



News Release

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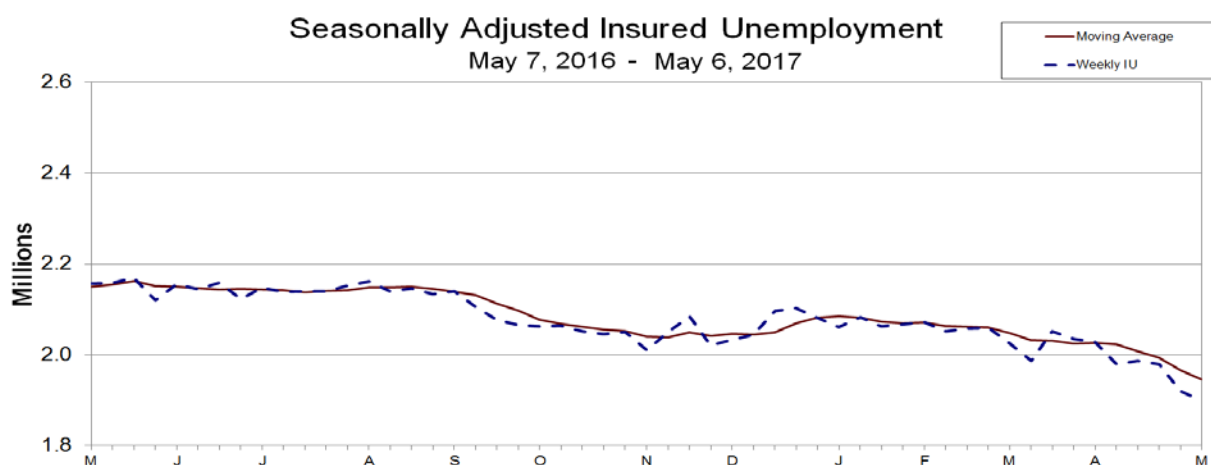
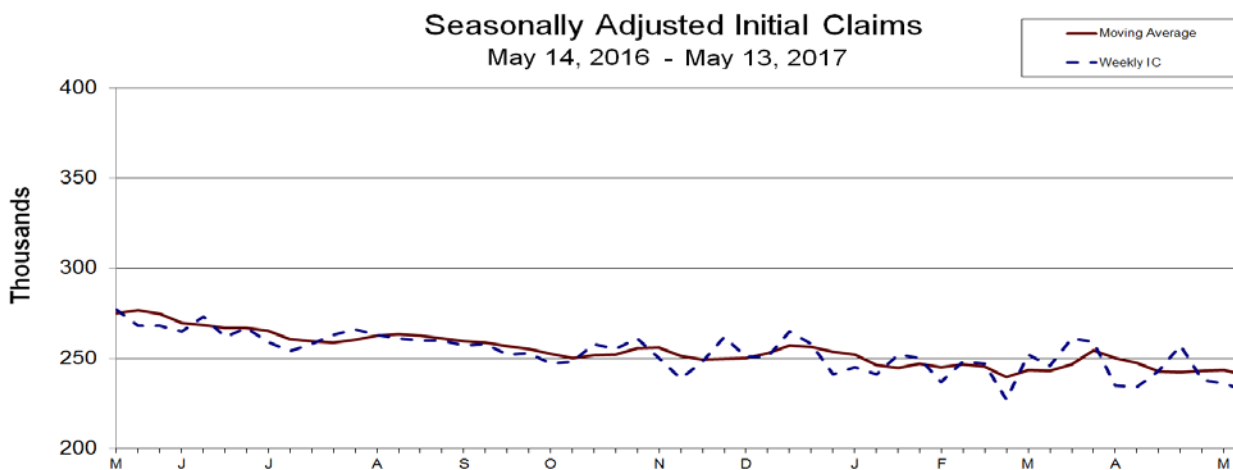
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8:30 A.M. (Eastern) Thursday, May 18, 2017

UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE WEEKLY CLAIMS

SEASONALLY ADJUSTED DATA

In the week ending May 13, the advance figure for seasonally adjusted **initial claims** was 232,000, a decrease of 4,000 from the previous week's unrevised level of 236,000. The 4-week moving average was 240,750, a decrease of 2,750 from the previous week's unrevised average of 243,500.

