



News Release

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8:30 A.M. (Eastern) Thursday, September 22, 2016

UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE WEEKLY CLAIMS

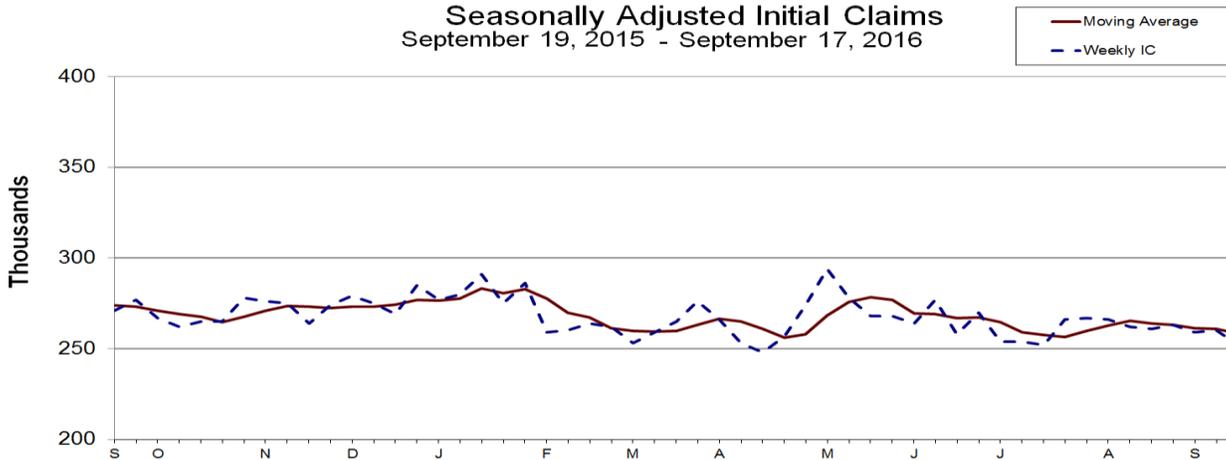
SEASONALLY ADJUSTED DATA

In the week ending September 17, the advance figure for seasonally adjusted **initial claims** was 252,000, a decrease of 8,000 from the previous week's unrevised level of 260,000. The 4-week moving average was 258,500, a decrease of 2,250 from the previous week's unrevised average of 260,750.

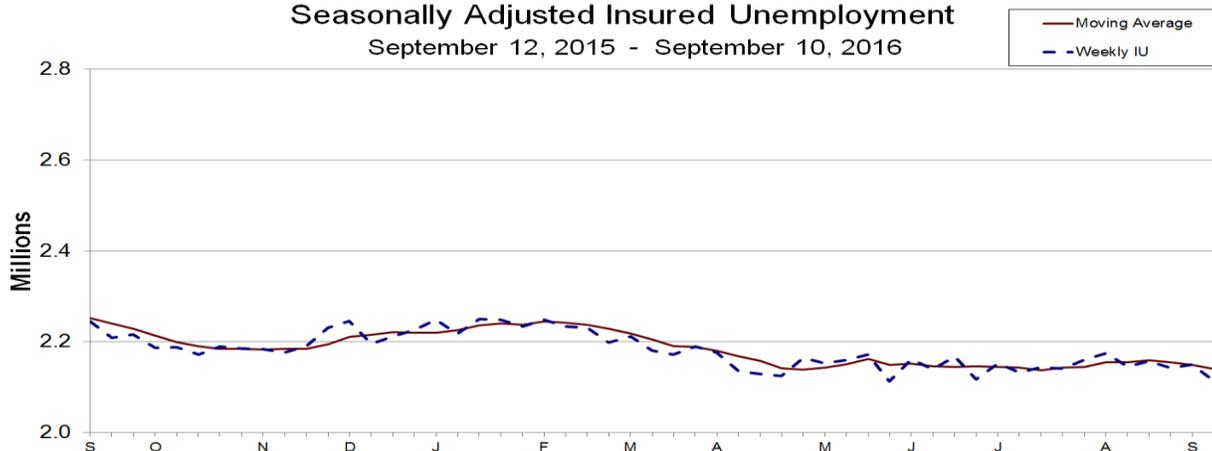
There were no special factors impacting this week's initial claims. This marks 81 consecutive weeks of initial claims below 300,000, the longest streak since 1970.

