



## MEDIA ADVISORY



**For Immediate Release  
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### Rhode Island's Unemployment Rate Lowest since November 2001

	<u>Jan. 07</u>	<u>Dec. 06</u>	<u>Jan. 06</u>
RI Unemployment Rate	<b>4.7%</b>	5.1%	5.2%
US Unemployment Rate	4.6%	4.5%	4.7%
RI Job Count (in 1,000s)	<b>494.7</b>	495.9	490.0

**Highlights:**

- RI's unemployment rate for January fell to 4.7%, the lowest since November 2001.
- Number of employed Rhode Islanders reached a record-high of 553,300.

The RI Dept. of Labor and Training reported today that Rhode Island's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate for January fell to 4.7 percent, the lowest since November 2001.

The January rate is down 0.4 of a percentage point from December's revised estimate of 5.1 percent. Rhode Island's January jobless rate was only 0.1 of a percentage point above the national average of 4.6 percent.

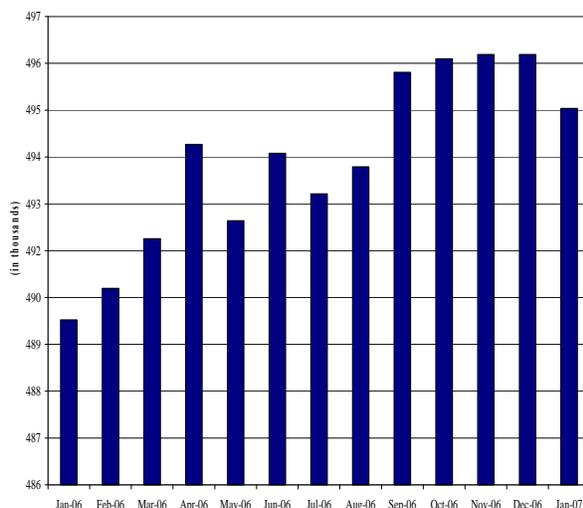
RI Dept. of Labor and Training Director Adelita S. Orefice explained, "The latest unemployment figures are very promising for the Rhode Island economy. In fact, this is the first time in over a year that RI has been so close—within one-tenth of a percentage point—to the national unemployment rate." During 2006, Rhode Island's unemployment rate averaged .55 percentage points higher than the national unemployment rate.

In related news, the number of unemployed dropped by 2,200 over the month to 27,200, while the number of employed Rhode Island residents reached a record high level of 553,300 in January.

However, employment at Rhode Island businesses decreased by 1,200 jobs this month, from 495,900 Rhode Island-based jobs in December 2006 to 494,700 in January 2007. Small employment gains were seen in the Construction (+300); Retail Trade (+300); Information (+200); and Arts, Entertainment & Recreation (+200) sectors.

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Rhode Island Seasonally Adjusted Establishment Employment  
January 2006 to January 2007





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These gains were offset by job losses reported in Accommodation & Food Services (-800); Educational Services (-300); Health Care & Social Assistance (-300); Government (-300); Wholesale Trade (-200); Financial Activities (-200); and Manufacturing (-100).

Employment losses in Accommodation & Food Services reflected a reduction of workers in restaurants and drinking places. The temporary closing of the State's private colleges and universities due to semester break was largely responsible for the decrease in Educational Services employment.

Government employment dropped by 300 jobs over the month, reflecting losses in both state and local government segments.

Milder than normal weather at the beginning of the year contributed to the increase in Construction jobs (+300).

**SEASONALLY-ADJUSTED NON-FARM EMPLOYMENT IN RHODE ISLAND**

*(in thousands)*

	<u>Jan-07</u>	<u>Dec-06</u>	<u>Jan-06</u>	Net Change From	
				<u>Dec-06</u>	<u>Jan-06</u>
<b>Total Nonfarm</b>	<b>494.7</b>	<b>495.9</b>	<b>490.0</b>	<b>-1.2</b>	<b>4.7</b>
Natural Resources & Mining	0.3	0.3	0.2	0.0	0.1
Construction	23.8	23.5	22.5	0.3	1.3
Manufacturing	51.5	51.6	53.5	-0.1	-2.0
Wholesale Trade*	16.6	16.8	17.0	-0.2	-0.4
Retail Trade	52.1	51.8	51.9	0.3	0.2
Transportation & Utilities	11.0	11.0	10.9	0.0	0.1
Information	11.0	10.8	11.0	0.2	0.0
Financial Activities	36.1	36.3	34.5	-0.2	1.6
Professional & Business Services	57.5	57.5	55.4	0.0	2.1
Educational Services	22.2	22.5	21.5	-0.3	0.7
Health Care & Social Assistance	75.2	75.5	73.7	-0.3	1.5
Arts, Entertainment & Recreation	8.4	8.2	7.7	0.2	0.7
Accommodation & Food Services	41.8	42.6	42.5	-0.8	-0.7
Other Services	22.9	22.9	22.8	0.0	0.1
Government	64.3	64.6	64.9	-0.3	-0.6

\* State Calculated Estimate

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Over the year, jobs were up 4,700 from the 490,000 jobs reported in January 2006. Annual employment growth occurred in the Professional & Business Services (+2,100); Financial Activities (+1,600); Health Care & Social Assistance (+1,500); Construction (+1,300); Educational Services (+700); Arts, Entertainment & Recreation (+700); Retail Trade (+200), Natural Resources & Mining (+100); Transportation & Utilities (+100); and Other Services (+100) sectors; offsetting losses in Manufacturing (-2,000); Accommodation & Food Services (-700); Government (-600); and Wholesale Trade (-400).

**Hours and Earnings**

In January 2007, the \$13.46 average hourly wage earned by the Manufacturing sector's production workers represented a monthly gain of seven cents per hour and an over-the-year gain of fifteen cents per hour. Manufacturing employees worked an average of 39.2 hours per week in January, down 0.7 of an hour over the month and up 0.8 of an hour since January 2006.

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*Note: Current month figures are preliminary; prior month and year are revised. Data 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.*

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*Rhode Island Labor Market Information is available on our web sit [www.dlt.ri.gov/lmi](http://www.dlt.ri.gov/lmi)  
The February labor force figures are scheduled to be released on Friday, March 23, 2007.*

