



News Release

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

UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE WEEKLY CLAIMS

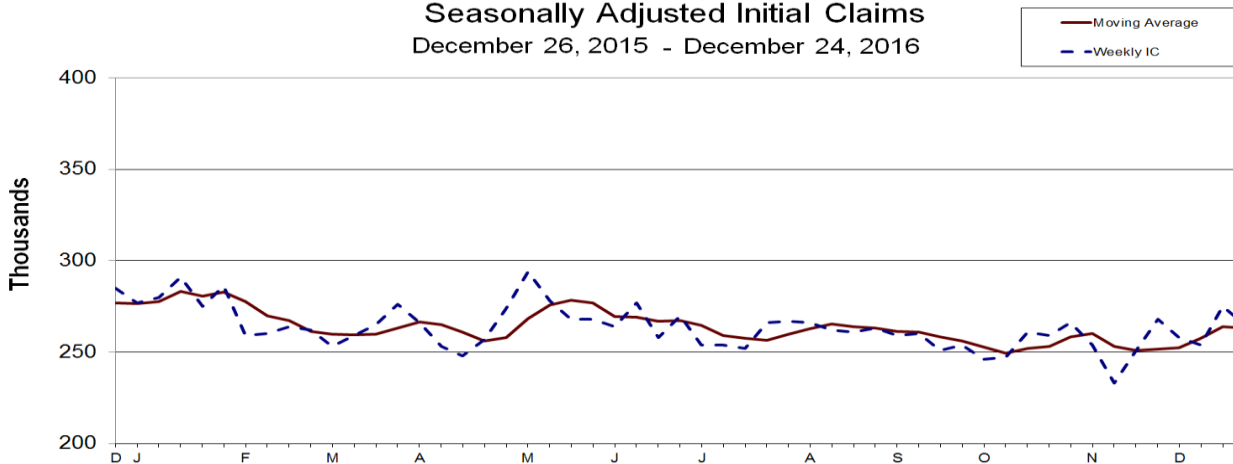
SEASONALLY ADJUSTED DATA

In the week ending December 24, the advance figure for seasonally adjusted **initial claims** was 265,000, a decrease of 10,000 from the previous week's unrevised level of 275,000. The 4-week moving average was 263,000, a decrease of 750 from the previous week's unrevised average of 263,750.

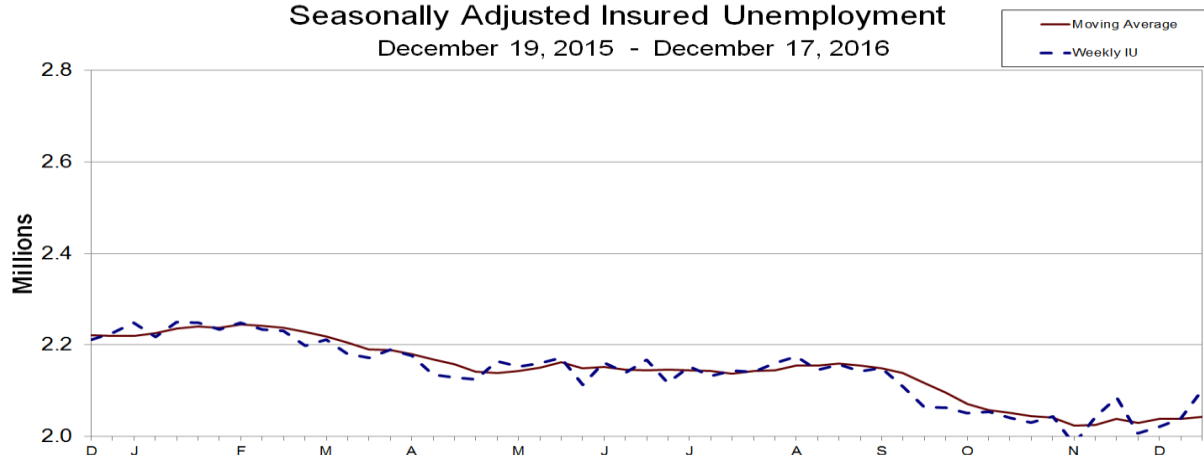
There were no special factors impacting this week's initial claims. This marks 95 consecutive weeks of initial claims below 300,000, the longest streak since 1970.

