



News Release

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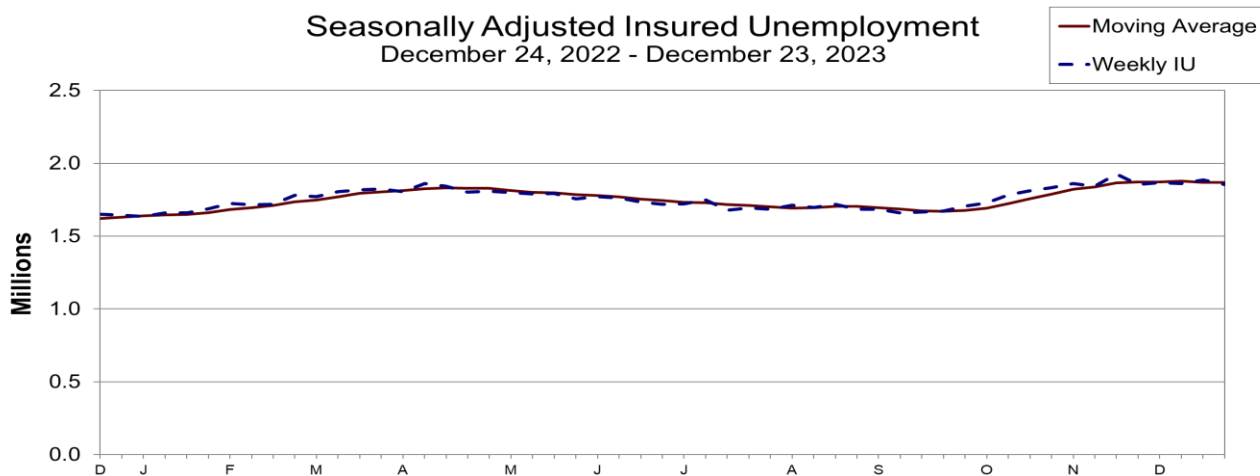
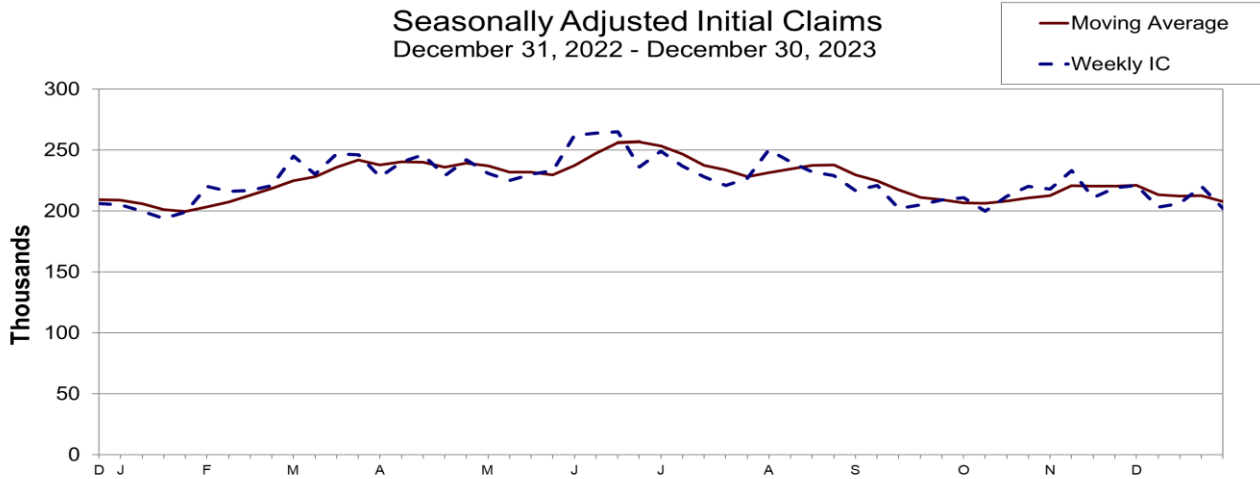
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8:30 A.M. (Eastern) Thursday, January 4, 2024

UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE WEEKLY CLAIMS

SEASONALLY ADJUSTED DATA

In the week ending December 30, the advance figure for seasonally adjusted **initial claims** was 202,000, a decrease of 18,000 from the previous week's revised level. The previous week's level was revised up by 2,000 from 218,000 to 220,000. The 4-week moving average was 207,750, a decrease of 4,750 from the previous week's revised average. The previous week's average was revised up by 500 from 212,000 to 212,500.

