



# News Release

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8:30 A.M. (Eastern) Thursday, October 5, 2017

## UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE WEEKLY CLAIMS

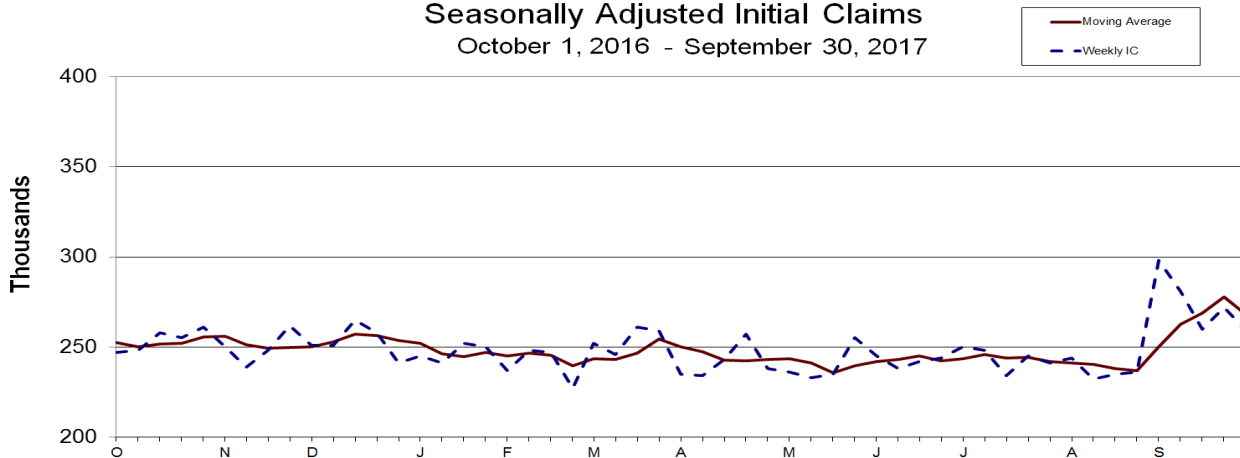
### SEASONALLY ADJUSTED DATA

In the week ending September 30, the advance figure for seasonally adjusted **initial claims** was 260,000, a decrease of 12,000 from the previous week's unrevised level of 272,000. The 4-week moving average was 268,250, a decrease of 9,500 from the previous week's unrevised average of 277,750.

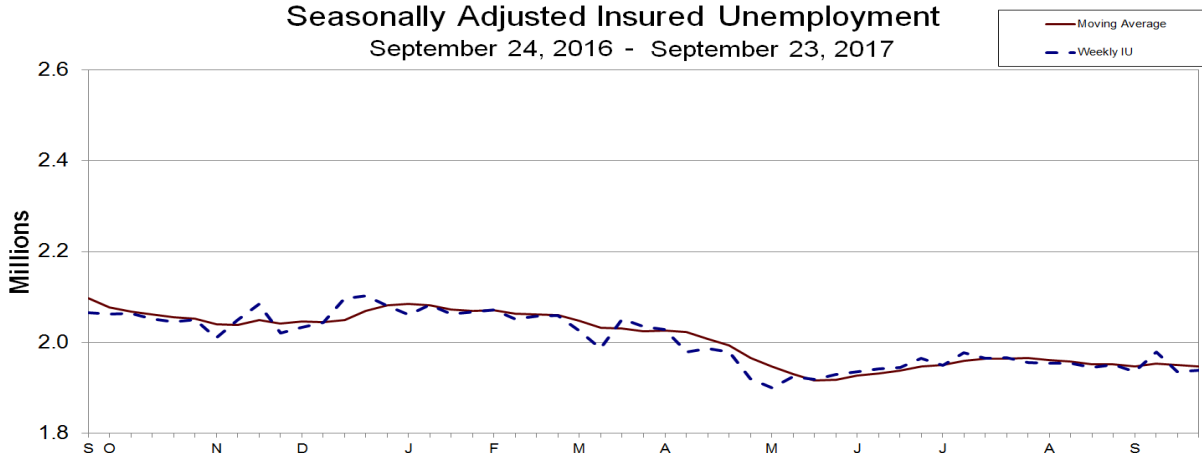
Hurricanes Harvey, Irma, and Maria impacted this week's claims.

