



News Release

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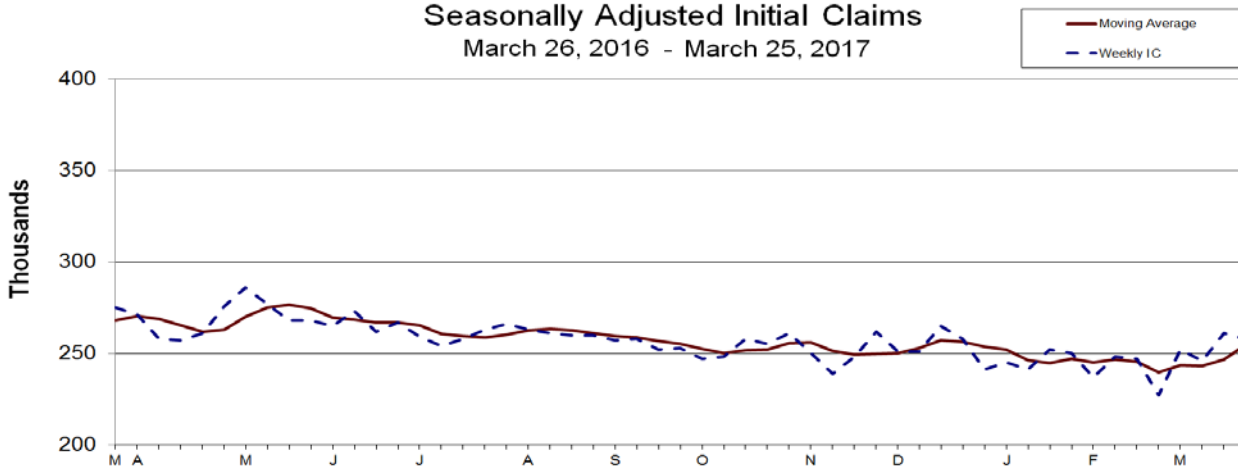
UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE WEEKLY CLAIMS

SEASONALLY ADJUSTED DATA

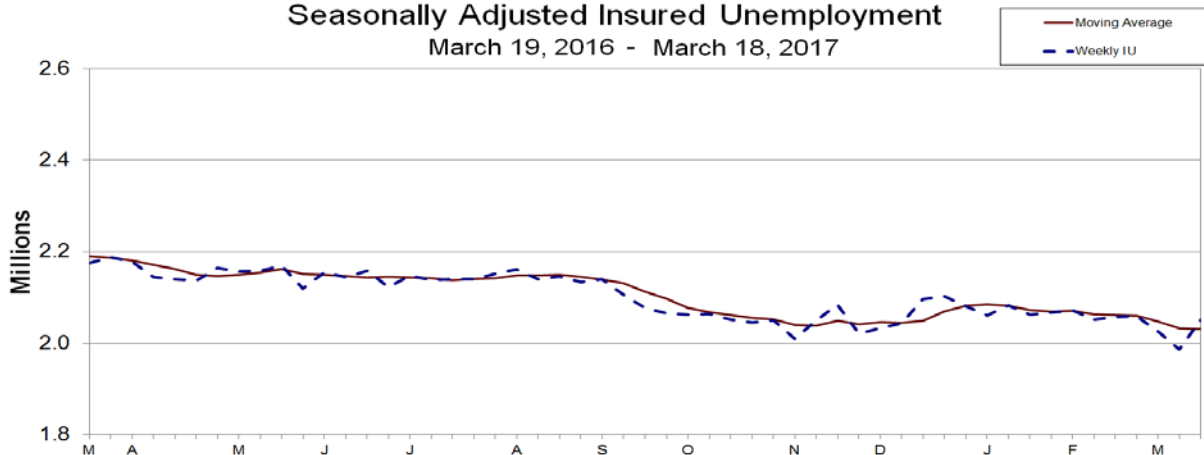
In the week ending March 25, the advance figure for seasonally adjusted **initial claims** was 258,000, a decrease of 3,000 from the previous week's unrevised level of 261,000. The 4-week moving average was 254,250, an increase of 7,750 from the previous week's unrevised average of 246,500.

