



# News Release

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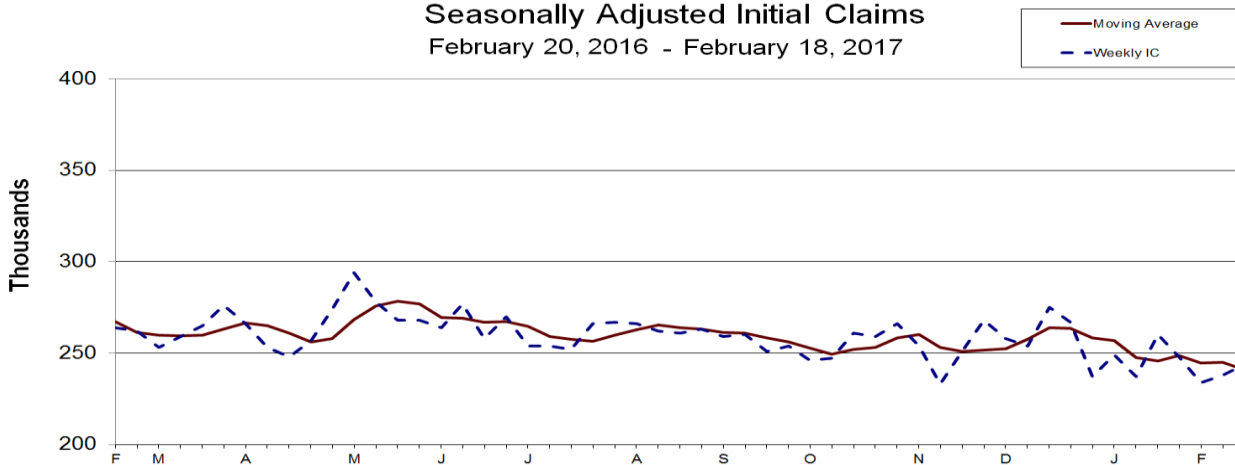
## UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE WEEKLY CLAIMS

### SEASONALLY ADJUSTED DATA

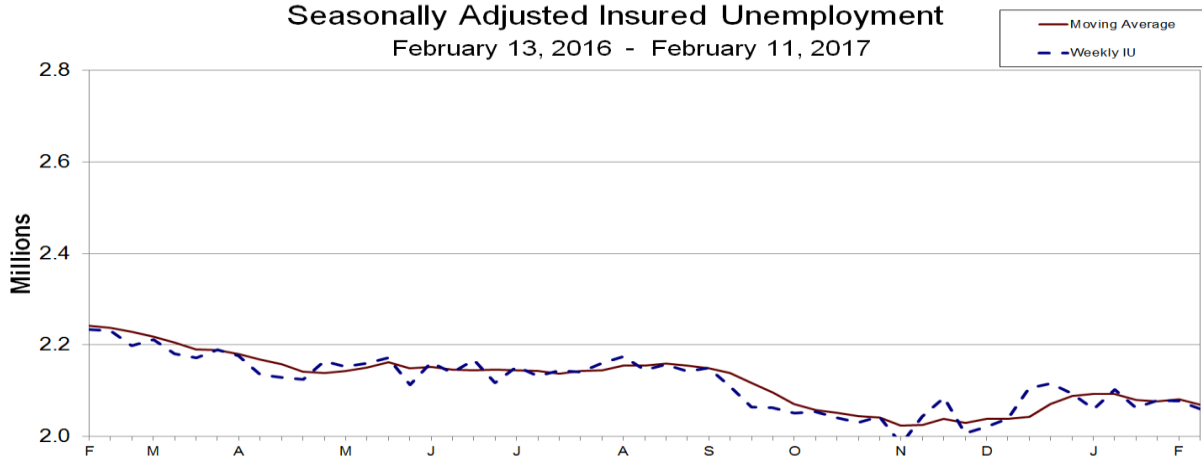
In the week ending February 18, the advance figure for seasonally adjusted **initial claims** was 244,000, an increase of 6,000 from the previous week's revised level. The previous week's level was revised down by 1,000 from 239,000 to 238,000. The 4-week moving average was 241,000, a decrease of 4,000 from the previous week's revised average. This is the lowest level for this average since July 21, 1973 when it was 239,500. The previous week's average was revised down by 250 from 245,250 to 245,000.

