



News Release

Connect with DOL at
<http://blog.dol.gov>



TRANSMISSION OF MATERIALS IN THIS RELEASE IS EMBARGOED UNTIL
8:30 A.M. (Eastern) Thursday, November 9, 2017

UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE WEEKLY CLAIMS

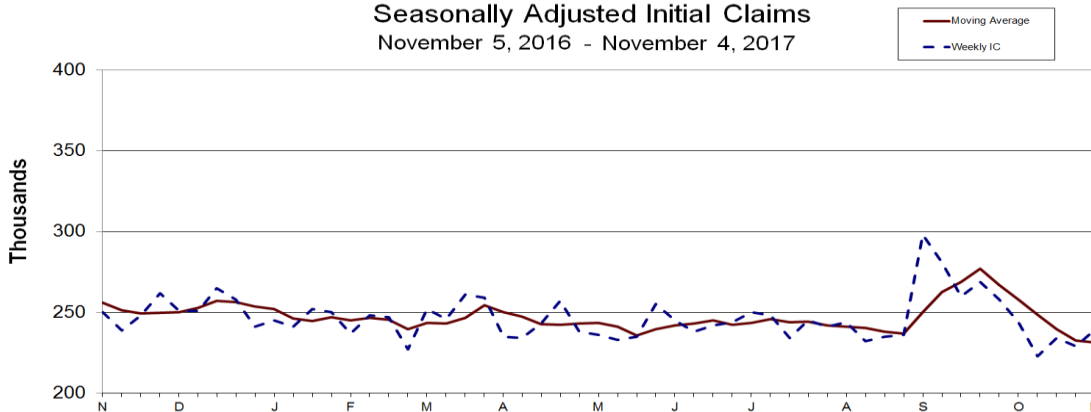
SEASONALLY ADJUSTED DATA

In the week ending November 4, the advance figure for seasonally adjusted **initial claims** was 239,000, an increase of 10,000 from the previous week's unrevised level of 229,000. The 4-week moving average was 231,250, a decrease of 1,250 from the previous week's unrevised average of 232,500. This is the lowest level for this average since March 31, 1973 when it was 227,750.

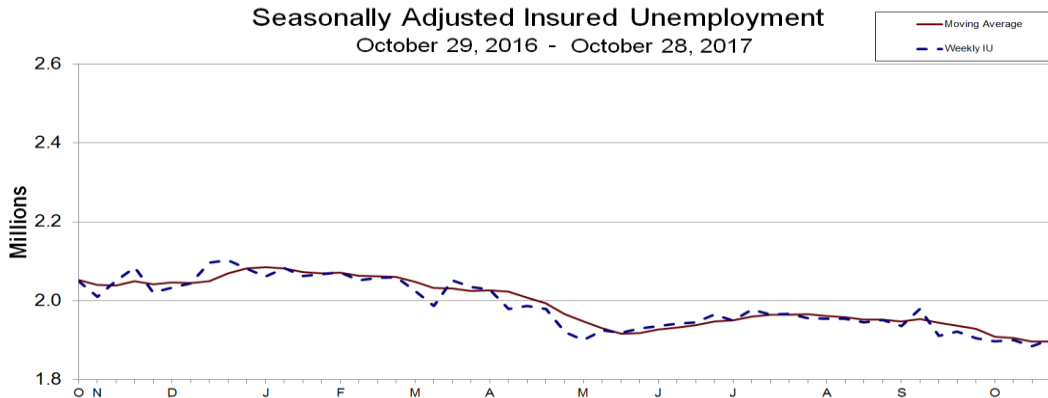
Claims taking procedures continue to be severely disrupted in the Virgin Islands. The ability to take claims has improved in Puerto Rico and they are now processing backlogged claims.

