



News Release

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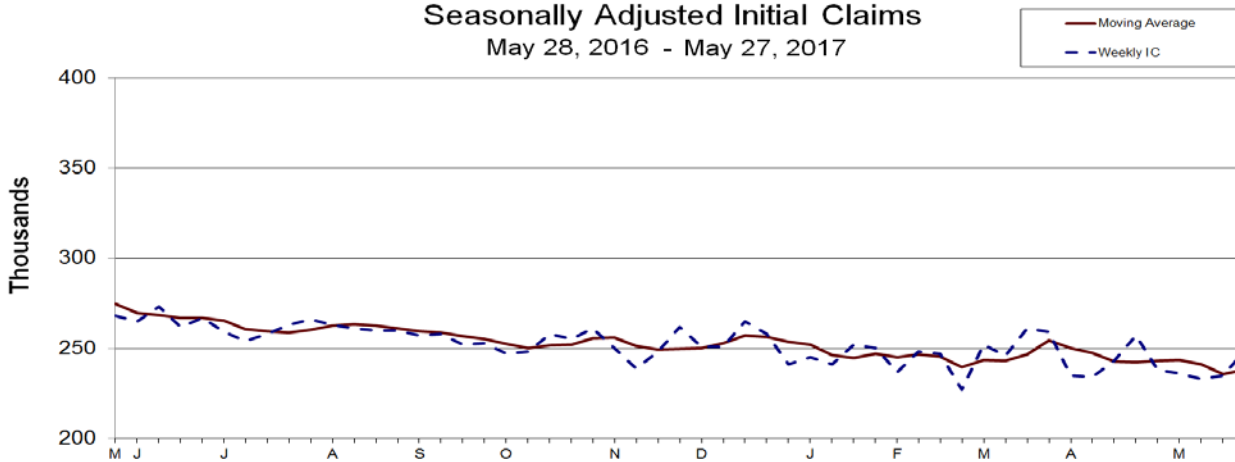
UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE WEEKLY CLAIMS

SEASONALLY ADJUSTED DATA

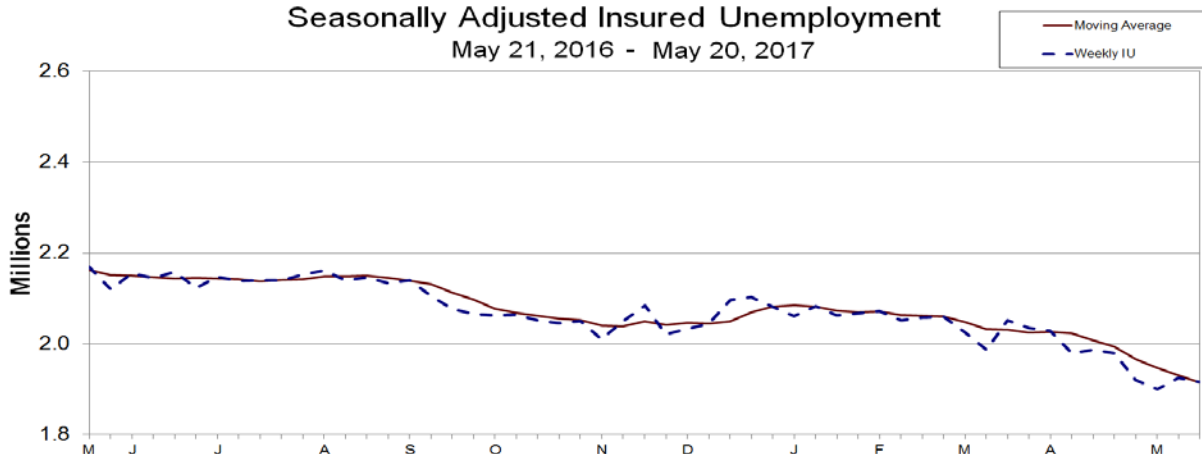
In the week ending May 27, the advance figure for seasonally adjusted **initial claims** was 248,000, an increase of 13,000 from the previous week's revised level. The previous week's level was revised up by 1,000 from 234,000 to 235,000. The 4-week moving average was 238,000, an increase of 2,500 from the previous week's revised average. The previous week's average was revised up by 250 from 235,250 to 235,500.

