



News Release

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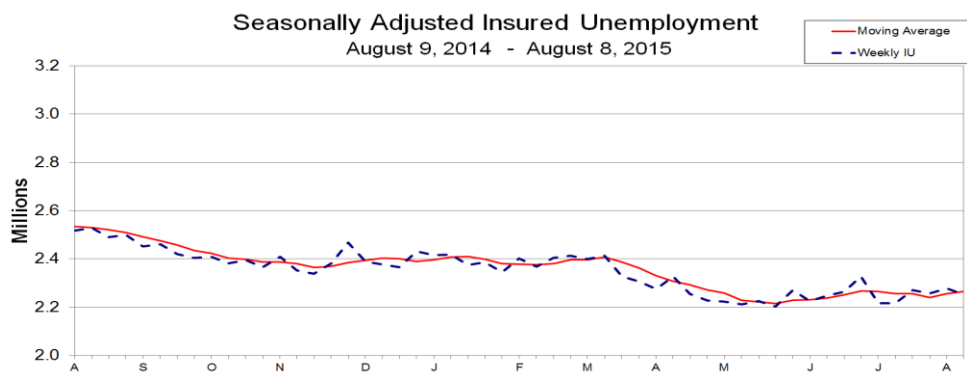
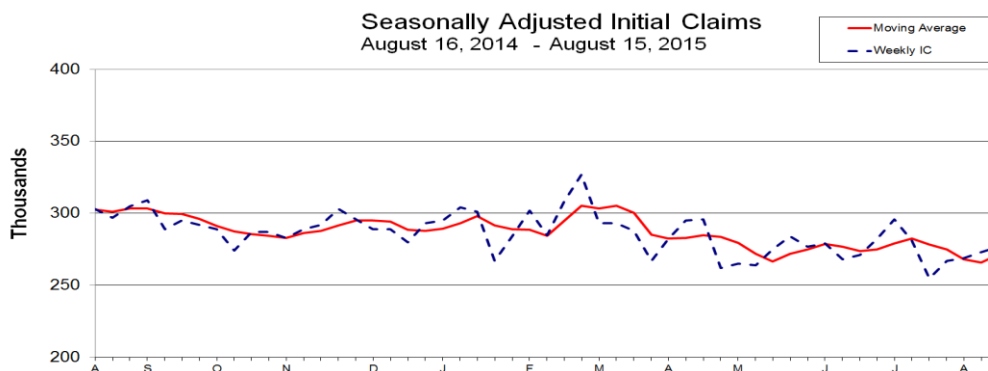
UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE WEEKLY CLAIMS

SEASONALLY ADJUSTED DATA

In the week ending August 15, the advance figure for seasonally adjusted **initial claims** was 277,000, an increase of 4,000 from the previous week's revised level. The previous week's level was revised down by 1,000 from 274,000 to 273,000. The 4-week moving average was 271,500, an increase of 5,500 from the previous week's revised average. The previous week's average was revised down by 250 from 266,250 to 266,000.

