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# Employment Bulletin

Rhode Island  
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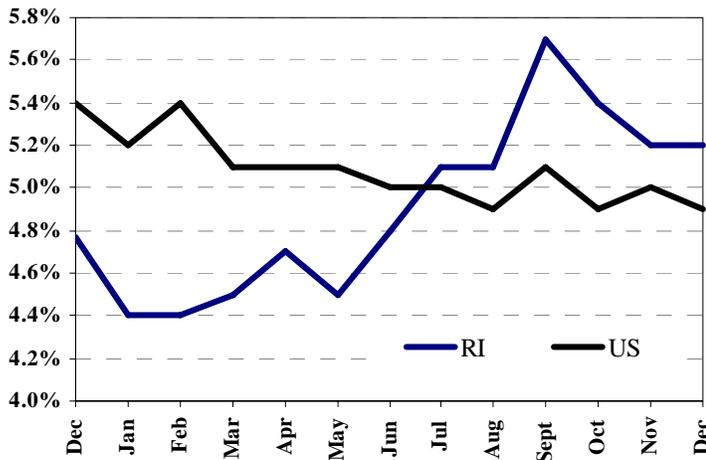
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## Rhode Island's Unemployment Rate Holds Steady in December

Rhode Island's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate for December showed no change from November's jobless rate of 5.2 percent. The number of unemployed was also unchanged from November's level of 30,200. The number of employed Rhode Island residents increased by 400 over the month. A year ago, the jobless level was 26,700 and the unemployment rate stood at 4.8 percent.

Nationally, the unemployment rate inched down a tenth of a percentage point to 4.9 percent. Compared to a year ago, the national jobless rate is down half a percentage point. Rhode Island's unemployment rate for December remained above the national average for the sixth straight month.

**RI & US Unemployment Rates  
Seasonally Adjusted 2004 - 2005**



## LMI Introduces New Version of RI RED

Labor Market Information recently launched the latest version of RI RED, an interactive Research and Economic Database, on the web at [www.dlt.ri.gov/rired](http://www.dlt.ri.gov/rired). Like the prior version, RI RED features three modules: *Services for Individuals*, *Services for Employers* and *Labor Market Analysis*. Each module includes data designed for the relevant user. RI RED also has a direct link to LMI Publications.

*Services for Employers* contains direct links to the Employer Service Unit and allows employers to post their job orders on the web. It also provides occupational wages and projections, recruiting services through major resume banks, as well as educational and labor market services. RI RED allows users to create custom data profiles and to compare data between areas, industries, and occupations. The application provides links to many useful employer resources including required posters, tax credit and grant information, labor laws, the Department's Workshare and Rapid Response programs, and on-line business registration.

RI RED is a free Internet application you can use from the convenience of your own computer. If you can't find what you're looking for, have questions navigating through the system, or just need general assistance, please contact Labor Market Information at:

**e-mail:** [lmi@dlt.state.ri.us](mailto:lmi@dlt.state.ri.us)  
**phone:** (401) 462-8740  
**fax:** (401) 462-8766

## Seasonally Adjusted Labor Force Statistics (in thousands)

	Rhode Island			United States		
	Dec 05	Nov 05	Dec 04	Dec 05	Nov 05	Dec 04
Civilian Labor Force	580.6	580.2	560.1	150,153	150,183	148,173
Resident Employment	550.4	550.0	533.4	142,779	142,611	140,133
Unemployment	30.2	30.2	26.7	7,375	7,572	8,040
Unemployment Rate	5.2%	5.2%	4.8%	4.9%	5.0%	5.4%

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## The Number of Jobs Declines Over the Month

The Rhode Island job count (seasonally adjusted) decreased in December, following an increase in employment last month. There was an atypical adjustment of approximately 1,200 jobs related to student workers who started winter break earlier than usual this year and who are expected to fill those jobs again starting in January. Factoring out the atypical adjustment, Rhode Island lost 300 jobs in December bringing the December job count to 494,000. Over-the-month employment losses were reflected in Educational & Health Services (-1,200), Trade, Transportation & Utilities (-500), Government (-300), Manufacturing (-200), and Construction (-100). Monthly gains were noted in Professional & Business Services (+200), Leisure & Hospitality (+200), and Financial Activities (+100).

“In December, Rhode Island experienced an atypical seasonal occurrence related to 1,200 student workers at private colleges and universities who had already entered their winter break period during the data collection week,” said DLT Director Adelita S. Orefice. “These temporary job cuts occur every January and are not a cause for concern. We expect that the student workers will be reemployed when the next semester begins. Adjusting for this temporary blip in student employment, Rhode Island lost just 300 jobs in December. Despite these job losses, our unemployment rate remained steady at 5.2 percent.”

