



News Release

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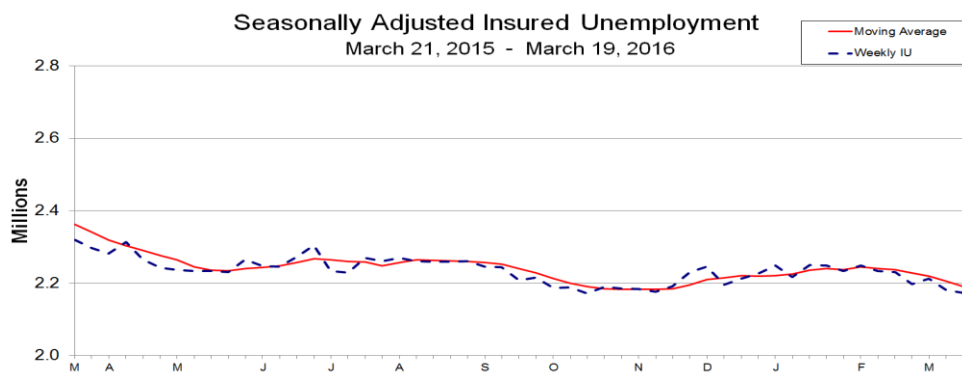
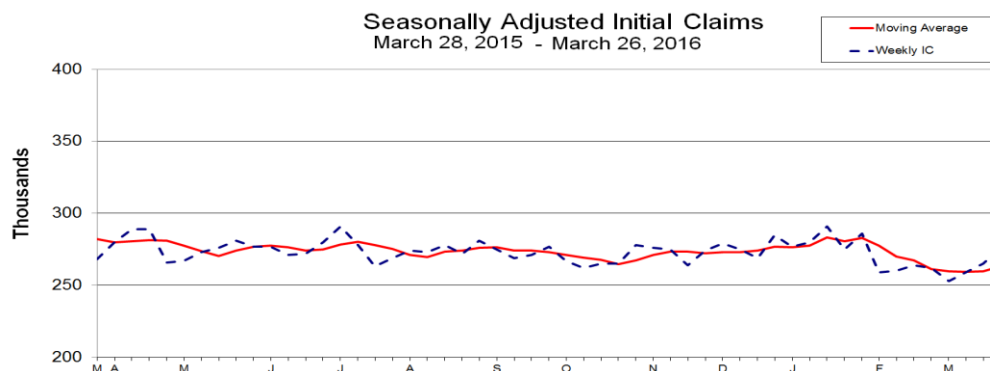
UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE WEEKLY CLAIMS

SEASONALLY ADJUSTED DATA

In the week ending March 26, the advance figure for seasonally adjusted **initial claims** was 276,000, an increase of 11,000 from the previous week's unrevised level of 265,000. The 4-week moving average was 263,250, an increase of 3,500 from the previous week's unrevised average of 259,750.

There were no special factors impacting this week's initial claims. This marks 56 consecutive weeks of initial claims below 300,000, the longest streak since 1973.

