



News Release

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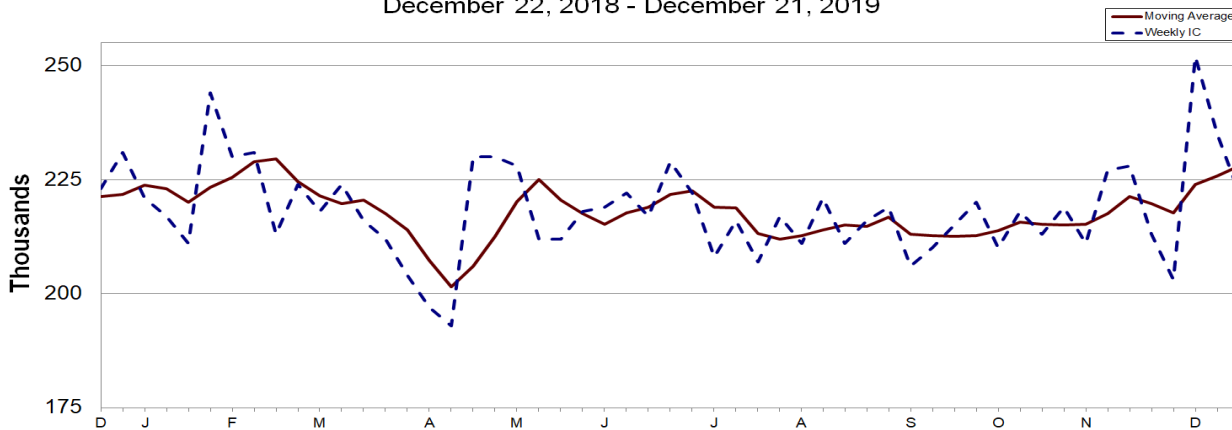
UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE WEEKLY CLAIMS

SEASONALLY ADJUSTED DATA

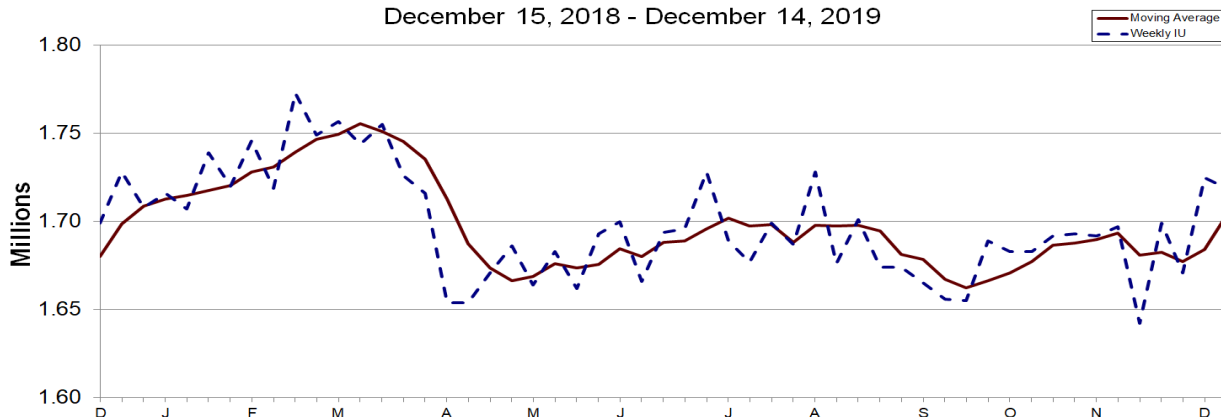
In the week ending December 21, the advance figure for seasonally adjusted **initial claims** was 222,000, a decrease of 13,000 from the previous week's revised level. The previous week's level was revised up by 1,000 from 234,000 to 235,000. The 4-week moving average was 228,000, an increase of 2,250 from the previous week's revised average. The previous week's average was revised up by 250 from 225,500 to 225,750.

