



News Release

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UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE WEEKLY CLAIMS

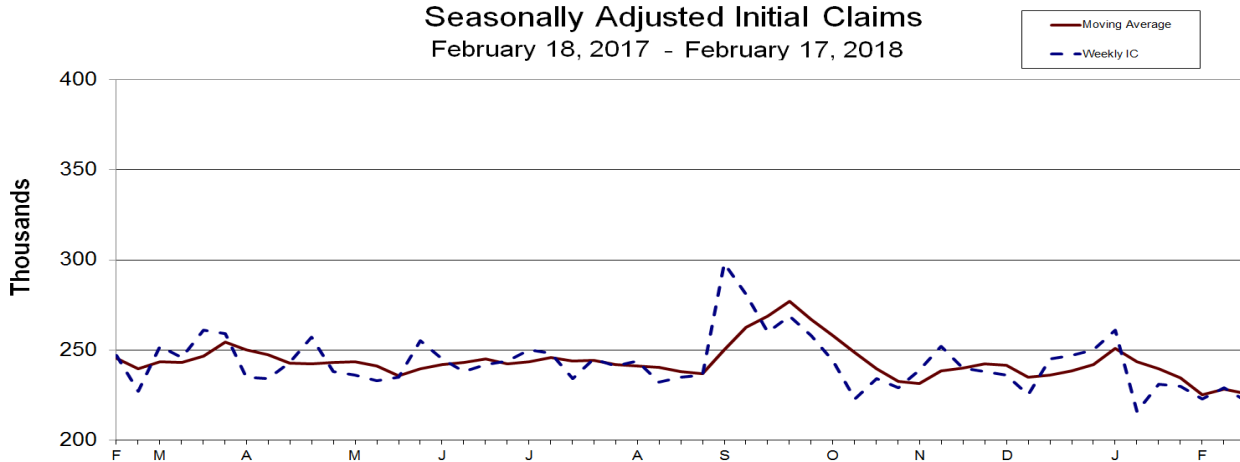
SEASONALLY ADJUSTED DATA

In the week ending February 17, the advance figure for seasonally adjusted **initial claims** was 222,000, a decrease of 7,000 from the previous week's revised level. The previous week's level was revised down by 1,000 from 230,000 to 229,000. The 4-week moving average was 226,000, a decrease of 2,250 from the previous week's revised average. The previous week's average was revised down by 250 from 228,500 to 228,250.

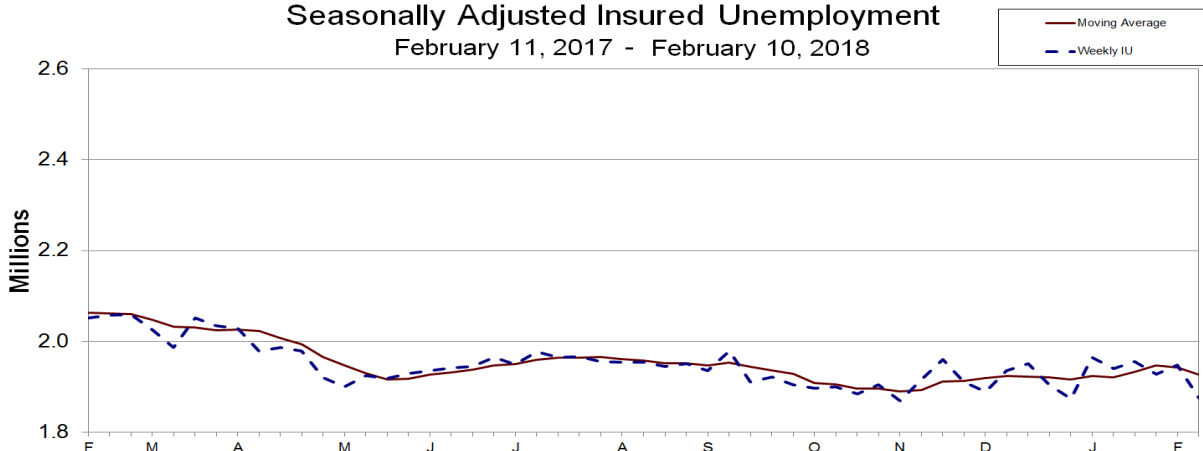
Claims taking procedures in Puerto Rico and in the Virgin Islands have still not returned to normal.

