



Mass Layoff Statistics 2009

The Mass Layoff Statistics (MLS) program collects reports on mass layoff actions that result in workers being separated from their jobs. Mass layoff events are from establishments which have at least 25 initial claims for unemployment insurance (UI) filed against them during a 5-week period.

In 2009, there were 199 mass layoff actions taken by Rhode Island employers as measured by new filings for Unemployment Insurance (UI) benefits. The events involved a total of 18,114 people accounting for 16 percent of all initial claims (116,118) during the year. Forty-five of the 199 layoff actions that occurred during the year were classified as long-term layoffs (expected to last for more than 30 days).

Seventy-five mass layoff events occurred in the Manufacturing sector. These 75 events were linked to 45 Rhode Island establishments. Thirty-one events had between 25 and 49 initial claims while 44 events had 50 or more initial claims attached to the event. The majority (33) of events with more than 50 layoffs were classified as temporary, meaning the layoff lasted less than 30 days. Six events were classified as long-term layoffs with no recall of the workers expected. Four events were classified as permanent closures with no recall expected for more than 400 employees.

The Transportation & Warehousing sector recorded the second largest number of mass layoff events. These 22 events, occurring in 2009, resulted in the filing of 3,753 initial claims. These events were linked to seven RI companies with the majority of initial claims reported in the school and employee bus transportation industry.

The Administrative & Waste Services sector had 17 mass layoff events resulting in the filing of 888 initial claims. Five events were classified as long-term layoffs with no recall expected for more than 250 employees.

There were 16 mass layoff events associated with employers classified in the Accommodation & Food Services sector involving 3,153 employees. Eighty percent of these layoffs were associated with food service contractors who provide food services at institutional, governmental, commercial, or industrial locations based on contractual arrangements. The majority of employers expected to recall all workers in less than a month.

The Finance & Insurance recorded 12 layoff events affecting 816 employees. The Construction sector accounted for 11 layoff events involving 591 employees filing initial claims.

The chart below provides the number of RI layoff events by industry and the associated initial claims.

Layoff Events By Major Industry		
Industry Sector	Events	Initial Claims
Total	199	18,114
Accommodation & Food Services	16	3,153
Administrative & Waste Services	17	888
Arts, Entertainment, & Recreation	3	138
Construction	11	591
Educational Services	10	779
Finance & Insurance	12	816
Health Care & Social Assistance	4	293
Management of Companies & Enterprises	3	279
Manufacturing	75	6,050
Professional, Scientific, & Technical Services	7	441
Public Administration	7	350
Real Estate & Rental & Leasing	3	138
Retail Trade	4	210
Transportation & Warehousing	22	3,753
Other Industry Sectors	5	235

Confirmed BLS* and State Events** Lasting More than Thirty Days

There were 45 long-term layoff events (lasting 30 days or longer) attributed to RI companies in 2009 affecting 4,357 workers. Eighteen of the long-term events were classified as layoffs due to “business demand reasons”. These companies cited economic reasons for the layoffs as contract cancelation, contract completion, domestic competition, slack work or non-seasonal business slowdown. Nearly half of all initial claims associated to long-term layoff events were linked to business demand reasons.

Long-Term Mass Layoffs By Reason		
	Events	Initial Claims
Total	45	4,357
Business Demand Reasons	18	2,126
Financial Reasons	12	981
Seasonal/Vacation Reasons	6	441
Organizational Reasons	4	368
Other /Miscellaneous	5	441

Twelve companies cited financial reasons (bankruptcy, cost control, cost cutting or financial difficulty) for the long-term layoff events.

Seasonal/vacation period layoffs were reported by six companies. All companies anticipated having a total recall of workers in less than a 180 day period.

Five long-term events were classified as full company closures affecting more than 450 employees. Financial difficulties, slack work and company reorganizations were the economic reasons cited by the companies. Twenty-six long-term layoff events expected no recall of laid-off workers and six events were unsure if the employees would be recalled. A complete recall of workers was expected for eight establishments experiencing long-term layoffs.

*MLS Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) events have at least 50 initial claims for UI filed against them during a 5-week period.

