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8:30 A.M. (Eastern) Thursday, February 8, 2018

UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE WEEKLY CLAIMS

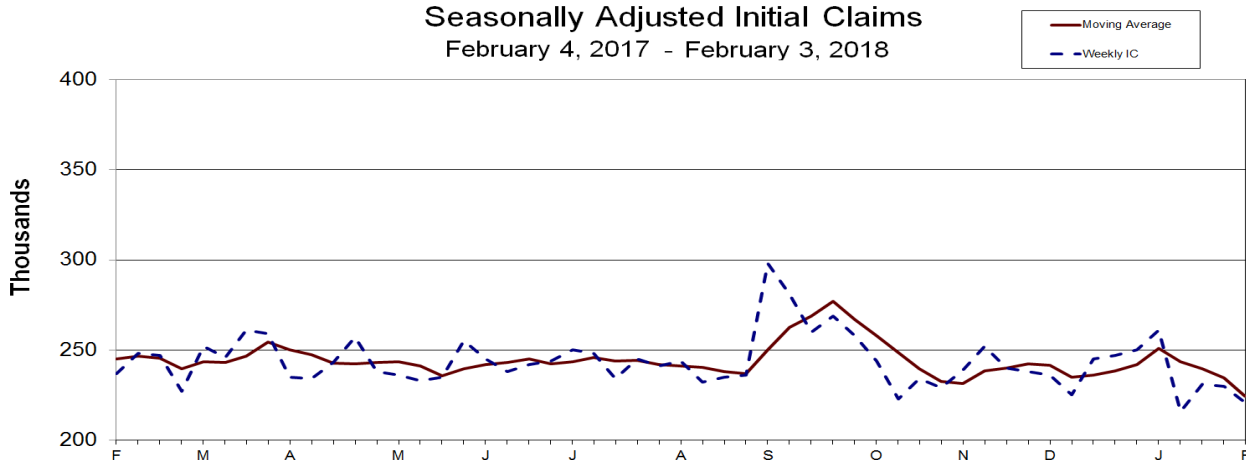
SEASONALLY ADJUSTED DATA

In the week ending February 3, the advance figure for seasonally adjusted **initial claims** was 221,000, a decrease of 9,000 from the previous week's unrevised level of 230,000. The 4-week moving average was 224,500, a decrease of 10,000 from the previous week's unrevised average of 234,500. This is the lowest level for this average since March 10, 1973 when it was 222,000.

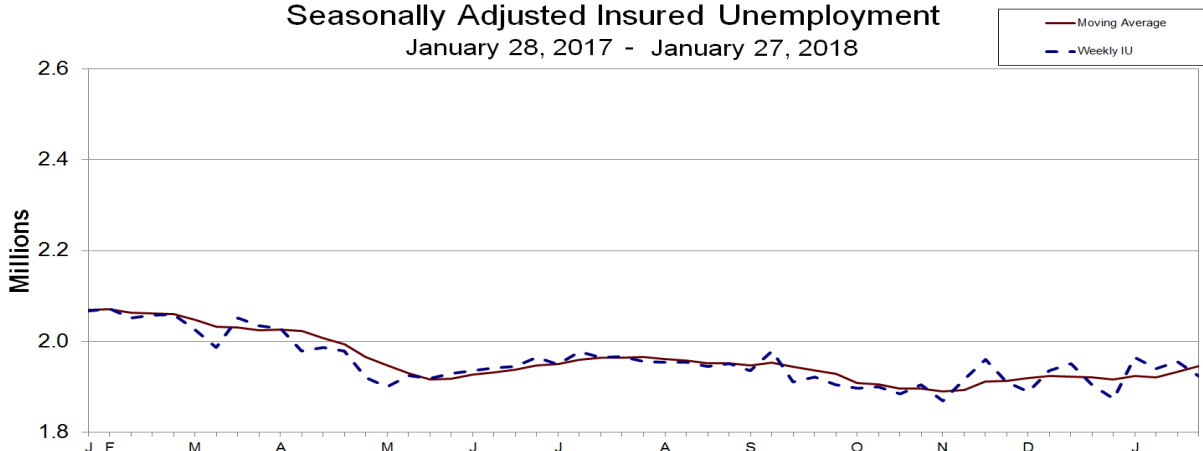
Claims taking procedures in Puerto Rico and in the Virgin Islands have still not returned to normal.

