



News Release

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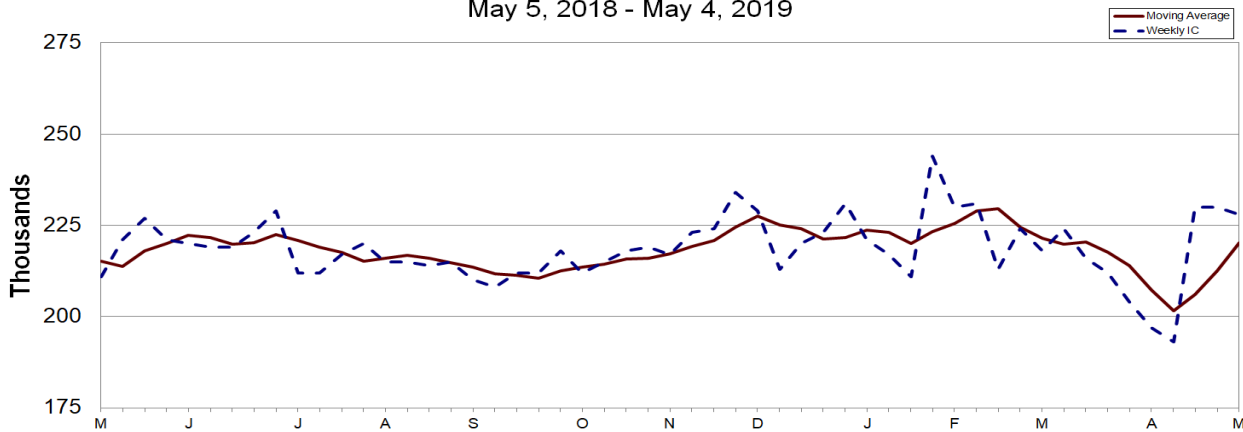
UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE WEEKLY CLAIMS

SEASONALLY ADJUSTED DATA

In the week ending May 4, the advance figure for seasonally adjusted **initial claims** was 228,000, a decrease of 2,000 from the previous week's unrevised level of 230,000. The 4-week moving average was 220,250, an increase of 7,750 from the previous week's unrevised average of 212,500.

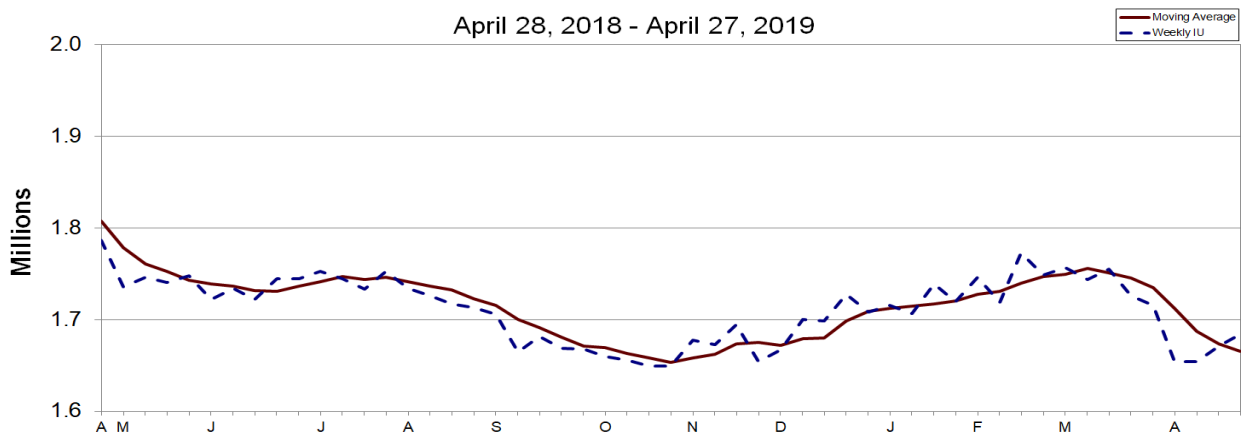
The advance seasonally adjusted **insured unemployment rate** was 1.2 percent for the week ending April 27, unchanged from the previous week's unrevised rate. The advance number for seasonally adjusted **insured unemployment** during the week ending April 27 was 1,684,000, an increase of 13,000 from the previous week's unrevised level of 1,671,000. The 4-week moving average was 1,665,750, a decrease of 8,000 from the previous week's unrevised average of 1,673,750.

