



News Release

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8:30 A.M. (Eastern) Thursday, September 6, 2018

UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE WEEKLY CLAIMS

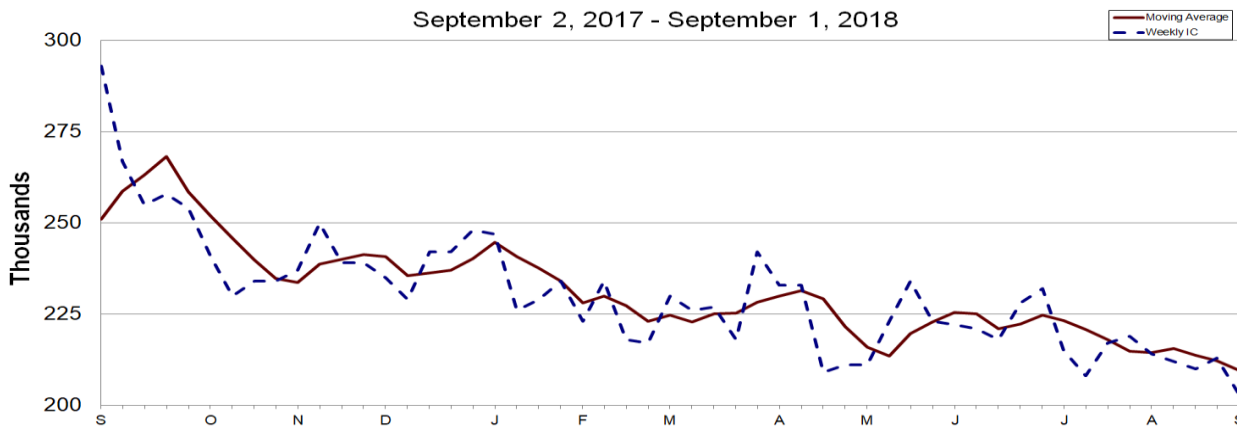
SEASONALLY ADJUSTED DATA

In the week ending September 1, the advance figure for seasonally adjusted **initial claims** was 203,000, a decrease of 10,000 from the previous week's unrevised level of 213,000. This is the lowest level for initial claims since December 6, 1969 when it was 202,000. The 4-week moving average was 209,500, a decrease of 2,750 from the previous week's unrevised average of 212,250. This is the lowest level for this average since December 6, 1969 when it was 204,500.

The advance seasonally adjusted **insured unemployment rate** was 1.2 percent for the week ending August 25, unchanged from the previous week's unrevised rate. The advance number for seasonally adjusted **insured unemployment** during the week ending August 25 was 1,707,000, a decrease of 3,000 from the previous week's revised level. The previous week's level was revised up 2,000 from 1,708,000 to 1,710,000. The 4-week moving average was 1,718,500, a decrease of 13,250 from the previous week's revised average. This is the lowest level for this average since December 8, 1973 when it was 1,715,500. The previous week's average was revised up by 500 from 1,731,250 to 1,731,750.

