



# News Release

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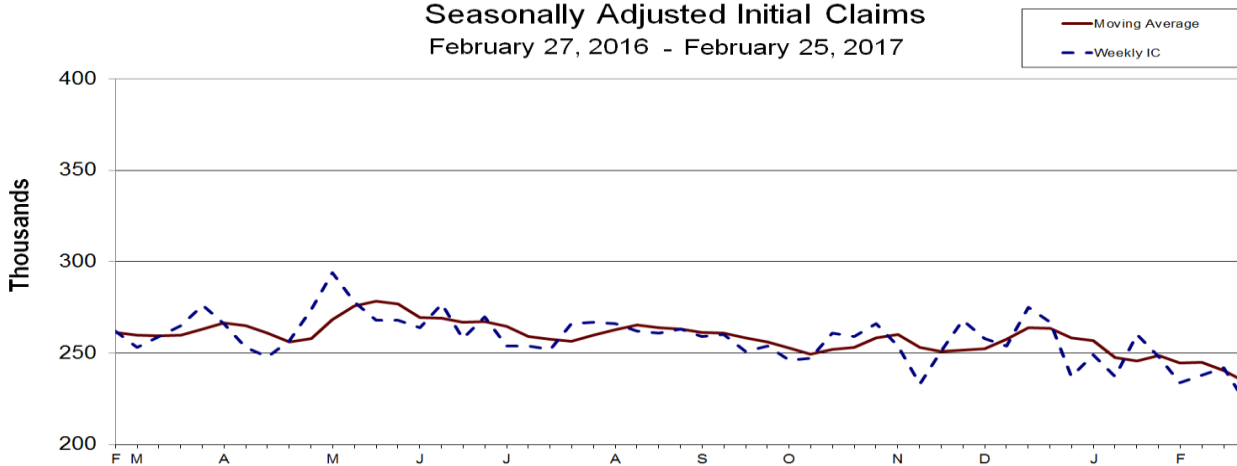
## UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE WEEKLY CLAIMS

### SEASONALLY ADJUSTED DATA

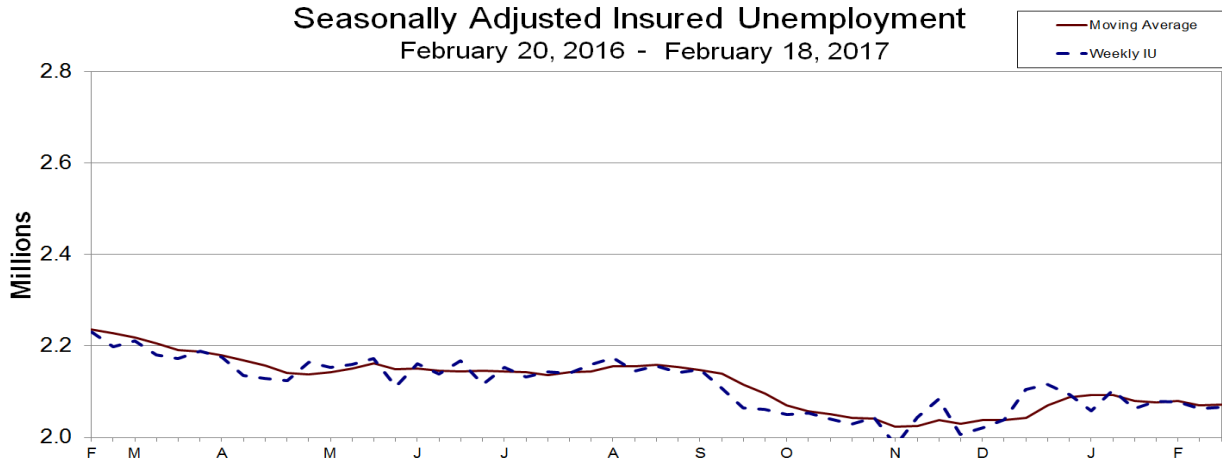
In the week ending February 25, the advance figure for seasonally adjusted **initial claims** was 223,000, a decrease of 19,000 from the previous week's revised level. This is the lowest level for initial claims since March 31, 1973 when it was 222,000. The previous week's level was revised down by 2,000 from 244,000 to 242,000. The 4-week moving average was 234,250, a decrease of 6,250 from the previous week's revised average. This is the lowest level for this average since April 14, 1973 when it was 232,750. The previous week's average was revised down by 500 from 241,000 to 240,500.

