



News Release

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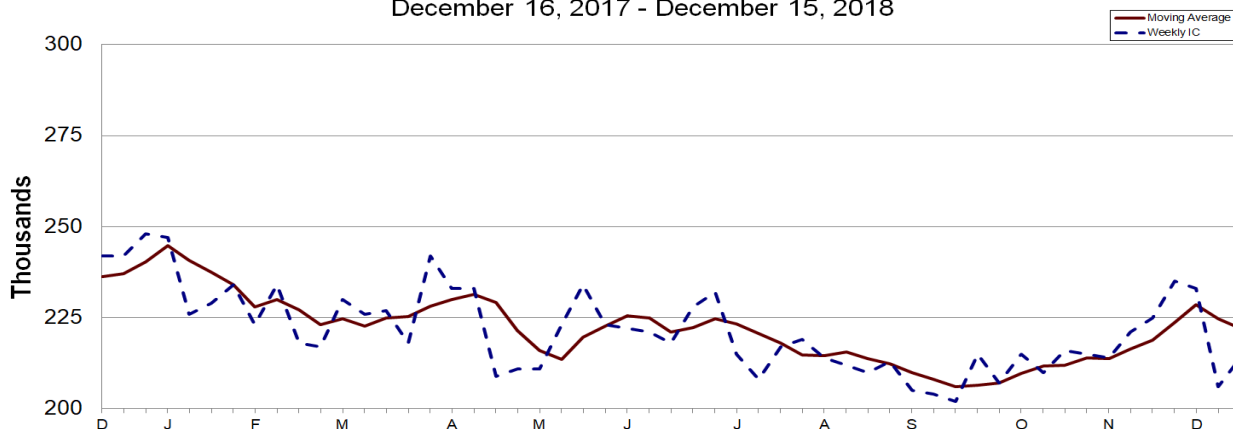
UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE WEEKLY CLAIMS

SEASONALLY ADJUSTED DATA

In the week ending December 15, the advance figure for seasonally adjusted **initial claims** was 214,000, an increase of 8,000 from the previous week's unrevised level of 206,000. The 4-week moving average was 222,000, a decrease of 2,750 from the previous week's unrevised average of 224,750.

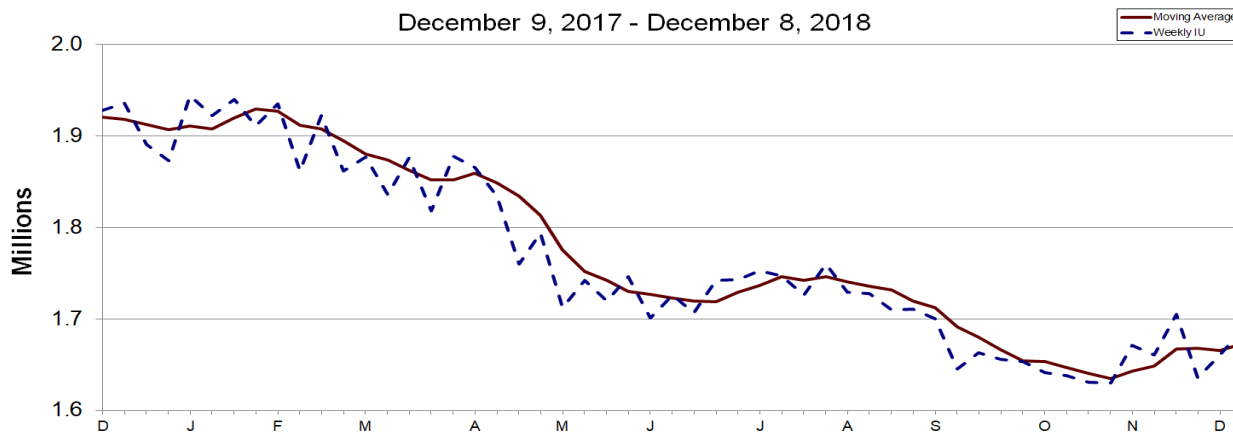
The advance seasonally adjusted **insured unemployment rate** was 1.2 percent for the week ending December 8, unchanged from the previous week's unrevised rate. The advance number for seasonally adjusted **insured unemployment** during the week ending December 8 was 1,688,000, an increase of 27,000 from the previous week's unrevised level of 1,661,000. The 4-week moving average was 1,672,500, an increase of 6,750 from the previous week's unrevised average of 1,665,750.

