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U.S. Jobless Claims Rise

The number of Americans filing new claims for unemployment benefits rose last week but stayed well within the range that has prevailed over the past year.

Last week, 236,000 initial jobless claims were filed, up from 192,000 the week before, the Labor Department said.

For almost all of 2025, the Labor Department has recorded between roughly 210,000 and 250,000 new claims each week, and the latest figure suggests December didn't begin with any serious pickup in layoffs. Many economists suspect the low late-November figure of 192,000 reflected an errant seasonal adjustment factor due to the timing of Thanksgiving.

Continuing claims, which show the trend in the total size of the unemployed population, fell in the week through Nov. 29 to 1.84 million, versus 1.94 million a week earlier.

—Matt Grossman

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