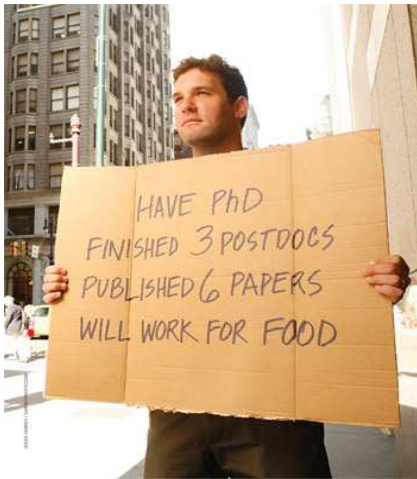


Jobless Claims Surge to 516,000; Average Trends Higher

Adam Samson, Fox News Business | Friday, November 14, 2008



WASHINGTON - The labor market showed signs of further softening Thursday, with jobless claims surging above 500,000 and remaining well above historic recessionary levels. The Labor Department says the number of new jobless claims were up 32,000 to 516,000 in the latest week. Economists polled by Thomson Reuters were expecting initial jobless claims to hit 484,000. Continuing claims, which are considered an indirect measure of how difficult it is to find a job, were also higher, gaining 65,000 to 3.9 million.

The four-week moving average for initial jobless claims, which helps mitigate short-run volatility, was up to 491,000 from a revised 477,750 in the previous week. This is the highest level in 17 years, and is well above the 414,000 averaged during the 2001 recession.

Economists say these changes could foreshadow further deterioration in payroll jobs, as tracked by the widely followed monthly employment situation report released by the Bureau of Labor Statistics. The October reading showed the unemployment rate jumping to a 14-year high of 6.5%, but these data, taken together with other recently released metrics, suggest the number could head higher.

"The best thing we can do for economy right now is to fix the problems we have in the credit markets," said White House Deputy Press Secretary Scott Stanzel. "Addressing those challenges will put us back on the path to job creation and help those Americans who've lost jobs as a result of this credit crunch."

1. In appropriate paragraph form, articulate and interpret the factors identified in the passage above that are provided for the current escalation in jobless rates. In your personal opinion, how might the United States government tactfully and effectively combat this unpleasant growing trend? Explain your response and provide specific supporting details in your defense. **(GPS – Grades 6 – 8: MRC a, d)**
2. Write a ratio or comparison of two numbers by division comparing the approximate number of new jobless claims to the total number of new claims. At this rate, roughly 4,570 individuals file claims daily. Use a proportion to describe relationships and determine the number of new jobless claims that will be filed over the next 12 days. With an increase of 65,000 claims per week, duplicate this process with continuing claims in relation to the total number of claims. Finally, complete a similar comparison of the four-week moving average for initial jobless claims to the revised figure from the previous week. Communicate your mathematical thinking clearly and coherently and thoroughly explain the information provided via the ratios and percentages. **(GPS – Grade 6: M6P1 – M6P5; MRC; M6A1; M6A2 c, g)**
3. Create a table which represents, describes, and analyzes relations containing jobless claims ranging from last week through the next two weeks to come. Describe how change in one variable affects and/or impacts the other variable. Plots the points on a coordinate plane and neatly label its critical components (i.e. x-axis, y-axis, quadrants, origin, etc.). Thoroughly explain in detail what is meant by each point on the graph. Communicate your mathematical thinking clearly and coherently in each of your response. **(GPS Grade 7: M7P1 – M7P5; MRC; M7A3 a - c)**
4. Represent three specific given situations (question three) using algebraic expressions or equations in one variable in terms of others. Simplify and evaluate the results. Communicate your mathematical thinking clearly and coherently. **(GPS Grade 8: M8P1 – M8P5; M8A1 a - e)**
5. Upon completion of this assignment, how far have we progressed through the 2008-09 series of *The Daughtry Times*®? Express your answer interchangeably as a fraction, decimal, percentage, and circle graph. **(GPS – Grade 6: M6N1f, g; M6D1c; Grade 7: M7D1f)**
6. Using contextual clues only, define the following italicized words: *recessionary*, *volatility*, *mitigate*, *foreshadow*, and *deterioration* obtained from the passage above. Additionally, use each word in a complete sentence to demonstrate further comprehension. **(GPS – Grades 6 –8: MRC a, c, d)**

Georgia Performance Standards (GPS) adapted from georgiastandards.org. Standards specifically addressed in this edition are strategically aligned with the curriculum map and annotated adjacent to the respective grade level inquiry.

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