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# Employment Bulletin

Rhode Island  
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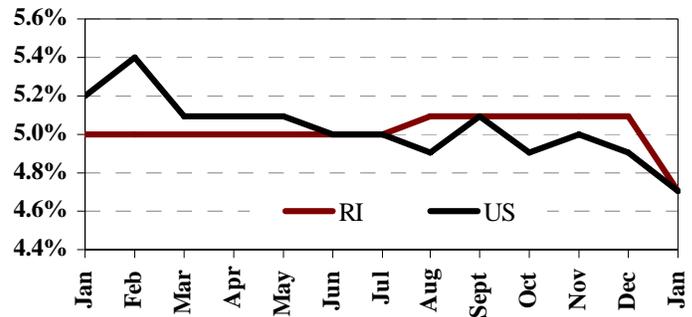
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## Rhode Island's Unemployment Rate Improved in January

Rhode Island's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate for January was 4.7 percent, the lowest since November 2001. The January jobless rate is down 0.4 of a percentage point from December's revised rate of 5.1 percent. The number of employed Rhode Island residents grew by 2,300 over the month to an all-time high, while the number of unemployed fell by 2,200 to 27,200. A year ago January, the jobless level was 28,300 and the unemployment rate stood at 5.0 percent. Nationally, the unemployment rate for January declined 0.2 of a percentage point to 4.7 percent. Compared to a year ago, the national jobless rate is down half a percentage point. Rhode Island's unemployment rate for January was tied with the national average.

RI & US Unemployment Rates  
Seasonally Adjusted 2005 - 2006



“Our unemployment rate dropped to its lowest level in more than four years, and the number of Rhode Island residents working reached a record high in January,” said DLT Director Adelita S. Orefice. “While we did see a drop in the number of jobs at Rhode Island businesses last month, we believe this a ‘bump in the road.’ We expect that the job situation will improve over the next few months.”

### Seasonally Adjusted Labor Force Statistics

(in thousands)

	Rhode Island			United States		
	Jan 06	Dec 05	Jan 05	Jan 06	Dec 05	Jan 05
Civilian Labor Force	574.2	574.0	562.8	150,114	150,153	147,956
Resident Employment	547.0	544.7	534.5	143,074	142,779	140,234
Unemployment	27.2	29.4	28.3	7,040	7,375	7,723
Unemployment Rate	4.7%	5.1%	5.0%	4.7%	4.9%	5.2%

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## Rhode Island Minimum Wage Increases

The state's minimum wage increased \$0.35 to \$7.10 an hour as of March 1, 2006 and will increase an additional \$0.30 to \$7.40 as of January 1, 2007. The last minimum wage increase in Rhode Island occurred in January 2004. Rhode Island has the third highest minimum wage in New England, behind Connecticut (\$7.40) and Vermont (\$7.25).

### Minimum Wages in New England

	current	as of 1/1/07
Connecticut	\$7.40	\$7.65
Vermont	\$7.25	
Rhode Island	\$7.10	\$7.40
Massachusetts	\$6.75	
Maine	\$6.50	
New Hampshire	\$5.15	
Federal Minimum Wage	\$5.15	

## Rhode Island Job Highlights

The Rhode Island job count (seasonally adjusted) was down 2,300 (0.5%) in January, the second consecutive month to show a decrease in employment, bringing the January job total to 490,700. Over-the-month employment losses were reflected in Educational & Health Services (-700), Leisure & Hospitality (-600), Trade, Transportation & Utilities (-300), Other Services (-300), Manufacturing (-200), and Financial Activities (-100). A monthly gain of 100 jobs was noted in Professional & Business Services. Construction and Government remained unchanged over the month.

Educational & Health Services lost 700 workers, reflecting a drop in both sectors. The decline in Education is primarily attributed to additional student workers breaking for the winter recess. A larger-than-usual drop in the state's health and social assistance facilities contributed to the decline in Health Services. The drop in Leisure & Hospitality is due to cutbacks in hotels and restaurant employment.

