



News Release

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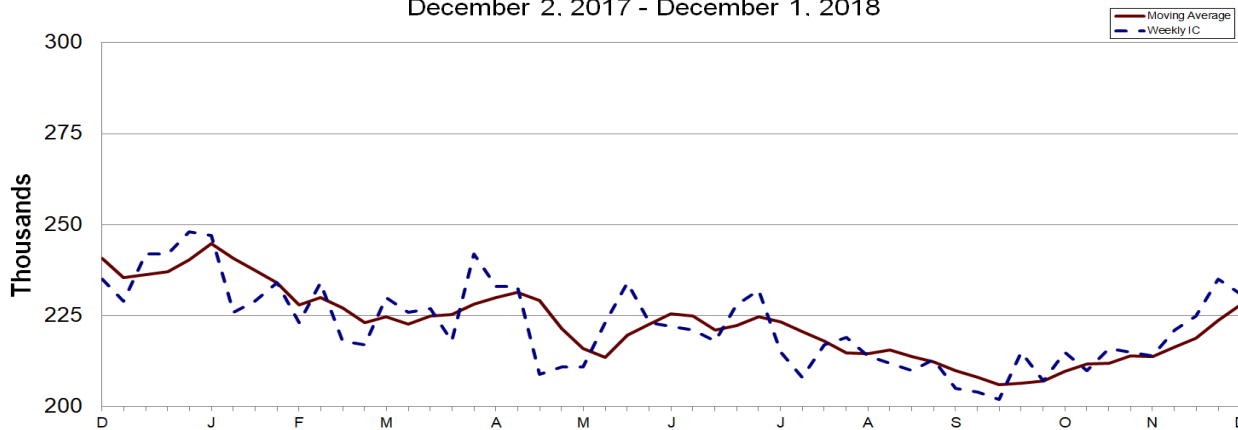
UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE WEEKLY CLAIMS

SEASONALLY ADJUSTED DATA

In the week ending December 1, the advance figure for seasonally adjusted **initial claims** was 231,000, a decrease of 4,000 from the previous week's revised level. The previous week's level was revised up by 1,000 from 234,000 to 235,000. The 4-week moving average was 228,000, an increase of 4,250 from the previous week's revised average. The previous week's average was revised up by 500 from 223,250 to 223,750.

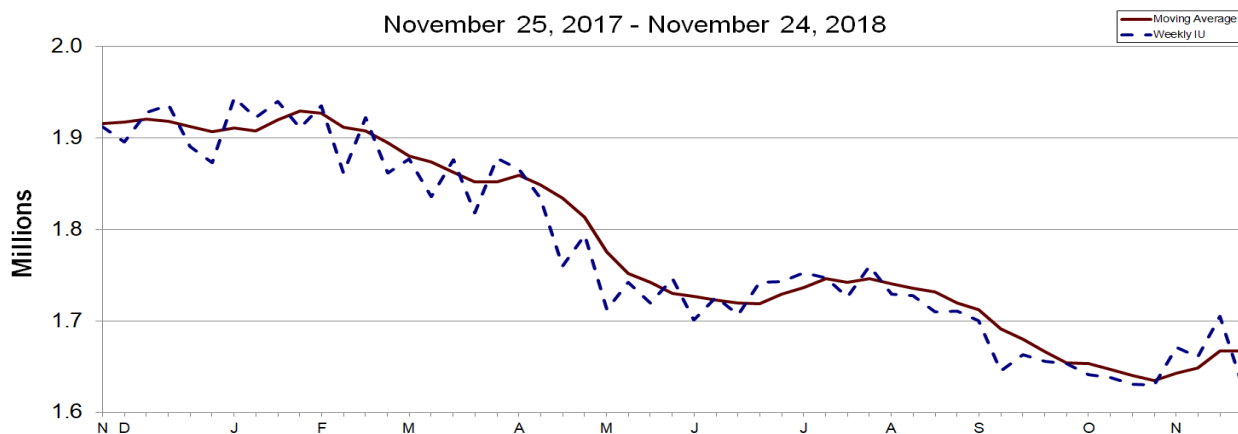
The advance seasonally adjusted **insured unemployment rate** was 1.1 percent for the week ending November 24, a decrease of 0.1 percentage point from the previous week's unrevised rate. The advance number for seasonally adjusted **insured unemployment** during the week ending November 24 was 1,631,000, a decrease of 74,000 from the previous week's revised level. The previous week's level was revised down by 5,000 from 1,710,000 to 1,705,000. The 4-week moving average was 1,667,000, an increase of 250 from the previous week's revised average. The previous week's average was revised down by 1,000 from 1,667,750 to 1,666,750.

