



News Release

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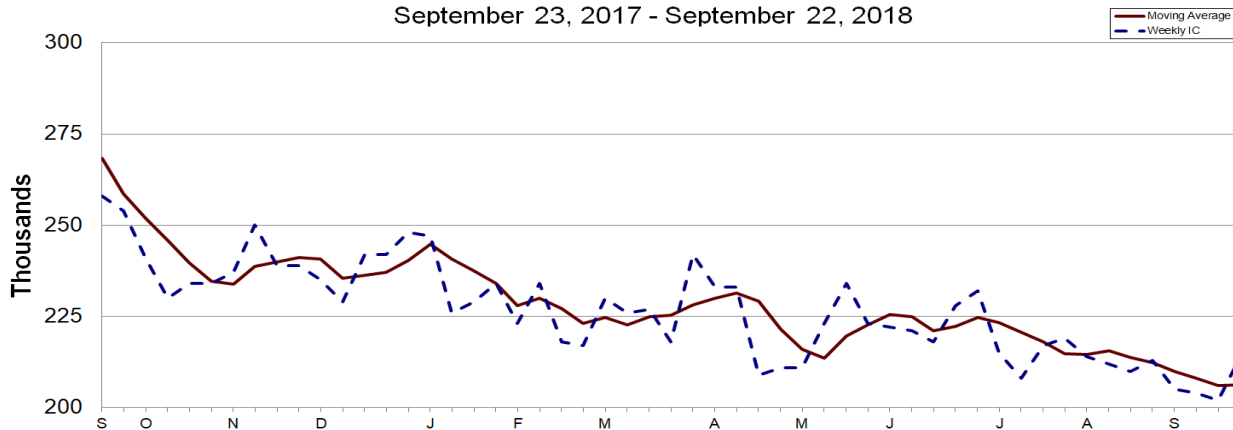
UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE WEEKLY CLAIMS

SEASONALLY ADJUSTED DATA

In the week ending September 22, the advance figure for seasonally adjusted **initial claims** was 214,000, an increase of 12,000 from the previous week's revised level. The previous week's level was revised up by 1,000 from 201,000 to 202,000. The 4-week moving average was 206,250, an increase of 250 from the previous week's revised average. The previous week's average was revised up by 250 from 205,750 to 206,000.

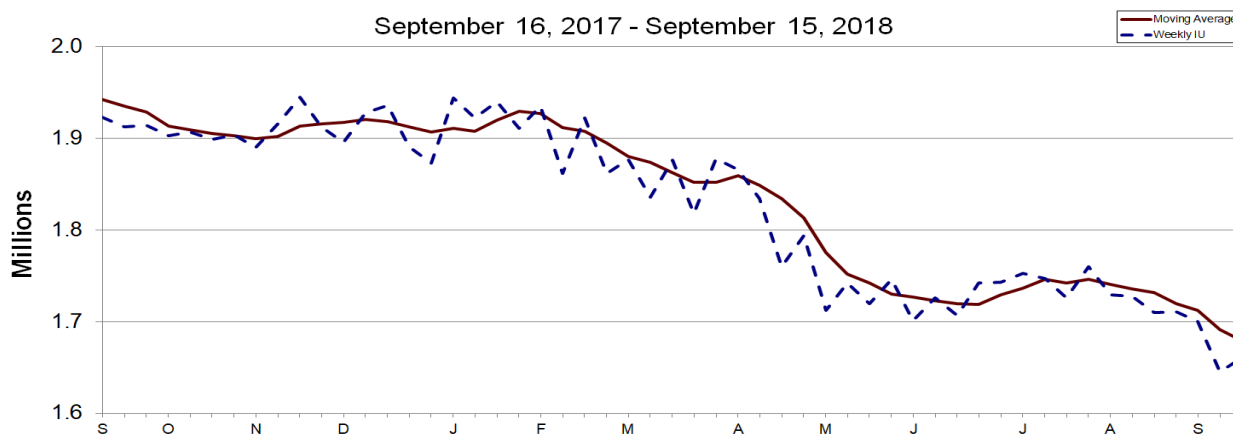
The advance seasonally adjusted **insured unemployment rate** was 1.2 percent for the week ending September 15, unchanged from the previous week's unrevised rate. The advance number for seasonally adjusted **insured unemployment** during the week ending September 15 was 1,661,000, an increase of 16,000 from the previous week's unrevised level of 1,645,000. The 4-week moving average was 1,679,250, a decrease of 12,250 from the previous week's unrevised average of 1,691,500. This is the lowest level for this average since November 10, 1973 when it was 1,673,000.

