



News Release

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8:30 A.M. (Eastern) Thursday, September 21, 2017

UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE WEEKLY CLAIMS

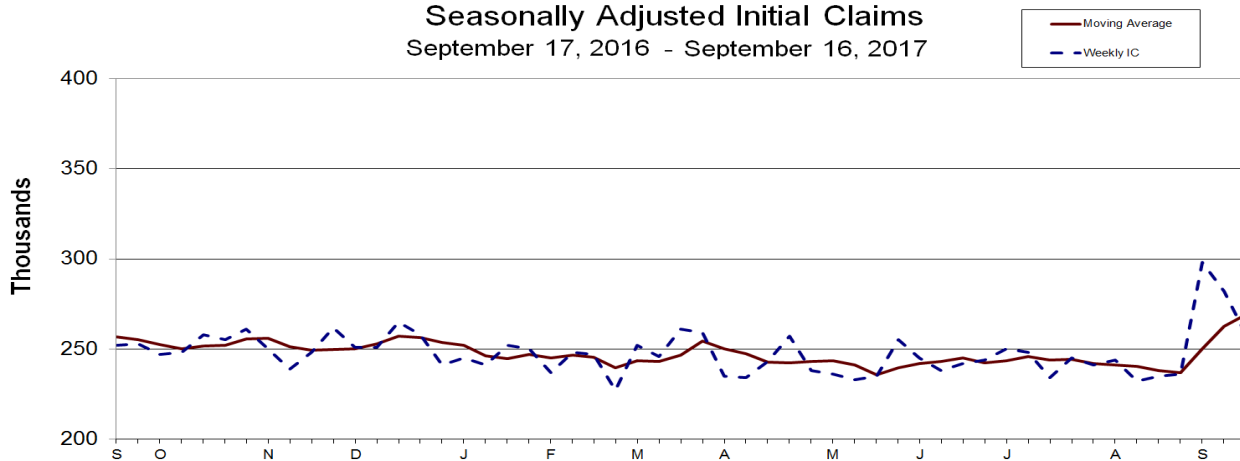
SEASONALLY ADJUSTED DATA

In the week ending September 16, the advance figure for seasonally adjusted **initial claims** was 259,000, a decrease of 23,000 from the previous week's revised level. The previous week's level was revised down by 2,000 from 284,000 to 282,000. The 4-week moving average was 268,750, an increase of 6,000 from the previous week's revised average. This is the highest level for this average since June 4, 2016 when it was 269,500. The previous week's average was revised down by 500 from 263,250 to 262,750.

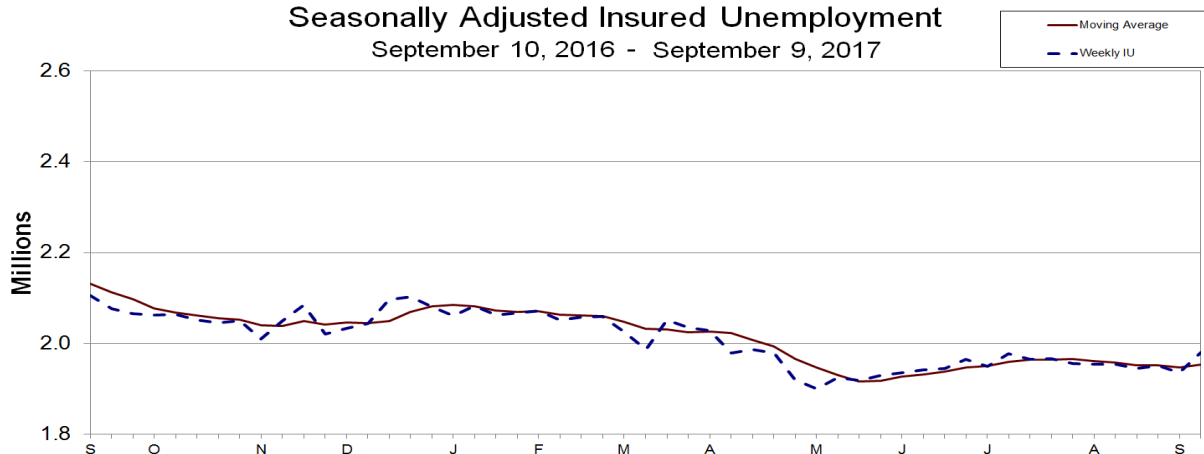
Hurricanes Harvey and Irma impacted this week's claims.

