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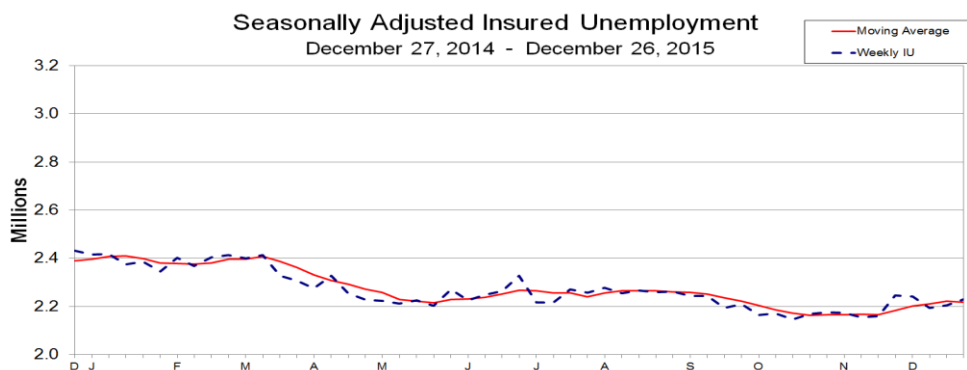
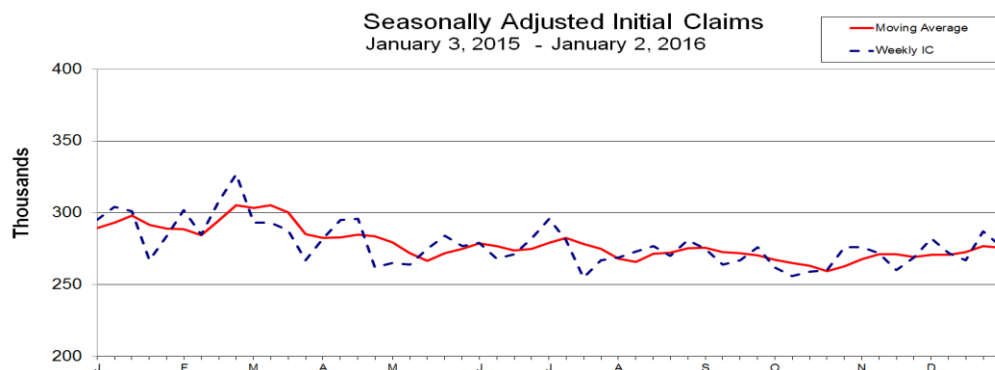
UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE WEEKLY CLAIMS

SEASONALLY ADJUSTED DATA

In the week ending January 2, the advance figure for seasonally adjusted **initial claims** was 277,000, a decrease of 10,000 from the previous week's unrevised level of 287,000. The 4-week moving average was 275,750, a decrease of 1,250 from the previous week's unrevised average of 277,000.

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

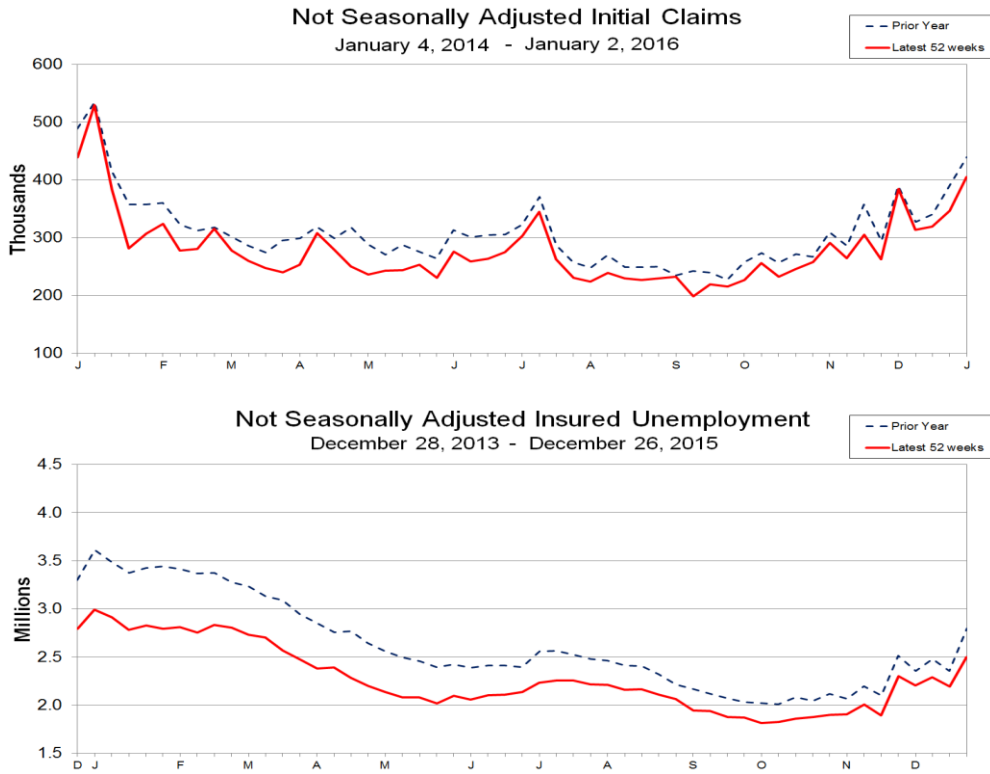
The advance seasonally adjusted **insured unemployment rate** was 1.6 percent for the week ending December 26, unchanged from the previous week's unrevised rate. The advance number for seasonally adjusted **insured unemployment** during the week ending December 26 was 2,230,000, an increase of 25,000 from the previous week's revised level. The previous week's level was revised up 7,000 from 2,198,000 to 2,205,000. The 4-week moving average was 2,218,000, a decrease of 4,000 from the previous week's revised average. The previous week's average was revised up by 1,750 from 2,220,250 to 2,222,000.



