



Donald L. Carcieri
Governor
Adelita S. Orefice
Director

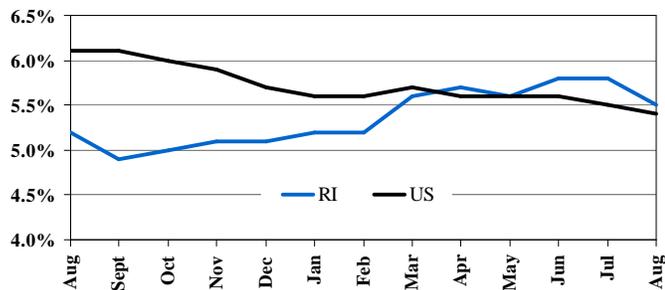
Employment Bulletin

Rhode Island
Department of
Labor & Training
♦
September 2004
♦
www.dlt.ri.gov/lmi

Rhode Island's Unemployment Rate Declines in August

Rhode Island's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate for August fell to 5.5 percent, down 0.3 of a percentage point from July's revised figure of 5.8 percent. The number of unemployed Rhode Island residents fell by 1,900 in August to 31,100. A year ago, the unemployment rate was 5.2 percent and the number of unemployed stood at 29,600. Nationally, the unemployment rate inched down to 5.4 percent in August from 5.5 percent in July. The national jobless rate is the lowest since October 2001. Rhode Island's unemployment rate has equaled or surpassed the national average for five straight months.

**RI & US Unemployment Rates
Seasonally Adjusted 2003 - 2004**



“Since August of last year, Rhode Island’s jobs picture has reflected a series of gains and a few setbacks,” said DLT Director Adelita S. Orefice. “This month’s decline follows a gain of 4,300 jobs in the previous three months and, compared to last August, the job count is up by 4,500. Overall, we’re still on the right track.”

RI Department of Labor and Training Division Recognized Nationally for Excellence

The National Association of State Workforce Agencies (NASWA) recently announced the 2004 Labor Market Information Communication/Publication Awards. Rhode Island’s Department of Labor and Training, Labor Market Information (LMI) Division received national recognition in two of the five award categories.

Rhode Island’s *Opportunities In...* was named first place winner for excellence in providing quality information in the category of “Product or Service for One-Stop Career Centers.” *Opportunities In...* is a series of brochures highlighting wage and employment information on specific industries including: Construction; High Technology; Education, Leisure & Hospitality; Finance, Insurance, & Accounting; Manufacturing; Health Services; and Retail Trade.

In the category of “Product/Service for Business,” Rhode Island’s *Health Services in the Ocean State – An Analysis of Employment and Wages in Rhode Island’s Health Care Industries*, received Honorable Mention. Using information collected by the LMI Division, this publication analyzes the sector’s growth in employment and annual wages during the past decade and presents industry and occupational employment projections for the coming decade.

Products by labor market information staff contribute to the knowledge of human resource utilization for employment security, job training, occupational, economic, and other workforce development planners. For copies of the products mentioned above and other labor market publications, please contact the LMI Division at (401) 462-8740 or lmi@dlt.state.ri.us.

Seasonally Adjusted Labor Force Statistics

(in thousands)

	Rhode Island			United States		
	Aug 04	Jul 04	Aug 03	Aug 04	Jul 04	Aug 03
Civilian Labor Force	568.8	572.6	574.3	147,704	147,856	146,622
Resident Employment	537.8	539.7	544.7	139,681	139,660	137,693
Unemployment	31.1	33.0	29.6	8,022	8,196	8,929
Unemployment Rate	5.5%	5.8%	5.2%	5.4%	5.5%	6.1%

Sign up to receive news releases and LMI announcements by email through **LMI Stat Track**. Call LMI at 401-462-8740 or email lmi@dlt.state.ri.us

Rhode Island Job Highlights

The Rhode Island job count (seasonally adjusted) decreased in August, following three successive months of increased employment. Businesses in the state reported a decline of 1,000 jobs, bringing the August job count to 489,300 (seasonally adjusted). Construction (+300) was the only sector to experience a monthly gain. Over-the-month employment losses were reflected in Professional & Business Services (-800); Manufacturing (-700); Leisure & Hospitality (-200); and Government (-100). Trade, Transportation & Utilities employment remained even over the month.

