



News Release

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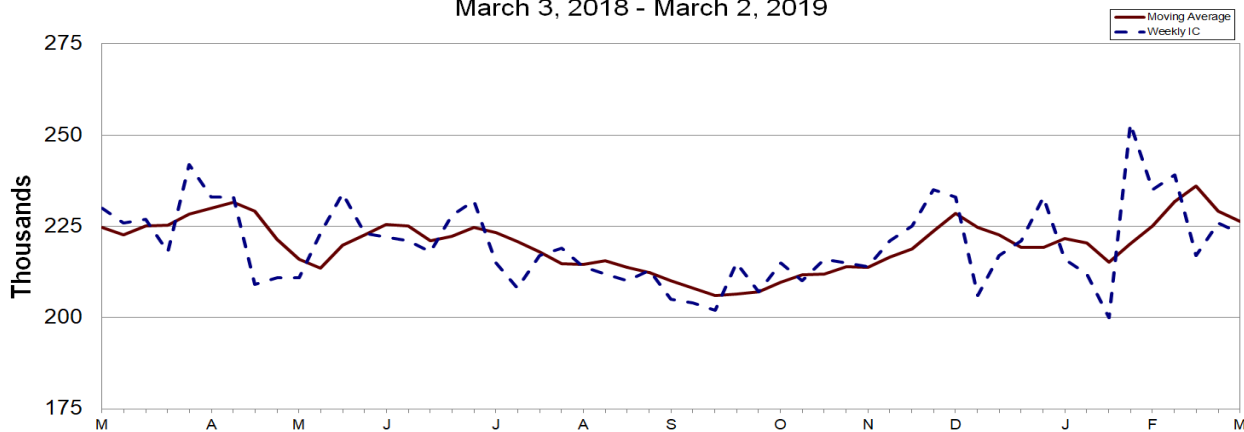
UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE WEEKLY CLAIMS

SEASONALLY ADJUSTED DATA

In the week ending March 2, the advance figure for seasonally adjusted **initial claims** was 223,000, a decrease of 3,000 from the previous week's revised level. The previous week's level was revised up by 1,000 from 225,000 to 226,000. The 4-week moving average was 226,250, a decrease of 3,000 from the previous week's revised average. The previous week's average was revised up by 250 from 229,000 to 229,250.

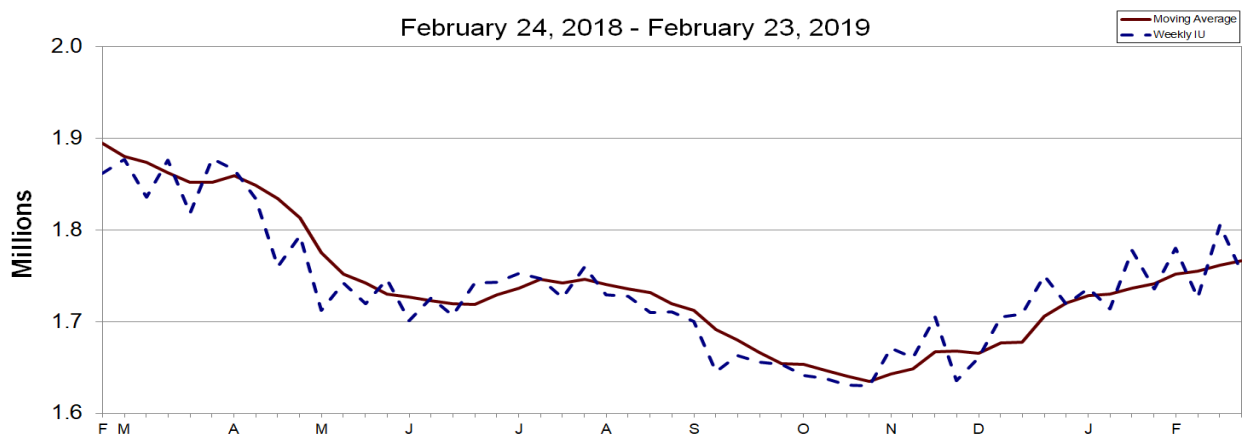
The advance seasonally adjusted **insured unemployment rate** was 1.2 percent for the week ending February 23, a decrease of 0.1 percentage point from the previous week's unrevised rate. The advance number for seasonally adjusted **insured unemployment** during the week ending February 23 was 1,755,000, a decrease of 50,000 from the previous week's unrevised level of 1,805,000. The 4-week moving average was 1,766,500, an increase of 4,750 from the previous week's unrevised average of 1,761,750.

