



Rhode Island Department of Labor and Training

Mass Layoff Statistics 2008

In 2008, there were 106 mass layoff actions* taken by Rhode Island employers as measured by new filings for Unemployment Insurance (UI) benefits. The events involved a total of 11,816 people who filed initial claims for UI benefits accounting for 13 percent of all initial claims (93,761) during 2008. Thirty-three of the 106 layoff actions that occurred during the year were classified as long-term layoffs (expected to last for more than 30 days). In comparison, in 2007, there were 91 significant layoff actions. A total of 10,941 workers were involved in the 2007 events accounting for 13.4 percent of the 81,928 initial claims filed.

Thirty-five mass layoff events occurred in the Manufacturing sector. These 35 events were linked to 26 Rhode Island establishments. The majority of these layoffs (24) were classified as temporary meaning the layoff lasted less than 30 days. Seven events were classified as long-term layoffs and affected nearly 850 workers. Three events were classified as permanent closures with no recall expected for more than 300 employees.

The Transportation & Warehousing sector recorded the second largest number of mass layoff events. These 20 events, occurring in 2008, resulted in the filing of 3,108 initial claims. While the sector experienced one additional event, from the 19 events occurring in 2007, the number of initial claims decreased 325 from the 2007 (3,433) figure.

There were 13 mass layoff events associated with employers classified in the Accommodation & Food Services sector involving 3,127 Rhode Island workers. The

majority of these layoffs were short-term with nearly 12 of the 13 employers expecting to recall all workers in less than a month.

The Administrative & Waste Services sector had eight mass layoff events resulting in the filing of 587 initial claims. Five events were classified as temporary (lasting less than 30 days) and three events were reported as long-term layoffs with an uncertainty of reemployment for approximately 225 employees related to these events.

The Construction sector accounted for six events resulting in 414 initial claims. All layoffs in this sector were reported as lasting between three and six months. In addition, the Management of Companies & Enterprises sector had four events involving 348 workers and the Arts, Entertainment, & Recreation sector had three events involving 243 workers.

Layoff Events By Major Industry

Industry Sector	Events	Initial Claims
Total	106	11,816
Accommodation & Food Services	13	3,127
Administrative & Waste Services	8	587
Arts, Entertainment, & Recreation	3	243
Construction	6	414
Government	6	385
Health Care & Social Assistance	3	160
Management of Companies	4	348
Manufacturing	35	2,933
Retail Trade	3	226
Transportation & Warehousing	20	3,108
Other Industry Sectors	5	285

Layoffs Lasting More than Thirty Days

There were 33 long-term layoffs (lasting 30 days or longer) attributed to Rhode Island companies in 2008 affecting 3,036 workers. Nearly half of all the long-term events were classified as 'seasonal layoffs' (associated with a decrease in demand for a company's products, services or labor that can be attributed to natural, weather-related cycles or cultural/societal patterns) or vacation period layoffs. These layoffs represented more

Long-Term Mass Layoffs By Reason

	Events	Initial Claims
Total	33	3,036
Business Demand Reasons	6	400
Financial Reasons	3	219
Organizational Reasons	7	697
Seasonal/Vacation Reasons	15	1,577
Other /Miscellaneous	2	143

than 50 percent of all claimants involved in long term layoff events.

Eleven companies, identified as having a mass layoff in 2008, reported that no recalls were expected of their workers. Reasons cited for these permanent layoffs were company reorganizations, slack work, bankruptcy, business ownership change and cost control measures. Permanent closures (3) accounted for nine percent of the long term mass layoffs experienced in RI.

Nearly all companies reporting layoffs as seasonal or vacation period layoffs anticipated having a total recall of workers within three months. Eight of these companies reported having all workers re-employed in less than 90 days and six companies expected to recall all workers within a 90-180 day period.

* A mass layoff occurs whenever 35 or more initial claims are filed against a single company during a 5-week period.

