



News Release

Connect with DOL at
<https://blog.dol.gov>



TRANSMISSION OF MATERIALS IN THIS RELEASE IS EMBARGOED UNTIL
8:30 A.M. (Eastern) Thursday, May 24, 2018

UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE WEEKLY CLAIMS

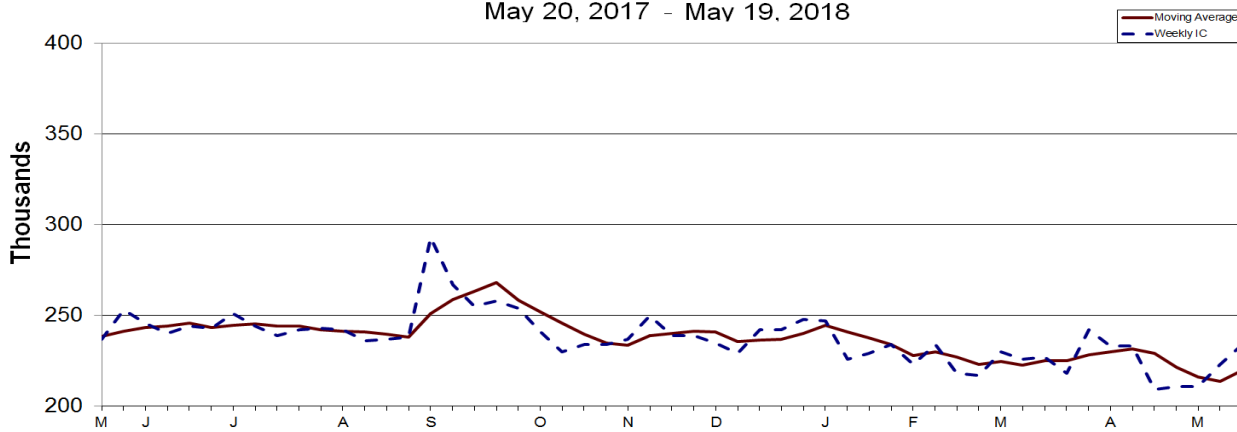
SEASONALLY ADJUSTED DATA

In the week ending May 19, the advance figure for seasonally adjusted **initial claims** was 234,000, an increase of 11,000 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 219,750, an increase of 6,250 from the previous week's revised average. The previous week's average was revised up by 250 from 213,250 to 213,500.

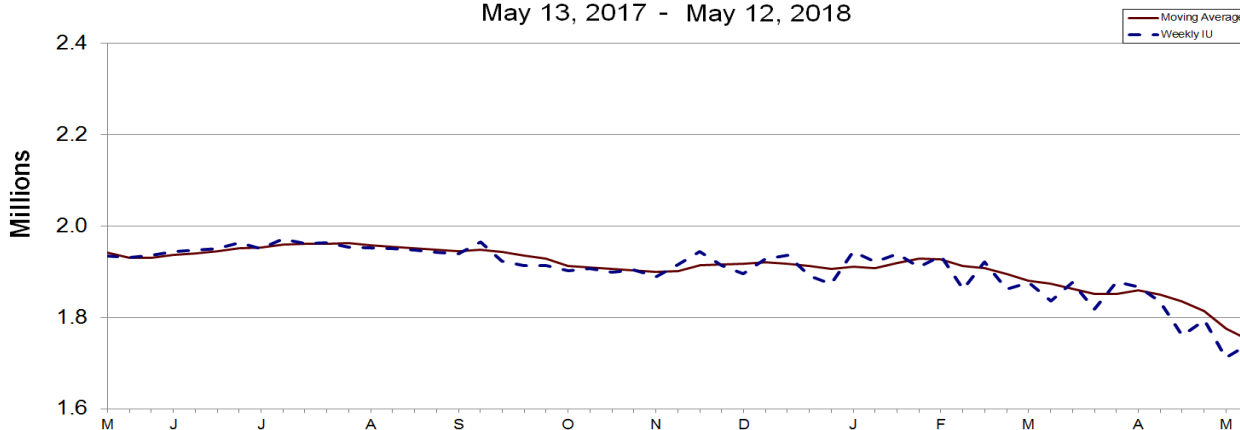
Claims taking procedures in Puerto Rico and in the Virgin Islands have still not returned to normal.

