



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, November 1, 2018

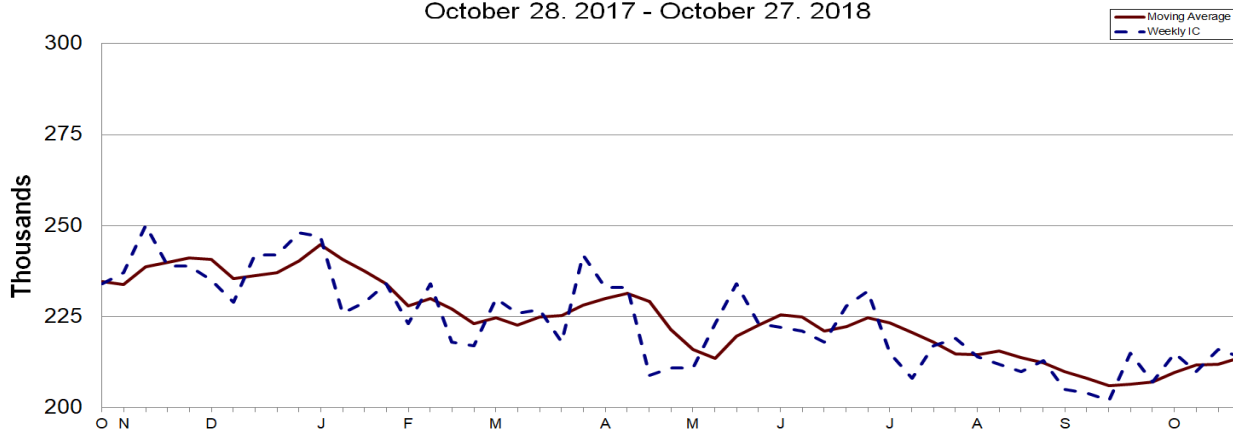
UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE WEEKLY CLAIMS

SEASONALLY ADJUSTED DATA

In the week ending October 27, the advance figure for seasonally adjusted **initial claims** was 214,000, a decrease of 2,000 from the previous week's revised level. The previous week's level was revised up by 1,000 from 215,000 to 216,000. The 4-week moving average was 213,750, an increase of 1,750 from the previous week's revised average. The previous week's average was revised up by 250 from 211,750 to 212,000.

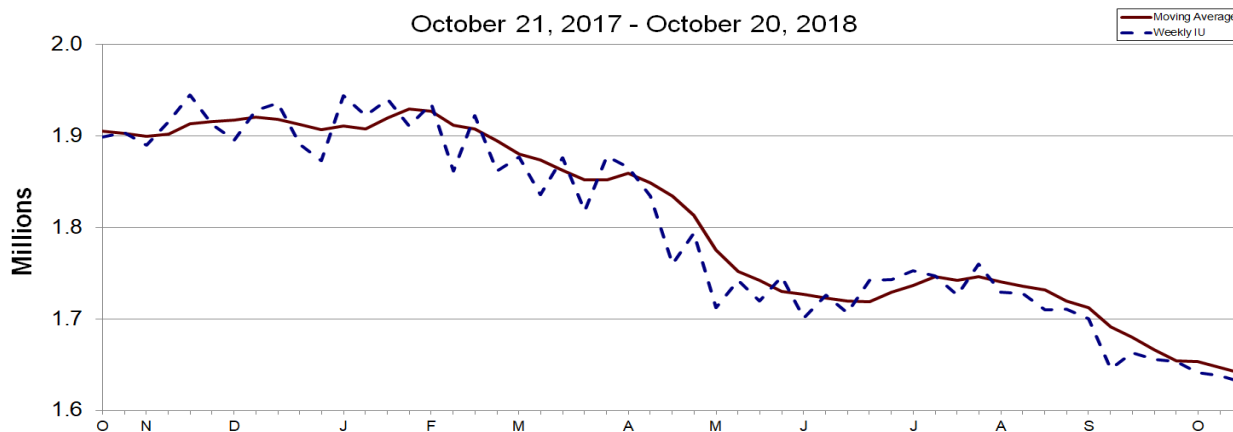
The advance seasonally adjusted **insured unemployment rate** was 1.1 percent for the week ending October 20, unchanged from the previous week's unrevised rate. The advance number for seasonally adjusted **insured unemployment** during the week ending October 20 was 1,631,000, a decrease of 7,000 from the previous week's revised level. This is the lowest level for insured unemployment since July 28, 1973 when it was 1,603,000. The previous week's level was revised up 2,000 from 1,636,000 to 1,638,000. The 4-week moving average was 1,640,750, a decrease of 6,250 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 500 from 1,646,500 to 1,647,000.

