



# News Release

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



TRANSMISSION OF MATERIALS IN THIS RELEASE IS EMBARGOED UNTIL  
8:30 A.M. (Eastern) Thursday, January 11, 2018

## UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE WEEKLY CLAIMS

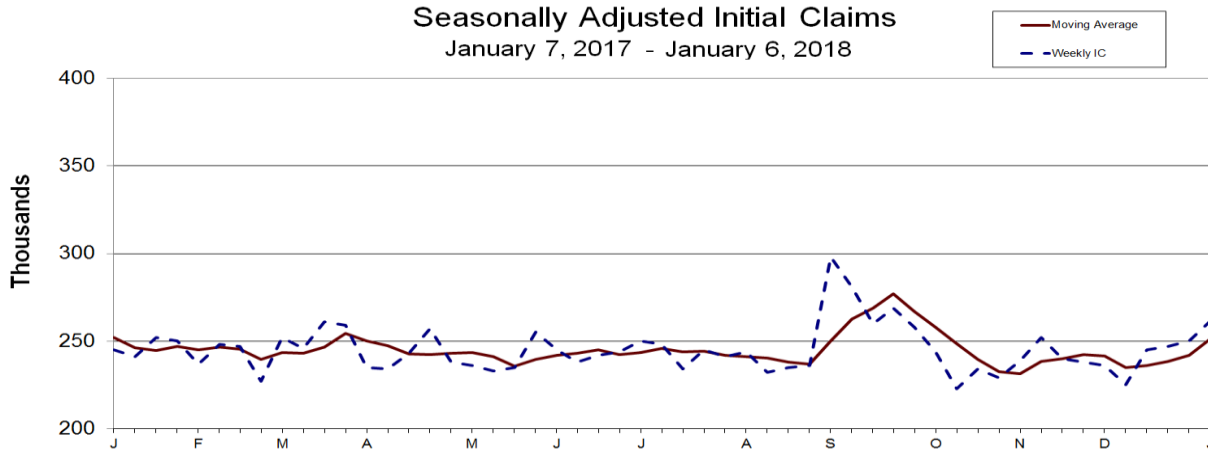
### SEASONALLY ADJUSTED DATA

In the week ending January 6, the advance figure for seasonally adjusted **initial claims** was 261,000, an increase of 11,000 from the previous week's unrevised level of 250,000. The 4-week moving average was 250,750, an increase of 9,000 from the previous week's unrevised average of 241,750.

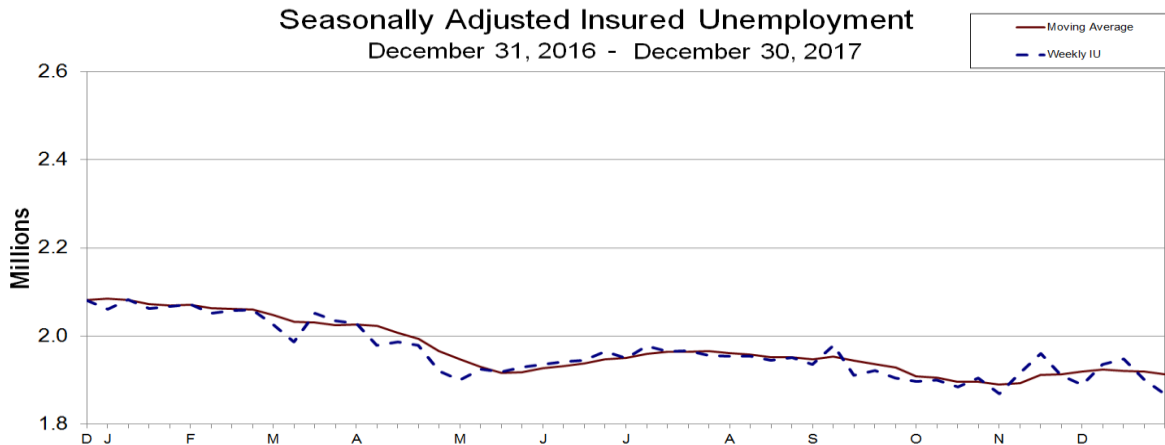
Claims taking procedures continue to be disrupted in the Virgin Islands. The claims taking process in Puerto Rico has still not returned to normal.

