



# News Release

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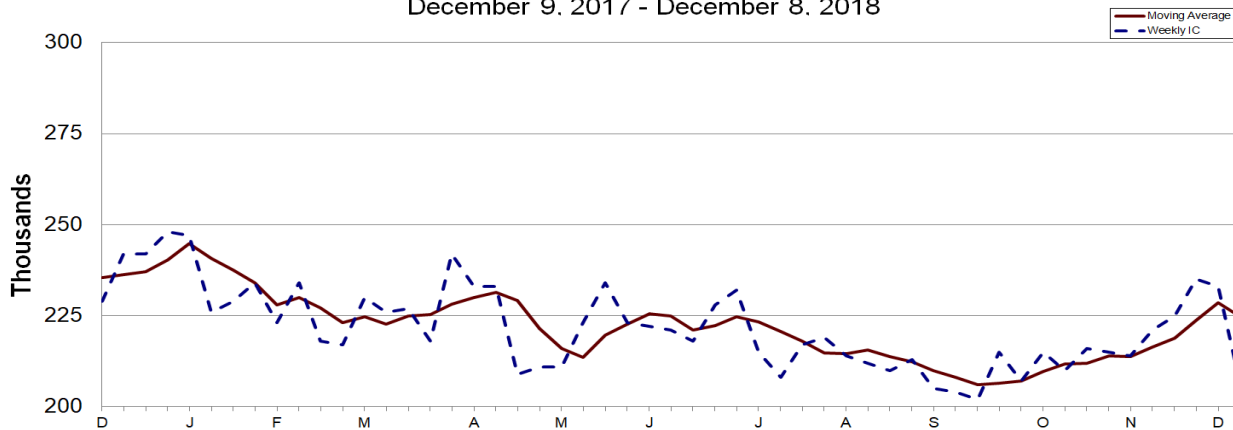
## UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE WEEKLY CLAIMS

### SEASONALLY ADJUSTED DATA

In the week ending December 8, the advance figure for seasonally adjusted **initial claims** was 206,000, a decrease of 27,000 from the previous week's revised level. The previous week's level was revised up by 2,000 from 231,000 to 233,000. The 4-week moving average was 224,750, a decrease of 3,750 from the previous week's revised average. The previous week's average was revised up by 500 from 228,000 to 228,500.

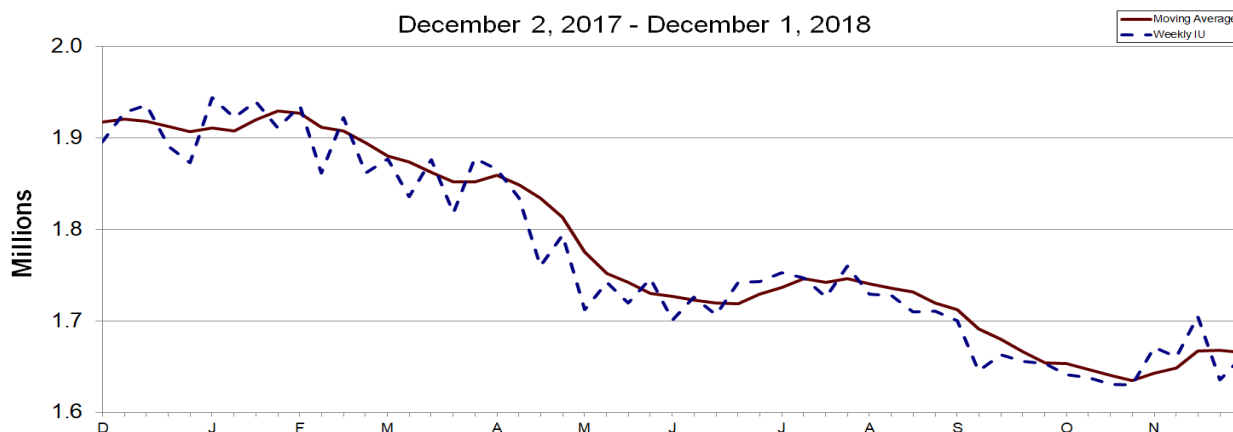
The advance seasonally adjusted **insured unemployment rate** was 1.2 percent for the week ending December 1, an increase of 0.1 percentage point from the previous week's unrevised rate. The advance number for seasonally adjusted **insured unemployment** during the week ending December 1 was 1,661,000, an increase of 25,000 from the previous week's revised level. The previous week's level was revised up 5,000 from 1,631,000 to 1,636,000. The 4-week moving average was 1,665,750, a decrease of 2,500 from the previous week's revised average. The previous week's average was revised up by 1,250 from 1,667,000 to 1,668,250.