Seasonally Adjusted Initial Claims
December 16, 2017 - December 15, 2018



Seasonally Adjusted Insured Unemployment

December 9, 2017 - December 8, 2018



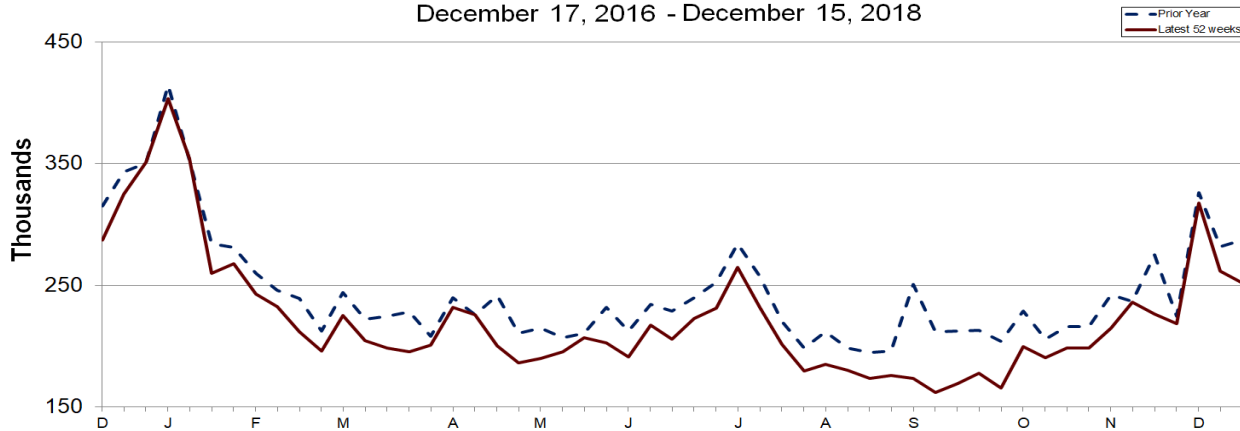
UNADJUSTED DATA

The advance number of actual initial claims under state programs, unadjusted, totaled 251,773 in the week ending December 15, a decrease of 9,766 (or -3.7 percent) from the previous week. The seasonal factors had expected a decrease of 18,991 (or -7.3 percent) from the previous week. There were 287,396 initial claims in the comparable week in 2017.

The advance unadjusted insured unemployment rate was 1.2 percent during the week ending December 8, unchanged from the prior week. The advance unadjusted number for persons claiming UI benefits in state programs totaled 1,705,113, an increase of 55,343 (or 3.4 percent) from the preceding week. The seasonal factors had expected an increase of 28,244 (or 1.7 percent) from the previous week. A year earlier the rate was 1.4 percent and the volume was 1,968,105.

