



# News Release

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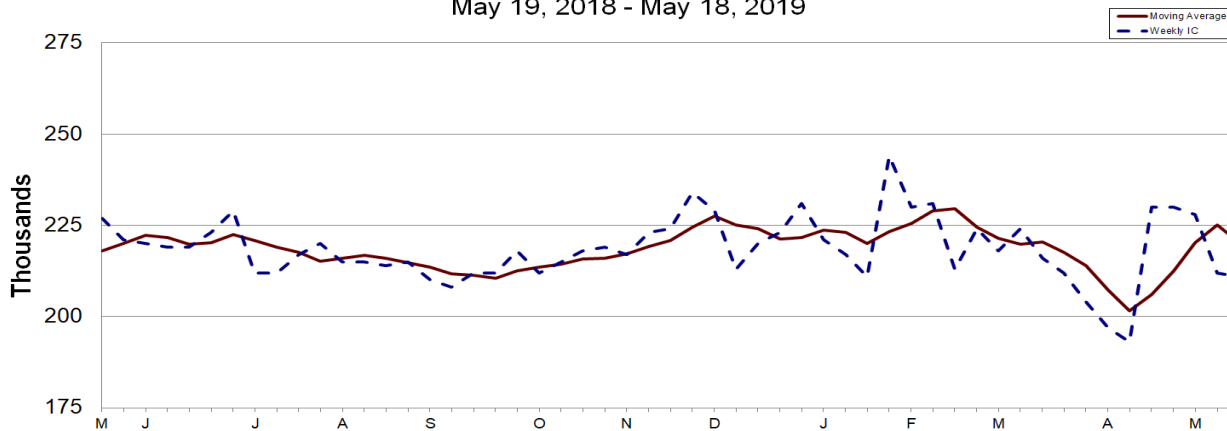
## UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE WEEKLY CLAIMS

### SEASONALLY ADJUSTED DATA

In the week ending May 18, the advance figure for seasonally adjusted **initial claims** was 211,000, a decrease of 1,000 from the previous week's unrevised level of 212,000. The 4-week moving average was 220,250, a decrease of 4,750 from the previous week's unrevised average of 225,000.

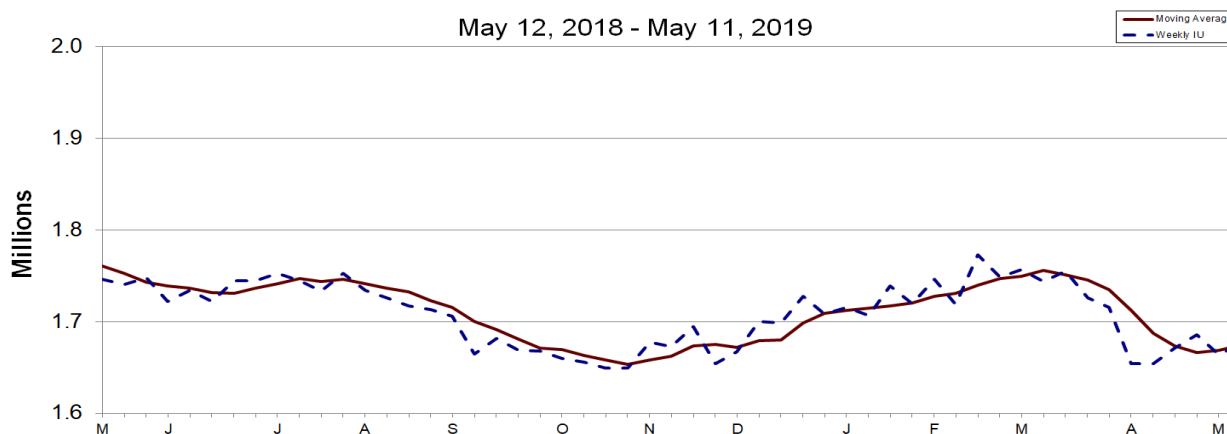
The advance seasonally adjusted **insured unemployment rate** was 1.2 percent for the week ending May 11, unchanged from the previous week's unrevised rate. The advance number for seasonally adjusted **insured unemployment** during the week ending May 11 was 1,676,000, an increase of 12,000 from the previous week's revised level. The previous week's level was revised up 4,000 from 1,660,000 to 1,664,000. The 4-week moving average was 1,674,250, an increase of 5,500 from the previous week's revised average. The previous week's average was revised up by 500 from 1,668,250 to 1,668,750.

