



News Release

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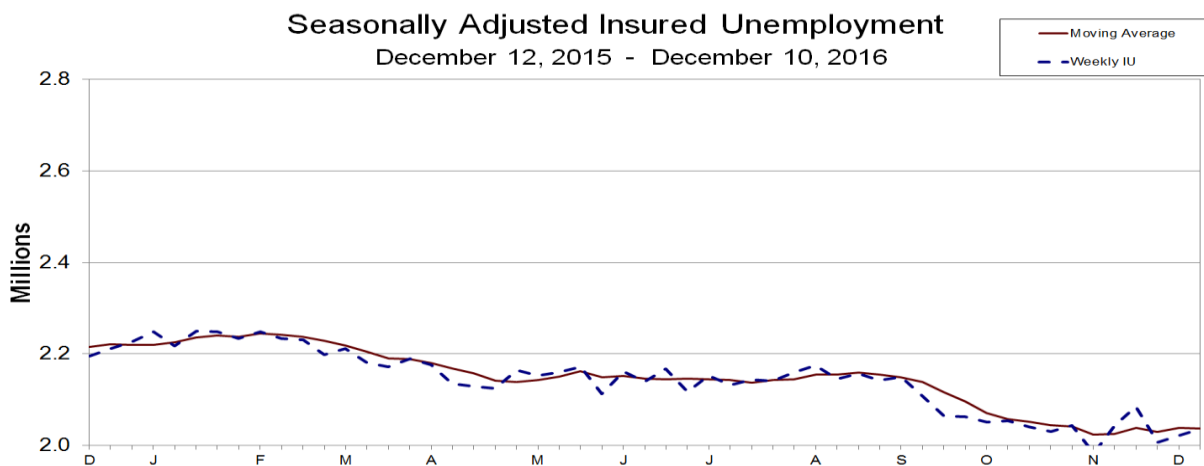
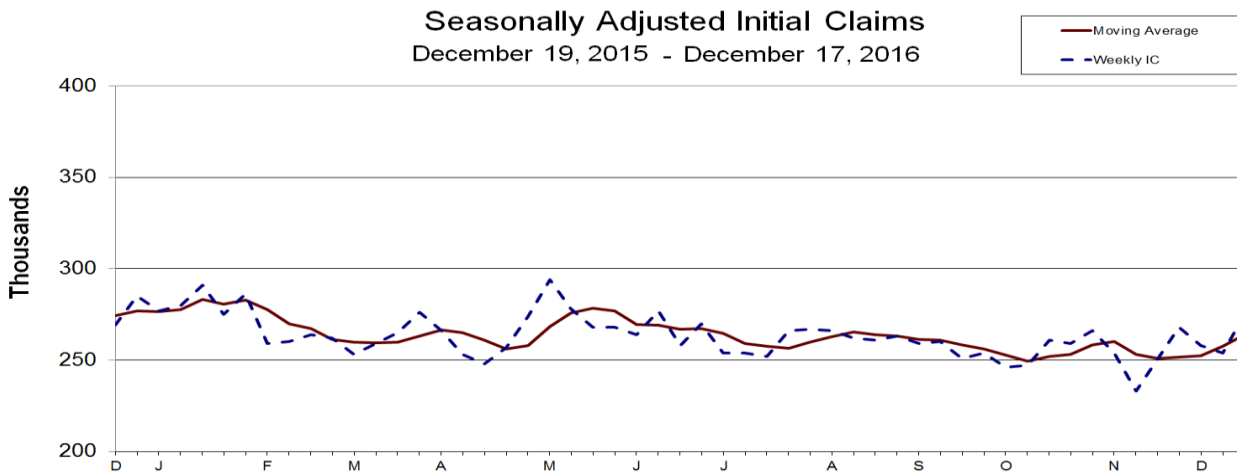
UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE WEEKLY CLAIMS

SEASONALLY ADJUSTED DATA

In the week ending December 17, the advance figure for seasonally adjusted **initial claims** was 275,000, an increase of 21,000 from the previous week's unrevised level of 254,000. The 4-week moving average was 263,750, an increase of 6,000 from the previous week's unrevised average of 257,750.

