activities and locations.

Many businesses will be able to confirm the information in this survey with one quick toll-free call to the Touchtone Response System (TRS). The system is easy to use, the call will only take a minute or two, and there's no paper work for you to complete. If your business is TRS eligible, call in and complete the survey.

This data is valuable for economic development purposes because it is used to identify emerging industries and occupations within the region. It also enables LMI to prepare profiles of state and local labor markets areas. Private businesses, economists, community leaders, and government agencies use this data for research, economic analysis, policy decisions, and planning.

Your participation is necessary for the success of this project. Information relating to individual employers will not be made public. If you have any questions, please contact the LMI unit at 462-8760.

Governor Attends Job Placement Center's Grand Opening

Governor Donald L. Carcieri, Providence and Cranston mayors, and local officials encouraged the public to make the most of the new Providence netWORKri Career Center at their grand opening Thursday, October 16th.

"This netWORKri Center will be a great help to both the community and the businesses that are located here," said Governor Carcieri. "This is yet another step to my goal of growing 20,000 jobs in Rhode Island by the end of my term."

"We are very proud of the fact that Rhode Island is ahead of many states in terms of partner participation and I would like to thank our partners for joining with us to build a true 'one-stop' career center," noted Department of Labor and Training Director Marvin D. Perry. (Continued on Page 4)

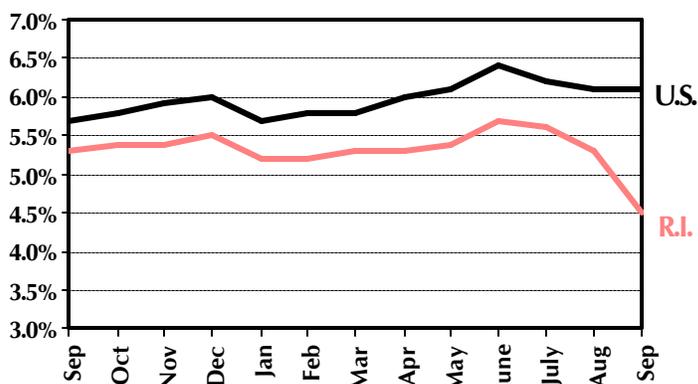
Rhode Island Labor Force Statistics* (in thousands)

	Seasonally Adjusted			Unadjusted		
	Sep 03	Aug 03	Sep 02	Sep 03	Aug 03	Sep 02
Civilian Labor Force	568.2	570.1	559.8	568.9	576.0	560.3
Resident Employment	542.4	539.8	530.4	543.5	545.7	531.5
Unemployment	25.8	30.3	29.4	25.4	30.3	28.8
Unemployment Rate	4.5%	5.3%	5.3%	4.5%	5.3%	5.1%

United States Labor Force Statistics (in thousands)

	Seasonally Adjusted			Unadjusted		
	Sep 03	Aug 03	Sep 02	Sep 03	Aug 03	Sep 02
Civilian Labor Force	146,545	146,530	145,634	146,166	146,967	145,167
Resident Employment	137,573	137,625	137,312	137,731	138,137	137,377
Unemployment	8,973	8,905	8,321	8,436	8,830	7,790
Unemployment Rate	6.1%	6.1%	5.7%	5.8%	6.0%	5.4%

Rhode Island & United States Unemployment Rates Seasonally Adjusted 2002-2003



City & Town Unadjusted Unemployment Rates

	Sep 03	Sep 02**
Barrington	2.7	3.5
Bristol	3.5	4.1
Burrillville	5.0	5.1
Central Falls	7.6	7.7
Charlestown	3.8	5.5
Coventry	4.1	5.3
Cranston	4.7	5.3
Cumberland	4.7	4.8
East Greenwich	4.1	5.9
East Providence	4.6	6.0
Exeter	3.0	3.9
Foster	4.5	4.7
Glocester	3.6	3.8
Hopkinton	3.1	2.1
Jamestown	2.2	4.0
Johnston	4.9	5.8
Lincoln	4.8	5.0
Little Compton	2.3	4.2
Middletown	2.8	3.4
Narragansett	2.1	2.9
New Shoreham	1.7	1.5
Newport	3.1	3.1
North Kingstown	3.3	4.3
North Providence	4.2	5.4
North Smithfield	3.7	5.1
Pawtucket	6.0	6.2
Portsmouth	2.6	3.7
Providence	5.9	6.8
Richmond	2.1	2.6
Scituate	4.2	5.5
Smithfield	3.6	5.0
South Kingstown	3.1	3.6
Tiverton	4.5	4.3
Warren	3.5	4.3
Warwick	3.9	4.3
West Greenwich	3.9	4.9
West Warwick	4.7	5.2
Westerly	3.2	2.5
Woonsocket	6.3	7.2
State of R.I.	4.5	5.1

