



News Release

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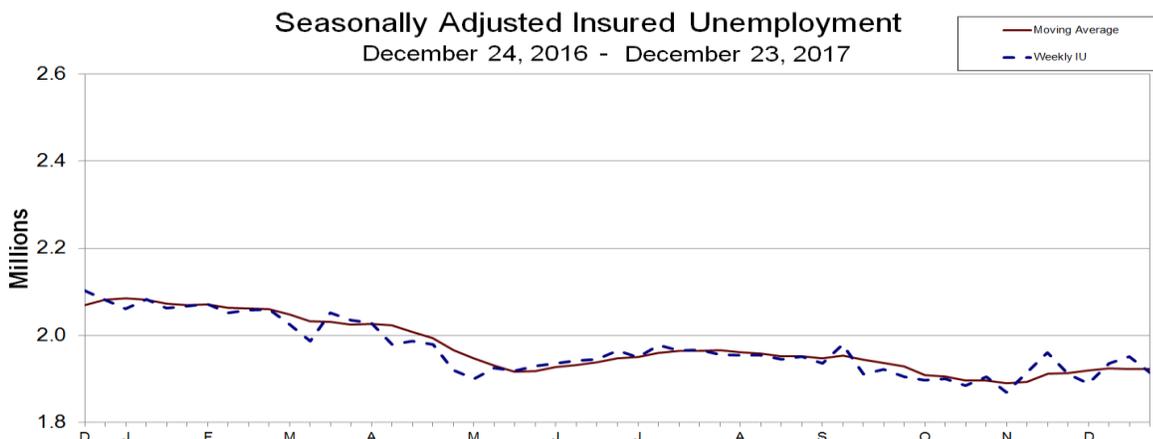
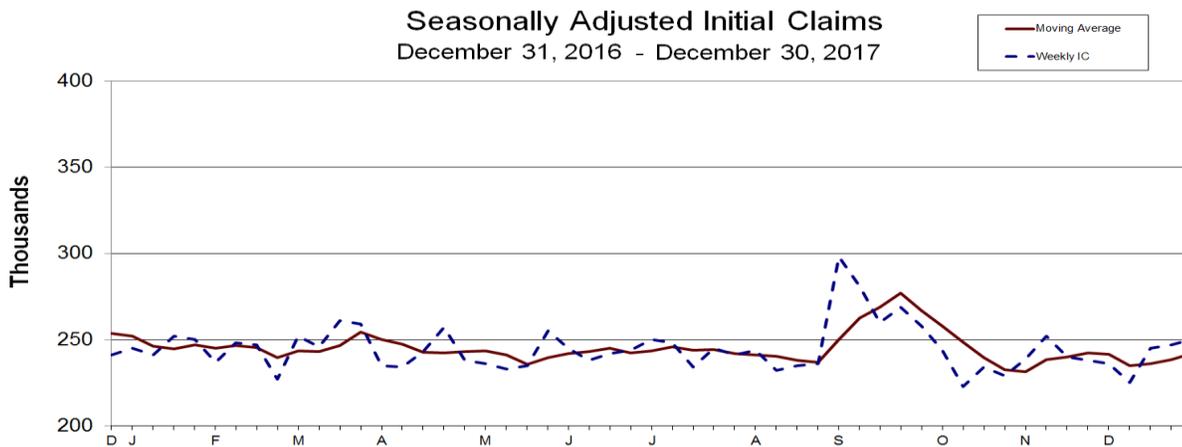
UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE WEEKLY CLAIMS

SEASONALLY ADJUSTED DATA

In the week ending December 30, the advance figure for seasonally adjusted **initial claims** was 250,000, an increase of 3,000 from the previous week's revised level. The previous week's level was revised up by 2,000 from 245,000 to 247,000. The 4-week moving average was 241,750, an increase of 3,500 from the previous week's revised average. The previous week's average was revised up by 500 from 237,750 to 238,250.

