



News Release

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8:30 A.M. (Eastern) Thursday, April 23, 2020

COVID-19 Impact
The COVID-19 virus continues to impact the number of initial claims and insured unemployment.

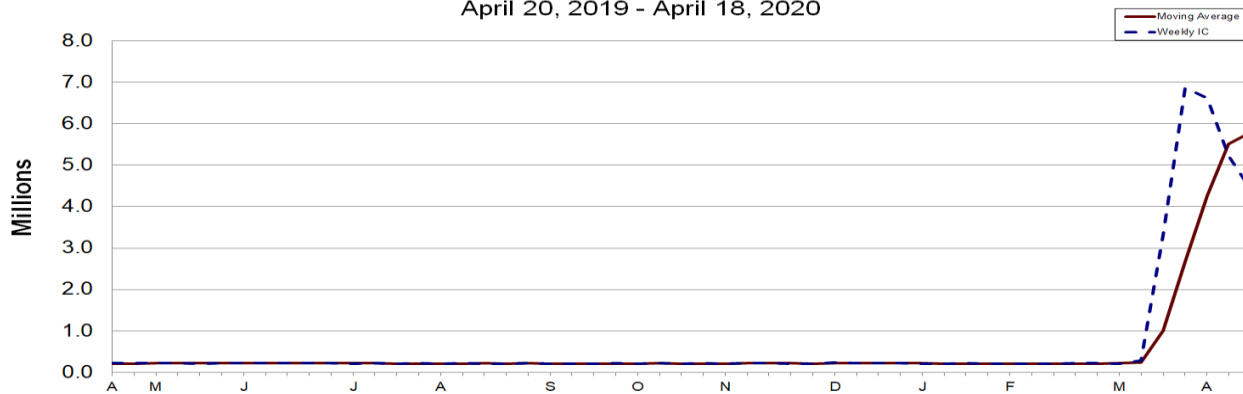
UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE WEEKLY CLAIMS

SEASONALLY ADJUSTED DATA

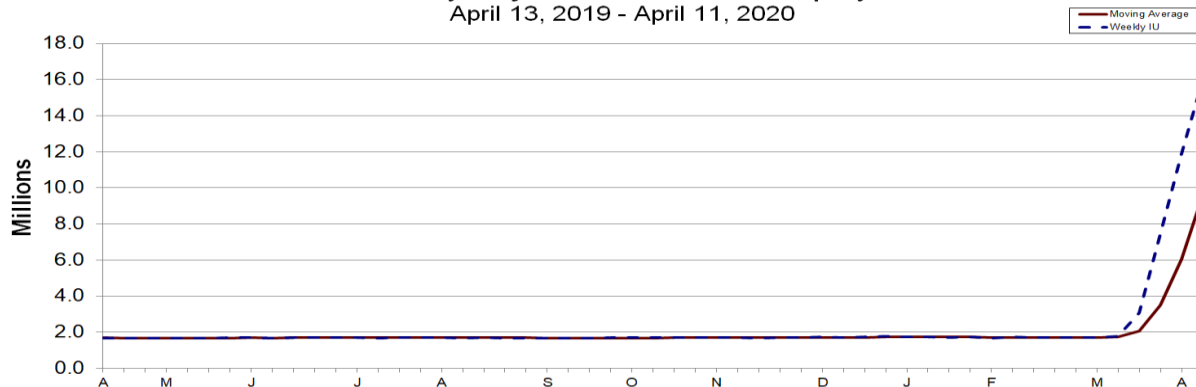
In the week ending April 18, the advance figure for seasonally adjusted **initial claims** was 4,427,000, a decrease of 810,000 from the previous week's revised level. The previous week's level was revised down by 8,000 from 5,245,000 to 5,237,000. The 4-week moving average was 5,786,500, an increase of 280,000 from the previous week's revised average. The previous week's average was revised down by 2,000 from 5,508,500 to 5,506,500.

The advance seasonally adjusted **insured unemployment rate** was 11.0 percent for the week ending April 11, an increase of 2.8 percentage points from the previous week's unrevised rate. This marks the highest level of the seasonally adjusted insured unemployment rate in the history of the seasonally adjusted series. The advance number for seasonally adjusted **insured unemployment** during the week ending April 11 was 15,976,000, an increase of 4,064,000 from the previous week's revised level. This marks the highest level of seasonally adjusted insured unemployment in the history of the seasonally adjusted series. The previous week's level was revised down by 64,000 from 11,976,000 to 11,912,000. The 4-week moving average was 9,598,250, an increase of 3,548,000 from the previous week's revised average. The previous week's average was revised down by 16,000 from 6,066,250 to 6,050,250.