UNADJUSTED DATA

The advance number of actual initial claims under state programs, unadjusted, totaled 405,122 in the week ending January 2, an increase of 58,580 (or 16.9 percent) from the previous week. The seasonal factors had expected an increase of 74,423 (or 21.5 percent) from the previous week. There were 439,342 initial claims in the comparable week in 2015.

The advance unadjusted insured unemployment rate was 1.8 percent during the week ending December 26, an increase of 0.2 percentage point from the prior week. The advance unadjusted number for persons claiming UI benefits in state programs totaled 2,498,105, an increase of 306,423 (or 14.0 percent) from the preceding week. The seasonal factors had expected an increase of 277,819 (or 12.7 percent) from the previous week. A year earlier the rate was 2.1 percent and the volume was 2,795,271.



The total number of people claiming benefits in all programs for the week ending December 19 was 2,236,016, a decrease of 100,503 from the previous week. There were 2,406,694 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 December 19.

Initial claims for UI benefits filed by former Federal civilian employees totaled 890 in the week ending December 26, a decrease of 491 from the prior week. There were 730 initial claims filed by newly discharged veterans, a decrease of 475 from the preceding week.

There were 12,963 former Federal civilian employees claiming UI benefits for the week ending December 19, a decrease of 2,006 from the previous week. Newly discharged veterans claiming benefits totaled 15,603, a decrease of 1,734 from the prior week.

The highest insured unemployment rates in the week ending December 19 were in Alaska (4.3), New Jersey (2.7), Montana (2.6), Puerto Rico (2.6), Pennsylvania (2.5), West Virginia (2.5), Connecticut (2.3), Illinois (2.3), Nevada (2.3), and Massachusetts (2.2).

The largest increases in initial claims for the week ending December 26 were in New Jersey (+6,935), Michigan (+6,348), Kentucky (+5,497), Pennsylvania (+5,350), and Ohio (+3,901), while the largest decreases were in California (-9,900), Texas (-5,083), Florida (-2,474), North Carolina (-1,460), and Colorado (-1,272).

UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE DATA FOR REGULAR STATE PROGRAMS

WEEK ENDING	January 2	December 26	Change	December 19	<u>Prior Year</u>¹
Initial Claims (SA)	277,000	287,000	-10,000	267,000	295,000
Initial Claims (NSA)	405,122	346,542	+58,580	319,641	439,342
4-Wk Moving Average (SA)	275,750	277,000	-1,250	272,500	289,250
WEEK ENDING	December 26	December 19	Change	December 12	<u>Prior Year</u>¹
Insured Unemployment (SA)	2,230,000	2,205,000	+25,000	2,195,000	2,431,000
Insured Unemployment (NSA)	2,498,105	2,191,682	+306,423	2,286,725	2,795,271
4-Wk Moving Average (SA)	2,218,000	2,222,000	-4,000	2,211,000	2,390,500
<u>Insured Unemployment Rate (SA)</u>²	1.6%	1.6%	0.0	1.6%	1.8%
<u>Insured Unemployment Rate (NSA)</u>²	1.8%	1.6%	+0.2	1.7%	2.1%

INITIAL CLAIMS FILED IN FEDERAL PROGRAMS (UNADJUSTED)