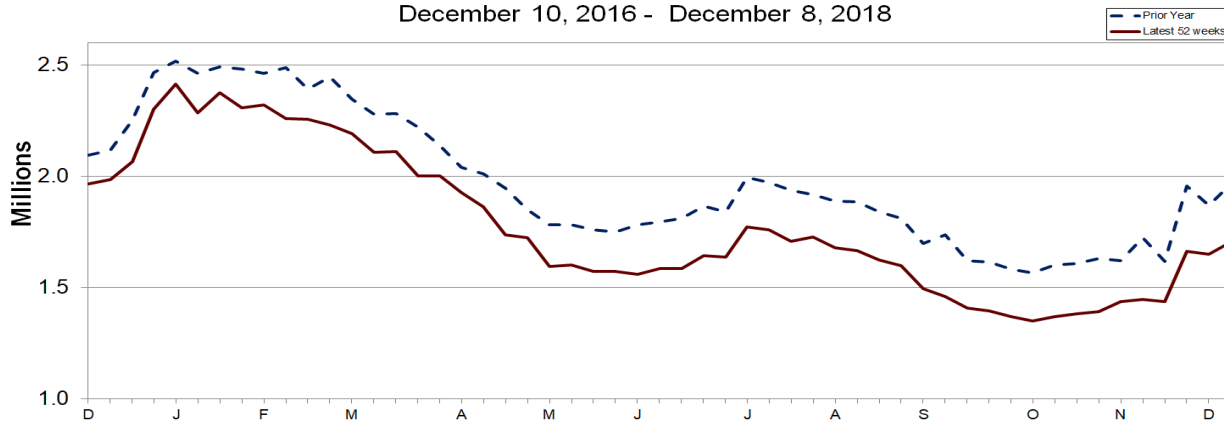
Not Seasonally Adjusted Initial Claims

December 17, 2016 - December 15, 2018



Not Seasonally Adjusted Insured Unemployment

December 10, 2016 - December 8, 2018



The total number of people claiming benefits in all programs for the week ending December 1 was 1,677,579, a decrease of 16,627 from the previous week. There were 1,902,175 persons claiming benefits in all programs in the comparable week in 2017.

No state was triggered "on" the Extended Benefits program during the week ending December 1.

Initial claims for UI benefits filed by former Federal civilian employees totaled 921 in the week ending December 8, a decrease of 422 from the prior week. There were 630 initial claims filed by newly discharged veterans, an increase of 7 from the preceding week.

There were 9,933 former Federal civilian employees claiming UI benefits for the week ending December 1, a decrease of 412 from the previous week. Newly discharged veterans claiming benefits totaled 6,758, a decrease of 390 from the prior week.

The highest insured unemployment rates in the week ending December 1 were in Alaska (3.1), New Jersey (2.1), California (1.9), Pennsylvania (1.9), Connecticut (1.8), Puerto Rico (1.8), Virgin Islands (1.8), Montana (1.7), Washington (1.7), Minnesota (1.6), and West Virginia (1.6).

The largest increases in initial claims for the week ending December 8 were in Massachusetts (+458), Colorado (+439), Idaho (+419), Nebraska (+281), and South Dakota (+133), while the largest decreases were in Pennsylvania (-10,609), New York (-8,993), California (-7,654), Georgia (-3,759), and Illinois (-3,189).

UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE DATA FOR REGULAR STATE PROGRAMS

WEEK ENDING	December 15	December 8	Change	December 1	<u>Prior Year</u>¹
Initial Claims (SA)	214,000	206,000	+8,000	233,000	242,000
Initial Claims (NSA)	251,773	261,539	-9,766	317,935	287,396
4-Wk Moving Average (SA)	222,000	224,750	-2,750	228,500	236,250
WEEK ENDING	December 8	December 1	Change	November 24	<u>Prior Year</u>¹
Insured Unemployment (SA)	1,688,000	1,661,000	+27,000	1,636,000	1,928,000
Insured Unemployment (NSA)	1,705,113	1,649,770	+55,343	1,665,483	1,968,105
4-Wk Moving Average (SA)	1,672,500	1,665,750	+6,750	1,668,250	1,920,500
<u>Insured Unemployment Rate (SA)</u>²	1.2%	1.2%	0.0	1.1%	1.4%
<u>Insured Unemployment Rate (NSA)</u>²	1.2%	1.2%	0.0	1.2%	1.4%

INITIAL CLAIMS FILED IN FEDERAL PROGRAMS (UNADJUSTED)

WEEK ENDING	December 8	December 1	Change	<u>Prior Year</u>¹
Federal Employees (UCFE)	921	1,343	-422	1,174
Newly Discharged Veterans (UCX)	630	623	+7	749

