



TRANSMISSION OF MATERIALS IN THIS RELEASE IS EMBARGOED UNTIL 8:30 A.M. (Eastern) Thursday, January 19, 2017

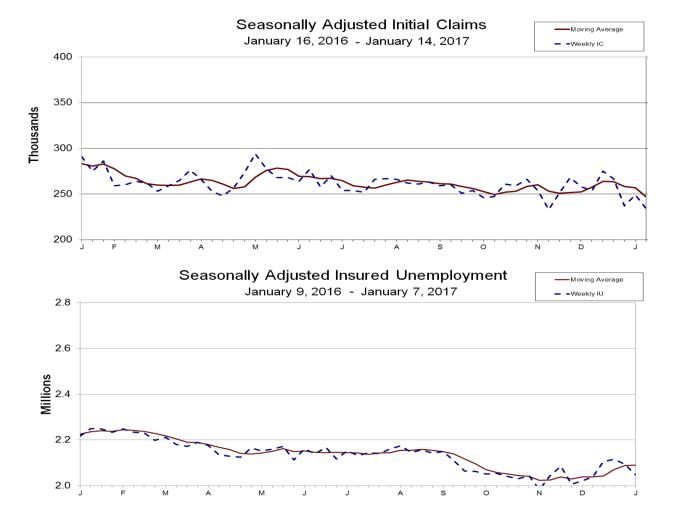
UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE WEEKLY CLAIMS

SEASONALLY ADJUSTED DATA

In the week ending January 14, the advance figure for seasonally adjusted **initial claims** was 234,000, a decrease of 15,000 from the previous week's revised level. The previous week's level was revised up by 2,000 from 247,000 to 249,000. The 4-week moving average was 246,750, a decrease of 10,250 from the previous week's revised average. This is the lowest level for this average since November 3, 1973 when it was 244,000. The previous week's average was revised up by 500 from 256,500 to 257,000.

There were no special factors impacting this week's initial claims.

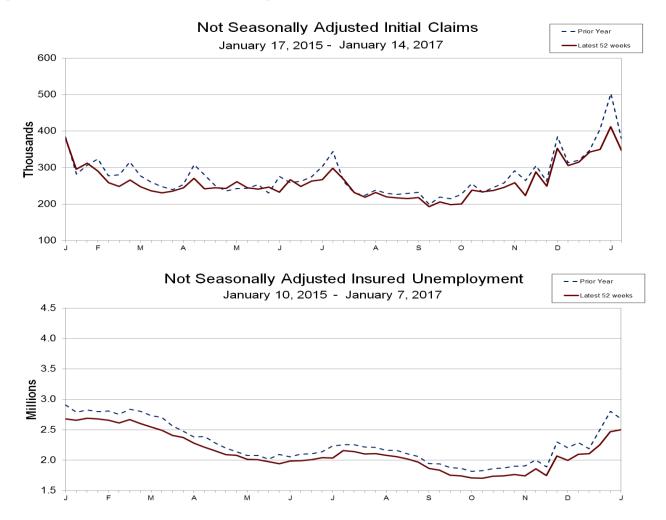
The advance seasonally adjusted **insured unemployment rate** was 1.5 percent for the week ending January 7, unchanged from the previous week's unrevised rate. The advance number for seasonally adjusted **insured unemployment** during the week ending January 7 was 2,046,000, a decrease of 47,000 from the previous week's revised level. The previous week's level was revised up 6,000 from 2,087,000 to 2,093,000. The 4-week moving average was 2,090,000, an increase of 1,750 from the previous week's revised average. The previous week's average was revised up by 1,500 from 2,086,750 to 2,088,250.



UNADJUSTED DATA

The advance number of actual initial claims under state programs, unadjusted, totaled 346,349 in the week ending January 14, a decrease of 65,971 (or -16.0 percent) from the previous week. The seasonal factors had expected a decrease of 44,488 (or -10.8 percent) from the previous week. There were 378,747 initial claims in the comparable week in 2016.

The advance unadjusted insured unemployment rate was 1.8 percent during the week ending January 7, unchanged from the prior week. The advance unadjusted number for persons claiming UI benefits in state programs totaled 2,501,974, an increase of 34,368 (or 1.4 percent) from the preceding week. The seasonal factors had expected an increase of 92,090 (or 3.7 percent) from the previous week. A year earlier the rate was 2.0 percent and the volume was 2,680,476.