The advance seasonally adjusted **insured unemployment rate** was 1.2 percent for the week ending December 14, unchanged from the previous week's unrevised rate. The advance number for seasonally adjusted **insured unemployment** during the week ending December 14 was 1,719,000, a decrease of 6,000 from the previous week's revised level. The previous week's level was revised up 3,000 from 1,722,000 to 1,725,000. The 4-week moving average was 1,703,500, an increase of 19,250 from the previous week's revised average. The previous week's average was revised up by 750 from 1,683,500 to 1,684,250.

Seasonally Adjusted Initial Claims
December 22, 2018 - December 21, 2019



Seasonally Adjusted Insured Unemployment
December 15, 2018 - December 14, 2019



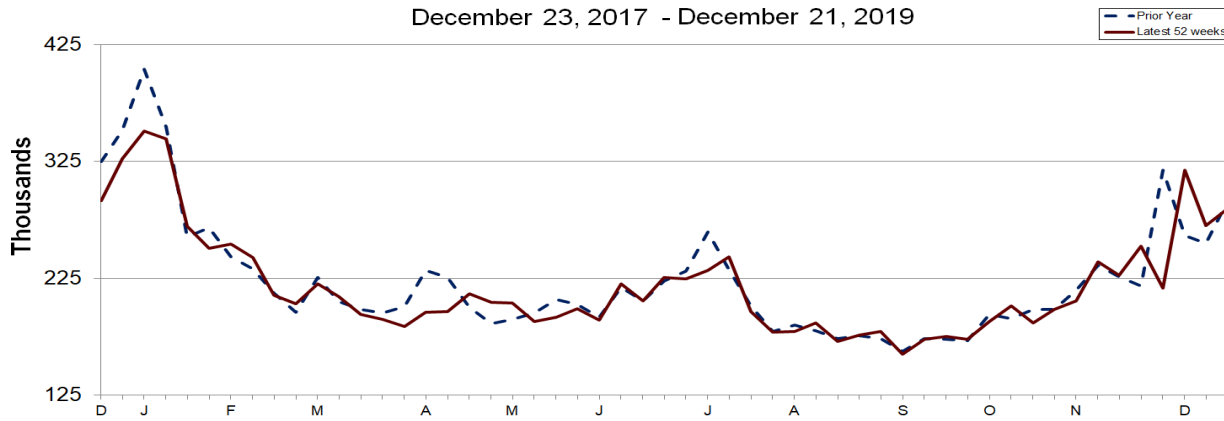
UNADJUSTED DATA

The advance number of actual initial claims under state programs, unadjusted, totaled 284,779 in the week ending December 21, an increase of 14,390 (or 5.3 percent) from the previous week. The seasonal factors had expected an increase of 31,506 (or 11.7 percent) from the previous week. There were 291,625 initial claims in the comparable week in 2018.

The advance unadjusted insured unemployment rate was 1.2 percent during the week ending December 14, unchanged from the prior week. The advance unadjusted number for persons claiming UI benefits in state programs totaled 1,794,259, an increase of 66,208 (or 3.8 percent) from the preceding week. The seasonal factors had expected an increase of 72,433 (or 4.2 percent) from the previous week. A year earlier the rate was 1.2 percent and the volume was 1,765,007.

