



# News Release

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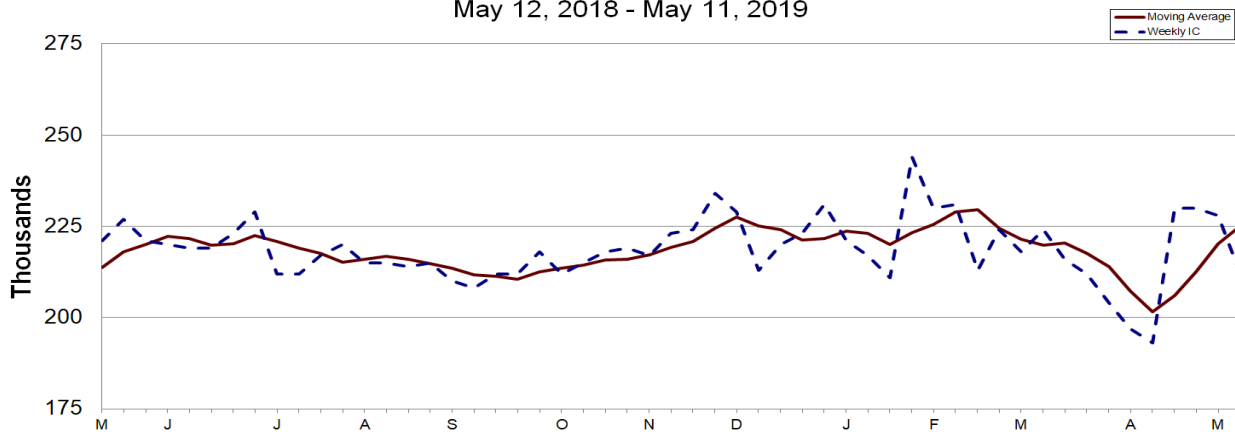
## UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE WEEKLY CLAIMS

### SEASONALLY ADJUSTED DATA

In the week ending May 11, the advance figure for seasonally adjusted **initial claims** was 212,000, a decrease of 16,000 from the previous week's unrevised level of 228,000. The 4-week moving average was 225,000, an increase of 4,750 from the previous week's unrevised average of 220,250.

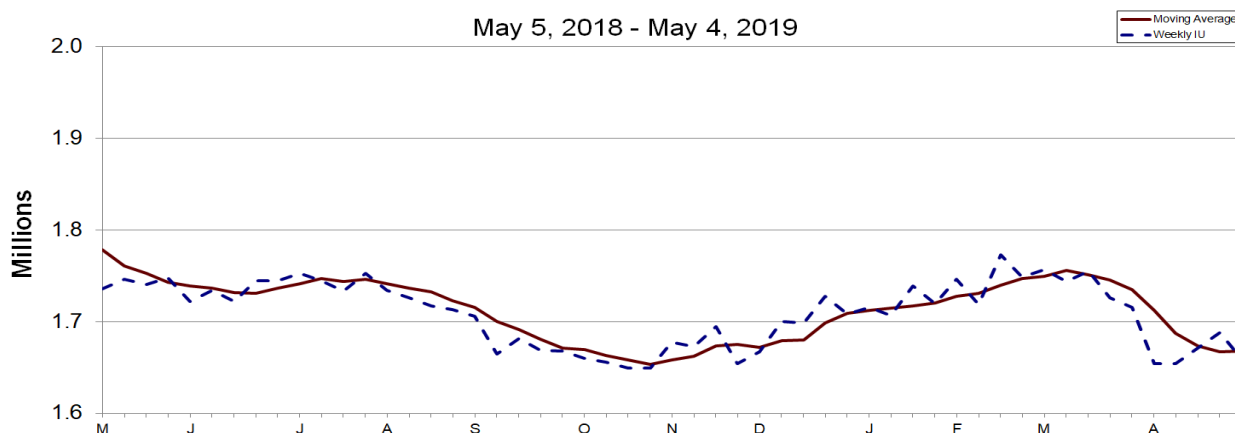
The advance seasonally adjusted **insured unemployment rate** was 1.2 percent for the week ending May 4, unchanged from the previous week's unrevised rate. The advance number for seasonally adjusted **insured unemployment** during the week ending May 4 was 1,660,000, a decrease of 28,000 from the previous week's revised level. The previous week's level was revised up 4,000 from 1,684,000 to 1,688,000. The 4-week moving average was 1,668,250, an increase of 1,500 from the previous week's revised average. The previous week's average was revised up by 1,000 from 1,665,750 to 1,666,750.

