



# News Release

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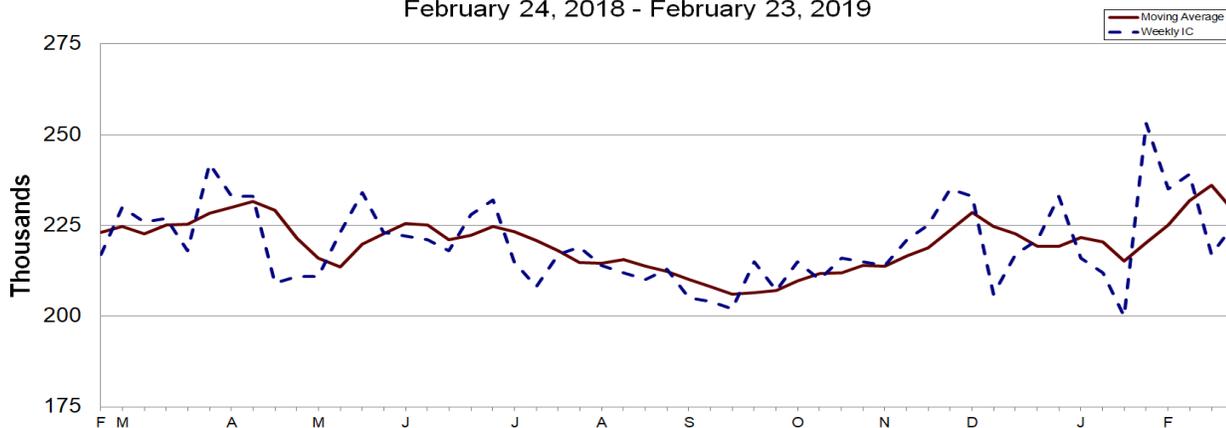
## UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE WEEKLY CLAIMS

### SEASONALLY ADJUSTED DATA

In the week ending February 23, the advance figure for seasonally adjusted **initial claims** was 225,000, an increase of 8,000 from the previous week's revised level. The previous week's level was revised up by 1,000 from 216,000 to 217,000. The 4-week moving average was 229,000, a decrease of 7,000 from the previous week's revised average. The previous week's average was revised up by 250 from 235,750 to 236,000.

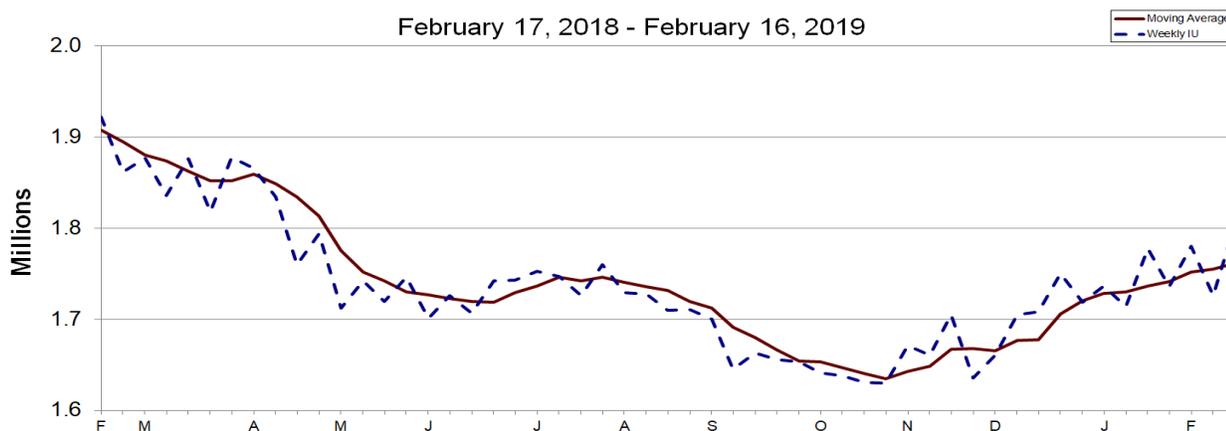
The advance seasonally adjusted **insured unemployment rate** was 1.3 percent for the week ending February 16, an increase of 0.1 percentage point from the previous week's unrevised rate. The advance number for seasonally adjusted **insured unemployment** during the week ending February 16 was 1,805,000, an increase of 79,000 from the previous week's revised level. The previous week's level was revised up 1,000 from 1,725,000 to 1,726,000. The 4-week moving average was 1,761,750, an increase of 6,750 from the previous week's revised average. The previous week's average was revised up by 250 from 1,754,750 to 1,755,000.

