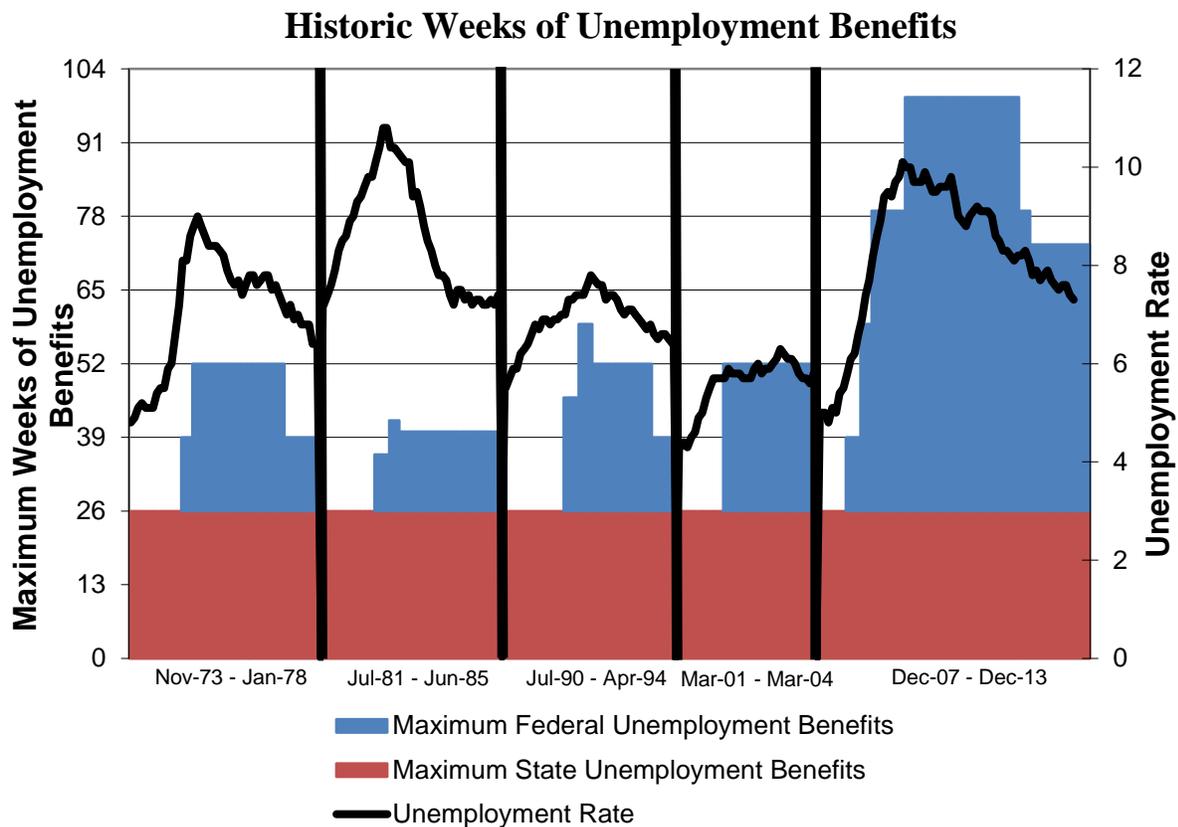


## Key Facts about the Federal Extended Unemployment Compensation (EUC) Program

1. *Record 99 Weeks of Benefits Paid:* At its peak in late 2009 through early 2012, the EUC program paid 53 weeks of Federal benefits to millions of unemployed workers. As displayed in the chart below, when combined with 20 weeks of other Federal benefits and typically 26 weeks of State benefits, this resulted in a record total of 99 weeks of all unemployment checks per worker – a level that has never been approached in U.S. history. As a result of February 2012 reforms, weeks of Federal benefits paid have fallen sharply, so that today individuals in most States qualify for at most 37 weeks of Federal unemployment checks, or about half the recent peak level.



Source: Congressional Research Service, [Extending Unemployment Compensation During Recessions](#).

2. *Record 66 Months of Operation for a “Temporary” Program:* Since its start in July 2008, the current “temporary” EUC program will have operated for 66 months when it expires in December 2013. As the chart above displays, that is far longer than any similar temporary unemployment program in U.S. history (the prior record was 36 months from 1975-78), and more than twice as long as the typical program created since the 1950s (which averaged 27 months).
  
3. *Record Dozen Extensions Already:* Federal unemployment benefits have already been extended or expanded 12 times since mid-2008. No prior program was extended as often, and no program came even close to the record 99 total weeks of State and Federal unemployment benefits paid at its peak.