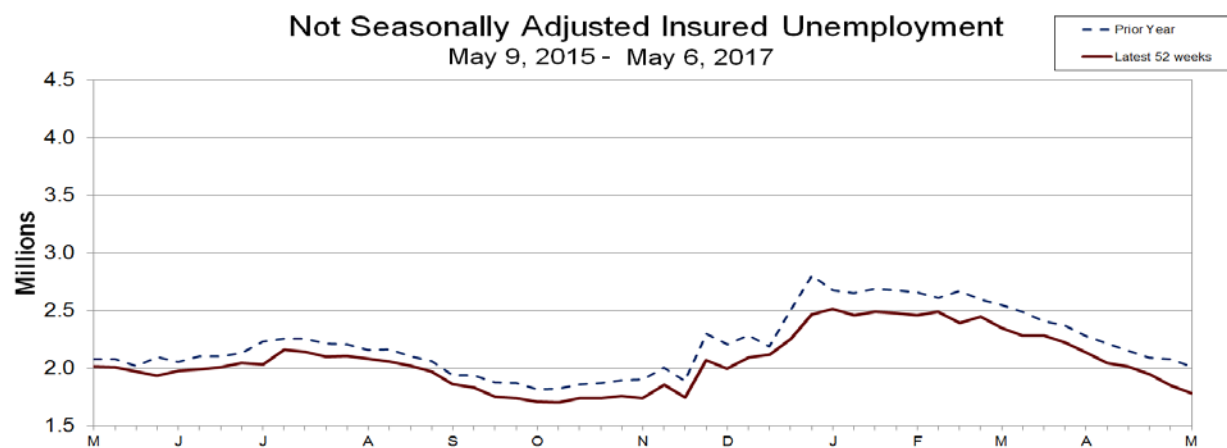
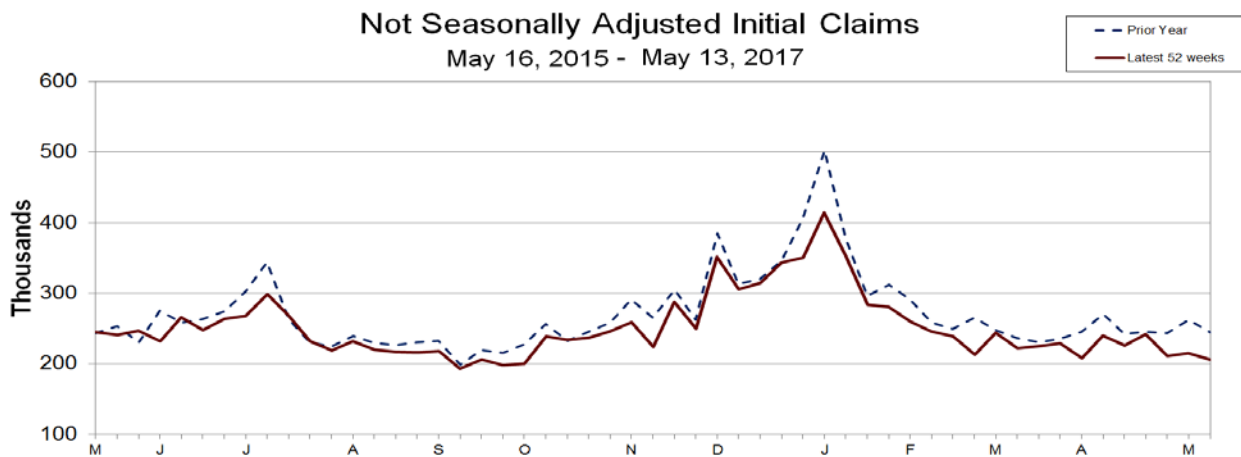
The advance seasonally adjusted **insured unemployment rate** was 1.4 percent for the week ending May 6, unchanged from the previous week's unrevised rate. The advance number for seasonally adjusted **insured unemployment** during the week ending May 6 was 1,898,000, a decrease of 22,000 from the previous week's revised level. This is the lowest level for insured unemployment since November 5, 1988 when it was 1,898,000. The previous week's level was revised up 2,000 from 1,918,000 to 1,920,000. The 4-week moving average was 1,946,000, a decrease of 20,000 from the previous week's revised average. This is the lowest level for this average since January 19, 1974 when it was 1,920,750. The previous week's average was revised up by 500 from 1,965,500 to 1,966,000.