The total number of people claiming benefits in all programs for the week ending December 31 was 2,506,719, an increase of 212,289 from the previous week. There were 2,851,868 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 31.

Initial claims for UI benefits filed by former Federal civilian employees totaled 1,562 in the week ending January 7, an increase of 560 from the prior week. There were 786 initial claims filed by newly discharged veterans, an increase of 111 from the preceding week.

There were 12,766 former Federal civilian employees claiming UI benefits for the week ending December 31, a decrease of 1,399 from the previous week. Newly discharged veterans claiming benefits totaled 12,271, a decrease of 424 from the prior week.

The highest insured unemployment rates in the week ending December 31 were in Alaska (4.4), New Jersey (3.1), Montana (3.0), Rhode Island (2.9), Pennsylvania (2.7), Connecticut (2.6), Illinois (2.6), Massachusetts (2.6), Minnesota (2.6), Iowa (2.5), and Puerto Rico (2.5).

The largest increases in initial claims for the week ending January 7 were in New York (+23,082), Georgia (+10,614), Texas (+9,686), Pennsylvania (+6,039), and California (+6,000), while the largest decreases were in New Jersey (-4,372), Michigan (-3,414), Washington (-3,267), Kentucky (-2,896), and Iowa (-2,379).

UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE DATA FOR REGULAR STATE PROGRAMS

WEEK ENDING	January 14	January 7	Change	December 31	Prior Year ¹
Initial Claims (SA)	234,000	249,000	-15,000	237,000	291,000
Initial Claims (NSA)	346,349	412,320	-65,971	350,561	378,747
4-Wk Moving Average (SA)	246,750	257,000	-10,250	258,250	283,250
WEEK ENDING	January 7	December 31	Change	December 24	Prior Year ¹
Insured Unemployment (SA)	2,046,000	2,093,000	-47,000	2,116,000	2,217,000
Insured Unemployment (NSA)	2,501,974	2,467,606	+34,368	2,253,543	2,680,476
4-Wk Moving Average (SA)	2,090,000	2,088,250	+1,750	2,070,250	2,225,750
Insured Unemployment Rate (SA) ²	1.5%	1.5%	0.0	1.5%	1.6%
Insured Unemployment Rate (NSA) ²	1.8%	1.8%	0.0	1.6%	2.0%

INITIAL CLAIMS FILED IN FEDERAL PROGRAMS (UNADJUSTED)

WEEK ENDING	January 7	December 31	Change	Prior Year ¹
Federal Employees (UCFE)	1,562	1,002	+560	1,881
Newly Discharged Veterans (UCX)	786	675	+111	1,497

PERSONS CLAIMING UI BENEFITS IN ALL PROGRAMS (UNADJUSTED)

WEEK ENDING	December 31	December 24	Change	Prior Year ¹
Regular State	2,464,138	2,250,276	+213,862	2,798,637
Federal Employees	12,766	14,165	-1,399	14,246
Newly Discharged Veterans	12,271	12,695	-424	16,443
Extended Benefits ³	0	0	0	1
State Additional Benefits ⁴	6,572	6,695	-123	7,052
STC / Workshare ⁵	10,972	10,599	+373	15,489
TOTAL	2.506.719	2.294.430	+212.289	2.851.868

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 138,930,224 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

