



News Release

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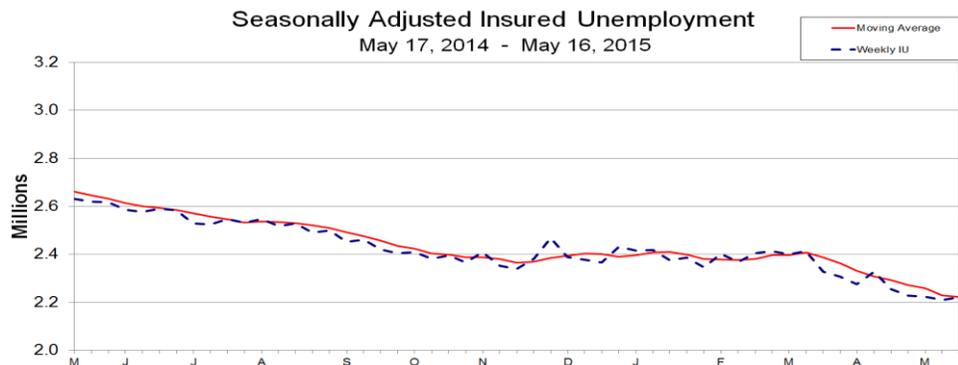
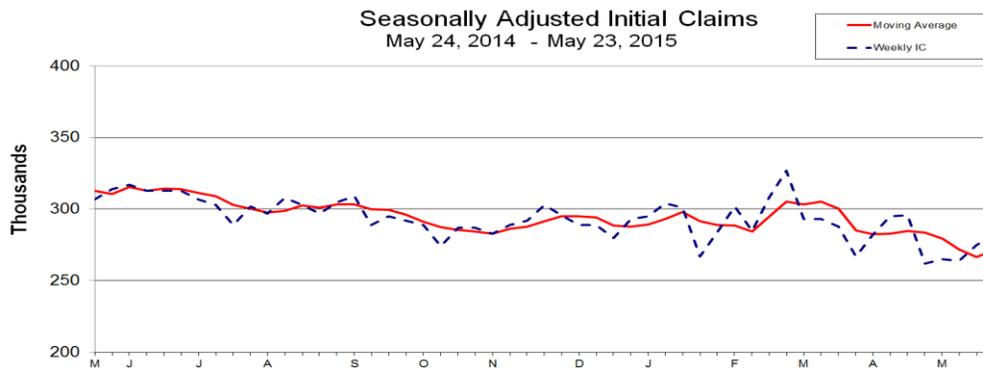
UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE WEEKLY CLAIMS

SEASONALLY ADJUSTED DATA

In the week ending May 23, the advance figure for seasonally adjusted **initial claims** was 282,000, an increase of 7,000 from the previous week's revised level. The previous week's level was revised up by 1,000 from 274,000 to 275,000. The 4-week moving average was 271,500, an increase of 5,000 from the previous week's revised average. The previous week's average was revised up by 250 from 266,250 to 266,500.

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

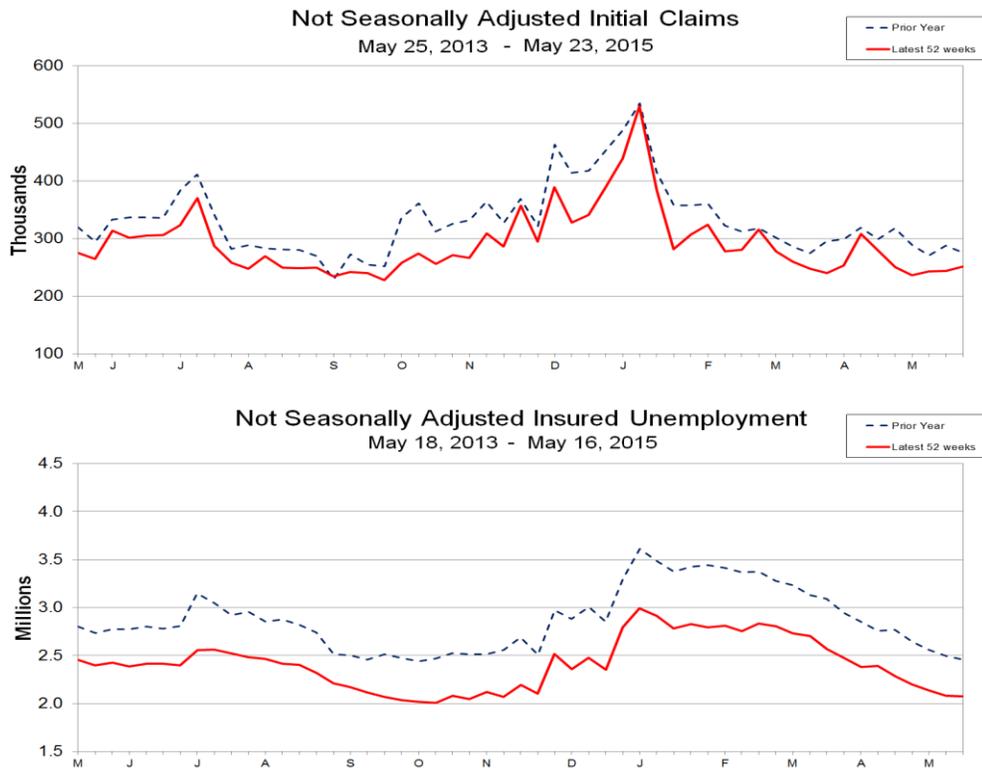
The advance seasonally adjusted **insured unemployment rate** was 1.7 percent for the week ending May 16, an increase of 0.1 percentage point from the previous week's unrevised rate. The advance number for seasonally adjusted **insured unemployment** during the week ending May 16 was 2,222,000, an increase of 11,000 from the previous week's unrevised level of 2,211,000. The 4-week moving average was 2,221,250, a decrease of 8,500 from the previous week's unrevised average of 2,229,750. This is the lowest level for this average since November 25, 2000 when it was 2,211,250.



