



# News Release

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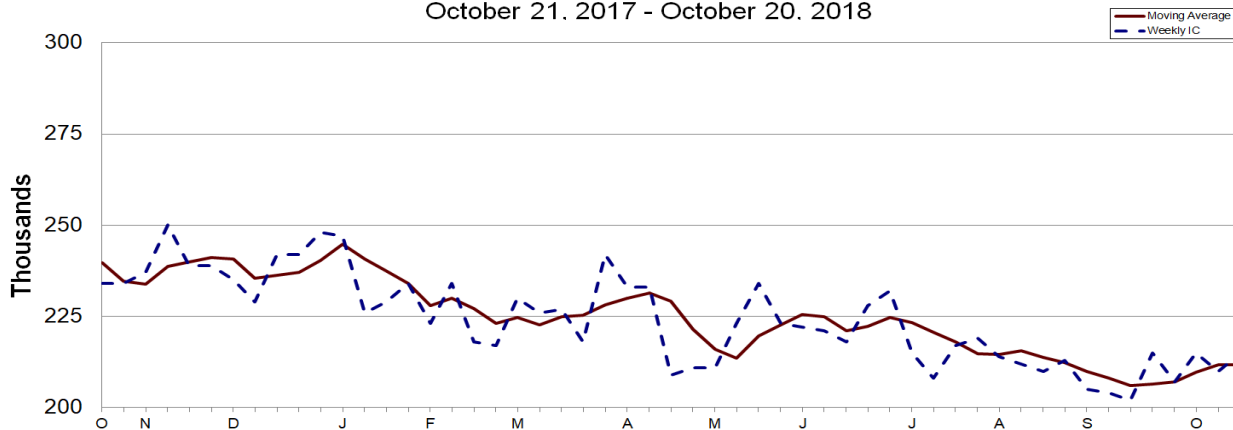
## UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE WEEKLY CLAIMS

### SEASONALLY ADJUSTED DATA

In the week ending October 20, the advance figure for seasonally adjusted **initial claims** was 215,000, an increase of 5,000 from the previous week's unrevised level of 210,000. The 4-week moving average was 211,750, unchanged from the previous week's unrevised average of 211,750.

The advance seasonally adjusted **insured unemployment rate** was 1.1 percent for the week ending October 13, 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 October 13 was 1,636,000, a decrease of 5,000 from the previous week's revised level. This is the lowest level for insured unemployment since August 4, 1973 when it was 1,633,000. The previous week's level was revised up 1,000 from 1,640,000 to 1,641,000. The 4-week moving average was 1,646,500, a decrease of 6,750 from the previous week's revised average. This is the lowest level for this average since August 11, 1973 when it was 1,627,250. The previous week's average was revised up by 250 from 1,653,000 to 1,653,250.