The advance seasonally adjusted **insured unemployment rate** was 1.4 percent for the week ending January 27, unchanged from the previous week's unrevised rate. The advance number for seasonally adjusted **insured unemployment** during the week ending January 27 was 1,923,000, a decrease of 33,000 from the previous week's revised level. The previous week's level was revised up 3,000 from 1,953,000 to 1,956,000. The 4-week moving average was 1,946,000, an increase of 12,500 from the previous week's revised average. The previous week's average was revised up by 750 from 1,932,750 to 1,933,500.

Seasonally Adjusted Initial Claims
February 4, 2017 - February 3, 2018



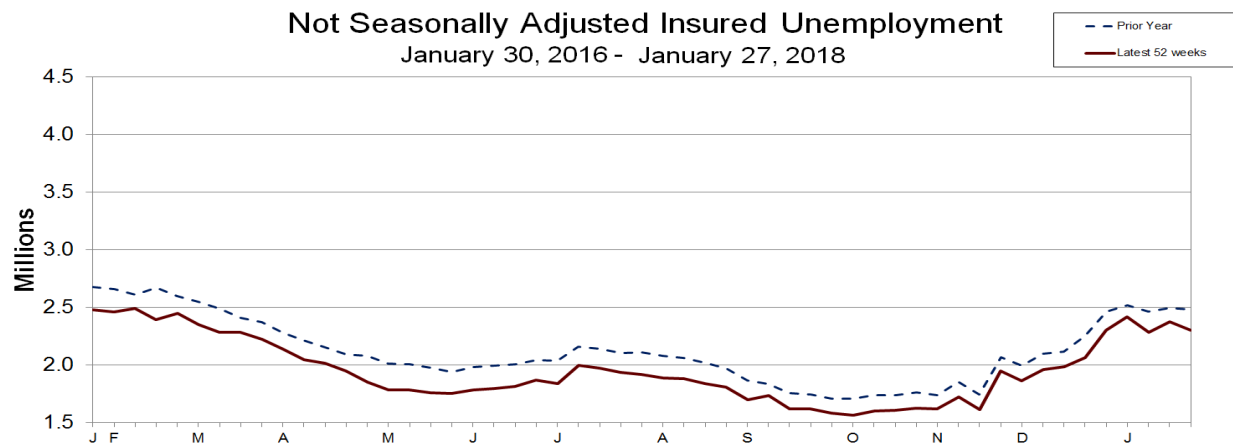
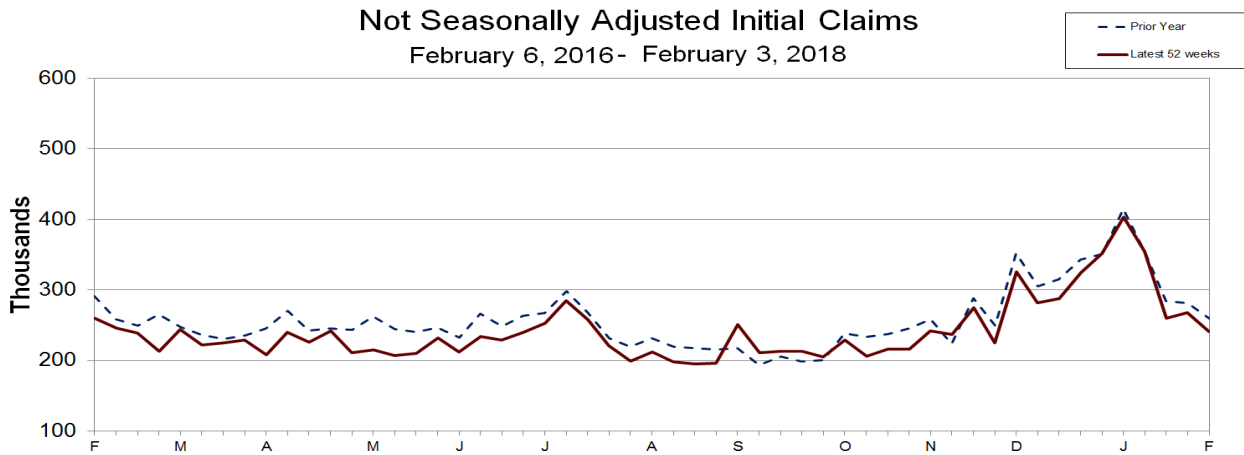
Seasonally Adjusted Insured Unemployment
January 28, 2017 - January 27, 2018



