

Rhode Island Department of Labor and Training

Characteristics of the Insured Unemployed

August 2021

In August 2021, 41.4 percent of Rhode Island's unemployed (unadjusted) were eligible to collect Unemployment Insurance (UI) benefits. Numbering 13,362 people these "insured unemployed" accounted for 2.7 percent of the State's total employed (unadjusted). Nearly 32 percent (4,228) of the Ocean State's insured unemployed faced long-term unemployment, defined as collecting unemployment benefits for more than fourteen weeks.

More than 19 percent (2,580) of the people receiving UI benefits were between the ages of 35 and 44, while twenty percent (2,669) were 45 to 54 years old. More than 28 percent of all insured unemployed workers 60 years and older had been collecting benefits for at least fourteen weeks, while 32.2 percent of those under 22 years of age and 35.8 percent of 22 to 24 years old were considered long-term unemployed.

In August, almost 41 percent (5,424) of those collecting UI benefits had just a high school diploma. An additional 1,179 people (8.8%) had less than a high school diploma, while 26.6 percent (3,552) of the insured unemployed had at least a Bachelor's degree. Over 27 percent of insured unemployed workers with less than a high school diploma had been collecting benefits for a minimum of fourteen weeks, while 31.0 percent of those with at least a Bachelor's degree were also considered long-term unemployed.

On an industry basis, 15.4 percent (2,057) of the State's insured unemployed workers came from the Accommodation & Food Services sector. There were also 1,812 individuals with an attachment to the Transportation & Warehousing sector accounting for 13.6 percent of all insured unemployed workers. An additional 13.3 percent (1,779) of those collecting UI benefits in August had worked in the Health Care & Social Assistance sector. Large numbers of insured unemployed were also reported in Administration & Waste Services (1,382), Retail Trade (1,165) and Manufacturing (916).

Those previously employed in Transportation & Material Moving occupations accounted for 11.7 percent (1,564) of the State's insured unemployed. A large number of workers previously employed in Office & Administrative Support (1,435), Food Preparation & Serving Related (1,152), Management (1,072) and Production (1,058) occupations also collected UI benefits in August. Numerous occupational groups reported concentrations of long-term unemployment above the state average, including Sales & Related (47.1%), Office & Administrative Support (46.6%), Building & Grounds Cleaning & Maintenance (46.6%), Installation, Maintenance & Repair (46.6%) and Life, Physical & Social Science (44.2%).

Characteristics of the Insured Unemployed, August 2021

	Total	Long Term	Percent Long-Term
Total	13,362	4,228	31.6%
Male	5,415	1,918	35.4%
Female	7,947	2,310	29.1%
Age	13,362	4,228	31.6%
Under 22	388	125	32.2%
22 - 24	589	211	35.8%
25 - 34	2,718	993	36.5%
35 - 44	2,580	865	33.5%
45 - 54	2,669	816	30.6%
55 - 59	1,497	392	26.2%
60 - 64	1,468	452	30.8%
65 or over	1,453	374	25.7%
Education	13,362	4,228	31.6%
Less than 9th Grade	308	73	23.7%
9th to 12th, no diploma	871	250	28.7%
High School Graduate	5,424	1,709	31.5%
Some College	3,134	1,077	34.4%
Bachelor's Degree	1,811	587	32.4%
Beyond Bachelor's	1,741	514	29.5%
Selected Industries	13,362	4,228	31.6%
Construction	823	258	31.3%
Manufacturing	916	338	36.9%
Wholesale Trade	338	153	45.3%
Retail Trade	1,165	546	46.9%
Transportation & Warehousing	1,812	129	7.1%
Information	73	30	41.1%
Finance & Insurance	478	165	34.5%
Real Estate	159	74	46.5%
Professional & Tech. Services	592	194	32.8%
Management of Companies	182	63	34.6%
Administrative & Waste Services	1,382	451	32.6%
Educational Services	525	70	13.3%
Health Care & Social Assistance	1,779	673	37.8%
Arts, Entertainment & Recreation	150	57	38.0%
Accommodation & Food Services	2,057	701	34.1%
Other Services	557	222	39.9%
Public Administration	219	47	21.5%
Selected Occupations	13,362	4,228	31.6%
Management	1,072	394	36.8%
Business & Financial Operations	350	116	33.1%
Computer & Mathematical	214	59	27.6%
Architecture & Engineering	89	36	40.4%
Life, Physical & Social Science	95	42	44.2%
Community & Social Services	144	47	32.6%
Legal	25	8	32.0%
Education, Training & Library	393	54	13.7%
Arts, Design, Ent., Sports & Media	135	36	26.7%
Healthcare Practitioner & Technical	316	108	34.2%
Healthcare Support	300	89	29.7%
Protective Service	128	31	24.2%
Food Preparation & Serving Related	1,152	397	34.5%
Bldg. & Grounds Cleaning & Maint.	236	110	46.6%
Personal Care & Service	295	104	35.3%
Sales & Related	535	252	47.1%
Office & Administrative Support	1,435	668	46.6%
Construction & Extraction	268	108	40.3%
Installation, Maintenance & Repair	178	83	46.6%
Production	1,058	292	27.6%
Transportation & Material Moving	1,564	238	15.2%