Seasonally Adjusted Initial Claims
December 2, 2017 - December 1, 2018



Seasonally Adjusted Insured Unemployment

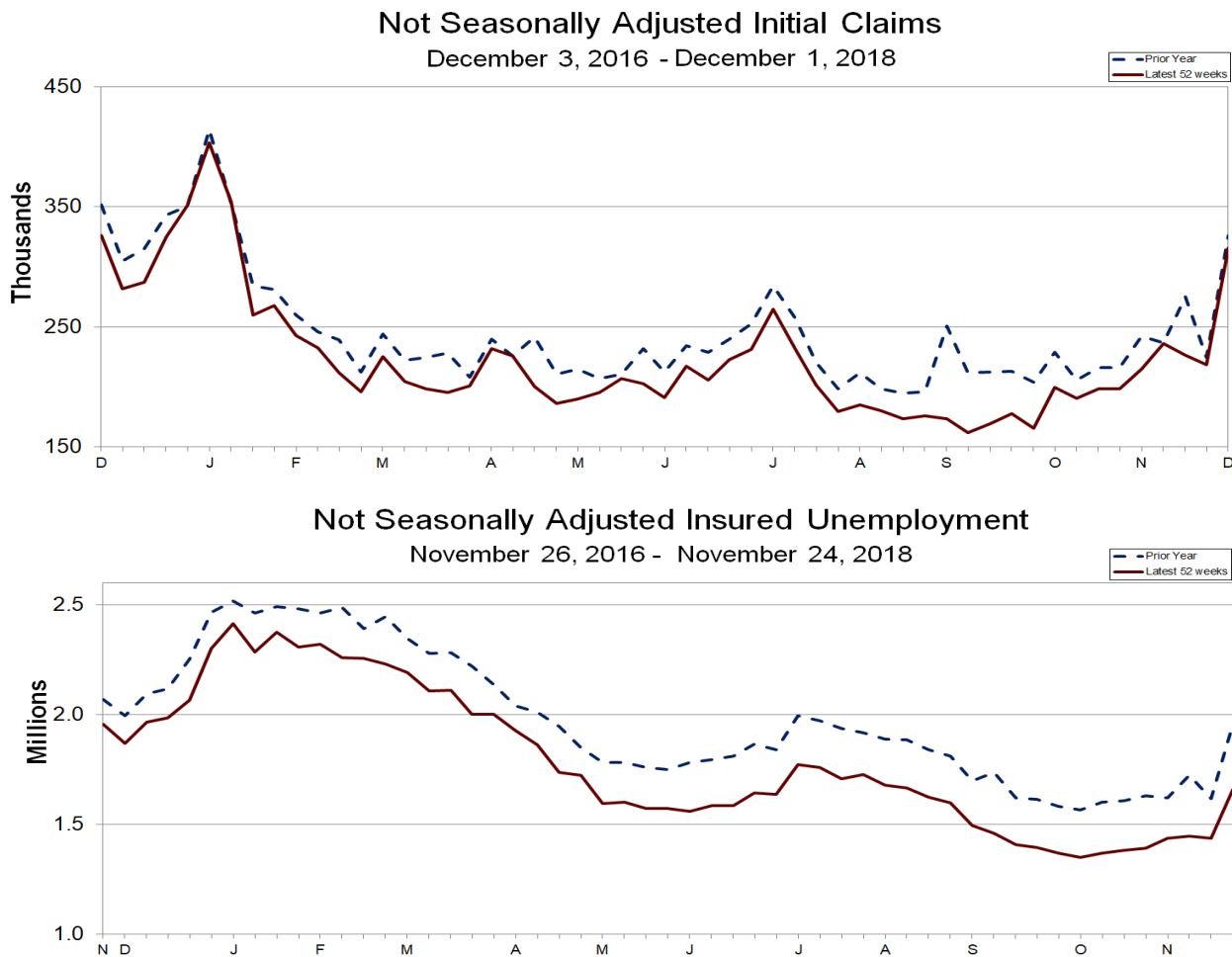
November 25, 2017 - November 24, 2018



UNADJUSTED DATA

The advance number of actual initial claims under state programs, unadjusted, totaled 315,852 in the week ending December 1, an increase of 97,194 (or 44.5 percent) from the previous week. The seasonal factors had expected an increase of 102,401 (or 46.8 percent) from the previous week. There were 325,988 initial claims in the comparable week in 2017.

The advance unadjusted insured unemployment rate was 1.2 percent during the week ending November 24, an increase of 0.2 percentage point from the prior week. The advance unadjusted number for persons claiming UI benefits in state programs totaled 1,659,972, an increase of 222,386 (or 15.5 percent) from the preceding week. The seasonal factors had expected an increase of 298,431 (or 20.8 percent) from the previous week. A year earlier the rate was 1.4 percent and the volume was 1,957,137.



The total number of people claiming benefits in all programs for the week ending November 17 was 1,462,642, a decrease of 10,120 from the previous week. There were 1,647,426 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 November 17.

Initial claims for UI benefits filed by former Federal civilian employees totaled 821 in the week ending November 24, a decrease of 550 from the prior week. There were 359 initial claims filed by newly discharged veterans, a decrease of 181 from the preceding week.

There were 8,454 former Federal civilian employees claiming UI benefits for the week ending November 17, a decrease of 184 from the previous week. Newly discharged veterans claiming benefits totaled 6,297, a decrease of 600 from the prior week.