	Initial Clain	ns Filed During Week I	Ended January 14	Insured Unemployment For Week Ended January 7			
STATE	Advance	Prior Wk	Change	Advance	Prior Wk	Chang	
Alabama	4,191	7,520	-3,329	21,875	27,927	-6,052	
Alaska	1,757	1,956	-199	15,256	13,842	1,414	
Arizona	4,487	4,551	-64	22,948	25,244	-2,296	
Arkansas	2,538	3,194	-656	16,869	19,351	-2,482	
California	61,159	43,975	17,184	425,021	377,379	47,642	
Colorado	3,562	3,833	-271	28,491	29,839	-1,348	
Connecticut	6,737	6,625	112	51,252	43,013	8,239	
Delaware	1,165	1,315	-150	7,609	6,935	674	
District of Columbia	687	473	214	8,665	8,908	-243	
Florida	8,344	9,011	-667	36,571	42,896	-6,325	
**Georgia	10,779	19,189	-8,410	36,982	48,867	-11,88	
**Hawaii	1,522	2,058	-536	7,997	8,570	-573	
Idaho	2,581	3,017	-436	14,099	13,845	254	
Illinois	16,601	18,620	-2,019	151,944	147,879	4,065	
Indiana	5,025	6,168	-1,143	31,730	30,184	1,546	
Iowa	4,338		-1,143 -969			1,540	
		5,307		37,467	37,272		
Kansas	4,864	3,713	1,151	16,514 25,204	14,855	1,659	
Kentucky	4,045	5,611	-1,566	25,204	26,402	-1,198	
Louisiana	2,833	2,708	125	23,524	23,574	-50	
Maine	1,750	2,142	-392	9,972	9,374	598	
Maryland	5,073	6,192	-1,119	40,114	44,647	-4,533	
Massachusetts	9,581	11,799	-2,218	87,570	87,935	-365	
Michigan	12,133	17,543	-5,410	94,363	87,224	7,139	
Minnesota	6,085	7,895	-1,810	75,722	72,852	2,870	
Mississippi	1,420	1,907	-487	11,358	14,381	-3,023	
Missouri	6,174	9,339	-3,165	36,790	38,178	-1,388	
Montana	1,731	2,573	-842	13,968	13,207	761	
Nebraska	1,136	1,778	-642	9,527	9,252	275	
Nevada	3,556	3,479	77	22,778	24,536	-1,758	
New Hampshire	848	1,080	-232	5,258	5,945	-687	
New Jersey	14,280	19,001	-4,721	121,194	121,220	-26	
New Mexico	1,223	1,345	-122	12,636	12,990	-354	
New York	24,281	46,325	-22,044	190,658	202,434	-11,77	
North Carolina	4,813	5,287	-474	26,536	26,240	296	
North Dakota	1,520	2,181	-661	11,634	8,240	3,394	
**Ohio	10,113	12,860	-2,747	86,163	86,760	-597	
Oklahoma	1,561	1,883	-322	19,253	20,423	-1,170	
Oregon	6,251	7,042	-791	37,266	37,265	1	
Pennsylvania	29,060	31,304	-2,244	161,695	149,695	12,000	
Puerto Rico	1,459	1,758	-299	18,920	21,845	-2,925	
Rhode Island	2,179	1,979	200	12,085	13,267	-1,182	
South Carolina	3,978	7,148	-3,170	18,709	23,218	-4,509	
South Dakota	407	573	-166	3,847	3,511	336	
Tennessee	4,328	5,512	-1,184	21,918	22,481	-563	
Гехаs	17,289	21,401	-4,112	171,503	167,019	4,484	
Utah	2,198	2,618	-420	14,423	13,259	1,164	
Vermont	665	940	-275	6,867	6,825	42	
Virgin Islands	38	10	28	672	436	236	
· ·			-815				
*Virginia	5,227	6,042		27,562	29,728	-2,166	
Washington	6,209	5,130	1,079	68,784	62,340	6,444	
West Virginia	2,023	2,191	-168	18,579	15,796	2,783	
**Wisconsin	9,720	14,327	-4,607	57,864	61,893	-4,029	
Wyoming	825	892	-67	5,768	6,408	-640	
US Total	346,349	412,320	-65,971	2,501,974	2,467,606	34,368	

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.

		Change from					
	Initial	Prior	4-Week	Insured	from Prior	4-Week	
Week Ending	Claims	Week	Average	Unemployment	Week	Average	IUR
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	-2 7	258.25	2,043	13	2,043.30	1.5
November 5, 2016	254	-12	260.00	1,983	-60	2,024.00	1.3
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	2,105	66	2,043.00	1.5
December 24, 2016	267	-8	263.50	2,116	11	2,070.25	1.5
December 31, 2016	237	-30	258.25	2,093	-23	2,088.25	1.5
January 7, 2017	249	12	257.00	2,046	-47	2,090.00	1.5
January 14, 2017	234	-15	246.75				

Initial Claims Filed During Week Ended January 7
INITIAL CLAIMS Insured Unemployment For Week Ended December 31 INSURED UNEMPLOYMENT

