



News Release

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

UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE WEEKLY CLAIMS

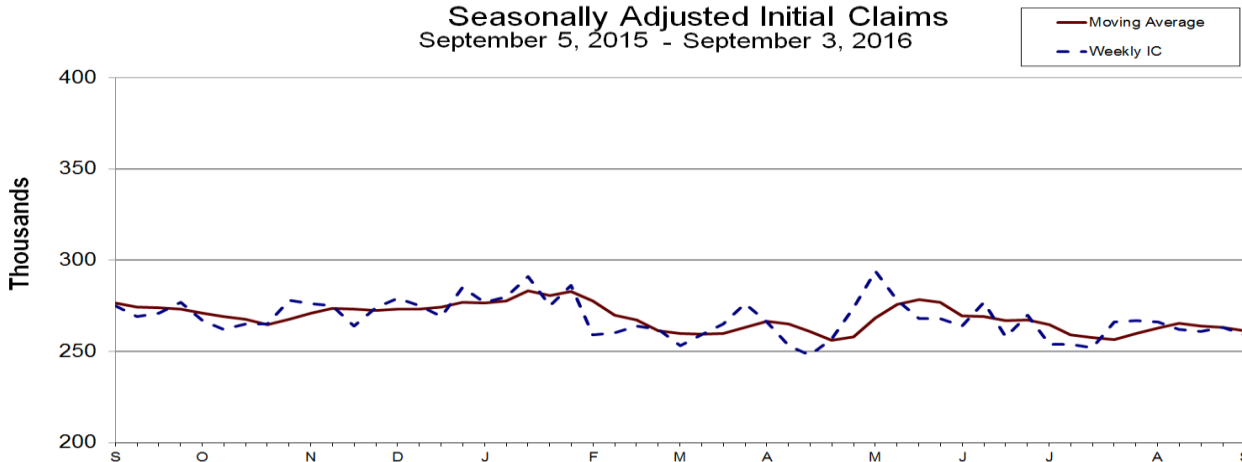
SEASONALLY ADJUSTED DATA

In the week ending September 3, the advance figure for seasonally adjusted **initial claims** was 259,000, a decrease of 4,000 from the previous week's unrevised level of 263,000. The 4-week moving average was 261,250, a decrease of 1,750 from the previous week's unrevised average of 263,000.

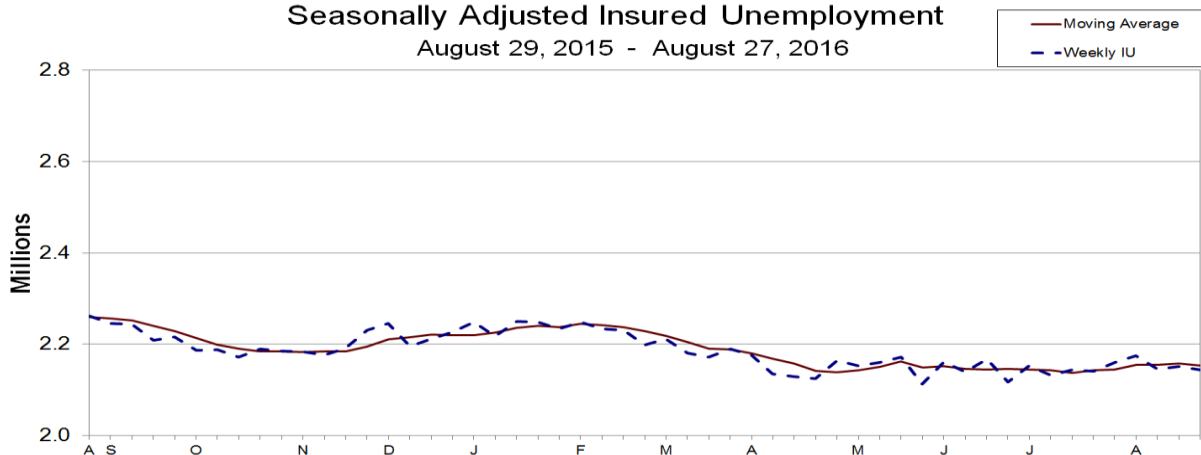
There were no special factors impacting this week's initial claims. This marks 79 consecutive weeks of initial claims below 300,000, the longest streak since 1970.

The advance seasonally adjusted **insured unemployment rate** was 1.6 percent for the week ending August 27, unchanged from the previous week's unrevised rate. The advance number for seasonally adjusted **insured unemployment** during the week ending August 27 was 2,144,000, a decrease of 7,000 from the previous week's revised level. The previous week's level was revised down by 8,000 from 2,159,000 to 2,151,000. The 4-week moving average was 2,153,750, a decrease of 4,000 from the previous week's revised average. The previous week's average was revised down by 2,000 from 2,159,750 to 2,157,750.

