



News Release

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UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE WEEKLY CLAIMS

SEASONALLY ADJUSTED DATA

In the week ending January 5, the advance figure for seasonally adjusted **initial claims** was 216,000, a decrease of 17,000 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 221,750, an increase of 2,500 from the previous week's revised average. The previous week's average was revised up by 500 from 218,750 to 219,250.

The advance seasonally adjusted **insured unemployment rate** was 1.2 percent for the week ending December 29, unchanged from the previous week's unrevised rate. The advance number for seasonally adjusted **insured unemployment** during the week ending December 29 was 1,722,000, a decrease of 28,000 from the previous week's revised level. The previous week's level was revised up 10,000 from 1,740,000 to 1,750,000. The 4-week moving average was 1,721,250, an increase of 15,250 from the previous week's revised average. The previous week's average was revised up by 2,500 from 1,703,500 to 1,706,000.

Seasonally Adjusted Initial Claims
January 6, 2018 - January 5, 2019



Seasonally Adjusted Insured Unemployment

December 30, 2017 - December 29, 2018



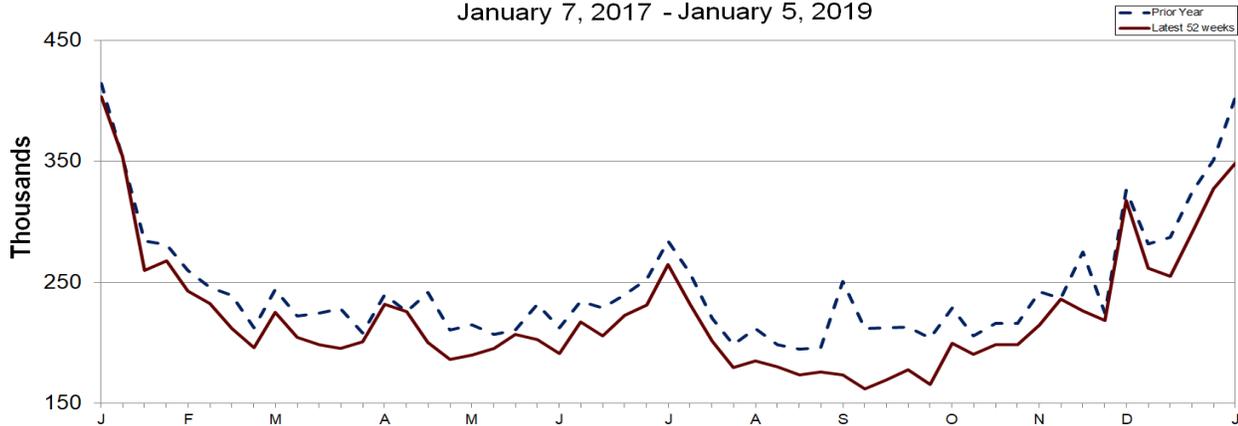
UNADJUSTED DATA

The advance number of actual initial claims under state programs, unadjusted, totaled 348,709 in the week ending January 5, an increase of 21,208 (or 6.5 percent) from the previous week. The seasonal factors had expected an increase of 48,717 (or 14.9 percent) from the previous week. There were 403,619 initial claims in the comparable week in 2018.

The advance unadjusted insured unemployment rate was 1.5 percent during the week ending December 29, an increase of 0.2 percentage point from the prior week. The advance unadjusted number for persons claiming UI benefits in state programs totaled 2,079,861, an increase of 281,123 (or 15.6 percent) from the preceding week. The seasonal factors had expected an increase of 314,954 (or 17.5 percent) from the previous week. A year earlier the rate was 1.6 percent and the volume was 2,301,682.