The advance seasonally adjusted **insured unemployment rate** was 1.2 percent for the week ending May 12, unchanged from the previous week's unrevised rate. The advance number for seasonally adjusted **insured unemployment** during the week ending May 12 was 1,741,000, an increase of 29,000 from the previous week's revised level. The previous week's level was revised up 5,000 from 1,707,000 to 1,712,000. The 4-week moving average was 1,751,750, a decrease of 23,250 from the previous week's revised average. This is the lowest level for this average since December 15, 1973 when it was 1,735,750. The previous week's average was revised up by 1,250 from 1,773,750 to 1,775,000.

Seasonally Adjusted Initial Claims
May 20, 2017 - May 19, 2018



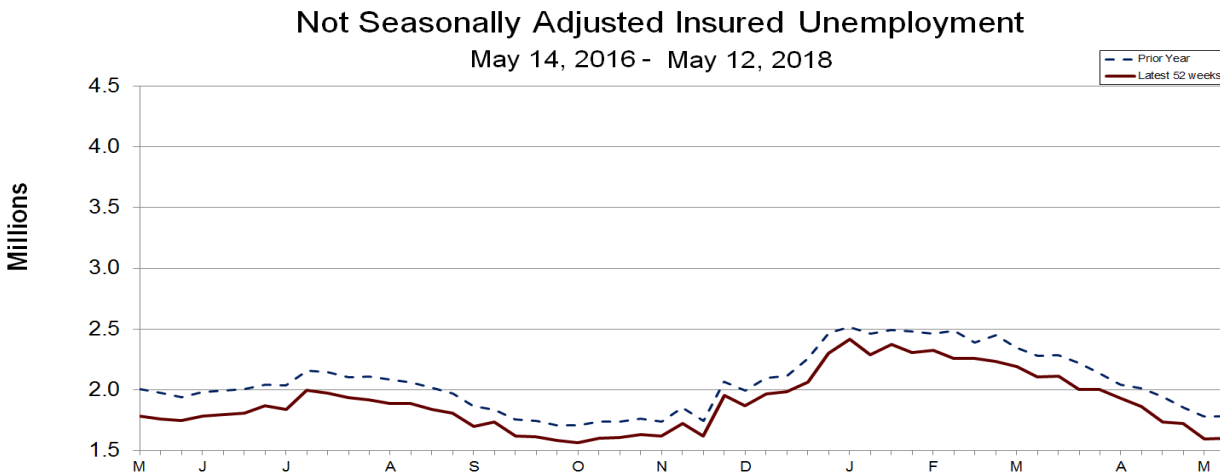
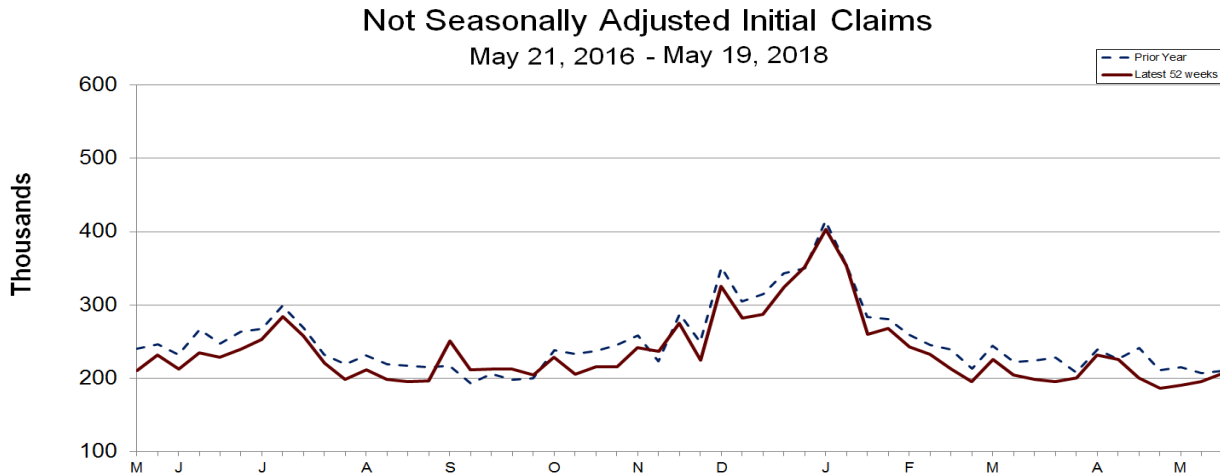
Seasonally Adjusted Insured Unemployment
May 13, 2017 - May 12, 2018