The advance seasonally adjusted **insured unemployment rate** was 1.3 percent for the week ending December 30, a decrease of 0.1 percentage point from the previous week's unrevised rate. The advance number for seasonally adjusted **insured unemployment** during the week ending December 30 was 1,867,000, a decrease of 35,000 from the previous week's revised level. This is the lowest level for insured unemployment since December 29, 1973 when it was 1,805,000. The previous week's level was revised down by 12,000 from 1,914,000 to 1,902,000. The 4-week moving average was 1,913,250, a decrease of 5,500 from the previous week's revised average. The previous week's average was revised down by 3,750 from 1,922,500 to 1,918,750.

Seasonally Adjusted Initial Claims  
January 7, 2017 - January 6, 2018



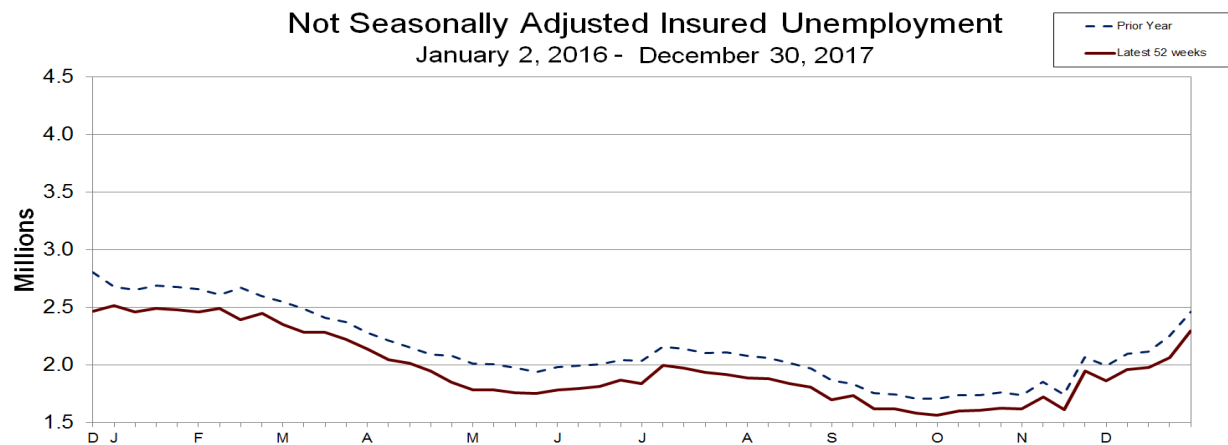
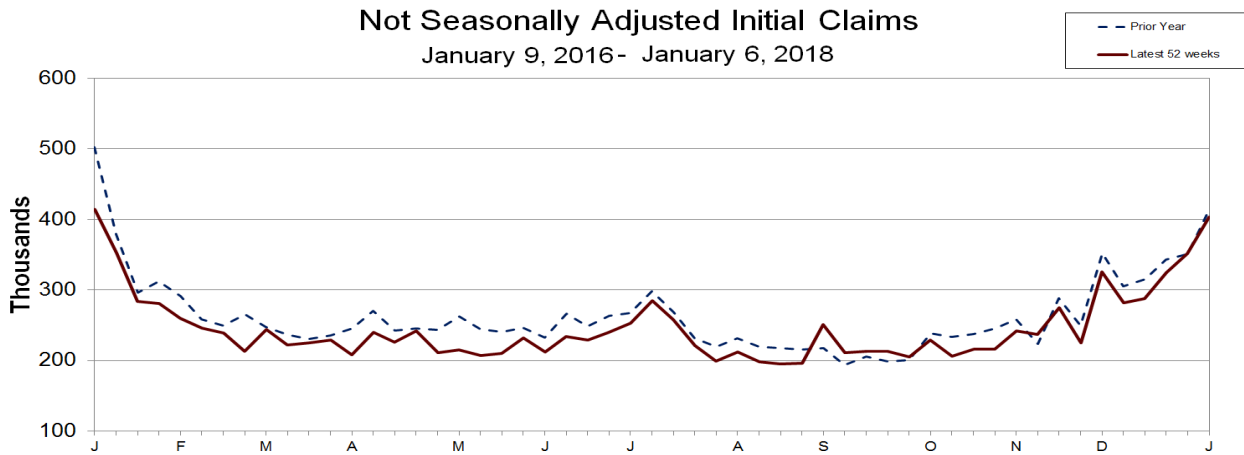
Seasonally Adjusted Insured Unemployment  
December 31, 2016 - December 30, 2017



