



# News Release

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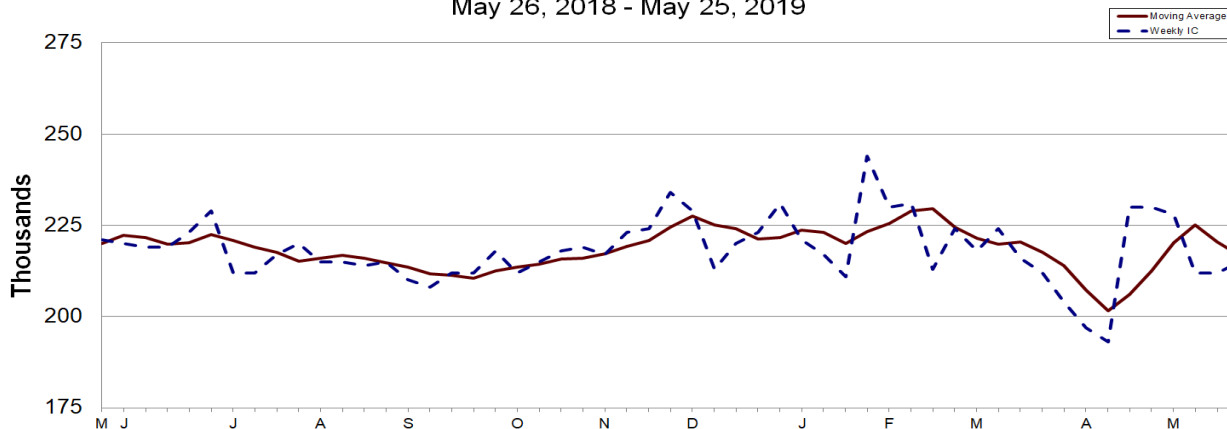
## UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE WEEKLY CLAIMS

### SEASONALLY ADJUSTED DATA

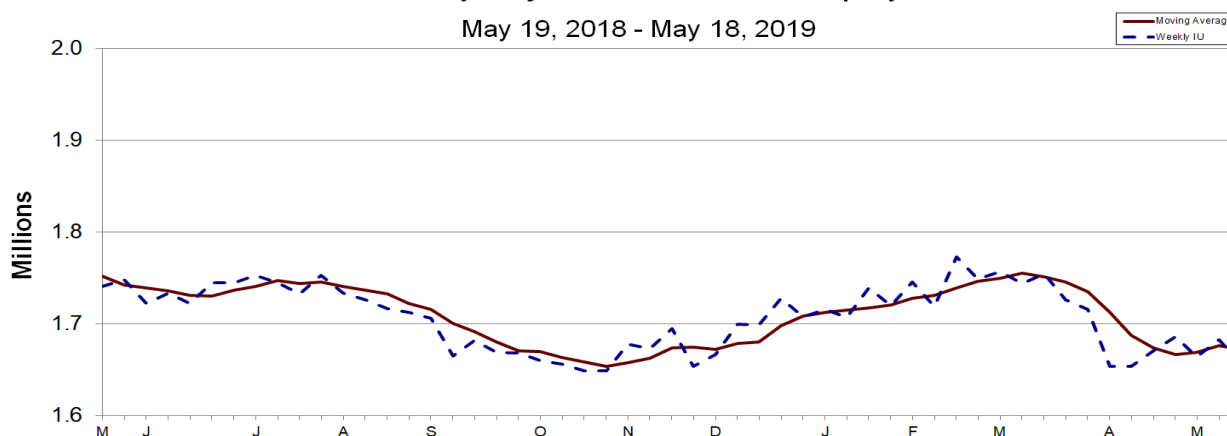
In the week ending May 25, the advance figure for seasonally adjusted **initial claims** was 215,000, an increase of 3,000 from the previous week's revised level. The previous week's level was revised up by 1,000 from 211,000 to 212,000. The 4-week moving average was 216,750, a decrease of 3,750 from the previous week's revised average. The previous week's average was revised up by 250 from 220,250 to 220,500.

