



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, May 26, 2016

UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE WEEKLY CLAIMS

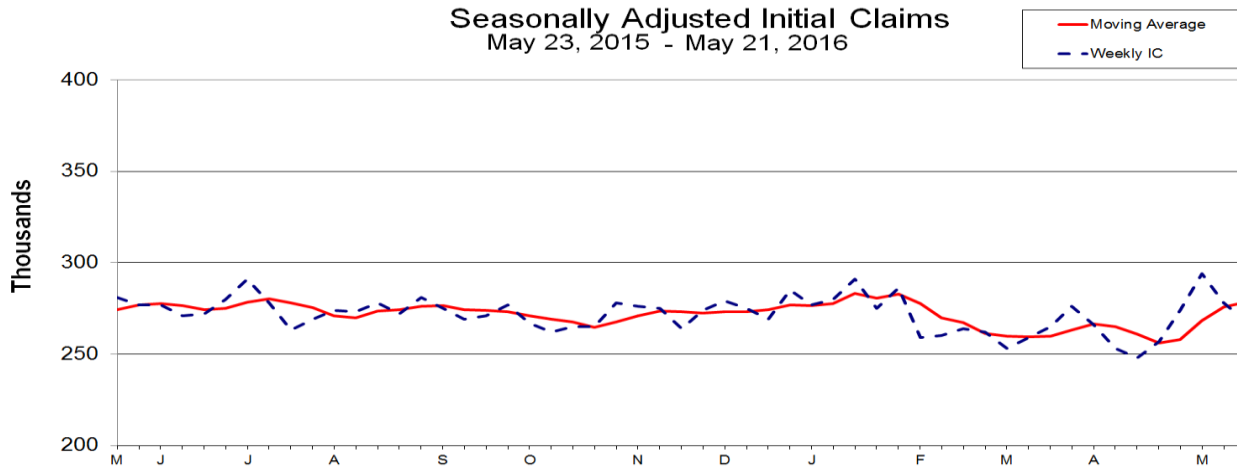
SEASONALLY ADJUSTED DATA

In the week ending May 21, the advance figure for seasonally adjusted **initial claims** was 268,000, a decrease of 10,000 from the previous week's unrevised level of 278,000. The 4-week moving average was 278,500, an increase of 2,750 from the previous week's unrevised average of 275,750.

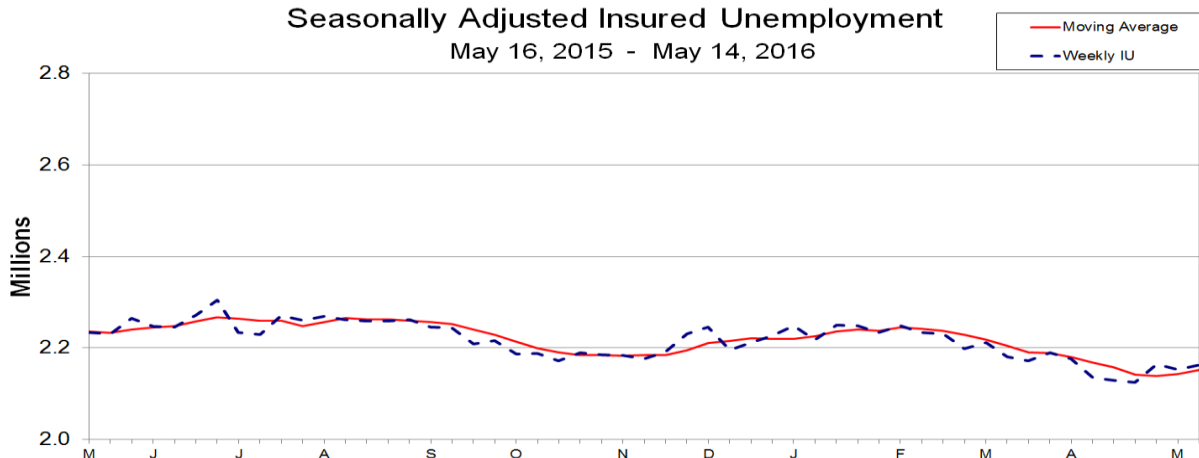
There were no special factors impacting this week's initial claims. This marks 64 consecutive weeks of initial claims below 300,000, the longest streak since 1973.

