



News Release

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8:30 A.M. (Eastern) Thursday, March 21, 2019

Note: Calendar Year (CY) 2019 seasonal factors and revised seasonal factors and historical series for CY 2014-2018 for both initial claims and continued claims will be made available March 28, 2019, with the release of the Unemployment Insurance Weekly Claims News Release.

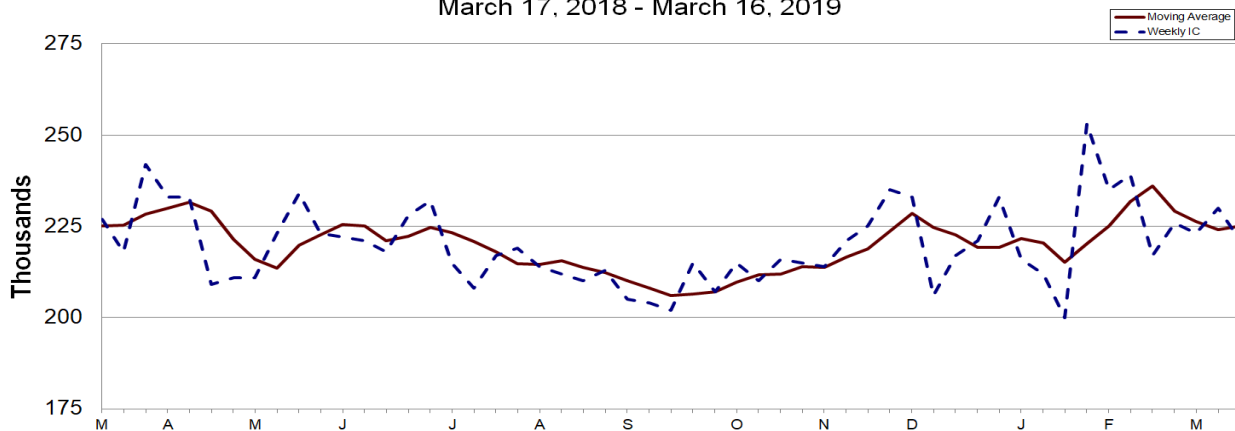
UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE WEEKLY CLAIMS

SEASONALLY ADJUSTED DATA

In the week ending March 16, the advance figure for seasonally adjusted **initial claims** was 221,000, a decrease of 9,000 from the previous week's revised level. The previous week's level was revised up by 1,000 from 229,000 to 230,000. The 4-week moving average was 225,000, an increase of 1,000 from the previous week's revised average. The previous week's average was revised up by 250 from 223,750 to 224,000.

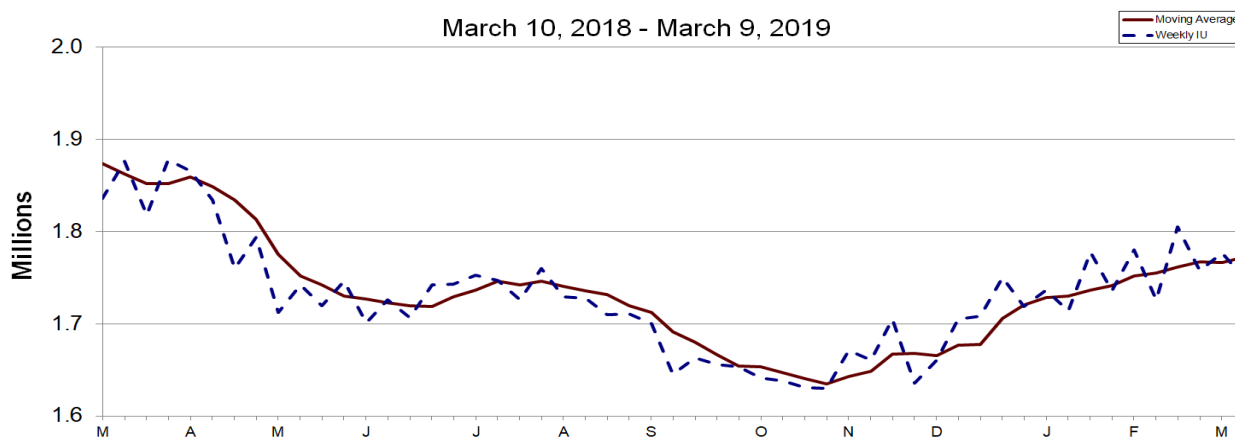
The advance seasonally adjusted **insured unemployment rate** was 1.2 percent for the week ending March 9, unchanged from the previous week's unrevised rate. The advance number for seasonally adjusted **insured unemployment** during the week ending March 9 was 1,750,000, a decrease of 27,000 from the previous week's revised level. The previous week's level was revised up 1,000 from 1,776,000 to 1,777,000. The 4-week moving average was 1,772,500, an increase of 6,000 from the previous week's revised average. The previous week's average was revised up by 250 from 1,766,250 to 1,766,500.