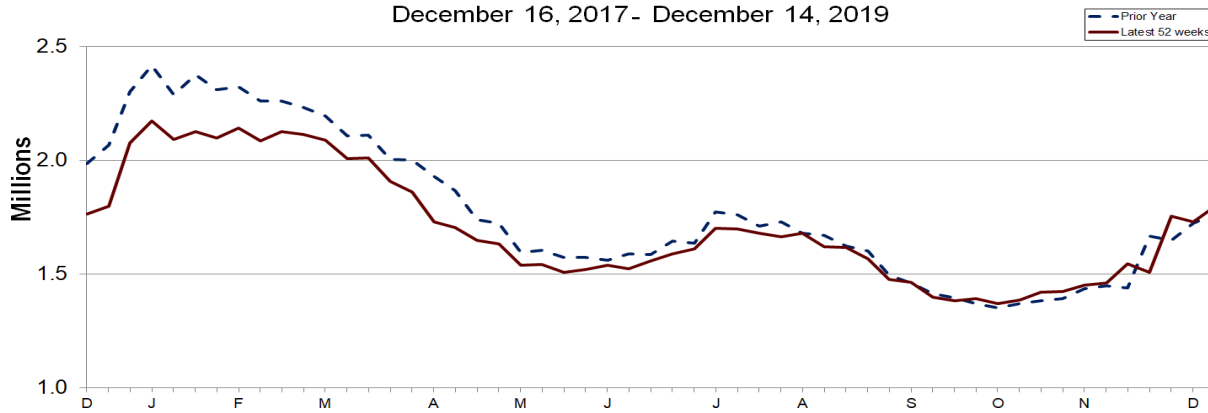
Not Seasonally Adjusted Initial Claims

December 23, 2017 - December 21, 2019



Not Seasonally Adjusted Insured Unemployment

December 16, 2017 - December 14, 2019



The total number of people claiming benefits in all programs for the week ending December 7 was 1,758,132, a decrease of 24,128 from the previous week. There were 1,752,109 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 December 7.

Initial claims for UI benefits filed by former Federal civilian employees totaled 1,164 in the week ending December 14, a decrease of 83 from the prior week. There were 537 initial claims filed by newly discharged veterans, a decrease of 71 from the preceding week.

There were 11,240 former Federal civilian employees claiming UI benefits for the week ending December 7, an increase of 1,572 from the previous week. Newly discharged veterans claiming benefits totaled 5,537, a decrease of 321 from the prior week.

The highest insured unemployment rates in the week ending December 7 were in Alaska (2.8), West Virginia (2.2), New Jersey (2.1), Puerto Rico (2.1), Pennsylvania (2.0), California (1.9), Connecticut (1.9), Montana (1.9), Washington (1.8), Illinois (1.7), and Minnesota (1.7).

The largest increases in initial claims for the week ending December 14 were in West Virginia (+397), Illinois (+278), Idaho (+188), North Dakota (+124), and Kentucky (+70), while the largest decreases were in New York (-6,288), Texas (-5,612), Pennsylvania (-4,726), Wisconsin (-3,770), and Georgia (-2,997).

UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE DATA FOR REGULAR STATE PROGRAMS

WEEK ENDING	December 21	December 14	Change	December 7	Prior Year¹
Initial Claims (SA)	222,000	235,000	-13,000	252,000	223,000
Initial Claims (NSA)	284,779	270,389	+14,390	317,851	291,625
4-Wk Moving Average (SA)	228,000	225,750	+2,250	224,000	221,250
WEEK ENDING	December 14	December 7	Change	November 30	Prior Year¹
Insured Unemployment (SA)	1,719,000	1,725,000	-6,000	1,671,000	1,699,000
Insured Unemployment (NSA)	1,794,259	1,728,051	+66,208	1,754,575	1,765,007
4-Wk Moving Average (SA)	1,703,500	1,684,250	+19,250	1,677,250	1,680,000
Insured Unemployment Rate (SA) ²	1.2%	1.2%	0.0	1.2%	1.2%
Insured Unemployment Rate (NSA) ²	1.2%	1.2%	0.0	1.2%	1.2%

INITIAL CLAIMS FILED IN FEDERAL PROGRAMS (UNADJUSTED)

WEEK ENDING	December 14	December 7	Change	Prior Year¹
Federal Employees (UCFE)	1,164	1,247	-83	1,162
Newly Discharged Veterans (UCX)	537	608	-71	608

PERSONS CLAIMING UI BENEFITS IN ALL PROGRAMS (UNADJUSTED)

WEEK ENDING	December 7	November 30	Change	Prior Year¹
Regular State	1,725,237	1,751,951	-26,714	1,719,796
Federal Employees	11,240	9,668	+1,572	11,061
Newly Discharged Veterans	5,537	5,858	-321	7,037
Extended Benefits ³	0	0	0	3
State Additional Benefits ⁴	5,549	5,761	-212	5,595
STC / Workshare ⁵	10,569	9,022	+1,547	8,617
TOTAL	1,758,132	1,782,260	-24,128	1,752,109

