



News Release

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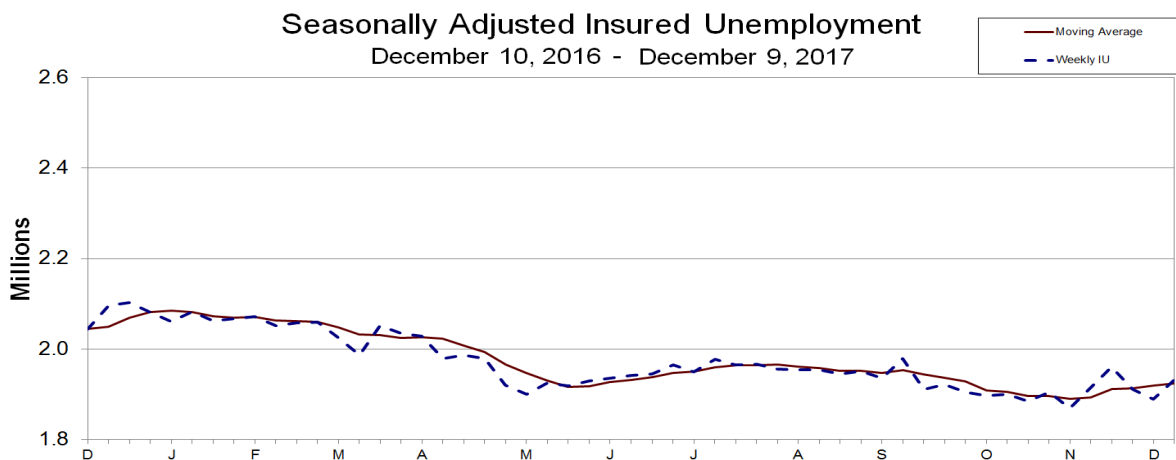
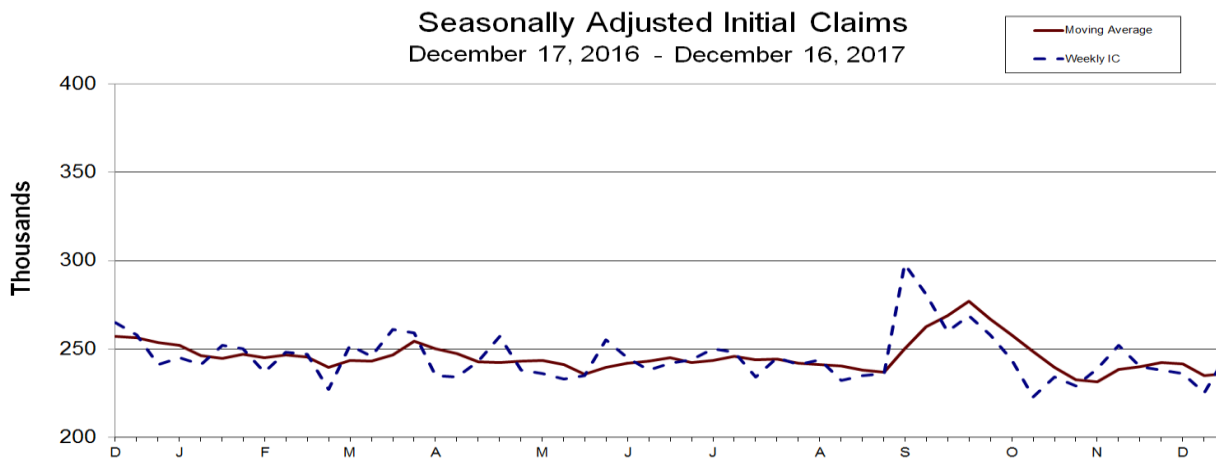
UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE WEEKLY CLAIMS

SEASONALLY ADJUSTED DATA

In the week ending December 16, the advance figure for seasonally adjusted **initial claims** was 245,000, an increase of 20,000 from the previous week's unrevised level of 225,000. The 4-week moving average was 236,000, an increase of 1,250 from the previous week's unrevised average of 234,750.

