



**FOR RELEASE**  
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## Rhode Island’s Labor Market Remains Relatively Stable in June

Adelita S. Orefice, Director of the Rhode Island Department of Labor and Training, announced today that Rhode Island’s seasonally adjusted unemployment rate for June was 5.5 percent, unchanged from May. The number of unemployed

	<u>June 06</u>	<u>May 06</u>	<u>June 05</u>
Rhode Island	5.5%	5.5%	5.0%*
United States	4.6%	4.6%	5.0%*

\* Revised

Rhode Island residents edged up by 100 over the month to 31,900 in June. A year ago, the jobless level was 28,600 and the State’s unemployment rate stood at 5.0 percent. Nationally, the unemployment rate for June held steady at 4.6 percent. Compared to last year, the national jobless rate is down 0.4 of a percentage point. Rhode Island’s unemployment rate for June remained above the national average.

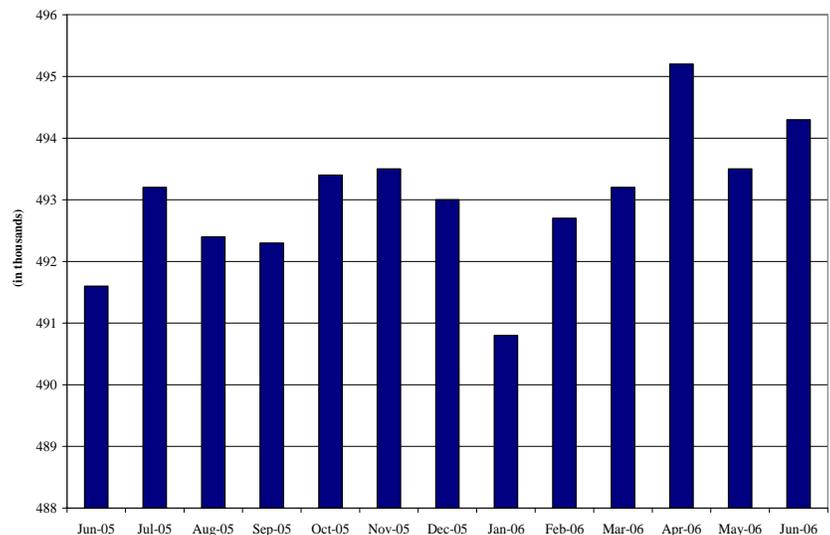
Jobs at Rhode Island businesses increased by 800 (+0.2%) last month, bringing the June job count to 494,300 (seasonally adjusted). Over-the-month job gains in Government (+800), Leisure & Hospitality (+500), Construction (+200), Financial Activities (+100), and Other Services (+100) offset a 500 job loss reported in Trade, Transportation & Utilities. Manufacturing, Professional & Business Services, and Educational & Health Services employment remained unchanged over the month.

“The Rhode Island labor market showed little change in June as the job count increased by 800 and our unemployment rate held steady at 5.5 percent,” said Director Orefice. “Looking at the bigger picture, I am pleased that the overall job growth trend continues to move in the right direction.”

The increase of 800 jobs in the Government sector is mainly due to above-average gains in Local Non-education employment, as well as a smaller-than-average drop in Local Education. Leisure & Hospitality experienced a monthly boost of 500 workers, reflecting increased employment in Accommodation and Food Services. Less-than-expected employment gains in Wholesale and Retail Trade resulted in a loss of 500 workers in the Trade, Transportation & Utilities sector.

Over the year, total employment was up 2,700 (+0.5%) from the 491,600 jobs reported in June 2005. Annual employment growth occurred in the Professional & Business Services (+2,100), Financial Activities (+1,500), Construction (+1,300), Educational & Health Services (+900), Leisure & Hospitality (+500), and Government (+200) sectors, offsetting over-the-year losses in Manufacturing (-1,900), Other Services (-700), and Trade, Transportation & Utilities (-500).

**Rhode Island Seasonally Adjusted Establishment Employment**  
*June 2005 to June 2006*



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

(in thousands)

	<u>Jun-06</u>	<u>May-06</u>	<u>Jun-05</u>	<u>Net Change From</u>	
				<u>May-06</u>	<u>Jun-05</u>
<b>Total Non-Farm</b>	<b>494.3</b>	<b>493.5</b>	<b>491.6</b>	<b>0.8</b>	<b>2.7</b>
Construction	23.4	23.2	22.1	0.2	1.3
Manufacturing	53.3	53.3	55.2	0.0	-1.9
Trade, Transportation & Utilities	79.7	80.2	80.2	-0.5	-0.5
Financial Activities	35.9	35.8	34.4	0.1	1.5
Professional & Business Services	56.7	56.7	54.6	0.0	2.1
Educational & Health Services	96.1	96.1	95.2	0.0	0.9
Leisure & Hospitality	50.7	50.2	50.2	0.5	0.5
Other Services	22.6	22.5	23.3	0.1	-0.7
Government	65.4	64.6	65.2	0.8	0.2

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

### Hours and Earnings

In June 2006, the \$13.48 average hourly wage earned by the Manufacturing sector's production workers represented a monthly gain of six cents per hour and an over-the-year gain of forty-two cents per hour. Manufacturing employees worked an average of 38.2 hours per week in June, down 0.8 of an hour over the month and 0.7 of an hour since June 2005.

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*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](http://www.dlt.ri.gov/lmi)  
The July labor force figures are scheduled to be released on Friday, August 18, 2006.**

#### ***Equal Opportunity Employer/Program***

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

TDD (401) 462-8006

