



News Release

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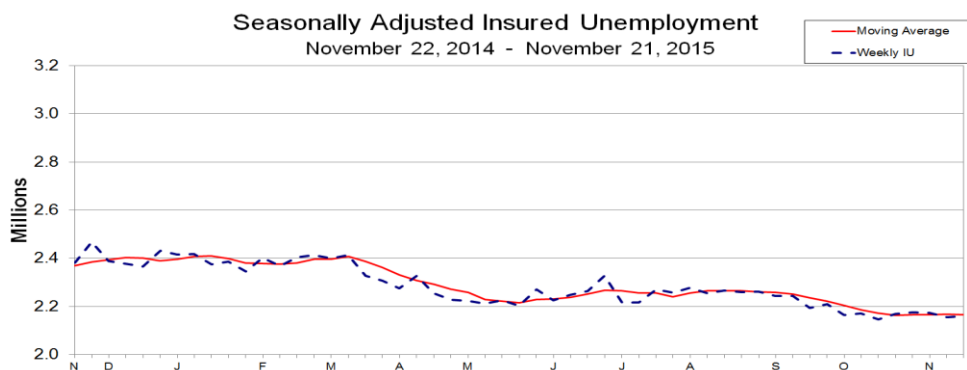
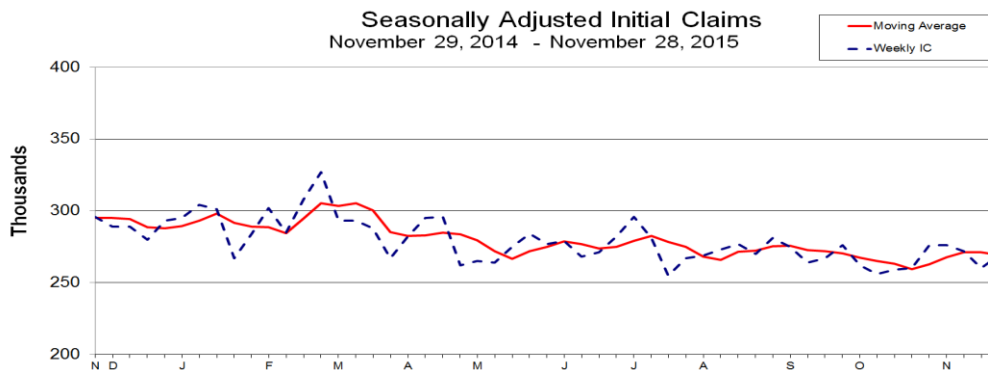
UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE WEEKLY CLAIMS

SEASONALLY ADJUSTED DATA

In the week ending November 28, the advance figure for seasonally adjusted **initial claims** was 269,000, an increase of 9,000 from the previous week's unrevised level of 260,000. The 4-week moving average was 269,250, a decrease of 1,750 from the previous week's unrevised average of 271,000.

