



News Release

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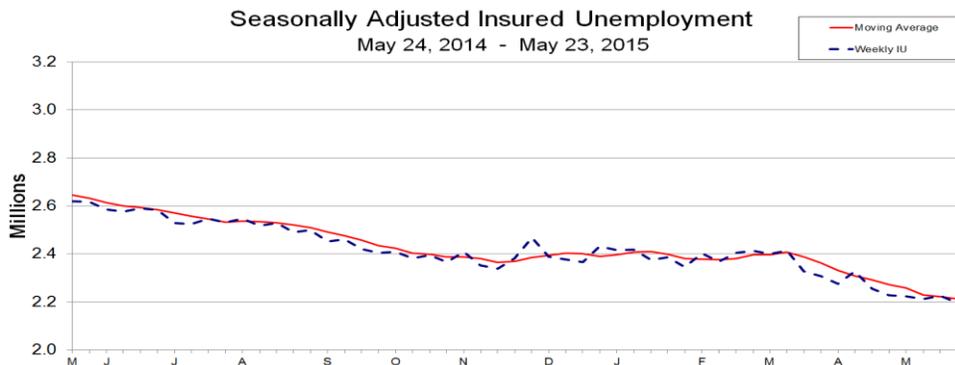
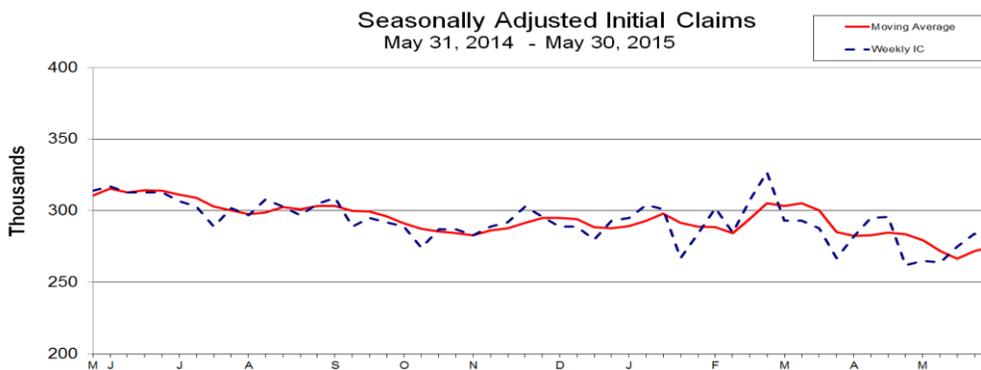
UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE WEEKLY CLAIMS

SEASONALLY ADJUSTED DATA

In the week ending May 30, the advance figure for seasonally adjusted **initial claims** was 276,000, a decrease of 8,000 from the previous week's revised level. The previous week's level was revised up by 2,000 from 282,000 to 284,000. The 4-week moving average was 274,750, an increase of 2,750 from the previous week's revised average. The previous week's average was revised up by 500 from 271,500 to 272,000.

There were no special factors impacting this week's initial claims.

