



News Release

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



TRANSMISSION OF MATERIALS IN THIS RELEASE IS EMBARGOED UNTIL
8:30 A.M. (Eastern) Thursday, September 1, 2016

UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE WEEKLY CLAIMS

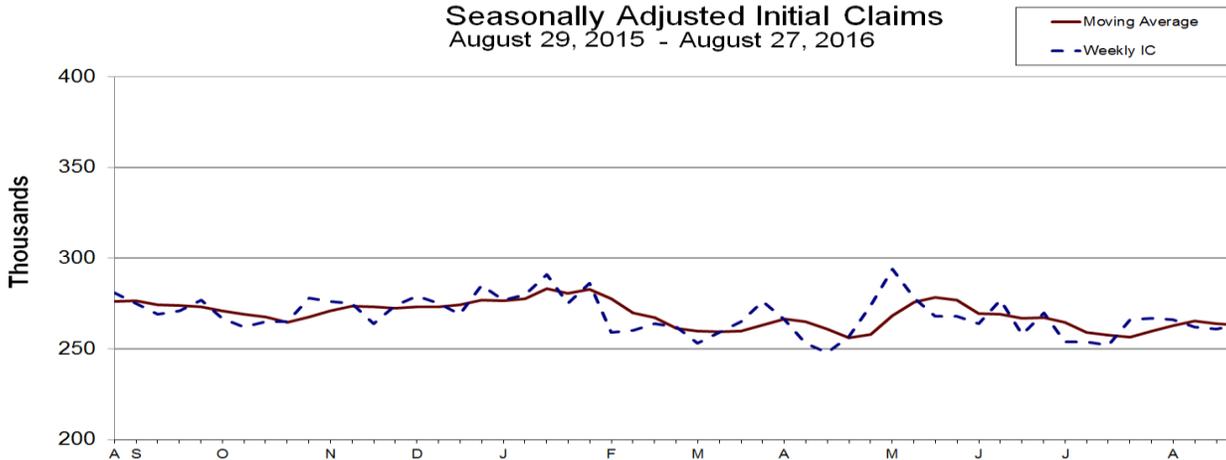
SEASONALLY ADJUSTED DATA

In the week ending August 27, the advance figure for seasonally adjusted **initial claims** was 263,000, an increase of 2,000 from the previous week's unrevised level of 261,000. The 4-week moving average was 263,000, a decrease of 1,000 from the previous week's unrevised average of 264,000.

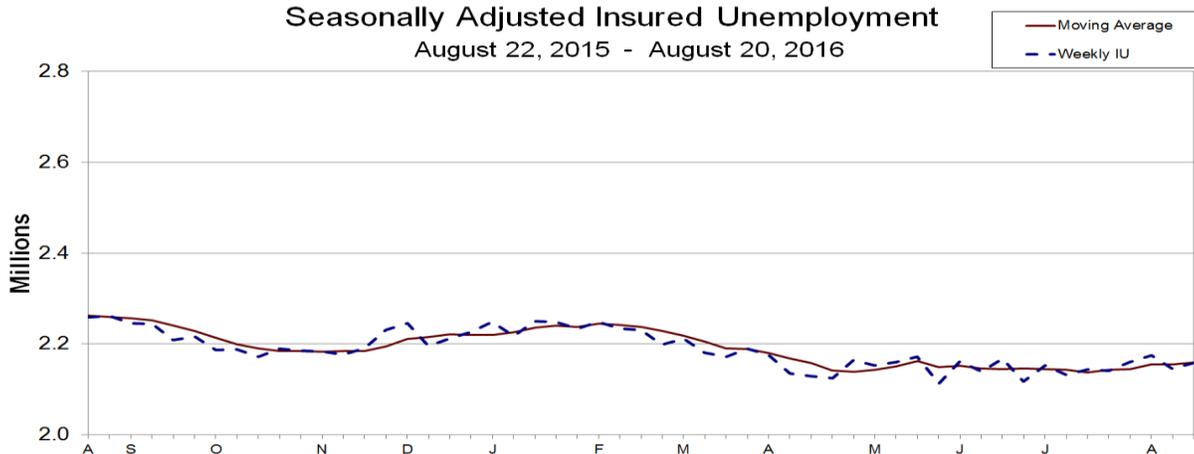
There were no special factors impacting this week's initial claims. This marks 78 consecutive weeks of initial claims below 300,000, the longest streak since 1970.