Seasonally Adjusted Initial Claims  
February 24, 2018 - February 23, 2019



Seasonally Adjusted Insured Unemployment

February 17, 2018 - February 16, 2019

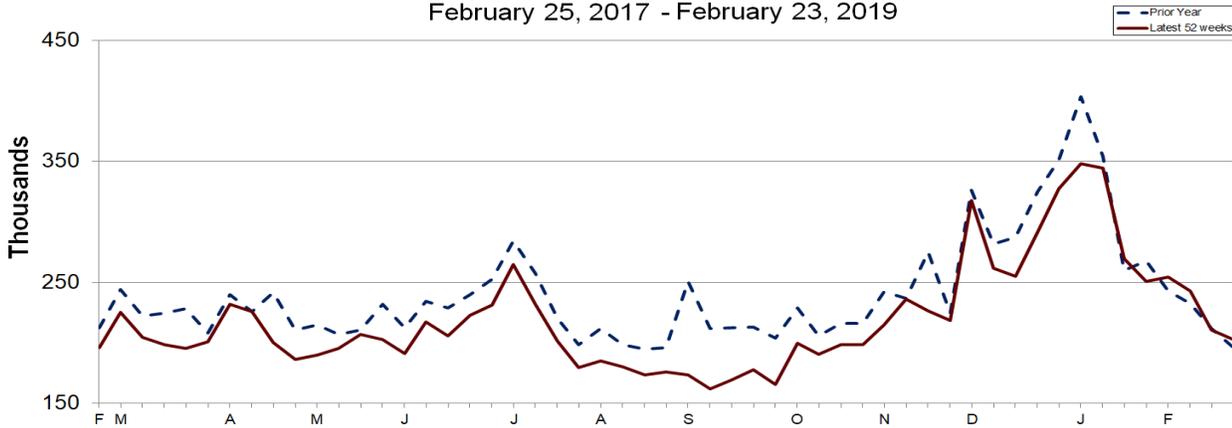


**UNADJUSTED DATA**

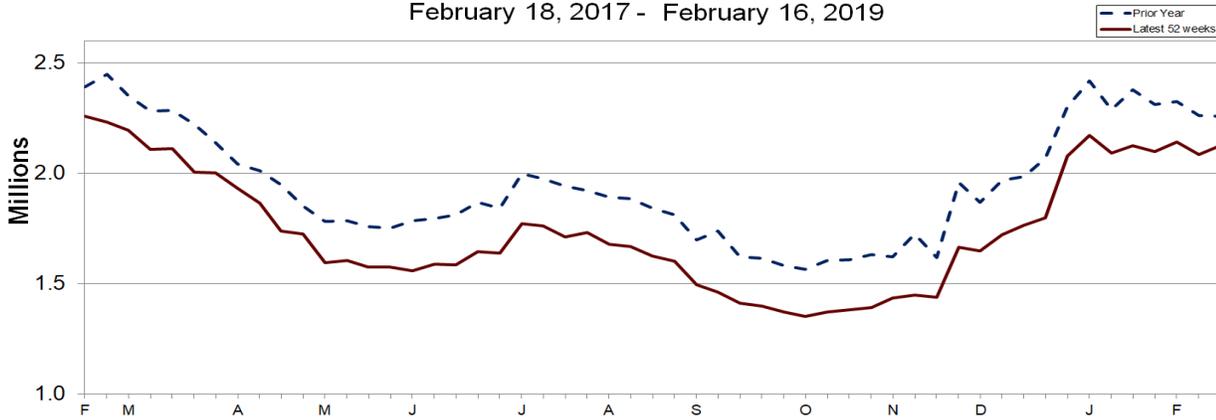
The advance number of actual initial claims under state programs, unadjusted, totaled 202,682 in the week ending February 23, a decrease of 8,033 (or -3.8 percent) from the previous week. The seasonal factors had expected a decrease of 15,625 (or -7.4 percent) from the previous week. There were 195,931 initial claims in the comparable week in 2018.

