



Rhode Island Department of Labor and Training

Initial Claims Statistics May 2008

In May 2008, Rhode Island workers filed a total of 5,633 initial claims for Unemployment Insurance benefits, an increase of 797 (16.5%) from the 4,836 initial claims filed in May 2007.

Employees with an attachment to the Manufacturing (1,032) and Construction (665) sectors filed the greatest number of claims this month, representing thirty percent of the monthly claims. There was an over the year rise in claims for both Manufacturing (+53%) and Construction (+37%). In addition, a significant number of initial claims were filed by individuals with an attachment to the Health Care & Social Assistance (440), Retail Trade (427), Accommodation & Food Services (401) and Administrative & Waste Services (395) sectors.

At the major occupational level, workers classified in Production (1,000) and Office & Administrative Support (832) occupations filed the largest number of initial claims for the month. The majority of the claims filed by workers in the Production occupations were associated with workers employed as production helpers. The majority of the claims in Office & Administrative Support services were from the claimants employed as shipping clerks, stock clerks and order fillers.

Layoffs of 10 or more individuals during the month of May occurred in 38 companies. Sectors showing the largest number of companies with layoffs included Manufacturing (11) and Retail Trade (6).

Initial Claims by Industry Sector

	2008	2007
Total	5,633	4,836
Agriculture/Forestry	6	12
Mining	2	0
Utilities	2	0
Construction	665	485
Manufacturing	1,032	674
Wholesale Trade	141	162
Retail Trade	427	439
Transportation & Warehousing	146	130
Information	52	30
Finance & Insurance	232	219
Real Estate	86	86
Professional & Tech. Services	173	158
Management of Companies	12	27
Administrative & Waste Services	395	296
Educational Services	60	76
Health Care & Social Assistance	440	391
Arts, Entertainment & Recreation	74	59
Accommodation & Food Services	401	420
Other Services	168	134
Public Administration	19	24
Information Not Available	1,100	1,011

Initial Claims by Occupation

	2008	2007
Total	5,633	4,836
Management	341	419
Business & Financial Operations	160	188
Computer & Mathematical	43	40
Architecture & Engineering	44	35
Life, Physical & Social Science	25	14
Community & Social Services	54	54
Legal	13	24
Education, Training & Library	109	104
Arts, Design, Ent., Sports & Media	110	83
Healthcare Practitioner & Technical	99	80
Healthcare Support	153	124
Protective Service	61	33
Food Preparation & Serving Related	338	335
Building & Grounds Cleaning & Maintenance	67	43
Personal Care & Service	109	61
Sales & Related	305	337
Office & Administrative Support	832	722
Farming, Fishing & Forestry	13	9
Construction & Extraction	363	291
Installation, Maintenance & Repair	174	155
Production	1,000	689
Transportation & Material Moving	351	351
Military Specific	8	7
Information Not Available	860	638

Data may not add up due to rounding variations.

Men filed 54 percent of the claims this month, whereas women filed 46 percent. Carpenters, Truck Drivers (Heavy and Tractor-Trailer) and Production Workers (All Other) are the occupations most cited by these newly unemployed men. Customer Service Representatives (All Other), General Office Clerks, and Assemblers and Fabricators (All Other) are the occupations most cited by the newly unemployed women.

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

Initial Claims by Educational Attainment

