



News Release

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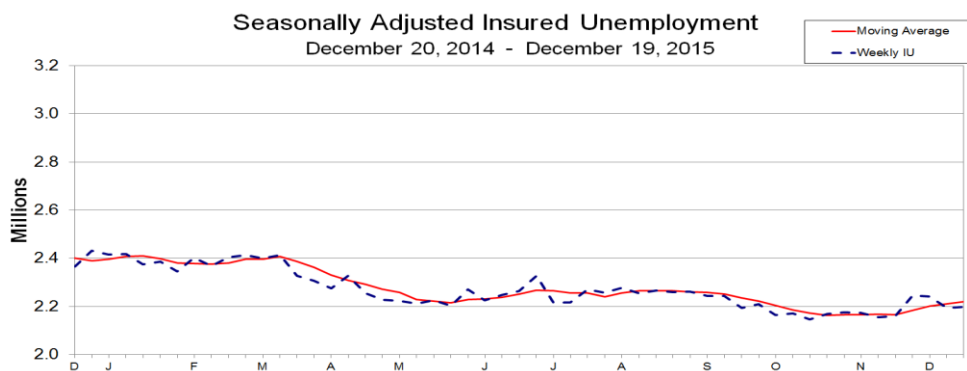
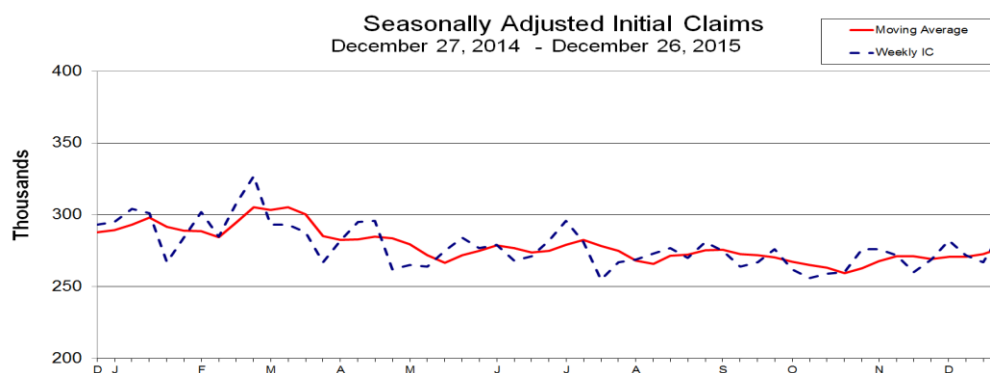
UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE WEEKLY CLAIMS

SEASONALLY ADJUSTED DATA

In the week ending December 26, the advance figure for seasonally adjusted **initial claims** was 287,000, an increase of 20,000 from the previous week's unrevised level of 267,000. The 4-week moving average was 277,000, an increase of 4,500 from the previous week's unrevised average of 272,500.

