



# News Release

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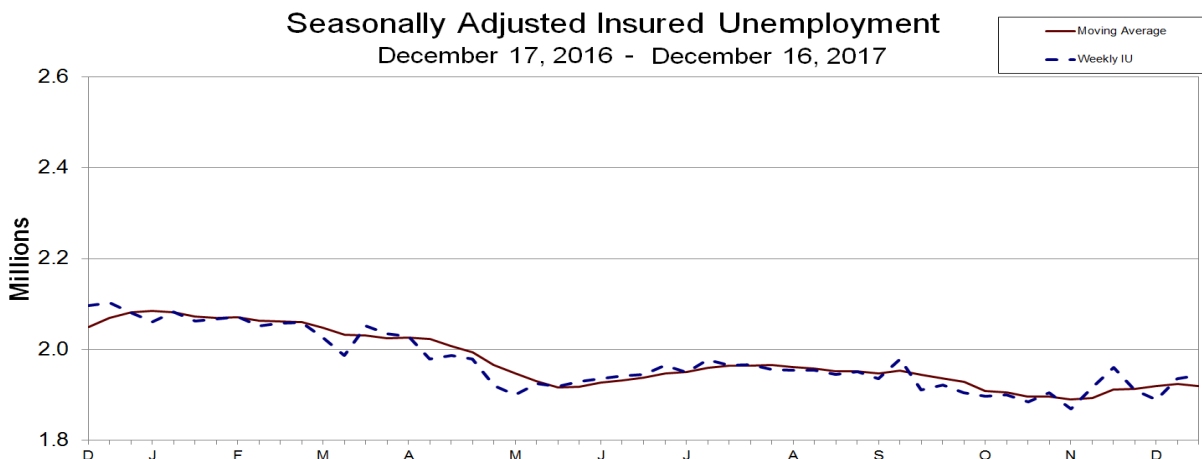
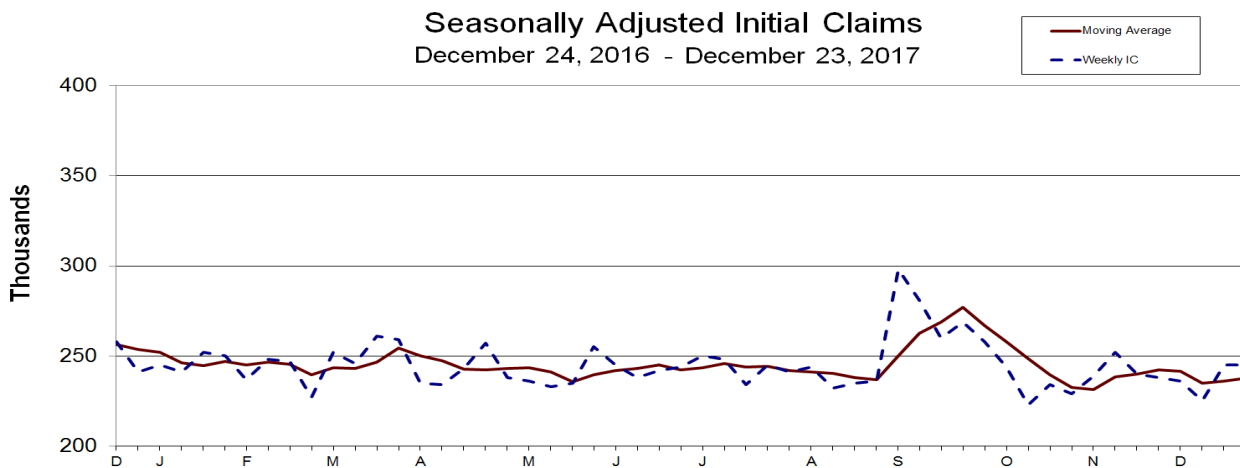
## UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE WEEKLY CLAIMS

### SEASONALLY ADJUSTED DATA

In the week ending December 23, the advance figure for seasonally adjusted **initial claims** was 245,000, unchanged from the previous week's unrevised level of 245,000. The 4-week moving average was 237,750, an increase of 1,750 from the previous week's unrevised average of 236,000.

