



# News Release

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8:30 A.M. (Eastern) Thursday, September 5, 2019

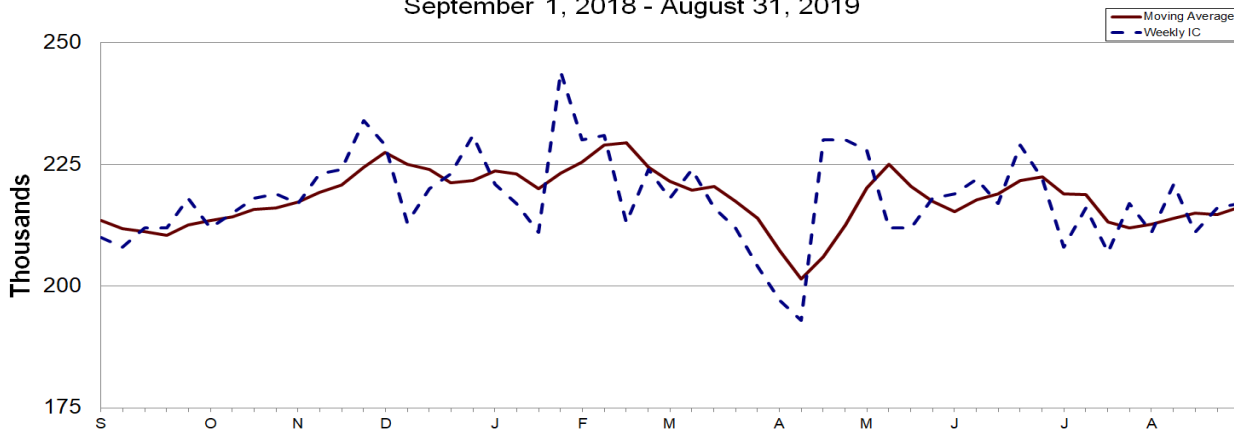
## UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE WEEKLY CLAIMS

### SEASONALLY ADJUSTED DATA

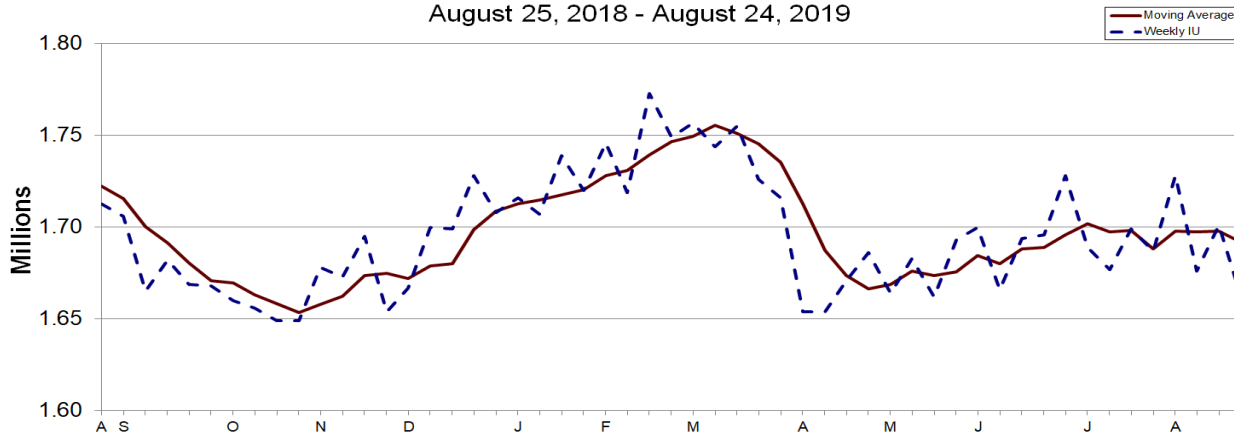
In the week ending August 31, the advance figure for seasonally adjusted **initial claims** was 217,000, an increase of 1,000 from the previous week's revised level. The previous week's level was revised up by 1,000 from 215,000 to 216,000. The 4-week moving average was 216,250, an increase of 1,500 from the previous week's revised average. The previous week's average was revised up by 250 from 214,500 to 214,750.

