



News Release

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8:30 A.M. (Eastern) Thursday, March 29, 2018

Note: This week's release reflects the annual revision to the weekly unemployment claims seasonal adjustment factors. The seasonal adjustment factors used for the UI Weekly Claims data from 2013 forward, along with the resulting seasonally adjusted values for initial claims and continuing claims, have been revised.

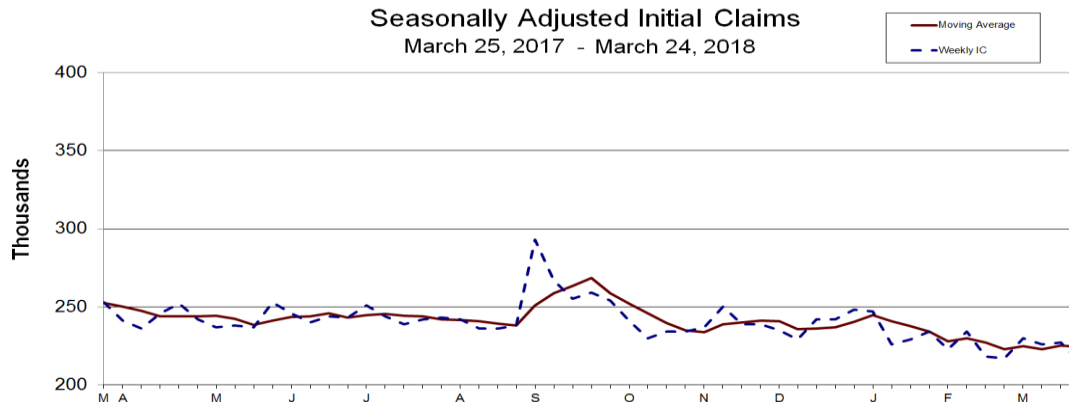
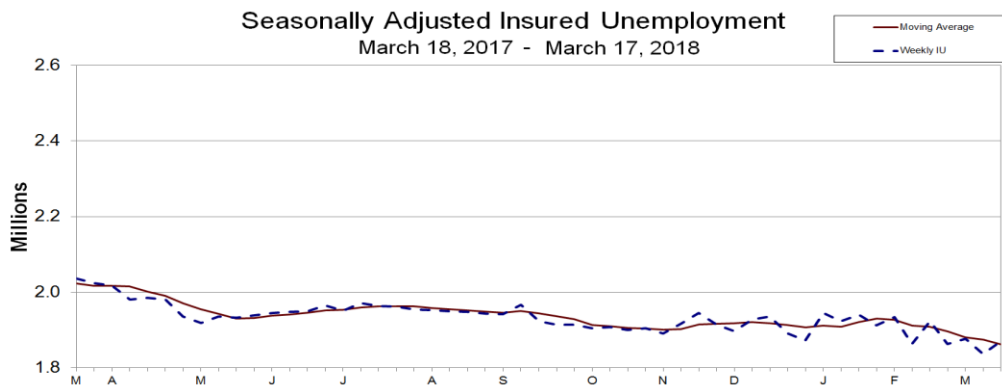
UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE WEEKLY CLAIMS

SEASONALLY ADJUSTED DATA

In the week ending March 24, the advance figure for seasonally adjusted **initial claims** was 215,000, a decrease of 12,000 from the previous week's revised level. This is the lowest level for initial claims since January 27, 1973 when it was 214,000. The previous week's level was revised down by 2,000 from 229,000 to 227,000. The 4-week moving average was 224,500, a decrease of 500 from the previous week's revised average. The previous week's average was revised up by 1,250 from 223,750 to 225,000.