Seasonally Adjusted Initial Claims  
May 19, 2018 - May 18, 2019



Seasonally Adjusted Insured Unemployment

May 12, 2018 - May 11, 2019



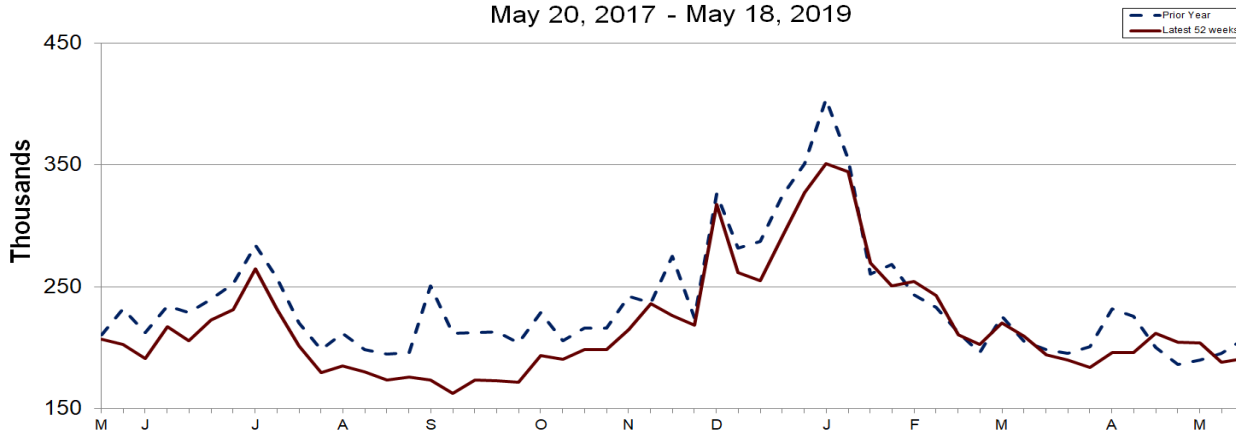
**UNADJUSTED DATA**

The advance number of actual initial claims under state programs, unadjusted, totaled 191,289 in the week ending May 18, an increase of 3,025 (or 1.6 percent) from the previous week. The seasonal factors had expected an increase of 4,462 (or 2.4 percent) from the previous week. There were 207,043 initial claims in the comparable week in 2018.

The advance unadjusted insured unemployment rate was 1.1 percent during the week ending May 11, unchanged from the prior week. The advance unadjusted number for persons claiming UI benefits in state programs totaled 1,537,165, a decrease of 1,898 (or -0.1 percent) from the preceding week. The seasonal factors had expected a decrease of 13,311 (or -0.9 percent) from the previous week. A year earlier the rate was 1.1 percent and the volume was 1,604,119.

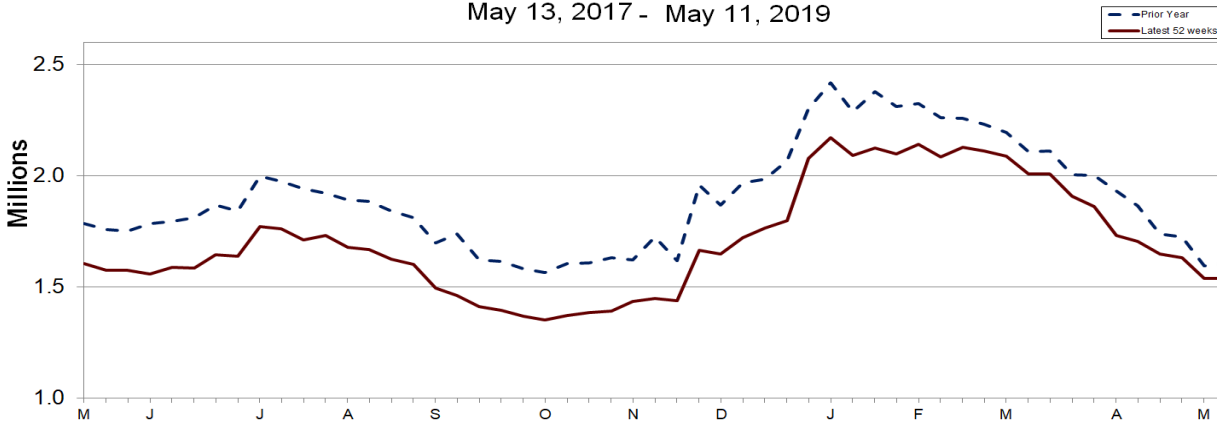
**Not Seasonally Adjusted Initial Claims**

May 20, 2017 - May 18, 2019



**Not Seasonally Adjusted Insured Unemployment**

May 13, 2017 - May 11, 2019



The total number of people claiming benefits in all programs for the week ending May 4 was 1,564,566, a decrease of 94,557 from the previous week. There were 1,622,790 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 May 4.

