



News Release

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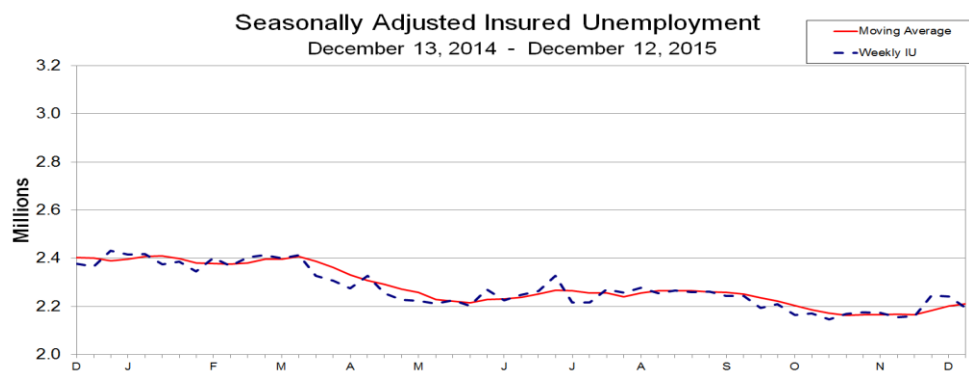
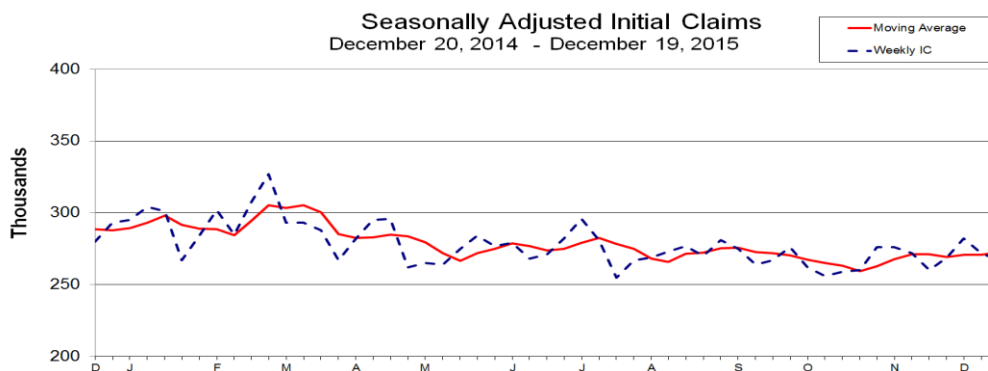
UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE WEEKLY CLAIMS

SEASONALLY ADJUSTED DATA

In the week ending December 19, the advance figure for seasonally adjusted **initial claims** was 267,000, a decrease of 5,000 from the previous week's revised level. The previous week's level was revised up by 1,000 from 271,000 to 272,000. The 4-week moving average was 272,500, an increase of 1,750 from the previous week's revised average. The previous week's average was revised up by 250 from 270,500 to 270,750.

