



News Release

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8:30 A.M. (Eastern) Thursday, May 17, 2018

UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE WEEKLY CLAIMS

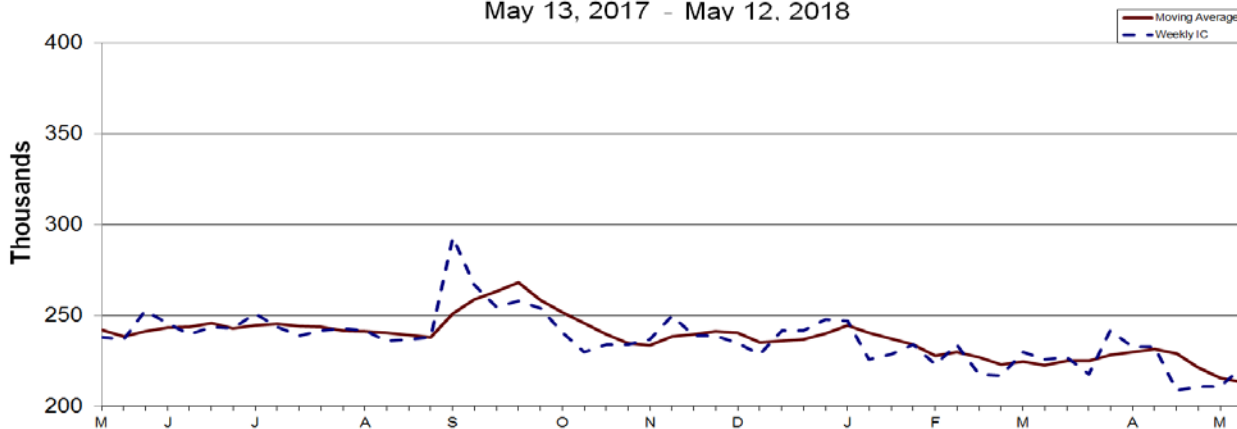
SEASONALLY ADJUSTED DATA

In the week ending May 12, the advance figure for seasonally adjusted **initial claims** was 222,000, an increase of 11,000 from the previous week's unrevised level of 211,000. The 4-week moving average was 213,250, a decrease of 2,750 from the previous week's unrevised average of 216,000. This is the lowest level for this average since December 13, 1969 when it was 210,750.

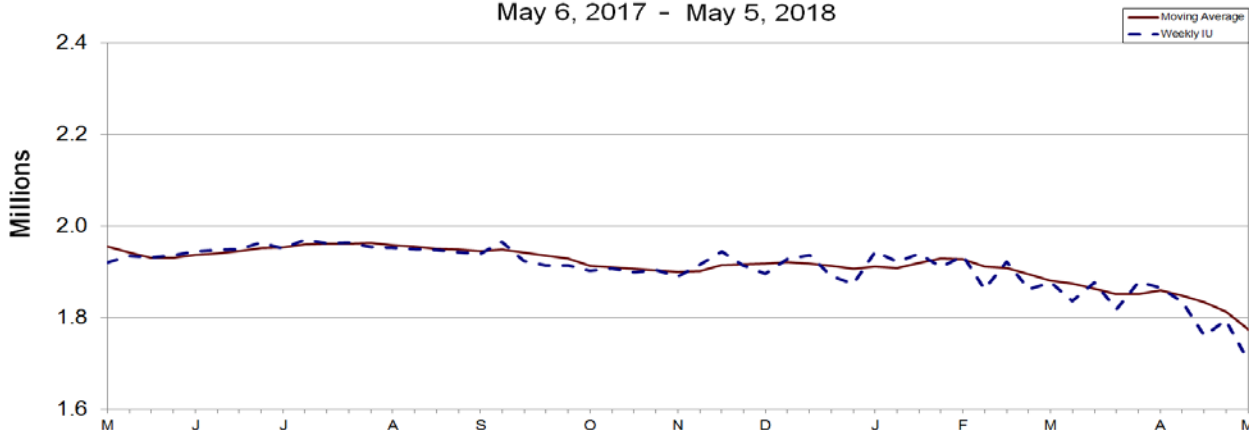
Claims taking procedures in Puerto Rico and in the Virgin Islands have still not returned to normal.

