



Fact Sheet:

Jobless Benefits Set to Shrink to 26 Weeks

Congress needs to extend emergency help during high unemployment

Congress needs to continue for a full year the temporary unemployment insurance program that is currently scheduled to expire on Nov. 30. **Between Dec. 1 and April 30, more than 1,100 jobless workers a day in Michigan will lose this vital support for their families, unless Congress acts.**

In Michigan alone, 423,400 jobs have been lost since the recession began in December 2007 and unemployment remains high—12.8 percent in October.

The Unemployment Insurance (UI) system has helped many workers who have lost their jobs by temporarily replacing part of their wages while they search for new jobs. Eligible workers typically receive up to 26 weeks of UI benefits, but during periods of high unemployment, the federal government provides additional weeks of “emergency” benefits for people who are out of work for longer periods of time. If Congress does not continue the federal additional benefits currently in place, only 26 weeks of benefits will be available in Michigan.

The following will happen if Congress does not pass legislation to extend current Unemployment Insurance (UI) provisions before Nov. 30:

- Anyone who started collecting UI benefits after June 2010 will receive a maximum of 26 weeks of benefits—no more!
- Anyone who is currently employed, but who becomes unemployed in the future, will receive a maximum of 26 weeks of benefits—no more!
- On Jan. 1, anyone who has received more than 79 weeks of benefits on that date will immediately lose their benefits.

A total of 168,520 unemployed workers, none of whom are “99ers,” will lose their benefits between Dec. 1 and April 30 as a result of these expirations. (In December, another 13,011 workers who have received the maximum 99 weeks of benefits will lose their benefits even if the emergency UI legislation is extended, bringing the total to 181,531.)

At no time since WWII, has Congress failed to extend emergency benefits while unemployment remained above 7.2 percent. National unemployment in October was 9.6 percent.

Unemployment insurance kept 3.3 million Americans nationwide out of poverty in 2009. If Congress does not extend the current emergency UI benefits for unemployed workers who continue to be unable to find work, these workers and their families in Michigan will experience financial hardship and many will fall into poverty.

Congressional inaction would also mean less spending by these workers and their families, which would hurt sales at local businesses and undermine job creation in an already weak recovery. Effective temporary stimulus measures like emergency UI benefits can give the economic recovery a much needed boost and reduce the risk of sliding back into recession.

Michigan’s public safety net is ill-prepared to help. Lawmakers budgeted for 82,000 public assistance cases on average for fiscal year 2011. In October, the first month of the fiscal year, there were 82,560 cases.

Sources: Michigan Unemployment Insurance Agency, Michigan Department of Human Services, U.S. Department of Labor

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County UI Exhaustions (Dec. 2010-April 2011)

	Some are 99ers	None are 99ers				
County	December*	January	February	March	April	Cumulative Dec.-April
Alcona	300	428	233	69	12	1,042
Alger	311	433	231	54	6	1,035
Allegan	565	671	433	260	73	2,002
Alpena	374	488	285	90	35	1,272
Antrim	364	498	287	105	50	1,304
Arenac	337	484	259	57	10	1,147
Baraga	305	437	227	70	20	1,059
Barry	402	562	350	148	63	1,525
Bay	530	714	451	278	90	2,063
Benzie	373	456	251	77	31	1,188
Berrien	515	758	495	324	80	2,172
Branch	368	545	343	125	76	1,457
Calhoun	520	809	559	350	85	2,323
Cass	356	522	283	91	46	1,298
Charlevoix	388	480	270	94	37	1,269
Cheboygan	426	481	260	106	44	1,317
Chippewa	395	482	275	93	45	1,290
Clare	358	490	281	110	47	1,286
Clinton	437	554	334	140	46	1,511
Crawford	319	456	237	61	22	1,095
Delta	387	531	293	110	47	1,368
Dickinson	351	471	248	82	32	1,184
Eaton	476	685	443	202	78	1,884
Emmet	413	469	280	106	40	1,308
Genesee	1,410	1,737	1,216	1,019	465	5,847
Gladwin	355	483	272	57	32	1,199
Gogebic	308	436	235	78	15	1,072
Gr. Traverse	489	649	422	210	82	1,852
Gratiot	367	510	309	99	44	1,329
Hillsdale	382	520	291	109	48	1,350
Houghton	375	489	271	98	47	1,280
Huron	374	494	271	113	43	1,295
Ingham	713	1,033	700	461	168	3,075
Ionia	431	577	355	163	67	1,593
Iosco	360	454	250	91	24	1,179
Iron	314	421	221	60	8	1,024
Isabella	386	553	316	144	79	1,478
Jackson	523	854	571	370	133	2,451
Kalamazoo	527	1,007	718	502	145	2,899
Kalkaska	340	464	254	92	34	1,184
Kent	1,288	2,084	1,394	1,121	556	6,443
Keweenaw	297	418	218	44	6	983
Lake	312	442	234	66	21	1,075
Lapeer	698	647	386	222	78	2,031