**UNADJUSTED DATA**

The advance number of actual initial claims under state programs, unadjusted, totaled 402,979 in the week ending January 6, an increase of 51,659 (or 14.7 percent) from the previous week. The seasonal factors had expected an increase of 35,257 (or 10.0 percent) from the previous week. There were 414,742 initial claims in the comparable week in 2017.

The advance unadjusted insured unemployment rate was 1.6 percent during the week ending December 30, an increase of 0.1 percentage point from the prior week. The advance unadjusted number for persons claiming UI benefits in state programs totaled 2,294,563, an increase of 230,842 (or 11.2 percent) from the preceding week. The seasonal factors had expected an increase of 273,895 (or 13.3 percent) from the previous week. A year earlier the rate was 1.8 percent and the volume was 2,467,654.



The total number of people claiming benefits in all programs for the week ending December 23 was 2,101,620, an increase of 82,336 from the previous week. There were 2,294,430 persons claiming benefits in all programs in the comparable week in 2016.

Extended benefits were available in Alaska during the week ending December 23.

Initial claims for UI benefits filed by former Federal civilian employees totaled 819 in the week ending December 30, a decrease of 104 from the prior week. There were 505 initial claims filed by newly discharged veterans, a decrease of 135 from the preceding week.

There were 16,376 former Federal civilian employees claiming UI benefits for the week ending December 23, an increase of 2,540 from the previous week. Newly discharged veterans claiming benefits totaled 8,467, a decrease of 245 from the prior week.

The highest insured unemployment rates in the week ending December 23 were in Puerto Rico (4.4), Alaska (4.1), New Jersey (2.5), Connecticut (2.4), Montana (2.3), Pennsylvania (2.3), Massachusetts (2.2), California (2.1), Illinois (2.1), and Minnesota (2.1).

The largest increases in initial claims for the week ending December 30 were in New Jersey (+9,507), Pennsylvania (+6,850), Michigan (+5,920), Ohio (+5,773), and Wisconsin (+5,274), while the largest decreases were in California (-9,876), Kentucky (-5,485), Texas (-4,219), Oklahoma (-1,737), and Florida (-1,528).

---

UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE DATA FOR REGULAR STATE PROGRAMS

---

<b>WEEK ENDING</b>	<b>January 6</b>	<b>December 30</b>	<b>Change</b>	<b>December 23</b>	<b><u>Prior Year</u><sup>1</sup></b>
Initial Claims (SA)	261,000	250,000	+11,000	247,000	245,000
Initial Claims (NSA)	402,979	351,320	+51,659	324,915	414,742
4-Wk Moving Average (SA)	250,750	241,750	+9,000	238,250	252,250
<b>WEEK ENDING</b>	<b>December 30</b>	<b>December 23</b>	<b>Change</b>	<b>December 16</b>	<b><u>Prior Year</u><sup>1</sup></b>
Insured Unemployment (SA)	1,867,000	1,902,000	-35,000	1,948,000	2,081,000
Insured Unemployment (NSA)	2,294,563	2,063,721	+230,842	1,983,093	2,467,654
4-Wk Moving Average (SA)	1,913,250	1,918,750	-5,500	1,921,000	2,081,000
<u>Insured Unemployment Rate (SA)</u> <sup>2</sup>	1.3%	1.4%	-0.1	1.4%	1.5%
<u>Insured Unemployment Rate (NSA)</u> <sup>2</sup>	1.6%	1.5%	+0.1	1.4%	1.8%

---

INITIAL CLAIMS FILED IN FEDERAL PROGRAMS (UNADJUSTED)

---

<b>WEEK ENDING</b>	<b>December 30</b>	<b>December 23</b>	<b>Change</b>	<b><u>Prior Year</u><sup>1</sup></b>
Federal Employees (UCFE)	819	923	-104	1,002
Newly Discharged Veterans (UCX)	505	640	-135	675

