



News Release

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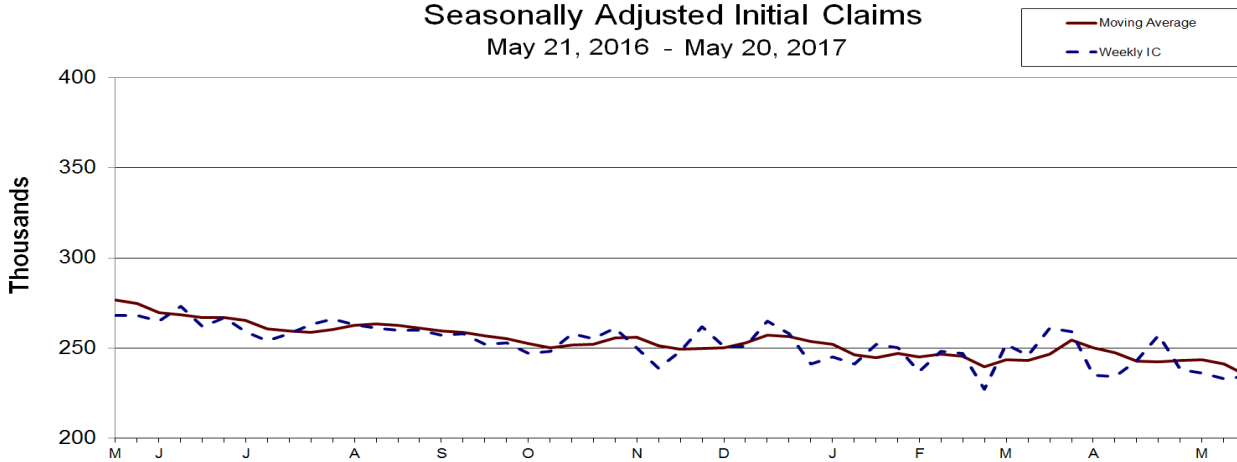
UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE WEEKLY CLAIMS

SEASONALLY ADJUSTED DATA

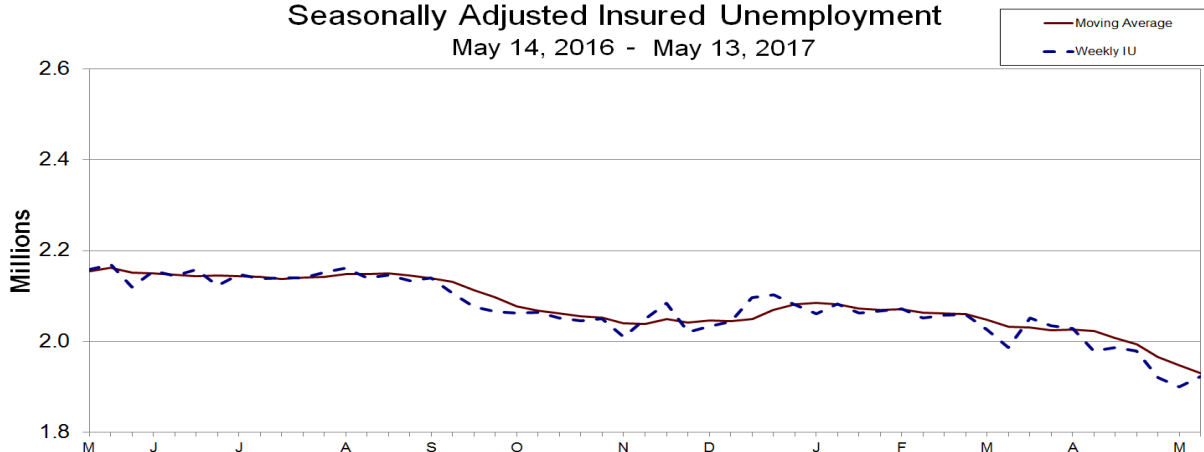
In the week ending May 20, the advance figure for seasonally adjusted **initial claims** was 234,000, an increase of 1,000 from the previous week's revised level. The previous week's level was revised up by 1,000 from 232,000 to 233,000. The 4-week moving average was 235,250, a decrease of 5,750 from the previous week's revised average. This is the lowest level for this average since April 14, 1973 when it was 232,750. The previous week's average was revised up by 250 from 240,750 to 241,000.