Initial Claims by Industry and Occupation

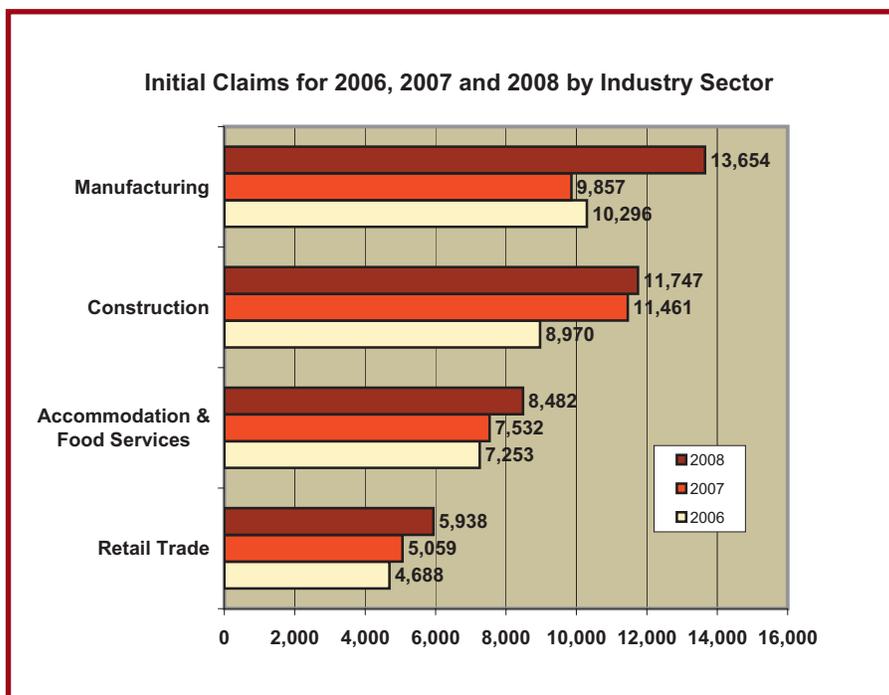
	2008 Initial Claims	2007 Initial Claims	2006 Initial Claims	2006-2008 Numeric Change	2006-2008 Percent Change
Industry	93,761	81,928	76,453	17,308	22.6%
Agriculture/Forestry	298	403	316	(18)	-5.8%
Mining	206	199	118	88	74.7%
Utilities	69	32	26	43	167.3%
Construction	11,747	11,461	8,970	2,777	31.0%
Manufacturing	13,654	9,857	10,296	3,358	32.6%
Wholesale Trade	2,329	2,023	1,829	500	27.4%
Retail Trade	5,938	5,059	4,688	1,250	26.7%
Transportation & Warehousing	5,661	5,619	5,352	309	5.8%
Information	764	556	782	(18)	-2.3%
Finance & Insurance	2,528	2,798	2,115	413	19.5%
Real Estate	1,060	927	919	141	15.3%
Professional & Tech. Services	2,360	2,054	1,781	579	32.5%
Management of Companies	396	446	315	81	25.8%
Administrative & Waste Services	6,954	6,240	5,947	1,007	16.9%
Educational Services	1,760	1,823	1,460	300	20.6%
Health Care & Social Assistance	5,824	5,162	4,957	867	17.5%
Arts, Entertainment & Recreation	1,647	1,402	1,374	273	19.9%
Accommodation & Food Services	8,482	7,532	7,253	1,229	16.9%
Other Services	2,263	1,798	1,814	449	24.7%
Public Administration	983	934	846	137	16.2%
Information Not Available	18,835	15,603	15,296	3,539	23.1%
Occupation	93,761	81,928	76,453	17,308	22.6%
Management	5,359	5,739	5,501	(142)	-2.6%
Business & Financial Operations	1,885	2,032	1,598	287	18.0%
Computer & Mathematical	682	597	635	47	7.4%
Architecture & Engineering	711	580	585	126	21.5%
Life, Physical & Social Science	338	283	231	107	46.2%
Community & Social Services	664	567	507	157	30.9%
Legal	227	295	209	18	8.4%
Education, Training & Library	2,445	2,297	2,022	423	20.9%
Arts, Design, Entertainment., Sports & Media	1,201	1,042	984	217	22.0%
Healthcare Practitioner & Technical	1,240	1,161	1,130	110	9.7%
Healthcare Support	1,769	1,663	1,604	165	10.3%
Protective Service	1,229	1,177	1,136	93	8.2%
Food Preparation & Serving Related	7,915	6,807	6,598	1,317	20.0%
Building & Grounds Cleaning & Maintenance	2,937	2,918	2,564	373	14.5%
Personal Care & Service	1,704	1,266	1,091	613	56.2%
Sales & Related	4,284	3,937	4,044	240	5.9%
Office & Administrative Support	11,307	9,787	9,043	2,264	25.0%
Farming, Fishing & Forestry	226	281	262	(36)	-13.7%
Construction & Extraction	7,504	7,337	6,193	1,311	21.2%
Installation, Maintenance & Repair	2,805	2,386	2,252	553	24.5%
Production	13,586	10,248	10,703	2,883	26.9%
Transportation & Material Moving	9,690	8,969	8,741	949	10.9%
Military Specific	155	135	195	(40)	-20.3%
Information Not Available	13,900	10,423	8,624	5,276	61.2%