Seasonally Adjusted Initial Claims  
December 9, 2017 - December 8, 2018



Seasonally Adjusted Insured Unemployment

December 2, 2017 - December 1, 2018



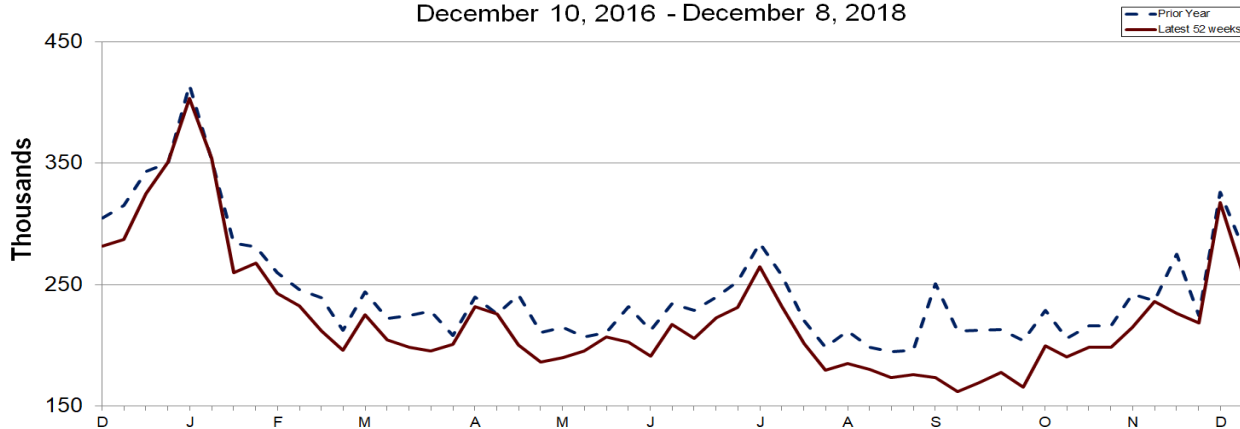
**UNADJUSTED DATA**

The advance number of actual initial claims under state programs, unadjusted, totaled 260,508 in the week ending December 8, a decrease of 57,427 (or -18.1 percent) from the previous week. The seasonal factors had expected a decrease of 23,258 (or -7.3 percent) from the previous week. There were 282,009 initial claims in the comparable week in 2017.

The advance unadjusted insured unemployment rate was 1.2 percent during the week ending December 1, unchanged from the prior week. The advance unadjusted number for persons claiming UI benefits in state programs totaled 1,649,837, a decrease of 15,644 (or -0.9 percent) from the preceding week. The seasonal factors had expected a decrease of 40,901 (or -2.5 percent) from the previous week. A year earlier the rate was 1.3 percent and the volume was 1,869,012.

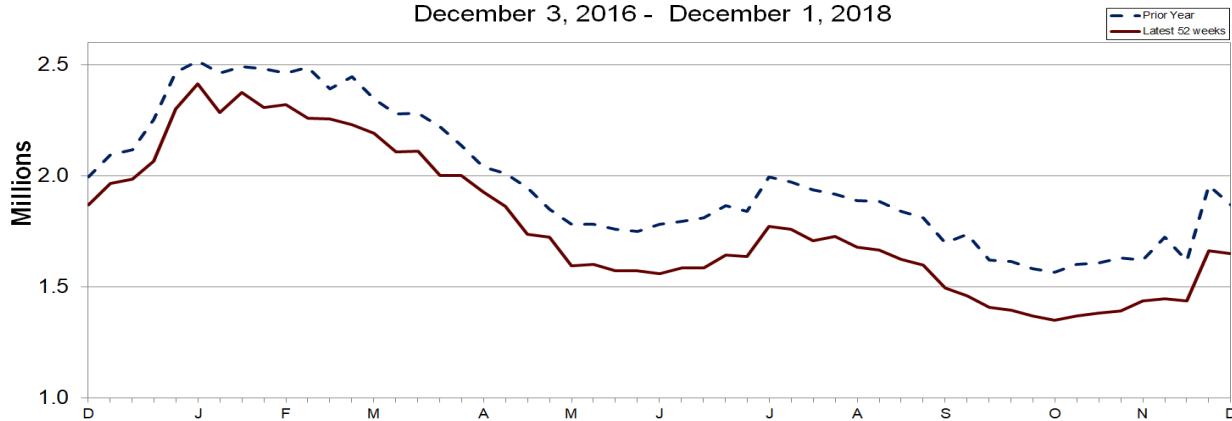
**Not Seasonally Adjusted Initial Claims**

