



News Release

Connect with DOL at <https://blog.dol.gov>



TRANSMISSION OF MATERIALS IN THIS RELEASE IS EMBARGOED UNTIL
8:30 A.M. (Eastern) Thursday, March 12, 2020

Note: Calendar Year (CY) 2020 seasonal factors and revised seasonal factors and historical series for CY 2015-2019 for both initial claims and continued claims will be made available March 19, 2020, with the release of the Unemployment Insurance Weekly Claims News Release.

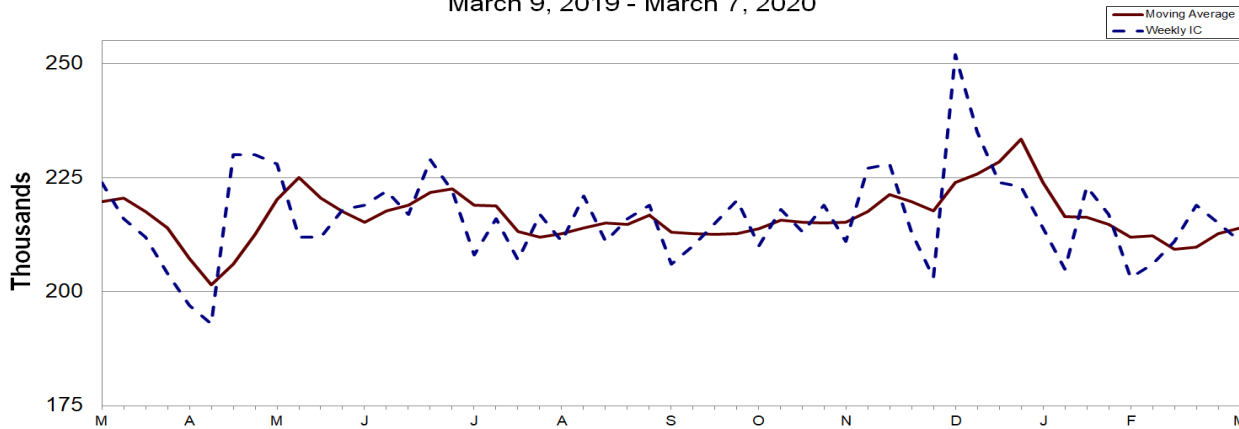
UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE WEEKLY CLAIMS

SEASONALLY ADJUSTED DATA

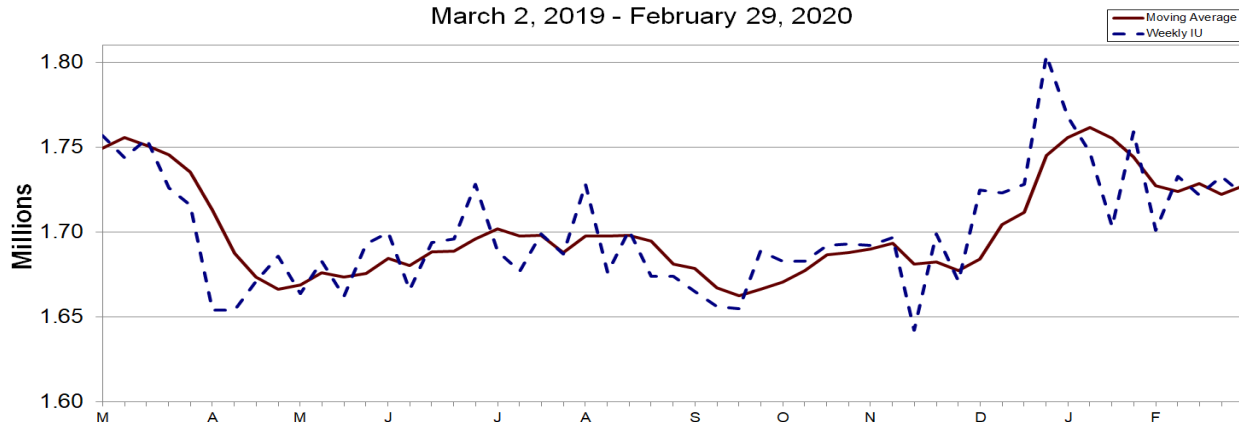
In the week ending March 7, the advance figure for seasonally adjusted **initial claims** was 211,000, a decrease of 4,000 from the previous week's revised level. The previous week's level was revised down by 1,000 from 216,000 to 215,000. The 4-week moving average was 214,000, an increase of 1,250 from the previous week's revised average. The previous week's average was revised down by 250 from 213,000 to 212,750.

