News Release

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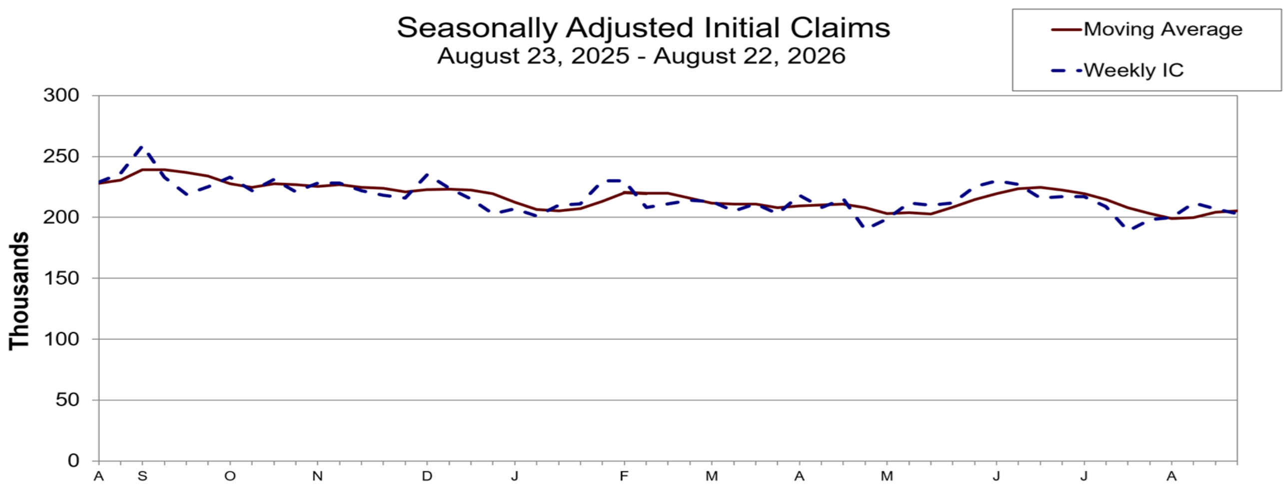
8:30 A.M. (Eastern) Thursday, August 27, 2026

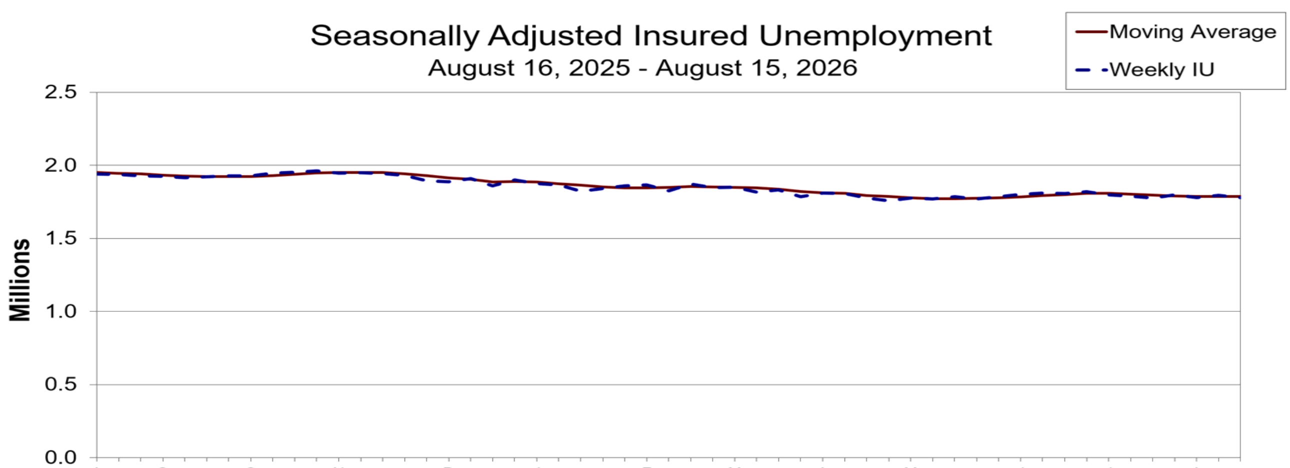
UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE WEEKLY CLAIMS

SEASONALLY ADJUSTED DATA

In the week ending August 22, the advance figure for seasonally adjusted **initial claims** was 203,000, a decrease of 4,000 from the previous week's revised level. The previous week's level was revised up by 1,000 from 206,000 to 207,000. The 4-week moving average was 205,500, an increase of 1,250 from the previous week's revised average. The previous week's average was revised up by 250 from 204,000 to 204,250.

