



News Release

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8:30 A.M. (Eastern) Thursday, October 26, 2017

UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE WEEKLY CLAIMS

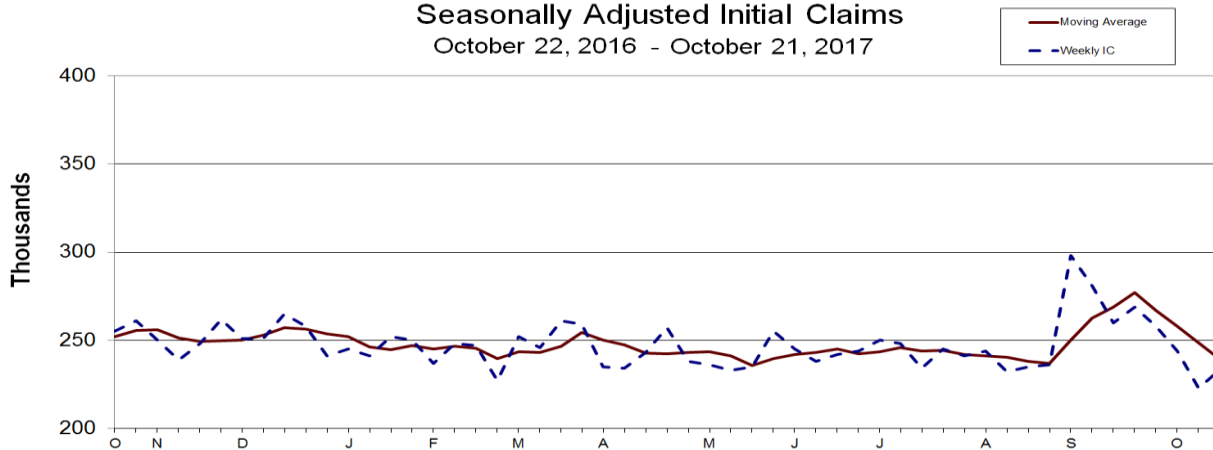
SEASONALLY ADJUSTED DATA

In the week ending October 21, the advance figure for seasonally adjusted **initial claims** was 233,000, an increase of 10,000 from the previous week's revised level. The previous week's level was revised up by 1,000 from 222,000 to 223,000. The 4-week moving average was 239,500, a decrease of 9,000 from the previous week's revised average. The previous week's average was revised up by 250 from 248,250 to 248,500.

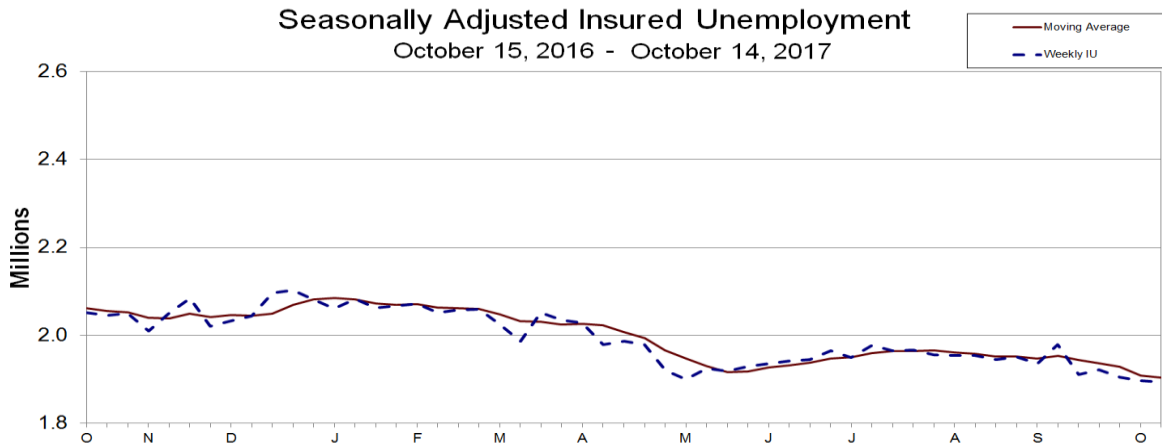
Claims taking procedures continue to be severely disrupted in Puerto Rico and the Virgin Islands as a result of power outages and infrastructure damage caused by Hurricanes Irma and Maria.