The advance seasonally adjusted **insured unemployment rate** was 1.4 percent for the week ending May 13, unchanged from the previous week's unrevised rate. The advance number for seasonally adjusted **insured unemployment** during the week ending May 13 was 1,923,000, an increase of 24,000 from the previous week's revised level. The previous week's level was revised up 1,000 from 1,898,000 to 1,899,000. The 4-week moving average was 1,930,250, a decrease of 16,000 from the previous week's revised average. This is the lowest level for this average since January 19, 1974 when it was 1,920,750. The previous week's average was revised up by 250 from 1,946,000 to 1,946,250.

Seasonally Adjusted Initial Claims
May 21, 2016 - May 20, 2017



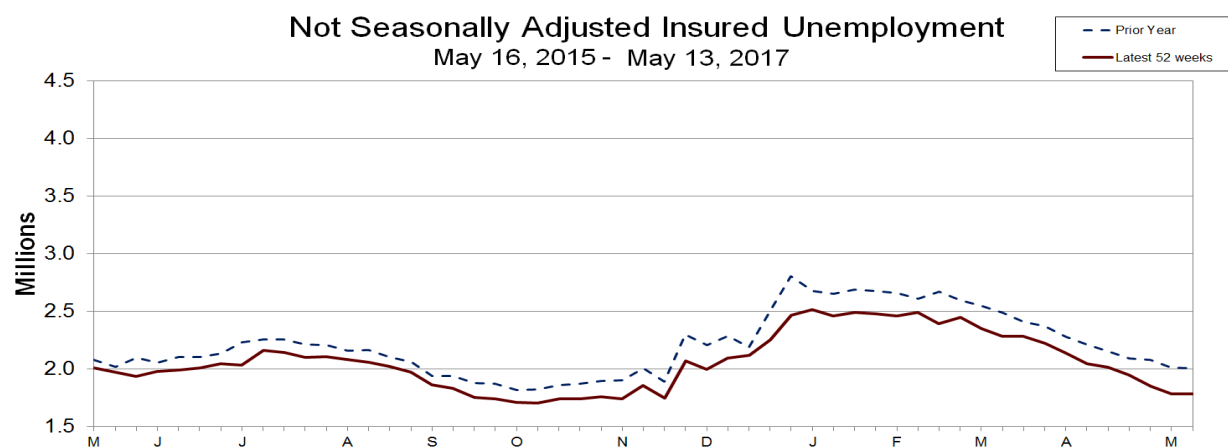
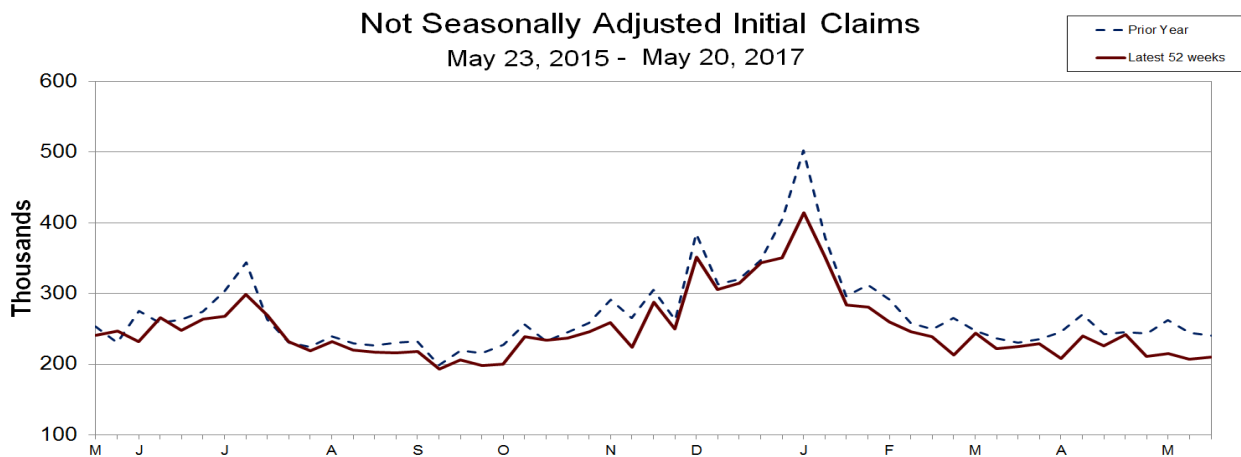
Seasonally Adjusted Insured Unemployment
May 14, 2016 - May 13, 2017



