



# News Release

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8:30 A.M. (Eastern) Thursday, August 18, 2016

## UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE WEEKLY CLAIMS

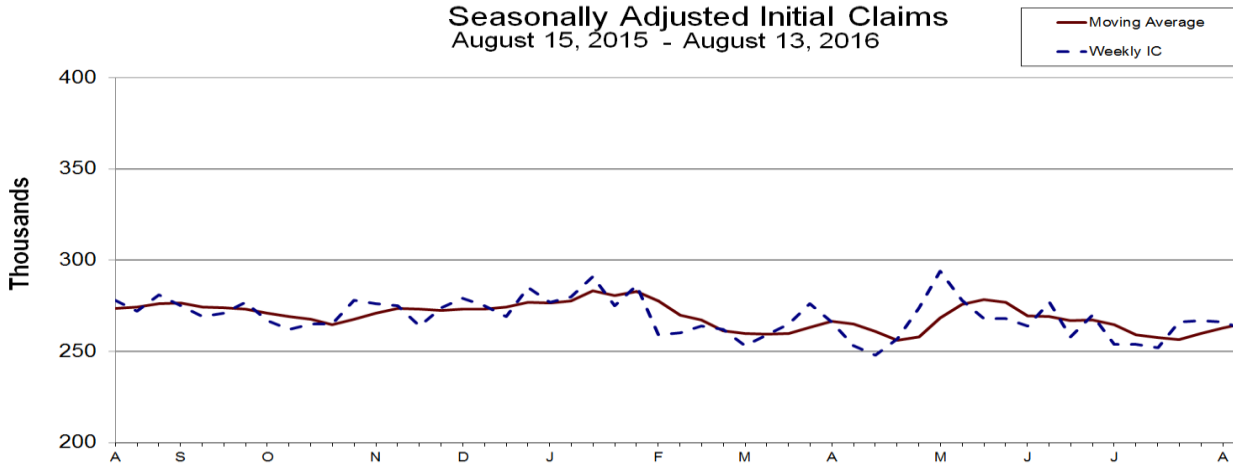
### SEASONALLY ADJUSTED DATA

In the week ending August 13, the advance figure for seasonally adjusted **initial claims** was 262,000, a decrease of 4,000 from the previous week's unrevised level of 266,000. The 4-week moving average was 265,250, an increase of 2,500 from the previous week's unrevised average of 262,750.

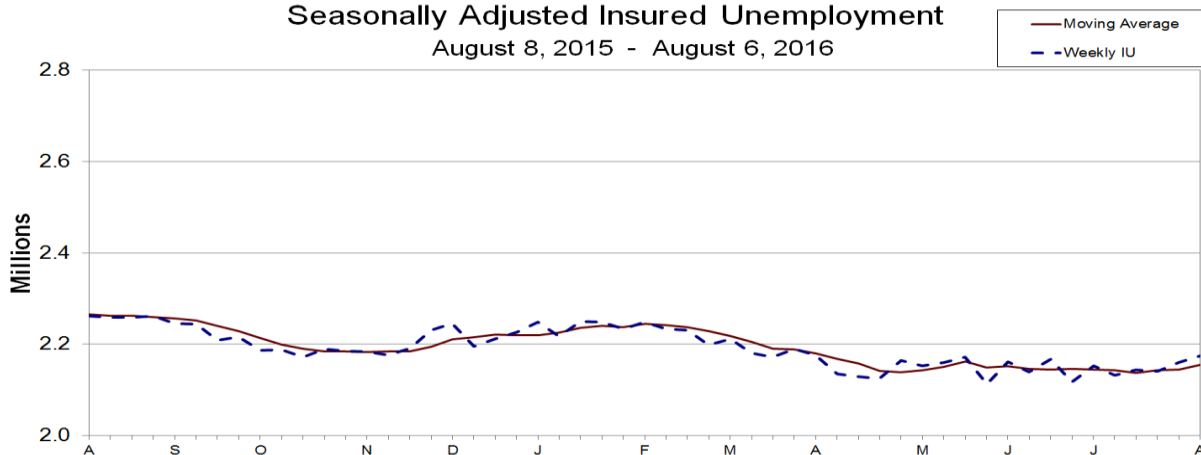
There were no special factors impacting this week's initial claims. This marks 76 consecutive weeks of initial claims below 300,000, the longest streak since 1970.

