



News Release

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



TRANSMISSION OF MATERIALS IN THIS RELEASE IS EMBARGOED UNTIL
8:30 A.M. (Eastern) Thursday, February 7, 2019

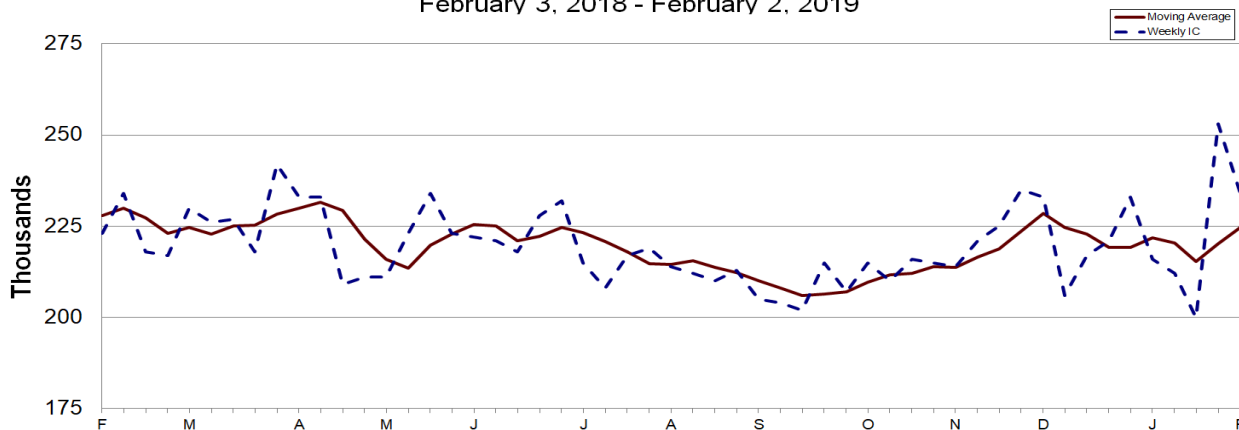
UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE WEEKLY CLAIMS

SEASONALLY ADJUSTED DATA

In the week ending February 2, the advance figure for seasonally adjusted **initial claims** was 234,000, a decrease of 19,000 from the previous week's unrevised level of 253,000. The 4-week moving average was 224,750, an increase of 4,500 from the previous week's unrevised average of 220,250.

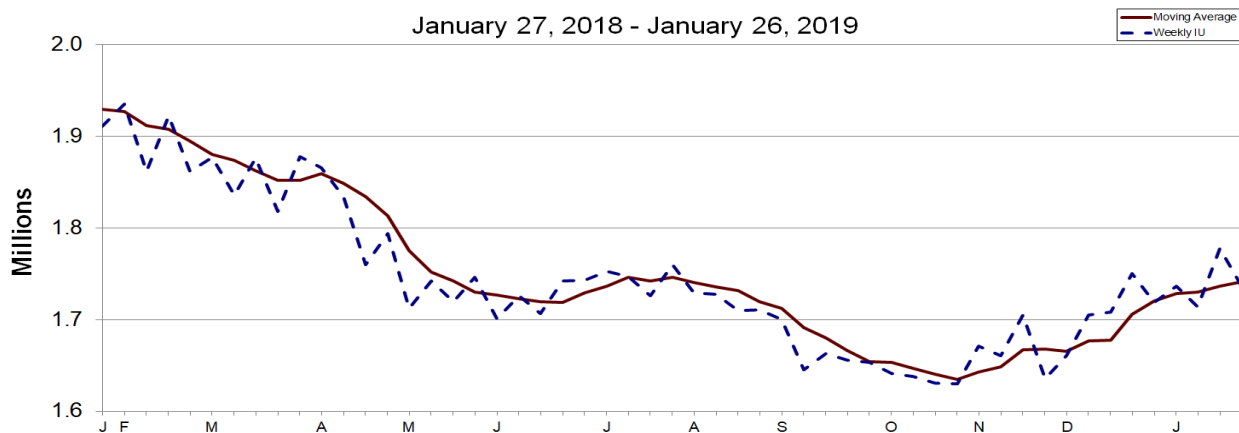
The advance seasonally adjusted **insured unemployment rate** was 1.2 percent for the week ending January 26, unchanged from the previous week's unrevised rate. The advance number for seasonally adjusted **insured unemployment** during the week ending January 26 was 1,736,000, a decrease of 42,000 from the previous week's revised level. The previous week's level was revised down by 4,000 from 1,782,000 to 1,778,000. The 4-week moving average was 1,741,250, an increase of 4,250 from the previous week's revised average. The previous week's average was revised down by 750 from 1,737,750 to 1,737,000.