**Federal Unemployment Benefit Extensions since June 2008**

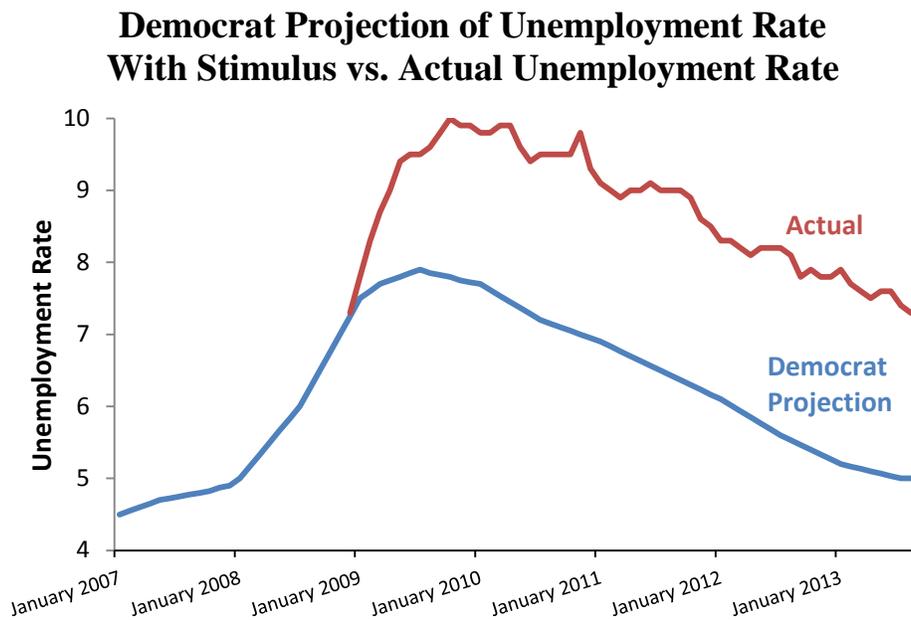
<i>DATE OF EXTENSION</i>	<i>LENGTH OF EXTENSION</i>	<i>SPENDING ADDED TO DEBT</i>	<i>MAXIMUM WEEKS OF BENEFITS</i>
1. June 2008	8 months	Not paid for	26 State + 13 Federal = 39 total
2. November 2008	4 months	Not paid for	26 State + 33 Federal = 59 total
3. February 2009	10 months	Not paid for	26 State + 53 Federal = 79 total
4. November 2009	1 month	Paid for	26 State + 73 Federal = 99 total
5. December 2009	2 months	Not paid for	Straight extension = 99 total
6. March 2010	2 months	Not paid for	Straight extension = 99 total
7. April 2010	2 months	Not paid for	Straight extension = 99 total
8. July 2010	5 months	Not paid for	Straight extension = 99 total
9. December 2010	12 months	Not paid for	Straight extension = 99 total
10. December 2011	2 months	Paid for	Straight extension = 99 total
11. February 2012	10 months	Paid for	26 State + 47 Federal = 73 total <sup>1</sup>
12. January 2013	12 months	Not paid for	Straight extension = 73 total
<b>Total</b>	<b>66 months<sup>2</sup></b>		

<sup>1</sup> The extension of Federal benefits provided by P.L. 112-96 in February 2012 reduced the effective maximum weeks of all unemployment benefits from 99 weeks in Spring 2012, to 79 weeks in Summer 2012, to 73 weeks in Fall 2012.

<sup>2</sup> Total is less than the sum due to rounding.

Source: Congressional Research Service, [Extending Unemployment Compensation During Recessions](#).

4. *Record \$265 Billion Has Already Been Spent, with Most Added to the Deficit:* The Federal government has [spent](#) \$265 billion on extended unemployment benefits since mid-2008. Of that amount, \$210 billion has been simply added to the deficit, most while Democrats were in charge of Congress and the White House. To give a sense of the massive scale of this spending, Federal spending on extended benefits since mid-2008 is over 11 times what was spent in the wake of the 2001 recession and terrorist attacks (\$23 billion).
  
5. *Failed Stimulus:* Democrats irrationally [claim](#) unemployment benefits are “the fastest way to create jobs.” Yet, while record unemployment benefits were paid, the unemployment rate remained above 8 percent for 43 straight months from 2009 through 2012. And today there are still 1.2 million [fewer](#) jobs than when Federal extended unemployment benefits were created in June 2008. As the chart below shows, Americans continue to experience far worse actual unemployment conditions than Democrats projected under their trillion-dollar “stimulus” policies.



Source: January 2009 [Romer/Bernstein Report](#) and U.S. Department of Labor, [Bureau of Labor Statistics](#).

6. *State Benefits Remain Available:* Even without yet another Federal extension of EUC, up to 26 weeks of State unemployment benefits will be available, as they are today. About 2.4 million people [collect](#) these State unemployment benefits today, and CBO projects States will [spend](#) \$52 billion on them in FY 2014. In addition, States sometimes operate their own extended benefits programs as need arises, but they certainly wouldn't do so if the Federal government continues to offer Federally funded benefits as it has since mid-2008.
  
7. *Other Federal Extended Benefits Will Become Available if State Conditions Worsen:* Under [permanent law](#), the Federal government pays 50 percent of the cost for up to 20 weeks of extended benefits when individual States experience high and rising unemployment conditions. This "Extended Benefits" (EB) program will remain in place even without another extension of the "temporary" EUC program that expires in December, and thus be available if unemployment rates start rising again in individual States.