



News Release

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8:30 A.M. (Eastern) Thursday, January 12, 2017

UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE WEEKLY CLAIMS

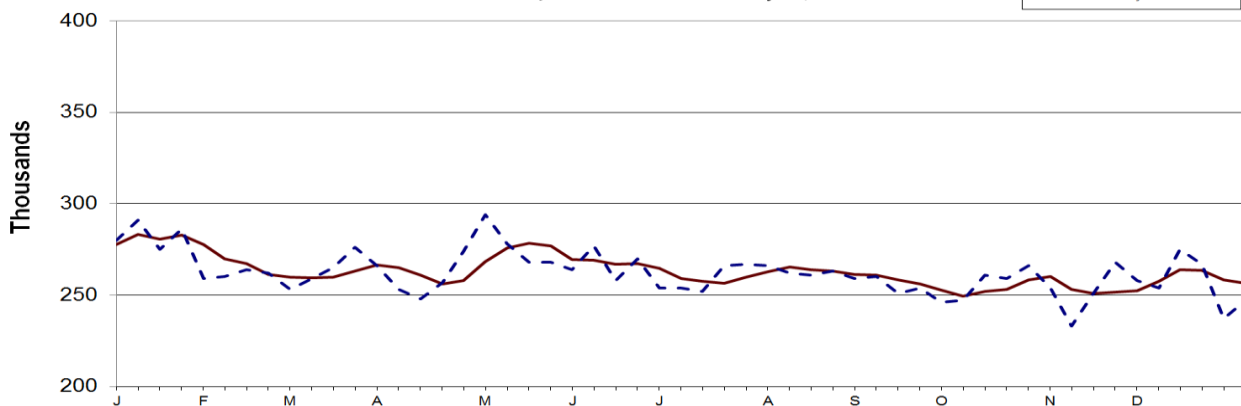
SEASONALLY ADJUSTED DATA

In the week ending January 7, the advance figure for seasonally adjusted **initial claims** was 247,000, an increase of 10,000 from the previous week's revised level. The previous week's level was revised up by 2,000 from 235,000 to 237,000. The 4-week moving average was 256,500, a decrease of 1,750 from the previous week's revised average. The previous week's average was revised up by 1,500 from 256,750 to 258,250.

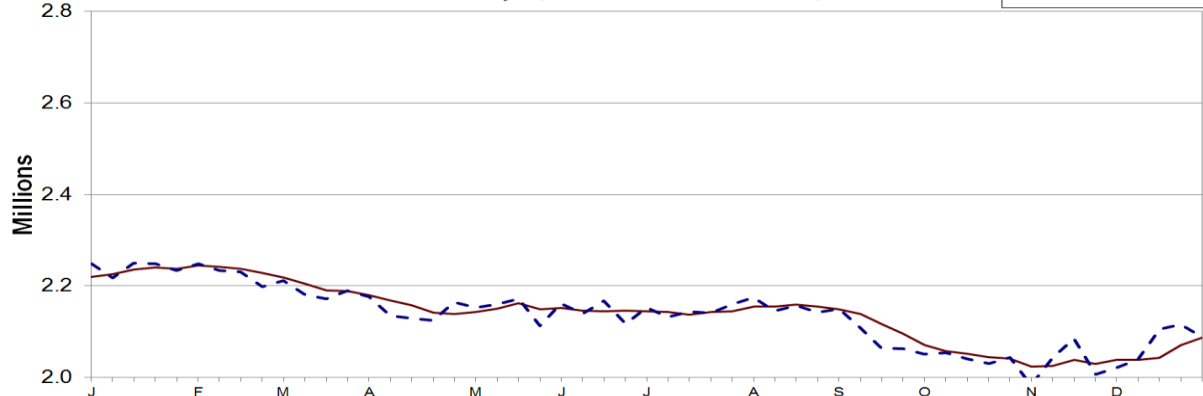
There were no special factors impacting this week's initial claims. This marks 97 consecutive weeks of initial claims below 300,000, the longest streak since 1970.

