

COVID-19: UNEMPLOYMENT RESOURCES



IN MONTGOMERY COUNTY

Data and Information current as of April 1, 2020

UNEMPLOYMENT AND COVID-19

Thousands of Maryland workers have lost jobs due to the current global coronavirus epidemic. This document provides information about unemployment insurance (UI) benefits in the State of Maryland, recent federal legislation expanding UI benefits in response to the epidemic, and current federal, State, and local unemployment data.



FEDERAL, CORONAVIRUS AID, RELIEF AND ECONOMIC STABILITY ACT (CARES) ACT

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

- Signed into law by the President on March 27, 2020.
- Expands state unemployment benefits available to workers.
- Maryland will provide all three of the expanded unemployment insurance programs offered through the CARES Act.
- **Pandemic Unemployment Assistance (PUA)** – provides UI benefits for workers not typically eligible for benefits (e.g., self-employed, independent contractors, gig workers, etc); maximum of 39 weeks of benefits; effective Jan 27, 2020 - Dec 31, 2020
- Maryland's Department of Labor website currently is not set up to process unemployment applications from workers typically not eligible for UI benefits. State website asks workers to not submit claims yet. Benefits will be provided back to the earliest date of eligibility.
- **Federal Pandemic Unemployment Compensation (FPUC)** – provides additional \$600 per week on top of normal state UI benefit; also available to workers in PUA program; effective Mar 29, 2020 - July 31, 2020
- **Pandemic Emergency Unemployment Compensation (PEUC)** – provides 13 additional weeks of UI benefits plus \$600 FPUC; effective Mar 29, 2020 - Dec 31, 2020



MARYLAND BASE UNEMPLOYMENT BENEFITS

<https://www.dllr.state.md.us/employment/clmtguide/uiclmt pamphlet.pdf>

- Minimum weekly benefit of \$50; maximum weekly benefit of \$430.
- Federal FPUC benefit of \$600 per week in addition to State benefit.
- Workers eligible for up to 26 weeks of benefits in a year.
- Federal PEUC adds 13 weeks of benefits (39 weeks total) to State benefit; federal PUA benefit provides 39 weeks of benefits

SUSPENSION OF REQUIREMENT TO SEARCH FOR WORK

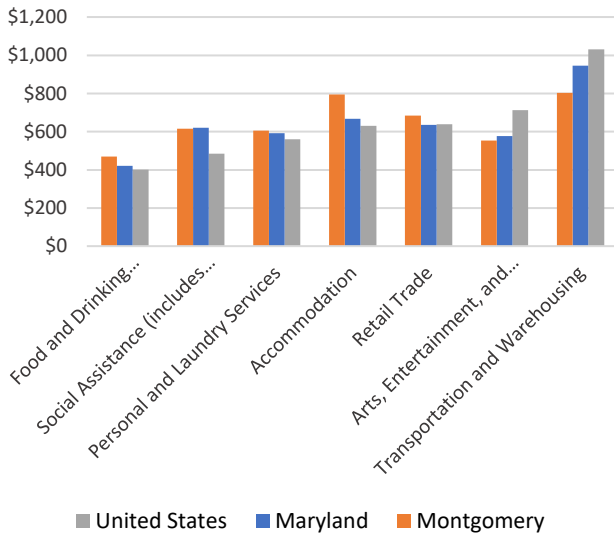
<https://www.dllr.state.md.us/employment/uicovidaswfaqs.pdf>

Effective March 20, 2020, the requirement that workers actively seek work every week is suspended for 10 weeks.

HIGHER-RISK INDUSTRIES

The chart below shows the average weekly earnings in 2019 for industries at higher-risk for disruption during the pandemic. Maryland's maximum UI benefit is \$430 a week. Through the CARES Act, workers receiving UI benefits will receive an additional \$600 per week through July 31, 2020.

Higher-Risk Industries Average Weekly Earnings, 2019



Employment as % of MoCo Workforce

All Higher-Risk Industries	28%
Transportation and Warehousing	1%
Arts, Entertainment & Recreation	2%
Retail Trade	12%
Accommodation	1%
Personal & Laundry Services	2%
Social Assistance (incl. Childcare)	3%
Food & Drinking Establishments	8%

NEW UNEMPLOYMENT CLAIMS

Week of 2020	US (SA)	MD (NSA)	MoCo*
March 21	3,283,000	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

For the week of March 21, 2020, Maryland unemployment claims jumped by 38,000 from the prior week, to 42,334 claims (a 999% increase). Montgomery County unemployment claims rose by more than 3,600 claims, to 3,941 claims (a 1,439% increase).

Data Release. The U.S. Department of Labor is expected to release its initial jobless claims for the week of March 28th on April 2nd. The U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics is expected to release its March Jobs report on April 3rd. OLO will routinely update this report when new data are released.

USEFUL RESOURCES

Families First: COVID-19 Constituent Service Resources Toolkit, From U.S. House of Representatives

<https://www.speaker.gov/sites/speaker.house.gov/files/COVID%20TOOLKIT%203.30.20.pdf>

Provisions Related to Unemployment Compensation in the Senate-Passed CARES Act from House Comm. on Ways and Means

<https://waysandmeans.house.gov/sites/democrats.waysandmeans.house.gov/files/documents/UC%20FAQ%20CARES%20Act.pdf>

FAQs About COVID-19 and MD's Unemployment Insurance Benefits Administration – Unemployment Insurance from MD Department of Labor

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

FAQs About CARES Act Unemployment Insurance Benefit Provisions from MD Department of Labor

<http://dlir.state.md.us/employment/uicaresfaqs.pdf>

Questions, Comments?

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