The advance seasonally adjusted **insured unemployment rate** was 1.2 percent for the week ending May 5, a decrease of 0.1 percentage point from the previous week's unrevised rate. The advance number for seasonally adjusted **insured unemployment** during the week ending May 5 was 1,707,000, a decrease of 87,000 from the previous week's revised level. This is the lowest level for insured unemployment since December 1, 1973 when it was 1,692,000. The previous week's level was revised up 4,000 from 1,790,000 to 1,794,000. The 4-week moving average was 1,773,750, a decrease of 39,750 from the previous week's revised average. This is the lowest level for this average since December 22, 1973 when it was 1,756,000. The previous week's average was revised up by 1,000 from 1,812,500 to 1,813,500.

Seasonally Adjusted Initial Claims
May 13, 2017 - May 12, 2018



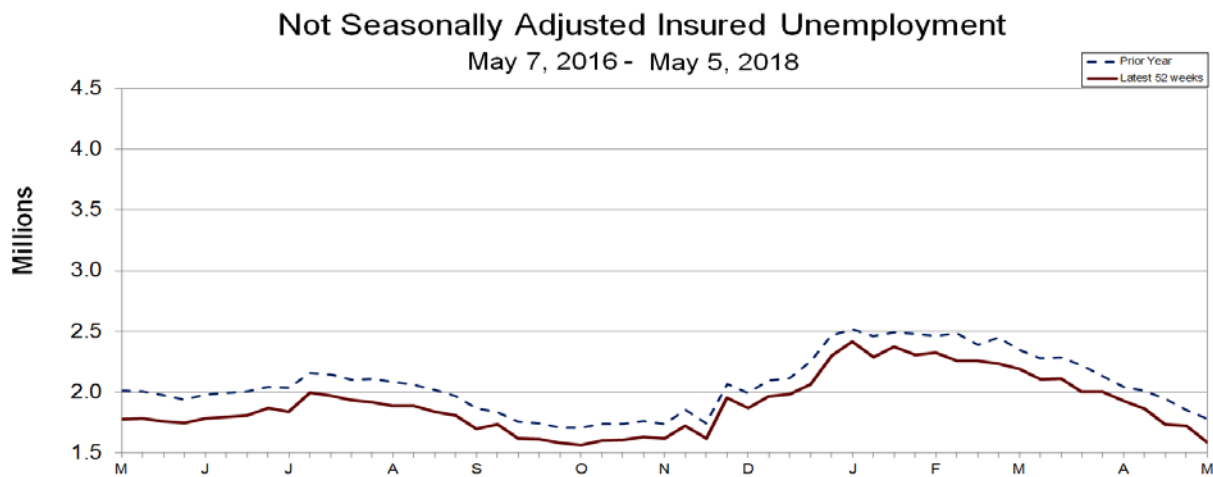
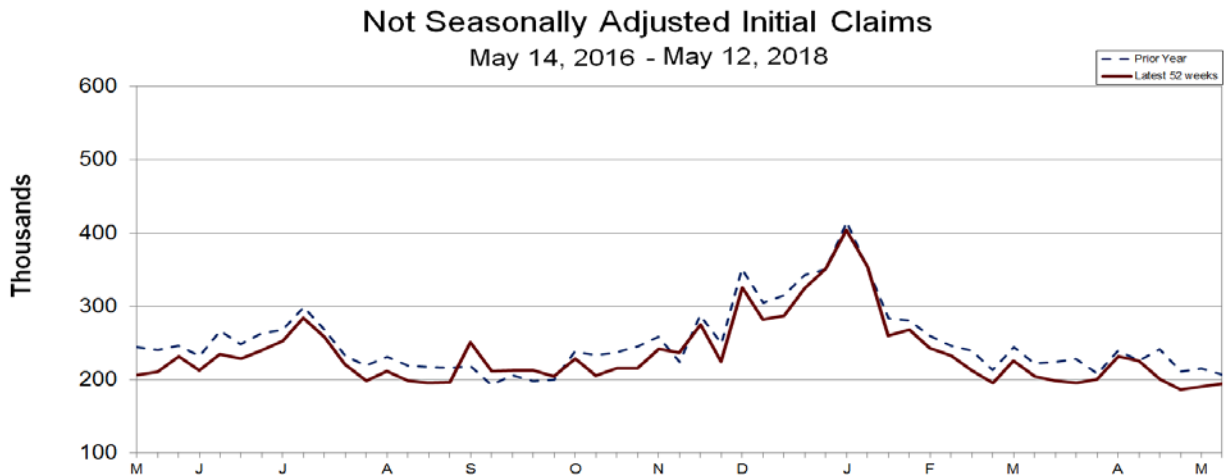
Seasonally Adjusted Insured Unemployment
May 6, 2017 - May 5, 2018



