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Employment Bulletin

Rhode Island
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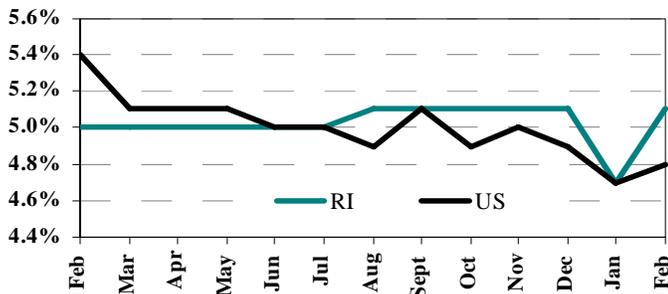
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www.dlt.ri.gov/lmi

The Unemployment Rate Edges Up in February

Rhode Island's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate for February was 5.1 percent. The February jobless rate is up 0.4 of a percentage point from January's estimate of 4.7 percent. The number of unemployed Rhode Island residents increased by 1,800 over the month to 29,000 in February. A year ago, the jobless level was 28,300 and the State's unemployment rate stood at 5.0 percent. Nationally, the unemployment rate for February inched up 0.1 of a percentage point to 4.8 percent. Compared to last year, the national jobless rate is down 0.6 of a percentage point. Rhode Island's unemployment rate for February was above the national average.

RI & US Unemployment Rates
Seasonally Adjusted 2005 - 2006



Business Expo 2006

The 17th Annual Business Expo will take place on May 2 & 3 at the Rhode Island Convention Center with a theme of "Destination Innovation."

Highlighting this year's show will be a keynote address by Christiane Amanpour, chief international correspondent for CNN.

Joining Amanpour on the speaking roster will be Richard L. Bready, chairman and chief executive officer of Nortek, who will deliver the keynote address at this year's Economic Outlook Luncheon on Wednesday, May 3.

The Expo will also feature close to 400 exhibitors, representing nearly every industry in Rhode Island.

Business Expo 2006 is sponsored by the Greater Providence Chamber of Commerce, Bank of America, The Providence Journal Company, Cox Business Services and Verizon. For more information call (401) 521-5000.

Workplace Violence Seminar - "Reducing the Odds"

Approximately 2 million American workers are victims of workplace violence each year. Employers must take reasonable steps to prevent or abate a recognized violence hazard. This RI Workers' Compensation Education Unit's seminar includes representatives from the US Immigration & Customs Enforcement/Dept. of Homeland Security, US Dept. of Labor/OSHA, RI State Police and Cox Communications. Attend this free seminar to hear information on identifying the risk factors associated with workplace violence, developing a written workplace violence policy for your employees and visitors to your business, and effectively educating all levels of your workforce.

June 21, 2006

9:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon

Registration 8:30 a.m.

Lombardi's 1025 Banquet Restaurant
1025 Plainfield St. Johnston, RI

To download a registration form and to view upcoming seminars, visit:

www.dlt.ri.gov/wc/edunitseminars.htm

Seasonally Adjusted Labor Force Statistics (in thousands)

	Rhode Island			United States		
	Feb 06	Jan 06	Feb 05	Feb 06	Jan 06	Feb 05
Civilian Labor Force	574.9	574.2	564.5	150,449	150,114	148,271
Resident Employment	545.9	547.0	536.2	143,257	143,074	140,285
Unemployment	29.0	27.2	28.3	7,193	7,040	7,986
Unemployment Rate	5.1%	4.7%	5.0%	4.8%	4.7%	5.4%

Rhode Island Employers Add Jobs in February

The Rhode Island job count (seasonally adjusted) was up 2,100 (+0.4%) in February, the largest over-the-month increase since May 2004. Following two consecutive months of job losses, employment in the state rebounded due to gains in several economic sectors, bringing the February job total to 492,900. The largest employment gains were reflected in Educational & Health Services (+1,100), Trade, Transportation & Utilities (+500), Professional & Business Services (+500) and Financial Activities (+400). Small monthly losses were noted in Manufacturing (-200) and Leisure & Hospitality (-100).