The advance seasonally adjusted **insured unemployment rate** was 1.2 percent for the week ending May 18, unchanged from the previous week's unrevised rate. The advance number for seasonally adjusted **insured unemployment** during the week ending May 18 was 1,657,000, a decrease of 26,000 from the previous week's revised level. The previous week's level was revised up 7,000 from 1,676,000 to 1,683,000. The 4-week moving average was 1,672,500, a decrease of 3,500 from the previous week's revised average. The previous week's average was revised up by 1,750 from 1,674,250 to 1,676,000.

Seasonally Adjusted Initial Claims  
May 26, 2018 - May 25, 2019



Seasonally Adjusted Insured Unemployment  
May 19, 2018 - May 18, 2019



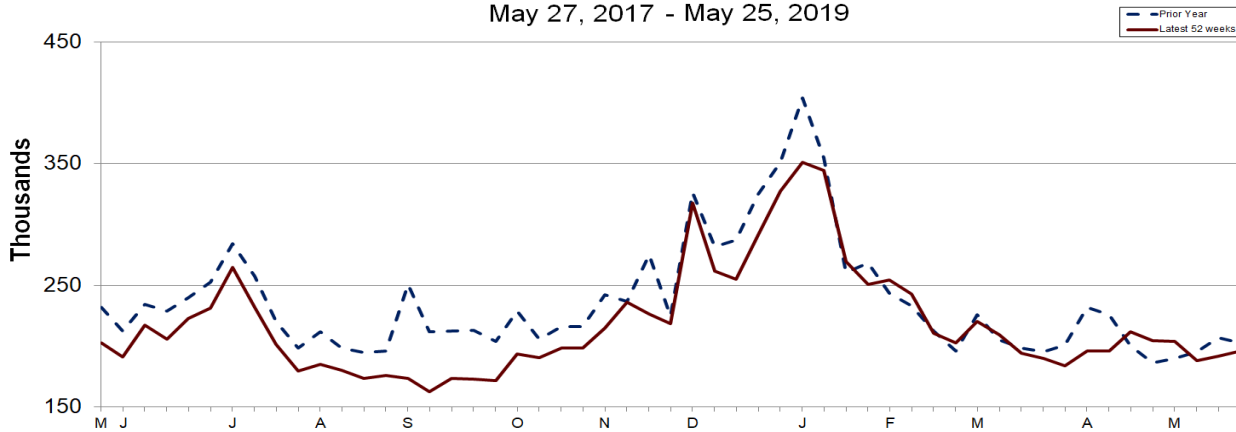
**UNADJUSTED DATA**

The advance number of actual initial claims under state programs, unadjusted, totaled 196,060 in the week ending May 25, an increase of 4,129 (or 2.2 percent) from the previous week. The seasonal factors had expected an increase of 1,481 (or 0.8 percent) from the previous week. There were 202,846 initial claims in the comparable week in 2018.

The advance unadjusted insured unemployment rate was 1.0 percent during the week ending May 18, a decrease of 0.1 percentage point from the prior week. The advance unadjusted number for persons claiming UI benefits in state programs totaled 1,504,555, a decrease of 38,896 (or -2.5 percent) from the preceding week. The seasonal factors had expected a decrease of 15,148 (or -1.0 percent) from the previous week. A year earlier the rate was 1.1 percent and the volume was 1,574,005.