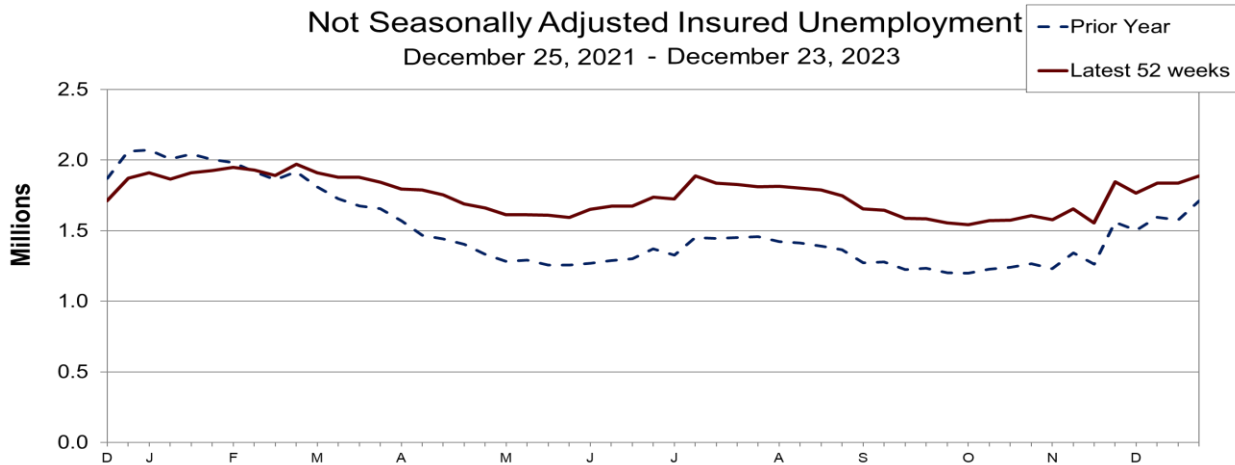
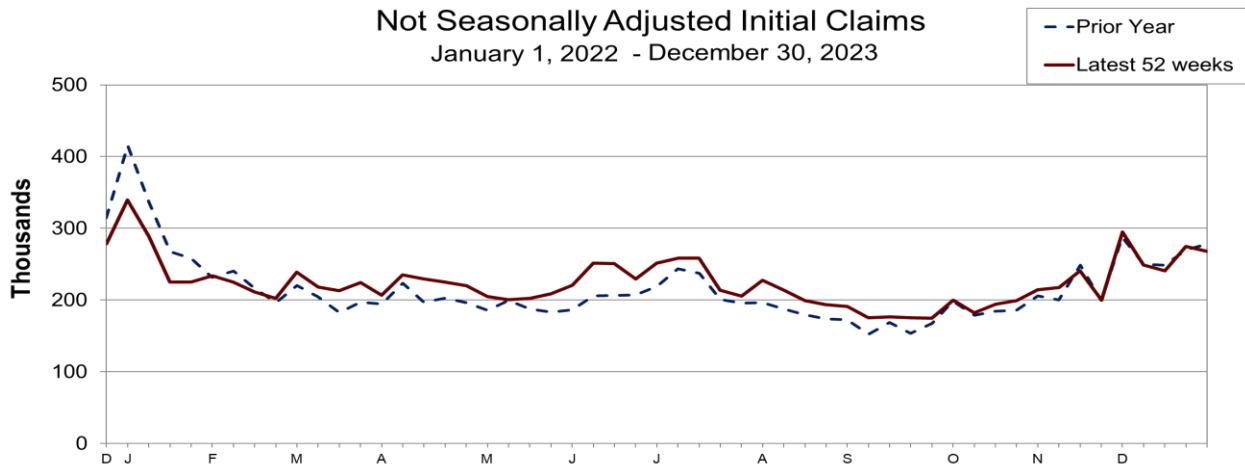
The advance seasonally adjusted **insured unemployment rate** was 1.2 percent for the week ending December 23, a decrease of 0.1 percentage point from the previous week's unrevised rate. The advance number for seasonally adjusted **insured unemployment** during the week ending December 23 was 1,855,000, a decrease of 31,000 from the previous week's revised level. The previous week's level was revised up 11,000 from 1,875,000 to 1,886,000. The 4-week moving average was 1,867,000, a decrease of 250 from the previous week's revised average. The previous week's average was revised up by 2,750 from 1,864,500 to 1,867,250.



