



News Release

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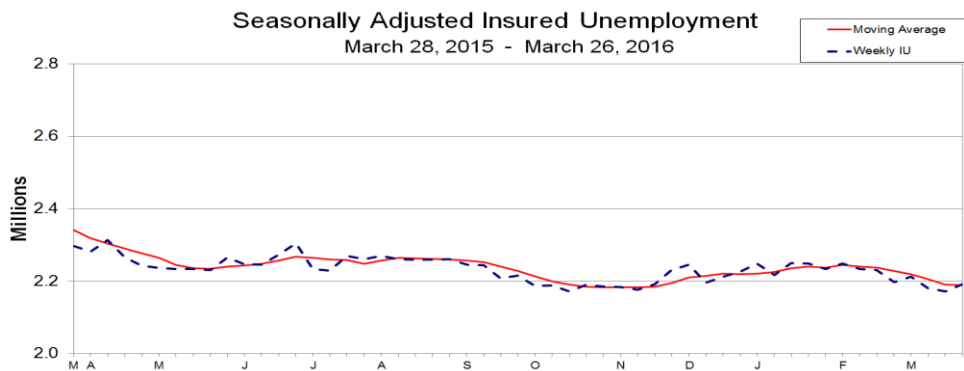
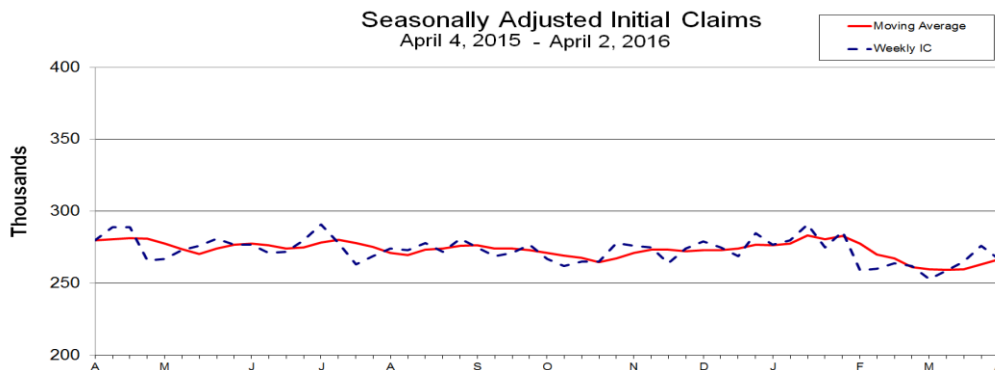
UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE WEEKLY CLAIMS

SEASONALLY ADJUSTED DATA

In the week ending April 2, the advance figure for seasonally adjusted **initial claims** was 267,000, a decrease of 9,000 from the previous week's unrevised level of 276,000. The 4-week moving average was 266,750, an increase of 3,500 from the previous week's unrevised average of 263,250.

There were no special factors impacting this week's initial claims. This marks 57 consecutive weeks of initial claims below 300,000, the longest streak since 1973.

