



News Release

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UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE WEEKLY CLAIMS

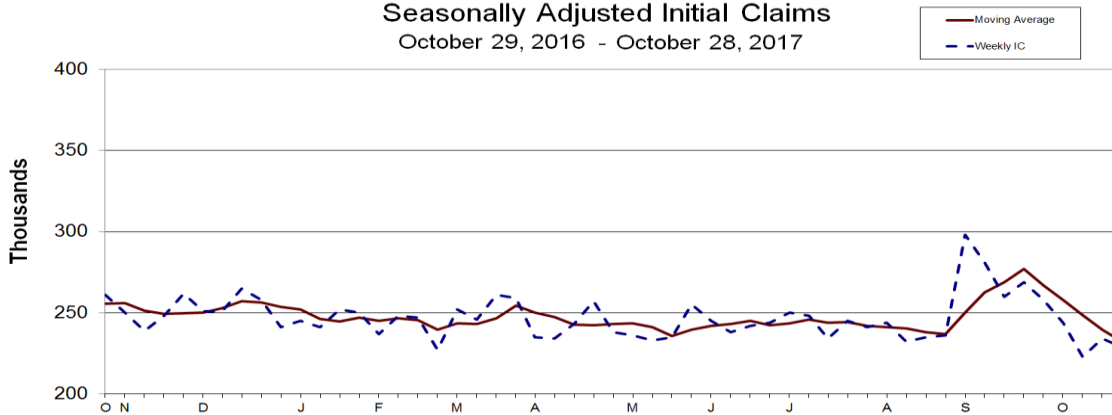
SEASONALLY ADJUSTED DATA

In the week ending October 28, the advance figure for seasonally adjusted **initial claims** was 229,000, a decrease of 5,000 from the previous week's revised level. The previous week's level was revised up by 1,000 from 233,000 to 234,000. The 4-week moving average was 232,500, a decrease of 7,250 from the previous week's revised average. This is the lowest level for this average since April 7, 1973 when it was 232,250. The previous week's average was revised up by 250 from 239,500 to 239,750.

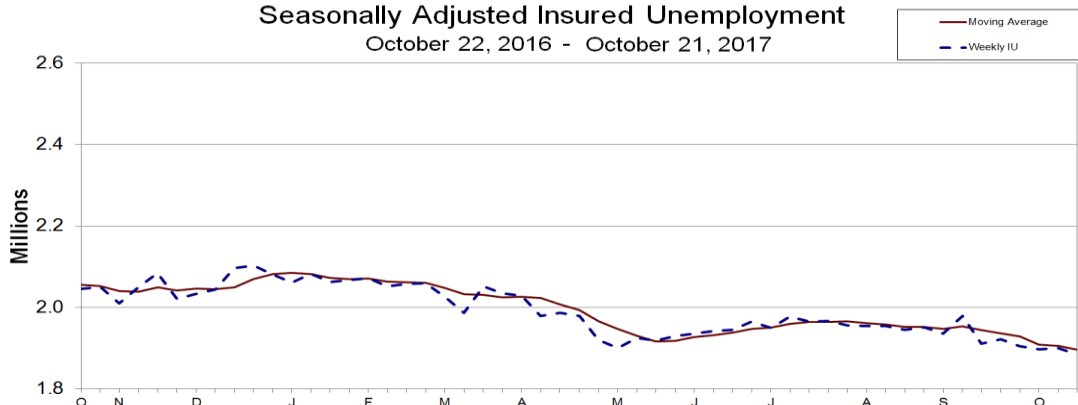
Claims taking procedures continue to be severely disrupted in the Virgin Islands. The ability to take claims has improved in Puerto Rico and they are now processing backlogged claims.