The unadjusted estimates, which traditionally increase from July to August, were up by 2,500 (+0.5%) over the month. The August job count stood at 489,200 (unadjusted), the highest August job count on record. Much of the gain can be attributed to the Manufacturing sector (+2,900), which rebounded from the traditional July vacation closings. Construction (+200); Wholesale Trade (+200); Professional & Business Services (+200); Health Care & Social Assistance (+100); and Accommodation & Food Services (+100) also reported increases. Seasonal decreases in Local Government (-500), coupled with small losses in Arts, Entertainment, & Recreation (-200); Other Services (-200); Retail Trade (-100); Transportation, Warehousing & Utilities (-100); and Information (-100), partially offset these gains.

Establishment Employment in Rhode Island Seasonally Adjusted

	Employment (in thousands)		Net Change
	Aug 04	Jul 04	
Total Nonfarm	489.3	490.3	-1.0
Construction	22.5	22.2	0.3
Manufacturing	58.0	58.7	-0.7
Trade, Transportation & Utilities	81.6	81.6	0.0
Professional & Business Services	48.7	49.5	-0.8
Leisure and Hospitality	51.1	51.3	-0.2
Government	66.4	66.5	-0.1

The over-the-month rise in August was smaller than expected due, in part, to a smaller-than-normal increase in Professional & Business Services and an unusual decrease in Retail Trade, which reported a loss of 100 workers. This marks the first time in over ten years that Retail Trade has shed workers in August. Seasonal declines accounted for the reduction in Local Government (-500).

Over the year, employment was up 4,500 (+0.9%) from the 484,700 jobs (revised) reported in August 2003. The largest over-the-year gains were noted in Health Care & Social Assistance (+2,000); Construction (+1,300); Educational Services (+1,300); and Accommodation & Food Services (+1,300). The largest private sector employment losses occurred in Professional & Business Services (-1,100); Financial Activities (-700); Information (-400); and Arts, Entertainment & Recreation (-300). Government employment decreased by 400 over the year, as job gains on the Local level (+100) were offset by losses in the Federal (-300) and State (-200) segments.

Manufacturing Employment in Rhode Island Not Seasonally Adjusted

	Employment					Production Worker Averages					
	(in thousands)			Net Change From:		Weekly Hours			Hourly Earnings		
	Aug 04	Jul 04	Aug 03	Jul 04	Aug 03	Aug 04	Jul 04	Aug 03	Aug 04	Jul 04	Aug 03
Manufacturing	58.2	55.3	58.1	2900	100	38.8	38.3	39.1	13.04	13.08	12.90
Durable Goods	37.4	35.4	37.7	2000	-300	38.9	38.9	38.0	13.03	13.07	12.90
Fabricated Metal Product Mfg.	7.6	6.8	7.7	800	-100	38.1	38.1	38.5	11.72	11.75	11.50
Computer & Electronic Product Mfg.	5.0	5.0	5.1	0	-100	37.1	37.8	38.2	13.88	13.85	13.67
Transportation Equipment Mfg.	4.0	4.0	3.6	0	400	40.0	39.5	40.7	15.41	15.43	15.40
Miscellaneous Manufacturing	10.8	10.2	11.2	600	-400	37.5	37.6	37.0	10.87	10.84	10.51
Jewelry and Silverware	7.9	7.2	7.9	700	0	38.2	38.6	38.0	10.20	10.17	9.95
Non-Durable Goods	20.8	19.9	20.4	900	400	38.7	37.4	41.0	13.06	13.10	12.90
Chemical Manufacturing	4.1	4.1	4.1	0	0	39.8	40.9	39.9	15.35	15.30	15.55
Plastics & Rubber Products Mfg.	3.2	3.2	3.0	0	200	40.8	40.0	40.1	14.67	14.69	14.66

