



News Release

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8:30 A.M. (Eastern) Thursday, September 29, 2016

UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE WEEKLY CLAIMS

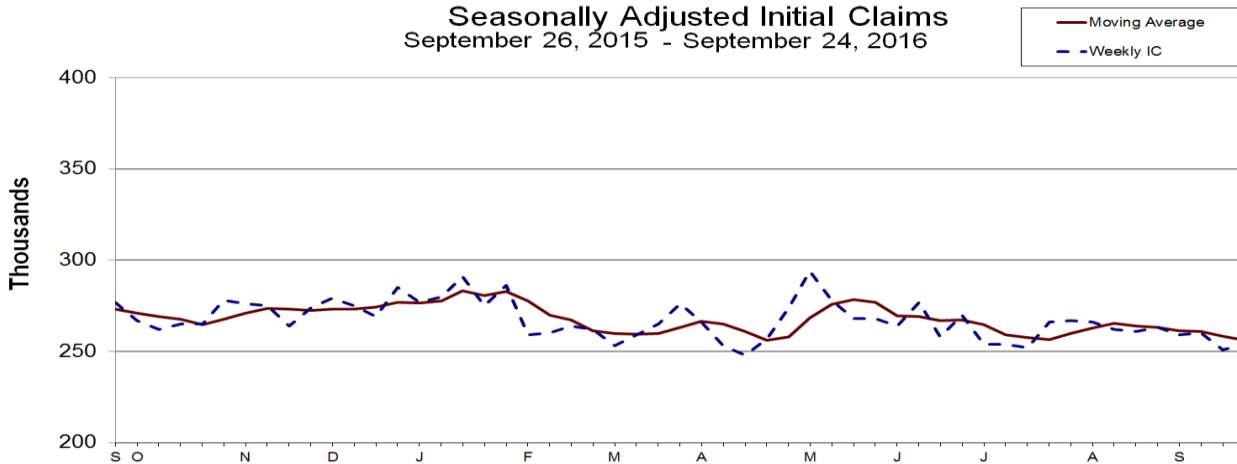
SEASONALLY ADJUSTED DATA

In the week ending September 24, the advance figure for seasonally adjusted **initial claims** was 254,000, an increase of 3,000 from the previous week's revised level. The previous week's level was revised down by 1,000 from 252,000 to 251,000. The 4-week moving average was 256,000, a decrease of 2,500 from the previous week's revised average. The previous week's average was revised down by 250 from 258,500 to 258,250.

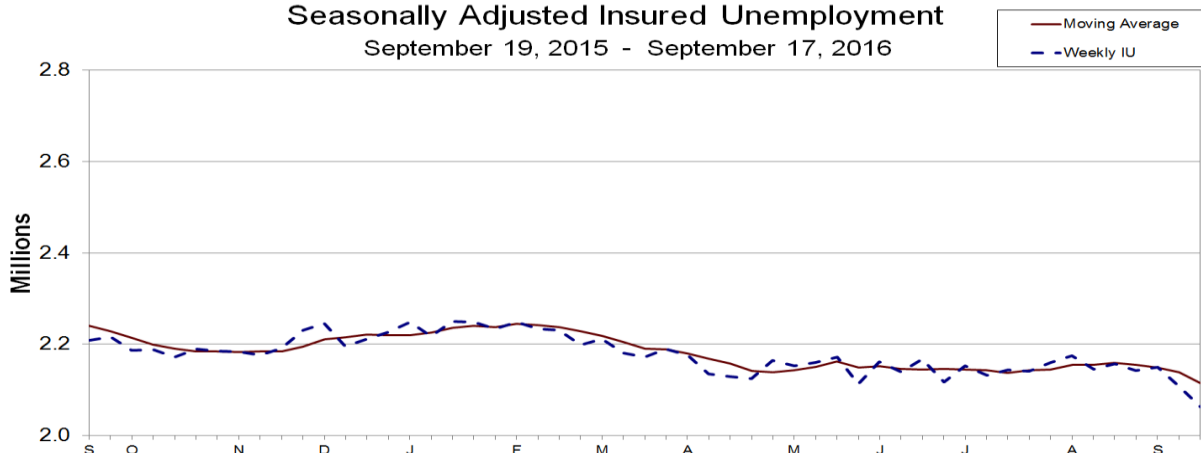
There were no special factors impacting this week's initial claims. This marks 82 consecutive weeks of initial claims below 300,000, the longest streak since 1970.

