



# News Release

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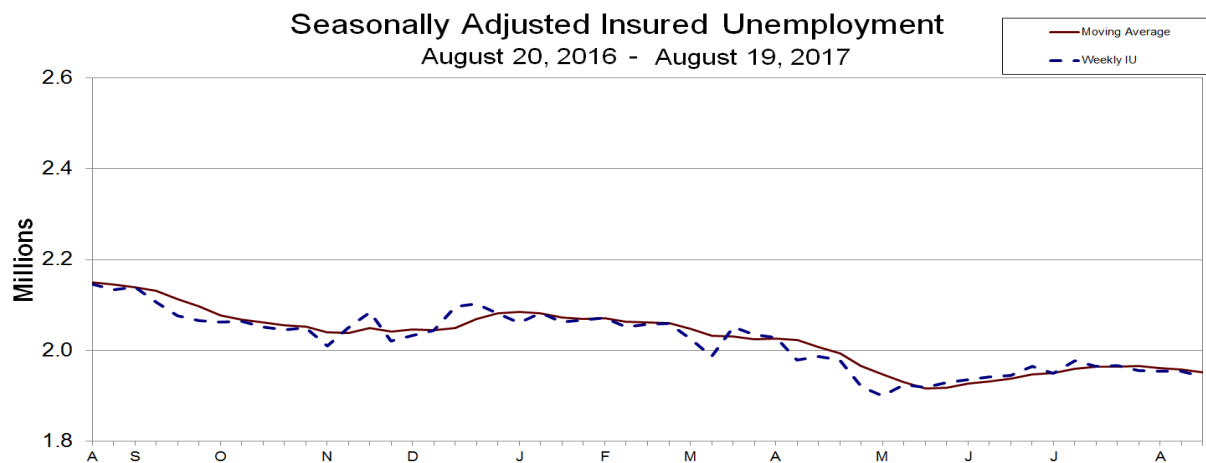
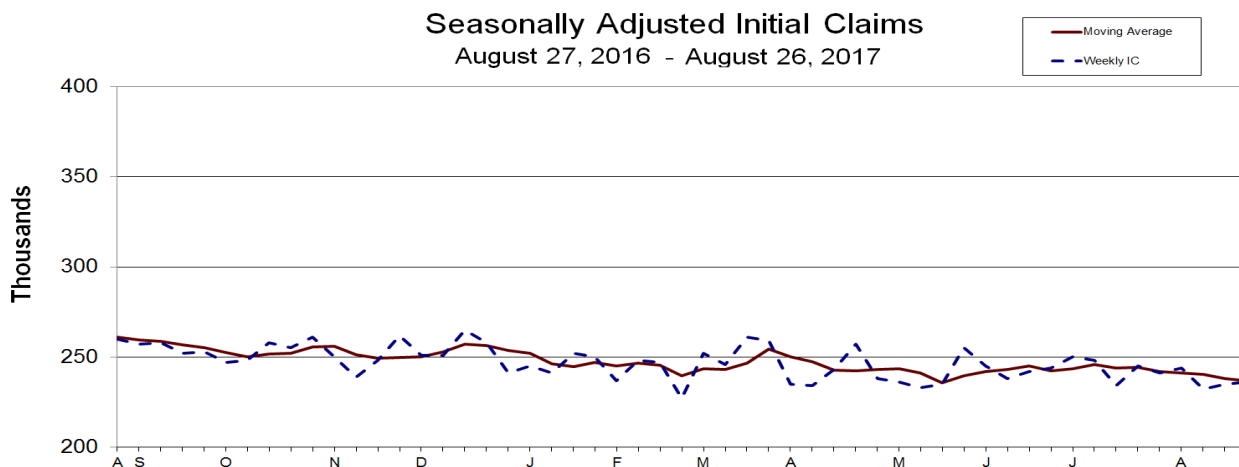
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8:30 A.M. (Eastern) Thursday, August 31, 2017

## UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE WEEKLY CLAIMS

### SEASONALLY ADJUSTED DATA

In the week ending August 26, the advance figure for seasonally adjusted **initial claims** was 236,000, an increase of 1,000 from the previous week's revised level. The previous week's level was revised up by 1,000 from 234,000 to 235,000. The 4-week moving average was 236,750, a decrease of 1,250 from the previous week's revised average. The previous week's average was revised up by 250 from 237,750 to 238,000.