Seasonally Adjusted Initial Claims  
May 12, 2018 - May 11, 2019



Seasonally Adjusted Insured Unemployment

May 5, 2018 - May 4, 2019



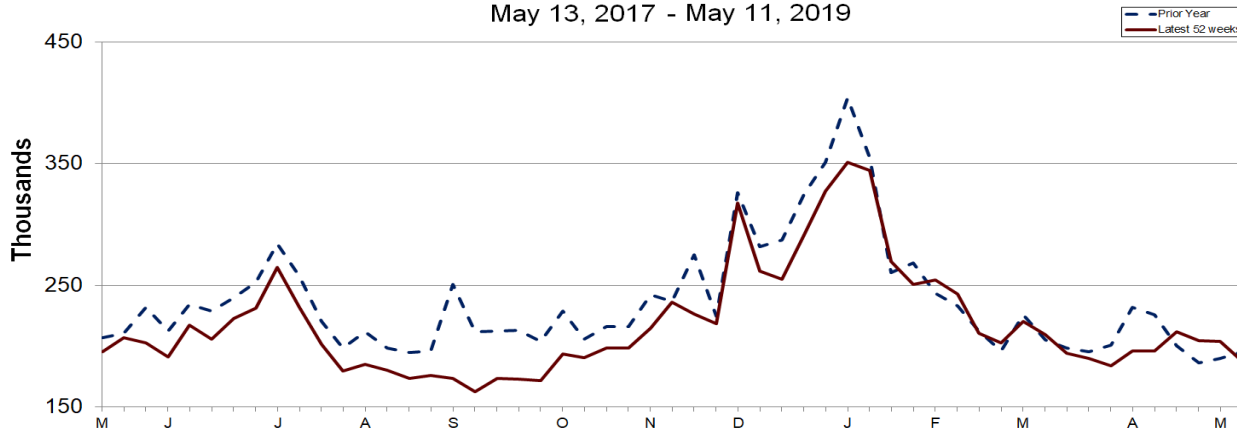
**UNADJUSTED DATA**

The advance number of actual initial claims under state programs, unadjusted, totaled 187,689 in the week ending May 11, a decrease of 16,344 (or -8.0 percent) from the previous week. The seasonal factors had expected a decrease of 1,599 (or -0.8 percent) from the previous week. There were 195,214 initial claims in the comparable week in 2018.

The advance unadjusted insured unemployment rate was 1.1 percent during the week ending May 4, unchanged from the prior week. The advance unadjusted number for persons claiming UI benefits in state programs totaled 1,535,909, a decrease of 97,598 (or -6.0 percent) from the preceding week. The seasonal factors had expected a decrease of 72,563 (or -4.4 percent) from the previous week. A year earlier the rate was 1.1 percent and the volume was 1,595,249.