The advance seasonally adjusted **insured unemployment rate** was 1.2 percent for the week ending August 24, unchanged from the previous week's unrevised rate. The advance number for seasonally adjusted **insured unemployment** during the week ending August 24 was 1,662,000, a decrease of 39,000 from the previous week's revised level. The previous week's level was revised up 3,000 from 1,698,000 to 1,701,000. The 4-week moving average was 1,691,750, a decrease of 6,250 from the previous week's revised average. The previous week's average was revised up by 750 from 1,697,250 to 1,698,000.

Seasonally Adjusted Initial Claims  
September 1, 2018 - August 31, 2019



Seasonally Adjusted Insured Unemployment  
August 25, 2018 - August 24, 2019



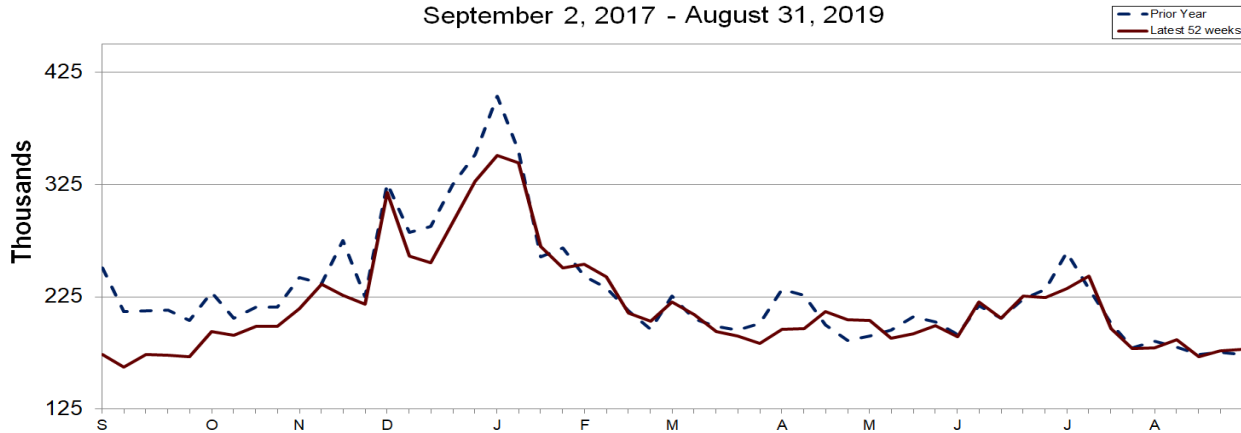
**UNADJUSTED DATA**

The advance number of actual initial claims under state programs, unadjusted, totaled 178,362 in the week ending August 31, an increase of 1,497 (or 0.8 percent) from the previous week. The seasonal factors had expected an increase of 649 (or 0.4 percent) from the previous week. There were 173,607 initial claims in the comparable week in 2018.

The advance unadjusted insured unemployment rate was 1.1 percent during the week ending August 24, unchanged from the prior week. The advance unadjusted number for persons claiming UI benefits in state programs totaled 1,555,923, a decrease of 59,860 (or -3.7 percent) from the preceding week. The seasonal factors had expected a decrease of 23,812 (or -1.5 percent) from the previous week. A year earlier the rate was 1.1 percent and the volume was 1,600,035.

