



MEDIA ADVISORY



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**EMBARGOED until
 Friday, June 15, 2007**

May Job Count Remains Stable; Unemployment Rate Rises Slightly

| | <u>May 07</u> | <u>Apr. 07</u> | <u>May 06</u> |
|--------------------------|---------------|----------------|---------------|
| RI Unemployment Rate | 4.8% | 4.5% | 5.2% |
| US Unemployment Rate | 4.5% | 4.5% | 4.6% |
| RI Job Count (in 1,000s) | 498.3 | 498.1 | 492.2 |

Highlights:

- The RI job count was 498,300 in May, the fourth straight month of job growth in RI.
- RI's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate in May was 4.8 percent, higher than the US average of 4.5 percent.

The Rhode Island Department of Labor and Training announced today that the total number of non-farm jobs in the state totaled 498,300 in May. The number of jobs in Rhode Island grew by 200 over the month, with small gains spread throughout many industry sectors.

“May represents the fourth straight month of job growth in Rhode Island,” said Adelita Orefice, Director of the RI Dept. of Labor and Training. “In fact, Rhode Island jobs have increased in eight out of the last ten months.”

In related news, the seasonally adjusted unemployment rate crept up to 4.8 percent in May from 4.5 percent in April.

This puts Rhode Island's unemployment rate at its highest level this year, and three-tenths of a point above the US unemployment rate for May.

The number of employed Rhode Island residents grew by 2,100 over the month to 551,900 in May and topped last May's total by 3,700. The number of unemployed residents rose by 1,600 last month to 27,500 but remains well below our year ago level of 29,900.

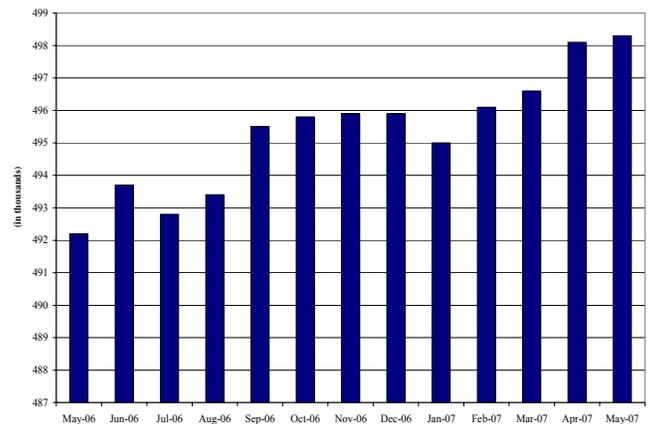
The number of jobs in May (498,300) represented a net job gain of 200 from April's revised job count of 498,100. Ocean State employment has grown by 2,400 jobs since the beginning of the year; last year's job gains were 2,000 for the same period.

From April to May of this year, employment gains of 300 each were noted in the Construction, Transportation & Utilities, and Health Care & Social Assistance sectors; gains of 200 each in Retail Trade and Financial Activities; and gains of 100 each in Arts, Entertainment & Recreation and Government.

The increase in Construction employment reflects the many construction projects underway throughout the state.

Transportation & Utilities was influenced by growth in private transportation companies, while Health Care & Social Assistance employment increased due to gains in ambulatory health care services.

Rhode Island Seasonally Adjusted Establishment Employment
 May 2006 to May 2007



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Monthly Employment May 07, page 2 of 2

The month's gains were partially offset by job losses reported in Manufacturing (-700), Wholesale Trade (-400), Professional & Business Services (-100), and Accommodation & Food Services (-100). Within the manufacturing sector, job losses were felt most acutely in Non-Durable Goods industries (-500) with job declines reported in Chemical Manufacturing, Textiles and Food Manufacturing. Durable Goods (-200) industries reporting losses included Fabricated Metals (-100) and Computer & Electronics (-100).

Comparing May 2007 with May 2006, Rhode Island jobs were up 6,100, a 1.2 percent increase. The largest annual employment gains occurred in the Professional & Business Services (+1,900); Construction (+1,400); Financial Activities (+1,400); Health Care & Social Assistance (+1,400); and Arts, Entertainment & Recreation (+1,100) sectors.

Manufacturing employment experienced the largest over-the-year loss (-2,300) followed by Wholesale Trade (-200), Information (-200), and Government (-100).

Hours and Earnings

In May 2007, production workers in the Manufacturing sector earned \$13.74 per hour. The average hourly production wage was up 10 cents per hour from April and up 32 cents from a year ago. Manufacturing employees worked an average of 39.6 hours per week in May, up 1.4 hours over the month and up 0.5 of an hour since May 2006.

The RI Department of Labor and Training offers employment services, educational services and economic opportunity to both individuals and employers. DLT protects Rhode Island's workforce by enforcing labor laws, prevailing wage rates and workplace health and safety standards. The department also provides temporary income support to unemployed and temporarily disabled workers. For more information on the programs and services available to all Rhode Islanders, please call the RI Department of Labor and Training at (401) 462-8000 or visit the web site at www.dlt.ri.gov.

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. Rhode Island Labor Market Information is available at www.dlt.ri.gov/lmi. The June labor force figures are scheduled to be released on Friday, July 20, 2007.

| SEASONALLY-ADJUSTED NON-FARM EMPLOYMENT IN RHODE ISLAND | | | | | |
|--|---------------|---------------|---------------|-----------------|---------------|
| <i>(in thousands)</i> | | | | | |
| | <u>May-07</u> | <u>Apr-07</u> | <u>May-06</u> | Net Change From | |
| | | | | <u>Apr-07</u> | <u>May-06</u> |
| Total Nonfarm | 498.3 | 498.1 | 492.2 | 0.2 | 6.1 |
| Natural Resources & Mining | 0.3 | 0.3 | 0.3 | 0.0 | 0.0 |
| Construction | 24.2 | 23.9 | 22.8 | 0.3 | 1.4 |
| Manufacturing | 50.8 | 51.5 | 53.1 | -0.7 | -2.3 |
| Wholesale Trade* | 16.7 | 17.1 | 16.9 | -0.4 | -0.2 |
| Retail Trade | 52.3 | 52.1 | 51.9 | 0.2 | 0.4 |
| Transportation & Utilities | 11.1 | 10.8 | 11.0 | 0.3 | 0.1 |
| Information | 11.1 | 11.1 | 11.3 | 0.0 | -0.2 |
| Financial Activities | 36.2 | 36.0 | 34.8 | 0.2 | 1.4 |
| Professional & Business Services | 58.2 | 58.3 | 56.3 | -0.1 | 1.9 |
| Educational Services | 23.1 | 23.1 | 22.1 | 0.0 | 1.0 |
| Health Care & Social Assistance | 75.6 | 75.3 | 74.2 | 0.3 | 1.4 |
| Arts, Entertainment & Recreation | 8.6 | 8.5 | 7.5 | 0.1 | 1.1 |
| Accommodation & Food Services | 42.4 | 42.5 | 42.4 | -0.1 | 0.0 |
| Other Services | 23.2 | 23.2 | 23.0 | 0.0 | 0.2 |
| Government | 64.5 | 64.4 | 64.6 | 0.1 | -0.1 |

* State Calculated Estimate

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