The advance seasonally adjusted **insured unemployment rate** was 1.5 percent for the week ending February 11, unchanged from the previous week's unrevised rate. The advance number for seasonally adjusted **insured unemployment** during the week ending February 11 was 2,060,000, a decrease of 17,000 from the previous week's revised level. The previous week's level was revised up 1,000 from 2,076,000 to 2,077,000. The 4-week moving average was 2,069,750, a decrease of 10,750 from the previous week's revised average. The previous week's average was revised up by 250 from 2,080,250 to 2,080,500.

Seasonally Adjusted Initial Claims  
February 20, 2016 - February 18, 2017



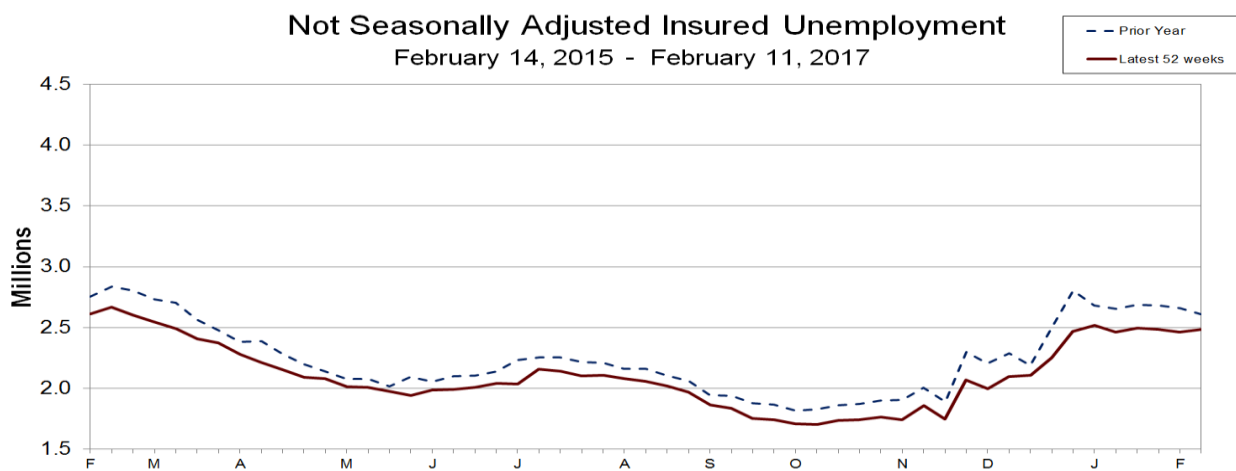
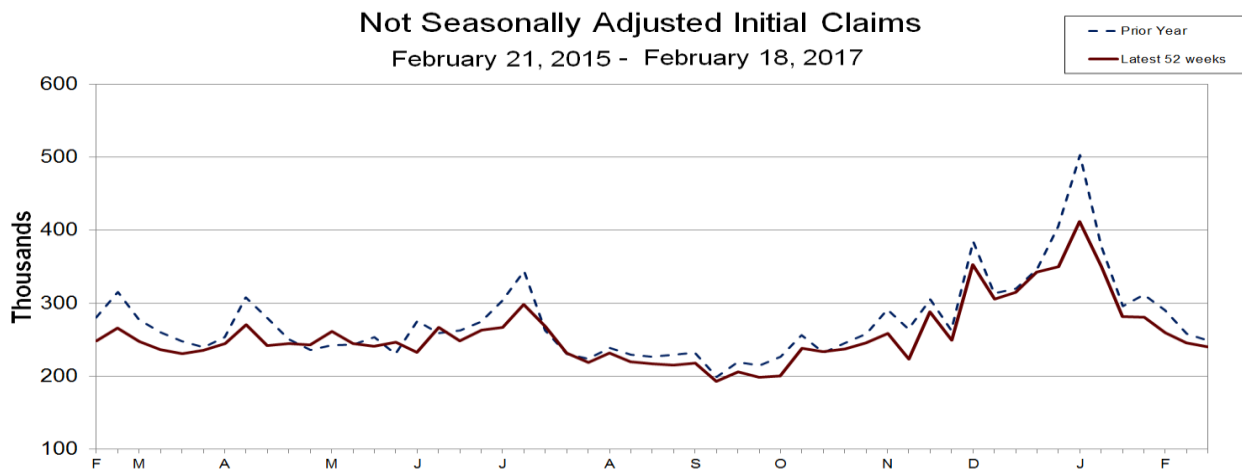
Seasonally Adjusted Insured Unemployment  
February 13, 2016 - February 11, 2017



