



News Release

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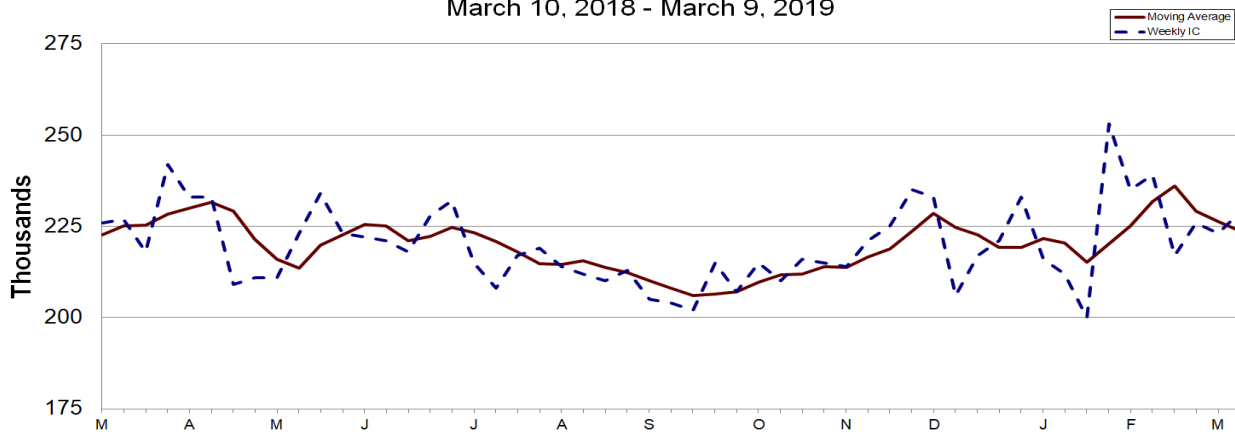
UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE WEEKLY CLAIMS

SEASONALLY ADJUSTED DATA

In the week ending March 9, the advance figure for seasonally adjusted **initial claims** was 229,000, an increase of 6,000 from the previous week's unrevised level of 223,000. The 4-week moving average was 223,750, a decrease of 2,500 from the previous week's unrevised average of 226,250.

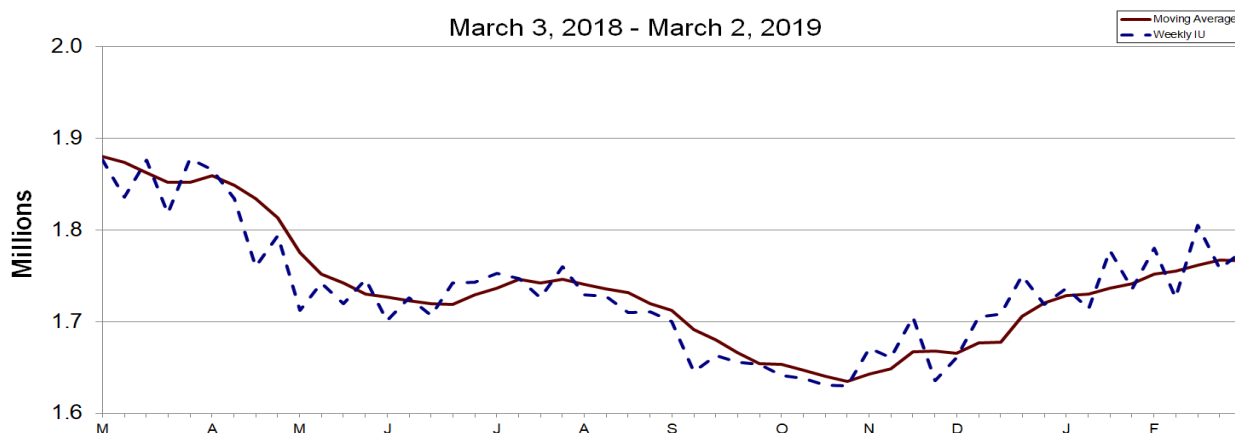
The advance seasonally adjusted **insured unemployment rate** was 1.2 percent for the week ending March 2, unchanged from the previous week's unrevised rate. The advance number for seasonally adjusted **insured unemployment** during the week ending March 2 was 1,776,000, an increase of 18,000 from the previous week's revised level. The previous week's level was revised up 3,000 from 1,755,000 to 1,758,000. The 4-week moving average was 1,766,250, a decrease of 1,000 from the previous week's revised average. The previous week's average was revised up by 750 from 1,766,500 to 1,767,250.

