

# COVID-19: UNEMPLOYMENT UPDATE



Data and Information current as of June 5, 2020

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## NEW UNEMPLOYMENT CLAIMS

New weekly unemployment claims dropped at the state and local levels for the fourth week in a row. New regular weekly unemployment claims are the lowest since the beginning of the pandemic locally in late March – just over 31,000 new claims in Maryland and just under 5,000 new claims in Montgomery County. Since May 2, 103,000 workers in Maryland (17,500 in Montgomery County) have filed for PUA benefits (UI benefits for gig workers, self-employed, etc.). Workers in Montgomery County represent 17% of new PUA claims in the state. The U.S. and Maryland data for past weeks reflect revised numbers from the U.S. Labor Department.

Week of 2020	US (SA)	Maryland (NSA)				Montgomery County*			
		Total	Regular	PUA	PEUC	Total	Regular	PUA	PEUC
May 30	1,877,000	41,524	31,343	10,181	no data reported	6,409	4,810	1,527	72
May 23	2,126,000	48,228	33,991	14,297	no data reported	7,589	5,215	2,374	49
May 16	2,446,000	56,134	35,111	15,448	5,575	7,795	5,229	2,566	58
May 9	2,981,000	64,467	45,485	18,982	0	10,301	7,133	3,168	90
May 2	3,169,000	111,006	63,253	44,280	3,473	18,943	11,074	7,869	249
April 25	3,846,000	37,925	37,925	--	2,361	5,615	5,615	--	
April 18	4,442,000	48,495	48,495	--	0	6,938	6,938	--	
April 11	5,237,000	62,904	62,904	--		9,548	9,548	--	
April 4	6,615,000	108,508	108,508	--		15,751	15,751	--	
March 28	6,867,000	83,536	83,536	--		9,384	9,384	--	

\* Initial state data

SA=seasonally adjusted NSA=not seasonally adjusted

**PUA = Pandemic Unemployment Assistance** Program in the federal CARES Act that extends unemployment benefits to workers previously not covered (gig workers, self-employed, etc.)

**PEUC = Pandemic Emergency Unemployment Compensation** Program in the federal CARES Act that extends regular state unemployment benefits for an additional 13 weeks

Sources: U.S. and Maryland Departments of Labor

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

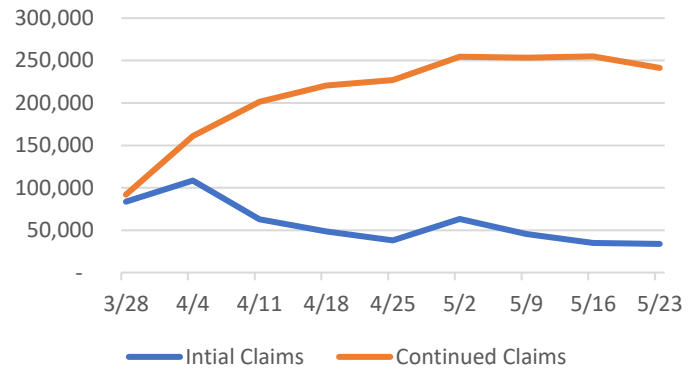
<https://www.dlir.state.md.us/employment/uicounty.shtml>

## 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 May 23<sup>rd</sup>, continued unemployment claims in Maryland totaled 241,168, a decrease of about 5.4% (about 13,849 claims) compared to the week of May 16th. Data in the table for past weeks reflect revised numbers from the U.S. Labor Department.

Week of 2020	Regular Continued Claims	Regular Initial Claims
<b>May 23</b>	<b>241,168</b>	<b>33,991</b>
May 16	255,017	35,111
May 9	253,212	48,485
May 2	254,473	63,253
April 25	226,972	37,925
April 18	220,723	48,495
April 11	201,432	62,904
April 4	160,906	108,508
March 28	92,082	83,536

Maryland Continued Unemployment Claims



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

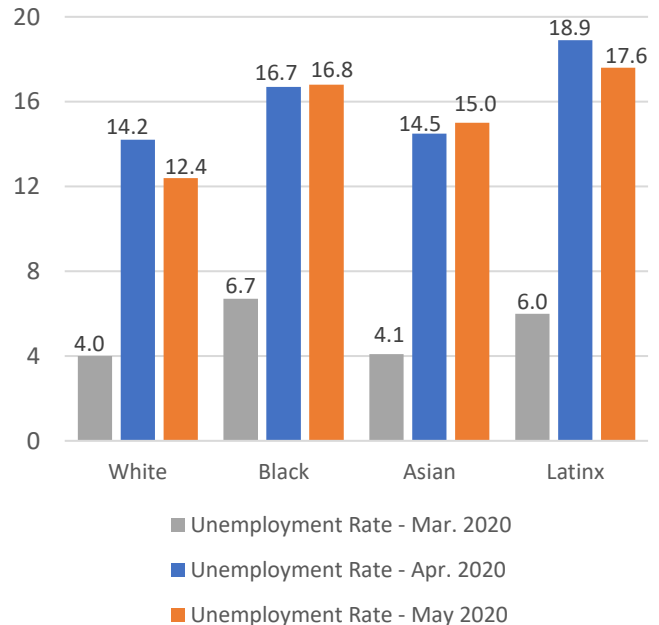
## U.S. BUREAU OF LABOR STATISTICS (BLS) MAY EMPLOYMENT REPORT

BLS data reported June 5<sup>th</sup> reflects effects of the COVID-19 pandemic on the labor market. Employment nationally rose by 2.5 million in May, and the unemployment rate declined 1.4% - decreasing from 14.7% to 13.3% from April to May. These improvements in the labor market reflect the limited re-opening of the U.S. economy. Despite the month-to-month increase, employment in May was 13% below its February level. Other findings include:

- Employment in food services and drinking places rose by 1.4 million, accounting for about one-half of the gain in total employment.
- Employment also increased in construction, education and health services, and retail trade, while government employment declined sharply.
- The number of workers who permanently lost jobs increased by 295,000 in May to 2.3 million.
- The number of unemployed persons who were jobless 5 to 14 weeks rose by 7.8 million to 14.8 million, account for about 70.8% of the unemployed.

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

Unemployment rates declined in May for White and Latinx workers. The jobless rate for Black and Asian workers rose slightly between April and May.



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