The advance seasonally adjusted **insured unemployment rate** was 1.5 percent for the week ending December 31, unchanged from the previous week's unrevised rate. The advance number for seasonally adjusted **insured unemployment** during the week ending December 31 was 2,087,000, a decrease of 29,000 from the previous week's revised level. The previous week's level was revised up 4,000 from 2,112,000 to 2,116,000. The 4-week moving average was 2,086,750, an increase of 16,500 from the previous week's revised average. The previous week's average was revised up by 3,250 from 2,067,000 to 2,070,250.

Seasonally Adjusted Initial Claims
January 9, 2016 - January 7, 2017



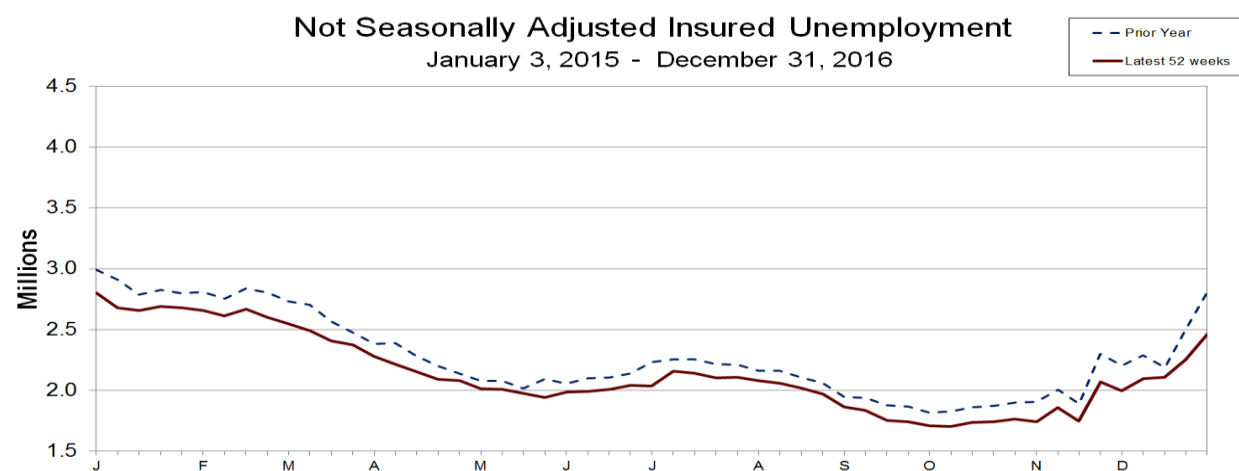
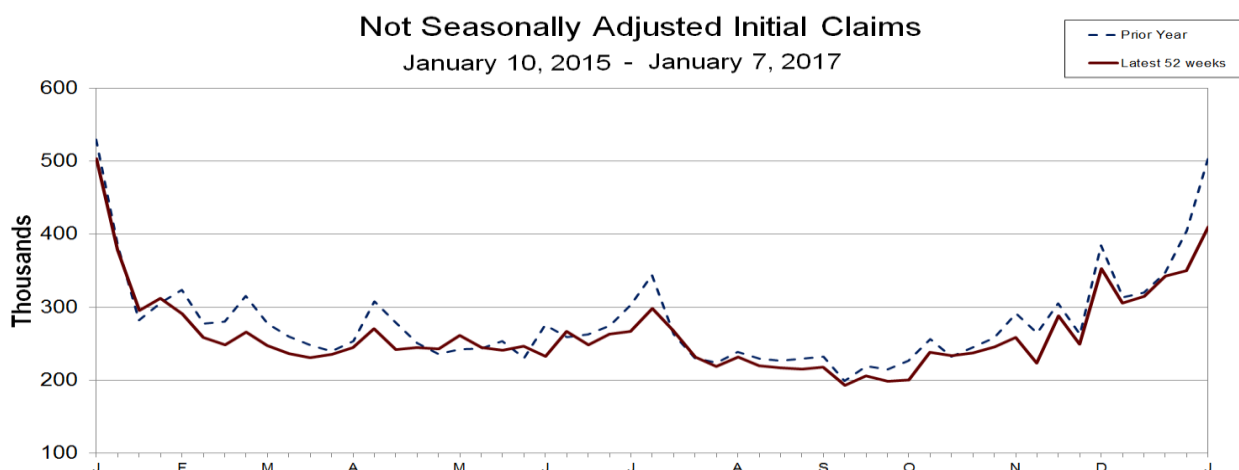
Seasonally Adjusted Insured Unemployment
January 2, 2016 - December 31, 2016