“The February jobs report is very encouraging as Rhode Island businesses added 2,100 jobs over the month. With increases reported in most major industry sectors, this is the largest monthly job gain in the last 21 months,” said DLT Director Adelita S. Orefice. “The improvement in the job market provides a lift to individuals entering the labor force looking for work. We’re hopeful that this momentum will continue over the next several months.”

Educational & Health Services added 1,100 jobs, due to the return of student workers and staff at local colleges and universities following the winter recess. Trade, Transportation & Utilities posted a gain of 500 jobs, the first over-the-month increase since August 2005. Increased employment in Professional & Business Services is the result of a gain in Professional, Scientific & Technical jobs. The gain in Financial Activities is attributed to increases in Insurance Carriers & Related Activities.

Over the year, total employment was up 2,600 (+0.5%) from the 490,300 jobs reported in February 2005. Most of the increase was in the private sector (+2,500) with Government employment adding 100 jobs. The largest gains occurred in the Educational & Health Services (+2,300), Professional & Business Services (+2,100), Financial Activities (+1,500), and Construction (+1,300) sectors, offsetting over-the-year losses in Manufacturing (-2,200), Leisure & Hospitality (-900), Trade, Transportation & Utilities (-600), and Other Services (-600).

Establishment Employment in Rhode Island Seasonally Adjusted

	Employment (in thousands)		Net Change
	Feb 06	Jan 06	
Total Nonfarm	492.9	490.8	2.1
Construction	22.8	22.6	0.2
Manufacturing	53.8	54.0	-0.2
Trade, Transportation & Utilities	79.7	79.2	0.5
Financial Activities	35.5	35.1	0.4
Professional & Business Services	56.8	56.3	0.5
Educational & Health Services	96.3	95.2	1.1
Leisure and Hospitality	49.8	49.9	-0.1
Other Services	22.8	22.6	0.2
Government	65.2	65.0	0.2

Manufacturing Employment in Rhode Island Not Seasonally Adjusted

	Employment					Production Worker Averages					
	(in thousands)		Net Change From:			Weekly Hours			Hourly Earnings		
	Feb 06	Jan 06	Feb 05	Jan 06	Feb 05	Feb 06	Jan 06	Feb 05	Feb 06	Jan 06	Feb 05
Manufacturing	53.8	53.7	55.7	100	-1900	38.6	38.4	37.9	13.30	13.31	13.00
Durable Goods	35.8	35.5	36.7	300	-900	39.0	38.1	38.8	13.27	13.32	13.00
Fabricated Metal Product Mfg.	7.7	7.6	7.9	100	-200	41.6	40.3	37.5	11.79	11.70	11.76
Computer & Electronic Product Mfg.	4.8	4.7	4.9	100	-100	40.6	42.1	39.5	14.31	14.31	14.00
Miscellaneous Manufacturing	10.0	10.1	10.6	-100	-600	38.1	37.2	38.5	11.10	11.17	10.91
Jewelry and Silverware	6.9	7.0	7.5	-100	-600	39.0	38.0	37.5	10.35	10.42	10.23
Non-Durable Goods	18.0	18.2	19.0	-200	-1000	37.8	38.8	36.2	13.37	13.30	13.00
Chemical Manufacturing	4.1	4.1	4.2	0	-100	42.5	41.5	40.0	15.45	15.37	15.30
Plastics & Rubber Products Mfg.	2.8	2.8	3.0	0	-200	40.7	42.0	38.6	14.70	14.78	14.65

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 February 2006, approximately 48 percent of Rhode Island's unemployed workers were eligible to collect Unemployment Insurance benefits. Numbering 16,321 people, these "insured unemployed" accounted for 3.4 percent of the state's establishment employment (unadjusted). Nearly 18 percent (2,862) 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 (4,443) of the people receiving Unemployment Insurance benefits were between the ages of 35 and 44, while an additional 24 percent (3,903) 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 25 percent of all insured unemployed workers 60 years and older had been collecting benefits for at least fourteen weeks, whereas 12 percent of those under 22 years of age and 14 percent of 22 to 24 year olds were considered long-term unemployed.

