Unemployment Compensation and Trade Adjustment Assistance for Workers—CBO's January 2019 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.

Unemployment Compensation and Trade Adjustment Assistance—CBO's January 2019 Baseline

January 28, 2019

Outlays in Millions of Dollars, by Fiscal Year

	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029
Unemployment Compensation											
Regular benefits	26,983	28,030	•	44,483		•			54,164	-	58,367
Extended benefits	5	55	110	105	380	255	175	175	175	175	175
Total benefits	26,988	28,085	36,924	44,588	46,806	48,586	50,424	52,361	54,339	56,391	58,542
Trade Adjustment Assistance											
(Includes cash and training benefits)	497	521	623	679	651	488	485	493	501	509	516
Memorandum:											
Detail for Regular Unemployment Compensation											
First Payments (Millions of people)	5.0	5.0	6.4	7.4	7.4	7.5	7.5	7.5	7.6	7.6	7.6
Average Weekly Benefit (Dollars)	353	365	378	392	406	419	432	446	460	474	488
Average Duration (Weeks)	15.3	15.3	15.3	15.4	15.4	15.5	15.5	15.6	15.6	15.7	15.7
Labor Force (Millions of people)	162.8	164.1	165.1	166.0	166.8	167.5	168.2	168.8	169.4	170.0	170.8
Unemployment Rate (Percent)	3.6	3.6	4.0	4.5	4.8	4.8	4.8	4.8	4.8	4.8	4.7