The advance unadjusted insured unemployment rate was 1.5 percent during the week ending February 16, unchanged from the prior week. The advance unadjusted number for persons claiming UI benefits in state programs totaled 2,125,996, an increase of 41,459 (or 2.0 percent) from the preceding week. The seasonal factors had expected a decrease of 51,768 (or -2.5 percent) from the previous week. A year earlier the rate was 1.6 percent and the volume was 2,258,811.

**Not Seasonally Adjusted Initial Claims**  
February 25, 2017 - February 23, 2019



**Not Seasonally Adjusted Insured Unemployment**  
February 18, 2017 - February 16, 2019



The total number of people claiming benefits in all programs for the week ending February 9 was 2,116,912, a decrease of 60,162 from the previous week. There were 2,295,730 persons claiming benefits in all programs in the comparable week in 2018.

No state was triggered "on" the Extended Benefits program during the week ending February 9.

Initial claims for UI benefits filed by former Federal civilian employees totaled 787 in the week ending February 16, a decrease of 132 from the prior week. There were 468 initial claims filed by newly discharged veterans, a decrease of 81 from the preceding week.

There were 12,653 former Federal civilian employees claiming UI benefits for the week ending February 9, a decrease of 2,280 from the previous week. Newly discharged veterans claiming benefits totaled 6,287, a decrease of 182 from the prior week.

The highest insured unemployment rates in the week ending February 9 were in Alaska (3.2), New Jersey (2.7), Montana (2.6), Rhode Island (2.6), Connecticut (2.4), Pennsylvania (2.4), Illinois (2.3), Massachusetts (2.3), Minnesota (2.2), and West Virginia (2.2).

The largest increases in initial claims for the week ending February 16 were in Washington (+1,275), Oregon (+183), Georgia (+136), Rhode Island (+131), and Nevada (+122), while the largest decreases were in Wisconsin (-4,606), Pennsylvania (-4,156), Michigan (-3,973), New York (-3,795), and Minnesota (-2,011).

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UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE DATA FOR REGULAR STATE PROGRAMS

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<b>WEEK ENDING</b>	<b>February 23</b>	<b>February 16</b>	<b>Change</b>	<b>February 9</b>	<b><u>Prior Year</u><sup>1</sup></b>
Initial Claims (SA)	225,000	217,000	+8,000	239,000	217,000
Initial Claims (NSA)	202,682	210,715	-8,033	242,817	195,931
4-Wk Moving Average (SA)	229,000	236,000	-7,000	231,750	223,000
<b>WEEK ENDING</b>	<b>February 16</b>	<b>February 9</b>	<b>Change</b>	<b>February 2</b>	<b><u>Prior Year</u><sup>1</sup></b>
Insured Unemployment (SA)	1,805,000	1,726,000	+79,000	1,780,000	1,922,000
Insured Unemployment (NSA)	2,125,996	2,084,537	+41,459	2,142,663	2,258,811
4-Wk Moving Average (SA)	1,761,750	1,755,000	+6,750	1,752,000	1,907,500
<a href="#"><u>Insured Unemployment Rate (SA)</u><sup>2</sup></a>	1.3%	1.2%	+0.1	1.2%	1.4%
<a href="#"><u>Insured Unemployment Rate (NSA)</u><sup>2</sup></a>	1.5%	1.5%	0.0	1.5%	1.6%

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INITIAL CLAIMS FILED IN FEDERAL PROGRAMS (UNADJUSTED)

