News Release

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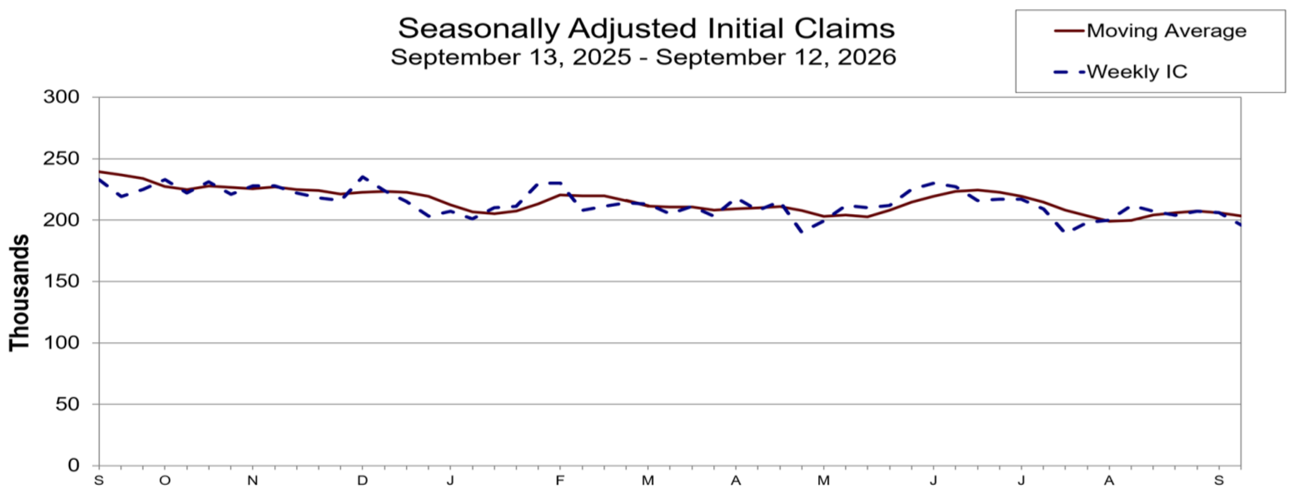
8:30 A.M. (Eastern) Thursday, September 17, 2026

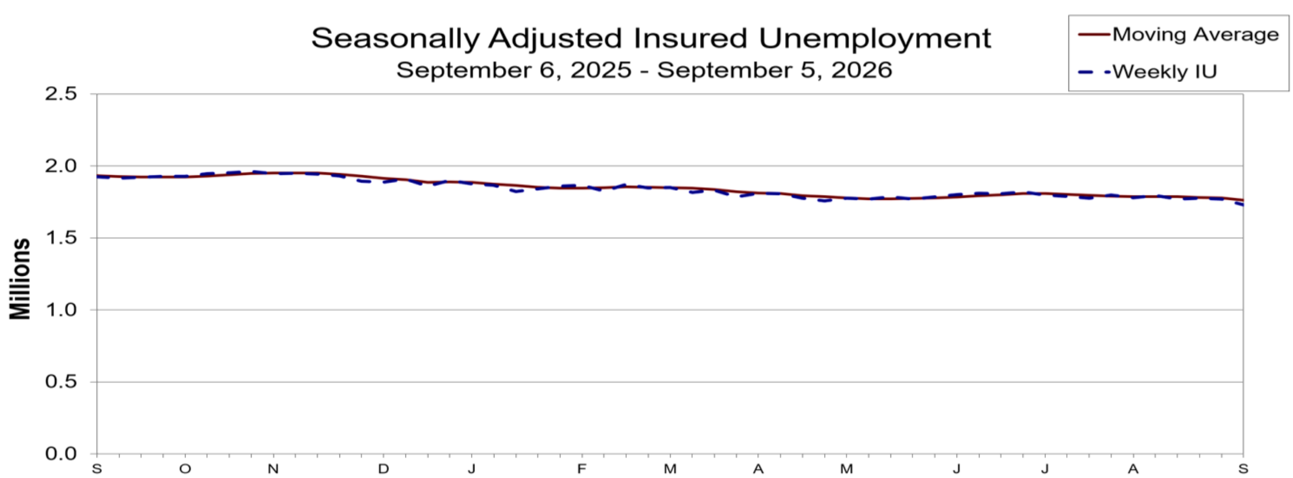
UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE WEEKLY CLAIMS

SEASONALLY ADJUSTED DATA

In the week ending September 12, the advance figure for seasonally adjusted **initial claims** was 196,000, a decrease of 10,000 from the previous week's unrevised level of 206,000. The 4-week moving average was 203,250, a decrease of 2,750 from the previous week's unrevised average of 206,000.

