



Employment Labor Market Information Bulletin

Volume 12, No. 9

September 2000

The Number of Jobs in Rhode Island Climbed by 4,100 Over the Year

The Unemployment Rate

Following the national trend, Rhode Island's unemployment rate increased from July to August. The August jobless level of 4.5 percent was up 0.5 of a percentage point from July's revised unemployment figure of 4.0 percent. A year ago the unemployment rate stood at 4.2 percent. The number of unemployed Rhode Islanders rose by 2,700 over the month and was up 1,500 from a year ago August. Nationally, the unemployment rate crept up 0.1 of a percentage point over the month to 4.1 percent in August. Rhode Island's unemployment figure surpassed the US average for the first time since January 1999.

"The upturn in the August unemployment figure is not a cause for concern at this time," said DLT Director Dr. Lee H. Arnold. "It's only a one-month number. We would need to see higher rates over several months before attaching any significance to this month's increase. The trend over the first half of this year has certainly reflected a Rhode Island economy that is in good shape." (Continued on Page 4)

ESU Links Employers with Job Seekers Hi-Tech Formula is a Win-Win Proposition

The Department of Labor & Training has consolidated its multiple physical locations and taken up residence in the restored Howard Complex in Cranston. These five renovated and one new building house the different divisions, units and regulatory branches allowing the Unemployment Insurance Division, Labor Standards Operation and Temporary Disability Unit to operate efficiently under one state-of-the art integrated roof.

The Employer Service Unit (ESU) is the marketing and customer service arm of DLT. They have implemented innovative concepts to assist Rhode Island companies in soliciting and hiring qualified employees, while still answering a diverse number of employer questions. Their one dedicated phone number is the lifeline of companies' business-related inquiries. (Continued on Page 4)

Ribbon Cutting Ceremony Marks DLT's Move to the Center General Complex



Capping a three and a half year process of renovating long-abandoned state property, the Department of Labor and Training (DLT) has relocated to its new headquarters on Pontiac Avenue in the Center General Complex in Cranston, RI. All six of the buildings in the Complex are now fully occupied as DLT employees from across the state are settled into their new surroundings. The "official" ribbon cutting ceremony took place on September 28th. Various state, local, and federal dignitaries, DLT staff, and workers who've been involved in this historic project over the past several years attended the event.

In April, the Rhode Island Historical Preservation Commission recognized Center General with an Historic Preservation Award, stating: "Vision and determination transformed the State Alms house from an abandoned white elephant into state of the art office space for the Department of Labor and Training. This highly cost effective rehabilitation serves as a model for future reclamation of redundant buildings on the Howard Campus in Cranston."

The six buildings house the majority of DLT employees including Workforce Development Services, Workers' Compensation, Temporary Disability Insurance, Labor Relations Board, Labor Standards, Occupational Safety, the Human Resource Investment Council and Labor Market Information. Centralizing several DLT offices on state-owned property not only saves valuable tax-dollars by reducing rent expenditures and overhead, but it also offers more comprehensive services from a single site.

New DLT Division phone numbers are listed on the label page included with this month's Employment Bulletin.

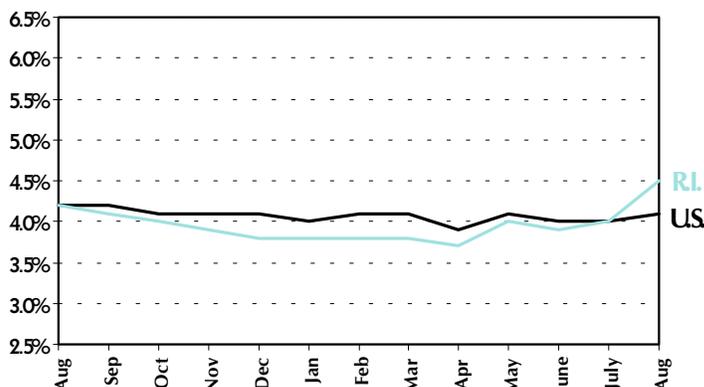
Rhode Island Labor Force Statistics* (in thousands)

	Unadjusted			Seasonally Adjusted		
	Aug 00	Jul 00	Aug 99	Aug 00	Jul 00	Aug 99
Civilian Labor Force	516.1	514.0	513.6	508.8	509.0	506.4
Resident Employment	493.9	494.7	493.1	486.1	488.8	485.1
Unemployment	22.2	19.3	20.6	22.8	20.1	21.3
Unemployment Rate	4.3%	3.7%	4.0%	4.5%	4.0%	4.2%