The advance seasonally adjusted **insured unemployment rate** was 1.3 percent for the week ending February 10, a decrease of 0.1 percentage point from the previous week's unrevised rate. The advance number for seasonally adjusted **insured unemployment** during the week ending February 10 was 1,875,000, a decrease of 73,000 from the previous week's revised level. The previous week's level was revised up 6,000 from 1,942,000 to 1,948,000. The 4-week moving average was 1,926,500, a decrease of 16,250 from the previous week's revised average. The previous week's average was revised up by 1,500 from 1,941,250 to 1,942,750.

Seasonally Adjusted Initial Claims
February 18, 2017 - February 17, 2018



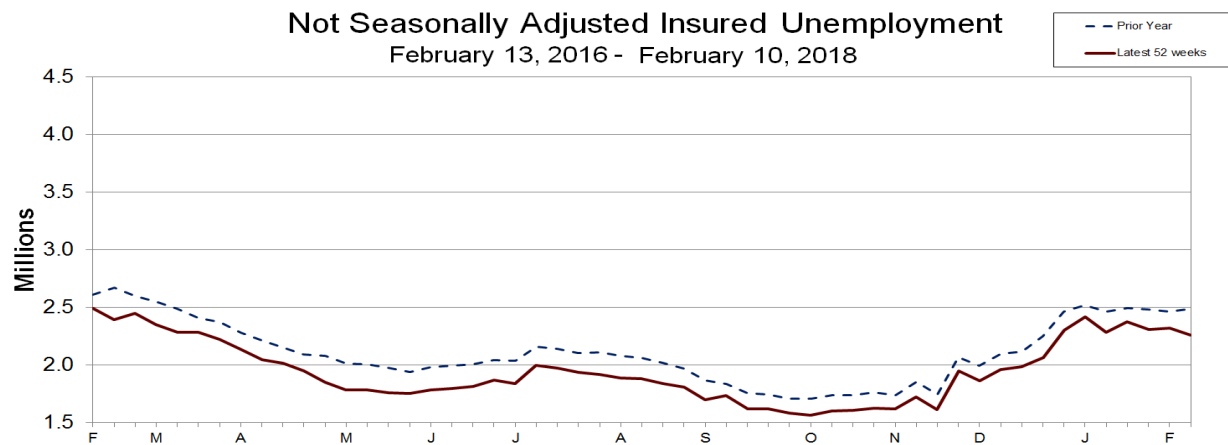
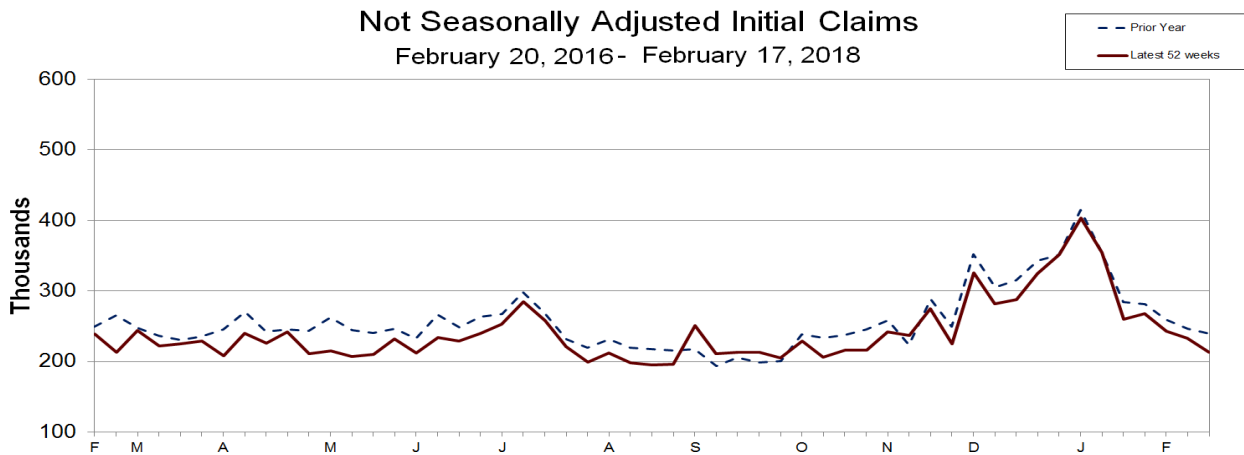
Seasonally Adjusted Insured Unemployment
February 11, 2017 - February 10, 2018



UNADJUSTED DATA

The advance number of actual initial claims under state programs, unadjusted, totaled 213,328 in the week ending February 17, a decrease of 19,477 (or -8.4 percent) from the previous week. The seasonal factors had expected a decrease of 11,927 (or -5.1 percent) from the previous week. There were 239,322 initial claims in the comparable week in 2017.

