



# News Release

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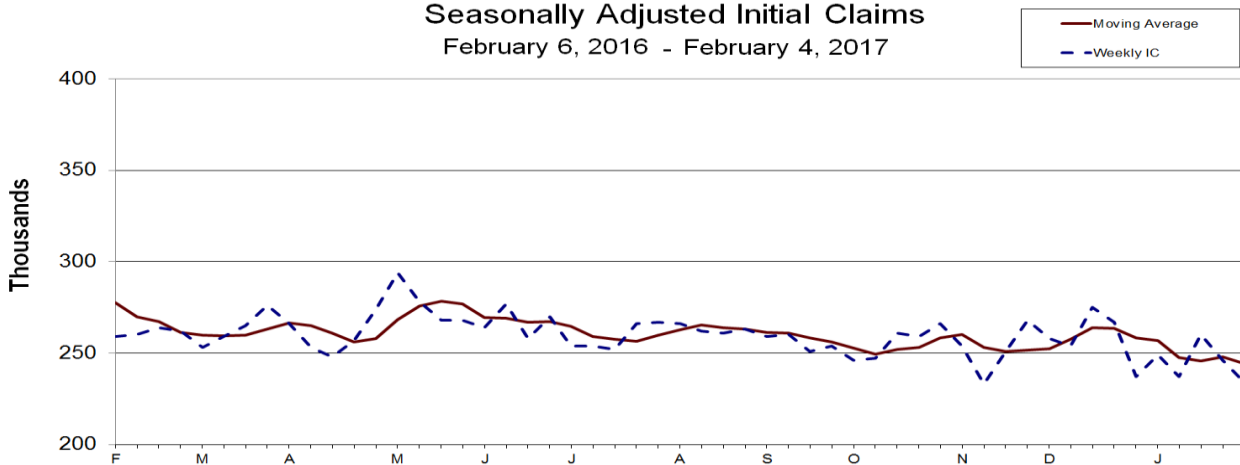
## UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE WEEKLY CLAIMS

### SEASONALLY ADJUSTED DATA

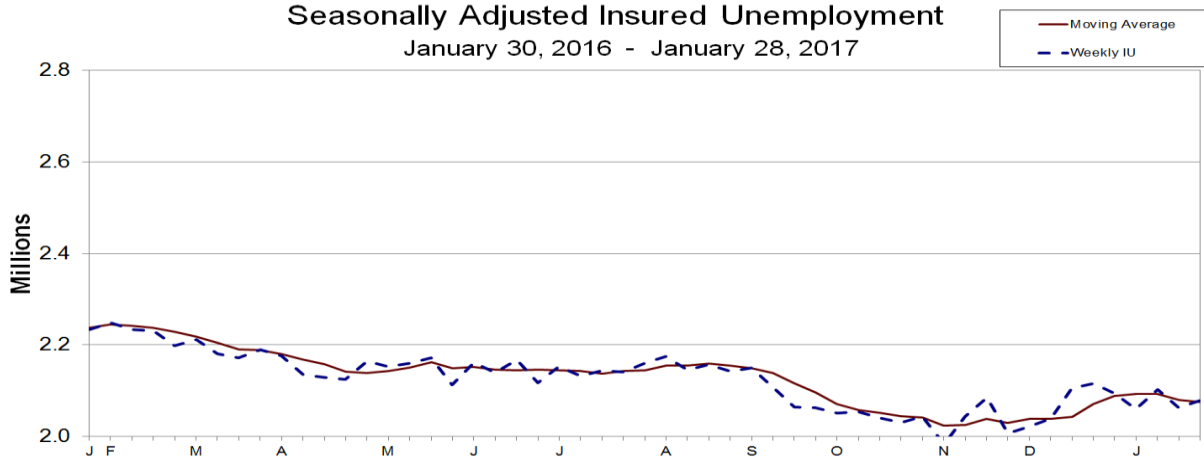
In the week ending February 4, the advance figure for seasonally adjusted **initial claims** was 234,000, a decrease of 12,000 from the previous week's unrevised level of 246,000. The 4-week moving average was 244,250, a decrease of 3,750 from the previous week's unrevised average of 248,000. This is the lowest level for this average since November 3, 1973 when it was 244,000.

