



News Release

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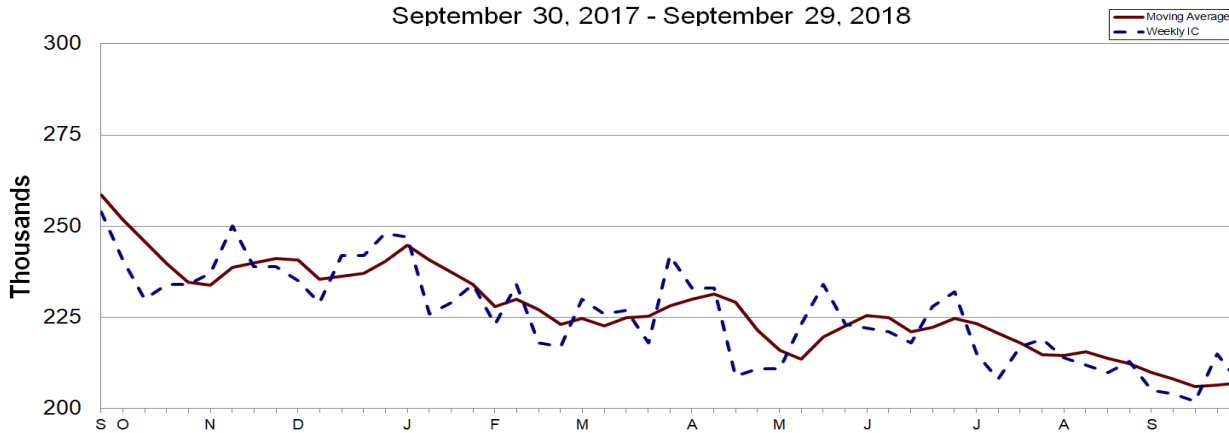
UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE WEEKLY CLAIMS

SEASONALLY ADJUSTED DATA

In the week ending September 29, the advance figure for seasonally adjusted **initial claims** was 207,000, a decrease of 8,000 from the previous week's revised level. The previous week's level was revised up by 1,000 from 214,000 to 215,000. The 4-week moving average was 207,000, an increase of 500 from the previous week's revised average. The previous week's average was revised up by 250 from 206,250 to 206,500.

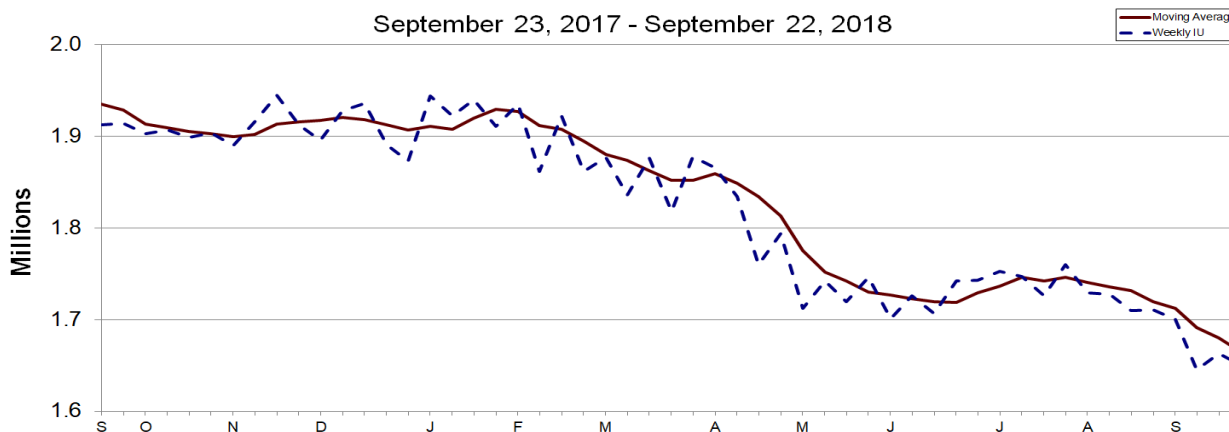
The advance seasonally adjusted **insured unemployment rate** was 1.2 percent for the week ending September 22, unchanged from the previous week's unrevised rate. The advance number for seasonally adjusted **insured unemployment** during the week ending September 22 was 1,650,000, a decrease of 13,000 from the previous week's revised level. The previous week's level was revised up 2,000 from 1,661,000 to 1,663,000. The 4-week moving average was 1,664,500, a decrease of 15,250 from the previous week's revised average. This is the lowest level for this average since October 27, 1973 when it was 1,664,250. The previous week's average was revised up by 500 from 1,679,250 to 1,679,750.