The advance seasonally adjusted **insured unemployment rate** was 1.1 percent for the week ending September 5, 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 September 5 was 1,730,000, a decrease of 39,000 from the previous week's revised level. The previous week's level was revised down by 5,000 from 1,774,000 to 1,769,000. The 4-week moving average was 1,761,250, a decrease of 16,500 from the previous week's revised average. The previous week's average was revised down by 1,250 from 1,779,000 to 1,777,750.

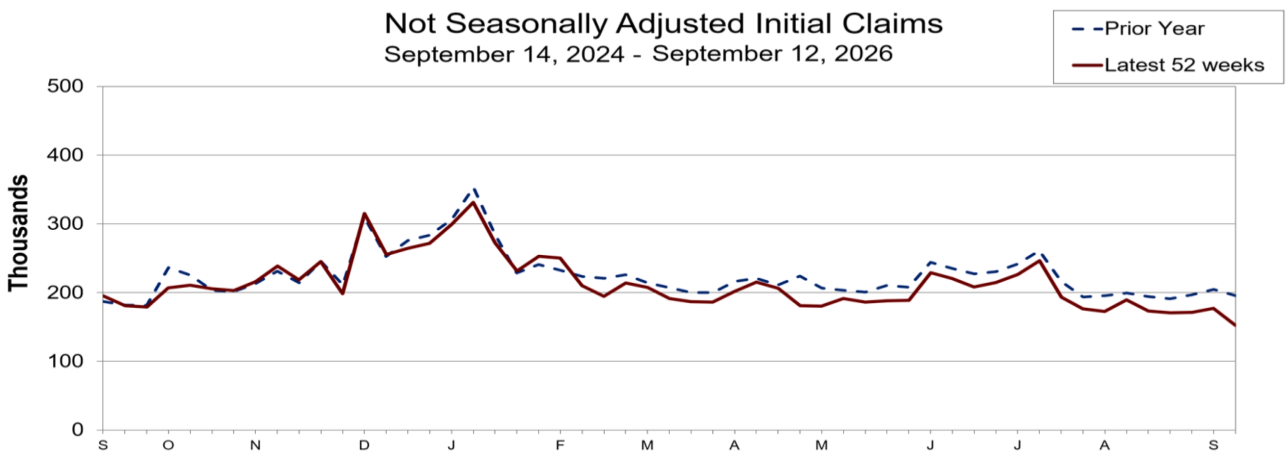


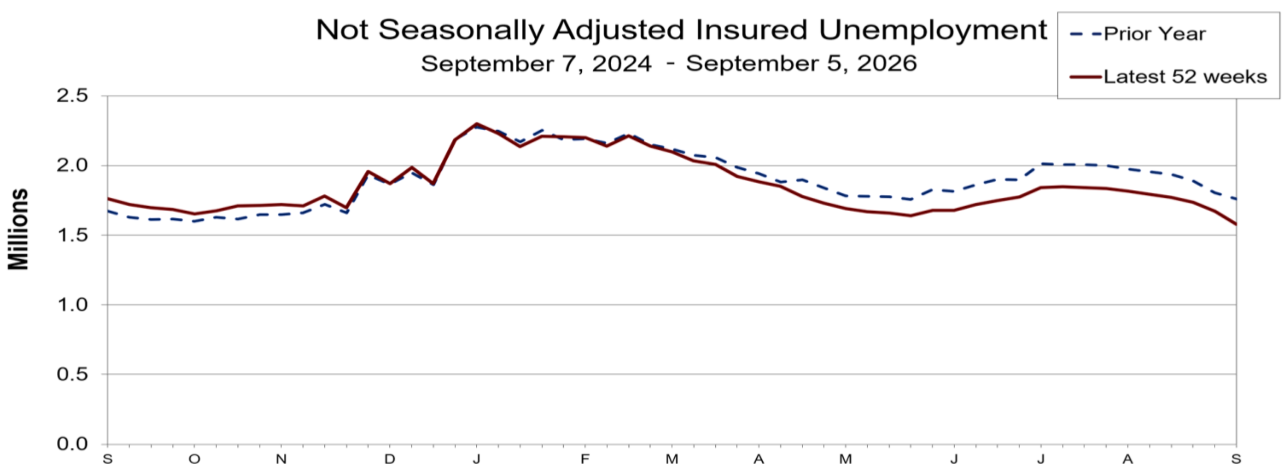


UNADJUSTED DATA

The advance number of actual initial claims under state programs, unadjusted, totaled 152,286 in the week ending September 12, a decrease of 24,630 (or -13.9 percent) from the previous week. The seasonal factors had expected a decrease of 16,515 (or -9.3 percent) from the previous week. There were 195,433 initial claims in the comparable week in 2025.

The advance unadjusted insured unemployment rate was 1.0 percent during the week ending September 5, a decrease of 0.1 percentage point from the prior week. The advance unadjusted level of insured unemployment in state programs totaled 1,577,344, a decrease of 94,261 (or -5.6 percent) from the preceding week. The seasonal factors had expected a decrease of 58,374 (or -3.5 percent) from the previous week. A year earlier the rate was 1.2 percent and the volume was 1,759,884.





The total number of continued weeks claimed for benefits in all programs for the week ending August 29 was 1,694,367, a decrease of 63,781 from the previous week. There were 1,834,461 weekly claims filed for benefits in all programs in the comparable week in 2025.

No state was triggered "on" the Extended Benefits program during the week ending August 29.

Initial claims for UI benefits filed by former Federal civilian employees totaled 398 in the week ending September 5, an increase of 10 from the prior week. There were 495 initial claims filed by newly discharged veterans, an increase of 86 from the preceding week.

