



News Release

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8:30 A.M. (Eastern) Thursday, September 7, 2017

UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE WEEKLY CLAIMS

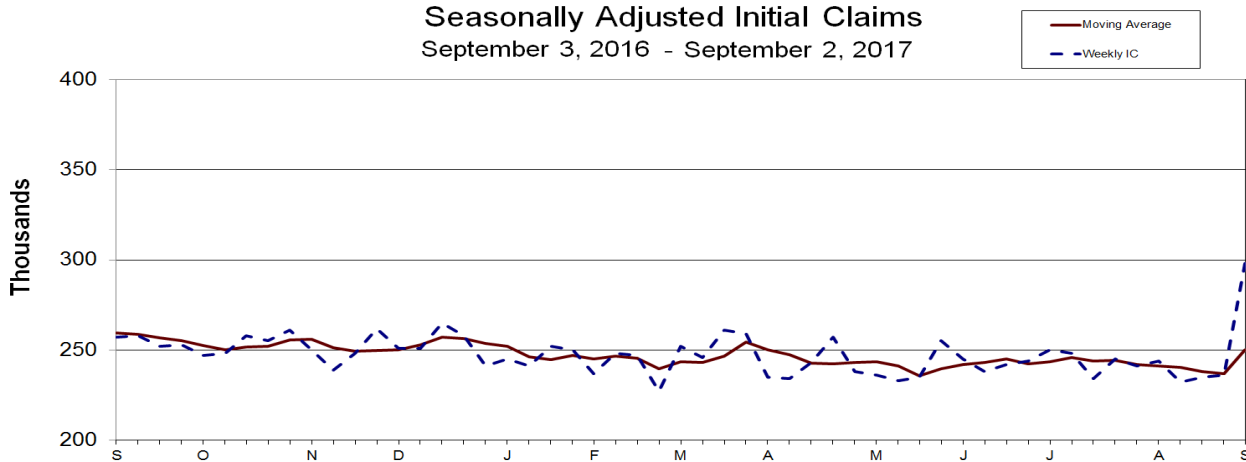
SEASONALLY ADJUSTED DATA

In the week ending September 2, the advance figure for seasonally adjusted **initial claims** was 298,000, an increase of 62,000 from the previous week's unrevised level of 236,000. This is the highest level for initial claims since April 18, 2015 when it was 298,000. The 4-week moving average was 250,250, an increase of 13,500 from the previous week's unrevised average of 236,750.

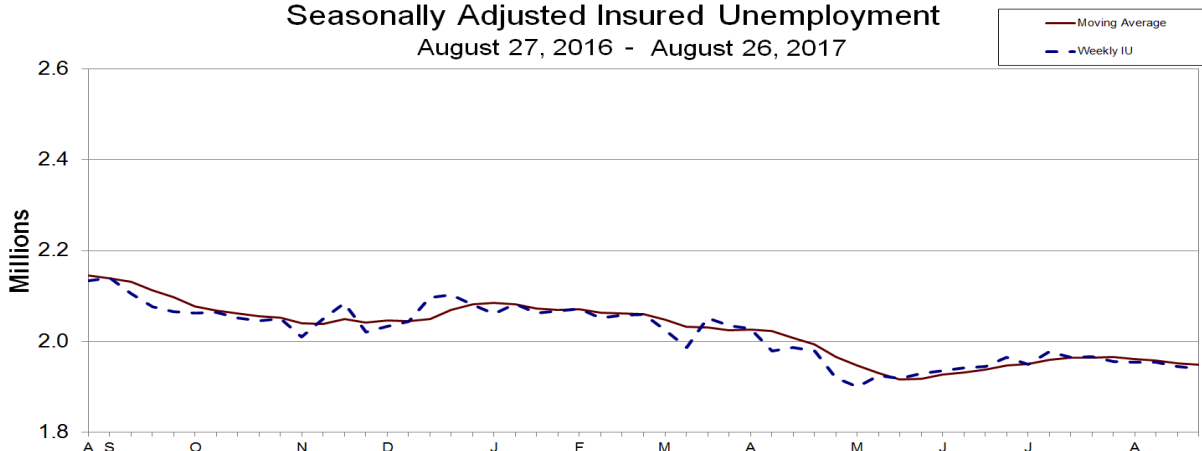
Hurricane Harvey impacted this week's initial claims.

