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 December 31, 2018, the Department of Labor and Training’s EmployRI online network recorded 9,785 online job postings. Also in December, 7,892 RI residents collected unemployment insurance benefits accounting for 37 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 25 percent. Claimants with those degrees represented just 14 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 52 percent of the total collecting.

Labor shortages are most likely to be found in the Healthcare Practitioners & Technical and Architecture & Engineering occupational groups, where postings outnumber claimants by more than 10 to 1.

The greatest labor surplus was associated with the Construction & Extraction group for which there were approximately six 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 Architecture & Engineering occupational groups, where postings outnumber claimants by more than 10 to 1.
Labor Surplus

The 7,892 UI claimants reported previous work experience in more than 500 different occupations. Labor surpluses existed for 24 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.

Labor Shortage

During the quarter, EmployRI recorded 9,785 postings for over 400 different occupations. The number of postings exceed the number of unemployed workers for 198 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.