



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, March 1, 2018

UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE WEEKLY CLAIMS

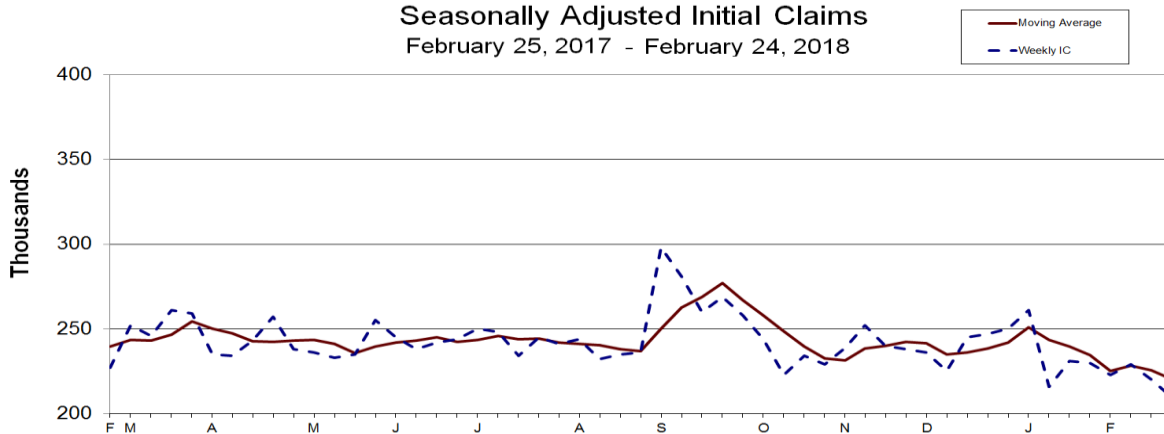
SEASONALLY ADJUSTED DATA

In the week ending February 24, the advance figure for seasonally adjusted **initial claims** was 210,000, a decrease of 10,000 from the previous week's revised level. This is the lowest level for initial claims since December 6, 1969 when it was 202,000. The previous week's level was revised down by 2,000 from 222,000 to 220,000. The 4-week moving average was 220,500, a decrease of 5,000 from the previous week's revised average. This is the lowest level for this average since December 27, 1969 when it was 219,750. The previous week's average was revised down by 500 from 226,000 to 225,500.

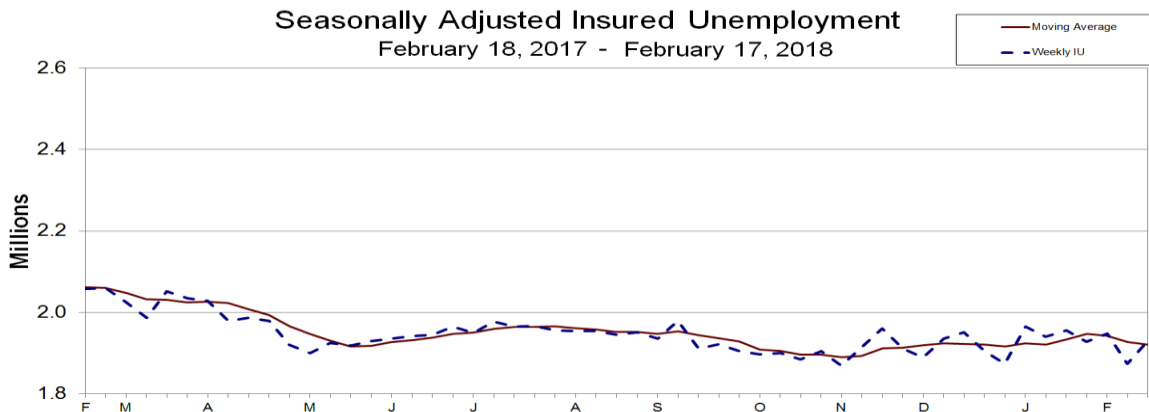
Claims taking procedures in Puerto Rico and in the Virgin Islands have still not returned to normal.

The advance seasonally adjusted **insured unemployment rate** was 1.4 percent for the week ending February 17, 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 February 17 was 1,931,000, an increase of 57,000 from the previous week's revised level. The previous week's level was revised down by 1,000 from 1,875,000 to 1,874,000. The 4-week moving average was 1,920,000, a decrease of 6,250 from the previous week's revised average. The previous week's average was revised down by 250 from 1,926,500 to 1,926,250.