PERSONS CLAIMING UI BENEFITS IN ALL PROGRAMS (UNADJUSTED)

WEEK ENDING	December 1	November 24	Change	<u>Prior Year</u>¹
Regular State	1,647,722	1,663,039	-15,317	1,864,034
Federal Employees	9,933	10,345	-412	13,443
Newly Discharged Veterans	6,758	7,148	-390	8,478
<u>Extended Benefits</u>³	4	17	-13	1,284
<u>State Additional Benefits</u>⁴	5,810	5,661	+149	6,601
<u>STC / Workshare</u>⁵	7,352	7,996	-644	8,335
<u>TOTAL</u>	1,677,579	1,694,206	-16,627	1,902,175

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 142,513,638 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 December 15			Insured Unemployment For Week Ended December 8		
	Advance	Prior Wk	Change	Advance	Prior Wk	Change
Alabama	2,303	2,651	-348	14,784	14,854	-70
Alaska	1,354	1,231	123	9,781	9,498	283
Arizona	3,191	3,521	-330	16,936	19,143	-2,207
Arkansas	1,848	1,761	87	9,866	11,319	-1,453
California	48,317	47,395	922	333,719	325,163	8,556
Colorado	2,308	2,711	-403	18,661	19,188	-527
Connecticut	3,642	3,356	286	31,551	29,402	2,149
Delaware	602	707	-105	4,780	4,451	329
District of Columbia	578	518	60	7,297	7,554	-257
Florida	6,551	7,072	-521	35,752	36,573	-821
Georgia	5,124	5,969	-845	22,768	24,163	-1,395
Hawaii	1,138	1,258	-120	7,026	6,687	339
Idaho	2,240	2,639	-399	7,582	6,731	851
Illinois	12,983	14,894	-1,911	109,324	89,878	19,446
Indiana	3,512	3,379	133	16,030	14,588	1,442
Iowa	4,522	5,069	-547	21,098	18,270	2,828
Kansas	1,936	2,126	-190	9,061	8,831	230
Kentucky	2,799	2,610	189	16,393	15,828	565
Louisiana	2,176	2,375	-199	13,804	15,410	-1,606
Maine	1,294	1,238	56	5,983	5,709	274
Maryland	3,413	3,219	194	25,545	24,129	1,416
Massachusetts	8,232	7,212	1,020	50,197	49,372	825
Michigan	9,909	11,332	-1,423	42,589	46,999	-4,410
Minnesota	6,116	6,970	-854	51,195	45,309	5,886
Mississippi	1,135	1,138	-3	6,056	6,725	-669
Missouri	4,112	4,461	-349	20,418	20,942	-524
Montana	1,402	1,505	-103	9,097	7,699	1,398
Nebraska	1,258	1,597	-339	5,173	4,234	939
Nevada	2,947	2,973	-26	18,715	19,499	-784
New Hampshire	608	599	9	3,217	3,395	-178
New Jersey	9,551	10,220	-669	84,624	81,714	2,910
New Mexico	886	903	-17	8,747	8,686	61
New York	15,325	15,562	-237	132,915	129,554	3,361
North Carolina	3,294	3,622	-328	18,396	18,446	-50
North Dakota	1,047	1,046	1	4,551	3,308	1,243
Ohio	8,835	8,804	31	54,295	50,850	3,445
Oklahoma	1,406	1,640	-234	12,115	12,451	-336
Oregon	4,548	4,394	154	26,572	26,276	296
Pennsylvania	15,810	16,188	-378	111,515	109,555	1,960
Puerto Rico	810	1,131	-321	13,052	15,598	-2,546
Rhode Island	1,320	1,159	161	7,802	6,998	804
South Carolina	2,411	2,478	-67	15,085	15,418	-333
South Dakota	407	662	-255	2,031	1,644	387
Tennessee	2,827	2,751	76	15,368	15,963	-595
Texas	13,369	14,041	-672	114,073	110,762	3,311
Utah	1,823	2,150	-327	9,656	8,754	902
Vermont	580	633	-53	3,879	3,400	479
Virgin Islands	21	29	-8	548	632	-84
Virginia	3,479	3,067	412	19,755	18,998	757
Washington	7,805	7,819	-14	57,306	54,921	2,385
West Virginia	1,436	1,969	-533	11,120	10,563	557
Wisconsin	6,770	7,118	-348	34,347	31,593	2,754
Wyoming	463	667	-204	2,963	2,143	820
US Total	251,773	261,539	-9,766	1,705,113	1,649,770	55,343