Seasonally Adjusted Initial Claims
April 20, 2019 - April 18, 2020



Seasonally Adjusted Insured Unemployment
April 13, 2019 - April 11, 2020



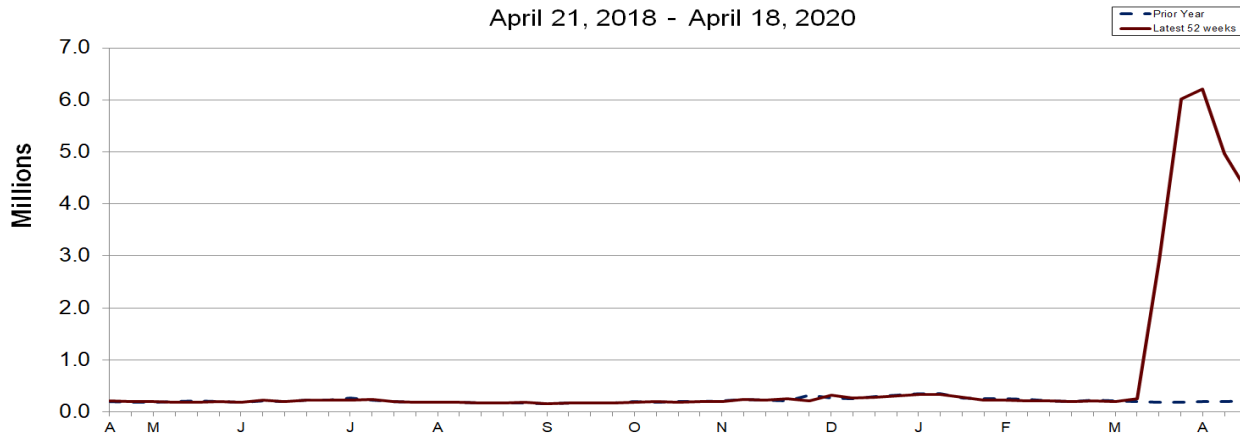
UNADJUSTED DATA

The advance number of actual initial claims under state programs, unadjusted, totaled 4,267,395 in the week ending April 18, a decrease of 697,173 (or -14.0 percent) from the previous week. The seasonal factors had expected an increase of 83,790 (or 1.7 percent) from the previous week. There were 211,762 initial claims in the comparable week in 2019.

The advance unadjusted insured unemployment rate was 11.3 percent during the week ending April 11, an increase of 2.7 percentage points from the prior week. The advance unadjusted number for persons claiming UI benefits in state programs totaled 16,438,933, an increase of 3,978,614 (or 31.9 percent) from the preceding week. The seasonal factors had expected a decrease of 202,510 (or -1.6 percent) from the previous week. A year earlier the rate was 1.2 percent and the volume was 1,703,576.

