



News Release

Connect with DOL at
<https://blog.dol.gov>



TRANSMISSION OF MATERIALS IN THIS RELEASE IS EMBARGOED UNTIL
8:30 A.M. (Eastern) Thursday, October 11, 2018

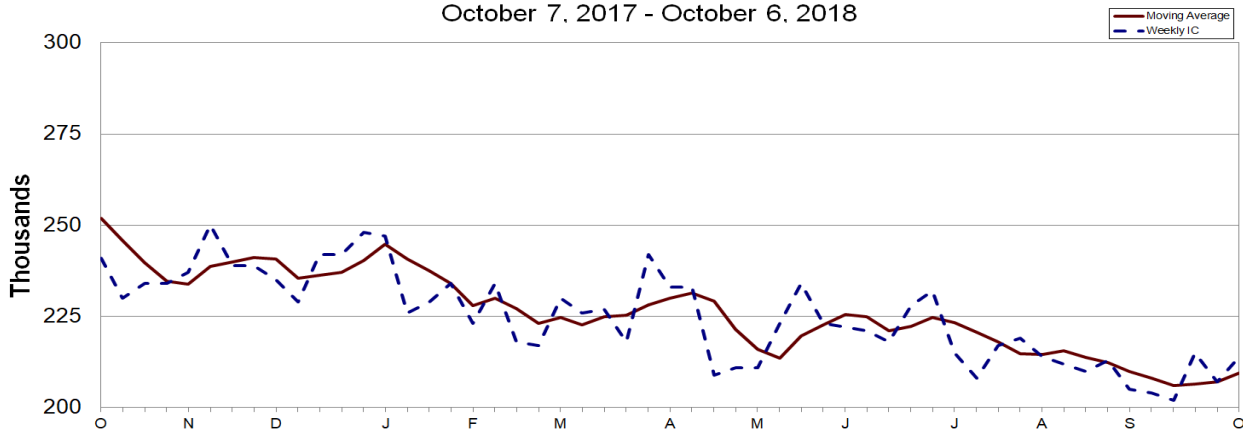
UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE WEEKLY CLAIMS

SEASONALLY ADJUSTED DATA

In the week ending October 6, the advance figure for seasonally adjusted **initial claims** was 214,000, an increase of 7,000 from the previous week's unrevised level of 207,000. The 4-week moving average was 209,500, an increase of 2,500 from the previous week's unrevised average of 207,000.

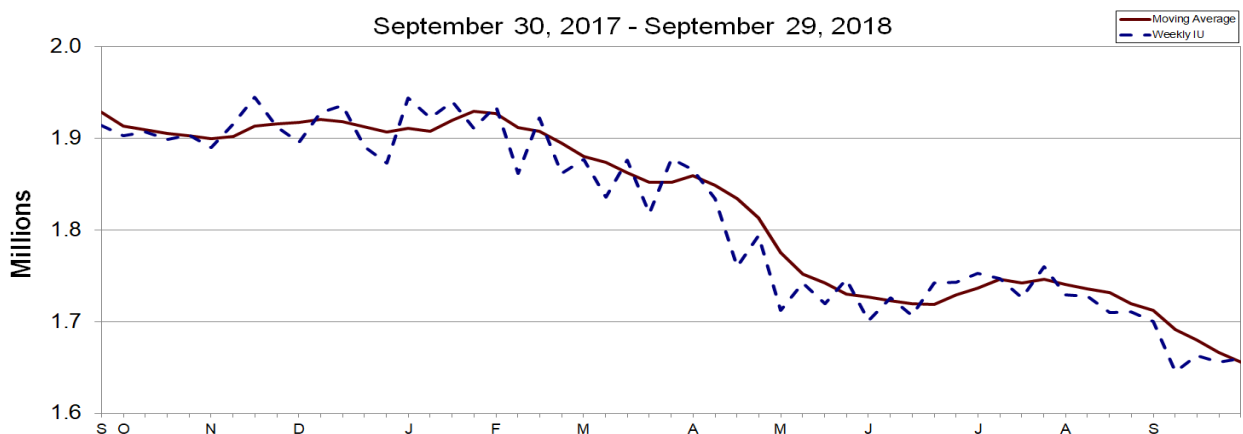
The advance seasonally adjusted **insured unemployment rate** was 1.2 percent for the week ending September 29, unchanged from the previous week's unrevised rate. The advance number for seasonally adjusted **insured unemployment** during the week ending September 29 was 1,660,000, an increase of 4,000 from the previous week's revised level. The previous week's level was revised up 6,000 from 1,650,000 to 1,656,000. The 4-week moving average was 1,656,000, a decrease of 10,000 from the previous week's revised average. This is the lowest level for this average since August 18, 1973 when it was 1,646,750. The previous week's average was revised up by 1,500 from 1,664,500 to 1,666,000.