The advance seasonally adjusted **insured unemployment rate** was 1.2 percent for the week ending August 15, unchanged from the previous week's unrevised rate. The advance number for seasonally adjusted **insured unemployment** during the week ending August 15 was 1,778,000, a decrease of 18,000 from the previous week's revised level. The previous week's level was revised down by 3,000 from 1,799,000 to 1,796,000. The 4-week moving average was 1,788,500, an increase of 250 from the previous week's revised average. The previous week's average was revised down by 750 from 1,789,000 to 1,788,250.

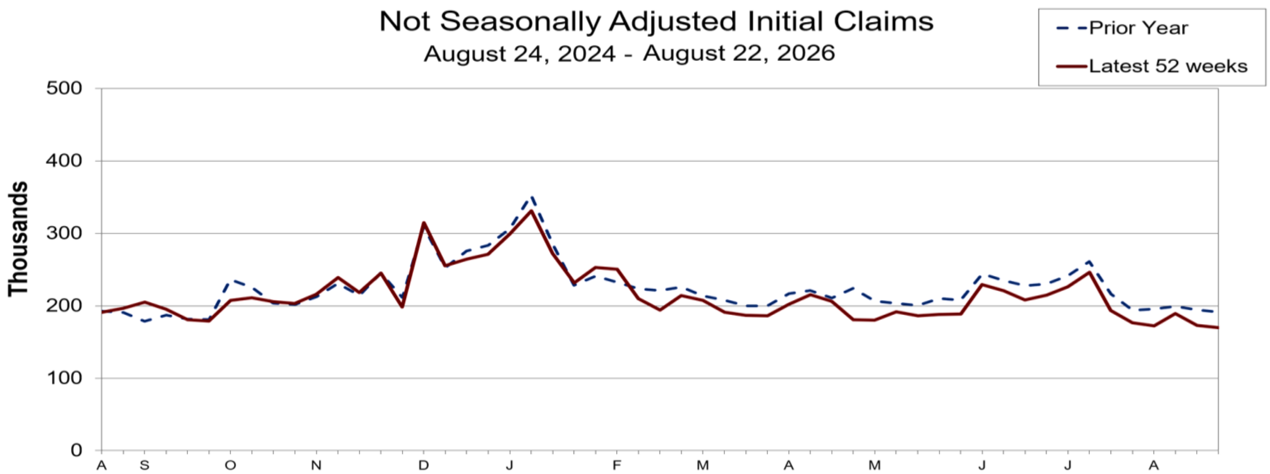


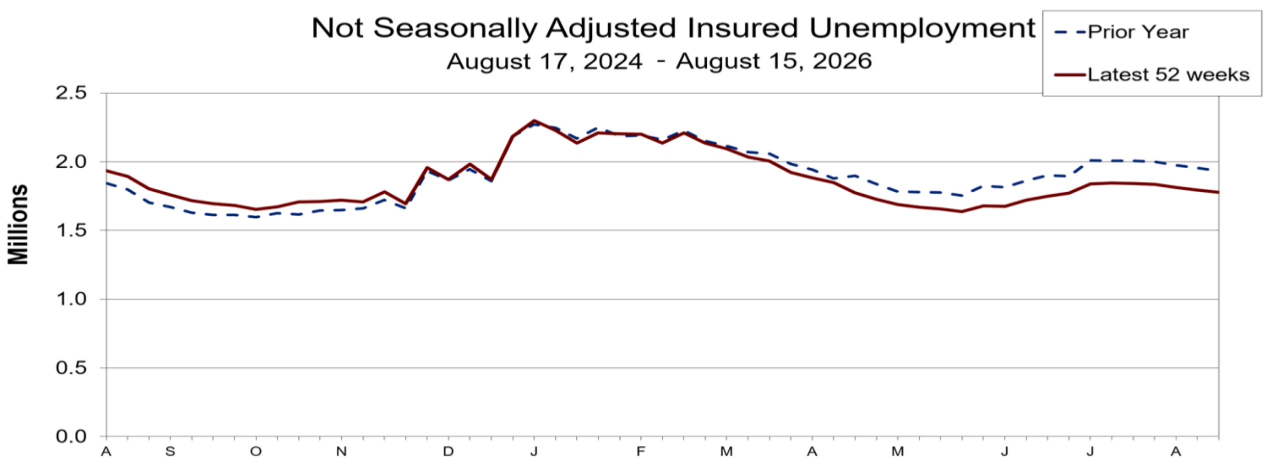


UNADJUSTED DATA

The advance number of actual initial claims under state programs, unadjusted, totaled 169,786 in the week ending August 22, a decrease of 3,231 (or -1.9 percent) from the previous week. The seasonal factors had expected a decrease of 207 (or -0.1 percent) from the previous week. There were 191,208 initial claims in the comparable week in 2025.

The advance unadjusted insured unemployment rate was 1.2 percent during the week ending August 15, unchanged from the prior week. The advance unadjusted level of insured unemployment in state programs totaled 1,778,347, a decrease of 15,672 (or -0.9 percent) from the preceding week. The seasonal factors had expected an increase of 1,796 (or 0.1 percent) from the previous week. A year earlier the rate was 1.3 percent and the volume was 1,934,367.





The total number of continued weeks claimed for benefits in all programs for the week ending August 8 was 1,817,931, a decrease of 21,217 from the previous week. There were 1,987,368 weekly claims filed for benefits in all programs in the comparable week in 2025.

No state was triggered "on" the Extended Benefits program during the week ending August 8.

