



News Release

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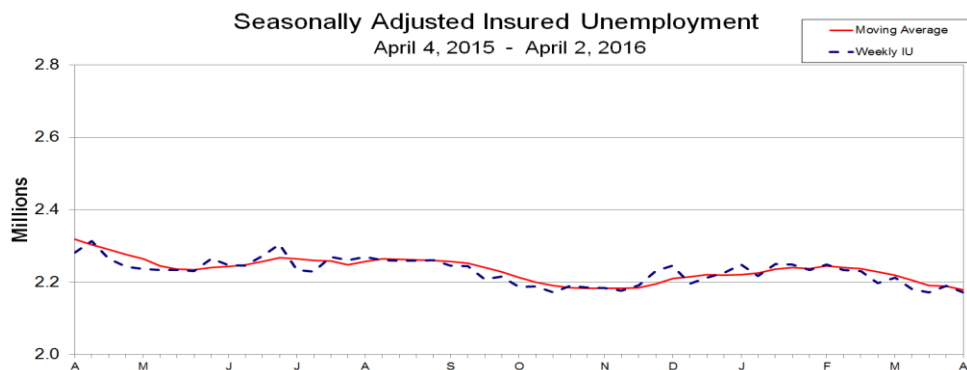
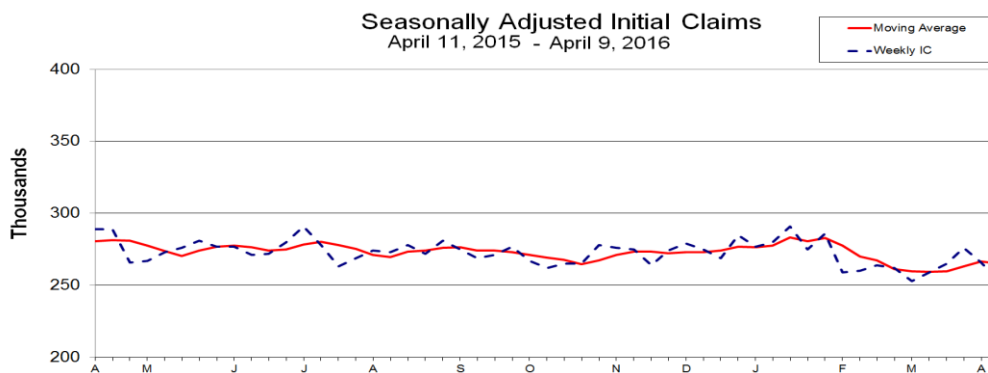
UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE WEEKLY CLAIMS

SEASONALLY ADJUSTED DATA

In the week ending April 9, the advance figure for seasonally adjusted **initial claims** was 253,000, a decrease of 13,000 from the previous week's revised level. The previous week's level was revised down by 1,000 from 267,000 to 266,000. The 4-week moving average was 265,000, a decrease of 1,500 from the previous week's revised average. The previous week's average was revised down by 250 from 266,750 to 266,500.

There were no special factors impacting this week's initial claims. This marks 58 consecutive weeks of initial claims below 300,000, the longest streak since 1973.

