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# Employment Bulletin

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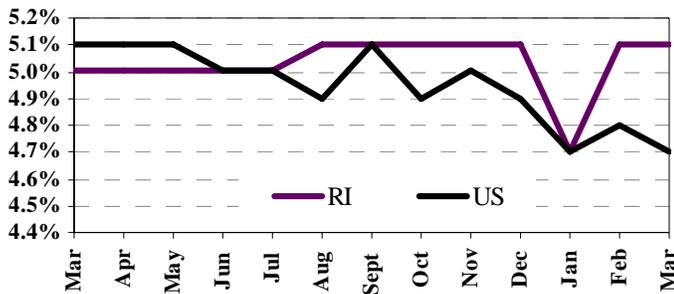
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## Rhode Island's Unemployment Rate Holds Steady

Rhode Island's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate for March was 5.1 percent, unchanged from February. The number of unemployed Rhode Island residents edged up by 300 over the month to 29,300 in March. A year ago, the jobless level was 28,300 and the State's unemployment rate stood at 5.0 percent. Nationally, the unemployment rate for March inched down 0.1 of a percentage point to 4.7 percent. Compared to last year, the national jobless rate is down 0.4 of a percentage point. Rhode Island's unemployment rate for March was above the national average.

RI & US Unemployment Rates  
Seasonally Adjusted 2005 - 2006



## Women in Rhode Island's Economy

US Census data show there is often a clear difference between the career choices of men and women. While women dominate the occupations in Healthcare Support, men represent a higher percentage of workers in the construction and extraction occupations. Pipelayers, plumbers, pipefitters and steamfitters are more likely to be male, while secretaries and administrative assistants are more likely to be female. While some 'traditional' female occupations, such as waitresses and maids, are relatively low paying jobs, women also dominate in more high-paying occupations, such as registered nurses and teachers.

According to the US Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS), Rhode Island women working full-time earned 81.1 percent of their male counterparts in 2004. During the period between 1998 and 2004, Rhode Island women experienced a much faster growth in median weekly earnings than men did.

To view the entire report, visit [www.dlt.ri.gov/lmi/publications/women.htm](http://www.dlt.ri.gov/lmi/publications/women.htm).

## DLT Annual Report

This report summarizes the activity of the Department of Labor and Training (DLT) in 2005. One of our primary functions is the protection and advancement of Rhode Island's workforce. DLT is proud of the courteous, prompt and efficient service that protects and advances the workforce and supports the employer community.

DLT helped many Rhode Island job seekers in 2005, whether their goal was a first job, a better job, or a career change. Agency staff provided personalized job search assistance, interview preparation, and training at no charge through our netWORKri offices. We connected people with meaningful employment when they were unemployed, underemployed or

simply wishing to modify their career path. Providing income support through Unemployment Insurance, Temporary Disability Insurance or Workers' Compensation can sustain an individual during a difficult period.

To view this report, visit [www.dlt.ri.gov/lmi/publications/annreport.htm](http://www.dlt.ri.gov/lmi/publications/annreport.htm).

## Seasonally Adjusted Labor Force Statistics (in thousands)

	Rhode Island			United States		
	Mar 06	Feb 06	Mar 05	Mar 06	Feb 06	Mar 05
Civilian Labor Force	574.6	574.9	565.8	150,652	150,449	148,217
Resident Employment	545.3	545.9	537.5	143,641	143,257	140,601
Unemployment	29.3	29.0	28.3	7,011	7,193	7,616
Unemployment Rate	5.1%	5.1%	5.0%	4.7%	4.8%	5.1%

## Job Count in Rhode Island Edges Up for Second Month in a Row

Jobs at Rhode Island businesses increased by 400 (+0.1%) last month, bringing the March job count to 493,100 (seasonally adjusted). Slight job growth was reported in several economic sectors including Trade, Transportation & Utilities (+400), Financial Activities (+200), Educational & Health Services (+200), Leisure & Hospitality (+200) and Manufacturing (+100).

“Labor market conditions in Rhode Island showed little change in March. Our unemployment rate held steady, while the overall job count showed a modest increase with small gains spread among several industry sectors,” said DLT Director Adelita S. Orefice. “With the arrival of spring and warmer weather, we’re optimistic that employers will begin adding workers to their payrolls.”