The advance seasonally adjusted **insured unemployment rate** was 1.4 percent for the week ending August 26, unchanged from the previous week's unrevised rate. The advance number for seasonally adjusted **insured unemployment** during the week ending August 26 was 1,940,000, a decrease of 5,000 from the previous week's revised level. The previous week's level was revised up 3,000 from 1,942,000 to 1,945,000. The 4-week moving average was 1,948,250, a decrease of 4,000 from the previous week's revised average. The previous week's average was revised up by 750 from 1,951,500 to 1,952,250.

Seasonally Adjusted Initial Claims
September 3, 2016 - September 2, 2017



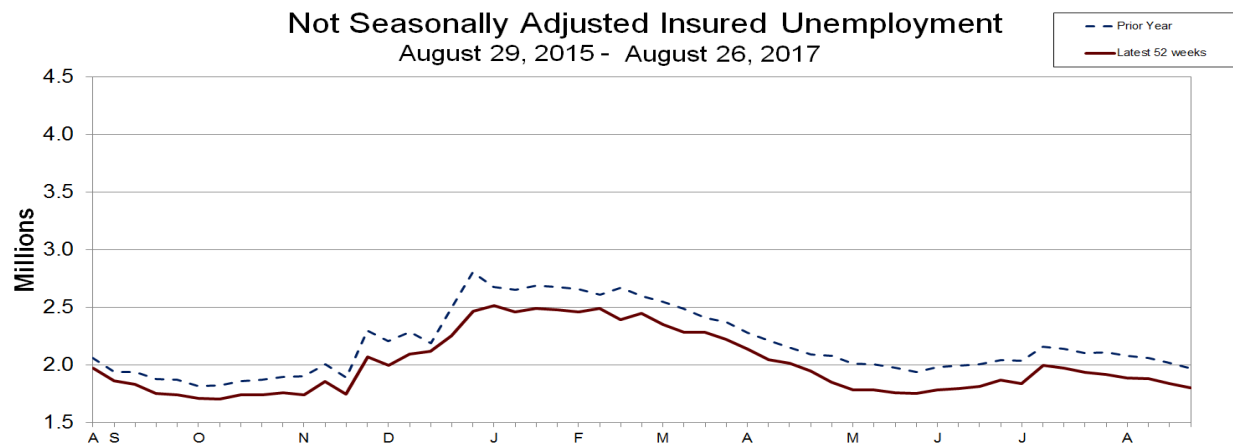
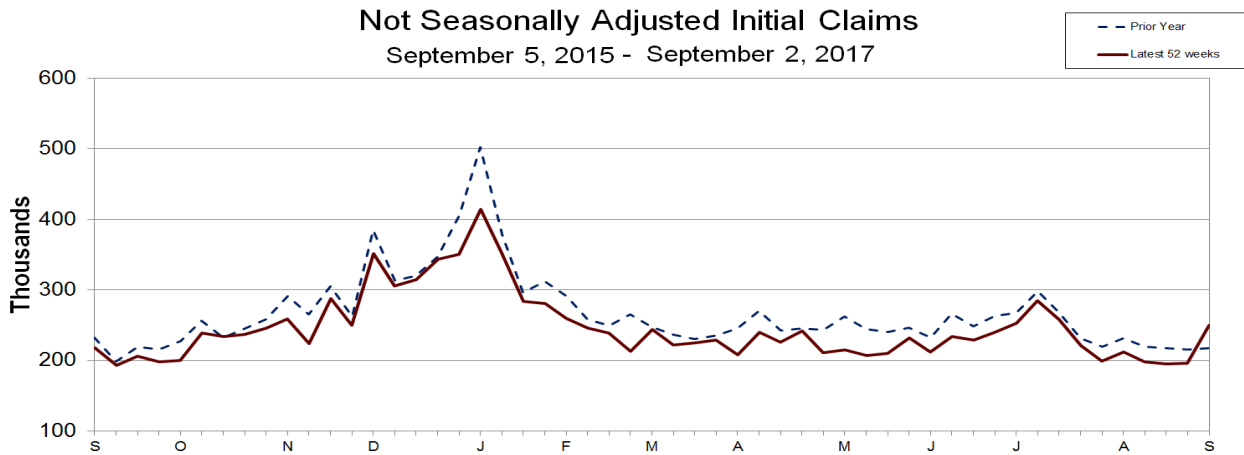
Seasonally Adjusted Insured Unemployment
August 27, 2016 - August 26, 2017



UNADJUSTED DATA

The advance number of actual initial claims under state programs, unadjusted, totaled 250,226 in the week ending September 2, an increase of 53,999 (or 27.5 percent) from the previous week. The seasonal factors had expected an increase of 2,601 (or 1.3 percent) from the previous week. There were 217,715 initial claims in the comparable week in 2016.