Seasonally Adjusted Initial Claims
May 5, 2018 - May 4, 2019



Seasonally Adjusted Insured Unemployment

April 28, 2018 - April 27, 2019



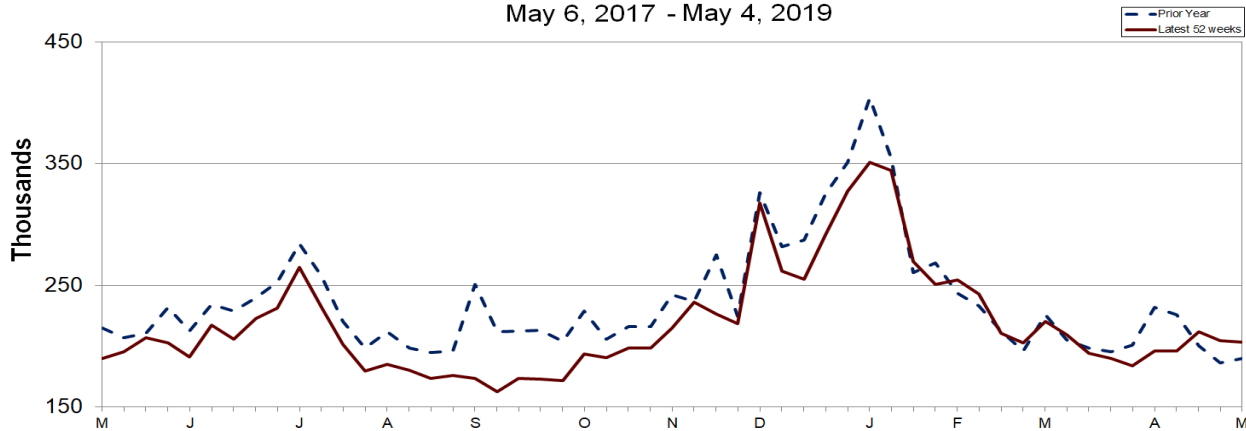
UNADJUSTED DATA

The advance number of actual initial claims under state programs, unadjusted, totaled 203,547 in the week ending May 4, a decrease of 1,240 (or -0.6 percent) from the previous week. The seasonal factors had expected an increase of 921 (or 0.4 percent) from the previous week. There were 190,262 initial claims in the comparable week in 2018.

The advance unadjusted insured unemployment rate was 1.1 percent during the week ending April 27, unchanged from the prior week. The advance unadjusted number for persons claiming UI benefits in state programs totaled 1,630,323, a decrease of 17,550 (or -1.1 percent) from the preceding week. The seasonal factors had expected a decrease of 30,083 (or -1.8 percent) from the previous week. A year earlier the rate was 1.2 percent and the volume was 1,724,410.

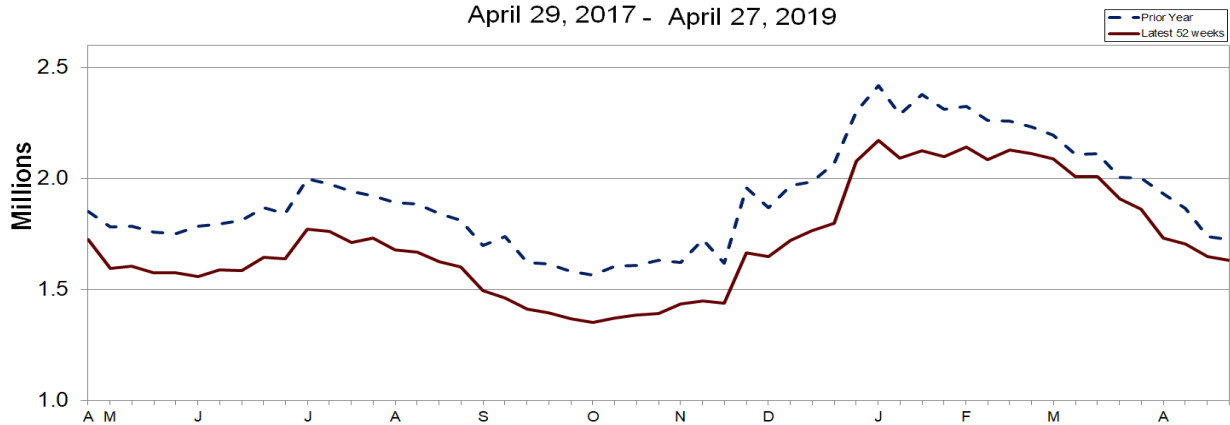
Not Seasonally Adjusted Initial Claims

May 6, 2017 - May 4, 2019



Not Seasonally Adjusted Insured Unemployment

April 29, 2017 - April 27, 2019



The total number of people claiming benefits in all programs for the week ending April 20 was 1,673,718, a decrease of 57,463 from the previous week. There were 1,767,583 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 April 20.

