



News Release

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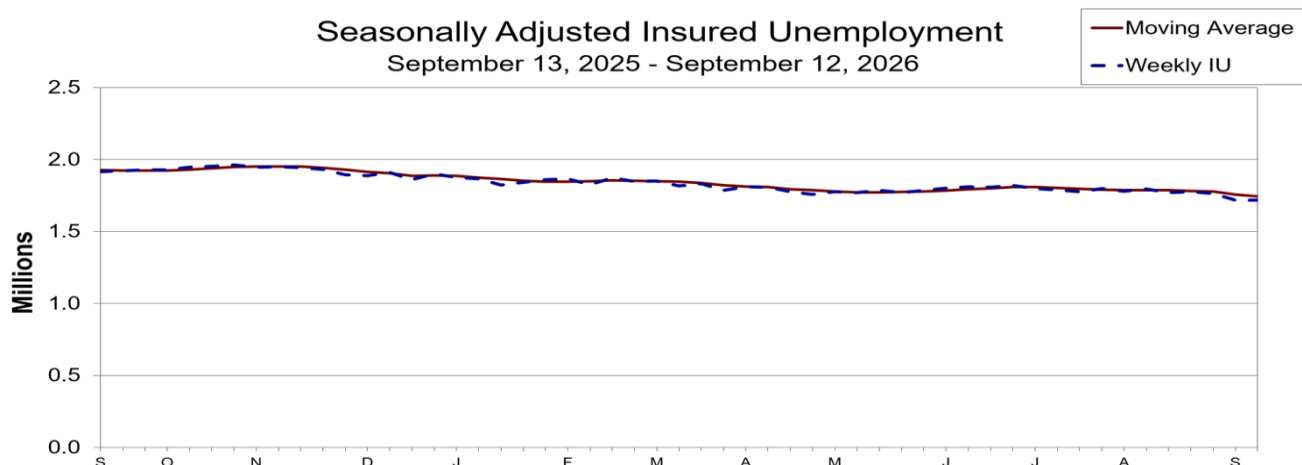
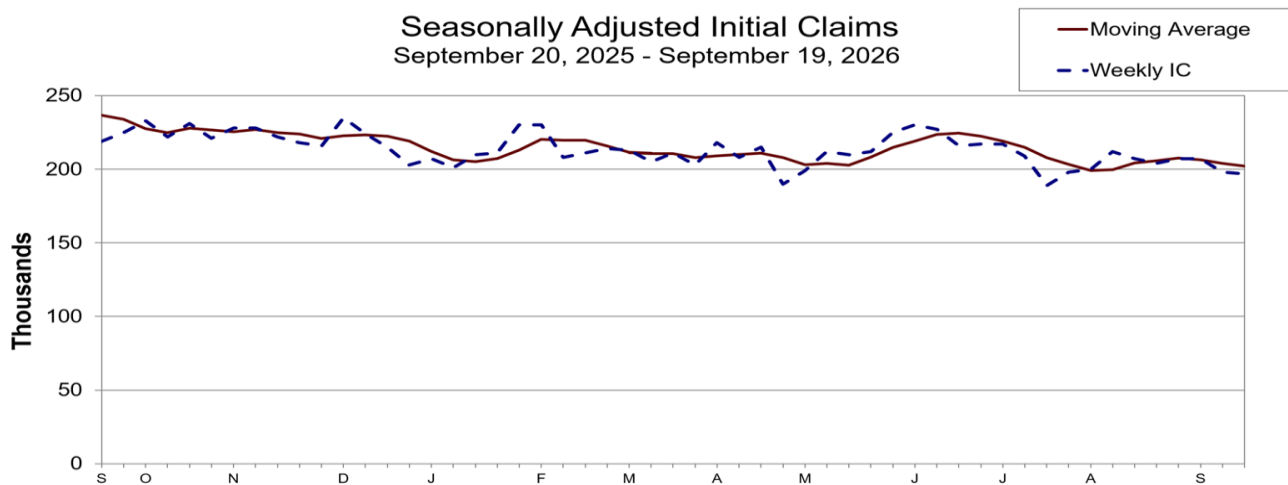
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8:30 A.M. (Eastern) Thursday, September 24, 2026

UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE WEEKLY CLAIMS

SEASONALLY ADJUSTED DATA

In the week ending September 19, the advance figure for seasonally adjusted **initial claims** was 197,000, a decrease of 1,000 from the previous week's revised level. The previous week's level was revised up by 2,000 from 196,000 to 198,000. The 4-week moving average was 202,250, a decrease of 1,750 from the previous week's revised average. The previous week's average was revised up by 750 from 203,250 to 204,000.

