



Written by [R. Cort Kirkwood](#) on May 30, 2020

Another 2.1M Unemployment Claims Filed

The best job in the United States these days, it seems, is helping the jobless file unemployment claims.

On Thursday, the [federal Department of Labor reported](#) yet another unfathomable pile of claims, this one from the week ending May 23: 2.123 million people applied for jobless benefits, a 13.2-percent decline from the previous week's 2.438 million, but one that brought the number of claims filed since March 1 to more than 40 million.



More than 12 percent of the U.S. population has filed for unemployment since [China unleashed](#) its deadly virus upon the world from a poorly-run lab [subsidized by](#) U.S. taxpayers.

Claims filed in the week ending on May 16 brought the unemployment rate for that week to 14.5 percent, about [what it was](#) at the end of April.

Grim Numbers

Even after the pandemic had begun, unemployment was still hovering at about 3.6 percent, where it had been since May last year.

In March, [it climbed](#) slightly to 4.4 percent, then in April, jumped to 14.7 percent, the highest number since 1940, when it was 14.6 percent.

The first jump came between March 15 and March 20, when claims went from 282,000 to 3.307 million, a 1,072-percent jump.

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Claims more than doubled to 6.876 million the following week. Since then, they've declined 70 percent, but still haven't returned to the pre-pandemic days before federal and state officials panicked and shut down the economy.

Result: 12.5 percent of the U.S. population have filed unemployment claims.

March 7 — 211

March 14 — 282

March 21 — 3,307

March 28 — 6,867

April 4 — 6,615

April 11 — 5,237

April 18 — 4,442

April 25 — 3,846

May 2 — 3,176

May 9 — 2,687

May 16 — 2,446

May 23 — 2,123



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Total — 41.2 million

The top five states suffering a major increase in claims in the week ending May 16 were these, the [department reported](#):

- California — 31,764
- Washington — 29,288
- New York — 24,543
- Florida — 2,322
- Michigan — 1,549

Others enjoyed major decreases:

- Georgia — 65,041
- New Jersey — 27,324
- Kentucky — 22,051
- Louisiana — 11,580
- Pennsylvania — 11,172

Those numbers are fluctuating wildly. While California posted nearly 32,000 new claims for the week of May 9, claims dropped 103,590 the week before. Likewise for Washington. It posted 8,615 for the week ending May 2, and 29,288 for the week ending May 9.

The top 10 unemployment rates for the week ending May 9 range from Washington's 31.2 percent, a whopping 41-percent increase from the previous week's 22.1, to Georgia's 18, which dropped from 18.5.

	May 9	May 2
Washington	31.2	22.1
Nevada	26.7	23.5
Florida	25	**
Hawaii	23.4	**
Michigan	23.1	22.6
California	20.6	**
New York	19.9	19.6
Rhode Island	18.8	19.9
Vermont	18.2	18.8
Connecticut	18	19.3
Georgia	18	18.5

**Not on list

The total number of jobless claims filed since March 1, 41.2 million, now exceeds the [population of every state](#), including the populations of New York and Florida combined.

The department will release May's unemployment rate in the coming week.

Some Punishment

Retaliating against the World Health Organization because it downplayed the virus under pressure from China, [on Friday President Trump ended](#) U.S. membership in the United Nations subsidiary and cut off more than \$400 million in U.S. taxpayer subsidies.

Speaking at a news briefing, Trump said China had "total control" of the communist-led global agency.



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[On May 18 in a letter](#) to WHO chieftain Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus, [Trump said](#) WHO “ignored credible reports of the virus spreading in Wuhan,” “has repeatedly made claims about the coronavirus that were either grossly inaccurate or misleading,” and “gratuitously reaffirmed China’s now-debunked claim that the coronavirus could not be transmitted between humans.”

And Ghebreyesus surrendered to China’s pressure to say the virus was not a public-health menace, Trump wrote.

China was well aware how deadly the virus was and repeatedly lied about that fact to the world.

Aside from Trump’s move, two GOP elected officials, Senator Tom Cotton of Arkansas and Representative Dan Crenshaw of Texas, [have introduced](#) legislation to permit Americans to sue the Chinese Reds for the damage their virus has done.

The communist government, their bill says:

- “ordered the destruction of laboratory samples and research” related to the virus;
- “detained or otherwise silenced researchers, journalists, and citizens who attempted to share information that could have proven unflattering to the response of the Chinese Government” to the outbreak;
- “expelled United States journalists who were covering” the outbreak in China; and,
- “attempted to censor or destroy academic research” into the virus “that might disagree with the official positions of the Chinese Government.”

Beyond the unemployment, thanks to the Red Chinese lies, the [virus has infected](#) more than 6.1 million people globally and [more than](#) 1.8 million in the United States. Nearly 370,000 have died with the virus worldwide, more than 105,000 of them here.



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R. Cort Kirkwood is a long-time contributor to The New American and a former newspaper editor.



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