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

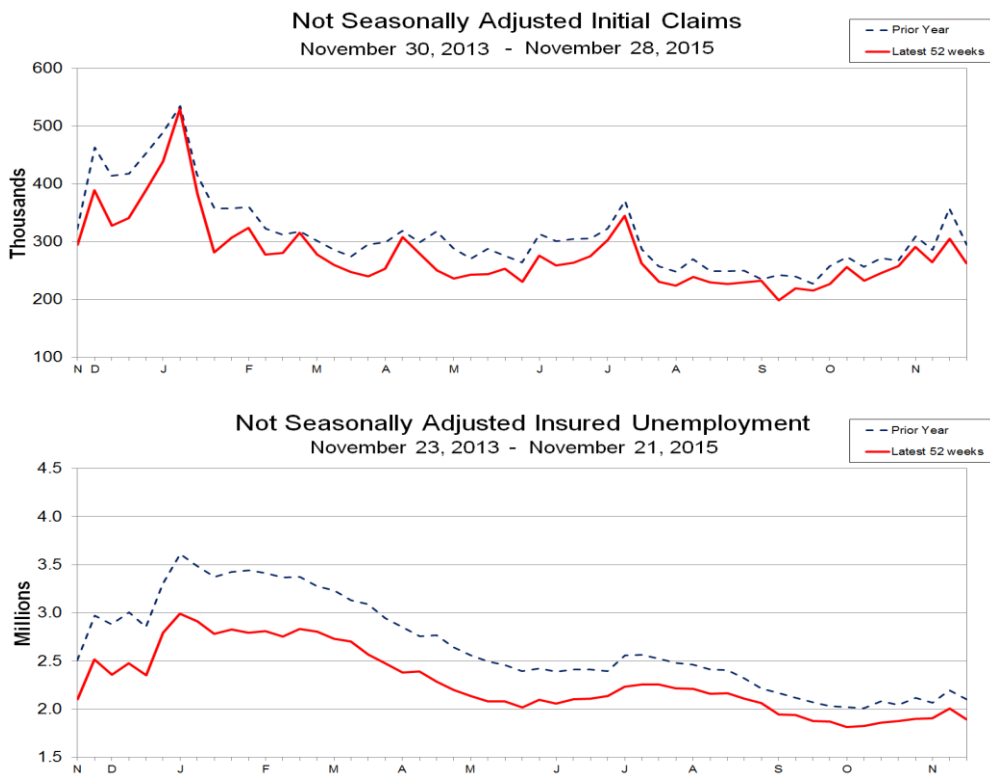
The advance seasonally adjusted **insured unemployment rate** was 1.6 percent for the week ending November 21, unchanged from the previous week's unrevised rate. The advance number for seasonally adjusted **insured unemployment** during the week ending November 21 was 2,161,000, an increase of 6,000 from the previous week's revised level. The previous week's level was revised down by 52,000 from 2,207,000 to 2,155,000. The 4-week moving average was 2,166,500, a decrease of 2,250 from the previous week's revised average. The previous week's average was revised down by 13,000 from 2,181,750 to 2,168,750.



UNADJUSTED DATA

The advance number of actual initial claims under state programs, unadjusted, totaled 262,796 in the week ending November 28, a decrease of 42,628 (or -14.0 percent) from the previous week. The seasonal factors had expected a decrease of 51,727 (or -16.9 percent) from the previous week. There were 294,389 initial claims in the comparable week in 2014.

The advance unadjusted insured unemployment rate was 1.4 percent during the week ending November 21, a decrease of 0.1 percentage point from the prior week. The advance unadjusted number for persons claiming UI benefits in state programs totaled 1,890,645, a decrease of 115,346 (or -5.8 percent) from the preceding week. The seasonal factors had expected a decrease of 120,661 (or -6.0 percent) from the previous week. A year earlier the rate was 1.6 percent and the volume was 2,102,005.



The total number of people claiming benefits in all programs for the week ending November 14 was 2,059,190, an increase of 104,122 from the previous week. There were 2,250,448 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 November 14.

Initial claims for UI benefits filed by former Federal civilian employees totaled 1,760 in the week ending November 21, an increase of 503 from the prior week. There were 1,258 initial claims filed by newly discharged veterans, an increase of 166 from the preceding week.

There were 14,499 former Federal civilian employees claiming UI benefits for the week ending November 14, an increase of 1,353 from the previous week. Newly discharged veterans claiming benefits totaled 17,605, an increase of 568 from the prior week.

The highest insured unemployment rates in the week ending November 14 were in Alaska (4.0), Puerto Rico (3.1), New Jersey (2.5), California (2.2), Pennsylvania (2.2), West Virginia (2.2), Connecticut (2.1), Montana (2.1), the Virgin Islands (2.1), Nevada (2.0), and Wyoming (2.0).

The largest increases in initial claims for the week ending November 21 were in California (+7,941), Illinois (+3,617), Minnesota (+2,612), Iowa (+2,064), and Wisconsin (+1,994), while the largest decreases were in Louisiana (-792), Rhode Island (-207), Delaware (-73), Nevada (-48), and Puerto Rico (-23).

UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE DATA FOR REGULAR STATE PROGRAMS

WEEK ENDING	November 28	November 21	Change	November 14	<u>Prior Year</u>¹
Initial Claims (SA)	269,000	260,000	+9,000	272,000	296,000
Initial Claims (NSA)	262,796	305,424	-42,628	264,816	294,389
4-Wk Moving Average (SA)	269,250	271,000	-1,750	271,000	295,000
WEEK ENDING	November 21	November 14	Change	November 7	<u>Prior Year</u>¹
Insured Unemployment (SA)	2,161,000	2,155,000	+6,000	2,173,000	2,383,000
Insured Unemployment (NSA)	1,890,645	2,005,991	-115,346	1,905,959	2,102,005
4-Wk Moving Average (SA)	2,166,500	2,168,750	-2,250	2,166,500	2,370,500
<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%	1.5%	-0.1	1.4%	1.6%

INITIAL CLAIMS FILED IN FEDERAL PROGRAMS (UNADJUSTED)

WEEK ENDING	November 21	November 14	Change	<u>Prior Year</u>¹
Federal Employees (UCFE)	1,760	1,257	+503	1,941
Newly Discharged Veterans (UCX)	1,258	1,092	+166	1,643

PERSONS CLAIMING UI BENEFITS IN ALL PROGRAMS (UNADJUSTED)

WEEK ENDING	November 14	November 7	Change	<u>Prior Year</u>¹
Regular State	1,998,768	1,900,036	+98,732	2,190,584
Federal Employees	14,499	13,146	+1,353	17,047
Newly Discharged Veterans	17,605	17,037	+568	25,647
<u>Extended Benefits</u>³	0	0	0	3
<u>State Additional Benefits</u>⁴	7,443	7,215	+228	5,647
<u>STC / Workshare</u>⁵	20,875	17,634	+3,241	11,520
<u>TOTAL</u>	2,059,190	1,955,068	+104,122	2,250,448

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 28			Insured Unemployment For Week Ended November 21		
	Advance	Prior Wk	Change	Advance	Prior Wk	Change
Alabama	2,307	3,013	-706	20,152	21,443	-1,291
Alaska	1,492	1,764	-272	12,322	12,689	-367
Arizona	2,405	4,073	-1,668	23,999	28,102	-4,103
Arkansas	4,029	3,602	427	18,816	20,001	-1,185
California	33,681	53,792	-20,111	273,231	351,182	-77,951
Colorado	2,669	3,883	-1,214	26,817	28,142	-1,325
Connecticut	3,163	3,449	-286	34,704	34,405	299
Delaware	700	704	-4	6,082	5,868	214
District of Columbia	458	332	126	7,677	8,208	-531
Florida	5,080	8,284	-3,204	39,262	55,641	-16,379
Georgia	5,136	7,621	-2,485	29,591	35,072	-5,481
Hawaii	893	1,132	-239	6,532	6,361	171
Idaho	2,211	2,256	-45	6,871	7,281	-410
Illinois	14,477	14,588	-111	105,003	106,683	-1,680
Indiana	4,222	4,514	-292	21,097	21,172	-75
Iowa	5,384	4,882	502	20,410	17,198	3,212
Kansas	3,444	2,693	751	13,149	13,276	-127
Kentucky	5,534	3,572	1,962	18,964	19,842	-878
* Louisiana	2,020	2,404	-384	20,467	21,601	-1,134
Maine	1,116	1,300	-184	6,501	6,303	198
Maryland	4,118	4,171	-53	33,071	36,930	-3,859
Massachusetts	6,959	6,694	265	61,010	61,109	-99
Michigan	10,573	10,411	162	51,089	54,951	-3,862
Minnesota	7,886	8,536	-650	47,207	38,857	8,350
Mississippi	1,581	2,044	-463	10,764	12,308	-1,544
Missouri	4,100	4,929	-829	26,540	27,872	-1,332
Montana	2,290	2,149	141	8,871	8,852	19
Nebraska	1,299	1,279	20	5,398	5,094	304
Nevada	3,393	3,029	364	23,151	23,396	-245
New Hampshire	713	730	-17	4,257	4,488	-231
New Jersey	9,378	10,344	-966	93,666	94,424	-758
New Mexico	1,075	1,487	-412	12,039	12,585	-546
New York	17,065	19,730	-2,665	150,435	148,934	1,501
North Carolina	2,989	4,606	-1,617	25,556	27,478	-1,922
North Dakota	1,704	1,088	616	6,622	3,040	3,582
Ohio	11,858	9,544	2,314	56,632	56,081	551
Oklahoma	1,507	3,001	-1,494	20,783	21,140	-357
Oregon	3,990	6,425	-2,435	30,622	31,082	-460
Pennsylvania	20,562	20,478	84	124,597	122,500	2,097
Puerto Rico	1,095	1,487	-392	25,535	27,579	-2,044
Rhode Island	921	883	38	7,715	7,599	116
South Carolina	1,937	3,795	-1,858	15,718	17,259	-1,541
South Dakota	380	561	-181	1,484	1,452	32
Tennessee	2,858	3,565	-707	21,189	22,366	-1,177
Texas	10,979	18,146	-7,167	162,074	169,363	-7,289
Utah	1,441	1,913	-472	9,783	10,157	-374
Vermont	1,242	795	447	3,672	3,850	-178
Virgin Islands	15	35	-20	732	788	-56
Virginia	3,215	3,754	-539	26,131	25,720	411
Washington	9,363	10,041	-678	54,005	51,833	2,172
West Virginia	1,095	1,777	-682	15,025	14,872	153
Wisconsin	14,027	9,364	4,663	38,689	36,028	2,661
Wyoming	767	775	-8	4,936	5,534	-598
US Total	262,796	305,424	-42,628	1,890,645	2,005,991	-115,346

