



News Release

Connect with DOL at <http://blog.dol.gov>



TRANSMISSION OF MATERIALS IN THIS RELEASE IS EMBARGOED UNTIL
8:30 A.M. (Eastern) Thursday, May 11, 2017

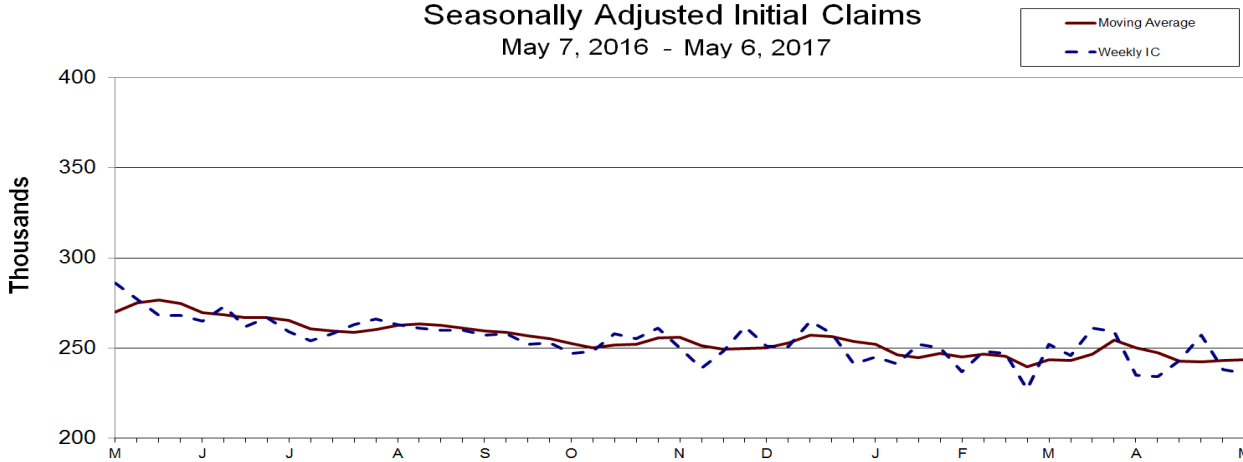
UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE WEEKLY CLAIMS

SEASONALLY ADJUSTED DATA

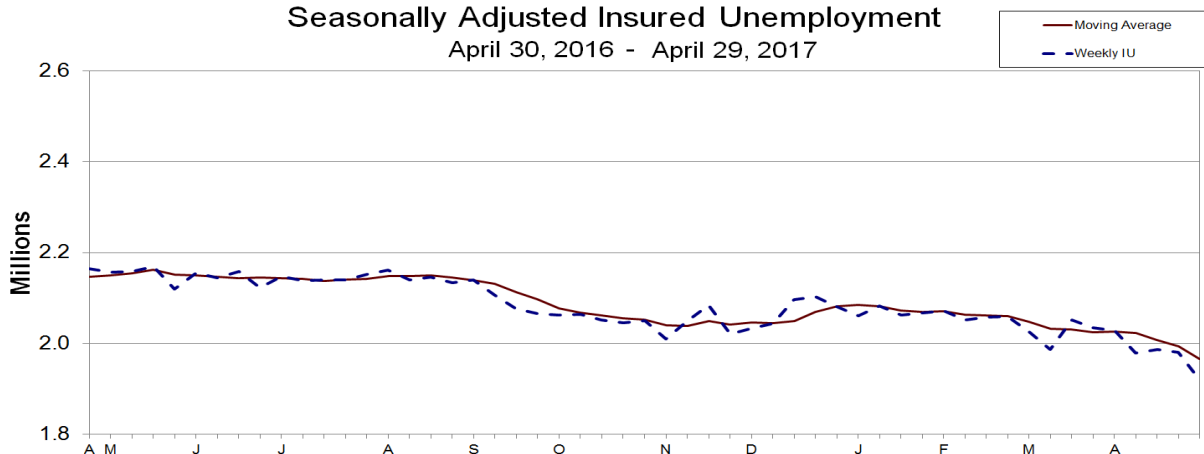
In the week ending May 6, the advance figure for seasonally adjusted **initial claims** was 236,000, a decrease of 2,000 from the previous week's unrevised level of 238,000. The 4-week moving average was 243,500, an increase of 500 from the previous week's unrevised average of 243,000.