The advance seasonally adjusted **insured unemployment rate** was 1.6 percent for the week ending May 14, unchanged from the previous week's unrevised rate. The advance number for seasonally adjusted **insured unemployment** during the week ending May 14 was 2,163,000, an increase of 10,000 from the previous week's revised level. The previous week's level was revised up 1,000 from 2,152,000 to 2,153,000. The 4-week moving average was 2,151,250, an increase of 8,500 from the previous week's revised average. The previous week's average was revised up by 250 from 2,142,500 to 2,142,750.

Seasonally Adjusted Initial Claims
May 23, 2015 - May 21, 2016



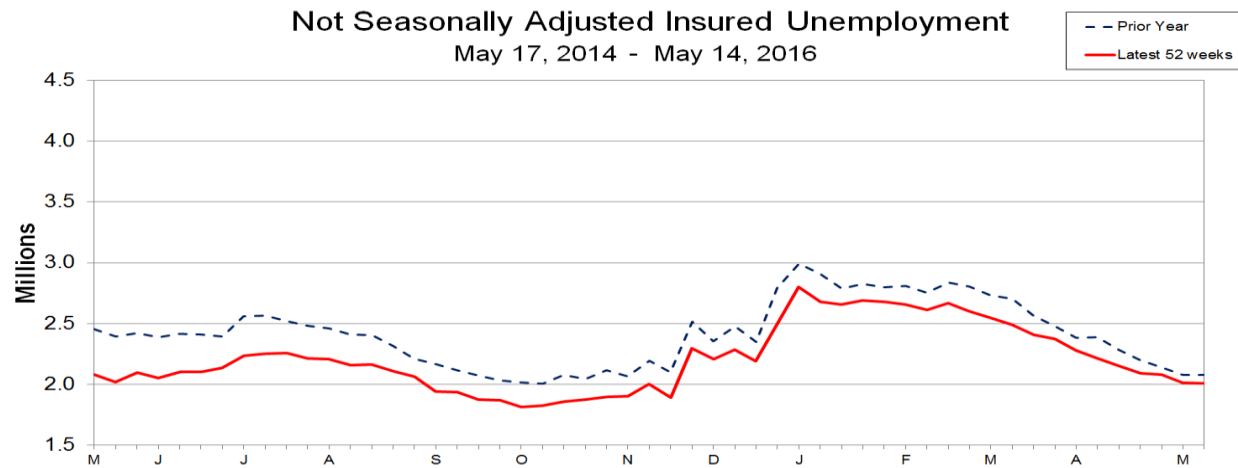
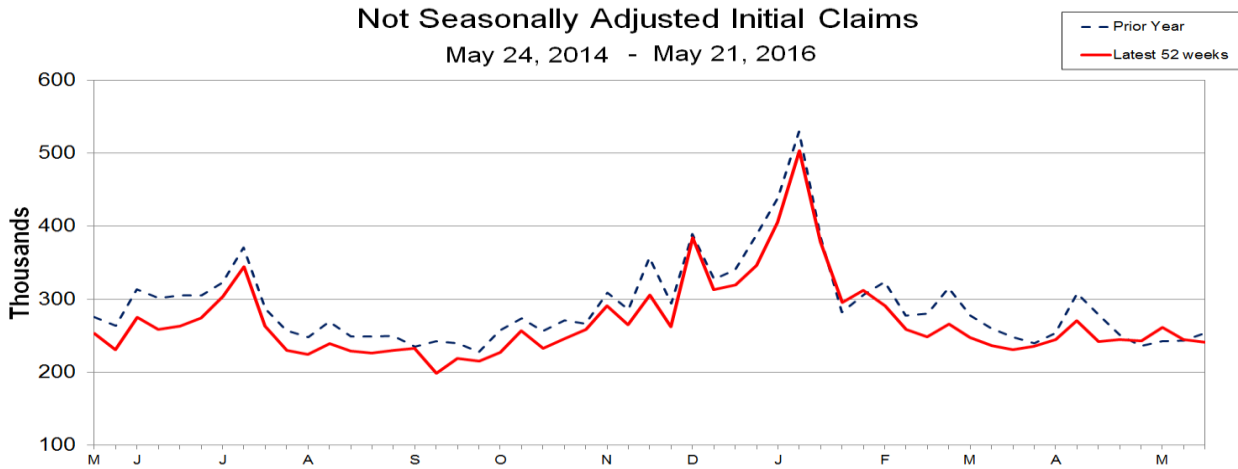
Seasonally Adjusted Insured Unemployment
May 16, 2015 - May 14, 2016



