



News Release

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



TRANSMISSION OF MATERIALS IN THIS RELEASE IS EMBARGOED UNTIL
8:30 A.M. (Eastern) Thursday, August 29, 2019

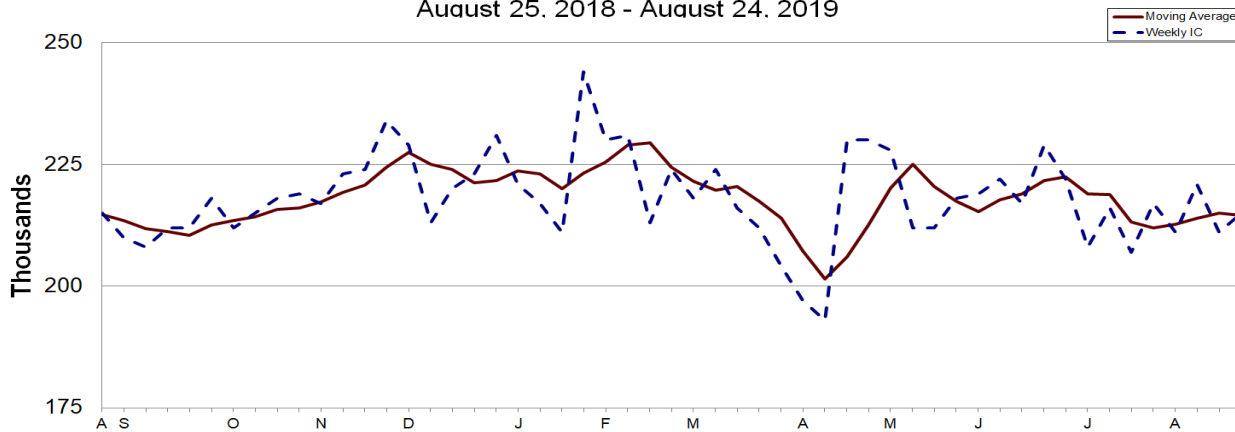
UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE WEEKLY CLAIMS

SEASONALLY ADJUSTED DATA

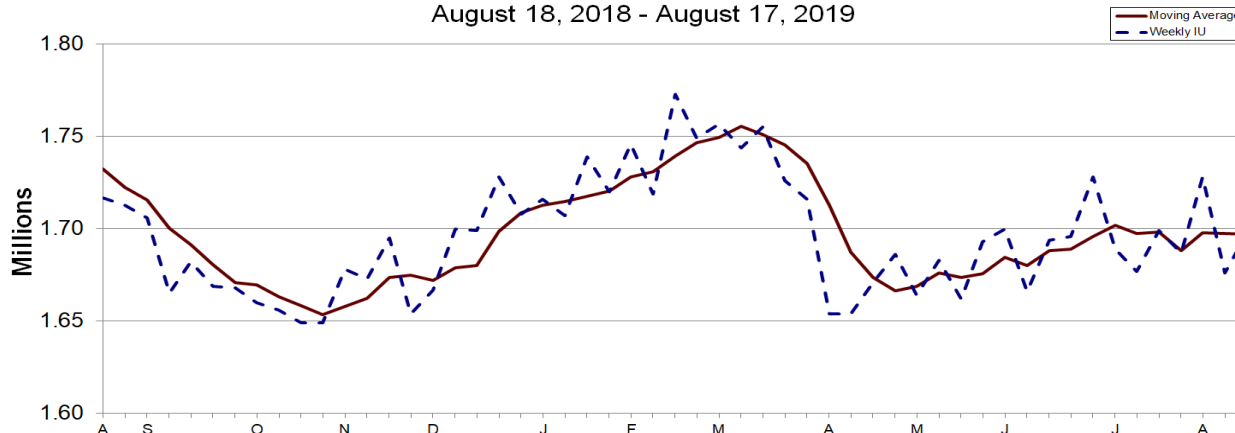
In the week ending August 24, the advance figure for seasonally adjusted **initial claims** was 215,000, an increase of 4,000 from the previous week's revised level. The previous week's level was revised up by 2,000 from 209,000 to 211,000. The 4-week moving average was 214,500, a decrease of 500 from the previous week's revised average. The previous week's average was revised up by 500 from 214,500 to 215,000.

