



News Release

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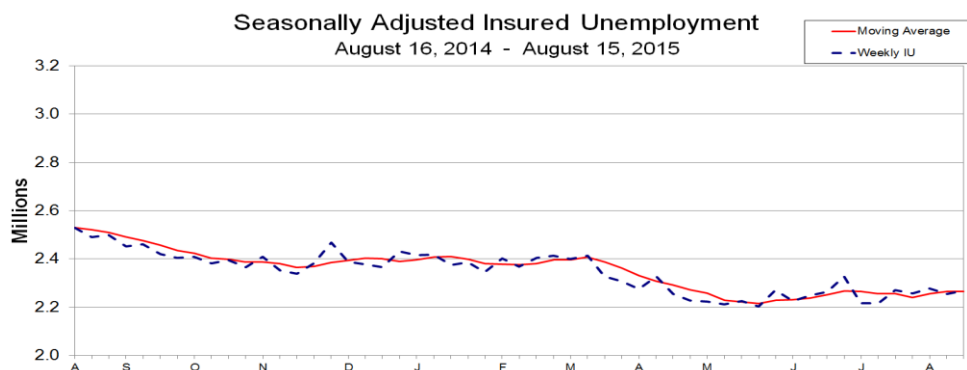
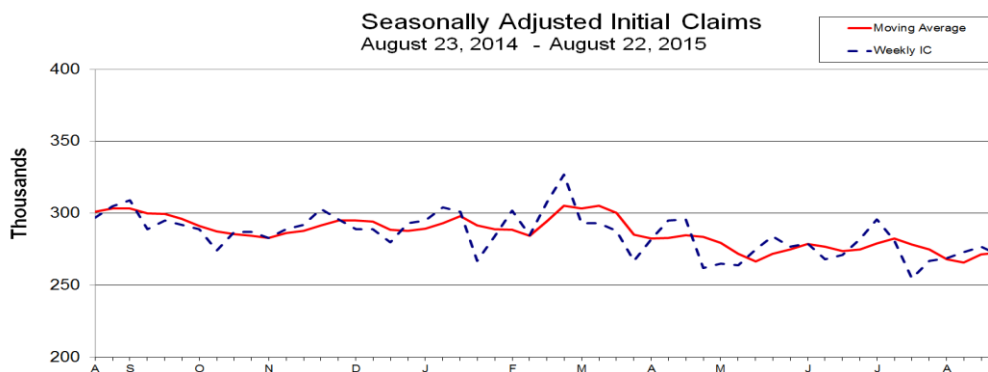
UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE WEEKLY CLAIMS

SEASONALLY ADJUSTED DATA

In the week ending August 22, the advance figure for seasonally adjusted **initial claims** was 271,000, a decrease of 6,000 from the previous week's unrevised level of 277,000. The 4-week moving average was 272,500, an increase of 1,000 from the previous week's unrevised average of 271,500.