Initial claims for UI benefits filed by former Federal civilian employees totaled 390 in the week ending August 15, a decrease of 59 from the prior week. There were 385 initial claims filed by newly discharged veterans, a decrease of 104 from the preceding week.

There were 5,893 continued weeks claimed filed by former Federal civilian employees the week ending August 8, a decrease of 122 from the previous week. Newly discharged veterans claiming benefits totaled 4,755, an increase of 145 from the prior week.

The highest insured unemployment rates in the week ending August 8 were in New Jersey (2.6), Puerto Rico (2.6), Rhode Island (2.2), Massachusetts (2.1), Minnesota (2.1), Oregon (2.0), California (1.9), Washington (1.9), Connecticut (1.7), New York (1.7), Pennsylvania (1.7), and Nevada (1.6).

The largest increases in initial claims for the week ending August 15 were in Kentucky (+518), Ohio (+342), Utah (+74), Alaska (+46), and Puerto Rico (+21), while the largest decreases were in Michigan (-2,446), California (-1,432), South Carolina (-1,136), Pennsylvania (-1,077), and Kansas (-990).

UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE DATA FOR REGULAR STATE PROGRAMS

WEEK ENDING	August 22	August 15	Change	August 8	Prior Year[1]
Initial Claims (SA)	203,000	207,000	-4,000	212,000	229,000
Initial Claims (NSA)	169,786	173,017	-3,231	189,203	191,208
4-Wk Moving Average (SA)	205,500	204,250	+1,250	199,750	228,000

WEEK ENDING	August 15	August 8	Change	August 1	Prior Year[1]
Insured Unemployment (SA)	1,778,000	1,796,000	-18,000	1,781,000	1,942,000
Insured Unemployment (NSA)	1,778,347	1,794,019	-15,672	1,814,581	1,934,367
4-Wk Moving Average (SA)	1,788,500	1,788,250	+250	1,786,500	1,951,000
Insured Unemployment Rate (SA)[2]	1.2%	1.2%	0.0	1.2%	1.3%
Insured Unemployment Rate (NSA)[2]	1.2%	1.2%	0.0	1.2%	1.3%

INITIAL CLAIMS FILED IN FEDERAL PROGRAMS (UNADJUSTED)

WEEK ENDING	August 15	August 8	Change	Prior Year[1]
Federal Employees (UCFE)	390	449	-59	588
Newly Discharged Veterans (UCX)	385	489	-104	408