The advance seasonally adjusted **insured unemployment rate** was 1.4 percent for the week ending April 29, unchanged from the previous week's unrevised rate. The advance number for seasonally adjusted **insured unemployment** during the week ending April 29 was 1,918,000, a decrease of 61,000 from the previous week's revised level. This is the lowest level for insured unemployment since November 5, 1988 when it was 1,898,000. The previous week's level was revised up 15,000 from 1,964,000 to 1,979,000. The 4-week moving average was 1,965,500, a decrease of 27,500 from the previous week's revised average. This is the lowest level for this average since February 2, 1974 when it was 1,964,250. The previous week's average was revised up by 3,750 from 1,989,250 to 1,993,000.

Seasonally Adjusted Initial Claims
May 7, 2016 - May 6, 2017



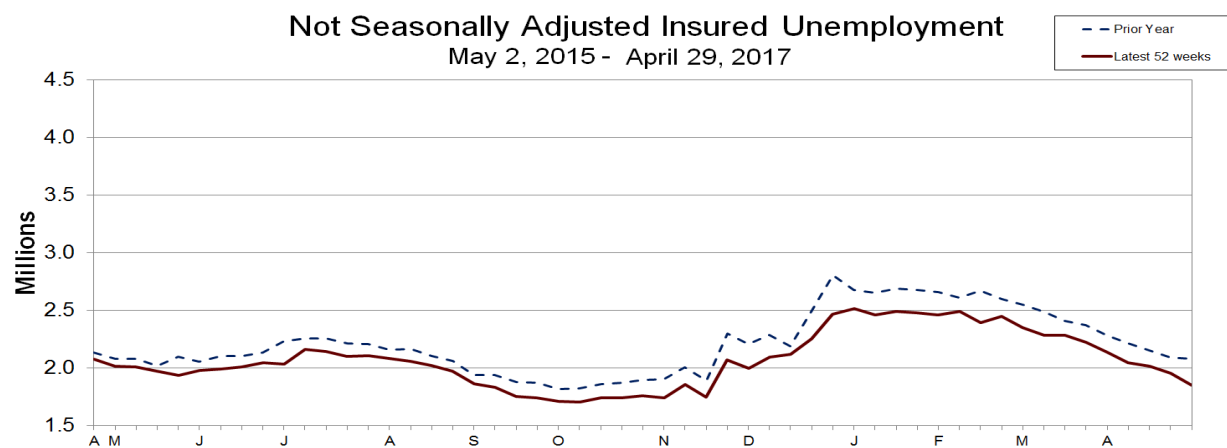
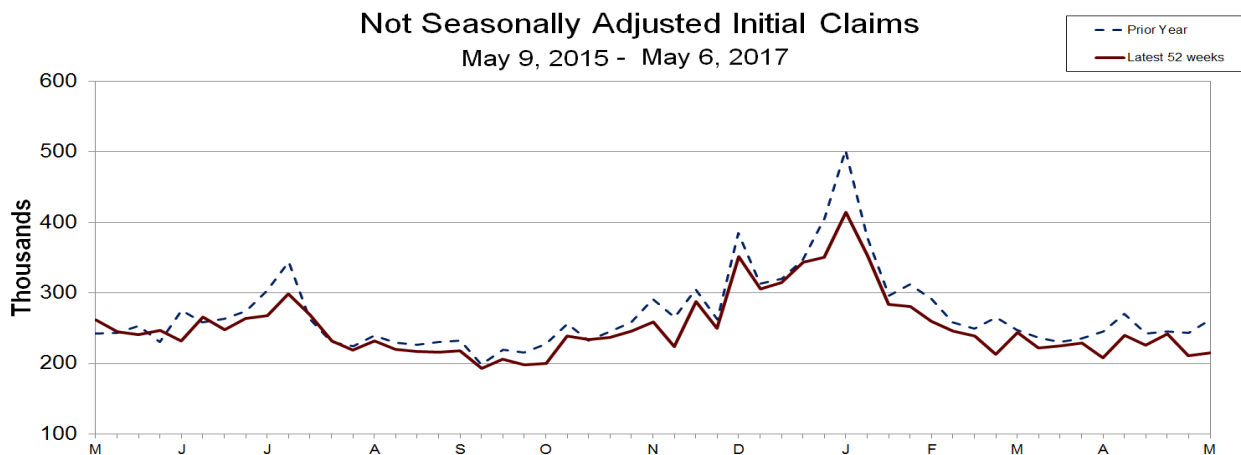
Seasonally Adjusted Insured Unemployment
April 30, 2016 - April 29, 2017



