



News Release

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8:30 A.M. (Eastern) Thursday, October 20, 2016

UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE WEEKLY CLAIMS

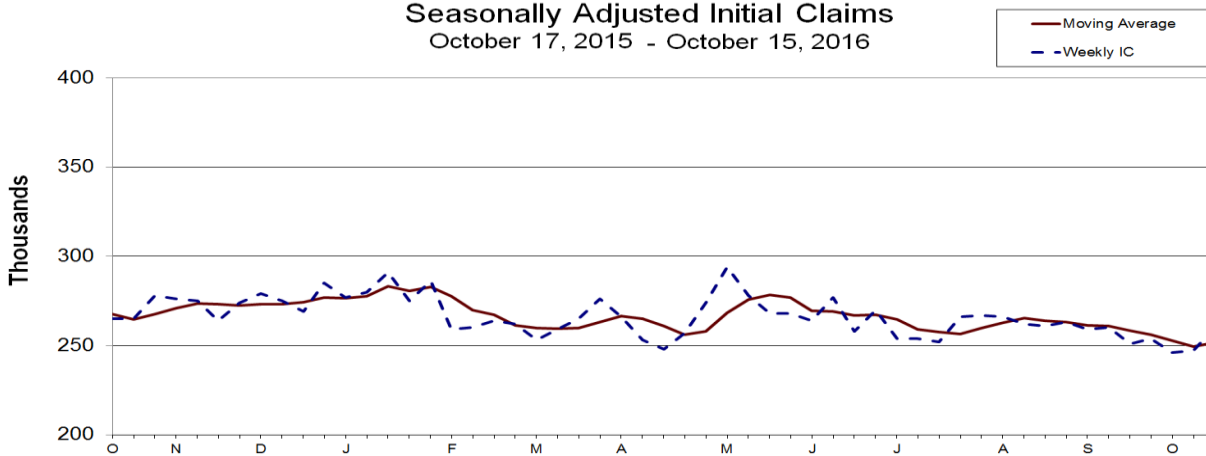
SEASONALLY ADJUSTED DATA

In the week ending October 15, the advance figure for seasonally adjusted **initial claims** was 260,000, an increase of 13,000 from the previous week's revised level. The previous week's level was revised up by 1,000 from 246,000 to 247,000. The 4-week moving average was 251,750, an increase of 2,250 from the previous week's revised average. The previous week's average was revised up by 250 from 249,250 to 249,500.

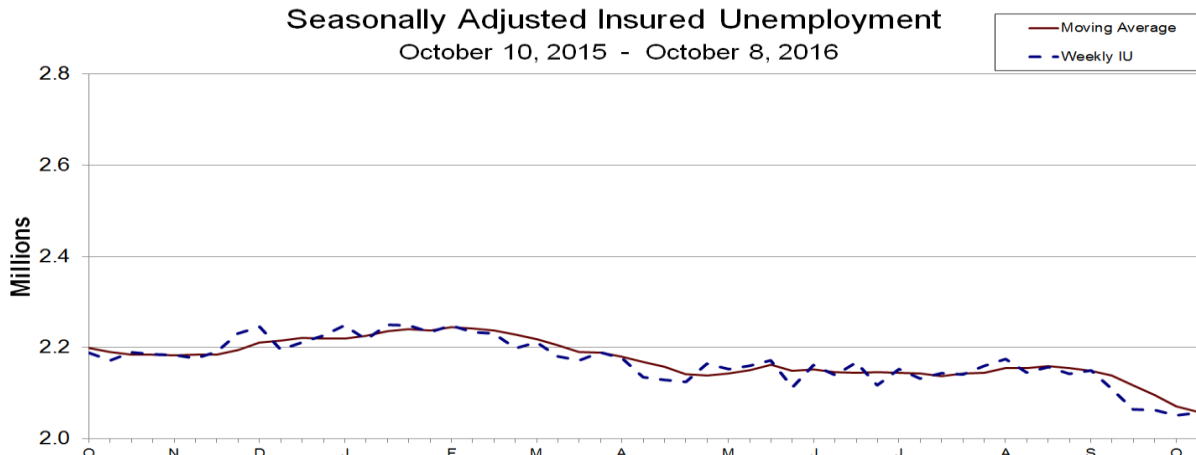
There were no special factors impacting this week's initial claims. This marks 85 consecutive weeks of initial claims below 300,000, the longest streak since 1970.