The advance unadjusted insured unemployment rate was 1.3 percent during the week ending August 26, unchanged from the prior week. The advance unadjusted number for persons claiming UI benefits in state programs totaled 1,802,447, a decrease of 39,149 (or -2.1 percent) from the preceding week. The seasonal factors had expected a decrease of 35,004 (or -1.9 percent) from the previous week. A year earlier the rate was 1.4 percent and the volume was 1,972,966.



The total number of people claiming benefits in all programs for the week ending August 19 was 1,872,342, a decrease of 44,256 from the previous week. There were 2,060,756 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 19.

Initial claims for UI benefits filed by former Federal civilian employees totaled 606 in the week ending August 26, a decrease of 83 from the prior week. There were 756 initial claims filed by newly discharged veterans, an increase of 13 from the preceding week.

There were 8,597 former Federal civilian employees claiming UI benefits for the week ending August 19, an increase of 31 from the previous week. Newly discharged veterans claiming benefits totaled 9,761, a decrease of 266 from the prior week.

The highest insured unemployment rates in the week ending August 19 were in Puerto Rico (3.4), New Jersey (2.6), Connecticut (2.4), Pennsylvania (2.2), Alaska (2.1), California (2.0), 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 26 were in New York (+4,539), Indiana (+1,730), California (+976), Hawaii (+355), and Kentucky (+350), while the largest decreases were in Texas (-1,185), Georgia (-787), New Jersey (-697), Illinois (-645), and Florida (-437).

UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE DATA FOR REGULAR STATE PROGRAMS

WEEK ENDING	September 2	August 26	Change	August 19	<u>Prior Year</u>¹
Initial Claims (SA)	298,000	236,000	+62,000	235,000	257,000
Initial Claims (NSA)	250,226	196,227	+53,999	195,130	217,715
4-Wk Moving Average (SA)	250,250	236,750	+13,500	238,000	259,500
WEEK ENDING	August 26	August 19	Change	August 12	<u>Prior Year</u>¹
Insured Unemployment (SA)	1,940,000	1,945,000	-5,000	1,954,000	2,133,000
Insured Unemployment (NSA)	1,802,447	1,841,596	-39,149	1,885,774	1,972,966
4-Wk Moving Average (SA)	1,948,250	1,952,250	-4,000	1,957,750	2,144,750
<u>Insured Unemployment Rate (SA)</u>²	1.4%	1.4%	0.0	1.4%	1.5%
<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	August 26	August 19	Change	<u>Prior Year</u>¹
Federal Employees (UCFE)	606	689	-83	1,240
Newly Discharged Veterans (UCX)	756	743	+13	1,080

PERSONS CLAIMING UI BENEFITS IN ALL PROGRAMS (UNADJUSTED)

WEEK ENDING	August 19	August 12	Change	<u>Prior Year</u>¹
Regular State	1,838,546	1,882,971	-44,425	2,016,326
Federal Employees	8,597	8,566	+31	8,595
Newly Discharged Veterans	9,761	10,027	-266	13,490
<u>Extended Benefits</u>³	0	0	0	0
<u>State Additional Benefits</u>⁴	5,692	5,524	+168	6,410
<u>STC / Workshare</u>⁵	9,746	9,510	+236	15,935
<u>TOTAL</u>	1,872,342	1,916,598	-44,256	2,060,756

