



Donald L. Carcieri  
Governor  
Adelita S. Orefice  
Director

# Employment Bulletin

Rhode Island  
Department of  
Labor & Training  
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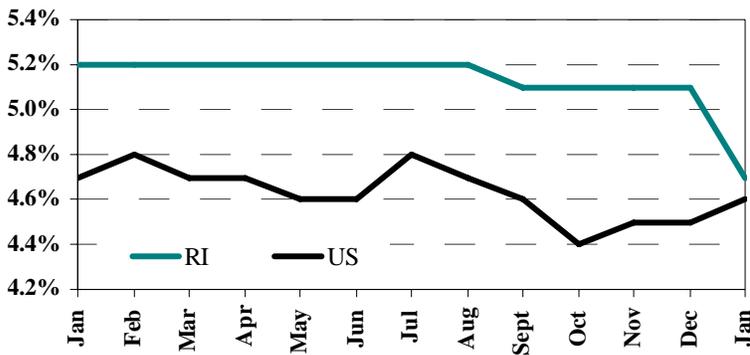
## Rhode Island's Unemployment Rate Lowest since November 2001

Rhode Island's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate for January fell to 4.7 percent, the lowest since November 2001. The January jobless rate is down 0.4 of a percentage point from December's revised estimate of 5.1 percent and is only 0.1 of a percentage point above the national average of 4.6 percent.

Rhode Island Department of Labor and Training Director Adelita S. Orefice explained, "The latest unemployment figures are very promising for the Rhode Island economy. In fact, this is the first time in over a year that Rhode Island has been so close—within one-tenth of a percentage point—to the national unemployment rate."

The number of unemployed Rhode Island residents dropped by 2,200 over the month to 27,200, while the number of employed Rhode Islanders reached a record high level of 553,300 in January.

RI & US Unemployment Rates  
Seasonally Adjusted 2006-2007



## Well Workplaces Make a Healthy Rhode Island

Improving the health and wellness of Rhode Islanders is a key component in my goal to create a more affordable and accessible health care system in our state. That's why I am so supportive of the Worksite Wellness Council of Rhode Island (WWCRI), an organization whose mission is to improve the health and safety of working Rhode Islanders by promoting and supporting worksite health promotion initiatives.

Employers across the state increasingly understand that prevention can play a significant role in keeping down health care costs, and they are instituting a variety of wellness programs for their employees. Working with the WWCRI, I have set a goal to make Rhode Island the first "Well State," an achievement that will be realized when 20 percent of working Rhode Islanders are employed by companies that are designated as "Well Workplaces" by the Wellness Councils of America.

Businesses and organizations have embraced this goal, and we are well on our way to achieving the Well State goal. Learn what your company can do to develop a results-oriented worksite wellness program and join the growing list of "healthy" Rhode Island companies. Good health is good business. For more information, log on to [www.wwcri.org](http://www.wwcri.org) or call (401) 334-1007.

Governor Donald L. Carcieri

### Seasonally Adjusted Labor Force Statistics (in thousands)

	Rhode Island			United States		
	Jan 07	Dec 06	Jan 06	Jan 07	Dec 06	Jan 06
Civilian Labor Force	580.5	578.7	574.1	152,974	152,775	150,122
Resident Employment	553.3	549.2	544.4	145,957	145,926	143,099
Unemployment	27.2	29.4	29.6	7,017	6,849	7,023
Unemployment Rate	4.7%	5.1%	5.2%	4.6%	4.5%	4.7%

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## The Number of Jobs at Rhode Island Businesses Declines in January

Jobs at Rhode Island businesses decreased by 1,200 over the month, from 495,900 in December 2006 to 494,700 in January 2007. Small employment gains were seen in the Construction (+300); Retail Trade (+300); Information (+200); and Arts, Entertainment & Recreation (+200) sectors.

These gains were offset by job losses reported in Accommodation & Food Services (-800); Educational Services (-300); Health Care & Social Assistance (-300); Government (-300); Wholesale Trade (-200); Financial Activities (-200); and Manufacturing (-100).

