



News Release

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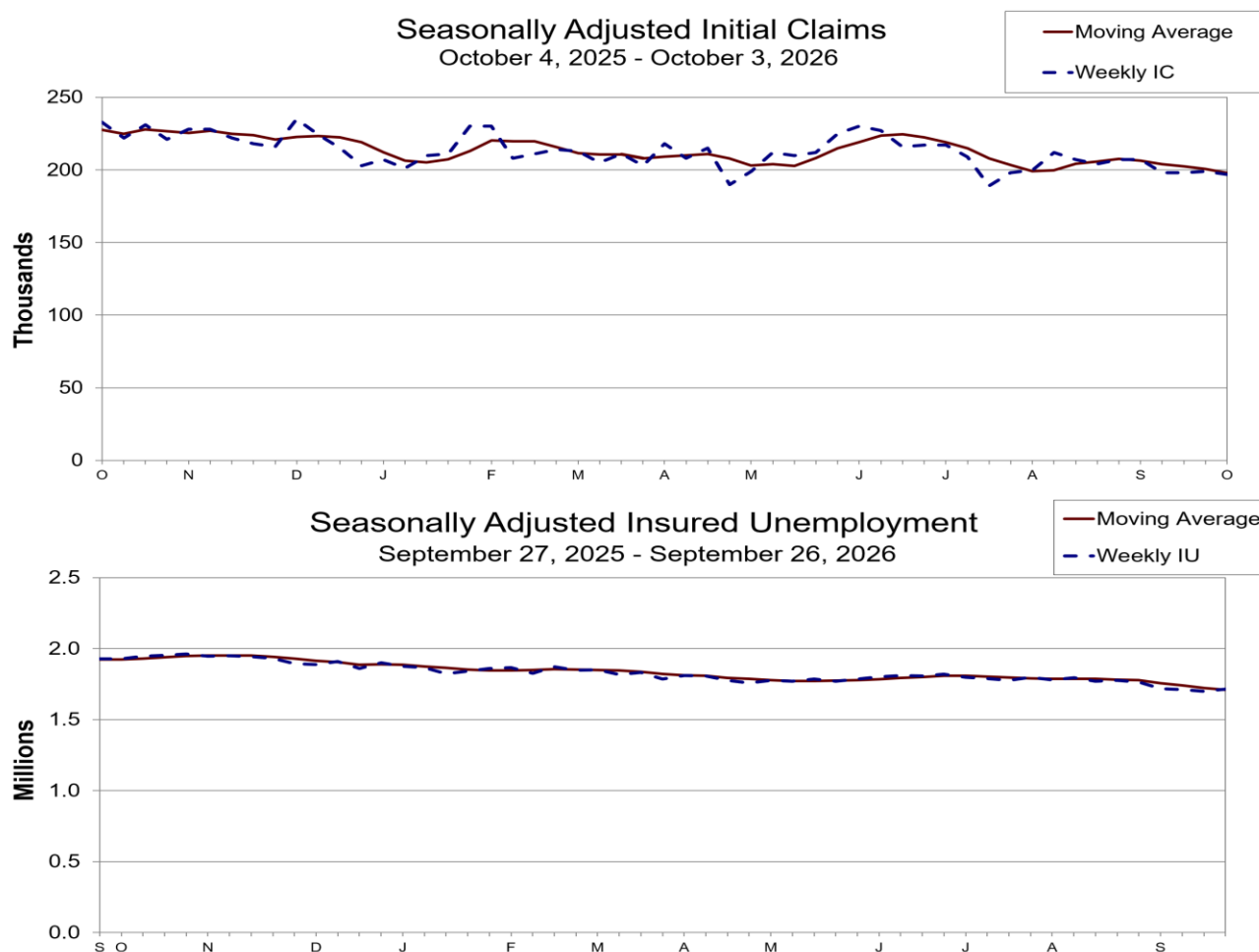
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8:30 A.M. (Eastern) Thursday, October 8, 2026

UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE WEEKLY CLAIMS

SEASONALLY ADJUSTED DATA

In the week ending October 3, the advance figure for seasonally adjusted **initial claims** was 197,000, a decrease of 2,000 from the previous week's revised level. The previous week's level was revised up by 2,000 from 197,000 to 199,000. The 4-week moving average was 198,000, a decrease of 2,500 from the previous week's revised average. The previous week's average was revised up by 500 from 200,000 to 200,500.