Establishment Employment in Rhode Island*
Not Seasonally Adjusted

	Employment in Thousands			Net Change From	
	Aug 2004	Jul 2004	Aug 2003	Jul 2004	Aug 2003
Total Nonfarm	489.2	486.7	484.7	2,500	4,500
Goods Producing	82.5	79.4	81.1	3,100	1,400
Natural Resources & Mining	0.2	0.2	0.2	0	0
Construction	24.1	23.9	22.8	200	1,300
Specialty Trade Contractors	15.4	15.3	14.9	100	500
Manufacturing	58.2	55.3	58.1	2,900	100
Durable Goods	37.4	35.4	37.7	2,000	-300
Fabricated Metal Product Mfg.	7.6	6.8	7.7	800	-100
Computer & Electronic Product Mfg.	5.0	5.0	5.1	0	-100
Transportation Equipment Mfg.	4.0	4.0	3.6	0	400
Miscellaneous Manufacturing	10.8	10.2	11.2	600	-400
Jewelry & Silverware	7.9	7.2	7.9	700	0
Non-Durable Goods	20.8	19.9	20.4	900	400
Chemical Manufacturing	4.1	4.1	4.1	0	0
Plastics & Rubber Products Mfg.	3.2	3.2	3.0	0	200
Service Providing	406.7	407.3	403.6	-600	3,100
Wholesale Trade	16.5	16.3	16.4	200	100
Retail Trade	53.4	53.5	53.3	-100	100
Grocery Stores	6.9	6.8	6.8	100	100
Health & Personal Care Stores	5.5	5.5	5.6	0	-100
General Merchandise Stores	9.9	10.0	9.9	-100	0
Department Stores	3.9	4.0	4.3	-100	-400
Transportation, Warehousing & Utilities	11.3	11.4	10.7	-100	600
Transportation & Warehousing	10.2	10.4	9.5	-200	700
Information	10.7	10.8	11.1	-100	-400
Publishing	3.4	3.4	3.2	0	200
Financial Activities (including Real Estate)	33.3	33.3	34.0	0	-700
Finance & Insurance	26.7	26.7	27.5	0	-800
Credit Intermediation & Related Activities	13.1	13.0	12.8	100	300
Insurance Carriers & Related Activities	10.2	10.3	10.9	-100	-700
Professional & Business Services	50.0	49.8	51.1	200	-1,100
Professional & Technical Services	19.3	19.4	19.3	-100	0
Administrative & Waste Services	22.8	22.6	24.1	200	-1,300
Educational Services	17.4	17.4	16.1	0	1,300
Colleges & Universities	10.6	10.7	9.7	-100	900
Health Care & Social Assistance	72.2	72.1	70.2	100	2,000
Ambulatory Health Care Services	21.1	21.3	20.3	-200	800
Hospitals	22.9	22.6	22.4	300	500
Nursing & Residential Care Facilities	18.2	18.1	17.7	100	500
Social Assistance	10.0	10.1	9.8	-100	200
Arts, Entertainment & Recreation	8.8	9.0	9.1	-200	-300
Accommodation & Food Services	47.1	47.0	45.8	100	1,300
Accommodation	5.4	5.4	5.1	0	300
Food Services & Drinking Places	41.7	41.6	40.7	100	1,000
Other Services	24.0	24.2	23.4	-200	600
Government	62.0	62.5	62.4	-500	-400
Federal Government	9.8	9.8	10.1	0	-300
State Government	16.9	16.9	17.1	0	-200
Local Government	35.3	35.8	35.2	-500	100

*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.