Seasonally Adjusted Initial Claims
September 30, 2017 - September 29, 2018



Seasonally Adjusted Insured Unemployment

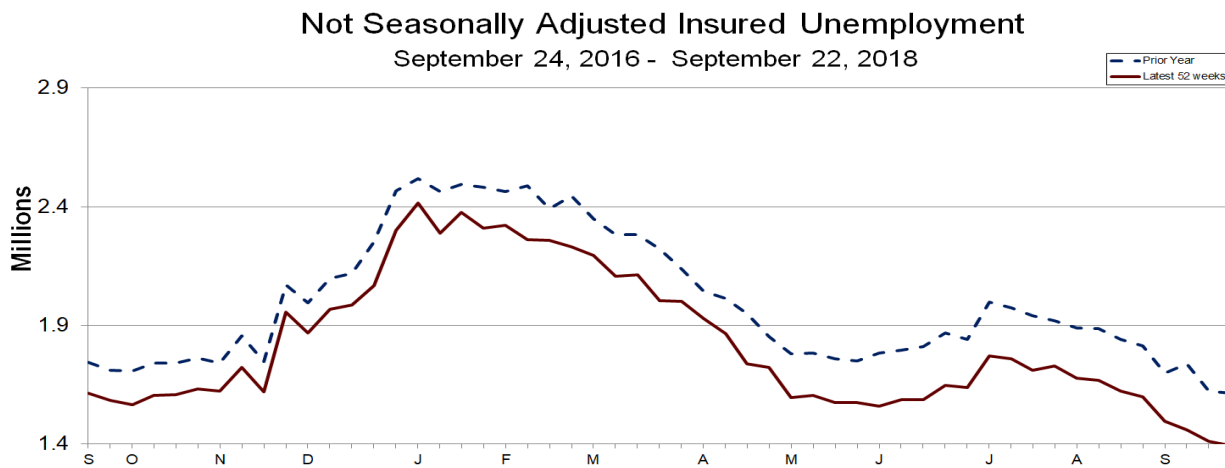
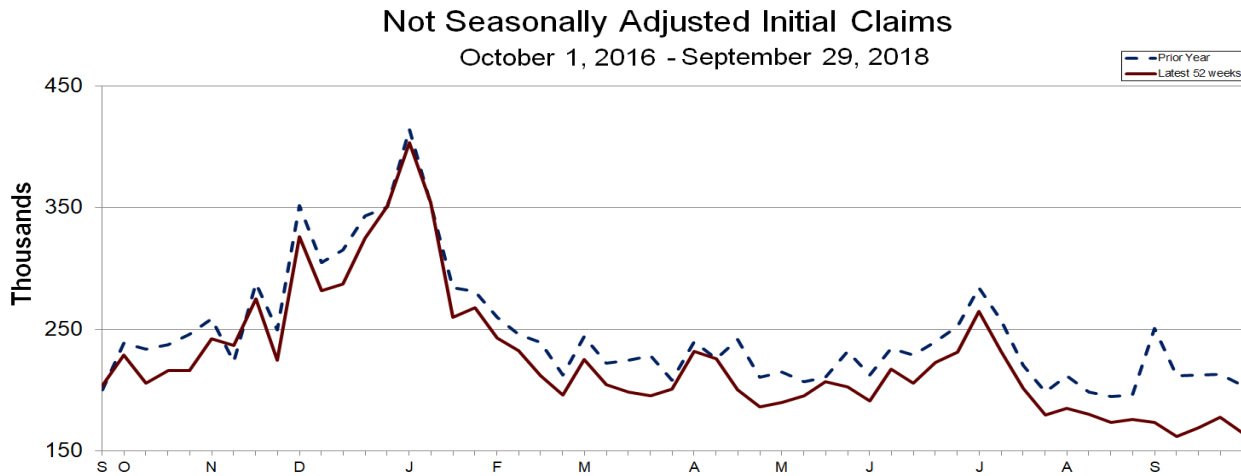
September 23, 2017 - September 22, 2018



