

COVID-19: UNEMPLOYMENT UPDATE



Data and Information current as of July 16, 2020

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NEW UNEMPLOYMENT CLAIMS

On July 15, Governor Larry Hogan announced that based on a suspicious surge in PUA claims for the week of July 4, the state discovered an identity theft scheme that resulted in more than 47,500 fraudulent PUA unemployment claims totaling over \$500 million. New regular claims in Maryland this week were at their lowest level – 18,657 new claims – since the beginning of the pandemic. 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
July 11	1,300,000	36,251	18,657	17,594	no data reported	4,125	2,169	1,896	60
July 4	1,310,000	33,191	33,191	**	no data reported	2,172	2,099	**	73
June 27	1,413,000	55,554	22,623	32,931	11,781	3,510	2,058	1,353	99
June 20	1,482,000	58,786	32,549	14,538	11,699	4,863	3,210	1,540	113
June 13	1,540,000	51,872	23,450	17,843	10,579	5,419	2,747	2,590	82
June 6	1,566,000	60,042	41,638	9,762	8,642	7,047	5,681	1,268	98
May 30	1,877,000	49,331	31,920	10,181	7,230	6,409	4,810	1,527	72
May 23	2,126,000	54,221	33,991	14,297	5,983	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 ** Federal and state data are unclear for this week
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

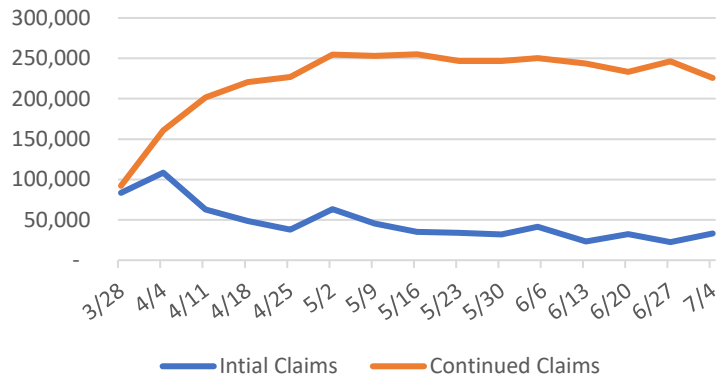
Sources: U.S. and Maryland Departments of Labor <https://www.dol.gov/ui/data.pdf>; <https://www.dllr.state.md.us/employment/uicounty.shtml>

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 July 4th, continued unemployment claims in Maryland totaled 225,826, a decrease of 8.4% (20,611 claims) compared to the week of June 27th. 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
July 4	225,826	33,191
June 27	246,437	22,623
June 20	233,086	32,549
June 13	243,711	23,450
June 6	250,269	41,638
May 30	246,535	31,920
May 23	246,542	33,991
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>

UNCERTAINTY ABOUT UNEMPLOYMENT BENEFITS IN THE NEXT STIMULUS BILL

The provision in the federal CARES Act that provides an additional \$600 in weekly unemployment benefits for workers, in addition to their normal state unemployment benefit, is set to expire on July 31st. At this time, reports in the media are unclear about (1) whether Congress will pass a new stimulus package before these benefits expire on July 31st and (2) whether a new stimulus package will extend the \$600 weekly benefit or change it in some way. Reports over the past few weeks suggested that Republicans in Congress did not support extending the \$600 weekly benefit. Reports in the past few days suggest that position might be changing as the country reports records numbers of new COVID-19 cases daily and states begin to pull back on their reopening efforts.

Sources: <https://www.washingtonpost.com/business/2020/07/14/unemployment-benefits-expiring-coronavirus/>;
<https://www.forbes.com/sites/zackfriedman/2020/07/15/second-stimulus-checks-unemployment/#343dc97dce90>;
<https://www.cnn.com/2020/07/06/politics/coronavirus-stimulus-congress-state-of-play/index.html>;
<https://fortune.com/2020/07/15/extra-600-unemployment-extension-next-stimulus-will-it-continue-extended-coronavirus-benefits-each-week-cares-act/>