The advance seasonally adjusted **insured unemployment rate** was 1.5 percent for the week ending February 18, unchanged from the previous week's unrevised rate. The advance number for seasonally adjusted **insured unemployment** during the week ending February 18 was 2,066,000, an increase of 3,000 from the previous week's revised level. The previous week's level was revised up 3,000 from 2,060,000 to 2,063,000. The 4-week moving average was 2,071,250, an increase of 750 from the previous week's revised average. The previous week's average was revised up by 750 from 2,069,750 to 2,070,500.

Seasonally Adjusted Initial Claims  
February 27, 2016 - February 25, 2017



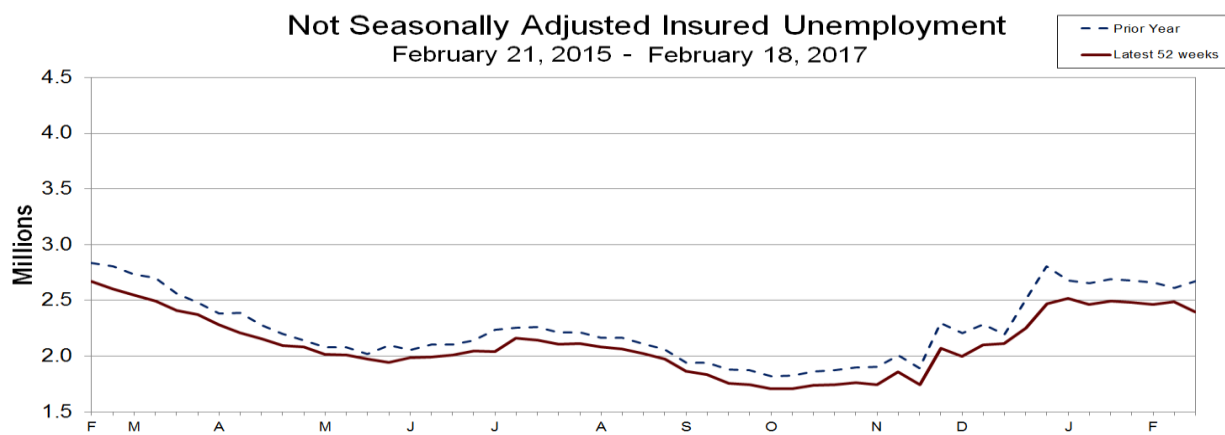
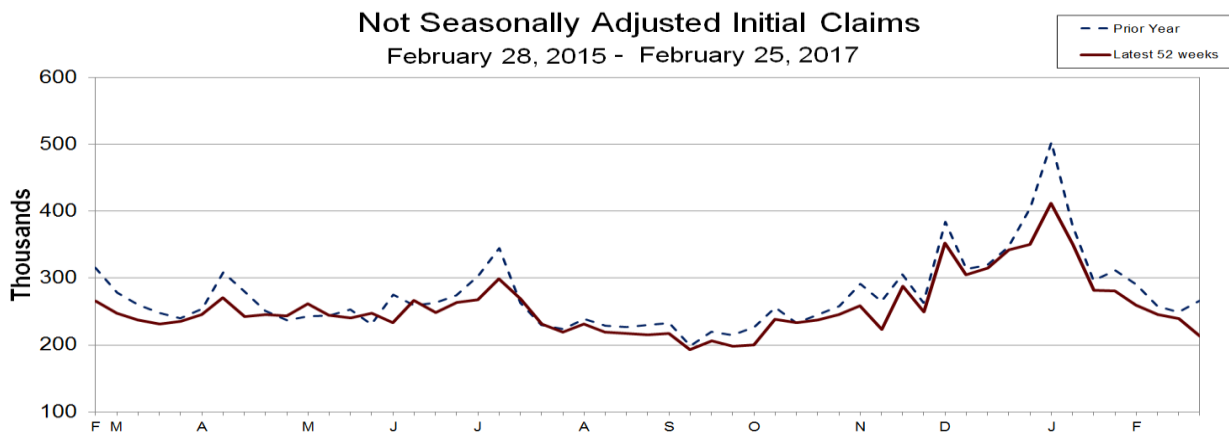
Seasonally Adjusted Insured Unemployment  
February 20, 2016 - February 18, 2017



## UNADJUSTED DATA

The advance number of actual initial claims under state programs, unadjusted, totaled 213,114 in the week ending February 25, a decrease of 26,208 (or -11.0 percent) from the previous week. The seasonal factors had expected a decrease of 8,002 (or -3.3 percent) from the previous week. There were 265,802 initial claims in the comparable week in 2016.