UNADJUSTED DATA

The advance number of actual initial claims under state programs, unadjusted, totaled 206,868 in the week ending May 19, an increase of 11,654 (or 6.0 percent) from the previous week. The seasonal factors had expected an increase of 1,560 (or 0.8 percent) from the previous week. There were 210,544 initial claims in the comparable week in 2017.

The advance unadjusted insured unemployment rate was 1.1 percent during the week ending May 12, unchanged from the prior week. The advance unadjusted number for persons claiming UI benefits in state programs totaled 1,603,049, an increase of 7,800 (or 0.5 percent) from the preceding week. The seasonal factors had expected a decrease of 18,828 (or - 1.2 percent) from the previous week. A year earlier the rate was 1.3 percent and the volume was 1,783,911.



The total number of people claiming benefits in all programs for the week ending May 5 was 1,622,790, a decrease of 131,087 from the previous week. There were 1,819,526 persons claiming benefits in all programs in the comparable week in 2017.

Extended benefits were payable in the Virgin Islands during the week ending May 5.

Initial claims for UI benefits filed by former Federal civilian employees totaled 600 in the week ending May 12, a decrease of 1 from the prior week. There were 947 initial claims filed by newly discharged veterans, a decrease of 18 from the preceding week.

There were 7,264 former Federal civilian employees claiming UI benefits for the week ending May 5, a decrease of 1,470 from the previous week. Newly discharged veterans claiming benefits totaled 7,602, a decrease of 278 from the prior week.

The highest insured unemployment rates in the week ending May 5 were in the Virgin Islands (4.3), Alaska (2.9), New Jersey (2.1), California (1.9), Connecticut (1.9), Puerto Rico (1.9), Illinois (1.6), Pennsylvania (1.6), and Rhode Island (1.5).

The largest increases in initial claims for the week ending May 12 were in Missouri (+3,852), Kentucky (+2,980), Alabama (+1,082), Michigan (+660), and Mississippi (+326), while the largest decreases were in Pennsylvania (-1,378), Ohio (-1,247), New York (-1,004), Arizona (-512), and Oregon (-434).

UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE DATA FOR REGULAR STATE PROGRAMS

WEEK ENDING	May 19	May 12	Change	May 5	<u>Prior Year</u>¹
Initial Claims (SA)	234,000	223,000	+11,000	211,000	237,000
Initial Claims (NSA)	206,868	195,214	+11,654	190,262	210,544
4-Wk Moving Average (SA)	219,750	213,500	+6,250	216,000	238,500
WEEK ENDING	May 12	May 5	Change	April 28	<u>Prior Year</u>¹
Insured Unemployment (SA)	1,741,000	1,712,000	+29,000	1,794,000	1,935,000
Insured Unemployment (NSA)	1,603,049	1,595,249	+7,800	1,724,410	1,783,911
4-Wk Moving Average (SA)	1,751,750	1,775,000	-23,250	1,813,500	1,942,500
<u>Insured Unemployment Rate (SA)</u> ²	1.2%	1.2%	0.0	1.3%	1.4%
<u>Insured Unemployment Rate (NSA)</u> ²	1.1%	1.1%	0.0	1.2%	1.3%

INITIAL CLAIMS FILED IN FEDERAL PROGRAMS (UNADJUSTED)

WEEK ENDING	May 12	May 5	Change	<u>Prior Year</u>¹
Federal Employees (UCFE)	600	601	-1	551
Newly Discharged Veterans (UCX)	947	965	-18	790

PERSONS CLAIMING UI BENEFITS IN ALL PROGRAMS (UNADJUSTED)