The advance seasonally adjusted **insured unemployment rate** was 1.6 percent for the week ending August 20, unchanged from the previous week's unrevised rate. The advance number for seasonally adjusted **insured unemployment** during the week ending August 20 was 2,159,000, an increase of 14,000 from the previous week's unrevised level of 2,145,000. The 4-week moving average was 2,159,750, an increase of 4,500 from the previous week's unrevised average of 2,155,250.

Seasonally Adjusted Initial Claims
August 29, 2015 - August 27, 2016



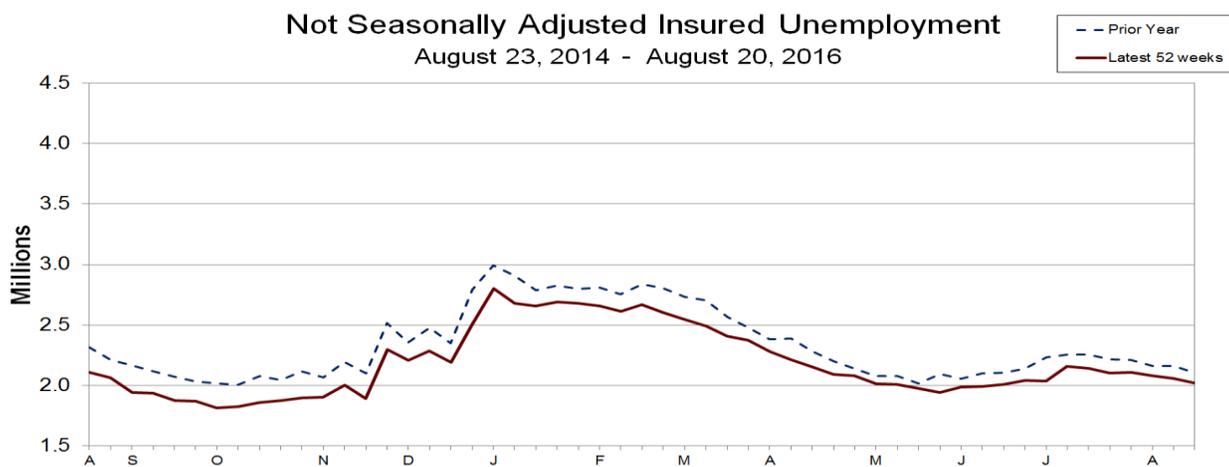
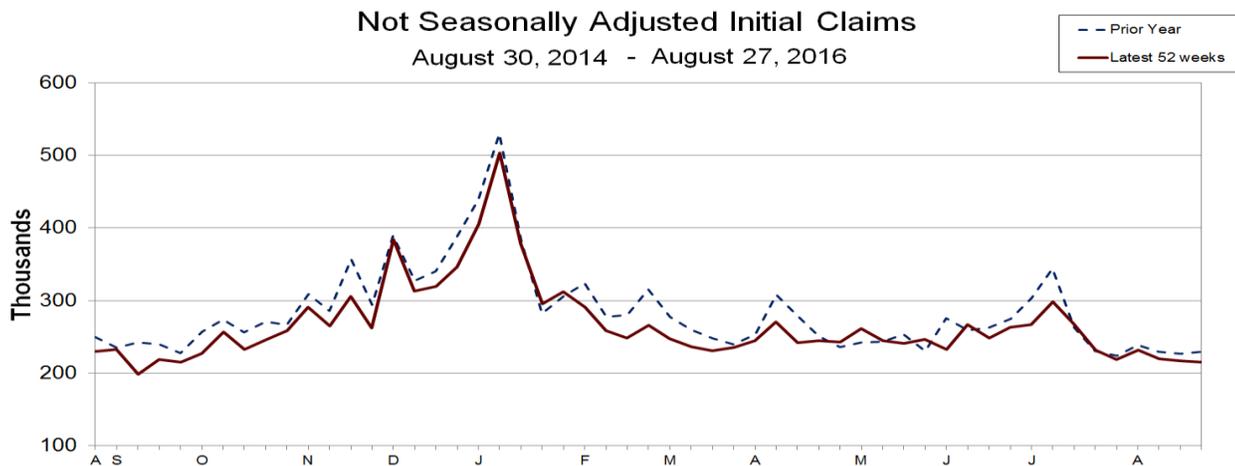
Seasonally Adjusted Insured Unemployment
August 22, 2015 - August 20, 2016



UNADJUSTED DATA

The advance number of actual initial claims under state programs, unadjusted, totaled 215,483 in the week ending August 27, a decrease of 1,531 (or -0.7 percent) from the previous week. The seasonal factors had expected a decrease of 3,134 (or -1.4 percent) from the previous week. There were 230,079 initial claims in the comparable week in 2015.