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<b>WEEK ENDING</b>	<b>February 16</b>	<b>February 9</b>	<b>Change</b>	<b><u>Prior Year</u><sup>1</sup></b>
Federal Employees (UCFE)	787	919	-132	648
Newly Discharged Veterans (UCX)	468	549	-81	627

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PERSONS CLAIMING UI BENEFITS IN ALL PROGRAMS (UNADJUSTED)

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<b>WEEK ENDING</b>	<b>February 9</b>	<b>February 2</b>	<b>Change</b>	<b><u>Prior Year</u><sup>1</sup></b>
Regular State	2,081,336	2,139,710	-58,374	2,257,819
Federal Employees	12,653	14,933	-2,280	11,809
Newly Discharged Veterans	6,287	6,469	-182	8,451
<a href="#"><u>Extended Benefits</u><sup>3</sup></a>	0	0	0	922
<a href="#"><u>State Additional Benefits</u><sup>4</sup></a>	5,696	5,640	+56	6,747
<a href="#"><u>STC / Workshare</u><sup>5</sup></a>	10,940	10,322	+618	9,982
<a href="#"><u>TOTAL</u></a>	2,116,912	2,177,074	-60,162	2,295,730

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 143,051,794 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 23			Insured Unemployment For Week Ended February 16		
	Advance	Prior Wk	Change	Advance	Prior Wk	Change
Alabama	2,049	1,960	89	15,534	15,578	-44
Alaska	970	1,022	-52	10,003	9,707	296
Arizona	2,748	3,224	-476	16,960	19,634	-2,674
Arkansas	1,342	1,789	-447	11,198	12,390	-1,192
California	34,942	43,516	-8,574	395,702	360,835	34,867
Colorado	1,961	1,813	148	24,010	22,326	1,684
Connecticut	3,237	2,296	941	43,587	40,134	3,453
Delaware	483	544	-61	6,426	6,278	148
District of Columbia	414	436	-22	7,558	8,126	-568
Florida	5,467	6,185	-718	30,817	36,628	-5,811
Georgia	4,926	5,711	-785	25,786	26,530	-744
Hawaii	1,230	1,151	79	7,231	6,692	539
Idaho	1,338	1,461	-123	10,831	11,236	-405
Illinois	7,500	7,520	-20	135,316	135,273	43
Indiana	2,462	2,441	21	22,950	22,293	657
Iowa	2,427	1,983	444	32,095	31,633	462
Kansas	1,902	1,610	292	12,065	12,274	-209
Kentucky	6,756	2,344	4,412	21,742	21,514	228
Louisiana	1,614	1,672	-58	13,240	14,607	-1,367
Maine	604	608	-4	9,183	8,696	487
Maryland	2,445	3,162	-717	31,380	32,645	-1,265
Massachusetts	9,234	5,015	4,219	80,532	81,390	-858
Michigan	6,088	6,400	-312	85,019	81,774	3,245
Minnesota	3,152	3,080	72	64,035	61,861	2,174
Mississippi	705	918	-213	6,342	7,354	-1,012
Missouri	2,824	2,922	-98	28,436	29,807	-1,371
Montana	913	1,052	-139	12,591	11,853	738
Nebraska	700	730	-30	7,261	7,449	-188
Nevada	2,300	2,525	-225	19,203	20,397	-1,194
New Hampshire	497	498	-1	4,256	4,690	-434
New Jersey	8,427	8,841	-414	112,743	108,663	4,080
New Mexico	660	732	-72	9,723	10,009	-286
New York	14,178	13,619	559	161,913	161,687	226
North Carolina	3,017	3,217	-200	19,880	21,590	-1,710
North Dakota	394	470	-76	7,638	7,035	603
Ohio	6,175	5,843	332	71,466	72,360	-894
Oklahoma	1,578	1,746	-168	13,402	14,380	-978
Oregon	4,285	5,111	-826	33,203	32,285	918
Pennsylvania	12,900	13,418	-518	142,982	135,051	7,931
Puerto Rico	1,081	1,084	-3	12,356	15,936	-3,580
Rhode Island	1,901	1,029	872	12,219	12,060	159
South Carolina	1,984	1,769	215	16,182	16,499	-317
South Dakota	221	280	-59	3,268	3,352	-84
Tennessee	2,045	2,133	-88	18,209	19,790	-1,581
Texas	11,631	12,388	-757	115,835	117,176	-1,341
Utah	1,066	1,134	-68	11,771	12,068	-297
Vermont	645	479	166	5,543	5,384	159
Virgin Islands	15	24	-9	510	630	-120
Virginia	2,401	2,347	54	23,717	23,738	-21
Washington	7,761	12,451	-4,690	75,320	68,046	7,274
West Virginia	928	1,095	-167	16,768	14,366	2,402
Wisconsin	5,799	5,574	225	46,531	47,683	-1,152
Wyoming	360	343	17	3,528	3,145	383
US Total	202,682	210,715	-8,033	2,125,996	2,084,537	41,459

