



# News Release

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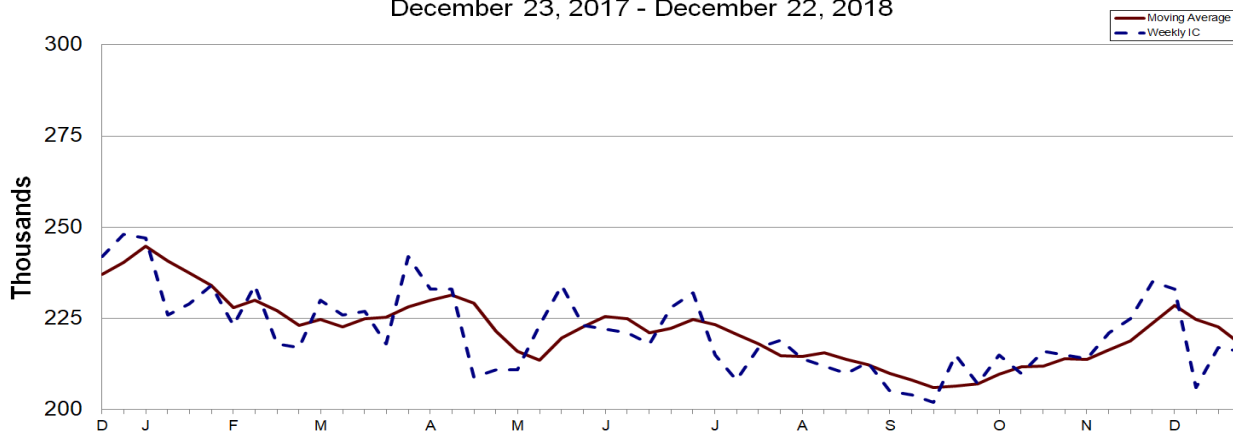
## UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE WEEKLY CLAIMS

### SEASONALLY ADJUSTED DATA

In the week ending December 22, the advance figure for seasonally adjusted **initial claims** was 216,000, a decrease of 1,000 from the previous week's revised level. The previous week's level was revised up by 3,000 from 214,000 to 217,000. The 4-week moving average was 218,000, a decrease of 4,750 from the previous week's revised average. The previous week's average was revised up by 750 from 222,000 to 222,750.

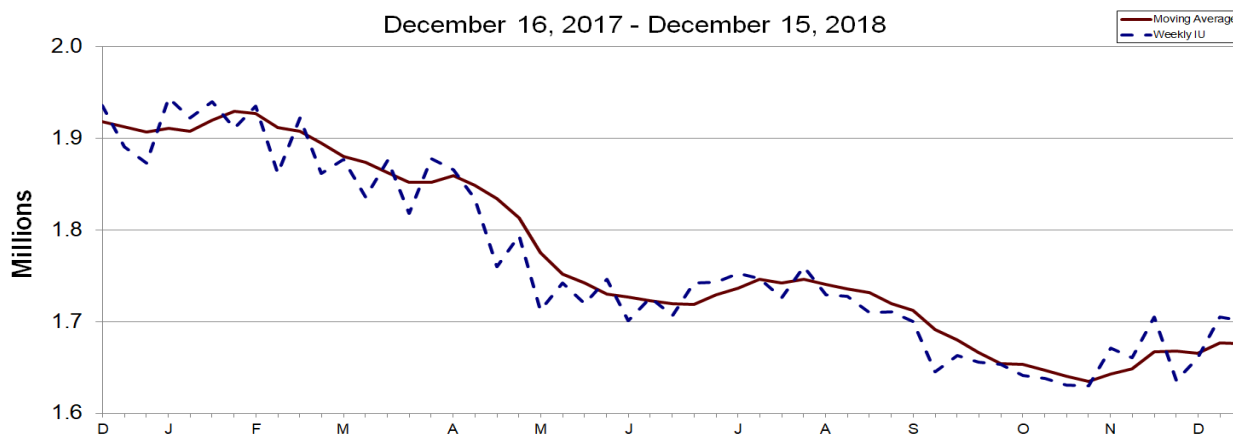
The advance seasonally adjusted **insured unemployment rate** was 1.2 percent for the week ending December 15, unchanged from the previous week's unrevised rate. The advance number for seasonally adjusted **insured unemployment** during the week ending December 15 was 1,701,000, a decrease of 4,000 from the previous week's revised level. The previous week's level was revised up 17,000 from 1,688,000 to 1,705,000. The 4-week moving average was 1,675,750, a decrease of 1,000 from the previous week's revised average. The previous week's average was revised up by 4,250 from 1,672,500 to 1,676,750.

