



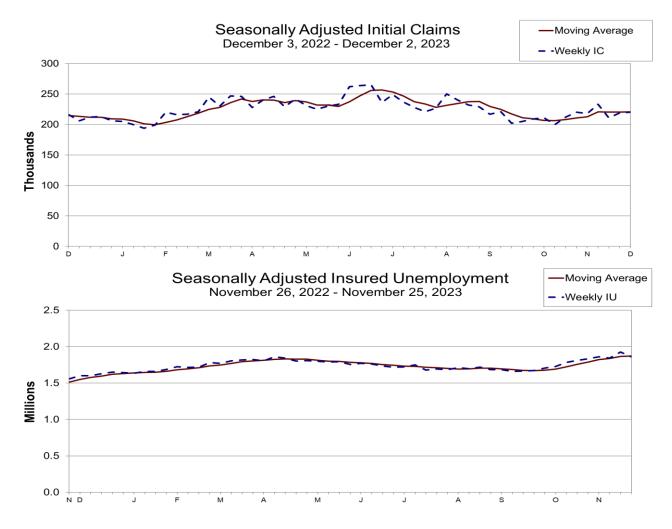
# TRANSMISSION OF MATERIALS IN THIS RELEASE IS EMBARGOED UNTIL 8:30 A.M. (Eastern) Thursday, December 7, 2023

# UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE WEEKLY CLAIMS

# SEASONALLY ADJUSTED DATA

In the week ending December 2, the advance figure for seasonally adjusted **initial claims** was 220,000, an increase of 1,000 from the previous week's revised level. The previous week's level was revised up by 1,000 from 218,000 to 219,000. The 4-week moving average was 220,750, an increase of 500 from the previous week's revised average. The previous week's average was revised up by 250 from 220,000 to 220,250.

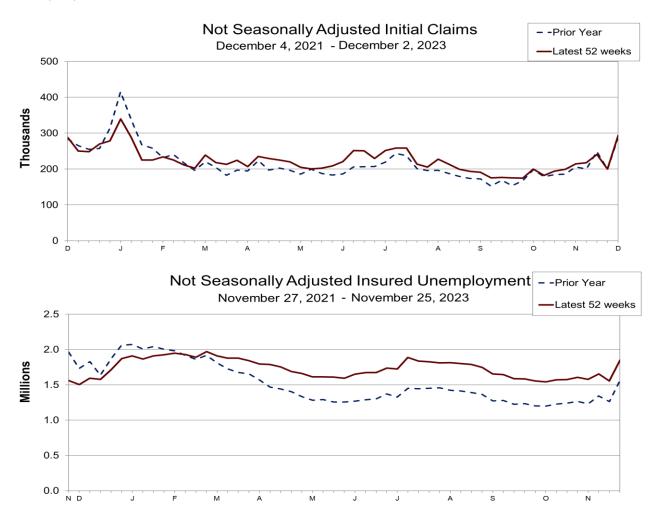
The advance seasonally adjusted **insured unemployment rate** was 1.2 percent for the week ending November 25, a decrease of 0.1 percentage point from the previous week's unrevised rate. The advance number for seasonally adjusted **insured unemployment** during the week ending November 25 was 1,861,000, a decrease of 64,000 from the previous week's revised level. The previous week's level was revised down by 2,000 from 1,927,000 to 1,925,000. The 4-week moving average was 1,872,250, an increase of 7,000 from the previous week's revised average. This is the highest level for this average since December 11, 2021 when it was 1,888,250. The previous week's average was revised down by 500 from 1,865,750 to 1,865,250.



# **UNADJUSTED DATA**

The advance number of actual initial claims under state programs, unadjusted, totaled 293,511 in the week ending December 2, an increase of 93,761 (or 46.9 percent) from the previous week. The seasonal factors had expected an increase of 92,007 (or 46.1 percent) from the previous week. There were 287,976 initial claims in the comparable week in 2022.

The advance unadjusted insured unemployment rate was 1.2 percent during the week ending November 25, an increase of 0.2 percentage point from the prior week. The advance unadjusted level of insured unemployment in state programs totaled 1,849,682, an increase of 294,104 (or 18.9 percent) from the preceding week. The seasonal factors had expected an increase of 358,091 (or 23.0 percent) from the previous week. A year earlier the rate was 1.1 percent and the volume was 1,561,449.



