



News Release

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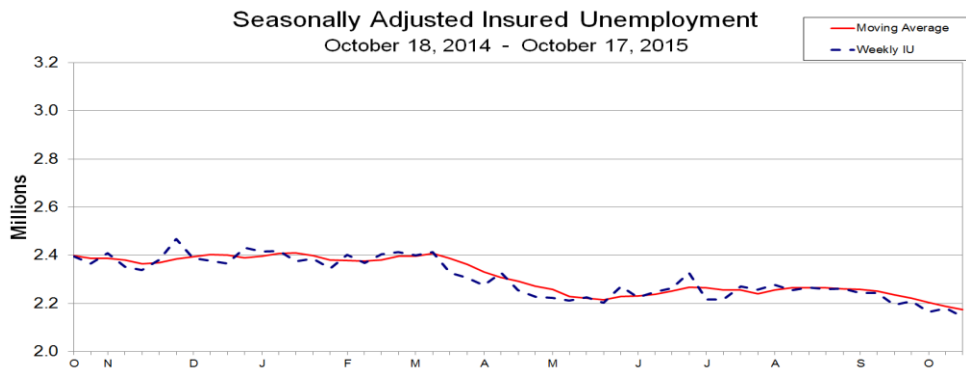
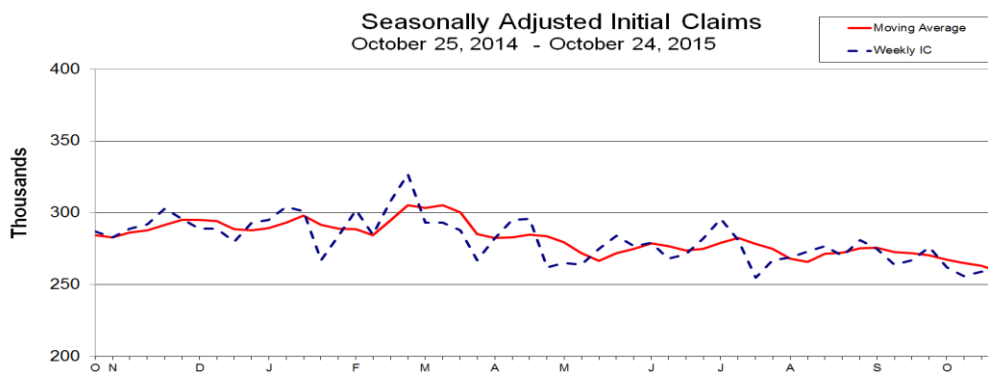
UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE WEEKLY CLAIMS

SEASONALLY ADJUSTED DATA

In the week ending October 24, the advance figure for seasonally adjusted **initial claims** was 260,000, an increase of 1,000 from the previous week's unrevised level of 259,000. The 4-week moving average was 259,250, a decrease of 4,000 from the previous week's unrevised average of 263,250. This is the lowest level for this average since December 15, 1973 when it was 256,750.