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 144,758,990 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 December 21			Insured Unemployment For Week Ended December 14		
	Advance	Prior Wk	Change	Advance	Prior Wk	Change
Alabama	2,965	2,362	603	14,142	15,078	-936
Alaska	1,409	949	460	8,902	8,645	257
Arizona	3,074	3,296	-222	15,260	17,436	-2,176
Arkansas	2,367	1,809	558	10,289	11,610	-1,321
California*	48,889	47,521	1,368	327,189	321,564	5,625
Colorado	2,373	2,279	94	20,606	19,433	1,173
Connecticut	5,055	4,343	712	34,186	31,040	3,146
Delaware	877	765	112	5,124	4,549	575
District of Columbia	624	562	62	6,714	6,889	-175
Florida	5,042	5,375	-333	32,211	33,428	-1,217
Georgia	4,632	6,595	-1,963	23,954	26,358	-2,404
Hawaii**	1,159	1,052	107	5,738	5,903	-165
Idaho	2,084	2,462	-378	7,452	7,019	433
Illinois	16,780	15,076	1,704	108,701	99,001	9,700
Indiana	4,105	3,411	694	17,580	15,516	2,064
Iowa	7,814	4,934	2,880	22,789	20,080	2,709
Kansas*	3,121	1,825	1,296	8,933	8,077	856
Kentucky	4,507	3,663	844	18,887	17,264	1,623
Louisiana	2,049	2,227	-178	12,573	14,705	-2,132
Maine	1,131	1,304	-173	6,057	5,657	400
Maryland	4,561	3,461	1,100	24,191	24,048	143
Massachusetts	9,214	8,874	340	60,750	58,027	2,723
Michigan	10,233	10,201	32	58,416	52,746	5,670
Minnesota	7,037	6,797	240	56,854	49,460	7,394
Mississippi	1,284	1,287	-3	6,288	7,493	-1,205
Missouri	6,831	3,900	2,931	19,004	18,912	92
Montana	1,600	1,355	245	9,424	8,660	764
Nebraska	1,298	1,087	211	3,513	3,099	414
Nevada	2,793	2,655	138	17,839	18,343	-504
New Hampshire	594	665	-71	3,247	3,485	-238
New Jersey	12,873	10,806	2,067	91,942	85,764	6,178
New Mexico	978	939	39	9,037	9,115	-78
New York	16,226	18,108	-1,882	140,059	136,601	3,458
North Carolina	3,428	3,649	-221	18,964	19,806	-842
North Dakota	1,193	1,128	65	5,384	3,803	1,581
Ohio	10,630	9,999	631	56,917	54,811	2,106
Oklahoma	1,874	1,955	-81	15,625	16,289	-664
Oregon	4,890	5,519	-629	27,826	27,169	657
Pennsylvania*	19,916	20,691	-775	121,061	118,237	2,824
Puerto Rico*	1,182	1,025	157	14,977	17,653	-2,676
Rhode Island	1,721	1,338	383	7,971	7,275	696
South Carolina	2,814	2,495	319	14,792	14,731	61
South Dakota*	527	529	-2	1,763	2,019	-256
Tennessee	3,254	2,476	778	15,813	16,589	-776
Texas	12,441	15,037	-2,596	134,464	122,185	12,279
Utah	1,740	1,706	34	9,792	9,750	42
Vermont	885	539	346	3,698	3,569	129
Virgin Islands	27	29	-2	678	128	550
Virginia*	3,225	3,127	98	18,587	19,228	-641
Washington	9,347	7,359	1,988	62,025	59,316	2,709
West Virginia	1,675	2,507	-832	16,554	14,518	2,036
Wisconsin	7,824	6,794	1,030	36,151	33,276	2,875
Wyoming	607	542	65	3,366	2,694	672
US Total	284,779	270,389	14,390	1,794,259	1,728,051	66,208

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.