The total number of continued weeks claimed for benefits in all programs for the week ending November 18 was 1,579,159, a decrease of 102,263 from the previous week. There were 1,284,037 weekly claims filed for benefits in all programs in the comparable week in 2022.

No state was triggered "on" the Extended Benefits program during the week ending November 18.

Initial claims for UI benefits filed by former Federal civilian employees totaled 511 in the week ending November 25, a decrease of 151 from the prior week. There were 229 initial claims filed by newly discharged veterans, a decrease of 167 from the preceding week.

There were 5,045 continued weeks claimed filed by former Federal civilian employees the week ending November 18, a decrease of 134 from the previous week. Newly discharged veterans claiming benefits totaled 3,764, a decrease of 541 from the prior week.

The highest insured unemployment rates in the week ending November 18 were in New Jersey (2.1), Alaska (2.0), California (1.8), Hawaii (1.7), Puerto Rico (1.7), Massachusetts (1.6), New York (1.6), Oregon (1.6), Rhode Island (1.6), Pennsylvania (1.5), and Washington (1.5).

The largest increases in initial claims for the week ending November 25 were in Wisconsin (+1,750), Kansas (+1,194), Ohio (+1,130), Pennsylvania (+609), and Idaho (+525), while the largest decreases were in California (-14,223), Texas (-5,560), Oregon (-2,980), Florida (-2,234), and New York (-2,073).

## UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE DATA FOR REGULAR STATE PROGRAMS

WEEK ENDING	December 2	November 25	Change	November 18	Prior Year <sup>1</sup>
Initial Claims (SA)	220,000	219,000	+1,000	211,000	216,000
Initial Claims (NSA)	293,511	199,750	+93,761	240,979	287,976
4-Wk Moving Average (SA)	220,750	220,250	+500	220,500	214,750
WEEK ENDING	November 25	November 18	Change	November 11	Prior Year <sup>1</sup>
Insured Unemployment (SA)	1,861,000	1,925,000	-64,000	1,841,000	1,558,000
Insured Unemployment (NSA)	1,849,682	1,555,578	+294,104	1,654,728	1,561,449
4-Wk Moving Average (SA)	1,872,250	1,865,250	+7,000	1,837,000	1,512,500
Insured Unemployment Rate (SA) <sup>2</sup>	1.2%	1.3%	-0.1	1.2%	1.1%
Insured Unemployment Rate (NSA) <sup>2</sup>	1.2%	1.0%	+0.2	1.1%	1.1%

## INITIAL CLAIMS FILED IN FEDERAL PROGRAMS (UNADJUSTED)

WEEK ENDING	November 25	November 18	Change	Prior Year <sup>1</sup>
Federal Employees (UCFE)	511	662	-151	592
Newly Discharged Veterans (UCX)	229	396	-167	224

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

WEEK ENDING	November 18	November 11	Change	Prior Year <sup>1</sup>
Regular State	1,551,148	1,649,481	-98,333	1,257,939
Federal Employees	5,045	5,179	-134	5,927
Newly Discharged Veterans	3,764	4,305	-541	3,810
Extended Benefits <sup>3</sup>	290	379	-89	2,884
State Additional Benefits <sup>4</sup>	2,356	2,567	-211	1,581
STC / Workshare <sup>5</sup>	16,556	19,511	-2,955	11,896
TOTAL	1,579,159	1,681,422	-102,263	1,284,037

### **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 149,106,140 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: <u>Extensions and Special Programs PDF</u>
- 5. Information on STC/Worksharing can be found starting on page 4-11 of the following link: Extensions and Special <u>Programs PDF</u>

