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Rhode Island’s Unemployment Rate Holds Steady in December

	<u>Dec. 06</u>	<u>Nov. 06</u>	<u>Dec. 05</u>
RI Unemployment Rate	5.2%	5.2%	5.1%
RI Job Count (in 1,000s)	493.2	493.6	493.0

Highlights:

- RI’s unemployment rate remained stable at 5.2% over the month.
- RI Job Gains: Construction; Other Services
- RI Job Losses: Professional & Business Services; Trade, Transportation & Utilities; Government

Adelita S. Orefice announced today that Rhode Island’s seasonally adjusted unemployment rate for December, estimated at 5.2 percent, was unchanged from November. The number of unemployed Rhode Islanders edged down 400 over the month to 29,800 in December.

Rhode Island’s jobless rate remained above the national average, which held steady at 4.5 percent in December.

Employment at Rhode Island businesses decreased by 400 jobs last month, bringing the December job count to 493,200 (seasonally adjusted). Over-the-month job losses were reported in Professional & Business

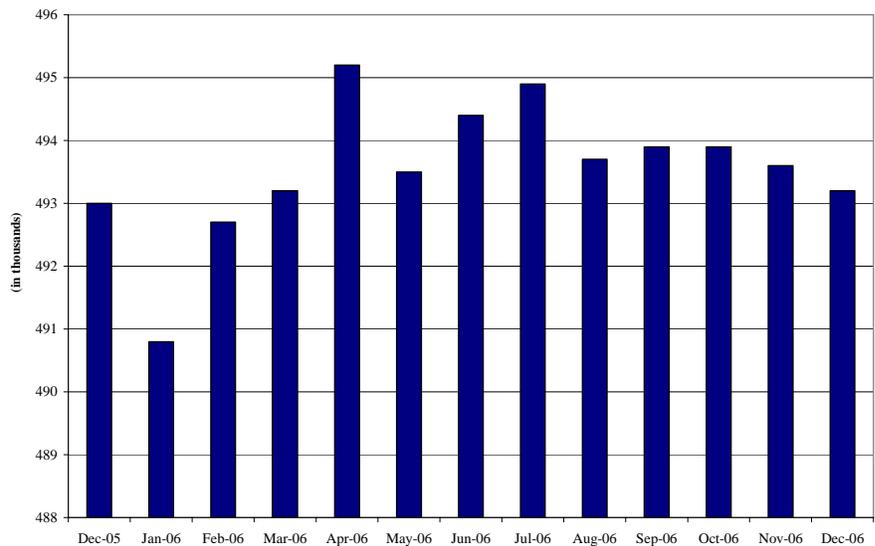
Services (-600); Trade, Transportation & Utilities (-400); Educational & Health Services (-200); and Government (-200). Small employment gains were noted in the Construction (+200) and Other Services (+200) sectors.

“Our unemployment rate remained stable last month at 5.2 percent,” said Director Orefice. “Although jobs were down slightly, we did see an increase in the number of Rhode Island residents working last month.”

Employment losses in Professional & Business Services reflected a number of small job declines in Professional & Technical Services, while job losses in Trade, Transportation & Utilities was attributed to weaker than normal holiday hiring in the Retail Trade sector.

The increase in Construction jobs (+200) resulted from a milder than normal December, while Other Services (+200) posted an employment increase due to gains in Personal Services.

Rhode Island Seasonally Adjusted Establishment Employment
 December 2005 to December 2006



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Over the year, jobs were up 200 from the 493,000 jobs reported in December 2005. Annual employment growth occurred in the Financial Activities (+2,000); Educational & Health Services (+1,100); Construction (+800); and Professional & Business Services (+700) sectors; offsetting losses in Manufacturing (-1,400); Trade, Transportation & Utilities (-800); Government (-800); Other Services (-700); and Leisure & Hospitality (-400).

SEASONALLY-ADJUSTED NON-FARM EMPLOYMENT IN RHODE ISLAND
(in thousands)

	Net Change From				
	<u>Dec-06</u>	<u>Nov-06</u>	<u>Dec-05</u>	<u>Nov-06</u>	<u>Dec-05</u>
Total Non-Farm	493.2	493.6	493.0	-0.4	0.2
Construction	23.4	23.2	22.6	0.2	0.8
Manufacturing	52.7	52.7	54.1	0.0	-1.4
Trade, Transportation & Utilities	78.7	79.1	79.5	-0.4	-0.8
Financial Activities	37.2	37.2	35.2	0.0	2.0
Professional & Business Services	56.8	57.4	56.1	-0.6	0.7
Educational & Health Services	97.3	97.5	96.2	-0.2	1.1
Leisure & Hospitality	50.1	50.1	50.5	0.0	-0.4
Other Services	22.2	22.0	22.9	0.2	-0.7
Government	64.0	64.2	64.8	-0.2	-0.8

Note: Data may not be additive due to the exclusion of certain industry sectors from the seasonal adjustment process.

Hours and Earnings

In December 2006, the \$13.44 average hourly wage earned by the Manufacturing sector's production workers represented a monthly loss of four cents per hour and an over-the-year gain of fourteen cents per hour. Manufacturing employees worked an average of 40.7 hours per week in December, up 1.0 hour over the month and 2.8 hours since December 2005.

Note: Current month figures are preliminary; prior month and year are revised. Data may not be additive and are subject to revision.

The unemployment figures are based largely on a survey of households in Rhode Island and measure the unemployment status of people who live in the state.

The establishment employment figures are derived from a survey of businesses in Rhode Island and measure the number of jobs in the state.

-30-

**Rhode Island Labor Market Information is available on our web site at www.dlt.ri.gov/lmi
The January labor force figures are scheduled to be released on Friday, March 2, 2007.**

Equal Opportunity Employer/Program

Auxiliary aids and services are available upon request to individuals with disabilities.

TDD (401) 462-8006