The advance seasonally adjusted **insured unemployment rate** was 1.6 percent for the week ending August 6, unchanged from the previous week's unrevised rate. The advance number for seasonally adjusted **insured unemployment** during the week ending August 6 was 2,175,000, an increase of 15,000 from the previous week's revised level. The previous week's level was revised up 5,000 from 2,155,000 to 2,160,000. The 4-week moving average was 2,155,000, an increase of 10,750 from the previous week's revised average. The previous week's average was revised up by 1,250 from 2,143,000 to 2,144,250.

Seasonally Adjusted Initial Claims  
August 15, 2015 - August 13, 2016



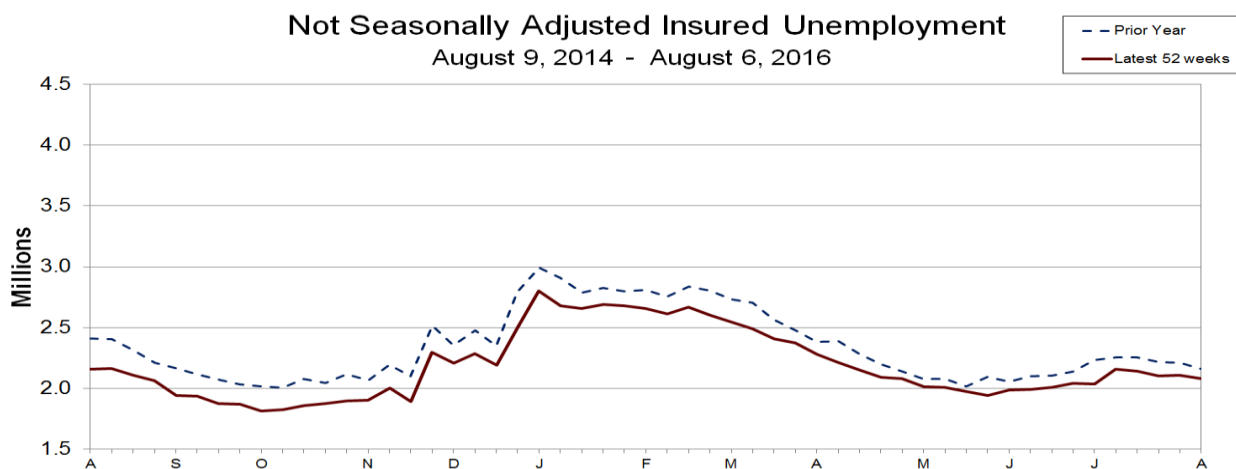
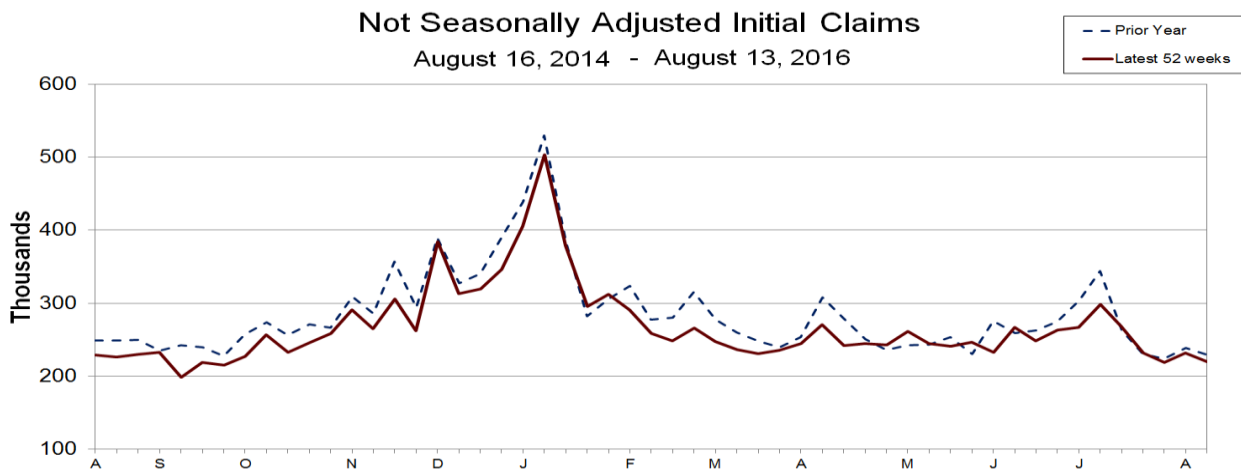
Seasonally Adjusted Insured Unemployment  
August 8, 2015 - August 6, 2016