UNADJUSTED DATA

The advance number of actual initial claims under state programs, unadjusted, totaled 206,458 in the week ending May 13, a decrease of 8,766 (or -4.1 percent) from the previous week. The seasonal factors had expected a decrease of 5,198 (or -2.4 percent) from the previous week. There were 244,869 initial claims in the comparable week in 2016.

The advance unadjusted insured unemployment rate was 1.3 percent during the week ending May 6, unchanged from the prior week. The advance unadjusted number for persons claiming UI benefits in state programs totaled 1,784,040, a decrease of 71,034 (or -3.8 percent) from the preceding week. The seasonal factors had expected a decrease of 49,930 (or -2.7 percent) from the previous week. A year earlier the rate was 1.5 percent and the volume was 2,014,816.



The total number of people claiming benefits in all programs for the week ending April 29 was 1,891,492, a decrease of 95,874 from the previous week. There were 2,122,481 persons claiming benefits in all programs in the comparable week in 2016.

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

Initial claims for UI benefits filed by former Federal civilian employees totaled 577 in the week ending May 6, a decrease of 34 from the prior week. There were 898 initial claims filed by newly discharged veterans, an increase of 121 from the preceding week.

There were 10,250 former Federal civilian employees claiming UI benefits for the week ending April 29, an increase of 34 from the previous week. Newly discharged veterans claiming benefits totaled 10,661, a decrease of 294 from the prior week.

The highest insured unemployment rates in the week ending April 29 were in Alaska (3.4), Puerto Rico (2.6), New Jersey (2.3), California (2.2), Connecticut (2.2), Illinois (1.9), Pennsylvania (1.9), Massachusetts (1.8), Rhode Island (1.8), and Nevada (1.7).

The largest increases in initial claims for the week ending May 6 were in Texas (+1,366), Georgia (+1,222), Ohio (+1,156), Pennsylvania (+1,143), and Florida (+1,076), while the largest decreases were in New York (-2,807), California (-830), Oregon (-541), New Hampshire (-344), and Arizona (-248).

UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE DATA FOR REGULAR STATE PROGRAMS

WEEK ENDING	May 13	May 6	Change	April 29	<u>Prior Year</u> ¹
Initial Claims (SA)	232,000	236,000	-4,000	238,000	277,000
Initial Claims (NSA)	206,458	215,224	-8,766	211,309	244,869
4-Wk Moving Average (SA)	240,750	243,500	-2,750	243,000	275,000
WEEK ENDING	May 6	April 29	Change	April 22	<u>Prior Year</u> ¹
Insured Unemployment (SA)	1,898,000	1,920,000	-22,000	1,979,000	2,157,000
Insured Unemployment (NSA)	1,784,040	1,855,074	-71,034	1,951,091	2,014,816
4-Wk Moving Average (SA)	1,946,000	1,966,000	-20,000	1,993,000	2,149,750
<u>Insured Unemployment Rate (SA)</u> ²	1.4%	1.4%	0.0	1.4%	1.6%
<u>Insured Unemployment Rate (NSA)</u> ²	1.3%	1.3%	0.0	1.4%	1.5%

INITIAL CLAIMS FILED IN FEDERAL PROGRAMS (UNADJUSTED)

WEEK ENDING	May 6	April 29	Change	<u>Prior Year</u> ¹
Federal Employees (UCFE)	577	611	-34	665
Newly Discharged Veterans (UCX)	898	777	+121	1,200