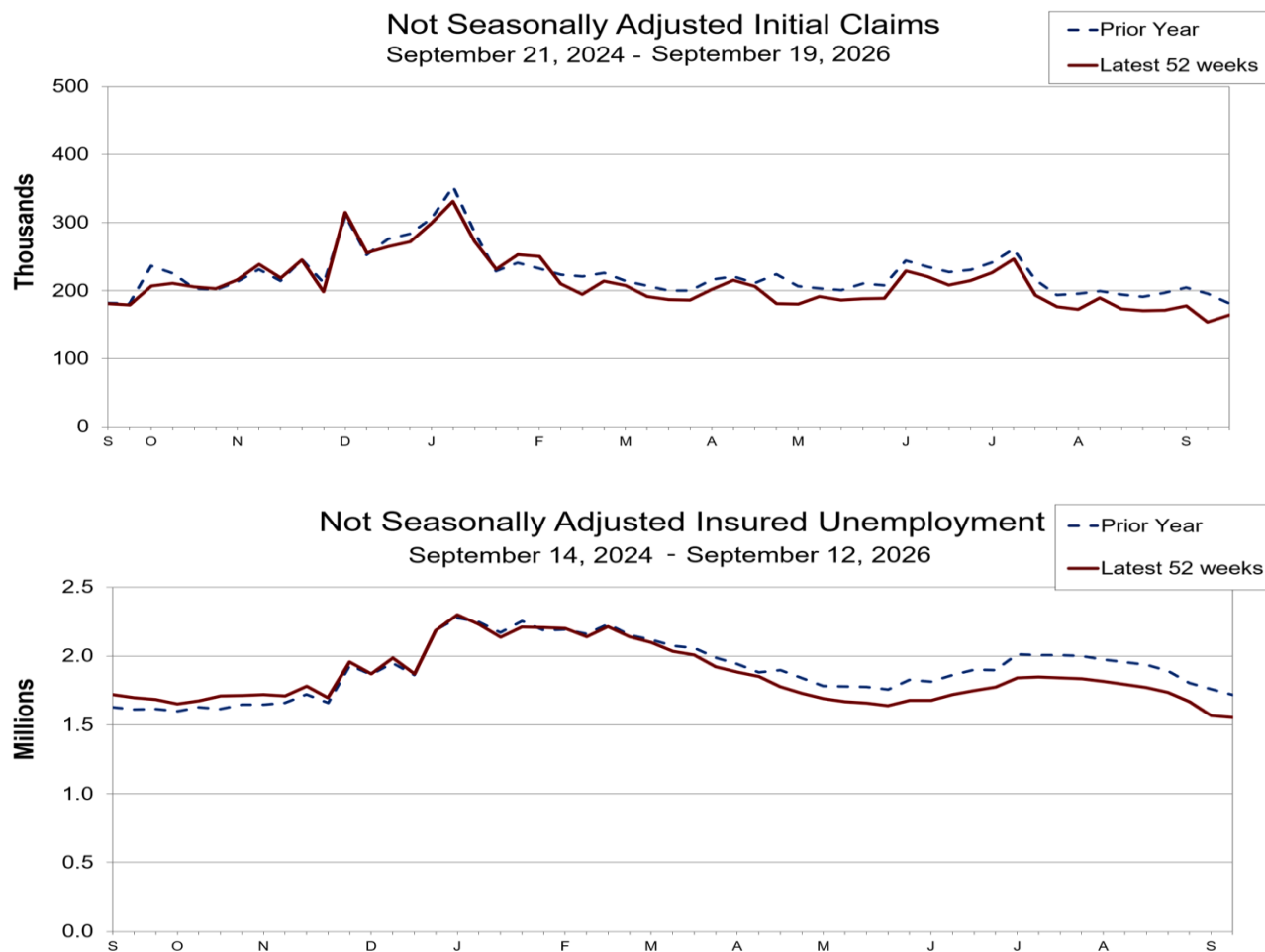
The advance seasonally adjusted **insured unemployment rate** was 1.1 percent for the week ending September 12, unchanged from the previous week's unrevised rate. The advance number for seasonally adjusted **insured unemployment** during the week ending September 12 was 1,719,000, an increase of 2,000 from the previous week's revised level. The previous week's level was revised down by 13,000 from 1,730,000 to 1,717,000. The 4-week moving average was 1,744,000, a decrease of 13,000 from the previous week's revised average. The previous week's average was revised down by 4,250 from 1,761,250 to 1,757,000.