The advance seasonally adjusted **insured unemployment rate** was 1.5 percent for the week ending October 8, unchanged from the previous week's unrevised rate. The advance number for seasonally adjusted **insured unemployment** during the week ending October 8 was 2,057,000, an increase of 7,000 from the previous week's revised level. The previous week's level was revised up 4,000 from 2,046,000 to 2,050,000. The 4-week moving average was 2,058,250, a decrease of 12,750 from the previous week's revised average. This is the lowest level for this average since July 8, 2000 when it was 2,056,250. The previous week's average was revised up by 1,000 from 2,070,000 to 2,071,000.

Seasonally Adjusted Initial Claims
October 17, 2015 - October 15, 2016



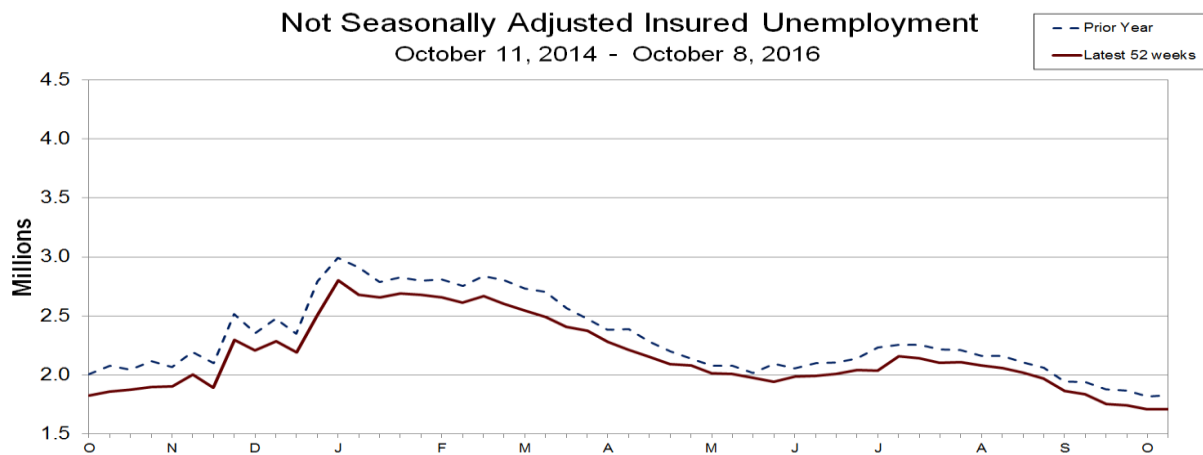
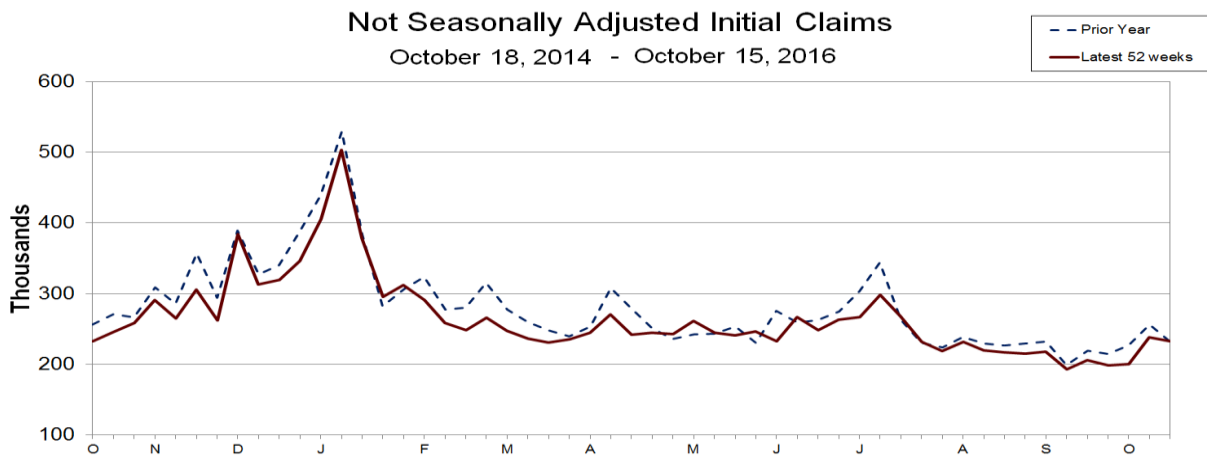
Seasonally Adjusted Insured Unemployment
October 10, 2015 - October 8, 2016



UNADJUSTED DATA

The advance number of actual initial claims under state programs, unadjusted, totaled 233,181 in the week ending October 15, a decrease of 5,400 (or -2.3 percent) from the previous week. The seasonal factors had expected a decrease of 17,059 (or -7.2 percent) from the previous week. There were 232,860 initial claims in the comparable week in 2015.