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

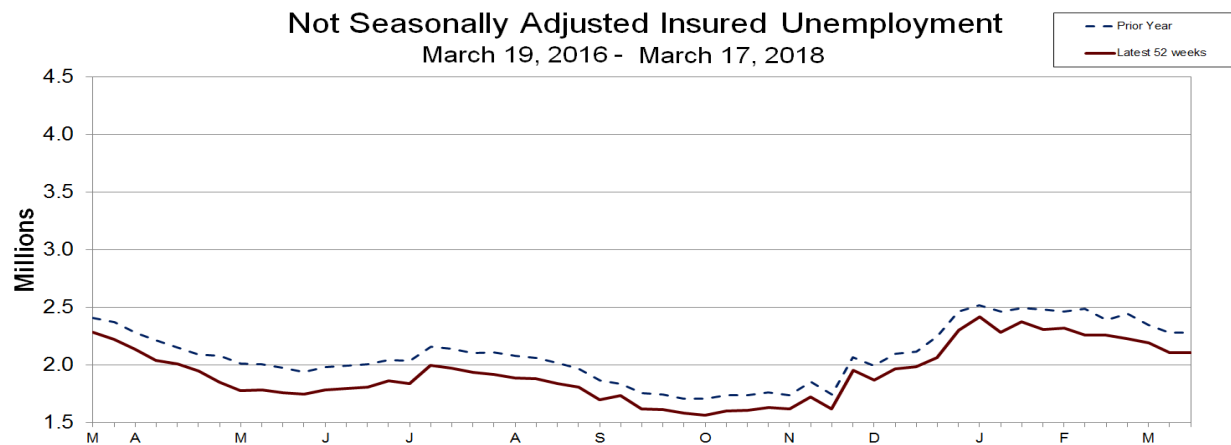
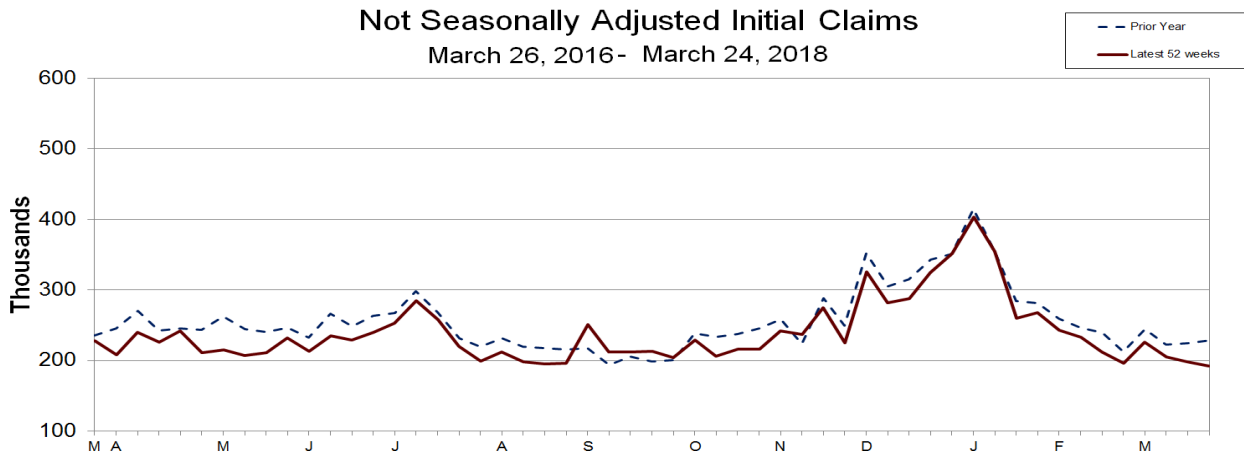
The advance seasonally adjusted **insured unemployment rate** was 1.3 percent for the week ending March 17, unchanged from the previous week's unrevised rate. The advance number for seasonally adjusted **insured unemployment** during the week ending March 17 was 1,871,000, an increase of 35,000 from the previous week's revised level. The previous week's level was revised up 8,000 from 1,828,000 to 1,836,000. The 4-week moving average was 1,861,500, a decrease of 12,750 from the previous week's revised average. This is the lowest level for this average since January 5, 1974 when it was 1,838,500. The previous week's average was revised down by 6,250 from 1,880,500 to 1,874,250.