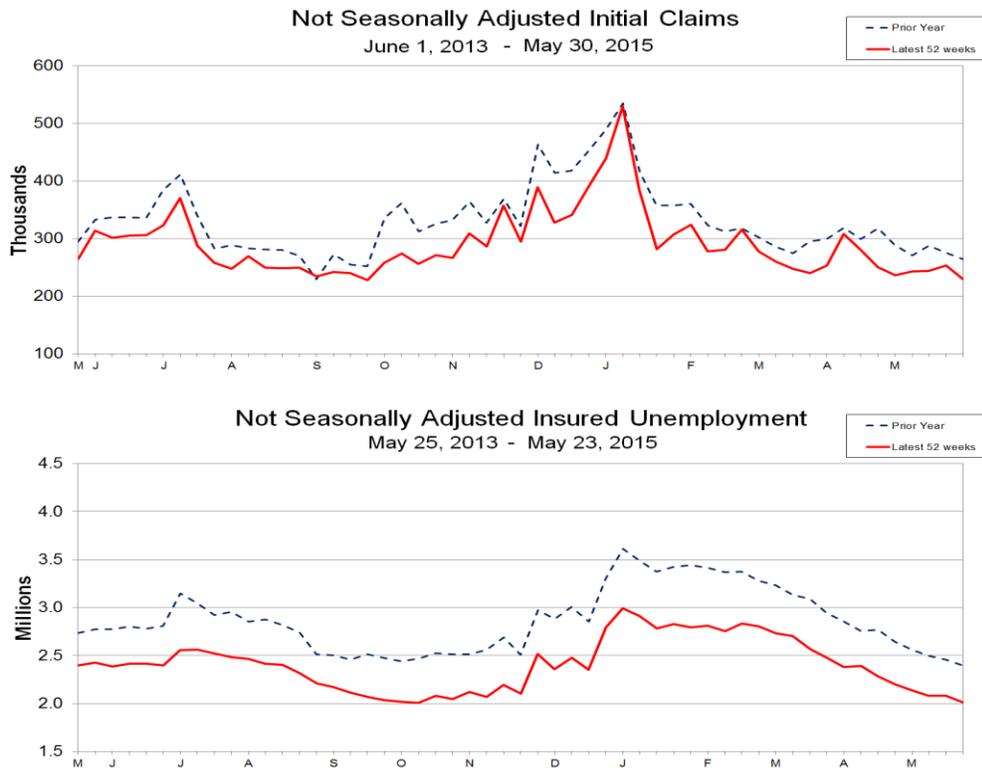
The advance seasonally adjusted **insured unemployment rate** was 1.6 percent for the week ending May 23, a decrease of 0.1 percentage point from the previous week's unrevised rate. The advance number for seasonally adjusted **insured unemployment** during the week ending May 23 was 2,196,000, a decrease of 30,000 from the previous week's revised level. This is the lowest level for insured unemployment since November 11, 2000 when it was 2,161,000. The previous week's level was revised up 4,000 from 2,222,000 to 2,226,000. The 4-week moving average was 2,214,250, a decrease of 8,250 from the previous week's revised average. This is the lowest level for this average since November 25, 2000 when it was 2,211,250. The previous week's average was revised up by 1,250 from 2,221,250 to 2,222,500.



UNADJUSTED DATA

The advance number of actual initial claims under state programs, unadjusted, totaled 230,055 in the week ending May 30, a decrease of 23,399 (or -9.2 percent) from the previous week. The seasonal factors had expected a decrease of 17,029 (or -6.7 percent) from the previous week. There were 264,133 initial claims in the comparable week in 2014.

The advance unadjusted insured unemployment rate was 1.5 percent during the week ending May 23, a decrease of 0.1 percentage point from the prior week. The advance unadjusted number for persons claiming UI benefits in state programs totaled 2,011,510, a decrease of 67,678 (or -3.3 percent) from the preceding week. The seasonal factors had expected a decrease of 40,070 (or -1.9 percent) from the previous week. A year earlier the rate was 1.8 percent and the volume was 2,394,378.



The total number of people claiming benefits in all programs for the week ending May 16 was 2,127,150, a decrease of 735 from the previous week. There were 2,513,378 persons claiming benefits in all programs in the comparable week in 2014.

No state was triggered "on" the Extended Benefits program during the week ending May 16.

Initial claims for UI benefits filed by former Federal civilian employees totaled 884 in the week ending May 23, an increase of 35 from the prior week. There were 1,278 initial claims filed by newly discharged veterans, a decrease of 25 from the preceding week.

There were 10,179 former Federal civilian employees claiming UI benefits for the week ending May 16, a decrease of 71 from the previous week. Newly discharged veterans claiming benefits totaled 19,411, an increase of 293 from the prior week.

The highest insured unemployment rates in the week ending May 16 were in Alaska (3.2), Puerto Rico (2.9), New Jersey (2.5), California (2.4), Connecticut (2.2), Nevada (2.2), Pennsylvania (2.2), Wyoming (2.1), Massachusetts (2.0), the Virgin Islands (2.0), and West Virginia (2.0).

The largest increases in initial claims for the week ending May 23 were in Kansas (+2,716), Missouri (+1,713), Kentucky (+708), Minnesota (+704), and Mississippi (+661), while the largest decreases were in Washington (-507), Oregon (-376), Ohio (-365), Vermont (-320), and North Carolina (-261).

UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE DATA FOR REGULAR STATE PROGRAMS

WEEK ENDING	May 30	May 23	Change	May 16	<u>Prior Year</u> ¹
Initial Claims (SA)	276,000	284,000	-8,000	275,000	314,000
Initial Claims (NSA)	230,055	253,454	-23,399	243,612	264,133
4-Wk Moving Average (SA)	274,750	272,000	+2,750	266,500	310,500
WEEK ENDING	May 23	May 16	Change	May 9	<u>Prior Year</u> ¹
Insured Unemployment (SA)	2,196,000	2,226,000	-30,000	2,212,000	2,620,000
Insured Unemployment (NSA)	2,011,510	2,079,188	-67,678	2,079,282	2,394,378
4-Wk Moving Average (SA)	2,214,250	2,222,500	-8,250	2,230,000	2,645,250
<u>Insured Unemployment Rate (SA)</u> ²	1.6%	1.7%	-0.1	1.6%	2.0%
<u>Insured Unemployment Rate (NSA)</u> ²	1.5%	1.6%	-0.1	1.6%	1.8%

INITIAL CLAIMS FILED IN FEDERAL PROGRAMS (UNADJUSTED)

WEEK ENDING	May 23	May 16	Change	<u>Prior Year</u> ¹
Federal Employees (UCFE)	884	849	+35	1,067
Newly Discharged Veterans (UCX)	1,278	1,303	-25	1,448

PERSONS CLAIMING UI BENEFITS IN ALL PROGRAMS (UNADJUSTED)

WEEK ENDING	May 16	May 9	Change	<u>Prior Year</u> ¹
Regular State	2,074,596	2,074,988	-392	2,449,765
Federal Employees	10,179	10,250	-71	12,306
Newly Discharged Veterans	19,411	19,118	+293	24,704
<u>Extended Benefits</u> ³	0	0	0	102
<u>State Additional Benefits</u> ⁴	7,852	7,907	-55	9,306
<u>STC / Workshare</u> ⁵	15,112	15,622	-510	17,195
TOTAL	2,127,150	2,127,885	-735	2,513,378

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 134,074,626 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](#)

UNADJUSTED INITIAL CLAIMS FOR WEEK ENDED MAY 23, 2015

STATES WITH AN INCREASE OF MORE THAN 1,000

State	Change	State Supplied Comment
KS	+2,716	Layoffs in the accommodation and food service, transportation and warehousing, and health care and social assistance industries.
MO	+1,713	Layoffs in the transportation and warehousing and manufacturing industries.