The advance seasonally adjusted **insured unemployment rate** was 1.4 percent for the week ending September 9, unchanged from the previous week's unrevised rate. The advance number for seasonally adjusted **insured unemployment** during the week ending September 9 was 1,980,000, an increase of 44,000 from the previous week's revised level. The previous week's level was revised down by 8,000 from 1,944,000 to 1,936,000. The 4-week moving average was 1,953,000, an increase of 6,500 from the previous week's revised average. The previous week's average was revised down by 2,000 from 1,948,500 to 1,946,500.

Seasonally Adjusted Initial Claims
September 17, 2016 - September 16, 2017



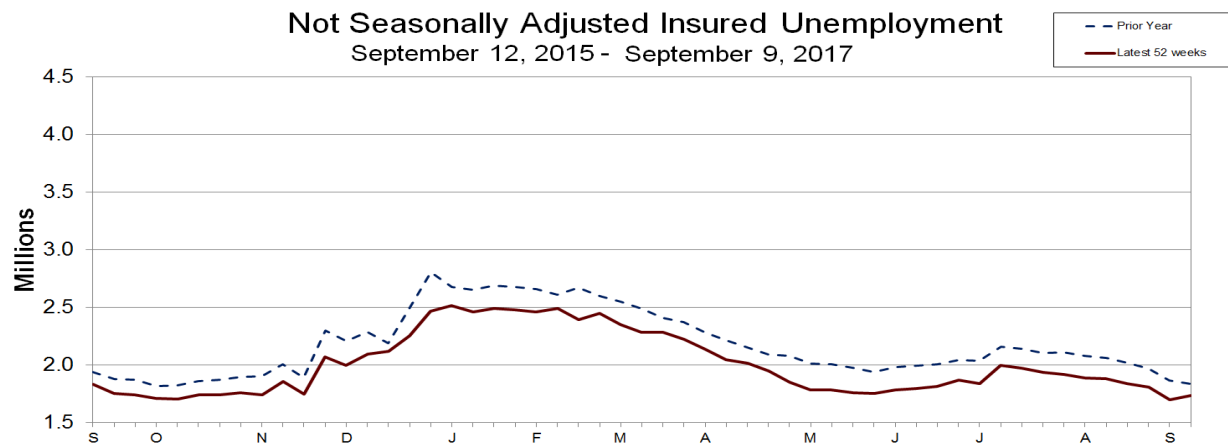
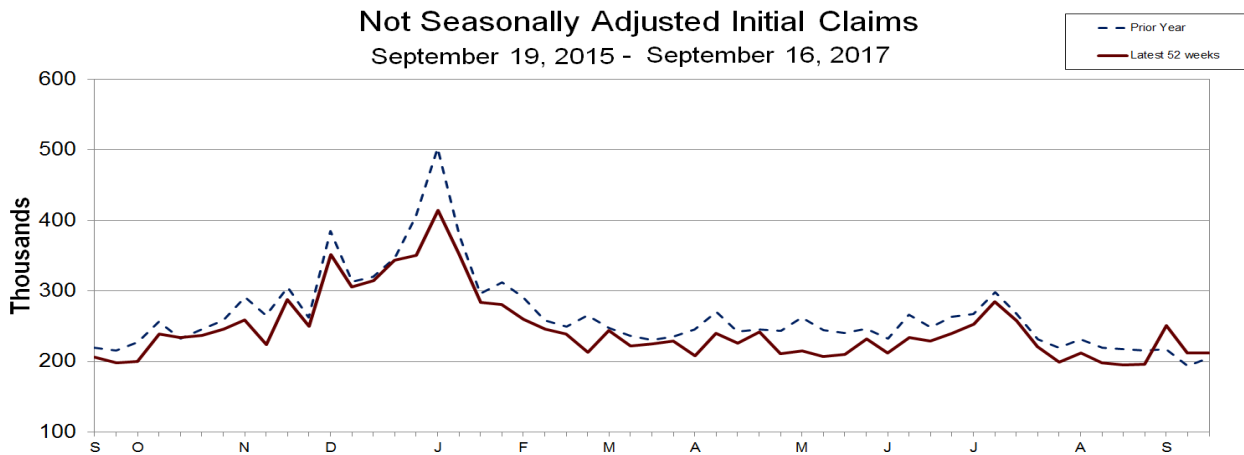
Seasonally Adjusted Insured Unemployment
September 10, 2016 - September 9, 2017