The advance seasonally adjusted **insured unemployment rate** was 1.4 percent for the week ending May 20, unchanged from the previous week's unrevised rate. The advance number for seasonally adjusted **insured unemployment** during the week ending May 20 was 1,915,000, a decrease of 9,000 from the previous week's revised level. The previous week's level was revised up 1,000 from 1,923,000 to 1,924,000. The 4-week moving average was 1,914,500, a decrease of 16,000 from the previous week's revised average. This is the lowest level for this average since January 12, 1974 when it was 1,881,000. The previous week's average was revised up by 250 from 1,930,250 to 1,930,500.

Seasonally Adjusted Initial Claims
May 28, 2016 - May 27, 2017



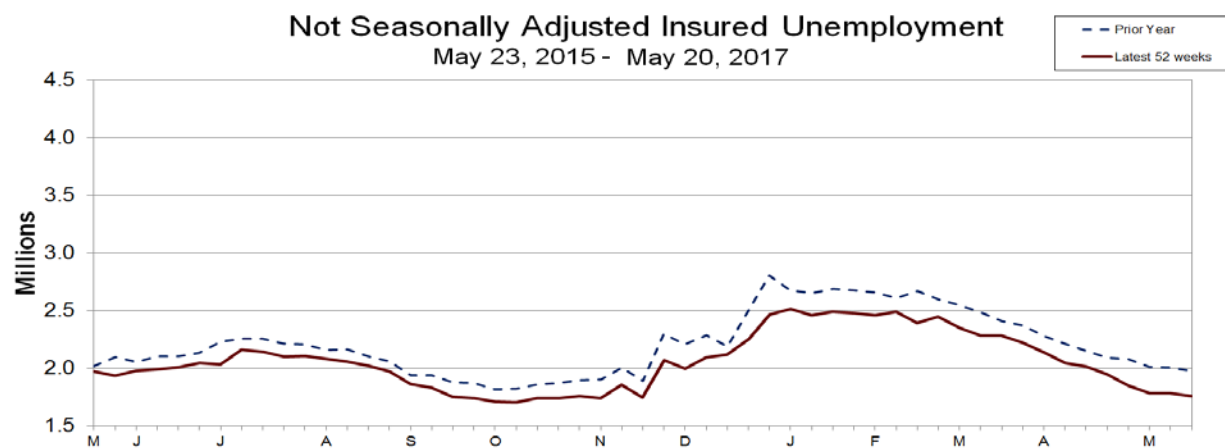
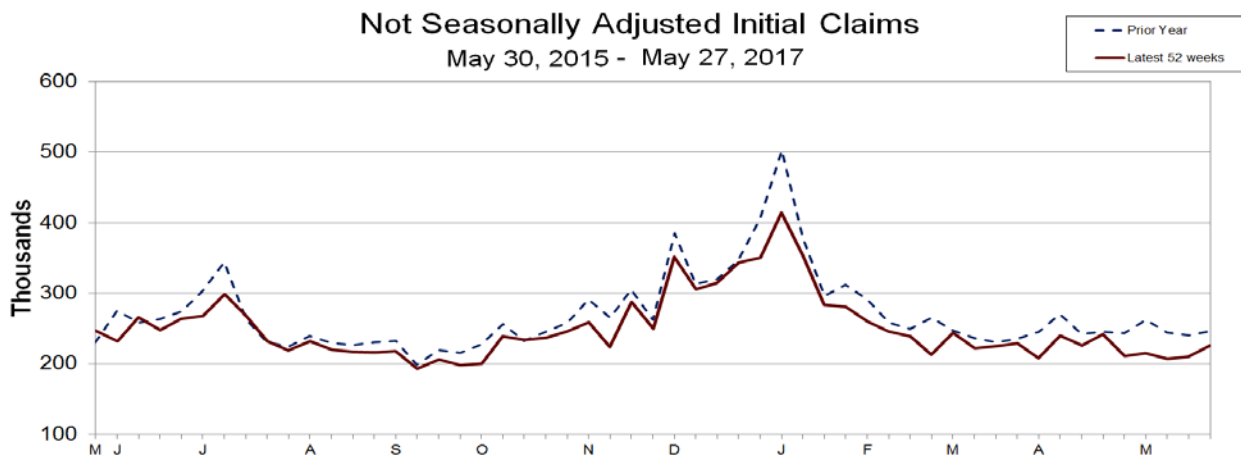
Seasonally Adjusted Insured Unemployment
May 21, 2016 - May 20, 2017



UNADJUSTED DATA

The advance number of actual initial claims under state programs, unadjusted, totaled 225,520 in the week ending May 27, an increase of 15,125 (or 7.2 percent) from the previous week. The seasonal factors had expected an increase of 3,053 (or 1.5 percent) from the previous week. There were 246,740 initial claims in the comparable week in 2016.