UNADJUSTED DATA

The advance number of actual initial claims under state programs, unadjusted, totaled 209,814 in the week ending May 20, an increase of 2,841 (or 1.4 percent) from the previous week. The seasonal factors had expected an increase of 1,630 (or 0.8 percent) from the previous week. There were 240,798 initial claims in the comparable week in 2016.

The advance unadjusted insured unemployment rate was 1.3 percent during the week ending May 13, unchanged from the prior week. The advance unadjusted number for persons claiming UI benefits in state programs totaled 1,786,443, an increase of 1,051 (or 0.1 percent) from the preceding week. The seasonal factors had expected a decrease of 20,893 (or -1.2 percent) from the previous week. A year earlier the rate was 1.5 percent and the volume was 2,009,243.



The total number of people claiming benefits in all programs for the week ending May 6 was 1,819,524, a decrease of 71,968 from the previous week. There were 2,055,890 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 May 6.

Initial claims for UI benefits filed by former Federal civilian employees totaled 551 in the week ending May 13, a decrease of 26 from the prior week. There were 790 initial claims filed by newly discharged veterans, a decrease of 108 from the preceding week.

There were 8,986 former Federal civilian employees claiming UI benefits for the week ending May 6, a decrease of 1,264 from the previous week. Newly discharged veterans claiming benefits totaled 10,605, a decrease of 56 from the prior week.

The highest insured unemployment rates in the week ending May 6 were in Alaska (3.1), Puerto Rico (2.6), New Jersey (2.2), California (2.1), Connecticut (2.1), Illinois (1.8), Massachusetts (1.8), Pennsylvania (1.8), Nevada (1.7), and Rhode Island (1.7).

The largest increases in initial claims for the week ending May 13 were in Connecticut (+913), Oregon (+891), New York (+537), Alabama (+464), and Virginia (+299), while the largest decreases were in California (-5,512), Illinois (-1,035), Michigan (-522), Missouri (-429), and Florida (-368).

UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE DATA FOR REGULAR STATE PROGRAMS

WEEK ENDING	May 20	May 13	Change	May 6	<u>Prior Year</u>¹
Initial Claims (SA)	234,000	233,000	+1,000	236,000	268,000
Initial Claims (NSA)	209,814	206,973	+2,841	215,224	240,798
4-Wk Moving Average (SA)	235,250	241,000	-5,750	243,500	276,750
WEEK ENDING	May 13	May 6	Change	April 29	<u>Prior Year</u>¹
Insured Unemployment (SA)	1,923,000	1,899,000	+24,000	1,920,000	2,158,000
Insured Unemployment (NSA)	1,786,443	1,785,392	+1,051	1,855,074	2,009,243
4-Wk Moving Average (SA)	1,930,250	1,946,250	-16,000	1,966,000	2,154,250
<u>Insured Unemployment Rate (SA)</u>²	1.4%	1.4%	0.0	1.4%	1.6%
<u>Insured Unemployment Rate (NSA)</u>²	1.3%	1.3%	0.0	1.3%	1.5%