Seasonally Adjusted Initial Claims
March 17, 2018 - March 16, 2019



Seasonally Adjusted Insured Unemployment

March 10, 2018 - March 9, 2019



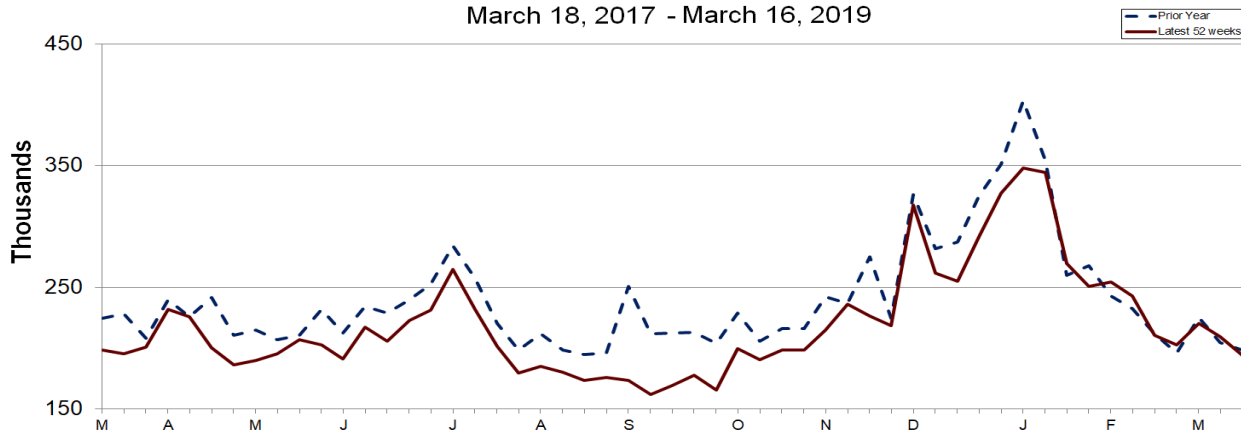
UNADJUSTED DATA

The advance number of actual initial claims under state programs, unadjusted, totaled 194,098 in the week ending March 16, a decrease of 15,264 (or -7.3 percent) from the previous week. The seasonal factors had expected a decrease of 7,584 (or -3.6 percent) from the previous week. There were 198,591 initial claims in the comparable week in 2018.

The advance unadjusted insured unemployment rate was 1.4 percent during the week ending March 9, a decrease of 0.1 percentage point from the prior week. The advance unadjusted number for persons claiming UI benefits in state programs totaled 2,010,472, a decrease of 78,073 (or -3.7 percent) from the preceding week. The seasonal factors had expected a decrease of 46,215 (or -2.2 percent) from the previous week. A year earlier the rate was 1.5 percent and the volume was 2,108,271.

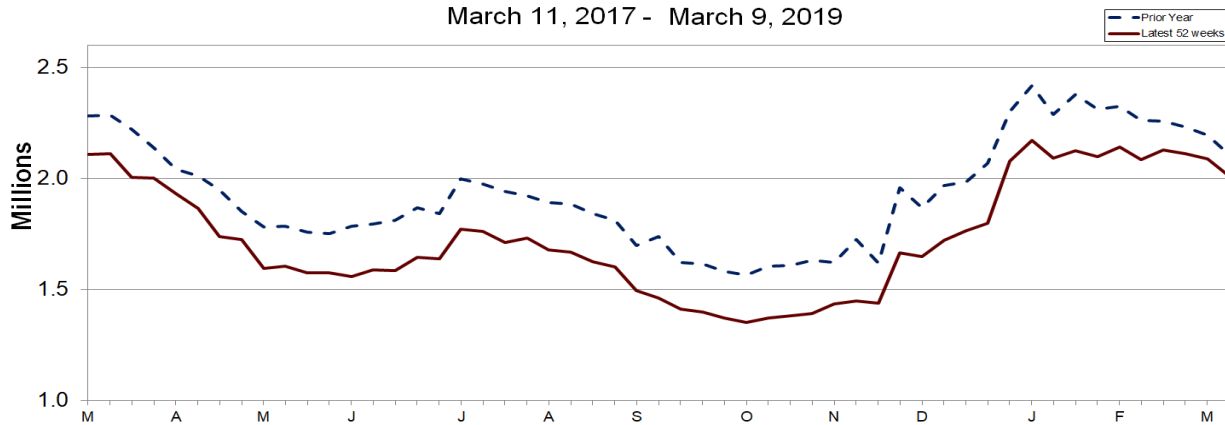
Not Seasonally Adjusted Initial Claims

March 18, 2017 - March 16, 2019



Not Seasonally Adjusted Insured Unemployment

March 11, 2017 - March 9, 2019



The total number of people claiming benefits in all programs for the week ending March 2 was 2,120,255, a decrease of 25,168 from the previous week. There were 2,228,027 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 March 2.