The advance seasonally adjusted **insured unemployment rate** was 1.5 percent for the week ending January 28, unchanged from the previous week's unrevised rate. The advance number for seasonally adjusted **insured unemployment** during the week ending January 28 was 2,078,000, an increase of 15,000 from the previous week's revised level. The previous week's level was revised down by 1,000 from 2,064,000 to 2,063,000. The 4-week moving average was 2,075,750, a decrease of 3,750 from the previous week's revised average. The previous week's average was revised down by 250 from 2,079,750 to 2,079,500.

Seasonally Adjusted Initial Claims  
February 6, 2016 - February 4, 2017



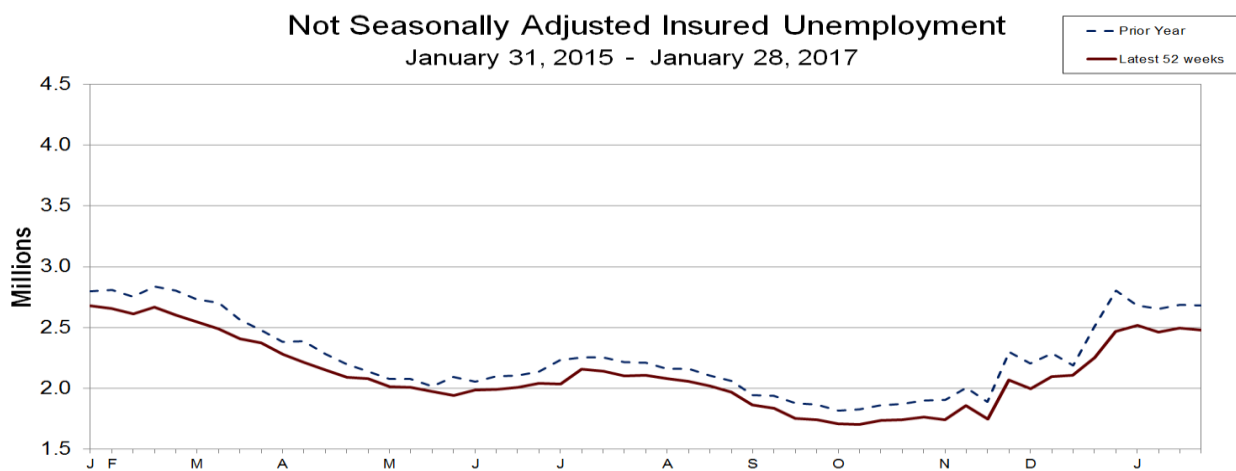
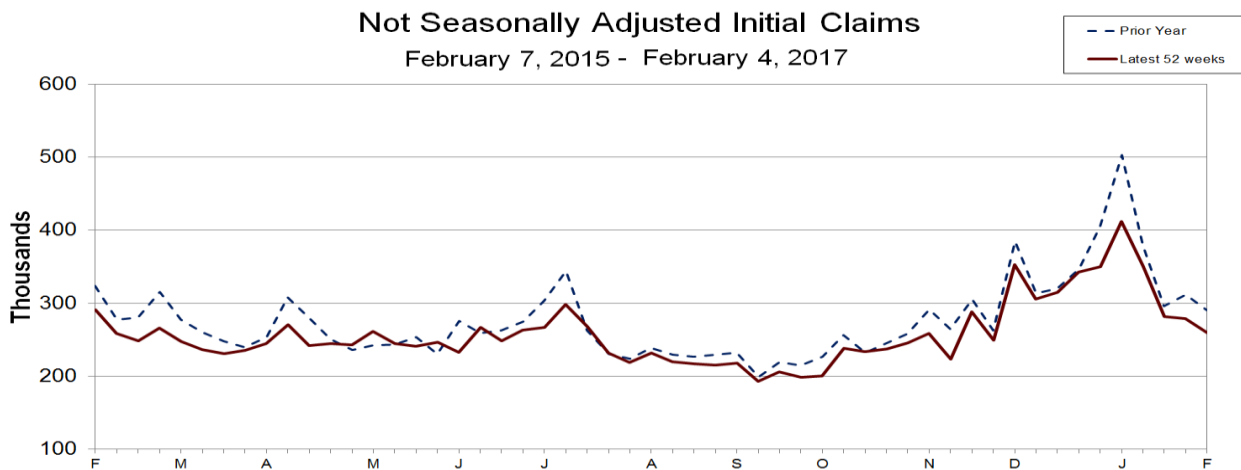
Seasonally Adjusted Insured Unemployment  
January 30, 2016 - January 28, 2017