The advance unadjusted insured unemployment rate was 1.2 percent during the week ending October 8, unchanged from the prior week. The advance unadjusted number for persons claiming UI benefits in state programs totaled 1,709,147, a decrease of 827 (or 0.0 percent) from the preceding week. The seasonal factors had expected a decrease of 6,151 (or -0.4 percent) from the previous week. A year earlier the rate was 1.3 percent and the volume was 1,826,779.



The total number of people claiming benefits in all programs for the week ending October 1 was 1,747,928, a decrease of 34,022 from the previous week. There were 1,862,214 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 October 1.

Initial claims for UI benefits filed by former Federal civilian employees totaled 1,700 in the week ending October 8, an increase of 851 from the prior week. There were 1,280 initial claims filed by newly discharged veterans, an increase of 267 from the preceding week.

There were 9,282 former Federal civilian employees claiming UI benefits for the week ending October 1, an increase of 910 from the previous week. Newly discharged veterans claiming benefits totaled 13,141, a decrease of 313 from the prior week.

The highest insured unemployment rates in the week ending October 1 were in Alaska (2.7), Puerto Rico (2.5), the Virgin Islands (2.2), New Jersey (2.1), California (2.0), Connecticut (2.0), Pennsylvania (1.8), West Virginia (1.7), Massachusetts (1.6), Nevada (1.6), and Wyoming (1.6).

The largest increases in initial claims for the week ending October 8 were in California (+5,141), Pennsylvania (+3,698), Texas (+2,558), New York (+2,093), and Washington (+2,069), while the largest decreases were in South Carolina (-17) and Maine (-8).

UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE DATA FOR REGULAR STATE PROGRAMS

WEEK ENDING	October 15	October 8	Change	October 1	Prior Year¹
Initial Claims (SA)	260,000	247,000	+13,000	246,000	265,000
Initial Claims (NSA)	233,181	238,581	-5,400	200,456	232,860
4-Wk Moving Average (SA)	251,750	249,500	+2,250	252,750	267,750
WEEK ENDING	October 8	October 1	Change	September 24	Prior Year¹
Insured Unemployment (SA)	2,057,000	2,050,000	+7,000	2,062,000	2,188,000
Insured Unemployment (NSA)	1,709,147	1,709,974	-827	1,744,083	1,826,779
4-Wk Moving Average (SA)	2,058,250	2,071,000	-12,750	2,095,750	2,199,500
Insured Unemployment Rate (SA)²	1.5%	1.5%	0.0	1.5%	1.6%
Insured Unemployment Rate (NSA)²	1.2%	1.2%	0.0	1.3%	1.3%

INITIAL CLAIMS FILED IN FEDERAL PROGRAMS (UNADJUSTED)

WEEK ENDING	October 8	October 1	Change	Prior Year¹
Federal Employees (UCFE)	1,700	849	+851	2,229
Newly Discharged Veterans (UCX)	1,280	1,013	+267	1,597

PERSONS CLAIMING UI BENEFITS IN ALL PROGRAMS (UNADJUSTED)

WEEK ENDING	October 1	September 24	Change	Prior Year¹
Regular State	1,705,990	1,740,241	-34,251	1,812,236
Federal Employees	9,282	8,372	+910	11,965
Newly Discharged Veterans	13,141	13,454	-313	17,026
Extended Benefits³	0	0	0	0
State Additional Benefits⁴	6,854	6,843	+11	7,050
STC / Workshare⁵	12,661	13,040	-379	13,937
TOTAL	1,747,928	1,781,950	-34,022	1,862,214

