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

For the week ending April 25, workers filed 210,053 initial UI claims (NSA) in our three-state region — fewer than the prior week’s 344,179 (revised). This was the fourth consecutive weekly decline after initial UI claims set a historic peak of 630,067 (revised) for the week ending March 28.

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

- fell to 7,754 from 9,446 (revised) in Delaware;
- fell to 71,017 from 140,139 (revised) in New Jersey; and
- fell to 131,282 from 194,594 (revised) in Pennsylvania.

For the week ending April 18, continued UI claims in our three-state region fell to 1,601,220 (NSA) — from the prior week’s record high of 1,669,116 (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.

Delaware and New Jersey set new record-high levels of continued UI claims, but their increases were offset by declines in Pennsylvania’s claims. Compared with the prior week, continued UI claims across our three states:

- rose to 52,392 from 38,451 (revised) in Delaware;
- rose to 624,131 from 556,005 (revised) in New Jersey; and
- fell to 924,697 from 1,074,660 (revised) in Pennsylvania.
Unemployment Insurance (UI) Claims for the U.S.

For the week ending April 25, workers filed 3,489,261 initial UI claims (NSA) — fewer than the prior week’s 4,281,648 (revised). This was the third consecutive weekly decline after initial UI claims set a historic peak of 6,211,406 (revised) for the week ending April 4.

Continued UI claims for the week ending April 18 rose to 17,776,006 (NSA) from the prior week’s 16,277,222 (revised). Continued claims are now over 11 million higher than the prior peak set during 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

![Graph showing initial and continued UI claims from 2007 to 2021](chart)

Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics via Haver Analytics; not seasonally adjusted (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](https://www.dol.gov/ui/data.pdf)

Useful Resource:

ASA Weekly Staffing Index

The ASA Weekly Staffing Index fell to 60.2 for the week ending April 19. This represents a record low for this particular week of the year, or any other — lower than at any time during the Great Recession. The prior all-time low for this index was 64.0 for the week ending January 3, 2010 — a seasonally low week containing New Year’s Day.

Since the week ending March 15, the spread in this index has grown from 8.0 points below its prior-year level to 35.3 points below. The depth of the current decline exceeds 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