The advance seasonally adjusted **insured unemployment rate** was 1.2 percent for the week ending February 29, unchanged from the previous week's unrevised rate. The advance number for seasonally adjusted **insured unemployment** during the week ending February 29 was 1,722,000, a decrease of 11,000 from the previous week's revised level. The previous week's level was revised up 4,000 from 1,729,000 to 1,733,000. The 4-week moving average was 1,727,500, an increase of 5,250 from the previous week's revised average. The previous week's average was revised up by 1,000 from 1,721,250 to 1,722,250.

Seasonally Adjusted Initial Claims
March 9, 2019 - March 7, 2020



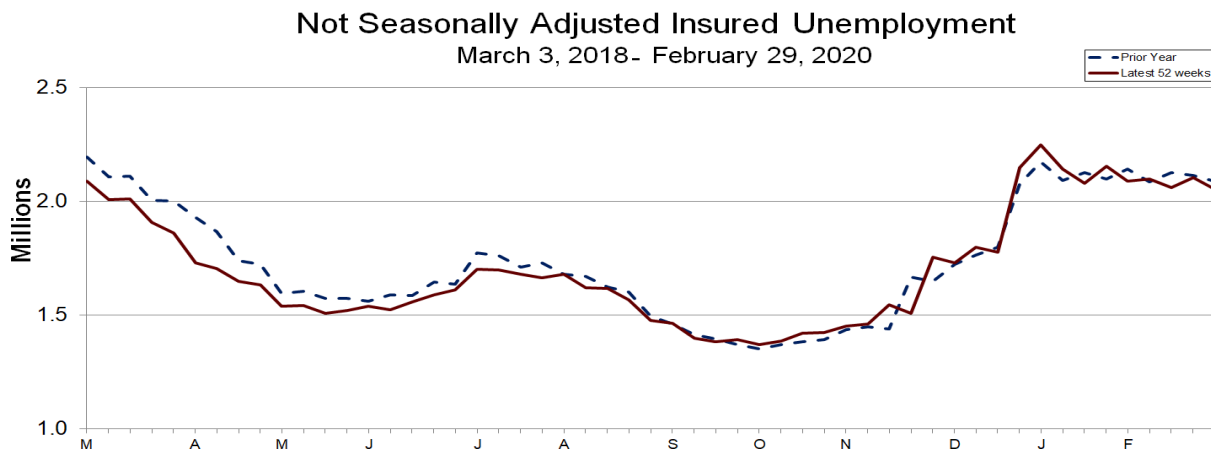
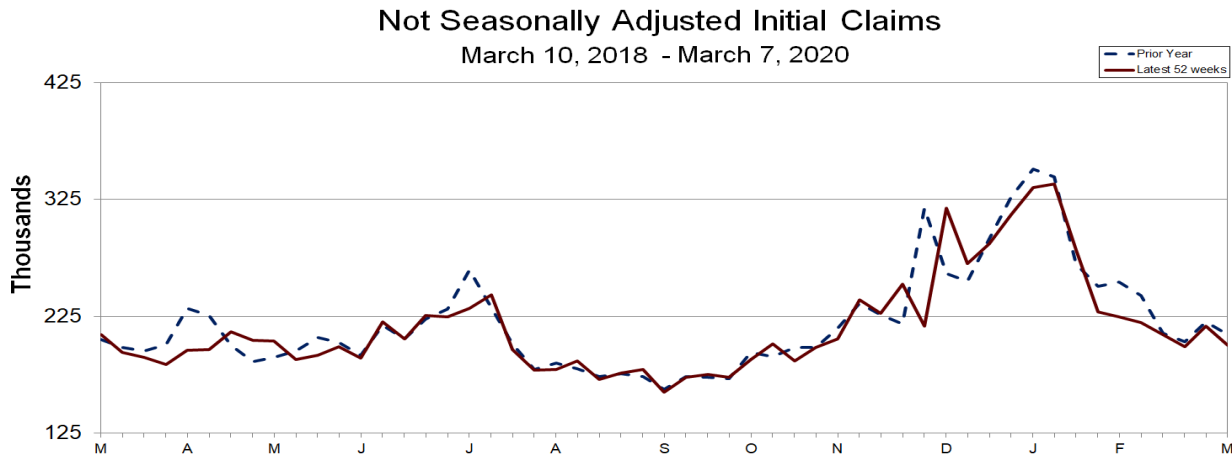
Seasonally Adjusted Insured Unemployment
March 2, 2019 - February 29, 2020



