

Rhode Island Department of Labor and Training

Characteristics of the Insured Unemployed

July 2020

In July 2020, 11.2 percent of Rhode Island's labor force (unadjusted) were eligible to collect Unemployment Insurance (UI) benefits. Numbering 63,284 people these "insured unemployed" accounted for 12.7 percent of the State's total employed (unadjusted). Nearly 56 percent (35,261) of the Ocean State's insured unemployed faced long-term unemployment, defined as collecting unemployment benefits for more than fourteen weeks.

Nearly 19 percent (11,830) of the people receiving UI benefits were between the ages of 35 and 44, while more than 16 percent (10,275) were 45 to 54 years old. Nearly 55 percent of all insured unemployed workers 60 years and older had been collecting benefits for at least fourteen weeks, while 50.3 percent of those under 22 years of age and 54.5 percent of 22 to 24 years old were considered long-term unemployed.

In July, almost 38 percent (23,873) of those collecting UI benefits had just a high school diploma. An additional 5,823 people (9.2%) had less than a high school diploma, while 26.3 percent (16,635) of the insured unemployed had at least a Bachelor's degree. More than 54 percent of insured unemployed workers with less than a high school diploma had been collecting benefits for a minimum of fourteen weeks, while 52.8 percent of those with at least a Bachelor's degree were also considered long-term unemployed.

On an industry basis, 25.8 percent (16,336) of the State's insured unemployed workers came from the Accommodation & Food Services sector. There were also 7,946 individuals with an attachment to the Health Care & Social Assistance sector accounting for 12.6 percent of all insured unemployed workers. An additional 10.7 percent (6,794) of those collecting UI benefits in July had worked in the Retail Trade sector. Large numbers of insured unemployed were also reported in Administrative & Waste Services (5,090), Manufacturing (4,179) and Transportation & Warehousing (3,626).

Those previously employed in Food Preparation & Serving Related occupations accounted for 19.4 percent (12,298) of the State's insured unemployed. A large number of workers previously employed in Office & Administrative Support (8,229), Transportation & Material Moving (5,590), Production (4,802) and Sales & Related (4,601) occupations also collected UI benefits in July. Numerous occupational groups reported concentrations of long-term unemployment above the state average, including Food Preparation & Serving Related (65.9%), Personal Care & Service (61.5%), Legal (57.9%) Building & Grounds Cleaning & Maintenance (57.0%).

Characteristics of the Insured Unemployed, July 2020

	Total	Long Term	Percent Long-Term
Total	63,284	35,261	55.7%
Male	26,227	14,375	54.8%
Female	37,057	20,886	56.4%
Age	63,284	35,261	55.7%
Under 22	4,577	2,303	50.3%
22 - 24	4,930	2,687	54.5%
25 - 34	15,812	9,143	57.8%
35 - 44	11,830	6,875	58.1%
45 - 54	10,275	5,636	54.9%
55 - 59	5,451	2,919	53.5%
60 - 64	4,743	2,547	53.7%
65 or over	5,666	3,151	55.6%
Education	63,284	35,261	55.7%
Less than 9th Grade	1,358	698	51.4%
9th to 12th, no diploma	4,465	2,473	55.4%
High School Graduate	23,873	13,616	57.0%
Some College	16,363	9,491	58.0%
Bachelor's Degree	6,590	3,394	51.5%
Beyond Bachelor's	10,045	5,382	53.6%
Selected Industries	63,284	35,261	55.7%
Construction	2,630	1,472	56.0%
Manufacturing	4,179	1,918	45.9%
Wholesale Trade	1,907	1,034	54.2%
Retail Trade	6,794	3,725	54.8%
Transportation & Warehousing	3,626	1,837	50.7%
Information	533	303	56.8%
Finance & Insurance	1,031	463	44.9%
Real Estate	1,036	577	55.7%
Professional & Tech. Services	2,556	1,260	49.3%
Management of Companies	340	109	32.1%
Administrative & Waste Services	5,090	2,510	49.3%
Educational Services	2,672	1,114	41.7%
Health Care & Social Assistance	7,946	4,260	53.6%
Arts, Entertainment & Recreation	1,708	979	57.3%
Accommodation & Food Services	16,336	10,859	66.5%
Other Services	3,273	2,033	62.1%
Public Administration	462	232	50.2%
Selected Occupations	63,284	35,261	55.7%
Management	4,119	2,190	53.2%
Business & Financial Operations	1,494	750	50.2%
Computer & Mathematical	739	348	47.1%
Architecture & Engineering	487	224	46.0%
Life, Physical & Social Science	405	185	45.7%
Community & Social Services	878	430	49.0%
Legal	140	81	57.9%
Education, Training & Library	2,867	1,457	50.8%
Arts, Design, Ent., Sports & Media	1,313	718	54.7%
Healthcare Practitioner & Technical	1,745	902	51.7%
Healthcare Support	2,020	1,031	51.0%
Protective Service	565	278	49.2%
Food Preparation & Serving Related	12,298	8,110	65.9%
Bldg. & Grounds Cleaning & Maint.	1,643	937	57.0%
Personal Care & Service	3,283	2,018	61.5%
Sales & Related	4,601	2,553	55.5%
Office & Administrative Support	8,229	4,537	55.1%
Construction & Extraction	1,499	834	55.6%
Installation, Maintenance & Repair	1,301	714	54.9%
Production	4,802	2,452	51.1%
Transportation & Material Moving	5,590	2,902	51.9%