

COVID-19: UNEMPLOYMENT UPDATE



Data and Information current as of April 30, 2020

By Leslie Rubin and Stephanie Bryant
www.montgomerycountymd.gov/olo

NEW UNEMPLOYMENT CLAIMS

New weekly unemployment claims fell for the third week in a row in the U.S., Maryland, and Montgomery County. For the week of April 25, 2020, new Maryland UI claims fell by 26% from the prior week, to 36,471 claims. New Montgomery County claims fell by 19%, to 5,615. The US and Maryland data in the table for past weeks reflect revised numbers from the Labor Department.

Week of 2020	US (SA)	MD (NSA)	MoCo*
April 25	3,839,000	36,471	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

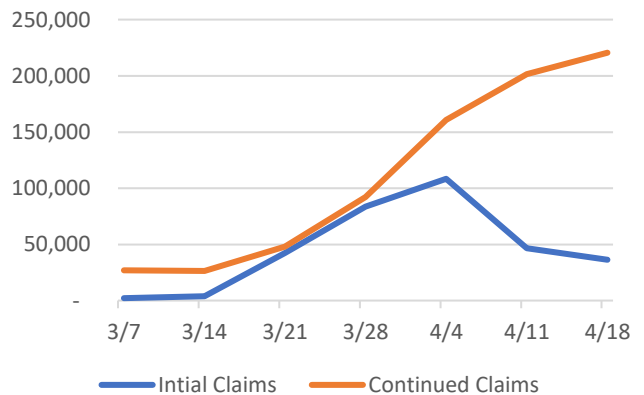
<https://www.dol.gov/ui/data.pdf>

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

CONTINUED UNEMPLOYMENT CLAIMS

“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 18th, continued unemployment claims totaled 220,723, an increase of 9% (about 20,000 claims) compared to the week of April 11th.

Maryland Continued Unemployment Claims

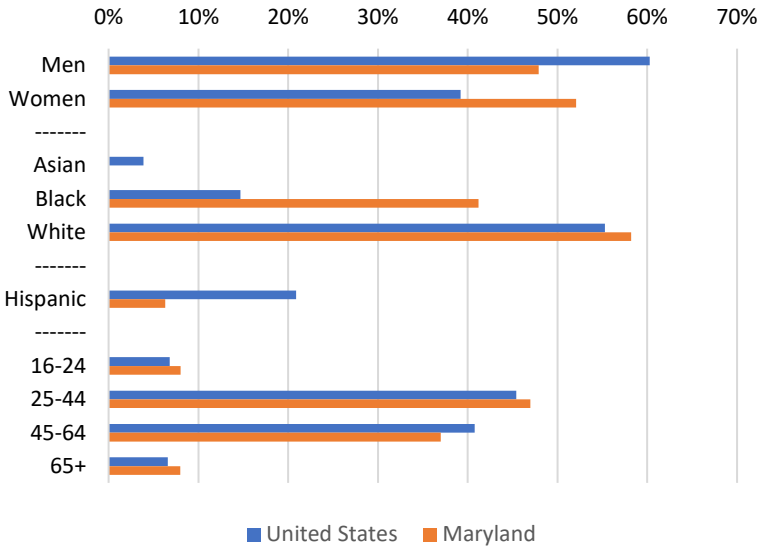


Source: U.S. Departments of Labor, <https://www.dol.gov/ui/data.pdf>

CHARACTERISTICS OF UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE (UI) CLAIMANTS, March 2020

The U.S. Department of Labor reports monthly UI claimant demographic data at the national and state level. Data are through March 19. As shown below, Maryland UI claimants in March were more likely to be women and African American compared to national data. One-quarter of March unemployment insurance claimants in Maryland worked in the accommodation and food services industry.

Characteristics of UI Claimants, March 2020



% of Maryland UI Claimants by Industry

Industry	Percentage
All Higher-Risk Industries	49%
Accommodation & Food Services	25%
Arts, Entertainment, & Recreation	3%
Healthcare and Social Assistance	8%
Retail Trade	3%
Transportation and Warehousing	5%
Other Services, excluding public administration	4%

Note: Totals may not sum due to rounding.
Source: <https://oui.doleta.gov/unemploy/chariu.asp>

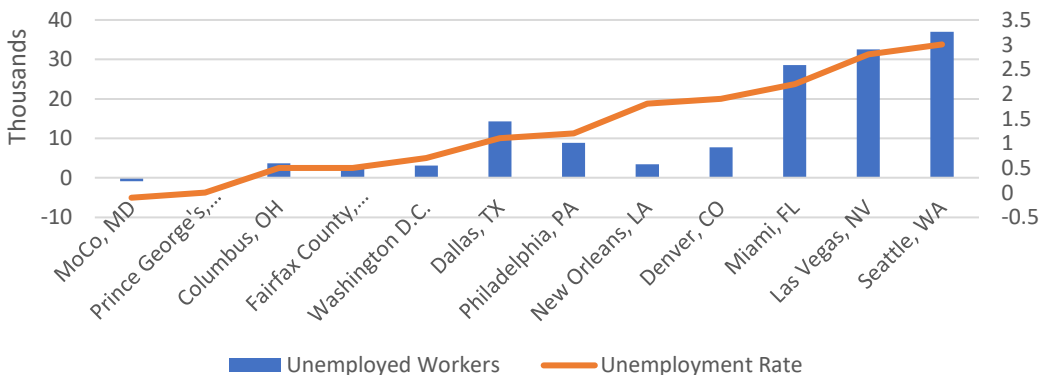
Note: Data was not available for all claimants.
Source: <https://oui.doleta.gov/unemploy/chariu.asp>

CHANGE IN LOCAL UNEMPLOYMENT – FEBRUARY 2020 TO MARCH 2020

Unemployment data from the Bureau of Labor Statistics show differences in how the coronavirus pandemic impacted unemployment at the local level between mid-February and mid-March, 2020. The unemployment rate fell or stayed the same in Montgomery and Prince George’s Counties. In seven of the 12 jurisdictions in the chart below, the unemployment rate increased by one percentage point or more.

Large increases both in unemployed workers and in unemployment rates were seen in the first area in the U.S. to detect COVID-19 (Seattle) and in areas with large hospitality industries (Las Vegas and Miami). The number of unemployed workers in Las Vegas and Miami increased by 28K and 37K, respectively, and the unemployment rates increased by 2.2 and 2.8 percentage points. Not included in the graph because it is such an outlier, Los Angeles’ unemployment rate increased 1.8 percentage points from February to March 2020 (from 4.6% to 6.4%) and the number of unemployed workers increased by 82K.

Unemployment Change, February to March, 2020



Note: These data are all County (or Parish) data. City names are used for ease of reading.
Source: <https://www.bls.gov/w/metro/laucntycur14.txt>