



News Release

Connect with DOL at <http://blog.dol.gov>



TRANSMISSION OF MATERIALS IN THIS RELEASE IS EMBARGOED UNTIL
8:30 A.M. (Eastern) Thursday, February 25, 2016

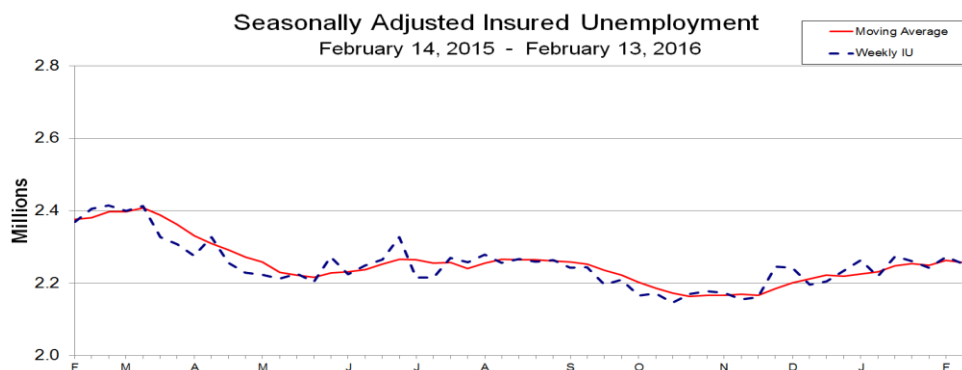
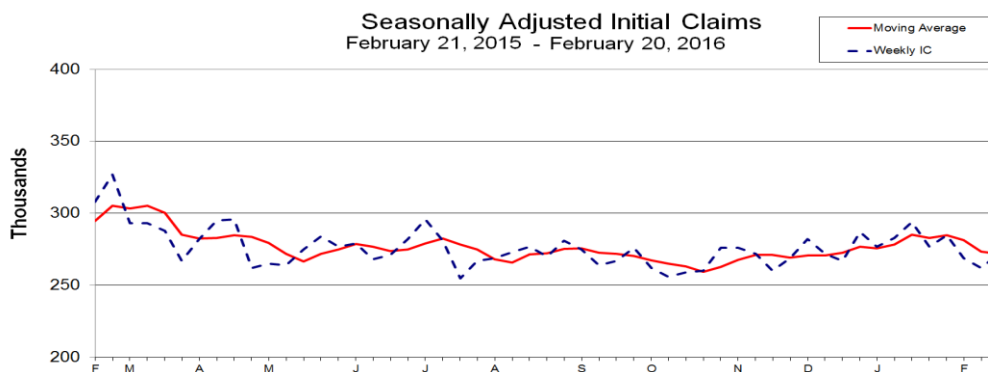
UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE WEEKLY CLAIMS

SEASONALLY ADJUSTED DATA

In the week ending February 20, the advance figure for seasonally adjusted **initial claims** was 272,000, an increase of 10,000 from the previous week's unrevised level of 262,000. The 4-week moving average was 272,000, a decrease of 1,250 from the previous week's unrevised average of 273,250.

There were no special factors impacting this week's initial claims.