Seasonally Adjusted Initial Claims
October 28, 2017 - October 27, 2018



Seasonally Adjusted Insured Unemployment

October 21, 2017 - October 20, 2018



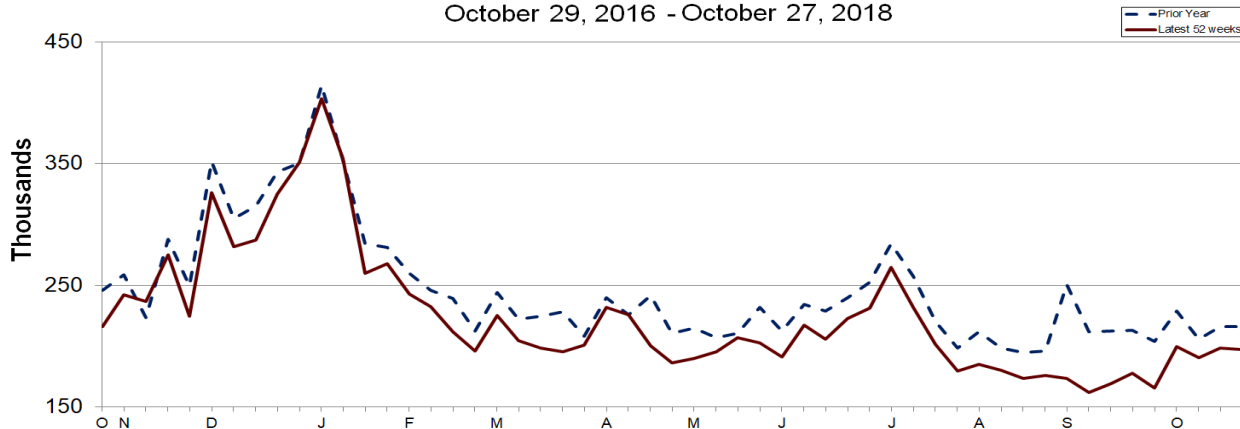
UNADJUSTED DATA

The advance number of actual initial claims under state programs, unadjusted, totaled 197,518 in the week ending October 27, a decrease of 1,215 (or -0.6 percent) from the previous week. The seasonal factors had expected an increase of 1,299 (or 0.7 percent) from the previous week. There were 215,977 initial claims in the comparable week in 2017.

The advance unadjusted insured unemployment rate was 1.0 percent during the week ending October 20, unchanged from the prior week. The advance unadjusted number for persons claiming UI benefits in state programs totaled 1,383,254, an increase of 12,502 (or 0.9 percent) from the preceding week. The seasonal factors had expected an increase of 18,015 (or 1.3 percent) from the previous week. A year earlier the rate was 1.1 percent and the volume was 1,608,736.

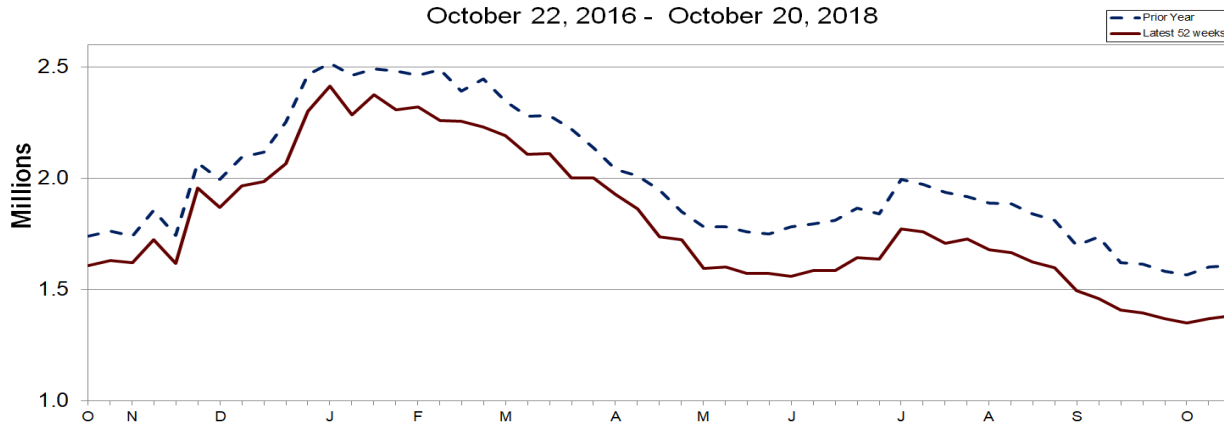
Not Seasonally Adjusted Initial Claims

October 29, 2016 - October 27, 2018



Not Seasonally Adjusted Insured Unemployment

October 22, 2016 - October 20, 2018



The total number of people claiming benefits in all programs for the week ending October 13 was 1,396,440, an increase of 22,033 from the previous week. There were 1,637,584 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 13.