The advance unadjusted insured unemployment rate was 1.7 percent during the week ending February 18, a decrease of 0.1 percentage point from the prior week. The advance unadjusted number for persons claiming UI benefits in state programs totaled 2,394,151, a decrease of 95,531 (or -3.8 percent) from the preceding week. The seasonal factors had expected a decrease of 99,010 (or -4.0 percent) from the previous week. A year earlier the rate was 2.0 percent and the volume was 2,670,398.



The total number of people claiming benefits in all programs for the week ending February 11 was 2,533,393, an increase of 24,608 from the previous week. There were 2,659,413 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 11.

Initial claims for UI benefits filed by former Federal civilian employees totaled 728 in the week ending February 18, a decrease of 160 from the prior week. There were 810 initial claims filed by newly discharged veterans, an increase of 12 from the preceding week.

There were 13,598 former Federal civilian employees claiming UI benefits for the week ending February 11, a decrease of 1,161 from the previous week. Newly discharged veterans claiming benefits totaled 11,797, a decrease of 60 from the prior week.

The highest insured unemployment rates in the week ending February 11 were in Alaska (4.4), New Jersey (3.2), Montana (3.1), Connecticut (3.0), Pennsylvania (2.9), Rhode Island (2.8), Illinois (2.7), Massachusetts (2.7), Puerto Rico (2.7), and California (2.6).

The largest increases in initial claims for the week ending February 18 were in Michigan (+1,631), New Jersey (+1,223), Missouri (+913), Massachusetts (+662), and Connecticut (+570), while the largest decreases were in Ohio (-1,206), Texas (-811), Washington (-802), Virginia (-779), and California (-749).

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UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE DATA FOR REGULAR STATE PROGRAMS

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WEEK ENDING	February 25	February 18	Change	February 11	<u>Prior Year</u> <sup>1</sup>
Initial Claims (SA)	223,000	242,000	-19,000	238,000	262,000
Initial Claims (NSA)	213,114	239,322	-26,208	245,886	265,802
4-Wk Moving Average (SA)	234,250	240,500	-6,250	245,000	261,250
WEEK ENDING	February 18	February 11	Change	February 4	<u>Prior Year</u> <sup>1</sup>
Insured Unemployment (SA)	2,066,000	2,063,000	+3,000	2,077,000	2,231,000
Insured Unemployment (NSA)	2,394,151	2,489,682	-95,531	2,464,850	2,670,398
4-Wk Moving Average (SA)	2,071,250	2,070,500	+750	2,080,500	2,236,750
<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>	1.7%	1.8%	-0.1	1.8%	2.0%

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INITIAL CLAIMS FILED IN FEDERAL PROGRAMS (UNADJUSTED)

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WEEK ENDING	February 18	February 11	Change	<u>Prior Year</u> <sup>1</sup>
Federal Employees (UCFE)	728	888	-160	622
Newly Discharged Veterans (UCX)	810	798	+12	873

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PERSONS CLAIMING UI BENEFITS IN ALL PROGRAMS (UNADJUSTED)

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WEEK ENDING	February 11	February 4	Change	<u>Prior Year</u> <sup>1</sup>
Regular State	2,485,214	2,460,976	+24,238	2,607,220
Federal Employees	13,598	14,759	-1,161	13,127
Newly Discharged Veterans	11,797	11,857	-60	15,066
<u>Extended Benefits</u> <sup>3</sup>	0	0	0	0
<u>State Additional Benefits</u> <sup>4</sup>	7,667	7,576	+91	6,925
<u>STC / Workshare</u> <sup>5</sup>	15,117	13,617	+1,500	17,075
<u>TOTAL</u>	2,533,393	2,508,785	+24,608	2,659,413