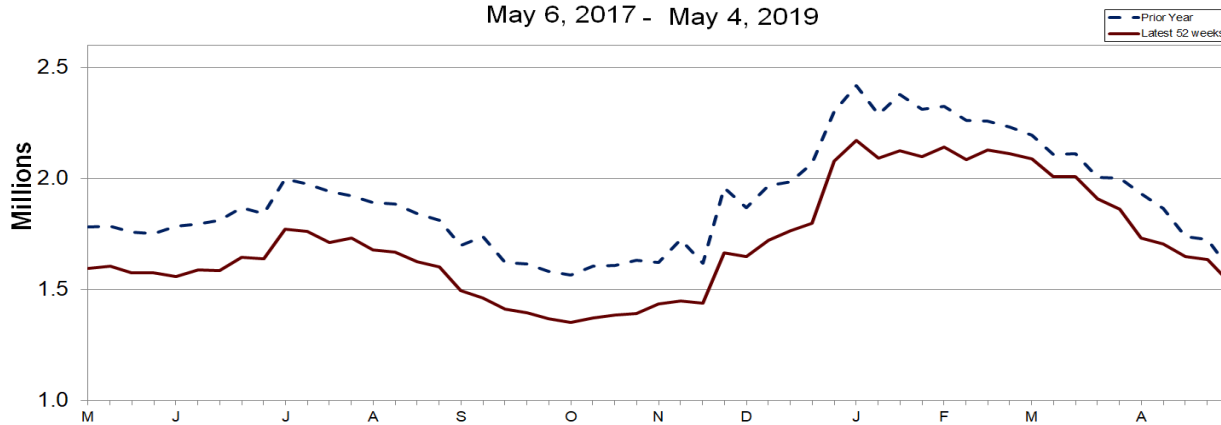
**Not Seasonally Adjusted Initial Claims**

May 13, 2017 - May 11, 2019



**Not Seasonally Adjusted Insured Unemployment**

May 6, 2017 - May 4, 2019



The total number of people claiming benefits in all programs for the week ending April 27 was 1,660,200, a decrease of 13,540 from the previous week. There were 1,753,877 persons claiming benefits in all programs in the comparable week in 2018.

No state was triggered "on" the Extended Benefits program during the week ending April 27.

Initial claims for UI benefits filed by former Federal civilian employees totaled 541 in the week ending May 4, an increase of 22 from the prior week. There were 553 initial claims filed by newly discharged veterans, an increase of 66 from the preceding week.

There were 8,480 former Federal civilian employees claiming UI benefits for the week ending April 27, an increase of 202 from the previous week. Newly discharged veterans claiming benefits totaled 5,698, a decrease of 76 from the prior week.

The highest insured unemployment rates in the week ending April 27 were in Alaska (2.5), New Jersey (2.2), California (2.0), Connecticut (1.9), Pennsylvania (1.7), Puerto Rico (1.7), Illinois (1.6), Massachusetts (1.6), Rhode Island (1.6), New York (1.5), and Washington (1.5).

The largest increases in initial claims for the week ending May 4 were in New York (+9,365), Illinois (+2,010), Missouri (+791), Kansas (+754), and Iowa (+676), while the largest decreases were in New Jersey (-6,239), Connecticut (-3,208), California (-1,920), Arizona (-668), and Wisconsin (-661).

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UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE DATA FOR REGULAR STATE PROGRAMS

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<b>WEEK ENDING</b>	<b>May 11</b>	<b>May 4</b>	<b>Change</b>	<b>April 27</b>	<b><u>Prior Year</u><sup>1</sup></b>
Initial Claims (SA)	212,000	228,000	-16,000	230,000	221,000
Initial Claims (NSA)	187,689	204,033	-16,344	204,787	195,214
4-Wk Moving Average (SA)	225,000	220,250	+4,750	212,500	213,750
<b>WEEK ENDING</b>	<b>May 4</b>	<b>April 27</b>	<b>Change</b>	<b>April 20</b>	<b><u>Prior Year</u><sup>1</sup></b>
Insured Unemployment (SA)	1,660,000	1,688,000	-28,000	1,671,000	1,736,000
Insured Unemployment (NSA)	1,535,909	1,633,507	-97,598	1,647,895	1,595,249
4-Wk Moving Average (SA)	1,668,250	1,666,750	+1,500	1,673,750	1,778,500
<u>Insured Unemployment Rate (SA)</u> <sup>2</sup>	1.2%	1.2%	0.0	1.2%	1.2%
<u>Insured Unemployment Rate (NSA)</u> <sup>2</sup>	1.1%	1.1%	0.0	1.1%	1.1%