**Denotes OUI 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 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	1,674	-27	1,694.75	1.2
August 31, 2019	219	3	216.75	1,674	0	1,681.25	1.2
September 7, 2019	206	-13	213.00	1,665	-9	1,678.50	1.2
September 14, 2019	210	4	212.75	1,656	-9	1,667.25	1.1
September 21, 2019	215	5	212.50	1,655	-1	1,662.50	1.1
September 28, 2019	220	5	212.75	1,689	34	1,666.25	1.2
October 5, 2019	210	-10	213.75	1,683	-6	1,670.75	1.2
October 12, 2019	218	8	215.75	1,683	0	1,677.50	1.2
October 19, 2019	213	-5	215.25	1,692	9	1,686.75	1.2
October 26, 2019	219	6	215.00	1,693	1	1,687.75	1.2
November 2, 2019	211	-8	215.25	1,692	-1	1,690.00	1.2
November 9, 2019	227	16	217.50	1,697	5	1,693.50	1.2
November 16, 2019	228	1	221.25	1,642	-55	1,681.00	1.1
November 23, 2019	213	-15	219.75	1,699	57	1,682.50	1.2
November 30, 2019	203	-10	217.75	1,671	-28	1,677.25	1.2
December 7, 2019	252	49	224.00	1,725	54	1,684.25	1.2
December 14, 2019	235	-17	225.75	1,719	-6	1,703.50	1.2
December 21, 2019	222	-13	228.00				