Seasonally Adjusted Initial Claims  
October 21, 2017 - October 20, 2018



Seasonally Adjusted Insured Unemployment

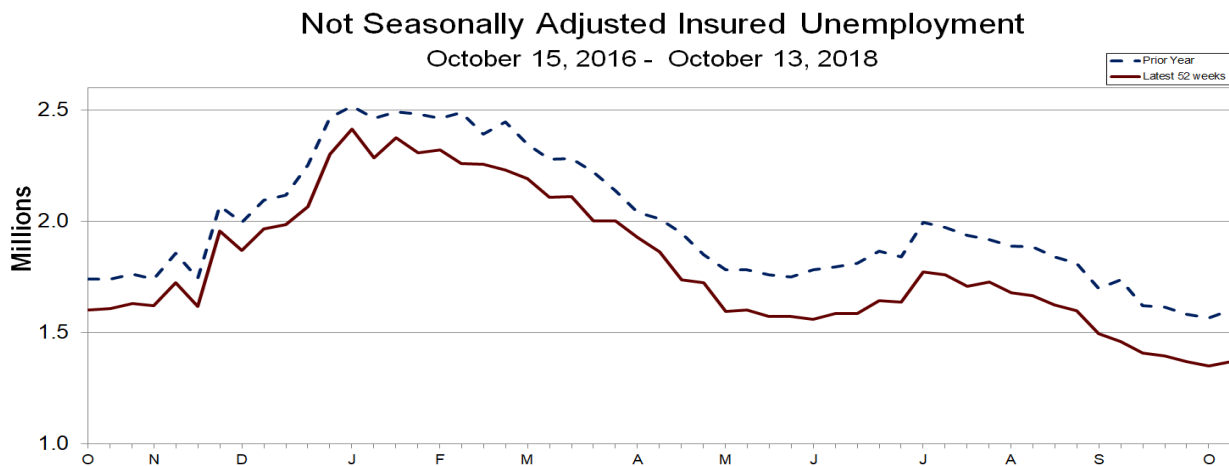
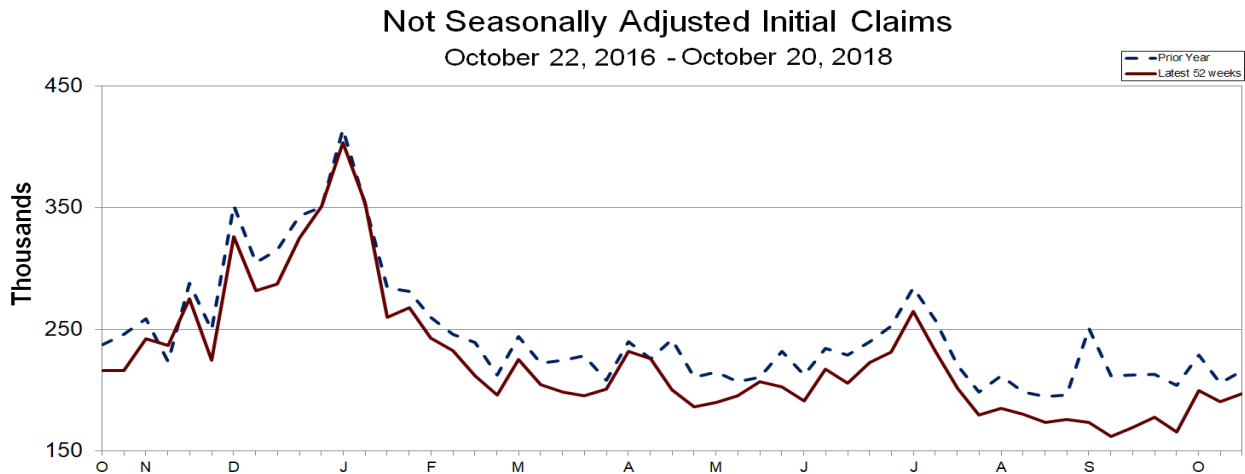
October 14, 2017 - October 13, 2018



## UNADJUSTED DATA

The advance number of actual initial claims under state programs, unadjusted, totaled 197,509 in the week ending October 20, an increase of 7,008 (or 3.7 percent) from the previous week. The seasonal factors had expected an increase of 2,310 (or 1.2 percent) from the previous week. There were 216,004 initial claims in the comparable week in 2017.

The advance unadjusted insured unemployment rate was 1.0 percent during the week ending October 13, an increase of 0.1 percentage point from the prior week. The advance unadjusted number for persons claiming UI benefits in state programs totaled 1,369,656, an increase of 18,852 (or 1.4 percent) from the preceding week. The seasonal factors had expected an increase of 22,978 (or 1.7 percent) from the previous week. A year earlier the rate was 1.1 percent and the volume was 1,603,587.



The total number of people claiming benefits in all programs for the week ending October 6 was 1,374,377, a decrease of 20,756 from the previous week. There were 1,596,193 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 October 6.

Initial claims for UI benefits filed by former Federal civilian employees totaled 890 in the week ending October 13, a decrease of 97 from the prior week. There were 620 initial claims filed by newly discharged veterans, a decrease of 139 from the preceding week.

There were 7,033 former Federal civilian employees claiming UI benefits for the week ending October 6, an increase of 139 from the previous week. Newly discharged veterans claiming benefits totaled 6,985, a decrease of 278 from the prior week.

The highest insured unemployment rates in the week ending October 6 were in Alaska (1.8), New Jersey (1.8), Puerto Rico (1.7), California (1.6), the Virgin Islands (1.6), Connecticut (1.5), Pennsylvania (1.4), and the District of Columbia (1.3).

The largest increases in initial claims for the week ending October 13 were in California (+2,597), Tennessee (+689), Wisconsin (+637), Kansas (+589), and Minnesota (+433), while the largest decreases were in Kentucky (-6,246), North Carolina (-2,944), Michigan (-2,124), Illinois (-1,078), and Georgia (-850).