Initial claims for UI benefits filed by former Federal civilian employees totaled 1,009 in the week ending October 20, an increase of 119 from the prior week. There were 623 initial claims filed by newly discharged veterans, an increase of 3 from the preceding week.

There were 7,441 former Federal civilian employees claiming UI benefits for the week ending October 13, an increase of 408 from the previous week. Newly discharged veterans claiming benefits totaled 7,237, an increase of 252 from the prior week.

The highest insured unemployment rates in the week ending October 13 were in Alaska (1.9), New Jersey (1.9), Puerto Rico (1.7), California (1.6), Connecticut (1.6), Pennsylvania (1.4), the District of Columbia (1.3), Illinois (1.3), Nevada (1.3), and the Virgin Islands (1.3).

The largest increases in initial claims for the week ending October 20 were in Florida (+3,987), Georgia (+3,668), New Jersey (+836), New York (+638), and Texas (+620), while the largest decreases were in North Carolina (-1,061), Tennessee (-900), California (-829), Kansas (-482), and Wisconsin (-352).

UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE DATA FOR REGULAR STATE PROGRAMS

WEEK ENDING	October 27	October 20	Change	October 13	<u>Prior Year</u>¹
Initial Claims (SA)	214,000	216,000	-2,000	210,000	234,000
Initial Claims (NSA)	197,518	198,733	-1,215	190,501	215,977
4-Wk Moving Average (SA)	213,750	212,000	+1,750	211,750	234,750
WEEK ENDING	October 20	October 13	Change	October 6	<u>Prior Year</u>¹
Insured Unemployment (SA)	1,631,000	1,638,000	-7,000	1,641,000	1,899,000
Insured Unemployment (NSA)	1,383,254	1,370,752	+12,502	1,350,834	1,608,736
4-Wk Moving Average (SA)	1,640,750	1,647,000	-6,250	1,653,250	1,905,750
<u>Insured Unemployment Rate (SA)</u>²	1.1%	1.1%	0.0	1.2%	1.4%
<u>Insured Unemployment Rate (NSA)</u>²	1.0%	1.0%	0.0	0.9%	1.1%

INITIAL CLAIMS FILED IN FEDERAL PROGRAMS (UNADJUSTED)

WEEK ENDING	October 20	October 13	Change	<u>Prior Year</u>¹
Federal Employees (UCFE)	1,009	890	+119	1,390
Newly Discharged Veterans (UCX)	623	620	+3	698

PERSONS CLAIMING UI BENEFITS IN ALL PROGRAMS (UNADJUSTED)

WEEK ENDING	October 13	October 6	Change	<u>Prior Year</u>¹
Regular State	1,368,459	1,349,411	+19,048	1,600,293
Federal Employees	7,441	7,033	+408	11,643
Newly Discharged Veterans	7,237	6,985	+252	8,979
<u>Extended Benefits</u>³	0	0	0	0
<u>State Additional Benefits</u>⁴	5,365	5,510	-145	6,495
<u>STC / Workshare</u>⁵	7,938	5,468	+2,470	10,174
<u>TOTAL</u>	1,396,440	1,374,407	+22,033	1,637,584