The advance seasonally adjusted **insured unemployment rate** was 1.4 percent for the week ending October 28, an increase of 0.1 percentage point from the previous week's unrevised rate. The advance number for seasonally adjusted **insured unemployment** during the week ending October 28 was 1,901,000, an increase of 17,000 from the previous week's unrevised level of 1,884,000. The 4-week moving average was 1,895,250, a decrease of 750 from the previous week's revised average. This is the lowest level for this average since January 12, 1974 when it was 1,881,000. The previous week's average was revised up by 250 from 1,895,750 to 1,896,000.

Seasonally Adjusted Initial Claims
November 5, 2016 - November 4, 2017



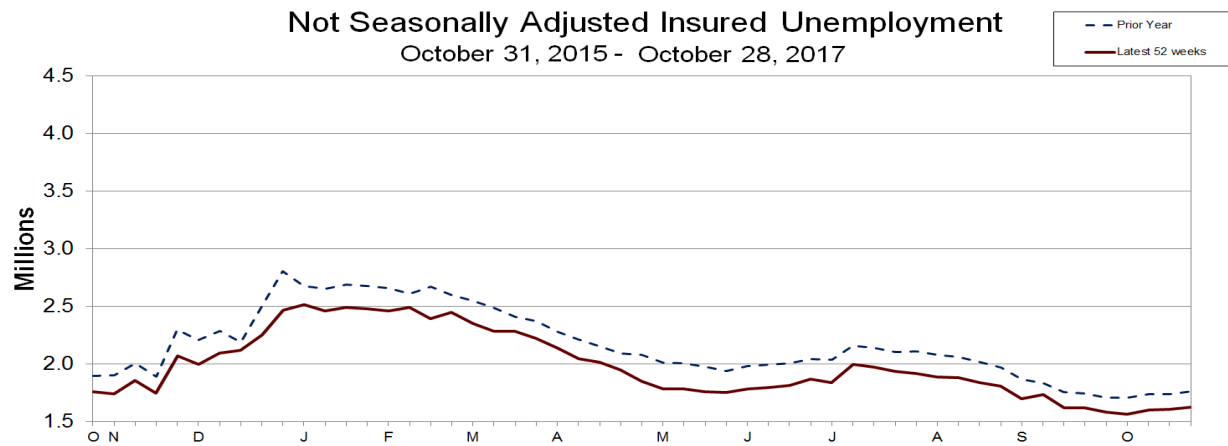
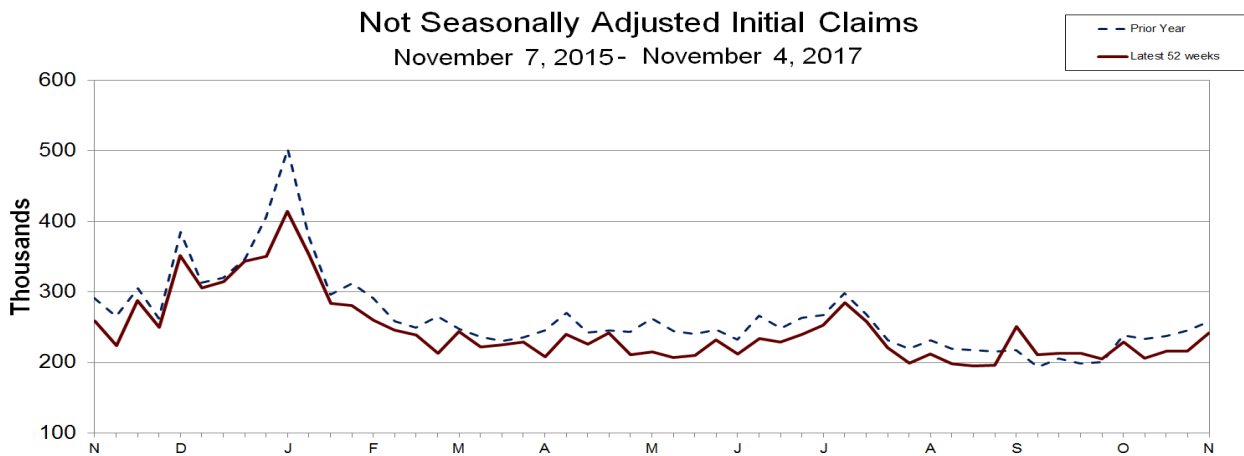
Seasonally Adjusted Insured Unemployment
October 29, 2016 - October 28, 2017



UNADJUSTED DATA

The advance number of actual initial claims under state programs, unadjusted, totaled 241,568 in the week ending November 4, an increase of 25,793 (or 12.0 percent) from the previous week. The seasonal factors had expected an increase of 16,281 (or 7.5 percent) from the previous week. There were 258,608 initial claims in the comparable week in 2016.