UNADJUSTED DATA

The advance number of actual initial claims under state programs, unadjusted, totaled 240,868 in the week ending May 21, a decrease of 4,001 (or -1.6 percent) from the previous week. The seasonal factors had expected an increase of 5,003 (or 2.0 percent) from the previous week. There were 253,454 initial claims in the comparable week in 2015.

The advance unadjusted insured unemployment rate was 1.5 percent during the week ending May 14, unchanged from the prior week. The advance unadjusted number for persons claiming UI benefits in state programs totaled 2,011,176, a decrease of 3,640 (or -0.2 percent) from the preceding week. The seasonal factors had expected a decrease of 12,915 (or -0.6 percent) from the previous week. A year earlier the rate was 1.6 percent and the volume was 2,079,191.



The total number of people claiming benefits in all programs for the week ending May 7 was 2,055,890, a decrease of 66,591 from the previous week. There were 2,127,885 persons claiming benefits in all programs in the comparable week in 2015.

No state was triggered "on" the Extended Benefits program during the week ending May 7.

Initial claims for UI benefits filed by former Federal civilian employees totaled 647 in the week ending May 14, a decrease of 18 from the prior week. There were 1,047 initial claims filed by newly discharged veterans, a decrease of 153 from the preceding week.

There were 7,754 former Federal civilian employees claiming UI benefits for the week ending May 7, a decrease of 812 from the previous week. Newly discharged veterans claiming benefits totaled 13,556, an increase of 178 from the prior week.

The highest insured unemployment rates in the week ending May 7 were in Alaska (3.5), Wyoming (2.9), West Virginia (2.6), Puerto Rico (2.5), New Jersey (2.4), California (2.3), Connecticut (2.2), Pennsylvania (2.2), Illinois (2.0), and Massachusetts (2.0).

The largest increases in initial claims for the week ending May 14 were in Missouri (+4,153), California (+1,645), Indiana (+658), Iowa (+430), and Kansas (+406), while the largest decreases were in New York (-15,881), Michigan (-3,654), Tennessee (-1,561), Illinois (-703), and Pennsylvania (-668).

UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE DATA FOR REGULAR STATE PROGRAMS

WEEK ENDING	May 21	May 14	Change	May 7	Prior Year¹
Initial Claims (SA)	268,000	278,000	-10,000	294,000	281,000
Initial Claims (NSA)	240,868	244,869	-4,001	261,899	253,454
4-Wk Moving Average (SA)	278,500	275,750	+2,750	268,250	274,250
WEEK ENDING	May 14	May 7	Change	April 30	Prior Year¹
Insured Unemployment (SA)	2,163,000	2,153,000	+10,000	2,165,000	2,233,000
Insured Unemployment (NSA)	2,011,176	2,014,816	-3,640	2,080,555	2,079,191
4-Wk Moving Average (SA)	2,151,250	2,142,750	+8,500	2,138,250	2,236,250
Insured Unemployment Rate (SA)²	1.6%	1.6%	0.0	1.6%	1.7%
Insured Unemployment Rate (NSA)²	1.5%	1.5%	0.0	1.5%	1.6%