There were no special factors impacting this week's initial claims. This marks 94 consecutive weeks of initial claims below 300,000, the longest streak since 1970.

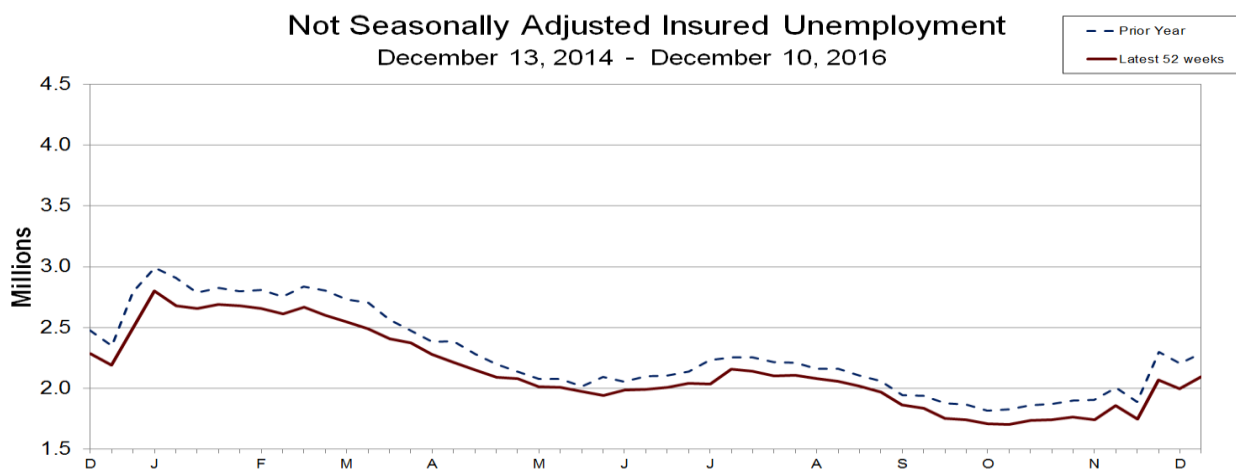
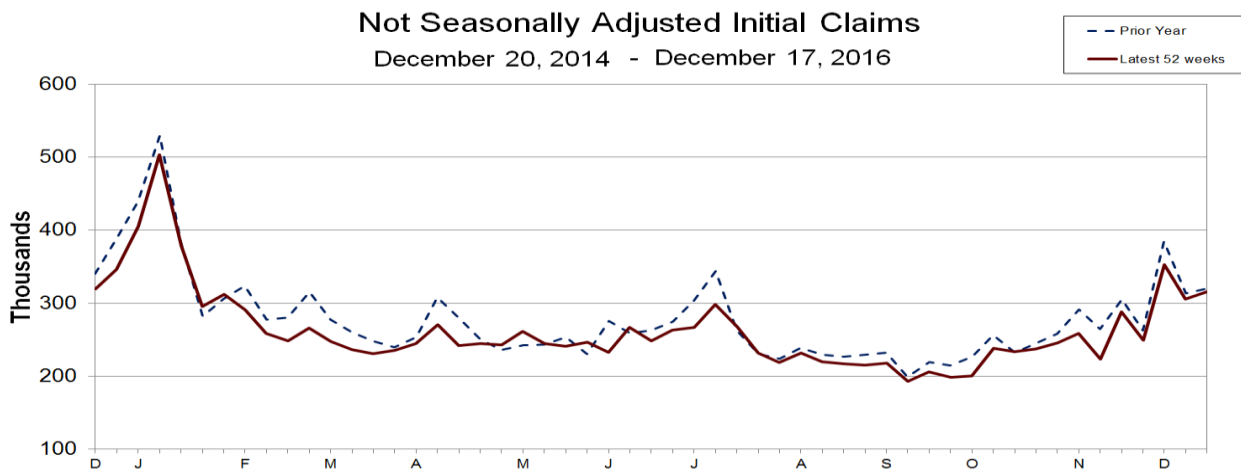
The advance seasonally adjusted **insured unemployment rate** was 1.5 percent for the week ending December 10, unchanged from the previous week's unrevised rate. The advance number for seasonally adjusted **insured unemployment** during the week ending December 10 was 2,036,000, an increase of 15,000 from the previous week's revised level. The previous week's level was revised up 3,000 from 2,018,000 to 2,021,000. The 4-week moving average was 2,037,000, a decrease of 1,750 from the previous week's revised average. The previous week's average was revised up by 750 from 2,038,000 to 2,038,750.