The advance seasonally adjusted **insured unemployment rate** was 1.5 percent for the week ending March 18, an increase of 0.1 percentage point from the previous week's unrevised rate. The advance number for seasonally adjusted **insured unemployment** during the week ending March 18 was 2,052,000, an increase of 65,000 from the previous week's revised level. The previous week's level was revised down by 3,000 from 1,990,000 to 1,987,000. The 4-week moving average was 2,030,750, a decrease of 1,250 from the previous week's revised average. This is the lowest level for this average since June 24, 2000 when it was 2,028,250. The previous week's average was revised down by 750 from 2,032,750 to 2,032,000.

Seasonally Adjusted Initial Claims
March 26, 2016 - March 25, 2017



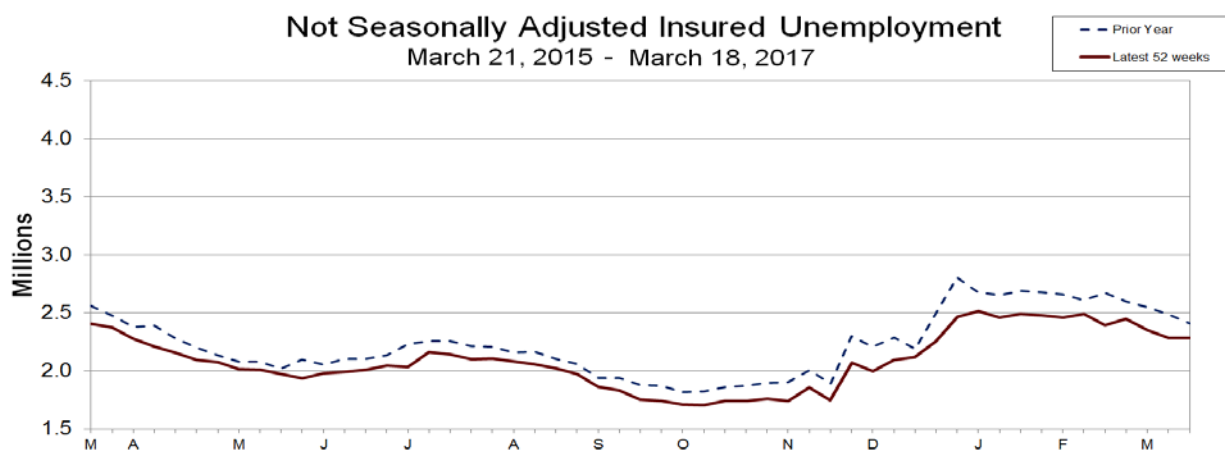
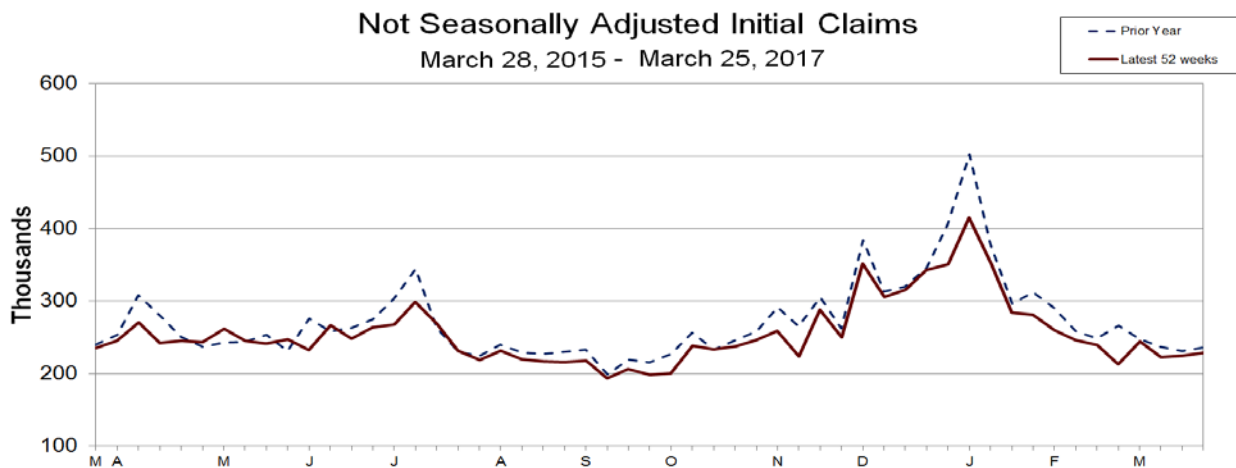
Seasonally Adjusted Insured Unemployment
March 19, 2016 - March 18, 2017



