



News Release

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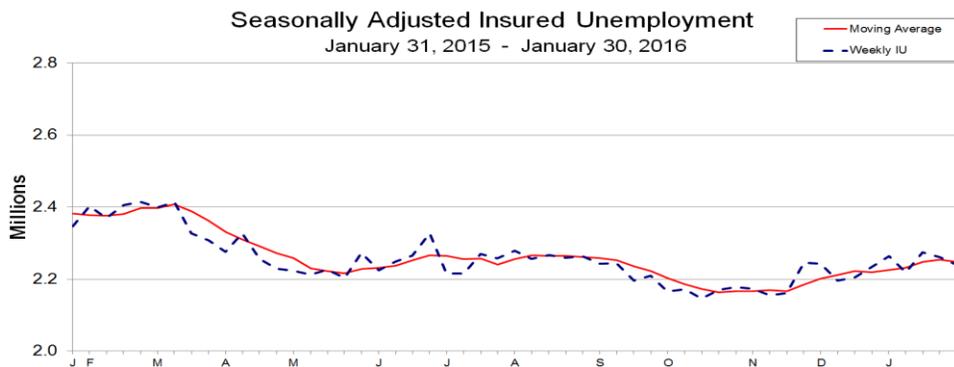
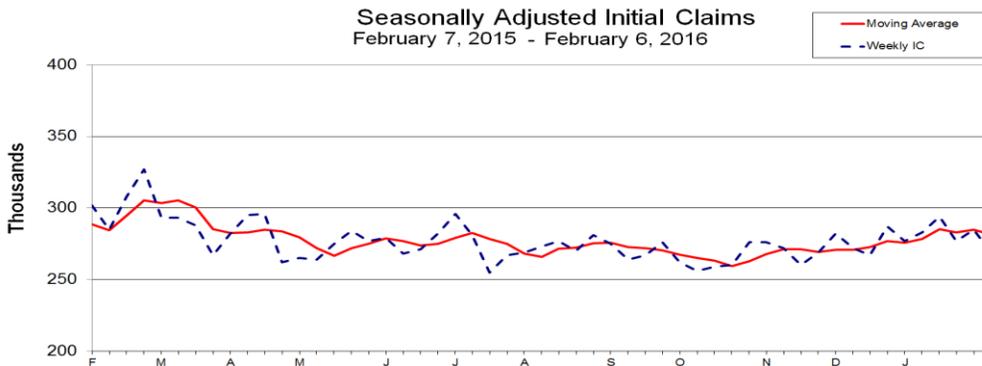
UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE WEEKLY CLAIMS

SEASONALLY ADJUSTED DATA

In the week ending February 6, the advance figure for seasonally adjusted **initial claims** was 269,000, a decrease of 16,000 from the previous week's unrevised level of 285,000. The 4-week moving average was 281,250, a decrease of 3,500 from the previous week's unrevised average of 284,750.