Employment in Rhode Island was up 1,200 (+0.2%) from the 489,500 jobs reported in January 2005. The largest employment growth noted during this period occurred in the Educational & Health Services (+1,800), Professional & Business Services (+1,800), Construction (+1,200), and Financial Activities (+1,100) sectors, offsetting over-the-year losses in Manufacturing (-2,300), Trade, Transportation & Utilities (-900), Other Services (-800), Leisure & Hospitality (-600), and Government (-200).

### Hours and Earnings

In January 2006, the \$13.31 average hourly wage earned by the Manufacturing sector's production workers represented a monthly gain of one cent per hour and an over-the-year gain of twenty-six cents per hour. Manufacturing employees worked an average of 38.1 hours per week in January, up 0.2 of an hour over the month and also 0.2 of an hour since January 2005.

### Establishment Employment in Rhode Island Seasonally Adjusted

	Employment (in thousands)		Net Change
	Jan 06	Dec 05	
Total Nonfarm	490.7	493.0	-2.3
Construction	22.6	22.6	0.0
Manufacturing	53.9	54.1	-0.2
Trade, Transportation & Utilities	79.2	79.5	-0.3
Financial Activities	35.1	35.2	-0.1
Professional & Business Services	56.2	56.1	0.1
Educational & Health Services	95.5	96.2	-0.7
Leisure and Hospitality	49.9	50.5	-0.6
Other Services	22.6	22.9	-0.3
Government	64.8	64.8	0.0

### Manufacturing Employment in Rhode Island Not Seasonally Adjusted

	Employment					Production Worker Averages					
	(in thousands)		Net Change From:			Weekly Hours			Hourly Earnings		
	Jan 06	Dec 05	Jan 05	Dec 05	Jan 05	Jan 06	Dec 05	Jan 05	Jan 06	Dec 05	Jan 05
<b>Manufacturing</b>	53.6	54.7	55.8	-1100	-2200	38.1	37.9	37.9	13.31	13.30	13.05
<b>Durable Goods</b>	35.5	36.2	36.8	-700	-1300	37.7	38.0	38.3	13.32	13.25	13.07
Fabricated Metal Product Mfg.	7.6	7.7	7.9	-100	-300	40.4	39.6	36.9	11.70	11.61	11.72
Computer & Electronic Product Mfg.	4.7	4.7	4.9	0	-200	42.1	41.8	38.8	14.31	14.23	14.04
Miscellaneous Manufacturing	10.1	10.4	10.5	-300	-400	37.2	38.2	37.6	11.17	11.12	10.98
Jewelry and Silverware	6.9	7.2	7.5	-300	-600	38.0	39.0	36.5	10.42	10.36	10.30
<b>Non-Durable Goods</b>	18.1	18.5	19.0	-400	-900	38.8	37.7	37.2	13.30	13.40	13.01
Chemical Manufacturing	4.1	4.2	4.3	-100	-200	41.5	41.0	41.0	15.37	15.40	15.36
Plastics & Rubber Products Mfg.	2.8	2.8	3.0	0	-200	42.0	41.2	39.6	14.78	14.83	14.59

*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 January 2006, approximately 45 percent of Rhode Island's unemployed workers were eligible to collect Unemployment Insurance benefits. Numbering 14,887 people, these "insured unemployed" accounted for 3.1 percent of the state's establishment employment (unadjusted). Nearly 18 percent (2,636) of the Ocean State's insured unemployed faced long-term unemployment, defined as collecting unemployment benefits for more than fourteen weeks.

More than 27 percent (4,072) of the people receiving Unemployment Insurance benefits were between the ages of 35 and 44, while an additional 23 percent (3,461) 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, 27 percent of all insured unemployed workers 60 years and older had been collecting benefits for at least fourteen weeks, whereas 10 percent of those under 22 years of age and 13 percent of 22 to 24 year olds were considered long-term unemployed.