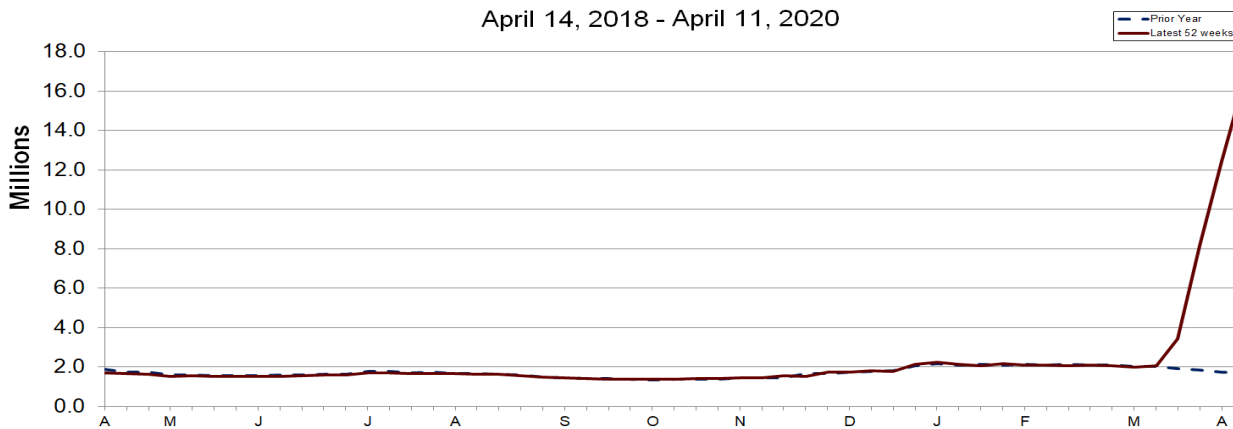
Not Seasonally Adjusted Initial Claims

April 21, 2018 - April 18, 2020



Not Seasonally Adjusted Insured Unemployment

April 14, 2018 - April 11, 2020



The total number of people claiming benefits in all programs for the week ending April 4 was 12,506,993, an increase of 4,300,016 from the previous week. There were 1,757,864 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 April 4.

Initial claims for UI benefits filed by former Federal civilian employees totaled 2,844 in the week ending April 11, a decrease of 551 from the prior week. There were 1,821 initial claims filed by newly discharged veterans, a decrease of 223 from the preceding week.

There were 11,562 former Federal civilian employees claiming UI benefits for the week ending April 4, an increase of 535 from the previous week. Newly discharged veterans claiming benefits totaled 7,068, an increase of 727 from the prior week.

The highest insured unemployment rates in the week ending April 4 were in Michigan (17.4), Rhode Island (15.0), Nevada (13.7), Georgia (13.6), Washington (13.2), New Hampshire (12.2), Minnesota (11.9), New York (11.9), Montana (11.7), and Ohio (11.6).

The largest increases in initial claims for the week ending April 11 were in Colorado (+58,246), New York (+50,250), Missouri (+10,668), Florida (+10,534), and North Carolina (+2,733), while the largest decreases were in California (-263,342), Michigan (-166,347), New Jersey (-73,416), Georgia (-70,551), and Ohio (-66,874).

UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE DATA FOR REGULAR STATE PROGRAMS

WEEK ENDING	April 18	April 11	Change	April 4	Prior Year¹
Initial Claims (SA)	4,427,000	5,237,000	-810,000	6,615,000	226,000
Initial Claims (NSA)	4,267,395	4,964,568	-697,173	6,211,406	211,762
4-Wk Moving Average (SA)	5,786,500	5,506,500	+280,000	4,267,750	210,750
WEEK ENDING	April 11	April 4	Change	March 28	Prior Year¹
Insured Unemployment (SA)	15,976,000	11,912,000	+4,064,000	7,446,000	1,659,000
Insured Unemployment (NSA)	16,438,933	12,460,319	+3,978,614	8,168,375	1,703,576
4-Wk Moving Average (SA)	9,598,250	6,050,250	+3,548,000	3,497,750	1,687,500
Insured Unemployment Rate (SA) ²	11.0%	8.2%	+2.8	5.1%	1.2%
Insured Unemployment Rate (NSA) ²	11.3%	8.6%	+2.7	5.6%	1.2%

INITIAL CLAIMS FILED IN FEDERAL PROGRAMS (UNADJUSTED)

WEEK ENDING	April 11	April 4	Change	Prior Year¹
Federal Employees (UCFE)	2,844	3,395	-551	572
Newly Discharged Veterans (UCX)	1,821	2,044	-223	526

PERSONS CLAIMING UI BENEFITS IN ALL PROGRAMS (UNADJUSTED)

WEEK ENDING	April 4	March 28	Change	Prior Year¹
Regular State	12,442,955	8,158,014	+4,284,941	1,727,352
Federal Employees	11,562	11,027	+535	9,120
Newly Discharged Veterans	7,068	6,341	+727	5,837
Extended Benefits ³	138	0	+138	0
State Additional Benefits ⁴	5,406	5,657	-251	6,088
STC / Workshare ⁵	39,864	25,938	+13,926	9,467
TOTAL	12,506,993	8,206,977	+4,300,016	1,757,864