There were 5,478 continued weeks claimed filed by former Federal civilian employees the week ending August 29, a decrease of 249 from the previous week. Newly discharged veterans claiming benefits totaled 4,719, a decrease of 183 from the prior week.

The highest insured unemployment rates in the week ending August 29 were in New Jersey (2.6), Puerto Rico (2.6), Massachusetts (2.0), Rhode Island (1.9), Washington (1.9), California (1.8), Minnesota (1.8), Oregon (1.8), Nevada (1.7), and New York (1.7).

The largest increases in initial claims for the week ending September 5 were in Michigan (+2,075), California (+1,967), Washington (+952), New Jersey (+686), and Nebraska (+606), while the largest decreases were in New York (-3,790), Kentucky (-778), Arkansas (-367), Rhode Island (-200), and Hawaii (-197).

UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE DATA FOR REGULAR STATE PROGRAMS

WEEK ENDING	**September 12**	**September 5**	**Change**	**August 29**	**Prior Year**[1]
Initial Claims (SA)	196,000	206,000	-10,000	207,000	233,000
Initial Claims (NSA)	152,286	176,916	-24,630	171,403	195,433
4-Wk Moving Average (SA)	203,250	206,000	-2,750	207,500	239,250

WEEK ENDING	**September 5**	**August 29**	**Change**	**August 22**	**Prior Year**[1]
Insured Unemployment (SA)	1,730,000	1,769,000	-39,000	1,775,000	1,925,000
Insured Unemployment (NSA)	1,577,344	1,671,605	-94,261	1,734,461	1,759,884
4-Wk Moving Average (SA)	1,761,250	1,777,750	-16,500	1,780,750	1,932,750
Insured Unemployment Rate (SA)[2]	1.1%	1.2%	-0.1	1.2%	1.3%
Insured Unemployment Rate (NSA)[2]	1.0%	1.1%	-0.1	1.1%	1.2%

INITIAL CLAIMS FILED IN FEDERAL PROGRAMS (UNADJUSTED)

WEEK ENDING	**September 5**	**August 29**	**Change**	**Prior Year**[1]
Federal Employees (UCFE)	398	388	+10	572
Newly Discharged Veterans (UCX)	495	409	+86	400

