



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, May 19, 2016

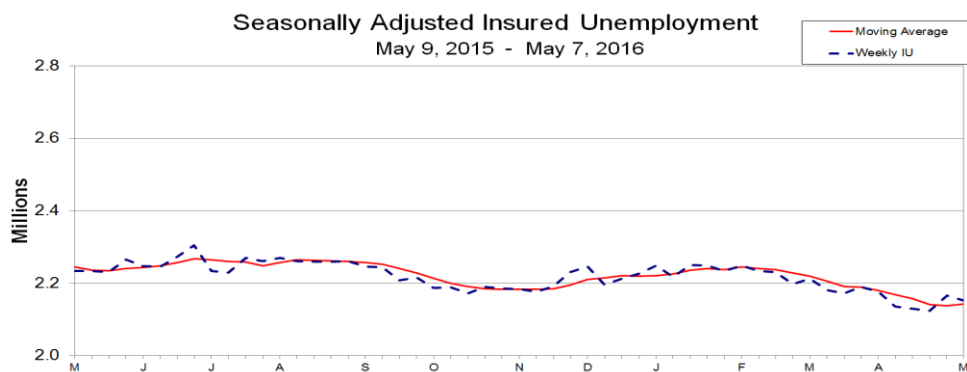
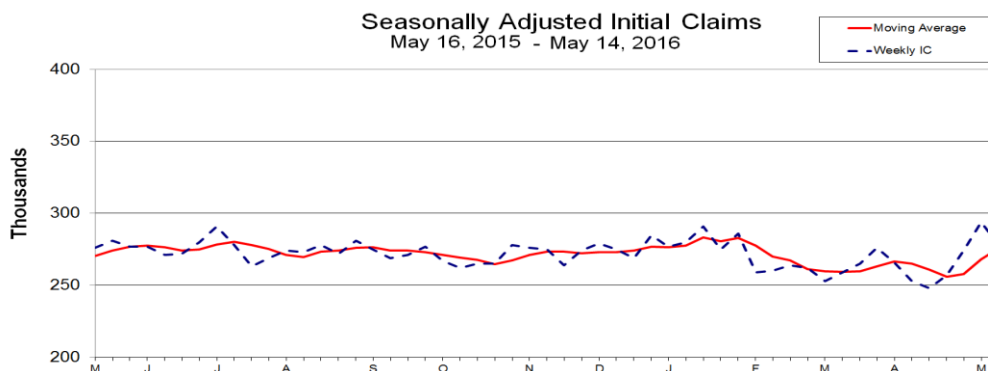
UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE WEEKLY CLAIMS

SEASONALLY ADJUSTED DATA

In the week ending May 14, the advance figure for seasonally adjusted **initial claims** was 278,000, a decrease of 16,000 from the previous week's unrevised level of 294,000. The 4-week moving average was 275,750, an increase of 7,500 from the previous week's unrevised average of 268,250.

There were no special factors impacting this week's initial claims. This marks 63 consecutive weeks of initial claims below 300,000, the longest streak since 1973.