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 145,671,710 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 April 18			Insured Unemployment For Week Ended April 11		
	Advance	Prior Wk	Change	Advance	Prior Wk	Change
Alabama	65,431	77,515	-12,084	125,764	95,325	30,439
Alaska	13,027	12,007	1,020	47,784	35,365	12,419
Arizona	71,843	98,531	-26,688	166,193	120,592	45,601
Arkansas	24,236	35,629	-11,393	88,896	66,511	22,385
California	533,568	655,472	-121,904	2,434,265	1,429,954	1,004,311
Colorado	68,667	104,572	-35,905	171,517	166,593	4,924
Connecticut	102,757	34,050	68,707	308,614	189,196	119,418
Delaware	9,294	13,258	-3,964	45,377	29,577	15,800
District of Columbia	8,591	9,974	-1,383	45,741	42,224	3,517
Florida*	505,137	180,419	324,718	177,009	339,448	-162,439
Georgia	243,677	319,581	-75,904	609,575	595,418	14,157
Hawaii	26,477	34,717	-8,240	72,504	48,205	24,299
Idaho	12,456	18,531	-6,075	66,708	59,139	7,569
Illinois	102,736	141,160	-38,424	570,227	452,905	117,322
Indiana	75,483	113,755	-38,272	214,171	147,583	66,588
Iowa	27,912	43,889	-15,977	151,846	127,332	24,514
Kansas	31,920	29,873	2,047	98,533	78,334	20,199
Kentucky	103,548	116,277	-12,729	198,926	182,097	16,829
Louisiana	92,039	79,653	12,386	241,124	217,532	23,592
Maine	11,446	13,488	-2,042	65,233	55,723	9,510
Maryland	46,676	62,904	-16,228	198,797	160,906	37,891
Massachusetts	80,345	103,813	-23,468	463,974	361,600	102,374
Michigan	134,119	222,207	-88,088	944,947	749,011	195,936
Minnesota	74,873	93,133	-18,260	399,379	341,578	57,801
Mississippi	35,843	45,748	-9,905	91,748	60,737	31,011
Missouri	52,678	102,126	-49,448	226,059	178,710	47,349
Montana	10,509	14,275	-3,766	65,367	53,482	11,885
Nebraska	12,340	16,279	-3,939	70,911	60,416	10,495
Nevada	40,909	58,641	-17,732	229,072	189,007	40,065
New Hampshire	19,110	25,273	-6,163	93,771	79,979	13,792
New Jersey	139,277	141,420	-2,143	557,731	429,388	128,343
New Mexico	13,338	19,043	-5,705	81,441	62,686	18,755
New York	204,716	394,701	-189,985	1,360,820	1,121,191	239,629
North Carolina	104,515	140,155	-35,640	463,589	362,989	100,600
North Dakota	9,042	9,502	-460	36,378	24,554	11,824
Ohio	108,801	159,317	-50,516	713,040	622,669	90,371
Oklahoma	40,297	54,481	-14,184	111,198	88,330	22,868
Oregon	35,101	54,581	-19,480	343,321	176,154	167,167
Pennsylvania*	198,081	234,868	-36,787	1,088,179	614,196	473,983
Puerto Rico	26,248	42,074	-15,826	107,338	86,474	20,864
Rhode Island	17,578	22,509	-4,931	79,944	70,935	9,009
South Carolina	73,116	89,147	-16,031	178,083	126,994	51,089
South Dakota	5,128	6,359	-1,231	19,772	14,431	5,341
Tennessee	68,968	71,887	-2,919	276,220	206,472	69,748
Texas	280,406	274,257	6,149	917,757	632,470	285,287
Utah	19,751	24,037	-4,286	86,599	71,544	15,055
Vermont	6,434	9,662	-3,228	64,408	31,204	33,204
Virgin Islands	1	6	-5	1,324	776	548
Virginia	84,387	104,619	-20,232	298,269	236,791	61,478
Washington	89,105	144,455	-55,350	548,564	442,936	105,628
West Virginia	46,251	14,944	31,307	104,904	48,597	56,307
Wisconsin	55,886	70,000	-14,114	300,422	262,847	37,575
Wyoming	3,321	5,794	-2,473	15,600	11,212	4,388
US Total	4,267,395	4,964,568	-697,173	16,438,933	12,460,319	3,978,614