In January, approximately 48 percent (7,138) of those collecting Unemployment Insurance benefits had just a high school diploma. An additional 2,778 people (18.7%) had less than a high school diploma, while 13.1 percent (1,957) of the insured unemployed had at least a bachelor's degree. The highest rates of long-term unemployment were noted among those with college degrees. For instance, roughly 22 percent of insured unemployed workers with at least a Bachelor's degree had been collecting benefits for a minimum of fourteen weeks, while close to 13 percent of those with less than a high school diploma were considered long-term unemployed.

Partially due to the onset of colder weather, 19.5 percent (2,899) of the state's insured unemployed workers came from the Construction sector. There were also 2,236 individuals with an attachment to the Manufacturing Services sector, accounting for 15.0 percent of all insured unemployed workers. Nearly 15 percent (2,158) of those collecting Unemployment Insurance benefits in January had worked in the Administrative & Waste Services sector. Large numbers of insured unemployed were also reported in Accommodation & Food Services (1,384) and Retail Trade (1,098).

Those previously employed in Production occupations accounted for 12 percent (1,798) of the state's insured unemployed. A large number of workers previously employed in Office & Administrative Support (1,770), Construction & Extraction (1,699) and Building & Grounds Cleaning & Maintenance (1,243) occupations also collected Unemployment Insurance benefits in January. Numerous occupational groups reported concentrations of long-term unemployment above the state average, including Education, Training & Library (44.0%), Computer & Mathematical (37.2%), Legal (35.0%), Community & Social Services (34.1%) and Healthcare Support (33.2%).

### Characteristics of the Insured Unemployed, January 2006

	Total	Long-Term	Percent Long-Term
<b>Total</b>	<b>14,887</b>	<b>2,636</b>	<b>17.7%</b>
Male	9,416	1,351	14.3%
Female	5,471	1,285	23.5%
<b>Age</b>	<b>14,887</b>	<b>2,636</b>	<b>17.7%</b>
Under 22	572	58	10.1%
22 - 24	896	117	13.1%
25 - 34	3,292	559	17.0%
35 - 44	4,072	683	16.8%
45 - 54	3,461	636	18.4%
55 - 59	1,225	214	17.5%
60 - 64	762	182	23.9%
65 or over	607	187	30.8%
<b>Education</b>	<b>14,887</b>	<b>2,636</b>	<b>17.7%</b>
Less than 9th Grade	897	99	11.0%
9th to 12th, no diploma	1,881	255	13.6%
High School Graduate	7,138	1,248	17.5%
Some College	2,646	538	20.3%
Bachelor's Degree	1,399	326	23.3%
Beyond Bachelor's	558	103	18.5%
<b>Selected Industries</b>	<b>14,887</b>	<b>2,636</b>	<b>17.7%</b>
Construction	2,899	187	6.5%
Manufacturing	2,236	598	26.7%
Wholesale Trade	474	116	24.5%
Retail Trade	1,098	272	24.8%
Transportation & Warehousing	372	56	15.1%
Information	203	41	20.2%
Finance & Insurance	579	184	31.8%
Real Estate	242	37	15.3%
Professional & Tech. Services	422	107	25.4%
Administrative & Waste Services	2,158	229	10.6%
Educational Services	200	78	39.0%
Health Care & Social Assistance	752	257	34.2%
Arts, Entertainment & Recreation	612	36	5.9%
Accommodation & Food Services	1,384	167	12.1%
Other Services	433	124	28.6%
Public Administration	116	41	35.3%
<b>Selected Occupations</b>	<b>14,887</b>	<b>2,636</b>	<b>17.7%</b>
Business & Financial Operations	306	88	28.8%
Computer & Mathematical	137	51	37.2%
Architecture & Engineering	141	34	24.1%
Life, Physical & Social Science	60	17	28.3%
Community & Social Services	85	29	34.1%
Legal	40	14	35.0%
Education, Training & Library	182	80	44.0%
Arts, Design, Ent., Sports & Media	199	42	21.1%
Healthcare Practitioner & Technical	151	47	31.1%
Healthcare Support	193	64	33.2%
Protective Service	105	33	31.4%
Food Preparation & Serving Related	1,003	122	12.2%
Bldg. & Grounds Cleaning & Maint.	1,243	56	4.5%
Personal Care & Service	145	29	20.0%
Sales & Related	705	168	23.8%
Office & Administrative Support	1,770	473	26.7%
Construction & Extraction	1,699	132	7.8%
Installation, Maintenance & Repair	518	106	20.5%
Production	1,798	375	20.9%
Transportation & Material Moving	1,100	155	14.1%

### Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers

	Jan 06	Dec 05	Jan 05	% Change Prev. Year
All Items	198.3	196.8	190.7	4.0%

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

### Multiple Jobholders in Rhode Island

According to the Bureau of Labor Statistics' Current Population Survey, 31,000 Ocean State workers held multiple jobs in 2004, accounting for 5.8 percent of employed Rhode Islanders sixteen years and older. This was the lowest rate reported in the past decade, 0.4 of a percentage point below the previous low rate of 6.2 percent in 2002. Rhode Island's multiple jobholder rate has seen near steady decline since 1999, when 8.1 percent (39,000) of local workers held two or more jobs.

In comparison to the nation, Rhode Island's multiple jobholder rate has remained above the United States average for at least the past decade. In 1994, 6.8

percent of workers in Rhode Island held two or more jobs -- 0.8 percentage points more than in the United States. This gap widened to 2.3 percentage points in 1999, but declined to 0.4 percentage points in 2004.

Rhode Island has consistently ranked among the top half of states with the highest multiple jobholder rates. In 1994, the Ocean State ranked twentieth in the nation, rising to fourteenth place in 1999 and 2000. In these latter years, Rhode Island's percentage of multiple jobholders peaked, while the national rate began to fall. In 2004, the Ocean State reported the 23rd highest multiple jobholder rate in the United States.

### Multiple Jobholders as Percentage of Total Employed 16 years and older

	<u>RI</u>	<u>CT</u>	<u>MA</u>	<u>ME</u>	<u>NH</u>	<u>VT</u>	<u>US</u>
2004	<b>5.8%</b>	5.3%	5.4%	7.7%	6.4%	8.5%	5.4%
2003	<b>6.4%</b>	4.9%	4.9%	7.9%	6.2%	8.9%	5.3%
2002	<b>6.2%</b>	5.9%	4.9%	7.2%	6.5%	8.9%	5.3%
2001	<b>7.2%</b>	6.4%	4.8%	7.1%	7.0%	7.8%	5.4%
2000	<b>7.8%</b>	6.5%	5.8%	8.6%	6.3%	9.2%	5.6%
1999	<b>8.1%</b>	5.9%	5.9%	8.0%	7.1%	8.7%	5.8%
1998	<b>7.0%</b>	5.1%	6.1%	8.0%	7.3%	8.8%	6.0%
1997	<b>7.0%</b>	5.3%	6.4%	8.8%	8.0%	8.9%	6.3%
1996	<b>6.8%</b>	6.1%	7.2%	7.9%	7.8%	8.6%	6.4%
1995	<b>7.5%</b>	5.4%	6.8%	6.7%	8.9%	8.5%	6.3%
1994	<b>6.8%</b>	6.1%	6.5%	6.5%	7.3%	7.9%	6.0%

