Rhode Island Department of Labor and Training
Initial Claims Statistics
April 2012

In April 2012, Rhode Island workers filed 7,722 initial claims for Unemployment Insurance benefits, a decrease of 98 (-1.3%) from the 7,820 initial claims filed in April 2011.

Employees with an attachment to the Transportation & Warehousing (1,315) sector filed the greatest number of initial claims this month, followed by the Accommodation & Food Services (909) sector, accounting for 29 percent of the total initial claims this month. Over the year, claims against the Transportation & Warehousing sector increased by 28 (2.2%) from the 1,287 initial claims filed in April 2011. The Accommodation & Food Services sector decreased 203 (-18.3%) from the 1,112 initial claims filed during this same period.

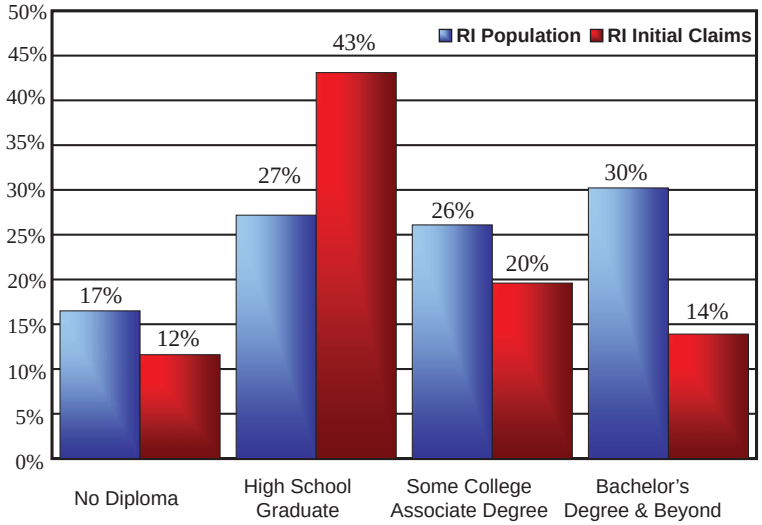
At the major occupational level, workers classified in Transportation & Material Moving (1,487) occupations filed the largest number of initial claims, followed by Food Preparation & Serving Related (1,123) occupations. These two sectors accounted for 34 percent of the total monthly claims in our state.

Men filed 44 percent of the claims this month, while women filed 56 percent. School Bus Driver was the occupation most cited by the newly unemployed men and newly unemployed women.

Layoffs of 10 or more individuals during the month occurred in 44 companies, an increase of 14 from last month's figure (30), and an increase of 3 from the April 2011 figure (41). Industry sectors showing the largest number of companies with layoffs included the Trade, Transportation & Utilities, Manufacturing and Professional & Business Services sectors.

Forty-three 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), 14 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

	Apr 2012	Apr 2011
Total	7,722	7,820
Agriculture/Forestry	2	5
Mining	3	5
Utilities	-	6
Construction	650	637
Manufacturing	611	554
Wholesale Trade	165	168
Retail Trade	393	412
Transportation & Warehousing	1,315	1,287
Information	64	46
Finance & Insurance	145	156
Real Estate	58	90
Professional & Tech. Services	225	242
Management of Companies	8	53
Administrative & Waste Services	650	484
Educational Services	81	111
Health Care & Social Assistance	552	537
Arts, Entertainment & Recreation	42	56
Accommodation & Food Services	909	1,112
Other Services	111	156
Public Administration	70	72
Information Not Available	1,671	1,631

Initial Claims by Occupation

	Apr 2012	Apr 2011
Total	7,722	7,820
Management	354	375
Business & Financial Operations	153	179
Computer & Mathematical	85	64
Architecture & Engineering	52	56
Life, Physical & Social Science	27	34
Community & Social Services	65	61
Legal	17	22
Education, Training & Library	124	141
Arts, Design, Ent., Sports & Media	98	111
Healthcare Practitioner & Technical	124	139
Healthcare Support	185	197
Protective Service	114	88
Food Preparation & Serving Related	1,123	1,030
Building & Cleaning & Maintenance	105	112
Personal Care & Service	166	182
Sales & Related	310	354
Office & Administrative Support	823	780
Farming, Fishing & Forestry	10	14
Construction & Extraction	364	308
Installation, Maintenance & Repair	187	164
Production	702	602
Transportation & Material Moving	1,487	1,529
Military Specific	27	15
Information Not Available	1,020	1,264

Data may not add due to rounding variations.

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