The advance unadjusted insured unemployment rate was 1.6 percent during the week ending February 10, unchanged from the prior week. The advance unadjusted number for persons claiming UI benefits in state programs totaled 2,261,742, a decrease of 61,813 (or -2.7 percent) from the preceding week. The seasonal factors had expected an increase of 25,320 (or 1.1 percent) from the previous week. A year earlier the rate was 1.8 percent and the volume was 2,489,682.



The total number of people claiming benefits in all programs for the week ending February 3 was 2,360,760, an increase of 13,383 from the previous week. There were 2,508,785 persons claiming benefits in all programs in the comparable week in 2017.

Extended benefits were available in Alaska and the Virgin Islands during the week ending February 3.

Initial claims for UI benefits filed by former Federal civilian employees totaled 709 in the week ending February 10, a decrease of 213 from the prior week. There were 649 initial claims filed by newly discharged veterans, a decrease of 91 from the preceding week.

There were 13,683 former Federal civilian employees claiming UI benefits for the week ending February 3, an increase of 1,408 from the previous week. Newly discharged veterans claiming benefits totaled 8,453, a decrease of 373 from the prior week.

The highest insured unemployment rates in the week ending February 3 were in the Virgin Islands (11.7), Alaska (4.2), Puerto Rico (3.6), Connecticut (3.0), New Jersey (3.0), Montana (2.8), Pennsylvania (2.7), Rhode Island (2.7), Massachusetts (2.6), California (2.4), and Illinois (2.4).

The largest increases in initial claims for the week ending February 10 were in Michigan (+565), Tennessee (+291), Kansas (+204), Minnesota (+190), and New Jersey (+186), while the largest decreases were in California (-2,533), Pennsylvania (-1,420), Puerto Rico (-1,366), New York (-1,043), and South Carolina (-569).

UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE DATA FOR REGULAR STATE PROGRAMS

WEEK ENDING	February 17	February 10	Change	February 3	<u>Prior Year</u>¹
Initial Claims (SA)	222,000	229,000	-7,000	223,000	247,000
Initial Claims (NSA)	213,328	232,805	-19,477	242,962	239,322
4-Wk Moving Average (SA)	226,000	228,250	-2,250	225,000	245,500
WEEK ENDING	February 10	February 3	Change	January 27	<u>Prior Year</u>¹
Insured Unemployment (SA)	1,875,000	1,948,000	-73,000	1,927,000	2,052,000
Insured Unemployment (NSA)	2,261,742	2,323,555	-61,813	2,310,655	2,489,682
4-Wk Moving Average (SA)	1,926,500	1,942,750	-16,250	1,947,000	2,063,250
<u>Insured Unemployment Rate (SA)</u> ²	1.3%	1.4%	-0.1	1.4%	1.5%
<u>Insured Unemployment Rate (NSA)</u> ²	1.6%	1.6%	0.0	1.6%	1.8%

INITIAL CLAIMS FILED IN FEDERAL PROGRAMS (UNADJUSTED)

WEEK ENDING	February 10	February 3	Change	<u>Prior Year</u>¹
Federal Employees (UCFE)	709	922	-213	888
Newly Discharged Veterans (UCX)	649	740	-91	798

PERSONS CLAIMING UI BENEFITS IN ALL PROGRAMS (UNADJUSTED)

WEEK ENDING	February 3	January 27	Change	<u>Prior Year</u>¹
Regular State	2,320,540	2,307,488	+13,052	2,460,976
Federal Employees	13,683	12,275	+1,408	14,759
Newly Discharged Veterans	8,453	8,826	-373	11,857
<u>Extended Benefits</u> ³	1,005	1,082	-77	0
<u>State Additional Benefits</u> ⁴	6,721	6,703	+18	7,576
<u>STC / Workshare</u> ⁵	10,358	11,003	-645	13,617
<u>TOTAL</u>	2,360,760	2,347,377	+13,383	2,508,785