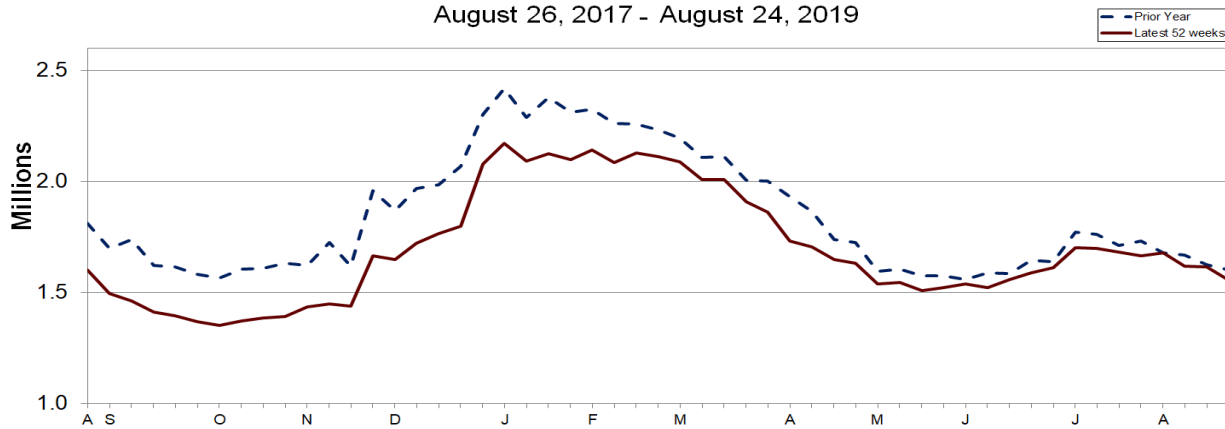
**Not Seasonally Adjusted Initial Claims**

September 2, 2017 - August 31, 2019



**Not Seasonally Adjusted Insured Unemployment**

August 26, 2017 - August 24, 2019



The total number of people claiming benefits in all programs for the week ending August 17 was 1,639,605, a decrease of 4,710 from the previous week. There were 1,648,724 persons claiming benefits in all programs in the comparable week in 2018.

No state was triggered "on" the Extended Benefits program during the week ending August 17.

Initial claims for UI benefits filed by former Federal civilian employees totaled 644 in the week ending August 24, an increase of 135 from the prior week. There were 510 initial claims filed by newly discharged veterans, an increase of 19 from the preceding week.

There were 6,824 former Federal civilian employees claiming UI benefits for the week ending August 17, a decrease of 99 from the previous week. Newly discharged veterans claiming benefits totaled 5,597, a decrease of 160 from the prior week.

The highest insured unemployment rates in the week ending August 17 were in New Jersey (2.4), Connecticut (2.2), Puerto Rico (2.1), Pennsylvania (2.0), California (1.8), Rhode Island (1.8), Alaska (1.6), Massachusetts (1.6), Illinois (1.4), and New York (1.4).

The largest increases in initial claims for the week ending August 24 were in New York (+4,452), Texas (+925), Georgia (+537), Illinois (+385), and North Dakota (+329), while the largest decreases were in California (-834), Michigan (-265), Kentucky (-261), Washington (-252), and Pennsylvania (-213).

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UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE DATA FOR REGULAR STATE PROGRAMS

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<b>WEEK ENDING</b>	<b>August 31</b>	<b>August 24</b>	<b>Change</b>	<b>August 17</b>	<b>Prior Year<sup>1</sup></b>
Initial Claims (SA)	217,000	216,000	+1,000	211,000	210,000
Initial Claims (NSA)	178,362	176,865	+1,497	171,384	173,607
4-Wk Moving Average (SA)	216,250	214,750	+1,500	215,000	213,500
<b>WEEK ENDING</b>	<b>August 24</b>	<b>August 17</b>	<b>Change</b>	<b>August 10</b>	<b>Prior Year<sup>1</sup></b>
Insured Unemployment (SA)	1,662,000	1,701,000	-39,000	1,676,000	1,713,000
Insured Unemployment (NSA)	1,555,923	1,615,783	-59,860	1,619,388	1,600,035
4-Wk Moving Average (SA)	1,691,750	1,698,000	-6,250	1,697,500	1,722,500
Insured Unemployment Rate (SA) <sup>2</sup>	1.2%	1.2%	0.0	1.2%	1.2%
Insured Unemployment Rate (NSA) <sup>2</sup>	1.1%	1.1%	0.0	1.1%	1.1%