UNADJUSTED DATA

The advance number of actual initial claims under state programs, unadjusted, totaled 192,440 in the week ending March 24, a decrease of 5,611 (or -2.8 percent) from the previous week. The seasonal factors had expected an increase of 5,218 (or 2.6 percent) from the previous week. There were 228,269 initial claims in the comparable week in 2017.

The advance unadjusted insured unemployment rate was 1.5 percent during the week ending March 17, unchanged from the prior week. The advance unadjusted number for persons claiming UI benefits in state programs totaled 2,106,576, a decrease of 1,498 (or -0.1 percent) from the preceding week. The seasonal factors had expected a decrease of 40,399 (or -1.9 percent) from the previous week. A year earlier the rate was 1.6 percent and the volume was 2,283,882.



The total number of people claiming benefits in all programs for the week ending March 10 was 2,140,845, a decrease of 87,182 from the previous week. There were 2,322,025 persons claiming benefits in all programs in the comparable week in 2017.

Extended benefits were payable in Alaska and the Virgin Islands during week ending March 10.

Initial claims for UI benefits filed by former Federal civilian employees totaled 568 in the week ending March 17, a decrease of 91 from the prior week. There were 644 initial claims filed by newly discharged veterans, a decrease of 17 from the preceding week.

There were 10,462 former Federal civilian employees claiming UI benefits for the week ending March 10, a decrease of 1,574 from the previous week. Newly discharged veterans claiming benefits totaled 8,248, an increase of 376 from the prior week.

The highest insured unemployment rates in the week ending March 10 were in the Virgin Islands (6.4), Alaska (3.4), New Jersey (2.9), Connecticut (2.8), Puerto Rico (2.7), Montana (2.5), Rhode Island (2.5), Massachusetts (2.4), California (2.3), and Illinois (2.3).

The largest increases in initial claims for the week ending March 17 were in New York (+1,218), New Jersey (+647), Connecticut (+540), Pennsylvania (+439), and Vermont (+296), while the largest decreases were in California (-2,425), Texas (-1,011), Georgia (-866), Michigan (-756), and Illinois (-480).

UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE DATA FOR REGULAR STATE PROGRAMS

WEEK ENDING	March 24	March 17	Change	March 10	<u>Prior Year</u>¹
Initial Claims (SA)	215,000	227,000	-12,000	226,000	253,000
Initial Claims (NSA)	192,440	198,051	-5,611	204,862	228,269
4-Wk Moving Average (SA)	224,500	225,000	-500	222,750	252,500
WEEK ENDING	March 17	March 10	Change	March 3	<u>Prior Year</u>¹
Insured Unemployment (SA)	1,871,000	1,836,000	+35,000	1,877,000	2,036,000
Insured Unemployment (NSA)	2,106,576	2,108,074	-1,498	2,193,790	2,283,882
4-Wk Moving Average (SA)	1,861,500	1,874,250	-12,750	1,880,750	2,022,500
<u>Insured Unemployment Rate (SA)</u> ²	1.3%	1.3%	0.0	1.3%	1.5%
<u>Insured Unemployment Rate (NSA)</u> ²	1.5%	1.5%	0.0	1.6%	1.6%

INITIAL CLAIMS FILED IN FEDERAL PROGRAMS (UNADJUSTED)

WEEK ENDING	March 17	March 10	Change	<u>Prior Year</u>¹
Federal Employees (UCFE)	568	659	-91	596
Newly Discharged Veterans (UCX)	644	661	-17	730

PERSONS CLAIMING UI BENEFITS IN ALL PROGRAMS (UNADJUSTED)

