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# Employment Bulletin

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

## Rhode Island's Unemployment Rate Drops in October

## Holiday Message from the Director

Rhode Island's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate for October was 5.4 percent. The October jobless rate is down 0.3 of a percentage point from September's revised rate of 5.7 percent. The number of unemployed residents declined by 1,900 over the month to 31,300 in October. A year ago, the jobless level was 27,600 and the unemployment rate stood at 4.9 percent. Nationally, the unemployment rate for October eased to 5.0 percent, a drop of 0.1 of a percentage point from September. Compared to a year ago, the national jobless rate is down 0.5 of a percentage point. Rhode Island's unemployment rate for October stayed above the national average for the fourth straight month.

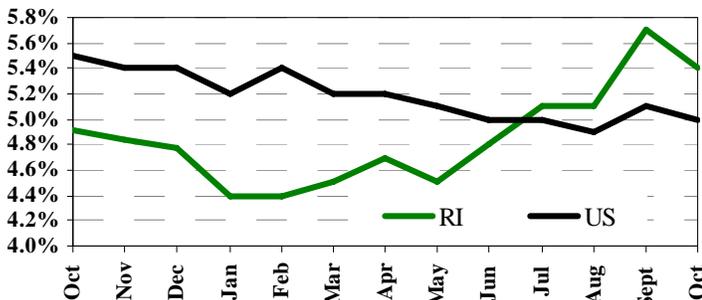
Adelita S. Orefice, Director, and the staff of the Department of Labor and Training take this opportunity to wish a happy holiday season to the Rhode Island employer community and to all readers of the Employment Bulletin.

A special word of thanks is extended to those employers who assist the Department by providing essential employment information each month. Key indicators, such as industry employment levels, weekly production hours, and workers' earnings become the basis for both state and national reports and statistics prepared and published by the Department.

As individuals and as an agency, we pledge to do all we can to help people and companies through difficult economic times. Our effectiveness is heavily dependent on your cooperation in providing us with information. In the upcoming new year we will continue to provide timely data every month to assist readers of the Employment Bulletin in making informed economic decisions and planning for future employment needs.

Again, our thanks, and our best wishes for a happy, healthy and joyous holiday season.

RI & US Unemployment Rates  
Seasonally Adjusted 2004 - 2005



## 2006 UI & TDI Wage Bases and Tax Rates Set

Adelita S. Orefice, Director of the Department of Labor and Training, announced today that Rhode Island employers will pay Unemployment Insurance taxes according to Tax Schedule I during 2006 – the same tax schedule in effect for 2005. Depending on their experience with layoffs, employer tax rates will range from 1.69% to 9.79%. Rhode Island employers will be notified of their individual 2006 tax rates by the end of December. (Continued on Page 4)

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

	Rhode Island			United States		
	Oct 05	Sep 05	Oct 04	Oct 05	Sep 05	Oct 04
Civilian Labor Force	576.7	579.3	561.8	150,079	150,093	147,893
Resident Employment	545.4	546.1	534.1	142,646	142,432	139,827
Unemployment	31.3	33.2	27.6	7,433	7,661	8,066
Unemployment Rate	5.4%	5.7%	4.9%	5.0%	5.1%	5.5%

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## The Number of Jobs Declines Slightly

The Rhode Island job count (seasonally adjusted) declined in October, the third monthly decrease following ten successive months of increased employment. Businesses in the state reported a reduction of 600 (-0.1%) jobs, bringing the October job count to 494,700. Over-the-month employment losses were reflected in Trade, Transportation & Utilities (-300), Government (-200), Professional & Business Services (-100), and Leisure & Hospitality (-100). Monthly gains were noted in Educational & Health Services (+300), Construction (+200), and Manufacturing (+100). Financial Activities remained even over the month.

“The number of jobs in Rhode Island has declined recently as businesses have been reluctant to add new workers in these uncertain times,” said DLT Director Adelita S. Orefice. “Now that energy prices have begun to drop, we’re hopeful that employer hiring will pickup as we enter the holiday season.”

