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Washington, September 7 (RHC)-- Unemployment benefits for millions of U.S. workers expired on Labor Day, after President Joe Biden declined to press the Democratic-led Congress to extend assistance — even as many states suffered their worst surge of the pandemic.

An estimated 9.3 million jobless workers lost benefits, along with 26 million members of their households who relied on the income.

The cutoff of aid came after the Labor Department reported the U.S. economy added just 235,000 jobs in August — a significant slowdown due largely to the spread of the Delta coronavirus variant. The unemployment rate for African Americans rose six-tenths of a percentage point in August to 8.8%.

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