



From the National Employment Law Project

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Unemployment Rate Jumps Past 10% Plateau

New NELP Analysis Finds that Record Level Long-Term Unemployment Is Fueled by Sharp Increases among Men, Whites & Prime Age Workers

Congress' Approval of 14-20 Week Unemployment Insurance Extension Will Aid Hundreds of Thousands of Workers on Brink of Benefits Exhaustion

Washington, DC – With employers shedding an additional 190,000 jobs in October, 15.7 million workers are now officially unemployed and the nation's unemployment rate has now jumped to 10.2%. Today's monthly report from the Department of Labor underscored the continuing severity of the employment crisis, as the average duration of unemployment hit a record high of nearly 27 weeks – more than half a year – and 35.6% of the unemployed have been out of work even longer.

NELP released new analysis of today's numbers that reveals sharp increases in long-term unemployment among men, white and prime age (25-45 years) workers. Today's figures also underscored, once again, the importance and timeliness of the 14-20 weeks extension of jobless benefits Congress approved over the past two days. President Obama is expected to enact the legislation today.

“If anyone doubted the necessity of another round of jobless benefits, today's numbers should put that to rest. The average unemployed person has been out of a job not for weeks, but months – six months. 600,000 people received their last unemployment check through October of this year, and another 700,000 were expected to before the year's end. More support through unemployment benefits for the families and communities most needing this help is the correct response while the economy continues to lumber towards a real and sustained recovery,” said **Christine Owens, Executive Director of the National Employment Law Project.**

NELP's analysis of long-term unemployment today details the underlying demographics trends among long term jobless workers. The analysis shows that as the recession has extended, long term unemployment has grown particularly fast among men, white and prime age (25-45 years) workers. To see the analysis, click here:

<http://www.nelp.org/page/-/UI/PR.LTU.chart.pdf?nocdn=1>

Today's employment figures revealed additional insights into the state of the workforce:

- Long term unemployment is at 35.6% of all unemployed, or 5.6 million out of 15.7 million. This is the second consecutive month long-term unemployment has remained at this record high, dating back to the first available statistics in 1948.
- The average duration of unemployment is 26.9 weeks, also the highest on record.
- Involuntary part time has swelled to nearly 9.3 million people.
- The “real” unemployment rate – including the unemployed, those working involuntary part time, and the marginally attached – is at 17.5 percent.
- Currently, there are more than 6 unemployed workers for every job opening. In some regions of the country, this ratio is even higher – in midwestern states, it is 6.8 workers for every opening; in western states it is 7.1 workers per opening.

In total, an unprecedented nearly nine million jobless workers are receiving some form of unemployment benefits – including regular state benefits, or federal benefits under the Emergency Unemployment Compensation extension or the federal Extended Benefits program.

The benefits extension approved by the [Senate](#) on Wednesday and the House yesterday will bring the maximum number of available benefits up from 79 weeks to 99 weeks. This maximum varies by state, however, and can be viewed in this NELP chart: <http://www.nelp.org/page/-/UI/federal.extensions.by.state.pdf?nocdn=1>.

“Like hundreds of thousands of desperate jobless workers whose benefits have already run out, we are relieved that this latest extension has now passed, and pleased that President Obama plans to sign it right away. Once he does so, eligible workers will likely start to see the additional benefits become available in a matter of weeks. We urge the states to act as quickly and efficiently as possible to move these benefits out to unemployed workers, who in turn will circulate these dollars back into their communities,” concluded Owens.

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Change in Long-Term Unemployment Over the Course of the Current Recession
National Employment Law Project, November 2009

Demographic	Start of Recession	Last Six Months	Percent Change
	Average Monthly Long-Term Unemployed, Oct.2008 - Sept.2009	Average Monthly Long-Term Unemployed, April 2009 - Sept.2009	
<i>Total</i>	1,388,820	4,323,123	211%
Age			
16-24 Years	257,195	700,048	172%
25-44 Years	579,056	1,928,721	233%
45+ Years	552,569	1,694,368	207%
Gender			
Female	600,572	1,745,767	191%
Male	788,248	2,577,358	227%
Race/Ethnicity			
Hispanic	257,160	821,450	219%
Black	358,125	960,235	168%
White	927,583	3,054,666	229%
Other	103,113	308,226	199%
Education Completed			
Less than High School Diploma	283,035	797,093	182%
High School	510,286	1,570,616	208%
Some College	358,568	1,226,223	242%
Bachelors Degree or Higher	236,931	729,191	208%

Note: Race (Black, White, Other) and Ethnicity (Hispanic) are not mutually exclusive.

Source: NELP Analysis of Current Population Survey data, Bureau of Labor Statistics

Total Weeks of Federal Jobless Benefits Available by State Under the November Federal Extension
National Employment Law Project, November 2009

State	Unemployment Rate (3-Month Average as of September 2009)	Current Weeks of Federal Extensions	Additional Weeks under the November Extension	Total Weeks of Federal Extensions
Alabama	10.4	53	20	73
Alaska	8.2	53	14	67
Arizona	9.1	53	20	73
Arkansas	7.2	33	14	47
California	12.1	53	20	73
Colorado	7.4	46	14	60
Connecticut	8.1	46	14	60
Delaware	8.2	53	14	67
District of Columbia	11.0	53	20	73
Florida	10.9	53	20	73
Georgia	10.2	53	20	73
Hawaii	7.1	33	14	47
Idaho	8.8	53	20	73
Illinois	10.3	53	20	73
Indiana	10.0	53	20	73
Iowa	6.6	33	14	47
Kansas	7.2	46	14	60
Kentucky	11.0	53	20	73
Louisiana	7.5	33	14	47
Maine	8.5	53	20	73
Maryland	7.2	33	14	47
Massachusetts	9.1	53	20	73
Michigan	15.2	53	20	73
Minnesota	7.8	53	14	67
Mississippi	9.5	33	20	53
Missouri	9.4	53	20	73
Montana	6.7	33	14	47
Nebraska	5.0	20	14	34
Nevada	13.0	53	20	73
New Hampshire	7.0	46	14	60
New Jersey	9.6	53	20	73
New Mexico	7.4	46	14	60
New York	8.8	53	20	73
North Carolina	10.9	53	20	73
North Dakota	4.2	20	14	34
Ohio	10.7	53	20	73
Oklahoma	6.7	33	14	47
Oregon	11.8	53	20	73
Pennsylvania	8.6	53	20	73
Puerto Rico	15.6	46	20	66
Rhode Island	12.8	53	20	73
South Carolina	11.6	53	20	73
South Dakota	4.9	20	14	34
Tennessee	10.7	53	20	73
Texas	8.0	46	14	60
Utah	6.1	20	14	34
Vermont	6.8	46	14	60
Virgin Islands	6.9	33	14	47
Virginia	6.7	46	14	60
Washington	9.1	53	20	73
West Virginia	8.9	53	20	73
Wisconsin	8.7	53	20	73
Wyoming	6.6	33	14	47

EB and EUC status are as of November 1, 2009, with the exception of South Carolina. (SC recently passed an EB TUR trigger but has not yet formally triggered on. For purposes of this chart, they are considered to be triggered on to 20 EB weeks.)

Sources:

DOL ETA Emergency Unemployment Compensation Trigger Notice, Effective November 1, 2009

http://atlas.doleta.gov/unemploy/euc_trigger/2009/euc_110109.html

DOL ETA Extended Benefits Trigger Notice, Effective November 1, 2009

http://atlas.doleta.gov/unemploy/trigger/2009/trig_110109.html