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INITIAL CLAIMS FILED IN FEDERAL PROGRAMS (UNADJUSTED)

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<b>WEEK ENDING</b>	<b>August 24</b>	<b>August 17</b>	<b>Change</b>	<b>Prior Year<sup>1</sup></b>
Federal Employees (UCFE)	644	509	+135	596
Newly Discharged Veterans (UCX)	510	491	+19	646

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PERSONS CLAIMING UI BENEFITS IN ALL PROGRAMS (UNADJUSTED)

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<b>WEEK ENDING</b>	<b>August 17</b>	<b>August 10</b>	<b>Change</b>	<b>Prior Year<sup>1</sup></b>
Regular State	1,613,376	1,616,985	-3,609	1,622,646
Federal Employees	6,824	6,923	-99	7,426
Newly Discharged Veterans	5,597	5,757	-160	7,633
Extended Benefits <sup>3</sup>	0	0	0	2
State Additional Benefits <sup>4</sup>	4,559	4,823	-264	4,910
STC / Workshare <sup>5</sup>	9,249	9,827	-578	6,107
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>1,639,605</b>	<b>1,644,315</b>	<b>-4,710</b>	<b>1,648,724</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 144,199,701 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 benefits, and when applicable, extended benefits. Information on states that participate, and the extent of benefits paid, can be found starting on page 4-4 of this link: [Extensions and Special Programs PDF](#)
5. Information on STC/Worksharing can be found starting on page 4-8 of the following link: [Extensions and Special Programs PDF](#)

## Advance State Claims - Not Seasonally Adjusted

STATE	Initial Claims Filed During Week Ended August 31			Insured Unemployment For Week Ended August 24		
	Advance	Prior Wk	Change	Advance	Prior Wk	Change
Alabama	2,005	2,055	-50	14,885	15,948	-1,063
Alaska	762	701	61	4,523	4,856	-333
Arizona	3,486	3,535	-49	23,554	27,805	-4,251
Arkansas	1,345	1,601	-256	9,907	10,912	-1,005
California**	33,887	34,596	-709	295,133	307,762	-12,629
Colorado	1,515	1,486	29	16,362	16,298	64
Connecticut	2,226	2,523	-297	36,379	36,200	179
Delaware	421	435	-14	5,280	5,239	41
District of Columbia	441	440	1	6,913	7,236	-323
Florida	5,118	6,305	-1,187	36,935	43,799	-6,864
Georgia	4,599	4,450	149	23,695	25,549	-1,854
Hawaii*	1,454	1,136	318	7,002	6,528	474
Idaho	664	701	-37	3,443	4,404	-961
Illinois	11,142	7,376	3,766	84,910	85,032	-122
Indiana	2,088	1,989	99	13,729	13,161	568
Iowa	1,975	2,099	-124	14,302	14,682	-380
Kansas**	2,162	1,183	979	8,883	7,509	1,374
Kentucky	1,750	1,974	-224	16,074	17,311	-1,237
Louisiana	1,705	1,972	-267	13,589	16,141	-2,552
Maine	377	350	27	3,405	3,613	-208
Maryland	2,221	2,704	-483	25,788	28,960	-3,172
Massachusetts	3,965	4,036	-71	54,503	56,457	-1,954
Michigan	4,197	3,791	406	35,778	39,150	-3,372
Minnesota	2,289	2,139	150	24,574	24,134	440
Mississippi	900	913	-13	6,981	8,580	-1,599
Missouri	2,446	2,623	-177	16,480	18,467	-1,987
Montana	448	522	-74	3,870	4,387	-517
Nebraska	897	484	413	2,813	3,069	-256
Nevada	2,562	2,252	310	16,503	16,878	-375
New Hampshire	344	427	-83	3,176	3,528	-352
New Jersey	7,016	7,746	-730	95,693	95,509	184
New Mexico	630	668	-38	7,331	7,750	-419
New York	15,244	16,540	-1,296	137,296	134,289	3,007
North Carolina	2,909	2,877	32	17,940	20,112	-2,172
North Dakota	291	540	-249	2,279	1,802	477
Ohio	4,720	4,933	-213	39,055	41,047	-1,992
Oklahoma	1,288	1,624	-336	13,619	14,468	-849
Oregon	3,196	3,264	-68	23,506	23,851	-345
Pennsylvania	11,204	10,944	260	109,021	114,115	-5,094
Puerto Rico**	1,289	1,218	71	14,519	18,121	-3,602
Rhode Island	628	753	-125	8,448	8,488	-40
South Carolina	1,795	1,941	-146	13,995	15,183	-1,188
South Dakota	113	144	-31	884	1,038	-154
Tennessee	2,129	1,994	135	15,024	16,610	-1,586
Texas	13,159	12,619	540	121,556	123,914	-2,358
Utah	824	850	-26	5,864	6,282	-418
Vermont	196	262	-66	2,695	2,986	-291
Virgin Islands	19	46	-27	452	428	24
Virginia**	2,460	2,054	406	20,193	19,257	936
Washington	5,096	4,780	316	43,519	43,229	290
West Virginia	771	841	-70	8,732	7,974	758
Wisconsin	3,780	3,190	590	23,313	24,157	-844
Wyoming	214	239	-25	1,620	1,578	42
US Total	178,362	176,865	1,497	1,555,923	1,615,783	-59,860

