



News Release

Connect with DOL at
<https://blog.dol.gov>



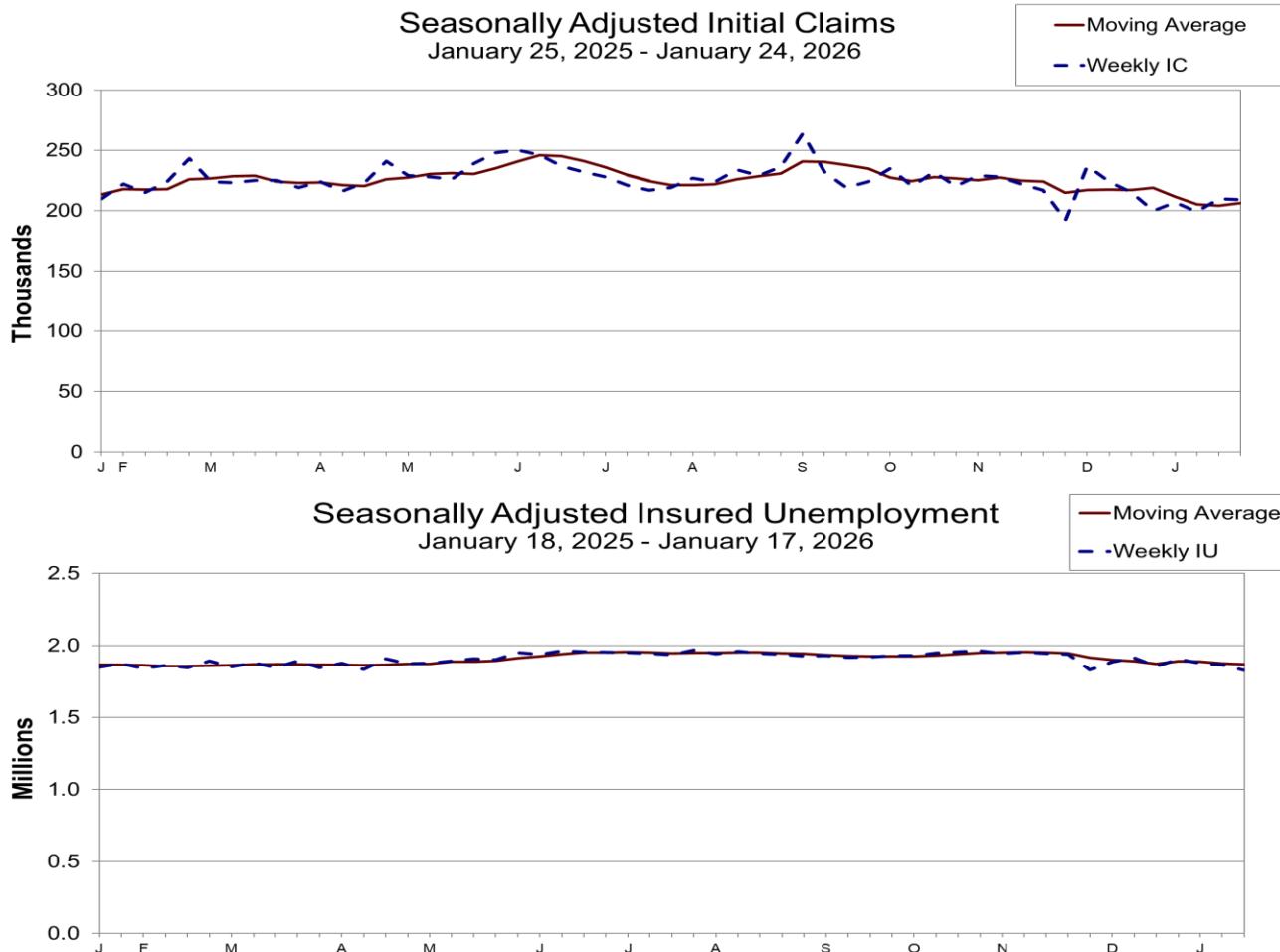
TRANSMISSION OF MATERIALS IN THIS RELEASE IS EMBARGOED UNTIL
8:30 A.M. (Eastern) Thursday, January 29, 2026

UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE WEEKLY CLAIMS

SEASONALLY ADJUSTED DATA

In the week ending January 24, the advance figure for seasonally adjusted **initial claims** was 209,000, a decrease of 1,000 from the previous week's revised level. The previous week's level was revised up by 10,000 from 200,000 to 210,000. The 4-week moving average was 206,250, an increase of 2,250 from the previous week's revised average. The previous week's average was revised up by 2,500 from 201,500 to 204,000.