---

PERSONS CLAIMING UI BENEFITS IN ALL PROGRAMS (UNADJUSTED)

---

<b>WEEK ENDING</b>	<b>December 23</b>	<b>December 16</b>	<b>Change</b>	<b><u>Prior Year</u><sup>1</sup></b>
Regular State	2,061,483	1,980,794	+80,689	2,250,276
Federal Employees	16,376	13,836	+2,540	14,165
Newly Discharged Veterans	8,467	8,712	-245	12,695
<u>Extended Benefits</u> <sup>3</sup>	1,280	1,333	-53	0
<u>State Additional Benefits</u> <sup>4</sup>	6,046	6,566	-520	6,695
<u>STC / Workshare</u> <sup>5</sup>	7,968	8,043	-75	10,599
<u>TOTAL</u>	2,101,620	2,019,284	+82,336	2,294,430

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 January 6			Insured Unemployment For Week Ended December 30		
	Advance	Prior Wk	Change	Advance	Prior Wk	Change
Alabama	7,307	4,252	3,055	24,866	19,842	5,024
Alaska	1,311	1,197	114	12,253	12,632	-379
Arizona	3,444	2,787	657	19,567	21,706	-2,139
Arkansas	2,993	3,339	-346	17,086	15,595	1,491
California	47,822	35,363	12,459	353,783	348,237	5,546
Colorado	3,095	2,242	853	25,087	21,327	3,760
Connecticut	5,389	4,906	483	47,547	39,528	8,019
Delaware	1,036	1,486	-450	7,110	5,878	1,232
District of Columbia	678	280	398	8,333	8,874	-541
Florida	7,697	5,443	2,254	36,240	43,874	-7,634
Georgia	19,237	7,559	11,678	43,066	30,446	12,620
Hawaii	1,988	1,333	655	8,770	7,287	1,483
Idaho	2,183	2,944	-761	11,825	10,375	1,450
Illinois	18,137	17,248	889	134,738	124,463	10,275
Indiana	6,608	4,538	2,070	21,072	18,387	2,685
Iowa	6,573	8,120	-1,547	33,772	26,131	7,641
Kansas	3,194	3,953	-759	14,736	11,511	3,225
Kentucky	5,276	7,142	-1,866	22,754	21,824	930
Louisiana	1,980	1,688	292	16,995	19,517	-2,522
Maine*	1,708	1,317	391	7,828	6,969	859
Maryland	5,463	7,651	-2,188	37,282	35,383	1,899
Massachusetts	10,689	14,960	-4,271	85,738	76,565	9,173
Michigan	19,659	23,005	-3,346	80,428	75,384	5,044
Minnesota	9,092	7,227	1,865	72,502	58,202	14,300
Mississippi	1,250	1,435	-185	9,830	10,528	-698
Missouri	9,459	10,634	-1,175	36,768	29,770	6,998
Montana	1,502	1,625	-123	11,869	10,160	1,709
Nebraska	1,921	2,792	-871	8,707	6,366	2,341
Nevada	3,040	2,987	53	22,738	24,287	-1,549
New Hampshire	920	1,260	-340	5,090	4,240	850
New Jersey	16,085	24,411	-8,326	116,238	96,337	19,901
New Mexico	1,029	950	79	10,994	10,775	219
New York	49,640	22,470	27,170	197,133	157,940	39,193
North Carolina	3,888	1,785	2,103	20,086	20,841	-755
North Dakota	1,170	1,115	55	8,602	6,135	2,467
Ohio	15,088	17,518	-2,430	83,167	69,089	14,078
Oklahoma	1,514	1,475	39	15,570	15,782	-212
Oregon	6,181	6,354	-173	35,186	31,087	4,099
Pennsylvania	34,317	28,909	5,408	141,102	127,834	13,268
Puerto Rico	1,778	2,338	-560	28,784	38,524	-9,740
Rhode Island	1,940	3,578	-1,638	12,412	9,019	3,393
South Carolina	6,017	4,222	1,795	21,504	18,861	2,643
South Dakota	433	480	-47	3,103	2,721	382
Tennessee	4,832	3,431	1,401	22,910	21,313	1,597
Texas	14,731	9,919	4,812	148,247	133,078	15,169
Utah	1,700	1,439	261	11,624	10,936	688
Vermont	932	1,570	-638	6,322	4,564	1,758
Virgin Islands	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
Virginia	4,505	4,213	292	28,133	24,874	3,259
Washington	9,118	9,197	-79	69,521	62,013	7,508
West Virginia	1,530	1,169	361	14,623	11,807	2,816
Wisconsin	15,301	13,393	1,908	56,901	41,067	15,834
Wyoming	599	671	-72	4,021	3,836	185
US Total	402,979	351,320	51,659	2,294,563	2,063,721	230,842