Claims taking procedures continue to be disrupted in the Virgin Islands. The claims taking process in Puerto Rico has still not returned to normal.

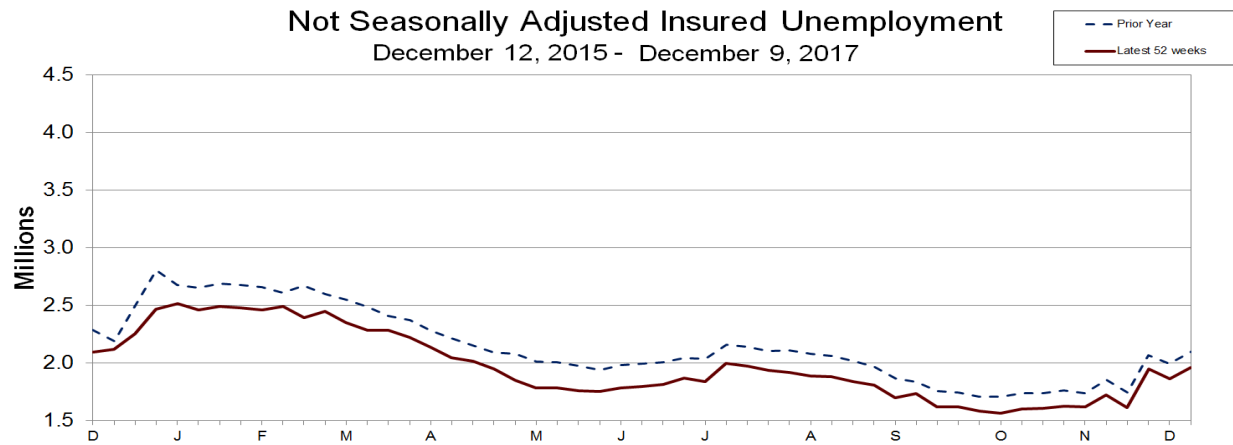
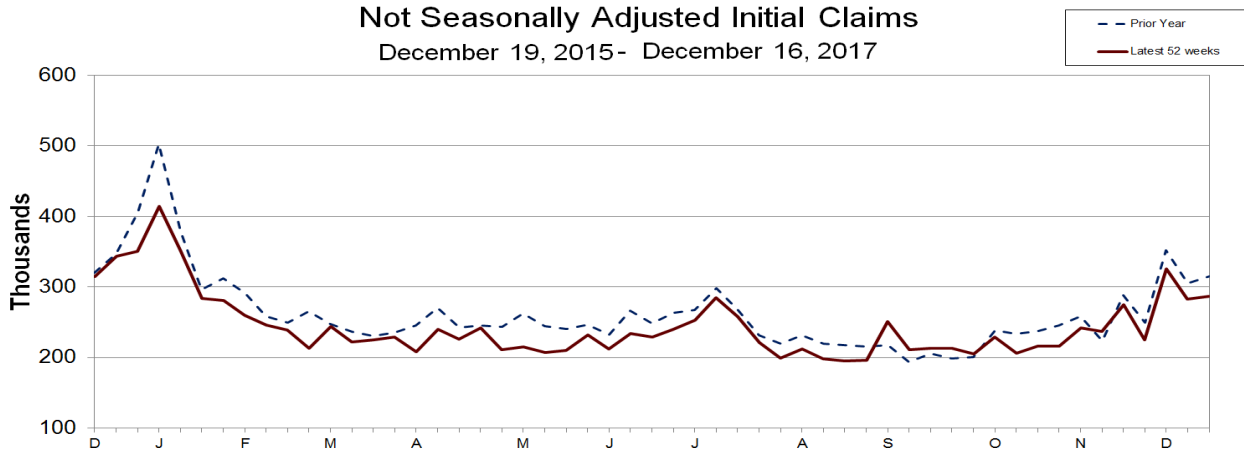
The advance seasonally adjusted **insured unemployment rate** was 1.4 percent for the week ending December 9, an increase of 0.1 percentage point from the previous week's unrevised rate. The advance number for seasonally adjusted **insured unemployment** during the week ending December 9 was 1,932,000, an increase of 43,000 from the previous week's revised level. The previous week's level was revised up 3,000 from 1,886,000 to 1,889,000. The 4-week moving average was 1,923,000, an increase of 4,250 from the previous week's revised average. The previous week's average was revised up by 250 from 1,918,500 to 1,918,750.



