



News Release

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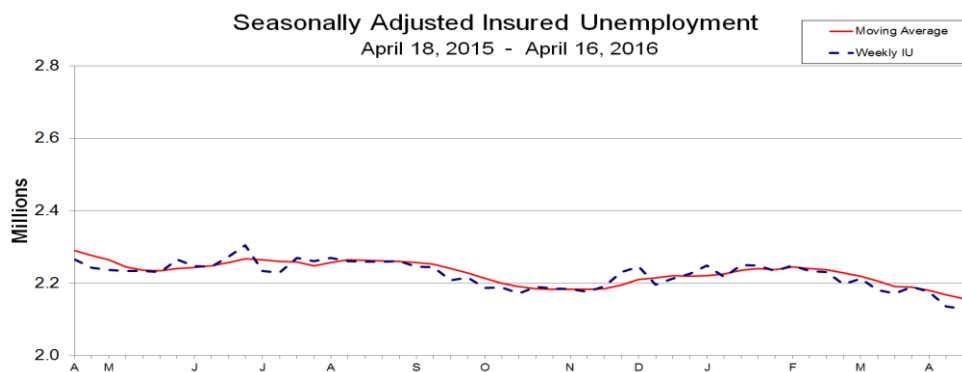
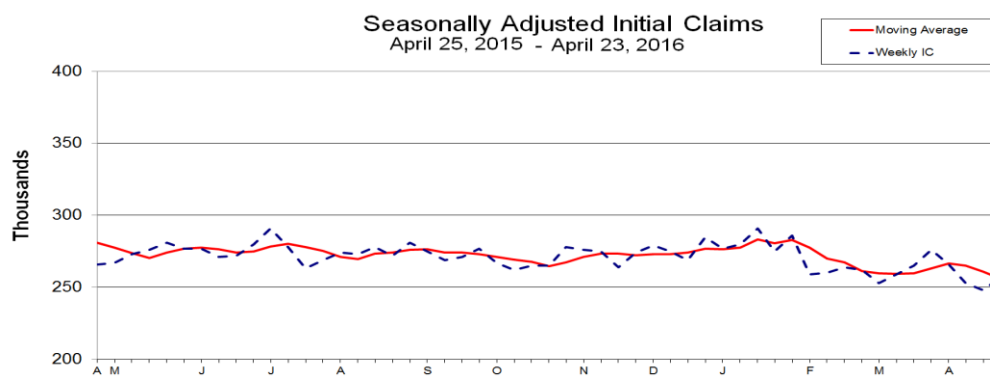
UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE WEEKLY CLAIMS

SEASONALLY ADJUSTED DATA

In the week ending April 23, the advance figure for seasonally adjusted **initial claims** was 257,000, an increase of 9,000 from the previous week's revised level. The previous week's level was revised up by 1,000 from 247,000 to 248,000. The 4-week moving average was 256,000, a decrease of 4,750 from the previous week's revised average. This is the lowest level for this average since December 8, 1973 when it was 252,250. The previous week's average was revised up by 250 from 260,500 to 260,750.

There were no special factors impacting this week's initial claims. This marks 60 consecutive weeks of initial claims below 300,000, the longest streak since 1973.

