



# News Release

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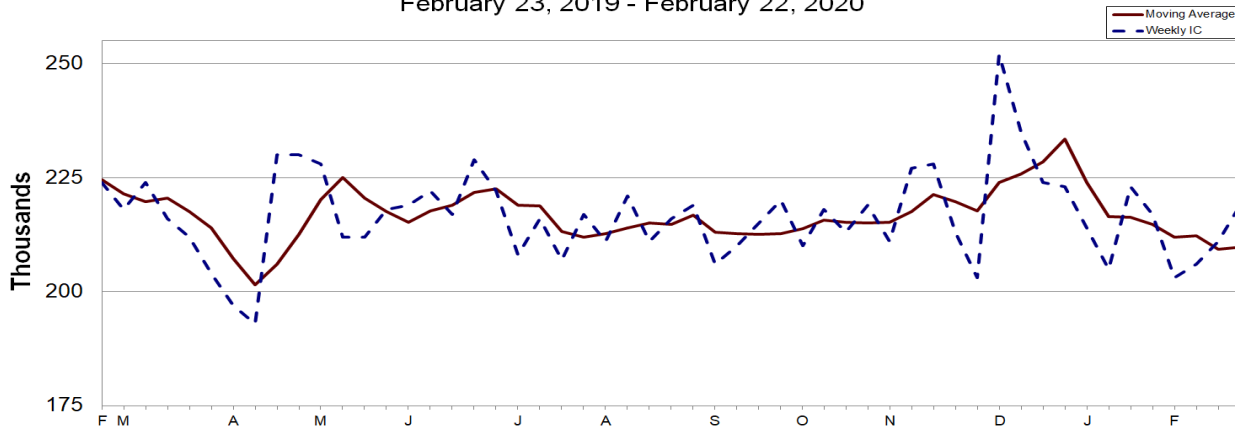
## UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE WEEKLY CLAIMS

### SEASONALLY ADJUSTED DATA

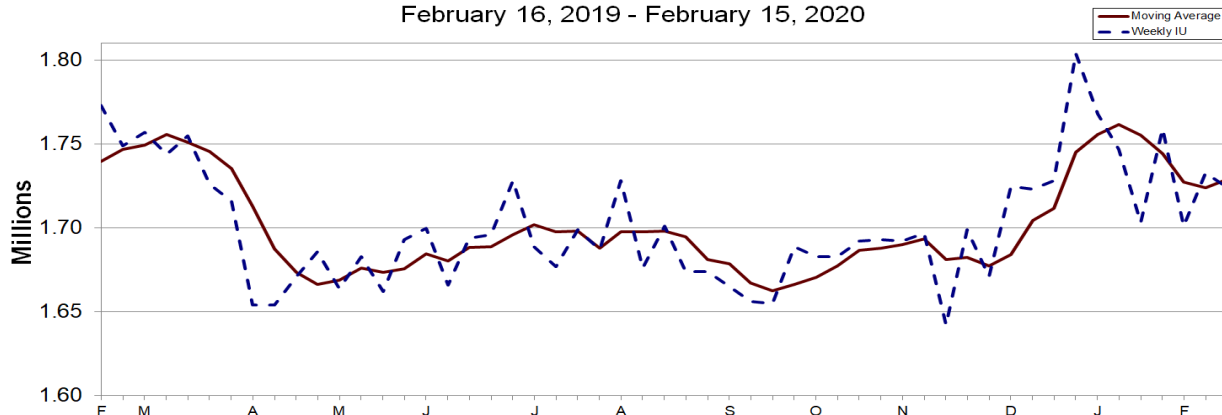
In the week ending February 22, the advance figure for seasonally adjusted **initial claims** was 219,000, an increase of 8,000 from the previous week's revised level. The previous week's level was revised up by 1,000 from 210,000 to 211,000. The 4-week moving average was 209,750, an increase of 500 from the previous week's revised average. The previous week's average was revised up by 250 from 209,000 to 209,250.

The advance seasonally adjusted **insured unemployment rate** was 1.2 percent for the week ending February 15, unchanged from the previous week's unrevised rate. The advance number for seasonally adjusted **insured unemployment** during the week ending February 15 was 1,724,000, a decrease of 9,000 from the previous week's revised level. The previous week's level was revised up 7,000 from 1,726,000 to 1,733,000. The 4-week moving average was 1,729,250, an increase of 5,250 from the previous week's revised average. The previous week's average was revised up by 1,750 from 1,722,250 to 1,724,000.