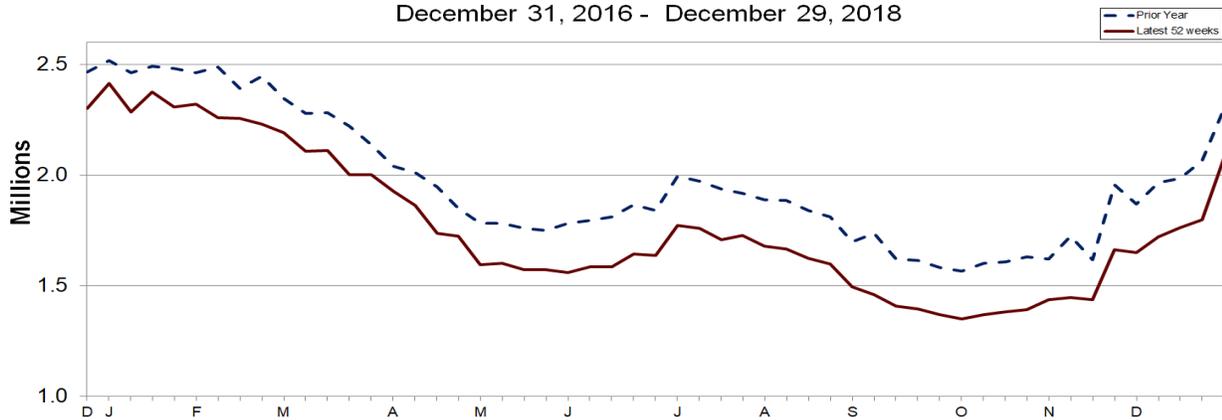
Not Seasonally Adjusted Initial Claims

January 7, 2017 - January 5, 2019



Not Seasonally Adjusted Insured Unemployment

December 31, 2016 - December 29, 2018



The total number of people claiming benefits in all programs for the week ending December 22 was 1,827,272, an increase of 33,384 from the previous week. There were 2,104,344 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 December 22.

Initial claims for UI benefits filed by former Federal civilian employees totaled 4,760 in the week ending December 29, an increase of 3,831 from the prior week. There were 327 initial claims filed by newly discharged veterans, a decrease of 167 from the preceding week.

There were 11,375 former Federal civilian employees claiming UI benefits for the week ending December 22, an increase of 840 from the previous week. Newly discharged veterans claiming benefits totaled 6,525, a decrease of 322 from the prior week.

The highest insured unemployment rates in the week ending December 22 were in Alaska (3.3), Connecticut (2.2), New Jersey (2.2), Montana (2.0), Illinois (1.9), Massachusetts (1.9), Minnesota (1.9), Pennsylvania (1.9), California (1.8), Puerto Rico (1.8), Rhode Island (1.8), and Washington (1.8).

The largest increases in initial claims for the week ending December 29 were in Michigan (+7,997), New Jersey (+7,845), Pennsylvania (+7,367), Connecticut (+5,472), and Ohio (+4,835), while the largest decreases were in California (-10,107), Texas (-4,804), North Carolina (-1,667), Florida (-1,315), and Arizona (-970).

UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE DATA FOR REGULAR STATE PROGRAMS

WEEK ENDING	January 5	December 29	Change	December 22	<u>Prior Year</u>¹
Initial Claims (SA)	216,000	233,000	-17,000	221,000	247,000
Initial Claims (NSA)	348,709	327,501	+21,208	291,625	403,619
4-Wk Moving Average (SA)	221,750	219,250	+2,500	219,250	244,750
WEEK ENDING	December 29	December 22	Change	December 15	<u>Prior Year</u>¹
Insured Unemployment (SA)	1,722,000	1,750,000	-28,000	1,708,000	1,873,000
Insured Unemployment (NSA)	2,079,861	1,798,738	+281,123	1,764,877	2,301,682
4-Wk Moving Average (SA)	1,721,250	1,706,000	+15,250	1,677,500	1,907,000
<u>Insured Unemployment Rate (SA)</u>²	1.2%	1.2%	0.0	1.2%	1.3%
<u>Insured Unemployment Rate (NSA)</u>²	1.5%	1.3%	+0.2	1.2%	1.6%

INITIAL CLAIMS FILED IN FEDERAL PROGRAMS (UNADJUSTED)

WEEK ENDING	December 29	December 22	Change	<u>Prior Year</u>¹
Federal Employees (UCFE)	4,760	929	+3,831	819
Newly Discharged Veterans (UCX)	327	494	-167	505

PERSONS CLAIMING UI BENEFITS IN ALL PROGRAMS (UNADJUSTED)