UNADJUSTED DATA

The advance number of actual initial claims under state programs, unadjusted, totaled 251,435 in the week ending May 23, an increase of 7,950 (or 3.3 percent) from the previous week. The seasonal factors had expected an increase of 1,924 (or 0.8 percent) from the previous week. There were 275,412 initial claims in the comparable week in 2014.

The advance unadjusted insured unemployment rate was 1.5 percent during the week ending May 16, a decrease of 0.1 percentage point from the prior week. The advance unadjusted number for persons claiming UI benefits in state programs totaled 2,075,317, a decrease of 3,047 (or -0.1 percent) from the preceding week. The seasonal factors had expected a decrease of 13,266 (or -0.6 percent) from the previous week. A year earlier the rate was 1.9 percent and the volume was 2,455,022.



The total number of people claiming benefits in all programs for the week ending May 9 was 2,126,837, a decrease of 68,872 from the previous week. There were 2,553,581 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 May 9.

Initial claims for UI benefits filed by former Federal civilian employees totaled 849 in the week ending May 16, an increase of 82 from the prior week. There were 1,293 initial claims filed by newly discharged veterans, a decrease of 77 from the preceding week.

There were 10,208 former Federal civilian employees claiming UI benefits for the week ending May 9, a decrease of 1,201 from the previous week. Newly discharged veterans claiming benefits totaled 19,030, a decrease of 711 from the prior week.

The highest insured unemployment rates in the week ending May 9 were in Alaska (3.3), Puerto Rico (2.8), the Virgin Islands (2.6), New Jersey (2.5), California (2.4), Connecticut (2.3), Nevada (2.2), Pennsylvania (2.2), West Virginia (2.1), Illinois (2.0), Massachusetts (2.0), and Wyoming (2.0).

The largest increases in initial claims for the week ending May 16 were in Missouri (+1,382), Oregon (+1,002), New York (+965), Kentucky (+604), and Pennsylvania (+575), while the largest decreases were in California (-2,530), South Carolina (-705), Illinois (-648), Colorado (-439), and Georgia (-431).

UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE DATA FOR REGULAR STATE PROGRAMS

WEEK ENDING	May 23	May 16	Change	May 9	<u>Prior Year</u>¹
Initial Claims (SA)	282,000	275,000	+7,000	264,000	307,000
Initial Claims (NSA)	251,435	243,485	+7,950	242,882	275,412
4-Wk Moving Average (SA)	271,500	266,500	+5,000	271,750	312,750
WEEK ENDING	May 16	May 9	Change	May 2	<u>Prior Year</u>¹
Insured Unemployment (SA)	2,222,000	2,211,000	+11,000	2,223,000	2,631,000
Insured Unemployment (NSA)	2,075,317	2,078,364	-3,047	2,138,612	2,455,022
4-Wk Moving Average (SA)	2,221,250	2,229,750	-8,500	2,258,750	2,661,500
<u>Insured Unemployment Rate (SA)</u>²	1.7%	1.6%	+0.1	1.7%	2.0%
<u>Insured Unemployment Rate (NSA)</u>²	1.5%	1.6%	-0.1	1.6%	1.9%

INITIAL CLAIMS FILED IN FEDERAL PROGRAMS (UNADJUSTED)

WEEK ENDING	May 16	May 9	Change	<u>Prior Year</u>¹
Federal Employees (UCFE)	849	767	+82	1,042
Newly Discharged Veterans (UCX)	1,293	1,370	-77	1,639

PERSONS CLAIMING UI BENEFITS IN ALL PROGRAMS (UNADJUSTED)