UNADJUSTED DATA

The advance number of actual initial claims under state programs, unadjusted, totaled 287,103 in the week ending December 16, an increase of 4,339 (or 1.5 percent) from the previous week. The seasonal factors had expected a decrease of 18,039 (or -6.4 percent) from the previous week. There were 315,068 initial claims in the comparable week in 2016.

The advance unadjusted insured unemployment rate was 1.4 percent during the week ending December 9, an increase of 0.1 percentage point from the prior week. The advance unadjusted number for persons claiming UI benefits in state programs totaled 1,961,454, an increase of 95,487 (or 5.1 percent) from the preceding week. The seasonal factors had expected an increase of 50,993 (or 2.7 percent) from the previous week. A year earlier the rate was 1.5 percent and the volume was 2,097,013.



The total number of people claiming benefits in all programs for the week ending December 2 was 1,901,773, a decrease of 89,915 from the previous week. There were 2,038,035 persons claiming benefits in all programs in the comparable week in 2016.

Extended Benefits were available in Alaska during the week ending December 2.

Initial claims for UI benefits filed by former Federal civilian employees totaled 1,173 in the week ending December 9, a decrease of 449 from the prior week. There were 756 initial claims filed by newly discharged veterans, a decrease of 79 from the preceding week.

There were 13,433 former Federal civilian employees claiming UI benefits for the week ending December 2, a decrease of 2,428 from the previous week. Newly discharged veterans claiming benefits totaled 8,482, a decrease of 700 from the prior week.

The highest insured unemployment rates in the week ending December 2 were in Puerto Rico (6.1), Alaska (3.7), the Virgin Islands (3.0), New Jersey (2.3), Connecticut (2.1), Montana (2.1), Pennsylvania (2.1), California (2.0), Massachusetts (1.8), Washington (1.8), and West Virginia (1.8).

The largest increases in initial claims for the week ending December 9 were in Illinois (+1,411), Michigan (+1,170), Iowa (+488), Massachusetts (+484), and Colorado (+379), while the largest decreases were in New York (-10,265), California (-6,475), Pennsylvania (-5,907), Texas (-5,224), and Georgia (-4,054).

UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE DATA FOR REGULAR STATE PROGRAMS

WEEK ENDING	December 16	December 9	Change	December 2	<u>Prior Year</u>¹
Initial Claims (SA)	245,000	225,000	+20,000	236,000	265,000
Initial Claims (NSA)	287,103	282,764	+4,339	326,064	315,068
4-Wk Moving Average (SA)	236,000	234,750	+1,250	241,500	257,250
WEEK ENDING	December 9	December 2	Change	November 25	<u>Prior Year</u>¹
Insured Unemployment (SA)	1,932,000	1,889,000	+43,000	1,911,000	2,044,000
Insured Unemployment (NSA)	1,961,454	1,865,967	+95,487	1,951,392	2,097,013
4-Wk Moving Average (SA)	1,923,000	1,918,750	+4,250	1,913,500	2,045,250
<u>Insured Unemployment Rate (SA)</u> ²	1.4%	1.3%	+0.1	1.4%	1.5%
<u>Insured Unemployment Rate (NSA)</u> ²	1.4%	1.3%	+0.1	1.4%	1.5%

INITIAL CLAIMS FILED IN FEDERAL PROGRAMS (UNADJUSTED)

WEEK ENDING	December 9	December 2	Change	<u>Prior Year</u>¹
Federal Employees (UCFE)	1,173	1,622	-449	1,088
Newly Discharged Veterans (UCX)	756	835	-79	1,083

