



# News Release

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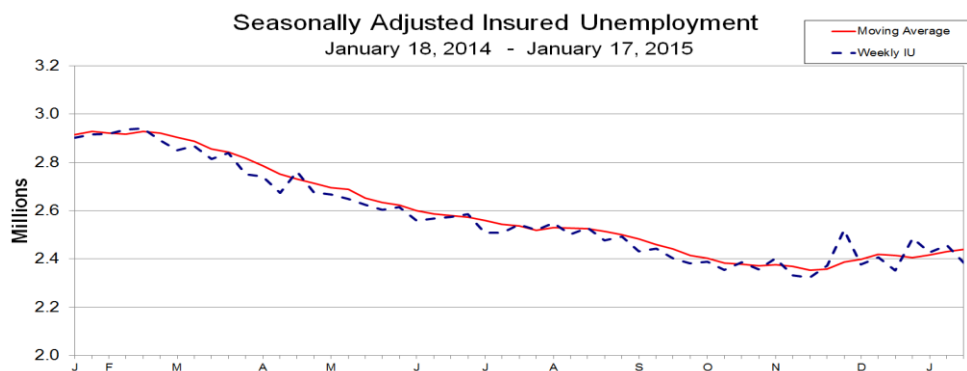
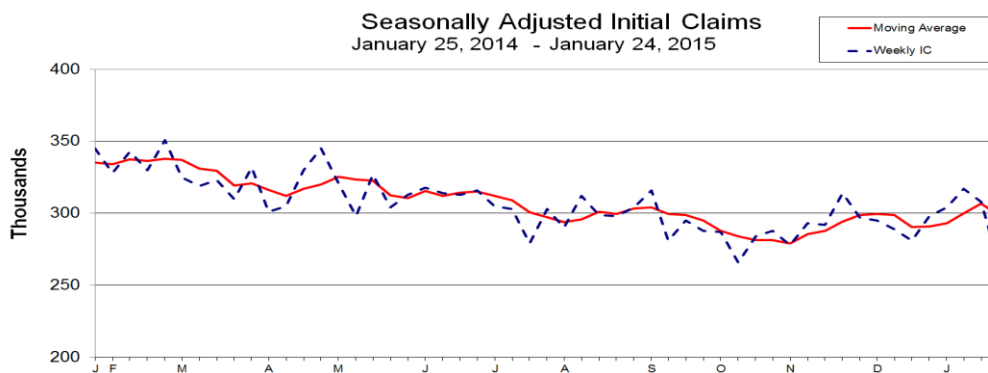
## UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE WEEKLY CLAIMS

### SEASONALLY ADJUSTED DATA

In the week ending January 24, the advance figure for seasonally adjusted **initial claims** was 265,000, a decrease of 43,000 from the previous week's revised level. This is the lowest level for initial claims since April 15, 2000 when it was 259,000. The previous week's level was revised up by 1,000 from 307,000 to 308,000. The 4-week moving average was 298,500, a decrease of 8,250 from the previous week's revised average. The previous week's average was revised up by 250 from 306,500 to 306,750.