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INITIAL CLAIMS FILED IN FEDERAL PROGRAMS (UNADJUSTED)

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<b>WEEK ENDING</b>	<b>May 4</b>	<b>April 27</b>	<b>Change</b>	<b><u>Prior Year</u><sup>1</sup></b>
Federal Employees (UCFE)	541	519	+22	601
Newly Discharged Veterans (UCX)	553	487	+66	965

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PERSONS CLAIMING UI BENEFITS IN ALL PROGRAMS (UNADJUSTED)

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<b>WEEK ENDING</b>	<b>April 27</b>	<b>April 20</b>	<b>Change</b>	<b><u>Prior Year</u><sup>1</sup></b>
Regular State	1,630,360	1,645,408	-15,048	1,722,155
Federal Employees	8,480	8,278	+202	8,734
Newly Discharged Veterans	5,698	5,774	-76	7,880
<u>Extended Benefits</u> <sup>3</sup>	0	0	0	1
<u>State Additional Benefits</u> <sup>4</sup>	6,024	5,984	+40	7,180
<u>STC / Workshare</u> <sup>5</sup>	9,638	8,296	+1,342	7,927
<u>TOTAL</u>	1,660,200	1,673,740	-13,540	1,753,877

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 143,629,179 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 May 11			Insured Unemployment For Week Ended May 4		
	Advance	Prior Wk	Change	Advance	Prior Wk	Change
Alabama	2,232	2,474	-242	13,719	13,900	-181
Alaska	886	823	63	7,170	7,512	-342
Arizona	4,004	4,635	-631	21,591	23,733	-2,142
Arkansas	1,534	1,477	57	8,430	9,624	-1,194
California	40,240	38,392	1,848	338,234	342,461	-4,227
Colorado	1,774	1,813	-39	18,602	18,717	-115
Connecticut	2,147	2,477	-330	29,877	30,858	-981
Delaware	535	489	46	4,046	5,327	-1,281
District of Columbia	442	424	18	6,079	6,570	-491
Florida	6,188	6,262	-74	29,687	33,181	-3,494
Georgia	4,859	4,851	8	22,688	23,899	-1,211
Hawaii	1,253	1,120	133	6,903	6,491	412
Idaho	673	822	-149	4,863	5,412	-549
Illinois	8,926	9,320	-394	87,600	95,884	-8,284
Indiana	2,143	2,086	57	13,967	13,584	383
Iowa	2,461	2,673	-212	15,736	14,645	1,091
Kansas	1,567	2,025	-458	8,235	7,589	646
Kentucky	1,644	1,938	-294	14,675	16,169	-1,494
Louisiana	1,809	2,009	-200	11,677	13,841	-2,164
Maine	448	573	-125	5,489	6,045	-556
Maryland	2,404	2,435	-31	22,235	23,732	-1,497
Massachusetts	4,012	4,297	-285	51,155	55,673	-4,518
Michigan	4,890	4,637	253	40,679	49,314	-8,635
Minnesota	2,839	2,524	315	33,974	36,460	-2,486
Mississippi	1,180	1,091	89	6,503	7,355	-852
Missouri	2,792	3,188	-396	16,507	17,642	-1,135
Montana	600	762	-162	5,736	5,989	-253
Nebraska	687	563	124	3,087	3,305	-218
Nevada	2,225	2,163	62	16,206	18,001	-1,795
New Hampshire	371	411	-40	3,019	3,901	-882
New Jersey	7,576	7,539	37	79,893	89,666	-9,773
New Mexico	601	693	-92	8,489	8,903	-414
New York	12,690	27,945	-15,255	116,929	137,475	-20,546
North Carolina	3,066	3,037	29	17,068	18,520	-1,452
North Dakota	567	278	289	2,506	2,446	60
Ohio	5,773	5,518	255	43,531	46,329	-2,798
Oklahoma	1,533	1,992	-459	12,874	13,792	-918
Oregon	3,330	3,038	292	25,271	26,247	-976
Pennsylvania	10,948	11,977	-1,029	90,416	96,270	-5,854
Puerto Rico	1,055	1,264	-209	12,304	14,384	-2,080
Rhode Island	720	630	90	7,173	7,449	-276
South Carolina	1,868	1,918	-50	12,638	13,099	-461
South Dakota	172	167	5	1,103	1,359	-256
Tennessee	2,312	2,154	158	13,560	15,562	-2,002
Texas	13,142	12,748	394	108,468	109,585	-1,117
Utah	935	927	8	7,058	7,362	-304
Vermont	426	380	46	3,485	3,875	-390
Virgin Islands	13	27	-14	406	270	136
Virginia	2,656	2,341	315	18,232	18,478	-246
Washington	5,352	5,266	86	47,416	47,600	-184
West Virginia	706	881	-175	10,902	9,567	1,335
Wisconsin	4,236	4,230	6	25,616	26,352	-736
Wyoming	247	329	-82	2,202	2,103	99
US Total	187,689	204,033	-16,344	1,535,909	1,633,507	-97,598