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.

Seasonally Adjusted US Weekly UI Claims (in thousands)

Week Ending	Change from			Insured Unemployment	Change from		IUR
	Initial Claims	Prior Week	4-Week Average		Prior Week	4-Week Average	
December 9, 2017	229	-6	235.50	1,928	32	1,920.50	1.4
December 16, 2017	242	13	236.25	1,936	8	1,918.25	1.4
December 23, 2017	242	0	237.00	1,891	-45	1,912.75	1.3
December 30, 2017	248	6	240.25	1,873	-18	1,907.00	1.3
January 6, 2018	247	-1	244.75	1,944	71	1,911.00	1.4
January 13, 2018	226	-21	240.75	1,922	-22	1,907.50	1.4
January 20, 2018	229	3	237.50	1,940	18	1,919.75	1.4
January 27, 2018	234	5	234.00	1,911	-29	1,929.25	1.4
February 3, 2018	223	-11	228.00	1,935	24	1,927.00	1.4
February 10, 2018	234	11	230.00	1,862	-73	1,912.00	1.3
February 17, 2018	218	-16	227.25	1,922	60	1,907.50	1.4
February 24, 2018	217	-1	223.00	1,862	-60	1,895.25	1.3
March 3, 2018	230	13	224.75	1,877	15	1,880.75	1.3
March 10, 2018	226	-4	222.75	1,836	-41	1,874.25	1.3
March 17, 2018	227	1	225.00	1,876	40	1,862.75	1.3
March 24, 2018	218	-9	225.25	1,818	-58	1,851.75	1.3
March 31, 2018	242	24	228.25	1,878	60	1,852.00	1.3
April 7, 2018	233	-9	230.00	1,866	-12	1,859.50	1.3
April 14, 2018	233	0	231.50	1,834	-32	1,849.00	1.3
April 21, 2018	209	-24	229.25	1,760	-74	1,834.50	1.2
April 28, 2018	211	2	221.50	1,794	34	1,813.50	1.3
May 5, 2018	211	0	216.00	1,712	-82	1,775.00	1.2
May 12, 2018	223	12	213.50	1,742	30	1,752.00	1.2
May 19, 2018	234	11	219.75	1,720	-22	1,742.00	1.2
May 26, 2018	223	-11	222.75	1,746	26	1,730.00	1.2
June 2, 2018	222	-1	225.50	1,701	-45	1,727.25	1.2
June 9, 2018	221	-1	225.00	1,726	25	1,723.25	1.2
June 16, 2018	218	-3	221.00	1,707	-19	1,720.00	1.2
June 23, 2018	228	10	222.25	1,742	35	1,719.00	1.2
June 30, 2018	232	4	224.75	1,743	1	1,729.50	1.2
July 7, 2018	215	-17	223.25	1,753	10	1,736.25	1.2
July 14, 2018	208	-7	220.75	1,747	-6	1,746.25	1.2
July 21, 2018	217	9	218.00	1,726	-21	1,742.25	1.2
July 28, 2018	219	2	214.75	1,760	34	1,746.50	1.2
August 4, 2018	214	-5	214.50	1,729	-31	1,740.50	1.2
August 11, 2018	212	-2	215.50	1,728	-1	1,735.75	1.2
August 18, 2018	210	-2	213.75	1,710	-18	1,731.75	1.2
August 25, 2018	213	3	212.25	1,711	1	1,719.50	1.2
September 1, 2018	205	-8	210.00	1,700	-11	1,712.25	1.2
September 8, 2018	204	-1	208.00	1,645	-55	1,691.50	1.2
September 15, 2018	202	-2	206.00	1,663	18	1,679.75	1.2
September 22, 2018	215	13	206.50	1,656	-7	1,666.00	1.2
September 29, 2018	207	-8	207.00	1,653	-3	1,654.25	1.2
October 6, 2018	215	8	209.75	1,641	-12	1,653.25	1.2
October 13, 2018	210	-5	211.75	1,638	-3	1,647.00	1.1
October 20, 2018	216	6	212.00	1,631	-7	1,640.75	1.1
October 27, 2018	215	-1	214.00	1,630	-1	1,635.00	1.1
November 3, 2018	214	-1	213.75	1,671	41	1,642.50	1.2
November 10, 2018	221	7	216.50	1,661	-10	1,648.25	1.2
November 17, 2018	225	4	218.75	1,705	44	1,666.75	1.2
November 24, 2018	235	10	223.75	1,636	-69	1,668.25	1.1
December 1, 2018	233	-2	228.50	1,661	25	1,665.75	1.2
December 8, 2018	206	-27	224.75	1,688	27	1,672.50	1.2
December 15, 2018	214	8	222.00				

