



News Release

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8:30 A.M. (Eastern) Thursday, March 8, 2018

UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE WEEKLY CLAIMS

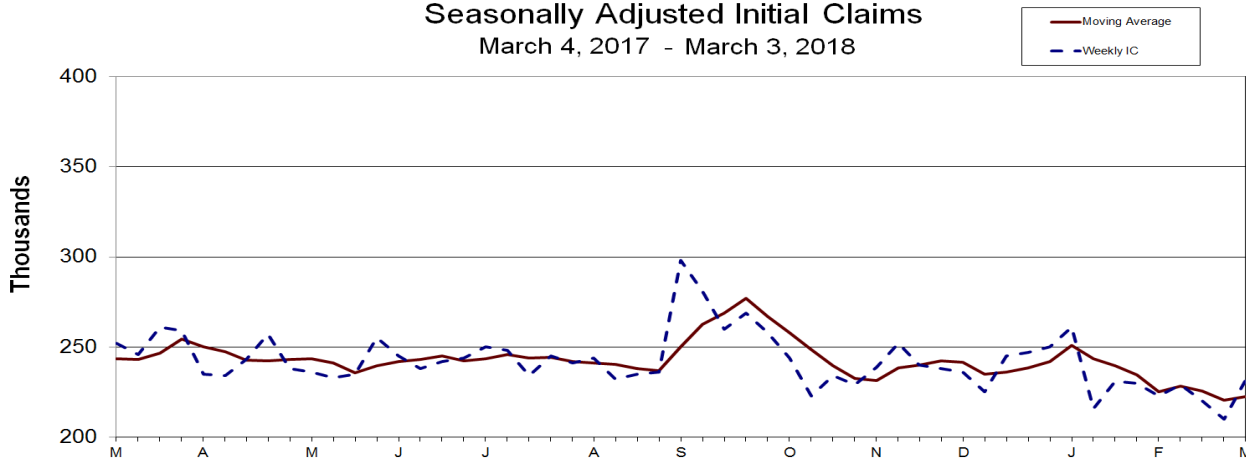
SEASONALLY ADJUSTED DATA

In the week ending March 3, the advance figure for seasonally adjusted **initial claims** was 231,000, an increase of 21,000 from the previous week's unrevised level of 210,000. The 4-week moving average was 222,500, an increase of 2,000 from the previous week's unrevised average of 220,500.

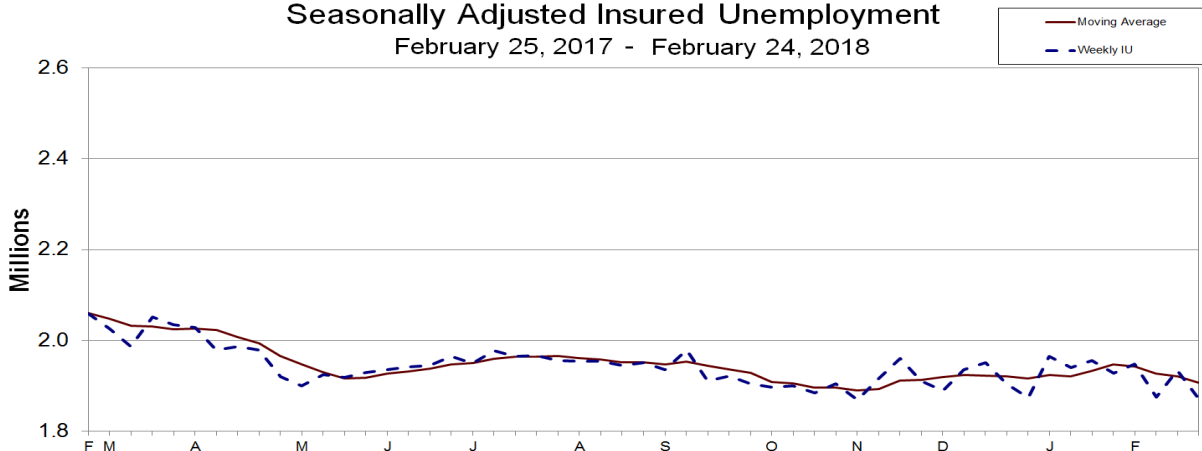
Claims taking procedures in Puerto Rico and in the Virgin Islands have still not returned to normal.

The advance seasonally adjusted **insured unemployment rate** was 1.3 percent for the week ending February 24, 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 24 was 1,870,000, a decrease of 64,000 from the previous week's revised level. The previous week's level was revised up 3,000 from 1,931,000 to 1,934,000. The 4-week moving average was 1,906,750, a decrease of 14,250 from the previous week's revised average. The previous week's average was revised up by 1,000 from 1,920,000 to 1,921,000.