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.

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	
May 5, 2018	211	-2	215.25	1,736	-51	1,778.50	1.2
May 12, 2018	221	10	213.75	1,746	10	1,760.50	1.2
May 19, 2018	227	6	218.00	1,741	-5	1,752.50	1.2
May 26, 2018	221	-6	220.00	1,748	7	1,742.75	1.2
June 2, 2018	220	-1	222.25	1,722	-26	1,739.25	1.2
June 9, 2018	219	-1	221.75	1,734	12	1,736.25	1.2
June 16, 2018	219	0	219.75	1,722	-12	1,731.50	1.2
June 23, 2018	223	4	220.25	1,745	23	1,730.75	1.2
June 30, 2018	229	6	222.50	1,745	0	1,736.50	1.2
July 7, 2018	212	-17	220.75	1,753	8	1,741.25	1.2
July 14, 2018	212	0	219.00	1,745	-8	1,747.00	1.2
July 21, 2018	217	5	217.50	1,733	-12	1,744.00	1.2
July 28, 2018	220	3	215.25	1,753	20	1,746.00	1.2
August 4, 2018	215	-5	216.00	1,734	-19	1,741.25	1.2
August 11, 2018	215	0	216.75	1,726	-8	1,736.50	1.2
August 18, 2018	214	-1	216.00	1,717	-9	1,732.50	1.2
August 25, 2018	215	1	214.75	1,713	-4	1,722.50	1.2
September 1, 2018	210	-5	213.50	1,706	-7	1,715.50	1.2
September 8, 2018	208	-2	211.75	1,665	-41	1,700.25	1.2
September 15, 2018	212	4	211.25	1,682	17	1,691.50	1.2
September 22, 2018	212	0	210.50	1,669	-13	1,680.50	1.2
September 29, 2018	218	6	212.50	1,668	-1	1,671.00	1.2
October 6, 2018	212	-6	213.50	1,660	-8	1,669.75	1.2
October 13, 2018	215	3	214.25	1,656	-4	1,663.25	1.2
October 20, 2018	218	3	215.75	1,649	-7	1,658.25	1.2
October 27, 2018	219	1	216.00	1,649	0	1,653.50	1.2
November 3, 2018	217	-2	217.25	1,678	29	1,658.00	1.2
November 10, 2018	223	6	219.25	1,673	-5	1,662.25	1.2
November 17, 2018	224	1	220.75	1,695	22	1,673.75	1.2
November 24, 2018	234	10	224.50	1,654	-41	1,675.00	1.2
December 1, 2018	229	-5	227.50	1,667	13	1,672.25	1.2
December 8, 2018	213	-16	225.00	1,700	33	1,679.00	1.2
December 15, 2018	220	7	224.00	1,699	-1	1,680.00	1.2
December 22, 2018	223	3	221.25	1,728	29	1,698.50	1.2
December 29, 2018	231	8	221.75	1,708	-20	1,708.75	1.2
January 5, 2019	221	-10	223.75	1,716	8	1,712.75	1.2
January 12, 2019	217	-4	223.00	1,707	-9	1,714.75	1.2
January 19, 2019	211	-6	220.00	1,739	32	1,717.50	1.2
January 26, 2019	244	33	223.25	1,720	-19	1,720.50	1.2
February 2, 2019	230	-14	225.50	1,746	26	1,728.00	1.2
February 9, 2019	231	1	229.00	1,719	-27	1,731.00	1.2
February 16, 2019	213	-18	229.50	1,773	54	1,739.50	1.2
February 23, 2019	224	11	224.50	1,749	-24	1,746.75	1.2
March 2, 2019	218	-6	221.50	1,757	8	1,749.50	1.2
March 9, 2019	224	6	219.75	1,744	-13	1,755.75	1.2
March 16, 2019	216	-8	220.50	1,755	11	1,751.25	1.2
March 23, 2019	212	-4	217.50	1,726	-29	1,745.50	1.2
March 30, 2019	204	-8	214.00	1,716	-10	1,735.25	1.2
April 6, 2019	197	-7	207.25	1,654	-62	1,712.75	1.2
April 13, 2019	193	-4	201.50	1,654	0	1,687.50	1.2
April 20, 2019	230	37	206.00	1,671	17	1,673.75	1.2
April 27, 2019	230	0	212.50	1,688	17	1,666.75	1.2
May 4, 2019	228	-2	220.25	1,660	-28	1,668.25	1.2
May 11, 2019	212	-16	225.00				

