

Rhode Island Department of Labor and Training

Characteristics of the Insured Unemployed

February 2019

In February 2019, 50.8 percent of Rhode Island's unemployed workers were eligible to collect Unemployment Insurance (UI) benefits. Numbering 11,982 people, these "insured unemployed" accounted for 2.3 percent of the State's total employed (unadjusted). More than 16 percent (1,964) of the Ocean State's insured unemployed faced long-term unemployment, defined as collecting unemployment benefits for more than fourteen weeks.

Over 20 percent (2,457) of the people receiving UI benefits were between the ages of 35 and 44, while more than 22 percent (2,646) were 45 to 54 years old. Nearly 20 percent of all insured unemployed workers 60 years and older had been collecting benefits for at least fourteen weeks, while 9.1 percent of those under 22 years of age and 10.6 percent of 22 to 24 years old were considered long-term unemployed.

In February, nearly 43 percent (5,096) of those collecting UI benefits had just a high school diploma. An additional 1,770 people (14.8%) had less than a high school diploma, while 19.5 percent (2,342) of the insured unemployed had at least a Bachelor's degree. Nearly 12 percent of insured unemployed workers with less than a high school diploma had been collecting benefits for a minimum of fourteen weeks, while 20.5 percent of those with at least a Bachelor's degree were also considered long-term unemployed.

On an industry basis, 20.3 percent (2,432) of the State's insured unemployed workers came from the Administrative & Waste Services sector. There were also 2,362 individuals with an attachment to the Construction sector accounting for 19.7 percent of all insured unemployed workers. An additional 9.8 percent (1,180) of those collecting UI benefits in February had worked in the Accommodation & Food Services sector. Large numbers of insured unemployed were also reported in Manufacturing (1,014), Retail Trade (835) and Health Care & Social Assistance (724).

Those previously employed in Building & Grounds Cleaning & Maintenance occupations accounted for 10.3 percent (1,239) of the State's insured unemployed. A large number of workers previously employed in Office & Administrative Support (1,171), Construction & Extraction (1,035), Transportation & Material Moving (961) and Production (883) occupations also collected UI benefits in February. Numerous occupational groups reported concentrations of long-term unemployment above the state average, including Education, Training & Library (39.8%), Production (28.3%), Community & Social Services (28.1%) and Computer & Mathematical (27.7%).

Characteristics of the Insured Unemployed, February 2019

| | Total | Long Term | Percent Long-Term |
|-------------------------------------|--------|-----------|-------------------|
| Total | 11,982 | 1,964 | 16.4% |
| Male | 8,076 | 1,022 | 12.7% |
| Female | 3,906 | 942 | 24.1% |
| Age | 11,982 | 1,964 | 16.4% |
| Under 22 | 285 | 26 | 9.1% |
| 22 - 24 | 559 | 59 | 10.6% |
| 25 - 34 | 2,838 | 469 | 16.5% |
| 35 - 44 | 2,457 | 377 | 15.3% |
| 45 - 54 | 2,646 | 437 | 16.5% |
| 55 - 59 | 1,344 | 228 | 17.0% |
| 60 - 64 | 993 | 165 | 16.6% |
| 65 or over | 860 | 203 | 23.6% |
| Education | 11,982 | 1,964 | 16.4% |
| Less than 9th Grade | 589 | 53 | 9.0% |
| 9th to 12th, no diploma | 1,181 | 152 | 12.9% |
| High School Graduate | 5,096 | 743 | 14.6% |
| Some College | 2,466 | 470 | 19.1% |
| Bachelor's Degree | 1,062 | 226 | 21.3% |
| Beyond Bachelor's | 1,280 | 255 | 19.9% |
| Selected Industries | 11,982 | 1,964 | 16.4% |
| Construction | 2,362 | 104 | 4.4% |
| Manufacturing | 1,014 | 334 | 32.9% |
| Wholesale Trade | 329 | 90 | 27.4% |
| Retail Trade | 835 | 142 | 17.0% |
| Transportation & Warehousing | 322 | 43 | 13.4% |
| Information | 89 | 21 | 23.6% |
| Finance & Insurance | 322 | 96 | 29.8% |
| Real Estate | 207 | 53 | 25.6% |
| Professional & Tech. Services | 454 | 96 | 21.1% |
| Management of Companies | 100 | 37 | 37.0% |
| Administrative & Waste Services | 2,432 | 224 | 9.2% |
| Educational Services | 145 | 48 | 33.1% |
| Health Care & Social Assistance | 724 | 206 | 28.5% |
| Arts, Entertainment & Recreation | 588 | 67 | 11.4% |
| Accommodation & Food Services | 1,180 | 236 | 20.0% |
| Other Services | 323 | 62 | 19.2% |
| Public Administration | 107 | 24 | 22.4% |
| Selected Occupations | 11,982 | 1,964 | 16.4% |
| Management | 756 | 166 | 22.0% |
| Business & Financial Operations | 208 | 54 | 26.0% |
| Computer & Mathematical | 184 | 51 | 27.7% |
| Architecture & Engineering | 92 | 20 | 21.7% |
| Life, Physical & Social Science | 74 | 17 | 23.0% |
| Community & Social Services | 114 | 32 | 28.1% |
| Legal | 31 | 4 | 12.9% |
| Education, Training & Library | 108 | 43 | 39.8% |
| Arts, Design, Ent., Sports & Media | 213 | 38 | 17.8% |
| Healthcare Practitioner & Technical | 161 | 32 | 19.9% |
| Healthcare Support | 139 | 32 | 23.0% |
| Protective Service | 76 | 16 | 21.1% |
| Food Preparation & Serving Related | 838 | 158 | 18.9% |
| Bldg. & Grounds Cleaning & Maint. | 1,239 | 75 | 6.1% |
| Personal Care & Service | 187 | 51 | 27.3% |
| Sales & Related | 468 | 113 | 24.1% |
| Office & Administrative Support | 1,171 | 299 | 25.5% |
| Construction & Extraction | 1,035 | 57 | 5.5% |
| Installation, Maintenance & Repair | 289 | 32 | 11.1% |
| Production | 883 | 250 | 28.3% |
| Transportation & Material Moving | 961 | 137 | 14.3% |