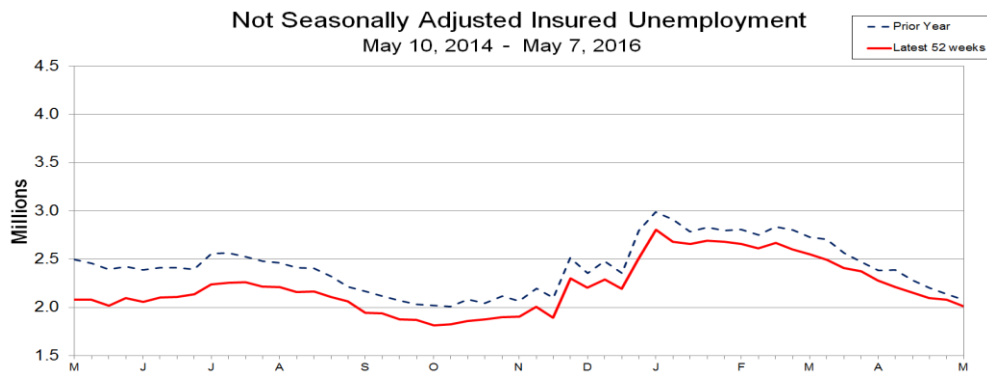
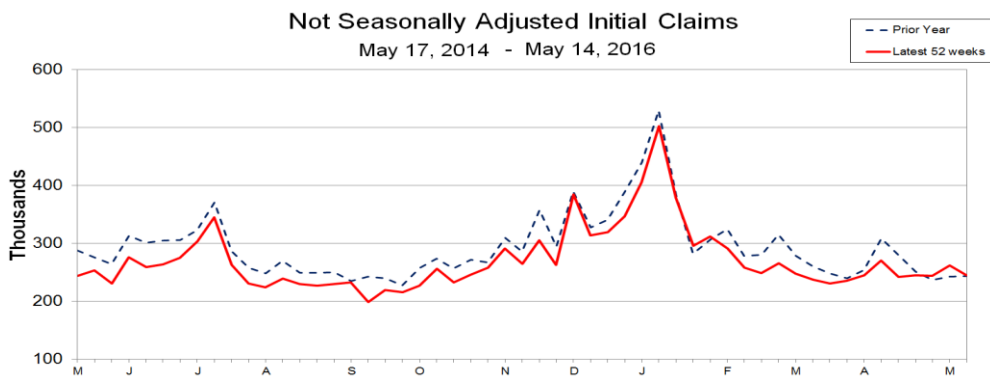
The advance seasonally adjusted **insured unemployment rate** was 1.6 percent for the week ending May 7, unchanged from the previous week's unrevised rate. The advance number for seasonally adjusted **insured unemployment** during the week ending May 7 was 2,152,000, a decrease of 13,000 from the previous week's revised level. The previous week's level was revised up 4,000 from 2,161,000 to 2,165,000. The 4-week moving average was 2,142,500, an increase of 4,250 from the previous week's revised average. The previous week's average was revised up by 1,000 from 2,137,250 to 2,138,250.



UNADJUSTED DATA

The advance number of actual initial claims under state programs, unadjusted, totaled 244,797 in the week ending May 14, a decrease of 17,099 (or -6.5 percent) from the previous week. The seasonal factors had expected a decrease of 3,230 (or -1.2 percent) from the previous week. There were 243,612 initial claims in the comparable week in 2015.

The advance unadjusted insured unemployment rate was 1.5 percent during the week ending May 7, unchanged from the prior week. The advance unadjusted number for persons claiming UI benefits in state programs totaled 2,013,838, a decrease of 66,716 (or -3.2 percent) from the preceding week. The seasonal factors had expected a decrease of 54,125 (or -2.6 percent) from the previous week. A year earlier the rate was 1.6 percent and the volume was 2,079,285.



The total number of people claiming benefits in all programs for the week ending April 30 was 2,122,480, a decrease of 13,598 from the previous week. There were 2,195,709 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 April 30.

Initial claims for UI benefits filed by former Federal civilian employees totaled 665 in the week ending May 7, an increase of 53 from the prior week. There were 1,200 initial claims filed by newly discharged veterans, an increase of 221 from the preceding week.

There were 8,566 former Federal civilian employees claiming UI benefits for the week ending April 30, a decrease of 46 from the previous week. Newly discharged veterans claiming benefits totaled 13,378, a decrease of 301 from the prior week.

The highest insured unemployment rates in the week ending April 30 were in Alaska (3.8), Wyoming (3.0), West Virginia (2.5), New Jersey (2.4), California (2.3), Pennsylvania (2.3), Puerto Rico (2.3), Connecticut (2.2), Illinois (2.2), and Massachusetts (2.0).

The largest increases in initial claims for the week ending May 7 were in New York (+14,494), Pennsylvania (+3,547), Michigan (+3,278), Georgia (+1,555), and Texas (+941), while the largest decreases were in Kansas (-3,216), Ohio (-2,525), Missouri (-1,218), Tennessee (-952), and California (-821).

UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE DATA FOR REGULAR STATE PROGRAMS

WEEK ENDING	May 14	May 7	Change	April 30	<u>Prior Year</u>¹
Initial Claims (SA)	278,000	294,000	-16,000	274,000	276,000
Initial Claims (NSA)	244,797	261,896	-17,099	243,379	243,612
4-Wk Moving Average (SA)	275,750	268,250	+7,500	258,000	270,500
WEEK ENDING	May 7	April 30	Change	April 23	<u>Prior Year</u>¹
Insured Unemployment (SA)	2,152,000	2,165,000	-13,000	2,124,000	2,233,000
Insured Unemployment (NSA)	2,013,838	2,080,554	-66,716	2,094,381	2,079,285
4-Wk Moving Average (SA)	2,142,500	2,138,250	+4,250	2,141,000	2,244,250
<u>Insured Unemployment Rate (SA)</u> ²	1.6%	1.6%	0.0	1.6%	1.7%
<u>Insured Unemployment Rate (NSA)</u> ²	1.5%	1.5%	0.0	1.5%	1.6%

INITIAL CLAIMS FILED IN FEDERAL PROGRAMS (UNADJUSTED)

WEEK ENDING	May 7	April 30	Change	<u>Prior Year</u>¹
Federal Employees (UCFE)	665	612	+53	767
Newly Discharged Veterans (UCX)	1,200	979	+221	1,370

PERSONS CLAIMING UI BENEFITS IN ALL PROGRAMS (UNADJUSTED)

WEEK ENDING	April 30	April 23	Change	<u>Prior Year</u>¹
Regular State	2,075,235	2,089,222	-13,987	2,132,228
Federal Employees	8,566	8,612	-46	11,409
Newly Discharged Veterans	13,378	13,679	-301	19,741
<u>Extended Benefits</u> ³	0	0	0	0
<u>State Additional Benefits</u> ⁴	8,209	7,901	+308	7,871
<u>STC / Workshare</u> ⁵	17,092	16,664	+428	24,460
<u>TOTAL</u>	2,122,480	2,136,078	-13,598	2,195,709

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 136,969,042 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 May 14			Insured Unemployment For Week Ended May 7		
	Advance	Prior Wk	Change	Advance	Prior Wk	Change
Alabama	2,905	2,982	-77	18,514	19,501	-987
Alaska	1,309	1,096	213	10,900	11,965	-1,065
Arizona	4,182	4,572	-390	29,241	32,936	-3,695
Arkansas	2,314	2,591	-277	15,014	16,337	-1,323
California	43,998	41,853	2,145	371,787	373,021	-1,234
Colorado	2,295	2,694	-399	29,515	29,698	-183
Connecticut	3,315	3,354	-39	36,731	35,855	876
Delaware	655	601	54	5,936	5,649	287
District of Columbia	659	304	355	7,056	7,289	-233
Florida	7,749	8,263	-514	39,401	45,454	-6,053
Georgia	6,513	7,108	-595	29,851	30,691	-840
Hawaii	1,256	1,217	39	6,937	6,734	203
Idaho	875	945	-70	6,018	7,033	-1,015
Illinois	9,736	10,326	-590	114,545	126,081	-11,536
Indiana	3,382	2,684	698	22,291	21,805	486
Iowa	2,918	2,132	786	18,641	18,699	-58
Kansas	2,500	1,923	577	15,454	15,525	-71
Kentucky	2,871	2,965	-94	21,753	21,887	-134
Louisiana	2,396	2,825	-429	22,908	22,633	275
Maine	698	802	-104	7,183	7,877	-694
Maryland	3,222	4,091	-869	32,250	35,279	-3,029
Massachusetts	5,346	5,566	-220	65,635	67,829	-2,194
Michigan	8,613	12,433	-3,820	56,135	55,318	817
Minnesota	3,752	3,620	132	39,438	41,591	-2,153
Mississippi	1,883	2,189	-306	10,571	11,010	-439
Missouri	8,193	4,174	4,019	20,532	22,736	-2,204
Montana	879	806	73	6,772	8,166	-1,394
Nebraska	898	660	238	4,152	4,316	-164
Nevada	2,696	2,390	306	21,059	23,585	-2,526
New Hampshire	507	631	-124	4,179	5,227	-1,048
New Jersey	8,925	9,084	-159	93,511	93,600	-89
New Mexico	966	1,069	-103	13,092	13,672	-580
New York	17,261	33,006	-15,745	151,349	168,113	-16,764
North Carolina	4,262	3,858	404	24,045	25,085	-1,040
North Dakota	698	640	58	7,973	5,561	2,412
Ohio	7,597	7,521	76	61,627	62,118	-491
Oklahoma	2,019	2,046	-27	23,109	23,788	-679
Oregon	3,337	3,248	89	27,242	27,940	-698
Pennsylvania	17,849	18,550	-701	126,640	125,960	680
Puerto Rico	1,443	1,812	-369	20,710	20,726	-16
Rhode Island	848	748	100	8,776	8,927	-151
South Carolina	2,975	2,920	55	13,420	14,046	-626
South Dakota	222	204	18	1,295	1,536	-241
Tennessee	1,410	3,116	-1,706	20,035	22,170	-2,135
Texas	17,620	17,074	546	178,810	180,372	-1,562
Utah	1,130	1,213	-83	9,802	10,224	-422
Vermont	511	527	-16	4,781	5,025	-244
Virgin Islands	39	54	-15	544	550	-6
Virginia	4,013	3,630	383	29,599	29,475	124
Washington	6,342	6,620	-278	49,210	50,355	-1,145
West Virginia	1,120	1,395	-275	17,988	17,119	869
Wisconsin	5,118	5,137	-19	32,331	34,088	-1,757
Wyoming	577	627	-50	7,550	8,377	-827
US Total	244,797	261,896	-17,099	2,013,838	2,080,554	-66,716

