



News Release

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8:30 A.M. (Eastern) Thursday, May 31, 2018

UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE WEEKLY CLAIMS

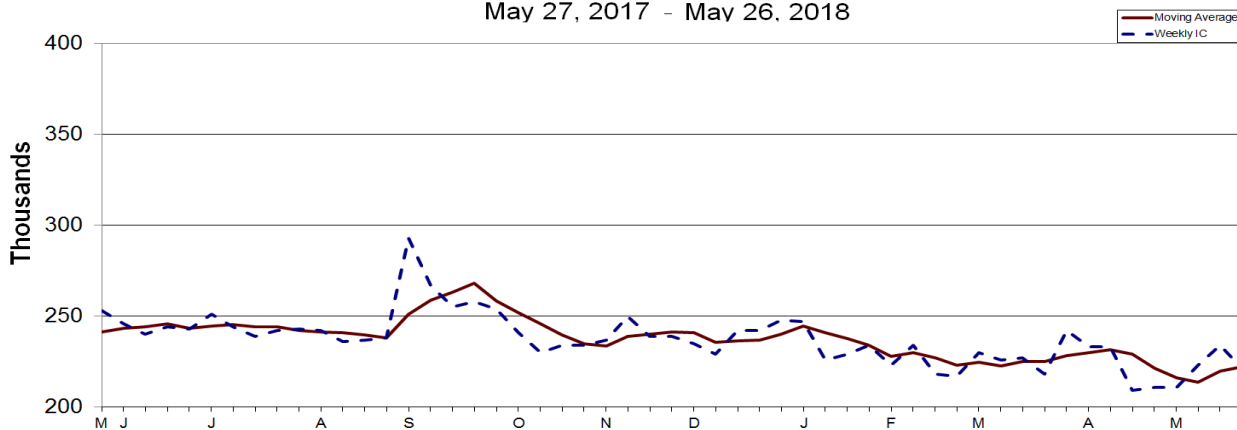
SEASONALLY ADJUSTED DATA

In the week ending May 26, the advance figure for seasonally adjusted **initial claims** was 221,000, a decrease of 13,000 from the previous week's unrevised level of 234,000. The 4-week moving average was 222,250, an increase of 2,500 from the previous week's unrevised average of 219,750.

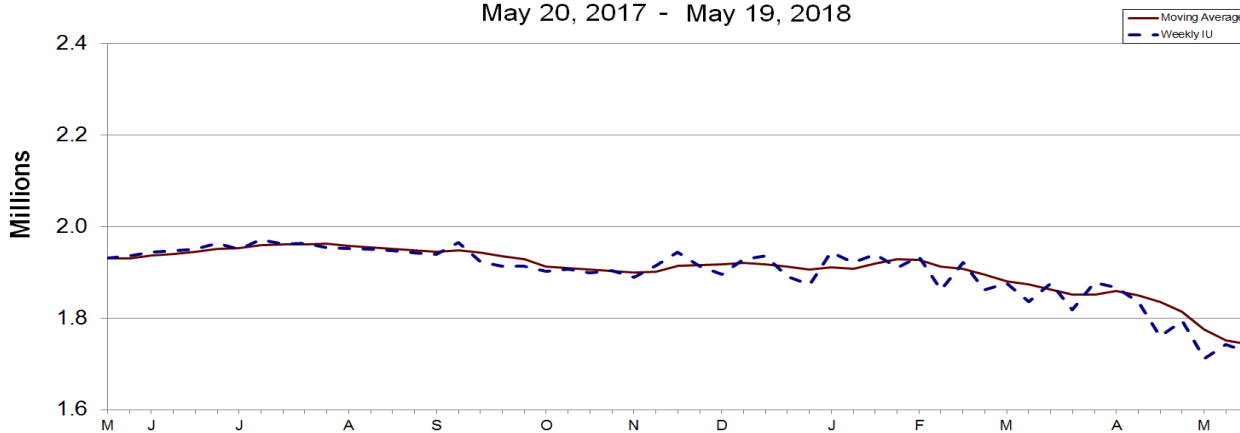
Claims taking procedures in Puerto Rico and in the Virgin Islands have still not returned to normal.

