



News Release

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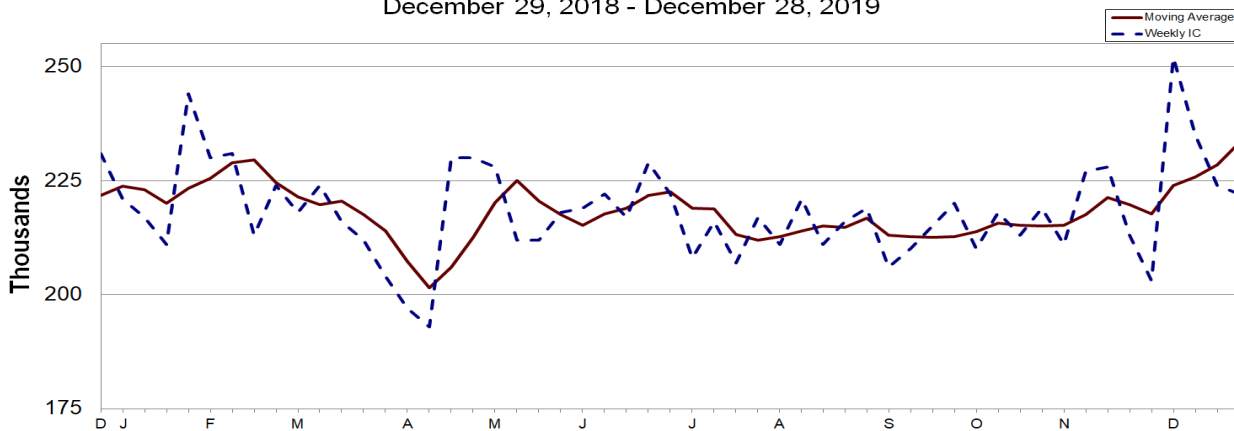
UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE WEEKLY CLAIMS

SEASONALLY ADJUSTED DATA

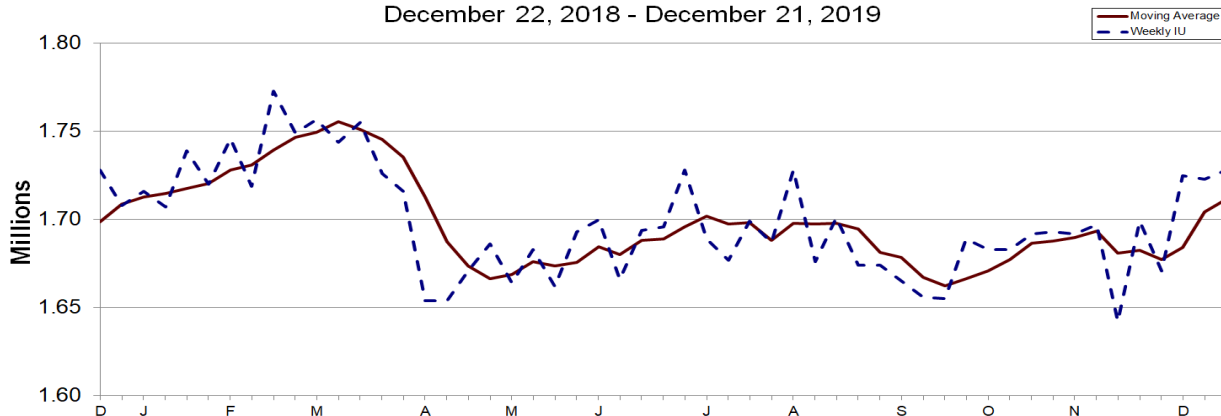
In the week ending December 28, the advance figure for seasonally adjusted **initial claims** was 222,000, a decrease of 2,000 from the previous week's revised level. The previous week's level was revised up by 2,000 from 222,000 to 224,000. The 4-week moving average was 233,250, an increase of 4,750 from the previous week's revised average. This is the highest level for this average since January 27, 2018 when it was 235,750. 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 21, unchanged from the previous week's unrevised rate. The advance number for seasonally adjusted **insured unemployment** during the week ending December 21 was 1,728,000, an increase of 5,000 from the previous week's revised level. The previous week's level was revised up 4,000 from 1,719,000 to 1,723,000. The 4-week moving average was 1,711,750, an increase of 7,250 from the previous week's revised average. The previous week's average was revised up by 1,000 from 1,703,500 to 1,704,500.