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	
April 13, 2019	203	0	208.00	1,659	-8	1,687.50	1.2
April 20, 2019	226	23	210.75	1,682	23	1,678.25	1.2
April 27, 2019	230	4	215.50	1,684	2	1,673.00	1.2
May 4, 2019	225	-5	221.00	1,678	-6	1,675.75	1.2
May 11, 2019	217	-8	224.50	1,683	5	1,681.75	1.2
May 18, 2019	213	-4	221.25	1,675	-8	1,680.00	1.2
May 25, 2019	218	5	218.25	1,695	20	1,682.75	1.2
June 1, 2019	220	2	217.00	1,700	5	1,688.25	1.2
June 8, 2019	220	0	217.75	1,677	-23	1,686.75	1.2
June 15, 2019	219	-1	219.25	1,692	15	1,691.00	1.2
June 22, 2019	224	5	220.75	1,699	7	1,692.00	1.2
June 29, 2019	222	-2	221.25	1,717	18	1,696.25	1.2
July 6, 2019	211	-11	219.00	1,694	-23	1,700.50	1.2
July 13, 2019	217	6	218.50	1,682	-12	1,698.00	1.2
July 20, 2019	211	-6	215.25	1,699	17	1,698.00	1.2
July 27, 2019	216	5	213.75	1,692	-7	1,691.75	1.2
August 3, 2019	214	-2	214.50	1,719	27	1,698.00	1.2
August 10, 2019	218	4	214.75	1,687	-32	1,699.25	1.2
August 17, 2019	215	-3	215.75	1,699	12	1,699.25	1.2
August 24, 2019	215	0	215.50	1,683	-16	1,697.00	1.2
August 31, 2019	219	4	216.75	1,683	0	1,688.00	1.2
September 7, 2019	208	-11	214.25	1,675	-8	1,685.00	1.2
September 14, 2019	211	3	213.25	1,672	-3	1,678.25	1.2
September 21, 2019	215	4	213.25	1,667	-5	1,674.25	1.2
September 28, 2019	218	3	213.00	1,698	31	1,678.00	1.2
October 5, 2019	212	-6	214.00	1,689	-9	1,681.50	1.2
October 12, 2019	218	6	215.75	1,691	2	1,686.25	1.2
October 19, 2019	213	-5	215.25	1,700	9	1,694.50	1.2
October 26, 2019	217	4	215.00	1,695	-5	1,693.75	1.2
November 2, 2019	212	-5	215.00	1,702	7	1,697.00	1.2
November 9, 2019	222	10	216.00	1,697	-5	1,698.50	1.2
November 16, 2019	223	1	218.50	1,665	-32	1,689.75	1.2
November 23, 2019	211	-12	217.00	1,697	32	1,690.25	1.2
November 30, 2019	206	-5	215.50	1,700	3	1,689.75	1.2
December 7, 2019	237	31	219.25	1,725	25	1,696.75	1.2
December 14, 2019	229	-8	220.75	1,716	-9	1,709.50	1.2
December 21, 2019	218	-11	222.50	1,728	12	1,717.25	1.2
December 28, 2019	220	2	226.00	1,775	47	1,736.00	1.2
January 4, 2020	212	-8	219.75	1,759	-16	1,744.50	1.2
January 11, 2020	207	-5	214.25	1,735	-24	1,749.25	1.2
January 18, 2020	220	13	214.75	1,704	-31	1,743.25	1.2
January 25, 2020	212	-8	212.75	1,753	49	1,737.75	1.2
February 1, 2020	201	-11	210.00	1,678	-75	1,717.50	1.2
February 8, 2020	204	3	209.25	1,729	51	1,716.00	1.2
February 15, 2020	215	11	208.00	1,693	-36	1,713.25	1.2
February 22, 2020	220	5	210.00	1,720	27	1,705.00	1.2
February 29, 2020	217	-3	214.00	1,699	-21	1,710.25	1.2
March 7, 2020	211	-6	215.75	1,702	3	1,703.50	1.2
March 14, 2020	282	71	232.50	1,784	82	1,726.25	1.2
March 21, 2020	3,307	3,025	1,004.25	3,059	1,275	2,061.00	2.1
March 28, 2020	6,867	3,560	2,666.75	7,446	4,387	3,497.75	5.1
April 4, 2020	6,615	-252	4,267.75	11,912	4,466	6,050.25	8.2
April 11, 2020	5,237	-1,378	5,506.50	15,976	4,064	9,598.25	11.0
April 18, 2020	4,427	-810	5,786.50				