UNADJUSTED DATA

The advance number of actual initial claims under state programs, unadjusted, totaled 215,041 in the week ending May 6, an increase of 3,732 (or 1.8 percent) from the previous week. The seasonal factors had expected an increase of 5,229 (or 2.5 percent) from the previous week. There were 261,899 initial claims in the comparable week in 2016.

The advance unadjusted insured unemployment rate was 1.3 percent during the week ending April 29, a decrease of 0.1 percentage point from the prior week. The advance unadjusted number for persons claiming UI benefits in state programs totaled 1,853,005, a decrease of 98,086 (or -5.0 percent) from the preceding week. The seasonal factors had expected a decrease of 39,576 (or -2.0 percent) from the previous week. A year earlier the rate was 1.5 percent and the volume was 2,080,555.



The total number of people claiming benefits in all programs for the week ending April 22 was 1,987,366, a decrease of 64,720 from the previous week. There were 2,136,078 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 April 22.

Initial claims for UI benefits filed by former Federal civilian employees totaled 611 in the week ending April 29, a decrease of 22 from the prior week. There were 777 initial claims filed by newly discharged veterans, an increase of 13 from the preceding week.

There were 10,216 former Federal civilian employees claiming UI benefits for the week ending April 22, a decrease of 781 from the previous week. Newly discharged veterans claiming benefits totaled 10,955, an increase of 13 from the prior week.

The highest insured unemployment rates in the week ending April 22 were in Alaska (3.4), Puerto Rico (2.7), New Jersey (2.5), California (2.3), Connecticut (2.3), Rhode Island (2.3), Massachusetts (2.1), Illinois (2.0), Pennsylvania (2.0), and Montana (1.7).

The largest increases in initial claims for the week ending April 29 were in Illinois (+652), Tennessee (+432), Indiana (+350), Iowa (+314), and New Hampshire (+300), while the largest decreases were in New York (-13,953), New Jersey (-4,069), Massachusetts (-3,882), Rhode Island (-1,372), and Arizona (-1,246).

UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE DATA FOR REGULAR STATE PROGRAMS

WEEK ENDING	May 6	April 29	Change	April 22	<u>Prior Year</u> ¹
Initial Claims (SA)	236,000	238,000	-2,000	257,000	286,000
Initial Claims (NSA)	215,041	211,309	+3,732	241,780	261,899
4-Wk Moving Average (SA)	243,500	243,000	+500	242,250	270,000
WEEK ENDING	April 29	April 22	Change	April 15	<u>Prior Year</u> ¹
Insured Unemployment (SA)	1,918,000	1,979,000	-61,000	1,987,000	2,165,000
Insured Unemployment (NSA)	1,853,005	1,951,091	-98,086	2,014,508	2,080,555
4-Wk Moving Average (SA)	1,965,500	1,993,000	-27,500	2,007,000	2,146,750
<u>Insured Unemployment Rate (SA)</u> ²	1.4%	1.4%	0.0	1.4%	1.6%
<u>Insured Unemployment Rate (NSA)</u> ²	1.3%	1.4%	-0.1	1.4%	1.5%