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.

* Denotes state 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 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	2,173	-4	2,166.50	1.6
November 14, 2015	272	-4	271.00	2,155	-18	2,168.75	1.6
November 21, 2015	260	-12	271.00	2,161	6	2,166.50	1.6
November 28, 2015	269	9	269.25				

Initial Claims Filed During Week Ended November 21
INITIAL CLAIMS

Insured Unemployment For Week Ended November 14
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	3013	183	-1250	11	17	21443	1.2	191	-3054	91	177	21711
Alaska	1764	80	-23	18	4	12689	4.0	1346	-593	180	54	12923
Arizona	4073	399	-354	18	14	28102	1.1	33	-2864	221	184	28507
Arkansas	3602	811	20	10	8	20001	1.8	1399	-1927	128	166	20295
California	53792	7941	-5819	539	179	351182	2.2	34774	-34878	2720	3389	357291
Colorado	3883	990	218	52	42	28142	1.2	2204	-1826	378	709	29229
Connecticut	3449	1023	-616	4	7	34405	2.1	2140	-5240	78	179	34662
Delaware	704	-73	-214	0	3	5868	1.4	179	-700	29	32	5929
District of Columbia	332	9	-24	4	2	8208	1.5	-9	-1030	307	20	8535
Florida	8284	614	-3356	29	88	55641	0.7	3403	-20559	395	439	56475
Georgia	7621	259	29	32	39	35072	0.9	115	-4999	389	542	36003
Hawaii	1132	164	-317	3	15	6361	1.1	-38	-2464	101	178	6640
Idaho	2256	264	-756	47	4	7281	1.1	233	-2136	126	40	7447
Illinois	14588	3617	-3512	13	23	106683	1.9	1925	-6400	365	481	107529
Indiana	4514	706	-2045	9	14	21172	0.7	635	-4406	152	116	21440
Iowa	4882	2064	-1106	3	7	17198	1.1	84	-519	64	105	17367
Kansas	2693	882	-512	6	9	13276	1.0	2001	-2250	104	152	13532
Kentucky	3572	766	-768	17	7	19842	1.1	243	-1360	331	330	20503
Louisiana	2404	-792	-143	6	12	21601	1.1	2006	1837	92	109	21802
Maine	1300	116	-345	6	0	6303	1.1	554	-2755	37	34	6374
Maryland	4171	409	-1117	18	15	36930	1.5	518	-9054	409	265	37604
Massachusetts	6694	60	-1190	17	24	61109	1.8	1751	-10435	265	347	61721
Michigan	10411	1581	-2939	34	31	54951	1.4	4532	-7778	206	275	55432
Minnesota	8536	2612	-1751	19	7	38857	1.4	4371	-3801	129	192	39178
Mississippi	2044	246	-398	2	4	12308	1.1	244	-1609	58	70	12436
Missouri	4929	742	-2684	35	9	27872	1.1	735	-6256	624	119	28615
Montana	2149	434	20	94	4	8852	2.1	1099	-762	274	72	9198
Nebraska	1279	348	-709	3	2	5094	0.5	182	-1737	31	26	5151
Nevada	3029	-48	-1458	18	7	23396	2.0	-716	-4506	175	161	23732
New Hampshire	730	81	-293	3	1	4488	0.7	139	-1463	6	7	4501
New Jersey	10344	712	-1123	27	29	94424	2.5	1937	-15955	296	539	95259
New Mexico	1487	354	232	34	8	12585	1.6	587	-434	264	90	12939
New York	19730	1383	-1410	49	55	148934	1.7	5681	-19240	605	842	150381
North Carolina	4606	49	-951	11	45	27478	0.7	921	-12026	144	433	28055
North Dakota	1088	435	64	6	4	3040	0.7	264	914	12	5	3057