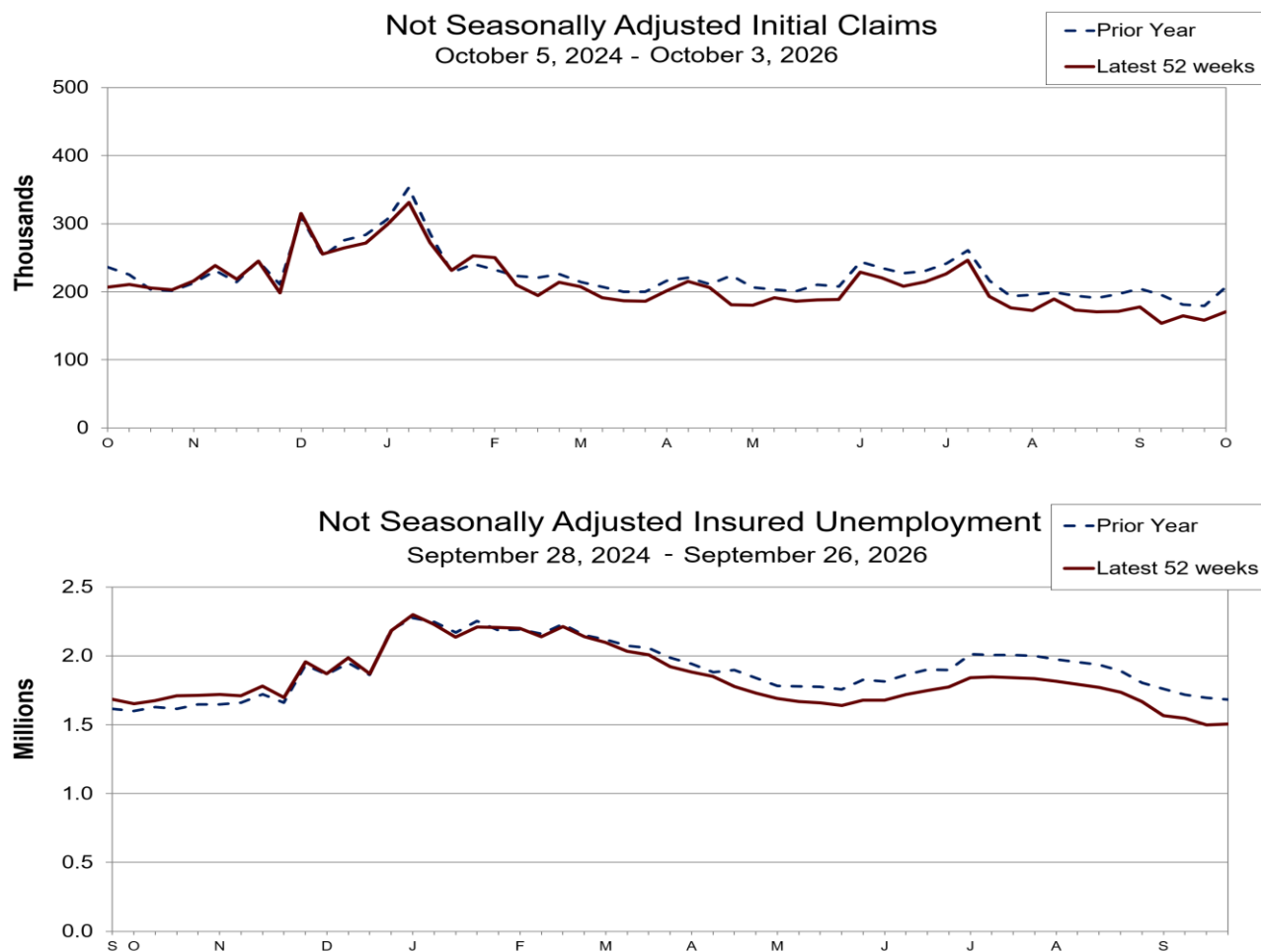
The advance seasonally adjusted **insured unemployment rate** was 1.1 percent for the week ending September 26, unchanged from the previous week's unrevised rate. The advance number for seasonally adjusted **insured unemployment** during the week ending September 26 was 1,716,000, an increase of 17,000 from the previous week's revised level. The previous week's level was revised down by 2,000 from 1,701,000 to 1,699,000. The 4-week moving average was 1,711,000, a decrease of 12,250 from the previous week's revised average. The previous week's average was revised down by 500 from 1,723,750 to 1,723,250.



