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Employment Bulletin

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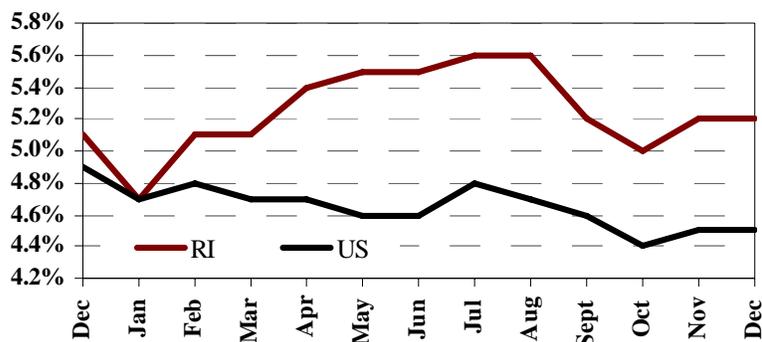
January 2007

Rhode Island's Unemployment Rate Holds Steady in December

Rhode Island's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate for December, estimated at 5.2 percent, was unchanged from November. The number of employed Rhode Islanders climbed by 1,400 over the month, while the number of unemployed decreased by 400 to 29,800 in December. A year ago, the jobless level was 29,400, and the unemployment rate stood at 5.1 percent.

Nationally, the unemployment rate for December held steady at 4.5 percent. Compared to a year ago, the national jobless rate is down 0.4 of a percentage point. Rhode Island's unemployment rate remained above the national average.

RI & US Unemployment Rates
Seasonally Adjusted 2005 - 2006



Health Care & Social Assistance in the Ocean State

Rhode Island's 2,966 Health Care & Social Assistance establishments employed 72,775 workers in 2005, more than any other private industry sector. Over 17% of all private sector jobs in the state now fall under the Health Care & Social Assistance umbrella. This was the second highest concentration of industry sector employment in New England, trailing only Maine (19%). Nationally, Health Care & Social Assistance accounts for 13% of private sector employment.

Statewide, Health Care & Social Assistance employment increased by 9.6%, or 6,359 jobs, between 2001 and 2005. This was well above the state's private sector job growth rate of 2.5% and by far the largest number of jobs added on an industry sector basis during this period.

Each of Rhode Island's 39 communities reported some Health Care & Social Assistance employment in 2005. As would be expected, the bulk of industry sector jobs are concentrated in the state's urban core communities, including Providence, Warwick, Pawtucket, East Providence, and Cranston. Overall, in 2005, these five cities accounted for 3 of every 5 Health Care & Social Assistance jobs in the state. (Continued on Page 4)

Employer Education Series: Wage and Hour Laws

Learn when to pay time and a half • Which dates are legal holidays • What posters must be displayed and where to get them • Who qualifies for a lunch break • How to fire an employee • What the minimum age is at which to hire teen workers

Seminars will be held on February 6, 8, 13, and 14 at the Department of Labor and Training (DLT) in Cranston. Pre-registration is required. To register, visit the DLT web site at www.dlt.state.ri.us/EmployerSeminars.htm

Seasonally Adjusted Labor Force Statistics

(in thousands)

	Rhode Island			United States		
	Dec 06	Nov 06	Dec 05	Dec 06	Nov 06	Dec 05
Civilian Labor Force	579.1	578.0	574.0	152,775	152,449	150,113
Resident Employment	549.3	547.9	544.7	145,926	145,623	142,782
Unemployment	29.8	30.2	29.4	6,849	6,826	7,331
Unemployment Rate	5.2%	5.2%	5.1%	4.5%	4.5%	4.9%

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Rhode Island Job Count Declines Slightly Over the Month

Employment at Rhode Island businesses decreased by 400 jobs last month, bringing the December job count to 493,200 (seasonally adjusted). Over-the-month job losses were reported in Professional & Business Services (-600); Trade, Transportation & Utilities (-400); Educational & Health Services (-200); and Government (-200). Small employment gains were noted in the Construction (+200) and Other Services (+200) sectors.

“Our unemployment rate remained stable last month at 5.2 percent,” said Director Orefice. “Although jobs were down slightly, we did see an increase in the number of Rhode Island residents working last month.”

Employment losses in Professional & Business Services reflected a number of small job declines in Professional & Technical Services, while job losses in Trade, Transportation & Utilities was attributed to weaker than normal holiday hiring in the Retail Trade sector.

The increase in Construction jobs (+200) resulted from a milder than normal December, while Other Services (+200) posted an employment increase due to gains in Personal Services.

Over the year, jobs were up 200 from the 493,000 jobs reported in December 2005. Annual employment growth occurred in the Financial Activities (+2,000); Educational & Health Services (+1,100); Construction (+800); and Professional & Business Services (+700) sectors, offsetting losses in Manufacturing (-1,400); Trade, Transportation & Utilities (-800); Government (-800); Other Services (-700); and Leisure & Hospitality (-400).