Seasonally Adjusted Initial Claims  
February 23, 2019 - February 22, 2020



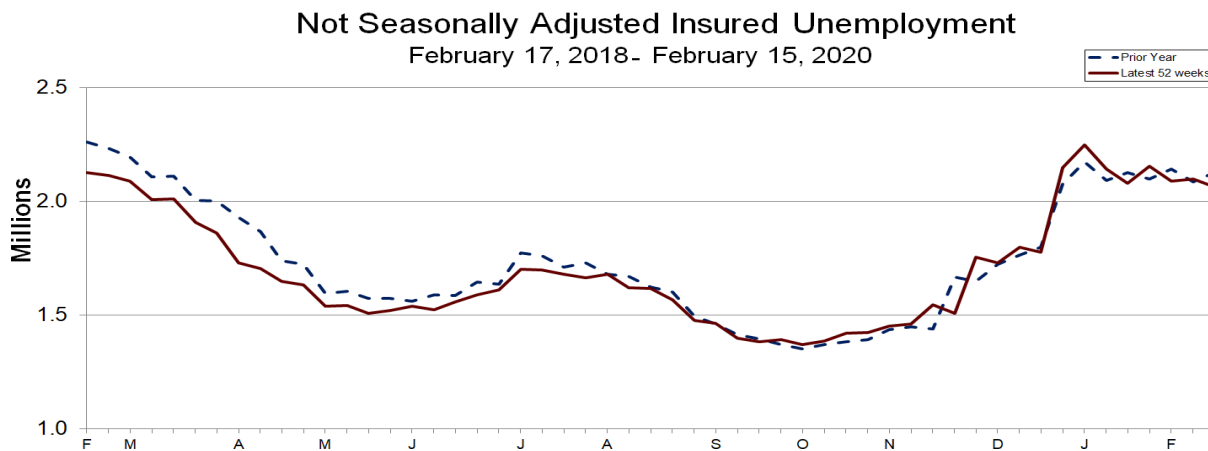
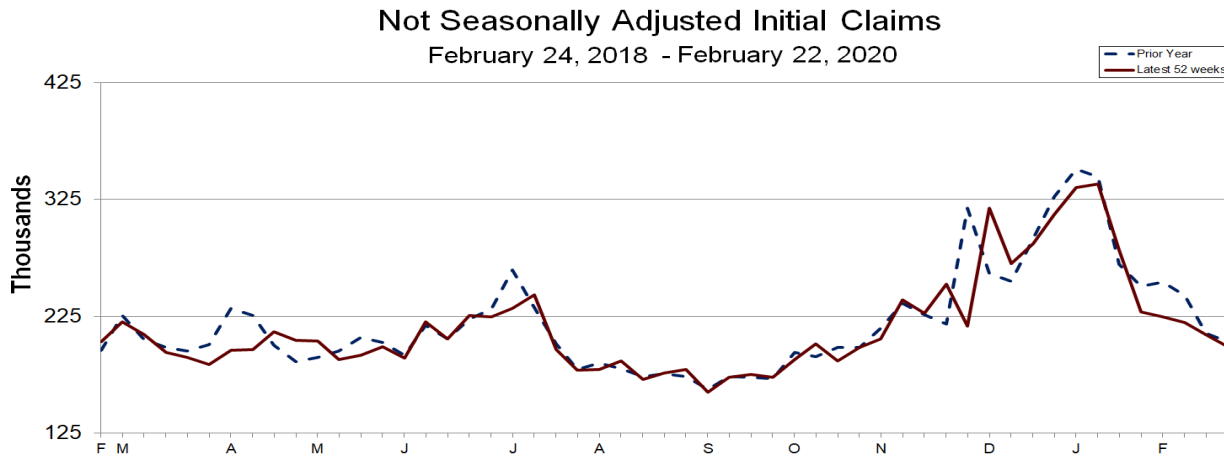
Seasonally Adjusted Insured Unemployment  
February 16, 2019 - February 15, 2020



**UNADJUSTED DATA**

The advance number of actual initial claims under state programs, unadjusted, totaled 199,093 in the week ending February 22, a decrease of 10,245 (or -4.9 percent) from the previous week. The seasonal factors had expected a decrease of 17,322 (or -8.3 percent) from the previous week. There were 203,091 initial claims in the comparable week in 2019.