UNADJUSTED DATA

The advance number of actual initial claims under state programs, unadjusted, totaled 268,020 in the week ending December 30, a decrease of 6,820 (or -2.5 percent) from the previous week. The seasonal factors had expected an increase of 17,136 (or 6.2 percent) from the previous week. There were 278,487 initial claims in the comparable week in 2022.

The advance unadjusted insured unemployment rate was 1.3 percent during the week ending December 23, an increase of 0.1 percentage point from the prior week. The advance unadjusted level of insured unemployment in state programs totaled 1,887,944, an increase of 51,412 (or 2.8 percent) from the preceding week. The seasonal factors had expected an increase of 82,964 (or 4.5 percent) from the previous week. A year earlier the rate was 1.2 percent and the volume was 1,710,626.



The total number of continued weeks claimed for benefits in all programs for the week ending December 16 was 1,864,500, an increase of 781 from the previous week. There were 1,601,794 weekly claims filed for benefits in all programs in the comparable week in 2022.

No state was triggered "on" the Extended Benefits program during the week ending December 16.

Initial claims for UI benefits filed by former Federal civilian employees totaled 580 in the week ending December 23, an increase of 66 from the prior week. There were 321 initial claims filed by newly discharged veterans, a decrease of 34 from the preceding week.

There were 6,427 continued weeks claimed filed by former Federal civilian employees the week ending December 16, an increase of 155 from the previous week. Newly discharged veterans claiming benefits totaled 4,214, a decrease of 169 from the prior week.

The highest insured unemployment rates in the week ending December 16 were in New Jersey (2.4), Alaska (2.2), Montana (2.2), California (2.1), Minnesota (2.1), Massachusetts (1.9), Rhode Island (1.9), Washington (1.9), Illinois (1.8), New York (1.8), Pennsylvania (1.8), and Puerto Rico (1.8).

The largest increases in initial claims for the week ending December 23 were in California (+4,911), New Jersey (+4,713), Missouri (+4,684), Ohio (+2,712), and Pennsylvania (+2,329), while the largest decreases were in Texas (-1,212), Oklahoma (-539), West Virginia (-406), Colorado (-335), and Utah (-262).

UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE DATA FOR REGULAR STATE PROGRAMS

WEEK ENDING	December 30	December 23	Change	December 16	Prior Year¹
Initial Claims (SA)	202,000	220,000	-18,000	206,000	206,000
Initial Claims (NSA)	268,020	274,840	-6,820	241,040	278,487
4-Wk Moving Average (SA)	207,750	212,500	-4,750	212,250	209,250

WEEK ENDING	December 23	December 16	Change	December 9	Prior Year¹
Insured Unemployment (SA)	1,855,000	1,886,000	-31,000	1,861,000	1,650,000
Insured Unemployment (NSA)	1,887,944	1,836,532	+51,412	1,835,426	1,710,626
4-Wk Moving Average (SA)	1,867,000	1,867,250	-250	1,877,000	1,619,750
Insured Unemployment Rate (SA) ²	1.2%	1.3%	-0.1	1.2%	1.1%
Insured Unemployment Rate (NSA) ²	1.3%	1.2%	+0.1	1.2%	1.2%

INITIAL CLAIMS FILED IN FEDERAL PROGRAMS (UNADJUSTED)

WEEK ENDING	December 23	December 16	Change	Prior Year¹
Federal Employees (UCFE)	580	514	+66	575
Newly Discharged Veterans (UCX)	321	355	-34	310

CONTINUED WEEKS CLAIMED FILED FOR UI BENEFITS IN ALL PROGRAMS (UNADJUSTED)

