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# Employment Bulletin

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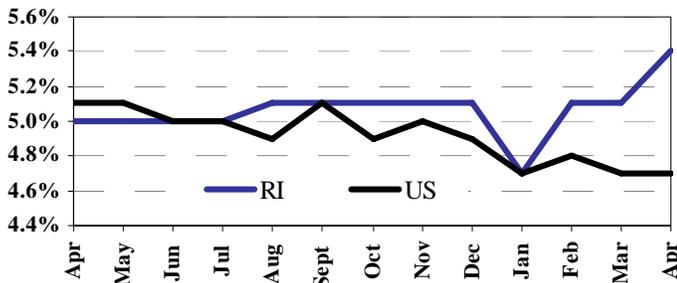
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[www.dlt.ri.gov/lmi](http://www.dlt.ri.gov/lmi)

## Rhode Island's Unemployment Rate Increases in April

Rhode Island's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate for April was 5.4 percent, reflecting a gain of 0.3 of a percentage point from March. The number of unemployed Rhode Island residents increased by 1,800 over the month to 31,100 in April, while the number of employed residents grew by 2,000. A year ago, the jobless level was 28,400 and the State's unemployment rate stood at 5.0 percent. Nationally, the unemployment rate for April held steady at 4.7 percent. Compared to last year, the national jobless rate is down 0.4 of a percentage point. Rhode Island's unemployment rate for April remained above the national average.

RI & US Unemployment Rates  
Seasonally Adjusted 2005 - 2006



## 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. 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)

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

	Rhode Island			United States		
	Apr 06	Mar 06	Apr 05	Apr 06	Mar 06	Apr 05
Civilian Labor Force	578.4	574.6	567.5	150,811	150,652	148,839
Resident Employment	547.3	545.3	539.1	143,688	143,641	141,196
Unemployment	31.1	29.3	28.4	7,123	7,011	7,644
Unemployment Rate	5.4%	5.1%	5.0%	4.7%	4.7%	5.1%

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## Rhode Island Employer Handbook

The Employer Handbook explains the rights and responsibilities of employers whose workers are covered by the Rhode Island Employment Security, Temporary Disability Insurance and Workers' Compensation Act. It is meant to help those who are responsible for personnel and payroll records. To download the Employer Handbook, visit [www.dlt.ri.gov/lmi/publications/handbook.htm](http://www.dlt.ri.gov/lmi/publications/handbook.htm).

## Rhode Island Career Navigator

Career management knowledge and skills should be part of the "tool kit" of every person. The Rhode Island Career Navigator was developed to help provide this knowledge and skills to middle/junior high school students. It is based on the National Career Development Guidelines, the Standards of the American School Counselor Association (ASCA), and the Regulations of the RI Board of Regents for Elementary and Secondary Education. This publication may be used as a resource in career-oriented classes, in advisories, or as a school or organization can best make use of it. It is also a useful guide for parents. To download the Career Navigator, visit [www.dlt.state.ri.us/lmi/crn/navigator.htm](http://www.dlt.state.ri.us/lmi/crn/navigator.htm).

## Job Count in Rhode Island Reaches an All-Time High in April

Jobs at Rhode Island businesses reached an all-time high as employment increased by 1,800 (+0.4%) last month, bringing the April job count to 495,000 (seasonally adjusted). Trade, Transportation & Utilities (+900) reported the largest job gain over the month, followed by Professional & Business Services (+400), Construction (+300), Financial Activities (+300) and Government (+100). Job losses were noted in Manufacturing (-400), Educational & Health Services (-300) and Leisure & Hospitality (-100). Other Services employment remained unchanged over the month.

“The number of jobs in Rhode Island increased for the third straight month, reaching a record-high level of 495,000 in April. I am particularly pleased that the overall job growth trend continues to be so strong,” said DLT Director Adelita S. Orefice. “Since job growth numbers will always go up and down on a monthly basis, we must keep in mind that the overall trend is what counts. In Rhode Island, that job growth trend has been very positive, and we are confident that we will continue to grow jobs in the Ocean State.”