UNADJUSTED DATA

The advance number of actual initial claims under state programs, unadjusted, totaled 315,613 in the week ending December 17, an increase of 10,280 (or 3.4 percent) from the previous week. The seasonal factors had expected a decrease of 13,983 (or -4.6 percent) from the previous week. There were 319,641 initial claims in the comparable week in 2015.

The advance unadjusted insured unemployment rate was 1.5 percent during the week ending December 10, an increase of 0.1 percentage point from the prior week. The advance unadjusted number for persons claiming UI benefits in state programs totaled 2,095,320, an increase of 98,131 (or 4.9 percent) from the preceding week. The seasonal factors had expected an increase of 82,879 (or 4.1 percent) from the previous week. A year earlier the rate was 1.7 percent and the volume was 2,286,725.



The total number of people claiming benefits in all programs for the week ending December 3 was 2,038,507, a decrease of 78,930 from the previous week. There were 2,256,208 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 December 3.

Initial claims for UI benefits filed by former Federal civilian employees totaled 1,088 in the week ending December 10, a decrease of 504 from the prior week. There were 1,083 initial claims filed by newly discharged veterans, a decrease of 52 from the preceding week.

There were 12,478 former Federal civilian employees claiming UI benefits for the week ending December 3, a decrease of 3,601 from the previous week. Newly discharged veterans claiming benefits totaled 12,528, a decrease of 981 from the prior week.

The highest insured unemployment rates in the week ending December 3 were in Alaska (4.0), Puerto Rico (2.5), New Jersey (2.4), California (2.3), Pennsylvania (2.3), Connecticut (2.2), Montana (2.2), West Virginia (2.2), Illinois (1.9), Massachusetts (1.9), Minnesota (1.9), and Nevada (1.9).

The largest increases in initial claims for the week ending December 10 were in Illinois (+2,787), Florida (+566), Colorado (+485), Kansas (+477), and Indiana (+476), while the largest decreases were in New York (-13,110), Pennsylvania (-9,655), Texas (-4,685), Wisconsin (-4,127), and Minnesota (-3,563).

UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE DATA FOR REGULAR STATE PROGRAMS

WEEK ENDING	December 17	December 10	Change	December 3	<u>Prior Year</u> ¹
Initial Claims (SA)	275,000	254,000	+21,000	258,000	269,000
Initial Claims (NSA)	315,613	305,333	+10,280	352,534	319,641
4-Wk Moving Average (SA)	263,750	257,750	+6,000	252,500	274,250
WEEK ENDING	December 10	December 3	Change	November 26	<u>Prior Year</u> ¹
Insured Unemployment (SA)	2,036,000	2,021,000	+15,000	2,007,000	2,195,000
Insured Unemployment (NSA)	2,095,320	1,997,189	+98,131	2,071,371	2,286,725
4-Wk Moving Average (SA)	2,037,000	2,038,750	-1,750	2,029,250	2,215,250
<u>Insured Unemployment Rate (SA)</u> ²	1.5%	1.5%	0.0	1.5%	1.6%
<u>Insured Unemployment Rate (NSA)</u> ²	1.5%	1.4%	+0.1	1.5%	1.7%

INITIAL CLAIMS FILED IN FEDERAL PROGRAMS (UNADJUSTED)

WEEK ENDING	December 10	December 3	Change	<u>Prior Year</u> ¹
Federal Employees (UCFE)	1,088	1,592	-504	1,181
Newly Discharged Veterans (UCX)	1,083	1,135	-52	1,251

