



News Release

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8:30 A.M. (Eastern) Thursday, November 19, 2015

Notice: Since the usual Thursday release date for the U.S. Department of Labor's Unemployment Insurance Weekly Claims Report falls on Thanksgiving Day, which is a federal holiday, the report date has been moved to Wednesday, November 25, 2015.

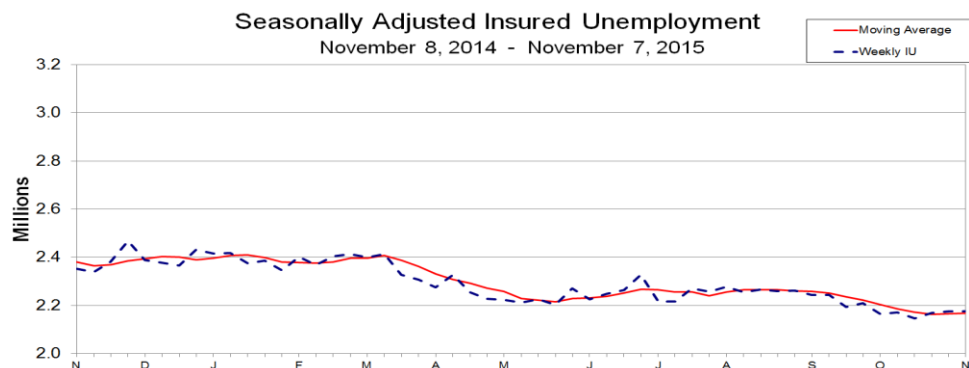
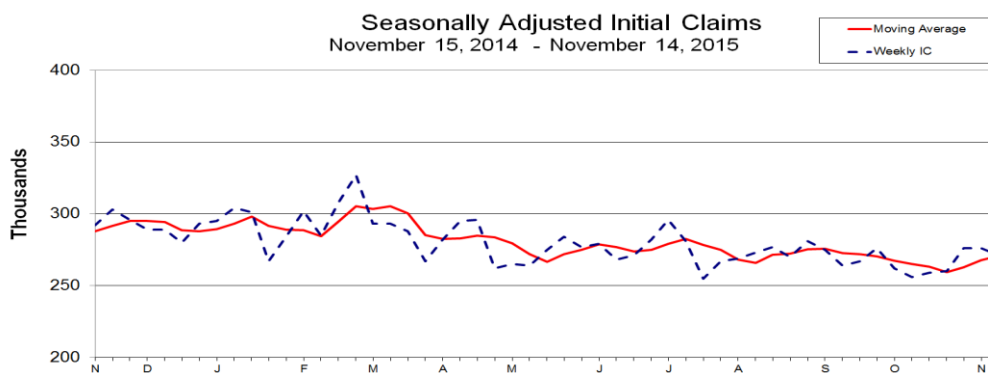
UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE WEEKLY CLAIMS

SEASONALLY ADJUSTED DATA

In the week ending November 14, the advance figure for seasonally adjusted **initial claims** was 271,000, a decrease of 5,000 from the previous week's unrevised level of 276,000. The 4-week moving average was 270,750, an increase of 3,000 from the previous week's unrevised average of 267,750.

