



Rhode Island Department of Labor and Training

Initial Claims Statistics

May 2009

In May 2009, Rhode Island workers filed 6,927 initial claims for Unemployment Insurance benefits, an increase of 1,294 (23.0%) from the 5,633 initial claims filed in May 2008.

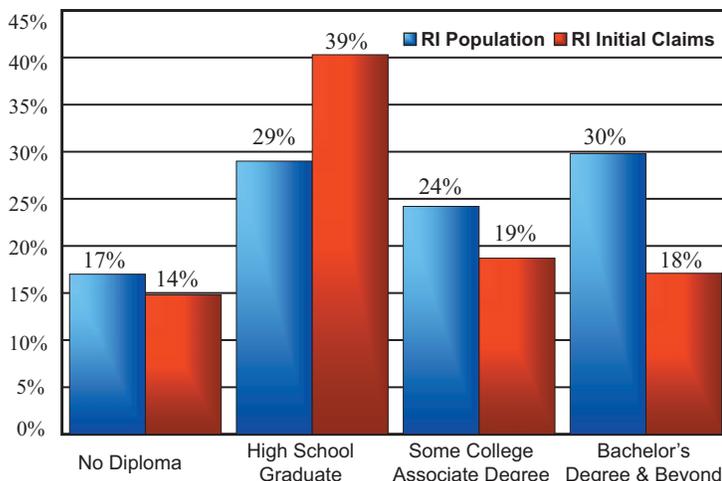
Employees with an attachment to the Manufacturing (1,234) sector filed the greatest number of initial claims, accounting for 18 percent of the total initial claims this month. This represents a 22 percent over-the-month decrease from the 1,579 initial claims filed in April. The Construction sector followed with the second highest number of initial claims (758) for the month. In addition, a significant number of claims were filed by individuals with an attachment to the Accommodation & Food Services (499) and Health Care & Social Assistance (480) sectors.

At the major occupational level, workers classified in Office & Administrative Support (951) occupations filed the largest number of initial claims, followed by Production (896) and Management (470) occupations. These three sectors accounted for nearly 33 percent of the monthly total.

Thirty-nine percent of the claimants filing initial claims in May reported a high school diploma as their highest level of educational attainment, 19 percent reported having some college education (including associate degree), 18 percent reported having a bachelor's degree or beyond, while 14 percent reported that they did not have a high school diploma. In comparison, 29 percent of the state's population (25 & over) reported a high school diploma as their highest level of educational attainment, 24 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.

Layoffs of 10 or more individuals during the month occurred in 59 companies, a decrease of 9 from last month's figure (68). Industry sectors showing the largest number of companies with layoffs included Manufacturing, Professional & Business Services and Educational & Health Services. Men filed 57 percent of the claims this month, while women filed 43 percent. Carpenter was the occupation most cited by the newly unemployed men. General Office Clerks are the occupations most cited by the newly unemployed women.

Educational Attainment



Initial Claims by Industry Sector

	May 2009	May 2008
Total	6,927	5,633
Agriculture/Forestry	4	6
Mining	3	2
Utilities	2	2
Construction	758	665
Manufacturing	1,234	1,032
Wholesale Trade	243	141
Retail Trade	412	427
Transportation & Warehousing	151	146
Information	61	52
Finance & Insurance	209	232
Real Estate	112	86
Professional & Tech. Services	314	173
Management of Companies	32	12
Administrative & Waste Services	466	395
Educational Services	109	60
Health Care & Social Assistance	480	440
Arts, Entertainment & Recreation	77	74
Accommodation & Food Services	499	401
Other Services	163	168
Public Administration	47	19
Information Not Available	1,549	1,100

Initial Claims by Occupation

	May 2009	May 2008
Total	6,927	5,633
Management	470	341
Business & Financial Operations	201	160
Computer & Mathematical	84	43
Architecture & Engineering	122	44
Life, Physical & Social Science	28	25
Community & Social Services	59	54
Legal	18	13
Education, Training & Library	148	109
Arts, Design, Ent., Sports & Media	108	110
Healthcare Practitioner & Technical	119	99
Healthcare Support	139	153
Protective Service	67	61
Food Preparation & Serving Related	430	338
Building & Cleaning & Maintenance	100	67
Personal Care & Service	102	109
Sales & Related	362	305
Office & Administrative Support	951	832
Farming, Fishing & Forestry	7	13
Construction & Extraction	415	363
Installation, Maintenance & Repair	181	174
Production	896	1,000
Transportation & Material Moving	420	351
Military Specific	17	8
Information Not Available	1,483	860

Data may not add due to rounding variations.