The advance unadjusted insured unemployment rate was 1.2 percent during the week ending October 28, an increase of 0.1 percentage point from the prior week. The advance unadjusted number for persons claiming UI benefits in state programs totaled 1,627,443, an increase of 20,258 (or 1.3 percent) from the preceding week. The seasonal factors had expected an increase of 5,652 (or 0.4 percent) from the previous week. A year earlier the rate was 1.3 percent and the volume was 1,763,155.



The total number of people claiming benefits in all programs for the week ending October 21 was 1,639,076, an increase of 1,492 from the previous week. There were 1,783,291 persons claiming benefits in all programs in the comparable week in 2016.

No state was triggered "on" the Extended Benefits program during the week ending October 21.

Initial claims for UI benefits filed by former Federal civilian employees totaled 1,049 in the week ending October 28, a decrease of 341 from the prior week. There were 741 initial claims filed by newly discharged veterans, an increase of 43 from the preceding week.

There were 10,310 former Federal civilian employees claiming UI benefits for the week ending October 21, a decrease of 1,333 from the previous week. Newly discharged veterans claiming benefits totaled 8,833, a decrease of 146 from the prior week.

The highest insured unemployment rates in the week ending October 21 were in Puerto Rico (2.8), Alaska (2.7), the Virgin Islands (2.2), New Jersey (2.1), California (1.8), Connecticut (1.8), Pennsylvania (1.6), the District of Columbia (1.5), Illinois (1.5), Massachusetts (1.5), and Nevada (1.5).

The largest increases in initial claims for the week ending October 28 were in Puerto Rico (+2,677), California (+1,412), Ohio (+823), Indiana (+753), and Michigan (+640), while the largest decreases were in Georgia (-1,531), Florida (-1,263), Kentucky (-876), Missouri (-832), and New York (-786).

UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE DATA FOR REGULAR STATE PROGRAMS

WEEK ENDING	November 4	October 28	Change	October 21	<u>Prior Year</u>¹
Initial Claims (SA)	239,000	229,000	+10,000	234,000	250,000
Initial Claims (NSA)	241,568	215,775	+25,793	215,736	258,608
4-Wk Moving Average (SA)	231,250	232,500	-1,250	239,750	256,000
WEEK ENDING	October 28	October 21	Change	October 14	<u>Prior Year</u>¹
Insured Unemployment (SA)	1,901,000	1,884,000	+17,000	1,900,000	2,050,000
Insured Unemployment (NSA)	1,627,443	1,607,185	+20,258	1,603,263	1,763,155
4-Wk Moving Average (SA)	1,895,250	1,896,000	-750	1,905,250	2,052,750
<u>Insured Unemployment Rate (SA)</u> ²	1.4%	1.3%	+0.1	1.4%	1.5%
<u>Insured Unemployment Rate (NSA)</u> ²	1.2%	1.1%	+0.1	1.1%	1.3%

INITIAL CLAIMS FILED IN FEDERAL PROGRAMS (UNADJUSTED)

WEEK ENDING	October 28	October 21	Change	<u>Prior Year</u>¹
Federal Employees (UCFE)	1,049	1,390	-341	1,298
Newly Discharged Veterans (UCX)	741	698	+43	1,008

PERSONS CLAIMING UI BENEFITS IN ALL PROGRAMS (UNADJUSTED)