Seasonally Adjusted Initial Claims
December 29, 2018 - December 28, 2019



Seasonally Adjusted Insured Unemployment
December 22, 2018 - December 21, 2019



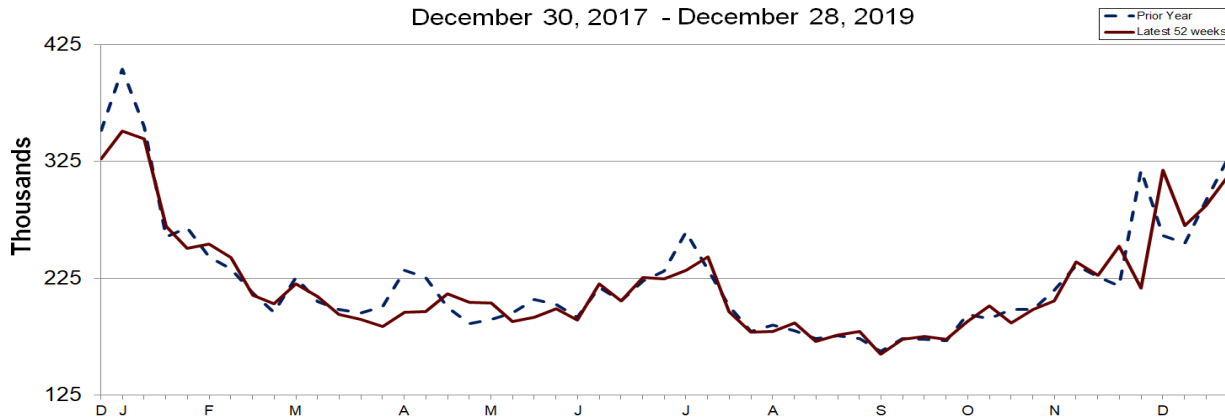
UNADJUSTED DATA

The advance number of actual initial claims under state programs, unadjusted, totaled 312,097 in the week ending December 28, an increase of 24,772 (or 8.6 percent) from the previous week. The seasonal factors had expected an increase of 26,853 (or 9.3 percent) from the previous week. There were 327,501 initial claims in the comparable week in 2018.

The advance unadjusted insured unemployment rate was 1.2 percent during the week ending December 21, unchanged from the prior week. The advance unadjusted number for persons claiming UI benefits in state programs totaled 1,776,256, a decrease of 22,327 (or -1.2 percent) from the preceding week. The seasonal factors had expected a decrease of 27,564 (or -1.5 percent) from the previous week. A year earlier the rate was 1.3 percent and the volume was 1,798,778.

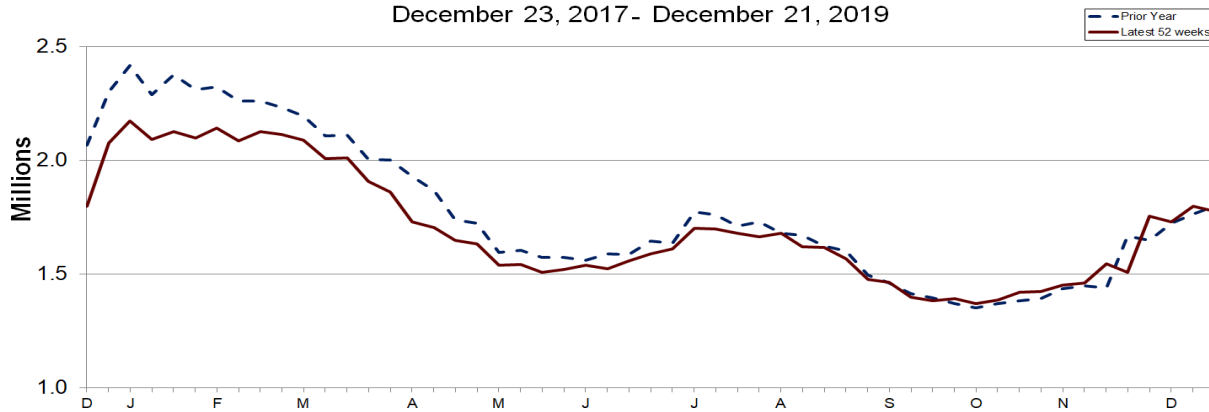
Not Seasonally Adjusted Initial Claims

December 30, 2017 - December 28, 2019



Not Seasonally Adjusted Insured Unemployment

December 23, 2017 - December 21, 2019



The total number of people claiming benefits in all programs for the week ending December 14 was 1,827,844, an increase of 70,042 from the previous week. There were 1,793,888 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 December 14.