## UNADJUSTED DATA

The advance number of actual initial claims under state programs, unadjusted, totaled 240,527 in the week ending February 18, a decrease of 5,359 (or -2.2 percent) from the previous week. The seasonal factors had expected a decrease of 10,494 (or -4.3 percent) from the previous week. There were 248,870 initial claims in the comparable week in 2016.

The advance unadjusted insured unemployment rate was 1.8 percent during the week ending February 11, unchanged from the prior week. The advance unadjusted number for persons claiming UI benefits in state programs totaled 2,486,286, an increase of 21,436 (or 0.9 percent) from the preceding week. The seasonal factors had expected an increase of 41,531 (or 1.7 percent) from the previous week. A year earlier the rate was 1.9 percent and the volume was 2,612,427.



The total number of people claiming benefits in all programs for the week ending February 4 was 2,508,785, a decrease of 18,035 from the previous week. There were 2,707,925 persons claiming benefits in all programs in the comparable week in 2016.

No state was triggered "on" the Extended Benefits program during the week ending February 4.

Initial claims for UI benefits filed by former Federal civilian employees totaled 888 in the week ending February 11, a decrease of 196 from the prior week. There were 798 initial claims filed by newly discharged veterans, a decrease of 185 from the preceding week.

There were 14,759 former Federal civilian employees claiming UI benefits for the week ending February 4, an increase of 985 from the previous week. Newly discharged veterans claiming benefits totaled 11,857, a decrease of 185 from the prior week.

The highest insured unemployment rates in the week ending February 4 were in Alaska (4.5), Montana (3.1), New Jersey (3.1), Connecticut (2.9), Rhode Island (2.8), Illinois (2.7), Massachusetts (2.7), Pennsylvania (2.7), Puerto Rico (2.7), and California (2.6).

The largest increases in initial claims for the week ending February 11 were in California (+4,213), Washington (+1,561), Oregon (+431), Virginia (+227), and Montana (+94), while the largest decreases were in Pennsylvania (-2,556), New Jersey (-2,301), New York (-1,410), Illinois (-1,353), and Michigan (-1,332).

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UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE DATA FOR REGULAR STATE PROGRAMS

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WEEK ENDING	February 18	February 11	Change	February 4	<u>Prior Year</u> <sup>1</sup>
Initial Claims (SA)	244,000	238,000	+6,000	234,000	264,000
Initial Claims (NSA)	240,527	245,886	-5,359	259,713	248,870
4-Wk Moving Average (SA)	241,000	245,000	-4,000	244,750	267,250
WEEK ENDING	February 11	February 4	Change	January 28	<u>Prior Year</u> <sup>1</sup>
Insured Unemployment (SA)	2,060,000	2,077,000	-17,000	2,079,000	2,233,000
Insured Unemployment (NSA)	2,486,286	2,464,850	+21,436	2,482,789	2,612,427
4-Wk Moving Average (SA)	2,069,750	2,080,500	-10,750	2,076,000	2,241,000
<u>Insured Unemployment Rate (SA)</u> <sup>2</sup>	1.5%	1.5%	0.0	1.5%	1.6%
<u>Insured Unemployment Rate (NSA)</u> <sup>2</sup>	1.8%	1.8%	0.0	1.8%	1.9%