Seasonally Adjusted Initial Claims
March 10, 2018 - March 9, 2019



Seasonally Adjusted Insured Unemployment

March 3, 2018 - March 2, 2019



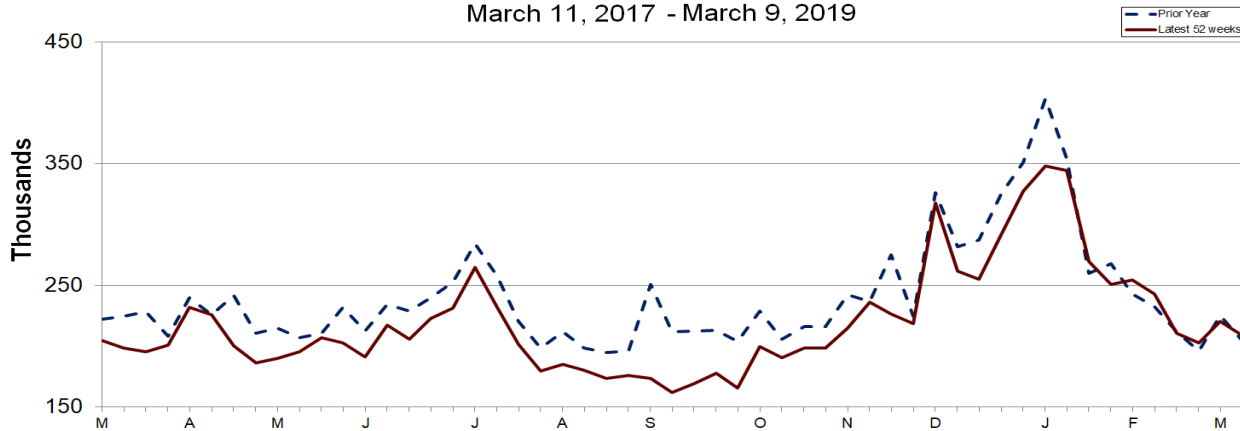
UNADJUSTED DATA

The advance number of actual initial claims under state programs, unadjusted, totaled 208,782 in the week ending March 9, a decrease of 11,801 (or -5.3 percent) from the previous week. The seasonal factors had expected a decrease of 16,985 (or -7.7 percent) from the previous week. There were 204,862 initial claims in the comparable week in 2018.

The advance unadjusted insured unemployment rate was 1.5 percent during the week ending March 2, unchanged from the prior week. The advance unadjusted number for persons claiming UI benefits in state programs totaled 2,086,982, a decrease of 25,583 (or -1.2 percent) from the preceding week. The seasonal factors had expected a decrease of 47,454 (or -2.2 percent) from the previous week. A year earlier the rate was 1.6 percent and the volume was 2,193,790.

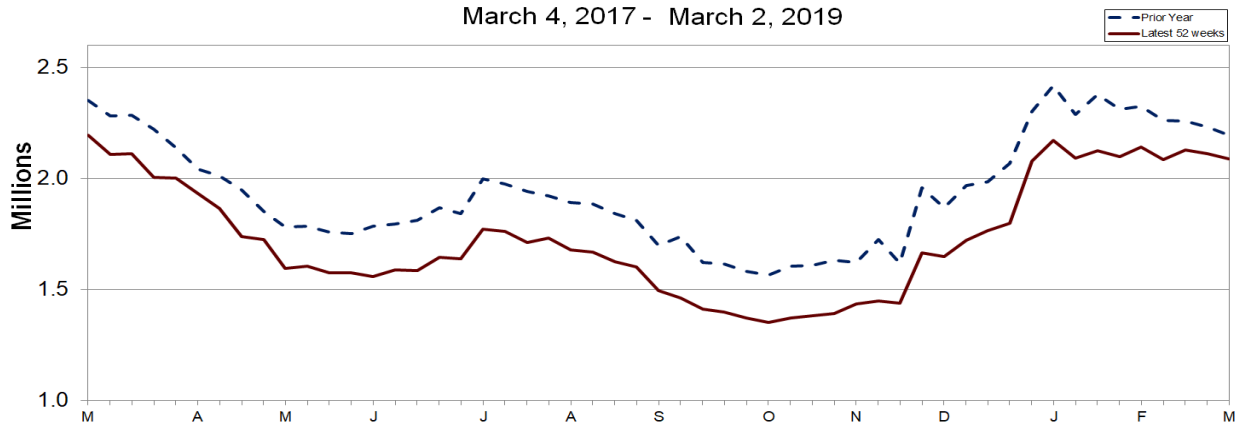
Not Seasonally Adjusted Initial Claims

March 11, 2017 - March 9, 2019



Not Seasonally Adjusted Insured Unemployment

March 4, 2017 - March 2, 2019



The total number of people claiming benefits in all programs for the week ending February 23 was 2,145,395, a decrease of 12,379 from the previous week. There were 2,265,961 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 23.