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 27			Insured Unemployment For Week Ended October 20		
	Advance	Prior Wk	Change	Advance	Prior Wk	Change
Alabama	1,720	2,782	-1,062	14,078	15,068	-990
Alaska	1,510	1,148	362	6,490	5,923	567
Arizona	3,179	3,584	-405	20,450	23,616	-3,166
Arkansas	1,436	1,602	-166	8,847	9,073	-226
California	38,606	39,783	-1,177	287,727	270,349	17,378
Colorado	1,872	1,963	-91	17,630	16,354	1,276
Connecticut	2,365	2,442	-77	26,674	25,963	711
Delaware	454	465	-11	3,895	3,672	223
District of Columbia	581	571	10	7,299	7,248	51
Florida ^M	8,728	10,672	-1,944	32,003	37,256	-5,253
Georgia ^M	5,526	8,146	-2,620	22,977	25,459	-2,482
Hawaii	1,395	1,822	-427	7,111	6,613	498
Idaho	896	909	-13	3,565	3,781	-216
Illinois	12,869	7,497	5,372	72,130	74,748	-2,618
Indiana	2,620	2,235	385	14,220	12,352	1,868
Iowa	2,127	2,213	-86	11,835	11,657	178
Kansas	1,285	1,380	-95	7,210	7,767	-557
Kentucky	1,703	1,623	80	14,356	14,321	35
Louisiana	1,768	1,989	-221	13,192	14,621	-1,429
Maine	602	529	73	3,186	3,335	-149
Maryland	2,683	2,937	-254	22,757	23,894	-1,137
Massachusetts	4,743	4,322	421	41,030	40,483	547
Michigan	6,045	4,970	1,075	33,708	36,263	-2,555
Minnesota	3,349	3,419	-70	24,145	23,901	244
Mississippi	896	991	-95	5,695	6,251	-556
Missouri	5,742	3,055	2,687	17,617	17,550	67
Montana	905	929	-24	4,660	4,166	494
Nebraska	515	633	-118	3,241	3,468	-227
Nevada	2,105	2,232	-127	15,472	16,516	-1,044
New Hampshire	401	398	3	2,625	2,946	-321
New Jersey	7,681	8,081	-400	75,268	73,634	1,634
New Mexico	853	754	99	7,461	7,584	-123
New York	12,721	12,636	85	106,809	105,514	1,295
North Carolina ^F	4,446	5,275	-829	20,568	20,616	-48
North Dakota	269	236	33	1,462	1,292	170
Ohio	5,493	5,012	481	37,403	37,127	276
Oklahoma	1,148	1,254	-106	11,493	11,675	-182
Oregon	3,422	3,756	-334	21,551	21,421	130
Pennsylvania	10,111	10,269	-158	84,191	80,458	3,733
Puerto Rico	1,017	1,569	-552	14,300	14,412	-112
Rhode Island	791	853	-62	6,033	5,793	240
South Carolina	2,077	2,382	-305	14,098	14,693	-595
South Dakota	163	202	-39	796	921	-125
Tennessee	1,891	2,085	-194	14,359	16,124	-1,765
Texas	12,145	12,422	-277	104,303	100,658	3,645
Utah	984	921	63	6,330	6,685	-355
Vermont	347	391	-44	2,270	2,133	137
Virgin Islands	12	35	-23	626	450	176
Virginia	2,472	2,369	103	18,110	17,989	121
Washington	6,086	6,107	-21	42,009	39,850	2,159
West Virginia	806	836	-30	7,251	6,617	634
Wisconsin	3,566	3,584	-18	18,977	19,076	-99
Wyoming	391	463	-72	1,761	1,416	345
US Total	197,518	198,733	-1,215	1,383,254	1,370,752	12,502

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 claims 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.

^FAffected by Hurricane Florence.

^MAffected 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 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	1,638	-3	1,647.00	1.1
October 20, 2018	216	6	212.00	1,631	-7	1,640.75	1.1
October 27, 2018	214	-2	213.75				

