



News Release

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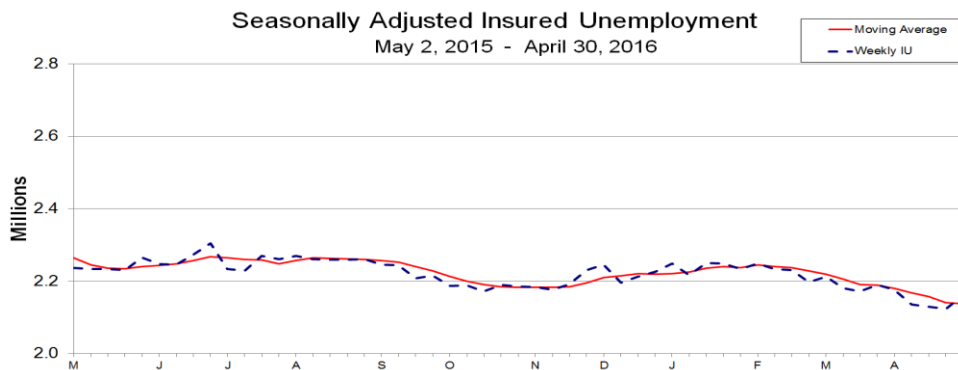
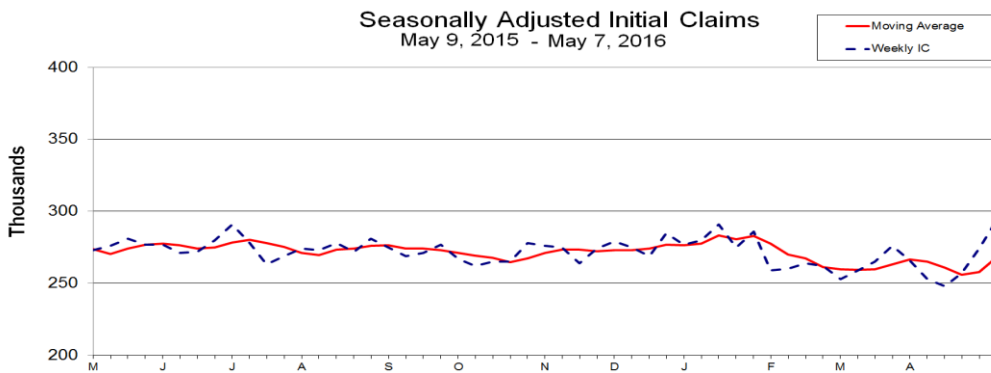
UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE WEEKLY CLAIMS

SEASONALLY ADJUSTED DATA

In the week ending May 7, the advance figure for seasonally adjusted **initial claims** was 294,000, an increase of 20,000 from the previous week's unrevised level of 274,000. This is the highest level for initial claims since February 28, 2015 when it was 310,000. The 4-week moving average was 268,250, an increase of 10,250 from the previous week's unrevised average of 258,000.

There were no special factors impacting this week's initial claims. This marks 62 consecutive weeks of initial claims below 300,000, the longest streak since 1973.