The advance unadjusted insured unemployment rate was 1.5 percent during the week ending August 20, unchanged from the prior week. The advance unadjusted number for persons claiming UI benefits in state programs totaled 2,022,522, a decrease of 39,202 (or -1.9 percent) from the preceding week. The seasonal factors had expected a decrease of 51,489 (or -2.5 percent) from the previous week. A year earlier the rate was 1.6 percent and the volume was 2,108,101.



The total number of people claiming benefits in all programs for the week ending August 13 was 2,100,582, a decrease of 22,536 from the previous week. There were 2,210,203 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 August 13.

Initial claims for UI benefits filed by former Federal civilian employees totaled 850 in the week ending August 20, a decrease of 30 from the prior week. There were 1,131 initial claims filed by newly discharged veterans, an increase of 68 from the preceding week.

There were 8,247 former Federal civilian employees claiming UI benefits for the week ending August 13, a decrease of 166 from the previous week. Newly discharged veterans claiming benefits totaled 13,368, an increase of 73 from the prior week.

The highest insured unemployment rates in the week ending August 13 were in Puerto Rico (3.0), New Jersey (2.8), Connecticut (2.7), Alaska (2.6), Pennsylvania (2.5), California (2.2), Rhode Island (2.1), West Virginia (2.1), Massachusetts (2.0), Illinois (1.9), and Wyoming (1.9).

The largest increases in initial claims for the week ending August 20 were in Michigan (+2,652), Louisiana (+2,280), North Dakota (+493), Puerto Rico (+352), and Pennsylvania (+325), while the largest decreases were in California (-2,962), Virginia (-1,168), Oregon (-985), Maryland (-675), and Oklahoma (-544).

UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE DATA FOR REGULAR STATE PROGRAMS

WEEK ENDING	August 27	August 20	Change	August 13	<u>Prior Year</u> ¹
Initial Claims (SA)	263,000	261,000	+2,000	262,000	281,000
Initial Claims (NSA)	215,483	217,014	-1,531	219,523	230,079
4-Wk Moving Average (SA)	263,000	264,000	-1,000	265,250	276,000
WEEK ENDING	August 20	August 13	Change	August 6	<u>Prior Year</u> ¹
Insured Unemployment (SA)	2,159,000	2,145,000	+14,000	2,175,000	2,259,000
Insured Unemployment (NSA)	2,022,522	2,061,724	-39,202	2,083,505	2,108,101
4-Wk Moving Average (SA)	2,159,750	2,155,250	+4,500	2,155,000	2,262,000
<u>Insured Unemployment Rate (SA)</u> ²	1.6%	1.6%	0.0	1.6%	1.7%
<u>Insured Unemployment Rate (NSA)</u> ²	1.5%	1.5%	0.0	1.5%	1.6%

INITIAL CLAIMS FILED IN FEDERAL PROGRAMS (UNADJUSTED)

WEEK ENDING	August 20	August 13	Change	<u>Prior Year</u> ¹
Federal Employees (UCFE)	850	880	-30	894
Newly Discharged Veterans (UCX)	1,131	1,063	+68	1,433

PERSONS CLAIMING UI BENEFITS IN ALL PROGRAMS (UNADJUSTED)

WEEK ENDING	August 13	August 6	Change	<u>Prior Year</u> ¹
Regular State	2,056,941	2,078,206	-21,265	2,158,594
Federal Employees	8,247	8,413	-166	10,453
Newly Discharged Veterans	13,368	13,295	+73	18,395
<u>Extended Benefits</u> ³	0	0	0	0
<u>State Additional Benefits</u> ⁴	6,228	6,439	-211	6,298
<u>STC / Workshare</u> ⁵	15,798	16,765	-967	16,463
<u>TOTAL</u>	2,100,582	2,123,118	-22,536	2,210,203