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

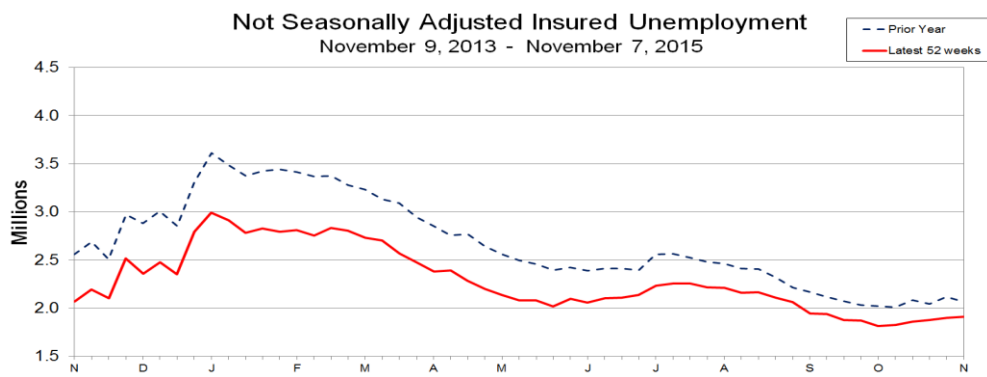
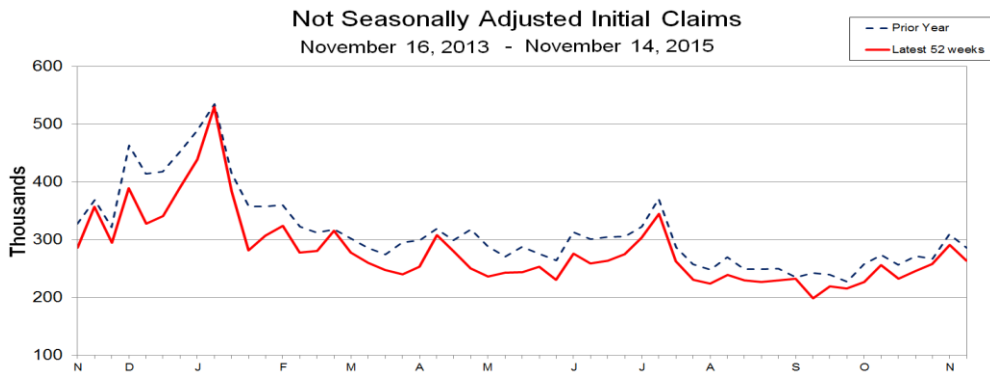
The advance seasonally adjusted **insured unemployment rate** was 1.6 percent for the week ending November 7, unchanged from the previous week's unrevised rate. The advance number for seasonally adjusted **insured unemployment** during the week ending November 7 was 2,175,000, a decrease of 2,000 from the previous week's revised level. The previous week's level was revised up 3,000 from 2,174,000 to 2,177,000. The 4-week moving average was 2,167,000, an increase of 750 from the previous week's revised average. The previous week's average was revised up by 1,000 from 2,165,250 to 2,166,250.



UNADJUSTED DATA

The advance number of actual initial claims under state programs, unadjusted, totaled 263,427 in the week ending November 14, a decrease of 27,633 (or -9.5 percent) from the previous week. The seasonal factors had expected a decrease of 22,113 (or -7.6 percent) from the previous week. There were 286,115 initial claims in the comparable week in 2014.

The advance unadjusted insured unemployment rate was 1.4 percent during the week ending November 7, unchanged from the prior week. The advance unadjusted number for persons claiming UI benefits in state programs totaled 1,907,098, an increase of 6,439 (or 0.3 percent) from the preceding week. The seasonal factors had expected an increase of 8,709 (or 0.5 percent) from the previous week. A year earlier the rate was 1.6 percent and the volume was 2,067,337.



The total number of people claiming benefits in all programs for the week ending October 31 was 1,951,011, an increase of 24,215 from the previous week. There were 2,174,852 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 31.

Initial claims for UI benefits filed by former Federal civilian employees totaled 1,763 in the week ending November 7, an increase of 550 from the prior week. There were 1,451 initial claims filed by newly discharged veterans, an increase of 247 from the preceding week.

There were 14,520 former Federal civilian employees claiming UI benefits for the week ending October 31, an increase of 554 from the previous week. Newly discharged veterans claiming benefits totaled 17,271, a decrease of 454 from the prior week.

The highest insured unemployment rates in the week ending October 31 were in Alaska (3.4), Puerto Rico (3.0), the Virgin Islands (2.7), New Jersey (2.3), California (2.1), Pennsylvania (2.1), Connecticut (2.0), Nevada (2.0), West Virginia (2.0), and Illinois (1.8).

The largest increases in initial claims for the week ending November 7 were in New Jersey (+2,963), Pennsylvania (+2,840), Georgia (+2,509), Texas (+2,455), and New York (+2,237), while the largest decreases were in Louisiana (-632), Michigan (-520), California (-336), Arkansas (-297), and Kentucky (-193).

UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE DATA FOR REGULAR STATE PROGRAMS

WEEK ENDING	November 14	November 7	Change	October 31	<u>Prior Year</u>¹
Initial Claims (SA)	271,000	276,000	-5,000	276,000	292,000
Initial Claims (NSA)	263,427	291,060	-27,633	258,436	286,115
4-Wk Moving Average (SA)	270,750	267,750	+3,000	262,750	287,750
WEEK ENDING	November 7	October 31	Change	October 24	<u>Prior Year</u>¹
Insured Unemployment (SA)	2,175,000	2,177,000	-2,000	2,170,000	2,352,000
Insured Unemployment (NSA)	1,907,098	1,900,659	+6,439	1,874,517	2,067,337
4-Wk Moving Average (SA)	2,167,000	2,166,250	+750	2,163,250	2,380,000
<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	1.4%	1.6%

INITIAL CLAIMS FILED IN FEDERAL PROGRAMS (UNADJUSTED)

WEEK ENDING	November 7	October 31	Change	<u>Prior Year</u>¹
Federal Employees (UCFE)	1,763	1,213	+550	1,669
Newly Discharged Veterans (UCX)	1,451	1,204	+247	1,933

PERSONS CLAIMING UI BENEFITS IN ALL PROGRAMS (UNADJUSTED)

WEEK ENDING	October 31	October 24	Change	<u>Prior Year</u>¹
Regular State	1,895,779	1,868,676	+27,103	2,112,743
Federal Employees	14,520	13,966	+554	16,473
Newly Discharged Veterans	17,271	17,725	-454	25,819
<u>Extended Benefits</u> ³	0	0	0	16
<u>State Additional Benefits</u> ⁴	7,256	7,480	-224	5,469
<u>STC / Workshare</u> ⁵	16,185	18,949	-2,764	14,332
<u>TOTAL</u>	1,951,011	1,926,796	+24,215	2,174,852

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 November 14			Insured Unemployment For Week Ended November 7		
	Advance	Prior Wk	Change	Advance	Prior Wk	Change
Alabama	2,585	3,802	-1,217	20,327	21,448	-1,121
Alaska	2,060	1,905	155	11,026	10,779	247
Arizona	3,481	4,235	-754	25,494	29,144	-3,650
Arkansas	2,575	2,992	-417	17,671	19,535	-1,864
California	46,247	47,675	-1,428	321,941	331,961	-10,020
Colorado	2,886	3,168	-282	26,425	26,903	-478
Connecticut	2,426	3,345	-919	33,301	32,966	335
Delaware	738	824	-86	6,012	5,474	538
District of Columbia	531	364	167	7,866	8,308	-442
Florida	7,262	8,683	-1,421	45,940	55,741	-9,801
Georgia	7,081	8,913	-1,832	33,119	35,311	-2,192
Hawaii	996	1,085	-89	6,672	6,362	310
Idaho	1,840	1,591	249	6,192	6,700	-508
Illinois	11,135	12,352	-1,217	105,620	100,767	4,853
Indiana	3,882	3,868	14	20,587	19,960	627
Iowa	3,250	3,003	247	18,035	16,935	1,100
Kansas	1,940	3,845	-1,905	11,739	11,824	-85
Kentucky	2,795	2,996	-201	19,333	18,540	793
* Louisiana	2,146	1,807	339	21,854	22,428	-574
Maine	1,154	1,340	-186	5,636	5,255	381
Maryland	3,510	4,366	-856	33,146	36,109	-2,963
Massachusetts	6,563	7,030	-467	58,532	57,281	1,251
Michigan	8,613	10,101	-1,488	48,697	48,876	-179
Minnesota	6,264	5,817	447	37,549	31,743	5,806
Mississippi	1,487	2,095	-608	10,969	12,272	-1,303
Missouri	4,034	4,544	-510	25,443	26,632	-1,189
Montana	1,647	2,015	-368	7,363	7,047	316
Nebraska	946	916	30	4,979	4,686	293
Nevada	3,136	3,312	-176	22,408	23,642	-1,234
New Hampshire	616	656	-40	4,028	4,251	-223
New Jersey	9,500	11,645	-2,145	94,515	88,485	6,030
New Mexico	1,081	1,437	-356	11,639	11,948	-309
New York	18,631	18,396	235	145,603	140,132	5,471
North Carolina	4,784	4,632	152	25,273	26,142	-869
North Dakota	1,031	582	449	5,481	2,592	2,889
Ohio	9,418	9,435	-17	53,895	51,003	2,892
Oklahoma	1,679	3,342	-1,663	21,561	21,050	511
Oregon	3,843	5,499	-1,656	29,497	28,777	720
Pennsylvania	19,511	19,457	54	119,297	114,641	4,656
Puerto Rico	1,357	1,875	-518	26,811	27,029	-218
Rhode Island	1,098	1,053	45	7,438	7,015	423
South Carolina	3,468	4,365	-897	16,264	16,624	-360
South Dakota	316	414	-98	1,249	1,127	122
Tennessee	3,016	4,944	-1,928	21,102	23,197	-2,095
Texas	16,112	19,421	-3,309	164,112	160,947	3,165
Utah	1,630	1,754	-124	8,981	9,179	-198
Vermont	655	704	-49	3,831	3,270	561
Virgin Islands	21	39	-18	898	998	-100
Virginia	3,684	3,563	121	26,457	25,442	1,015
Washington	9,148	9,449	-301	52,253	49,811	2,442
West Virginia	1,507	1,738	-231	14,500	13,595	905
Wisconsin	7,380	7,945	-565	34,020	33,975	45
Wyoming	731	726	5	4,517	4,800	-283
US Total	263,427	291,060	-27,633	1,907,098	1,900,659	6,439