Seasonally Adjusted Initial Claims
March 3, 2018 - March 2, 2019



Seasonally Adjusted Insured Unemployment

February 24, 2018 - February 23, 2019



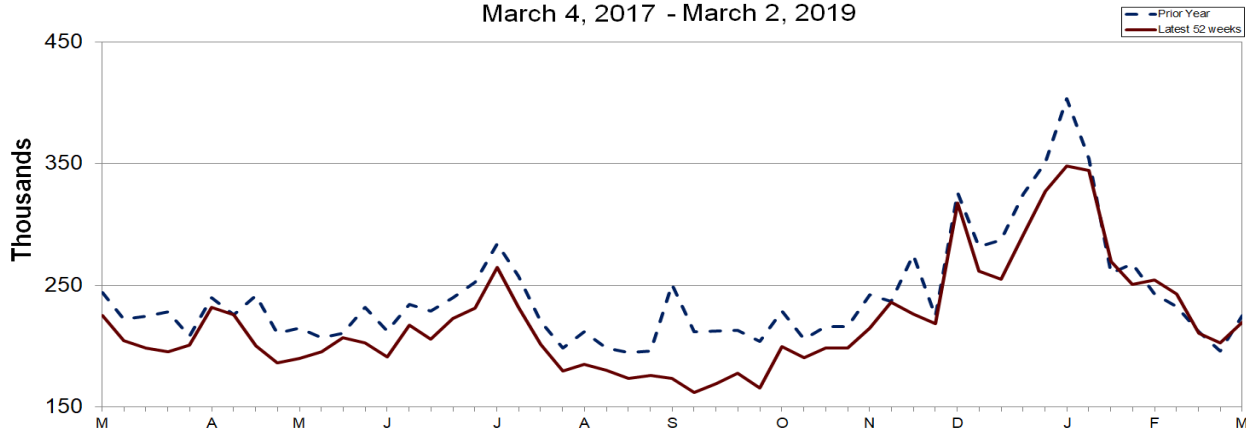
UNADJUSTED DATA

The advance number of actual initial claims under state programs, unadjusted, totaled 220,060 in the week ending March 2, an increase of 16,969 (or 8.4 percent) from the previous week. The seasonal factors had expected an increase of 19,880 (or 9.8 percent) from the previous week. There were 225,513 initial claims in the comparable week in 2018.

The advance unadjusted insured unemployment rate was 1.5 percent during the week ending February 23, unchanged from the prior week. The advance unadjusted number for persons claiming UI benefits in state programs totaled 2,109,742, a decrease of 16,436 (or -0.8 percent) from the preceding week. The seasonal factors had expected an increase of 43,318 (or 2.0 percent) from the previous week. A year earlier the rate was 1.6 percent and the volume was 2,232,576.

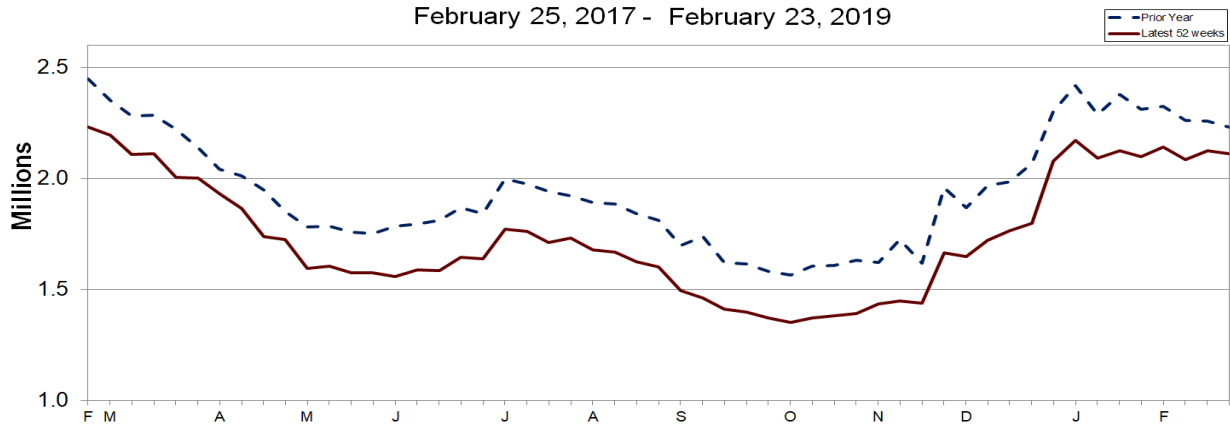
Not Seasonally Adjusted Initial Claims

March 4, 2017 - March 2, 2019



Not Seasonally Adjusted Insured Unemployment

February 25, 2017 - February 23, 2019



The total number of people claiming benefits in all programs for the week ending February 16 was 2,157,745, an increase of 40,785 from the previous week. There were 2,293,851 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 16.