STATE NAME	INITIAL CLAIMS FILED DURING WEEK ENDED DECEMBER 8					INSURED UNEMPLOYMENT FOR WEEK ENDED DECEMBER 1					ALL PROGRAMS EXCLUDING RAILROAD RETIREMENT	
	STATE	CHANGE FROM				STATE	CHANGE FROM					
		LAST WEEK	YEAR AGO	UCFE ¹	UCX ¹		(%) ²	LAST WEEK	YEAR AGO	UCFE ¹		UCX ¹
Alabama	2651	-561	-567	11	6	14854	0.8	-806	-2293	56	80	14990
Alaska	1231	17	-118	6	3	9498	3.1	-96	-2067	163	2	9663
Arizona	3521	-64	-365	16	1	19143	0.7	-964	-2705	192	60	19395
Arkansas	1761	-853	-237	6	4	11319	1.0	-744	-2867	53	46	11418
California	47395	-7654	-397	237	131	325163	1.9	11695	-8885	2072	1516	328751
Colorado	2711	439	-52	21	18	19188	0.7	536	-1961	193	205	19586
Connecticut	3356	-940	-793	5	4	29402	1.8	-649	-4439	48	68	29518
Delaware	707	-183	115	5	4	4451	1.0	-1292	-560	20	8	4479
District of Columbia	518	-35	133	13	0	7554	1.3	-108	-1069	250	5	7809
Florida	7072	-54	-521	16	34	36573	0.4	-6469	-3335	122	118	36813
Georgia	5969	-3759	536	16	23	24163	0.6	-5100	-3511	162	207	24532
Hawaii	1258	41	-27	5	9	6687	1.1	-639	-723	59	63	6809
Idaho	2639	419	322	26	2	6731	1.0	204	-993	213	11	6955
Illinois	14894	-3189	-1944	7	1	89878	1.5	-38	-11824	357	157	90392
Indiana	3379	-598	-63	7	5	14588	0.5	32	-684	24	30	14642
Iowa	5069	-1178	74	8	2	18270	1.2	3131	651	34	22	18326
Kansas	2126	-521	-96	1	2	8831	0.7	348	-1306	40	28	8899
Kentucky	2610	-28	-134	4	2	15828	0.9	-526	-1416	93	105	16026
Louisiana	2375	-219	230	5	0	15410	0.8	-305	-3591	41	24	15475
Maine	1238	-357	-178	0	2	5709	1.0	167	554	31	9	5749
Maryland	3219	-792	-623	12	11	24129	1.0	-2558	-9157	157	97	24383
Massachusetts	7212	458	-1088	18	7	49372	1.4	1542	-13418	109	116	49597
Michigan	11332	-279	-4239	15	16	46999	1.1	-276	-6434	172	56	47227
Minnesota	6970	-1516	-21	12	1	45309	1.6	1555	-2586	104	64	45477
Mississippi	1138	-109	-145	0	1	6725	0.6	-752	-2338	32	27	6784
Missouri	4461	-652	159	9	5	20942	0.8	210	-2029	349	50	21341
Montana	1505	-152	38	63	2	7699	1.7	-297	-1406	377	26	8102
Nebraska	1597	281	234	4	1	4234	0.4	326	-559	20	8	4262
Nevada	2973	111	-40	10	6	19499	1.5	-537	-2550	138	54	19691
New Hampshire	599	-59	-69	0	1	3395	0.5	5	-477	1	2	3398
New Jersey	10220	9	-704	21	21	81714	2.1	-3882	-7823	243	266	82223
New Mexico	903	-56	-69	9	4	8686	1.1	-346	-1507	287	35	9008