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

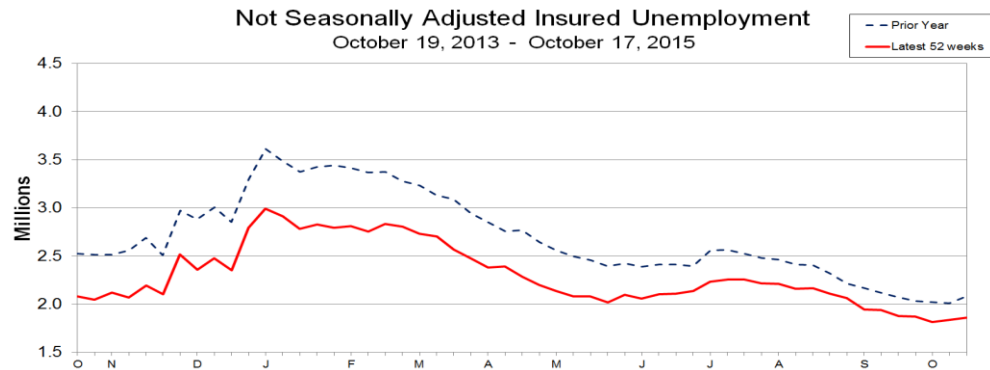
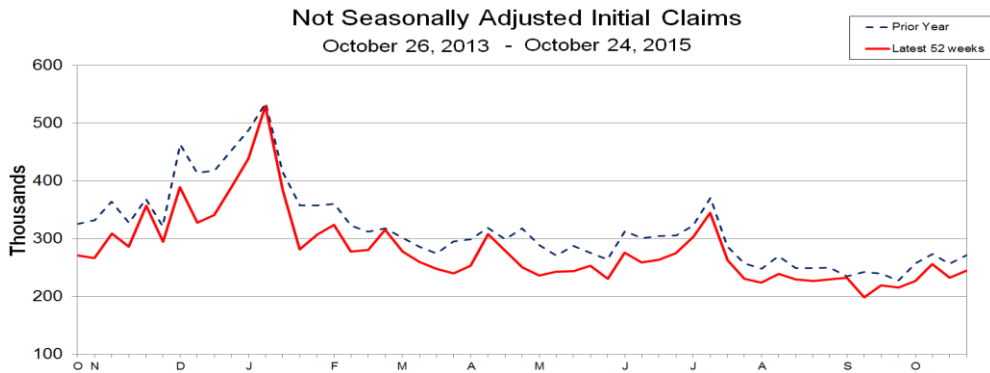
The advance seasonally adjusted **insured unemployment rate** was 1.6 percent for the week ending October 17, unchanged from the previous week's unrevised rate. The advance number for seasonally adjusted **insured unemployment** during the week ending October 17 was 2,144,000, a decrease of 37,000 from the previous week's revised level. This is the lowest level for insured unemployment since November 4, 2000 when it was 2,110,000. The previous week's level was revised up 11,000 from 2,170,000 to 2,181,000. The 4-week moving average was 2,174,750, a decrease of 12,750 from the previous week's revised average. This is the lowest level for this average since November 18, 2000 when it was 2,169,000. The previous week's average was revised up by 3,000 from 2,184,500 to 2,187,500.



UNADJUSTED DATA

The advance number of actual initial claims under state programs, unadjusted, totaled 245,153 in the week ending October 24, an increase of 12,433 (or 5.3 percent) from the previous week. The seasonal factors had expected an increase of 11,649 (or 5.0 percent) from the previous week. There were 271,331 initial claims in the comparable week in 2014.

The advance unadjusted insured unemployment rate was 1.4 percent during the week ending October 17, unchanged from the prior week. The advance unadjusted number for persons claiming UI benefits in state programs totaled 1,858,876, an increase of 24,497 (or 1.3 percent) from the preceding week. The seasonal factors had expected an increase of 56,711 (or 3.1 percent) from the previous week. A year earlier the rate was 1.6 percent and the volume was 2,081,161.



The total number of people claiming benefits in all programs for the week ending October 10 was 1,880,908, an increase of 18,694 from the previous week. There were 2,061,815 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 October 10.

Initial claims for UI benefits filed by former Federal civilian employees totaled 1,209 in the week ending October 17, a decrease of 1,020 from the prior week. There were 1,313 initial claims filed by newly discharged veterans, a decrease of 284 from the preceding week.

There were 13,171 former Federal civilian employees claiming UI benefits for the week ending October 10, an increase of 1,206 from the previous week. Newly discharged veterans claiming benefits totaled 14,976, a decrease of 2,050 from the prior week.

The highest insured unemployment rates in the week ending October 10 were in Alaska (5.4), Puerto Rico (3.3), the Virgin Islands (2.8), New Jersey (2.3), California (2.0), Connecticut (2.0), Nevada (2.0), Pennsylvania (2.0), West Virginia (1.9), and Illinois (1.7).

The largest increases in initial claims for the week ending October 17 were in South Carolina (+2,156), Michigan (+2,117), Minnesota (+525), Vermont (+103), and Wyoming (+69), while the largest decreases were in Pennsylvania (-3,583), Texas (-2,893), Georgia (-2,524), New York (-2,174), and Florida (-1,801).

UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE DATA FOR REGULAR STATE PROGRAMS

WEEK ENDING	October 24	October 17	Change	October 10	<u>Prior Year</u>¹
Initial Claims (SA)	260,000	259,000	+1,000	256,000	287,000
Initial Claims (NSA)	245,153	232,720	+12,433	256,522	271,331
4-Wk Moving Average (SA)	259,250	263,250	-4,000	265,250	284,250
WEEK ENDING	October 17	October 10	Change	October 3	<u>Prior Year</u>¹
Insured Unemployment (SA)	2,144,000	2,181,000	-37,000	2,165,000	2,395,000
Insured Unemployment (NSA)	1,858,876	1,834,379	+24,497	1,816,408	2,081,161
4-Wk Moving Average (SA)	2,174,750	2,187,500	-12,750	2,203,250	2,397,750
<u>Insured Unemployment Rate (SA)</u>²	1.6%	1.6%	0.0	1.6%	1.8%
<u>Insured Unemployment Rate (NSA)</u>²	1.4%	1.4%	0.0	1.3%	1.6%

INITIAL CLAIMS FILED IN FEDERAL PROGRAMS (UNADJUSTED)

WEEK ENDING	October 17	October 10	Change	<u>Prior Year</u>¹
Federal Employees (UCFE)	1,209	2,229	-1,020	1,231
Newly Discharged Veterans (UCX)	1,313	1,597	-284	1,896

PERSONS CLAIMING UI BENEFITS IN ALL PROGRAMS (UNADJUSTED)

WEEK ENDING	October 10	October 3	Change	<u>Prior Year</u>¹
Regular State	1,829,847	1,812,236	+17,611	2,003,342
Federal Employees	13,171	11,965	+1,206	15,667
Newly Discharged Veterans	14,976	17,026	-2,050	25,364
<u>Extended Benefits</u>³	0	0	0	11
<u>State Additional Benefits</u>⁴	6,917	7,050	-133	5,345
<u>STC / Workshare</u>⁵	15,997	13,937	+2,060	12,086
<u>TOTAL</u>	1,880,908	1,862,214	+18,694	2,061,815

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 135,574,808 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 October 24			Insured Unemployment For Week Ended October 17		
	Advance	Prior Wk	Change	Advance	Prior Wk	Change
Alabama	2,581	2,705	-124	19,781	21,016	-1,235
Alaska	1,891	1,490	401	9,051	16,983	-7,932
Arizona	3,690	3,753	-63	27,810	30,606	-2,796
Arkansas	2,513	2,555	-42	17,437	17,576	-139
California	46,226	43,592	2,634	336,056	307,831	28,225
Colorado	2,713	2,654	59	26,851	23,539	3,312
Connecticut	2,880	2,419	461	33,512	32,227	1,285
Delaware	629	742	-113	5,693	5,403	290
District of Columbia	674	378	296	7,864	8,133	-269
Florida	7,676	7,848	-172	52,042	58,477	-6,435
Georgia	6,506	6,042	464	33,312	35,002	-1,690
Hawaii	1,146	1,206	-60	6,716	6,726	-10
Idaho	1,492	770	722	5,178	4,967	211
Illinois	10,496	9,172	1,324	98,953	99,314	-361
Indiana	3,620	3,048	572	19,883	19,678	205
Iowa	2,635	2,102	533	16,694	15,799	895
Kansas	1,952	1,883	69	12,628	10,948	1,680
Kentucky	2,381	2,601	-220	18,267	19,210	-943
Louisiana	2,154	2,338	-184	21,827	22,824	-997
Maine	965	682	283	4,274	4,294	-20
Maryland	3,537	3,658	-121	31,678	34,586	-2,908
Massachusetts	5,503	4,737	766	54,832	54,269	563
Michigan	6,516	9,279	-2,763	44,320	45,363	-1,043
Minnesota	3,397	3,764	-367	31,049	28,041	3,008
Mississippi	1,594	1,611	-17	10,522	11,569	-1,047
Missouri	4,017	4,226	-209	24,834	26,419	-1,585
Montana	1,287	1,239	48	5,715	5,642	73
Nebraska	860	691	169	4,945	4,714	231
Nevada	2,772	2,374	398	21,861	23,753	-1,892
New Hampshire	534	547	-13	3,831	4,055	-224
New Jersey	8,758	7,573	1,185	89,378	86,275	3,103
New Mexico	1,100	1,071	29	10,924	11,193	-269
New York	17,163	15,083	2,080	138,819	134,862	3,957
North Carolina	3,990	3,702	288	25,538	27,498	-1,960
North Dakota	664	375	289	4,917	2,304	2,613
Ohio	7,221	6,349	872	49,005	48,393	612
Oklahoma	2,086	2,012	74	20,571	20,786	-215
Oregon	4,108	4,093	15	27,292	27,269	23
Pennsylvania	15,814	14,444	1,370	115,853	113,587	2,266
Puerto Rico	1,816	1,595	221	27,956	29,058	-1,102
Rhode Island	878	746	132	6,999	6,877	122
South Carolina	4,461	5,714	-1,253	16,624	16,920	-296
South Dakota	217	208	9	971	975	-4
Tennessee	3,215	3,507	-292	21,632	22,363	-731
Texas	16,516	16,217	299	162,784	159,631	3,153
Utah	1,354	1,234	120	7,929	8,449	-520
Vermont	594	553	41	3,012	2,757	255
Virgin Islands	21	40	-19	1,192	1,046	146
Virginia	3,590	3,200	390	26,455	24,976	1,479
Washington	8,290	7,484	806	45,781	43,312	2,469
West Virginia	1,434	1,145	289	13,537	12,699	838
Wisconsin	6,237	5,737	500	30,442	30,147	295
Wyoming	789	532	257	3,849	4,038	-189
US Total	245,153	232,720	12,433	1,858,876	1,834,379	24,497