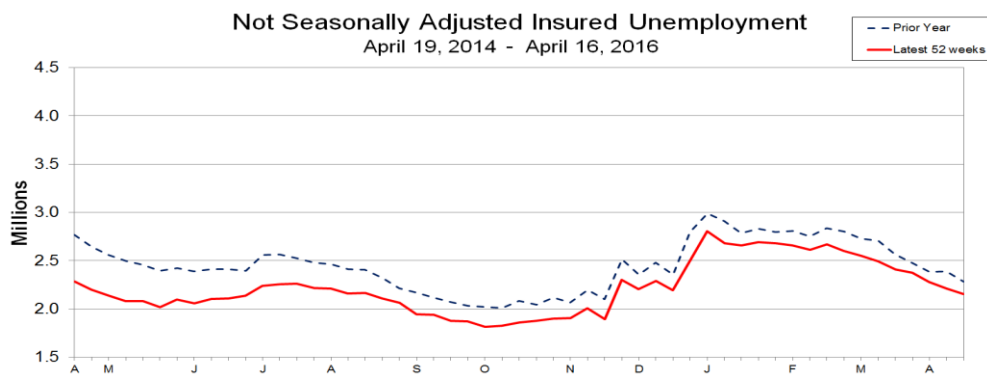
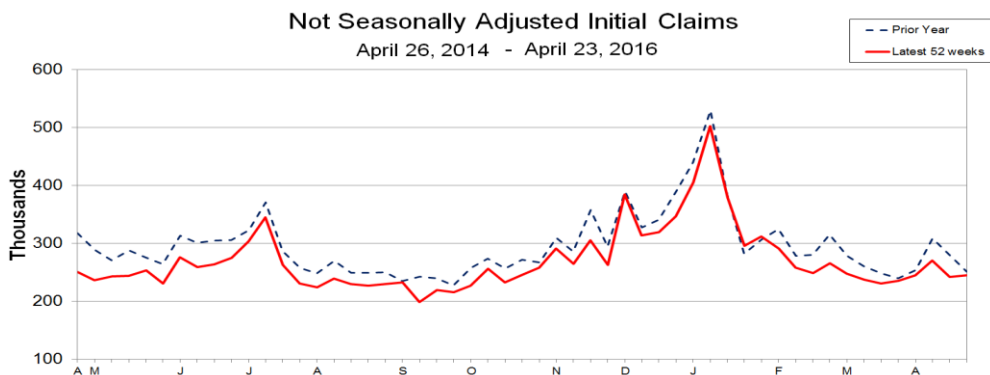
The advance seasonally adjusted **insured unemployment rate** was 1.6 percent for the week ending April 16, unchanged from the previous week's unrevised rate. The advance number for seasonally adjusted **insured unemployment** during the week ending April 16 was 2,130,000, a decrease of 5,000 from the previous week's revised level. This is the lowest level for insured unemployment since November 4, 2000 when it was 2,110,000. The previous week's level was revised down by 2,000 from 2,137,000 to 2,135,000. The 4-week moving average was 2,157,500, a decrease of 10,500 from the previous week's revised average. This is the lowest level for this average since November 11, 2000 when it was 2,119,750. The previous week's average was revised down by 500 from 2,168,500 to 2,168,000.



UNADJUSTED DATA

The advance number of actual initial claims under state programs, unadjusted, totaled 245,189 in the week ending April 23, an increase of 2,789 (or 1.2 percent) from the previous week. The seasonal factors had expected a decrease of 6,438 (or -2.7 percent) from the previous week. There were 250,780 initial claims in the comparable week in 2015.

The advance unadjusted insured unemployment rate was 1.6 percent during the week ending April 16, unchanged from the prior week. The advance unadjusted number for persons claiming UI benefits in state programs totaled 2,155,507, a decrease of 56,464 (or -2.6 percent) from the preceding week. The seasonal factors had expected a decrease of 51,243 (or -2.3 percent) from the previous week. A year earlier the rate was 1.7 percent and the volume was 2,281,070.



The total number of people claiming benefits in all programs for the week ending April 9 was 2,255,678, a decrease of 69,811 from the previous week. There were 2,440,229 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 April 9.

Initial claims for UI benefits filed by former Federal civilian employees totaled 611 in the week ending April 16, a decrease of 133 from the prior week. There were 1,068 initial claims filed by newly discharged veterans, a decrease of 135 from the preceding week.

There were 9,489 former Federal civilian employees claiming UI benefits for the week ending April 9, a decrease of 1,142 from the previous week. Newly discharged veterans claiming benefits totaled 13,765, an increase of 101 from the prior week.

The highest insured unemployment rates in the week ending April 9 were in Alaska (4.0), Wyoming (3.0), New Jersey (2.7), West Virginia (2.7), Connecticut (2.5), Pennsylvania (2.5), Puerto Rico (2.5), California (2.4), Illinois (2.3), and Massachusetts (2.3).

The largest increases in initial claims for the week ending April 16 were in Massachusetts (+1,653), Connecticut (+1,105), California (+1,089), Puerto Rico (+476), and Utah (+25), while the largest decreases were in Pennsylvania (-4,270), Texas (-2,539), New York (-2,519), Illinois (-1,631), and Michigan (-1,577).

UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE DATA FOR REGULAR STATE PROGRAMS

WEEK ENDING	April 23	April 16	Change	April 9	<u>Prior Year</u>¹
Initial Claims (SA)	257,000	248,000	+9,000	253,000	266,000
Initial Claims (NSA)	245,189	242,400	+2,789	270,419	250,780
4-Wk Moving Average (SA)	256,000	260,750	-4,750	265,000	281,000
WEEK ENDING	April 16	April 9	Change	April 2	<u>Prior Year</u>¹
Insured Unemployment (SA)	2,130,000	2,135,000	-5,000	2,176,000	2,265,000
Insured Unemployment (NSA)	2,155,507	2,211,971	-56,464	2,280,430	2,281,070
4-Wk Moving Average (SA)	2,157,500	2,168,000	-10,500	2,179,250	2,289,500
<u>Insured Unemployment Rate (SA)</u> ²	1.6%	1.6%	0.0	1.6%	1.7%
<u>Insured Unemployment Rate (NSA)</u> ²	1.6%	1.6%	0.0	1.7%	1.7%

INITIAL CLAIMS FILED IN FEDERAL PROGRAMS (UNADJUSTED)

WEEK ENDING	April 16	April 9	Change	<u>Prior Year</u>¹
Federal Employees (UCFE)	611	744	-133	794
Newly Discharged Veterans (UCX)	1,068	1,203	-135	1,326

PERSONS CLAIMING UI BENEFITS IN ALL PROGRAMS (UNADJUSTED)

WEEK ENDING	April 9	April 2	Change	<u>Prior Year</u>¹
Regular State	2,206,422	2,275,028	-68,606	2,385,946
Federal Employees	9,489	10,631	-1,142	12,361
Newly Discharged Veterans	13,765	13,664	+101	20,567
<u>Extended Benefits</u> ³	0	0	0	0
<u>State Additional Benefits</u> ⁴	8,080	7,436	+644	7,819
<u>STC / Workshare</u> ⁵	17,922	18,730	-808	13,536
<u>TOTAL</u>	2,255,678	2,325,489	-69,811	2,440,229

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 23			Insured Unemployment For Week Ended April 16		
	Advance	Prior Wk	Change	Advance	Prior Wk	Change
Alabama	2,347	2,626	-279	18,910	20,161	-1,251
Alaska	1,410	1,293	117	12,154	12,662	-508
Arizona	5,694	5,828	-134	27,331	28,940	-1,609
Arkansas	2,200	2,055	145	14,850	15,807	-957
California	47,326	50,147	-2,821	401,222	384,589	16,633
Colorado	2,941	3,206	-265	30,231	30,112	119
Connecticut	5,081	4,752	329	41,966	40,795	1,171
Delaware	510	604	-94	6,324	6,267	57
District of Columbia	564	247	317	7,032	7,425	-393
Florida	7,089	7,376	-287	41,827	47,008	-5,181
Georgia	5,744	6,444	-700	28,629	31,678	-3,049
Hawaii	1,227	1,294	-67	6,807	6,530	277
Idaho	875	1,056	-181	7,032	8,494	-1,462
Illinois	14,292	9,169	5,123	128,228	134,879	-6,651
Indiana	2,967	3,098	-131	23,174	25,597	-2,423
Iowa	2,811	2,001	810	20,257	21,258	-1,001
Kansas	2,769	2,010	759	13,219	13,193	26
Kentucky	2,528	2,596	-68	22,603	23,765	-1,162
Louisiana	2,316	2,791	-475	22,825	22,685	140
Maine	769	909	-140	9,385	10,193	-808
Maryland	2,927	3,359	-432	33,919	37,869	-3,950
Massachusetts	10,174	7,140	3,034	71,422	76,064	-4,642
Michigan	4,979	5,717	-738	65,962	76,607	-10,645
Minnesota	3,128	3,262	-134	49,300	52,487	-3,187
Mississippi	1,215	1,532	-317	10,134	11,183	-1,049
Missouri	3,738	3,520	218	21,814	25,273	-3,459
Montana	912	1,080	-168	8,290	9,335	-1,045
Nebraska	792	654	138	4,515	4,757	-242
Nevada	2,605	2,464	141	21,781	23,885	-2,104
New Hampshire	660	686	-26	4,867	5,471	-604
New Jersey	8,368	9,763	-1,395	101,022	102,509	-1,487
New Mexico	1,056	1,225	-169	13,325	13,925	-600
New York	15,702	15,659	43	159,302	166,872	-7,570
North Carolina	3,662	3,559	103	24,022	26,070	-2,048
North Dakota	738	461	277	9,574	6,948	2,626
Ohio	6,538	6,172	366	65,418	69,014	-3,596
Oklahoma	2,063	1,848	215	22,898	23,404	-506
Oregon	3,862	3,442	420	28,799	29,478	-679
Pennsylvania	15,066	16,076	-1,010	138,534	140,842	-2,308
Puerto Rico	1,383	2,126	-743	20,539	22,103	-1,564
Rhode Island	2,812	1,075	1,737	9,728	10,294	-566
South Carolina	2,305	2,439	-134	13,406	14,540	-1,134
South Dakota	173	208	-35	1,587	1,923	-336
Tennessee	2,358	2,558	-200	20,356	22,338	-1,982
Texas	16,510	16,564	-54	184,687	176,156	8,531
Utah	1,346	1,476	-130	10,621	10,825	-204
Vermont	1,151	809	342	6,045	6,020	25
Virgin Islands	34	43	-9	520	496	24
Virginia	3,506	3,294	212	30,173	29,163	1,010
Washington	6,501	6,924	-423	52,275	52,521	-246
West Virginia	1,340	1,152	188	18,067	18,234	-167
Wisconsin	5,439	5,912	-473	40,345	45,024	-4,679
Wyoming	686	699	-13	8,254	8,303	-49
US Total	245,189	242,400	2,789	2,155,507	2,211,971	-56,464