**MLS RI events have at least 25 initial claims for UI filed against them during a 5-week period.

Initial Claims by Industry and Occupation

	2009	2008	2007	2006	2006-2009
	Initial	Initial	Initial	Initial	Percent
	Claims	Claims	Claims	Claims	Change
Industry	116,118	93,761	81,928	76,453	51.9%
Agriculture/Forestry	370	298	403	316	17.1%
Mining	123	206	199	118	4.2%
Utilities	34	69	32	26	30.8%
Construction	13,428	11,747	11,461	8,970	49.7%
Manufacturing	19,709	13,654	9,857	10,296	91.4%
Wholesale Trade	3,420	2,329	2,023	1,829	87.0%
Retail Trade	6,319	5,938	5,059	4,688	34.8%
Transportation & Warehousing	6,704	5,661	5,619	5,352	25.3%
Information	1,243	764	556	782	59.0%
Finance & Insurance	3,012	2,528	2,798	2,115	42.4%
Real Estate	1,363	1,060	927	919	48.3%
Professional & Tech. Services	3,619	2,360	2,054	1,781	103.2%
Management of Companies	856	396	446	315	171.7%
Administrative & Waste Services	8,023	6,954	6,240	5,947	34.9%
Educational Services	2,306	1,760	1,823	1,460	57.9%
Health Care & Social Assistance	6,213	5,824	5,162	4,957	25.3%
Arts, Entertainment & Recreation	1,855	1,647	1,402	1,374	35.0%
Accommodation & Food Services	9,402	8,482	7,532	7,253	29.6%
Other Services	2,407	2,263	1,798	1,814	32.7%
Public Administration	1,033	983	934	846	22.1%
Information Not Available	24,682	18,835	15,603	15,296	61.4%
Occupation	116,118	93,761	81,928	76,453	51.9%
Management	7,344	5,359	5,739	5,501	33.5%
Business & Financial Operations	2,617	1,885	2,032	1,598	63.8%
Computer & Mathematical	1,286	682	597	635	102.5%
Architecture & Engineering	1,913	711	580	585	227.0%
Life, Physical & Social Science	505	338	283	231	118.6%
Community & Social Services	776	664	567	507	53.1%
Legal	256	227	295	209	22.5%
Education, Training & Library	1,982	2,445	2,297	2,022	-2.0%
Arts, Design, Entertainment., Sports & Media	1,548	1,201	1,042	984	57.3%
Healthcare Practitioner & Technical	1,543	1,240	1,161	1,130	36.5%
Healthcare Support	1,903	1,769	1,663	1,604	18.6%
Protective Service	1,182	1,229	1,177	1,136	4.0%
Food Preparation & Serving Related	8,755	7,915	6,807	6,598	32.7%
Building & Grounds Cleaning & Maintenance	3,258	2,937	2,918	2,564	27.1%
Personal Care & Service	1,853	1,704	1,266	1,091	69.8%
Sales & Related	5,369	4,284	3,937	4,044	32.8%
Office & Administrative Support	13,700	11,307	9,787	9,043	51.5%
Farming, Fishing & Forestry	310	226	281	262	18.3%
Construction & Extraction	7,983	7,504	7,337	6,193	28.9%
Installation, Maintenance & Repair	3,192	2,805	2,386	2,252	41.7%
Production	17,239	13,586	10,248	10,703	61.1%
Transportation & Material Moving	10,930	9,690	8,969	8,741	25.0%
Military Specific	205	155	135	195	5.1%
Information Not Available	20,468	13,900	10,423	8,624	137.3%

Summary Report

In total, there were 116,118 initial claims filed against Rhode Island’s industry sectors in 2009, an increase of 22,357 from 2008 (93,761), and a further increase of 39,665 from 2006 (76,453). Employees with an attachment to the Manufacturing (19,709), Construction (13,428) and Accommodation & Food Services (9,402) sectors, filed the greatest number of claims throughout the year. Individuals previously attached to these three sectors filed 37 percent of the initial claims for the year. In addition, individuals previously employed by the Administrative & Waste Services (8,023), Transportation & Warehousing (6,704), Retail Trade (6,319) and the Health Care & Social Assistance (6,213) sectors filed another 23 percent of the initial claims this year. These seven industry sectors represented 60 percent of the yearly claims.