The advance seasonally adjusted **insured unemployment rate** was 1.3 percent for the week ending October 14, unchanged from the previous week's unrevised rate. The advance number for seasonally adjusted **insured unemployment** during the week ending October 14 was 1,893,000, a decrease of 3,000 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 up 8,000 from 1,888,000 to 1,896,000. The 4-week moving average was 1,903,500, a decrease of 4,500 from the previous week's revised average. This is the lowest level for this average since January 12, 1974 when it was 1,881,000. The previous week's average was revised up by 2,000 from 1,906,000 to 1,908,000.

Seasonally Adjusted Initial Claims
October 22, 2016 - October 21, 2017



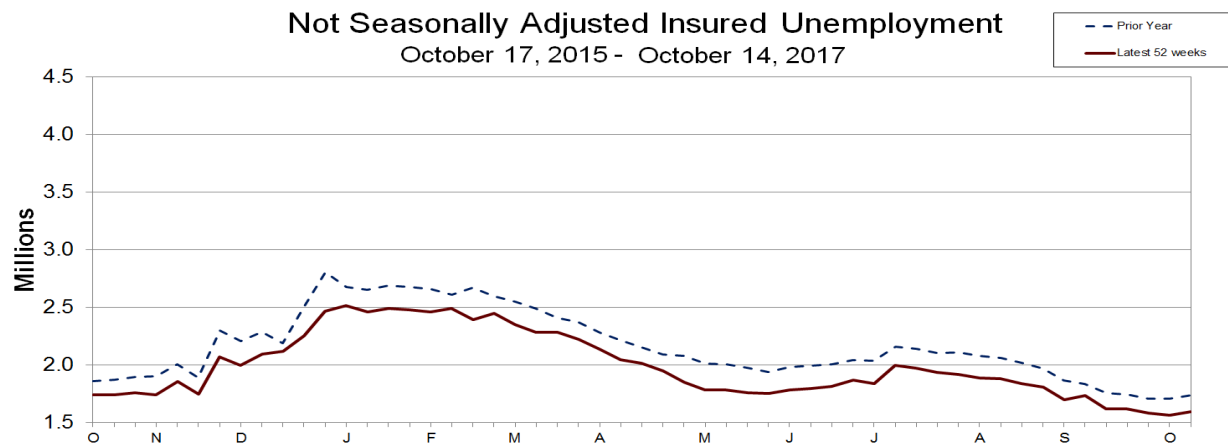
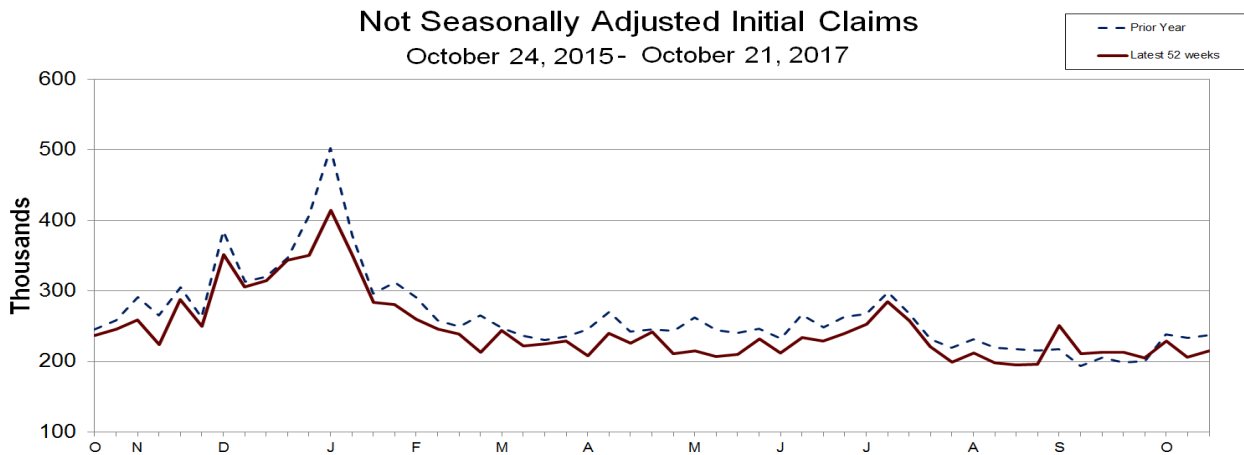
Seasonally Adjusted Insured Unemployment
October 15, 2016 - October 14, 2017



