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

For the week ending May 9, workers filed 149,310 initial UI claims (NSA) in our three-state region — fewer than the prior week’s 189,068 (revised). This was the sixth 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 5,068 from 6,297 (revised) in Delaware;
- fell to 68,685 from 88,326 (revised) in New Jersey; and
- fell to 75,557 from 94,445 (revised) in Pennsylvania.

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**For the week ending May 2, continued UI claims in our three-state region fell to 1,829,413 (NSA) — from the prior week’s 1,928,451 (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 57,766 from 52,501 (revised) in Delaware;
- rose to 710,537 from 642,651 (revised) in New Jersey; and
- fell to 1,061,110 from 1,233,299 (revised) in Pennsylvania.
Unemployment Insurance (UI) Claims for the U.S.

For the week ending May 9, workers filed 2,614,093 initial UI claims (NSA) — fewer than the prior week’s 2,855,560 (revised). This was the fifth consecutive weekly decline after 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 May 2 fell to 21,143,403 (NSA) from the prior week’s 21,772,592 (revised). Although this is the first decline since the week ending March 14, the level of continued claims remains 14.7 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 up to 59.8 for the week ending May 3 — the first increase since the week ending March 1. This represents a record low for this particular week of the year.

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 spread eased this week to 36.3 point below the prior year.

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