The highest insured unemployment rates in the week ending November 17 were in Alaska (2.9), New Jersey (1.9), Puerto Rico (1.7), Connecticut (1.6), Pennsylvania (1.6), California (1.5), Illinois (1.5), Washington (1.5), Montana (1.4), and Rhode Island (1.4).

The largest increases in initial claims for the week ending November 24 were in Pennsylvania (+3,544), Wisconsin (+2,119), Massachusetts (+1,224), Kentucky (+1,181), and Oklahoma (+1,026), while the largest decreases were in Texas (-5,480), California (-4,245), Florida (-2,081), Illinois (-2,021), and Georgia (-1,679).

UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE DATA FOR REGULAR STATE PROGRAMS

WEEK ENDING	December 1	November 24	Change	November 17	<u>Prior Year¹</u>
Initial Claims (SA)	231,000	235,000	-4,000	225,000	235,000
Initial Claims (NSA)	315,852	218,658	+97,194	226,576	325,988
4-Wk Moving Average (SA)	228,000	223,750	+4,250	218,750	240,750
WEEK ENDING	November 24	November 17	Change	November 10	<u>Prior Year¹</u>
Insured Unemployment (SA)	1,631,000	1,705,000	-74,000	1,661,000	1,913,000
Insured Unemployment (NSA)	1,659,972	1,437,586	+222,386	1,447,036	1,957,137
4-Wk Moving Average (SA)	1,667,000	1,666,750	+250	1,648,250	1,916,000
<u>Insured Unemployment Rate (SA)²</u>	1.1%	1.2%	-0.1	1.2%	1.4%
<u>Insured Unemployment Rate (NSA)²</u>	1.2%	1.0%	+0.2	1.0%	1.4%

INITIAL CLAIMS FILED IN FEDERAL PROGRAMS (UNADJUSTED)

WEEK ENDING	November 24	November 17	Change	<u>Prior Year¹</u>
Federal Employees (UCFE)	821	1,371	-550	1,005
Newly Discharged Veterans (UCX)	359	540	-181	451

PERSONS CLAIMING UI BENEFITS IN ALL PROGRAMS (UNADJUSTED)

