



Chamber Daily Bulletin

Your daily guide to COVID-19 advice, resources, and information.

Keep your business strong, prepared, and proactive.

Visit Our COVID-19 Page

Developments That Matter

Keeping Economies Running Globally

Since launching our [Global Dashboard on COVID-19 Government Policies](#), we've tracked how countries around the world are working to curtail the spread of coronavirus and introduce economic support measures.

Over the past week, we've seen a significant divergence in national containment and control measures. China is beginning to relax intensive restrictions on movement and economic activity, and some European countries, like the Czech Republic and Denmark, have announced plans to slowly lift national lockdowns. As they start to open up, each of these countries is working to define a "new normal" – and making tough decisions about which businesses to reopen and which will remain shuttered to prevent a second wave of infections.

At the same time, a growing number of coronavirus cases around the globe has prompted new national restrictions. Japan declared a month-long state of emergency for major cities, and the EU has extended its ban on non-essential travel. In countries across Africa, governments have introduced lockdowns, curfews, and other crowd control measures.

Amid these shutdowns, we have also seen dozens of governments – including Mexico and India – adjust their definitions of essential businesses and personnel to prevent critical supply chains from breaking down. Chamber leaders have emphasized the importance of [clear guidance](#) for businesses, and we continue to urge governments to look to the Department of Homeland Security's [Guidance on the Essential Critical Infrastructure Workforce](#) and coordinate with international partners and industry stakeholders as they develop policies. These are key issues for our members combatting COVID-19 and keeping economies running around the globe.

–Myron Brilliant, Executive Vice President and Head of International Affairs, U.S. Chamber of Commerce



**Small Businesses with 5
to 99 Employees Most
Vulnerable to**

Permanently Closing, Poll Shows

Chamber in Action

Fed Unveils New Programs to Aid Businesses of All Sizes

The Federal Reserve on Thursday [unveiled several programs](#) that will provide \$2.3 trillion in loans, expanding its lending to businesses.

The Paycheck Protection Program Liquidity Facility (PPPLF) will extend credit to eligible banks that originate PPP loans. In addition, the Main Street Lending Program will offer loans to companies employing up to 10,000 workers or with revenues less than \$2.5 billion.

“The creation of the Main Street Lending Facility is critical for the economy to weather this storm,” [said Neil Bradley](#), U.S. Chamber Executive Vice President and Chief Policy Officer. “Businesses of all sizes should benefit from policies that are designed to provide liquidity. Mid-sized businesses employ over 60 million Americans, and the Chamber is pleased to see our recommendation for a lending facility will be implemented to tide these businesses over and ensure that they can continue to pay their employees.”