CONTINUED WEEKS CLAIMED FILED FOR UI BENEFITS IN ALL PROGRAMS (UNADJUSTED)

WEEK ENDING	**August 29**	**August 22**	**Change**	**Prior Year**[1]
Regular State	1,667,741	1,730,151	-62,410	1,796,530
Federal Employees	5,478	5,727	-249	7,863
Newly Discharged Veterans	4,719	4,902	-183	4,482
Extended Benefits[3]	15	13	+2	38
State Additional Benefits[4]	3,018	3,147	-129	2,333
STC / Workshare [5]	13,396	14,208	-812	23,215
TOTAL	1,694,367	1,758,148	-63,781	1,834,461

FOOTNOTES

SA - Seasonally Adjusted Data, NSA - Not Seasonally Adjusted Data Continued weeks claimed represent all weeks of benefits claimed during the week being reported, and do not represent weeks claimed by unique individuals.

1. Prior year is comparable to most recent data.
2. Most recent week used covered employment of 153,732,307 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 benefits, and when applicable, extended 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 4-11 of the following link: Extensions and Special Programs PDF

Advance State Claims - Not Seasonally Adjusted

STATE	Initial Claims Filed During Week Ended September 12 Advance	Prior Wk	Change	Insured Unemployment For Week Ended September 5 Advance	Prior Wk	Change
Alabama	1,288	1,515	-227	6,430	7,316	-886
Alaska	459	412	47	2,937	3,023	-86
Arizona	2,184	2,516	-332	19,889	23,265	-3,376
Arkansas	1,207	1,084	123	4,726	5,394	-668
California	32,790	37,388	-4,598	306,177	321,036	-14,859
Colorado	2,570	2,963	-393	30,216	29,527	689
Connecticut	1,961	3,193	-1,232	21,275	26,526	-5,251
Delaware	373	470	-97	4,558	5,202	-644
District of Columbia	500	610	-110	7,132	7,457	-325
Florida	4,878	5,510	-632	27,390	32,873	-5,483
Georgia	3,590	3,992	-402	22,695	24,236	-1,541
Hawaii	1,398	1,169	229	6,048	5,763	285
Idaho	540	654	-114	3,768	4,100	-332
Illinois	5,584	7,089	-1,505	80,754	84,408	-3,654
Indiana	1,901	2,136	-235	17,203	17,551	-348
Iowa	1,288	1,247	41	6,063	6,713	-650
Kansas	723	847	-124	6,663	6,495	168
Kentucky	1,630	596	1,034	9,189	7,211	1,978
Louisiana	1,060	1,316	-256	5,173	6,439	-1,266
Maine	351	430	-79	4,080	4,383	-303
Maryland	1,508	2,159	-651	21,649	23,111	-1,462
Massachusetts	4,635	4,512	123	66,214	72,701	-6,487
Michigan	3,646	5,802	-2,156	39,717	42,597	-2,880
Minnesota	2,868	3,308	-440	42,828	51,745	-8,917
Mississippi	778	900	-122	5,698	6,383	-685
Missouri	1,673	2,194	-521	14,147	15,637	-1,490
Montana	272	366	-94	3,539	3,721	-182
Nebraska	438	1,097	-659	4,460	4,334	126
Nevada	2,138	2,600	-462	26,359	26,170	189
New Hampshire	185	333	-148	2,793	3,798	-1,005
New Jersey	6,706	8,409	-1,703	99,759	109,051	-9,292
New Mexico	633	640	-7	8,853	9,059	-206
New York	12,356	14,447	-2,091	160,805	166,500	-5,695
North Carolina	2,511	2,956	-445	16,658	18,190	-1,532
North Dakota	172	208	-36	1,893	1,838	55
Ohio	4,002	4,331	-329	33,813	35,261	-1,448
Oklahoma	924	1,100	-176	9,338	9,678	-340
Oregon	4,018	4,204	-186	34,491	35,059	-568
Pennsylvania	7,137	8,421	-1,284	75,286	82,842	-7,556
Puerto Rico*	1,410	1,281	129	23,639	23,735	-96
Rhode Island	577	671	-94	7,946	9,340	-1,394
South Carolina	1,980	1,911	69	14,215	14,435	-220
South Dakota	136	174	-38	913	922	-9
Tennessee	2,551	2,698	-147	14,194	14,502	-308
Texas	12,089	15,090	-3,001	132,684	139,473	-6,789
Utah	1,076	1,198	-122	10,238	10,297	-59
Vermont	218	282	-64	1,958	2,119	-161
Virgin Islands	50	58	-8	442	410	32
Virginia	2,027	2,145	-118	21,257	19,605	1,652
Washington	4,758	5,294	-536	67,568	65,479	2,089
West Virginia	441	543	-102	5,240	5,031	209
Wisconsin	1,951	2,198	-247	15,048	18,360	-3,312
Wyoming	147	249	-102	1,336	1,304	32
US Total	152,286	176,916	-24,630	1,577,344	1,671,605	-94,261