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

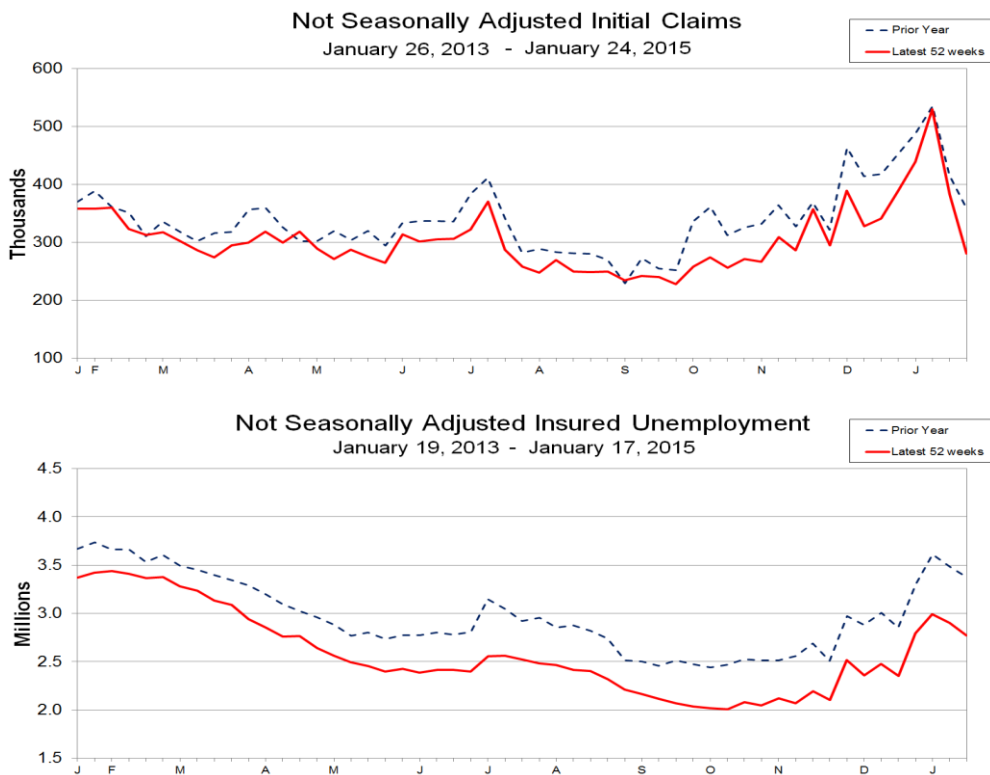
The advance seasonally adjusted **insured unemployment rate** was 1.8 percent for the week ending January 17, unchanged from the previous week's unrevised rate. The advance number for seasonally adjusted **insured unemployment** during the week ending January 17 was 2,385,000, a decrease of 71,000 from the previous week's revised level. The previous week's level was revised up 13,000 from 2,443,000 to 2,456,000. The 4-week moving average was 2,438,500, an increase of 8,250 from the previous week's revised average. The previous week's average was revised up by 3,250 from 2,427,000 to 2,430,250.



## UNADJUSTED DATA

The advance number of actual initial claims under state programs, unadjusted, totaled 280,237 in the week ending January 24, a decrease of 102,358 (or -26.8 percent) from the previous week. The seasonal factors had expected a decrease of 57,297 (or -15.0 percent) from the previous week. There were 357,806 initial claims in the comparable week in 2014.

The advance unadjusted insured unemployment rate was 2.1 percent during the week ending January 17, a decrease of 0.1 percentage point from the prior week. The advance unadjusted number for persons claiming UI benefits in state programs totaled 2,773,546, a decrease of 128,910 (or -4.4 percent) from the preceding week. The seasonal factors had expected a decrease of 46,655 (or -1.6 percent) from the previous week. A year earlier the rate was 2.6 percent and the volume was 3,373,217.



The total number of people claiming benefits in all programs for the week ending January 10 was 2,961,887, a decrease of 87,774 from the previous week. There were 3,565,172 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 January 10.

Initial claims for UI benefits filed by former Federal civilian employees totaled 1,663 in the week ending January 17, a decrease of 306 from the prior week. There were 1,779 initial claims filed by newly discharged veterans, a decrease of 255 from the preceding week.

There were 18,028 former Federal civilian employees claiming UI benefits for the week ending January 10, an increase of 372 from the previous week. Newly discharged veterans claiming benefits totaled 25,618, an increase of 1,154 from the prior week.

The highest insured unemployment rates in the week ending January 10 were in Alaska (4.9), New Jersey (3.7), Connecticut (3.5), Puerto Rico (3.4), Montana (3.3), Pennsylvania (3.3), Massachusetts (3.2), Rhode Island (3.2), Wisconsin (3.2), California (3.0), Illinois (3.0), and West Virginia (3.0).