The increase of 900 jobs in the Trade, Transportation & Utilities sector is mainly due to above-average gains in Retail Trade and Transportation & Warehousing. Professional & Business Services experienced a monthly increase of 400 workers, reflecting increased employment in Administrative & Waste Services. Employment gains in Specialty Trade Contractors pushed Construction employment to an all-time high of 23,000 workers in the state.

Over the year, total employment was up 3,300 (+0.7%) from the 491,700 jobs reported in April 2005. Annual employment growth occurred in the Educational & Health Services (+1,800), Professional & Business Services (+1,600), Financial Activities (+1,500), Construction (+1,200), Trade, Transportation & Utilities (+400), and Government (+100) sectors, offsetting over-the-year losses in Manufacturing (-2,200), Other Services (-700), and Leisure & Hospitality (-400).

### Establishment Employment in Rhode Island Seasonally Adjusted

	Employment (in thousands)		Net Change
	Apr 06	Mar 06	
Total Nonfarm	495.0	493.2	1.8
Construction	23.0	22.7	0.3
Manufacturing	53.4	53.8	-0.4
Trade, Transportation & Utilities	80.9	80.0	0.9
Financial Activities	35.9	35.6	0.3
Professional & Business Services	56.6	56.2	0.4
Educational & Health Services	96.3	96.6	-0.3
Leisure & Hospitality	50.1	50.2	-0.1
Other Services	22.7	22.7	0.0
Government	65.1	65.0	0.1

### Manufacturing Employment in Rhode Island Not Seasonally Adjusted

	Employment					Production Worker Averages					
	(in thousands)		Net Change From:			Weekly Hours			Hourly Earnings		
	Apr 06	Mar 06	Apr 05	Mar 06	Apr 05	Apr 06	Mar 06	Apr 05	Apr 06	Mar 06	Apr 05
<b>Manufacturing</b>	53.5	53.8	55.5	-300	-2000	37.6	38.6	38.4	13.52	13.46	13.04
<b>Durable Goods</b>	35.7	35.7	36.4	0	-700	37.4	38.4	38.9	13.55	13.43	13.00
Fabricated Metal Product Mfg.	7.6	7.6	7.8	0	-200	39.9	41.4	39.1	11.82	11.70	11.78
Computer & Electronic Product Mfg.	4.7	4.7	4.8	0	-100	39.5	40.0	39.4	14.35	14.25	13.98
Miscellaneous Manufacturing	9.9	10.0	10.5	-100	-600	37.0	37.0	37.6	11.17	11.22	11.00
Jewelry and Silverware	6.8	6.9	7.5	-100	-700	37.4	38.0	37.0	10.39	10.47	10.32
<b>Non-Durable Goods</b>	17.8	18.1	19.1	-300	-1300	38.0	39.0	37.4	13.46	13.52	13.12
Chemical Manufacturing	4.2	4.2	4.3	0	-100	41.5	43.2	40.3	15.50	15.40	15.41
Plastics & Rubber Products Mfg.	2.7	2.8	3.0	-100	-300	40.0	42.0	38.4	14.50	14.62	14.74

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 April 2006, approximately 38 percent of Rhode Island's unemployed workers were eligible to collect Unemployment Insurance benefits. Numbering 11,475 people, these "insured unemployed" accounted for 2.3 percent of the state's establishment employment (unadjusted). More than 30 percent (3,464) of the Ocean State's insured unemployed faced long-term unemployment, defined as collecting unemployment benefits for more than fourteen weeks.

Just over 27 percent (3,130) of the people receiving Unemployment Insurance benefits were between the ages of 35 and 44, while an additional 24 percent (2,778) 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 40 percent of all insured unemployed workers 60 years and older had been collecting benefits for at least fourteen weeks, whereas 24 percent of those under 22 years of age and 25 percent of 22 to 24 year olds were considered long-term unemployed.