The Professional & Business Services sector reported a drop of 400 jobs in March, due mainly to smaller-than-usual gains in Administrative & Waste Services. A decline of 300 positions in the Government sector is attributed to employment losses at the Local level. Minor losses were also noted in Construction (-100) and Other Services (-100).

Over the year, total employment was up 3,100 (+0.6%) from the 490,000 jobs reported in March 2005. Annual employment growth occurred in the Educational & Health Services (+2,300), Financial Activities (+1,600), Construction (+1,500), and Professional & Business Services (+1,400) sectors, offsetting over-the-year losses in Manufacturing (-2,000), Other Services (-800), Leisure & Hospitality (-400), Trade, Transportation & Utilities (-200), and Government (-100).

### Hours and Earnings

In March 2006, the \$13.46 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 forty-seven cents per hour. Manufacturing employees worked an average of 39.0 hours per week in March, up 0.1 of an hour over the month and 1.1 hours since March 2005.

### Establishment Employment in Rhode Island Seasonally Adjusted

	Employment (in thousands)		Net Change
	Mar 06	Feb 06	
Total Nonfarm	493.1	492.7	0.4
Construction	22.7	22.8	-0.1
Manufacturing	53.9	53.8	0.1
Trade, Transportation & Utilities	80.0	79.6	0.4
Financial Activities	35.7	35.5	0.2
Professional & Business Services	56.2	56.6	-0.4
Educational & Health Services	96.5	96.3	0.2
Leisure and Hospitality	50.1	49.9	0.2
Other Services	22.7	22.8	-0.1
Government	64.9	65.2	-0.3

### Manufacturing Employment in Rhode Island Not Seasonally Adjusted

	Employment					Production Worker Averages					
	(in thousands)		Net Change From:			Weekly Hours			Hourly Earnings		
	Mar 06	Feb 06	Mar 05	Feb 06	Mar 05	Mar 06	Feb 06	Mar 05	Mar 06	Feb 06	Mar 05
<b>Manufacturing</b>	53.9	53.8	55.7	100	-1800	39.0	38.9	37.9	13.46	13.34	12.99
<b>Durable Goods</b>	35.8	35.8	36.6	0	-800	38.9	39.0	38.7	13.42	13.30	12.95
Fabricated Metal Product Mfg.	7.6	7.7	7.8	-100	-200	41.4	41.6	38.2	11.70	11.79	11.71
Computer & Electronic Product Mfg.	4.7	4.8	4.8	-100	-100	40.0	40.6	38.9	14.25	14.31	14.05
Miscellaneous Manufacturing	10.0	10.0	10.6	0	-600	37.0	38.1	37.6	11.22	11.10	10.96
Jewelry and Silverware	7.0	6.9	7.6	100	-600	38.0	39.0	36.6	10.47	10.35	10.28
<b>Non-Durable Goods</b>	18.1	18.0	19.1	100	-1000	39.1	38.6	36.6	13.52	13.40	13.06
Chemical Manufacturing	4.2	4.1	4.3	100	-100	43.2	42.5	39.6	15.40	15.45	15.37
Plastics & Rubber Products Mfg.	2.8	2.8	3.0	0	-200	42.0	40.7	38.0	14.62	14.70	14.71

The employment figures in this section are derived from a survey of businesses in Rhode Island and measure the number of jobs in the state. Not seasonally adjusted total nonfarm employment data is available at: [www.dlt.ri.gov/lmi/ces.htm](http://www.dlt.ri.gov/lmi/ces.htm). Current month’s figures are preliminary and subject to change.

## Characteristics of the Insured Unemployed

In March 2006, approximately 46 percent of Rhode Island's unemployed workers were eligible to collect Unemployment Insurance benefits. Numbering 15,228 people, these "insured unemployed" accounted for 3.1 percent of the state's establishment employment (unadjusted). More than 22 percent (3,415) of the Ocean State's insured unemployed faced long-term unemployment, defined as collecting unemployment benefits for more than fourteen weeks.