STATE NAME	INITIAL CLAIMS FILED DURING WEEK ENDED MAY 4					INSURED UNEMPLOYMENT FOR WEEK ENDED APRIL 27					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	2474	554	-90	11	8	13900	0.7	273	-571	57	60	14017
Alaska	823	-40	-42	3	0	7512	2.5	-92	-1995	82	15	7609
Arizona	4635	-668	-25	4	5	23733	0.9	821	-3665	111	44	23888
Arkansas	1477	140	-114	2	1	9624	0.8	-218	-1724	60	31	9715
California	38392	-1920	-673	103	99	342461	2.0	9281	-27721	2129	1233	345823
Colorado	1813	-132	-86	5	20	18717	0.7	478	-2663	165	176	19058
Connecticut	2477	-3208	4	5	2	30858	1.9	-8552	-2826	43	48	30949
Delaware	489	-646	73	1	3	5327	1.2	1207	333	7	12	5346
District of Columbia	424	31	138	17	0	6570	1.1	-73	-868	330	8	6908
Florida	6262	362	-433	12	27	33181	0.4	-989	-4234	146	100	33427
Georgia	4851	394	-238	36	33	23899	0.6	-114	-1431	184	153	24236
Hawaii	1120	-154	-141	7	1	6491	1.0	-113	-450	71	60	6622
Idaho	822	38	0	4	2	5412	0.8	-306	113	62	16	5490
Illinois	9320	2010	1257	10	8	95884	1.6	2262	-4571	381	164	96429
Indiana	2086	-114	-40	3	6	13584	0.5	-2463	-1148	30	26	13640
Iowa	2673	676	1053	3	0	14645	1.0	-1148	-536	33	28	14706
Kansas	2025	754	558	3	0	7589	0.6	-60	-1020	35	27	7651
Kentucky	1938	222	-51	0	2	16169	0.9	404	-992	89	94	16352
Louisiana	2009	-21	-56	5	4	13841	0.7	705	-2033	42	15	13898
Maine	573	-147	-84	0	1	6045	1.0	-689	-505	22	8	6075
Maryland	2435	-97	-393	15	8	23732	0.9	-1281	-4538	209	76	24017
Massachusetts	4297	-347	-145	7	11	55673	1.6	-7510	2368	108	96	55877
Michigan	4637	-54	271	9	9	49314	1.2	-2267	2011	128	92	49534
Minnesota	2524	-143	-279	6	1	36460	1.3	-5617	-5619	60	56	36576
Mississippi	1091	-606	-23	4	1	7355	0.7	686	175	83	22	7460
Missouri	3188	791	232	4	3	17642	0.6	665	-3500	76	31	17749
Montana	762	-94	104	5	1	5989	1.3	-509	-660	117	15	6121
Nebraska	563	66	-43	2	1	3305	0.3	-340	-414	17	7	3329
Nevada	2163	-113	-23	2	7	18001	1.3	-528	-984	101	41	18143
New Hampshire	411	-452	-102	0	2	3901	0.6	288	-394	2	1	3904
New Jersey	7539	-6239	241	8	11	89666	2.2	3880	5475	186	190	90042
New Mexico	693	-24	-44	2	4	8903	1.1	-16	-428	103	38	9044
New York	27945	9365	14763	40	16	137475	1.5	9870	8225	358	297	138130
North Carolina	3037	203	324	9	19	18520	0.4	-135	-505	78	105	18703
North Dakota	278	-35	34	3	1	2446	0.6	-824	-860	36	2	2484
Ohio	5518	-141	-1204	6	10	46329	0.9	-2027	-3130	85	112	46526
