

Initial Claims - May 2004

There were 4,542 initial claims filed for Unemployment Insurance Benefits in May 2004; a decrease of 760 (-14.3%) from the 5,302 claims filed in May 2003. The estimated number of layoffs prevented as a result of Rhode Island's Workshare Program numbered 127, down from 131 in May 2003.

According to our Mass Layoff Statistic's Program, 1,983 firms laid off workers in May. A total of 4,202 claims were filed by workers associated with these firms. There were 37 potential Mass Layoff events identified this month. A Mass Layoff event involves firms having a layoff of twelve or more people.

May Initial Claims By Major Industry Division

Industry	Claims	Percent
Total, All Industries	4,202	100.0%
Agriculture, Forestry, and Fishing	13	0.3%
Mining	11	0.3%
Construction	418	9.9%
Manufacturing	822	19.6%
Transportation, Communication & Utilities	178	4.2%
Wholesale Trade	143	3.4%
Retail Trade	575	13.7%
Finance, Insurance, and Real Estate	256	6.1%
Services	1,129	26.9%
Government	32	0.8%
Not Classified	625	14.9%

Employees in the Services sector filed 1,129 initial claims accounting for nearly 27 percent of the initial claims filed this month. Business Services (296) and Health Services (267) had the largest losses in this sector, accounting for nearly half of the layoffs associated with this sector.

Employees of Rhode Island manufacturing companies filed a total of 822 initial claims, representing 20 percent of the May claims. Within the Manufacturing sector, Miscellaneous Manufacturing, which includes the Jewelry industry, accounted for the most layoffs (262), followed by Fabricated Metal Products (102), and Textile Mill Products (79). Initial claims filed by individuals with an attachment to this sector are down 237 initial claims from the 1,059 claims filed this time last year.

Retail Trade workers filed 575 initial claims accounting for almost 14 percent of the month's initial claims. Nearly half of the claims filed by Retail Trade employees were from Eating and Drinking Places (214).

Initial claims filed by Construction workers numbered (418), representing 9.9 percent of the initial claims filed for the month.

Monthly Highlight: Following a strike that was triggered by a union dispute this month, the regional trucking company USF Red Star of Cumberland abruptly closed its doors leaving 132 employees in the Transportation industry out of work. - Providence Journal, May 26, 2004

* Source: Providence Journal.

May 2004 Layoffs by Industry

SIC Industry	Number	Percent
Total Industries	4,202	100%
Agriculture	13	0.3%
01 Agriculture Production - Crops	2	0.0%
02 Agricultural Production - Livestock and Animal Specialties	1	0.0%
07 Agricultural Services	9	0.2%
08 Forestry	0	0.0%
09 Fishing, Hunting, and Trapping	1	0.0%
Mining	11	0.3%
14 Mining and Quarrying of Nonmetallic Minerals, Except Fuels	11	0.3%
Construction	418	9.9%
15 Building Construction - General Contractors and Operative Builders	85	2.0%
16 Construction - General Contractors	43	1.0%
17 Construction - Special Trade Contractors	290	6.9%
Manufacturing	822	19.6%
20 Food and Kindred Products	20	0.5%
22 Textile Mill Products	79	1.9%
23 Apparel and Other Finished Products Made from Fabrics and Similar Materials	7	0.2%
24 Lumber and Wood Products, Except Furniture	18	0.4%
25 Furniture and Fixtures	30	0.7%
26 Paper and Allied Products	23	0.5%
27 Printing, Publishing, and Allied Industries	42	1.0%
28 Chemicals and Allied Products	23	0.5%
29 Petroleum Refining and Related	1	0.0%
30 Rubber and Miscellaneous Plastics Products	14	0.3%
31 Leather and Leather Products	44	1.0%
32 Stone, Clay, Glass and Concrete Products	14	0.3%
33 Primary Metal Industries	31	0.7%
34 Fabricated Metal Products, Except Machinery and Transportation Equipment	102	2.4%
35 Industrial and Commercial Machinery and Computer Equipment	22	0.5%
36 Electronic and Other Electrical Equipment and Components, Except Computer Equipment	54	1.3%
37 Transportation Equipment	24	0.6%
38 Instruments	12	0.3%
39 Miscellaneous Manufacturing Industries	262	6.2%
Transportation, Communication, and Public Utilities	178	4.2%
41 Local and Suburban Transit and Interurban Highway Passenger Transportation	17	0.4%
42 Motor Freight Transportation and Warehousing	117	2.8%
43 United States Postal Service	0	0.0%
44 Water Transportation	12	0.3%
45 Transportation by Air	6	0.1%
47 Transportation Services	11	0.3%
48 Communications	10	0.2%
49 Electric, Gas, and Sanitary Services	5	0.1%
Wholesale Trade	143	3.4%
50 Wholesale Trade - Durable Goods	100	2.4%
51 Wholesale Trade - Nondurable Goods	43	1.0%
Retail Trade	575	13.7%
52 Building Materials, Hardware, Garden Supply, and Mobile Home Dealers	11	0.3%
53 General Merchandise Stores	30	0.7%
54 Food Stores	86	2.0%
55 Automotive Dealers and Gasoline Service Stations	48	1.1%
56 Apparel and Accessory Stores	20	0.5%
57 Home Furniture, Furnishings, and Equipment Stores	46	1.1%
58 Eating and Drinking Places	214	5.1%
59 Miscellaneous Retail	120	2.9%

May 2004 Layoffs by Industry

SIC Industry	Number	Percent
Finance, Insurance, and Real Estate	256	6.1%
60 Depository Institutions	123	2.9%
61 Nondepository Credit Institutions	31	0.7%
62 Security and Commodity Brokers, Dealers, Exchanges, and Services	9	0.2%
63 Insurance Carriers	24	0.6%
64 Insurance Agents, Brokers, and Service	17	0.4%
65 Real Estate	52	1.2%
67 Holding and Other Investment Offices	0	0.0%
Services	1,129	26.9%
70 Hotels, Rooming Houses, Camps, and Other Lodging Places	32	0.8%
72 Personal Services	53	1.3%
73 Business Services	296	7.0%
75 Automotive Repair, Services, and Parking	39	0.9%
76 Miscellaneous Repair Services	39	0.9%
78 Motion Pictures	3	0.1%
79 Amusement and Recreation Services	69	1.6%
80 Health Services	267	6.4%
81 Legal Services	18	0.4%
82 Educational Services	65	1.5%
83 Social Services	145	3.5%
84 Museums, Art Galleries, and Botanical and Zoological Gardens	2	0.0%
86 Membership Organizations	26	0.6%
87 Engineering, Accounting, research, Management, and Related Services	73	1.7%
88 Private Households	1	0.0%
89 Miscellaneous Services	1	0.0%
Government	32	0.8%
91 Executive, Legislative, and General Government, Except Finance	16	0.4%
92 Justice, Public Order, and Safety	0	0.0%
93 Administration & Human Resource Programs	0	0.0%
95 Administration of Environmental & Housing Program	16	0.4%
96 National Security & International Affairs	0	0.0%
97 Administration of Economic Programs	0	0.0%
99 No Industry Assigned	625	14.9%