The advance seasonally adjusted **insured unemployment rate** was 1.2 percent for the week ending May 19, unchanged from the previous week's unrevised rate. The advance number for seasonally adjusted **insured unemployment** during the week ending May 19 was 1,726,000, a decrease of 16,000 from the previous week's revised level. The previous week's level was revised up 1,000 from 1,741,000 to 1,742,000. The 4-week moving average was 1,743,500, a decrease of 8,500 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 250 from 1,751,750 to 1,752,000.

Seasonally Adjusted Initial Claims
May 27, 2017 - May 26, 2018



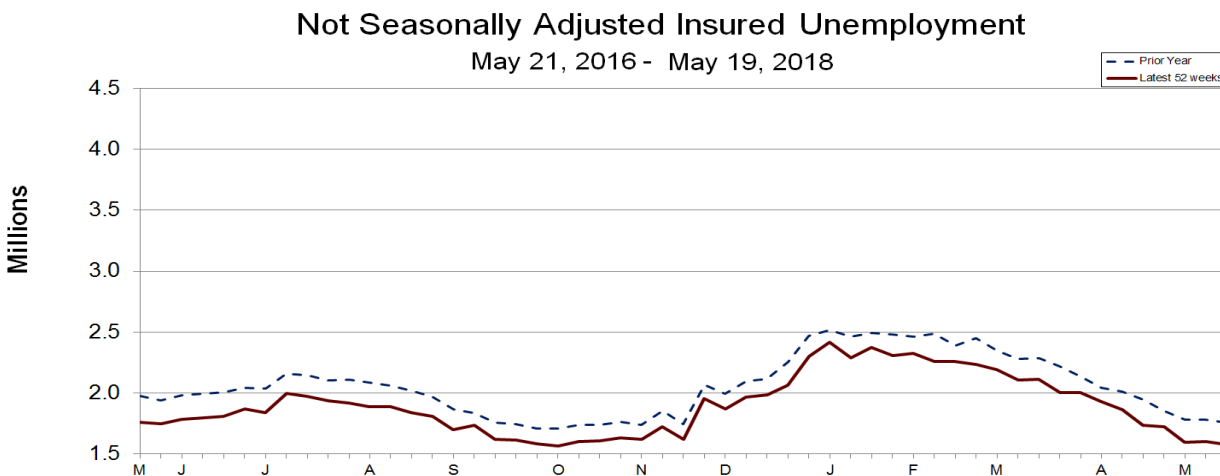
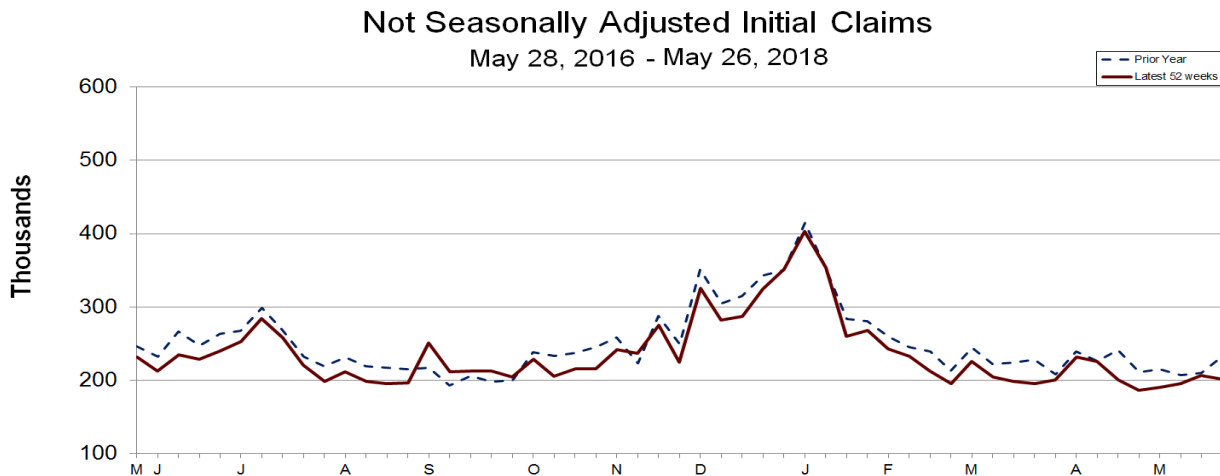
Seasonally Adjusted Insured Unemployment
May 20, 2017 - May 19, 2018