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

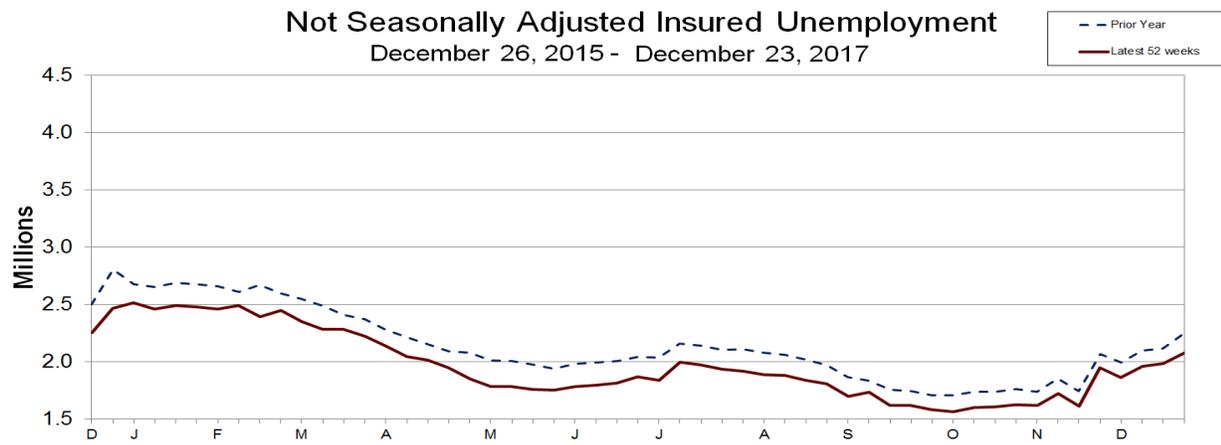
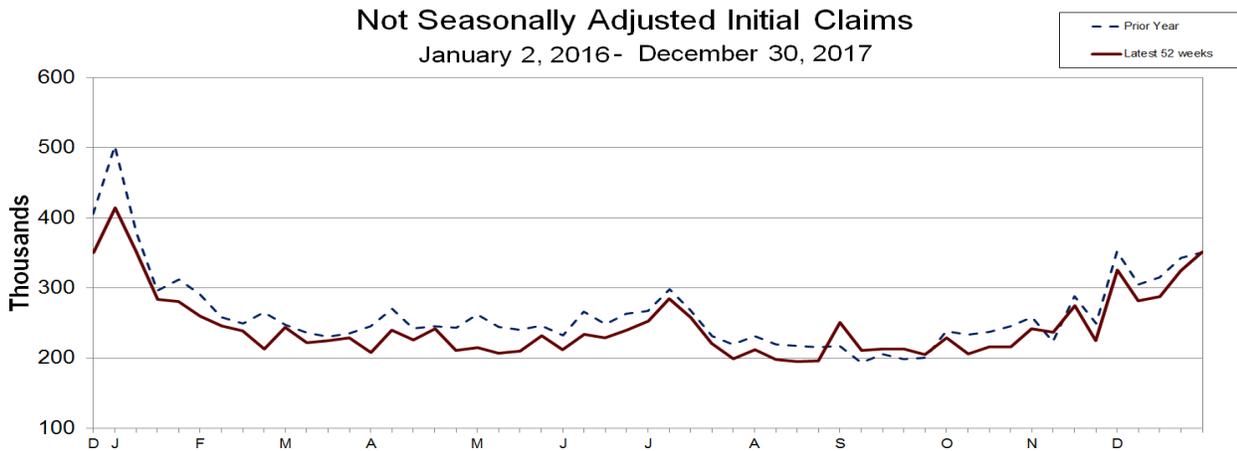
The advance seasonally adjusted **insured unemployment rate** was 1.4 percent for the week ending December 23, unchanged from the previous week's unrevised rate. The advance number for seasonally adjusted **insured unemployment** during the week ending December 23 was 1,914,000, a decrease of 37,000 from the previous week's revised level. The previous week's level was revised up 8,000 from 1,943,000 to 1,951,000. The 4-week moving average was 1,922,500, an increase of 750 from the previous week's revised average. The previous week's average was revised up by 2,000 from 1,919,750 to 1,921,750.