PERSONS CLAIMING UI BENEFITS IN ALL PROGRAMS (UNADJUSTED)

WEEK ENDING	December 3	November 26	Change	<u>Prior Year</u> ¹
Regular State	1,993,028	2,067,695	-74,667	2,201,677
Federal Employees	12,478	16,079	-3,601	13,746
Newly Discharged Veterans	12,528	13,509	-981	16,703
<u>Extended Benefits</u> ³	0	0	0	0
<u>State Additional Benefits</u> ⁴	7,287	7,572	-285	7,581
<u>STC / Workshare</u> ⁵	13,186	12,582	+604	16,501
<u>TOTAL</u>	2,038,507	2,117,437	-78,930	2,256,208

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 December 17			Insured Unemployment For Week Ended December 10		
	Advance	Prior Wk	Change	Advance	Prior Wk	Change
Alabama	3,134	3,146	-12	18,735	19,827	-1,092
Alaska	1,570	1,465	105	14,734	12,770	1,964
Arizona	3,525	4,050	-525	22,462	24,944	-2,482
Arkansas	1,985	2,483	-498	14,972	15,611	-639
California	50,849	50,637	212	383,753	366,490	17,263
Colorado	3,032	3,819	-787	26,987	25,473	1,514
Connecticut	4,643	4,069	574	38,288	36,257	2,031
Delaware	689	701	-12	5,764	5,355	409
District of Columbia	636	372	264	8,197	8,408	-211
Florida	6,912	8,130	-1,218	38,384	40,511	-2,127
Georgia	5,842	7,637	-1,795	28,755	30,545	-1,790
Hawaii	1,302	1,233	69	7,827	7,358	469
Idaho	2,508	2,701	-193	9,505	9,173	332
Illinois	19,830	19,800	30	119,766	107,315	12,451
Indiana	6,271	5,136	1,135	24,189	22,350	1,839
Iowa	7,208	5,609	1,599	25,652	20,833	4,819
Kansas	3,455	3,120	335	12,380	11,061	1,319
Kentucky	3,502	3,300	202	19,280	19,586	-306
Louisiana	2,595	2,864	-269	24,079	23,656	423
Maine	1,270	1,339	-69	7,013	6,613	400
Maryland	4,433	4,129	304	32,710	35,573	-2,863
Massachusetts	9,682	8,270	1,412	66,195	64,655	1,540
Michigan	13,859	12,390	1,469	65,491	55,653	9,838
Minnesota	8,208	7,391	817	59,546	52,991	6,555
Mississippi	1,727	1,757	-30	10,071	11,559	-1,488
Missouri	5,687	5,256	431	25,234	24,555	679
Montana	1,843	2,368	-525	11,325	9,551	1,774
Nebraska	1,697	1,665	32	6,298	5,380	918
Nevada	3,441	3,033	408	21,925	23,272	-1,347
New Hampshire	758	779	-21	4,176	4,349	-173
New Jersey	12,454	11,183	1,271	98,299	93,722	4,577
New Mexico	1,065	1,135	-70	11,805	11,887	-82
New York	17,825	17,291	534	154,695	150,014	4,681
North Carolina	4,129	4,257	-128	23,876	24,362	-486
North Dakota	1,943	1,796	147	8,471	5,713	2,758
Ohio	13,469	10,749	2,720	63,660	60,369	3,291
Oklahoma	1,715	1,739	-24	18,457	19,410	-953
Oregon	5,728	5,247	481	30,543	29,382	1,161
Pennsylvania	19,475	20,825	-1,350	133,521	127,629	5,892
Puerto Rico	1,124	1,482	-358	18,716	22,198	-3,482
Rhode Island	1,549	1,095	454	8,412	8,113	299
South Carolina	3,206	3,001	205	15,153	15,343	-190
South Dakota	599	696	-97	2,794	2,514	280
Tennessee	3,319	3,521	-202	17,534	17,682	-148
Texas	15,677	15,509	168	170,442	151,207	19,235
Utah	1,903	2,017	-114	11,893	11,080	813
Vermont	768	666	102	4,865	4,435	430
Virgin Islands	15	20	-5	760	546	214
Virginia	4,280	3,775	505	25,778	24,821	957
Washington	10,448	8,993	1,455	58,637	55,105	3,532
West Virginia	1,447	2,298	-851	14,233	14,766	-533
Wisconsin	10,590	8,510	2,080	43,360	40,938	2,422
Wyoming	792	879	-87	5,723	4,279	1,444
US Total	315,613	305,333	10,280	2,095,320	1,997,189	98,131