UNADJUSTED DATA

The advance number of actual initial claims under state programs, unadjusted, totaled 214,794 in the week ending October 21, an increase of 9,257 (or 4.5 percent) from the previous week. The seasonal factors had expected an increase of 223 (or 0.1 percent) from the previous week. There were 237,314 initial claims in the comparable week in 2016.

The advance unadjusted insured unemployment rate was 1.1 percent during the week ending October 14, unchanged from the prior week. The advance unadjusted number for persons claiming UI benefits in state programs totaled 1,597,654, an increase of 31,908 (or 2.0 percent) from the preceding week. The seasonal factors had expected an increase of 34,120 (or 2.2 percent) from the previous week. A year earlier the rate was 1.3 percent and the volume was 1,739,879.



The total number of people claiming benefits in all programs for the week ending October 7 was 1,596,193, a decrease of 15,883 from the previous week. There were 1,744,725 persons claiming benefits in all programs in the comparable week in 2016.

No state was triggered "on" the Extended Benefits program during the week ending October 7.

Initial claims for UI benefits filed by former Federal civilian employees totaled 1,235 in the week ending October 14, a decrease of 1,404 from the prior week. There were 714 initial claims filed by newly discharged veterans, a decrease of 275 from the preceding week.

There were 9,245 former Federal civilian employees claiming UI benefits for the week ending October 7, an increase of 1,058 from the previous week. Newly discharged veterans claiming benefits totaled 8,750, a decrease of 265 from the prior week.

The highest insured unemployment rates in the week ending October 7 were in Alaska (2.4), New Jersey (2.0), Connecticut (1.8), Puerto Rico (1.8), California (1.7), Pennsylvania (1.6), the District of Columbia (1.5), Illinois (1.5), Massachusetts (1.5), and Nevada (1.5).

The largest increases in initial claims for the week ending October 14 were in Puerto Rico (+1,708), Kentucky (+476), Tennessee (+118), Vermont (+71), and Wyoming (+29), while the largest decreases were in Florida (-2,547), Michigan (-2,271), Georgia (-1,919), Texas (-1,791), and Illinois (-1,751).

UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE DATA FOR REGULAR STATE PROGRAMS

WEEK ENDING	October 21	October 14	Change	October 7	<u>Prior Year</u>¹
Initial Claims (SA)	233,000	223,000	+10,000	244,000	255,000
Initial Claims (NSA)	214,794	205,537	+9,257	229,288	237,314
4-Wk Moving Average (SA)	239,500	248,500	-9,000	257,750	252,000
WEEK ENDING	October 14	October 7	Change	September 30	<u>Prior Year</u>¹
Insured Unemployment (SA)	1,893,000	1,896,000	-3,000	1,904,000	2,052,000
Insured Unemployment (NSA)	1,597,654	1,565,746	+31,908	1,582,555	1,739,879
4-Wk Moving Average (SA)	1,903,500	1,908,000	-4,500	1,928,750	2,061,250
<u>Insured Unemployment Rate (SA)</u> ²	1.3%	1.3%	0.0	1.4%	1.5%
<u>Insured Unemployment Rate (NSA)</u> ²	1.1%	1.1%	0.0	1.1%	1.3%

INITIAL CLAIMS FILED IN FEDERAL PROGRAMS (UNADJUSTED)

WEEK ENDING	October 14	October 7	Change	<u>Prior Year</u>¹
Federal Employees (UCFE)	1,235	2,639	-1,404	1,111
Newly Discharged Veterans (UCX)	714	989	-275	1,054