UNADJUSTED DATA

The advance number of actual initial claims under state programs, unadjusted, totaled 200,159 in the week ending March 7, a decrease of 16,823 (or -7.8 percent) from the previous week. The seasonal factors had expected a decrease of 12,903 (or -5.9 percent) from the previous week. There were 209,362 initial claims in the comparable week in 2019.

The advance unadjusted insured unemployment rate was 1.4 percent during the week ending February 29, unchanged from the prior week. The advance unadjusted number for persons claiming UI benefits in state programs totaled 2,054,619, a decrease of 50,838 (or -2.4 percent) from the preceding week. The seasonal factors had expected a decrease of 38,124 (or -1.8 percent) from the previous week. A year earlier the rate was 1.5 percent and the volume was 2,088,573.



The total number of people claiming benefits in all programs for the week ending February 22 was 2,136,741, an increase of 44,258 from the previous week. There were 2,145,423 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 22.

Initial claims for UI benefits filed by former Federal civilian employees totaled 576 in the week ending February 29, a decrease of 1 from the prior week. There were 427 initial claims filed by newly discharged veterans, an increase of 30 from the preceding week.

There were 10,259 former Federal civilian employees claiming UI benefits for the week ending February 22, a decrease of 444 from the previous week. Newly discharged veterans claiming benefits totaled 5,567, an increase of 60 from the prior week.

The highest insured unemployment rates in the week ending February 22 were in Alaska (2.9), New Jersey (2.8), Rhode Island (2.6), Connecticut (2.5), Montana (2.5), West Virginia (2.5), Massachusetts (2.3), Pennsylvania (2.3), Puerto Rico (2.3), Illinois (2.2), and Minnesota (2.2).

The largest increases in initial claims for the week ending February 29 were in New York (+17,064), California (+6,699), Ohio (+3,708), Virginia (+1,188), and Texas (+645), while the largest decreases were in Massachusetts (-4,399), Illinois (-2,832), North Carolina (-1,085), Rhode Island (-1,047), and Indiana (-703).

UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE DATA FOR REGULAR STATE PROGRAMS

WEEK ENDING	March 7	February 29	Change	February 22	Prior Year¹
Initial Claims (SA)	211,000	215,000	-4,000	219,000	224,000
Initial Claims (NSA)	200,159	216,982	-16,823	199,278	209,362
4-Wk Moving Average (SA)	214,000	212,750	+1,250	209,750	219,750
WEEK ENDING	February 29	February 22	Change	February 15	Prior Year¹
Insured Unemployment (SA)	1,722,000	1,733,000	-11,000	1,722,000	1,757,000
Insured Unemployment (NSA)	2,054,619	2,105,457	-50,838	2,061,669	2,088,573
4-Wk Moving Average (SA)	1,727,500	1,722,250	+5,250	1,728,750	1,749,500
Insured Unemployment Rate (SA) ²	1.2%	1.2%	0.0	1.2%	1.2%
Insured Unemployment Rate (NSA) ²	1.4%	1.4%	0.0	1.4%	1.5%