WEEK ENDING	December 26	December 19	Change	<u>Prior Year</u>¹
Federal Employees (UCFE)	890	1,381	-491	1,021
Newly Discharged Veterans (UCX)	730	1,205	-475	916

PERSONS CLAIMING UI BENEFITS IN ALL PROGRAMS (UNADJUSTED)

WEEK ENDING	December 19	December 12	Change	<u>Prior Year</u>¹
Regular State	2,187,630	2,282,827	-95,197	2,349,433
Federal Employees	12,963	14,969	-2,006	16,528
Newly Discharged Veterans	15,603	17,337	-1,734	23,522
<u>Extended Benefits</u>³	0	0	0	5
<u>State Additional Benefits</u>⁴	6,853	7,440	-587	6,104
<u>STC / Workshare</u>⁵	12,967	13,946	-979	11,102
<u>TOTAL</u>	2,236,016	2,336,519	-100,503	2,406,694

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 135,574,808 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 January 2			Insured Unemployment For Week Ended December 26		
	Advance	Prior Wk	Change	Advance	Prior Wk	Change
Alabama	6,357	3,302	3,055	25,103	22,529	2,574
Alaska	1,283	1,182	101	15,253	13,643	1,610
Arizona	2,834	2,583	251	23,890	25,321	-1,431
Arkansas	4,174	4,390	-216	23,730	20,722	3,008
California	41,384	43,100	-1,716	383,616	333,886	49,730
Colorado	2,799	2,495	304	33,526	28,846	4,680
Connecticut	6,821	4,771	2,050	45,345	38,136	7,209
Delaware	1,678	871	807	7,922	6,225	1,697
District of Columbia	512	267	245	8,327	8,288	39
Florida	6,508	5,867	641	46,521	44,872	1,649
Georgia	17,855	5,987	11,868	46,112	32,418	13,694
Hawaii	1,627	1,113	514	7,243	5,901	1,342
Idaho	2,611	2,706	-95	12,409	11,830	579
Illinois	14,781	18,415	-3,634	149,431	128,329	21,102
Indiana	6,275	5,636	639	30,324	26,658	3,666
Iowa	10,353	7,584	2,769	34,614	27,277	7,337
Kansas	5,007	3,372	1,635	18,204	15,053	3,151
Kentucky	8,971	9,706	-735	12,304	21,478	-9,174
Louisiana	2,051	2,398	-347	24,634	22,682	1,952
Maine	1,832	1,251	581	9,961	8,969	992
Maryland	6,028	7,336	-1,308	41,366	39,870	1,496
Massachusetts	13,042	11,291	1,751	81,733	73,544	8,189
Michigan	18,915	17,634	1,281	77,326	71,942	5,384
Minnesota	9,861	8,685	1,176	76,377	59,940	16,437
Mississippi	1,866	2,833	-967	13,819	13,182	637
Missouri	9,122	8,951	171	38,504	33,097	5,407
Montana	1,818	1,784	34	13,403	11,264	2,139
Nebraska	2,298	1,806	492	8,377	7,125	1,252
Nevada	2,921	3,233	-312	27,307	27,958	-651
New Hampshire	1,401	1,383	18	5,764	5,381	383
New Jersey	19,729	18,101	1,628	114,925	100,856	14,069
New Mexico	906	1,426	-520	13,644	13,185	459
New York	34,631	19,251	15,380	194,933	168,167	26,766
North Carolina	4,824	3,163	1,661	29,432	29,072	360
North Dakota	1,614	1,394	220	12,089	6,900	5,189
Ohio	15,409	16,774	-1,365	87,232	75,655	11,577
Oklahoma	3,016	2,826	190	20,958	21,494	-536
Oregon	7,879	6,626	1,253	40,276	33,781	6,495
Pennsylvania	38,358	27,117	11,241	159,748	137,846	21,902
Puerto Rico	199	1,917	-1,718	21,959	22,893	-934
Rhode Island	2,159	2,641	-482	11,451	9,183	2,268
South Carolina	6,004	2,935	3,069	20,559	17,720	2,839
South Dakota	353	415	-62	2,961	2,893	68
Tennessee	6,711	4,249	2,462	26,656	24,784	1,872
Texas	12,954	10,933	2,021	183,629	160,420	23,209
Utah	1,905	1,782	123	13,972	13,947	25
Vermont	1,135	2,150	-1,015	6,956	4,688	2,268
Virgin Islands	8	12	-4	548	628	-80
Virginia	5,994	5,395	599	34,781	28,835	5,946
Washington	10,881	10,983	-102	70,165	59,869	10,296
West Virginia	1,345	1,714	-369	19,636	16,790	2,846
Wisconsin	15,308	12,089	3,219	62,308	49,655	12,653
Wyoming	815	717	98	6,842	6,055	787
US Total	405,122	346,542	58,580	2,498,105	2,191,682	306,423