Seasonally Adjusted Initial Claims
February 25, 2017 - February 24, 2018



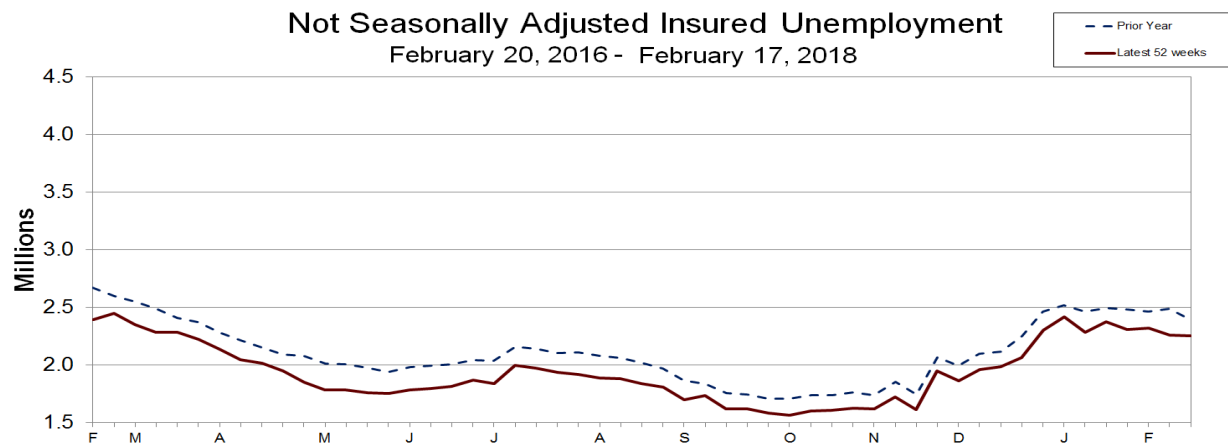
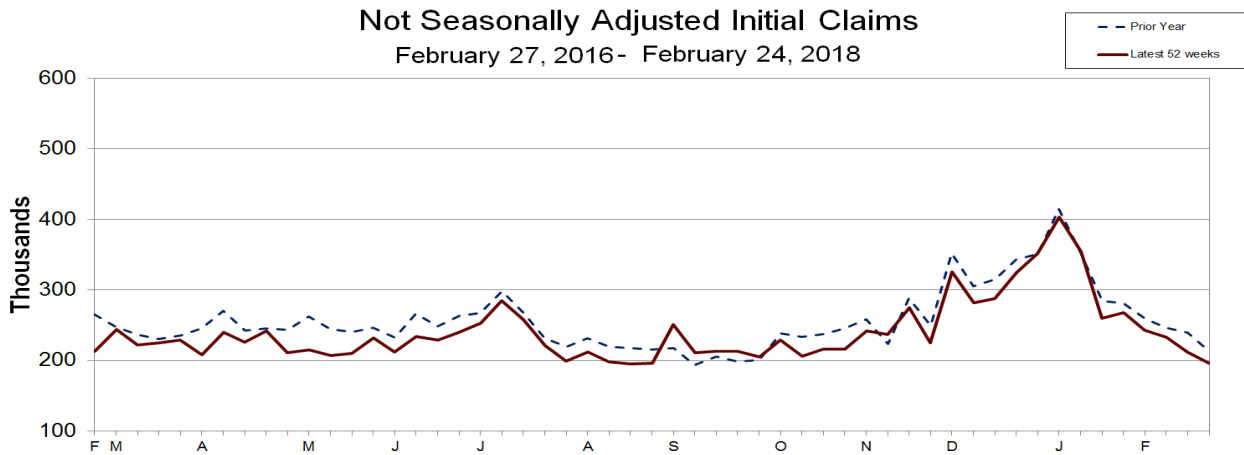
Seasonally Adjusted Insured Unemployment
February 18, 2017 - February 17, 2018



UNADJUSTED DATA

The advance number of actual initial claims under state programs, unadjusted, totaled 195,897 in the week ending February 24, a decrease of 16,316 (or -7.7 percent) from the previous week. The seasonal factors had expected a decrease of 6,611 (or -3.1 percent) from the previous week. There were 212,829 initial claims in the comparable week in 2017.

The advance unadjusted insured unemployment rate was 1.6 percent during the week ending February 17, unchanged from the prior week. The advance unadjusted number for persons claiming UI benefits in state programs totaled 2,255,253, a decrease of 5,387 (or -0.2 percent) from the preceding week. The seasonal factors had expected a decrease of 71,231 (or -3.2 percent) from the previous week. A year earlier the rate was 1.7 percent and the volume was 2,392,472.