The advance seasonally adjusted **insured unemployment rate** was 1.5 percent for the week ending September 10, 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 September 10 was 2,113,000, a decrease of 36,000 from the previous week's revised level. The previous week's level was revised up 6,000 from 2,143,000 to 2,149,000. The 4-week moving average was 2,140,250, a decrease of 8,000 from the previous week's revised average. The previous week's average was revised up by 1,500 from 2,146,750 to 2,148,250.

Seasonally Adjusted Initial Claims
September 19, 2015 - September 17, 2016



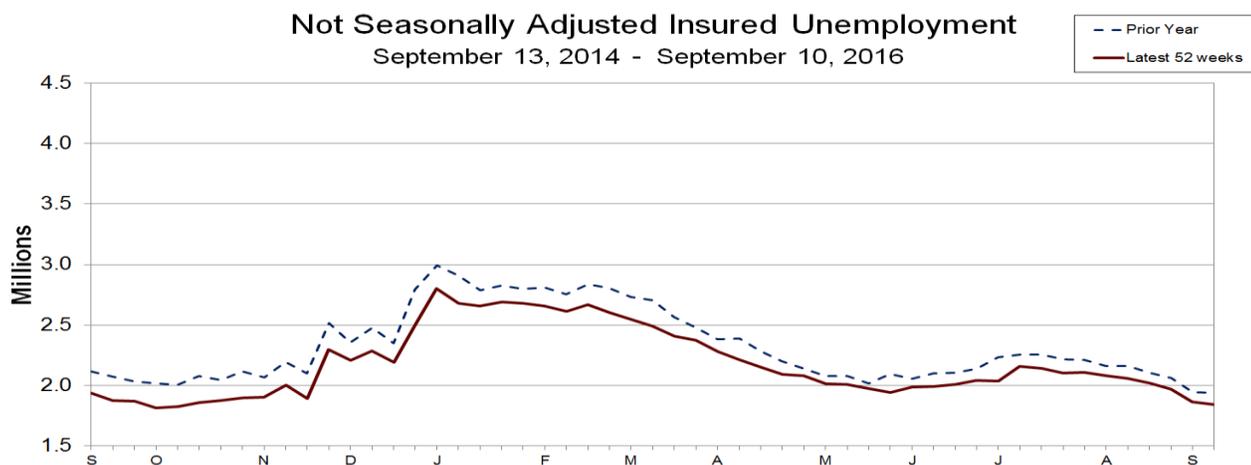
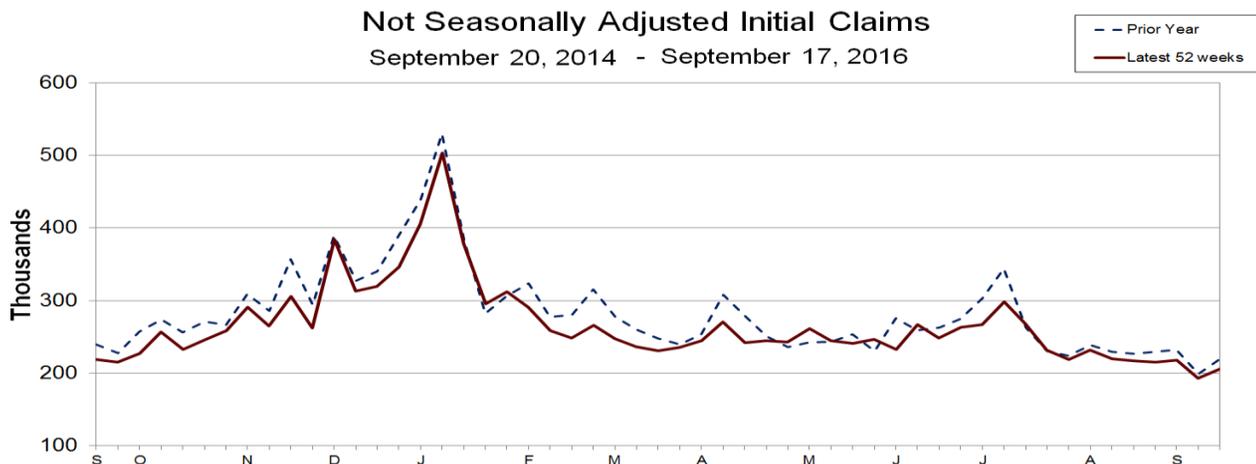
Seasonally Adjusted Insured Unemployment
September 12, 2015 - September 10, 2016