## UNADJUSTED DATA

The advance number of actual initial claims under state programs, unadjusted, totaled 219,544 in the week ending August 13, a decrease of 11,991 (or -5.2 percent) from the previous week. The seasonal factors had expected a decrease of 8,526 (or -3.7 percent) from the previous week. There were 229,251 initial claims in the comparable week in 2015.

The advance unadjusted insured unemployment rate was 1.5 percent during the week ending August 6, unchanged from the prior week. The advance unadjusted number for persons claiming UI benefits in state programs totaled 2,083,296, a decrease of 26,978 (or -1.3 percent) from the preceding week. The seasonal factors had expected a decrease of 41,039 (or -1.9 percent) from the previous week. A year earlier the rate was 1.6 percent and the volume was 2,161,191.



The total number of people claiming benefits in all programs for the week ending July 30 was 2,148,695, an increase of 3,876 from the previous week. There were 2,254,785 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 July 30.

Initial claims for UI benefits filed by former Federal civilian employees totaled 1,232 in the week ending August 6, an increase of 460 from the prior week. There were 1,229 initial claims filed by newly discharged veterans, an increase of 174 from the preceding week.

There were 8,129 former Federal civilian employees claiming UI benefits for the week ending July 30, a decrease of 43 from the previous week. Newly discharged veterans claiming benefits totaled 13,050, a decrease of 745 from the prior week.

The highest insured unemployment rates in the week ending July 30 were in Puerto Rico (3.5), Connecticut (2.7), New Jersey (2.7), Alaska (2.6), Pennsylvania (2.5), California (2.2), West Virginia (2.2), Rhode Island (2.1), Illinois (2.0), Massachusetts (2.0), and Wyoming (2.0).

The largest increases in initial claims for the week ending August 6 were in Pennsylvania (+2,359), Puerto Rico (+1,621), Texas (+1,196), Ohio (+952), and New York (+881), while the largest decreases were in Michigan (-2,186), Kentucky (-536), Kansas (-283), Iowa (-280), and West Virginia (-124).

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UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE DATA FOR REGULAR STATE PROGRAMS

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WEEK ENDING	August 13	August 6	Change	July 30	<u>Prior Year</u> <sup>1</sup>
Initial Claims (SA)	262,000	266,000	-4,000	267,000	278,000
Initial Claims (NSA)	219,544	231,535	-11,991	219,183	229,251
4-Wk Moving Average (SA)	265,250	262,750	+2,500	259,750	273,500
WEEK ENDING	August 6	July 30	Change	July 23	<u>Prior Year</u> <sup>1</sup>
Insured Unemployment (SA)	2,175,000	2,160,000	+15,000	2,141,000	2,261,000
Insured Unemployment (NSA)	2,083,296	2,110,274	-26,978	2,105,011	2,161,191
4-Wk Moving Average (SA)	2,155,000	2,144,250	+10,750	2,142,500	2,265,000
<u>Insured Unemployment Rate (SA)</u> <sup>2</sup>	1.6%	1.6%	0.0	1.6%	1.7%
<u>Insured Unemployment Rate (NSA)</u> <sup>2</sup>	1.5%	1.5%	0.0	1.5%	1.6%

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INITIAL CLAIMS FILED IN FEDERAL PROGRAMS (UNADJUSTED)

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WEEK ENDING	August 6	July 30	Change	<u>Prior Year</u> <sup>1</sup>
Federal Employees (UCFE)	1,232	772	+460	821
Newly Discharged Veterans (UCX)	1,229	1,055	+174	1,568

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PERSONS CLAIMING UI BENEFITS IN ALL PROGRAMS (UNADJUSTED)