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

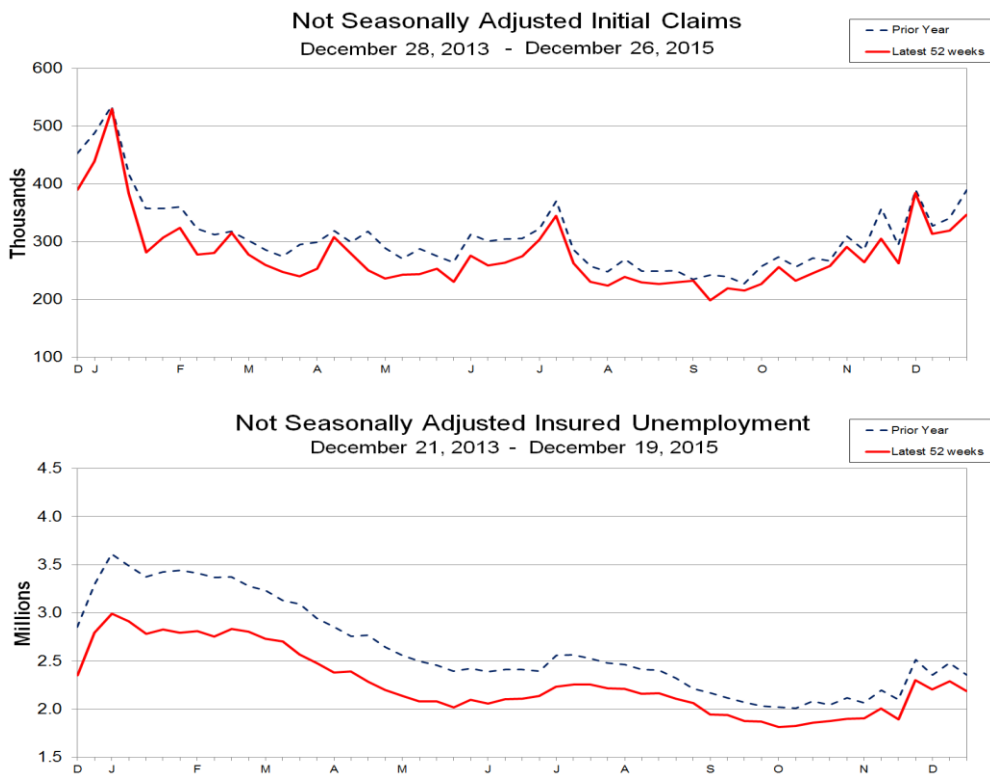
The advance seasonally adjusted **insured unemployment rate** was 1.6 percent for the week ending December 19, unchanged from the previous week's unrevised rate. The advance number for seasonally adjusted **insured unemployment** during the week ending December 19 was 2,198,000, an increase of 3,000 from the previous week's unrevised level of 2,195,000. The 4-week moving average was 2,220,250, an increase of 9,250 from the previous week's unrevised average of 2,211,000.



UNADJUSTED DATA

The advance number of actual initial claims under state programs, unadjusted, totaled 346,619 in the week ending December 26, an increase of 26,978 (or 8.4 percent) from the previous week. The seasonal factors had expected an increase of 2,134 (or 0.7 percent) from the previous week. There were 389,757 initial claims in the comparable week in 2014.

The advance unadjusted insured unemployment rate was 1.6 percent during the week ending December 19, a decrease of 0.1 percentage point from the prior week. The advance unadjusted number for persons claiming UI benefits in state programs totaled 2,185,160, a decrease of 101,565 (or -4.4 percent) from the preceding week. The seasonal factors had expected a decrease of 105,339 (or -4.6 percent) from the previous week. A year earlier the rate was 1.8 percent and the volume was 2,352,296.



The total number of people claiming benefits in all programs for the week ending December 12 was 2,336,519, an increase of 80,311 from the previous week. There were 2,541,033 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 12.

Initial claims for UI benefits filed by former Federal civilian employees totaled 1,381 in the week ending December 19, an increase of 200 from the prior week. There were 1,205 initial claims filed by newly discharged veterans, a decrease of 46 from the preceding week.

There were 14,969 former Federal civilian employees claiming UI benefits for the week ending December 12, an increase of 1,223 from the previous week. Newly discharged veterans claiming benefits totaled 17,337, an increase of 634 from the prior week.

The highest insured unemployment rates in the week ending December 12 were in Alaska (4.8), Puerto Rico (2.9), Montana (2.8), New Jersey (2.7), Pennsylvania (2.7), West Virginia (2.6), California (2.5), Illinois (2.4), Wyoming (2.4), Connecticut (2.3), and Nevada (2.3).

The largest increases in initial claims for the week ending December 19 were in Virginia (+2,047), Illinois (+1,954), Iowa (+1,128), Kentucky (+1,116), and Kansas (+1,076), while the largest decreases were in California (-2,903), Michigan (-2,586), Pennsylvania (-1,280), Texas (-1,152), and New York (-1,119).

UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE DATA FOR REGULAR STATE PROGRAMS

WEEK ENDING	December 26	December 19	Change	December 12	<u>Prior Year</u>¹
Initial Claims (SA)	287,000	267,000	+20,000	272,000	293,000
Initial Claims (NSA)	346,619	319,641	+26,978	313,276	389,757
4-Wk Moving Average (SA)	277,000	272,500	+4,500	270,750	287,750
WEEK ENDING	December 19	December 12	Change	December 5	<u>Prior Year</u>¹
Insured Unemployment (SA)	2,198,000	2,195,000	+3,000	2,242,000	2,366,000
Insured Unemployment (NSA)	2,185,160	2,286,725	-101,565	2,206,522	2,352,296
4-Wk Moving Average (SA)	2,220,250	2,211,000	+9,250	2,201,000	2,400,000
<u>Insured Unemployment Rate (SA)</u> ²	1.6%	1.6%	0.0	1.7%	1.8%
<u>Insured Unemployment Rate (NSA)</u> ²	1.6%	1.7%	-0.1	1.6%	1.8%

INITIAL CLAIMS FILED IN FEDERAL PROGRAMS (UNADJUSTED)

WEEK ENDING	December 19	December 12	Change	<u>Prior Year</u>¹
Federal Employees (UCFE)	1,381	1,181	+200	1,556
Newly Discharged Veterans (UCX)	1,205	1,251	-46	1,714

PERSONS CLAIMING UI BENEFITS IN ALL PROGRAMS (UNADJUSTED)

WEEK ENDING	December 12	December 5	Change	<u>Prior Year</u>¹
Regular State	2,282,827	2,201,677	+81,150	2,474,688
Federal Employees	14,969	13,746	+1,223	18,695
Newly Discharged Veterans	17,337	16,703	+634	26,027
<u>Extended Benefits</u> ³	0	0	0	6
<u>State Additional Benefits</u> ⁴	7,440	7,581	-141	7,177
<u>STC / Workshare</u> ⁵	13,946	16,501	-2,555	14,440
<u>TOTAL</u>	2,336,519	2,256,208	+80,311	2,541,033

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 December 26			Insured Unemployment For Week Ended December 19		
	Advance	Prior Wk	Change	Advance	Prior Wk	Change
Alabama	3,110	3,329	-219	21,227	22,259	-1,032
Alaska	1,309	1,428	-119	13,297	15,241	-1,944
Arizona	2,448	3,845	-1,397	22,400	26,797	-4,397
Arkansas	4,221	3,458	763	19,600	20,964	-1,364
California	43,492	53,000	-9,508	338,288	387,490	-49,202
Colorado	2,538	3,767	-1,229	29,641	30,210	-569
Connecticut	4,770	4,717	53	39,658	37,795	1,863
Delaware	835	797	38	6,477	6,227	250
District of Columbia	538	371	167	7,851	8,325	-474
Florida	5,599	8,341	-2,742	37,061	53,899	-16,838
Georgia	5,732	7,009	-1,277	30,292	36,113	-5,821
Hawaii	1,127	1,047	80	6,192	6,229	-37
Idaho	2,534	2,419	115	10,697	11,570	-873
Illinois	18,521	17,204	1,317	129,286	135,012	-5,726
Indiana	5,675	5,370	305	26,742	26,239	503
Iowa	8,114	4,885	3,229	28,736	25,166	3,570
Kansas	3,453	3,452	1	15,656	14,172	1,484
Kentucky	9,677	4,209	5,468	21,172	22,876	-1,704
Louisiana	1,802	2,675	-873	22,600	21,789	811
Maine	1,173	1,537	-364	8,815	8,672	143
Maryland	7,062	4,749	2,313	36,557	39,501	-2,944
Massachusetts	11,176	9,238	1,938	72,577	71,444	1,133
Michigan	17,389	11,286	6,103	69,643	75,458	-5,815
Minnesota	9,036	7,055	1,981	64,117	57,630	6,487
Mississippi	2,631	2,263	368	11,924	13,274	-1,350
Missouri	8,891	6,498	2,393	31,025	31,263	-238
Montana	1,797	1,809	-12	11,038	11,992	-954
Nebraska	1,797	1,770	27	7,168	6,643	525
Nevada	3,460	3,513	-53	26,060	27,170	-1,110
New Hampshire	1,214	953	261	5,041	5,137	-96
New Jersey	18,002	11,166	6,836	103,539	101,694	1,845
New Mexico	1,379	1,291	88	12,696	13,422	-726
New York	19,219	18,385	834	170,500	164,791	5,709
North Carolina	3,365	4,623	-1,258	27,568	29,661	-2,093
North Dakota	1,846	1,640	206	10,558	6,159	4,399
Ohio	16,861	12,873	3,988	75,869	71,145	4,724
Oklahoma	2,832	2,099	733	20,957	21,449	-492
Oregon	6,622	6,210	412	33,716	34,808	-1,092
Pennsylvania	27,155	21,767	5,388	140,767	148,418	-7,651
Puerto Rico	1,819	1,802	17	19,867	26,242	-6,375
Rhode Island	2,651	1,417	1,234	9,266	8,952	314
South Carolina	2,767	3,726	-959	16,887	17,851	-964
South Dakota	365	571	-206	2,802	2,581	221
Tennessee	4,039	4,089	-50	23,339	23,754	-415
Texas	11,044	16,016	-4,972	162,224	177,836	-15,612
Utah	1,917	2,492	-575	12,970	12,851	119
Vermont	2,133	669	1,464	5,009	4,741	268
Virgin Islands	8	30	-22	642	648	-6
Virginia	5,662	5,927	-265	30,125	28,020	2,105
Washington	11,343	8,844	2,499	62,321	61,403	918
West Virginia	1,604	1,996	-392	17,616	17,579	37
Wisconsin	12,081	9,172	2,909	49,434	49,406	28
Wyoming	784	842	-58	5,650	6,757	-1,107
US Total	346,619	319,641	26,978	2,185,160	2,286,725	-101,565