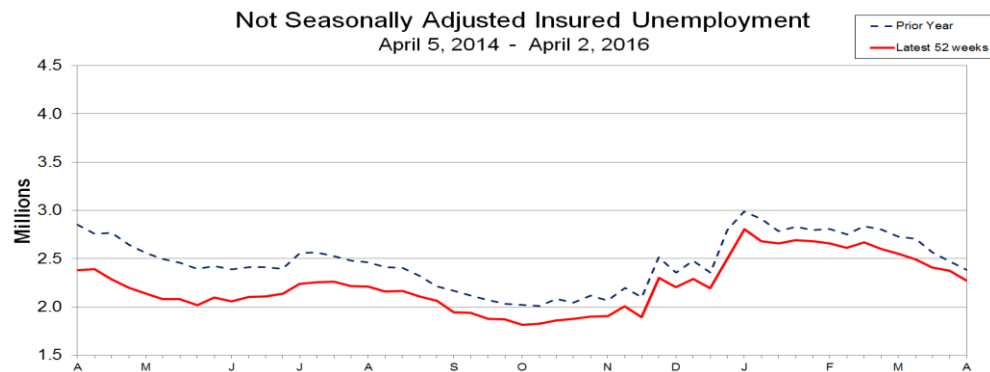
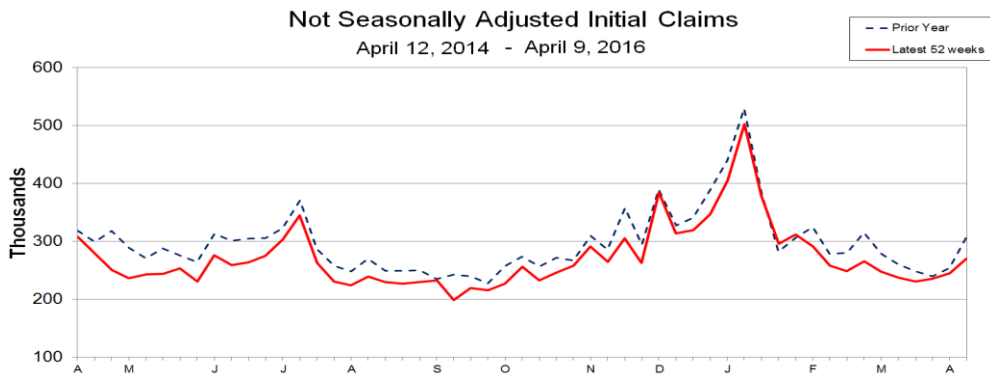
The advance seasonally adjusted **insured unemployment rate** was 1.6 percent for the week ending April 2, unchanged from the previous week's unrevised rate. The advance number for seasonally adjusted **insured unemployment** during the week ending April 2 was 2,171,000, a decrease of 18,000 from the previous week's revised level. The previous week's level was revised down by 2,000 from 2,191,000 to 2,189,000. The 4-week moving average was 2,178,000, a decrease of 10,250 from the previous week's revised average. This is the lowest level for this average since November 18, 2000 when it was 2,169,000. The previous week's average was revised down by 500 from 2,188,750 to 2,188,250.



UNADJUSTED DATA

The advance number of actual initial claims under state programs, unadjusted, totaled 270,563 in the week ending April 9, an increase of 25,528 (or 10.4 percent) from the previous week. The seasonal factors had expected an increase of 39,685 (or 16.2 percent) from the previous week. There were 308,173 initial claims in the comparable week in 2015.

The advance unadjusted insured unemployment rate was 1.7 percent during the week ending April 2, unchanged from the prior week. The advance unadjusted number for persons claiming UI benefits in state programs totaled 2,274,709, a decrease of 100,809 (or -4.2 percent) from the preceding week. The seasonal factors had expected a decrease of 81,008 (or -3.4 percent) from the previous week. A year earlier the rate was 1.8 percent and the volume was 2,381,913.



The total number of people claiming benefits in all programs for the week ending March 26 was 2,420,036, a decrease of 34,920 from the previous week. There were 2,527,259 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 26.

Initial claims for UI benefits filed by former Federal civilian employees totaled 618 in the week ending April 2, an increase of 5 from the prior week. There were 1,042 initial claims filed by newly discharged veterans, an increase of 43 from the preceding week.

There were 10,823 former Federal civilian employees claiming UI benefits for the week ending March 26, a decrease of 952 from the previous week. Newly discharged veterans claiming benefits totaled 14,290, an increase of 5 from the prior week.

The highest insured unemployment rates in the week ending March 26 were in Alaska (4.2), Wyoming (3.0), New Jersey (2.9), Puerto Rico (2.8), Connecticut (2.7), Pennsylvania (2.7), West Virginia (2.7), California (2.6), Montana (2.6), and Illinois (2.5).

The largest increases in initial claims for the week ending April 2 were in New York (+4,521), New Jersey (+3,836), Puerto Rico (+1,964), Virginia (+1,213), and Georgia (+981), while the largest decreases were in California (-7,118), Arkansas (-1,249), Texas (-934), Missouri (-705), and Iowa (-416).

UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE DATA FOR REGULAR STATE PROGRAMS

WEEK ENDING	April 9	April 2	Change	March 26	<u>Prior Year</u>¹
Initial Claims (SA)	253,000	266,000	-13,000	276,000	289,000
Initial Claims (NSA)	270,563	245,035	+25,528	235,716	308,173
4-Wk Moving Average (SA)	265,000	266,500	-1,500	263,250	280,500
WEEK ENDING	April 2	March 26	Change	March 19	<u>Prior Year</u>¹
Insured Unemployment (SA)	2,171,000	2,189,000	-18,000	2,172,000	2,282,000
Insured Unemployment (NSA)	2,274,709	2,375,518	-100,809	2,409,099	2,381,913
4-Wk Moving Average (SA)	2,178,000	2,188,250	-10,250	2,190,500	2,319,000
<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%	1.7%	0.0	1.8%	1.8%

INITIAL CLAIMS FILED IN FEDERAL PROGRAMS (UNADJUSTED)

WEEK ENDING	April 2	March 26	Change	<u>Prior Year</u>¹
Federal Employees (UCFE)	618	613	+5	816
Newly Discharged Veterans (UCX)	1,042	999	+43	1,407

PERSONS CLAIMING UI BENEFITS IN ALL PROGRAMS (UNADJUSTED)

WEEK ENDING	March 26	March 19	Change	<u>Prior Year</u>¹
Regular State	2,370,526	2,404,054	-33,528	2,471,946
Federal Employees	10,823	11,775	-952	13,255
Newly Discharged Veterans	14,290	14,285	+5	20,634
<u>Extended Benefits</u> ³	0	0	0	29
<u>State Additional Benefits</u> ⁴	8,133	8,022	+111	6,987
<u>STC / Workshare</u> ⁵	16,264	16,820	-556	14,408
<u>TOTAL</u>	2,420,036	2,454,956	-34,920	2,527,259

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 136,969,042 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 9			Insured Unemployment For Week Ended April 2		
	Advance	Prior Wk	Change	Advance	Prior Wk	Change
Alabama	2,922	3,269	-347	19,443	21,256	-1,813
Alaska	1,509	1,121	388	12,564	13,394	-830
Arizona	6,480	4,507	1,973	23,766	26,281	-2,515
Arkansas	2,370	1,962	408	15,052	18,249	-3,197
California	49,953	36,495	13,458	391,716	404,644	-12,928
Colorado	3,200	3,012	188	30,201	31,838	-1,637
Connecticut	3,653	3,199	454	42,457	44,370	-1,913
Delaware	807	1,325	-518	7,274	7,424	-150
District of Columbia	576	266	310	7,226	7,666	-440
Florida	8,420	7,235	1,185	39,486	48,089	-8,603
Georgia	7,371	6,423	948	30,763	31,755	-992
Hawaii	1,391	1,410	-19	6,635	6,826	-191
Idaho	1,052	1,170	-118	8,318	10,334	-2,016
Illinois	10,889	11,062	-173	140,859	144,273	-3,414
Indiana	3,630	2,880	750	27,210	28,620	-1,410
Iowa	2,645	2,118	527	24,859	26,108	-1,249
Kansas	2,233	1,947	286	13,801	14,662	-861
Kentucky	3,455	2,645	810	23,040	25,683	-2,643
Louisiana	2,663	2,484	179	23,081	21,705	1,376
Maine	1,029	960	69	10,676	11,176	-500
Maryland	3,692	4,021	-329	36,645	40,608	-3,963
Massachusetts	5,364	4,750	614	78,924	85,170	-6,246
Michigan	7,162	6,144	1,018	78,506	88,304	-9,798
Minnesota	3,923	3,710	213	61,150	61,160	-10
Mississippi	1,518	1,551	-33	10,131	11,445	-1,314
Missouri	4,262	4,016	246	25,765	29,807	-4,042
Montana	1,057	1,006	51	9,851	11,092	-1,241
Nebraska	707	684	23	5,302	5,677	-375
Nevada	2,986	2,454	532	22,746	24,795	-2,049
New Hampshire	802	640	162	5,104	5,785	-681
New Jersey	10,445	13,228	-2,783	114,401	111,877	2,524
New Mexico	1,244	1,326	-82	13,590	14,323	-733
New York	18,210	20,395	-2,185	175,870	182,573	-6,703
North Carolina	4,020	3,310	710	24,220	26,066	-1,846
North Dakota	940	673	267	11,995	8,772	3,223
Ohio	7,375	8,151	-776	74,253	76,764	-2,511
Oklahoma	2,209	1,956	253	22,630	23,421	-791
Oregon	3,590	4,615	-1,025	29,805	32,536	-2,731
Pennsylvania	20,363	17,297	3,066	147,472	152,806	-5,334
Puerto Rico	1,542	2,125	-583	20,045	25,134	-5,089
Rhode Island	1,077	846	231	10,802	11,558	-756
South Carolina	3,008	2,820	188	14,391	15,112	-721
South Dakota	208	186	22	2,266	2,492	-226
Tennessee	3,608	3,641	-33	22,285	24,303	-2,018
Texas	19,326	16,427	2,899	174,951	178,756	-3,805
Utah	1,476	1,159	317	11,307	11,716	-409
Vermont	944	738	206	6,386	6,122	264
Virgin Islands	35	24	11	542	544	-2
Virginia	4,475	4,044	431	32,043	30,389	1,654
Washington	8,497	6,735	1,762	54,465	55,042	-577
West Virginia	1,443	1,214	229	19,273	18,606	667
Wisconsin	7,433	8,907	-1,474	51,226	49,968	1,258
Wyoming	1,374	752	622	7,940	8,442	-502
US Total	270,563	245,035	25,528	2,274,709	2,375,518	-100,809