PERSONS CLAIMING UI BENEFITS IN ALL PROGRAMS (UNADJUSTED)

WEEK ENDING	April 29	April 22	Change	<u>Prior Year</u> ¹
Regular State	1,851,952	1,948,030	-96,078	2,075,236
Federal Employees	10,250	10,216	+34	8,566
Newly Discharged Veterans	10,661	10,955	-294	13,378
<u>Extended Benefits</u> ³	0	20	-20	0
<u>State Additional Benefits</u> ⁴	7,845	7,633	+212	8,209
<u>STC / Workshare</u> ⁵	10,784	10,512	+272	17,092
<u>TOTAL</u>	1,891,492	1,987,366	-95,874	2,122,481

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 139,505,637 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 May 13			Insured Unemployment For Week Ended May 6		
	Advance	Prior Wk	Change	Advance	Prior Wk	Change
Alabama	2,697	2,428	269	16,055	16,067	-12
Alaska	1,073	1,117	-44	9,501	10,766	-1,265
Arizona	3,954	4,519	-565	26,483	30,094	-3,611
Arkansas	1,743	1,825	-82	11,726	12,283	-557
California	38,047	43,076	-5,029	349,232	364,455	-15,223
Colorado	2,009	2,217	-208	24,064	24,331	-267
Connecticut	3,881	2,968	913	36,123	35,510	613
Delaware	487	499	-12	5,300	5,080	220
District of Columbia	640	337	303	7,503	7,908	-405
Florida	7,504	8,028	-524	36,297	42,769	-6,472
Georgia	5,406	5,907	-501	26,098	26,942	-844
Hawaii	1,248	1,309	-61	8,207	7,359	848
Idaho	759	909	-150	6,118	6,934	-816
Illinois	8,939	9,860	-921	104,777	110,319	-5,542
Indiana	2,512	2,772	-260	19,800	21,036	-1,236
Iowa	2,186	2,067	119	17,711	17,718	-7
Kansas	1,808	1,901	-93	10,090	9,877	213
Kentucky	2,577	2,371	206	17,472	17,548	-76
*Louisiana	2,304	2,652	-348	21,684	22,049	-365
Maine	568	695	-127	6,554	7,230	-676
Maryland	2,872	3,407	-535	29,365	32,907	-3,542
Massachusetts	4,956	5,209	-253	60,326	62,399	-2,073
Michigan	5,313	5,952	-639	49,034	51,484	-2,450
Minnesota	3,008	2,908	100	35,927	39,273	-3,346
Mississippi	1,478	1,505	-27	8,291	8,989	-698
Missouri	3,391	4,052	-661	23,350	23,356	-6
Montana	574	675	-101	6,197	7,106	-909
Nebraska	770	730	40	4,158	4,044	114
Nevada	2,370	2,242	128	19,659	21,277	-1,618
New Hampshire	432	564	-132	3,620	4,642	-1,022
New Jersey	8,105	8,404	-299	87,202	89,945	-2,743
New Mexico	812	898	-86	10,395	10,832	-437
New York	15,492	14,910	582	137,823	138,239	-416
North Carolina	3,440	3,161	279	20,112	21,012	-900
North Dakota	496	312	184	3,481	3,315	166
Ohio	6,154	6,572	-418	54,666	55,464	-798
Oklahoma	1,434	1,440	-6	14,357	14,990	-633
Oregon	3,854	2,974	880	26,242	26,998	-756
Pennsylvania	12,758	12,942	-184	102,852	105,974	-3,122
Puerto Rico	1,462	1,590	-128	21,459	22,925	-1,466
Rhode Island	715	749	-34	8,083	8,361	-278
South Carolina	2,361	2,297	64	12,005	12,607	-602
South Dakota	201	167	34	1,280	1,478	-198
Tennessee	2,767	3,154	-387	17,488	17,174	314
Texas	14,776	14,590	186	135,227	141,653	-6,426
Utah	975	1,137	-162	8,339	8,843	-504
Vermont	419	514	-95	4,407	4,629	-222
Virgin Islands	27	40	-13	382	556	-174
Virginia	3,370	2,847	523	23,914	23,142	772
Washington	5,732	5,911	-179	50,998	50,664	334
West Virginia	838	897	-59	10,237	10,360	-123
Wisconsin	4,423	4,690	-267	28,796	30,201	-1,405
Wyoming	341	327	14	3,573	3,960	-387
US Total	206,458	215,224	-8,766	1,784,040	1,855,074	-71,034

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.