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 claims 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.

## 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 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	1,876	40	1,862.75	1.3
March 24, 2018	218	-9	225.25	1,818	-58	1,851.75	1.3
March 31, 2018	242	24	228.25	1,878	60	1,852.00	1.3
April 7, 2018	233	-9	230.00	1,866	-12	1,859.50	1.3
April 14, 2018	233	0	231.50	1,834	-32	1,849.00	1.3
April 21, 2018	209	-24	229.25	1,760	-74	1,834.50	1.2
April 28, 2018	211	2	221.50	1,794	34	1,813.50	1.3
May 5, 2018	211	0	216.00	1,712	-82	1,775.00	1.2
May 12, 2018	223	12	213.50	1,742	30	1,752.00	1.2
May 19, 2018	234	11	219.75	1,720	-22	1,742.00	1.2
May 26, 2018	223	-11	222.75	1,746	26	1,730.00	1.2
June 2, 2018	222	-1	225.50	1,701	-45	1,727.25	1.2
June 9, 2018	221	-1	225.00	1,726	25	1,723.25	1.2
June 16, 2018	218	-3	221.00	1,707	-19	1,720.00	1.2
June 23, 2018	228	10	222.25	1,742	35	1,719.00	1.2
June 30, 2018	232	4	224.75	1,743	1	1,729.50	1.2
July 7, 2018	215	-17	223.25	1,753	10	1,736.25	1.2
July 14, 2018	208	-7	220.75	1,747	-6	1,746.25	1.2
July 21, 2018	217	9	218.00	1,726	-21	1,742.25	1.2
July 28, 2018	219	2	214.75	1,760	34	1,746.50	1.2
August 4, 2018	214	-5	214.50	1,729	-31	1,740.50	1.2
August 11, 2018	212	-2	215.50	1,728	-1	1,735.75	1.2
August 18, 2018	210	-2	213.75	1,710	-18	1,731.75	1.2
August 25, 2018	213	3	212.25	1,711	1	1,719.50	1.2
September 1, 2018	205	-8	210.00	1,700	-11	1,712.25	1.2
September 8, 2018	204	-1	208.00	1,645	-55	1,691.50	1.2
September 15, 2018	202	-2	206.00	1,663	18	1,679.75	1.2
September 22, 2018	215	13	206.50	1,656	-7	1,666.00	1.2
September 29, 2018	207	-8	207.00	1,653	-3	1,654.25	1.2
October 6, 2018	215	8	209.75	1,641	-12	1,653.25	1.2
October 13, 2018	210	-5	211.75	1,638	-3	1,647.00	1.1
October 20, 2018	216	6	212.00	1,631	-7	1,640.75	1.1
October 27, 2018	215	-1	214.00	1,630	-1	1,635.00	1.1
November 3, 2018	214	-1	213.75	1,671	41	1,642.50	1.2
November 10, 2018	221	7	216.50	1,661	-10	1,648.25	1.2
November 17, 2018	225	4	218.75	1,705	44	1,666.75	1.2
November 24, 2018	235	10	223.75	1,636	-69	1,668.25	1.1
December 1, 2018	233	-2	228.50	1,661	25	1,665.75	1.2
December 8, 2018	206	-27	224.75	1,705	44	1,676.75	1.2
December 15, 2018	217	11	222.75	1,708	3	1,677.50	1.2
December 22, 2018	221	4	219.25	1,750	42	1,706.00	1.2
December 29, 2018	233	12	219.25	1,719	-31	1,720.50	1.2
January 5, 2019	216	-17	221.75	1,737	18	1,728.50	1.2
January 12, 2019	212	-4	220.50	1,714	-23	1,730.00	1.2
January 19, 2019	200	-12	215.25	1,778	64	1,737.00	1.2
January 26, 2019	253	53	220.25	1,736	-42	1,741.25	1.2
February 2, 2019	235	-18	225.00	1,780	44	1,752.00	1.2
February 9, 2019	239	4	231.75	1,726	-54	1,755.00	1.2
February 16, 2019	217	-22	236.00	1,805	79	1,761.75	1.3
February 23, 2019	225	8	229.00				