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 27			Insured Unemployment For Week Ended August 20		
	Advance	Prior Wk	Change	Advance	Prior Wk	Change
Alabama	2,356	2,654	-298	19,986	22,244	-2,258
Alaska	1,218	1,111	107	8,117	8,277	-160
Arizona	3,829	4,091	-262	32,029	36,800	-4,771
Arkansas	1,808	2,239	-431	15,161	16,404	-1,243
California	40,800	38,776	2,024	367,748	348,813	18,935
Colorado	2,031	1,991	40	24,914	26,080	-1,166
Connecticut	2,913	3,250	-337	45,902	44,521	1,381
Delaware	437	490	-53	6,562	6,464	98
District of Columbia	552	343	209	8,348	8,907	-559
Florida	7,477	8,047	-570	49,199	58,267	-9,068
Georgia	5,654	5,427	227	28,781	30,817	-2,036
Hawaii	1,387	986	401	7,424	6,729	695
Idaho	786	1,030	-244	5,604	6,231	-627
Illinois	8,606	8,742	-136	106,210	110,263	-4,053
Indiana	2,736	2,974	-238	20,563	20,669	-106
Iowa	2,237	1,649	588	18,317	17,598	719
Kansas	1,902	1,706	196	12,021	11,966	55
Kentucky	2,295	2,328	-33	20,174	21,569	-1,395
Louisiana	4,394	4,984	-590	27,125	25,926	1,199
Maine	482	556	-74	4,655	5,134	-479
Maryland	2,888	3,369	-481	35,056	39,482	-4,426
Massachusetts	4,636	4,860	-224	66,907	67,713	-806
Michigan	7,642	8,870	-1,228	48,352	55,830	-7,478
Minnesota	2,773	2,831	-58	31,451	30,521	930
Mississippi	1,205	1,592	-387	11,879	14,431	-2,552
Missouri	3,639	3,973	-334	27,186	33,901	-6,715
Montana	607	609	-2	4,865	5,714	-849
Nebraska	821	693	128	4,083	4,610	-527
Nevada	2,674	2,365	309	20,205	21,755	-1,550
New Hampshire	451	572	-121	4,518	4,821	-303
New Jersey	8,087	8,831	-744	106,494	105,796	698
New Mexico	927	975	-48	11,923	12,810	-887
New York	19,200	14,162	5,038	162,230	157,719	4,511
North Carolina	3,581	3,486	95	24,790	26,735	-1,945
North Dakota	439	815	-376	5,105	3,541	1,564
Ohio	6,021	6,527	-506	54,080	56,042	-1,962
Oklahoma	1,705	1,822	-117	21,527	23,516	-1,989
Oregon	3,595	3,726	-131	26,909	26,612	297
Pennsylvania	13,592	14,459	-867	134,314	139,325	-5,011
Puerto Rico	1,398	2,163	-765	23,989	26,317	-2,328
Rhode Island	795	1,096	-301	9,925	9,834	91
South Carolina	2,467	2,455	12	16,105	17,546	-1,441
South Dakota	154	179	-25	1,300	1,407	-107
Tennessee	2,235	2,486	-251	17,795	19,465	-1,670
Texas	14,377	15,210	-833	186,087	185,052	1,035
Utah	1,051	1,022	29	8,493	8,607	-114
Vermont	377	389	-12	4,046	3,996	50
Virgin Islands	68	45	23	664	626	38
Virginia	3,027	2,834	193	27,809	28,996	-1,187
Washington	5,388	5,442	-54	44,166	42,766	1,400
West Virginia	920	979	-59	13,945	13,877	68
Wisconsin	4,390	4,428	-38	32,569	33,488	-919
Wyoming	453	375	78	4,915	5,194	-279
US Total	215,483	217,014	-1,531	2,022,522	2,061,724	-39,202

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.

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 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	2,145	-30	2,155.25	1.6
August 20, 2016	261	-1	264.00	2,159	14	2,159.75	1.6
August 27, 2016	263	2	263.00				

