

# COVID-19: UNEMPLOYMENT UPDATE



Data and Information current as of May 8, 2020

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## NEW UNEMPLOYMENT CLAIMS

New weekly unemployment claims rose again in Maryland last week, after declining for three weeks in a row. This reflects data from the first week that people could file for Pandemic Unemployment Assistance (PUA) in Maryland. PUA is a new program in the federal CARES Act that provides unemployment benefits for workers previously ineligible for benefits (gig workers, self-employed, sole proprietors, etc.).

For the week of May 2, 2020, new Maryland UI claims rose fell by 72% from the prior week, to 65,262. The US and Maryland data in the table for past weeks reflect revised numbers from the Labor Department.

\*\* Maryland's Department of Labor reported that some claimants inadvertently deactivated claims due to confusion over questions seeking data newly required by the federal government. MDOL has reactivated these claims. Local data for the week of May 2<sup>nd</sup> were unclear. OLO will update these numbers at a later date.

Week of 2020	US (SA)	MD (NSA)	MoCo*
<b>May 2</b>	<b>3,169,000</b>	<b>65,262</b>	<b>**</b>
April 25	3,846,000	37,925	5,615
April 18	4,442,000	48,495	6,938
April 11	5,237,000	62,904	9,548
April 4	6,615,000	108,508	15,751
March 28	6,867,000	83,536	9,384
March 21	3,307,000	42,334	3,941
March 14	282,000	3,852	256
March 7	211,000	2,090	195

\* Initial state data

SA=seasonally adjusted NSA=not seasonally adjusted

Sources: U.S. and Maryland Departments of Labor

<https://www.dol.gov/ui/data.pdf>

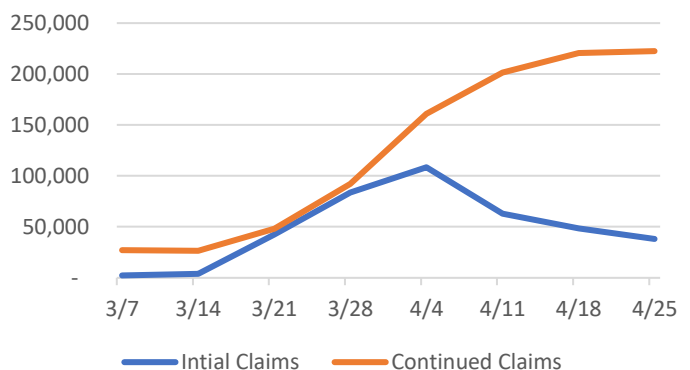
<https://www.dllr.state.md.us/employment/uicounty.shtml>

## CONTINUED UNEMPLOYMENT CLAIMS IN MARYLAND

"Continued unemployment claims" measure the number of people collecting unemployment benefits on a weekly basis. These data are released one week later than initial claims data and are available at the state level. For April 25<sup>th</sup>, continued unemployment claims in Maryland totaled 222,484, an increase of less than 1% (about 1,800 claims) compared to the week of April 18<sup>th</sup>. Data in the table for past weeks reflect revised numbers from the Labor Department.

Week of 2020	Continued Claims	Initial Claims
<b>April 25</b>	<b>222,484</b>	<b>37,925</b>
April 18	220,723	48,495
April 11	201,432	62,904
April 4	160,906	108,508
March 28	92,082	83,536
March 21	47,973	42,334
March 14	26,467	3,852
March 7	27,046	2,090

Maryland Unemployment Claims



Source: U.S. Departments of Labor, <https://www.dol.gov/ui/data.pdf>

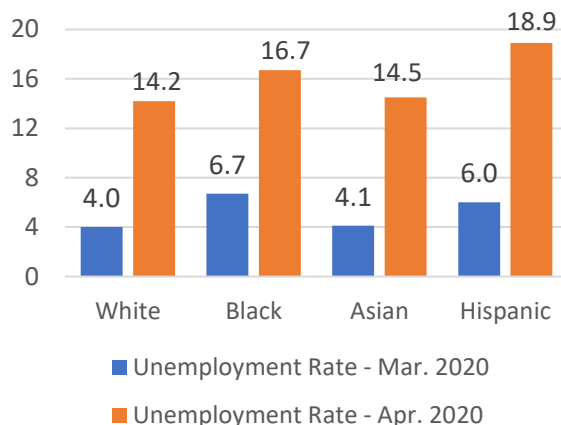
## U.S. BUREAU OF LABOR STATISTICS (BLS) APRIL EMPLOYMENT REPORT

BLS data reported May 8th reflects effects of the COVID-19 pandemic on the labor market. Comparing U.S. unemployment rates between March and April 2020, the U.S. experienced the largest month-over-month increase in the unemployment rate since BLS started tracking these data in 1948 – 10.3 percentage points – increasing from 4.4% to 14.7% from March to April. Other findings include:

- Number of unemployed persons jobless for less than 5 weeks increased by 10.7M to 14.3M, representing almost 66% of the unemployed.
- Number of persons working part-time for economic reasons nearly doubled over the month to 10.9M. These are individuals who usually work full-time but were working part-time because hours were reduced or they were unable to find full-time employment

State and County data will be out in mid to late May.