STATES WITH A DECREASE OF MORE THAN 1,000

State	Change	State Supplied Comment
None		

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	
May 24, 2014	307	-18	312.75	2,620	-11	2,645.25	2.0
May 31, 2014	314	7	310.50	2,618	-2	2,632.00	2.0
June 7, 2014	317	3	315.75	2,586	-32	2,613.75	2.0
June 14, 2014	313	-4	312.75	2,576	-10	2,600.00	2.0
June 21, 2014	313	0	314.25	2,591	15	2,592.75	2.0
June 28, 2014	313	0	314.00	2,584	-7	2,584.25	2.0
July 5, 2014	307	-6	311.50	2,530	-54	2,570.25	1.9
July 12, 2014	303	-4	309.00	2,525	-5	2,557.50	1.9
July 19, 2014	289	-14	303.00	2,547	22	2,546.50	1.9
July 26, 2014	302	13	300.25	2,532	-15	2,533.50	1.9
August 2, 2014	297	-5	297.75	2,546	14	2,537.50	1.9
August 9, 2014	308	11	299.00	2,518	-28	2,535.75	1.9
August 16, 2014	303	-5	302.50	2,528	10	2,531.00	1.9
August 23, 2014	297	-6	301.25	2,491	-37	2,520.75	1.9
August 30, 2014	305	8	303.25	2,500	9	2,509.25	1.9
September 6, 2014	309	4	303.50	2,452	-48	2,492.75	1.9
September 13, 2014	289	-20	300.00	2,460	8	2,475.75	1.9
September 20, 2014	295	6	299.50	2,421	-39	2,458.25	1.8
September 27, 2014	292	-3	296.25	2,404	-17	2,434.25	1.8
October 4, 2014	289	-3	291.25	2,409	5	2,423.50	1.8
October 11, 2014	274	-15	287.50	2,383	-26	2,404.25	1.8
October 18, 2014	287	13	285.50	2,395	12	2,397.75	1.8
October 25, 2014	287	0	284.25	2,365	-30	2,388.00	1.8
November 1, 2014	283	-4	282.75	2,408	43	2,387.75	1.8
November 8, 2014	289	6	286.50	2,352	-56	2,380.00	1.8
November 15, 2014	292	3	287.75	2,339	-13	2,366.00	1.8
November 22, 2014	303	11	291.75	2,383	44	2,370.50	1.8
November 29, 2014	296	-7	295.00	2,469	86	2,385.75	1.9
December 6, 2014	289	-7	295.00	2,388	-81	2,394.75	1.8
December 13, 2014	289	0	294.25	2,377	-11	2,404.25	1.8
December 20, 2014	280	-9	288.50	2,366	-11	2,400.00	1.8
December 27, 2014	293	13	287.75	2,431	65	2,390.50	1.8
January 3, 2015	295	2	289.25	2,415	-16	2,397.25	1.8
January 10, 2015	304	9	293.00	2,418	3	2,407.50	1.8
January 17, 2015	301	-3	298.25	2,376	-42	2,410.00	1.8
January 24, 2015	267	-34	291.75	2,386	10	2,398.75	1.8
January 31, 2015	284	17	289.00	2,346	-40	2,381.50	1.8
February 7, 2015	302	18	288.50	2,402	56	2,377.50	1.8
February 14, 2015	285	-17	284.50	2,369	-33	2,375.75	1.8
February 21, 2015	308	23	294.75	2,405	36	2,380.50	1.8
February 28, 2015	327	19	305.50	2,414	9	2,397.50	1.8
March 7, 2015	293	-34	303.25	2,399	-15	2,396.75	1.8
March 14, 2015	293	0	305.25	2,413	14	2,407.75	1.8
March 21, 2015	288	-5	300.25	2,327	-86	2,388.25	1.7
March 28, 2015	267	-21	285.25	2,308	-19	2,361.75	1.7
April 4, 2015	282	15	282.50	2,275	-33	2,330.75	1.7
April 11, 2015	295	13	283.00	2,327	52	2,309.25	1.7
April 18, 2015	296	1	285.00	2,256	-71	2,291.50	1.7
April 25, 2015	262	-34	283.75	2,229	-27	2,271.75	1.7
May 2, 2015	265	3	279.50	2,223	-6	2,258.75	1.7
May 9, 2015	264	-1	271.75	2,212	-11	2,230.00	1.6
May 16, 2015	275	11	266.50	2,226	14	2,222.50	1.7
May 23, 2015	284	9	272.00	2,196	-30	2,214.25	1.6
May 30, 2015	276	-8	274.75				

