



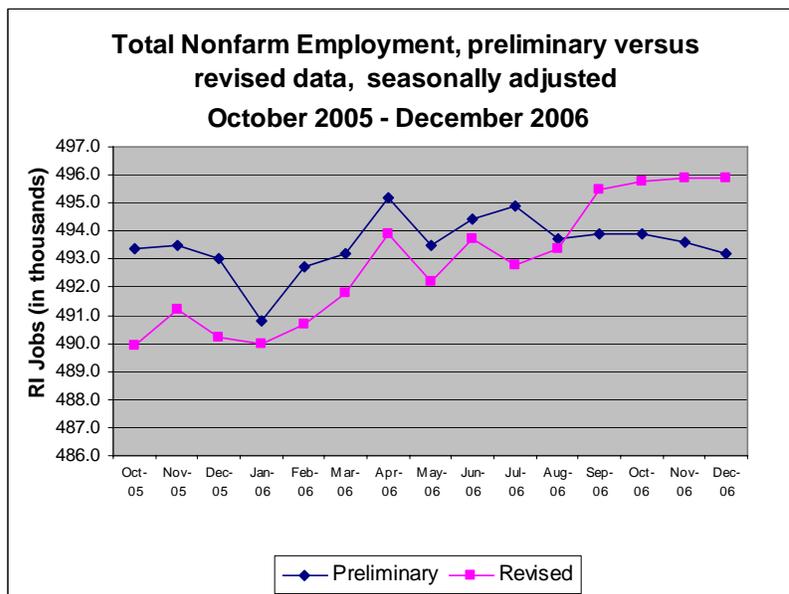
MEDIA CONTACT :

Laura Hart (401) 462-8090
lhart@dlt.state.ri.us
 Nicole Romeo (401) 462-8744
nromeo@dlt.state.ri.us

Rhode Island Economy Gained 5,700 Jobs in 2006

The RI Dept. of Labor and Training reported that the state's economy had performed better than initially predicted during the second half of 2006, with a year-end net growth of 5,700 jobs in Rhode Island. Previous estimates indicated only 200 additional RI jobs created in 2006. The state actually ended the year with 495,900 workers when compared to the revised December 2005 job count of 490,200.

"This is welcome news, and shows that Rhode Island's economy is moving in the right direction," said RI DLT Director Adelita S. Orefice. RI employment figures have been trending upward since Sept. 2006.

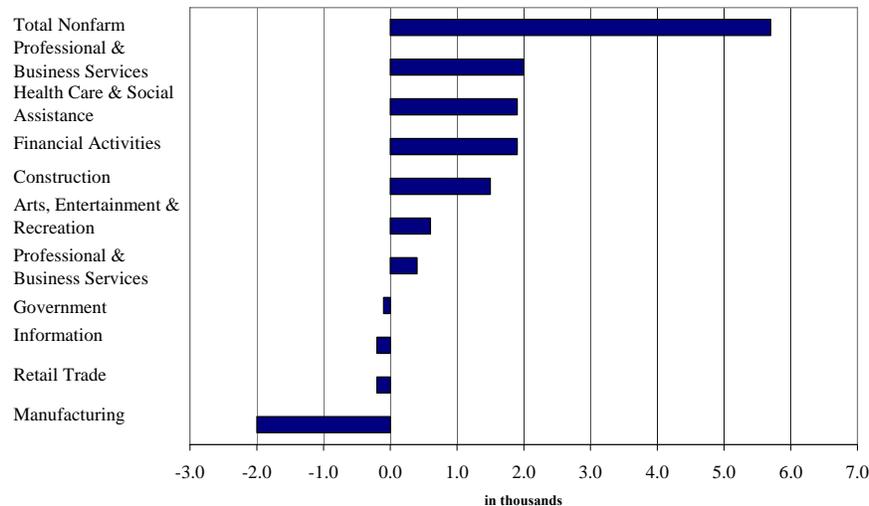


Job growth in 2006 was strongest in the sectors of Professional & Business Services (+2,000); Health Care & Social Assistance (+1,900); Financial Activities (+1,900); and Construction (+1,500). The only major job loss occurred in the Manufacturing sector, which declined by 2,000 jobs. Small declines were also noted in Retail Trade (-200), Information (-200) and Government (-100). **CONTINUED→**



Revised Figures, page 2

Over-the-Year Change in Rhode Island Employment
Seasonally Adjusted (in thousands)
December 2005 - December 2006



Orefice said that revised figures also reveal that from the end of 2005 through mid-2006, the Rhode Island economy had been weaker than originally thought; revisions to the employment figures ranged from 700 to 3,500 lower than originally reported during the months of October 2005 through July 2006.

At the beginning of each year, the RI Dept. of Labor and Training revises the previous year's job figures, based on the most recent data culled from RI businesses.

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

Rhode Island Labor Market Information is available on our web site
www.dlt.ri.gov/lmi