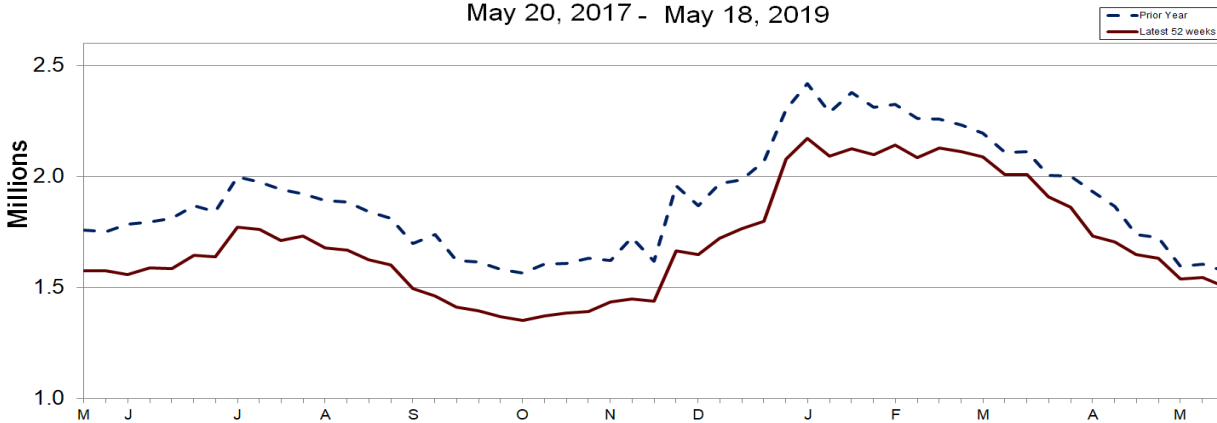
**Not Seasonally Adjusted Initial Claims**

May 27, 2017 - May 25, 2019



**Not Seasonally Adjusted Insured Unemployment**

May 20, 2017 - May 18, 2019



The total number of people claiming benefits in all programs for the week ending May 11 was 1,569,192, an increase of 4,604 from the previous week. There were 1,631,905 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 May 11.

Initial claims for UI benefits filed by former Federal civilian employees totaled 547 in the week ending May 18, an increase of 21 from the prior week. There were 460 initial claims filed by newly discharged veterans, a decrease of 28 from the preceding week.

There were 7,474 former Federal civilian employees claiming UI benefits for the week ending May 11, a decrease of 70 from the previous week. Newly discharged veterans claiming benefits totaled 5,675, an increase of 69 from the prior week.

The highest insured unemployment rates in the week ending May 11 were in Alaska (2.2), California (2.0), New Jersey (1.9), Connecticut (1.7), Pennsylvania (1.6), Puerto Rico (1.6), Illinois (1.5), Massachusetts (1.4), Rhode Island (1.4), and Washington (1.4).

The largest increases in initial claims for the week ending May 18 were in Ohio (+4,168), Pennsylvania (+992), Michigan (+850), Texas (+848), and Massachusetts (+678), while the largest decreases were in California (-2,190), Illinois (-1,454), Georgia (-786), Wisconsin (-720), and New York (-677).

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UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE DATA FOR REGULAR STATE PROGRAMS

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<b>WEEK ENDING</b>	<b>May 25</b>	<b>May 18</b>	<b>Change</b>	<b>May 11</b>	<b><u>Prior Year</u><sup>1</sup></b>
Initial Claims (SA)	215,000	212,000	+3,000	212,000	221,000
Initial Claims (NSA)	196,060	191,931	+4,129	188,264	202,846
4-Wk Moving Average (SA)	216,750	220,500	-3,750	225,000	220,000
<b>WEEK ENDING</b>	<b>May 18</b>	<b>May 11</b>	<b>Change</b>	<b>May 4</b>	<b><u>Prior Year</u><sup>1</sup></b>
Insured Unemployment (SA)	1,657,000	1,683,000	-26,000	1,664,000	1,741,000
Insured Unemployment (NSA)	1,504,555	1,543,451	-38,896	1,539,085	1,574,005
4-Wk Moving Average (SA)	1,672,500	1,676,000	-3,500	1,668,750	1,752,500
<a href="#"><u>Insured Unemployment Rate (SA)</u><sup>2</sup></a>	1.2%	1.2%	0.0	1.2%	1.2%
<a href="#"><u>Insured Unemployment Rate (NSA)</u><sup>2</sup></a>	1.0%	1.1%	-0.1	1.1%	1.1%

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INITIAL CLAIMS FILED IN FEDERAL PROGRAMS (UNADJUSTED)

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<b>WEEK ENDING</b>	<b>May 18</b>	<b>May 11</b>	<b>Change</b>	<b><u>Prior Year</u><sup>1</sup></b>
Federal Employees (UCFE)	547	526	+21	654
Newly Discharged Veterans (UCX)	460	488	-28	724

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PERSONS CLAIMING UI BENEFITS IN ALL PROGRAMS (UNADJUSTED)