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 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	2,195	-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	2,198	3	2,220.25	1.6
December 26, 2015	287	20	277.00				

Initial Claims Filed During Week Ended December 19
INITIAL CLAIMS

Insured Unemployment For Week Ended December 12
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	3329	-212	-755	11	19	22259	1.2	86	-2123	97	174	22530
Alaska	1428	4	-97	9	1	15241	4.8	1860	-112	257	76	15574
Arizona	3845	-163	-97	30	16	26797	1.1	306	-2880	252	196	27245
Arkansas	3458	587	-400	16	4	20964	1.8	-176	-2625	117	166	21247
California	53000	-2903	5502	247	175	387490	2.5	7576	-41573	3529	3346	394365
Colorado	3767	789	422	39	33	30210	1.3	1909	-1574	370	691	31271
Connecticut	4717	571	-669	7	16	37795	2.3	565	-6121	68	158	38021
Delaware	797	54	-244	0	5	6227	1.5	-32	-932	24	30	6281
District of Columbia	371	97	-92	8	0	8325	1.6	-72	-937	296	23	8644
Florida	8341	446	-1780	18	63	53899	0.7	5374	-20821	258	397	54554
Georgia	7009	-860	-1518	14	59	36113	0.9	228	-5196	300	534	36947
Hawaii	1047	-43	-297	4	13	6229	1.0	-269	-2713	87	169	6485
Idaho	2419	-169	-804	55	5	11570	1.8	922	-1229	263	40	11873
Illinois	17204	1954	1250	17	28	135012	2.4	9479	-6357	372	529	135913
Indiana	5370	451	-925	10	7	26239	0.9	1671	-4985	125	109	26473
Iowa	4885	1128	-239	8	9	25166	1.7	491	-117	53	109	25328
Kansas	3452	1076	-377	5	13	14172	1.1	150	-2676	77	133	14382
Kentucky	4209	1116	-3402	37	11	22876	1.3	1109	-1839	286	289	23451
Louisiana	2675	232	144	5	10	21789	1.1	259	952	89	119	21997
Maine	1537	38	-339	4	2	8672	1.5	481	-3206	45	36	8753
Maryland	4749	618	-571	25	22	39501	1.6	134	-9103	374	255	40130
Massachusetts	9238	944	-741	15	25	71444	2.1	2248	-11348	248	324	72016
Michigan	11286	-2586	-2399	40	39	75458	1.9	11162	-8144	275	262	75995
Minnesota	7055	-537	923	14	10	57630	2.1	2604	763	162	200	57992
Mississippi	2263	384	-655	5	1	13274	1.2	305	-1372	61	70	13405
Missouri	6498	860	-1264	60	14	31263	1.2	530	-6016	459	138	31860
Montana	1809	304	265	59	5	11992	2.8	806	534	523	63	12578
Nebraska	1770	488	-606	4	0	6643	0.7	221	-1782	33	32	6708
Nevada	3513	492	-806	11	10	27170	2.3	424	-3341	234	158	27562
New Hampshire	953	179	-243	3	1	5137	0.8	107	-1724	6	8	5151
New Jersey	11166	605	-864	11	27	101694	2.7	1733	-16840	276	518	102488
New Mexico	1291	102	33	23	7	13422	1.7	226	138	304	91	13817