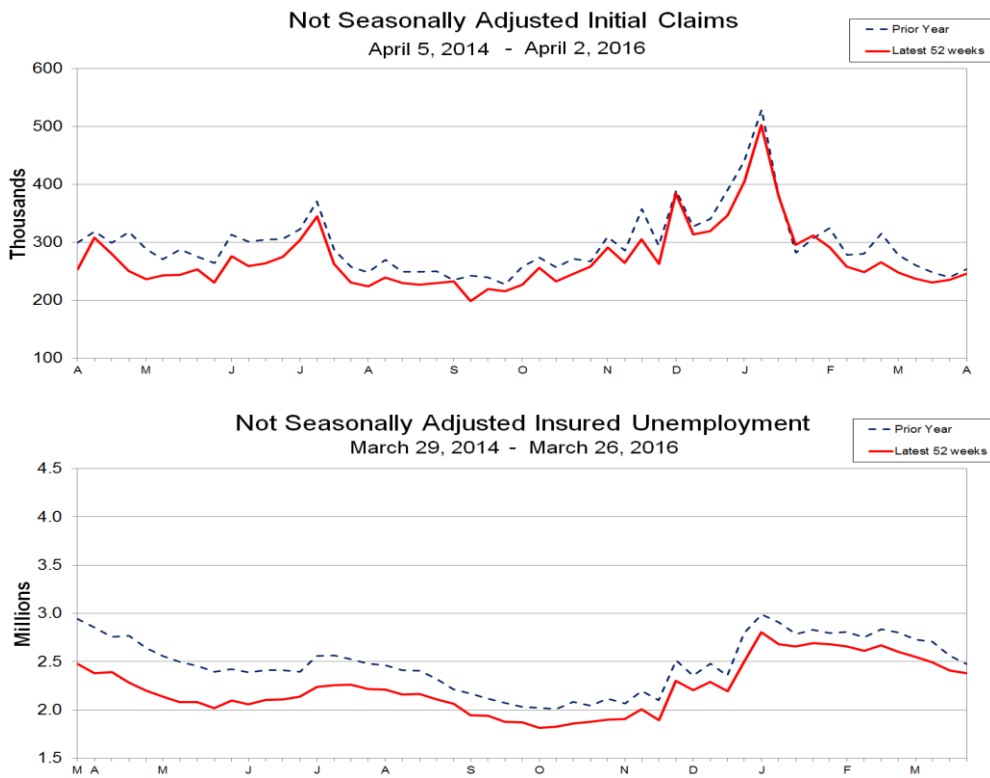
The advance seasonally adjusted **insured unemployment rate** was 1.6 percent for the week ending March 26, unchanged from the previous week's unrevised rate. The advance number for seasonally adjusted **insured unemployment** during the week ending March 26 was 2,191,000, an increase of 19,000 from the previous week's revised level. The previous week's level was revised down by 1,000 from 2,173,000 to 2,172,000. The 4-week moving average was 2,188,750, a decrease of 1,750 from the previous week's revised average. The previous week's average was revised down by 250 from 2,190,750 to 2,190,500.



UNADJUSTED DATA

The advance number of actual initial claims under state programs, unadjusted, totaled 246,023 in the week ending April 2, an increase of 10,307 (or 4.4 percent) from the previous week. The seasonal factors had expected an increase of 18,515 (or 7.9 percent) from the previous week. There were 253,533 initial claims in the comparable week in 2015.

The advance unadjusted insured unemployment rate was 1.7 percent during the week ending March 26, a decrease of 0.1 percentage point from the prior week. The advance unadjusted number for persons claiming UI benefits in state programs totaled 2,377,230, a decrease of 31,869 (or -1.3 percent) from the preceding week. The seasonal factors had expected a decrease of 52,136 (or -2.2 percent) from the previous week. A year earlier the rate was 1.9 percent and the volume was 2,476,255.



The total number of people claiming benefits in all programs for the week ending March 19 was 2,454,956, a decrease of 83,120 from the previous week. There were 2,618,003 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 19.

Initial claims for UI benefits filed by former Federal civilian employees totaled 613 in the week ending March 26, a decrease of 12 from the prior week. There were 999 initial claims filed by newly discharged veterans, a decrease of 36 from the preceding week.

There were 11,775 former Federal civilian employees claiming UI benefits for the week ending March 19, an increase of 84 from the previous week. Newly discharged veterans claiming benefits totaled 14,285, an increase of 42 from the prior week.

The highest insured unemployment rates in the week ending March 19 were in Alaska (4.2), New Jersey (3.0), Wyoming (3.0), West Virginia (2.9), Connecticut (2.7), Montana (2.7), Pennsylvania (2.7), California (2.6), Illinois (2.6), and Massachusetts (2.6).

The largest increases in initial claims for the week ending March 26 were in Pennsylvania (+2,058), New Jersey (+1,457), Ohio (+1,433), New York (+1,359), and Arkansas (+1,156), while the largest decreases were in Puerto Rico (-1,415), Indiana (-908), Connecticut (-689), Michigan (-613), and California (-538).

UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE DATA FOR REGULAR STATE PROGRAMS

WEEK ENDING	April 2	March 26	Change	March 19	<u>Prior Year</u>¹
Initial Claims (SA)	267,000	276,000	-9,000	265,000	280,000
Initial Claims (NSA)	246,023	235,716	+10,307	230,882	253,533
4-Wk Moving Average (SA)	266,750	263,250	+3,500	259,750	280,000
WEEK ENDING	March 26	March 19	Change	March 12	<u>Prior Year</u>¹
Insured Unemployment (SA)	2,191,000	2,172,000	+19,000	2,180,000	2,297,000
Insured Unemployment (NSA)	2,377,230	2,409,099	-31,869	2,492,144	2,476,255
4-Wk Moving Average (SA)	2,188,750	2,190,500	-1,750	2,205,250	2,341,500
<u>Insured Unemployment Rate (SA)</u> ²	1.6%	1.6%	0.0	1.6%	1.7%
<u>Insured Unemployment Rate (NSA)</u> ²	1.7%	1.8%	-0.1	1.8%	1.9%

INITIAL CLAIMS FILED IN FEDERAL PROGRAMS (UNADJUSTED)

WEEK ENDING	March 26	March 19	Change	<u>Prior Year</u>¹
Federal Employees (UCFE)	613	625	-12	867
Newly Discharged Veterans (UCX)	999	1,035	-36	1,319

PERSONS CLAIMING UI BENEFITS IN ALL PROGRAMS (UNADJUSTED)

WEEK ENDING	March 19	March 12	Change	<u>Prior Year</u>¹
Regular State	2,404,054	2,486,413	-82,359	2,560,448
Federal Employees	11,775	11,691	+84	14,558
Newly Discharged Veterans	14,285	14,243	+42	21,873
<u>Extended Benefits</u> ³	0	0	0	6
<u>State Additional Benefits</u> ⁴	8,022	8,122	-100	7,884
<u>STC / Workshare</u> ⁵	16,820	17,607	-787	13,234
<u>TOTAL</u>	2,454,956	2,538,076	-83,120	2,618,003

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 April 2			Insured Unemployment For Week Ended March 26		
	Advance	Prior Wk	Change	Advance	Prior Wk	Change
Alabama	3,107	2,939	168	20,267	20,614	-347
Alaska	1,244	1,153	91	13,108	13,348	-240
Arizona	4,292	3,978	314	23,555	26,138	-2,583
Arkansas	1,809	3,211	-1,402	17,180	17,632	-452
California	36,934	43,613	-6,679	411,636	411,440	196
Colorado	3,001	2,387	614	32,525	30,579	1,946
Connecticut	3,207	2,382	825	45,875	44,701	1,174
Delaware	1,290	409	881	6,827	6,702	125
District of Columbia	468	269	199	7,311	7,834	-523
Florida	6,996	6,951	45	41,555	46,017	-4,462
Georgia	6,162	5,442	720	30,048	31,868	-1,820
Hawaii	1,439	1,054	385	7,135	6,203	932
Idaho	1,068	1,396	-328	9,061	10,434	-1,373
Illinois	11,119	10,322	797	145,837	149,302	-3,465
Indiana	2,920	2,528	392	29,011	30,212	-1,201
Iowa	2,393	2,534	-141	27,358	28,203	-845
Kansas	2,019	1,990	29	15,020	15,862	-842
Kentucky	2,628	2,445	183	25,644	24,715	929
* Louisiana	2,834	2,497	337	22,561	22,799	-238
Maine	908	861	47	11,169	11,640	-471
Maryland	3,775	4,144	-369	37,553	41,611	-4,058
Massachusetts	4,656	4,788	-132	82,311	87,284	-4,973
Michigan	6,010	6,373	-363	85,808	93,411	-7,603
Minnesota	3,872	3,671	201	64,877	63,648	1,229
Mississippi	1,308	1,415	-107	10,449	11,581	-1,132
Missouri	4,009	4,721	-712	28,096	31,015	-2,919
Montana	926	1,024	-98	10,541	11,474	-933
Nebraska	717	782	-65	5,730	6,104	-374
Nevada	2,574	2,404	170	22,718	24,996	-2,278
New Hampshire	601	612	-11	5,331	6,093	-762
New Jersey	13,102	9,392	3,710	113,820	113,174	646
New Mexico	1,256	1,088	168	13,590	14,049	-459
New York	20,605	15,874	4,731	184,832	181,905	2,927
North Carolina	3,482	3,009	473	24,674	26,691	-2,017
North Dakota	974	459	515	12,932	9,261	3,671
Ohio	8,188	7,974	214	77,213	78,990	-1,777
Oklahoma	1,975	1,907	68	22,777	23,648	-871
Oregon	4,598	4,703	-105	32,517	31,748	769
Pennsylvania	17,363	17,658	-295	155,184	152,955	2,229
Puerto Rico	2,064	161	1,903	23,106	18,723	4,383
Rhode Island	839	939	-100	11,607	12,026	-419
South Carolina	2,757	2,461	296	14,458	15,439	-981
South Dakota	167	166	1	2,383	2,770	-387
Tennessee	3,451	3,160	291	23,200	24,535	-1,335
Texas	16,789	17,361	-572	182,196	182,931	-735
Utah	1,190	1,045	145	11,730	12,167	-437
Vermont	722	639	83	6,448	6,303	145
Virgin Islands	18	18	0	550	538	12
Virginia	4,242	2,831	1,411	31,693	31,352	341
Washington	7,081	6,558	523	56,952	55,358	1,594
West Virginia	1,125	949	176	19,469	19,417	52
Wisconsin	8,905	8,301	604	51,866	53,288	-1,422
Wyoming	844	768	76	7,936	8,371	-435
US Total	246,023	235,716	10,307	2,377,230	2,409,099	-31,869