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 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	2,176	-13	2,179.25	1.6
April 9, 2016	253	-13	265.00	2,135	-41	2,168.00	1.6
April 16, 2016	248	-5	260.75	2,130	-5	2,157.50	1.6
April 23, 2016	257	9	256.00				

Initial Claims Filed During Week Ended April 16 INITIAL CLAIMS								Insured Unemployment For Week Ended April 9 INSURED UNEMPLOYMENT				
STATE	STATE	CHANGE FROM		CHANGE FROM				CHANGE FROM		ALL PROGRAMS EXCLUDING RAILROAD RETIREMENT		
		LAST WEEK	YEAR AGO	UCFE 1	UCX 1	STATE	(%) 2	LAST WEEK	YEAR AGO	UCFE 1	UCX 1	
Alabama	2626	-540	-759	9	14	20161	1.1	-320	-2059	51	172	20384
Alaska	1293	-51	121	7	1	12662	4.0	-215	1353	123	49	12834
Arizona	5828	-1175	-69	4	10	28940	1.1	2270	-2866	181	135	29256
Arkansas	2055	-504	-629	3	3	15807	1.4	-441	-5042	79	104	15990
California	50147	1089	-1374	135	164	384589	2.4	-551	-18630	2287	2644	389520
Colorado	3206	2	6	17	28	30112	1.2	492	-3206	249	596	30957
Connecticut	4752	1105	-1319	5	10	40795	2.5	-237	-4115	56	123	40974
Delaware	604	-255	-109	0	1	6267	1.5	-769	-1301	22	21	6310
District of Columbia	247	-94	-78	4	1	7425	1.4	-185	-665	284	10	7719
Florida	7376	-1353	-1918	11	50	47008	0.6	1385	-14526	136	293	47437
Georgia	6444	-1225	-204	29	55	31678	0.8	-843	-4494	163	429	32270
Hawaii	1294	-72	-50	6	15	6530	1.1	190	-1495	64	129	6723
Idaho	1056	-115	-124	2	4	8494	1.3	-798	-1287	131	43	8668
Illinois	9169	-1631	-149	10	25	134879	2.3	-4534	-1505	341	349	135569
Indiana	3098	-448	-425	10	9	25597	0.9	-1495	-2033	85	93	25775
Iowa	2001	-250	-11	1	4	21258	1.4	-2467	322	46	70	21374
Kansas	2010	-74	107	6	3	13193	1.0	-395	-3947	40	89	13322
Kentucky	2596	-858	-359	4	9	23765	1.3	-503	-453	84	276	24125
Louisiana	2791	-206	2	15	17	22685	1.2	-256	437	55	39	22779
Maine	909	-148	-279	0	1	10193	1.8	-557	-1727	46	34	10273
Maryland	3359	-723	-190	20	16	37869	1.6	-1830	-6170	291	241	38401
Massachusetts	7140	1653	2557	5	10	76064	2.3	-3809	-7090	170	302	76536
Michigan	5717	-1577	-4221	13	22	76607	1.9	-4627	-7230	185	186	76978
Minnesota	3262	-496	-228	3	8	52487	1.9	-7217	3841	99	142	52728
Mississippi	1532	-241	-312	1	4	11183	1.0	-14	-989	103	46	11332
Missouri	3520	-840	-1066	5	4	25273	1.0	-2393	-8550	108	94	25475
Montana	1080	-41	-5	12	2	9335	2.2	-1015	278	261	51	9647
Nebraska	654	-26	-227	2	1	4757	0.5	-447	-1756	20	17	4794
Nevada	2464	-407	-499	2	15	23885	2.0	-781	-3022	144	133	24162
New Hampshire	686	-156	26	1	1	5471	0.9	-85	-1116	5	19	5495
New Jersey	9763	-856	1218	18	18	102509	2.7	-10145	-16460	221	364	103094
New Mexico	1225	-85	60	6	3	13925	1.8	-102	-102	143	82	14150
