

# MARYLAND'S WORKFORCE INDICATORS

June 2009 Update • Governor's Workforce Investment Board • [www.gwib.maryland.gov](http://www.gwib.maryland.gov)

## Employment and Unemployment (April 2009) – Seasonally Adjusted

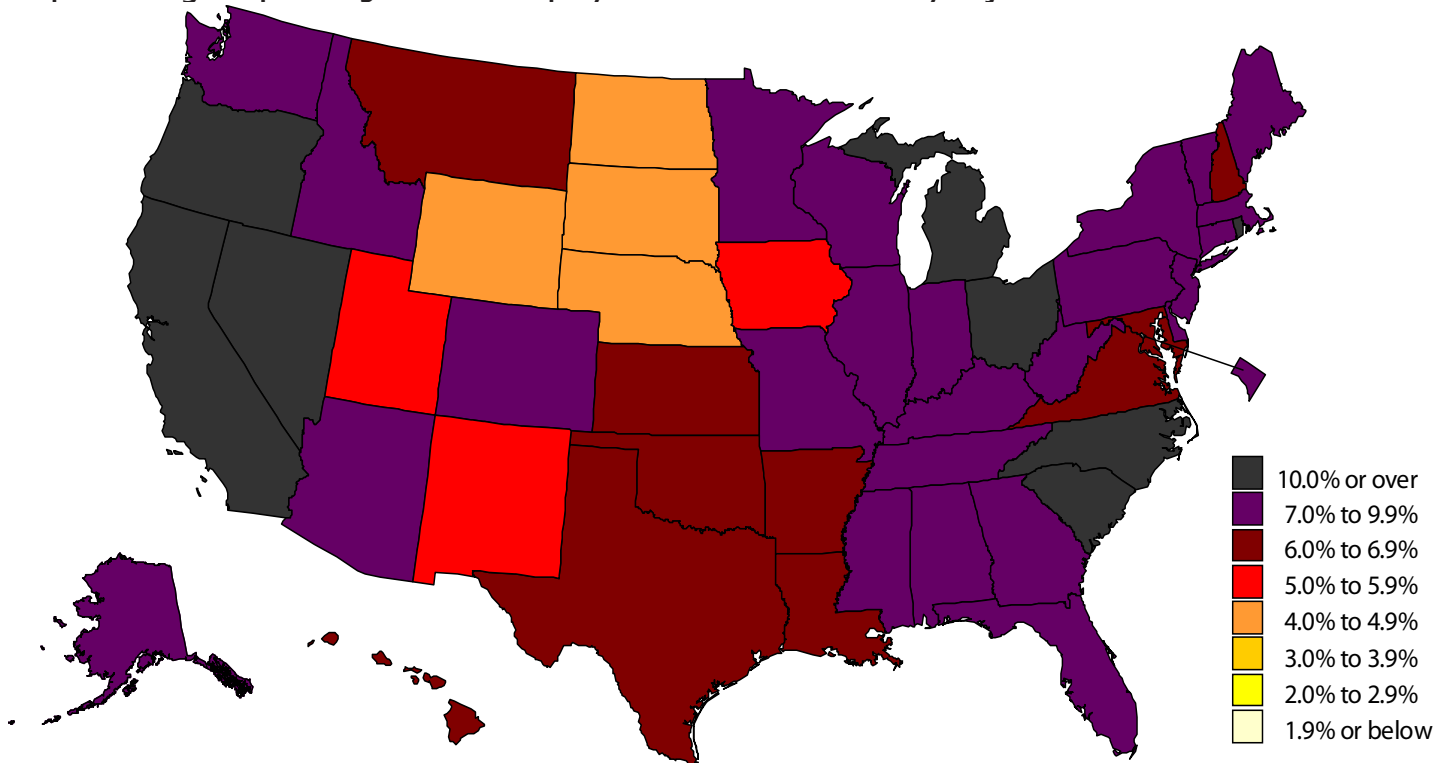
Maryland's unemployment rate dropped to 6.8 percent in April (preliminary), a decrease of 0.1 percent from the March 2009 rate. This marks the first time in 14 months that Maryland's unemployment rate did not rise from the previous month. The national unemployment rose sharply from 8.5 percent in March to 8.9 percent (preliminary) in April 2009. This marks the U.S.'s highest unemployment rate in more than 25 years (The most recent month that national unemployment rate was this high was when it reached 9.2 percent in September 1983).

