



News Release

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8:30 A.M. (Eastern) Thursday, January 5, 2017

UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE WEEKLY CLAIMS

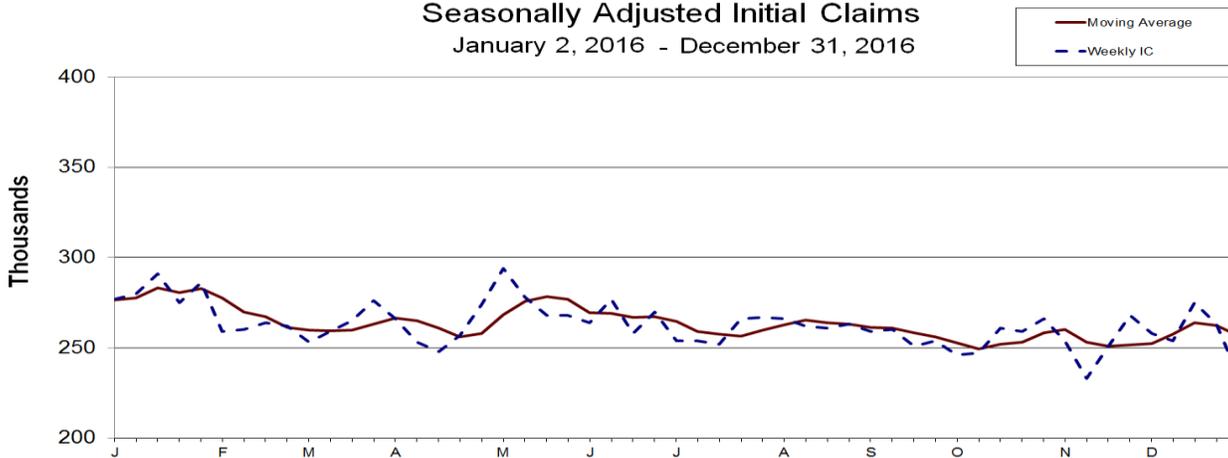
SEASONALLY ADJUSTED DATA

In the week ending December 31, the advance figure for seasonally adjusted **initial claims** was 235,000, a decrease of 28,000 from the previous week's revised level. The previous week's level was revised down by 2,000 from 265,000 to 263,000. The 4-week moving average was 256,750, a decrease of 5,750 from the previous week's revised average. The previous week's average was revised down by 500 from 263,000 to 262,500.

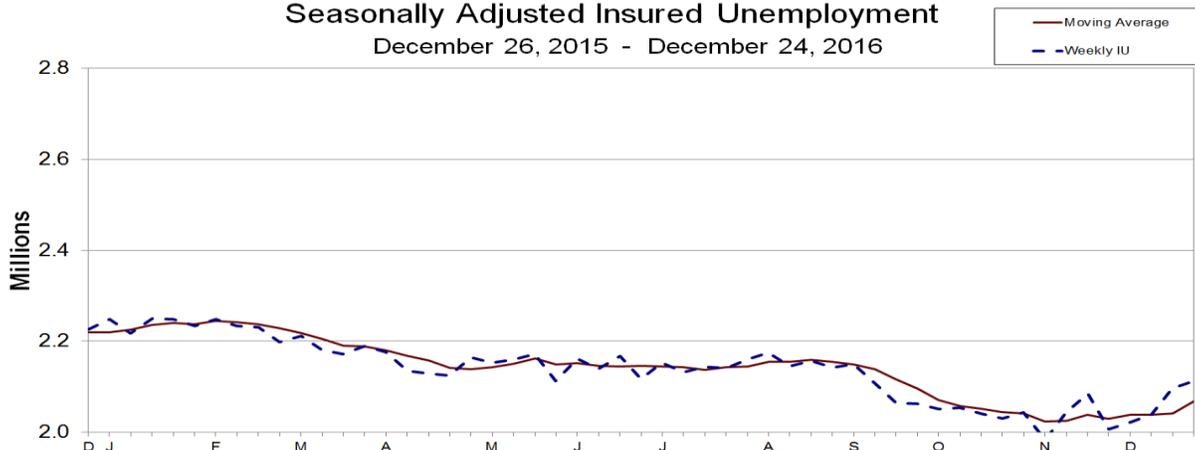
There were no special factors impacting this week's initial claims. This marks 96 consecutive weeks of initial claims below 300,000, the longest streak since 1970.