WEEK ENDING	March 10	March 3	Change	<u>Prior Year</u>¹
Regular State	2,105,752	2,191,209	-85,457	2,279,393
Federal Employees	10,462	12,036	-1,574	12,294
Newly Discharged Veterans	8,248	7,872	+376	10,980
<u>Extended Benefits</u> ³	948	961	-13	0
<u>State Additional Benefits</u> ⁴	6,957	6,893	+64	7,554
<u>STC / Workshare</u> ⁵	8,478	9,056	-578	11,804
<u>TOTAL</u>	2,140,845	2,228,027	-87,182	2,322,025

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 24			Insured Unemployment For Week Ended March 17		
	Advance	Prior Wk	Change	Advance	Prior Wk	Change
Alabama	2,054	2,341	-287	15,507	15,417	90
Alaska	1,114	1,011	103	10,909	10,628	281
Arizona	3,713	3,688	25	19,298	21,497	-2,199
Arkansas	1,964	1,262	702	11,315	12,764	-1,449
California	39,695	42,127	-2,432	407,043	377,516	29,527
Colorado**	1,561	1,572	-11	24,202	23,035	1,167
Connecticut	3,175	3,946	-771	49,593	45,972	3,621
Delaware	486	547	-61	6,156	5,759	397
District of Columbia	421	278	143	7,714	8,324	-610
Florida	6,129	6,478	-349	33,970	38,768	-4,798
Georgia	4,189	4,516	-327	24,855	26,750	-1,895
Hawaii*	1,031	1,031	0	6,522	6,876	-354
Idaho	1,150	996	154	7,783	9,017	-1,234
Illinois	7,927	7,734	193	130,499	134,669	-4,170
Indiana	2,218	2,096	122	20,357	20,801	-444
Iowa	2,008	2,173	-165	27,547	28,799	-1,252
Kansas	1,647	1,476	171	10,997	11,316	-319
Kentucky	1,942	1,946	-4	21,041	21,224	-183
Louisiana	1,685	1,805	-120	14,130	16,017	-1,887
Maine**	704	661	43	8,781	8,875	-94
Maryland	3,397	3,151	246	30,986	35,337	-4,351
Massachusetts	4,888	4,831	57	84,187	84,708	-521
Michigan	4,657	4,737	-80	74,378	77,674	-3,296
Minnesota	3,278	3,394	-116	61,284	60,581	703
Mississippi	866	1,182	-316	7,667	8,164	-497
Missouri	3,500	3,179	321	25,115	27,159	-2,044
Montana	727	868	-141	11,112	11,266	-154
Nebraska	730	720	10	6,715	7,383	-668
Nevada	2,412	2,082	330	19,411	21,330	-1,919
New Hampshire	435	561	-126	4,704	5,079	-375
New Jersey	7,152	8,917	-1,765	109,820	112,190	-2,370
New Mexico	827	646	181	9,665	10,155	-490
New York	13,947	15,016	-1,069	165,478	166,991	-1,513
North Carolina	2,634	2,579	55	20,023	21,463	-1,440
North Dakota	377	349	28	7,639	7,199	440
Ohio	5,287	5,451	-164	69,434	71,923	-2,489
Oklahoma	1,398	1,251	147	13,083	13,980	-897
Oregon	3,613	3,334	279	29,143	29,881	-738
Pennsylvania	13,448	13,986	-538	140,419	133,142	7,277
Puerto Rico ^{IM}	1,058	1,151	-93	22,189	23,979	-1,790
Rhode Island	628	834	-206	11,455	11,445	10
South Carolina	1,799	1,797	2	15,065	15,890	-825
South Dakota	147	154	-7	3,052	3,252	-200
Tennessee	2,036	2,264	-228	19,494	21,347	-1,853
Texas	14,719	11,837	2,882	126,730	121,792	4,938
Utah	1,023	363	660	10,164	11,016	-852
Vermont	440	738	-298	5,733	5,350	383
Virgin Islands ^{IM}	15	19	-4	2,596	2,378	218
Virginia	79	2,373	-2,294	24,219	24,490	-271
Washington	5,570	5,369	201	56,307	56,303	4
West Virginia	792	1,101	-309	13,947	13,110	837
Wisconsin	5,411	5,851	-440	43,044	44,319	-1,275
Wyoming	337	282	55	4,099	3,774	325
US Total	192,440	198,051	-5,611	2,106,576	2,108,074	-1,498

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 OUI estimate.