The advance seasonally adjusted **insured unemployment rate** was 1.5 percent for the week ending September 17, unchanged from the previous week's unrevised rate. The advance number for seasonally adjusted **insured unemployment** during the week ending September 17 was 2,062,000, a decrease of 46,000 from the previous week's revised level. This is the lowest level for insured unemployment since July 1, 2000 when it was 2,052,000. The previous week's level was revised down by 5,000 from 2,113,000 to 2,108,000. The 4-week moving average was 2,115,250, a decrease of 23,750 from the previous week's revised average. This is the lowest level for this average since November 4, 2000 when it was 2,110,500. The previous week's average was revised down by 1,250 from 2,140,250 to 2,139,000.

Seasonally Adjusted Initial Claims
September 26, 2015 - September 24, 2016



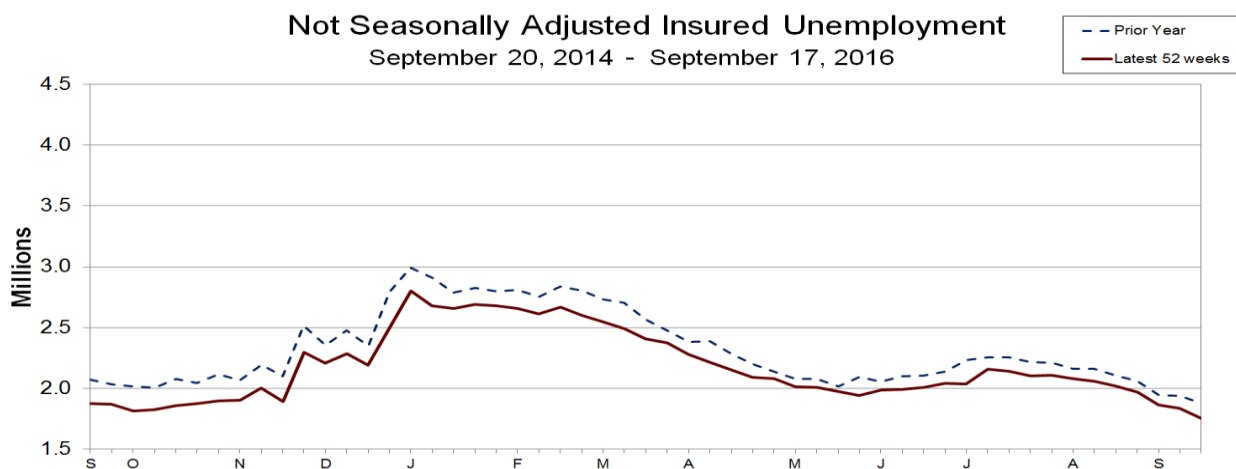
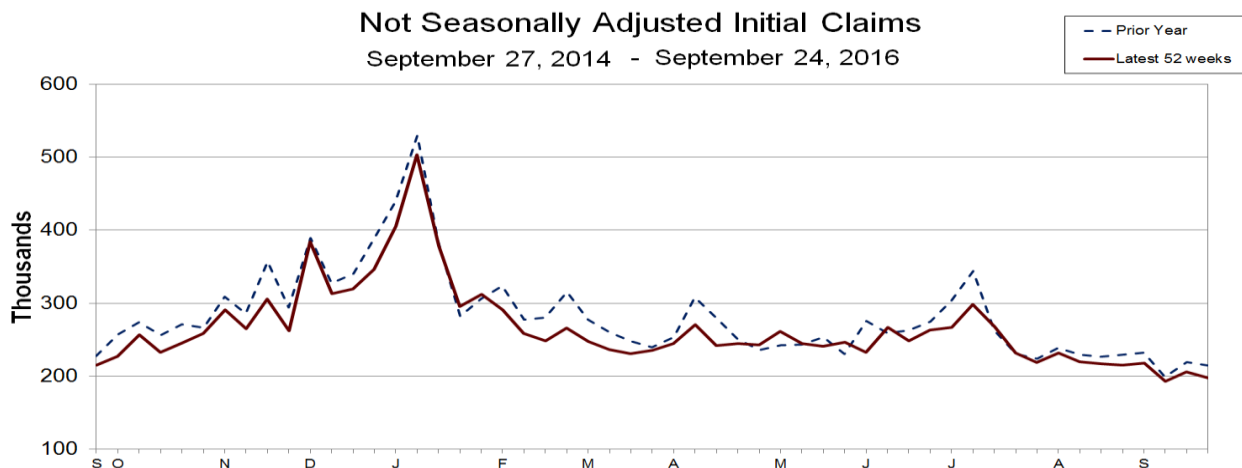
Seasonally Adjusted Insured Unemployment
September 19, 2015 - September 17, 2016