Claims taking procedures continue to be disrupted in the Virgin Islands. The claims taking process in Puerto Rico has still not returned to normal.

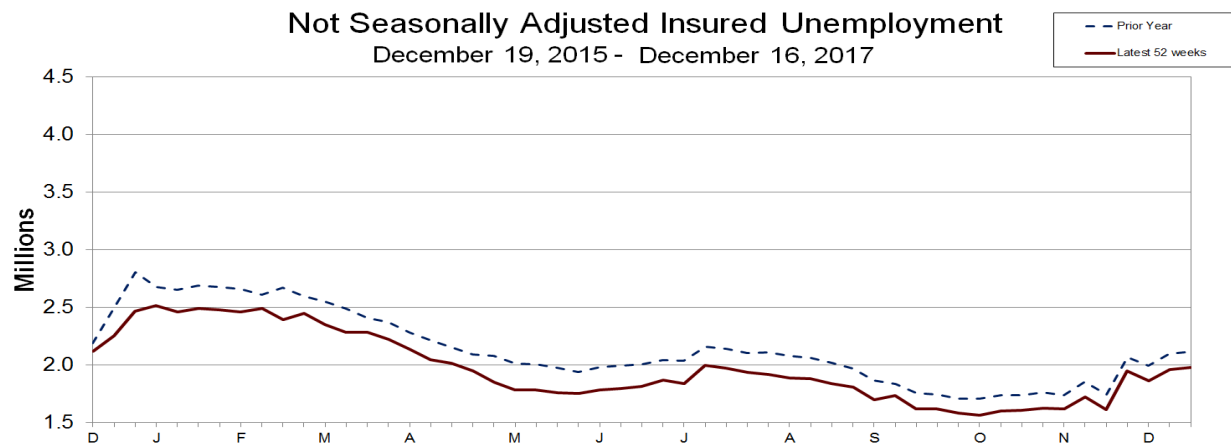
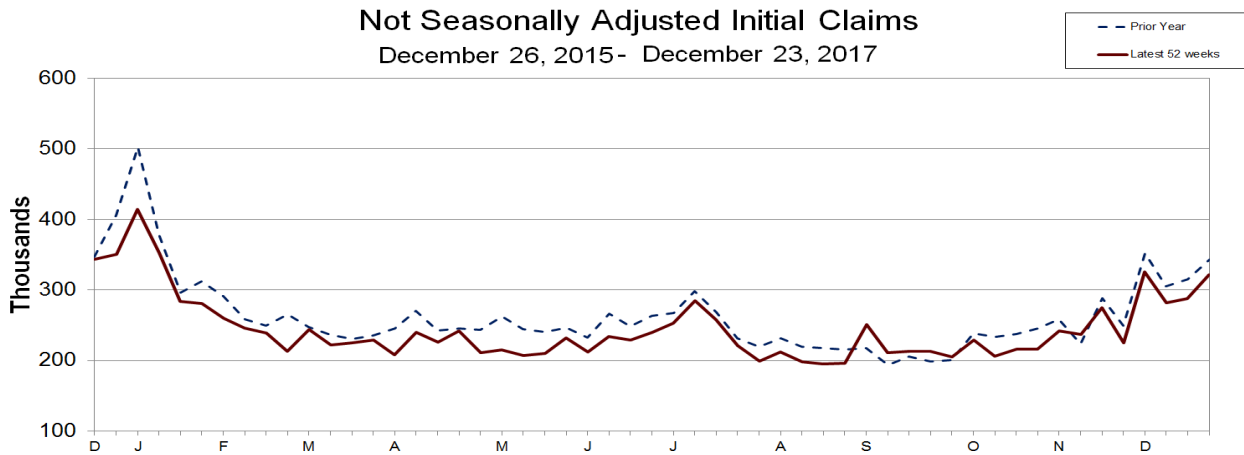
The advance seasonally adjusted **insured unemployment rate** was 1.4 percent for the week ending December 16, unchanged from the previous week's unrevised rate. The advance number for seasonally adjusted **insured unemployment** during the week ending December 16 was 1,943,000, an increase of 7,000 from the previous week's revised level. The previous week's level was revised up 4,000 from 1,932,000 to 1,936,000. The 4-week moving average was 1,919,750, a decrease of 4,250 from the previous week's revised average. The previous week's average was revised up by 1,000 from 1,923,000 to 1,924,000.