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	
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	2,189	17	2,188.25	1.6
April 2, 2016	266	-10	266.50	2,171	-18	2,178.00	1.6
April 9, 2016	253	-13	265.00				

Initial Claims Filed During Week Ended April 2 INITIAL CLAIMS							Insured Unemployment For Week Ended March 26 INSURED UNEMPLOYMENT					
STATE	CHANGE FROM					STATE	CHANGE FROM					ALL PROGRAMS EXCLUDING RAILROAD RETIREMENT
	STATE	LAST WEEK	YEAR AGO	UCFE 1	UCX 1		LAST WEEK	YEAR AGO	UCFE 1	UCX 1		
Alabama	3269	330	-78	13	9	21256	1.2	642	-1234	51	156	21463
Alaska	1121	-32	128	4	1	13394	4.2	46	1189	151	51	13596
Arizona	4507	529	-600	6	12	26281	1.0	143	-2404	225	145	26651
Arkansas	1962	-1249	-1142	7	11	18249	1.6	617	-4415	64	113	18426
California	36495	-7118	-3108	117	124	404644	2.6	-6796	3028	2526	2780	409950
Colorado	3012	625	-63	4	42	31838	1.3	1259	-3290	292	607	32737
Connecticut	3199	817	302	8	9	44370	2.7	-331	-4571	72	125	44567
Delaware	1325	916	726	4	4	7424	1.8	722	-1115	16	19	7459
District of Columbia	266	-3	-38	5	0	7666	1.4	-168	-688	295	11	7972
Florida	7235	284	-2034	14	52	48089	0.6	2072	-12640	150	287	48526
Georgia	6423	981	177	24	47	31755	0.8	-113	-3750	171	414	32340
Hawaii	1410	356	207	8	13	6826	1.1	623	-1159	74	133	7033
Idaho	1170	-226	-476	7	2	10334	1.6	-100	-843	205	52	10591
Illinois	11062	740	-895	17	18	144273	2.5	-5029	-1947	347	389	145009
Indiana	2880	352	-220	7	8	28620	1.0	-1592	-2038	97	98	28815
Iowa	2118	-416	-8	3	3	26108	1.7	-2095	805	50	70	26228
Kansas	1947	-43	-6	5	17	14662	1.1	-1200	-1548	56	88	14806
Kentucky	2645	200	-177	3	6	25683	1.4	968	-970	93	274	26050
Louisiana	2484	-13	186	6	12	21705	1.1	-1094	369	79	88	21872
Maine	960	99	-42	2	1	11176	1.9	-464	-1867	51	39	11266
Maryland	4021	-123	-687	21	10	40608	1.7	-1003	-6020	318	250	41176
Massachusetts	4750	-38	-36	8	24	85170	2.5	-2114	-9892	191	313	85674
Michigan	6144	-229	-364	13	15	88304	2.2	-5107	-895	253	184	88741
Minnesota	3710	39	-290	3	6	61160	2.2	-2488	3648	101	155	61416
Mississippi	1551	136	-140	2	5	11445	1.1	-136	-830	110	44	11599
Missouri	4016	-705	-566	18	13	29807	1.1	-1208	-5572	141	87	30035
Montana	1006	-18	55	9	4	11092	2.6	-382	469	383	49	11524
Nebraska	684	-98	-151	3	2	5677	0.6	-427	-2505	20	16	5713
Nevada	2454	50	-933	5	5	24795	2.1	-201	-2222	168	135	25098