STATE NAME	INITIAL CLAIMS FILED DURING WEEK ENDED DECEMBER 14					INSURED UNEMPLOYMENT FOR WEEK ENDED DECEMBER 7					ALL PROGRAMS EXCLUDING RAILROAD RETIREMENT	
	STATE	CHANGE FROM				STATE (%) ²	CHANGE FROM					
		LAST WEEK	YEAR AGO	UCFE ¹	UCX ¹		LAST WEEK	YEAR AGO	UCFE ¹	UCX ¹		
Alabama	2362	-865	-182	4	8	15078	0.8	-883	122	83	53	15214
Alaska	949	-197	-249	3	0	8645	2.8	-892	-1271	171	8	8824
Arizona	3296	-817	-84	19	0	17436	0.6	-1090	-1859	176	32	17644
Arkansas	1809	-627	-217	5	3	11610	1.0	-959	675	60	37	11707
California	47521	-913	6	274	86	321564	1.9	-5940	-5896	2417	1166	325147
Colorado	2279	-883	-14	23	14	19433	0.7	-231	1062	291	124	19848
Connecticut	4343	52	694	5	5	31040	1.9	857	797	48	66	31154
Delaware	765	-334	139	1	2	4549	1.0	-599	-52	15	9	4573
District of Columbia	562	-73	42	17	0	6889	1.2	6	-677	237	6	7132
Florida	5375	-306	-1618	15	31	33428	0.4	-5489	-7323	162	116	33706
Georgia	6595	-2997	1232	32	34	26358	0.6	-4881	2272	166	159	26683
Hawaii	1052	-383	-66	4	6	5903	0.9	-296	-764	56	53	6012
Idaho	2462	188	111	61	2	7019	1.0	1531	-925	234	11	7264
Illinois	15076	278	2184	9	5	99001	1.7	3587	-9220	317	144	99462
Indiana	3411	-622	31	3	4	15516	0.5	43	129	26	29	15571
Iowa	4934	-597	795	8	3	20080	1.3	-314	-421	45	12	20137
Kansas	1825	-351	-69	5	2	8077	0.6	-169	-986	35	19	8131
Kentucky	3663	70	837	2	2	17264	0.9	-1559	754	245	89	17598
Louisiana	2227	-221	-203	4	8	14705	0.8	142	-1257	49	10	14764
Maine	1304	-47	-48	4	1	5657	0.9	274	-173	40	12	5709
Maryland	3461	-579	-79	10	7	24048	0.9	-466	-2561	212	69	24329
Massachusetts	8874	-1365	565	13	10	58027	1.6	3687	7132	115	87	58229
Michigan	10201	-319	-2858	21	10	52746	1.2	-55	-6661	150	74	52970
Minnesota	6797	-2362	931	17	4	49460	1.7	-574	914	87	62	49609
Mississippi	1287	-78	-95	4	1	7493	0.7	-442	268	52	15	7560
Missouri	3900	-722	-524	5	3	18912	0.7	-1359	-2114	129	31	19072
Montana	1355	-577	80	77	4	8660	1.9	-210	56	502	17	9179
Nebraska	1087	-63	-195	0	0	3099	0.3	-343	-2081	9	4	3112
Nevada	2655	-486	-152	12	3	18343	1.3	-743	-1683	140	52	18535
New Hampshire	665	-33	27	0	0	3485	0.5	232	-49	9	1	3495
New Jersey	10806	-1657	1167	18	14	85764	2.1	-2139	3492	559	203	86526
New Mexico	939	-102	47	12	3	9115	1.1	-155	128	302	46	9463
New York	18108	-6288	2900	22	17	136601	1.5	-2718	4737	296	307	137204
North Carolina	3649	-194	162	11	13	19806	0.5	112	-320	115	119	20040
North Dakota	1128	124	171	5	0	3803	0.9	469	-101	11	3	3817
Ohio	9999	-389	1313	14	17	54811	1.0	2004	904	116	123	55050
Oklahoma	1955	-16	410	8	5	16289	1.0	-1462	3821	81	43	16413
Oregon	5519	-1057	963	98	8	27169	1.4	-2463	457	576	61	27806
Pennsylvania	20691	-4726	4910	66	41	118237	2.0	14473	8997	493	197	118927
Puerto Rico	1025	-303	24	26	4	17653	2.1	-378	1960	212	80	17945
Rhode Island	1338	-185	38	1	1	7275	1.5	607	-234	21	18	7314
South Carolina	2495	-1470	-34	8	7	14731	0.7	-607	-548	40	61	14832
South Dakota	529	-101	96	10	0	2019	0.5	302	-66	58	9	2086
Tennessee	2476	-834	-507	10	11	16589	0.6	-220	15	62	53	16704
Texas	15037	-5612	1576	53	96	122185	1.0	-13575	7533	987	952	124124
Utah	1706	-490	10	56	1	9750	0.7	1122	-20	179	20	9949
Vermont	539	-438	-58	0	1	3569	1.2	-382	-71	9	0	3578
Virgin Islands	29	17	5	0	0	128	0.4	-110	-420	0	0	128
Virginia	3127	-1157	-70	10	12	19228	0.5	152	-151	178	160	19566
Washington	7359	-2764	-43	43	19	59316	1.8	-600	3697	460	454	60230
West Virginia	2507	397	956	2	3	14518	2.2	504	4365	42	38	14598
Wisconsin	6794	-3770	92	13	6	33276	1.2	-4223	-759	93	17	33386
Wyoming	542	-218	45	21	0	2694	1.0	-102	274	72	6	2772
Totals	270389	-47462	15194	1164	537	1728051	1.2	-26524	5898	11240	5537	1744828

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 14, 2019

STATES WITH AN INCREASE OF MORE THAN 1,000

State	Change	State Supplied Comment
None		

STATES WITH A DECREASE OF MORE THAN 1,000

State	Change	State Supplied Comment
NY	-6,288	Fewer layoffs in the transportation and warehousing, accommodation and food services, and information industries.
TX	-5,612	No comment.
PA	-4,726	Fewer layoffs in the transportation and warehousing, accommodation and food services, and manufacturing industries.
WI	-3,770	No comment.
GA	-2,997	Fewer layoffs in the manufacturing, administrative, support, waste management and remediation services, and construction industries.
WA	-2,764	No comment.
MN	-2,362	No comment.
NJ	-1,657	Fewer layoffs in the transportation and warehousing, accommodation and food services, and manufacturing industries.
SC	-1,470	No comment.
MA	-1,365	No comment.
VA	-1,157	No comment.
OR	-1,057	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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