

Rhode Island Department of Labor and Training
Characteristics of the Insured Unemployed
December 2011

In December 2011, 26 percent of Rhode Island's unemployed workers were eligible to collect Unemployment Insurance (UI) benefits. Numbering 15,836 people, these "insured unemployed" accounted for 3.1 percent of the State's total employed (unadjusted). Twenty-five percent (3,959) of the Ocean State's insured unemployed faced long-term unemployment, defined as collecting unemployment benefits for more than fourteen weeks.

More than 21 percent (3,340) of the people receiving UI benefits were between the ages of 35 and 44, while 22.6 percent (3,585) were 45 to 54 years old. Nearly 31 percent of all insured unemployed workers 60 years and older had been collecting benefits for at least fourteen weeks, while 16.2 percent of those under 22 years of age and 17.8 percent of 22 to 24 years old were considered long-term unemployed.

In December, nearly 42 percent (6,568) of those collecting UI benefits had just a high school diploma. An additional 1,962 people (12.4%) had less than a high school diploma, while 21.4 percent (3,396) of the insured unemployed had at least a Bachelor's degree. More than 21 percent of insured unemployed workers with less than a high school diploma had been collecting benefits for a minimum of fourteen weeks, while 29.2 percent of those with at least a Bachelor's degree were also considered long-term unemployed.

On an industry basis, 12.9 percent (2,050) of the State's insured unemployed workers came from the Administrative & Waste Services sector. There were also 1,967 individuals with an attachment to the Health Care & Social Assistance sector, accounting for 12.4 percent of all insured unemployed workers. An additional 12.1 percent (1,921) of those collecting UI benefits in December had worked in the Construction sector. Large numbers of insured unemployed were also reported in Accommodation & Food Services (1,628), Manufacturing (1,587) and Retail Trade (1,447).

Those previously employed in Office & Administrative Support occupations accounted for 15.2 percent (2,403) of the State's insured unemployed. A large number of workers previously employed in Production (1,641), Food Preparation & Serving Related (1,219) and Building & Grounds Cleaning & Maintenance (1,086) occupations also collected UI benefits in December. Numerous occupational groups reported concentrations of long-term unemployment above the state average, including Education, Training & Library (57.9%), Community & Social Services (38.7%), Healthcare Practitioner & Technical (35.1%), Legal (34.6%) and Healthcare Support (33.0%).

Characteristics of the Insured Unemployed, December 2011			
	<i>Total</i>	<i>Long-Term</i>	<i>Percent Long-Term</i>
Total	15,836	3,959	25.0%
Male	8,943	1,800	20.1%
Female	6,893	2,159	31.3%
Age	15,836	3,959	25.0%
Under 22	493	80	16.2%
22 - 24	1,060	189	17.8%
25 - 34	3,869	945	24.4%
35 - 44	3,340	863	25.8%
45 - 54	3,585	868	24.2%
55 - 59	1,537	410	26.7%
60 - 64	1,097	350	31.9%
65 or over	855	254	29.7%
Education	15,836	3,959	25.0%
Less than 9th Grade	538	96	17.8%
9th to 12th, no diploma	1,424	319	22.4%
High School Graduate	6,568	1,462	22.3%
Some College	3,574	991	27.7%
Bachelor's Degree	1,671	470	28.1%
Beyond Bachelor's	1,725	523	30.3%
Selected Industries	15,836	3,959	25.0%
Construction	1,921	217	11.3%
Manufacturing	1,587	509	32.1%
Wholesale Trade	532	162	30.5%
Retail Trade	1,447	426	29.4%
Transportation & Warehousing	336	78	23.2%
Information	223	84	37.7%
Finance & Insurance	723	253	35.0%
Real Estate	304	61	20.1%
Professional & Tech. Services	717	199	27.8%
Administrative & Waste Services	2,050	300	14.6%
Educational Services	466	252	54.1%
Health Care & Social Assistance	1,967	781	39.7%
Arts, Entertainment & Recreation	613	42	6.9%
Accommodation & Food Services	1,628	254	15.6%
Other Services	556	172	30.9%
Public Administration	167	59	35.3%
Selected Occupations	15,836	3,959	25.0%
Business & Financial Operations	458	140	30.6%
Computer & Mathematical	206	59	28.6%
Architecture & Engineering	160	34	21.3%
Life, Physical & Social Science	116	29	25.0%
Community & Social Services	230	89	38.7%
Legal	52	18	34.6%
Education, Training & Library	404	234	57.9%
Arts, Design, Ent., Sports & Media	262	83	31.7%
Healthcare Practitioner & Technical	333	117	35.1%
Healthcare Support	379	125	33.0%
Protective Service	209	61	29.2%
Food Preparation & Serving Related	1,219	195	16.0%
Bldg. & Grounds Cleaning & Maint.	1,086	74	6.8%
Personal Care & Service	438	133	30.4%
Sales & Related	955	292	30.6%
Office & Administrative Support	2,403	785	32.7%
Construction & Extraction	925	97	10.5%
Installation, Maintenance & Repair	536	126	23.5%
Production	1,641	392	23.9%
Transportation & Material Moving	1,014	232	22.9%