INITIAL CLAIMS FILED IN FEDERAL PROGRAMS (UNADJUSTED)

WEEK ENDING	May 13	May 6	Change	<u>Prior Year</u>¹
Federal Employees (UCFE)	551	577	-26	647
Newly Discharged Veterans (UCX)	790	898	-108	1,047

PERSONS CLAIMING UI BENEFITS IN ALL PROGRAMS (UNADJUSTED)

WEEK ENDING	May 6	April 29	Change	<u>Prior Year</u>¹
Regular State	1,782,381	1,851,952	-69,571	2,009,530
Federal Employees	8,986	10,250	-1,264	7,754
Newly Discharged Veterans	10,605	10,661	-56	13,556
<u>Extended Benefits</u>³	0	0	0	0
<u>State Additional Benefits</u>⁴	7,509	7,845	-336	7,714
<u>STC / Workshare</u>⁵	10,043	10,784	-741	17,336
<u>TOTAL</u>	1,819,524	1,891,492	-71,968	2,055,890

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 139,505,637 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 May 20			Insured Unemployment For Week Ended May 13		
	Advance	Prior Wk	Change	Advance	Prior Wk	Change
Alabama	2,573	2,892	-319	16,380	16,138	242
Alaska	1,239	950	289	9,611	9,648	-37
Arizona	3,957	4,167	-210	26,574	29,416	-2,842
Arkansas	2,051	1,870	181	11,631	12,284	-653
California	38,551	37,564	987	359,405	341,907	17,498
Colorado	2,135	2,009	126	24,976	23,416	1,560
Connecticut	3,101	3,881	-780	34,694	34,913	-219
Delaware	391	509	-118	5,246	4,966	280
District of Columbia	583	364	219	7,499	7,922	-423
Florida	7,485	7,660	-175	39,230	40,873	-1,643
Georgia	4,940	5,625	-685	26,117	27,494	-1,377
Hawaii	1,341	1,210	131	7,830	7,867	-37
Idaho	775	808	-33	5,750	6,427	-677
Illinois	8,907	8,825	82	107,145	103,392	3,753
Indiana	2,597	2,487	110	19,145	19,729	-584
Iowa	2,377	1,923	454	17,034	16,555	479
Kansas	1,998	1,756	242	9,772	9,928	-156
Kentucky	2,384	2,558	-174	17,728	17,604	124
*Louisiana	2,347	2,700	-353	21,787	22,253	-466
Maine	550	606	-56	6,059	6,567	-508
Maryland	3,054	3,207	-153	29,083	32,453	-3,370
Massachusetts	5,300	5,035	265	58,083	61,056	-2,973
Michigan	6,939	5,430	1,509	44,687	50,403	-5,716
Minnesota	3,335	2,905	430	34,103	33,785	318
Mississippi	1,900	1,665	235	8,647	9,137	-490
Missouri	4,221	3,623	598	22,311	23,673	-1,362
Montana	703	597	106	5,762	6,346	-584
Nebraska	892	766	126	4,142	4,088	54
Nevada	2,456	2,135	321	19,489	21,015	-1,526
New Hampshire	416	491	-75	3,490	3,974	-484
New Jersey	7,736	8,224	-488	85,952	86,451	-499
New Mexico	956	861	95	10,216	10,616	-400
New York	14,512	15,447	-935	134,138	137,073	-2,935
North Carolina	3,606	3,305	301	20,318	21,502	-1,184
**North Dakota	461	407	54	2,498	2,661	-163
Ohio	5,925	6,215	-290	52,849	55,017	-2,168
Oklahoma	1,517	1,543	-26	14,355	14,693	-338
Oregon	3,365	3,865	-500	26,060	26,279	-219
Pennsylvania	12,560	12,770	-210	104,220	101,996	2,224
Puerto Rico	1,653	1,525	128	22,249	22,626	-377
Rhode Island	859	717	142	7,711	7,922	-211
South Carolina	2,555	2,408	147	12,630	12,597	33
South Dakota	166	212	-46	1,215	1,275	-60
Tennessee	2,731	2,956	-225	18,178	18,103	75
Texas	15,296	14,546	750	142,720	134,071	8,649
Utah	1,001	951	50	8,110	8,460	-350
Vermont	885	425	460	4,062	4,181	-119
Virgin Islands	14	38	-24	514	380	134
Virginia	3,443	3,146	297	24,208	23,156	1,052
Washington	5,402	5,601	-199	50,480	49,312	1,168
West Virginia	878	891	-13	10,253	9,939	314
Wisconsin	4,387	4,416	-29	26,748	28,121	-1,373
Wyoming	408	286	122	3,349	3,732	-383
US Total	209,814	206,973	2,841	1,786,443	1,785,392	1,051