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 141,013,239 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 17			Insured Unemployment For Week Ended February 10		
	Advance	Prior Wk	Change	Advance	Prior Wk	Change
Alabama	2,179	2,255	-76	17,053	17,438	-385
Alaska	1,210	1,192	18	11,628	12,997	-1,369
Arizona	3,259	3,935	-676	19,969	22,559	-2,590
Arkansas	1,593	1,643	-50	13,660	14,920	-1,260
California*	40,406	41,154	-748	377,272	405,765	-28,493
Colorado	1,870	2,126	-256	24,592	26,457	-1,865
Connecticut	3,366	3,793	-427	49,591	49,927	-336
Delaware	539	550	-11	7,011	6,903	108
District of Columbia	505	288	217	8,464	9,188	-724
Florida	6,449	7,159	-710	34,939	44,402	-9,463
Georgia	5,508	6,173	-665	28,512	30,715	-2,203
Hawaii **	1,260	1,332	-72	7,730	7,708	22
Idaho	1,074	1,349	-275	10,937	11,973	-1,036
Illinois	8,193	10,170	-1,977	146,934	139,908	7,026
Indiana	2,736	2,791	-55	25,263	23,988	1,275
Iowa	2,448	2,467	-19	32,897	31,459	1,438
Kansas	1,753	2,126	-373	13,973	13,414	559
Kentucky	3,329	3,467	-138	23,507	25,310	-1,803
Louisiana	1,639	2,160	-521	15,834	18,566	-2,732
Maine *	726	769	-43	9,686	9,500	186
Maryland	2,848	3,688	-840	36,305	39,769	-3,464
Massachusetts	5,265	5,953	-688	88,450	90,317	-1,867
Michigan	7,169	12,417	-5,248	83,210	91,238	-8,028
Minnesota	3,707	3,998	-291	66,601	65,577	1,024
Mississippi	802	1,195	-393	8,701	9,752	-1,051
Missouri	3,016	3,725	-709	33,587	33,992	-405
Montana	1,039	1,005	34	12,693	12,547	146
Nebraska	681	803	-122	8,286	8,456	-170
Nevada	2,642	2,583	59	21,394	22,846	-1,452
New Hampshire	534	560	-26	4,916	5,339	-423
New Jersey	9,295	9,049	246	119,266	118,209	1,057
New Mexico	705	790	-85	10,585	11,185	-600
New York	15,201	16,085	-884	177,231	175,024	2,207
North Carolina	3,073	3,375	-302	22,619	24,377	-1,758
North Dakota	518	528	-10	9,478	8,006	1,472
Ohio	6,616	7,402	-786	81,819	79,889	1,930
Oklahoma	1,154	1,502	-348	14,381	15,000	-619
Oregon	3,672	4,254	-582	31,874	32,083	-209
Pennsylvania	15,172	15,628	-456	145,162	154,960	-9,798
Puerto Rico ^{1M}	2,655	1,587	1,068	36,736	31,014	5,722
Rhode Island	1,021	916	105	12,772	12,642	130
South Carolina	1,912	2,540	-628	18,144	19,046	-902
South Dakota	210	241	-31	3,418	3,494	-76
Tennessee	2,110	2,684	-574	22,854	24,623	-1,769
Texas	13,026	13,738	-712	130,036	129,893	143
Utah	1,130	777	353	11,972	12,381	-409
Vermont	403	475	-72	5,844	5,565	279
Virgin Islands ^{1M}	23	34	-11	3,582	4,356	-774
Virginia *	3,678	3,094	584	28,266	27,061	1,205
Washington	5,943	6,817	-874	63,466	62,661	805
West Virginia **	929	1,158	-229	14,097	14,412	-315
Wisconsin	6,704	6,930	-226	50,031	49,696	335
Wyoming *	433	375	58	4,514	5,048	-534
US Total	213,328	232,805	-19,477	2,261,742	2,323,555	-61,813

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.

**Denotes OUI estimate.

¹Affected by Hurricane Irma.

^MAffected by Hurricane Maria.