INITIAL CLAIMS FILED IN FEDERAL PROGRAMS (UNADJUSTED)

WEEK ENDING	April 29	April 22	Change	<u>Prior Year</u> ¹
Federal Employees (UCFE)	611	633	-22	612
Newly Discharged Veterans (UCX)	777	764	+13	979

PERSONS CLAIMING UI BENEFITS IN ALL PROGRAMS (UNADJUSTED)

WEEK ENDING	April 22	April 15	Change	<u>Prior Year</u> ¹
Regular State	1,948,030	2,011,433	-63,403	2,089,222
Federal Employees	10,216	10,997	-781	8,612
Newly Discharged Veterans	10,955	10,942	+13	13,679
<u>Extended Benefits</u> ³	20	0	+20	0
<u>State Additional Benefits</u> ⁴	7,633	7,820	-187	7,901
<u>STC / Workshare</u> ⁵	10,512	10,894	-382	16,664
<u>TOTAL</u>	1,987,366	2,052,086	-64,720	2,136,078

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 139,505,637 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 6			Insured Unemployment For Week Ended April 29		
	Advance	Prior Wk	Change	Advance	Prior Wk	Change
Alabama	2,261	2,268	-7	15,984	16,485	-501
Alaska	1,275	997	278	10,616	10,537	79
Arizona	4,329	4,767	-438	26,484	29,098	-2,614
Arkansas	1,701	1,716	-15	11,686	12,693	-1,007
California	43,623	43,906	-283	372,939	381,890	-8,951
Colorado	2,217	2,307	-90	24,974	23,863	1,111
Connecticut	2,972	3,214	-242	36,825	37,544	-719
Delaware	470	634	-164	5,448	6,268	-820
District of Columbia	649	349	300	7,432	7,972	-540
Florida	7,751	6,952	799	38,190	40,858	-2,668
Georgia	5,656	4,685	971	25,577	27,151	-1,574
Hawaii	1,341	1,216	125	7,645	7,757	-112
Idaho	860	974	-114	6,619	7,562	-943
Illinois	9,961	8,955	1,006	111,789	114,215	-2,426
Indiana	2,811	2,753	58	21,094	20,511	583
Iowa	2,359	2,313	46	19,015	17,808	1,207
Kansas	1,951	1,586	365	10,011	10,134	-123
Kentucky	2,395	2,081	314	17,396	18,710	-1,314
*Louisiana	2,302	2,640	-338	21,497	21,914	-417
Maine	663	820	-157	7,230	8,126	-896
Maryland	3,036	3,415	-379	29,889	33,650	-3,761
Massachusetts	5,145	5,093	52	61,661	71,991	-10,330
Michigan	5,827	5,585	242	48,974	59,088	-10,114
Minnesota	3,004	2,887	117	39,922	40,796	-874
Mississippi	1,301	1,269	32	8,143	9,123	-980
Missouri	3,857	3,102	755	22,257	24,224	-1,967
Montana	658	788	-130	7,000	7,523	-523
Nebraska	745	607	138	4,089	4,354	-265
Nevada	2,523	2,343	180	19,881	21,555	-1,674
New Hampshire	513	908	-395	4,268	4,335	-67
New Jersey	8,320	8,323	-3	91,087	97,390	-6,303
New Mexico	833	841	-8	10,542	11,004	-462
New York	14,974	17,717	-2,743	139,068	151,297	-12,229
North Carolina	3,316	3,087	229	20,013	21,283	-1,270
North Dakota	386	320	66	4,176	3,803	373
Ohio	6,604	5,416	1,188	55,591	59,206	-3,615
Oklahoma	1,343	1,429	-86	14,408	14,831	-423
Oregon	2,971	3,515	-544	27,029	27,871	-842
Pennsylvania	12,912	11,799	1,113	106,867	113,223	-6,356
Puerto Rico	1,526	1,766	-240	21,582	23,350	-1,768
Rhode Island	763	855	-92	8,447	10,607	-2,160
South Carolina	2,243	2,199	44	12,067	12,759	-692
South Dakota	154	137	17	1,482	1,635	-153
Tennessee	3,004	2,938	66	17,044	17,934	-890
Texas	14,765	13,224	1,541	143,033	139,968	3,065
Utah	1,153	1,282	-129	8,856	8,645	211
Vermont	505	759	-254	4,898	5,200	-302
Virgin Islands	20	10	10	558	368	190
Virginia	3,102	2,641	461	24,010	33,340	-9,330
Washington	6,060	5,922	138	52,395	51,777	618
West Virginia	825	796	29	10,661	10,813	-152
Wisconsin	4,714	4,820	-106	30,860	33,161	-2,301
Wyoming	392	383	9	3,796	3,891	-95
US Total	215,041	211,309	3,732	1,853,005	1,951,091	-98,086