Over the month, the decreased unemployment rate in Maryland coincided with a 9,338 person gain in the number of employed people and a 1,670 reduction in the number of unemployed people.

Since April 2008, the number of unemployed people in Maryland has risen from 118,430 to 201,222, an increase of 69.9 percent. At the same time, the number of employed people declined by 107,649, a decrease of 3.7 percent.

Since the beginning of the most recent recession, the state's unemployment rate has risen 3.2 percentage points from the 3.6 percent unemployment rate recorded in December 2007.

### Map: Ranking of April 2009 State Unemployment Rates – Seasonally Adjusted



Map Source: U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics

Maryland was one of 21 states that recorded a decrease in the unemployment rate between March and April 2009. Eighteen states (including DC) experienced increases, and 11 states saw no change. Maryland's March unemployment rate of 6.8 percent is tied with Virginia for 15th lowest in the nation, below the national rate of 8.9 percent. With the exception of Virginia, Maryland's unemployment rate in April 2009 was lower than that of any bordering state.

**Table: Ranking of April 2009 State Unemployment Rates – Seasonally Adjusted**

Rank	State	Unemployment Rate - April 2009	Rank	State	Unemployment Rate - April 2009
1	North Dakota	4.0%	26	Maine	7.9%
2	Nebraska	4.4%	28	Alaska	8.0%
3	Wyoming	4.5%	28	Massachusetts	8.0%
4	South Dakota	4.8%	30	Minnesota	8.1%
5	Iowa	5.1%	30	Missouri	8.1%
6	Utah	5.2%	32	New Jersey	8.4%
7	New Mexico	5.8%	33	Wisconsin	8.6%
8	Montana	6.0%	34	Alabama	9.0%
9	Louisiana	6.2%	35	Mississippi	9.1%
9	Oklahoma	6.2%	35	Washington	9.1%
11	New Hampshire	6.3%	37	Georgia	9.3%
12	Kansas	6.4%	38	Illinois	9.4%
13	Arkansas	6.5%	39	Florida	9.6%
14	Texas	6.7%	40	Kentucky	9.8%
15	Maryland	6.8%	41	District Of Columbia	9.9%
15	Virginia	6.8%	41	Indiana	9.9%
17	Hawaii	6.9%	41	Tennessee	9.9%
18	Idaho	7.0%	44	Ohio	10.2%
19	Vermont	7.1%	45	Nevada	10.6%
20	Colorado	7.4%	46	North Carolina	10.8%
21	Delaware	7.5%	47	California	11.0%
21	West Virginia	7.5%	48	Rhode Island	11.1%
23	Arizona	7.7%	49	South Carolina	11.5%
23	New York	7.7%	50	Oregon	12.0%
25	Pennsylvania	7.8%	51	Michigan	12.9%
26	Connecticut	7.9%		United States	8.9%

Map Source: U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics

**Table: Comparison of Unemployment Rates for neighboring States– Seasonally Adjusted**

Indicator	MD	US	DE	DC	NJ	NY	NC	PA	VA	WV
April 2009 Unemployment Rate	6.8%	8.9%	7.5%	9.9%	8.4%	7.7%	10.8%	7.8%	6.8%	7.5%
Ranking	15 <sup>th</sup>	N/A	21 <sup>st</sup>	41 <sup>st</sup>	32 <sup>nd</sup>	23 <sup>rd</sup>	46 <sup>th</sup>	25 <sup>th</sup>	15 <sup>th</sup>	21 <sup>st</sup>
One-Month Change	-0.1%	0.4%	-0.1%	0.2%	0.1%	-0.1%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.7%
One Year Change	2.8%	3.9%	3.3%	3.5%	3.4%	2.7%	5.1%	2.8%	3.1%	3.2%
Change from Beginning of Recession	3.2%	4.0%	3.7%	4.1%	3.9%	3.1%	5.8%	3.2%	3.5%	3.2%