## UNADJUSTED DATA

The advance number of actual initial claims under state programs, unadjusted, totaled 321,945 in the week ending December 23, an increase of 34,472 (or 12.0 percent) from the previous week. The seasonal factors had expected an increase of 34,036 (or 11.8 percent) from the previous week. There were 343,213 initial claims in the comparable week in 2016.

The advance unadjusted insured unemployment rate was 1.4 percent during the week ending December 16, unchanged from the prior week. The advance unadjusted number for persons claiming UI benefits in state programs totaled 1,978,197, an increase of 13,146 (or 0.7 percent) from the preceding week. The seasonal factors had expected an increase of 5,808 (or 0.3 percent) from the previous week. A year earlier the rate was 1.5 percent and the volume was 2,117,870.



The total number of people claiming benefits in all programs for the week ending December 9 was 2,004,231, an increase of 102,056 from the previous week. There were 2,140,465 persons claiming benefits in all programs in the comparable week in 2016.

Extended Benefits were available in Alaska during the week ending December 9.

Initial claims for UI benefits filed by former Federal civilian employees totaled 1,316 in the week ending December 16, an increase of 142 from the prior week. There were 721 initial claims filed by newly discharged veterans, a decrease of 28 from the preceding week.

There were 16,431 former Federal civilian employees claiming UI benefits for the week ending December 9, an increase of 2,988 from the previous week. Newly discharged veterans claiming benefits totaled 8,888, an increase of 410 from the prior week.

The highest insured unemployment rates in the week ending December 9 were in Puerto Rico (5.9), Alaska (4.1), the Virgin Islands (3.6), New Jersey (2.3), California (2.2), Montana (2.2), Connecticut (2.1), Pennsylvania (2.1), Illinois (1.9), and Massachusetts (1.9).

The largest increases in initial claims for the week ending December 16 were in New York (+2,168), Ohio (+2,062), Massachusetts (+1,928), Indiana (+927), and New Jersey (+894), while the largest decreases were in Puerto Rico (-1,225), South Carolina (-708), West Virginia (-611), Michigan (-518), and Illinois (-492).

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UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE DATA FOR REGULAR STATE PROGRAMS

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<b>WEEK ENDING</b>	<b>December 23</b>	<b>December 16</b>	<b>Change</b>	<b>December 9</b>	<b><u>Prior Year</u><sup>1</sup></b>
Initial Claims (SA)	245,000	245,000	0	225,000	258,000
Initial Claims (NSA)	321,945	287,473	+34,472	282,106	343,213
4-Wk Moving Average (SA)	237,750	236,000	+1,750	234,750	256,250
<b>WEEK ENDING</b>	<b>December 16</b>	<b>December 9</b>	<b>Change</b>	<b>December 2</b>	<b><u>Prior Year</u><sup>1</sup></b>
Insured Unemployment (SA)	1,943,000	1,936,000	+7,000	1,889,000	2,097,000
Insured Unemployment (NSA)	1,978,197	1,965,051	+13,146	1,866,363	2,117,870
4-Wk Moving Average (SA)	1,919,750	1,924,000	-4,250	1,918,750	2,048,500
<u>Insured Unemployment Rate (SA)</u> <sup>2</sup>	1.4%	1.4%	0.0	1.3%	1.5%
<u>Insured Unemployment Rate (NSA)</u> <sup>2</sup>	1.4%	1.4%	0.0	1.3%	1.5%

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INITIAL CLAIMS FILED IN FEDERAL PROGRAMS (UNADJUSTED)