Visit the Labor Market Information (LMI) web site at www.dlt.ri.gov/lmi. To contact LMI, call (401) 462-8740 or e-mail lmi@dlt.state.ri.us.

Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers

				% Change
	Aug 04	Jul 04	Aug 03	Prev. Year
All Items	189.5	189.4	184.6	2.7%

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

Employers - Our netWORKri Career Centers Provide Services for YOU

netWORKri is a unique collaboration of employment and training organizations dedicated to addressing the workforce development needs for job seekers and employers in Rhode Island. Learn more about the valuable services available at our six netWORKri Centers and find out about the resources our partners have to offer to help you with your business needs. Visit our web site at www.networkri.org.

Core Services available to Employers:

- On-site recruitment assistance
- Pre-screening of qualified applicants
- Participation in job fairs
- Easy access to post job listings on America's Job Bank (AJB)
- Job and industry growth trends and forecasts
- Wage data and other labor market information
- Compliance information such as child labor laws, Americans with Disabilities Act, etc.
- Information on tax credits, worker upgrading assistance, training grants, and more.

The best part is that these services are provided at **no cost** to you.

City & Town Unadjusted Unemployment Rates for August

	2004	2003		2004	2003
Barrington	3.0	2.8	Newport	3.8	3.4
Bristol	4.4	4.1	North Kingstown	3.8	3.8
Burrillville	6.1	5.8	North Providence	5.6	5.1
Central Falls	6.6	7.6	North Smithfield	5.2	4.6
Charlestown	5.5	5.3	Pawtucket	6.2	6.2
Coventry	6.0	5.0	Portsmouth	3.1	2.9
Cranston	5.5	4.9	Providence	6.5	6.2
Cumberland	5.2	4.7	Richmond	2.7	2.6
East Greenwich	4.6	4.5	Scituate	6.4	5.8
East Providence	5.6	5.1	Smithfield	4.7	4.4
Exeter	4.9	3.6	South Kingstown	4.0	3.5
Foster	7.4	6.6	Tiverton	5.7	5.3
Glocester	3.9	3.9	Warren	5.5	4.8
Hopkinton	5.5	4.5	Warwick	5.1	4.7
Jamestown	3.0	2.7	West Greenwich	5.2	4.5
Johnston	5.9	5.3	West Warwick	6.0	5.3
Lincoln	4.6	5.1	Westerly	3.6	3.6
Little Compton	3.9	3.2	Woonsocket	6.0	6.8
Middletown	4.2	3.6			
Narragansett	2.7	2.2	State of R.I.	5.3	5.0
New Shoreham	2.8	0.8	United States	6.0	5.4



Pawtucket netWORKri
175 Main St.
722-3100

Warren netWORKri
470 Metacom Ave.
245-9300

Providence netWORKri
1 Reservoir Ave.
462-8900

West Warwick netWORKri
1330 Main St.
828-8382

Wakefield netWORKri
4808 Tower Hill Rd.
789-9721

Woonsocket netWORKri
219 Pond St.
762-9010

Unemployment Insurance Claims Activity

	Aug	Jul	Aug	% Change		Year to Date		
	2004	2004	2003	Aug 04	Jul 03	2004	2003	% Change
Initial Claims	4,807	6,673	4,899	-28.0%	-1.9%	55,569	61,301	-9.4%
Number of Payments	62,428	51,489	54,521	21.2%	14.5%	475,761	504,481	-5.7%
Amount of Payments (gross millions)	\$18.8	\$15.4	\$15.6	22.1%	20.5%	\$148.6	\$150.4	-1.2%
Exhaustions (Final Payments)	1,367	1,143	1,348	19.6%	1.4%	11,443	12,592	-9.1%



Quarterly Census of RI Employment and Wages

First Quarter Comparison 2003-2004



Rhode Island total employment increased by 2,379 (+0.5%) jobs during the first quarter of 2004, averaging 462,148 workers, when compared to the first quarter of 2003. Private sector (+2,842) employment accounted for nearly all of the job growth, offsetting the 466 positions lost in the State and Federal Government sector. State employment declined by 270 positions, while Federal employment lost 196 positions. Local Government added three jobs.