UNADJUSTED DATA

The advance number of actual initial claims under state programs, unadjusted, totaled 194,557 in the week ending May 12, an increase of 4,295 (or 2.3 percent) from the previous week. The seasonal factors had expected a decrease of 5,074 (or -2.7 percent) from the previous week. There were 206,905 initial claims in the comparable week in 2017.

The advance unadjusted insured unemployment rate was 1.1 percent during the week ending May 5, a decrease of 0.1 percentage point from the prior week. The advance unadjusted number for persons claiming UI benefits in state programs totaled 1,591,343, a decrease of 133,062 (or -7.7 percent) from the preceding week. The seasonal factors had expected a decrease of 52,037 (or -3.0 percent) from the previous week. A year earlier the rate was 1.3 percent and the volume was 1,781,847.



The total number of people claiming benefits in all programs for the week ending April 28 was 1,753,862, a decrease of 13,721 from the previous week. There were 1,891,492 persons claiming benefits in all programs in the comparable week in 2017.

Extended benefits were payable in the Virgin Islands during the week ending April 28.

Initial claims for UI benefits filed by former Federal civilian employees totaled 601 in the week ending May 5, an increase of 57 from the prior week. There were 965 initial claims filed by newly discharged veterans, an increase of 322 from the preceding week.

There were 8,734 former Federal civilian employees claiming UI benefits for the week ending April 28, an increase of 557 from the previous week. Newly discharged veterans claiming benefits totaled 7,880, an increase of 291 from the prior week.

The highest insured unemployment rates in the week ending April 28 were in the Virgin Islands (4.1), Alaska (3.1), California (2.2), New Jersey (2.1), Puerto Rico (2.1), Connecticut (2.0), Pennsylvania (1.8), Illinois (1.7), and Rhode Island (1.6).

The largest increases in initial claims for the week ending May 5 were in Texas (+1,694), Ohio (+1,682), Pennsylvania (+1,655), Georgia (+965), and Alabama (+528), while the largest decreases were in Wisconsin (-1,829), California (-875), Connecticut (-770), New Hampshire (-374), and Massachusetts (-359).

UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE DATA FOR REGULAR STATE PROGRAMS

WEEK ENDING	May 12	May 5	Change	April 28	<u>Prior Year</u>¹
Initial Claims (SA)	222,000	211,000	+11,000	211,000	238,000
Initial Claims (NSA)	194,557	190,262	+4,295	186,451	206,905
4-Wk Moving Average (SA)	213,250	216,000	-2,750	221,500	242,250
WEEK ENDING	May 5	April 28	Change	April 21	<u>Prior Year</u>¹
Insured Unemployment (SA)	1,707,000	1,794,000	-87,000	1,760,000	1,920,000
Insured Unemployment (NSA)	1,591,343	1,724,405	-133,062	1,738,876	1,781,847
4-Wk Moving Average (SA)	1,773,750	1,813,500	-39,750	1,834,500	1,954,750
<u>Insured Unemployment Rate (SA)</u> ²	1.2%	1.3%	-0.1	1.2%	1.4%
<u>Insured Unemployment Rate (NSA)</u> ²	1.1%	1.2%	-0.1	1.2%	1.3%