December 10, 2016 - December 8, 2018



**Not Seasonally Adjusted Insured Unemployment**

December 3, 2016 - December 1, 2018



The total number of people claiming benefits in all programs for the week ending November 24 was 1,694,194, an increase of 231,515 from the previous week. There were 1,991,688 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 November 24.

Initial claims for UI benefits filed by former Federal civilian employees totaled 1,343 in the week ending December 1, an increase of 522 from the prior week. There were 623 initial claims filed by newly discharged veterans, an increase of 264 from the preceding week.

There were 10,345 former Federal civilian employees claiming UI benefits for the week ending November 24, an increase of 1,891 from the previous week. Newly discharged veterans claiming benefits totaled 7,148, an increase of 851 from the prior week.

The highest insured unemployment rates in the week ending November 24 were in Alaska (3.1), New Jersey (2.2), California (1.9), Puerto Rico (1.9), Connecticut (1.8), Montana (1.8), Pennsylvania (1.7), Washington (1.7), and West Virginia (1.6).

The largest increases in initial claims for the week ending December 1 were in California (+21,061), Pennsylvania (+9,937), New York (+8,652), Illinois (+7,915), and Texas (+7,382), while the largest decreases were in Oklahoma (-813), Kentucky (-764), Massachusetts (-615), Vermont (-293), and Virgin Islands (-3).

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UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE DATA FOR REGULAR STATE PROGRAMS

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<b>WEEK ENDING</b>	<b>December 8</b>	<b>December 1</b>	<b>Change</b>	<b>November 24</b>	<b><u>Prior Year</u><sup>1</sup></b>
Initial Claims (SA)	206,000	233,000	-27,000	235,000	229,000
Initial Claims (NSA)	260,508	317,935	-57,427	218,658	282,009
4-Wk Moving Average (SA)	224,750	228,500	-3,750	223,750	235,500
<b>WEEK ENDING</b>	<b>December 1</b>	<b>November 24</b>	<b>Change</b>	<b>November 17</b>	<b><u>Prior Year</u><sup>1</sup></b>
Insured Unemployment (SA)	1,661,000	1,636,000	+25,000	1,705,000	1,896,000
Insured Unemployment (NSA)	1,649,837	1,665,481	-15,644	1,437,623	1,869,012
4-Wk Moving Average (SA)	1,665,750	1,668,250	-2,500	1,666,750	1,917,500
<a href="#"><u>Insured Unemployment Rate (SA)</u></a> <sup>2</sup>	1.2%	1.1%	+0.1	1.2%	1.3%
<a href="#"><u>Insured Unemployment Rate (NSA)</u></a> <sup>2</sup>	1.2%	1.2%	0.0	1.0%	1.3%

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INITIAL CLAIMS FILED IN FEDERAL PROGRAMS (UNADJUSTED)

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<b>WEEK ENDING</b>	<b>December 1</b>	<b>November 24</b>	<b>Change</b>	<b><u>Prior Year</u><sup>1</sup></b>
Federal Employees (UCFE)	1,343	821	+522	1,622
Newly Discharged Veterans (UCX)	623	359	+264	835

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PERSONS CLAIMING UI BENEFITS IN ALL PROGRAMS (UNADJUSTED)