Seasonally Adjusted Initial Claims  
December 23, 2017 - December 22, 2018



Seasonally Adjusted Insured Unemployment

December 16, 2017 - December 15, 2018



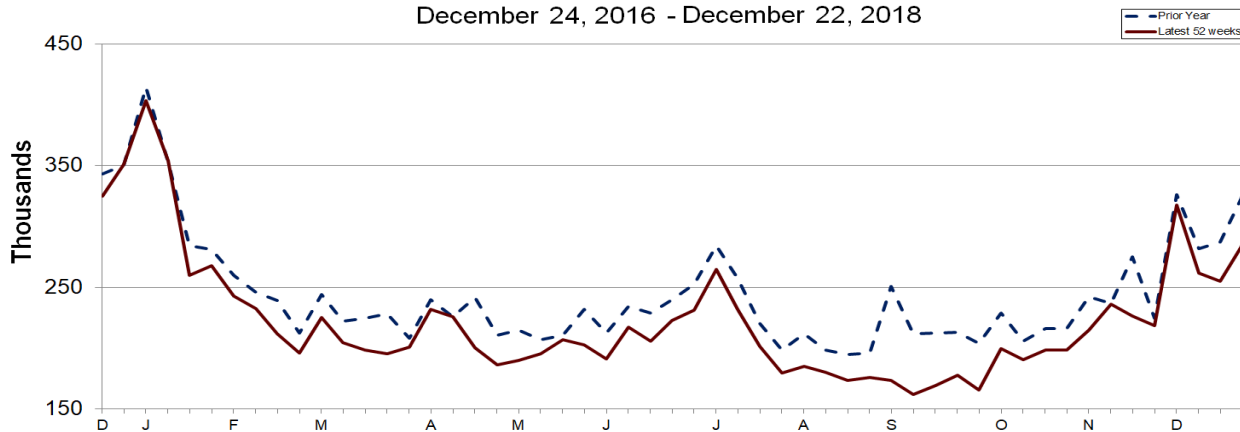
## UNADJUSTED DATA

The advance number of actual initial claims under state programs, unadjusted, totaled 285,180 in the week ending December 22, an increase of 29,985 (or 11.7 percent) from the previous week. The seasonal factors had expected an increase of 31,492 (or 12.3 percent) from the previous week. There were 324,958 initial claims in the comparable week in 2017.

The advance unadjusted insured unemployment rate was 1.2 percent during the week ending December 15, unchanged from the prior week. The advance unadjusted number for persons claiming UI benefits in state programs totaled 1,756,802, an increase of 34,598 (or 2.0 percent) from the preceding week. The seasonal factors had expected an increase of 39,219 (or 2.3 percent) from the previous week. A year earlier the rate was 1.4 percent and the volume was 1,985,967.