CONTINUED WEEKS CLAIMED FILED FOR UI BENEFITS IN ALL PROGRAMS (UNADJUSTED)

WEEK ENDING	August 8	August 1	Change	Prior Year[1]
Regular State	1,789,693	1,810,010	-20,317	1,948,338
Federal Employees	5,893	6,015	-122	8,456
Newly Discharged Veterans	4,755	4,610	+145	4,653
Extended Benefits[3]	9	44	-35	44
State Additional Benefits[4]	2,912	2,936	-24	2,522
STC / Workshare [5]	14,669	15,533	-864	23,355
TOTAL	1,817,931	1,839,148	-21,217	1,987,368

FOOTNOTES

SA - Seasonally Adjusted Data, NSA - Not Seasonally Adjusted Data Continued weeks claimed represent all weeks of benefits claimed during the week being reported, and do not represent weeks claimed by unique individuals.

1. Prior year is comparable to most recent data.
2. Most recent week used covered employment of 153,732,307 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 4-5 of this link: Extensions and Special Programs PDF
5. Information on STC/Worksharing can be found starting on page 4-11 of the following link: Extensions and Special Programs PDF

Advance State Claims - Not Seasonally Adjusted

	Initial Claims Filed During Week Ended August 22			Insured Unemployment For Week Ended August 15		
STATE	Advance	Prior Wk	Change	Advance	Prior Wk	Change
Alabama	1,451	1,488	-37	7,090	7,974	-884
Alaska	475	383	92	3,027	3,210	-183
Arizona	2,428	2,712	-284	21,887	25,374	-3,487
Arkansas	1,089	1,123	-34	4,936	5,538	-602
California	35,486	36,290	-804	336,159	340,117	-3,958
Colorado	2,842	2,690	152	31,679	31,008	671
Connecticut	2,816	3,007	-191	31,095	29,479	1,616
Delaware	408	524	-116	5,531	5,234	297
District of Columbia	591	642	-51	8,027	7,919	108
Florida	5,033	5,680	-647	30,941	34,915	-3,974
Georgia	3,772	3,965	-193	23,812	24,715	-903
Hawaii	907	920	-13	5,473	5,727	-254
Idaho	575	546	29	4,203	4,713	-510
Illinois	7,202	6,502	700	93,040	92,452	588
Indiana	2,268	2,213	55	17,721	17,953	-232
Iowa	1,175	1,151	24	7,358	8,531	-1,173
Kansas	827	921	-94	7,148	8,170	-1,022
Kentucky	1,382	1,961	-579	10,177	9,896	281
Louisiana	1,228	1,317	-89	5,868	7,522	-1,654
Maine	393	422	-29	4,789	4,833	-44
Maryland	1,804	2,095	-291	25,342	25,879	-537
Massachusetts	4,335	4,113	222	75,588	75,648	-60
Michigan	4,275	3,970	305	47,522	47,825	-303
Minnesota	2,930	3,209	-279	60,619	59,976	643
Mississippi	830	931	-101	6,241	7,037	-796
Missouri	2,021	2,237	-216	18,611	19,738	-1,127
Montana	388	367	21	4,023	4,181	-158
Nebraska	518	466	52	4,775	5,379	-604
Nevada	2,541	2,635	-94	26,363	25,927	436
New Hampshire	303	394	-91	3,731	4,362	-631
New Jersey	8,304	9,056	-752	112,606	110,112	2,494
New Mexico	763	789	-26	9,441	9,462	-21
New York	14,107	13,385	722	165,806	165,628	178
North Carolina	2,875	2,944	-69	17,826	19,320	-1,494
North Dakota	343	178	165	2,055	2,065	-10
Ohio	4,373	4,515	-142	37,882	39,651	-1,769
Oklahoma	1,012	1,102	-90	10,117	10,872	-755
Oregon	4,242	4,027	215	40,439	39,272	1,167
Pennsylvania	8,369	8,457	-88	99,524	101,831	-2,307
Puerto Rico*	1,505	1,281	224	25,266	23,735	1,531
Rhode Island	637	619	18	11,017	10,746	271
South Carolina	1,831	2,148	-317	14,819	16,159	-1,340
South Dakota	156	125	31	1,116	1,178	-62
Tennessee	2,381	2,592	-211	15,315	16,323	-1,008
Texas	15,285	15,040	245	147,246	145,020	2,226
Utah	1,254	1,337	-83	10,635	10,825	-190
Vermont	271	310	-39	2,665	2,537	128
Virgin Islands	52	39	13	344	408	-64
Virginia	2,327	2,391	-64	22,281	20,548	1,733
Washington	4,526	4,689	-163	71,169	68,614	2,555
West Virginia	525	576	-51	6,051	6,022	29
Wisconsin	2,157	2,348	-191	20,464	20,970	-506
Wyoming	198	195	3	1,487	1,489	-2
US Total	169,786	173,017	-3,231	1,778,347	1,794,019	-15,672