WEEK ENDING	October 21	October 14	Change	<u>Prior Year</u>¹
Regular State	1,604,572	1,600,293	+4,279	1,737,007
Federal Employees	10,310	11,643	-1,333	10,586
Newly Discharged Veterans	8,833	8,979	-146	13,335
<u>Extended Benefits</u> ³	0	0	0	0
<u>State Additional Benefits</u> ⁴	6,384	6,495	-111	7,427
<u>STC / Workshare</u> ⁵	8,977	10,174	-1,197	14,936
<u>TOTAL</u>	1,639,076	1,637,584	+1,492	1,783,291

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 140,510,815 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 November 4			Insured Unemployment For Week Ended October 28		
	Advance	Prior Wk	Change	Advance	Prior Wk	Change
Alabama	2,287	2,311	-24	15,935	15,710	225
Alaska	1,940	1,481	459	8,687	8,355	332
Arizona	3,940	3,760	180	22,515	25,482	-2,967
Arkansas	1,697	1,637	60	11,316	12,177	-861
California	44,208	43,283	925	320,022	302,351	17,671
Colorado	2,197	1,936	261	20,341	19,074	1,267
Connecticut	2,756	2,795	-39	31,169	29,815	1,354
Delaware	617	529	88	4,633	4,364	269
District of Columbia	709	354	355	7,718	8,285	-567
Florida ^I	8,177	8,849	-672	42,604	46,350	-3,746
Georgia	5,662	4,828	834	25,267	26,505	-1,238
Hawaii	1,256	1,231	25	7,783	7,306	477
Idaho	1,254	1,104	150	4,305	4,439	-134
Illinois	10,531	8,938	1,593	87,502	85,389	2,113
Indiana	2,684	3,256	-572	14,206	14,485	-279
Iowa	2,734	2,389	345	13,726	12,666	1,060
Kansas	1,856	1,474	382	9,023	9,222	-199
Kentucky	2,252	1,994	258	18,040	15,853	2,187
Louisiana	2,026	2,247	-221	16,661	18,385	-1,724
Maine	840	722	118	3,799	3,678	121
Maryland	3,645	3,605	40	27,785	30,444	-2,659
Massachusetts	5,910	5,330	580	52,569	53,488	-919
Michigan	10,565	6,889	3,676	41,805	38,331	3,474
Minnesota	5,205	3,541	1,664	28,317	25,903	2,414
Mississippi	994	1,182	-188	8,216	8,801	-585
Missouri	3,240	3,209	31	20,782	20,982	-200
Montana	1,899	1,086	813	5,548	5,433	115
Nebraska	736	613	123	3,852	3,789	63
Nevada	2,850	2,393	457	17,514	18,787	-1,273
New Hampshire	488	461	27	3,171	3,513	-342
New Jersey	9,287	8,564	723	82,522	80,949	1,573
New Mexico	1,080	1,065	15	9,311	9,156	155
New York	15,029	13,812	1,217	124,330	122,576	1,754
North Carolina	3,228	2,777	451	18,335	19,690	-1,355
North Dakota	755	349	406	2,422	1,807	615
Ohio	8,413	6,769	1,644	44,234	43,674	560
Oklahoma	2,468	1,303	1,165	13,364	13,850	-486
Oregon	4,151	3,725	426	24,186	23,862	324
Pennsylvania	14,431	11,954	2,477	95,915	91,729	4,186
Puerto Rico ^{1M}	8,137	6,124	2,013	36,081	24,887	11,194
Rhode Island	906	702	204	6,372	6,182	190
South Carolina	2,151	2,300	-149	16,604	16,831	-227
South Dakota	275	248	27	1,101	1,020	81
Tennessee	2,248	2,308	-60	16,774	17,103	-329
Texas	14,720	14,423	297	125,190	143,632	-18,442
Utah	1,390	1,061	329	7,211	7,238	-27
Vermont	664	482	182	2,752	2,402	350
Virgin Islands ^{*1M}	199	181	18	687	807	-120
Virginia	3,074	2,732	342	23,380	22,741	639
Washington	6,841	6,041	800	47,719	45,478	2,241
West Virginia	974	920	54	8,752	8,017	735
Wisconsin	5,291	4,121	1,170	22,857	21,747	1,110
Wyoming	701	387	314	2,533	2,445	88
US Total	241,568	215,775	25,793	1,627,443	1,607,185	20,258

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 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.