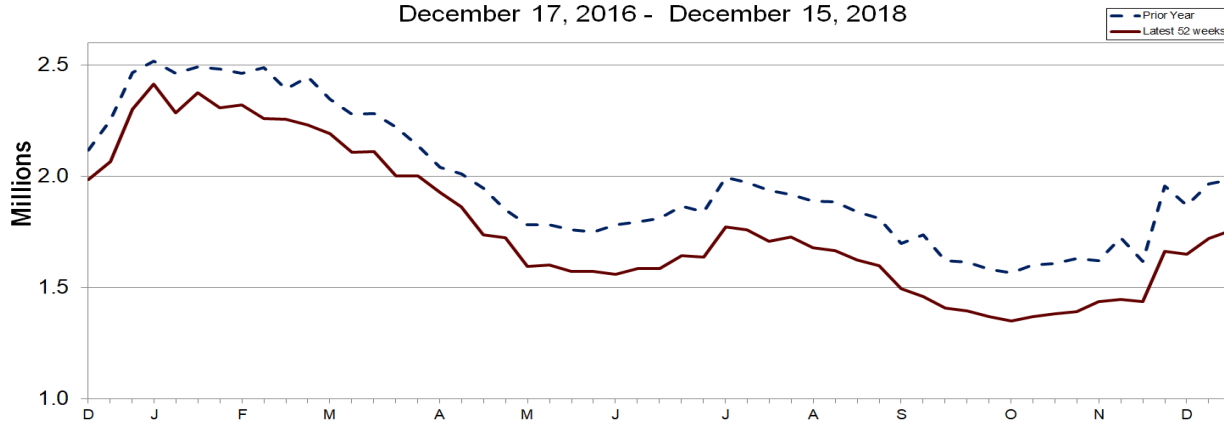
### Not Seasonally Adjusted Initial Claims

December 24, 2016 - December 22, 2018



### Not Seasonally Adjusted Insured Unemployment

December 17, 2016 - December 15, 2018



The total number of people claiming benefits in all programs for the week ending December 8 was 1,752,109, an increase of 74,530 from the previous week. There were 2,004,231 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 December 8.

Initial claims for UI benefits filed by former Federal civilian employees totaled 1,162 in the week ending December 15, an increase of 241 from the prior week. There were 608 initial claims filed by newly discharged veterans, a decrease of 22 from the preceding week.

There were 11,061 former Federal civilian employees claiming UI benefits for the week ending December 8, an increase of 1,128 from the previous week. Newly discharged veterans claiming benefits totaled 7,037, an increase of 279 from the prior week.

The highest insured unemployment rates in the week ending December 8 were in Alaska (3.2), New Jersey (2.1), California (1.9), Montana (1.9), Pennsylvania (1.9), Puerto Rico (1.9), Connecticut (1.8), Illinois (1.8), Minnesota (1.7), and Washington (1.7).

The largest increases in initial claims for the week ending December 15 were in Michigan (+1,727), Massachusetts (+1,097), Maryland (+321), Connecticut (+293), and Arkansas (+265), while the largest decreases were in Illinois (-2,002), Minnesota (-1,104), Iowa (-930), Georgia (-606), and New Jersey (-581).

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UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE DATA FOR REGULAR STATE PROGRAMS

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<b>WEEK ENDING</b>	<b>December 22</b>	<b>December 15</b>	<b>Change</b>	<b>December 8</b>	<b><u>Prior Year</u><sup>1</sup></b>
Initial Claims (SA)	216,000	217,000	-1,000	206,000	242,000
Initial Claims (NSA)	285,180	255,195	+29,985	261,539	324,958
4-Wk Moving Average (SA)	218,000	222,750	-4,750	224,750	237,000
<b>WEEK ENDING</b>	<b>December 15</b>	<b>December 8</b>	<b>Change</b>	<b>December 1</b>	<b><u>Prior Year</u><sup>1</sup></b>
Insured Unemployment (SA)	1,701,000	1,705,000	-4,000	1,661,000	1,936,000
Insured Unemployment (NSA)	1,756,802	1,722,204	+34,598	1,649,770	1,985,967
4-Wk Moving Average (SA)	1,675,750	1,676,750	-1,000	1,665,750	1,918,250
<a href="#"><u>Insured Unemployment Rate (SA)</u><sup>2</sup></a>	1.2%	1.2%	0.0	1.2%	1.4%
<a href="#"><u>Insured Unemployment Rate (NSA)</u><sup>2</sup></a>	1.2%	1.2%	0.0	1.2%	1.4%