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WEEK ENDING	July 30	July 23	Change	<u>Prior Year</u> <sup>1</sup>
Regular State	2,104,841	2,100,051	+4,790	2,205,407
Federal Employees	8,129	8,172	-43	10,652
Newly Discharged Veterans	13,050	13,795	-745	17,962
<u>Extended Benefits</u> <sup>3</sup>	0	0	0	0
<u>State Additional Benefits</u> <sup>4</sup>	6,583	6,621	-38	6,183
<u>STC / Workshare</u> <sup>5</sup>	16,092	16,180	-88	14,581
<u>TOTAL</u>	2,148,695	2,144,819	+3,876	2,254,785

## 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 137,652,280 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 August 13			Insured Unemployment For Week Ended August 6		
	Advance	Prior Wk	Change	Advance	Prior Wk	Change
Alabama	2,494	2,983	-489	21,605	23,590	-1,985
Alaska	1,167	997	170	8,008	8,190	-182
Arizona	4,055	4,428	-373	33,797	37,920	-4,123
Arkansas	1,787	1,960	-173	16,072	17,477	-1,405
California	42,192	43,415	-1,223	361,489	351,250	10,239
Colorado	2,074	2,257	-183	25,927	26,613	-686
Connecticut	3,651	3,723	-72	45,361	43,788	1,573
Delaware	558	621	-63	6,773	6,384	389
District of Columbia	620	391	229	8,379	8,922	-543
Florida	7,774	8,542	-768	51,202	58,082	-6,880
Georgia	5,674	6,233	-559	30,136	32,153	-2,017
Hawaii	1,076	1,187	-111	7,200	7,504	-304
Idaho	990	969	21	5,656	6,320	-664
Illinois	8,951	9,455	-504	110,475	113,288	-2,813
Indiana	2,954	3,643	-689	21,381	22,138	-757
Iowa	2,037	2,235	-198	20,166	18,966	1,200
Kansas	2,080	2,134	-54	13,582	13,144	438
Kentucky	2,738	2,235	503	21,421	22,268	-847
Louisiana	2,354	2,949	-595	27,505	27,598	-93
Maine	508	629	-121	4,850	5,078	-228
Maryland	3,717	4,214	-497	35,654	38,728	-3,074
Massachusetts	4,770	5,188	-418	67,599	67,048	551
Michigan	6,093	6,652	-559	52,957	57,192	-4,235
Minnesota	2,863	2,890	-27	32,729	31,391	1,338
Mississippi	1,292	1,551	-259	13,910	16,739	-2,829
Missouri	4,237	4,488	-251	40,837	40,711	126
Montana	603	660	-57	5,344	5,797	-453
Nebraska	675	658	17	4,859	4,901	-42
Nevada	2,515	2,354	161	20,726	22,370	-1,644
New Hampshire	538	602	-64	4,587	4,912	-325
New Jersey	8,583	9,158	-575	105,623	105,115	508
New Mexico	846	1,088	-242	13,111	13,483	-372
New York	14,387	14,642	-255	159,674	158,348	1,326
North Carolina	3,595	3,794	-199	25,947	27,557	-1,610
North Dakota	450	402	48	5,513	3,843	1,670
Ohio	6,522	7,762	-1,240	57,635	57,564	71
Oklahoma	2,388	1,999	389	22,464	23,586	-1,122
Oregon	4,706	3,390	1,316	27,516	27,066	450
Pennsylvania	14,163	15,606	-1,443	136,354	139,476	-3,122
Puerto Rico	1,747	2,611	-864	28,643	30,662	-2,019
Rhode Island	781	973	-192	9,754	9,839	-85
South Carolina	2,318	2,625	-307	17,274	18,113	-839
South Dakota	189	212	-23	1,377	1,429	-52
Tennessee	2,356	2,708	-352	19,606	22,096	-2,490
Texas	15,852	16,186	-334	189,458	188,295	1,163
Utah	1,035	1,021	14	8,815	8,945	-130
*Vermont	470	523	-53	3,693	3,847	-154
Virgin Islands	35	35	0	654	626	28
Virginia	4,246	3,512	734	29,526	28,772	754
Washington	5,831	6,164	-333	45,503	45,780	-277
West Virginia	951	1,127	-176	15,236	14,980	256
Wisconsin	4,618	5,354	-736	34,562	34,845	-283
Wyoming	438	400	38	5,171	5,545	-374
US Total	219,544	231,535	-11,991	2,083,296	2,110,274	-26,978

