



News Release

Connect with DOL at <http://blog.dol.gov>



TRANSMISSION OF MATERIALS IN THIS RELEASE IS EMBARGOED UNTIL
8:30 A.M. (Eastern) Thursday, September 3, 2015

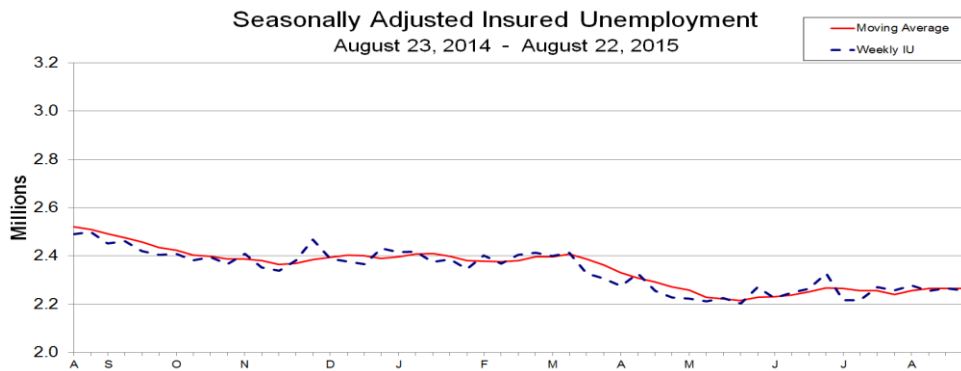
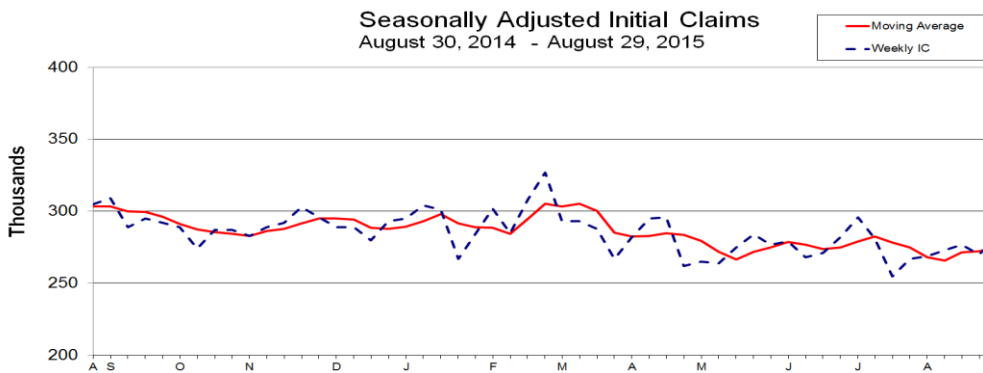
UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE WEEKLY CLAIMS

SEASONALLY ADJUSTED DATA

In the week ending August 29, the advance figure for seasonally adjusted **initial claims** was 282,000, an increase of 12,000 from the previous week's revised level. The previous week's level was revised down by 1,000 from 271,000 to 270,000. The 4-week moving average was 275,500, an increase of 3,250 from the previous week's revised average. The previous week's average was revised down by 250 from 272,500 to 272,250.

