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

For the week ending May 2, workers filed 190,326 initial UI claims (NSA) in our three-state region — fewer than the prior week’s 207,809 (revised). This was the fifth 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 6,183 from 7,947 (revised) in Delaware;
- rose to 87,540 from 71,966 (revised) in New Jersey; and
- fell to 96,603 from 127,896 (revised) in Pennsylvania.

For the week ending April 25, continued UI claims in our three-state region rose to 1,950,392 (NSA) — from the prior week’s 1,581,979 (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 56,248 from 44,977 (revised) in Delaware;
- rose to 643,825 from 621,753 (revised) in New Jersey; and
- rose to 1,250,319 from 915,249 (revised) in Pennsylvania.
Unemployment Insurance (UI) Claims for the U.S.

For the week ending May 2, workers filed 2,849,090 initial UI claims (NSA) — fewer than the prior week's 3,495,703 (revised). This was the fourth 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 25 rose to 22,035,753 (NSA) from the prior week’s 17,794,976 (revised). Continued claims are now over 15 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.

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 edged down to 59.6 for the week ending April 26. 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 36.6 points below. The depth of the current decline exceeds the deepest spread during the Great Recession.

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

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