UNADJUSTED DATA

The advance number of actual initial claims under state programs, unadjusted, totaled 240,636 in the week ending February 3, a decrease of 27,130 (or -10.1 percent) from the previous week. The seasonal factors had expected a decrease of 16,822 (or -6.3 percent) from the previous week. There were 259,713 initial claims in the comparable week in 2017.

The advance unadjusted insured unemployment rate was 1.6 percent during the week ending January 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 2,305,941, a decrease of 70,297 (or -3.0 percent) from the preceding week. The seasonal factors had expected a decrease of 31,292 (or -1.3 percent) from the previous week. A year earlier the rate was 1.8 percent and the volume was 2,482,809.



The total number of people claiming benefits in all programs for the week ending January 20 was 2,414,099, an increase of 92,411 from the previous week. There were 2,538,269 persons claiming benefits in all programs in the comparable week in 2017.

Extended benefits were available in Alaska and the Virgin Islands during the week ending January 20.

Initial claims for UI benefits filed by former Federal civilian employees totaled 1,919 in the week ending January 27, an increase of 915 from the prior week. There were 701 initial claims filed by newly discharged veterans, an increase of 75 from the preceding week.

There were 14,166 former Federal civilian employees claiming UI benefits for the week ending January 20, an increase of 2,349 from the previous week. Newly discharged veterans claiming benefits totaled 8,654, an increase of 159 from the prior week.

The highest insured unemployment rates in the week ending January 20 were in the Virgin Islands (15.4), Puerto Rico (4.8), Alaska (4.3), Connecticut (3.0), New Jersey (3.0), Montana (2.9), Rhode Island (2.9), Pennsylvania (2.8), Massachusetts (2.6), and Illinois (2.5).

The largest increases in initial claims for the week ending January 27 were in Missouri (+6,132), Georgia (+3,060), Pennsylvania (+1,586), Texas (+1,482), and North Carolina (+1,237), while the largest decreases were in California (-2,687), Michigan (-1,949), New Jersey (-1,825), Ohio (-838), and South Carolina (-713).

UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE DATA FOR REGULAR STATE PROGRAMS

WEEK ENDING	February 3	January 27	Change	January 20	<u>Prior Year</u>¹
Initial Claims (SA)	221,000	230,000	-9,000	231,000	237,000
Initial Claims (NSA)	240,636	267,766	-27,130	260,070	259,713
4-Wk Moving Average (SA)	224,500	234,500	-10,000	239,500	245,000
WEEK ENDING	January 27	January 20	Change	January 13	<u>Prior Year</u>¹
Insured Unemployment (SA)	1,923,000	1,956,000	-33,000	1,940,000	2,067,000
Insured Unemployment (NSA)	2,305,941	2,376,238	-70,297	2,287,734	2,482,809
4-Wk Moving Average (SA)	1,946,000	1,933,500	+12,500	1,920,750	2,068,500
<u>Insured Unemployment Rate (SA)</u> ²	1.4%	1.4%	0.0	1.4%	1.5%
<u>Insured Unemployment Rate (NSA)</u> ²	1.6%	1.7%	-0.1	1.6%	1.8%

INITIAL CLAIMS FILED IN FEDERAL PROGRAMS (UNADJUSTED)

WEEK ENDING	January 27	January 20	Change	<u>Prior Year</u>¹
Federal Employees (UCFE)	1,919	1,004	+915	1,565
Newly Discharged Veterans (UCX)	701	626	+75	976

PERSONS CLAIMING UI BENEFITS IN ALL PROGRAMS (UNADJUSTED)

WEEK ENDING	January 20	January 13	Change	<u>Prior Year</u>¹
Regular State	2,373,111	2,285,327	+87,784	2,490,787
Federal Employees	14,166	11,817	+2,349	14,775
Newly Discharged Veterans	8,654	8,495	+159	12,302
<u>Extended Benefits</u> ³	1,168	1,310	-142	0
<u>State Additional Benefits</u> ⁴	6,611	6,132	+479	7,706
<u>STC / Workshare</u> ⁵	10,389	8,607	+1,782	12,699
<u>TOTAL</u>	2,414,099	2,321,688	+92,411	2,538,269