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	
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	2,054	4	2,057.50	1.5
October 15, 2016	261	14	252.00	2,040	-14	2,051.50	1.5
October 22, 2016	259	-2	253.25	2,030	-10	2,043.50	1.5
October 29, 2016	266	7	258.25	2,043	13	2,041.75	1.5
November 5, 2016	254	-12	260.00	1,983	-60	2,024.00	1.4
November 12, 2016	233	-21	253.00	2,043	60	2,024.75	1.5
November 19, 2016	251	18	251.00	2,084	41	2,038.25	1.5
November 26, 2016	268	17	251.50	2,007	-77	2,029.25	1.5
December 3, 2016	258	-10	252.50	2,021	14	2,038.75	1.5
December 10, 2016	254	-4	257.75	2,036	15	2,037.00	1.5
December 17, 2016	275	21	263.75				

Initial Claims Filed During Week Ended December 10

Insured Unemployment For Week Ended December 3

STATE	INITIAL CLAIMS CHANGE FROM					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	3146	-887	-395	11	18	19827	1.1	-1371	-2346	63	119	20009
Alaska	1465	-200	41	7	2	12770	4.0	-1447	-611	174	34	12978
Arizona	4050	-208	42	14	8	24944	1.0	-1339	-1547	187	130	25261
Arkansas	2483	-466	-388	18	9	15611	1.3	-1043	-5529	75	87	15773
California	50637	-3173	-5266	259	191	366490	2.3	-16649	-13424	2325	2690	371505
Colorado	3819	485	841	37	41	25473	1.0	-970	-2828	238	466	26177
Connecticut	4069	-451	-77	5	5	36257	2.2	315	-973	77	117	36451
Delaware	701	-343	-42	1	3	5355	1.2	-1222	-904	12	21	5388
District of Columbia	372	-26	98	6	1	8408	1.5	-216	11	300	4	8712
Florida	8130	566	235	17	67	40511	0.5	-7140	-8014	173	284	40968
Georgia	7637	-2404	-232	21	58	30545	0.7	-3490	-5340	319	377	31241
Hawaii	1233	-447	143	3	18	7358	1.2	-722	860	55	132	7545
Idaho	2701	209	113	48	8	9173	1.4	177	-1475	204	38	9415
Illinois	19800	2787	4550	10	19	107315	1.9	2171	-18218	326	355	107996
Indiana	5136	476	217	14	7	22350	0.8	239	-2218	82	77	22509
Iowa	5609	267	1852	3	8	20833	1.4	499	-3842	44	59	20936
Kansas	3120	477	744	5	14	11061	0.8	-933	-2961	69	84	11214
Kentucky	3300	133	207	6	9	19586	1.1	-262	-2181	178	231	19995
Louisiana	2864	-245	421	0	0	23656	1.2	299	2126	66	55	23777
Maine	1339	-377	-160	7	1	6613	1.1	142	-1578	32	22	6667
Maryland	4129	-992	-2	13	22	35573	1.4	-175	-3794	334	191	36098
Massachusetts	8270	98	-24	15	19	64655	1.9	-672	-4541	200	232	65087
Michigan	12390	301	-1482	27	26	55653	1.3	-1849	-8643	191	169	56013
Minnesota	7391	-3563	-201	10	8	52991	1.9	493	-2035	104	115	53210
Mississippi	1757	-365	-122	12	2	11559	1.1	-449	-1410	81	41	11681
Missouri	5256	109	-382	14	2	24555	0.9	-1430	-6178	385	68	25008
Montana	2368	240	863	73	2	9551	2.2	-320	-1635	338	41	9930
Nebraska	1665	253	383	1	2	5380	0.6	-109	-1042	498	17	5895
Nevada	3033	-341	12	14	5	23272	1.9	-1151	-3474	157	95	23524
New Hampshire	779	-6	5	3	1	4349	0.7	19	-681	8	7	4364
New Jersey	11183	-1101	622	17	27	93722	2.4	-3036	-6239	242	389	94353