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 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	
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	259	-2	254.50	2,035	-17	2,024.75	1.5
April 1, 2017	235	-24	250.25	2,028	-7	2,025.50	1.5
April 8, 2017	234	-1	247.25	1,978	-50	2,023.25	1.4
April 15, 2017	243	9	242.75	1,987	9	2,007.00	1.4
April 22, 2017	257	14	242.25	1,979	-8	1,993.00	1.4
April 29, 2017	238	-19	243.00	1,918	-61	1,965.50	1.4
May 6, 2017	236	-2	243.50				

Initial Claims Filed During Week Ended April
29

Insured Unemployment For Week Ended April 22
INSURED UNEMPLOYMENT

STATE	STATE	INITIAL CLAIMS CHANGE FROM					STATE	CHANGE FROM				ALL PROGRAMS EXCLUDING RAILROAD RETIREMENT
		LAST WEEK	YEAR AGO	UCFE 1	UCX 1	(%) 2		LAST WEEK	YEAR AGO	UCFE 1	UCX 1	
Alabama	2268	-215	-237	16	11	16485	0.9	-110	-3091	72	110	16667
Alaska	997	-147	-101	8	2	10537	3.4	-420	-1294	68	38	10643
Arizona	4767	-1246	16	9	9	29098	1.1	1219	-3159	143	97	29338
Arkansas	1716	-259	-411	5	1	12693	1.1	302	-3617	58	66	12817
California	43906	-1212	1232	114	173	381890	2.3	-2471	2762	2243	2246	386379
Colorado	2307	-34	-253	9	19	23863	1.0	-839	-6179	198	467	24528
Connecticut	3214	-797	105	5	6	37544	2.3	-5353	-2005	53	95	37692
Delaware	634	-618	121	1	2	6268	1.5	877	-515	15	20	6303
District of Columbia	349	66	46	11	2	7972	1.4	-64	716	1023	0	8995
Florida	6952	66	-408	20	48	40858	0.5	-2047	-4959	185	241	41284
Georgia	4685	-516	-868	21	25	27151	0.7	-826	-2988	189	277	27617
Hawaii	1216	-89	28	5	11	7757	1.3	180	1014	47	112	7916
Idaho	974	-11	-82	5	3	7562	1.1	-347	-3	82	31	7675
Illinois	8955	652	-726	14	10	114215	2.0	-9145	-5161	327	267	114809
Indiana	2753	350	-88	9	8	20511	0.7	-1135	-2484	77	46	20634
Iowa	2313	314	-182	3	4	17808	1.2	-1608	-1362	40	48	17896
Kansas	1586	-116	-3553	2	6	10134	0.8	-228	-3162	29	59	10222
Kentucky	2081	-15	-716	5	3	18710	1.0	19	-3773	127	99	18936
Louisiana	2640	9	77	5	9	21914	1.2	104	-940	54	66	22034
Maine	820	53	-205	1	0	8126	1.4	-330	-855	28	23	8177
Maryland	3415	116	99	29	9	33650	1.4	-2428	-1866	377	180	34207
Massachusetts	5093	-3882	-333	15	11	71991	2.1	1873	-5938	157	190	72338
Michigan	5585	52	-3570	6	9	59088	1.4	-3987	-2120	158	142	59388
Minnesota	2887	-66	-246	2	6	40796	1.5	-4272	-1671	71	83	40950
Mississippi	1269	-43	-187	7	1	9123	0.8	120	-2064	99	44	9266
Missouri	3102	45	-2290	7	3	24224	0.9	695	973	90	67	24381
Montana	788	-108	-182	6	4	7523	1.7	-214	-1160	195	36	7754
Nebraska	607	-38	-114	3	2	4354	0.5	-401	-66	19	11	4404
Nevada	2343	-6	-251	8	5	21555	1.7	-978	-1783	139	95	21789
New Hampshire	908	300	-234	2	1	4335	0.7	-236	-712	6	4	4345
