

TRACKING THE COVID-19 ECONOMY

WEEKLY LABOR MARKET INFORMATION

Week ending October 10, 2020

Unemployment Insurance (UI) Claims for the Three-State Region

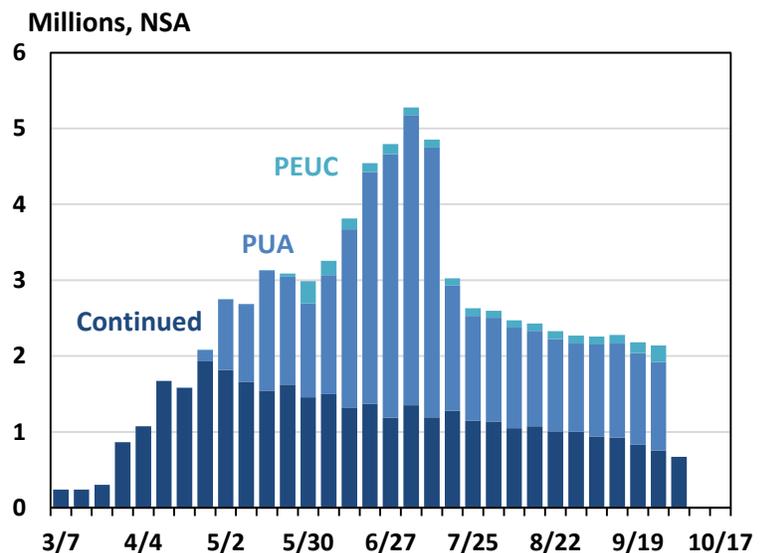
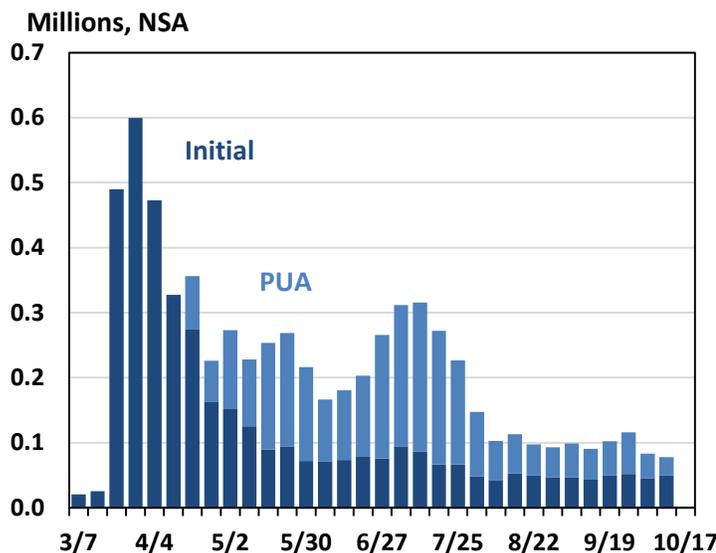
For the week ending October 10, workers filed 49,477 **initial UI claims** (NSA) in our three-state region — more than the prior week's 45,300 (revised), but far below the historic peak of 599,446 (revised) for the week ending March 28.

Workers also filed 28,436 initial **Pandemic Unemployment Assistance (PUA)** claims for the week ending October 10 in our three states. The **PUA** program provides benefits for workers who are not eligible for regular UI benefits.

Initial UI claims plus initial PUA claims were 77,913 for the week ending October 10, 2020. Prior to the pandemic, the 52-week average of initial UI claims was about 24,000 for the week ending March 14.

Compared with the prior week, initial UI claims across our three states:

- rose to 1,907 from 1,776 (revised) in Delaware;
- rose to 28,055 from 23,680 (revised) in New Jersey; and
- fell to 19,515 from 19,844 (revised) in Pennsylvania.



Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics via Haver Analytics; not seasonally adjusted (NSA)

For the week ending October 3, **continued UI claims** in our three-state region fell to 671,155 (NSA) — from the prior week's 755,104 (revised). However, workers who were impacted as the pandemic began have begun to exhaust their regular UI benefits; more workers may now draw **Pandemic Emergency Unemployment Compensation (PEUC)** claims instead. The **PEUC** program provides additional weeks of benefits for workers whose regular benefits have expired.

Compared with the prior week, continued UI claims across our three states:

- fell to 22,889 from 24,183 (revised) in Delaware;
- fell to 247,071 from 282,981 (revised) in New Jersey; and
- fell to 401,195 from 447,940 (revised) in Pennsylvania.