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.

* Indicates estimate.

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		
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	2,170	24	2,163.25	1.6	
October 31, 2015	276	16	262.75	2,177	7	2,166.25	1.6	
November 7, 2015	276	0	267.75	2,175	-2	2,167.00	1.6	
November 14, 2015	271	-5	270.75					

Initial Claims Filed During Week Ended November 7
INITIAL CLAIMS

Insured Unemployment For Week Ended October 31
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	3802	1021	211	11	25	21448	1.2	817	-2324	95	174	21717
Alaska	1905	343	-87	14	4	10779	3.4	851	-541	155	45	10979
Arizona	4235	533	-259	30	11	29144	1.2	-300	-3013	188	177	29509
Arkansas	2992	-297	-464	10	7	19535	1.7	1078	-1091	117	164	19816
California	47675	-336	-10351	427	203	331961	2.1	4303	-54811	2442	3479	337882
Colorado	3168	531	12	57	49	26903	1.1	1596	-1537	311	681	27895
Connecticut	3345	428	-606	3	6	32966	2.0	184	-5552	101	147	33214
Delaware	824	127	-26	2	2	5474	1.3	-612	-796	26	25	5525
District of Columbia	364	8	-50	7	2	8308	1.6	-31	-1151	331	24	8663
Florida	8683	863	-3195	25	82	55741	0.7	-781	-22570	355	416	56512
Georgia	8913	2509	754	41	76	35311	0.9	1523	-5118	513	562	36386
Hawaii	1085	54	-369	5	20	6362	1.1	-117	-2367	94	172	6628
Idaho	1591	189	-606	28	2	6700	1.0	268	-1158	96	45	6841
Illinois	12352	141	-543	18	34	100767	1.8	854	-6481	373	461	101601
Indiana	3868	229	-747	14	9	19960	0.7	28	-4408	134	111	20205
Iowa	3003	27	290	7	9	16935	1.1	878	-75	61	98	17094
Kansas	3845	2052	1662	4	10	11824	0.9	-72	-1791	90	147	12061
Kentucky	2996	-193	-396	24	16	18540	1.0	-795	-2573	313	272	19125
Louisiana	1807	-632	-545	0	13	22428	1.2	-233	3361	46	65	22539
Maine	1340	267	-368	9	2	5255	0.9	432	-2273	30	30	5315
Maryland	4366	523	-404	35	26	36109	1.5	674	-8837	388	278	36775
Massachusetts	7030	1325	-843	38	24	57281	1.7	-297	-10868	474	347	58102
Michigan	10101	-520	-1218	48	31	48876	1.2	314	-13873	191	252	49319
Minnesota	5817	1648	389	21	12	31743	1.2	2140	-955	100	172	32015
Mississippi	2095	102	204	3	7	12272	1.1	300	-1875	63	66	12401
Missouri	4544	238	-1547	49	13	26632	1.0	425	-5836	857	137	27626
Montana	2015	623	318	90	4	7047	1.6	466	54	170	65	7282
Nebraska	916	138	-303	2	2	4686	0.5	-224	-1813	31	28	4745
Nevada	3312	776	-373	24	8	23642	2.0	212	-2247	132	172	23946
New Hampshire	656	64	-267	0	1	4251	0.7	70	-1419	7	8	4266
New Jersey	11645	2963	-1049	20	24	88485	2.3	-414	-14669	280	568	89333
New Mexico	1437	69	41	37	6	11948	1.5	294	-746	193	94	12235
New York	18396	2237	-696	42	63	140132	1.6	2109	-25375	836	826	141794
North Carolina	4632	862	-1070	20	50	26142	0.7	28	-15047	144	398	26684
North Dakota	582	121	92	2	2	2592	0.6	114	1272	11	5	2608
Ohio	9435	1093	621	12	48	51003	1.0	1184	-6747	248	439	51690
Oklahoma	3342	1541	1704	6	19	21050	1.4	185	6342	77	151	21278
Oregon	5499	1136	-840	119	29	28777	1.7	784	-4878	345	317	29439
Pennsylvania	19457	2840	-198	93	74	114641	2.1	1619	-5378	1042	566	116249
