

Meeting Summary
StateStat website, November 2, 2009

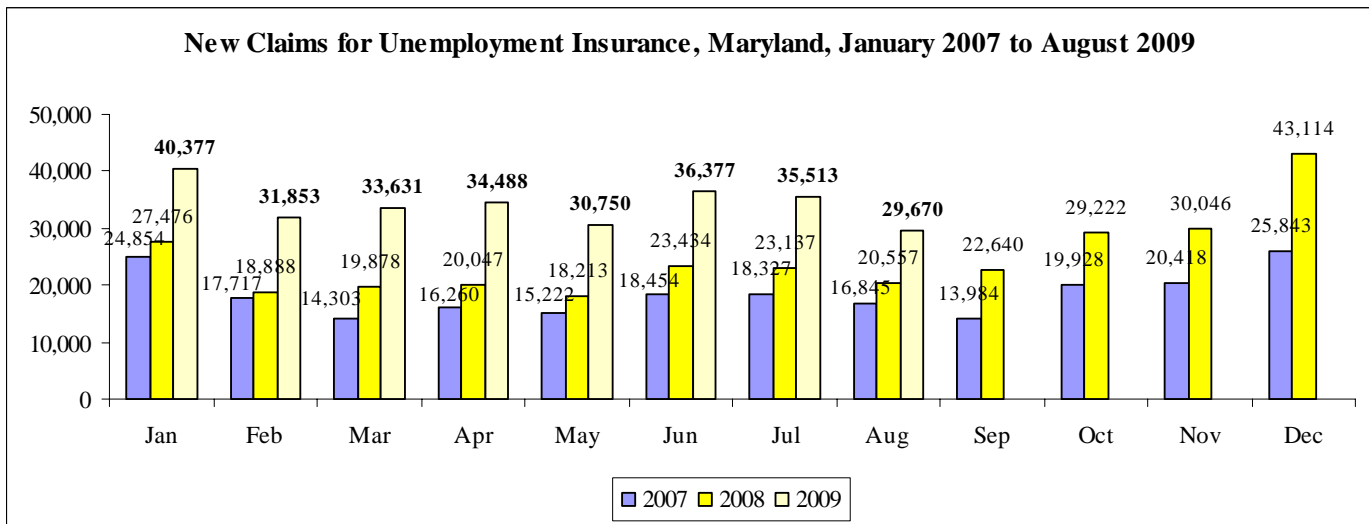
Agency: DLLR

Date of Meeting: October 08, 2009

Following is a summary of issues discussed at the DLLR Stat on October 08, 2009. Analysis is provided by StateStat.

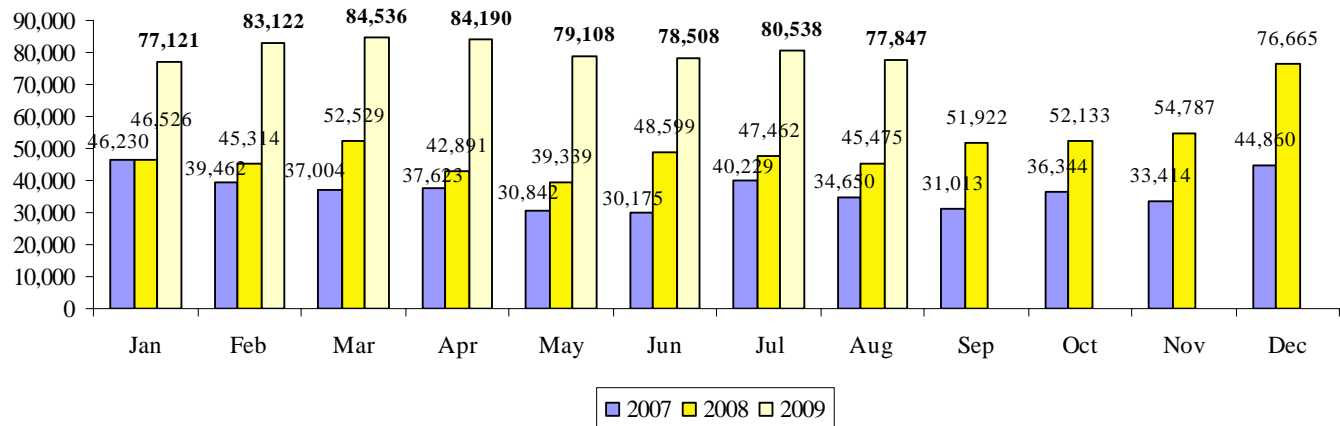
General Discussion

- **Unemployment Insurance Infrastructure Grant.** On September 28, US DoL announced that it was awarding the State a **\$5.4 million** grant to help improve the technology used in running the UI program. DLLR reported that these funds will be used in its benefit payment control efforts to detect overpayments earlier as well as the implementation of a standard national form to be used by all employers.
- **Key Unemployment Metrics.** As the following chart demonstrates, there was a 16.5% drop in new UI claims in August, to the lowest level since **October 2008**.



- August also saw the fewest number of Marylanders drawing UI benefits since January.

Persons Currently Drawing UI Benefits, Maryland, January 2007 to August 2009



- **Lower Appeals Case Management Plan.** DLLR has drafted a plan for reducing its backlog of UI appeals by February-March 2011, based on a conservative estimate of 4,300 appeals filed per month and a current backlog of 9,844 cases.
- *Hearing Examiners.* DLLR reported on the status of filling the remaining 6 of its 15 new federally-funded lower appeals hearing examiners. Two were filled effective October 7 and the 4 remaining positions were being advertised the Department expects to fill them in approximately eight weeks. DLLR will also hire 4 contractual employees to back fill the 4 PINed positions that will be filled through the internal recruitment. The Department expects the number of Hearing Examiners as of early December to be 49 (up from 39 on September 1).
- *ALJs.* DLLR reported that the 15 new ALJs would begin hearing lower appeals cases on October 19 (1-2 dockets/day; 7 cases/docket).
- **Elevator Inspection Backlog.** DLLR has provided the StateStat team with a detailed memo regarding its plans and timeline for eliminating the backlog of overdue elevator inspections, which the Department indicates **can be achieved in 6-13 months.**
- *Staffing.* DLLR believes that, due to its aging workforce, it will lose an additional one to two inspectors to retirement before the end of the calendar year. DLLR reported that the chief inspector was to be setting up interviews in an effort “to hire and train an additional three to four inspectors in the coming months.”