



Donald L. Carcieri  
Governor  
Adelita S. Orefice  
Director

# Employment Bulletin

Rhode Island  
Department of  
Labor & Training  
1511 Pontiac Ave.  
Cranston, RI 02920  
401-462-8740  
www.dlt.ri.gov/lmi

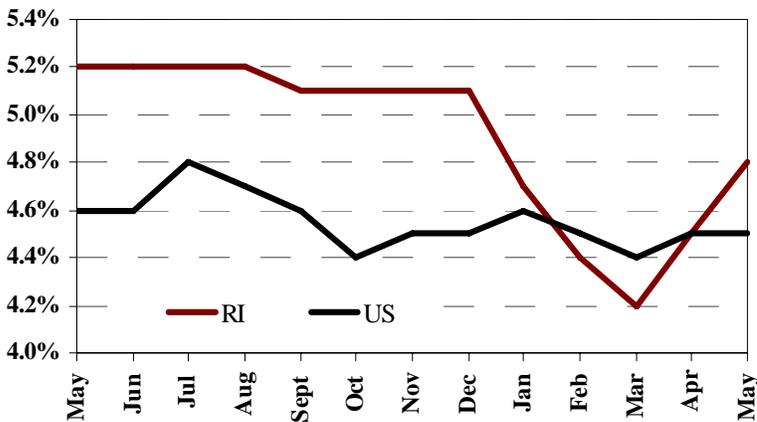
June 2007

## Rhode Island's Unemployment Rate Rises Slightly

Rhode Island's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate crept up to 4.8 percent in May from 4.5 percent in April. This puts Rhode Island's unemployment rate at its highest level this year and three-tenths of a percentage point above the US unemployment rate (4.5%) for May. Compared to last May, the State's jobless rate is down 0.4 of a percentage point.

The number of employed Rhode Island residents grew by 2,100 over the month to 551,900 in May and topped last May's total by 3,700. The number of unemployed residents increased by 1,600 last month to 27,500 in May but remains well below our year ago level of 29,900. Reflecting the monthly gains in employment and unemployment, Rhode Island's total labor force rose by 3,700 from April to May.

RI & US Unemployment Rates  
Seasonally Adjusted 2006-2007



## New Maximum Weekly Benefit Rates for Unemployed Individuals

The RI Department of Labor and Training announces new maximum weekly benefit rates of \$513 for Unemployment Insurance (UI) and \$652 for Temporary Disability Insurance (TDI). The new UI and TDI rates will be in effect for claimants whose benefit years begin on or after July 1, 2007.

### Maximum Benefit Rates 2007

UI - \$513  
TDI - \$652

These new rates reflect an increase of \$21 for

Unemployment Insurance and \$27 for Temporary Disability Insurance. The previous maximum rates were \$492 for UI and \$625 for TDI. Individuals who established claims prior to July 1, 2007 will continue to be paid at their present rate for the duration of their benefit year. A benefit year is the 52-week period that starts once a new claim is filed.

The maximum rate for UI benefits is set at 67 percent of the average weekly wage of workers covered by the Employment Security Act. The average weekly wage paid to workers covered by the Employment Security Act in calendar year 2006 was \$766.94. Sixty-seven percent of that average weekly wage is \$513.85. After rounding down to the next lower dollar amount, the new maximum for Unemployment Insurance will be \$513.

The maximum weekly benefit rate for TDI benefits is set at 85 percent of the average weekly wage paid to workers covered by the Employment Security Act. Accordingly, the new maximum for Temporary Disability Insurance is \$652 (85 percent of \$766.94 rounded to the next highest dollar amount).

## Seasonally Adjusted Labor Force Statistics (in thousands)

	Rhode Island			United States		
	May 07	Apr 07	May 06	May 07	Apr 07	May 06
Civilian Labor Force	579.4	575.7	578.1	152,762	152,587	151,051
Resident Employment	551.9	549.8	548.2	145,943	145,786	144,045
Unemployment	27.5	25.9	29.9	6,819	6,801	7,006
Unemployment Rate	4.8%	4.5%	5.2%	4.5%	4.5%	4.6%

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## May Job Count Remains Stable

The number of jobs in May (498,300) represented a net job gain of 200 from April's revised job count of 498,100. Ocean State employment has grown by 2,400 jobs since the beginning of the year; last year's job gains were 2,000 for the same period.