UNADJUSTED DATA

The advance number of actual initial claims under state programs, unadjusted, totaled 170,333 in the week ending October 3, an increase of 11,994 (or 7.6 percent) from the previous week. The seasonal factors had expected an increase of 13,725 (or 8.7 percent) from the previous week. There were 207,124 initial claims in the comparable week in 2025.

The advance unadjusted insured unemployment rate was 1.0 percent during the week ending September 26, unchanged from the prior week. The advance unadjusted level of insured unemployment in state programs totaled 1,504,800, an increase of 7,579 (or 0.5 percent) from the preceding week. The seasonal factors had expected a decrease of 6,798 (or -0.5 percent) from the previous week. A year earlier the rate was 1.1 percent and the volume was 1,683,703.



The total number of continued weeks claimed for benefits in all programs for the week ending September 19 was 1,520,055, a decrease of 47,372 from the previous week. There were 1,727,793 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 September 19.

Initial claims for UI benefits filed by former Federal civilian employees totaled 395 in the week ending September 26, an increase of 26 from the prior week. There were 426 initial claims filed by newly discharged veterans, an increase of 47 from the preceding week.

There were 5,153 continued weeks claimed filed by former Federal civilian employees the week ending September 19, an increase of 34 from the previous week. Newly discharged veterans claiming benefits totaled 4,947, an increase of 113 from the prior week.

The highest insured unemployment rates in the week ending September 19 were in New Jersey (2.0), Washington (1.8), California (1.7), Massachusetts (1.7), Puerto Rico (1.7), Nevada (1.6), Oregon (1.5), Rhode Island (1.5), New York (1.4), Illinois (1.3), and the Virgin Islands (1.3).

The largest increases in initial claims for the week ending September 26 were in Michigan (+739), Nevada (+167), Maryland (+105), North Dakota (+26), and Arizona (+19), while the largest decreases were in Hawaii (-1,172), New York (-819), Illinois (-625), Georgia (-543), and Texas (-506).

UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE DATA FOR REGULAR STATE PROGRAMS

WEEK ENDING	October 3	September 26	Change	September 19	Prior Year ¹
Initial Claims (SA)	197,000	199,000	-2,000	198,000	233,000
Initial Claims (NSA)	170,333	158,339	+11,994	164,717	207,124
4-Wk Moving Average (SA)	198,000	200,500	-2,500	202,500	227,500

WEEK ENDING	September 26	September 19	Change	September 12	Prior Year ¹
Insured Unemployment (SA)	1,716,000	1,699,000	+17,000	1,712,000	1,929,000
Insured Unemployment (NSA)	1,504,800	1,497,221	+7,579	1,545,661	1,683,703
4-Wk Moving Average (SA)	1,711,000	1,723,250	-12,250	1,742,250	1,922,750
Insured Unemployment Rate (SA) ²	1.1%	1.1%	0.0	1.1%	1.3%
Insured Unemployment Rate (NSA) ²	1.0%	1.0%	0.0	1.0%	1.1%

