



News Release

Connect with DOL at
<http://blog.dol.gov>



TRANSMISSION OF MATERIALS IN THIS RELEASE IS EMBARGOED UNTIL
8:30 A.M. (Eastern) Thursday, August 6, 2015

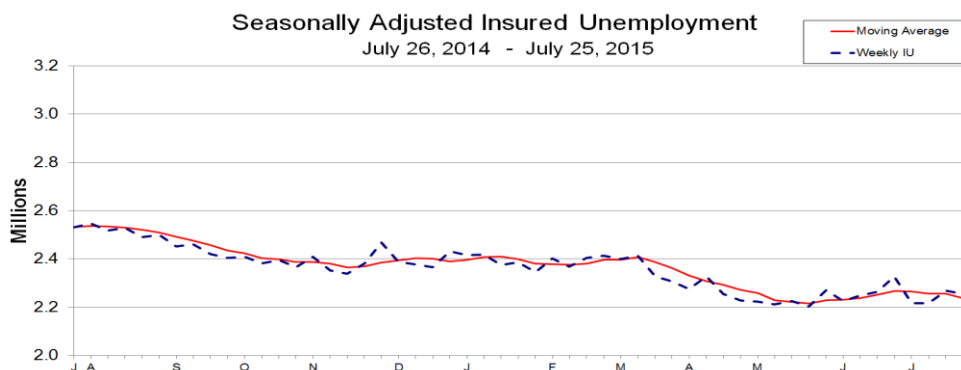
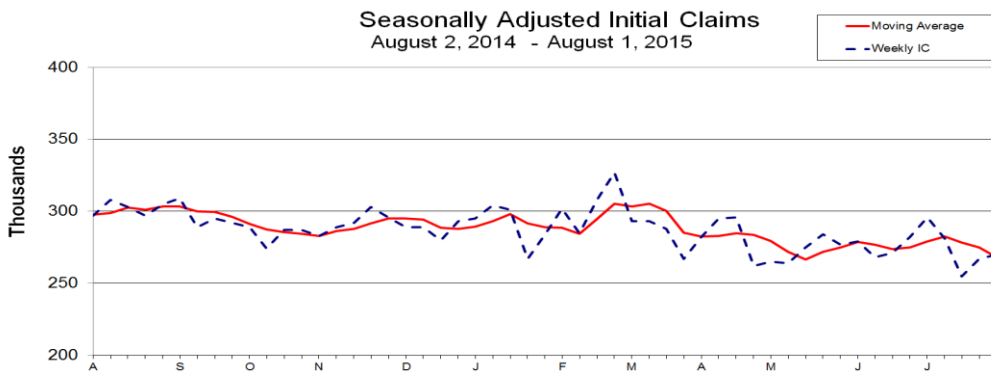
UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE WEEKLY CLAIMS

SEASONALLY ADJUSTED DATA

In the week ending August 1, the advance figure for seasonally adjusted **initial claims** was 270,000, an increase of 3,000 from the previous week's unrevised level of 267,000. The 4-week moving average was 268,250, a decrease of 6,500 from the previous week's unrevised average of 274,750.

There were no special factors impacting this week's initial claims.