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		
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	2,195	-49	2,236.25	1.6	
September 26, 2015	276	9	270.50	2,209	14	2,222.75	1.6	
October 3, 2015	262	-14	267.25	2,165	-44	2,203.25	1.6	
October 10, 2015	256	-6	265.25	2,172	7	2,185.25	1.6	
October 17, 2015	259	3	263.25	2,146	-26	2,173.00	1.6	
October 24, 2015	260	1	259.25	2,170	24	2,163.25	1.6	
October 31, 2015	276	16	262.75	2,177	7	2,166.25	1.6	
November 7, 2015	276	0	267.75	2,173	-4	2,166.50	1.6	
November 14, 2015	272	-4	271.00	2,155	-18	2,168.75	1.6	
November 21, 2015	260	-12	271.00	2,161	6	2,166.50	1.6	
November 28, 2015	269	9	269.25	2,246	85	2,183.75	1.7	
December 5, 2015	282	13	270.75	2,242	-4	2,201.00	1.7	
December 12, 2015	272	-10	270.75	2,195	-47	2,211.00	1.6	
December 19, 2015	267	-5	272.50	2,205	10	2,222.00	1.6	
December 26, 2015	287	20	277.00	2,230	25	2,218.00	1.6	
January 2, 2016	277	-10	275.75					

Initial Claims Filed During Week Ended December 26
INITIAL CLAIMS

Insured Unemployment For Week Ended December 19
INSURED UNEMPLOYMENT

STATE	CHANGE FROM						CHANGE FROM					ALL PROGRAMS EXCLUDING RAILROAD RETIREMENT
	STATE	LAST WEEK	YEAR AGO	UCFE ¹	UCX ¹	STATE	LAST WEEK	YEAR AGO	UCFE ¹	UCX ¹		
Alabama	3302	-27	-928	12	9	22529	1.2	270	-2685	83	176	22788
Alaska	1182	-246	-49	7	0	13643	4.3	-1598	302	218	45	13906
Arizona	2583	-1262	-89	20	8	25321	1.0	-1476	-3147	292	170	25783
Arkansas	4390	932	-495	5	5	20722	1.8	-242	-1896	115	169	21006
California	43100	-9900	-10945	142	115	333886	2.1	-53604	-43345	2391	2784	339061
Colorado	2495	-1272	259	12	26	28846	1.2	-1364	-1257	321	645	29812
Connecticut	4771	54	-2723	1	5	38136	2.3	341	-6062	57	150	38343
Delaware	871	74	-325	1	2	6225	1.5	-2	-889	18	28	6271
District of Columbia	267	-104	2	4	0	8288	1.5	-37	-1040	303	15	8606
Florida	5867	-2474	-2394	17	44	44872	0.6	-9027	-19969	144	300	45316
Georgia	5987	-1022	-1380	21	32	32418	0.8	-3695	-5086	267	400	33085
Hawaii	1113	66	-429	5	7	5901	1.0	-328	-2275	78	146	6125
Idaho	2706	287	-28	26	2	11830	1.9	260	-1401	279	38	12147
Illinois	18415	1211	799	12	12	128329	2.3	-6683	-3340	309	424	129062
Indiana	5636	266	-525	1	5	26658	0.9	419	-4802	103	121	26882
Iowa	7584	2699	-2744	5	2	27277	1.8	2111	-389	54	89	27420
Kansas	3372	-80	-384	4	3	15053	1.1	881	-2268	71	127	15251
Kentucky	9706	5497	1346	32	14	21478	1.2	-1398	-1200	246	252	21976
Louisiana	2398	-277	832	4	8	22682	1.2	893	2354	57	66	22805
Maine	1251	-286	-424	3	3	8969	1.6	297	-2604	44	34	9047
Maryland	7336	2587	-1356	15	11	39870	1.6	369	-9094	351	267	40488
Massachusetts	11291	2053	-2834	7	15	73544	2.2	2100	-9855	244	306	74094
Michigan	17634	6348	-7595	22	17	71942	1.8	-3516	-4403	220	269	72431
Minnesota	8685	1630	1387	7	10	59940	2.2	2310	1359	157	174	60271
Mississippi	2833	570	-205	1	2	13182	1.2	-92	-763	62	61	13305
Missouri	8951	2453	-2707	51	12	33097	1.3	1834	-6896	491	121	33709
Montana	1784	-25	49	29	0	11264	2.6	-728	341	476	56	11796
Nebraska	1806	36	-841	5	0	7125	0.8	482	-2323	28	29	7182
Nevada	3233	-280	-681	9	2	27958	2.3	788	-3032	225	170	28353
New Hampshire	1383	430	-514	0	1	5381	0.9	244	-1643	10	7	5398
New Jersey	18101	6935	-3592	3	11	100856	2.7	-838	-11523	274	490	101620
New Mexico	1426	135	-157	7	4	13185	1.7	-237	207	301	84	13570
New York	19251	866	-745	33	47	168167	1.9	3376	-16800	415	789	169371
North Carolina	3163	-1460	-292	7	12	29072	0.7	-589	-8319	157	374	29603
North Dakota	1394	-246	273	2	5	6900	1.6	741	2014	17	4	6921
Ohio	16774	3901	-374	13	34	75655	1.5	4510	-2714	139	415	76209
Oklahoma	2826	727	635	3	3	21494	1.4	45	6406	65	150	21709
Oregon	6626	416	-471	64	15	33781	2.0	-1027	-3856	664	302	34747
Pennsylvania	27117	5350	-1932	56	52	137846	2.5	-10572	-2607	554	584	138984
Puerto Rico	1917	115	290	14	2	22893	2.6	-3349	-4174	53	155	23101
Rhode Island	2641	1224	-585	3	1	9183	2.0	231	-1457	16	31	9230
South Carolina	2935	-791	1389	7	9	17720	0.9	-131	-840	52	134	17906
South Dakota	415	-156	47	3	2	2893	0.7	312	-27	37	7	2937
Tennessee	4249	160	-1112	20	5	24784	0.9	1030	-3214	190	192	25166
Texas	10933	-5083	2884	24	81	160420	1.4	-17416	40268	674	2460	163554
Utah	1782	-710	-76	79	0	13947	1.1	1096	785	379	61	14387
Vermont	2150	1481	134	3	0	4688	1.6	-53	-1484	20	4	4712
Virgin Islands	12	-18	-2	1	1	628	1.7	-20	42	6	10	644
Virginia	5395	-532	631	16	10	28835	0.8	815	-3895	328	618	29781
Washington	10983	2139	70	39	55	59869	2.0	-1534	-3160	558	912	61339
West Virginia	1714	-282	323	0	3	16790	2.5	-789	1919	85	73	16948
Wisconsin	12089	2917	-4672	5	4	49655	1.8	249	-12846	143	89	49887
Wyoming	717	-125	40	8	2	6055	2.2	-702	1969	122	26	6203
Totals	346542	26901	-43215	890	730	2191682	1.6	-95043	-160614	12963	15603	2220248