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 claims 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.

*Denotes OUI estimate.

Seasonally Adjusted US Weekly UI Claims (in thousands)

Week Ending	Initial Claims	Change from Prior Week	4-Week Average	Insured Unemployment	Change from Prior Week	4-Week Average	IUR
September 6, 2025	259	23	239.25	1,925	-2	1,932.75	1.3
September 13, 2025	233	-26	239.25	1,916	-9	1,926.25	1.3
September 20, 2025	219	-14	236.75	1,921	5	1,922.25	1.3
September 27, 2025	225	6	234.00	1,929	8	1,922.75	1.3
October 4, 2025	233	8	227.50	1,928	-1	1,923.50	1.3
October 11, 2025	222	-11	224.75	1,947	19	1,931.25	1.3
October 18, 2025	231	9	227.75	1,953	6	1,939.25	1.3
October 25, 2025	221	-10	226.75	1,962	9	1,947.50	1.3
November 1, 2025	228	7	225.50	1,946	-16	1,952.00	1.3
November 8, 2025	228	0	227.00	1,949	3	1,952.50	1.3
November 15, 2025	222	-6	224.75	1,943	-6	1,950.00	1.3
November 22, 2025	218	-4	224.00	1,932	-11	1,942.50	1.3
November 29, 2025	216	-2	221.00	1,894	-38	1,929.50	1.2
December 6, 2025	235	19	222.75	1,887	-7	1,914.00	1.2
December 13, 2025	224	-11	223.25	1,910	23	1,905.75	1.2
December 20, 2025	215	-9	222.50	1,860	-50	1,887.75	1.2
December 27, 2025	203	-12	219.25	1,900	40	1,889.25	1.2
January 3, 2026	207	4	212.25	1,875	-25	1,886.25	1.2
January 10, 2026	201	-6	206.50	1,865	-10	1,875.00	1.2
January 17, 2026	210	9	205.25	1,823	-42	1,865.75	1.2
January 24, 2026	211	1	207.25	1,842	19	1,851.25	1.2
January 31, 2026	230	19	213.00	1,859	17	1,847.25	1.2
February 7, 2026	230	0	220.25	1,865	6	1,847.25	1.2
February 14, 2026	208	-22	219.75	1,827	-38	1,848.25	1.2
February 21, 2026	211	3	219.75	1,871	44	1,855.50	1.2
February 28, 2026	214	3	215.75	1,847	-24	1,852.50	1.2
March 7, 2026	213	-1	211.50	1,851	4	1,849.00	1.2
March 14, 2026	205	-8	210.75	1,816	-35	1,846.25	1.2
March 21, 2026	211	6	210.75	1,832	16	1,836.50	1.2
March 28, 2026	203	-8	208.00	1,787	-45	1,821.50	1.2
April 4, 2026	218	15	209.25	1,809	22	1,811.00	1.2
April 11, 2026	208	-10	210.00	1,808	-1	1,809.00	1.2
April 18, 2026	215	7	211.00	1,776	-32	1,795.00	1.2
April 25, 2026	190	-25	207.75	1,758	-18	1,787.75	1.1
May 2, 2026	199	9	203.00	1,776	18	1,779.50	1.2
May 9, 2026	212	13	204.00	1,771	-5	1,770.25	1.2
May 16, 2026	210	-2	202.75	1,785	14	1,772.50	1.2
May 23, 2026	212	2	208.25	1,771	-14	1,775.75	1.2
May 30, 2026	225	13	214.75	1,786	15	1,778.25	1.2
June 6, 2026	230	5	219.25	1,800	14	1,785.50	1.2
June 13, 2026	227	-3	223.50	1,812	12	1,792.25	1.2
June 20, 2026	216	-11	224.50	1,806	-6	1,801.00	1.2
June 27, 2026	217	1	222.50	1,821	15	1,809.75	1.2
July 4, 2026	217	0	219.25	1,798	-23	1,809.25	1.2
July 11, 2026	209	-8	214.75	1,789	-9	1,803.50	1.2
July 18, 2026	189	-20	208.00	1,777	-12	1,796.25	1.2
July 25, 2026	198	9	203.25	1,799	22	1,790.75	1.2
August 1, 2026	200	2	199.00	1,781	-18	1,786.50	1.2
August 8, 2026	212	12	199.75	1,796	15	1,788.25	1.2
August 15, 2026	207	-5	204.25	1,771	-25	1,786.75	1.2
August 22, 2026	204	-3	205.75	1,775	4	1,780.75	1.2
August 29, 2026	207	3	207.50	1,769	-6	1,777.75	1.2
September 5, 2026	206	-1	206.00	1,730	-39	1,761.25	1.1
September 12, 2026	196	-10	203.25				