The advance unadjusted insured unemployment rate was 1.3 percent during the week ending May 20, unchanged from the prior week. The advance unadjusted number for persons claiming UI benefits in state programs totaled 1,759,793, a decrease of 27,785 (or -1.6 percent) from the preceding week. The seasonal factors had expected a decrease of 19,242 (or -1.1 percent) from the previous week. A year earlier the rate was 1.4 percent and the volume was 1,975,916.



The total number of people claiming benefits in all programs for the week ending May 13 was 1,822,770, an increase of 3,244 from the previous week. There were 2,049,518 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 13.

Initial claims for UI benefits filed by former Federal civilian employees totaled 687 in the week ending May 20, an increase of 136 from the prior week. There were 697 initial claims filed by newly discharged veterans, a decrease of 93 from the preceding week.

There were 9,217 former Federal civilian employees claiming UI benefits for the week ending May 13, an increase of 231 from the previous week. Newly discharged veterans claiming benefits totaled 10,891, an increase of 286 from the prior week.

The highest insured unemployment rates in the week ending May 13 were in Alaska (3.1), Puerto Rico (2.6), New Jersey (2.2), California (2.1), Connecticut (2.0), Illinois (1.8), Pennsylvania (1.8), Massachusetts (1.7), Nevada (1.7), and Rhode Island (1.7).

The largest increases in initial claims for the week ending May 20 were in Michigan (+1,634), Missouri (+874), Texas (+652), Vermont (+475), and Mississippi (+459), while the largest decreases were in New York (-1,033), Connecticut (-779), Oregon (-496), Georgia (-440), and New Jersey (-400).

UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE DATA FOR REGULAR STATE PROGRAMS

WEEK ENDING	May 27	May 20	Change	May 13	<u>Prior Year</u> ¹
Initial Claims (SA)	248,000	235,000	+13,000	233,000	268,000
Initial Claims (NSA)	225,520	210,395	+15,125	206,972	246,740
4-Wk Moving Average (SA)	238,000	235,500	+2,500	241,000	274,750
WEEK ENDING	May 20	May 13	Change	May 6	<u>Prior Year</u> ¹
Insured Unemployment (SA)	1,915,000	1,924,000	-9,000	1,899,000	2,169,000
Insured Unemployment (NSA)	1,759,793	1,787,578	-27,785	1,785,392	1,975,916
4-Wk Moving Average (SA)	1,914,500	1,930,500	-16,000	1,946,250	2,162,250
<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%	1.4%

INITIAL CLAIMS FILED IN FEDERAL PROGRAMS (UNADJUSTED)

WEEK ENDING	May 20	May 13	Change	<u>Prior Year</u> ¹
Federal Employees (UCFE)	687	551	+136	718
Newly Discharged Veterans (UCX)	697	790	-93	1,032

PERSONS CLAIMING UI BENEFITS IN ALL PROGRAMS (UNADJUSTED)

WEEK ENDING	May 13	May 6	Change	<u>Prior Year</u> ¹
Regular State	1,784,510	1,782,381	+2,129	2,004,299
Federal Employees	9,217	8,986	+231	7,712
Newly Discharged Veterans	10,891	10,605	+286	13,526
<u>Extended Benefits</u> ³	0	0	0	0
<u>State Additional Benefits</u> ⁴	7,579	7,509	+70	7,925
<u>STC / Workshare</u> ⁵	10,573	10,045	+528	16,056
<u>TOTAL</u>	1,822,770	1,819,526	+3,244	2,049,518