The largest increases in initial claims for the week ending January 17 were in Puerto Rico (+792) and the Virgin Islands (+25), while the largest decreases were in Pennsylvania (-13,194), New York (-12,255), Georgia (-10,173), Missouri (-7,082), and Wisconsin (-6,963).

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UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE DATA FOR REGULAR STATE PROGRAMS

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<b>WEEK ENDING</b>	<b>January 24</b>	<b>January 17</b>	<b>Change</b>	<b>January 10</b>	<b><u>Prior Year</u><sup>1</sup></b>
Initial Claims (SA)	265,000	308,000	-43,000	317,000	345,000
Initial Claims (NSA)	280,237	382,595	-102,358	529,464	357,806
4-Wk Moving Average (SA)	298,500	306,750	-8,250	300,000	335,250
<b>WEEK ENDING</b>	<b>January 17</b>	<b>January 10</b>	<b>Change</b>	<b>January 3</b>	<b><u>Prior Year</u><sup>1</sup></b>
Insured Unemployment (SA)	2,385,000	2,456,000	-71,000	2,428,000	2,903,000
Insured Unemployment (NSA)	2,773,546	2,902,456	-128,910	2,989,244	3,373,217
4-Wk Moving Average (SA)	2,438,500	2,430,250	+8,250	2,418,000	2,915,500
<u>Insured Unemployment Rate (SA)</u> <sup>2</sup>	1.8%	1.8%	0.0	1.8%	2.2%
<u>Insured Unemployment Rate (NSA)</u> <sup>2</sup>	2.1%	2.2%	-0.1	2.2%	2.6%

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INITIAL CLAIMS FILED IN FEDERAL PROGRAMS (UNADJUSTED)

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<b>WEEK ENDING</b>	<b>January 17</b>	<b>January 10</b>	<b>Change</b>	<b><u>Prior Year</u><sup>1</sup></b>
Federal Employees (UCFE)	1,663	1,969	-306	1,933
Newly Discharged Veterans (UCX)	1,779	2,034	-255	2,263

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PERSONS CLAIMING UI BENEFITS IN ALL PROGRAMS (UNADJUSTED)

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<b>WEEK ENDING</b>	<b>January 10</b>	<b>January 3</b>	<b>Change</b>	<b><u>Prior Year</u><sup>1</sup></b>
Regular State	2,898,960	2,984,615	-85,655	3,482,247
Federal Employees	18,028	17,656	+372	23,808
Newly Discharged Veterans	25,618	24,464	+1,154	31,949
<u>Extended Benefits</u> <sup>3</sup>	6	8	-2	71
<u>State Additional Benefits</u> <sup>4</sup>	6,210	6,255	-45	6,947
<u>STC / Workshare</u> <sup>5</sup>	13,065	16,663	-3,598	20,150
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>2,961,887</b>	<b>3,049,661</b>	<b>-87,774</b>	<b>3,565,172</b>

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 133,397,155 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](#)

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**UNADJUSTED INITIAL CLAIMS FOR WEEK ENDED JANUARY 17, 2015**

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**STATES WITH AN INCREASE OF MORE THAN 1,000**

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<b>State</b>	<b>Change</b>	<b>State Supplied Comment</b>
None		