INITIAL CLAIMS FILED IN FEDERAL PROGRAMS (UNADJUSTED)

WEEK ENDING	May 5	April 28	Change	<u>Prior Year</u>¹
Federal Employees (UCFE)	601	544	+57	577
Newly Discharged Veterans (UCX)	965	643	+322	898

PERSONS CLAIMING UI BENEFITS IN ALL PROGRAMS (UNADJUSTED)

WEEK ENDING	April 28	April 21	Change	<u>Prior Year</u>¹
Regular State	1,722,155	1,736,700	-14,545	1,851,952
Federal Employees	8,734	8,177	+557	10,250
Newly Discharged Veterans	7,880	7,589	+291	10,661
<u>Extended Benefits</u> ³	1	1	0	0
<u>State Additional Benefits</u> ⁴	7,180	6,842	+338	7,845
<u>STC / Workshare</u> ⁵	7,912	8,274	-362	10,784
<u>TOTAL</u>	1,753,862	1,767,583	-13,721	1,891,492

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 141,433,196 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 12			Insured Unemployment For Week Ended May 5		
	Advance	Prior Wk	Change	Advance	Prior Wk	Change
Alabama	3,468	2,564	904	14,626	14,471	155
Alaska	886	865	21	8,925	9,507	-582
Arizona	3,966	4,660	-694	24,121	27,398	-3,277
Arkansas	1,565	1,591	-26	10,197	11,348	-1,151
California	39,955	39,065	890	331,340	370,182	-38,842
Colorado *	1,776	1,899	-123	19,960	21,380	-1,420
Connecticut	2,540	2,473	67	33,409	33,684	-275
Delaware	456	416	40	4,311	4,994	-683
District of Columbia	595	286	309	7,037	7,438	-401
Florida	6,785	6,695	90	32,702	37,415	-4,713
Georgia	4,500	5,089	-589	23,814	25,330	-1,516
Hawaii	1,158	1,261	-103	6,779	6,941	-162
Idaho	865	822	43	6,100	5,299	801
Illinois	8,017	8,063	-46	92,672	100,455	-7,783
Indiana	2,272	2,126	146	14,797	14,732	65
Iowa	1,953	1,620	333	14,433	15,181	-748
Kansas	1,488	1,467	21	8,338	8,609	-271
Kentucky	4,978	1,989	2,989	16,331	17,161	-830
Louisiana	1,848	2,065	-217	13,611	15,874	-2,263
Maine *	488	657	-169	5,842	6,550	-708
Maryland	2,630	2,828	-198	25,190	28,265	-3,075
Massachusetts	4,358	4,442	-84	48,333	53,305	-4,972
Michigan	4,885	4,366	519	40,029	47,303	-7,274
Minnesota	2,896	2,803	93	37,581	42,079	-4,498
Mississippi	1,244	1,114	130	6,552	7,180	-628
Missouri	6,638	2,956	3,682	19,121	21,142	-2,021
Montana	620	658	-38	5,805	6,649	-844
Nebraska	658	606	52	3,584	3,719	-135
Nevada	2,270	2,186	84	16,961	18,985	-2,024
New Hampshire	400	513	-113	3,377	4,295	-918
New Jersey	7,213	7,298	-85	82,627	84,191	-1,564
New Mexico	651	737	-86	8,805	9,331	-526
New York	12,232	13,182	-950	123,570	129,250	-5,680
North Carolina	3,149	2,713	436	17,750	19,025	-1,275
North Dakota	275	244	31	3,032	3,306	-274
Ohio	5,508	6,722	-1,214	48,192	49,459	-1,267
Oklahoma	1,210	1,308	-98	12,430	12,962	-532
Oregon	2,885	3,309	-424	25,297	26,166	-869
Pennsylvania	11,140	12,521	-1,381	91,907	103,893	-11,986
Puerto Rico ^{IM}	839	1,003	-164	15,373	17,928	-2,555
Rhode Island	731	704	27	7,061	7,468	-407
South Carolina	2,075	1,987	88	13,348	14,016	-668
South Dakota	166	150	16	1,163	1,607	-444
Tennessee	2,242	2,291	-49	16,480	18,319	-1,839
Texas	13,841	13,780	61	111,095	119,587	-8,492
Utah	920	1,075	-155	7,529	7,692	-163
Vermont	351	433	-82	3,690	4,148	-458
Virgin Islands ^{IM}	10	15	-5	1,588	1,518	70
Virginia	2,820	2,452	368	20,698	20,496	202
Washington	5,406	5,135	271	46,135	46,075	60
West Virginia	665	836	-171	9,408	9,417	-9
Wisconsin	3,821	3,939	-118	25,680	28,611	-2,931
Wyoming	249	283	-34	2,607	3,069	-462
US Total	194,557	190,262	4,295	1,591,343	1,724,405	-133,062

