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## **New data offers insight into long-term unemployed**

Preliminary data from the Emergency Unemployment Compensation (EUC) program in Rhode Island shows that those working in the Manufacturing and Construction industries have a higher incidence of long-term unemployment than in other Rhode Island industry sectors.

### **About Emergency Unemployment Compensation**

This federal program allows up to 13 weeks in additional unemployment insurance benefits to qualified job seekers. Only claimants whose benefit year ending date (BYE)—the one-year period in which an initial claim was filed—falls after May 5, 2007 are potentially eligible.

Rhode Island began EUC payments in mid-July. As of August 15, 2008, RI DLT staff members had processed nearly 8,500 EUC claims, and have issue more than \$11 million in EUC payments.

An analysis of nearly 8,000 Rhode Islanders receiving federally extended Unemployment Insurance benefits indicates that while the **Manufacturing** sector comprises 10.6 percent of the Rhode Island workforce, that same sector represents 21.0 percent—double the workforce representation—of the long-term unemployed currently receiving EUC benefits.

Similarly, while the **Construction** industry comprises 4.6 percent of the total Rhode Island workforce, it represents 11.5 percent of EUC recipients.

Other sectors whose representation among the EUC population is significantly larger than in the workforce at large include Finance & Insurance, Administrative & Waste Services, and Real Estate.

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Conversely, workers in the **Health Care & Social Assistance, Accommodation & Food Services** and **Public Administration** sectors are less likely to require extended unemployment insurance benefits than those employed in other sectors. While workers in Health Care & Social Assistance make up 15.8 percent of the total Rhode Island workforce, they represent only 8.8 percent of all EUC recipients in the survey. Workers in the Accommodation & Food Services sector comprise 9.0 percent of the workforce in Rhode Island, yet represent only 4.5 percent of all long-term unemployed receiving UI benefits. And, while workers in Public Administration make up 13.0 percent of the Rhode Island workforce, they represent only 1.0 percent on the EUC population.

**PARTICIPATION BY INDUSTRY**

<b>Industry Sector</b>	<b>Percentage of RI Labor Force</b>	<b>Percentage of EUC sample</b>
Manufacturing	10.6%	21.0%
Construction	4.6%	11.5%
Retail Trade	10.7%	11.5%
Administrative & Waste Services	5.2%	9.1%
Health Care & Social Assistance	15.8%	8.8%
Finance & Insurance	5.5%	8.7%
Professional & Tech. Services	4.5%	4.7%
Accommodation & Food Services	9.0%	4.5%
Other Services	3.9%	4.2%
Wholesale Trade	3.6%	4.0%
Educational Services	3.9%	2.2%
Information	2.2%	2.1%
Real Estate	1.4%	2.1%
Transportation & Warehousing	2.0%	1.9%
Arts, Entertainment & Recreation	1.7%	1.7%
Public Administration	13.0%	1.0%
Management of Companies	2.0%	0.4%
Agriculture/Forestry	0.2%	0.4%
Mining	0.1%	0.2%
Utilities	0.2%	0.0%





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The EUC data also shows that certain occupations are more likely to be represented among the state’s extended benefits population. **Office and administrative support jobs**, such as receptionists, secretaries, tellers and office clerks, represent the largest percentage of long-term unemployed, making up 21.5 percent of all EUC claims. **Production workers**, such as machinists, toolmakers, assemblers and inspectors, are the next largest occupational group receiving long-term UI benefits, representing 14.2 percent of total claimants. Lastly, **management positions**, including chief executives, operations managers, sales managers and education administrators, represent 11.3 percent of all EUC recipients.

PARTICIPATION BY OCCUPATION

<b>Occupation</b>	<b>Percentage of Rhode Island Labor Force</b>	<b>Percentage of EUC sample</b>
Office & Administrative Support	16.1%	21.5%
Production	8.0%	14.2%
Management	5.1%	11.3%
Construction & Extraction	5.1%	8.3%
Sales & Related	9.6%	7.6%
Transportation & Material Moving	5.7%	6.9%
Business & Financial Operations	4.1%	5.3%
Installation, Maintenance & Repair	3.4%	4.3%
Food Preparation & Serving Related	8.7%	3.4%
Building & Grounds Cleaning & Maintenance	3.4%	2.7%
Healthcare Support	3.2%	2.2%
Education, Training & Library	6.4%	2.1%
Personal Care & Service	3.2%	1.7%
Healthcare Practitioner & Technical	6.1%	1.5%
Arts, Design, Entertainment, Sports & Media	1.8%	1.4%
Architecture & Engineering	1.6%	1.1%
Community & Social Services	2.1%	1.1%
Computer & Mathematical	2.1%	1.0%
Protective Services	2.2%	1.0%
Life, Physical & Social Sciences	0.9%	0.6%
Legal	0.9%	0.6%
Military Specific	0.0%	0.2%
Farming, Fishing & Forestry	0.4%	0.1%





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Lastly, demographic information reveals that those long-term unemployed who are receiving EUC benefits are less likely to have attended college than the general Rhode Island population (ages 16 and older). Only 37.0 percent of EUC recipients have pursued education beyond high school, compared with 54.5 percent of the general Rhode Island population. Similarly, only 18.0 percent of EUC recipients have earned a bachelor's degree or higher, compared with 29.4 percent of the general Rhode Island population.

The Rhode Island Department of Labor and Training offers employment services, educational services and economic opportunity to both individuals and employers. DLT protects Rhode Island's workforce by enforcing labor laws, prevailing wage rates and workplace health and safety standards. The department also provides temporary income support to unemployed and temporarily disabled workers. For more information on the programs and services available to all Rhode Islanders, please visit the RI Department of Labor and Training on the World Wide Web at [www.dlt.ri.gov](http://www.dlt.ri.gov).

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### **Notes on data:**

Industry data is from the Quarterly Census of Employment and Wage report.

Occupational data is based on projections from Occupational and Employment Wage Statistics reports.

Demographic information is from the American Community Survey