## UNADJUSTED DATA

The advance number of actual initial claims under state programs, unadjusted, totaled 259,545 in the week ending February 4, a decrease of 19,099 (or -6.9 percent) from the previous week. The seasonal factors had expected a decrease of 5,892 (or -2.1 percent) from the previous week. There were 290,796 initial claims in the comparable week in 2016.

The advance unadjusted insured unemployment rate was 1.8 percent during the week ending January 28, unchanged from the prior week. The advance unadjusted number for persons claiming UI benefits in state programs totaled 2,481,320, a decrease of 13,265 (or -0.5 percent) from the preceding week. The seasonal factors had expected a decrease of 30,950 (or -1.2 percent) from the previous week. A year earlier the rate was 2.0 percent and the volume was 2,680,598.



The total number of people claiming benefits in all programs for the week ending January 21 was 2,538,312, an increase of 32,996 from the previous week. There were 2,739,533 persons claiming benefits in all programs in the comparable week in 2016.

No state was triggered "on" the Extended Benefits program during the week ending January 21.

Initial claims for UI benefits filed by former Federal civilian employees totaled 1,556 in the week ending January 28, an increase of 549 from the prior week. There were 932 initial claims filed by newly discharged veterans, an increase of 156 from the preceding week.

There were 14,785 former Federal civilian employees claiming UI benefits for the week ending January 21, an increase of 1,559 from the previous week. Newly discharged veterans claiming benefits totaled 12,303, an increase of 40 from the prior week.

The highest insured unemployment rates in the week ending January 21 were in Alaska (4.8), Connecticut (3.1), Montana (3.1), New Jersey (3.1), Rhode Island (2.8), Illinois (2.7), Massachusetts (2.7), Pennsylvania (2.7), Puerto Rico (2.7), and California (2.6).

The largest increases in initial claims for the week ending January 28 were in Ohio (+3,659), Indiana (+755), Florida (+741), Oregon (+700), and Wisconsin (+616), while the largest decreases were in California (-8,089), Washington (-564), Pennsylvania (-350), Puerto Rico (-325), and Virginia (-304).

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UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE DATA FOR REGULAR STATE PROGRAMS

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WEEK ENDING	February 4	January 28	Change	January 21	<u>Prior Year</u> <sup>1</sup>
Initial Claims (SA)	234,000	246,000	-12,000	260,000	259,000
Initial Claims (NSA)	259,545	278,644	-19,099	281,787	290,796
4-Wk Moving Average (SA)	244,250	248,000	-3,750	245,750	277,750
WEEK ENDING	January 28	January 21	Change	January 14	<u>Prior Year</u> <sup>1</sup>
Insured Unemployment (SA)	2,078,000	2,063,000	+15,000	2,103,000	2,234,000
Insured Unemployment (NSA)	2,481,320	2,494,585	-13,265	2,464,349	2,680,598
4-Wk Moving Average (SA)	2,075,750	2,079,500	-3,750	2,092,750	2,237,250
<u>Insured Unemployment Rate (SA)</u> <sup>2</sup>	1.5%	1.5%	0.0	1.5%	1.6%
<u>Insured Unemployment Rate (NSA)</u> <sup>2</sup>	1.8%	1.8%	0.0	1.8%	2.0%