UNADJUSTED DATA

The advance number of actual initial claims under state programs, unadjusted, totaled 163,811 in the week ending September 19, an increase of 10,243 (or 6.7 percent) from the previous week. The seasonal factors had expected an increase of 10,475 (or 6.8 percent) from the previous week. There were 180,992 initial claims in the comparable week in 2025.

The advance unadjusted insured unemployment rate was 1.0 percent during the week ending September 12, unchanged from the prior week. The advance unadjusted level of insured unemployment in state programs totaled 1,552,283, a decrease of 13,371 (or -0.9 percent) from the preceding week. The seasonal factors had expected a decrease of 15,451 (or -1.0 percent) from the previous week. A year earlier the rate was 1.1 percent and the volume was 1,718,818.



The total number of continued weeks claimed for benefits in all programs for the week ending September 5 was 1,588,612, a decrease of 102,149 from the previous week. There were 1,790,468 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 September 5.

Initial claims for UI benefits filed by former Federal civilian employees totaled 362 in the week ending September 12, a decrease of 38 from the prior week. There were 358 initial claims filed by newly discharged veterans, a decrease of 140 from the preceding week.

There were 5,105 continued weeks claimed filed by former Federal civilian employees the week ending September 5, a decrease of 339 from the previous week. Newly discharged veterans claiming benefits totaled 4,975, an increase of 260 from the prior week.

The highest insured unemployment rates in the week ending September 5 were in New Jersey (2.3), Massachusetts (1.9), Puerto Rico (1.9), Washington (1.8), California (1.7), Nevada (1.7), Oregon (1.7), New York (1.6), Rhode Island (1.6), Minnesota (1.4), District of Columbia (1.3), Illinois (1.3), and Pennsylvania (1.3).

The largest increases in initial claims for the week ending September 12 were in Kentucky (+1,041), Hawaii (+213), Arkansas (+201), South Carolina (+147), and Massachusetts (+114), while the largest decreases were in California (-4,809), Texas (-2,948), New York (-2,341), Michigan (-2,169), and New Jersey (-1,597).

UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE DATA FOR REGULAR STATE PROGRAMS

WEEK ENDING	September 19	September 12	Change	September 5	Prior Year ¹
Initial Claims (SA)	197,000	198,000	-1,000	207,000	219,000
Initial Claims (NSA)	163,811	153,568	+10,243	177,695	180,992
4-Wk Moving Average (SA)	202,250	204,000	-1,750	206,250	236,750

WEEK ENDING	September 12	September 5	Change	August 29	Prior Year ¹
Insured Unemployment (SA)	1,719,000	1,717,000	+2,000	1,765,000	1,916,000
Insured Unemployment (NSA)	1,552,283	1,565,654	-13,371	1,668,037	1,718,818
4-Wk Moving Average (SA)	1,744,000	1,757,000	-13,000	1,776,750	1,926,250
Insured Unemployment Rate (SA) ²	1.1%	1.1%	0.0	1.1%	1.3%
Insured Unemployment Rate (NSA) ²	1.0%	1.0%	0.0	1.1%	1.1%

INITIAL CLAIMS FILED IN FEDERAL PROGRAMS (UNADJUSTED)