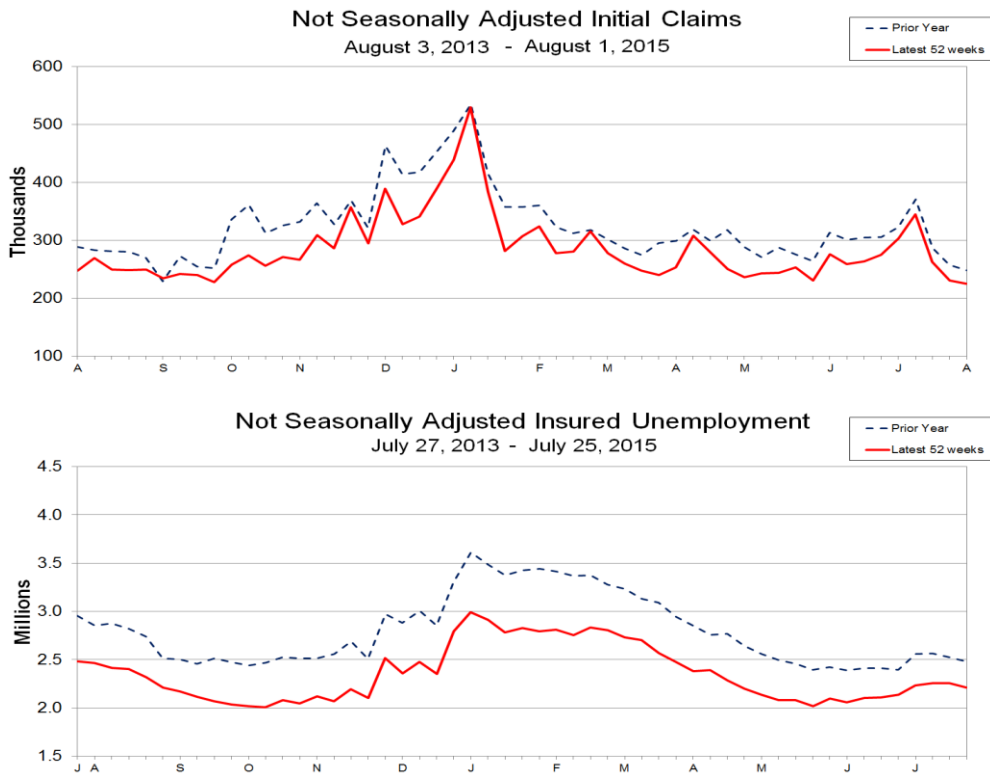
The advance seasonally adjusted **insured unemployment rate** was 1.7 percent for the week ending July 25, unchanged from the previous week's unrevised rate. The advance number for seasonally adjusted **insured unemployment** during the week ending July 25 was 2,255,000, a decrease of 14,000 from the previous week's revised level. The previous week's level was revised up 7,000 from 2,262,000 to 2,269,000. The 4-week moving average was 2,239,000, a decrease of 18,000 from the previous week's revised average. The previous week's average was revised up by 1,750 from 2,255,250 to 2,257,000.



UNADJUSTED DATA

The advance number of actual initial claims under state programs, unadjusted, totaled 225,090 in the week ending August 1, a decrease of 5,133 (or -2.2 percent) from the previous week. The seasonal factors had expected a decrease of 7,745 (or -3.4 percent) from the previous week. There were 247,877 initial claims in the comparable week in 2014.

The advance unadjusted insured unemployment rate was 1.6 percent during the week ending July 25, a decrease of 0.1 percentage point from the prior week. The advance unadjusted number for persons claiming UI benefits in state programs totaled 2,211,871, a decrease of 43,818 (or -1.9 percent) from the preceding week. The seasonal factors had expected a decrease of 29,501 (or -1.3 percent) from the previous week. A year earlier the rate was 1.9 percent and the volume was 2,481,360.



The total number of people claiming benefits in all programs for the week ending July 18 was 2,301,676, an increase of 1,649 from the previous week. There were 2,576,492 persons claiming benefits in all programs in the comparable week in 2014.

No state was triggered "on" the Extended Benefits program during the week ending July 18.

Initial claims for UI benefits filed by former Federal civilian employees totaled 953 in the week ending July 25, a decrease of 55 from the prior week. There were 1,325 initial claims filed by newly discharged veterans, a decrease of 29 from the preceding week.

There were 10,304 former Federal civilian employees claiming UI benefits for the week ending July 18, an increase of 20 from the previous week. Newly discharged veterans claiming benefits totaled 18,337, a decrease of 158 from the prior week.

The highest insured unemployment rates in the week ending July 18 were in Puerto Rico (3.9), New Jersey (3.0), Connecticut (2.7), Pennsylvania (2.7), Alaska (2.4), California (2.4), Nevada (2.3), Rhode Island (2.3), Illinois (2.2), and the Virgin Islands (2.2).

The largest increases in initial claims for the week ending July 25 were in Kansas (+481), West Virginia (+87), Mississippi (+59), Vermont (+55), and New Jersey (+20), while the largest decreases were in Michigan (-4,003), California (-3,862), Georgia (-2,690), New York (-2,480), and Pennsylvania (-1,925).

UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE DATA FOR REGULAR STATE PROGRAMS

WEEK ENDING	August 1	July 25	Change	July 18	<u>Prior Year</u>¹
Initial Claims (SA)	270,000	267,000	+3,000	255,000	297,000
Initial Claims (NSA)	225,090	230,223	-5,133	262,949	247,877
4-Wk Moving Average (SA)	268,250	274,750	-6,500	278,500	297,750
WEEK ENDING	July 25	July 18	Change	July 11	<u>Prior Year</u>¹
Insured Unemployment (SA)	2,255,000	2,269,000	-14,000	2,216,000	2,532,000
Insured Unemployment (NSA)	2,211,871	2,255,689	-43,818	2,253,476	2,481,360
4-Wk Moving Average (SA)	2,239,000	2,257,000	-18,000	2,256,000	2,533,500
<u>Insured Unemployment Rate (SA)</u> ²	1.7%	1.7%	0.0	1.6%	1.9%
<u>Insured Unemployment Rate (NSA)</u> ²	1.6%	1.7%	-0.1	1.7%	1.9%

INITIAL CLAIMS FILED IN FEDERAL PROGRAMS (UNADJUSTED)

WEEK ENDING	July 25	July 18	Change	<u>Prior Year</u>¹
Federal Employees (UCFE)	953	1,008	-55	1,126
Newly Discharged Veterans (UCX)	1,325	1,354	-29	1,811

PERSONS CLAIMING UI BENEFITS IN ALL PROGRAMS (UNADJUSTED)

WEEK ENDING	July 18	July 11	Change	<u>Prior Year</u>¹
Regular State	2,250,699	2,248,897	+1,802	2,520,675
Federal Employees	10,304	10,284	+20	14,431
Newly Discharged Veterans	18,337	18,495	-158	23,864
<u>Extended Benefits</u> ³	0	0	0	246
<u>State Additional Benefits</u> ⁴	6,417	6,315	+102	5,394
<u>STC / Workshare</u> ⁵	15,919	16,036	-117	11,882
<u>TOTAL</u>	2,301,676	2,300,027	+1,649	2,576,492

FOOTNOTES

SA - Seasonally Adjusted Data, NSA - Not Seasonally Adjusted Data

1. Prior year is comparable to most recent data.
2. Most recent week used covered employment of 134,803,907 as denominator.
3. Information on the EB program can be found here: [EB Program information](#)
4. Some states maintain additional benefit programs for those claimants who exhaust regular, extended and emergency benefits. Information on states that participate, and the extent of benefits paid, can be found starting on page 4-5 of this link: [Extensions and Special Programs PDF](#)
5. Information on STC/Worksharing can be found starting on page 4-9 of the following link: [Extensions and Special Programs PDF](#)