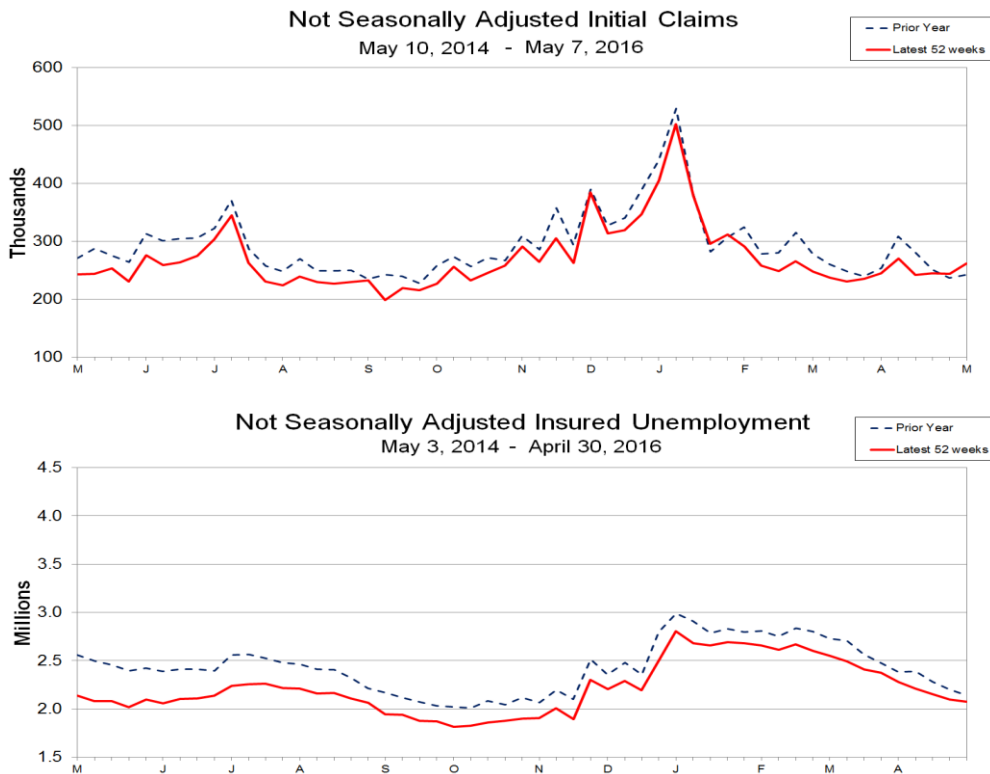
The advance seasonally adjusted **insured unemployment rate** was 1.6 percent for the week ending April 30, unchanged from the previous week's revised rate. The previous week's rate was revised up by 0.1 from 1.5 to 1.6 percent. The advance number for seasonally adjusted **insured unemployment** during the week ending April 30 was 2,161,000, an increase of 37,000 from the previous week's revised level. This is the highest level for insured unemployment since April 2, 2016 when it was 2,176,000. The previous week's level was revised up 3,000 from 2,121,000 to 2,124,000. The 4-week moving average was 2,137,250, a decrease of 3,750 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 up by 750 from 2,140,250 to 2,141,000.



UNADJUSTED DATA

The advance number of actual initial claims under state programs, unadjusted, totaled 261,840 in the week ending May 7, an increase of 18,389 (or 7.6 percent) from the previous week. The seasonal factors had expected an increase of 1,372 (or 0.6 percent) from the previous week. There were 242,882 initial claims in the comparable week in 2015.

The advance unadjusted insured unemployment rate was 1.5 percent during the week ending April 30, unchanged from the prior week. The advance unadjusted number for persons claiming UI benefits in state programs totaled 2,076,579, a decrease of 17,801 (or -0.8 percent) from the preceding week. The seasonal factors had expected a decrease of 53,103 (or -2.5 percent) from the previous week. A year earlier the rate was 1.6 percent and the volume was 2,138,615.



The total number of people claiming benefits in all programs for the week ending April 23 was 2,136,101, a decrease of 61,992 from the previous week. There were 2,254,647 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 23.

Initial claims for UI benefits filed by former Federal civilian employees totaled 614 in the week ending April 30, a decrease of 47 from the prior week. There were 986 initial claims filed by newly discharged veterans, an increase of 23 from the preceding week.

There were 8,637 former Federal civilian employees claiming UI benefits for the week ending April 23, a decrease of 1,022 from the previous week. Newly discharged veterans claiming benefits totaled 13,679, a decrease of 190 from the prior week.

The highest insured unemployment rates in the week ending April 23 were in Alaska (3.7), Wyoming (2.9), New Jersey (2.5), Puerto Rico (2.5), West Virginia (2.5), California (2.4), Connecticut (2.4), Rhode Island (2.4), Massachusetts (2.3), and Pennsylvania (2.3).

The largest increases in initial claims for the week ending April 30 were in Michigan (+4,003), Ohio (+3,524), New York (+2,868), Kansas (+2,532), and Missouri (+1,551), while the largest decreases were in Massachusetts (-4,887), Illinois (-4,477), California (-3,927), Rhode Island (-1,940), and Connecticut (-1,934).

UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE DATA FOR REGULAR STATE PROGRAMS

WEEK ENDING	May 7	April 30	Change	April 23	<u>Prior Year</u>¹
Initial Claims (SA)	294,000	274,000	+20,000	257,000	273,000
Initial Claims (NSA)	261,840	243,451	+18,389	245,040	242,882
4-Wk Moving Average (SA)	268,250	258,000	+10,250	256,000	273,750
WEEK ENDING	April 30	April 23	Change	April 16	<u>Prior Year</u>¹
Insured Unemployment (SA)	2,161,000	2,124,000	+37,000	2,129,000	2,237,000
Insured Unemployment (NSA)	2,076,579	2,094,380	-17,801	2,154,608	2,138,615
4-Wk Moving Average (SA)	2,137,250	2,141,000	-3,750	2,157,250	2,264,500
<u>Insured Unemployment Rate (SA)</u> ²	1.6%	1.6%	0.0	1.6%	1.7%
<u>Insured Unemployment Rate (NSA)</u> ²	1.5%	1.5%	0.0	1.6%	1.6%

INITIAL CLAIMS FILED IN FEDERAL PROGRAMS (UNADJUSTED)

WEEK ENDING	April 30	April 23	Change	<u>Prior Year</u>¹
Federal Employees (UCFE)	614	661	-47	839
Newly Discharged Veterans (UCX)	986	963	+23	1,339

PERSONS CLAIMING UI BENEFITS IN ALL PROGRAMS (UNADJUSTED)

WEEK ENDING	April 23	April 16	Change	<u>Prior Year</u>¹
Regular State	2,089,222	2,149,426	-60,204	2,193,566
Federal Employees	8,637	9,659	-1,022	11,387
Newly Discharged Veterans	13,679	13,869	-190	19,481
<u>Extended Benefits</u> ³	0	0	0	0
<u>State Additional Benefits</u> ⁴	7,901	8,184	-283	8,052
<u>STC / Workshare</u> ⁵	16,662	16,955	-293	22,161
<u>TOTAL</u>	2,136,101	2,198,093	-61,992	2,254,647

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 May 7			Insured Unemployment For Week Ended April 30		
	Advance	Prior Wk	Change	Advance	Prior Wk	Change
Alabama	2,686	2,505	181	18,498	19,576	-1,078
Alaska	1,417	1,098	319	11,671	11,831	-160
Arizona	4,361	4,751	-390	29,216	32,257	-3,041
Arkansas	2,316	2,127	189	15,229	16,310	-1,081
California	42,251	42,674	-423	380,233	379,128	1,105
Colorado	2,684	2,560	124	30,366	30,042	324
Connecticut	3,351	3,109	242	37,069	39,549	-2,480
Delaware	569	513	56	5,890	6,783	-893
District of Columbia	593	303	290	6,938	7,256	-318
Florida	7,962	7,360	602	39,873	45,817	-5,944
Georgia	6,817	5,553	1,264	28,962	30,139	-1,177
Hawaii	1,245	1,188	57	7,009	6,743	266
Idaho	832	1,056	-224	6,180	7,565	-1,385
Illinois	10,439	9,681	758	127,515	119,376	8,139
Indiana	2,717	2,841	-124	21,871	22,995	-1,124
Iowa	2,497	2,495	2	19,797	19,170	627
Kansas	2,055	5,139	-3,084	16,145	13,296	2,849
Kentucky	2,964	2,797	167	21,654	22,483	-829
Louisiana	2,357	2,563	-206	22,770	22,854	-84
Maine	792	1,012	-220	7,762	8,956	-1,194
Maryland	3,757	3,316	441	32,202	35,516	-3,314
Massachusetts	5,461	5,426	35	66,997	77,929	-10,932
Michigan	12,277	9,155	3,122	52,866	61,208	-8,342
Minnesota	3,770	3,133	637	42,879	42,467	412
Mississippi	1,940	1,456	484	9,916	11,187	-1,271
Missouri	4,109	5,392	-1,283	20,830	23,251	-2,421
Montana	754	970	-216	7,612	8,683	-1,071
Nebraska	671	721	-50	4,351	4,420	-69
Nevada	2,548	2,594	-46	21,728	23,338	-1,610
New Hampshire	595	1,142	-547	4,879	5,047	-168
New Jersey	8,955	9,191	-236	94,859	95,171	-312
New Mexico	972	1,135	-163	13,301	14,059	-758
New York	33,159	18,512	14,647	169,526	153,301	16,225
North Carolina	4,053	3,393	660	23,670	25,174	-1,504
North Dakota	872	631	241	8,645	5,795	2,850
Ohio	7,585	10,046	-2,461	62,475	61,451	1,024
Oklahoma	2,057	1,813	244	22,950	23,586	-636
Oregon	3,241	3,813	-572	27,870	28,433	-563
Pennsylvania	18,583	15,003	3,580	128,320	127,495	825
Puerto Rico	1,733	1,579	154	19,519	22,021	-2,502
Rhode Island	756	859	-103	9,021	10,855	-1,834
South Carolina	2,855	2,353	502	13,451	13,875	-424
South Dakota	186	202	-16	1,452	1,577	-125
Tennessee	2,826	4,068	-1,242	20,995	21,289	-294
Texas	17,415	16,133	1,282	183,961	178,982	4,979
Utah	1,237	1,263	-26	10,239	10,372	-133
Vermont	511	523	-12	5,250	6,020	-770
Virgin Islands	39	16	23	556	416	140
Virginia	3,923	4,436	-513	30,938	28,655	2,283
Washington	6,982	6,298	684	50,325	49,225	1,100
West Virginia	1,297	1,368	-71	17,842	17,048	794
Wisconsin	5,134	5,330	-196	34,564	36,380	-1,816
Wyoming	682	856	-174	7,942	8,028	-86
US Total	261,840	243,451	18,389	2,076,579	2,094,380	-17,801