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

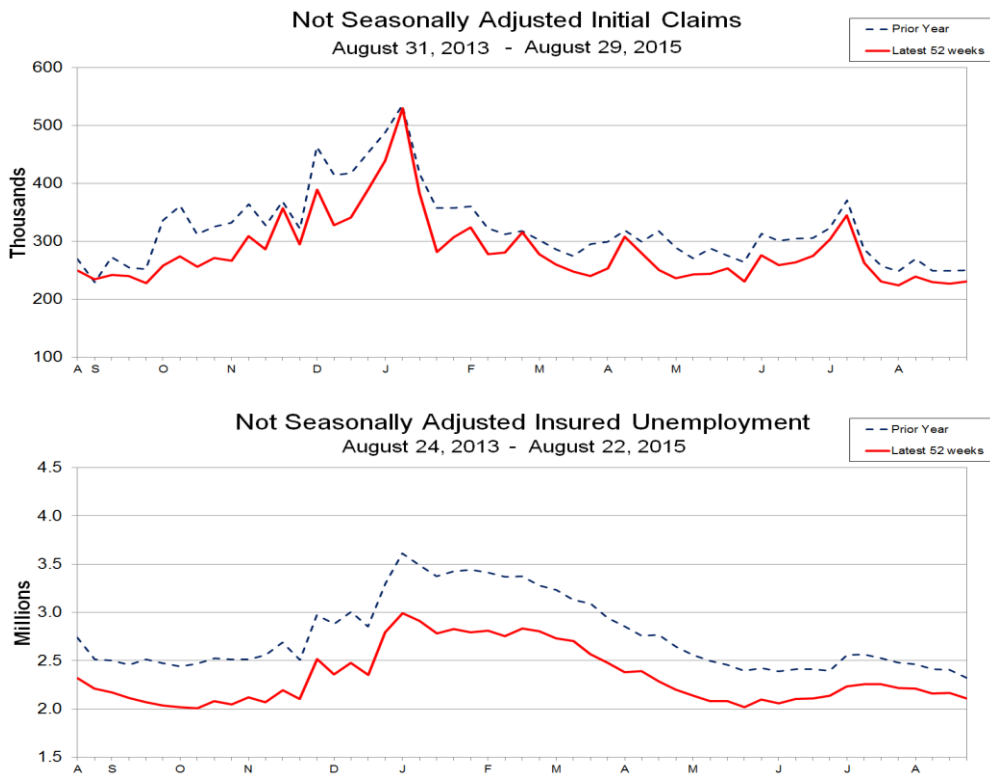
The advance seasonally adjusted **insured unemployment rate** was 1.7 percent for the week ending August 22, unchanged from the previous week's unrevised rate. The advance number for seasonally adjusted **insured unemployment** during the week ending August 22 was 2,257,000, a decrease of 9,000 from the previous week's revised level. The previous week's level was revised down by 3,000 from 2,269,000 to 2,266,000. The 4-week moving average was 2,264,250, a decrease of 250 from the previous week's revised average. The previous week's average was revised down by 750 from 2,265,250 to 2,264,500.



UNADJUSTED DATA

The advance number of actual initial claims under state programs, unadjusted, totaled 230,493 in the week ending August 29, an increase of 3,844 (or 1.7 percent) from the previous week. The seasonal factors had expected a decrease of 5,409 (or -2.4 percent) from the previous week. There were 249,780 initial claims in the comparable week in 2014.

The advance unadjusted insured unemployment rate was 1.6 percent during the week ending August 22, unchanged from the prior week. The advance unadjusted number for persons claiming UI benefits in state programs totaled 2,105,810, a decrease of 57,896 (or -2.7 percent) from the preceding week. The seasonal factors had expected a decrease of 49,845 (or -2.3 percent) from the previous week. A year earlier the rate was 1.8 percent and the volume was 2,319,238.



The total number of people claiming benefits in all programs for the week ending August 15 was 2,210,203, an increase of 3,050 from the previous week. There were 2,457,641 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 15.

Initial claims for UI benefits filed by former Federal civilian employees totaled 894 in the week ending August 22, an increase of 33 from the prior week. There were 1,433 initial claims filed by newly discharged veterans, an increase of 38 from the preceding week.

There were 10,453 former Federal civilian employees claiming UI benefits for the week ending August 15, a decrease of 101 from the previous week. Newly discharged veterans claiming benefits totaled 18,395, an increase of 204 from the prior week.

The highest insured unemployment rates in the week ending August 15 were in Puerto Rico (3.7), New Jersey (3.0), Connecticut (2.7), Pennsylvania (2.6), Alaska (2.3), California (2.3), Rhode Island (2.3), Nevada (2.2), the Virgin Islands (2.2), and Massachusetts (2.1).

The largest increases in initial claims for the week ending August 22 were in Pennsylvania (+1,875), New York (+832), Ohio (+461), Tennessee (+354), and Massachusetts (+311), while the largest decreases were in Kansas (-1,473), California (-1,302), Michigan (-1,103), Missouri (-421), and Kentucky (-403).

UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE DATA FOR REGULAR STATE PROGRAMS

WEEK ENDING	August 29	August 22	Change	August 15	<u>Prior Year¹</u>
Initial Claims (SA)	282,000	270,000	+12,000	277,000	305,000
Initial Claims (NSA)	230,493	226,649	+3,844	229,251	249,780
4-Wk Moving Average (SA)	275,500	272,250	+3,250	271,500	303,250
WEEK ENDING	August 22	August 15	Change	August 8	<u>Prior Year¹</u>
Insured Unemployment (SA)	2,257,000	2,266,000	-9,000	2,256,000	2,491,000
Insured Unemployment (NSA)	2,105,810	2,163,706	-57,896	2,161,188	2,319,238
4-Wk Moving Average (SA)	2,264,250	2,264,500	-250	2,265,500	2,520,750
<u>Insured Unemployment Rate (SA)²</u>	1.7%	1.7%	0.0	1.7%	1.9%
<u>Insured Unemployment Rate (NSA)²</u>	1.6%	1.6%	0.0	1.6%	1.8%

INITIAL CLAIMS FILED IN FEDERAL PROGRAMS (UNADJUSTED)

WEEK ENDING	August 22	August 15	Change	<u>Prior Year¹</u>
Federal Employees (UCFE)	894	861	+33	1,548
Newly Discharged Veterans (UCX)	1,433	1,395	+38	1,979

PERSONS CLAIMING UI BENEFITS IN ALL PROGRAMS (UNADJUSTED)

WEEK ENDING	August 15	August 8	Change	<u>Prior Year¹</u>
Regular State	2,158,594	2,156,570	+2,024	2,400,097
Federal Employees	10,453	10,554	-101	14,424
Newly Discharged Veterans	18,395	18,191	+204	24,600
<u>Extended Benefits³</u>	0	0	0	15
<u>State Additional Benefits⁴</u>	6,298	6,041	+257	4,723
<u>STC / Workshare⁵</u>	16,463	15,797	+666	13,782
<u>TOTAL</u>	2,210,203	2,207,153	+3,050	2,457,641

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 29			Insured Unemployment For Week Ended August 22		
	Advance	Prior Wk	Change	Advance	Prior Wk	Change
Alabama	2,991	2,881	110	21,497	23,302	-1,805
Alaska	1,144	967	177	6,989	7,379	-390
Arizona	3,619	3,863	-244	33,817	37,997	-4,180
Arkansas	2,244	2,203	41	19,026	20,793	-1,767
California	41,955	42,898	-943	362,983	363,099	-116
Colorado	2,234	2,164	70	26,588	26,282	306
Connecticut	2,950	3,234	-284	45,212	44,136	1,076
Delaware	568	660	-92	7,084	6,944	140
District of Columbia	573	335	238	8,713	9,321	-608
Florida	8,426	9,192	-766	60,549	71,162	-10,613
Georgia	5,722	6,029	-307	34,902	37,352	-2,450
Hawaii	1,417	957	460	7,651	7,053	598
Idaho	779	1,106	-327	5,633	6,516	-883
Illinois	9,620	8,988	632	110,612	115,976	-5,364
Indiana	3,735	2,851	884	21,618	21,017	601
Iowa	2,456	2,383	73	18,685	18,156	529
Kansas	2,301	1,764	537	13,585	14,236	-651
Kentucky	2,581	2,543	38	20,726	21,498	-772
Louisiana	2,176	2,414	-238	23,858	25,650	-1,792
Maine	582	832	-250	5,390	6,076	-686
Maryland	3,299	3,522	-223	37,210	41,560	-4,350
Massachusetts	4,751	5,210	-459	68,081	69,010	-929
Michigan	5,047	5,917	-870	51,826	49,605	2,221
Minnesota	3,436	2,964	472	32,499	31,024	1,475
Mississippi	1,418	1,692	-274	13,384	15,718	-2,334
Missouri	3,776	4,201	-425	26,853	33,436	-6,583
Montana	739	756	-17	5,019	5,882	-863
Nebraska	713	805	-92	5,528	6,354	-826
Nevada	3,255	2,564	691	24,266	25,875	-1,609
New Hampshire	545	583	-38	5,008	5,308	-300
New Jersey	7,285	7,946	-661	112,686	113,259	-573
New Mexico	953	1,023	-70	11,372	12,160	-788
New York	21,142	16,324	4,818	172,954	166,281	6,673
North Carolina	3,970	3,643	327	30,601	33,484	-2,883
North Dakota	508	291	217	5,746	3,266	2,480
Ohio	7,727	6,650	1,077	54,076	56,179	-2,103
Oklahoma	2,018	1,779	239	21,345	22,160	-815
Oregon	4,675	3,898	777	29,425	29,318	107
Pennsylvania	14,928	16,480	-1,552	137,035	144,290	-7,255
Puerto Rico	1,334	2,030	-696	30,690	32,790	-2,100
Rhode Island	902	1,003	-101	10,218	10,336	-118
South Carolina	2,534	2,696	-162	16,308	17,992	-1,684
South Dakota	167	157	10	1,161	1,322	-161
Tennessee	3,137	3,559	-422	24,188	26,101	-1,913
Texas	16,150	15,367	783	178,849	181,437	-2,588
Utah	1,129	1,191	-62	8,434	9,254	-820
Vermont	339	364	-25	3,962	3,944	18
Virgin Islands	39	46	-7	802	806	-4
Virginia	3,391	3,035	356	28,769	28,734	35
Washington	6,055	5,756	299	45,247	44,859	388
West Virginia	1,113	1,176	-63	14,454	13,605	849
Wisconsin	5,565	5,358	207	38,841	39,885	-1,044
Wyoming	380	399	-19	3,855	4,527	-672
US Total	230,493	226,649	3,844	2,105,810	2,163,706	-57,896