INITIAL CLAIMS FILED IN FEDERAL PROGRAMS (UNADJUSTED)

WEEK ENDING	February 29	February 22	Change	Prior Year¹
Federal Employees (UCFE)	576	577	-1	814
Newly Discharged Veterans (UCX)	427	397	+30	539

PERSONS CLAIMING UI BENEFITS IN ALL PROGRAMS (UNADJUSTED)

WEEK ENDING	February 22	February 15	Change	Prior Year¹
Regular State	2,101,301	2,057,800	+43,501	2,109,120
Federal Employees	10,259	10,703	-444	11,547
Newly Discharged Veterans	5,567	5,507	+60	6,330
Extended Benefits ³	0	0	0	0
State Additional Benefits ⁴	5,628	5,396	+232	6,161
STC / Workshare ⁵	13,986	13,077	+909	12,265
TOTAL	2,136,741	2,092,483	+44,258	2,145,423

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 March 7			Insured Unemployment For Week Ended February 29		
	Advance	Prior Wk	Change	Advance	Prior Wk	Change
Alabama*	2,035	1,952	83	15,762	16,757	-995
Alaska	876	874	2	8,154	8,938	-784
Arizona	3,179	3,086	93	15,410	18,137	-2,727
Arkansas	1,712	1,418	294	10,213	12,244	-2,031
California	43,877	41,678	2,199	385,269	369,988	15,281
Colorado	1,875	1,681	194	23,748	22,409	1,339
Connecticut	2,525	2,843	-318	41,899	42,168	-269
Delaware	503	524	-21	5,818	6,742	-924
District of Columbia	464	452	12	6,574	7,020	-446
Florida	5,103	4,853	250	27,797	33,421	-5,624
Georgia	4,409	5,538	-1,129	24,078	26,958	-2,880
Hawaii	1,299	1,049	250	6,309	5,925	384
Idaho	959	998	-39	8,765	10,587	-1,822
Illinois	8,781	8,980	-199	137,390	132,123	5,267
Indiana	2,336	2,276	60	23,495	22,994	501
Iowa	2,468	2,240	228	30,098	30,516	-418
Kansas	1,393	1,517	-124	11,246	11,505	-259
Kentucky	2,462	2,223	239	22,781	23,733	-952
Louisiana	1,565	1,509	56	12,001	15,289	-3,288
Maine	707	862	-155	8,896	9,007	-111
Maryland	2,575	2,626	-51	27,710	28,412	-702
Massachusetts	4,667	4,865	-198	74,923	83,220	-8,297
Michigan	4,968	5,419	-451	75,091	78,570	-3,479
Minnesota	3,592	3,410	182	64,326	61,696	2,630
Mississippi	750	744	6	6,177	7,842	-1,665
Missouri	2,834	2,732	102	23,968	26,949	-2,981
Montana	692	695	-3	11,021	11,296	-275
Nebraska	503	502	1	5,253	6,286	-1,033
Nevada	2,481	2,324	157	18,761	20,044	-1,283
New Hampshire	468	894	-426	4,217	4,048	169
New Jersey	7,910	7,773	137	110,024	110,902	-878
New Mexico	691	681	10	9,481	10,039	-558
New York	14,115	31,208	-17,093	163,489	182,691	-19,202
North Carolina	2,460	1,767	693	18,810	21,188	-2,378
North Dakota	508	363	145	7,612	6,795	817
Ohio	6,477	9,916	-3,439	72,673	70,655	2,018
Oklahoma	1,413	1,458	-45	15,688	16,929	-1,241
Oregon	4,143	3,936	207	29,483	30,165	-682
Pennsylvania	12,210	12,045	165	137,881	135,095	2,786
Puerto Rico	1,286	1,296	-10	15,722	19,480	-3,758
Rhode Island	740	874	-134	11,212	12,384	-1,172
South Carolina	1,809	1,977	-168	14,940	15,779	-839
South Dakota	166	159	7	2,980	3,116	-136
Tennessee	2,063	2,014	49	17,862	20,413	-2,551
Texas	14,409	12,692	1,717	124,379	133,247	-8,868
Utah	1,030	885	145	10,856	11,451	-595
Vermont	434	863	-429	5,479	5,039	440
Virgin Islands	35	37	-2	586	562	24
Virginia	2,712	3,267	-555	23,365	22,203	1,162
Washington	6,936	5,770	1,166	59,312	58,586	726
West Virginia	980	1,108	-128	18,545	16,797	1,748
Wisconsin	5,070	5,658	-588	42,961	43,574	-613
Wyoming	504	471	33	4,129	3,543	586
US Total	200,159	216,982	-16,823	2,054,619	2,105,457	-50,838

