



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, November 5, 2015

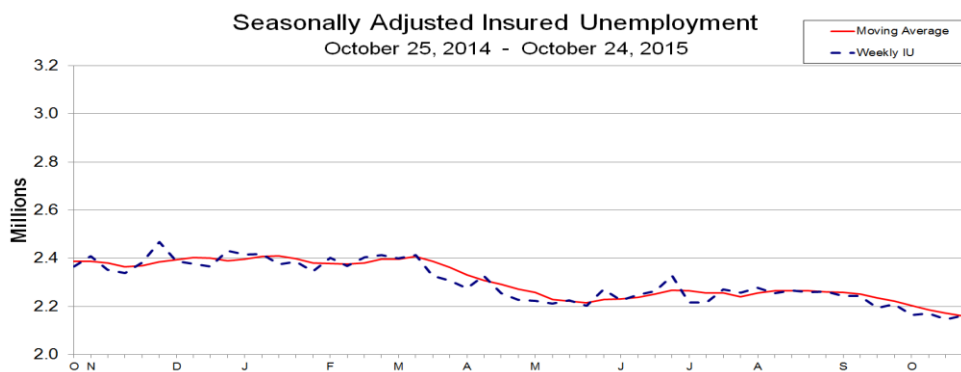
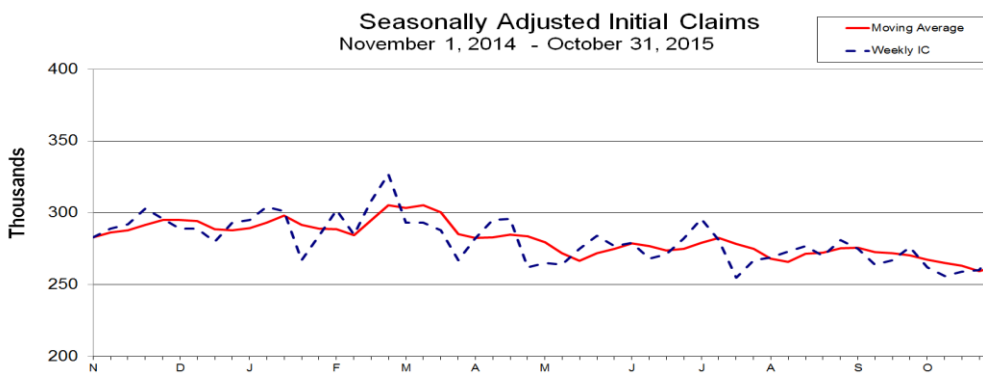
UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE WEEKLY CLAIMS

SEASONALLY ADJUSTED DATA

In the week ending October 31, the advance figure for seasonally adjusted **initial claims** was 276,000, an increase of 16,000 from the previous week's unrevised level of 260,000. The 4-week moving average was 262,750, an increase of 3,500 from the previous week's unrevised average of 259,250.

