

# New Unemployment Claims Inch Down

BY CHRISTOPHER S. RUGABER  
AP Economics Writer

WASHINGTON — New claims for unemployment benefits dipped for the fourth straight week, a sign the job market is improving at a slow but steady pace.

Employers, encouraged by a recovering economy, are hiring again. But they are not doing it at the level needed to reduce the jobless rate.

The Labor Department said Thursday that initial claims dropped last week by 4,000 to a seasonally adjusted 444,000. That's slightly above analysts' estimates, according to Thomson Reuters. The previous week's total was revised up to 448,000.

The four-week average, which smooths out volatility, registered a steeper decline. It fell by 9,000 to 450,500 — close to the average's lowest level this year reached in late March.

After dropping steadily last year from a peak of 651,000, first-time claims have fluctuated at around 450,000 since January. Many economists would like to see claims fall faster, which

would be a sign of more hiring. "We expect claims to continue to move lower over the coming weeks and will feel more comfortable about the prospects for sustainable job creation when claims drop below the 400,000 mark," economists at RDQ Economics said in a note to clients.

David Resler, chief economist at Nomura Securities, noted that the claims figure is the third lowest since Lehman Brothers collapsed in September 2008, intensifying the financial crisis.

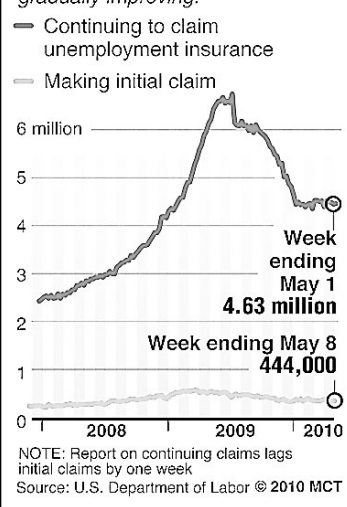
Other recent indicators have shown improvement in the job market. Employers added 290,000 jobs in April, the most in four years. That's a positive sign that companies are confident enough in the economic recovery to step up hiring.

But much more hiring is needed to make up for the loss of more than 8 million jobs in the recession. The unemployment rate rose last month to 9.9 percent as the new jobs weren't enough to offset the more than 800,000 people that started or resumed job searches.

The economy expanded at a 3.2 percent pace in the January-

## Out of work

New claims for jobless benefits fell for the fourth straight week, a sign that the job market is gradually improving.



NOTE: Report on continuing claims lags initial claims by one week.  
Source: U.S. Department of Labor © 2010 MCT

to-March quarter, the third straight quarter of growth. That followed four quarters of decline as the economy struggled through the worst downturn since the 1930s.

One of the companies hiring is Cisco Systems Inc. John Chambers, CEO for the comput-

er networking equipment maker, said Wednesday the company hired 1,000 new people in the quarter ending May 1. He expects the pace of hiring at his company will pick up.

Others are still laying off workers. Dean Foods Co., which makes Horizon Organic milk and other soy products, said earlier Monday that it plans to cut 350 to 400 jobs, on top of 150 eliminated earlier this year.

The number of people continuing to receive benefits, meanwhile, rose by 12,000 to 4.6 million. The data on continuing unemployment claims lags initial claims by one week.

But that doesn't include the 5.4 million people receiving extended benefits paid for by the federal government in the week ending April 24, the latest data available. That total is down by about 200,000 from the previous week.

The extended federal benefits have added as many as 73 weeks of unemployment on top of the 26 customarily provided by the states. But jobs have been scarce for so long that many of those out of work will soon run out of those extended benefits.

## FINANCIAL REFORM

# Senate Passes Amendment Curbing Debit Card Charges

WASHINGTON (AP) — Striking at a lucrative bank business, the Senate on Thursday voted to force credit card companies to reduce fees for debit card transactions and permit merchants to offer customer discounts based on their payment method.

The 64-33 vote inserted the fee requirement in a package of new financial rules the Senate is considering to ward off a repeat of the financial crisis.

The vote was a major defeat for banks, which lobbied hard against it. But the measure attracted heavy bipartisan support and surpassed a 60-vote threshold for passage. Seventeen Republicans voted for the amendment; 10 Democrats voted against it.

The measure from Sen. Richard Durbin, D-Ill., would force credit card companies to charge businesses less for debit card transactions than for credit card payments.

Under current practice, a business that accepts major credit cards signs agreements with the card companies to pay a percentage

of each transaction, usually about 2 percent to 3 percent. But credit card charges cost more to process than swipes with a debit card.

The measure still needs to survive negotiations with the House, which has already passed its version of regulations on Wall Street. The House bill does not contain the debit card provision.

The change could represent the most direct and tangible consumer benefit of the regulatory overhaul and would amount to a triumph for Durbin, who failed to get a similar proposal attached to an overhaul of credit card regulations last year.

"Left alone, this is going to get worse for small businesses that face higher fees, for consumers who face higher prices, and for everyone but banks and credit card networks," Durbin said moments before the vote.