New York	18385	-1119	-3412	30	53	164791	1.9	2472	-22022	416	778	165985
North Carolina	4623	158	-1209	11	27	29661	0.7	920	-9771	166	403	30230
North Dakota	1640	163	577	9	1	6159	1.4	819	1809	18	4	6181
Ohio	12873	16	-2088	8	42	71145	1.4	4557	-2496	150	457	71752
Oklahoma	2099	356	26	1	17	21449	1.4	-400	6583	73	155	21677
Oregon	6210	336	-303	122	19	34808	2.0	1035	-3163	617	301	35726
Pennsylvania	21767	-1280	-3062	63	69	148418	2.7	1703	-10371	647	620	149685
Puerto Rico	1802	314	-107	5	5	26242	2.9	-146	-1695	69	196	26507
Rhode Island	1417	-62	-306	3	1	8952	2.0	413	-1568	17	35	9004
South Carolina	3726	334	565	8	20	17851	1.0	246	-1276	59	138	18048
South Dakota	571	88	101	5	0	2581	0.6	170	-268	35	11	2627
Tennessee	4089	-568	-902	26	15	23754	0.9	-155	-3775	202	185	24141
Texas	16016	-1152	959	66	160	177836	1.6	15598	38238	907	2721	181464
Utah	2492	468	477	69	7	12851	1.0	670	127	352	56	13259
Vermont	669	-51	-863	0	2	4741	1.6	203	-838	31	4	4776
Virgin Islands	30	3	9	1	2	648	1.7	-36	-356	8	10	666
Virginia	5927	2047	444	32	20	28020	0.8	482	-5218	333	668	29021
Washington	8844	-129	-430	82	85	61403	2.1	-741	-2488	501	957	62861
West Virginia	1996	-699	233	7	3	17579	2.6	-1088	2218	81	77	17737
Wisconsin	9172	996	-538	8	3	49406	1.8	153	-12719	150	93	49649
Wyoming	842	100	288	11	4	6757	2.4	911	2321	217	25	6999
Totals	319641	6365	-21186	1381	1205	2286725	1.7	80203	-192027	14969	17337	2319031

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 19, 2015

STATES WITH AN INCREASE OF MORE THAN 1,000

State	Change	State Supplied Comment
VA	+2,047	Layoffs in the manufacturing industry.
IL	+1,954	Layoffs in the construction, administrative and support and waste management and remediation service, and manufacturing industries.
IA	+1,128	Layoffs in the construction industry.
KY	+1,116	No comment.
KS	+1,076	Layoffs in the construction and manufacturing industries.

STATES WITH A DECREASE OF MORE THAN 1,000

State	Change	State Supplied Comment
CA	-2,903	Fewer layoffs in the agriculture, forestry, fishing and hunting industry.
MI	-2,586	Fewer layoffs in the manufacturing industry.
PA	-1,280	Fewer layoffs in the construction, transportation and warehousing, and manufacturing industries.
TX	-1,152	No comment.
NY	-1,119	Fewer layoffs in the transportation and warehousing, construction, and retail trade 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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