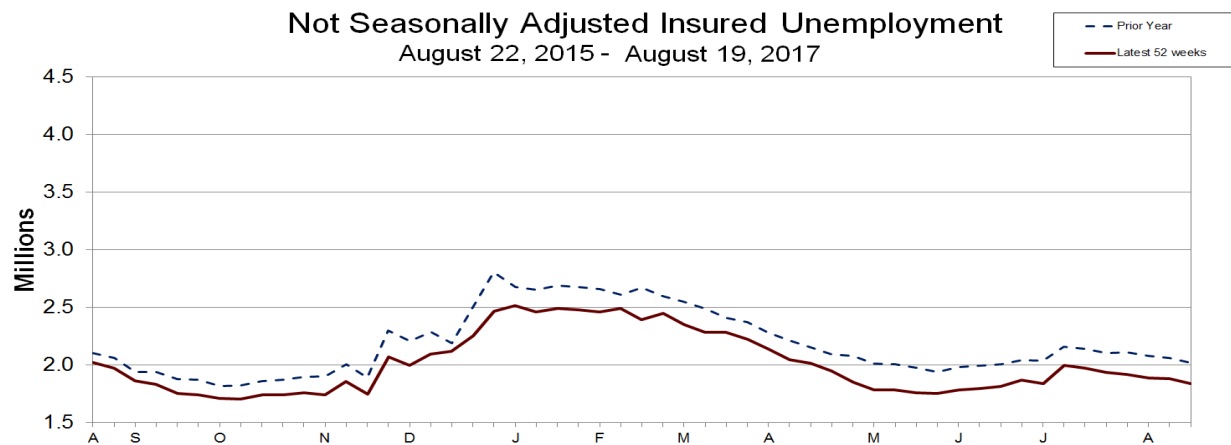
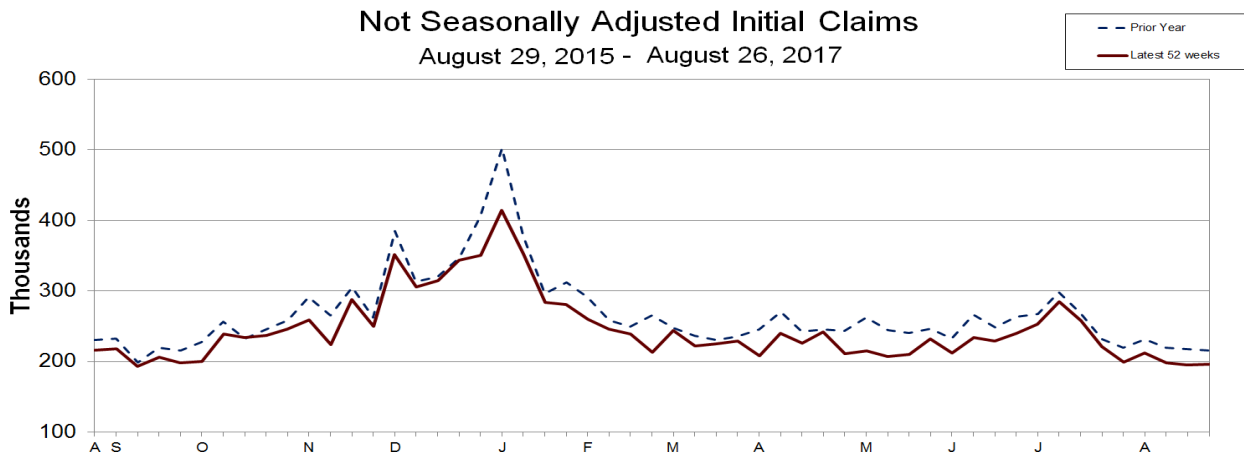
The advance seasonally adjusted **insured unemployment rate** was 1.4 percent for the week ending August 19, unchanged from the previous week's unrevised rate. The advance number for seasonally adjusted **insured unemployment** during the week ending August 19 was 1,942,000, a decrease of 12,000 from the previous week's unrevised level of 1,954,000. The 4-week moving average was 1,951,500, a decrease of 6,250 from the previous week's unrevised average of 1,957,750.