Initial claims for UI benefits filed by former Federal civilian employees totaled 526 in the week ending May 11, a decrease of 15 from the prior week. There were 488 initial claims filed by newly discharged veterans, a decrease of 65 from the preceding week.

There were 7,544 former Federal civilian employees claiming UI benefits for the week ending May 4, a decrease of 897 from the previous week. Newly discharged veterans claiming benefits totaled 5,606, a decrease of 86 from the prior week.

The highest insured unemployment rates in the week ending May 4 were in Alaska (2.4), New Jersey (2.0), California (1.9), Connecticut (1.8), Puerto Rico (1.6), Illinois (1.5), Massachusetts (1.5), Pennsylvania (1.5), Rhode Island (1.5), and Washington (1.4).

The largest increases in initial claims for the week ending May 11 were in California (+1,226), Michigan (+379), Oregon (+295), Tennessee (+267), and Mississippi (+257), while the largest decreases were in New York (-15,394), Pennsylvania (-1,040), Illinois (-484), Kansas (-479), and Iowa (-469).

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UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE DATA FOR REGULAR STATE PROGRAMS

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<b>WEEK ENDING</b>	<b>May 18</b>	<b>May 11</b>	<b>Change</b>	<b>May 4</b>	<b><u>Prior Year</u><sup>1</sup></b>
Initial Claims (SA)	211,000	212,000	-1,000	228,000	227,000
Initial Claims (NSA)	191,289	188,264	+3,025	204,033	207,043
4-Wk Moving Average (SA)	220,250	225,000	-4,750	220,250	218,000
<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>
Insured Unemployment (SA)	1,676,000	1,664,000	+12,000	1,686,000	1,746,000
Insured Unemployment (NSA)	1,537,165	1,539,063	-1,898	1,632,475	1,604,119
4-Wk Moving Average (SA)	1,674,250	1,668,750	+5,500	1,666,250	1,760,500
<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 11</b>	<b>May 4</b>	<b>Change</b>	<b><u>Prior Year</u><sup>1</sup></b>
Federal Employees (UCFE)	526	541	-15	600
Newly Discharged Veterans (UCX)	488	553	-65	947

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PERSONS CLAIMING UI BENEFITS IN ALL 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>
Regular State	1,536,629	1,629,328	-92,699	1,592,947
Federal Employees	7,544	8,441	-897	7,264
Newly Discharged Veterans	5,606	5,692	-86	7,602
<u>Extended Benefits</u> <sup>3</sup>	0	0	0	0
<u>State Additional Benefits</u> <sup>4</sup>	6,127	6,024	+103	6,947
<u>STC / Workshare</u> <sup>5</sup>	8,660	9,638	-978	8,030
<u>TOTAL</u>	1,564,566	1,659,123	-94,557	1,622,790