WEEK ENDING	September 12	September 5	Change	Prior Year ¹
Federal Employees (UCFE)	362	400	-38	635
Newly Discharged Veterans (UCX)	358	498	-140	420

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

WEEK ENDING	September 5	August 29	Change	Prior Year ¹
Regular State	1,561,544	1,664,173	-102,629	1,753,149
Federal Employees	5,105	5,444	-339	8,168
Newly Discharged Veterans	4,975	4,715	+260	4,495
Extended Benefits ³	18	15	+3	14
State Additional Benefits ⁴	3,073	3,018	+55	2,596
STC / Workshare ⁵	13,897	13,396	+501	22,046
TOTAL	1,588,612	1,690,761	-102,149	1,790,468

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

STATE	Initial Claims Filed During Week Ended September 19			Insured Unemployment For Week Ended September 12		
	Advance	Prior Wk	Change	Advance	Prior Wk	Change
Alabama	1,739	1,353	386	6,358	7,054	-696
Alaska	572	372	200	2,970	3,001	-31
Arizona	2,194	2,335	-141	19,662	22,339	-2,677
Arkansas	956	1,285	-329	4,785	5,184	-399
California	35,101	32,579	2,522	313,226	302,050	11,176
Colorado	2,960	2,512	448	30,052	29,158	894
Connecticut	2,048	1,959	89	20,695	20,225	470
Delaware	446	399	47	4,408	4,269	139
District of Columbia	540	494	46	7,065	7,162	-97
Florida	5,130	5,013	117	28,659	30,654	-1,995
Georgia	3,935	3,742	193	23,034	23,808	-774
Hawaii	2,922	1,382	1,540	6,683	5,814	869
Idaho	569	540	29	3,748	4,037	-289
Illinois	6,305	5,526	779	82,749	79,839	2,910
Indiana	2,076	1,893	183	17,274	17,275	-1
Iowa	1,344	1,309	35	6,064	6,316	-252
Kansas	780	742	38	6,301	6,312	-11
Kentucky	1,310	1,637	-327	8,622	9,211	-589
Louisiana	1,116	1,149	-33	4,977	6,232	-1,255
Maine	419	339	80	4,077	4,099	-22
Maryland	1,640	1,772	-132	21,403	21,605	-202
Massachusetts	4,118	4,626	-508	64,778	66,491	-1,713
Michigan	3,809	3,633	176	40,831	40,271	560
Minnesota	2,930	2,870	60	35,803	41,765	-5,962
Mississippi	820	804	16	5,818	6,107	-289
Missouri	2,145	1,815	330	14,270	14,601	-331
Montana	476	294	182	3,568	3,597	-29
Nebraska	488	456	32	4,524	4,566	-42
Nevada	2,360	2,205	155	26,079	26,234	-155
New Hampshire	284	264	20	2,724	3,351	-627
New Jersey	7,418	6,812	606	90,863	98,977	-8,114
New Mexico	727	623	104	8,797	8,718	79
New York	13,225	12,106	1,119	147,330	159,064	-11,734
North Carolina	2,691	2,609	82	16,869	17,673	-804
North Dakota	211	160	51	1,834	1,771	63
Ohio	4,388	4,021	367	34,506	34,046	460
Oklahoma	1,116	989	127	9,267	9,428	-161
Oregon	4,192	3,687	505	32,236	32,742	-506
Pennsylvania	7,398	7,222	176	73,293	76,096	-2,803
Puerto Rico*	1,606	1,717	-111	17,302	17,381	-79
Rhode Island	722	586	136	7,576	7,818	-242
South Carolina	1,963	2,058	-95	14,185	14,472	-287
South Dakota	164	132	32	918	913	5
Tennessee	2,464	2,558	-94	14,174	14,334	-160
Texas	12,818	12,142	676	138,810	132,057	6,753
Utah	1,266	1,076	190	10,166	10,264	-98
Vermont	247	230	17	1,951	1,826	125
Virgin Islands	54	54	0	462	414	48
Virginia	2,208	2,142	66	21,235	19,449	1,786
Washington	4,620	4,767	-147	67,790	64,453	3,337
West Virginia	533	460	73	5,244	4,823	421
Wisconsin	2,045	1,944	101	14,981	15,037	-56
Wyoming	203	174	29	1,287	1,271	16
US Total	163,811	153,568	10,243	1,552,283	1,565,654	-13,371