### Establishment Employment in Rhode Island Seasonally Adjusted

	Employment (in thousands)		Net Change
	Dec 05	Nov 05	
Total Nonfarm	494.0	495.5	-1.5
Construction	21.5	21.6	-0.1
Manufacturing	54.5	54.7	-0.2
Trade, Transportation & Utilities	78.1	78.6	-0.5
Financial Activities	35.7	35.6	0.1
Professional & Business Services	55.5	55.3	0.2
Educational & Health Services	96.3	97.5	-1.2
Leisure and Hospitality	52.5	52.3	0.2
Government	65.6	65.9	-0.3

As noted above, the decline in Educational & Health Services is attributable to a temporary drop of 1,200 student workers at local colleges and universities, who concluded their work experience earlier than normal this year. The drop in Trade, Transportation & Utilities is due to weaker than normal holiday hiring in the Retail Trade sector.

Employment in Rhode Island was up 3,800 (+0.8%) from the 490,200 jobs reported in December 2004. The largest employment growth noted during this period occurred in the Educational & Health Services (+2,600), Leisure & Hospitality (+1,900), Financial Activities (+1,300), and Professional & Business Services (+900) sectors, offsetting over-the-year losses in Manufacturing (-1,900) and Trade, Transportation & Utilities (-1,200).

### Manufacturing Employment in Rhode Island Not Seasonally Adjusted

	Employment					Production Worker Averages					
	(in thousands)		Net Change From:			Weekly Hours			Hourly Earnings		
	Dec 05	Nov 05	Dec 04	Nov 05	Dec 04	Dec 05	Nov 05	Dec 04	Dec 05	Nov 05	Dec 04
<b>Manufacturing</b>	55.1	55.3	57.1	-200	-2000	38.2	38.4	38.9	13.33	13.30	13.12
<b>Durable Goods</b>	37.0	36.9	37.6	100	-600	38.1	38.8	38.7	13.31	13.30	13.13
Fabricated Metal Product Mfg.	7.7	7.6	7.9	100	-200	39.2	39.0	37.3	11.61	11.71	11.80
Computer & Electronic Product Mfg.	4.8	4.8	5.0	0	-200	39.6	40.0	39.5	14.24	14.18	13.98
Miscellaneous Manufacturing	10.0	10.2	10.9	-200	-900	38.0	37.6	37.4	11.20	11.13	10.95
Jewelry and Silverware	7.1	7.3	7.9	-200	-800	38.5	37.6	37.6	10.36	10.29	10.27
<b>Non-Durable Goods</b>	18.1	18.4	19.5	-300	-1400	38.5	37.8	39.2	13.36	13.30	13.09
Chemical Manufacturing	4.1	4.1	4.2	0	-100	41.0	41.7	43.0	15.30	15.40	15.34
Plastics & Rubber Products Mfg.	2.9	3.0	3.0	-100	-100	41.0	39.7	41.4	14.80	14.75	14.56

*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. 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.*

## Characteristics of the Insured Unemployed

In December 2005, approximately 45 percent of Rhode Island's unemployed workers were eligible to collect unemployment insurance benefits. Numbering 12,513 people, these "insured unemployed" accounted for 2.5 percent of the state's establishment employment (unadjusted). More than 21 percent (2,635) of the Ocean State's insured unemployed faced long-term unemployment, defined as collecting unemployment benefits for more than fourteen weeks.

Nearly 28 percent (3,450) of the people receiving unemployment insurance benefits were between the ages of 35 and 44, while an additional 23 percent (2,892) 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, 33 percent of all insured unemployed workers 60 years and older had been collecting benefits for at least fourteen weeks, whereas almost 16 percent of those under 22 years of age and 18 percent of 22 to 24 year olds were considered long-term unemployed.

In December, approximately 47 percent (5,903) of those collecting Unemployment Insurance benefits had just a high school diploma. An additional 2,198 people (17.6%) had less than a high school diploma, while 13.9 percent (1,734) 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 26 percent of insured unemployed workers with at least a Bachelor's degree had been collecting benefits for a minimum of fourteen weeks, while 17 percent of those with less than a high school diploma were considered long-term unemployed.