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 141,013,239 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 February 3			Insured Unemployment For Week Ended January 27		
	Advance	Prior Wk	Change	Advance	Prior Wk	Change
Alabama	2,330	3,134	-804	17,628	18,672	-1,044
Alaska	1,361	1,329	32	11,864	13,178	-1,314
Arizona	3,890	4,154	-264	20,011	22,637	-2,626
Arkansas	1,545	1,945	-400	14,238	16,398	-2,160
California	44,295	49,062	-4,767	387,104	398,473	-11,369
Colorado	2,273	2,366	-93	24,487	26,082	-1,595
Connecticut	3,759	5,265	-1,506	52,015	49,700	2,315
Delaware	595	764	-169	7,127	7,090	37
District of Columbia	647	391	256	8,564	9,201	-637
Florida	7,386	7,627	-241	35,941	45,444	-9,503
Georgia	5,929	7,912	-1,983	29,796	32,673	-2,877
Hawaii	1,196	1,349	-153	7,788	7,866	-78
Idaho	1,486	1,547	-61	11,807	12,353	-546
Illinois	10,033	10,426	-393	149,955	144,561	5,394
Indiana	3,031	3,357	-326	24,783	23,897	886
Iowa	2,849	2,610	239	32,820	32,097	723
Kansas	2,002	1,960	42	14,042	15,905	-1,863
Kentucky	3,751	3,156	595	24,339	24,941	-602
Louisiana	2,127	2,468	-341	16,377	19,093	-2,716
Maine *	1,070	1,009	61	9,900	9,507	393
Maryland	3,743	4,213	-470	36,837	40,422	-3,585
Massachusetts	5,946	6,771	-825	88,961	90,855	-1,894
Michigan	11,664	12,320	-656	84,724	90,351	-5,627
Minnesota	3,954	3,695	259	66,899	63,436	3,463
Mississippi	1,030	1,309	-279	8,695	10,312	-1,617
Missouri	3,638	11,274	-7,636	39,231	37,605	1,626
Montana	1,033	1,011	22	12,707	12,807	-100
Nebraska	800	922	-122	8,649	9,096	-447
Nevada	2,929	2,763	166	21,300	22,966	-1,666
New Hampshire	564	643	-79	4,997	5,411	-414
New Jersey	8,768	8,981	-213	120,621	118,337	2,284
New Mexico	878	975	-97	10,869	11,165	-296
New York	14,540	18,282	-3,742	179,031	179,813	-782
North Carolina	3,733	3,791	-58	22,248	23,506	-1,258
North Dakota	693	608	85	9,544	7,973	1,571
Ohio	7,666	7,486	180	81,715	82,787	-1,072
Oklahoma	1,410	1,563	-153	14,324	14,857	-533
Oregon	4,575	4,774	-199	33,006	32,582	424
Pennsylvania	17,058	18,637	-1,579	146,149	160,288	-14,139
Puerto Rico ^{1M}	2,832	2,991	-159	33,265	41,628	-8,363
Rhode Island	1,196	1,341	-145	12,955	13,243	-288
South Carolina	2,972	3,012	-40	19,238	20,270	-1,032
South Dakota	199	264	-65	3,375	3,494	-119
Tennessee	2,296	3,149	-853	23,026	25,426	-2,400
Texas	14,292	14,275	17	136,450	140,604	-4,154
Utah	1,210	953	257	12,416	12,532	-116
Vermont	462	589	-127	5,895	5,611	284
Virgin Islands ^{1M}	13	40	-27	3,720	5,748	-2,028
Virginia	3,540	3,419	121	27,685	27,746	-61
Washington	6,851	7,002	-151	66,173	64,116	2,057
West Virginia	1,193	1,564	-371	15,393	15,393	
Wisconsin	7,029	6,851	178	51,175	50,863	312
Wyoming	374	467	-93	4,082	5,227	-1,145
US Total	240,636	267,766	-27,130	2,305,941	2,376,238	-70,297

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.