The advance seasonally adjusted **insured unemployment rate** was 1.4 percent for the week ending September 23, unchanged from the previous week's unrevised rate. The advance number for seasonally adjusted **insured unemployment** during the week ending September 23 was 1,938,000, an increase of 2,000 from the previous week's revised level. The previous week's level was revised up 2,000 from 1,934,000 to 1,936,000. The 4-week moving average was 1,947,000, a decrease of 3,250 from the previous week's revised average. The previous week's average was revised up by 500 from 1,949,750 to 1,950,250.

Seasonally Adjusted Initial Claims  
October 1, 2016 - September 30, 2017



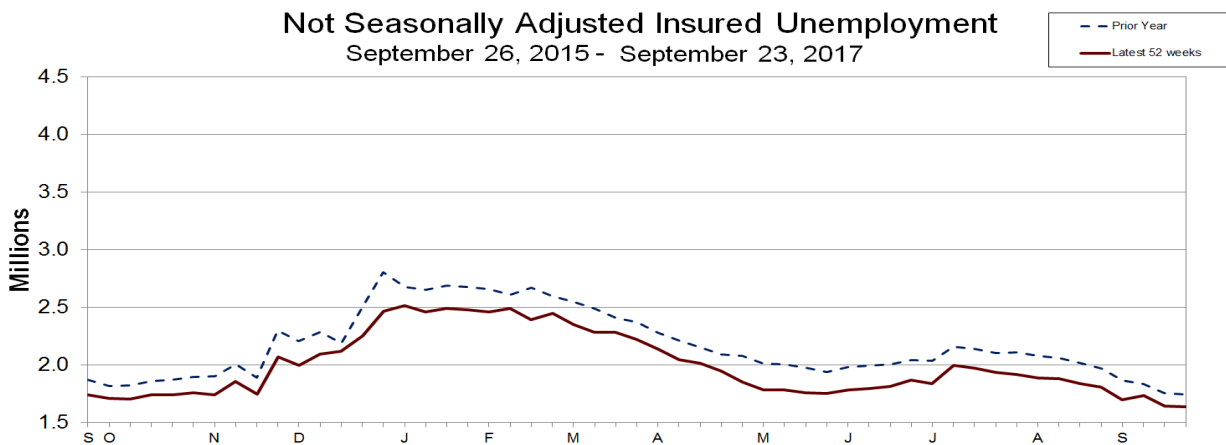
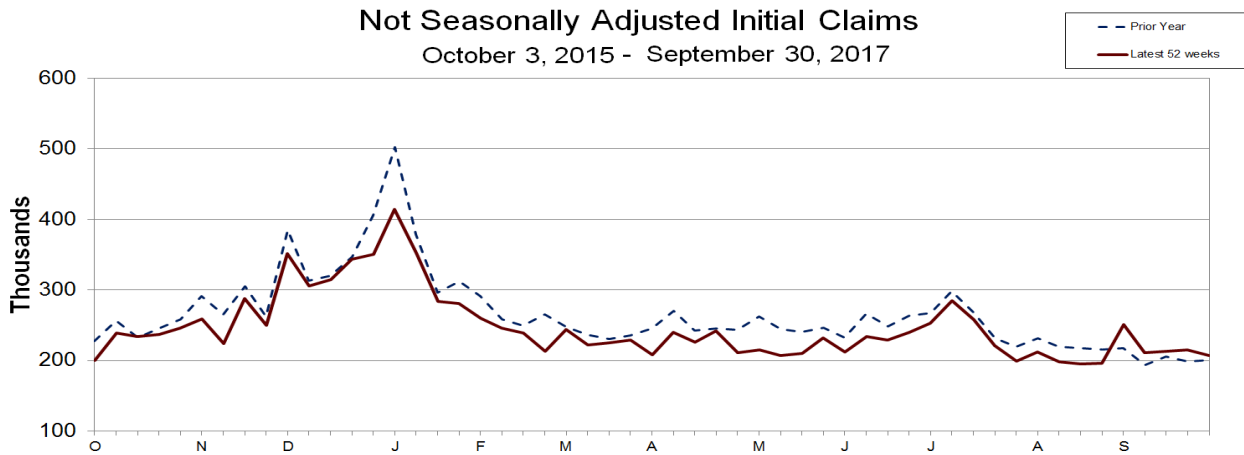
Seasonally Adjusted Insured Unemployment  
September 24, 2016 - September 23, 2017



## UNADJUSTED DATA

The advance number of actual initial claims under state programs, unadjusted, totaled 206,653 in the week ending September 30, a decrease of 8,378 (or -3.9 percent) from the previous week. The seasonal factors had expected an increase of 1,089 (or 0.5 percent) from the previous week. There were 200,456 initial claims in the comparable week in 2016.