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.

^IAffected by Hurricane Irma.

^MAffected by Hurricane Maria

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 6, 2017	237	-5	244.50	1,920	-15	1,954.75	1.4
May 13, 2017	238	1	242.25	1,935	15	1,942.50	1.4
May 20, 2017	237	-1	238.50	1,932	-3	1,930.50	1.4
May 27, 2017	253	16	241.25	1,937	5	1,931.00	1.4
June 3, 2017	246	-7	243.50	1,945	8	1,937.25	1.4
June 10, 2017	240	-6	244.00	1,947	2	1,940.25	1.4
June 17, 2017	244	4	245.75	1,950	3	1,944.75	1.4
June 24, 2017	243	-1	243.25	1,964	14	1,951.50	1.4
July 1, 2017	251	8	244.50	1,951	-13	1,953.00	1.4
July 8, 2017	244	-7	245.50	1,971	20	1,959.00	1.4
July 15, 2017	239	-5	244.25	1,962	-9	1,962.00	1.4
July 22, 2017	242	3	244.00	1,963	1	1,961.75	1.4
July 29, 2017	243	1	242.00	1,954	-9	1,962.50	1.4
August 5, 2017	242	-1	241.50	1,952	-2	1,957.75	1.4
August 12, 2017	236	-6	240.75	1,950	-2	1,954.75	1.4
August 19, 2017	237	1	239.50	1,947	-3	1,950.75	1.4
August 26, 2017	238	1	238.25	1,943	-4	1,948.00	1.4
September 2, 2017	293	55	251.00	1,940	-3	1,945.00	1.4
September 9, 2017	267	-26	258.75	1,965	25	1,948.75	1.4
September 16, 2017	255	-12	263.25	1,923	-42	1,942.75	1.4
September 23, 2017	258	3	268.25	1,913	-10	1,935.25	1.4
September 30, 2017	254	-4	258.50	1,914	1	1,928.75	1.4
October 7, 2017	241	-13	252.00	1,903	-11	1,913.25	1.4
October 14, 2017	230	-11	245.75	1,907	4	1,909.25	1.4
October 21, 2017	234	4	239.75	1,899	-8	1,905.75	1.4
October 28, 2017	234	0	234.75	1,904	5	1,903.25	1.4
November 4, 2017	237	3	233.75	1,890	-14	1,900.00	1.3
November 11, 2017	250	13	238.75	1,916	26	1,902.25	1.4
November 18, 2017	239	-11	240.00	1,945	29	1,913.75	1.4
November 25, 2017	239	0	241.25	1,913	-32	1,916.00	1.4
December 2, 2017	235	-4	240.75	1,896	-17	1,917.50	1.3
December 9, 2017	229	-6	235.50	1,928	32	1,920.50	1.4
December 16, 2017	242	13	236.25	1,936	8	1,918.25	1.4
December 23, 2017	242	0	237.00	1,891	-45	1,912.75	1.3
December 30, 2017	248	6	240.25	1,873	-18	1,907.00	1.3
January 6, 2018	247	-1	244.75	1,944	71	1,911.00	1.4
January 13, 2018	226	-21	240.75	1,922	-22	1,907.50	1.4
January 20, 2018	229	3	237.50	1,940	18	1,919.75	1.4
January 27, 2018	234	5	234.00	1,911	-29	1,929.25	1.4
February 3, 2018	223	-11	228.00	1,935	24	1,927.00	1.4
February 10, 2018	234	11	230.00	1,862	-73	1,912.00	1.3
February 17, 2018	218	-16	227.25	1,922	60	1,907.50	1.4
February 24, 2018	217	-1	223.00	1,862	-60	1,895.25	1.3
March 3, 2018	230	13	224.75	1,877	15	1,880.75	1.3
March 10, 2018	226	-4	222.75	1,836	-41	1,874.25	1.3
March 17, 2018	227	1	225.00	1,876	40	1,862.75	1.3
March 24, 2018	218	-9	225.25	1,818	-58	1,851.75	1.3
March 31, 2018	242	24	228.25	1,878	60	1,852.00	1.3
April 7, 2018	233	-9	230.00	1,866	-12	1,859.50	1.3
April 14, 2018	233	0	231.50	1,834	-32	1,849.00	1.3
April 21, 2018	209	-24	229.25	1,760	-74	1,834.50	1.2
April 28, 2018	211	2	221.50	1,794	34	1,813.50	1.3
May 5, 2018	211	0	216.00	1,707	-87	1,773.75	1.2
May 12, 2018	222	11	213.25				