New York	15562	-8993	-158	27	30	129554	1.4	-8185	-9629	310	337	130201
North Carolina	3622	-114	436	9	25	18446	0.4	-455	-2323	70	74	18590
North Dakota	1046	-17	-309	0	0	3308	0.8	564	-994	15	4	3327
Ohio	8804	-1422	-1087	8	21	50850	1.0	2917	-5234	129	172	51151
Oklahoma	1640	-30	-127	11	5	12451	0.8	-1101	-2045	68	75	12594
Oregon	4394	-2628	-141	66	7	26276	1.4	-1953	-1812	526	79	26881
Pennsylvania	16188	-10609	-2704	64	41	109555	1.9	11844	-9301	418	273	110246
Puerto Rico	1131	-234	-4778	3	5	15598	1.8	-746	-38129	53	78	15729
Rhode Island	1159	-147	5	2	2	6998	1.5	80	-282	53	27	7078
South Carolina	2478	-2120	-975	6	11	15418	0.8	-1085	-2817	42	109	15569
South Dakota	662	133	5	6	3	1644	0.4	196	-312	39	3	1686
Tennessee	2751	16	-394	6	13	15963	0.6	-599	-2146	96	58	16117
Texas	14041	-2994	-334	41	91	110762	0.9	-9089	-24955	833	1121	112716
Utah	2150	91	337	33	7	8754	0.6	890	-628	180	19	8953
Vermont	633	-229	47	1	0	3400	1.1	-521	-175	11	2	3413
Virgin Islands	29	26	-75	0	0	632	1.8	210	-3120	6	0	642
Virginia	3067	-198	-79	4	10	18998	0.5	-856	-4963	225	190	19413
Washington	7819	-1967	623	29	23	54921	1.7	506	-2601	436	530	55887
West Virginia	1969	-166	-41	3	2	10563	1.6	176	-1320	47	14	10624
Wisconsin	7118	-2858	-139	7	4	31593	1.1	-1947	-1786	97	22	31712
Wyoming	667	97	21	7	1	2143	0.8	74	-1362	67	6	2216
Totals	261539	-56396	-20516	921	630	1649770	1.2	-15713	-219242	9933	6758	1666465

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 DECEMBER 8, 2018

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
PA	-10,609	Fewer layoffs in the transportation and warehousing, construction, and accommodation and food service industries.
NY	-8,993	Fewer layoffs in the transportation and warehousing, construction, and accommodation and food service industries.
CA	-7,654	Fewer layoffs in the agriculture, forestry, fishing and hunting industry.
GA	-3,759	Fewer layoffs in the manufacturing, administrative and support and waste management and remediation service industries.
IL	-3,189	No comment.
TX	-2,994	No comment.
WI	-2,858	No comment.
OR	-2,628	No comment.
SC	-2,120	No comment.
WA	-1,967	No comment.
MN	-1,516	No comment.
OH	-1,422	No comment.
IA	-1,178	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](#)

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