Initial claims for UI benefits filed by former Federal civilian employees totaled 519 in the week ending April 27, a decrease of 14 from the prior week. There were 487 initial claims filed by newly discharged veterans, an increase of 27 from the preceding week.

There were 8,278 former Federal civilian employees claiming UI benefits for the week ending April 20, a decrease of 946 from the previous week. Newly discharged veterans claiming benefits totaled 5,774, an increase of 29 from the prior week.

The highest insured unemployment rates in the week ending April 20 were in Alaska (2.5), Connecticut (2.4), New Jersey (2.2), Rhode Island (2.1), Virgin Islands (2.1), California (2.0), Massachusetts (1.8), Puerto Rico (1.8), Illinois (1.6), and Pennsylvania (1.6).

The largest increases in initial claims for the week ending April 27 were in New York (+6,532), New Jersey (+3,041), Mississippi (+825), Delaware (+782), and Texas (+645), while the largest decreases were in Massachusetts (-6,632), California (-3,588), Rhode Island (-2,466), Connecticut (-1,777), and Illinois (-831).

UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE DATA FOR REGULAR STATE PROGRAMS

WEEK ENDING	May 4	April 27	Change	April 20	<u>Prior Year</u>¹
Initial Claims (SA)	228,000	230,000	-2,000	230,000	211,000
Initial Claims (NSA)	203,547	204,787	-1,240	211,794	190,262
4-Wk Moving Average (SA)	220,250	212,500	+7,750	206,000	215,250
WEEK ENDING	April 27	April 20	Change	April 13	<u>Prior Year</u>¹
Insured Unemployment (SA)	1,684,000	1,671,000	+13,000	1,654,000	1,787,000
Insured Unemployment (NSA)	1,630,323	1,647,873	-17,550	1,703,622	1,724,410
4-Wk Moving Average (SA)	1,665,750	1,673,750	-8,000	1,687,500	1,807,500
<u>Insured Unemployment Rate (SA)</u>²	1.2%	1.2%	0.0	1.2%	1.3%
<u>Insured Unemployment Rate (NSA)</u>²	1.1%	1.1%	0.0	1.2%	1.2%

INITIAL CLAIMS FILED IN FEDERAL PROGRAMS (UNADJUSTED)

WEEK ENDING	April 27	April 20	Change	<u>Prior Year</u>¹
Federal Employees (UCFE)	519	533	-14	544
Newly Discharged Veterans (UCX)	487	460	+27	643

PERSONS CLAIMING UI BENEFITS IN ALL PROGRAMS (UNADJUSTED)

WEEK ENDING	April 20	April 13	Change	<u>Prior Year</u>¹
Regular State	1,645,386	1,700,735	-55,349	1,736,700
Federal Employees	8,278	9,224	-946	8,177
Newly Discharged Veterans	5,774	5,745	+29	7,589
<u>Extended Benefits</u>³	0	0	0	1
<u>State Additional Benefits</u>⁴	5,984	6,005	-21	6,842
<u>STC / Workshare</u>⁵	8,296	9,472	-1,176	8,274
<u>TOTAL</u>	1,673,718	1,731,181	-57,463	1,767,583