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 estimate.

\*\*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	
August 25, 2018	215	1	214.75	1,713	-4	1,722.50	1.2
September 1, 2018	210	-5	213.50	1,706	-7	1,715.50	1.2
September 8, 2018	208	-2	211.75	1,665	-41	1,700.25	1.2
September 15, 2018	212	4	211.25	1,682	17	1,691.50	1.2
September 22, 2018	212	0	210.50	1,669	-13	1,680.50	1.2
September 29, 2018	218	6	212.50	1,668	-1	1,671.00	1.2
October 6, 2018	212	-6	213.50	1,660	-8	1,669.75	1.2
October 13, 2018	215	3	214.25	1,656	-4	1,663.25	1.2
October 20, 2018	218	3	215.75	1,649	-7	1,658.25	1.2
October 27, 2018	219	1	216.00	1,649	0	1,653.50	1.2
November 3, 2018	217	-2	217.25	1,678	29	1,658.00	1.2
November 10, 2018	223	6	219.25	1,673	-5	1,662.25	1.2
November 17, 2018	224	1	220.75	1,695	22	1,673.75	1.2
November 24, 2018	234	10	224.50	1,654	-41	1,675.00	1.2
December 1, 2018	229	-5	227.50	1,667	13	1,672.25	1.2
December 8, 2018	213	-16	225.00	1,700	33	1,679.00	1.2
December 15, 2018	220	7	224.00	1,699	-1	1,680.00	1.2
December 22, 2018	223	3	221.25	1,728	29	1,698.50	1.2
December 29, 2018	231	8	221.75	1,708	-20	1,708.75	1.2
January 5, 2019	221	-10	223.75	1,716	8	1,712.75	1.2
January 12, 2019	217	-4	223.00	1,707	-9	1,714.75	1.2
January 19, 2019	211	-6	220.00	1,739	32	1,717.50	1.2
January 26, 2019	244	33	223.25	1,720	-19	1,720.50	1.2
February 2, 2019	230	-14	225.50	1,746	26	1,728.00	1.2
February 9, 2019	231	1	229.00	1,719	-27	1,731.00	1.2
February 16, 2019	213	-18	229.50	1,773	54	1,739.50	1.2
February 23, 2019	224	11	224.50	1,749	-24	1,746.75	1.2
March 2, 2019	218	-6	221.50	1,757	8	1,749.50	1.2
March 9, 2019	224	6	219.75	1,744	-13	1,755.75	1.2
March 16, 2019	216	-8	220.50	1,755	11	1,751.25	1.2
March 23, 2019	212	-4	217.50	1,726	-29	1,745.50	1.2
March 30, 2019	204	-8	214.00	1,716	-10	1,735.25	1.2
April 6, 2019	197	-7	207.25	1,654	-62	1,712.75	1.2
April 13, 2019	193	-4	201.50	1,654	0	1,687.50	1.2
April 20, 2019	230	37	206.00	1,671	17	1,673.75	1.2
April 27, 2019	230	0	212.50	1,686	15	1,666.25	1.2
May 4, 2019	228	-2	220.25	1,664	-22	1,668.75	1.2
May 11, 2019	212	-16	225.00	1,683	19	1,676.00	1.2
May 18, 2019	212	0	220.50	1,662	-21	1,673.75	1.2
May 25, 2019	218	6	217.50	1,693	31	1,675.50	1.2
June 1, 2019	219	1	215.25	1,700	7	1,684.50	1.2
June 8, 2019	222	3	217.75	1,666	-34	1,680.25	1.2
June 15, 2019	217	-5	219.00	1,694	28	1,688.25	1.2
June 22, 2019	229	12	221.75	1,696	2	1,689.00	1.2
June 29, 2019	222	-7	222.50	1,728	32	1,696.00	1.2
July 6, 2019	208	-14	219.00	1,689	-39	1,701.75	1.2
July 13, 2019	216	8	218.75	1,677	-12	1,697.50	1.2
July 20, 2019	207	-9	213.25	1,699	22	1,698.25	1.2
July 27, 2019	217	10	212.00	1,687	-12	1,688.00	1.2
August 3, 2019	211	-6	212.75	1,728	41	1,697.75	1.2
August 10, 2019	221	10	214.00	1,676	-52	1,697.50	1.2
August 17, 2019	211	-10	215.00	1,701	25	1,698.00	1.2
August 24, 2019	216	5	214.75	1,662	-39	1,691.75	1.2
August 31, 2019	217	1	216.25				