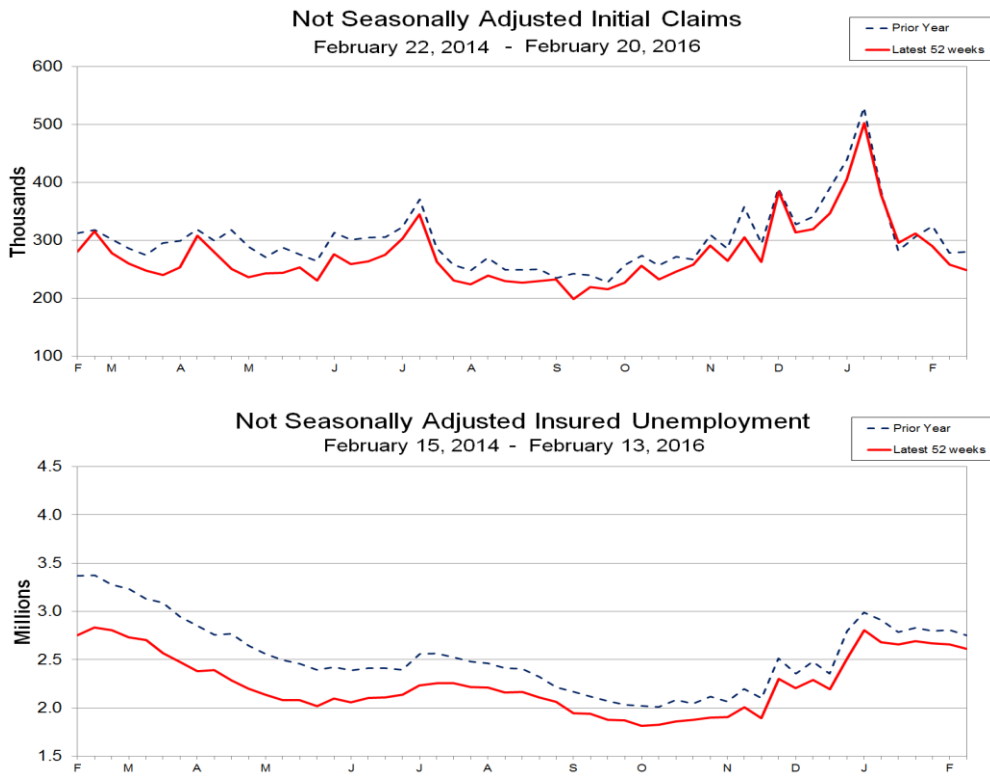
The advance seasonally adjusted **insured unemployment rate** was 1.7 percent for the week ending February 13, unchanged from the previous week's unrevised rate. The advance number for seasonally adjusted **insured unemployment** during the week ending February 13 was 2,253,000, a decrease of 19,000 from the previous week's revised level. The previous week's level was revised down by 1,000 from 2,273,000 to 2,272,000. The 4-week moving average was 2,257,000, a decrease of 5,250 from the previous week's revised average. The previous week's average was revised down by 250 from 2,262,500 to 2,262,250.



UNADJUSTED DATA

The advance number of actual initial claims under state programs, unadjusted, totaled 248,703 in the week ending February 20, a decrease of 9,729 (or -3.8 percent) from the previous week. The seasonal factors had expected a decrease of 19,114 (or -7.4 percent) from the previous week. There were 280,639 initial claims in the comparable week in 2015.

The advance unadjusted insured unemployment rate was 1.9 percent during the week ending February 13, a decrease of 0.1 percentage point from the prior week. The advance unadjusted number for persons claiming UI benefits in state programs totaled 2,611,696, a decrease of 46,273 (or -1.7 percent) from the preceding week. The seasonal factors had expected a decrease of 24,989 (or -0.9 percent) from the previous week. A year earlier the rate was 2.1 percent and the volume was 2,752,768.



The total number of people claiming benefits in all programs for the week ending February 6 was 2,707,603, a decrease of 12,802 from the previous week. There were 2,866,747 persons claiming benefits in all programs in the comparable week in 2015.

No state was triggered "on" the Extended Benefits program during the week ending February 6.

Initial claims for UI benefits filed by former Federal civilian employees totaled 772 in the week ending February 13, a decrease of 66 from the prior week. There were 1,016 initial claims filed by newly discharged veterans, a decrease of 251 from the preceding week.

There were 14,541 former Federal civilian employees claiming UI benefits for the week ending February 6, an increase of 575 from the previous week. Newly discharged veterans claiming benefits totaled 15,365, a decrease of 368 from the prior week.

The highest insured unemployment rates in the week ending February 6 were in Alaska (4.7), West Virginia (3.6), New Jersey (3.4), Montana (3.3), Pennsylvania (3.2), Illinois (3.0), Rhode Island (3.0), Wyoming (3.0), Connecticut (2.9), Massachusetts (2.8), and Puerto Rico (2.8).

The largest increases in initial claims for the week ending February 13 were in Wisconsin (+387), Minnesota (+106), New Mexico (+77), the Virgin Islands (+4), and Kentucky (+22), while the largest decreases were in Pennsylvania (-3,739), Illinois (-2,349), Texas (-2,342), New York (-1,984), and Tennessee (-1,651).

UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE DATA FOR REGULAR STATE PROGRAMS

WEEK ENDING	February 20	February 13	Change	February 6	<u>Prior Year</u>¹
Initial Claims (SA)	272,000	262,000	+10,000	269,000	308,000
Initial Claims (NSA)	248,703	258,432	-9,729	290,491	280,639
4-Wk Moving Average (SA)	272,000	273,250	-1,250	281,250	294,750
WEEK ENDING	February 13	February 6	Change	January 30	<u>Prior Year</u>¹
Insured Unemployment (SA)	2,253,000	2,272,000	-19,000	2,243,000	2,369,000
Insured Unemployment (NSA)	2,611,696	2,657,969	-46,273	2,671,065	2,752,768
4-Wk Moving Average (SA)	2,257,000	2,262,250	-5,250	2,249,000	2,375,750
<u>Insured Unemployment Rate (SA)</u> ²	1.7%	1.7%	0.0	1.6%	1.8%
<u>Insured Unemployment Rate (NSA)</u> ²	1.9%	2.0%	-0.1	2.0%	2.1%

INITIAL CLAIMS FILED IN FEDERAL PROGRAMS (UNADJUSTED)

WEEK ENDING	February 13	February 6	Change	<u>Prior Year</u>¹
Federal Employees (UCFE)	772	838	-66	1,020
Newly Discharged Veterans (UCX)	1,016	1,267	-251	1,446

PERSONS CLAIMING UI BENEFITS IN ALL PROGRAMS (UNADJUSTED)

WEEK ENDING	February 6	January 30	Change	<u>Prior Year</u>¹
Regular State	2,652,805	2,665,439	-12,634	2,806,635
Federal Employees	14,541	13,966	+575	17,177
Newly Discharged Veterans	15,365	15,733	-368	23,787
<u>Extended Benefits</u> ³	0	0	0	7
<u>State Additional Benefits</u> ⁴	7,869	7,409	+460	7,139
<u>STC / Workshare</u> ⁵	17,023	17,858	-835	12,002
<u>TOTAL</u>	2,707,603	2,720,405	-12,802	2,866,747

FOOTNOTES

SA - Seasonally Adjusted Data, NSA - Not Seasonally Adjusted Data

1. Prior year is comparable to most recent data.
2. Most recent week used covered employment of 136,270,223 as denominator.
3. Information on the EB program can be found here: [EB Program information](#)
4. Some states maintain additional benefit programs for those claimants who exhaust regular, extended and emergency benefits. Information on states that participate, and the extent of benefits paid, can be found starting on page 4-5 of this link: [Extensions and Special Programs PDF](#)
5. Information on STC/Worksharing can be found starting on page 4-9 of the following link: [Extensions and Special Programs PDF](#)