On an industry basis, just under one-third of the state's insured unemployed workers came from the Manufacturing (2,015) and Construction (2,014) sectors. There were also 1,733 individuals with an attachment to the Administrative & Waste Services sector, accounting for 13.8 percent of all insured unemployed workers. Nearly 9 percent (1,072) of those collecting unemployment insurance benefits in December had worked in the Accommodation & Food Services sector. Large numbers of insured unemployed were also reported in Retail Trade (971) and Health Care & Social Assistance (846).

Those previously employed in Office & Administrative Support occupations accounted for 13 percent (1,657) of the state's insured unemployed. A large number of workers previously employed in Production (1,411), Construction & Extraction (1,244) and Building & Grounds Cleaning & Maintenance (974) occupations also collected unemployment insurance benefits in December. Numerous occupational groups reported concentrations of long-term unemployment above the state average, including Education, Training & Library (59.7%), Healthcare Support (39.2%), Computer & Mathematical (38.6%), Protective Service (32.1%) and Business & Financial Operations (31.8%).

### Characteristics of the Insured Unemployed, December 2005

	Total	Long Term	Percent Long Term
<b>Total</b>	<b>12,513</b>	<b>2,635</b>	<b>21.1%</b>
Male	7,614	1,278	16.8%
Female	4,899	1,357	27.7%
<b>Age</b>	<b>12,513</b>	<b>2,635</b>	<b>21.1%</b>
Under 22	423	66	15.6%
22 - 24	702	125	17.8%
25 - 34	2,775	499	18.0%
35 - 44	3,450	693	20.1%
45 - 54	2,892	637	22.0%
55 - 59	1,038	206	19.8%
60 - 64	692	205	29.6%
65 or over	541	204	37.7%
<b>Education</b>	<b>12,513</b>	<b>2,635</b>	<b>21.1%</b>
Less than 9th Grade	686	98	14.3%
9th to 12th, no diploma	1,512	270	17.9%
High School Graduate	5,903	1,189	20.1%
Some College	2,351	577	24.5%
Bachelor's Degree	1,366	335	24.5%
Beyond Bachelor's	368	110	29.9%
<b>Selected Industries</b>	<b>12,513</b>	<b>2,635</b>	<b>21.1%</b>
Construction	2,014	155	7.7%
Manufacturing	2,015	531	26.4%
Wholesale Trade	421	125	29.7%
Retail Trade	971	278	28.6%
Transportation & Warehousing	269	57	21.2%
Information	191	47	24.6%
Finance & Insurance	558	227	40.7%
Real Estate	203	43	21.2%
Professional & Tech. Services	417	116	27.8%
Administrative & Waste Services	1,733	187	10.8%
Educational Services	226	113	50.0%
Health Care & Social Assistance	846	309	36.5%
Arts, Entertainment & Recreation	431	38	8.8%
Accommodation & Food Services	1,072	155	14.5%
Other Services	425	120	28.2%
Public Administration	129	43	33.3%
<b>Selected Occupations</b>	<b>12,513</b>	<b>2,635</b>	<b>21.1%</b>
Business & Financial Operations	318	101	31.8%
Computer & Mathematical	145	56	38.6%
Architecture & Engineering	134	37	27.6%
Life, Physical & Social Science	60	14	23.3%
Community & Social Services	99	31	31.3%
Legal	42	13	31.0%
Education, Training & Library	221	132	59.7%
Arts, Design, Ent., Sports & Media	186	48	25.8%
Healthcare Practitioner & Technical	176	53	30.1%
Healthcare Support	209	82	39.2%
Protective Service	106	34	32.1%
Food Preparation & Serving Related	711	103	14.5%
Bldg. & Grounds Cleaning & Maint.	974	61	6.3%
Personal Care & Service	121	38	31.4%
Sales & Related	604	172	28.5%
Office & Administrative Support	1,657	464	28.0%
Construction & Extraction	1,244	120	9.6%
Installation, Maintenance & Repair	479	98	20.5%
Production	1,411	308	21.8%
Transportation & Material Moving	838	162	19.3%

### Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers

				% Change
	Dec 05	Nov 05	Dec 04	Prev. Year
All Items	196.8	197.6	190.3	3.4%

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

### Women's Earnings in the Ocean State 1998-2004

According to the United States Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS), Rhode Island women working full-time earned 81.1 percent of their male counterparts in 2004. This was the second highest earnings ratio in New England and the thirteenth highest earnings ratio (tied with Colorado) in the country. Regionally, Vermont (85.0%) reported the smallest earnings differential between women and men, followed by Rhode Island (81.1%), Massachusetts (79.3%), Maine (76.3%), Connecticut (74.1%), and New Hampshire (72.3%). Throughout the fifty states, female-to-male earnings ratios ranged from a high of 87.1 percent in California to just 65.9 percent in Wyoming. Nationwide, women earned 80.3 percent of what men did in 2004, slightly below the Rhode Island ratio. The reasons for these earnings differentials between women and men vary.