Seasonally Adjusted Initial Claims
October 7, 2017 - October 6, 2018



Seasonally Adjusted Insured Unemployment

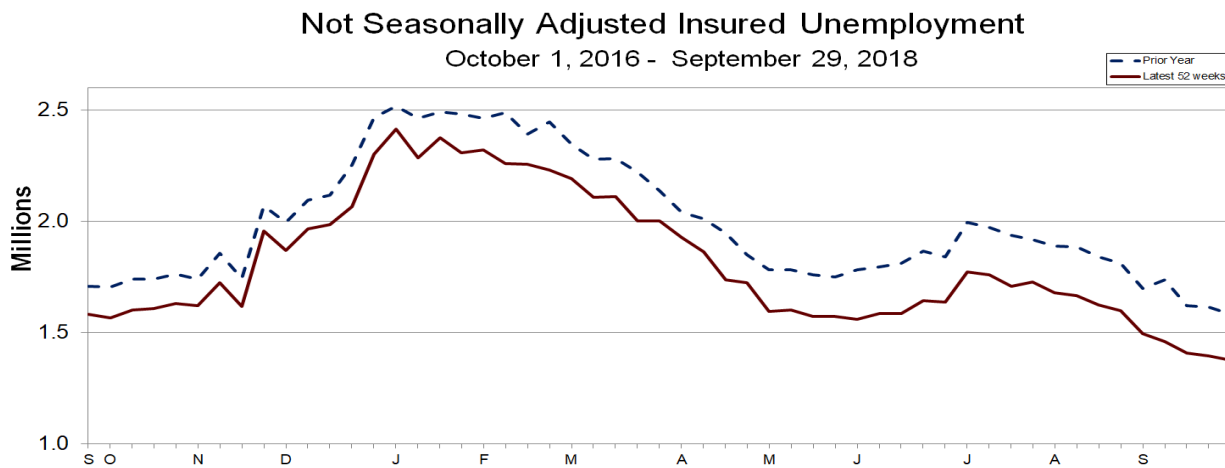
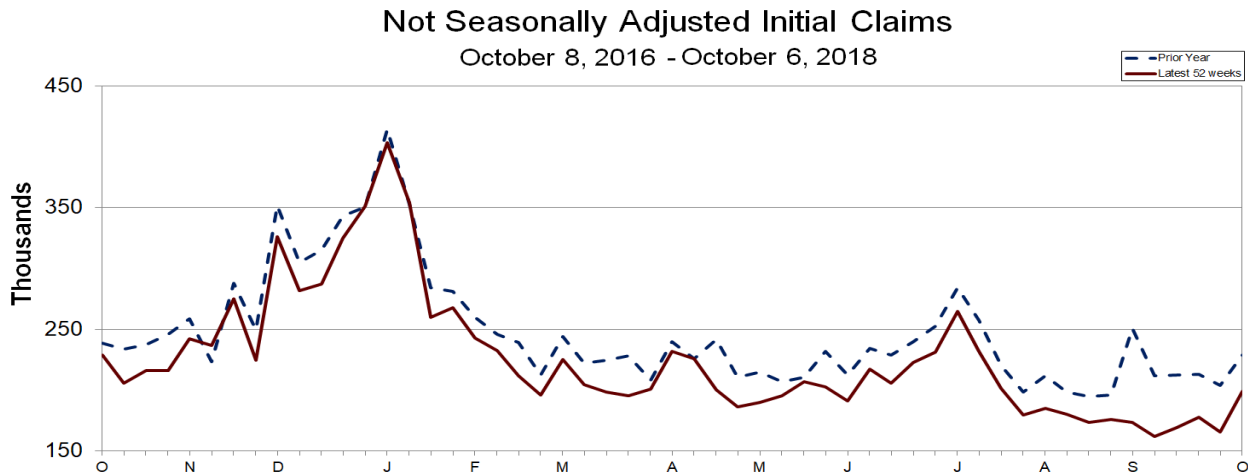
September 30, 2017 - September 29, 2018



UNADJUSTED DATA

The advance number of actual initial claims under state programs, unadjusted, totaled 199,166 in the week ending October 6, an increase of 33,613 (or 20.3 percent) from the previous week. The seasonal factors had expected an increase of 27,385 (or 16.5 percent) from the previous week. There were 229,241 initial claims in the comparable week in 2017.