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 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 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	1,948	12	1,921.00	1.4
December 23, 2017	247	2	238.25	1,902	-46	1,918.75	1.4
December 30, 2017	250	3	241.75	1,867	-35	1,913.25	1.3
January 6, 2018	261	11	250.75				

Initial Claims Filed During Week Ended December 30 INITIAL CLAIMS								Insured Unemployment For Week Ended December 23 INSURED UNEMPLOYMENT				
STATE	STATE	CHANGE FROM				STATE	%	CHANGE FROM		UCFE	UCX	ALL PROGRAMS EXCLUDING RAILROAD RETIREMENT
		LAST WEEK	YEAR AGO	UCFE	UCX			LAST WEEK	YEAR AGO			
Alabama	4252	157	-538	10	9	19842	1.1	3072	-3272	60	77	19979
Alaska	1197	25	-68	4	0	12632	4.1	622	-2661	233	28	14173
Arizona	2787	-512	-367	23	0	21706	0.8	33	-3724	274	79	22059
Arkansas	3339	-258	-56	2	6	15595	1.3	1827	-2448	80	87	15762
California	35363	-9876	-2612	218	58	348237	2.1	-356	-1472	3261	1805	353303
Colorado	2242	-645	-446	17	22	21327	0.8	-730	-6148	442	234	22003
Connecticut	4906	-1368	-3460	2	2	39528	2.4	2637	-480	49	87	39664
Delaware	1486	608	168	3	0	5878	1.4	575	-1220	27	10	5915
District of Columbia	280	-99	4	5	0	8874	1.6	123	18	355	12	9241
Florida	5443	-1528	-727	10	41	43874	0.5	2580	-258	270	190	44334
Georgia	7559	1564	-1016	29	32	30446	0.7	2434	-3816	362	222	31030
Hawaii	1333	150	100	4	5	7287	1.2	210	-258	75	57	7419
Idaho	2944	300	268	38	1	10375	1.5	1270	-2455	324	18	10717
Illinois	17248	1005	2811	10	9	124463	2.1	8558	-15190	378	249	125090
Indiana	4538	13	-47	2	4	18387	0.6	751	-12133	53	55	18495
Iowa	8120	1175	434	5	2	26131	1.7	3785	-5640	51	40	26222
Kansas	3953	946	1191	1	1	11511	0.9	703	-2971	46	43	11600
Kentucky	7142	-5485	-1365	17	1	21824	1.2	3921	237	163	137	22124
Louisiana	1688	-823	-163	2	6	19517	1.0	406	-4917	47	27	19591
Maine	1317	-144	-5	3	1	6969	1.2	296	-1302	22	11	7002
Maryland	7651	2046	90	16	7	35383	1.4	1231	-4389	445	118	35946
Massachusetts	14960	3800	945	8	12	76565	2.2	5409	-2094	318	154	77037
Michigan	23005	5920	2048	17	11	75384	1.8	9508	-4543	249	113	75746
Minnesota	7227	939	409	3	2	58202	2.1	3885	-6499	133	78	58413
Mississippi	1435	-427	-522	0	0	10528	1.0	795	-3254	51	29	10608
Missouri	10634	2705	2088	17	2	29770	1.1	4792	-4312	713	52	30535
Montana	1625	-165	52	67	1	10160	2.3	593	-1904	561	30	10751
Nebraska	2792	1423	844	6	1	6366	0.7	550	-1945	17	14	6397
Nevada	2987	-188	381	11	5	24287	1.9	655	-1651	200	75	24562
New Hampshire	1260	417	-112	1	4	4240	0.7	-32	-817	1	3	4244
New Jersey	24411	9507	1038	10	15	96337	2.5	1164	-5508	227	264	96828
New Mexico	950	-245	-140	4	0	10775	1.4	218	-2082	349	68	11192
New York	22470	1971	-773	24	24	157940	1.7	7441	-9850	713	417	159070
North Carolina	1785	-1212	-1358	4	4	20841	0.5	-626	-4573	80	158	21079
North Dakota	1115	-45	123	0	0	6135	1.5	460	-1308	13	6	6154
Ohio	17518	5773	2936	9	36	69089	1.3	4188	-9188	193	213	69495
Oklahoma	1475	-1737	-973	3	5	15782	1.0	1191	-3461	71	93	15946
Oregon	6354	620	-175	39	12	31087	1.7	2159	-2591	691	117	31895
Pennsylvania	28909	6850	3644	48	38	127834	2.3	10842	-8522	1278	319	129431
Puerto Rico	2338	-790	633	3	10	38524	4.4	-9480	15776	38	46	38608
Rhode Island	3578	1346	-125	1	0	9019	1.9	668	-472	21	22	9062
South Carolina	4222	1166	-1677	1	8	18861	1.0	669	-410	52	59	18972
South Dakota	480	29	115	3	0	2721	0.7	129	-614	36	6	2763
Tennessee	3431	-70	-965	9	3	21313	0.7	1974	-256	420	126	21859
Texas	9919	-4219	-1796	30	78	133078	1.1	-6120	-35639	1296	1352	135726
Utah	1439	-86	-39	42	1	10936	0.8	385	-1644	373	19	11328
Vermont	1570	247	39	0	2	4564	1.5	632	-1182	14	3	4581
Virgin Islands	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
Virginia	4213	57	-931	10	5	24874	0.7	381	-2179	334	330	25538
Washington	9197	368	800	9	11	62013	2.0	2118	1164	563	630	63206
West Virginia	1169	-143	-88	0	4	11807	1.8	60	-2545	52	43	11902
Wisconsin	13393	5274	88	12	2	41067	1.5	1974	-10527	114	28	41209
Wyoming	671	69	64	7	2	3836	1.5	98	-2161	188	14	4038
Totals	351320	26405	769	819	505	2063721	1.5	80628	-189290	16376	8467	2089844

