

# Record amount of American workers received unemployment checks Oct. 9

WASHINGTON — A record 4,662,000 American workers received unemployment checks during the week ending Oct. 9, the government reported Thursday, with increased new claims indicating continued double-digit unemployment.

The figure surpassed a record government pay-out to unemployed workers that has stood for more than seven years.

The Labor Department's Employment and Training Administration also said initial claims for jobless benefits rose by 3,000 to 687,000 in the week ended Oct. 16 in seasonally adjusted figures.

The data was the last regarding the unemployment picture before next Tuesday's congressional elections. The overall September unemployment rate was a post-Depression high of 10.1 percent. October figures will be released Nov. 5.

Department spokesman Steve McManus said the 4,662,000 total recipients of unemployment checks eclipsed by 1,000 the old record of 4,661,000 set during the week ended May 31, 1975. The new total also reflected an increase of 43,000 from the previous week's revised level.

McManus noted, however, that the current 5.3 percent un-

employment rate among those covered by unemployment insurance, is below the 7 percent level during the 1975 recession.

Not included in the seasonally adjusted figures, however, are 544,400 federal employees, newly discharged veterans, railroad workers and those receiving extended jobless benefits.

Unadjusted data from the department showed that Michigan had the highest insured unemployment rate in the nation, surpassing West Virginia, the leader for several weeks.

Michigan reported a 6.8 percent unadjusted rate for the week ended Oct. 9, followed by

West Virginia's 6.6 percent, Mississippi, and Washington, all 5.6 percent; Alabama, 5.5 percent; Ohio, 5.3 percent; Oregon, 5.8 percent; Idaho,

# Study shows less electricity is better for resuscitation

BOSTON — Doctors and paramedics who use high-energy electrical shocks to revive heart attack victims may get better results by using half the dosage, researchers reported today.

A study of 249 patients in Seattle showed the survival rate among sufferers of ventricular fibrillation — rapid contractions of the heart muscle that cause an irregular heart beat — was the same whether they received maximum shocks of 320 joules of electricity, or a lower dosage of 175 joules.

But Dr. W. Douglas Weaver of the Harborview Medical Center, who headed the study, said the shocks can slow the heartbeat if the joules are too strong.

He said 75 percent of the patients who received repeated shocks at the higher energy level suffered atrioventricular block, or slowing of the heartbeat, and required more shocks to halt the fibrillation.

The slowed heartbeat did not result from the lower-level shocks, he said.

All of the victims in the study

were treated outside the hospital by doctors or paramedics. The findings were reported in the New England Journal of Medicine.

Weaver said the slower heartbeat was transitory and was sta-

bilized with cardiopulmonary resuscitation.

But he said the study shows that paramedics and doctors, who treat 350,000 heart attack victims a year in the U.S., should first try lower-level shock.

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