New Mexico	1135	-152	-54	10	3	11887	1.5	-601	-1309	294	88	12269
New York	17291	-13110	-2213	33	42	150014	1.7	-9951	-12305	347	602	150963
North Carolina	4257	-169	-208	14	15	24362	0.6	182	-4379	135	257	24754
North Dakota	1796	-61	319	2	2	5713	1.4	186	373	15	7	5735
Ohio	10749	-87	-2108	7	33	60369	1.2	1665	-6219	165	300	60834
Oklahoma	1739	-54	-4	8	15	19410	1.3	-600	-2439	71	151	19632
Oregon	5247	-1586	-627	63	20	29382	1.7	-2195	-4391	542	167	30091
Pennsylvania	20825	-9655	-2222	53	50	127629	2.3	10131	-19086	681	432	128742
Puerto Rico	1482	-91	-6	0	6	22198	2.5	-1279	-4190	60	123	22381
Rhode Island	1095	-148	-384	2	8	8113	1.8	-26	-426	20	27	8160
South Carolina	3001	-1557	-391	7	24	15343	0.8	-1096	-2262	61	129	15533
South Dakota	696	-51	213	3	2	2514	0.6	364	103	33	6	2553
Tennessee	3521	-141	-1136	9	2	17682	0.6	-677	-6227	402	53	18137
Texas	15509	-4685	-1659	54	126	151207	1.3	-24406	-11031	678	2056	153941
Utah	2017	-539	-7	42	6	11080	0.8	1194	-1101	276	29	11385
Vermont	666	-552	-54	4	2	4435	1.5	-470	-103	15	5	4455
Virgin Islands	20	-26	-7	1	0	546	1.5	-310	-138	0	8	554
Virginia	3775	-696	-105	14	31	24821	0.7	-567	-2717	317	467	25605
Washington	8993	-731	20	55	83	55105	1.8	895	-7039	514	760	56379
West Virginia	2298	155	-397	2	4	14766	2.2	4	-3901	43	52	14861
Wisconsin	8510	-4127	334	6	4	40938	1.5	-3611	-8315	127	50	41115
Wyoming	879	56	137	8	2	4279	1.6	-1373	-1567	145	12	4436
Totals	305333	-47201	-7943	1088	1083	1997189	1.4	-74182	-209333	12478	12528	2022195

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 10, 2016

STATES WITH AN INCREASE OF MORE THAN 1,000

State	Change	State Supplied Comment
IL	+2,787	Layoffs in the administrative, support, waste management and remediation service, construction, wholesale trade, and retail trade industries.

STATES WITH A DECREASE OF MORE THAN 1,000

State	Change	State Supplied Comment
NY	-13,110	Fewer layoffs in the construction, transportation and warehousing, and accommodation and food service industries.
PA	-9,655	Fewer layoffs in the construction and accommodation and food service industries.
TX	-4,685	Fewer layoffs in the manufacturing and administrative, support, waste management and remediation service industries.
WI	-4,127	No comment.
MN	-3,563	No comment.
CA	-3,173	Fewer layoffs in the agriculture, forestry, fishing and hunting industry.
GA	-2,404	Fewer layoffs in the manufacturing, administrative, support, waste management and remediation service, and accommodation and food service industries.
OR	-1,586	No comment.
SC	-1,557	No comment.
NJ	-1,101	Fewer layoffs in the manufacturing, transportation and warehousing, accommodation and food service, and retail trade industries.

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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