Employment losses in Accommodation & Food Services reflected a reduction of workers in restaurants and drinking places. The temporary closing of the State's private colleges and universities due to semester break was largely responsible for the decrease in Educational Services employment. Government employment dropped by 300 jobs over the month, reflecting losses in both state and local government segments. Milder than normal weather at the beginning of the year contributed to the increase in Construction jobs (+300).

Over the year, jobs were up 4,700 from the 490,000 jobs reported in January 2006. Annual employment growth occurred in the Professional & Business Services (+2,100); Financial Activities (+1,600); Health Care & Social Assistance (+1,500); Construction (+1,300); Educational Services (+700); Arts, Entertainment & Recreation (+700); Retail Trade (+200), Natural Resources & Mining (+100); Transportation & Utilities (+100); and Other Services (+100) sectors; offsetting losses in Manufacturing (-2,000); Accommodation & Food Services (-700); Government (-600); and Wholesale Trade (-400).

### Hours and Earnings

In January 2007, the \$13.46 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 fifteen cents per hour. Manufacturing employees worked an average of 39.2 hours per week in January, down 0.7 of an hour over the month and up 0.8 of an hour since January 2006.

### Establishment Employment in Rhode Island Seasonally Adjusted

	Employment (in thousands)		Net Change
	Jan-07	Dec-06	
	<b>Total Nonfarm</b>	<b>494.7</b>	
Natural Resources & Mining	0.3	0.3	0.0
Construction	23.8	23.5	0.3
Manufacturing	51.5	51.6	-0.1
Wholesale Trade*	16.6	16.8	-0.2
Retail Trade	52.1	51.8	0.3
Transportation & Utilities	11.0	11.0	0.0
Information	11.0	10.8	0.2
Financial Activities	36.1	36.3	-0.2
Professional & Business Services	57.5	57.5	0.0
Educational Services	22.2	22.5	-0.3
Health Care & Social Assistance	75.2	75.5	-0.3
Arts, Entertainment & Recreation	8.4	8.2	0.2
Accommodation & Food Services	41.8	42.6	-0.8
Other Services	22.9	22.9	0.0
Government	64.3	64.6	-0.3

\* State Calculated Estimate

### Manufacturing Employment in Rhode Island Not Seasonally Adjusted

	Employment					Production Worker Averages					
	(in thousands)		Net Change From			Weekly Hours			Hourly Earnings		
	Jan 07	Dec 06	Jan 06	Dec 06	Jan 06	Jan 07	Dec 06	Jan 06	Jan 07	Dec 06	Jan 06
<b>Manufacturing</b>	51.3	52.3	53.1	-1000	-1800	39.2	39.9	38.4	13.46	13.39	13.31
<b>Durable Goods</b>	33.2	33.9	34.5	-700	-1300	38.3	38.6	38.1	13.40	13.16	13.32
Fabricated Metal Product Mfg.	7.3	7.4	7.5	-100	-200	39.8	40.5	40.3	12.00	11.85	11.70
Computer & Electronic Product Mfg.	4.7	4.6	4.6	100	100	35.4	36.4	42.1	14.61	14.41	14.31
Miscellaneous Manufacturing	9.5	9.7	9.9	-200	-400	35.0	35.5	37.2	11.37	11.18	11.17
Jewelry & Silverware	6.6	6.8	7.0	-200	-400	37.5	38.0	38.0	10.46	10.26	10.42
<b>Non-Durable Goods</b>	18.1	18.4	18.6	-300	-500	40.8	42.2	38.8	13.55	13.74	13.30
Chemical Manufacturing	4.4	4.5	4.4	-100	0	38.0	35.9	41.5	15.89	16.10	15.37
Plastics & Rubber Products Mfg.	2.8	2.8	3.0	0	-200	43.5	43.5	42.0	14.31	14.55	14.78

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 2007, 47 percent of Rhode Island’s unemployed workers were eligible to collect Unemployment Insurance (UI) benefits. Numbering 14,854 people, these “insured unemployed” accounted for 2.7 percent of the State’s total employed (unadjusted). More than 18 percent (2,702) of the Ocean State’s insured unemployed faced long-term unemployment, defined as collecting unemployment benefits for more than fourteen weeks.