WEEK ENDING	May 5	April 28	Change	<u>Prior Year</u>¹
Regular State	1,592,947	1,722,155	-129,208	1,782,381
Federal Employees	7,264	8,734	-1,470	8,986
Newly Discharged Veterans	7,602	7,880	-278	10,605
<u>Extended Benefits</u> ³	0	1	-1	0
<u>State Additional Benefits</u> ⁴	6,947	7,180	-233	7,509
<u>STC / Workshare</u> ⁵	8,030	7,927	+103	10,045
<u>TOTAL</u>	1,622,790	1,753,877	-131,087	1,819,526

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 141,433,196 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 May 19			Insured Unemployment For Week Ended May 12		
	Advance	Prior Wk	Change	Advance	Prior Wk	Change
Alabama	3,883	3,646	237	16,001	14,316	1,685
Alaska	1,012	791	221	8,423	9,066	-643
Arizona	4,161	4,148	13	24,051	27,257	-3,206
Arkansas	1,705	1,790	-85	9,971	10,882	-911
California	42,164	39,382	2,782	343,225	323,744	19,481
Colorado	1,770	1,776	-6	20,865	19,649	1,216
Connecticut	2,683	2,535	148	32,800	32,098	702
Delaware	410	487	-77	4,303	4,116	187
District of Columbia	638	335	303	7,062	7,436	-374
Florida	6,634	6,977	-343	33,466	36,826	-3,360
Georgia	4,642	4,748	-106	24,150	25,056	-906
Hawaii	1,175	1,147	28	7,188	6,572	616
Idaho	655	773	-118	4,201	4,728	-527
Illinois	7,966	7,914	52	93,617	91,662	1,955
Indiana	2,166	2,186	-20	14,502	14,060	442
Iowa	2,239	1,788	451	13,742	13,992	-250
Kansas	1,773	1,488	285	8,181	8,369	-188
Kentucky	6,648	4,969	1,679	17,593	16,644	949
Louisiana	2,146	2,026	120	13,642	15,141	-1,499
Maine *	527	499	28	5,367	5,793	-426
Maryland	3,323	3,020	303	24,797	27,643	-2,846
Massachusetts	4,780	4,426	354	46,289	49,044	-2,755
Michigan	6,576	5,026	1,550	39,728	41,835	-2,107
Minnesota	2,624	2,761	-137	33,212	37,640	-4,428
Mississippi	1,714	1,440	274	6,856	7,050	-194
Missouri	3,956	6,808	-2,852	22,797	19,629	3,168
Montana	568	651	-83	5,510	5,932	-422
Nebraska	645	664	-19	3,589	3,575	14
Nevada	2,303	2,151	152	17,098	18,315	-1,217
New Hampshire	513	466	47	3,238	3,658	-420
New Jersey	8,326	7,292	1,034	80,662	81,476	-814
New Mexico	799	682	117	8,660	9,016	-356
New York	12,338	12,178	160	119,453	122,927	-3,474
North Carolina	3,360	3,018	342	18,055	18,798	-743
North Dakota	346	233	113	2,580	2,604	-24
Ohio	6,009	5,475	534	46,326	47,685	-1,359
Oklahoma	1,360	1,328	32	12,587	13,088	-501
Oregon	3,191	2,875	316	24,780	25,320	-540
Pennsylvania	13,357	11,143	2,214	97,184	91,068	6,116
Puerto Rico ^{IM}	890	895	-5	15,688	16,275	-587
Rhode Island	862	747	115	6,881	6,965	-84
South Carolina	2,339	2,206	133	13,717	13,769	-52
South Dakota	164	182	-18	1,064	1,186	-122
Tennessee	2,620	2,357	263	16,818	17,521	-703
Texas	14,124	13,755	369	119,201	111,246	7,955
Utah	971	909	62	7,296	7,542	-246
Vermont	580	357	223	3,395	3,506	-111
Virgin Islands ^{IM}	4	15	-11	1,318	1,588	-270
Virginia	3,375	2,592	783	20,992	20,525	467
Washington	5,106	5,395	-289	45,613	44,879	734
West Virginia	810	725	85	9,254	8,821	433
Wisconsin	3,630	3,795	-165	23,616	24,968	-1,352
Wyoming	308	242	66	2,445	2,748	-303
US Total	206,868	195,214	11,654	1,603,049	1,595,249	7,800

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.

^IAffected by Hurricane Irma.