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INITIAL CLAIMS FILED IN FEDERAL PROGRAMS (UNADJUSTED)

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WEEK ENDING	January 28	January 21	Change	<u>Prior Year</u> <sup>1</sup>
Federal Employees (UCFE)	1,556	1,007	+549	1,022
Newly Discharged Veterans (UCX)	932	776	+156	1,180

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PERSONS CLAIMING UI BENEFITS IN ALL PROGRAMS (UNADJUSTED)

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WEEK ENDING	January 21	January 14	Change	<u>Prior Year</u> <sup>1</sup>
Regular State	2,490,827	2,460,515	+30,312	2,683,949
Federal Employees	14,785	13,226	+1,559	15,233
Newly Discharged Veterans	12,303	12,263	+40	16,304
<u>Extended Benefits</u> <sup>3</sup>	0	0	0	0
<u>State Additional Benefits</u> <sup>4</sup>	7,706	6,834	+872	7,285
<u>STC / Workshare</u> <sup>5</sup>	12,691	12,478	+213	16,762
<u>TOTAL</u>	2,538,312	2,505,316	+32,996	2,739,533

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

STATE	Initial Claims Filed During Week Ended February 4			Insured Unemployment For Week Ended January 28		
	Advance	Prior Wk	Change	Advance	Prior Wk	Change
Alabama	2,542	2,936	-394	19,279	20,747	-1,468
Alaska	1,457	1,433	24	13,904	15,027	-1,123
Arizona	4,134	4,205	-71	22,771	25,994	-3,223
Arkansas	1,588	1,947	-359	15,751	17,369	-1,618
California	46,004	53,825	-7,821	414,992	429,836	-14,844
Colorado	2,598	2,589	9	32,269	29,247	3,022
Connecticut	3,880	5,373	-1,493	51,612	50,983	629
Delaware	773	759	14	7,778	7,301	477
District of Columbia	703	414	289	8,467	8,948	-481
Florida	7,537	8,133	-596	37,328	44,812	-7,484
Georgia	7,020	7,189	-169	32,592	35,020	-2,428
Hawaii	1,291	1,320	-29	8,631	7,866	765
Idaho	1,734	1,912	-178	14,269	14,945	-676
Illinois	11,022	11,865	-843	161,623	154,445	7,178
Indiana	3,632	4,700	-1,068	34,486	32,780	1,706
Iowa	3,119	2,694	425	37,072	35,427	1,645
Kansas	2,406	2,510	-104	15,528	16,922	-1,394
Kentucky	2,812	2,800	12	26,255	25,582	673
Louisiana	2,323	2,518	-195	21,778	22,099	-321
Maine	908	1,032	-124	10,416	10,424	-8
Maryland	4,022	4,398	-376	40,704	44,021	-3,317
Massachusetts	6,956	6,938	18	89,862	90,834	-972
Michigan	9,448	10,956	-1,508	92,965	89,592	3,373
Minnesota	4,393	3,982	411	71,431	66,716	4,715
Mississippi	1,106	1,443	-337	10,277	12,361	-2,084
Missouri	4,041	5,041	-1,000	34,433	36,442	-2,009
Montana	978	977	1	14,026	13,760	266
Nebraska	887	1,032	-145	8,789	9,295	-506
Nevada	3,021	3,104	-83	24,092	25,070	-978
New Hampshire	678	710	-32	5,437	5,827	-390
New Jersey	11,018	10,326	692	123,170	120,069	3,101
New Mexico	959	1,115	-156	12,576	12,865	-289
New York	18,764	17,703	1,061	187,026	185,144	1,882
North Carolina	4,111	3,953	158	26,903	27,759	-856
North Dakota	892	770	122	11,543	8,894	2,649
Ohio	8,938	11,867	-2,929	87,910	84,322	3,588
Oklahoma	1,572	1,740	-168	17,757	18,484	-727
Oregon	4,605	7,307	-2,702	35,019	37,287	-2,268
Pennsylvania	18,663	19,304	-641	162,906	151,161	11,745
Puerto Rico	1,940	2,105	-165	20,944	23,629	-2,685
Rhode Island	1,158	1,430	-272	13,034	13,034	
South Carolina	2,546	2,579	-33	16,509	17,414	-905
South Dakota	310	327	-17	3,878	3,828	50
Tennessee	2,968	3,123	-155	22,194	22,828	-634
Texas	15,325	15,118	207	157,228	165,892	-8,664
Utah	1,432	1,464	-32	15,004	14,883	121
Vermont	553	575	-22	6,658	6,173	485
Virgin Islands	21	32	-11	440	620	-180
Virginia	3,820	4,089	-269	31,113	29,846	1,267
Washington	7,321	4,767	2,554	69,383	68,581	802
West Virginia	1,290	1,565	-275	17,619	16,865	754
Wisconsin	7,739	8,102	-363	57,199	58,644	-1,445
Wyoming	587	548	39	6,490	6,671	-181
US Total	259,545	278,644	-19,099	2,481,320	2,494,585	-13,265