Oklahoma	1992	-18	684	13	4	13792	0.9	216	830	45	66	13903
Oregon	3038	-237	-271	10	6	26247	1.4	-599	81	290	61	26598
Pennsylvania	11977	160	-544	54	19	96270	1.7	2786	-7623	440	198	96908
Puerto Rico	1264	-73	261	5	5	14384	1.7	-619	-3544	144	42	14570
Rhode Island	630	-488	-74	1	2	7449	1.6	-2338	-19	13	15	7477
South Carolina	1918	-201	-69	5	6	13099	0.6	-299	-917	59	64	13222
South Dakota	167	41	17	5	0	1359	0.3	-314	-248	33	3	1395
Tennessee	2154	48	-137	9	6	15562	0.5	847	-2757	79	113	15754
Texas	12748	664	-1032	45	136	109585	0.9	-2119	-10002	889	976	111450
Utah	927	-79	-148	12	3	7362	0.5	-423	-330	58	16	7436
Vermont	380	-283	-53	0	0	3875	1.3	-556	-273	16	0	3891
Virgin Islands	27	-8	12	0	0	270	0.8	-408	-1248	2	2	274
Virginia	2341	247	-111	5	14	18478	0.5	-152	-2018	151	162	18791
Washington	5266	-69	131	10	14	47600	1.5	-1851	1525	294	449	48343
West Virginia	881	-51	45	2	2	9567	1.4	-120	150	41	11	9619
Wisconsin	4230	-661	291	6	8	26352	0.9	-3284	-2259	64	16	26432
Wyoming	329	43	46	3	1	2103	0.8	-104	-966	36	5	2144
Totals	204033	-754	13771	541	553	1633507	1.1	-14388	-90903	8480	5698	1647685

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 MAY 4, 2019**

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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>
NY	+9,365	Layoffs in the transportation and warehousing, education service, and public administration industries.
IL	+2,010	Layoffs in the construction, administrative, support, waste management and remediation service, and manufacturing industries.

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

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<b>State</b>	<b>Change</b>	<b>State Supplied Comment</b>
NJ	-6,239	Fewer layoffs in the educational service, administrative, support, waste management and remediation service, transportation and warehousing, and accommodation and food service industries.
CT	-3,208	No comment.
CA	-1,920	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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U.S. Department of Labor  
Employment and Training Administration  
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Program Contacts:  
Kevin Stapleton: (202) 693-3009  
Tony Sznoluch: (202) 693-3176  
Media Contact: (202) 693-4676