UNADJUSTED DATA

The advance number of actual initial claims under state programs, unadjusted, totaled 228,284 in the week ending March 25, an increase of 3,315 (or 1.5 percent) from the previous week. The seasonal factors had expected an increase of 6,010 (or 2.7 percent) from the previous week. There were 235,716 initial claims in the comparable week in 2016.

The advance unadjusted insured unemployment rate was 1.6 percent during the week ending March 18, unchanged from the prior week. The advance unadjusted number for persons claiming UI benefits in state programs totaled 2,285,706, an increase of 2,765 (or 0.1 percent) from the preceding week. The seasonal factors had expected a decrease of 69,541 (or -3.0 percent) from the previous week. A year earlier the rate was 1.8 percent and the volume was 2,409,099.



The total number of people claiming benefits in all programs for the week ending March 11 was 2,322,025, a decrease of 69,526 from the previous week. There were 2,538,076 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 March 11.

Initial claims for UI benefits filed by former Federal civilian employees totaled 596 in the week ending March 18, a decrease of 80 from the prior week. There were 730 initial claims filed by newly discharged veterans, a decrease of 121 from the preceding week.

There were 12,294 former Federal civilian employees claiming UI benefits for the week ending March 11, a decrease of 1,287 from the previous week. Newly discharged veterans claiming benefits totaled 10,980, a decrease of 115 from the prior week.

The highest insured unemployment rates in the week ending March 11 were in Alaska (4.0), New Jersey (2.9), Connecticut (2.8), Montana (2.8), Pennsylvania (2.7), Rhode Island (2.7), Massachusetts (2.6), California (2.5), Illinois (2.5), and Puerto Rico (2.4).

The largest increases in initial claims for the week ending March 18 were in Ohio (+4,205), Kansas (+2,313), Missouri (+2,241), New Jersey (+1,019), and Kentucky (+815), while the largest decreases were in California (-4,764), New York (-1,556), Texas (-759), Massachusetts (-555), and Georgia (-550).

UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE DATA FOR REGULAR STATE PROGRAMS

WEEK ENDING	March 25	March 18	Change	March 11	<u>Prior Year</u>¹
Initial Claims (SA)	258,000	261,000	-3,000	246,000	275,000
Initial Claims (NSA)	228,284	224,969	+3,315	222,227	235,716
4-Wk Moving Average (SA)	254,250	246,500	+7,750	243,000	268,000
WEEK ENDING	March 18	March 11	Change	March 4	<u>Prior Year</u>¹
Insured Unemployment (SA)	2,052,000	1,987,000	+65,000	2,025,000	2,176,000
Insured Unemployment (NSA)	2,285,706	2,282,941	+2,765	2,349,381	2,409,099
4-Wk Moving Average (SA)	2,030,750	2,032,000	-1,250	2,048,250	2,189,750
<u>Insured Unemployment Rate (SA)</u> ²	1.5%	1.4%	+0.1	1.5%	1.6%
<u>Insured Unemployment Rate (NSA)</u> ²	1.6%	1.6%	0.0	1.7%	1.8%

INITIAL CLAIMS FILED IN FEDERAL PROGRAMS (UNADJUSTED)