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INITIAL CLAIMS FILED IN FEDERAL PROGRAMS (UNADJUSTED)

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WEEK ENDING	February 11	February 4	Change	<u>Prior Year</u> <sup>1</sup>
Federal Employees (UCFE)	888	1,084	-196	772
Newly Discharged Veterans (UCX)	798	983	-185	1,016

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PERSONS CLAIMING UI BENEFITS IN ALL PROGRAMS (UNADJUSTED)

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WEEK ENDING	February 4	January 28	Change	<u>Prior Year</u> <sup>1</sup>
Regular State	2,460,976	2,478,304	-17,328	2,652,816
Federal Employees	14,759	13,774	+985	14,534
Newly Discharged Veterans	11,857	12,042	-185	15,677
<u>Extended Benefits</u> <sup>3</sup>	0	0	0	0
<u>State Additional Benefits</u> <sup>4</sup>	7,576	7,525	+51	7,869
<u>STC / Workshare</u> <sup>5</sup>	13,617	15,175	-1,558	17,029
<u>TOTAL</u>	2,508,785	2,526,820	-18,035	2,707,925

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 138,930,224 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 February 18			Insured Unemployment For Week Ended February 11		
	Advance	Prior Wk	Change	Advance	Prior Wk	Change
Alabama	2,365	2,412	-47	19,038	19,773	-735
Alaska	1,246	1,340	-94	13,802	14,251	-449
Arizona	3,518	4,003	-485	22,968	25,778	-2,810
Arkansas	1,518	1,671	-153	14,974	16,158	-1,184
California	49,143	49,677	-534	437,235	422,195	15,040
Colorado	2,124	2,403	-279	31,366	29,210	2,156
Connecticut	3,685	3,120	565	50,604	47,101	3,503
Delaware	645	694	-49	7,702	7,380	322
District of Columbia	532	330	202	8,272	8,865	-593
Florida	6,493	7,506	-1,013	37,268	44,433	-7,165
Georgia	6,230	6,260	-30	31,783	33,903	-2,120
*Hawaii	1,136	1,313	-177	7,509	7,780	-271
Idaho	1,258	1,492	-234	14,119	14,931	-812
Illinois	9,040	9,625	-585	159,510	153,934	5,576
Indiana	2,785	3,209	-424	32,786	32,842	-56
Iowa	2,616	2,376	240	36,582	34,599	1,983
Kansas	2,093	2,221	-128	15,166	14,709	457
Kentucky	2,654	2,790	-136	25,379	25,018	361
Louisiana	2,105	2,230	-125	20,727	21,123	-396
Maine	668	766	-98	10,420	10,604	-184
Maryland	3,237	3,917	-680	40,174	43,748	-3,574
Massachusetts	6,351	5,766	585	90,774	91,481	-707
Michigan	9,653	8,392	1,261	93,972	96,609	-2,637
Minnesota	3,792	3,930	-138	70,725	68,764	1,961
Mississippi	916	1,203	-287	9,973	11,937	-1,964
Missouri	4,526	3,819	707	32,690	34,905	-2,215
Montana	872	1,035	-163	13,883	13,614	269
Nebraska	642	785	-143	8,494	8,687	-193
Nevada	2,911	2,755	156	24,173	25,208	-1,035
New Hampshire	503	590	-87	5,326	5,833	-507
New Jersey	9,957	8,834	1,123	125,619	119,277	6,342
New Mexico	827	1,005	-178	12,374	12,884	-510
New York	17,183	17,202	-19	189,160	184,693	4,467
North Carolina	3,275	3,465	-190	26,067	27,552	-1,485
North Dakota	622	564	58	11,487	9,234	2,253
Ohio	7,133	8,288	-1,155	86,406	87,131	-725
Oklahoma	1,305	1,611	-306	17,285	18,178	-893
Oregon	4,326	5,058	-732	35,050	34,496	554
Pennsylvania	16,202	16,103	99	163,432	152,885	10,547
Puerto Rico	2,065	1,971	94	20,757	23,809	-3,052
Rhode Island	1,218	944	274	13,259	12,928	331
South Carolina	1,995	2,210	-215	15,894	16,823	-929
South Dakota	223	358	-135	3,857	3,918	-61
Tennessee	2,264	2,856	-592	22,102	22,927	-825
Texas	13,972	14,652	-680	152,720	154,824	-2,104
Utah	1,083	1,176	-93	14,345	14,687	-342
Vermont	563	554	9	6,684	6,227	457
Virgin Islands	7	21	-14	450	614	-164
*Virginia	4,244	3,776	468	31,062	29,765	1,297
Washington	8,146	8,515	-369	70,504	66,358	4,146
West Virginia	952	1,194	-242	17,135	16,930	205
Wisconsin	7,060	7,347	-287	56,781	56,875	-94
*Wyoming	648	552	96	6,462	6,462	
US Total	240,527	245,886	-5,359	2,486,286	2,464,850	21,436

