

# COVID-19: UNEMPLOYMENT UPDATE



Data and Information current as of April 23, 2020

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## NEW UNEMPLOYMENT CLAIMS

New weekly unemployment claims fell for the second week in a row in the U.S., Maryland, and Montgomery County. For the week of April 18, 2020, new Maryland UI claims fell by 26% from the prior week, to 46,676 claims. New Montgomery County claims fell by 27%, to 6,938. The US and Maryland data in the table for past weeks reflect revised numbers from the Labor Department.

Beginning tomorrow, independent contractors, gig workers, sole proprietors, self-employed, and workers with insufficient work history can file for unemployment benefits in Maryland for the first time. This change may drive claims number back up in the coming weeks.

Week of 2020	US (SA)	MD (NSA)	MoCo*
<b>April 18</b>	<b>4,427,000</b>	<b>46,676</b>	<b>6,938</b>
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

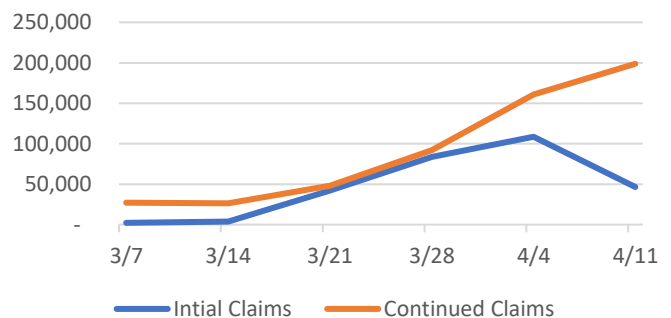
<https://www.dol.gov/ui/data.pdf>

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

## CONTINUED UNEMPLOYMENT CLAIMS

“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 11<sup>th</sup>, continued unemployment claims totaled 198,797, almost 7 times higher than the 24,494 continued claims from the same week in 2019. Continued claims increased at the end of March as new weekly unemployment claims rose.

Maryland Continued Unemployment Claims



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

## UPDATE ON UNEMPLOYMENT BENEFITS IN MARYLAND

- ❖ **All eligible Maryland workers will be able to file for unemployment benefits beginning, April 24.** Tomorrow, the State is launching a new, one-stop unemployment benefits application at [www.MDunemployment.com](http://www.MDunemployment.com). Workers who are newly-qualified for unemployment benefits under the federal CARES Act – independent contractors, gig workers, self-employed, sole proprietors, and those with insufficient work history – will be able to file for benefits beginning tomorrow. The new system will include user portals where claimants can access all communications regarding the status of their claims.
- The MD Department of Labor has removed all deadlines for claimants to provide required additional information or supporting documentation. The department has said that claims will not be negatively impacted by the inability to meet deadlines printed in correspondence received via mail.