Nearly 26 percent (3,848) of the people receiving UI benefits were between the ages of 35 and 44, while an additional 24 percent (3,563) 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, over 26 percent of all insured unemployed workers 60 years and older had been collecting benefits for at least fourteen weeks, whereas 13 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 47 percent (6,945) of those collecting UI benefits had just a high school diploma. An additional 2,625 people (17.7%) had less than a high school diploma, while 16 percent (2,359) of the insured unemployed had at least a Bachelor’s degree. Roughly 14 percent of insured unemployed workers with less than a high school diploma had been collecting benefits for a minimum of fourteen weeks, while 22 percent of those with at least a Bachelor’s degree were also considered long-term unemployed.

On an industry basis, 18.2 percent (2,699) of the State’s insured unemployed workers came from the Construction sector. There were also 2,029 individuals with an attachment to the Administrative & Waste sector, accounting for 13.7 percent of all insured unemployed workers. An additional 13.4 percent (1,986) of those collecting UI benefits in January had worked in the Manufacturing sector. Large numbers of insured unemployed were also reported in Accommodation & Food Services (1,375), Retail Trade (1,220), Health Care & Social Assistance (919) and Finance & Insurance (584).

Those previously employed in Office & Administrative occupations accounted for nearly 14 percent (2,009) of the State’s insured unemployed. A large number of workers previously employed in Production (1,640), Construction & Extraction (1,508) and Building, Grounds Cleaning & Maintenance (1,253) occupations also collected UI benefits in December. Numerous occupational groups reported concentrations of long-term unemployment above the State average, including Education, Training & Library (50.8%), Community & Social Services (40.6%), Healthcare Support (34.1%) and Healthcare Practitioner & Technical (33.6%).

### Characteristics of the Insured Unemployed January 2007

	<i>Total</i>	<i>Long-Term</i>	<i>Percent Long-Term</i>
<b>Total</b>	<b>14,854</b>	<b>2,702</b>	<b>18.2%</b>
Male	9,200	1,279	13.9%
Female	5,654	1,423	25.2%
<b>Age</b>	<b>14,854</b>	<b>2,702</b>	<b>18.2%</b>
Under 22	582	78	13.4%
22 - 24	938	119	12.7%
25 - 34	3,218	548	17.0%
35 - 44	3,848	676	17.6%
45 - 54	3,563	666	18.7%
55 - 59	1,225	226	18.4%
60 - 64	857	198	23.1%
65 or over	623	191	30.7%
<b>Education</b>	<b>14,854</b>	<b>2,702</b>	<b>18.2%</b>
Less than 9th Grade	791	104	13.1%
9th to 12th, no diploma	1,834	268	14.6%
High School Graduate	6,945	1,220	17.6%
Some College	2,584	503	19.5%
Bachelor's Degree	1,400	318	22.7%
Beyond Bachelor's	959	207	21.6%
<b>Selected Industries</b>	<b>14,854</b>	<b>2,702</b>	<b>18.2%</b>
Construction	2,699	202	7.5%
Manufacturing	1,986	524	26.4%
Wholesale Trade	532	130	24.4%
Retail Trade	1,220	312	25.6%
Transportation & Warehousing	322	46	14.3%
Information	252	93	36.9%
Finance & Insurance	584	178	30.5%
Real Estate	285	64	22.5%
Professional & Tech. Services	494	103	20.9%
Administrative & Waste Services	2,029	158	7.8%
Educational Services	291	124	42.6%
Health Care & Social Assistance	919	318	34.6%
Arts, Entertainment & Recreation	547	24	4.4%
Accommodation & Food Services	1,375	167	12.1%
Other Services	440	115	26.1%
Public Administration	111	29	26.1%
<b>Selected Occupations</b>	<b>14,854</b>	<b>2,702</b>	<b>18.2%</b>
Business & Financial Operations	334	89	26.6%
Computer & Mathematical	152	46	30.3%
Architecture & Engineering	133	26	19.5%
Life, Physical & Social Science	61	16	26.2%
Community & Social Services	96	39	40.6%
Legal	50	15	30.0%
Education, Training & Library	236	120	50.8%
Arts, Design, Ent., Sports & Media	223	45	20.2%
Healthcare Practitioner & Technical	143	48	33.6%
Healthcare Support	220	75	34.1%
Protective Service	98	23	23.5%
Food Preparation & Serving Related	1,002	127	12.7%
Bldg. & Grounds Cleaning & Maint.	1,253	48	3.8%
Personal Care & Service	199	43	21.6%
Sales & Related	860	224	26.0%
Office & Administrative Support	2,009	557	27.7%
Construction & Extraction	1,508	132	8.8%
Installation, Maintenance & Repair	548	124	22.6%
Production	1,640	303	18.5%
Transportation & Material Moving	964	144	14.9%

### Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers

	Jan 07	Dec 06	Jan 06	% Change Prev. Year
All Items	202.4	201.8	198.3	2.1%

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

### Rhode Island Economy Gained 5,700 Jobs in 2006

The State's economy had performed better than initially predicted during the second half of 2006, with a year-end net growth of 5,700 jobs created in Rhode Island. Previous estimates indicated only 200 additional Rhode Island jobs created in 2006. The State actually ended the year with 495,900 workers when compared to the revised December 2005 job count of 490,200.

The revised figures also reveal that from the end of 2005 through mid-2006 the Rhode Island economy had been weaker than originally thought; revisions to the employment figures ranged from 700 to 3,500 lower than originally reported during the months of October 2005 through July 2006.

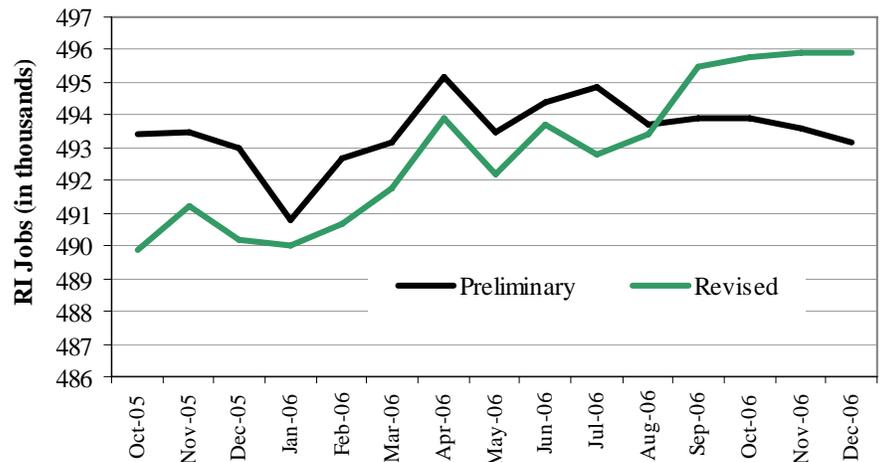
The largest over-the-year gains were noted in Professional & Business Services (+2,000); Health Care & Social Assistance (+1,900); Financial Activities (+1,900); and Construction (+1,500). The only major job loss occurred in the Manufacturing sector (-2,000). Small declines were also noted in Retail Trade (-200), Information (-200), and Government (-200). (See label page for more detail.)

At the beginning of each year, the Labor Market Information unit revises the previous year's sample-based estimates with the most recent data collected from all Rhode Island businesses. Our newest publication, *Establishment Employment in Rhode Island 2006*, provides a summary of the revised establishment employment data by industry sector. To view or download this four-page document, please go to [www.dlt.ri.gov/lmi/ces/review.htm](http://www.dlt.ri.gov/lmi/ces/review.htm).