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INITIAL CLAIMS FILED IN FEDERAL PROGRAMS (UNADJUSTED)

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<b>WEEK ENDING</b>	<b>December 15</b>	<b>December 8</b>	<b>Change</b>	<b><u>Prior Year</u><sup>1</sup></b>
Federal Employees (UCFE)	1,162	921	+241	1,316
Newly Discharged Veterans (UCX)	608	630	-22	721

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PERSONS CLAIMING UI BENEFITS IN ALL PROGRAMS (UNADJUSTED)

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<b>WEEK ENDING</b>	<b>December 8</b>	<b>December 1</b>	<b>Change</b>	<b><u>Prior Year</u><sup>1</sup></b>
Regular State	1,719,796	1,647,722	+72,074	1,962,561
Federal Employees	11,061	9,933	+1,128	16,431
Newly Discharged Veterans	7,037	6,758	+279	8,888
<a href="#"><u>Extended Benefits</u><sup>3</sup></a>	3	4	-1	1,160
<a href="#"><u>State Additional Benefits</u><sup>4</sup></a>	5,595	5,810	-215	6,713
<a href="#"><u>STC / Workshare</u><sup>5</sup></a>	8,617	7,352	+1,265	8,478
<b><u>TOTAL</u></b>	<b>1,752,109</b>	<b>1,677,579</b>	<b>+74,530</b>	<b>2,004,231</b>

**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 22			Insured Unemployment For Week Ended December 15		
	Advance	Prior Wk	Change	Advance	Prior Wk	Change
Alabama	2,904	2,544	360	15,291	14,956	335
Alaska	1,217	1,198	19	9,862	9,916	-54
Arizona	3,010	3,380	-370	16,876	19,295	-2,419
Arkansas	2,789	2,026	763	10,185	10,935	-750
California**	48,214	47,515	699	340,445	327,460	12,985
Colorado	2,444	2,293	151	20,569	18,371	2,198
Connecticut	5,573	3,649	1,924	33,183	30,243	2,940
Delaware	811	626	185	5,010	4,601	409
District of Columbia	708	520	188	7,357	7,566	-209
Florida	5,986	6,993	-1,007	32,366	40,751	-8,385
Georgia	5,865	5,363	502	23,932	24,086	-154
Hawaii	1,286	1,118	168	6,984	6,718	266
Idaho	2,168	2,351	-183	8,492	7,944	548
Illinois	14,747	12,892	1,855	104,649	108,221	-3,572
Indiana	4,637	3,380	1,257	17,830	15,387	2,443
Iowa	5,802	4,139	1,663	22,891	20,501	2,390
Kansas**	1,942	1,894	48	9,041	9,063	-22
Kentucky	3,746	2,826	920	16,047	16,510	-463
Louisiana	1,942	2,430	-488	14,101	15,962	-1,861
Maine	1,143	1,352	-209	6,397	5,830	567
Maryland	4,664	3,540	1,124	26,150	26,609	-459
Massachusetts	10,426	8,309	2,117	62,069	50,895	11,174
Michigan	11,546	13,059	-1,513	55,305	59,407	-4,102
Minnesota	6,061	5,866	195	53,808	48,546	5,262
Mississippi	1,194	1,382	-188	6,293	7,225	-932
Missouri	6,887	4,424	2,463	21,172	21,026	146
Montana	1,677	1,275	402	9,208	8,604	604
Nebraska	1,211	1,282	-71	5,491	5,180	311
Nevada	2,929	2,807	122	19,312	20,026	-714
New Hampshire	655	638	17	3,384	3,534	-150
New Jersey	15,794	9,639	6,155	89,082	82,272	6,810
New Mexico	1,114	892	222	8,869	8,987	-118
New York	16,768	15,208	1,560	136,908	131,864	5,044
North Carolina	3,528	3,487	41	19,223	20,126	-903
North Dakota	1,117	957	160	4,967	3,904	1,063
Ohio	11,071	8,686	2,385	56,979	53,907	3,072
Oklahoma	1,762	1,545	217	12,384	12,468	-84
Oregon	5,729	4,556	1,173	27,617	26,712	905
Pennsylvania	18,859	15,781	3,078	110,067	109,240	827
Puerto Rico	1,149	1,001	148	12,674	15,693	-3,019
Rhode Island	1,876	1,300	576	8,078	7,509	569
South Carolina	3,273	2,529	744	15,829	15,279	550
South Dakota	392	433	-41	2,206	2,085	121
Tennessee	3,010	2,983	27	15,667	16,574	-907
Texas*	11,638	13,461	-1,823	108,939	114,652	-5,713
Utah	1,776	1,696	80	10,130	9,770	360
Vermont	1,094	597	497	4,077	3,640	437
Virgin Islands	12	24	-12	604	548	56
Virginia**	2,985	3,197	-212	18,930	19,379	-449
Washington	9,166	7,402	1,764	59,630	55,619	4,011
West Virginia	1,341	1,551	-210	11,119	10,153	966
Wisconsin	7,014	6,702	312	36,201	34,035	2,166
Wyoming	528	497	31	2,922	2,420	502
US Total	285,180	255,195	29,985	1,756,802	1,722,204	34,598