UNADJUSTED DATA

The advance number of actual initial claims under state programs, unadjusted, totaled 351,920 in the week ending December 30, an increase of 26,998 (or 8.3 percent) from the previous week. The seasonal factors had expected an increase of 22,767 (or 7.0 percent) from the previous week. There were 350,561 initial claims in the comparable week in 2016.

The advance unadjusted insured unemployment rate was 1.5 percent during the week ending December 23, an increase of 0.1 percentage point from the prior week. The advance unadjusted number for persons claiming UI benefits in state programs totaled 2,077,014, an increase of 91,039 (or 4.6 percent) from the preceding week. The seasonal factors had expected an increase of 130,708 (or 6.6 percent) from the previous week. A year earlier the rate was 1.6 percent and the volume was 2,253,543.



The total number of people claiming benefits in all programs for the week ending December 16 was 2,022,166, an increase of 17,935 from the previous week. There were 2,153,852 persons claiming benefits in all programs in the comparable week in 2016.

Extended benefits were available in Alaska during the week ending December 16.

Initial claims for UI benefits filed by former Federal civilian employees totaled 924 in the week ending December 23, a decrease of 392 from the prior week. There were 640 initial claims filed by newly discharged veterans, a decrease of 81 from the preceding week.

There were 13,836 former Federal civilian employees claiming UI benefits for the week ending December 16, a decrease of 2,595 from the previous week. Newly discharged veterans claiming benefits totaled 8,712, a decrease of 176 from the prior week.

The highest insured unemployment rates in the week ending December 16 were in the Virgin Islands (7.7), Puerto Rico (5.5), Alaska (3.9), New Jersey (2.4), Connecticut (2.2), Montana (2.2), California (2.1), Massachusetts (2.1), Pennsylvania (2.1), and Illinois (2.0).

The largest increases in initial claims for the week ending December 23 were in Kentucky (+9,063), Pennsylvania (+3,590), New Jersey (+3,086), Missouri (+3,038), and New York (+2,611), while the largest decreases were in California (-2,482), Puerto Rico (-1,556), Florida (-361), Minnesota (-357), and Arizona (-320).

UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE DATA FOR REGULAR STATE PROGRAMS

WEEK ENDING	December 30	December 23	Change	December 16	<u>Prior Year</u>¹
Initial Claims (SA)	250,000	247,000	+3,000	245,000	241,000
Initial Claims (NSA)	351,920	324,922	+26,998	287,473	350,561
4-Wk Moving Average (SA)	241,750	238,250	+3,500	236,000	253,750
WEEK ENDING	December 23	December 16	Change	December 9	<u>Prior Year</u>¹
Insured Unemployment (SA)	1,914,000	1,951,000	-37,000	1,936,000	2,102,000
Insured Unemployment (NSA)	2,077,014	1,985,975	+91,039	1,965,051	2,253,543
4-Wk Moving Average (SA)	1,922,500	1,921,750	+750	1,924,000	2,069,000
<u>Insured Unemployment Rate (SA)</u> ²	1.4%	1.4%	0.0	1.4%	1.5%
<u>Insured Unemployment Rate (NSA)</u> ²	1.5%	1.4%	+0.1	1.4%	1.6%

INITIAL CLAIMS FILED IN FEDERAL PROGRAMS (UNADJUSTED)

WEEK ENDING	December 23	December 16	Change	<u>Prior Year</u>¹
Federal Employees (UCFE)	924	1,316	-392	1,034
Newly Discharged Veterans (UCX)	640	721	-81	780

PERSONS CLAIMING UI BENEFITS IN ALL PROGRAMS (UNADJUSTED)

