



News Release

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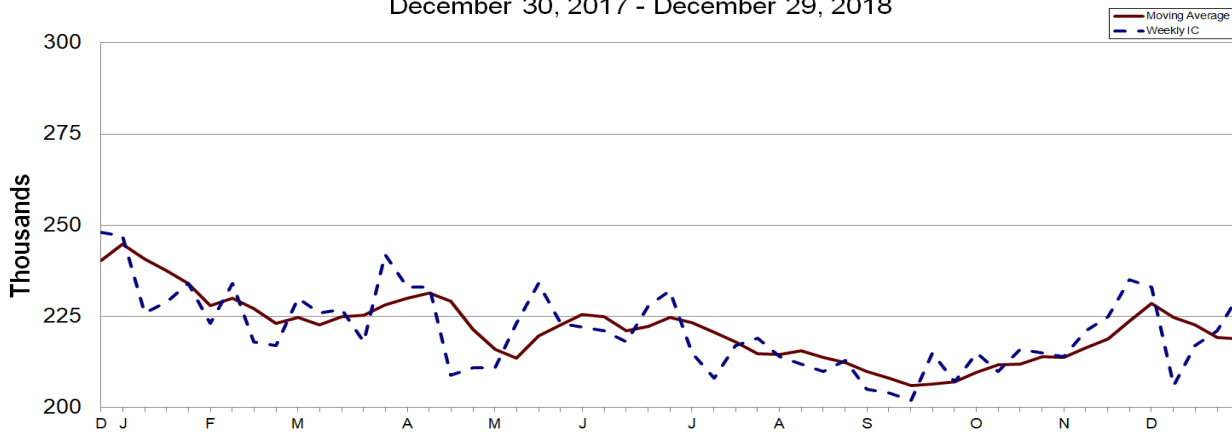
UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE WEEKLY CLAIMS

SEASONALLY ADJUSTED DATA

In the week ending December 29, the advance figure for seasonally adjusted **initial claims** was 231,000, an increase of 10,000 from the previous week's revised level. The previous week's level was revised up by 5,000 from 216,000 to 221,000. The 4-week moving average was 218,750, a decrease of 500 from the previous week's revised average. The previous week's average was revised up by 1,250 from 218,000 to 219,250.

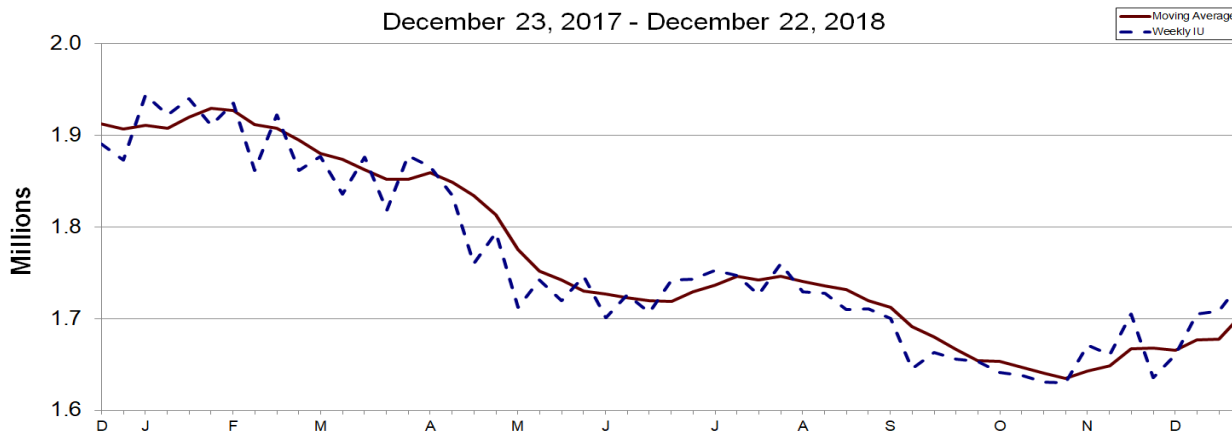
The advance seasonally adjusted **insured unemployment rate** was 1.2 percent for the week ending December 22, unchanged from the previous week's unrevised rate. The advance number for seasonally adjusted **insured unemployment** during the week ending December 22 was 1,740,000, an increase of 32,000 from the previous week's revised level. The previous week's level was revised up 7,000 from 1,701,000 to 1,708,000. The 4-week moving average was 1,703,500, an increase of 26,000 from the previous week's revised average. The previous week's average was revised up by 1,750 from 1,675,750 to 1,677,500.