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.

* estimated by OUI staff

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 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	2,172	-8	2,190.50	1.6	
March 26, 2016	276	11	263.25	2,191	19	2,188.75	1.6	
April 2, 2016	267	-9	266.75					

Initial Claims Filed During Week Ended March 26
INITIAL CLAIMS

Insured Unemployment For Week Ended March 19
INSURED UNEMPLOYMENT

STATE	CHANGE FROM						CHANGE FROM					ALL PROGRAMS EXCLUDING RAILROAD RETIREMENT
	STATE	LAST WEEK	YEAR AGO	UCFE ¹	UCX ¹	STATE	(%) ²	LAST WEEK	YEAR AGO	UCFE ¹	UCX ¹	
Alabama	2939	509	-569	5	8	20614	1.1	-346	-1524	61	154	20829
Alaska	1153	-95	43	4	0	13348	4.2	-512	1000	182	47	13577
Arizona	3978	320	-86	9	6	26138	1.0	-92	-2664	211	163	26512
Arkansas	3211	1156	174	2	9	17632	1.5	-746	-4446	63	110	17805
California	43613	-538	363	114	157	411440	2.6	-5074	-8024	2803	2869	417112
Colorado	2387	-76	-7	10	30	30579	1.3	-2121	-3717	287	549	31415
Connecticut	2382	-689	-318	4	10	44701	2.7	-2351	-7712	52	120	44873
Delaware	409	-48	-174	1	2	6702	1.6	-472	-1118	18	28	6748
District of Columbia	269	-25	-17	4	1	7834	1.5	-158	-715	300	12	8146
Florida	6951	85	-1711	17	45	46017	0.6	-2398	-16063	148	343	46508
Georgia	5442	-444	-639	19	40	31868	0.8	-1019	-4983	183	404	32455
Hawaii	1054	-18	-207	3	14	6203	1.0	-190	-1792	65	137	6405
Idaho	1396	195	813	14	5	10434	1.6	-441	1536	258	45	10737
Illinois	10322	485	377	14	12	149302	2.6	-4123	-4454	326	439	150067
Indiana	2528	-908	-971	12	12	30212	1.0	-1625	-2382	88	93	30393
Iowa	2534	31	506	4	2	28203	1.9	-1537	87	50	82	28335
Kansas	1990	-236	-274	3	12	15862	1.2	-355	-1310	53	93	16008
Kentucky	2445	-73	25	6	12	24715	1.4	-3128	-2925	103	237	25055
Louisiana	2497	-381	-125	0	1	22799	1.2	43	1286	66	51	22916
Maine	861	-109	-68	0	1	11640	2.0	-51	-1954	56	35	11731
Maryland	4144	499	527	20	19	41611	1.7	-1305	-7699	338	240	42189
Massachusetts	4788	-395	67	0	15	87284	2.6	-2542	-10265	211	302	87797
Michigan	6373	-613	550	16	15	93411	2.3	-2853	635	286	205	93902
Minnesota	3671	-67	25	3	3	63648	2.3	-1648	3938	140	156	63944
Mississippi	1415	-66	-147	1	4	11581	1.1	-302	-976	106	54	11741
Missouri	4721	-44	154	21	15	31015	1.2	-1976	-7939	131	85	31231
Montana	1024	98	72	4	5	11474	2.7	-518	440	437	46	11957
Nebraska	782	21	-238	2	2	6104	0.7	-1145	-2596	25	18	6147
Nevada	2404	-37	-513	13	2	24996	2.1	-585	-2760	209	137	25342
New Hampshire	612	-15	-21	3	0	6093	1.0	-275	-1471	4	20	6117
New Jersey	9392	1457	1741	6	23	113174	3.0	-4705	-14686	247	386	113807