			AL CLAIMS	S				GYY 1 2 Y G	E ED 01.4	INSUE	RED UNE	MPLOYMENT
			E FROM	HOPE	HOM		(0/)		E FROM	LICEE		ALL DROCK AND EVOLUDING BAH BOAR
STATE	STATE	LAST WEEK	YEAR AGO	$\frac{\text{UCFE}}{1}$	$\frac{\text{UCX}}{1}$	STATE	<u>(%)</u>	LAST WEEK	YEAR AGO	UCFE 1	UCX 1	ALL PROGRAMS EXCLUDING RAILROAD RETIREMENT
Alabama	7520	2730	-631	19	15	27927	1.5	4813	-3582	61	125	28113
	1956	691	-212	4	3	13842	4.4	-1451	-3382 -868	194	45	14081
Alaska		1397			4					276		
Arizona	4551		-1044	30		25244	1.0	-186	-2328		119	25639
Arkansas	3194	-201	-1512	2	4	19351	1.7	1308	-7853	85	88	19524
California	43975	6000	-14305	374	112	377379	2.3	27670	-47873	2337	2428	382144
Colorado	3833	1145	-1198	60	25	29839	1.2	2364	-2846	309	469	30617
Connecticut	6625	-1741	-1353	8	8	43013	2.6	3005	-10298	89	118	43220
Delaware	1315	-3	-359	0	2	6935	1.6	-163	-1627	14	22	6971
District of Columbia	473	197	71	34	1	8908	1.6	52	402	287	8	9203
Florida	9011	2841	-2045	54	56	42896	0.5	-1236	-6661	152	270	43318
Georgia	19189	10614	-4838	33	53	48867	1.2	14605	-16298	232	371	49470
Hawaii	2058	825	344	6	16	8570	1.4	1025	1092	60	133	8763
Idaho	3017	341	35	66	7	13845	2.1	1015	-1117	307	39	14191
Illinois	18620	4183	-812	10	18	147879	2.6	8226	-13049	369	359	148607
Indiana	6168	1583	-4914	11	10	30184	1.0	-336	-2917	79	66	30329
Iowa	5307	-2379	-1741	2	3	37272	2.5	5501	-4112	44	58	37374
Kansas	3713	951	-565	5	5	14855	1.1	373	-5387	66	72	14993
Kentucky	5611	-2896	-1600	22	2	26402	1.5	4815	-7231	221	199	26822
Louisiana	2708	857	-1495	0	2	23574	1.2	-860	243	59	42	23675
Maine	2142	820	-612	1	0	9374	1.6	1103	-2398	44	20	9438
Maryland	6192	-1369	-908	30	17	44647	1.8	4875	-3687	317	193	45157
Massachusetts	11799	-2216	-1421	20	11	87935	2.6	9276	-4842	205	223	88363
Michigan	17543	-3414	-1955	37	19	87224	2.1	7297	-11118	201	172	87597
Minnesota	7895	1077	-572	10	7	72852	2.6	8151	-3655	150	115	73117
Mississippi	1907	-50	-478	25	4	14381	1.3	599	-2170	95	32	14508
Missouri	9339	793	-5915	12	2	38178	1.4	4096	-8466	381	95	38654
Montana	2573	1000	214	130	2	13207	3.0	1143	-741	511	41	13759
Nebraska	1778	-170	22	1	2	9252	1.0	941	-568	27	13	9292
Nevada	3479	873	-378	31	2	24536	2.0	-1402	-3053	177	115	24828
New Hampshire	1080	-292	-298	1	1	5945	0.9	888	-1216	5	7	5957
	19001	-292 -4372		17	11	121220	3.1	19375	-1210	258	393	121871
New Jersey			-137									
New Mexico	1345	255	-420 5165	12	2	12990	1.7	133	-1338	302	76	13368
New York	46325	23082	5165	25	38	202434	2.3	34644	-14940	339	550	203323
North Carolina	5287	2144	-1736	15	13	26240	0.6	826	-5260	117	271	26628
North Dakota	2181	1189	-295	4	0	8240	2.0	797	-556	16	3	8259
Ohio	12860	-1722	-2085	17	24	86760	1.7	8483	-9054	140	319	87219
Oklahoma	1883	-565	-686	9	5	20423	1.3	1180	-3502	81	154	20658
Oregon	7042	513	-565	118	16	37265	2.1	3587	-5904	708	164	38137
Pennsylvania	31304	6039	-11294	87	50		2.7	13339	-42593	569	426	150690
Puerto Rico	1758	53	77	2	3	21845	2.5	-903	-395	50	136	22031
Rhode Island	1979	-1724	-752	3	1	13267	2.9	3776	417	25	29	13321
South Carolina	7148	1249	-2551	5	11	23218	1.2	3947	-2848	70	138	23426
South Dakota	573	208	-104	6	0	3511	0.9	176	66	42	3	3556
Tennessee	5512	1116	-7338	12	3	22481	0.8	912	-11211	406	50	22937
Texas	21401	9686	-4857	63	161	167019	1.5	-1698	-12021	699	2120	169838
Utah	2618	1140	-339	85	4	13259	1.0	679	-1242	428	27	13714
Vermont	940	-591	-215	3	0	6825	2.3	1079	-268	19	10	6854
Virgin Islands	10	0	-21	0	0	436	1.2	-96	-118	2	2	440
Virginia	6042	898	-748	15	19	29728	0.8	2675	-5774	309	483	30520
Washington	5130	-3267	-6243	0	0	62340	2.0	1491	-10680	491	728	63559
West Virginia	2191	934	-1600	3	3	15796	2.4	1444	-6049	51	55	15902
Wisconsin	14327	1022	-3058	17	6	61893	2.2	10299	-15879	146	62	62101
Wyoming	892	285	-307	6	3	6408	2.3	411	-672	144	15	6567
Totals	412320	61759	-90584	1562	786	2467606	1.8	214063	-335720	12766	12271	2492643