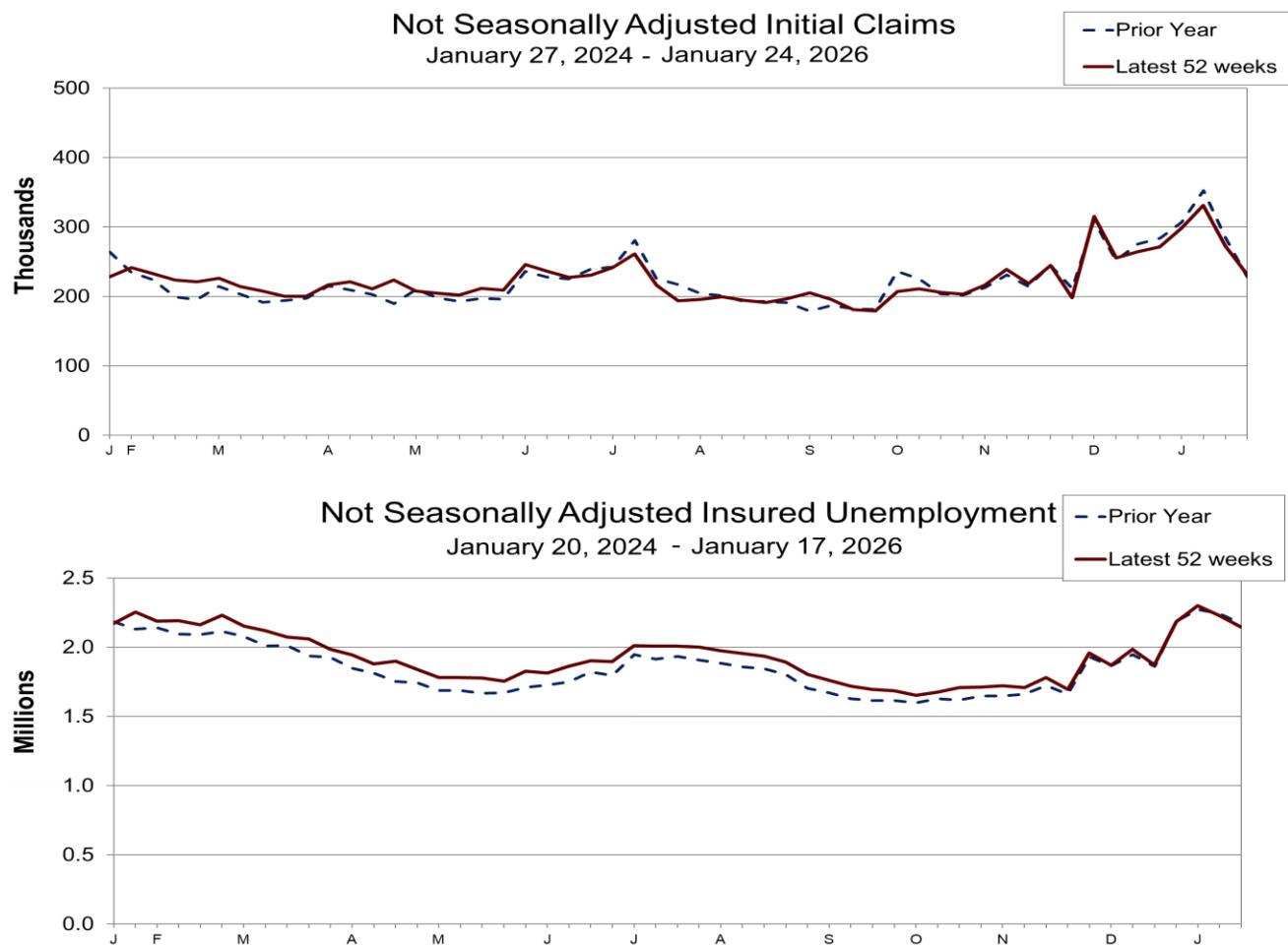
The advance seasonally adjusted **insured unemployment rate** was 1.2 percent for the week ending January 17, unchanged from the previous week's unrevised rate. The advance number for seasonally adjusted **insured unemployment** during the week ending January 17 was 1,827,000, a decrease of 38,000 from the previous week's revised level. This is the lowest level for insured unemployment since September 21, 2024 when it was 1,825,000. The previous week's level was revised up 16,000 from 1,849,000 to 1,865,000. The 4-week moving average was 1,867,500, a decrease of 7,250 from the previous week's revised average. The previous week's average was revised up by 4,000 from 1,870,750 to 1,874,750.



UNADJUSTED DATA

The advance number of actual initial claims under state programs, unadjusted, totaled 231,181 in the week ending January 24, a decrease of 41,255 (or -15.1 percent) from the previous week. The seasonal factors had expected a decrease of 39,910 (or -14.6 percent) from the previous week. There were 228,320 initial claims in the comparable week in 2025.

The advance unadjusted insured unemployment rate was 1.4 percent during the week ending January 17, a decrease of 0.1 percentage point from the prior week. The advance unadjusted level of insured unemployment in state programs totaled 2,146,572, a decrease of 82,168 (or -3.7 percent) from the preceding week. The seasonal factors had expected a decrease of 37,301 (or -1.7 percent) from the previous week. A year earlier the rate was 1.4 percent and the volume was 2,170,197.