Nationally, payroll employment showed little change in October, reflecting a small seasonally adjusted increase of 56,000 (0.04%) from September. Job gains were reported in Construction, Financial Activities, Manufacturing, Professional & Business Services, Educational & Health Services, and Government. Job losses were noted in Leisure & Hospitality, and Trade, Transportation & Utilities.

Employment in Rhode Island was up 5,500 (+1.1%) from the 489,200 jobs reported in October 2004. The largest employment growth noted during this period occurred in the Educational & Health Services (+3,900), Leisure & Hospitality (+1,600), and Financial Activities (+1,300) sectors, offsetting over-the-year losses in Manufacturing (-2,100), Trade, Transportation & Utilities (-800), and Government (-300).

### Hours and Earnings

In October 2005, the \$13.23 average hourly wage earned by the Manufacturing sector’s production workers represented a monthly gain of three cents per hour and an over-the-year gain of twenty cents per hour. Manufacturing employees worked an average of 39.2 hours per week in October, down 0.1 of an hour over the month and up 0.1 of an hour since October 2004.

### Establishment Employment in Rhode Island Seasonally Adjusted

	Employment (in thousands)		Net Change
	Oct 05	Sept 05	
Total Nonfarm	494.7	495.3	-0.6
Construction	21.6	21.4	0.2
Manufacturing	54.6	54.5	0.1
Trade, Transportation & Utilities	78.7	79.0	-0.3
Financial Activities	35.3	35.3	0.0
Professional & Business Services	55.2	55.3	-0.1
Educational & Health Services	97.1	96.8	0.3
Leisure and Hospitality	52.1	52.2	-0.1
Government	65.6	65.8	-0.2

### Manufacturing Employment in Rhode Island Not Seasonally Adjusted

	Employment						Production Worker Averages					
	(in thousands)			Net Change From:			Weekly Hours			Hourly Earnings		
	Oct 05	Sept 05	Oct 04	Sept 05	Oct 04	Oct 05	Sept 05	Oct 04	Oct 05	Sept 05	Oct 04	
<b>Manufacturing</b>	55.1	54.9	57.2	200	-2100	39.2	39.3	39.1	13.23	13.20	13.03	
<b>Durable Goods</b>	36.7	36.5	37.7	200	-1000	40.1	39.5	39.2	13.22	13.15	13.04	
Fabricated Metal Product Mfg.	7.6	7.5	8.0	100	-400	40.0	38.7	38.0	11.64	11.70	11.76	
Computer & Electronic Product Mfg.	4.7	4.7	5.1	0	-400	40.9	40.4	38.5	14.23	14.15	13.92	
Miscellaneous Manufacturing	10.1	10.2	10.9	-100	-800	37.0	37.5	38.2	11.05	11.00	10.88	
Jewelry and Silverware	7.3	7.4	7.8	-100	-500	37.2	38.0	38.9	10.21	10.17	10.20	
<b>Non-Durable Goods</b>	18.4	18.4	19.5	0	-1100	37.6	39.0	39.0	13.25	13.30	13.01	
Chemical Manufacturing	4.1	4.1	4.2	0	-100	40.7	41.7	41.8	15.48	15.55	15.25	
Plastics & Rubber Products Mfg.	3.0	3.0	3.0	0	0	39.6	41.1	41.4	14.81	14.76	14.60	

The employment figures in the “The Number of Jobs Declines Slightly” 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.

## File Your Right-to-Know Form Online!

The Rhode Island Department of Labor and Training recently launched a new online service that makes it easier for businesses to register under the Hazardous Substance Right-to-Know Law. All businesses that initially register can file a Right-to-Know hazardous substance form and submit a registration fee online at [www.ri.gov/DLT/righttoknow](http://www.ri.gov/DLT/righttoknow) or by visiting [www.ri.gov](http://www.ri.gov).