New Mexico	1088	31	-116	8	7	14049	1.8	-285	-278	258	64	14371
New York	15874	1359	-1172	29	52	181905	2.1	-5307	-23891	398	659	182962
North Carolina	3009	-271	-1140	8	26	26691	0.7	-1207	-10338	133	251	27075
North Dakota	459	-174	-28	3	1	9261	2.1	-386	2782	14	13	9288
Ohio	7974	1433	760	10	33	78990	1.5	-4075	-4626	131	410	79531
Oklahoma	1907	-513	-58	4	13	23648	1.5	441	3892	62	136	23846
Oregon	4703	719	-632	24	22	31748	1.8	-1154	-4127	603	226	32577
Pennsylvania	17658	2058	1717	67	52	152955	2.7	-14083	-9905	570	499	154024
Puerto Rico	161	-1415	-1233	1	1	18723	2.1	-5459	-6839	47	176	18946
Rhode Island	939	121	93	2	0	12026	2.6	-550	-1943	21	42	12089
South Carolina	2461	-93	-285	7	14	15439	0.8	-484	-893	62	128	15629
South Dakota	166	-31	-32	1	1	2770	0.7	-253	-165	32	13	2815
Tennessee	3160	230	-65	10	7	24535	0.9	-1348	-4307	134	140	24809
Texas	17361	1055	-1000	37	176	182931	1.6	3682	25182	531	2247	185709
Utah	1045	-45	-228	10	3	12167	0.9	-801	-734	154	33	12354
Vermont	639	-155	70	4	0	6303	2.1	-204	-324	27	5	6335
Virgin Islands	18	2	-14	0	0	538	1.5	4	-194	10	12	560
Virginia	2831	-473	-292	15	20	31352	0.9	-1294	-1537	278	512	32142
Washington	6558	-187	44	30	71	55358	1.8	-2161	-2814	473	879	56710
West Virginia	949	-131	-280	1	6	19417	2.9	-1039	2046	67	61	19545
Wisconsin	8301	1142	252	5	8	53288	1.9	-2402	-13355	132	84	53504
Wyoming	768	193	255	3	4	8371	3.0	-130	2623	131	35	8537
Totals	235716	4834	-4032	613	999	2409099	1.8	-83045	-154998	11775	14285	2435159

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 26, 2016

STATES WITH AN INCREASE OF MORE THAN 1,000

State	Change	State Supplied Comment
PA	+2,058	No comment.
NJ	+1,457	Fewer layoffs in the accommodation and food service, transportation and warehousing, administrative, support, waste management and remediation service, and health care and social service industries.
OH	+1,433	Fewer layoffs in the transportation and warehousing, and manufacturing industries.
NY	+1,359	Fewer layoffs in the accommodation and food service, transportation and warehousing, and construction industries.
AR	+1,156	No comment.
WI	+1,142	No comment.
TX	+1,055	No comment.

STATES WITH A DECREASE OF MORE THAN 1,000

State	Change	State Supplied Comment
PR	-1,415	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](#)

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U.S. Department of Labor
Employment and Training Administration
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Program Contacts:
Brenda Loya (202) 693-3760
Tony Sznoluch (202) 693-3176
Media Contact: (202) 693-4676