



## Rhode Island Department of Labor and Training

# Initial Claims Statistics March 2008

In March 2008, Rhode Island workers filed a total of 6,388 initial claims for Unemployment Insurance benefits, an increase of 515 (8.8%) from the 5,873 initial claims filed in February 2007.

Employees with an attachment to the Manufacturing (953) and Construction (841) sectors filed the greatest number of claims this month, representing twenty eight percent of the total claims for the month. The initial claims associated with the Construction sector are up 3 percent from March 2007, however this sector should see declines in initial claims as the April weather changes to more favorable conditions. The Retail Trade (652), Accommodation & Food Services (552), and Health Care & Social Assistance (526) sectors also had significant claims filed against them.

At the major occupational level, workers classified in Office & Administrative Support (1,023) and Production (944) occupations filed the largest number of initial claims for the month. The number of initial claims for workers in Office & Administrative Support occupations increased by (+30%) over the year whereas Production workers stayed relatively the same. Food Preparation & Serving Related (501), Construction & Extraction (497), Transportation & Material Moving (475) and Management (445) occupations also showed significant claims.

### Initial Claims by Industry Sector

	2008	2007
Total	6,388	5,873
Agriculture/Forestry	11	5
Mining	9	12
Utilities	8	5
Construction	841	813
Manufacturing	953	868
Wholesale Trade	161	158
Retail Trade	652	406
Transportation & Warehousing	221	147
Information	81	56
Finance & Insurance	215	200
Real Estate	87	59
Professional & Tech. Services	194	161
Management of Companies	55	107
Administrative & Waste Services	436	393
Educational Services	48	53
Health Care & Social Assistance	526	442
Arts, Entertainment & Recreation	116	61
Accommodation & Food Services	552	646
Other Services	161	132
Public Administration	48	86
Information Not Available	1,013	1,063

### Initial Claims by Occupation

	2008	2007
Total	6,388	5,873
Management	445	424
Business & Financial Operations	149	153
Computer & Mathematical	72	41
Architecture & Engineering	54	49
Life, Physical & Social Science	26	19
Community & Social Services	46	31
Legal	21	17
Education, Training & Library	52	56
Arts, Design, Ent., Sports & Media	93	82
Healthcare Practitioner & Technical	112	85
Healthcare Support	155	150
Protective Service	48	128
Food Preparation & Serving Related	501	530
Building & Grounds Cleaning & Maint.	131	103
Personal Care & Service	94	67
Sales & Related	342	308
Office & Administrative Support	1,023	789
Farming, Fishing & Forestry	12	5
Construction & Extraction	497	435
Installation, Maintenance & Repair	228	180
Production	944	905
Transportation & Material Moving	475	436
Military Specific	12	10
Information Not Available	856	870

Men filed 55 percent of the claims this month, whereas women filed 45 percent. Production Worker (Helpers), Carpenters, and Truck Drivers (Heavy and Tractor-Trailer) are the occupations most cited by these newly unemployed men. General Office Clerks, Customer Service Representatives and Hand Packers and Packagers are the occupations most cited by the newly unemployed women.

Forty-three percent of the claimants filing initial claims in March reported a high school diploma as their highest level of educational attainment. Thirty-one percent of the claimants reported having education beyond high school, with thirteen percent possessing a Bachelor's degree or beyond. Fourteen percent of the claimants filing initial claims did not have a high school diploma or GED.

### Initial Claims by Educational Attainment

