

Initial Claims - March 2004

There were 5,983 initial claims filed for Unemployment Insurance Benefits in March 2004; an increase of 195 (3.4%) from the 5,788 claims filed in March 2003. The estimated number of layoffs prevented as a result of Rhode Island's Workshare Program, numbered 79 down from 157 in March 2003.

According to our Mass Layoff Statistic's Program some 1,995 firms laid off workers in March. A total of 4,132 claims were filed by workers associated with these firms. There were 30 potential Mass Layoff events identified this month. A Mass Layoff event involves firms having a layoff of twelve or more people.

March Initial Claims By Major Industry Division

Industry	Claims	Percent
Total, All Industries	4,132	100.0%
Agriculture, Forestry, and Fishing	27	0.7%
Mining	8	0.2%
Construction	565	13.7%
Manufacturing	762	18.4%
Transportation, Communication & Utilities	133	3.2%
Wholesale Trade	292	7.1%
Retail Trade	590	14.3%
Finance, Insurance, and Real Estate	115	2.8%
Services	989	23.9%
Government	28	0.7%
Not Classified	623	15.1%

Employees in the Services sector filed 989 initial claims accounting for 23.9 percent of the initial claims filed this month. Business Services (340) and Health Services (236) had the largest losses in this sector, accounting for more than half of the layoffs associated with Service sector employees.

Employees of Rhode Island manufacturing companies filed a total of 762 initial claims, accounting for over 18.4 percent of the March claims. Within the Manufacturing sector, Miscellaneous Manufacturing which includes the Jewelry industry accounted for the most layoffs (224), followed by Leather and Leather Products (91), and Fabricated Metal Products (68). Initial claims filed by individuals with an attachment to this sector are down 743 initial claims, from the 1,505 claims filed this time last year.

Retail Trade workers filed 590 initial claims representing 14.3 percent of the month's initial claims. More than half of the claims filed by Retail Trade employees, were from Eating and Drinking Places (219) and Miscellaneous Retail (99).

Lastly, initial claims filed by Construction workers numbered 565 representing 13.7 percent of the initial claims filed for the month.

Monthly Highlight: The closing of Rojacks supermarkets this month triggered a layoff event displacing more than 100 people contributing to the initial claims filed in retail trade.

March 2004 Layoffs by Industry

SIC Industry	Number	Percent
Total, All Industries	4,132	100.0%
Agriculture	27	0.7%
01 Agriculture Production - Crops	5	0.1%
02 Agricultural Production - Livestock & Animal Specialties	0	0.0%
07 Agricultural Services	20	0.5%
08 Forestry	0	0.0%
09 Fishing, Hunting, & Trapping	2	0.0%
Mining	8	0.2%
14 Mining & Quarrying of Nonmetallic Minerals, Except Fuels	8	0.2%
Construction	565	13.7%
15 Building Construction - General Contractors & Operative Builders	100	2.4%
16 Construction - General Contractors	52	1.3%
17 Construction - Special Trade Contractors	413	10.0%
Manufacturing	762	18.4%
20 Food & Kindred Products	9	0.2%
22 Textile Mill Products	47	1.1%
23 Apparel & Other Finished Products Made from Fabrics & Similar Materials	27	0.7%
24 Lumber & Wood Products, Except Furniture	14	0.3%
25 Furniture & Fixtures	23	0.6%
26 Paper & Allied Products	10	0.2%
27 Printing, Publishing, & Allied Industries	34	0.8%
28 Chemicals & Allied Products	21	0.5%
29 Petroleum Refining & Related	1	0.0%
30 Rubber & Miscellaneous Plastics Products	39	0.9%
31 Leather & Leather Products	91	2.2%
32 Stone, Clay, Glass & Concrete Products	20	0.5%
33 Primary Metal Industries	15	0.4%
34 Fabricated Metal Products, Except Machinery & Transportation Equipment	68	1.6%
35 Industrial & Commercial Machinery & Computer Equipment	42	1.0%
36 Electronic & Other Electrical Equipment & Components, Except Computer Equipment	28	0.7%
37 Transportation Equipment	20	0.5%
38 Instruments	29	0.7%
39 Miscellaneous Manufacturing Industries	224	5.4%
Transportation, Communication, & Public Utilities	133	3.2%
41 Local & Suburban Transit & Interurban Highway Passenger Transportation	41	1.0%
42 Motor Freight Transportation & Warehousing	42	1.0%
43 United States Postal Service	0	0.0%
44 Water Transportation	13	0.3%
45 Transportation by Air	16	0.4%
47 Transportation Services	4	0.1%
48 Communications	13	0.3%
49 Electric, Gas, & Sanitary Services	4	0.1%
Wholesale Trade	292	7.1%
50 Wholesale Trade - Durable Goods	101	2.4%
51 Wholesale Trade - Nondurable Goods	191	4.6%
Retail Trade	590	14.3%
52 Building Materials, Hardware, Garden Supply, & Mobile Home Dealers	25	0.6%
53 General Merchandise Stores	48	1.2%
54 Food Stores	94	2.3%
55 Automotive Dealers & Gasoline Service Stations	65	1.6%
56 Apparel & Accessory Stores	17	0.4%
57 Home Furniture, Furnishings, & Equipment Stores	23	0.6%
58 Eating & Drinking Places	219	5.3%
59 Miscellaneous Retail	99	2.4%

March 2004 Layoffs by Industry

SIC Industry	Number	Percent
Finance, Insurance, & Real Estate	115	2.8%
60 Depository Institutions	33	0.8%
61 Nondepository Credit Institutions	23	0.6%
62 Security & Commodity Brokers, Dealers, Exchanges, & Services	3	0.1%
63 Insurance Carriers	18	0.4%
64 Insurance Agents, Brokers, & Service	15	0.4%
65 Real Estate	22	0.5%
67 Holding & Other Investment Offices	1	0.0%
Services	989	23.9%
70 Hotels, Rooming Houses, Camps, & Other Lodging Places	53	1.3%
72 Personal Services	32	0.8%
73 Business Services	340	8.2%
75 Automotive Repair, Services, & Parking	45	1.1%
76 Miscellaneous Repair Services	18	0.4%
78 Motion Pictures	6	0.1%
79 Amusement & Recreation Services	38	0.9%
80 Health Services	236	5.7%
81 Legal Services	12	0.3%
82 Educational Services	48	1.2%
83 Social Services	73	1.8%
84 Museums, Art Galleries, & Botanical & Zoological Gardens	7	0.2%
86 Membership Organizations	23	0.6%
87 Engineering, Accounting, research, Management, & Related Services	57	1.4%
88 Private Households	1	0.0%
89 Miscellaneous Services	0	0.0%
Government	28	0.7%
91 Executive, Legislative, & General Government, Except Finance	23	0.6%
92 Justice, Public Order, & Safety	0	0.0%
93 Administration & Human Resource Programs	1	0.0%
95 Administration of Environmental & Housing Program	4	0.1%
96 National Security & International Affairs	0	0.0%
97 Administration of Economic Programs	0	0.0%
 No Industry Assigned	 623	 15.1%