The advance seasonally adjusted **insured unemployment rate** was 1.3 percent for the week ending October 21, a decrease of 0.1 percentage point from the previous week's revised rate. The previous week's rate was revised up by 0.1 from 1.3 to 1.4 percent. The advance number for seasonally adjusted **insured unemployment** during the week ending October 21 was 1,884,000, a decrease of 15,000 from the previous week's revised level. This is the lowest level for insured unemployment since December 29, 1973 when it was 1,805,000. The previous week's level was revised up 6,000 from 1,893,000 to 1,899,000. The 4-week moving average was 1,895,750, a decrease of 9,250 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 1,500 from 1,903,500 to 1,905,000.

Seasonally Adjusted Initial Claims
October 29, 2016 - October 28, 2017



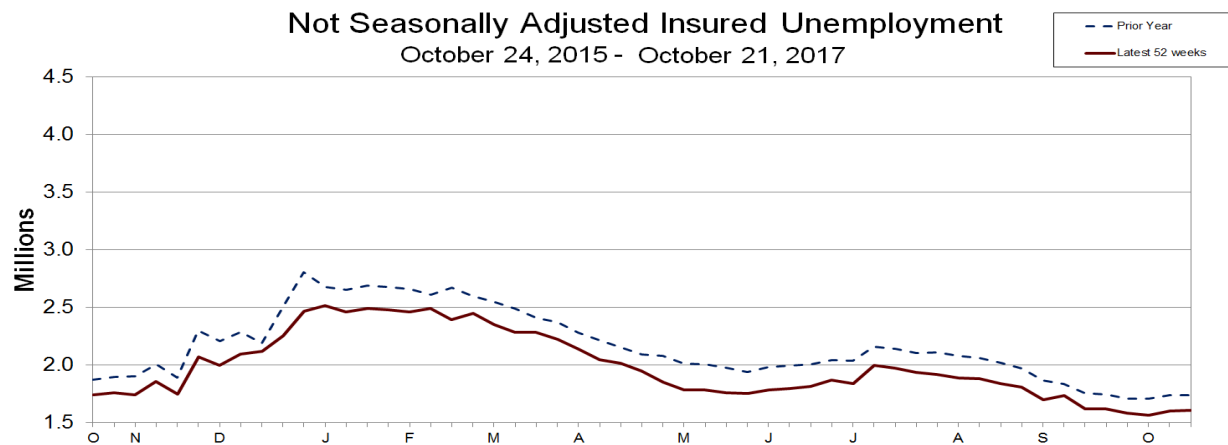
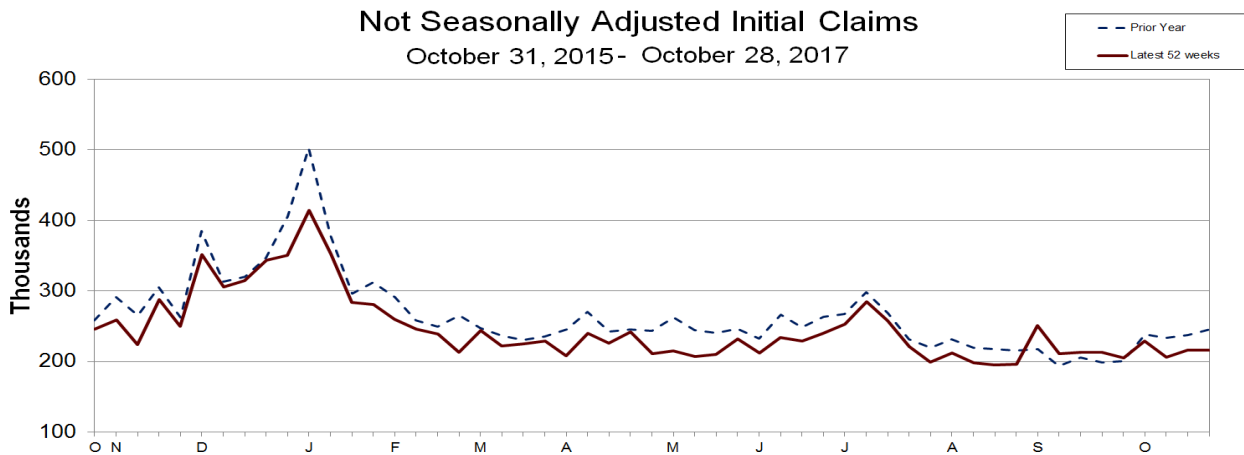
Seasonally Adjusted Insured Unemployment
October 22, 2016 - October 21, 2017