Advance State Claims - Not Seasonally Adjusted

STATE	Initial Claims Filed During Week Ended August 1			Insured Unemployment For Week Ended July 25		
	Advance	Prior Wk	Change	Advance	Prior Wk	Change
Alabama	2,715	3,091	-376	24,099	25,525	-1,426
Alaska	962	862	100	6,968	7,478	-510
Arizona	4,168	4,466	-298	36,270	39,986	-3,716
Arkansas	1,988	2,407	-419	21,386	22,367	-981
California	42,278	45,028	-2,750	372,655	373,848	-1,193
Colorado	2,100	2,092	8	29,014	27,488	1,526
Connecticut	3,093	2,944	149	44,891	43,583	1,308
Delaware	609	647	-38	7,130	6,969	161
District of Columbia	582	368	214	8,778	9,158	-380
Florida	10,087	10,010	77	65,022	71,573	-6,551
Georgia	5,537	6,295	-758	36,833	39,633	-2,800
Hawaii	1,114	1,234	-120	7,718	7,823	-105
Idaho	728	813	-85	6,131	6,159	-28
Illinois	8,645	9,734	-1,089	116,892	122,344	-5,452
Indiana	3,428	3,139	289	21,596	21,821	-225
Iowa	2,928	2,051	877	18,996	18,579	417
Kansas	2,468	2,375	93	15,939	13,811	2,128
Kentucky	2,786	2,643	143	23,322	22,206	1,116
Louisiana	2,170	2,510	-340	26,106	27,869	-1,763
Maine	624	657	-33	5,863	6,251	-388
Maryland	3,557	3,470	87	37,983	41,869	-3,886
Massachusetts	4,496	4,670	-174	68,896	70,310	-1,414
Michigan	5,575	6,095	-520	55,170	60,731	-5,561
Minnesota	2,928	2,833	95	34,133	32,349	1,784
Mississippi	1,570	1,918	-348	16,139	17,835	-1,696
Missouri	3,956	4,169	-213	33,257	36,440	-3,183
Montana	648	637	11	5,328	6,164	-836
Nebraska	735	729	6	7,229	7,329	-100
Nevada	2,743	2,483	260	25,083	27,053	-1,970
New Hampshire	567	563	4	5,104	5,459	-355
New Jersey	7,605	7,999	-394	113,899	114,834	-935
New Mexico	936	994	-58	12,758	13,244	-486
New York	14,342	15,423	-1,081	168,728	168,826	-98
North Carolina	4,196	3,948	248	34,556	36,226	-1,670
North Dakota	683	420	263	6,938	3,626	3,312
Ohio	6,565	6,572	-7	59,265	60,922	-1,657
Oklahoma	1,605	1,610	-5	22,825	23,546	-721
Oregon	3,921	3,777	144	30,449	30,612	-163
Pennsylvania	14,762	14,637	125	141,646	149,813	-8,167
Puerto Rico	1,889	1,898	-9	36,552	34,790	1,762
Rhode Island	988	785	203	10,299	10,457	-158
South Carolina	2,584	2,710	-126	17,924	16,935	989
South Dakota	161	181	-20	1,378	1,475	-97
Tennessee	2,969	4,633	-1,664	28,086	30,779	-2,693
Texas	16,669	16,270	399	189,087	187,330	1,757
Utah	1,070	975	95	8,915	9,784	-869
Vermont	374	419	-45	4,202	3,994	208
Virgin Islands	37	37	0	838	808	30
Virginia	4,275	2,821	1,454	30,311	29,322	989
Washington	6,448	6,053	395	47,052	45,303	1,749
West Virginia	1,153	1,445	-292	15,980	14,983	997
Wisconsin	5,713	5,357	356	41,923	42,973	-1,050
Wyoming	360	326	34	4,329	5,097	-768
US Total	225,090	230,223	-5,133	2,211,871	2,255,689	-43,818

Note: Advance Claims are not directly comparable to claims reported in prior weeks. Advance claims are reported by the state liable for paying the unemployment compensation, whereas previous weeks reported reflect claimants by state of residence. In addition, claims reported as "workshare equivalent" in the previous week are added to the advance claims as a proxy for the current week's "workshare equivalent" activity.

Seasonally Adjusted US Weekly UI Claims (in thousands)