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UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE DATA FOR REGULAR STATE PROGRAMS

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<b>WEEK ENDING</b>	<b>October 20</b>	<b>October 13</b>	<b>Change</b>	<b>October 6</b>	<b><u>Prior Year</u><sup>1</sup></b>
Initial Claims (SA)	215,000	210,000	+5,000	215,000	234,000
Initial Claims (NSA)	197,509	190,501	+7,008	199,876	216,004
4-Wk Moving Average (SA)	211,750	211,750	0	209,750	239,750
<b>WEEK ENDING</b>	<b>October 13</b>	<b>October 6</b>	<b>Change</b>	<b>September 29</b>	<b><u>Prior Year</u><sup>1</sup></b>
Insured Unemployment (SA)	1,636,000	1,641,000	-5,000	1,653,000	1,907,000
Insured Unemployment (NSA)	1,369,656	1,350,804	+18,852	1,370,514	1,603,587
4-Wk Moving Average (SA)	1,646,500	1,653,250	-6,750	1,654,250	1,909,250
<a href="#"><u>Insured Unemployment Rate (SA)</u><sup>2</sup></a>	1.1%	1.2%	-0.1	1.2%	1.4%
<a href="#"><u>Insured Unemployment Rate (NSA)</u><sup>2</sup></a>	1.0%	0.9%	+0.1	1.0%	1.1%

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INITIAL CLAIMS FILED IN FEDERAL PROGRAMS (UNADJUSTED)

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<b>WEEK ENDING</b>	<b>October 13</b>	<b>October 6</b>	<b>Change</b>	<b><u>Prior Year</u><sup>1</sup></b>
Federal Employees (UCFE)	890	987	-97	1,235
Newly Discharged Veterans (UCX)	620	759	-139	714

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PERSONS CLAIMING UI BENEFITS IN ALL PROGRAMS (UNADJUSTED)

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<b>WEEK ENDING</b>	<b>October 6</b>	<b>September 29</b>	<b>Change</b>	<b><u>Prior Year</u><sup>1</sup></b>
Regular State	1,349,381	1,368,742	-19,361	1,563,107
Federal Employees	7,033	6,894	+139	9,245
Newly Discharged Veterans	6,985	7,263	-278	8,750
<a href="#"><u>Extended Benefits</u><sup>3</sup></a>	0	2	-2	0
<a href="#"><u>State Additional Benefits</u><sup>4</sup></a>	5,510	5,468	+42	6,143
<a href="#"><u>STC / Workshare</u><sup>5</sup></a>	5,468	6,764	-1,296	8,948
<b><u>TOTAL</u></b>	<b>1,374,377</b>	<b>1,395,133</b>	<b>-20,756</b>	<b>1,596,193</b>