WEEK ENDING	December 22	December 15	Change	<u>Prior Year</u>¹
Regular State	1,796,664	1,762,164	+34,500	2,064,203
Federal Employees	11,375	10,535	+840	16,380
Newly Discharged Veterans	6,525	6,847	-322	8,467
<u>Extended Benefits</u>³	0	0	0	1,280
<u>State Additional Benefits</u>⁴	5,127	5,715	-588	6,046
<u>STC / Workshare</u>⁵	7,581	8,627	-1,046	7,968
<u>TOTAL</u>	1,827,272	1,793,888	+33,384	2,104,344

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 January 5			Insured Unemployment For Week Ended December 29		
	Advance	Prior Wk	Change	Advance	Prior Wk	Change
Alabama	6,442	3,657	2,785	21,763	16,782	4,981
Alaska	1,336	1,099	237	10,408	9,972	436
Arizona	2,957	2,254	703	16,905	18,772	-1,867
Arkansas	2,861	3,013	-152	9,939	11,417	-1,478
California	40,099	38,362	1,737	356,400	310,725	45,675
Colorado	2,760	2,014	746	22,377	18,847	3,530
Connecticut	8,682	11,044	-2,362	47,440	36,344	11,096
Delaware	969	1,290	-321	6,802	4,666	2,136
District of Columbia	1,244	609	635	7,866	7,759	107
Florida	6,265	5,216	1,049	31,154	38,469	-7,315
Georgia	17,422	7,002	10,420	37,273	26,538	10,735
Hawaii	1,913	1,240	673	5,440	6,720	-1,280
Idaho	2,219	2,785	-566	11,189	9,466	1,723
Illinois	11,910	14,710	-2,800	118,783	113,827	4,956
Indiana	4,807	4,232	575	20,203	18,729	1,474
Iowa	4,704	7,875	-3,171	32,032	24,349	7,683
Kansas	2,225	2,779	-554	11,740	9,198	2,542
Kentucky	7,416	7,419	-3	17,222	17,438	-216
Louisiana	1,701	1,509	192	13,138	16,234	-3,096
Maine	1,787	1,021	766	7,515	6,716	799
Maryland	4,340	6,556	-2,216	32,216	28,396	3,820
Massachusetts	10,089	13,681	-3,592	78,047	66,963	11,084
Michigan	15,152	20,210	-5,058	68,726	63,302	5,424
Minnesota	8,334	6,338	1,996	69,434	53,348	16,086
Mississippi	1,039	1,301	-262	7,469	7,770	-301
Missouri	6,703	6,286	417	29,749	23,846	5,903
Montana	1,588	1,571	17	11,216	8,799	2,417
Nebraska	1,273	2,211	-938	7,427	5,773	1,654
Nevada	2,559	2,594	-35	20,145	20,662	-517
New Hampshire	727	1,081	-354	4,405	3,885	520
New Jersey	15,600	23,732	-8,132	111,113	87,417	23,696
New Mexico	1,093	1,109	-16	9,703	9,070	633
New York	45,214	18,768	26,446	181,218	141,625	39,593
North Carolina	3,832	2,041	1,791	18,954	19,287	-333
North Dakota	1,052	855	197	6,509	4,685	1,824
Ohio	10,046	15,685	-5,639	72,551	60,072	12,479
Oklahoma	2,451	1,899	552	13,767	12,975	792
Oregon	6,662	6,709	-47	35,233	29,315	5,918
Pennsylvania	27,713	26,201	1,512	130,409	110,745	19,664
Puerto Rico*	952	1,368	-416	13,044	15,179	-2,135
Rhode Island	2,327	3,556	-1,229	11,892	8,388	3,504
South Carolina	5,965	2,634	3,331	19,036	15,904	3,132
South Dakota	318	431	-113	2,669	2,418	251
Tennessee	3,500	4,607	-1,107	19,520	18,433	1,087
Texas	12,747	9,090	3,657	122,981	112,980	10,001
Utah	1,848	1,292	556	11,156	10,468	688
Vermont	682	1,503	-821	6,061	4,405	1,656
Virgin Islands	14	8	6	506	392	114
Virginia	3,728	3,466	262	23,565	20,372	3,193
Washington	10,481	9,445	1,036	68,883	59,570	9,313
West Virginia	1,317	1,206	111	13,601	10,081	3,520
Wisconsin	9,147	10,494	-1,347	49,670	36,839	12,831
Wyoming	497	443	54	3,397	2,406	991
US Total	348,709	327,501	21,208	2,079,861	1,798,738	281,123