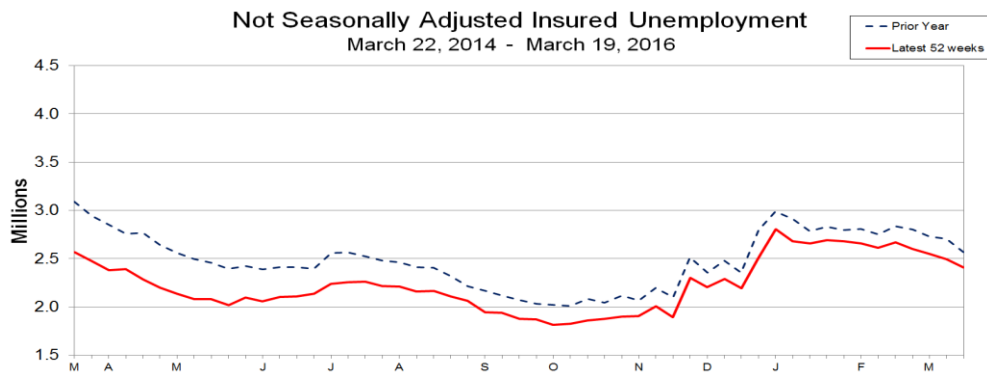
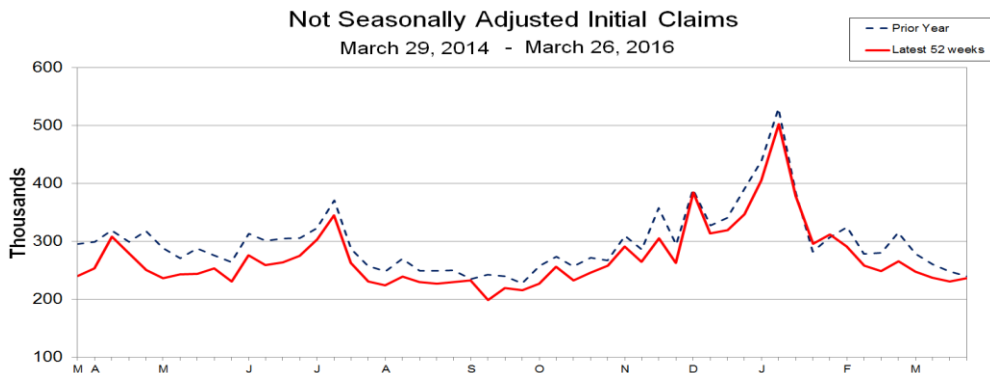
The advance seasonally adjusted **insured unemployment rate** was 1.6 percent for the week ending March 19, unchanged from the previous week's unrevised rate. The advance number for seasonally adjusted **insured unemployment** during the week ending March 19 was 2,173,000, a decrease of 7,000 from the previous week's revised level. The previous week's level was revised up 1,000 from 2,179,000 to 2,180,000. The 4-week moving average was 2,190,750, a decrease of 14,500 from the previous week's revised average. The previous week's average was revised down by 1,250 from 2,206,500 to 2,205,250.



UNADJUSTED DATA

The advance number of actual initial claims under state programs, unadjusted, totaled 235,839 in the week ending March 26, an increase of 4,957 (or 2.15 percent) from the previous week. The seasonal factors had expected a decrease of 4,771 (or -2.07 percent) from the previous week. There were 239,748 initial claims in the comparable week in 2015.

The advance unadjusted insured unemployment rate was 1.8 percent during the week ending March 19, unchanged from the prior week. The advance unadjusted number for persons claiming UI benefits in state programs totaled 2,410,212, a decrease of 81,932 (or -3.3 percent) from the preceding week. The seasonal factors had expected a decrease of 74,132 (or -3.0 percent) from the previous week. A year earlier the rate was 1.9 percent and the volume was 2,564,097.



The total number of people claiming benefits in all programs for the week ending March 12 was 2,538,076, a decrease of 57,054 from the previous week. There were 2,759,764 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 March 12.

Initial claims for UI benefits filed by former Federal civilian employees totaled 625 in the week ending March 19, a decrease of 101 from the prior week. There were 1,035 initial claims filed by newly discharged veterans, a decrease of 54 from the preceding week.

There were 11,691 former Federal civilian employees claiming UI benefits for the week ending March 12, a decrease of 1,258 from the previous week. Newly discharged veterans claiming benefits totaled 14,243, a decrease of 373 from the prior week.

The highest insured unemployment rates in the week ending March 12 were in Alaska (4.4), New Jersey (3.1), Wyoming (3.1), Pennsylvania (3.0), West Virginia (3.0), Connecticut (2.9), Montana (2.8), Rhode Island (2.8), Illinois (2.7), and Massachusetts (2.7).

The largest increases in initial claims for the week ending March 19 were in Missouri (+585), Florida (+342), Illinois (+334), Colorado (+332), and South Carolina (+304), while the largest decreases were in California (-2,350), Pennsylvania (-1,407), New York (-1,041), Washington (-695), and Nebraska (-657).

UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE DATA FOR REGULAR STATE PROGRAMS

WEEK ENDING	March 26	March 19	Change	March 12	<u>Prior Year</u>¹
Initial Claims (SA)	276,000	265,000	+11,000	259,000	268,000
Initial Claims (NSA)	235,839	230,882	+4,957	236,888	239,748
4-Wk Moving Average (SA)	263,250	259,750	+3,500	259,500	282,250
WEEK ENDING	March 19	March 12	Change	March 5	<u>Prior Year</u>¹
Insured Unemployment (SA)	2,173,000	2,180,000	-7,000	2,212,000	2,320,000
Insured Unemployment (NSA)	2,410,212	2,492,144	-81,932	2,548,304	2,564,097
4-Wk Moving Average (SA)	2,190,750	2,205,250	-14,500	2,218,500	2,362,500
<u>Insured Unemployment Rate (SA)</u> ²	1.6%	1.6%	0.0	1.6%	1.7%
<u>Insured Unemployment Rate (NSA)</u> ²	1.8%	1.8%	0.0	1.9%	1.9%

INITIAL CLAIMS FILED IN FEDERAL PROGRAMS (UNADJUSTED)

WEEK ENDING	March 19	March 12	Change	<u>Prior Year</u>¹
Federal Employees (UCFE)	625	726	-101	808
Newly Discharged Veterans (UCX)	1,035	1,089	-54	1,313

PERSONS CLAIMING UI BENEFITS IN ALL PROGRAMS (UNADJUSTED)

WEEK ENDING	March 12	March 5	Change	<u>Prior Year</u>¹
Regular State	2,486,413	2,543,319	-56,906	2,701,131
Federal Employees	11,691	12,949	-1,258	14,640
Newly Discharged Veterans	14,243	14,616	-373	21,906
<u>Extended Benefits</u> ³	0	0	0	8
<u>State Additional Benefits</u> ⁴	8,122	8,091	+31	7,783
<u>STC / Workshare</u> ⁵	17,607	16,155	+1,452	14,296
<u>TOTAL</u>	2,538,076	2,595,130	-57,054	2,759,764

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 March 26			Insured Unemployment For Week Ended March 19		
	Advance	Prior Wk	Change	Advance	Prior Wk	Change
Alabama	2,746	2,430	316	19,593	20,960	-1,367
Alaska	1,289	1,248	41	13,049	13,860	-811
Arizona	3,785	3,658	127	23,078	26,230	-3,152
Arkansas	3,069	2,055	1,014	16,445	18,378	-1,933
California	44,135	44,151	-16	418,391	416,514	1,877
Colorado	2,406	2,463	-57	31,267	32,700	-1,433
Connecticut	2,379	3,071	-692	46,310	47,052	-742
Delaware	392	457	-65	6,971	7,174	-203
District of Columbia	460	294	166	7,459	7,992	-533
Florida	6,728	6,866	-138	39,582	48,415	-8,833
Georgia	5,208	5,886	-678	30,068	32,887	-2,819
Hawaii	1,059	1,072	-13	6,485	6,393	92
Idaho	1,298	1,201	97	9,339	10,875	-1,536
Illinois	10,409	9,837	572	150,595	153,425	-2,830
Indiana	2,526	3,436	-910	30,305	31,837	-1,532
Iowa	2,793	2,503	290	29,530	29,740	-210
Kansas	2,043	2,226	-183	16,267	16,217	50
Kentucky	2,439	2,518	-79	24,530	27,843	-3,313
Louisiana	2,099	2,878	-779	22,959	22,756	203
Maine	823	970	-147	11,612	11,691	-79
Maryland	3,914	3,645	269	38,444	42,916	-4,472
Massachusetts	4,724	5,183	-459	86,287	89,826	-3,539
Michigan	6,223	6,986	-763	90,854	96,264	-5,410
Minnesota	3,808	3,738	70	67,476	65,296	2,180
Mississippi	1,190	1,481	-291	10,623	11,883	-1,260
Missouri	4,639	4,765	-126	28,995	32,991	-3,996
Montana	990	926	64	11,011	11,992	-981
Nebraska	796	761	35	6,176	7,249	-1,073
Nevada	2,541	2,441	100	23,027	25,581	-2,554
New Hampshire	543	627	-84	5,616	6,368	-752
New Jersey	9,294	7,935	1,359	115,309	117,879	-2,570
New Mexico	1,023	1,057	-34	13,551	14,334	-783
New York	15,974	14,515	1,459	184,481	187,212	-2,731
North Carolina	3,149	3,280	-131	25,302	27,898	-2,596
North Dakota	697	633	64	13,341	9,647	3,694
Ohio	7,985	6,541	1,444	79,423	83,065	-3,642
Oklahoma	1,924	2,420	-496	23,126	23,207	-81
Oregon	4,697	3,984	713	31,778	32,902	-1,124
Pennsylvania	17,693	15,600	2,093	155,212	167,038	-11,826
Puerto Rico	127	1,576	-1,449	16,533	24,182	-7,649
Rhode Island	929	818	111	12,192	12,576	-384
South Carolina	2,397	2,554	-157	14,815	15,923	-1,108
South Dakota	147	197	-50	2,649	3,023	-374
Tennessee	2,980	2,930	50	23,327	25,883	-2,556
Texas	17,714	16,306	1,408	185,453	179,249	6,204
Utah	1,062	1,090	-28	12,183	12,968	-785
Vermont	628	794	-166	6,662	6,507	155
Virgin Islands	12	16	-4	548	534	14
Virginia	3,075	3,304	-229	32,691	32,646	45
Washington	6,882	6,745	137	57,357	57,519	-162
West Virginia	875	1,080	-205	20,294	20,456	-162
Wisconsin	8,306	7,159	1,147	53,733	55,690	-1,957
Wyoming	815	575	240	7,908	8,501	-593
US Total	235,839	230,882	4,957	2,410,212	2,492,144	-81,932