# Advance State Claims - Not Seasonally Adjusted

	Initial Claims	Filed During Weel	c Ended December 2	Insured Unemployment For Week Ended November 25				
STATE	Advance	Prior Wk	Change	Advance	Prior Wk	Chang		
Alabama	2,799	1,480	1,319	8,788	8,329	459		
Alaska	1,121	734	387	6,363	6,061	302		
Arizona	3,143	2,464	679	20,765	21,276	-511		
Arkansas	2,200	1,582	618	9,686	8,706	980		
California	51,535	37,478	14,057	415,887	323,487	92,400		
Colorado	2,803	2,111	692	25,727	24,565	1,162		
Connecticut	3,651	3,213	438	24,070	20,709	3,361		
Delaware	251	650	-399	5,804	4,341	1,463		
District of Columbia	498	309	189	5,781	5,400	381		
Florida	5,866	4,034	1,832	36,327	30,372	5,955		
Georgia	9,364	2,883	6,481	33,881	23,011	10,870		
-		2,883 934						
Hawaii	1,589		655	11,120	9,942	1,178		
Idaho	2,272	1,945	327	6,272	5,324	948		
Illinois	15,198	10,751	4,447	93,062	79,354	13,708		
Indiana	5,165	2,885	2,280	25,538	20,413	5,125		
Iowa	5,237	2,834	2,403	9,456	7,362	2,094		
Kansas	1,635	2,430	-795	5,939	4,288	1,651		
Kentucky	5,493	2,258	3,235	8,807	8,310	497		
Louisiana	1,682	1,202	480	11,396	12,749	-1,353		
Maine	1,183	766	417	5,467	4,448	1,019		
Maryland	2,789	2,435	354	22,908	20,718	2,190		
Massachusetts	7,509	6,673	836	64,507	58,852	5,655		
Michigan	9,945	7,165	2,780	47,609	41,748	5,861		
Minnesota	9,824	6,244	3,580	55,431	39,823	15,608		
Mississippi	1,233	1,275	-42	6,068	5,881	187		
Missouri	3,515	2,587	928	17,387	15,651	1,736		
Montana	2,733	1,315	1,418	7,278	5,686	1,592		
Nebraska	1,094	832	262	4,422	4,666	-244		
Nevada	2,702	2,258	444	22,120	21,100	1,020		
New Hampshire	504	485	19	2,849	2,865	-16		
New Jersey	11,016	9,300	1,716	98,821	86,219	12,602		
New Mexico	839	757	82	10,217	9,409	808		
New York	23,000	13,657	9,343	166,468	148,288	18,180		
North Carolina	2,783	1,915	868	19,020	18,699	321		
North Dakota	799	509	290	2,473	1,803	670		
Ohio		8,689	290 479					
	9,168			44,466	38,613	5,853		
Oklahoma	1,639	1,220	419	10,128	9,087	1,041		
Oregon	7,615	3,145	4,470	35,413	29,943	5,470		
Pennsylvania	18,400	13,143	5,257	98,752	85,473	13,279		
Puerto Rico	1,204	813	391	15,416	15,546	-130		
Rhode Island	1,420	1,007	413	8,390	7,350	1,040		
South Carolina	3,951	1,348	2,603	14,935	12,851	2,084		
South Dakota	427	305	122	1,413	1,055	358		
Tennessee	4,122	2,521	1,601	14,852	14,418	434		
Texas	18,777	11,079	7,698	149,926	128,763	21,163		
Utah	2,330	1,343	987	12,337	10,041	2,296		
Vermont	501	525	-24	2,863	2,026	837		
Virgin Islands	277	18	259	296	202	94		
Virginia	1,843	1,104	739	12,812	11,522	1,290		
Washington	7,898	5,768	2,130	68,699	50,641	18,058		
West Virginia	1,752	782	970	9,377	5,910	3,467		
Wisconsin	8,679	6,236	2,443	29,538	20,650	8,888		
Wyoming	538	354	184	2,355	1,632	723		
US Total	293,511	199,750	93,761	1,849,682	1,555,578	294,10		

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)