### City & Town Unadjusted Unemployment Rates for January

	<u>2006</u>	<u>2005</u>		<u>2006</u>	<u>2005</u>
Barrington	3.7	3.6	Newport	7.0	7.2
Bristol	5.2	5.2	North Kingstown	4.6	5.2
Burrillville	5.6	5.7	North Providence	5.4	5.7
Central Falls	8.1	8.7	North Smithfield	4.6	5.3
Charlestown	5.8	6.1	Pawtucket	6.3	7.0
Coventry	5.5	5.6	Portsmouth	5.3	5.1
Cranston	5.4	5.8	Providence	6.8	6.9
Cumberland	4.9	5.4	Richmond	3.8	4.1
East Greenwich	4.6	5.7	Scituate	5.6	5.9
East Providence	6.0	6.4	Smithfield	4.9	5.0
Exeter	5.5	5.6	South Kingstown	5.2	5.7
Foster	7.4	7.2	Tiverton	6.2	6.8
Glocester	4.9	4.6	Warren	6.2	6.2
Hopkinton	5.9	6.1	Warwick	5.0	5.4
Jamestown	4.6	4.8	West Greenwich	4.5	5.8
Johnston	6.5	6.5	West Warwick	6.4	6.8
Lincoln	4.7	4.7	Westerly	5.5	5.5
Little Compton	5.6	6.2	Woonsocket	6.2	6.6
Middletown	6.1	6.4			
Narragansett	3.9	4.6	State of R.I.	5.7	6.0
New Shoreham	13.8	14.9	United States	5.1	5.7

### Unemployment Insurance Claims Activity

	Jan 2006	Dec 2005	Jan 2005	% Change Dec 05 Jan 05	Annual Comparison			
					2005	2004	% Change	
Initial Claims	9,815	10,841	9,790	-9.5%	0.3%	77,799	82,174	-5.3%
Number of Payments	69,821	43,206	70,791	61.6%	-1.4%	601,916	644,534	-6.6%
Amount of Payments (gross millions)	\$23.4	\$14.5	\$23.3	61.4%	0.4%	\$197.0	\$203.7	-3.3%
Exhaustions (Final Payments)	1,441	1,029	1,515	40.0%	-4.9%	14,737	16,151	-8.8%
Employment Security Fund (millions)	\$165.6	\$185.8	\$162.4	-10.9%	2.0%			

# Understanding Rhode Island's

## *Wage and Hour Laws*

### Seminars for Employers



**Labor Standards** is charged with administering and enforcing the Wage and Hour Laws that affect the workforce in Rhode Island. These laws can be very confusing, so Labor Standards is offering these free seminars to help employers understand their responsibilities to their employees.

The following areas of law will be addressed at each seminar:

- ◆ Minimum Wage
- ◆ Overtime
- ◆ Record Keeping
- ◆ Payment of Wages
- ◆ Establishment of Regular Paydays
- ◆ Frequency of Payment
- ◆ Vacation Pay
- ◆ Illegal Deductions
- ◆ Statement of Earnings
- ◆ Private Agreements and Bonuses
- ◆ Direct Deposit
- ◆ Work on Sundays and Holidays
- ◆ RI Parental & Family Medical Leave Act
- ◆ Child Labor
- ◆ Meal Periods
- ◆ Temporary Employees Protection Act

#### Seminars for the Mortgage Industry will be held on:

- ◆ Monday, April 3, 2006,  
9:00 AM - 12:00 PM
- ◆ Wednesday, April 5, 2006,  
12:30 PM - 3:30 PM
- ◆ Friday, April 7, 2006,  
10:00 AM - 1:00 PM
- ◆ Monday, April 10, 2006,  
9:00 AM - 12:00 PM
- ◆ Thursday, April 13, 2006,  
9:00 AM - 12:00 PM

If you would like to be added to a list for future seminars, please call Labor Standards at (401) 462-8550 or email [jlapierre@dlt.state.ri.us](mailto:jlapierre@dlt.state.ri.us)



***Reservations are Required to attend the Seminar.***

To register, please mail this form to: Name: \_\_\_\_\_

RI Department of Labor & Training, Company: \_\_\_\_\_  
Labor Standards Unit,

1511 Pontiac Avenue, 1st Choice Date of Seminar \_\_\_\_\_  
P.O. Box 20390,

Cranston, RI 02920-0944, 2nd Choice Date of Seminar \_\_\_\_\_

or fax to (401) 462-8530, E-mail address: \_\_\_\_\_

Visit Labor Standards on the web at: Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_ Number attending: \_\_\_\_\_  
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*Please RSVP by March 23, 2006*