WEEK ENDING	March 18	March 11	Change	<u>Prior Year</u>¹
Federal Employees (UCFE)	596	676	-80	625
Newly Discharged Veterans (UCX)	730	851	-121	1,035

PERSONS CLAIMING UI BENEFITS IN ALL PROGRAMS (UNADJUSTED)

WEEK ENDING	March 11	March 4	Change	<u>Prior Year</u>¹
Regular State	2,279,393	2,345,409	-66,016	2,486,413
Federal Employees	12,294	13,581	-1,287	11,691
Newly Discharged Veterans	10,980	11,095	-115	14,243
<u>Extended Benefits</u> ³	0	0	0	0
<u>State Additional Benefits</u> ⁴	7,554	8,034	-480	8,122
<u>STC / Workshare</u> ⁵	11,804	13,432	-1,628	17,607
<u>TOTAL</u>	2,322,025	2,391,551	-69,526	2,538,076

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 March 25			Insured Unemployment For Week Ended March 18		
	Advance	Prior Wk	Change	Advance	Prior Wk	Change
Alabama	2,335	2,336	-1	17,146	17,501	-355
Alaska	1,152	1,156	-4	12,140	12,508	-368
Arizona	3,782	3,906	-124	21,571	24,402	-2,831
Arkansas	2,413	1,636	777	12,270	13,681	-1,411
California	43,174	41,002	2,172	424,075	400,481	23,594
Colorado	1,840	1,813	27	26,786	28,422	-1,636
Connecticut	4,182	3,222	960	50,292	46,090	4,202
Delaware	559	531	28	7,096	6,678	418
District of Columbia	470	249	221	7,894	8,417	-523
Florida	6,400	6,802	-402	34,665	40,928	-6,263
Georgia	5,306	4,787	519	27,424	29,472	-2,048
**Hawaii	1,173	1,137	36	7,764	7,879	-115
Idaho	1,174	1,163	11	10,147	11,734	-1,587
Illinois	8,266	9,329	-1,063	141,781	146,829	-5,048
Indiana	2,539	2,391	148	27,298	28,289	-991
Iowa	2,297	2,350	-53	30,965	29,128	1,837
Kansas	1,860	4,231	-2,371	14,528	12,365	2,163
Kentucky	2,005	3,051	-1,046	20,409	22,104	-1,695
*Louisiana	2,261	2,587	-326	21,274	21,075	199
Maine	661	658	3	9,990	9,931	59
Maryland	3,497	3,951	-454	36,738	39,682	-2,944
Massachusetts	4,943	4,831	112	86,603	87,149	-546
Michigan	8,290	6,210	2,080	80,270	88,270	-8,000
Minnesota	3,574	3,536	38	64,160	62,477	1,683
Mississippi	989	1,609	-620	9,136	10,028	-892
Missouri	3,938	5,974	-2,036	28,524	28,553	-29
Montana	766	904	-138	10,915	12,171	-1,256
Nebraska	803	825	-22	6,604	6,867	-263
Nevada	2,397	2,054	343	20,589	22,706	-2,117
New Hampshire	502	519	-17	4,935	5,427	-492
New Jersey	8,559	9,296	-737	119,219	113,619	5,600
New Mexico	1,153	893	260	11,478	12,165	-687
New York	20,967	14,608	6,359	184,255	175,830	8,425
North Carolina	3,162	3,140	22	22,373	23,970	-1,597
North Dakota	481	354	127	9,262	8,048	1,214
Ohio	6,352	10,615	-4,263	78,757	75,768	2,989
Oklahoma	1,358	1,784	-426	15,486	16,066	-580
Oregon	3,330	3,824	-494	31,292	32,509	-1,217
Pennsylvania	18,294	16,077	2,217	144,281	149,891	-5,610
Puerto Rico	1,129	1,432	-303	21,062	20,955	107
Rhode Island	788	962	-174	12,656	12,462	194
South Carolina	1,994	1,893	101	13,206	14,260	-1,054
South Dakota	171	193	-22	3,235	3,431	-196
Tennessee	2,348	2,662	-314	18,754	19,754	-1,000
Texas	16,102	13,344	2,758	149,778	145,769	4,009
Utah	967	945	22	11,037	11,927	-890
Vermont	459	891	-432	6,595	6,049	546
Virgin Islands	18	23	-5	516	410	106
Virginia	3,099	3,751	-652	28,821	27,585	1,236
Washington	6,255	6,078	177	60,036	60,433	-397
West Virginia	775	899	-124	14,641	14,522	119
Wisconsin	6,599	6,207	392	49,906	50,276	-370
Wyoming	376	348	28	5,071	5,998	-927
US Total	228,284	224,969	3,315	2,285,706	2,282,941	2,765