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	
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	1,722	-11	1,728.75	1.2
February 22, 2020	219	8	209.75	1,733	11	1,722.25	1.2
February 29, 2020	215	-4	212.75	1,722	-11	1,727.50	1.2
March 7, 2020	211	-4	214.00				

STATE NAME	INITIAL CLAIMS FILED DURING WEEK ENDED FEBRUARY 29					INSURED UNEMPLOYMENT FOR WEEK ENDED FEBRUARY 22					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	1952	-229	-354	9	8	16757	0.9	382	1042	68	94	16919
Alaska	874	101	-52	3	0	8938	2.9	74	-396	157	10	9105
Arizona	3086	-65	-190	5	0	18137	0.6	-80	-1094	193	28	18358
Arkansas	1418	363	-408	1	2	12244	1.0	-302	125	55	33	12332
California	41678	6699	593	142	64	369988	2.1	20736	-10343	2306	1017	373311
Colorado	1681	-181	-38	10	5	22409	0.8	-1285	366	237	133	22779
Connecticut	2843	408	356	7	3	42168	2.5	477	-744	49	56	42273
Delaware	524	-108	3	1	2	6742	1.5	821	-517	15	10	6767
District of Columbia	452	30	53	15	0	7020	1.2	17	-758	193	5	7218
Florida	4853	-8	-822	18	27	33421	0.4	-149	-2611	152	104	33677
Georgia	5538	508	-243	28	18	26958	0.6	-5	255	171	124	27253
Hawaii	1049	29	-229	2	4	5925	1.0	-296	-975	66	62	6053
Idaho	998	-116	-327	9	2	10587	1.5	-688	-630	298	14	10899
Illinois	8980	-2832	975	6	7	132123	2.2	952	2199	368	154	132645
Indiana	2276	-703	-147	1	6	22994	0.8	81	1741	26	22	23042
Iowa	2240	-391	-69	1	2	30516	2.0	-225	-270	54	20	30590
Kansas	1517	23	-192	2	4	11505	0.8	-498	-636	36	17	11558
Kentucky	2223	-285	-1491	0	0	23733	1.3	1110	71	139	101	23973
Louisiana	1509	-289	-165	6	4	15289	0.8	649	-246	37	13	15339
Maine	862	125	119	2	1	9007	1.5	383	4	51	8	9066
Maryland	2626	-74	-104	17	3	28412	1.1	-683	-3756	194	78	28684
Massachusetts	4865	-4399	-237	7	10	83220	2.3	6129	-4474	130	88	83438
Michigan	5419	-523	-66	7	12	78570	1.8	541	502	212	83	78865
Minnesota	3410	-129	117	3	3	61696	2.2	-504	1431	122	58	61876
Mississippi	744	-83	-175	0	1	7842	0.7	-80	9	73	19	7934
Missouri	2732	-331	-205	3	1	26949	1.0	-86	-2836	88	32	27069
Montana	695	-100	-325	13	2	11296	2.5	-12	-546	551	17	11864
Nebraska	502	9	-240	0	0	6286	0.7	506	-1040	22	11	6319
Nevada	2324	272	178	5	3	20044	1.5	572	-133	143	47	20234
New Hampshire	894	450	-25	1	2	4048	0.6	112	-588	5	0	4053
New Jersey	7773	-623	-382	10	23	110902	2.8	1637	-1281	217	279	111398
New Mexico	681	-56	53	5	0	10039	1.3	-12	6	238	33	10310
