

WSJ Print Edition

Fewer Seek Jobless Benefits

Fewer Americans newly filed for unemployment benefits last week, the Labor Department said Thursday, extending evidence employers haven't been turning to layoffs as the job market slows.

In the week through Aug. 23, jobless-claim filings fell to 229,000, down from 234,000, a week earlier. Economists were forecasting 230,000.

Continuing claims, an indicator of the size of the total unemployed population, came in at 1.95 million in the week through Aug. 16, compared with 1.96 million a week earlier. Continuing-claims data lag initial-claims data by a week.

As the Federal Reserve gears up for a potential interest- rate cut in September, officials have been focused on a cooling labor market. Job creation has slowed markedly in recent months, suggesting lagging demand by employers.

But at 4.2%, the unemployment rate is flat during the past 12 months, and the weekly jobless-claims data haven't indicated a troubling uptick in layoffs.

—Matt Grossman

Copyright (c)2025 Dow Jones & Company, Inc. All Rights Reserved. 8/29/2025
Powered by TECNAVIA

The following is a digital replica of content from the print newspaper and is intended for the personal use of our members. For commercial reproduction or distribution of Dow Jones printed content, contact: Dow Jones Reprints & Licensing at (800) 843-0008 or visit djreprints.com.
