Lincoln Almond
Governor

Rhode Island Department of Labor and Training

Employment Labor Market Information Bulletin

Dr. Lee H. Arnold
Director

Volume 14 No. 9 September 2002

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

The Unemployment Rate

Rhode Island's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate rose to 4.8 percent in August, up 0.5 of a percentage point from July. The unemployment rate posted its second straight increase following a large drop in June. The number of unemployed Rhode Island residents climbed by 2,900 over the month. A year ago August, the unemployment rate was 4.7 percent and the unemployment level stood at 23,500. Nationally, the unemployment rate for August edged down 0.2 of a percentage point to 5.7 percent. Rhode Island's unemployment rate remained below the national average for the thirteenth month in a row.

"Rhode Island is feeling the effects of an overall sluggish, uneven recovery, as indicated by the second consecutive increase in our unemployment rate," said DLT Director Dr. Lee H. Arnold. "The road to recovery continues to be bumpy as the number of Rhode Islanders holding jobs fell by 700 last month. Despite the increase in our unemployment rate, we remain well below the national average of 5.7 percent."

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

In August, Rhode Island employers reported 481,500 payroll jobs. Despite declining employment in four of the seven major industries measured, this total represents a 2,400 (+0.5%) job increase over last year's employment level of 479,100. Manufacturing (-1,200), Contract Construction (-700), Transportation & Public Utilities (-300) and Government (-100) employment all declined over the year. However, these employment losses were more than offset by increases in Services (+2,600), Finance, Insurance & Real Estate (+1,200), and Trade (+900). Nearly all industries within the Services sector reported over-the-year job gains with the largest occurring in Health Services (+1,200) and Social Services (+800). Business Services was the only Services industry to decline, reporting a loss of 2,100 jobs compared to last August.

(Continued on Page 4)

Look What We've Been Up To...

From January, 2002 through the month of September, the Department of Labor & Training's Employer Service Unit (ESU) has kept up a frantic 9 month pace, organizing and attending recruitments, job fairs, seminars and business expos. Rhode Island companies have received assistance with their staffing needs and the citizens of the state have been provided with a multitude of career opportunities. Below is a listing of companies, organizations and municipalities that have benefited from the expertise of the ESU.

January to September 2002

Recruitments	Job Fairs & Expos
January	
Spirit International, Providence	North Kingstown Business Expo
February	
A.J. Wright, Providence	RI League of Cities and Towns
	Pawtucket Job Fair
	West Warwick Job Fair
March	
T.J. Maxx, Warwick	Employer Service Session
Wendy's, Bristol	Newport Job Fair
Paramount, Barrington	Pawtucket Job Fair
	Newport Business Expo
	South County Parks & Recreation Job Fair
April	
Stop & Shop, Providence	Greater Providence Chamber Business Expo
	RI Construction Career Day
	CCRI Career Expo
	Newport Opportunities Fair

(Continued on Page 4)

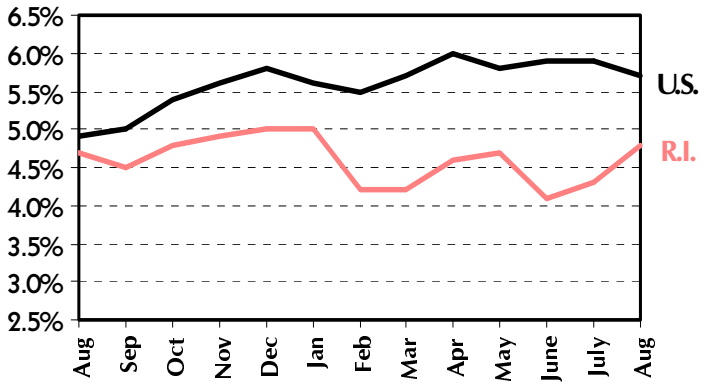
Rhode Island Labor Force Statistics*
(in thousands)