Seasonally Adjusted Initial Claims
March 4, 2017 - March 3, 2018



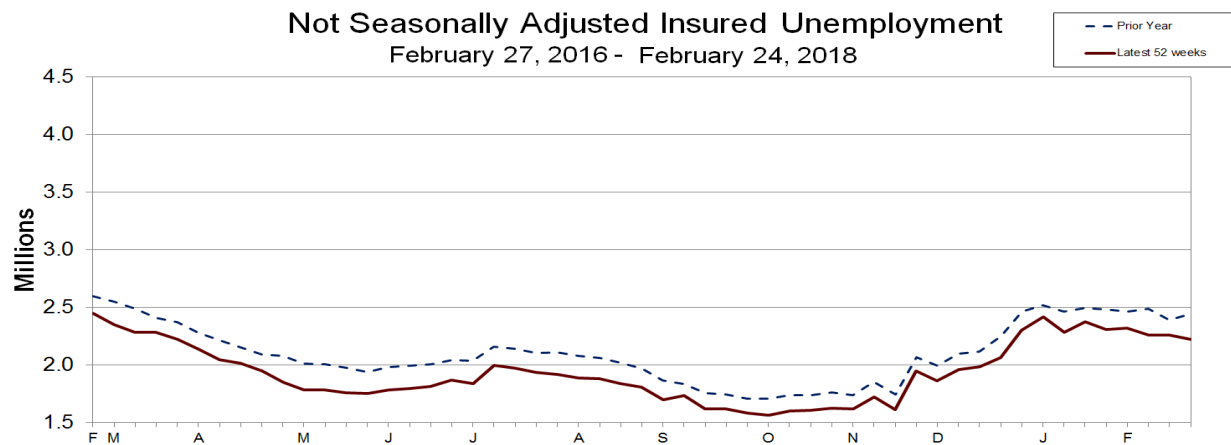
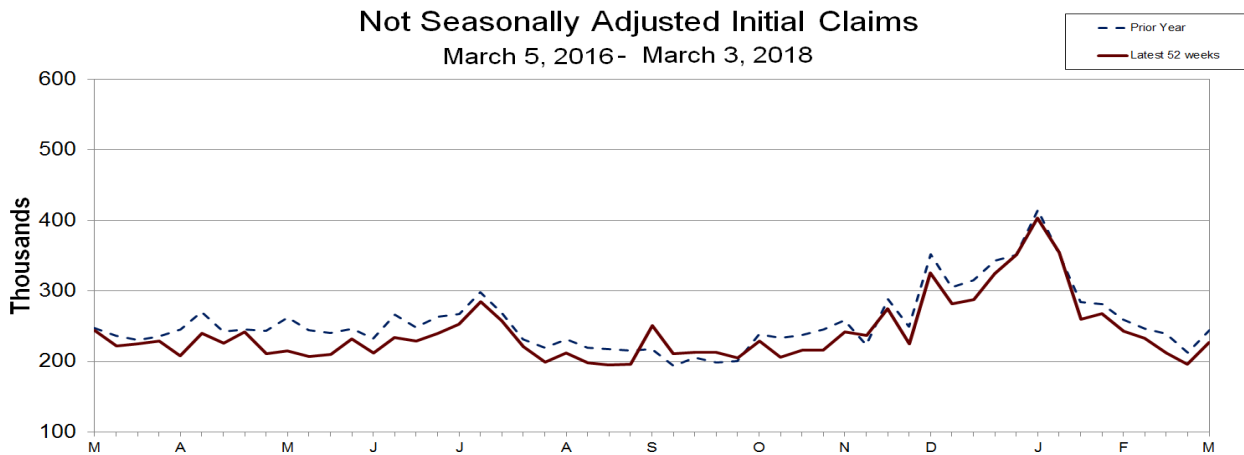
Seasonally Adjusted Insured Unemployment
February 25, 2017 - February 24, 2018



UNADJUSTED DATA

The advance number of actual initial claims under state programs, unadjusted, totaled 226,450 in the week ending March 3, an increase of 30,519 (or 15.6 percent) from the previous week. The seasonal factors had expected an increase of 10,080 (or 5.1 percent) from the previous week. There were 243,959 initial claims in the comparable week in 2017.

The advance unadjusted insured unemployment rate was 1.6 percent during the week ending February 24, unchanged from the prior week. The advance unadjusted number for persons claiming UI benefits in state programs totaled 2,227,076, a decrease of 31,735 (or -1.4 percent) from the preceding week. The seasonal factors had expected an increase of 44,480 (or 2.0 percent) from the previous week. A year earlier the rate was 1.8 percent and the volume was 2,447,592.