The total number of continued weeks claimed for benefits in all programs for the week ending January 10 was 2,265,780, a decrease of 69,868 from the previous week. There were 2,272,822 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 January 10.

Initial claims for UI benefits filed by former Federal civilian employees totaled 798 in the week ending January 17, a decrease of 212 from the prior week. There were 402 initial claims filed by newly discharged veterans, a decrease of 24 from the preceding week.

There were 13,360 continued weeks claimed filed by former Federal civilian employees the week ending January 10, an increase of 383 from the previous week. Newly discharged veterans claiming benefits totaled 4,680, an increase of 277 from the prior week.

The highest insured unemployment rates in the week ending January 10 were in Rhode Island (2.9), New Jersey (2.8), Massachusetts (2.7), Washington (2.7), Minnesota (2.5), California (2.3), Illinois (2.3), Puerto Rico (2.2), Michigan (2.1), Montana (2.1), and New York (2.1).

The largest increases in initial claims for the week ending January 17 were in California (+5,504), Kentucky (+2,817), Puerto Rico (+462), South Carolina (+348), and the Virgin Islands (+15), while the largest decreases were in New York (-9,464), Georgia (-5,710), Pennsylvania (-4,836), Ohio (-4,664), and Texas (-4,440).

UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE DATA FOR REGULAR STATE PROGRAMS

WEEK ENDING	January 24	January 17	Change	January 10	Prior Year¹
Initial Claims (SA)	209,000	210,000	-1,000	199,000	210,000
Initial Claims (NSA)	231,181	272,436	-41,255	330,963	228,320
4-Wk Moving Average (SA)	206,250	204,000	+2,250	205,250	213,500
WEEK ENDING	January 17	January 10	Change	January 3	Prior Year¹
Insured Unemployment (SA)	1,827,000	1,865,000	-38,000	1,875,000	1,849,000
Insured Unemployment (NSA)	2,146,572	2,228,740	-82,168	2,299,234	2,170,197
4-Wk Moving Average (SA)	1,867,500	1,874,750	-7,250	1,887,000	1,864,500
Insured Unemployment Rate (SA) ²	1.2%	1.2%	0.0	1.2%	1.2%
Insured Unemployment Rate (NSA) ²	1.4%	1.5%	-0.1	1.5%	1.4%

INITIAL CLAIMS FILED IN FEDERAL PROGRAMS (UNADJUSTED)

WEEK ENDING	January 17	January 10	Change	Prior Year¹
Federal Employees (UCFE)	798	1,010	-212	494
Newly Discharged Veterans (UCX)	402	426	-24	391

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

WEEK ENDING	January 10	January 3	Change	Prior Year¹
Regular State	2,221,816	2,290,483	-68,667	2,235,070
Federal Employees	13,360	12,977	+383	7,372
Newly Discharged Veterans	4,680	4,403	+277	4,489
Extended Benefits ³	45	66	-21	137
State Additional Benefits ⁴	3,336	3,147	+189	2,635
STC / Workshare ⁵	22,543	24,572	-2,029	23,119
TOTAL	2,265,780	2,335,648	-69,868	2,272,822