STATE NAME	INITIAL CLAIMS FILED DURING WEEK ENDED OCTOBER 20					INSURED UNEMPLOYMENT FOR WEEK ENDED OCTOBER 13					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	2782	512	504	14	10	15068	0.8	598	-931	56	81	15205
Alaska	1148	12	-93	12	3	5923	1.9	305	-2039	91	14	6028
Arizona	3584	-69	-500	21	2	23616	0.9	-151	-2590	115	54	23785
Arkansas	1602	-8	-159	3	2	9073	0.8	200	-2771	43	44	9160
California	39783	-829	-2088	200	114	270349	1.6	2145	-26058	1549	1542	273440
Colorado	1963	-243	-64	25	17	16354	0.6	70	-3219	107	233	16694
Connecticut	2442	204	-492	9	4	25963	1.6	651	-3670	29	78	26070
Delaware	465	-63	-99	3	1	3672	0.8	57	-723	17	9	3698
District of Columbia	571	66	134	21	1	7248	1.3	88	-960	274	7	7529
Florida	10672	3987	560	24	35	37256	0.4	655	-12749	136	150	37542
Georgia	8146	3668	1787	18	37	25459	0.6	2118	-3138	145	222	25826
Hawaii	1822	474	474	2	8	6613	1.1	221	-966	58	63	6734
Idaho	909	-61	-166	25	0	3781	0.5	129	-530	33	15	3829
Illinois	7497	516	-840	5	8	74748	1.3	4294	-12763	357	189	75294
Indiana	2235	101	-268	5	5	12352	0.4	193	-1083	34	31	12417
Iowa	2213	123	89	2	3	11657	0.8	111	-938	35	23	11715
Kansas	1380	-482	-166	2	1	7767	0.6	698	-3414	30	28	7825
Kentucky	1623	-130	-1247	3	7	14321	0.8	-764	-1461	59	106	14486
Louisiana	1989	96	-407	7	2	14621	0.8	-191	-3640	53	15	14689
Maine	529	98	-37	0	0	3335	0.6	69	-174	16	13	3364
Maryland	2937	-54	-536	15	8	23894	1.0	291	-6541	251	109	24254
Massachusetts	4322	166	-713	21	9	40483	1.2	-536	-11674	83	125	40691
Michigan	4970	244	-1279	26	9	36263	0.9	1718	-5436	102	107	36472
Minnesota	3419	275	477	9	3	23901	0.8	1557	-1219	41	56	23998
Mississippi	991	-35	-240	5	2	6251	0.6	-56	-2512	35	19	6305
Missouri	3055	42	-986	23	4	17550	0.6	600	-6536	315	48	17913
Montana	929	-134	-142	41	3	4166	0.9	387	-842	88	32	4286
Nebraska	633	-123	-20	6	3	3468	0.4	-110	-383	28	8	3504
Nevada	2232	-71	-380	15	4	16516	1.3	409	-2067	75	52	16643
New Hampshire	398	41	-93	2	0	2946	0.5	10	-521	4	1	2951
New Jersey	8081	836	-585	12	22	73634	1.9	1668	-6437	213	275	74122
New Mexico	754	35	-153	24	2	7584	1.0	-70	-1484	172	42	7798
New York	12636	638	-1962	28	26	105514	1.1	965	-17100	289	372	106175
North Carolina	5275	-1061	2412	7	33	20616	0.5	-699	-762	73	100	20789
North Dakota	236	-100	-56	1	3	1292	0.3	115	-452	11	1	1304
Ohio	5012	326	-934	13	15	37127	0.7	-52	-6753	140	169	37436
Oklahoma	1254	-155	-153	8	9	11675	0.8	209	-2201	56	85	11816
Oregon	3756	587	-216	88	11	21421	1.1	234	-1943	143	82	21646
Pennsylvania	10269	16	-2103	72	29	80458	1.4	-1020	-13711	467	299	81224
Puerto Rico	1569	-173	-1878	1	1	14412	1.7	118	-12307	47	68	14527
Rhode Island	853	67	81	3	1	5793	1.2	180	-381	23	15	5831
South Carolina	2382	-108	-268	9	12	14693	0.7	223	-2063	44	82	14819
South Dakota	202	-26	-29	6	0	921	0.2	115	-5	22	1	944
Tennessee	2085	-900	-333	12	9	16124	0.6	794	-2103	57	69	16250
Texas	12422	620	-2742	67	99	100658	0.8	-520	-28128	830	1300	102788
Utah	921	-111	-49	34	2	6685	0.5	135	-557	81	21	6787
Vermont	391	19	-81	1	0	2133	0.7	102	-161	7	6	2146
Virgin Islands	35	3	-576	0	0	450	1.3	-96	-664	6	2	458
Virginia	2369	181	-294	12	12	17989	0.5	137	-4787	187	227	18403
Washington	6107	-230	-252	34	26	39850	1.2	1005	-4485	207	499	40556
West Virginia	836	-104	-39	1	2	6617	1.0	199	-1401	35	26	6678
Wisconsin	3584	-352	-142	6	4	19076	0.7	301	-2489	61	16	19153
Wyoming	463	-99	71	6	0	1416	0.5	109	-913	11	6	1433
Totals	198733	8232	-17271	1009	623	1370752	1	19918	-232835	7441	7237	1385430

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 OCTOBER 20, 2018

STATES WITH AN INCREASE OF MORE THAN 1,000

State	Change	State Supplied Comment
FL	+3,987	Layoffs in the agriculture, forestry, fishing and hunting, construction, manufacturing, wholesale trade, retail trade, and service industries.
GA	+3,668	Layoffs in the manufacturing, administrative and support and waste management and remediation service, construction, and trade industries.

STATES WITH A DECREASE OF MORE THAN 1,000

State	Change	State Supplied Comment
NC	-1,061	Fewer layoffs in the educational services, accommodation and food service, and administrative and support and waste management and remediation 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](#)

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 18-1747-NAT

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