UNADJUSTED DATA

The advance number of actual initial claims under state programs, unadjusted, totaled 215,757 in the week ending October 28, an increase of 86 (or 0.04 percent) from the previous week. The seasonal factors had expected an increase of 4,444 (or 2.1 percent) from the previous week. There were 245,751 initial claims in the comparable week in 2016.

The advance unadjusted insured unemployment rate was 1.1 percent during the week ending October 21, unchanged from the prior week. The advance unadjusted number for persons claiming UI benefits in state programs totaled 1,606,741, an increase of 3,705 (or 0.2 percent) from the preceding week. The seasonal factors had expected an increase of 17,094 (or 1.1 percent) from the previous week. A year earlier the rate was 1.3 percent and the volume was 1,741,961.



The total number of people claiming benefits in all programs for the week ending October 14 was 1,631,511, an increase of 35,318 from the previous week. There were 1,780,406 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 October 14.

Initial claims for UI benefits filed by former Federal civilian employees totaled 1,390 in the week ending October 21, an increase of 155 from the prior week. There were 698 initial claims filed by newly discharged veterans, a decrease of 16 from the preceding week.

There were 11,643 former Federal civilian employees claiming UI benefits for the week ending October 14, an increase of 2,398 from the previous week. Newly discharged veterans claiming benefits totaled 8,979, an increase of 229 from the prior week.

The highest insured unemployment rates in the week ending October 14 were in Puerto Rico (3.1), Alaska (2.6), New Jersey (2.0), California (1.8), Connecticut (1.8), Pennsylvania (1.7), the District of Columbia (1.5), Illinois (1.5), Massachusetts (1.5), Nevada (1.5), and the Virgin Islands (1.5).

The largest increases in initial claims for the week ending October 21 were in Puerto Rico (+1,489), New York (+1,111), Pennsylvania (+1,020), Georgia (+975), and California (+894), while the largest decreases were in Florida (-1,202), Tennessee (-539), the Virgin Islands (-399), Minnesota (-246), and Utah (-199).

UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE DATA FOR REGULAR STATE PROGRAMS

WEEK ENDING	October 28	October 21	Change	October 14	<u>Prior Year</u>¹
Initial Claims (SA)	229,000	234,000	-5,000	223,000	261,000
Initial Claims (NSA)	215,757	215,671	+86	205,537	245,751
4-Wk Moving Average (SA)	232,500	239,750	-7,250	248,500	255,500
WEEK ENDING	October 21	October 14	Change	October 7	<u>Prior Year</u>¹
Insured Unemployment (SA)	1,884,000	1,899,000	-15,000	1,896,000	2,045,000
Insured Unemployment (NSA)	1,606,741	1,603,036	+3,705	1,565,746	1,741,961
4-Wk Moving Average (SA)	1,895,750	1,905,000	-9,250	1,908,000	2,056,000
<u>Insured Unemployment Rate (SA)</u> ²	1.3%	1.4%	-0.1	1.3%	1.5%
<u>Insured Unemployment Rate (NSA)</u> ²	1.1%	1.1%	0.0	1.1%	1.3%

INITIAL CLAIMS FILED IN FEDERAL PROGRAMS (UNADJUSTED)

WEEK ENDING	October 21	October 14	Change	<u>Prior Year</u>¹
Federal Employees (UCFE)	1,390	1,235	+155	2,393
Newly Discharged Veterans (UCX)	698	714	-16	1,009

