

Rhode Island Department of Labor and Training

Initial Claims Statistics

May 2011



In May 2011, Rhode Island workers filed 5,699 initial claims for Unemployment Insurance benefits, a decrease of 1,461 (-20.4%) from the 7,160 initial claims filed in May 2010.

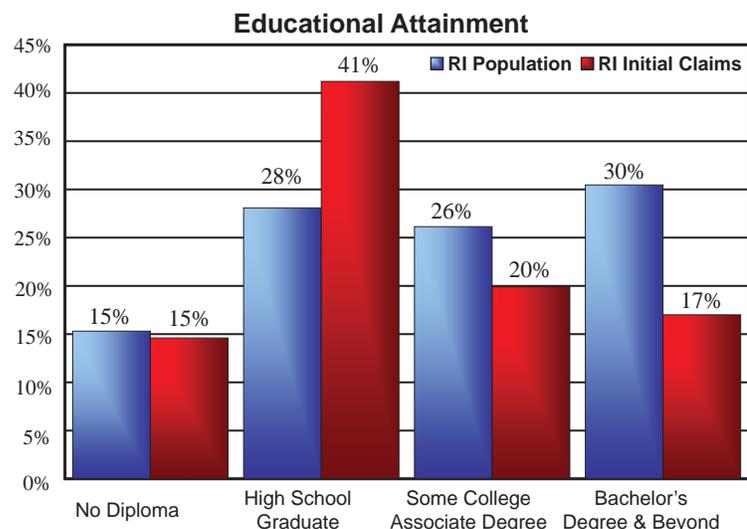
Employees with an attachment to the Construction (694) sector filed the greatest number of initial claims this month, followed by the Manufacturing (665) sector, accounting for 24 percent of the total initial claims this month. Over the year, claims against the Construction sector decreased 11.6 percent from the 785 initial claims filed in May 2010, while claims against the Manufacturing sector decreased 115 (14.7%) from the 780 initial claims filed during this same period.

At the major occupational level, workers classified in Office & Administrative Support (779) occupations filed the largest number of initial claims, followed by Production (710) occupations. These two sectors accounted for 26 percent of the total monthly claims in our state.

Men filed 55 percent of the claims this month, while women filed 45 percent. Heavy and Tractor-Trailer Truck Driver was the occupation most cited by the newly unemployed men. Customer Service Representative was the occupation most cited by the newly unemployed women.

Layoffs of 10 or more individuals during the month occurred in 46 companies, an increase of 5 from last month's figure (41), and an increase of 7 from the May 2010 figure (39). Industry sectors showing the largest number of companies with layoffs included Professional & Business Services, Construction, and Manufacturing.

Forty one 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), 17 percent reported having a bachelor's degree or beyond, while 15 percent reported that they did not have a high school diploma. In comparison, 28 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 15 percent reported that they did not have a high school diploma, indicating that unemployment is more prevalent among groups with less education.



Initial Claims by Industry Sector

	May 2011	May 2010
Total	5,699	7,160
Agriculture/Forestry	1	4
Mining	4	4
Utilities	5	3
Construction	694	785
Manufacturing	665	780
Wholesale Trade	152	223
Retail Trade	382	580
Transportation & Warehousing	127	275
Information	54	47
Finance & Insurance	143	163
Real Estate	70	132
Professional & Tech. Services	213	245
Management of Companies	61	21
Administrative & Waste Services	499	471
Educational Services	91	116
Health Care & Social Assistance	495	564
Arts, Entertainment & Recreation	75	94
Accommodation & Food Services	484	769
Other Services	186	183
Public Administration	27	54
Information Not Available	1,271	1,645

Initial Claims by Occupation

	May 2011	May 2010
Total	5,699	7,160
Management	377	407
Business & Financial Operations	161	170
Computer & Mathematical	77	73
Architecture & Engineering	50	56
Life, Physical & Social Science	34	26
Community & Social Services	70	66
Legal	18	33
Education, Training & Library	130	145
Arts, Design, Ent., Sports & Media	97	103
Healthcare Practitioner & Technical	131	143
Healthcare Support	163	220
Protective Service	69	62
Food Preparation & Serving Related	463	742
Building & Cleaning & Maintenance	101	103
Personal Care & Service	138	132
Sales & Related	276	402
Office & Administrative Support	779	951
Farming, Fishing & Forestry	6	14
Construction & Extraction	317	402
Installation, Maintenance & Repair	175	198
Production	710	700
Transportation & Material Moving	384	593
Military Specific	13	21
Information Not Available	961	1,399

Data may not add due to rounding variations.