From April to May of this year, employment gains of 300 each were noted in the Construction, Transportation & Utilities, and Health Care & Social Assistance sectors; gains of 200 each in Retail Trade and Financial Activities; and gains of 100 each in Arts, Entertainment & Recreation and Government. The increase in Construction employment reflects the many construction projects underway throughout the state. Transportation & Utilities was influenced by growth in private transportation companies, while Health Care & Social Assistance employment increased due to gains in ambulatory health care services.

The month's gains were partially offset by job losses reported in Manufacturing (-700), Wholesale Trade (-400), Professional & Business Services (-100), and Accommodation & Food Services (-100). Within the manufacturing sector, job losses were felt most acutely in Non-Durable Goods industries (-500) with job declines reported in Chemical Manufacturing, Textiles and Food Manufacturing. Durable Goods (-200) industries reporting losses included Fabricated Metals (-100) and Computer & Electronics (-100).

Comparing May 2007 with May 2006, Rhode Island jobs were up 6,100, a 1.2 percent increase. The largest annual employment gains occurred in the Professional & Business Services (+1,900); Construction (+1,400); Financial Activities (+1,400); Health Care & Social Assistance (+1,400); and Arts, Entertainment & Recreation (+1,100) sectors. Manufacturing employment experienced the largest over-the-year loss (-2,300) followed by Wholesale Trade (-200), Information (-200), and Government (-100).

### Hours and Earnings

In May 2007, production workers in the Manufacturing sector earned \$13.74 per hour. The average hourly production wage was up 10 cents per hour from April and up 32 cents from a year ago. Manufacturing employees worked an average of 39.6 hours per week in May, up 1.4 hours over the month and up 0.5 of an hour since May 2006.

### Establishment Employment in Rhode Island Seasonally Adjusted

	Employment (in thousands)		Net Change
	May-07	Apr-07	
<b>Total Nonfarm</b>	<b>498.3</b>	<b>498.1</b>	<b>0.2</b>
Natural Resources & Mining	0.3	0.3	0.0
Construction	24.2	23.9	0.3
Manufacturing	50.8	51.5	-0.7
Wholesale Trade*	16.7	17.1	-0.4
Retail Trade	52.3	52.1	0.2
Transportation & Utilities	11.1	10.8	0.3
Information	11.1	11.1	0.0
Financial Activities	36.2	36.0	0.2
Professional & Business Services	58.2	58.3	-0.1
Educational Services	23.1	23.1	0.0
Health Care & Social Assistance	75.6	75.3	0.3
Arts, Entertainment & Recreation	8.6	8.5	0.1
Accommodation & Food Services	42.4	42.5	-0.1
Other Services	23.2	23.2	0.0
Government	64.5	64.4	0.1

\* State Calculated Estimate

### Manufacturing Employment in Rhode Island Not Seasonally Adjusted

	Employment					Production Worker Averages					
	(in thousands)			Net Change From		Weekly Hours			Hourly Earnings		
	May 07	Apr 07	May 06	Apr 07	May 06	May 07	Apr 07	May 06	May 07	Apr 07	May 06
<b>Manufacturing</b>	51.0	51.4	53.2	-400	-2200	39.6	38.2	39.1	13.74	13.64	13.42
<b>Durable Goods</b>	33.2	33.3	34.4	-100	-1200	39.1	37.0	38.8	13.68	13.66	13.43
Fabricated Metal Product Mfg.	7.2	7.3	7.4	-100	-200	40.5	39.6	41.5	12.47	12.11	11.70
Computer & Electronic Product Mfg.	4.7	4.8	4.6	-100	100	33.3	35.7	40.9	14.66	14.71	14.47
Miscellaneous Manufacturing	9.4	9.5	9.8	-100	-400	34.1	32.5	37.1	11.78	12.01	11.28
Jewelry & Silverware	6.7	6.8	6.9	-100	-200	38.0	36.7	38.4	10.46	10.54	10.44
<b>Non-Durable Goods</b>	17.8	18.1	18.8	-300	-1000	40.4	40.2	39.5	13.83	13.60	13.40
Chemical Manufacturing	4.3	4.4	4.6	-100	-300	39.4	37.9	42.9	16.67	16.31	15.35
Plastics & Rubber Products Mfg.	2.7	2.7	2.9	0	-200	44.9	44.7	42.1	14.25	14.09	14.51

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.