Although job discrimination is most often cited as the main reason women earn less than men, female worker earnings can also be impacted by breaks in or changes to their labor force participation (i.e. due to motherhood) and occupational mix due to physical differences between the sexes. For example, men generally have more natural physical strength than women and might be more suited to well-paying, heavy construction jobs.

Since 1998, the earnings gap between Ocean State women and men working full-time has improved considerably when compared to regional neighbors and the nation as a whole. Whereas Rhode Island women had earned 71.2 percent of what men did in 1998, by 2004, the ratio had improved to 81.1 percent. This 9.9 percentage point change was the second highest recorded among the fifty states during this period, trailing only Georgia (+13.2 points). Within New England, Vermont's women-to-men earnings gap closed by 8.5 percentage points, followed by Connecticut (+4.6 points) and Massachusetts (+0.2 points). Meanwhile, women workers in both New Hampshire (-3.6 points) and Maine (-2.8 points) saw their earnings fall in comparison to their male counterparts. Nationally, the female-to-male earnings ratio improved by 4.0 percentage points, from 76.3 percent in 1998 to 80.3 percent in 2004.

During the period between 1998 and 2004, Rhode Island women experienced a much faster growth in median weekly earnings than men did. In 1998, females earned \$455 weekly compared to \$638 earned by males. By 2004, women's median weekly earnings had increased by 27.7 percent (+\$126), to \$581. In contrast, Ocean State males experienced just a 12.4 percent (+\$79) increase in median weekly earnings. Median weekly earnings for Rhode Island men actually *decreased* between 2003 and 2004, falling 0.8 percent to \$717. To view the full report, visit [www.dlt.ri.gov/lmi/publications/womenearn.htm](http://www.dlt.ri.gov/lmi/publications/womenearn.htm)

### City & Town Unadjusted Unemployment Rates for December

	2005	2004		2005	2004
Barrington	3.5	2.7	Newport	5.1	4.3
Bristol	4.4	3.7	North Kingstown	3.7	3.5
Burrillville	4.6	3.9	North Providence	4.6	4.1
Central Falls	7.3	6.3	North Smithfield	3.5	3.5
Charlestown	4.9	3.6	Pawtucket	5.7	5.1
Coventry	4.7	3.9	Portsmouth	4.1	3.3
Cranston	4.8	4.3	Providence	5.9	5.1
Cumberland	4.1	3.9	Richmond	2.8	2.7
East Greenwich	4.0	4.1	Scituate	4.5	4.3
East Providence	5.2	4.6	Smithfield	4.0	3.4
Exeter	4.3	3.9	South Kingstown	4.0	3.2
Foster	5.4	4.3	Tiverton	4.9	4.1
Glocester	3.8	3.3	Warren	4.9	4.2
Hopkinton	4.2	4.2	Warwick	4.2	3.9
Jamestown	3.7	3.1	West Greenwich	3.4	3.9
Johnston	5.1	4.5	West Warwick	5.8	4.9
Lincoln	3.9	3.1	Westerly	4.5	3.4
Little Compton	5.2	3.4	Woonsocket	5.4	5.1
Middletown	4.6	4.2			
Narragansett	3.2	3.1	State of R.I.	4.8	4.2
New Shoreham	13.0	11.6	United States	4.6	5.1

### Unemployment Insurance Claims Activity

	Dec	Nov	Dec	% Change		Year to Date		
	2005	2005	2004	Nov 05	Dec 04	2005	2004	% Change
Initial Claims	10,841	5,556	11,097	95.1%	-2.3%	77,799	82,174	-5.3%
Number of Payments	43,206	37,179	47,462	16.2%	-9.0%	601,916	644,534	-6.6%
Amount of Payments (gross millions)	\$14.5	\$12.4	\$15.5	16.9%	-6.5%	\$197.0	\$203.7	-3.3%
Exhaustions (Final Payments)	1,029	1,020	1,284	0.9%	-19.9%	14,737	16,151	-8.8%

## Census Releases New Population Estimates

The US Census Bureau recently released their 2005 population estimates. Of the six New England states, New Hampshire had the largest over-the-year percentage increase (+0.8%), while Connecticut posted the largest numeric increase (+11,331). Rhode Island lost the greatest percentage (-0.3%) of residents within the region, while Massachusetts lost the largest number (-8,639) of residents.