In February, approximately 49 percent (7,935) of those collecting Unemployment Insurance benefits had just a high school diploma. An additional 3,122 people (19.1%) had less than a high school diploma, while 12.8 percent (2,090) of the insured unemployed had at least a bachelor's degree. The highest rates of long-term unemployment were noted among those with some college education. For instance, roughly 21 percent of insured unemployed workers with at least a Bachelor's degree had been collecting benefits for a minimum of fourteen weeks, while 12 percent of those with less than a high school diploma were considered long-term unemployed.

Partially due to the onset of colder weather, 21.7 percent (3,535) of the state's insured unemployed workers came from the Construction sector. There were also 2,458 individuals with an attachment to the Administrative & Waste Services sector, accounting for 15.1 percent of all insured unemployed workers. Nearly 14 percent (2,236) of those collecting Unemployment Insurance benefits in February had worked in the Manufacturing sector. Large numbers of insured unemployed were also reported in Accommodation & Food Services (1,353) and Retail Trade (1,279).

Those previously employed in Construction & Extraction occupations accounted for 12 percent (1,986) of the state's insured unemployed. A large number of workers previously employed in Production (1,977), Office & Administrative Support (1,923) and Building & Grounds Cleaning & Maintenance (1,513) occupations also collected Unemployment Insurance benefits in February. Numerous occupational groups reported concentrations of long-term unemployment above the state average, including Legal (43.2%), Community & Social Services (41.8%), Computer & Mathematical (41.3%), Healthcare Practitioner & Technical (40.8%) and Education, Training & Library (36.2%).

Characteristics of the Insured Unemployed, February 2006

	Total	Long-Term	Percent Long-Term
Total	16,321	2,862	17.5%
Male	10,622	1,512	14.2%
Female	5,699	1,350	23.7%
Age	16,321	2,862	17.5%
Under 22	586	71	12.1%
22 - 24	1,027	146	14.2%
25 - 34	3,573	627	17.5%
35 - 44	4,443	727	16.4%
45 - 54	3,903	686	17.6%
55 - 59	1,351	249	18.4%
60 - 64	799	165	20.7%
65 or over	639	191	29.9%
Education	16,321	2,862	17.5%
Less than 9th Grade	1,020	105	10.3%
9th to 12th, no diploma	2,102	273	13.0%
High School Graduate	7,935	1,339	16.9%
Some College	2,770	639	23.1%
Bachelor's Degree	1,424	342	24.0%
Beyond Bachelor's	666	98	14.7%
Selected Industries	16,321	2,862	17.5%
Construction	3,535	223	6.3%
Manufacturing	2,236	561	25.1%
Wholesale Trade	545	130	23.9%
Retail Trade	1,279	293	22.9%
Transportation & Warehousing	398	73	18.3%
Information	232	40	17.2%
Finance & Insurance	569	176	30.9%
Real Estate	233	55	23.6%
Professional & Tech. Services	456	100	21.9%
Administrative & Waste Services	2,458	233	9.5%
Educational Services	161	45	28.0%
Health Care & Social Assistance	775	255	32.9%
Arts, Entertainment & Recreation	720	80	11.1%
Accommodation & Food Services	1,353	296	21.9%
Other Services	446	150	33.6%
Public Administration	110	37	33.6%
Selected Occupations	16,321	2,862	17.5%
Business & Financial Operations	322	77	23.9%
Computer & Mathematical	138	57	41.3%
Architecture & Engineering	137	26	19.0%
Life, Physical & Social Science	55	13	23.6%
Community & Social Services	79	33	41.8%
Legal	44	19	43.2%
Education, Training & Library	138	50	36.2%
Arts, Design, Ent., Sports & Media	168	45	26.8%
Healthcare Practitioner & Technical	142	58	40.8%
Healthcare Support	218	64	29.4%
Protective Service	115	31	27.0%
Food Preparation & Serving Related	1,008	203	20.1%
Bldg. & Grounds Cleaning & Maint.	1,513	84	5.6%
Personal Care & Service	174	33	19.0%
Sales & Related	758	176	23.2%
Office & Administrative Support	1,923	468	24.3%
Construction & Extraction	1,986	141	7.1%
Installation, Maintenance & Repair	607	136	22.4%
Production	1,977	368	18.6%
Transportation & Material Moving	1,213	182	15.0%

Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers

				% Change
	Feb 06	Jan 06	Feb 05	Prev. Year
All Items	198.7	198.3	191.8	3.6%

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

City & Town Employment Analysis

Rhode Island establishments employed a total of 479,634 workers in the third quarter of 2005, an increase of 2,281 (+0.5%) jobs from the third quarter of 2004. The Private sector accounted for the entire job gain, overshadowing the Government sector loss of 1,384 (-2.4%) positions. Local government (-792) experienced the largest decline in government employment, followed by the State (-517) and Federal (-75) segments.

Warwick added 1,279 (+2.7%) private sector jobs between the third quarter of 2004 and third quarter of 2005, the largest gain among Rhode Island's thirty-nine cities and towns. Within the city, employment gains were noted in the Health Care & Social Assistance (+477), Management of Companies & Enterprises (+440) and Retail Trade (+437) sectors.

Providence experienced the second largest employment increase, adding 784 (+0.8%) private sector jobs from the third quarter of 2004. The Education and Construction sectors added 323 and 318 jobs, respectively, while modest gains were posted in the Health Care & Social Assistance (+219) sector. The towns of Cumberland (+723), South Kingstown (+693) and North Kingstown (+679) also reported sizable employment growth.

Pawtucket reported a loss of 1,035 (-4.0%) private sector positions between the third quarter of 2004 and third quarter of 2005, the largest decline among all Rhode Island communities. Manufacturing employment dropped by over 600 jobs from the third quarter 2004, while the Information sector lost 315 positions. Job losses were also reported in Central Falls (-188), Charlestown (-179) and Narragansett (-177).

Private sector employees earned over \$3.8 billion in wages during the third quarter of 2005, an increase of \$180 million (+4.9%) from the third quarter of 2004. The average weekly wage in the private sector increased by \$27, from \$675 to \$702, a 4.0 percent increase from the third quarter of 2004.

Employees working in West Greenwich earned an average weekly wage of \$1,355 in the third quarter of 2005, the largest private sector wage among all Rhode Island cities and towns. Portsmouth (\$869), Providence (\$787), Lincoln (\$755) and North Kingstown (\$736) also reported sizable weekly earnings. *Quarterly bonuses and exercised stock options are included in the calculation and, therefore, may impact the average weekly wage.*

City & Town Unadjusted Unemployment Rates for February

	2006	2005		2006	2005
Barrington	3.9	3.3	Newport	6.9	6.7
Bristol	5.4	5.0	North Kingstown	4.8	4.9
Burrillville	6.1	5.7	North Providence	5.5	5.2
Central Falls	8.2	8.0	North Smithfield	5.0	5.1
Charlestown	6.3	5.9	Pawtucket	6.6	6.7
Coventry	5.8	5.5	Portsmouth	5.3	4.8
Cranston	5.5	5.4	Providence	6.9	6.3
Cumberland	5.3	5.4	Richmond	4.3	3.8
East Greenwich	4.7	4.9	Scituate	6.3	5.9
East Providence	6.4	6.2	Smithfield	5.0	4.8
Exeter	6.2	5.6	South Kingstown	5.2	5.2
Foster	7.9	7.1	Tiverton	6.7	7.1
Glocester	5.2	4.7	Warren	6.7	6.1
Hopkinton	6.3	5.9	Warwick	5.2	5.1
Jamestown	4.5	4.8	West Greenwich	4.8	5.5
Johnston	6.8	6.4	West Warwick	6.9	6.8
Lincoln	4.8	4.7	Westerly	6.1	5.5
Little Compton	6.1	6.0	Woonsocket	6.7	6.5
Middletown	6.2	6.1			
Narragansett	3.9	4.1	State of R.I.	6.0	5.7
New Shoreham	14.5	15.5	United States	5.1	5.8