	Seasonally Adjusted			Unadjusted		
	Aug 02	Jul 02	Aug 01	Aug 02	Jul 02	Aug 01
Civilian Labor Force	510.8	508.7	502.2	515.0	514.3	506.9
Resident Employment	486.3	487.0	478.7	491.1	492.3	483.9
Unemployment	24.6	21.7	23.5	23.9	22.0	23.0
Unemployment Rate	4.8%	4.3%	4.7%	4.6%	4.3%	4.5%

United States Labor Force Statistics
(in thousands)

	Seasonally Adjusted			Unadjusted		
	Aug 02	Jul 02	Aug 01	Aug 02	Jul 02	Aug 01
Civilian Labor Force	142,616	142,390	141,380	143,176	143,885	141,862
Resident Employment	134,474	134,045	134,408	135,028	135,289	134,905
Unemployment	8,142	8,345	6,972	8,148	8,595	6,956
Unemployment Rate	5.7	5.9%	4.9%	5.7%	6.0%	4.9%

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



City & Town
Unadjusted Unemployment Rates

	Aug 02	Aug 01
Barrington	2.7	2.8
Bristol	3.5	2.9
Burrillville	5.2	4.5
Central Falls	6.6	8.0
Charlestown	6.4	5.4
Coventry	5.3	4.6
Cranston	4.6	4.1
Cumberland	4.1	4.9
East Greenwich	4.5	4.1
East Providence	5.1	4.7
Exeter	3.9	3.9
Foster	4.2	5.9
Glocester	3.7	3.3
Hopkinton	2.9	3.2
Jamestown	3.5	3.1
Johnston	5.2	4.5
Lincoln	4.5	4.5
Little Compton	3.6	2.0
Middletown	3.3	3.3
Narragansett	2.1	2.0
New Shoreham	1.0	1.1
Newport	2.8	2.7
North Kingstown	3.8	3.2
North Providence	4.8	4.1
North Smithfield	3.5	3.3
Pawtucket	5.6	6.1
Portsmouth	3.2	2.4
Providence	6.2	6.7
Richmond	2.9	1.7
Scituate	5.0	4.3
Smithfield	4.9	3.9
South Kingstown	3.5	3.1
Tiverton	4.8	4.1
Warren	4.1	3.9
Warwick	4.1	3.9
West Greenwich	5.4	4.7
West Warwick	4.8	4.5
Westerly	2.6	3.1
Woonsocket	5.8	6.2
State of R.I.	4.6	4.5

Unemployment Insurance Claims Activity

	Aug 2002	Jul 2002	Aug 2001	% Change Jul 02	% Change Aug 01	Year to Date 2002	Year to Date 2001	Year to Date % Change
Initial Claims	5,177	9,133	5,543	-43.3%	-6.6%	58,924	63,334	-7.0%
Number of Payments	53,976	67,842	54,754	-20.4%	-1.4%	508,036	441,702	15.0%
Amount of Payments (gross millions)	$15.2	$19.1	$14.9	-20.4%	2.0%	$149.6	$122.5	22.2%
Exhaustions (Final Payments)	1,461	1,753	1,121	-16.7%	30.3%	12,594	8,668	45.3%
E.S. Fund Balance (millions)	$282.1	$266.3	$301.3	5.9%	-6.4%			

*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

LMI on 'Track' with New Electronic Newsletter!

In August, the Labor Market Information unit introduced its new electronic newsletter, LMI Stat Track. We have received great feedback from those who have received it and would like to extend another invitation to those who may have missed our last announcement.

Periodically, LMI will be e-mailing its customers on newly available labor market data, announcements regarding LMI publications and updates to the unit's web site. The newsletter provides hypertext links directing the user to our on-line data and services right from their Inbox, allowing timely access to the most current Rhode Island labor market information available!

If you would like to begin receiving LMI Stat Track, please send your request, including your name and any e-mail addresses to be added, to Nick Ucci at nucci@dlt.state.ri.us.