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 September 2			Insured Unemployment For Week Ended August 26		
	Advance	Prior Wk	Change	Advance	Prior Wk	Change
Alabama	2,111	2,330	-219	16,972	17,669	-697
Alaska	1,099	898	201	6,370	6,568	-198
Arizona	3,784	3,772	12	28,618	33,056	-4,438
Arkansas	1,680	1,645	35	12,605	13,429	-824
California*	37,799	38,819	-1,020	333,790	329,595	4,195
Colorado	1,700	1,579	121	21,014	20,507	507
Connecticut	2,791	2,899	-108	40,917	40,123	794
Delaware	410	443	-33	5,922	5,847	75
District of Columbia	556	293	263	8,356	9,035	-679
Florida	6,832	7,178	-346	46,578	52,765	-6,187
Georgia	4,702	4,827	-125	26,771	28,364	-1,593
Hawaii**	1,386	1,351	35	7,409	7,380	29
Idaho	761	850	-89	4,241	4,851	-610
Illinois	8,347	7,528	819	97,330	99,729	-2,399
Indiana	2,536	4,401	-1,865	15,224	14,851	373
Iowa	2,063	1,600	463	15,374	15,315	59
Kansas*	1,504	1,681	-177	9,448	10,134	-686
Kentucky	1,944	2,600	-656	19,138	17,690	1,448
Louisiana ^H	2,618	2,360	258	18,768	21,539	-2,771
Maine	426	417	9	3,930	4,289	-359
Maryland	2,923	3,144	-221	32,304	36,217	-3,913
Massachusetts	4,410	4,339	71	63,519	66,069	-2,550
Michigan	9,768	6,485	3,283	46,196	46,140	56
Minnesota	2,709	2,511	198	28,209	27,602	607
Mississippi	993	1,143	-150	9,895	11,554	-1,659
Missouri	2,821	3,075	-254	21,224	23,233	-2,009
Montana	629	522	107	4,464	4,731	-267
Nebraska	639	713	-74	4,182	4,297	-115
Nevada	2,679	2,359	320	18,525	19,727	-1,202
New Hampshire	481	491	-10	3,954	4,412	-458
New Jersey	7,706	7,859	-153	105,062	103,184	1,878
New Mexico	766	813	-47	9,397	9,828	-431
New York	16,916	18,965	-2,049	156,834	155,096	1,738
North Carolina	3,141	2,779	362	21,047	23,084	-2,037
North Dakota	425	325	100	2,711	2,231	480
Ohio	5,496	5,198	298	47,719	49,156	-1,437
Oklahoma	1,703	1,445	258	14,204	14,717	-513
Oregon	3,579	2,943	636	24,744	25,218	-474
Pennsylvania	12,125	11,399	726	120,751	121,641	-890
Puerto Rico*	1,982	1,634	348	24,537	29,627	-5,090
Rhode Island	768	768	0	9,214	9,354	-140
South Carolina	2,115	2,168	-53	15,056	16,179	-1,123
South Dakota	152	157	-5	1,027	1,114	-87
Tennessee	2,044	2,065	-21	18,120	19,284	-1,164
Texas ^H	63,742	12,105	51,637	138,307	143,964	-5,657
Utah	1,011	966	45	7,025	7,216	-191
Vermont	300	282	18	3,213	3,340	-127
Virgin Islands	38	61	-23	438	534	-96
Virginia*	3,028	2,535	493	26,411	24,848	1,563
Washington	5,294	4,894	400	47,224	46,375	849
West Virginia	726	791	-65	9,218	9,125	93
Wisconsin	3,818	3,609	209	26,456	27,323	-867
Wyoming*	250	213	37	2,485	2,440	45
US Total	250,226	196,227	53,999	1,802,447	1,841,596	-39,149

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.

^H Affected by Hurricane Harvey.

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 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	1,945	-9	1,952.25	1.4
August 26, 2017	236	1	236.75	1,940	-5	1,948.25	1.4
September 2, 2017	298	62	250.25				