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 153,398,888 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 January 24			Insured Unemployment For Week Ended January 17		
	Advance	Prior Wk	Change	Advance	Prior Wk	Change
Alabama	1,866	2,377	-511	8,579	9,952	-1,373
Alaska	645	603	42	5,985	6,245	-260
Arizona	2,369	2,802	-433	15,788	18,054	-2,266
Arkansas	1,022	1,609	-587	5,309	7,378	-2,069
California	43,618	55,731	-12,113	377,279	417,487	-40,208
Colorado	3,378	3,996	-618	36,622	35,502	1,120
Connecticut	3,513	4,359	-846	33,684	33,036	648
Delaware	297	422	-125	6,769	6,899	-130
District of Columbia	668	779	-111	9,791	8,678	1,113
Florida	5,540	6,546	-1,006	24,666	28,776	-4,110
Georgia	4,472	6,278	-1,806	25,888	28,876	-2,988
Hawaii	962	1,050	-88	5,825	6,019	-194
Idaho	1,269	1,535	-266	10,716	11,258	-542
Illinois	9,825	10,488	-663	129,753	137,397	-7,644
Indiana	3,203	3,789	-586	28,601	29,612	-1,011
Iowa	3,231	2,753	478	19,095	19,512	-417
Kansas	1,402	1,523	-121	10,322	9,586	736
Kentucky	2,624	6,507	-3,883	14,858	14,999	-141
Louisiana	1,264	1,638	-374	6,463	8,393	-1,930
Maine	698	927	-229	9,566	8,989	577
Maryland	1,897	2,500	-603	27,086	26,994	92
Massachusetts	7,140	7,729	-589	95,826	96,287	-461
Michigan	8,535	16,776	-8,241	91,864	89,781	2,083
Minnesota	4,808	5,308	-500	75,994	72,092	3,902
Mississippi	518	1,050	-532	5,838	7,092	-1,254
Missouri	3,805	5,046	-1,241	25,345	25,419	-74
Montana	929	1,059	-130	10,794	10,381	413
Nebraska	3,043	990	2,053	7,407	7,734	-327
Nevada	2,596	3,166	-570	28,727	28,737	-10
New Hampshire	387	562	-175	3,755	4,613	-858
New Jersey	10,823	12,057	-1,234	118,415	116,900	1,515
New Mexico	795	939	-144	11,265	11,051	214
New York	20,601	18,678	1,923	196,227	198,436	-2,209
North Carolina	3,224	3,930	-706	19,474	20,242	-768
North Dakota	594	629	-35	7,177	6,417	760
Ohio	6,773	6,847	-74	64,937	66,347	-1,410
Oklahoma	2,382	1,564	818	10,977	11,233	-256
Oregon	5,156	5,539	-383	41,510	39,045	2,465
Pennsylvania	13,493	14,335	-842	113,511	116,823	-3,312
Puerto Rico	1,321	1,935	-614	17,539	20,703	-3,164
Rhode Island	1,424	1,676	-252	13,937	14,159	-222
South Carolina	1,970	4,170	-2,200	15,307	17,732	-2,425
South Dakota	358	323	35	3,077	3,056	21
Tennessee	2,990	3,601	-611	19,463	19,586	-123
Texas	15,813	18,362	-2,549	147,944	166,744	-18,800
Utah	1,756	2,115	-359	16,197	16,144	53
Vermont	401	450	-49	4,093	3,817	276
Virgin Islands	12	26	-14	176	206	-30
Virginia	3,693	2,895	798	23,126	21,687	1,439
Washington	5,668	5,873	-205	96,385	94,501	1,884
West Virginia	910	1,195	-285	9,721	9,825	-104
Wisconsin	5,074	4,939	135	34,602	35,377	-775
Wyoming	426	460	-34	3,317	2,931	386
US Total	231,181	272,436	-41,255	2,146,572	2,228,740	-82,168

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	Change			Change			IUR
	Initial Claims	from Prior Week	4-Week Average	Insured Unemployment	from Prior Week	4-Week Average	
January 18, 2025	222	5	213.25	1,849	-39	1,864.50	1.2
January 25, 2025	210	-12	213.50	1,874	25	1,865.25	1.2
February 1, 2025	222	12	217.75	1,839	-35	1,862.50	1.2
February 8, 2025	215	-7	217.25	1,861	22	1,855.75	1.2
February 15, 2025	224	9	217.75	1,847	-14	1,855.25	1.2
February 22, 2025	243	19	226.00	1,892	45	1,859.75	1.2
March 1, 2025	224	-19	226.50	1,851	-41	1,862.75	1.2
March 8, 2025	223	-1	228.50	1,881	30	1,867.75	1.2
March 15, 2025	225	2	228.75	1,847	-34	1,867.75	1.2
March 22, 2025	225	0	224.25	1,893	46	1,868.00	1.2
March 29, 2025	219	-6	223.00	1,844	-49	1,866.25	1.2
April 5, 2025	224	5	223.25	1,878	34	1,865.50	1.2
April 12, 2025	216	-8	221.00	1,833	-45	1,862.00	1.2
April 19, 2025	223	7	220.50	1,908	75	1,865.75	1.3
April 26, 2025	241	18	226.00	1,872	-36	1,872.75	1.2
May 3, 2025	229	-12	227.25	1,877	5	1,872.50	1.2
May 10, 2025	228	-1	230.25	1,893	16	1,887.50	1.2
May 17, 2025	226	-2	231.00	1,907	14	1,887.25	1.3
May 24, 2025	239	13	230.50	1,902	-5	1,894.75	1.2
May 31, 2025	248	9	235.25	1,951	49	1,913.25	1.3
June 7, 2025	250	2	240.75	1,937	-14	1,924.25	1.3
June 14, 2025	246	-4	245.75	1,964	27	1,938.50	1.3
June 21, 2025	237	-9	245.25	1,956	-8	1,952.00	1.3
June 28, 2025	232	-5	241.25	1,954	-2	1,952.75	1.3
July 5, 2025	228	-4	235.75	1,951	-3	1,956.25	1.3
July 12, 2025	221	-7	229.50	1,946	-5	1,951.75	1.3
July 19, 2025	217	-4	224.50	1,936	-10	1,946.75	1.3
July 26, 2025	219	2	221.25	1,968	32	1,950.25	1.3
August 2, 2025	227	8	221.00	1,942	-26	1,948.00	1.3
August 9, 2025	224	-3	221.75	1,961	19	1,951.75	1.3
August 16, 2025	234	10	226.00	1,944	-17	1,953.75	1.3
August 23, 2025	229	-5	228.50	1,939	-5	1,946.50	1.3
August 30, 2025	236	7	230.75	1,927	-12	1,942.75	1.3
September 6, 2025	264	28	240.75	1,928	1	1,934.50	1.3
September 13, 2025	232	-32	240.25	1,916	-12	1,927.50	1.3
September 20, 2025	219	-13	237.75	1,921	5	1,923.00	1.3
September 27, 2025	224	5	234.75	1,929	8	1,923.50	1.3
October 4, 2025	235	11	227.50	1,928	-1	1,923.50	1.3
October 11, 2025	220	-15	224.50	1,947	19	1,931.25	1.3
October 18, 2025	232	12	227.75	1,957	10	1,940.25	1.3
October 25, 2025	220	-12	226.75	1,964	7	1,949.00	1.3
November 1, 2025	229	9	225.25	1,946	-18	1,953.50	1.3
November 8, 2025	228	-1	227.25	1,953	7	1,955.00	1.3
November 15, 2025	222	-6	224.75	1,944	-9	1,951.75	1.3
November 22, 2025	217	-5	224.00	1,937	-7	1,945.00	1.3
November 29, 2025	192	-25	214.75	1,830	-107	1,916.00	1.2
December 6, 2025	237	45	217.00	1,885	55	1,899.00	1.2
December 13, 2025	224	-13	217.50	1,914	29	1,891.50	1.2
December 20, 2025	215	-9	217.00	1,856	-58	1,871.25	1.2
December 27, 2025	200	-15	219.00	1,903	47	1,889.50	1.2
January 3, 2026	207	7	211.50	1,875	-28	1,887.00	1.2
January 10, 2026	199	-8	205.25	1,865	-10	1,874.75	1.2
January 17, 2026	210	11	204.00	1,827	-38	1,867.50	1.2
January 24, 2026	209	-1	206.25				