UNADJUSTED DATA

The advance number of actual initial claims under state programs, unadjusted, totaled 409,869 in the week ending January 7, an increase of 59,308 (or 16.9 percent) from the previous week. The seasonal factors had expected an increase of 42,665 (or 12.2 percent) from the previous week. There were 502,904 initial claims in the comparable week in 2016.

The advance unadjusted insured unemployment rate was 1.8 percent during the week ending December 31, an increase of 0.2 percentage point from the prior week. The advance unadjusted number for persons claiming UI benefits in state programs totaled 2,460,929, an increase of 207,386 (or 9.2 percent) from the preceding week. The seasonal factors had expected an increase of 241,224 (or 10.7 percent) from the previous week. A year earlier the rate was 2.1 percent and the volume was 2,803,326.



The total number of people claiming benefits in all programs for the week ending December 24 was 2,294,430, an increase of 140,578 from the previous week. There were 2,549,075 persons claiming benefits in all programs in the comparable week in 2015.

No state was triggered "on" the Extended Benefits program during the week ending December 24.

Initial claims for UI benefits filed by former Federal civilian employees totaled 1,002 in the week ending December 31, a decrease of 32 from the prior week. There were 675 initial claims filed by newly discharged veterans, a decrease of 105 from the preceding week.

There were 14,165 former Federal civilian employees claiming UI benefits for the week ending December 24, an increase of 2,189 from the previous week. Newly discharged veterans claiming benefits totaled 12,695, an increase of 29 from the prior week.

The highest insured unemployment rates in the week ending December 24 were in Alaska (4.8), Montana (2.8), New Jersey (2.6), Puerto Rico (2.6), Connecticut (2.4), Illinois (2.4), Pennsylvania (2.4), Massachusetts (2.3), Minnesota (2.3), California (2.2), and Wyoming (2.2).

The largest increases in initial claims for the week ending December 31 were in New Jersey (+8,222), Pennsylvania (+4,448), Michigan (+3,964), Connecticut (+3,304), and Massachusetts (+3,020), while the largest decreases were in California (-14,836), Illinois (-2,347), Texas (-2,005), Washington (-1,308), and Kansas (-1,040).

UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE DATA FOR REGULAR STATE PROGRAMS

WEEK ENDING	January 7	December 31	Change	December 24	Prior Year¹
Initial Claims (SA)	247,000	237,000	+10,000	267,000	280,000
Initial Claims (NSA)	409,869	350,561	+59,308	342,579	502,904
4-Wk Moving Average (SA)	256,500	258,250	-1,750	263,500	277,750
WEEK ENDING	December 31	December 24	Change	December 17	Prior Year¹
Insured Unemployment (SA)	2,087,000	2,116,000	-29,000	2,105,000	2,248,000
Insured Unemployment (NSA)	2,460,929	2,253,543	+207,386	2,111,099	2,803,326
4-Wk Moving Average (SA)	2,086,750	2,070,250	+16,500	2,043,000	2,220,250
Insured Unemployment Rate (SA)²	1.5%	1.5%	0.0	1.5%	1.6%
Insured Unemployment Rate (NSA)²	1.8%	1.6%	+0.2	1.5%	2.1%

INITIAL CLAIMS FILED IN FEDERAL PROGRAMS (UNADJUSTED)

WEEK ENDING	December 31	December 24	Change	Prior Year¹
Federal Employees (UCFE)	1,002	1,034	-32	1,071
Newly Discharged Veterans (UCX)	675	780	-105	875

PERSONS CLAIMING UI BENEFITS IN ALL PROGRAMS (UNADJUSTED)