WEEK ENDING	December 16	December 9	Change	<u>Prior Year</u>¹
Regular State	1,983,676	1,962,561	+21,115	2,106,490
Federal Employees	13,836	16,431	-2,595	11,976
Newly Discharged Veterans	8,712	8,888	-176	12,666
<u>Extended Benefits</u> ³	1,333	1,160	+173	0
<u>State Additional Benefits</u> ⁴	6,566	6,713	-147	7,338
<u>STC / Workshare</u> ⁵	8,043	8,478	-435	15,382
<u>TOTAL</u>	2,022,166	2,004,231	+17,935	2,153,852

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 30			Insured Unemployment For Week Ended December 23		
	Advance	Prior Wk	Change	Advance	Prior Wk	Change
Alabama	4,025	4,095	-70	19,679	16,770	2,909
Alaska	1,290	1,172	118	12,525	12,010	515
Arizona	2,641	3,299	-658	19,296	21,673	-2,377
Arkansas	3,212	3,597	-385	14,656	13,768	888
California **	35,189	45,239	-10,050	351,216	348,593	2,623
Colorado	2,242	2,887	-645	21,836	22,057	-221
Connecticut	4,904	6,274	-1,370	41,299	36,891	4,408
Delaware	1,463	878	585	5,792	5,303	489
District of Columbia	533	379	154	8,325	8,751	-426
Florida	5,236	6,971	-1,735	38,997	41,294	-2,297
Georgia **	10,100	5,995	4,105	35,300	28,012	7,288
Hawaii *	1,431	1,183	248	7,982	7,077	905
Idaho	2,841	2,644	197	9,800	9,105	695
Illinois	17,304	16,243	1,061	126,114	115,905	10,209
Indiana	4,653	4,525	128	18,956	17,636	1,320
Iowa	8,719	6,945	1,774	27,332	22,346	4,986
Kansas	3,935	3,007	928	11,611	10,808	803
Kentucky	7,087	12,627	-5,540	21,536	17,903	3,633
Louisiana **	2,377	2,511	-134	17,274	19,111	-1,837
Maine **	1,354	1,461	-107	6,933	6,673	260
Maryland	7,316	5,605	1,711	32,553	34,152	-1,599
Massachusetts *	11,901	11,160	741	81,426	71,156	10,270
Michigan	20,113	17,085	3,028	69,762	65,876	3,886
Minnesota	7,428	6,288	1,140	61,481	54,317	7,164
Mississippi	1,285	1,862	-577	8,910	9,733	-823
Missouri	10,191	7,929	2,262	28,114	24,978	3,136
Montana	1,671	1,790	-119	10,459	9,567	892
Nebraska	2,770	1,369	1,401	6,417	5,816	601
Nevada	3,204	3,175	29	22,811	23,632	-821
New Hampshire	1,204	843	361	4,175	4,272	-97
New Jersey	24,340	14,904	9,436	99,634	95,173	4,461
New Mexico	951	1,195	-244	10,561	10,557	4
New York	22,648	20,499	2,149	159,607	150,499	9,108
North Carolina *	4,275	2,997	1,278	22,885	21,467	1,418
North Dakota	1,321	1,160	161	7,446	5,675	1,771
Ohio	17,646	11,745	5,901	69,835	64,901	4,934
Oklahoma	1,307	3,212	-1,905	15,458	14,591	867
Oregon	6,351	5,734	617	31,031	28,928	2,103
Pennsylvania	28,920	22,059	6,861	129,758	116,992	12,766
Puerto Rico ** ^{1M}	4,074	3,128	946	39,765	48,004	-8,239
Rhode Island	3,568	2,232	1,336	9,172	8,351	821
South Carolina	4,145	3,056	1,089	18,794	18,192	602
South Dakota	438	451	-13	2,650	2,592	58
Tennessee	3,245	3,501	-256	19,929	19,339	590
Texas	9,851	14,138	-4,287	132,678	139,198	-6,520
Utah	1,618	1,525	93	10,888	10,551	337
Vermont	1,561	1,323	238	4,866	3,932	934
Virgin Islands ** ^{1M}	8	7	1	2,771	2,882	-111
Virginia **	3,573	4,156	-583	24,991	24,493	498
Washington	9,245	8,829	416	63,967	59,895	4,072
West Virginia *	1,247	1,312	-65	12,985	11,747	1,238
Wisconsin	13,354	8,119	5,235	41,234	39,093	2,141
Wyoming **	615	602	13	3,542	3,738	-196
US Total	351,920	324,922	26,998	2,077,014	1,985,975	91,039

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.