The advance seasonally adjusted **insured unemployment rate** was 1.5 percent for the week ending December 17, unchanged from the previous week's unrevised rate. The advance number for seasonally adjusted **insured unemployment** during the week ending December 17 was 2,102,000, an increase of 63,000 from the previous week's revised level. The previous week's level was revised up 3,000 from 2,036,000 to 2,039,000. The 4-week moving average was 2,042,250, an increase of 4,500 from the previous week's revised average. The previous week's average was revised up by 750 from 2,037,000 to 2,037,750.

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



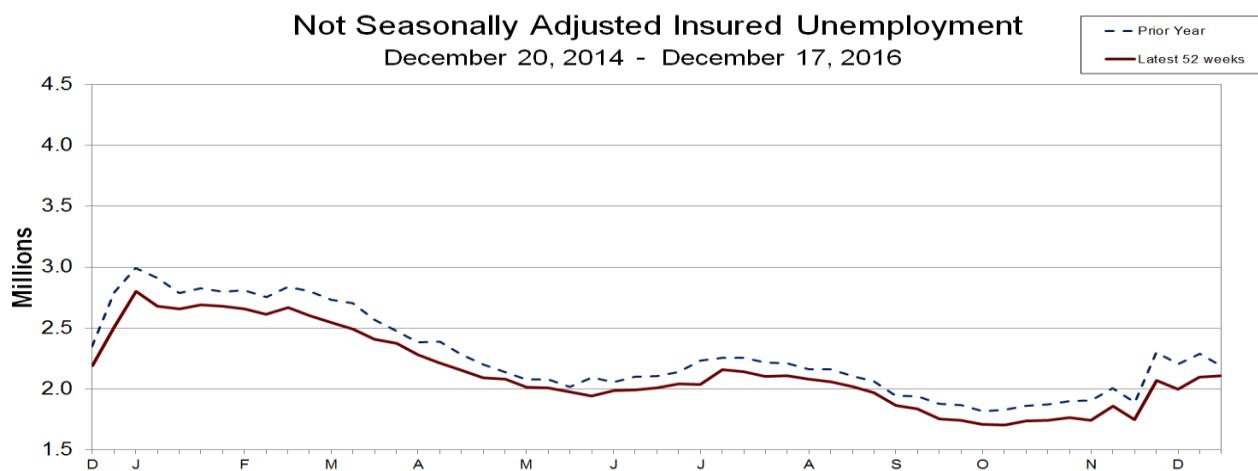
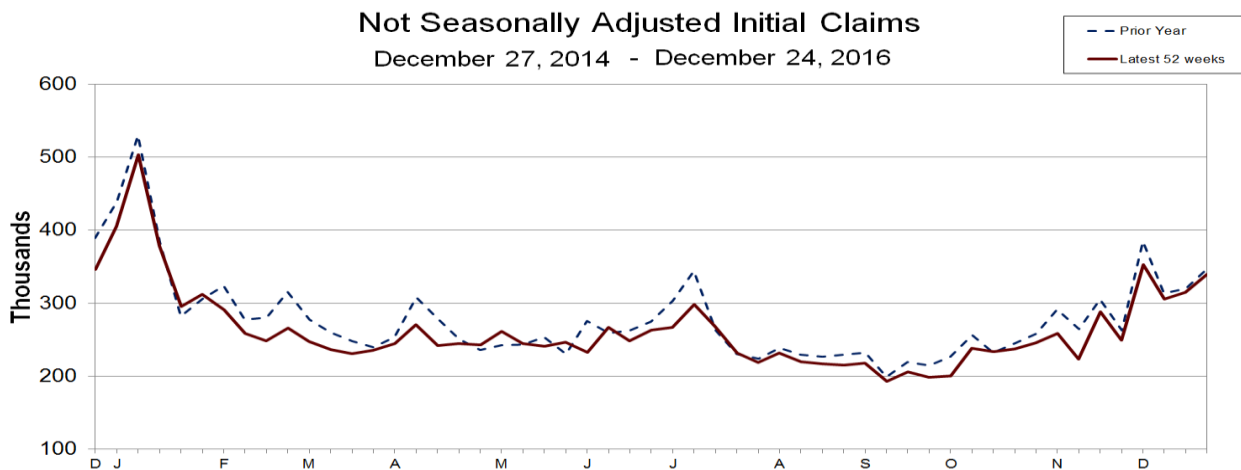
Seasonally Adjusted Insured Unemployment
December 19, 2015 - December 17, 2016