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 30, 2017**

---

**STATES WITH AN INCREASE OF MORE THAN 1,000**

---

<b>State</b>	<b>Change</b>	<b>State Supplied Comment</b>
NJ	+9,507	Layoffs in the educational service, transportation and warehousing, accommodation and food service, and public administration industries.
PA	+6,850	Layoffs in the transportation and warehousing, construction, and manufacturing industries.
MI	+5,920	Layoffs in the manufacturing industry.
OH	+5,773	Layoffs in the manufacturing industry.
WI	+5,274	Layoffs in the construction, manufacturing, and transportation and warehousing industries.
MA	+3,800	Layoffs in the construction and transportation and warehousing industries.
MO	+2,705	No comment.
MD	+2,046	No comment.
NY	+1,971	Layoffs in the accommodation and food service, information, and transportation and warehousing industries.
GA	+1,564	No comment.
NE	+1,423	No comment.
RI	+1,346	Layoffs in the educational service, manufacturing, and business service industries.
IA	+1,175	Layoffs in the construction industry.
SC	+1,166	No comment.
IL	+1,005	Layoffs in the construction, transportation and warehousing, and administrative, support, waste management and remediation service industries.

**STATES WITH A DECREASE OF MORE THAN 1,000**

---

<b>State</b>	<b>Change</b>	<b>State Supplied Comment</b>
CA	-9,876	Fewer layoffs in service industry.
KY	-5,485	No comment.
TX	-4,219	No comment.
OK	-1,737	No comment.
FL	-1,528	Fewer layoffs in the agriculture, forestry, fishing, and hunting, construction, manufacturing, wholesale trade, retail trade, and service industries.
CT	-1,368	No comment.
NC	-1,212	Fewer layoffs in the administrative, support, waste management and remediation service, accommodation and food service, and professional, scientific, and technical 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](#)

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 18-56-NAT

Program Contacts:  
Tony Sznoluch (202) 693-3176  
Sandra Trujillo (202) 693-2933  
Media Contact: (202) 693-4676