



## Initial Unemployment Insurance Claims Fall in Week Ending 9/20 as Layoffs Remain Low

### Headlines

- **Initial claims for unemployment insurance fell by 14,000 in the week ending September 20, with the four-week moving average down as well.**
- **Continuing claims fell slightly in the week ending September 13.**
- **Layoffs remain low in the second half of 2025.**
- **Hiring has slowed from a few years ago but has not worsened in recent months.**

Initial claims for unemployment insurance fell by 14,000 to 218,000 in the week ending September 20, according to the Labor Department. This was down from 232,000 in the prior week, revised higher by 1,000. The four-week moving average of claims, which smooths out some of the volatility, was 237,500 in the week ending September 20, down by about 3,000 from the previous week.

Overall, initial claims point to low layoffs in the U.S. economy entering the fall. Initial claims are up somewhat from the beginning of 2025, but are lower than they were in the middle of this year. They remain low on an historical basis and consistent with a solid labor market.

Continuing claims fell slightly to 1.926 million in the week ending September 13, from 1.928 million the previous week (revised higher from 1.920 million). The four-week moving average of continuing claims fell to 1.934 million in the week ending September 13 from 1.9345 million the previous week. Continuing claims have receded slightly since the middle of the year, but are up from below 1.4 million in mid-2022. Unemployed workers are having more difficulty in finding jobs now than they were a few years ago, but the problem does not appear to be getting worse in the second half of 2025.

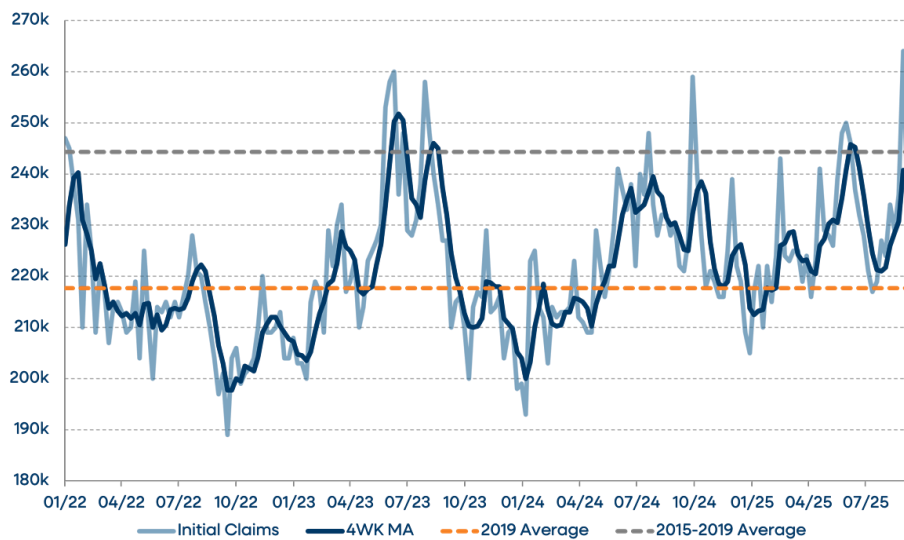
Overall, the picture painted by unemployment insurance data is that the labor market is solid, although not as good as it was in 2022 and 2023. Layoffs remain low, but hiring has slowed and it is more difficult to find a job now than it was during the first few years of recovery from the pandemic.

Initial claims fell by more than 1,000 in the week ending September 20 from the previous week (not seasonally adjusted) in Texas, New York, Arizona, Virginia, and South Carolina. The drop in Texas (almost 7,000) is the aftermath

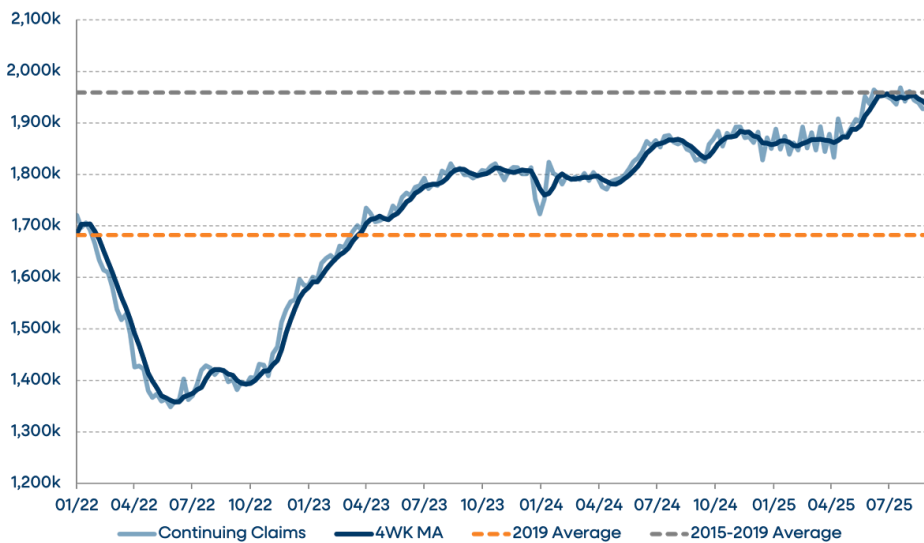


after a surge in claims in early September, apparently due to fraudulent applications. California is the only state where claims rose by more than 1,000 in the week.

**Figure 1: Initial Unemployment Insurance Claims (SA)**



**Figure 2: Continuing Claims for Unemployment Insurance Benefits (SA)**



Please reach out with any questions,

**PNC Economics**

**Gus Faucher, Chief Economist**

[economics@pnc.com](mailto:economics@pnc.com)