UNADJUSTED DATA

The advance number of actual initial claims under state programs, unadjusted, totaled 205,751 in the week ending September 17, an increase of 12,460 (or 6.4 percent) from the previous week. The seasonal factors had expected an increase of 19,511 (or 10.1 percent) from the previous week. There were 219,342 initial claims in the comparable week in 2015.

The advance unadjusted insured unemployment rate was 1.3 percent during the week ending September 10, a decrease of 0.1 percentage point from the prior week. The advance unadjusted number for persons claiming UI benefits in state programs totaled 1,840,471, a decrease of 26,808 (or -1.4 percent) from the preceding week. The seasonal factors had expected an increase of 4,298 (or 0.2 percent) from the previous week. A year earlier the rate was 1.4 percent and the volume was 1,938,894.



The total number of people claiming benefits in all programs for the week ending September 3 was 1,905,531, a decrease of 106,960 from the previous week. There were 1,988,071 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 September 3.

Initial claims for UI benefits filed by former Federal civilian employees totaled 621 in the week ending September 10, a decrease of 128 from the prior week. There were 1,004 initial claims filed by newly discharged veterans, a decrease of 122 from the preceding week.

There were 8,988 former Federal civilian employees claiming UI benefits for the week ending September 3, an increase of 891 from the previous week. Newly discharged veterans claiming benefits totaled 13,095, a decrease of 387 from the prior week.

The highest insured unemployment rates in the week ending September 3 were in Puerto Rico (2.7), New Jersey (2.6), Alaska (2.5), Connecticut (2.2), Pennsylvania (2.1), California (2.0), the Virgin Islands (1.9), West Virginia (1.9), Massachusetts (1.8), and New York (1.8).

The largest increases in initial claims for the week ending September 10 were in Virginia (+1,051), Oklahoma (+434), Wisconsin (+268), West Virginia (+178), and Minnesota (+93), while the largest decreases were in California (-4,627), Illinois (-4,389), Pennsylvania (-2,810), Texas (-2,635), and New York (-1,730).

UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE DATA FOR REGULAR STATE PROGRAMS

WEEK ENDING	September 17	September 10	Change	September 3	Prior Year¹
Initial Claims (SA)	252,000	260,000	-8,000	259,000	271,000
Initial Claims (NSA)	205,751	193,291	+12,460	217,715	219,342
4-Wk Moving Average (SA)	258,500	260,750	-2,250	261,250	274,000
WEEK ENDING	September 10	September 3	Change	August 27	Prior Year¹
Insured Unemployment (SA)	2,113,000	2,149,000	-36,000	2,142,000	2,244,000
Insured Unemployment (NSA)	1,840,471	1,867,279	-26,808	1,972,966	1,938,894
4-Wk Moving Average (SA)	2,140,250	2,148,250	-8,000	2,154,750	2,252,500
Insured Unemployment Rate (SA)²	1.5%	1.6%	-0.1	1.6%	1.7%
Insured Unemployment Rate (NSA)²	1.3%	1.4%	-0.1	1.4%	1.4%

INITIAL CLAIMS FILED IN FEDERAL PROGRAMS (UNADJUSTED)

WEEK ENDING	September 10	September 3	Change	Prior Year¹
Federal Employees (UCFE)	621	749	-128	789
Newly Discharged Veterans (UCX)	1,004	1,126	-122	1,209