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 25			Insured Unemployment For Week Ended February 18		
	Advance	Prior Wk	Change	Advance	Prior Wk	Change
Alabama	1,746	2,563	-817	18,208	19,855	-1,647
Alaska	1,101	1,160	-59	13,631	13,953	-322
Arizona	3,241	3,718	-477	22,510	25,961	-3,451
Arkansas	1,648	1,635	13	14,281	15,963	-1,682
California	43,919	48,928	-5,009	408,125	431,201	-23,076
Colorado	2,051	2,130	-79	29,239	30,658	-1,419
Connecticut	3,165	3,690	-525	50,558	48,610	1,948
Delaware	502	672	-170	7,641	7,306	335
District of Columbia	464	313	151	8,112	8,750	-638
Florida	6,100	6,881	-781	36,478	43,579	-7,101
Georgia	5,005	6,471	-1,466	30,237	33,550	-3,313
Hawaii	1,154	1,326	-172	8,036	8,067	-31
Idaho	1,264	1,348	-84	13,268	14,715	-1,447
Illinois	7,706	8,971	-1,265	151,764	157,660	-5,896
Indiana	2,468	2,753	-285	31,948	32,707	-759
Iowa	2,436	2,126	310	35,076	34,587	489
Kansas	1,835	1,969	-134	14,612	14,548	64
Kentucky	2,433	2,752	-319	23,655	25,573	-1,918
Louisiana	1,999	2,131	-132	20,096	20,579	-483
Maine	790	677	113	10,437	10,401	36
Maryland	2,725	3,565	-840	39,161	43,597	-4,436
Massachusetts	9,362	6,428	2,934	91,240	91,769	-529
Michigan	6,451	10,023	-3,572	89,610	97,685	-8,075
Minnesota	3,469	3,665	-196	69,099	66,191	2,908
Mississippi	802	1,178	-376	9,562	11,548	-1,986
Missouri	2,877	4,732	-1,855	32,742	33,873	-1,131
Montana	775	871	-96	12,813	13,758	-945
Nebraska	641	646	-5	7,974	8,482	-508
Nevada	2,590	2,623	-33	22,995	25,728	-2,733
New Hampshire	603	576	27	5,232	5,749	-517
New Jersey	8,721	10,057	-1,336	122,316	123,051	-735
New Mexico	832	936	-104	12,186	12,778	-592
New York	15,166	17,067	-1,901	184,877	187,643	-2,766
North Carolina	2,974	3,128	-154	25,179	27,097	-1,918
North Dakota	579	453	126	11,003	9,174	1,829
Ohio	5,871	7,082	-1,211	83,234	86,110	-2,876
*Oklahoma	1,469	1,435	34	17,828	17,737	91
Oregon	4,147	4,326	-179	33,297	34,839	-1,542
Pennsylvania	13,452	16,198	-2,746	153,325	161,980	-8,655
Puerto Rico	1,491	1,565	-74	20,971	24,138	-3,167
Rhode Island	2,190	1,225	965	13,343	13,119	224
South Carolina	1,846	2,070	-224	14,468	16,474	-2,006
South Dakota	157	236	-79	3,745	3,887	-142
Tennessee	1,853	2,420	-567	21,447	22,703	-1,256
Texas	12,399	13,841	-1,442	152,909	153,292	-383
Utah	1,065	1,054	11	13,749	14,317	-568
Vermont	775	571	204	6,635	6,267	368
Virgin Islands	11	15	-4	520	452	68
Virginia	3,240	2,997	243	30,299	30,074	225
Washington	5,901	7,713	-1,812	67,441	68,433	-992
West Virginia	821	1,035	-214	16,089	16,784	-695
Wisconsin	6,378	7,039	-661	55,107	56,344	-1,237
Wyoming	454	338	116	5,843	6,386	-543
US Total	213,114	239,322	-26,208	2,394,151	2,489,682	-95,531

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	Initial Claims	Change from		Insured Unemployment	Change from		IUR
		Prior Week	4-Week Average		Prior Week	4-Week Average	
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	2,063	-14	2,070.50	1.5
February 18, 2017	242	4	240.50	2,066	3	2,071.25	1.5
February 25, 2017	223	-19	234.25				

