

# COVID-19: UNEMPLOYMENT UPDATE



Data and Information current as of May 28, 2020

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## NEW UNEMPLOYMENT CLAIMS

The U.S. Department of Labor (USDOL) weekly unemployment claims report has begun reporting new claims data for regular state claims *and* for expanded pandemic unemployment benefits provided in the federal CARES Act. Beginning the week of May 2, new claims in Maryland increased significantly – both because it was the first time that workers in Maryland could file for benefits under the Pandemic Unemployment Assistance (PUA) program (gig workers, self-employed, etc.) and because the state rolled out a new, updated unemployment IT system. Note that as of last week, 18 states did not report any data for PUA claims, suggesting workers in those states are still not able to file PUA unemployment claims.

Since May 2, 93,000 workers in Maryland (16,000 in Montgomery County) have filed for PUA benefits. Workers in MoCo 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 23       | 2,123,000 | 47,537         | 33,240  | 14,297 | no data reported | 7,589              | 5,215   | 2,374 | 49   |
| May 16       | 2,446,000 | 50,559         | 35,111  | 15,448 | no data reported | 7,795              | 5,229   | 2,566 | 58   |
| May 9        | 2,981,000 | 64,467         | 45,485  | 18,982 | no data reported | 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   | --    |      |
| March 21     | 3,307,000 | 42,334         | 42,334  | --     |                  | 3,941              | 3,941   | --    |      |

\* 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

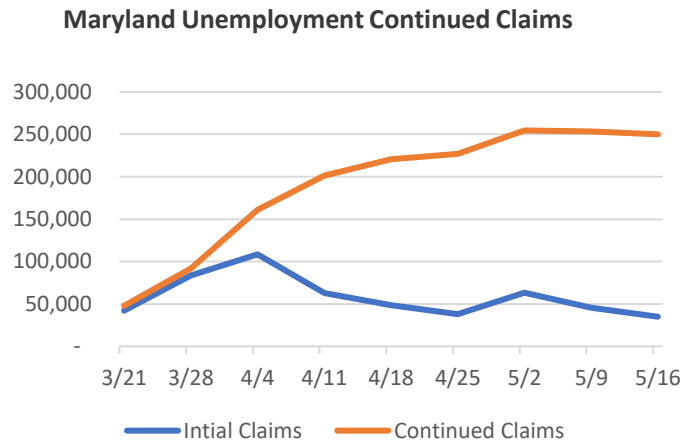
<https://www.dol.gov/ui/data.pdf>

<https://www.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 May 16th, continued unemployment claims in Maryland totaled 249,849, a decrease of about 1.3% (about 3,400 claims) compared to the week of May 9th. Data in the table for past weeks reflect revised numbers from the U.S. Labor Department.

| Week of 2020  | Continued Claims | Initial Claims |
|---------------|------------------|----------------|
| <b>May 16</b> | <b>249,849</b>   | <b>35,111</b>  |
| 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         |
| March 21      | 47,973           | 42,334         |



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

## STATE UNEMPLOYMENT RATES – MARCH AND APRIL 2020

Last week, the Bureau of Labor Statistics released state unemployment rates for April 2020. **Maryland’s unemployment rate increased by 6.6 percentage points – from 3.3% in March to 9.9% in April.** Maryland’s increase of 6.6 points was the 13<sup>th</sup> lowest in the country and Maryland’s April unemployment rate of 9.9% is 8<sup>th</sup> lowest in the country. Rates for all states and D.C. are shown in the chart on the next page.

Nebraska had the smallest rate increase (4.3%) between March and April and Nevada had the largest (21.3%). Whereas unemployment rates were at a historical low in 19 states in January, February, or March 2020, unemployment rates are at a historical high in 43 states in April 2020.

These data do not include workers whose unemployment benefit claims were turned down. Some reasons that claims can be rejected include: not working in a state for at least a year and newly entering the labor force, such as new graduates.

Sources: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics  
<https://www.bls.gov/web/laus/laumstcm.htm>  
<https://www.bls.gov/web/laus/lauhsthl.htm>

## State Unemployment Rates, March and April 2020 (%)