WEEK ENDING	December 24	December 17	Change	Prior Year¹
Regular State	2,250,276	2,106,490	+143,786	2,498,691
Federal Employees	14,165	11,976	+2,189	15,123
Newly Discharged Veterans	12,695	12,666	+29	16,454
Extended Benefits³	0	0	0	0
State Additional Benefits⁴	6,695	7,338	-643	6,353
STC / Workshare⁵	10,599	15,382	-4,783	12,454
TOTAL	2,294,430	2,153,852	+140,578	2,549,075

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 138,930,224 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 January 7			Insured Unemployment For Week Ended December 31		
	Advance	Prior Wk	Change	Advance	Prior Wk	Change
Alabama	7,229	4,790	2,439	26,400	23,114	3,286
Alaska	2,228	1,265	963	13,648	15,293	-1,645
Arizona	4,370	3,154	1,216	22,610	25,430	-2,820
Arkansas	2,953	3,395	-442	18,287	18,043	244
California	44,438	37,975	6,463	383,710	349,709	34,001
Colorado	3,813	2,688	1,125	30,526	27,475	3,051
Connecticut	6,597	8,366	-1,769	44,568	40,008	4,560
Delaware	1,270	1,318	-48	7,311	7,098	213
District of Columbia	774	276	498	8,441	8,856	-415
Florida	8,543	6,170	2,373	36,401	44,132	-7,731
Georgia	18,810	8,575	10,235	46,979	34,262	12,717
Hawaii	1,314	1,233	81	8,984	7,545	1,439
Idaho	2,904	2,676	228	13,190	12,830	360
Illinois	18,792	14,437	4,355	149,660	139,653	10,007
Indiana	6,272	4,585	1,687	30,228	30,520	-292
Iowa	6,172	7,686	-1,514	39,316	31,771	7,545
Kansas	3,886	2,762	1,124	15,496	14,482	1,014
Kentucky	5,614	8,507	-2,893	26,015	21,587	4,428
Louisiana	2,656	1,851	805	23,782	24,434	-652
Maine	2,048	1,322	726	9,283	8,271	1,012
Maryland	5,773	7,561	-1,788	41,210	39,772	1,438
Massachusetts	11,712	14,015	-2,303	87,001	78,659	8,342
Michigan	17,271	20,957	-3,686	84,431	79,927	4,504
Minnesota	8,327	6,818	1,509	76,130	64,701	11,429
Mississippi	1,587	1,957	-370	12,155	13,782	-1,627
Missouri	8,645	8,546	99	36,390	34,082	2,308
Montana	2,900	1,573	1,327	13,222	12,064	1,158
Nebraska	1,795	1,948	-153	9,247	8,311	936
Nevada	3,699	2,606	1,093	22,939	25,938	-2,999
New Hampshire	993	1,372	-379	5,556	5,057	499
New Jersey	18,867	23,373	-4,506	124,103	101,845	22,258
New Mexico	1,261	1,090	171	12,671	12,857	-186
New York	46,408	23,243	23,165	204,048	167,790	36,258
North Carolina	5,549	3,143	2,406	25,041	25,414	-373
North Dakota	2,714	992	1,722	10,453	7,443	3,010
Ohio	12,892	14,582	-1,690	87,088	78,277	8,811
Oklahoma	1,897	2,448	-551	19,786	19,243	543
Oregon	6,919	6,529	390	37,342	33,678	3,664
Pennsylvania	31,288	25,265	6,023	151,629	136,356	15,273
Puerto Rico	1,544	1,705	-161	19,263	22,748	-3,485
Rhode Island	1,986	3,703	-1,717	13,324	9,491	3,833
South Carolina	7,052	5,899	1,153	22,520	19,271	3,249
South Dakota	522	365	157	3,475	3,335	140
Tennessee	5,243	4,396	847	21,843	21,569	274
Texas	20,944	11,715	9,229	169,286	168,717	569
Utah	2,905	1,478	1,427	13,342	12,580	762
Vermont	927	1,531	-604	7,233	5,746	1,487
Virgin Islands	9	10	-1	436	532	-96
*Virginia	4,647	5,144	-497	26,288	27,053	-765
Washington	5,349	8,397	-3,048	64,355	60,849	3,506
West Virginia	2,022	1,257	765	16,214	14,352	1,862
Wisconsin	14,512	13,305	1,207	61,960	51,594	10,366
Wyoming	1,027	607	420	6,113	5,997	116
US Total	409,869	350,561	59,308	2,460,929	2,253,543	207,386

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 staff estimate.