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<b>WEEK ENDING</b>	<b>May 11</b>	<b>May 4</b>	<b>Change</b>	<b><u>Prior Year</u><sup>1</sup></b>
Regular State	1,540,465	1,536,651	+3,814	1,601,888
Federal Employees	7,474	7,544	-70	7,757
Newly Discharged Veterans	5,675	5,606	+69	7,711
<a href="#"><u>Extended Benefits</u><sup>3</sup></a>	0	0	0	0
<a href="#"><u>State Additional Benefits</u><sup>4</sup></a>	6,214	6,127	+87	6,903
<a href="#"><u>STC / Workshare</u><sup>5</sup></a>	9,364	8,660	+704	7,646
<b><u>TOTAL</u></b>	<b>1,569,192</b>	<b>1,564,588</b>	<b>+4,604</b>	<b>1,631,905</b>

**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 143,629,179 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 May 25			Insured Unemployment For Week Ended May 18		
	Advance	Prior Wk	Change	Advance	Prior Wk	Change
Alabama	2,518	2,481	37	14,276	14,501	-225
Alaska	1,031	819	212	6,518	6,861	-343
Arizona	3,919	4,280	-361	22,154	25,497	-3,343
Arkansas	1,830	1,697	133	8,864	9,623	-759
California*	38,182	37,428	754	325,101	344,735	-19,634
Colorado	1,906	1,617	289	18,677	18,533	144
Connecticut	2,675	2,582	93	29,414	28,585	829
Delaware*	375	427	-52	4,074	3,873	201
District of Columbia	502	500	2	6,018	6,316	-298
Florida	5,898	6,354	-456	30,131	33,957	-3,826
Georgia	3,967	4,286	-319	22,996	24,030	-1,034
Hawaii	1,236	1,242	-6	7,097	6,669	428
Idaho	787	724	63	4,162	4,740	-578
Illinois	7,756	7,382	374	85,612	91,243	-5,631
Indiana	2,013	2,009	4	13,889	13,278	611
Iowa	2,366	1,959	407	13,909	14,100	-191
Kansas*	2,033	1,402	631	7,626	8,083	-457
Kentucky	2,551	2,272	279	14,969	15,678	-709
Louisiana	2,495	2,296	199	11,775	13,389	-1,614
Maine	456	528	-72	4,846	4,932	-86
Maryland	2,884	2,712	172	21,885	21,892	-7
Massachusetts	4,538	4,745	-207	49,685	50,324	-639
Michigan	8,133	5,866	2,267	38,534	42,602	-4,068
Minnesota	2,788	2,713	75	29,118	29,351	-233
Mississippi	2,004	1,904	100	6,863	7,071	-208
Missouri	4,143	3,304	839	16,355	16,818	-463
Montana	786	624	162	4,944	5,052	-108
Nebraska	878	658	220	3,151	3,204	-53
Nevada	2,245	1,981	264	15,895	17,520	-1,625
New Hampshire	371	418	-47	2,850	3,178	-328
New Jersey	7,852	7,054	798	77,048	76,577	471
New Mexico	1,032	784	248	8,001	8,292	-291
New York	12,885	11,874	1,011	112,436	113,042	-606
North Carolina	3,246	3,386	-140	17,622	18,717	-1,095
North Dakota	370	300	70	2,061	2,139	-78
Ohio	6,677	9,941	-3,264	46,368	42,912	3,456
Oklahoma	1,544	1,730	-186	12,784	13,508	-724
Oregon	3,647	3,258	389	24,837	24,726	111
Pennsylvania	9,856	11,929	-2,073	89,652	90,932	-1,280
Puerto Rico*	1,141	1,113	28	12,574	13,146	-572
Rhode Island	706	713	-7	7,048	6,794	254
South Carolina	1,896	2,001	-105	13,248	13,036	212
South Dakota	258	164	94	987	1,114	-127
Tennessee	2,830	2,546	284	14,771	15,247	-476
Texas	14,497	13,807	690	114,085	110,505	3,580
Utah	1,066	898	168	6,838	6,906	-68
Vermont	424	528	-104	3,387	3,179	208
Virgin Islands	22	31	-9	476	368	108
Virginia*	2,566	2,644	-78	18,681	18,177	504
Washington	5,748	5,513	235	46,233	45,093	1,140
West Virginia	797	790	7	10,406	8,666	1,740
Wisconsin	3,533	3,510	23	22,343	22,949	-606
Wyoming	201	207	-6	1,281	1,791	-510
US Total	196,060	191,931	4,129	1,504,555	1,543,451	-38,896

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 estimate.