Initial claims for UI benefits filed by former Federal civilian employees totaled 658 in the week ending February 23, a decrease of 129 from the prior week. There were 431 initial claims filed by newly discharged veterans, a decrease of 37 from the preceding week.

There were 12,361 former Federal civilian employees claiming UI benefits for the week ending February 16, a decrease of 292 from the previous week. Newly discharged veterans claiming benefits totaled 6,269, a decrease of 18 from the prior week.

The highest insured unemployment rates in the week ending February 16 were in Alaska (3.3), New Jersey (2.8), Montana (2.7), Connecticut (2.6), Rhode Island (2.6), Pennsylvania (2.5), California (2.3), Illinois (2.3), Massachusetts (2.3), Washington (2.2), and West Virginia (2.2).

The largest increases in initial claims for the week ending February 23 were in Kentucky (+4,487), Massachusetts (+4,283), Connecticut (+943), Rhode Island (+870), and New York (+419), while the largest decreases were in California (-9,067), Washington (-5,091), Oregon (-824), Texas (-622), and Maryland (-611).

UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE DATA FOR REGULAR STATE PROGRAMS

WEEK ENDING	March 2	February 23	Change	February 16	<u>Prior Year</u>¹
Initial Claims (SA)	223,000	226,000	-3,000	217,000	230,000
Initial Claims (NSA)	220,060	203,091	+16,969	210,718	225,513
4-Wk Moving Average (SA)	226,250	229,250	-3,000	236,000	224,750
WEEK ENDING	February 23	February 16	Change	February 9	<u>Prior Year</u>¹
Insured Unemployment (SA)	1,755,000	1,805,000	-50,000	1,726,000	1,862,000
Insured Unemployment (NSA)	2,109,742	2,126,178	-16,436	2,084,585	2,232,576
4-Wk Moving Average (SA)	1,766,500	1,761,750	+4,750	1,755,000	1,895,250
<u>Insured Unemployment Rate (SA)</u>²	1.2%	1.3%	-0.1	1.2%	1.3%
<u>Insured Unemployment Rate (NSA)</u>²	1.5%	1.5%	0.0	1.5%	1.6%

INITIAL CLAIMS FILED IN FEDERAL PROGRAMS (UNADJUSTED)

WEEK ENDING	February 23	February 16	Change	<u>Prior Year</u>¹
Federal Employees (UCFE)	658	787	-129	585
Newly Discharged Veterans (UCX)	431	468	-37	555

PERSONS CLAIMING UI BENEFITS IN ALL PROGRAMS (UNADJUSTED)

WEEK ENDING	February 16	February 9	Change	<u>Prior Year</u>¹
Regular State	2,123,259	2,081,384	+41,875	2,256,241
Federal Employees	12,361	12,653	-292	12,954
Newly Discharged Veterans	6,269	6,287	-18	8,196
<u>Extended Benefits</u>³	0	0	0	964
<u>State Additional Benefits</u>⁴	5,720	5,696	+24	6,561
<u>STC / Workshare</u>⁵	10,136	10,940	-804	8,935
<u>TOTAL</u>	2,157,745	2,116,960	+40,785	2,293,851

