



Rhode Island Department of Labor and Training

Initial Claims Statistics August 2008

In August 2008, Rhode Island workers filed a total of 6,145 initial claims for Unemployment Insurance benefits, an increase of 971 (18.8%) from the 5,174 initial claims filed in August 2007.

Employees with an attachment to the Manufacturing (844) and Construction (695) sectors filed the greatest number of claims this month, representing one-quarter of the total initial claims filed for August. Initial claims in Manufacturing increased by 316 from the August 2007 figure (528), representing a sixty percent increase from the prior year. Claims linked to the Construction sector (695) increased by twenty-eight percent from the same time period last year (542). In addition, 571 initial claims were filed by individuals with an attachment to the Health Care & Social Assistance sector.

At the major occupational level, workers classified in Production (873), Office & Administrative Support (810) and Transportation & Material Moving (586) occupations filed the largest number of initial claims, accounting for thirty-seven percent of the monthly total. There was also a significant number of claims filed by individuals with an attachment to Construction & Extraction (459) and Management (373) occupations.

Layoffs of 10 or more individuals during the month of August occurred in 41 companies. Industry sectors showing the largest number of companies with layoffs included Transportation & Warehousing and Manufacturing.

Initial Claims by Industry Sector

	2008	2007
Total	6,145	5,174
Agriculture/Forestry	10	10
Mining	11	2
Utilities	1	1
Construction	695	542
Manufacturing	844	528
Wholesale Trade	162	136
Retail Trade	395	504
Transportation & Warehousing	389	329
Information	52	64
Finance & Insurance	197	310
Real Estate	76	59
Professional & Tech. Services	141	132
Management of Companies	18	17
Administrative & Waste Services	345	306
Educational Services	145	193
Health Care & Social Assistance	571	420
Arts, Entertainment & Recreation	101	49
Accommodation & Food Services	318	256
Other Services	217	192
Public Administration	33	41
Information Not Available	1,423	1,083

Initial Claims by Occupation

	2008	2007
Total	6,145	5,174
Management	373	400
Business & Financial Operations	135	212
Computer & Mathematical	50	63
Architecture & Engineering	38	45
Life, Physical & Social Science	17	6
Community & Social Services	60	47
Legal	10	24
Education, Training & Library	209	219
Arts, Design, Ent., Sports & Media	87	63
Healthcare Practitioner & Technical	118	92
Healthcare Support	182	136
Protective Service	66	66
Food Preparation & Serving Related	320	262
Building & Grounds Cleaning & Maintenance	119	83
Personal Care & Service	130	96
Sales & Related	262	246
Office & Administrative Support	810	819
Farming, Fishing & Forestry	6	5
Construction & Extraction	459	363
Installation, Maintenance & Repair	196	175
Production	873	555
Transportation & Material Moving	586	559
Military Specific	18	10
Information Not Available	1,023	628

Data may not add up due to rounding variations.

Men filed fifty-three percent of the claims this month, whereas women filed forty-seven percent. Carpenters, Construction Laborers, and Production Workers are the occupations most cited by these newly unemployed men. School Bus Drivers, Production Workers, and General Office Clerks are the occupations most cited by the newly unemployed women.

Forty-one percent of the claimants filing initial claims in August reported a high school diploma as their highest level of educational attainment. Thirty-four percent of the claimants reported having education beyond high school, with sixteen percent possessing a Bachelor's degree or beyond. Fourteen percent of the claimants filing initial claims did not have a high school diploma or GED.

Initial Claims by Educational Attainment

