How Federal Actions Are Impacting Maryland Employment: High-Frequency Indicators

Last Updated: November 6, 2026

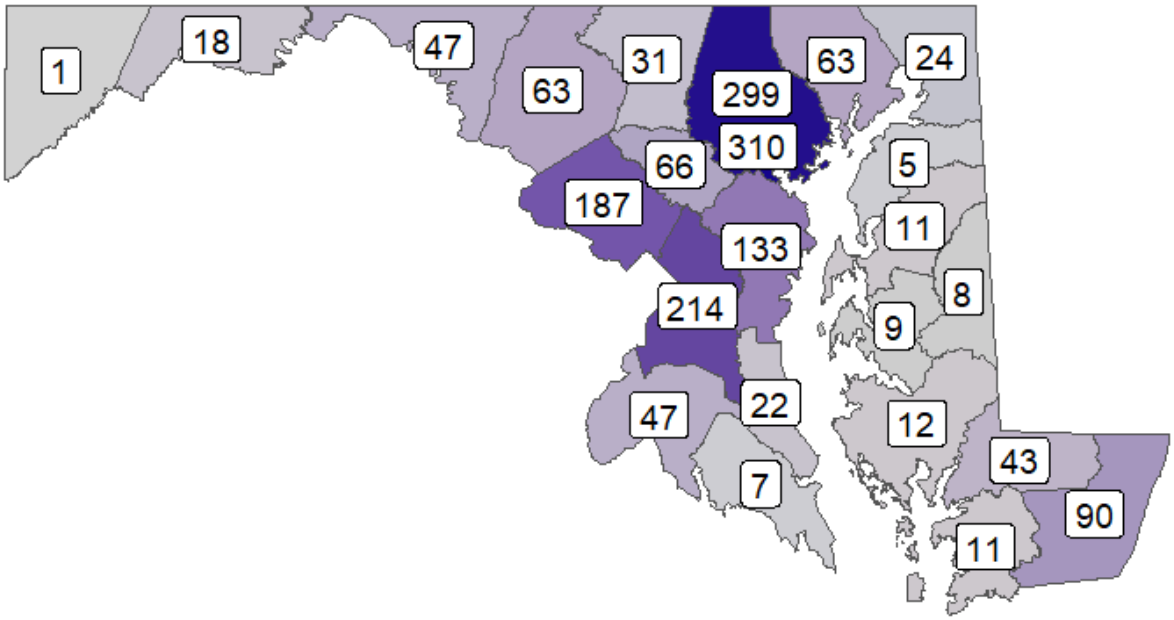
Maryland's economy has been significantly impacted by recent federal actions, including layoffs, shutdowns, and disruptions in federal grants and contracts. The following economic indicators will be regularly updated as new data is made available.

Initial Unemployment Insurance Claims by County for the Week Ending October 31, 2026

In total, 1,893 initial claims were filed through the Maryland Department of Labor between October 25, 2026, and October 31, 2026, by workers employed in Maryland. This includes both (1) federal workers, filing through the unemployment insurance (UI) program that is specific to them (called Unemployment Compensation for Federal Employees, or UCFE), and (2) workers who are not federal employees, filing through the regular state UI program, such as federal contractors, other private sector workers, and state and local public sector workers.

The map below shows how claims were distributed by county of residence, though it does not include initial claims by out-of-state claimants or those whose residence information was unknown (172 claims combined). Initial claim volumes were highest in Baltimore City, Baltimore County, Prince George's County, and Montgomery County.

Initial Unemployment Insurance Claims by County, Week Ending 10/31/26



This data is also available in an accessible table on the Maryland Department of Labor webpage "Initial Unemployment Insurance Claims by County."