The advance seasonally adjusted **insured unemployment rate** was 1.2 percent for the week ending August 17, unchanged from the previous week's unrevised rate. The advance number for seasonally adjusted **insured unemployment** during the week ending August 17 was 1,698,000, an increase of 22,000 from the previous week's revised level. The previous week's level was revised up 2,000 from 1,674,000 to 1,676,000. The 4-week moving average was 1,697,250, a decrease of 250 from the previous week's revised average. The previous week's average was revised up by 500 from 1,697,000 to 1,697,500.

Seasonally Adjusted Initial Claims
August 25, 2018 - August 24, 2019



Seasonally Adjusted Insured Unemployment
August 18, 2018 - August 17, 2019



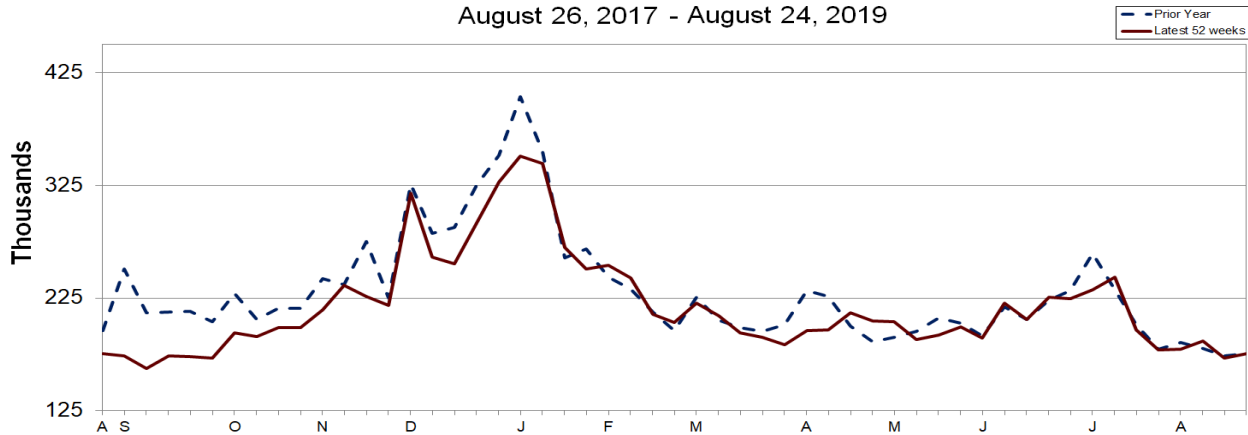
UNADJUSTED DATA

The advance number of actual initial claims under state programs, unadjusted, totaled 175,629 in the week ending August 24, an increase of 4,245 (or 2.5 percent) from the previous week. The seasonal factors had expected an increase of 1,266 (or 0.7 percent) from the previous week. There were 175,745 initial claims in the comparable week in 2018.

The advance unadjusted insured unemployment rate was 1.1 percent during the week ending August 17, unchanged from the prior week. The advance unadjusted number for persons claiming UI benefits in state programs totaled 1,613,112, a decrease of 6,257 (or -0.4 percent) from the preceding week. The seasonal factors had expected a decrease of 26,822 (or -1.7 percent) from the previous week. A year earlier the rate was 1.1 percent and the volume was 1,624,222.