UNADJUSTED DATA

The advance number of actual initial claims under state programs, unadjusted, totaled 340,022 in the week ending December 24, an increase of 24,915 (or 7.9 percent) from the previous week. The seasonal factors had expected an increase of 37,945 (or 12.0 percent) from the previous week. There were 346,542 initial claims in the comparable week in 2015.

The advance unadjusted insured unemployment rate was 1.5 percent during the week ending December 17, unchanged from the prior week. The advance unadjusted number for persons claiming UI benefits in state programs totaled 2,108,467, an increase of 10,797 (or 0.5 percent) from the preceding week. The seasonal factors had expected a decrease of 53,002 (or -2.5 percent) from the previous week. A year earlier the rate was 1.6 percent and the volume was 2,191,682.



The total number of people claiming benefits in all programs for the week ending December 10 was 2,140,465, an increase of 102,430 from the previous week. There were 2,336,519 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 10.

Initial claims for UI benefits filed by former Federal civilian employees totaled 1,313 in the week ending December 17, an increase of 225 from the prior week. There were 947 initial claims filed by newly discharged veterans, a decrease of 136 from the preceding week.

There were 14,066 former Federal civilian employees claiming UI benefits for the week ending December 10, an increase of 2,060 from the previous week. Newly discharged veterans claiming benefits totaled 13,250, an increase of 722 from the prior week.

The highest insured unemployment rates in the week ending December 10 were in Alaska (4.8), Montana (2.6), New Jersey (2.5), Puerto Rico (2.4), California (2.3), Pennsylvania (2.3), Connecticut (2.2), Wyoming (2.2), the Virgin Islands (2.1), and West Virginia (2.1).

The largest increases in initial claims for the week ending December 17 were in Ohio (+2,625), Wisconsin (+2,083), Michigan (+1,683), Massachusetts (+1,510), and New Jersey (+1,380), while the largest decreases were in Pennsylvania (-1,521), Georgia (-1,500), Colorado (-818), Florida (-808), and West Virginia (-737).

UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE DATA FOR REGULAR STATE PROGRAMS

WEEK ENDING	December 24	December 17	Change	December 10	<u>Prior Year</u> ¹
Initial Claims (SA)	265,000	275,000	-10,000	254,000	285,000
Initial Claims (NSA)	340,022	315,107	+24,915	305,333	346,542
4-Wk Moving Average (SA)	263,000	263,750	-750	257,750	277,000
WEEK ENDING	December 17	December 10	Change	December 3	<u>Prior Year</u> ¹
Insured Unemployment (SA)	2,102,000	2,039,000	+63,000	2,021,000	2,212,000
Insured Unemployment (NSA)	2,108,467	2,097,670	+10,797	1,997,189	2,191,682
4-Wk Moving Average (SA)	2,042,250	2,037,750	+4,500	2,038,750	2,220,500
<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%	1.5%	0.0	1.4%	1.6%