UNADJUSTED DATA

The advance number of actual initial claims under state programs, unadjusted, totaled 201,374 in the week ending May 26, a decrease of 5,669 (or -2.7 percent) from the previous week. The seasonal factors had expected an increase of 6,565 (or 3.2 percent) from the previous week. There were 232,138 initial claims in the comparable week in 2017.

The advance unadjusted insured unemployment rate was 1.1 percent during the week ending May 19, unchanged from the prior week. The advance unadjusted number for persons claiming UI benefits in state programs totaled 1,579,407, a decrease of 24,712 (or -1.5 percent) from the preceding week. The seasonal factors had expected a decrease of 10,450 (or -0.7 percent) from the previous week. A year earlier the rate was 1.3 percent and the volume was 1,759,705.



The total number of people claiming benefits in all programs for the week ending May 12 was 1,631,905, an increase of 9,115 from the previous week. There were 1,822,609 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 12.

Initial claims for UI benefits filed by former Federal civilian employees totaled 654 in the week ending May 19, an increase of 54 from the prior week. There were 724 initial claims filed by newly discharged veterans, a decrease of 223 from the preceding week.

There were 7,757 former Federal civilian employees claiming UI benefits for the week ending May 12, an increase of 493 from the previous week. Newly discharged veterans claiming benefits totaled 7,711, an increase of 109 from the prior week.

The highest insured unemployment rates in the week ending May 12 were in the Virgin Islands (3.5), Alaska (2.8), California (2.0), New Jersey (2.0), Connecticut (1.9), Puerto Rico (1.9), Pennsylvania (1.7), Illinois (1.6), Rhode Island (1.5), Nevada (1.4), and Washington (1.4).

The largest increases in initial claims for the week ending May 19 were in Pennsylvania (+2,219), California (+2,162), Michigan (+1,695), Kentucky (+1,660), and New Jersey (+1,126), while the largest decreases were in Missouri (-2,648), Washington (-305), Minnesota (-269), Wisconsin (-161), and Florida (-137).

UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE DATA FOR REGULAR STATE PROGRAMS

WEEK ENDING	May 26	May 19	Change	May 12	<u>Prior Year</u>¹
Initial Claims (SA)	221,000	234,000	-13,000	223,000	253,000
Initial Claims (NSA)	201,374	207,043	-5,669	195,214	232,138
4-Wk Moving Average (SA)	222,250	219,750	+2,500	213,500	241,250
WEEK ENDING	May 19	May 12	Change	May 5	<u>Prior Year</u>¹
Insured Unemployment (SA)	1,726,000	1,742,000	-16,000	1,712,000	1,932,000
Insured Unemployment (NSA)	1,579,407	1,604,119	-24,712	1,595,249	1,759,705
4-Wk Moving Average (SA)	1,743,500	1,752,000	-8,500	1,775,000	1,930,500
<u>Insured Unemployment Rate (SA)</u> ²	1.2%	1.2%	0.0	1.2%	1.4%
<u>Insured Unemployment Rate (NSA)</u> ²	1.1%	1.1%	0.0	1.1%	1.3%

INITIAL CLAIMS FILED IN FEDERAL PROGRAMS (UNADJUSTED)