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<b>WEEK ENDING</b>	<b>December 16</b>	<b>December 9</b>	<b>Change</b>	<b><u>Prior Year</u><sup>1</sup></b>
Federal Employees (UCFE)	1,316	1,174	+142	1,313
Newly Discharged Veterans (UCX)	721	749	-28	947

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PERSONS CLAIMING UI BENEFITS IN ALL PROGRAMS (UNADJUSTED)

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<b>WEEK ENDING</b>	<b>December 9</b>	<b>December 2</b>	<b>Change</b>	<b><u>Prior Year</u><sup>1</sup></b>
Regular State	1,962,561	1,864,034	+98,527	2,094,534
Federal Employees	16,431	13,443	+2,988	14,066
Newly Discharged Veterans	8,888	8,478	+410	13,250
<u>Extended Benefits</u> <sup>3</sup>	1,160	1,284	-124	0
<u>State Additional Benefits</u> <sup>4</sup>	6,713	6,601	+112	7,468
<u>STC / Workshare</u> <sup>5</sup>	8,478	8,335	+143	11,147
<u>TOTAL</u>	2,004,231	1,902,175	+102,056	2,140,465

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 140,510,815 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 23			Insured Unemployment For Week Ended December 16		
	Advance	Prior Wk	Change	Advance	Prior Wk	Change
Alabama	3,877	2,737	1,140	16,523	16,784	-261
Alaska	1,290	1,231	59	11,894	12,648	-754
Arizona	3,115	3,619	-504	19,420	22,497	-3,077
Arkansas	2,412	2,374	38	14,661	14,031	630
California **	45,209	47,721	-2,512	352,946	369,439	-16,493
Colorado	2,887	2,487	400	22,541	20,995	1,546
Connecticut	6,274	4,109	2,165	38,775	34,896	3,879
Delaware	845	699	146	5,518	5,074	444
District of Columbia	721	365	356	8,221	8,629	-408
Florida	6,680	7,332	-652	35,911	46,672	-10,761
Georgia **	5,108	5,515	-407	26,109	27,754	-1,645
Hawaii *	1,194	1,084	110	7,374	7,757	-383
Idaho	2,510	2,175	335	8,668	8,587	81
Illinois	16,312	16,346	-34	117,495	110,017	7,478
Indiana	4,660	4,369	291	18,322	16,051	2,271
Iowa	7,606	4,974	2,632	23,465	19,975	3,490
Kansas *	2,429	2,335	94	11,493	10,844	649
Kentucky	12,647	3,564	9,083	17,650	18,015	-365
Louisiana	1,918	2,551	-633	16,727	19,147	-2,420
Maine **	1,468	1,769	-301	6,619	6,174	445
Maryland	5,271	4,161	1,110	31,335	33,397	-2,062
Massachusetts	11,066	10,228	838	70,388	64,774	5,614
Michigan	15,162	15,053	109	61,800	64,345	-2,545
Minnesota	6,442	6,645	-203	56,858	51,234	5,624
Mississippi **	1,248	1,583	-335	8,648	9,423	-775
Missouri	7,637	4,891	2,746	24,708	23,873	835
Montana	1,837	1,376	461	9,705	9,583	122
Nebraska	1,343	1,188	155	5,906	5,516	390
Nevada	3,414	3,124	290	22,278	22,941	-663
New Hampshire	793	749	44	3,902	4,019	-117
New Jersey	14,802	11,818	2,984	98,202	91,580	6,622
New Mexico	1,184	934	250	10,346	10,453	-107
New York **	22,391	17,888	4,503	155,594	143,796	11,798
North Carolina *	2,350	3,264	-914	20,835	21,443	-608
North Dakota	1,415	1,213	202	6,858	5,235	1,623
Ohio	11,897	11,953	-56	65,638	59,015	6,623
Oklahoma *	2,928	1,378	1,550	8,007	14,157	-6,150
Oregon	5,745	4,271	1,474	28,917	28,363	554
Pennsylvania	22,070	18,469	3,601	118,562	121,354	-2,792
Puerto Rico ** <sup>1M</sup>	5,423	4,684	739	44,579	51,333	-6,754
Rhode Island	2,259	1,570	689	8,706	7,665	1,041
South Carolina	2,972	2,745	227	18,537	18,834	-297
South Dakota *	308	434	-126	3,685	2,458	1,227
Tennessee	3,280	3,321	-41	18,880	18,834	46
Texas **	14,997	14,244	753	141,526	136,339	5,187
Utah	1,753	1,626	127	10,513	10,130	383
Vermont	1,306	688	618	4,239	3,683	556
Virgin Islands ** <sup>1M</sup>	105	170	-65	1,035	1,342	-307
Virginia *	3,275	3,339	-64	24,069	23,960	109
Washington *	8,191	7,241	950	58,677	58,480	197
West Virginia	1,207	1,399	-192	12,197	11,496	701
Wisconsin	8,104	7,978	126	39,278	36,124	3,154
Wyoming	608	492	116	3,457	3,886	-429
US Total	321,945	287,473	34,472	1,978,197	1,965,051	13,146