WEEK ENDING	December 16	December 9	Change	Prior Year¹
Regular State	1,830,673	1,829,702	+971	1,572,231
Federal Employees	6,427	6,272	+155	7,120
Newly Discharged Veterans	4,214	4,383	-169	4,317
Extended Benefits ³	372	441	-69	1,766
State Additional Benefits ⁴	2,589	2,576	+13	1,532
STC / Workshare ⁵	20,225	20,345	-120	14,828
TOTAL	1,864,500	1,863,719	+781	1,601,794

FOOTNOTES

SA - Seasonally Adjusted Data, NSA - Not Seasonally Adjusted Data Continued weeks claimed represent all weeks of benefits claimed during the week being reported, and do not represent weeks claimed by unique individuals.

1. Prior year is comparable to most recent data.
2. Most recent week used covered employment of 149,106,140 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 4-5 of this link: [Extensions and Special Programs PDF](#)
5. Information on STC/Worksharing can be found starting on page 4-11 of the following link: [Extensions and Special Programs PDF](#)

Advance State Claims - Not Seasonally Adjusted

STATE	Initial Claims Filed During Week Ended December 30			Insured Unemployment For Week Ended December 23		
	Advance	Prior Wk	Change	Advance	Prior Wk	Change
Alabama	2,083	2,423	-340	9,016	9,591	-575
Alaska	825	788	37	6,722	6,678	44
Arizona	2,195	3,025	-830	20,048	21,858	-1,810
Arkansas	1,381	2,250	-869	9,118	9,997	-879
California *	40,843	48,415	-7,572	382,271	375,953	6,318
Colorado	1,489	1,783	-294	29,926	29,472	454
Connecticut	8,172	5,952	2,220	26,927	24,578	2,349
Delaware	903	586	317	5,553	5,043	510
District of Columbia	324	419	-95	5,513	5,976	-463
Florida	3,906	5,489	-1,583	32,575	34,588	-2,013
Georgia	5,176	5,642	-466	29,719	30,377	-658
Hawaii	1,426	1,181	245	8,684	9,280	-596
Idaho	2,398	2,190	208	8,874	8,312	562
Illinois	14,002	14,542	-540	112,848	104,024	8,824
Indiana	5,002	4,411	591	27,184	23,473	3,711
Iowa	5,973	5,816	157	16,612	13,460	3,152
Kansas *	2,534	1,840	694	6,695	5,592	1,103
Kentucky	2,887	3,478	-591	8,683	7,672	1,011
Louisiana	1,143	1,766	-623	11,360	13,193	-1,833
Maine	1,239	812	427	6,929	6,170	759
Maryland	3,168	3,104	64	22,568	22,535	33
Massachusetts	12,475	9,760	2,715	72,777	70,360	2,417
Michigan	13,261	10,622	2,639	56,728	53,213	3,515
Minnesota	6,827	6,626	201	66,785	58,577	8,208
Mississippi	977	1,249	-272	5,768	6,534	-766
Missouri	5,483	8,034	-2,551	21,862	17,990	3,872
Montana	1,782	1,247	535	11,711	10,768	943
Nebraska	1,467	1,618	-151	6,008	5,536	472
Nevada	2,670	3,318	-648	24,455	24,280	175
New Hampshire	861	505	356	3,160	3,227	-67
New Jersey	18,056	15,162	2,894	99,271	97,514	1,757
New Mexico	734	996	-262	10,017	9,839	178
New York	17,612	16,281	1,331	167,006	163,774	3,232
North Carolina	1,578	2,688	-1,110	17,446	18,879	-1,433
North Dakota	850	858	-8	4,200	3,424	776
Ohio	11,839	12,329	-490	52,151	49,527	2,624
Oklahoma	1,111	1,817	-706	10,416	9,902	514
Oregon	5,838	7,049	-1,211	34,510	33,345	1,165
Pennsylvania	20,403	15,860	4,543	106,218	103,218	3,000
Puerto Rico	1,799	1,851	-52	6,643	16,363	-9,720
Rhode Island	3,087	1,667	1,420	10,192	9,137	1,055
South Carolina	1,931	2,516	-585	14,570	13,724	846
South Dakota	339	389	-50	2,112	1,964	148
Tennessee	2,692	3,594	-902	17,388	16,295	1,093
Texas	7,900	13,980	-6,080	139,493	138,465	1,028
Utah	939	1,138	-199	11,183	11,123	60
Vermont	491	555	-64	2,960	2,804	156
Virgin Islands	5	23	-18	184	204	-20
Virginia	2,076	2,019	57	13,192	12,341	851
Washington	7,253	7,440	-187	69,794	66,086	3,708
West Virginia	856	937	-81	8,800	7,914	886
Wisconsin	7,317	6,298	1,019	30,593	30,399	194
Wyoming	442	502	-60	2,526	1,984	542
US Total	268,020	274,840	-6,820	1,887,944	1,836,532	51,412