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		
May 9, 2015	273	6	273.75	2,233	-4	2,244.25	1.7	
May 16, 2015	276	3	270.50	2,233	0	2,236.25	1.7	
May 23, 2015	281	5	274.25	2,231	-2	2,233.50	1.7	
May 30, 2015	277	-4	276.75	2,265	34	2,240.50	1.7	
June 6, 2015	277	0	277.75	2,247	-18	2,244.00	1.7	
June 13, 2015	271	-6	276.50	2,246	-1	2,247.25	1.7	
June 20, 2015	272	1	274.25	2,272	26	2,257.50	1.7	
June 27, 2015	280	8	275.00	2,304	32	2,267.25	1.7	
July 4, 2015	291	11	278.50	2,233	-71	2,263.75	1.7	
July 11, 2015	278	-13	280.25	2,229	-4	2,259.50	1.7	
July 18, 2015	263	-15	278.00	2,270	41	2,259.00	1.7	
July 25, 2015	269	6	275.25	2,260	-10	2,248.00	1.7	
August 1, 2015	274	5	271.00	2,269	9	2,257.00	1.7	
August 8, 2015	273	-1	269.75	2,261	-8	2,265.00	1.7	
August 15, 2015	278	5	273.50	2,259	-2	2,262.25	1.7	
August 22, 2015	272	-6	274.25	2,259	0	2,262.00	1.7	
August 29, 2015	281	9	276.00	2,261	2	2,260.00	1.7	
September 5, 2015	275	-6	276.50	2,246	-15	2,256.25	1.7	
September 12, 2015	269	-6	274.25	2,244	-2	2,252.50	1.7	
September 19, 2015	271	2	274.00	2,208	-36	2,239.75	1.6	
September 26, 2015	277	6	273.00	2,216	8	2,228.50	1.6	
October 3, 2015	267	-10	271.00	2,186	-30	2,213.50	1.6	
October 10, 2015	262	-5	269.25	2,188	2	2,199.50	1.6	
October 17, 2015	265	3	267.75	2,171	-17	2,190.25	1.6	
October 24, 2015	265	0	264.75	2,190	19	2,183.75	1.6	
October 31, 2015	278	13	267.50	2,185	-5	2,183.50	1.6	
November 7, 2015	276	-2	271.00	2,183	-2	2,182.25	1.6	
November 14, 2015	275	-1	273.50	2,176	-7	2,183.50	1.6	
November 21, 2015	264	-11	273.25	2,191	15	2,183.75	1.6	
November 28, 2015	274	10	272.25	2,230	39	2,195.00	1.6	
December 5, 2015	279	5	273.00	2,245	15	2,210.50	1.7	
December 12, 2015	275	-4	273.00	2,195	-50	2,215.25	1.6	
December 19, 2015	269	-6	274.25	2,212	17	2,220.50	1.6	
December 26, 2015	285	16	277.00	2,226	14	2,219.50	1.6	
January 2, 2016	277	-8	276.50	2,248	22	2,220.25	1.6	
January 9, 2016	280	3	277.75	2,217	-31	2,225.75	1.6	
January 16, 2016	291	11	283.25	2,250	33	2,235.25	1.7	
January 23, 2016	275	-16	280.75	2,248	-2	2,240.75	1.6	
January 30, 2016	286	11	283.00	2,234	-14	2,237.25	1.6	
February 6, 2016	259	-27	277.75	2,249	15	2,245.25	1.7	
February 13, 2016	260	1	270.00	2,233	-16	2,241.00	1.6	
February 20, 2016	264	4	267.25	2,231	-2	2,236.75	1.6	
February 27, 2016	262	-2	261.25	2,198	-33	2,227.75	1.6	
March 5, 2016	253	-9	259.75	2,212	14	2,218.50	1.6	
March 12, 2016	259	6	259.50	2,180	-32	2,205.25	1.6	
March 19, 2016	265	6	259.75	2,172	-8	2,190.50	1.6	
March 26, 2016	276	11	263.25	2,189	17	2,188.25	1.6	
April 2, 2016	266	-10	266.50	2,176	-13	2,179.25	1.6	
April 9, 2016	253	-13	265.00	2,135	-41	2,168.00	1.6	
April 16, 2016	248	-5	260.75	2,129	-6	2,157.25	1.6	
April 23, 2016	257	9	256.00	2,124	-5	2,141.00	1.6	
April 30, 2016	274	17	258.00	2,165	41	2,138.25	1.6	
May 7, 2016	294	20	268.25	2,152	-13	2,142.50	1.6	
May 14, 2016	278	-16	275.75					