WEEK ENDING	November 17	November 10	Change	<u>Prior Year¹</u>
Regular State	1,435,851	1,445,189	-9,338	1,612,766
Federal Employees	8,454	8,638	-184	11,522
Newly Discharged Veterans	6,297	6,897	-600	8,145
<u>Extended Benefits³</u>	3	1	+2	1,100
<u>State Additional Benefits⁴</u>	5,459	5,409	+50	6,266
<u>STC / Workshare⁵</u>	6,578	6,628	-50	7,627
<u>TOTAL</u>	1,462,642	1,472,762	-10,120	1,647,426

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 142,513,638 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 December 1			Insured Unemployment For Week Ended November 24		
	Advance	Prior Wk	Change	Advance	Prior Wk	Change
Alabama	2,957	2,550	407	15,576	14,633	943
Alaska	1,453	1,122	331	9,452	8,759	693
Arizona	3,266	2,346	920	17,412	19,444	-2,032
Arkansas	2,407	2,374	33	11,025	10,157	868
California	55,791	33,988	21,803	320,082	258,905	61,177
Colorado	2,301	1,883	418	18,829	17,725	1,104
Connecticut	4,318	3,121	1,197	31,361	26,911	4,450
Delaware	867	748	119	5,283	4,108	1,175
District of Columbia	619	355	264	7,408	7,299	109
Florida	6,697	4,817	1,880	38,086	34,283	3,803
Georgia	9,464	5,062	4,402	27,871	21,990	5,881
Hawaii	1,254	900	354	7,669	6,678	991
Idaho	2,108	2,197	-89	6,123	5,019	1,104
Illinois	18,190	10,168	8,022	90,897	89,731	1,166
Indiana	3,036	2,896	140	13,428	12,805	623
Iowa	6,736	3,002	3,734	15,608	12,602	3,006
Kansas	2,719	1,562	1,157	8,569	7,549	1,020
Kentucky	2,649	3,402	-753	16,184	13,890	2,294
Louisiana	2,233	1,789	444	13,303	14,493	-1,190
Maine	1,523	1,041	482	5,183	4,256	927
Maryland	3,948	3,124	824	25,485	24,349	1,136
Massachusetts	7,180	7,369	-189	48,039	43,408	4,631
Michigan	11,435	7,392	4,043	45,945	38,012	7,933
Minnesota	8,852	6,432	2,420	46,223	33,720	12,503
Mississippi	860	1,035	-175	5,473	6,299	-826
Missouri	4,797	3,188	1,609	19,497	15,661	3,836
Montana	1,787	1,640	147	8,395	6,412	1,983
Nebraska	1,319	840	479	3,905	3,397	508
Nevada	2,877	2,853	24	18,616	17,653	963
New Hampshire	601	537	64	3,039	3,132	-93
New Jersey	10,111	9,560	551	87,570	76,974	10,596
New Mexico	942	870	72	8,717	8,166	551
New York	24,868	15,903	8,965	139,020	118,224	20,796
North Carolina	3,775	2,149	1,626	19,047	16,810	2,237
North Dakota	1,227	795	432	3,206	2,055	1,151
Ohio	10,334	7,952	2,382	48,265	42,447	5,818
Oklahoma	1,461	2,483	-1,022	13,284	11,831	1,453
Oregon	6,569	4,885	1,684	28,071	23,774	4,297
Pennsylvania	26,814	16,860	9,954	99,943	90,011	9,932
Puerto Rico	1,113	785	328	14,037	14,474	-437
Rhode Island	1,340	1,015	325	7,232	6,315	917
South Carolina	4,488	1,820	2,668	16,237	13,621	2,616
South Dakota	481	291	190	1,364	1,105	259
Tennessee	2,553	2,239	314	15,069	15,098	-29
Texas	16,645	9,653	6,992	119,310	103,598	15,712
Utah	2,128	1,197	931	7,749	7,380	369
Vermont	846	1,155	-309	4,138	2,777	1,361
Virgin Islands	24	6	18	652	424	228
Virginia	3,571	2,019	1,552	19,625	17,555	2,070
Washington	9,798	7,887	1,911	55,997	48,014	7,983
West Virginia	1,998	901	1,097	11,208	7,768	3,440
Wisconsin	9,997	8,136	1,861	33,651	23,967	9,684
Wyoming	525	364	161	2,614	1,918	696
US Total	315,852	218,658	97,194	1,659,972	1,437,586	222,386

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 claims 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.