INITIAL CLAIMS FILED DURING WEEK ENDED
JANUARY 17

INSURED UNEMPLOYMENT FOR WEEK ENDED
JANUARY 10

STATE NAME	STATE	CHANGE FROM				STATE	CHANGE FROM				TOTAL INSURED		
		LAST WEEK	AGO	UCFE ¹	UCX ¹		LAST WEEK	AGO	UCFE ¹	UCX ¹	UNEMPLOYMENT		
Alabama	2,377	-719	-129	9	8	9,952	0.5	-664	213	66	13	10,031	
Alaska	603	-53	-121	1	0	6,245	2.0	-248	-69	98	5	6,348	
Arizona	2,802	-67	-417	10	5	18,054	0.6	96	-4,459	122	35	18,211	
Arkansas	1,609	-177	-273	0	0	7,378	0.6	-984	-824	31	10	7,419	
California	55,731	5,504	-4,238	165	78	417,487	2.3	20,598	-24,070	2,039	1,172	420,698	
Colorado	3,996	-543	303	9	12	35,502	1.3	875	3,292	373	208	36,083	
Connecticut	4,359	-1,470	150	1	1	33,036	2.0	-5,967	655	57	29	33,122	
Delaware	422	-131	23	4	2	6,899	1.5	-737	-46	52	14	6,965	
District of Columbia	779	-94	-449	35	2	8,678	1.5	-169	862	1,359	15	10,052	
Florida	6,546	-600	-232	31	19	28,776	0.3	101	-3,398	214	69	29,059	
Georgia	6,278	-5,710	-514	37	25	28,876	0.6	-7,599	-3,543	366	66	29,308	
Hawaii	1,050	-697	-24	3	6	6,019	1.0	-1,530	236	62	55	6,136	
Idaho	1,535	-412	-232	4	1	11,258	1.3	-587	135	177	9	11,444	
Illinois	10,488	-2,245	-3,139	9	6	137,397	2.3	5,417	-3,742	555	121	138,073	
Indiana	3,789	-3,705	-802	3	1	29,612	0.9	1,611	-213	49	23	29,684	
Iowa	2,753	-1,118	208	2	0	19,512	1.3	-2,747	-2,888	25	4	19,541	
Kansas	1,523	-438	-299	0	0	9,586	0.7	-987	-2,592	39	24	9,649	
Kentucky	6,507	2,817	3,498	1	0	14,999	0.8	1,620	-1,908	96	28	15,123	
Louisiana	1,638	-289	-238	4	2	8,393	0.4	317	-4,632	42	7	8,442	
Maine	927	-204	-10	0	0	8,989	1.4	92	301	43	1	9,033	
Maryland	2,500	-582	-483	40	4	26,994	1.0	-1,361	689	839	57	27,890	
Massachusetts	7,729	-1,556	-157	1	0	96,287	2.7	-2,049	13,134	311	74	96,672	
Michigan	16,776	-2,237	-1,238	7	3	89,781	2.1	3,448	1,741	182	37	90,000	
Minnesota	5,308	-2,266	224	7	2	72,092	2.5	-7,621	-898	127	53	72,272	
Mississippi	1,050	-160	-47	2	1	7,092	0.6	-596	-468	69	11	7,172	
Missouri	5,046	-2,260	-3,253	6	1	25,419	0.9	-48	-7,620	118	20	25,557	
Montana	1,059	-327	-91	44	1	10,381	2.1	-932	-186	366	8	10,755	
Nebraska	990	-136	-132	0	2	7,734	0.8	-751	-455	19	1	7,754	
Nevada	3,166	-417	312	3	4	28,737	1.9	-1,140	1,561	153	75	28,965	
New Hampshire	562	-98	73	1	1	4,613	0.7	-665	646	7	0	4,620	
New Jersey	12,057	-4,013	-521	38	21	116,900	2.8	-16,861	-2,854	349	235	117,484	
New Mexico	939	-184	-23	0	5	11,051	1.3	-168	141	156	33	11,240	
New York	18,678	-9,464	1,130	30	18	198,436	2.1	-21,485	16,977	680	235	199,351	
North Carolina	3,930	-631	-100	5	1	20,242	0.4	848	-7,759	115	73	20,430	
North Dakota	629	-532	7	4	0	6,417	1.5	190	114	16	3	6,436	
Ohio	6,847	-4,664	-1,779	7	5	66,347	1.2	-1,082	-8,636	150	51	66,548	
Oklahoma	1,564	-233	-22	7	11	11,233	0.7	-659	924	62	34	11,329	
Oregon	5,539	-1,123	675	66	1	39,045	2.0	-7,376	5,394	589	80	39,714	
Pennsylvania	14,335	-4,836	-1,367	23	8	116,823	2.0	-16,035	-3,171	503	120	117,446	
Puerto Rico	1,935	462	105	7	1	20,703	2.2	2,442	1,202	227	84	21,014	
Rhode Island	1,676	-341	-252	1	0	14,159	2.9	-1,769	229	44	11	14,214	
South Carolina	4,170	348	1,733	8	4	17,732	0.8	-755	839	55	41	17,828	
South Dakota	323	-188	-7	3	0	3,056	0.7	100	-31	30	2	3,088	
Tennessee	3,601	-3,042	-261	1	10	19,586	0.6	-755	1,598	72	36	19,694	
Texas	18,362	-4,440	1,447	66	104	166,744	1.2	8,472	4,948	765	864	168,373	
Utah	2,115	-173	74	36	2	16,144	1.0	272	782	341	19	16,504	
Vermont	450	-150	14	0	0	3,817	1.3	-398	107	2	0	3,819	
Virgin Islands	26	15	-17	1	0	206	0.6	-26	-50	4	0	210	
Virginia	2,895	-2,020	37	11	3	21,687	0.6	1,883	4,526	279	65	22,031	
Washington	5,873	-937	36	30	17	94,501	2.7	-6,309	10,182	655	423	95,579	
West Virginia	1,195	-401	-871	1	2	9,825	1.4	-953	-3,303	58	13	9,896	
Wisconsin	4,939	-1,367	-436	6	2	35,377	1.2	-6,893	-1,606	110	10	35,497	
Wyoming	460	-223	-39	8	0	2,931	1.1	30	182	42	4	2,977	
Totals	272,436	-58,527	-12,164	798	402	2,228,740	1.5	-70,494	-17,811	13,360	4,680	2,246,780	