Seasonally Adjusted Initial Claims
September 5, 2015 - September 3, 2016



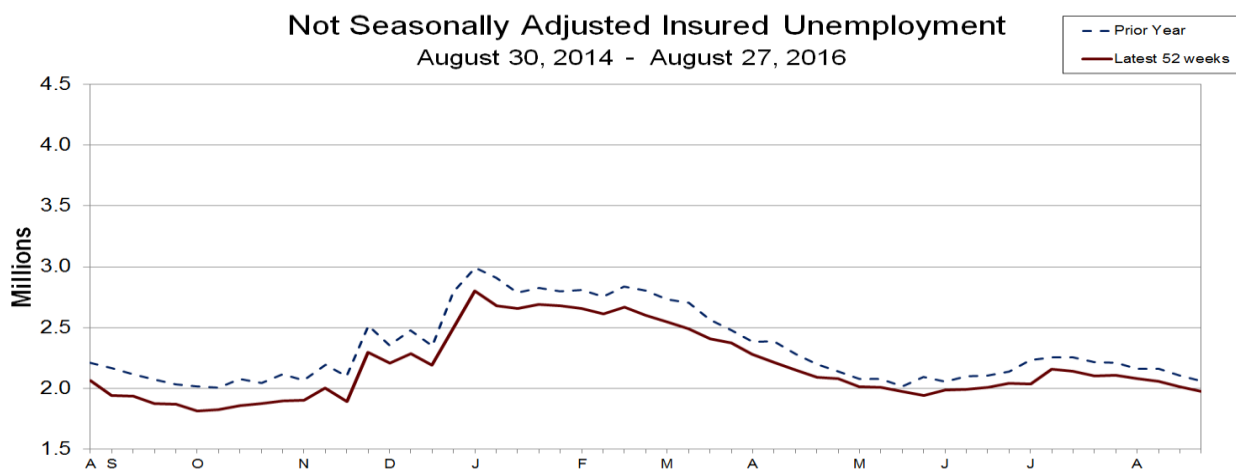
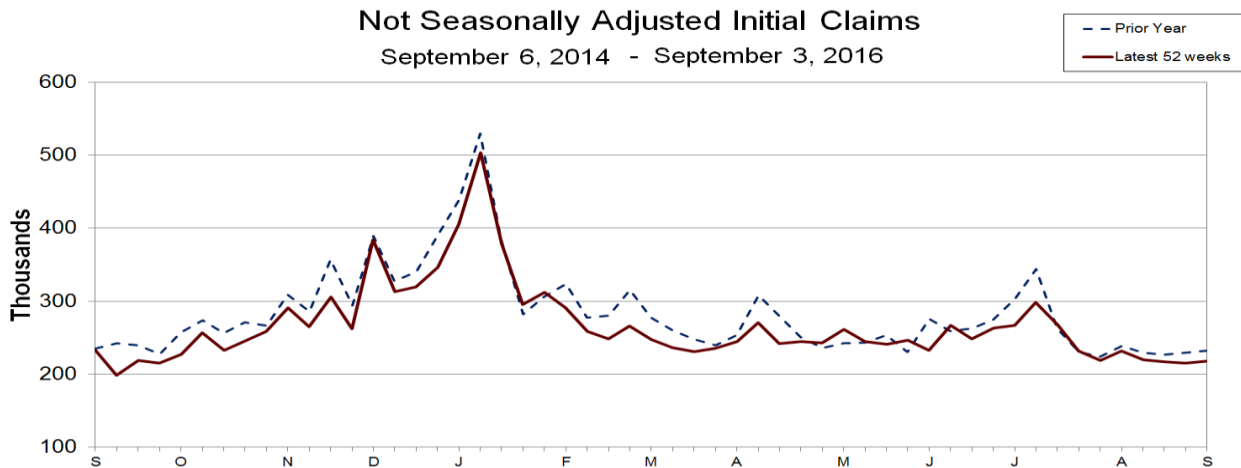
Seasonally Adjusted Insured Unemployment
August 29, 2015 - August 27, 2016



UNADJUSTED DATA

The advance number of actual initial claims under state programs, unadjusted, totaled 218,300 in the week ending September 3, an increase of 3,151 (or 1.5 percent) from the previous week. The seasonal factors had expected an increase of 6,042 (or 2.8 percent) from the previous week. There were 232,507 initial claims in the comparable week in 2015.