STATE NAME	INITIAL CLAIMS FILED DURING WEEK ENDED AUGUST 24					INSURED UNEMPLOYMENT FOR WEEK ENDED AUGUST 17					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	2055	-68	7	7	4	15948	0.8	-687	-281	88	51	16087
Alaska	701	3	-173	1	2	4856	1.6	-30	-594	36	11	4903
Arizona	3535	21	70	3	1	27805	1.0	-814	-2371	68	60	27933
Arkansas	1601	179	226	3	0	10912	0.9	-1038	174	38	31	10981
California	34596	-834	-1126	127	101	307762	1.8	13116	3980	1319	1312	310393
Colorado	1486	15	-71	3	11	16298	0.6	-467	-1261	79	124	16501
Connecticut	2523	-189	-24	3	2	36200	2.2	137	-945	30	53	36283
Delaware	435	-32	11	0	0	5239	1.2	-33	-85	6	9	5254
District of Columbia	440	-21	48	18	0	7236	1.3	-155	-943	253	4	7493
Florida	6305	296	-214	26	26	43799	0.5	1946	170	142	141	44082
Georgia	4450	537	269	24	32	25549	0.6	760	389	160	197	25906
Hawaii	1136	125	265	0	9	6528	1.0	152	416	34	55	6617
Idaho	701	-54	-77	2	0	4404	0.6	-147	208	11	14	4429
Illinois	7376	385	908	8	6	85032	1.4	-3499	-1348	306	171	85509
Indiana	1989	-54	30	5	3	13161	0.4	-266	43	20	31	13212
Iowa	2099	294	634	1	4	14682	1.0	-624	1048	34	17	14733
Kansas	1183	11	-155	0	6	7509	0.6	-713	-620	23	21	7553
Kentucky	1974	-261	385	3	1	17311	0.9	491	1445	149	69	17529
Louisiana	1972	-22	-163	6	2	16141	0.9	-646	-1470	53	15	16209
Maine	350	-13	-13	0	3	3613	0.6	-67	-368	15	14	3642
Maryland	2704	-94	41	18	11	28960	1.1	-339	-1516	287	65	29312
Massachusetts	4036	-3	-180	9	6	56457	1.6	-457	2494	109	85	56651
Michigan	3791	-265	-1703	10	20	39150	0.9	-4287	-3775	75	56	39281
Minnesota	2139	-36	-209	2	4	24134	0.8	-1295	-380	38	56	24228
Mississippi	913	-119	-27	2	2	8580	0.8	-708	175	72	26	8678
Missouri	2623	12	-34	11	3	18467	0.7	-2474	-2258	73	37	18577
Montana	522	28	59	3	1	4387	1.0	-138	163	52	12	4451
Nebraska	484	-38	-62	5	4	3069	0.3	-734	-381	12	6	3087
Nevada	2252	165	51	2	4	16878	1.2	-230	-823	27	38	16943
New Hampshire	427	-37	-15	1	1	3528	0.5	41	-295	8	6	3542
New Jersey	7746	205	375	14	16	95509	2.4	587	-2327	172	173	95854
New Mexico	668	-13	-11	2	0	7750	1.0	-488	119	76	43	7869