The total number of people claiming benefits in all programs for the week ending February 17 was 2,293,851, a decrease of 1,879 from the previous week. There were 2,434,335 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 17.

Initial claims for UI benefits filed by former Federal civilian employees totaled 585 in the week ending February 24, a decrease of 63 from the prior week. There were 555 initial claims filed by newly discharged veterans, a decrease of 72 from the preceding week.

There were 12,954 former Federal civilian employees claiming UI benefits for the week ending February 17, an increase of 1,145 from the previous week. Newly discharged veterans claiming benefits totaled 8,196, a decrease of 255 from the prior week.

The highest insured unemployment rates in the week ending February 17 were in the Virgin Islands (7.8), Alaska (3.9), Puerto Rico (3.1), Connecticut (2.9), New Jersey (2.9), 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 24 were in Massachusetts (+3,809), Rhode Island (+933), Oregon (+706), Kansas (+424), and Vermont (+330), while the largest decreases were in California (-9,158), Pennsylvania (-1,971), New Jersey (-1,474), New York (-1,384), and Texas (-1,347).

UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE DATA FOR REGULAR STATE PROGRAMS

WEEK ENDING	March 3	February 24	Change	February 17	<u>Prior Year</u>¹
Initial Claims (SA)	231,000	210,000	+21,000	220,000	252,000
Initial Claims (NSA)	226,450	195,931	+30,519	212,213	243,959
4-Wk Moving Average (SA)	222,500	220,500	+2,000	225,500	243,500
WEEK ENDING	February 24	February 17	Change	February 10	<u>Prior Year</u>¹
Insured Unemployment (SA)	1,870,000	1,934,000	-64,000	1,875,000	2,059,000
Insured Unemployment (NSA)	2,227,076	2,258,811	-31,735	2,260,660	2,447,592
4-Wk Moving Average (SA)	1,906,750	1,921,000	-14,250	1,926,500	2,059,750
<u>Insured Unemployment Rate (SA)</u> ²	1.3%	1.4%	-0.1	1.3%	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 24	February 17	Change	<u>Prior Year</u>¹
Federal Employees (UCFE)	585	648	-63	619
Newly Discharged Veterans (UCX)	555	627	-72	640

PERSONS CLAIMING UI BENEFITS IN ALL PROGRAMS (UNADJUSTED)

WEEK ENDING	February 17	February 10	Change	<u>Prior Year</u>¹
Regular State	2,256,241	2,257,819	-1,578	2,389,018
Federal Employees	12,954	11,809	+1,145	14,012
Newly Discharged Veterans	8,196	8,451	-255	11,649
<u>Extended Benefits</u> ³	964	922	+42	0
<u>State Additional Benefits</u> ⁴	6,561	6,747	-186	7,588
<u>STC / Workshare</u> ⁵	8,935	9,982	-1,047	12,068
<u>TOTAL</u>	2,293,851	2,295,730	-1,879	2,434,335