Initial claims for UI benefits filed by former Federal civilian employees totaled 773 in the week ending December 21, a decrease of 391 from the prior week. There were 489 initial claims filed by newly discharged veterans, a decrease of 48 from the preceding week.

There were 10,318 former Federal civilian employees claiming UI benefits for the week ending December 14, a decrease of 592 from the previous week. Newly discharged veterans claiming benefits totaled 5,857, an increase of 320 from the prior week.

The highest insured unemployment rates in the week ending December 14 were in Alaska (3.2), New Jersey (2.2), Pennsylvania (2.1), West Virginia (2.1), Connecticut (2.0), Montana (2.0), the Virgin Islands (2.0), California (1.9), Minnesota (1.9), Illinois (1.8), and Washington (1.8).

The largest increases in initial claims for the week ending December 21 were in Missouri (+3,246), Iowa (+2,423), California (+2,422), New Jersey (+2,195), and Illinois (+1,593), while the largest decreases were in Texas (-2,356), New York (-2,046), Georgia (-1,710), West Virginia (-748), and Pennsylvania (-724).

UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE DATA FOR REGULAR STATE PROGRAMS

WEEK ENDING	December 28	December 21	Change	December 14	Prior Year¹
Initial Claims (SA)	222,000	224,000	-2,000	235,000	231,000
Initial Claims (NSA)	312,097	287,325	+24,772	270,532	327,501
4-Wk Moving Average (SA)	233,250	228,500	+4,750	225,750	221,750
WEEK ENDING	December 21	December 14	Change	December 7	Prior Year¹
Insured Unemployment (SA)	1,728,000	1,723,000	+5,000	1,725,000	1,728,000
Insured Unemployment (NSA)	1,776,256	1,798,583	-22,327	1,728,051	1,798,778
4-Wk Moving Average (SA)	1,711,750	1,704,500	+7,250	1,684,250	1,698,500
Insured Unemployment Rate (SA) ²	1.2%	1.2%	0.0	1.2%	1.2%
Insured Unemployment Rate (NSA) ²	1.2%	1.2%	0.0	1.2%	1.3%

INITIAL CLAIMS FILED IN FEDERAL PROGRAMS (UNADJUSTED)

WEEK ENDING	December 21	December 14	Change	Prior Year¹
Federal Employees (UCFE)	773	1,164	-391	929
Newly Discharged Veterans (UCX)	489	537	-48	494

PERSONS CLAIMING UI BENEFITS IN ALL PROGRAMS (UNADJUSTED)

WEEK ENDING	December 14	December 7	Change	Prior Year¹
Regular State	1,795,945	1,725,237	+70,708	1,762,164
Federal Employees	10,318	10,910	-592	10,535
Newly Discharged Veterans	5,857	5,537	+320	6,847
Extended Benefits ³	0	0	0	0
State Additional Benefits ⁴	5,726	5,549	+177	5,715
STC / Workshare ⁵	9,998	10,569	-571	8,627
TOTAL	1,827,844	1,757,802	+70,042	1,793,888

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 144,758,990 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 benefits, and when applicable, extended benefits. Information on states that participate, and the extent of benefits paid, can be found starting on page 4-4 of this link: [Extensions and Special Programs PDF](#)
5. Information on STC/Worksharing can be found starting on page 4-8 of the following link: [Extensions and Special Programs PDF](#)