UNADJUSTED DATA

The advance number of actual initial claims under state programs, unadjusted, totaled 197,984 in the week ending September 24, a decrease of 7,665 (or -3.7 percent) from the previous week. The seasonal factors had expected a decrease of 9,302 (or -4.5 percent) from the previous week. There were 215,116 initial claims in the comparable week in 2015.

The advance unadjusted insured unemployment rate was 1.3 percent during the week ending September 17, unchanged from the prior week. The advance unadjusted number for persons claiming UI benefits in state programs totaled 1,754,357, a decrease of 81,562 (or -4.4 percent) from the preceding week. The seasonal factors had expected a decrease of 42,157 (or -2.3 percent) from the previous week. A year earlier the rate was 1.4 percent and the volume was 1,876,960.



The total number of people claiming benefits in all programs for the week ending September 10 was 1,874,794, a decrease of 30,737 from the previous week. There were 1,985,075 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 September 10.

Initial claims for UI benefits filed by former Federal civilian employees totaled 752 in the week ending September 17, an increase of 138 from the prior week. There were 1,066 initial claims filed by newly discharged veterans, an increase of 48 from the preceding week.

There were 8,174 former Federal civilian employees claiming UI benefits for the week ending September 10, a decrease of 814 from the previous week. Newly discharged veterans claiming benefits totaled 13,223, an increase of 128 from the prior week.

The highest insured unemployment rates in the week ending September 10 were in Alaska (2.6), Puerto Rico (2.5), New Jersey (2.3), Connecticut (2.1), the Virgin Islands (2.1), California (2.0), Pennsylvania (2.0), Illinois (1.9), West Virginia (1.9), Massachusetts (1.7), and Nevada (1.7).

The largest increases in initial claims for the week ending September 17 were in California (+3,152), Texas (+1,745), New Jersey (+1,665), Georgia (+1,229), and Michigan (+785), while the largest decreases were in Oklahoma (-626), Wisconsin (-404), West Virginia (-222), Kentucky (-149), and Nevada (-99).

UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE DATA FOR REGULAR STATE PROGRAMS

WEEK ENDING	September 24	September 17	Change	September 10	<u>Prior Year</u> ¹
Initial Claims (SA)	254,000	251,000	+3,000	260,000	277,000
Initial Claims (NSA)	197,984	205,649	-7,665	193,291	215,116
4-Wk Moving Average (SA)	256,000	258,250	-2,250	260,750	273,000
WEEK ENDING	September 17	September 10	Change	September 3	<u>Prior Year</u> ¹
Insured Unemployment (SA)	2,062,000	2,108,000	-46,000	2,149,000	2,208,000
Insured Unemployment (NSA)	1,754,357	1,835,919	-81,562	1,867,279	1,876,960
4-Wk Moving Average (SA)	2,115,250	2,139,000	-23,750	2,148,250	2,239,750
<u>Insured Unemployment Rate (SA)</u> ²	1.5%	1.5%	0.0	1.6%	1.6%
<u>Insured Unemployment Rate (NSA)</u> ²	1.3%	1.3%	0.0	1.4%	1.4%

INITIAL CLAIMS FILED IN FEDERAL PROGRAMS (UNADJUSTED)

WEEK ENDING	September 17	September 10	Change	<u>Prior Year</u> ¹
Federal Employees (UCFE)	752	614	+138	867
Newly Discharged Veterans (UCX)	1,066	1,018	+48	1,347