¹Affected by Hurricane Irma.

^MAffected by Hurricane Maria.

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 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	1,951	15	1,921.75	1.4
December 23, 2017	247	2	238.25	1,914	-37	1,922.50	1.4
December 30, 2017	250	3	241.75				

Initial Claims Filed During Week Ended December 23 INITIAL CLAIMS							Insured Unemployment For Week Ended December 16 INSURED UNEMPLOYMENT					
STATE	STATE	CHANGE FROM				STATE	CHANGE FROM	STATE	YEAR	CHANGE FROM		ALL PROGRAMS EXCLUDING RAILROAD RETIREMENT
		LAST WEEK	YEAR AGO	UCFE ₁	UCX ₁					LAST WEEK	YEAR AGO	
Alabama	4095	1358	418	15	11	16770	0.9	-14	-3626	54	87	16911
Alaska	1172	-59	-184	12	3	12010	3.9	-638	-1307	191	37	13569
Arizona	3299	-320	-12	23	3	21673	0.8	-824	-3202	256	80	22009
Arkansas	3597	1223	-212	7	10	13768	1.2	-263	-1938	87	88	13943
California	45239	-2482	-7572	177	112	348593	2.1	-20846	-15835	2322	1808	352723
Colorado	2887	400	34	23	19	22057	0.9	1062	-5376	288	230	22575
Connecticut	6274	2165	1212	5	8	36891	2.2	1995	-1147	46	86	37023
Delaware	878	179	-112	2	2	5303	1.2	229	-341	22	8	5333
District of Columbia	379	14	33	7	5	8751	1.6	122	165	355	10	9116
Florida	6971	-361	792	17	36	41294	0.5	-5378	-330	204	190	41688
Georgia	5995	480	-1007	36	28	28012	0.7	258	-2215	368	239	28619
Hawaii	1183	99	-212	0	12	7077	1.1	-680	-397	81	94	7252
Idaho	2644	469	-101	38	2	9105	1.3	518	-2087	290	17	9412
Illinois	16243	-103	-541	10	16	115905	2.0	5888	-9281	306	254	116465
Indiana	4525	156	-1055	4	8	17636	0.6	1585	-10104	57	53	17746
Iowa	6945	1971	350	5	5	22346	1.5	2371	-5823	47	40	22433
Kansas	3007	672	-795	1	2	10808	0.8	-36	-2152	57	50	10915
Kentucky	12627	9063	4538	15	5	17903	1.0	-112	-2194	147	134	18184
Louisiana	2511	-40	418	2	6	19111	1.0	-36	-4608	42	30	19183
Maine	1461	-308	116	1	2	6673	1.1	499	-958	29	20	6722
Maryland	5605	1444	-904	25	6	34152	1.4	755	-2751	443	126	34721
Massachusetts	11160	932	165	11	19	71156	2.1	6382	-1296	319	171	71646
Michigan	17085	2032	92	13	19	65876	1.6	1531	-2195	193	102	66172
Minnesota	6288	-357	-971	10	4	54317	1.9	3083	-6780	161	86	54564
Mississippi	1862	279	-615	2	2	9733	0.9	310	-2333	40	28	9801
Missouri	7929	3038	-1309	23	3	24978	0.9	1105	-2860	750	55	25783
Montana	1790	414	313	39	0	9567	2.2	-16	-2071	431	30	10028
Nebraska	1369	181	-781	2	0	5816	0.6	300	-1329	16	13	5845
Nevada	3175	51	-145	5	1	23632	1.9	691	-1421	172	78	23882
New Hampshire	843	94	-63	0	2	4272	0.7	253	-493	8	6	4286
New Jersey	14904	3086	-247	14	13	95173	2.4	3593	-2448	237	300	95710
New Mexico	1195	261	-416	8	0	10557	1.4	104	-1613	306	78	10941
New York	20499	2611	-786	33	28	150499	1.7	6703	-9036	709	426	151634
North Carolina	2997	-267	-491	5	8	21467	0.5	24	-3249	94	177	21738
North Dakota	1160	-53	-1	2	1	5675	1.4	440	-1690	13	6	5694
Ohio	11745	-208	-3675	12	24	64901	1.2	5886	-4985	215	221	65337
Oklahoma	3212	1834	1081	5	1	14591	1.0	434	-4500	68	103	14762
Oregon	5734	1463	-1638	63	6	28928	1.6	565	-3050	691	128	29747
Pennsylvania	22059	3590	783	57	31	116992	2.1	-4362	-8251	690	348	118030
Puerto Rico	3128	-1556	1247	0	8	48004	5.5	-3329	28713	49	40	48093
Rhode Island	2232	662	-192	3	1	8351	1.8	686	-468	17	26	8394
South Carolina	3056	311	-54	8	7	18192	0.9	-642	2389	53	60	18306
South Dakota	451	17	54	5	0	2592	0.6	134	-638	38	6	2636
Tennessee	3501	180	-1358	10	2	19339	0.7	505	736	409	55	19803
Texas	14138	-106	418	41	114	139198	1.2	2859	-14384	931	1385	141514
Utah	1525	-101	-50	78	4	10551	0.8	421	-1713	327	21	10899
Vermont	1323	635	-210	1	1	3932	1.3	249	-887	12	3	3947
Virgin Islands	7	-163	-8	1	0	2882	7.7	1540	2304	0	0	2882
Virginia	4156	817	-476	20	8	24493	0.7	533	-589	358	366	25217
Washington	8829	1588	-876	15	22	59895	1.9	1415	1597	538	627	61060
West Virginia	1312	-87	59	2	3	11747	1.8	251	-2175	60	39	11846
Wisconsin	8119	141	-3236	6	7	39093	1.4	2969	-9557	98	34	39225
Wyoming	602	110	-109	5	0	3738	1.4	-148	-2116	141	13	3892
Totals	324922	37449	-18291	924	640	1985975	1.4	20924	-131895	13836	8712	2009856