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 JANUARY 17, 2026

STATES WITH AN INCREASE OF MORE THAN 1,000

State	Change	State Supplied Comment
CA	+5,504	No comment.
KY	+2,817	No comment.

STATES WITH A DECREASE OF MORE THAN 1,000

State	Change	State Supplied Comment
NY	-9,464	Fewer layoffs in transportation and warehousing, construction, and information industries.
GA	-5,710	Fewer layoffs in manufacturing, administrative and support and waste management and remediation services, transportation and warehousing industries.
PA	-4,836	Fewer layoffs in administrative and support and waste management and remediation services, transportation and warehousing, and construction industries.
OH	-4,664	Fewer layoffs in the manufacturing industry.
TX	-4,440	No comment.
NJ	-4,013	No comment.
IN	-3,705	No comment.
TN	-3,042	No comment.
MN	-2,266	No comment.
MO	-2,260	Fewer layoffs in arts, entertainment, and recreation; manufacturing; and accommodation and food services industries.
IL	-2,245	No comment.
MI	-2,237	Fewer layoffs in the manufacturing industry.
VA	-2,020	Fewer layoffs in the manufacturing industry.
MA	-1,556	No comment.
CT	-1,470	No comment.
WI	-1,367	Fewer layoffs in the construction industry.
OR	-1,123	No comment.
IA	-1,118	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](#)

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).