UNADJUSTED DATA

The advance number of actual initial claims under state programs, unadjusted, totaled 165,215 in the week ending September 29, a decrease of 12,358 (or -7.0 percent) from the previous week. The seasonal factors had expected a decrease of 6,227 (or -3.5 percent) from the previous week. There were 204,180 initial claims in the comparable week in 2017.

The advance unadjusted insured unemployment rate was 1.0 percent during the week ending September 22, unchanged from the prior week. The advance unadjusted number for persons claiming UI benefits in state programs totaled 1,392,477, a decrease of 18,166 (or -1.3 percent) from the preceding week. The seasonal factors had expected a decrease of 6,654 (or -0.5 percent) from the previous week. A year earlier the rate was 1.2 percent and the volume was 1,614,906.



The total number of people claiming benefits in all programs for the week ending September 15 was 1,435,132, a decrease of 50,031 from the previous week. There were 1,653,837 persons claiming benefits in all programs in the comparable week in 2017.

No state was triggered "on" the Extended Benefits program during the week ending September 15.

Initial claims for UI benefits filed by former Federal civilian employees totaled 606 in the week ending September 22, an increase of 64 from the prior week. There were 562 initial claims filed by newly discharged veterans, a decrease of 42 from the preceding week.

There were 7,332 former Federal civilian employees claiming UI benefits for the week ending September 15, an increase of 44 from the previous week. Newly discharged veterans claiming benefits totaled 7,503, an increase of 269 from the prior week.

The highest insured unemployment rates in the week ending September 15 were in New Jersey (1.9), Alaska (1.7), California (1.7), Connecticut (1.6), Puerto Rico (1.6), Pennsylvania (1.5), Nevada (1.4), the District of Columbia (1.3), Illinois (1.3), and Rhode Island (1.3).

The largest increases in initial claims for the week ending September 22 were in North Carolina (+7,910), Kentucky (+4,469), South Carolina (+2,380), California (+945), and Michigan (+377), while the largest decreases were in Georgia (-1,185), New Jersey (-878), Texas (-863), New York (-760), and Pennsylvania (-726).

UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE DATA FOR REGULAR STATE PROGRAMS

WEEK ENDING	September 29	September 22	Change	September 15	<u>Prior Year</u>¹
Initial Claims (SA)	207,000	215,000	-8,000	202,000	254,000
Initial Claims (NSA)	165,215	177,573	-12,358	169,155	204,180
4-Wk Moving Average (SA)	207,000	206,500	+500	206,000	258,500
WEEK ENDING	September 22	September 15	Change	September 8	<u>Prior Year</u>¹
Insured Unemployment (SA)	1,650,000	1,663,000	-13,000	1,645,000	1,913,000
Insured Unemployment (NSA)	1,392,477	1,410,643	-18,166	1,460,668	1,614,906
4-Wk Moving Average (SA)	1,664,500	1,679,750	-15,250	1,691,500	1,935,250
<u>Insured Unemployment Rate (SA)</u> ²	1.2%	1.2%	0.0	1.2%	1.4%
<u>Insured Unemployment Rate (NSA)</u> ²	1.0%	1.0%	0.0	1.0%	1.2%

INITIAL CLAIMS FILED IN FEDERAL PROGRAMS (UNADJUSTED)

WEEK ENDING	September 22	September 15	Change	<u>Prior Year</u>¹
Federal Employees (UCFE)	606	542	+64	675
Newly Discharged Veterans (UCX)	562	604	-42	666

PERSONS CLAIMING UI BENEFITS IN ALL PROGRAMS (UNADJUSTED)