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	Initial Claims	Change from		Insured Unemployment	Change from		IUR
		Prior Week	4-Week Average		Prior Week	4-Week Average	
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	1,705	44	1,676.75	1.2
December 15, 2018	217	11	222.75	1,708	3	1,677.50	1.2
December 22, 2018	221	4	219.25	1,750	42	1,706.00	1.2
December 29, 2018	233	12	219.25	1,722	-28	1,721.25	1.2
January 5, 2019	216	-17	221.75				

STATE NAME	INITIAL CLAIMS FILED DURING WEEK ENDED DECEMBER 29					INSURED UNEMPLOYMENT FOR WEEK ENDED DECEMBER 22					ALL PROGRAMS EXCLUDING RAILROAD RETIREMENT	
	STATE	CHANGE FROM				STATE	(%) ²	CHANGE FROM				
		LAST WEEK	YEAR AGO	UCFE ¹	UCX ¹			LAST WEEK	YEAR AGO	UCFE ¹		UCX ¹
Alabama	3657	480	-595	16	4	16782	0.9	1249	-3060	55	74	16911
Alaska	1099	-12	-98	10	0	9972	3.3	-40	-2660	197	14	10183
Arizona	2254	-970	-533	20	0	18772	0.7	-346	-2934	229	45	19046
Arkansas	3013	11	-326	4	1	11417	1.0	284	-4178	60	45	11522
California	38362	-10107	2999	667	54	310725	1.8	-25286	-37512	2537	1485	314747
Colorado	2014	-416	-228	153	15	18847	0.7	-1316	-2480	243	224	19314
Connecticut	11044	5472	6138	15	4	36344	2.2	4702	-3184	52	70	36466
Delaware	1290	452	-196	1	1	4666	1.1	-145	-1212	16	7	4689
District of Columbia	609	24	329	339	0	7759	1.4	131	-1115	261	6	8026
Florida	5216	-1315	-227	102	19	38469	0.5	1134	-5405	149	116	38734
Georgia	7002	904	-557	100	16	26538	0.6	1392	-3908	163	179	26880
Hawaii	1240	-13	-93	19	7	6720	1.1	94	-567	60	54	6834
Idaho	2785	467	-159	105	0	9466	1.4	590	-909	244	13	9723
Illinois	14710	74	-2538	8	2	113827	1.9	10305	-10636	384	181	114392
Indiana	4232	-221	-306	56	1	18729	0.6	1589	342	39	27	18795
Iowa	7875	2531	-245	42	3	24349	1.6	2173	-1782	46	24	24419
Kansas	2779	491	-1174	2	1	9198	0.7	142	-2313	41	30	9269
Kentucky	7419	3643	277	37	1	17438	0.9	1147	-4386	100	81	17619
Louisiana	1509	-675	-179	17	1	16234	0.9	108	-3283	40	22	16296
Maine	1021	-182	-296	1	0	6716	1.1	192	-253	30	12	6758
Maryland	6556	1765	-1095	275	9	28396	1.1	1227	-6987	238	104	28738
Massachusetts	13681	3160	-1279	136	8	66963	1.9	4146	-9602	130	100	67193
Michigan	20210	7997	-2795	41	11	63302	1.5	6288	-12082	223	64	63589
Minnesota	6338	461	-889	25	1	53348	1.9	2246	-4854	111	60	53519
Mississippi	1301	-148	-134	1	1	7770	0.7	363	-2758	24	16	7810
Missouri	6286	-693	-4348	29	1	23846	0.9	2400	-5924	301	40	24187
Montana	1571	6	-54	181	1	8799	2.0	131	-1361	546	18	9363
Nebraska	2211	978	-581	25	0	5773	0.6	260	-593	26	5	5804
Nevada	2594	-168	-393	18	0	20662	1.6	-8	-3625	190	63	20915
New Hampshire	1081	380	-179	12	1	3885	0.6	179	-355	5	2	3892
New Jersey	23732	7845	-679	55	9	87417	2.2	869	-8920	245	229	87891
New Mexico	1109	-27	159	12	0	9070	1.2	-11	-1705	299	38	9407
New York	18768	2132	-3702	110	12	141625	1.5	5932	-16315	320	333	142278
North Carolina	2041	-1667	256	35	10	19287	0.5	-1620	-1554	102	95	19484
North Dakota	855	-137	-260	22	1	4685	1.2	337	-1450	23	3	4711
Ohio	15685	4835	-1833	90	14	60072	1.1	3651	-9017	128	158	60358
Oklahoma	1899	143	424	44	2	12975	0.8	268	-2807	65	74	13114
Oregon	6709	979	355	222	3	29315	1.6	1615	-1772	617	78	30010
Pennsylvania	26201	7367	-2708	455	26	110745	1.9	2882	-17089	492	272	111509
Puerto Rico	1368	28	-970	4	2	15179	1.8	-167	-23345	52	52	15283
Rhode Island	3556	1692	-22	6	2	8388	1.8	496	-631	37	17	8442
South Carolina	2634	-735	-1588	4	4	15904	0.8	-75	-2957	44	98	16046
South Dakota	431	1	-49	24	0	2418	0.6	149	-303	45	1	2464
Tennessee	4607	487	1176	49	6	18433	0.6	1177	-2880	108	48	18589
Texas	9090	-4804	-829	420	46	112980	1.0	-251	-20098	821	1068	114869
Utah	1292	-336	-217	612	0	10468	0.7	207	-468	263	23	10754
Vermont	1503	388	-67	14	1	4405	1.5	594	-159	12	1	4418
Virgin Islands	8	-7	-20	0	0	392	1.1	-210	-2328	0	4	396
Virginia	3466	-440	-747	16	7	20372	0.6	112	-4502	212	213	20797
Washington	9445	611	166	63	13	59570	1.8	1620	-2443	512	494	60576
West Virginia	1206	-244	37	3	4	10081	1.5	55	-1726	53	16	10150
Wisconsin	10494	3495	-2899	30	2	36839	1.3	921	-4228	104	24	36967
Wyoming	443	-106	-228	13	0	2406	0.9	-21	-1430	81	5	2492
Totals	327501	35876	-23999	4760	327	1798738	1.3	33861	-267703	11375	6525	1816638