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 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	
May 14, 2016	277	-9	275.00	2,158	1	2,154.25	1.6
May 21, 2016	268	-9	276.75	2,169	11	2,162.25	1.6
May 28, 2016	268	0	274.75	2,120	-49	2,151.00	1.5
June 4, 2016	265	-3	269.50	2,155	35	2,150.50	1.6
June 11, 2016	273	8	268.50	2,144	-11	2,147.00	1.6
June 18, 2016	262	-11	267.00	2,158	14	2,144.25	1.6
June 25, 2016	267	5	266.75	2,123	-35	2,145.00	1.5
July 2, 2016	259	-8	265.25	2,147	24	2,143.00	1.6
July 9, 2016	254	-5	260.50	2,138	-9	2,141.50	1.6
July 16, 2016	258	4	259.50	2,140	2	2,137.00	1.6
July 23, 2016	263	5	258.50	2,139	-1	2,141.00	1.6
July 30, 2016	266	3	260.25	2,152	13	2,142.25	1.6
August 6, 2016	263	-3	262.50	2,161	9	2,148.00	1.6
August 13, 2016	261	-2	263.25	2,139	-22	2,147.75	1.6
August 20, 2016	260	-1	262.50	2,146	7	2,149.50	1.6
August 27, 2016	260	0	261.00	2,133	-13	2,144.75	1.5
September 3, 2016	257	-3	259.50	2,139	6	2,139.25	1.6
September 10, 2016	258	1	258.75	2,105	-34	2,130.75	1.5
September 17, 2016	252	-6	256.75	2,076	-29	2,113.25	1.5
September 24, 2016	253	1	255.00	2,066	-10	2,096.50	1.5
October 1, 2016	247	-6	252.50	2,063	-3	2,077.50	1.5
October 8, 2016	248	1	250.00	2,064	1	2,067.25	1.5
October 15, 2016	258	10	251.50	2,052	-12	2,061.25	1.5
October 22, 2016	255	-3	252.00	2,045	-7	2,056.00	1.5
October 29, 2016	261	6	255.50	2,050	5	2,052.75	1.5
November 5, 2016	250	-11	256.00	2,010	-40	2,039.25	1.5
November 12, 2016	239	-11	251.25	2,050	40	2,038.75	1.5
November 19, 2016	248	9	249.50	2,084	34	2,048.50	1.5
November 26, 2016	262	14	249.75	2,020	-64	2,041.00	1.5
December 3, 2016	251	-11	250.00	2,033	13	2,046.75	1.5
December 10, 2016	251	0	253.00	2,044	11	2,045.25	1.5
December 17, 2016	265	14	257.25	2,097	53	2,048.50	1.5
December 24, 2016	258	-7	256.25	2,102	5	2,069.00	1.5
December 31, 2016	241	-17	253.75	2,081	-21	2,081.00	1.5
January 7, 2017	245	4	252.25	2,061	-20	2,085.25	1.5
January 14, 2017	241	-4	246.25	2,083	22	2,081.75	1.5
January 21, 2017	252	11	244.75	2,063	-20	2,072.00	1.5
January 28, 2017	250	-2	247.00	2,067	4	2,068.50	1.5
February 4, 2017	237	-13	245.00	2,071	4	2,071.00	1.5
February 11, 2017	248	11	246.75	2,052	-19	2,063.25	1.5
February 18, 2017	247	-1	245.50	2,057	5	2,061.75	1.5
February 25, 2017	227	-20	239.75	2,059	2	2,059.75	1.5
March 4, 2017	252	25	243.50	2,025	-34	2,048.25	1.5
March 11, 2017	246	-6	243.00	1,987	-38	2,032.00	1.4
March 18, 2017	261	15	246.50	2,052	65	2,030.75	1.5
March 25, 2017	259	-2	254.50	2,035	-17	2,024.75	1.5
April 1, 2017	235	-24	250.25	2,028	-7	2,025.50	1.5
April 8, 2017	234	-1	247.25	1,978	-50	2,023.25	1.4
April 15, 2017	243	9	242.75	1,987	9	2,007.00	1.4
April 22, 2017	257	14	242.25	1,979	-8	1,993.00	1.4
April 29, 2017	238	-19	243.00	1,920	-59	1,966.00	1.4
May 6, 2017	236	-2	243.50	1,899	-21	1,946.25	1.4
May 13, 2017	233	-3	241.00	1,923	24	1,930.25	1.4
May 20, 2017	234	1	235.25				