Initial claims for UI benefits filed by former Federal civilian employees totaled 1,021 in the week ending March 9, an increase of 207 from the prior week. There were 506 initial claims filed by newly discharged veterans, a decrease of 33 from the preceding week.

There were 11,812 former Federal civilian employees claiming UI benefits for the week ending March 2, an increase of 265 from the previous week. Newly discharged veterans claiming benefits totaled 6,031, a decrease of 299 from the prior week.

The highest insured unemployment rates in the week ending March 2 were in Alaska (3.2), New Jersey (2.8), Montana (2.7), Connecticut (2.5), Rhode Island (2.5), California (2.4), Pennsylvania (2.4), Massachusetts (2.3), Illinois (2.2), and Minnesota (2.2).

The largest increases in initial claims for the week ending March 9 were in Illinois (+3,568), Ohio (+1,142), Washington (+896), Oregon (+869), and Texas (+661), while the largest decreases were in New York (-16,497), Kentucky (-1,668), Georgia (-615), Arkansas (-430), and Vermont (-415).

UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE DATA FOR REGULAR STATE PROGRAMS

WEEK ENDING	March 16	March 9	Change	March 2	<u>Prior Year</u>¹
Initial Claims (SA)	221,000	230,000	-9,000	223,000	227,000
Initial Claims (NSA)	194,098	209,362	-15,264	220,583	198,591
4-Wk Moving Average (SA)	225,000	224,000	+1,000	226,250	225,000
WEEK ENDING	March 9	March 2	Change	February 23	<u>Prior Year</u>¹
Insured Unemployment (SA)	1,750,000	1,777,000	-27,000	1,758,000	1,836,000
Insured Unemployment (NSA)	2,010,472	2,088,545	-78,073	2,112,593	2,108,271
4-Wk Moving Average (SA)	1,772,500	1,766,500	+6,000	1,767,250	1,874,250
<u>Insured Unemployment Rate (SA)</u>²	1.2%	1.2%	0.0	1.2%	1.3%
<u>Insured Unemployment Rate (NSA)</u>²	1.4%	1.5%	-0.1	1.5%	1.5%

INITIAL CLAIMS FILED IN FEDERAL PROGRAMS (UNADJUSTED)

WEEK ENDING	March 9	March 2	Change	<u>Prior Year</u>¹
Federal Employees (UCFE)	1,021	814	+207	659
Newly Discharged Veterans (UCX)	506	539	-33	661

PERSONS CLAIMING UI BENEFITS IN ALL PROGRAMS (UNADJUSTED)

WEEK ENDING	March 2	February 23	Change	<u>Prior Year</u>¹
Regular State	2,085,459	2,109,120	-23,661	2,191,209
Federal Employees	11,812	11,547	+265	12,036
Newly Discharged Veterans	6,031	6,330	-299	7,872
<u>Extended Benefits</u>³	0	0	0	961
<u>State Additional Benefits</u>⁴	5,776	6,161	-385	6,893
<u>STC / Workshare</u>⁵	11,177	12,265	-1,088	9,056
<u>TOTAL</u>	2,120,255	2,145,423	-25,168	2,228,027