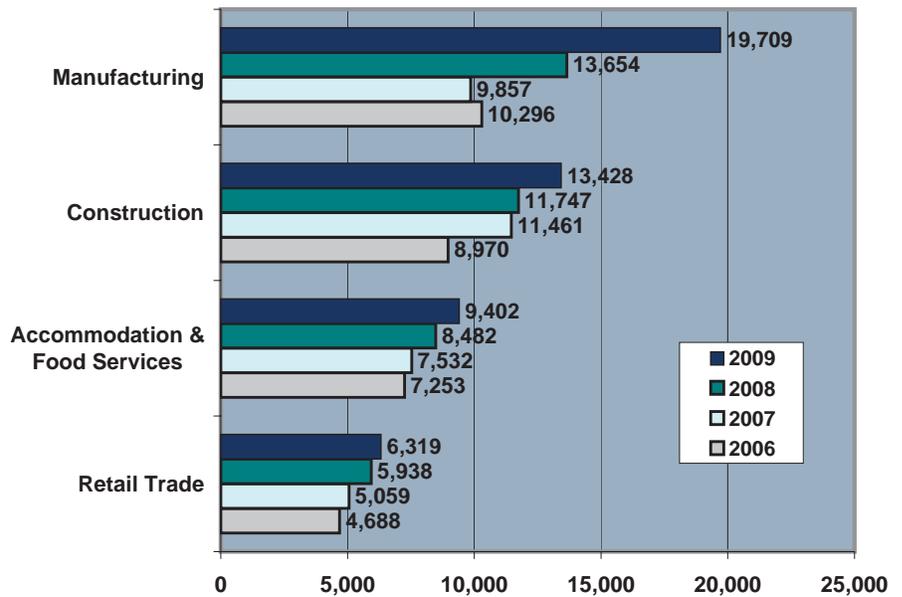
In 2009, there were 19,709 initial claims filed against the Manufacturing sector, up considerably from the 13,654 initial claims filed in 2008 and the 10,296 initial claims filed in 2006. Claims filed against the Manufacturing sector are traditionally high as a result of the steady employment decline the sector has experienced over the last 20 years.

Initial claims filed against the Construction sector this year increased by 1,682 with a total of 13,428 initial claims submitted, an increase from the 11,747 filed in 2008 and up nearly 50 percent from the 8,970 claims filed in 2006.

The Accommodation & Food Services sector had a total of 9,402 claims filed this year, an increase of 920 claims from the 8,482 claims filed in 2008 and a 30 percent increase over the 7,253 claims filed in 2006. The majority of these claims were filed by workers associated with school lunch programs with the largest amount of layoffs occurring during the school vacation periods.

At the occupational level, claimants previously employed as Production workers (17,239), followed by Office & Administrative support workers (13,700) and Transportation & Material Moving workers (10,930) filed the greatest number of initial claims in 2009. Claims filed against these three major occupational groups represented 36 percent of the total initial claims filed for the year. Workers in the Production occupational group had the highest increase in initial claims with claimants filing 6,536 more claims over the four year period showing a 27 percent increase from 2008 (17,239), and a 61 percent increase from 2006 (10,703). The Office & Administrative support services occupational group had an increase of 2,393 claims this year, up from the 11,307 claims filed in 2008 and a further increase of 4,657 claims over the 9,043 claims filed in 2006. Workers of the Transportation & Material Moving occupational group filed 1,240 more claims in 2009 than the 9,690 claims filed in 2008, up 2,189 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 (8,755), Construction & Extraction (7,983) and Management (7,344) occupational groups. Claims filed against these three occupational groups represented over 21 percent of the total claims filed for the year.

