



News Release

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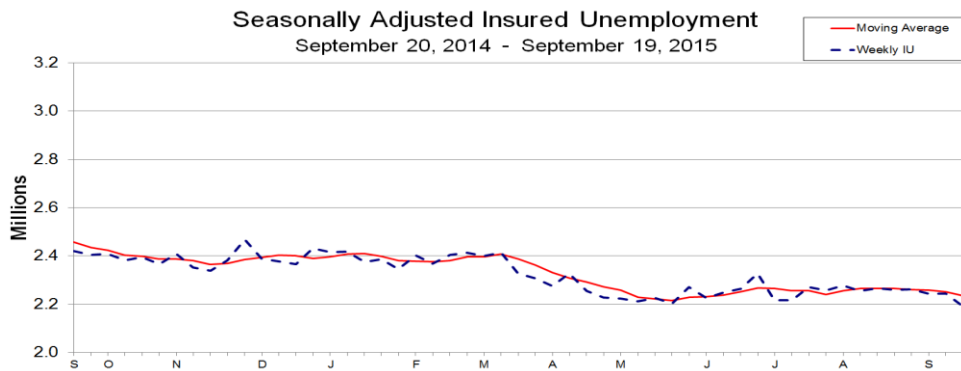
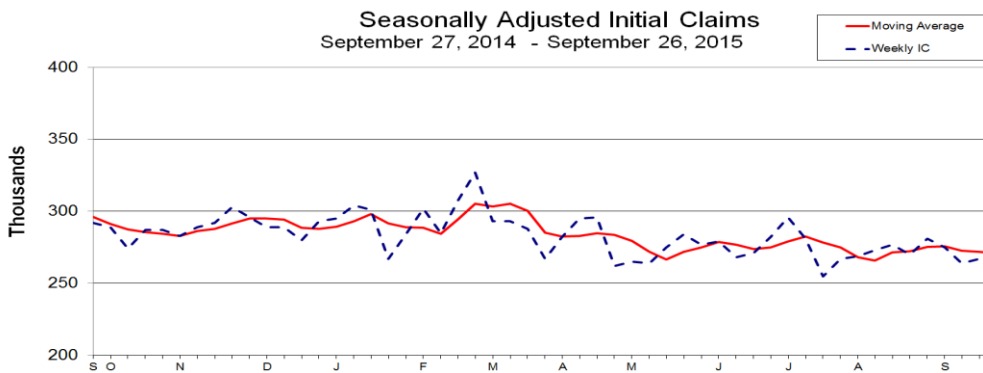
UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE WEEKLY CLAIMS

SEASONALLY ADJUSTED DATA

In the week ending September 26, the advance figure for seasonally adjusted **initial claims** was 277,000, an increase of 10,000 from the previous week's unrevised level of 267,000. The 4-week moving average was 270,750, a decrease of 1,000 from the previous week's unrevised average of 271,750.