The advance unadjusted insured unemployment rate was 1.4 percent during the week ending August 27, a decrease of 0.1 percentage point from the prior week. The advance unadjusted number for persons claiming UI benefits in state programs totaled 1,974,691, a decrease of 40,666 (or -2.0 percent) from the preceding week. The seasonal factors had expected a decrease of 34,414 (or -1.7 percent) from the previous week. A year earlier the rate was 1.5 percent and the volume was 2,061,930.



The total number of people claiming benefits in all programs for the week ending August 20 was 2,054,736, a decrease of 45,845 from the previous week. There were 2,153,629 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 August 20.

Initial claims for UI benefits filed by former Federal civilian employees totaled 1,235 in the week ending August 27, an increase of 385 from the prior week. There were 1,071 initial claims filed by newly discharged veterans, a decrease of 60 from the preceding week.

There were 8,505 former Federal civilian employees claiming UI benefits for the week ending August 20, an increase of 258 from the previous week. Newly discharged veterans claiming benefits totaled 13,376, an increase of 8 from the prior week.

The highest insured unemployment rates in the week ending August 20 were in Connecticut (2.7), New Jersey (2.7), Puerto Rico (2.7), Alaska (2.6), Pennsylvania (2.4), California (2.2), Rhode Island (2.1), Massachusetts (2.0), West Virginia (2.0), and Wyoming (1.9).

The largest increases in initial claims for the week ending August 27 were in New York (+4,913), California (+1,628), Georgia (+510), Hawaii (+353), and Iowa (+302), while the largest decreases were in Michigan (-1,101), Texas (-942), Pennsylvania (-880), Florida (-708), and Puerto Rico (-700).

UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE DATA FOR REGULAR STATE PROGRAMS

WEEK ENDING	September 3	August 27	Change	August 20	<u>Prior Year¹</u>
Initial Claims (SA)	259,000	263,000	-4,000	261,000	275,000
Initial Claims (NSA)	218,300	215,149	+3,151	217,014	232,507
4-Wk Moving Average (SA)	261,250	263,000	-1,750	264,000	276,500
WEEK ENDING	August 27	August 20	Change	August 13	<u>Prior Year¹</u>
Insured Unemployment (SA)	2,144,000	2,151,000	-7,000	2,145,000	2,261,000
Insured Unemployment (NSA)	1,974,691	2,015,357	-40,666	2,061,724	2,061,930
4-Wk Moving Average (SA)	2,153,750	2,157,750	-4,000	2,155,250	2,260,000
<u>Insured Unemployment Rate (SA)²</u>	1.6%	1.6%	0.0	1.6%	1.7%
<u>Insured Unemployment Rate (NSA)²</u>	1.4%	1.5%	-0.1	1.5%	1.5%

INITIAL CLAIMS FILED IN FEDERAL PROGRAMS (UNADJUSTED)

WEEK ENDING	August 27	August 20	Change	<u>Prior Year¹</u>
Federal Employees (UCFE)	1,235	850	+385	1,825
Newly Discharged Veterans (UCX)	1,071	1,131	-60	1,378

PERSONS CLAIMING UI BENEFITS IN ALL PROGRAMS (UNADJUSTED)

WEEK ENDING	August 20	August 13	Change	<u>Prior Year¹</u>
Regular State	2,010,511	2,056,941	-46,430	2,103,702
Federal Employees	8,505	8,247	+258	10,267
Newly Discharged Veterans	13,376	13,368	+8	18,271
<u>Extended Benefits³</u>	0	0	0	0
<u>State Additional Benefits⁴</u>	6,409	6,227	+182	6,361
<u>STC / Workshare⁵</u>	15,935	15,798	+137	15,028
<u>TOTAL</u>	2,054,736	2,100,581	-45,845	2,153,629