PERSONS CLAIMING UI BENEFITS IN ALL PROGRAMS (UNADJUSTED)

WEEK ENDING	September 10	September 3	Change	<u>Prior Year</u> ¹
Regular State	1,831,036	1,862,449	-31,413	1,934,225
Federal Employees	8,174	8,988	-814	11,063
Newly Discharged Veterans	13,223	13,095	+128	17,791
<u>Extended Benefits</u> ³	0	0	0	0
<u>State Additional Benefits</u> ⁴	6,822	6,323	+499	7,045
<u>STC / Workshare</u> ⁵	15,539	14,676	+863	14,951
<u>TOTAL</u>	1,874,794	1,905,531	-30,737	1,985,075

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 137,652,280 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 September 24			Insured Unemployment For Week Ended September 17		
	Advance	Prior Wk	Change	Advance	Prior Wk	Change
Alabama	2,298	2,403	-105	18,440	20,362	-1,922
Alaska	1,459	1,230	229	7,919	8,244	-325
Arizona	3,799	4,056	-257	28,245	32,456	-4,211
Arkansas	1,472	1,832	-360	13,042	14,327	-1,285
California	38,416	38,765	-349	329,902	322,285	7,617
Colorado	1,971	1,916	55	23,343	24,053	-710
Connecticut	2,706	2,721	-15	34,794	34,170	624
Delaware	517	496	21	5,021	4,845	176
District of Columbia	427	278	149	7,384	8,126	-742
Florida	6,904	7,603	-699	46,058	52,747	-6,689
Georgia	5,838	6,352	-514	28,128	30,977	-2,849
Hawaii	1,214	1,247	-33	7,376	7,328	48
Idaho	791	949	-158	4,828	5,427	-599
Illinois	7,706	8,278	-572	94,483	107,364	-12,881
Indiana	2,474	2,626	-152	19,347	19,617	-270
Iowa	2,287	1,860	427	16,085	15,201	884
Kansas	1,866	1,916	-50	11,237	11,607	-370
Kentucky	2,192	1,976	216	18,440	20,097	-1,657
Louisiana	2,098	2,402	-304	25,559	27,190	-1,631
Maine	559	601	-42	4,036	4,259	-223
Maryland	3,069	3,094	-25	29,366	33,176	-3,810
Massachusetts	4,430	4,492	-62	55,031	57,179	-2,148
Michigan	8,211	6,184	2,027	38,793	43,624	-4,831
Minnesota	2,944	3,341	-397	28,402	28,223	179
Mississippi	1,105	1,474	-369	9,785	11,656	-1,871
Missouri	3,142	3,420	-278	22,627	24,613	-1,986
Montana	843	739	104	4,173	4,645	-472
Nebraska	607	661	-54	3,744	3,710	34
Nevada	2,182	2,244	-62	18,783	21,236	-2,453
New Hampshire	413	456	-43	3,435	3,833	-398
New Jersey	7,827	8,853	-1,026	83,976	90,212	-6,236
New Mexico	876	942	-66	10,825	11,246	-421
New York	12,681	14,534	-1,853	126,748	139,521	-12,773
North Carolina	3,100	3,192	-92	22,537	24,566	-2,029
North Dakota	317	372	-55	3,557	2,863	694
Ohio	5,797	6,477	-680	49,554	50,265	-711
Oklahoma	1,559	1,571	-12	18,973	21,204	-2,231
Oregon	3,836	3,383	453	23,953	24,168	-215
Pennsylvania	11,894	13,110	-1,216	104,957	114,107	-9,150
Puerto Rico	1,167	1,533	-366	21,510	22,462	-952
Rhode Island	700	806	-106	7,024	7,071	-47
South Carolina	2,147	2,353	-206	14,103	15,565	-1,462
South Dakota	129	192	-63	1,083	1,146	-63
Tennessee	2,033	2,283	-250	16,698	17,812	-1,114
Texas	14,679	14,817	-138	171,641	169,348	2,293
Utah	1,061	978	83	7,808	7,894	-86
Vermont	343	350	-7	2,780	2,664	116
Virgin Islands	43	82	-39	716	792	-76
Virginia	2,874	3,041	-167	24,931	24,872	59
Washington	5,482	5,245	237	40,560	39,962	598
West Virginia	754	934	-180	12,411	12,817	-406
Wisconsin	4,317	4,606	-289	26,010	28,283	-2,273
Wyoming	428	383	45	4,196	4,502	-306
US Total	197,984	205,649	-7,665	1,754,357	1,835,919	-81,562

