

**Rhode Island Department of Labor and Training**  
**Characteristics of the Insured Unemployed**  
December 2016

In December 2016, 35.6 percent of Rhode Island's unemployed workers were eligible to collect Unemployment Insurance (UI) benefits. Numbering 8,819 people, these "insured unemployed" accounted for 1.7 percent of the State's total employed (unadjusted). Nearly 21 percent (1,818) of the Ocean State's insured unemployed faced long-term unemployment, defined as collecting unemployment benefits for more than fourteen weeks.

More than 20 percent (1,800) of the people receiving UI benefits were between the ages of 35 and 44, while nearly 23 percent (1,988) were 45 to 54 years old. Twenty-four percent of all insured unemployed workers 60 years and older had been collecting benefits for at least fourteen weeks, while 16.5 percent of those under 22 years of age and 15.1 percent of 22 to 24 years old were considered long-term unemployed.

In December, over 41 percent (3,647) of those collecting UI benefits had just a high school diploma. An additional 1,134 people (12.9%) had less than a high school diploma, while 22.0 percent (1,937) of the insured unemployed had at least a Bachelor's degree. More than 14 percent of insured unemployed workers with less than a high school diploma had been collecting benefits for a minimum of fourteen weeks, while 24.0 percent of those with at least a Bachelor's degree were also considered long-term unemployed.

On an industry basis, 15.6 percent (1,375) of the State's insured unemployed workers came from the Administrative & Waste Services sector. There were also 1,165 individuals with an attachment to the Construction sector, accounting for 13.2 percent of all insured unemployed workers. An additional 10.9 percent (961) of those collecting UI benefits in December had worked in the Health Care & Social Assistance sector. Large numbers of insured unemployed were also reported in Accommodation & Food Services (929), Manufacturing (824) and Retail Trade (690).

Those previously employed in Office & Administrative Support occupations accounted for 13.3 percent (1,175) of the State's insured unemployed. A large number of workers previously employed in Production (880), Building & Grounds Cleaning & Maintenance (761) and Food Preparation & Serving Related (676) occupations also collected UI benefits in December. Numerous occupational groups reported concentrations of long-term unemployment above the state average, including Education, Training & Library (36.7%), Computer & Mathematical (32.9%) and Healthcare Practitioner & Technical (30.4%).

Characteristics of the Insured Unemployed, December 2016

	Total	Long Term	Percent Long-Term
Total	8,819	1,818	20.6%
Male	5,221	891	17.1%
Female	3,598	927	25.8%
Age	8,819	1,818	20.6%
Under 22	206	34	16.5%
22 - 24	417	63	15.1%
25 - 34	2,101	417	19.8%
35 - 44	1,800	364	20.2%
45 - 54	1,988	414	20.8%
55 - 59	972	206	21.2%
60 - 64	720	171	23.8%
65 or over	615	149	24.2%
Education	8,819	1,818	20.6%
Less than 9th Grade	355	40	11.3%
9th to 12th, no diploma	779	123	15.8%
High School Graduate	3,647	711	19.5%
Some College	1,958	454	23.2%
Bachelor's Degree	770	168	21.8%
Beyond Bachelor's	1,167	296	25.4%
Selected Industries	8,819	1,818	20.6%
Construction	1,165	93	8.0%
Manufacturing	824	285	34.6%
Wholesale Trade	325	106	32.6%
Retail Trade	690	176	25.5%
Transportation & Warehousing	181	41	22.7%
Information	71	13	18.3%
Finance & Insurance	322	111	34.5%
Real Estate	187	27	14.4%
Professional & Tech. Services	433	112	25.9%
Administrative & Waste Services	1,375	205	14.9%
Educational Services	166	59	35.5%
Health Care & Social Assistance	961	285	29.7%
Arts, Entertainment & Recreation	427	22	5.2%
Accommodation & Food Services	929	141	15.2%
Other Services	305	76	24.9%
Public Administration	69	12	17.4%
Selected Occupations	8,819	1,818	20.6%
Business & Financial Operations	261	63	24.1%
Computer & Mathematical	161	53	32.9%
Architecture & Engineering	83	25	30.1%
Life, Physical & Social Science	64	18	28.1%
Community & Social Services	130	39	30.0%
Legal	15	4	26.7%
Education, Training & Library	128	47	36.7%
Arts, Design, Ent., Sports & Media	172	35	20.3%
Healthcare Practitioner & Technical	214	65	30.4%
Healthcare Support	208	50	24.0%
Protective Service	76	20	26.3%
Food Preparation & Serving Related	676	82	12.1%
Bldg. & Grounds Cleaning & Maint.	761	38	5.0%
Personal Care & Service	196	53	27.0%
Sales & Related	427	109	25.5%
Office & Administrative Support	1,175	326	27.7%
Construction & Extraction	611	53	8.7%
Installation, Maintenance & Repair	233	52	22.3%
Production	880	238	27.0%
Transportation & Material Moving	497	92	18.5%