Week Ending	Change from			Insured Unemployment	Change from		IUR
	Initial Claims	Prior Week	4-Week Average		Prior Week	4-Week Average	
July 26, 2014	302	13	300.25	2,532	-15	2,533.50	1.9
August 2, 2014	297	-5	297.75	2,546	14	2,537.50	1.9
August 9, 2014	308	11	299.00	2,518	-28	2,535.75	1.9
August 16, 2014	303	-5	302.50	2,528	10	2,531.00	1.9
August 23, 2014	297	-6	301.25	2,491	-37	2,520.75	1.9
August 30, 2014	305	8	303.25	2,500	9	2,509.25	1.9
September 6, 2014	309	4	303.50	2,452	-48	2,492.75	1.9
September 13, 2014	289	-20	300.00	2,460	8	2,475.75	1.9
September 20, 2014	295	6	299.50	2,421	-39	2,458.25	1.8
September 27, 2014	292	-3	296.25	2,404	-17	2,434.25	1.8
October 4, 2014	289	-3	291.25	2,409	5	2,423.50	1.8
October 11, 2014	274	-15	287.50	2,383	-26	2,404.25	1.8
October 18, 2014	287	13	285.50	2,395	12	2,397.75	1.8
October 25, 2014	287	0	284.25	2,365	-30	2,388.00	1.8
November 1, 2014	283	-4	282.75	2,408	43	2,387.75	1.8
November 8, 2014	289	6	286.50	2,352	-56	2,380.00	1.8
November 15, 2014	292	3	287.75	2,339	-13	2,366.00	1.8
November 22, 2014	303	11	291.75	2,383	44	2,370.50	1.8
November 29, 2014	296	-7	295.00	2,469	86	2,385.75	1.9
December 6, 2014	289	-7	295.00	2,388	-81	2,394.75	1.8
December 13, 2014	289	0	294.25	2,377	-11	2,404.25	1.8
December 20, 2014	280	-9	288.50	2,366	-11	2,400.00	1.8
December 27, 2014	293	13	287.75	2,431	65	2,390.50	1.8
January 3, 2015	295	2	289.25	2,415	-16	2,397.25	1.8
January 10, 2015	304	9	293.00	2,418	3	2,407.50	1.8
January 17, 2015	301	-3	298.25	2,376	-42	2,410.00	1.8
January 24, 2015	267	-34	291.75	2,386	10	2,398.75	1.8
January 31, 2015	284	17	289.00	2,346	-40	2,381.50	1.8
February 7, 2015	302	18	288.50	2,402	56	2,377.50	1.8
February 14, 2015	285	-17	284.50	2,369	-33	2,375.75	1.8
February 21, 2015	308	23	294.75	2,405	36	2,380.50	1.8
February 28, 2015	327	19	305.50	2,414	9	2,397.50	1.8
March 7, 2015	293	-34	303.25	2,399	-15	2,396.75	1.8
March 14, 2015	293	0	305.25	2,413	14	2,407.75	1.8
March 21, 2015	288	-5	300.25	2,327	-86	2,388.25	1.7
March 28, 2015	267	-21	285.25	2,308	-19	2,361.75	1.7
April 4, 2015	282	15	282.50	2,275	-33	2,330.75	1.7
April 11, 2015	295	13	283.00	2,327	52	2,309.25	1.7
April 18, 2015	296	1	285.00	2,256	-71	2,291.50	1.7
April 25, 2015	262	-34	283.75	2,229	-27	2,271.75	1.7
May 2, 2015	265	3	279.50	2,223	-6	2,258.75	1.7
May 9, 2015	264	-1	271.75	2,212	-11	2,230.00	1.6
May 16, 2015	275	11	266.50	2,226	14	2,222.50	1.7
May 23, 2015	284	9	272.00	2,204	-22	2,216.25	1.6
May 30, 2015	277	-7	275.00	2,272	68	2,228.50	1.7
June 6, 2015	279	2	278.75	2,225	-47	2,231.75	1.7
June 13, 2015	268	-11	277.00	2,249	24	2,237.50	1.7
June 20, 2015	271	3	273.75	2,265	16	2,252.75	1.7
June 27, 2015	282	11	275.00	2,327	62	2,266.50	1.7
July 4, 2015	296	14	279.25	2,216	-111	2,264.25	1.6
July 11, 2015	281	-15	282.50	2,216	0	2,256.00	1.6
July 18, 2015	255	-26	278.50	2,269	53	2,257.00	1.7
July 25, 2015	267	12	274.75	2,255	-14	2,239.00	1.7
August 1, 2015	270	3	268.25				