Initial Claims Filed During Week Ended February 18

Insured Unemployment For Week Ended February 11

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	2563	151	-152	9	17	19855	1.1	82	-2631	67	125	20047
Alaska	1160	-180	60	8	0	13953	4.4	-298	-973	208	56	14217
Arizona	3718	-285	386	7	2	25961	1.0	183	-765	271	94	26326
Arkansas	1635	-36	-331	6	8	15963	1.4	-195	-4719	76	91	16130
California	48928	-749	6844	158	156	431201	2.6	9006	46645	2763	2364	436328
Colorado	2130	-273	-418	7	31	30658	1.2	1448	-5165	337	457	31452
Connecticut	3690	570	-408	5	9	48610	3.0	1509	-1189	78	117	48805
Delaware	672	-22	-484	2	1	7306	1.7	-74	-323	15	21	7342
District of Columbia	313	-17	57	44	0	8750	1.6	-115	292	1130	8	9888
Florida	6881	-625	-437	16	49	43579	0.5	-854	-7422	187	241	44007
Georgia	6471	211	-138	24	40	33550	0.8	-353	-3280	176	343	34069
Hawaii	1326	13	339	4	10	8067	1.3	287	1777	53	129	8249
Idaho	1348	-144	-113	14	3	14715	2.2	-216	1018	358	32	15105
Illinois	8971	-654	-1584	11	14	157660	2.7	3726	-5222	334	311	158305
Indiana	2753	-456	-651	8	8	32707	1.1	-135	-3122	85	64	32856
Iowa	2126	-250	-93	0	5	34587	2.3	-12	-1346	73	55	34715
Kansas	1969	-252	100	2	6	14548	1.1	-161	-4189	52	53	14653
Kentucky	2752	-38	-510	5	4	25573	1.4	555	-5236	157	241	25971
Louisiana	2131	-99	-827	0	5	20579	1.1	-544	-2270	40	49	20668
Maine	677	-89	-243	2	0	10401	1.8	-203	-2128	42	21	10464
Maryland	3565	-352	-106	23	11	43597	1.8	-151	-4009	399	204	44200
Massachusetts	6428	662	-3267	11	13	91769	2.7	288	-2358	190	224	92183
Michigan	10023	1631	2540	21	15	97685	2.4	1076	-4341	247	172	98104
Minnesota	3665	-265	-218	4	3	66191	2.4	-2573	-4404	153	96	66440
Mississippi	1178	-25	30	11	3	11548	1.1	-389	-1450	118	47	11713
Missouri	4732	913	-202	4	0	33873	1.3	-1032	-7211	124	74	34071
Montana	871	-164	-258	17	4	13758	3.1	144	12	596	32	14386
Nebraska	646	-139	-112	1	1	8482	0.9	-205	-246	24	13	8519
Nevada	2623	-132	214	8	0	25728	2.1	520	-1192	207	106	26041
New Hampshire	576	-14	-161	2	2	5749	0.9	-84	-1075	8	7	5764
New Jersey	10057	1223	886	12	26	123051	3.2	3774	-4077	240	392	123683
New Mexico	936	-69	-245	6	2	12778	1.6	-106	-1933	283	67	13128
New York	17067	-135	327	22	40	187643	2.1	2950	-7530	348	561	188552
North Carolina	3128	-337	-357	8	15	27097	0.7	-455	-4398	149	287	27533
North Dakota	453	-111	-536	1	0	9174	2.2	-60	-1090	19	4	9197
Ohio	7082	-1206	-487	4	30	86110	1.7	-1021	-5589	135	305	86550
Oklahoma	1435	-176	-911	10	4	17737	1.2	-441	-5104	78	145	17960
Oregon	4326	-732	738	45	7	34839	1.9	343	-157	700	153	35692
Pennsylvania	16198	95	-2277	77	50	161980	2.9	9095	-21025	563	435	162978
Puerto Rico	1565	-406	13	3	4	24138	2.7	329	-247	39	129	24306
Rhode Island	1225	281	-920	2	3	13119	2.8	191	-535	26	36	13181
South Carolina	2070	-140	-115	4	12	16474	0.8	-349	-1410	56	126	16656
South Dakota	236	-122	40	2	0	3887	1.0	-31	269	53	4	3944
Tennessee	2420	-436	-1587	11	1	22703	0.8	-224	-6706	418	57	23178
Texas	13841	-811	-2136	36	132	153292	1.3	-1532	-21621	518	2047	155857
Utah	1054	-122	-173	10	4	14317	1.1	-370	-803	286	29	14632
Vermont	571	17	-272	1	1	6267	2.1	40	-351	12	6	6285
Virgin Islands	15	-6	-13	0	1	452	1.2	-162	-72	0	12	464
Virginia	2997	-779	-768	25	24	30074	0.8	309	-5037	417	441	30932
Washington	7713	-802	1048	9	26	68433	2.2	2075	7053	347	598	69378
West Virginia	1035	-159	-328	0	1	16784	2.5	-146	-6621	49	51	16884
Wisconsin	7039	-308	-971	5	5	56344	2.0	-531	-6879	132	45	56521
Wyoming	338	-214	-361	1	2	6386	2.4	-76	-2360	162	20	6568
Totals	239322	-6564	-9548	728	810	2489682	1.8	24832	-122745	13598	11797	2515077

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 18, 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>
MI	+1,631	Layoffs in the wholesale trade industry.
NJ	+1,223	Layoffs in the transportation and warehousing, retail trade, manufacturing, health care and social assistance, and accommodation and food service industries.

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

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<b>State</b>	<b>Change</b>	<b>State Supplied Comment</b>
OH	-1,206	No Comment.

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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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