Hours and Earnings

In December 2006, the \$13.44 average hourly wage earned by the Manufacturing sector’s production workers represented a monthly loss of four cents per hour and an over-the-year gain of fourteen cents per hour. Manufacturing employees worked an average of 40.7 hours per week in December, up 1.0 hour over the month and 2.8 hours since December 2005.

Establishment Employment in Rhode Island Seasonally Adjusted

	Employment (in thousands)		Net Change
	Dec 06	Nov 06	
Total Nonfarm	493.2	493.6	-0.4
Construction	23.4	23.2	0.2
Manufacturing	52.7	52.7	0.0
Trade, Transportation & Utilities	78.7	79.1	-0.4
Financial Activities	37.2	37.2	0.0
Professional & Business Services	56.8	57.4	-0.6
Educational & Health Services	97.3	97.5	-0.2
Leisure & Hospitality	50.1	50.1	0.0
Other Services	22.2	22.0	0.2
Government	64.0	64.2	-0.2

Manufacturing Employment in Rhode Island Not Seasonally Adjusted

	Employment					Production Worker Averages					
	(in thousands)			Net Change From		Weekly Hours			Hourly Earnings		
	Dec 06	Nov 06	Dec 05	Nov 06	Dec 05	Dec 06	Nov 06	Dec 05	Dec 06	Nov 06	Dec 05
Manufacturing	53.3	53.3	54.7	0	-1400	40.7	39.7	37.9	13.44	13.48	13.30
Durable Goods	35.5	35.6	36.2	-100	-700	39.5	38.4	38.0	13.28	13.46	13.25
Fabricated Metal Product Mfg.	7.9	7.9	7.7	0	200	41.6	39.9	39.6	12.00	12.22	11.61
Computer & Electronic Product Mfg.	4.7	4.7	4.7	0	0	42.2	40.6	41.8	14.70	14.73	14.23
Miscellaneous Manufacturing	9.4	9.6	10.4	-200	-1000	35.1	36.8	38.2	11.45	11.28	11.12
Jewelry & Silverware	6.6	6.7	7.2	-100	-600	37.2	39.2	39.0	10.62	10.42	10.36
Non-Durable Goods	17.8	17.7	18.5	100	-700	42.8	42.0	37.7	13.71	13.51	13.40
Chemical Manufacturing	4.2	4.3	4.2	-100	0	35.7	37.4	41.0	16.00	15.80	15.40
Plastics & Rubber Products Mfg.	2.8	2.8	2.8	0	0	42.5	42.5	41.2	14.69	14.49	14.83

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.

Current month’s figures are preliminary and subject to change.

Characteristics of the Insured Unemployed

In December 2006, 45 percent of Rhode Island's unemployed workers were eligible to collect Unemployment Insurance (UI) benefits. Numbering 12,099 people, these "insured unemployed" accounted for 2.2 percent of the state's total employed (unadjusted). Twenty-three percent (2,782) of the Ocean State's insured unemployed faced long-term unemployment, defined as collecting unemployment benefits for more than fourteen weeks.

More than 26 percent (3,161) of the people receiving UI benefits were between the ages of 35 and 44, while an additional 24 percent (2,935) 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 33 percent of all insured unemployed workers 60 years and older had been collecting benefits for at least fourteen weeks, whereas 14 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 45 percent (5,480) of those collecting UI benefits had just a high school diploma. An additional 2,034 people (16.8%) had less than a high school diploma, while 17.0 percent (2,062) of the insured unemployed had at least a Bachelor's degree. Roughly 19 percent of insured unemployed workers with less than a high school diploma had been collecting benefits for a minimum of fourteen weeks, while 27 percent of those with at least a Bachelor's degree were also considered long-term unemployed.

On an industry basis, 15.1 percent (1,828) of the State's insured unemployed workers came from the Manufacturing sector. There were also 1,767 individuals with an attachment to the Construction sector, accounting for 14.6 percent of all insured unemployed workers. An additional 12.1 percent (1,467) of those collecting UI benefits in December had worked in the Administrative & Waste Services sector. Large numbers of insured unemployed were also reported in Retail Trade (1,087), Accommodation & Food Services (975), Health Care & Social Assistance (936) and Finance & Insurance (586).

Those previously employed in Office & Administrative occupations accounted for more than 15 percent (1,844) of the State's insured unemployed. A large number of workers previously employed in Production (1,427), Construction & Extraction (1,020) and Building & Grounds Cleaning and Maintenance (811) 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 (46.9%), Healthcare Practitioner & Technical (35.9%) and Computer & Mathematical (35.8%).