INITIAL CLAIMS FILED IN FEDERAL PROGRAMS (UNADJUSTED)

WEEK ENDING	December 17	December 10	Change	<u>Prior Year</u> ¹
Federal Employees (UCFE)	1,313	1,088	+225	1,381
Newly Discharged Veterans (UCX)	947	1,083	-136	1,205

PERSONS CLAIMING UI BENEFITS IN ALL PROGRAMS (UNADJUSTED)

WEEK ENDING	December 10	December 3	Change	<u>Prior Year</u> ¹
Regular State	2,094,534	1,993,028	+101,506	2,282,827
Federal Employees	14,066	12,006	+2,060	14,969
Newly Discharged Veterans	13,250	12,528	+722	17,337
<u>Extended Benefits</u> ³	0	0	0	0
<u>State Additional Benefits</u> ⁴	7,468	7,287	+181	7,440
<u>STC / Workshare</u> ⁵	11,147	13,186	-2,039	13,946
<u>TOTAL</u>	2,140,465	2,038,035	+102,430	2,336,519

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 24			Insured Unemployment For Week Ended December 17		
	Advance	Prior Wk	Change	Advance	Prior Wk	Change
Alabama	3,443	3,402	41	19,018	20,165	-1,147
Alaska	1,482	1,403	79	13,042	15,087	-2,045
Arizona	3,132	3,730	-598	22,218	25,608	-3,390
Arkansas	3,619	2,184	1,435	14,711	16,061	-1,350
California	52,809	50,254	2,555	367,430	377,184	-9,754
Colorado	2,854	3,001	-147	28,033	26,377	1,656
Connecticut	5,056	4,635	421	39,878	36,534	3,344
Delaware	949	710	239	6,015	5,433	582
District of Columbia	693	330	363	8,175	8,643	-468
Florida	5,926	7,322	-1,396	35,771	44,858	-9,087
*Georgia	5,779	6,137	-358	28,341	30,602	-2,261
**Hawaii	1,382	1,275	107	7,021	7,547	-526
Idaho	2,601	2,649	-48	10,372	10,362	10
Illinois	16,934	19,699	-2,765	126,833	117,999	8,834
Indiana	5,620	6,235	-615	27,776	24,218	3,558
Iowa	8,187	6,477	1,710	30,086	23,827	6,259
*Kansas	3,854	3,302	552	13,513	11,976	1,537
Kentucky	8,048	3,507	4,541	19,838	19,531	307
Louisiana	2,057	2,637	-580	23,940	23,892	48
Maine	1,341	1,312	29	7,529	7,103	426
Maryland	6,160	4,785	1,375	33,850	35,915	-2,065
*Massachusetts	10,908	9,780	1,128	71,604	67,061	4,543
Michigan	15,146	14,073	1,073	63,430	67,275	-3,845
Minnesota	7,524	7,918	-394	65,103	55,771	9,332
Mississippi	2,208	2,079	129	10,343	12,021	-1,678
Missouri	8,881	6,057	2,824	26,857	26,619	238
Montana	1,572	1,760	-188	11,557	11,394	163
Nebraska	2,179	1,696	483	7,107	6,314	793
Nevada	3,471	3,229	242	23,438	23,737	-299
New Hampshire	833	834	-1	4,436	4,500	-64
New Jersey	15,041	12,563	2,478	100,409	95,869	4,540
New Mexico	1,505	1,155	350	11,894	12,240	-346
New York	21,430	17,728	3,702	161,148	153,299	7,849
*North Carolina	3,271	3,947	-676	23,876	25,053	-1,177
North Dakota	1,530	1,584	-54	9,361	6,611	2,750
**Ohio	17,499	13,374	4,125	67,454	63,471	3,983
*Oklahoma	2,832	1,693	1,139	20,957	19,013	1,944
Oregon	7,350	6,023	1,327	32,051	30,408	1,643
Pennsylvania	20,812	19,304	1,508	127,017	131,777	-4,760
*Puerto Rico	1,179	1,314	-135	20,262	21,336	-1,074
Rhode Island	2,417	1,555	862	8,896	8,339	557
South Carolina	3,040	3,263	-223	15,074	15,873	-799
South Dakota	351	643	-292	3,169	2,855	314
*Tennessee	4,645	3,547	1,098	18,110	18,152	-42
Texas	13,791	15,595	-1,804	155,247	168,225	-12,978
Utah	1,760	1,752	8	12,335	11,830	505
Vermont	1,520	781	739	5,121	4,568	553
Virgin Islands	6	19	-13	580	760	-180
Virginia	1,794	3,981	-2,187	19,171	25,087	-5,916
Washington	10,223	10,011	212	60,800	56,122	4,678
West Virginia	1,141	1,561	-420	14,333	13,857	476
Wisconsin	11,356	10,593	763	48,679	43,259	5,420
Wyoming	881	709	172	5,258	6,052	-794
US Total	340,022	315,107	24,915	2,108,467	2,097,670	10,797