PERSONS CLAIMING UI BENEFITS IN ALL PROGRAMS (UNADJUSTED)

WEEK ENDING	December 2	November 25	Change	<u>Prior Year</u>¹
Regular State	1,863,638	1,948,425	-84,787	1,993,028
Federal Employees	13,433	15,861	-2,428	12,006
Newly Discharged Veterans	8,482	9,182	-700	12,528
<u>Extended Benefits</u> ³	1,284	977	+307	0
<u>State Additional Benefits</u> ⁴	6,601	6,800	-199	7,287
<u>STC / Workshare</u> ⁵	8,335	10,443	-2,108	13,186
<u>TOTAL</u>	1,901,773	1,991,688	-89,915	2,038,035

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 December 16			Insured Unemployment For Week Ended December 9		
	Advance	Prior Wk	Change	Advance	Prior Wk	Change
Alabama	2,499	3,876	-1,377	16,531	16,751	-220
Alaska	1,385	1,349	36	12,464	11,565	899
Arizona	3,372	3,886	-514	19,840	21,848	-2,008
Arkansas	2,180	1,998	182	13,119	14,186	-1,067
California	48,326	47,792	534	376,279	334,048	42,231
Colorado	2,487	2,763	-276	21,432	21,149	283
Connecticut	4,113	4,149	-36	36,742	33,841	2,901
Delaware	661	592	69	5,286	5,011	275
District of Columbia	659	385	274	7,835	8,623	-788
Florida	7,046	7,593	-547	41,071	39,908	1,163
Georgia	5,220	5,433	-213	26,290	27,674	-1,384
Hawaii	1,098	1,285	-187	8,010	7,410	600
Idaho	2,047	2,317	-270	8,196	7,724	472
Illinois	16,351	16,838	-487	110,858	101,702	9,156
Indiana	4,539	3,442	1,097	16,572	15,272	1,300
Iowa	5,541	4,995	546	20,988	17,619	3,369
Kansas	2,365	2,222	143	10,344	10,137	207
Kentucky	3,574	2,744	830	17,799	17,244	555
Louisiana	2,297	2,145	152	16,583	19,001	-2,418
Maine **	1,776	1,416	360	6,085	5,155	930
Maryland	3,826	3,842	-16	30,487	33,286	-2,799
Massachusetts	10,137	8,300	1,837	63,989	62,790	1,199
Michigan	14,840	15,571	-731	62,774	53,433	9,341
Minnesota	6,879	6,991	-112	54,202	47,895	6,307
Mississippi	1,316	1,283	33	8,158	9,063	-905
Missouri	4,615	4,302	313	23,557	22,971	586
Montana	1,435	1,467	-32	9,806	9,105	701
Nebraska	1,178	1,363	-185	5,584	4,793	791
Nevada	3,468	3,013	455	21,373	22,049	-676
New Hampshire	713	668	45	3,632	3,872	-240
New Jersey	11,714	10,924	790	94,268	89,537	4,731
New Mexico	902	972	-70	10,209	10,193	16
New York	18,005	15,720	2,285	144,971	139,183	5,788
North Carolina	3,433	3,186	247	19,952	20,769	-817
North Dakota	1,402	1,355	47	6,370	4,302	2,068
Ohio	12,069	9,891	2,178	59,434	56,084	3,350
Oklahoma	1,265	1,767	-502	13,789	14,496	-707
Oregon	4,249	4,535	-286	28,333	28,088	245
Pennsylvania	18,463	18,892	-429	123,139	118,856	4,283
Puerto Rico ^{1M}	4,524	5,909	-1,385	49,574	53,727	-4,153
Rhode Island	1,576	1,154	422	7,797	7,280	517
South Carolina	2,588	3,453	-865	18,716	18,235	481
South Dakota	400	657	-257	2,425	1,956	469
Tennessee	3,131	3,145	-14	18,221	18,109	112
Texas	14,038	14,375	-337	136,026	135,717	309
Utah	1,765	1,813	-48	10,000	9,382	618
Vermont	678	586	92	3,945	3,575	370
Virgin Islands ^{*1M}	170	201	-31	1,342	1,103	239
Virginia	3,625	3,146	479	24,893	23,961	932
Washington	7,315	7,150	165	60,301	57,522	2,779
West Virginia	1,296	2,010	-714	11,900	11,883	17
Wisconsin	8,013	7,257	756	36,271	33,379	2,892
Wyoming	539	646	-107	3,692	3,505	187
US Total	287,103	282,764	4,339	1,961,454	1,865,967	95,487

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 OUI estimate.