Seasonally Adjusted Initial Claims
December 30, 2017 - December 29, 2018



Seasonally Adjusted Insured Unemployment

December 23, 2017 - December 22, 2018



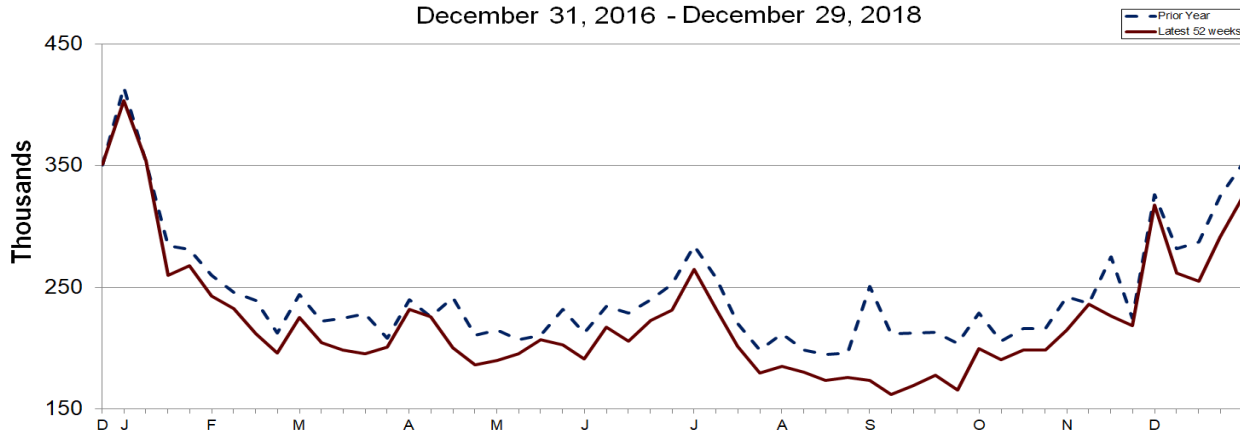
UNADJUSTED DATA

The advance number of actual initial claims under state programs, unadjusted, totaled 323,880 in the week ending December 29, an increase of 32,255 (or 11.1 percent) from the previous week. The seasonal factors had expected an increase of 18,779 (or 6.4 percent) from the previous week. There were 351,348 initial claims in the comparable week in 2017.

The advance unadjusted insured unemployment rate was 1.3 percent during the week ending December 22, an increase of 0.1 percentage point from the prior week. The advance unadjusted number for persons claiming UI benefits in state programs totaled 1,788,587, an increase of 23,711 (or 1.3 percent) from the preceding week. The seasonal factors had expected a decrease of 8,542 (or -0.5 percent) from the previous week. A year earlier the rate was 1.5 percent and the volume was 2,066,441.