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 estimates.

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 24, 2022	213	1	211.75	1,650	23	1,619.75	1.1
December 31, 2022	206	-7	209.25	1,645	-5	1,630.75	1.1
January 7, 2023	205	-1	209.00	1,634	-11	1,639.00	1.1
January 14, 2023	200	-5	206.00	1,658	24	1,646.75	1.1
January 21, 2023	194	-6	201.25	1,660	2	1,649.25	1.1
January 28, 2023	199	5	199.50	1,688	28	1,660.00	1.2
February 4, 2023	220	21	203.25	1,723	35	1,682.25	1.2
February 11, 2023	216	-4	207.25	1,714	-9	1,696.25	1.2
February 18, 2023	217	1	213.00	1,718	4	1,710.75	1.2
February 25, 2023	221	4	218.50	1,781	63	1,734.00	1.2
March 4, 2023	245	24	224.75	1,772	-9	1,746.25	1.2
March 11, 2023	230	-15	228.25	1,804	32	1,768.75	1.2
March 18, 2023	247	17	235.75	1,817	13	1,793.50	1.3
March 25, 2023	246	-1	242.00	1,823	6	1,804.00	1.3
April 1, 2023	228	-18	237.75	1,804	-19	1,812.00	1.2
April 8, 2023	240	12	240.25	1,861	57	1,826.25	1.3
April 15, 2023	246	6	240.00	1,843	-18	1,832.75	1.3
April 22, 2023	229	-17	235.75	1,801	-42	1,827.25	1.2
April 29, 2023	242	13	239.25	1,807	6	1,828.00	1.2
May 6, 2023	231	-11	237.00	1,799	-8	1,812.50	1.2
May 13, 2023	225	-6	231.75	1,789	-10	1,799.00	1.2
May 20, 2023	230	5	232.00	1,794	5	1,797.25	1.2
May 27, 2023	233	3	229.75	1,755	-39	1,784.25	1.2
June 3, 2023	262	29	237.50	1,772	17	1,777.50	1.2
June 10, 2023	264	2	247.25	1,761	-11	1,770.50	1.2
June 17, 2023	265	1	256.00	1,733	-28	1,755.25	1.2
June 24, 2023	236	-29	256.75	1,718	-15	1,746.00	1.2
July 1, 2023	249	13	253.50	1,721	3	1,733.25	1.2
July 8, 2023	237	-12	246.75	1,749	28	1,730.25	1.2
July 15, 2023	228	-9	237.50	1,679	-70	1,716.75	1.1
July 22, 2023	221	-7	233.75	1,692	13	1,710.25	1.1
July 29, 2023	227	6	228.25	1,684	-8	1,701.00	1.1
August 5, 2023	250	23	231.50	1,711	27	1,691.50	1.2
August 12, 2023	240	-10	234.50	1,697	-14	1,696.00	1.1
August 19, 2023	232	-8	237.25	1,719	22	1,702.75	1.2
August 26, 2023	229	-3	237.75	1,684	-35	1,702.75	1.1
September 2, 2023	217	-12	229.50	1,683	-1	1,695.75	1.1
September 9, 2023	221	4	224.75	1,658	-25	1,686.00	1.1
September 16, 2023	202	-19	217.25	1,665	7	1,672.50	1.1
September 23, 2023	205	3	211.25	1,672	7	1,669.50	1.1
September 30, 2023	209	4	209.25	1,705	33	1,675.00	1.2
October 7, 2023	211	2	206.75	1,727	22	1,692.25	1.2
October 14, 2023	200	-11	206.25	1,783	56	1,721.75	1.2
October 21, 2023	212	12	208.00	1,812	29	1,756.75	1.2
October 28, 2023	220	8	210.75	1,833	21	1,788.75	1.2
November 4, 2023	218	-2	212.50	1,862	29	1,822.50	1.2
November 11, 2023	233	15	220.75	1,841	-21	1,837.00	1.2
November 18, 2023	211	-22	220.50	1,925	84	1,865.25	1.3
November 25, 2023	219	8	220.25	1,856	-69	1,871.00	1.2
December 2, 2023	221	2	221.00	1,866	10	1,872.00	1.3
December 9, 2023	203	-18	213.50	1,861	-5	1,877.00	1.2
December 16, 2023	206	3	212.25	1,886	25	1,867.25	1.3
December 23, 2023	220	14	212.50	1,855	-31	1,867.00	1.2
December 30, 2023	202	-18	207.75				