Figures Appearing In columns showing Over-The-Week Changes reflect all revisions in data for prior week submitted by State agencies.

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.

Rate is not seasonally adjusted. The source of US total covered employment is BLS.

UNADJUSTED INITIAL CLAIMS FOR WEEK ENDED JANUARY 7, 2017

STATES WITH AN INCREASE OF MORE THAN 1,000

State	Change	State Supplied Comment
NY	+23,082	Layoffs in the transportation and warehousing, construction, and public administration industries.
GA	+10,614	Layoffs in the manufacturing, administrative, support, waste management and remediation service, accommodation and food service, and trade industries.
TX	+9,686	Layoffs in the manufacturing, administrative, support, waste management and remediation service, information, retail, and health and social service industries.
PA	+6,039	Layoffs in the construction, transportation and warehousing, manufacturing, administrative, support, waste management and remediation service, and arts, entertainment, and recreation industries.
CA	+6,000	Layoffs in the agriculture, forestry, fishing, and hunting industry.
IL	+4,183	Layoffs in the construction, administrative, support, waste management and remediation service, and manufacturing industries.
FL	+2,841	No comment.
AL	+2,730	Layoffs in the manufacturing industry.
NC	+2,144	Layoffs in the accommodation and food service, administrative, support, waste management and remediation service, and construction industries.
IN	+1,583	Layoffs in the construction industry.
AZ	+1,397	No comment.
SC	+1,249	No comment.
ND	+1,189	No comment.
CO	+1,145	Layoffs in the construction industry.
UT	+1,140	No comment.
TN	+1,116	Layoffs in the administrative, support, waste management and remediation service, manufacturing, and accommodation and food service industries.
MN	+1,077	Layoffs in the construction and manufacturing industries.
WI	+1,022	No comment.
MT	+1,000	No comment.

STATES WITH A DECREASE OF MORE THAN 1,000

State	Change	State Supplied Comment
NJ	-4,372	Fewer layoffs in the administrative, support, waste management and remediation service, accommodation and food service, transportation and warehousing, and manufacturing industries.
MI	-3,414	Fewer layoffs in the manufacturing industry.
WA	-3,267	No comment.
KY	-2,896	No comment.
IA	-2,379	No comment.
MA	-2,216	Fewer layoffs in the transportation and warehousing industry.
CT	-1,741	No comment.
RI	-1,724	No comment.
OH	-1,722	No comment.
MD	-1,369	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 Data

U.S. Department of Labor news materials are accessible at http://www.dol.gov. The Departments 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 17-93-NAT

Program Contacts:

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