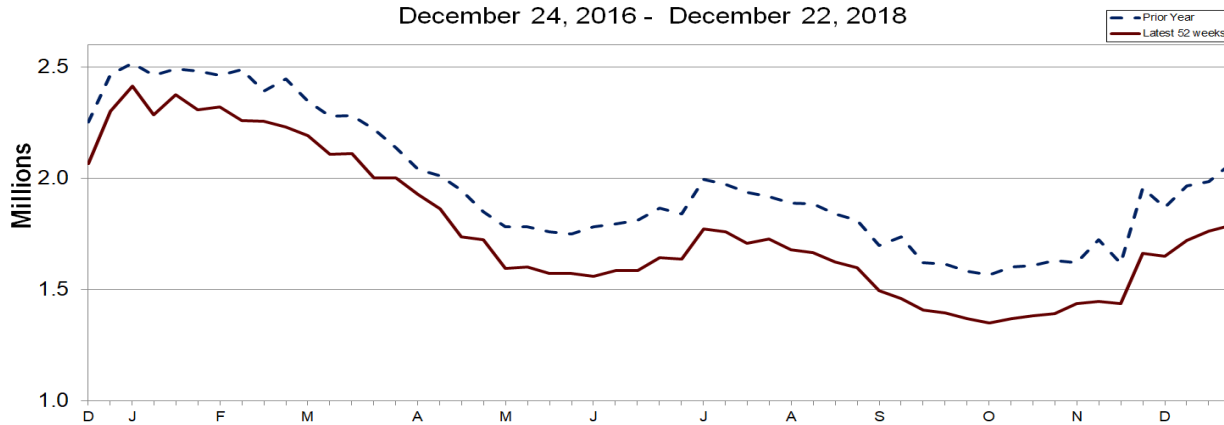
Not Seasonally Adjusted Initial Claims

December 31, 2016 - December 29, 2018



Not Seasonally Adjusted Insured Unemployment

December 24, 2016 - December 22, 2018



The total number of people claiming benefits in all programs for the week ending December 15 was 1,793,887, an increase of 41,778 from the previous week. There were 2,022,166 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 15.

Initial claims for UI benefits filed by former Federal civilian employees totaled 929 in the week ending December 22, a decrease of 233 from the prior week. There were 494 initial claims filed by newly discharged veterans, a decrease of 114 from the preceding week.

There were 10,535 former Federal civilian employees claiming UI benefits for the week ending December 15, a decrease of 526 from the previous week. Newly discharged veterans claiming benefits totaled 6,847, a decrease of 190 from the prior week.

The highest insured unemployment rates in the week ending December 15 were in Alaska (3.3), New Jersey (2.2), California (2.0), Connecticut (1.9), Montana (1.9), Pennsylvania (1.9), Illinois (1.8), Massachusetts (1.8), Minnesota (1.8), Puerto Rico (1.8), and Washington (1.8).

The largest increases in initial claims for the week ending December 22 were in New Jersey (+6,248), Pennsylvania (+3,053), Missouri (+2,555), Massachusetts (+2,212), and Ohio (+2,164), while the largest decreases were in Michigan (-846), Florida (-462), Louisiana (-246), Arizona (-156), and Maine (-149).

UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE DATA FOR REGULAR STATE PROGRAMS

WEEK ENDING	December 29	December 22	Change	December 15	<u>Prior Year</u>¹
Initial Claims (SA)	231,000	221,000	+10,000	217,000	248,000
Initial Claims (NSA)	323,880	291,625	+32,255	255,195	351,348
4-Wk Moving Average (SA)	218,750	219,250	-500	222,750	240,250
WEEK ENDING	December 22	December 15	Change	December 8	<u>Prior Year</u>¹
Insured Unemployment (SA)	1,740,000	1,708,000	+32,000	1,705,000	1,891,000
Insured Unemployment (NSA)	1,788,587	1,764,876	+23,711	1,722,204	2,066,441
4-Wk Moving Average (SA)	1,703,500	1,677,500	+26,000	1,676,750	1,912,750
<u>Insured Unemployment Rate (SA)</u>²	1.2%	1.2%	0.0	1.2%	1.3%
<u>Insured Unemployment Rate (NSA)</u>²	1.3%	1.2%	+0.1	1.2%	1.5%

INITIAL CLAIMS FILED IN FEDERAL PROGRAMS (UNADJUSTED)