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 March 3			Insured Unemployment For Week Ended February 24		
	Advance	Prior Wk	Change	Advance	Prior Wk	Change
Alabama	1,890	2,168	-278	16,267	16,854	-587
Alaska	1,118	1,029	89	11,067	12,165	-1,098
Arizona	3,454	3,270	184	19,577	22,408	-2,831
Arkansas	1,694	1,620	74	13,704	14,370	-666
California	43,261	31,072	12,189	375,651	392,058	-16,407
Colorado *	1,933	2,020	-87	24,377	26,267	-1,890
Connecticut	4,018	3,642	376	51,366	48,428	2,938
Delaware	460	493	-33	6,649	6,720	-71
District of Columbia	474	266	208	8,305	8,729	-424
Florida	5,725	6,008	-283	33,676	42,384	-8,708
Georgia	4,748	4,887	-139	26,715	28,908	-2,193
Hawaii	1,227	1,231	-4	7,524	7,663	-139
Idaho	1,207	1,136	71	10,250	10,679	-429
Illinois	8,888	8,353	535	142,234	140,860	1,374
Indiana	2,561	2,173	388	24,589	24,138	451
Iowa	2,139	2,023	116	32,043	30,860	1,183
Kansas	1,726	2,120	-394	13,758	12,814	944
Kentucky	2,113	2,225	-112	22,390	24,267	-1,877
Louisiana	1,727	1,893	-166	14,900	17,610	-2,710
Maine *	1,006	749	257	9,665	9,287	378
Maryland	2,803	2,801	2	34,662	38,298	-3,636
Massachusetts	5,219	9,154	-3,935	91,824	88,972	2,852
Michigan	5,646	6,463	-817	80,286	88,476	-8,190
Minnesota	3,789	3,360	429	65,639	62,475	3,164
Mississippi	754	818	-64	7,918	9,251	-1,333
Missouri	3,244	3,362	-118	32,139	32,219	-80
Montana	862	1,028	-166	12,844	12,565	279
Nebraska	808	748	60	8,088	8,202	-114
Nevada	2,532	2,410	122	20,957	22,335	-1,378
New Hampshire	954	549	405	4,835	5,288	-453
New Jersey	8,632	7,908	724	119,311	113,829	5,482
New Mexico	670	654	16	10,155	10,759	-604
New York	32,051	13,703	18,348	192,104	171,976	20,128
North Carolina	2,850	2,499	351	21,334	23,494	-2,160
North Dakota	441	372	69	8,895	7,780	1,115
Ohio	6,248	6,125	123	78,719	78,272	447
Oklahoma	1,232	1,115	117	13,774	14,363	-589
Oregon	4,975	4,385	590	32,848	31,148	1,700
Pennsylvania	13,810	13,222	588	140,706	153,068	-12,362
Puerto Rico ^{1M}	954	1,160	-206	23,163	27,156	-3,993
Rhode Island	868	1,944	-1,076	13,627	12,358	1,269
South Carolina	1,906	2,060	-154	16,517	17,688	-1,171
South Dakota	181	220	-39	3,346	3,411	-65
Tennessee	1,949	2,076	-127	21,894	24,060	-2,166
Texas	12,566	11,697	869	129,382	129,920	-538
Utah	1,159	832	327	11,678	11,950	-272
Vermont	876	742	134	5,896	5,340	556
Virgin Islands ^{1M}	24	15	9	3,450	2,928	522
Virginia	2,628	2,307	321	26,556	26,267	289
Washington	7,029	5,963	1,066	62,587	59,959	2,628
West Virginia	812	905	-93	14,704	14,395	309
Wisconsin	6,302	6,510	-208	48,572	48,199	373
Wyoming	307	446	-139	3,959	4,941	-982
US Total	226,450	195,931	30,519	2,227,076	2,258,811	-31,735

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	Initial Claims	Change from		Insured Unemployment	Change from		IUR
		Prior Week	4-Week Average		Prior Week	4-Week Average	
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	220	-9	225.50	1,934	59	1,921.00	1.4
February 24, 2018	210	-10	220.50	1,870	-64	1,906.75	1.3
March 3, 2018	231	21	222.50				