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 27			Insured Unemployment For Week Ended May 20		
	Advance	Prior Wk	Change	Advance	Prior Wk	Change
Alabama	2,828	2,809	19	16,907	16,421	486
Alaska	1,426	1,094	332	8,576	9,755	-1,179
Arizona	4,164	4,153	11	26,501	30,320	-3,819
Arkansas	2,046	2,184	-138	12,215	12,208	7
*California	42,863	38,020	4,843	350,025	351,230	-1,205
Colorado	2,107	2,135	-28	23,870	24,305	-435
Connecticut	2,970	3,102	-132	35,024	33,394	1,630
Delaware	497	420	77	5,106	4,921	185
District of Columbia	590	325	265	7,642	7,932	-290
Florida	7,354	7,686	-332	37,871	43,667	-5,796
Georgia	5,109	5,185	-76	26,514	27,449	-935
**Hawaii	1,223	1,308	-85	7,353	7,497	-144
Idaho	863	817	46	5,539	6,058	-519
Illinois	10,111	8,783	1,328	99,943	105,813	-5,870
Indiana	2,859	2,564	295	19,190	19,110	80
Iowa	2,529	2,045	484	16,931	15,852	1,079
*Kansas	1,856	1,922	-66	10,036	9,657	379
**Kentucky	2,284	2,366	-82	17,591	17,834	-243
*Louisiana	2,428	2,755	-327	22,011	22,411	-400
Maine	528	596	-68	5,671	6,129	-458
Maryland	3,702	3,348	354	28,902	32,169	-3,267
Massachusetts	5,372	5,353	19	58,808	58,827	-19
Michigan	5,303	7,064	-1,761	43,760	46,244	-2,484
Minnesota	4,006	3,168	838	34,174	32,208	1,966
Mississippi	2,655	2,124	531	9,304	9,581	-277
Missouri	6,210	4,497	1,713	23,338	22,814	524
Montana	763	736	27	5,653	5,856	-203
Nebraska	1,028	916	112	4,271	4,068	203
Nevada	2,469	2,253	216	19,271	20,892	-1,621
New Hampshire	631	458	173	3,451	3,856	-405
New Jersey	7,962	7,824	138	86,017	84,914	1,103
New Mexico	1,167	1,015	152	10,127	10,473	-346
New York	15,887	14,414	1,473	134,832	133,537	1,295
North Carolina	3,460	3,450	10	20,756	21,251	-495
**North Dakota	455	409	46	2,410	2,664	-254
Ohio	7,188	5,887	1,301	51,815	52,735	-920
Oklahoma	1,542	1,688	-146	14,666	14,921	-255
Oregon	3,108	3,369	-261	25,872	26,078	-206
Pennsylvania	13,090	12,586	504	101,586	103,345	-1,759
Puerto Rico	1,673	1,710	-37	21,238	23,243	-2,005
Rhode Island	1,002	851	151	7,657	7,651	6
South Carolina	2,365	2,570	-205	12,844	13,112	-268
South Dakota	207	187	20	1,229	1,235	-6
Tennessee	6,173	2,949	3,224	18,283	18,325	-42
*Texas	15,458	15,198	260	138,832	141,368	-2,536
Utah	1,076	991	85	8,040	8,229	-189
Vermont	387	900	-513	4,192	3,852	340
Virgin Islands	19	19	0	410	514	-104
*Virginia	3,201	3,230	-29	24,146	23,402	744
Washington	5,477	5,277	200	48,934	48,649	285
West Virginia	982	940	42	10,135	9,949	186
Wisconsin	4,464	4,382	82	26,673	26,148	525
Wyoming	403	363	40	3,651	3,505	146
US Total	225,520	210,395	15,125	1,759,793	1,787,578	-27,785

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 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	1,924	25	1,930.50	1.4
May 20, 2017	235	2	235.50	1,915	-9	1,914.50	1.4
May 27, 2017	248	13	238.00				