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 March 2			Insured Unemployment For Week Ended February 23		
	Advance	Prior Wk	Change	Advance	Prior Wk	Change
Alabama	2,179	2,193	-14	15,563	15,894	-331
Alaska	994	904	90	9,193	10,165	-972
Arizona	3,087	2,905	182	16,816	19,362	-2,546
Arkansas	1,723	1,450	273	10,991	12,466	-1,475
California	41,634	34,449	7,185	388,928	386,100	2,828
Colorado	1,735	1,925	-190	22,601	23,469	-868
Connecticut	2,490	3,239	-749	44,236	42,137	2,099
Delaware	501	494	7	6,434	6,232	202
District of Columbia	415	376	39	7,531	7,816	-285
Florida	5,429	5,685	-256	30,047	38,228	-8,181
Georgia	5,617	5,120	497	25,495	27,208	-1,713
Hawaii	1,294	1,196	98	7,158	6,870	288
Idaho	1,246	1,419	-173	10,690	11,234	-544
Illinois	8,079	7,446	633	131,203	134,364	-3,161
Indiana	2,542	2,367	175	22,379	22,075	304
Iowa	2,531	2,179	352	31,761	31,257	504
Kansas	1,863	1,803	60	12,489	11,800	689
Kentucky	3,636	6,831	-3,195	22,713	22,762	-49
Louisiana	1,490	1,784	-294	12,897	15,317	-2,420
Maine	734	597	137	9,223	8,645	578
Maryland	2,640	2,551	89	31,259	32,382	-1,123
Massachusetts	5,060	9,298	-4,238	85,553	81,310	4,243
Michigan	5,313	6,241	-928	75,781	87,042	-11,261
Minnesota	3,407	3,014	393	63,267	60,963	2,304
Mississippi	780	844	-64	6,384	7,592	-1,208
Missouri	2,732	2,969	-237	27,597	29,357	-1,760
Montana	1,052	868	184	12,424	11,937	487
Nebraska	741	708	33	7,228	7,409	-181
Nevada	2,332	2,130	202	18,787	20,591	-1,804
New Hampshire	870	371	499	4,265	4,601	-336
New Jersey	8,077	8,512	-435	114,489	110,184	4,305
New Mexico	594	676	-82	9,739	10,011	-272
New York	30,429	14,038	16,391	180,306	160,513	19,793
North Carolina	2,763	3,134	-371	19,324	21,475	-2,151
North Dakota	383	340	43	7,429	6,853	576
Ohio	5,451	6,181	-730	70,655	71,003	-348
Oklahoma	1,503	1,901	-398	13,123	13,797	-674
Oregon	5,252	4,287	965	31,877	33,045	-1,168
Pennsylvania	14,693	12,923	1,770	135,089	140,874	-5,785
Puerto Rico	1,057	1,172	-115	13,491	15,457	-1,966
Rhode Island	814	1,899	-1,085	13,262	11,983	1,279
South Carolina	2,179	2,079	100	17,317	16,331	986
South Dakota	205	239	-34	3,263	3,401	-138
Tennessee	2,060	2,129	-69	18,230	19,576	-1,346
Texas	12,169	11,766	403	116,486	117,832	-1,346
Utah	975	1,018	-43	11,451	11,869	-418
Vermont	841	656	185	5,722	5,183	539
Virgin Islands	21	16	5	652	508	144
Virginia	2,357	2,282	75	23,495	23,098	397
Washington	6,773	7,360	-587	69,328	73,334	-4,006
West Virginia	849	971	-122	16,830	14,348	2,482
Wisconsin	6,150	5,769	381	43,682	45,863	-2,181
Wyoming	319	387	-68	3,609	3,055	554
US Total	220,060	203,091	16,969	2,109,742	2,126,178	-16,436

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	Initial Claims	Change from		Insured Unemployment	Change from		IUR
		Prior Week	4-Week Average		Prior Week	4-Week Average	
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	226	9	229.25	1,755	-50	1,766.50	1.2
March 2, 2019	223	-3	226.25				