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 DECEMBER 29, 2018

STATES WITH AN INCREASE OF MORE THAN 1,000

State	Change	State Supplied Comment
MI	+7,997	Layoffs in the manufacturing industry.
NJ	+7,845	Layoffs in the transportation and warehousing, accommodation and food service, educational service, public administration, manufacturing, construction industries.
PA	+7,367	Layoffs in the transportation and warehousing and construction industries.
CT	+5,472	Layoffs in the educational service, manufacturing, construction, and retail industries.
OH	+4,835	Layoffs in the manufacturing industry.
KY	+3,643	No comment.
WI	+3,495	Layoffs in the construction, transportation and warehousing, and manufacturing industries.
MA	+3,160	Layoffs in the transportation and warehousing, accommodation and food service, and construction industries.
IA	+2,531	Layoffs in the manufacturing and construction industries.
NY	+2,132	Layoffs in the accommodation and food service, transportation and warehousing, and construction industries.
MD	+1,765	No comment.
RI	+1,692	Layoffs in the construction, and manufacturing industries.

STATES WITH A DECREASE OF MORE THAN 1,000

State	Change	State Supplied Comment
CA	-10,107	Fewer layoffs in the services industry.
TX	-4,804	No comment.
NC	-1,667	Fewer layoffs in the administrative and support and waste management and remediation service, accommodation and food service, and professional, scientific, and technical service industries.
FL	-1,315	Fewer layoffs in agriculture, forestry, fishing and hunting, retail trade, construction, manufacturing, wholesale trade, retail trade, and 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](#)

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