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

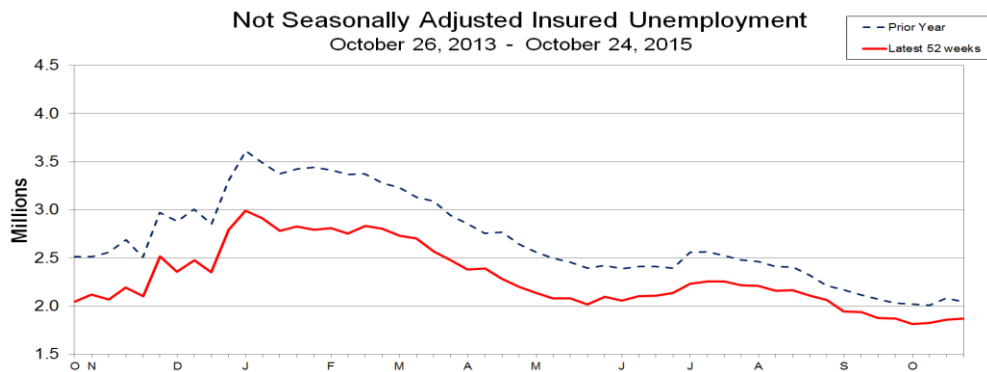
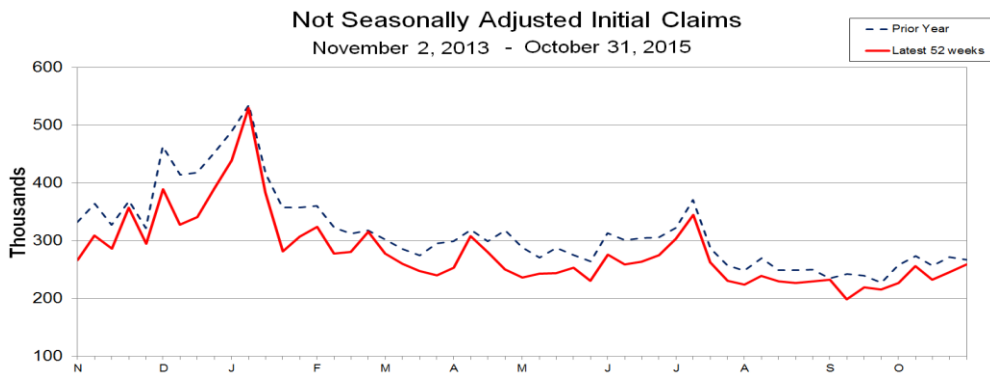
The advance seasonally adjusted **insured unemployment rate** was 1.6 percent for the week ending October 24, unchanged from the previous week's unrevised rate. The advance number for seasonally adjusted **insured unemployment** during the week ending October 24 was 2,163,000, an increase of 17,000 from the previous week's revised level. The previous week's level was revised up 2,000 from 2,144,000 to 2,146,000. The 4-week moving average was 2,161,500, a decrease of 11,500 from the previous week's revised average. This is the lowest level for this average since November 11, 2000 when it was 2,119,750. The previous week's average was revised down by 1,750 from 2,174,750 to 2,173,000.



UNADJUSTED DATA

The advance number of actual initial claims under state programs, unadjusted, totaled 258,663 in the week ending October 31, an increase of 13,303 (or 5.4 percent) from the previous week. The seasonal factors had expected a decrease of 2,079 (or -0.8 percent) from the previous week. There were 266,921 initial claims in the comparable week in 2014.

The advance unadjusted insured unemployment rate was 1.4 percent during the week ending October 24, unchanged from the prior week. The advance unadjusted number for persons claiming UI benefits in state programs totaled 1,869,182, an increase of 8,719 (or 0.5 percent) from the preceding week. The seasonal factors had expected a decrease of 6,438 (or -0.3 percent) from the previous week. A year earlier the rate was 1.5 percent and the volume was 2,045,437.



The total number of people claiming benefits in all programs for the week ending October 17 was 1,912,269, an increase of 39,112 from the previous week. There were 2,138,585 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 17.

Initial claims for UI benefits filed by former Federal civilian employees totaled 1,290 in the week ending October 24, an increase of 78 from the prior week. There were 1,309 initial claims filed by newly discharged veterans, a decrease of 9 from the preceding week.

There were 14,433 former Federal civilian employees claiming UI benefits for the week ending October 17, an increase of 1,364 from the previous week. Newly discharged veterans claiming benefits totaled 17,483, an increase of 2,522 from the prior week.

The highest insured unemployment rates in the week ending October 17 were in Puerto Rico (3.2), the Virgin Islands (3.2), Alaska (3.0), New Jersey (2.3), California (2.1), 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 24 were in California (+2,269), New York (+1,853), Pennsylvania (+1,351), New Jersey (+1,323), and Illinois (+1,243), while the largest decreases were in Michigan (-2,600), South Carolina (-1,181), Kentucky (-214), Missouri (-104), and Delaware (-88).

UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE DATA FOR REGULAR STATE PROGRAMS

WEEK ENDING	October 31	October 24	Change	October 17	<u>Prior Year</u>¹
Initial Claims (SA)	276,000	260,000	+16,000	259,000	283,000
Initial Claims (NSA)	258,663	245,360	+13,303	232,860	266,921
4-Wk Moving Average (SA)	262,750	259,250	+3,500	263,250	282,750
WEEK ENDING	October 24	October 17	Change	October 10	<u>Prior Year</u>¹
Insured Unemployment (SA)	2,163,000	2,146,000	+17,000	2,172,000	2,365,000
Insured Unemployment (NSA)	1,869,182	1,860,463	+8,719	1,826,770	2,045,437
4-Wk Moving Average (SA)	2,161,500	2,173,000	-11,500	2,185,250	2,388,000
<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%	1.5%

INITIAL CLAIMS FILED IN FEDERAL PROGRAMS (UNADJUSTED)

WEEK ENDING	October 24	October 17	Change	<u>Prior Year</u>¹
Federal Employees (UCFE)	1,290	1,212	+78	1,599
Newly Discharged Veterans (UCX)	1,309	1,318	-9	1,744

PERSONS CLAIMING UI BENEFITS IN ALL PROGRAMS (UNADJUSTED)

WEEK ENDING	October 17	October 10	Change	<u>Prior Year</u>¹
Regular State	1,855,211	1,822,244	+32,967	2,077,730
Federal Employees	14,433	13,069	+1,364	16,471
Newly Discharged Veterans	17,483	14,961	+2,522	25,875
<u>Extended Benefits</u> ³	0	0	0	13
<u>State Additional Benefits</u> ⁴	7,373	6,917	+456	5,590
<u>STC / Workshare</u> ⁵	17,769	15,966	+1,803	12,906
<u>TOTAL</u>	1,912,269	1,873,157	+39,112	2,138,585

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 31			Insured Unemployment For Week Ended October 24		
	Advance	Prior Wk	Change	Advance	Prior Wk	Change
Alabama	2,553	2,785	-232	19,713	20,646	-933
Alaska	1,907	1,521	386	9,632	9,345	287
Arizona	3,459	3,867	-408	26,870	30,526	-3,656
Arkansas	3,053	2,730	323	17,742	18,290	-548
California	48,481	45,861	2,620	333,913	329,502	4,411
Colorado	2,639	2,725	-86	25,738	26,404	-666
Connecticut	2,929	2,862	67	33,790	32,652	1,138
Delaware	669	654	15	5,726	5,365	361
District of Columbia	584	392	192	7,953	8,261	-308
Florida	7,384	8,053	-669	50,265	58,107	-7,842
Georgia	6,113	6,769	-656	31,921	35,144	-3,223
Hawaii	1,043	1,134	-91	6,757	6,415	342
Idaho	1,259	1,627	-368	5,522	5,961	-439
Illinois	12,347	10,415	1,932	100,571	98,088	2,483
Indiana	3,701	3,569	132	19,901	19,901	0
Iowa	3,412	2,256	1,156	16,858	15,969	889
Kansas	1,911	1,821	90	12,345	11,802	543
Kentucky	3,154	2,387	767	19,130	18,431	699
Louisiana	2,044	2,502	-458	21,685	22,768	-1,083
Maine	1,034	988	46	4,687	4,425	262
Maryland	3,544	3,891	-347	32,010	35,038	-3,028
Massachusetts	5,610	5,503	107	55,689	55,017	672
Michigan	10,435	6,679	3,756	46,974	45,978	996
Minnesota	4,511	3,729	782	31,954	28,854	3,100
Mississippi	1,722	1,837	-115	10,867	11,580	-713
Missouri	4,184	4,122	62	24,587	26,674	-2,087
Montana	1,330	1,356	-26	6,058	6,141	-83
Nebraska	782	855	-73	5,036	4,798	238
Nevada	2,650	2,651	-1	21,759	23,569	-1,810
New Hampshire	579	568	11	3,883	4,149	-266
New Jersey	8,588	8,896	-308	90,459	87,885	2,574
New Mexico	1,270	1,175	95	11,111	11,281	-170
New York	16,424	16,936	-512	140,004	136,696	3,308
North Carolina	3,958	3,809	149	24,809	26,692	-1,883
North Dakota	736	396	340	4,999	2,336	2,663
Ohio	8,492	7,144	1,348	49,683	49,049	634
Oklahoma	1,813	2,070	-257	20,447	21,022	-575
Oregon	4,355	4,145	210	27,956	27,424	532
Pennsylvania	16,600	15,795	805	115,156	113,589	1,567
Puerto Rico	1,540	2,036	-496	28,936	28,331	605
Rhode Island	960	870	90	6,947	6,954	-7
South Carolina	3,884	4,533	-649	15,425	17,363	-1,938
South Dakota	212	244	-32	1,052	1,020	32
Tennessee	2,864	3,434	-570	20,927	22,538	-1,611
Texas	16,998	16,449	549	165,718	159,096	6,622
Utah	1,498	1,379	119	8,108	8,542	-434
Vermont	608	610	-2	3,305	2,778	527
Virgin Islands	20	36	-16	1,072	1,188	-116
Virginia	3,513	3,301	212	26,300	25,255	1,045
Washington	8,960	7,704	1,256	48,118	44,041	4,077
West Virginia	1,838	1,521	317	13,513	12,944	569
Wisconsin	7,741	6,173	1,568	31,418	30,481	937
Wyoming	768	595	173	4,183	4,158	25
US Total	258,663	245,360	13,303	1,869,182	1,860,463	8,719