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		
March 21, 2015	285	-2	292.75	2,320	-57	2,362.50	1.7	
March 28, 2015	268	-17	282.25	2,297	-23	2,341.50	1.7	
April 4, 2015	280	12	280.00	2,282	-15	2,319.00	1.7	
April 11, 2015	289	9	280.50	2,314	32	2,303.25	1.7	
April 18, 2015	289	0	281.50	2,265	-49	2,289.50	1.7	
April 25, 2015	266	-23	281.00	2,242	-23	2,275.75	1.7	
May 2, 2015	267	1	277.75	2,237	-5	2,264.50	1.7	
May 9, 2015	273	6	273.75	2,233	-4	2,244.25	1.7	
May 16, 2015	276	3	270.50	2,233	0	2,236.25	1.7	
May 23, 2015	281	5	274.25	2,231	-2	2,233.50	1.7	
May 30, 2015	277	-4	276.75	2,265	34	2,240.50	1.7	
June 6, 2015	277	0	277.75	2,247	-18	2,244.00	1.7	
June 13, 2015	271	-6	276.50	2,246	-1	2,247.25	1.7	
June 20, 2015	272	1	274.25	2,272	26	2,257.50	1.7	
June 27, 2015	280	8	275.00	2,304	32	2,267.25	1.7	
July 4, 2015	291	11	278.50	2,233	-71	2,263.75	1.7	
July 11, 2015	278	-13	280.25	2,229	-4	2,259.50	1.7	
July 18, 2015	263	-15	278.00	2,270	41	2,259.00	1.7	
July 25, 2015	269	6	275.25	2,260	-10	2,248.00	1.7	
August 1, 2015	274	5	271.00	2,269	9	2,257.00	1.7	
August 8, 2015	273	-1	269.75	2,261	-8	2,265.00	1.7	
August 15, 2015	278	5	273.50	2,259	-2	2,262.25	1.7	
August 22, 2015	272	-6	274.25	2,259	0	2,262.00	1.7	
August 29, 2015	281	9	276.00	2,261	2	2,260.00	1.7	
September 5, 2015	275	-6	276.50	2,246	-15	2,256.25	1.7	
September 12, 2015	269	-6	274.25	2,244	-2	2,252.50	1.7	
September 19, 2015	271	2	274.00	2,208	-36	2,239.75	1.6	
September 26, 2015	277	6	273.00	2,216	8	2,228.50	1.6	
October 3, 2015	267	-10	271.00	2,186	-30	2,213.50	1.6	
October 10, 2015	262	-5	269.25	2,188	2	2,199.50	1.6	
October 17, 2015	265	3	267.75	2,171	-17	2,190.25	1.6	
October 24, 2015	265	0	264.75	2,190	19	2,183.75	1.6	
October 31, 2015	278	13	267.50	2,185	-5	2,183.50	1.6	
November 7, 2015	276	-2	271.00	2,183	-2	2,182.25	1.6	
November 14, 2015	275	-1	273.50	2,176	-7	2,183.50	1.6	
November 21, 2015	264	-11	273.25	2,191	15	2,183.75	1.6	
November 28, 2015	274	10	272.25	2,230	39	2,195.00	1.6	
December 5, 2015	279	5	273.00	2,245	15	2,210.50	1.7	
December 12, 2015	275	-4	273.00	2,195	-50	2,215.25	1.6	
December 19, 2015	269	-6	274.25	2,212	17	2,220.50	1.6	
December 26, 2015	285	16	277.00	2,226	14	2,219.50	1.6	
January 2, 2016	277	-8	276.50	2,248	22	2,220.25	1.6	
January 9, 2016	280	3	277.75	2,217	-31	2,225.75	1.6	
January 16, 2016	291	11	283.25	2,250	33	2,235.25	1.7	
January 23, 2016	275	-16	280.75	2,248	-2	2,240.75	1.6	
January 30, 2016	286	11	283.00	2,234	-14	2,237.25	1.6	
February 6, 2016	259	-27	277.75	2,249	15	2,245.25	1.7	
February 13, 2016	260	1	270.00	2,233	-16	2,241.00	1.6	
February 20, 2016	264	4	267.25	2,231	-2	2,236.75	1.6	
February 27, 2016	262	-2	261.25	2,198	-33	2,227.75	1.6	
March 5, 2016	253	-9	259.75	2,212	14	2,218.50	1.6	
March 12, 2016	259	6	259.50	2,180	-32	2,205.25	1.6	
March 19, 2016	265	6	259.75	2,173	-7	2,190.75	1.6	
March 26, 2016	276	11	263.25					