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		
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	2,270	54	2,257.25	1.7	
July 25, 2015	267	12	274.75	2,258	-12	2,240.00	1.7	
August 1, 2015	269	2	268.00	2,278	20	2,255.50	1.7	
August 8, 2015	273	4	266.00	2,256	-22	2,265.50	1.7	
August 15, 2015	277	4	271.50	2,266	10	2,264.50	1.7	
August 22, 2015	270	-7	272.25	2,259	-7	2,264.75	1.7	
August 29, 2015	281	11	275.25	2,263	4	2,261.00	1.7	
September 5, 2015	275	-6	275.75	2,243	-20	2,257.75	1.7	
September 12, 2015	264	-11	272.50	2,244	1	2,252.25	1.7	
September 19, 2015	267	3	271.75	2,195	-49	2,236.25	1.6	
September 26, 2015	276	9	270.50	2,209	14	2,222.75	1.6	
October 3, 2015	262	-14	267.25	2,165	-44	2,203.25	1.6	
October 10, 2015	256	-6	265.25	2,181	16	2,187.50	1.6	
October 17, 2015	259	3	263.25	2,144	-37	2,174.75	1.6	
October 24, 2015	260	1	259.25					

Initial Claims Filed During Week Ended October 17
INITIAL CLAIMS

Insured Unemployment For Week Ended October 10
INSURED UNEMPLOYMENT

STATE	CHANGE FROM					STATE	RATE (%) ²	CHANGE FROM			ALL PROGRAMS EXCLUDING RAILROAD RETIREMENT	
	STATE	LAST WEEK	YEAR AGO	UCFE ¹	UCX ¹			LAST WEEK	YEAR AGO	UCFE ¹		UCX ¹
Alabama	2705	-752	-442	7	21	21016	1.2	196	-3266	103	185	21304
Alaska	1490	-220	61	10	4	16983	5.4	9300	7644	231	87	17301
Arizona	3753	-594	-546	30	12	30606	1.2	-499	-3549	151	173	30930
Arkansas	2555	-416	-20	7	2	17576	1.5	-214	-1831	114	165	17855
California	43592	-706	-5833	201	211	307831	2.0	-5491	-31381	2308	3251	313390
Colorado	2654	-368	-98	29	51	23539	1.0	-841	-2156	184	668	24391
Connecticut	2419	-886	-646	3	13	32227	2.0	-28	-5584	73	150	32450
Delaware	742	-86	50	1	2	5403	1.3	142	-659	19	25	5447
District of Columbia	378	-73	-39	8	1	8133	1.5	113	-1187	339	16	8488
Florida	7848	-1801	-4307	32	85	58477	0.8	258	-24139	213	410	59100
Georgia	6042	-2524	-654	59	61	35002	0.9	-2030	-6920	512	589	36103
Hawaii	1206	40	-228	3	15	6726	1.1	242	-2066	106	175	7007
Idaho	770	-515	77	8	2	4967	0.8	-664	-2080	35	17	5019
Illinois	9172	-1374	-512	9	22	99314	1.7	2739	-5840	394	482	100190
Indiana	3048	-597	-1169	12	14	19678	0.7	-522	-3757	125	123	19926
Iowa	2102	-152	-111	5	12	15799	1.1	-392	-697	52	88	15939
Kansas	1883	53	-119	3	10	10948	0.8	178	-2879	71	144	11163
Kentucky	2601	-106	-429	24	10	19210	1.1	639	-2167	357	292	19859
Louisiana	2338	-297	314	10	14	22824	1.2	-134	3705	38	72	22934
Maine	682	28	-176	2	1	4294	0.7	-207	-1721	26	25	4345
Maryland	3658	-502	-658	23	8	34586	1.4	94	-9095	375	283	35244
Massachusetts	4737	-365	-698	30	16	54269	1.6	-2024	-10238	427	316	55012
Michigan	9279	2117	-2002	35	29	45363	1.1	335	-9630	113	261	45737
Minnesota	3764	525	514	15	7	28041	1.0	-266	-1399	87	184	28312
Mississippi	1611	-207	-195	7	7	11569	1.1	-162	-3647	73	59	11701
Missouri	4226	-441	-879	38	12	26419	1.0	428	-5475	954	167	27540
Montana	1239	-155	109	31	6	5642	1.3	480	-9	56	58	5756