Nationally, only the District of Columbia lost a greater percentage (-0.7%) of residents than Rhode Island (-0.3%), followed by New York (-0.1%) and Massachusetts (-0.1%). The greatest annual percentage increases in population were reported in Nevada (+3.5%), Arizona (+3.5%), and Idaho (+2.4%). Florida (+2.3%) and Utah (2.0%) complete the top five states with the greatest percentage increase.

Numerically, New York had the largest over-the-year decline in population (-26,097), followed by Massachusetts (-8,639). The state of Rhode Island (-3,727) and the District of Columbia (-3,718) also posted a population losses. Florida led all states adding residents (+404,434), followed by Texas (+388,419) and California (+290,109). Arizona (+199,413), Georgia (+154,447), and North Carolina (+142,774) each added over 100,000 residents over the year.

### 2005 US CENSUS BUREAU POPULATION ESTIMATES

	Population Estimates		Change			Population Estimates		Change	
	July 1, 2005	July 1, 2004	Numeric	Percent		July 1, 2005	July 1, 2004	Numeric	Percent
<b>United States</b>	<b>296,410,404</b>	<b>293,656,842</b>	<b>2,753,562</b>	<b>0.9%</b>	Missouri	5,800,310	5,759,532	40,778	0.7%
Alabama	4,557,808	4,525,375	32,433	0.7%	Montana	935,670	926,920	8,750	0.9%
Alaska	663,661	657,755	5,906	0.9%	Nebraska	1,758,787	1,747,704	11,083	0.6%
Arizona	5,939,292	5,739,879	199,413	3.5%	Nevada	2,414,807	2,332,898	81,909	3.5%
Arkansas	2,779,154	2,750,000	29,154	1.1%	New Hampshire	1,309,940	1,299,169	10,771	0.8%
California	36,132,147	35,842,038	290,109	0.8%	New Jersey	8,717,925	8,685,166	32,759	0.4%
Colorado	4,665,177	4,601,821	63,356	1.4%	New Mexico	1,928,384	1,903,006	25,378	1.3%
Connecticut	3,510,297	3,498,966	11,331	0.3%	New York	19,254,630	19,280,727	-26,097	-0.1%
Delaware	843,524	830,069	13,455	1.6%	North Carolina	8,683,242	8,540,468	142,774	1.7%
District of Columbia	550,521	554,239	-3,718	-0.7%	North Dakota	636,677	636,308	369	0.1%
Florida	17,789,864	17,385,430	404,434	2.3%	Ohio	11,464,042	11,450,143	13,899	0.1%
Georgia	9,072,576	8,918,129	154,447	1.7%	Oklahoma	3,547,884	3,523,546	24,338	0.7%
Hawaii	1,275,194	1,262,124	13,070	1.0%	Oregon	3,641,056	3,591,363	49,693	1.4%
Idaho	1,429,096	1,395,140	33,956	2.4%	Pennsylvania	12,429,616	12,394,471	35,145	0.3%
Illinois	12,763,371	12,712,016	51,355	0.4%	<b>Rhode Island</b>	<b>1,076,189</b>	<b>1,079,916</b>	<b>-3,727</b>	<b>-0.3%</b>
Indiana	6,271,973	6,226,537	45,436	0.7%	South Carolina	4,255,083	4,197,892	57,191	1.4%
Iowa	2,966,334	2,952,904	13,430	0.5%	South Dakota	775,933	770,621	5,312	0.7%
Kansas	2,744,687	2,733,697	10,990	0.4%	Tennessee	5,962,959	5,893,298	69,661	1.2%
Kentucky	4,173,405	4,141,835	31,570	0.8%	Texas	22,859,968	22,471,549	388,419	1.7%
Louisiana	4,523,628	4,506,685	16,943	0.4%	Utah	2,469,585	2,420,708	48,877	2.0%
Maine	1,321,505	1,314,985	6,520	0.5%	Vermont	623,050	621,233	1,817	0.3%
Maryland	5,600,388	5,561,332	39,056	0.7%	Virginia	7,567,465	7,481,332	86,133	1.2%
Massachusetts	6,398,743	6,407,382	-8,639	-0.1%	Washington	6,287,759	6,207,046	80,713	1.3%
Michigan	10,120,860	10,104,206	16,654	0.2%	West Virginia	1,816,856	1,812,548	4,308	0.2%
Minnesota	5,132,799	5,096,546	36,253	0.7%	Wisconsin	5,536,201	5,503,533	32,668	0.6%
Mississippi	2,921,088	2,900,768	20,320	0.7%	Wyoming	509,294	505,887	3,407	0.7%