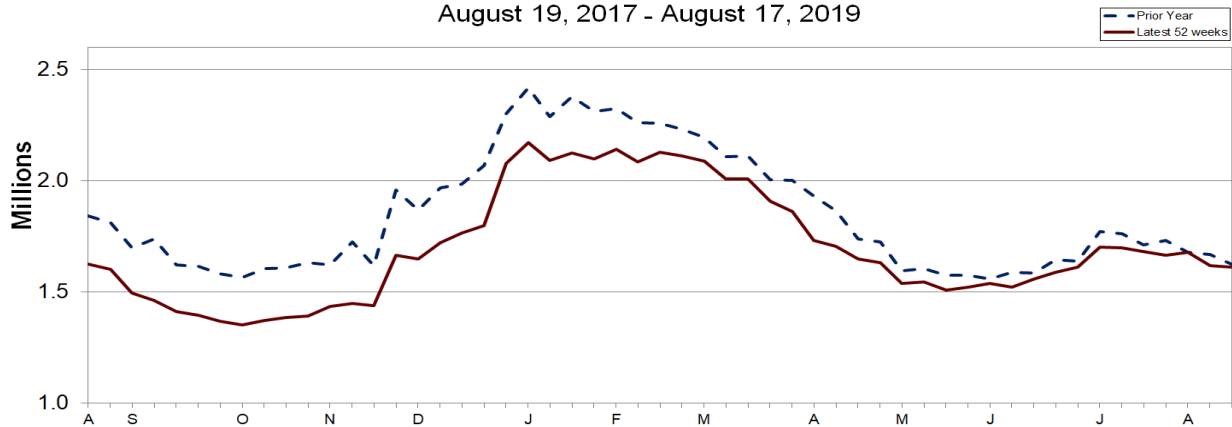
Not Seasonally Adjusted Initial Claims

August 26, 2017 - August 24, 2019



Not Seasonally Adjusted Insured Unemployment

August 19, 2017 - August 17, 2019



The total number of people claiming benefits in all programs for the week ending August 10 was 1,644,296, a decrease of 60,086 from the previous week. There were 1,694,100 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 August 10.

Initial claims for UI benefits filed by former Federal civilian employees totaled 509 in the week ending August 17, a decrease of 69 from the prior week. There were 491 initial claims filed by newly discharged veterans, a decrease of 74 from the preceding week.

There were 6,923 former Federal civilian employees claiming UI benefits for the week ending August 10, a decrease of 278 from the previous week. Newly discharged veterans claiming benefits totaled 5,757, an increase of 158 from the prior week.

The highest insured unemployment rates in the week ending August 10 were in New Jersey (2.4), Connecticut (2.2), Puerto Rico (2.2), Pennsylvania (1.9), Rhode Island (1.8), California (1.7), Alaska (1.6), Massachusetts (1.6), Illinois (1.5), and the Virgin Islands (1.5).

The largest increases in initial claims for the week ending August 17 were in Rhode Island (+142), Vermont (+32), South Dakota (+24), Wyoming (+21), and Idaho (+13), while the largest decreases were in California (-5,974), Texas (-1,122), New Jersey (-683), Iowa (-544), and Florida (-500).

UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE DATA FOR REGULAR STATE PROGRAMS

WEEK ENDING	August 24	August 17	Change	August 10	Prior Year¹
Initial Claims (SA)	215,000	211,000	+4,000	221,000	215,000
Initial Claims (NSA)	175,629	171,384	+4,245	186,914	175,745
4-Wk Moving Average (SA)	214,500	215,000	-500	214,000	214,750

WEEK ENDING	August 17	August 10	Change	August 3	Prior Year¹
Insured Unemployment (SA)	1,698,000	1,676,000	+22,000	1,728,000	1,717,000
Insured Unemployment (NSA)	1,613,112	1,619,369	-6,257	1,679,471	1,624,222
4-Wk Moving Average (SA)	1,697,250	1,697,500	-250	1,697,750	1,732,500
Insured Unemployment Rate (SA) ²	1.2%	1.2%	0.0	1.2%	1.2%
Insured Unemployment Rate (NSA) ²	1.1%	1.1%	0.0	1.2%	1.1%

INITIAL CLAIMS FILED IN FEDERAL PROGRAMS (UNADJUSTED)

WEEK ENDING	August 17	August 10	Change	Prior Year¹
Federal Employees (UCFE)	509	578	-69	632
Newly Discharged Veterans (UCX)	491	565	-74	615