Seasonally Adjusted Initial Claims
September 23, 2017 - September 22, 2018



Seasonally Adjusted Insured Unemployment

September 16, 2017 - September 15, 2018



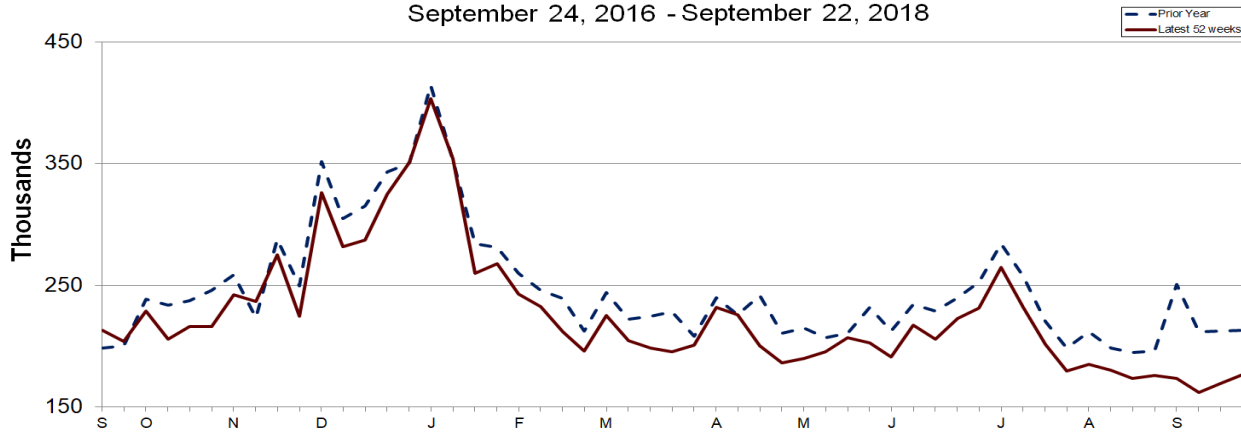
UNADJUSTED DATA

The advance number of actual initial claims under state programs, unadjusted, totaled 176,687 in the week ending September 22, an increase of 7,532 (or 4.5 percent) from the previous week. The seasonal factors had expected a decrease of 2,220 (or -1.3 percent) from the previous week. There were 212,987 initial claims in the comparable week in 2017.

The advance unadjusted insured unemployment rate was 1.0 percent during the week ending September 15, unchanged from the prior week. The advance unadjusted number for persons claiming UI benefits in state programs totaled 1,408,604, a decrease of 52,064 (or -3.6 percent) from the preceding week. The seasonal factors had expected a decrease of 65,796 (or -4.5 percent) from the previous week. A year earlier the rate was 1.2 percent and the volume was 1,622,607.