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 3			Insured Unemployment For Week Ended August 27		
	Advance	Prior Wk	Change	Advance	Prior Wk	Change
**Alabama	2,438	2,560	-122	20,878	21,406	-528
Alaska	1,342	980	362	8,067	8,117	-50
Arizona	3,878	3,970	-92	31,034	35,837	-4,803
Arkansas	1,591	1,955	-364	14,618	16,075	-1,457
California	40,290	40,404	-114	342,530	359,363	-16,833
Colorado	2,053	2,011	42	25,434	24,513	921
Connecticut	2,854	2,899	-45	44,753	44,554	199
Delaware	474	463	11	6,283	6,328	-45
District of Columbia	557	300	257	8,131	8,464	-333
Florida	7,143	7,339	-196	49,304	49,205	99
Georgia	5,520	5,937	-417	28,578	30,658	-2,080
**Hawaii	1,378	1,339	39	7,064	7,141	-77
Idaho	826	870	-44	5,069	6,184	-1,115
Illinois	12,477	8,493	3,984	105,051	104,914	137
Indiana	2,840	2,711	129	20,209	20,664	-455
Iowa	2,556	1,951	605	17,229	16,960	269
Kansas	2,068	1,874	194	11,733	11,667	66
Kentucky	2,390	2,292	98	20,630	20,356	274
Louisiana	3,095	4,679	-1,584	28,237	26,987	1,250
Maine	539	522	17	4,261	4,907	-646
Maryland	3,008	3,204	-196	33,006	38,389	-5,383
Massachusetts	4,770	4,721	49	65,921	67,806	-1,885
Michigan	5,391	7,769	-2,378	50,208	50,070	138
**Minnesota	2,718	2,627	91	29,406	29,351	55
Mississippi	1,159	1,476	-317	11,294	13,642	-2,348
Missouri	3,697	3,679	18	24,848	29,120	-4,272
Montana	654	662	-8	4,797	5,318	-521
Nebraska	714	813	-99	4,095	3,989	106
Nevada	2,631	2,502	129	20,215	21,776	-1,561
New Hampshire	436	492	-56	4,344	4,830	-486
New Jersey	7,489	8,209	-720	106,341	105,516	825
*New Mexico	1,217	939	278	11,548	11,285	263
New York	15,915	19,075	-3,160	162,575	161,201	1,374
North Carolina	3,828	3,403	425	24,055	26,041	-1,986
North Dakota	447	314	133	4,330	3,648	682
Ohio	6,609	5,970	639	51,772	54,196	-2,424
Oklahoma	1,780	1,686	94	20,946	22,081	-1,135
Oregon	3,408	3,648	-240	26,165	26,698	-533
Pennsylvania	15,250	13,579	1,671	134,887	132,089	2,798
*Puerto Rico	1,876	1,463	413	23,582	24,222	-640
Rhode Island	803	811	-8	9,656	9,842	-186
South Carolina	2,241	2,540	-299	15,600	16,826	-1,226
South Dakota	171	163	8	1,198	1,349	-151
Tennessee	2,311	2,386	-75	17,418	18,935	-1,517
Texas	15,765	14,268	1,497	183,153	180,016	3,137
Utah	1,125	1,038	87	8,178	8,453	-275
Vermont	344	385	-41	3,653	3,870	-217
Virgin Islands	81	81	0	636	662	-26
*Virginia	3,533	2,792	741	28,793	26,882	1,911
Washington	6,556	5,165	1,391	42,919	42,406	513
West Virginia	912	1,013	-101	13,492	13,580	-88
Wisconsin	4,734	4,323	411	31,318	31,809	-491
Wyoming	418	404	14	5,249	5,159	90
US Total	218,300	215,149	3,151	1,974,691	2,015,357	-40,666

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	
August 29, 2015	281	9	276.00	2,261	2	2,260.00	1.7
September 5, 2015	275	-6	276.50	2,246	-15	2,256.25	1.7
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	2,151	6	2,157.75	1.6
August 27, 2016	263	2	263.00	2,144	-7	2,153.75	1.6
September 3, 2016	259	-4	261.25				

Initial Claims Filed During Week Ended August

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Insured Unemployment For Week Ended August 20