The advance unadjusted insured unemployment rate was 1.2 percent during the week ending September 23, unchanged from the prior week. The advance unadjusted number for persons claiming UI benefits in state programs totaled 1,637,330, a decrease of 6,258 (or -0.4 percent) from the preceding week. The seasonal factors had expected a decrease of 7,744 (or -0.5 percent) from the previous week. A year earlier the rate was 1.3 percent and the volume was 1,744,083.



The total number of people claiming benefits in all programs for the week ending September 16 was 1,674,730, a decrease of 90,765 from the previous week. There were 1,795,740 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 September 16.

Initial claims for UI benefits filed by former Federal civilian employees totaled 685 in the week ending September 23, an increase of 36 from the prior week. There were 676 initial claims filed by newly discharged veterans, a decrease of 32 from the preceding week.

There were 8,329 former Federal civilian employees claiming UI benefits for the week ending September 16, an increase of 307 from the previous week. Newly discharged veterans claiming benefits totaled 9,354, a decrease of 36 from the prior week.

The highest insured unemployment rates in the week ending September 16 were in Puerto Rico (3.3), Alaska (2.1), New Jersey (2.1), California (1.9), Connecticut (1.8), Pennsylvania (1.7), Massachusetts (1.6), the District of Columbia (1.5), Illinois (1.5), and Nevada (1.5).

The largest increases in initial claims for the week ending September 23 were in Florida (+8,425), Michigan (+3,635), Georgia (+3,370), Kansas (+2,505), and Missouri (+1,377), while the largest decreases were in Texas (-8,283), Ohio (-3,765), New York (-2,536), Oregon (-686), and California (-528).

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UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE DATA FOR REGULAR STATE PROGRAMS

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WEEK ENDING	September 30	September 23	Change	September 16	<u>Prior Year</u> <sup>1</sup>
Initial Claims (SA)	260,000	272,000	-12,000	260,000	247,000
Initial Claims (NSA)	206,653	215,031	-8,378	212,962	200,456
4-Wk Moving Average (SA)	268,250	277,750	-9,500	268,750	252,500
WEEK ENDING	September 23	September 16	Change	September 9	<u>Prior Year</u> <sup>1</sup>
Insured Unemployment (SA)	1,938,000	1,936,000	+2,000	1,979,000	2,066,000
Insured Unemployment (NSA)	1,637,330	1,643,588	-6,258	1,735,874	1,744,083
4-Wk Moving Average (SA)	1,947,000	1,950,250	-3,250	1,952,500	2,096,500
<u>Insured Unemployment Rate (SA)</u> <sup>2</sup>	1.4%	1.4%	0.0	1.4%	1.5%
<u>Insured Unemployment Rate (NSA)</u> <sup>2</sup>	1.2%	1.2%	0.0	1.2%	1.3%

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INITIAL CLAIMS FILED IN FEDERAL PROGRAMS (UNADJUSTED)

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WEEK ENDING	September 23	September 16	Change	<u>Prior Year</u> <sup>1</sup>
Federal Employees (UCFE)	685	649	+36	844
Newly Discharged Veterans (UCX)	676	708	-32	1,087

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PERSONS CLAIMING UI BENEFITS IN ALL PROGRAMS (UNADJUSTED)

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WEEK ENDING	September 16	September 9	Change	<u>Prior Year</u> <sup>1</sup>
Regular State	1,640,734	1,733,005	-92,271	1,750,784
Federal Employees	8,329	8,022	+307	9,152
Newly Discharged Veterans	9,354	9,390	-36	13,371
<u>Extended Benefits</u> <sup>3</sup>	0	0	0	0
<u>State Additional Benefits</u> <sup>4</sup>	6,451	5,876	+575	6,770
<u>STC / Workshare</u> <sup>5</sup>	9,862	9,202	+660	15,663
<u>TOTAL</u>	1,674,730	1,765,495	-90,765	1,795,740