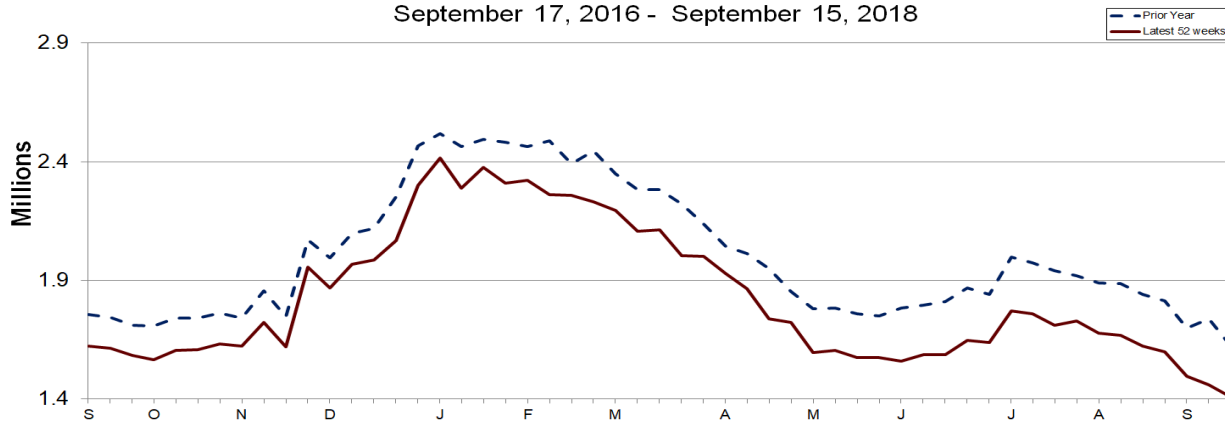
Not Seasonally Adjusted Initial Claims

September 24, 2016 - September 22, 2018



Not Seasonally Adjusted Insured Unemployment

September 17, 2016 - September 15, 2018



The total number of people claiming benefits in all programs for the week ending September 8 was 1,485,163, a decrease of 34,544 from the previous week. There were 1,765,495 persons claiming benefits in all programs in the comparable week in 2017.

No state was triggered "on" the Extended Benefits program during the week ending September 8.

Initial claims for UI benefits filed by former Federal civilian employees totaled 542 in the week ending September 15, a decrease of 69 from the prior week. There were 604 initial claims filed by newly discharged veterans, an increase of 17 from the preceding week.

There were 7,288 former Federal civilian employees claiming UI benefits for the week ending September 8, an increase of 91 from the previous week. Newly discharged veterans claiming benefits totaled 7,234, a decrease of 98 from the prior week.

The highest insured unemployment rates in the week ending September 8 were in New Jersey (2.2), Alaska (1.7), California (1.7), Connecticut (1.7), Puerto Rico (1.7), Pennsylvania (1.6), and Nevada (1.4).

The largest increases in initial claims for the week ending September 15 were in California (+2,070), Georgia (+1,595), New Jersey (+1,488), Texas (+1,019), and Oregon (+693), while the largest decreases were in Illinois (-794), Iowa (-699), Kansas (-579), Wisconsin (-360), and Nevada (-333).

UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE DATA FOR REGULAR STATE PROGRAMS

WEEK ENDING	September 22	September 15	Change	September 8	<u>Prior Year</u>¹
Initial Claims (SA)	214,000	202,000	+12,000	204,000	258,000
Initial Claims (NSA)	176,687	169,155	+7,532	162,333	212,987
4-Wk Moving Average (SA)	206,250	206,000	+250	208,000	268,250

WEEK ENDING	September 15	September 8	Change	September 1	<u>Prior Year</u>¹
Insured Unemployment (SA)	1,661,000	1,645,000	+16,000	1,700,000	1,923,000
Insured Unemployment (NSA)	1,408,604	1,460,668	-52,064	1,495,918	1,622,607
4-Wk Moving Average (SA)	1,679,250	1,691,500	-12,250	1,712,250	1,942,750
<u>Insured Unemployment Rate (SA)</u> ²	1.2%	1.2%	0.0	1.2%	1.4%
<u>Insured Unemployment Rate (NSA)</u> ²	1.0%	1.0%	0.0	1.1%	1.2%

INITIAL CLAIMS FILED IN FEDERAL PROGRAMS (UNADJUSTED)

WEEK ENDING	September 15	September 8	Change	<u>Prior Year</u>¹
Federal Employees (UCFE)	542	611	-69	649
Newly Discharged Veterans (UCX)	604	587	+17	708

PERSONS CLAIMING UI BENEFITS IN ALL PROGRAMS (UNADJUSTED)

WEEK ENDING	September 8	September 1	Change	<u>Prior Year</u>¹
Regular State	1,458,979	1,494,392	-35,413	1,733,005
Federal Employees	7,288	7,197	+91	8,022
Newly Discharged Veterans	7,234	7,332	-98	9,390
<u>Extended Benefits</u> ³	2	1	+1	0
<u>State Additional Benefits</u> ⁴	5,402	4,874	+528	5,876
<u>STC / Workshare</u> ⁵	6,258	5,911	+347	9,202
<u>TOTAL</u>	1,485,163	1,519,707	-34,544	1,765,495