For the week ending September 26, workers in the three-state region also filed continued claims in these special programs:

- 1,167,652 **PUA** claims, and
- 218,025 **PEUC** claims. **PEUC** claims are now rising each week, as regular **continued UI claims** fall as benefits expire.

Total continued UI claims for the week ending September 26 fell to 2.1 million compared with a 52-week average of about 200,000 for the week ending March 14.



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Unemployment Insurance (UI) Claims for the U.S. (see note below about California's estimates)

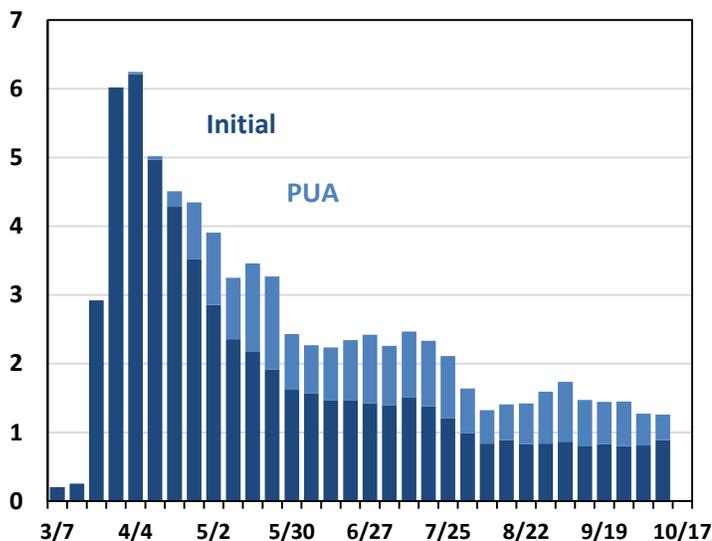
For the week ending October 10, workers filed 885,885 **initial UI claims** (NSA) — more than the prior week's 809,215 (revised). Workers also filed 372,891 **PUA claims** for the week ending October 10 — for a total of 1,258,776 initial claims. The 52-week average of initial UI claims was about 215,000 for the week ending March 14. Initial UI claims set a historic peak of 6,211,399 (revised) for the week ending April 4.

Continued UI claims for the week ending October 3 fell to 9,631,588 (NSA) from the prior week's 10,819,790 (revised). The 52-week average of continued UI claims was just 1.7 million for the week ending March 14. However, for the week ending September 26, a total of 25.3 million continued claims were filed from all programs, including:

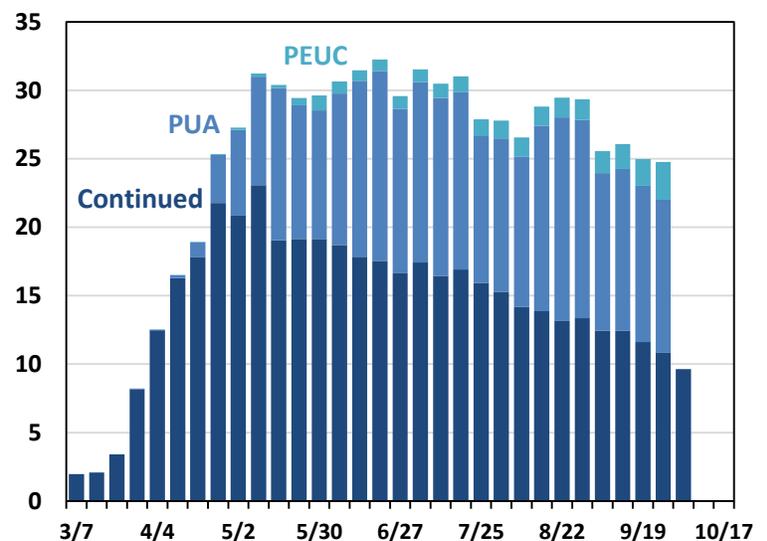
- 11.2 million **PUA claims**, and
- 2.8 million **PEUC claims**. **PEUC claims** are now rising each week, as more workers exhaust regular UI claims.

Continued UI claims typically fall slowly from recession peaks. During the Great Recession, continued UI claims peaked at 6.5 million and about five years passed before continued UI claims returned to pre-recession levels.

Millions, NSA



Millions, NSA



Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics via Haver Analytics; not seasonally adjusted (NSA)

Notes:

PUA claims data for any given week may include backdated claims from prior weeks.

California, with roughly one-fourth of the nation's UI claims, has stopped reporting weekly estimates while the state's procedures are being enhanced. Until California resumes reporting, the national weekly estimates will incorporate prior California estimates reported as of the week ending September 19. [See Technical Note: <https://oui.doleta.gov/press/2020/100120.pdf>.]

