



FOR RELEASE

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Labor Market Information

More Rhode Islanders Working in September 2006 Than Ever Before Unemployment Rate Falls to Lowest Level Since March Number of Jobs Increases Over the Month

Adelita S. Orefice, Director of the Rhode Island Department of Labor and Training, announced today that the number of residents who were employed in the state hit a record high of 548,800 in September 2006. Also, the

	Sep. 06	Aug. 06	Sep. 05
Rhode Island	5.2%	5.6%	5.1%*
United States	4.6%	4.7%	5.1%*
* Revised			

seasonally adjusted jobless rate for September dropped 0.4 of a percentage point to 5.2 percent from the August estimate of 5.6 percent. The number of unemployed Rhode Island residents declined by 2,200 over the month to 30,200 in September, while resident employment hit a new record-high level of 548,800. A year ago, the jobless level was 29,000 and

the unemployment rate stood at 5.1 percent. Nationally, the unemployment rate for September inched down 0.1 of a percentage point to 4.6 percent. Compared to last year, the national jobless rate is down 0.5 of a percentage point. Rhode Island's unemployment rate for September remained above the national average.

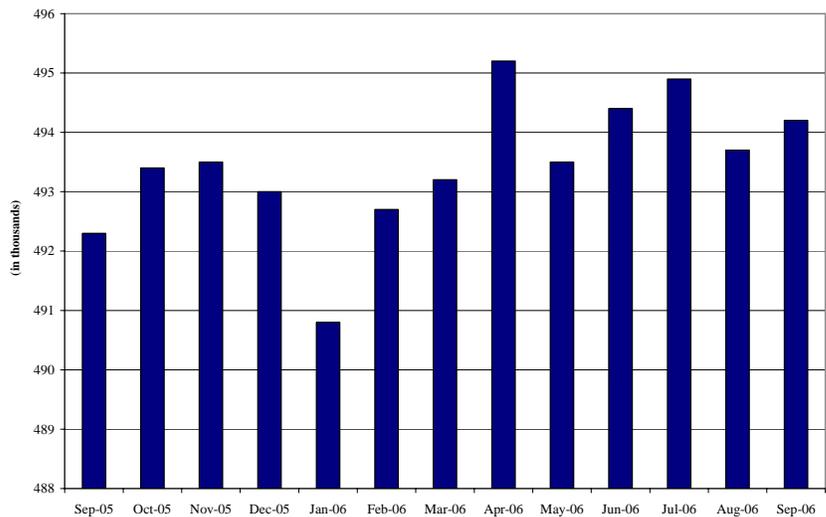
"We're pleased to report that the number of working Rhode Islanders has hit a new record-high level, and that our unemployment rate, estimated at 5.2 percent in September, fell to its lowest level since March," said Director Orefice. "

Jobs at Rhode Island businesses increased by 500 (+0.1%) last month, bringing the September job count to 494,200 (seasonally adjusted). Over-the-month job gains in Educational & Health Services (+800); Financial Activities (+200); Professional & Business Services (+200); and Other Services (+100) offset job losses reported in Trade, Transportation & Utilities (-500); Government (-300); Construction (-100); Manufacturing (-100); and Leisure & Hospitality (-100).

The monthly gain of 800 workers noted in Educational & Health Services reflected additional hiring in private educational institutions as they begin the fall semester. Job losses in Trade, Transportation & Utilities employment were the result of cutbacks reported in retail trade.

Over the year, jobs were up 1,900 (+0.4%) from the 492,300 jobs reported in September 2005. Annual employment growth occurred in the Financial Activities (+2,300); Professional & Business Services (+1,200); Construction (+1,100); Leisure & Hospitality (+500); and Educational & Health Services (+100) sectors, offsetting losses in Manufacturing (-1,600); Trade, Transportation & Utilities (-800); Other Services (-300); and Government (-200).

Rhode Island Seasonally Adjusted Establishment Employment
September 2005 to September 2006



-More-

SEASONALLY-ADJUSTED NON-FARM EMPLOYMENT IN RHODE ISLAND
(in thousands)

	Net Change From				
	<u>Sep-06</u>	<u>Aug-06</u>	<u>Sep-05</u>	<u>Aug-06</u>	<u>Sep-05</u>
Total Non-Farm	494.2	493.7	492.3	0.5	1.9
Construction	23.1	23.2	22.0	-0.1	1.1
Manufacturing	53.0	53.1	54.6	-0.1	-1.6
Trade, Transportation & Utilities	79.1	79.6	79.9	-0.5	-0.8
Financial Activities	36.9	36.7	34.6	0.2	2.3
Professional & Business Services	56.8	56.6	55.6	0.2	1.2
Educational & Health Services	96.3	95.5	96.2	0.8	0.1
Leisure & Hospitality	50.7	50.8	50.2	-0.1	0.5
Other Services	22.7	22.6	23.0	0.1	-0.3
Government	64.7	65.0	64.9	-0.3	-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 September 2006, the \$13.55 average hourly wage earned by the Manufacturing sector's production workers represented a monthly gain of twelve cents per hour and an over-the-year gain of thirty-five cents per hour. Manufacturing employees worked an average of 39.2 hours per week in September, up 0.2 of an hour over the month and down 0.1 of an hour since September 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 October labor force figures are scheduled to be released on Friday, November 17, 2006.**

Equal Opportunity Employer/Program

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

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