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

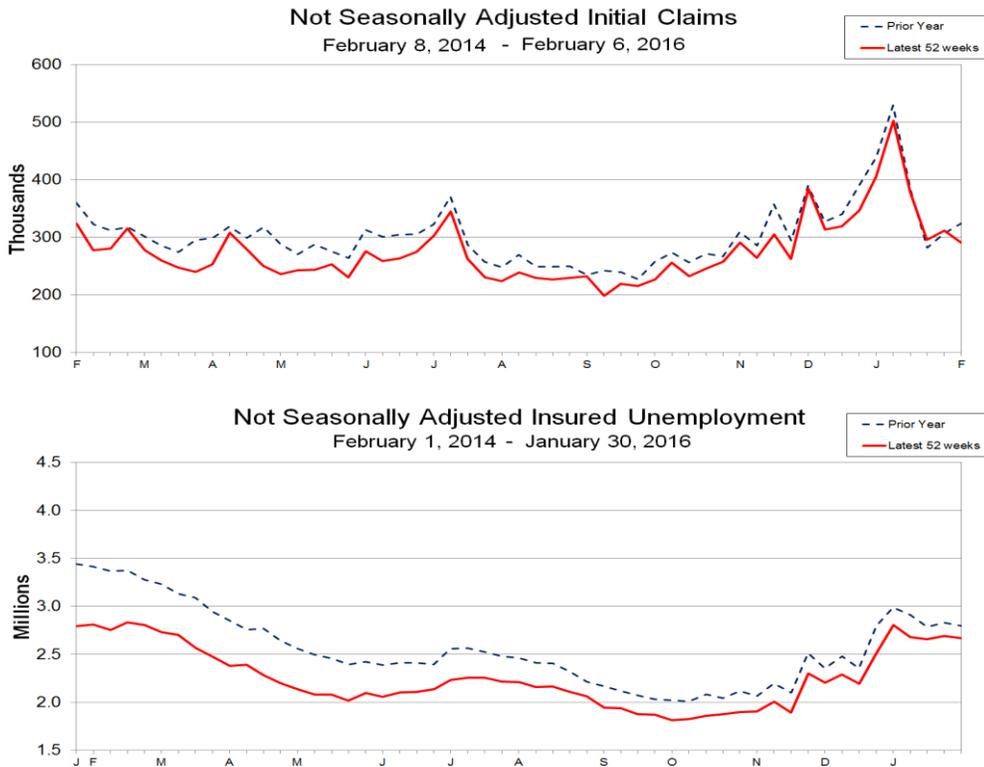
The advance seasonally adjusted **insured unemployment rate** was 1.6 percent for the week ending January 30, a decrease of 0.1 percentage point from the previous week's unrevised rate. The advance number for seasonally adjusted **insured unemployment** during the week ending January 30 was 2,239,000, a decrease of 21,000 from the previous week's revised level. The previous week's level was revised up 5,000 from 2,255,000 to 2,260,000. The 4-week moving average was 2,248,000, a decrease of 6,250 from the previous week's revised average. The previous week's average was revised up by 1,500 from 2,252,750 to 2,254,250.



UNADJUSTED DATA

The advance number of actual initial claims under state programs, unadjusted, totaled 290,804 in the week ending February 6, a decrease of 21,136 (or -6.8 percent) from the previous week. The seasonal factors had expected a decrease of 3,988 (or -1.3 percent) from the previous week. There were 324,158 initial claims in the comparable week in 2015.

The advance unadjusted insured unemployment rate was 2.0 percent during the week ending January 30, unchanged from the prior week. The advance unadjusted number for persons claiming UI benefits in state programs totaled 2,667,113, a decrease of 21,745 (or -0.8 percent) from the preceding week. The seasonal factors had expected an increase of 2,260 (or 0.1 percent) from the previous week. A year earlier the rate was 2.1 percent and the volume was 2,795,972.



The total number of people claiming benefits in all programs for the week ending January 23 was 2,739,533, an increase of 35,680 from the previous week. There were 2,885,992 persons claiming benefits in all programs in the comparable week in 2015.

No state was triggered "on" the Extended Benefits program during the week ending January 23.

Initial claims for UI benefits filed by former Federal civilian employees totaled 1,022 in the week ending January 30, an increase of 85 from the prior week. There were 1,180 initial claims filed by newly discharged veterans, an increase of 102 from the preceding week.

There were 15,233 former Federal civilian employees claiming UI benefits for the week ending January 23, an increase of 1,202 from the previous week. Newly discharged veterans claiming benefits totaled 16,304, an increase of 127 from the prior week.

The highest insured unemployment rates in the week ending January 23 were in Alaska (4.8), West Virginia (3.6), Montana (3.4), New Jersey (3.3), Connecticut (3.1), Pennsylvania (3.1), Puerto Rico (3.0), Illinois (2.9), Massachusetts (2.9), and Wyoming (2.9).

The largest increases in initial claims for the week ending January 30 were in Illinois (+5,092), Tennessee (+4,211), Pennsylvania (+4,055), Maryland (+2,463), and New Jersey (+2,129), while the largest decreases were in California (-2,873), Wisconsin (-1,246), Minnesota (-978), Michigan (-743), and Missouri (-738).

UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE DATA FOR REGULAR STATE PROGRAMS

WEEK ENDING	February 6	January 30	Change	January 23	<u>Prior Year</u>¹
Initial Claims (SA)	269,000	285,000	-16,000	277,000	302,000
Initial Claims (NSA)	290,804	311,940	-21,136	295,936	324,158
4-Wk Moving Average (SA)	281,250	284,750	-3,500	282,750	288,500
WEEK ENDING	January 30	January 23	Change	January 16	<u>Prior Year</u>¹
Insured Unemployment (SA)	2,239,000	2,260,000	-21,000	2,274,000	2,346,000
Insured Unemployment (NSA)	2,667,113	2,688,858	-21,745	2,657,874	2,795,972
4-Wk Moving Average (SA)	2,248,000	2,254,250	-6,250	2,247,750	2,381,500
<u>Insured Unemployment Rate (SA)</u> ²	1.6%	1.7%	-0.1	1.7%	1.8%
<u>Insured Unemployment Rate (NSA)</u> ²	2.0%	2.0%	0.0	2.0%	2.1%

INITIAL CLAIMS FILED IN FEDERAL PROGRAMS (UNADJUSTED)

WEEK ENDING	January 30	January 23	Change	<u>Prior Year</u>¹
Federal Employees (UCFE)	1,022	937	+85	1,125
Newly Discharged Veterans (UCX)	1,180	1,078	+102	1,521

PERSONS CLAIMING UI BENEFITS IN ALL PROGRAMS (UNADJUSTED)

WEEK ENDING	January 23	January 16	Change	<u>Prior Year</u>¹
Regular State	2,683,949	2,653,564	+30,385	2,824,330
Federal Employees	15,233	14,031	+1,202	17,749
Newly Discharged Veterans	16,304	16,177	+127	24,761
<u>Extended Benefits</u> ³	0	0	0	1
<u>State Additional Benefits</u> ⁴	7,285	6,922	+363	6,863
<u>STC / Workshare</u> ⁵	16,762	13,159	+3,603	12,288
<u>TOTAL</u>	2,739,533	2,703,853	+35,680	2,885,992

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 136,270,223 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 February 6			Insured Unemployment For Week Ended January 30		
	Advance	Prior Wk	Change	Advance	Prior Wk	Change
Alabama	2,700	3,392	-692	21,930	24,259	-2,329
Alaska	1,436	1,478	-42	14,683	15,266	-583
Arizona	4,088	4,348	-260	24,545	27,908	-3,363
Arkansas	2,189	2,995	-806	20,734	23,139	-2,405
California	49,539	50,563	-1,024	421,024	426,884	-5,860
Colorado	3,334	3,069	265	35,786	33,158	2,628
Connecticut	4,086	4,979	-893	51,474	50,371	1,103
Delaware	898	1,055	-157	8,997	9,530	-533
District of Columbia	657	317	340	8,229	8,570	-341
Florida	8,203	8,069	134	44,472	52,301	-7,829
Georgia	7,078	8,857	-1,779	36,106	39,734	-3,628
Hawaii	1,173	1,117	56	6,598	6,247	351
Idaho	1,536	1,818	-282	13,222	14,722	-1,500
Illinois	12,569	17,993	-5,424	165,927	166,768	-841
Indiana	4,002	4,826	-824	36,869	36,508	361
Iowa	3,251	3,121	130	37,764	36,710	1,054
Kansas	2,495	2,509	-14	19,587	20,252	-665
Kentucky	3,232	3,710	-478	31,296	29,229	2,067
Louisiana	2,633	3,083	-450	23,071	23,287	-216
Maine	1,014	1,160	-146	12,688	12,610	78
Maryland	4,989	7,275	-2,286	47,118	47,194	-76
Massachusetts	6,587	7,084	-497	92,631	95,455	-2,824
Michigan	9,373	9,245	128	95,985	96,591	-606
Minnesota	4,543	4,267	276	74,667	70,492	4,175
Mississippi	1,437	1,586	-149	12,218	14,225	-2,007
Missouri	4,601	6,131	-1,530	39,085	45,145	-6,060
Montana	1,174	1,274	-100	14,034	14,648	-614
Nebraska	983	998	-15	9,125	9,076	49
Nevada	3,447	3,068	379	25,771	27,576	-1,805
New Hampshire	767	901	-134	6,434	6,868	-434
New Jersey	10,535	12,065	-1,530	132,506	125,818	6,688
New Mexico	1,248	1,271	-23	13,884	14,642	-758
New York	20,182	19,994	188	201,503	199,487	2,016
North Carolina	4,660	4,585	75	31,144	33,121	-1,977
North Dakota	1,495	907	588	14,215	9,921	4,294
Ohio	9,367	11,019	-1,652	94,394	94,808	-414
Oklahoma	2,165	2,278	-113	13,670	22,440	-8,770
Oregon	5,558	5,765	-207	37,267	37,114	153
Pennsylvania	22,786	24,951	-2,165	188,393	172,917	15,476
Puerto Rico	1,950	1,950	0	22,896	26,875	-3,979
Rhode Island	2,214	1,422	792	13,347	12,827	520
South Carolina	2,727	3,150	-423	18,284	19,523	-1,239
South Dakota	275	300	-25	3,551	3,700	-149
Tennessee	4,692	8,001	-3,309	29,342	30,205	-863
Texas	19,714	17,635	2,079	175,379	179,310	-3,931
Utah	1,632	1,559	73	15,673	15,526	147
Vermont	647	635	12	7,175	6,739	436
Virgin Islands	37	35	2	504	628	-124
Virginia	5,269	4,528	741	36,203	33,373	2,830
Washington	8,122	7,569	553	67,398	65,674	1,724
West Virginia	2,173	2,320	-147	25,872	24,530	1,342
Wisconsin	8,359	8,925	-566	64,579	66,800	-2,221
Wyoming	983	788	195	7,864	8,157	-293
US Total	290,804	311,940	-21,136	2,667,113	2,688,858	-21,745