PERSONS CLAIMING UI BENEFITS IN ALL PROGRAMS (UNADJUSTED)

WEEK ENDING	October 14	October 7	Change	<u>Prior Year</u>¹
Regular State	1,600,066	1,563,107	+36,959	1,734,637
Federal Employees	11,643	9,245	+2,398	10,737
Newly Discharged Veterans	8,979	8,750	+229	13,691
<u>Extended Benefits</u> ³	0	0	0	0
<u>State Additional Benefits</u> ⁴	649	6,143	-5,494	7,031
<u>STC / Workshare</u> ⁵	10,174	8,948	+1,226	14,310
<u>TOTAL</u>	1,631,511	1,596,193	+35,318	1,780,406

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 140,510,815 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 October 28			Insured Unemployment For Week Ended October 21		
	Advance	Prior Wk	Change	Advance	Prior Wk	Change
Alabama	2,153	2,278	-125	15,943	15,999	-56
Alaska	1,740	1,241	499	8,197	7,962	235
Arizona	3,515	4,084	-569	23,070	26,206	-3,136
Arkansas	1,460	1,761	-301	11,568	11,844	-276
California	43,927	41,871	2,056	309,670	296,407	13,263
Colorado	1,936	2,027	-91	19,363	19,573	-210
Connecticut	2,796	2,934	-138	31,048	29,633	1,415
Delaware	512	564	-52	4,516	4,395	121
District of Columbia	597	437	160	7,731	8,208	-477
Florida ^I	8,566	10,112	-1,546	42,082	50,005	-7,923
Georgia	4,608	6,359	-1,751	25,266	28,597	-3,331
Hawaii	1,241	1,348	-107	7,618	7,579	39
Idaho	1,034	1,075	-41	4,152	4,311	-159
Illinois	8,969	8,337	632	85,697	87,511	-1,814
Indiana	3,382	2,503	879	14,859	13,435	1,424
Iowa	2,808	2,124	684	13,308	12,595	713
Kansas	1,620	1,546	74	9,067	11,181	-2,114
Kentucky	1,966	2,870	-904	15,722	15,782	-60
Louisiana	1,993	2,396	-403	16,716	18,261	-1,545
Maine	694	566	128	3,557	3,509	48
Maryland	3,278	3,473	-195	27,408	30,435	-3,027
Massachusetts	5,238	5,035	203	52,801	52,157	644
Michigan	6,725	6,249	476	37,117	41,699	-4,582
Minnesota	3,804	2,942	862	27,133	25,120	2,013
Mississippi	1,068	1,231	-163	8,168	8,763	-595
Missouri	3,016	4,041	-1,025	20,946	24,086	-3,140
Montana	1,070	1,071	-1	5,336	5,008	328
Nebraska	621	653	-32	3,880	3,851	29
Nevada	2,508	2,612	-104	17,564	18,583	-1,019
New Hampshire	418	491	-73	3,190	3,467	-277
New Jersey	8,446	8,666	-220	82,429	80,071	2,358
New Mexico	1,037	907	130	8,983	9,068	-85
New York	13,947	14,598	-651	123,281	122,614	667
North Carolina	2,901	2,863	38	18,448	21,378	-2,930
North Dakota	490	292	198	2,287	1,744	543
Ohio	6,888	5,946	942	43,779	43,880	-101
Oklahoma	1,192	1,407	-215	13,493	13,876	-383
Oregon	3,723	3,972	-249	23,725	23,364	361
Pennsylvania	11,976	12,372	-396	93,000	94,169	-1,169
Puerto Rico ^{1M}	6,129	3,447	2,682	25,209	26,719	-1,510
Rhode Island	735	772	-37	6,414	6,174	240
South Carolina	2,173	2,650	-477	16,827	16,756	71
South Dakota	216	231	-15	1,092	926	166
Tennessee	2,129	2,418	-289	16,726	18,227	-1,501
Texas	14,169	15,164	-995	144,845	128,786	16,059
Utah	1,075	970	105	7,158	7,242	-84
Vermont	467	472	-5	2,590	2,294	296
Virgin Islands ^{* 1M}	181	278	-97	641	563	78
Virginia	2,964	2,663	301	23,673	22,776	897
Washington	6,157	6,359	-202	46,919	44,335	2,584
West Virginia	848	875	-27	8,442	8,018	424
Wisconsin	4,143	3,726	417	21,759	21,565	194
Wyoming	508	392	116	2,328	2,329	-1
US Total	215,757	215,671	86	1,606,741	1,603,036	3,705