**Denotes state estimate.

^IAffected by Hurricane Irma.

^MAffected by Hurricane Maria.

Seasonally Adjusted US Weekly UI Claims (in thousands)

Week Ending	Initial Claims	Change from Prior Week	4-Week Average	Insured Unemployment	Change from Prior Week	4-Week Average	IUR
March 18, 2017	259	12	248.00	2,036	45	2,022.50	1.5
March 25, 2017	253	-6	252.50	2,024	-12	2,017.25	1.5
April 1, 2017	241	-12	250.00	2,016	-8	2,016.75	1.4
April 8, 2017	236	-5	247.25	1,981	-35	2,014.25	1.4
April 15, 2017	247	11	244.25	1,984	3	2,001.25	1.4
April 22, 2017	252	5	244.00	1,980	-4	1,990.25	1.4
April 29, 2017	242	-10	244.25	1,935	-45	1,970.00	1.4
May 6, 2017	237	-5	244.50	1,920	-15	1,954.75	1.4
May 13, 2017	238	1	242.25	1,935	15	1,942.50	1.4
May 20, 2017	237	-1	238.50	1,932	-3	1,930.50	1.4
May 27, 2017	253	16	241.25	1,937	5	1,931.00	1.4
June 3, 2017	246	-7	243.50	1,945	8	1,937.25	1.4
June 10, 2017	240	-6	244.00	1,947	2	1,940.25	1.4
June 17, 2017	244	4	245.75	1,950	3	1,944.75	1.4
June 24, 2017	243	-1	243.25	1,964	14	1,951.50	1.4
July 1, 2017	251	8	244.50	1,951	-13	1,953.00	1.4
July 8, 2017	244	-7	245.50	1,971	20	1,959.00	1.4
July 15, 2017	239	-5	244.25	1,962	-9	1,962.00	1.4
July 22, 2017	242	3	244.00	1,963	1	1,961.75	1.4
July 29, 2017	243	1	242.00	1,954	-9	1,962.50	1.4
August 5, 2017	242	-1	241.50	1,952	-2	1,957.75	1.4
August 12, 2017	236	-6	240.75	1,950	-2	1,954.75	1.4
August 19, 2017	237	1	239.50	1,947	-3	1,950.75	1.4
August 26, 2017	238	1	238.25	1,943	-4	1,948.00	1.4
September 2, 2017	293	55	251.00	1,940	-3	1,945.00	1.4
September 9, 2017	267	-26	258.75	1,965	25	1,948.75	1.4
September 16, 2017	255	-12	263.25	1,923	-42	1,942.75	1.4
September 23, 2017	258	3	268.25	1,913	-10	1,935.25	1.4
September 30, 2017	254	-4	258.50	1,914	1	1,928.75	1.4
October 7, 2017	241	-13	252.00	1,903	-11	1,913.25	1.4
October 14, 2017	230	-11	245.75	1,907	4	1,909.25	1.4
October 21, 2017	234	4	239.75	1,899	-8	1,905.75	1.4
October 28, 2017	234	0	234.75	1,904	5	1,903.25	1.4
November 4, 2017	237	3	233.75	1,890	-14	1,900.00	1.3
November 11, 2017	250	13	238.75	1,916	26	1,902.25	1.4
November 18, 2017	239	-11	240.00	1,945	29	1,913.75	1.4
November 25, 2017	239	0	241.25	1,913	-32	1,916.00	1.4
December 2, 2017	235	-4	240.75	1,896	-17	1,917.50	1.3
December 9, 2017	229	-6	235.50	1,928	32	1,920.50	1.4
December 16, 2017	242	13	236.25	1,936	8	1,918.25	1.4
December 23, 2017	242	0	237.00	1,891	-45	1,912.75	1.3
December 30, 2017	248	6	240.25	1,873	-18	1,907.00	1.3
January 6, 2018	247	-1	244.75	1,944	71	1,911.00	1.4
January 13, 2018	226	-21	240.75	1,922	-22	1,907.50	1.4
January 20, 2018	229	3	237.50	1,940	18	1,919.75	1.4
January 27, 2018	234	5	234.00	1,911	-29	1,929.25	1.4
February 3, 2018	223	-11	228.00	1,935	24	1,927.00	1.4
February 10, 2018	234	11	230.00	1,862	-73	1,912.00	1.3
February 17, 2018	218	-16	227.25	1,922	60	1,907.50	1.4
February 24, 2018	217	-1	223.00	1,862	-60	1,895.25	1.3
March 3, 2018	230	13	224.75	1,877	15	1,880.75	1.3
March 10, 2018	226	-4	222.75	1,836	-41	1,874.25	1.3
March 17, 2018	227	1	225.00	1,871	35	1,861.50	1.3
March 24, 2018	215	-12	224.50				