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 143,629,179 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 May 4			Insured Unemployment For Week Ended April 27		
	Advance	Prior Wk	Change	Advance	Prior Wk	Change
Alabama	2,316	1,920	396	13,702	13,627	75
Alaska	987	863	124	7,402	7,604	-202
Arizona	4,360	5,303	-943	21,232	22,912	-1,680
Arkansas	1,354	1,337	17	8,708	9,842	-1,134
California	39,035	40,312	-1,277	349,526	333,180	16,346
Colorado	1,835	1,945	-110	19,316	18,239	1,077
Connecticut	2,481	5,685	-3,204	31,671	39,410	-7,739
Delaware	461	1,135	-674	4,961	4,120	841
District of Columbia	479	393	86	6,324	6,643	-319
Florida	6,054	5,900	154	28,877	34,170	-5,293
Georgia	4,640	4,457	183	22,952	24,013	-1,061
Hawaii	1,138	1,274	-136	6,768	6,582	186
Idaho	743	784	-41	5,016	5,718	-702
Illinois	9,408	7,310	2,098	96,876	93,622	3,254
Indiana*	2,232	2,200	32	15,541	16,047	-506
Iowa	2,873	1,997	876	15,120	15,793	-673
Kansas	2,066	1,271	795	7,570	7,649	-79
Kentucky	1,868	1,716	152	15,502	15,765	-263
Louisiana	1,805	2,030	-225	11,625	13,136	-1,511
Maine	557	720	-163	6,213	6,734	-521
Maryland	2,336	2,532	-196	22,790	25,013	-2,223
Massachusetts	4,241	4,644	-403	53,533	63,183	-9,650
Michigan	4,503	4,691	-188	47,811	51,581	-3,770
Minnesota	2,642	2,667	-25	38,144	42,077	-3,933
Mississippi	925	1,697	-772	6,331	6,669	-338
Missouri	2,957	2,397	560	15,999	16,977	-978
Montana	767	856	-89	6,142	6,498	-356
Nebraska	567	497	70	3,264	3,645	-381
Nevada	2,246	2,276	-30	16,776	18,529	-1,753
New Hampshire	388	863	-475	3,607	3,613	-6
New Jersey	7,435	13,778	-6,343	90,733	85,786	4,947
New Mexico	675	717	-42	8,618	8,919	-301
New York	28,094	18,580	9,514	138,267	127,605	10,662
North Carolina	2,905	2,834	71	17,196	18,655	-1,459
North Dakota	336	313	23	2,764	3,270	-506
Ohio	5,528	5,659	-131	46,462	48,356	-1,894
Oklahoma	1,754	2,010	-256	13,285	13,576	-291
Oregon	3,029	3,275	-246	26,260	26,846	-586
Pennsylvania	11,974	11,817	157	97,853	93,484	4,369
Puerto Rico	1,175	1,337	-162	12,660	15,003	-2,343
Rhode Island	640	1,118	-478	7,618	9,787	-2,169
South Carolina	1,845	2,119	-274	12,986	13,398	-412
South Dakota	155	126	29	1,310	1,673	-363
Tennessee	2,065	2,106	-41	14,105	14,715	-610
Texas	12,883	12,084	799	110,057	111,704	-1,647
Utah	946	1,006	-60	7,331	7,785	-454
Vermont	375	663	-288	4,080	4,431	-351
Virgin Islands	22	35	-13	270	678	-408
Virginia	2,525	2,094	431	18,924	18,630	294
Washington	5,477	5,335	142	48,894	49,451	-557
West Virginia	843	932	-89	11,739	9,687	2,052
Wisconsin	4,300	4,891	-591	27,256	29,636	-2,380
Wyoming	302	286	16	2,356	2,207	149
US Total	203,547	204,787	-1,240	1,630,323	1,647,873	-17,550

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.

*Denotes OUI estimate.