New Hampshire	640	28	-90	1	0	5785	0.9	-308	-1456	5	21	5811
New Jersey	13228	3836	3005	16	19	111877	2.9	-1297	-7782	221	402	112500
New Mexico	1326	238	-122	5	7	14323	1.8	274	-332	210	83	14616
New York	20395	4521	4353	35	48	182573	2.1	668	-14886	399	643	183615
North Carolina	3310	301	-481	11	34	26066	0.6	-625	-9507	118	228	26412
North Dakota	673	214	111	1	0	8772	2.0	-489	2679	10	9	8791
Ohio	8151	177	120	10	28	76764	1.5	-2226	-2696	147	395	77306
Oklahoma	1956	49	-143	3	16	23421	1.5	-227	3949	60	130	23611
Oregon	4615	-88	-1465	18	20	32536	1.9	788	-4675	533	244	33313
Pennsylvania	17297	-361	-2122	60	42	152806	2.7	-149	-6845	473	526	153805
Puerto Rico	2125	1964	741	2	5	25134	2.8	6411	1254	51	185	25370
Rhode Island	846	-93	141	2	1	11558	2.5	-468	-1779	38	33	11629
South Carolina	2820	359	160	7	19	15112	0.8	-327	-717	69	128	15309
South Dakota	186	20	16	1	1	2492	0.6	-278	-174	28	17	2537
Tennessee	3641	481	-173	6	21	24303	0.9	-232	-2983	120	127	24550
Texas	16427	-934	-1929	36	182	178756	1.6	-4175	19896	414	2359	181529
Utah	1159	114	-238	14	1	11716	0.9	-451	-613	133	34	11883
Vermont	738	99	134	2	1	6122	2.0	-181	-261	21	3	6146
Virgin Islands	24	6	-5	0	1	544	1.5	6	-368	4	4	552
Virginia	4044	1213	647	14	30	30389	0.9	-963	-568	289	510	31188
Washington	6735	177	-591	15	72	55042	1.8	-316	-1444	440	881	56363
West Virginia	1214	265	49	0	2	18606	2.7	-811	2269	66	59	18731
Wisconsin	8907	606	-543	2	10	49968	1.8	-3320	-13040	110	87	50165
Wyoming	752	-16	200	11	7	8442	3.0	71	2249	114	10	8566
Totals	245035	9319	-8498	618	1042	2375518	1.7	-33581	-100737	10823	14290	2400631

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 APRIL 2, 2016

STATES WITH AN INCREASE OF MORE THAN 1,000

State	Change	State Supplied Comment
NY	+4,521	Layoffs in the transportation and warehousing, accommodation and food service, and health care and social assistance industries.
NJ	+3,836	Layoffs in the educational service, transportation and warehousing, accommodation and food service, and public administration industries.
PR	+1,964	No comment.
VA	+1,213	Layoffs in the manufacturing industries.

STATES WITH A DECREASE OF MORE THAN 1,000

State	Change	State Supplied Comment
CA	-7,118	Fewer layoffs in the service industry.
AR	-1,249	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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