The advance unadjusted insured unemployment rate was 1.0 percent during the week ending September 29, unchanged from the prior week. The advance unadjusted number for persons claiming UI benefits in state programs totaled 1,376,408, a decrease of 21,182 (or -1.5 percent) from the preceding week. The seasonal factors had expected a decrease of 24,839 (or -1.8 percent) from the previous week. A year earlier the rate was 1.1 percent and the volume was 1,582,806.



The total number of people claiming benefits in all programs for the week ending September 22 was 1,421,661, a decrease of 13,471 from the previous week. There were 1,652,447 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 22.

Initial claims for UI benefits filed by former Federal civilian employees totaled 633 in the week ending September 29, an increase of 27 from the prior week. There were 566 initial claims filed by newly discharged veterans, an increase of 4 from the preceding week.

There were 6,930 former Federal civilian employees claiming UI benefits for the week ending September 22, a decrease of 402 from the previous week. Newly discharged veterans claiming benefits totaled 7,188, a decrease of 315 from the prior week.

The highest insured unemployment rates in the week ending September 22 were in New Jersey (1.9), Alaska (1.8), California (1.7), Connecticut (1.6), Puerto Rico (1.6), Pennsylvania (1.5), the District of Columbia (1.3), Massachusetts (1.3), Nevada (1.3), and the Virgin Islands (1.3).

The largest increases in initial claims for the week ending September 29 were in South Carolina (+1,040), Ohio (+442), Illinois (+412), Minnesota (+213), and Iowa (+148), while the largest decreases were in North Carolina (-4,796), Kentucky (-4,625), California (-960), New York (-841), and Texas (-547).

UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE DATA FOR REGULAR STATE PROGRAMS

WEEK ENDING	October 6	September 29	Change	September 22	<u>Prior Year</u>¹
Initial Claims (SA)	214,000	207,000	+7,000	215,000	241,000
Initial Claims (NSA)	199,166	165,553	+33,613	177,555	229,241
4-Wk Moving Average (SA)	209,500	207,000	+2,500	206,500	252,000
WEEK ENDING	September 29	September 22	Change	September 15	<u>Prior Year</u>¹
Insured Unemployment (SA)	1,660,000	1,656,000	+4,000	1,663,000	1,914,000
Insured Unemployment (NSA)	1,376,408	1,397,590	-21,182	1,410,643	1,582,806
4-Wk Moving Average (SA)	1,656,000	1,666,000	-10,000	1,679,750	1,928,750
<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	1.0%	1.1%

INITIAL CLAIMS FILED IN FEDERAL PROGRAMS (UNADJUSTED)

WEEK ENDING	September 29	September 22	Change	<u>Prior Year</u>¹
Federal Employees (UCFE)	633	606	+27	883
Newly Discharged Veterans (UCX)	566	562	+4	667

PERSONS CLAIMING UI BENEFITS IN ALL PROGRAMS (UNADJUSTED)

WEEK ENDING	September 22	September 15	Change	<u>Prior Year</u>¹
Regular State	1,396,027	1,409,141	-13,114	1,620,361
Federal Employees	6,930	7,332	-402	8,045
Newly Discharged Veterans	7,188	7,503	-315	9,260
<u>Extended Benefits</u>³	1	0	+1	0
<u>State Additional Benefits</u>⁴	5,463	5,413	+50	6,316
<u>STC / Workshare</u>⁵	6,052	5,743	+309	8,465
<u>TOTAL</u>	1,421,661	1,435,132	-13,471	1,652,447