INITIAL CLAIMS FILED DURING WEEK ENDED
DECEMBER 23

INSURED UNEMPLOYMENT FOR WEEK ENDED
DECEMBER 16

STATE NAME	CHANGE FROM					CHANGE FROM					ALL PROGRAMS EXCLUDING RAILROAD RETIREMENT	
	STATE	LAST WEEK	YEAR AGO	UCFE ¹	UCX ¹	STATE (%) ²	LAST WEEK	YEAR AGO	UCFE ¹	UCX ¹		
Alabama	2,423	149	-355	7	3	9,591	0.5	215	4,676	27	17	9,635
Alaska	788	-10	-108	6	0	6,678	2.2	-77	46	93	8	6,779
Arizona	3,025	-239	601	5	0	21,858	0.7	197	4,132	116	21	21,995
Arkansas	2,250	757	1,276	1	1	9,997	0.8	-333	3,224	23	17	10,037
California	48,415	4,911	6,955	134	80	375,953	2.1	-10,978	50,651	1,143	1,070	378,166
Colorado	1,783	-335	-860	10	3	29,472	1.1	76	8,261	180	132	29,784
Connecticut	5,952	2,093	25	2	4	24,578	1.5	1,049	3,265	25	26	24,629
Delaware	586	166	57	1	2	5,043	1.1	104	1,076	7	7	5,057
District of Columbia	419	-39	-172	4	1	5,976	1.1	-74	2,560	140	12	6,128
Florida	5,489	-224	910	14	24	34,588	0.4	-3,824	-2,088	100	95	34,783
Georgia	5,642	401	1,358	17	12	30,377	0.7	2	6,069	95	95	30,567
Hawaii	1,181	43	5	1	3	9,280	1.6	-306	4,080	25	41	9,346
Idaho	2,190	82	-126	23	2	8,312	1.0	578	32	181	11	8,504
Illinois	14,542	1,024	-2,144	6	3	104,024	1.8	979	17,044	278	117	104,419
Indiana	4,411	645	-1,180	3	4	23,473	0.8	991	430	57	28	23,558
Iowa	5,816	1,264	364	2	2	13,460	0.9	1,914	-1,528	27	11	13,498
Kansas	1,840	391	-259	1	1	5,592	0.4	-326	1,478	36	18	5,646
Kentucky	3,478	1,458	-3,074	3	1	7,672	0.4	-711	-1,432	36	21	7,729
Louisiana	1,766	-91	-57	0	3	13,193	0.7	-18	1,484	32	8	13,233
Maine	812	-157	-170	1	0	6,170	1.0	188	971	21	12	6,203
Maryland	3,104	592	380	11	7	22,535	0.9	23	2,483	136	73	22,744
Massachusetts	9,760	1,454	60	9	1	70,360	1.9	3,363	9,303	97	83	70,540
Michigan	10,622	-41	436	3	0	53,213	1.2	-1,454	7,490	126	25	53,364
Minnesota	6,626	-151	-341	7	2	58,577	2.1	2,950	4,928	74	42	58,693
Mississippi	1,249	1	176	1	1	6,534	0.6	-200	799	38	7	6,579
Missouri	8,034	4,684	-1,070	5	1	17,990	0.6	616	2,288	53	17	18,060
Montana	1,247	267	-319	40	1	10,768	2.2	1,112	2,549	215	4	10,987
Nebraska	1,618	613	176	0	0	5,536	0.6	397	1,137	9	6	5,551
Nevada	3,318	226	645	6	0	24,280	1.7	1,054	5,760	100	43	24,423
New Hampshire	505	-23	135	3	1	3,227	0.5	58	879	7	1	3,235
New Jersey	15,162	4,713	4,183	22	10	97,514	2.4	1,383	14,396	192	179	97,885
New Mexico	996	148	-105	1	2	9,839	1.2	109	792	146	25	10,010
New York	16,281	605	-2,315	19	8	163,774	1.8	2,175	16,830	299	238	164,311
North Carolina	2,688	-55	-22	2	4	18,879	0.4	-216	2,179	60	78	19,017
North Dakota	858	47	-95	1	0	3,424	0.8	474	-328	7	4	3,435
Ohio	12,329	2,712	-985	5	10	49,527	0.9	1,683	854	63	67	49,657
Oklahoma	1,817	-539	372	1	1	9,902	0.6	293	-92	22	38	9,962
Oregon	7,049	2,258	680	62	8	33,345	1.7	-188	6,850	441	46	33,832
Pennsylvania	15,860	2,329	1,470	11	12	103,218	1.8	2,475	22,828	289	157	103,664
Puerto Rico	1,851	581	476	5	1	16,363	1.8	-869	35	209	43	16,615
Rhode Island	1,667	330	-161	5	1	9,137	1.9	627	1,439	19	23	9,179
South Carolina	2,516	343	-50	1	1	13,724	0.6	-91	1,274	23	49	13,796
South Dakota	389	-38	-144	6	0	1,964	0.5	195	2	34	1	1,999
Tennessee	3,594	428	8	0	4	16,295	0.5	121	2,508	29	32	16,356
Texas	13,980	-1,212	440	34	65	138,465	1.1	-6,289	31,190	377	737	139,579
Utah	1,138	-262	-531	35	0	11,123	0.7	-263	227	150	14	11,287
Vermont	555	246	-220	0	0	2,804	0.9	197	143	1	1	2,806
Virgin Islands	23	-7	9	0	0	204	0.6	-36	16	2	4	210
Virginia	2,019	302	830	6	4	12,341	0.3	83	3,055	78	65	12,484
Washington	7,440	638	-904	22	23	66,086	1.9	-164	12,405	353	311	66,750
West Virginia	937	-406	-37	0	3	7,914	1.2	-178	364	36	17	7,967
Wisconsin	6,298	693	-1,144	4	1	30,399	1.1	1,952	748	58	12	30,469
Wyoming	502	35	-116	12	0	1,984	0.7	68	-234	42	5	2,031
Totals	274,840	33,800	4,963	580	321	1,836,532	1.2	1,106	259,528	6,427	4,214	1,847,173