## Rhode Island Occupational Wages

The annualized average wage for all workers in Rhode Island was \$40,580 according to the Department of Labor and Training's latest Occupational Employment Statistics survey. The Rhode Island average wage exceeded the national occupational average of \$39,190 by \$1,390 (+3.4%), but trailed the occupational averages in nearby Massachusetts (\$47,340) and Connecticut (\$45,970).

Seventeen occupations in Rhode Island had average annual earnings above \$100,000 according to the survey. Among the best paying jobs in Rhode Island are Internists, Obstetricians & Gynecologists, General Practitioners, Oral Surgeons, and Chief Executives all of which had average wages in excess of \$150,000. Annual wages for Judges, Dentists and Pediatricians averaged in the \$125,000 to \$140,000 range. Ten of the best paying jobs in Rhode Island had average annual wages above the national average with nine occupations earning average wages greater than those earned in Connecticut and Massachusetts. The Rhode Island average salary for Internists, General Practitioners, Psychiatrists, Judges, Physicists and Economics Professors exceeded that earned by these specialties in Connecticut, Massachusetts, and nationally.

Twenty-nine of Rhode Island's fifty highest paying jobs earn average annual wages above the national average with twenty-two occupations earning average wages greater than those earned in Connecticut and eighteen earning average wages greater than the Massachusetts rates. Education is a major factor to securing a high paying job in Rhode Island. Nearly all (46) of the fifty highest paying jobs in the state require a minimum of a bachelor degree with many (18) requiring a professional or doctoral degree. (Continued on Page 4)

### Best Paying Jobs in Rhode Island

Internists	\$177,130
Obstetricians & Gynecologists	\$174,270
Family & General Practitioners	\$170,600
Psychiatrists	\$163,830
Oral & Maxillofacial Surgeons	\$162,600
Chief Executives	\$156,390
Judges, Magistrate Judges, & Magistrates	\$139,780
Dentists	\$136,980
Pediatricians	\$128,670
Engineering Managers	\$105,180
Physicists	\$103,900
Economics Teachers, Postsecondary	\$103,490
General & Operations Managers	\$102,150
Computer & Information Systems Managers	\$102,040
Optometrists	\$101,910
Sales Managers	\$100,600
Air Traffic Controllers	\$100,130

## Characteristics of the Insured Unemployed

In May 2007, 43 percent of Rhode Island's unemployed workers were eligible to collect Unemployment Insurance (UI) benefits. Numbering 11,252 people, these "insured unemployed" accounted for 2.1 percent of the state's total employed (unadjusted). Nearly 34 percent (3,809) of the Ocean State's insured unemployed faced long-term unemployment, defined as collecting unemployment benefits for more than fourteen weeks.

On an industry basis, 18.0 percent (2,020) of the State's insured unemployed workers came from the Manufacturing sector. There were also 1,905 individuals with an attachment to the Construction sector, accounting for 16.9 percent of all insured unemployed workers. An additional 10.0 percent (1,124) of those collecting UI benefits in May had worked in the Retail Trade sector. Large numbers of insured unemployed were also reported in Administrative & Waste Services (1,058), Health Care & Social Assistance (951) and Accommodation & Food Services (728). For more information, go to [www.dlt.ri.gov/lmi/uiadmin/characteristics.htm](http://www.dlt.ri.gov/lmi/uiadmin/characteristics.htm).