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		
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	2,234	29	2,219.00	1.6	
January 2, 2016	277	-10	275.75	2,264	30	2,224.50	1.7	
January 9, 2016	283	6	278.50	2,219	-45	2,230.50	1.6	
January 16, 2016	294	11	285.25	2,274	55	2,247.75	1.7	
January 23, 2016	277	-17	282.75	2,260	-14	2,254.25	1.7	
January 30, 2016	285	8	284.75	2,239	-21	2,248.00	1.6	
February 6, 2016	269	-16	281.25					

Initial Claims Filed During Week Ended January 30
INITIAL CLAIMS

Insured Unemployment For Week Ended January 23
INSURED UNEMPLOYMENT

STATE	STATE	CHANGE FROM				STATE	STATE	CHANGE FROM				ALL PROGRAMS EXCLUDING RAILROAD RETIREMENT
		LAST WEEK	YEAR AGO	UCFE ¹	UCX ¹			LAST WEEK	YEAR AGO	UCFE ¹	UCX ¹	
Alabama	3392	166	189	15	19	24259	1.3	414	-1132	68	171	24498
Alaska	1478	2	-47	4	1	15266	4.8	-22	349	246	62	15574
Arizona	4348	134	281	17	15	27908	1.1	819	-2422	286	168	28362
Arkansas	2995	646	436	2	6	23139	2.0	1366	-1516	119	161	23419
California	50563	-2873	-8110	244	195	426884	2.7	21604	-41673	3503	3142	433529
Colorado	3069	-62	-131	23	42	33158	1.4	-1487	-1662	423	613	34194
Connecticut	4979	341	121	13	12	50371	3.1	1799	-3114	66	150	50587
Delaware	1055	65	92	3	5	9530	2.3	1627	-899	24	33	9587
District of Columbia	317	23	-76	6	0	8570	1.6	108	-1003	291	19	8880
Florida	8069	-156	-2446	17	69	52301	0.7	534	-19546	182	376	52859
Georgia	8857	2084	-156	25	61	39734	1.0	731	-6597	204	519	40457
Hawaii	1117	123	-431	4	20	6247	1.0	-141	-2887	86	147	6480
Idaho	1818	-81	-657	24	8	14722	2.3	548	-802	357	54	15133
Illinois	17993	5092	6351	14	26	166768	2.9	1181	-1061	355	499	167622
Indiana	4826	-67	-65	14	15	36508	1.3	1101	-3798	118	121	36747
Iowa	3121	-227	652	3	6	36710	2.4	619	1817	62	96	36868
Kansas	2509	-473	-30	3	9	20252	1.5	1163	-1642	73	120	20445
Kentucky	3710	-204	532	8	11	29229	1.6	-349	-611	331	310	29870
Louisiana	3083	151	407	2	12	23287	1.2	-242	1532	68	71	23426
Maine	1160	-87	-197	4	1	12610	2.2	315	-2905	57	36	12703
Maryland	7275	2463	2097	14	6	47194	1.9	617	-9589	361	266	47821
Massachusetts	7084	-371	-406	15	26	95455	2.9	2336	-7815	240	327	96022
Michigan	9245	-743	-1175	27	26	96591	2.4	-8881	-7632	328	243	97162
Minnesota	4267	-978	45	8	3	70492	2.6	-301	3324	171	183	70846
Mississippi	1586	12	-82	16	6	14225	1.3	221	-466	94	51	14370
Missouri	6131	-738	600	17	4	45145	1.7	809	-4853	318	118	45581
Montana	1274	3	17	29	7	14648	3.4	353	710	716	68	15432
Nebraska	998	-147	-46	2	0	9076	1.0	-346	-1502	30	27	9133
Nevada	3068	215	-492	10	2	27576	2.3	278	1058	237	147	27960
New Hampshire	901	72	21	0	2	6868	1.1	105	-1547	7	12	6887