The advance unadjusted insured unemployment rate was 1.4 percent during the week ending February 15, unchanged from the prior week. The advance unadjusted number for persons claiming UI benefits in state programs totaled 2,063,550, a decrease of 35,492 (or -1.7 percent) from the preceding week. The seasonal factors had expected a decrease of 24,266 (or -1.2 percent) from the previous week. A year earlier the rate was 1.5 percent and the volume was 2,126,207.



The total number of people claiming benefits in all programs for the week ending February 8 was 2,130,606, an increase of 12,491 from the previous week. There were 2,116,960 persons claiming benefits in all programs in the comparable week in 2019.

No state was triggered "on" the Extended Benefits program during the week ending February 8.

Initial claims for UI benefits filed by former Federal civilian employees totaled 617 in the week ending February 15, a decrease of 46 from the prior week. There were 460 initial claims filed by newly discharged veterans, a decrease of 72 from the preceding week.

There were 10,897 former Federal civilian employees claiming UI benefits for the week ending February 8, a decrease of 559 from the previous week. Newly discharged veterans claiming benefits totaled 5,663, an increase of 170 from the prior week.

The highest insured unemployment rates in the week ending February 8 were in Alaska (3.0), New Jersey (2.7), Montana (2.5), Puerto Rico (2.5), West Virginia (2.5), Connecticut (2.4), Rhode Island (2.4), Illinois (2.3), Pennsylvania (2.3), California (2.2), Massachusetts (2.2), and Minnesota (2.2).

The largest increases in initial claims for the week ending February 15 were in California (+3,053), Georgia (+700), Maine (+88), Vermont (+68), and Hawaii (+62), while the largest decreases were in Illinois (-1,749), Texas (-1,079), Michigan (-1,040), Washington (-850), and Pennsylvania (-842).

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UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE DATA FOR REGULAR STATE PROGRAMS

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<b>WEEK ENDING</b>	<b>February 22</b>	<b>February 15</b>	<b>Change</b>	<b>February 8</b>	<b>Prior Year<sup>1</sup></b>
Initial Claims (SA)	219,000	211,000	+8,000	206,000	224,000
Initial Claims (NSA)	199,093	209,338	-10,245	219,601	203,091
4-Wk Moving Average (SA)	209,750	209,250	+500	212,250	224,500
<b>WEEK ENDING</b>	<b>February 15</b>	<b>February 8</b>	<b>Change</b>	<b>February 1</b>	<b>Prior Year<sup>1</sup></b>
Insured Unemployment (SA)	1,724,000	1,733,000	-9,000	1,701,000	1,773,000
Insured Unemployment (NSA)	2,063,550	2,099,042	-35,492	2,087,525	2,126,207
4-Wk Moving Average (SA)	1,729,250	1,724,000	+5,250	1,727,500	1,739,500
Insured Unemployment Rate (SA) <sup>2</sup>	1.2%	1.2%	0.0	1.2%	1.2%
Insured Unemployment Rate (NSA) <sup>2</sup>	1.4%	1.4%	0.0	1.4%	1.5%

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INITIAL CLAIMS FILED IN FEDERAL PROGRAMS (UNADJUSTED)

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<b>WEEK ENDING</b>	<b>February 15</b>	<b>February 8</b>	<b>Change</b>	<b>Prior Year<sup>1</sup></b>
Federal Employees (UCFE)	617	663	-46	787
Newly Discharged Veterans (UCX)	460	532	-72	468

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PERSONS CLAIMING UI BENEFITS IN ALL PROGRAMS (UNADJUSTED)

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<b>WEEK ENDING</b>	<b>February 8</b>	<b>February 1</b>	<b>Change</b>	<b>Prior Year<sup>1</sup></b>
Regular State	2,095,001	2,084,231	+10,770	2,081,384
Federal Employees	10,897	11,456	-559	12,653
Newly Discharged Veterans	5,663	5,493	+170	6,287
Extended Benefits <sup>3</sup>	0	0	0	0
State Additional Benefits <sup>4</sup>	5,536	5,606	-70	5,696
STC / Workshare <sup>5</sup>	13,509	11,329	+2,180	10,940
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>2,130,606</b>	<b>2,118,115</b>	<b>+12,491</b>	<b>2,116,960</b>

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 145,230,691 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 benefits, and when applicable, extended benefits. Information on states that participate, and the extent of benefits paid, can be found starting on page 4-4 of this link: [Extensions and Special Programs PDF](#)
5. Information on STC/Worksharing can be found starting on page 4-8 of the following link: [Extensions and Special Programs PDF](#)