Data Source: U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics

## Job Gains and Losses (April 2009) – Seasonally Adjusted Maryland

Maryland's job losses continued in April 2009. Over the month (March 2009 to April 2009), Maryland saw a loss of 5,900 jobs, a slight slowdown from the 12,400 jobs lost between February 2009 and March 2009 in Maryland. Over the year (April 2008 to April 2009), Maryland lost an estimated 71,000 jobs, a decrease of about 2.7 percent. By comparison, the United States lost 539,000 jobs between March 2009 and April 2009 and more than five million jobs (5,240,000) between April 2008 and April 2009, a decrease of about 3.8 percent.

Over the past year in Maryland, the largest numbers of jobs were lost in the natural resources, mining and construction sector (lost 29,200 jobs), the trade, transportation, warehousing and utilities sector (lost 21,400 jobs), the leisure and hospitality sector (lost 10,100 jobs) and the financial activities sector (lost 9,300 jobs). The only two areas showing positive job growth over the year were the healthcare and education sector (added 7,600 jobs) and the government sector (added 6,500 jobs). The federal government employed 5,100 more people in April 2009 than in April 2008, accounting for the majority of the increase in government job growth in Maryland.

Over the month (March to April 2009), Maryland lost 5,900 jobs, with the largest decreases in the natural resources, mining and construction sector and the professional and business services sector. The education and healthcare sector, which has been a growth area over the past several months, experienced a small loss of 800 jobs between March and April. Government, which has been a steadily growing employment sector for Maryland, added 1,700 jobs between March and April. Three sectors which had been losing jobs in recent months posted jobs gains between March and April. These sectors included: Manufacturing (+100 jobs), Trade, Transportation and Utilities (+1,000 jobs), and Leisure and Hospitality (+1,000 jobs).

**Table Monthly Change in the Number of Jobs – Seasonally Adjusted**

<b>Time Period</b>	<b>Change in Jobs</b>	<b>Change in Jobs as a Percent</b>
March – April 2008	4,700	0.20%
April – May 2008	-1,600	-0.10%
May – June 2008	-9,600	-0.40%
June – July 2008	800	0.00%
July – August 2008	-2,000	-0.10%
August – September 2008	-8,300	-0.30%
September – October 2008	-3,900	-0.20%
October – November 2008	-15,200	-0.60%
November – December 2008	-4,200	-0.20%
December 2008 – January 2009	6,000	0.20%
January –February 2009	-14,700	-0.60%
February – March 2009	-12,400	-0.50%
<b>March – April 2009</b>	<b>-5,900</b>	<b>-0.20%</b>