Just over 27 percent (4,155) of the people receiving Unemployment Insurance benefits were between the ages of 35 and 44, while an additional 24 percent (3,638) were 45 to 54 years old. Concentrations of long-term unemployment were highest among workers over 60 years of age, due, in part, to the difficulties workers face in finding new jobs as they grow older. For example, nearly 31 percent of all insured unemployed workers 60 years and older had been collecting benefits for at least fourteen weeks, whereas 17 percent of those under 22 years of age and 19 percent of 22 to 24 year olds were considered long-term unemployed.

In March, 48 percent (7,366) of those collecting Unemployment Insurance benefits had just a high school diploma. An additional 2,883 people (18.9%) had less than a high school diploma, while 13.2 percent (2,013) of the insured unemployed had at least a bachelor's degree. The highest rates of long-term unemployment were noted among those with some college education. For instance, roughly 24 percent of insured unemployed workers with at least a Bachelor's degree had been collecting benefits for a minimum of fourteen weeks, while 20 percent of those with less than a high school diploma were considered long-term unemployed.

On an industry basis, more than 21 percent (3,241) of the state's insured unemployed workers came from the Construction sector. There were also 2,200 individuals with an attachment to the Administrative & Waste Services sector, accounting for 14.4 percent of all insured unemployed workers. An additional 14 percent (2,136) of those collecting Unemployment Insurance benefits in March had worked in the Manufacturing sector. Large numbers of insured unemployed were also reported in Accommodation & Food Services (1,235) and Retail Trade (1,215).

Those previously employed in Office & Administrative Support occupations accounted for nearly 13 percent (1,904) of the state's insured unemployed. A large number of workers previously employed in Production (1,855), Construction & Extraction (1,792) and Building & Grounds Cleaning & Maintenance (1,307) occupations also collected Unemployment Insurance benefits in March. Numerous occupational groups reported concentrations of long-term unemployment above the state average, including Healthcare Practitioner & Technical (37.4%), Computer & Mathematical (33.0%), Protective Service (31.9%), Legal (31.8%) and Community & Social Services (31.2%).

### Characteristics of the Insured Unemployed, March 2006

	Percent		
	Total	Long-Term	Long-Term
<b>Total</b>	<b>15,228</b>	<b>3,415</b>	<b>22.4%</b>
Male	9,652	1,980	20.5%
Female	5,576	1,435	25.7%
<b>Age</b>	<b>15,228</b>	<b>3,415</b>	<b>22.4%</b>
Under 22	522	86	16.5%
22 - 24	925	172	18.6%
25 - 34	3,212	739	23.0%
35 - 44	4,155	921	22.2%
45 - 54	3,638	769	21.1%
55 - 59	1,320	280	21.2%
60 - 64	816	208	25.5%
65 or over	640	240	37.5%
<b>Education</b>	<b>15,228</b>	<b>3,415</b>	<b>22.4%</b>
Less than 9th Grade	947	188	19.9%
9th to 12th, no diploma	1,936	386	19.9%
High School Graduate	7,366	1,597	21.7%
Some College	2,585	694	26.8%
Bachelor's Degree	1,321	379	28.7%
Beyond Bachelor's	692	101	14.6%
<b>Selected Industries</b>	<b>15,228</b>	<b>3,415</b>	<b>22.4%</b>
Construction	3,241	374	11.5%
Manufacturing	2,136	573	26.8%
Wholesale Trade	498	140	28.1%
Retail Trade	1,215	276	22.7%
Transportation & Warehousing	375	77	20.5%
Information	265	79	29.8%
Finance & Insurance	591	172	29.1%
Real Estate	216	56	25.9%
Professional & Tech. Services	443	111	25.1%
Administrative & Waste Services	2,200	449	20.4%
Educational Services	145	45	31.0%
Health Care & Social Assistance	835	242	29.0%
Arts, Entertainment & Recreation	609	164	26.9%
Accommodation & Food Services	1,235	348	28.2%
Other Services	444	136	30.6%
Public Administration	94	36	38.3%
<b>Selected Occupations</b>	<b>15,228</b>	<b>3,415</b>	<b>22.4%</b>
Business & Financial Operations	358	88	24.6%
Computer & Mathematical	112	37	33.0%
Architecture & Engineering	140	32	22.9%
Life, Physical & Social Science	66	18	27.3%
Community & Social Services	77	24	31.2%
Legal	44	14	31.8%
Education, Training & Library	137	37	27.0%
Arts, Design, Ent., Sports & Media	171	44	25.7%
Healthcare Practitioner & Technical	147	55	37.4%
Healthcare Support	235	62	26.4%
Protective Service	116	37	31.9%
Food Preparation & Serving Related	899	206	22.9%
Bldg. & Grounds Cleaning & Maint.	1,307	320	24.5%
Personal Care & Service	168	40	23.8%
Sales & Related	742	176	23.7%
Office & Administrative Support	1,904	521	27.4%
Construction & Extraction	1,792	233	13.0%
Installation, Maintenance & Repair	536	162	30.2%
Production	1,855	418	22.5%
Transportation & Material Moving	1,140	203	17.8%

### Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers

	Mar 06	Feb 06	Mar 05	% Change Prev. Year
All Items	199.8	198.7	193.3	3.4%

Source: U.S. Dept. of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics

### Layoff Statistics - 2005 Yearly Review

A mass layoff occurs whenever 35 or more initial claims are filed against a single company during a 5-week period. In 2005, there were 102 mass layoff actions taken by Rhode Island employers as measured by new filings for Unemployment Insurance (UI) benefits. The events involved a total of 13,660 persons who filed initial claims for UI benefits. Twenty of the 102 layoff actions that occurred during the year were classified as long-term layoffs, that is, layoffs expected to last for more than 30 days.

Nearly 30 percent of the mass layoff events and 20 percent of the initial claims filed were associated with employers classified in the Manufacturing sector. In 2005, there were 30 mass layoff actions taken by 20 of the state's manufactures involving 2,616 workers. Five of these events were classified as long-term layoffs affecting 540 workers.

The second largest number of events involving the most workers occurred in the Transportation & Warehousing sector. There were 18 events reported in this sector in 2005, resulting in the filing of 3,848 initial claims. Less than 2 percent of these claims were associated with a long-term mass layoff.

There were 14 mass layoff events associated with employers classified in the Administrative & Waste Services sector involving 1,222 Rhode Island workers. The majority of these layoffs were short-term with less than 10 percent related to events lasting more than 30 days.

The Accommodation & Food Services sector had 13 mass layoff events resulting in the filing of 3,537 initial claims. Although this sector reported the second highest number of mass layoff claims, less than 3 percent of workers in this industry sector experienced long-term layoffs.

### City & Town Unadjusted Unemployment Rates for March

	2006	2005		2006	2005
Barrington	4.0	3.4	Newport	6.2	5.8
Bristol	5.2	4.9	North Kingstown	4.7	4.7
Burrillville	5.9	5.5	North Providence	5.3	5.3
Central Falls	8.0	7.9	North Smithfield	4.9	5.1
Charlestown	5.9	5.8	Pawtucket	6.6	6.4
Coventry	5.4	5.1	Portsmouth	5.1	4.5
Cranston	5.5	5.4	Providence	6.9	6.2
Cumberland	5.2	5.1	Richmond	4.2	3.3
East Greenwich	4.9	4.8	Scituate	5.8	5.5
East Providence	6.2	6.1	Smithfield	5.0	4.8
Exeter	5.5	5.2	South Kingstown	5.2	4.9
Foster	7.1	6.7	Tiverton	6.5	6.7
Glocester	5.1	4.7	Warren	6.3	5.7
Hopkinton	5.1	5.7	Warwick	5.2	4.9
Jamestown	4.5	4.6	West Greenwich	4.8	5.0
Johnston	6.6	6.4	West Warwick	6.7	6.4
Lincoln	4.8	4.6	Westerly	5.5	5.2
Little Compton	5.4	6.0	Woonsocket	6.3	6.3
Middletown	5.9	5.6			
Narragansett	3.7	3.9	State of R.I.	5.8	5.5
New Shoreham	13.3	13.3	United States	4.8	5.4

Mass layoff events accounted for less than 20 percent of the initial claims filed in 2005. In total there were 77,779 initial claims filed for UI benefits during the year. Men filed claims at a slightly higher rate (52.4%) than women, who accounted for 47.6 percent of initial claims filed during 2005 - a pattern similar to Rhode Island's civilian labor force composition of males (51.5%) and females (48.4%).