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	
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	2,105	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	2,059	-34	2,093.25	1.5
January 14, 2017	237	-12	247.50	2,103	44	2,092.75	1.5
January 21, 2017	260	23	245.75	2,063	-40	2,079.50	1.5
January 28, 2017	246	-14	248.00	2,078	15	2,075.75	1.5
February 4, 2017	234	-12	244.25				

## Initial Claims Filed During Week Ended January

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## Insured Unemployment For Week Ended January 21

STATE	INITIAL CLAIMS CHANGE FROM							CHANGE FROM				ALL PROGRAMS EXCLUDING RAILROAD RETIREMENT
	STATE	LAST WEEK	YEAR AGO	UCFE <sup>1</sup>	UCX <sup>1</sup>	STATE	(%) 2	LAST WEEK	YEAR AGO	UCFE <sup>1</sup>	UCX <sup>1</sup>	
Alabama	2936	-24	-456	5	14	20747	1.1	-730	-3512	89	133	20969
Alaska	1433	21	-45	11	2	15027	4.8	421	-239	271	38	15336
Arizona	4205	261	-143	19	10	25994	1.0	82	-1914	262	113	26369
Arkansas	1947	-107	-1048	6	6	17369	1.5	-72	-5770	73	95	17537
California	53825	-8089	3262	220	154	429836	2.6	47122	2952	3636	2478	435950
Colorado	2589	-274	-480	27	41	29247	1.2	-2580	-3911	410	494	30151
Connecticut	5373	62	394	19	7	50983	3.1	1845	612	80	118	51181
Delaware	759	-22	-296	4	4	7301	1.7	128	-2229	16	18	7335
District of Columbia	414	96	97	429	0	8948	1.6	75	378	368	5	9321
Florida	8133	741	64	18	65	44812	0.6	-181	-7489	203	245	45260
Georgia	7189	233	-1668	35	58	35020	0.9	-316	-4714	198	375	35593
Hawaii	1320	155	203	4	15	7866	1.3	-361	1619	83	109	8058
Idaho	1912	-105	94	23	3	14945	2.3	-99	223	396	40	15381
Illinois	11865	307	-6128	13	15	154445	2.7	-7032	-12323	442	362	155249
Indiana	4700	755	-126	14	12	32780	1.1	719	-3728	83	65	32928
Iowa	2694	-121	-427	7	4	35427	2.3	139	-1283	55	56	35538
Kansas	2510	-133	1	8	10	16922	1.3	-28	-3330	61	65	17048
Kentucky	2800	-225	-910	1	4	25582	1.4	-1205	-3647	237	241	26060
Louisiana	2518	60	-565	1	0	22099	1.2	-555	-1188	39	48	22186
Maine	1032	-111	-128	2	1	10424	1.8	320	-2186	43	25	10492
Maryland	4398	175	-2877	92	9	44021	1.8	437	-3173	331	201	44553
Massachusetts	6938	-122	-146	17	17	90834	2.7	1499	-4621	182	223	91239
Michigan	10956	354	1711	25	22	89592	2.2	-3373	-6999	278	222	90092
Minnesota	3982	-166	-285	4	4	66716	2.4	-361	-3776	162	102	66980
Mississippi	1443	113	-143	19	5	12361	1.1	-263	-1864	106	48	12515
Missouri	5041	94	-1090	24	1	36442	1.4	162	-8703	262	82	36786
Montana	977	-172	-297	39	0	13760	3.1	-800	-888	677	40	14477
Nebraska	1032	-21	34	4	0	9295	1.0	123	219	27	11	9333