INITIAL CLAIMS FILED IN FEDERAL PROGRAMS (UNADJUSTED)

WEEK ENDING	May 14	May 7	Change	Prior Year¹
Federal Employees (UCFE)	647	665	-18	849
Newly Discharged Veterans (UCX)	1,047	1,200	-153	1,303

PERSONS CLAIMING UI BENEFITS IN ALL PROGRAMS (UNADJUSTED)

WEEK ENDING	May 7	April 30	Change	Prior Year¹
Regular State	2,009,530	2,075,236	-65,706	2,074,988
Federal Employees	7,754	8,566	-812	10,250
Newly Discharged Veterans	13,556	13,378	+178	19,118
Extended Benefits³	0	0	0	0
State Additional Benefits⁴	7,714	8,209	-495	7,907
STC / Workshare⁵	17,336	17,092	+244	15,622
TOTAL	2,055,890	2,122,481	-66,591	2,127,885

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 136,969,042 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 May 21			Insured Unemployment For Week Ended May 14		
	Advance	Prior Wk	Change	Advance	Prior Wk	Change
Alabama	2,914	3,162	-248	19,260	19,679	-419
Alaska	1,280	1,095	185	11,126	11,185	-59
Arizona	4,161	4,401	-240	29,367	32,694	-3,327
Arkansas	2,743	2,482	261	15,492	16,219	-727
California	41,044	43,498	-2,454	366,673	364,633	2,040
Colorado	2,569	2,275	294	30,056	28,905	1,151
Connecticut	3,206	3,320	-114	36,518	35,522	996
Delaware	571	679	-108	5,859	5,681	178
District of Columbia	617	388	229	6,729	7,373	-644
Florida	7,753	8,049	-296	41,203	45,140	-3,937
Georgia	5,745	6,771	-1,026	29,315	31,698	-2,383
Hawaii	1,262	1,249	13	7,264	6,684	580
Idaho	877	960	-83	5,801	6,803	-1,002
Illinois	10,651	9,623	1,028	112,887	113,236	-349
Indiana	3,101	3,342	-241	22,038	22,216	-178
Iowa	3,600	2,562	1,038	19,054	17,458	1,596
Kansas	2,844	2,329	515	13,335	14,614	-1,279
Kentucky	2,839	2,865	-26	21,703	21,954	-251
Louisiana	2,603	2,969	-366	23,513	22,787	726
Maine	608	724	-116	6,540	7,287	-747
Maryland	3,762	3,515	247	31,758	35,389	-3,631
Massachusetts	5,424	5,436	-12	63,882	66,535	-2,653
Michigan	5,514	8,779	-3,265	60,184	57,950	2,234
Minnesota	4,048	3,529	519	37,912	36,709	1,203
Mississippi	2,403	2,140	263	10,943	12,082	-1,139
Missouri	5,890	8,327	-2,437	24,019	22,378	1,641
Montana	815	932	-117	6,874	7,357	-483
Nebraska	862	889	-27	4,295	4,149	146
Nevada	2,668	2,584	84	21,354	22,888	-1,534
New Hampshire	489	555	-66	4,072	4,477	-405
New Jersey	8,123	9,034	-911	92,507	92,248	259
New Mexico	1,282	1,044	238	12,875	13,462	-587
New York	15,648	17,125	-1,477	147,054	149,748	-2,694
North Carolina	4,372	4,056	316	24,661	25,365	-704
North Dakota	676	495	181	7,600	4,987	2,613
Ohio	7,102	7,610	-508	58,282	61,295	-3,013
Oklahoma	2,189	2,005	184	23,196	23,613	-417
Oregon	5,213	3,341	1,872	27,016	27,271	-255
Pennsylvania	15,884	17,882	-1,998	131,888	124,419	7,469
Puerto Rico	1,780	1,492	288	19,979	21,776	-1,797
Rhode Island	861	859	2	8,240	8,625	-385
South Carolina	2,878	3,040	-162	13,859	14,078	-219
South Dakota	241	243	-2	1,205	1,380	-175
Tennessee	3,782	1,555	2,227	16,724	21,147	-4,423
Texas	17,798	17,346	452	186,102	175,739	10,363
Utah	1,237	1,108	129	9,659	9,796	-137
Vermont	766	556	210	4,540	4,781	-241
Virgin Islands	29	45	-16	596	536	60
Virginia	4,344	3,726	618	29,940	28,340	1,600
Washington	6,250	6,025	225	48,540	47,283	1,257
West Virginia	1,290	1,193	97	18,006	17,310	696
Wisconsin	5,543	5,148	395	31,851	31,928	-77
*Wyoming	717	512	205	7,830	8,007	-177
US Total	240,868	244,869	-4,001	2,011,176	2,014,816	-3,640

