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# Employment Bulletin

Rhode Island  
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August 2005

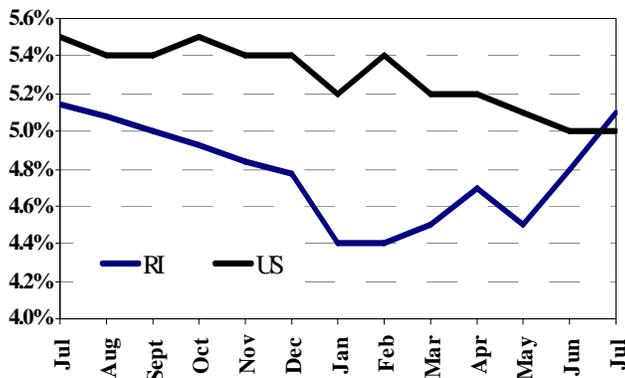
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## Rhode Island's Unemployment Rate Increases in July

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.

RI & US Unemployment Rates  
Seasonally Adjusted 2004 - 2005



## RI Department of Labor & Training Receives National Recognition for Third Straight Year

The National Association of State Workforce Agencies (NASWA) recently announced the 2005 Labor Market Information Communication/Publication Awards at its annual meeting. Rhode Island's Department of Labor and Training, Labor Market Information (LMI) Division received national recognition for the third straight year.

Rhode Island received the **First Place** award in the category of *Product or Service to Increase Workforce Development Staff's Understanding of Labor Market and Workforce Information* for the "NAICS and SOC Brochures – An explanation of Industry and Occupational Coding." The judges felt that these brochures would be very helpful to workforce investment board staff who are unfamiliar with the North American Industry Classification System (NAICS) and the Standard Occupational Classification (SOC) terminology.

"An expanded interest in meeting customer needs has impacted the types of LMI products currently being developed and delivered," said Department of Labor and Training Director, Adelita S. Orefice. "It gives me great pleasure to congratulate the Department's Labor Market Information Division on receiving this prestigious NASWA award and for their contribution in analyzing and translating critical economic data into easy-to-use information for decision-making."

Products developed by labor market information staff contribute to the knowledge of human resource utilization for employment security, job training, occupational, economic, and other workforce development planners. For copies of the brochures mentioned above and other labor market publications, please contact the LMI Division at (401) 462-8740 or email at [lmi@dlt.ri.gov](mailto:lmi@dlt.ri.gov) or visit the

LMI web site at [www.dlt.ri.gov/lmi](http://www.dlt.ri.gov/lmi).

## Seasonally Adjusted Labor Force Statistics (in thousands)

	Rhode Island			United States		
	Jul 05	Jun 05	Jul 04	Jul 05	Jun 05	Jul 04
Civilian Labor Force	570.8	569.0	563.9	149,573	149,123	147,823
Resident Employment	541.6	541.7	534.9	142,076	141,638	139,639
Unemployment	29.2	27.3	29.0	7,497	7,486	8,184
Unemployment Rate	5.1%	4.8%	5.1%	5.0%	5.0%	5.5%

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## The Rhode Island Job Count Increases for Tenth Straight Month

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.

“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.”

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.