Initial Claims Filed During Week Ended March 19								Insured Unemployment For Week Ended March 12				
INITIAL CLAIMS								INSURED UNEMPLOYMENT				
CHANGE FROM								CHANGE FROM				
STATE	STATE	LAST WEEK	YEAR AGO	UCFE ¹	UCX ¹	STATE	(%) ²	LAST WEEK	YEAR AGO	UCFE ¹	UCX ¹	ALL PROGRAMS EXCLUDING RAILROAD RETIREMENT
Alabama	2430	-144	-700	7	15	20960	1.1	-658	-2173	54	152	21166
Alaska	1248	72	163	4	1	13860	4.4	-24	857	195	48	14103
Arizona	3658	-109	-244	15	2	26230	1.0	-274	-2497	248	150	26628
Arkansas	2055	-287	-412	2	9	18378	1.6	-579	-4888	83	108	18569
California	44151	-2350	-98	143	157	416514	2.6	-11027	-41597	2619	2781	421914
Colorado	2463	332	22	15	31	32700	1.4	-184	-5208	292	629	33621
Connecticut	3071	220	-343	4	8	47052	2.9	-1350	-6702	72	105	47229
Delaware	457	-67	-245	3	1	7174	1.7	-326	-1275	16	34	7224
District of Columbia	294	8	-22	4	1	7992	1.5	-90	-712	302	10	8304
Florida	6866	342	-2116	18	63	48415	0.6	791	-16088	151	286	48852
Georgia	5886	-424	-200	31	54	32887	0.8	-964	-4968	189	402	33478
Hawaii	1072	-72	-162	4	20	6393	1.1	106	-1993	81	149	6623
Idaho	1201	97	-326	6	3	10875	1.7	-855	-814	254	44	11173
Illinois	9837	334	441	10	26	153425	2.7	-4419	-7655	329	370	154124
Indiana	3436	210	267	3	10	31837	1.1	-1004	-3671	99	98	32034
Iowa	2503	227	322	2	3	29740	2.0	-2237	-839	65	78	29883
Kansas	2226	181	279	3	7	16217	1.2	-327	-1561	53	93	16363
Kentucky	2518	42	-342	4	10	27843	1.6	948	-4851	128	260	28231
Louisiana	2878	224	155	8	6	22756	1.2	-95	1563	66	54	22876
Maine	970	163	123	1	1	11691	2.0	-386	-2487	56	37	11784
Maryland	3645	259	-333	14	15	42916	1.8	-2033	-8831	329	264	43509
Massachusetts	5183	-75	86	9	10	89826	2.7	-3283	-9292	194	303	90323
Michigan	6986	125	620	10	16	96264	2.4	-1321	-3574	264	232	96760
Minnesota	3738	-118	32	2	8	65296	2.4	-4160	3566	137	167	65600
Mississippi	1481	-117	-82	1	3	11883	1.1	100	-1350	97	55	12035
Missouri	4765	585	-675	12	13	32991	1.3	-1268	-8110	132	102	33225
Montana	926	-16	-112	10	4	11992	2.8	-569	140	497	41	12530
Nebraska	761	-657	-842	0	1	7249	0.8	-208	-1905	22	17	7288
Nevada	2441	-80	-612	5	7	25581	2.1	-121	-2271	199	133	25913
New Hampshire	627	-62	-93	0	2	6368	1.0	-167	-1241	1	22	6391