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 139,989,708 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 September 30			Insured Unemployment For Week Ended September 23		
	Advance	Prior Wk	Change	Advance	Prior Wk	Change
Alabama	1,981	2,252	-271	16,086	16,450	-364
Alaska	1,278	1,048	230	6,840	6,462	378
Arizona	3,506	3,696	-190	24,986	28,688	-3,702
Arkansas	1,137	1,280	-143	10,837	11,697	-860
California	37,904	39,371	-1,467	314,014	310,142	3,872
Colorado	1,891	1,609	282	19,468	19,036	432
Connecticut	2,769	2,753	16	31,304	30,372	932
Delaware	475	450	25	4,439	4,167	272
District of Columbia	502	310	192	7,743	8,193	-450
Florida <sup>I</sup>	14,712	18,477	-3,765	43,088	47,113	-4,025
Georgia <sup>I</sup>	5,950	8,130	-2,180	25,873	28,114	-2,241
Hawaii	1,178	1,098	80	7,603	7,143	460
Idaho	791	883	-92	3,810	3,966	-156
Illinois	7,521	7,549	-28	88,451	88,617	-166
Indiana	2,176	2,117	59	13,695	13,632	63
Iowa	1,794	1,604	190	13,973	13,479	494
Kansas	1,740	4,027	-2,287	11,543	9,506	2,037
Kentucky	1,797	1,766	31	16,609	15,843	766
Louisiana	1,964	2,157	-193	17,408	19,656	-2,248
Maine	405	490	-85	3,512	3,708	-196
Maryland	2,892	3,083	-191	26,851	30,085	-3,234
Massachusetts	4,190	4,684	-494	52,139	53,735	-1,596
Michigan	5,249	8,870	-3,621	40,710	40,749	-39
Minnesota	2,582	2,388	194	25,948	24,799	1,149
Mississippi	890	1,030	-140	8,359	9,699	-1,340
Missouri	6,170	4,302	1,868	20,247	20,122	125
Montana	825	896	-71	4,387	4,300	87
Nebraska	662	634	28	4,117	4,054	63
Nevada	2,190	2,066	124	17,676	19,169	-1,493
New Hampshire	406	448	-42	3,136	3,539	-403
New Jersey	7,284	7,723	-439	81,311	81,298	13
New Mexico	763	800	-37	9,098	9,195	-97
New York	15,501	12,012	3,489	123,975	121,632	2,343
North Carolina	2,871	2,839	32	19,120	20,385	-1,265
North Dakota	344	247	97	2,202	1,790	412
Ohio	8,073	5,449	2,624	44,386	48,341	-3,955
Oklahoma	1,390	986	404	13,589	14,293	-704
Oregon	3,427	3,320	107	23,182	23,357	-175
Pennsylvania	10,522	10,705	-183	94,044	94,712	-668
Puerto Rico* <sup>I</sup> <sup>M</sup>	2,315	2,489	-174	27,527	28,811	-1,284
Rhode Island	697	798	-101	6,509	6,377	132
South Carolina	2,035	2,422	-387	15,372	14,268	1,104
South Dakota	168	156	12	957	931	26
Tennessee	2,025	2,155	-130	17,114	17,571	-457
Texas <sup>H</sup>	17,064	20,104	-3,040	165,746	156,703	9,043
Utah	947	916	31	6,732	6,883	-151
Vermont	286	298	-12	2,342	2,234	108
Virgin Islands <sup>I</sup> <sup>M</sup>	1,039	68	971	186	28	158
Virginia	2,821	2,651	170	23,674	23,007	667
Washington	5,083	5,226	-143	44,511	44,123	388
West Virginia	559	580	-21	8,248	8,137	111
Wisconsin	3,614	3,353	261	20,605	21,128	-523
Wyoming	298	266	32	2,048	2,149	-101
US Total	206,653	215,031	-8,378	1,637,330	1,643,588	-6,258

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 OUI staff estimate.

<sup>H</sup>Affected by Hurricane Harvey.

<sup>I</sup>Affected by Hurricane Irma.

<sup>M</sup>Affected by Hurricane Maria.