**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 18			Insured Unemployment For Week Ended May 11		
	Advance	Prior Wk	Change	Advance	Prior Wk	Change
Alabama	2,293	2,404	-111	14,146	14,009	137
Alaska	897	771	126	6,755	7,280	-525
Arizona	4,069	4,264	-195	22,029	24,879	-2,850
Arkansas	1,565	1,682	-117	8,738	9,348	-610
California	37,956	39,618	-1,662	352,778	330,763	22,015
Colorado	1,626	1,765	-139	18,979	18,094	885
Connecticut	2,582	2,150	432	29,556	28,954	602
Delaware	407	566	-159	4,062	3,832	230
District of Columbia	571	396	175	6,083	6,306	-223
Florida	6,178	6,402	-224	30,016	33,697	-3,681
Georgia	4,058	5,072	-1,014	23,020	23,743	-723
Hawaii	1,279	1,229	50	6,934	6,622	312
Idaho	657	736	-79	4,471	5,143	-672
Illinois	7,485	8,836	-1,351	92,106	86,531	5,575
Indiana	2,092	2,049	43	13,848	13,502	346
Iowa	2,182	2,204	-22	14,555	15,317	-762
Kansas	1,430	1,546	-116	8,166	8,253	-87
Kentucky	2,192	1,709	483	15,017	15,342	-325
Louisiana	2,074	2,028	46	11,583	13,409	-1,826
Maine	510	464	46	5,036	5,383	-347
Maryland	2,634	2,503	131	21,905	23,197	-1,292
Massachusetts	4,750	4,067	683	49,678	51,771	-2,093
Michigan	5,733	5,016	717	41,263	42,462	-1,199
Minnesota	2,863	2,708	155	30,903	33,765	-2,862
Mississippi	1,699	1,348	351	6,185	7,395	-1,210
Missouri	3,133	2,984	149	16,307	17,159	-852
Montana	618	595	23	5,143	5,609	-466
Nebraska	659	688	-29	3,153	3,105	48
Nevada	2,115	2,091	24	16,202	17,317	-1,115
New Hampshire	392	407	-15	2,929	3,287	-358
New Jersey	6,981	7,672	-691	77,617	78,725	-1,108
New Mexico	770	613	157	8,107	8,740	-633
New York	11,970	12,551	-581	113,683	116,125	-2,442
North Carolina	3,260	3,211	49	17,407	18,401	-994
North Dakota	341	522	-181	2,400	2,217	183
Ohio	10,001	5,773	4,228	42,972	43,492	-520
Oklahoma	1,532	1,729	-197	12,990	13,560	-570
Oregon	3,250	3,333	-83	24,780	25,361	-581
Pennsylvania	11,949	10,937	1,012	92,560	89,126	3,434
Puerto Rico	1,056	1,136	-80	6,216	13,818	-7,602
Rhode Island	731	731	0	6,974	6,945	29
South Carolina	1,909	1,953	-44	12,928	12,723	205
South Dakota	148	187	-39	1,070	1,183	-113
Tennessee	2,427	2,421	6	14,178	14,554	-376
Texas	13,814	12,959	855	110,045	108,102	1,943
Utah	913	923	-10	6,891	7,084	-193
Vermont	521	434	87	3,366	3,289	77
Virgin Islands	6	35	-29	372	400	-28
Virginia	2,832	2,481	351	18,597	17,804	793
Washington	5,729	5,123	606	46,343	46,218	125
West Virginia	740	747	-7	10,481	8,920	1,561
Wisconsin	3,520	4,230	-710	23,665	24,838	-1,173
Wyoming	190	265	-75	1,977	1,964	13
US Total	191,289	188,264	3,025	1,537,165	1,539,063	-1,898

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)

<b>Week Ending</b>	<b>Initial Claims</b>	<b>Change from Prior Week</b>	<b>4-Week Average</b>	<b>Insured Unemployment</b>	<b>Change from Prior Week</b>	<b>4-Week Average</b>	<b>IUR</b>
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	1,686	15	1,666.25	1.2
May 4, 2019	228	-2	220.25	1,664	-22	1,668.75	1.2
May 11, 2019	212	-16	225.00	1,676	12	1,674.25	1.2
May 18, 2019	211	-1	220.25				