Seasonally Adjusted US Weekly UI Claims (in thousands)

Week Ending	Initial Claims	Change from Prior Week	4-Week Average	Insured Unemployment	Change from Prior Week	4-Week Average	IUR
January 2, 2016	277	-8	276.50	2,248	22	2,220.25	1.6
January 9, 2016	280	3	277.75	2,217	-31	2,225.75	1.6
January 16, 2016	291	11	283.25	2,250	33	2,235.25	1.7
January 23, 2016	275	-16	280.75	2,248	-2	2,240.75	1.6
January 30, 2016	286	11	283.00	2,234	-14	2,237.25	1.6
February 6, 2016	259	-27	277.75	2,249	15	2,245.25	1.7
February 13, 2016	260	1	270.00	2,233	-16	2,241.00	1.6
February 20, 2016	264	4	267.25	2,231	-2	2,236.75	1.6
February 27, 2016	262	-2	261.25	2,198	-33	2,227.75	1.6
March 5, 2016	253	-9	259.75	2,212	14	2,218.50	1.6
March 12, 2016	259	6	259.50	2,180	-32	2,205.25	1.6
March 19, 2016	265	6	259.75	2,172	-8	2,190.50	1.6
March 26, 2016	276	11	263.25	2,189	17	2,188.25	1.6
April 2, 2016	266	-10	266.50	2,176	-13	2,179.25	1.6
April 9, 2016	253	-13	265.00	2,135	-41	2,168.00	1.6
April 16, 2016	248	-5	260.75	2,129	-6	2,157.25	1.6
April 23, 2016	257	9	256.00	2,124	-5	2,141.00	1.6
April 30, 2016	274	17	258.00	2,165	41	2,138.25	1.6
May 7, 2016	294	20	268.25	2,153	-12	2,142.75	1.6
May 14, 2016	278	-16	275.75	2,160	7	2,150.50	1.6
May 21, 2016	268	-10	278.50	2,172	12	2,162.50	1.6
May 28, 2016	268	0	277.00	2,112	-60	2,149.25	1.5
June 4, 2016	264	-4	269.50	2,162	50	2,151.50	1.6
June 11, 2016	277	13	269.25	2,139	-23	2,146.25	1.6
June 18, 2016	258	-19	266.75	2,167	28	2,145.00	1.6
June 25, 2016	270	12	267.25	2,117	-50	2,146.25	1.5
July 2, 2016	254	-16	264.75	2,153	36	2,144.00	1.6
July 9, 2016	254	0	259.00	2,132	-21	2,142.25	1.5
July 16, 2016	252	-2	257.50	2,144	12	2,136.50	1.6
July 23, 2016	266	14	256.50	2,141	-3	2,142.50	1.6
July 30, 2016	267	1	259.75	2,160	19	2,144.25	1.6
August 6, 2016	266	-1	262.75	2,175	15	2,155.00	1.6
August 13, 2016	262	-4	265.25	2,145	-30	2,155.25	1.6
August 20, 2016	261	-1	264.00	2,157	12	2,159.25	1.6
August 27, 2016	263	2	263.00	2,142	-15	2,154.75	1.6
September 3, 2016	259	-4	261.25	2,149	7	2,148.25	1.6
September 10, 2016	260	1	260.75	2,108	-41	2,139.00	1.5
September 17, 2016	251	-9	258.25	2,064	-44	2,115.75	1.5
September 24, 2016	254	3	256.00	2,062	-2	2,095.75	1.5
October 1, 2016	246	-8	252.75	2,050	-12	2,071.00	1.5
October 8, 2016	247	1	249.50	2,054	4	2,057.50	1.5
October 15, 2016	261	14	252.00	2,040	-14	2,051.50	1.5
October 22, 2016	259	-2	253.25	2,030	-10	2,043.50	1.5
October 29, 2016	266	7	258.25	2,043	13	2,041.75	1.5
November 5, 2016	254	-12	260.00	1,983	-60	2,024.00	1.4
November 12, 2016	233	-21	253.00	2,043	60	2,024.75	1.5
November 19, 2016	251	18	251.00	2,084	41	2,038.25	1.5
November 26, 2016	268	17	251.50	2,007	-77	2,029.25	1.5
December 3, 2016	258	-10	252.50	2,021	14	2,038.75	1.5
December 10, 2016	254	-4	257.75	2,039	18	2,037.75	1.5
December 17, 2016	275	21	263.75	2,105	66	2,043.00	1.5
December 24, 2016	267	-8	263.50	2,116	11	2,070.25	1.5
December 31, 2016	237	-30	258.25	2,087	-29	2,086.75	1.5
January 7, 2017	247	10	256.50				