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.

\*Denotes OUI estimates.

\*\*Denotes state estimates.

## 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	
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	1,636	-69	1,668.25	1.1
December 1, 2018	233	-2	228.50	1,661	25	1,665.75	1.2
December 8, 2018	206	-27	224.75	1,705	44	1,676.75	1.2
December 15, 2018	217	11	222.75	1,701	-4	1,675.75	1.2
December 22, 2018	216	-1	218.00				

STATE NAME	INITIAL CLAIMS FILED DURING WEEK ENDED DECEMBER 15					INSURED UNEMPLOYMENT FOR WEEK ENDED DECEMBER 8					ALL PROGRAMS EXCLUDING RAILROAD RETIREMENT	
	STATE	CHANGE FROM				STATE (%) <sup>2</sup>	CHANGE FROM					
		LAST WEEK	YEAR AGO	UCFE <sup>1</sup>	UCX <sup>1</sup>		LAST WEEK	YEAR AGO	UCFE <sup>1</sup>	UCX <sup>1</sup>		
Alabama	2544	-107	-193	7	4	14956	0.8	102	-1828	58	81	15095
Alaska	1198	-33	-33	10	0	9916	3.2	418	-2732	198	18	10132
Arizona	3380	-141	-239	35	5	19295	0.7	152	-3202	202	52	19549
Arkansas	2026	265	-348	2	2	10935	0.9	-384	-3096	72	53	11060
California	47515	120	-206	273	123	327460	1.9	2297	-41979	2528	1569	331557
Colorado	2293	-418	-194	33	17	18371	0.7	-817	-2624	214	226	18811
Connecticut	3649	293	-460	4	4	30243	1.8	841	-4653	46	77	30366
Delaware	626	-81	-73	2	2	4601	1.1	150	-473	16	9	4626
District of Columbia	520	2	155	15	2	7566	1.3	12	-1063	259	6	7831
Florida	6993	-79	-339	9	41	40751	0.5	4178	-5921	171	137	41059
Georgia	5363	-606	-152	25	28	24086	0.6	-77	-3668	168	203	24457
Hawaii	1118	-140	34	2	14	6718	1.1	31	-1039	65	59	6842
Idaho	2351	-288	176	40	2	7944	1.1	1213	-643	205	13	8162
Illinois	12892	-2002	-3454	18	8	108221	1.8	18343	-1796	334	201	108756
Indiana	3380	1	-989	5	9	15387	0.5	799	-664	33	27	15447
Iowa	4139	-930	-835	9	1	20501	1.3	2231	526	39	22	20562
Kansas	1894	-232	-441	3	4	9063	0.7	232	-1781	40	27	9130
Kentucky	2826	216	-738	6	6	16510	0.9	682	-1505	120	99	16729
Louisiana	2430	55	-121	4	4	15962	0.9	552	-3185	46	18	16026
Maine	1352	114	-417	1	2	5830	1.0	121	-344	35	7	5872
Maryland	3540	321	-621	21	7	26609	1.1	2480	-6788	235	113	26957
Massachusetts	8309	1097	-1919	16	11	50895	1.5	1523	-13879	111	108	51114
Michigan	13059	1727	-1994	16	6	59407	1.4	12408	-4938	231	76	59714
Minnesota	5866	-1104	-779	7	3	48546	1.7	3237	-2688	112	59	48717
Mississippi	1382	244	-201	1	3	7225	0.7	500	-2198	27	19	7271
Missouri	4424	-37	-467	15	6	21026	0.8	84	-2847	329	46	21401
Montana	1275	-230	-101	82	2	8604	1.9	905	-979	450	17	9071
Nebraska	1282	-315	94	3	0	5180	0.5	946	-336	24	10	5214
