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

For the week ending July 25, workers filed 64,797 initial UI claims (NSA) in our three-state region — fewer than the prior week’s 66,638 (revised), but far below the historic peak of 599,446 (revised) for the week ending March 28.

However, workers also filed 139,946 initial Pandemic Unemployment Assistance (PUA) claims for the week ending July 25 in our three states (Pennsylvania accounted for 134,826 of these PUA claims; see note on the next page). The PUA program provides benefits for workers who are not eligible for regular UI benefits. Initial UI claims plus initial PUA claims were 204,743 for the week ending July 25, 2020.

Compared with the prior week, initial UI claims across our three states:
- fell to 2,403 from 2,720 (revised) in Delaware;
- rose to 27,398 from 25,932 (revised) in New Jersey; and
- fell to 34,996 from 37,986 (revised) in Pennsylvania.

For the week ending July 18, continued UI claims in our three-state region rose to 1,284,453 (NSA) — from the prior week’s 1,189,012 (revised).

Compared with the prior week, continued UI claims across our three states:
- rose to 45,465 from 41,572 (revised) in Delaware;
- rose to 483,113 from 476,539 (revised) in New Jersey; and
- rose to 755,875 from 670,901 (revised) in Pennsylvania.

For the week ending July 11, workers in the three-state region also filed continued claims in these special programs:
- 3,560,611 PUA claims (Pennsylvania accounted for 3,154,311 of these PUA claims; see note), and
- 101,505 Pandemic Emergency Unemployment Compensation (PEUC) claims. The PEUC program provides additional weeks of benefits for workers whose regular benefits have expired.

Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics via Haver Analytics; not seasonally adjusted (NSA)
Unemployment Insurance (UI) Claims for the U.S.

For the week ending July 25, workers filed 1,205,871 initial UI claims (NSA) — fewer than the prior week’s 1,376,925 (revised). Initial UI claims have fallen in 15 of the past 16 weeks. Initial UI claims set a historic peak of 6,211,399 (revised) for the week ending April 4.

Workers also filed 829,697 initial PUA claims for the week ending July 25.

Continued UI claims for the week ending July 18 rose to 16,881,463 (NSA) from the prior week’s 16,344,706 (revised). Continued UI claims are 5.9 million fewer than the peak 10 weeks ago.

However, for the week ending July 11, a total of 30.2 million continued claims were filed from all programs, including:

- 12.4 million PUA claims, and
- 1.1 million PEUC claims.

Continued UI claims peaked at 6.5 million during the Great Recession.

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

Note:

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

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

Useful Resource:

Rinz, Kevin. “Understanding Unemployment Insurance Claims and Other Labor Market Data During the COVID-19 Pandemic”
https://kevinrinz.github.io/covid19_labordata.pdf
ASA Weekly Staffing Index

The ASA Weekly Staffing Index rose to 71.6 for the week ending July 19. The index has risen in 11 of the past 12 weeks. The index remained above the lowest point ever recorded for this particular week of the year (in 2009).

The year-over-year change in this index was -8.0 points for the week ending March 15. This declined to near -36.5 points for the three weeks ending April 26 through May 10 and had rebounded to -26.6 as of the week ending June 28. The year-over-year change was a bit less at -25.0 below the prior year for the week ending July 19.

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

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