



News Release

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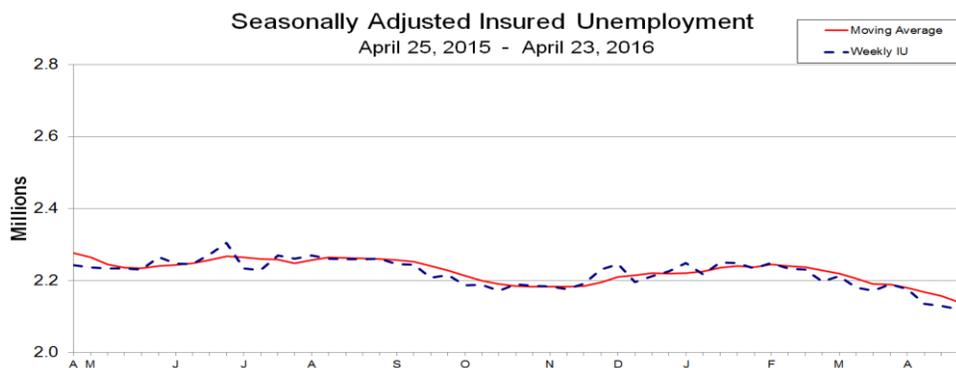
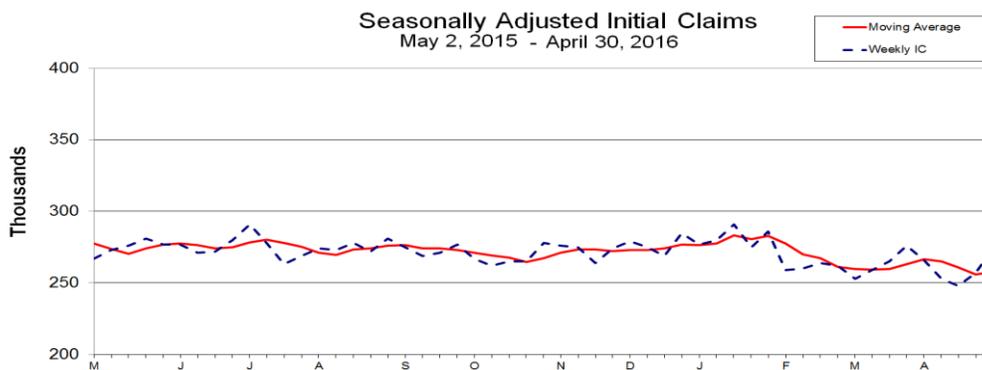
UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE WEEKLY CLAIMS

SEASONALLY ADJUSTED DATA

In the week ending April 30, the advance figure for seasonally adjusted **initial claims** was 274,000, an increase of 17,000 from the previous week's unrevised level of 257,000. The 4-week moving average was 258,000, an increase of 2,000 from the previous week's unrevised average of 256,000.

There were no special factors impacting this week's initial claims. This marks 61 consecutive weeks of initial claims below 300,000, the longest streak since 1973.

