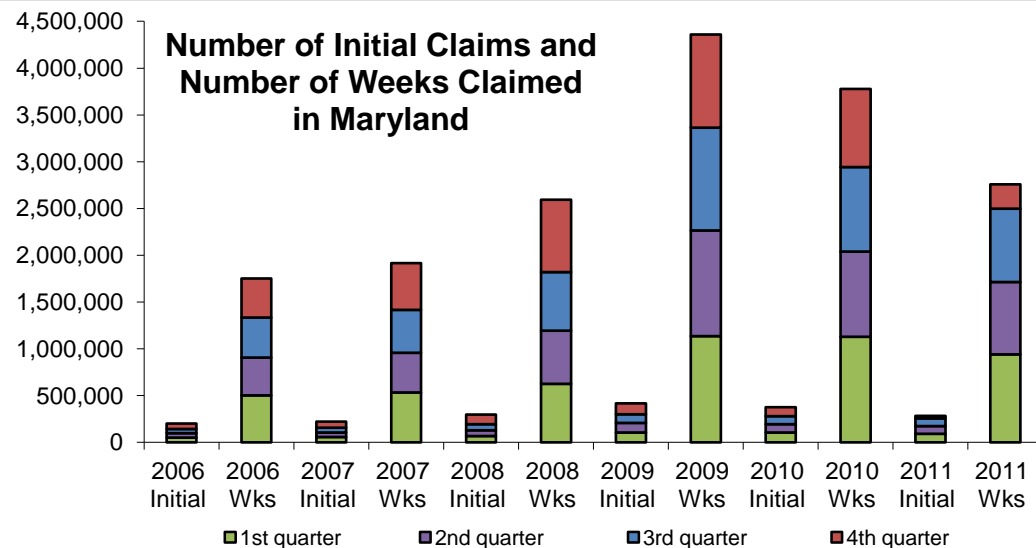


MARYLAND UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE – CLAIMS AND BENEFITS PAID



- In Maryland, the number of initial claims increased from almost 203,000 to almost 377,000 or 86% from calendar 2006 to 2010. The number of weeks claimed increased from about 1.75 million to almost 3.78 million or 115% from calendar 2006 to 2010. Calendar 2010 was an improvement over calendar 2009. During this period the unemployment rate increased from 3.7% at the end of calendar 2006 to 7.4% at the end of calendar 2010; the latest unemployment rate (October 2011) is 7.2%.
- Nationwide, the annual unemployment rate in calendar 2006 was 4.6%, as compared to 9.6% in calendar 2010; the latest unemployment rate (October 2011) is 9%.

• In Maryland, total annual benefits paid increased from a low of \$384 million in calendar 2006 to a high of \$1.07 billion in calendar 2009, a 179% increase. Calendar 2010 showed improvement at \$901 million. The first 9 months of calendar 2011 shows signs of further improvements. As total annual benefits paid increase, the balance of the trust fund declines. Employers replenish the trust fund through higher unemployment insurance taxes.

• Claimants are eligible for 26 weeks of benefits, paid from the State's Unemployment Insurance Trust Fund (funded by unemployment taxes paid by Maryland employers). The maximum weekly benefit amount is \$430; the actual amount of weekly benefits paid to a claimant depends on the claimant's wages during the claimant's base period. Due to the recession, Congress authorized two federally funded programs: (1) an additional 53 weeks under the Emergency Unemployment Compensation Program for eligible claimants (Maryland claimants may only qualify for 47 weeks); and (2) an additional 20 weeks under the Extended Benefits Program (Maryland claimants may only qualify for 13 weeks). Accordingly, the total number of weeks Maryland claimants may qualify for is 86 weeks, as compared to 99 weeks in higher unemployment states.

Annual Benefits Paid as Compared to Year-end Unemployment Insurance Trust Fund Balances