## UNADJUSTED DATA

The advance number of actual initial claims under state programs, unadjusted, totaled 196,020 in the week ending August 26, an increase of 890 (or 0.5 percent) from the previous week. The seasonal factors had expected a decrease of 469 (or -0.2 percent) from the previous week. There were 215,688 initial claims in the comparable week in 2016.

The advance unadjusted insured unemployment rate was 1.3 percent during the week ending August 19, unchanged from the prior week. The advance unadjusted number for persons claiming UI benefits in state programs totaled 1,839,140, a decrease of 46,634 (or -2.5 percent) from the preceding week. The seasonal factors had expected a decrease of 35,175 (or -1.9 percent) from the previous week. A year earlier the rate was 1.5 percent and the volume was 2,021,172.



The total number of people claiming benefits in all programs for the week ending August 12 was 1,916,598, a decrease of 4,225 from the previous week. There were 2,100,581 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 August 12.

Initial claims for UI benefits filed by former Federal civilian employees totaled 689 in the week ending August 19, a decrease of 81 from the prior week. There were 743 initial claims filed by newly discharged veterans, a decrease of 21 from the preceding week.

There were 8,566 former Federal civilian employees claiming UI benefits for the week ending August 12, a decrease of 287 from the previous week. Newly discharged veterans claiming benefits totaled 10,027, an increase of 238 from the prior week.

The highest insured unemployment rates in the week ending August 12 were in Puerto Rico (3.5), New Jersey (2.7), Connecticut (2.5), Alaska (2.2), Pennsylvania (2.2), California (2.1), Rhode Island (2.0), Massachusetts (1.9), Illinois (1.7), and New York (1.7).

The largest increases in initial claims for the week ending August 19 were in California (+771), New York (+411), Georgia (+263), New Jersey (+187), Michigan (+176), and Oklahoma (+176), while the largest decreases were in Pennsylvania (-831), Oregon (-446), Florida (-290), South Carolina (-290), Minnesota (-281), and Washington (-281).

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UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE DATA FOR REGULAR STATE PROGRAMS

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<b>WEEK ENDING</b>	<b>August 26</b>	<b>August 19</b>	<b>Change</b>	<b>August 12</b>	<b><u>Prior Year</u><sup>1</sup></b>
Initial Claims (SA)	236,000	235,000	+1,000	232,000	260,000
Initial Claims (NSA)	196,020	195,130	+890	198,280	215,688
4-Wk Moving Average (SA)	236,750	238,000	-1,250	240,500	261,000
<b>WEEK ENDING</b>	<b>August 19</b>	<b>August 12</b>	<b>Change</b>	<b>August 5</b>	<b><u>Prior Year</u><sup>1</sup></b>
Insured Unemployment (SA)	1,942,000	1,954,000	-12,000	1,954,000	2,146,000
Insured Unemployment (NSA)	1,839,140	1,885,774	-46,634	1,889,713	2,021,172
4-Wk Moving Average (SA)	1,951,500	1,957,750	-6,250	1,960,500	2,149,500
<u>Insured Unemployment Rate (SA)</u> <sup>2</sup>	1.4%	1.4%	0.0	1.4%	1.6%
<u>Insured Unemployment Rate (NSA)</u> <sup>2</sup>	1.3%	1.3%	0.0	1.3%	1.5%

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INITIAL CLAIMS FILED IN FEDERAL PROGRAMS (UNADJUSTED)

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<b>WEEK ENDING</b>	<b>August 19</b>	<b>August 12</b>	<b>Change</b>	<b><u>Prior Year</u><sup>1</sup></b>
Federal Employees (UCFE)	689	770	-81	850
Newly Discharged Veterans (UCX)	743	764	-21	1,131