### 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.

<b>Manufacturing Employment in Rhode Island Not Seasonally Adjusted</b>											
	Employment					Production Worker Averages					
	(in thousands)		Net Change From:			Weekly Hours			Hourly Earnings		
	Jul 05	Jun 05	Jul 04	Jun 05	Jul 04	Jul 05	Jun 05	Jul 04	Jul 05	Jun 05	Jul 04
<b>Manufacturing</b>	52.2	55.5	55.1	-3300	-2900	38.6	38.9	38.3	13.09	13.06	13.08
<b>Durable Goods</b>	34.6	36.8	36.0	-2200	-1400	38.4	38.9	38.9	13.04	13.03	13.07
Fabricated Metal Product Mfg.	7.1	7.6	7.5	-500	-400	38.4	39.2	38.1	11.51	11.66	11.75
Computer & Electronic Product Mfg.	4.7	4.8	5.3	-100	-600	38.2	38.3	37.8	13.95	13.97	13.85
Miscellaneous Manufacturing	9.4	10.2	9.9	-800	-500	36.4	37.2	37.6	11.14	10.89	10.84
Jewelry and Silverware	6.7	7.4	7.0	-700	-300	36.2	36.4	38.6	10.16	10.24	10.17
<b>Non-Durable Goods</b>	17.6	18.7	19.1	-1100	-1500	38.9	38.8	37.4	13.19	13.11	13.10
Chemical Manufacturing	4.2	4.2	4.3	0	-100	41.7	41.5	40.9	15.64	15.48	15.30
Plastics & Rubber Products Mfg.	2.8	2.9	2.9	-100	-100	40.8	40.9	40.0	14.53	14.57	14.69

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. Unadjusted 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.

### Establishment Employment in Rhode Island Seasonally Adjusted

	Employment (in thousands)		Net Change
	Jul 05	Jun 05	
Total Nonfarm	496.2	495.2	1.0
Construction	21.2	21.2	0.0
Manufacturing	55.1	55.1	0.0
Trade, Transportation & Utilities	79.2	79.5	-0.3
Financial Activities	35.4	35.4	0.0
Professional & Business Services	55.5	55.4	0.1
Educational & Health Services	95.5	95.7	-0.2
Leisure and Hospitality	52.6	52.0	0.6
Government	66.1	66.3	-0.2

## Characteristics of the Insured Unemployed

In July 2005, approximately 43 percent of Rhode Island's unemployed workers were eligible to collect unemployment insurance benefits. Numbering 13,241 people, these "insured unemployed" accounted for 2.7 percent of the state's establishment employment (unadjusted). Twenty-two percent (2,934) of the Ocean State's insured unemployed faced long-term unemployment, defined as collecting unemployment benefits for more than fourteen weeks.

Roughly 27 percent (3,542) of the people receiving unemployment insurance benefits were between the ages of 35 and 44, while an additional 26 percent (3,457) 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, 28 percent of all insured unemployed workers 60 years and older had been collecting benefits for at least fourteen weeks, whereas 21 percent of those under 22 years of age and 22 percent of 22 to 24 year olds were considered long-term unemployed.

In July, approximately 45 percent (5,938) of those collecting unemployment insurance benefits had just a high school diploma. An additional 1,859 people (14.0%) had less than a high school diploma, while 8.1 percent (1,073) of the insured unemployed had at least a bachelor's degree. The highest rates of long-term unemployment were noted among those with the least amount of education. For instance, roughly 28 percent of insured unemployed workers with less than a high school diploma had been collecting benefits for a minimum of fourteen weeks, while 21 percent of those with at least a bachelor's degree were considered long-term unemployed.

On an industry basis, 18 percent (2,398) of the state's insured unemployed workers came from the Manufacturing sector. There were also 1,654 individuals with an attachment to the Accommodation & Food Services sector, accounting for 13 percent of all insured unemployed workers. Just over 10 percent (1,380) of those collecting unemployment insurance benefits in July had worked in the Health Care & Social Assistance sector. Large numbers of insured unemployed were also reported in Transportation & Warehousing (1,155), Retail Trade (1,102), and Administrative & Waste Services (1,014).

More than 13 percent of the state's insured unemployed previously worked in Office & Administrative Support occupations, accounting for 1,758 people. A large number of workers previously employed in Transportation & Material Moving (1,617), Production (1,560), and Food Preparation & Serving Related (1,299) occupations also collected unemployment insurance benefits in July. Numerous occupational groups reported concentrations of long-term unemployment above the state average, including Architecture & Engineering (39.2%), Construction & Extraction (31.9%), Installation, Maintenance & Repair (31.2%), and Sales & Related (30.7%).

