

FEDERAL NEWS WEEKLY SUMMARY CONTINUED



week ending Oct. 19 was 2,450,000, an increase of 23,000 from the preceding week's revised level of 2,427,000. The 4-week moving average was 2,470,000, a decrease of 250 from the preceding week's revised average of 2,470,250.

Unadjusted Data

The advance number of actual initial claims under state programs, unadjusted, totaled 312,501 in the week ending Oct. 26, an increase of 40,563 from the previous week. There were 332,061 initial claims in the comparable week in 1995.

The advance unadjusted insured unemployment rate was 1.8 percent during the week ending Oct. 19, an increase of 0.1 percentage point from the prior week. The advance unadjusted number for persons claiming UI benefits in state programs totaled 2,053,203, an increase of 87,617 from the preceding week. A year earlier, the rate was 2.0 percent and the volume was 2,183,047.

Extended benefits were not available in any state during the week ending Oct. 12.

Initial claims for UI benefits by former Federal civilian employees totaled 2,108 in the week ending Oct. 19, a decrease of 975 from the prior week. There were 1,940 initial claims by newly discharged veterans, a decrease of 294 from the preceding week.

There were 29,074 former Federal civilian employees claiming UI benefits for the week ending Oct. 12, an increase of 2,925 from the previous week. Newly discharged veterans claiming benefits totaled 22,707, a decrease of 104 from the prior week.

—U.S. DEPT. OF LABOR
10/31/96

COMMERCE & INDUSTRY

JUSTICE DEPARTMENT CHALLENGES RADIO JOINT SALES AGREEMENT

■(WASHINGTON) The Department of Justice last week reached a settlement with one of the nation's largest radio station owners—American Radio Systems Corp.—allowing

the company to purchase two Rochester, New York radio stations as long as it divests three other Rochester stations. The Department also required the company to terminate a joint sales agreement with another Rochester radio station. The state of New York joined in the case.

This marks the first time the Department has ever challenged a joint sales agreement, or JSA. A JSA gives one radio station the right to price and sell all of the advertising time of another station.

Since the Boston-based American Radio has agreed to restructure its deal, the company will be permitted to go forward with plans to acquire two out of the four stations it originally intended to purchase in Rochester.

The Department and the New York Attorney General's office said that American Radio's proposed acquisition of four Rochester radio stations owned by The Lincoln Group L.P., together with the joint sales agreement, would have given it control over more than 60 percent of the sales of radio advertising time in the city. This would have enabled American Radio to increase prices to advertisers and to substantially reduce competition in the \$32 million Rochester radio advertising market.

The restructured arrangement will preserve competition among Rochester radio stations, benefiting both advertisers and consumers.

The Department said that the radio industry is in the midst of rapid consolidation following passage of the Telecommunications Reform Act of 1996, which relaxed previous limits on radio station ownership. Although the Act removed certain limits, it explicitly acknowledged the role of antitrust enforcement, explaining that "nothing in this Act . . . shall be construed to modify, impair, or supersede the applicability of any of the antitrust laws."

As required by the Tunney Act, the proposed consent decree will be published in the Federal Register, together with the Department's competitive impact statement. Any person may submit written comments concerning the proposed consent decree during a 60-day comment period to Craig W. Conrath, Chief, Merger Task Force, Antitrust Division, U.S. Department of Justice, Suite 4000, 1401 H Street N.W., Washington, D.C. 20005, telephone (202) 307-0001.

At the conclusion of the 60-day comment period, the federal district court in Washington, D.C. may enter the consent decree upon finding that it serves the public interest.

—U.S. DEPT. OF JUSTICE
10/29/96

EDUCATION

USDA TO INCREASE OPPORTUNITIES FOR HISPANIC STUDENTS

■(WASHINGTON) Agriculture Secretary Dan Glickman has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the Hispanic Association of Colleges and Universities (HACU) revitalizing a partnership to promote agricultural careers and increase USDA employment opportunities for students attending HACU member institutions. The MOU is effective immediately.

New authorities under the 1996 Farm Bill provide for education grants programs for Hispanic serving institutions to carry out education, applied research, and related community development programs. \$1.5 million has been targeted for these education grants in FY 1997. Under the 1996 Farm Bill, the reach of the HACU National Internship Program extends to all Hispanic serving institutions.

The memorandum formally establishes the USDA-HACU Leadership Group to provide guidance, direction, and coordination for all future partnership initiatives or activities. Glickman named USDA's Cooperative State Research, Education, and Extension Service Administrator Bob Robinson as the USDA Co-Chair to the Leadership Group.

—U.S. DEPT. OF AGRICULTURE
10/30/96

ENERGY

TINKER AFB ONE OF THE WINNERS OF THE NATIONAL ENERGY AWARDS

■(WASHINGTON) In recognition of American Energy Month, celebrated annually in October, the Department of Energy (DOE) announced the 1996 winners of the National Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy Awards. The annual awards recognize individuals, institutions and companies of all sizes who have implemented energy-related measures that benefit the nation's environment, economy and security.

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"The biggest corporation, like the humblest private citizen, must be held to strict compliance with the will of the people as expressed in the fundamental law."

Theodore Roosevelt
speech in Columbus, Ohio, 1902