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.

Seasonally Adjusted US Weekly UI Claims (in thousands)

Week Ending	Initial Claims	Change from Prior Week	4-Week Average	Insured Unemployment	Change from Prior Week	4-Week Average	IUR
August 16, 2025	233	9	225.50	1,942	-15	1,951.00	1.3
August 23, 2025	229	-4	228.00	1,937	-5	1,944.50	1.3
August 30, 2025	236	7	230.50	1,927	-10	1,940.75	1.3
September 6, 2025	259	23	239.25	1,925	-2	1,932.75	1.3
September 13, 2025	233	-26	239.25	1,916	-9	1,926.25	1.3
September 20, 2025	219	-14	236.75	1,921	5	1,922.25	1.3
September 27, 2025	225	6	234.00	1,929	8	1,922.75	1.3
October 4, 2025	233	8	227.50	1,928	-1	1,923.50	1.3
October 11, 2025	222	-11	224.75	1,947	19	1,931.25	1.3
October 18, 2025	231	9	227.75	1,953	6	1,939.25	1.3
October 25, 2025	221	-10	226.75	1,962	9	1,947.50	1.3
November 1, 2025	228	7	225.50	1,946	-16	1,952.00	1.3
November 8, 2025	228	0	227.00	1,949	3	1,952.50	1.3
November 15, 2025	222	-6	224.75	1,943	-6	1,950.00	1.3
November 22, 2025	218	-4	224.00	1,932	-11	1,942.50	1.3
November 29, 2025	216	-2	221.00	1,894	-38	1,929.50	1.2
December 6, 2025	235	19	222.75	1,887	-7	1,914.00	1.2
December 13, 2025	224	-11	223.25	1,910	23	1,905.75	1.2
December 20, 2025	215	-9	222.50	1,860	-50	1,887.75	1.2
December 27, 2025	203	-12	219.25	1,900	40	1,889.25	1.2
January 3, 2026	207	4	212.25	1,875	-25	1,886.25	1.2
January 10, 2026	201	-6	206.50	1,865	-10	1,875.00	1.2
January 17, 2026	210	9	205.25	1,823	-42	1,865.75	1.2
January 24, 2026	211	1	207.25	1,842	19	1,851.25	1.2
January 31, 2026	230	19	213.00	1,859	17	1,847.25	1.2
February 7, 2026	230	0	220.25	1,865	6	1,847.25	1.2
February 14, 2026	208	-22	219.75	1,827	-38	1,848.25	1.2
February 21, 2026	211	3	219.75	1,871	44	1,855.50	1.2
February 28, 2026	214	3	215.75	1,847	-24	1,852.50	1.2
March 7, 2026	213	-1	211.50	1,851	4	1,849.00	1.2
March 14, 2026	205	-8	210.75	1,816	-35	1,846.25	1.2
March 21, 2026	211	6	210.75	1,832	16	1,836.50	1.2
March 28, 2026	203	-8	208.00	1,787	-45	1,821.50	1.2
April 4, 2026	218	15	209.25	1,809	22	1,811.00	1.2
April 11, 2026	208	-10	210.00	1,808	-1	1,809.00	1.2
April 18, 2026	215	7	211.00	1,776	-32	1,795.00	1.2
April 25, 2026	190	-25	207.75	1,758	-18	1,787.75	1.1
May 2, 2026	199	9	203.00	1,776	18	1,779.50	1.2
May 9, 2026	212	13	204.00	1,771	-5	1,770.25	1.2
May 16, 2026	210	-2	202.75	1,785	14	1,772.50	1.2
May 23, 2026	212	2	208.25	1,771	-14	1,775.75	1.2
May 30, 2026	225	13	214.75	1,786	15	1,778.25	1.2
June 6, 2026	230	5	219.25	1,800	14	1,785.50	1.2
June 13, 2026	227	-3	223.50	1,812	12	1,792.25	1.2
June 20, 2026	216	-11	224.50	1,806	-6	1,801.00	1.2
June 27, 2026	217	1	222.50	1,821	15	1,809.75	1.2
July 4, 2026	217	0	219.25	1,798	-23	1,809.25	1.2
July 11, 2026	209	-8	214.75	1,789	-9	1,803.50	1.2
July 18, 2026	189	-20	208.00	1,777	-12	1,796.25	1.2
July 25, 2026	198	9	203.25	1,799	22	1,790.75	1.2
August 1, 2026	200	2	199.00	1,781	-18	1,786.50	1.2
August 8, 2026	212	12	199.75	1,796	15	1,788.25	1.2
August 15, 2026	207	-5	204.25	1,778	-18	1,788.50	1.2
August 22, 2026	203	-4	205.50				