** Revised

Unemployment Insurance Claims Activity

	Sep	Aug	Sep	% Change		Year to Date		
	2003	2003	2002	Aug 03	Sep 02	2003	2002	% Change
Initial Claims	4,989	4,899	4,986	1.8%	0.1%	66,290	63,665	4.1%
Number of Payments	51,326	54,521	48,567	-5.9%	5.7%	555,807	556,603	-0.1%
Amount of Payments (gross millions)	\$15.5	\$15.6	\$14.5	-0.5%	7.2%	\$165.9	\$164.1	1.1%
Exhaustions (Final Payments)	1,553	1,348	1,437	15.2%	8.1%	14,145	14,049	0.7%
E.S. Fund Balance (millions)	\$221.5	\$233.7	\$272.9	-5.2%	-18.8%			

Rhode Island labor market information is available on the web at www.dlt.ri.gov/lmi. If you find that the LMI web site meets your need for labor market information and you would like to be removed from the mailing list for this publication, please call LMI at (401) 462-8740 or e-mail us at lmi@dlt.state.ri.us.

*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.

Total Nonfarm Employment in Rhode Island* September 2003

Sectors reflect the recent conversion from the Standard Industrial Classification (SIC) system to the North American Industry Classification System (NAICS).
Not all industries previously classified under a particular SIC are classified in a similarly titled NAICS sector.

	Employment in Thousands			Net Change From	
	Sept 2003	Aug 2003	Sept 2002	Aug 2003	Sept 2002
Total Nonfarm	484.6	481.3	483.8	3,300	800
Goods Producing	81.9	82.1	82.7	-200	-800
Natural Resources & Mining	0.3	0.3	0.2	0	100
Construction	21.3	21.7	20.3	-400	1,000
Specialty Trade Contractors	13.3	13.5	13.1	-200	200
Manufacturing	60.3	60.1	62.2	200	-1,900
Durable Goods	38.8	38.5	40.8	300	-2,000
Fabricated Metal Product Mfg.	8.4	8.3	8.9	100	-500
Computer & Electronic Product Mfg.	4.9	4.9	5.2	0	-300
Electrical Equipment & Appliance Mfg.	3.0	3.0	2.9	0	100
Transportation Equipment Mfg.	3.8	3.8	3.8	0	0
Miscellaneous Manufacturing	11.5	11.4	12.4	100	-900
Jewelry & Silverware	8.6	8.6	9.1	0	-500
Non-Durable Goods	21.5	21.6	21.4	-100	100
Chemical Manufacturing	3.7	3.7	3.7	0	0
Plastics & Rubber Products Mfg.	3.4	3.3	3.2	100	200
Service Providing	402.7	399.2	401.1	3,500	1,600
Wholesale Trade	17.2	17.2	16.7	0	500
Retail Trade	54.8	54.5	53.1	300	1,700
Grocery Stores	6.4	6.4	6.3	0	100
Health & Personal Care Stores	5.7	5.7	5.7	0	0
General Merchandise Stores	10.9	10.9	11.2	0	-300
Department Stores	4.8	4.7	5.1	100	-300
Other General Merchandise Stores	6.2	6.3	6.0	-100	200
Transportation, Warehousing & Utilities	11.6	10.9	11.4	700	200
Transportation & Warehousing	10.4	9.7	10.2	700	200
Information	11.0	11.1	11.2	-100	-200
Publishing	3.4	3.4	3.4	0	0
Financial Activities (including Real Estate)	32.7	32.9	32.6	-200	100
Finance & Insurance	26.8	26.9	26.7	-100	100
Credit Intermediation & Related Activities	12.2	12.2	12.0	0	200
Insurance Carriers & Related Activities	10.7	10.9	10.9	-200	-200
Professional & Technical Services	18.6	18.5	18.9	100	-300
Management of Companies & Enterprises	6.8	6.9	6.4	-100	400
Administrative & Waste Services	23.8	24.1	24.5	-300	-700
Educational Services	17.4	14.5	18.3	2,900	-900
Colleges & Universities	10.5	8.7	12.6	1,800	-2,100
Health Care & Social Assistance	70.8	70.8	69.2	0	1,600
Ambulatory Health Care Services	20.9	20.9	19.9	0	1,000
Hospitals	22.4	22.5	22.2	-100	200
Nursing & Residential Care Facilities	17.8	17.8	17.4	0	400
Social Assistance	9.7	9.6	9.7	100	0
Arts, Entertainment & Recreation	8.6	9.5	8.3	-900	300
Accommodation & Food Services	42.0	43.4	42.6	-1,400	-600
Accommodation	4.4	4.7	4.7	-300	-300
Food Services & Drinking Places	37.6	38.7	37.9	-1,100	-300
Other Services	22.7	23.3	22.7	-600	0
Government	64.7	61.6	65.2	3,100	-500
Federal Government	10.4	10.4	10.3	0	100
State Government	16.9	17.1	17.2	-200	-300
Local Government	37.4	34.1	37.7	3,300	-300
Local Education	24.2	20.1	24.3	4,100	-100
Local Non-Ed	13.2	14.0	13.4	-800	-200

*Not seasonally adjusted.