In April, nearly 47 percent (5,362) of those collecting Unemployment Insurance benefits had just a high school diploma. An additional 2,016 people (17.6%) had less than a high school diploma, while 14.7 percent (1,686) of the insured unemployed had at least a bachelor's degree. Roughly 30 percent of insured unemployed workers with at least a Bachelor's degree had been collecting benefits for a minimum of fourteen weeks, while 30 percent of those with less than a high school diploma were also considered long-term unemployed.

On an industry basis, more than 17 percent (1,969) of the state's insured unemployed workers came from the Manufacturing sector. There were also 1,921 individuals with an attachment to the Construction sector, accounting for 16.7 percent of all insured unemployed workers. An additional 10 percent (1,169) of those collecting Unemployment Insurance benefits in April had worked in the Administrative & Waste Services sector. Large numbers of insured unemployed were also reported in Retail Trade (1,089), Accommodation & Food Services (912) and Healthcare & Social Assistance (840).

Those previously employed in Office & Administrative Support occupations accounted for 15.7 percent (1,802) of the state's insured unemployed. A large number of workers previously employed in Production (1,662), Construction & Extraction (1,020) and Transportation & Material Moving (888) occupations also collected Unemployment Insurance benefits in April. Numerous occupational groups reported concentrations of long-term unemployment above the state average, including Building & Grounds Cleaning & Maintenance (46.7%), Protective Service (40.4%), Education, Training & Library (35.2%) and Healthcare Practitioner & Technical (33.6%).

Characteristics of the Insured Unemployed, April 2006

	Total	Long-Term	Percent Long-Term
<b>Total</b>	<b>11,475</b>	<b>3,464</b>	<b>30.2%</b>
Male	6,498	1,985	30.5%
Female	4,977	1,479	29.7%
<b>Age</b>	<b>11,475</b>	<b>3,464</b>	<b>30.2%</b>
Under 22	355	86	24.2%
22 - 24	612	152	24.8%
25 - 34	2,425	725	29.9%
35 - 44	3,130	931	29.7%
45 - 54	2,778	818	29.4%
55 - 59	1,055	308	29.2%
60 - 64	634	210	33.1%
65 or over	486	234	48.1%
<b>Education</b>	<b>11,475</b>	<b>3,464</b>	<b>30.2%</b>
Less than 9th Grade	656	175	26.7%
9th to 12th, no diploma	1,360	428	31.5%
High School Graduate	5,362	1,610	30.0%
Some College	2,097	668	31.9%
Bachelor's Degree	1,060	345	32.5%
Beyond Bachelor's	626	155	24.8%
<b>Selected Industries</b>	<b>11,475</b>	<b>3,464</b>	<b>30.2%</b>
Construction	1,921	477	24.8%
Manufacturing	1,969	592	30.1%
Wholesale Trade	428	127	29.7%
Retail Trade	1,089	309	28.4%
Transportation & Warehousing	306	86	28.1%
Information	266	95	35.7%
Finance & Insurance	633	201	31.8%
Real Estate	204	65	31.9%
Professional & Tech. Services	398	116	29.1%
Administrative & Waste Services	1,169	392	33.5%
Educational Services	160	55	34.4%
Health Care & Social Assistance	840	230	27.4%
Arts, Entertainment & Recreation	265	109	41.1%
Accommodation & Food Services	912	329	36.1%
Other Services	399	137	34.3%
Public Administration	72	28	38.9%
<b>Selected Occupations</b>	<b>11,475</b>	<b>3,464</b>	<b>30.2%</b>
Business & Financial Operations	367	102	27.8%
Computer & Mathematical	111	36	32.4%
Architecture & Engineering	107	34	31.8%
Life, Physical & Social Science	56	18	32.1%
Community & Social Services	73	23	31.5%
Legal	53	14	26.4%
Education, Training & Library	122	43	35.2%
Arts, Design, Ent., Sports & Media	141	30	21.3%
Healthcare Practitioner & Technical	137	46	33.6%
Healthcare Support	225	58	25.8%
Protective Service	94	38	40.4%
Food Preparation & Serving Related	673	215	31.9%
Bldg. & Grounds Cleaning & Maint.	435	203	46.7%
Personal Care & Service	105	31	29.5%
Sales & Related	643	168	26.1%
Office & Administrative Support	1,802	536	29.7%
Construction & Extraction	1,020	282	27.6%
Installation, Maintenance & Repair	442	143	32.4%
Production	1,662	468	28.2%
Transportation & Material Moving	888	281	31.6%

### Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers

				% Change
	Apr 06	Mar 06	Apr05	Prev. Year
All Items	201.5	199.8	194.6	3.5%

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

### Occupational Employment Statistics Survey

The Labor Market Information (LMI) Unit recently mailed the first phase of the 2006 Occupational Employment Statistics (OES) Survey to over 1,000 randomly selected Rhode Island employers. If your business receives one of these surveys, please complete and return it in the postage paid envelope as soon as possible. If you have questions or concerns about this survey or would like to see how the data you provide is used, please call a member of the OES staff at: 401-462-8750. The data compiled from these surveys is among the most requested data from LMI and provides current occupational wages to employers, educational programs, job seekers and others.

Occupational Employment Statistics can be used to:

- ◆ Compare wages by occupation, area and industry.
- ◆ Spotlight emerging and declining occupations.
- ◆ Develop employment projections.
- ◆ Determine training requirements.
- ◆ Identify educational program needs.
- ◆ Help students and job seekers make career decisions.

### Major Occupational Group Wage Statistics\*

Occupation	Median Wage	Occupation	Median Wage
Management Occupations	\$37.62	Protective Service Occupations	\$18.71
Business & Financial Operations Occupations	\$24.75	Food Preparation & Serving Occupations	\$8.26
Computer & Mathematical Occupations	\$29.54	Building & Grounds Cleaning & Maintenance Occupations	\$10.82
Architecture & Engineering Occupations	\$29.65	Personal Care & Service Occupations	\$10.20
Life, Physical, & Social Science Occupations	\$24.62	Sales & Related Occupations	\$10.67
Community & Social Services Occupations	\$15.96	Office & Administrative Support Occupations	\$13.84
Legal Occupations	\$26.42	Farming, Fishing, & Forestry Occupations	\$10.26
Education, Training, & Library Occupations	\$21.42	Construction & Extraction Occupations	\$18.85
Arts, Design, Entertainment, Sports, & Media Occupations	\$18.81	Installation, Maintenance, & Repair Occupations	\$17.39
Healthcare Practitioners & Technical Occupations	\$25.23	Production Occupations	\$12.58
Healthcare Support Occupations	\$11.94	Transportation & Material Moving Occupations	\$11.82

\*Wages are from 4th Quarter 2004 OES Survey.

### City & Town Unadjusted Unemployment Rates for April

	2006	2005		2006	2005
Barrington	3.7	3.2	Newport	5.3	4.3
Bristol	4.4	3.8	North Kingstown	4.4	4.1
Burrillville	5.0	4.9	North Providence	5.0	4.8
Central Falls	7.3	7.0	North Smithfield	4.2	4.0
Charlestown	4.7	4.0	Pawtucket	6.4	5.9
Coventry	4.8	4.2	Portsmouth	4.2	3.7
Cranston	5.4	4.9	Providence	6.6	6.1
Cumberland	4.5	4.1	Richmond	3.9	2.6
East Greenwich	4.1	4.2	Scituate	4.9	4.6
East Providence	5.5	5.1	Smithfield	4.6	4.0
Exeter	4.1	4.1	South Kingstown	4.6	3.9
Foster	5.7	5.1	Tiverton	5.2	5.2
Glocester	4.0	3.5	Warren	5.0	4.4
Hopkinton	4.6	3.8	Warwick	5.0	4.4
Jamestown	3.8	4.0	West Greenwich	4.0	3.9
Johnston	5.9	5.5	West Warwick	5.6	5.4
Lincoln	4.4	4.0	Westerly	4.4	3.6
Little Compton	4.3	4.6	Woonsocket	6.0	5.4
Middletown	4.9	4.1			
Narragansett	3.5	3.3	State of R.I.	5.3	4.8
New Shoreham	9.9	9.8	United States	4.5	4.9