### Characteristics of the Insured Unemployed, May 2007

	Total	Long-Term	Percent Long-Term
<b>Total</b>	<b>11,252</b>	<b>3,809</b>	<b>33.9%</b>
Male	6,417	2,210	34.4%
Female	4,835	1,599	33.1%
<b>Selected Industries</b>	<b>11,252</b>	<b>3,809</b>	<b>33.9%</b>
Construction	1,905	640	33.6%
Manufacturing	2,020	652	32.3%
Wholesale Trade	421	170	40.4%
Retail Trade	1,124	385	34.3%
Transportation & Warehousing	307	89	29.0%
Information	154	55	35.7%
Finance & Insurance	660	236	35.8%
Real Estate	173	69	39.9%
Professional & Tech. Services	514	129	25.1%
Administrative & Waste Services	1,058	338	31.9%
Educational Services	176	65	36.9%
Health Care & Social Assistance	951	295	31.0%
Arts, Entertainment & Recreation	157	61	38.9%
Accommodation & Food Services	728	283	38.9%
Other Services	346	135	39.0%
Public Administration	110	54	49.1%

### Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers

				% Change
	May 07	Apr 07	May 06	Prev. Year
All Items	207.9	206.7	202.5	2.7%

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

### Rhode Island Occupational Wages

(Continued from Page 3)

Rhode Island's average occupational wage exceeded the national average by 3.4 percent. A total of 329 occupations in the state had average wages that exceeded the corresponding national average wage for the same occupation. The Rhode Island average wage for Pipefitters (\$50,700) was 50 percent higher than the occupation's national average (\$33,710). The average wages for Rhode Island based Judges and Cement Masons also exceeded the national average for these occupations by more than 40 percent. Conversely, Medical Appliance Technicians and Airline Pilots & Flight Engineers earned over 40 percent less than the national averages. In all, the Rhode Island average annual wages for 202 occupations were below the corresponding national wages.

The department's survey also showed nearly fifteen percent of all Rhode Island workers were employed as either Retail Salespersons, Cashiers, Office Clerks, Wait Staff, or Registered Nurses. The average wage paid to employees in these occupations exceeded the national average wage for the corresponding occupation, but trailed wages in Massachusetts and Connecticut.

Of the fifty most commonly found occupations in the state, forty-four had average annual wages that exceed the corresponding national average, while five - Food Preparation & Serving Workers, Food Preparation Supervisors, Teacher Aides, Home Health Aides and Security Guards - had higher average wages in Rhode Island than in Massachusetts.

The Rhode Island Department of Labor and Training provides wage rates for over 500 occupations. Wage rates, which are available on the Department's website at: [www.dlt.state.ri.us/lmi/oes.htm](http://www.dlt.state.ri.us/lmi/oes.htm) are based on a survey of 2,200 Rhode Island employers and are updated each year.

### City & Town Unadjusted Unemployment Rates for May

	2007	2006		2007	2006
Barrington	3.5	3.8	Newport	3.8	4.4
Bristol	4.0	4.3	North Kingstown	3.5	4.1
Burrillville	4.0	4.7	North Providence	4.4	4.9
Central Falls	6.4	7.2	North Smithfield	4.4	4.3
Charlestown	4.0	4.6	Pawtucket	5.4	6.3
Coventry	4.1	4.4	Portsmouth	3.6	3.7
Cranston	4.7	5.4	Providence	5.7	6.5
Cumberland	3.9	4.4	Richmond	2.8	3.7
East Greenwich	4.0	4.2	Scituate	4.5	4.5
East Providence	4.9	5.1	Smithfield	3.6	4.3
Exeter	4.0	3.8	South Kingstown	3.7	3.8
Foster	5.3	4.9	Tiverton	4.5	4.3
Glocester	3.6	3.8	Warren	4.2	4.5
Hopkinton	4.1	4.1	Warwick	4.2	4.9
Jamestown	3.3	3.3	West Greenwich	4.2	3.9
Johnston	4.9	5.3	West Warwick	4.7	5.4
Lincoln	3.9	4.3	Westerly	3.8	4.3
Little Compton	3.5	3.9	Woonsocket	5.4	5.4
Middletown	3.9	4.2			
Narragansett	3.0	3.3	State of R.I.	4.5	5.0
New Shoreham	5.6	6.4	United States	4.3	4.4

### Statistical & Fiscal Digest

The *Statistical and Fiscal Digest* is published annually by the Rhode Island Department of Labor and Training's Labor Market Information Unit - the centralized state resource for the collection, analysis and dissemination of data pertaining to employment statistics in Rhode Island. DLT's primary function is the protection and advancement of the Rhode Island workforce. In order to fulfill its mission, the Department administers a variety of programs including temporary income support, reemployment services and occupational safety enforcement.