**STATES WITH A DECREASE OF MORE THAN 1,000**

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<b>State</b>	<b>Change</b>	<b>State Supplied Comment</b>
PA	-13,194	Fewer layoffs in the administrative and support and waste management and remediation service, construction, and transportation and warehousing industries.
NY	-12,255	Fewer layoffs in the transportation and warehousing, educational service, and public administration industries.
GA	-10,173	Fewer layoffs in the manufacturing and administrative and support and waste management and remediation service industries.
MO	-7,082	Fewer layoffs in the manufacturing, construction, and administrative and support and waste management and remediation service industries.
WI	-6,963	No comment.
IN	-6,957	No comment.
TX	-6,109	No comment.
CA	-5,660	No comment.
OH	-5,305	No comment.
IA	-5,189	Fewer layoffs in the construction and manufacturing industries.
SC	-4,892	Fewer layoffs in the manufacturing industry.
IL	-4,517	No comment.
AL	-4,485	Fewer layoffs in the manufacturing, retail trade, administrative and support and waste management and remediation service, and construction industries.
MI	-4,458	Fewer layoffs in the construction industry.
TN	-4,080	Fewer layoffs in the administrative and support and waste management and remediation service, construction, accommodation and food service, and manufacturing industries.
VA	-4,052	Fewer layoffs in the manufacturing industry.
MA	-3,818	Fewer layoffs in the transportation and warehousing, accommodation and food service, and administrative and support and waste management and remediation service industries.
MN	-3,121	No comment.
KS	-3,116	No comment.
NJ	-3,059	Fewer layoffs in the construction, manufacturing, trade, transportation and warehousing, and accommodation and food service industries.
KY	-2,759	No comment.
WA	-2,656	No comment.
MD	-2,576	No comment.
FL	-2,273	Fewer layoffs in the construction, manufacturing, wholesale trade, retail trade, and service industries.
AR	-2,109	No comment.
NC	-1,678	Fewer layoffs in the accommodation and food service and business service industries.
CT	-1,395	No comment.
CO	-1,302	No comment.
MS	-1,124	No comment.
ND	-1,030	No comment.
MT	-1,003	No comment.

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## 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 18, 2014	334	5	335.00	2,903	-48	2,915.50	2.2
January 25, 2014	345	11	335.25	2,915	12	2,928.50	2.2
February 1, 2014	328	-17	334.00	2,918	3	2,921.75	2.2
February 8, 2014	343	15	337.50	2,936	18	2,918.00	2.2
February 15, 2014	330	-13	336.50	2,941	5	2,927.50	2.2