**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 142,513,638 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 20			Insured Unemployment For Week Ended October 13		
	Advance	Prior Wk	Change	Advance	Prior Wk	Change
Alabama	2,624	2,270	354	15,222	14,470	752
Alaska	1,399	1,136	263	5,802	5,618	184
Arizona	3,326	3,653	-327	21,069	23,767	-2,698
Arkansas	1,462	1,610	-148	8,420	8,873	-453
California	40,267	40,612	-345	277,213	268,204	9,009
Colorado	1,963	2,206	-243	16,549	16,284	265
Connecticut	2,465	2,238	227	26,965	25,312	1,653
Delaware	442	528	-86	3,859	3,615	244
District of Columbia	616	505	111	6,974	7,160	-186
Florida <sup>M</sup>	10,429	6,685	3,744	33,422	36,601	-3,179
Georgia <sup>M</sup>	7,918	4,478	3,440	24,303	23,341	962
Hawaii	1,841	1,348	493	6,985	6,362	623
Idaho	803	970	-167	3,539	3,652	-113
Illinois	7,587	6,981	606	75,487	70,454	5,033
Indiana	2,319	2,134	185	12,868	12,159	709
Iowa	2,459	2,090	369	11,899	11,546	353
Kansas	1,362	1,862	-500	7,687	7,069	618
Kentucky	1,614	1,753	-139	14,286	15,085	-799
Louisiana	1,825	1,893	-68	13,392	14,812	-1,420
Maine	473	431	42	3,102	3,266	-164
Maryland	2,820	2,991	-171	22,315	23,603	-1,288
Massachusetts	4,242	4,156	86	39,838	41,019	-1,181
Michigan	4,844	4,726	118	35,242	34,545	697
Minnesota	3,608	3,144	464	24,683	22,344	2,339
Mississippi	845	1,026	-181	5,722	6,307	-585
Missouri	2,889	3,013	-124	17,518	16,950	568
Montana	940	1,063	-123	4,296	3,779	517
Nebraska	632	756	-124	3,525	3,578	-53
Nevada	2,338	2,303	35	15,403	16,107	-704
New Hampshire	364	357	7	2,629	2,936	-307
New Jersey	7,982	7,245	737	74,554	71,966	2,588
New Mexico	723	719	4	7,412	7,654	-242
New York	12,719	11,998	721	105,986	104,549	1,437
North Carolina <sup>F</sup>	5,315	6,336	-1,021	20,783	21,315	-532
North Dakota	281	336	-55	1,489	1,177	312
Ohio	5,094	4,686	408	37,178	37,179	-1
Oklahoma	1,120	1,409	-289	11,306	11,466	-160
Oregon	3,746	3,169	577	21,432	21,187	245
Pennsylvania	10,298	10,253	45	81,621	81,478	143
Puerto Rico	1,302	1,742	-440	13,851	14,294	-443
Rhode Island	861	786	75	5,994	5,613	381
South Carolina <sup>F</sup>	2,261	2,490	-229	14,378	14,470	-92
South Dakota	176	228	-52	844	806	38
Tennessee	1,994	2,985	-991	15,246	15,330	-84
Texas	12,080	11,802	278	101,273	101,178	95
Utah	934	1,032	-98	6,326	6,550	-224
Vermont	382	372	10	2,264	2,031	233
Virgin Islands	20	32	-12	450	546	-96
Virginia	2,557	2,188	369	18,246	17,852	394
Washington	6,149	6,337	-188	40,973	38,845	2,128
West Virginia	782	940	-158	7,120	6,418	702
Wisconsin	3,597	3,936	-339	19,121	18,775	346
Wyoming	420	562	-142	1,595	1,307	288
US Total	197,509	190,501	7,008	1,369,656	1,350,804	18,852

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.

<sup>F</sup>Affected by Hurricane Florence.

<sup>M</sup>Affected by Hurricane Michael.

## 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	
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	1,653	-3	1,654.25	1.2
October 6, 2018	215	8	209.75	1,641	-12	1,653.25	1.2
October 13, 2018	210	-5	211.75	1,636	-5	1,646.50	1.1
October 20, 2018	215	5	211.75				