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PERSONS CLAIMING UI BENEFITS IN ALL PROGRAMS (UNADJUSTED)

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<b>WEEK ENDING</b>	<b>August 12</b>	<b>August 5</b>	<b>Change</b>	<b><u>Prior Year</u><sup>1</sup></b>
Regular State	1,882,971	1,886,771	-3,800	2,056,941
Federal Employees	8,566	8,853	-287	8,247
Newly Discharged Veterans	10,027	9,789	+238	13,368
<u>Extended Benefits</u> <sup>3</sup>	0	0	0	0
<u>State Additional Benefits</u> <sup>4</sup>	5,524	5,851	-327	6,227
<u>STC / Workshare</u> <sup>5</sup>	9,510	9,559	-49	15,798
<u>TOTAL</u>	1,916,598	1,920,823	-4,225	2,100,581

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 139,989,708 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 August 26			Insured Unemployment For Week Ended August 19		
	Advance	Prior Wk	Change	Advance	Prior Wk	Change
Alabama	2,147	2,478	-331	17,521	18,502	-981
Alaska	1,026	875	151	6,428	6,800	-372
Arizona	3,620	3,985	-365	29,536	33,451	-3,915
Arkansas	1,510	1,695	-185	12,840	13,981	-1,141
California	39,224	37,843	1,381	338,169	337,727	442
Colorado	1,579	1,711	-132	21,099	21,702	-603
Connecticut	2,897	3,180	-283	41,366	40,442	924
Delaware	425	470	-45	6,116	6,038	78
District of Columbia	536	316	220	8,524	9,161	-637
Florida	6,951	7,615	-664	48,081	54,006	-5,925
Georgia	4,589	5,614	-1,025	26,915	29,037	-2,122
Hawaii	1,390	996	394	7,743	7,177	566
Idaho	795	727	68	4,576	5,059	-483
Illinois	7,550	8,173	-623	100,353	101,666	-1,313
Indiana	4,621	2,671	1,950	15,105	14,867	238
Iowa	1,886	1,590	296	16,096	16,041	55
Kansas	1,626	1,494	132	9,609	11,966	-2,357
Kentucky	2,577	2,250	327	17,508	19,044	-1,536
Louisiana	2,160	2,570	-410	19,358	22,115	-2,757
Maine	402	441	-39	4,130	4,410	-280
Maryland	2,822	3,320	-498	32,958	36,534	-3,576
Massachusetts	4,289	4,462	-173	65,358	66,826	-1,468
Michigan	6,369	6,549	-180	44,869	47,652	-2,783
Minnesota	2,612	2,510	102	29,104	28,387	717
Mississippi	980	1,215	-235	10,522	12,353	-1,831
Missouri	2,898	3,067	-169	22,503	27,600	-5,097
Montana	482	560	-78	4,601	5,049	-448
Nebraska	723	682	41	4,377	4,983	-606
Nevada	2,679	2,417	262	18,355	20,122	-1,767
New Hampshire	449	489	-40	4,072	4,405	-333
New Jersey	7,758	8,556	-798	104,344	103,673	671
New Mexico	779	913	-134	9,689	10,192	-503
New York	19,068	14,426	4,642	155,398	151,335	4,063
North Carolina	2,908	2,923	-15	21,611	23,305	-1,694
North Dakota	394	354	40	2,753	2,417	336
Ohio	5,143	5,306	-163	49,089	51,256	-2,167
Oklahoma	1,340	1,530	-190	14,350	15,091	-741
Oregon	2,935	3,046	-111	25,147	25,833	-686
Pennsylvania	11,421	11,390	31	122,698	126,388	-3,690
Puerto Rico	1,579	1,859	-280	29,492	30,882	-1,390
Rhode Island	778	818	-40	9,497	9,092	405
South Carolina	2,194	2,515	-321	16,157	17,132	-975
South Dakota	143	149	-6	1,135	1,207	-72
Tennessee	1,933	2,313	-380	18,920	19,891	-971
Texas	12,261	13,290	-1,029	147,228	146,555	673
Utah	978	897	81	7,119	7,423	-304
Vermont	274	366	-92	3,533	3,426	107
Virgin Islands	43	31	12	534	422	112
Virginia	2,744	2,724	20	25,630	25,534	96
Washington	4,976	5,250	-274	47,843	46,980	863
West Virginia	725	794	-69	9,549	9,537	12
Wisconsin	3,588	3,497	91	27,334	28,340	-1,006
Wyoming	244	218	26	2,298	2,760	-462
US Total	196,020	195,130	890	1,839,140	1,885,774	-46,634