^IAffected by Hurricane Irma.

^MAffected by Hurricane Maria.

Seasonally Adjusted US Weekly UI Claims (in thousands)

Week Ending	Change from			Insured Unemployment	Change from		IUR
	Initial Claims	Prior Week	4-Week Average		Prior Week	4-Week Average	
October 29, 2016	261	6	255.50	2,050	5	2,052.75	1.5
November 5, 2016	250	-11	256.00	2,010	-40	2,039.25	1.5
November 12, 2016	239	-11	251.25	2,050	40	2,038.75	1.5
November 19, 2016	248	9	249.50	2,084	34	2,048.50	1.5
November 26, 2016	262	14	249.75	2,020	-64	2,041.00	1.5
December 3, 2016	251	-11	250.00	2,033	13	2,046.75	1.5
December 10, 2016	251	0	253.00	2,044	11	2,045.25	1.5
December 17, 2016	265	14	257.25	2,097	53	2,048.50	1.5
December 24, 2016	258	-7	256.25	2,102	5	2,069.00	1.5
December 31, 2016	241	-17	253.75	2,081	-21	2,081.00	1.5
January 7, 2017	245	4	252.25	2,061	-20	2,085.25	1.5
January 14, 2017	241	-4	246.25	2,083	22	2,081.75	1.5
January 21, 2017	252	11	244.75	2,063	-20	2,072.00	1.5
January 28, 2017	250	-2	247.00	2,067	4	2,068.50	1.5
February 4, 2017	237	-13	245.00	2,071	4	2,071.00	1.5
February 11, 2017	248	11	246.75	2,052	-19	2,063.25	1.5
February 18, 2017	247	-1	245.50	2,057	5	2,061.75	1.5
February 25, 2017	227	-20	239.75	2,059	2	2,059.75	1.5
March 4, 2017	252	25	243.50	2,025	-34	2,048.25	1.5
March 11, 2017	246	-6	243.00	1,987	-38	2,032.00	1.4
March 18, 2017	261	15	246.50	2,052	65	2,030.75	1.5
March 25, 2017	259	-2	254.50	2,035	-17	2,024.75	1.5
April 1, 2017	235	-24	250.25	2,028	-7	2,025.50	1.5
April 8, 2017	234	-1	247.25	1,978	-50	2,023.25	1.4
April 15, 2017	243	9	242.75	1,987	9	2,007.00	1.4
April 22, 2017	257	14	242.25	1,979	-8	1,993.00	1.4
April 29, 2017	238	-19	243.00	1,920	-59	1,966.00	1.4
May 6, 2017	236	-2	243.50	1,899	-21	1,946.25	1.4
May 13, 2017	233	-3	241.00	1,924	25	1,930.50	1.4
May 20, 2017	235	2	235.50	1,919	-5	1,915.50	1.4
May 27, 2017	255	20	239.75	1,929	10	1,917.75	1.4
June 3, 2017	245	-10	242.00	1,936	7	1,927.00	1.4
June 10, 2017	238	-7	243.25	1,942	6	1,931.50	1.4
June 17, 2017	242	4	245.00	1,945	3	1,938.00	1.4
June 24, 2017	244	2	242.25	1,965	20	1,947.00	1.4
July 1, 2017	250	6	243.50	1,949	-16	1,950.25	1.4
July 8, 2017	248	-2	246.00	1,977	28	1,959.00	1.4
July 15, 2017	234	-14	244.00	1,965	-12	1,964.00	1.4
July 22, 2017	245	11	244.25	1,967	2	1,964.50	1.4
July 29, 2017	241	-4	242.00	1,956	-11	1,966.25	1.4
August 5, 2017	244	3	241.00	1,954	-2	1,960.50	1.4
August 12, 2017	232	-12	240.50	1,954	0	1,957.75	1.4
August 19, 2017	235	3	238.00	1,945	-9	1,952.25	1.4
August 26, 2017	236	1	236.75	1,951	6	1,951.00	1.4
September 2, 2017	298	62	250.25	1,935	-16	1,946.25	1.4
September 9, 2017	281	-17	262.50	1,979	44	1,952.50	1.4
September 16, 2017	260	-21	268.75	1,911	-68	1,944.00	1.4
September 23, 2017	269	9	277.00	1,921	10	1,936.50	1.4
September 30, 2017	258	-11	267.00	1,904	-17	1,928.75	1.4
October 7, 2017	244	-14	257.75	1,896	-8	1,908.00	1.3
October 14, 2017	223	-21	248.50	1,900	4	1,905.25	1.4
October 21, 2017	234	11	239.75	1,884	-16	1,896.00	1.3
October 28, 2017	229	-5	232.50	1,901	17	1,895.25	1.4
November 4, 2017	239	10	231.25				