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 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	2,266	10	2,264.50	1.7
August 22, 2015	270	-7	272.25	2,257	-9	2,264.25	1.7
August 29, 2015	282	12	275.50				

Initial Claims Filed During Week Ended August 22
INITIAL CLAIMS

Insured Unemployment For Week Ended August 15
INSURED UNEMPLOYMENT

STATE	CHANGE FROM						CHANGE FROM					ALL PROGRAMS EXCLUDING RAILROAD RETIREMENT
	STATE	LAST WEEK	YEAR AGO	UCFE ¹	UCX ¹	STATE	(%) ²	LAST WEEK	YEAR AGO	UCFE ¹	UCX ¹	
Alabama	2881	199	-289	9	21	23302	1.3	-939	-3617	114	179	23595
Alaska	967	122	-168	1	2	7379	2.3	139	-2225	77	41	7497
Arizona	3863	-284	-433	6	16	37997	1.5	-882	-3990	185	218	38400
Arkansas	2203	128	-155	9	5	20793	1.8	-692	-1172	108	173	21074
California	42898	-1302	-4241	206	281	363099	2.3	8932	-42482	2004	3656	368759
Colorado	2164	92	-18	14	47	26282	1.1	-1424	-3119	151	734	27167
Connecticut	3234	-96	81	3	12	44136	2.7	195	-6125	90	197	44423
Delaware	660	16	76	1	3	6944	1.7	-12	-778	13	30	6987
District of Columbia	335	-39	-26	8	2	9321	1.8	100	-1510	334	14	9669
Florida	9192	-30	-3947	19	75	71162	0.9	925	-25177	191	417	71770
Georgia	6029	-388	-1200	30	64	37352	0.9	63	-8387	284	654	38290
Hawaii	957	-247	-650	3	15	7053	1.2	-115	-2697	94	160	7307
Idaho	1106	-9	-73	2	4	6516	1.0	-127	-1769	27	37	6580
Illinois	8988	-203	-489	14	25	115976	2.0	3470	-7175	397	572	116945
Indiana	2851	-315	-924	8	11	21017	0.7	-214	-5319	88	115	21220
Iowa	2383	297	488	6	10	18156	1.2	-962	-928	59	100	18315
Kansas	1764	-1473	-9	3	12	14236	1.1	1247	-1231	69	170	14475
Kentucky	2543	-403	-310	29	7	21498	1.2	-617	-3108	315	340	22153
Louisiana	2414	-130	146	9	9	25650	1.4	-779	3623	39	84	25773
Maine	832	188	23	1	3	6076	1.1	160	-1451	11	26	6113
Maryland	3522	-24	-400	22	22	41560	1.7	-428	-9918	319	305	42184
Massachusetts	5210	311	-541	13	22	69010	2.1	-200	-13324	238	412	69660
Michigan	5917	-1103	-3434	11	27	49605	1.2	-1747	-16980	117	237	49959
Minnesota	2964	119	-4	3	4	31024	1.1	-746	-1768	68	186	31278
Mississippi	1692	-97	-123	9	6	15718	1.5	-1096	-4575	104	69	15891
Missouri	4201	-421	-389	41	14	33436	1.3	-1512	-3402	386	167	33989
Montana	756	-18	31	4	7	5882	1.4	153	-59	40	52	5974
Nebraska	805	-61	-99	4	4	6354	0.7	-127	-383	40	22	6416
Nevada	2564	-58	-333	6	10	25875	2.2	-539	-2199	65	185	26125
New Hampshire	583	-48	-309	2	2	5308	0.9	14	-2165	7	9	5324
New Jersey	7946	-353	-601	17	34	113259	3.0	1536	-12644	249	487	113995
New Mexico	1023	26	23	2	10	12160	1.6	-584	-1651	82	104	12346