Puerto Rico	1875	143	-174	2	4	27029	3.0	-2653	-3683	123	175	27327
Rhode Island	1053	80	128	2	4	7015	1.5	134	-1002	56	43	7114
South Carolina	4365	403	729	13	1	16624	0.9	450	-538	56	128	16808
South Dakota	414	159	3	7	2	1127	0.3	69	-113	18	5	1150
Tennessee	4944	1826	448	52	20	23197	0.9	1332	-3282	303	185	23685
Texas	19421	2455	2981	91	232	160947	1.4	-1077	35121	1244	2676	164867
Utah	1754	210	-104	59	6	9179	0.7	387	-371	239	53	9471
Vermont	704	75	-129	1	0	3270	1.1	185	-903	25	5	3300
Virgin Islands	39	14	-3	0	0	998	2.7	-72	138	0	10	1008
Virginia	3563	337	-763	14	32	25442	0.7	298	-5205	322	639	26403
Washington	9449	1098	-137	88	103	49811	1.7	3632	-2790	397	964	51172
West Virginia	1738	-182	279	6	6	13595	2.0	731	1747	84	80	13759
Wisconsin	7945	228	-622	15	14	33975	1.2	2610	-7446	106	92	34173
Wyoming	726	135	208	16	2	4800	1.7	262	1510	87	32	4919
Totals	291060	32624	-18278	1763	1451	1900659	1.4	26142	-215981	14520	17271	1932450

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 NOVEMBER 7, 2015

STATES WITH AN INCREASE OF MORE THAN 1,000

State	Change	State Supplied Comment
NJ	+2,963	Layoffs in the educational service, transportation and warehousing, and accommodation and food service industries.
PA	+2,840	Layoffs in the administrative and support and waste management and remediation service, arts, entertainment, and recreation, manufacturing, and construction industries.
GA	+2,509	Layoffs in the construction, manufacturing, and administrative and support and waste management and remediation service, and trade industries.
TX	+2,455	Layoffs in the manufacturing, retail trade, finance and insurance, administrative and support and waste management and remediation service, and health care and social assistance industries.
NY	+2,237	Layoffs in the construction, manufacturing, and arts, entertainment, and recreation industries.
KS	+2,052	Layoffs in the transportation and warehousing industry.
TN	+1,826	Layoffs in the administrative and support and waste management and remediation service, manufacturing, and construction industries.
MN	+1,648	No comment.
OK	+1,541	No comment.
MA	+1,325	Layoffs in the professional, scientific, and technical service, administrative and support and waste management and remediation service, arts, entertainment, and recreation, and accommodation and food service industries.
OR	+1,136	No comment.
WA	+1,098	Layoffs in the mining, quarrying, and oil and gas extraction, utilities, manufacturing, professional, scientific, and technical service, educational service, health care and social assistance, and public administration industries.
OH	+1,093	No comment.
AL	+1,021	Layoffs in the mining, quarrying, and oil and gas extraction, and construction industries.

STATES WITH A DECREASE OF MORE THAN 1,000

State	Change	State Supplied Comment
NA		

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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