New York	16540	4452	-225	20	18	134289	1.4	3079	-3835	308	306	134903
North Carolina	2877	-137	342	15	26	20112	0.5	-375	192	99	104	20315
North Dakota	540	329	326	2	1	1802	0.4	-103	4	79	3	1884
Ohio	4933	274	572	10	11	41047	0.8	-1203	-1822	91	131	41269
Oklahoma	1624	25	376	2	3	14468	0.9	-239	2205	43	69	14580
Oregon	3264	292	87	17	10	23851	1.3	-604	567	95	62	24008
Pennsylvania	10944	-213	-73	40	14	114115	2.0	2313	948	374	185	114674
Puerto Rico	1218	-31	106	5	3	18121	2.1	-316	1830	166	81	18368
Rhode Island	753	-119	-7	0	0	8488	1.8	153	-533	14	14	8516
South Carolina	1941	68	12	6	8	15183	0.7	-376	-1480	44	52	15279
South Dakota	144	-14	13	2	2	1038	0.2	-52	118	120	3	1161
Tennessee	1994	101	129	5	14	16610	0.6	-1058	-1298	66	58	16734
Texas	12619	925	663	180	82	123914	1.0	307	5207	952	874	125740
Utah	850	24	-58	6	2	6282	0.4	-78	-832	74	13	6369
Vermont	262	-59	-11	0	0	2986	1.0	178	47	6	0	2992
Virgin Islands	46	13	38	0	0	428	1.3	-46	-84	4	8	440
Virginia	2054	-183	-139	5	10	19257	0.5	-543	-1762	178	167	19602
Washington	4780	-252	-448	3	19	43229	1.3	-310	2476	166	426	43821
West Virginia	841	39	141	1	1	7974	1.2	-237	609	35	21	8030
Wisconsin	3190	-179	139	5	1	24157	0.8	-930	86	42	13	24212
Wyoming	239	3	15	1	0	1578	0.6	-59	135	3	4	1585
Totals	176865	5481	1120	644	510	1615783	1.1	-3605	-8439	6824	5597	1628204

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 AUGUST 24, 2019**

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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>
NY	+4,452	Layoffs in the transportation and warehousing, educational service, and construction industries.

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STATES WITH A DECREASE OF MORE THAN 1,000

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<b>State</b>	<b>Change</b>	<b>State Supplied Comment</b>
None		

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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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