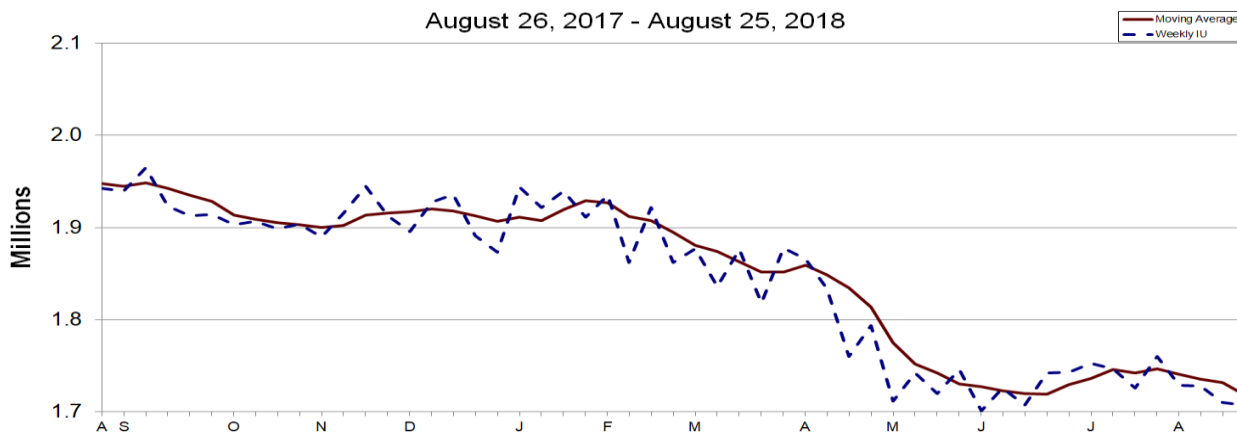
Seasonally Adjusted Initial Claims

September 2, 2017 - September 1, 2018



Seasonally Adjusted Insured Unemployment

August 26, 2017 - August 25, 2018



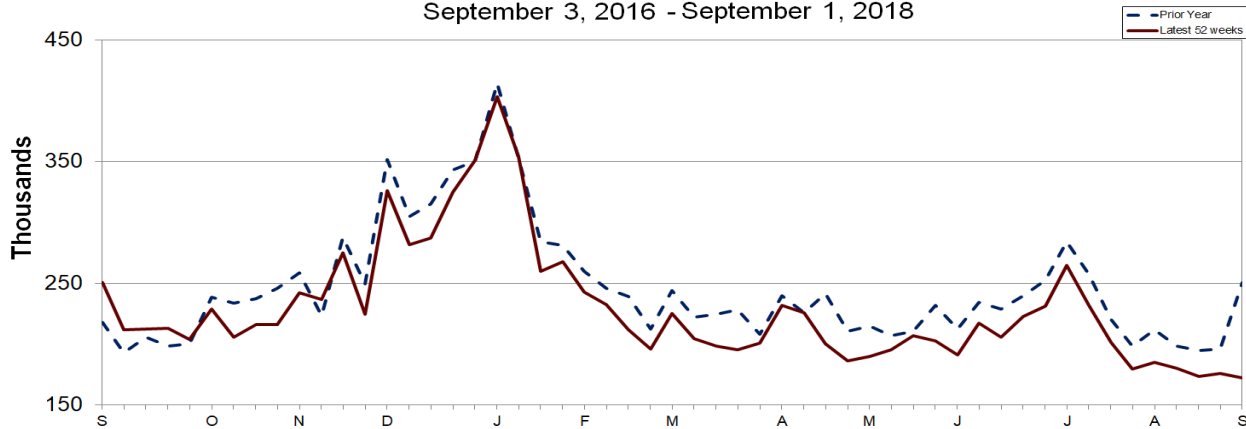
UNADJUSTED DATA

The advance number of actual initial claims under state programs, unadjusted, totaled 172,355 in the week ending September 1, a decrease of 3,390 (or -1.9 percent) from the previous week. The seasonal factors had expected an increase of 4,687 (or 2.7 percent) from the previous week. There were 250,627 initial claims in the comparable week in 2017.

The advance unadjusted insured unemployment rate was 1.1 percent during the week ending August 25, unchanged from the prior week. The advance unadjusted number for persons claiming UI benefits in state programs totaled 1,596,434, a decrease of 27,788 (or -1.7 percent) from the preceding week. The seasonal factors had expected a decrease of 25,646 (or -1.6 percent) from the previous week. A year earlier the rate was 1.3 percent and the volume was 1,812,487.