^MAffected by Hurricane Maria

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	
May 13, 2017	238	1	242.25	1,935	15	1,942.50	1.4
May 20, 2017	237	-1	238.50	1,932	-3	1,930.50	1.4
May 27, 2017	253	16	241.25	1,937	5	1,931.00	1.4
June 3, 2017	246	-7	243.50	1,945	8	1,937.25	1.4
June 10, 2017	240	-6	244.00	1,947	2	1,940.25	1.4
June 17, 2017	244	4	245.75	1,950	3	1,944.75	1.4
June 24, 2017	243	-1	243.25	1,964	14	1,951.50	1.4
July 1, 2017	251	8	244.50	1,951	-13	1,953.00	1.4
July 8, 2017	244	-7	245.50	1,971	20	1,959.00	1.4
July 15, 2017	239	-5	244.25	1,962	-9	1,962.00	1.4
July 22, 2017	242	3	244.00	1,963	1	1,961.75	1.4
July 29, 2017	243	1	242.00	1,954	-9	1,962.50	1.4
August 5, 2017	242	-1	241.50	1,952	-2	1,957.75	1.4
August 12, 2017	236	-6	240.75	1,950	-2	1,954.75	1.4
August 19, 2017	237	1	239.50	1,947	-3	1,950.75	1.4
August 26, 2017	238	1	238.25	1,943	-4	1,948.00	1.4
September 2, 2017	293	55	251.00	1,940	-3	1,945.00	1.4
September 9, 2017	267	-26	258.75	1,965	25	1,948.75	1.4
September 16, 2017	255	-12	263.25	1,923	-42	1,942.75	1.4
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	1,741	29	1,751.75	1.2
May 19, 2018	234	11	219.75				