INITIAL CLAIMS FILED IN FEDERAL PROGRAMS (UNADJUSTED)

WEEK ENDING	September 26	September 19	Change	Prior Year ¹
Federal Employees (UCFE)	395	369	+26	588
Newly Discharged Veterans (UCX)	426	379	+47	414

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

WEEK ENDING	September 19	September 12	Change	Prior Year ¹
Regular State	1,493,286	1,541,870	-48,584	1,689,806
Federal Employees	5,153	5,119	+34	8,469
Newly Discharged Veterans	4,947	4,834	+113	4,606
Extended Benefits ³	20	10	+10	108
State Additional Benefits ⁴	3,427	3,243	+184	2,599
STC / Workshare ⁵	13,222	12,351	+871	22,205
TOTAL	1,520,055	1,567,427	-47,372	1,727,793

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 October 3			Insured Unemployment For Week Ended September 26		
	Advance	Prior Wk	Change	Advance	Prior Wk	Change
Alabama	1,601	1,637	-36	6,365	7,007	-642
Alaska	634	425	209	3,169	3,157	12
Arizona	2,253	2,362	-109	18,481	21,459	-2,978
Arkansas	967	993	-26	4,478	4,993	-515
California	39,040	34,462	4,578	314,569	303,621	10,948
Colorado	3,289	2,768	521	30,483	29,223	1,260
Connecticut	2,070	1,967	103	20,059	19,318	741
Delaware	426	447	-21	4,361	4,067	294
District of Columbia	646	525	121	6,682	6,854	-172
Florida	5,111	5,127	-16	27,654	30,524	-2,870
Georgia	3,498	3,562	-64	21,966	23,194	-1,228
Hawaii	1,485	1,734	-249	7,834	7,254	580
Idaho	648	593	55	3,649	3,939	-290
Illinois	6,793	5,639	1,154	79,891	77,716	2,175
Indiana	2,243	1,848	395	16,775	17,043	-268
Iowa	1,242	1,355	-113	6,241	6,500	-259
Kansas	918	805	113	6,184	6,096	88
Kentucky	1,233	1,248	-15	8,365	9,022	-657
Louisiana	1,111	1,141	-30	4,649	5,681	-1,032
Maine	464	344	120	4,106	4,022	84
Maryland	1,911	2,029	-118	21,246	21,104	142
Massachusetts	4,445	4,005	440	62,332	62,442	-110
Michigan	4,387	4,563	-176	37,584	38,602	-1,018
Minnesota	3,020	2,838	182	32,309	31,789	520
Mississippi	789	778	11	5,410	5,816	-406
Missouri	2,119	2,064	55	14,148	14,408	-260
Montana	537	512	25	3,579	3,539	40
Nebraska	515	465	50	4,387	4,543	-156
Nevada	3,187	2,605	582	24,616	24,865	-249
New Hampshire	253	316	-63	2,641	3,234	-593
New Jersey	7,990	7,392	598	84,973	85,529	-556
New Mexico	710	668	42	8,606	8,551	55
New York	13,140	12,155	985	138,990	137,118	1,872
North Carolina	2,742	2,748	-6	16,171	17,388	-1,217
North Dakota	248	215	33	1,581	1,434	147
Ohio	4,627	4,333	294	33,481	33,942	-461
Oklahoma	1,127	1,041	86	9,152	9,455	-303
Oregon	4,512	3,733	779	31,262	29,903	1,359
Pennsylvania	7,437	7,431	6	70,747	72,227	-1,480
Puerto Rico	1,373	1,392	-19	14,792	15,727	-935
Rhode Island	598	526	72	7,382	7,274	108
South Carolina	1,845	1,638	207	13,346	13,814	-468
South Dakota	155	160	-5	942	891	51
Tennessee	2,371	2,279	92	13,484	13,835	-351
Texas	12,997	12,404	593	134,744	133,278	1,466
Utah	1,268	1,243	25	10,047	10,126	-79
Vermont	304	244	60	1,928	1,840	88
Virgin Islands	49	31	18	478	448	30
Virginia	2,366	2,207	159	21,111	19,330	1,781
Washington	4,814	4,534	280	66,394	63,770	2,624
West Virginia	474	518	-44	4,960	4,618	342
Wisconsin	2,132	2,034	98	14,678	14,437	241
Wyoming	219	256	-37	1,338	1,254	84
US Total	170,333	158,339	11,994	1,504,800	1,497,221	7,579

