

# DOL Unemployment Insurance Initial Claims Overview

## General Description

The mission of the New York State Department of Labor is to protect workers, assist the unemployed, and connect job seekers to jobs.

The Unemployment Insurance (UI) Division administers the State Unemployment Insurance Law, including both the unemployment insurance benefit payment program and the unemployment tax program. The Unemployment Insurance Program assists eligible workers who become unemployed, by providing weekly unemployment insurance benefit payments to partially offset the loss of income while they seek new employment. Under the program, eligible persons file an initial claim for benefits and certify weekly during their eligibility period to collect benefits. The program verifies eligibility for continuation of benefits with the claimant on a periodic basis throughout the benefit period.

Unemployment Insurance is temporary income for eligible workers who become unemployed through no fault of their own.

Unemployment Insurance is temporary income:

- For eligible workers
- Who lose their jobs
- Through no fault of their own

To collect benefits, you must be ready, willing, and able to work, and actively looking for work during each week in which you are claiming benefits.

To qualify for Unemployment Insurance benefits, you must have worked and earned enough wages in covered employment. In New York State, employers pay contributions that fund Unemployment Insurance. It is not deducted from your paycheck. The Department of Labor decides if you qualify for benefits.

Dataset contains monthly counts, from July 2003 to present, of initial claims for regular unemployment insurance benefits.

Initial Claims include new claims as well as subsequent additional claims filed. New claims are filed in person, by mail, telephone or other means to request a determination of entitlement to and eligibility for compensation which results in an agency generated document of an appealable monetary determination provided to the potential claimant. Additional claims are filed during an existing benefit year due to new unemployment when a break of one week or more has occurred in the claim series due to intervening employment.

Data are provided for New York State regions. Region counts include only state residents

who file a claim (excluding out-of-state residents).

### **Data Collection Methodology**

Data are collected administratively from the unemployment insurance program. Initial claims are summed monthly, and sorted by region.

### **Statistical and Analytic Issues**

The claims are counted with their original geography. The claimants may have moved, so the county and regional counts may change slightly over time.

### **Limitations of Data Use**

None.