Initial Claims Filed During Week Ended October 28										Insured Unemployment For Week Ended October 21			
INITIAL CLAIMS										INSURED UNEMPLOYMENT			
STATE	STATE	CHANGE FROM				STATE	%	CHANGE FROM					
		LAST WEEK	YEAR AGO	UCFE	UCX			LAST WEEK	YEAR AGO	UCFE	UCX		
										ALL PROGRAMS		EXCLUDING RAILROAD RETIREMENT	
Alabama	2311	33	-443	8	9	15710	0.8	-289	-3599	57	93	15860	
Alaska	1481	240	-194	7	2	8355	2.7	393	-1378	107	18	8480	
Arizona	3760	-324	-182	27	5	25482	1.0	-724	-3170	131	69	25682	
Arkansas	1637	-124	-566	7	5	12177	1.0	333	-1480	47	82	12306	
California	43283	1412	-3110	206	126	302351	1.8	5944	-13836	1735	1850	305936	
Colorado	1936	-91	-413	26	18	19074	0.8	-499	-4327	142	246	19462	
Connecticut	2795	-139	-411	6	10	29815	1.8	182	-2902	66	100	29981	
Delaware	529	-35	-40	6	0	4364	1.0	-31	-389	7	10	4381	
District of Columbia	354	-83	-24	7	0	8285	1.5	77	114	410	16	8711	
Florida	8849	-1263	1311	24	47	46350	0.6	-3655	-203	155	192	46697	
Georgia	4828	-1531	-1682	45	32	26505	0.6	-2092	-4671	269	253	27027	
Hawaii	1231	-117	86	5	10	7306	1.2	-273	170	81	111	7498	
Idaho	1104	29	-327	28	2	4439	0.7	128	-1557	51	8	4498	
Illinois	8938	601	-34	19	15	85389	1.5	-2122	-4782	399	225	86013	
Indiana	3256	753	584	7	9	14485	0.5	1050	-4319	51	49	14585	
Iowa	2389	265	-75	3	2	12666	0.8	71	-2557	42	42	12750	
Kansas	1474	-72	-670	8	5	9222	0.7	-1959	-1144	121	50	9393	
Kentucky	1994	-876	-5799	12	2	15853	0.9	71	-5317	201	116	16170	
Louisiana	2247	-149	-252	3	4	18385	1.0	124	-5399	49	36	18470	
Maine	722	156	-129	1	0	3678	0.6	169	-665	12	16	3706	
Maryland	3605	132	-18	24	19	30444	1.2	9	-2208	347	147	30938	
Massachusetts	5330	295	-35	18	19	53488	1.5	1331	-1972	266	157	53911	
Michigan	6889	640	-137	23	10	38331	0.9	-3368	-7695	132	109	38572	
Minnesota	3541	599	-1241	14	3	25903	0.9	783	-3021	64	109	26076	
Mississippi	1182	-49	-317	4	4	8801	0.8	38	-1906	35	42	8878	
Missouri	3209	-832	-4740	16	2	20982	0.8	-3104	-2962	579	50	21611	
Montana	1086	15	-66	50	3	5433	1.2	425	-681	117	27	5577	
Nebraska	613	-40	-95	0	1	3789	0.4	-62	-511	16	11	3816	
Nevada	2393	-219	124	16	8	18787	1.5	204	-1686	84	75	18946	
New Hampshire	461	-30	-41	1	2	3513	0.5	46	-183	7	7	3527	
New Jersey	8564	-102	-266	21	18	80949	2.1	878	-3800	187	322	81458	
New Mexico	1065	158	-134	20	3	9156	1.2	88	-1675	224	76	9456	
New York	13812	-786	-1123	33	24	122576	1.4	-38	-5219	589	457	123622	
North Carolina	2777	-86	-2861	9	19	19690	0.5	-1688	-6757	84	164	19938	