UNADJUSTED DATA

The advance number of actual initial claims under state programs, unadjusted, totaled 212,297 in the week ending September 16, an increase of 13 (or +0.006 percent) from the previous week. The seasonal factors had expected an increase of 18,607 (or +8.8 percent) from the previous week. There were 205,649 initial claims in the comparable week in 2016.

The advance unadjusted insured unemployment rate was 1.2 percent during the week ending September 9, unchanged from the prior week. The advance unadjusted number for persons claiming UI benefits in state programs totaled 1,736,615, an increase of 36,425 (or 2.1 percent) from the preceding week. The seasonal factors had expected a decrease of 1,936 (or -0.1 percent) from the previous week. A year earlier the rate was 1.3 percent and the volume was 1,835,919.



The total number of people claiming benefits in all programs for the week ending September 2 was 1,729,253, a decrease of 114,202 from the previous week. There were 1,905,531 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 September 2.

Initial claims for UI benefits filed by former Federal civilian employees totaled 658 in the week ending September 9, a decrease of 114 from the prior week. There were 655 initial claims filed by newly discharged veterans, a decrease of 62 from the preceding week.

There were 8,076 former Federal civilian employees claiming UI benefits for the week ending September 2, a decrease of 281 from the previous week. Newly discharged veterans claiming benefits totaled 9,083, a decrease of 684 from the prior week.

The highest insured unemployment rates in the week ending September 2 were in Puerto Rico (2.7), New Jersey (2.6), Alaska (2.0), Connecticut (2.0), Pennsylvania (1.9), California (1.8), Massachusetts (1.7), New York (1.7), Illinois (1.6), Nevada (1.6), and Rhode Island (1.6).

The largest increases in initial claims for the week ending September 9 were in Iowa (+534), Nebraska (+64), Tennessee (+30), Wyoming (+23), and Washington (+22), while the largest decreases were in Texas (-11,764), California (-7,375), Michigan (-4,483), New York (-2,938), and Florida (-2,289).

UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE DATA FOR REGULAR STATE PROGRAMS

WEEK ENDING	September 16	September 9	Change	September 2	<u>Prior Year</u>¹
Initial Claims (SA)	259,000	282,000	-23,000	298,000	252,000
Initial Claims (NSA)	212,297	212,284	+13	250,621	205,649
4-Wk Moving Average (SA)	268,750	262,750	+6,000	250,250	256,750
WEEK ENDING	September 9	September 2	Change	August 26	<u>Prior Year</u>¹
Insured Unemployment (SA)	1,980,000	1,936,000	+44,000	1,951,000	2,105,000
Insured Unemployment (NSA)	1,736,615	1,700,190	+36,425	1,812,516	1,835,919
4-Wk Moving Average (SA)	1,953,000	1,946,500	+6,500	1,951,000	2,130,750
<u>Insured Unemployment Rate (SA)</u> ²	1.4%	1.4%	0.0	1.4%	1.5%
<u>Insured Unemployment Rate (NSA)</u> ²	1.2%	1.2%	0.0	1.3%	1.3%

INITIAL CLAIMS FILED IN FEDERAL PROGRAMS (UNADJUSTED)