Under the Rhode Island Hazardous Substance Right-to-Know Act, employers must tell employees if there are any hazardous substances in their workplace. Furthermore, employers submit a filing to the Department of Labor and Training that lists the hazardous substances which contain any of the chemicals and compounds on the official Rhode Island hazardous substance list. All employers must initially complete and file this form even if there are no hazardous chemicals in the workplace and they are exempt.

“The Right-to-Know Act is an important law designed to educate and train both employers and employees about the dangers of hazardous substances being used, stored, or transported in the workplace,” said Assistant Director Kathy Serrecchia. “The ability to complete the Right-to-Know form online makes it easier for businesses to comply with the law and allows us to schedule and conduct inspections in an expeditious manner.”

By inputting a customer record number, any business can update address information, file for exempt status or list their substances, and pay the registration fee with a Visa or MasterCard through RI.gov’s secure payment server. In subsequent years, companies will be able to add or verify existing substances already on file. Additionally, a business must attest that all employees who are exposed to any hazardous substances have received training as specified under the law.

The online Right-to-Know filing form can be accessed and filed 24 hours a day, 7 days a week at [www.ri.gov/DLT/righttoknow](http://www.ri.gov/DLT/righttoknow) or by visiting the state’s official web site at [www.ri.gov](http://www.ri.gov). More information about Hazardous Substances Right-to-Know is available at the Department of Labor and Training, Occupational Safety Division web site [www.dlt.ri.gov/occurafe](http://www.dlt.ri.gov/occurafe).

### Employment by Size Class - March 2005

The Rhode Island economy is characterized by a large number of small companies employing a small number of workers. As of March 2005, there were 32,533 private businesses in the state employing 402,590 workers. Small employers, those with less than twenty employees, represented nearly 90 percent of all employers in the state and employed one quarter (25.7%) of the workforce. Mid-sized companies (20 to 249 employees) employed over 43 percent of the private sector employment and accounted for nearly 10 percent of the firms. During the year, large companies with 250 or more employees generated work for 31 percent of Rhode Island’s private sector workforce. There are just 591 firms in the state employing 100 or more workers. Together, they employee nearly half (46.7%) of the state’s private sector employees. The largest employers, those with 1,000 or more employees, numbered 34 and employed 16.3 percent of Rhode Island’s private sector.

#### Private Sector Employment

Size Class	Employers		Employment	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
<b>Total:</b>	<b>32,533</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>402,590</b>	<b>100%</b>
zero	5,713	17.6%	0	0.0%
1 - 4	15,428	47.4%	30,070	7.5%
5 - 9	5,024	15.4%	33,065	8.2%
10 - 19	2,990	9.2%	40,456	10.0%
20 - 49	2,087	6.4%	63,161	15.7%
50 - 99	700	2.2%	48,109	11.9%
100 - 249	420	1.3%	63,751	15.8%
250 - 499	105	0.3%	36,484	9.1%
500 - 999	32	0.1%	22,018	5.5%
1000+	34	0.1%	65,476	16.3%

### Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers

	Oct 05	Sept 05	Oct 04	% Change Prev. Year
All Items	199.2	198.8	190.9	4.3%

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

### 2006 UI & TDI Wage Bases and Tax Rates Set (Continued from Page 1)

The payroll tax for new employers - those who have not been covered by the Employment Security Act for three full years as of September 30, 2005 - will be 2.34% in 2006. The new employer rate for 2005 is 2.04%. The above employer tax rates do not include the Job Development Assessment of 0.21% that is paid by all taxable employers.

The wage base on which Employment Security taxes will be paid during the 2006 tax year will remain at \$16,000. The Employment Security fund had a balance of \$186.6 million as of September 30, 2005. This was only \$3.9 million less than one year ago.

The Temporary Disability Insurance (TDI) taxable wage base will be \$50,600 in 2006, an increase of \$1,600 over the 2005 base of \$49,000. The employee contribution rate for TDI will remain at 1.4 percent in 2006. The TDI fund had a balance of \$91.9 million as of September 30, 2005. This was a decrease of \$6.9 million from the prior year.