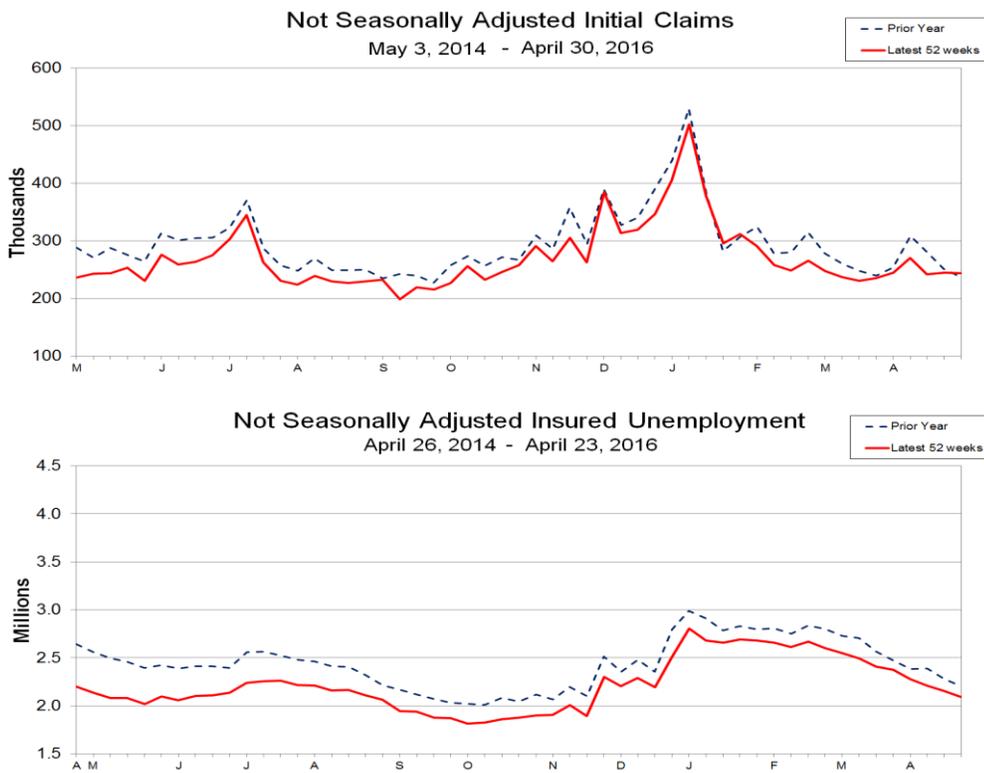
The advance seasonally adjusted **insured unemployment rate** was 1.5 percent for the week ending April 23, a decrease of 0.1 percentage point from the previous week's unrevised rate. The advance number for seasonally adjusted **insured unemployment** during the week ending April 23 was 2,121,000, a decrease of 8,000 from the previous week's unrevised level of 2,129,000. This is the lowest level for insured unemployment since November 4, 2000 when it was 2,110,000. The 4-week moving average was 2,140,250, a decrease of 17,000 from the previous week's unrevised average of 2,157,250. This is the lowest level for this average since November 11, 2000 when it was 2,119,750.



UNADJUSTED DATA

The advance number of actual initial claims under state programs, unadjusted, totaled 243,365 in the week ending April 30, a decrease of 1,675 (or -0.7 percent) from the previous week. The seasonal factors had expected a decrease of 16,970 (or -6.9 percent) from the previous week. There were 236,421 initial claims in the comparable week in 2015.

The advance unadjusted insured unemployment rate was 1.5 percent during the week ending April 23, a decrease of 0.1 percentage point from the prior week. The advance unadjusted number for persons claiming UI benefits in state programs totaled 2,091,255, a decrease of 63,353 (or -2.9 percent) from the preceding week. The seasonal factors had expected a decrease of 55,356 (or -2.6 percent) from the previous week. A year earlier the rate was 1.6 percent and the volume was 2,199,763.



The total number of people claiming benefits in all programs for the week ending April 16 was 2,198,093, a decrease of 57,585 from the previous week. There were 2,334,281 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 16.

Initial claims for UI benefits filed by former Federal civilian employees totaled 661 in the week ending April 23, an increase of 50 from the prior week. There were 963 initial claims filed by newly discharged veterans, a decrease of 105 from the preceding week.

There were 9,659 former Federal civilian employees claiming UI benefits for the week ending April 16, an increase of 170 from the previous week. Newly discharged veterans claiming benefits totaled 13,869, an increase of 104 from the prior week.

The highest insured unemployment rates in the week ending April 16 were in Alaska (3.9), Wyoming (3.1), New Jersey (2.6), West Virginia (2.6), California (2.5), Connecticut (2.5), Puerto Rico (2.5), Pennsylvania (2.4), Illinois (2.2), and Massachusetts (2.2).

The largest increases in initial claims for the week ending April 23 were in Illinois (+4,989), Massachusetts (+3,173), Rhode Island (+1,724), Kansas (+597), and Iowa (+488), while the largest decreases were in California (-3,546), New Jersey (-1,288), Pennsylvania (-1,020), Puerto Rico (-685), and Washington (-674).

UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE DATA FOR REGULAR STATE PROGRAMS

WEEK ENDING	April 30	April 23	Change	April 16	<u>Prior Year</u>¹
Initial Claims (SA)	274,000	257,000	+17,000	248,000	267,000
Initial Claims (NSA)	243,365	245,040	-1,675	242,400	236,421
4-Wk Moving Average (SA)	258,000	256,000	+2,000	260,750	277,750
WEEK ENDING	April 23	April 16	Change	April 9	<u>Prior Year</u>¹
Insured Unemployment (SA)	2,121,000	2,129,000	-8,000	2,135,000	2,242,000
Insured Unemployment (NSA)	2,091,255	2,154,608	-63,353	2,211,971	2,199,763
4-Wk Moving Average (SA)	2,140,250	2,157,250	-17,000	2,168,000	2,275,750
<u>Insured Unemployment Rate (SA)</u> ²	1.5%	1.6%	-0.1	1.6%	1.7%
<u>Insured Unemployment Rate (NSA)</u> ²	1.5%	1.6%	-0.1	1.6%	1.6%

INITIAL CLAIMS FILED IN FEDERAL PROGRAMS (UNADJUSTED)

WEEK ENDING	April 23	April 16	Change	<u>Prior Year</u>¹
Federal Employees (UCFE)	661	611	+50	827
Newly Discharged Veterans (UCX)	963	1,068	-105	1,267

PERSONS CLAIMING UI BENEFITS IN ALL PROGRAMS (UNADJUSTED)

WEEK ENDING	April 16	April 9	Change	<u>Prior Year</u>¹
Regular State	2,149,426	2,206,422	-56,996	2,276,387
Federal Employees	9,659	9,489	+170	12,246
Newly Discharged Veterans	13,869	13,765	+104	20,638
<u>Extended Benefits</u> ³	0	0	0	0
<u>State Additional Benefits</u> ⁴	8,184	8,080	+104	8,213
<u>STC / Workshare</u> ⁵	16,955	17,922	-967	16,797
<u>TOTAL</u>	2,198,093	2,255,678	-57,585	2,334,281

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 30			Insured Unemployment For Week Ended April 23		
	Advance	Prior Wk	Change	Advance	Prior Wk	Change
Alabama	2,291	2,579	-288	18,604	19,962	-1,358
Alaska	1,356	1,134	222	11,546	12,455	-909
Arizona	4,517	6,083	-1,566	28,909	30,693	-1,784
Arkansas	1,943	2,375	-432	15,192	15,968	-776
California	43,170	46,601	-3,431	386,079	393,885	-7,806
Colorado	2,569	2,951	-382	30,723	29,585	1,138
Connecticut	3,114	5,043	-1,929	40,743	40,708	35
Delaware	478	538	-60	6,064	6,087	-23
*District of Columbia	351	334	17	7,234	7,390	-156
Florida	7,105	7,312	-207	39,855	47,643	-7,788
Georgia	5,299	6,030	-731	28,380	30,467	-2,087
Hawaii	1,220	1,210	10	6,964	6,521	443
Idaho	947	959	-12	6,520	7,896	-1,376
Illinois	9,806	14,158	-4,352	120,653	126,846	-6,193
Indiana	2,875	2,939	-64	23,130	23,158	-28
Iowa	2,875	2,489	386	20,254	19,226	1,028
Kansas	5,753	2,607	3,146	13,795	12,970	825
Kentucky	2,847	2,551	296	22,328	22,729	-401
Louisiana	2,162	2,684	-522	22,978	22,687	291
Maine	968	807	161	8,881	9,448	-567
Maryland	3,055	3,230	-175	32,469	36,889	-4,420
Massachusetts	5,337	10,313	-4,976	75,469	72,354	3,115
Michigan	8,988	5,152	3,836	59,325	67,981	-8,656
Minnesota	3,306	2,978	328	45,506	46,144	-638
Mississippi	1,256	1,437	-181	9,987	11,228	-1,241
Missouri	4,928	3,841	1,087	21,858	23,703	-1,845
Montana	922	979	-57	8,020	8,868	-848
Nebraska	711	774	-63	4,467	4,443	24
Nevada	2,733	2,463	270	21,307	23,547	-2,240
New Hampshire	1,115	691	424	4,672	5,261	-589
New Jersey	9,071	8,475	596	96,515	99,552	-3,037
New Mexico	977	1,135	-158	13,348	13,739	-391
New York	18,606	15,644	2,962	155,085	157,769	-2,684
North Carolina	3,580	3,482	98	23,785	25,413	-1,628
North Dakota	882	511	371	9,029	6,175	2,854
Ohio	10,099	6,522	3,577	61,907	64,985	-3,078
Oklahoma	1,826	2,041	-215	23,076	23,463	-387
Oregon	3,808	3,871	-63	28,376	28,839	-463
Pennsylvania	15,008	15,056	-48	129,715	136,040	-6,325
Puerto Rico	1,520	1,441	79	20,587	22,065	-1,478
Rhode Island	851	2,799	-1,948	10,997	9,596	1,401
South Carolina	2,284	2,379	-95	13,225	14,029	-804
South Dakota	188	183	5	1,482	1,657	-175
Tennessee	3,746	2,522	1,224	20,112	21,536	-1,424
Texas	16,388	16,288	100	181,651	181,331	320
Utah	1,292	1,313	-21	10,390	10,605	-215
Vermont	506	1,168	-662	6,287	5,753	534
Virgin Islands	15	39	-24	420	512	-92
Virginia	4,673	3,222	1,451	29,939	28,823	1,116
Washington	6,570	6,250	320	51,134	50,223	911
West Virginia	1,244	1,436	-192	17,783	17,281	502
Wisconsin	5,311	5,418	-107	36,926	39,796	-2,870
Wyoming	923	603	320	7,574	8,684	-1,110
US Total	243,365	245,040	-1,675	2,091,255	2,154,608	-63,353