## 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	
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	1,899	-21	1,946.25	1.4
May 13, 2017	233	-3	241.00	1,924	25	1,930.50	1.4
May 20, 2017	235	2	235.50	1,919	-5	1,915.50	1.4
May 27, 2017	255	20	239.75	1,929	10	1,917.75	1.4
June 3, 2017	245	-10	242.00	1,936	7	1,927.00	1.4
June 10, 2017	238	-7	243.25	1,942	6	1,931.50	1.4
June 17, 2017	242	4	245.00	1,945	3	1,938.00	1.4
June 24, 2017	244	2	242.25	1,965	20	1,947.00	1.4
July 1, 2017	250	6	243.50	1,949	-16	1,950.25	1.4
July 8, 2017	248	-2	246.00	1,977	28	1,959.00	1.4
July 15, 2017	234	-14	244.00	1,965	-12	1,964.00	1.4
July 22, 2017	245	11	244.25	1,967	2	1,964.50	1.4
July 29, 2017	241	-4	242.00	1,956	-11	1,966.25	1.4
August 5, 2017	244	3	241.00	1,954	-2	1,960.50	1.4
August 12, 2017	232	-12	240.50	1,954	0	1,957.75	1.4
August 19, 2017	235	3	238.00	1,945	-9	1,952.25	1.4
August 26, 2017	236	1	236.75	1,951	6	1,951.00	1.4
September 2, 2017	298	62	250.25	1,935	-16	1,946.25	1.4
September 9, 2017	281	-17	262.50	1,979	44	1,952.50	1.4
September 16, 2017	260	-21	268.75	1,936	-43	1,950.25	1.4
September 23, 2017	272	12	277.75	1,938	2	1,947.00	1.4
September 30, 2017	260	-12	268.25				