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

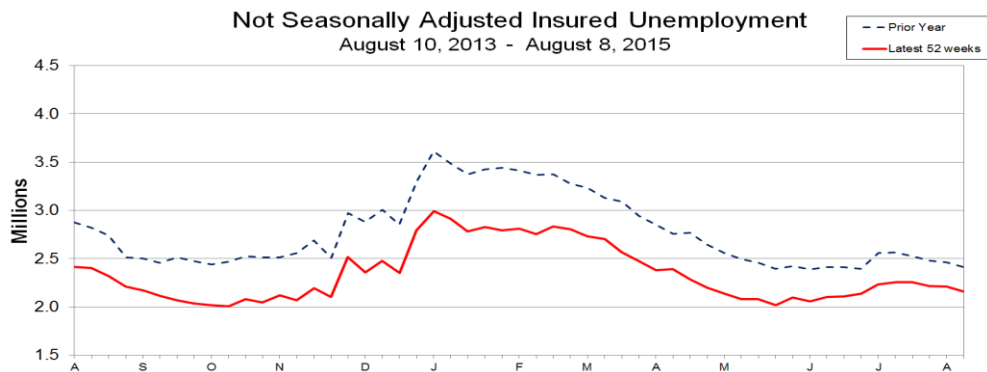
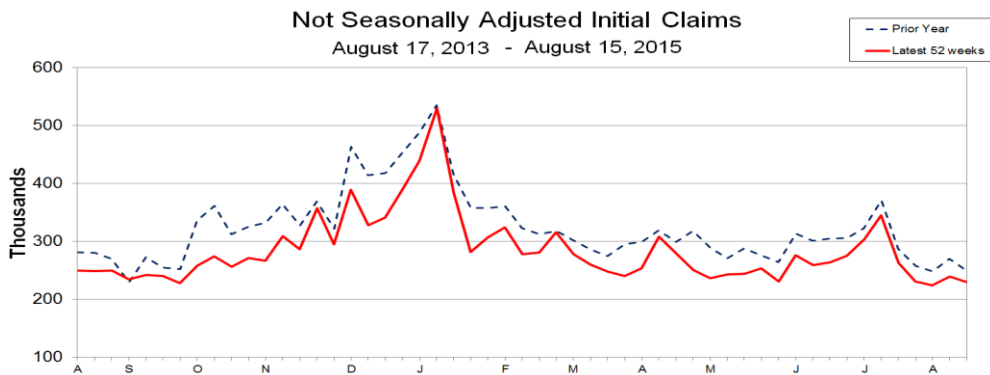
The advance seasonally adjusted **insured unemployment rate** was 1.7 percent for the week ending August 8, unchanged from the previous week's unrevised rate. The advance number for seasonally adjusted **insured unemployment** during the week ending August 8 was 2,254,000, a decrease of 24,000 from the previous week's revised level. The previous week's level was revised up 5,000 from 2,273,000 to 2,278,000. The 4-week moving average was 2,265,000, an increase of 9,500 from the previous week's revised average. The previous week's average was revised up by 1,250 from 2,254,250 to 2,255,500.



UNADJUSTED DATA

The advance number of actual initial claims under state programs, unadjusted, totaled 229,674 in the week ending August 15, a decrease of 9,652 (or -4.0 percent) from the previous week. The seasonal factors had expected a decrease of 13,114 (or -5.5 percent) from the previous week. There were 249,463 initial claims in the comparable week in 2014.

The advance unadjusted insured unemployment rate was 1.6 percent during the week ending August 8, unchanged from the prior week. The advance unadjusted number for persons claiming UI benefits in state programs totaled 2,159,088, a decrease of 50,889 (or -2.3 percent) from the preceding week. The seasonal factors had expected a decrease of 27,340 (or -1.2 percent) from the previous week. A year earlier the rate was 1.8 percent and the volume was 2,412,394.



The total number of people claiming benefits in all programs for the week ending August 1 was 2,254,785, a decrease of 5,632 from the previous week. There were 2,517,465 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 August 1.

Initial claims for UI benefits filed by former Federal civilian employees totaled 821 in the week ending August 8, a decrease of 27 from the prior week. There were 1,568 initial claims filed by newly discharged veterans, an increase of 261 from the preceding week.

There were 10,652 former Federal civilian employees claiming UI benefits for the week ending August 1, a decrease of 125 from the previous week. Newly discharged veterans claiming benefits totaled 17,962, a decrease of 430 from the prior week.

The highest insured unemployment rates in the week ending August 1 were in Puerto Rico (3.9), New Jersey (3.0), Connecticut (2.6), Pennsylvania (2.6), California (2.4), Alaska (2.3), Nevada (2.2), Rhode Island (2.2), Massachusetts (2.1), the Virgin Islands (2.1), and West Virginia (2.1).

The largest increases in initial claims for the week ending August 8 were in California (+2,498), Illinois (+2,042), New York (+1,554), Pennsylvania (+1,035), and Puerto Rico (+920), while the largest decreases were in Virginia (-329), Kansas (-236), Florida (-182), Indiana (-116), and Rhode Island (-53).

UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE DATA FOR REGULAR STATE PROGRAMS

WEEK ENDING	August 15	August 8	Change	August 1	<u>Prior Year</u>¹
Initial Claims (SA)	277,000	273,000	+4,000	269,000	303,000
Initial Claims (NSA)	229,674	239,326	-9,652	224,104	249,463
4-Wk Moving Average (SA)	271,500	266,000	+5,500	268,000	302,500
WEEK ENDING	August 8	August 1	Change	July 25	<u>Prior Year</u>¹
Insured Unemployment (SA)	2,254,000	2,278,000	-24,000	2,258,000	2,518,000
Insured Unemployment (NSA)	2,159,088	2,209,977	-50,889	2,214,915	2,412,394
4-Wk Moving Average (SA)	2,265,000	2,255,500	+9,500	2,240,000	2,535,750
<u>Insured Unemployment Rate (SA)</u> ²	1.7%	1.7%	0.0	1.7%	1.9%
<u>Insured Unemployment Rate (NSA)</u> ²	1.6%	1.6%	0.0	1.6%	1.8%

INITIAL CLAIMS FILED IN FEDERAL PROGRAMS (UNADJUSTED)

WEEK ENDING	August 8	August 1	Change	<u>Prior Year</u>¹
Federal Employees (UCFE)	821	848	-27	1,048
Newly Discharged Veterans (UCX)	1,568	1,307	+261	2,225

PERSONS CLAIMING UI BENEFITS IN ALL PROGRAMS (UNADJUSTED)

WEEK ENDING	August 1	July 25	Change	<u>Prior Year</u>¹
Regular State	2,205,407	2,209,616	-4,209	2,457,832
Federal Employees	10,652	10,777	-125	14,643
Newly Discharged Veterans	17,962	18,392	-430	23,805
<u>Extended Benefits</u> ³	0	0	0	280
<u>State Additional Benefits</u> ⁴	6,183	6,403	-220	5,054
<u>STC / Workshare</u> ⁵	14,581	15,229	-648	15,851
<u>TOTAL</u>	2,254,785	2,260,417	-5,632	2,517,465

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 134,803,907 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](#)

Advance State Claims - Not Seasonally Adjusted

STATE	Initial Claims Filed During Week Ended August 15			Insured Unemployment For Week Ended August 8		
	Advance	Prior Wk	Change	Advance	Prior Wk	Change
Alabama	2,478	2,987	-509	23,050	24,853	-1,803
Alaska	966	901	65	7,049	7,403	-354
Arizona	3,952	4,367	-415	35,309	39,512	-4,203
Arkansas	1,991	2,385	-394	20,713	21,601	-888
California	44,658	44,369	289	361,034	369,801	-8,767
Colorado	2,067	2,242	-175	28,177	26,886	1,291
Connecticut	3,326	3,420	-94	45,346	43,314	2,032
Delaware	615	739	-124	7,302	6,815	487
District of Columbia	651	397	254	8,820	9,187	-367
Florida	8,920	10,168	-1,248	63,707	72,307	-8,600
Georgia	6,085	6,333	-248	35,246	38,027	-2,781
Hawaii	1,238	1,213	25	7,555	7,328	227
Idaho	1,005	958	47	5,873	6,786	-913
Illinois	9,283	10,677	-1,394	113,301	115,834	-2,533
Indiana	3,173	3,275	-102	21,337	21,477	-140
Iowa	2,355	2,687	-332	19,964	18,689	1,275
Kansas	3,863	1,993	1,870	14,516	14,032	484
Kentucky	2,921	2,891	30	21,873	22,130	-257
Louisiana	2,180	2,445	-265	24,838	26,997	-2,159
Maine	625	756	-131	5,666	6,015	-349
Maryland	3,497	4,095	-598	38,309	41,535	-3,226
Massachusetts	4,787	5,377	-590	68,351	69,785	-1,434
Michigan	6,861	5,723	1,138	49,570	52,953	-3,383
Minnesota	2,986	3,193	-207	33,737	32,706	1,031
Mississippi	1,537	1,900	-363	15,254	17,625	-2,371
Missouri	4,109	4,266	-157	32,213	36,462	-4,249
Montana	700	726	-26	5,191	6,011	-820
Nebraska	876	786	90	6,927	6,963	-36
Nevada	2,856	2,639	217	24,961	26,214	-1,253
New Hampshire	621	711	-90	5,050	5,314	-264
New Jersey	8,192	8,577	-385	112,924	112,071	853
New Mexico	949	1,027	-78	12,482	12,973	-491
New York	15,700	15,730	-30	168,350	165,974	2,376
North Carolina	3,893	4,060	-167	33,642	35,173	-1,531
North Dakota	497	402	95	6,590	3,596	2,994
Ohio	6,250	7,190	-940	58,012	58,664	-652
Oklahoma	1,756	1,739	17	22,038	23,103	-1,065
Oregon	4,079	4,468	-389	29,971	30,855	-884
Pennsylvania	14,626	15,771	-1,145	140,164	143,944	-3,780
Puerto Rico	2,160	2,858	-698	34,202	34,844	-642
Rhode Island	1,004	921	83	9,911	9,968	-57
South Carolina	2,612	2,748	-136	18,166	18,805	-639
South Dakota	147	176	-29	1,317	1,408	-91
Tennessee	3,006	3,274	-268	26,000	28,409	-2,409
Texas	15,848	16,692	-844	182,909	183,428	-519
Utah	1,129	1,094	35	8,744	9,503	-759
Vermont	410	410	0	4,168	3,981	187
Virgin Islands	31	51	-20	846	782	64
Virginia	3,492	3,586	-94	30,690	29,393	1,297
Washington	6,186	6,431	-245	46,883	47,268	-385
West Virginia	1,055	1,195	-140	15,576	14,400	1,176
Wisconsin	5,108	5,936	-828	41,131	42,113	-982
Wyoming	362	371	-9	4,133	4,760	-627
US Total	229,674	239,326	-9,652	2,159,088	2,209,977	-50,889