WEEK ENDING	May 19	May 12	Change	<u>Prior Year</u>¹
Federal Employees (UCFE)	654	600	+54	690
Newly Discharged Veterans (UCX)	724	947	-223	699

PERSONS CLAIMING UI BENEFITS IN ALL PROGRAMS (UNADJUSTED)

WEEK ENDING	May 12	May 5	Change	<u>Prior Year</u>¹
Regular State	1,601,888	1,592,947	+8,941	1,784,354
Federal Employees	7,757	7,264	+493	9,214
Newly Discharged Veterans	7,711	7,602	+109	10,889
<u>Extended Benefits</u> ³	0	0	0	0
<u>State Additional Benefits</u> ⁴	6,903	6,947	-44	7,579
<u>STC / Workshare</u> ⁵	7,646	8,030	-384	10,573
<u>TOTAL</u>	1,631,905	1,622,790	+9,115	1,822,609

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 26			Insured Unemployment For Week Ended May 19		
	Advance	Prior Wk	Change	Advance	Prior Wk	Change
Alabama	3,052	4,091	-1,039	17,097	15,833	1,264
Alaska	1,234	914	320	7,908	8,520	-612
Arizona	4,233	4,409	-176	24,297	27,631	-3,334
Arkansas	1,843	1,874	-31	10,327	10,727	-400
California*	37,510	41,544	-4,034	331,224	335,046	-3,822
Colorado	1,885	1,771	114	19,414	20,475	-1,061
Connecticut	2,488	2,690	-202	32,973	31,447	1,526
Delaware	397	433	-36	4,327	4,137	190
District of Columbia	532	350	182	7,193	7,409	-216
Florida	6,869	6,840	29	33,331	37,581	-4,250
Georgia	5,016	4,847	169	24,364	25,316	-952
Hawaii**	1,034	1,158	-124	6,798	6,892	-94
Idaho	768	709	59	3,990	4,457	-467
Illinois	8,869	7,872	997	87,401	92,402	-5,001
Indiana	2,128	2,058	70	14,412	13,826	586
Iowa	2,663	2,047	616	13,705	13,317	388
Kansas*	1,754	1,752	2	8,282	8,231	51
Kentucky	2,877	6,629	-3,752	18,338	17,859	479
Louisiana	2,842	2,351	491	13,817	15,258	-1,441
Maine*	455	549	-94	4,959	5,353	-394
Maryland	3,288	3,613	-325	25,192	27,237	-2,045
Massachusetts	4,625	4,833	-208	45,823	46,992	-1,169
Michigan	7,520	6,721	799	39,452	40,977	-1,525
Minnesota	2,844	2,492	352	30,324	31,697	-1,373
Mississippi	1,921	1,922	-1	7,541	7,324	217
Missouri	5,086	4,160	926	23,860	23,112	748
Montana	680	591	89	5,151	5,636	-485
Nebraska	829	663	166	3,630	3,553	77
Nevada	2,297	2,218	79	16,642	18,579	-1,937
New Hampshire	357	443	-86	3,270	3,556	-286
New Jersey	7,705	8,418	-713	81,053	79,547	1,506
New Mexico	940	806	134	8,616	8,859	-243
New York	13,960	12,279	1,681	119,327	118,811	516
North Carolina	2,950	3,194	-244	18,454	18,762	-308
North Dakota	357	284	73	2,386	2,177	209
Ohio	6,196	5,959	237	45,874	46,028	-154
Oklahoma	1,347	1,464	-117	12,809	12,914	-105
Oregon	3,125	3,192	-67	24,462	24,789	-327
Pennsylvania	11,872	13,362	-1,490	90,772	96,052	-5,280
Puerto Rico* ^{IM}	1,518	940	578	24,737	16,441	8,296
Rhode Island	624	846	-222	6,940	6,803	137
South Carolina	2,322	2,326	-4	14,207	13,099	1,108
South Dakota	160	174	-14	1,056	1,127	-71
Tennessee	3,359	2,736	623	17,075	17,937	-862
Texas	12,955	13,953	-998	114,630	119,249	-4,619
Utah	1,020	957	63	7,174	7,304	-130
Vermont	375	587	-212	3,411	3,227	184
Virgin Islands ^{IM}	16	6	10	1,446	1,318	128
Virginia*	2,826	3,148	-322	20,942	20,758	184
Washington	5,130	5,090	40	44,428	44,344	84
West Virginia	775	871	-96	9,052	8,720	332
Wisconsin	3,663	3,634	29	22,770	22,899	-129
Wyoming	283	273	10	2,744	2,574	170
US Total	201,374	207,043	-5,669	1,579,407	1,604,119	-24,712