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.

*Denotes OUI staff estimate.

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 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	2,129	-6	2,157.25	1.6
April 23, 2016	257	9	256.00	2,121	-8	2,140.25	1.5
April 30, 2016	274	17	258.00				

Initial Claims Filed During Week Ended April 23										Insured Unemployment For Week Ended April 16			
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	2579	-47	-1033	13	11	19962	1.1	-199	-3083	63	153	20178	
Alaska	1134	-159	-55	8	2	12455	3.9	-207	1150	108	40	12603	
Arizona	6083	255	1235	3	11	30693	1.2	1753	-2674	158	138	30989	
Arkansas	2375	320	-467	5	4	15968	1.4	161	-5149	74	108	16150	
California	46601	-3546	-702	137	172	393885	2.5	9296	-17815	2447	2825	399157	
Colorado	2951	-255	-9	12	33	29585	1.2	-527	-3438	186	566	30337	
Connecticut	5043	291	906	7	16	40708	2.5	-87	-5755	55	112	40875	
Delaware	538	-66	-70	1	3	6087	1.4	-180	-343	22	20	6129	
District of Columbia	334	87	19	5	0	7390	1.4	-35	-520	283	11	7684	
Florida	7312	-64	-1829	16	53	47643	0.6	635	-12684	155	315	48113	
Georgia	6030	-414	-1322	29	43	30467	0.8	-1211	-5950	205	422	31094	
Hawaii	1210	-84	-94	3	10	6521	1.1	-9	-1074	74	115	6710	
Idaho	959	-97	-190	1	1	7896	1.2	-598	-1260	111	45	8052	
Illinois	14158	4989	4347	16	16	126846	2.2	-8033	280	352	406	127604	
Indiana	2939	-159	-426	5	10	23158	0.8	-2439	-2381	90	94	23342	
Iowa	2489	488	422	2	5	19226	1.3	-2032	559	59	64	19349	
Kansas	2607	597	737	5	5	12970	1.0	-223	-2231	39	83	13092	
Kentucky	2551	-45	-67	2	5	22729	1.3	-1036	-2689	106	265	23100	
Louisiana	2684	-107	-53	11	9	22687	1.2	2	-122	56	42	22785	
Maine	807	-102	-232	0	0	9448	1.6	-745	-1763	41	31	9520	
Maryland	3230	-129	-262	21	16	36889	1.5	-980	-4664	270	228	37387	
Massachusetts	10313	3173	1212	13	18	72354	2.2	-3710	-3902	164	279	72797	
Michigan	5152	-565	-607	10	15	67981	1.7	-8626	-3961	205	189	68375	
Minnesota	2978	-284	-482	6	1	46144	1.7	-6343	2780	84	139	46367	
Mississippi	1437	-95	-205	2	2	11228	1.0	45	-922	105	50	11383	
Missouri	3841	321	-358	8	3	23703	0.9	-1570	-7522	86	95	23884	
Montana	979	-101	6	5	3	8868	2.0	-467	318	203	48	9119	
Nebraska	774	120	7	3	3	4443	0.5	-314	-1639	18	21	4482	
Nevada	2463	-1	-735	6	11	23547	1.9	-338	-2527	140	134	23821	
New Hampshire	691	5	-93	1	3	5261	0.8	-210	-839	3	22	5286	
New Jersey	8475	-1288	984	16	26	99552	2.6	-2957	-6828	216	379	100147	
New Mexico	1135	-90	33	5	9	13739	1.8	-186	-133	151	70	13960	
New York	15644	-15	-151	38	42	157769	1.8	-9103	-14893	368	667	158804	