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 October 6			Insured Unemployment For Week Ended September 29		
	Advance	Prior Wk	Change	Advance	Prior Wk	Change
Alabama	2,113	2,064	49	14,592	14,476	116
Alaska	1,128	901	227	5,555	5,582	-27
Arizona	3,579	3,291	288	21,769	25,212	-3,443
Arkansas	1,669	1,118	551	8,222	9,075	-853
California	38,503	33,403	5,100	281,841	282,559	-718
Colorado	1,969	1,514	455	16,707	16,617	90
Connecticut	2,161	1,986	175	27,147	26,510	637
Delaware	497	415	82	3,844	4,193	-349
District of Columbia	709	401	308	6,827	7,232	-405
Florida	6,821	5,707	1,114	33,811	39,560	-5,749
Georgia	5,134	4,327	807	22,921	23,162	-241
Hawaii	1,379	1,115	264	6,594	6,427	167
Idaho	816	733	83	3,254	3,606	-352
Illinois	8,165	6,594	1,571	72,890	72,305	585
Indiana	2,007	1,790	217	13,145	12,455	690
Iowa	2,085	1,576	509	11,604	11,534	70
Kansas	1,331	1,140	191	7,013	7,409	-396
Kentucky	7,987	1,739	6,248	15,490	17,949	-2,459
Louisiana	1,814	1,802	12	13,789	15,816	-2,027
Maine	422	342	80	2,991	3,573	-582
Maryland	2,716	2,896	-180	22,708	24,279	-1,571
Massachusetts	4,306	3,900	406	41,313	43,742	-2,429
Michigan	6,748	4,521	2,227	36,485	34,194	2,291
Minnesota	2,805	2,495	310	22,465	22,300	165
Mississippi	723	857	-134	5,853	6,829	-976
Missouri	2,696	2,382	314	17,041	18,152	-1,111
Montana	890	675	215	3,666	3,456	210
Nebraska	1,174	551	623	3,122	3,010	112
Nevada	2,253	1,729	524	15,553	17,617	-2,064
New Hampshire	362	437	-75	2,662	2,930	-268
New Jersey	7,811	6,907	904	74,976	74,133	843
New Mexico	882	613	269	7,359	7,744	-385
New York	12,793	10,974	1,819	104,572	105,068	-496
North Carolina ^F	9,341	5,288	4,053	21,551	18,316	3,235
North Dakota	271	194	77	1,380	1,287	93
Ohio	5,005	4,681	324	37,163	37,504	-341
Oklahoma	1,146	1,118	28	11,167	11,092	75
Oregon	3,695	2,908	787	21,085	20,975	110
Pennsylvania	9,956	9,323	633	82,555	85,997	-3,442
Puerto Rico*	1,445	892	553	20,584	14,096	6,488
Rhode Island	685	615	70	5,755	5,826	-71
South Carolina ^F	3,044	4,883	-1,839	14,854	14,827	27
South Dakota	139	144	-5	736	772	-36
Tennessee	2,206	1,915	291	14,723	16,132	-1,409
Texas	11,902	10,447	1,455	103,411	109,704	-6,293
Utah	1,057	922	135	6,152	6,471	-319
Vermont	325	264	61	2,229	2,107	122
Virgin Islands	36	69	-33	444	472	-28
Virginia*	2,363	2,198	165	18,923	18,292	631
Washington	5,966	4,912	1,054	39,200	38,443	757
West Virginia	561	639	-78	7,150	6,547	603
Wisconsin	3,312	2,974	338	18,234	18,734	-500
Wyoming	263	272	-9	1,331	1,290	41
US Total	199,166	165,553	33,613	1,376,408	1,397,590	-21,182

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.

^FAffected by Hurricane Florence.

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	
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	1,663	18	1,679.75	1.2
September 22, 2018	215	13	206.50	1,656	-7	1,666.00	1.2
September 29, 2018	207	-8	207.00	1,660	4	1,656.00	1.2
October 6, 2018	214	7	209.50				