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 DECEMBER 26, 2015

STATES WITH AN INCREASE OF MORE THAN 1,000

State	Change	State Supplied Comment
NJ	+6,935	Layoffs in the accommodation and food service, educational services, transportation and warehousing, construction, and manufacturing industries.
MI	+6,348	Layoffs in the manufacturing industry.
KY	+5,497	No comment.
PA	+5,350	Layoffs in the transportation and warehousing, manufacturing, construction, accommodation and food service industries.
OH	+3,901	Layoffs in the manufacturing and retail trade industries.
WI	+2,917	No comment.
IA	+2,699	Layoffs in the construction industry.
MD	+2,587	No comment.
MO	+2,453	Layoffs in the transportation and warehousing, accommodation and food service, and manufacturing industries.
WA	+2,139	Layoffs in the agriculture, forestry, fishing and hunting, manufacturing, wholesale trade, and transportation and warehousing industries.
MA	+2,053	Layoffs in the transportation and warehousing, and accommodation and food service industries.
MN	+1,630	No comment.
VT	+1,481	No comment.
RI	+1,224	Layoffs in the educational service industry.
IL	+1,211	Layoffs in the construction, manufacturing, and transportation and warehousing industries.

STATES WITH A DECREASE OF MORE THAN 1,000

State	Change	State Supplied Comment
CA	-9,900	Fewer layoffs in the service and agriculture, forestry, fishing and hunting industries.
TX	-5,083	No comment.
FL	-2,474	Fewer layoffs in the agriculture, construction, manufacturing, wholesale trade, retail trade, and service industries.
NC	-1,460	Fewer layoffs in the accommodation and food service, and professional, scientific, and technical service industries.
CO	-1,272	No comment.
AZ	-1,262	No comment.
GA	-1,022	Fewer layoffs in the manufacturing, trade, health care and social service, and administrative and support and waste management and remediation service industries.

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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