STATE NAME	INITIAL CLAIMS FILED DURING WEEK ENDED MAY 11						INSURED UNEMPLOYMENT FOR WEEK ENDED MAY 4						ALL PROGRAMS EXCLUDING RAILROAD RETIREMENT
	STATE	CHANGE FROM		UCFE <sup>1</sup>	UCX <sup>1</sup>	STATE	CHANGE FROM		UCFE <sup>1</sup>	UCX <sup>1</sup>			
		LAST WEEK	YEAR AGO				LAST WEEK	YEAR AGO					
Alabama	2404	-70	-1242	13	6	14009	0.7	109	-307	54	63	14126	
Alaska	771	-52	-20	0	1	7280	2.4	-232	-1786	66	12	7358	
Arizona	4264	-371	116	3	0	24879	0.9	1146	-2378	73	47	24999	
Arkansas	1682	205	-108	1	2	9348	0.8	-276	-1534	57	34	9439	
California	39618	1226	236	130	97	330763	1.9	-11698	7019	2114	1299	334176	
Colorado	1765	-48	-11	4	8	18094	0.7	-623	-1555	112	168	18374	
Connecticut	2150	-327	-385	2	3	28954	1.8	-1904	-3144	38	46	29038	
Delaware	566	77	79	2	1	3832	0.9	-1495	-284	8	11	3851	
District of Columbia	396	-28	61	18	0	6306	1.1	-264	-1130	317	7	6630	
Florida	6402	140	-575	20	21	33697	0.4	516	-3129	108	105	33910	
Georgia	5072	221	324	15	30	23743	0.6	-156	-1313	194	171	24108	
Hawaii	1229	109	82	5	10	6622	1.1	112	50	61	56	6739	
Idaho	736	-86	-37	1	3	5143	0.7	-269	415	44	16	5203	
Illinois	8836	-484	922	4	7	86531	1.5	-9353	-5131	303	164	86998	
Indiana	2049	-37	-137	2	9	13502	0.4	-82	-558	22	30	13554	
Iowa	2204	-469	416	3	2	15317	1.0	672	1325	29	24	15370	
Kansas	1546	-479	58	0	2	8253	0.6	664	-116	29	24	8306	
Kentucky	1709	-229	-3260	1	1	15342	0.8	-827	-1302	61	100	15503	
Louisiana	2028	19	2	6	3	13409	0.7	-432	-1732	42	14	13465	
Maine	464	-109	-35	0	2	5383	0.9	-662	-410	25	7	5415	
Maryland	2503	68	-517	13	12	23197	0.9	-535	-4446	209	77	23483	
Massachusetts	4067	-230	-359	11	10	51771	1.5	-3902	2727	101	81	51953	
Michigan	5016	379	-10	6	2	42462	1.0	-6852	627	90	53	42605	
Minnesota	2708	184	-53	3	5	33765	1.2	-2695	-3875	69	49	33883	
Mississippi	1348	257	-92	1	8	7395	0.7	40	345	102	21	7518	
Missouri	2984	-204	-3824	2	0	17159	0.6	-483	-2470	91	32	17282	
Montana	595	-167	-56	4	3	5609	1.2	-380	-323	83	25	5717	
Nebraska	688	125	24	4	0	3105	0.3	-200	-470	12	6	3123	
Nevada	2091	-72	-60	6	2	17317	1.3	-684	-998	71	42	17430	
New Hampshire	407	-4	-59	1	1	3287	0.5	-614	-371	0	3	3290	
New Jersey	7672	133	380	16	16	78725	2.0	-10941	-2751	177	215	79117	
New Mexico	613	-80	-69	0	0	8740	1.1	-163	-276	92	43	8875	
New York	12551	-15394	373	23	22	116125	1.3	-21350	-6802	346	303	116774	
North Carolina	3211	174	193	8	17	18401	0.4	-119	-397	63	99	18563	
North Dakota	522	244	289	2	3	2217	0.5	-229	-387	19	2	2238	
Ohio	5773	255	298	7	12	43492	0.8	-2837	-4193	83	106	43681	
Oklahoma	1729	-263	401	5	2	13560	0.9	-232	472	49	55	13664	
Oregon	3333	295	458	53	6	25361	1.3	-886	41	222	60	25643	
Pennsylvania	10937	-1040	-206	44	18	89126	1.5	-7144	-1942	434	243	89803	
Puerto Rico	1136	-128	241	3	3	13818	1.6	-566	-2457	137	44	13999	
Rhode Island	731	101	-16	3	0	6945	1.5	-504	-20	14	15	6974	
South Carolina	1953	35	-253	2	4	12723	0.6	-376	-1046	41	58	12822	
South Dakota	187	20	5	3	0	1183	0.3	-176	-3	28	3	1214	
Tennessee	2421	267	64	9	7	14554	0.5	-1008	-2967	67	52	14673	
Texas	12959	211	-796	40	75	108102	0.9	-1483	-3144	583	873	109558	
Utah	923	-4	14	5	3	7084	0.5	-278	-458	41	16	7141	
Vermont	434	54	77	1	0	3289	1.1	-586	-217	7	0	3296	
Virgin Islands	35	8	20	0	0	400	1.2	130	-1188	6	2	408	
Virginia	2481	140	-111	5	14	17804	0.5	377	-2721	163	151	18118	
Washington	5123	-143	-272	11	29	46218	1.4	-1382	1339	250	437	46905	
West Virginia	747	-134	22	1	4	8920	1.3	-647	99	44	13	8977	
Wisconsin	4230	0	435	1	2	24838	0.9	-1514	-130	75	21	24934	
Wyoming	265	-64	23	3	0	1964	0.7	-139	-784	18	8	1990	
Totals	188264	-15769	-6950	526	488	1539063	1.1	-93412	-56186	7544	5606	1552213	

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 11, 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>
CA	+1,226	No comment.

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

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<b>State</b>	<b>Change</b>	<b>State Supplied Comment</b>
NY	-15,394	Fewer layoffs in the transportation and warehousing, accommodation and food service, and educational service industries.
PA	-1,040	Fewer layoffs in the transportation and warehousing industry.

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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  
Washington, D.C. 20210  
Release Number: USDL 19-877-NAT

Program Contacts:  
Kevin Stapleton: (202) 693-3009  
Quynh Pham: (202) 693-3681  
Media Contact: (202) 693-4676