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	Initial Claims	Change from Prior Week	4-Week Average	Insured Unemployment	Change from Prior Week	4-Week Average	IUR
May 16, 2015	276	3	270.50	2,233	0	2,236.25	1.7
May 23, 2015	281	5	274.25	2,231	-2	2,233.50	1.7
May 30, 2015	277	-4	276.75	2,265	34	2,240.50	1.7
June 6, 2015	277	0	277.75	2,247	-18	2,244.00	1.7
June 13, 2015	271	-6	276.50	2,246	-1	2,247.25	1.7
June 20, 2015	272	1	274.25	2,272	26	2,257.50	1.7
June 27, 2015	280	8	275.00	2,304	32	2,267.25	1.7
July 4, 2015	291	11	278.50	2,233	-71	2,263.75	1.7
July 11, 2015	278	-13	280.25	2,229	-4	2,259.50	1.7
July 18, 2015	263	-15	278.00	2,270	41	2,259.00	1.7
July 25, 2015	269	6	275.25	2,260	-10	2,248.00	1.7
August 1, 2015	274	5	271.00	2,269	9	2,257.00	1.7
August 8, 2015	273	-1	269.75	2,261	-8	2,265.00	1.7
August 15, 2015	278	5	273.50	2,259	-2	2,262.25	1.7
August 22, 2015	272	-6	274.25	2,259	0	2,262.00	1.7
August 29, 2015	281	9	276.00	2,261	2	2,260.00	1.7
September 5, 2015	275	-6	276.50	2,246	-15	2,256.25	1.7
September 12, 2015	269	-6	274.25	2,244	-2	2,252.50	1.7
September 19, 2015	271	2	274.00	2,208	-36	2,239.75	1.6
September 26, 2015	277	6	273.00	2,216	8	2,228.50	1.6
October 3, 2015	267	-10	271.00	2,186	-30	2,213.50	1.6
October 10, 2015	262	-5	269.25	2,188	2	2,199.50	1.6
October 17, 2015	265	3	267.75	2,171	-17	2,190.25	1.6
October 24, 2015	265	0	264.75	2,190	19	2,183.75	1.6
October 31, 2015	278	13	267.50	2,185	-5	2,183.50	1.6
November 7, 2015	276	-2	271.00	2,183	-2	2,182.25	1.6
November 14, 2015	275	-1	273.50	2,176	-7	2,183.50	1.6
November 21, 2015	264	-11	273.25	2,191	15	2,183.75	1.6
November 28, 2015	274	10	272.25	2,230	39	2,195.00	1.6
December 5, 2015	279	5	273.00	2,245	15	2,210.50	1.7
December 12, 2015	275	-4	273.00	2,195	-50	2,215.25	1.6
December 19, 2015	269	-6	274.25	2,212	17	2,220.50	1.6
December 26, 2015	285	16	277.00	2,226	14	2,219.50	1.6
January 2, 2016	277	-8	276.50	2,248	22	2,220.25	1.6
January 9, 2016	280	3	277.75	2,217	-31	2,225.75	1.6
January 16, 2016	291	11	283.25	2,250	33	2,235.25	1.7
January 23, 2016	275	-16	280.75	2,248	-2	2,240.75	1.6
January 30, 2016	286	11	283.00	2,234	-14	2,237.25	1.6
February 6, 2016	259	-27	277.75	2,249	15	2,245.25	1.7
February 13, 2016	260	1	270.00	2,233	-16	2,241.00	1.6
February 20, 2016	264	4	267.25	2,231	-2	2,236.75	1.6
February 27, 2016	262	-2	261.25	2,198	-33	2,227.75	1.6
March 5, 2016	253	-9	259.75	2,212	14	2,218.50	1.6
March 12, 2016	259	6	259.50	2,180	-32	2,205.25	1.6
March 19, 2016	265	6	259.75	2,172	-8	2,190.50	1.6
March 26, 2016	276	11	263.25	2,189	17	2,188.25	1.6
April 2, 2016	266	-10	266.50	2,176	-13	2,179.25	1.6
April 9, 2016	253	-13	265.00	2,135	-41	2,168.00	1.6
April 16, 2016	248	-5	260.75	2,129	-6	2,157.25	1.6
April 23, 2016	257	9	256.00	2,124	-5	2,141.00	1.6
April 30, 2016	274	17	258.00	2,165	41	2,138.25	1.6
May 7, 2016	294	20	268.25	2,153	-12	2,142.75	1.6
May 14, 2016	278	-16	275.75	2,163	10	2,151.25	1.6
May 21, 2016	268	-10	278.50				