STATE NAME	INITIAL CLAIMS FILED DURING WEEK ENDED MAY 12					INSURED UNEMPLOYMENT FOR WEEK ENDED MAY 5						ALL PROGRAMS EXCLUDING RAILROAD RETIREMENT
	STATE	CHANGE FROM				STATE (%) ²	CHANGE FROM					
		LAST WEEK	YEAR AGO	UCFE ¹	UCX ¹		LAST WEEK	YEAR AGO	UCFE ¹	UCX ¹		
Alabama	3646	1082	754	4	7	14316	0.8	-155	-1822	58	81	14455
Alaska	791	-74	-159	0	1	9066	2.9	-441	-582	88	32	9186
Arizona	4148	-512	-19	3	2	27257	1.0	-141	-2159	103	64	27424
Arkansas	1790	199	-80	6	7	10882	0.9	-466	-1402	46	87	11015
California	39382	317	1818	104	114	323744	1.9	-46438	-18163	1650	1620	327014
Colorado	1776	-123	-233	6	18	19649	0.8	-1731	-3767	143	241	20033
Connecticut	2535	62	-1346	5	5	32098	1.9	-1586	-2815	48	68	32214
Delaware	487	71	-22	0	1	4116	0.9	-878	-850	15	11	4142
District of Columbia	335	49	-29	4	0	7436	1.3	-2	-486	298	12	7746
Florida	6977	282	-683	22	30	36826	0.4	-589	-4047	140	172	37138
Georgia	4748	-341	-877	24	20	25056	0.6	-274	-2438	173	228	25457
Hawaii	1147	-114	-63	3	8	6572	1.1	-369	-1295	61	80	6713
Idaho	773	-49	-35	1	4	4728	0.7	-571	-1699	41	15	4784
Illinois	7914	-149	-911	9	10	91662	1.6	-8793	-11730	249	250	92161
Indiana	2186	60	-301	3	8	14060	0.5	-672	-5669	36	39	14135
Iowa	1788	168	-135	4	1	13992	0.9	-1189	-2563	43	23	14058
Kansas	1488	21	-268	5	1	8369	0.6	-240	-1559	43	30	8442
Kentucky	4969	2980	2411	5	2	16644	0.9	-517	-960	87	111	16842
Louisiana	2026	-39	-607	6	2	15141	0.8	-733	-3567	39	16	15196
Maine	499	-158	-107	1	1	5793	1.0	-757	-774	19	14	5826
Maryland	3020	192	-186	24	7	27643	1.1	-627	-4810	322	122	28087
Massachusetts	4426	-16	-609	9	13	49044	1.4	-4261	-12012	71	144	49259
Michigan	5026	660	-404	9	13	41835	1.0	-5468	-8568	97	93	42025
Minnesota	2761	-42	-144	3	1	37640	1.3	-4439	3855	71	80	37791
Mississippi	1440	326	-225	2	0	7050	0.6	-130	-2087	75	17	7142
Missouri	6808	3852	3185	3	9	19629	0.7	-1513	-4044	75	54	19758
Montana	651	-7	54	6	1	5932	1.3	-717	-414	67	23	6022
Nebraska	664	58	-102	1	1	3575	0.4	-144	-513	18	10	3603
Nevada	2151	-35	16	9	1	18315	1.4	-670	-2700	96	77	18488
New Hampshire	466	-47	-25	0	0	3658	0.6	-637	-316	4	7	3669
New Jersey	7292	-6	-932	11	12	81476	2.1	-2715	-4975	253	268	81997
New Mexico	682	-55	-179	0	0	9016	1.2	-315	-1600	93	38	9147
New York	12178	-1004	-3269	23	30	122927	1.3	-6323	-14146	324	379	123630
North Carolina	3018	305	-287	5	6	18798	0.4	-227	-2704	92	161	19051
North Dakota	233	-11	-174	3	1	2604	0.6	-702	-57	20	4	2628
Ohio	5475	-1247	-740	6	13	47685	0.9	-1774	-7332	95	168	47948
Oklahoma	1328	20	-215	7	3	13088	0.9	126	-1605	55	71	13214
Oregon	2875	-434	-990	13	9	25320	1.4	-846	-959	240	91	25651
Pennsylvania	11143	-1378	-1627	54	31	91068	1.6	-12825	-10928	393	263	91724
Puerto Rico	895	-108	-630	2	5	16275	1.9	-1653	-6351	50	119	16444
Rhode Island	747	43	30	3	3	6965	1.5	-503	-957	37	20	7022
South Carolina	2206	219	-202	1	6	13769	0.7	-247	1172	45	64	13878
South Dakota	182	32	-30	3	0	1186	0.3	-421	-89	29	1	1216
Tennessee	2357	66	-599	6	9	17521	0.6	-798	-582	91	76	17688
Texas	13755	-25	-791	151	484	111246	0.9	-8341	-22825	502	1126	112874
Utah	909	-166	-42	12	2	7542	0.5	-150	-918	42	18	7602
Vermont	357	-76	-68	0	0	3506	1.2	-642	-675	7	3	3516
Virgin Islands	15	0	-23	0	0	1588	4.3	70	1208	2	12	1602
Virginia	2592	140	-554	9	16	20525	0.6	29	-2631	206	251	20982
Washington	5395	260	-206	4	21	44879	1.4	-1196	-4433	241	566	45686
West Virginia	725	-111	-166	1	5	8821	1.3	-596	-1118	53	35	8909
Wisconsin	3795	-144	-621	2	3	24968	0.9	-3643	-3153	59	34	25061
Wyoming	242	-41	-44	3	0	2748	1.1	-321	-984	59	13	2820
Totals	195214	4952	-11691	600	947	1595249	1.1	-129161	-186598	7264	7602	1610115

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 MAY 12, 2018

STATES WITH AN INCREASE OF MORE THAN 1,000

State	Change	State Supplied Comment
MO	+3,852	Layoffs in the manufacturing, transportation and warehousing, and accommodation and food service industries.
KY	+2,980	No comment.
AL	+1,082	Layoffs in the manufacturing, administrative and support and waste management and remediation service, and accommodation and food service industries.

STATES WITH A DECREASE OF MORE THAN 1,000

State	Change	State Supplied Comment
PA	-1,378	Fewer layoffs in the construction, administrative and support and waste management and remediation service, and retail trade industries.
OH	-1,247	No comment.
NY	-1,004	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](#)

U.S. Department of Labor news materials are accessible at <http://www.dol.gov>. The Department's [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).

U.S. Department of Labor
Employment and Training Administration
Washington, D.C. 20210
Release Number: USDL 18-904-NAT

Program Contacts:
Tony Sznoluch (202) 693-3176
Sandra Trujillo (202) 693-2933
Media Contact: (202) 693-4676