WEEK ENDING	September 9	September 2	Change	<u>Prior Year</u>¹
Federal Employees (UCFE)	658	772	-114	614
Newly Discharged Veterans (UCX)	655	717	-62	1,018

PERSONS CLAIMING UI BENEFITS IN ALL PROGRAMS (UNADJUSTED)

WEEK ENDING	September 2	August 26	Change	<u>Prior Year</u>¹
Regular State	1,697,152	1,809,633	-112,481	1,862,449
Federal Employees	8,076	8,357	-281	8,988
Newly Discharged Veterans	9,083	9,767	-684	13,095
<u>Extended Benefits</u> ³	0	0	0	0
<u>State Additional Benefits</u> ⁴	5,742	5,909	-167	6,323
<u>STC / Workshare</u> ⁵	9,200	9,789	-589	14,676
<u>TOTAL</u>	1,729,253	1,843,455	-114,202	1,905,531

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 139,989,708 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 16			Insured Unemployment For Week Ended September 9		
	Advance	Prior Wk	Change	Advance	Prior Wk	Change
Alabama	2,039	2,085	-46	16,595	16,579	16
Alaska	1,189	857	332	6,528	6,310	218
Arizona	3,605	3,411	194	26,587	30,376	-3,789
Arkansas	1,286	1,420	-134	11,920	12,437	-517
California	40,275	30,402	9,873	321,409	297,261	24,148
Colorado	1,613	1,530	83	20,515	19,288	1,227
Connecticut	2,671	2,580	91	32,435	33,719	-1,284
Delaware	452	439	13	4,526	4,719	-193
District of Columbia	540	279	261	7,963	8,501	-538
Florida ^I	9,906	4,773	5,133	39,394	46,151	-6,757
Georgia	4,596	4,899	-303	25,711	27,345	-1,634
Hawaii	1,166	1,108	58	7,841	7,157	684
Idaho	763	767	-4	3,777	4,240	-463
Illinois	7,822	7,657	165	92,397	91,173	1,224
Indiana	2,105	2,016	89	14,481	16,073	-1,592
Iowa	1,858	2,247	-389	15,213	13,919	1,294
Kansas	1,492	1,373	119	9,072	9,663	-591
Kentucky	1,851	1,783	68	17,548	16,670	878
Louisiana	2,008	2,375	-367	18,263	20,721	-2,458
Maine	463	469	-6	3,788	3,869	-81
Maryland	2,731	2,898	-167	27,942	33,973	-6,031
Massachusetts	4,191	4,051	140	54,113	59,966	-5,853
Michigan	5,109	5,543	-434	44,176	45,235	-1,059
Minnesota	2,876	2,623	253	27,417	26,938	479
Mississippi	1,043	1,201	-158	8,768	10,221	-1,453
Missouri	2,759	2,513	246	20,106	20,981	-875
Montana	808	678	130	4,245	4,238	7
Nebraska	634	704	-70	4,183	4,040	143
Nevada	2,276	2,473	-197	18,901	20,149	-1,248
New Hampshire	395	414	-19	3,298	3,808	-510
New Jersey	7,654	7,455	199	92,414	99,999	-7,585
New Mexico	831	747	84	9,246	9,277	-31
New York	14,640	13,835	805	137,678	153,208	-15,530
North Carolina	2,862	2,382	480	19,829	21,138	-1,309
North Dakota	283	288	-5	2,432	2,132	300
Ohio	9,222	5,146	4,076	45,372	46,034	-662
Oklahoma	1,091	1,525	-434	14,142	14,845	-703
Oregon	4,004	3,265	739	23,832	24,234	-402
Pennsylvania	11,031	11,083	-52	103,839	106,751	-2,912
Puerto Rico ^I	2,528	283	2,245	29,198	23,786	5,412
Rhode Island	837	728	109	6,583	7,448	-865
South Carolina*	2,416	2,161	255	14,943	15,092	-149
South Dakota	157	139	18	945	919	26
Tennessee	2,006	2,203	-197	17,535	17,921	-386
Texas ^H	28,475	52,024	-23,549	196,716	128,496	68,220
Utah	1,020	774	246	6,763	7,026	-263
Vermont	284	306	-22	2,472	2,446	26
Virgin Islands*	36	40	-4	484	434	50
Virginia	2,749	2,535	214	23,668	22,949	719
Washington	5,294	5,215	79	45,666	44,460	1,206
West Virginia	643	709	-66	8,872	8,546	326
Wisconsin	3,428	3,620	-192	22,728	25,101	-2,373
Wyoming	284	253	31	2,146	2,228	-82
US Total	212,297	212,284	13	1,736,615	1,700,190	36,425