**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	
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	1,904	20	1,896.00	1.4
November 4, 2017	239	10	231.25	1,868	-36	1,889.00	1.3
November 11, 2017	252	13	238.50	1,915	47	1,892.75	1.4
November 18, 2017	240	-12	240.00	1,960	45	1,911.75	1.4
November 25, 2017	238	-2	242.25	1,911	-49	1,913.50	1.4
December 2, 2017	236	-2	241.50	1,889	-22	1,918.75	1.3
December 9, 2017	225	-11	234.75	1,932	43	1,923.00	1.4
December 16, 2017	245	20	236.00				

Initial Claims Filed During Week Ended December 9										Insured Unemployment For Week Ended December 2			
INITIAL CLAIMS										INSURED UNEMPLOYMENT			
STATE	STATE	CHANGE FROM				STATE	STATE	CHANGE FROM					
		LAST WEEK	YEAR AGO	UCFE	UCX			LAST WEEK	YEAR AGO	UCFE	UCX	ALL PROGRAMS EXCLUDING RAILROAD RETIREMENT	
							(%)						
Alabama	3876	-845	730	8	22	16751	0.9	-2096	-3076	42	80		16873
Alaska	1349	-254	-116	6	0	11565	3.7	-449	-1205	188	37		13070
Arizona	3886	-161	-164	23	0	21848	0.8	-1178	-3096	221	77		22146
Arkansas	1998	-692	-485	6	9	14186	1.2	-362	-1425	68	71		14325
California	47792	-6475	-2845	262	124	334048	2.0	-46265	-32442	2321	1811		338180
Colorado	2763	379	-1056	33	14	21149	0.8	1	-4324	239	234		21622
Connecticut	4149	-400	80	9	5	33841	2.1	-663	-2416	55	82		33978
Delaware	592	-414	-109	2	0	5011	1.2	-1535	-344	15	12		5038
District of Columbia	385	-12	13	4	2	8623	1.5	-137	215	374	10		9007
Florida	7593	-431	-537	34	53	39908	0.5	-9804	-603	187	200		40295
Georgia	5433	-4054	-2204	49	32	27674	0.7	-4331	-2871	339	239		28252
Hawaii	1285	-125	52	7	9	7410	1.2	-527	52	87	94		7591
Idaho	2317	129	-384	43	2	7724	1.1	-86	-1449	260	19		8003
Illinois	16838	1411	-2962	10	14	101702	1.7	658	-5613	385	238		102325
Indiana	3442	82	-1694	3	9	15272	0.5	758	-7078	58	52		15382
Iowa	4995	488	-614	7	1	17619	1.2	819	-3214	49	43		17711
Kansas	2222	124	-898	10	1	10137	0.8	-565	-924	186	41		10364
Kentucky	2744	11	-556	6	4	17244	0.9	-637	-2342	175	119		17538
Louisiana	2145	-408	-719	9	2	19001	1.0	-603	-4655	45	24		19070
Maine	1416	278	77	7	1	5155	0.9	-341	-1458	32	22		5209
Maryland	3842	-796	-287	23	9	33286	1.3	-888	-2287	442	137		33865
Massachusetts	8300	484	30	14	13	62790	1.8	291	-1865	329	159		63278
Michigan	15571	1170	3181	31	20	53433	1.3	-1168	-2220	171	107		53713
Minnesota	6991	-975	-400	8	6	47895	1.7	1479	-5096	145	100		48140
Mississippi	1283	-201	-474	3	3	9063	0.8	-958	-2496	47	37		9147
Missouri	4302	-136	-954	20	4	22971	0.8	-1459	-1584	750	59		23780
Montana	1467	-172	-901	69	1	9105	2.1	-442	-446	370	25		9501
Nebraska	1363	294	-302	2	3	4793	0.5	-248	-587	15	13		4821
Nevada	3013	-177	-20	12	7	22049	1.7	-1129	-1223	171	74		22294
New Hampshire	668	4	-111	0	4	3872	0.6	1	-477	7	3		3882
New Jersey	10924	-165	-259	14	23	89537	2.3	-3903	-4185	228	291		90056