U.S. Department of Labor
Employment and Training Administration
Washington, D.C. 20210
Release Number: USDL 26-153-NAT

Program Contacts:
Lawrence S. Essien: (202) 693-3087
Media Contact: (202) 693-4676



Bureau of Labor Statistics > Economic News Release > State Employment and Unemployment

Economic News Release

State Employment and Unemployment Summary

For release 10:00 a.m. (ET) Tuesday, January 27, 2026

USDL-26-0117

Technical information:

Employment: (202) 691-6559 * sminfo@bls.gov * www.bls.gov/sae
 Unemployment: (202) 691-6392 * lausinfo@bls.gov * www.bls.gov/lau

Media contact: (202) 691-5902 * PressOffice@bls.gov

STATE EMPLOYMENT AND UNEMPLOYMENT -- DECEMBER 2025

Unemployment rates were higher in December in 6 states and stable in 44 states and the District of Columbia, the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics reported today. Twenty-one states and the District had jobless rate increases from a year earlier, 8 states had decreases, and 21 states had little change. The national unemployment rate, 4.4 percent, changed little over the month but was 0.3 percentage point higher than in December 2024.

In December 2025, nonfarm payroll employment was essentially unchanged in all 50 states and the District of Columbia. Over the year, nonfarm payroll employment increased in 8 states, decreased in the District, and was essentially unchanged in 42 states.

This news release presents statistics from two monthly programs. The civilian labor force and unemployment data are modeled based largely on a survey of households. These data pertain to people by where they reside. The employment data are from an establishment survey that measures nonfarm employment, hours, and earnings by industry. These data pertain to jobs on payrolls defined by where the establishments are located. For more information about the concepts and statistical methodologies used by these two programs, see the Technical Note.

Unemployment

Hawaii and South Dakota had the lowest jobless rates in December, 2.2 percent each. The District of Columbia had the highest unemployment rate, 6.7 percent. The next highest rates were in California and New Jersey, 5.5 percent and 5.4 percent, respectively. In total, 19 states had unemployment rates lower than the U.S. figure of 4.4 percent, 5 states and the District had higher rates, and 26 states had rates that were not appreciably different from that of the nation. (See tables A and 1.)

In December, six states had unemployment rate increases: Delaware (+0.3 percentage point); Illinois (+0.2 point); and Florida, Minnesota, Oklahoma, and Washington (+0.1 point each). The remaining 44 states and the District of Columbia had jobless rates that were not notably different from those of a month earlier, though some had changes that were at least as large numerically as the significant changes. (See table B.)

Twenty-one states and the District of Columbia had unemployment rate increases from December 2024, the largest of which were in Delaware (+1.6 percentage points) and the District (+1.4 points). Eight states had over-the-year rate decreases, the largest of which was in Indiana (-0.9 percentage point). The next largest decreases occurred in Colorado, Hawaii, and Kentucky (-0.8 percentage point each). Twenty-one states had jobless rates that were not notably different from those of a year earlier. (See table C.)

Nonfarm Payroll Employment

In December 2025, nonfarm payroll employment was essentially unchanged in all 50 states and the District of Columbia. (See table 3.)

Over the year, nonfarm payroll employment increased in 8 states, decreased in the District of Columbia, and was essentially unchanged in 42 states. The largest job gains occurred in Texas (+132,500), North Carolina (+80,700), and Pennsylvania (+76,600). The largest percentage increases occurred in Missouri (+1.8 percent), North Carolina (+1.6 percent), and South Carolina (+1.4 percent). Employment decreased in the District (-32,400, or -4.2 percent). (See table D.)

The Metropolitan Area Employment and Unemployment news release for December 2025 is scheduled to be released on Wednesday, February 4, 2026, at 10:00 a.m. (ET). The State Employment and Unemployment news release for January 2026 will be scheduled for April.

Upcoming Changes to Local Area Unemployment Statistics (LAUS) Data

Effective with the release of January 2026 data in April, the civilian labor force and unemployment data for the states and the District of Columbia presented in tables 1 and 2 of this news release will be revised to incorporate updated inputs, new population controls, re-estimation of models, and adjustment to new census division and national control totals. The population controls will reflect replacement of the "blended base" method that had been in use since the start of post-censal estimation for the 2020s with

data adapted from the 2020 Modified Race and Age, or MARC, file. Data in table 1 will be re-seasonally adjusted as well. Both not seasonally adjusted and seasonally adjusted data are subject to revision back to at least January 2021.

Due to the lapse in federal appropriations, October 2025 data collection did not occur for the Current Population Survey (CPS), which provides the primary inputs to LAUS estimation. At the same time as the January 2026 data and the revisions for states through 2025 are released, statewide averages for 2025 based on the 11 months for which CPS data collection occurred will be published in the BLS time-series database. These 11-month averages will not be strictly comparable to annual averages for prior years.

Additional information about the impact of the shutdown on the household survey is available online at www.bls.gov/cps/methods/2025-federal-government-shutdown-impact-cps.htm.

Upcoming Changes to Current Employment Statistics (CES) Data

Effective with the release of January 2026 data in April, all nonfarm payroll employment estimates for states and areas presented in tables 3 and 4 of this news release will be adjusted 2025 benchmark levels. Not seasonally adjusted data beginning with April 2024 and seasonally adjusted data beginning with January 2021 are subject to revision. Some not seasonally adjusted and seasonally adjusted series may be revised as far back as 1990. Also effective with the release of January 2026 data, the establishment survey will change the birth-death model by incorporating current sample information each month. The change follows the same methodology applied to the April through October 2024 forecasts during the 2024 post-benchmark period (see question 9 in the CES Birth-Death Model Frequently Asked Questions page at www.bls.gov/web/empstat/cesbdqa.htm).