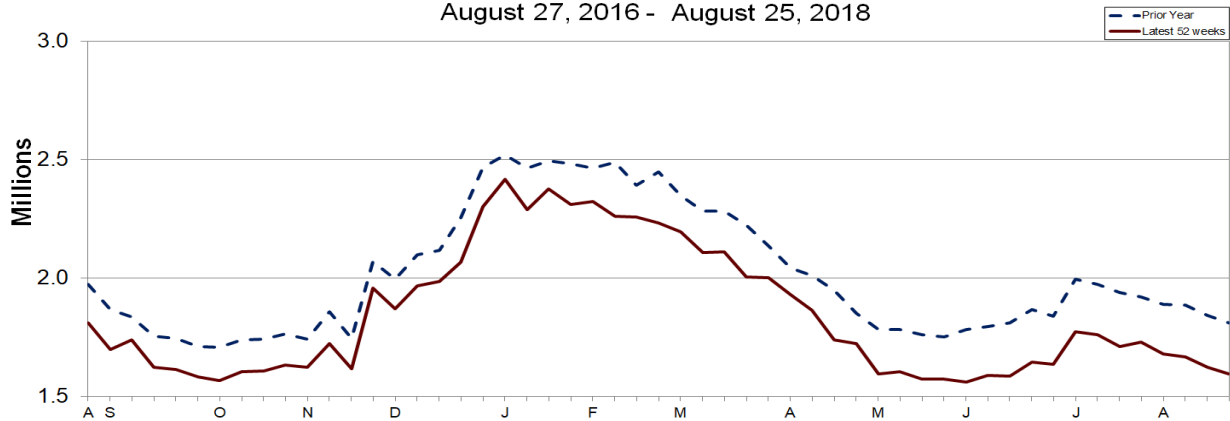
Not Seasonally Adjusted Initial Claims

September 3, 2016 - September 1, 2018



Not Seasonally Adjusted Insured Unemployment

August 27, 2016 - August 25, 2018



The total number of people claiming benefits in all programs for the week ending August 18 was 1,648,724, a decrease of 45,376 from the previous week. There were 1,872,342 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 August 18.

Initial claims for UI benefits filed by former Federal civilian employees totaled 596 in the week ending August 25, a decrease of 36 from the prior week. There were 646 initial claims filed by newly discharged veterans, an increase of 31 from the preceding week.

There were 7,426 former Federal civilian employees claiming UI benefits for the week ending August 18, a decrease of 406 from the previous week. Newly discharged veterans claiming benefits totaled 7,633, an increase of 223 from the prior week.

The highest insured unemployment rates in the week ending August 18 were in New Jersey (2.5), Connecticut (2.2), Pennsylvania (2.0), Puerto Rico (1.9), Rhode Island (1.9), Alaska (1.8), California (1.8), Illinois (1.5), Massachusetts (1.5), and New York (1.5).

The largest increases in initial claims for the week ending August 25 were in New York (+4,853), Michigan (+927), Pennsylvania (+582), Washington (+556), and Oregon (+364), while the largest decreases were in California (-1,432), New Jersey (-905), Georgia (-532), Ohio (-365), and North Carolina (-214).

UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE DATA FOR REGULAR STATE PROGRAMS

WEEK ENDING	September 1	August 25	Change	August 18	<u>Prior Year</u>¹
Initial Claims (SA)	203,000	213,000	-10,000	210,000	293,000
Initial Claims (NSA)	172,355	175,745	-3,390	173,331	250,627
4-Wk Moving Average (SA)	209,500	212,250	-2,750	213,750	251,000
WEEK ENDING	August 25	August 18	Change	August 11	<u>Prior Year</u>¹
Insured Unemployment (SA)	1,707,000	1,710,000	-3,000	1,728,000	1,943,000
Insured Unemployment (NSA)	1,596,434	1,624,222	-27,788	1,668,840	1,812,487
4-Wk Moving Average (SA)	1,718,500	1,731,750	-13,250	1,735,750	1,948,000
<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	1.2%	1.3%

INITIAL CLAIMS FILED IN FEDERAL PROGRAMS (UNADJUSTED)

WEEK ENDING	August 25	August 18	Change	<u>Prior Year</u>¹
Federal Employees (UCFE)	596	632	-36	606
Newly Discharged Veterans (UCX)	646	615	+31	756

PERSONS CLAIMING UI BENEFITS IN ALL PROGRAMS (UNADJUSTED)

WEEK ENDING	August 18	August 11	Change	<u>Prior Year</u>¹
Regular State	1,622,646	1,667,053	-44,407	1,838,546
Federal Employees	7,426	7,832	-406	8,597
Newly Discharged Veterans	7,633	7,410	+223	9,761
<u>Extended Benefits</u>³	2	1	+1	0
<u>State Additional Benefits</u>⁴	4,910	5,056	-146	5,692
<u>STC / Workshare</u>⁵	6,107	6,748	-641	9,746
<u>TOTAL</u>	1,648,724	1,694,100	-45,376	1,872,342