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		
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	2,124	-5	2,141.00	1.6	
April 30, 2016	274	17	258.00	2,161	37	2,137.25	1.6	
May 7, 2016	294	20	268.25					

Initial Claims Filed During Week Ended April 30											Insured Unemployment For Week Ended April 23			
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	2505	-74	-459	7	12	19576	1.1	-386	-2582	52	144	19772		
Alaska	1098	-36	15	5	2	11831	3.7	-624	579	103	51	11985		
Arizona	4751	-1332	188	2	4	32257	1.3	1564	-1653	147	125	32529		
Arkansas	2127	-248	-188	7	4	16310	1.4	342	-4629	69	103	16482		
California	42674	-3927	-2876	136	155	379128	2.4	-14757	-14771	2143	2596	383867		
Colorado	2560	-391	-177	10	49	30042	1.2	457	-2839	182	604	30828		
Connecticut	3109	-1934	86	6	9	39549	2.4	-1159	-751	71	122	39742		
Delaware	513	-25	-94	0	2	6783	1.6	696	-608	19	20	6822		
District of Columbia	303	-31	16	5	0	7256	1.3	-134	-596	252	9	7517		
Florida	7360	48	-1056	15	51	45817	0.6	-1826	-16234	130	328	46275		
Georgia	5553	-477	2	24	52	30139	0.7	-328	-5030	183	393	30715		
Hawaii	1188	-22	-173	4	17	6743	1.1	222	-1276	57	132	6932		
Idaho	1056	97	-88	5	6	7565	1.2	-331	-1296	93	40	7698		
Illinois	9681	-4477	509	13	24	119376	2.1	-7470	452	329	380	120085		
Indiana	2841	-98	-579	12	12	22995	0.8	-163	-1152	85	99	23179		
Iowa	2495	6	312	6	3	19170	1.3	-56	1488	47	67	19284		
Kansas	5139	2532	3188	2	16	13296	1.0	326	-1888	33	85	13414		
Kentucky	2797	246	223	5	7	22483	1.3	-246	-311	77	261	22821		
Louisiana	2563	-121	65	2	3	22854	1.2	167	215	52	42	22948		
Maine	1012	205	-82	4	1	8956	1.5	-492	-1896	24	24	9004		
Maryland	3316	86	-134	27	12	35516	1.5	-1373	-4791	274	225	36015		
Massachusetts	5426	-4887	516	17	19	77929	2.3	5575	1527	165	279	78373		
Michigan	9155	4003	3719	6	16	61208	1.5	-6773	-3491	155	198	61561		
Minnesota	3133	155	-475	4	9	42467	1.6	-3677	2348	73	140	42680		
Mississippi	1456	19	-142	0	3	11187	1.0	-41	-1004	93	47	11327		
Missouri	5392	1551	1128	8	4	23251	0.9	-452	-7014	107	82	23440		
Montana	970	-9	62	5	0	8683	2.0	-185	604	180	51	8914		
Nebraska	721	-53	-102	1	2	4420	0.5	-23	-1434	16	20	4456		
Nevada	2594	131	-595	3	2	23338	1.9	-209	-2990	127	139	23604		
New Hampshire	1142	451	-157	0	1	5047	0.8	-214	-839	4	19	5070		
New Jersey	9191	716	1966	24	21	95171	2.5	-4381	-5605	218	350	95739		
New Mexico	1135	0	34	5	9	14059	1.8	320	-167	151	82	14292		