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	Initial Claims	Change from		Insured Unemployment	Change from		IUR
		Prior Week	4-Week Average		Prior Week	4-Week Average	
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	2,160	7	2,150.50	1.6
May 21, 2016	268	-10	278.50	2,172	12	2,162.50	1.6
May 28, 2016	268	0	277.00	2,112	-60	2,149.25	1.5
June 4, 2016	264	-4	269.50	2,162	50	2,151.50	1.6
June 11, 2016	277	13	269.25	2,139	-23	2,146.25	1.6
June 18, 2016	258	-19	266.75	2,167	28	2,145.00	1.6
June 25, 2016	270	12	267.25	2,117	-50	2,146.25	1.5
July 2, 2016	254	-16	264.75	2,153	36	2,144.00	1.6
July 9, 2016	254	0	259.00	2,132	-21	2,142.25	1.5
July 16, 2016	252	-2	257.50	2,144	12	2,136.50	1.6
July 23, 2016	266	14	256.50	2,141	-3	2,142.50	1.6
July 30, 2016	267	1	259.75	2,160	19	2,144.25	1.6
August 6, 2016	266	-1	262.75	2,175	15	2,155.00	1.6
August 13, 2016	262	-4	265.25	2,145	-30	2,155.25	1.6
August 20, 2016	261	-1	264.00	2,157	12	2,159.25	1.6
August 27, 2016	263	2	263.00	2,142	-15	2,154.75	1.6
September 3, 2016	259	-4	261.25	2,149	7	2,148.25	1.6
September 10, 2016	260	1	260.75	2,108	-41	2,139.00	1.5
September 17, 2016	251	-9	258.25	2,062	-46	2,115.25	1.5
September 24, 2016	254	3	256.00				

Initial Claims Filed During Week Ended September

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INITIAL CLAIMS
CHANGE FROMInsured Unemployment For Week Ended September 10
INSURED UNEMPLOYMENT