Initial Federal Unemployment Insurance Claims in Maryland

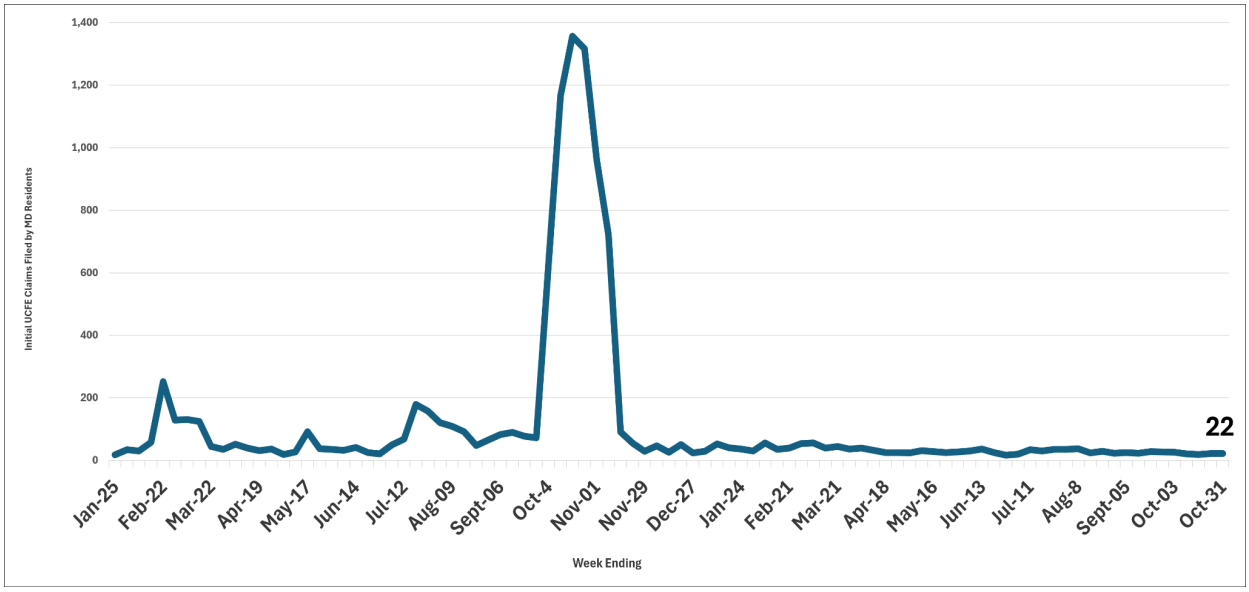
The US Department of Labor (US DOL) publishes estimates of federal workers filing for unemployment insurance through the UCFE program.

Initial UCFE claims by Maryland residents for week ending October 31, 2026	Total initial UCFE claims by Maryland residents for Jan. 19, 2025, to October 31, 2026	Continuing UCFE claims by Maryland residents for week ending October 31, 2026
22	***10,421***	***281***
Source: US Dept. of Labor	Source: US Dept. of Labor	Source: US Dept. of Labor

22 Maryland residents filed initial UCFE claims in the week ending October 31, 2026, regardless of their state/district of prior employment. Although initial UCFE claims have fallen from a peak of 1,357 for the week ending October 18, 2025 (during the federal government shutdown), the number of federal claims filed remains elevated above typical levels. For comparison, Maryland residents filed 11 initial UCFE claims in an average week in 2024.

According to US DOL, Maryland residents filed 10,421 initial UCFE claims between January 19, 2025, and October 31, 2026. Maryland residents filed 281 continuing UCFE claims for the week ending October 31, 2026 (reflecting ongoing unemployment in the prior seven days). This is elevated from 2024, when Maryland residents made an average of 122 continuing UCFE claims each week.

Initial Federal Unemployment Insurance Claims by Maryland Residents, Week Ending 1/25/25 to 10/31/26



This data is also available in an accessible table on the MD Labor webpage "Weekly Initial Unemployment Insurance Claims by Maryland Residents" and more information is available on the US Department of Labor website.

Initial State Unemployment Insurance Claims in Maryland

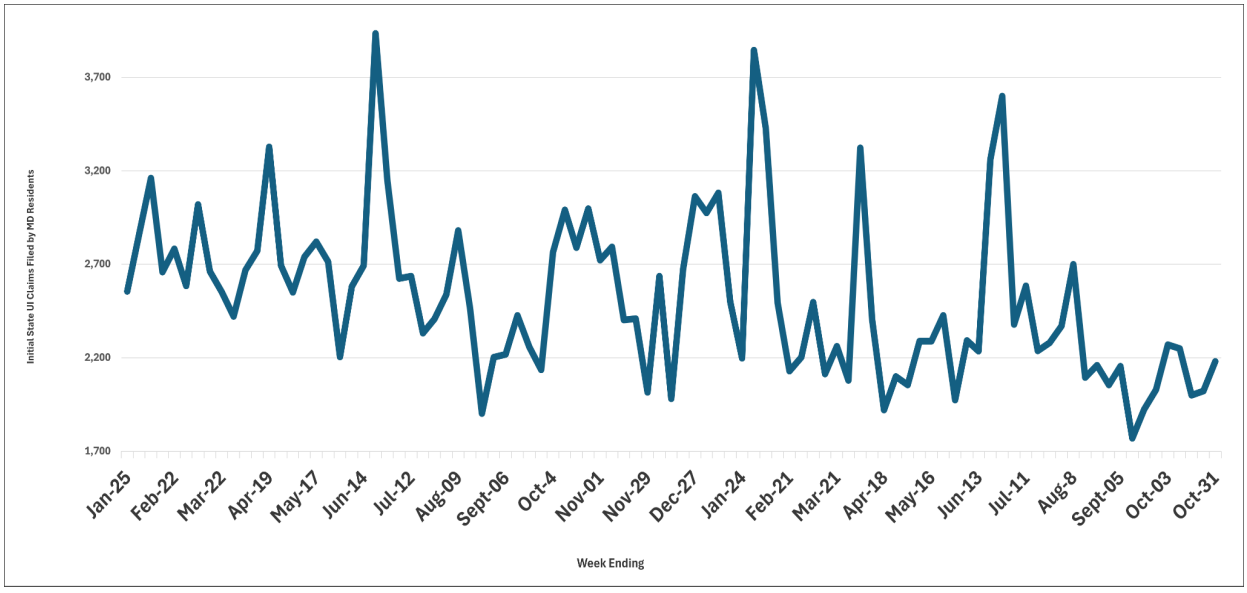
US DOL publishes data on state unemployment insurance claims, which includes unemployment insurance claims filed by federal contractors, other private sector workers, and state and local public sector workers.