North Carolina	3482	-77	-621	10	29	25413	0.6	-657	-9129	110	251	25774	
North Dakota	511	50	56	3	1	6175	1.4	-773	2076	4	13	6192	
Ohio	6522	350	-699	12	20	64985	1.3	-4029	-2373	115	358	65458	
Oklahoma	2041	193	17	10	12	23463	1.5	59	2644	61	131	23655	
Oregon	3871	429	-387	21	11	28839	1.7	-639	-4183	388	185	29412	
Pennsylvania	15056	-1020	-74	84	43	136040	2.4	-4802	-1584	528	487	137055	
Puerto Rico	1441	-685	-537	1	9	22065	2.5	-38	-2322	42	212	22319	
Rhode Island	2799	1724	-301	0	2	9596	2.1	-698	-558	30	28	9654	
South Carolina	2379	-60	-319	3	15	14029	0.7	-511	-1283	68	128	14225	
South Dakota	183	-25	-37	13	1	1657	0.4	-266	33	26	13	1696	
Tennessee	2522	-36	-1211	12	12	21536	0.8	-802	-3505	106	134	21776	
Texas	16288	-276	-1084	34	134	181331	1.6	5175	15179	496	2224	184051	
Utah	1313	-163	-248	6	9	10605	0.8	-220	-884	91	33	10729	
Vermont	1168	359	81	2	0	5753	1.9	-267	-277	25	2	5780	
Virgin Islands	39	-4	7	0	0	512	1.4	16	-236	6	10	528	
Virginia	3222	-72	167	11	18	28823	0.8	-340	141	256	494	29573	
Washington	6250	-674	-12	15	76	50223	1.7	-2298	-2345	375	840	51438	
West Virginia	1436	284	153	0	5	17281	2.6	-953	1554	49	53	17383	
Wisconsin	5418	-494	-1278	7	3	39796	1.4	-5228	-10239	96	65	39957	
Wyoming	603	-96	121	2	2	8684	3.1	381	2503	90	32	8806	
Totals	245040	2640	-5740	661	963	2154608	1.6	-57363	-126462	9659	13869	2178136	

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 23, 2016

STATES WITH AN INCREASE OF MORE THAN 1,000

State	Change	State Supplied Comment
IL	+4,989	Layoffs in the manufacturing, construction, and administrative, support, waste management and remediation service industries.
MA	+3,173	Layoffs in the educational service, transportation and warehousing, and accommodation and food service industries.
RI	+1,724	Layoffs in the business service and manufacturing industries.

STATES WITH A DECREASE OF MORE THAN 1,000

State	Change	State Supplied Comment
CA	-3,546	Fewer layoffs in the agriculture, forestry, fishing and hunting industry.
NJ	-1,288	Fewer layoffs in the administrative, support, waste management and remediation service, construction, retail trade, health care and social assistance, and accommodation and food service industries.
PA	-1,020	Fewer layoffs in the construction, administrative, support, waste management and remediation service, and manufacturing 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](#)

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).

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