Advance State Claims - Not Seasonally Adjusted

STATE	Initial Claims Filed During Week Ended December 28			Insured Unemployment For Week Ended December 21		
	Advance	Prior Wk	Change	Advance	Prior Wk	Change
Alabama	3,001	3,163	-162	14,446	15,146	-700
Alaska	941	1,027	-86	8,528	9,772	-1,244
Arizona	2,050	3,294	-1,244	15,251	17,518	-2,267
Arkansas	3,410	2,579	831	10,590	11,755	-1,165
California	34,575	49,943	-15,368	305,647	325,387	-19,740
Colorado	1,756	2,360	-604	19,486	19,837	-351
Connecticut	4,663	5,048	-385	38,014	33,146	4,868
Delaware	1,417	902	515	5,241	4,836	405
District of Columbia	365	598	-233	6,758	6,936	-178
Florida	3,634	5,337	-1,703	27,386	36,866	-9,480
Georgia	3,926	4,885	-959	23,121	25,133	-2,012
Hawaii	1,277	1,110	167	6,015	5,653	362
Idaho	2,833	1,972	861	8,182	7,357	825
Illinois	16,531	16,669	-138	110,220	107,512	2,708
Indiana	3,606	3,911	-305	18,460	17,011	1,449
Iowa	10,924	7,357	3,567	26,618	22,119	4,499
Kansas	3,081	3,096	-15	9,867	8,562	1,305
Kentucky	6,128	4,603	1,525	18,474	18,879	-405
Louisiana	1,346	2,218	-872	12,599	15,358	-2,759
Maine	1,016	1,123	-107	6,198	5,763	435
Maryland	6,077	4,706	1,371	25,396	24,682	714
Massachusetts	13,180	9,284	3,896	63,645	61,381	2,264
Michigan	17,978	10,838	7,140	56,333	60,861	-4,528
Minnesota	6,414	6,816	-402	57,877	53,647	4,230
Mississippi	1,469	1,524	-55	6,468	7,989	-1,521
Missouri	6,806	7,146	-340	21,577	19,771	1,806
Montana	1,764	1,541	223	9,214	9,144	70
Nebraska	1,830	1,211	619	3,774	3,499	275
Nevada	2,620	2,573	47	18,264	18,971	-707
New Hampshire	1,025	656	369	3,386	3,533	-147
New Jersey	22,771	13,001	9,770	92,030	89,206	2,824
New Mexico*	981	986	-5	8,515	9,271	-756
New York	18,559	16,062	2,497	142,954	138,720	4,234
North Carolina	2,031	3,586	-1,555	18,059	20,382	-2,323
North Dakota	1,080	1,016	64	5,620	4,540	1,080
Ohio	15,962	10,634	5,328	61,204	57,405	3,799
Oklahoma	1,923	2,124	-201	15,831	16,444	-613
Oregon	7,229	4,892	2,337	28,164	27,734	430
Pennsylvania	26,135	19,967	6,168	118,753	119,212	-459
Puerto Rico*	1,013	1,255	-242	13,459	14,709	-1,250
Rhode Island	3,668	1,719	1,949	8,501	7,794	707
South Carolina	2,102	2,931	-829	14,880	15,119	-239
South Dakota	213	489	-276	2,288	2,361	-73
Tennessee	4,693	3,253	1,440	16,354	17,212	-858
Texas	8,847	12,681	-3,834	119,497	133,637	-14,140
Utah	1,455	1,623	-168	10,132	9,881	251
Vermont	1,633	895	738	4,171	3,491	680
Virgin Islands	11	53	-42	226	678	-452
Virginia	3,457	3,608	-151	19,617	19,437	180
Washington	10,439	8,896	1,543	63,018	60,383	2,635
West Virginia	1,198	1,759	-561	16,327	14,267	2,060
Wisconsin	10,457	7,776	2,681	36,326	35,984	342
Wyoming	597	629	-32	3,295	2,692	603
US Total	312,097	287,325	24,772	1,776,256	1,798,583	-22,327

