



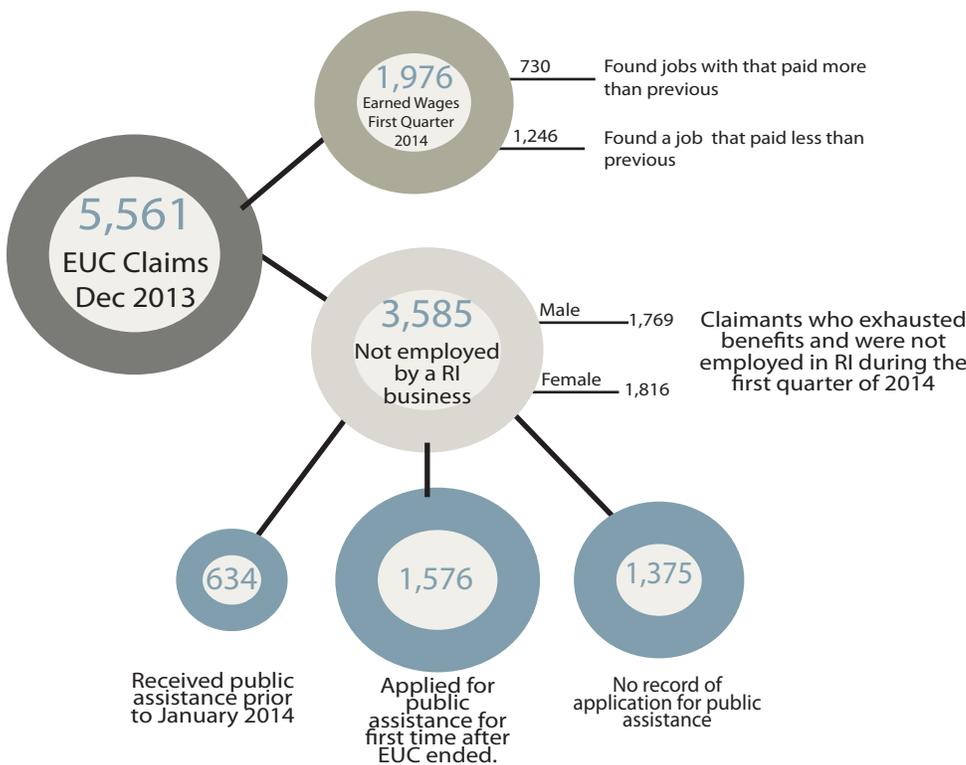
After Emergency Unemployment Compensation

More than 5,500 individuals were in receipt of Emergency Unemployment Compensation (EUC) benefits in Rhode Island when the program ended in December 2013. The EUC program was a federally financed unemployment insurance program signed into law by President Bush in July 2008. EUC was extended and changed many times over its five-and-a-half year run. At one time, it provided up to 53 additional weeks of benefits to jobless workers who exhausted their regular state-financed unemployment insurance benefits.

When the EUC program ended in December 2013, it provided up to 47 weeks of additional benefits to the state's jobless workers. There was controversy over EUC's ending: whereas, many believed that the benefits were no longer necessary with the recession over and many states at full employment, others felt that the need still existed for these benefits especially in states with high unemployment rates generating concern for what the long-term unemployed would do next.

Separate studies conducted by the RI Departments of Labor and Training (DLT) and Human Services (DHS) found that of the 5,561 individuals who were collecting EUC benefits when the program ended, 1,976 (35.4%) found employment with a Rhode Island company during the first quarter of 2014 and 2,210 (39.7%) either filed for or were already in receipt of some type of public assistance benefit.

Of the 1,976 individuals who did find employment, 63 percent found jobs that paid less than the job they had prior to collecting benefits, 37 percent found employment with wages comparable to or greater than the job they had previously. For those whose new jobs paid less than their previous employment, nearly 70 percent earned less during their first quarter of employment than the weekly benefit provided by the EUC program.



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According to DHS records, over half of the 2,210 jobless workers who either filed for or were already in receipt of some type of public assistance benefit when their EUC benefits were terminated received Supplemental Nutrition Assistance (SNAP) and/or Medical Assistance in 2014. About a quarter were

participating in Rhode Island Works and 4 percent were receiving General Public Assistance. For seventy percent of these individuals, it was the first time they ever filed for public assistance.

The status of the remaining 1,375 EUC recipients who did not find employment during the first quarter of 2014 is not known.