This digest contains summaries of funding sources and expenditures, as well as detailed activity reports for nearly all Department programs. A number of selected tables showing labor force, employment, unemployment and wage data are also included.

To view and print tables from the Digest, visit the LMI web site at: [www.dlt.ri.gov/lmi/publications/sfdigest.htm](http://www.dlt.ri.gov/lmi/publications/sfdigest.htm)

### Unemployment Insurance Claims Activity

	May	Apr	May	% Change		Year to Date		
	2007	2007	2006	Apr 07	May 06	2007	2006	% Change
Initial Claims	4,836	6,959	4,845	-30.5%	-0.2%	35,408	33,056	7.1%
Number of Payments	43,721	61,272	45,256	-28.6%	-3.4%	304,324	285,306	6.7%
Amount of Payments (gross millions)	\$15.3	\$21.2	\$15.2	-27.8%	0.7%	\$106.2	\$96.2	10.4%
Exhaustions (Final Payments)	1,303	1,584	1,335	-17.7%	-2.4%	6,666	6,505	2.5%

**R.I. DEPARTMENT OF LABOR AND TRAINING**  
**2007 UI AND TDI QUICK REFERENCE**  
(Effective July 1, 2007)

	<b>UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE</b>	<b>TEMPORARY DISABILITY INSURANCE</b>
<b>TAXABLE WAGE BASE</b>	\$14,000	\$52,100
<b>TAX SCHEDULES/TAX RATES</b> Employment Security Job Development Assessment (JDA)	Schedule I: 1.90% to 10.0% 1.69% to 9.79% 0.21%	1.3% Deducted from Employee's Wages
<b>NEW EMPLOYER RATE</b>	2.41% (+0.21%JDA)	NONE (Employee Tax)
<b>EMPLOYEE WAGE DEDUCTION</b>	NONE (employer payroll tax)	1.3% of first \$52,100 earned
<b>WAITING PERIOD</b>	7 days	7 days (paid retroactively if customer out for 28 consecutive days or more)
<b>BASE PERIOD</b>	The first four of the last five completed calendar quarters prior to claim; or last 4 completed quarters if needed to meet minimum earnings requirement.	
<b>ELIGIBILITY - MONETARY</b> Based on a Minimum Wage of \$7.40/hour.	\$8,880 in base period wages; or \$1,480 in one of the base period quarters and total base period wages of at least 1.5 times the highest quarter earnings, and total base period earnings of at least \$2,960.	
<b>ELIGIBILITY - NONMONETARY</b>	Worked for a subject employer and unemployed through no fault.	Worked for a subject employer and have medically certified disability.
<b>WEEKLY BENEFIT RATE</b>	4.62% of total high quarter wages in base period.	
<b>MIN. WEEKLY BENEFIT AMOUNT</b>	\$68 per week	\$69 per week
<b>MAX. WEEKLY BENEFIT AMOUNT</b>	\$513 per week	\$652 per week
<b>DEPENDENT'S ALLOWANCE</b>	Greater of \$10 or 5% of weekly benefit rate (up to 5 depts.)	Greater of \$10 or 7% of weekly benefit rate (up to 5 depts.)
<b>MAX. WEEKLY BENEFIT AMOUNT WITH MAX. 5 DEPENDENTS</b>	\$641 per week	\$880 per week
<b>MAXIMUM DURATION</b>	26 weeks	30 weeks
<b>REASONS FOR DENIAL OF BENEFITS</b>	Quit without good cause; fired for misconduct; refusal of suitable work; labor dispute (except lock-out); insufficient earnings in base period.	No medical certification; insufficient earnings in the base period. Receipt of unemployment or workers' compensation benefits.
<b>BENEFIT APPLICATIONS</b>	Call (401) 243-9100 to file.	Call (401) 462-8420 for application