WEEK ENDING	May 9	May 2	Change	<u>Prior Year</u>¹
Regular State	2,074,070	2,132,228	-58,158	2,489,912
Federal Employees	10,208	11,409	-1,201	12,491
Newly Discharged Veterans	19,030	19,741	-711	25,128
<u>Extended Benefits</u>³	0	0	0	61
<u>State Additional Benefits</u>⁴	7,907	7,871	+36	9,563
<u>STC / Workshare</u>⁵	15,622	24,460	-8,838	16,426
TOTAL	2,126,837	2,195,709	-68,872	2,553,581

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 134,074,626 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](#)

UNADJUSTED INITIAL CLAIMS FOR WEEK ENDED MAY 16, 2015

STATES WITH AN INCREASE OF MORE THAN 1,000

State	Change	State Supplied Comment
MO	+1,382	Layoffs in the accomodation and food service, manufacturing, and health care and social assistance industries.
OR	+1,002	No comment.

STATES WITH A DECREASE OF MORE THAN 1,000

State	Change	State Supplied Comment
CA	-2,530	Fewer layoffs in the service industry.

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 17, 2014	325	29	320.25	2,631	-28	2,661.50	2.0
May 24, 2014	307	-18	312.75	2,620	-11	2,645.25	2.0
May 31, 2014	314	7	310.50	2,618	-2	2,632.00	2.0
June 7, 2014	317	3	315.75	2,586	-32	2,613.75	2.0
June 14, 2014	313	-4	312.75	2,576	-10	2,600.00	2.0
June 21, 2014	313	0	314.25	2,591	15	2,592.75	2.0
June 28, 2014	313	0	314.00	2,584	-7	2,584.25	2.0
July 5, 2014	307	-6	311.50	2,530	-54	2,570.25	1.9
July 12, 2014	303	-4	309.00	2,525	-5	2,557.50	1.9
July 19, 2014	289	-14	303.00	2,547	22	2,546.50	1.9
July 26, 2014	302	13	300.25	2,532	-15	2,533.50	1.9
August 2, 2014	297	-5	297.75	2,546	14	2,537.50	1.9
August 9, 2014	308	11	299.00	2,518	-28	2,535.75	1.9
August 16, 2014	303	-5	302.50	2,528	10	2,531.00	1.9
August 23, 2014	297	-6	301.25	2,491	-37	2,520.75	1.9
August 30, 2014	305	8	303.25	2,500	9	2,509.25	1.9
September 6, 2014	309	4	303.50	2,452	-48	2,492.75	1.9
September 13, 2014	289	-20	300.00	2,460	8	2,475.75	1.9
September 20, 2014	295	6	299.50	2,421	-39	2,458.25	1.8
September 27, 2014	292	-3	296.25	2,404	-17	2,434.25	1.8
October 4, 2014	289	-3	291.25	2,409	5	2,423.50	1.8
October 11, 2014	274	-15	287.50	2,383	-26	2,404.25	1.8
October 18, 2014	287	13	285.50	2,395	12	2,397.75	1.8
October 25, 2014	287	0	284.25	2,365	-30	2,388.00	1.8
November 1, 2014	283	-4	282.75	2,408	43	2,387.75	1.8
November 8, 2014	289	6	286.50	2,352	-56	2,380.00	1.8
November 15, 2014	292	3	287.75	2,339	-13	2,366.00	1.8
November 22, 2014	303	11	291.75	2,383	44	2,370.50	1.8
November 29, 2014	296	-7	295.00	2,469	86	2,385.75	1.9
December 6, 2014	289	-7	295.00	2,388	-81	2,394.75	1.8
December 13, 2014	289	0	294.25	2,377	-11	2,404.25	1.8
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	2,211	-12	2,229.75	1.6
May 16, 2015	275	11	266.50	2,222	11	2,221.25	1.7
May 23, 2015	282	7	271.50				