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 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.

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		
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	2,204	-22	2,216.25	1.6	
May 30, 2015	277	-7	275.00	2,272	68	2,228.50	1.7	
June 6, 2015	279	2	278.75	2,225	-47	2,231.75	1.7	
June 13, 2015	268	-11	277.00	2,249	24	2,237.50	1.7	
June 20, 2015	271	3	273.75	2,265	16	2,252.75	1.7	
June 27, 2015	282	11	275.00	2,327	62	2,266.50	1.7	
July 4, 2015	296	14	279.25	2,216	-111	2,264.25	1.6	
July 11, 2015	281	-15	282.50	2,216	0	2,256.00	1.6	
July 18, 2015	255	-26	278.50	2,270	54	2,257.25	1.7	
July 25, 2015	267	12	274.75	2,258	-12	2,240.00	1.7	
August 1, 2015	269	2	268.00	2,278	20	2,255.50	1.7	
August 8, 2015	273	4	266.00	2,254	-24	2,265.00	1.7	
August 15, 2015	277	4	271.50					

Initial Claims Filed During Week Ended August 8							Insured Unemployment For Week Ended August 1					
INITIAL CLAIMS							INSURED UNEMPLOYMENT					
STATE	CHANGE FROM					STATE	CHANGE FROM					ALL PROGRAMS EXCLUDING RAILROAD RETIREMENT
	STATE	LAST WEEK	YEAR AGO	UCFE ¹	UCX ¹		LAST WEEK	YEAR AGO	UCFE ¹	UCX ¹		
Alabama	2987	69	-297	13	27	24853	1.4	-364	-3944	123	181	25157
Alaska	901	62	-120	4	4	7403	2.3	435	-2298	64	52	7519
Arizona	4367	-18	-420	5	14	39512	1.6	-259	-5037	289	194	39995
Arkansas	2385	243	-11	9	8	21601	1.9	-591	-2265	107	170	21878
California	44369	2498	-10674	190	268	369801	2.4	4765	-53827	1952	3525	375278
Colorado	2242	148	-258	9	35	26886	1.1	-1572	-3273	160	734	27780
Connecticut	3420	322	328	7	7	43314	2.6	-255	-6229	74	155	43543
Delaware	739	96	39	2	9	6815	1.6	-784	-836	18	30	6863
District of Columbia	397	37	-62	4	0	9187	1.7	1	-1601	346	16	9549
Florida	10168	-182	-4566	20	73	72307	0.9	471	-26232	184	403	72894
Georgia	6333	478	-1391	29	69	38027	1.0	-874	-10365	274	660	38961
Hawaii	1213	120	22	13	25	7328	1.2	-18	-1353	91	169	7588
Idaho	958	201	-100	2	3	6786	1.1	372	-1792	31	44	6861
Illinois	10677	2042	371	17	29	115834	2.0	-264	-8232	391	564	116789
Indiana	3275	-116	-839	8	14	21477	0.8	-51	-5792	87	109	21673
Iowa	2687	98	-93	5	6	18689	1.2	477	194	61	95	18845
Kansas	1993	-236	-80	5	4	14032	1.1	-71	-3087	100	173	14305
Kentucky	2891	119	-253	12	14	22130	1.3	-1355	-3101	303	325	22758
Louisiana	2445	-34	81	2	11	26997	1.4	-594	4027	42	80	27119
Maine	756	104	-4	2	1	6015	1.0	-83	-1716	15	29	6059
Maryland	4095	504	-236	28	28	41535	1.7	-272	-10975	322	309	42166
Massachusetts	5377	792	-1564	5	21	69785	2.1	-1194	-11936	272	403	70460
Michigan	5723	23	-3184	18	34	52953	1.3	-4024	-9100	129	262	53344
Minnesota	3193	382	120	7	8	32706	1.2	560	-2295	77	177	32960