## Advance State Claims - Not Seasonally Adjusted

STATE	Initial Claims Filed During Week Ended February 22			Insured Unemployment For Week Ended February 15		
	Advance	Prior Wk	Change	Advance	Prior Wk	Change
Alabama*	2,046	2,138	-92	16,196	16,327	-131
Alaska	823	915	-92	8,744	9,343	-599
Arizona	3,007	3,538	-531	15,920	18,516	-2,596
Arkansas	924	1,602	-678	11,057	12,979	-1,922
California	35,405	43,445	-8,040	355,310	375,305	-19,995
Colorado	1,885	2,209	-324	24,570	22,076	2,494
Connecticut	2,437	2,520	-83	42,945	39,384	3,561
Delaware	615	610	5	6,267	5,917	350
District of Columbia	448	473	-25	6,749	7,079	-330
Florida	4,702	5,229	-527	28,963	34,449	-5,486
Georgia	4,867	6,277	-1,410	25,943	27,317	-1,374
Hawaii	1,039	1,199	-160	6,491	6,089	402
Idaho	926	1,358	-432	9,893	11,333	-1,440
Illinois	11,863	8,045	3,818	132,167	133,765	-1,598
Indiana	3,247	2,556	691	23,941	22,352	1,589
Iowa	2,868	2,239	629	31,434	30,799	635
Kansas	1,502	2,076	-574	12,511	11,666	845
Kentucky	2,508	2,813	-305	23,608	23,076	532
Louisiana	1,746	1,739	7	12,330	15,057	-2,727
Maine	716	790	-74	8,650	8,894	-244
Maryland	2,588	3,048	-460	28,707	29,219	-512
Massachusetts	9,208	5,393	3,815	76,445	76,912	-467
Michigan	5,770	5,587	183	76,056	79,149	-3,093
Minnesota	3,703	3,641	62	65,962	63,956	2,006
Mississippi	731	861	-130	6,508	8,216	-1,708
Missouri	2,851	3,363	-512	26,135	27,362	-1,227
Montana	778	921	-143	11,662	11,479	183
Nebraska	490	537	-47	5,427	5,804	-377
Nevada	2,209	2,543	-334	18,353	19,585	-1,232
New Hampshire	404	424	-20	3,660	4,015	-355
New Jersey	8,316	8,550	-234	111,782	110,016	1,766
New Mexico	722	725	-3	9,704	9,987	-283
New York	14,279	14,333	-54	164,983	164,111	872
North Carolina	2,744	3,094	-350	20,176	21,972	-1,796
North Dakota	530	457	73	8,016	6,924	1,092
Ohio	6,067	6,532	-465	70,510	71,214	-704
Oklahoma	1,326	1,633	-307	16,260	17,513	-1,253
Oregon	3,514	4,284	-770	30,794	31,167	-373
Pennsylvania	12,627	13,583	-956	143,554	136,149	7,405
Puerto Rico	1,305	1,588	-283	17,690	21,114	-3,424
Rhode Island	1,967	996	971	11,304	11,164	140
South Carolina	1,734	2,088	-354	15,787	16,547	-760
South Dakota	167	194	-27	3,084	3,196	-112
Tennessee	1,906	2,140	-234	18,867	20,485	-1,618
Texas	12,032	12,790	-758	126,223	133,475	-7,252
Utah	1,038	1,097	-59	11,705	12,131	-426
Vermont	604	543	61	5,142	4,931	211
Virgin Islands	49	40	9	512	508	4
Virginia	2,232	2,693	-461	23,079	22,481	598
Washington	5,982	6,311	-329	62,869	61,819	1,050
West Virginia	1,170	1,172	-2	19,956	16,856	3,100
Wisconsin	6,109	5,808	301	44,665	44,163	502
Wyoming	367	598	-231	4,284	3,699	585
US Total	199,093	209,338	-10,245	2,063,550	2,099,042	-35,492