Summary Report

In total, there were 93,761 initial claims filed against Rhode Island's Industry sectors in 2008, an increase of 11,833 from 2007 (81,928), a further increase of 17,308 from 2006 (76,453). Employees with an attachment to the Manufacturing (13,654), Construction (11,747) and Accommodation & Food Services (8,482) sectors, filed the greatest number of claims throughout the year. Individuals previously attached to these three sectors filed over 36 percent of the initial claims for the year. In addition, individuals previously employed by the Administrative & Waste Services (6,954), Retail Trade (5,938) and the Health Care & Social Assistance (5,824) sectors filed another 20 percent of the initial claims this year. These six industry sectors represented more than half of the yearly claims.

In 2008, there were 13,654 initial claims filed against the Manufacturing sector up considerably from the 9,857 initial claims filed in 2007 and the 10,296 initial claims filed in 2006. Claims filed against the Manufacturing sector are traditionally high as a result of the steady employment decline the sector has experienced over the last 20 years.

Initial claims filed against the Construction sector this year increased by 286 with a total of 11,747 initial claims submitted, up slightly from the 11,461 filed in 2007 and up 31 percent from the 8,970 claims filed in 2006.



The Accommodation & Food Services sector had a total of 8,482 claims filed this year, an increase of 950 claims from the 7,532 claims filed in 2007 and a 17 percent increase over the 7,253 claims filed in 2006. The majority of these claims were filed by workers associated with school lunch programs. The majority of layoffs occurred during the school vacation periods.

At the occupational level, claimants previously employed as Production workers (13,586), followed by Office & Administrative support workers (11,307) and Transportation & Material Moving workers (9,690) filed the greatest number of initial claims in 2008. Claims filed against these three major occupational groups represented 37 percent of the total initial claims filed for the year. Over the three year period, workers in the Production occupational group had the highest increase in initial claims with claimants filing 3,338 more claims in 2008, a 33 percent increase from 2007 (10,248), and a 27 percent increase from 2006 (10,703). The Office & Administrative support services occupational group had an increase of 1,520 claims this year, up from the 9,787 claims filed in 2007 and a further increase of 2,264 claims over the 9,043 claims filed in 2006. Workers of the Transportation & Material Moving occupational group filed 721 more claims in 2008 than the 8,969 claims filed in 2007, up 949 claims from the 8,741 claims filed in 2006. There were also a significant number of claims filed by individuals with an attachment to the Food Preparation & Serving Related (7,915) and Construction & Extraction (7,504) occupational groups. Claims filed against these two occupational groups represented 16 percent of the total claims filed for the year.