United States Labor Force Statistics (in thousands)

	Unadjusted			Seasonally Adjusted		
	Aug 00	Jul 00	Aug 99	Aug 00	Jul 00	Aug 99
Civilian Labor Force	141,425	142,101	140,090	140,742	140,399	139,372
Resident Employment	135,601	136,097	134,264	134,912	134,749	133,530
Unemployment	5,824	6,004	5,826	5,829	5,650	5,842
Unemployment Rate	4.1%	4.2%	4.2%	4.1%	4.0%	4.2%

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



City & Town Unadjusted Unemployment Rates

	Aug 00	Aug 99
Barrington	2.7	2.3
Bristol	3.7	3.1
Burrillville	4.3	4.5
Central Falls	6.5	4.6
Charlestown	4.8	4.5
Coventry	5.1	4.6
Cranston	4.2	4.1
Cumberland	3.7	3.4
East Greenwich	3.3	3.9
East Providence	4.9	4.2
Exeter	3.7	3.8
Foster	5.2	5.1
Glocester	3.5	3.7
Hopkinton	2.8	2.8
Jamestown	3.2	2.7
Johnston	4.7	4.4
Lincoln	4.4	4.2
Little Compton	1.9	2.3
Middletown	3.2	3.4
Narragansett	2.0	2.0
New Shoreham	0.9	1.3
Newport	3.0	3.0
North Kingstown	3.1	3.3
North Providence	4.2	4.1
North Smithfield	3.7	3.8
Pawtucket	4.9	4.1
Portsmouth	3.1	2.3
Providence	5.7	5.2
Richmond	2.2	2.2
Scituate	4.2	4.9
Smithfield	4.4	4.2
South Kingstown	3.1	3.3
Tiverton	4.4	3.6
Warren	4.3	3.7
Warwick	4.2	3.7
West Greenwich	4.2	4.0
West Warwick	4.6	4.7
Westerly	2.7	2.5
Woonsocket	4.9	4.7
State of R.I.	4.3	4.0

Unemployment Insurance Claims Activity

	Aug	Jul	Aug	% Change		Year to Date		
	2000	2000	1999	Jul 00	Aug 99	2000	1999	% Change
Initial Claims	5,015	7,168	5,542	-30.0%	-9.5%	57,530	65,718	-12.5%
Number of Payments	44,692	49,939	53,318	-10.5%	-16.2%	402,483	433,740	-7.2%
Amount of Payments (gross millions)	\$10.1	\$11.3	\$11.9	-10.3%	-14.8%	\$97.4	\$100.2	-2.8%
Exhaustions (Final Payments)	944	1,243	1,070	-24.1%	-11.8%	8,793	9,574	-8.2%
E.S. Fund Balance (millions)	\$295.5	\$274.0	\$262.4	7.8%	12.6%			

*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

Occupational Employment Statistics

Nearly twenty-two hundred employers have been selected to participate in the 2000 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	
	Aug 00	Jul 00	Aug 99	Jul 00	Aug 99
TOTAL EMPLOYMENT	471.4	468.0	467.3	3400	4100
GOODS PRODUCING	94.0	89.8	94.4	4200	-400
Contract Construction	20.6	20.5	19.7	100	900
Manufacturing	73.4	69.3	74.7	4100	-1300
SERVICE PRODUCING	377.4	378.2	372.9	-800	4500
Trans. & Public Utilities	14.8*	16.1	15.9	-1300	-1100
Trade (Wholesale & Retail)	110.4	110.1	108.1	300	2300
Wholesale	20.2	20.4	20.0	-200	200
Durable†	12.6	12.7	12.4	-100	200
Nondurable†	7.6	7.7	7.5	-100	100
Retail	90.2	89.7	88.1	500	2100
Building & Garden Supplies†	2.4	2.4	2.3	-----	100
General Merchandise	7.0	7.0	6.7	-----	300
Food Stores†	16.3	16.4	16.2	-100	100
Automotive Dealers	7.6	7.6	7.4	-----	200
Apparel & Accessory Stores	5.1	4.9	4.4	200	700
Furn., Home Furn., & Equipt.†	2.6	2.5	2.4	100	200
Eating and Drinking Places	34.3	34.1	34.0	200	300
Miscellaneous Retail	14.8	14.9	14.7	-100	100
Finance, Insurance & Real Estate	30.5	30.2	30.1	300	400
Depository Institutions	9.0	8.9	8.7	100	300
Services	162.1	161.8	159.7	300	2400
Hotels & Other Lodging†	5.4	5.2	5.1	200	300
Business Services	31.1	30.7	30.1	400	1000
Auto & Misc. Repair†	5.2	5.1	5.1	100	100
Amusement & Recreation	6.7	6.8	6.5	-100	200
Health Services	51.1	51.3	51.5	-200	-400
Educational Services	13.5	13.8	12.8	-300	700
Social Services	15.2	15.2	15.2	-----	-----
Government	59.6	60.0	59.1	-400	500
Federal	10.4	11.0	10.4	-600	-----
State	17.7	17.6	17.8	100	-100
Local	31.5	31.4	30.9	100	600
Education†	17.2	17.2	17.1	-----	100
Non Education†	14.2	14.2	13.7	-----	500