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.

**Denotes OUI estimate.

^IAffected by Hurricane Irma.

^MAffected by Hurricane Maria

Seasonally Adjusted US Weekly UI Claims (in thousands)

Week Ending	Initial Claims	Change		Insured Unemployment	Change		IUR
		from Prior Week	4-Week Average		from Prior Week	4-Week Average	
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	1,742	30	1,752.00	1.2
May 19, 2018	234	11	219.75	1,726	-16	1,743.50	1.2
May 26, 2018	221	-13	222.25				

STATE NAME	INITIAL CLAIMS FILED DURING WEEK ENDED MAY 19						INSURED UNEMPLOYMENT FOR WEEK ENDED MAY 12						ALL PROGRAMS EXCLUDING RAILROAD RETIREMENT
	STATE	CHANGE FROM		UCFE ¹	UCX ¹	STATE (%) ²	LAST WEEK	YEAR AGO	CHANGE FROM		UCFE ¹	UCX ¹	
		LAST WEEK	YEAR AGO						LAST WEEK	YEAR AGO			
Alabama	4091	445	1282	13	5	15833	0.8	1517	-588	56	80	15969	
Alaska	914	123	-180	0	0	8520	2.8	-546	-1235	67	19	8606	
Arizona	4409	261	256	3	3	27631	1.0	374	-2689	100	55	27786	
Arkansas	1874	84	-310	12	6	10727	0.9	-155	-1481	52	84	10863	
California	41544	2162	3524	156	108	335046	2.0	11302	-16184	1989	1609	338644	
Colorado	1771	-5	-364	5	22	20475	0.8	826	-3830	127	247	20849	
Connecticut	2690	155	-412	5	5	31447	1.9	-651	-1947	55	63	31565	
Delaware	433	-54	13	1	1	4137	1.0	21	-784	15	11	4163	
District of Columbia	350	15	25	12	1	7409	1.3	-27	-523	295	11	7715	
Florida	6840	-137	-846	21	45	37581	0.5	755	-6086	153	162	37896	
Georgia	4847	99	-338	26	30	25316	0.6	260	-2133	166	205	25687	
Hawaii	1158	11	-150	3	14	6892	1.1	320	-605	59	98	7049	
Idaho	709	-64	-108	1	0	4457	0.6	-271	-1601	34	15	4506	
Illinois	7872	-42	-911	11	10	92402	1.6	740	-13411	380	207	92989	
Indiana	2058	-128	-506	2	1	13826	0.5	-234	-5284	27	52	13905	
Iowa	2047	259	2	0	1	13317	0.9	-675	-2535	45	25	13387	
Kansas	1752	264	-170	4	2	8231	0.6	-138	-1426	36	30	8297	
Kentucky	6629	1660	4263	3	4	17859	1.0	1215	25	83	136	18078	
Louisiana	2351	325	-574	9	7	15258	0.8	117	-3642	42	18	15318	
Maine	549	50	-47	0	1	5353	0.9	-440	-776	21	20	5394	
Maryland	3613	593	265	22	8	27237	1.1	-406	-4932	336	114	27687	
Massachusetts	4833	407	-520	8	15	46992	1.3	-2052	-11835	72	131	47195	
Michigan	6721	1695	-343	9	15	40977	1.0	-858	-5267	103	89	41169	
Minnesota	2492	-269	-676	2	6	31697	1.1	-5943	-511	61	65	31823	
Mississippi	1922	482	-202	3	4	7324	0.7	274	-2257	71	25	7420	
Missouri	4160	-2648	-337	8	5	23112	0.8	3483	298	74	54	23240	
Montana	591	-60	-145	7	1	5636	1.3	-296	-220	79	24	5739	
Nebraska	663	-1	-253	1	1	3553	0.4	-22	-515	20	9	3582	