New York	16324	832	-3392	35	56	166281	1.9	-516	-20052	522	873	167676
North Carolina	3643	-58	-1013	7	24	33484	0.8	-1195	-17407	152	420	34056
North Dakota	291	18	105	1	2	3266	0.7	-179	1522	187	9	3462
Ohio	6650	461	-153	13	55	56179	1.1	-1898	-5736	147	427	56753
Oklahoma	1779	54	327	6	19	22160	1.4	-356	6143	84	178	22422
Oregon	3898	-177	-446	18	30	29318	1.7	-851	-3508	201	298	29817
Pennsylvania	16480	1875	1662	64	62	144290	2.6	6438	-11378	568	625	145483
Puerto Rico	2030	-174	-306	7	15	32790	3.7	-1431	-3414	85	276	33151
Rhode Island	1003	2	38	5	3	10336	2.3	398	-1597	20	49	10405
South Carolina	2696	17	-429	6	19	17992	1.0	-925	-2742	55	132	18179
South Dakota	157	-13	-39	1	1	1322	0.3	-70	22	195	6	1523
Tennessee	3559	354	-36	9	27	26101	1.0	-1089	-5076	125	207	26433
Texas	15367	-254	1201	116	191	181437	1.6	4677	29036	775	2763	184975
Utah	1191	41	-41	53	3	9254	0.7	-86	-1120	276	59	9589
Vermont	364	-55	14	0	0	3944	1.3	-7	-300	11	9	3964
Virgin Islands	46	-2	-17	0	0	806	2.2	-22	-10	6	10	822
Virginia	3035	-160	-852	7	40	28734	0.8	-443	-5893	280	670	29684
Washington	5756	-89	-305	24	83	44859	1.5	-513	-3776	208	1029	46096
West Virginia	1176	35	168	0	3	13605	2.0	-1313	991	86	76	13767
Wisconsin	5358	222	-662	5	9	39885	1.5	-1300	-9809	97	93	40075
Wyoming	399	73	116	2	5	4527	1.6	7	1692	8	34	4569
Totals	226649	-2602	-22357	894	1433	2163706	1.6	2518	-240117	10453	18395	2192554

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 22, 2015

STATES WITH AN INCREASE OF MORE THAN 1,000

State	Change	State Supplied Comment
PA	+1,875	Layoffs in the manufacturing, administrative and support and waste management and remediation service, and accommodation and food service.

STATES WITH A DECREASE OF MORE THAN 1,000

State	Change	State Supplied Comment
KS	-1,473	No comment.
CA	-1,302	No comment.
MI	-1,103	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](#)

U.S. Department of Labor news materials are accessible at <http://www.dol.gov>. The Department's [Reasonable Accommodation Resource Center](#) converts Departmental information and documents into alternative formats, which include Braille and large print. For alternative format requests, please contact the Department at (202) 693-7828 (voice) or (800) 877-8339 (federal relay).

U.S. Department of Labor
Employment and Training Administration
Washington, D.C. 20210
Release Number: USDL 15-1714-NAT

Program Contacts:
Brenda Loya (202) 693-3760
Tony Sznoluch (202) 693-3176
Media Contact: (202) 693-4676