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.

^I Affected by Hurricane Irma.

^M Affected by Hurricane Maria.

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	
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	1,951	6	1,951.00	1.4
September 2, 2017	298	62	250.25	1,935	-16	1,946.25	1.4
September 9, 2017	281	-17	262.50	1,979	44	1,952.50	1.4
September 16, 2017	260	-21	268.75	1,911	-68	1,944.00	1.4
September 23, 2017	269	9	277.00	1,921	10	1,936.50	1.4
September 30, 2017	258	-11	267.00	1,904	-17	1,928.75	1.4
October 7, 2017	244	-14	257.75	1,896	-8	1,908.00	1.3
October 14, 2017	223	-21	248.50	1,899	3	1,905.00	1.4
October 21, 2017	234	11	239.75	1,884	-15	1,895.75	1.3
October 28, 2017	229	-5	232.50				

Initial Claims Filed During Week Ended October 21 INITIAL CLAIMS							Insured Unemployment For Week Ended October 14 INSURED UNEMPLOYMENT					
STATE	STATE	CHANGE FROM				STATE	CHANGE FROM (%)	CHANGE FROM				ALL PROGRAMS EXCLUDING RAILROAD RETIREMENT
		LAST WEEK	YEAR AGO	UCFE 1	UCX 1			LAST WEEK	YEAR AGO	UCFE 1	UCX 1	
Alabama	2278	-60	-283	5	13	15999	0.9	-393	-3219	57	80	16136
Alaska	1241	13	-202	11	0	7962	2.6	673	-1805	120	19	8101
Arizona	4084	262	21	21	3	26206	1.0	-168	-2949	131	71	26408
Arkansas	1761	-40	-230	5	4	11844	1.0	485	-1432	52	77	11973
California	41871	894	-2535	213	109	296407	1.8	13002	-22923	2202	1809	300418
Colorado	2027	123	-436	21	18	19573	0.8	988	-4453	176	324	20073
Connecticut	2934	848	39	10	8	29633	1.8	719	-3330	44	75	29752
Delaware	564	68	0	2	0	4395	1.0	114	-424	15	14	4424
District of Columbia	437	119	34	11	4	8208	1.5	-13	178	435	13	8656
Florida	10112	-1202	2563	33	46	50005	0.6	1632	4107	230	227	50462
Georgia	6359	975	-924	55	42	28597	0.7	1185	-2907	262	257	29116
Hawaii	1348	184	-7	6	15	7579	1.2	318	334	60	107	7746
Idaho	1075	58	-321	30	1	4311	0.6	179	-1313	37	7	4355
Illinois	8337	645	-1017	19	8	87511	1.5	2611	-3485	380	227	88118
Indiana	2503	-17	-184	7	7	13435	0.5	422	-5686	34	51	13520
Iowa	2124	194	-204	8	5	12595	0.8	-106	-2037	33	38	12666
Kansas	1546	-103	-307	17	5	11181	0.8	4	985	122	47	11350
Kentucky	2870	-66	-1371	37	3	15782	0.9	-611	-2350	367	151	16300
Louisiana	2396	79	-46	5	7	18261	1.0	-189	-4828	43	30	18334
Maine	566	110	-217	2	0	3509	0.6	57	-625	11	17	3537
Maryland	3473	105	-264	28	14	30435	1.2	595	-1894	330	156	30921
Massachusetts	5035	364	-327	25	10	52157	1.5	-110	-1774	279	166	52602
Michigan	6249	384	-1785	32	13	41699	1.0	2869	-1799	130	117	41946
Minnesota	2942	-246	-322	8	4	25120	0.9	6	-1824	66	86	25272
Mississippi	1231	18	-186	11	1	8763	0.8	-231	-2031	30	38	8831
