The number of long-term unemployed, defined as those unemployed for 27 weeks or more, has skyrocketed throughout the economic downturn. In 2011, the percentage of unemployed workers considered long-term unemployed increased significantly, hitting a high of 44.6 percent in September; that’s the highest percentage since the Labor Department began calculating the rate in 1948.

**Average (Mean) Duration of Unemployment Benefits**

Links