*Denotes state estimate.

Seasonally Adjusted US Weekly UI Claims (in thousands)

Week Ending	Initial Claims	Change from		Insured Unemployment	Change from		IUR
		Prior Week	4-Week Average		Prior Week	4-Week Average	
May 7, 2016	286	10	270.00	2,157	-8	2,149.75	1.6
May 14, 2016	277	-9	275.00	2,158	1	2,154.25	1.6
May 21, 2016	268	-9	276.75	2,169	11	2,162.25	1.6
May 28, 2016	268	0	274.75	2,120	-49	2,151.00	1.5
June 4, 2016	265	-3	269.50	2,155	35	2,150.50	1.6
June 11, 2016	273	8	268.50	2,144	-11	2,147.00	1.6
June 18, 2016	262	-11	267.00	2,158	14	2,144.25	1.6
June 25, 2016	267	5	266.75	2,123	-35	2,145.00	1.5
July 2, 2016	259	-8	265.25	2,147	24	2,143.00	1.6
July 9, 2016	254	-5	260.50	2,138	-9	2,141.50	1.6
July 16, 2016	258	4	259.50	2,140	2	2,137.00	1.6
July 23, 2016	263	5	258.50	2,139	-1	2,141.00	1.6
July 30, 2016	266	3	260.25	2,152	13	2,142.25	1.6
August 6, 2016	263	-3	262.50	2,161	9	2,148.00	1.6
August 13, 2016	261	-2	263.25	2,139	-22	2,147.75	1.6
August 20, 2016	260	-1	262.50	2,146	7	2,149.50	1.6
August 27, 2016	260	0	261.00	2,133	-13	2,144.75	1.5
September 3, 2016	257	-3	259.50	2,139	6	2,139.25	1.6
September 10, 2016	258	1	258.75	2,105	-34	2,130.75	1.5
September 17, 2016	252	-6	256.75	2,076	-29	2,113.25	1.5
September 24, 2016	253	1	255.00	2,066	-10	2,096.50	1.5
October 1, 2016	247	-6	252.50	2,063	-3	2,077.50	1.5
October 8, 2016	248	1	250.00	2,064	1	2,067.25	1.5
October 15, 2016	258	10	251.50	2,052	-12	2,061.25	1.5
October 22, 2016	255	-3	252.00	2,045	-7	2,056.00	1.5
October 29, 2016	261	6	255.50	2,050	5	2,052.75	1.5
November 5, 2016	250	-11	256.00	2,010	-40	2,039.25	1.5
November 12, 2016	239	-11	251.25	2,050	40	2,038.75	1.5
November 19, 2016	248	9	249.50	2,084	34	2,048.50	1.5
November 26, 2016	262	14	249.75	2,020	-64	2,041.00	1.5
December 3, 2016	251	-11	250.00	2,033	13	2,046.75	1.5
December 10, 2016	251	0	253.00	2,044	11	2,045.25	1.5
December 17, 2016	265	14	257.25	2,097	53	2,048.50	1.5
December 24, 2016	258	-7	256.25	2,102	5	2,069.00	1.5
December 31, 2016	241	-17	253.75	2,081	-21	2,081.00	1.5
January 7, 2017	245	4	252.25	2,061	-20	2,085.25	1.5
January 14, 2017	241	-4	246.25	2,083	22	2,081.75	1.5
January 21, 2017	252	11	244.75	2,063	-20	2,072.00	1.5
January 28, 2017	250	-2	247.00	2,067	4	2,068.50	1.5
February 4, 2017	237	-13	245.00	2,071	4	2,071.00	1.5
February 11, 2017	248	11	246.75	2,052	-19	2,063.25	1.5
February 18, 2017	247	-1	245.50	2,057	5	2,061.75	1.5
February 25, 2017	227	-20	239.75	2,059	2	2,059.75	1.5
March 4, 2017	252	25	243.50	2,025	-34	2,048.25	1.5
March 11, 2017	246	-6	243.00	1,987	-38	2,032.00	1.4
March 18, 2017	261	15	246.50	2,052	65	2,030.75	1.5
March 25, 2017	259	-2	254.50	2,035	-17	2,024.75	1.5
April 1, 2017	235	-24	250.25	2,028	-7	2,025.50	1.5
April 8, 2017	234	-1	247.25	1,978	-50	2,023.25	1.4
April 15, 2017	243	9	242.75	1,987	9	2,007.00	1.4
April 22, 2017	257	14	242.25	1,979	-8	1,993.00	1.4
April 29, 2017	238	-19	243.00	1,920	-59	1,966.00	1.4
May 6, 2017	236	-2	243.50	1,898	-22	1,946.00	1.4
May 13, 2017	232	-4	240.75				

