

With the nationwide unemployment rate at 8.1%, the state of Rhode Island is last amongst the fifty-one states of the union with an 8.7% rating. Although Rhode Island's unemployment rate has improved by 0.8% over the last 12 months, the states overall rate has lagged behind the national average by 2.6% over the same time period. The continuing woes of the jobless in the state have caused a considerable backlog, both in unemployment benefit applications and, if necessary, Rhode Island unemployment appeals. Contrary to popular misconception, this rate shows the number of citizens of the state actively seeking employment, not those on government unemployment rolls receiving monetary relief.

The process of applying for unemployment benefits and, in many cases, unemployment appeals, can be a long and arduous one. There are many factors that make unemployment benefits necessary and, with the painfully slow economic rejuvenation throughout the nation, the unemployment numbers look to remain stagnant for the foreseeable future.

Economic woes are not, however, confined to the United States. Countries from the United Kingdom to Greece, Russia, and areas such as the near and Far East, are suffering similar financial hardships. The global economy, although still strong in a few areas, has begun to show the strains of years of corruption, as well as technology and housing sectors that often hurt the economy more than they help.

The recent recession, at its height from 2007 to 2009 and sparked by the deflation of the housing bubble, caused a domino effect of financial hardships that ran from the basic consumer all the way to the nations largest corporations. Only the very wealthy were spared the worst of these hardships, although even they felt the occasional tug, albeit meager, of financial tension.

As a result of what would be termed "The Great Recession", unemployment rates rose to levels not witnessed in this country since the years following the Second World War. Lines would quickly grow at unemployment offices throughout the country as Americans watched shrinking job opportunities dwindle to near unprecedented levels. Due to a sharp decrease in consumer spending, companies, from small independently owned businesses to the largest, traditionally sacrosanct, corporate giants, would slash personnel at alarming rates. With layoffs rampant in every state, millions of Americans turned to the only financial safety net available to them: unemployment compensation.

In the event a person is denied unemployment compensation, the one avenue open to the individual is the appeal process. Once made, the appeal is scheduled for a hearing to be decided by an impartial party. Depending on the nature of the denial and, upon further investigation of the facts surrounding the claim, the impartial referee will then find for or against the claimant.