STATE NAME	INITIAL CLAIMS FILED DURING WEEK ENDED MARCH 17					INSURED UNEMPLOYMENT FOR WEEK ENDED MARCH 10						ALL PROGRAMS EXCLUDING RAILROAD RETIREMENT
	STATE	CHANGE FROM		UCFE 1	UCX 1	STATE	LAST WEEK	YEAR AGO	UCFE 1	UCX 1	%	
		LAST WEEK	YEAR AGO									
Alabama	2341	226	5	8	12	15417	0.8	-600	-2084	67	87	15571
Alaska	1011	-24	-145	3	2	10628	3.4	-940	-1880	175	44	11794
Arizona	3688	-168	-218	8	6	21497	0.8	-540	-2905	244	71	21812
Arkansas	1262	-177	-374	3	7	12764	1.1	-895	-917	68	108	12940
California	42127	-2425	1125	111	108	377516	2.3	-21041	-22965	2204	1694	381414
Colorado	1572	-181	-241	8	20	23035	0.9	-2581	-5387	296	244	23575
Connecticut	3946	540	724	10	6	45972	2.8	-519	-118	44	88	46104
Delaware	547	51	16	2	3	5759	1.3	-440	-919	17	9	5785
District of Columbia	278	-19	29	11	0	8324	1.5	-170	-93	319	11	8654
Florida	6478	-414	-324	18	30	38768	0.5	-1288	-2160	171	167	39106
Georgia	4516	-866	-271	37	34	26750	0.6	-1189	-2722	162	229	27141
Hawaii	1031	-195	-106	1	8	6876	1.1	-577	-1003	89	100	7065
Idaho	996	-146	-167	14	3	9017	1.3	-1122	-2717	219	19	9255
Illinois	7734	-480	-1595	8	16	134669	2.3	-1485	-12160	298	272	135239
Indiana	2096	-40	-295	1	7	20801	0.7	-1788	-7488	35	41	20877
Iowa	2173	196	-177	12	4	28799	1.9	-665	-329	49	34	28882
Kansas	1476	-139	-2755	1	6	11316	0.8	-723	-1049	36	41	11393
Kentucky	1946	-370	-1105	6	1	21224	1.2	-1658	-880	99	123	21446
Louisiana	1805	11	-536	4	4	16017	0.9	-720	-3953	33	13	16063
Maine	661	-43	3	0	0	8875	1.5	-98	-1056	41	16	8932
Maryland	3151	56	-800	28	10	35337	1.4	-1251	-4345	374	125	35836
Massachusetts	4831	-70	0	7	10	84708	2.4	-1791	-2441	126	146	84980
Michigan	4737	-756	-1473	11	13	77674	1.8	-4055	-10596	210	96	77980
Minnesota	3394	-109	-142	3	8	60581	2.2	-2645	-1896	125	70	60776
Mississippi	1182	200	-427	1	1	8164	0.7	-378	-1864	81	22	8267
Missouri	3179	169	-2795	1	6	27159	1.0	-2132	-1394	98	53	27310
Montana	868	116	-36	16	1	11266	2.5	-783	-905	428	26	11721
Nebraska	720	19	-105	3	2	7383	0.8	-431	516	26	16	7425
Nevada	2082	-187	28	1	3	21330	1.7	-626	-1376	179	75	21584
New Hampshire	561	7	42	1	0	5079	0.8	-591	-348	1	8	5088