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 estimate.

\*\*Denotes state estimate.

<sup>1</sup>Affected by Hurricane Irma.

<sup>M</sup>Affected by Hurricane Maria.

## 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	
December 17, 2016	265	14	257.25	2,097	53	2,048.50	1.5
December 24, 2016	258	-7	256.25	2,102	5	2,069.00	1.5
December 31, 2016	241	-17	253.75	2,081	-21	2,081.00	1.5
January 7, 2017	245	4	252.25	2,061	-20	2,085.25	1.5
January 14, 2017	241	-4	246.25	2,083	22	2,081.75	1.5
January 21, 2017	252	11	244.75	2,063	-20	2,072.00	1.5
January 28, 2017	250	-2	247.00	2,067	4	2,068.50	1.5
February 4, 2017	237	-13	245.00	2,071	4	2,071.00	1.5
February 11, 2017	248	11	246.75	2,052	-19	2,063.25	1.5
February 18, 2017	247	-1	245.50	2,057	5	2,061.75	1.5
February 25, 2017	227	-20	239.75	2,059	2	2,059.75	1.5
March 4, 2017	252	25	243.50	2,025	-34	2,048.25	1.5
March 11, 2017	246	-6	243.00	1,987	-38	2,032.00	1.4
March 18, 2017	261	15	246.50	2,052	65	2,030.75	1.5
March 25, 2017	259	-2	254.50	2,035	-17	2,024.75	1.5
April 1, 2017	235	-24	250.25	2,028	-7	2,025.50	1.5
April 8, 2017	234	-1	247.25	1,978	-50	2,023.25	1.4
April 15, 2017	243	9	242.75	1,987	9	2,007.00	1.4
April 22, 2017	257	14	242.25	1,979	-8	1,993.00	1.4
April 29, 2017	238	-19	243.00	1,920	-59	1,966.00	1.4
May 6, 2017	236	-2	243.50	1,899	-21	1,946.25	1.4
May 13, 2017	233	-3	241.00	1,924	25	1,930.50	1.4
May 20, 2017	235	2	235.50	1,919	-5	1,915.50	1.4
May 27, 2017	255	20	239.75	1,929	10	1,917.75	1.4
June 3, 2017	245	-10	242.00	1,936	7	1,927.00	1.4
June 10, 2017	238	-7	243.25	1,942	6	1,931.50	1.4
June 17, 2017	242	4	245.00	1,945	3	1,938.00	1.4
June 24, 2017	244	2	242.25	1,965	20	1,947.00	1.4
July 1, 2017	250	6	243.50	1,949	-16	1,950.25	1.4
July 8, 2017	248	-2	246.00	1,977	28	1,959.00	1.4
July 15, 2017	234	-14	244.00	1,965	-12	1,964.00	1.4
July 22, 2017	245	11	244.25	1,967	2	1,964.50	1.4
July 29, 2017	241	-4	242.00	1,956	-11	1,966.25	1.4
August 5, 2017	244	3	241.00	1,954	-2	1,960.50	1.4
August 12, 2017	232	-12	240.50	1,954	0	1,957.75	1.4
August 19, 2017	235	3	238.00	1,945	-9	1,952.25	1.4
August 26, 2017	236	1	236.75	1,951	6	1,951.00	1.4
September 2, 2017	298	62	250.25	1,935	-16	1,946.25	1.4
September 9, 2017	281	-17	262.50	1,979	44	1,952.50	1.4
September 16, 2017	260	-21	268.75	1,911	-68	1,944.00	1.4
September 23, 2017	269	9	277.00	1,921	10	1,936.50	1.4
September 30, 2017	258	-11	267.00	1,904	-17	1,928.75	1.4
October 7, 2017	244	-14	257.75	1,896	-8	1,908.00	1.3
October 14, 2017	223	-21	248.50	1,900	4	1,905.25	1.4
October 21, 2017	234	11	239.75	1,884	-16	1,896.00	1.3
October 28, 2017	229	-5	232.50	1,904	20	1,896.00	1.4
November 4, 2017	239	10	231.25	1,868	-36	1,889.00	1.3
November 11, 2017	252	13	238.50	1,915	47	1,892.75	1.4
November 18, 2017	240	-12	240.00	1,960	45	1,911.75	1.4
November 25, 2017	238	-2	242.25	1,911	-49	1,913.50	1.4
December 2, 2017	236	-2	241.50	1,889	-22	1,918.75	1.3
December 9, 2017	225	-11	234.75	1,936	47	1,924.00	1.4
December 16, 2017	245	20	236.00	1,943	7	1,919.75	1.4
December 23, 2017	245	0	237.75				