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 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	1,683	19	1,676.00	1.2
May 18, 2019	212	0	220.50	1,662	-21	1,673.75	1.2
May 25, 2019	218	6	217.50	1,693	31	1,675.50	1.2
June 1, 2019	219	1	215.25	1,700	7	1,684.50	1.2
June 8, 2019	222	3	217.75	1,666	-34	1,680.25	1.2
June 15, 2019	217	-5	219.00	1,694	28	1,688.25	1.2
June 22, 2019	229	12	221.75	1,696	2	1,689.00	1.2
June 29, 2019	222	-7	222.50	1,728	32	1,696.00	1.2
July 6, 2019	208	-14	219.00	1,689	-39	1,701.75	1.2
July 13, 2019	216	8	218.75	1,677	-12	1,697.50	1.2
July 20, 2019	207	-9	213.25	1,699	22	1,698.25	1.2
July 27, 2019	217	10	212.00	1,687	-12	1,688.00	1.2
August 3, 2019	211	-6	212.75	1,728	41	1,697.75	1.2
August 10, 2019	221	10	214.00	1,676	-52	1,697.50	1.2
August 17, 2019	211	-10	215.00	1,701	25	1,698.00	1.2
August 24, 2019	216	5	214.75	1,674	-27	1,694.75	1.2
August 31, 2019	219	3	216.75	1,674	0	1,681.25	1.2
September 7, 2019	206	-13	213.00	1,665	-9	1,678.50	1.2
September 14, 2019	210	4	212.75	1,656	-9	1,667.25	1.1
September 21, 2019	215	5	212.50	1,655	-1	1,662.50	1.1
September 28, 2019	220	5	212.75	1,689	34	1,666.25	1.2
October 5, 2019	210	-10	213.75	1,683	-6	1,670.75	1.2
October 12, 2019	218	8	215.75	1,683	0	1,677.50	1.2
October 19, 2019	213	-5	215.25	1,692	9	1,686.75	1.2
October 26, 2019	219	6	215.00	1,693	1	1,687.75	1.2
November 2, 2019	211	-8	215.25	1,692	-1	1,690.00	1.2
November 9, 2019	227	16	217.50	1,697	5	1,693.50	1.2
November 16, 2019	228	1	221.25	1,642	-55	1,681.00	1.1
November 23, 2019	213	-15	219.75	1,699	57	1,682.50	1.2
November 30, 2019	203	-10	217.75	1,671	-28	1,677.25	1.2
December 7, 2019	252	49	224.00	1,725	54	1,684.25	1.2
December 14, 2019	235	-17	225.75	1,723	-2	1,704.50	1.2
December 21, 2019	224	-11	228.50	1,728	5	1,711.75	1.2
December 28, 2019	222	-2	233.25				