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	
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	1,920	-59	1,966.00	1.4
May 6, 2017	236	-2	243.50	1,899	-21	1,946.25	1.4
May 13, 2017	233	-3	241.00	1,924	25	1,930.50	1.4
May 20, 2017	235	2	235.50	1,919	-5	1,915.50	1.4
May 27, 2017	255	20	239.75	1,929	10	1,917.75	1.4
June 3, 2017	245	-10	242.00	1,936	7	1,927.00	1.4
June 10, 2017	238	-7	243.25	1,942	6	1,931.50	1.4
June 17, 2017	242	4	245.00	1,945	3	1,938.00	1.4
June 24, 2017	244	2	242.25	1,965	20	1,947.00	1.4
July 1, 2017	250	6	243.50	1,949	-16	1,950.25	1.4
July 8, 2017	248	-2	246.00	1,977	28	1,959.00	1.4
July 15, 2017	234	-14	244.00	1,965	-12	1,964.00	1.4
July 22, 2017	245	11	244.25	1,967	2	1,964.50	1.4
July 29, 2017	241	-4	242.00	1,956	-11	1,966.25	1.4
August 5, 2017	244	3	241.00	1,954	-2	1,960.50	1.4
August 12, 2017	232	-12	240.50	1,954	0	1,957.75	1.4
August 19, 2017	235	3	238.00	1,945	-9	1,952.25	1.4
August 26, 2017	236	1	236.75	1,951	6	1,951.00	1.4
September 2, 2017	298	62	250.25	1,935	-16	1,946.25	1.4
September 9, 2017	281	-17	262.50	1,979	44	1,952.50	1.4
September 16, 2017	260	-21	268.75	1,911	-68	1,944.00	1.4
September 23, 2017	269	9	277.00	1,921	10	1,936.50	1.4
September 30, 2017	258	-11	267.00	1,904	-17	1,928.75	1.4
October 7, 2017	244	-14	257.75	1,896	-8	1,908.00	1.3
October 14, 2017	223	-21	248.50	1,900	4	1,905.25	1.4
October 21, 2017	234	11	239.75	1,884	-16	1,896.00	1.3
October 28, 2017	229	-5	232.50	1,904	20	1,896.00	1.4
November 4, 2017	239	10	231.25	1,868	-36	1,889.00	1.3
November 11, 2017	252	13	238.50	1,915	47	1,892.75	1.4
November 18, 2017	240	-12	240.00	1,960	45	1,911.75	1.4
November 25, 2017	238	-2	242.25	1,911	-49	1,913.50	1.4
December 2, 2017	236	-2	241.50	1,889	-22	1,918.75	1.3
December 9, 2017	225	-11	234.75	1,936	47	1,924.00	1.4
December 16, 2017	245	20	236.00	1,951	15	1,921.75	1.4
December 23, 2017	247	2	238.25	1,905	-46	1,920.25	1.4
December 30, 2017	250	3	241.75	1,873	-32	1,916.25	1.3
January 6, 2018	261	11	250.75	1,965	92	1,923.50	1.4
January 13, 2018	216	-45	243.50	1,940	-25	1,920.75	1.4
January 20, 2018	231	15	239.50	1,956	16	1,933.50	1.4
January 27, 2018	230	-1	234.50	1,927	-29	1,947.00	1.4
February 3, 2018	223	-7	225.00	1,948	21	1,942.75	1.4
February 10, 2018	229	6	228.25	1,875	-73	1,926.50	1.3
February 17, 2018	222	-7	226.00				