STATE NAME	INITIAL CLAIMS FILED DURING WEEK ENDED MAY 5					INSURED UNEMPLOYMENT FOR WEEK ENDED APRIL 28						ALL PROGRAMS EXCLUDING RAILROAD RETIREMENT
	STATE	CHANGE FROM				STATE (%) ²	CHANGE FROM					
		LAST WEEK	YEAR AGO	UCFE ¹	UCX ¹		LAST WEEK	YEAR AGO	UCFE ¹	UCX ¹		
Alabama	2564	528	136	2	12	14471	0.8	255	-1596	64	74	14609
Alaska	865	-79	-252	5	1	9507	3.1	233	-1259	84	20	9612
Arizona	4660	150	141	5	0	27398	1.0	1008	-2696	127	66	27591
Arkansas	1591	-318	-234	3	5	11348	1.0	355	-935	57	89	11494
California	39065	-875	-4011	124	115	370182	2.2	32715	5727	2311	1647	374140
Colorado	1899	144	-318	3	18	21380	0.8	1489	-2951	201	225	21806
Connecticut	2473	-770	-495	11	3	33684	2.0	-4619	-1826	54	76	33814
Delaware	416	-38	-83	2	1	4994	1.1	544	-86	15	11	5020
District of Columbia	286	25	-51	9	0	7438	1.3	-217	-470	301	10	7749
Florida	6695	393	-1333	23	42	37415	0.5	385	-5354	147	149	37711
Georgia	5089	965	-818	29	46	25330	0.6	332	-1612	188	227	25745
Hawaii	1261	-78	-48	0	11	6941	1.1	389	-418	64	105	7110
Idaho	822	44	-87	1	0	5299	0.8	-233	-1635	70	20	5389
Illinois	8063	245	-1797	10	11	100455	1.7	-2569	-9864	391	211	101057
Indiana	2126	178	-646	6	6	14732	0.5	-1083	-6304	50	38	14820
Iowa	1620	61	-447	8	3	15181	1.0	-3075	-2537	43	28	15252
Kansas	1467	37	-434	1	3	8609	0.6	-1	-1268	45	36	8690
Kentucky	1989	172	-382	0	3	17161	0.9	-566	-387	98	148	17407
Louisiana	2065	-177	-403	8	8	15874	0.8	596	-3271	40	28	15942
Maine	657	-119	-38	0	1	6550	1.1	-640	-680	34	13	6597
Maryland	2828	-58	-579	22	11	28265	1.1	-456	-4642	334	127	28726
Massachusetts	4442	-359	-767	11	17	53305	1.5	-4395	-9094	82	131	53518
Michigan	4366	231	-1586	13	12	47303	1.1	-6317	-4181	117	85	47505
Minnesota	2803	-182	-105	2	2	42079	1.5	-6815	2806	70	76	42225
Mississippi	1114	178	-391	3	2	7180	0.7	22	-1809	71	20	7271
Missouri	2956	396	-1096	5	5	21142	0.8	488	-2214	88	58	21288
Montana	658	-73	-17	5	2	6649	1.5	-613	-457	145	24	6818
Nebraska	606	79	-124	3	1	3719	0.4	-254	-325	19	11	3749
Nevada	2186	26	-56	4	5	18985	1.5	-47	-2292	125	79	19189
New Hampshire	513	-374	-51	2	1	4295	0.7	280	-347	4	6	4305
New Jersey	7298	200	-1106	21	22	84191	2.1	-3540	-5754	228	272	84691