Missouri	4041	-161	246	59	2	24086	0.9	2590	592	640	53	24779
Montana	1071	105	-214	47	1	5008	1.1	138	-1001	94	29	5131
Nebraska	653	-20	-491	6	3	3851	0.4	-53	135	10	11	3872
Nevada	2612	418	111	27	3	18583	1.5	-68	-2072	79	77	18739
New Hampshire	491	31	22	3	1	3467	0.5	4	-299	7	5	3479
New Jersey	8666	656	-658	20	16	80071	2.0	2882	-4444	204	329	80604
New Mexico	907	87	-109	26	2	9068	1.2	-118	-1697	179	68	9315
New York	14598	1111	-1195	38	35	122614	1.4	2194	-6859	596	493	123703
North Carolina	2863	18	-5159	11	17	21378	0.5	1356	-3038	91	160	21629
North Dakota	292	0	-117	3	0	1744	0.4	20	-506	6	4	1754
Ohio	5946	123	-926	35	26	43880	0.8	530	-3865	155	234	44269
Oklahoma	1407	11	-377	8	9	13876	0.9	-94	-5371	67	87	14030
Oregon	3972	743	142	108	8	23364	1.3	51	-1287	209	103	23676
Pennsylvania	12372	1020	-1986	97	39	94169	1.7	4584	-8770	1022	389	95580
Puerto Rico	3447	1489	1703	0	2	26719	3.1	10575	3150	36	22	26777
Rhode Island	772	41	-15	1	1	6174	1.3	143	-523	23	20	6217
South Carolina	2650	726	-1212	10	11	16756	0.8	2366	1554	93	26	16875
South Dakota	231	66	-16	2	2	926	0.2	8	-237	19	4	949
Tennessee	2418	-539	-219	13	2	18227	0.6	1015	1301	403	50	18680
Texas	15164	299	-144	81	130	128786	1.1	-16500	-29015	1031	1447	131264
Utah	970	-199	-266	89	4	7242	0.5	202	-403	322	18	7582
Vermont	472	65	-146	0	1	2294	0.8	131	-488	11	6	2311
Virgin Islands	278	-399	226	0	0	563	1.5	232	-439	0	0	563
Virginia	2663	24	-337	41	13	22776	0.6	204	-595	326	407	23509
Washington	6359	697	-711	22	19	44335	1.4	477	3727	230	656	45221
West Virginia	875	25	-281	2	1	8018	1.2	99	-3204	38	31	8087
Wisconsin	3726	25	-861	10	8	21565	0.8	63	-3751	80	22	21667
Wyoming	392	-37	-142	9	2	2329	0.9	221	-1954	26	24	2379
Totals	215671	10134	-21643	1390	698	1603036	1.1	37290	-136843	11643	8979	1623658

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 OCTOBER 21, 2017

STATES WITH AN INCREASE OF MORE THAN 1,000

State	Change	State Supplied Comment
PR	+1,489	No comment.
NY	+1,111	Layoffs in the accommodation and food service, construction, and retail trade industries.
PA	+1,020	Layoffs in the administrative, support, waste management and remediation service, transportation and warehousing, construction, and professional, scientific and technical service industries.

STATES WITH A DECREASE OF MORE THAN 1,000

State	Change	State Supplied Comment
FL	-1,202	Fewer layoffs in the construction, manufacturing, wholesale trade, retail trade, and service 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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