		Change Change						
		from			from			
	Initial	Prior	4-Week	Insured	Prior	4-Week		
Week Ending	Claims	Week	Average	Unemployment	Week	Average	IUR	
November 26, 2022	213	-6	212.50	1,558	4	1,512.50	1.1	
December 3, 2022	216	3	214.75	1,601	43	1,549.25	1.1	
December 10, 2022	206	-10	213.50	1,601	0	1,578.50	1.1	
December 17, 2022	212	6	211.75	1,627	26	1,596.75	1.1	
December 24, 2022	213	1	211.75	1,650	23	1,619.75	1.1	
December 31, 2022	206	-7	209.25	1,645	-5	1,630.75	1.1	
January 7, 2023	205	-1	209.00	1,634	-11	1,639.00	1.1	
January 14, 2023	200	-5	206.00	1,658	24	1,646.75	1.1	
January 21, 2023	194	-6	201.25	1,660	2	1,649.25	1.1	
January 28, 2023	199	5	199.50	1,688	28	1,660.00	1.1	
February 4, 2023	220	21	203.25	1,723	28 35	1,682.25	1.2	
•	220	-4	203.25	1,723	-9		1.2	
February 11, 2023						1,696.25		
February 18, 2023	217	1	213.00	1,718	4	1,710.75	1.2	
February 25, 2023	221	4	218.50	1,781	63	1,734.00	1.2	
March 4, 2023	245	24	224.75	1,772	-9	1,746.25	1.2	
March 11, 2023	230	-15	228.25	1,804	32	1,768.75	1.2	
March 18, 2023	247	17	235.75	1,817	13	1,793.50	1.3	
March 25, 2023	246	-1	242.00	1,823	6	1,804.00	1.3	
April 1, 2023	228	-18	237.75	1,804	-19	1,812.00	1.2	
April 8, 2023	240	12	240.25	1,861	57	1,826.25	1.3	
April 15, 2023	246	6	240.00	1,843	-18	1,832.75	1.3	
April 22, 2023	229	-17	235.75	1,801	-42	1,827.25	1.2	
April 29, 2023	242	13	239.25	1,807	6	1,828.00	1.2	
May 6, 2023	231	-11	237.00	1,799	-8	1,812.50	1.2	
May 13, 2023	225	-6	231.75	1,789	-10	1,799.00	1.2	
May 20, 2023	230	5	232.00	1,794	5	1,797.25	1.2	
May 27, 2023	233	3	229.75	1,755	-39	1,784.25	1.2	
June 3, 2023	262	29	237.50	1,772	17	1,777.50	1.2	
June 10, 2023	264	2	247.25	1,761	-11	1,770.50	1.2	
June 17, 2023	265	1	256.00	1,733	-28	1,755.25	1.2	
June 24, 2023	236	-29	256.75	1,718	-15	1,746.00	1.2	
July 1, 2023	249	13	253.50	1,721	3	1,733.25	1.2	
July 8, 2023	237	-12	246.75	1,749	28	1,730.25	1.2	
July 15, 2023	228	-9	237.50	1,679	-70	1,716.75	1.2	
July 22, 2023	220	-7	233.75	1,692	13	1,710.25	1.1	
July 29, 2023	227	6	228.25	1,684	-8	1,701.00	1.1	
August 5, 2023	250	23	228.25	1,711	-3 27	1,691.50	1.1	
-								
August 12, 2023	240	-10	234.50	1,697	-14	1,696.00	1.1	
August 19, 2023	232	-8	237.25	1,719	22	1,702.75	1.2	
August 26, 2023	229	-3	237.75	1,684	-35	1,702.75	1.1	
September 2, 2023	217	-12	229.50	1,683	-1	1,695.75	1.1	
September 9, 2023	221	4	224.75	1,658	-25	1,686.00	1.1	
September 16, 2023	202	-19	217.25	1,665	7	1,672.50	1.1	
September 23, 2023	205	3	211.25	1,672	7	1,669.50	1.1	
September 30, 2023	209	4	209.25	1,705	33	1,675.00	1.2	
October 7, 2023	211	2	206.75	1,727	22	1,692.25	1.2	
October 14, 2023	200	-11	206.25	1,783	56	1,721.75	1.2	
October 21, 2023	212	12	208.00	1,812	29	1,756.75	1.2	
October 28, 2023	220	8	210.75	1,833	21	1,788.75	1.2	
November 4, 2023	218	-2	212.50	1,862	29	1,822.50	1.2	
November 11, 2023	233	15	220.75	1,841	-21	1,837.00	1.2	
November 18, 2023	211	-22	220.50	1,925	84	1,865.25	1.3	
November 25, 2023	219	8	220.25	1,861	-64	1,872.25	1.2	
December 2, 2023	220	1	220.75	-,001	5.	-,=-		