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

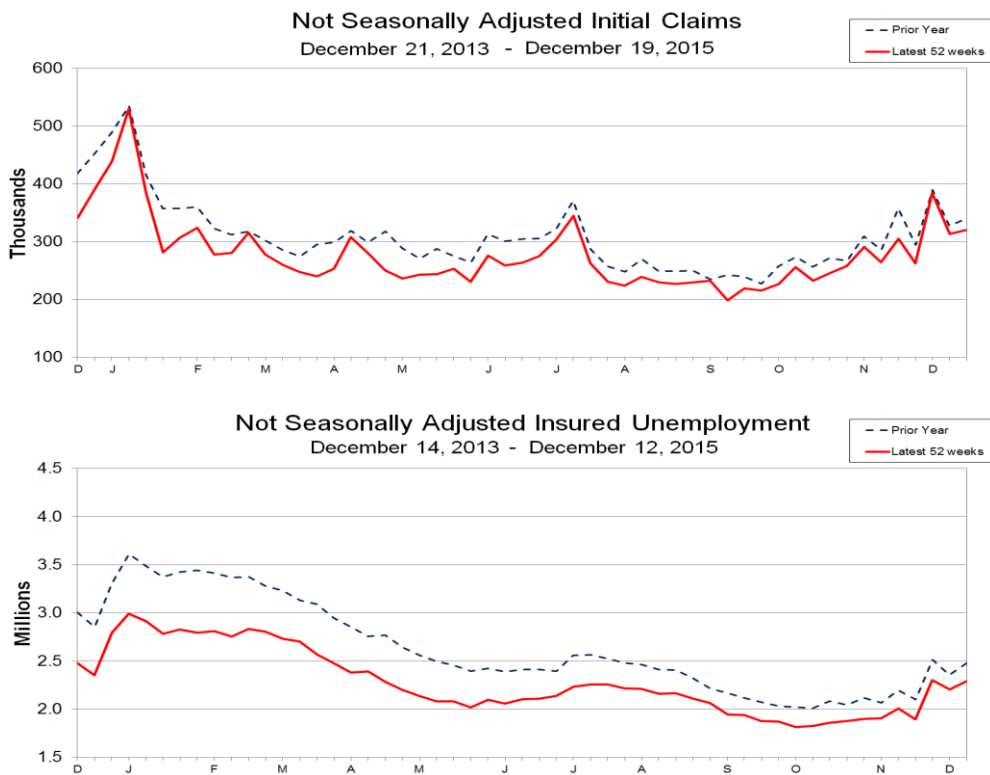
The advance seasonally adjusted **insured unemployment rate** was 1.6 percent for the week ending December 12, a decrease of 0.1 percentage point from the previous week's unrevised rate. The advance number for seasonally adjusted **insured unemployment** during the week ending December 12 was 2,195,000, a decrease of 47,000 from the previous week's revised level. The previous week's level was revised up 4,000 from 2,238,000 to 2,242,000. The 4-week moving average was 2,211,000, an increase of 10,000 from the previous week's revised average. The previous week's average was revised up by 1,250 from 2,199,750 to 2,201,000.



UNADJUSTED DATA

The advance number of actual initial claims under state programs, unadjusted, totaled 319,852 in the week ending December 19, an increase of 6,576 (or 2.1 percent) from the previous week. The seasonal factors had expected an increase of 12,227 (or 3.9 percent) from the previous week. There were 340,827 initial claims in the comparable week in 2014.

The advance unadjusted insured unemployment rate was 1.7 percent during the week ending December 12, an increase of 0.1 percentage point from the prior week. The advance unadjusted number for persons claiming UI benefits in state programs totaled 2,287,070, an increase of 80,548 (or 3.7 percent) from the preceding week. The seasonal factors had expected an increase of 130,059 (or 5.9 percent) from the previous week. A year earlier the rate was 1.9 percent and the volume was 2,478,752.



The total number of people claiming benefits in all programs for the week ending December 5 was 2,256,207, a decrease of 97,585 from the previous week. There were 2,413,615 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 December 5.

Initial claims for UI benefits filed by former Federal civilian employees totaled 1,181 in the week ending December 12, a decrease of 533 from the prior week. There were 1,251 initial claims filed by newly discharged veterans, a decrease of 156 from the preceding week.

There were 13,746 former Federal civilian employees claiming UI benefits for the week ending December 5, a decrease of 2,361 from the previous week. Newly discharged veterans claiming benefits totaled 16,703, a decrease of 1,172 from the prior week.

The highest insured unemployment rates in the week ending December 5 were in Alaska (4.2), Puerto Rico (3.0), West Virginia (2.8), Montana (2.6), New Jersey (2.6), Pennsylvania (2.6), California (2.4), Connecticut (2.3), Illinois (2.2), and Nevada (2.2).

The largest increases in initial claims for the week ending December 12 were in Michigan (+905), Rhode Island (+199), Ohio (+196), Arizona (+78), and Louisiana (+29), while the largest decreases were in New York (-10,297), Pennsylvania (-9,554), Wisconsin (-6,195), Georgia (-5,772), and Texas (-4,535).

UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE DATA FOR REGULAR STATE PROGRAMS

WEEK ENDING	December 19	December 12	Change	December 5	<u>Prior Year</u>¹
Initial Claims (SA)	267,000	272,000	-5,000	282,000	280,000
Initial Claims (NSA)	319,852	313,276	+6,576	384,491	340,827
4-Wk Moving Average (SA)	272,500	270,750	+1,750	270,750	288,500
WEEK ENDING	December 12	December 5	Change	November 28	<u>Prior Year</u>¹
Insured Unemployment (SA)	2,195,000	2,242,000	-47,000	2,246,000	2,377,000
Insured Unemployment (NSA)	2,287,070	2,206,522	+80,548	2,299,417	2,478,752
4-Wk Moving Average (SA)	2,211,000	2,201,000	+10,000	2,183,750	2,404,250
<u>Insured Unemployment Rate (SA)</u>²	1.6%	1.7%	-0.1	1.7%	1.8%
<u>Insured Unemployment Rate (NSA)</u>²	1.7%	1.6%	+0.1	1.7%	1.9%

INITIAL CLAIMS FILED IN FEDERAL PROGRAMS (UNADJUSTED)

WEEK ENDING	December 12	December 5	Change	<u>Prior Year</u>¹
Federal Employees (UCFE)	1,181	1,714	-533	1,331
Newly Discharged Veterans (UCX)	1,251	1,407	-156	1,752

PERSONS CLAIMING UI BENEFITS IN ALL PROGRAMS (UNADJUSTED)

WEEK ENDING	December 5	November 28	Change	<u>Prior Year</u>¹
Regular State	2,201,677	2,294,316	-92,639	2,350,816
Federal Employees	13,746	16,107	-2,361	16,828
Newly Discharged Veterans	16,703	17,875	-1,172	25,122
<u>Extended Benefits</u>³	0	0	0	7
<u>State Additional Benefits</u>⁴	7,580	7,867	-287	6,940
<u>STC / Workshare</u>⁵	16,501	17,627	-1,126	13,902
<u>TOTAL</u>	2,256,207	2,353,792	-97,585	2,413,615

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 December 19			Insured Unemployment For Week Ended December 12		
	Advance	Prior Wk	Change	Advance	Prior Wk	Change
Alabama	3,095	3,541	-446	20,904	22,173	-1,269
Alaska	1,635	1,424	211	14,877	13,381	1,496
Arizona	3,627	4,008	-381	23,672	26,491	-2,819
Arkansas	3,273	2,871	402	19,729	21,140	-1,411
California	53,512	55,903	-2,391	393,677	379,914	13,763
Colorado	3,741	2,978	763	30,980	28,301	2,679
Connecticut	4,720	4,146	574	39,328	37,230	2,098
Delaware	755	743	12	6,553	6,259	294
District of Columbia	660	274	386	7,892	8,397	-505
Florida	7,934	7,895	39	46,482	48,525	-2,043
Georgia	6,662	7,869	-1,207	34,033	35,885	-1,852
Hawaii	1,085	1,090	-5	6,512	6,498	14
Idaho	2,231	2,588	-357	10,413	10,648	-235
Illinois	17,325	15,250	2,075	136,400	125,533	10,867
Indiana	5,416	4,919	497	26,245	24,568	1,677
Iowa	5,506	3,757	1,749	26,468	24,675	1,793
Kansas	3,553	2,376	1,177	14,795	14,022	773
Kentucky	4,249	3,093	1,156	22,659	21,767	892
Louisiana	2,593	2,443	150	22,858	21,530	1,328
Maine	1,478	1,499	-21	8,516	8,191	325
Maryland	4,447	4,131	316	36,144	39,367	-3,223
Massachusetts	9,122	8,294	828	70,586	69,196	1,390
Michigan	11,088	13,872	-2,784	73,232	64,296	8,936
Minnesota	7,332	7,592	-260	61,866	55,026	6,840
Mississippi	1,924	1,879	45	11,795	12,969	-1,174
Missouri	6,413	5,638	775	28,897	30,733	-1,836
Montana	1,819	1,505	314	11,744	11,186	558
Nebraska	1,793	1,282	511	6,624	6,422	202
Nevada	3,838	3,021	817	24,992	26,746	-1,754
New Hampshire	879	774	105	4,817	5,030	-213
New Jersey	11,051	10,561	490	104,804	99,961	4,843
New Mexico	1,220	1,189	31	12,965	13,196	-231
New York	18,528	19,504	-976	167,455	162,319	5,136
North Carolina	4,905	4,465	440	28,259	28,741	-482
North Dakota	2,155	1,477	678	9,758	5,340	4,418
Ohio	13,005	12,857	148	71,653	66,588	5,065
Oklahoma	2,117	1,743	374	20,938	21,849	-911
Oregon	5,760	5,874	-114	34,806	33,773	1,033
Pennsylvania	21,775	23,047	-1,272	151,890	146,715	5,175
Puerto Rico	1,685	1,488	197	23,996	26,388	-2,392
Rhode Island	1,424	1,479	-55	9,034	8,539	495
South Carolina	3,522	3,392	130	17,049	17,605	-556
South Dakota	518	483	35	2,491	2,411	80
Tennessee	3,819	4,657	-838	22,376	23,909	-1,533
Texas	16,119	17,168	-1,049	180,460	162,238	18,222
Utah	2,521	2,024	497	12,035	12,181	-146
Vermont	649	720	-71	5,067	4,538	529
Virgin Islands	25	27	-2	652	684	-32
Virginia	6,267	3,880	2,387	29,472	27,538	1,934
Washington	9,191	8,973	218	64,190	62,144	2,046
West Virginia	1,833	2,695	-862	18,393	18,667	-274
Wisconsin	9,143	8,176	967	49,294	49,253	41
Wyoming	915	742	173	6,343	5,846	497
US Total	319,852	313,276	6,576	2,287,070	2,206,522	80,548