Initial Claims Filed During Week Ended May 23						Insured Unemployment For Week Ended May 16						ALL PROGRAMS EXCLUDING RAILROAD RETIREMENT
INITIAL CLAIMS						INSURED UNEMPLOYMENT						
CHANGE FROM						CHANGE FROM						
STATE	STATE	LAST WEEK	YEAR AGO	UCFE 1	UCX 1	STATE	(%) 2	LAST WEEK	YEAR AGO	UCFE 1	UCX 1	
Alabama	3718	173	-55	11	13	22988	1.3	680	-4096	134	210	23332
Alaska	1384	173	-125	3	4	9948	3.2	-527	-3587	100	79	10127
Arizona	4409	-57	-892	60	9	34064	1.4	137	-6538	127	213	34404
Arkansas	3248	237	359	8	7	21030	1.9	573	-1221	124	178	21332
California	42678	-81	-10433	157	216	375918	2.4	3148	-55194	1948	3908	381774
Colorado	2982	382	201	11	45	32370	1.4	1016	-4511	193	836	33399
Connecticut	3209	89	-217	9	14	36685	2.2	-244	-8471	83	155	36923
Delaware	615	28	-21	1	4	5741	1.4	-110	-1304	22	34	5797
District of Columbia	380	5	6	3	2	7708	1.5	99	-2184	377	20	8105
Florida	9712	496	-2606	25	80	59967	0.8	932	-33133	170	527	60664
Georgia	6629	29	-1228	25	55	36419	0.9	142	-8522	242	629	37290
Hawaii	1235	-1	-405	5	17	7859	1.3	-233	-2129	97	187	8143
Idaho	1133	78	-86	2	5	7796	1.2	-212	-1807	41	49	7886
Illinois	9852	468	154	16	28	110006	1.9	-1726	-29540	442	511	110959
Indiana	3290	-87	-812	15	6	22834	0.8	-277	-9568	91	123	23048
Iowa	2322	15	-139	9	8	16848	1.1	-389	-866	67	93	17008
Kansas	4689	2716	2250	9	10	14865	1.1	-609	-5399	69	153	15087
Kentucky	3984	708	813	40	9	21357	1.2	10	-5162	216	350	19293
Louisiana	3166	404	181	5	11	23516	1.2	622	4568	41	62	23619
Maine	853	-251	-120	2	2	8054	1.4	-927	-2529	24	50	8128
Maryland	3773	137	-744	15	19	38094	1.6	-638	-10956	331	343	38768
Massachusetts	5621	118	-834	11	28	65012	2.0	-141	-8670	229	463	65704
Michigan	5636	-154	-1118	8	23	52026	1.3	-3972	-26975	198	341	52565
Minnesota	4207	704	561	4	5	34217	1.3	-1160	-6373	88	186	34491
Mississippi	3074	661	136	5	5	13438	1.3	1194	-5688	109	67	13614
Missouri	7037	1713	658	29	20	29879	1.1	648	-7298	212	172	30263
Montana	838	11	-15	3	6	6791	1.6	-426	-944	103	43	6937
Nebraska	1254	91	-66	4	1	5917	0.6	-18	-1262	48	27	5992
Nevada	2959	-161	-54	3	6	25425	2.2	-68	-3919	98	164	25687
New Hampshire	717	255	-72	1	3	4900	0.8	100	-1953	18	11	4929
New Jersey	8106	551	245	16	33	93361	2.5	-918	-17056	290	458	94109
New Mexico	1309	163	-13	16	4	13255	1.7	-163	-2265	111	102	13468
New York	16230	356	-1993	49	57	151460	1.7	-2005	-24231	524	934	152918
North Carolina	4809	-261	-850	14	38	34047	0.9	430	-19815	156	440	34643
North Dakota	497	22	194	1	1	3407	0.8	-44	1620	9	16	3432
Ohio	7070	-365	-2013	12	38	57756	1.1	-436	-9734	170	462	58388
Oklahoma	2018	-121	375	10	15	22381	1.5	602	6212	78	171	22630
Oregon	4586	-376	95	14	31	31285	1.9	73	-5070	351	234	31870
Pennsylvania	15963	-259	-1300	90	53	121512	2.2	484	-29624	547	719	122778
Puerto Rico	2492	451	-45	2	11	26398	2.9	1705	-1248	75	249	26722
Rhode Island	888	-116	54	4	5	8529	1.9	-141	-1458	28	44	8601
South Carolina	2946	287	-412	11	15	15004	0.8	374	-2795	62	176	15242
South Dakota	264	-28	-7	18	1	1369	0.3	39	-50	36	6	1411
Tennessee	3921	518	-627	10	25	24476	0.9	155	-5553	160	216	24852
Texas	17595	574	900	57	166	169900	1.5	4290	20053	625	2945	173470
Utah	1367	103	67	15	6	10787	0.9	-203	-1398	106	62	10955
Vermont	494	-320	-79	1	0	4506	1.5	-52	-607	15	11	4532
Virgin Islands	54	18	16	0	0	742	2.0	-234	-58	16	8	766
Virginia	3781	18	-521	12	27	28222	0.8	792	-7726	296	724	29242
Washington	6089	-507	-294	22	76	49683	1.7	-560	-7811	264	1089	51036
West Virginia	1470	99	265	1	2	13802	2.0	-625	-705	89	71	13962
Wisconsin	6370	72	-1475	9	12	39967	1.5	-1385	-13255	128	89	40184
Wyoming	531	64	183	1	1	5667	2.1	104	1971	1	1	5669
Totals	253454	9842	-21958	884	1278	2079188	1.6	-94	-375834	10179	19411	2108778

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 US total covered employment is BLS.

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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U.S. Department of Labor
Employment and Training Administration
Washington, D.C. 20210
Release Number: USDL 15-1103-NAT

Program Contacts:
Tom Stengle (202) 693-2991
Tony Sznoluch (202) 693-3176
Media Contact: (202) 693-4676