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 16			Insured Unemployment For Week Ended March 9		
	Advance	Prior Wk	Change	Advance	Prior Wk	Change
Alabama	1,967	2,106	-139	14,179	14,790	-611
Alaska	1,036	949	87	8,800	9,649	-849
Arizona	3,225	3,403	-178	16,732	19,057	-2,325
Arkansas	1,334	1,396	-62	9,826	11,632	-1,806
California	41,659	40,896	763	380,001	402,138	-22,137
Colorado	1,494	1,891	-397	21,716	23,142	-1,426
Connecticut	2,818	2,703	115	42,332	41,203	1,129
Delaware	437	513	-76	5,960	5,961	-1
District of Columbia	484	406	78	7,029	7,429	-400
Florida	5,612	6,204	-592	29,578	35,361	-5,783
Georgia	4,193	5,166	-973	23,447	25,281	-1,834
Hawaii	1,190	1,133	57	6,852	6,633	219
Idaho	979	1,157	-178	9,299	10,833	-1,534
Illinois	8,073	11,573	-3,500	126,502	129,116	-2,614
Indiana	2,158	2,845	-687	21,425	20,910	515
Iowa	2,545	2,232	313	31,098	30,964	134
Kansas	1,697	1,583	114	11,549	11,479	70
Kentucky	2,030	2,046	-16	19,205	21,175	-1,970
Louisiana	1,489	1,584	-95	12,317	14,565	-2,248
Maine	609	710	-101	8,823	8,510	313
Maryland	2,495	2,885	-390	29,679	31,246	-1,567
Massachusetts	4,274	4,809	-535	78,754	80,661	-1,907
Michigan	4,988	5,927	-939	73,930	82,469	-8,539
Minnesota	3,341	3,424	-83	61,283	61,508	-225
Mississippi	1,020	924	96	6,203	7,259	-1,056
Missouri	3,098	3,038	60	24,915	26,777	-1,862
Montana	808	904	-96	12,094	12,024	70
Nebraska	778	724	54	6,957	7,263	-306
Nevada	2,406	2,229	177	18,286	20,132	-1,846
New Hampshire	483	572	-89	4,106	5,010	-904
New Jersey	7,774	7,990	-216	109,746	109,482	264
New Mexico	651	682	-31	9,330	9,851	-521
New York	13,088	13,794	-706	158,268	158,729	-461
North Carolina	2,689	3,125	-436	18,784	20,561	-1,777
North Dakota	335	313	22	6,792	6,498	294
Ohio	6,409	6,569	-160	67,792	68,260	-468
Oklahoma	2,500	1,623	877	12,912	13,858	-946
Oregon	3,696	6,732	-3,036	32,462	34,823	-2,361
Pennsylvania	13,059	15,320	-2,261	132,212	139,286	-7,074
Puerto Rico	1,089	1,120	-31	13,350	15,778	-2,428
Rhode Island	901	750	151	11,930	11,785	145
South Carolina	2,015	1,807	208	14,236	14,860	-624
South Dakota	129	214	-85	3,235	3,421	-186
Tennessee	2,185	2,027	158	16,924	19,103	-2,179
Texas	11,697	12,760	-1,063	111,497	112,808	-1,311
Utah	925	980	-55	10,692	11,152	-460
Vermont	626	430	196	5,563	5,445	118
Virgin Islands	13	23	-10	546	440	106
Virginia	2,407	2,505	-98	22,511	22,671	-160
Washington	6,071	7,071	-1,000	64,759	64,600	159
West Virginia	801	871	-70	16,201	13,428	2,773
Wisconsin	6,025	6,373	-348	44,506	44,487	19
Wyoming	293	351	-58	3,347	3,042	305
US Total	194,098	209,362	-15,264	2,010,472	2,088,545	-78,073

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 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	1,777	19	1,766.50	1.2
March 9, 2019	230	7	224.00	1,750	-27	1,772.50	1.2
March 16, 2019	221	-9	225.00				