The Electronic Payments Coalition, an industry group whose members include Visa, MasterCard and American Express, said the

Durbin plan would harm many small banks and credit unions that already lose or barely break even in their card operations.

The credit card companies said the change would force consumers to pay more for their cards and result in higher profits to large retailers. In a statement, MasterCard argued that similar regulations in Australia did not result in savings to retail customers.

The Senate put off a vote on a contentious amendment to the regulatory bill. The amendment would place auto dealers that offer loans to car buyers outside the reach of a proposed consumer financial protection agency. President Barack Obama argued against the exemption Wednesday, but Democrats feared that even by requiring 60 votes to pass it, they would be unable to defeat it.

The debit card issue pitted the politically popular appeals of small business owners against the influence of community banks and the lobbying power of the credit card companies.

## OBITUARIES

### Paul O. Svartoi

FREEMAN — Paul Orlean Svartoi was born on the family farm in rural Freeman, SD on February 19, 1932 to Iver and Hannah (Gudmunson) Svartoi.

Paul was baptized and confirmed at Bang Lutheran Church, rural Freeman, SD and later became a member of Salem Free Lutheran Church, also of rural Freeman.

Paul attended country school and in his teen years he moved to Rockford, Illinois where he worked at National Lock Co. along with his three brothers, Arnold, Lester, and Robert. In 1951 he returned to the original homestead where he was born and he resided there until his death at home on May 10, 2010.

On August 20, 1952 he was united in marriage to Marceen Evelyn Henke at Delaware Reformed Church, rural Lennox, SD.

In addition to framing, Paul and Marceen raised Register Black Angus cattle. Paul did custom corn shelling for several years before he began custom combining in 1964 where he combined from the Texas line to the Canadian border for 30 years. In 1981 Paul and Marceen purchased Meridian Corner and enjoyed serving their specialties, chislic and tiger meat, to the local community and to the travelers passing by. Many friendships were formed and memories made throughout the harvesting and Meridian years. Paul and Marceen enjoyed traveling in their later years.

He is survived by his six children: Julie Karlsen of Chicago, IL, Cynthia and husband Gregg Mutchelknaus and their children Stet and Slade of Marion, SD, Roland and wife Jean and their children Cole, Caleb, and Callie Svartoi of Freeman, SD, Marc and wife Teresa and their children Rachel, Melissa, and Lucas Svartoi of Freeman, SD, Jody and husband Guy Conway of Tampa, FL, and Philip and his

daughter Cylie Svartoi of Freeman, SD. He is also survived by his great-granddaughter Onyx Svartoi; and a brother Lester A. Svartoi of Rockford, IL and many nieces and nephews and other relatives.

Paul was preceded in death by his wife Marceen, on April 20, 1999, his parents, and his siblings, Arnold Svartoi, Adeline Boomgarden, Viola Steimer, Robert Svartoi, Cora Heckenlaible, and Dora Svartoi.

Funeral services will be Sunday at 2 p.m. at the Salem Free Lutheran Church of rural Freeman, located one mile east of Meridian (junction of US HWYS 81 and 18). Burial will be in the Bang Cemetery.

Visitation will begin at 1 p.m. Saturday at the Walter Funeral Home in Freeman with the family present from 6-8 p.m.

Yankton Press & Dakotan  
May 14, 2010

### Dorothy Brewer

Dorothy Brewer, 94, of Yankton died Jan. 24, 2010, at Williamson Medical Center in Franklin, Tenn.

Graveside services are at 2 p.m. Saturday at Sacred Heart Cemetery, Yankton. A reception

## Thank You

Thank you to all the doctors and nurses and all that took care of me when I had fallen. To Fr. Joe and Msgr. Hermann for their visits and cards. To all my sisters, relatives and friends for all the calls, flowers, gifts, cards and visits. It made my long stay and recovery quicker.

Thank You,  
Betty Kocer

### Kathleene Carlson

SIoux FALLS — Funeral Mass for Kathleene A. Carlson, 93, of Sioux Falls and formerly of Tyndall will be held at 10:30 a.m. on Monday at St. Leo Catholic Church in Tyndall with Fr. Gerald Thury as Celebrant. Interment will follow in St. Leo Catholic Cemetery.

Visitation will be held on Sunday from 3:00 p.m. until 5:30 p.m. at the Goglin Funeral Home in Tyndall. There will be a 7:30 Scriptural wake service at the church on Sunday evening.

Kathleene passed away on

Wednesday, May 12, 2010 at Avera McKennan Hospital in Sioux Falls.

Online condolences may be sent at [www.goglinfh.com](http://www.goglinfh.com).

## Goglin Funeral Home

Tyndall - Scotland - Tripp



[www.goglinfh.com](http://www.goglinfh.com)

will follow the graveside service at the Hospitality Center at Wintz & Ray Funeral Home and Cremation Service, Yankton.

To post an online sympathy message, visit [wintzrayfuneralhome.com](http://wintzrayfuneralhome.com).

### Margaret Miller

Margaret E. Miller, age 96, of Yankton, died Thursday (May 13, 2010) at the Avera Yankton Care Center, Yankton. Funeral services are 10:30 a.m., Monday at Sacred Heart Catholic Church, Yankton, with Rev. Mark Lichter officiating. Burial will be in

Sacred Heart Cemetery.