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 141,951,699 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 22			Insured Unemployment For Week Ended September 15		
	Advance	Prior Wk	Change	Advance	Prior Wk	Change
Alabama	1,824	2,007	-183	14,759	15,207	-448
Alaska	1,155	837	318	5,222	5,269	-47
Arizona	3,118	3,359	-241	22,955	26,623	-3,668
Arkansas	1,013	1,289	-276	8,648	9,965	-1,317
California	34,814	33,418	1,396	289,876	287,158	2,718
Colorado	1,595	1,545	50	16,921	16,880	41
Connecticut	2,119	2,266	-147	27,961	27,615	346
Delaware	482	490	-8	3,951	3,906	45
District of Columbia	346	383	-37	7,288	7,458	-170
Florida	5,737	6,108	-371	35,991	41,057	-5,066
Georgia	4,225	5,602	-1,377	22,344	24,963	-2,619
Hawaii	1,223	1,178	45	6,756	6,663	93
Idaho	709	787	-78	2,990	3,487	-497
Illinois	6,208	6,437	-229	76,446	75,417	1,029
Indiana	2,092	1,987	105	13,315	12,678	637
Iowa	1,579	1,648	-69	11,744	12,374	-630
Kansas	1,220	1,228	-8	7,553	8,188	-635
Kentucky	6,356	1,895	4,461	15,693	14,995	698
Louisiana	1,719	2,033	-314	14,313	16,131	-1,818
Maine	338	465	-127	3,095	3,554	-459
Maryland	2,630	3,068	-438	23,532	25,265	-1,733
Massachusetts	3,887	4,032	-145	42,559	44,600	-2,041
Michigan	4,420	4,161	259	34,970	34,871	99
Minnesota	2,371	2,502	-131	22,824	23,177	-353
Mississippi	707	873	-166	6,027	7,034	-1,007
Missouri	2,321	2,568	-247	17,227	18,016	-789
Montana	583	559	24	3,490	3,437	53
Nebraska	519	552	-33	3,192	3,417	-225
Nevada	2,172	2,025	147	16,544	18,456	-1,912
New Hampshire	339	414	-75	2,706	3,014	-308
New Jersey	7,035	8,000	-965	77,375	85,659	-8,284
New Mexico	655	686	-31	7,565	7,733	-168
New York	11,904	12,575	-671	110,690	119,231	-8,541
North Carolina	10,209	2,174	8,035	18,085	18,182	-97
North Dakota	237	167	70	1,527	1,435	92
Ohio	4,288	4,449	-161	37,990	39,269	-1,279
Oklahoma	1,104	1,174	-70	11,460	11,952	-492
Oregon	3,347	3,634	-287	21,426	21,378	48
Pennsylvania	9,821	10,518	-697	86,934	92,719	-5,785
Puerto Rico	888	914	-26	13,759	14,712	-953
Rhode Island	652	761	-109	6,423	6,112	311
South Carolina	3,362	1,463	1,899	14,689	14,213	476
South Dakota	117	140	-23	728	792	-64
Tennessee	1,735	1,934	-199	14,952	16,315	-1,363
Texas	10,927	11,857	-930	108,872	113,501	-4,629
Utah	814	872	-58	6,127	6,572	-445
Vermont	258	356	-98	2,268	2,105	163
Virgin Islands	41	82	-41	442	350	92
Virginia	2,560	2,031	529	18,939	18,848	91
Washington	5,086	5,274	-188	40,029	40,482	-453
West Virginia	588	652	-64	7,131	6,686	445
Wisconsin	3,037	3,471	-434	18,904	20,252	-1,348
Wyoming	201	255	-54	1,397	1,295	102
US Total	176,687	169,155	7,532	1,408,604	1,460,668	-52,064