Initial Claims Filed During Week Ended December
31

Insured Unemployment For Week Ended December 24
INSURED UNEMPLOYMENT

STATE	INITIAL CLAIMS 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	4790	1113	-1784	11	5	23114	1.3	2718	-3465	68	135	23317
Alaska	1265	-91	134	6	1	15293	4.8	1976	-318	262	41	15596
Arizona	3154	-157	123	24	2	25430	1.0	555	-1548	243	109	25782
Arkansas	3395	-414	-976	6	5	18043	1.6	2337	-6970	93	100	18236
California	37975	-14836	-2934	239	104	349709	2.2	-14719	-28877	3236	2425	355370
Colorado	2688	-165	-119	24	36	27475	1.1	42	-5209	353	511	28339
Connecticut	8366	3304	1535	7	8	40008	2.4	1970	-3657	81	118	40207
Delaware	1318	328	-402	1	0	7098	1.7	1454	-1297	17	19	7134
District of Columbia	276	-70	23	4	1	8856	1.6	270	371	271	5	9132
Florida	6170	-9	-646	21	29	44132	0.6	2508	-10008	174	256	44562
Georgia	8575	1573	-9551	22	34	34262	0.8	4035	-14051	221	350	34833
Hawaii	1233	-162	-366	7	7	7545	1.2	71	581	68	105	7718
Idaho	2676	-69	-119	30	5	12830	2.0	1638	-1029	317	49	13196
Illinois	14437	-2347	-345	11	11	139653	2.4	14467	-8465	387	371	140411
Indiana	4585	-995	-1620	5	6	30520	1.0	2780	289	88	66	30674
Iowa	7686	1091	-2099	5	2	31771	2.1	3602	-1354	45	56	31872
Kansas	2762	-1040	-1904	7	8	14482	1.1	1522	-2984	59	73	14614
Kentucky	8507	418	-494	17	1	21587	1.2	1490	8625	293	225	22105
Louisiana	1851	-242	-608	0	0	24434	1.3	715	-225	45	42	24521
Maine	1322	-23	-641	3	1	8271	1.4	640	-1825	44	22	8337
Maryland	7561	1052	1286	23	14	39772	1.6	2869	-5101	294	183	40249
Massachusetts	14015	3020	891	16	8	78659	2.3	6207	-5193	176	230	79065
Michigan	20957	3964	868	18	11	79927	1.9	11856	-2998	250	242	80419
Minnesota	6818	-441	-2680	6	3	64701	2.3	3604	-6757	118	102	64921
Mississippi	1957	-520	-128	16	1	13782	1.3	1716	-1919	102	36	13920
Missouri	8546	-692	-816	31	0	34082	1.3	6244	-6951	338	79	34499
Montana	1573	96	-254	66	2	12064	2.8	426	-1599	597	42	12703
Nebraska	1948	-202	-347	3	1	8311	0.9	1166	-31	26	9	8346
Nevada	2606	-714	-188	25	2	25938	2.1	885	-3406	215	110	26263
New Hampshire	1372	466	-155	1	1	5057	0.8	292	-1102	7	5	5069
New Jersey	23373	8222	3537	6	13	101845	2.6	4224	-10312	253	391	102489
New Mexico	1090	-521	133	9	2	12857	1.7	687	-1554	307	72	13236
New York	23243	1958	-11098	29	26	167790	1.9	8255	-24597	324	566	168680
North Carolina	3143	-345	-1421	4	11	25414	0.6	698	-5226	126	266	25806
North Dakota	992	-169	-173	1	5	7443	1.8	78	-662	15	3	7461
Ohio	14582	-838	-764	13	28	78277	1.5	8391	-8274	123	327	78727
Oklahoma	2448	492	-562	2	8	19243	1.2	7595	-2252	75	155	19473
Oregon	6529	-843	-1274	68	13	33678	1.9	1700	-6673	658	172	34508
Pennsylvania	25265	4448	-13068	42	32	136356	2.4	10441	-20286	707	478	137541
Puerto Rico	1705	-176	1506	9	10	22748	2.6	3457	1369	51	129	22928
Rhode Island	3703	1279	1535	4	1	9491	2.1	672	-1865	20	27	9538
South Carolina	5899	2789	-179	4	9	19271	1.0	3468	-2129	63	137	19471
South Dakota	365	-32	-29	5	0	3335	0.8	105	245	32	5	3372
Tennessee	4396	-463	-2703	11	5	21569	0.8	2966	-6597	413	206	22188
Texas	11715	-2005	-1144	35	113	168717	1.5	15135	-11852	823	2214	171754
Utah	1478	-97	-221	45	4	12580	1.0	316	-1835	401	25	13006
Vermont	1531	-2	379	2	3	5746	1.9	927	-800	15	5	5766
Virgin Islands	10	-5	0	0	0	532	1.4	-46	-8	0	8	540
Virginia	5144	512	-533	13	14	27053	0.8	1971	-6184	332	483	27868
Washington	8397	-1308	-2031	34	61	60849	2.0	2551	-6340	549	767	62165
West Virginia	1257	4	-202	4	2	14352	2.1	430	-4399	45	54	14451
Wisconsin	13305	1950	-2050	2	6	51594	1.9	2944	-10944	130	62	51786
Wyoming	607	-104	-129	5	0	5997	2.2	143	-1266	215	27	6239
Totals	350561	7982	-54807	1002	675	2253543	1.6	142444	-248914	14165	12695	2280403