INITIAL CLAIMS FILED DURING WEEK ENDED  
FEBRUARY 16

INSURED UNEMPLOYMENT FOR WEEK ENDED  
FEBRUARY 9

STATE NAME	CHANGE FROM					CHANGE FROM					ALL PROGRAMS EXCLUDING RAILROAD RETIREMENT	
	STATE	LAST WEEK	YEAR AGO	UCFE <sup>1</sup>	UCX <sup>1</sup>	STATE (%) <sup>2</sup>	LAST WEEK	YEAR AGO	UCFE <sup>1</sup>	UCX <sup>1</sup>		
Alabama	1960	-699	-354	14	8	15578	0.8	-804	-1498	69	63	15710
Alaska	1022	-7	-86	6	1	9707	3.2	-617	-2031	214	8	9929
Arizona	3224	-86	-230	7	2	19634	0.7	39	-2938	254	59	19947
Arkansas	1789	-15	59	2	1	12390	1.0	-445	-2210	96	36	12522
California	43516	-1334	3286	245	91	360835	2.1	-10861	-11149	3040	1365	365240
Colorado	1813	-397	-57	9	13	22326	0.9	-1116	-1925	281	203	22810
Connecticut	2296	-622	-1082	8	6	40134	2.4	-1482	-7456	65	41	40240
Delaware	544	-40	-21	3	6	6278	1.4	-152	-469	20	10	6308
District of Columbia	436	-73	156	24	0	8126	1.4	-524	-885	387	5	8518
Florida	6185	-864	-514	24	28	36628	0.4	-1590	-4118	143	130	36901
Georgia	5711	136	-28	25	24	26530	0.6	-612	-3416	165	211	26906
Hawaii	1151	-20	-110	2	5	6692	1.1	-200	-760	77	51	6820
Idaho	1461	-69	320	18	4	11236	1.6	112	-118	327	8	11571
Illinois	7520	-1820	-619	8	4	135273	2.3	-495	-10450	402	158	135833
Indiana	2441	-1021	-177	4	5	22293	0.7	-856	-2074	36	27	22356
Iowa	1983	-696	-143	8	0	31633	2.1	-1906	-107	51	31	31715
Kansas	1610	-156	-86	0	2	12274	0.9	-7	-1459	39	39	12352
Kentucky	2344	-37	-983	2	10	21514	1.2	-1174	-2385	122	146	21782
Louisiana	1672	-299	-129	2	3	14607	0.8	-1123	-3285	53	18	14678
Maine	608	-138	-165	0	0	8696	1.5	25	-846	40	13	8749
Maryland	3162	28	13	14	3	32645	1.3	-794	-6874	227	98	32970
Massachusetts	5015	-611	-330	10	10	81390	2.3	-33	-7990	154	89	81633
Michigan	6400	-3973	-1197	16	5	81774	1.9	-6449	-5222	240	72	82086
Minnesota	3080	-2011	-498	1	4	61861	2.2	-6356	-1539	137	54	62052
Mississippi	918	-158	-17	10	0	7354	0.7	-515	-2290	73	19	7446
Missouri	2922	-686	-310	2	0	29807	1.1	-1621	-4592	112	36	29955
Montana	1052	-365	39	18	1	11853	2.6	356	-610	583	28	12464
Nebraska	730	-136	25	2	1	7449	0.8	-49	-869	23	10	7482
Nevada	2525	122	173	12	1	20397	1.5	96	-2520	177	49	20623
New Hampshire	498	-90	-72	1	0	4690	0.7	-24	-624	0	3	4693
New Jersey	8841	-917	-541	13	12	108663	2.7	-2873	-7912	267	236	109166
New Mexico	732	-87	14	6	1	10009	1.3	-217	-856	337	36	10382
New York	13619	-3795	-1468	26	25	161687	1.7	-4016	-14003	385	342	162414
North Carolina	3217	-95	275	11	17	21590	0.5	-458	-2332	164	116	21870
North Dakota	470	-104	44	2	1	7035	1.7	94	-1038	23	3	7061
Ohio	5843	-741	-707	5	11	72360	1.4	-2046	-8597	116	152	72628