Initial Claims Filed During Week Ended August 26										Insured Unemployment For Week Ended August 19			
INITIAL CLAIMS										INSURED UNEMPLOYMENT			
STATE	STATE	CHANGE FROM				STATE	%	CHANGE FROM					
		LAST WEEK	YEAR AGO	UCFE ₁	UCX ₁			LAST WEEK	YEAR AGO	UCFE ₁	UCX ₁		
										ALL PROGRAMS		EXCLUDING RAILROAD RETIREMENT	
Alabama	2330	-148	-230	13	15	17669	0.9	-833	-3737	59	111	17839	
Alaska	898	23	-121	2	3	6568	2.1	-232	-1781	70	26	6664	
Arizona	3772	-213	-198	4	10	33056	1.3	-395	-2781	99	96	33251	
Arkansas	1645	-50	-310	3	5	13429	1.1	-552	-2646	51	61	13541	
California	38819	976	-1585	113	143	329595	2.0	-8132	-29768	1745	2052	333392	
Colorado	1579	-132	-432	9	18	20507	0.8	-1195	-4006	115	335	20957	
Connecticut	2899	-281	0	5	4	40123	2.4	-319	-4431	64	85	40272	
Delaware	443	-27	-20	5	0	5847	1.4	-191	-481	13	13	5873	
District of Columbia	293	-23	-7	9	2	9035	1.6	-126	571	516	12	9563	
Florida	7178	-437	-645	15	60	52765	0.6	-1241	-2178	195	269	53229	
Georgia	4827	-787	-1110	19	34	28364	0.7	-673	-2294	192	249	28805	
Hawaii	1351	355	12	4	8	7380	1.2	203	239	55	98	7533	
Idaho	850	123	-20	3	4	4851	0.7	-208	-1333	26	10	4887	
Illinois	7528	-645	-965	15	14	99729	1.7	-1937	-5185	352	250	100331	
Indiana	4401	1730	1690	6	5	14851	0.5	-16	-5813	36	39	14926	
Iowa	1600	10	-351	3	7	15315	1.0	-726	-1645	43	45	15403	
Kansas	1681	187	-193	6	3	10134	0.8	-1832	-1533	76	47	10257	
Kentucky	2600	350	308	5	3	17690	1.0	-1354	-2666	176	138	18004	
Louisiana	2360	-210	-2319	3	8	21539	1.1	-576	-5448	69	33	21641	
Maine	417	-24	-105	0	1	4289	0.7	-121	-618	19	18	4326	
Maryland	3144	-176	-60	27	11	36217	1.5	-317	-2172	310	173	36700	
Massachusetts	4339	-123	-366	8	10	66069	1.9	-757	-1781	131	200	66400	
Michigan	6485	-64	-1284	11	13	46140	1.1	-1512	-3930	83	142	46365	
Minnesota	2511	1	-116	3	6	27602	1.0	-785	-1749	58	92	27752	
Mississippi	1143	-72	-333	4	6	11554	1.1	-799	-2088	39	58	11651	
Missouri	3075	8	-604	32	0	23233	0.9	-4367	-5887	235	46	23514	
Montana	522	-38	-140	4	1	4731	1.1	-318	-587	44	33	4808	
Nebraska	713	31	-100	2	1	4297	0.5	-686	308	12	13	4322	
Nevada	2359	-58	-143	4	2	19727	1.6	-395	-2049	62	87	19876	
New Hampshire	491	2	-1	1	2	4412	0.7	7	-418	5	4	4421	
New Jersey	7859	-697	-350	14	27	103184	2.6	-489	-2332	188	301	103673	
New Mexico	813	-100	-126	4	3	9828	1.3	-364	-1457	72	69	9969	
New York	18965	4539	-110	26	40	155096	1.7	3761	-6105	334	458	155888	
North Carolina	2779	-144	-624	12	8	23084	0.6	-221	-2957	92	196	23372	
North Dakota	325	-29	11	2	0	2231	0.5	-186	-1417	73	4	2308	
Ohio	5198	-108	-772	10	31	49156	0.9	-2100	-5040	95	229	49480	
Oklahoma	1445	-85	-241	9	6	14717	1.0	-374	-7364	69	103	14889	
Oregon	2943	-103	-705	7	14	25218	1.4	-615	-1480	151	129	25498	
Pennsylvania	11399	9	-2180	61	40	121641	2.2	-4747	-10448	480	366	122487	
Puerto Rico	1634	-225	171	1	8	29627	3.4	-1255	5405	102	75	29804	
Rhode Island	768	-50	-43	1	1	9354	2.0	262	-488	33	24	9411	
South Carolina	2168	-347	-372	6	10	16179	0.8	-953	-647	48	83	16310	
South Dakota	157	8	-6	1	0	1114	0.3	-93	-235	88	4	1206	
Tennessee	2065	-248	-353	8	2	19284	0.7	-607	548	405	54	19743	
Texas	12105	-1185	-2163	67	115	143964	1.2	-2591	-36052	711	1570	146245	
Utah	966	69	-72	22	5	7216	0.5	-207	-1237	117	26	7359	
Vermont	282	-84	-103	3	1	3340	1.1	-86	-530	8	3	3351	
Virgin Islands	61	30	-20	0	0	534	1.4	112	-128	8	2	544	
Virginia	2535	-189	-257	5	17	24848	0.7	-686	-2034	291	448	25587	
Washington	4894	-356	-271	2	14	46375	1.5	-605	3969	182	694	47251	
West Virginia	791	-3	-222	1	6	9125	1.4	-412	-4455	39	34	9198	
Wisconsin	3609	112	-714	6	8	27323	1.0	-1017	-4486	51	36	27410	
Wyoming	213	-5	-191	0	1	2440	0.9	-320	-2719	10	18	2468	
Totals	196227	1097	-19461	606	756	1841596	1.3	-44178	-179576	8597	9761	1859954	

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 AUGUST 26, 2017

STATES WITH AN INCREASE OF MORE THAN 1,000

State	Change	State Supplied Comment
NY	+4,539	Layoffs in the transportation and warehousing, educational service, and health care and social service industries.
IN	+1,730	Layoffs in the manufacturing industry.

STATES WITH A DECREASE OF MORE THAN 1,000

State	Change	State Supplied Comment
TX	-1,185	No comments.

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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