Initial Claims Filed During Week Ended July 25
INITIAL CLAIMS

Insured Unemployment For Week Ended July 18
INSURED UNEMPLOYMENT

STATE	CHANGE FROM						CHANGE FROM					ALL PROGRAMS EXCLUDING RAILROAD RETIREMENT
	STATE	LAST WEEK	YEAR AGO	UCFE ¹	UCX ¹	STATE	(%) ²	LAST WEEK	YEAR AGO	UCFE ¹	UCX ¹	
Alabama	3091	-984	-496	16	13	25525	1.4	-1214	-4339	125	184	25834
Alaska	862	-41	-123	2	4	7478	2.4	99	-2447	48	53	7579
Arizona	4466	-643	-526	11	8	39986	1.6	881	-5742	369	215	40570
Arkansas	2407	-94	-307	8	6	22367	2.0	-633	-1354	94	185	22646
California	45028	-3862	-9152	217	248	373848	2.4	17083	-42594	1770	3700	379318
Colorado	2092	-158	-221	12	29	27488	1.2	-1238	-3446	143	790	28421
Connecticut	2944	-490	-256	8	17	43583	2.7	-921	-6632	85	166	43834
Delaware	647	-41	45	0	8	6969	1.7	-56	-834	20	22	7011
District of Columbia	368	-42	-16	5	2	9158	1.7	32	-1914	361	10	9529
Florida	10010	-808	-4067	15	57	71573	0.9	3153	-26312	184	467	72224
Georgia	6295	-2690	-1316	33	56	39633	1.0	-3161	-10888	280	655	40568
Hawaii	1234	-37	-180	6	18	7823	1.3	274	-2010	92	175	8090
Idaho	813	-265	-145	0	1	6159	1.0	-969	-2609	21	17	6197
Illinois	9734	-733	218	13	33	122344	2.2	5535	-8754	401	549	123294
Indiana	3139	-713	-815	6	10	21821	0.8	-981	-6324	83	109	22013
Iowa	2051	-148	32	2	7	18579	1.2	-884	370	67	92	18738
Kansas	2375	481	437	8	11	13811	1.0	-1167	-5458	94	181	14086
Kentucky	2643	-1605	-483	35	11	22206	1.3	-2794	-4215	296	327	22829
Louisiana	2510	-184	198	7	16	27869	1.5	-116	4463	34	77	27980
Maine	657	-173	-243	2	0	6251	1.1	-379	-2042	16	37	6304
Maryland	3470	-207	-721	27	17	41869	1.7	-505	-11573	329	308	42506
Massachusetts	4670	-370	-937	11	21	70310	2.1	-227	-12781	221	419	70950
Michigan	6095	-4003	-607	13	18	60731	1.5	-7039	-13416	127	262	61120
Minnesota	2833	-192	-109	6	7	32349	1.2	-733	-2670	64	202	32615
Mississippi	1918	59	117	5	2	17835	1.7	-525	-5539	80	67	17982
Missouri	4169	-630	-588	60	8	36440	1.4	-1504	-5608	294	158	36892
Montana	637	-63	-22	4	8	6164	1.4	126	-377	56	40	6260
Nebraska	729	-86	-241	6	0	7329	0.8	-379	-530	41	21	7391
Nevada	2483	-357	-575	3	5	27053	2.3	-504	-2953	75	180	27308
New Hampshire	563	-67	-198	0	3	5459	0.9	-103	-1579	8	13	5480
New Jersey	7999	20	-1164	15	32	114834	3.0	483	-14182	232	457	115523
New Mexico	994	-54	-3	12	6	13244	1.7	-129	-2305	139	90	13473
New York	15423	-2480	-1785	40	63	168826	1.9	-5181	-20419	583	882	170291
North Carolina	3948	-77	-808	14	36	36226	0.9	362	-16204	151	469	36846
North Dakota	420	7	189	6	3	3626	0.8	6	1658	158	14	3798
Ohio	6572	-1440	-431	6	40	60922	1.2	-1347	-7027	142	438	61502
Oklahoma	1610	-174	185	7	21	23546	1.5	-65	6368	83	174	23803
Oregon	3777	-955	-855	13	30	30612	1.8	-973	-4187	223	253	31088
Pennsylvania	14637	-1925	-113	80	74	149813	2.7	6146	-15188	608	626	151047
Puerto Rico	1898	-575	-195	3	12	34790	3.9	964	-3182	105	237	35132
Rhode Island	785	-587	-338	0	1	10457	2.3	109	-1164	26	42	10525
South Carolina	2710	-1294	23	9	15	16935	0.9	-568	-4107	39	144	17118
South Dakota	181	-12	-35	18	2	1475	0.4	39	107	255	5	1735
Tennessee	4633	-1629	-24	11	22	30779	1.1	-1393	-4485	126	202	31107
Texas	16270	-161	1813	101	203	187330	1.7	6265	24062	594	2638	190562
Utah	975	-108	-90	31	5	9784	0.8	-436	-1348	258	65	10107
Vermont	419	55	-11	1	2	3994	1.3	-37	-438	10	9	4013
Virgin Islands	37	-8	-23	0	1	808	2.2	-68	-42	10	14	832
Virginia	2821	-679	-1003	19	24	29322	0.8	-647	-6475	274	682	30278
Washington	6053	-695	-767	20	77	45303	1.5	-225	-3817	191	1015	46509
West Virginia	1445	87	349	2	3	14983	2.2	-877	1189	89	73	15145
Wisconsin	5357	-855	-1085	4	6	42973	1.6	-1608	-9068	109	96	43178
Wyoming	326	-41	66	0	3	5097	1.8	242	2044	21	31	5149
Totals	230223	-32726	-27402	953	1325	2255689	1.7	2213	-268317	10304	18337	2284330

Figures Appearing In columns showing Over-The-Week Changes reflect all revisions in data for prior week submitted by State agencies.