Oklahoma	1746	-212	467	6	2	14380	0.9	-13	-484	59	59	14498
Oregon	5111	183	1432	36	7	32285	1.7	1525	529	719	66	33070
Pennsylvania	13418	-4156	-1775	62	35	135051	2.4	-11540	-8617	422	268	135741
Puerto Rico	1084	-500	-999	3	4	15936	1.9	390	-13680	133	51	16120
Rhode Island	1029	131	18	6	2	12060	2.6	-28	-541	39	23	12122
South Carolina	1769	-315	-279	5	6	16499	0.8	-480	-1943	42	80	16621
South Dakota	280	-54	55	3	3	3352	0.8	-23	-116	235	4	3591
Tennessee	2133	-119	-55	6	9	19790	0.7	-224	-4579	93	51	19934
Texas	12388	-1138	-656	49	70	117176	1.0	2168	-15014	624	1038	118838
Utah	1134	-45	-6	12	3	12068	0.9	-82	-65	290	18	12376
Vermont	479	-21	67	2	0	5384	1.8	31	-141	13	1	5398
Virgin Islands	24	-1	-4	0	0	630	1.9	44	-2946	6	0	636
Virginia	2347	-394	-13	8	7	23738	0.6	-165	-3561	204	164	24106
Washington	12451	1275	6483	17	6	68046	2.1	6688	6502	636	450	69132
West Virginia	1095	-208	56	0	3	14366	2.2	-633	-321	50	20	14436
Wisconsin	5574	-4606	-1131	8	4	47683	1.7	-7099	-1772	113	26	47822
Wyoming	343	-46	-34	4	2	3145	1.2	8	-1929	76	3	3224
Totals	210715	-32102	-1894	787	468	2084537	1.5	-58126	-176125	12653	6287	2103477

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 U.S. total covered employment is BLS.

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**UNADJUSTED INITIAL CLAIMS FOR WEEK ENDED FEBRUARY 16, 2019**

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**STATES WITH AN INCREASE OF MORE THAN 1,000**

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<b>State</b>	<b>Change</b>	<b>State Supplied Comment</b>
WA	+1,275	Layoffs in the agriculture, fishing and hunting, construction, manufacturing, and transportation and warehousing industries.

**STATES WITH A DECREASE OF MORE THAN 1,000**

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<b>State</b>	<b>Change</b>	<b>State Supplied Comment</b>
WI	-4,606	No comment.
PA	-4,156	Fewer layoffs in the transportation and warehousing, accommodation and food service, and construction industries.
MI	-3,973	No comment.
NY	-3,795	Fewer layoffs in the transportation and warehousing, construction, and accommodation and food service industries.
MN	-2,011	Fewer layoffs in the construction industry.
IL	-1,820	No comment.
CA	-1,334	No comment.
TX	-1,138	No comment.
IN	-1,021	No comment.

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## 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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Release Number: USDL 19-342-NAT

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