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 138,322,138 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 October 15			Insured Unemployment For Week Ended October 8		
	Advance	Prior Wk	Change	Advance	Prior Wk	Change
Alabama	2,717	3,056	-339	18,775	19,178	-403
Alaska	1,212	1,648	-436	8,296	8,526	-230
Arizona	3,835	4,659	-824	26,413	29,555	-3,142
Arkansas	1,725	2,345	-620	11,977	12,938	-961
California	46,450	43,422	3,028	308,177	320,241	-12,064
Colorado	2,313	2,809	-496	23,129	22,637	492
Connecticut	2,851	3,237	-386	33,478	32,727	751
Delaware	531	730	-199	5,146	4,810	336
District of Columbia	634	399	235	7,519	7,638	-119
Florida	7,653	7,323	330	44,539	45,251	-712
Georgia	6,525	7,150	-625	28,413	29,313	-900
Hawaii	1,130	1,276	-146	13,003	6,986	6,017
Idaho	1,005	1,185	-180	4,895	5,305	-410
Illinois	7,728	9,368	-1,640	91,123	88,932	2,191
Indiana	2,810	3,162	-352	18,788	19,176	-388
Iowa	2,517	2,363	154	15,690	14,415	1,275
Kansas	1,765	1,872	-107	10,218	10,171	47
Kentucky	8,291	2,670	5,621	18,126	18,082	44
Louisiana	2,672	2,558	114	24,308	23,751	557
Maine	582	603	-21	3,775	3,959	-184
Maryland	3,048	4,091	-1,043	29,130	32,283	-3,153
Massachusetts	4,460	5,199	-739	53,709	55,130	-1,421
Michigan	9,771	7,050	2,721	42,705	39,395	3,310
Minnesota	3,452	3,388	64	28,751	27,208	1,543
Mississippi	1,140	1,805	-665	9,629	10,851	-1,222
Missouri	3,623	5,611	-1,988	21,788	25,619	-3,831
Montana	1,158	1,586	-428	5,179	4,827	352
Nebraska	705	670	35	3,721	3,561	160
Nevada	2,406	2,957	-551	19,130	19,913	-783
New Hampshire	446	551	-105	3,450	3,726	-276
New Jersey	8,939	9,588	-649	82,517	81,760	757
New Mexico	870	1,276	-406	10,710	10,766	-56
New York	17,127	14,855	2,272	128,407	123,662	4,745
North Carolina	5,783	3,263	2,520	21,224	22,580	-1,356
North Dakota	516	458	58	3,473	2,273	1,200
Ohio	6,242	6,648	-406	46,990	47,594	-604
Oklahoma	1,546	1,925	-379	18,899	19,788	-889
Oregon	4,127	3,917	210	24,562	23,637	925
Pennsylvania	12,742	16,906	-4,164	104,177	98,539	5,638
Puerto Rico	1,563	2,659	-1,096	22,070	21,671	399
Rhode Island	725	891	-166	6,699	6,745	-46
South Carolina	3,091	2,264	827	13,588	14,087	-499
South Dakota	199	333	-134	1,178	1,046	132
Tennessee	2,615	2,796	-181	15,850	16,668	-818
Texas	14,450	16,881	-2,431	158,903	157,796	1,107
Utah	1,044	1,361	-317	7,741	7,527	214
Vermont	559	448	111	2,774	2,533	241
Virgin Islands	33	80	-47	854	832	22
Virginia	3,176	3,029	147	23,591	23,457	134
Washington	6,710	7,436	-726	41,408	40,161	1,247
West Virginia	840	1,361	-521	11,673	11,217	456
Wisconsin	4,447	4,870	-423	25,033	25,283	-250
Wyoming	682	593	89	3,846	4,248	-402
US Total	233,181	238,581	-5,400	1,709,147	1,709,974	-827

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	
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	2,064	-44	2,115.75	1.5
September 24, 2016	254	3	256.00	2,062	-2	2,095.75	1.5
October 1, 2016	246	-8	252.75	2,050	-12	2,071.00	1.5
October 8, 2016	247	1	249.50	2,057	7	2,058.25	1.5
October 15, 2016	260	13	251.75				