Initial claims for UI benefits filed by former Federal civilian employees totaled 814 in the week ending March 2, an increase of 156 from the prior week. There were 539 initial claims filed by newly discharged veterans, an increase of 108 from the preceding week.

There were 11,547 former Federal civilian employees claiming UI benefits for the week ending February 23, a decrease of 814 from the previous week. Newly discharged veterans claiming benefits totaled 6,330, an increase of 61 from the prior week.

The highest insured unemployment rates in the week ending February 23 were in Alaska (3.1), New Jersey (2.8), Rhode Island (2.8), Connecticut (2.6), Montana (2.6), Massachusetts (2.5), Pennsylvania (2.3), California (2.2), Illinois (2.2), and West Virginia (2.2).

The largest increases in initial claims for the week ending March 2 were in New York (+16,253), California (+6,636), Pennsylvania (+1,774), Oregon (+1,576), and Georgia (+661), while the largest decreases were in Massachusetts (-4,196), Kentucky (-3,117), Washington (-1,185), Rhode Island (-1,100), and Michigan (-756).

UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE DATA FOR REGULAR STATE PROGRAMS

WEEK ENDING	March 9	March 2	Change	February 23	<u>Prior Year</u>¹
Initial Claims (SA)	229,000	223,000	+6,000	226,000	226,000
Initial Claims (NSA)	208,782	220,583	-11,801	203,091	204,862
4-Wk Moving Average (SA)	223,750	226,250	-2,500	229,250	222,750
WEEK ENDING	March 2	February 23	Change	February 16	<u>Prior Year</u>¹
Insured Unemployment (SA)	1,776,000	1,758,000	+18,000	1,805,000	1,877,000
Insured Unemployment (NSA)	2,086,982	2,112,565	-25,583	2,126,207	2,193,790
4-Wk Moving Average (SA)	1,766,250	1,767,250	-1,000	1,761,750	1,880,750
<u>Insured Unemployment Rate (SA)</u>²	1.2%	1.2%	0.0	1.3%	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	March 2	February 23	Change	<u>Prior Year</u>¹
Federal Employees (UCFE)	814	658	+156	636
Newly Discharged Veterans (UCX)	539	431	+108	685

PERSONS CLAIMING UI BENEFITS IN ALL PROGRAMS (UNADJUSTED)

WEEK ENDING	February 23	February 16	Change	<u>Prior Year</u>¹
Regular State	2,109,092	2,123,288	-14,196	2,230,032
Federal Employees	11,547	12,361	-814	11,217
Newly Discharged Veterans	6,330	6,269	+61	8,341
<u>Extended Benefits</u>³	0	0	0	864
<u>State Additional Benefits</u>⁴	6,161	5,720	+441	6,896
<u>STC / Workshare</u>⁵	12,265	10,136	+2,129	8,611
<u>TOTAL</u>	2,145,395	2,157,774	-12,379	2,265,961