Initial Claims Filed During Week Ended February 10 INITIAL CLAIMS								Insured Unemployment For Week Ended February 3 INSURED UNEMPLOYMENT				
STATE	STATE	CHANGE FROM				STATE	($\%$) ²	CHANGE FROM		UCFE	UCX	ALL PROGRAMS EXCLUDING RAILROAD RETIREMENT
		LAST WEEK	YEAR AGO	UCFE	UCX			LAST WEEK	YEAR AGO			
Alabama	2255	-200	-157	10	11	17438	0.9	-162	-2335	74	71	17583
Alaska	1192	-82	-148	5	1	12997	4.2	978	-1254	260	23	14284
Arizona	3935	-136	-68	6	4	22559	0.8	231	-3219	285	58	22902
Arkansas	1643	-31	-28	3	10	14920	1.3	-165	-1238	91	124	15135
California	41154	-2533	-8523	174	115	405765	2.4	25563	-16430	3328	1754	410847
Colorado	2126	-142	-277	12	20	26457	1.0	2464	-2753	484	265	27206
Connecticut	3793	39	673	14	10	49927	3.0	-4	2826	53	109	50089
Delaware	550	-66	-144	1	1	6903	1.6	-806	-477	19	10	6932
District of Columbia	288	-81	-42	6	0	9188	1.6	67	323	331	22	9541
Florida	7159	-473	-347	19	40	44402	0.5	2387	-31	159	202	44763
Georgia	6173	32	-87	32	29	30715	0.7	-229	-3188	169	220	31104
Hawaii	1332	161	19	1	13	7708	1.2	129	-72	72	96	7876
Idaho	1349	-212	-143	13	4	11973	1.7	-418	-2958	365	25	12363
Illinois	10170	180	545	9	7	139908	2.4	-8626	-14026	397	231	140536
Indiana	2791	-93	-418	4	8	23988	0.8	323	-8854	39	50	24077
Iowa	2467	-6	91	5	2	31459	2.1	-59	-3140	56	31	31546
Kansas	2126	204	-95	2	3	13414	1.0	-456	-1295	59	49	13522
Kentucky	3467	-303	677	7	4	25310	1.4	673	292	157	143	25610
Louisiana	2160	-131	-70	1	6	18566	1.0	-639	-2557	35	25	18626
Maine	769	-303	3	1	0	9500	1.6	-318	-1104	45	12	9557
Maryland	3688	-366	-229	18	17	39769	1.6	-224	-3979	377	116	40262
Massachusetts	5953	-97	187	12	11	90317	2.6	-963	-1164	166	145	90628
Michigan	12417	565	4025	17	12	91238	2.2	4348	-5371	299	113	91650
Minnesota	3998	190	68	3	4	65577	2.3	2092	-3187	171	78	65826
Mississippi	1195	0	-8	13	4	9752	0.9	-239	-2185	57	29	9838
Missouri	3725	-159	-94	8	5	33992	1.3	-7262	-913	192	66	34250
Montana	1005	-10	-30	21	2	12547	2.8	65	-1067	709	24	13281
Nebraska	803	-37	18	0	0	8456	0.9	-181	-231	28	12	8496
Nevada	2583	-124	-172	7	1	22846	1.8	73	-2362	241	79	23166
New Hampshire	560	-52	-30	0	0	5339	0.8	-46	-494	7	11	5357
New Jersey	9049	186	215	17	16	118209	3.0	314	-1068	295	293	118797
New Mexico	790	-105	-215	5	1	11185	1.4	-97	-1699	310	53	11548
New York	16085	-1043	-1117	20	36	175024	1.9	-2469	-9669	394	428	175846
North Carolina	3375	-210	-90	10	10	24377	0.6	1174	-3175	103	179	24659
North Dakota	528	-60	-36	1	0	8006	2.0	2	-1228	16	8	8030
Ohio	7402	-214	-886	4	16	79889	1.5	-788	-7242	131	215	80235
Oklahoma	1502	-88	-109	7	7	15000	1.0	165	-3178	65	79	15144
Oregon	4254	-325	-804	35	7	32083	1.8	-861	-2413	724	125	32932
Pennsylvania	15628	-1420	-475	56	33	154960	2.7	10520	2075	587	296	155843
Puerto Rico	1587	-1366	-384	1	8	31014	3.6	-4353	7205	14	49	31077
Rhode Island	916	-274	-28	0	1	12642	2.7	-137	-286	22	25	12689
South Carolina	2540	-569	330	11	12	19046	1.0	-473	2223	50	81	19177
South Dakota	241	24	-117	2	1	3494	0.9	37	-424	42	2	3538
Tennessee	2684	291	-172	9	7	24623	0.9	-491	1696	127	61	24811
Texas	13738	-393	-914	47	97	129893	1.1	-6873	-24931	513	1330	131736
Utah	777	-16	-399	18	1	12381	0.9	-151	-2306	306	27	12714
Vermont	475	7	-79	0	0	5565	1.8	-19	-662	11	4	5580
Virgin Islands	34	17	13	0	0	4356	11.7	636	3742	0	0	4356
Virginia	3094	-207	-682	20	21	27061	0.7	25	-2704	287	309	27657
Washington	6817	7	-1698	14	18	62661	2.0	-1467	-3697	543	610	63814
West Virginia	1158	-121	-36	1	7	14412	2.2	-397	-2518	64	41	14517
Wisconsin	6930	-38	-417	2	6	49696	1.8	-731	-7179	127	32	49855
Wyoming	375	26	-177	5	0	5048	1.9	738	-1414	227	13	5288
Totals	232805	-10157	-13081	709	649	2323555	1.6	12900	-141295	13683	8453	2346696

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 FEBRUARY 10, 2018

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
CA	-2,533	Fewer layoffs in the agriculture, forestry, fishing, and hunting, and service industries.
PA	-1,420	Fewer layoffs in the transportation and warehousing, accommodation and food service, health care and social assistance, and retail trade industries.
PR	-1,366	No comment.
NY	-1,043	Fewer layoffs in the manufacturing, accommodation and food service, and real estate, rental and leasing 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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