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.

**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	
March 19, 2016	271	7	266.00	2,176	-4	2,189.75	1.6
March 26, 2016	275	4	268.00	2,187	11	2,187.25	1.6
April 2, 2016	271	-4	270.25	2,178	-9	2,180.25	1.6
April 9, 2016	258	-13	268.75	2,145	-33	2,171.50	1.6
April 16, 2016	257	-1	265.25	2,140	-5	2,162.50	1.6
April 23, 2016	261	4	261.75	2,137	-3	2,150.00	1.6
April 30, 2016	276	15	263.00	2,165	28	2,146.75	1.6
May 7, 2016	286	10	270.00	2,157	-8	2,149.75	1.6
May 14, 2016	277	-9	275.00	2,158	1	2,154.25	1.6
May 21, 2016	268	-9	276.75	2,169	11	2,162.25	1.6
May 28, 2016	268	0	274.75	2,120	-49	2,151.00	1.5
June 4, 2016	265	-3	269.50	2,155	35	2,150.50	1.6
June 11, 2016	273	8	268.50	2,144	-11	2,147.00	1.6
June 18, 2016	262	-11	267.00	2,158	14	2,144.25	1.6
June 25, 2016	267	5	266.75	2,123	-35	2,145.00	1.5
July 2, 2016	259	-8	265.25	2,147	24	2,143.00	1.6
July 9, 2016	254	-5	260.50	2,138	-9	2,141.50	1.6
July 16, 2016	258	4	259.50	2,140	2	2,137.00	1.6
July 23, 2016	263	5	258.50	2,139	-1	2,141.00	1.6
July 30, 2016	266	3	260.25	2,152	13	2,142.25	1.6
August 6, 2016	263	-3	262.50	2,161	9	2,148.00	1.6
August 13, 2016	261	-2	263.25	2,139	-22	2,147.75	1.6
August 20, 2016	260	-1	262.50	2,146	7	2,149.50	1.6
August 27, 2016	260	0	261.00	2,133	-13	2,144.75	1.5
September 3, 2016	257	-3	259.50	2,139	6	2,139.25	1.6
September 10, 2016	258	1	258.75	2,105	-34	2,130.75	1.5
September 17, 2016	252	-6	256.75	2,076	-29	2,113.25	1.5
September 24, 2016	253	1	255.00	2,066	-10	2,096.50	1.5
October 1, 2016	247	-6	252.50	2,063	-3	2,077.50	1.5
October 8, 2016	248	1	250.00	2,064	1	2,067.25	1.5
October 15, 2016	258	10	251.50	2,052	-12	2,061.25	1.5
October 22, 2016	255	-3	252.00	2,045	-7	2,056.00	1.5
October 29, 2016	261	6	255.50	2,050	5	2,052.75	1.5
November 5, 2016	250	-11	256.00	2,010	-40	2,039.25	1.5
November 12, 2016	239	-11	251.25	2,050	40	2,038.75	1.5
November 19, 2016	248	9	249.50	2,084	34	2,048.50	1.5
November 26, 2016	262	14	249.75	2,020	-64	2,041.00	1.5
December 3, 2016	251	-11	250.00	2,033	13	2,046.75	1.5
December 10, 2016	251	0	253.00	2,044	11	2,045.25	1.5
December 17, 2016	265	14	257.25	2,097	53	2,048.50	1.5
December 24, 2016	258	-7	256.25	2,102	5	2,069.00	1.5
December 31, 2016	241	-17	253.75	2,081	-21	2,081.00	1.5
January 7, 2017	245	4	252.25	2,061	-20	2,085.25	1.5
January 14, 2017	241	-4	246.25	2,083	22	2,081.75	1.5
January 21, 2017	252	11	244.75	2,063	-20	2,072.00	1.5
January 28, 2017	250	-2	247.00	2,067	4	2,068.50	1.5
February 4, 2017	237	-13	245.00	2,071	4	2,071.00	1.5
February 11, 2017	248	11	246.75	2,052	-19	2,063.25	1.5
February 18, 2017	247	-1	245.50	2,057	5	2,061.75	1.5
February 25, 2017	227	-20	239.75	2,059	2	2,059.75	1.5
March 4, 2017	252	25	243.50	2,025	-34	2,048.25	1.5
March 11, 2017	246	-6	243.00	1,987	-38	2,032.00	1.4
March 18, 2017	261	15	246.50	2,052	65	2,030.75	1.5
March 25, 2017	258	-3	254.25				