Seasonally Adjusted Initial Claims
February 3, 2018 - February 2, 2019



Seasonally Adjusted Insured Unemployment

January 27, 2018 - January 26, 2019



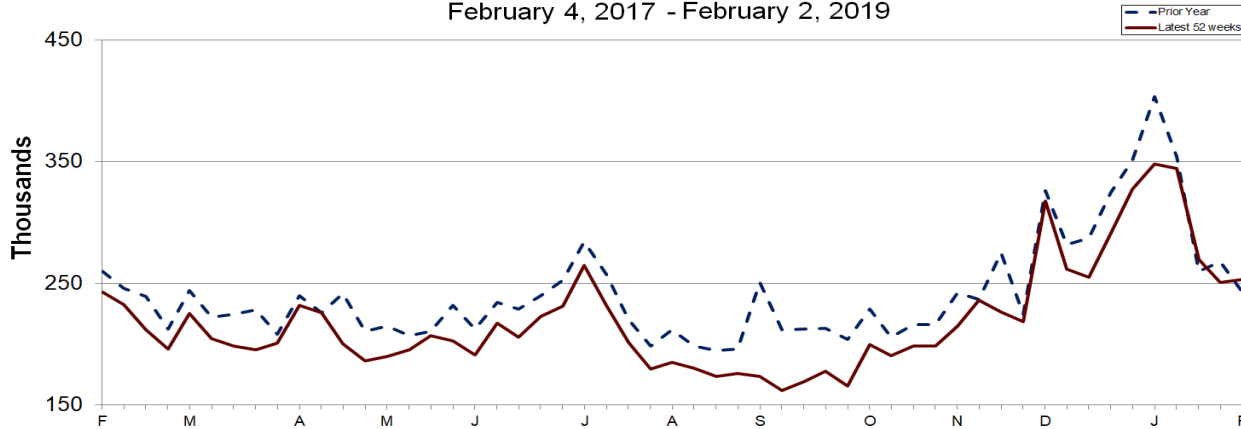
UNADJUSTED DATA

The advance number of actual initial claims under state programs, unadjusted, totaled 253,410 in the week ending February 2, an increase of 2,589 (or 1.0 percent) from the previous week. The seasonal factors had expected an increase of 23,055 (or 9.2 percent) from the previous week. There were 242,962 initial claims in the comparable week in 2018.

The advance unadjusted insured unemployment rate was 1.5 percent during the week ending January 26, unchanged from the prior week. The advance unadjusted number for persons claiming UI benefits in state programs totaled 2,099,416, a decrease of 25,538 (or -1.2 percent) from the preceding week. The seasonal factors had expected an increase of 24,895 (or 1.2 percent) from the previous week. A year earlier the rate was 1.6 percent and the volume was 2,310,655.