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<b>WEEK ENDING</b>	<b>November 24</b>	<b>November 17</b>	<b>Change</b>	<b><u>Prior Year</u><sup>1</sup></b>
Regular State	1,663,039	1,435,888	+227,151	1,948,425
Federal Employees	10,345	8,454	+1,891	15,861
Newly Discharged Veterans	7,148	6,297	+851	9,182
<a href="#"><u>Extended Benefits</u></a> <sup>3</sup>	17	3	+14	977
<a href="#"><u>State Additional Benefits</u></a> <sup>4</sup>	5,661	5,459	+202	6,800
<a href="#"><u>STC / Workshare</u></a> <sup>5</sup>	7,984	6,578	+1,406	10,443
<b><u>TOTAL</u></b>	<b>1,694,194</b>	<b>1,462,679</b>	<b>+231,515</b>	<b>1,991,688</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 December 8			Insured Unemployment For Week Ended December 1		
	Advance	Prior Wk	Change	Advance	Prior Wk	Change
Alabama	2,396	3,212	-816	14,718	15,660	-942
Alaska	1,400	1,214	186	9,356	9,594	-238
Arizona	3,294	3,585	-291	16,761	20,107	-3,346
Arkansas	1,553	2,614	-1,061	10,397	12,063	-1,666
California	48,059	55,049	-6,990	331,895	313,468	18,427
Colorado	2,739	2,272	467	19,632	18,652	980
Connecticut	3,356	4,296	-940	30,699	30,051	648
Delaware	683	890	-207	4,646	5,743	-1,097
District of Columbia	591	553	38	7,297	7,662	-365
Florida	6,641	7,126	-485	31,686	43,042	-11,356
Georgia	5,718	9,728	-4,010	22,754	29,263	-6,509
Hawaii	1,290	1,217	73	6,963	7,326	-363
Idaho	2,528	2,220	308	6,379	6,527	-148
Illinois	15,027	18,083	-3,056	90,776	89,916	860
Indiana	4,148	3,977	171	15,239	14,556	683
Iowa	5,454	6,247	-793	18,838	15,139	3,699
Kansas	2,164	2,647	-483	8,857	8,483	374
Kentucky	2,638	2,638	0	15,519	16,354	-835
Louisiana	2,120	2,594	-474	13,534	15,715	-2,181
Maine	1,170	1,595	-425	5,504	5,542	-38
Maryland	3,159	4,011	-852	25,115	26,685	-1,570
Massachusetts	7,126	6,754	372	48,658	47,830	828
Michigan	11,104	11,611	-507	45,055	47,275	-2,220
Minnesota	7,208	8,486	-1,278	47,277	43,754	3,523
Mississippi	894	1,247	-353	5,736	7,477	-1,741
Missouri	4,164	5,113	-949	19,758	20,732	-974
Montana	1,619	1,657	-38	8,139	7,996	143
Nebraska	1,583	1,316	267	4,249	3,908	341
Nevada	3,110	2,862	248	18,245	20,036	-1,791
New Hampshire	554	658	-104	3,082	3,390	-308
New Jersey	10,125	10,211	-86	84,044	85,596	-1,552
New Mexico	894	959	-65	8,474	9,032	-558
New York	15,702	24,555	-8,853	130,847	137,739	-6,892
North Carolina	3,656	3,736	-80	18,593	18,901	-308
North Dakota	1,192	1,063	129	3,823	2,744	1,079
Ohio	8,926	10,226	-1,300	51,267	47,933	3,334
Oklahoma	1,382	1,670	-288	11,983	13,552	-1,569
Oregon	4,390	7,022	-2,632	26,120	28,229	-2,109
Pennsylvania	16,193	26,797	-10,604	111,572	97,711	13,861
Puerto Rico	908	1,365	-457	12,977	16,344	-3,367
Rhode Island	1,147	1,306	-159	7,227	6,918	309
South Carolina	2,358	4,598	-2,240	15,244	16,503	-1,259
South Dakota	615	529	86	1,556	1,448	108
Tennessee	2,577	2,735	-158	14,804	16,562	-1,758
Texas	13,722	17,035	-3,313	110,554	119,851	-9,297
Utah	2,255	2,059	196	8,636	7,864	772
Vermont	618	862	-244	3,624	3,921	-297
Virgin Islands	29	3	26	632	422	210
Virginia*	2,740	3,265	-525	18,482	19,854	-1,372
Washington	7,895	9,786	-1,891	56,618	54,415	2,203
West Virginia	1,887	2,135	-248	11,525	10,387	1,138
Wisconsin	7,172	9,976	-2,804	31,860	33,540	-1,680
Wyoming	635	570	65	2,611	2,069	542
US Total	260,508	317,935	-57,427	1,649,837	1,665,481	-15,644

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.