Advance State Claims - Not Seasonally Adjusted

STATE	Initial Claims Filed During Week Ended February 20			Insured Unemployment For Week Ended February 13		
	Advance	Prior Wk	Change	Advance	Prior Wk	Change
Alabama	2,534	2,538	-4	21,113	22,755	-1,642
Alaska	1,218	1,258	-40	14,576	14,997	-421
Arizona	3,137	3,579	-442	24,031	27,383	-3,352
Arkansas	1,821	2,254	-433	19,381	21,325	-1,944
California	42,550	47,599	-5,049	390,782	417,123	-26,341
Colorado	2,554	2,828	-274	36,699	33,668	3,031
Connecticut	4,106	3,311	795	51,582	48,385	3,197
Delaware	662	727	-65	8,415	8,365	50
District of Columbia	480	280	200	8,058	8,476	-418
Florida	7,124	7,062	62	43,715	49,671	-5,956
Georgia	6,380	7,004	-624	34,839	37,661	-2,822
Hawaii	1,010	1,017	-7	6,571	6,297	274
Idaho	1,328	1,363	-35	12,484	14,257	-1,773
Illinois	10,628	10,141	487	164,068	173,586	-9,518
Indiana	3,426	3,492	-66	35,919	35,692	227
Iowa	2,607	2,838	-231	37,457	36,507	950
Kansas	2,051	1,980	71	19,404	19,250	154
Kentucky	3,257	3,228	29	30,609	28,742	1,867
Louisiana	2,515	2,306	209	22,953	22,779	174
Maine	879	960	-81	12,502	12,705	-203
Maryland	3,391	4,052	-661	44,121	48,120	-3,999
Massachusetts	9,620	6,427	3,193	93,036	94,257	-1,221
Michigan	7,276	8,473	-1,197	99,273	97,240	2,033
Minnesota	4,010	4,528	-518	75,211	71,097	4,114
Mississippi	962	1,352	-390	11,487	13,580	-2,093
Missouri	4,908	3,974	934	38,534	40,335	-1,801
Montana	1,059	1,037	22	13,472	14,334	-862
Nebraska	748	922	-174	8,866	9,072	-206
Nevada	2,613	2,724	-111	24,908	28,002	-3,094
New Hampshire	677	727	-50	6,373	6,883	-510
New Jersey	9,077	9,473	-396	130,006	128,564	1,442
New Mexico	1,123	1,422	-299	14,141	14,443	-302
New York	16,770	18,022	-1,252	197,911	197,939	-28
North Carolina	3,665	3,880	-215	29,986	32,166	-2,180
North Dakota	1,364	768	596	14,727	10,106	4,621
Ohio	7,600	8,490	-890	92,225	92,333	-108
Oklahoma	2,359	1,941	418	22,252	22,624	-372
Oregon	3,585	4,624	-1,039	35,059	36,403	-1,344
Pennsylvania	18,616	18,928	-312	186,216	178,048	8,168
Puerto Rico	1,463	1,753	-290	21,814	25,039	-3,225
Rhode Island	2,132	1,401	731	13,721	13,639	82
South Carolina	2,126	2,209	-83	17,144	18,594	-1,450
South Dakota	170	241	-71	3,488	3,670	-182
Tennessee	3,770	3,283	487	27,878	29,585	-1,707
Texas	16,156	16,967	-811	175,799	174,666	1,133
Utah	1,257	1,431	-174	15,154	15,465	-311
Vermont	832	531	301	7,044	6,756	288
Virgin Islands	22	38	-16	534	578	-44
Virginia	4,084	4,771	-687	36,467	34,981	1,486
Washington	6,970	7,068	-98	63,534	63,267	267
West Virginia	1,262	1,793	-531	24,251	24,168	83
Wisconsin	8,024	8,700	-676	63,676	63,994	-318
Wyoming	745	717	28	8,230	8,397	-167
US Total	248,703	258,432	-9,729	2,611,696	2,657,969	-46,273

Note: Advance Claims are not directly comparable to claims reported in prior weeks. Advance claims are reported by the state liable for paying the unemployment compensation, whereas previous weeks reported reflect claimants by state of residence. In addition, claims reported as "workshare equivalent" in the previous week are added to the advance claims as a proxy for the current week's "workshare equivalent" activity.

Seasonally Adjusted US Weekly UI Claims (in thousands)