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 1			Insured Unemployment For Week Ended August 25		
	Advance	Prior Wk	Change	Advance	Prior Wk	Change
Alabama	1,861	2,048	-187	15,584	16,229	-645
Alaska	967	874	93	5,249	5,450	-201
Arizona	3,391	3,465	-74	25,493	30,176	-4,683
Arkansas	1,291	1,375	-84	9,328	10,738	-1,410
California**	35,063	35,722	-659	310,587	303,782	6,805
Colorado	1,541	1,557	-16	17,597	17,559	38
Connecticut	2,212	2,547	-335	37,627	37,145	482
Delaware	361	424	-63	5,241	5,324	-83
District of Columbia	470	392	78	7,637	8,179	-542
Florida	5,629	6,519	-890	38,648	43,629	-4,981
Georgia	4,065	4,181	-116	23,301	25,160	-1,859
Hawaii*	875	871	4	6,223	6,112	111
Idaho	664	778	-114	3,136	4,196	-1,060
Illinois	7,065	6,468	597	82,618	86,380	-3,762
Indiana	3,044	1,959	1,085	13,739	13,118	621
Iowa	1,859	1,465	394	12,938	13,634	-696
Kansas**	1,332	1,338	-6	8,188	8,129	59
Kentucky	1,568	1,589	-21	15,981	15,866	115
Louisiana	1,930	2,135	-205	15,502	17,611	-2,109
Maine**	435	363	72	3,707	3,981	-274
Maryland	2,458	2,663	-205	27,793	30,476	-2,683
Massachusetts	3,884	4,216	-332	52,640	53,963	-1,323
Michigan	3,888	5,494	-1,606	36,729	42,925	-6,196
Minnesota	2,547	2,348	199	24,847	24,514	333
Mississippi	740	940	-200	7,044	8,405	-1,361
Missouri	2,393	2,657	-264	18,867	20,725	-1,858
Montana	520	463	57	3,932	4,224	-292
Nebraska	523	546	-23	3,289	3,450	-161
Nevada	2,385	2,201	184	16,620	17,701	-1,081
New Hampshire	353	442	-89	3,433	3,823	-390
New Jersey	7,038	7,371	-333	98,214	97,836	378
New Mexico	672	679	-7	7,763	7,631	132
New York	15,928	16,765	-837	140,417	138,124	2,293
North Carolina	2,591	2,535	56	18,218	19,920	-1,702
North Dakota	249	214	35	1,877	1,798	79
Ohio	4,827	4,361	466	40,678	42,869	-2,191
Oklahoma	1,012	1,248	-236	11,423	12,263	-840
Oregon	2,988	3,177	-189	23,079	23,284	-205
Pennsylvania	10,827	11,017	-190	112,318	113,167	-849
Puerto Rico**	1,528	1,112	416	21,533	16,291	5,242
Rhode Island	709	760	-51	8,897	9,021	-124
South Carolina	1,715	1,929	-214	15,371	16,663	-1,292
South Dakota	116	131	-15	798	920	-122
Tennessee	1,732	1,865	-133	16,176	17,908	-1,732
Texas	11,379	11,956	-577	119,954	118,707	1,247
Utah	864	908	-44	6,553	7,114	-561
Vermont	325	273	52	2,837	2,939	-102
Virgin Islands	10	8	2	504	512	-8
Virginia**	2,617	2,193	424	21,985	21,019	966
Washington	5,893	5,228	665	42,098	40,753	1,345
West Virginia	651	700	-49	7,532	7,365	167
Wisconsin	3,169	3,051	118	23,157	24,071	-914
Wyoming	201	224	-23	1,534	1,443	91
US Total	172,355	175,745	-3,390	1,596,434	1,624,222	-27,788

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 estimate.

**Denotes state estimate.

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	
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	1,720	-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	1,707	-3	1,718.50	1.2
September 1, 2018	203	-10	209.50				