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 state staff estimate.

## Seasonally Adjusted US Weekly UI Claims (in thousands)

Week Ending	Initial Claims	Change from		Insured Unemployment	Change from		IUR
		Prior Week	4-Week Average		Prior Week	4-Week Average	
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	2,165	41	2,138.25	1.6
May 7, 2016	294	20	268.25	2,153	-12	2,142.75	1.6
May 14, 2016	278	-16	275.75	2,160	7	2,150.50	1.6
May 21, 2016	268	-10	278.50	2,172	12	2,162.50	1.6
May 28, 2016	268	0	277.00	2,112	-60	2,149.25	1.5
June 4, 2016	264	-4	269.50	2,162	50	2,151.50	1.6
June 11, 2016	277	13	269.25	2,139	-23	2,146.25	1.6
June 18, 2016	258	-19	266.75	2,167	28	2,145.00	1.6
June 25, 2016	270	12	267.25	2,117	-50	2,146.25	1.5
July 2, 2016	254	-16	264.75	2,153	36	2,144.00	1.6
July 9, 2016	254	0	259.00	2,132	-21	2,142.25	1.5
July 16, 2016	252	-2	257.50	2,144	12	2,136.50	1.6
July 23, 2016	266	14	256.50	2,141	-3	2,142.50	1.6
July 30, 2016	267	1	259.75	2,160	19	2,144.25	1.6
August 6, 2016	266	-1	262.75	2,175	15	2,155.00	1.6
August 13, 2016	262	-4	265.25	2,145	-30	2,155.25	1.6
August 20, 2016	261	-1	264.00	2,157	12	2,159.25	1.6
August 27, 2016	263	2	263.00	2,142	-15	2,154.75	1.6
September 3, 2016	259	-4	261.25	2,149	7	2,148.25	1.6
September 10, 2016	260	1	260.75	2,108	-41	2,139.00	1.5
September 17, 2016	251	-9	258.25	2,064	-44	2,115.75	1.5
September 24, 2016	254	3	256.00	2,062	-2	2,095.75	1.5
October 1, 2016	246	-8	252.75	2,050	-12	2,071.00	1.5
October 8, 2016	247	1	249.50	2,054	4	2,057.50	1.5
October 15, 2016	261	14	252.00	2,040	-14	2,051.50	1.5
October 22, 2016	259	-2	253.25	2,030	-10	2,043.50	1.5
October 29, 2016	266	7	258.25	2,043	13	2,041.75	1.5
November 5, 2016	254	-12	260.00	1,983	-60	2,024.00	1.4
November 12, 2016	233	-21	253.00	2,043	60	2,024.75	1.5
November 19, 2016	251	18	251.00	2,084	41	2,038.25	1.5
November 26, 2016	268	17	251.50	2,007	-77	2,029.25	1.5
December 3, 2016	258	-10	252.50	2,021	14	2,038.75	1.5
December 10, 2016	254	-4	257.75	2,039	18	2,037.75	1.5
December 17, 2016	275	21	263.75	2,105	66	2,043.00	1.5
December 24, 2016	267	-8	263.50	2,116	11	2,070.25	1.5
December 31, 2016	237	-30	258.25	2,093	-23	2,088.25	1.5
January 7, 2017	249	12	257.00	2,059	-34	2,093.25	1.5
January 14, 2017	237	-12	247.50	2,103	44	2,092.75	1.5
January 21, 2017	260	23	245.75	2,063	-40	2,079.50	1.5
January 28, 2017	248	-12	248.50	2,079	16	2,076.00	1.5
February 4, 2017	234	-14	244.75	2,077	-2	2,080.50	1.5
February 11, 2017	238	4	245.00	2,060	-17	2,069.75	1.5
February 18, 2017	244	6	241.00				