INITIAL CLAIMS FILED DURING WEEK ENDED
FEBRUARY 23

INSURED UNEMPLOYMENT FOR WEEK ENDED
FEBRUARY 16

STATE NAME	STATE	CHANGE FROM				STATE (%) ²	CHANGE FROM				ALL PROGRAMS EXCLUDING RAILROAD RETIREMENT	
		LAST WEEK	YEAR AGO	UCFE ¹	UCX ¹		LAST WEEK	YEAR AGO	UCFE ¹	UCX ¹		
Alabama	2193	233	25	16	5	15894	0.8	316	-960	66	69	16029
Alaska	904	-118	-125	7	2	10165	3.3	458	-2000	214	16	10395
Arizona	2905	-319	-365	6	2	19362	0.7	-272	-3046	229	59	19650
Arkansas	1450	-339	-170	2	1	12466	1.1	76	-1904	88	39	12593
California	34449	-9067	3377	160	70	386100	2.3	25265	-5958	2758	1426	390284
Colorado	1925	112	-95	10	10	23469	0.9	1143	-2798	337	222	24028
Connecticut	3239	943	-403	3	3	42137	2.6	2003	-6291	68	61	42266
Delaware	494	-50	1	0	1	6232	1.4	-46	-488	15	13	6260
District of Columbia	376	-60	110	18	0	7816	1.4	-310	-913	353	0	8169
Florida	5685	-500	-323	15	20	38228	0.5	1600	-4156	147	112	38487
Georgia	5120	-591	233	29	19	27208	0.6	678	-1700	149	179	27536
Hawaii	1196	42	-35	4	10	6870	1.1	130	-793	64	54	6988
Idaho	1419	-42	283	19	4	11234	1.6	-2	555	315	11	11560
Illinois	7446	-74	-907	2	8	134364	2.3	-909	-6496	416	151	134931
Indiana	2367	-74	194	2	5	22075	0.7	-218	-2063	29	31	22135
Iowa	2179	196	156	2	2	31257	2.0	-376	397	59	26	31342
Kansas	1803	193	-317	2	2	11800	0.9	-474	-1014	32	34	11866
Kentucky	6831	4487	4606	4	3	22762	1.2	1248	-1505	135	128	23025
Louisiana	1784	112	-109	5	1	15317	0.8	710	-2293	49	17	15383
Maine	597	-11	-152	0	1	8645	1.4	-51	-642	36	6	8687
Maryland	2551	-611	-250	13	6	32382	1.3	-263	-5920	230	92	32704
Massachusetts	9298	4283	144	6	6	81310	2.3	-80	-7662	168	83	81561
Michigan	6241	-159	-222	11	5	87042	2.0	5268	-1434	270	70	87382
Minnesota	3014	-66	-346	5	3	60963	2.1	-898	-1512	132	57	61152
Mississippi	844	-74	26	3	0	7592	0.7	238	-1659	63	21	7676
Missouri	2969	47	-393	5	1	29357	1.1	-450	-2862	124	24	29505
Montana	868	-184	-160	17	2	11937	2.7	84	-628	612	23	12572
Nebraska	708	-22	-40	2	0	7409	0.8	-40	-793	28	6	7443
Nevada	2130	-395	-280	7	5	20591	1.6	194	-1744	184	52	20827
New Hampshire	371	-127	-178	1	0	4601	0.7	-89	-687	4	4	4609
New Jersey	8512	-329	604	14	9	110184	2.8	1521	-3645	269	236	110689
New Mexico	676	-56	22	3	1	10011	1.3	2	-748	340	45	10396
New York	14038	419	335	23	15	160513	1.7	-1174	-11463	380	333	161226
North Carolina	3134	-83	635	16	22	21475	0.5	-115	-2019	139	91	21705
North Dakota	340	-130	-32	0	0	6853	1.7	-182	-927	16	2	6871
Ohio	6181	338	56	8	14	71003	1.3	-1357	-7269	107	145	71255
Oklahoma	1901	155	786	0	6	13797	0.9	-583	-566	60	57	13914
Oregon	4287	-824	-98	24	4	33045	1.8	760	1897	691	68	33804
Pennsylvania	12923	-495	-299	43	30	140874	2.5	5823	-12194	548	240	141662
Puerto Rico	1172	88	12	5	3	15457	1.8	-479	-11699	124	32	15613
Rhode Island	1899	870	-45	1	0	11983	2.6	-77	-375	29	20	12032
South Carolina	2079	310	19	4	5	16331	0.8	-168	-1357	49	88	16468
South Dakota	239	-41	19	1	1	3401	0.8	49	-10	152	6	3559
Tennessee	2129	-4	53	5	8	19576	0.7	-214	-4484	99	65	19740
Texas	11766	-622	69	83	78	117832	1.0	656	-12088	682	1076	119590
Utah	1018	-116	-115	15	3	11869	0.8	-199	-81	241	16	12126
Vermont	656	177	-86	2	0	5183	1.7	-201	-157	12	1	5196
Virgin Islands	16	-8	1	0	0	508	1.5	-122	-2420	4	0	512
Virginia	2282	-65	-25	8	16	23098	0.6	-640	-3169	202	146	23446
Washington	7360	-5091	1335	18	14	73334	2.2	5288	13375	591	467	74392
West Virginia	971	-124	66	1	3	14348	2.2	-18	-47	54	20	14422
Wisconsin	5769	195	-741	4	1	45863	1.6	-1820	-2336	108	25	45996
Wyoming	387	44	-59	4	1	3055	1.2	-90	-1886	90	4	3149
Totals	203091	-7627	6797	658	431	2126178	1.5	41593	-132637	12361	6269	2144808

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.

UNADJUSTED INITIAL CLAIMS FOR WEEK ENDED FEBRUARY 23, 2019

STATES WITH AN INCREASE OF MORE THAN 1,000

State	Change	State Supplied Comment
KY	+4,487	No comment.
MA	+4,283	Layoffs in the educational service industry.

STATES WITH A DECREASE OF MORE THAN 1,000

State	Change	State Supplied Comment
CA	-9,067	Fewer layoffs in the service industry.
WA	-5,091	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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U.S. Department of Labor
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Washington, D.C. 20210
Release Number: USDL 19-387-NAT

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