CHANGE FROM

STATE	INITIAL CLAIMS					STATE	(%) 2	CHANGE FROM				ALL PROGRAMS EXCLUDING RAILROAD RETIREMENT
	STATE	LAST WEEK	YEAR AGO	UCFE ¹	UCX ¹			LAST WEEK	YEAR AGO	UCFE ¹	UCX ¹	
Alabama	2403	178	-126	5	20	20362	1.1	-99	-973	89	136	20587
Alaska	1230	232	123	7	6	8244	2.6	210	785	62	29	8335
Arizona	4056	468	314	3	3	32456	1.3	-480	-1827	88	165	32709
Arkansas	1832	226	-364	9	4	14327	1.2	65	-4683	49	95	14471
California	38765	3152	-1799	137	189	322285	2.0	4504	-16696	1738	2645	326668
Colorado	1916	-40	-258	6	26	24053	1.0	249	-1250	104	513	24670
Connecticut	2721	51	191	5	5	34170	2.1	-2763	960	50	96	34316
Delaware	496	35	-112	3	0	4845	1.1	-266	-536	12	18	4875
District of Columbia	278	-3	-22	5	0	8126	1.5	-59	-283	247	8	8381
Florida	7603	110	-214	19	64	52747	0.7	-158	-13591	148	335	53230
Georgia	6352	1229	-162	33	53	30977	0.8	370	-5186	163	421	31561
Hawaii	1247	7	22	3	14	7328	1.2	1	162	60	114	7502
Idaho	949	-36	-20	1	5	5427	0.8	10	-368	19	37	5483
Illinois	8278	250	-274	11	14	107364	1.9	10671	759	357	345	108066
Indiana	2626	11	-768	8	7	19617	0.7	35	-1219	45	77	19739
Iowa	1860	238	-695	2	6	15201	1.0	-194	-951	32	60	15293
Kansas	1916	-78	-2145	7	10	11607	0.9	455	219	48	71	11726
Kentucky	1976	-149	-341	12	3	20097	1.1	624	86	230	257	20584
Louisiana	2402	8	95	1	1	27190	1.4	-1030	3398	60	54	27304
Maine	601	57	-45	1	0	4259	0.7	-135	-523	20	20	4299
Maryland	3094	-95	-180	33	21	33176	1.4	-459	-2292	278	208	33662
Massachusetts	4492	72	-211	18	24	57179	1.7	-5104	-131	237	270	57686
Michigan	6184	785	934	13	17	43624	1.1	-3706	-2134	106	177	43907
Minnesota	3341	369	126	1	7	28223	1.0	-230	-1225	41	103	28367
Mississippi	1474	170	26	3	2	11656	1.1	-620	-935	29	50	11735
Missouri	3420	309	-1104	60	6	24613	0.9	-708	-3026	418	100	25131
Montana	739	64	-105	6	3	4645	1.1	-66	-575	28	30	4703
Nebraska	661	80	-217	4	0	3710	0.4	-280	-1318	10	6	3726
Nevada	2244	-99	-274	4	5	21236	1.7	-104	-4247	65	106	21407
New Hampshire	456	-21	-55	4	1	3833	0.6	-232	-346	8	10	3851
New Jersey	8853	1665	1487	13	23	90212	2.3	-11060	-2979	202	402	90816
New Mexico	942	134	-19	6	0	11246	1.4	-96	250	86	68	11400
New York	14534	439	-1360	33	47	139521	1.6	-16955	-5044	431	608	140560
North Carolina	3192	225	-413	8	38	24566	0.6	-101	-4681	109	313	24988
North Dakota	372	45	-11	1	0	2863	0.7	130	150	13	5	2881
Ohio	6477	512	-38	12	41	50265	1.0	-251	-811	128	296	50689
Oklahoma	1571	-626	-199	12	14	21204	1.4	121	-40	62	139	21405
Oregon	3383	393	-935	16	17	24168	1.4	-442	-3007	115	184	24467
Pennsylvania	13110	707	-487	69	44	114107	2.0	-1932	-6934	512	461	115080
Puerto Rico	1533	16	-235	2	11	22462	2.5	-944	-7686	57	162	22681
Rhode Island	806	150	-2	4	6	7071	1.5	-754	-138	13	17	7101
South Carolina	2353	162	-781	10	18	15565	0.8	-448	-517	55	133	15753
South Dakota	192	4	26	2	1	1146	0.3	-7	67	22	4	1172
Tennessee	2283	-89	-1021	7	11	17812	0.6	-179	-5506	90	141	18043
Texas	14817	1745	-844	68	167	169348	1.5	4588	233	660	2309	172317
Utah	978	-10	-127	21	4	7894	0.6	-119	-625	184	28	8106
Vermont	350	-29	41	2	2	2664	0.9	-168	-175	8	3	2675
Virgin Islands	82	-17	20	0	0	792	2.1	96	-200	2	8	802
Virginia	3041	-3	119	10	21	24872	0.7	478	-1039	240	483	25595
Washington	5245	-5	-849	27	70	39962	1.3	-2448	-2663	200	772	40934
West Virginia	934	-222	20	1	3	12817	1.9	83	128	34	53	12904
Wisconsin	4606	-404	-428	4	10	28283	1.0	-1305	-4308	83	60	28426
Wyoming	383	-14	3	0	2	4502	1.6	-148	496	27	18	4547
Totals	205649	12358	-13693	752	1066	1835919	1.3	-31360	-102975	8174	13223	1857316

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 SEPTEMBER 17, 2016

STATES WITH AN INCREASE OF MORE THAN 1,000

State	Change	State Supplied Comment
CA	+3,152	No comment.
TX	+1,745	Layoffs in the construction, educational service, health care and social assistance, and accommodation and food service industries.
NJ	+1,665	Layoffs in the construction, manufacturing, health care and social assistance, and accommodation and food service industries.
GA	+1,229	Layoffs in the construction, manufacturing, administrative, support, waste management and remediation 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 16-1944-NAT

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