## Initial Claims Filed During Week Ended February

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## Insured Unemployment For Week Ended February 4

## INSURED UNEMPLOYMENT

STATE	INITIAL CLAIMS CHANGE FROM						CHANGE FROM				ALL PROGRAMS EXCLUDING RAILROAD RETIREMENT	
	STATE	LAST WEEK	YEAR AGO	UCFE <sup>1</sup>	UCX <sup>1</sup>	STATE	(%) <sup>2</sup>	LAST WEEK	YEAR AGO	UCFE <sup>1</sup>		UCX <sup>1</sup>
Alabama	2412	-306	-126	9	15	19773	1.1	-505	-2982	72	126	19971
Alaska	1340	-16	82	3	0	14251	4.5	147	-746	268	35	14554
Arizona	4003	-297	424	12	4	25778	1.0	276	-1605	256	98	26132
Arkansas	1671	-54	-583	11	3	16158	1.4	-547	-5167	71	84	16313
California	49677	4213	2078	211	149	422195	2.6	14596	5072	3294	2396	427885
Colorado	2403	-183	-425	23	30	29210	1.2	-2249	-4458	365	469	30044
Connecticut	3120	-760	-191	9	4	47101	2.9	-2400	-1284	79	119	47299
Delaware	694	-113	-33	1	0	7380	1.7	-944	-985	10	19	7409
District of Columbia	330	-68	50	60	0	8865	1.6	-93	389	1051	7	9923
Florida	7506	-316	444	20	41	44433	0.6	295	-5238	190	234	44857
Georgia	6260	-1005	-744	26	49	33903	0.8	-412	-3758	175	357	34435
Hawaii	1313	52	296	5	7	7780	1.3	-438	1483	72	105	7957
Idaho	1492	-310	129	12	5	14931	2.2	-174	674	388	39	15358
Illinois	9625	-1353	-516	13	20	153934	2.7	-5608	-19652	449	345	154728
Indiana	3209	-364	-283	8	15	32842	1.1	-1358	-2850	96	62	33000
Iowa	2376	-321	-462	9	3	34599	2.3	-243	-1908	53	58	34710
Kansas	2221	-143	241	6	2	14709	1.1	-299	-4541	58	62	14829
Kentucky	2790	-33	-438	4	3	25018	1.4	-1485	-3724	190	250	25458
Louisiana	2230	-126	-76	0	0	21123	1.1	-491	-1656	44	57	21224
Maine	766	-204	-194	4	0	10604	1.8	220	-2101	43	24	10671
Maryland	3917	-500	-135	39	16	43748	1.8	-411	-4372	391	213	44352
Massachusetts	5766	-1273	-661	15	10	91481	2.7	-826	-2776	201	220	91902
Michigan	8392	-1332	-81	24	10	96609	2.3	1262	-631	302	228	97139
Minnesota	3930	-315	-598	4	3	68764	2.5	2001	-2333	157	89	69010
Mississippi	1203	-133	-149	19	4	11937	1.1	-59	-1643	119	55	12111
Missouri	3819	-604	-103	2	1	34905	1.3	-2065	-5441	174	86	35165
Montana	1035	94	-2	25	0	13614	3.1	-297	-720	650	37	14301
Nebraska	785	-90	-137	1	2	8687	0.9	127	-385	28	12	8727
Nevada	2755	-102	31	6	8	25208	2.0	-463	-2794	236	101	25545
New Hampshire	590	-157	-137	1	4	5833	0.9	-24	-1050	7	5	5845
New Jersey	8834	-2301	-639	8	11	119277	3.1	-1348	-9287	243	361	119881
New Mexico	1005	-56	-417	4	1	12884	1.7	-249	-1559	339	63	13286
New York	17202	-1410	-820	23	39	184693	2.1	-593	-13246	344	574	185611
North Carolina	3465	-463	-415	11	19	27552	0.7	-341	-4614	147	270	27969
North Dakota	564	-140	-204	3	0	9234	2.2	147	-872	16	3	9253
Ohio	8288	-632	-202	12	28	87131	1.7	-341	-5203	127	329	87587
Oklahoma	1611	-133	-330	10	4	18178	1.2	-173	-4446	79	139	18396