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	
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	2,246	85	2,183.75	1.7
December 5, 2015	282	13	270.75	2,242	-4	2,201.00	1.7
December 12, 2015	272	-10	270.75	2,195	-47	2,211.00	1.6
December 19, 2015	267	-5	272.50				

Initial Claims Filed During Week Ended December 12
INITIAL CLAIMS

Insured Unemployment For Week Ended December 5
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	3541	-104	347	22	24	22173	1.2	-548	-2116	87	168	22428
Alaska	1424	-358	-22	10	4	13381	4.2	-955	191	224	47	13652
Arizona	4008	78	82	21	12	26491	1.1	-1301	-3073	250	199	26940
Arkansas	2871	-810	-116	8	4	21140	1.9	-2088	-2406	121	172	21433
California	55903	-68	-7734	224	182	379914	2.4	-45567	-7393	2831	3300	386045
Colorado	2978	-940	29	25	36	28301	1.2	-2356	-1776	305	626	29232
Connecticut	4146	-741	-396	9	11	37230	2.3	71	-5283	63	170	37463
Delaware	743	-444	-141	3	1	6259	1.5	-1126	-715	21	32	6312
District of Columbia	274	-83	-120	4	0	8397	1.6	-183	-703	334	18	8749
Florida	7895	-338	-3211	22	75	48525	0.6	-9821	-22121	216	328	49069
Georgia	7869	-5772	-801	37	71	35885	0.9	-8389	-6098	318	522	36725
Hawaii	1090	-612	-371	2	15	6498	1.1	-653	-2134	93	163	6754
Idaho	2588	-672	-186	43	4	10648	1.7	1677	-1660	230	43	10921
Illinois	15250	-4050	478	9	26	125533	2.2	2913	-3867	328	444	126305
Indiana	4919	-757	-311	9	17	24568	0.9	1128	-5715	111	120	24799
Iowa	3757	-2802	202	1	6	24675	1.6	728	-120	63	93	24831
Kansas	2376	-865	-187	3	11	14022	1.0	-723	-2730	83	128	14233
Kentucky	3093	-1176	-367	17	6	21767	1.2	-1006	-2544	306	290	22363
Louisiana	2443	29	-63	6	10	21530	1.1	29	1208	90	116	21736
Maine	1499	-525	-673	5	3	8191	1.4	526	-3046	41	27	8259
Maryland	4131	-955	-738	25	29	39367	1.6	-929	-8775	364	259	39990
Massachusetts	8294	-943	-1510	26	23	69196	2.1	403	-10132	226	308	69730
Michigan	13872	905	2280	23	22	64296	1.6	1146	-6794	242	256	64794
Minnesota	7592	-2595	1675	13	8	55026	2.0	2361	279	183	190	55399
Mississippi	1879	-450	-687	7	3	12969	1.2	-940	-1500	80	80	13129
Missouri	5638	-1232	-385	38	11	30733	1.2	-1463	-6165	503	136	31372
Montana	1505	-861	62	64	5	11186	2.6	-475	-408	392	51	11629
Nebraska	1282	-692	-111	3	5	6422	0.7	337	-1928	32	32	6486
Nevada	3021	-620	-737	8	7	26746	2.2	-1097	-3283	214	155	27115
New Hampshire	774	-180	-380	1	1	5030	0.8	-13	-1505	4	9	5043
New Jersey	10561	-1724	-1289	11	23	99961	2.6	-3816	-13776	275	507	100743
New Mexico	1189	-170	38	24	7	13196	1.7	-438	-3	286	98	13580
New York	19504	-10297	-800	43	65	162319	1.8	-7061	-19371	434	795	163548
North Carolina	4465	-863	-1466	9	31	28741	0.7	29	-10386	170	408	29319