Characteristics of the Insured Unemployed December 2006

	<i>Total</i>	<i>Long-Term</i>	<i>Percent Long-Term</i>
Total	12,099	2,782	23.0%
Male	7,027	1,300	18.5%
Female	5,072	1,482	29.2%
Age	12,099	2,782	23.0%
Under 22	431	62	14.4%
22 - 24	723	129	17.8%
25 - 34	2,582	554	21.5%
35 - 44	3,161	684	21.6%
45 - 54	2,935	676	23.0%
55 - 59	957	251	26.2%
60 - 64	761	216	28.4%
65 or over	549	210	38.3%
Education	12,099	2,782	23.0%
Less than 9th Grade	619	113	18.3%
9th to 12th, no diploma	1,415	279	19.7%
High School Graduate	5,480	1,216	22.2%
Some College	2,230	546	24.5%
Bachelor's Degree	1,224	309	25.2%
Beyond Bachelor's	838	242	28.9%
Selected Industries	12,099	2,782	23.0%
Construction	1,767	156	8.8%
Manufacturing	1,828	615	33.6%
Wholesale Trade	459	88	19.2%
Retail Trade	1,087	313	28.8%
Transportation & Warehousing	272	55	20.2%
Information	240	83	34.6%
Finance & Insurance	586	213	36.3%
Real Estate	256	53	20.7%
Professional & Tech. Services	428	109	25.5%
Administrative & Waste Services	1,467	161	11.0%
Educational Services	326	156	47.9%
Health Care & Social Assistance	936	360	38.5%
Arts, Entertainment & Recreation	410	21	5.1%
Accommodation & Food Services	975	166	17.0%
Other Services	399	112	28.1%
Public Administration	93	36	38.7%
Selected Occupations	12,099	2,782	23.0%
Business & Financial Operations	354	97	27.4%
Computer & Mathematical	137	49	35.8%
Architecture & Engineering	115	25	21.7%
Life, Physical & Social Science	58	18	31.0%
Community & Social Services	113	53	46.9%
Legal	56	11	19.6%
Education, Training & Library	258	131	50.8%
Arts, Design, Ent., Sports & Media	198	46	23.2%
Healthcare Practitioner & Technical	142	51	35.9%
Healthcare Support	216	77	35.6%
Protective Service	98	30	30.6%
Food Preparation & Serving Related	678	124	18.3%
Bldg. & Grounds Cleaning & Maint.	811	38	4.7%
Personal Care & Service	156	45	28.8%
Sales & Related	722	190	26.3%
Office & Administrative Support	1,844	566	30.7%
Construction & Extraction	1,020	117	11.5%
Installation, Maintenance & Repair	498	118	23.7%
Production	1,427	398	27.9%
Transportation & Material Moving	748	152	20.3%

Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers

				% Change
	Dec 06	Nov 06	Dec 05	Prev. Year
All Items	201.8	201.5	196.8	2.5%

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

Health Care & Social Assistance in the Ocean State (Continued from Page 1)

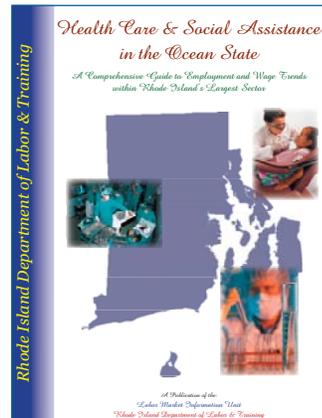
Health Care & Social Assistance is divided into four subsectors: Ambulatory Health Care Services, Hospitals, Nursing & Residential Care Facilities, and Social Assistance. In 2005, private-sector Hospitals accounted for nearly one-third of the state's Health Care & Social Assistance employment, followed by Ambulatory Health Care Services (29.5%), Nursing & Residential Care Facilities (24.3%), and Social Assistance (14.3%). Since 2001, each of these subsectors has reported notable job growth, led by Ambulatory Health Care Services (+2,642), which includes doctor and dentist offices, outpatient care centers, laboratories, and home health care services.

An estimated 3,480 job vacancies existed throughout Health Care & Social Assistance industries in Spring 2006. This translated into a job vacancy rate of 4.8%, or nearly 5 job openings for every 100 jobs filled, and was the highest vacancy rate measured in the private sector. In fact, Health Care & Social Assistance vacancies accounted for nearly 32% of all estimated job openings in the private sector during the survey period.

More than one-quarter of new jobs expected to be created in Rhode Island during the 2004-2014 projection period will be in Health Care & Social Assistance industries. Sector employment is projected to reach 88,220 jobs, or 15.4% of total private and public sector employment in the Ocean State. This 20.6% rate of growth is well above that expected for all industries in the Ocean State combined (+10.7%).