PERSONS CLAIMING UI BENEFITS IN ALL PROGRAMS (UNADJUSTED)

WEEK ENDING	September 3	August 27	Change	Prior Year¹
Regular State	1,862,449	1,967,946	-105,497	1,938,838
Federal Employees	8,988	8,097	+891	11,488
Newly Discharged Veterans	13,095	13,482	-387	17,437
Extended Benefits³	0	0	0	0
State Additional Benefits⁴	6,323	6,124	+199	6,243
STC / Workshare⁵	14,676	16,842	-2,166	14,065
TOTAL	1,905,531	2,012,491	-106,960	1,988,071

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 137,652,280 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 September 17			Insured Unemployment For Week Ended September 10		
	Advance	Prior Wk	Change	Advance	Prior Wk	Change
Alabama	2,203	2,225	-22	18,908	20,461	-1,553
Alaska	1,822	998	824	13,353	8,034	5,319
Arizona	3,878	3,588	290	29,012	32,936	-3,924
Arkansas	1,686	1,606	80	13,413	14,262	-849
California	39,232	35,613	3,619	329,816	317,781	12,035
Colorado	1,891	1,956	-65	24,485	23,804	681
Connecticut	2,707	2,670	37	35,547	36,933	-1,386
Delaware	472	461	11	5,132	5,111	21
District of Columbia	477	281	196	7,717	8,185	-468
Florida	7,276	7,493	-217	47,088	52,905	-5,817
Georgia	6,104	5,123	981	29,274	30,607	-1,333
Hawaii	1,268	1,240	28	7,691	7,327	364
Idaho	845	985	-140	4,849	5,417	-568
Illinois	8,322	8,028	294	108,550	96,693	11,857
Indiana	2,651	2,615	36	19,572	19,582	-10
Iowa	2,142	1,622	520	16,512	15,395	1,117
Kansas	2,082	1,994	88	11,960	11,152	808
Kentucky	1,974	2,125	-151	19,769	19,473	296
Louisiana	2,384	2,394	-10	26,532	28,220	-1,688
Maine	554	544	10	4,016	4,394	-378
Maryland	2,800	3,189	-389	30,021	33,635	-3,614
Massachusetts	4,408	4,420	-12	56,334	62,283	-5,949
Michigan	6,063	5,399	664	41,940	47,330	-5,390
Minnesota	3,458	2,972	486	30,253	28,453	1,800
Mississippi	1,227	1,304	-77	10,041	12,276	-2,235
Missouri	3,355	3,111	244	22,964	25,321	-2,357
Montana	690	675	15	4,243	4,711	-468
Nebraska	671	581	90	3,739	3,990	-251
Nevada	2,318	2,343	-25	19,745	21,340	-1,595
New Hampshire	419	477	-58	3,558	4,065	-507
New Jersey	8,705	7,188	1,517	91,115	101,272	-10,157
New Mexico	841	808	33	11,019	11,342	-323
New York	14,611	14,095	516	140,620	156,476	-15,856
North Carolina	3,349	2,967	382	23,191	24,667	-1,476
North Dakota	488	327	161	4,164	2,733	1,431
Ohio	6,606	5,965	641	50,141	50,516	-375
Oklahoma	1,597	2,197	-600	20,587	21,083	-496
Oregon	3,375	2,990	385	24,196	24,610	-414
Pennsylvania	13,110	12,403	707	116,397	116,039	358
Puerto Rico	1,469	1,517	-48	22,254	23,406	-1,152
Rhode Island	801	656	145	7,129	7,825	-696
*South Carolina	2,181	2,191	-10	15,717	16,013	-296
South Dakota	177	188	-11	1,093	1,153	-60
Tennessee	2,120	2,372	-252	17,044	17,991	-947
Texas	14,788	13,072	1,716	175,301	164,760	10,541
Utah	988	988	0	7,932	8,013	-81
Vermont	341	379	-38	2,787	2,832	-45
Virgin Islands	56	99	-43	798	696	102
Virginia	3,317	3,044	273	25,632	24,394	1,238
Washington	5,553	5,250	303	41,602	42,410	-808
West Virginia	869	1,156	-287	13,314	12,734	580
Wisconsin	4,592	5,010	-418	28,156	29,588	-1,432
Wyoming	438	397	41	4,248	4,650	-402
US Total	205,751	193,291	12,460	1,840,471	1,867,279	-26,808