Initial Claims Filed During Week Ended May 13

Insured Unemployment For Week Ended May 6

INITIAL CLAIMS								INSURED UNEMPLOYMENT				ALL PROGRAMS EXCLUDING RAILROAD RETIREMENT
STATE	STATE	CHANGE FROM		UCFE	UCX	STATE	(%)	CHANGE FROM		UCFE	UCX ¹	
	STATE	LAST WEEK	YEAR AGO	1	1		2	LAST WEEK	YEAR AGO	1	1	
Alabama	2892	464	-270	13	12	16138	0.9	71	-3541	69	109	16316
Alaska	950	-167	-145	3	2	9648	3.1	-1118	-1537	55	40	9743
Arizona	4167	-352	-234	1	7	29416	1.1	-678	-3278	121	100	29637
Arkansas	1870	45	-612	5	5	12284	1.1	1	-3935	53	58	12395
California	37564	-5512	-5934	127	121	341907	2.1	-22548	-22726	1900	2143	345950
Colorado	2009	-208	-266	6	22	23416	0.9	-915	-5489	152	432	24000
Connecticut	3881	913	561	13	9	34913	2.1	-597	-609	58	78	35049
Delaware	509	10	-170	2	1	4966	1.1	-114	-715	20	18	5004
District of Columbia	364	27	-24	11	2	7922	1.4	14	549	977	12	8911
Florida	7660	-368	-389	13	56	40873	0.5	-1896	-4267	177	225	41275
Georgia	5625	-282	-1146	17	50	27494	0.7	552	-4204	177	298	27969
Hawaii	1210	-99	-39	4	7	7867	1.3	508	1183	53	114	8034
Idaho	808	-101	-152	4	2	6427	1.0	-507	-376	44	22	6493
Illinois	8825	-1035	-798	17	15	103392	1.8	-6927	-9844	353	270	104015
Indiana	2487	-285	-855	4	7	19729	0.7	-1307	-2487	66	45	19840
Iowa	1923	-144	-639	6	6	16555	1.1	-1163	-903	37	50	16642
Kansas	1756	-145	-573	1	5	9928	0.7	51	-4686	26	62	10016
Kentucky	2558	187	-307	2	2	17604	1.0	56	-4350	65	166	17835
Louisiana	2700	48	-269	5	9	22253	1.2	204	-534	51	63	22367
Maine	606	-89	-118	6	0	6567	1.1	-663	-720	24	20	6611
Maryland	3207	-200	-308	25	12	32453	1.3	-454	-2936	373	179	33005
Massachusetts	5035	-174	-401	10	13	61056	1.8	-1343	-5479	139	197	61392
Michigan	5430	-522	-3349	6	13	50403	1.2	-1081	-7547	122	131	50656
Minnesota	2905	-3	-624	2	6	33785	1.2	-5488	-2924	50	85	33920
Mississippi	1665	160	-475	6	7	9137	0.8	148	-2945	91	45	9273
Missouri	3623	-429	-4704	2	5	23673	0.9	317	1295	85	67	23825
Montana	597	-78	-335	3	4	6346	1.4	-760	-1011	96	40	6482
Nebraska	766	36	-123	2	2	4088	0.4	44	-61	16	11	4115