PERSONS CLAIMING UI BENEFITS IN ALL PROGRAMS (UNADJUSTED)

WEEK ENDING	October 7	September 30	Change	<u>Prior Year</u>¹
Regular State	1,563,107	1,580,244	-17,137	1,702,853
Federal Employees	9,245	8,187	+1,058	9,135
Newly Discharged Veterans	8,750	9,015	-265	13,275
<u>Extended Benefits</u> ³	0	0	0	0
<u>State Additional Benefits</u> ⁴	6,143	6,526	-383	6,977
<u>STC / Workshare</u> ⁵	8,948	8,104	+844	12,485
<u>TOTAL</u>	1,596,193	1,612,076	-15,883	1,744,725

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 October 21			Insured Unemployment For Week Ended October 14		
	Advance	Prior Wk	Change	Advance	Prior Wk	Change
Alabama	2,114	2,338	-224	16,172	16,392	-220
Alaska	1,497	1,228	269	7,785	7,289	496
Arizona	3,866	3,822	44	23,761	26,374	-2,613
Arkansas	1,613	1,801	-188	11,260	11,359	-99
California	42,347	40,977	1,370	303,373	283,405	19,968
Colorado	2,027	1,904	123	20,004	18,585	1,419
Connecticut	2,936	2,086	850	30,815	28,914	1,901
Delaware	540	496	44	4,592	4,281	311
District of Columbia	726	318	408	7,675	8,221	-546
Florida ^I	9,778	11,314	-1,536	45,874	48,373	-2,499
Georgia	6,135	5,384	751	27,252	27,412	-160
Hawaii	1,366	1,164	202	7,857	7,261	596
Idaho	983	1,017	-34	4,058	4,132	-74
Illinois	8,377	7,692	685	87,968	84,900	3,068
Indiana	2,610	2,520	90	13,741	13,013	728
Iowa	2,470	1,930	540	13,224	12,701	523
Kansas	1,689	1,649	40	10,901	11,177	-276
Kentucky	2,865	2,936	-71	15,635	16,393	-758
Louisiana	2,173	2,317	-144	16,601	18,450	-1,849
Maine	537	456	81	3,416	3,452	-36
Maryland	3,143	3,368	-225	27,367	29,840	-2,473
Massachusetts	4,953	4,671	282	51,470	52,267	-797
Michigan	6,075	5,865	210	40,493	38,830	1,663
Minnesota	3,161	3,188	-27	26,064	25,114	950
Mississippi	1,068	1,213	-145	8,168	8,994	-826
Missouri	3,888	4,202	-314	23,914	21,496	2,418
Montana	1,033	966	67	4,965	4,870	95
Nebraska	663	673	-10	3,942	3,904	38
Nevada	2,772	2,194	578	17,243	18,651	-1,408
New Hampshire	465	460	5	3,116	3,463	-347
New Jersey	8,524	8,010	514	81,253	77,189	4,064
New Mexico	879	820	59	8,929	9,186	-257
New York	14,760	13,487	1,273	123,167	120,420	2,747
North Carolina	3,004	2,845	159	18,860	20,022	-1,162
North Dakota	397	292	105	2,225	1,724	501
Ohio	6,053	5,823	230	43,955	43,350	605
Oklahoma	1,269	1,396	-127	13,491	13,970	-479
Oregon	3,960	3,229	731	23,433	23,313	120
Pennsylvania	12,393	11,352	1,041	95,632	89,585	6,047
Puerto Rico ^M	3,242	1,958	1,284	26,314	16,144	10,170
Rhode Island	779	731	48	6,275	6,031	244
South Carolina ^{**}	2,101	1,924	177	14,713	14,390	323
South Dakota	212	165	47	975	918	57
Tennessee	2,252	2,957	-705	17,660	17,212	448
Texas	14,909	14,865	44	130,327	145,286	-14,959
Utah	987	1,169	-182	7,189	7,040	149
Vermont	455	407	48	2,454	2,163	291
Virgin Islands ^{*IM}	278	677	-399	563	331	232
Virginia	2,912	2,639	273	23,620	22,572	1,048
Washington	6,454	5,662	792	45,710	43,858	1,852
West Virginia	798	850	-52	8,436	7,919	517
Wisconsin	3,740	3,701	39	21,574	21,502	72
Wyoming	566	429	137	2,193	2,108	85
US Total	214,794	205,537	9,257	1,597,654	1,565,746	31,908

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.