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	
April 28, 2018	213	3	219.25	1,787	14	1,807.50	1.3
May 5, 2018	211	-2	215.25	1,736	-51	1,778.50	1.2
May 12, 2018	221	10	213.75	1,746	10	1,760.50	1.2
May 19, 2018	227	6	218.00	1,741	-5	1,752.50	1.2
May 26, 2018	221	-6	220.00	1,748	7	1,742.75	1.2
June 2, 2018	220	-1	222.25	1,722	-26	1,739.25	1.2
June 9, 2018	219	-1	221.75	1,734	12	1,736.25	1.2
June 16, 2018	219	0	219.75	1,722	-12	1,731.50	1.2
June 23, 2018	223	4	220.25	1,745	23	1,730.75	1.2
June 30, 2018	229	6	222.50	1,745	0	1,736.50	1.2
July 7, 2018	212	-17	220.75	1,753	8	1,741.25	1.2
July 14, 2018	212	0	219.00	1,745	-8	1,747.00	1.2
July 21, 2018	217	5	217.50	1,733	-12	1,744.00	1.2
July 28, 2018	220	3	215.25	1,753	20	1,746.00	1.2
August 4, 2018	215	-5	216.00	1,734	-19	1,741.25	1.2
August 11, 2018	215	0	216.75	1,726	-8	1,736.50	1.2
August 18, 2018	214	-1	216.00	1,717	-9	1,732.50	1.2
August 25, 2018	215	1	214.75	1,713	-4	1,722.50	1.2
September 1, 2018	210	-5	213.50	1,706	-7	1,715.50	1.2
September 8, 2018	208	-2	211.75	1,665	-41	1,700.25	1.2
September 15, 2018	212	4	211.25	1,682	17	1,691.50	1.2
September 22, 2018	212	0	210.50	1,669	-13	1,680.50	1.2
September 29, 2018	218	6	212.50	1,668	-1	1,671.00	1.2
October 6, 2018	212	-6	213.50	1,660	-8	1,669.75	1.2
October 13, 2018	215	3	214.25	1,656	-4	1,663.25	1.2
October 20, 2018	218	3	215.75	1,649	-7	1,658.25	1.2
October 27, 2018	219	1	216.00	1,649	0	1,653.50	1.2
November 3, 2018	217	-2	217.25	1,678	29	1,658.00	1.2
November 10, 2018	223	6	219.25	1,673	-5	1,662.25	1.2
November 17, 2018	224	1	220.75	1,695	22	1,673.75	1.2
November 24, 2018	234	10	224.50	1,654	-41	1,675.00	1.2
December 1, 2018	229	-5	227.50	1,667	13	1,672.25	1.2
December 8, 2018	213	-16	225.00	1,700	33	1,679.00	1.2
December 15, 2018	220	7	224.00	1,699	-1	1,680.00	1.2
December 22, 2018	223	3	221.25	1,728	29	1,698.50	1.2
December 29, 2018	231	8	221.75	1,708	-20	1,708.75	1.2
January 5, 2019	221	-10	223.75	1,716	8	1,712.75	1.2
January 12, 2019	217	-4	223.00	1,707	-9	1,714.75	1.2
January 19, 2019	211	-6	220.00	1,739	32	1,717.50	1.2
January 26, 2019	244	33	223.25	1,720	-19	1,720.50	1.2
February 2, 2019	230	-14	225.50	1,746	26	1,728.00	1.2
February 9, 2019	231	1	229.00	1,719	-27	1,731.00	1.2
February 16, 2019	213	-18	229.50	1,773	54	1,739.50	1.2
February 23, 2019	224	11	224.50	1,749	-24	1,746.75	1.2
March 2, 2019	218	-6	221.50	1,757	8	1,749.50	1.2
March 9, 2019	224	6	219.75	1,744	-13	1,755.75	1.2
March 16, 2019	216	-8	220.50	1,755	11	1,751.25	1.2
March 23, 2019	212	-4	217.50	1,726	-29	1,745.50	1.2
March 30, 2019	204	-8	214.00	1,716	-10	1,735.25	1.2
April 6, 2019	197	-7	207.25	1,654	-62	1,712.75	1.2
April 13, 2019	193	-4	201.50	1,654	0	1,687.50	1.2
April 20, 2019	230	37	206.00	1,671	17	1,673.75	1.2
April 27, 2019	230	0	212.50	1,684	13	1,665.75	1.2
May 4, 2019	228	-2	220.25				

