Unemployment Insurance (UI) claimants represent an able and available supply of trained workers who are currently seeking work. Online postings represent a current demand for labor detailing the types of occupations employers are seeking to fill.

On March 31, 2018, the Department of Labor and Training’s EmployRI online network recorded 11,073 online job postings. Also in March, 11,379 RI residents collected unemployment insurance benefits accounting for 43 percent of the state’s total unemployed.

The share of job postings for which the usual educational requirement was either a bachelor’s or an associate degree was 28 percent. Claimants with those degrees represented just 12 percent of the total collecting. The share of job postings for which the usual education requirement was a high school degree or lower was 44 percent, while the number of claimants with that level of education represented 58 percent of the total collecting.

The table to the right suggests that employers seeking to fill vacancies in the occupational groups near the top of the table should have an easier time finding experienced workers than those employers who are looking to employ experienced workers in occupational groups found near the bottom of the table.

The greatest labor surplus was associated with the Construction & Extraction group for which there were eighteen UI claimants with this type of work experience for every online construction & extraction occupation posting.

Labor shortages are most likely to be found in the Healthcare Practitioners & Technical and the Computer & Mathematical groups, where postings outnumber claimants by more than 10 to 1.
The 11,379 UI claimants reported previous work experience in more than 600 different occupations. Labor surpluses existed for 29 of the 40 occupations most frequently cited by UI claimants.

Job seekers looking for employment in the occupations listed on the adjacent table may have a challenging time finding employment in the current environment.

Some surpluses exist due to school vacations, holidays, or seasonal factors; this type of surplus is typically short lived.

During the quarter, EmployRI recorded 11,073 postings for more than 400 different occupations. The number of postings exceed the number of unemployed workers for 207 occupations, indicating a possible labor shortage for those occupations. Employers looking for workers in the occupations listed on the adjacent table may have a challenging time finding experienced workers in the current environment.