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For Immediate Release

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Initial unemployment insurance claims drop for the week ending April 18

BATON ROUGE, LA – The initial unemployment insurance claims for the week ending April 18, 2026, dropped to 1,297 from the week ending April 11, 2026, totaling 1,540. For a comparison, during the week ending April 19, 2025, 1,508 initial claims were filed.

The four-week moving average of initial claims increased to 1,243 from the previous week's average of 1,222.

The unemployment insurance continued weeks claimed for the week ending April 18, 2026, increased to 6,038 from the week ending April 11, 2026, totaling 5,935. The continued weeks claimed were below the comparable figure of 10,480 for the week ending April 19, 2025.

The four-week moving average of continued weeks decreased to 6,004 from the previous week's average of 6,015.

Louisiana Works offers countless tools, both in person and online, to help claimants file and process their claims. These resources include those at the agency's [American Job Centers](#), job fairs, training programs, apprenticeship opportunities, and numerous other Louisiana Works services.

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Resources and Tools:

[Unemployment Insurance Claims Data for Prior Weeks](#)
[Unemployment Insurance Weekly Claims Dashboard](#)