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 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	2,172	7	2,185.25	1.6	
October 17, 2015	259	3	263.25	2,146	-26	2,173.00	1.6	
October 24, 2015	260	1	259.25	2,163	17	2,161.50	1.6	
October 31, 2015	276	16	262.75					

Initial Claims Filed During Week Ended October 24
INITIAL CLAIMS

Insured Unemployment For Week Ended October 17
INSURED UNEMPLOYMENT

STATE	CHANGE FROM						CHANGE FROM				ALL PROGRAMS EXCLUDING RAILROAD RETIREMENT	
	STATE	LAST WEEK	YEAR AGO	UCFE ¹	UCX ¹	STATE	LAST WEEK	YEAR AGO	UCFE ¹	UCX ¹		
						(%) ²						
Alabama	2785	80	-416	14	16	20646	1.1	-370	-3388	94	182	20922
Alaska	1521	31	-54	12	1	9345	3.0	723	-949	128	55	9528
Arizona	3867	114	-431	25	11	30526	1.2	-80	-2890	152	195	30873
Arkansas	2730	175	238	11	7	18290	1.6	714	-1335	108	156	18554
California	45861	2269	-6503	213	200	329502	2.1	21671	-56121	2615	3510	335627
Colorado	2725	71	194	41	33	26404	1.1	2865	-1804	276	717	27397
Connecticut	2862	443	-347	7	6	32652	2.0	425	-5526	86	150	32888
Delaware	654	-88	-54	8	6	5365	1.3	-38	-793	22	34	5421
District of Columbia	392	14	-5	7	3	8261	1.5	128	-1307	321	15	8597
Florida	8053	205	-4117	27	66	58107	0.8	-370	-23516	368	448	58923
Georgia	6769	727	-259	41	70	35144	0.9	142	-6022	570	547	36261
Hawaii	1134	-72	-402	6	18	6415	1.1	-311	-2289	82	167	6664
Idaho	1627	711	160	31	4	5961	0.9	236	-1076	57	42	6060
Illinois	10415	1243	147	16	31	98088	1.7	-1226	-7562	374	485	98947
Indiana	3569	521	-201	14	15	19901	0.7	223	-3976	128	117	20146
Iowa	2256	154	-764	7	5	15969	1.1	170	-500	58	100	16127
Kansas	1821	-62	-35	6	9	11802	0.9	854	-1852	90	150	12042
Kentucky	2387	-214	-364	21	9	18431	1.0	-779	-2712	417	283	19131
Louisiana	2502	164	331	8	12	22768	1.2	-56	3645	43	71	22882
Maine	988	306	-720	3	4	4425	0.8	131	-1786	35	29	4489
Maryland	3891	239	-504	24	24	35038	1.4	458	-9298	390	276	35704
Massachusetts	5503	766	-884	33	16	55017	1.7	748	-10430	440	330	55787
Michigan	6679	-2600	-753	41	30	45978	1.1	615	-14243	153	238	46369
Minnesota	3729	-35	195	10	9	28854	1.1	813	-789	102	197	29153
Mississippi	1837	226	-148	3	7	11580	1.1	11	-3454	67	57	11704
Missouri	4122	-104	-1045	40	6	26674	1.0	255	-5791	925	144	27743
Montana	1356	117	-11	49	6	6141	1.4	499	-30	87	69	6297
Nebraska	855	164	-591	4	4	4798	0.5	84	-1281	30	29	4857
Nevada	2651	277	-749	29	11	23569	2.0	-184	-2341	91	183	23843
New Hampshire	568	21	-349	3	1	4149	0.7	94	-1197	7	7	4163
New Jersey	8896	1323	-254	7	28	87885	2.3	1610	-14885	299	512	88696
New Mexico	1175	104	-123	32	9	11281	1.5	88	-860	177	101	11559