WEEK ENDING	December 22	December 15	Change	<u>Prior Year</u>¹
Federal Employees (UCFE)	929	1,162	-233	924
Newly Discharged Veterans (UCX)	494	608	-114	640

PERSONS CLAIMING UI BENEFITS IN ALL PROGRAMS (UNADJUSTED)

WEEK ENDING	December 15	December 8	Change	<u>Prior Year</u>¹
Regular State	1,762,163	1,719,796	+42,367	1,983,676
Federal Employees	10,535	11,061	-526	13,836
Newly Discharged Veterans	6,847	7,037	-190	8,712
<u>Extended Benefits</u>³	0	3	-3	1,333
<u>State Additional Benefits</u>⁴	5,715	5,595	+120	6,566
<u>STC / Workshare</u>⁵	8,627	8,617	+10	8,043
<u>TOTAL</u>	1,793,887	1,752,109	+41,778	2,022,166

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 29			Insured Unemployment For Week Ended December 22		
	Advance	Prior Wk	Change	Advance	Prior Wk	Change
Alabama	3,485	3,177	308	16,490	15,533	957
Alaska	1,189	1,111	78	9,837	10,012	-175
Arizona	2,112	3,224	-1,112	16,553	19,118	-2,565
Arkansas	2,870	3,002	-132	10,227	11,133	-906
California*	37,562	48,469	-10,907	312,535	336,011	-23,476
Colorado	2,024	2,430	-406	19,228	20,163	-935
Connecticut	11,037	5,572	5,465	37,660	31,642	6,018
Delaware	1,263	838	425	4,832	4,811	21
District of Columbia	641	585	56	7,429	7,628	-199
Florida	4,572	6,531	-1,959	33,276	37,335	-4,059
Georgia	6,789	6,098	691	25,235	25,146	89
Hawaii	1,253	1,253	0	7,054	6,626	428
Idaho	2,688	2,318	370	9,102	8,876	226
Illinois	14,756	14,636	120	115,011	103,522	11,489
Indiana	4,425	4,453	-28	19,567	17,140	2,427
Iowa	8,337	5,344	2,993	25,029	22,176	2,853
Kansas	2,845	2,288	557	9,215	9,056	159
Kentucky	7,416	3,776	3,640	16,570	16,291	279
Louisiana	1,394	2,184	-790	13,929	16,126	-2,197
Maine	954	1,203	-249	6,505	6,524	-19
Maryland	6,428	4,791	1,637	27,336	27,169	167
Massachusetts	13,605	10,521	3,084	66,288	62,817	3,471
Michigan	19,214	12,213	7,001	61,449	57,014	4,435
Minnesota	6,537	5,877	660	56,242	51,102	5,140
Mississippi	1,161	1,449	-288	6,397	7,407	-1,010
Missouri	5,978	6,979	-1,001	23,194	21,446	1,748
Montana	1,666	1,565	101	9,399	8,668	731
Nebraska	2,190	1,233	957	5,728	5,513	215
Nevada	2,674	2,762	-88	19,376	20,670	-1,294
New Hampshire	1,015	701	314	3,595	3,706	-111
New Jersey	23,671	15,887	7,784	90,033	86,548	3,485
New Mexico	1,095	1,136	-41	8,852	9,081	-229
New York	18,894	16,636	2,258	142,233	135,693	6,540
North Carolina	1,949	3,708	-1,759	17,594	20,907	-3,313
North Dakota	945	992	-47	5,361	4,348	1,013
Ohio	15,863	10,850	5,013	60,757	56,421	4,336
Oklahoma	1,691	1,756	-65	12,637	12,707	-70
Oregon	6,712	5,730	982	29,208	27,700	1,508
Pennsylvania	26,244	18,834	7,410	112,896	107,863	5,033
Puerto Rico	1,238	1,340	-102	12,346	15,346	-3,000
Rhode Island	3,562	1,864	1,698	8,693	7,892	801
South Carolina	2,561	3,369	-808	15,787	15,979	-192
South Dakota	401	430	-29	2,299	2,269	30
Tennessee	4,009	4,120	-111	16,002	17,256	-1,254
Texas	9,094	13,894	-4,800	112,709	113,231	-522
Utah	1,459	1,628	-169	10,332	10,261	71
Vermont	1,490	1,115	375	4,679	3,811	868
Virgin Islands	8	15	-7	392	602	-210
Virginia*	3,194	3,906	-712	19,198	20,260	-1,062
Washington	9,787	8,834	953	61,216	57,950	3,266
West Virginia	1,133	1,450	-317	11,198	10,025	1,173
Wisconsin	10,459	6,999	3,460	37,009	35,918	1,091
Wyoming	341	549	-208	2,868	2,427	441
US Total	323,880	291,625	32,255	1,788,587	1,764,876	23,711