*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		
	Aug 00	Jul 00	Aug 99	Jul 00	Aug 99	Aug 00	Jul 00	Aug 99	Aug 00	Jul 00	Aug 99
MANUFACTURING	73.4	69.3	74.7	4100	-1300	40.2	39.5	39.9	12.14	12.24	11.93
DURABLE MFG.	47.9	44.8	48.8	3100	-900	40.1	39.3	39.8	11.93	12.01	11.74
Lumber/Furniture	2.7	2.5	2.9	200	-200	39.8	40.3	40.4	11.98	12.10	11.99
Stone-Clay-Glass	1.2	1.1	1.1	100	100	41.5	41.4	42.9	13.85	13.82	13.63
Primary Metals	3.9	3.7	4.2	200	-300	39.8	39.8	40.4	12.70	12.70	12.58
Fabricated Metals	8.2	7.0	8.3	1200	-100	37.9	37.2	37.2	11.29	11.16	10.88
Nonelectrical Mach.	5.1	4.8	4.7	300	400	40.8	39.8	37.3	13.54	13.56	13.17
Electrical Mach.	5.2	5.2	5.2	-----	-----	40.9	40.7	41.6	11.57	11.39	11.34
Trans. Equipment	3.5	3.5	3.5	-----	-----	41.4	41.2	40.0	14.33	14.39	14.24
Instruments	5.3	5.3	5.1	-----	200	39.5	40.4	41.1	12.64	12.64	12.62
Jewelry-Silverware	9.8	8.6	10.6	1200	-800	41.5	38.1	41.0	10.47	10.42	10.31
Miscellaneous Mfg.	3.0	3.1	3.2	-100	-200	37.4	37.8	38.5	11.34	11.37	11.41
NONDURABLE MFG.	25.5	24.5	25.9	1000	-400	40.2	39.9	40.1	12.51	12.65	12.30
Food Beverage	2.9	2.9	2.8	-----	100	42.0	41.0	43.2	11.54	11.53	11.32
Textiles	6.9	6.0	7.1	900	-200	40.2	37.6	42.3	10.80	10.72	10.72
Apparel	0.8	0.8	0.9	-----	-100	42.3	39.6	34.9	9.18	9.16	9.03
Paper Products	2.0	2.1	2.1	-100	-100	37.2	38.3	37.9	12.29	12.36	11.82
Printing-Publishing	5.3	5.2	5.4	100	-100	39.2	40.3	38.9	16.53	16.58	16.67
Chemical Products	2.1	2.1	2.0	-----	100	41.9	40.8	39.9	13.84	13.81	13.43
Rubber Products	0.6	0.6	0.5	-----	100	40.7	41.5	40.5	12.93	12.93	12.70
Plastics Products	4.4	4.4	4.6	-----	-200	40.7	42.5	36.8	13.35	13.42	12.62
Leather Products	0.5	0.4	0.5	100	-----	41.0	42.5	40.8	8.31	8.31	7.98

**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.

The Number of Jobs in Rhode Island Climbed by 4,100 Over the Year

(Continued from Page 1)

The Number of Jobs in Rhode Island (Over the Year)