Initial Claims Filed During Week Ended March
18

Insured Unemployment For Week Ended March 11
INSURED UNEMPLOYMENT

STATE	INITIAL CLAIMS CHANGE FROM							CHANGE FROM				ALL PROGRAMS EXCLUDING RAILROAD RETIREMENT
	STATE	LAST WEEK	YEAR AGO	UCFE 1	UCX 1	STATE	(%) 2	LAST WEEK	YEAR AGO	UCFE 1	UCX 1	
Alabama	2336	-159	-94	7	15	17501	0.9	-627	-3459	80	119	17700
Alaska	1156	-63	-92	10	3	12508	4.0	-415	-1352	161	49	12718
Arizona	3906	160	248	14	3	24402	0.9	-604	-1828	215	69	24686
Arkansas	1636	41	-419	7	4	13681	1.2	-442	-4697	71	73	13825
California	41002	-4764	-3149	123	147	400481	2.5	-33679	-16033	2476	2372	405329
Colorado	1813	-351	-650	7	19	28422	1.2	823	-4278	301	472	29195
Connecticut	3222	-493	151	6	5	46090	2.8	-1840	-962	70	95	46255
Delaware	531	-14	74	0	3	6678	1.5	-140	-496	15	22	6715
District of Columbia	249	-57	-45	8	0	8417	1.5	-168	425	1135	8	9560
Florida	6802	-378	-64	26	49	40928	0.5	-208	-7487	179	224	41331
Georgia	4787	-550	-1099	24	37	29472	0.7	-489	-3415	172	270	29914
Hawaii	1137	-144	65	2	5	7879	1.3	243	1486	42	114	8035
Idaho	1163	-109	-38	15	10	11734	1.8	-922	859	234	29	11997
Illinois	9329	417	-508	6	14	146829	2.5	2448	-6596	311	285	147425
Indiana	2391	-196	-1045	6	8	28289	1.0	-1111	-3548	78	55	28422
Iowa	2350	266	-153	3	3	29128	1.9	-2097	-612	58	56	29242
Kansas	4231	2313	2005	4	9	12365	0.9	-356	-3852	36	54	12455
Kentucky	3051	815	533	3	2	22104	1.2	-140	-5739	101	225	22430
Louisiana	2587	109	-291	4	8	21075	1.1	939	-1681	57	69	21201
Maine	658	-112	-312	0	0	9931	1.7	-242	-1760	53	26	10010
Maryland	3951	496	306	26	13	39682	1.6	-1304	-3234	402	184	40268
Massachusetts	4831	-555	-352	8	10	87149	2.6	-3264	-2677	210	199	87558
Michigan	6210	-385	-776	10	15	88270	2.1	1797	-7994	239	148	88657
Minnesota	3536	-146	-202	3	5	62477	2.3	-3382	-2819	133	87	62697
Mississippi	1609	381	128	6	5	10028	0.9	-213	-1855	112	41	10181
Missouri	5974	2241	1209	5	5	28553	1.1	-1289	-4438	111	78	28742
Montana	904	83	-22	11	2	12171	2.8	91	179	449	42	12662
Nebraska	825	74	64	5	2	6867	0.7	-507	-382	24	12	6903
Nevada	2054	-175	-387	3	4	22706	1.8	-800	-2875	184	97	22987
New Hampshire	519	-129	-108	1	1	5427	0.9	-637	-941	4	4	5435
New Jersey	9296	1019	1361	8	6	113619	2.9	-3248	-4260	225	322	114166
New Mexico	893	9	-164	0	3	12165	1.6	-196	-2169	246	67	12478
New York	14608	-1556	93	21	35	175830	2.0	-4439	-11382	333	531	176694
North Carolina	3140	38	-140	6	9	23970	0.6	-808	-3928	122	235	24327