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 staff estimate.

**Denotes OUI staff estimate.

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 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	2,039	18	2,037.75	1.5
December 17, 2016	275	21	263.75	2,102	63	2,042.25	1.5
December 24, 2016	265	-10	263.00				

Initial Claims Filed During Week Ended December
17

Insured Unemployment For Week Ended December 10
INSURED UNEMPLOYMENT

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	3402	256	73	6	6	20165	1.1	338	-2094	69	135	20369
Alaska	1403	-62	-25	10	1	15087	4.8	2317	-154	239	34	15360
Arizona	3730	-320	-115	42	4	25608	1.0	664	-1189	190	128	25926
Arkansas	2184	-299	-1274	9	7	16061	1.4	450	-4903	100	92	16253
California	50254	-383	-2746	224	163	377184	2.3	10694	-10306	3443	2712	383339
Colorado	3001	-818	-766	37	32	26377	1.1	904	-3833	336	523	27236
Connecticut	4635	566	-82	7	6	36534	2.2	277	-1261	81	117	36732
Delaware	710	9	-87	3	3	5433	1.3	78	-794	12	14	5459
District of Columbia	330	-42	-41	10	2	8643	1.6	235	318	293	10	8946
Florida	7322	-808	-1019	21	64	44858	0.6	4347	-9041	202	266	45326
Georgia	6137	-1500	-872	25	27	30602	0.7	57	-5511	244	380	31226
Hawaii	1275	42	228	3	12	7547	1.2	189	1318	65	125	7737
Idaho	2649	-52	230	54	6	10362	1.6	1189	-1208	251	43	10656
Illinois	19699	-101	2495	9	16	117999	2.0	10684	-17013	424	384	118807
Indiana	6235	1099	865	5	8	24218	0.8	1868	-2021	89	75	24382
Iowa	6477	868	1592	5	4	23827	1.6	2994	-1339	44	59	23930
Kansas	3302	182	-150	4	3	11976	0.9	915	-2196	69	76	12121
Kentucky	3507	207	-702	42	9	19531	1.1	-55	-3345	270	247	20048
Louisiana	2637	-227	-38	0	0	23892	1.3	236	2103	55	51	23998
Maine	1312	-27	-225	5	1	7103	1.2	490	-1569	35	19	7157
Maryland	4785	656	36	21	21	35915	1.5	342	-3586	311	190	36416
Massachusetts	9780	1510	542	14	13	67061	2.0	2406	-4383	195	235	67491
Michigan	14073	1683	2787	31	28	67275	1.6	11622	-8183	257	262	67794
Minnesota	7918	527	863	21	5	55771	2.0	2780	-1859	94	114	55979
Mississippi	2079	322	-184	31	0	12021	1.1	462	-1253	72	45	12138
Missouri	6057	801	-441	19	2	26619	1.0	2064	-4644	340	68	27027
Montana	1760	-608	-49	72	5	11394	2.6	1843	-598	491	35	11920
Nebraska	1696	31	-74	4	1	6314	0.7	934	-329	15	14	6343
Nevada	3229	196	-284	20	7	23737	1.9	465	-3433	205	104	24046
New Hampshire	834	55	-119	0	0	4500	0.7	151	-637	7	7	4514
New Jersey	12563	1380	1397	14	23	95869	2.5	2147	-5825	284	394	96547
New Mexico	1155	20	-136	20	0	12240	1.6	353	-1182	320	85	12645
New York	17728	437	-657	21	31	153299	1.7	3285	-11492	324	601	154224