STATE NAME	INITIAL CLAIMS FILED DURING WEEK ENDED AUGUST 25					INSURED UNEMPLOYMENT FOR WEEK ENDED AUGUST 18					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	2048	-103	-282	13	14	16229	0.9	-337	-1440	60	72	16361
Alaska	874	86	-24	2	1	5450	1.8	-214	-1118	56	18	5524
Arizona	3465	-211	-307	6	1	30176	1.1	-301	-2880	107	71	30354
Arkansas	1375	-176	-270	3	9	10738	0.9	-757	-2691	37	62	10837
California	35722	-1432	-3097	122	131	303782	1.8	-15243	-25813	1508	1546	306836
Colorado	1557	2	-22	6	17	17559	0.7	-511	-2948	78	269	17906
Connecticut	2547	-173	-352	5	8	37145	2.2	96	-2978	36	56	37237
Delaware	424	-3	-19	2	1	5324	1.2	-90	-523	13	10	5347
District of Columbia	392	-40	99	11	0	8179	1.4	-102	-856	304	13	8496
Florida	6519	56	-659	18	44	43629	0.5	-3106	-9136	151	159	43939
Georgia	4181	-532	-646	17	27	25160	0.6	-200	-3204	169	263	25592
Hawaii	871	-131	-480	4	5	6112	1.0	-272	-1268	53	76	6241
Idaho	778	77	-72	1	4	4196	0.6	-143	-655	11	21	4228
Illinois	6468	-1	-1060	9	12	86380	1.5	-1192	-13349	356	221	86957
Indiana	1959	-91	-2442	3	3	13118	0.4	-30	-1733	23	33	13174
Iowa	1465	-57	-135	0	4	13634	0.9	-602	-1681	31	22	13687
Kansas	1338	11	-343	3	1	8129	0.6	-215	-2005	30	27	8186
Kentucky	1589	-168	-1011	4	4	15866	0.9	-1598	-1824	77	121	16064
Louisiana	2135	-58	-225	7	9	17611	0.9	-493	-3928	67	14	17692
Maine	363	-34	-54	2	1	3981	0.7	-43	-308	15	16	4012
Maryland	2663	-182	-481	24	11	30476	1.2	-441	-5741	339	124	30939
Massachusetts	4216	-118	-123	8	11	53963	1.5	-360	-12106	81	137	54181
Michigan	5494	927	-991	5	7	42925	1.0	3135	-3215	65	104	43094
Minnesota	2348	125	-163	5	3	24514	0.9	-510	-3088	36	61	24611
Mississippi	940	36	-203	2	0	8405	0.8	-1076	-3149	41	24	8470
Missouri	2657	-142	-418	13	7	20725	0.8	-3090	-2508	249	46	21020
Montana	463	39	-59	4	1	4224	0.9	-179	-507	42	22	4288
Nebraska	546	-22	-167	3	1	3450	0.4	-783	-847	20	11	3481
Nevada	2201	102	-158	5	1	17701	1.4	-383	-2026	58	65	17824
New Hampshire	442	-26	-49	0	1	3823	0.6	47	-589	4	2	3829
New Jersey	7371	-905	-488	13	20	97836	2.5	-50	-5348	213	276	98325
New Mexico	679	6	-134	2	0	7631	1.0	-977	-2197	73	48	7752
New York	16765	4853	-2200	26	22	138124	1.5	3861	-16972	294	327	138745
North Carolina	2535	-214	-244	9	10	19920	0.5	-551	-3164	103	157	20180
North Dakota	214	-27	-111	4	0	1798	0.4	-137	-433	68	3	1869
Ohio	4361	-365	-837	11	22	42869	0.8	-1881	-6287	117	166	43152
Oklahoma	1248	89	-197	8	8	12263	0.8	-338	-2454	72	72	12407
Oregon	3177	364	234	14	7	23284	1.3	-527	-1934	136	107	23527
Pennsylvania	11017	582	-382	48	31	113167	2.0	-4297	-8474	438	326	113931
Puerto Rico	1112	-178	-522	6	10	16291	1.9	-1347	-13336	76	89	16456
Rhode Island	760	-70	-8	11	3	9021	1.9	86	-333	22	21	9064
South Carolina	1929	-66	-239	4	7	16663	0.8	-466	484	46	99	16808
South Dakota	131	-23	-26	3	0	920	0.2	-102	-194	97	1	1018
Tennessee	1865	-50	-200	7	13	17908	0.6	-772	-1376	74	76	18058
Texas	11956	196	-149	73	114	118707	1.0	-4608	-25257	873	1297	120877
Utah	908	45	-58	24	3	7114	0.5	-183	-102	109	18	7241
Vermont	273	8	-9	1	0	2939	1.0	-175	-401	8	5	2952
Virgin Islands	8	-8	-53	1	0	512	1.4	-28	-22	4	2	520
Virginia	2193	-61	-342	12	13	21019	0.6	-819	-3829	214	261	21494
Washington	5228	556	334	3	18	40753	1.3	-686	-5622	175	535	41463
West Virginia	700	9	-91	1	2	7365	1.1	-510	-1760	34	29	7428
Wisconsin	3051	-129	-558	6	3	24071	0.9	-967	-3252	55	26	24152
Wyoming	224	41	11	2	1	1443	0.6	-151	-997	8	6	1457
Totals	175745	2414	-20482	596	646	1624222	1.1	-44618	-217374	7426	7633	1639283

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 AUGUST 25, 2018

STATES WITH AN INCREASE OF MORE THAN 1,000

State	Change	State Supplied Comment
NY	+4,853	Layoffs in the transportation and warehousing, educational service, and construction industries.

STATES WITH A DECREASE OF MORE THAN 1,000

State	Change	State Supplied Comment
CA	-1,432	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).

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