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 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	
September 12, 2015	269	-6	274.25	2,244	-2	2,252.50	1.7
September 19, 2015	271	2	274.00	2,208	-36	2,239.75	1.6
September 26, 2015	277	6	273.00	2,216	8	2,228.50	1.6
October 3, 2015	267	-10	271.00	2,186	-30	2,213.50	1.6
October 10, 2015	262	-5	269.25	2,188	2	2,199.50	1.6
October 17, 2015	265	3	267.75	2,171	-17	2,190.25	1.6
October 24, 2015	265	0	264.75	2,190	19	2,183.75	1.6
October 31, 2015	278	13	267.50	2,185	-5	2,183.50	1.6
November 7, 2015	276	-2	271.00	2,183	-2	2,182.25	1.6
November 14, 2015	275	-1	273.50	2,176	-7	2,183.50	1.6
November 21, 2015	264	-11	273.25	2,191	15	2,183.75	1.6
November 28, 2015	274	10	272.25	2,230	39	2,195.00	1.6
December 5, 2015	279	5	273.00	2,245	15	2,210.50	1.7
December 12, 2015	275	-4	273.00	2,195	-50	2,215.25	1.6
December 19, 2015	269	-6	274.25	2,212	17	2,220.50	1.6
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	2,113	-36	2,140.25	1.5
September 17, 2016	252	-8	258.50				