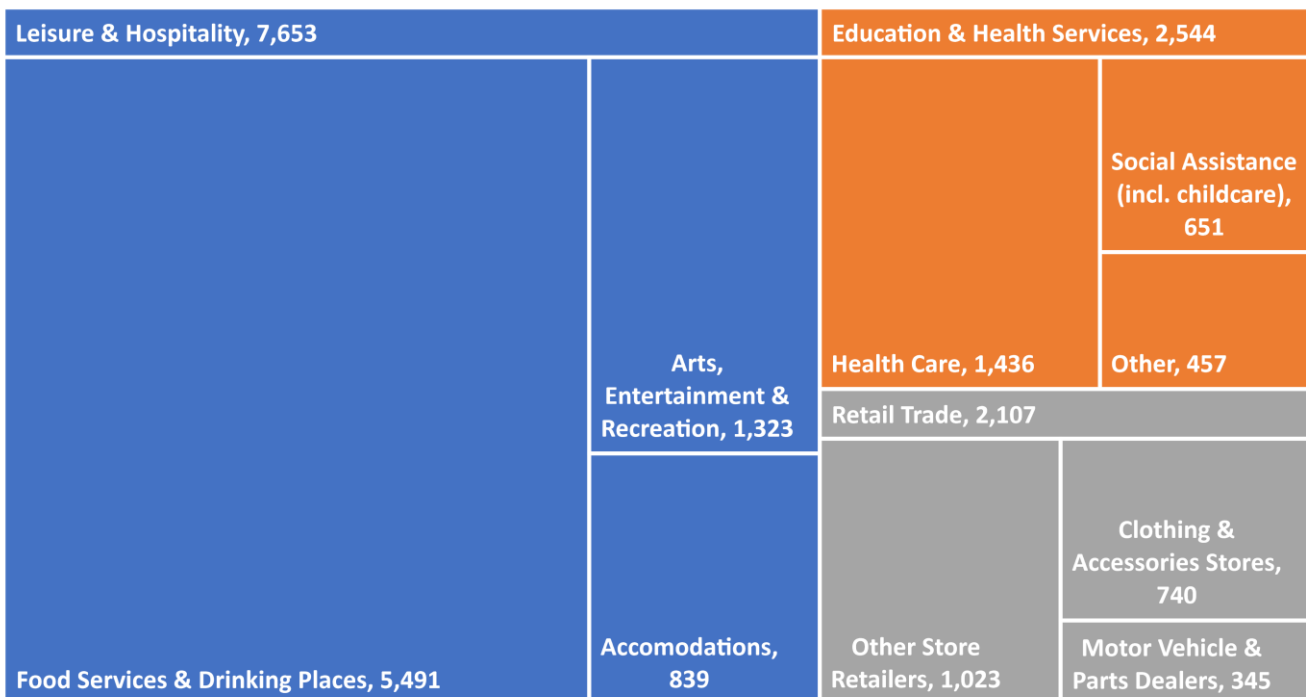
Unemployment rates rose among all major worker groups. The rates for all of these groups, with the exception of Blacks, represent record highs. Record high unemployment for Blacks was 21.2% (Jan. 1983).



Source: BLS April 2020 Employment Situation Report <https://www.bls.gov/news.release/pdf/empsit.pdf>

Total nonfarm employment fell by 20.5M in April, with job losses widespread. The April month-over-month decline is the largest in the history of the BLS data series (series dates to 1939). The largest employment decline occurred in the Leisure and Hospitality Industry, with employment loss of 7.7M. This was followed by declines in employment in the Education and Health Services Industry (2.5M) and Retail Trade (2.1M). Of note, general merchandise stores that include warehouse clubs and supercenters gained 93,000 jobs.

### Month- Over-Month Decline in Employment by Selected Industry (March – April 2020) (in thousands)



Source: BLS April 2020 Employment Situation Report <https://www.bls.gov/news.release/pdf/empsit.pdf>