STATE NAME	INITIAL CLAIMS FILED DURING WEEK ENDED MARCH 9					INSURED UNEMPLOYMENT FOR WEEK ENDED MARCH 2					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	2106	-200	-9	9	7	14790	0.8	-925	-1227	59	66	14915
Alaska	949	23	-86	3	1	9649	3.2	315	-1919	202	14	9865
Arizona	3403	127	-453	4	2	19057	0.7	-174	-2980	212	42	19311
Arkansas	1396	-430	-43	4	2	11632	1.0	-487	-2027	74	41	11747
California	40896	-189	-3656	156	93	402138	2.4	21807	3581	2694	1385	406217
Colorado	1891	172	138	9	18	23142	0.9	1099	-2474	306	207	23655
Connecticut	2703	216	-703	6	5	41203	2.5	-1709	-5288	66	80	41349
Delaware	513	-8	17	1	0	5961	1.4	-1298	-238	11	7	5979
District of Columbia	406	7	109	31	3	7429	1.3	-349	-1065	363	5	7797
Florida	6204	529	-688	26	27	35361	0.4	-671	-4695	171	84	35616
Georgia	5166	-615	-216	28	27	25281	0.6	-1422	-2658	141	181	25603
Hawaii	1133	-145	-93	4	13	6633	1.1	-267	-820	82	55	6770
Idaho	1157	-168	15	15	0	10833	1.5	-384	694	269	11	11113
Illinois	11573	3568	3359	5	12	129116	2.2	-808	-7038	414	147	129677
Indiana	2845	422	709	9	3	20910	0.7	-343	-1679	37	29	20976
Iowa	2232	-77	255	7	3	30964	2.0	178	1500	50	27	31041
Kansas	1583	-126	-32	3	1	11479	0.8	-662	-560	33	31	11543
Kentucky	2046	-1668	-270	3	1	21175	1.1	-2487	-1707	108	91	21374
Louisiana	1584	-90	-210	5	2	14565	0.8	-970	-2172	45	14	14624
Maine	710	-33	6	1	0	8510	1.4	-493	-463	40	15	8565
Maryland	2885	155	-210	14	5	31246	1.2	-922	-5348	225	90	31561
Massachusetts	4809	-293	-92	11	8	80661	2.3	-7033	-5838	183	87	80931
Michigan	5927	442	434	12	8	82469	1.9	4401	740	267	69	82805
Minnesota	3424	131	-79	3	3	61508	2.2	1243	-1718	142	54	61704
Mississippi	924	5	-58	3	3	7259	0.7	-574	-1283	86	22	7367
Missouri	3038	101	28	8	8	26777	1.0	-3008	-2514	99	23	26899
Montana	904	-116	152	12	1	12024	2.7	182	-25	541	23	12588
Nebraska	724	-18	23	5	3	7263	0.8	-63	-551	20	8	7291
Nevada	2229	83	-40	7	2	20132	1.5	-45	-1824	198	50	20380
New Hampshire	572	-347	18	1	0	5010	0.8	374	-660	2	2	5014
New Jersey	7990	-165	-280	13	11	109482	2.8	-2701	-889	249	232	109963
New Mexico	682	54	-18	1	5	9851	1.3	-182	-590	290	40	10181
New York	13794	-16497	-4	27	20	158729	1.7	-20347	-9587	352	322	159403
North Carolina	3125	242	257	8	15	20561	0.5	-365	-1277	126	97	20784
North Dakota	313	-14	-9	3	1	6498	1.6	-210	-812	15	3	6516
Ohio	6569	1142	799	10	10	68260	1.3	-1673	-6233	111	139	68510
Oklahoma	1623	-153	204	13	1	13858	0.9	-206	-489	58	57	13973
Oregon	6732	869	3117	21	9	34823	1.9	3011	3815	647	56	35526
Pennsylvania	15320	623	1773	54	29	139286	2.4	6016	-7128	552	249	140087
Puerto Rico	1120	-39	-446	3	4	15778	1.9	-675	-10463	134	46	15958
Rhode Island	750	-49	-8	0	1	11785	2.5	-1342	-89	22	19	11826
South Carolina	1807	-326	-366	2	6	14860	0.7	-1129	-1632	55	77	14992
South Dakota	214	-7	8	4	1	3421	0.8	75	134	45	4	3470
Tennessee	2027	-109	-151	8	10	19103	0.7	-938	-3447	89	58	19250
Texas	12760	661	-88	38	88	112808	0.9	-3532	-11068	727	1000	114535
Utah	980	34	-80	6	3	11152	0.8	-388	-346	207	16	11375
Vermont	430	-415	-12	1	0	5445	1.8	94	-217	13	1	5459
Virgin Islands	23	-2	7	0	0	440	1.3	-212	-3166	6	0	446
Virginia	2505	322	-336	5	10	22671	0.6	-260	-2565	190	163	23024
Washington	7071	896	1258	385	20	64600	2.0	-2748	6173	562	441	65603
West Virginia	871	-33	-401	2	0	13428	2.0	-842	36	53	21	13502
Wisconsin	6373	274	783	9	1	44487	1.6	175	-1253	98	24	44609
Wyoming	351	13	-155	3	0	3042	1.2	-174	-1902	71	6	3119
Totals	209362	-11221	4177	1021	506	2088545	1.5	-24048	-105251	11812	6031	2106388

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 9, 2019

STATES WITH AN INCREASE OF MORE THAN 1,000

State	Change	State Supplied Comment
IL	+3,568	Layoffs in the manufacturing, construction, and administrative and support and waste management and remediation service industries.
OH	+1,142	Layoffs in the manufacturing industry.

STATES WITH A DECREASE OF MORE THAN 1,000

State	Change	State Supplied Comment
NY	-16,497	Fewer layoffs in the transportation and warehousing, accommodation and food service, and educational service industries.
KY	-1,668	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](#)

U.S. Department of Labor news materials are accessible at <http://www.dol.gov>. The Department's [Reasonable Accommodation Resource Center](#) converts Departmental information and documents into alternative formats, which include Braille and large print. For alternative format requests, please contact the Department at (202) 693-7828 (voice) or (800) 877-8339 (federal relay).

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