North Dakota	354	-50	-279	1	1	8048	1.9	-202	-1599	11	9	8068
Ohio	10615	4205	4074	12	21	75768	1.5	-2836	-7297	122	305	76195
Oklahoma	1784	513	-636	13	5	16066	1.0	-513	-7141	81	121	16268
Oregon	3824	-136	-160	24	19	32509	1.8	-84	-393	619	139	33267
Pennsylvania	16077	622	477	54	29	149891	2.7	3174	-17147	557	416	150864
Puerto Rico	1432	-124	-144	4	2	20955	2.4	-3300	-3227	31	99	21085
Rhode Island	962	-1	144	3	5	12462	2.7	-460	-114	25	38	12525
South Carolina	1893	-40	-661	18	12	14260	0.7	-442	-1663	49	121	14430
South Dakota	193	-17	-4	3	2	3431	0.8	-172	408	49	4	3484
Tennessee	2662	393	-268	8	7	19754	0.7	-843	-6129	411	60	20225
Texas	13344	-759	-2962	35	122	145769	1.3	-160	-33480	499	1912	148180
Utah	945	-173	-145	6	5	11927	0.9	-865	-1041	181	30	12138
Vermont	891	423	97	0	2	6049	2.0	-274	-458	16	7	6072
Virgin Islands	23	-8	7	0	0	410	1.1	-96	-124	2	6	418
Virginia	3751	796	447	15	16	27585	0.8	-1091	-5061	436	427	28448
Washington	6078	-444	-667	9	20	60433	2.0	-1288	2914	258	450	61141
West Virginia	899	-18	-181	0	1	14522	2.2	-330	-5934	44	49	14615
Wisconsin	6207	-535	-952	0	2	50276	1.8	-2543	-5414	113	36	50425
Wyoming	348	-31	-227	3	0	5998	2.2	3111	-2503	151	18	6167
Totals	224969	2742	-5913	596	730	2282941	1.6	-66440	-209203	12294	10980	2306215

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 MARCH 18, 2017

STATES WITH AN INCREASE OF MORE THAN 1,000

State	Change	State Supplied Comment
OH	+4,205	Layoffs in the manufacturing and transportation and warehousing industries.
KS	+2,313	No comment.
MO	+2,241	Layoffs in the administrative, support, waste management and remediation service, manufacturing, and transportation and warehousing industries.
NJ	+1,019	Layoffs in the construction, administrative, support, waste management and remediation service, accommodation and food service, and transportation and warehousing industries.

STATES WITH A DECREASE OF MORE THAN 1,000

State	Change	State Supplied Comment
CA	-4,764	Fewer layoffs in the service industry.
NY	-1,556	Fewer layoffs in the retail trade, construction, and professional, scientific, and technical service 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](#)

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U.S. Department of Labor
Employment and Training Administration
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Program Contacts:
Brenda Loya (202) 693-3760
Tony Sznoluch (202) 693-3176
Media Contact: (202) 693-4676