### Latest Occupational Wage Data is now on the LMI Web!

Updated Rhode Island average occupational wages, along with entry and experienced wage rates, are now available for over 500 occupations statewide and by metropolitan statistical area and labor market area.

We wish to express our appreciation to all of the employers who responded to the Occupational Employment Statistics Survey. Their support enables the Department of Labor and Training to continue with its mission to provide valuable occupation and wage information. Without them this information would not be possible.

To view the new occupational wage data, visit [www.dlt.ri.gov/lmi/oes.htm](http://www.dlt.ri.gov/lmi/oes.htm) A list of the highest paying occupations in Rhode Island can be found on this month's accompanying label page.

### City & Town Unadjusted Unemployment Rates for October

	2005	2004		2005	2004
Barrington	3.6	3.1	Newport	4.1	3.5
Bristol	4.1	3.4	North Kingstown	3.3	3.3
Burrillville	4.0	3.8	North Providence	4.7	4.0
Central Falls	7.1	5.7	North Smithfield	3.7	3.4
Charlestown	4.3	3.1	Pawtucket	5.9	5.0
Coventry	4.8	3.8	Portsmouth	3.5	2.9
Cranston	5.0	4.4	Providence	6.2	5.3
Cumberland	4.0	3.8	Richmond	2.5	2.3
East Greenwich	4.5	3.8	Scituate	4.9	3.7
East Providence	5.4	4.5	Smithfield	4.2	3.3
Exeter	3.8	3.5	South Kingstown	3.6	3.1
Foster	5.1	4.4	Tiverton	4.6	3.9
Glocester	3.5	2.8	Warren	5.2	4.0
Hopkinton	3.9	3.5	Warwick	4.5	4.1
Jamestown	2.9	2.7	West Greenwich	3.3	3.6
Johnston	4.9	4.4	West Warwick	5.6	4.9
Lincoln	4.0	3.6	Westerly	4.1	3.4
Little Compton	3.9	2.8	Woonsocket	5.2	5.0
Middletown	3.7	3.6			
Narragansett	3.0	2.7	State of R.I.	4.8	4.2
New Shoreham	3.7	3.6	United States	4.6	5.1

### Looking for Characteristics of the Insured Unemployed?

The Characteristics of the Insured Unemployed, which had previously been printed in this newsletter, can still be accessed on the Labor Market Information unit's web site. Please visit:

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

### Unemployment Insurance Claims Activity

	Oct	Sept	Oct	% Change		Year to Date		
	2005	2005	2004	Sept 05	Oct 04	2005	2004	% Change
Initial Claims	4,966	3,870	4,830	28.3%	2.8%	61,402	64,759	-5.2%
Number of Payments	37,597	35,934	35,635	4.6%	5.5%	521,531	550,956	-5.3%
Amount of Payments (gross millions)	\$12.5	\$11.8	\$11.7	5.9%	6.8%	\$170.1	\$173.1	-1.7%
Exhaustions (Final Payments)	1,135	945	1,004	20.1%	13.0%	12,688	13,570	-6.5%