New Mexico	737	78	-161	2	3	9331	1.2	-63	-1501	94	44	9469
New York	13182	-253	-1728	27	30	129250	1.4	-6920	-8989	342	380	129972
North Carolina	2713	56	-448	6	13	19025	0.4	-206	-1987	95	161	19281
North Dakota	244	-21	-68	7	2	3306	0.8	-1004	-9	16	3	3325
Ohio	6722	1682	150	9	17	49459	0.9	-3918	-6005	89	165	49713
Oklahoma	1308	52	-132	10	8	12962	0.8	-136	-2028	49	67	13078
Oregon	3309	105	335	14	14	26166	1.4	-664	-832	299	94	26559
Pennsylvania	12521	1655	-421	57	30	103893	1.8	3138	-2081	514	271	104678
Puerto Rico	1003	-70	-587	1	6	17928	2.1	65	-4997	29	85	18042
Rhode Island	704	53	-45	2	1	7468	1.6	-2348	-893	23	22	7513
South Carolina	1987	-102	-310	7	8	14016	0.7	-1231	1409	51	68	14135
South Dakota	150	3	-17	5	0	1607	0.4	-378	129	36	1	1644
Tennessee	2291	73	-863	7	7	18319	0.6	540	1145	95	146	18560
Texas	13780	1694	-810	86	417	119587	1.0	3587	-22066	570	1319	121476
Utah	1075	73	-62	7	1	7692	0.6	-189	-1151	51	22	7765
Vermont	433	-280	-81	0	0	4148	1.4	-579	-481	11	6	4165
Virgin Islands	15	-5	-25	1	0	1518	4.1	430	962	2	0	1520
Virginia	2452	218	-395	4	16	20496	0.6	-564	-2646	234	244	20974
Washington	5135	35	-776	4	16	46075	1.4	-1181	-4589	291	599	46965
West Virginia	836	10	-61	1	2	9417	1.4	-385	-943	49	40	9506
Wisconsin	3939	-1829	-751	3	4	28611	1.0	-6052	-1590	56	27	28694
Wyoming	283	32	-44	0	1	3069	1.2	-64	-891	71	6	3146
Totals	190262	3811	-24778	601	965	1724405	1.2	-14471	-127765	8734	7880	1741020

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 5, 2018

STATES WITH AN INCREASE OF MORE THAN 1,000

State	Change	State Supplied Comment
TX	+1,694	Layoffs in the manufacturing, administrative and support and waste management and remediation services, and retail trade industries.
OH	+1,682	Layoffs in the manufacturing industries.
PA	+1,655	Layoffs in the accommodation and food service, construction, and professional, scientific and technical service industries.

STATES WITH A DECREASE OF MORE THAN 1,000

State	Change	State Supplied Comment
WI	-1,829	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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