Initial Claims Filed During Week Ended October 8

Insured Unemployment For Week Ended October 1

STATE	INITIAL CLAIMS							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	3056	568	-401	20	20	19178	1.0	-323	-1642	79	135	19392
Alaska	1648	397	-62	12	0	8526	2.7	-41	843	83	44	8653
Arizona	4659	672	312	23	11	29555	1.1	-1113	-1550	94	140	29789
Arkansas	2345	968	-626	18	8	12938	1.1	-470	-4852	45	100	13083
California	43422	5141	-876	280	215	320241	2.0	5596	6919	1994	2674	324909
Colorado	2809	600	-213	41	34	22637	0.9	-911	-1743	170	480	23287
Connecticut	3237	437	-68	13	20	32727	2.0	-309	472	75	109	32911
Delaware	730	213	-98	1	0	4810	1.1	-625	-451	7	14	4831
District of Columbia	399	119	-52	11	2	7638	1.4	43	-382	244	13	7895
Florida	7323	48	-2326	31	50	45251	0.6	-6069	-12968	174	300	45725
Georgia	7150	1991	-1416	48	58	29313	0.7	767	-7719	190	403	29906
Hawaii	1276	220	110	9	24	6986	1.2	-88	502	84	131	7201
Idaho	1185	220	-100	15	7	5305	0.8	-113	-326	16	37	5358
Illinois	9368	1255	-1178	21	18	88932	1.5	-3905	-7643	364	297	89593
Indiana	3162	598	-483	18	11	19176	0.7	2	-1024	54	79	19309
Iowa	2363	357	109	3	12	14415	1.0	-165	-1776	25	57	14497
Kansas	1872	312	42	11	14	10171	0.8	-481	-599	54	73	10298
Kentucky	2670	639	-37	35	14	18082	1.0	-1191	-489	227	261	18570
Louisiana	2558	179	-77	4	11	23751	1.3	-1460	793	61	78	23890
Maine	603	-8	-51	2	0	3959	0.7	-157	-542	21	21	4001
Maryland	4091	805	-69	32	17	32283	1.3	-209	-2209	314	216	32813
Massachusetts	5199	645	97	54	30	55130	1.6	-976	-1163	222	257	55609
Michigan	7050	1510	-112	30	30	39395	1.0	-8114	-5633	101	209	39705
Minnesota	3388	428	149	10	5	27208	1.0	694	-1099	39	113	27360
Mississippi	1805	503	-13	17	6	10851	1.0	-134	-880	33	59	10943
Missouri	5611	738	944	60	9	25619	1.0	2229	-372	511	103	26233
Montana	1586	619	192	49	4	4827	1.1	112	-335	47	31	4905
Nebraska	670	137	-160	1	5	3561	0.4	-85	-1595	11	7	3579
Nevada	2957	542	-102	19	6	19913	1.6	-185	-3634	63	110	20086
New Hampshire	551	70	-13	1	4	3726	0.6	14	-351	5	10	3741
New Jersey	9588	1463	1165	22	33	81760	2.1	-405	-3132	216	424	82400
New Mexico	1276	365	-38	62	3	10766	1.4	-402	-416	117	60	10943
New York	14855	2093	-2402	79	52	123662	1.4	-243	-11228	461	618	124741
North Carolina	3263	283	-751	14	27	22580	0.5	-736	-5406	106	285	22971
North Dakota	458	65	35	0	1	2273	0.5	-67	-6	12	8	2293
Ohio	6648	397	92	31	27	47594	0.9	-579	-1461	133	302	48029
Oklahoma	1925	340	-197	18	15	19788	1.3	-325	-1013	70	138	19996
Oregon	3917	50	-1166	73	20	23637	1.3	176	-2732	131	146	23914
Pennsylvania	16906	3698	-1121	160	66	98539	1.8	-5958	-10981	701	468	99708
Puerto Rico	2659	1038	-21	2	18	21671	2.5	-857	-6539	40	164	21875
Rhode Island	891	169	-134	2	4	6745	1.5	-30	-138	23	18	6786
South Carolina	2264	-17	-1294	4	10	14087	0.7	-637	-797	52	134	14273
South Dakota	333	94	99	7	2	1046	0.3	0	60	22	0	1068
Tennessee	2796	549	-863	12	10	16668	0.6	-1480	-5580	82	144	16894
Texas	16881	2558	-2229	175	201	157796	1.4	-5884	5871	914	2280	160990
Utah	1361	397	-91	52	5	7527	0.6	-109	-679	194	31	7752
Vermont	448	120	-2	1	1	2533	0.8	-28	-102	14	7	2554
Virgin Islands	80	33	20	0	1	832	2.2	-78	-270	0	8	840
Virginia	3029	252	-711	17	20	23457	0.7	-366	-1673	234	470	24161
Washington	7436	2069	-352	66	98	40161	1.3	1458	-3118	220	748	41129
West Virginia	1361	526	-324	2	3	11217	1.7	-253	-1486	33	49	11299
Wisconsin	4870	460	-1208	8	12	25283	0.9	346	-4468	72	51	25406
Wyoming	593	200	130	4	6	4248	1.6	15	306	28	27	4303
Totals	238581	38125	-17941	1700	1280	1709974	1.2	-34109	-106436	9282	13141	1732397

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 OCTOBER 8, 2016

STATES WITH A DECREASE OF MORE THAN 1,000

State	Change	State Supplied Comment
None		

STATES WITH AN INCREASE OF MORE THAN 1,000

CA +5,141	No comment.	
PA +3,698	No comment.	
TX +2,558	Layoffs in the manufacturing, construction, and accommodation and food service industries.	
NY +2,093	Layoffs in the transportation and warehousing, manufacturing, construction, and accommodation and food service industries.	
WA+2,069	Layoffs in the administrative, support, waste management and remediation service, health care and social assistance, professional, scientific and technical service, and manufacturing industries.	
GA +1,991	Layoffs in the manufacturing, construction, and administrative, support, waste management and remediation service industries.	
MI +1,510	No comment.	
NJ +1,463	Layoffs in the transportation and warehousing, and accommodation and food service industries.	
IL +1,255	No comment.	
PR +1,038	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).

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