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 state estimate.

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 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	1,708	3	1,677.50	1.2
December 22, 2018	221	4	219.25	1,740	32	1,703.50	1.2
December 29, 2018	231	10	218.75				

STATE NAME	INITIAL CLAIMS FILED DURING WEEK ENDED DECEMBER 22					INSURED UNEMPLOYMENT FOR WEEK ENDED DECEMBER 15					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	3177	633	-918	10	6	15533	0.8	577	-1237	52	72	15657
Alaska	1111	-87	-61	6	2	10012	3.3	96	-1998	175	4	10191
Arizona	3224	-156	-75	19	3	19118	0.7	-177	-2555	212	56	19386
Arkansas	3002	976	-595	2	5	11133	0.9	198	-2635	65	42	11240
California	48469	954	3230	204	78	336011	2.0	8551	-12582	2164	1454	339629
Colorado	2430	137	-457	21	18	20163	0.8	1792	-1894	213	218	20594
Connecticut	5572	1923	-702	5	5	31642	1.9	1399	-5249	47	72	31761
Delaware	838	212	-40	3	2	4811	1.1	210	-492	20	13	4844
District of Columbia	585	65	206	27	1	7628	1.3	62	-1123	248	7	7883
Florida	6531	-462	-440	21	22	37335	0.4	-3416	-3959	148	127	37610
Georgia	6098	735	103	19	25	25146	0.6	1060	-2866	158	208	25512
Hawaii	1253	135	70	2	5	6626	1.1	-92	-451	46	76	6748
Idaho	2318	-33	-326	25	4	8876	1.3	932	-229	239	15	9130
Illinois	14636	1744	-1607	9	12	103522	1.8	-4699	-12383	323	162	104007
Indiana	4453	1073	-72	4	3	17140	0.6	1753	-496	32	29	17201
Iowa	5344	1205	-1601	5	2	22176	1.5	1675	-170	37	24	22237
Kansas	2288	394	-719	1	2	9056	0.7	-7	-1752	38	38	9132
Kentucky	3776	950	-8851	1	7	16291	0.9	-219	-1612	86	109	16486
Louisiana	2184	-246	-327	4	5	16126	0.9	164	-2985	52	22	16200
Maine	1203	-149	-258	2	0	6524	1.1	694	-149	30	18	6572
Maryland	4791	1251	-814	18	6	27169	1.1	560	-6983	239	115	27523
Massachusetts	10521	2212	-639	9	15	62817	1.8	11922	-8339	136	126	63079
Michigan	12213	-846	-4872	19	17	57014	1.3	-2393	-8862	167	67	57248
Minnesota	5877	11	-411	8	2	51102	1.8	2556	-3215	105	64	51271
Mississippi	1449	67	-413	0	1	7407	0.7	182	-2326	33	14	7454
Missouri	6979	2555	-950	10	4	21446	0.8	420	-3532	320	48	21814
Montana	1565	290	-225	52	1	8668	1.9	64	-899	474	31	9173
Nebraska	1233	-49	-136	4	0	5513	0.6	333	-303	25	8	5546
Nevada	2762	-45	-413	5	3	20670	1.6	644	-2962	157	57	20884
New Hampshire	701	63	-142	1	0	3706	0.6	172	-566	1	2	3709
New Jersey	15887	6248	983	14	14	86548	2.2	4276	-8625	267	257	87072
New Mexico	1136	244	-59	14	3	9081	1.2	94	-1476	287	40	9408
New York	16636	1428	-3863	25	14	135693	1.5	3829	-14806	308	353	136354
North Carolina	3708	221	711	9	17	20907	0.5	781	-560	124	117	21148
North Dakota	992	35	-168	3	2	4348	1.1	444	-1327	28	2	4378
Ohio	10850	2164	-895	8	12	56421	1.1	2514	-8480	131	157	56709
Oklahoma	1756	211	-1456	2	4	12707	0.8	239	-1884	58	80	12845
Oregon	5730	1174	-4	63	5	27700	1.5	988	-1228	587	75	28362
Pennsylvania	18834	3053	-3225	60	31	107863	1.9	-1377	-9129	414	290	108567
Puerto Rico	1340	339	-1788	5	3	15346	1.8	-347	-32658	44	70	15460
Rhode Island	1864	564	-368	3	3	7892	1.7	383	-459	40	19	7951
South Carolina	3369	840	313	6	4	15979	0.8	700	-2213	46	101	16126
South Dakota	430	-3	-21	5	1	2269	0.6	184	-323	49	6	2324
Tennessee	4120	1137	619	12	5	17256	0.6	682	-2083	101	57	17414
Texas	13894	433	-244	70	78	113231	1.0	-1421	-25967	784	1137	115152
Utah	1628	-68	-33	74	8	10261	0.7	491	-290	235	23	10519
Vermont	1115	518	-208	2	0	3811	1.3	171	-121	10	2	3823
Virgin Islands	15	-9	-28	0	0	602	1.7	54	-2272	4	0	606
Virginia	3906	709	-250	9	6	20260	0.6	881	-4233	241	189	20690
Washington	8834	1432	-81	17	21	57950	1.8	2331	-1945	498	527	58975
West Virginia	1450	-101	138	3	4	10025	1.5	-128	-1722	56	18	10099
Wisconsin	6999	297	-1120	6	3	35918	1.3	1883	-3175	99	23	36040
Wyoming	549	52	-53	3	0	2427	0.9	7	-1311	82	6	2515
Totals	291625	36430	-33555	929	494	1764876	1.2	42672	-221091	10535	6847	1782258