New York	18512	2868	1907	42	37	153301	1.7	-4468	-12732	366	622	154289		
North Carolina	3393	-89	-747	10	34	25174	0.6	-239	-9269	98	265	25537		
North Dakota	631	120	176	0	0	5795	1.3	-380	2019	5	12	5812		
Ohio	10046	3524	3291	8	35	61451	1.2	-3534	-1893	88	349	61888		
Oklahoma	1813	-228	-141	6	7	23586	1.5	123	2318	56	128	23770		
Oregon	3813	-58	-1078	14	16	28433	1.6	-406	-4100	312	189	28934		
Pennsylvania	15003	-53	-460	65	44	127495	2.3	-8545	371	447	527	128469		
Puerto Rico	1579	138	-188	1	6	22021	2.5	-44	-2842	49	183	22253		
Rhode Island	859	-1940	40	3	2	10855	2.4	1259	-786	25	25	10905		
South Carolina	2353	-26	-120	4	9	13875	0.7	-154	-963	62	142	14079		
South Dakota	202	19	30	2	1	1577	0.4	-80	-12	25	12	1614		
Tennessee	4068	1546	643	7	17	21289	0.8	-247	-3309	107	146	21542		
Texas	16133	-155	-1095	31	150	178982	1.6	-2349	12301	450	2334	181766		
Utah	1263	-50	-101	7	2	10372	0.8	-233	-901	74	32	10478		
Vermont	523	-645	8	5	1	6020	2.0	267	8	22	4	6046		
Virgin Islands	16	-23	-34	0	0	416	1.1	-96	-484	4	4	424		
Virginia	4436	1214	1070	18	16	28655	0.8	-168	975	243	480	29378		
Washington	6298	48	-20	12	68	49225	1.6	-998	-2266	281	823	50329		
West Virginia	1368	-68	218	1	3	17048	2.5	-233	2149	48	55	17151		
Wisconsin	5330	-88	-1484	6	8	36380	1.3	-3416	-10518	73	80	36533		
Wyoming	856	253	463	2	3	8028	2.9	-656	2185	91	10	8129		
Totals	243451	-1589	7030	614	986	2094380	1.5	-60228	-105383	8637	13679	2116696		

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 30, 2016

STATES WITH AN INCREASE OF MORE THAN 1,000

State	Change	State Supplied Comment
MI	+4,003	Layoffs in the manufacturing industry.
OH	+3,524	No comment.
NY	+2,868	Layoffs in the information, transportation and warehousing, and manufacturing industries.
KS	+2,532	Layoffs in the manufacturing industry.
MO	+1,551	Layoffs in the administrative, support, waste management and remediation service, manufacturing, and accommodation and food service industries.
TN	+1,546	No comment.
VA	+1,214	Layoffs in the manufacturing industry.

STATES WITH A DECREASE OF MORE THAN 1,000

State	Change	State Supplied Comment
MA	-4,887	Fewer layoffs in the education, transportation and warehousing, and accommodation and food service industries.
IL	-4,477	No comment.
CA	-3,927	Fewer layoffs in the service industry.
RI	-1,940	No comment.
CT	-1,934	No comment.
AZ	-1,332	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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