Initial Claims Filed During Week Ended May

7

Insured Unemployment For Week Ended April 30

INSURED UNEMPLOYMENT

STATE	INITIAL CLAIMS 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	2982	477	-680	9	18	19501	1.1	-75	-3024	62	131	19694
Alaska	1096	-2	-59	5	4	11965	3.8	134	1039	99	38	12102
Arizona	4572	-179	73	4	21	32936	1.3	679	-956	136	142	33214
Arkansas	2591	464	-362	12	9	16337	1.4	27	-3841	68	95	16500
California	41853	-821	-3436	173	181	373021	2.3	-6107	-24898	2044	2666	377731
Colorado	2694	134	-345	8	36	29698	1.2	-344	-2430	207	520	30425
Connecticut	3354	245	532	10	9	35855	2.2	-3694	-2041	51	125	36031
Delaware	601	88	-16	1	3	5649	1.3	-1134	-382	16	20	5685
District of Columbia	304	1	-50	10	0	7289	1.3	33	-284	275	10	7574
Florida	8263	903	-1240	24	69	45454	0.6	-363	-14629	157	293	45904
Georgia	7108	1555	77	24	81	30691	0.8	552	-5095	204	394	31289
Hawaii	1217	29	-289	4	19	6734	1.1	-9	-1246	71	113	6918
Idaho	945	-111	-150	3	3	7033	1.1	-532	-1236	73	38	7144
Illinois	10326	645	294	14	20	126081	2.2	6705	11818	317	394	126792
Indiana	2684	-157	-550	5	6	21805	0.8	-1190	-1700	73	86	21964
Iowa	2132	-363	-405	3	11	18699	1.2	-471	1440	51	64	18814
Kansas	1923	-3216	-340	5	11	15525	1.2	2229	500	38	78	15641
Kentucky	2965	168	293	4	0	21887	1.2	-596	-88	94	257	22238
Louisiana	2825	262	-13	0	6	22633	1.2	-221	-240	48	36	22717
Maine	802	-210	-144	0	1	7877	1.4	-1079	-1897	39	36	7952
Maryland	4091	775	341	24	8	35279	1.4	-237	-4099	270	219	35768
Massachusetts	5566	140	604	9	18	67829	2.0	-10100	-422	160	298	68287
Michigan	12433	3278	6845	15	28	55318	1.4	-5890	-1559	151	175	55644
Minnesota	3620	487	198	1	4	41591	1.5	-876	3398	79	134	41804
Mississippi	2189	733	-34	3	2	11010	1.0	-177	-866	80	46	11136
Missouri	4174	-1218	232	12	19	22736	0.9	-515	-6456	87	90	22913
Montana	806	-164	-18	4	7	8166	1.9	-517	497	115	47	8328
Nebraska	660	-61	-449	1	8	4316	0.5	-104	-1368	20	21	4357
Nevada	2390	-204	-678	3	4	23585	1.9	247	-2193	104	141	23830
New Hampshire	631	-511	58	0	1	5227	0.8	180	-946	4	20	5251
New Jersey	9084	-107	1746	10	22	93600	2.4	-1571	-3624	210	355	94165
New Mexico	1069	6	7	2	4	13672	1.8	-387	891	140	78	13890
New York	33006	14494	18097	52	56	168113	1.9	14812	9901	387	617	169117
North Carolina	3858	465	-1083	9	42	25085	0.6	-89	-8630	109	292	25486