The Administrative & Waste Services sector (+1,987) experienced the largest number of job gains during this period, with a 10 percent increase (+1,890) in the Administrative & Support Services sub-sector. Health Care & Social Services continues to be amongst the sector leaders in employment growth, adding 1,175 positions between first quarters 2003-2004. Hospitals (+445) and Ambulatory Health Care Services (+296) were the two leading sub-sectors within this sector. Management of Companies & Enterprise led all sectors in employment growth on a percentage basis adding 860 new jobs, an 11.6 percent increase.

Overall, Health Care & Social Assistance (70,545) was the largest employment sector in the state, accounting for over 17 percent of private sector employment. This marks the ninth straight quarter under the North American Industrial Classification System (NAICS) in which the Health Care & Social Assistance sector has led in average employment. Government (66,421), Manufacturing (56,348), Retail Trade (51,766) and Accommodation & Food Services (37,896) round out the top five sectors in average employment.

Manufacturing reported a loss of 3,088 (-5.2%) positions between first quarters 2003-2004. Miscellaneous Manufacturing (-771) led all Manufacturing sub-sectors in job decline, followed by Fabricated Metal Product Manufacturing (-576) and Textile Mills (-542). In all, sixteen of the twenty-one Manufacturing sub-sectors reported a job loss between these periods. Government (-466), Wholesale Trade (-290), Utilities (-45), Mining (-8) and Arts, Entertainment & Recreation (-5) were the only other sectors to report a drop in employment.

A total of over \$4.3 billion in wages was paid during the first quarter 2004, an increase of over \$100 million (+2.6) from last years first quarter total of \$4.2 billion. Private sector wages increased by \$96 million (+2.8%) while Government wages grew by \$13 million (+1.7%). The total average weekly wage in the first quarter 2004 was \$728, a \$15 increase from the \$713 earned during first quarter in 2003. Private sector wages were up \$14 (\$696) from the \$682 earned a year ago.

Management of Companies & Enterprise (\$2,006) led all sectors in average weekly wage followed by Utilities (\$1,271), Information (\$1,237), Finance (\$1,196) and Wholesale Trade (\$975). The Information sector experienced the largest weekly wage increase of \$174 (+16.4 %) followed by Agriculture, Forestry, Fishing & Hunting (+\$79). Though Management of Companies & Enterprise led all sectors in average weekly wage, it also experienced the largest decline in average weekly wage with a decrease of \$707 (-26.1%) from first quarter 2003. Quarterly bonuses and exercised stock options are included in the calculation and therefore may impact the average weekly wage.

	No. of Units	First Quarter 2004			Average Employment	Total Wages	Taxable Wages	Contributions
		January	February	March				
Total	34,879	461,250	461,488	463,707	462,148	4,370,876,718	2,362,603,809	71,890,311
Private	34,197	395,100	395,198	396,884	395,727	3,581,633,010	2,357,197,874	71,719,188
State	107	17,713	17,679	17,707	17,700	216,237,308	12,217	2,918
Local	427	38,387	38,601	39,090	38,693	412,050,541	5,299,625	168,205
Federal	148	10,050	10,010	10,026	10,029	160,955,859	0	0
Total Government	682	66,150	66,290	66,823	66,421	789,243,708	5,405,935	171,123
Total UI Covered	34,731	451,200	451,478	453,681	452,119	4,209,920,859	2,362,603,809	71,890,311

A Product of: [Rhode Island Department of Labor and Training, Labor Market Information](#)

Employment changes may be influenced by non-economic code changes resulting from NAICS revisions and/or changes in employers' reporting methods.

DLT is an Equal Opportunity Employer/Program.

Auxiliary aids & services are available upon request to individuals with disabilities. TDD: (401) 462-8006