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 DECEMBER 22, 2018

STATES WITH AN INCREASE OF MORE THAN 1,000

State	Change	State Supplied Comment
NJ	+6,248	Layoffs in the educational service, accommodation and food service, transportation and warehousing, and public administration industries.
PA	+3,053	Layoffs in the accommodation and food service, manufacturing, transportation and warehousing, and construction industries.
MO	+2,555	Layoffs in the accommodation and food service, transportation and warehousing, and manufacturing industries.
MA	+2,212	Layoffs in the construction, administrative and support and waste management and remediation service, and accommodation and food service industries.
OH	+2,164	Layoffs in the manufacturing and service industries.
CT	+1,923	Layoffs in the transportation and warehousing, manufacturing, agriculture, forestry, fishing and hunting, retail trade, and construction industries.
IL	+1,744	Layoffs in the construction, administrative and support and waste management and remediation service, and accommodation and food service industries.
WA	+1,432	Layoffs in the construction, manufacturing, wholesale trade, and accommodation and food service industries.
NY	+1,428	Layoffs in the accommodation and food service, construction, and manufacturing industries.
MD	+1,251	No comment.
IA	+1,205	Layoffs in the accommodation and food service, construction, and manufacturing industries.
OR	+1,174	No comment.
TN	+1,137	No comment.
IN	+1,073	Layoffs in the manufacturing industry.

STATES WITH A DECREASE OF MORE THAN 1,000

State	Change	State Supplied Comment
None		

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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