February 22, 2014	351	21	338.00	2,890	-51	2,921.25	2.2
March 1, 2014	325	-26	337.25	2,850	-40	2,904.25	2.2
March 8, 2014	319	-6	331.25	2,869	19	2,887.50	2.2
March 15, 2014	323	4	329.50	2,814	-55	2,855.75	2.1
March 22, 2014	310	-13	319.25	2,838	24	2,842.75	2.2
March 29, 2014	332	22	321.00	2,750	-88	2,817.75	2.1
April 5, 2014	301	-31	316.50	2,741	-9	2,785.75	2.1
April 12, 2014	305	4	312.00	2,674	-67	2,750.75	2.0
April 19, 2014	330	25	317.00	2,761	87	2,731.50	2.1
April 26, 2014	345	15	320.25	2,676	-85	2,713.00	2.0
May 3, 2014	321	-24	325.25	2,666	-10	2,694.25	2.0
May 10, 2014	298	-23	323.50	2,648	-18	2,687.75	2.0
May 17, 2014	327	29	322.75	2,623	-25	2,653.25	2.0
May 24, 2014	304	-23	312.50	2,603	-20	2,635.00	2.0
May 31, 2014	313	9	310.50	2,615	12	2,622.25	2.0
June 7, 2014	318	5	315.50	2,559	-56	2,600.00	1.9
June 14, 2014	314	-4	312.25	2,568	9	2,586.25	2.0
June 21, 2014	313	-1	314.50	2,575	7	2,579.25	2.0
June 28, 2014	316	3	315.25	2,586	11	2,572.00	2.0
July 5, 2014	305	-11	312.00	2,508	-78	2,559.25	1.9
July 12, 2014	303	-2	309.25	2,508	0	2,544.25	1.9
July 19, 2014	279	-24	300.75	2,542	34	2,536.00	1.9
July 26, 2014	303	24	297.50	2,519	-23	2,519.25	1.9
August 2, 2014	290	-13	293.75	2,549	30	2,529.50	1.9
August 9, 2014	312	22	296.00	2,502	-47	2,528.00	1.9
August 16, 2014	299	-13	301.00	2,528	26	2,524.50	1.9
August 23, 2014	298	-1	299.75	2,478	-50	2,514.25	1.9
August 30, 2014	304	6	303.25	2,492	14	2,500.00	1.9
September 6, 2014	316	12	304.25	2,432	-60	2,482.50	1.8
September 13, 2014	281	-35	299.75	2,442	10	2,461.00	1.8
September 20, 2014	295	14	299.00	2,402	-40	2,442.00	1.8
September 27, 2014	288	-7	295.00	2,382	-20	2,414.50	1.8
October 4, 2014	287	-1	287.75	2,389	7	2,403.75	1.8
October 11, 2014	266	-21	284.00	2,355	-34	2,382.00	1.8
October 18, 2014	284	18	281.25	2,387	32	2,378.25	1.8
October 25, 2014	288	4	281.25	2,356	-31	2,371.75	1.8
November 1, 2014	278	-10	279.00	2,403	47	2,375.25	1.8
November 8, 2014	293	15	285.75	2,333	-70	2,369.75	1.8
November 15, 2014	292	-1	287.75	2,323	-10	2,353.75	1.8
November 22, 2014	314	22	294.25	2,372	49	2,357.75	1.8
November 29, 2014	297	-17	299.00	2,520	148	2,387.00	1.9
December 6, 2014	295	-2	299.50	2,378	-142	2,398.25	1.8
December 13, 2014	289	-6	298.75	2,407	29	2,419.25	1.8
December 20, 2014	281	-8	290.50	2,352	-55	2,414.25	1.8
December 27, 2014	298	17	290.75	2,485	133	2,405.50	1.9
January 3, 2015	304	6	293.00	2,428	-57	2,418.00	1.8
January 10, 2015	317	13	300.00	2,456	28	2,430.25	1.8
January 17, 2015	308	-9	306.75	2,385	-71	2,438.50	1.8
January 24, 2015	265	-43	298.50				