Week Ending	Change from			Insured Unemployment	Change from			IUR
	Initial Claims	Prior Week	4-Week Average		Prior Week	4-Week Average		
February 14, 2015	285	-17	284.50	2,369	-33	2,375.75	1.8	
February 21, 2015	308	23	294.75	2,405	36	2,380.50	1.8	
February 28, 2015	327	19	305.50	2,414	9	2,397.50	1.8	
March 7, 2015	293	-34	303.25	2,399	-15	2,396.75	1.8	
March 14, 2015	293	0	305.25	2,413	14	2,407.75	1.8	
March 21, 2015	288	-5	300.25	2,327	-86	2,388.25	1.7	
March 28, 2015	267	-21	285.25	2,308	-19	2,361.75	1.7	
April 4, 2015	282	15	282.50	2,275	-33	2,330.75	1.7	
April 11, 2015	295	13	283.00	2,327	52	2,309.25	1.7	
April 18, 2015	296	1	285.00	2,256	-71	2,291.50	1.7	
April 25, 2015	262	-34	283.75	2,229	-27	2,271.75	1.7	
May 2, 2015	265	3	279.50	2,223	-6	2,258.75	1.7	
May 9, 2015	264	-1	271.75	2,212	-11	2,230.00	1.6	
May 16, 2015	275	11	266.50	2,226	14	2,222.50	1.7	
May 23, 2015	284	9	272.00	2,204	-22	2,216.25	1.6	
May 30, 2015	277	-7	275.00	2,272	68	2,228.50	1.7	
June 6, 2015	279	2	278.75	2,225	-47	2,231.75	1.7	
June 13, 2015	268	-11	277.00	2,249	24	2,237.50	1.7	
June 20, 2015	271	3	273.75	2,265	16	2,252.75	1.7	
June 27, 2015	282	11	275.00	2,327	62	2,266.50	1.7	
July 4, 2015	296	14	279.25	2,216	-111	2,264.25	1.6	
July 11, 2015	281	-15	282.50	2,216	0	2,256.00	1.6	
July 18, 2015	255	-26	278.50	2,270	54	2,257.25	1.7	
July 25, 2015	267	12	274.75	2,258	-12	2,240.00	1.7	
August 1, 2015	269	2	268.00	2,278	20	2,255.50	1.7	
August 8, 2015	273	4	266.00	2,256	-22	2,265.50	1.7	
August 15, 2015	277	4	271.50	2,266	10	2,264.50	1.7	
August 22, 2015	270	-7	272.25	2,259	-7	2,264.75	1.7	
August 29, 2015	281	11	275.25	2,263	4	2,261.00	1.7	
September 5, 2015	275	-6	275.75	2,243	-20	2,257.75	1.7	
September 12, 2015	264	-11	272.50	2,244	1	2,252.25	1.7	
September 19, 2015	267	3	271.75	2,195	-49	2,236.25	1.6	
September 26, 2015	276	9	270.50	2,209	14	2,222.75	1.6	
October 3, 2015	262	-14	267.25	2,165	-44	2,203.25	1.6	
October 10, 2015	256	-6	265.25	2,172	7	2,185.25	1.6	
October 17, 2015	259	3	263.25	2,146	-26	2,173.00	1.6	
October 24, 2015	260	1	259.25	2,170	24	2,163.25	1.6	
October 31, 2015	276	16	262.75	2,177	7	2,166.25	1.6	
November 7, 2015	276	0	267.75	2,173	-4	2,166.50	1.6	
November 14, 2015	272	-4	271.00	2,155	-18	2,168.75	1.6	
November 21, 2015	260	-12	271.00	2,161	6	2,166.50	1.6	
November 28, 2015	269	9	269.25	2,246	85	2,183.75	1.7	
December 5, 2015	282	13	270.75	2,242	-4	2,201.00	1.7	
December 12, 2015	272	-10	270.75	2,195	-47	2,211.00	1.6	
December 19, 2015	267	-5	272.50	2,205	10	2,222.00	1.6	
December 26, 2015	287	20	277.00	2,234	29	2,219.00	1.6	
January 2, 2016	277	-10	275.75	2,264	30	2,224.50	1.7	
January 9, 2016	283	6	278.50	2,219	-45	2,230.50	1.6	
January 16, 2016	294	11	285.25	2,274	55	2,247.75	1.7	
January 23, 2016	277	-17	282.75	2,260	-14	2,254.25	1.7	
January 30, 2016	285	8	284.75	2,243	-17	2,249.00	1.6	
February 6, 2016	269	-16	281.25	2,272	29	2,262.25	1.7	
February 13, 2016	262	-7	273.25	2,253	-19	2,257.00	1.7	
February 20, 2016	272	10	272.00					