PERSONS CLAIMING UI BENEFITS IN ALL PROGRAMS (UNADJUSTED)

WEEK ENDING	August 10	August 3	Change	Prior Year¹
Regular State	1,616,966	1,676,979	-60,013	1,667,053
Federal Employees	6,923	7,201	-278	7,832
Newly Discharged Veterans	5,757	5,599	+158	7,410
Extended Benefits ³	0	0	0	1
State Additional Benefits ⁴	4,823	4,864	-41	5,056
STC / Workshare ⁵	9,827	9,739	+88	6,748
TOTAL	1,644,296	1,704,382	-60,086	1,694,100

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 144,199,701 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 August 24			Insured Unemployment For Week Ended August 17		
	Advance	Prior Wk	Change	Advance	Prior Wk	Change
Alabama	1,876	2,123	-247	15,170	16,635	-1,465
Alaska	771	698	73	4,764	4,886	-122
Arizona	3,395	3,514	-119	24,180	28,619	-4,439
Arkansas	1,474	1,422	52	10,110	11,950	-1,840
California	34,999	35,430	-431	315,829	294,646	21,183
Colorado	1,499	1,471	28	16,725	16,765	-40
Connecticut	2,521	2,712	-191	37,206	36,063	1,143
Delaware	414	467	-53	5,457	5,272	185
District of Columbia	470	461	9	7,020	7,391	-371
Florida	5,779	6,009	-230	39,966	41,853	-1,887
Georgia	4,265	3,913	352	24,480	24,789	-309
Hawaii	1,179	1,011	168	6,824	6,357	467
Idaho	639	755	-116	3,881	4,551	-670
Illinois	7,448	6,991	457	86,017	88,531	-2,514
Indiana	2,057	2,043	14	13,733	13,427	306
Iowa	2,262	1,805	457	15,033	15,306	-273
Kansas	1,203	1,172	31	8,951	8,222	729
Kentucky	1,895	2,235	-340	16,639	16,820	-181
Louisiana	1,761	1,994	-233	14,048	16,787	-2,739
Maine	349	363	-14	3,602	3,680	-78
Maryland	2,415	2,798	-383	26,250	29,299	-3,049
Massachusetts	3,976	4,039	-63	55,900	56,914	-1,014
Michigan	3,704	4,056	-352	37,881	43,437	-5,556
Minnesota	2,229	2,175	54	25,294	25,429	-135
Mississippi	771	1,032	-261	7,405	9,288	-1,883
Missouri	2,404	2,611	-207	17,825	20,941	-3,116
Montana	498	494	4	4,276	4,525	-249
Nebraska	486	522	-36	3,085	3,803	-718
Nevada	2,481	2,087	394	15,850	17,108	-1,258
New Hampshire	389	464	-75	3,270	3,487	-217
New Jersey	7,651	7,541	110	96,577	94,922	1,655
New Mexico	648	681	-33	7,596	8,238	-642
New York	16,652	12,088	4,564	134,686	131,210	3,476
North Carolina	2,775	3,014	-239	18,649	20,487	-1,838
North Dakota	601	211	390	2,044	1,905	139
Ohio	4,976	4,659	317	40,725	42,250	-1,525
Oklahoma	1,449	1,599	-150	13,803	14,707	-904
Oregon	3,268	2,972	296	23,894	24,455	-561
Pennsylvania	10,956	11,157	-201	115,396	111,802	3,594
Puerto Rico	1,144	1,249	-105	17,647	18,437	-790
Rhode Island	765	872	-107	8,773	8,335	438
South Carolina	1,866	1,873	-7	14,932	15,559	-627
South Dakota	130	158	-28	1,072	1,090	-18
Tennessee	1,925	1,893	32	15,458	17,668	-2,210
Texas	12,682	11,694	988	126,471	123,607	2,864
Utah	853	826	27	6,057	6,360	-303
Vermont	252	321	-69	3,132	2,808	324
Virgin Islands*	47	33	14	517	474	43
Virginia	2,206	2,237	-31	19,727	19,800	-73
Washington	4,972	5,032	-60	44,191	43,539	652
West Virginia	791	802	-11	9,024	8,211	813
Wisconsin	3,184	3,369	-185	24,301	25,087	-786
Wyoming	227	236	-9	1,769	1,637	132
US Total	175,629	171,384	4,245	1,613,112	1,619,369	-6,257