	INITIAL CLAIMS FILED DURING WEEK ENDED SEPTEMBER 5					INSURED UNEMPLOYMENT FOR WEEK ENDED AUGUST 29						
		CHANGE FROM						CHANGE FROM				TOTAL
STATE NAME	STATE	LAST WEEK	YEAR AGO	UCFE [1]	UCX [1]	STATE	(%) [2]	LAST WEEK	YEAR AGO	UCFE [1]	UCX [1]	INSURED UNEMPLOYMENT
Alabama	1,515	-76	-252	1	2	7,316	0.4	-73	-1,747	25	15	7,356
Alaska	412	48	26	0	0	3,023	1.0	16	-339	27	3	3,053
Arizona	2,516	179	-464	6	6	23,265	0.7	-654	-7,869	55	32	23,352
Arkansas	1,084	-367	-43	0	8	5,394	0.4	-65	-1,201	0	1	5,395
California	37,388	1,967	274	97	115	321,036	1.8	-6,571	-30,548	752	1,192	322,980
Colorado	2,963	253	212	3	12	29,527	1.0	-425	101	105	211	29,843
Connecticut	3,193	420	-3,835	1	2	26,526	1.6	-2,776	160	48	28	26,602
Delaware	470	32	203	0	2	5,202	1.1	148	2	5	4	5,211
District of Columbia	610	40	-97	29	2	7,457	1.3	-83	-2,856	436	5	7,898
Florida	5,510	52	-293	15	31	32,873	0.3	-65	-2,090	85	62	33,020
Georgia	3,992	223	-204	18	31	24,236	0.5	-548	-2,823	132	96	24,464
Hawaii	1,169	-197	267	3	10	5,763	0.9	-572	330	49	47	5,859
Idaho	654	103	31	0	1	4,100	0.5	-199	-774	10	10	4,120
Illinois	7,089	357	-3,090	4	4	84,408	1.4	-3,573	-8,690	299	118	84,825
Indiana	2,136	-182	-212	4	2	17,551	0.6	-80	-1,943	13	16	17,580
Iowa	1,247	80	-357	1	0	6,713	0.4	-335	-1,226	12	5	6,730
Kansas	847	69	-56	0	0	6,495	0.5	-270	-950	20	20	6,535
Kentucky	596	-778	-902	0	0	7,211	0.4	-2,227	-2,402	34	32	7,277
Louisiana	1,316	5	-43	4	1	6,439	0.3	-291	-2,879	25	11	6,475
Maine	430	91	56	0	0	4,383	0.7	-226	-686	10	6	4,399
Maryland	2,159	104	-59	25	6	23,111	0.9	-2,101	-5,144	317	69	23,497
Massachusetts	4,512	564	920	0	1	72,701	2.0	-2,112	68	211	118	73,030
Michigan	5,802	2,075	-2,639	1	3	42,597	1.0	-1,845	-4,568	91	33	42,721
Minnesota	3,308	300	-116	7	3	51,745	1.8	-4,744	284	68	41	51,854
Mississippi	900	72	40	1	0	6,383	0.6	-133	-325	40	6	6,429
Missouri	2,194	89	245	2	1	15,637	0.6	-1,676	-1,142	71	12	15,720
Montana	366	33	-40	2	1	3,721	0.7	-194	-89	23	3	3,747
Nebraska	1,097	606	517	0	1	4,334	0.4	-147	-547	13	5	4,352
Nevada	2,600	-117	156	0	4	26,170	1.7	-306	-529	43	73	26,286
New Hampshire	333	16	-5	0	1	3,798	0.6	-443	-168	3	1	3,802
New Jersey	8,409	686	-432	21	30	109,051	2.6	-1,729	-3,293	195	211	109,457
New Mexico	640	-158	-29	5	4	9,059	1.1	-38	-791	74	21	9,154
New York	14,447	-3,790	1,597	20	25	166,500	1.7	-1,466	2,304	316	250	167,066
North Carolina	2,956	-16	-324	3	1	18,190	0.4	-258	-2,345	62	87	18,339
North Dakota	208	-2	-736	1	2	1,838	0.4	-208	-39	20	4	1,862
