Unemployment Compensation and Trade Adjustment Assistance for Workers—CBO's May 2019 Baseline

The unemployment insurance system is a joint federal and state program that provides temporary weekly benefits (consisting of regular benefits and, in economic downturns, extended and emergency benefits) to qualified workers who are unemployed through no fault of their own. Funding for the program is drawn from payroll taxes imposed on employers both by state governments and by the federal government. The states administer the system, set regular benefit amounts (based in part on recipients' past earnings), and distribute payments. The federal government sets broad guidelines for the system, pays a portion of administrative costs incurred by state governments, and makes repayable advances to states that lack the money to pay benefits promptly. In some circumstances, the federal government has funded supplemental benefits, through an extended-benefits program, through temporary emergency benefits, or both.

The Trade Adjustment Assistance Program, operated by the Department of Labor, provides job training, extended unemployment compensation, and wage insurance benefits to workers who have lost their jobs or seen their wages or hours reduced as a result of international trade.

Outlays in Millions of Dollars, by Fiscal Year

	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029
Unemployment Compensation											
Regular benefits	27,285	,	,	•	46,290	•		52,035			58,195
Extended benefits	0	40	75	160	180	175	175	175	175	175	175
Total benefits	27,285	28,120	36,825	44,515	46,470	48,365	50,280	52,210	54,180	56,225	58,370
Trade Adjustment Assistance											
(Includes cash and training benefits)	393	424	518	606	605	469	466	473	480	488	494
Memorandum:											
Detail for Regular Unemployment Compensation											
First Payments (Millions of people)	5.1	5.0	6.4	7.4	7.4	7.5	7.5	7.5	7.6	7.6	7.6
Average Weekly Benefit (Dollars)	352	364	377	391	404	418	431	445	459	473	487
Average Duration (Weeks)	15.3	15.3	15.3	15.4	15.4	15.5	15.5	15.6	15.6	15.7	15.7
Labor Force (Millions of people)	162.8	164.1	165.1	166.0	166.8	167.5	168.2	168.8	169.4	170.0	170.8
Unemployment Rate (Percent)	3.6	3.6	4.0	4.5	4.8	4.8	4.8	4.8	4.8	4.8	4.7