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 OUI 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	
August 18, 2018	214	-1	216.00	1,717	-9	1,732.50	1.2
August 25, 2018	215	1	214.75	1,713	-4	1,722.50	1.2
September 1, 2018	210	-5	213.50	1,706	-7	1,715.50	1.2
September 8, 2018	208	-2	211.75	1,665	-41	1,700.25	1.2
September 15, 2018	212	4	211.25	1,682	17	1,691.50	1.2
September 22, 2018	212	0	210.50	1,669	-13	1,680.50	1.2
September 29, 2018	218	6	212.50	1,668	-1	1,671.00	1.2
October 6, 2018	212	-6	213.50	1,660	-8	1,669.75	1.2
October 13, 2018	215	3	214.25	1,656	-4	1,663.25	1.2
October 20, 2018	218	3	215.75	1,649	-7	1,658.25	1.2
October 27, 2018	219	1	216.00	1,649	0	1,653.50	1.2
November 3, 2018	217	-2	217.25	1,678	29	1,658.00	1.2
November 10, 2018	223	6	219.25	1,673	-5	1,662.25	1.2
November 17, 2018	224	1	220.75	1,695	22	1,673.75	1.2
November 24, 2018	234	10	224.50	1,654	-41	1,675.00	1.2
December 1, 2018	229	-5	227.50	1,667	13	1,672.25	1.2
December 8, 2018	213	-16	225.00	1,700	33	1,679.00	1.2
December 15, 2018	220	7	224.00	1,699	-1	1,680.00	1.2
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	1,698	22	1,697.25	1.2
August 24, 2019	215	4	214.50				