Over one-third of the initial claims were filed by individuals previously employed in the Manufacturing (14.1%), Construction (12.2%) or Accommodation & Food Services (9.5%) sectors of the economy. Those previously employed as Production Workers filed the most initial claims (9,872), followed by Transportation & Material Moving (8,830) and Office & Administrative Support (8,509) occupations. *See label page for more detail.*

To review additional reports on RI's mass layoffs statistics and claimant characteristics please visit the MLS website at [www.dlt.ri.gov/lmi/mls.htm](http://www.dlt.ri.gov/lmi/mls.htm).

### Unemployment Insurance Claims Activity

	Mar	Feb	Mar	% Change		Year to Date		
	2006	2006	2005	Feb 06	Mar 05	2006	2005	% Change
Initial Claims	5,043	7,267	5,543	-30.6%	-9.0%	22,125	22,967	-3.7%
Number of Payments	60,635	63,088	67,517	-3.9%	-10.2%	193,544	205,005	-5.6%
Amount of Payments (gross millions)	\$20.7	\$21.4	\$22.7	-3.3%	-8.8%	\$65.5	\$68.3	-4.1%
Exhaustions (Final Payments)	1,288	1,157	1,417	11.3%	-9.1%	3,886	4,098	-5.2%
Employment Security Fund (millions)	\$148.2	\$164.6	\$137.2	-10.0%	8.0%			

Rhode Island Department of Labor & Training  
Characteristics of Initial Claimants in 2005

	Initial Claims	Percent
<b>Total</b>	<b>77,799</b>	<b>100.0%</b>
Male	40,774	52.4%
Female	37,025	47.6%
<b>Industry</b>	<b>77,799</b>	<b>100.0%</b>
Agriculture/Forestry	331	0.4%
Mining	139	0.2%
Utilities	37	0.0%
Construction	9,505	12.2%
Manufacturing	10,978	14.1%
Wholesale Trade	1,905	2.4%
Retail Trade	4,591	5.9%
Transportation & Warehousing	5,353	6.9%
Information	610	0.8%
Finance & Insurance	2,058	2.6%
Real Estate	895	1.2%
Professional & Tech. Services	1,849	2.4%
Management of Companies	663	0.9%
Administrative & Waste Services	6,143	7.9%
Educational Services	1,168	1.5%
Health Care & Social Assistance	4,798	6.2%
Arts, Entertainment & Recreation	1,349	1.7%
Accommodation & Food Services	7,375	9.5%
Other Services	1,783	2.3%
Public Administration	1,058	1.4%
Information Not Available	15,213	19.6%
<b>Occupation</b>	<b>77,799</b>	<b>100.0%</b>
Management	5,183	6.7%
Business & Financial Operations	1,489	1.9%
Computer & Mathematical	546	0.7%
Architecture & Engineering	752	1.0%
Life, Physical & Social Science	240	0.3%
Community & Social Services	530	0.7%
Legal	191	0.2%
Education, Training & Library	2,137	2.7%
Arts, Design, Ent., Sports & Media	1,025	1.3%
Healthcare Practitioner & Technical	1,191	1.5%
Healthcare Support	1,432	1.8%
Protective Service	1,509	1.9%
Food Preparation & Serving Related	6,571	8.4%
Building & Grounds Cleaning & Maint.	2,712	3.5%
Personal Care & Service	845	1.1%
Sales & Related	3,866	5.0%
Office & Administrative Support	8,509	10.9%
Farming, Fishing & Forestry	349	0.4%
Construction & Extraction	6,593	8.5%
Installation, Maintenance & Repair	2,198	2.8%
Production	9,827	12.6%
Transportation & Material Moving	8,830	11.3%
Military Specific	237	0.3%
Information Not Available	11,037	14.2%