Initial Claims Filed During Week Ended May 6

Insured Unemployment For Week Ended April 29

STATE	INITIAL CLAIMS							INSURED UNEMPLOYMENT				ALL PROGRAMS EXCLUDING RAILROAD RETIREMENT
	STATE	CHANGE FROM		UCFE ¹	UCX ¹	STATE	(% ²)	CHANGE FROM		UCFE ¹	UCX ¹	
		LAST WEEK	YEAR AGO					LAST WEEK	YEAR AGO			
Alabama	2428	160	-554	9	20	16067	0.9	-418	-3434	79	116	16262
Alaska	1117	120	21	1	0	10766	3.4	229	-1199	129	28	10923
Arizona	4519	-248	-53	6	4	30094	1.2	996	-2842	130	96	30320
Arkansas	1825	109	-766	3	4	12283	1.1	-410	-4054	62	57	12402
California	43076	-830	1223	117	144	364455	2.2	-17435	-8566	2513	2160	369128
Colorado	2217	-90	-477	9	27	24331	1.0	468	-5367	164	405	24900
Connecticut	2968	-246	-386	5	7	35510	2.2	-2034	-345	63	77	35650
Delaware	499	-135	-102	0	1	5080	1.2	-1188	-569	12	16	5108
District of Columbia	337	-12	33	11	0	7908	1.4	-64	619	1010	6	8924
Florida	8028	1076	-235	20	50	42769	0.5	1911	-2685	179	222	43170
Georgia	5907	1222	-1201	26	50	26942	0.7	-209	-3749	214	285	27441
Hawaii	1309	93	92	2	21	7359	1.2	-398	625	68	81	7508
Idaho	909	-65	-36	2	1	6934	1.0	-628	-99	59	21	7014
Illinois	9860	905	-466	11	14	110319	1.9	-3896	-15762	355	286	110960
Indiana	2772	19	88	6	3	21036	0.7	525	-769	78	52	21166
Iowa	2067	-246	-65	4	6	17718	1.2	-90	-981	44	50	17812
Kansas	1901	315	-22	6	9	9877	0.7	-257	-5648	28	66	9971
Kentucky	2371	290	-594	6	9	17548	1.0	-1162	-4339	128	190	17866
Louisiana	2652	12	-173	5	9	22049	1.2	135	-584	52	64	22165
Maine	695	-125	-110	1	1	7230	1.2	-896	-648	26	24	7280
Maryland	3407	-8	-684	25	23	32907	1.3	-743	-2372	376	188	33471
Massachusetts	5209	116	-357	12	14	62399	1.8	-9592	-5430	149	209	62757
Michigan	5952	367	-6481	13	15	51484	1.2	-7604	-3834	105	145	51734
Minnesota	2908	21	-712	2	3	39273	1.4	-1523	-2318	65	96	39434
Mississippi	1505	236	-684	7	7	8989	0.8	-134	-2021	99	37	9125
Missouri	4052	950	-122	8	6	23356	0.9	-868	620	83	83	23522
Montana	675	-113	-131	5	6	7106	1.6	-417	-1060	137	35	7278
Nebraska	730	123	70	2	0	4044	0.4	-310	-272	24	11	4079
Nevada	2242	-101	-148	1	6	21277	1.7	-278	-2308	144	92	21513
New Hampshire	564	-344	-67	2	1	4642	0.7	307	-585	11	4	4657
New Jersey	8404	81	-680	16	25	89945	2.3	-7445	-3655	156	289	90390
New Mexico	898	57	-171	3	2	10832	1.4	-172	-2840	104	64	11000
New York	14910	-2807	-18096	37	38	138239	1.5	-13058	-29874	365	487	139091
North Carolina	3161	74	-697	9	19	21012	0.5	-271	-4073	75	229	21316