Source:

Initial and continued (UI) claims are gathered by individual states and are typically released on Thursday mornings at 8:30 a.m. by the Employment and Training Administration of the U.S. Department of Labor.

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



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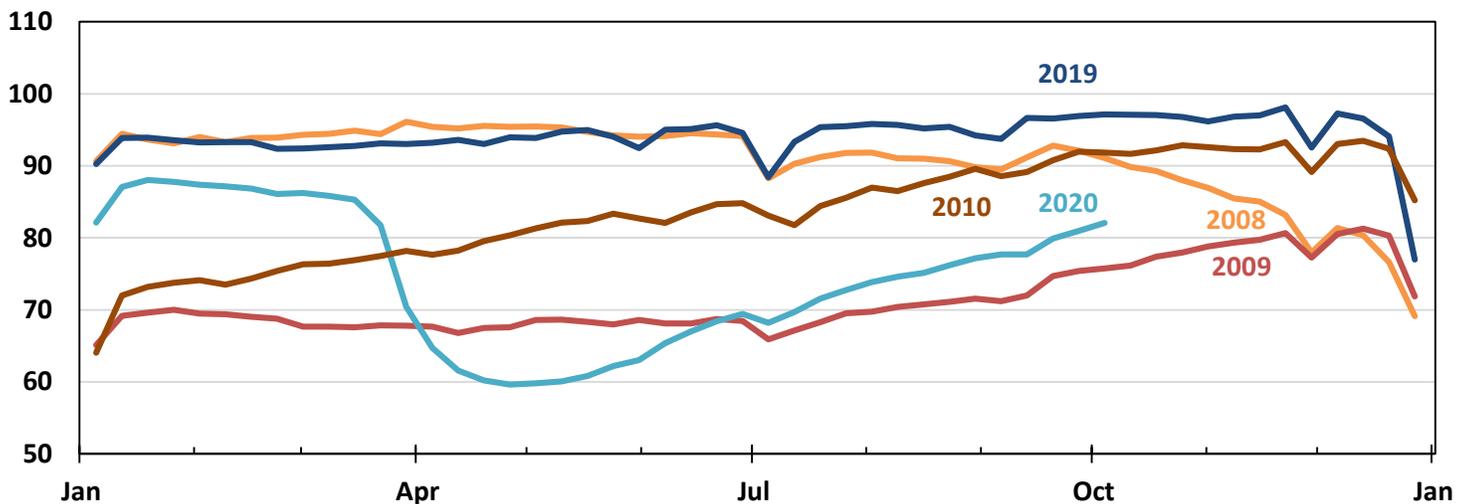
Week ending October 4, 2020

ASA Weekly Staffing Index

The ASA Weekly Staffing Index rose to 82.1 for the week ending October 4. The index has risen steadily since hitting a low of 59.6 for the week ending April 26. The index continued to track above the record low levels that spanned much of the latter half of 2009.

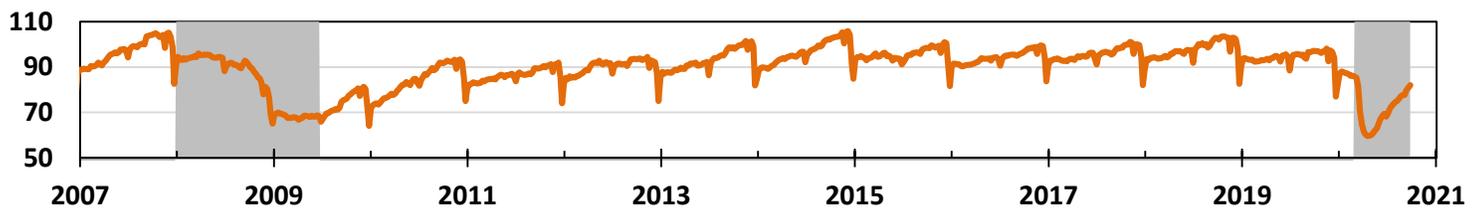
The year-over-year change in this index was -15.5 for the week ending October 4. The year-over-year change has slowly narrowed since late June (at -26.6), after rebounding more quickly from a low of about -36.5 in late April through early May. The year-over-year change in this index was -8.0 points for the week ending March 15.

Index, 2006=100



Note: This index is highly seasonal (see below). To aid visual comparisons, the upper chart depicts 52 weeks for key years.

Index, 2006=100



Source: American Staffing Association via Haver Analytics

Sources:

The **ASA Staffing Index** tracks weekly changes in temporary and contract employment and is typically released on Tuesday mornings. The index is generated from a survey of U.S. staffing firms by the American Staffing Association.

americanstaffing.net/staffing-index

americanstaffing.net/index

