



**FOR RELEASE**  
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**The Rhode Island Job Count Increases for the Tenth Straight Month  
 Jobless Rate Edges Up**

“The State’s employment picture remained bright in July as Rhode Island businesses added jobs for the tenth straight month,” stated Department of Labor and Training Director Adelita S. Orefice. “With this month’s addition of 1,000 jobs, the economy continues to move in a positive direction.”

	<u>Jul. 05</u>	<u>Jun. 05</u>	<u>Jul. 04</u>
Rhode Island	5.1%	4.8%	5.1%*
United States	5.0%	5.0%	5.5%

\* Revised

Rhode Island’s seasonally adjusted unemployment rate for July was 5.1 percent. The July jobless rate is 0.3 of a percentage point higher than June, but is unchanged from a year ago. The number of unemployed residents increased by 1,900 over the month to 29,200. This month’s unemployment increase can be largely attributed to more people entering the labor force in search of work. Compared

to a year ago, the jobless level is up 200. Nationally, the unemployment rate for July held steady at 5.0 percent. A year ago, the US rate was 5.5 percent. Rhode Island’s unemployment rate for July was higher than the national average for the first time since June 2001.

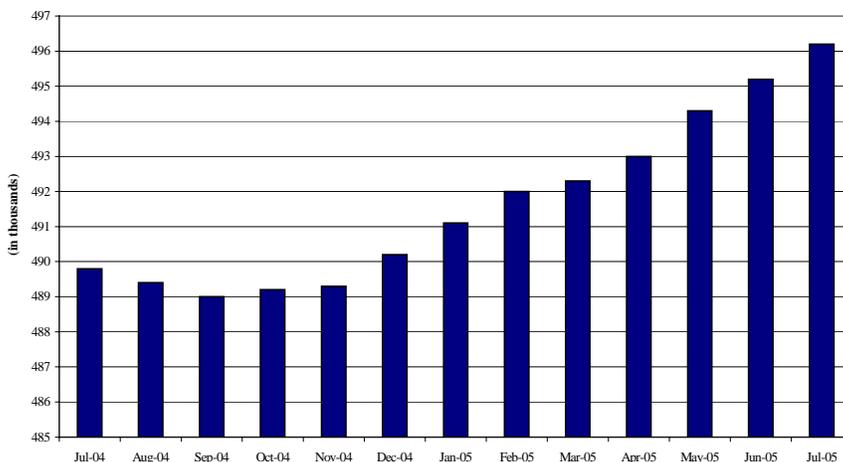
**Rhode Island Job Highlights**

Rhode Island businesses increased employment by 1,000 (+0.2%) jobs last month, bringing the July job count to 496,200 (seasonally adjusted). For the fifth straight month, job growth was reported in the Leisure & Hospitality (+600) sector. Professional & Business Services establishments added 100 jobs over the month as well. Employment levels remained steady in three industry sectors – Construction, Manufacturing, and Financial Activities. Meanwhile, Trade, Transportation & Utilities (-300), Educational & Health Services (-200), and Government (-200) employers reported job losses in July.

July’s gain of 1,000 jobs marks the tenth consecutive month of employment growth. Since the beginning of the year, non-farm employment in the Ocean State is up by 5,100 (+1.0%) jobs over the January 2005 total. During this seven month period, the Leisure & Hospitality (+1,800), Educational & Health Services (+1,300), and Professional & Business Services (+600) sectors reported the largest employment gains, while job losses were noted in Manufacturing (-1,200).

Over the year, employment was up 6,400 (+1.3%) from the 489,800 jobs reported in July 2004. The largest employment growth noted during this period occurred in the Leisure & Hospitality (+2,700), Educational & Health Services (+2,400), and Professional & Business Services (+1,800) sectors, offsetting over-the-year losses in Manufacturing (-3,100) and Trade, Transportation & Utilities (-700). Since last July, Government employment has increased by 400 jobs.

**Rhode Island Seasonally Adjusted Establishment Employment**  
 July 2004 to July 2005



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

(in thousands)

	<u>Jul-05</u>	<u>Jun-05</u>	<u>Jul-04</u>	<b>Net Change From</b>	
				<u>Jun-05</u>	<u>Jul-04</u>
<b>Total Non-Farm</b>	<b>496.2</b>	<b>495.2</b>	<b>489.8</b>	<b>1.0</b>	<b>6.4</b>
Construction	21.2	21.2	20.6	0.0	0.6
Manufacturing	55.1	55.1	58.2	0.0	-3.1
Trade, Transportation & Utilities	79.2	79.5	79.9	-0.3	-0.7
Financial Activities	35.4	35.4	34.2	0.0	1.2
Professional & Business Services	55.5	55.4	53.7	0.1	1.8
Educational & Health Services	95.5	95.7	93.1	-0.2	2.4
Leisure & Hospitality	52.6	52.0	49.9	0.6	2.7
Government	66.1	66.3	65.7	-0.2	0.4

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

### Hours and Earnings

In July 2005, the \$13.09 average hourly wage earned by the Manufacturing sector's production workers represented a monthly gain of three cents per hour and an over-the-year gain of just one cent per hour. Manufacturing employees worked an average of 38.6 hours per week in July, down 0.3 of an hour over the month, but up 0.3 of an hour since July 2004.

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*Note: Current month figures are preliminary; prior month and year are revised. Data may not be additive and is 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 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](http://www.dlt.ri.gov/lmi)  
The August labor force figures are scheduled to be released on Friday, September 16, 2005.**

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#### *Equal Opportunity Employer/Program*

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

TDD (401) 462-8006