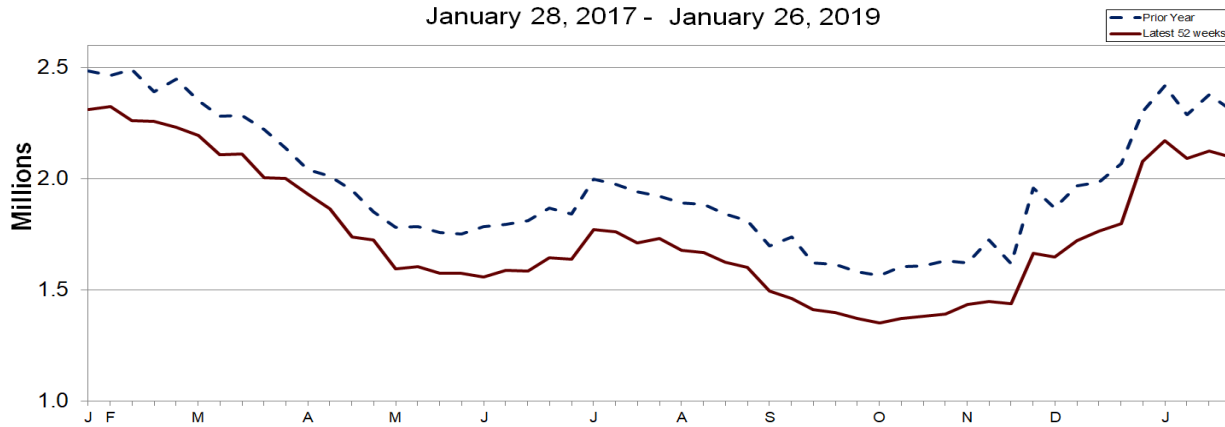
Not Seasonally Adjusted Initial Claims

February 4, 2017 - February 2, 2019



Not Seasonally Adjusted Insured Unemployment

January 28, 2017 - January 26, 2019



The total number of people claiming benefits in all programs for the week ending January 19 was 2,203,302, an increase of 54,515 from the previous week. There were 2,414,099 persons claiming benefits in all programs in the comparable week in 2018.

No state was triggered "on" the Extended Benefits program during the week ending January 19.

Initial claims for UI benefits filed by former Federal civilian employees totaled 6,669 in the week ending January 26, a decrease of 8,070 from the prior week. There were 538 initial claims filed by newly discharged veterans, a decrease of 77 from the preceding week.

There were 57,389 former Federal civilian employees claiming UI benefits for the week ending January 19, an increase of 17,277 from the previous week. Newly discharged veterans claiming benefits totaled 7,866, an increase of 1,171 from the prior week.

The highest insured unemployment rates in the week ending January 19 were in Alaska (3.5), New Jersey (2.7), Connecticut (2.5), Montana (2.5), Pennsylvania (2.4), Rhode Island (2.4), California (2.3), Massachusetts (2.3), Illinois (2.2), Michigan (2.1), Minnesota (2.1), and West Virginia (2.1).

The largest increases in initial claims for the week ending January 26 were in California (+8,042), New Jersey (+940), Iowa (+601), Wisconsin (+570), and Minnesota (+37), while the largest decreases were in Texas (-4,974), Ohio (-3,523), New York (-1,970), Georgia (-1,873), and Pennsylvania (-1,186).

UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE DATA FOR REGULAR STATE PROGRAMS

WEEK ENDING	February 2	January 26	Change	January 19	<u>Prior Year</u>¹
Initial Claims (SA)	234,000	253,000	-19,000	200,000	223,000
Initial Claims (NSA)	253,410	250,821	+2,589	269,757	242,962
4-Wk Moving Average (SA)	224,750	220,250	+4,500	215,250	228,000
WEEK ENDING	January 26	January 19	Change	January 12	<u>Prior Year</u>¹
Insured Unemployment (SA)	1,736,000	1,778,000	-42,000	1,714,000	1,911,000
Insured Unemployment (NSA)	2,099,416	2,124,954	-25,538	2,090,488	2,310,655
4-Wk Moving Average (SA)	1,741,250	1,737,000	+4,250	1,730,000	1,929,250
<u>Insured Unemployment Rate (SA)</u>²	1.2%	1.2%	0.0	1.2%	1.4%
<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	January 26	January 19	Change	<u>Prior Year</u>¹
Federal Employees (UCFE)	6,669	14,739	-8,070	1,919
Newly Discharged Veterans (UCX)	538	615	-77	701