Unemployment Insurance Claims Activity

	Feb	Jan	Feb	% Change		Year to Date		
	2006	2006	2005	Jan 06	Feb 05	2006	2005	% Change
Initial Claims	7,267	9,815	7,634	-26.0%	-4.8%	17,082	17,424	-2.0%
Number of Payments	63,088	69,821	66,697	-9.6%	-5.4%	132,909	137,488	-3.3%
Amount of Payments (gross millions)	\$21.4	\$23.4	\$22.3	-8.5%	-4.0%	\$44.8	\$45.6	-1.8%
Exhaustions (Final Payments)	1,157	1,441	1,166	-19.7%	-0.8%	2,598	2,681	-3.1%
Employment Security Fund (millions)	\$164.6	\$165.6	\$155.3	-0.6%	6.0%			

Rhode Island Department of Labor & Training
Quarterly Census of Employment & Wages - Private Sector
RI City and Town - Third Quarter 2005

<u>Municipality</u>	<u>Establishments</u>	<u>Average Employment</u>	<u>Total Wages</u>	<u>Average Weekly Wage</u>
Rhode Island	35,149	422,376	\$3,854,621,594	\$702
Barrington	446	2,324	16,155,689	\$535
Bristol	590	6,645	52,510,868	\$608
Burrillville	299	2,292	16,124,867	\$541
Central Falls	255	2,388	17,109,335	\$551
Charlestown	232	1,439	11,371,124	\$608
Coventry	733	6,451	48,459,319	\$578
Cranston	2,546	29,847	259,403,470	\$669
Cumberland	843	8,234	70,410,678	\$658
East Greenwich	723	6,762	62,458,631	\$711
East Providence	1,520	20,590	193,025,308	\$721
Exeter	1,122	1,122	7,649,004	\$524
Foster	101	399	2,334,293	\$450
Glocester	201	1,223	9,104,032	\$573
Hopkinton	178	1,188	9,016,806	\$584
Jamestown	196	1,116	8,425,039	\$581
Johnston	1,128	11,232	96,310,414	\$660
Lincoln	757	12,725	124,898,159	\$755
Little Compton	125	663	3,979,210	\$462
Middletown	770	10,706	97,583,573	\$701
Narragansett	475	3,833	23,302,927	\$468
Newport	1,259	14,026	107,128,851	\$588
New Shoreham	191	1,343	10,078,326	\$577
North Kingstown	1,012	12,913	123,489,118	\$736
North Providence	750	7,738	58,700,725	\$584
North Smithfield	363	3,813	30,552,613	\$616
Pawtucket	1,582	24,998	213,952,266	\$658
Portsmouth	488	5,459	61,646,940	\$869
Providence	5,655	97,400	995,970,791	\$787
Richmond	141	1,356	9,041,866	\$513
Scituate	263	1,111	7,197,972	\$498
Smithfield	788	11,954	110,865,604	\$713
South Kingstown	996	10,036	88,671,783	\$680
Tiverton	400	2,306	17,046,783	\$569
Warren	384	4,272	32,288,922	\$581
Warwick	3,317	48,931	417,739,837	\$657
Westerly	580	10,064	73,650,455	\$563
West Greenwich	211	3,990	70,296,171	\$1,355
West Warwick	610	8,511	75,338,337	\$681
Woonsocket	862	13,567	126,678,343	\$718
Statewide *	2,842	7,408	\$94,653,145	\$983

* Statewide - employment in multiple towns, at unknown locations, or outside RI.

Data compiled March 14, 2006 at the RI DLT Labor Market Information office.

The data is subject to revisions & variations in sequences of rounding & averaging.