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	Change from			Insured Unemployment	Change from		IUR
	Initial Claims	Prior Week	4-Week Average		Prior Week	4-Week Average	
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	1,771	-25	1,786.75	1.2
August 22, 2026	204	-3	205.75	1,775	4	1,780.75	1.2
August 29, 2026	207	3	207.50	1,765	-10	1,776.75	1.1
September 5, 2026	207	0	206.25	1,717	-48	1,757.00	1.1
September 12, 2026	198	-9	204.00	1,719	2	1,744.00	1.1
September 19, 2026	197	-1	202.25				

INITIAL CLAIMS FILED DURING WEEK ENDED SEPTEMBER 12						INSURED UNEMPLOYMENT FOR WEEK ENDED SEPTEMBER 5						
STATE NAME	STATE	CHANGE FROM		UCFE ¹	UCX ¹	STATE	(%) ²	CHANGE FROM		UCFE ¹	UCX ¹	TOTAL INSURED UNEMPLOYMENT
		LAST WEEK	YEAR AGO					LAST WEEK	YEAR AGO			
Alabama	1,353	-162	-556	4	3	7,054	0.3	-262	-2,132	21	12	7,087
Alaska	372	-40	-91	0	0	3,001	0.9	-22	-352	23	4	3,028
Arizona	2,335	-181	-1,457	5	4	22,339	0.7	-926	-9,250	48	30	22,417
Arkansas	1,285	201	122	0	1	5,184	0.4	-210	-1,566	19	1	5,204
California	32,579	-4,809	-3,396	87	73	302,050	1.7	-18,986	-50,668	690	1,226	303,966
Colorado	2,512	-451	-167	2	5	29,158	1.0	-369	-259	95	209	29,462
Connecticut	1,959	-1,234	-529	1	1	20,225	1.2	-6,301	-13,624	59	25	20,309
Delaware	399	-71	167	1	0	4,269	0.9	-933	-673	5	3	4,277
District of Columbia	494	-116	-337	17	2	7,162	1.3	-295	-2,680	416	2	7,580
Florida	5,013	-497	-1,062	19	40	30,654	0.3	-2,219	-5,357	103	70	30,827
Georgia	3,742	-250	-940	23	15	23,808	0.5	-428	-4,212	127	82	24,017
Hawaii	1,382	213	441	1	8	5,814	1.0	28	144	41	43	5,898
Idaho	540	-114	-111	0	0	4,037	0.5	-63	-723	10	13	4,060
Illinois	5,526	-1,563	-3,500	5	7	79,839	1.3	-4,569	-14,192	346	117	80,302
Indiana	1,893	-243	-759	3	3	17,275	0.5	-276	-2,730	20	14	17,309
Iowa	1,309	62	-29	5	2	6,316	0.4	-397	-1,289	13	5	6,334
Kansas	742	-105	-302	0	0	6,312	0.4	-183	-1,089	20	210	6,542
Kentucky	1,637	1,041	230	0	0	9,211	0.5	2,000	5,494	50	44	9,305
Louisiana	1,149	-167	-437	3	4	6,232	0.3	-207	-2,606	24	11	6,267
Maine	339	-91	-111	0	0	4,099	0.6	-284	-743	13	9	4,121
Maryland	1,772	-387	-654	23	7	21,605	0.8	-1,506	-6,046	301	61	21,967
Massachusetts	4,626	114	165	1	2	66,491	1.9	-6,210	-2,297	137	109	66,737
Michigan	3,633	-2,169	-864	1	1	40,271	0.9	-2,326	-8,434	64	31	40,366
Minnesota	2,870	-438	-518	3	3	41,765	1.4	-9,980	2,056	56	54	41,875
Mississippi	804	-96	-79	2	1	6,107	0.5	-276	-337	36	6	6,149
Missouri	1,815	-379	-383	2	4	14,601	0.5	-1,036	-1,560	70	12	14,683
Montana	294	-72	-110	2	0	3,597	0.7	-124	-174	25	6	3,628
Nebraska	456	-641	-142	1	1	4,566	0.5	232	-98	10	7	4,583
Nevada	2,205	-395	-463	0	0	26,234	1.7	64	-399	43	82	26,359
New Hampshire	264	-69	-88	0	1	3,351	0.5	-447	-379	3	1	3,355