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.

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 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	1,765	-10	1,776.75	1.1
September 5, 2026	207	0	206.25	1,717	-48	1,757.00	1.1
September 12, 2026	198	-9	204.00	1,712	-5	1,742.25	1.1
September 19, 2026	198	0	202.50	1,699	-13	1,723.25	1.1
September 26, 2026	199	1	200.50	1,716	17	1,711.00	1.1
October 3, 2026	197	-2	198.00				

INITIAL CLAIMS FILED DURING WEEK ENDED SEPTEMBER 26						INSURED UNEMPLOYMENT FOR WEEK ENDED SEPTEMBER 19						
STATE NAME	STATE	CHANGE FROM		UCFE ¹	UCX ¹	STATE	(%) ²	CHANGE FROM		UCFE ¹	UCX ¹	TOTAL INSURED UNEMPLOYMENT
		LAST WEEK	YEAR AGO					LAST WEEK	YEAR AGO			
Alabama	1,637	-176	-252	6	5	7,007	0.3	69	-1,698	21	11	7,039
Alaska	425	-6	-42	1	0	3,157	1.0	125	-395	23	5	3,185
Arizona	2,362	19	-101	4	5	21,459	0.7	-728	-5,721	48	26	21,533
Arkansas	993	-27	-42	4	0	4,993	0.4	-184	-1,609	11	1	5,005
California	34,462	-469	-3,208	95	77	303,621	1.7	-5,336	-51,291	672	1,220	305,513
Colorado	2,768	-123	167	3	18	29,223	1.0	292	-651	92	212	29,527
Connecticut	1,967	-64	-398	1	4	19,318	1.1	-533	-11,052	47	24	19,389
Delaware	447	-22	191	4	2	4,067	0.9	-65	-818	8	2	4,077
District of Columbia	525	-16	-217	11	2	6,854	1.2	-261	-2,843	407	3	7,264
Florida	5,127	-157	-482	19	30	30,524	0.3	-1,429	-4,294	112	78	30,714
Georgia	3,562	-543	-444	14	22	23,194	0.5	-1,000	-3,516	157	105	23,456
Hawaii	1,734	-1,172	803	0	7	7,254	1.2	756	1,787	45	41	7,340
Idaho	593	15	-95	0	0	3,939	0.5	-102	-715	7	10	3,956
Illinois	5,639	-625	-3,007	9	7	77,716	1.3	-4,113	-12,933	308	124	78,148
Indiana	1,848	-212	-437	2	4	17,043	0.5	-276	-2,050	12	17	17,072
Iowa	1,355	-14	-179	1	2	6,500	0.4	131	-545	15	4	6,519
Kansas	805	-7	-141	1	0	6,096	0.4	-125	-1,078	18	19	6,133
Kentucky	1,248	-63	-3,140	0	0	9,022	0.5	563	-1,122	54	44	9,120
Louisiana	1,141	-63	-286	0	4	5,681	0.3	-305	-2,755	19	9	5,709
Maine	344	-67	-78	0	1	4,022	0.6	-59	-672	14	10	4,046
Maryland	2,029	105	-107	27	7	21,104	0.8	-303	-6,150	310	71	21,485
Massachusetts	4,005	-120	-432	3	8	62,442	1.7	-2,499	-4,868	151	173	62,766
Michigan	4,563	739	219	4	5	38,602	0.9	-3,491	-8,232	63	35	38,700
Minnesota	2,838	-95	-396	1	5	31,789	1.1	-2,635	-2,625	75	53	31,917
Mississippi	778	-84	-33	1	0	5,816	0.5	-300	-263	35	8	5,859