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 DECEMBER 23, 2017

STATES WITH AN INCREASE OF MORE THAN 1,000

State	Change	State Supplied Comment
KY	+9,063	No comment.
PA	+3,590	Layoffs in the accommodation and food service, and transportation and warehousing industries.
NJ	+3,086	Layoffs in the educational service, accommodation and food service, transportation and warehousing, public administration, and manufacturing industries.
MO	+3,038	Layoffs in the accommodation and food service, transportation and warehousing, and manufacturing industries.
NY	+2,611	Layoffs in the construction, accommodation and food service, and manufacturing industries.
CT	+2,165	No comment.
MI	+2,032	Layoffs in the management of companies and enterprises industry.
IA	+1,971	Layoffs in the construction and manufacturing industries.
OK	+1,834	No comment.
WA	+1,588	Layoffs in the transportation and warehousing, finance and insurance, health care and social assistance, and accommodation and food service industries.
OR	+1,463	No comment.
MD	+1,444	No comment.
AL	+1,358	Layoffs in the administrative, support, waste management and remediation service, transportation and warehousing, accommodation and food service, and health care and social assistance industries.
AR	+1,223	Layoffs in the manufacturing industry.

STATES WITH A DECREASE OF MORE THAN 1,000

State	Change	State Supplied Comment
CA	-2,482	Fewer layoffs in the agriculture, forestry, fishing, and hunting industry.
PR	-1,556	No comment.

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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Release Number: USDL 18-5-NAT

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