The total number of people claiming benefits in all programs for the week ending February 10 was 2,295,730, a decrease of 65,030 from the previous week. There were 2,533,393 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 10.

Initial claims for UI benefits filed by former Federal civilian employees totaled 648 in the week ending February 17, a decrease of 61 from the prior week. There were 627 initial claims filed by newly discharged veterans, a decrease of 22 from the preceding week.

There were 11,809 former Federal civilian employees claiming UI benefits for the week ending February 10, a decrease of 1,874 from the previous week. Newly discharged veterans claiming benefits totaled 8,451, a decrease of 2 from the prior week.

The highest insured unemployment rates in the week ending February 10 were in the Virgin Islands (9.6), Alaska (3.8), Puerto Rico (3.4), New Jersey (3.0), Connecticut (2.9), Montana (2.8), Rhode Island (2.7), Massachusetts (2.6), Illinois (2.5), and Pennsylvania (2.5).

The largest increases in initial claims for the week ending February 17 were in Puerto Rico (+496), New Jersey (+333), Rhode Island (+95), Arkansas (+87), and Alabama (+59), while the largest decreases were in Michigan (-4,820), Illinois (-2,031), New York (-998), California (-924), and Washington (-913).

UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE DATA FOR REGULAR STATE PROGRAMS

WEEK ENDING	February 24	February 17	Change	February 10	<u>Prior Year</u>¹
Initial Claims (SA)	210,000	220,000	-10,000	229,000	227,000
Initial Claims (NSA)	195,897	212,213	-16,316	232,805	212,829
4-Wk Moving Average (SA)	220,500	225,500	-5,000	228,250	239,750
WEEK ENDING	February 17	February 10	Change	February 3	<u>Prior Year</u>¹
Insured Unemployment (SA)	1,931,000	1,874,000	+57,000	1,948,000	2,057,000
Insured Unemployment (NSA)	2,255,253	2,260,640	-5,387	2,323,555	2,392,472
4-Wk Moving Average (SA)	1,920,000	1,926,250	-6,250	1,942,750	2,061,750
<u>Insured Unemployment Rate (SA)</u> ²	1.4%	1.3%	+0.1	1.4%	1.5%
<u>Insured Unemployment Rate (NSA)</u> ²	1.6%	1.6%	0.0	1.6%	1.7%

INITIAL CLAIMS FILED IN FEDERAL PROGRAMS (UNADJUSTED)

WEEK ENDING	February 17	February 10	Change	<u>Prior Year</u>¹
Federal Employees (UCFE)	648	709	-61	728
Newly Discharged Veterans (UCX)	627	649	-22	810

PERSONS CLAIMING UI BENEFITS IN ALL PROGRAMS (UNADJUSTED)

WEEK ENDING	February 10	February 3	Change	<u>Prior Year</u>¹
Regular State	2,257,819	2,320,540	-62,721	2,485,214
Federal Employees	11,809	13,683	-1,874	13,598
Newly Discharged Veterans	8,451	8,453	-2	11,797
<u>Extended Benefits</u> ³	922	1,005	-83	0
<u>State Additional Benefits</u> ⁴	6,747	6,721	+26	7,667
<u>STC / Workshare</u> ⁵	9,982	10,358	-376	15,117
<u>TOTAL</u>	2,295,730	2,360,760	-65,030	2,533,393