INITIAL CLAIMS FILED DURING WEEK ENDED SEPTEMBER 29 CHANGE FROM						INSURED UNEMPLOYMENT FOR WEEK ENDED SEPTEMBER 22 CHANGE FROM						ALL PROGRAMS EXCLUDING RAILROAD RETIREMENT
STATE NAME	STATE	LAST WEEK	YEAR AGO	UCFE ¹	UCX ¹	STATE	(%) ²	LAST WEEK	YEAR AGO	UCFE ¹	UCX ¹	
Alabama	2064	103	-47	9	4	14476	0.8	-290	-1450	55	76	14607
Alaska	901	-46	-131	5	0	5582	1.8	274	-1404	59	6	5647
Arizona	3291	16	-426	5	5	25212	0.9	-823	-2495	84	55	25351
Arkansas	1118	-12	-129	3	4	9075	0.8	-331	-2384	40	47	9162
California	33403	-960	-3985	124	112	282559	1.7	324	-23718	1502	1530	285591
Colorado	1514	-91	-377	10	14	16617	0.7	-13	-2421	87	199	16903
Connecticut	1986	-134	-768	7	2	26510	1.6	-292	-3660	38	69	26617
Delaware	415	-88	-80	1	1	4193	1.0	406	-734	18	11	4222
District of Columbia	401	22	107	15	1	7232	1.3	-44	-1001	293	7	7532
Florida	5707	-194	-9195	16	28	39560	0.5	-252	-7923	145	155	39860
Georgia	4327	-90	-1816	26	31	23162	0.5	-373	-3959	123	220	23505
Hawaii	1115	-102	-40	4	7	6427	1.0	-20	-877	39	74	6540
Idaho	733	-25	-126	7	4	3606	0.5	173	-555	14	16	3636
Illinois	6594	412	-863	13	8	72305	1.2	-3449	-15567	325	194	72824
Indiana	1790	-220	-308	3	5	12455	0.4	-331	-954	29	30	12514
Iowa	1576	148	37	6	4	11534	0.8	38	-1738	32	25	11591
Kansas	1140	-75	-455	1	1	7409	0.6	-136	-4164	33	27	7469
Kentucky	1739	-4625	-74	3	4	17949	1.0	2102	1186	61	98	18108
Louisiana	1802	-34	-336	3	3	15816	0.8	31	-3992	61	15	15892
Maine	342	-43	-68	0	0	3573	0.6	106	-56	21	11	3605
Maryland	2896	121	-292	20	14	24279	1.0	-1011	-5601	281	92	24652
Massachusetts	3900	-63	-361	12	11	43742	1.3	541	-10305	83	127	43952
Michigan	4521	-17	-864	9	5	34194	0.8	-1853	-7764	71	64	34329
Minnesota	2495	213	-10	5	3	22300	0.8	120	-2661	36	67	22403
Mississippi	857	36	-158	3	1	6829	0.6	82	-2528	29	24	6882
Missouri	2382	-48	-3971	15	3	18152	0.7	651	-3892	247	39	18438
Montana	675	83	-209	10	3	3456	0.8	23	-1127	28	19	3503
Nebraska	551	37	-104	7	1	3010	0.3	-112	-1048	21	8	3039
Nevada	1729	-222	-225	4	6	17617	1.3	-45	-1390	51	54	17722
New Hampshire	437	67	-14	1	0	2930	0.5	-95	-549	3	2	2935
New Jersey	6907	-215	-490	18	19	74133	1.9	-2289	-6258	214	245	74592
New Mexico	613	-50	-174	26	1	7744	1.0	48	-1623	96	45	7885
New York	10974	-841	-4463	32	29	105068	1.1	-5192	-18647	318	365	105751
North Carolina	5288	-4796	2531	7	6	18316	0.4	-814	-1694	86	121	18523
North Dakota	194	-7	-74	1	1	1287	0.3	-27	-467	17	1	1305
Ohio	4681	442	-3335	10	15	37504	0.7	-551	-7029	115	150	37769
Oklahoma	1118	-98	-378	6	7	11092	0.7	-667	-2883	59	91	11242
Oregon	2908	-442	-518	17	11	20975	1.1	-384	-2157	85	94	21154
Pennsylvania	9323	-451	-1194	63	30	85997	1.5	245	-6850	370	292	86659
Puerto Rico	892	-80	892	0	1	14096	1.6	99	14096	23	83	14202
Rhode Island	615	-52	-76	4	1	5826	1.2	-356	-470	26	16	5868
South Carolina	4883	1040	2867	8	12	14827	0.7	-271	716	48	99	14974
South Dakota	144	8	-41	1	2	772	0.2	15	-138	24	1	797
Tennessee	1915	126	-271	6	4	16132	0.6	162	-2013	67	102	16301
Texas	10447	-547	-6616	43	99	109704	0.9	2626	-53858	905	1287	111896
Utah	922	112	-17	12	3	6471	0.5	-44	-324	90	18	6579
Vermont	264	-3	-28	1	0	2107	0.7	-33	-83	7	6	2120
Virgin Islands	69	15	-831	0	0	472	1.3	30	472	8	0	481
Virginia	2198	-162	-398	9	16	18292	0.5	-354	-4508	189	230	18711
Washington	4912	-147	-86	7	20	38443	1.2	-535	-4714	176	527	39146
West Virginia	639	3	24	2	3	6547	1.0	-37	-1317	40	27	6614
Wisconsin	2974	-64	-645	9	1	18734	0.7	-137	-1960	49	20	18803
Wyoming	272	38	-18	4	0	1290	0.5	12	-876	9	7	1306
Totals	165553	-12002	-38627	633	566	1397590	1	-13053	-217316	6930	7188	1411709

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 29, 2018

STATES WITH AN INCREASE OF MORE THAN 1,000

State	Change	State Supplied Comment
SC	+1,040	Layoffs due to inclement weather.

STATES WITH A DECREASE OF MORE THAN 1,000

State	Change	State Supplied Comment
NC	-4,796	Fewer layoffs in the accommodations and food service, administrative and support and waste management and remediation service, and health care and social assistance industries.
KY	-4,625	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](#)

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).

U.S. Department of Labor
Employment and Training Administration
Washington, D.C. 20210
Release Number: USDL 18-1634-NAT

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