PERSONS CLAIMING UI BENEFITS IN ALL PROGRAMS (UNADJUSTED)

WEEK ENDING	January 19	January 12	Change	<u>Prior Year</u>¹
Regular State	2,121,935	2,087,918	+34,017	2,373,111
Federal Employees	57,389	40,112	+17,277	14,166
Newly Discharged Veterans	7,866	6,695	+1,171	8,654
<u>Extended Benefits</u>³	0	0	0	1,168
<u>State Additional Benefits</u>⁴	5,695	5,547	+148	6,611
<u>STC / Workshare</u>⁵	10,417	8,515	+1,902	10,389
<u>TOTAL</u>	2,203,302	2,148,787	+54,515	2,414,099

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 143,051,794 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 February 2			Insured Unemployment For Week Ended January 26		
	Advance	Prior Wk	Change	Advance	Prior Wk	Change
Alabama	2,287	2,414	-127	16,107	16,904	-797
Alaska	1,215	1,119	96	10,028	10,617	-589
Arizona	3,376	3,681	-305	17,184	19,580	-2,396
Arkansas	1,699	1,720	-21	11,881	12,740	-859
California	50,358	56,886	-6,528	372,656	388,607	-15,951
Colorado	2,256	2,409	-153	23,212	23,144	68
Connecticut	2,908	3,140	-232	43,208	41,248	1,960
Delaware	699	677	22	6,768	6,209	559
District of Columbia	649	904	-255	9,541	10,057	-516
Florida	6,476	8,226	-1,750	31,260	39,817	-8,557
Georgia	5,206	5,529	-323	26,565	28,292	-1,727
Hawaii	1,314	1,084	230	7,198	6,935	263
Idaho	1,375	1,426	-51	10,873	11,417	-544
Illinois	10,773	10,695	78	133,265	131,817	1,448
Indiana	3,497	3,467	30	21,859	20,599	1,260
Iowa	4,455	3,728	727	32,220	29,509	2,711
Kansas	1,925	2,501	-576	12,889	12,051	838
Kentucky	2,663	2,949	-286	20,476	20,960	-484
Louisiana	1,829	1,759	70	13,161	15,866	-2,705
Maine	898	904	-6	8,863	8,247	616
Maryland	3,577	4,079	-502	33,048	33,817	-769
Massachusetts	5,876	6,581	-705	80,102	80,947	-845
Michigan	8,792	8,855	-63	75,096	89,907	-14,811
Minnesota	4,956	4,215	741	65,903	60,311	5,592
Mississippi	810	1,020	-210	6,862	8,306	-1,444
Missouri	4,121	5,351	-1,230	30,822	30,092	730
Montana	1,198	1,056	142	12,115	11,347	768
Nebraska	1,039	1,115	-76	7,238	6,974	264
Nevada	2,606	2,319	287	18,902	20,470	-1,568
New Hampshire	530	629	-99	4,400	4,810	-410
New Jersey	9,771	11,130	-1,359	114,156	108,219	5,937
New Mexico	832	897	-65	10,024	10,227	-203
New York	18,468	14,615	3,853	166,244	161,589	4,655
North Carolina	3,324	3,224	100	20,766	22,376	-1,610
North Dakota	647	533	114	7,571	6,532	1,039
Ohio	8,482	8,838	-356	74,009	74,304	-295
Oklahoma	1,727	2,258	-531	14,182	14,668	-486
Oregon	4,204	3,596	608	31,903	30,888	1,015
Pennsylvania	19,682	14,644	5,038	134,733	135,772	-1,039
Puerto Rico	1,047	1,173	-126	12,887	16,249	-3,362
Rhode Island	1,453	1,404	49	12,351	11,414	937
South Carolina	2,179	2,115	64	17,317	17,485	-168
South Dakota	289	274	15	3,159	3,140	19
Tennessee	2,366	2,392	-26	18,496	20,121	-1,625
Texas	14,242	12,479	1,763	120,586	123,476	-2,890
Utah	1,206	1,229	-23	12,161	12,501	-340
Vermont	678	528	150	5,747	5,307	440
Virgin Islands	15	32	-17	642	448	194
Virginia	3,214	3,754	-540	24,958	24,024	934
Washington	6,975	6,485	490	64,274	63,194	1,080
West Virginia	1,370	1,427	-57	17,006	13,782	3,224
Wisconsin	11,478	6,902	4,576	48,731	44,587	4,144
Wyoming	398	454	-56	3,811	3,054	757
US Total	253,410	250,821	2,589	2,099,416	2,124,954	-25,538