Ohio	9544	228	-5964	10	39	56081	1.1	2192	-1326	239	442	56762
Oklahoma	3001	1342	1424	7	14	21140	1.4	-829	6340	76	159	21375
Oregon	6425	1813	-905	119	22	31082	1.8	1561	-3906	464	308	31854
Pennsylvania	20478	1007	-5745	93	69	122500	2.2	5487	-5491	875	587	123962
Puerto Rico	1487	-23	-118	2	8	27579	3.1	-390	-3064	105	217	27901
Rhode Island	883	-207	-801	3	1	7599	1.7	273	-1223	25	39	7663
South Carolina	3795	254	718	10	24	17259	0.9	285	-1091	71	123	17453
South Dakota	561	197	-354	9	0	1452	0.4	167	-509	29	7	1488
Tennessee	3565	331	-213	29	27	22366	0.8	158	-3652	215	165	22746
Texas	18146	1845	2130	55	173	169363	1.5	8659	37471	1147	2757	173267
Utah	1913	238	-19	74	4	10157	0.8	481	-352	281	51	10489
Vermont	795	129	-216	4	2	3850	1.3	294	-1134	18	6	3874
Virgin Islands	35	12	-4	1	1	788	2.1	-88	-386	0	16	804
Virginia	3754	334	-602	20	32	25720	0.7	400	-5611	354	635	26709
Washington	10041	1361	-960	95	81	51833	1.7	1929	-3328	462	1013	53308
West Virginia	1777	169	49	4	8	14872	2.2	1146	2096	91	86	15049
Wisconsin	9364	1994	-3679	14	13	36028	1.3	1967	-11860	120	89	36237
Wyoming	775	163	81	14	1	5534	2.0	677	1654	141	26	5701
Totals	305424	40608	-51778	1760	1258	2005991	1.5	100032	-187637	14499	17605	2038095

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 21, 2015

STATES WITH AN INCREASE OF MORE THAN 1,000

State	Change	State Supplied Comment
CA	+7,941	Layoffs in the agriculture, forestry, fishing and hunting industry.
IL	+3,617	Layoffs in the construction, administrative and support and waste management and remediation service, wholesale trade, and retail trade industries.
MN	+2,612	No comment.
IA	+2,064	Layoffs in the construction and manufacturing industries.
WI	+1,994	No comment.
TX	+1,845	Layoffs in the manufacturing, administrative and support and waste management and remediation service, transportation and warehousing, information, and health care and social assistance industries.
OR	+1,813	No comment.
MI	+1,581	No comment.
NY	+1,383	Layoffs in the construction, retail trade, and transportation and warehousing industries.
WA	+1,361	Layoffs in the agriculture, forestry, fishing and hunting, construction, manufacturing, and health care and social assistance industries.
OK	+1,342	No comment.
CT	+1,023	No comment.
PA	+1,007	Layoffs in the public administration, manufacturing, administrative and support and waste management and remediation service, and accommodation and food service industries.

STATES WITH A DECREASE OF MORE THAN 1,000

State	Change	State Supplied Comment
None		

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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Washington, D.C. 20210
Release Number: USDL 15-2307-NAT

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