Ohio	4,331	470	-431	4	13	35,261	0.6	-1,737	-8,685	69	60	35,390
Oklahoma	1,100	-30	-68	5	8	9,678	0.6	-208	-1,194	24	33	9,735
Oregon	4,204	426	134	4	5	35,059	1.8	-2,428	1,653	95	49	35,203
Pennsylvania	8,421	455	-359	16	11	82,842	1.4	-12,729	-8,918	322	88	83,252
Puerto Rico*	1,281	0	77	6	2	23,735	2.6	0	6,034	192	43	23,970
Rhode Island	671	-200	-84	1	4	9,340	1.9	-1,272	-1,026	35	20	9,395
South Carolina	1,911	73	46	3	3	14,435	0.6	-377	-286	51	52	14,538
South Dakota	174	24	25	2	1	922	0.2	-81	-110	20	0	942
Tennessee	2,698	357	3	1	7	14,502	0.5	-381	-3,567	46	39	14,587
Texas	15,090	28	-16,860	55	100	139,473	1.0	-3,693	-21,854	506	929	140,908
Utah	1,198	50	-53	5	1	10,297	0.6	-232	-1,441	55	17	10,369
Vermont	282	29	58	0	0	2,119	0.7	-261	191	8	2	2,129
Virgin Islands	58	16	3	0	1	410	1.2	8	90	4	0	414
Virginia	2,145	33	-444	7	7	19,605	0.5	-346	145	153	113	19,871
Washington	5,294	952	70	6	17	65,479	1.9	-1,390	-5,197	152	407	66,038
West Virginia	543	-47	-52	3	3	5,031	0.7	-370	-1,002	18	5	5,054
Wisconsin	2,198	48	-326	5	0	18,360	0.6	-1,047	-1,608	35	13	18,408
Wyoming	249	48	-1	1	0	1,304	0.5	-43	-213	4	1	1,309
Totals	176,916	5,513	-27,946	398	495	1,671,605	1.1	-62,856	-131,742	5,478	4,719	1,681,802

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 U.S. total covered employment is BLS.

*Reflects week ending August 8, 2026.

UNADJUSTED INITIAL CLAIMS FOR WEEK ENDED SEPTEMBER 5, 2026

STATES WITH AN INCREASE OF MORE THAN 1,000

State	Change	State Supplied Comment
MI	+2,075	Layoffs in manufacturing industry.
CA	+1,967	No comment.

STATES WITH A DECREASE OF MORE THAN 1,000

State	Change	State Supplied Comment
NY	-3,790	Fewer layoffs in transportation and warehousing, accommodation and food services, and educational services 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. On a weekly basis, continued claims are also referred to as insured unemployment, as continued claims reflect a good approximation of the current number of insured unemployed workers filing for UI benefits. The count of U.S. continued weeks claimed is also a good indicator of labor market conditions. 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. For further questions on the seasonal adjustment methodology, please see the official release page for the UI claims seasonal adjustment factors or contact BLS directly through the Local Area Unemployment Statistics web contact form.

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).

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