North Dakota	1477	-38	571	1	1	5340	1.2	681	1346	10	5	5355
Ohio	12857	196	1887	7	39	66588	1.3	1849	-4584	170	433	67191
Oklahoma	1743	-252	154	2	15	21849	1.4	-880	6878	80	159	22088
Oregon	5874	-2260	-407	78	28	33773	2.0	-1556	-3844	594	312	34679
Pennsylvania	23047	-9554	-342	80	72	146715	2.6	12962	-3075	595	608	147918
Puerto Rico	1488	-263	-60	0	13	26388	3.0	-2022	-1768	70	221	26679
Rhode Island	1479	199	-185	2	2	8539	1.9	317	-1309	19	34	8592
South Carolina	3392	-2029	-923	7	14	17605	0.9	-1782	-1401	56	132	17793
South Dakota	483	-242	38	3	2	2411	0.6	283	-362	34	7	2452
Tennessee	4657	-607	228	13	15	23909	0.9	200	-3641	194	200	24303
Texas	17168	-4535	2340	51	181	162238	1.4	-20409	36343	768	2396	165402
Utah	2024	-390	105	41	6	12181	1.0	981	23	354	55	12590
Vermont	720	-553	-148	3	0	4538	1.5	-678	-833	24	4	4566
Virgin Islands	27	-4	-17	0	0	684	1.8	-94	-66	4	16	704
Virginia	3880	-1007	-714	24	24	27538	0.8	-394	-5443	332	665	28535
Washington	8973	-1813	658	72	64	62144	2.1	2349	-1781	570	970	63684
West Virginia	2695	-29	328	2	7	18667	2.8	613	2206	93	79	18839
Wisconsin	8176	-6195	-748	15	8	49253	1.8	-5305	-12201	136	90	49479
Wyoming	742	-152	293	5	2	5846	2.1	-410	1349	123	27	5996
Totals	313276	-71215	-14551	1181	1251	2206522	1.6	-92895	-148011	13746	16703	2236971

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 DECEMBER 12, 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
NY	-10,297	Fewer layoffs in the transportation and warehousing, accommodation and food service, and construction industries.
PA	-9,554	Fewer layoffs in the transportation and warehousing, construction, and accommodation and food service industries.
WI	-6,195	No comment.
GA	-5,772	Fewer layoffs in the manufacturing, administrative and support and waste management and remediation service, construction, trade, and accommodation and food service industries.
TX	-4,535	No comment.
IL	-4,050	No comment.
IA	-2,802	Fewer layoffs in the manufacturing industry.
MN	-2,595	No comment.
OR	-2,260	No comment.
SC	-2,029	Fewer layoffs in the agriculture, forestry, fishing and hunting industry.
WA	-1,813	No comment.
NJ	-1,724	Fewer layoffs in the construction, retail trade, accommodation and food service, and health care and social assistance industries.
MO	-1,232	Fewer layoffs in the construction, transportation and warehousing, and accommodation and food service industries.
KY	-1,176	No comment.
VA	-1,007	Fewer layoffs in the construction industry.

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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