1. The Unemployment Compensation program for Federal Employees (UCFE) and the Unemployment Compensation for Ex-servicemembers (UCX) exclude claims filed jointly under other programs to avoid duplication.
2. Rate is not seasonally adjusted. The source of US total covered employment is BLS.

UNADJUSTED INITIAL CLAIMS FOR WEEK ENDED JULY 25, 2015

STATES WITH AN INCREASE OF MORE THAN 1,000

State	Change	State Supplied Comment
None		

STATES WITH A DECREASE OF MORE THAN 1,000

State	Change	State Supplied Comment
MI	-4,003	Fewer layoffs in the manufacturing industry.
CA	-3,862	Fewer layoffs in the service industry.
GA	-2,690	Fewer layoffs in the manufacturing, administrative and support and waste management and remediation service, trade, and accommodation and food service industries.
NY	-2,480	Fewer layoffs in the transportation and warehousing, manufacturing, and educational service industries.
PA	-1,925	Fewer layoffs in the administrative and support and waste management and remediation service, construction, and manufacturing industries.
TN	-1,629	No comment.
KY	-1,605	No comment.
OH	-1,440	Fewer layoffs in the manufacturing industry.
SC	-1,294	No comment.

TECHNICAL NOTES

This news release presents the weekly unemployment insurance (UI) claims reported by each state's unemployment insurance program offices. These claims may be used for monitoring workload volume, assessing state program operations and for assessing labor market conditions. States initially report claims directly taken by the state liable for the benefit payments, regardless of where the claimant who filed the claim resided. These are the basis for the advance initial claims and continued claims reported each week. These data come from ETA 538, Advance Weekly Initial and Continued Claims Report. The following week initial claims and continued claims are revised based on a second reporting by states that reflect the claimants by state of residence. These data come from the ETA 539, Weekly Claims and Extended Benefits Trigger Data Report.

A. Initial Claims

An initial claim is a claim filed by an unemployed individual after a separation from an employer. The claimant requests a determination of basic eligibility for the UI program. When an initial claim is filed with a state, certain programmatic activities take place and these result in activity counts including the count of initial claims.

The count of U.S. initial claims for unemployment insurance is a leading economic indicator because it is an indication of emerging labor market conditions in the country. However, these are weekly administrative data which are difficult to seasonally adjust, making the series subject to some volatility.

B. Continued Weeks Claimed

A person who has already filed an initial claim and who has experienced a week of unemployment then files a continued claim to claim benefits for that week of unemployment. Continued claims are also referred to as insured unemployment. The count of U.S. continued weeks claimed is also a good indicator of labor market conditions. Continued claims reflect the current number of insured unemployed workers filing for UI benefits in the nation. While continued claims are not a leading indicator (they roughly coincide with economic cycles at their peaks and lag at cycle troughs), they provide confirming evidence of the direction of the U.S. economy.

C. Seasonal Adjustments and Annual Revisions

Over the course of a year, the weekly changes in the levels of initial claims and continued claims undergo regularly occurring fluctuations. These fluctuations may result from seasonal changes in weather, major holidays, the opening and closing of schools, or other similar events. Because these seasonal events follow a more or less regular pattern each year, their influence on the level of a series can be tempered by adjusting for regular seasonal variation. These adjustments make trend and cycle developments easier to spot.

At the beginning of each calendar year, the Bureau of Labor Statistics provides the Employment and Training Administration (ETA) with a set of seasonal factors to apply to the unadjusted data during that year. Concurrent with the implementation and release of the new seasonal factors, ETA incorporates revisions to the UI claims historical series caused by updates to the unadjusted data.

[Weekly Claims Archives](#) [Weekly Claims Data](#)

U.S. Department of Labor news materials are accessible at <http://www.dol.gov>. The Department's [Reasonable Accommodation Resource Center](#) converts Departmental information and documents into alternative formats, which include Braille and large print. For alternative format requests, please contact the Department at (202) 693-7828 (voice) or (800) 877-8339 (federal relay).

U.S. Department of Labor
Employment and Training Administration
Washington, D.C. 20210
Release Number: USDL 15-1529-NAT

Program Contacts:
Tom Stengle (202) 693-2991
Tony Sznoluch (202) 693-3176
Media Contact: (202) 693-4676