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

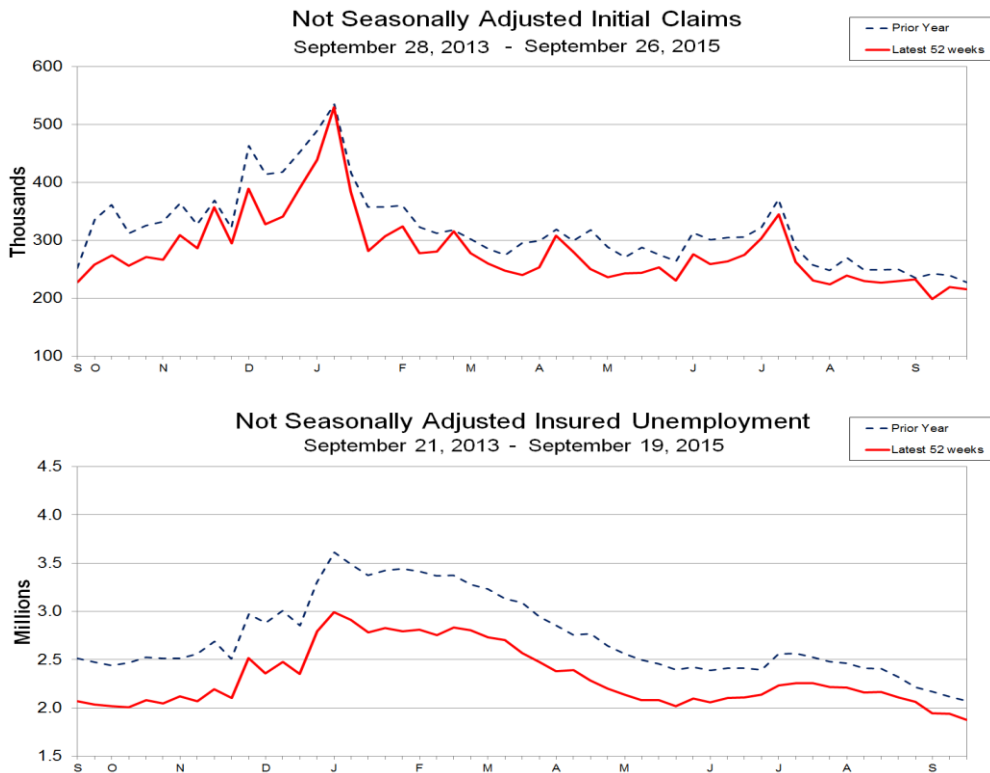
The advance seasonally adjusted **insured unemployment rate** was 1.6 percent for the week ending September 19, a decrease of 0.1 percentage point from the previous week's unrevised rate. The advance number for seasonally adjusted **insured unemployment** during the week ending September 19 was 2,191,000, a decrease of 53,000 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 2,000 from 2,242,000 to 2,244,000. The 4-week moving average was 2,235,250, a decrease of 17,000 from the previous week's revised average. The previous week's average was revised up by 500 from 2,251,750 to 2,252,250.



UNADJUSTED DATA

The advance number of actual initial claims under state programs, unadjusted, totaled 215,483 in the week ending September 26, a decrease of 3,856 (or -1.8 percent) from the previous week. The seasonal factors had expected a decrease of 11,741 (or -5.4 percent) from the previous week. There were 227,571 initial claims in the comparable week in 2014.

The advance unadjusted insured unemployment rate was 1.4 percent during the week ending September 19, unchanged from the prior week. The advance unadjusted number for persons claiming UI benefits in state programs totaled 1,873,410, a decrease of 65,482 (or -3.4 percent) from the preceding week. The seasonal factors had expected a decrease of 20,197 (or -1.0 percent) from the previous week. A year earlier the rate was 1.6 percent and the volume was 2,070,228.



The total number of people claiming benefits in all programs for the week ending September 12 was 1,985,075, a decrease of 2,996 from the previous week. There were 2,172,078 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 September 12.

Initial claims for UI benefits filed by former Federal civilian employees totaled 867 in the week ending September 19, an increase of 78 from the prior week. There were 1,347 initial claims filed by newly discharged veterans, an increase of 138 from the preceding week.

There were 11,063 former Federal civilian employees claiming UI benefits for the week ending September 12, a decrease of 425 from the previous week. Newly discharged veterans claiming benefits totaled 17,791, an increase of 354 from the prior week.

The highest insured unemployment rates in the week ending September 12 were in Puerto Rico (3.4), the Virgin Islands (2.7), New Jersey (2.5), Alaska (2.4), California (2.2), Nevada (2.2), Pennsylvania (2.2), Connecticut (2.0), Illinois (1.9), and West Virginia (1.9).

The largest increases in initial claims for the week ending September 19 were in California (+3,725), Kansas (+2,739), Texas (+2,185), New York (+1,878), and Missouri (+960), while the largest decreases were in Wisconsin (-278), North Dakota (-180), Rhode Island (-129), Minnesota (-101), and Kentucky (-78).

UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE DATA FOR REGULAR STATE PROGRAMS

WEEK ENDING	September 26	September 19	Change	September 12	<u>Prior Year</u> ¹
Initial Claims (SA)	277,000	267,000	+10,000	264,000	292,000
Initial Claims (NSA)	215,483	219,339	-3,856	198,903	227,571
4-Wk Moving Average (SA)	270,750	271,750	-1,000	272,500	296,250
WEEK ENDING	September 19	September 12	Change	September 5	<u>Prior Year</u> ¹
Insured Unemployment (SA)	2,191,000	2,244,000	-53,000	2,243,000	2,421,000
Insured Unemployment (NSA)	1,873,410	1,938,892	-65,482	1,942,819	2,070,228
4-Wk Moving Average (SA)	2,235,250	2,252,250	-17,000	2,257,750	2,458,250
<u>Insured Unemployment Rate (SA)</u> ²	1.6%	1.7%	-0.1	1.7%	1.8%
<u>Insured Unemployment Rate (NSA)</u> ²	1.4%	1.4%	0.0	1.4%	1.6%

INITIAL CLAIMS FILED IN FEDERAL PROGRAMS (UNADJUSTED)

WEEK ENDING	September 19	September 12	Change	<u>Prior Year</u> ¹
Federal Employees (UCFE)	867	789	+78	1,038
Newly Discharged Veterans (UCX)	1,347	1,209	+138	1,884

PERSONS CLAIMING UI BENEFITS IN ALL PROGRAMS (UNADJUSTED)

WEEK ENDING	September 12	September 5	Change	<u>Prior Year</u> ¹
Regular State	1,934,225	1,938,838	-4,613	2,111,384
Federal Employees	11,063	11,488	-425	15,993
Newly Discharged Veterans	17,791	17,437	+354	24,946
<u>Extended Benefits</u> ³	0	0	0	7
<u>State Additional Benefits</u> ⁴	7,045	6,243	+802	5,242
<u>STC / Workshare</u> ⁵	14,951	14,065	+886	14,506
<u>TOTAL</u>	1,985,075	1,988,071	-2,996	2,172,078

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 September 26			Insured Unemployment For Week Ended September 19		
	Advance	Prior Wk	Change	Advance	Prior Wk	Change
Alabama	2,268	2,529	-261	19,908	21,335	-1,427
Alaska	1,467	1,107	360	7,100	7,459	-359
Arizona	3,299	3,742	-443	29,890	34,283	-4,393
Arkansas	1,997	2,196	-199	17,881	19,010	-1,129
California	40,539	40,564	-25	343,838	338,981	4,857
Colorado	2,188	2,174	14	25,274	25,303	-29
Connecticut	2,367	2,527	-160	34,100	33,210	890
Delaware	537	608	-71	5,450	5,381	69
District of Columbia	448	300	148	7,879	8,409	-530
Florida	7,427	7,817	-390	55,816	66,338	-10,522
Georgia	5,395	6,514	-1,119	33,471	36,163	-2,692
Hawaii	1,042	1,225	-183	7,095	7,166	-71
Idaho	805	969	-164	4,778	5,795	-1,017
Illinois	9,493	8,552	941	99,011	106,605	-7,594
Indiana	3,058	3,394	-336	20,781	20,836	-55
Iowa	2,609	2,555	54	17,422	16,152	1,270
Kansas	1,762	4,061	-2,299	14,601	11,388	3,213
Kentucky	2,197	2,317	-120	18,979	20,011	-1,032
Louisiana	2,074	2,307	-233	22,191	23,792	-1,601
Maine	572	646	-74	4,480	4,782	-302
Maryland	2,890	3,274	-384	31,449	35,468	-4,019
Massachusetts	4,411	4,703	-292	55,584	57,310	-1,726
Michigan	7,917	5,250	2,667	41,808	45,758	-3,950
Minnesota	2,908	3,215	-307	29,858	29,448	410
Mississippi	1,246	1,448	-202	11,105	12,591	-1,486
Missouri	3,744	4,524	-780	24,570	27,639	-3,069
Montana	786	844	-58	4,419	5,220	-801
Nebraska	719	878	-159	5,207	5,028	179
* Nevada	2,906	2,518	388	24,192	25,483	-1,291
New Hampshire	458	511	-53	3,899	4,179	-280
New Jersey	7,930	7,366	564	89,061	93,191	-4,130
New Mexico	1,046	961	85	10,705	10,996	-291
New York	16,769	15,894	875	140,858	144,565	-3,707
North Carolina	3,674	3,605	69	27,600	29,247	-1,647
North Dakota	642	383	259	5,178	2,713	2,465
Ohio	6,344	6,515	-171	49,475	51,076	-1,601
Oklahoma	1,735	1,770	-35	20,329	21,244	-915
Oregon	4,023	4,318	-295	26,625	27,175	-550
Pennsylvania	13,325	13,597	-272	113,692	121,041	-7,349
Puerto Rico	1,885	1,768	117	28,381	30,148	-1,767
Rhode Island	679	808	-129	6,941	7,209	-268
South Carolina	2,284	3,134	-850	14,765	16,082	-1,317
South Dakota	155	166	-11	969	1,079	-110
Tennessee	2,842	3,304	-462	21,892	23,318	-1,426
Texas	15,472	15,661	-189	166,450	169,115	-2,665
Utah	978	1,105	-127	7,908	8,519	-611
Vermont	275	309	-34	2,907	2,837	70
Virgin Islands	49	62	-13	1,114	992	122
Virginia	3,200	2,922	278	26,749	25,911	838
Washington	6,299	6,094	205	43,521	42,625	896
West Virginia	856	914	-58	12,991	12,689	302
Wisconsin	5,028	5,034	-6	29,912	32,591	-2,679
Wyoming	464	380	84	3,351	4,006	-655
US Total	215,483	219,339	-3,856	1,873,410	1,938,892	-65,482