### Characteristics of the Insured Unemployed, July 2005

	Total	Long-Term	Percent Long-Term
<b>Total</b>	<b>13,241</b>	<b>2,934</b>	<b>22.2%</b>
Male	5,396	1,473	27.3%
Female	7,845	1,461	18.6%
<b>Age</b>	<b>13,241</b>	<b>2,934</b>	<b>22.2%</b>
Under 22	308	65	21.1%
22 - 24	537	118	22.0%
25 - 34	2,615	620	23.7%
35 - 44	3,542	756	21.3%
45 - 54	3,457	674	19.5%
55 - 59	1,252	269	21.5%
60 - 64	842	216	25.7%
65 or over	688	216	31.4%
<b>Education</b>	<b>13,241</b>	<b>2,934</b>	<b>22.2%</b>
Less than 9th Grade	591	163	27.6%
9th to 12th, no diploma	1,268	354	27.9%
High School Graduate	5,938	1,308	22.0%
Some College	3,448	805	23.3%
Bachelor's Degree	762	161	21.1%
Beyond Bachelor's	311	65	20.9%
<b>Selected Industries</b>	<b>13,241</b>	<b>2,934</b>	<b>22.2%</b>
Construction	770	209	27.1%
Manufacturing	2,398	729	30.4%
Wholesale Trade	388	112	28.9%
Retail Trade	1,102	334	30.3%
Transportation & Warehousing	1,155	68	5.9%
Information	173	66	38.2%
Finance & Insurance	580	193	33.3%
Real Estate	234	55	23.5%
Professional & Tech. Services	512	122	23.8%
Administrative & Waste Services	1,014	222	21.9%
Educational Services	455	26	5.7%
Health Care & Social Assistance	1,380	308	22.3%
Arts, Entertainment & Recreation	194	34	17.5%
Accommodation & Food Services	1,654	171	10.3%
Other Services	437	117	26.8%
Public Administration	280	23	8.2%
<b>Selected Occupations</b>	<b>13,241</b>	<b>2,934</b>	<b>22.2%</b>
Business & Financial Operations	366	85	23.2%
Computer & Mathematical	120	38	31.7%
Architecture & Engineering	143	56	39.2%
Life, Physical & Social Science	49	17	34.7%
Community & Social Services	163	47	28.8%
Legal	44	12	27.3%
Education, Training & Library	817	39	4.8%
Arts, Design, Ent., Sports & Media	242	61	25.2%
Healthcare Practitioner & Technical	211	50	23.7%
Healthcare Support	212	63	29.7%
Protective Service	335	25	7.5%
Food Preparation & Serving Related	1,299	129	9.9%
Bldg. & Grounds Cleaning & Maint.	196	56	28.6%
Personal Care & Service	207	26	12.6%
Sales & Related	734	225	30.7%
Office & Administrative Support	1,758	516	29.4%
Construction & Extraction	476	152	31.9%
Installation, Maintenance & Repair	381	119	31.2%
Production	1,560	410	26.3%
Transportation & Material Moving	1,617	212	13.1%

## Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers

				% Change
	Jul 05	Jun 05	Jul 04	Prev. Year
All Items	195.4	194.5	189.4	3.2%

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

## Unemployment Insurance Program Marks 70 Years

The national Unemployment Insurance (UI) program marks its 70<sup>th</sup> Anniversary in August. The UI program was introduced as part of the Social Security Act of 1935, which was a response to the millions of unemployed Americans suffering as a result of the Great Depression. The Social Security Act established programs for Old Age Survivors' Insurance, Unemployment Insurance, Aid to Dependent Children, and Aid to the Crippled and the Blind.

The Unemployment Insurance program is a Federal-State partnership guided by both Federal and State statutes. The program receives administrative funding from the US Department of Labor and is financed by employer tax contributions. Each state administers its own Unemployment Insurance program. The UI program provides temporary, weekly benefits to workers who are unemployed through no fault of their own and who meet eligibility requirements established by the states.

The RI Department of Labor and Training administers the UI program in our State. Rhode Island enacted its own UI laws on May 5, 1936 and began paying benefits to the unemployed on January 1, 1938. In the early years of the program, customers were required to appear in person at local offices and wait in lines in order to file claims for benefits. Unemployed workers had to document their earnings and employers were required to report worker wages as claims were filed.