New Jersey	8917	647	-379	18	20	112190	2.9	1819	-1429	261	291	112742
New Mexico	646	-54	-247	3	2	10155	1.3	-286	-2010	237	48	10440
New York	15016	1218	408	15	32	166991	1.8	-1325	-8839	349	417	167757
North Carolina	2579	-289	-561	8	12	21463	0.5	-375	-2507	102	144	21709
North Dakota	349	27	-5	3	0	7199	1.8	-111	-849	16	5	7220
Ohio	5451	-319	-5164	4	21	71923	1.4	-2570	-3845	120	191	72234
Oklahoma	1251	-168	-533	7	5	13980	0.9	-367	-2086	56	78	14114
Oregon	3334	-281	-490	20	14	29881	1.6	-1127	-2628	591	112	30584
Pennsylvania	13986	439	-2091	62	37	133142	2.3	-13272	-16749	482	352	133976
Puerto Rico	1151	-415	-281	0	3	23979	2.7	-2262	3024	20	86	24085
Rhode Island	834	76	-128	2	1	11445	2.5	-429	-1017	23	14	11482
South Carolina	1797	-376	-96	6	7	15890	0.8	-602	1630	39	82	16011
South Dakota	154	-52	-39	2	0	3252	0.8	-35	-179	41	2	3295
Tennessee	2264	86	-398	5	12	21347	0.7	-1203	1593	105	70	21522
Texas	11837	-1011	-1507	41	95	121792	1.0	-2084	-23977	478	1295	123565
Utah	363	-431	-552	6	4	11016	0.8	-482	-911	168	28	11212
Vermont	738	296	-153	1	1	5350	1.8	-312	-699	12	3	5365
Virgin Islands	19	3	-4	0	0	2378	6.4	-1228	1968	0	0	2378
Virginia	2373	-468	-1378	5	20	24490	0.7	-746	-3095	247	274	25011
Washington	5369	-387	-709	8	23	56303	1.8	-2124	-4130	501	622	57426
West Virginia	1101	-171	202	2	1	13110	2.0	-282	-1412	60	41	13211
Wisconsin	5851	261	-356	5	2	44319	1.6	-1421	-5957	125	33	44477
Wyoming	282	-224	-66	7	1	3774	1.4	-1170	-2224	115	12	3901
Totals	198051	-6811	-26642	568	644	2108074	1.5	-85716	-173762	10462	8248	2127732

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 17, 2018

STATES WITH AN INCREASE OF MORE THAN 1,000

State	Change	State Supplied Comment
NY	+1,218	Layoffs in the construction, manufacturing, and accommodation and food service industries.

STATES WITH A DECREASE OF MORE THAN 1,000

State	Change	State Supplied Comment
CA	-2,425	Fewer layoffs in the service industry.
TX	-1,011	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.

[2013 2018 seasonal factors.txt](#)
[2013 2018 seasonal factors.xlsx](#)

[Weekly Claims Archives](#)
[Weekly Claims Data](#)

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