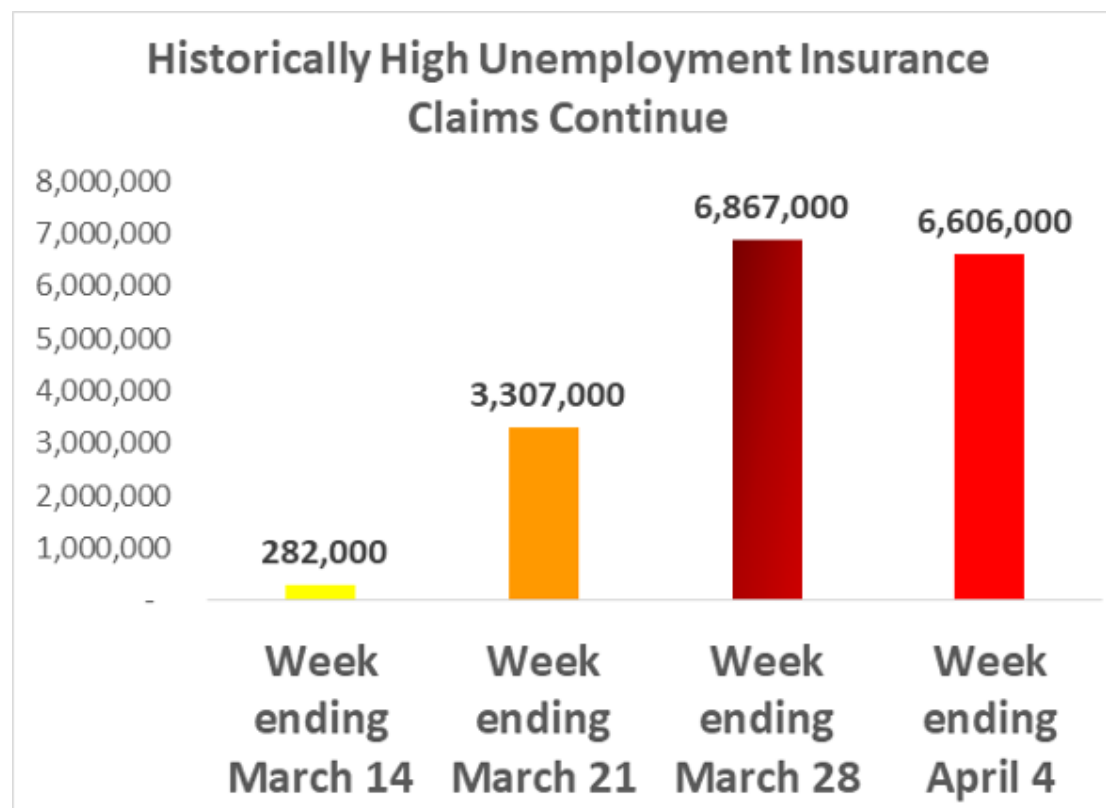
6.6 Million Filed for Unemployment Last Week

Today, the Department of Labor released [unemployment insurance claims](#) for the week ending April 4. As anticipated, they remain severely elevated.

The labor department reports more than 6.6 million filed for unemployment last week. This week’s read is slightly down from the almost 6.9 million that filed the previous week, but it is still almost 10 times higher than the previous weekly high hit way back in 1982.

Over the last three weeks, almost 17 million Americans have filed for unemployment, a truly shocking figure.

Hopefully this is the peak of those filing claims and most of these workers will quickly go back to work once the economy is unlocked. But brace for continued bad news on the labor front for the time being. Unemployment claims at these levels suggest a historically high unemployment rate for April.



Big Data on the Front Lines

Codebreakers cracked enemy codes to help win World War II. Today, a new code must be cracked—how to defeat the spread of coronavirus, get Americans back to work, and effectively prepare for future pandemics. Business is on the case.

The U.S. Chamber of Commerce’s Technology Engagement Center (C_TEC) sent a [letter to the Senate Commerce, Science, & Transportation Committee](#), asking policymakers to encourage the private sector to responsibly share and analyze data and protect individual privacy and security. For instance, a national privacy standard would solve many privacy questions posed by coronavirus-related data sharing.

The letter also contains many examples of how the private sector is using data and artificial intelligence to combat the pandemic.

Read more: C_TEC released a report earlier this year, [Data for Good: Promoting Health, Safety, and Inclusion](#), highlighting the benefits of data to society.

SMALL BIZ
PERSPECTIVES

How Coronavirus- Impacted Businesses Can Get an Employee Retention Tax Credit



Duty Calls, Business Responds



UPS Charters 25 Flights to Support Project Airbridge

UPS-managed flights will carry more than three million pounds of medical materials – the equivalent of 14 full Boeing 747 freighters.

What We're Reading

A City Under Siege: 24 Hours in the Fight to Save New York

America's biggest, loudest city often lives up to its own hype. Then the coronavirus all but shut it down.

[read more](#)

Ivanka Trump Lassos \$1.6 Billion for Virus- Slammed Small Companies

The new effort includes private loans and forgiveness programs.

[read more](#)

What Companies are Looking for Before You Can Come Back to Work

Expect a gradual re-opening of the economy with childcare, testing, and social distancing being some major issues.

[read more](#)



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