North Dakota	640	9	195	1	0	5561	1.3	-234	1934	3	9	5573
Ohio	7521	-2525	272	12	25	62118	1.2	667	1395	94	354	62566
Oklahoma	2046	233	-17	2	9	23788	1.5	202	2056	66	143	23997
Oregon	3248	-565	-712	17	8	27940	1.6	-493	-3962	286	179	28405
Pennsylvania	18550	3547	2903	58	51	125960	2.3	-1536	112	521	465	126946
Puerto Rico	1812	233	-371	0	9	20726	2.3	-1295	-3098	51	172	20949
Rhode Island	748	-111	-119	0	2	8927	1.9	-1928	-177	25	22	8974
South Carolina	2920	567	-444	5	23	14046	0.7	171	-966	59	141	14246
South Dakota	204	2	13	4	0	1536	0.4	-41	66	24	10	1570
Tennessee	3116	-952	-352	6	16	22170	0.8	881	-1929	106	148	22424
Texas	17074	941	-274	54	185	180372	1.6	1390	17298	474	2216	183062
Utah	1213	-50	-178	5	1	10224	0.8	-148	-780	71	33	10328
Vermont	527	4	23	2	2	5025	1.7	-995	-17	25	4	5054
Virgin Islands	54	38	29	0	0	550	1.5	134	-116	4	10	564
Virginia	3630	-806	167	15	24	29475	0.8	820	2011	236	443	30154
Washington	6620	322	-211	14	94	50355	1.7	1130	-2539	273	803	51431
West Virginia	1395	27	16	0	6	17119	2.5	71	2511	44	54	17217
Wisconsin	5137	-193	-1072	5	10	34088	1.2	-2292	-9601	79	73	34240
Wyoming	627	-229	90	2	4	8377	3.0	349	2407	86	30	8493
Totals	261896	18517	19014	665	1200	2080554	1.5	-13827	-58061	8566	13378	2102498

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 MAY 7, 2016

STATES WITH AN INCREASE OF MORE THAN 1,000

State	Change	State Supplied Comment
NY	+14,494	Layoffs in the transportation and warehousing, educational service, and accommodation and food service industries.
PA	+3,547	Layoffs in the construction, accommodation and food service, and manufacturing industries.
MI	+3,278	Layoffs in the management of companies and enterprises industry.
GA	+1,555	Layoffs in the administrative, support, waste management and remediation service, health care and social assistance, and professional, scientific and technical service industries.

STATES WITH A DECREASE OF MORE THAN 1,000

State	Change	State Supplied Comment
KS	-3,216	No comment.
OH	-2,525	No comment.
MO	-1,218	Fewer layoffs in the manufacturing, administrative, support, waste management and remediation service, and construction 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](#)

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 16-1025-NAT

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