Characteristics of Initial Claimants in 2008

Initial Claims by Gender

	2008 Initial Claims	2007 Initial Claims	2006 Initial Claims
Total	93,761	81,928	76,453
Male	51,017	44,424	39,670
Female	42,744	37,504	36,783

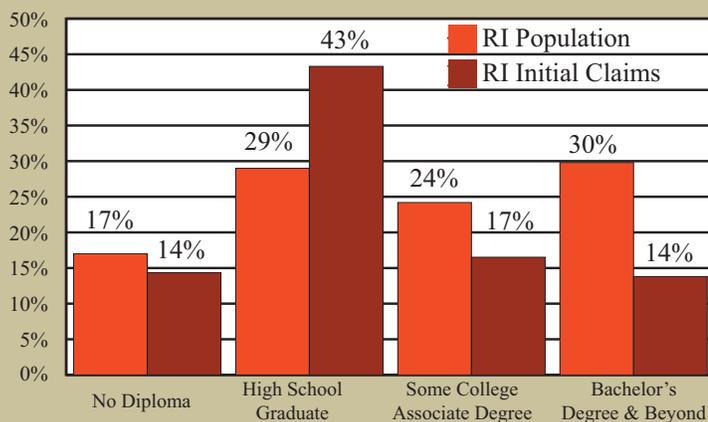
Initial Claims by Age

	2008	2007	2006
Total	93,761	81,928	76,453
Under 22	5,285	3,276	4,478
22 - 24	6,100	5,011	4,945
25 - 34	19,198	17,487	16,062
35 - 44	22,558	20,448	20,063
45 - 54	23,466	20,670	18,407
55 - 59	8,164	6,922	6,338
60 - 64	5,143	4,606	3,539
65 or over	3,847	3,508	2,621

Initial Claims by Educational Attainment

	2008	2007	2006
Total	93,761	81,928	76,453
Less than 9th Grade	4,029	3,595	3,685
9th to 12th, no diploma	9,423	8,501	8,354
High School Graduate	40,605	35,836	33,562
Some College	15,492	13,164	11,881
Bachelor's Degree	6,815	6,247	5,704
Beyond Bachelor's Degree	6,134	4,783	3,838
Information Not Available	11,267	9,803	9,428

Educational Attainment Comparison



In total, there were 93,761 initial claims filed for UI benefits during the year. Men filed the majority of the claims, representing 54 percent (51,017) of initial claims whereas women filed at a slightly lower rate with 46 percent (42,744) of the claims for the year. An annual comparison shows, claims filed by men rose 15 percent from 2007 and 29 percent from 2006 while claims filed by women increased 14 percent from 2007 and 16 percent from 2006.

Individuals between the ages of 45-54 filed the largest number of initial claims (23,466) this year, representing 25 percent of the total initial claims for RI in 2008. Individuals in the 35-44 age group filed the second largest number (22,558) of claims, representing 24 percent of the total. Initial claimants between the ages of 25-34 filed 19,198 initial claims and represented 21 percent of the initial claims. Over the three year period, the 45-54 age group increased 14 percent from 2007 and 28 percent from 2006 while claims filed by claimants 35-44 rose 10 percent from 2007 and 12 percent from 2006. Claims filed by claimants between the ages of 25-34 rose 10 percent from 2007 and 20 percent from 2006.

Between 2006 and 2008, the number of initial claims increased at all educational attainment levels, however, the percentage of claims filed by educational attainment showed little change. In 2008, approximately 14 percent of the initial claims were filed by individuals with a bachelor's degree or beyond, 17 percent were filed by individuals with some college education (including Associate Degrees), 43 percent were filed by individuals with a high school diploma or GED and 14 percent were filed by individuals with less than a high school education.

High school graduates represented a significantly larger percentage of the initial claims filed (43%) in 2008 than they did of the population (25 & older) as a whole (29%). In comparison, those with some post secondary education (17%) and college degrees (14%) accounted for much smaller percentages of the initial claims filed than they did of the total population representing 24 and 30 percent respectively. These statistics indicate that spells of unemployment are more prevalent among groups with less education.

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