

Unemployment Compensation and Trade Adjustment Assistance for Workers—CBO's April 2018 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.

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(Outlays in millions of dollars, by fiscal year)

	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028
Unemployment Compensation											
Regular Benefits	28,740	26,323	28,790	34,992	42,104	45,436	48,650	51,438	54,121	56,226	57,742
Extended Benefits	5	5	55	110	105	380	255	175	175	175	175
Total Benefits	28,745	26,328	28,845	35,102	42,209	45,816	48,905	51,613	54,296	56,401	57,917
Trade Adjustment Assistance											
	727	749	769	776	773	679	484	477	486	493	501

(Includes cash and training benefits)

Memorandum:

Detail for Regular Unemployment Compensation

First Payments (Millions of people)	5.4	4.8	5.1	6.0	6.9	7.2	7.4	7.6	7.7	7.7	7.7
Average Weekly Benefit (Dollars)	\$348	\$358	\$369	\$383	\$397	\$410	\$424	\$437	\$451	\$465	\$480
Average Duration (Weeks)	15.2	15.2	15.3	15.3	15.4	15.4	15.5	15.5	15.6	15.6	15.7
Labor Force (Millions of people)	161.2	162.8	164.2	165.5	166.4	167.2	167.9	168.5	168.9	169.3	169.8
Unemployment Rate	3.9%	3.3%	3.5%	4.0%	4.5%	4.7%	4.8%	4.8%	4.9%	4.9%	4.8%