Initial Claims Filed During Week Ended December 16 INITIAL CLAIMS							Insured Unemployment For Week Ended December 9 INSURED UNEMPLOYMENT					
STATE	STATE	CHANGE FROM				STATE	CHANGE FROM	STATE	STATE	ALL PROGRAMS EXCLUDING RAILROAD RETIREMENT		
		LAST WEEK	YEAR AGO	UCFE <sub>1</sub>	UCX <sub>1</sub>					LAST WEEK	YEAR AGO	
						(%) <sub>2</sub>						
Alabama	2737	-481	-665	10	14	16784	0.9	-363	-3381	50	79	16913
Alaska	1231	-118	-172	6	1	12648	4.1	1083	-2439	226	24	14058
Arizona	3619	-267	-111	29	4	22497	0.9	649	-3111	253	75	22825
Arkansas	2374	376	190	3	9	14031	1.2	-155	-2030	68	76	14175
California	47721	-71	-2533	232	136	369439	2.2	35391	-7745	3541	1917	374897
Colorado	2487	-276	-514	39	24	20995	0.8	-154	-5382	403	260	21658
Connecticut	4109	-40	-526	3	10	34896	2.1	1055	-1638	44	78	35018
Delaware	699	107	-11	1	1	5074	1.2	63	-359	22	11	5107
District of Columbia	365	-20	35	8	0	8629	1.5	6	-14	361	8	8998
Florida	7332	-261	10	37	28	46672	0.6	6764	1814	223	228	47123
Georgia	5515	82	-622	36	39	27754	0.7	80	-2848	366	241	28361
Hawaii	1084	-201	-191	5	8	7757	1.3	347	210	70	91	7918
Idaho	2175	-142	-474	48	2	8587	1.3	863	-1775	279	16	8882
Illinois	16346	-492	-3353	19	14	110017	1.9	8315	-7982	452	245	110714
Indiana	4369	927	-1866	10	4	16051	0.5	779	-8167	51	57	16159
Iowa	4974	-21	-1503	7	2	19975	1.3	2356	-3852	48	41	20064
Kansas	2335	113	-967	3	4	10844	0.8	707	-1132	157	46	11047
Kentucky	3564	820	57	4	0	18015	1.0	771	-1516	206	142	18363
Louisiana	2551	406	-86	6	4	19147	1.0	146	-4745	50	22	19219
Maine	1769	353	457	7	1	6174	1.0	1019	-929	30	18	6222
Maryland	4161	319	-624	30	9	33397	1.3	111	-2518	438	133	33968
Massachusetts	10228	1928	448	16	14	64774	1.9	1984	-2287	325	161	65260
Michigan	15053	-518	980	26	19	64345	1.5	10912	-2930	253	114	64712
Minnesota	6645	-346	-1273	13	9	51234	1.8	3339	-4537	123	85	51442
Mississippi	1583	300	-496	1	1	9423	0.9	360	-2598	56	35	9514
Missouri	4891	589	-1166	25	6	23873	0.9	902	-2746	712	46	24631
Montana	1376	-91	-384	59	2	9583	2.2	478	-1811	483	29	10095
Nebraska	1188	-175	-508	5	1	5516	0.6	723	-798	15	14	5545
Nevada	3124	111	-105	14	2	22941	1.8	892	-796	197	79	23217
New Hampshire	749	81	-85	2	2	4019	0.6	147	-481	6	6	4031
New Jersey	11818	894	-745	17	19	91580	2.3	2043	-4289	269	305	92154