INITIAL CLAIMS FILED DURING WEEK ENDED
APRIL 11

INSURED UNEMPLOYMENT FOR WEEK ENDED
APRIL 4

STATE NAME	CHANGE FROM					CHANGE FROM					ALL PROGRAMS EXCLUDING RAILROAD RETIREMENT	
	STATE	LAST WEEK	YEAR AGO	UCFE ¹	UCX ¹	STATE	(%) ²	LAST WEEK	YEAR AGO	UCFE ¹		UCX ¹
Alabama	77515	-29224	75134	64	22	95325	4.9	43149	81358	52	38	95415
Alaska	12007	-2583	11015	6	2	35365	11.5	15520	27512	123	17	35505
Arizona	98531	-33897	92683	21	9	120592	4.3	57995	100856	182	88	120862
Arkansas	35629	-26457	34178	3	2	66511	5.6	30012	56252	66	36	66613
California	655472	-263342	616043	235	222	1429954	8.3	353193	1082931	2120	943	1433017
Colorado	104572	58246	102535	17	69	166593	6.2	93009	148357	202	133	166932
Connecticut	34050	586	30596	11	9	189196	11.4	41257	155696	61	58	189316
Delaware	13258	-5593	12776	3	11	29577	6.6	10135	25057	9	11	29597
District of Columbia	9974	-5355	9555	160	1	42224	7.3	10839	35509	347	11	42582
Florida	180419	10534	174074	85	109	339448	3.9	240527	306205	207	220	339875
Georgia	319581	-70551	314333	76	35	595418	13.6	235341	570581	309	187	595914
Hawaii	34717	-18384	33589	2	4	48205	7.7	16008	41626	60	44	48309
Idaho	18531	-12373	17583	14	2	59139	8.1	23224	52668	136	29	59305
Illinois	141160	-59881	133432	14	16	452905	7.7	189848	342660	379	180	453470
Indiana	113755	-13255	111385	38	23	147583	4.9	75846	131860	38	56	147677
Iowa	43889	-20305	42053	42	14	127332	8.3	35701	107015	87	40	127459
Kansas	29873	-19433	28575	2	0	78334	5.7	26909	70335	31	26	78391
Kentucky	116277	-1298	114169	4	6	182097	9.8	51946	165319	129	133	182359
Louisiana	79653	-20968	77766	69	38	217532	11.5	100842	204118	74	34	217681
Maine	13488	-17422	12777	0	0	55723	9.2	14384	48532	54	11	55788
Maryland	62904	-46592	60124	24	22	160906	6.3	68794	135412	193	128	161227
Massachusetts	103813	-35834	99348	62	41	361600	10.1	51389	297111	138	147	361885
Michigan	222207	-166347	216628	125	143	749011	17.4	382585	688206	262	188	749461
Minnesota	93133	-17127	90329	35	31	341578	11.9	93555	292567	163	80	341821
Mississippi	45748	-104	44655	2	4	60737	5.5	31364	54094	72	34	60874
Missouri	102126	10668	99302	9	7	178710	6.5	57243	160677	111	57	178914
Montana	14275	-6969	13460	27	12	53482	11.7	16663	45386	365	33	53880
Nebraska	16279	-10775	15713	10	2	60416	6.3	21495	56144	35	10	60461
Nevada	58641	-20644	56445	4	5	189007	13.7	57886	171556	136	54	189197
New Hampshire	25273	-13929	24792	8	10	79979	12.2	27813	76126	25	9	80013
New Jersey	141420	-73416	133779	37	5	429388	10.7	153269	340625	217	247	429852
New Mexico	19043	-7089	18228	1	3	62686	7.8	17857	53540	129	41	62856
New York	394701	50250	382570	33	38	1121191	11.9	408647	988567	377	361	1121929
North Carolina	140155	2733	137103	87	75	362989	8.2	117297	343740	267	251	363512
North Dakota	9502	-5623	9230	11	6	24554	5.9	8518	20100	9	9	24573
Ohio	159317	-66874	154082	23	81	622669	11.6	172608	567728	170	397	623236
Oklahoma	54481	-6053	52657	57	28	88330	5.6	33301	74882	54	56	88440
Oregon	54581	-8207	50229	35	8	176154	9.2	57425	147518	525	74	176753
Pennsylvania	234868	-42772	223373	987	332	614196	10.6	47732	513372	1742	379	616317
Puerto Rico	42074	-24481	40644	8	9	86474	10.1	36805	71477	181	71	86732
Rhode Island	22509	-5734	21758	10	4	70935	15.0	14897	62069	23	7	70965
South Carolina	89147	2574	87109	41	40	126994	6.1	51473	113460	34	79	127113
South Dakota	6359	-1779	6278	9	0	14431	3.5	6863	12304	48	3	14482
Tennessee	71887	-40299	69723	49	28	206472	6.9	90293	188530	104	84	206660
Texas	274257	-40910	260389	166	195	632470	5.1	257814	524763	488	954	633912
Utah	24037	-9003	22673	28	9	71544	4.9	26383	63543	29	0	71573
Vermont	9662	-6812	8964	0	0	31204	10.3	9251	26823	10	2	31216
Virgin Islands	6	-66	-6	0	0	776	2.2	118	240	6	0	782
Virginia	104619	-42750	102359	18	19	236791	6.3	103607	217627	247	282	237320
Washington	144455	-26797	137516	21	42	442936	13.2	133525	390355	517	634	444087
West Virginia	14944	450	13986	6	17	48597	7.3	11907	38590	49	50	48696
Wisconsin	70000	-34823	65316	33	11	262847	9.2	54460	229724	108	47	263002
Wyoming	5794	-749	5197	12	0	11212	4.2	3422	8908	62	5	11279
Totals	4964568	-1246838	4768204	2844	1821	12460319	8.6	4291944	10730211	11562	7068	12479087