Initial Claims Filed During Week Ended May 14

Insured Unemployment For Week Ended May 7
INSURED UNEMPLOYMENT

STATE	INITIAL CLAIMS CHANGE FROM						STATE	CHANGE FROM				ALL PROGRAMS EXCLUDING RAILROAD RETIREMENT
	STATE	LAST WEEK	YEAR AGO	UCFE ¹	UCX ¹	(%) ²		LAST WEEK	YEAR AGO	UCFE ¹	UCX ¹	
Alabama	3162	180	-383	9	14	19679	1.1	178	-2629	55	141	19875
Alaska	1095	-1	-116	4	1	11185	3.5	-780	710	100	47	11332
Arizona	4401	-171	-65	6	16	32694	1.3	-242	-1233	132	138	32964
Arkansas	2482	-109	-529	7	9	16219	1.4	-118	-4238	71	97	16387
California	43498	1645	739	201	164	364633	2.3	-8388	-8137	1845	2683	369161
Colorado	2275	-419	-325	9	26	28905	1.2	-793	-2449	123	619	29647
Connecticut	3320	-34	200	3	11	35522	2.2	-333	-1407	60	131	35713
Delaware	679	78	92	1	1	5681	1.3	32	-170	15	27	5723
District of Columbia	388	84	13	6	1	7373	1.4	84	-236	248	8	7629
Florida	8049	-214	-1167	10	61	45140	0.6	-314	-13895	133	321	45594
Georgia	6771	-337	171	22	50	31698	0.8	1007	-4579	193	428	32319
Hawaii	1249	32	13	3	14	6684	1.1	-50	-1408	65	135	6884
Idaho	960	15	-95	0	8	6803	1.1	-230	-1205	53	37	6893
Illinois	9623	-703	239	18	23	113236	2.0	-12845	1504	354	404	113994
Indiana	3342	658	-35	6	7	22216	0.8	411	-895	62	89	22367
Iowa	2562	430	255	4	5	17458	1.2	-1241	221	46	79	17583
Kansas	2329	406	356	8	20	14614	1.1	-911	-860	36	95	14745
Kentucky	2865	-100	-411	17	8	21954	1.2	67	607	87	248	22289
Louisiana	2969	144	207	1	2	22787	1.2	154	-107	46	36	22869
Maine	724	-81	-380	3	2	7287	1.3	-591	-1694	39	36	7362
Maryland	3515	-576	-121	10	20	35389	1.5	110	-3343	251	218	35858
Massachusetts	5436	-130	-67	5	12	66535	2.0	-1294	1382	169	287	66991
Michigan	8779	-3654	2989	17	15	57950	1.4	2632	1952	125	193	58268
Minnesota	3529	-91	26	5	8	36709	1.3	-4882	1332	57	127	36893
Mississippi	2140	-49	-273	3	4	12082	1.1	1072	-162	102	44	12228
Missouri	8327	4153	3003	13	14	22378	0.8	-358	-6853	91	123	22592
Montana	932	126	105	7	2	7357	1.7	-809	140	89	49	7495
Nebraska	889	229	-274	1	2	4149	0.4	-167	-1786	15	25	4189
Nevada	2584	194	-536	4	4	22888	1.9	-697	-2605	99	127	23114
New Hampshire	555	-76	93	1	0	4477	0.7	-750	-323	2	16	4495
New Jersey	9034	-50	1479	12	20	92248	2.4	-1352	-2031	188	344	92780