Nevada	3104	272	36	10	8	25070	2.0	242	-2506	246	109	25425
New Hampshire	710	-42	-191	2	0	5827	0.9	105	-1041	6	6	5839
New Jersey	10326	-303	-1739	17	19	120069	3.1	2602	-5749	273	366	120708
New Mexico	1115	-55	-156	14	6	12865	1.7	-5	-1777	326	65	13256
New York	17703	290	-2291	45	48	185144	2.1	-298	-14343	338	565	186047
North Carolina	3953	-50	-632	12	18	27759	0.7	-564	-5362	140	268	28167
North Dakota	770	-23	-137	0	2	8894	2.1	-162	-1027	20	4	8918
Ohio	11867	3659	848	5	22	84322	1.6	-333	-10486	125	318	84765
Oklahoma	1740	-63	-538	7	12	18484	1.2	-177	-3956	85	142	18711
Oregon	7307	700	1542	77	22	37287	2.1	-681	173	784	151	38222
Pennsylvania	19304	-350	-5647	99	52	151161	2.7	-10303	-21756	687	479	152327
Puerto Rico	2105	-325	155	0	6	23629	2.7	774	-3246	34	136	23799
Rhode Island	1430	40	8	4	1	13034	2.8	624	207	24	45	13103
South Carolina	2579	-128	-571	9	20	17414	0.9	126	-2109	59	133	17606
South Dakota	327	40	27	4	0	3828	0.9	16	128	51	3	3882
Tennessee	3123	-242	-4878	8	4	22828	0.8	142	-7377	410	54	23292
Texas	15118	54	-2517	80	165	165892	1.4	4217	-13418	581	2128	168601
Utah	1464	-16	-95	31	4	14883	1.1	81	-643	398	25	15306
Vermont	575	-36	-60	2	0	6173	2.1	-212	-566	15	5	6193
Virgin Islands	32	10	-3	2	0	620	1.7	138	-8	6	6	632
Virginia	4089	-304	-439	22	30	29846	0.8	-744	-3527	312	451	30609
Washington	4767	-564	-2802	0	0	68581	2.2	-82	2907	412	682	69675
West Virginia	1565	-97	-755	1	4	16865	2.5	-833	-7665	56	52	16973
Wisconsin	8102	616	-823	9	4	58644	2.1	859	-8156	127	56	58827
Wyoming	548	39	-240	6	2	6671	2.5	-412	-1486	200	2	6873
Totals	278644	-3143	-33296	1556	932	2494585	1.8	30236	-194273	14785	12303	2521673

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.

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**UNADJUSTED INITIAL CLAIMS FOR WEEK ENDED JANUARY 28, 2017**

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STATES WITH AN INCREASE OF MORE THAN 1,000

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<b>State</b>	<b>Change</b>	<b>State Supplied Comment</b>
OH	+3,659	Layoffs in the manufacturing industry.

STATES WITH A DECREASE OF MORE THAN 1,000

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<b>State</b>	<b>Change</b>	<b>State Supplied Comment</b>
CA	-8,089	Fewer layoffs in the service and agriculture, forestry, fishing and hunting industries.

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## 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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