## Best Paying Jobs In Rhode Island and Corresponding Annual Salary for Area States

Occupation	RI Median	CT Median	MA Median	US Median
<b>Median OES Annual Salary - All Occupations</b>	<b>\$ 30,820</b>	<b>\$ 35,560</b>	<b>\$ 35,860</b>	<b>\$ 29,070</b>
Chief Executives	\$145,600+	\$145,600+	\$143,090	\$141,820
Judges, Magistrate Judges, & Magistrates	\$145,600+	\$127,430	\$111,490	\$ 97,260
Dentists, General	\$145,600+	\$145,600+	\$120,670	\$122,430
Family & General Practitioners	\$145,600+	\$138,450	\$145,600+	\$136,170
Internists, General	\$145,600+	\$112,830	\$141,260	\$145,600+
Surgeons	\$145,600+	\$145,600+	\$145,600+	\$145,600+
Psychiatrists	\$142,750	\$145,600+	\$135,160	\$145,600+
Pediatricians, General	\$123,070	\$111,500	\$142,200	\$135,450
Engineering Managers	\$ 96,450	\$101,680	\$110,530	\$ 99,000
Computer & Information Systems Managers	\$ 91,510	\$102,060	\$101,450	\$ 94,390
Natural Sciences Managers	\$ 89,450	\$ 99,070	\$117,320	\$ 90,080
Economics Teachers, Postsecondary	\$ 87,670	\$ 81,810	\$ 77,940	\$ 68,050
Optometrists	\$ 87,070	\$ 92,020	\$ 77,290	\$ 88,290
Physicists	\$ 86,900	\$ 56,940	\$103,390	\$ 87,480
Pharmacists	\$ 85,280	\$ 86,960	\$ 82,880	\$ 87,160
Sales Managers	\$ 85,170	\$106,610	\$ 98,210	\$ 85,980
Electronics Engineers, Except Computer	\$ 84,990	\$ 79,170	\$ 81,770	\$ 76,810
Human Resources Managers, All Other	\$ 84,900	\$ 93,900	\$ 89,370	\$ 82,740
Financial Managers	\$ 82,920	\$100,640	\$ 89,210	\$ 83,780
Computer & Information Scientists, Research	\$ 82,810	\$ 97,690	\$107,590	\$ 87,890
Operations Research Analysts	\$ 82,610	\$ 65,840	\$ 71,470	\$ 60,230
Political Science Teachers, Postsecondary	\$ 82,420	\$ 68,890	\$ 71,290	\$ 59,530
Physics Teachers, Postsecondary	\$ 81,570	\$ 72,630	\$ 82,640	\$ 65,280
Education Administrators, All Other	\$ 81,350	\$ 71,320	\$ 66,450	\$ 62,540
General & Operations Managers	\$ 80,430	\$110,690	\$ 86,480	\$ 79,300
Public Relations Managers	\$ 80,360	\$ 87,830	\$ 85,440	\$ 73,960
Computer Software Engineers, Systems Software	\$ 78,890	\$77,650	\$ 87,130	\$ 81,140
Construction Managers	\$ 78,730	\$ 85,840	\$ 85,460	\$ 70,770
Engineers, All Other	\$ 78,620	\$ 77,220	\$ 73,470	\$ 76,100
Industrial Production Managers	\$ 78,300	\$ 83,250	\$ 82,760	\$ 74,100
Management Occupations	\$ 78,260	\$ 92,670	\$ 84,930	\$ 75,960
Computer Software Engineers, Applications	\$ 77,990	\$ 73,630	\$ 87,560	\$ 76,310
Sociology Teachers, Postsecondary	\$ 77,500	\$ 56,490	\$ 66,280	\$ 54,600
Purchasing Managers	\$ 76,640	\$ 81,920	\$ 80,810	\$ 74,300
Computer Hardware Engineers	\$ 76,090	\$ 84,130	\$ 89,460	\$ 82,750
Administrative Law Judges & Hearing Officers	\$ 75,810	\$ 68,360	\$ 66,550	\$ 68,720
History Teachers, Postsecondary	\$ 75,710	\$ 62,470	\$ 67,550	\$ 54,310
Business Teachers, Postsecondary	\$ 75,630	\$ 71,810	\$ 88,840	\$ 58,230
Lawyers	\$ 75,270	\$101,220	\$113,950	\$ 97,420
Medical & Health Services Managers	\$ 74,310	\$ 81,740	\$ 76,380	\$ 68,320
Managers, All Other	\$ 74,260	\$ 84,810	\$ 79,360	\$ 78,330
Mechanical Engineers	\$ 74,150	\$ 66,570	\$ 75,570	\$ 67,220
Chemistry Teachers, Postsecondary	\$ 73,390	\$ 63,440	\$ 72,260	\$ 57,340
Administrative Services Managers	\$ 72,400	\$ 78,310	\$ 65,360	\$ 62,300
Veterinarians	\$ 72,180	\$ 81,850	\$ 63,800	\$ 68,280