## Seasonally Adjusted US Weekly UI Claims (in thousands)

<b>Week Ending</b>	<b>Initial Claims</b>	<b>Change from Prior Week</b>	<b>4-Week Average</b>	<b>Insured Unemployment</b>	<b>Change from Prior Week</b>	<b>4-Week Average</b>	<b>IUR</b>
May 19, 2018	227	6	218.00	1,741	-5	1,752.50	1.2
May 26, 2018	221	-6	220.00	1,748	7	1,742.75	1.2
June 2, 2018	220	-1	222.25	1,722	-26	1,739.25	1.2
June 9, 2018	219	-1	221.75	1,734	12	1,736.25	1.2
June 16, 2018	219	0	219.75	1,722	-12	1,731.50	1.2
June 23, 2018	223	4	220.25	1,745	23	1,730.75	1.2
June 30, 2018	229	6	222.50	1,745	0	1,736.50	1.2
July 7, 2018	212	-17	220.75	1,753	8	1,741.25	1.2
July 14, 2018	212	0	219.00	1,745	-8	1,747.00	1.2
July 21, 2018	217	5	217.50	1,733	-12	1,744.00	1.2
July 28, 2018	220	3	215.25	1,753	20	1,746.00	1.2
August 4, 2018	215	-5	216.00	1,734	-19	1,741.25	1.2
August 11, 2018	215	0	216.75	1,726	-8	1,736.50	1.2
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	1,657	-26	1,672.50	1.2
May 25, 2019	215	3	216.75				

