



FOR RELEASE

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Contact :

Donna Murray
(401) 462-8751

Labor Market Information

Robert Langlais
(401) 462-8767

Labor Market Information

Rhode Island's Unemployment Rate Declines in November The Number of Jobs Increases

Adelita S. Orefice, Director of the Rhode Island Department of Labor and Training, announced today that Rhode Island's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate for November slipped to 5.2 percent. The November jobless rate is down 0.2 of a percentage point from October's rate of 5.4 percent. This reflected a decline of 1,100 in the number of unemployed persons (estimated at 30,200). At the same time, the number of employed residents climbed by 4,700. A year ago, the jobless level was 27,200 and the unemployment rate stood at 4.8 percent. Nationally, the unemployment rate for November was unchanged at 5.0 percent. Compared to a year ago, the national jobless rate is down 0.4 of a percentage point. Rhode Island's unemployment rate for November remained above the national average for the fifth straight month.

	<u>Nov. 05</u>	<u>Oct. 05</u>	<u>Nov. 04</u>
Rhode Island	5.2%	5.4%	4.8%
United States	5.0%	5.0%	5.4%

* Revised

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"The Rhode Island economy received a dose of pre-holiday cheer as our unemployment rate fell to 5.2 percent, the number of employed Rhode Island residents increased, and the job count rose over the month," said DLT Director Adelita S. Orefice. "Although this is encouraging news for all Rhode Islanders, I am even more satisfied that the general trend in job growth continues to be positive. While job growth numbers will vary from month to month, and there will be inevitable bumps in the road, I am pleased that Rhode Island continues to grow jobs not just this month, but over the long-term."

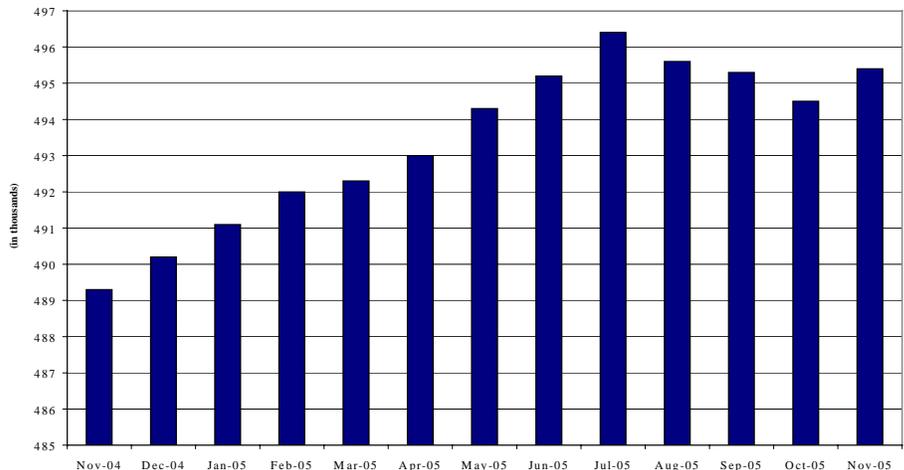
Rhode Island Job Highlights

The Rhode Island job count (seasonally adjusted) increased in November, following three consecutive months of employment declines. Businesses in the state reported a gain of 900 (+0.2%) jobs, bringing the November job count to 495,400. Over-the-month employment increases were reflected in Educational & Health Services (+300), Government (+300), Financial Activities (+200), Professional & Business Services (+200), Leisure & Hospitality (+200), Construction (+100), and Manufacturing (+100). A monthly loss was noted in Trade, Transportation & Utilities (-100).

Nationally, payroll employment showed strong growth in November, reflecting a seasonally adjusted increase of 215,000 (+0.2%) from October. Job gains were reported in all eight economic sectors with the largest gains occurring in Construction, Educational & Health Services, Leisure & Hospitality, Professional & Business Services and Trade, Transportation & Utilities.

Employment in Rhode Island was up 6,100 (+1.2%) from the 489,300 jobs reported in November 2004. Over-the-year employment growth was concentrated in Educational & Health Services (+3,900), Leisure & Hospitality (+1,900), Financial Activities (+1,500), Professional & Business Services (+900) and Construction (+700). Manufacturing (-1,900), showed the largest loss from last November followed by Trade, Transportation & Utilities (-800) and Government (-200).

Rhode Island Seasonally Adjusted Establishment Employment
November 2004 to November 2005



SEASONALLY-ADJUSTED NON-FARM EMPLOYMENT IN RHODE ISLAND

(in thousands)

	<u>Nov-05</u>	<u>Oct-05</u>	<u>Nov-04</u>	<u>Net Change From</u>	
				<u>Oct-05</u>	<u>Nov-04</u>
Total Non-Farm	495.4	494.5	489.3	0.9	6.1
Construction	21.6	21.5	20.9	0.1	0.7
Manufacturing	54.7	54.6	56.6	0.1	-1.9
Trade, Transportation & Utilities	78.6	78.7	79.4	-0.1	-0.8
Financial Activities	35.5	35.3	34.0	0.2	1.5
Professional & Business Services	55.3	55.1	54.4	0.2	0.9
Educational & Health Services	97.4	97.1	93.5	0.3	3.9
Leisure & Hospitality	52.3	52.1	50.4	0.2	1.9
Government	65.9	65.6	66.1	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 November 2005, the \$13.30 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 twenty-two cents per hour. Manufacturing employees worked an average of 38.0 hours per week in November, down 0.6 of an hour over the month and 0.8 of an hour since November 2004.

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.

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**Rhode Island Labor Market Information is available on our web site at www.dlt.ri.gov/lmi
The December labor force figures are scheduled to be released on Friday, January 20, 2006.**

Equal Opportunity Employer/Program

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

TDD (401) 462-8006

