



Rhode Island Department of Labor and Training

Initial Claims Statistics

December 2008

In December 2008, Rhode Island workers filed 11,079 initial claims for Unemployment Insurance benefits, an increase of 777 (7.5%) from the 10,302 initial claims filed in December 2007.

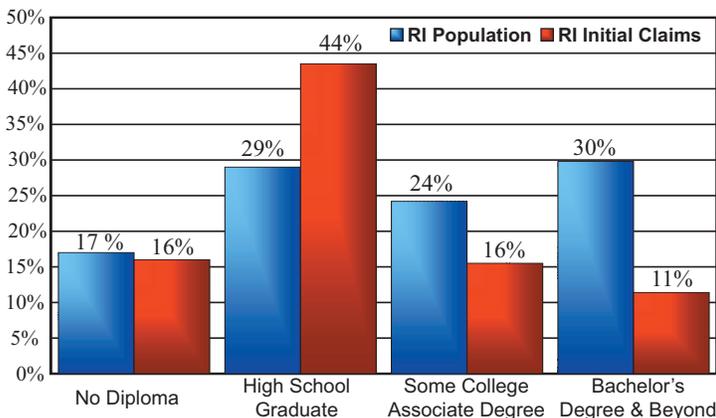
Employees with an attachment to the Manufacturing (1,960) and Construction (1,679) sectors filed the greatest number of initial claims, accounting for 33 percent of the total initial claims. In the Manufacturing sector, initial claims rose 68 percent from the previous month (1,167) and 52 percent from a year ago (1,286). Claims linked to the Construction sector declined 23 percent from last year's figure (2,193). In addition, a significant number of claims was filed by individuals with an attachment to the Administrative & Waste Services (1,226) and Accommodation & Food Services (1,141) sectors.

At the major occupational level, for the third consecutive month, workers classified in Production (1,762) occupations filed the largest number of initial claims, followed by Transportation & Material Moving (1,203) and Construction & Extraction (1,053) occupations. These three sectors accounted for 36 percent of the monthly total.

Forty-four percent of the claimants filing initial claims in December reported a high school diploma as their highest level of educational attainment, 16 percent reported having some college education (including associate degree), 11 percent reported having a bachelor degree or beyond, while 16 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 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 114 companies, an increase of 49 from last month's figure (65). Industry sectors showing the largest number of companies with layoffs included Manufacturing, Administrative & Waste and Construction. Men filed 62 percent of the claims this month, and women filed 38 percent. Landscaping & Groundskeeping workers was the occupation most cited by these newly unemployed men. School Bus Driver was the occupation most cited by the newly unemployed women.

Educational Attainment



Initial Claims by Industry Sector

	Dec 2008	Dec 2007
Total	11,079	10,302
Agriculture/Forestry	104	133
Mining	36	43
Utilities	3	2
Construction	1,679	2,193
Manufacturing	1,960	1,286
Wholesale Trade	228	230
Retail Trade	507	471
Transportation & Warehousing	762	807
Information	82	40
Finance & Insurance	159	180
Real Estate	121	68
Professional & Tech. Services	222	191
Management of Companies	30	23
Administrative & Waste Services	1,226	1,270
Educational Services	88	77
Health Care & Social Assistance	357	360
Arts, Entertainment & Recreation	253	230
Accommodation & Food Services	1,141	929
Other Services	167	159
Public Administration	92	80
Information Not Available	1,862	1,530

Initial Claims by Occupation

	Dec 2008	Dec 2007
Total	11,079	10,302
Management	535	538
Business & Financial Operations	145	130
Computer & Mathematical	71	36
Architecture & Engineering	90	56
Life, Physical & Social Science	38	31
Community & Social Services	45	24
Legal	13	16
Education, Training & Library	92	100
Arts, Design, Ent., Sports & Media	109	111
Healthcare Practitioner & Technical	71	89
Healthcare Support	114	143
Protective Service	118	106
Food Preparation & Serving Related	936	796
Building & Cleaning & Maintenance	833	915
Personal Care & Service	130	128
Sales & Related	384	372
Office & Administrative Support	935	844
Farming, Fishing & Forestry	53	76
Construction & Extraction	1,053	1,317
Installation, Maintenance & Repair	291	269
Production	1,762	1,328
Transportation & Material Moving	1,203	1,311
Military Specific	14	12
Information Not Available	2,043	1,555