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	
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	1,712	-82	1,775.00	1.2
May 12, 2018	223	12	213.50	1,742	30	1,752.00	1.2
May 19, 2018	234	11	219.75	1,720	-22	1,742.00	1.2
May 26, 2018	223	-11	222.75	1,746	26	1,730.00	1.2
June 2, 2018	222	-1	225.50	1,701	-45	1,727.25	1.2
June 9, 2018	221	-1	225.00	1,726	25	1,723.25	1.2
June 16, 2018	218	-3	221.00	1,707	-19	1,720.00	1.2
June 23, 2018	228	10	222.25	1,742	35	1,719.00	1.2
June 30, 2018	232	4	224.75	1,743	1	1,729.50	1.2
July 7, 2018	215	-17	223.25	1,753	10	1,736.25	1.2
July 14, 2018	208	-7	220.75	1,747	-6	1,746.25	1.2
July 21, 2018	217	9	218.00	1,726	-21	1,742.25	1.2
July 28, 2018	219	2	214.75	1,760	34	1,746.50	1.2
August 4, 2018	214	-5	214.50	1,729	-31	1,740.50	1.2
August 11, 2018	212	-2	215.50	1,728	-1	1,735.75	1.2
August 18, 2018	210	-2	213.75	1,710	-18	1,731.75	1.2
August 25, 2018	213	3	212.25	1,711	1	1,719.50	1.2
September 1, 2018	205	-8	210.00	1,700	-11	1,712.25	1.2
September 8, 2018	204	-1	208.00	1,645	-55	1,691.50	1.2
September 15, 2018	202	-2	206.00	1,661	16	1,679.25	1.2
September 22, 2018	214	12	206.25				