Missouri	2,064	-122	-288	6	1	14,408	0.5	90	-1,615	60	13	14,481
Montana	512	11	-1	2	1	3,539	0.7	-77	-121	19	7	3,565
Nebraska	465	-37	-60	0	0	4,543	0.5	-69	-29	13	8	4,564
Nevada	2,605	167	178	0	1	24,865	1.6	-1,095	-720	42	82	24,989
New Hampshire	316	-45	-43	0	0	3,234	0.5	-38	-434	4	1	3,239
New Jersey	7,392	-130	-529	21	18	85,529	2.0	-4,574	-5,381	204	223	85,956
New Mexico	668	-60	-11	10	6	8,551	1.0	-142	-1,210	84	25	8,660
New York	12,155	-819	-71	14	16	137,118	1.4	-8,473	-2,358	306	257	137,681
North Carolina	2,748	-21	-347	5	3	17,388	0.4	-511	-3,286	54	75	17,517
North Dakota	215	26	16	2	0	1,434	0.3	-277	-321	12	8	1,454
Ohio	4,333	-107	-164	6	4	33,942	0.6	-821	-7,732	60	70	34,072
Oklahoma	1,041	-127	-373	4	6	9,455	0.6	90	-1,368	25	32	9,512
Oregon	3,733	-90	89	8	5	29,903	1.5	-470	-598	62	54	30,019
Pennsylvania	7,431	-50	-1,014	16	9	72,227	1.2	-1,933	-10,099	312	117	72,656
Puerto Rico	1,392	-201	62	3	3	15,727	1.7	-300	-918	116	39	15,882
Rhode Island	526	-185	-206	2	0	7,274	1.5	-139	-928	30	16	7,320
South Carolina	1,638	-446	-263	5	6	13,814	0.6	-582	-334	48	52	13,914
South Dakota	160	-3	-17	2	0	891	0.2	-25	-149	15	1	907
Tennessee	2,279	-185	-581	3	3	13,835	0.4	-496	-1,949	46	30	13,911
Texas	12,404	-506	-3,986	42	89	133,278	1.0	-4,886	-22,610	508	929	134,715
Utah	1,243	-23	-4	7	3	10,126	0.6	-62	-1,283	50	22	10,198
Vermont	244	-16	2	0	0	1,840	0.6	7	39	8	3	1,851
Virgin Islands	31	-26	-10	1	0	448	1.3	26	86	0	2	450
Virginia	2,207	11	-55	9	7	19,330	0.5	-92	205	138	118	19,586
Washington	4,534	-113	-438	6	22	63,770	1.8	-1,140	-5,852	151	439	64,360
West Virginia	518	-37	-67	0	3	4,618	0.7	-206	-1,044	26	9	4,653
Wisconsin	2,034	-9	-496	8	4	14,437	0.5	-483	-2,485	31	9	14,477
Wyoming	256	12	-9	2	1	1,254	0.5	46	-199	5	1	1,260
Totals	158,339	-6,378	-20,823	395	426	1,497,221	1.0	-48,440	-198,802	5,153	4,947	1,507,321

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.

UNADJUSTED INITIAL CLAIMS FOR WEEK ENDED SEPTEMBER 26, 2026

STATES WITH AN INCREASE OF MORE THAN 1,000

State	Change	State Supplied Comment
None		

STATES WITH A DECREASE OF MORE THAN 1,000

State	Change	State Supplied Comment
HI	-1,172	No comment.

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](#)

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