\*Denotes state estimate.

## 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	
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	215	-1	214.00	1,630	-1	1,635.00	1.1
November 3, 2018	214	-1	213.75	1,671	41	1,642.50	1.2
November 10, 2018	221	7	216.50	1,661	-10	1,648.25	1.2
November 17, 2018	225	4	218.75	1,705	44	1,666.75	1.2
November 24, 2018	235	10	223.75	1,636	-69	1,668.25	1.1
December 1, 2018	233	-2	228.50	1,661	25	1,665.75	1.2
December 8, 2018	206	-27	224.75				

STATE NAME	INITIAL CLAIMS FILED DURING WEEK ENDED DECEMBER 1					INSURED UNEMPLOYMENT FOR WEEK ENDED NOVEMBER 24						ALL PROGRAMS EXCLUDING RAILROAD RETIREMENT
	STATE	CHANGE FROM				STATE (%) <sup>2</sup>	CHANGE FROM					
		LAST WEEK	YEAR AGO	UCFE <sup>1</sup>	UCX <sup>1</sup>		LAST WEEK	YEAR AGO	UCFE <sup>1</sup>	UCX <sup>1</sup>		
Alabama	3212	662	-1509	10	13	15660	0.8	1027	-3187	55	83	15798
Alaska	1214	92	-389	17	0	9594	3.1	835	-2420	165	14	9773
Arizona	3585	1239	-462	24	1	20107	0.7	663	-2919	192	49	20348
Arkansas	2614	240	-76	7	6	12063	1.0	1906	-2485	51	44	12158
California	55049	21061	782	344	90	313468	1.9	54563	-66845	2225	1591	317284
Colorado	2272	389	-112	21	21	18652	0.7	927	-2496	221	217	19090
Connecticut	4296	1175	-253	5	7	30051	1.8	3140	-4453	55	71	30177
Delaware	890	142	-116	1	2	5743	1.3	1635	-803	21	10	5774
District of Columbia	553	198	156	19	0	7662	1.3	363	-1098	246	7	7915
Florida	7126	2309	-898	17	26	43042	0.5	8759	-6670	186	169	43397
Georgia	9728	4666	241	20	30	29263	0.7	7273	-2742	192	226	29681
Hawaii	1217	317	-193	5	9	7326	1.2	611	-611	73	57	7456
Idaho	2220	23	32	53	0	6527	0.9	1508	-1283	180	13	6720
Illinois	18083	7915	2656	10	5	89916	1.5	185	-11128	342	170	90428
Indiana	3977	1081	617	8	4	14556	0.5	1751	42	37	31	14624
Iowa	6247	3245	1740	8	1	15139	1.0	2537	-1661	36	24	15199
Kansas	2647	1085	549	4	2	8483	0.6	934	-2219	42	23	8548
Kentucky	2638	-764	-95	7	4	16354	0.9	2464	-1527	109	90	16553
Louisiana	2594	805	41	5	6	15715	0.8	1222	-3889	47	20	15782
Maine	1595	554	457	0	0	5542	0.9	1286	46	29	11	5582
Maryland	4011	887	-627	19	7	26685	1.1	2336	-7489	233	100	27018
Massachusetts	6754	-615	-1062	12	13	47830	1.4	4422	-14669	106	106	48042
Michigan	11611	4219	-2790	30	18	47275	1.1	9263	-7326	210	75	47560
Minnesota	8486	2054	520	8	2	43754	1.5	10034	-2662	88	55	43897
Mississippi	1247	212	-237	1	5	7477	0.7	1178	-2544	31	17	7525
Missouri	5113	1925	675	21	4	20732	0.8	5071	-3698	336	45	21113
Montana	1657	17	18	91	1	7996	1.8	1584	-1551	355	22	8373
Nebraska	1316	476	247	4	0	3908	0.4	511	-1133	19	9	3936
Nevada	2862	9	-328	20	1	20036	1.5	2383	-3142	163	56	20255
New Hampshire	658	121	-6	2	0	3390	0.5	258	-481	6	2	3398
New Jersey	10211	651	-878	21	21	85596	2.2	8622	-7844	252	263	86111
New Mexico	959	89	-110	21	3	9032	1.2	866	-1671	303	42	9377
New York	24555	8652	-1430	41	26	137739	1.5	19515	-12024	309	372	138420
North Carolina	3736	1587	210	12	27	18901	0.4	2091	-1834	78	83	19062
North Dakota	1063	268	-135	2	2	2744	0.7	689	-1144	12	2	2758
Ohio	10226	2274	-180	16	14	47933	0.9	5486	-5753	145	161	48239
Oklahoma	1670	-813	42	8	7	13552	0.9	1721	-1608	73	77	13702
Oregon	7022	2137	297	110	8	28229	1.5	4455	-2257	468	86	28783
Pennsylvania	26797	9937	1998	71	45	97711	1.7	7700	-12114	487	293	98491
Puerto Rico	1365	580	-5916	1	2	16344	1.9	1870	-36298	46	77	16467
Rhode Island	1306	291	73	1	0	6918	1.5	603	-323	44	21	6983
South Carolina	4598	2778	1230	5	9	16503	0.8	2882	-2501	48	102	16653
South Dakota	529	238	13	9	2	1448	0.4	343	-351	31	5	1484
Tennessee	2735	496	-498	17	14	16562	0.6	1464	-2414	111	94	16767
Texas	17035	7382	-2564	67	118	119851	1.0	16253	-20520	916	1263	122030
Utah	2059	862	283	62	2	7864	0.6	484	-1011	150	18	8032
Vermont	862	-293	-17	2	0	3921	1.3	1144	-127	9	2	3932
Virgin Islands	3	-3	-82	0	0	422	1.2	-2	-4212	2	0	441
Virginia	3265	1246	-239	13	13	19854	0.5	2299	-4662	189	220	20263
Washington	9786	1899	340	36	23	54415	1.7	6401	-3537	414	517	55346
West Virginia	2135	1234	-55	5	2	10387	1.6	2619	-1601	45	17	10449
Wisconsin	9976	1840	-118	16	5	33540	1.2	9573	-3134	101	20	33661
Wyoming	570	206	41	14	2	2069	0.8	151	-1673	61	6	2136
Totals	317935	99277	-8117	1343	623	1665481	1.2	227858	-291656	10345	7148	1682991