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	
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	1,711	1	1,719.50	1.2
September 1, 2018	205	-8	210.00	1,700	-11	1,712.25	1.2
September 8, 2018	204	-1	208.00	1,645	-55	1,691.50	1.2
September 15, 2018	202	-2	206.00	1,663	18	1,679.75	1.2
September 22, 2018	215	13	206.50	1,656	-7	1,666.00	1.2
September 29, 2018	207	-8	207.00	1,653	-3	1,654.25	1.2
October 6, 2018	215	8	209.75	1,641	-12	1,653.25	1.2
October 13, 2018	210	-5	211.75	1,638	-3	1,647.00	1.1
October 20, 2018	216	6	212.00	1,631	-7	1,640.75	1.1
October 27, 2018	215	-1	214.00	1,630	-1	1,635.00	1.1
November 3, 2018	214	-1	213.75	1,671	41	1,642.50	1.2
November 10, 2018	221	7	216.50	1,661	-10	1,648.25	1.2
November 17, 2018	225	4	218.75	1,705	44	1,666.75	1.2
November 24, 2018	235	10	223.75	1,631	-74	1,667.00	1.1
December 1, 2018	231	-4	228.00				

STATE NAME	INITIAL CLAIMS FILED DURING WEEK ENDED NOVEMBER 24					INSURED UNEMPLOYMENT FOR WEEK ENDED NOVEMBER 17					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	2550	41	223	4	5	14633	0.8	318	-1311	57	84	14774
Alaska	1122	-220	-170	5	0	8759	2.9	678	-1642	161	4	8924
Arizona	2346	-878	-329	16	1	19444	0.7	-1429	-2463	163	55	19662
Arkansas	2374	445	-184	0	2	10157	0.9	136	-2100	40	41	10238
California	33988	-4245	-1948	220	68	258905	1.5	-12388	4742	1503	1274	261682
Colorado	1883	-345	-190	22	10	17725	0.7	537	-2195	153	195	18073
Connecticut	3121	371	620	2	2	26911	1.6	453	-3116	38	59	27008
Delaware	748	130	52	0	0	4108	0.9	-21	-573	22	7	4137
District of Columbia	355	-118	141	9	0	7299	1.3	-112	-1085	250	7	7556
Florida	4817	-2081	-438	8	23	34283	0.4	-6981	-3707	126	136	34545
Georgia	5062	-1679	1943	18	12	21990	0.5	-3111	-1491	149	145	22284
Hawaii	900	-198	-15	4	5	6678	1.1	-308	-484	37	68	6783
Idaho	2197	656	-87	28	1	5019	0.7	557	-1140	145	12	5176
Illinois	10168	-2021	-244	6	8	89731	1.5	11660	982	316	164	90211
Indiana	2896	105	753	1	2	12805	0.4	-1898	-518	32	27	12864
Iowa	3002	-153	-326	1	0	12602	0.8	-38	-1524	27	23	12652
Kansas	1562	-173	-177	2	0	7549	0.6	-74	-1856	35	23	7607
Kentucky	3402	1181	730	6	0	13890	0.8	-550	-1483	82	95	14067
Louisiana	1789	-514	-68	2	3	14493	0.8	256	-3972	42	15	14550
Maine	1041	346	277	4	0	4256	0.7	329	-487	40	11	4307
Maryland	3124	16	-303	14	5	24349	1.0	-798	-7031	219	94	24662
Massachusetts	7369	1224	-35	13	5	43408	1.2	476	-13878	97	93	43598
Michigan	7392	-477	-2917	12	5	38012	0.9	-6070	-5849	148	57	38217
Minnesota	6432	-394	399	8	4	33720	1.2	2440	-2662	85	54	33859
Mississippi	1035	-108	-201	2	1	6299	0.6	-188	-2309	30	19	6348
Missouri	3188	-1139	-23	17	5	15661	0.6	-1664	-7360	255	42	15958
Montana	1640	164	51	56	2	6412	1.4	349	-1440	274	27	6713
Nebraska	840	54	-440	3	1	3397	0.4	96	-723	18	7	3422
Nevada	2853	289	-318	9	1	17653	1.3	58	-2686	114	53	17820
New Hampshire	537	56	6	0	0	3132	0.5	25	-479	3	2	3137