	INITIAL CLAIMS FILED DURING WEEK ENDED AUGUST 15					INSURED UNEMPLOYMENT FOR WEEK ENDED AUGUST 8						
		CHANGE FROM						CHANGE FROM				
STATE NAME	STATE	LAST WEEK	YEAR AGO	UCFE [1]	UCX [1]	STATE	(%) [2]	LAST WEEK	YEAR AGO	UCFE [1]	UCX [1]	TOTAL INSURED UNEMPLOYMENT
Alabama	1,488	-124	-474	6	4	7,974	0.4	-338	-1,587	27	16	8,017
Alaska	383	46	-37	1	0	3,210	1.0	-124	-261	21	5	3,236
Arizona	2,712	-142	-617	5	5	25,374	0.8	-246	-8,589	64	32	25,470
Arkansas	1,123	-214	-105	1	0	5,538	0.4	-602	-2,368	2	1	5,541
California	36,290	-1,432	-1,825	92	87	340,117	1.9	-2,328	-38,528	823	1,278	342,218
Colorado	2,690	-400	84	1	10	31,008	1.1	49	-2,013	107	209	31,324
Connecticut	3,007	-337	-752	3	2	29,479	1.7	783	-1,902	54	24	29,557
Delaware	524	13	227	2	1	5,234	1.1	-74	-648	11	7	5,252
District of Columbia	642	-94	-104	20	0	7,919	1.4	66	-3,658	477	3	8,399
Florida	5,680	-117	-463	19	26	34,915	0.4	109	-4,552	132	82	35,129
Georgia	3,965	-772	-745	18	16	24,715	0.5	-1,433	-3,575	134	87	24,936
Hawaii	920	-185	83	4	10	5,727	0.9	-164	191	63	56	5,846
Idaho	546	-85	-281	0	1	4,713	0.5	-101	-693	13	13	4,739
Illinois	6,502	-778	-2,900	7	1	92,452	1.5	-1,237	-10,218	342	135	92,929
Indiana	2,213	-106	-361	1	2	17,953	0.6	-211	-2,171	22	14	17,989
Iowa	1,151	-317	-1,474	3	2	8,531	0.6	-41	-596	14	4	8,549
Kansas	921	-990	-285	0	0	8,170	0.6	515	140	26	22	8,218
Kentucky	1,961	518	-2,629	1	0	9,896	0.5	-214	-260	62	46	10,004
Louisiana	1,317	-152	-384	3	1	7,522	0.4	-614	-3,203	27	11	7,560
Maine	422	-10	2	1	0	4,833	0.8	-20	-612	16	7	4,856
Maryland	2,095	-605	-369	24	1	25,879	1.0	255	-4,812	345	66	26,290
Massachusetts	4,113	-505	-260	3	3	75,648	2.1	-126	-2,839	183	83	75,914
Michigan	3,970	-2,446	-1,422	3	1	47,825	1.1	-1,064	-2,324	56	21	47,902
Minnesota	3,209	-426	-71	3	3	59,976	2.1	-664	-2,740	60	38	60,074
Mississippi	931	-59	11	2	1	7,037	0.6	-556	-580	40	11	7,088
Missouri	2,237	-97	-75	7	2	19,738	0.7	-819	-1,275	67	12	19,817
Montana	367	10	35	0	0	4,181	0.8	-99	-170	30	6	4,217
Nebraska	466	-66	-168	1	2	5,379	0.5	-337	-356	16	6	5,401
Nevada	2,635	-121	-123	1	2	25,927	1.6	-716	-527	42	78	26,047
New Hampshire	394	-17	-52	0	0	4,362	0.6	156	-228	3	1	4,366
New Jersey	9,056	-596	11	18	13	110,112	2.6	-835	-5,285	218	213	110,543
New Mexico	789	-50	12	6	2	9,462	1.1	-374	-934	85	23	9,570
New York	13,385	-936	25	18	26	165,628	1.7	878	1,223	328	242	166,198
North Carolina	2,944	-176	-248	2	2	19,320	0.4	-255	-3,108	62	99	19,481
North Dakota	178	7	-44	2	0	2,065	0.5	-15	-326	170	2	2,237