### Unemployment Insurance Claims Activity

	Apr	Mar	Apr	% Change		Year to Date		
	2006	2006	2005	Mar 06	Apr 05	2006	2005	% Change
Initial Claims	6,086	5,043	6,723	20.7%	-9.5%	28,211	29,690	-5.0%
Number of Payments	46,506	60,635	51,366	-23.3%	-9.5%	240,050	256,371	-6.4%
Amount of Payments (gross millions)	\$15.5	\$20.7	\$16.8	-25.1%	-7.7%	\$81.1	\$85.1	-4.7%
Exhaustions (Final Payments)	1,284	1,288	1,555	-0.3%	-17.4%	5,170	5,653	-8.5%



## Rhode Island Department of Labor and Training Employee Health Insurance Benefits



Results from the RI Department of Labor and Training's 2005 Employee Benefits Survey show that 79 percent of Rhode Island employers (three or more workers) offer health insurance benefits to their full-time workers while just 18 percent offer the benefits to part-time workers. The likelihood that a firm will offer health insurance benefits increases as firm size increases. Health benefits are offered to full-time employees by:

- 72 percent of the firms with 3-9 employees
- 83 percent of the firms with 10-19 employees
- 93 percent for firms with 20 –49 employees
- 96 percent for firms with 50 –99 employees
- 98 percent of the firms with 100 or more employees

Survey results indicate that 40 percent of employers that provide health insurance benefits to their full-time employees pay 100 percent of the costs associated with a single adult plan while nearly 23 percent pay 100 percent of the costs associated with a family plan.

While the likelihood that a firm will offer health insurance benefits increases with the size of the employer, survey results show that smaller firms that do offer these benefits are more likely to pay the full cost of the health insurance benefits than are the larger firms. Nearly 45 percent of the smallest firms surveyed, those with three to nine employees, report that they pay 100 percent of the cost associated with a single adult plan, and nearly 27 percent report paying 100 percent of the cost associated with a family plan. In contrast, less than 15 percent of the larger firms surveyed, those with 100 or more workers, report paying 100 percent of the cost of a single adult plan and less than 10 percent report paying the full cost of a family plan. However, it is more likely that a small employer will offer health insurance benefits to their employees but make no contribution toward the costs, than will a larger employer.

Employer contributions by size class are detailed in the chart below.

<b>Employer Contributions for Health Insurance Benefits by Size of Firm</b>													
<b>Amount Paid By Employer</b>	<b>All Employers</b>		<b>3-9</b>		<b>10-19</b>		<b>20-49</b>		<b>50-99</b>		<b>100 or more</b>		
	<b>Single Plan</b>	<b>Family Plan</b>											
<b>100%</b>	40.0%	22.6%	44.9%	26.9%	42.5%	24.3%	24.2%	17.3%	15.0%	8.6%	14.7%	8.3%	
<b>80 - 99%</b>	14.8%	12.6%	11.7%	8.7%	11.3%	12.4%	14.8%	13.0%	24.2%	15.3%	33.9%	26.0%	
<b>60 - 79%</b>	18.3%	21.8%	13.0%	16.1%	17.6%	23.0%	22.3%	20.4%	29.5%	34.6%	26.2%	30.7%	
<b>40 - 59%</b>	14.5%	17.3%	10.1%	14.2%	14.5%	14.8%	21.8%	20.7%	17.7%	22.0%	12.6%	17.9%	
<b>1 - 39%</b>	4.7%	8.5%	2.4%	4.7%	5.2%	8.3%	7.4%	15.6%	8.2%	12.7%	6.7%	9.5%	
<b>0%</b>	3.3%	4.7%	5.4%	19.2%	5.1%	12.6%	5.3%	7.0%	2.1%	2.2%	0.9%	2.6%	
<b>Unknown</b>	4.3%	12.5%	12.5%	10.2%	3.8%	4.7%	4.2%	5.9%	3.4%	4.6%	5.0%	5.0%	

Data is based on a survey of 2,000 Rhode Island private sector employers of three or more workers. Survey response rate was 63 percent.