New York	15659	-2519	-17641	19	58	166872	1.9	-6964	-36464	366	634	167872
North Carolina	3559	-284	-784	9	32	26070	0.6	472	-9002	118	250	26438
North Dakota	461	-158	22	0	0	6948	1.6	-1211	2111	12	9	6969
Ohio	6172	-1210	-529	8	37	69014	1.3	-4719	-4377	98	377	69489
Oklahoma	1848	-336	-218	9	17	23404	1.5	-73	2996	65	132	23601
Oregon	3442	-151	-754	13	12	29478	1.7	-363	-4849	416	206	30100
Pennsylvania	16076	-4270	-804	65	36	140842	2.5	-4357	-5355	476	546	141864
Puerto Rico	2126	476	181	2	19	22103	2.5	193	-2844	47	151	22301
Rhode Island	1075	-18	74	3	0	10294	2.2	-384	-1028	23	29	10346
South Carolina	2439	-627	-898	8	16	14540	0.8	-463	-1207	65	132	14737
South Dakota	208	-22	32	4	2	1923	0.5	-453	-173	24	12	1959
Tennessee	2558	-1267	-1072	11	14	22338	0.8	-1124	-3323	102	140	22580
Texas	16564	-2539	-2296	48	184	176156	1.5	3519	12131	400	2228	178784
Utah	1476	25	-142	7	4	10825	0.8	-456	-860	113	36	10974
Vermont	809	-151	-171	1	1	6020	2.0	-48	-20	22	3	6045
Virgin Islands	43	2	2	0	0	496	1.3	-40	-456	18	4	518
Virginia	3294	-792	58	9	23	29163	0.8	-1645	-288	253	498	29914
Washington	6924	-1134	-97	21	74	52521	1.7	-1797	-2046	349	841	53711
West Virginia	1152	-413	-149	2	4	18234	2.7	-209	2517	53	56	18343
Wisconsin	5912	-1526	-1797	3	5	45024	1.6	-5838	-12062	87	92	45203
Wyoming	699	-507	93	3	2	8303	3.0	195	2264	109	14	8426
Totals	242400	-28019	-37397	611	1068	2211971	1.6	-68459	-177940	9489	13765	2235225

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 16, 2016

STATES WITH AN INCREASE OF MORE THAN 1,000

State	Change	State Supplied Comment
MA	+1,653	Layoffs in the information industry.
CT	+1,105	No comment.
CA	+1,089	No comment.

STATES WITH A DECREASE OF MORE THAN 1,000

State	Change	State Supplied Comment
PA	-4,270	Fewer layoffs in the administrative, support, waste management and remediation service, construction, transportation and warehousing, and manufacturing industries.
TX	-2,539	No comment.
NY	-2,519	Fewer layoffs in the transportation and warehousing, accommodation and food service, real estate and rental and leasing industries.
IL	-1,631	No comment.
MI	-1,577	No comment.
WI	-1,526	No comment.
FL	-1,353	Fewer layoffs in the construction, manufacturing, wholesale trade, retail trade, and service industries.
TN	-1,267	No comment.
GA	-1,225	Fewer layoffs in the manufacturing, administrative, support, waste management and remediation service, and trade industries.
OH	-1,210	No comment.
AZ	-1,175	No comment.
WA	-1,134	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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