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	Initial Claims	Change from		Insured Unemployment	Change from		IUR
		Prior Week	4-Week Average		Prior Week	4-Week Average	
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	237.25	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	1,705	44	1,676.75	1.2
December 15, 2018	217	11	222.75	1,708	3	1,677.50	1.2
December 22, 2018	221	4	219.25	1,750	42	1,706.00	1.2
December 29, 2018	233	12	219.25	1,719	-31	1,720.50	1.2
January 5, 2019	216	-17	221.75	1,737	18	1,728.50	1.2
January 12, 2019	212	-4	220.50	1,714	-23	1,730.00	1.2
January 19, 2019	200	-12	215.25	1,778	64	1,737.00	1.2
January 26, 2019	253	53	220.25	1,736	-42	1,741.25	1.2
February 2, 2019	234	-19	224.75				

INITIAL CLAIMS FILED DURING WEEK ENDED
JANUARY 26

INSURED UNEMPLOYMENT FOR WEEK ENDED
JANUARY 19

STATE NAME	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	2414	-803	-720	69	16	16904	0.9	-670	-1768	208	79	17191
Alaska	1119	-304	-210	5	2	10617	3.5	112	-2561	388	20	11025
Arizona	3681	-529	-473	20	4	19580	0.7	285	-3057	563	51	20194
Arkansas	1720	-84	-225	14	5	12740	1.1	-392	-3658	547	43	13330
California	56886	8042	7824	1374	107	388607	2.3	17346	-9866	9669	1505	399781
Colorado	2409	-292	43	371	17	23144	0.9	1396	-2938	1621	205	24970
Connecticut	3140	-512	-2125	27	5	41248	2.5	-378	-8452	226	64	41538
Delaware	677	-214	-87	7	0	6209	1.4	95	-881	63	13	6285
District of Columbia	904	-289	513	602	0	10057	1.8	293	856	3964	9	14030
Florida	8226	-926	599	131	28	39817	0.5	1228	-5627	852	118	40787
Georgia	5529	-1873	-2383	323	25	28292	0.7	-1063	-4381	2310	210	30812
Hawaii	1084	-119	-265	12	6	6935	1.1	-341	-931	346	65	7346
Idaho	1426	-407	-121	39	2	11417	1.6	141	-936	674	12	12103
Illinois	10695	-652	269	33	5	131817	2.2	2229	-12744	1477	174	133468
Indiana	3467	-373	110	19	7	20599	0.7	681	-3298	276	28	20903
Iowa	3728	601	1118	19	3	29509	1.9	416	-2588	302	38	29849
Kansas	2501	-294	541	9	2	12051	0.9	1076	-3854	287	33	12371
Kentucky	2949	-135	-207	3	30	20960	1.1	662	-3981	111	1228	22299
Louisiana	1759	-463	-709	57	3	15866	0.8	15	-3227	126	20	16012
Maine	904	-107	-105	16	1	8247	1.4	92	-1260	132	11	8390
Maryland	4079	-656	-134	583	11	33817	1.3	938	-6605	2537	94	36448
Massachusetts	6581	-613	-190	86	10	80947	2.3	1263	-9908	1013	113	82073
Michigan	8855	-800	-3465	60	10	89907	2.1	7583	-444	603	73	90583
Minnesota	4215	37	520	34	4	60311	2.1	-155	-3125	808	56	61175
Mississippi	1020	-122	-289	10	1	8306	0.8	-98	-2006	192	28	8526
Missouri	5351	-543	-5923	51	2	30092	1.1	1848	-7513	1498	35	31625
Montana	1056	-141	45	63	0	11347	2.5	522	-1460	1526	21	12894
Nebraska	1115	-66	193	21	2	6974	0.7	-103	-2122	171	7	7152
Nevada	2319	-397	-444	18	2	20470	1.5	364	-2496	422	60	20952