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.

^HAffected by Hurricane Harvey.

^IAffected by Hurricane Irma.

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	
September 10, 2016	258	1	258.75	2,105	-34	2,130.75	1.5
September 17, 2016	252	-6	256.75	2,076	-29	2,113.25	1.5
September 24, 2016	253	1	255.00	2,066	-10	2,096.50	1.5
October 1, 2016	247	-6	252.50	2,063	-3	2,077.50	1.5
October 8, 2016	248	1	250.00	2,064	1	2,067.25	1.5
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	1,936	-15	1,946.50	1.4
September 9, 2017	282	-16	262.75	1,980	44	1,953.00	1.4
September 16, 2017	259	-23	268.75				

Initial Claims Filed During Week Ended September 9							Insured Unemployment For Week Ended September 2					
INITIAL CLAIMS							INSURED UNEMPLOYMENT					
STATE	STATE	CHANGE FROM				STATE	CHANGE FROM	STATE	CHANGE FROM	ALL PROGRAMS		EXCLUDING RAILROAD RETIREMENT
		LAST WEEK	YEAR AGO	UCFE	UCX					LAST WEEK	YEAR AGO	
				1	1		(%)					
Alabama	2085	-169	-140	8	4	16579	0.9	-362	-3882	57	95	16731
Alaska	857	-49	-141	1	2	6310	2.0	-169	-1724	67	21	6398
Arizona	3411	-538	-177	3	1	30376	1.2	-1354	-2560	96	89	30561
Arkansas	1420	-363	-186	4	8	12437	1.1	-679	-1825	57	65	12559
California	30402	-7375	-5211	141	129	297261	1.8	-30642	-20520	1616	1887	300764
Colorado	1530	-170	-426	4	18	19288	0.8	-1196	-4516	116	303	19707
Connecticut	2580	-210	-90	6	5	33719	2.0	-5876	-3214	52	69	33840
Delaware	439	17	-22	0	1	4719	1.1	-1432	-392	14	11	4744
District of Columbia	279	-62	-2	9	2	8501	1.5	-350	316	476	13	8990
Florida	4773	-2289	-2720	23	42	46151	0.6	-4976	-6754	173	251	46575
Georgia	4899	-4	-224	14	29	27345	0.7	-824	-3262	169	267	27781
Hawaii	1108	-76	-132	4	15	7157	1.2	-216	-170	54	84	7295
Idaho	767	-51	-218	1	3	4240	0.6	-386	-1177	27	7	4274
Illinois	7657	-646	-371	12	16	91173	1.6	-5473	-5520	339	254	91766
Indiana	2016	-403	-599	5	5	16073	0.5	1368	-3509	39	40	16152
Iowa	2247	534	625	4	7	13919	0.9	-572	-1476	41	43	14003
Kansas	1373	-183	-621	4	3	9663	0.7	-302	-1489	69	47	9779
Kentucky	1783	-176	-342	3	0	16670	0.9	-2625	-2803	129	129	16928
Louisiana	2375	-540	-19	2	4	20721	1.1	-89	-7499	60	33	20814
Maine	469	20	-75	1	0	3869	0.7	-239	-525	18	20	3907
Maryland	2898	-352	-291	31	10	33973	1.4	-1363	338	309	165	34447
Massachusetts	4051	-431	-369	7	17	59966	1.7	-5606	-2317	152	196	60314
Michigan	5543	-4483	144	14	12	45235	1.1	-3083	-2095	97	116	45448
Minnesota	2623	8	-349	3	4	26938	1.0	127	-1515	52	92	27082
Mississippi	1201	21	-103	1	3	10221	0.9	-834	-2055	21	41	10283
Missouri	2513	-449	-598	41	2	20981	0.8	-1789	-4340	283	38	21302
Montana	678	13	3	2	1	4238	1.0	-403	-473	45	27	4310
