

EMERGENCY UNEMPLOYMENT COMPENSATION BENEFITS

On June 30, 2008, President Bush signed Public Law 110-252 creating the Emergency Unemployment Compensation (EUC) program. This law provides for extended unemployment compensation of up to 13 weeks to unemployed workers who have exhausted their regular unemployment benefits.

The extension took effect on July 6, 2008, and is referred to as Emergency Unemployment Compensation (EUC). The week ending July 12, 2008, was the first week an individual could be paid under the EUC program. The extension was scheduled to end March 31, 2009.

On October 3, 2008, the House of Representatives passed H.R. 6867, the Unemployment Compensation Extension Act of 2008, and President Bush signed this legislation into law (Public Law 110-449) on November 21, 2008. H.R. 6867 created an additional seven-week entitlement for EUC08 as well as a mechanism for workers in certain high unemployment states to receive up to an additional 13 weeks of EUC08 benefits. The important legislation extended unemployment compensation by seven weeks for workers whose benefits have run out and by 13 weeks for workers in states with a jobless rate higher than 6%.

The American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009, Public Law 111-5 (the 2009 stimulus package), also contains several provisions affecting unemployment benefits. The stimulus package increased unemployment benefits by \$25 per week through December 2009. The supplemental \$25 per week benefit is available to all individuals receiving regular unemployment, Extended Benefits (EB), Emergency Unemployment Compensation (EUC08) benefits, Trade Adjustment Act (TAA) programs, and Disaster Unemployment Assistance (DUA), and will be grandfathered for individuals who are receiving benefits under one of these programs in the last week of December 2009. The stimulus package also extends the temporary EUC08 program through end-2009, to be financed by the U.S. Treasury through general revenues. The stimulus package provides for 100% federal financing of the EB program through January 1, 2010, and allows states the option of temporarily easing EB eligibility requirements. The stimulus package suspends income taxation on the first \$2,400 of unemployment benefits received in 2009. In addition, states would not owe or accrue interest, through December 2010, on federal loans to states for the payment of unemployment benefits.

An additional extension of the unemployment benefits program passed the House on November 5, 2009, and was subsequently signed by the President. The extension provides an additional 14 weeks for all states, and then an extra 6 weeks (for a total of 20 additional weeks) for states with unemployment rates exceeding 8.5%.

IMPORTANT INFORMATION FOR FLORIDIANS

As the administrator for the state's Unemployment Compensation division, the Agency for Workforce Innovation (AWI) distributes unemployment checks. On July 2, 2009, AWI announced that payments have begun for Floridians who applied and are eligible for Extended Unemployment Compensation Benefits, recently made available through a change in state law and underwritten by the federal American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009. An estimated 250,000 Floridians will be eligible for the program, which lasts through the end of the year. Payments will be retroactive to February 22 for eligible Floridians.

To receive Extended Benefits individuals must:

- Be totally or partially unemployed
- Not be eligible for unemployment compensation benefits in any other state (including the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, and the Virgin Islands) or Canada
- Be actively seeking work and provide work search documentation for each week claimed
- Not refuse an offer of suitable work or fail to apply for suitable work
- Exhaust all entitlement to regular and Emergency Unemployment Compensation after February 22, 2009 OR all entitlement to regular and Emergency Unemployment Compensation benefits prior to February 22, 2009, and have established a claim benefit year that ends after February 22, 2009

For a comprehensive list of questions and answers about Extended Benefits, please visit http://www.floridajobs.org/unemployment/EB/EB_FAQ.html.

Claims may be filed by: (1) Internet at www.fluidnow.com, (2) Telephone at 1-800-204-2418, or (3) Mailing a completed application to: Special Claims at P.O. Drawer 5350 in Tallahassee, FL 32314-5350

UNITED STATES AND FLORIDA UNEMPLOYMENT RATE STATISTICS

| | U.S. | FL | Polk | Hills | Osceola | Lowest FL Co. | Highest FL Co. |
|------------------|-------|------------------------|-------|-------|---------|------------------------|-----------------|
| OCT 2009 | 10.2% | TO BE ANNOUNCED | | | | | |
| SEPT 2009 | 9.8% | 11% | 12.7% | 11.5% | 12.8% | Liberty – 5.3% | Hendry – 16.8% |
| AUG 2009 | 9.7% | 10.8% | 12.4% | 11.2% | 11.9% | Liberty – 5.6% | Hendry – 16.4% |
| JULY 2009 | 9.4% | 10.8% | 12.3% | 11.1% | 11.6% | Liberty – 5.9% | Hendry – 16.4% |
| JUN 2009 | 9.5% | 10.6% | 11.5% | 10.7% | 11.4% | Liberty – 5.5% | Flagler – 15.5% |
| MAY 2009 | 9.4% | 10.3% | 10.8% | 10.2% | 10.8% | Liberty – 5% | Flagler – 14.4% |
| APR 2009 | 8.9% | 9.7% | 10.3% | 9.7% | 10.2% | Liberty – 4.6% | Flagler – 14.4% |
| MAR 2009 | 8.5% | 9.7% | 10.5% | 9.9% | 10.7% | Liberty – 5.2% | Flagler – 14.3% |
| FEB 2009 | 8.1% | 9.4% | 10.4% | 9.7% | 10.7% | Liberty – 5.5% | Flagler – 14.2% |
| JAN 2009 | 7.6% | 8.6% | 10% | 9.3% | 10.1% | Liberty – 5.5% | Flagler – 14.2% |
| DEC 2008 | 7.2% | 8.1% | 8.7% | 7.8% | 8.7% | Liberty – 5% | Flagler – 11.7% |
| NOV 2008 | 6.7% | 7.3% | 8.3% | 7.4% | 8.2% | Alachua/Liberty – 4.9% | Hendry – 11.9% |
| OCT 2008 | 6.5% | 7% | 8.1% | 7.1% | 7.7% | Walton – 4.5% | Hendry – 13.0% |
| SEPT 2008 | 6.1% | 6.6% | 7.9% | 6.8% | 6.9% | Walton – 4% | Hendry – 14.1% |
| AUG 2008 | 6.1% | 6.5% | 7.8% | 6.7% | 6.7% | Walton – 3.8% | Hendry – 14.2% |
| JULY 2008 | 5.7% | 6.1% | 7.3% | 6.5% | 6.5% | Walton – 3.7% | Hendry – 13.6% |
| JUN 2008 | 5.5% | 5.5% | 6.1% | 5.7% | 5.7% | Walton – 3.4% | Hendry – 10.3% |
| MAY 2008 | 5.5% | 5.5% | 5.6% | 5.4% | 5.4% | Walton – 3.3% | Flagler – 8.3% |
| APR 2008 | 5.0% | 4.9% | 4.9% | 4.7% | 4.7% | Alachua/Walton – 3% | Flagler – 7.6% |
| MAR 2008 | 5.1% | 4.9% | 5% | 4.8% | 5% | Alachua/Liberty – 3.1% | Flagler – 7.8% |
| FEB 2008 | 4.8% | 4.6% | 4.8% | 4.5% | 4.6% | Liberty – 2.9% | Flagler – 7.4% |
| JAN 2008 | 4.9% | 4.6% | 5% | 4.7% | 5% | Liberty – 3.1% | Flagler – 7.8% |
| DEC 2007 | 5.0% | 4.7% | 4.7% | 4.4% | 4.9% | Liberty/Walton – 2.9% | Hendry – 6.9% |

United States and Florida Unemployment Rates (seasonally adjusted)

Source: Florida Agency for Workforce Innovation, Labor Market Statistics Center, Local Area Unemployment Statistics Program, in cooperation with the U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics.