Mississippi	1900	106	44	2	6	17625	1.6	-211	-4961	92	62	17779
Missouri	4266	158	-717	47	22	36462	1.4	369	-4551	339	176	36977
Montana	726	34	9	5	6	6011	1.4	88	-206	42	50	6103
Nebraska	786	79	-184	2	2	6963	0.7	-165	-469	42	18	7023
Nevada	2639	200	-537	2	8	26214	2.2	-360	-2720	71	185	26470
New Hampshire	711	149	-646	0	0	5314	0.9	-72	-1615	6	11	5331
New Jersey	8577	842	-303	18	46	112071	3.0	-945	-13518	248	475	112794
New Mexico	1027	58	-27	7	7	12973	1.7	-354	-2008	132	97	13202
New York	15730	1554	-2343	28	77	165974	1.9	-1247	-19773	560	870	167404
North Carolina	4060	79	-1070	7	43	35173	0.9	-331	-17578	148	442	35763
North Dakota	402	-43	173	4	0	3596	0.8	-60	1608	158	15	3769
Ohio	7190	617	-316	14	50	58664	1.1	-604	-4676	137	456	59257
Oklahoma	1739	156	220	9	13	23103	1.5	-139	6182	87	160	23350
Oregon	4468	550	11	22	33	30855	1.8	108	-2769	210	276	31341
Pennsylvania	15771	1035	-111	68	65	143944	2.6	4725	-13670	573	648	145165
Puerto Rico	2858	920	25	3	12	34844	3.9	-1921	-3862	121	269	35234
Rhode Island	921	-53	-285	4	3	9968	2.2	-317	-1731	23	42	10033
South Carolina	2748	94	-696	7	24	18805	1.0	96	-2014	54	147	19006
South Dakota	176	-8	-11	2	2	1408	0.4	-73	30	276	5	1689
Tennessee	3274	92	-615	5	23	28409	1.1	-896	-5227	118	183	28710
Texas	16692	411	1784	80	226	183428	1.6	891	29431	688	2584	186700
Utah	1094	-17	-273	18	6	9503	0.8	-61	-1344	277	61	9841
Vermont	410	22	-22	4	2	3981	1.3	13	-370	11	7	3999
Virgin Islands	51	8	1	0	1	782	2.1	-48	-76	6	18	806
Virginia	3586	-329	-506	12	35	29393	0.8	38	-6093	276	679	30348
Washington	6431	408	-608	25	117	47268	1.6	1838	-4302	229	977	48474
West Virginia	1195	-35	248	3	4	14400	2.1	-952	1676	90	72	14562
Wisconsin	5936	322	-299	7	19	42113	1.5	1182	-8342	112	87	42312
Wyoming	371	61	103	0	4	4760	1.7	14	1834	14	31	4805
Totals	239326	15222	-30142	821	1568	2209977	1.6	-4938	-252179	10652	17962	2238591

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.

UNADJUSTED INITIAL CLAIMS FOR WEEK ENDED AUGUST 8, 2015

STATES WITH AN INCREASE OF MORE THAN 1,000

State	Change	State Supplied Comment
CA	+2,498	Layoffs in the service industry.
IL	+2,042	Layoffs in the manufacturing, administrative and support and waste management and remediation service, and construction industries.
NY	+1,554	Layoffs in the construction, manufacturing, and accommodation and food service industries.
PA	+1,035	Layoffs in the manufacturing, transportation and warehousing, and accommodation and food service.

STATES WITH A DECREASE OF MORE THAN 1,000

State	Change	State Supplied Comment
None		

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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