Note: These estimates assume a phase out of the current federal extensions starting after November 30, 2010.

* December exhaustions include those exhausting their benefits on January 1, 2011.

Source: Michigan Unemployment Insurance Agency

Table created by Michigan League for Human Services

County UI Exhaustions (Dec. 2010-April 2011)

	Some are 99ers	None are 99ers				
County	December*	January	February	March	April	Cumulative Dec.-April
Leelanau	355	448	246	78	21	1,148
Lenawee	482	709	451	284	122	2,048
Livingston	682	947	562	318	111	2,620
Luce	317	464	268	52	6	1,107
Mackinac	377	464	233	56	9	1,139
Macomb	2,305	2,880	2,310	2,081	798	10,374
Manistee	345	480	260	94	45	1,224
Marquette	426	542	317	120	56	1,461
Mason	365	480	288	87	28	1,248
Mecosta	397	490	288	118	36	1,329
Menominee	338	443	256	70	17	1,124
Midland	397	593	340	164	67	1,561
Missaukee	343	449	249	68	22	1,131
Monroe	635	885	513	258	91	2,382
Montcalm	408	606	347	150	65	1,576
Montmorency	315	469	231	66	18	1,099
Muskegon	577	969	611	463	168	2,788
Newaygo	408	549	354	134	66	1,511
Oakland	2,527	3,894	2,766	2,660	1,086	12,933
Oceana	388	478	276	89	43	1,274
Ogemaw	340	460	606	92	26	1,524
Ontonagon	300	430	237	58	10	1,035
Osceola	352	484	267	88	45	1,236
Oscoda	307	428	221	54	8	1,018
Otsego	343	486	274	93	46	1,242
Ottawa	769	953	606	455	171	2,954
Presque Isle	367	457	237	62	27	1,150
Roscommon	342	447	267	93	24	1,173
Saginaw	802	891	631	444	182	2,950
St. Clair	731	900	541	428	197	2,797
St. Joseph	377	601	323	136	66	1,503
Sanilac	455	531	286	148	64	1,484
Schoolcraft	322	428	227	53	13	1,043
Shiawassee	499	636	373	169	87	1,764
Tuscola	497	549	343	166	67	1,622
Van Buren	516	641	368	202	78	1,805
Washtenaw	617	1,109	736	466	189	3,117
Wayne	4,079	6,754	4,918	4,940	2,218	22,909
Wexford	374	515	288	111	70	1,358
Unspecified	58	27	14	7	3	109
Other	380	500	381	238	124	1,623
Total by Month	45,033	62,642	39,822	24,234	9,800	181,531

Note: These estimates assume a phase out of the current federal extensions starting after November 30, 2010.

* December exhaustions include those exhausting their benefits on January 1, 2011.

Source: Michigan Unemployment Insurance Agency

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