The advance seasonally adjusted **insured unemployment rate** was 1.5 percent for the week ending December 24, unchanged from the previous week's unrevised rate. The advance number for seasonally adjusted **insured unemployment** during the week ending December 24 was 2,112,000, an increase of 16,000 from the previous week's revised level. The previous week's level was revised down by 6,000 from 2,102,000 to 2,096,000. The 4-week moving average was 2,067,000, an increase of 26,250 from the previous week's revised average. The previous week's average was revised down by 1,500 from 2,042,250 to 2,040,750.

Seasonally Adjusted Initial Claims
January 2, 2016 - December 31, 2016



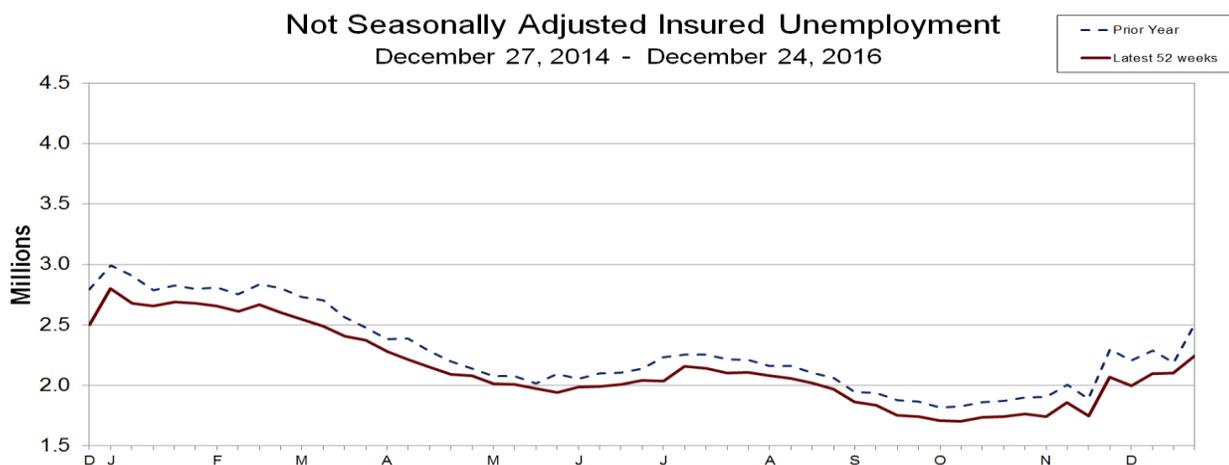
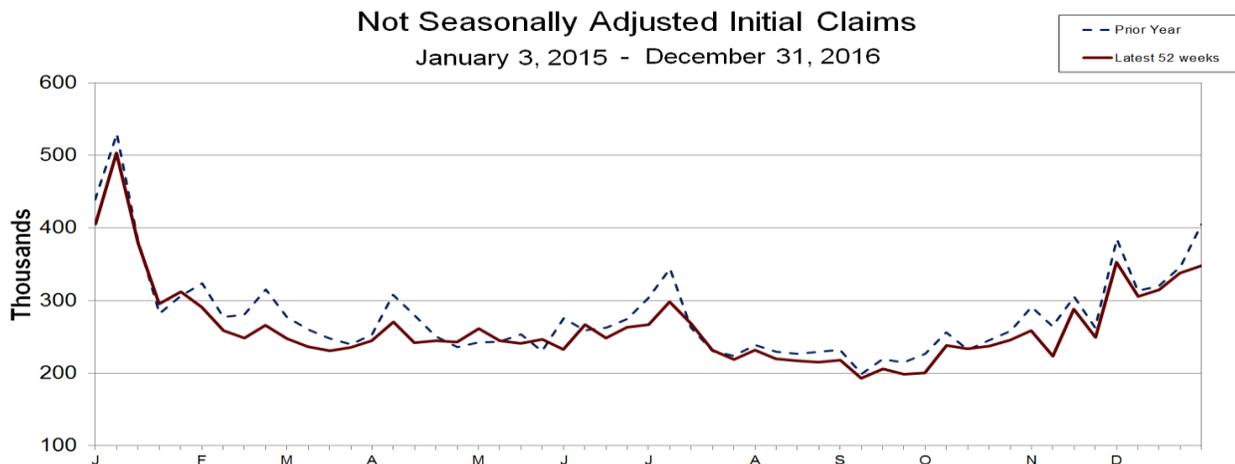
Seasonally Adjusted Insured Unemployment
December 26, 2015 - December 24, 2016