STATE	INITIAL CLAIMS 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	2560	-94	-618	20	17	21406	1.2	-838	-1240	97	137	21640
Alaska	980	-131	-11	2	2	8117	2.6	-160	930	70	46	8233
Arizona	3970	-121	173	9	7	35837	1.4	-963	-1460	93	173	36103
Arkansas	1955	-284	-442	4	9	16075	1.4	-329	-3617	53	98	16226
California	40404	1628	-1193	198	176	359363	2.2	10550	3884	1923	2719	364005
Colorado	2011	20	-248	18	32	24513	1.0	-1567	-1621	141	542	25196
Connecticut	2899	-351	-49	12	5	44554	2.7	33	596	63	95	44712
Delaware	463	-27	-146	1	3	6328	1.5	-136	-449	15	16	6359
District of Columbia	300	-43	-47	6	0	8464	1.6	-443	-636	262	11	8737
Florida	7339	-708	-1373	29	76	49205	0.6	-9062	-17880	140	295	49640
Georgia	5937	510	-66	29	62	30658	0.8	-159	-6264	186	401	31245
Hawaii	1339	353	-45	1	15	7141	1.2	412	-134	76	144	7361
Idaho	870	-160	-22	2	4	6184	0.9	-47	-233	19	46	6249
Illinois	8493	-249	-1081	17	9	104914	1.8	-5349	-4898	369	370	105653
Indiana	2711	-263	-964	12	6	20664	0.7	-5	-922	51	81	20796
Iowa	1951	302	-169	2	11	16960	1.1	-638	-962	31	64	17055
Kansas	1874	168	20	7	12	11667	0.9	-299	-384	46	84	11797
Kentucky	2292	-36	-309	44	7	20356	1.1	-1213	-599	213	270	20839
Louisiana	4679	-305	2237	1	4	26987	1.4	1061	1634	60	51	27098
Maine	522	-34	-93	3	0	4907	0.8	-227	-706	26	21	4954
Maryland	3204	-165	-150	34	14	38389	1.6	-1093	-2443	263	212	38864
Massachusetts	4721	-139	-105	108	21	67806	2.0	93	-1092	165	275	68246
Michigan	7769	-1101	2555	11	14	50070	1.2	-5760	-3593	97	203	50370
Minnesota	2627	-204	-699	4	7	29351	1.1	-1170	-1232	52	114	29517
Mississippi	1476	-116	-185	3	3	13642	1.3	-789	-1189	52	51	13745
Missouri	3679	-294	-354	73	7	29120	1.1	-4781	-633	326	126	29572
Montana	662	53	-130	9	10	5318	1.2	-396	-242	33	25	5376
Nebraska	813	120	101	1	1	3989	0.4	-621	-1439	17	13	4019
Nevada	2502	137	-481	3	11	21776	1.8	21	-3966	65	112	21953
New Hampshire	492	-80	-69	2	1	4830	0.8	9	-443	2	12	4844
New Jersey	8209	-622	808	11	31	105516	2.7	-280	-6028	253	381	106150
New Mexico	939	-36	-81	2	5	11285	1.5	-1525	-341	82	68	11435
New York	19075	4913	-1891	39	36	161201	1.8	3482	-9957	398	588	162187
North Carolina	3403	-83	-368	12	34	26041	0.6	-694	-5574	114	324	26479
North Dakota	314	-501	13	1	1	3648	0.9	107	920	52	8	3708
Ohio	5970	-557	-1707	35	48	54196	1.0	-1846	117	105	323	54624
Oklahoma	1686	-136	-310	6	13	22081	1.4	-1435	278	62	131	22274
Oregon	3648	-78	-1059	22	20	26698	1.5	86	-2990	154	165	27017
Pennsylvania	13579	-880	-1352	232	45	132089	2.4	-7236	-2765	495	481	133065
Puerto Rico	1463	-700	69	0	13	24222	2.7	-2095	-6422	82	130	24434
Rhode Island	811	-285	-90	2	3	9842	2.1	8	-304	12	18	9872
South Carolina	2540	85	-37	8	18	16826	0.9	-720	-279	42	148	17016
South Dakota	163	-16	-23	1	1	1349	0.3	-58	89	85	2	1436
Tennessee	2386	-100	-960	8	3	18935	0.7	-530	-6346	49	80	19064
Texas	14268	-942	-1657	96	142	180016	1.6	-5036	6961	791	2323	183130
Utah	1038	16	-120	56	6	8453	0.6	-154	-617	150	22	8625
Vermont	385	-4	38	3	0	3870	1.3	-126	91	9	5	3884
Virgin Islands	81	36	20	0	0	662	1.8	36	-130	2	6	670
Virginia	2792	-42	-294	8	13	26882	0.8	-2114	-324	263	451	27596
Washington	5165	-277	-596	16	76	42406	1.4	-360	-1516	173	767	43346
West Virginia	1013	34	-174	2	5	13580	2.0	-297	-214	40	54	13674
Wisconsin	4323	-105	-1254	8	10	31809	1.2	-1679	-7095	68	67	31944
Wyoming	404	29	58	2	2	5159	1.9	-35	935	18	27	5204
Totals	215149	-1865	-14930	1235	1071	2015357	1.5	-46367	-92744	8505	13376	2037238

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 AUGUST 27, 2016

STATES WITH AN INCREASE OF MORE THAN 1,000

State	Change	State Supplied Comment
NY	+4,913	Layoffs in the transportation and warehousing, educational service, and art, entertainment and recreation industries.
CA	+1,628	No comment.

STATES WITH A DECREASE OF MORE THAN 1,000

State	Change	State Supplied Comment
MI	-1,101	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](#)

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