STATE NAME	INITIAL CLAIMS FILED DURING WEEK ENDED AUGUST 17					INSURED UNEMPLOYMENT FOR WEEK ENDED AUGUST 10					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	2123	-72	-28	14	6	16635	0.9	-737	69	79	55	16769
Alaska	698	5	-90	2	0	4886	1.6	-133	-778	48	8	4942
Arizona	3514	-343	-162	5	2	28619	1.0	-252	-1858	96	54	28769
Arkansas	1422	-164	-129	1	1	11950	1.0	-389	455	40	33	12023
California	35430	-5974	-1724	123	77	294646	1.7	-34411	-24379	1314	1265	297225
Colorado	1471	-71	-84	6	8	16765	0.6	-97	-1305	103	192	17060
Connecticut	2712	-351	-8	4	5	36063	2.2	650	-986	58	61	36182
Delaware	467	-14	40	3	5	5272	1.2	19	-142	10	10	5292
District of Columbia	461	-19	29	9	1	7391	1.3	118	-890	274	3	7668
Florida	6009	-500	-454	15	31	41853	0.5	-775	-4882	113	102	42068
Georgia	3913	-482	-800	15	24	24789	0.6	-530	-571	162	189	25140
Hawaii	1011	-206	9	1	5	6357	1.0	-341	-27	39	64	6460
Idaho	755	13	54	0	2	4551	0.6	-120	212	12	14	4577
Illinois	6991	-218	522	9	13	88531	1.5	-5529	959	286	185	89002
Indiana	2043	-475	-7	1	7	13427	0.4	-396	279	21	26	13474
Iowa	1805	-544	283	3	1	15306	1.0	-3	1070	37	19	15362
Kansas	1172	-153	-155	1	1	8222	0.6	-278	-122	30	18	8270
Kentucky	2235	-222	478	1	4	16820	0.9	-577	-644	180	87	17087
Louisiana	1994	-87	-199	6	3	16787	0.9	-726	-1317	51	20	16858
Maine	363	-84	-34	1	0	3680	0.6	-99	-344	11	13	3704
Maryland	2798	-303	-47	15	10	29299	1.2	312	-1618	298	72	29669
Massachusetts	4039	-497	-295	9	6	56914	1.6	-43	2591	102	76	57092
Michigan	4056	-216	-511	5	8	43437	1.0	391	3647	94	71	43602
Minnesota	2175	-122	-48	4	1	25429	0.9	-611	405	41	55	25525
Mississippi	1032	-7	128	1	5	9288	0.8	-1705	-193	91	26	9405
Missouri	2611	-45	-188	17	6	20941	0.8	-1392	-2874	66	29	21036
Montana	494	3	70	2	1	4525	1.0	-127	122	41	12	4578
Nebraska	522	-199	-46	5	0	3803	0.4	-65	-430	12	6	3821
Nevada	2087	-127	-12	1	4	17108	1.3	-509	-976	38	44	17190
New Hampshire	464	-3	-4	0	2	3487	0.5	50	-289	7	4	3498
New Jersey	7541	-683	-735	8	14	94922	2.4	-171	-2964	156	217	95295
New Mexico	681	-6	8	2	2	8238	1.0	-376	-370	78	56	8372
New York	12088	-65	176	14	23	131210	1.4	-122	-3053	311	292	131813
North Carolina	3014	-144	265	12	14	20487	0.5	-383	16	116	105	20708
North Dakota	211	-18	-30	1	0	1905	0.5	-70	-30	188	2	2095
Ohio	4659	-155	-67	8	25	42250	0.8	-1298	-2500	112	112	42474
Oklahoma	1599	-12	440	6	4	14707	0.9	-481	2106	43	53	14803
Oregon	2972	-386	159	10	7	24455	1.3	-13	644	127	63	24645
Pennsylvania	11157	-175	722	58	31	111802	1.9	-2449	-5662	414	201	112417
Puerto Rico	1249	-96	-41	2	3	18437	2.2	-1782	799	166	67	18670
Rhode Island	872	142	42	3	1	8335	1.8	-82	-600	14	17	8366
South Carolina	1873	-185	-122	4	5	15559	0.8	-184	-1570	50	49	15658
South Dakota	158	24	4	1	1	1090	0.3	6	68	159	1	1250
Tennessee	1893	-104	-22	8	6	17668	0.6	-2508	-1012	67	62	17797
Texas	11694	-1122	-66	71	88	123607	1.0	-627	292	644	970	125221
Utah	826	-56	-37	5	3	6360	0.4	-129	-937	91	14	6465
Vermont	321	32	56	1	0	2808	0.9	-273	-306	6	0	2814
Virgin Islands	33	-6	17	0	0	474	1.5	18	-66	10	2	486
Virginia	2237	-145	-17	7	7	19800	0.5	-185	-2038	164	178	20142
Washington	5032	-458	360	4	15	43539	1.3	255	2100	171	441	44151
West Virginia	802	8	111	1	2	8211	1.2	-205	336	37	20	8268
Wisconsin	3369	-464	189	2	1	25087	0.9	-712	49	40	18	25145
Wyoming	236	21	53	2	0	1637	0.6	-26	43	5	4	1646
Totals	171384	-15530	-1947	509	491	1619369	1.1	-60102	-49471	6923	5757	1632049

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 AUGUST 17, 2019

STATES WITH AN INCREASE OF MORE THAN 1,000

State	Change	State Supplied Comment
None		

STATES WITH A DECREASE OF MORE THAN 1,000

State	Change	State Supplied Comment
CA	-5,974	Fewer layoffs in the service industry.
TX	-1,122	Fewer layoffs in the wholesale trade industry.

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 19-1559-NAT

Program Contacts:
Kevin Stapleton: (202) 693-3009
Anatoli Sznoluch: (202) 693-3176
Media Contact: (202) 693-4676