Nebraska	704	64	123	3	2	4040	0.4	-67	50	16	10	4066
Nevada	2473	-30	130	2	6	20149	1.6	398	-1191	56	71	20276
New Hampshire	414	-93	-63	0	1	3808	0.6	-459	-257	4	3	3815
New Jersey	7455	-352	267	18	16	99999	2.6	-3887	-1273	177	296	100472
New Mexico	747	-49	-61	3	2	9277	1.2	-222	-2065	70	66	9413
New York	13835	-2938	-260	22	32	153208	1.7	-3303	-3268	341	475	154024
North Carolina	2382	-613	-585	8	10	21138	0.5	-1327	-3529	90	167	21395
North Dakota	288	-46	-39	2	2	2132	0.5	-52	-601	16	1	2149
Ohio	5146	-321	-819	10	25	46034	0.9	-1750	-4482	89	223	46346
Oklahoma	1525	-337	-672	9	10	14845	1.0	263	-6238	70	88	15003
Oregon	3265	-311	275	8	5	24234	1.3	-633	-376	100	125	24459
Pennsylvania	11083	-1058	-1320	76	27	106751	1.9	-12541	-9288	474	388	107613
Puerto Rico	283	-1293	-1234	0	0	23786	2.7	-4685	380	61	62	23909
Rhode Island	728	-42	72	1	2	7448	1.6	-1506	-377	29	25	7502
South Carolina	2161	0	-30	6	9	15092	0.8	0	-921	55	83	15230
South Dakota	139	-23	-49	5	0	919	0.2	-66	-234	27	7	953
Tennessee	2203	30	-169	9	4	17921	0.6	-1408	-70	402	58	18381
Texas	52024	-11764	38952	84	109	128496	1.1	-7109	-36264	699	1331	130526
Utah	774	-226	-214	29	2	7026	0.5	-61	-987	141	28	7195
Vermont	306	-4	-73	0	1	2446	0.8	-582	-386	8	3	2457
Virgin Islands	40	0	-59	0	0	434	1.2	0	-262	4	0	438
Virginia	2535	-294	-509	9	15	22949	0.6	-1033	-1445	242	406	23597
Washington	5215	22	-35	6	16	44460	1.4	-1280	2050	176	694	45330
West Virginia	709	-76	-447	0	7	8546	1.3	-263	-4188	35	33	8614
Wisconsin	3620	-200	-1390	0	5	25101	0.9	-1238	-4487	57	24	25182
Wyoming	253	23	-144	0	4	2228	0.8	-170	-2422	9	13	2250
Totals	212284	-38337	18993	658	655	1700190	1.2	-112326	-167089	8076	9083	1717349

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 9, 2017

STATES WITH AN INCREASE OF MORE THAN 1,000

State	Change	State Supplied Comment
None		

STATES WITH A DECREASE OF MORE THAN 1,000

State	Change	State Supplied Comment
TX	-11,764	No comment.
CA	-7,375	Fewer layoffs in the service industry.
MI	-4,483	Fewer layoffs in the wholesale trade industry.
NY	-2,938	Fewer layoffs in the transportation and warehousing, accommodation and food service, and educational service industries.
FL	-2,289	Fewer layoffs in the agriculture, forestry, fishing, and hunting, construction, manufacturing, wholesale trade, retail trade, and service industries.
PR	-1,293	No comment.
PA	-1,058	Fewer layoffs in the transportation and warehousing, accommodation and food service, and manufacturing 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](#)

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