Initial Claims Filed During Week Ended February 13
INITIAL CLAIMS

Insured Unemployment For Week Ended February 6
INSURED UNEMPLOYMENT

STATE	STATE	CHANGE FROM				STATE	STATE	CHANGE FROM				ALL PROGRAMS EXCLUDING RAILROAD RETIREMENT
		LAST WEEK	YEAR AGO	UCFE ¹	UCX ¹			LAST WEEK	YEAR AGO	UCFE ¹	UCX ¹	
Alabama	2538	-371	-312	10	11	22755	1.2	-581	-1531	59	174	22988
Alaska	1258	-48	-70	7	0	14997	4.7	-26	531	235	54	15286
Arizona	3579	-689	-73	11	6	27383	1.1	113	-1888	280	149	27812
Arkansas	2254	-113	-287	1	9	21325	1.9	-687	-2749	133	151	21609
California	47599	-1407	728	165	169	417123	2.6	2491	-35753	3461	3084	423668
Colorado	2828	-519	-6	21	37	33668	1.4	-1128	-1846	406	561	34635
Connecticut	3311	-772	-323	9	9	48385	2.9	-1123	-7433	62	118	48565
Delaware	727	-202	-83	1	2	8365	2.0	-290	-606	22	39	8426
District of Columbia	280	-74	-10	3	0	8476	1.6	-167	-636	292	19	8787
Florida	7062	-1426	-2418	18	48	49671	0.6	-2457	-18139	156	362	50189
Georgia	7004	-385	-26	36	34	37661	0.9	-439	-5356	197	482	38340
Hawaii	1017	-131	-355	4	14	6297	1.1	-21	-2604	93	148	6538
Idaho	1363	-274	-585	19	4	14257	2.2	-216	-1421	332	46	14635
Illinois	10141	-2349	176	8	14	173586	3.0	8894	9798	372	476	174434
Indiana	3492	-490	-702	8	11	35692	1.2	-1117	-4101	123	122	35937
Iowa	2838	-38	307	1	4	36507	2.4	398	1217	58	98	36663
Kansas	1980	-431	-86	2	8	19250	1.4	276	-3193	68	127	19445
Kentucky	3228	-22	42	4	6	28742	1.6	-1789	-293	232	3	28977
Louisiana	2306	-778	-216	6	5	22779	1.2	-377	1344	71	64	22914
Maine	960	-102	-164	2	1	12705	2.2	-21	-2434	59	38	12802
Maryland	4052	-1312	86	23	26	48120	2.0	-2682	-7628	367	247	48734
Massachusetts	6427	-268	309	12	26	94257	2.8	551	-10331	235	301	94793
Michigan	8473	-1157	-107	22	21	97240	2.4	-2330	-9018	347	233	97820
Minnesota	4528	106	215	6	3	71097	2.6	-931	3583	165	192	71454
Mississippi	1352	-339	-210	4	5	13580	1.3	-247	-114	112	56	13748
Missouri	3974	-729	-3934	18	12	40335	1.5	-1272	-9417	261	97	40693
Montana	1037	-152	-159	21	1	14334	3.3	27	845	649	69	15052
Nebraska	922	-76	-248	2	1	9072	1.0	38	-1713	31	24	9127
Nevada	2724	-565	-719	6	9	28002	2.3	115	-1663	245	143	28390
New Hampshire	727	-99	-87	0	6	6883	1.1	9	-1545	5	13	6901
New Jersey	9473	-1201	-379	12	21	128564	3.4	-813	-10840	259	432	129255
New Mexico	1422	77	263	11	1	14443	1.9	-32	-126	321	90	14854
New York	18022	-1984	-1984	29	40	197939	2.2	-1043	-23454	408	736	199083
North Carolina	3880	-569	-755	8	21	32166	0.8	-406	-9154	149	274	32589
North Dakota	768	-229	207	2	1	10106	2.3	269	2810	22	6	10134
Ohio	8490	-834	-731	9	29	92333	1.8	-1579	-4647	137	466	92936
Oklahoma	1941	-208	-980	3	11	22624	1.5	9342	5542	66	138	22828
Oregon	4624	-927	-1309	36	23	36403	2.1	-754	-5167	803	263	37469
Pennsylvania	18928	-3739	-956	86	57	178048	3.2	-7290	-1178	619	553	179220
Puerto Rico	1753	-307	-151	1	11	25039	2.8	-604	-2173	63	222	25324
Rhode Island	1401	-804	91	2	0	13639	3.0	392	-1529	24	30	13693
South Carolina	2209	-596	-930	7	14	18594	1.0	-422	-990	50	141	18785
South Dakota	241	-73	-30	2	2	3670	0.9	-4	-58	43	16	3729
Tennessee	3283	-1651	-353	17	15	29585	1.1	-1399	-3181	156	152	29893
Texas	16967	-2342	-1032	31	140	174666	1.5	666	30589	612	2360	177638
Utah	1431	-138	-56	12	4	15465	1.2	-159	-216	310	42	15817
Vermont	531	-135	15	3	0	6756	2.3	-8	-703	30	2	6788
Virgin Islands	38	-4	-13	0	0	578	1.6	86	-26	4	12	594
Virginia	4771	-127	834	9	29	34981	1.0	262	-2770	318	565	35864
Washington	7068	-741	-1428	28	82	63267	2.1	-3786	-4603	588	978	64833
West Virginia	1793	-519	324	1	4	24168	3.6	-737	5168	98	73	24339
Wisconsin	8700	387	-900	8	7	63994	2.3	-145	-14163	154	84	64232
Wyoming	717	-183	98	5	2	8397	3.0	57	2994	179	40	8616
Totals	258432	-32059	-19472	772	1016	2657969	2	-13096	-151969	14541	15365	2687875

Figures Appearing In columns showing Over-The-Week Changes reflect all revisions in data for prior week submitted by State agencies.

