



## U.S. jobless claims surge to record 3.28 million

March 27, 2020

*The number of Americans filing claims for unemployment benefits surged to a record of more than 3 million last week as an economy grounded to a halt by the coronavirus pandemic throws millions out of work.*

1. A record \_\_\_\_\_
- 2-1. That's how many Americans \_\_\_\_\_  
2-2. a jump dwarfing \_\_\_\_\_
- 3-1. It's a surge in unemployment claims \_\_\_\_\_  
3-2. even during the depths of the financial crisis a decade ago, weekly claims \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
4. Thursday's number \_\_\_\_\_
5. And that's just the number of people \_\_\_\_\_
6. The number seeking to continue their existing benefits \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
7. Add that together and that means \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
8. Plus, these numbers don't show those working in the gig economy \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
- 9-1. Strict measures to contain the coronavirus pandemic \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
- 9-2. unleashing a tidal wave of layoffs, and slamming \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

10. Weekly jobless claims are the clearest evidence yet \_\_\_\_\_

11-1. Congress is trying to soften the blow \_\_\_\_\_

11-2. which includes help \_\_\_\_\_

12-1. The legislation will provide \_\_\_\_\_

12-2. by boosting payouts and \_\_\_\_\_

13. But that may not be enough \_\_\_\_\_

14-1. Federal Reserve Chairman Jerome Powell on Thursday told NBC \_\_\_\_\_

14-2. but would bounce back once \_\_\_\_\_

### [Vocabulary]

□ **sign up:** to join a club, an activity, etc. with the intention to join or participate

- *You must submit an application to the office and sign up for an audition day and time.*

□ **jobless benefit:** unemployment benefit; money that the government pays to unemployed people who are looking for a job

□ **dwarf:** to make something seem small or unimportant

- *Our small investment has been dwarfed by what the private sector has put in.*

- *The city hall is dwarfed by the surrounding high-rise buildings.*

□ **surge:** a sudden increase in something such as price, value, or interest

- *Forecasters are predicting a pre-Christmas surge in spending.*

- *There's been a late surge of support offers for the candidate.*

□ **unemployment claim:** An unemployment claim is a request for cash benefits after getting laid off from a job. The claim made by an individual to the state government to receive temporary payments after losing a job. An unemployment claim is also known as an "unemployment insurance claim" or an "unemployment compensation claim."

□ **depth:** the great importance or seriousness of a situation

- *These latest figures have confirmed the depth of the economic recession.*

□ **financial crisis:** A period of serious economic slowdown characterized by devaluing of financial institutions often due to reckless and unsustainable money lending.

□ **top out at:** to reach the highest point

- *Mortgage rates topped out at 10% before falling last spring.*

- *Last Friday was a warm day, topping out at 85 degrees.*

□ **jobless assistance:** unemployment benefits; jobless benefits

□ **gig**: a job, esp a single booking for a musician, comedian, etc, to perform at a concert or club

- *It's just a part-time gig for me.*

□ **gig economy**: That part of the economy consisting of people who work in a transient, contract or self-employed capacity, as opposed to being permanent employees of a business.

□ **eligible**: allowed by rules or laws to do something or to receive something

- *If you qualify, you are eligible to receive the grant.*
- *If you are eligible for financial help, we will tell you how to claim.*

□ **bring someone or something to a halt**: to cause a person or thing to stop abruptly.

- *The police car, with its flashing lights and siren, brought all the other drivers to a halt.*
- *A sudden reduction in funding brought our research to a halt.*

□ **unleash**: to do or to cause something that has a very powerful or harmful effect

- *The new tax laws have unleashed a storm of criticism.*

□ **a tidal wave of** : a large amount of something

- *a tidal wave of crime/opposition*

□ **layoff**: a situation in which an employer ends a worker's employment, especially temporarily, because there is not enough work for them

- *Many Japanese workers fear layoffs because of the lingering recession.*

□ **slam the brakes**: Literally, to quickly press on a vehicle's brakes to slow down or stop; to slow down or stop something one is doing. In this usage, the thing being stopped can be stated after "on."

- *He slammed the brakes on when he saw the child running into the street.*
- *We had to slam the brakes on development when we found out the investors were pulling out.*

□ **boom**: a sudden major increase in trade, profits, etc. in a particular country or region; a similar increase in the activity of a particular industry or part of a country's economy

- *the economic boom of the 1980s*

- *an export/investment/house-building boom*

□ **Congress**: the legislature of the United States government

□ **economic stimulus**: In economics, **stimulus** refers to attempts to use monetary or fiscal policy (or stabilization policy in general) to stimulate the economy. Stimulus can also refer to monetary policies like lowering interest rates and quantitative easing.

□ **package**: a set of proposals or measures for dealing with something

- *...a package of measures aimed at improving child welfare.*
- *They put together an economic aid package.*

□ **lay off**: to dismiss, usually for economic reasons; to end someone's employment, especially temporarily, because there is not enough work for them

- *20 of 100 workers were laid off.*

- *They've had to cut back production and lay off workers.*

□ **legislation:** a law, or a set of laws

- *Legislation against smoking is increasing in many states.*
- *Under current legislation, factories must keep noise to a minimum.*

□ **unemployment aid:** unemployment benefit

- *a benefit paid to an unemployed person, called unemployment benefit*

□ **boost:** to help something to increase, improve, or become more successful; to try to make people want to buy a product, visit a place, etc., by talking about it publicly in a very positive way

- *Their share price climbed again today, boosted by rising sales.*
- *an attempt to boost the governor's popularity*

□ **payout:** a large amount of money paid to someone, for example by an insurance company or as a prize in a competition

- *'an insurance payout'*

□ **duration:** the period of time during which something continues to happen or exist

- *He painted pictures for the duration of his stay in the hospital.*
- *The maximum parking duration is three hours with a parking pass.*

□ **contraction:** the process of becoming smaller

- *There is likely to be further contraction of the dot-com sector as more firms go bankrupt.*

□ **economic contraction:** The downward phase of the business cycle, in which GDP (= gross domestic product) is falling and unemployment is rising over time. Opposite of economic expansion.

□ **Jerome Powell:** (February 4, 1953 (age 67)

16th Chair of the Federal Reserve; Incumbent; Assumed office February 5, 2018.

□ **recession:** a period when trade and industry are not successful and there is a lot of unemployment

- *Some analysts are worried about the influence of Japan's recession on the world economy.*
- *The economy was in recession.*
- *the recession in the construction industry*

□ **bounce back:** to become healthy, happy, or successful again after something bad has happened to you

- *He's sad about Sally leaving him, but he'll bounce back.*
- *After an early defeat, she bounced back to win the championship.*

[参照辞書: Merriam-Webster, Oxford English Dictionary, America Heritage of the English language, Collins English Dictionary, Macmillan Dictionary, the Free Dictionary, Wikipedia]