



FOR RELEASE
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Rhode Island’s Unemployment Rate Shows Little Change in May

Adelita S. Orefice, Director of the Rhode Island Department of Labor and Training, announced today that Rhode Island’s seasonally adjusted unemployment rate for May was 5.5 percent, reflecting a gain of 0.1 of a percentage point from April. The number of unemployed Rhode Island residents increased by 700 over the month to 31,800 in May, while the number of employed residents grew by 600. A year ago, the jobless level was 28,500 and the State’s unemployment rate stood at 5.0 percent. Nationally, the unemployment rate for May dipped 0.1 of a percentage point to 4.6 percent, its lowest level since July 2001. Compared to last year, the national jobless rate is down 0.5 of a percentage point. Rhode Island’s unemployment rate for May exceeded the national average.

	May 06	Apr. 06	May 05
Rhode Island	5.5%	5.4%	5.0%*
United States	4.6%	4.7%	5.1%*
* Revised			

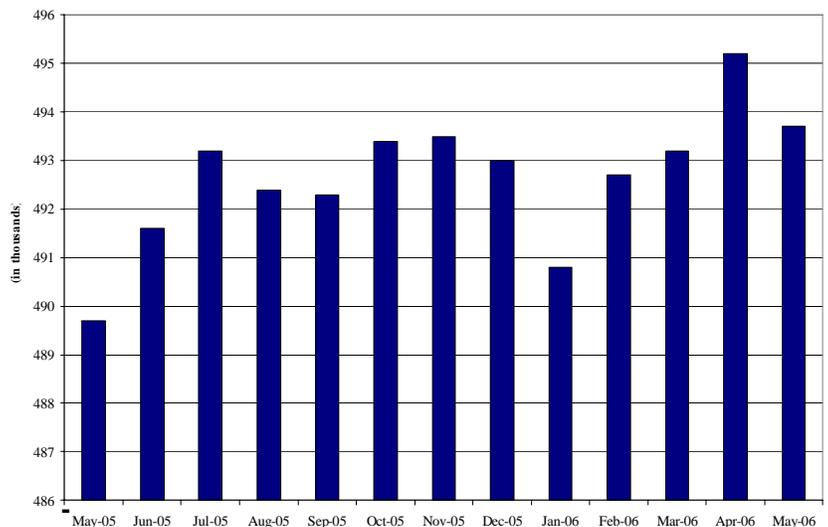
Employment at Rhode Island businesses decreased by 1,500 (-0.3%) in May, bringing the May job count to 493,700 (seasonally adjusted). Over-the-month employment losses were reflected in Trade, Transportation & Utilities (-500), Government (-500), Educational & Health Services (-200), Manufacturing (-100), Financial Activities (-100), and Other Services (-100). A monthly gain of 100 jobs was noted in Construction. Professional & Business Services and Leisure & Hospitality showed no change over the month.

“It is not unusual to see the job count fluctuate from month to month. Even though we saw a drop in the job count for May, the overall trend since the beginning of the year remains positive,” said Director Orefice. “We have added 500 jobs since March and 2,900 since January.”

The decrease of 500 jobs in the Trade, Transportation & Utilities sector is mainly due to a decline in the Transportation & Warehousing segment. Government experienced a monthly decrease of 500 workers, reflecting reduced employment in Local Education, along with the lack of growth in Federal and State government. Educational & Health Services declined by 200 jobs due to the departure of student workers from colleges and universities at the end of the semester.

Over the year, total employment was up 4,000 (+0.8%) from the 489,700 jobs reported in May 2005. Annual employment growth occurred in the Professional & Business Services (+1,800), Financial Activities (+1,400), Educational & Health Services (+1,400), Construction (+1,300), Trade, Transportation & Utilities (+300), and Leisure & Hospitality (+300) sectors, offsetting over-the-year losses in Manufacturing (-2,100), Other Services (-700), and Government (-300).

Rhode Island Seasonally Adjusted Establishment Employment
 May 2005 to May 2006



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SEASONALLY-ADJUSTED NON-FARM EMPLOYMENT IN RHODE ISLAND

(in thousands)

	<u>May-06</u>	<u>Apr-06</u>	<u>May-05</u>	Net Change From	
				<u>Apr-06</u>	<u>May-05</u>
Total Non-Farm	493.7	495.2	489.7	-1.5	4.0
Construction	23.2	23.1	21.9	0.1	1.3
Manufacturing	53.3	53.4	55.4	-0.1	-2.1
Trade, Transportation & Utilities	80.5	81.0	80.2	-0.5	0.3
Financial Activities	35.8	35.9	34.4	-0.1	1.4
Professional & Business Services	56.6	56.6	54.8	0.0	1.8
Educational & Health Services	96.1	96.3	94.7	-0.2	1.4
Leisure & Hospitality	50.1	50.1	49.8	0.0	0.3
Other Services	22.6	22.7	23.3	-0.1	-0.7
Government	64.6	65.1	64.9	-0.5	-0.3

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

Hours and Earnings

In May 2006, the \$13.42 average hourly wage earned by the Manufacturing sector's production workers represented a monthly loss of nine cents per hour and an over-the-year gain of forty-two cents per hour. Manufacturing employees worked an average of 39.0 hours per week in May, up 1.5 hours over the month and 0.3 of an hour since May 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.

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**Rhode Island Labor Market Information is available on our web site at www.dlt.ri.gov/lmi
The June labor force figures are scheduled to be released on Friday, July 21, 2006.**

Equal Opportunity Employer/Program

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

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