New Mexico	1044	-25	-102	1	2	13462	1.7	-210	44	104	78	13644
New York	17125	-15881	1251	25	54	149748	1.7	-18365	-3717	369	634	150751
North Carolina	4056	198	-1014	8	36	25365	0.6	280	-8252	116	268	25749
North Dakota	495	-145	20	2	1	4987	1.1	-574	1536	4	4	4995
Ohio	7610	89	175	9	30	61295	1.2	-823	3103	91	347	61733
Oklahoma	2005	-41	-134	3	11	23613	1.5	-175	1834	58	139	23810
Oregon	3341	93	-1621	19	14	27271	1.6	-669	-3941	242	176	27689
Pennsylvania	17882	-668	1660	59	43	124419	2.2	-1541	3391	424	519	125362
Puerto Rico	1492	-320	-549	3	9	21776	2.5	1050	-2917	34	177	21987
Rhode Island	859	111	-145	3	1	8625	1.9	-302	-45	24	24	8673
South Carolina	3040	120	381	8	19	14078	0.7	32	-552	63	123	14264
South Dakota	243	39	-49	6	0	1380	0.3	-156	50	26	13	1419
Tennessee	1555	-1561	-1848	3	8	21147	0.8	-1023	-3174	101	141	21389
Texas	17346	272	325	28	180	175739	1.5	-4633	10129	425	2123	178287
Utah	1108	-105	-156	12	4	9796	0.8	-428	-1194	51	27	9874
Vermont	556	29	-258	1	0	4781	1.6	-244	220	25	7	4813
Virgin Islands	45	-9	9	0	0	536	1.4	-14	-440	10	2	548
Virginia	3726	96	-37	17	17	28340	0.8	-1135	910	247	455	29042
Washington	6025	-595	-571	19	61	47283	1.6	-3072	-2960	217	813	48313
West Virginia	1193	-202	-178	1	2	17310	2.6	191	2883	38	53	17401
Wisconsin	5148	11	-1150	3	11	31928	1.2	-2160	-9424	79	75	32082
Wyoming	512	-115	45	1	0	8007	2.9	-370	2444	55	6	8068
Totals	244869	-17030	1257	647	1047	2014816	1.5	-65739	-64469	7754	13556	2036126

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 MAY 14, 2016

STATES WITH AN INCREASE OF MORE THAN 1,000

State	Change	State Supplied Comment
MO	+4,153	Layoffs in the manufacturing, accommodation and food service, and transportation and warehousing industries.
CA	+1,645	No comment.

STATES WITH A DECREASE OF MORE THAN 1,000

State	Change	State Supplied Comment
NY	-15,881	Fewer layoffs in the transportation and warehousing, educational service, and accommodation and food service industries.
MI	-3,654	Fewer layoffs in the management of companies and enterprises industry.
TN	-1,561	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](#)

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 16-1073-NAT

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