#### INITIAL CLAIMS FILED DURING WEEK ENDED NOVEMBER 25

INSURED UNEMPLOYMENT FOR WEEK ENDED NOVEMBER 18

	NOVEMBER 2	25							NOVE	MBER 1	18	
		CHANG							E FROM			ALL PROGRAMS EXCLUDING
STATE NAME	STATE	LAST WEEK	YEAR AGO	UCFE <sup>1</sup>	$UCX^{1}$	STATE	$(\%)^2$	LAST WEEK	YEAR AGO	UCFE 1	UCX <sup>1</sup>	RAILROAD RETIREMENT
Alabama	1,480	-1,005	-552	1	3	8,329	0.4	-295	4,549	22	16	8,367
Alaska	734	-208	-61	7	0	6,061	2.0	75	329	80	10	6,151
Arizona	2,464	-1,434	328	1	0	21,276	0.7	-2,871	4,377	61	26	21,363
Arkansas	1,582	-241	391	0	0	8,706	0.7	-731	2,263	24	14	8,744
California	37,478	-14,223	983	127	54	323,487	1.8	-44,518	57,596	702	875	325,064
Colorado	2,111	-998	-91	7	2	24,565	0.9	-528	6,437	100	102	24,767
Connecticut	3,213	-214	-431	1	1	20,709	1.3	-396	4,058	23	26	20,758
Delaware	650	133	185	0	1	4,341	1.0	-207	1,341	11	9	4,361
District of Columbia	309	-161	81	2	1	5,400	1.0	-463	2,822	145	11	5,556
Florida	4,034	-2,234	-75	7	25	30,372	0.3	-6,966	-2,669	69	62	30,503
Georgia	2,883	-1,951	-196	7	8	23,011	0.5	-6,736	753	79	66	23,156
Hawaii	934	-383	140	0	3	9,942	1.7	-1,246	4,769	39	45	10,026
Idaho	1,945	525	83	33	3	5,324	0.7	247	433	74	10	5,408
Illinois	10,751	-63	-451	5	4	79,354	1.4	-5,747	18,280	245	116	79,715
Indiana	2,885	-474	-817	5	6	20,413	0.7	-4	1,763	53	58	20,524
Iowa	2,834	-306	761	1	0	7,362	0.5	133	-614	13	7	7,382
Kansas	2,430	1,194	1,451	0	1	4,288	0.3	-614	637	39	17	4,344
Kentucky	2,258	-1,461	762	0	0	8,310	0.4	683	1,092	23	18	8,351
Louisiana	1,202	-777	-242	2	2	12,749	0.7	-107	2,167	33	14	12,796
Maine	766	-85	-6	1	0	4,448	0.7	138	881	18	6	4,472
Maryland	2,435	-549	591	7	5	20,718	0.8	-1,094	3,669	126	71	20,915
Massachusetts	6,673	258	683	8	4	58,852	1.6	627	12,689	84	84	59,020
Michigan	7,165	-1,474	-260	4	3	41,748	1.0	-4,275	8,348	103	34	41,885
Minnesota	6,244	-172	-576	3	1	39,823	1.4	1,728	3,471	77	39	39,939
Mississippi	1,275	4	-104	4	1	5,881	0.5	-178	1,419	28	6	5,915
Missouri	2,587	-490	31	2	1	15,651	0.6	-199	2,921	45	16	15,712
Montana	1,315	126	93	26	0	5,686	1.2	415	-1,042	122	5	5,813
Nebraska	832	-644	221	0	1	4,666	0.5	487	1,756	4	4	4,674
Nevada	2,258	-612	63	8	1	21,100	1.4	-564	5,384	110	43	21,253
New Hampshire	485	54	156	1	0	2,865	0.4	-86	987	3	0	2,868
New Jersey	9,300	-1,855	1,768	16	6	86,219	2.1	-4,516	18,359	214	142	86,575
New Mexico	757	171	31	5	0	9,409	1.2	-374	1,311	114	20	9,543
New York	13,657	-2,073	-1,532	10	11	148,288	1.6	-2,853	22,410	315	224	148,827
North Carolina	1,915	-1,118	-522	4	1	18,699	0.4	-739	3,861	46	57	18,802
North Dakota	509	-59	-137	2	0	1,803	0.4	133	76	7	3	1,813
Ohio	8,689	1,130	-1,967	2	9	38,613	0.7	-404	5,045	64	60	38,737
Oklahoma	1,220	-169	97	3	3	9,087	0.6	-434	-350	27	36	9,150
Oregon	3,145	-2,980	-1,361	52	1	29,943	1.6	-1,245	7,318	283	49	30,275
Pennsylvania	13,143	609	1,503	12	8	85,473	1.5	-1,158	24,264	254	141	85,868
Puerto Rico	813	-282	-390	3	1	15,546	1.7	50	-276	183	59	15,788
Rhode Island	1,007	166	38	2	0	7,350	1.6	-4	1,588	20	21	7,391
South Carolina	1,348	-649	-13	1	2	12,851	0.6	-436	1,582	29	45	12,925
South Dakota	305	-19	48	3	0	1,055 14,418	0.2	38	0	29	0	1,084
Tennessee	2,521	-85	-88	6	4		0.4	-554	2,829	33	29 720	14,480 129,866
Texas	11,079	-5,560	-172	34 19	36	128,763	1.0	-4,963	33,077	383	720	,
Utah Vermont	1,343 525	-281 119	-11 28	48 0	2 0	10,041 2,026	0.6	140 -114	2,268 251	88 2	14 1	10,143 2,029
Vermont Virgin Islands	525 18	-5	28 4	0	0	2,026	0.7 0.6	-114 -60	251 52	2	1 2	2,029
Virginia	18	-5 -666	4 616	2	2	11,522	0.8	-60 -561	52 4,175	2 68	2 69	11,659
Washington	5,768	-000	-9	2 25	10	50,641	0.5 1.5	-361	4,175	213	234	51,088
West Virginia	5,768 782	-1,221 -168	-9	25 0	0	5,910	1.5 0.9	-7,521 -357	223	32	234 14	5,956
Wisconsin	6,236	-168 1,750	-661	3	2	20,650	0.9	-357 84	1,540	52 47	14	20,707
Wyoming	354	-119	-001	8	0	1,632	0.7	-10	-229	37	4	1,673
Totals		-41,229	427	511	229	1,032		-99,150	293,904		4 3,764	1,564,387
- Saib	177,750	11,22)	121	511		1,000,070	1.0	<i>,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,</i>	270,704	5,045	5,704	1,007,007