STATE NAME	INITIAL CLAIMS FILED DURING WEEK ENDED MAY 18					INSURED UNEMPLOYMENT FOR WEEK ENDED MAY 11					ALL PROGRAMS EXCLUDING RAILROAD RETIREMENT	
	STATE	CHANGE FROM		UCFE <sup>1</sup>	UCX <sup>1</sup>	STATE (%) <sup>2</sup>	CHANGE FROM		UCFE <sup>1</sup>	UCX <sup>1</sup>		
		LAST WEEK	YEAR AGO				LAST WEEK	YEAR AGO				
Alabama	2481	77	-1610	11	8	14501	0.8	492	-1332	60	68	14629
Alaska	819	48	-95	2	1	6861	2.2	-419	-1659	56	10	6927
Arizona	4280	16	-129	6	5	25497	0.9	618	-2134	66	50	25613
Arkansas	1697	15	-177	1	4	9623	0.8	275	-1104	68	24	9715
California	37428	-2190	-4116	131	87	344735	2.0	13972	9689	1835	1249	347819
Colorado	1617	-148	-154	6	16	18533	0.7	439	-1942	112	171	18816
Connecticut	2582	432	-108	4	4	28585	1.7	-369	-2862	40	52	28677
Delaware	427	-139	-6	1	1	3873	0.9	41	-264	5	11	3889
District of Columbia	500	104	150	14	0	6316	1.1	10	-1093	322	6	6644
Florida	6354	-48	-486	17	36	33957	0.4	260	-3624	138	94	34189
Georgia	4286	-786	-561	20	21	24030	0.6	287	-1286	166	161	24357
Hawaii	1242	13	84	4	10	6669	1.1	25	-223	44	64	6777
Idaho	724	-12	15	2	1	4740	0.7	-403	283	43	17	4800
Illinois	7382	-1454	-490	4	6	91243	1.5	4712	-1159	367	171	91781
Indiana	2009	-40	-49	5	3	13278	0.4	-224	-548	22	30	13330
Iowa	1959	-245	-88	2	1	14100	0.9	-1217	783	34	18	14152
Kansas	1402	-144	-350	2	3	8083	0.6	-170	-148	35	26	8144
Kentucky	2272	563	-4357	1	3	15678	0.8	336	-2181	74	77	15829
Louisiana	2296	268	-55	7	4	13389	0.7	-20	-1869	43	16	13448
Maine	528	64	-21	0	1	4932	0.8	-451	-421	17	12	4961
Maryland	2712	209	-901	11	5	21892	0.9	-1305	-5345	161	77	22130
Massachusetts	4745	678	-88	8	10	50324	1.4	-1447	3332	97	84	50505
Michigan	5866	850	-855	11	7	42602	1.0	140	1625	104	69	42775
Minnesota	2713	5	221	2	3	29351	1.0	-4414	-2346	54	59	29464
Mississippi	1904	556	-18	2	4	7071	0.6	-324	-253	78	24	7173
Missouri	3304	320	-856	2	2	16818	0.6	-341	-6294	61	25	16904
Montana	624	29	33	9	0	5052	1.1	-557	-584	55	16	5123
Nebraska	658	-30	-5	3	2	3204	0.3	99	-349	15	6	3225
Nevada	1981	-110	-237	3	3	17520	1.3	203	-1059	75	49	17644
New Hampshire	418	11	-25	1	0	3178	0.5	-109	-378	3	2	3183
New Jersey	7054	-618	-1364	9	8	76577	1.9	-2148	-2970	172	187	76936
New Mexico	784	171	-22	1	1	8292	1.1	-448	-567	88	43	8423
New York	11874	-677	-405	19	22	113042	1.2	-3083	-5769	349	284	113675
North Carolina	3386	175	192	11	15	18717	0.4	316	-45	78	103	18898
North Dakota	300	-222	16	2	0	2139	0.5	-78	-38	21	4	2164
Ohio	9941	4168	3982	9	9	42912	0.8	-580	-3116	78	110	43100
Oklahoma	1730	1	266	6	9	13508	0.9	-52	594	42	57	13607
Oregon	3258	-75	66	23	5	24726	1.3	-635	-63	254	63	25043
Pennsylvania	11929	992	-1433	43	22	90932	1.6	1806	-5120	412	190	91534
Puerto Rico	1113	-23	173	5	3	13146	1.6	-672	-3295	133	43	13322
Rhode Island	713	-18	-133	2	0	6794	1.4	-151	-9	13	12	6819
South Carolina	2001	48	-325	4	5	13036	0.6	313	-63	48	57	13141
South Dakota	164	-23	-10	19	0	1114	0.3	-69	-13	32	4	1150
Tennessee	2546	125	-190	7	8	15247	0.5	693	-2690	71	55	15373
Texas	13807	848	-146	68	75	110505	0.9	2403	-8744	902	1085	112492
Utah	898	-25	-59	3	2	6906	0.5	-178	-398	40	14	6960
Vermont	528	94	-59	0	1	3179	1.0	-110	-48	10	0	3189
Virgin Islands	31	-4	25	1	0	368	1.1	-32	-950	6	2	376
Virginia	2644	163	-504	4	7	18177	0.5	373	-2581	143	158	18478
Washington	5513	390	423	9	15	45093	1.4	-1125	749	217	432	45742
West Virginia	790	43	-81	2	1	8666	1.3	-254	-54	36	15	8717
Wisconsin	3510	-720	-124	7	1	22949	0.8	-1889	50	66	14	23029
Wyoming	207	-58	-66	1	0	1791	0.7	-173	-783	13	5	1809
Totals	191931	3667	-15112	547	460	1543451	1.1	4366	-60668	7474	5675	1556600

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.

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**UNADJUSTED INITIAL CLAIMS FOR WEEK ENDED MAY 18, 2019**

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STATES WITH AN INCREASE OF MORE THAN 1,000

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<b>State</b>	<b>Change</b>	<b>State Supplied Comment</b>
OH	+4,168	Layoffs in the manufacturing industry.

STATES WITH A DECREASE OF MORE THAN 1,000

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<b>State</b>	<b>Change</b>	<b>State Supplied Comment</b>
CA	-2,190	Fewer layoffs in the service industry.
IL	-1,454	No comment.

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## 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).

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