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 23, 2023

STATES WITH AN INCREASE OF MORE THAN 1,000

State	Change	State Supplied Comment
CA	+4,911	No comment.
NJ	+4,713	No comment.
MO	+4,684	Layoffs in the automobile industry.
OH	+2,712	Layoffs in the manufacturing industry.
PA	+2,329	Layoffs in the accommodation and food services, transportation and warehousing, and in construction industries.
OR	+2,258	No comment.
CT	+2,093	No comment.
KY	+1,458	Layoffs in the manufacturing industry.
MA	+1,454	No comment.
IA	+1,264	Layoffs in the construction and manufacturing industries.
IL	+1,024	Layoffs in the construction, administrative and support and waste management and remediation services, and in transportation and warehousing industries.

STATES WITH A DECREASE OF MORE THAN 1,000

State	Change	State Supplied Comment
TX	-1,212	No comment.

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. On a weekly basis, continued claims are also referred to as insured unemployment, as continued claims reflect a good approximation of the current number of insured unemployed workers filing for UI benefits. The count of U.S. continued weeks claimed is also a good indicator of labor market conditions. 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. For further questions on the seasonal adjustment methodology, please see the [official release page for the UI claims seasonal adjustment factors](#) or contact BLS directly through the [Local Area Unemployment Statistics web contact form](#).

[Weekly Claims Archives](#) [Weekly Claims Data](#)

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