New Jersey	6,812	-1,597	-976	6	14	98,977	2.3	-10,074	-3,792	225	222	99,424
New Mexico	623	-17	-102	7	0	8,718	1.0	-341	-1,093	54	24	8,796
New York	12,106	-2,341	-2,226	14	20	159,064	1.6	-7,436	5,363	313	268	159,645
North Carolina	2,609	-347	-982	3	1	17,673	0.4	-517	-2,646	57	88	17,818
North Dakota	160	-48	-83	1	0	1,771	0.4	-67	-915	15	4	1,790
Ohio	4,021	-310	-665	2	5	34,046	0.6	-1,215	-9,714	49	62	34,157
Oklahoma	989	-111	-299	7	5	9,428	0.6	-250	-1,477	25	28	9,481
Oregon	3,687	-517	-208	8	0	32,742	1.7	-2,317	1,276	62	53	32,857
Pennsylvania	7,222	-1,199	-1,360	10	15	76,096	1.3	-6,746	-11,214	300	99	76,495
Puerto Rico	1,717	-343	340	4	3	17,381	1.9	-2,763	68	134	41	17,556
Rhode Island	586	-85	-273	1	0	7,818	1.6	-1,522	-1,175	24	20	7,862
South Carolina	2,058	147	-1,027	5	6	14,472	0.6	37	-1,032	45	53	14,570
South Dakota	132	-42	-31	0	2	913	0.2	-9	-114	16	2	931
Tennessee	2,558	-140	-99	1	2	14,334	0.4	-168	-1,762	50	29	14,413
Texas	12,142	-2,948	-14,891	49	68	132,057	1.0	-7,416	-27,832	439	885	133,381
Utah	1,076	-122	-211	8	4	10,264	0.6	-33	-1,352	52	20	10,336
Vermont	230	-52	13	1	0	1,826	0.6	-293	-20	6	3	1,835
Virgin Islands	54	-4	-1	0	1	414	1.2	4	52	4	2	420
Virginia	2,142	-3	-1,367	14	3	19,449	0.5	-156	59	145	120	19,714
Washington	4,767	-527	-593	5	19	64,453	1.8	-1,026	-6,572	145	434	65,032
West Virginia	460	-83	-186	1	2	4,823	0.7	-208	-1,179	21	7	4,851
Wisconsin	1,944	-254	-606	4	0	15,037	0.5	-3,323	-2,791	31	11	15,079
Wyoming	174	-75	-72	0	0	1,271	0.5	-33	-193	5	1	1,277
Totals	153,568	-24,127	-41,865	362	358	1,565,654	1.0	-102,383	-194,230	5,105	4,975	1,575,734

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 SEPTEMBER 12, 2026

STATES WITH AN INCREASE OF MORE THAN 1,000

State	Change	State Supplied Comment
KY	+1,041	Layoffs in manufacturing industry.

STATES WITH A DECREASE OF MORE THAN 1,000

State	Change	State Supplied Comment
CA	-4,809	No comment.
TX	-2,948	No comment.
NY	-2,341	Fewer layoffs in transportation and warehousing, health care and social assistance, and information industries.
MI	-2,169	Fewer layoffs in manufacturing industry.
NJ	-1,597	No comment.
IL	-1,563	No comment.
CT	-1,234	No comment.
PA	-1,199	Fewer layoffs in manufacturing, administrative and support and waste management and remediation services, educational services, and health care and social assistance 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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U.S. Department of Labor
Employment and Training Administration
Washington, D.C. 20210
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Program Contacts:
Lawrence S. Essien: (202) 693-3087
Media Contact: (202) 693-4676