Since August 1999, the number of jobs in Rhode Island increased by 4,100, or 0.9 percent. Nearly all major industry divisions experienced over-the-year gains with the largest occurring in Services (+2,400) and Trade (+2,300). Within the Services sector, Business Services (+1,000) reported the most growth, followed by Educational Services (+700) and Hotels/Lodging (+300). Employment in Health Services was down 400 over the year. Employment gains were reported in every component of the Trade sector with the largest gains occurring in Apparel and Accessory Stores (+700), followed by General Merchandise Stores (+300) and Restaurants (+300). Most of the gains in Retail Trade are attributed to the opening of the Providence Place Mall. Contract Construction remained strong over the last twelve months with the addition of 900 jobs. Government employment grew by 500 over the year due to an increase of 600 jobs in Local Government. Finance, Insurance and Real Estate employment stood at an all time high with the addition of 400 jobs. Annual losses were reported in Manufacturing (-1,300), led by continued declines in Jewelry-Silverware employment (-800), and Transportation and Public Utilities (-1,100), primarily due to the labor dispute at Verizon Communications.

Rhode Island Job Highlights (Over the Month)

The number of jobs in Rhode Island rose by 3,400 over the month, mainly due to a seasonal rebound in Manufacturing employment. Typically, the August job total reflects the return of factory workers following the July vacation closings. Retail Trade; Services; Finance, Insurance and Real Estate; and Contract Construction also reported monthly gains. The over-the-month increase was tempered by a labor dispute resulting in a one-month loss of nearly 1,200 jobs.

Manufacturing – The Manufacturing sector registered a net gain of 4,100 jobs as factory workers returned to their jobs following the traditional July plant shutdowns. Fabricated Metals and Jewelry/Silverware each added 1,200 jobs.

Trade – Trade reported a net gain of 300 jobs over the month due mainly to increases in Restaurants and Apparel and Accessory Stores, which overshadowed minor losses in Wholesale Trade, Food Stores and Miscellaneous Retail Stores.

Services – Employment in Services reached an all-time August high of 162,100. Over-the-month gains in Business Services (+400), Hotels/Lodging (+200), and Automotive and Miscellaneous Repair (+100) offset minor job declines reported in other segments.

Contract Construction – The construction industry continued to break records posting its highest August employment level (20,600) since 1989. Employment was up 100 over the month.

Government – Government payrolls were down 400 jobs, due to the conclusion of the 2000 Census. This resulted in the layoff of 600 Federal workers hired for the Census.

Transportation/Public Utilities – Employment in Transportation/Public Utilities declined by 1,300 over the month mainly due to the Verizon Communications labor dispute. Employment is expected to rebound in September.

Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers

	Aug 00	Jul 00	Aug 99	% Change Prev. Year
All Items	172.7	172.6	167.1	3.4%

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

ESU Links Employers with Job Seekers

(Continued from Page 1)

With labor market statistics illustrating the unprecedented rate of low unemployment, the ESU has combined the latest techniques in electronic information gathering with their accumulated knowledge of the indigenous needs of Rhode Island companies. The imaginative creation of the DLT/netWORKri Job Bank has allowed companies to advertise on the internet for specifically qualified employees (ranging from electrical engineers to jewelry rackers) even if the company IS NOT on line!

ESU newcomers Susan Biagioni and Patricia Servant, Employer Service Representatives (ESRs), have developed and fine-tuned an operation that retrieves, gathers, screens and forwards in excess of 75 resumes a week to the hiring companies, many of whom did nothing more than make a phone call. The addition of ESRs Joanne King and Maureen Palumbo will provide peripheral support in rapid job entry and large-scale corporate assistance, respectively. The Unit rotates the remaining nine (9) ESRs from their outstations throughout the state into the daily activities on a weekly basis; this ensures an optimal amount of customer service and a timely and accurate response to the diverse questions they field.

Placing a job order with the ESU guarantees its appearance on America's Job Bank, viewed by literally thousands of job seekers across the United States. In addition, companies, frustrated by ineffective and expensive newspaper advertising, may be eligible to broadcast their vacancies on local television news stations.

Your organization can use the Internet without incurring the cost of it! Referrals, follow-ups, tax credit information, training monies, job fairs and recruitments are all available to you....FREE.

The mission of the Employer Service Unit is to make doing business easier in the State of Rhode Island. Call them today and access the latest in technological assistance, labor market information and just plain old-fashioned customer service.....with a high-tech twist!

netWORKri
RI Department of Labor & Training

1-888-616-JOBS (5627)
Fax (401) 462-8722