Initial Claims for 2006, 2007, 2008, & 2009 by Industry Sector



Characteristics of Initial Claimants in 2009

Initial Claims by Gender

	2009 Initial Claims	2008 Initial Claims	2007 Initial Claims	2006 Initial Claims
Total	116,118	93,761	81,928	76,453
Male	65,716	51,017	44,424	39,670
Female	50,402	42,744	37,504	36,783

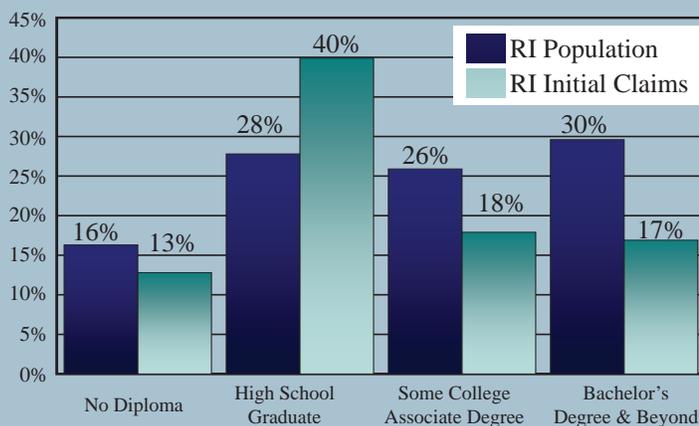
Initial Claims by Age

	2009	2008	2007	2006
Total	116,118	93,761	81,928	76,453
Under 22	4,195	5,285	3,276	4,478
22 - 24	6,959	6,100	5,011	4,478
25 - 34	23,707	19,198	17,487	16,062
35 - 44	25,648	22,558	20,448	20,063
45 - 54	30,066	23,466	20,670	18,407
55 - 59	11,706	8,164	6,922	6,338
60 - 64	7,903	5,143	4,606	3,539
65 or over	5,934	3,847	3,508	2,621

Initial Claims by Educational Attainment

Total	116,118	93,761	81,928	76,453
Less than 9th Grade	4,120	4,029	3,595	3,685
9th to 12th, no diploma	10,748	9,423	8,501	8,354
High School Graduate	46,383	40,605	35,836	33,562
Some College	20,802	15,492	13,164	11,881
Bachelor's Degree	9,452	6,815	6,247	5,704
Beyond Bachelor's Degree	10,162	6,134	4,783	3,838
Information Not Available	14,451	11,267	9,803	9,428

Educational Attainment Comparison



In total, there were 116,118 initial claims filed for UI benefits during the year. Men filed the majority of the claims, representing 57 percent (65,716) of initial claims whereas women filed at a slightly lower rate with 43 percent (50,402) of the claims for the year. An annual comparison shows claims filed by men rose 28 percent from 2008 and 65 percent from 2006, while claims filed by women increased 37 percent from 2008 and 18 percent from 2006.

Individuals between the ages of 45-54 filed the largest number of initial claims (30,066) this year, representing 26 percent of the total initial claims for RI in 2009. Individuals in the 35-44 age group filed the second largest number (25,648) of claims, representing 22 percent of the total. Initial claimants between the ages of 25-34 filed 23,707 initial claims and represented 20 percent of the initial claims. Over the four year period, the 45-54 age group increased 28 percent from 2008 and 63 percent from 2006 while claims filed by claimants 60-64 rose 53 percent from 2008 and 123 percent from 2006. Nearly 6,000 claims were filed by Rhode Islanders over the age of 65 representing, five percent of all initial claimants. Claims filed by claimants over the age of 65 rose 126 percent from prior to the economic downturn in 2006.

Between 2006 and 2009, the number of initial claims increased at all educational attainment levels, however, the percentage of claims filed by educational attainment showed little change. In 2009, approximately 17 percent of the initial claims were filed by individuals with a bachelor's degree or beyond, 18 percent were filed by individuals with some college education (including Associate Degrees), 40 percent were filed by individuals with a high school diploma or GED and 13 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 (40%) in 2009 than they did of the population (25 & older) as a whole (28%). In comparison, those with some post secondary education (18%) and college degrees (17%) accounted for much smaller percentages of the initial claims filed than they did of the total population representing 26 and 30 percent respectively. These statistics indicate that spells of unemployment are more prevalent among groups with less education.

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