Nevada	2135	-107	-449	2	3	21015	1.7	-262	-1873	106	94	21215
New Hampshire	491	-73	-64	0	0	3974	0.6	-668	-503	6	6	3986
New Jersey	8224	-180	-810	10	14	86451	2.2	-3494	-5797	178	284	86913
New Mexico	861	-37	-183	1	2	10616	1.4	-216	-2846	100	71	10787
New York	15447	537	-1678	34	38	137073	1.5	-1166	-12675	347	482	137902
North Carolina	3305	144	-751	10	11	21502	0.5	490	-3863	95	254	21851
North Dakota	407	95	-88	1	1	2661	0.6	-654	-2326	10	4	2675
Ohio	6215	-357	-1395	7	31	55017	1.1	-447	-6278	104	284	55405
Oklahoma	1543	103	-462	12	5	14693	1.0	-297	-8920	75	121	14889
Oregon	3865	891	524	14	17	26279	1.5	-719	-992	260	164	26703
Pennsylvania	12770	-172	-5112	45	55	101996	1.8	-3978	-22423	432	338	102766
Puerto Rico	1525	-65	33	2	6	22626	2.6	-299	850	51	61	22738
Rhode Island	717	-32	-142	3	3	7922	1.7	-439	-703	21	30	7973
South Carolina	2408	111	-632	8	11	12597	0.6	-10	-1481	60	103	12760
South Dakota	212	45	-31	3	1	1275	0.3	-203	-105	34	4	1313
Tennessee	2956	-198	1401	8	2	18103	0.6	929	-3044	410	65	18578
Texas	14546	-44	-2800	45	136	134071	1.2	-7582	-41668	446	1881	136398
Utah	951	-186	-157	7	1	8460	0.6	-383	-1336	50	39	8549
Vermont	425	-89	-131	2	0	4181	1.4	-448	-600	10	7	4198
Virgin Islands	38	-2	-7	0	0	380	1.0	-176	-156	0	6	386
Virginia	3146	299	-580	13	22	23156	0.6	14	-5184	339	412	23907
Washington	5601	-310	-424	2	20	49312	1.6	-1352	2029	245	730	50287
West Virginia	891	-6	-302	2	4	9939	1.5	-421	-7371	47	38	10024
Wisconsin	4416	-274	-732	4	4	28121	1.0	-2080	-3807	57	31	28209
Wyoming	286	-41	-226	0	1	3732	1.4	-228	-4275	53	16	3801
Totals	206973	-8251	-37896	551	790	1785392	1.3	-69682	-229424	8986	10605	1804983

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 MAY 13, 2017

STATES WITH AN INCREASE OF MORE THAN 1,000

State	Change	State Supplied Comment
None		

STATES WITH A DECREASE OF MORE THAN 1,000

State	Change	State Supplied Comment
CA	-5,512	Fewer layoffs in the service industry.
IL	-1,035	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](#)

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