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	Change from			Insured Unemployment	Change from		IUR
	Initial Claims	Prior Week	4-Week Average		Prior Week	4-Week Average	
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	1,919	-5	1,915.50	1.4
May 27, 2017	255	20	239.75	1,929	10	1,917.75	1.4
June 3, 2017	245	-10	242.00	1,936	7	1,927.00	1.4
June 10, 2017	238	-7	243.25	1,942	6	1,931.50	1.4
June 17, 2017	242	4	245.00	1,945	3	1,938.00	1.4
June 24, 2017	244	2	242.25	1,965	20	1,947.00	1.4
July 1, 2017	250	6	243.50	1,949	-16	1,950.25	1.4
July 8, 2017	248	-2	246.00	1,977	28	1,959.00	1.4
July 15, 2017	234	-14	244.00	1,965	-12	1,964.00	1.4
July 22, 2017	245	11	244.25	1,967	2	1,964.50	1.4
July 29, 2017	241	-4	242.00	1,956	-11	1,966.25	1.4
August 5, 2017	244	3	241.00	1,954	-2	1,960.50	1.4
August 12, 2017	232	-12	240.50	1,954	0	1,957.75	1.4
August 19, 2017	235	3	238.00	1,942	-12	1,951.50	1.4
August 26, 2017	236	1	236.75				