UNADJUSTED DATA

The advance number of actual initial claims under state programs, unadjusted, totaled 348,039 in the week ending December 31, an increase of 9,991 (or 3.0 percent) from the previous week. The seasonal factors had expected an increase of 51,339 (or 15.2 percent) from the previous week. There were 405,368 initial claims in the comparable week in 2016.

The advance unadjusted insured unemployment rate was 1.6 percent during the week ending December 24, an increase of 0.1 percentage point from the prior week. The advance unadjusted number for persons claiming UI benefits in state programs totaled 2,249,628, an increase of 147,353 (or 7.0 percent) from the preceding week. The seasonal factors had expected an increase of 129,951 (or 6.2 percent) from the previous week. A year earlier the rate was 1.8 percent and the volume was 2,502,457.



The total number of people claiming benefits in all programs for the week ending December 17 was 2,144,791, an increase of 4,326 from the previous week. There were 2,236,016 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 December 17.

Initial claims for UI benefits filed by former Federal civilian employees totaled 1,020 in the week ending December 24, a decrease of 293 from the prior week. There were 772 initial claims filed by newly discharged veterans, a decrease of 175 from the preceding week.

There were 11,889 former Federal civilian employees claiming UI benefits for the week ending December 17, a decrease of 2,177 from the previous week. Newly discharged veterans claiming benefits totaled 12,516, a decrease of 734 from the prior week.

The highest insured unemployment rates in the week ending December 17 were in Alaska (4.2), Montana (2.7), New Jersey (2.5), California (2.3), Connecticut (2.3), Illinois (2.2), Minnesota (2.2), Pennsylvania (2.2), and Puerto Rico (2.2).

The largest increases in initial claims for the week ending December 24 were in Kentucky (+4,582), New York (+3,557), Missouri (+3,181), New Jersey (+2,588), and California (+2,557), while the largest decreases were in Illinois (-2,915), Virginia (-2,281), Texas (-1,875), Florida (-1,143), and Minnesota (-659).

UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE DATA FOR REGULAR STATE PROGRAMS

WEEK ENDING	December 31	December 24	Change	December 17	<u>Prior Year</u> ¹
Initial Claims (SA)	235,000	263,000	-28,000	275,000	277,000
Initial Claims (NSA)	348,039	338,048	+9,991	315,107	405,368
4-Wk Moving Average (SA)	256,750	262,500	-5,750	263,750	276,500
WEEK ENDING	December 24	December 17	Change	December 10	<u>Prior Year</u> ¹
Insured Unemployment (SA)	2,112,000	2,096,000	+16,000	2,039,000	2,226,000
Insured Unemployment (NSA)	2,249,628	2,102,275	+147,353	2,097,670	2,502,457
4-Wk Moving Average (SA)	2,067,000	2,040,750	+26,250	2,037,750	2,219,500
<u>Insured Unemployment Rate (SA)</u> ²	1.5%	1.5%	0.0	1.5%	1.6%
<u>Insured Unemployment Rate (NSA)</u> ²	1.6%	1.5%	+0.1	1.5%	1.8%

INITIAL CLAIMS FILED IN FEDERAL PROGRAMS (UNADJUSTED)

WEEK ENDING	December 24	December 17	Change	<u>Prior Year</u> ¹
Federal Employees (UCFE)	1,020	1,313	-293	890
Newly Discharged Veterans (UCX)	772	947	-175	730

PERSONS CLAIMING UI BENEFITS IN ALL PROGRAMS (UNADJUSTED)

WEEK ENDING	December 17	December 10	Change	<u>Prior Year</u> ¹
Regular State	2,097,666	2,094,534	+3,132	2,187,630
Federal Employees	11,889	14,066	-2,177	12,963
Newly Discharged Veterans	12,516	13,250	-734	15,603
<u>Extended Benefits</u> ³	0	0	0	0
<u>State Additional Benefits</u> ⁴	7,338	7,468	-130	6,853
<u>STC / Workshare</u> ⁵	15,382	11,147	+4,235	12,967
<u>TOTAL</u>	2,144,791	2,140,465	+4,326	2,236,016