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 24			Insured Unemployment For Week Ended February 17		
	Advance	Prior Wk	Change	Advance	Prior Wk	Change
Alabama	2,043	2,314	-271	16,857	17,076	-219
Alaska	1,108	1,108	0	12,005	11,738	267
Arizona	3,121	3,454	-333	19,744	22,552	-2,808
Arkansas	1,513	1,730	-217	13,383	14,600	-1,217
California	31,488	40,230	-8,742	399,520	371,984	27,536
Colorado	2,020	1,870	150	26,791	24,251	2,540
Connecticut	3,652	3,378	274	50,547	47,590	2,957
Delaware	464	565	-101	6,894	6,747	147
District of Columbia	458	280	178	8,200	9,011	-811
Florida	5,823	6,699	-876	36,656	40,746	-4,090
Georgia	4,683	5,739	-1,056	27,538	29,946	-2,408
Hawaii	1,257	1,261	-4	7,982	7,452	530
Idaho	1,070	1,141	-71	10,275	11,354	-1,079
Illinois	8,413	8,139	274	142,201	145,723	-3,522
Indiana	2,300	2,618	-318	25,015	24,367	648
Iowa	2,315	2,126	189	31,918	31,740	178
Kansas	2,173	1,696	477	12,891	13,733	-842
Kentucky	2,210	3,327	-1,117	23,939	23,899	40
Louisiana	1,717	1,801	-84	15,424	17,892	-2,468
Maine *	743	773	-30	9,387	9,542	-155
Maryland	2,565	3,149	-584	35,268	39,517	-4,249
Massachusetts	9,064	5,345	3,719	88,039	89,380	-1,341
Michigan	6,259	7,597	-1,338	86,339	86,996	-657
Minnesota	3,483	3,578	-95	65,589	63,400	2,189
Mississippi	706	935	-229	8,105	9,644	-1,539
Missouri	3,101	3,232	-131	31,477	34,399	-2,922
Montana	1,017	1,013	4	12,845	12,463	382
Nebraska	726	705	21	8,146	8,318	-172
Nevada	2,738	2,352	386	20,785	22,917	-2,132
New Hampshire	507	570	-63	4,901	5,314	-413
New Jersey	7,828	9,382	-1,554	116,320	116,575	-255
New Mexico	637	718	-81	10,435	10,865	-430
New York	13,789	15,087	-1,298	173,456	175,690	-2,234
North Carolina	2,599	2,942	-343	22,226	23,922	-1,696
North Dakota	451	426	25	9,142	8,073	1,069
Ohio	6,202	6,550	-348	79,064	80,957	-1,893
Oklahoma	987	1,279	-292	13,838	14,864	-1,026
Oregon	4,377	3,679	698	31,309	31,756	-447
Pennsylvania	13,225	15,193	-1,968	154,905	143,668	11,237
Puerto Rico ^{1M}	1,080	2,083	-1,003	24,912	29,616	-4,704
Rhode Island	1,947	1,011	936	12,538	12,601	-63
South Carolina	1,970	2,048	-78	17,245	18,442	-1,197
South Dakota	190	225	-35	3,351	3,468	-117
Tennessee	2,001	2,188	-187	22,477	24,369	-1,892
Texas	11,693	13,044	-1,351	127,810	132,190	-4,380
Utah	1,133	808	325	11,737	12,133	-396
Vermont	735	412	323	5,638	5,525	113
Virgin Islands ^{1M}	6	28	-22	2,928	3,576	-648
Virginia	2,493	2,360	133	26,885	27,299	-414
Washington	5,997	5,904	93	61,855	61,544	311
West Virginia	841	1,039	-198	14,968	14,687	281
Wisconsin	6,514	6,705	-191	48,816	49,455	-639
Wyoming	465	377	88	4,737	5,074	-337
US Total	195,897	212,213	-16,316	2,255,253	2,260,640	-5,387

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.

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 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	1,874	-74	1,926.25	1.3
February 17, 2018	220	-9	225.50	1,931	57	1,920.00	1.4
February 24, 2018	210	-10	220.50				