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

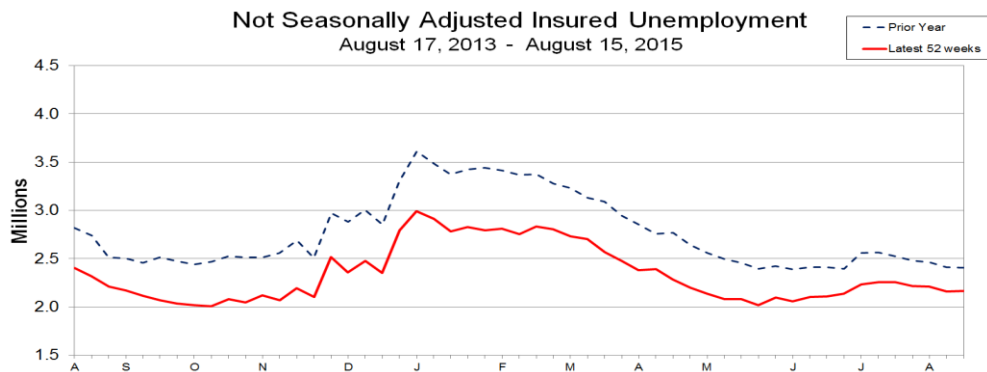
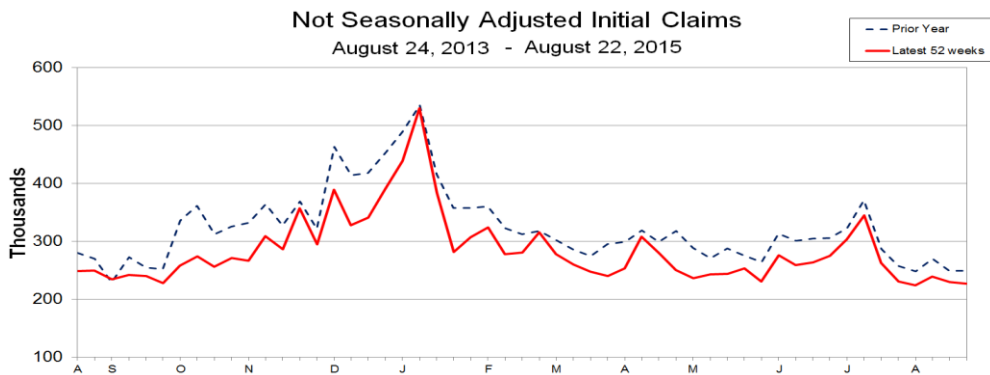
The advance seasonally adjusted **insured unemployment rate** was 1.7 percent for the week ending August 15, unchanged from the previous week's unrevised rate. The advance number for seasonally adjusted **insured unemployment** during the week ending August 15 was 2,269,000, an increase of 13,000 from the previous week's revised level. The previous week's level was revised up 2,000 from 2,254,000 to 2,256,000. The 4-week moving average was 2,265,250, a decrease of 250 from the previous week's revised average. The previous week's average was revised up by 500 from 2,265,000 to 2,265,500.



UNADJUSTED DATA

The advance number of actual initial claims under state programs, unadjusted, totaled 226,855 in the week ending August 22, a decrease of 2,396 (or -1.0 percent) from the previous week. The seasonal factors had expected an increase of 2,769 (or 1.2 percent) from the previous week. There were 249,006 initial claims in the comparable week in 2014.

The advance unadjusted insured unemployment rate was 1.6 percent during the week ending August 15, unchanged from the prior week. The advance unadjusted number for persons claiming UI benefits in state programs totaled 2,166,978, an increase of 5,790 (or 0.3 percent) from the preceding week. The seasonal factors had expected a decrease of 6,768 (or -0.3 percent) from the previous week. A year earlier the rate was 1.8 percent and the volume was 2,403,823.



The total number of people claiming benefits in all programs for the week ending August 8 was 2,207,153, a decrease of 47,632 from the previous week. There were 2,466,793 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 8.

Initial claims for UI benefits filed by former Federal civilian employees totaled 861 in the week ending August 15, an increase of 40 from the prior week. There were 1,395 initial claims filed by newly discharged veterans, a decrease of 173 from the preceding week.

There were 10,554 former Federal civilian employees claiming UI benefits for the week ending August 8, a decrease of 98 from the previous week. Newly discharged veterans claiming benefits totaled 18,191, an increase of 229 from the prior week.

The highest insured unemployment rates in the week ending August 8 were in Puerto Rico (3.8), New Jersey (2.9), Connecticut (2.7), Pennsylvania (2.5), Alaska (2.3), California (2.3), Nevada (2.2), Rhode Island (2.2), the Virgin Islands (2.2), and West Virginia (2.2).

The largest increases in initial claims for the week ending August 15 were in Michigan (+1,297), Kansas (+1,244), Missouri (+356), Idaho (+157), and Louisiana (+99), while the largest decreases were in Illinois (-1,486), Pennsylvania (-1,166), Texas (-1,071), Ohio (-1,001), and Florida (-946).

UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE DATA FOR REGULAR STATE PROGRAMS

WEEK ENDING	August 22	August 15	Change	August 8	<u>Prior Year</u> ¹
Initial Claims (SA)	271,000	277,000	-6,000	273,000	297,000
Initial Claims (NSA)	226,855	229,251	-2,396	239,326	249,006
4-Wk Moving Average (SA)	272,500	271,500	+1,000	266,000	301,250
WEEK ENDING	August 15	August 8	Change	August 1	<u>Prior Year</u> ¹
Insured Unemployment (SA)	2,269,000	2,256,000	+13,000	2,278,000	2,528,000
Insured Unemployment (NSA)	2,166,978	2,161,188	+5,790	2,209,977	2,403,823
4-Wk Moving Average (SA)	2,265,250	2,265,500	-250	2,255,500	2,531,000
<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 15	August 8	Change	<u>Prior Year</u> ¹
Federal Employees (UCFE)	861	821	+40	1,013
Newly Discharged Veterans (UCX)	1,395	1,568	-173	1,984

PERSONS CLAIMING UI BENEFITS IN ALL PROGRAMS (UNADJUSTED)

WEEK ENDING	August 8	August 1	Change	<u>Prior Year</u> ¹
Regular State	2,156,570	2,205,407	-48,837	2,408,598
Federal Employees	10,554	10,652	-98	15,415
Newly Discharged Veterans	18,191	17,962	+229	24,530
<u>Extended Benefits</u> ³	0	0	0	2
<u>State Additional Benefits</u> ⁴	6,041	6,183	-142	4,923
<u>STC / Workshare</u> ⁵	15,797	14,581	+1,216	13,325
<u>TOTAL</u>	2,207,153	2,254,785	-47,632	2,466,793

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 22			Insured Unemployment For Week Ended August 15		
	Advance	Prior Wk	Change	Advance	Prior Wk	Change
Alabama	2,682	2,682	0	22,086	24,241	-2,155
Alaska	1,076	845	231	7,179	7,240	-61
Arizona	3,692	4,147	-455	34,412	38,879	-4,467
Arkansas	2,033	2,075	-42	20,081	21,485	-1,404
California	43,317	44,200	-883	376,482	354,167	22,315
Colorado	2,189	2,072	117	26,988	27,706	-718
Connecticut	3,231	3,330	-99	45,317	43,941	1,376
Delaware	631	644	-13	7,243	6,956	287
District of Columbia	582	374	208	8,920	9,221	-301
Florida	8,877	9,222	-345	64,694	70,237	-5,543
Georgia	5,706	6,417	-711	35,412	37,289	-1,877
Hawaii	980	1,204	-224	7,295	7,168	127
Idaho	1,003	1,115	-112	5,731	6,643	-912
Illinois	9,050	9,191	-141	116,739	112,506	4,233
Indiana	2,866	3,166	-300	21,033	21,231	-198
Iowa	2,672	2,086	586	18,858	19,118	-260
Kansas	2,100	3,237	-1,137	16,092	12,989	3,103
Kentucky	2,542	2,946	-404	21,285	22,115	-830
Louisiana	2,147	2,544	-397	24,371	26,429	-2,058
Maine	830	644	186	5,834	5,916	-82
Maryland	3,477	3,546	-69	37,933	41,988	-4,055
Massachusetts	5,136	4,899	237	68,153	69,210	-1,057
Michigan	5,753	7,020	-1,267	47,847	51,352	-3,505
Minnesota	3,076	2,845	231	32,970	31,770	1,200
Mississippi	1,435	1,789	-354	14,198	16,814	-2,616
Missouri	3,909	4,622	-713	30,033	34,948	-4,915
Montana	683	774	-91	5,267	5,729	-462
Nebraska	804	866	-62	6,422	6,481	-59
Nevada	2,740	2,622	118	24,451	26,414	-1,963
New Hampshire	570	631	-61	5,050	5,294	-244
New Jersey	7,807	8,299	-492	114,415	111,723	2,692
New Mexico	953	997	-44	11,861	12,744	-883
New York	16,507	15,492	1,015	168,098	166,797	1,301
North Carolina	3,854	3,701	153	32,312	34,679	-2,367
North Dakota	547	273	274	6,372	3,445	2,927
Ohio	6,654	6,189	465	56,143	58,077	-1,934
Oklahoma	1,804	1,725	79	21,709	22,516	-807
Oregon	3,886	4,075	-189	29,127	30,169	-1,042
Pennsylvania	16,489	14,605	1,884	146,866	137,852	9,014
Puerto Rico	1,978	2,204	-226	32,700	34,221	-1,521
Rhode Island	1,025	1,001	24	10,447	9,938	509
South Carolina	2,613	2,679	-66	17,225	18,917	-1,692
South Dakota	140	170	-30	1,269	1,392	-123
Tennessee	3,339	3,205	134	24,981	27,190	-2,209
Texas	15,699	15,621	78	186,912	176,760	10,152
Utah	1,153	1,150	3	8,620	9,340	-720
Vermont	350	419	-69	4,166	3,951	215
Virgin Islands	36	48	-12	814	828	-14
Virginia	3,321	3,195	126	30,131	29,177	954
Washington	6,038	5,845	193	46,289	45,372	917
West Virginia	1,096	1,141	-45	14,187	14,918	-731
Wisconsin	5,358	5,136	222	39,812	41,185	-1,373
Wyoming	419	326	93	4,146	4,520	-374
US Total	226,855	229,251	-2,396	2,166,978	2,161,188	5,790