STATE NAME	INITIAL CLAIMS FILED DURING WEEK ENDED DECEMBER 21					INSURED UNEMPLOYMENT FOR WEEK ENDED DECEMBER 14					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	3163	801	-14	9	8	15146	0.8	68	-387	82	53	15281
Alaska	1027	78	-84	8	1	9772	3.2	1127	-240	160	13	9945
Arizona	3294	-2	70	16	1	17518	0.6	82	-1600	178	26	17722
Arkansas	2579	770	-423	1	3	11755	1.0	145	622	57	42	11854
California	49943	2422	1474	163	85	325387	1.9	3823	-10624	1824	1204	328415
Colorado	2360	81	-70	16	8	19837	0.8	404	-326	252	189	20278
Connecticut	5048	705	-524	6	4	33146	2.0	2106	1504	44	63	33253
Delaware	902	137	64	0	2	4836	1.1	287	25	15	9	4860
District of Columbia	598	36	13	11	0	6936	1.2	47	-692	234	6	7176
Florida	5337	-38	-1194	6	27	36866	0.4	3438	-469	201	122	37189
Georgia	4885	-1710	-1213	20	13	25133	0.6	-1225	-13	166	152	25451
Hawaii	1110	58	-143	0	11	5653	0.9	-250	-1104	54	72	5779
Idaho	1972	-490	-346	48	1	7357	1.0	338	-1519	266	9	7632
Illinois	16669	1593	2033	8	7	107512	1.8	8511	3990	353	205	108070
Indiana	3911	500	-542	2	4	17011	0.6	1495	-129	38	30	17079
Iowa	7357	2423	2013	3	2	22119	1.4	2039	-57	43	11	22173
Kansas	3096	1271	808	1	0	8562	0.6	485	-494	32	17	8611
Kentucky	4603	940	827	2	2	18879	1.0	1615	2588	184	105	19168
Louisiana	2218	-9	34	2	4	15358	0.8	653	-768	52	10	15420
Maine	1123	-181	-80	3	0	5763	1.0	106	-761	38	17	5818
Maryland	4706	1245	-85	9	10	24682	1.0	634	-2487	209	68	24959
Massachusetts	9284	267	-1237	5	4	61381	1.7	3354	-1436	137	91	61609
Michigan	10838	637	-1375	17	9	60861	1.4	8115	3847	164	65	61090
Minnesota	6816	19	939	8	6	53647	1.9	4187	2545	96	64	53807
Mississippi	1524	237	75	2	3	7989	0.7	496	582	59	18	8066
Missouri	7146	3246	167	8	4	19771	0.7	859	-1675	113	29	19913
Montana	1541	186	-24	49	1	9144	2.0	484	476	547	20	9711
Nebraska	1211	124	-22	1	1	3499	0.4	400	-2014	10	3	3512
Nevada	2573	-82	-189	10	3	18971	1.4	628	-1699	140	46	19157
New Hampshire	656	-9	-45	1	0	3533	0.5	48	-173	6	1	3540
New Jersey	13001	2195	-2886	10	11	89206	2.2	3442	2658	235	199	89640
New Mexico	986	47	-150	7	2	9271	1.2	156	190	302	52	9625
New York	16062	-2046	-574	22	24	138720	1.5	2119	3027	299	298	139317
North Carolina	3586	-63	-122	10	29	20382	0.5	576	-525	117	114	20613
North Dakota	1016	-112	24	0	0	4540	1.1	737	192	10	3	4553
Ohio	10634	635	-216	10	17	57405	1.1	2594	984	137	116	57658
Oklahoma	2124	169	368	3	9	16444	1.1	155	3737	58	41	16543
Oregon	4892	-627	-838	56	7	27734	1.5	565	34	619	60	28413
Pennsylvania	19967	-724	1133	55	23	119212	2.1	975	11349	483	205	119900
Puerto Rico	1255	230	-85	8	4	14709	1.7	-2944	-637	286	89	15084
Rhode Island	1719	381	-145	2	0	7794	1.7	519	-98	25	17	7836
South Carolina	2931	436	-438	5	3	15119	0.7	388	-860	38	65	15222
South Dakota	489	-40	59	5	1	2361	0.6	342	92	45	3	2409
Tennessee	3253	777	-867	6	10	17212	0.6	623	-44	72	63	17347
Texas	12681	-2356	-1213	39	79	133637	1.1	11452	20406	690	1064	135391
Utah	1623	-83	-5	51	2	9881	0.7	131	-380	210	17	10108
Vermont	895	356	-220	2	1	3491	1.1	-78	-320	11	0	3502
Virgin Islands	53	24	38	0	0	678	2.0	550	76	10	4	692
Virginia	3608	481	-254	9	12	19437	0.5	209	-517	205	169	19811
Washington	8896	1537	62	20	28	60383	1.8	1067	2433	496	455	61334
West Virginia	1759	-748	309	1	2	14267	2.1	-251	4242	42	37	14346
Wisconsin	7776	982	777	5	1	35984	1.3	2708	66	95	23	36102
Wyoming	629	87	80	12	0	2692	1.0	-2	265	79	3	2774
Totals	287325	16793	-4256	773	489	1798583	1.2	70532	33882	10318	5857	1814758

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 21, 2019

STATES WITH AN INCREASE OF MORE THAN 1,000

State	Change	State Supplied Comment
MO	+3,246	Layoffs in the transportation and warehousing, accommodation and food services, and construction industries.
IA	+2,423	No comment.
CA	+2,422	Layoffs in the service industry.
NJ	+2,195	Layoffs in the educational service, transportation and warehousing, accommodation and food services, public administration, manufacturing, construction, and trade industries.
IL	+1,593	Layoffs in the construction, administrative, support, waste management and remediation services, and manufacturing industries.
WA	+1,537	Layoffs in the utilities, manufacturing, transportation and warehousing, and health care and social assistance industries.
KS	+1,271	No comment.
MD	+1,245	No comment.

STATES WITH A DECREASE OF MORE THAN 1,000

State	Change	State Supplied Comment
TX	-2,356	Fewer layoffs in the transportation and warehousing, accommodation and food services, and information industries.
NY	-2,046	No comment.
GA	-1,710	Fewer layoffs in the transportation and warehousing, accommodation and food services, and manufacturing 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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