**Denotes OUI estimate.

^IAffected 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	
October 15, 2016	258	10	251.50	2,052	-12	2,061.25	1.5
October 22, 2016	255	-3	252.00	2,045	-7	2,056.00	1.5
October 29, 2016	261	6	255.50	2,050	5	2,052.75	1.5
November 5, 2016	250	-11	256.00	2,010	-40	2,039.25	1.5
November 12, 2016	239	-11	251.25	2,050	40	2,038.75	1.5
November 19, 2016	248	9	249.50	2,084	34	2,048.50	1.5
November 26, 2016	262	14	249.75	2,020	-64	2,041.00	1.5
December 3, 2016	251	-11	250.00	2,033	13	2,046.75	1.5
December 10, 2016	251	0	253.00	2,044	11	2,045.25	1.5
December 17, 2016	265	14	257.25	2,097	53	2,048.50	1.5
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	1,893	-3	1,903.50	1.3
October 21, 2017	233	10	239.50				

Initial Claims Filed During Week Ended October 14 INITIAL CLAIMS							Insured Unemployment For Week Ended October 7 INSURED UNEMPLOYMENT					
STATE	STATE	CHANGE FROM				STATE	CHANGE FROM	CHANGE FROM				ALL PROGRAMS EXCLUDING RAILROAD RETIREMENT
		LAST WEEK	YEAR AGO	UCFE ₁	UCX ₁			LAST WEEK	YEAR AGO	UCFE ₁	UCX ₁	
						(%) ₂						
Alabama	2338	-375	-544	12	15	16392	0.9	554	-3498	55	97	16544
Alaska	1228	-194	-233	8	2	7289	2.4	493	-1551	80	20	7389
Arizona	3822	-589	-200	18	1	26374	1.0	-855	-2760	116	70	26560
Arkansas	1801	-430	-74	8	6	11359	1.0	178	-1351	36	75	11470
California	40977	-911	-5033	158	121	283405	1.7	-16795	-18372	1725	1883	287013
Colorado	1904	-387	-359	27	14	18585	0.7	-55	-4243	122	246	18953
Connecticut	2086	-816	-764	7	8	28914	1.8	-762	-3298	48	70	29032
Delaware	496	-107	-63	2	0	4281	1.0	98	-604	6	10	4297
District of Columbia	318	-75	-33	8	1	8221	1.5	81	295	424	11	8656
Florida	11314	-2547	3315	31	42	48373	0.6	-2338	-1566	156	203	48732
Georgia	5384	-1919	-1383	45	23	27412	0.7	-404	-2503	258	252	27922
Hawaii	1164	-134	67	3	11	7261	1.2	150	243	69	110	7440
Idaho	1017	-74	-85	11	3	4132	0.6	145	-1332	30	4	4166
Illinois	7692	-1751	81	12	19	84900	1.5	183	-5170	369	211	85480
Indiana	2520	-193	-246	13	7	13013	0.4	-359	-5853	49	49	13111
Iowa	1930	-258	-254	5	3	12701	0.8	-303	-1908	37	37	12775
Kansas	1649	-159	-8	15	3	11177	0.8	-376	917	98	48	11323
Kentucky	2936	476	-5378	28	2	16393	0.9	1161	-1997	126	103	16622
Louisiana	2317	-92	-357	10	7	18450	1.0	-157	-5835	45	32	18527
Maine	456	-58	-162	0	0	3452	0.6	-45	-487	10	19	3481
Maryland	3368	-463	-9	22	13	29840	1.2	38	-2353	340	151	30331
Massachusetts	4671	-326	142	44	21	52267	1.5	363	-2200	210	182	52659
Michigan	5865	-2271	-4059	26	13	38830	0.9	-2103	-5397	92	129	39051
Minnesota	3188	13	-13	9	5	25114	0.9	-265	-1884	50	95	25259
Mississippi	1213	-142	-181	5	2	8994	0.8	283	-1877	27	35	9056
Missouri	4202	-20	504	89	2	21496	0.8	-3015	-1481	539	40	22075
Montana	966	-292	-249	31	6	4870	1.1	444	-635	65	27	4962