Visitations is 6-8 p.m., Sunday, with a scripture service at 7:30 p.m. at the Opsahl-Kostel Funeral Home & Crematory, Yankton.

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## Thank You

A sincere thank you for all the remembrances of our 50th wedding anniversary. All was much appreciated.

Bob & Georgianne Pravecek

## NATION/WORLD DIGEST

### Haiti Prosecutors Seek Prison For Missionary

PORT-AU-PRINCE, Haiti (AP) — A U.S. missionary should spend six months in prison for her failed attempt to remove 33 children from Haiti following the Jan. 12 earthquake, a prosecutor said Thursday on the first day of her trial.

Prosecutor Sonel Jean-Francois told the court that Laura Silsby knew she was breaking the law by trying to take the children without proper documents to an orphanage she was starting in the neighboring Dominican Republic.

"Laura recognized she violated the law," Jean-Francois said as lawyers and a small group of spectators crowded into a stifling hot tent in the parking lot of the quake-damaged courthouse.

He spoke after the Idaho woman testified. Silsby, who was leader of a group of Baptists detained by authorities, was the only person to testify on the first day of the trial. She spent much of the rest of the session reading the Bible.

The 40-year-old businesswoman told the court she thought the children were orphans whose homes were destroyed in the earthquake. As it turned out, all the children had at least one living parent, who had turned their children over to the group in hopes of securing better lives for them.

### Crisis Continues In Bangkok, Clashes Rise

BANGKOK (AP) — A rogue army general working with anti-government protesters was shot in the head Thursday while talking to reporters in downtown Bangkok, triggering more clashes that left one demonstrator dead and worsening Thailand's political chaos.

Gunfire cracked well into the night after the government declared it will blockade 10,000 Red Shirt demonstrators who have occupied and paralyzed the center of the capital for two months.

The developments further eroded chances of re-establishing peace in this deeply divided Southeast Asian nation where the mostly rural, poor protesters are seeking to topple the government and hold new elections that they hope will give them a greater share of power.

The Red Shirts have turned a 1-square-mile (3-square-kilometer) area in the posh Rajprasong neighborhood into a sprawling camp, with portable bathrooms, free food and a stage from which their leaders deliver daily anti-government diatribes.

The streets around it turned into a virtual war zone following the shooting of Maj. Gen. Khattiya Sawasdi. Protesters stopped police trucks and forced them to turn back; they hurled rocks at soldiers, who responded by firing live ammunition, said Associated Press cameraman Raul Gallego.

### Poll: Sharp Divides Over Illegal Immigration

WASHINGTON (AP) — Illegal immigrants are a boon, not a burden to the country, a resounding majority of Hispanics say, according to an Associated Press-Univision Poll that underscores sharp contrasts between the views of Hispanics and others. Most non-Hispanics say illegal immigrants are a drain on society.

In addition, most Hispanics condemn Arizona's strict new law targeting undocumented immigrants, while only 20 percent of non-Hispanics oppose it.

The survey also found some remarkably similar views between Hispanics and non-Hispanics on the complex, emotional issue of immigration, which has gained prominence this election year. About two-thirds of both groups consider illegal immigration a serious problem, only a quarter of each think the Arizona law will ease the state's troubles and the largest portion of both populations think current limits on legal immigration should be left alone.

Even so, much of the poll — which questioned 901 Hispanic adults and was compared to a separate survey of the general population — reads as if soundings were taken of two distinct worlds, an impression fortified by follow-up interviews.

"People are not coming to this country to do bad things, people are coming to make money for their families," said Javier Zurita, 43, a factory worker in Garfield, N.J., a U.S. citizen from Ecuador. "These people love this country, they've had sons and daughters in this country."

### Clinton: U.S. Will Not Sacrifice Afghan Women

WASHINGTON (AP) — Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton said Thursday that women's rights should not be sacrificed in any settlement between the government of Afghan President Hamid Karzai and Taliban militants.

"We will not abandon you, we will stand with you always," Clinton told three senior female Afghan officials who accompanied Karzai on his four-day trip to the U.S., which wraps up Friday with a visit to U.S. troops in Fort Campbell, Ky.

Clinton said it was "essential that women's rights and women's opportunities are not sacrificed or trampled on in the reconciliation process."

Her comments came amid concerns that any political deal with Afghan insurgents could erode the gains women have made since a U.S.-led invasion drove the Taliban from power in 2001.

■ Get Updates At Yankton Online ([www.yankton.net](http://www.yankton.net))

## IN REMEMBRANCE

### Teresa Heimes

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## Press & Dakotan

Fill the puzzle so that every row, every column, and every section contain the numbers 1-9 without repeating a number.

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		8			2 5
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INTERMEDIATE

INT BOOK 6 #8

Yesterday's Solution

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7	5	1	6	2	4	9	8	3
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5	2	5	8	6	1	4	9	7

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Check tomorrow's paper for the solution to today's puzzle.

EA BOOK 6 #8

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