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 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	2,256	-22	2,265.50	1.7
August 15, 2015	277	4	271.50	2,269	13	2,265.25	1.7
August 22, 2015	271	-6	272.50				

Initial Claims Filed During Week Ended August 15
INITIAL CLAIMS

Insured Unemployment For Week Ended August 8
INSURED UNEMPLOYMENT

STATE	STATE	CHANGE FROM				STATE	STATE (%) ²	CHANGE FROM				ALL PROGRAMS EXCLUDING RAILROAD RETIREMENT
		LAST WEEK	YEAR AGO	UCFE ¹	UCX ¹			LAST WEEK	YEAR AGO	UCFE ¹	UCX ¹	
Alabama	2682	-305	-1177	17	16	24241	1.3	-612	-4246	117	176	24534
Alaska	845	-56	-257	2	1	7240	2.3	-163	-2085	60	69	7369
Arizona	4147	-220	-234	6	9	38879	1.6	-633	-4615	204	212	39295
Arkansas	2075	-310	-247	5	7	21485	1.9	-116	-1325	108	177	21770
California	44200	-169	-2072	200	231	354167	2.3	-15634	-45204	1957	3527	359651
Colorado	2072	-170	0	10	28	27706	1.2	820	-2520	147	807	28660
Connecticut	3330	-90	-229	5	11	43941	2.7	627	-6140	81	158	44180
Delaware	644	-95	-16	0	1	6956	1.7	141	-912	15	37	7008
District of Columbia	374	-23	-8	5	4	9221	1.7	34	-1935	339	15	9575
Florida	9222	-946	-4050	11	74	70237	0.9	-2070	-25599	196	472	70905
Georgia	6417	84	-2181	38	82	37289	0.9	-738	-11304	272	629	38190
Hawaii	1204	-9	-374	11	15	7168	1.2	-160	-2578	98	154	7420
Idaho	1115	157	14	2	2	6643	1.0	-143	-1691	28	42	6713
Illinois	9191	-1486	327	5	21	112506	2.0	-3328	-14709	440	520	113466
Indiana	3166	-109	-689	16	9	21231	0.7	-246	-5612	84	111	21426
Iowa	2086	-601	-825	6	7	19118	1.3	429	290	59	100	19277
Kansas	3237	1244	1479	1	1	12989	1.0	-1043	-3658	74	161	13224
Kentucky	2946	55	303	12	9	22115	1.2	-15	-2646	379	338	22832
Louisiana	2544	99	202	6	15	26429	1.4	-568	4036	31	87	26547
Maine	644	-112	-225	2	0	5916	1.0	-99	-1920	16	29	5961
Maryland	3546	-549	-324	30	19	41988	1.7	453	-10247	320	319	42627
Massachusetts	4899	-478	-2135	7	22	69210	2.1	-575	-11352	233	384	69827
Michigan	7020	1297	-486	8	30	51352	1.3	-1601	-13213	116	287	51755
Minnesota	2845	-348	24	5	7	31770	1.2	-936	-1915	61	176	32007
Mississippi	1789	-111	-15	6	6	16814	1.6	-811	-5029	82	58	16954
Missouri	4622	356	244	89	20	34948	1.3	-1514	-4463	380	172	35500
Montana	774	48	82	2	8	5729	1.3	-282	-417	62	52	5843
Nebraska	866	80	-80	2	4	6481	0.7	-482	-840	36	20	6537
Nevada	2622	-17	-378	1	11	26414	2.2	200	-2613	68	181	26663