Nebraska	673	-104	-28	4	1	3904	0.4	112	247	12	12	3928
Nevada	2194	-473	-150	10	4	18651	1.5	289	-1965	63	80	18794
New Hampshire	460	-32	-7	4	0	3463	0.5	9	-292	6	7	3476
New Jersey	8010	-473	-1054	19	20	77189	2.0	-1726	-4287	162	322	77673
New Mexico	820	-189	-139	17	3	9186	1.2	138	-1805	124	70	9380
New York	13487	-885	-3546	124	35	120420	1.3	743	-7053	559	474	121453
North Carolina	2845	-285	-2788	9	19	20022	0.5	283	-2394	89	163	20274
North Dakota	292	-75	-59	0	3	1724	0.4	1	-675	6	3	1733
Ohio	5823	-1510	-348	14	28	43350	0.8	-3108	-3784	176	238	43764
Oklahoma	1396	-192	-136	13	9	13970	0.9	4	-5654	73	91	14134
Oregon	3229	-860	-909	51	11	23313	1.3	688	-1176	176	109	23598
Pennsylvania	11352	-1284	-1366	109	29	89585	1.6	-897	-12773	447	325	90357
Puerto Rico	1958	1708	267	0	0	16144	1.8	-3283	-6399	29	12	16185
Rhode Island	731	-48	-30	4	1	6031	1.3	-148	-685	31	23	6085
South Carolina	1924	-803	-1364	7	11	14390	0.7	91	41	76	9	14475
South Dakota	165	-52	-60	6	0	918	0.2	34	-260	18	4	940
Tennessee	2957	118	189	11	2	17212	0.6	140	869	402	65	17679
Texas	14865	-1791	252	82	115	145286	1.2	11383	-9538	635	1382	147303
Utah	1169	-252	143	43	0	7040	0.5	286	-667	328	18	7386
Vermont	407	71	-164	4	1	2163	0.7	-44	-445	7	3	2173
Virgin Islands	677	-477	630	0	0	331	0.9	168	-515	0	0	331
Virginia	2639	-374	-291	27	27	22572	0.6	-47	-390	308	388	23268
Washington	5662	-692	-708	18	38	43858	1.4	1228	4106	219	666	44743
West Virginia	850	-203	-67	1	2	7919	1.2	251	-3285	45	31	7995
Wisconsin	3701	-529	-681	9	4	21502	0.8	301	-3513	57	33	21592
Wyoming	429	29	-104	2	1	2108	0.8	-44	-1964	15	13	2136
Totals	205537	-23751	-28096	1235	714	1565746	1.1	-16809	-140956	9245	8750	1583741

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 OCTOBER 14, 2017

STATES WITH AN INCREASE OF MORE THAN 1,000

State	Change	State Supplied Comment
PR	+1,708	No comment.

STATES WITH A DECREASE OF MORE THAN 1,000

State	Change	State Supplied Comment
FL	-2,547	Fewer layoffs in the agriculture, forestry, fishing and hunting, construction, manufacturing, wholesale trade, retail trade, and service industries.
MI	-2,271	Fewer layoffs in the wholesale trade industry.
GA	-1,919	Fewer layoffs in the manufacturing, administrative, support, waste management and remediation service, retail trade, health care and social assistance, and construction industries.
TX	-1,791	No comment.
IL	-1,751	No comment.
OH	-1,510	No comment.
PA	-1,284	Fewer layoffs in the administrative, support, waste management and remediation service, accommodation and food service, professional, scientific and technical service, and arts, entertainment, and recreation 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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