North Dakota	349	57	-148	1	2	1807	0.4	63	-531	5	6	1818	
Ohio	6769	823	-740	20	21	43674	0.8	-206	-4448	205	253	44132	
Oklahoma	1303	-104	-316	14	7	13850	0.9	-26	-5408	72	97	14019	
Oregon	3725	-247	-513	54	12	23862	1.3	498	-1633	282	93	24237	
Pennsylvania	11954	-418	-2705	88	39	91729	1.6	-2440	-8160	474	307	92510	
Puerto Rico	6124	2677	4476	0	1	24887	2.8	-1832	1623	33	34	24954	
Rhode Island	702	-70	-200	0	1	6182	1.3	8	-439	29	20	6231	
South Carolina	2300	-350	-682	9	14	16831	0.9	75	2046	90	32	16953	
South Dakota	248	17	-55	4	2	1020	0.2	94	-160	17	2	1039	
Tennessee	2308	-110	-384	9	2	17103	0.6	-1124	653	402	59	17564	
Texas	14423	-741	-1409	53	127	143632	1.2	14846	-8880	761	1458	145851	
Utah	1061	91	-253	41	3	7238	0.5	-4	-580	334	18	7590	
Vermont	482	10	-62	2	0	2402	0.8	108	-548	9	3	2414	
Virgin Islands	181	-162	134	0	0	807	2.2	17	-101	0	0	807	
Virginia	2732	69	-29	19	25	22741	0.6	-35	-508	329	397	23467	
Washington	6041	-318	-1629	20	38	45478	1.4	1143	3098	261	654	46393	
West Virginia	920	45	-132	2	3	8017	1.2	-1	-3082	48	30	8095	
Wisconsin	4121	395	-1898	3	5	21747	0.8	182	-4137	73	28	21848	
Wyoming	387	-5	-111	6	1	2445	0.9	116	-1894	22	7	2474	
Totals	215775	39	-29976	1049	741	1607185	1.1	3922	-134776	10310	8833	1626328	

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 US total covered employment is BLS.

UNADJUSTED INITIAL CLAIMS FOR WEEK ENDED OCTOBER 28, 2017

STATES WITH AN INCREASE OF MORE THAN 1,000

State	Change	State Supplied Comment
PR	+2,677	No comment.
CA	+1,412	No comment.

STATES WITH A DECREASE OF MORE THAN 1,000

State	Change	State Supplied Comment
GA	-1,531	Fewer layoffs in the manufacturing, and administrative and support and waste management and remediation service industries.
FL	-1,263	Fewer layoffs in the agriculture, forestry, fishing and hunting 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](#)

U.S. Department of Labor news materials are accessible at <http://www.dol.gov>. The Department's [Reasonable Accommodation Resource Center](#) converts Departmental information and documents into alternative formats, which include Braille and large print. For alternative format requests, please contact the Department at (202) 693-7828 (voice) or (800) 877-8339 (federal relay).

U.S. Department of Labor
Employment and Training Administration
Washington, D.C. 20210
Release Number: USDL 17-1497-NAT

Program Contacts:
Tony Sznoluch (202) 693-3176
Sandra Trujillo (202) 693-2933
Media Contact: (202) 693-4676