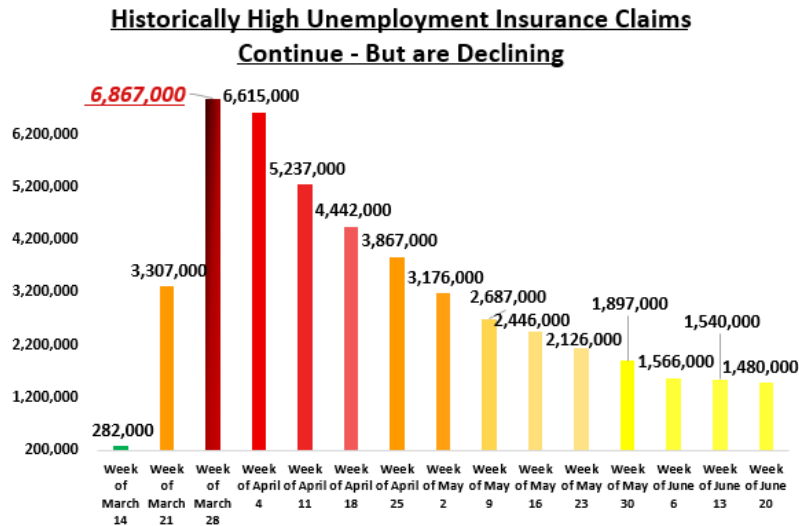


# 1.48 Million Americans Filed for Unemployment Last Week

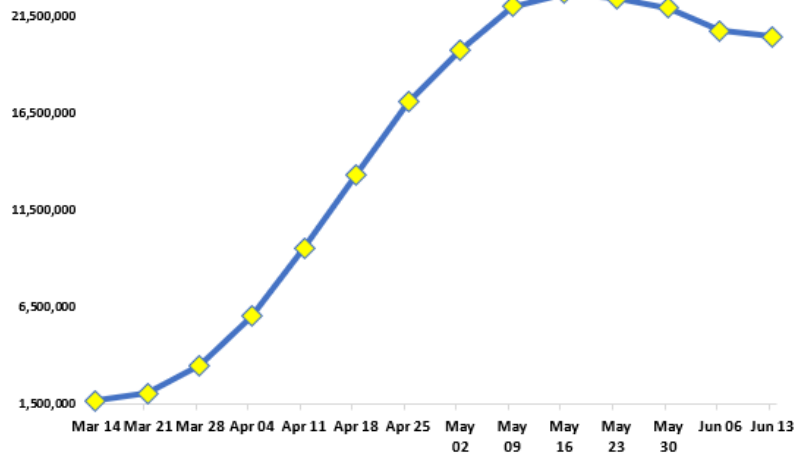
Another 1.48 million Americans [filed for unemployment](#) last week. That was down 60,000 from the previous week. But nearly 1.5 million workers still filing initial unemployment claims is troubling. In total, 47.2 million Americans have filed claims since the middle of March when the COVID-19 shock hit the economy.



With states in various stages of reopening their economies, it is also important to look at continuing unemployment claims. This metric accounts for those that are still claiming unemployment benefits, but subtracts out those that are no longer claiming benefits, presumably because they have gone back to work.

For the week ending June 13, the four-week average of workers filing those claims was 20.4 million. That was down 330,000 from the week before. The four-week average is down more than 2.2 million from its peak the week ending May 23.

**Four-Week Average of Continuing Unemployment Claims is  
Falling Slowly**



The continuing claims data is more encouraging than the initial claims because it shows more workers are going back to work each week. Although the data continues to trend in the right direction, the pace of those gains appears to be decelerating somewhat from a few weeks ago.

It is probably safe to say we are through the worst of it when it comes to the labor market, but there will be bumps in the recovery. Hopefully next week we will see fewer initial claims and a sharper drop in continuing claims.

–Curtis Dubay, Senior Economist, U.S. Chamber of Commerce