Ohio	4,515	342	-701	5	9	39,651	0.7	-2,003	-8,381	61	61	39,773
Oklahoma	1,102	-214	-213	5	5	10,872	0.7	-352	-712	46	34	10,952
Oregon	4,027	-493	-51	4	5	39,272	2.0	91	1,886	118	46	39,436
Pennsylvania	8,457	-1,077	-1,226	10	10	101,831	1.7	886	-11,722	328	109	102,268
Puerto Rico*	1,281	21	-302	6	2	23,735	2.6	-768	-496	192	43	23,970
Rhode Island	619	-279	-473	0	0	10,746	2.2	35	-1,712	28	14	10,788
South Carolina	2,148	-1,136	-53	3	8	16,159	0.7	-1,151	-270	47	41	16,247
South Dakota	125	-19	-49	1	0	1,178	0.3	-42	-64	127	0	1,305
Tennessee	2,592	-249	-249	4	7	16,323	0.5	-976	-906	55	37	16,415
Texas	15,040	-14	-736	42	88	145,020	1.1	-6,656	-25,470	446	902	146,368
Utah	1,337	74	-140	8	2	10,825	0.6	47	-1,203	57	25	10,907
Vermont	310	1	70	0	0	2,537	0.8	16	165	8	2	2,547
Virgin Islands	39	10	-1	0	0	408	1.2	64	94	2	2	412
Virginia	2,391	-272	-755	13	2	20,548	0.5	-65	-677	164	114	20,826
Washington	4,689	-618	-331	3	19	68,614	1.9	148	-4,728	152	398	69,164
West Virginia	576	-63	-88	2	0	6,022	0.9	148	-614	31	7	6,060
Wisconsin	2,348	-399	-416	6	2	20,970	0.7	139	-2,223	35	10	21,015
Wyoming	195	-19	-33	0	0	1,489	0.5	-95	-168	3	0	1,492
Totals	173,017	-16,165	-21,525	390	385	1,794,019	54.1	-21,330	-166,585	6,042	4,798	1,804,859

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.

*Reflects week ending August 8, 2026.

UNADJUSTED INITIAL CLAIMS FOR WEEK ENDED AUGUST 15, 2026

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
MI	-2,466	Fewer layoffs in manufacturing industry.
CA	-1,432	No comment.
SC	-1,136	No comment
PA	-1,077	Fewer layoffs in health care and social assistance, transportation and warehousing, and administrative and support and waste management and remediation services 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. On a weekly basis, continued claims are also referred to as insured unemployment, as continued claims reflect a good approximation of the current number of insured unemployed workers filing for UI benefits. The count of U.S. continued weeks claimed is also a good indicator of labor market conditions. 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. For further questions on the seasonal adjustment methodology, please see the official release page for the UI claims seasonal adjustment factors or contact BLS directly through the Local Area Unemployment Statistics web contact form.

Weekly Claims Archives
Weekly Claims Data

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Program Contacts:
Lawrence S. Essien: (202) 693-3087
Media Contact: (202) 693-4676