STATE NAME	INITIAL CLAIMS FILED DURING WEEK ENDED SEPTEMBER 15					INSURED UNEMPLOYMENT FOR WEEK ENDED SEPTEMBER 8					ALL PROGRAMS EXCLUDING RAILROAD RETIREMENT	
	STATE	CHANGE FROM				STATE	CHANGE FROM					
		LAST WEEK	YEAR AGO	UCFE ¹	UCX ¹		(%) ²	LAST WEEK	YEAR AGO	UCFE ¹		UCX ¹
Alabama	2007	209	-199	8	11	15207	0.8	-238	-1457	66	87	15360
Alaska	837	86	-114	7	0	5269	1.7	72	-1400	55	6	5330
Arizona	3359	244	-441	4	5	26623	1.0	-1088	-2911	83	69	26775
Arkansas	1289	-80	-129	2	4	9965	0.8	312	-2551	43	46	10054
California	33418	2070	-6481	105	110	287158	1.7	11740	-26314	1588	1618	290364
Colorado	1545	-5	-68	1	15	16880	0.7	-38	-3075	92	208	17180
Connecticut	2266	108	-399	7	7	27615	1.7	-3225	-3577	30	53	27698
Delaware	490	98	16	3	3	3906	0.9	-264	-413	10	8	3924
District of Columbia	383	32	73	11	0	7458	1.3	-181	-978	293	11	7762
Florida	6108	344	-3944	22	28	41057	0.5	-155	-2673	164	122	41343
Georgia	5602	1595	842	15	36	24963	0.6	707	-2004	156	274	25393
Hawaii	1178	-156	30	3	5	6663	1.1	66	-868	39	81	6783
Idaho	787	0	-57	1	2	3487	0.5	0	-543	11	18	3516
Illinois	6437	-794	-1369	14	5	75417	1.3	-1934	-16343	326	209	75952
Indiana	1987	-152	-56	1	2	12678	0.4	-1132	-1522	26	23	12727
Iowa	1648	-699	69	0	2	12374	0.8	552	-2036	35	21	12430
Kansas	1228	-579	-294	0	2	8188	0.6	680	-1385	35	28	8251
Kentucky	1895	304	65	1	2	14995	0.8	-1167	-4549	69	109	15173
Louisiana	2033	292	-199	7	3	16131	0.9	-414	-4244	71	12	16214
Maine	465	102	-9	0	1	3554	0.6	-77	-357	25	12	3591
Maryland	3068	465	0	11	12	25265	1.0	-2923	-5679	321	94	25680
Massachusetts	4032	61	-335	13	6	44600	1.3	-4266	-10892	101	146	44847
Michigan	4161	-316	-1074	6	8	34871	0.8	-2310	-10614	56	69	34996
Minnesota	2502	-39	-262	4	4	23177	0.8	-980	-3037	44	61	23282
Mississippi	873	141	-327	3	0	7034	0.6	-200	-2745	39	21	7094
Missouri	2568	30	-357	27	8	18016	0.7	-638	-2573	263	44	18323
Montana	559	40	-279	4	5	3437	0.8	-105	-983	35	20	3492
Nebraska	552	-275	-78	3	1	3417	0.4	268	-702	25	10	3452
Nevada	2025	-333	-143	5	4	18456	1.4	603	-1748	54	55	18565
New Hampshire	414	62	-35	0	0	3014	0.5	-233	-592	5	2	3021
New Jersey	8000	1488	234	18	21	85659	2.2	-8935	-5661	201	242	86102
New Mexico	686	21	-167	12	0	7733	1.0	62	-1660	83	49	7865
New York	12575	469	-1973	21	35	119231	1.3	-16140	-18198	305	336	119872
North Carolina	2174	-177	-550	5	10	18182	0.4	-440	-3167	95	132	18409
North Dakota	167	-34	-54	0	0	1435	0.4	-20	-506	13	1	1449
Ohio	4449	252	-4765	8	19	39269	0.7	-56	-6267	120	166	39555
Oklahoma	1174	-16	17	7	10	11952	0.8	-117	-2581	57	75	12084
Oregon	3634	693	-372	11	10	21378	1.2	-496	-2588	99	96	21573
Pennsylvania	10518	633	-521	51	32	92719	1.6	-4418	-9738	417	301	93437
Puerto Rico	914	-110	-795	1	3	14712	1.7	526	-14102	53	75	14840
Rhode Island	761	133	-76	2	0	6112	1.3	-997	-274	18	23	6153
South Carolina	1463	-312	-1316	2	8	14213	0.7	-687	291	45	93	14351
South Dakota	140	5	-36	2	0	792	0.2	16	-101	24	0	816
Tennessee	1934	74	-222	7	12	16315	0.6	-176	-1623	68	62	16445
Texas	11857	1019	-16530	73	93	113501	1.0	5194	-79854	947	1213	115661
Utah	872	58	-144	18	5	6572	0.5	-149	-250	99	19	6690
Vermont	356	84	62	1	1	2105	0.7	-79	-226	6	7	2118
Virgin Islands	82	52	51	0	0	350	1.0	-60	122	8	0	360
Virginia	2031	-112	-482	4	11	18848	0.5	3	-4141	202	229	19279
Washington	5274	31	53	7	31	40482	1.3	-22	-3667	174	534	41190
West Virginia	652	17	-44	1	7	6686	1.0	10	-1784	39	22	6747
Wisconsin	3471	-360	27	3	4	20252	0.7	-1691	-2591	53	19	20324
Wyoming	255	59	-1	0	1	1295	0.5	-10	-987	2	3	1300
Totals	169155	6822	-43158	542	604	1460668	1	-35250	-278318	7288	7234	1475192

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 U.S. total covered employment is BLS.

UNADJUSTED INITIAL CLAIMS FOR WEEK ENDED SEPTEMBER 15, 2018

STATES WITH AN INCREASE OF MORE THAN 1,000

State	Change	State Supplied Comment
CA	+2,070	Layoffs in the retail trade and agriculture, forestry, fishing, and hunting industries.
GA	+1,595	Layoffs in the manufacturing, administrative and support and waste management and remediation service, and trade industries.
NJ	+1,488	Layoffs in the construction, trade, accommodation and food service, and health care and social assistance industries.
TX	+1,019	Layoffs in the manufacturing industry.

STATES WITH A DECREASE OF MORE THAN 1,000

State	Change	State Supplied Comment
None		

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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Employment and Training Administration
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Program Contacts:
Tony Sznoluch: (202) 693-3176
Sandra Trujillo: (202) 693-2933
Media Contact: (202) 693-4676