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.

* Denotes state 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 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	2,259	-7	2,264.75	1.7	
August 29, 2015	281	11	275.25	2,263	4	2,261.00	1.7	
September 5, 2015	275	-6	275.75	2,243	-20	2,257.75	1.7	
September 12, 2015	264	-11	272.50	2,244	1	2,252.25	1.7	
September 19, 2015	267	3	271.75	2,191	-53	2,235.25	1.6	
September 26, 2015	277	10	270.75					

Initial Claims Filed During Week Ended September 19
INITIAL CLAIMS

Insured Unemployment For Week Ended September 12
INSURED UNEMPLOYMENT

STATE	CHANGE FROM					STATE	RATE (%) ²	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	2529	256	-578	9	29	21335	1.2	-540	-3285	100	173	21608
Alaska	1107	130	-130	5	1	7459	2.4	524	-1713	79	38	7576
Arizona	3742	465	-642	6	14	34283	1.4	-121	-3009	135	200	34618
Arkansas	2196	348	-27	10	12	19010	1.7	59	-1090	94	168	19272
California	40564	3725	-11269	126	193	338981	2.2	16923	-47631	2247	3460	344688
Colorado	2174	111	-31	13	41	25303	1.1	43	-1340	155	700	26158
Connecticut	2527	115	-276	5	9	33210	2.0	-849	-5768	79	164	33453
Delaware	608	-13	-451	2	5	5381	1.3	-17	-163	13	25	5419
District of Columbia	300	-1	-32	3	1	8409	1.6	-146	-1300	344	22	8775
Florida	7817	565	-5337	16	84	66338	0.9	3713	-21824	231	429	66998
Georgia	6514	888	104	35	64	36163	0.9	-216	-5802	276	598	37037
Hawaii	1225	108	-200	6	24	7166	1.2	55	-1612	112	160	7438
Idaho	969	19	8	2	6	5795	0.9	-213	-1536	27	35	5857
Illinois	8552	135	-243	15	18	106605	1.9	4043	-3249	400	542	107547
Indiana	3394	483	115	10	10	20836	0.7	-27	-2879	115	129	21080
Iowa	2555	447	661	4	6	16152	1.1	43	365	55	103	16310
Kansas	4061	2739	2256	2	6	11388	0.9	88	-2879	67	150	11605
Kentucky	2317	-78	-616	20	14	20011	1.1	92	-2263	331	305	20647
Louisiana	2307	292	239	5	13	23792	1.3	-461	3739	38	79	23909
Maine	646	-51	-205	3	4	4782	0.8	-139	-1692	19	39	4840
Maryland	3274	380	-339	23	20	35468	1.5	-985	-9234	369	296	36133
Massachusetts	4703	365	-503	17	13	57310	1.7	-4452	-8838	187	381	57878
Michigan	5250	130	-2851	18	41	45758	1.1	-1929	-9217	115	227	46100
Minnesota	3215	-101	342	5	17	29448	1.1	-620	-142	75	177	29700
Mississippi	1448	119	-277	7	7	12591	1.2	-910	-3466	69	60	12720
Missouri	4524	960	61	55	14	27639	1.1	-25	-5616	642	137	28418
Montana	844	71	81	6	2	5220	1.2	168	143	44	51	5315
Nebraska	878	260	52	3	6	5028	0.5	-20	-1009	31	21	5080
