



COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA
Department of Workforce Development and Advancement

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For Release: Thursday December 21, 2023
RE: Initial claims in week ending 12/16/2023 (#49)
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**Virginia Unemployment Insurance Weekly Initial Claims at 1,717;
Manufacturing Leading Industry for Claims**

— Seasonally unadjusted weekly initial unemployment insurance increased from the previous filing week, with continued claims also up over that period —

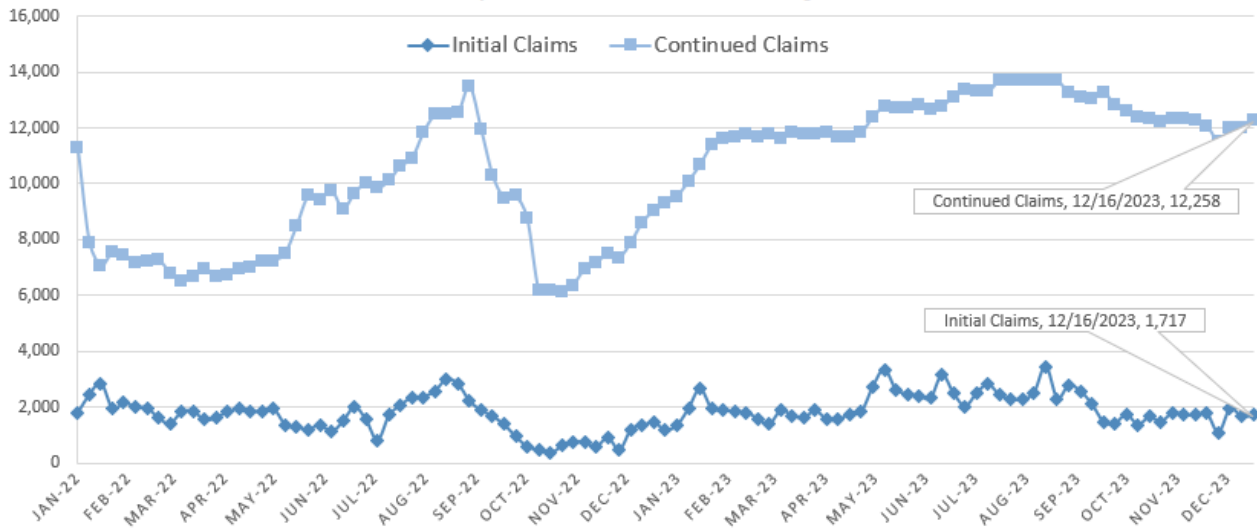
RICHMOND—The Virginia Department of Workforce Development and Advancement (DWDA) announced today that the number of initial unemployment insurance claims increased in the latest filing week to 1,717 but remained slightly below typical pre-pandemic volumes experienced in 2019.

For the filing week ending December 16, the figure for seasonally unadjusted initial claims for unemployment insurance in Virginia was 1,717, which was an increase of 48 claimants from the previous week. Continued weeks claimed totaled 12,258, which was little changed from the previous week but an increase of 36% from the 9,027 continued claims from the comparable week last year. An industry was reported for ninety-three percent of continued claims. Of those, over half (59 percent) of continued claims were from professional, scientific, and technical services (1,785), administrative and support and waste management (1,760), manufacturing (1,139), and health care and social assistance (1,097) and retail trade (877). Eligibility for benefits is determined on a weekly basis, and so not all weekly claims filed result in a benefit payment. This is because the initial claims numbers represent claim applications; claims are then reviewed for eligibility and legitimacy.

(more)

Virginia Weekly Unemployment Insurance Claims Activity

January 4, 2022 - December 16, 2023 Filing Weeks



Source: The Virginia Department of Workforce Development and Advancement. Not seasonally adjusted.

In the week ending December 16, the advance figure for seasonally adjusted initial claims was 205,000, an increase of 2,000 from the previous week's revised level. The previous week's level was revised up by 1,000 from 202,000 to 203,000. The advance number of actual initial claims under state programs, unadjusted, totaled 239,865 in the week ending December 16, a decrease of 9,225 (or -3.7 percent) from the previous week. There were 248,444 initial claims in the comparable week in 2022.

Looking at preliminary data, most U.S. states reported decreases on a seasonally unadjusted basis. California's preliminary weekly change (-3,330) was the largest decrease. Georgia's preliminary weekly change (-1,957) was the second largest decrease. Texas's preliminary weekly change (-888) was the third largest decrease. Oregon's preliminary weekly change (-772) was the fourth largest decrease. Virginia had the 36th largest decrease (-17).

*Continued claims maps are unavailable this week.