Total Establishment Employment in Rhode Island**

	Employment (in thousands) Aug 02	Jul 02	Aug 01	Net Change From Jul 02	Aug 01
TOTAL EMPLOYMENT	481.5	477.9	479.1	3600	2400
GOODS PRODUCING	86.9	82.9	88.8	4000	-1900
Contract Construction	19.4	19.1	20.1	300	-700
Manufacturing	67.5	63.8	68.7	3700	-1200
SERVICE PRODUCING	394.6	395.0	390.3	-400	4300
Trans. & Public Utilites	16.4	16.6	16.7	-200	-300
Trade (Wholesale & Retail)	111.2	111.1	110.3	100	900
Wholesale	18.9	18.8	18.7	100	200
Durables◆	11.6	11.5	11.6	100	-----
Nondurables◆	7.3	7.2	7.1	100	200
Retail	92.3	92.3	91.6	-----	700
Building & Garden Supplies◆	2.9	2.9	2.5	-----	400
General Merchandise	6.3	6.4	6.6	-100	-300
Food Stores◆	15.6	15.4	15.8	200	-200
Automotive Dealers	7.9	7.9	7.8	-----	100
Apparel & Accessory Stores	4.8	4.9	4.7	-100	100
Furn., Home Furn., & Equipt.◆	3.0	3.0	2.7	-----	300
Eating and Drinking Places	35.5	35.4	35.1	100	400
Miscellaneous Retail	16.4	16.4	16.6	-----	-200
Finance, Insurance & Real Estate	33.8	33.7	32.6	100	1200
Depository Institutions	10.0	9.9	9.2	100	800
Services	172.7	172.7	170.1	-----	2600
Hotels & Other Lodging◆	5.3	5.5	5.2	-200	100
Business Services	25.5	24.9	27.6	600	-2100
Auto & Misc. Repair◆	5.8	5.7	5.6	100	200
Amusement & Recreation	7.6	7.6	7.5	-----	100
Health Services	53.7	53.8	52.5	-100	1200
Educational Services	15.5	15.8	15.4	-300	100
Social Services	16.7	16.7	15.9	-----	800
Government	60.5	60.9	60.6	-400	-100
Federal	10.2	10.2	10.4	-----	-200
State	17.6	17.6	17.7	-----	-100
Local	32.7	33.1	32.5	-400	200
Education◆	19.6	19.6	19.3	-----	300
Non Education◆	13.2	13.5	13.2	-300	-----

◆ 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 02	Jul 02	Aug 01	Jul 02	Aug 01	Aug 02	Jul 02	Aug 01	Aug 02	Jul 02	Aug 01
MANUFACTURING	67.5	63.8	68.7	3700	-1200	39.3	39.3	40.1	12.29	12.37	12.19
DURABLE MFG.	44.1	41.9	45.4	2200	-1300	39.4	39.5	39.6	12.07	12.13	11.97
Primary Metals	3.3	3.0	3.4	300	-100	38.5	38.6	38.3	12.93	12.92	12.83
Fabricated Metals	7.9	6.9	7.7	1000	200	38.1	39.5	40.1	11.75	11.68	11.33
Nonelectrical Machinery	3.5	3.3	3.9	200	-400	40.4	41.3	39.3	13.72	13.72	13.74
Electrical Machinery	4.8	4.8	4.9	-----	-100	40.0	40.4	40.6	11.42	11.34	11.60
Trans. Equipment	3.9	4.0	3.8	-100	100	41.7	41.1	40.9	14.47	14.47	14.41
Instruments	5.1	5.1	5.1	-----	-----	37.4	38.9	37.7	12.85	12.85	12.72
Miscellaneous Mfg.	11.9	11.1	12.9	800	-1000	39.8	37.8	38.9	10.72	10.74	10.65
Jewelry, Incl. Costume	9.0	8.1	9.8	900	-800	39.7	37.0	39.0	10.52	10.50	10.46
All Other Durables	3.7	3.7	3.7	-----	-----	39.5	40.7	40.9	12.42	12.42	12.39
NONDURABLE MFG.	23.4	21.9	23.3	1500	100	39.2	38.9	41.0	12.69	12.84	12.58
Textiles	5.3	4.5	5.4	800	-100	38.1	39.0	41.5	10.93	10.92	10.91
Printing-Publishing	5.2	5.2	5.0	-----	200	39.7	40.9	40.0	16.64	16.64	16.65
Rubber & Plastic Products	4.3	4.1	4.5	200	-200	37.3	36.9	41.6	13.27	13.26	13.21
All Other Nondurables	8.6	8.1	8.4	500	200	40.7	38.9	40.9	11.77	11.77	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 August but Remains below National Average

