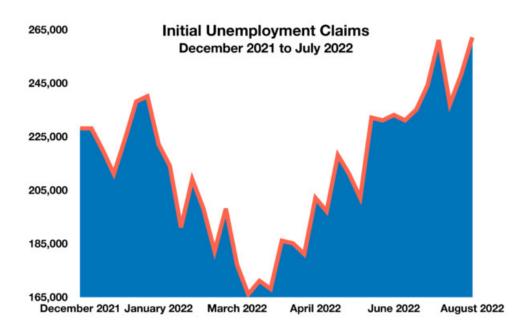
## Unemployment Claims On The Rise - Labor Market Overview

Unemployment claims reached their highest level since late November 2021, and have steadily increased throughout the year. As of the week ending on August 6th, the job market saw initial unemployment claims rise to 262,000. This was an increase of 14,000 claims from the previous week's 248,000 claims and an increase of over 30,000 claims from just 6 weeks prior. This gradual increase in unemployment claims is emerging as uncertainty over the economy expands. Many sectors, specifically tech and real estate, are experiencing stagnated hiring and even layoffs.

With a volatile stock market and a slowing economy, technology companies are easing and even freezing hiring and in some cases conducting layoffs. Optimistically, layoffs are not at the high levels they were during the pandemic, but unemployment claims have been steadily increasing. This could foreshadow more uncertainty in an economy that has begun to slow down.

Sources: U.S. Employment and Training Administration, Federal Reserve Bank of St. Louis



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