New Jersey	8323	-4069	-868	5	20	97390	2.5	-4026	2219	193	314	97897
New Mexico	841	7	-222	3	3	11004	1.4	-156	-3055	122	75	11201
New York	17717	-13953	-795	53	28	151297	1.7	-18067	-2004	335	516	152148
North Carolina	3087	18	-306	5	19	21283	0.5	80	-3891	99	229	21611
North Dakota	320	33	-311	1	0	3803	0.9	-830	-1992	9	4	3816
Ohio	5416	-1231	-4630	7	17	59206	1.1	-2837	-2245	106	263	59575
Oklahoma	1429	11	-384	6	7	14831	1.0	-127	-8755	70	120	15021
Oregon	3515	-182	-298	17	15	27871	1.5	-434	-562	346	160	28377
Pennsylvania	11799	-982	-3204	58	57	113223	2.0	-5073	-14273	498	323	114044
Puerto Rico	1766	121	187	2	4	23350	2.7	-658	1329	51	58	23459
Rhode Island	855	-1372	-4	6	0	10607	2.3	1394	-248	21	37	10665
South Carolina	2199	116	-154	7	10	12759	0.7	-458	-1116	59	107	12925
South Dakota	137	-42	-65	3	2	1635	0.4	-265	58	40	2	1677
Tennessee	2938	432	-1130	11	3	17934	0.6	876	-3355	417	175	18526
Texas	13224	-611	-2909	41	146	139968	1.2	-4921	-39014	464	1921	142353
Utah	1282	2	19	6	4	8645	0.6	28	-1727	69	30	8744
Vermont	759	-382	236	2	1	5200	1.7	93	-820	13	7	5220
Virgin Islands	10	-2	-6	0	0	368	1.0	-110	-48	0	6	374
Virginia	2641	-38	-1795	13	22	33340	0.9	9408	4685	443	549	34332
Washington	5922	117	-376	3	10	51777	1.7	-1199	2552	317	715	52809
West Virginia	796	-132	-572	2	2	10813	1.6	-649	-6235	45	43	10901
Wisconsin	4820	-972	-510	5	3	33161	1.2	-2920	-3219	60	30	33251
Wyoming	383	35	-473	2	1	3891	1.5	-516	-4137	70	11	3972
Totals	211309	-30471	-32083	611	777	1951091	1.4	-63417	-143315	10216	10955	1972282

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 29, 2017

STATES WITH AN INCREASE OF MORE THAN 1,000

State	Change	State Supplied Comment
None		

STATES WITH A DECREASE OF MORE THAN 1,000

State	Change	State Supplied Comment
NY	-13,953	Fewer layoffs in the transportation and warehousing, accommodation and food service, and educational service industries.
NJ	-4,069	Fewer layoffs in the transportation and warehousing, accommodation and food service, educational service, and administrative, support, waste management and remediation service industries.
MA	-3,882	Fewer layoffs in the transportation and warehousing and accommodation and food service industries.
RI	-1,372	Fewer layoffs in the manufacturing industry.
AZ	-1,246	No comment.
OH	-1,231	No comment.
CA	-1,212	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](#)

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).

U.S. Department of Labor
Employment and Training Administration
Washington, D.C. 20210
Release Number: USDL 17-607-NAT

Program Contacts:
Brenda Loya (202) 693-3760
Tony Sznoluch (202) 693-3176
Media Contact: (202) 693-4676