During the past seventy years, technological advances and innovation have allowed us to improve services to our customers. In 1988, the RI Department of Labor and Training implemented a wage record system requiring employers to report earnings of all workers to the Department on a quarterly basis. These wages are now available immediately when a claim is filed, speeding up the claims process. Customers are also no longer required to file a claim in person at a local office. They can file their claims from the convenience of their home utilizing the telephone or the Internet.

There were over 80,000 initial unemployment claims filed in Rhode Island in 2004. Of those claims, almost 12,000 were filed over the Internet. Customers eligible for benefits are able to call in weekly to the department's automated Tele-Serve payment system to claim their benefit payments, which can then be direct-deposited into their bank account. In 2004, over \$201 million was paid out to Rhode Island workers in UI benefits.

Employment services are also available to customers receiving Unemployment Insurance benefits. Rhode Island has six netWORKri offices available to provide job service assistance and training to help customers become reemployed.

## City & Town Unadjusted Unemployment Rates for July

	2005	2004		2005	2004
Barrington	3.8	3.8	Newport	4.3	4.4
Bristol	4.8	4.8	North Kingstown	4.1	3.8
Burrillville	5.2	4.9	North Providence	5.3	5.5
Central Falls	7.3	7.7	North Smithfield	4.1	4.4
Charlestown	5.9	4.6	Pawtucket	6.3	6.5
Coventry	5.1	5.1	Portsmouth	3.9	3.8
Cranston	5.4	5.5	Providence	7.5	7.2
Cumberland	4.4	4.9	Richmond	3.2	3.3
East Greenwich	4.8	4.9	Scituate	4.7	5.6
East Providence	5.6	5.6	Smithfield	5.2	5.1
Exeter	4.4	4.2	South Kingstown	4.7	4.5
Foster	5.6	6.2	Tiverton	5.3	5.2
Glocester	4.1	3.6	Warren	5.3	5.3
Hopkinton	4.9	5.1	Warwick	4.9	5.1
Jamestown	3.6	3.4	West Greenwich	4.6	5.0
Johnston	5.2	5.9	West Warwick	5.6	5.3
Lincoln	4.6	4.4	Westerly	4.1	3.9
Little Compton	3.5	3.7	Woonsocket	5.8	5.6
Middletown	3.9	4.4			
Narragansett	3.3	3.3	State of R.I.	5.4	5.4
New Shoreham	2.5	2.2	United States	5.2	5.7

## Unemployment Insurance Claims Activity

	Jul	Jun	Jul	% Change		Year to Date		
	2005	2005	2004	Jun 05	Jul 04	2005	2004	% Change
Initial Claims	6,194	7,494	6,673	-17.3%	-7.2%	47,780	50,762	-5.9%
Number of Payments	47,269	40,204	51,489	17.6%	-8.2%	390,748	413,333	-5.5%
Amount of Payments (gross millions)	\$14.5	\$13.1	\$15.4	10.7%	-5.8%	\$128.1	\$130.0	-1.5%
Exhaustions (Final Payments)	1,042	1,115	1,143	-6.5%	-8.8%	9,320	10,076	-7.5%

# Opportunities In...

Today's economy is as competitive as it has ever been. Making career choices is serious business. To succeed now and in the future, it is important to have information available to make these choices. The *Opportunities In...* brochures provide a piece of information in the decision-making process.

*Opportunities In...* is a series of brochures developed by Rhode Island's Labor Market Information unit. Each brochure depicts staffing patterns, industry and occupational projections, and wage rates for a specific industry (eleven in all) including:

**Construction**  
**Dental Services**  
**Educational Services**  
**Finance & Insurance**  
**Health Care**  
**Information**

**Leisure & Hospitality**  
**Professional, Scientific, & Technical Services**  
**Retail Trade**  
**Ship & Boat Building**  
**Transportation & Warehousing**

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