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 138,322,138 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 31			Insured Unemployment For Week Ended December 24		
	Advance	Prior Wk	Change	Advance	Prior Wk	Change
Alabama	4,563	3,677	886	21,625	20,396	1,229
Alaska	1,385	1,356	29	14,930	13,317	1,613
Arizona	3,005	3,311	-306	22,432	24,875	-2,443
Arkansas	3,248	3,809	-561	16,936	15,706	1,230
California	38,084	52,811	-14,727	353,458	364,428	-10,970
Colorado	2,690	2,853	-163	28,032	27,433	599
Connecticut	8,371	5,062	3,309	41,915	38,038	3,877
Delaware	1,286	990	296	6,453	5,644	809
District of Columbia	516	346	170	8,403	8,586	-183
Florida	5,906	6,179	-273	37,396	41,624	-4,228
Georgia	8,305	7,002	1,303	32,289	30,227	2,062
**Hawaii	1,926	1,395	531	8,640	7,474	1,166
Idaho	2,528	2,745	-217	11,757	11,192	565
Illinois	14,531	16,784	-2,253	141,554	125,186	16,368
Indiana	4,646	5,580	-934	30,464	27,740	2,724
Iowa	8,313	6,595	1,718	33,623	28,169	5,454
*Kansas	2,817	3,802	-985	14,879	12,960	1,919
Kentucky	8,479	8,089	390	21,312	20,097	1,215
Louisiana	1,837	2,093	-256	23,681	23,719	-38
Maine	1,322	1,345	-23	8,159	7,631	528
Maryland	7,279	6,509	770	36,423	36,903	-480
Massachusetts	13,935	10,995	2,940	76,601	72,452	4,149
Michigan	18,498	15,394	3,104	74,274	65,285	8,989
Minnesota	7,059	7,259	-200	68,948	61,097	7,851
Mississippi	1,709	2,477	-768	11,555	12,066	-511
Missouri	8,150	9,238	-1,088	31,934	27,838	4,096
Montana	1,601	1,477	124	12,088	11,638	450
Nebraska	1,924	2,150	-226	8,312	7,145	1,167
Nevada	2,764	3,320	-556	24,145	25,053	-908
New Hampshire	1,288	906	382	4,689	4,765	-76
New Jersey	23,272	15,151	8,121	104,283	97,621	6,662
New Mexico	1,033	1,611	-578	12,421	12,170	251
New York	23,361	21,285	2,076	169,424	159,535	9,889
North Carolina	3,307	3,488	-181	24,198	24,716	-518
North Dakota	1,276	1,161	115	9,527	7,365	2,162
Ohio	14,635	15,420	-785	78,573	69,886	8,687
Oklahoma	2,458	1,956	502	18,747	11,648	7,099
Oregon	6,534	7,372	-838	33,798	31,978	1,820
Pennsylvania	25,262	20,817	4,445	138,715	125,915	12,800
*Puerto Rico	1,274	1,881	-607	19,683	19,291	392
Rhode Island	3,708	2,424	1,284	9,851	8,819	1,032
South Carolina	5,845	3,110	2,735	18,555	15,803	2,752
South Dakota	334	397	-63	3,288	3,230	58
Tennessee	4,176	4,859	-683	19,969	18,603	1,366
Texas	11,549	13,720	-2,171	171,003	153,582	17,421
**Utah	1,644	1,575	69	12,981	12,264	717
Vermont	1,519	1,533	-14	6,079	4,819	1,260
Virgin Islands	10	15	-5	532	578	-46
*Virginia	4,874	1,700	3,174	25,868	19,044	6,824
Washington	8,873	9,705	-832	63,567	58,298	5,269
West Virginia	1,129	1,253	-124	14,703	13,922	781
**Wisconsin	13,116	11,355	1,761	61,524	48,650	12,874
*Wyoming	885	711	174	5,432	5,854	-422
US Total	348,039	338,048	9,991	2,249,628	2,102,275	147,353

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 state staff estimate.