(Continued from Page 1)

The Finance, Insurance & Real Estate industry benefited from an 800 job increase in its Depository Institutions component, while both the Wholesale (+200) and Retail (+700) divisions of Trade posted employment gains. Within the Retail Trade segment, General Merchandise (-300) and Food Stores (-200) reported over-the-year job losses, which were offset by gains in Home Furnishings (+300), Eating & Drinking Places (+400) and Building & Garden Supplies (+400).

An over-the-year net job loss in Manufacturing was mainly due to a 1,300 drop in Durable Goods industries. Only two Durable components – Transportation Equipment (+100) and Fabricated Metals (+200) – increased their payrolls. In contrast, the largest job declines occurred in Jewelry & Silverware (-800) and Non-electrical Machinery (-400). Non-durable Goods managed to add 100 jobs over the year thanks to increases in its Printing & Publishing (+200) and Other Non-durable Manufacturing (+200) components.

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

The return of Manufacturing workers from temporary factory shutdowns last month accounts for most of the 3,600 job increase reported in August, a 0.75 percent gain over the July level of 477,900. Of the seven major industries, only two reported over-the-month losses – Government (-400) and Transportation & Public Utilities (-200).

Manufacturing – As factories re-opened following temporary shutdowns in July, employment rebounded by 3,700 jobs. Fabricated Metals (+1,000), Jewelry & Silverware (+900), Textiles (+800), and Other Non-durable Manufacturing (+500) posted the largest over-the-month gains. Only one component, Transportation Equipment, (-100), reported a job loss, while Electrical Machinery, Instruments, Other Durable Manufacturing and Printing & Publishing all maintained their July employment levels.

Trade – Retail Trade employment remained even over the month, reporting small job gains in Food Stores (+200) and Eating & Drinking Places (+100). General Merchandise and Apparel & Accessory Stores lost 100 jobs each. Wholesale Trade employment added 100 jobs over the month.

Services – Employment in Services showed no change over the month. Job gains in Business Services (+600) and Auto & Miscellaneous Repair (+100) offset losses in Educational Services (-300), Hotels & Lodging (-200) and Other Services (-200).

Government – The 400 job loss in Government employment can be attributed to the Local level, which reported a decline in its Non-education related jobs. Both Federal and State government employment maintained their July levels. Note: August's Federal employment figure does not include newly hired screeners employed at T.F. Green Airport.

Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers

	Aug 02	Jul 02	Aug 01	% Change Prev. Year
All Items	180.7	180.1	177.5	1.8%

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

Look What We've Been Up To...

(Continued from Page 1)

Recruitments	Job Fairs & Expos
May	
Adecco, East Bay	Pawtucket Employer Info Sharing Session
	Pawtucket Job Fair
	Pawtucket Employer Focus Group
	Cranston Job Fair
	Small Business Advisory Forum
	West Warwick Job Fair
June	Providence Journal Diversity Fair
August	
Labor USA Job Fair, Warren	Woonsocket Job Fair
Occupations Unlimited, Warren	West Warwick Job Fair
September	
Tasca, Cranston	Welding Job Fair, Quonset Pt.
	Statewide Ames Blitz in 4 offices
	Senior Job Fair, Warwick Mall
	Providence Journal Healthcare Job Fair

The Employer Service Unit is an experienced group of professionals skilled in the area of job service and development. Whether your hiring needs are few or many, or your message needs local and regional exposure, call now and allow an Employer Service Representative in your geographical district to explain the many diverse services we offer....all free of charge! – (401) 462-8724.