New Mexico	972	-97	-163	8	4	10193	1.3	-510	-1694	316	77		10586
New York	15720	-10265	-1571	45	37	139183	1.5	-10580	-10831	639	438		140260
North Carolina	3186	-340	-1071	4	19	20769	0.5	34	-3593	90	158		21017
North Dakota	1355	157	-441	3	2	4302	1.1	414	-1411	19	8		4329
Ohio	9891	-515	-858	10	28	56084	1.1	2398	-4285	206	218		56508
Oklahoma	1767	139	28	11	4	14496	1.0	-664	-4914	75	95		14666
Oregon	4535	-2190	-712	70	15	28088	1.5	-2398	-1294	623	119		28830
Pennsylvania	18892	-5907	-1868	81	46	118856	2.1	9031	-8253	662	324		119842
Puerto Rico	5909	-1372	4427	0	2	53727	6.1	1085	31529	20	18		53765
Rhode Island	1154	-79	59	2	2	7280	1.6	39	-833	19	22		7321
South Carolina	3453	85	452	4	11	18235	0.9	-769	2892	63	71		18370
South Dakota	657	141	-39	2	1	1956	0.5	157	-558	34	4		1994
Tennessee	3145	-88	-376	10	2	18109	0.6	-867	427	416	52		18577
Texas	14375	-5224	-1134	81	126	135717	1.2	-4654	-15490	833	1229		137779
Utah	1813	37	-204	46	5	9382	0.7	507	-1698	275	21		9678
Vermont	586	-293	-80	1	0	3575	1.2	-473	-860	11	3		3589
Virgin Islands	201	40	181	1	0	1103	3.0	99	557	0	0		1103
Virginia	3146	-358	-629	22	21	23961	0.7	1560	-860	352	397		24710
Washington	7150	-2232	-1843	18	25	57522	1.8	-430	2417	486	640		58648
West Virginia	2010	-180	-288	3	3	11883	1.8	-105	-2883	59	34		11976
Wisconsin	7257	-2837	-1253	5	6	33379	1.2	-3295	-7559	104	31		33514
Wyoming	646	117	-233	12	0	3505	1.3	-237	-774	130	13		3648
Totals	282764	-43300	-22504	1173	756	1865967	1.3	-85425	-130702	13433	8482		1889166

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 DECEMBER 9, 2017

STATES WITH AN INCREASE OF MORE THAN 1,000

State	Change	State Supplied Comment
IL	+1,411	Layoffs in the construction, administrative and support and waste management and remediation service, wholesale trade, and retail trade industries.
MI	+1,170	No comment.

STATES WITH A DECREASE OF MORE THAN 1,000

State	Change	State Supplied Comment
NY	-10,265	Fewer layoffs in the transportation and warehousing, construction, and accommodation and food service industries.
CA	-6,475	Fewer layoffs in the service and agriculture, forestry, fishing, and hunting industries.
PA	-5,907	Fewer layoffs in the transportation and warehousing, accommodation and food service, and construction industries.
TX	-5,224	No comment.
GA	-4,054	Fewer layoffs in the manufacturing, administrative and support and waste management and remediation service, and construction industries.
WI	-2,837	No comment.
WA	-2,232	No comment.
OR	-2,190	No comment.
PR	-1,372	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. 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
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Program Contacts:
Tony Sznoluch (202) 693-3176
Sandra Trujillo (202) 693-2933
Media Contact: (202) 693-4676