Initial Claims Filed During Week Ended September 23 INITIAL CLAIMS							Insured Unemployment For Week Ended September 16 INSURED UNEMPLOYMENT					
STATE	STATE	CHANGE FROM			STATE	STATE	STATE	CHANGE FROM			ALL PROGRAMS EXCLUDING RAILROAD RETIREMENT	
		LAST WEEK	YEAR AGO	UCFE <sub>1</sub>				UCX <sub>1</sub>	LAST WEEK	YEAR AGO		UCFE <sub>1</sub>
							(%) <sub>2</sub>					
Alabama	2252	46	-221	6	5	16450	0.9	-214	-3168	62	87	16599
Alaska	1048	97	-205	6	0	6462	2.1	-207	-1665	78	29	6569
Arizona	3696	-104	-249	4	4	28688	1.1	-846	-2655	104	85	28877
Arkansas	1280	-138	-344	5	6	11697	1.0	-819	-2166	49	77	11823
California	39371	-528	1350	154	133	310142	1.9	-3330	-12465	1786	1997	313925
Colorado	1609	-4	-345	10	23	19036	0.8	-919	-3953	104	298	19438
Connecticut	2753	88	45	11	4	30372	1.8	-820	-3101	52	74	30498
Delaware	450	-24	-92	1	0	4167	1.0	-152	-553	14	15	4196
District of Columbia	310	0	38	7	0	8193	1.5	-243	445	435	16	8644
Florida	18477	8425	11222	25	58	47113	0.6	3383	-4376	165	237	47515
Georgia	8130	3370	2048	28	27	28114	0.7	1147	-1757	142	250	28506
Hawaii	1098	-50	-88	4	13	7143	1.2	-388	51	57	92	7292
Idaho	883	39	-7	2	2	3966	0.6	-64	-1422	20	8	3994
Illinois	7549	-257	-72	10	4	88617	1.5	-3143	-4663	343	263	89223
Indiana	2117	74	-343	1	7	13632	0.5	-568	-5829	37	46	13715
Iowa	1604	25	-412	2	5	13479	0.9	-931	-1403	40	44	13563
Kansas	4027	2505	2282	5	5	9506	0.7	-67	-1419	68	47	9621
Kentucky	1766	-64	-459	16	1	15843	0.9	-3701	-2839	135	130	16108
Louisiana	2157	-75	-286	4	5	19656	1.0	-719	-5946	57	27	19740
Maine	490	16	-96	0	1	3708	0.6	-203	-529	14	18	3740
Maryland	3083	15	-252	29	11	30085	1.2	-859	-2352	327	161	30573
Massachusetts	4684	426	172	13	11	53735	1.6	1597	-2151	113	184	54032
Michigan	8870	3635	530	8	11	40749	1.0	-4736	247	100	120	40969
Minnesota	2388	-376	-426	8	5	24799	0.9	-1415	-1848	48	88	24935
Mississippi	1030	-170	-298	1	3	9699	0.9	-80	-1744	28	45	9772
Missouri	4302	1377	1146	22	4	20122	0.7	-467	-4012	282	36	20440
Montana	896	58	-6	5	5	4300	1.0	-120	-233	48	30	4378
Nebraska	634	4	32	2	0	4054	0.4	-65	347	11	15	4080
Nevada	2066	-102	55	9	3	19169	1.5	-1035	-1056	56	71	19296
New Hampshire	448	-1	8	1	1	3539	0.6	-67	-207	4	3	3546
New Jersey	7723	-43	-220	14	18	81298	2.1	-10022	-1826	177	300	81775
New Mexico	800	-53	-138	17	2	9195	1.2	-198	-1823	76	66	9337
New York	12012	-2536	-620	12	30	121632	1.3	-15797	-4288	330	475	122437
North Carolina	2839	115	-124	11	20	20385	0.5	-964	-3305	83	172	20640
North Dakota	247	26	13	3	0	1790	0.4	-151	-591	13	3	1806
Ohio	5449	-3765	-276	15	25	48341	0.9	2805	-1345	92	261	48694
Oklahoma	986	-171	-550	6	5	14293	0.9	-240	-5347	79	86	14458
Oregon	3320	-686	-517	11	14	23357	1.3	-609	-557	78	119	23554
Pennsylvania	10705	-334	-1181	61	43	94712	1.7	-7745	-8296	472	372	95556
Puerto Rico	2489	73	1260	2	7	28811	3.3	-3	7058	124	77	29012
Rhode Island	798	-39	79	1	0	6377	1.4	-9	-650	26	22	6425
South Carolina	2422	-357	242	4	4	14268	0.7	346	-600	93	4	14365
South Dakota	156	-20	13	5	0	931	0.2	38	-160	23	4	958
Tennessee	2155	-1	-16	9	2	17571	0.6	-367	119	402	58	18031
Texas	20104	-8283	5410	50	96	156703	1.3	-36652	-9259	766	1498	158967
Utah	916	-100	-140	25	4	6883	0.5	61	-889	163	26	7072
Vermont	298	4	-55	1	0	2234	0.7	-97	-404	7	5	2246
Virgin Islands	68	-14	0	10	4	28	0.1	-442	-686	0	0	28
Virginia	2651	138	20	18	20	23007	0.6	18	-1151	276	406	23689
Washington	5226	5	-34	7	18	44123	1.4	-26	5017	175	721	45019
West Virginia	580	-116	-253	0	0	8137	1.2	-333	-3867	34	33	8204
Wisconsin	3353	-91	-963	3	6	21128	0.8	-1715	-4936	48	34	21210
Wyoming	266	10	-101	1	1	2149	0.8	-133	-2301	13	19	2181
Totals	215031	2069	16576	685	676	1643588	1.2	-92286	-112509	8329	9354	1661271

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.

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**UNADJUSTED INITIAL CLAIMS FOR WEEK ENDED SEPTEMBER 23, 2017**

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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>
FL	+8,425	Layoffs in the agriculture, forestry, fishing, and hunting, construction, manufacturing, wholesale trade, retail trade, and service industries.
MI	+3,635	Layoffs in the wholesale trade industry.
GA	+3,370	Layoffs in the administrative and support and waste management and remediation service, health care and social assistance, and retail trade industries.
KS	+2,505	Layoffs in the automobile industry.
MO	+1,377	Layoffs in the manufacturing, administrative and support and waste management and remediation service, and in the construction industries.

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

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<b>State</b>	<b>Change</b>	<b>State Supplied Comment</b>
TX	-8,283	No comment.
OH	-3,765	No comment.
NY	-2,536	Fewer layoffs in the construction, information, and transportation and warehousing industries.

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## 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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U.S. Department of Labor  
Employment and Training Administration  
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Program Contacts:  
Tony Sznoluch (202) 693-3176  
Sandra Trujillo (202) 693-2933  
Media Contact: (202) 693-4676