

Rhode Island Department of Labor and Training

Initial Claims Statistics

February 2012



In February 2012, Rhode Island workers filed 8,968 initial claims for Unemployment Insurance benefits, a decrease of 217 (-2.4%) from the 9,185 initial claims filed in February 2011.

Employees with an attachment to the Transportation & Warehousing (1,389) sector filed the greatest number of initial claims this month, followed by the Accommodation & Food Services (1,126) sector, accounting for 28 percent of the total initial claims this month. Over the year, claims against the Transportation & Warehousing sector increased by 60 (4.5%) from the 1,329 initial claims filed in January 2011. The Accommodation & Food Services sector decreased 147 (11.5%) from the 1,273 initial claims filed during this same period.

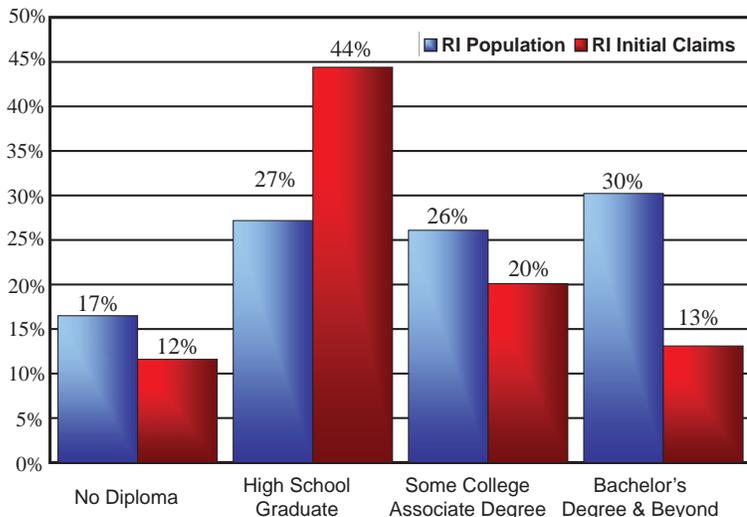
At the major occupational level, workers classified in Transportation & Material Moving (1,635) occupations filed the largest number of initial claims, followed by Food Preparation & Serving Related (1,272) occupations. These two sectors accounted for 32 percent of the total monthly claims in our state.

Men filed 49 percent of the claims this month, while women filed 51 percent. School Bus Driver was the occupation most cited by the newly unemployed men and the newly unemployed woman.

Layoffs of 10 or more individuals during the month occurred in 51 companies, a decrease of 13 from last month's figure (64), and a decrease of 2 from the February 2011 figure (53). Industry sectors showing the largest number of companies with layoffs included the Construction and Trade, Transportation & Utilities sectors which tied for first place, and the Manufacturing sector.

Forty-four percent of the claimants filing initial claims this month reported a high school diploma as their highest level of educational attainment, 20 percent reported having some college education (including associate degree), 13 percent reported having a bachelor's degree or beyond, while 12 percent reported that they did not have a high school diploma. In comparison, 27 percent of the state's population (25 & over) reported a high school diploma as their highest level of educational attainment, 26 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.

Educational Attainment



Initial Claims by Industry Sector

	Feb 2012	Feb 2011
Total	8,968	9,185
Agriculture/Forestry	7	8
Mining	4	11
Utilities	-	4
Construction	1,108	1,052
Manufacturing	636	624
Wholesale Trade	206	155
Retail Trade	576	638
Transportation & Warehousing	1,389	1,329
Information	52	25
Finance & Insurance	150	151
Real Estate	75	72
Professional & Tech. Services	176	266
Management of Companies	11	26
Administrative & Waste Services	736	648
Educational Services	104	133
Health Care & Social Assistance	622	545
Arts, Entertainment & Recreation	118	132
Accommodation & Food Services	1,126	1,273
Other Services	139	147
Public Administration	74	78
Information Not Available	1,659	1,869

Initial Claims by Occupation

	Feb 2012	Feb 2011
Total	8,968	9,185
Management	418	463
Business & Financial Operations	117	125
Computer & Mathematical	60	75
Architecture & Engineering	58	73
Life, Physical & Social Science	36	28
Community & Social Services	58	58
Legal	11	19
Education, Training & Library	145	161
Arts, Design, Ent., Sports & Media	101	93
Healthcare Practitioner & Technical	166	115
Healthcare Support	202	184
Protective Service	127	125
Food Preparation & Serving Related	1,272	1,320
Building & Cleaning & Maintenance	193	187
Personal Care & Service	230	173
Sales & Related	424	471
Office & Administrative Support	813	882
Farming, Fishing & Forestry	15	18
Construction & Extraction	585	571
Installation, Maintenance & Repair	251	220
Production	793	805
Transportation & Material Moving	1,635	1,695
Military Specific	29	21
Information Not Available	1,230	1,302

Data may not add due to rounding variations.