Table A. States with unemployment rates significantly different from that of the U.S., December 2025, seasonally adjusted

State	Rate(p)
United States (1)	4.4
Alabama	2.7
California	5.5
Delaware	5.2
District of Columbia	6.7
Georgia	3.6
Hawaii	2.2
Idaho	3.6
Indiana	3.5
Iowa	3.5
Maine	3.2
Montana	3.4
Nebraska	3.0
Nevada	5.2
New Hampshire	3.1
New Jersey	5.4
North Dakota	2.6
Oklahoma	3.6
Oregon	5.2
South Dakota	2.2
Tennessee	3.6
Utah	3.6
Vermont	2.6
Virginia	3.6
Wisconsin	3.1
Wyoming	3.4

(1) Data are not preliminary.

(p) = preliminary.

Table B. States with statistically significant unemployment rate changes from November 2025 to December 2025, seasonally adjusted

State	Rate		Over-the-month change(p)
	November 2025	December 2025(p)	
Delaware	4.9	5.2	.3
Florida	4.2	4.3	.1
Illinois	4.4	4.6	.2
Minnesota	4.0	4.1	.1
Oklahoma	3.5	3.6	.1
Washington	4.6	4.7	.1

(p) = preliminary.

Table C. States with statistically significant unemployment rate changes from December 2024 to December 2025, seasonally adjusted

State	Rate		Over-the-year change(p)
	December 2024	December 2025(p)	
Alabama	3.3	2.7	-0.6
Arizona	3.8	4.3	.5
Arkansas	3.6	4.2	.6
Colorado	4.6	3.8	-.8
Connecticut	3.2	4.2	1.0
Delaware	3.6	5.2	1.6
District of Columbia	5.3	6.7	1.4
Florida	3.4	4.3	.9
Hawaii	3.0	2.2	-.8
Illinois	4.9	4.6	-.3
Indiana	4.4	3.5	-.9
Kentucky	5.3	4.5	-.8
Louisiana	4.6	4.2	-.4
Maryland	3.1	4.2	1.1
Massachusetts	4.1	4.8	.7
Minnesota	3.0	4.1	1.1
Missouri	3.6	3.9	.3
Montana	2.9	3.4	.5
Nevada	5.8	5.2	-.6
New Hampshire	2.8	3.1	.3
New Jersey	4.6	5.4	.8
Oklahoma	3.3	3.6	.3
Oregon	4.3	5.2	.9
Pennsylvania	3.7	4.2	.5
South Carolina	4.4	4.8	.4
South Dakota	1.9	2.2	.3
Utah	3.3	3.6	.3
Virginia	2.9	3.6	.7
Washington	4.4	4.7	.3
West Virginia	4.1	4.6	.5

(p) = preliminary.

Table D. States with statistically significant employment changes from December 2024 to December 2025, seasonally adjusted

State	December 2024	December 2025(p)	Over-the-year change(p)	
			Level	Percent
District of Columbia	772,200	739,800	-32,400	-4.2
Minnesota	3,034,400	3,068,500	34,100	1.1
Missouri	3,000,000	3,052,800	52,800	1.8
New York	9,946,500	10,020,400	73,900	.7
North Carolina	5,044,300	5,125,000	80,700	1.6
Ohio	5,654,600	5,708,900	54,300	1.0
Pennsylvania	6,180,800	6,257,400	76,600	1.2
South Carolina	2,383,700	2,417,300	33,600	1.4
Texas	14,208,500	14,341,000	132,500	.9

(p) = preliminary.

- [State Employment and Unemployment Technical Note](#)
- [Table 1. Civilian labor force and unemployment by state, seasonally adjusted](#)
- [Table 2. Civilian labor force and unemployment by state, not seasonally adjusted](#)
- [Table 3. Employees on nonfarm payrolls by state and selected industry sector, seasonally adjusted](#)
- [Table 4. Employees on nonfarm payrolls by state and selected industry sector, not seasonally adjusted](#)
- [HTML version of the entire news release](#)

[The PDF version of the news release](#)**[News release charts](#)****[Supplemental Files Table of Contents](#)****[Table of Contents](#)****Last Modified Date:** January 27, 2026

U.S. BUREAU OF LABOR STATISTICS Local Area Unemployment Statistics Office of Employment and Unemployment Statistics Suitland Federal Center Floor 3 4600 Silver Hill Road Washington, DC 20212-0002

Telephone: 202-691-6392 www.bls.gov/LAU [Contact LAUS](#)

U.S. BUREAU OF LABOR STATISTICS Current Employment Statistics Office of Employment and Unemployment Statistics Suitland Federal Center Floor 3 4600 Silver Hill Road Washington, DC 20212-0002

Telephone: 202-691-6559 www.bls.gov/SAE [Contact SAE](#)