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 staff 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 8, 2015	273	-1	269.75	2,261	-8	2,265.00	1.7
August 15, 2015	278	5	273.50	2,259	-2	2,262.25	1.7
August 22, 2015	272	-6	274.25	2,259	0	2,262.00	1.7
August 29, 2015	281	9	276.00	2,261	2	2,260.00	1.7
September 5, 2015	275	-6	276.50	2,246	-15	2,256.25	1.7
September 12, 2015	269	-6	274.25	2,244	-2	2,252.50	1.7
September 19, 2015	271	2	274.00	2,208	-36	2,239.75	1.6
September 26, 2015	277	6	273.00	2,216	8	2,228.50	1.6
October 3, 2015	267	-10	271.00	2,186	-30	2,213.50	1.6
October 10, 2015	262	-5	269.25	2,188	2	2,199.50	1.6
October 17, 2015	265	3	267.75	2,171	-17	2,190.25	1.6
October 24, 2015	265	0	264.75	2,190	19	2,183.75	1.6
October 31, 2015	278	13	267.50	2,185	-5	2,183.50	1.6
November 7, 2015	276	-2	271.00	2,183	-2	2,182.25	1.6
November 14, 2015	275	-1	273.50	2,176	-7	2,183.50	1.6
November 21, 2015	264	-11	273.25	2,191	15	2,183.75	1.6
November 28, 2015	274	10	272.25	2,230	39	2,195.00	1.6
December 5, 2015	279	5	273.00	2,245	15	2,210.50	1.7
December 12, 2015	275	-4	273.00	2,195	-50	2,215.25	1.6
December 19, 2015	269	-6	274.25	2,212	17	2,220.50	1.6
December 26, 2015	285	16	277.00	2,226	14	2,219.50	1.6
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				