North Dakota	312	-8	-328	3	0	3315	0.8	-488	-2246	7	7	3329
Ohio	6572	1156	-949	9	32	55464	1.1	-3742	-6654	102	252	55818
Oklahoma	1440	11	-606	10	7	14990	1.0	159	-8798	74	121	15185
Oregon	2974	-541	-274	11	9	26998	1.5	-873	-942	306	154	27458
Pennsylvania	12942	1143	-5608	64	64	105974	1.9	-7249	-19986	483	415	106872
Puerto Rico	1590	-176	-222	1	4	22925	2.6	-425	2199	51	63	23039
Rhode Island	749	-106	1	1	4	8361	1.8	-2246	-566	36	32	8429
South Carolina	2297	98	-623	6	19	12607	0.6	-152	-1439	55	104	12766
South Dakota	167	30	-37	2	0	1478	0.4	-157	-58	40	3	1521
Tennessee	3154	216	38	8	2	17174	0.6	-760	-4996	395	59	17628
Texas	14590	1366	-2484	40	142	141653	1.2	1685	-38719	545	1933	144131
Utah	1137	-145	-76	5	6	8843	0.7	198	-1381	58	34	8935
Vermont	514	-245	-13	3	0	4629	1.5	-571	-396	10	6	4645
Virgin Islands	40	30	-14	0	0	556	1.5	188	6	6	6	568
Virginia	2847	206	-783	10	29	23142	0.6	-10198	-6333	347	405	23894
Washington	5911	-11	-709	5	23	50664	1.6	-1113	309	291	703	51658
West Virginia	897	101	-498	3	6	10360	1.6	-453	-6759	44	41	10445
Wisconsin	4690	-130	-447	3	4	30201	1.1	-2960	-3887	49	38	30288
Wyoming	327	-56	-300	1	2	3960	1.5	69	-4417	65	14	4039
Totals	215224	3915	-46675	577	898	1855074	1.3	-96017	-225481	10250	10661	1875985

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 MAY 6, 2017

STATES WITH AN INCREASE OF MORE THAN 1,000

State	Change	State Supplied Comment
TX	+1,366	Layoffs in the manufacturing, administrative, support, waste management and remediation service, and health care and social assistance industries.
GA	+1,222	Layoffs in the trade, administrative, support, waste management and remediation service, construction, and manufacturing industries.
OH	+1,156	Layoffs in the transportation and warehousing, and manufacturing industries.
PA	+1,143	Layoffs in the accommodation and food service and construction industries.
FL	+1,076	Layoffs in the agriculture, forestry, fishing and hunting, manufacturing, wholesale trade, retail trade, and service industries.

STATES WITH A DECREASE OF MORE THAN 1,000

State	Change	State Supplied Comment
NY	-2,807	Fewer layoffs in the transportation and warehousing, accommodation and food service, and construction 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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Washington, D.C. 20210
Release Number: USDL 17-659-NAT

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