Nebraska	691	-139	-294	2	3	4714	0.5	-442	-1187	34	31	4779
Nevada	2374	-685	-1067	7	3	23753	2.0	206	-1364	93	175	24021
New Hampshire	547	-17	-145	2	0	4055	0.7	-22	-1257	5	10	4070
New Jersey	7573	-850	-928	18	26	86275	2.3	1383	-15193	312	519	87106
New Mexico	1071	-243	30	29	6	11193	1.4	11	-834	147	91	11431
New York	15083	-2174	-1296	91	48	134862	1.5	-28	-18965	837	857	136556
North Carolina	3702	-312	-1419	9	44	27498	0.7	-488	-16079	123	399	28020
North Dakota	375	-48	105	1	0	2304	0.5	25	938	7	6	2317
Ohio	6349	-207	-1224	13	34	48393	0.9	-662	-4100	245	442	49080
Oklahoma	2012	-110	419	7	15	20786	1.3	-15	6192	74	160	21020
Oregon	4093	-990	-550	60	27	27269	1.6	900	-3096	244	309	27822
Pennsylvania	14444	-3583	-730	110	63	113587	2.0	4067	-542	911	638	115136
Puerto Rico	1595	-1085	-375	1	7	29058	3.3	848	-2707	137	216	29411
Rhode Island	746	-279	-198	0	1	6877	1.5	-6	-1178	24	58	6959
South Carolina	5714	2156	2643	28	20	16920	0.9	2036	57	55	146	17121
South Dakota	208	-26	-20	3	3	975	0.2	-11	-116	24	0	999
Tennessee	3507	-152	-780	29	26	22363	0.8	115	-4521	157	206	22726
Texas	16217	-2893	1840	56	188	159631	1.4	7706	34390	1080	328	161039
Utah	1234	-218	-44	20	6	8449	0.7	243	-719	296	55	8800
Vermont	553	103	13	4	1	2757	0.9	124	-511	15	12	2784
Virgin Islands	40	-20	7	0	7	1046	2.8	-56	-48	4	6	1056
Virginia	3200	-540	-358	14	36	24976	0.7	-154	-5439	306	629	25911
Washington	7484	-304	309	46	82	43312	1.4	33	-1911	323	1024	44659
West Virginia	1145	-540	-34	0	5	12699	1.9	-4	1677	75	83	12857
Wisconsin	5737	-341	-852	15	10	30147	1.1	396	-7513	88	75	30310
Wyoming	532	69	138	2	4	4038	1.5	96	1718	19	36	4093
Totals	232720	-23802	-23446	1209	1313	1834379	1.4	17971	-172331	13171	14976	1862526

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 OCTOBER 17, 2015

STATES WITH AN INCREASE OF MORE THAN 1,000

State	Change	State Supplied Comment
SC	+2,156	Layoffs are due to inclement weather.
MI	+2,117	Layoffs in the wholesale trade industry.

STATES WITH A DECREASE OF MORE THAN 1,000

State	Change	State Supplied Comment
PA	-3,583	Fewer layoffs in the administrative and support and waste management and remediation service, construction, professional, scientific and technical service, and accommodation and food service industries.
TX	-2,893	No comment.
GA	-2,524	Fewer layoffs in the manufacturing, construction, administrative and support and waste management and remediation service, and trade industries.
NY	-2,174	Fewer layoffs in the construction, health care and social assistance, and public administration industries.
FL	-1,801	Fewer layoffs in the agriculture, forestry, fishing, and hunting, construction, manufacturing, wholesale trade, retail trade, and service industries.
IL	-1,374	No comment.
PR	-1,085	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](#)

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