New York	31208	17064	917	30	22	182691	1.9	19471	3615	280	326	183297
North Carolina	1767	-1085	-1116	8	6	21188	0.5	-442	262	102	87	21377
North Dakota	363	-72	36	0	0	6795	1.7	-91	87	14	4	6813
Ohio	9916	3708	4489	5	14	70655	1.3	-269	722	102	115	70872
Oklahoma	1458	-51	-318	12	6	16929	1.1	-340	2865	53	49	17031
Oregon	3936	422	-1927	33	12	30165	1.6	-383	-1647	654	54	30873
Pennsylvania	12045	-586	-2652	60	27	135095	2.3	-7211	1825	482	230	135807
Puerto Rico	1296	-94	137	13	9	19480	2.3	-1285	3027	157	79	19716
Rhode Island	874	-1047	75	3	2	12384	2.6	1185	-743	16	10	12410
South Carolina	1977	153	-156	2	8	15779	0.8	-460	-210	32	55	15866
South Dakota	159	-32	-62	1	0	3116	0.7	-48	-230	56	4	3176
Tennessee	2014	159	-122	8	2	20413	0.7	274	372	115	95	20623
Texas	12692	645	593	30	71	133247	1.1	5972	16907	440	1003	134690
Utah	885	-123	-61	7	1	11451	0.8	-509	-89	192	15	11658
Vermont	863	253	18	0	1	5039	1.7	167	-312	9	0	5048
Virgin Islands	37	-18	12	1	0	562	1.6	54	-90	4	0	566
Virginia	3267	1188	1127	3	7	22203	0.6	-290	-539	161	175	22539
Washington	5770	185	-405	13	16	58586	1.8	-1233	-8762	494	419	59499
West Virginia	1108	-99	204	0	4	16797	2.5	-558	2527	48	43	16888
Wisconsin	5658	-440	-441	2	0	43574	1.5	-422	-738	104	28	43706
Wyoming	471	82	133	6	0	3543	1.3	-68	327	78	6	3627
Totals	216982	17704	-3558	576	427	2105457	1.4	43788	-6947	10259	5567	2121283

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 29, 2020

STATES WITH AN INCREASE OF MORE THAN 1,000

State	Change	State Supplied Comment
NY	+17,064	Layoffs in the transportation and warehousing, accommodation and food services, and educational service industries.
CA	+6,699	Layoffs in the service industry.
OH	+3,708	Layoffs in the manufacturing industry.
VA	+1,188	Layoffs in the manufacturing industry.

STATES WITH A DECREASE OF MORE THAN 1,000

State	Change	State Supplied Comment
MA	-4,399	No comment.
IL	-2,832	No comment.
NC	-1,085	Fewer layoffs in the administrative, support, waste management and remediation services, accommodation and food services, and construction industries.
RI	-1,047	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).

U.S. Department of Labor
Employment and Training Administration
Washington, D.C. 20210
Release Number: USDL 20-432-NAT

Program Contacts:
Kevin Stapleton: (202) 693-3009
Anatoli Sznoluch: (202) 693-3176
Media Contact: (202) 693-4676