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 9			Insured Unemployment For Week Ended March 2		
	Advance	Prior Wk	Change	Advance	Prior Wk	Change
Alabama	1,989	2,306	-317	14,601	15,715	-1,114
Alaska	1,023	926	97	9,490	9,334	156
Arizona	3,223	3,276	-53	16,691	19,231	-2,540
Arkansas	1,261	1,826	-565	10,465	12,119	-1,654
California	41,398	41,085	313	410,418	380,331	30,087
Colorado	1,905	1,719	186	23,702	22,043	1,659
Connecticut	2,701	2,487	214	42,502	42,912	-410
Delaware	497	521	-24	6,164	7,259	-1,095
District of Columbia	442	399	43	7,165	7,778	-613
Florida	6,029	5,675	354	29,909	36,032	-6,123
Georgia	4,997	5,781	-784	23,999	26,703	-2,704
Hawaii	1,151	1,278	-127	7,002	6,872	130
Idaho	1,078	1,325	-247	10,454	11,217	-763
Illinois	11,734	8,005	3,729	130,030	129,924	106
Indiana	2,870	2,423	447	21,780	21,253	527
Iowa	2,435	2,309	126	31,747	30,786	961
Kansas	1,687	1,709	-22	11,768	12,141	-373
Kentucky	2,010	3,714	-1,704	20,848	23,662	-2,814
Louisiana	1,398	1,674	-276	12,493	15,535	-3,042
Maine	700	743	-43	8,915	9,003	-88
Maryland	2,787	2,730	57	30,364	32,168	-1,804
Massachusetts	4,713	5,102	-389	79,880	87,694	-7,814
Michigan	5,799	5,485	314	79,837	78,068	1,769
Minnesota	3,524	3,293	231	62,560	60,265	2,295
Mississippi	798	919	-121	6,188	7,833	-1,645
Missouri	2,904	2,937	-33	25,889	29,785	-3,896
Montana	942	1,020	-78	12,626	11,842	784
Nebraska	715	742	-27	7,143	7,326	-183
Nevada	2,400	2,146	254	18,790	20,177	-1,387
New Hampshire	509	919	-410	4,629	4,636	-7
New Jersey	7,898	8,155	-257	112,014	112,183	-169
New Mexico	651	628	23	9,557	10,033	-476
New York	13,882	30,291	-16,409	160,091	179,076	-18,985
North Carolina	3,003	2,883	120	19,081	20,926	-1,845
North Dakota	364	327	37	7,181	6,708	473
Ohio	6,570	5,427	1,143	68,625	69,933	-1,308
Oklahoma	1,457	1,776	-319	12,973	14,064	-1,091
Oregon	6,212	5,863	349	35,163	31,812	3,351
Pennsylvania	15,327	14,697	630	141,385	133,270	8,115
Puerto Rico	1,047	1,159	-112	12,967	16,453	-3,486
Rhode Island	758	799	-41	12,031	13,127	-1,096
South Carolina	1,716	2,133	-417	14,630	15,989	-1,359
South Dakota	205	221	-16	3,314	3,346	-32
Tennessee	1,934	2,136	-202	17,825	20,041	-2,216
Texas	12,766	12,099	667	110,514	116,340	-5,826
Utah	990	946	44	11,073	11,540	-467
Vermont	419	845	-426	5,818	5,351	467
Virgin Islands	21	25	-4	442	652	-210
Virginia	2,668	2,183	485	23,172	22,931	241
Washington	7,747	6,175	1,572	66,560	67,348	-788
West Virginia	824	904	-80	15,964	14,270	1,694
Wisconsin	6,373	6,099	274	45,138	44,312	826
Wyoming	331	338	-7	3,415	3,216	199
US Total	208,782	220,583	-11,801	2,086,982	2,112,565	-25,583

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	
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	1,758	-47	1,767.25	1.2
March 2, 2019	223	-3	226.25	1,776	18	1,766.25	1.2
March 9, 2019	229	6	223.75				