North Carolina	3947	-310	-676	7	24	25053	0.6	691	-4608	131	290	25474
North Dakota	1584	-212	-56	3	2	6611	1.6	898	452	12	1	6624
Ohio	13374	2625	501	12	30	63471	1.2	3102	-7674	149	332	63952
Oklahoma	1693	-46	-406	13	9	19013	1.2	-397	-2436	76	169	19258
Oregon	6023	776	-187	100	16	30408	1.7	1026	-4400	562	169	31139
Pennsylvania	19304	-1521	-2463	76	53	131777	2.3	4148	-16641	805	518	133100
Puerto Rico	1314	-168	-488	2	1	21336	2.4	-862	-4906	45	122	21503
Rhode Island	1555	460	138	3	2	8339	1.8	226	-613	23	31	8393
South Carolina	3263	262	-463	10	15	15873	0.8	530	-1978	50	139	16062
South Dakota	643	-53	72	7	1	2855	0.7	341	274	31	7	2893
Tennessee	3547	26	-542	9	3	18152	0.7	470	-5602	404	60	18616
Texas	15595	86	-421	62	144	168225	1.5	17018	-9611	848	2339	171412
Utah	1752	-265	-740	65	2	11830	0.9	750	-1021	285	28	12143
Vermont	781	115	112	1	0	4568	1.5	133	-173	20	12	4600
Virgin Islands	19	-1	-11	1	0	760	2.1	214	112	0	2	762
Virginia	3981	206	-1946	30	27	25087	0.7	266	-2933	302	489	25878
Washington	10011	1018	1167	65	94	56122	1.8	1017	-5281	518	757	57397
West Virginia	1561	-737	-435	3	7	13857	2.1	-909	-3722	43	53	13953
Wisconsin	10593	2083	1421	20	7	43259	1.6	2321	-6147	124	58	43441
Wyoming	709	-170	-133	15	0	6052	2.2	1773	-705	212	30	6294
Totals	315107	9774	-4534	1313	947	2097670	1.5	100481	-189055	14066	13250	2124986

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 17, 2016

STATES WITH AN INCREASE OF MORE THAN 1,000

State	Change	State Supplied Comment
OH	+2,625	Layoffs in the transportation and warehousing and retail trade industries.
WI	+2,083	No comment.
MI	+1,683	Layoffs in the construction industry.
MA	+1,510	Layoffs in the accommodation and food service, construction, manufacturing, and administrative, support, waste management and remediation service industries.
NJ	+1,380	Layoffs in the accommodation and food service industry.
IN	+1,099	No comment.
WA	+1,018	Layoffs in the agriculture, forestry, fishing and hunting, wholesale trade, educational service, and construction industries.

STATES WITH A DECREASE OF MORE THAN 1,000

State	Change	State Supplied Comment
PA	-1,521	Fewer layoffs in the transportation and warehousing, administrative, support, waste management and remediation service, and arts, entertainment, and recreation industries.
GA	-1,500	Fewer layoffs in the manufacturing and administrative, support, waste management and remediation service 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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Release Number: USDL 16-2405-NAT

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