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 state 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	
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	1,686	15	1,666.25	1.2
May 4, 2019	228	-2	220.25	1,664	-22	1,668.75	1.2
May 11, 2019	212	-16	225.00	1,683	19	1,676.00	1.2
May 18, 2019	212	0	220.50	1,662	-21	1,673.75	1.2
May 25, 2019	218	6	217.50	1,693	31	1,675.50	1.2
June 1, 2019	219	1	215.25	1,700	7	1,684.50	1.2
June 8, 2019	222	3	217.75	1,666	-34	1,680.25	1.2
June 15, 2019	217	-5	219.00	1,694	28	1,688.25	1.2
June 22, 2019	229	12	221.75	1,696	2	1,689.00	1.2
June 29, 2019	222	-7	222.50	1,728	32	1,696.00	1.2
July 6, 2019	208	-14	219.00	1,689	-39	1,701.75	1.2
July 13, 2019	216	8	218.75	1,677	-12	1,697.50	1.2
July 20, 2019	207	-9	213.25	1,699	22	1,698.25	1.2
July 27, 2019	217	10	212.00	1,687	-12	1,688.00	1.2
August 3, 2019	211	-6	212.75	1,728	41	1,697.75	1.2
August 10, 2019	221	10	214.00	1,676	-52	1,697.50	1.2
August 17, 2019	211	-10	215.00	1,701	25	1,698.00	1.2
August 24, 2019	216	5	214.75	1,674	-27	1,694.75	1.2
August 31, 2019	219	3	216.75	1,674	0	1,681.25	1.2
September 7, 2019	206	-13	213.00	1,665	-9	1,678.50	1.2
September 14, 2019	210	4	212.75	1,656	-9	1,667.25	1.1
September 21, 2019	215	5	212.50	1,655	-1	1,662.50	1.1
September 28, 2019	220	5	212.75	1,689	34	1,666.25	1.2
October 5, 2019	210	-10	213.75	1,683	-6	1,670.75	1.2
October 12, 2019	218	8	215.75	1,683	0	1,677.50	1.2
October 19, 2019	213	-5	215.25	1,692	9	1,686.75	1.2
October 26, 2019	219	6	215.00	1,693	1	1,687.75	1.2
November 2, 2019	211	-8	215.25	1,692	-1	1,690.00	1.2
November 9, 2019	227	16	217.50	1,697	5	1,693.50	1.2
November 16, 2019	228	1	221.25	1,642	-55	1,681.00	1.1
November 23, 2019	213	-15	219.75	1,699	57	1,682.50	1.2
November 30, 2019	203	-10	217.75	1,671	-28	1,677.25	1.2
December 7, 2019	252	49	224.00	1,725	54	1,684.25	1.2
December 14, 2019	235	-17	225.75	1,723	-2	1,704.50	1.2
December 21, 2019	224	-11	228.50	1,728	5	1,711.75	1.2
December 28, 2019	223	-1	233.50	1,804	76	1,745.00	1.2
January 4, 2020	214	-9	224.00	1,768	-36	1,755.75	1.2
January 11, 2020	205	-9	216.50	1,747	-21	1,761.75	1.2
January 18, 2020	223	18	216.25	1,703	-44	1,755.50	1.2
January 25, 2020	217	-6	214.75	1,759	56	1,744.25	1.2
February 1, 2020	203	-14	212.00	1,701	-58	1,727.50	1.2
February 8, 2020	206	3	212.25	1,733	32	1,724.00	1.2
February 15, 2020	211	5	209.25	1,724	-9	1,729.25	1.2
February 22, 2020	219	8	209.75				