WEEK ENDING	September 15	September 8	Change	<u>Prior Year</u>¹
Regular State	1,409,141	1,458,979	-49,838	1,619,851
Federal Employees	7,332	7,288	+44	8,327
Newly Discharged Veterans	7,503	7,234	+269	9,346
<u>Extended Benefits</u> ³	0	2	-2	0
<u>State Additional Benefits</u> ⁴	5,413	5,402	+11	6,451
<u>STC / Workshare</u> ⁵	5,743	6,258	-515	9,862
<u>TOTAL</u>	1,435,132	1,485,163	-50,031	1,653,837

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 141,951,699 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 29			Insured Unemployment For Week Ended September 22		
	Advance	Prior Wk	Change	Advance	Prior Wk	Change
Alabama	1,933	1,961	-28	14,525	14,766	-241
Alaska	1,094	947	147	5,478	5,308	170
Arizona	3,076	3,275	-199	22,362	26,035	-3,673
Arkansas	1,030	1,130	-100	8,305	9,406	-1,101
California	33,849	34,363	-514	289,919	282,235	7,684
Colorado	1,510	1,605	-95	16,911	16,630	281
Connecticut	1,981	2,120	-139	27,619	26,802	817
Delaware	402	503	-101	3,817	3,787	30
District of Columbia	486	379	107	6,946	7,276	-330
Florida	5,500	5,901	-401	35,508	39,812	-4,304
Georgia	4,135	4,417	-282	21,926	23,535	-1,609
Hawaii	1,141	1,217	-76	6,688	6,447	241
Idaho	650	758	-108	3,297	3,433	-136
Illinois	6,703	6,182	521	73,097	75,754	-2,657
Indiana	1,853	2,010	-157	12,989	12,786	203
Iowa	1,735	1,428	307	11,761	11,496	265
Kansas	1,197	1,215	-18	7,393	7,545	-152
Kentucky	1,721	6,364	-4,643	17,833	15,847	1,986
Louisiana	1,710	1,836	-126	14,110	15,785	-1,675
Maine	302	385	-83	3,078	3,467	-389
Maryland	2,763	2,775	-12	22,535	25,290	-2,755
Massachusetts	3,830	3,963	-133	42,073	43,201	-1,128
Michigan	4,407	4,538	-131	33,135	36,047	-2,912
Minnesota	2,569	2,282	287	22,961	22,180	781
Mississippi	733	821	-88	5,971	6,747	-776
Missouri	2,220	2,430	-210	17,122	17,501	-379
Montana	670	592	78	3,511	3,433	78
Nebraska	552	514	38	3,105	3,122	-17
Nevada	1,924	1,951	-27	16,447	17,662	-1,215
New Hampshire	388	370	18	2,668	3,025	-357
New Jersey	6,837	7,122	-285	74,802	76,422	-1,620
New Mexico	582	663	-81	7,449	7,696	-247
New York	11,011	11,815	-804	105,447	110,260	-4,813
North Carolina ^F	5,301	10,084	-4,783	18,521	19,130	-609
North Dakota	223	201	22	1,477	1,314	163
Ohio	4,717	4,239	478	37,402	38,055	-653
Oklahoma	1,089	1,216	-127	11,283	11,759	-476
Oregon	2,909	3,350	-441	20,964	21,359	-395
Pennsylvania	9,360	9,792	-432	87,048	85,752	1,296
Puerto Rico	817	972	-155	13,720	13,997	-277
Rhode Island	638	667	-29	6,019	6,182	-163
South Carolina ^F	4,782	3,843	939	14,456	15,098	-642
South Dakota	130	136	-6	765	757	8
Tennessee	1,839	1,789	50	14,753	15,970	-1,217
Texas	10,545	10,994	-449	111,175	107,078	4,097
Utah	927	810	117	6,126	6,515	-389
Vermont	261	267	-6	2,234	2,140	94
Virgin Islands	56	54	2	472	442	30
Virginia	2,376	2,360	16	18,555	18,646	-91
Washington	4,939	5,059	-120	39,461	38,978	483
West Virginia	587	636	-49	7,100	6,584	516
Wisconsin	2,987	3,038	-51	18,763	18,871	-108
Wyoming	238	234	4	1,395	1,278	117
US Total	165,215	177,573	-12,358	1,392,477	1,410,643	-18,166

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.