New Hampshire	631	-80	-770	1	1	5294	0.9	-20	-1943	8	12	5314
New Jersey	8299	-278	-177	12	47	111723	2.9	-348	-13283	212	519	112454
New Mexico	997	-30	61	3	4	12744	1.7	-229	-1813	136	97	12977
New York	15492	-238	-1664	24	72	166797	1.9	823	-18617	539	899	168235
North Carolina	3701	-359	-931	12	34	34679	0.9	-494	-17388	144	405	35228
North Dakota	273	-129	72	0	1	3445	0.8	-151	1562	144	11	3600
Ohio	6189	-1001	-675	9	43	58077	1.1	-587	-5297	133	458	58668
Oklahoma	1725	-14	300	12	19	22516	1.5	-587	6204	80	166	22762
Oregon	4075	-393	-360	16	32	30169	1.8	-686	-3200	198	279	30646
Pennsylvania	14605	-1166	-1125	70	67	137852	2.5	-6092	-12206	633	628	139113
Puerto Rico	2204	-654	-247	0	9	34221	3.8	-623	-3739	76	210	34507
Rhode Island	1001	80	134	2	5	9938	2.2	-30	-1511	21	50	10009
South Carolina	2679	-69	-834	7	16	18917	1.0	112	-1974	67	140	19124
South Dakota	170	-6	-33	0	2	1392	0.3	-16	63	245	6	1643
Tennessee	3205	-69	-263	8	18	27190	1.0	-1219	-4585	129	182	27501
Texas	15621	-1071	1763	86	202	176760	1.6	-6668	29565	742	2702	180204
Utah	1150	56	-83	36	8	9340	0.7	-163	-1463	273	63	9676
Vermont	419	9	49	2	1	3951	1.3	-30	-151	12	13	3976
Virgin Islands	48	-3	22	1	0	828	2.2	46	42	2	16	846
Virginia	3195	-391	-960	15	34	29177	0.8	-216	-6416	281	666	30124
Washington	5845	-586	-602	26	86	45372	1.5	-1896	-4173	197	1002	46571
West Virginia	1141	-54	119	2	9	14918	2.2	518	1027	86	78	15082
Wisconsin	5136	-800	-745	5	14	41185	1.5	-928	-9382	108	91	41384
Wyoming	326	-45	64	2	1	4520	1.6	-240	1934	25	28	4573
Totals	229251	-10075	-20212	861	1395	2161188	1.6	-48789	-251206	10554	18191	2189933

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 15, 2015

STATES WITH AN INCREASE OF MORE THAN 1,000

State	Change	State Supplied Comment
MI	+1,297	Layoffs in the manufacturing industry.
KS	+1,244	Layoffs in the transportation and warehousing, and manufacturing industries.

STATES WITH A DECREASE OF MORE THAN 1,000

State	Change	State Supplied Comment
IL	-1,486	No comment.
PA	-1,166	Fewer layoffs in the manufacturing, administrative and support and waste management and remediation service, and accommodation and food service.
TX	-1,071	No comment.
OH	-1,001	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](#)

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