Initial Claims Filed During Week Ended August 19  
INITIAL CLAIMS

Insured Unemployment For Week Ended August 12  
INSURED UNEMPLOYMENT

STATE	CHANGE FROM						CHANGE FROM				ALL PROGRAMS EXCLUDING RAILROAD RETIREMENT	
	STATE	LAST WEEK	YEAR AGO	UCFE <sup>1</sup>	UCX <sup>1</sup>	STATE	LAST WEEK	YEAR AGO	UCFE <sup>1</sup>	UCX <sup>1</sup>		
						(%) <sup>2</sup>						
Alabama	2478	-42	-176	19	13	18502	1.0	-597	-3742	64	126	18692
Alaska	875	15	-236	1	2	6800	2.2	143	-1477	67	24	6891
Arizona	3985	-245	-106	9	5	33451	1.3	-878	-3349	101	91	33643
Arkansas	1695	154	-544	3	4	13981	1.2	-903	-2423	51	70	14102
California	37843	771	-933	146	152	337727	2.1	6762	-11086	1695	2136	341558
Colorado	1711	-8	-280	6	23	21702	0.9	381	-4378	106	324	22132
Connecticut	3180	122	-70	6	7	40442	2.5	678	-4079	51	95	40588
Delaware	470	-13	-20	2	4	6038	1.4	81	-426	14	13	6065
District of Columbia	316	5	-27	10	1	9161	1.6	6	254	561	14	9736
Florida	7615	-290	-432	26	54	54006	0.7	134	-4261	175	236	54417
Georgia	5614	263	187	24	37	29037	0.7	154	-1780	174	298	29509
Hawaii	996	-182	10	5	7	7177	1.2	-277	448	58	104	7339
Idaho	727	-206	-303	0	1	5059	0.7	-79	-1172	24	10	5093
Illinois	8173	-139	-569	3	16	101666	1.7	-183	-8597	373	262	102301
Indiana	2671	-38	-303	3	11	14867	0.5	-112	-5802	46	49	14962
Iowa	1590	-214	-59	5	5	16041	1.1	-1004	-1557	42	48	16131
Kansas	1494	-114	-212	3	2	11966	0.9	-99	0	41	45	12052
Kentucky	2250	-73	-78	6	4	19044	1.0	-201	-2525	149	136	19329
Louisiana	2570	-155	-2414	1	4	22115	1.2	-291	-3811	57	34	22206
Maine	441	16	-115	1	1	4410	0.7	-7	-724	17	22	4449
Maryland	3320	-170	-49	22	11	36534	1.5	-240	-2948	318	183	37035
Massachusetts	4462	-267	-398	4	20	66826	1.9	-15	-887	173	192	67191
Michigan	6549	176	-2321	14	10	47652	1.1	384	-8178	112	135	47899
Minnesota	2510	-281	-321	6	7	28387	1.0	-775	-2134	48	98	28533
Mississippi	1215	-113	-377	2	3	12353	1.1	-1079	-2078	36	46	12435
Missouri	3067	-183	-906	24	0	27600	1.0	-1137	-6301	226	43	27869
Montana	560	-22	-49	7	1	5049	1.1	186	-665	47	27	5123
Nebraska	682	-64	-11	5	4	4983	0.5	-93	373	9	12	5004
Nevada	2417	134	52	7	2	20122	1.6	-762	-1633	51	81	20254
New Hampshire	489	-37	-83	1	1	4405	0.7	-9	-416	4	5	4414
New Jersey	8556	187	-275	20	21	103673	2.7	-284	-2123	169	321	104163
New Mexico	913	28	-62	1	5	10192	1.3	-392	-2618	82	69	10343
New York	14426	411	264	21	43	151335	1.7	-245	-6384	341	486	152162
North Carolina	2923	7	-563	10	12	23305	0.6	-100	-3430	89	186	23580
North Dakota	354	69	-461	1	1	2417	0.6	-154	-1124	180	2	2599
Ohio	5306	-127	-1221	14	16	51256	1.0	-866	-4786	106	240	51602
Oklahoma	1530	176	-292	11	9	15091	1.0	-422	-8425	70	96	15257
Oregon	3046	-446	-680	17	9	25833	1.4	-279	-779	144	133	26110
Pennsylvania	11390	-831	-3069	49	38	126388	2.2	3323	-12937	426	319	127133
Puerto Rico	1859	-79	-304	4	3	30882	3.5	-2796	4565	111	84	31077
Rhode Island	818	-18	-278	1	3	9092	2.0	-82	-742	25	28	9145
South Carolina	2515	-290	60	5	6	17132	0.9	130	-414	48	91	17271
South Dakota	149	-10	-30	3	1	1207	0.3	-52	-200	185	7	1399
Tennessee	2313	-192	-170	9	2	19891	0.7	-1294	406	396	56	20343
Texas	13290	72	-1920	108	108	146555	1.3	156	-38497	582	1648	148785
Utah	897	-52	-125	17	2	7423	0.5	-26	-1184	117	28	7568
Vermont	366	0	-23	1	0	3426	1.1	-3	-570	7	5	3438
Virgin Islands	31	-8	-14	0	0	422	1.1	-92	-204	0	2	424
Virginia	2724	-209	-110	11	29	25534	0.7	-339	-3462	273	448	26255
Washington	5250	-281	-192	3	16	46980	1.5	334	4214	191	735	47906
West Virginia	794	-139	-185	1	1	9537	1.4	-526	-4340	39	30	9606
Wisconsin	3497	-209	-931	10	4	28340	1.0	-301	-5148	76	36	28452
Wyoming	218	-9	-157	1	2	2760	1.0	203	-2434	19	18	2797
Totals	195130	-3150	-21881	689	743	1885774	1.3	-3939	-175970	8566	10027	1904367

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 AUGUST 19, 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>
None		

STATES WITH A DECREASE OF MORE THAN 1,000

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<b>State</b>	<b>Change</b>	<b>State Supplied Comment</b>
None		

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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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