New Hampshire	629	-42	-14	11	0	4810	0.7	116	-601	21	5	4836
New Jersey	11130	940	2149	263	22	108219	2.7	2123	-10118	1280	238	109737
New Mexico	897	-438	-78	6	3	10227	1.3	131	-938	1021	45	11293
New York	14615	-1970	-3667	409	15	161589	1.7	-1099	-18224	3256	336	165181
North Carolina	3224	-514	-567	56	19	22376	0.5	1956	-1130	465	106	22947
North Dakota	533	-125	-75	12	0	6532	1.6	126	-1441	247	8	6787
Ohio	8838	-3523	1352	45	12	74304	1.4	2876	-8483	725	170	75199
Oklahoma	2258	-191	695	52	2	14668	1.0	109	-189	279	70	15017
Oregon	3596	-1112	-1178	138	4	30888	1.6	-689	-1694	2288	66	33242
Pennsylvania	14644	-1186	-3993	232	30	135772	2.4	3741	-24516	3321	272	139365
Puerto Rico	1173	-418	-1818	15	2	16249	1.9	-381	-25379	278	61	16588
Rhode Island	1404	-102	63	9	3	11414	2.4	-460	-1829	73	19	11506
South Carolina	2115	-868	-897	23	3	17485	0.9	-1327	-2785	134	105	17724
South Dakota	274	-57	10	24	1	3140	0.8	55	-354	305	4	3449
Tennessee	2392	-467	-757	65	7	20121	0.7	-192	-5305	361	65	20547
Texas	12479	-4974	-1796	739	72	123476	1.0	-5509	-17128	4501	1137	129114
Utah	1229	-255	-87	138	4	12501	0.9	239	-31	2353	16	14870
Vermont	528	-48	-61	47	0	5307	1.8	-178	-304	93	1	5401
Virgin Islands	32	-1	-8	0	0	448	1.3	-176	-5300	6	0	454
Virginia	3754	-102	335	126	6	24024	0.7	171	-3722	606	179	24809
Washington	6485	-546	-585	108	15	63194	1.9	-1085	-922	1867	497	65558
West Virginia	1427	-432	-137	26	3	13782	2.1	-246	-1611	278	15	14075
Wisconsin	6902	570	51	32	4	44587	1.6	-1301	-6276	377	33	44997
Wyoming	454	-41	-13	17	1	3054	1.2	81	-2173	342	5	3401
Totals	250821	-18936	-17376	6669	538	2124954	1.5	34466	-251284	57389	7866	2190209

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 JANUARY 26, 2019

STATES WITH AN INCREASE OF MORE THAN 1,000

State	Change	State Supplied Comment
CA	+8,042	Layoffs in the service industry.

STATES WITH A DECREASE OF MORE THAN 1,000

State	Change	State Supplied Comment
TX	-4,974	No comment.
OH	-3,523	No comment.
NY	-1,970	Fewer layoffs in the public administration, accommodation and food service, and arts entertainment, and recreation industries.
GA	-1,873	Fewer layoffs in the manufacturing, support and waste management and remediation service, construction, and retail trade industries.
PA	-1,186	Fewer layoffs in the administrative and support and waste management and remediation service, accommodation and food service, professional, scientific, and technical service, and health care and social assistance industries.
OR	-1,112	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](#)

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 19-230-NAT

Program Contacts:
Kevin Stapleton: (202) 693-3009
Tony Sznoluch: (202) 693-3176
Media Contact: (202) 693-4676