STATE NAME	INITIAL CLAIMS FILED DURING WEEK ENDED APRIL 27					INSURED UNEMPLOYMENT FOR WEEK ENDED APRIL 20					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	1920	-15	-116	8	10	13627	0.7	-243	-589	57	60	13744
Alaska	863	1	-81	4	3	7604	2.5	-188	-1670	81	13	7698
Arizona	5303	-27	793	4	10	22912	0.8	1885	-3478	114	45	23071
Arkansas	1337	-76	-572	2	3	9842	0.8	173	-1151	87	34	9963
California	40312	-3588	372	119	85	333180	2.0	-28582	-4287	2261	1344	336785
Colorado	1945	-44	190	10	18	18239	0.7	-796	-1652	163	188	18590
Connecticut	5685	-1777	2442	9	1	39410	2.4	5294	1107	54	44	39508
Delaware	1135	782	681	0	1	4120	0.9	-150	-330	12	7	4139
District of Columbia	393	-16	132	15	0	6643	1.2	18	-1012	341	9	6993
Florida	5900	-11	-402	17	28	34170	0.4	482	-2860	132	111	34413
Georgia	4457	-198	333	19	14	24013	0.6	276	-985	178	146	24337
Hawaii	1274	285	-65	1	5	6582	1.1	281	30	60	69	6711
Idaho	784	-133	6	3	4	5718	0.8	-352	186	72	16	5806
Illinois	7310	-831	-508	11	8	93622	1.6	-11908	-9402	288	162	94072
Indiana	2200	-519	252	1	2	16047	0.5	28	232	26	26	16099
Iowa	1997	174	438	6	2	15793	1.0	-2637	-2463	37	28	15858
Kansas	1271	104	-159	1	1	7649	0.6	-118	-961	31	24	7704
Kentucky	1716	-267	-101	1	1	15765	0.9	-1662	-1962	67	109	15941
Louisiana	2030	437	-212	5	4	13136	0.7	-82	-2142	45	14	13195
Maine	720	32	-56	0	1	6734	1.1	-213	-456	30	8	6772
Maryland	2532	-725	-354	11	8	25013	1.0	233	-3713	214	77	25304
Massachusetts	4644	-6632	-157	5	11	63183	1.8	3475	5483	118	79	63380
Michigan	4691	-151	556	11	9	51581	1.2	-11077	-2039	124	63	51768
Minnesota	2667	-456	-318	1	7	42077	1.5	-4279	-6817	86	57	42220
Mississippi	1697	825	761	1	4	6669	0.6	28	-489	106	18	6793
Missouri	2397	16	-163	5	1	16977	0.6	-360	-3677	84	32	17093
Montana	856	89	125	7	2	6498	1.4	-1060	-764	149	20	6667
Nebraska	497	-261	-30	2	1	3645	0.4	-177	-328	16	7	3668
Nevada	2276	-384	116	2	1	18529	1.4	930	-503	103	41	18673
New Hampshire	863	389	-24	0	0	3613	0.6	-38	-402	0	2	3615
New Jersey	13778	3041	6680	10	16	85786	2.2	1592	-1945	196	222	86204
New Mexico	717	30	58	1	2	8919	1.1	11	-475	119	47	9085
New York	18580	6532	5145	43	23	127605	1.4	1349	-8565	349	300	128254
North Carolina	2834	177	177	4	15	18655	0.4	-50	-576	71	103	18829
North Dakota	313	96	48	1	1	3270	0.8	-487	-1040	14	1	3285
Ohio	5659	-417	619	9	12	48356	0.9	-2738	-5021	82	107	48545
Oklahoma	2010	-27	754	7	8	13576	0.9	45	478	45	53	13674
Oregon	3275	-746	71	12	3	26846	1.4	-1077	16	311	65	27222
Pennsylvania	11817	-641	951	57	28	93484	1.6	-6817	-7271	396	238	94118
Puerto Rico	1337	293	264	5	5	15003	1.8	1103	-2860	127	50	15180
Rhode Island	1118	-2466	467	1	0	9787	2.1	1777	-29	17	16	9820
South Carolina	2119	248	30	4	3	13398	0.7	279	-1849	45	65	13508
South Dakota	126	-53	-21	3	0	1673	0.4	-282	-312	36	2	1711
Tennessee	2106	145	-112	11	7	14715	0.5	-457	-3064	78	56	14849
Texas	12084	645	-2	41	77	111704	0.9	4671	-4296	547	931	113182
Utah	1006	-97	4	3	2	7785	0.5	-361	-96	66	17	7868
Vermont	663	-281	-50	1	0	4431	1.5	32	-296	12	0	4443
Virgin Islands	35	23	15	0	0	678	2.1	560	-410	10	2	690
Virginia	2094	-169	-140	4	9	18630	0.5	135	-2430	169	164	18963
Washington	5335	-413	235	13	25	49451	1.5	-2105	2195	310	447	50208
West Virginia	932	131	106	0	2	9687	1.5	-113	-115	44	13	9744
Wisconsin	4891	-11	-877	6	4	29636	1.0	-1818	-5027	72	13	29721
Wyoming	286	-70	35	2	0	2207	0.8	-179	-926	26	9	2242
Totals	204787	-7007	18336	519	487	1647873	1.1	-55749	-91008	8278	5774	1661925

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 APRIL 27, 2019

STATES WITH AN INCREASE OF MORE THAN 1,000

State	Change	State Supplied Comment
NY	+6,532	Layoffs in the transportation and warehousing, accommodation and food service, and health care and social assistance industries.
NJ	+3,041	Layoffs in the educational service, accommodation and food service, transportation and warehousing, and public administration industries.

STATES WITH A DECREASE OF MORE THAN 1,000

State	Change	State Supplied Comment
MA	-6,632	Fewer layoffs in the educational service industry.
CA	-3,588	Fewer layoffs in the service and agriculture, forestry, fishing, and hunting industries.
RI	-2,466	No comment.
CT	-1,777	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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Washington, D.C. 20210
Release Number: USDL 19-791-NAT

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