Data Source: Maryland Department of Labor, Licensing, and Regulation

**Table: One Year Change and One Month Change in Employment in Maryland, by Industry Sector**

Industry Sector	Apr. 2008	Mar. 2009	Apr. 2009	One Year Change	One Year Change (%)	Monthly Change	Monthly Change (%)
Natural Resources, Mining & Construction	183,600	159,600	154,400	-29,200	-15.9%	-5,200	-3.3%
Manufacturing	129,400	123,800	123,900	-5,500	-4.3%	100	0.1%
Trade, Transportation, Warehousing, Utilities	469,900	447,500	448,500	-21,400	-4.6%	1,000	0.2%
Information	50,800	48,700	48,700	-2,100	-4.1%	0	0.0%
Financial Activities	154,500	146,100	145,200	-9,300	-6.0%	-900	-0.6%
Professional and Business Services	400,100	397,700	395,700	-4,400	-1.1%	-2,000	-0.5%
Educational & Health Care & Social Assistance	380,700	389,100	388,300	7,600	2.0%	-800	-0.2%
Leisure & Hospitality	238,700	227,600	228,600	-10,100	-4.2%	1,000	0.4%
Other Services	118,100	115,800	115,000	-3,100	-2.6%	-800	-0.7%
Government	486,600	491,400	493,100	6,500	1.3%	1,700	0.3%
<b>Total Nonfarm</b>	<b>2,612,400</b>	<b>2,547,300</b>	<b>2,541,400</b>	<b>-71,000</b>	<b>-2.7%</b>	<b>-5,900</b>	<b>-0.2%</b>

Data Source: Maryland Department of Labor, Licensing, and Regulation

### Unemployment Insurance Claims (April 2009)

The volume of unemployment insurance (UI) claims continued to grow in April. During the month, 34,488 new UI claims were made in Maryland, 72 percent higher than April 2008 levels and 2.5 percent higher than March 2009 levels.

The total number of weeks claimed decreased from 445,483 weeks claimed in March 2009 to 370,458 weeks claimed in April 2009, a decrease of about 17 percent over the month. (The decrease between March and April in total weeks claimed is not unusual as the total number of weeks claimed has dropped between March and April in six of the past seven years. The exception was 2007). Despite this over-the-month drop, the number of claims in April 2009 was 99 percent higher than it was one year ago (April 2008).

**Table: Unemployment Insurance Claims Filed**

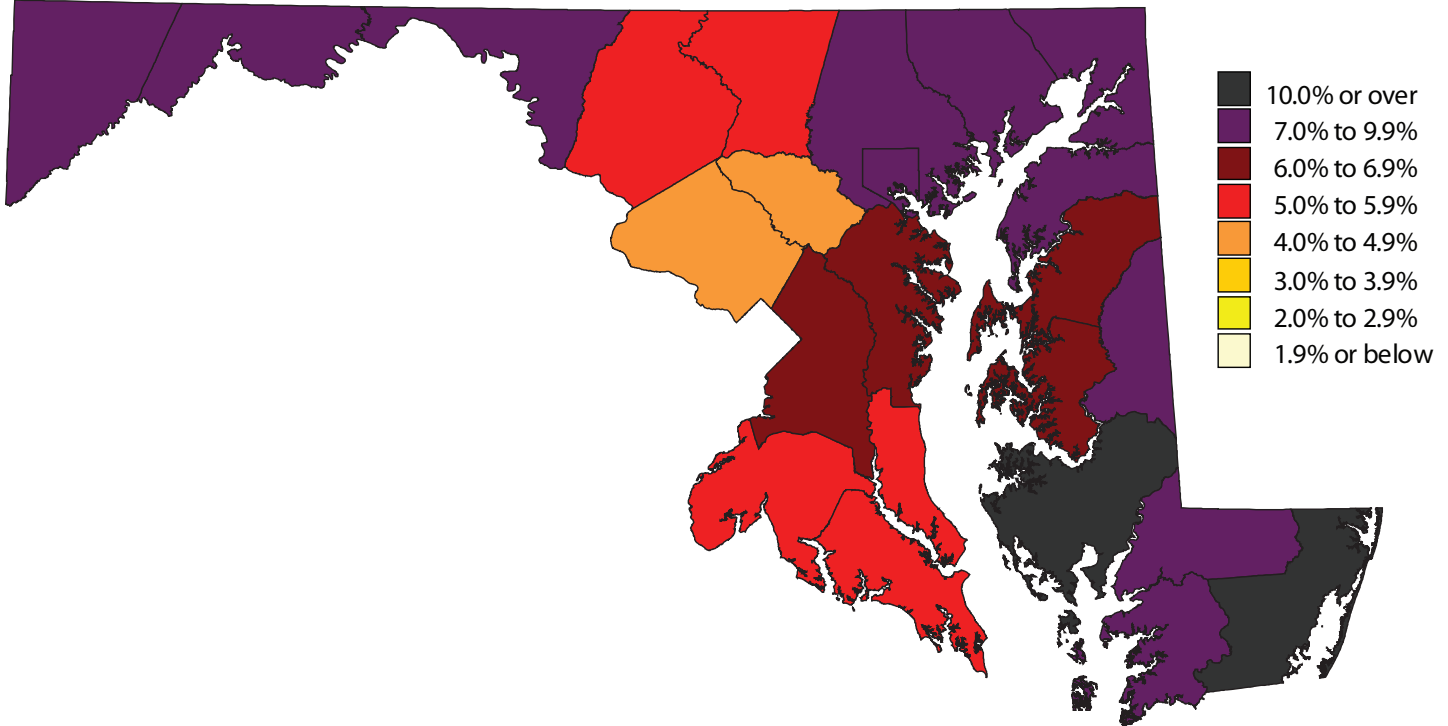
Month	Initial Claims	Weeks Claimed
April 2008	20,047	185,858
March 2009	33,631	445,483
<b>April 2009</b>	<b>34,488</b>	<b>370,458</b>
One Year Change	+14,441 (+72%)	+184,600 (+99%)
One Month Change	+857 (+3%)	-75,025 (-17%)