STATE NAME	INITIAL CLAIMS FILED DURING WEEK ENDED FEBRUARY 15					INSURED UNEMPLOYMENT FOR WEEK ENDED FEBRUARY 8					ALL PROGRAMS EXCLUDING RAILROAD RETIREMENT	
	STATE	CHANGE FROM				STATE (%) <sup>2</sup>	CHANGE FROM					
		LAST WEEK	YEAR AGO	UCFE <sup>1</sup>	UCX <sup>1</sup>		LAST WEEK	YEAR AGO	UCFE <sup>1</sup>	UCX <sup>1</sup>		
Alabama	2138	-228	178	14	6	16327	0.8	-584	749	70	75	16472
Alaska	915	-65	-107	2	1	9343	3.0	182	-364	179	10	9532
Arizona	3538	-98	314	8	4	18516	0.7	55	-1118	187	33	18736
Arkansas	1602	-122	-187	3	1	12979	1.1	15	589	61	38	13078
California	43445	3053	-71	154	76	375305	2.2	16149	14470	2495	1142	378942
Colorado	2209	-273	396	13	7	22076	0.8	-805	-250	280	134	22490
Connecticut	2520	-424	224	4	5	39384	2.4	-2249	-750	52	78	39514
Delaware	610	2	66	0	0	5917	1.3	29	-361	13	8	5938
District of Columbia	473	-35	37	9	0	7079	1.2	-77	-1047	182	7	7268
Florida	5229	-376	-956	14	32	34449	0.4	1273	-2179	175	101	34725
Georgia	6277	700	566	34	17	27317	0.6	333	787	168	147	27632
Hawaii	1199	62	45	3	10	6089	1.0	-111	-654	61	62	6212
Idaho	1358	-92	-103	16	2	11333	1.6	-58	97	346	17	11696
Illinois	8045	-1749	525	6	7	133765	2.3	2865	-1508	366	162	134293
Indiana	2556	-169	115	1	4	22352	0.7	140	59	34	22	22408
Iowa	2239	-140	256	3	4	30799	2.0	10	-834	54	18	30871
Kansas	2076	-31	466	0	1	11666	0.9	-143	-608	28	26	11720
Kentucky	2813	-123	469	1	0	23076	1.2	139	1562	131	120	23327
Louisiana	1739	-66	67	2	3	15057	0.8	6	450	47	14	15118
Maine	790	88	182	2	0	8894	1.5	85	198	53	13	8960
Maryland	3048	-102	-114	15	6	29219	1.1	-123	-3426	184	84	29487
Massachusetts	5393	-485	378	7	7	76912	2.2	420	-4478	125	91	77128
Michigan	5587	-1040	-813	15	13	79149	1.8	-684	-2625	239	81	79469
Minnesota	3641	-467	561	3	4	63956	2.2	-149	2095	135	62	64153
Mississippi	861	-107	-57	7	2	8216	0.7	-45	862	69	16	8301
Missouri	3363	-307	441	1	0	27362	1.0	-544	-2445	106	26	27494
Montana	921	-14	-131	23	1	11479	2.5	-10	-374	632	17	12128
Nebraska	537	-138	-193	3	0	5804	0.6	111	-1645	19	9	5832
Nevada	2543	-251	18	8	1	19585	1.4	360	-812	153	47	19785
New Hampshire	424	-83	-74	0	1	4015	0.6	-35	-675	10	0	4025
New Jersey	8550	-738	-291	9	29	110016	2.7	85	1353	222	270	110508
New Mexico	725	-148	-7	2	3	9987	1.2	22	-22	252	35	10274
New York	14333	-677	714	15	25	164111	1.7	718	2424	288	319	164718
North Carolina	3094	-232	-123	17	12	21972	0.5	-72	382	108	109	22189
North Dakota	457	-69	-13	2	0	6924	1.7	86	-111	15	4	6943
Ohio	6532	-293	689	4	14	71214	1.3	-228	-1146	116	116	71446
Oklahoma	1633	-82	-113	6	6	17513	1.1	-244	3133	59	49	17621
Oregon	4284	-669	-827	30	12	31167	1.6	-491	-1118	683	50	31900
Pennsylvania	13583	-842	165	59	28	136149	2.3	-5855	1098	492	216	136857
Puerto Rico	1588	-182	504	2	3	21114	2.5	-2043	5178	158	62	21334
Rhode Island	996	37	-33	1	0	11164	2.4	113	-896	33	12	11209
South Carolina	2088	34	319	5	5	16547	0.8	-122	48	36	62	16645
South Dakota	194	-29	-86	4	0	3196	0.8	79	-156	60	2	3258
Tennessee	2140	-21	7	10	9	20485	0.7	-185	695	100	47	20632
Texas	12790	-1079	402	42	70	133475	1.1	4809	16299	466	982	134923
Utah	1097	-206	-37	10	1	12131	0.8	-56	63	211	19	12361
Vermont	543	68	64	1	0	4931	1.6	107	-453	12	4	4947
Virgin Islands	40	-5	16	0	0	508	1.5	-14	-122	4	2	514
Virginia	2693	-404	385	3	8	22481	0.6	432	-1030	211	166	22858
Washington	6311	-850	-6140	13	16	61819	1.9	-2325	-6227	491	413	62723
West Virginia	1172	-34	77	0	4	16856	2.5	268	2490	53	30	16939
Wisconsin	5808	-771	234	3	0	44163	1.5	-314	-3520	106	28	44297
Wyoming	598	9	255	8	0	3699	1.4	192	554	67	6	3772
Totals	209338	-10263	-1341	617	460	2099042	1.4	11517	14681	10897	5663	2115602

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 15, 2020**

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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>
CA	+3,053	Layoffs in the service industry.

STATES WITH A DECREASE OF MORE THAN 1,000

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<b>State</b>	<b>Change</b>	<b>State Supplied Comment</b>
IL	-1,749	No comment.
TX	-1,079	No comment.
MI	-1,040	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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