**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	
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	2,157	12	2,159.25	1.6
August 27, 2016	263	2	263.00	2,142	-15	2,154.75	1.6
September 3, 2016	259	-4	261.25	2,149	7	2,148.25	1.6
September 10, 2016	260	1	260.75	2,108	-41	2,139.00	1.5
September 17, 2016	251	-9	258.25	2,064	-44	2,115.75	1.5
September 24, 2016	254	3	256.00	2,062	-2	2,095.75	1.5
October 1, 2016	246	-8	252.75	2,050	-12	2,071.00	1.5
October 8, 2016	247	1	249.50	2,054	4	2,057.50	1.5
October 15, 2016	261	14	252.00	2,040	-14	2,051.50	1.5
October 22, 2016	259	-2	253.25	2,030	-10	2,043.50	1.5
October 29, 2016	266	7	258.25	2,043	13	2,041.75	1.5
November 5, 2016	254	-12	260.00	1,983	-60	2,024.00	1.4
November 12, 2016	233	-21	253.00	2,043	60	2,024.75	1.5
November 19, 2016	251	18	251.00	2,084	41	2,038.25	1.5
November 26, 2016	268	17	251.50	2,007	-77	2,029.25	1.5
December 3, 2016	258	-10	252.50	2,021	14	2,038.75	1.5
December 10, 2016	254	-4	257.75	2,039	18	2,037.75	1.5
December 17, 2016	275	21	263.75	2,096	57	2,040.75	1.5
December 24, 2016	263	-12	262.50	2,112	16	2,067.00	1.5
December 31, 2016	235	-28	256.75				

Initial Claims Filed During Week Ended December

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INITIAL CLAIMS
CHANGE FROMInsured Unemployment For Week Ended December 17
INSURED UNEMPLOYMENT