### City & Town Unadjusted Unemployment Rates for January

	2007	2006		2007	2006
Barrington	3.7	3.8	Newport	6.2	7.3
Bristol	5.0	5.6	North Kingstown	4.4	4.9
Burrillville	5.1	5.7	North Providence	5.3	5.6
Central Falls	7.1	8.2	North Smithfield	5.2	4.6
Charlestown	5.7	6.0	Pawtucket	6.1	6.5
Coventry	4.9	5.7	Portsmouth	4.6	5.5
Cranston	5.2	5.6	Providence	6.4	7.0
Cumberland	4.6	5.1	Richmond	3.6	4.1
East Greenwich	5.0	4.8	Scituate	5.1	6.0
East Providence	5.8	6.1	Smithfield	4.7	5.1
Exeter	5.4	5.7	South Kingstown	5.3	5.4
Foster	6.5	7.6	Tiverton	6.3	6.4
Glocester	4.5	5.2	Warren	6.2	6.3
Hopkinton	5.9	6.2	Warwick	4.9	5.2
Jamestown	4.2	4.8	West Greenwich	4.6	4.6
Johnston	6.5	6.6	West Warwick	6.2	6.6
Lincoln	4.5	4.9	Westerly	5.5	5.8
Little Compton	6.3	6.0	Woonsocket	6.0	6.4
Middletown	5.5	6.5			
Narragansett	3.7	4.1	State of R.I.	5.5	5.9
New Shoreham	15.0	15.7	United States	5.0	5.1

### Total RI Jobs, Preliminary versus Revised Data, Seasonally Adjusted October 2005 - December 2006



### Unemployment Insurance Claims Activity

	Jan	Dec	Jan	% Change		Annual Comparison		
	2007	2006	2006	Dec 06	Jan 06	2006	2005	% Change
Initial Claims	10,205	10,031	9,815	1.7%	4.0%	76,453	77,799	-1.7%
Number of Payments	69,599	42,493	69,821	63.8%	-0.3%	579,130	601,916	-3.8%
Amount of Payments (gross millions)	\$24.0	\$14.6	\$23.4	64.4%	2.6%	\$192.9	\$196.9	-2.0%
Exhaustions (Final Payments)	1,431	1,067	1,441	34.1%	-0.7%	13,867	14,737	-5.9%

**REVISED**

**Rhode Island Establishment Employment, Seasonally Adjusted**  
**December 2005 - December 2006**  
*(In Thousands)*

	<u>Dec-05</u>	<u>Dec-06</u>	<u>Change</u>	<u>% Change</u>
<b>Total Nonfarm</b>	<b>490.2</b>	<b>495.9</b>	<b>5.7</b>	<b>1.2%</b>
Natural Resources & Mining	0.3	0.3	0.0	0.0%
Construction	22.0	23.5	1.5	6.8%
Manufacturing	53.6	51.6	-2.0	-3.7%
Durable Goods	34.8	33.4	-1.4	-4.0%
Non-Durable Goods	18.8	18.2	-0.6	-3.2%
Trade, Transportation & Utilities	79.9	79.6	-0.3	-0.4%
Retail Trade	52.0	51.8	-0.2	-0.4%
Transportation & Utilities	11.0	11.0	0.0	0.0%
Information	11.0	10.8	-0.2	-1.8%
Financial Activities	34.4	36.3	1.9	5.5%
Professional & Business Services	55.5	57.5	2.0	3.6%
Administrative & Waste Services	24.9	26.5	1.6	6.4%
Education & Health Services	95.7	98.0	2.3	2.4%
Educational Services	22.1	22.5	0.4	1.8%
Health Care & Social Assistance	73.6	75.5	1.9	2.6%
Leisure & Hospitality	50.2	50.8	0.6	1.2%
Arts, Entertainment & Recreation	7.6	8.2	0.6	7.9%
Accommodation & Food Services	42.6	42.6	0.0	0.0%
Other Services	22.9	22.9	0.0	0.0%
Government	64.7	64.6	-0.1	-0.2%
State Government	17.5	17.5	0.0	0.0%
Local Government	37.5	37.2	-0.3	-0.8%