New Jersey	9560	487	-1059	13	12	76974	1.9	-3438	-5587	227	243	77444
New Mexico	870	-4	-51	9	1	8166	1.0	-19	-1665	233	36	8435
New York	15903	802	1692	26	19	118224	1.3	2709	-12433	301	350	118875
North Carolina	2149	-1050	259	11	10	16810	0.4	-1022	-3067	62	66	16938
North Dakota	795	71	-125	4	2	2055	0.5	406	-1012	10	2	2067
Ohio	7952	433	-466	3	12	42447	0.8	1407	-5618	133	155	42735
Oklahoma	2483	1026	796	3	4	11831	0.8	84	-2022	61	77	11969
Oregon	4885	1023	945	50	10	23774	1.3	247	-2542	432	77	24283
Pennsylvania	16860	3544	-454	54	27	90011	1.6	5203	-8884	369	273	90653
Puerto Rico	785	-249	-2321	0	2	14474	1.7	-989	-13992	35	76	14585
Rhode Island	1015	-17	50	0	0	6315	1.4	352	-97	37	20	6372
South Carolina	1820	-664	62	3	4	13621	0.7	-756	-3244	31	96	13748
South Dakota	291	-31	-18	1	0	1105	0.3	26	-277	27	1	1133
Tennessee	2239	25	-55	16	6	15098	0.5	-4	-1751	84	58	15240
Texas	9653	-5480	-1084	41	57	103598	0.9	841	-30612	834	1131	105563
Utah	1197	-157	16	35	1	7380	0.5	263	-1024	141	17	7538
Vermont	1155	526	-36	1	0	2777	0.9	96	-237	7	3	2787
Virgin Islands	6	-21	-79	0	0	424	1.2	-96	-4224	4	2	433
Virginia	2019	-547	-442	10	6	17555	0.5	-395	-4350	199	193	17947
Washington	7887	155	349	34	12	48014	1.5	1524	-3752	397	491	48902
West Virginia	901	-169	-54	1	1	7768	1.2	140	-1514	38	16	7822
Wisconsin	8136	2119	-816	7	1	23967	0.8	1207	-2091	81	16	24064
Wyoming	364	-75	-84	7	1	1918	0.7	26	-1209	50	5	1973
Totals	218658	-7918	-6193	821	359	1437586	1	-9450	-181044	8454	6297	1452340

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 U.S. total covered employment is BLS.

UNADJUSTED INITIAL CLAIMS FOR WEEK ENDED NOVEMBER 24, 2018

STATES WITH AN INCREASE OF MORE THAN 1,000

State	Change	State Supplied Comment
PA	+3,544	Layoffs in the transportation and warehousing, accommodation and food service, and administrative and support and waste management and remediation service industries.
WI	+2,119	Layoffs in the construction, and transportation and warehousing industries.
MA	+1,224	No comment.
KY	+1,181	No comment.
OK	+1,026	No comment.
OR	+1,023	No comment.

STATES WITH A DECREASE OF MORE THAN 1,000

State	Change	State Supplied Comment
TX	-5,480	No comment.
CA	-4,245	Fewer layoffs in the service industry.
FL	-2,081	Fewer layoffs in the agriculture, forestry, and hunting, construction, manufacturing, and service industries.
IL	-2,021	No comment.
GA	-1,679	Fewer layoffs in the manufacturing, construction, and trade industries.
MO	-1,139	Fewer layoffs in the construction, administrative and support and waste management and remediation service, and retail trade industries.
NC	-1,050	Fewer layoffs in the accommodation and food service, professional, scientific, and technical service, and educational 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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