^F Affected by Hurricane Florence.

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 23, 2017	258	3	268.25	1,913	-10	1,935.25	1.4
September 30, 2017	254	-4	258.50	1,914	1	1,928.75	1.4
October 7, 2017	241	-13	252.00	1,903	-11	1,913.25	1.4
October 14, 2017	230	-11	245.75	1,907	4	1,909.25	1.4
October 21, 2017	234	4	239.75	1,899	-8	1,905.75	1.4
October 28, 2017	234	0	234.75	1,904	5	1,903.25	1.4
November 4, 2017	237	3	233.75	1,890	-14	1,900.00	1.3
November 11, 2017	250	13	238.75	1,916	26	1,902.25	1.4
November 18, 2017	239	-11	240.00	1,945	29	1,913.75	1.4
November 25, 2017	239	0	241.25	1,913	-32	1,916.00	1.4
December 2, 2017	235	-4	240.75	1,896	-17	1,917.50	1.3
December 9, 2017	229	-6	235.50	1,928	32	1,920.50	1.4
December 16, 2017	242	13	236.25	1,936	8	1,918.25	1.4
December 23, 2017	242	0	237.00	1,891	-45	1,912.75	1.3
December 30, 2017	248	6	240.25	1,873	-18	1,907.00	1.3
January 6, 2018	247	-1	244.75	1,944	71	1,911.00	1.4
January 13, 2018	226	-21	240.75	1,922	-22	1,907.50	1.4
January 20, 2018	229	3	237.50	1,940	18	1,919.75	1.4
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	227.25	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	1,650	-13	1,664.50	1.2
September 29, 2018	207	-8	207.00				