¹Affected 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	
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	1,900	4	1,905.25	1.4
October 21, 2017	234	11	239.75	1,884	-16	1,896.00	1.3
October 28, 2017	229	-5	232.50	1,904	20	1,896.00	1.4
November 4, 2017	239	10	231.25	1,868	-36	1,889.00	1.3
November 11, 2017	252	13	238.50	1,915	47	1,892.75	1.4
November 18, 2017	240	-12	240.00	1,960	45	1,911.75	1.4
November 25, 2017	238	-2	242.25	1,911	-49	1,913.50	1.4
December 2, 2017	236	-2	241.50	1,889	-22	1,918.75	1.3
December 9, 2017	225	-11	234.75	1,936	47	1,924.00	1.4
December 16, 2017	245	20	236.00	1,951	15	1,921.75	1.4
December 23, 2017	247	2	238.25	1,905	-46	1,920.25	1.4
December 30, 2017	250	3	241.75	1,873	-32	1,916.25	1.3
January 6, 2018	261	11	250.75	1,965	92	1,923.50	1.4
January 13, 2018	216	-45	243.50	1,940	-25	1,920.75	1.4
January 20, 2018	231	15	239.50	1,956	16	1,933.50	1.4
January 27, 2018	230	-1	234.50	1,923	-33	1,946.00	1.4
February 3, 2018	221	-9	224.50				