1. The Unemployment Compensation program for Federal Employees (UCFE) and the Unemployment Compensation for Ex-servicemembers (UCX) exclude claims filed jointly under other programs to avoid duplication.
2. Rate is not seasonally adjusted. The source of US total covered employment is BLS.

UNADJUSTED INITIAL CLAIMS FOR WEEK ENDED FEBRUARY 13, 2016

STATES WITH AN INCREASE OF MORE THAN 1,000

State	Change	State Supplied Comment
None		

STATES WITH A DECREASE OF MORE THAN 1,000

State	Change	State Supplied Comment
PA	-3,739	Fewer layoffs in the transportation and warehousing, administrative and support and waste management and remediation services, construction, and accommodation and food services industries.
IL	-2,349	Fewer layoffs in the construction, administrative and support and waste management and remediation services, and manufacturing industries.
TX	-2,342	No comment.
NY	-1,984	Fewer layoffs in the construction, accommodation and food services, and retail trade industries.
TN	-1,651	No comment.
FL	-1,426	Fewer layoffs in the agriculture, forestry, and hunting, construction, manufacturing, retail trade, and wholesale trade industries.
CA	-1,407	No comment.
MD	-1,312	No comment.
NJ	-1,201	Fewer layoffs in the construction, manufacturing, administrative, support, waste management and remediation services, and accommodation and food services industries.
MI	-1,157	No comment.

TECHNICAL NOTES

This news release presents the weekly unemployment insurance (UI) claims reported by each state's unemployment insurance program offices. These claims may be used for monitoring workload volume, assessing state program operations and for assessing labor market conditions. States initially report claims directly taken by the state liable for the benefit payments, regardless of where the claimant who filed the claim resided. These are the basis for the advance initial claims and continued claims reported each week. These data come from ETA 538, Advance Weekly Initial and Continued Claims Report. The following week initial claims and continued claims are revised based on a second reporting by states that reflect the claimants by state of residence. These data come from the ETA 539, Weekly Claims and Extended Benefits Trigger Data Report.

A. Initial Claims

An initial claim is a claim filed by an unemployed individual after a separation from an employer. The claimant requests a determination of basic eligibility for the UI program. When an initial claim is filed with a state, certain programmatic activities take place and these result in activity counts including the count of initial claims. The count of U.S. initial claims for unemployment insurance is a leading economic indicator because it is an indication of emerging labor market conditions in the country. However, these are weekly administrative data which are difficult to seasonally adjust, making the series subject to some volatility.

B. Continued Weeks Claimed

A person who has already filed an initial claim and who has experienced a week of unemployment then files a continued claim to claim benefits for that week of unemployment. Continued claims are also referred to as insured unemployment. The count of U.S. continued weeks claimed is also a good indicator of labor market conditions. Continued claims reflect the current number of insured unemployed workers filing for UI benefits in the nation. While continued claims are not a leading indicator (they roughly coincide with economic cycles at their peaks and lag at cycle troughs), they provide confirming evidence of the direction of the U.S. economy.

C. Seasonal Adjustments and Annual Revisions

Over the course of a year, the weekly changes in the levels of initial claims and continued claims undergo regularly occurring fluctuations. These fluctuations may result from seasonal changes in weather, major holidays, the opening and closing of schools, or other similar events. Because these seasonal events follow a more or less regular pattern each year, their influence on the level of a series can be tempered by adjusting for regular seasonal variation. These adjustments make trend and cycle developments easier to spot. At the beginning of each calendar year, the Bureau of Labor Statistics provides the Employment and Training Administration (ETA) with a set of seasonal factors to apply to the unadjusted data during that year. Concurrent with the implementation and release of the new seasonal factors, ETA incorporates revisions to the UI claims historical series caused by updates to the unadjusted data.

[Weekly Claims Archives](#) [Weekly Claims Data](#)

U.S. Department of Labor news materials are accessible at <http://www.dol.gov>. The Department's [Reasonable Accommodation Resource Center](#) converts Departmental information and documents into alternative formats, which include Braille and large print. For alternative format requests, please contact the Department at (202) 693-7828 (voice) or (800) 877-8339 (federal relay).

U.S. Department of Labor
Employment and Training Administration
Washington, D.C. 20210
Release Number: USDL 16-368-NAT

Program Contacts:
Brenda Loya (202) 693-3760
Tony Sznoluch (202) 693-3176
Media Contact: (202) 693-4676