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 11, 2020

STATES WITH AN INCREASE OF MORE THAN 1,000

State	Change	State Supplied Comment
CO	+58,246	Layoffs in the health care and social assistance, arts, entertainment, and recreation, and other services industries. Increase in initial claims due to COVID-19.
NY	+50,250	Layoffs in the retail trade, health care and social assistance, and construction industries.
MO	+10,668	Layoffs in the accommodation and food services and administrative, support, waste management, and remediation services industries.
FL	+10,534	Layoffs in the construction, manufacturing, retail trade, wholesale trade, accommodation and food services, and health care and social assistance industries.
NC	+2,733	Layoffs in the health care and social assistance and manufacturing industries.
SC	+2,574	No comment.

STATES WITH A DECREASE OF MORE THAN 1,000

State	Change	State Supplied Comment
CA	-263,342	Fewer layoffs in the service and retail trade industries.
MI	-166,347	Fewer layoffs in the manufacturing, retail trade, and accommodation and food services industries.
NJ	-73,416	No comment.
GA	-70,551	Fewer layoffs in the accommodation and food services, public administration, retail trade, health care and social assistance, and administrative, support, waste management, and remediation services industries.
OH	-66,874	No comment.
IL	-59,881	No comment.
MD	-46,592	No comment.
PA	-42,772	Fewer layoffs in the arts, entertainment, and recreation, other services, and agriculture, forestry, fishing, and hunting industries.
VA	-42,750	No comment.
TX	-40,910	No comment.
TN	-40,299	No comment.
MA	-35,834	No comment.
WI	-34,823	Fewer layoffs in the manufacturing and accommodation and food services industries.
AZ	-33,897	No comment.
AL	-29,224	Fewer layoffs in the accommodation and food services, health care and social assistance, retail trade, and administrative, support, waste management, and remediation services industries.
WA	-26,797	No comment.
AR	-26,457	No comment.
PR	-24,481	No comment.
LA	-20,968	No comment.
NV	-20,644	No comment.
IA	-20,305	No comment.
KS	-19,433	No comment.
HI	-18,384	No comment.
ME	-17,422	Fewer layoffs in the manufacturing, health care and social assistance, accommodation and food services, educational services, professional, scientific, and technical services, arts, entertainment, and recreation, administrative, support, waste management, and remediation services, wholesale trade, and construction industries.
MN	-17,127	No comment.
NH	-13,929	No comment.
IN	-13,255	No comment.
ID	-12,373	No comment.

NE	-10,775	No comment.
UT	-9,003	No comment.
OR	-8,207	No comment.
NM	-7,089	No comment.
MT	-6,969	No comment.
VT	-6,812	No comment.
OK	-6,053	No comment.
RI	-5,734	No comment.
ND	-5,623	No comment.
DE	-5,593	No comment.
DC	-5,355	No comment.
AK	-2,583	No comment.
SD	-1,779	No comment.
KY	-1,298	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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