For more detail see "Introducing NAICS" at www.dlt.ri.gov/lmi/es202/naics/naics.htm.

Some subcategories are not additive.

Rhode Island Unemployment Rate Declines in September

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The more detailed unadjusted employment estimates increased by 3,300 over the month, marking the return of workers in education-related industries. The unadjusted job count for September stood at 484,600 compared to 481,300 in August. Seasonal gains were reflected in Government (+3,100), Educational Services (+2,900) and Transportation, Warehousing & Utilities (+700). Several industries reported job losses typical for this time of year. The largest decreases were noted in Accommodation & Food Services (-1,400) and Arts, Entertainment & Recreation (-900).

Over the year, employment (unadjusted) was up 800 from the 483,800 jobs reported in September 2002. Increases in Retail Trade (+1,700), Health Care & Social Assistance (+1,600), and Construction (+1,000), overshadowed the major decreases reported in Manufacturing (-1,900), Educational Services (-900), Administrative & Waste Services (-700) and Accommodation & Food Services (-600).

The \$12.86 average hourly wage earned by the Manufacturing sector's production workers in September 2003 represents a yearly gain of two cents per hour and an over-the-month loss of four cents per hour. In September 2003, Manufacturing employees worked an average of 40.1 hours per week, up a full hour from August and seven-tenths of an hour from September 2002. This is the longest work week reported since December 2001.

Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers

				% Change
	Sept 03	Aug 03	Sept 02	Prev. Year
All Items	185.2	184.6	181.0	2.3%

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

Governor Attends Job Placement Center's Grand Opening

(Continued from Page 1)

The newly relocated Providence netWORKri Center is one of six One-Stop Career Centers conveniently located throughout the state. Each Center offers a wide array of employment and training services for job seekers and employers, including nationwide job listings, state-of-the-art technology and resources for career search activities, professional career counselors, aptitude testing for job seekers, recruitment assistance, tax credits, and industry trend and labor market data for employers, all at no charge to the customer. netWORKri boasts a number of diverse employment and training partners, merging private and public sectors in one convenient location, to better serve Rhode Island businesses and job seekers.

Job seekers can access personal computers, the Internet, telephone, fax and copy machines to help in their job search. netWORKri is ready to assist any job seeker, whether the goal is a first job, a better job, or a career change. Rhode Island businesses can work with talented netWORKri professionals to fill vacancies or secure training grants.

Manufacturing Employment in Rhode Island, Not Seasonally Adjusted September 2003

	Employment					Production Worker Averages					
	(in thousands)			Net Change From:		Weekly Hours			Hourly Earnings		
	Sept 03	Aug 03	Sept 02	Aug 03	Sept 02	Sept 03	Aug 03	Sept 02	Sept 03	Aug 03	Sept 02
Manufacturing	60.3	60.1	62.2	200	-1900	40.1	39.1	39.4	12.86	12.90	12.84
Durable Goods	38.8	38.5	40.8	300	-2000	39.0	38.0	38.9	12.86	12.90	12.83
Fabricated Metal Product Mfg.	8.4	8.3	8.9	100	-500	39.3	38.5	39.6	11.47	11.50	11.28
Computer & Electronic Product Mfg.	4.9	4.9	5.2	0	-300	38.2	38.2	41.9	13.67	13.67	13.73
Electrical Equipment & Appliance Mfg.	3.0	3.0	2.9	0	100	36.6	36.9	39.2	9.53	9.51	9.62
Transportation Equipment Mfg.	3.8	3.8	3.8	0	0	41.0	40.7	42.0	15.40	15.40	15.50
Miscellaneous Manufacturing	11.5	11.4	12.4	100	-900	38.3	37.0	39.7	10.46	10.51	10.58
Jewelry and Silverware	8.6	8.6	9.1	0	-500	39.2	38.0	41.6	9.93	9.95	9.98
Non-Durable Goods	21.5	21.6	21.4	-100	100	41.9	41.0	40.3	12.85	12.90	12.85
Chemical Manufacturing	3.7	3.7	3.7	0	0	39.9	39.9	40.1	15.55	15.55	15.52
Plastics & Rubber Products Mfg.	3.4	3.3	3.2	100	200	40.9	40.1	41.7	14.66	14.66	14.51