Initial Claims Filed During Week Ended January 27
INITIAL CLAIMS

Insured Unemployment For Week Ended January 20
INSURED UNEMPLOYMENT

STATE	STATE	CHANGE FROM				STATE	(<u>%</u>) ²	CHANGE FROM		<u>UCFE</u> <u>I</u>	<u>UCX</u> <u>I</u>	ALL PROGRAMS EXCLUDING RAILROAD RETIREMENT
		LAST WEEK	YEAR AGO	<u>UCFE</u> <u>I</u>	<u>UCX</u> <u>I</u>			LAST WEEK	YEAR AGO			
Alabama	3134	433	198	29	11	18672	1.0	-411	-2075	72	71	18815
Alaska	1329	91	-104	6	1	13178	4.3	795	-1849	268	27	14641
Arizona	4154	540	-51	14	1	22637	0.9	653	-3357	307	70	23014
Arkansas	1945	116	-2	14	10	16398	1.4	911	-971	89	113	16600
California	49062	-2687	-4763	369	111	398473	2.4	59186	-31363	3477	1724	403674
Colorado	2366	-199	-223	41	16	26082	1.0	2236	-3165	473	242	26797
Connecticut	5265	1008	-108	14	2	49700	3.0	5155	-1283	50	92	49842
Delaware	764	-73	5	4	3	7090	1.6	17	-211	29	9	7128
District of Columbia	391	10	-23	34	0	9201	1.6	13	253	330	12	9543
Florida	7627	312	-506	40	36	45444	0.5	2949	632	169	205	45818
Georgia	7912	3060	723	82	46	32673	0.8	1066	-2347	195	237	33105
Hawaii	1349	287	29	7	18	7866	1.3	273	0	80	87	8033
Idaho	1547	-233	-365	29	4	12353	1.8	28	-2592	368	21	12742
Illinois	10426	781	-1439	18	12	144561	2.5	-7233	-9884	378	235	145174
Indiana	3357	-101	-1343	19	6	23897	0.8	1044	-8883	40	53	23990
Iowa	2610	-407	-84	25	3	32097	2.1	1095	-3330	66	37	32200
Kansas	1960	-359	-550	3	6	15905	1.2	673	-1017	46	49	16000
Kentucky	3156	-143	356	27	6	24941	1.4	-239	-641	135	156	25232
Louisiana	2468	731	-50	6	5	19093	1.0	-57	-3006	38	24	19155
Maine	1009	-337	-23	0	3	9507	1.6	-153	-917	47	12	9566
Maryland	4213	-20	-185	76	15	40422	1.6	807	-3599	386	131	40939
Massachusetts	6771	-551	-167	51	17	90855	2.6	2960	21	165	161	91181
Michigan	12320	-1949	1364	38	17	90351	2.1	-927	759	280	107	90738
Minnesota	3695	-226	-287	34	9	63436	2.3	549	-3280	157	74	63667
Mississippi	1309	370	-134	8	2	10312	0.9	233	-2049	51	35	10398
Missouri	11274	6132	6233	14	7	37605	1.4	1522	1163	276	67	37948
Montana	1011	-182	34	51	3	12807	2.9	486	-953	730	23	13560
Nebraska	922	-161	-110	4	1	9096	1.0	116	-199	34	16	9146
Nevada	2763	109	-341	12	2	22966	1.8	651	-2104	227	107	23300
New Hampshire	643	-42	-67	6	0	5411	0.8	22	-416	2	8	5421
New Jersey	8981	-1825	-1345	36	27	118337	3.0	2276	-1732	274	298	118909
New Mexico	975	-14	-140	4	3	11165	1.4	170	-1700	328	67	11560
New York	18282	210	579	42	37	179813	2.0	-2283	-5331	381	458	180652
North Carolina	3791	1237	-162	20	14	23506	0.6	613	-4253	101	178	23785
North Dakota	608	-161	-162	11	1	7973	2.0	149	-921	22	7	8002
Ohio	7486	-838	-4381	30	18	82787	1.6	-3184	-1535	142	210	83139
Oklahoma	1563	91	-177	24	0	14857	1.0	-167	-3627	63	93	15013
Oregon	4774	217	-2533	93	12	32582	1.8	410	-4705	778	118	33478
Pennsylvania	18637	1586	-667	177	47	160288	2.8	12043	9127	642	312	161242
Puerto Rico	2991	287	886	0	9	41628	4.8	1755	17999	18	56	41702
Rhode Island	1341	-344	-89	5	1	13243	2.9	1574	209	20	24	13287
South Carolina	3012	-713	433	14	6	20270	1.0	-21	2856	57	72	20399
South Dakota	264	-50	-63	9	0	3494	0.9	125	-334	55	2	3551
Tennessee	3149	-186	26	20	7	25426	0.9	1352	2598	123	71	25620
Texas	14275	1482	-843	146	107	140604	1.2	-3745	-25288	601	1404	142609
Utah	953	21	-511	132	2	12532	0.9	36	-2351	362	25	12919
Vermont	589	78	14	4	0	5611	1.9	-181	-562	11	5	5627
Virgin Islands	40	26	8	1	0	5748	15.4	2732	5128	4	0	5752
Virginia	3419	-353	-670	18	10	27746	0.8	-309	-2100	275	331	28352
Washington	7002	190	-104	16	15	64116	2.0	-653	-4427	527	624	65267
West Virginia	1564	-188	-1	3	4	15393	2.3	181	-1472	60	41	15494
Wisconsin	6851	607	-1251	23	7	50863	1.8	275	-7781	128	36	51027
Wyoming	467	26	-81	16	1	5227	2.0	936	-1444	229	17	5473
Totals	267766	7696	-13217	1919	701	2376238	1.7	88504	-118309	14166	8654	2400226

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 JANUARY 27, 2018

STATES WITH AN INCREASE OF MORE THAN 1,000

State	Change	State Supplied Comment
MO	+6,132	Layoffs in the professional, scientific and technical service industry.
GA	+3,060	Layoffs in the administrative, support, waste management and remediation service, manufacturing, and trade industries.
PA	+1,586	Layoffs in the transportation and warehousing, administrative, support, waste management and remediation service, accommodation and food service, and construction industries.
TX	+1,482	Layoffs in the manufacturing, health care and social assistance and transportation and warehousing industries.
NC	+1,237	Layoffs in the administrative, support, waste management and remediation service, retail trade, and manufacturing industries.
CT	+1,008	No comment.

STATES WITH A DECREASE OF MORE THAN 1,000

State	Change	State Supplied Comment
CA	-2,687	Fewer layoffs in the agriculture, forestry, fishing, and hunting industry.
MI	-1,949	Fewer layoffs in the wholesale trade industry.
NJ	-1,825	Fewer layoffs in the trade, construction, and transportation and warehousing 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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U.S. Department of Labor
Employment and Training Administration
Washington, D.C. 20210
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Program Contacts:
Tony Sznoluch (202) 693-3176
Sandra Trujillo (202) 693-2933
Media Contact: (202) 693-4676