Initial Claims Filed During Week Ended January 17								Insured Unemployment For Week Ended January 10				
INITIAL CLAIMS								INSURED UNEMPLOYMENT				
CHANGE FROM								CHANGE FROM				
STATE	STATE	LAST WEEK	YEAR AGO	UCFE <sup>1</sup>	UCX <sup>1</sup>	STATE	(%) <sup>2</sup>	LAST WEEK	YEAR AGO	UCFE <sup>1</sup>	UCX <sup>1</sup>	ALL PROGRAMS EXCLUDING RAILROAD RETIREMENT
Alabama	4654	-4485	-1735	19	31	28200	1.6	-7046	-7910	127	308	28635
Alaska	1648	-596	-237	6	4	15440	4.9	1209	-4977	297	96	15833
Arizona	4579	-958	-819	33	3	30285	1.2	184	-5790	356	247	30888
Arkansas	3220	-2109	-583	12	5	25387	2.2	-4436	-7397	134	300	25821
California	61246	-5660	-13652	368	275	454936	3.0	31013	-71195	3436	5086	463458
Colorado	3769	-1302	-411	37	79	33955	1.5	662	-8451	477	933	35365
Connecticut	7840	-1395	-284	16	21	57753	3.5	-4483	-9753	72	239	58064
Delaware	1358	-360	-130	3	7	9103	2.2	-610	-1963	25	58	9186
District of Columbia	426	-139	-37	15	4	9870	1.9	201	-2727	442	23	10335
Florida	12730	-2273	-6926	26	106	72769	1.0	189	-32357	287	774	73830
Georgia	12431	-10173	309	51	91	53008	1.4	-20366	-14004	330	788	54126
Hawaii	1617	-506	-252	10	23	9703	1.6	-622	-1713	104	299	10106
Idaho	2706	-492	179	32	6	15364	2.4	-551	-2769	189	60	15613
Illinois	17157	-4517	194	20	41	167764	3.0	5891	-46113	462	712	168938
Indiana	6765	-6957	2837	15	15	43927	1.6	5189	-9025	136	193	44256
Iowa	3743	-5189	185	19	10	39573	2.7	-1227	1654	64	125	39762
Kansas	2867	-3116	-453	16	5	24272	1.8	2059	-4722	105	201	24578
Kentucky	4416	-2759	-544	13	19	31598	1.8	-2554	-7544	374	462	32435
Louisiana	2987	-614	261	10	15	22372	1.2	221	-2104	65	116	22553
Maine	2188	-940	-258	1	0	15346	2.7	391	-2833	43	61	15450
Maryland	5697	-2576	-857	42	29	57315	2.4	-630	-2335	458	436	58209
Massachusetts	9178	-3818	2432	22	29	103833	3.2	-4644	-9026	294	629	104756
Michigan	15823	-4458	-2202	47	41	116520	2.9	-210	-16917	331	497	117348
Minnesota	5553	-3121	-345	14	4	71347	2.7	-3270	-6118	206	269	71822
Mississippi	2162	-1124	-108	38	0	15569	1.5	-2744	-9682	143	159	15871
Missouri	8984	-7082	-989	33	5	53207	2.0	-1405	-17239	515	215	53937
Montana	1418	-1003	-141	46	3	13901	3.3	-94	-1825	642	72	14615
Nebraska	1481	-714	-122	3	3	11961	1.3	-606	-2040	41	36	12038
Nevada	4019	-81	-122	19	10	29536	2.5	2070	-2116	251	247	30034
New Hampshire	1278	-51	-176	2	5	8370	1.4	-761	-1779	6	24	8400
New Jersey	13941	-3059	-62	57	18	138917	3.7	-10804	-19430	304	590	139811
New Mexico	1466	-369	-256	15	10	14230	1.9	-100	-3044	372	178	14780
New York	26801	-12255	-1783	62	107	221828	2.6	-21549	-33938	696	1342	223866
North Carolina	6732	-1678	-1365	27	50	43448	1.1	-872	-31454	234	590	44272
North Dakota	903	-1030	172	6	2	7219	1.7	792	-8	24	13	7256
Ohio	12358	-5305	615	15	56	96976	1.9	-1966	-38716	206	650	97832
Oklahoma	2034	-283	102	6	14	17206	1.1	-697	-2343	72	213	17491
Oregon	7135	-775	-2877	104	28	41425	2.5	-7001	-11818	824	370	42619
Pennsylvania	27179	-13194	1174	57	124	183923	3.3	-20928	-28569	1012	1009	185949
Puerto Rico	3082	792	353	5	16	30316	3.4	3008	-6621	124	319	30759
Rhode Island	2400	-639	-390	8	2	14473	3.2	-1522	-2691	39	67	14579
South Carolina	4807	-4892	-620	10	27	22713	1.2	-6062	-8704	51	247	23011
South Dakota	447	-276	-11	6	5	3808	1.0	102	-206	48	7	3863
Tennessee	7825	-4080	-657	25	32	35658	1.3	-2109	-3230	229	305	36192
Texas	19674	-6109	-285	82	208	146275	1.3	5563	-31475	1039	3376	150690
Utah	2101	-771	-12	49	18	15821	1.3	667	-4519	592	85	16498
Vermont	796	-226	18	4	1	7607	2.6	-580	-652	31	20	7658
Virgin Islands	39	25	-16	1	1	690	1.9	-8	-300	4	16	710
Virginia	5160	-4052	-799	42	38	38231	1.1	-3033	-10303	451	886	39568
Washington	8608	-2656	-1499	65	106	67779	2.3	-9397	-12371	728	1340	69847
West Virginia	2544	-223	-49	6	8	20441	3.0	1147	-4685	99	105	20645
Wisconsin	11925	-6963	-314	16	13	86048	3.2	-5240	-18694	195	166	86409
Wyoming	698	-283	26	7	6	5240	1.9	781	-908	242	59	5541
Totals	382595	-146869	-33521	1663	1779	2902456	2.2	-86788	-585449	18028	25618	2946108

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.

## **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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