Initial Claims Filed During Week Ended May 20

Insured Unemployment For Week Ended May 13

STATE	INITIAL CLAIMS							INSURED UNEMPLOYMENT				ALL PROGRAMS EXCLUDING RAILROAD RETIREMENT
	STATE	CHANGE FROM LAST WEEK	YEAR AGO	UCFE ¹	UCX ¹	STATE	(%) ²	CHANGE FROM LAST WEEK	YEAR AGO	UCFE ¹	UCX ¹	
Alabama	2809	-83	-384	10	13	16421	0.9	283	-3936	69	110	16600
Alaska	1094	144	-41	2	1	9755	3.1	107	-1638	100	34	9889
Arizona	4153	-14	-247	20	4	30320	1.2	904	-2895	116	101	30537
Arkansas	2184	314	-743	8	6	12208	1.0	-76	-4332	66	60	12334
California	38020	456	-2526	164	130	351230	2.1	9323	-8026	2045	2176	355451
Colorado	2135	126	-443	5	18	24305	1.0	889	-5068	125	409	24839
Connecticut	3102	-779	-107	14	6	33394	2.0	-1519	-1829	60	105	33559
Delaware	420	-89	-174	1	1	4921	1.1	-45	-675	13	12	4946
District of Columbia	325	-39	-23	13	1	7932	1.4	10	839	947	10	8889
Florida	7686	26	-385	17	45	43667	0.5	2794	-3172	194	238	44099
Georgia	5185	-440	-884	10	37	27449	0.7	-45	-3499	201	305	27955
Hawaii	1308	98	67	0	5	7497	1.2	-370	489	69	78	7644
Idaho	817	9	-161	4	3	6058	0.9	-369	-513	40	20	6118
Illinois	8783	-42	-1699	3	13	105813	1.8	2421	-5321	323	324	106460
Indiana	2564	77	-508	4	3	19110	0.6	-619	-2900	70	48	19228
Iowa	2045	122	-1047	5	1	15852	1.0	-703	-2051	39	57	15948
Kansas	1922	166	-782	0	4	9657	0.7	-271	-3129	29	60	9746
Kentucky	2366	-192	-422	20	8	17834	1.0	230	-3742	113	206	18153
Louisiana	2755	55	-410	5	9	22411	1.2	158	-983	50	63	22524
Maine	596	-10	-62	1	0	6129	1.0	-438	-529	20	21	6170
Maryland	3348	142	-732	22	8	32169	1.3	-284	-2584	377	191	32737
Massachusetts	5353	318	-151	31	12	58827	1.7	-2229	-5867	156	190	59173
Michigan	7064	1634	1360	11	15	46244	1.1	-4159	-15747	117	147	46508
Minnesota	3168	263	-653	3	5	32208	1.2	-1577	-3109	59	91	32358
Mississippi	2124	459	-568	4	3	9581	0.9	444	-2826	91	43	9715
Missouri	4497	874	-1478	4	2	22814	0.8	-859	-2905	87	85	22986
Montana	736	139	-147	3	4	5856	1.3	-490	-1607	84	40	5980
Nebraska	916	150	24	2	2	4068	0.4	-20	-214	17	9	4094
Nevada	2253	118	-286	1	6	20892	1.7	-123	-2156	98	107	21097
New Hampshire	458	-33	-79	2	1	3856	0.6	-118	-526	8	3	3867
New Jersey	7824	-400	-409	15	32	84914	2.2	-1537	-6526	183	328	85425
New Mexico	1015	154	-337	10	3	10473	1.3	-143	-2722	91	82	10646
New York	14414	-1033	-1141	22	29	133537	1.5	-3536	-12012	357	495	134389
North Carolina	3450	145	-700	15	11	21251	0.5	-251	-4682	73	211	21535
North Dakota	409	2	-72	1	1	2664	0.6	3	-2089	10	4	2678
Ohio	5887	-328	-1186	2	24	52735	1.0	-2282	-5204	93	268	53096
Oklahoma	1688	145	-487	11	4	14921	1.0	228	-8765	69	106	15096
Oregon	3369	-496	-1854	57	10	26078	1.4	-201	-998	215	158	26451
Pennsylvania	12586	-184	-3280	53	33	103345	1.8	1349	-25970	466	465	104276
Puerto Rico	1710	185	-124	4	9	23243	2.6	617	2264	57	58	23358
Rhode Island	851	134	-25	1	1	7651	1.7	-271	-519	26	30	7707
South Carolina	2570	162	-336	5	14	13112	0.7	515	-1422	57	107	13276
South Dakota	187	-25	-74	22	1	1235	0.3	-40	-46	33	4	1272
Tennessee	2949	-7	-1032	9	3	18325	0.6	222	163	396	56	18777
Texas	15198	652	-2223	41	107	141368	1.2	7297	-40711	561	1911	143840
Utah	991	40	-228	13	2	8229	0.6	-231	-1422	45	34	8308
Vermont	900	475	123	1	2	3852	1.3	-329	-502	12	6	3870
Virgin Islands	19	-19	-19	0	0	514	1.4	134	-76	2	2	518
Virginia	3230	84	-825	8	15	23402	0.6	246	-5138	320	414	24136
Washington	5277	-324	-687	1	16	48649	1.6	-663	2062	233	724	49606
West Virginia	940	49	-447	2	5	9949	1.5	10	-7326	50	40	10039
Wisconsin	4382	-34	-1138	2	7	26148	0.9	-1973	-5283	47	37	26232
Wyoming	363	77	-211	3	2	3505	1.3	-227	-4290	38	8	3551
Totals	210395	3423	-30403	687	697	1787578	1.3	2186	-221665	9217	10891	1807686

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 20, 2017

STATES WITH AN INCREASE OF MORE THAN 1,000

State	Change	State Supplied Comment
MI	+1,634	No comment.

STATES WITH A DECREASE OF MORE THAN 1,000

State	Change	State Supplied Comment
NY	-1,033	Fewer layoffs in the construction, professional, scientific, and technical service, and manufacturing 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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