Initial Claims Filed During Week Ended August  
6

Insured Unemployment For Week Ended July 30  
INSURED UNEMPLOYMENT

STATE	STATE	INITIAL CLAIMS						CHANGE FROM				ALL PROGRAMS EXCLUDING RAILROAD RETIREMENT
		LAST WEEK	YEAR AGO	UCFE <sup>1</sup>	UCX <sup>1</sup>	STATE	(%) <sup>2</sup>	LAST WEEK	YEAR AGO	UCFE <sup>1</sup>	UCX <sup>1</sup>	
Alabama	2983	2	-4	12	22	23590	1.3	-559	-1263	83	137	23810
Alaska	997	156	96	3	5	8190	2.6	-247	787	49	24	8263
Arizona	4428	24	61	6	15	37920	1.5	-757	-1592	171	161	38252
Arkansas	1960	174	-425	3	8	17477	1.5	-696	-4124	43	96	17616
California	43415	379	-954	187	205	351250	2.2	-7673	-18551	1644	2595	355489
Colorado	2257	332	15	11	42	26613	1.1	127	-273	101	473	27187
Connecticut	3723	628	303	13	7	43788	2.7	-22	474	72	118	43978
Delaware	621	77	-118	3	3	6384	1.5	-811	-431	8	11	6403
District of Columbia	391	21	-6	8	0	8922	1.6	113	-265	238	9	9169
Florida	8542	318	-1626	16	66	58082	0.7	896	-14225	128	341	58551
Georgia	6233	-42	-100	25	58	32153	0.8	-735	-5874	184	416	32753
Hawaii	1187	91	-26	3	15	7504	1.2	-10	176	56	146	7706
Idaho	969	32	11	2	7	6320	1.0	-256	-466	31	37	6388
Illinois	9455	583	-1222	10	21	113288	2.0	1867	-2546	351	396	114035
Indiana	3643	459	368	8	7	22138	0.8	589	661	66	97	22301
Iowa	2235	-280	-452	5	5	18966	1.3	-162	277	35	70	19071
Kansas	2134	-283	141	8	10	13144	1.0	-73	-888	91	89	13324
Kentucky	2235	-536	-656	12	3	22268	1.2	-631	138	238	244	22750
Louisiana	2949	237	504	6	7	27598	1.5	-168	601	62	52	27712
Maine	629	22	-127	0	1	5078	0.9	-36	-937	28	22	5128
Maryland	4214	573	119	19	27	38728	1.6	170	-2807	257	202	39187
Massachusetts	5188	402	-189	10	21	67048	2.0	-1732	-2737	157	267	67472
Michigan	6652	-2186	929	18	26	57192	1.4	5084	4239	89	172	57453
Minnesota	2890	151	-303	4	7	31391	1.1	351	-1315	51	121	31563
Mississippi	1551	-26	-349	2	4	16739	1.5	-317	-886	65	53	16857
Missouri	4488	709	222	31	7	40711	1.5	12126	4249	254	117	41082
Montana	660	116	-66	3	4	5797	1.3	-267	-214	35	34	5866
Nebraska	658	-13	-128	0	6	4901	0.5	-25	-2062	21	15	4937
Nevada	2354	-117	-285	5	5	22370	1.8	-748	-3844	77	117	22564
New Hampshire	602	38	-109	0	0	4912	0.8	-40	-402	5	13	4930
New Jersey	9158	719	581	12	21	105115	2.7	-184	-6956	208	393	105716
New Mexico	1088	114	61	3	4	13483	1.7	-324	510	136	69	13688
New York	14642	881	-1088	31	41	158348	1.8	-679	-7626	353	570	159271
North Carolina	3794	314	-266	10	32	27557	0.7	-269	-7616	106	309	27972
North Dakota	402	62	0	5	2	3843	0.9	-214	247	181	7	4031
Ohio	7762	952	572	9	41	57564	1.1	-1731	-1100	111	301	57976
Oklahoma	1999	452	260	8	16	23586	1.5	-167	483	55	129	23770
Oregon	3390	672	-1078	12	9	27066	1.5	-186	-3789	174	161	27401
Pennsylvania	15606	2359	-165	70	57	139476	2.5	3087	-4468	475	478	140429
Puerto Rico	2611	1621	-247	491	7	30662	3.5	2932	-4182	89	136	30887
Rhode Island	973	151	52	0	0	9839	2.1	-165	-129	15	19	9873
South Carolina	2625	-73	-123	12	21	18113	0.9	198	-692	47	139	18299
South Dakota	212	7	36	2	2	1429	0.4	-14	21	259	11	1699
Tennessee	2708	177	-566	1	5	22096	0.8	-1424	-6313	54	76	22226
Texas	16186	1196	-506	68	215	188295	1.6	-1693	4867	527	2175	190997
Utah	1021	69	-73	25	4	8945	0.7	-173	-558	106	29	9080
Vermont	523	161	113	3	3	3847	1.3	-216	-137	12	5	3864
Virgin Islands	35	-24	-16	0	0	626	1.7	-82	-156	6	2	634
Virginia	3512	335	-74	6	25	28772	0.8	127	-621	222	457	29451
Washington	6164	-29	-267	17	90	45780	1.5	2018	-1488	187	781	46748
West Virginia	1127	-124	-68	3	4	14980	2.2	-699	580	34	57	15071
Wisconsin	5354	280	-582	10	13	34845	1.3	96	-7268	61	73	34979
Wyoming	400	39	29	1	3	5545	2.0	-333	785	21	28	5594
Totals	231535	12352	-7791	1232	1229	2110274	1.5	5263	-99706	8129	13050	2131453

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 AUGUST 6, 2016**

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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>
PA	+2,359	Layoffs in the transportation and warehousing, administrative, support, waste management and remediation service, and manufacturing industries.
PR	+1,621	No comment.
TX	+1,196	Layoffs in the manufacturing, administrative, support, waste management and remediation service, finance and insurance, transportation and warehousing, and retail trade industries.

STATES WITH A DECREASE OF MORE THAN 1,000

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<b>State</b>	<b>Change</b>	<b>State Supplied Comment</b>
MI	-2,186	Fewer layoffs in the manufacturing industry.

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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](#)

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