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 DECEMBER 1, 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	+21,061	No comment.
PA	+9,937	Layoffs in the transportation and warehousing and construction industries.
NY	+8,652	Layoffs in the transportation and warehousing, accommodation and food service, and construction industries.
IL	+7,915	Layoffs in the construction, administrative and support and waste management and remediation, and manufacturing industries.
TX	+7,382	Layoffs in the retail trade, transportation and warehousing, manufacturing, and information industries.
GA	+4,666	Layoffs in the manufacturing, administrative and support and waste management and remediation service, and trade industries.
MI	+4,219	Layoffs in the construction industry.
IA	+3,245	Layoffs in the manufacturing industry.
SC	+2,778	No comment.
FL	+2,309	Layoffs in the agriculture, forestry, fishing and hunting, construction, manufacturing, wholesale trade, retail trade, and service industries.
OH	+2,274	Layoffs in the manufacturing industry.
OR	+2,137	No comment.
MN	+2,054	Layoffs in the construction industry.
MO	+1,925	Layoffs in the construction, manufacturing, and health care and social assistance industries.
WA	+1,899	Layoffs in the construction, manufacturing, retail trade, information, and arts, entrainment, and recreation industries.
WI	+1,840	Layoffs in the construction and transportation and warehousing industries.
NC	+1,587	Layoffs in the administrative and support and waste management and remediation service, accommodation and food service, and professional, scientific, and technical service industries.
VA	+1,246	Layoffs in the construction industry.
AZ	+1,239	No comment.
WV	+1,234	No comment.
CT	+1,175	No comment.
KS	+1,085	No comment.
IN	+1,081	Layoffs in the manufacturing 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>
None		

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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](#)

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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