Initial Claims Filed During Week Ended September 10

Insured Unemployment For Week Ended September 3

STATE	INITIAL CLAIMS						CHANGE FROM				ALL PROGRAMS EXCLUDING RAILROAD RETIREMENT	
	STATE	LAST WEEK	YEAR AGO	UCFE ¹	UCX ¹	STATE	LAST WEEK	YEAR AGO	UCFE ¹	UCX ¹		
						(%) ²						
Alabama	2225	-324	-48	8	11	20461	1.1	-563	-1414	84	129	20674
Alaska	998	-109	21	5	2	8034	2.5	-236	1099	66	44	8144
Arizona	3588	-422	311	5	8	32936	1.3	-1643	-1468	107	164	33207
Arkansas	1606	-134	-242	3	5	14262	1.2	-1109	-4689	46	110	14418
California	35613	-4627	-1226	122	210	317781	2.0	-19148	-4277	1901	2675	322357
Colorado	1956	-116	-107	16	31	23804	1.0	-133	-1456	145	510	24459
Connecticut	2670	-176	258	7	5	36933	2.2	-6483	2874	57	93	37083
Delaware	461	-51	-160	1	1	5111	1.2	-1454	-287	13	22	5146
District of Columbia	281	-36	-20	3	0	8185	1.5	-375	-370	260	6	8451
Florida	7493	-8	241	31	54	52905	0.7	-1996	-9720	201	353	53459
Georgia	5123	-647	-503	19	43	30607	0.8	283	-5772	185	404	31196
Hawaii	1240	-100	123	1	19	7327	1.2	106	216	70	135	7532
Idaho	985	80	35	0	5	5417	0.8	-437	-591	22	35	5474
Illinois	8028	-4389	-389	10	13	96693	1.7	-6892	-5869	383	342	97418
Indiana	2615	-211	-296	5	9	19582	0.7	-456	-1281	57	71	19710
Iowa	1622	-537	-486	4	5	15395	1.0	-485	-714	31	58	15484
Kansas	1994	-84	672	1	8	11152	0.8	-349	-148	42	69	11263
Kentucky	2125	-248	-270	7	4	19473	1.1	-1451	-446	277	242	19992
Louisiana	2394	-673	379	0	6	28220	1.5	74	3967	59	50	28329
Maine	544	-13	-153	1	1	4394	0.8	-103	-527	25	21	4440
Maryland	3189	-154	295	13	18	33635	1.4	-2598	-2818	302	218	34155
Massachusetts	4420	-442	82	10	21	62283	1.8	-5738	521	245	282	62810
Michigan	5399	-146	279	9	21	47330	1.2	-3574	-357	113	204	47647
Minnesota	2972	93	-344	1	8	28453	1.0	-181	-1615	50	113	28616
Mississippi	1304	-149	-25	2	6	12276	1.1	-628	-1225	43	46	12365
Missouri	3111	-716	-453	52	12	25321	1.0	-1276	-2343	416	103	25840
Montana	675	-33	-98	3	2	4711	1.1	-530	-341	40	25	4776
Nebraska	581	-137	-37	0	2	3990	0.4	-40	-1058	12	8	4010
Nevada	2343	-194	34	3	6	21340	1.7	-370	-4185	61	121	21522
New Hampshire	477	2	-8	1	2	4065	0.6	-575	-395	3	10	4078
New Jersey	7188	-1144	773	15	20	101272	2.6	-4620	369	229	372	101873
New Mexico	808	-138	-63	8	4	11342	1.5	-668	283	77	68	11487
New York	14095	-1730	79	30	37	156476	1.8	-4995	-3183	423	610	157509
North Carolina	2967	-685	-575	7	26	24667	0.6	-584	-4930	128	314	25109
North Dakota	327	31	-236	3	1	2733	0.6	-176	306	15	6	2754
Ohio	5965	-646	-128	13	26	50516	1.0	-1242	-551	120	315	50951
Oklahoma	2197	434	441	5	8	21083	1.4	-506	-411	66	141	21290
Oregon	2990	-407	-1274	9	12	24610	1.4	-1379	-3224	109	179	24898
Pennsylvania	12403	-2810	-1040	57	41	116039	2.1	-16337	-4812	717	456	117212
Puerto Rico	1517	-80	-7	0	2	23406	2.7	-246	-6266	50	113	23569
Rhode Island	656	-146	-281	1	0	7825	1.7	-1837	375	13	18	7856
South Carolina	2191	-102	-185	5	15	16013	0.8	-349	85	42	131	16186
South Dakota	188	0	25	3	2	1153	0.3	-64	60	25	2	1180
Tennessee	2372	-101	-128	14	0	17991	0.6	-1405	-5245	87	148	18226
Texas	13072	-2635	-404	48	171	164760	1.4	-12279	4466	823	2159	167742
Utah	988	-124	-9	28	10	8013	0.6	-129	-719	171	25	8209
Vermont	379	17	33	5	0	2832	0.9	-696	-37	7	4	2843
Virgin Islands	99	-1	10	0	1	696	1.9	66	-142	2	6	704
Virginia	3044	1051	56	4	12	24394	0.7	1160	-1355	242	442	25078
Washington	5250	-959	-547	13	63	42410	1.4	1105	-2577	184	782	43376
West Virginia	1156	178	229	1	2	12734	1.9	-326	-112	44	54	12832
Wisconsin	5010	268	-302	7	9	29588	1.1	-1667	-4033	74	59	29721
Wyoming	397	6	56	2	4	4650	1.7	-153	799	24	28	4702
Totals	193291	-24424	-5612	621	1004	1867279	1.4	-105687	-75543	8988	13095	1889362

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 SEPTEMBER 10, 2016

STATES WITH AN INCREASE OF MORE THAN 1,000

State	Change	State Supplied Comment
VA	+1,051	Layoffs in the manufacturing industry.

STATES WITH A DECREASE OF MORE THAN 1,000

State	Change	State Supplied Comment
CA	-4,627	Fewer layoffs in the service industry.
IL	-4,389	No comment.
PA	-2,810	Fewer layoffs in the manufacturing, administrative, support, waste management and remediation service, and accommodation and food service industries.
TX	-2,635	No comment.
NY	-1,730	Fewer layoffs in the transportation and warehousing, health care and social assistance and manufacturing industries.
NJ	-1,144	Fewer layoffs in the construction, administrative, support, waste management and remediation service, retail trade, and healthcare and social assistance 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).

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