Nevada	2518	209	-473	3	9	25483	2.2	-42	-861	60	175	25718
New Hampshire	511	26	-105	1	1	4179	0.7	-281	-1158	6	12	4197
New Jersey	7366	951	-1189	17	21	93191	2.5	-7712	-12450	249	518	93958
New Mexico	961	90	56	6	9	10996	1.4	-63	-1804	72	100	11168
New York	15894	1878	-16	40	74	144565	1.7	-15094	-11465	620	895	146080
North Carolina	3605	63	-1104	9	40	29247	0.7	-350	-16447	132	397	29776
North Dakota	383	-180	202	2	1	2713	0.6	286	1508	12	9	2734
Ohio	6515	422	470	9	42	51076	1.0	9	-2636	221	465	51762
Oklahoma	1770	14	280	9	16	21244	1.4	-250	6212	82	159	21485
Oregon	4318	54	-276	18	36	27175	1.6	-659	-3058	179	301	27655
Pennsylvania	13597	154	422	75	54	121041	2.2	190	-1994	549	635	122225
Puerto Rico	1768	244	-72	8	14	30148	3.4	476	-3475	168	256	30572
Rhode Island	808	-129	-220	5	4	7209	1.6	-241	-1192	33	49	7291
South Carolina	3134	758	230	4	23	16082	0.9	154	-1737	40	137	16259
South Dakota	166	3	-25	1	1	1079	0.3	-14	-3	24	3	1106
Tennessee	3304	804	-171	17	19	23318	0.9	82	-5462	131	205	23654
Texas	15661	2185	2520	108	173	169115	1.5	8821	33328	953	2648	172716
Utah	1105	108	20	62	4	8519	0.7	-213	-863	321	58	8898
Vermont	309	-37	-101	2	0	2837	1.0	-29	-382	13	10	2860
Virgin Islands	62	-27	-3	0	1	992	2.7	154	98	4	8	1004
Virginia	2922	-66	-601	12	29	25911	0.7	162	-5373	273	657	26841
Washington	6094	297	-174	25	85	42625	1.4	-2362	-1834	287	1012	43924
West Virginia	914	-13	79	2	5	12689	1.9	-157	1430	77	77	12843
Wisconsin	5034	-278	-237	1	9	32591	1.2	-1030	-6113	97	82	32770
Wyoming	380	39	135	0	3	4006	1.4	155	1607	11	54	4071
Totals	219339	20436	-20441	867	1347	1938892	1.4	-3927	-176434	11063	17791	1967746

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 SEPTEMBER 19, 2015

STATES WITH AN INCREASE OF MORE THAN 1,000

State	Change	State Supplied Comment
CA	+3,725	Layoffs in the service and agriculture, forestry, fishing and hunting industries.
KS	+2,739	No comment.
TX	+2,185	Layoffs in the support and waste management and remediation service, and educational service industries.
NY	+1,878	Layoffs in the construction, public administration, and retail trade industries.

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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U.S. Department of Labor
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Washington, D.C. 20210
Release Number: USDL 15-1928-NAT

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