

Unemployment Insurance (UI) Glossary

NOTE: This document contains terms and acronyms used in the monthly and weekly UI data files. The same glossaries are also contained as separate worksheets in the respective UI data tables.

Glossary of terms used in monthly data table
(in order of their appearance)

1. Persons Receiving Unemployment Benefits

The number of individuals who are receiving regular unemployment insurance benefits during the month.

2. Initial Claims

The initial claim serves to start or restart the unemployment compensation process for an individual.

The initial claim generates no money for the claimant but makes it possible for the claimant to subsequently file a series of "continued claims", which generally result in payment.

About 80% of initial claims are new claims. The remaining 20% are various sorts of claims that serve to restart the process (like "additional claims", which are defined below).

3. Additional Claims

To resume collecting unemployment benefits in the same benefit year, a person must file an additional claim.

4. Continued Claims Filed

After filing an initial claim, a person must file a continued claim at the end of each week that he or she was unemployed in order to receive unemployment compensation benefits.

5. Continued Claims Paid

Not everybody who applies for benefits is actually paid. The number of continued claims paid is generally about 90% of the continued claims filed (item 4).

6. First Payments

This is the number of people who are receiving their first weekly payment of unemployment benefits.

7. Final Payments

Regular unemployment benefits are paid for a maximum of 26 weeks. When someone receives their 26th weekly payment, it is called a "final payment". This item can be tricky. Suppose a claimant finds a job after collecting for 10 weeks. You might think that his 10th weekly payment would be considered a final payment. But the term is not defined that way. The only claimants who receive a "final payment" are those who collect for all 26 weeks.

8. Average Weeks Unemployed (Duration)

Among those claimants who are finished collecting benefits, this is the average number of weeks that they collected regular benefits. Since the regular benefit period lasts for 26 weeks, this number can never be more than 26. Extended benefits are not included in this calculation. This number is generally a good indicator of how the economy is doing. When this number is rising, the economy is probably getting worse, and vice versa.

9. Exhaustion Rate

The exhaustion rate is the percentage of claimants who are exhausting all 26 weeks of their regular benefits. Just like duration, this number can be used as an economic indicator.

10. Average Weekly Benefit Amount

Arizona currently has a maximum weekly benefit amount of \$240. So this figure can never go above that maximum. This number excludes the additional \$25 per week currently being paid by the federal government.

Acronyms used in weekly UI data table

UI, UCFE, & UCX

UI claims, which account for the bulk of unemployment insurance claims, are paid by each state. UCFE and UCX claims are paid by the federal government. UCFE is for federal employees, and UCX is for veterans.

EB & EUC

Extended Benefit (EB) claims and Emergency Unemployment Compensation (EUC) come into being when the state's unemployment rate reaches a certain level (which is different for different states).

Regular UI benefits run for 26 weeks, EB's for 13 weeks. Tiers 1, 2, 3, and 4 of EUC run for 20, 14, 13, and 6 weeks respectively. All together, they provide 92 weeks (or 1 year and 9 months) of benefits.