Oregon	5058	431	434	45	25	34496	1.9	-248	-1907	722	157	35375
Pennsylvania	16103	-2556	-2825	53	39	152885	2.7	-8497	-25163	635	462	153982
Puerto Rico	1971	-111	218	3	5	23809	2.7	-36	-1230	41	95	23945
Rhode Island	944	-162	-457	4	4	12928	2.8	78	-711	16	40	12984
South Carolina	2210	-385	1	9	17	16823	0.9	-308	-1771	62	128	17013
South Dakota	358	25	117	5	0	3918	1.0	19	248	51	2	3971
Tennessee	2856	-256	-427	9	1	22927	0.8	-854	-6658	410	52	23389
Texas	14652	-654	-2315	32	142	154824	1.3	-1041	-19842	571	1974	157369
Utah	1176	-188	-255	14	3	14687	1.1	-275	-778	335	27	15049
Vermont	554	-8	23	1	3	6227	2.1	-27	-529	17	7	6251
Virgin Islands	21	-12	-17	0	0	614	1.7	176	36	4	10	628
Virginia	3776	227	-995	32	21	29765	0.8	-294	-5216	393	437	30595
Washington	8515	1561	1447	8	17	66358	2.1	-948	3091	350	619	67327
West Virginia	1194	-174	-599	1	4	16930	2.5	-267	-7238	48	47	17025
Wisconsin	7347	-326	-1353	13	5	56875	2.0	274	-7119	132	53	57060
Wyoming	552	15	-165	6	2	6462	2.4	-326	-1935	188	16	6666
Totals	245886	-13827	-12494	888	798	2464850	1.8	-17939	-193131	14759	11857	2491466

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.

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**UNADJUSTED INITIAL CLAIMS FOR WEEK ENDED FEBRUARY 11, 2017**

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**STATES WITH AN INCREASE OF MORE THAN 1,000**

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<b>State</b>	<b>Change</b>	<b>State Supplied Comment</b>
CA	+4,213	Layoffs in the agriculture, forestry, fishing, and hunting, and service industries.
WA	+1,561	No comment.

**STATES WITH A DECREASE OF MORE THAN 1,000**

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<b>State</b>	<b>Change</b>	<b>State Supplied Comment</b>
PA	-2,556	Fewer layoffs in the administrative, support, waste management and remediation service, construction, and accommodations and food service industries.
NJ	-2,301	Fewer layoffs in the manufacturing, trade, transportation and warehousing, healthcare and social assistance, and accommodation and food service industries.
NY	-1,410	Fewer layoffs in the accommodation and food service, information, and real estate and rental and leasing industries.
IL	-1,353	No comment.
MI	-1,332	No comment.
MA	-1,273	Fewer layoffs in the construction, health care and social assistance, accommodation and food service, and administrative, support, waste management and remediation service industries.
GA	-1,005	Fewer layoffs in the trade, manufacturing, and construction industries.

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## 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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