New York	16936	1853	-2106	57	68	136696	1.6	1834	-22008	869	856	138421
North Carolina	3809	107	-1196	21	37	26692	0.7	-806	-16714	127	392	27211
North Dakota	396	21	135	1	2	2336	0.5	32	913	7	7	2350
Ohio	7144	795	-3818	18	46	49049	1.0	656	-4219	232	449	49730
Oklahoma	2070	58	588	5	11	21022	1.4	236	6407	72	161	21255
Oregon	4145	52	-2172	75	25	27424	1.6	155	-3973	272	300	27996
Pennsylvania	15795	1351	-265	91	65	113589	2.0	2	-6319	1068	581	115238
Puerto Rico	2036	441	-259	4	8	28331	3.2	-727	-2064	121	213	28665
Rhode Island	870	124	-181	2	2	6954	1.5	77	-1159	26	45	7025
South Carolina	4533	-1181	1649	16	20	17363	0.9	443	810	66	135	17564
South Dakota	244	36	-17	4	2	1020	0.3	45	-117	23	1	1044
Tennessee	3434	-73	-572	15	28	22538	0.8	175	-4195	266	192	22996
Texas	16449	232	2630	50	192	159096	1.4	-535	33239	1332	2620	163048
Utah	1379	145	11	35	5	8542	0.7	93	-760	256	55	8853
Vermont	610	57	-187	1	1	2778	0.9	21	-579	18	9	2805
Virgin Islands	36	-4	1	0	2	1188	3.2	142	-116	0	6	1194
Virginia	3301	101	-481	11	23	25255	0.7	279	-5478	311	648	26214
Washington	7704	220	-595	62	72	44041	1.5	729	-3284	332	1014	45387
West Virginia	1521	376	234	4	4	12944	1.9	245	1365	89	83	13116
Wisconsin	6173	436	-679	16	14	30481	1.1	334	-7531	99	89	30669
Wyoming	595	63	127	9	5	4158	1.5	120	1442	55	31	4244
Totals	245360	12500	-25971	1290	1309	1860463	1.4	33693	-220698	14433	17483	1892379

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 24, 2015

STATES WITH AN INCREASE OF MORE THAN 1,000

State	Change	State Supplied Comment
CA	+2,269	Layoffs in the service and agriculture, forestry, fishing, and hunting industries.
NY	+1,853	Layoffs in the retail trade, accommodation and food service, and construction industries.
PA	+1,351	Layoffs in the manufacturing, administrative and support and waste management and remediation service, and construction industries.
NJ	+1,323	Layoffs in the trade, construction, manufacturing, administrative and support and waste management and remediation service, and accommodation and food service industries.
IL	+1,243	Layoffs in the construction, manufacturing, and administrative and support and waste management and remediation service industries.

STATES WITH A DECREASE OF MORE THAN 1,000

State	Change	State Supplied Comment
MI	-2,600	No comment.
SC	-1,181	Fewer weather related claims.

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 15-2155-NAT

Program Contacts:
Brenda Loya (202) 693-3760
Tony Sznoluch (202) 693-3176
Media Contact: (202) 693-4676