CHANGE FROM

STATE	INITIAL CLAIMS					STATE	(% 2	CHANGE FROM				ALL PROGRAMS EXCLUDING RAILROAD RETIREMENT
	STATE	LAST WEEK	YEAR AGO	UCFE ¹	UCX ¹			LAST WEEK	YEAR AGO	UCFE ¹	UCX ¹	
Alabama	3677	275	375	17	15	20396	1.1	231	-2133	63	121	20580
Alaska	1356	-47	174	7	3	13317	4.2	-1770	-326	197	48	13562
Arizona	3311	-419	728	21	6	24875	1.0	-733	-446	245	128	25248
Arkansas	3809	1625	-581	2	7	15706	1.4	-355	-5016	87	87	15880
California	52811	2557	9711	191	111	364428	2.3	-12756	30542	2277	2636	369341
Colorado	2853	-148	358	17	31	27433	1.1	1056	-1413	290	471	28194
Connecticut	5062	427	291	7	2	38038	2.3	1504	-98	75	122	38235
Delaware	990	280	119	0	3	5644	1.3	211	-581	18	20	5682
District of Columbia	346	16	79	2	1	8586	1.6	-57	298	268	7	8861
Florida	6179	-1143	312	15	47	41624	0.5	-3234	-3248	150	285	42059
Georgia	7002	865	1015	25	50	30227	0.7	-375	-2191	222	376	30825
Hawaii	1395	120	282	2	12	7474	1.2	-73	1573	58	125	7657
Idaho	2745	96	39	50	6	11192	1.7	830	-638	268	43	11503
Illinois	16784	-2915	-1631	14	15	125186	2.2	7187	-3143	322	355	125863
Indiana	5580	-655	-56	5	2	27740	1.0	3522	1082	88	76	27904
Iowa	6595	118	-989	1	4	28169	1.9	4342	892	45	76	28290
Kansas	3802	500	430	5	6	12960	1.0	984	-2093	65	71	13096
Kentucky	8089	4582	-1617	29	0	20097	1.1	566	-1381	175	222	20494
Louisiana	2093	-544	-305	0	0	23719	1.3	-173	1037	49	49	23817
Maine	1345	33	94	6	2	7631	1.3	528	-1338	38	20	7689
Maryland	6509	1724	-827	20	12	36903	1.5	988	-2967	294	200	37397
Massachusetts	10995	1215	-296	12	17	72452	2.1	5391	-1092	202	241	72895
Michigan	15394	1321	-2240	21	25	65285	1.6	-1990	-6657	175	174	65634
Minnesota	7259	-659	-1426	4	1	61097	2.2	5326	1157	131	102	61330
Mississippi	2477	398	-356	15	1	12066	1.1	45	-1116	86	36	12188
Missouri	9238	3181	287	21	2	27838	1.0	1219	-5259	307	78	28223
Montana	1477	-283	-307	1	2	11638	2.7	244	374	443	39	12120
Nebraska	2150	454	344	4	0	7145	0.8	831	20	26	13	7184
Nevada	3320	91	87	13	4	25053	2.0	1316	-2905	161	113	25327
New Hampshire	906	72	-477	2	0	4765	0.8	265	-616	6	8	4779
New Jersey	15151	2588	-2950	19	15	97621	2.5	1752	-3235	236	431	98288
New Mexico	1611	456	185	11	2	12170	1.6	-70	-1015	310	74	12554
New York	21285	3557	2034	25	31	159535	1.8	6236	-8632	326	583	160444
North Carolina	3488	-459	325	5	16	24716	0.6	-337	-4356	134	271	25121
North Dakota	1161	-423	-233	3	2	7365	1.8	754	465	23	3	7391
Ohio	15420	2046	-1354	10	36	69886	1.3	6415	-5769	117	313	70316
Oklahoma	1956	263	-870	8	10	11648	0.8	-7365	-9846	44	89	11781
Oregon	7372	1349	746	94	19	31978	1.8	1570	-1803	657	178	32813
Pennsylvania	20817	1513	-6300	71	25	125915	2.2	-5862	-11931	545	466	126926
Puerto Rico	1881	567	-36	2	5	19291	2.2	-2045	-3602	36	108	19435
Rhode Island	2424	869	-217	3	4	8819	1.9	480	-364	17	34	8870
South Carolina	3110	-153	175	8	12	15803	0.8	-70	-1917	60	135	15998
South Dakota	397	-246	-18	3	1	3230	0.8	375	337	40	5	3275
Tennessee	4859	1312	610	8	2	18603	0.7	451	-6181	402	51	19056
Texas	13720	-1875	2787	54	129	153582	1.3	-14643	-6838	689	2152	156423
Utah	1575	-177	-207	91	3	12264	0.9	434	-1683	334	24	12622
Vermont	1533	752	-617	1	0	4819	1.6	251	131	18	8	4845
Virgin Islands	15	-4	3	0	0	578	1.6	-182	-50	0	6	584
Virginia	1700	-2281	-3695	5	1	19044	0.5	-6043	-9791	224	347	19615
Washington	9705	-306	-1278	59	54	58298	1.9	2176	-1571	539	776	59613
West Virginia	1253	-308	-461	0	6	13922	2.1	65	-2868	47	53	14022
Wisconsin	11355	762	-734	6	8	48650	1.8	5391	-1005	121	55	48826
Wyoming	711	2	-6	5	4	5854	2.1	-198	-201	139	12	6005
Totals	338048	22941	-8494	1020	772	2102275	1.5	4605	-89407	11889	12516	2126680

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 24, 2016

STATES WITH AN INCREASE OF MORE THAN 1,000

State	Change	State Supplied Comment
KY	+4,582	Layoffs in the manufacturing industry.
NY	+3,557	Layoffs in the construction, accommodation and food service, and manufacturing industries.
MO	+3,181	Layoffs in the accommodation and food service, transportation and warehousing, and construction industries.
NJ	+2,588	Layoffs in the educational service, accommodation and food service, transportation and warehousing, and public administration industries.
CA	+2,557	No comment.
OH	+2,046	Layoffs in the manufacturing industry.
MD	+1,724	No comment.
AR	+1,625	Layoffs in the manufacturing and health care and social assistance industries.
PA	+1,513	Layoffs in the accommodation and food service, manufacturing, transportation and warehousing, and public administration industries.
OR	+1,349	No comment.
MI	+1,321	Layoffs in the wholesale trade industry.
TN	+1,312	Layoffs in the administrative, support, waste management and remediation service, manufacturing, professional, scientific, and technical service, and accommodation and food service industries.
MA	+1,215	Layoffs in the transportation and warehousing and accommodation and food service industries.

STATES WITH A DECREASE OF MORE THAN 1,000

State	Change	State Supplied Comment
IL	-2,915	No comment.
VA	-2,281	No comment.
TX	-1,875	No comment.
FL	-1,143	Fewer layoffs in the agriculture, forestry, fishing and hunting, construction, manufacturing, wholesale trade, retail trade, and service industries.

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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