STATE NAME	INITIAL CLAIMS FILED DURING WEEK ENDED OCTOBER 13					INSURED UNEMPLOYMENT FOR WEEK ENDED OCTOBER 6					ALL PROGRAMS EXCLUDING RAILROAD RETIREMENT	
	STATE	CHANGE FROM				STATE	CHANGE FROM					
		LAST WEEK	YEAR AGO	UCFE <sup>1</sup>	UCX <sup>1</sup>		(%) <sup>2</sup>	LAST WEEK	YEAR AGO	UCFE <sup>1</sup>		UCX <sup>1</sup>
Alabama	2270	34	-68	9	9	14470	0.8	27	-1922	58	75	14603
Alaska	1136	214	-92	9	0	5618	1.8	-32	-1671	75	8	5701
Arizona	3653	-131	-169	17	0	23767	0.9	-692	-2607	88	53	23908
Arkansas	1610	-154	-191	3	2	8873	0.7	-1	-2486	41	39	8953
California	40612	2597	-365	167	120	268204	1.6	-6472	-15201	1462	1562	271228
Colorado	2206	262	302	17	16	16284	0.6	-190	-2301	89	205	16578
Connecticut	2238	81	152	4	8	25312	1.5	-719	-3602	30	69	25411
Delaware	528	15	32	2	3	3615	0.8	-41	-666	12	11	3638
District of Columbia	505	-55	187	16	0	7160	1.3	67	-1061	282	7	7449
Florida	6685	-381	-4629	24	31	36601	0.4	-985	-11772	146	140	36887
Georgia	4478	-850	-906	18	24	23341	0.5	-760	-4071	143	222	23706
Hawaii	1348	-7	184	4	7	6362	1.0	75	-899	39	69	6470
Idaho	970	79	-47	15	3	3652	0.5	147	-480	19	11	3682
Illinois	6981	-1078	-711	9	4	70454	1.2	-1766	-14446	324	232	71010
Indiana	2134	212	-386	4	7	12159	0.4	-412	-854	29	33	12221
Iowa	2090	170	160	3	2	11546	0.8	195	-1155	34	25	11605
Kansas	1862	589	213	4	0	7069	0.5	-36	-4108	31	28	7128
Kentucky	1753	-6246	-1183	6	0	15085	0.8	-551	-1308	91	109	15285
Louisiana	1893	-71	-424	4	8	14812	0.8	-258	-3638	56	14	14882
Maine	431	-26	-25	1	2	3266	0.5	0	-186	14	11	3291
Maryland	2991	114	-377	7	12	23603	0.9	-770	-6237	268	94	23965
Massachusetts	4156	-247	-515	21	10	41019	1.2	-928	-11248	75	121	41215
Michigan	4726	-2124	-1139	25	8	34545	0.8	-3403	-4285	79	66	34690
Minnesota	3144	433	-44	7	8	22344	0.8	1	-2770	43	64	22451
Mississippi	1026	205	-187	0	1	6307	0.6	-124	-2687	39	20	6366
Missouri	3013	172	-1189	53	7	16950	0.6	-553	-4546	272	56	17278
Montana	1063	158	97	46	4	3779	0.8	180	-1091	51	27	3857
Nebraska	756	-410	83	3	1	3578	0.4	509	-326	23	8	3609
Nevada	2303	229	109	9	3	16107	1.2	-532	-2544	57	52	16216
New Hampshire	357	-15	-103	0	2	2936	0.5	-31	-527	2	3	2941
New Jersey	7245	-659	-765	25	19	71966	1.8	-2101	-5223	217	231	72414
New Mexico	719	-173	-101	23	1	7654	1.0	141	-1532	149	45	7848
New York	11998	-702	-1489	33	35	104549	1.1	256	-15871	301	357	105207
North Carolina	6336	-2944	3491	11	33	21315	0.5	-51	1293	67	106	21488
North Dakota	336	104	44	0	1	1177	0.3	-42	-547	12	1	1190
Ohio	4686	-255	-1137	8	13	37179	0.7	-30	-6171	114	168	37461
Oklahoma	1409	162	13	5	4	11466	0.7	-134	-2504	53	88	11607
Oregon	3169	-532	-60	34	20	21187	1.1	421	-2126	122	82	21391
Pennsylvania	10253	328	-1099	51	35	81478	1.4	-30	-8107	400	264	82142
Puerto Rico	1742	279	-216	2	6	14294	1.7	900	-1850	32	61	14387
Rhode Island	786	92	55	7	1	5613	1.2	29	-418	24	16	5653
South Carolina	2490	-679	566	4	6	14470	0.7	-744	80	47	99	14616
South Dakota	228	69	63	4	0	806	0.2	34	-112	24	7	837
Tennessee	2985	689	28	9	12	15330	0.5	-279	-1882	43	63	15436
Texas	11802	-178	-3063	102	82	101178	0.9	-1097	-44108	861	1180	103219
Utah	1032	-17	-137	20	4	6550	0.5	80	-490	86	21	6657
Vermont	372	42	-35	2	0	2031	0.7	-72	-132	8	6	2045
Virgin Islands	32	-18	-700	1	0	546	1.6	102	-292	12	2	560
Virginia	2188	-393	-451	10	19	17852	0.5	-194	-4720	179	204	18235
Washington	6337	394	675	18	20	38845	1.2	649	-5013	198	501	39544
West Virginia	940	338	90	1	4	6418	1.0	-217	-1501	39	26	6483
Wisconsin	3936	637	235	5	3	18775	0.7	642	-2727	61	19	18855
Wyoming	562	272	133	8	0	1307	0.5	82	-801	12	4	1323
Totals	190501	-9375	-15091	890	620	1350804	0.9	-19710	-215449	7033	6985	1364822

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.

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**UNADJUSTED INITIAL CLAIMS FOR WEEK ENDED OCTOBER 13, 2018**

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**STATES WITH AN INCREASE OF MORE THAN 1,000**

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<b>State</b>	<b>Change</b>	<b>State Supplied Comment</b>
CA	+2,597	Layoffs in the agriculture, forestry, fishing and hunting industry.

**STATES WITH A DECREASE OF MORE THAN 1,000**

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<b>State</b>	<b>Change</b>	<b>State Supplied Comment</b>
KY	-6,246	No comment.
NC	-2,944	Fewer layoffs in the administrative and support and waste management and remediation service, health care and social service, and accommodation and food service industries.
MI	-2,124	Fewer layoffs in the wholesale trade industry.
IL	-1,078	No comment.

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## 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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