Nevada	2807	-166	-317	15	5	20026	1.5	527	-2915	176	63	20265
New Hampshire	638	39	-111	0	0	3534	0.5	139	-485	5	3	3542
New Jersey	9639	-581	-2179	19	11	82272	2.1	558	-9308	238	263	82773
New Mexico	892	-11	-42	18	2	8987	1.1	301	-1466	327	55	9369
New York	15208	-354	-2680	16	27	131864	1.4	2310	-11932	304	366	132534
North Carolina	3487	-135	223	15	22	20126	0.5	1680	-1317	109	81	20316
North Dakota	957	-89	-256	5	0	3904	1.0	596	-1331	14	2	3920
Ohio	8686	-118	-3267	10	16	53907	1.0	3057	-5108	145	151	54203
Oklahoma	1545	-95	167	10	1	12468	0.8	17	-1689	58	82	12608
Oregon	4556	162	285	86	9	26712	1.4	436	-1651	552	78	27342
Pennsylvania	15781	-407	-2688	66	39	109240	1.9	-315	-12114	502	279	110021
Puerto Rico	1001	-130	-3683	4	6	15693	1.9	95	-35640	47	62	15802
Rhode Island	1300	141	-270	2	2	7509	1.6	511	-156	39	28	7576
South Carolina	2529	51	-216	6	11	15279	0.8	-139	-3555	43	100	15422
South Dakota	433	-229	-1	11	1	2085	0.5	441	-373	39	3	2127
Tennessee	2983	232	-338	7	12	16574	0.6	611	-2260	105	69	16748
Texas	13461	-580	-783	73	76	114652	1.0	3890	-21687	867	1217	116736
Utah	1696	-454	70	74	2	9770	0.7	1016	-360	202	20	9992
Vermont	597	-36	-91	1	1	3640	1.2	240	-43	8	2	3650
Virgin Islands	24	-5	-69	0	0	548	1.6	-84	-3848	2	2	555
Virginia	3197	130	-142	17	14	19379	0.5	381	-4581	205	189	19773
Washington	7402	-417	78	35	29	55619	1.7	698	-2861	464	523	56606
West Virginia	1551	-418	152	3	4	10153	1.5	-410	-1343	63	20	10236
Wisconsin	6702	-416	-1276	4	2	34035	1.2	2442	-2089	98	20	34153
Wyoming	497	-170	5	1	0	2420	0.9	277	-1466	81	7	2508
Totals	255195	-6344	-32284	1162	608	1722204	1.2	72434	-245901	11061	7037	1740305

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.

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**UNADJUSTED INITIAL CLAIMS FOR WEEK ENDED DECEMBER 15, 2018**

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**STATES WITH AN INCREASE OF MORE THAN 1,000**

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<b>State</b>	<b>Change</b>	<b>State Supplied Comment</b>
MI	+1,727	Layoffs in the wholesale trade industry.
MA	+1,097	No comment.

**STATES WITH A DECREASE OF MORE THAN 1,000**

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<b>State</b>	<b>Change</b>	<b>State Supplied Comment</b>
IL	-2,002	No comment.
MN	-1,104	No comment.

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## 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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