STATE NAME	INITIAL CLAIMS FILED DURING WEEK ENDED MARCH 2					INSURED UNEMPLOYMENT FOR WEEK ENDED FEBRUARY 23						ALL PROGRAMS EXCLUDING RAILROAD RETIREMENT
	STATE	CHANGE FROM				STATE (%) ²	CHANGE FROM					
		LAST WEEK	YEAR AGO	UCFE ¹	UCX ¹		LAST WEEK	YEAR AGO	UCFE ¹	UCX ¹		
Alabama	2306	113	293	7	8	15715	0.8	-179	-429	64	65	15844
Alaska	926	22	-107	3	2	9334	3.1	-831	-1893	194	10	9538
Arizona	3276	371	-365	5	4	19231	0.7	-131	-2637	227	50	19508
Arkansas	1826	376	23	7	2	12119	1.0	-347	-2372	70	44	12233
California	41085	6636	-1633	147	85	380331	2.2	-5769	11593	2732	1388	384451
Colorado	1719	-206	-214	8	15	22043	0.9	-1426	-2006	240	197	22480
Connecticut	2487	-752	-1531	5	9	42912	2.6	775	-6457	52	54	43018
Delaware	521	27	47	0	1	7259	1.7	1027	-391	30	9	7298
District of Columbia	399	23	113	19	2	7778	1.4	-38	-1027	374	6	8158
Florida	5675	-10	-294	18	33	36032	0.4	-2196	-3334	147	104	36283
Georgia	5781	661	840	24	23	26703	0.6	-505	-1372	149	189	27041
Hawaii	1278	82	61	5	7	6872	1.1	-27	-412	81	63	7016
Idaho	1325	-94	68	14	2	11217	1.6	-17	395	293	12	11522
Illinois	8005	559	-815	10	5	129924	2.2	-4440	-11097	347	163	130434
Indiana	2423	56	14	1	4	21253	0.7	-822	-2062	34	25	21312
Iowa	2309	130	497	2	2	30786	2.0	-471	-49	48	26	30860
Kansas	1709	-94	52	0	1	12141	0.9	341	-1549	32	30	12203
Kentucky	3714	-3117	2179	7	6	23662	1.3	900	933	91	131	23884
Louisiana	1674	-110	-223	3	4	15535	0.8	218	-1930	44	19	15598
Maine	743	146	-266	1	1	9003	1.5	358	-567	36	10	9049
Maryland	2730	179	-309	12	9	32168	1.3	-214	-5569	217	92	32477
Massachusetts	5102	-4196	-181	9	11	87694	2.5	6384	-6821	190	94	87978
Michigan	5485	-756	-341	14	10	78068	1.8	-8974	-4426	244	66	78378
Minnesota	3293	279	-391	7	4	60265	2.1	-698	-2292	143	59	60467
Mississippi	919	75	39	5	4	7833	0.7	241	-1171	86	17	7936
Missouri	2937	-32	-460	1	1	29785	1.1	428	-4584	110	35	29930
Montana	1020	152	149	9	1	11842	2.6	-95	-884	536	19	12397
Nebraska	742	34	-67	1	1	7326	0.8	-83	-799	21	9	7356
Nevada	2146	16	-153	5	4	20177	1.5	-414	-2274	174	48	20399
New Hampshire	919	548	-39	0	0	4636	0.7	35	-590	1	3	4640
New Jersey	8155	-357	-557	9	15	112183	2.8	1999	-4723	238	224	112645
New Mexico	628	-48	-56	2	2	10033	1.3	22	-487	313	38	10384
New York	30291	16253	-1661	19	28	179076	1.9	18563	-11689	386	334	179796
North Carolina	2883	-251	164	13	24	20926	0.5	-549	-1651	111	117	21154
North Dakota	327	-13	-41	3	2	6708	1.7	-145	-900	18	3	6729
Ohio	5427	-754	-804	5	14	69933	1.3	-1070	-7659	107	147	70187
Oklahoma	1776	-125	441	4	5	14064	0.9	267	-281	54	56	14174
Oregon	5863	1576	881	19	2	31812	1.7	-1233	-933	654	62	32528
Pennsylvania	14697	1774	878	51	29	133270	2.3	-7604	-6173	457	297	134024
Puerto Rico	1159	-13	138	2	8	16453	2.0	996	-8820	134	46	16633
Rhode Island	799	-1100	-63	1	1	13127	2.8	1144	-331	32	28	13187
South Carolina	2133	54	91	1	10	15989	0.8	-342	-944	46	80	16115
South Dakota	221	-18	21	3	0	3346	0.8	-55	-51	71	9	3426
Tennessee	2136	7	205	7	4	20041	0.7	465	-1701	100	107	20248
Texas	12099	333	-471	56	97	116340	1.0	-1492	-13659	553	1043	117936
Utah	946	-72	-212	10	2	11540	0.8	-329	-266	230	16	11786
Vermont	845	189	-44	1	0	5351	1.8	168	-216	14	1	5366
Virgin Islands	25	9	-4	0	2	652	1.9	144	-2772	2	2	656
Virginia	2183	-99	-248	5	3	22931	0.6	-167	-3029	230	152	23313
Washington	6175	-1185	-857	243	23	67348	2.1	-5986	6626	559	474	68381
West Virginia	904	-67	33	2	4	14270	2.2	-78	157	57	23	14350
Wisconsin	6099	330	-175	3	2	44312	1.6	-1551	-3478	95	25	44432
Wyoming	338	-49	45	6	1	3216	1.2	161	-960	79	9	3304
Totals	220583	17492	-5310	814	539	2112565	1.5	-13642	-120013	11547	6330	2130442

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 MARCH 2, 2019

STATES WITH AN INCREASE OF MORE THAN 1,000

State	Change	State Supplied Comment
NY	+16,253	Layoffs in the transportation and warehousing, accommodation and food service, and educational service industries.
CA	+6,636	Layoffs in the service industry.
PA	+1,774	Layoffs in the transportation and warehousing, accommodation and food service, manufacturing, and health care and social assistance industries.
OR	+1,576	No comment.

STATES WITH A DECREASE OF MORE THAN 1,000

State	Change	State Supplied Comment
MA	-4,196	Fewer layoffs in the educational service industry.
KY	-3,117	No comment.
WA	-1,185	No comment.
RI	-1,100	Fewer layoffs in the retail trade and manufacturing industries.

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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Washington, D.C. 20210
Release Number: USDL 19-433-NAT

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