STATE NAME	INITIAL CLAIMS FILED DURING WEEK ENDED SEPTEMBER 22					INSURED UNEMPLOYMENT FOR WEEK ENDED SEPTEMBER 15					ALL PROGRAMS EXCLUDING RAILROAD RETIREMENT	
	STATE	CHANGE FROM				STATE	CHANGE FROM					
		LAST WEEK	YEAR AGO	UCFE ¹	UCX ¹		(%) ²	LAST WEEK	YEAR AGO	UCFE ¹		UCX ¹
Alabama	1961	-46	-291	11	9	14766	0.8	-441	-1684	57	79	14902
Alaska	947	110	-101	6	3	5308	1.7	39	-1154	47	14	5369
Arizona	3275	-84	-421	5	2	26035	1.0	-588	-2653	89	59	26183
Arkansas	1130	-159	-150	4	4	9406	0.8	-559	-2291	39	48	9493
California	34363	945	-5008	127	105	282235	1.7	-4923	-27907	1615	1630	285480
Colorado	1605	60	-4	5	19	16630	0.7	-250	-2406	91	240	16961
Connecticut	2120	-146	-633	3	7	26802	1.6	-813	-3570	33	72	26907
Delaware	503	13	53	3	1	3787	0.9	-119	-380	14	9	3810
District of Columbia	379	-4	69	8	0	7276	1.3	-182	-917	279	9	7564
Florida	5901	-207	-12576	22	28	39812	0.5	-1245	-7301	147	159	40118
Georgia	4417	-1185	-3713	23	30	23535	0.6	-1428	-4579	158	248	23941
Hawaii	1217	39	119	0	4	6447	1.0	-216	-696	61	68	6576
Idaho	758	-29	-125	4	1	3433	0.5	-54	-533	10	12	3455
Illinois	6182	-255	-1367	5	9	75754	1.3	337	-12863	315	178	76247
Indiana	2010	23	-107	4	8	12786	0.4	108	-846	28	26	12840
Iowa	1428	-220	-176	3	4	11496	0.8	-878	-1983	32	21	11549
Kansas	1215	-13	-2812	1	4	7545	0.6	-643	-1961	33	31	7609
Kentucky	6364	4469	4598	5	5	15847	0.9	852	4	93	103	16043
Louisiana	1836	-197	-321	3	6	15785	0.8	-346	-3871	65	13	15863
Maine	385	-80	-105	0	1	3467	0.6	-87	-241	17	14	3498
Maryland	2775	-293	-308	17	12	25290	1.0	25	-4795	311	101	25702
Massachusetts	3963	-69	-721	10	10	43201	1.2	-1399	-10534	81	134	43416
Michigan	4538	377	-4332	12	15	36047	0.8	1176	-4702	60	116	36223
Minnesota	2282	-220	-106	1	4	22180	0.8	-997	-2619	44	69	22293
Mississippi	821	-52	-209	2	2	6747	0.6	-287	-2952	35	24	6806
Missouri	2430	-138	-1872	13	1	17501	0.6	-515	-2621	272	33	17806
Montana	592	33	-304	9	0	3433	0.8	-4	-867	24	20	3477
Nebraska	514	-38	-120	1	1	3122	0.3	-295	-932	27	10	3159
Nevada	1951	-74	-115	2	5	17662	1.4	-794	-1507	61	62	17785
New Hampshire	370	-44	-78	1	1	3025	0.5	11	-514	3	7	3035
New Jersey	7122	-878	-601	17	17	76422	1.9	-9237	-4876	208	265	76895
New Mexico	663	-23	-137	15	2	7696	1.0	-37	-1499	80	50	7826
New York	11815	-760	-197	27	35	110260	1.2	-8971	-11372	306	340	110906
North Carolina	10084	7910	7245	20	1	19130	0.4	948	-1255	93	132	19355
North Dakota	201	34	-46	3	0	1314	0.3	-121	-476	17	1	1332
Ohio	4239	-210	-1210	13	15	38055	0.7	-1214	-10286	120	162	38337
Oklahoma	1216	42	230	6	4	11759	0.8	-193	-2534	54	88	11901
Oregon	3350	-284	30	12	10	21359	1.2	-19	-1998	98	94	21551
Pennsylvania	9792	-726	-913	66	24	85752	1.5	-6967	-8960	415	311	86478
Puerto Rico	972	58	644	1	0	13997	1.6	-715	6193	76	72	14145
Rhode Island	667	-94	-131	0	0	6182	1.3	70	-195	32	19	6233
South Carolina	3843	2380	1421	8	8	15098	0.8	885	830	47	88	15233
South Dakota	136	-4	-20	0	1	757	0.2	-35	-174	25	0	782
Tennessee	1789	-145	-366	6	14	15970	0.6	-345	-1601	74	63	16107
Texas	10994	-863	-9110	63	92	107078	0.9	-6423	-49625	971	1383	109432
Utah	810	-62	-106	12	3	6515	0.5	-57	-368	94	17	6626
Vermont	267	-89	-31	0	0	2140	0.7	35	-94	5	7	2152
Virgin Islands	54	-28	-131	0	0	442	1.2	92	388	4	2	448
Virginia	2360	329	-291	7	7	18646	0.5	-202	-4361	191	213	19050
Washington	5059	-215	-167	6	24	38978	1.2	-1504	-5145	162	541	39681
West Virginia	636	-16	56	2	2	6584	1.0	-102	-1553	43	26	6653
Wisconsin	3038	-433	-315	11	1	18871	0.7	-1381	-2257	67	17	18955
Wyoming	234	-21	-32	1	1	1278	0.5	-17	-871	9	3	1290
Totals	177573	8418	-35414	606	562	1410643	1	-50025	-211964	7332	7503	1425478

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 SEPTEMBER 22, 2018

STATES WITH AN INCREASE OF MORE THAN 1,000

State	Change	State Supplied Comment
NC	+7,910	Layoffs in the accommodations and food service, administrative and support and waste management and remediation service, and health care and social assistance industries.
KY	+4,469	Layoffs in the manufacturing industry.
SC	+2,380	Layoffs due to inclement weather.

STATES WITH A DECREASE OF MORE THAN 1,000

State	Change	State Supplied Comment
GA	-1,185	Fewer layoffs in the manufacturing and administrative and support and waste management and remediation 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 Departments [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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