City & Town Unadjusted Unemployment Rates for December

	2006	2005		2006	2005
Barrington	3.3	3.5	Newport	4.7	5.0
Bristol	4.1	4.0	North Kingstown	3.6	3.8
Burrillville	4.4	4.6	North Providence	4.8	4.6
Central Falls	6.5	7.2	North Smithfield	4.7	3.5
Charlestown	4.4	4.8	Pawtucket	5.5	5.7
Coventry	4.3	4.7	Portsmouth	3.7	4.1
Cranston	4.5	4.7	Providence	5.5	5.9
Cumberland	3.9	4.1	Richmond	2.6	2.8
East Greenwich	4.4	3.8	Scituate	4.3	4.5
East Providence	5.2	5.2	Smithfield	4.0	4.0
Exeter	4.2	4.4	South Kingstown	3.9	4.0
Foster	5.2	5.4	Tiverton	5.0	4.9
Glocester	3.4	3.8	Warren	5.2	4.9
Hopkinton	4.1	4.2	Warwick	4.2	4.2
Jamestown	3.3	3.6	West Greenwich	3.3	3.3
Johnston	5.4	5.1	West Warwick	5.0	5.7
Lincoln	3.8	3.9	Westerly	4.4	4.5
Little Compton	4.6	5.2	Woonsocket	5.3	5.4
Middletown	4.2	4.8			
Narragansett	3.2	3.1	State of R.I.	4.6	4.8
New Shoreham	10.6	12.7	United States	4.3	4.6



DLT's newest report on the Health Care & Social Assistance sector combines past and present employment and wage data (including city/town breakouts) with information on job vacancies and industry and occupational projections - a past, present, and future look at the healthcare workforce in Rhode Island. To view our complete report, visit www.dlt.ri.gov/lmi/publications/healthsocial.htm

Unemployment Insurance Claims Activity

	Dec 2006	Nov 2006	Dec 2005	% Change		Year to Date		
				Nov 06	Dec 05	2006	2005	% Change
Initial Claims	10,031	5,751	10,841	74.4%	-7.5%	76,453	77,799	-1.7%
Number of Payments	42,493	35,804	43,206	18.7%	-1.7%	579,130	601,916	-3.8%
Amount of Payments (gross millions)	\$14.6	\$12.2	\$14.5	19.7%	0.7%	\$192.9	\$196.9	-2.0%
Exhaustions (Final Payments)	1,067	1,020	1,029	4.6%	3.7%	13,867	14,737	-5.9%

Health Care & Social Assistance (HCSA) Employment throughout Rhode Island 2005

	<u>HCSA</u>	Private <u>Sector</u>	HCSA as <u>% of Private</u>	Local HCSA as % of <u>RI HCSA</u>
Rhode Island	72,775	414,907	17.5%	100.0%
Barrington	410	2,314	17.7%	0.6%
Bristol	861	6,398	13.5%	1.2%
Burrillville	494	2,242	22.0%	0.7%
Central Falls	220	2,413	9.1%	0.3%
Charlestown	172	1,398	12.3%	0.2%
Coventry	866	6,371	13.6%	1.2%
Cranston	3,546	29,807	11.9%	4.9%
Cumberland	1,085	8,037	13.5%	1.5%
East Greenwich	1,165	6,653	17.5%	1.6%
East Providence	3,556	20,613	17.3%	4.9%
Exeter	170	1,097	15.5%	0.2%
Foster	54	363	14.9%	0.1%
Glocester	287	1,196	24.0%	0.4%
Hopkinton	176	1,175	15.0%	0.2%
Jamestown	116	978	11.9%	0.2%
Johnston	1,306	11,005	11.9%	1.8%
Lincoln	1,091	12,774	8.5%	1.5%
Little Compton	*	527	*	*
Middletown	1,503	10,291	14.6%	2.1%
Narragansett	343	3,168	10.8%	0.5%
Newport	1,978	12,657	15.6%	2.7%
New Shoreham	*	752	*	*
North Kingstown	1,111	12,678	8.8%	1.5%
North Providence	2,808	7,755	36.2%	3.9%
North Smithfield	781	3,780	20.7%	1.1%
Pawtucket	5,176	24,756	20.9%	7.1%
Portsmouth	393	5,310	7.4%	0.5%
Providence	23,775	96,715	24.6%	32.7%
Richmond	80	1,244	6.4%	0.1%
Scituate	125	1,048	11.9%	0.2%
Smithfield	1,228	11,808	10.4%	1.7%
South Kingstown	2,244	9,839	22.8%	3.1%
Tiverton	298	2,240	13.3%	0.4%
Warren	631	4,185	15.1%	0.9%
Warwick	8,208	48,482	16.9%	11.3%
Westerly	1,917	9,249	20.7%	2.6%
West Greenwich	70	3,939	1.8%	0.1%
West Warwick	811	8,525	9.5%	1.1%
Woonsocket	3,378	13,537	25.0%	4.6%

*Not Disclosed