

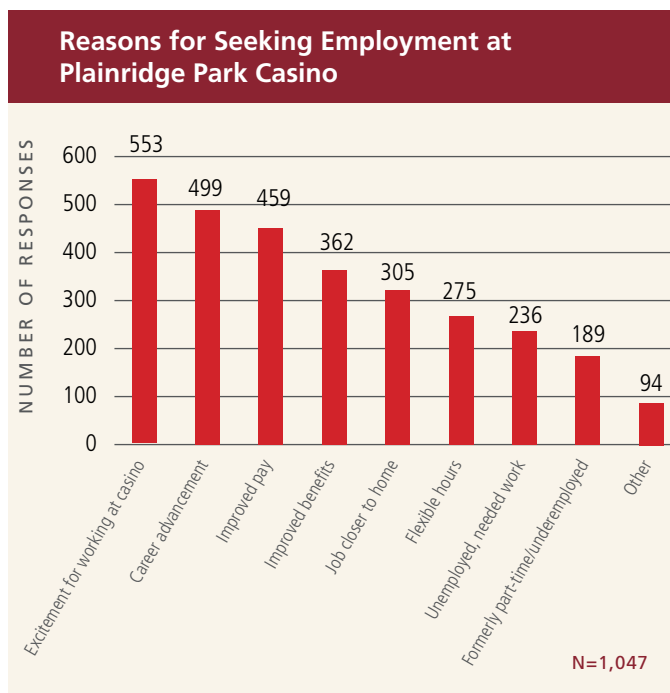
Half of People Hired at Plainridge Park Casino Previously Worked Part-Time or Unemployed

The UMass Donahue Institute's Economic and Public Policy Research team, a part of the larger SEIGMA team, strives to understand the economic and fiscal impacts of the introduction of casinos on the people and economy of the Commonwealth. Part of this is to understand the sort of jobs casinos provide in Massachusetts, who they are employing, and whether casino employment represents an improvement to these workers' livelihoods. Future reports will further flesh out the demographic characteristics of the workforce.

Our findings from SEIGMA's *New Employee Survey at Plainridge Park Casino: Analysis of First Two Years of Data Collection* reveal several important characteristics of new hires at Plainridge Park Casino and the emergent casino workforce in Massachusetts:

- Over 500 new positions were created at Plainridge Park Casino
- Major reasons new employees sought employment at Plainridge Park Casino were career advancement, improved pay, and improved benefits
- Plainridge Park Casino is creating employment opportunities for the unemployed and underemployed
 - 50% previously worked part-time or were unemployed
- Casino jobs are accessible for those who have little or no experience or training
 - 86% had no prior gaming experience and nearly 75% were without pre-employment training

- Plainridge Park Casino is hiring mostly local Massachusetts residents
 - 93% did not move to take their jobs at the casino
 - Of those who moved to take their jobs at the casino, most relocated to Plainville and its surrounding communities



Note: Respondents were allowed to select more than one reason for seeking employment so response totals for this question will exceed the total number of respondents.

SEIGMA PROJECT OVERVIEW

SEIGMA is a project that uses experts from several disciplines to carry out the different parts of the Massachusetts Gaming Commission's research effort. The project team is dedicated to working closely with many other groups throughout the Commonwealth. The study uses a state-of-the-art design, rigorous data collection and research methods, and a careful analytic approach to establish the effects of casino gambling at state, regional, and local levels. The SEIGMA team collects its own data as well as using data gathered by other organizations. The SEIGMA study is funded by the Massachusetts Gaming Commission.