New Jersey	12065	2129	2425	16	21	125818	3.3	4198	-10669	306	483	126607
New Mexico	1271	18	48	8	6	14642	1.9	343	224	363	83	15088
New York	19994	-417	401	49	59	199487	2.3	1273	-18790	420	740	200647
North Carolina	4585	861	-842	15	31	33121	0.8	342	-10303	167	328	33616
North Dakota	907	-139	265	3	3	9921	2.3	-208	2917	23	17	9961
Ohio	11019	615	1115	14	39	94808	1.8	596	1526	140	468	95416
Oklahoma	2278	366	324	5	11	22440	1.5	241	6124	64	146	22650
Oregon	5765	453	-750	60	29	37114	2.1	-276	-4074	833	284	38231
Pennsylvania	24951	4055	2914	97	54	172917	3.1	-10493	-2092	664	595	174176
Puerto Rico	1950	-261	-476	4	9	26875	3.0	-363	-1429	59	204	27138
Rhode Island	1422	-460	120	3	1	12827	2.8	624	-1011	19	26	12872
South Carolina	3150	329	-263	16	21	19523	1.0	-36	-792	42	143	19708
South Dakota	300	-26	1	5	1	3700	0.9	66	0	41	11	3752
Tennessee	8001	4211	3445	22	20	30205	1.1	1251	-4277	160	140	30505
Texas	17635	797	-346	36	154	179310	1.6	3568	32937	687	2520	182517
Utah	1559	-19	-144	16	4	15526	1.2	108	-507	381	46	15953
Vermont	635	-118	-43	3	0	6739	2.3	-13	-677	26	3	6768
Virgin Islands	35	6	-18	0	0	628	1.7	76	38	6	16	650
Virginia	4528	434	59	5	17	33373	1.0	80	-5433	334	566	34273
Washington	7569	-249	-438	41	68	65674	2.2	-419	-1388	632	972	67278
West Virginia	2320	247	559	3	5	24530	3.6	2122	5555	86	70	24686
Wisconsin	8925	-1246	-541	16	10	66800	2.4	837	-11560	158	94	67052
Wyoming	788	33	188	2	2	8157	2.9	188	2806	201	39	8397
Totals	311940	16004	5297	1022	1180	2688858	2	30984	-138759	15233	16304	2720395

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 JANUARY 30, 2016

STATES WITH AN INCREASE OF MORE THAN 1,000

State	Change	State Supplied Comment
IL	+5,092	Layoffs in the manufacturing, construction, and administrative, support, waste management and remediation service industries.
TN	+4,211	Layoffs in the construction, administrative, support, waste management and remediation service, and accommodation and food service industries.
PA	+4,055	Layoffs in the transportation and warehousing and construction industries.
MD	+2,463	No comment.
NJ	+2,129	Layoffs in the construction, transportation and warehousing, trade, manufacturing, and health care and social assistance industries.
GA	+2,084	Layoffs in the trade, manufacturing, and administrative, support, waste management and remediation service industries.

STATES WITH A DECREASE OF MORE THAN 1,000

State	Change	State Supplied Comment
CA	-2,873	Fewer layoffs in the agriculture, forestry, fishing and hunting industry.
WI	-1,246	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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