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 31, 2016

STATES WITH AN INCREASE OF MORE THAN 1,000

State	Change	State Supplied Comment
NJ	+8,222	Layoffs in the educational service, transportation and warehousing, accommodation and food service, and public administration industries.
PA	+4,448	Layoffs in the transportation and warehousing, manufacturing, and accommodation and food service industries.
MI	+3,964	Layoffs in the manufacturing industry.
CT	+3,304	Layoffs in the educational service, transportation and warehousing, manufacturing, construction, and retail trade industries.
MA	+3,020	Layoffs in the transportation and warehousing industry.
SC	+2,789	Layoffs in the agriculture, forestry, fishing, and hunting industry.
NY	+1,958	Layoffs in the accommodation and food service, information, and transportation and warehousing industries.
WI	+1,950	No comment.
GA	+1,573	Layoffs in the manufacturing and administrative, support, waste management and remediation service industries.
RI	+1,279	Layoffs in the educational service and manufacturing industries.
AL	+1,113	Layoffs in the manufacturing, administrative, support, waste management and remediation service, and retail trade industries.
IA	+1,091	Layoffs in the manufacturing and construction industries.
MD	+1,052	No comment.

STATES WITH A DECREASE OF MORE THAN 1,000

State	Change	State Supplied Comment
CA	-14,836	Fewer layoffs in the service industry.
IL	-2,347	No comment.
TX	-2,005	No comment.
WA	-1,308	No comment.
KS	-1,040	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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Release Number: USDL 17-41-NAT

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