



Rhode Island Department of Labor and Training

Initial Claims Statistics

February 2009

In February 2009, Rhode Island workers filed 12,586 initial claims for Unemployment Insurance benefits, an increase of 3,417 (37.3%) from the 9,169 initial claims filed in February 2008.

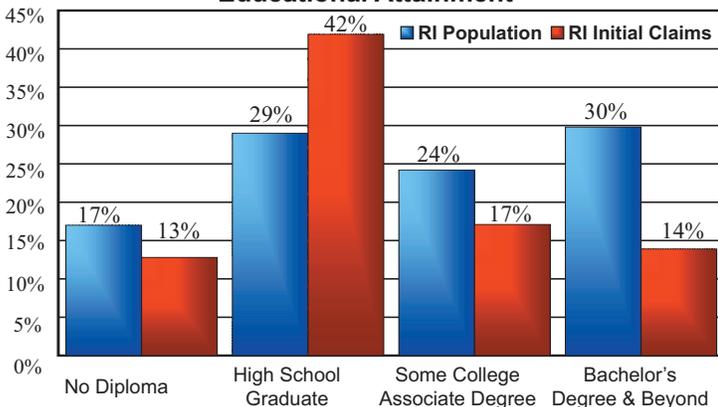
Employees with an attachment to the Manufacturing (2,147) sector filed the greatest number of initial claims, accounting for 17 percent of the total initial claims this month. This represents a 38 percent over-the-month decrease from the 3,482 initial claims filed in January. Claims against the manufacturing sector more than doubled the February 2008 figure of (1,006). The Transportation & Warehousing sector followed with the second highest number of initial claims (1,434) filed against it this month. Claims linked to the Transportation & Warehousing sector this month increased 39 percent from last year's figure (1,033). In addition, a significant number of claims were filed by individuals with an attachment to the Accommodation & Food Services (1,419) and Construction (1,358) sectors.

At the major occupational level, workers classified in Transportation & Material Moving (1,912) occupations filed the largest number of initial claims, followed by Production (1,875) and Office & Administrative Support (1,368) occupations. These three sectors accounted for 41 percent of the monthly total.

Forty-two percent of the claimants filing initial claims in February reported a high school diploma as their highest level of educational attainment, 17 percent reported having some college education (including associate degree), 14 percent reported having a bachelor's degree or beyond, while 13 percent reported that they did not have a high school diploma. In comparison, 29 percent of the state's population (25 & over) reported a high school diploma as their highest level of educational attainment, 24 percent reported having some college education (including associate degree), 30 percent reported having a bachelor's degree or beyond, while 17 percent reported that they did not have a high school diploma, indicating that unemployment is more prevalent among groups with less education.

Layoffs of 10 or more individuals during the month occurred in 64 companies, a decrease of 16 from last month's figure (80). Industry sectors showing the largest number of companies with layoffs included Manufacturing, Professional & Business Services and Transportation & Warehousing. Men filed 53 percent of the claims this month, while women filed 47 percent. School Bus Drivers was the occupation most cited by both the newly unemployed men and women.

Educational Attainment



Initial Claims by Industry Sector

	Feb 2009	Feb 2008
Total	12,586	9,169
Agriculture/Forestry	26	9
Mining	12	27
Utilities	2	7
Construction	1,358	1,318
Manufacturing	2,147	1,006
Wholesale Trade	351	228
Retail Trade	784	526
Transportation & Warehousing	1,434	1,033
Information	141	47
Finance & Insurance	352	196
Real Estate	126	98
Professional & Tech. Services	354	188
Management of Companies	207	79
Administrative & Waste Services	749	718
Educational Services	121	98
Health Care & Social Assistance	506	449
Arts, Entertainment & Recreation	127	100
Accommodation & Food Services	1,419	1,226
Other Services	246	167
Public Administration	172	135
Information Not Available	1,953	1,515

Initial Claims by Occupation

	Feb 2009	Feb 2008
Total	12,586	9,169
Management	710	434
Business & Financial Operations	194	124
Computer & Mathematical	131	46
Architecture & Engineering	174	69
Life, Physical & Social Science	45	25
Community & Social Services	51	38
Legal	30	31
Education, Training & Library	141	121
Arts, Design, Ent., Sports & Media	155	82
Healthcare Practitioner & Technical	111	79
Healthcare Support	134	139
Protective Service	154	178
Food Preparation & Serving Related	1,297	1,084
Building & Cleaning & Maintenance	230	191
Personal Care & Service	243	193
Sales & Related	564	421
Office & Administrative Support	1,368	977
Farming, Fishing & Forestry	25	6
Construction & Extraction	845	769
Installation, Maintenance & Repair	339	273
Production	1,875	1,052
Transportation & Material Moving	1,912	1,604
Military Specific	10	7
Information Not Available	1,851	1,225