New Mexico	934	-38	-221	7	0	10453	1.3	260	-1787	322	69	10844
New York	17888	2168	160	69	31	143796	1.6	4613	-9503	673	445	144914
North Carolina	3264	78	-683	9	21	21443	0.5	674	-3610	104	160	21707
North Dakota	1213	-142	-371	2	1	5235	1.3	933	-1376	12	6	5253
Ohio	11953	2062	-1421	30	27	59015	1.1	2931	-4456	174	219	59408
Oklahoma	1378	-389	-315	7	6	14157	0.9	-339	-4856	62	93	14312
Oregon	4271	-264	-1752	86	13	28363	1.6	275	-2045	648	126	29137
Pennsylvania	18469	-423	-796	102	45	121354	2.1	2498	-9766	1342	343	123039
Puerto Rico	4684	-1225	3370	23	2	51333	5.9	-2394	29997	22	46	51401
Rhode Island	1570	416	15	2	2	7665	1.7	385	-674	20	26	7711
South Carolina	2745	-708	-518	8	8	18834	1.0	599	2961	63	66	18963
South Dakota	434	-223	-209	5	1	2458	0.6	502	-397	39	4	2501
Tennessee	3321	176	-226	11	1	18834	0.7	725	682	410	50	19294
Texas	14244	-131	-1351	87	122	136339	1.2	622	-31886	1264	1475	139078
Utah	1626	-187	-126	76	5	10130	0.7	748	-1700	286	25	10441
Vermont	688	102	-93	1	1	3683	1.2	108	-885	15	5	3703
Virgin Islands	170	-31	151	0	0	1342	3.6	239	582	0	0	1342
Virginia	3339	193	-642	32	15	23960	0.7	-1	-1127	341	354	24655
Washington	7241	91	-2770	17	22	58480	1.9	958	2358	507	609	59596
West Virginia	1399	-611	-162	2	3	11496	1.7	-387	-2361	50	35	11581
Wisconsin	7978	721	-2615	9	5	36124	1.3	2745	-7135	119	32	36275
Wyoming	492	-154	-217	10	1	3886	1.5	381	-2166	181	18	4085
Totals	287473	5367	-27595	1316	721	1965051	1.4	98688	-131962	16431	8888	1991530

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.

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**UNADJUSTED INITIAL CLAIMS FOR WEEK ENDED DECEMBER 16, 2017**

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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>
NY	+2,168	Layoffs in the construction, manufacturing, and health care and social assistance industries.
OH	+2,062	Layoffs in the manufacturing and finance and insurance industries.
MA	+1,928	Layoffs in the construction and administrative and support and waste management and remediation service 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>
PR	-1,225	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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