Data Source: U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics

## Local Unemployment Update (April 2009) – Not Seasonally Adjusted

Unemployment varies greatly by county to county in Maryland, ranging from a low of 4.7 percent in Montgomery County to a high of 11.7 percent in Worcester County.

**Map: April 2009 County Unemployment Rates – Not Seasonally Adjusted**



Data Source: Maryland Department of Labor, Licensing, and Regulation

Map Prepared by: Governor's Workforce Investment Board

**Table: Ranking of April 2009 County Unemployment Rates – Not Seasonally Adjusted**

Rank	County	Unemployment Rate - April 2009	Rank	County	Unemployment Rate - April 2009
1	Montgomery	4.7%	14	Kent	7.1%
2	Howard	4.8%	15	Garrett	7.3%
3	St. Mary's	5.1%	16	Allegany	8.2%
4	Charles	5.4%	17	Wicomico	8.3%
5	Calvert	5.5%	18	Caroline	8.5%
6	Frederick	5.8%	19	Somerset	9.0%
7	Carroll	5.9%	20	Cecil	9.2%
8	Anne Arundel	6.0%	21	Washington	9.7%
9	Prince George's	6.4%	22	Baltimore City	9.8%
10	Queen Anne's	6.5%	23	Dorchester	10.2%
11	Talbot	6.6%	24	Worcester	11.7%
12	Harford	7.0%		<b>MARYLAND</b>	<b>6.6%</b>
13	Baltimore	7.1%			

Data Source: Maryland Department of Labor, Licensing, and Regulation

## Mass Layoffs and Plant Closures (April 2009)

The number of mass layoffs and plant closures reported between January 2009 and April 2009 was significantly higher than the same period in 2008. During the first four months of 2009, employers submitted 42 notices, which affected 3,320 employees. In the first four months of 2008, Maryland employers submitted only ten such notices, which affected 956 employees.

During the month of April 2009 alone, employers submitted nine notices of mass layoffs or plant closures, affecting a total of 602 employees. One year earlier, in April 2008, employers submitted three notices, which affected a total of 201 employees.

**Table: Mass Layoff and Plant Closure Notices in Maryland\***

Time Period	Notices of Mass Layoffs and Plant Closures	Affected Employees
January - April 2008	10	956
<b>January - April 2009</b>	<b>42</b>	<b>3,320</b>
<b>One Year Change</b>	<b>+32</b>	<b>+2,364</b>

Data Source: Maryland Department of Labor, Licensing, and Regulation

\* Based on notice date, not date of closing or layoff.