Initial Claims Filed During Week Ended May 16						Insured Unemployment For Week Ended May 9						
INITIAL CLAIMS						INSURED UNEMPLOYMENT						
CHANGE FROM						CHANGE FROM						
STATE	STATE	LAST WEEK	YEAR AGO	UCFE 1	UCX 1	STATE	(%) 2	LAST WEEK	YEAR AGO	UCFE 1	UCX 1	ALL PROGRAMS EXCLUDING RAILROAD RETIREMENT
Alabama	3545	-117	-77	11	12	22308	1.2	-217	-4390	121	209	22638
Alaska	1211	56	-80	6	3	10475	3.3	-451	-3114	99	60	10634
Arizona	4466	-33	-576	8	17	33927	1.4	35	-6416	115	196	34238
Arkansas	3011	58	-277	7	2	20457	1.8	279	-1142	110	190	20757
California	42759	-2530	-11522	214	187	372770	2.4	-25149	-73928	1995	3567	378332
Colorado	2600	-439	-75	11	48	31354	1.3	-774	-6422	216	878	32448
Connecticut	3120	298	-277	5	13	36929	2.3	-967	-8100	109	159	37197
Delaware	587	-30	-53	2	0	5851	1.4	-180	-1193	24	39	5914
District of Columbia	375	21	-19	1	0	7609	1.4	36	-2241	374	18	8001
Florida	9216	-287	-3789	19	79	59035	0.8	-1048	-38021	253	525	59813
Georgia	6600	-431	-705	32	63	36277	0.9	491	-8599	250	613	37140
Hawaii	1236	-270	-369	4	13	8092	1.4	112	-1901	90	202	8384
Idaho	933	-162	-193	3	0	7055	1.1	-1214	-2873	43	22	7120
Illinois	9384	-648	-1721	8	33	111732	2.0	-2531	-27609	396	499	112627
Indiana	3377	143	-826	13	15	23111	0.8	-394	-9915	86	136	23333
Iowa	2307	-230	10	7	4	17237	1.2	-22	-415	64	109	17410
Kansas	1973	-290	-2559	6	8	15474	1.2	449	-2865	74	170	15718
Kentucky	3276	604	-655	51	10	21347	1.2	-628	-3859	150	377	21874
Louisiana	2762	-76	419	3	6	22894	1.2	21	4377	43	71	23008
Maine	1104	158	118	0	2	8981	1.6	-793	-2534	26	57	9064
Maryland	3636	-114	-501	24	20	38732	1.6	-646	-10652	344	348	39424
Massachusetts	5498	536	-440	12	27	65188	2.0	-3063	-7954	194	422	65804
Michigan	5790	202	-7647	16	21	55998	1.4	-879	-32000	214	315	56527
Minnesota	3503	81	-29	6	8	35377	1.3	-2816	-8870	84	193	35654
Mississippi	2413	190	-578	7	4	12244	1.1	368	-6014	121	71	12436
Missouri	5324	1382	-1446	33	17	29231	1.1	39	-6915	208	188	29627
Montana	827	3	-70	6	7	7217	1.7	-452	-764	108	50	7375
Nebraska	1163	54	-72	5	5	5935	0.6	251	-1036	45	25	6005
Nevada	3120	52	10	6	13	25493	2.2	-285	-4381	97	166	25756
New Hampshire	462	-111	-331	0	3	4800	0.8	-1373	-2240	14	12	4826
New Jersey	7555	217	-969	15	27	94279	2.5	-2945	-17151	286	437	95002
New Mexico	1146	84	-97	5	7	13418	1.8	637	-2428	114	102	13634
New York	15874	965	-1002	36	74	153465	1.8	-4747	-25595	543	949	154957
North Carolina	5070	129	-810	12	40	33617	0.8	-98	-19807	168	454	34239
North Dakota	475	30	256	3	0	3451	0.8	-176	1411	12	21	3484
Ohio	7435	186	-682	10	41	58192	1.1	-2531	-10423	162	511	58865
Oklahoma	2139	76	436	6	22	21779	1.4	47	5773	79	170	22028
Oregon	4962	1002	-141	28	33	31212	1.9	-690	-6558	373	237	31822
Pennsylvania	16222	575	-2290	78	58	121028	2.2	-4820	-31093	615	693	122336
Puerto Rico	2041	-142	-98	1	7	24693	2.8	869	-5254	70	264	25027
Rhode Island	1004	137	-7	2	4	8670	1.9	-434	-1549	33	52	8755
South Carolina	2659	-705	-1097	9	15	14630	0.8	-382	-2653	50	187	14867
South Dakota	292	101	-10	4	0	1330	0.3	-140	-205	28	8	1366
Tennessee	3403	-65	-565	9	11	24321	0.9	222	-6708	141	205	24667
Texas	17021	-327	66	35	174	165610	1.5	2536	19004	485	2696	168791
Utah	1264	-127	-226	25	7	10990	0.9	-14	-1408	94	65	11149
Vermont	814	310	112	3	0	4558	1.5	-481	-747	15	13	4586
Virgin Islands	36	11	-13	0	1	976	2.6	310	104	12	16	1004
Virginia	3763	300	-957	10	24	27430	0.8	-34	-7966	302	732	28464
Washington	6596	-235	-766	21	92	50243	1.7	-2651	-8856	295	1123	51661
West Virginia	1371	-8	148	7	1	14427	2.1	-181	790	87	75	14589
Wisconsin	6298	89	-878	4	14	41352	1.5	-2337	-14727	121	92	41565
Wyoming	467	-70	7	0	1	5563	2.0	-407	1901	56	41	5660
Totals	243485	603	-43913	849	1293	2078364	1.6	-60248	-416131	10208	19030	2107602

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 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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