Nevada	2218	67	-35	1	2	18579	1.4	264	-2313	96	71	18746	
New Hampshire	443	-23	-15	0	0	3556	0.6	-102	-300	4	6	3566	
New Jersey	8418	1126	594	15	21	79547	2.0	-1929	-5367	248	257	80052	
New Mexico	806	124	-209	2	5	8859	1.1	-157	-1614	82	48	8989	
New York	12279	101	-2135	37	26	118811	1.3	-4116	-14726	327	366	119504	
North Carolina	3194	176	-256	9	17	18762	0.4	-36	-2489	76	162	19000	
North Dakota	284	51	-104	2	2	2177	0.5	-427	-331	19	5	2201	
Ohio	5959	484	72	7	20	46028	0.9	-1657	-6707	94	166	46288	
Oklahoma	1464	136	-224	9	9	12914	0.8	-174	-2007	57	72	13043	
Oregon	3192	317	-177	10	4	24789	1.3	-531	-1289	214	92	25095	
Pennsylvania	13362	2219	776	46	27	96052	1.7	4984	-7293	496	252	96800	
Puerto Rico	940	45	-770	2	4	16441	1.9	166	-6802	31	82	16554	
Rhode Island	846	99	-5	1	1	6803	1.5	-162	-848	23	19	6845	
South Carolina	2326	120	-244	5	10	13099	0.7	-670	-13	32	61	13192	
South Dakota	174	-8	-13	13	1	1127	0.3	-59	-108	34	2	1163	
Tennessee	2736	379	-213	6	14	17937	0.6	416	-388	83	81	18101	
Texas	13953	198	-1245	105	198	119249	1.0	8003	-22119	596	1359	121204	
Utah	957	48	-34	10	2	7304	0.5	-238	-925	46	18	7368	
Vermont	587	230	-313	1	1	3227	1.1	-279	-625	8	6	3241	
Virgin Islands	6	-9	-13	1	0	1318	3.5	-270	804	0	2	1320	
Virginia	3148	556	-82	8	12	20758	0.6	233	-2644	213	262	21233	
Washington	5090	-305	-187	10	18	44344	1.4	-535	-4305	211	592	45147	
West Virginia	871	146	-69	2	3	8720	1.3	-101	-1229	53	40	8813	
Wisconsin	3634	-161	-748	4	5	22899	0.8	-2069	-3249	57	26	22982	
Wyoming	273	31	-90	1	1	2574	1.0	-174	-931	39	6	2619	
Totals	207043	11829	-3501	654	724	1604119	1.1	8870	-179792	7757	7711	1619587	

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 19, 2018

STATES WITH AN INCREASE OF MORE THAN 1,000

State	Change	State Supplied Comment
PA	+2,219	Layoffs in the accommodation and food service, construction, and administrative and support and waste management and remediation service industries.
CA	+2,162	Layoffs in the service industry.
MI	+1,695	Layoffs in the wholesale trade industry.
KY	+1,660	No comment.
NJ	+1,126	Layoffs in the administrative and support and waste management and remediation service, construction, accommodation and food service, and transportation and warehousing industries.

STATES WITH A DECREASE OF MORE THAN 1,000

State	Change	State Supplied Comment
MO	-2,648	Fewer layoffs in the manufacturing, professional, scientific, technical service, and finance and insurance 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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