STATE NAME	INITIAL CLAIMS FILED DURING WEEK ENDED FEBRUARY 24					INSURED UNEMPLOYMENT FOR WEEK ENDED FEBRUARY 17					ALL PROGRAMS EXCLUDING RAILROAD RETIREMENT	
	STATE	CHANGE FROM				STATE	CHANGE FROM					
		LAST WEEK	YEAR AGO	UCFE 1	UCX 1		(%) 2	LAST WEEK	YEAR AGO	UCFE 1		UCX 1
Alabama	2168	-146	253	11	9	16854	0.9	-222	-1928	70	80	17004
Alaska	1029	-79	14	4	1	12165	3.9	427	-1673	238	27	13394
Arizona	3270	-184	-127	5	2	22408	0.8	-164	-2891	283	61	22752
Arkansas	1620	-110	-124	6	8	14370	1.2	-230	-822	82	113	14565
California	31072	-9158	-12256	168	90	392058	2.4	20074	-8737	3163	1671	396892
Colorado	2020	150	-17	16	9	26267	1.0	2016	-2364	449	246	26962
Connecticut	3642	264	482	7	9	48428	2.9	838	-17	45	90	48563
Delaware	493	-72	-41	1	1	6720	1.5	-27	-536	18	12	6750
District of Columbia	266	-14	-15	10	1	8729	1.6	-282	125	323	23	9075
Florida	6008	-691	-315	9	36	42384	0.5	1638	-438	167	163	42714
Georgia	4887	-852	-342	19	36	28908	0.7	-1038	-3037	177	221	29306
Hawaii	1231	-30	100	3	13	7663	1.2	211	-38	71	89	7823
Idaho	1136	-5	-207	15	3	10679	1.6	-675	-3172	324	20	11023
Illinois	8353	214	716	5	10	140860	2.4	-4863	-9092	379	202	141441
Indiana	2173	-445	-276	1	5	24138	0.8	-229	-7672	37	50	24225
Iowa	2023	-103	-52	4	2	30860	2.0	-880	-2180	56	33	30949
Kansas	2120	424	347	0	0	12814	1.0	-919	-1222	41	40	12895
Kentucky	2225	-1102	-217	2	2	24267	1.3	368	417	142	183	24592
Louisiana	1893	92	-380	5	4	17610	0.9	-282	-2345	37	19	17666
Maine	749	-24	-79	0	0	9287	1.6	-255	-1119	47	16	9350
Maryland	2801	-348	-215	23	8	38298	1.5	-1219	-4182	369	129	38796
Massachusetts	9154	3809	-280	7	8	88972	2.6	-408	-3219	157	157	89286
Michigan	6463	-1134	-166	11	7	88476	2.1	1480	-3590	252	105	88833
Minnesota	3360	-218	43	6	4	62475	2.2	-925	-2325	139	71	62685
Mississippi	818	-117	-226	6	2	9251	0.8	-393	-1891	76	26	9353
Missouri	3362	130	201	2	2	32219	1.2	-2180	-1635	148	59	32426
Montana	1028	15	253	12	1	12565	2.8	102	-69	639	26	13230
Nebraska	748	43	94	2	1	8202	0.9	-116	169	25	11	8238
Nevada	2410	58	84	7	3	22335	1.7	-582	-2123	226	80	22641
New Hampshire	549	-21	-95	0	0	5288	0.8	-26	-345	7	9	5304
New Jersey	7908	-1474	-925	13	16	113829	2.9	-2746	-6058	287	298	114414
New Mexico	654	-64	-279	3	3	10759	1.4	-106	-1833	309	45	11113
New York	13703	-1384	-1384	15	36	171976	1.9	-3714	-11351	358	399	172733
North Carolina	2499	-443	-329	5	16	23494	0.6	-428	-2753	118	156	23768
North Dakota	372	-54	-50	2	0	7780	1.9	-293	-1025	17	5	7802
Ohio	6125	-425	297	4	16	78272	1.5	-2685	-4644	109	202	78583
Oklahoma	1115	-164	-130	7	4	14363	0.9	-501	-2698	58	71	14492
Oregon	4385	706	222	28	7	31148	1.7	-608	-2126	658	101	31907
Pennsylvania	13222	-1971	-214	52	31	153068	2.7	9400	1322	558	316	153942
Puerto Rico	1160	-923	-393	1	7	27156	3.1	-2460	3409	21	43	27220
Rhode Island	1944	933	-262	0	1	12358	2.7	-243	-882	25	17	12400
South Carolina	2060	12	157	2	9	17688	0.9	-754	1836	41	81	17810
South Dakota	220	-5	43	0	0	3411	0.8	-57	-331	45	2	3458
Tennessee	2076	-112	91	12	7	24060	0.8	-309	2118	126	67	24253
Texas	11697	-1347	-596	28	89	129920	1.1	-2270	-22957	562	1342	131824
Utah	832	24	-204	15	1	11950	0.9	-183	-1780	239	25	12214
Vermont	742	330	-41	2	0	5340	1.8	-185	-888	12	2	5354
Virgin Islands	15	-13	0	0	0	2928	7.8	-648	2408	0	0	2928
Virginia	2307	-53	-677	8	9	26267	0.7	-1032	-2994	270	284	26821
Washington	5963	59	429	9	19	59959	1.9	-1585	-5571	564	626	61149
West Virginia	905	-134	8	3	3	14395	2.2	-292	-1358	64	44	14503
Wisconsin	6510	-195	151	7	4	48199	1.7	-1256	-6387	122	26	48347
Wyoming	446	69	31	2	0	4941	1.9	-133	-1167	204	12	5157
Totals	195931	-16282	-16898	585	555	2258811	1.6	-1849	-133661	12954	8196	2280925

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 24, 2018

STATES WITH AN INCREASE OF MORE THAN 1,000

State	Change	State Supplied Comment
MA	+3,809	Layoffs in the transportation and warehousing, accommodation and food service, and educational service industries.

STATES WITH A DECREASE OF MORE THAN 1,000

State	Change	State Supplied Comment
CA	-9,158	Fewer layoffs in the service industry.
PA	-1,971	Fewer layoffs in the construction, transportation and warehousing, and manufacturing industries.
NJ	-1,474	Fewer layoffs in the trade, construction, manufacturing, and health care and social assistance industries.
NY	-1,384	Fewer layoffs in the construction, manufacturing, and retail trade industries.
TX	-1,347	No comment.
MI	-1,134	Fewer layoffs in the wholesale trade industry.
KY	-1,102	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](#)

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