Initial state UI claims filed by Maryland residents for week ending October 31, 2026	Total initial state UI claims filed by Maryland residents, Jan. 19, 2025, to October 31, 2026	Continuing state UI claims made by Maryland residents for week ending October 31, 2026
2,181	***234,801***	***20,684***
Source: US Dept. of Labor	Source: US Dept. of Labor	Source: US Dept. of Labor

2,181 Maryland residents filed initial regular state unemployment claims in the week ending October 31, 2026, according to data from US DOL. This is below the same time in 2025 and 2024, when Maryland residents filed 2,722 and 2,354 initial claims, respectively.

Between January 19, 2025, and October 31, 2026, a total of 234,801 initial claims were filed by Maryland residents. Not all of these claims may be approved. Data from US DOL show that 20,684 continuing claims were made by Maryland residents in the week ending October 31, 2026 (reflecting ongoing unemployment in the prior seven days). This is lower than the same week in 2025, when there were 27,938 continuing claims made by Maryland residents, and in the same week in 2024, when there were 21,595 continuing claims.

Initial State Unemployment Insurance Claims by Maryland Residents, Week Ending 1/25/25 to 10/31/26



This data is also available in an accessible table on the MD Labor webpage "Weekly Initial Unemployment Insurance Claims by Maryland Residents" and more information is available on the US Department of Labor website.

Frequently Asked Questions About UI Claims Data

Q: Why is some data reported by state of filing and some by state of residence?
A: Data on unemployment insurance claims comes from several sources. County-level information on initial claims is reported by MD Labor and is based on detailed information available by claimants filing in Maryland. US DOL reports claims through two reports from the Employment and Training Administration (ETA): the ETA 538 report and the ETA 539 report. The ETA 538 report contains information on initial claims filed in each state and underlies the weekly press release from US DOL on Thursdays at 8:30 a.m. The ETA 539 report is updated later and reports claims by state of residence. Therefore, initial claims data for Maryland in the ETA 539 report will differ from advance claims in the ETA 538 report or county-level data reported on MD Labor's website. This tracking document contains information on claims from MD Labor and the ETA 539 report.

Q: What is the difference between initial and continuing claims?
A: This tracking document contains information on both initial claims and continuing claims. After separating from their previous employer, a worker files an initial claim. This is the first step in the process of receiving unemployment insurance benefits. After one week, if the claimant is still out of work and has completed all applicable reemployment activities, a claimant files a continuing claim to claim benefits for that week of unemployment. Claimants may make additional continuing claims in future weeks.

While initial claims and continuing claims often move in tandem, they are not identical. For example, if an initial claim is not approved, it cannot be carried forward as a continuing claim, and some workers filing continuing claims may find a new job and stop filing in future weeks.

Q: Monthly jobs reports also cover the unemployment rate. Is this the same data?
A: No. Each month, the Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) releases data on Maryland's economy, including the unemployment rate. Although BLS uses data on continuing claims in Maryland as part of their modeling process, the monthly unemployment rate is different from the data presented in this document.

To count as unemployed, a Maryland resident needs to not have a job and be actively looking for work or be on a temporary layoff from their current job. However, not all unemployed Marylanders are receiving unemployment insurance benefits. Some unemployed Marylanders may have fully exhausted their unemployment insurance benefits and still be searching for a job. Additionally, some Marylanders may not qualify for unemployment insurance benefits because they did not lose a job. For example, a recent graduate who does not have a job but is actively searching for one would count as unemployed.

Furthermore, not all Marylanders receiving unemployment insurance benefits count as unemployed. For example, some Marylanders receive unemployment insurance benefits if they have experienced a significant reduction in their work hours. For the purposes of the monthly unemployment rate from BLS, these workers count as currently having a job and therefore are not treated as unemployed.