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

For the week ending April 11, initial UI claims in our three-state region fell below the half-million mark — surpassed in each of the prior three weeks. Although still at historically high levels, workers filed fewer initial claims for a second consecutive week — 392,229 (NSA), which was less than the prior week’s 511,327 (revised).

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

• fell to 13,272 from 18,851 in Delaware;
• fell to 140,600 from 214,836 in New Jersey; and
• fell to 238,357 from 277,640 in Pennsylvania.

For the week ending April 4, continued UI claims in our three-state region rose further to a new record high — 1,089,186 (NSA) — from the prior week’s 862,025 (revised). From data extending back through 1987, the prior maximum for continued claims in the three-state region was 636,134 for the week of March 14, 2009 — 15 months into the Great Recession.

All three states set new record-high levels of continued UI claims. Compared with the prior week, continued UI claims across our three states:

• rose to 36,134 from 19,442 in Delaware;
• rose to 431,254 from 276,119 in New Jersey; and
• rose to 621,798 from 566,464 in Pennsylvania.
Unemployment Insurance (UI) Claims for the U.S.

As businesses continued to adjust to state shutdowns, initial UI claims of just under 5 million remained at historically high levels but were over 1 million less than the prior week. For the week ending April 11, workers filed 4,971,823 initial UI claims (NSA) — less than the prior week’s 6,211,399 (revised).

Continued UI claims for the week ending April 4 rose to 12,526,711 (NSA) from the prior week’s 8,168,271 (revised). Setting yet another new record high, this week’s continued claims estimate is nearly twice the size of the prior peak from the Great Recession. Since 1966 year-end, the three highest recession peaks of continued UI claims include:

- 6,451,690 for the week ending March 28, 2009, during the Great Recession;
- 5,112,000 for the week ending January 1, 1983, during the double-dip recession; and
- 5,229,000 for the week ending February 22, 1975, during the 1973–1975 recession.

These three prior peaks all occurred near the end of, or shortly after, their respective recession period.

Millions, NSA

Sources:

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

Useful Resource:

ASA Weekly Staffing Index

The ASA Weekly Staffing Index fell to 64.7 for the week ending April 5. This represents a record low for this particular week of the year — lower than during the Great Recession. The all-time low for this index is 64.0 for the week ending January 3, 2010; however, the week containing New Year’s Day is typically a year’s seasonal low point.

Since the week ending March 15, the spread in this index has grown from 8.0 points below its prior-year level to 30.6 points below. The depth of the current decline matches the deepest spread during the Great Recession.

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