Initial Claims Filed During Week Ended August

20

Insured Unemployment For Week Ended August 13

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	2654	-85	-227	8	18	22244	1.2	-774	-1058	83	153	22480
Alaska	1111	86	144	2	3	8277	2.6	51	898	60	34	8371
Arizona	4091	-103	228	8	12	36800	1.4	-702	-1197	106	173	37079
Arkansas	2239	309	36	5	5	16404	1.4	-644	-4389	50	108	16562
California	38776	-2962	-4122	183	200	348813	2.2	-5239	-14286	1817	2660	353290
Colorado	1991	-72	-173	11	40	26080	1.1	657	-202	106	479	26665
Connecticut	3250	-394	16	9	1	44521	2.7	383	385	71	114	44706
Delaware	490	-84	-170	2	2	6464	1.5	-90	-480	10	14	6488
District of Columbia	343	-8	8	5	0	8907	1.6	112	-414	250	11	9168
Florida	8047	-35	-1145	22	82	58267	0.7	1180	-12895	130	352	58749
Georgia	5427	-510	-602	20	56	30817	0.8	-1189	-6535	194	403	31414
Hawaii	986	-57	29	2	10	6729	1.1	-208	-324	42	136	6907
Idaho	1030	-43	-76	2	4	6231	1.0	-19	-285	29	45	6305
Illinois	8742	-128	-246	11	15	110263	1.9	1106	-5713	346	392	111001
Indiana	2974	28	123	3	8	20669	0.7	-818	-348	55	78	20802
Iowa	1649	-66	-734	5	4	17598	1.2	-1263	-558	29	58	17685
Kansas	1706	-258	-58	2	13	11966	0.9	-1116	-2270	53	81	12100
Kentucky	2328	-428	-215	13	12	21569	1.2	60	71	238	241	22048
Louisiana	4984	2280	2570	4	6	25926	1.4	-1425	276	58	45	26029
Maine	556	6	-276	2	1	5134	0.9	20	-942	25	21	5180
Maryland	3369	-675	-153	25	15	39482	1.6	512	-2078	264	222	39968
Massachusetts	4860	71	-350	15	22	67713	2.0	-776	-1297	158	286	68157
Michigan	8870	2652	2953	10	23	55830	1.4	1078	6225	96	213	56139
Minnesota	2831	75	-133	3	3	30521	1.1	-22	-503	44	117	30682
Mississippi	1592	32	-100	5	4	14431	1.3	-1249	-1287	59	51	14541
Missouri	3973	-177	-228	76	16	33901	1.3	-8651	465	326	122	34349
Montana	609	10	-147	2	2	5714	1.3	-33	-168	40	33	5787
Nebraska	693	26	-112	2	2	4610	0.5	-155	-1744	17	13	4640
Nevada	2365	47	-199	2	2	21755	1.8	-367	-4120	62	115	21932
New Hampshire	572	-2	-11	1	0	4821	0.8	-97	-487	3	14	4838
New Jersey	8831	118	885	24	22	105796	2.8	1068	-7463	240	395	106431
New Mexico	975	32	-48	3	2	12810	1.6	-529	650	105	76	12991
New York	14162	-139	-2162	75	51	157719	1.8	-807	-8562	406	591	158716
North Carolina	3486	77	-157	12	28	26735	0.7	-380	-6749	96	320	27151
North Dakota	815	493	524	1	2	3541	0.8	-366	275	176	9	3726
Ohio	6527	50	-123	8	31	56042	1.1	-1710	-137	109	303	56454
Oklahoma	1822	-544	43	5	14	23516	1.5	522	1356	55	141	23712
Oregon	3726	-985	-172	15	11	26612	1.5	-939	-2706	165	164	26941
Pennsylvania	14459	325	-2021	61	46	139325	2.5	5253	-4965	476	468	140269
Puerto Rico	2163	352	133	1	9	26317	3.0	-2456	-6473	74	159	26550
Rhode Island	1096	310	93	4	3	9834	2.1	189	-502	11	16	9861
South Carolina	2455	91	-241	8	19	17546	0.9	-500	-446	41	134	17721
South Dakota	179	-25	22	1	4	1407	0.3	106	85	182	5	1594
Tennessee	2486	-25	-1073	2	2	19465	0.7	-1321	-6636	50	70	19585
Texas	15210	-386	-157	89	187	185052	1.6	2519	3615	543	2335	187930
Utah	1022	-7	-169	47	0	8607	0.7	-186	-647	120	24	8751
Vermont	389	-161	25	0	0	3996	1.3	108	49	10	6	4012
Virgin Islands	45	-8	-1	0	0	626	1.7	-22	-180	4	6	636
Virginia	2834	-1168	-201	9	23	28996	0.8	534	262	248	440	29684
Washington	5442	-160	-314	19	81	42766	1.4	-833	-2093	191	766	43723
West Virginia	979	-69	-197	1	4	13877	2.1	-949	272	41	52	13970
Wisconsin	4428	-198	-930	5	10	33488	1.2	-1159	-6397	59	80	33627
Wyoming	375	-17	-24	0	1	5194	1.9	-245	667	24	24	5242
Totals	217014	-2509	-9635	850	1131	2061724	1.5	-21781	-101985	8247	13368	2083339

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 20, 2016

STATES WITH AN INCREASE OF MORE THAN 1,000

State	Change	State Supplied Comment
MI	+2,652	Layoffs in the wholesale trade industry.
LA	+2,280	No comment.

STATES WITH A DECREASE OF MORE THAN 1,000

State	Change	State Supplied Comment
CA	-2,962	Fewer layoffs in the service industry.
VA	-1,168	Fewer layoffs in the manufacturing 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 16-1790-NAT

Program Contacts:
Brenda Loya (202) 693-3760
Tony Sznoluch (202) 693-3176
Media Contact: (202) 693-4676