STATE NAME	INITIAL CLAIMS FILED DURING WEEK ENDED FEBRUARY 17					INSURED UNEMPLOYMENT FOR WEEK ENDED FEBRUARY 10					ALL PROGRAMS EXCLUDING RAILROAD RETIREMENT	
	STATE	CHANGE FROM		CHANGE FROM		STATE	LAST WEEK	YEAR AGO	CHANGE FROM			
		LAST WEEK	YEAR AGO	UCFE 1	UCX 1				(%) 2	UCFE 1		UCX 1
Alabama	2314	59	-249	13	9	17076	0.9	-362	-2779	71	86	17233
Alaska	1108	-84	-52	7	3	11738	3.8	-1259	-2215	180	38	12877
Arizona	3454	-481	-264	9	1	22552	0.8	-7	-3409	260	83	22895
Arkansas	1730	87	95	2	1	14600	1.2	-320	-1363	83	121	14804
California	40230	-924	-8698	168	109	371984	2.2	-33781	-59217	2457	1725	376166
Colorado	1870	-256	-260	11	12	24251	1.0	-2206	-6407	307	245	24803
Connecticut	3378	-415	-312	7	2	47590	2.9	-2337	-1020	39	87	47716
Delaware	565	15	-107	0	5	6747	1.6	-156	-559	19	15	6781
District of Columbia	280	-8	-33	10	0	9011	1.6	-177	261	316	14	9341
Florida	6699	-460	-182	19	24	40746	0.5	-3656	-2833	162	155	41063
Georgia	5739	-434	-732	35	33	29946	0.7	-769	-3604	169	205	30320
Hawaii	1261	-71	-65	4	10	7452	1.2	-256	-615	91	101	7644
Idaho	1141	-208	-207	9	4	11354	1.7	-619	-3361	324	21	11699
Illinois	8139	-2031	-832	6	11	145723	2.5	5815	-11937	299	260	146282
Indiana	2618	-173	-135	4	3	24367	0.8	379	-8340	42	47	24456
Iowa	2126	-341	0	7	4	31740	2.1	281	-2847	57	35	31832
Kansas	1696	-430	-273	0	3	13733	1.0	319	-815	58	46	13837
Kentucky	3327	-140	575	4	4	23899	1.3	-1411	-1674	121	147	24167
Louisiana	1801	-359	-330	6	7	17892	1.0	-674	-2687	34	23	17949
Maine	773	4	96	1	0	9542	1.6	42	-859	47	12	9601
Maryland	3149	-539	-416	16	15	39517	1.6	-252	-4080	387	125	40029
Massachusetts	5345	-608	-1083	6	12	89380	2.6	-937	-2389	157	166	89703
Michigan	7597	-4820	-2426	6	20	86996	2.1	-4242	-10689	195	99	87290
Minnesota	3578	-420	-87	3	4	63400	2.3	-2177	-2791	153	63	63616
Mississippi	935	-260	-243	5	2	9644	0.9	-108	-1904	68	26	9738
Missouri	3232	-493	-1500	4	3	34399	1.3	407	526	155	62	34616
Montana	1013	8	142	16	1	12463	2.8	-84	-1295	550	31	13045
Nebraska	705	-98	59	5	1	8318	0.9	-138	-164	23	15	8356
Nevada	2352	-231	-271	2	4	22917	1.8	71	-2811	206	74	23197
New Hampshire	570	10	-6	1	0	5314	0.8	-25	-435	2	10	5326
New Jersey	9382	333	-675	21	19	116575	3.0	-1634	-6476	275	285	117135
New Mexico	718	-72	-218	1	2	10865	1.4	-320	-1913	314	55	11234
New York	15087	-998	-1980	21	32	175690	1.9	666	-11953	366	414	176470
North Carolina	2942	-433	-186	5	9	23922	0.6	-455	-3175	104	160	24186
North Dakota	426	-102	-27	3	0	8073	2.0	67	-1101	17	6	8096
Ohio	6550	-852	-532	3	21	80957	1.5	1068	-5153	131	209	81297
Oklahoma	1279	-223	-156	4	6	14864	1.0	-136	-2873	63	79	15006
Oregon	3679	-575	-647	27	9	31756	1.7	-327	-3083	687	105	32548
Pennsylvania	15193	-435	-1005	59	39	143668	2.5	-11292	-18312	500	360	144528
Puerto Rico	2083	496	518	2	9	29616	3.4	-1398	5478	26	63	29705
Rhode Island	1011	95	-214	3	0	12601	2.7	-41	-518	21	18	12640
South Carolina	2048	-492	-22	2	12	18442	0.9	-604	1968	48	83	18573
South Dakota	225	-16	-11	6	0	3468	0.8	-26	-419	45	2	3515
Tennessee	2188	-496	-232	9	7	24369	0.9	-254	1666	122	72	24563
Texas	13044	-694	-797	49	121	132190	1.1	2297	-21102	538	1367	134095
Utah	808	31	-246	3	3	12133	0.9	-248	-2184	267	23	12423
Vermont	412	-63	-159	1	0	5525	1.8	-40	-742	11	4	5540
Virgin Islands	28	-6	13	0	0	3576	9.6	-780	3124	0	16	3592
Virginia	2360	-734	-637	13	8	27299	0.8	238	-2775	282	289	27870
Washington	5904	-913	-1809	13	15	61544	1.9	-1117	-6889	549	617	62710
West Virginia	1039	-119	4	0	3	14687	2.2	275	-2097	62	44	14793
Wisconsin	6705	-225	-334	12	5	49455	1.8	-241	-6889	121	30	49606
Wyoming	377	2	39	5	0	5074	1.9	26	-1312	228	13	5315
Totals	212213	-20592	-27109	648	627	2260640	1.6	-62915	-229042	11809	8451	2281822

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 17, 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
MI	-4,820	Fewer layoffs in the construction industry.
IL	-2,031	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 18-316-NAT

Program Contacts:
Tony Sznoluch (202) 693-3176
Sandra Trujillo (202) 693-2933
Media Contact: (202) 693-4676