



FOR RELEASE
Friday, July 22, 2005

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**The Rhode Island Job Count Increases for the Ninth Straight Month
 Jobless Rate Edges Up**

“The addition of 700 jobs in June marks the ninth consecutive month of job growth in Rhode Island,” reported Department of Labor and Training Director Adelita S. Orefice. “Our employers have been steadily adding jobs. As we enter the summer months, we expect that businesses will be hiring more workers, and the economy will continue to move in the right direction.”

	<u>Jun 05</u>	<u>May 05</u>	<u>Jun 04</u>
Rhode Island	4.8%	4.5%	5.2%*
United States	5.0%	5.1%	5.6%
* Revised			

Rhode Island’s seasonally adjusted unemployment rate for June was 4.8 percent. The June jobless rate was 0.3 of a percentage point higher than May, but was 0.4 lower than June of last year. The number of unemployed increased by 1,400 over the month to 27,300. Compared to a year ago, the jobless level is down 2,100. Nationally, the unemployment rate for June inched down a tenth of a percentage point to 5.0

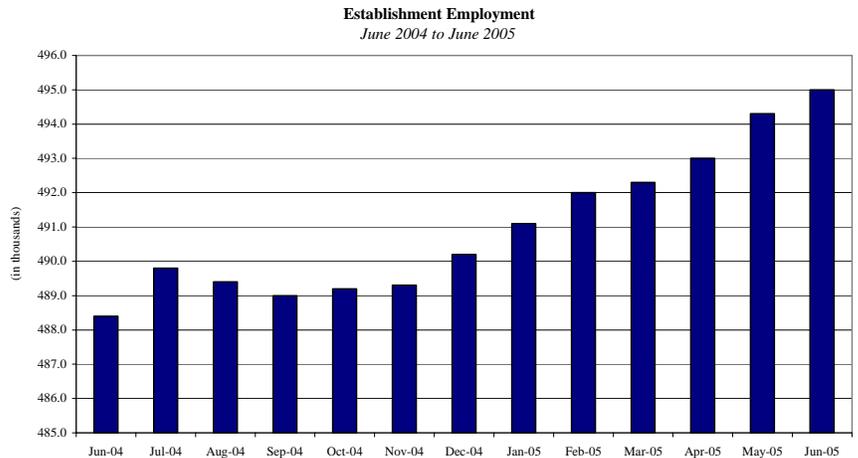
percent, its lowest level since September 2001. A year ago the US rate was 5.6 percent. Rhode Island’s unemployment rate has remained below the national average for nearly four years (since August 2001).

Rhode Island Job Highlights

Jobs at Rhode Island businesses increased by 700 (+0.1%) last month, bringing the June job count to 495,000 (seasonally adjusted). Modest over-the-month gains in Government (+300); Leisure & Hospitality (+200); Manufacturing (+200) and sectors not seasonally adjusted offset losses reported in Professional & Business Services (-300); Educational & Health Services (-200); Construction (-200) and Financial Activities (-100).

June’s gain of 700 jobs marks the ninth consecutive month of employment gains. Since the beginning of the year employment in Rhode Island is up by 3,900 (0.8%) jobs. Educational & Health Services (+1,400) reported the largest job gain, closely followed by Leisure & Hospitality (+1,200). Employment in Professional & Business Services (+500), Construction (+400), Financial Activities (+400) and Government (+600) jobs is also up since January 2005.

Over the year, employment was up 6,600 (+1.4%) from the 488,400 jobs reported in June 2004. The largest over-the-year gains were noted in Educational & Health Services (+2,800); Leisure & Hospitality (+2,500); Professional & Business Services (+2,300); Financial Activities (+1,100); and Construction (+500). Manufacturing (-2,000) and Trade, Transportation & Utilities (-700) were the only two sectors to report yearly declines. Government employment increased by 100 jobs over the year.



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Establishment Employment

(in thousands)

	Net Change From				
	<u>Jun-05</u>	<u>May-05</u>	<u>Jun-04</u>	<u>May-05</u>	<u>Jun-04</u>
Total NonFarm	495.0	494.3	488.4	0.7	6.6
Construction	21.2	21.4	20.7	-0.2	0.5
Manufacturing	55.1	54.9	57.1	0.2	-2.0
Trade, Transportation & Utilities	79.5	79.5	80.2	0.0	-0.7
Financial Activities	35.4	35.5	34.3	-0.1	1.1
Professional & Business Services	55.4	55.7	53.1	-0.3	2.3
Educational & Health Services	95.6	95.8	92.8	-0.2	2.8
Leisure & Hospitality	52.0	51.8	49.5	0.2	2.5
Government	66.2	65.9	66.1	0.3	0.1

Hours and Earnings

In June 2005, the \$13.07 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 three cents per hour. Manufacturing employees worked an average of 38.9 hours a week in June, up 0.2 of an hour over the month, but down 0.7 of an hour from last year.

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

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 employment figures in the "Rhode Island Job Highlights" section 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 at www.dlt.ri.gov/lmi
The July labor force figures are scheduled to be released on Friday, August 19, 2005.**

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Equal Opportunity Employer/Program

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

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Governor Donald L. Carcieri



Director Adelita S. Orefice