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 NOVEMBER 25, 2023

# STATES WITH AN INCREASE OF MORE THAN 1,000

State WI	<b>Change</b> +1,750	<b>State Supplied Comment</b> Layoffs in the construction and manufacturing industries.
KS	+1,194	No comment.
OH	+1,130	Layoffs in the manufacturing industry.

# STATES WITH A DECREASE OF MORE THAN 1,000

State	Change	State Supplied Comment
CA	-14,223	No comment.
TX	-5,560	No comment.
OR	-2,980	No comment.
FL	-2,234	Fewer layoffs in the agriculture, forestry, fishing and hunting; construction; manufacturing; wholesale trade; retail trade; and in service industries.
NY	-2,073	Fewer layoffs in the transportation and warehousing, accommodation and food services, and in health care and social assistance industries.
GA	-1,951	Fewer layoffs in the administrative and support and waste management and remediation services; health care and social assistance; and in professional, scientific, and technical services industries.
NJ	-1,855	No comment.
MI	-1,474	Fewer layoffs in the manufacturing industry.
KY	-1,461	No comment.
AZ	-1,434	No comment.
WA	-1,221	No comment.
NC	-1,118	Fewer layoffs in the administrative and support and waste management and remediation services; professional, scientific, and technical services; and in accommodation and food services industries.
AL	-1,005	Fewer layoffs in administrative and support and waste management and remediation services, and in trade 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 <u>http://www.dol.gov</u>. The Department's <u>Reasonable Accommodation</u> <u>Resource Center</u> 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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