New Jersey	7935	-121	238	9	23	117879	3.1	-3856	-14965	217	371	118467
New Mexico	1057	39	23	4	4	14334	1.9	-159	-201	253	73	14660
New York	14515	-1041	-2187	24	49	187212	2.1	-4628	-22059	413	644	188269
North Carolina	3280	-147	-1056	8	36	27898	0.7	-1101	-10091	123	234	28255
North Dakota	633	10	97	2	1	9647	2.2	-514	2940	9	5	9661
Ohio	6541	-309	-649	12	30	83065	1.6	-4040	-5888	134	402	83601
Oklahoma	2420	169	-71	2	11	23207	1.5	-61	4260	63	124	23394
Oregon	3984	-293	-307	19	12	32902	1.9	-436	-3639	621	245	33768
Pennsylvania	15600	-1407	-2679	68	50	167038	3.0	164	-14842	479	554	168071
Puerto Rico	1576	129	-225	5	8	24182	2.7	480	-1688	45	190	24417
Rhode Island	818	-56	-377	5	2	12576	2.8	-434	-1968	27	31	12634
South Carolina	2554	304	226	6	19	15923	0.8	-318	-635	65	127	16115
South Dakota	197	-35	-50	0	0	3023	0.8	-214	-190	31	22	3076
Tennessee	2930	144	-1521	15	17	25883	0.9	-1338	-6215	145	139	26167
Texas	16306	-649	-3031	33	144	179249	1.6	3964	19442	463	2233	181945
Utah	1090	-89	-171	9	3	12968	1.0	-697	-643	173	32	13173
Vermont	794	36	236	0	0	6507	2.2	-139	-391	26	3	6536
Virgin Islands	16	-29	-46	0	0	534	1.4	-52	-396	2	2	538
Virginia	3304	-195	100	13	20	32646	0.9	-923	-2212	309	535	33490
Washington	6745	-695	-117	27	83	57519	1.9	-2458	-1475	518	886	58923
West Virginia	1080	-86	-149	0	0	20456	3.0	-1105	969	71	65	20592
Wisconsin	7159	-378	-10	5	9	55690	2.0	-2322	-14554	141	89	55920
Wyoming	575	-150	25	9	7	8501	3.1	11	1864	139	13	8653
Totals	230882	-6006	-17150	625	1035	2492144	1.8	-56160	-213004	11691	14243	2518078

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 MARCH 19, 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
CA	-2,350	Fewer layoffs in the agriculture, forestry, fishing and hunting, and service industries.
PA	-1,407	Fewer layoffs in the accommodation and food service, administrative, support, waste management and remediation service, and manufacturing industries.
NY	-1,041	Fewer layoffs in the construction, professional, scientific, and technical service, and transportation and warehousing industries.

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](#)

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